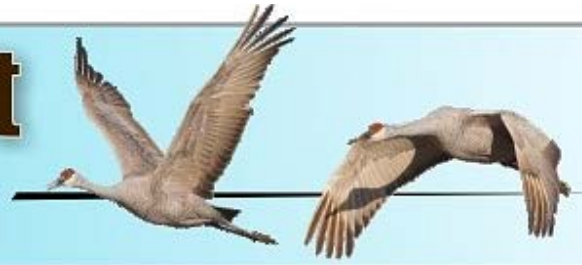




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## Common Loon Reproductive Success in Canada



Photo: Frank & Sandra Horvath

**5 April 2013** – Bird Studies Canada recently published an article in the journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology* summarizing patterns in Common Loon reproductive success between 1992-2010 across southern Canada, using data collected by participants in BSC's **Canadian Lakes Loon Survey**. The reproductive success of the Common Loon is a good indicator of the health of waterways, especially in relation to mercury and acid precipitation. The overall goal of the study was to indirectly describe the health of lakes in southern Canada in relation to these pollutants.

The authors found that the number of young produced was higher in the western provinces than in Atlantic Canada; was lower in 2010 than it was 19 years earlier; was higher in larger lakes than in smaller ones; and was lower where lake acidity was higher. These relationships are likely linked to mercury exposure and acid-related reductions in food. The results show that citizen science is powerful for monitoring ecosystem health, and indirectly support action to reduce emissions of mercury and the harmful components of acid precipitation.

Visit the [ACE website](#) to read the full article by Dr. Doug Tozer, Myles Falconer, and Debbie Badzinski. For a summary of the research from *BirdWatch Canada*, [select this link](#).

## Project FeederWatch Season Ends Today

**5 April 2013** – This past winter, nearly 20,000 people across North America participated in **Project FeederWatch!** Participants count the kinds and numbers of birds at their feeders at regular intervals from November through April, then submit their observations. This information helps scientists study winter bird populations.

The 2012-13 Project FeederWatch season ends today – April 5. Participants in this program are reminded to read the most recent [Project FeederWatch eNews](#) to review tips that will ensure your reports are complete, and that you are prepared for next season. Please submit your data, even if you only counted once. Every bit of information is valuable. We

look forward to teaming up with our FeederWatchers again in November, and we are extremely grateful to all of you for your continued dedication and enthusiasm!

Project FeederWatch is a joint program of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

### **Projet FeederWatch**

**5 avril 2013** – L’hiver dernier, près de 20 000 personnes en Amérique du Nord ont participé au **Projet FeederWatch**! Les participants comptent les espèces et nombre d’oiseaux à leurs mangeoires à intervalles réguliers à partir de novembre à avril. Cette information aide aux scientifiques pour leurs l’étude sur les populations d’oiseaux en l’hiver.

Cette année le Projet Feederwatch fini le vendredi le 5 avril. Rappel au FeederWatch : soumettre tous vos données, même si vous avez compté qu’une seule fois. Chaque renseignement de données sont importantes!

### **Bicknell’s Thrush Monitoring**

**3 April 2013** – Last week, members of the **International Bicknell’s Thrush Conservation Group** Monitoring Sub-group met in Sackville to discuss last season’s results and our plan for 2013. The group includes Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, and the University of New Brunswick.

IBTCG members are taking conservation action to address threats across the species’ range. Monitoring Bicknell’s Thrush population trends over time is essential to our work. Developing a monitoring program to assess a species across its breeding range – including several states and three provinces – is not without challenges. Different habitats, densities, and financial resources come into play. Discussion focused on addressing these challenges, but partners are dedicated to achieving a range-wide monitoring program. In 2013, BSC will be surveying for Bicknell’s Thrush along 75+ routes in Cape Breton and New Brunswick. Staff have been hired and the protocol set.

We thank the many agencies that support this ongoing effort, including: Environment Canada, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the NB Department of Natural Resources.

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## **NATIONAL**

### **Farewell to Two Cherished Friends**



Dr. Dave Ankney



Dick Waterous

**28 March 2013** – Bird Studies Canada recently lost two Board members who were dear friends to our organization and staff. We are sorry to share news of the passing of Dave

Ankney and Dick Waterous. Dr. Dave Ankney was a former Professor of Zoology at the University of Western Ontario, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, Past-President of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, former board member of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation, and Chair of Long Point Waterfowl's Scientific Advisory Committee. Richard (Dick) Waterous was a long-time lawyer and environmentalist, and founding partner of Waterous, Holden, Amey, Hitchon LLP; he was a director and officer of numerous manufacturing and financial companies and NGOs, a founder and Honorary Life Member of the Brant Foundation for Persons with Developmental Needs, and founder and Chairman of La Réserve Beauchêne. Dave and Dick made invaluable contributions to our work, and both are greatly missed.

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## REGIONAL

### Join Us at the Green Living Show, April 12-14



Photo: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

**5 April 2013** – Next weekend, Bird Studies Canada will once again participate in the **Green Living Show** – Toronto's largest consumer show dedicated to all things green. We have partnered with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to bring you a major bird-themed display. Our goal is to connect people with opportunities for local action, and raise awareness about the ways volunteers can support Citizen Science, bird monitoring, and conservation. The display area will include hands-on activities, bird identification tips, a live bird stage, a draw for exciting prizes, and more! Come find us at booth #801, near the main entrance to the show.

The Green Living Show takes place April 12-14 at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto. We hope to see you there! **Select this link** for free tickets. Special thanks to Bushnell, Harlequin, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, The McLean Foundation, and The Metcalf Foundation for generously supporting the Green Living Show bird expo.

### BSC at ROM Youth Summit

**4 April 2013** – Are you a young person passionate about the environment (and birds in particular?). Want to connect with like-minded youth to have a positive environmental impact in your community? Register now for the **2013 Earth Month Youth Forum**! Bird Studies Canada will be one of the organizations offering a hands-on workshop at this event at Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum on April 27 and 28.

Registration includes admission to a keynote talk by Dr. Roberta Bondar, a pizza dinner, and free access to the museum all weekend. Get in touch with your inner ornithologist at Bird Studies Canada's workshop! We'll learn and test hands-on techniques for studying all kinds of birds in the field, then put our new skills to the test by surveying the ROM collections. We'll also learn to hone our senses and tune into individual species by

identifying bird songs in a simulated morning chorus. Celebrate a late Earth Day with BSC while gaining the practical skills to become a champion for bird care and conservation!

\$20 registration fee. For educators, or youth ages 15-24. Space is limited!

## Ontario SwiftWatch

**3 April 2013** – Chimney Swifts are beginning to migrate north. Bird Studies Canada's staff are reporting on the 2012 Ontario SwiftWatch results, and planning for the upcoming survey season.

You can review the [Ontario SwiftWatch Annual Report](#) to see the 2012 survey results and 2013 program objectives. In addition, participants and coordinators can use the new [2013 Ontario SwiftWatch Calendar](#) and other online resources to prepare and guide them through the coming season. Anyone interested in participating can contact Kathy Jones ([volunteer@birdscanada.org](mailto:volunteer@birdscanada.org)) for more information.

A big thank you to the Ontario SwiftWatch volunteers and Regional Coordinators who ensure this program is a success. In 2012, Ontario SwiftWatch was financially supported by: the Government of Ontario, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Awards, Shell, and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

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