

Annual Report

2009–2010



Nature Canada's Mission

Protecting and
conserving wildlife
and their habitats
in Canada by
engaging people
and advocating on
behalf of nature.

Letter from the Chair

Canada is a nature nation and its wild species and places are integral to our very identity as a country. However, over the last few decades Canadians have been losing this connection as populations in urban areas expand and opportunities to connect with nature decline.

As we end the 70th year of Nature Canada, we reconfirm our commitment to effectively connect Canadians with nature, instilling respect and appreciation, while acting in its defense.

The past year has brought many changes to Nature Canada, including our first leadership transition in over 15 years. Like many organizations, we have been evaluating and adjusting as the economy begins to recover and I am pleased to report that Nature Canada is in good financial health. And, most important, we have been listening to our members and partners as we shape new directions for the organization.

At the end of March, Nature Canada's Board adopted new strategic directions that build on the past and adapt to and address new challenges and opportunities. We will focus on protecting species native to Canada across the range of sites and habitats in which they occur, as well as fostering a culture of nature conservation within Canadian society – what we call the people element.

Our Annual Report is our organization's opportunity to take stock and report to you on our achievements during the 2009 and 2010 period, as well as thank the many people and partner organizations who have been a part of our collective conservation successes. Your support makes what we do possible.

Sincerely,



Richard Yank
Chair, Board of Directors

Letter from the Executive Director

I returned to Canada after many years in Ecuador where I worked with a network of some of the most progressive biodiversity-focused conservation organizations in the western hemisphere. Nature Canada is a strong partner in this network, and with partners throughout the Americas, we seek new and effective ways to conserve Canada's diverse wildlife and healthy ecosystems that support them.

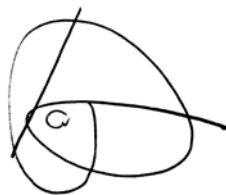
Since April 2009, we have made major inroads in conserving Canada's nature. These include: participating in the creation of the 10,700 square kilometre Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve along the coast of Labrador; speaking directly to decision makers to ensure effective legislation for Canada's species at risk; first steps towards engaging 400,000 8th graders in protected areas across Canada; supporting local communities in their efforts to conserve 150 global Important Bird Areas; providing expert input on the impact of major energy projects in Alberta and the Northwest Territories; and advocating for the outright protection of Suffield National Wildlife Area – one of the largest tracts of undisturbed native grasslands in Alberta and all of Canada.

One of our most memorable moments was shared with the Labatiuk Family whose son Charles left a legacy for Beaverhill Lake, one of Alberta's most prestigious sites for migratory birds including Snow Geese and many species of shorebirds. Through this generous gift, an endowment was established to provide, into perpetuity, resources for the long-term study and conservation of this globally significant area. We see this model as a means to secure a future for similar biologically outstanding sites across the country.

Nature Canada was created to work, through partnerships, for the conservation of all nature, and it is with these partnerships that we strive to ensure nature conservation is advanced across Canada and throughout the range of Canadian breeding species.

I invite you to read this Annual Report, which describes and acknowledges the many exciting initiatives of the organization.

Best,



Ian J Davidson
Executive Director



© Beatrice Laporte

Who We Are: Mission, Vision and Board

About Nature Canada

Nature Canada exists to protect nature, its diversity and the processes that sustain it. Our strategies are based on sound science, a passion for nature and a belief that every Canadian should feel connected to the vast natural world that surrounds us.

We are a member-supported not-for-profit organization whose network includes 45,000 supporters and more than 350 naturalist organizations across Canada. Our family of nature lovers – birders, scientists, activists, gardeners, hikers, parents, grandparents, volunteers and community groups – are at the core of what we do.

Our Vision

Together we seek to achieve a vision of Canada as a place where threatened species and ecosystems are protected, common species and ecosystems are conserved, ecological integrity is maintained and people embrace a culture of conservation in their everyday lives. As Canada's national nature organization, Nature Canada is realizing this vision by engaging people and advocating on behalf of nature.

Our Work

- ▶ We support on-the-ground, community-based efforts to protect birds, other animals, plants and habitats for future generations.
- ▶ We conserve Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and promote biodiversity conservation in Canada and throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- ▶ We help connect thousands of children with nature every year.
- ▶ We push for effective laws and supporting policies that protect endangered species today.
- ▶ We encourage the development of an effective network of parks and protected areas from coast to coast to coast.
- ▶ We build strong partnerships with like-minded organizations and work together to protect wildlife and their habitats.
- ▶ We educate people about the benefits of nature to humankind.
- ▶ We recruit more nature enthusiasts to the cause of protecting nature and the processes that sustain it.

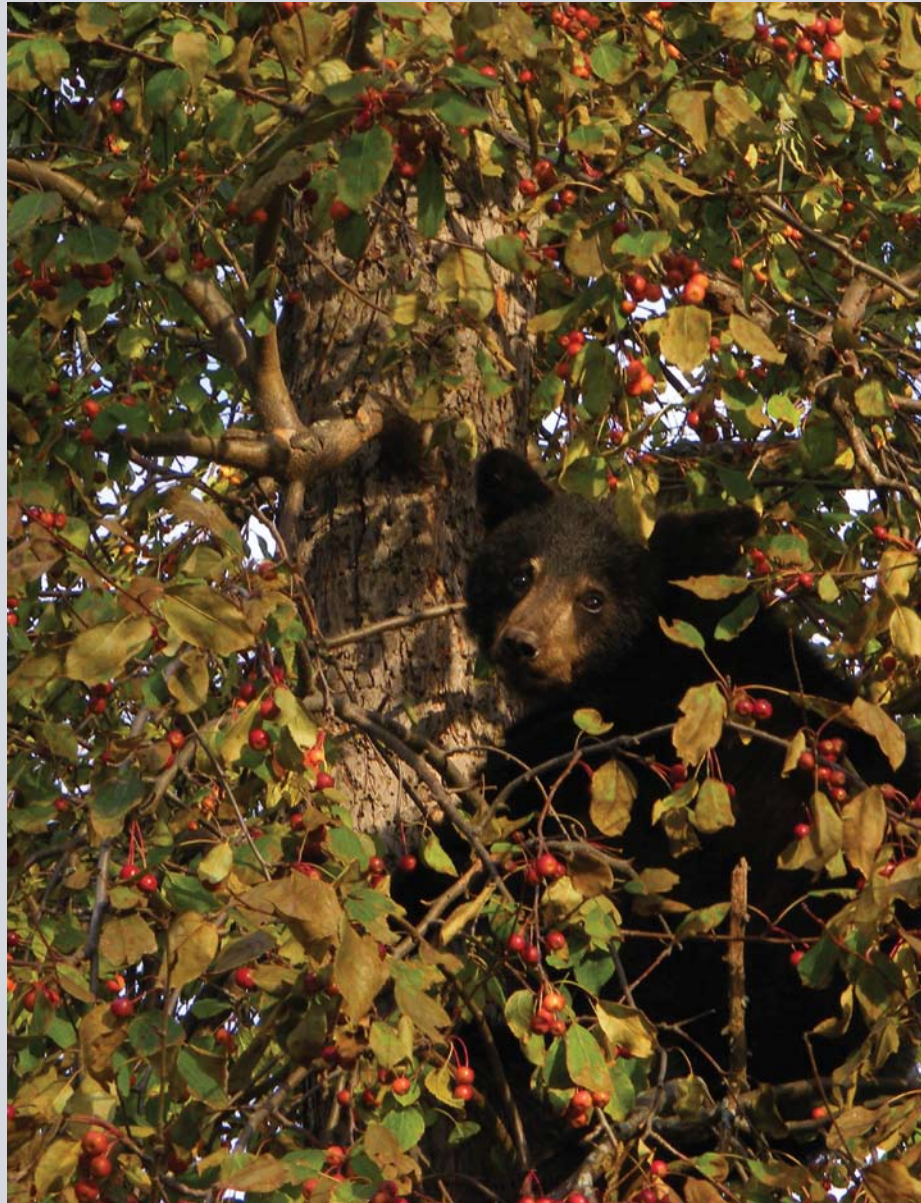
Our Board and staff work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that Nature Canada meets our goals for nature conservation. We thank them for their continued effort and dedication.

Board of Directors

- Richard Yank, Chair
Former President, Alcan Inc. – Bauxite
and Alumina Operations, Pacific Region
Ottawa, Ontario
- Cliff Wallis, Vice Chair
President, Cottonwood Consultants Ltd.
Calgary, Alberta
- Mark Dorfman, Past Chair
Planning Consultant
Waterloo, Ontario
- Carol Scott, Treasurer
Former Acting Director of Wildlife,
Manitoba Natural Resources
Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Doug Schmeiser, Secretary
Professor Emeritus of Law,
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Diane Griffin
Councillor, Stratford
Stratford, Prince Edward Island
- Chuck Priestley
Co-owner, STRIX Ecological Consulting
Tofield, Alberta
- Peter Stockdale
Former Dean – Faculty of Veterinary Science,
Massey University, New Zealand
Enderby, British Columbia
- Special Advisor to the Board of Directors –
Ken Thorpe, CFP

Auditor

- KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants
Ottawa, Ontario



© Connie Sigouin

What We Do: Species, Sites, Habitats & People

Habitat Spotlight: The Labrador Coast

The Mealy Mountains in southeastern Labrador are an island of arctic tundra surrounded by boreal forests and coastal seascapes. With the announcement of a new national park, a large area of boreal forest will be permanently protected, ensuring at-risk species like the Woodland Caribou and the Harlequin Duck have the habitat they need to survive. We look forward to participating in discussions about the final park boundaries to ensure that wildlife is protected.

Successes for Nature

Your support throughout the year has allowed us to achieve many wonderful successes for nature.

Our work centres on four themes: saving species, protecting sites, conserving habitats and empowering people. We act as a watchdog for at-risk species, ensuring effective legislation that protects them. We work at Important Bird Areas (IBAs) across the country, monitoring, conserving and restoring these sites. We campaign to conserve vital and unique habitats that shelter our species and add so much value to our landscapes. And we diligently connect people with nature through our communications and outreach programs.

In the following six pages, read about the progress we've made, thanks to you.

Establishing a National Network for Bird Conservation

The Canadian Important Bird Area Caretaker Network has been established in five provinces – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Nova Scotia – this year. This nationwide initiative recruits volunteers to watch over and protect Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in their community. These natural spaces are vitally important for our breeding,

migrating, staging and wintering birds, and the conservation of these sites is a cornerstone of effective bird conservation.

TransCanada Corporation has been a strong supporter of our bird conservation efforts at IBAs for the past seven years. In 2009, TransCanada committed \$1 million over the next five years as a national sponsor for the IBA Caretaker Network. Our aim is to grow support for at least 50 per cent of the 600 IBAs across Canada during this period.

Celebrating Canada's Newest National Park

In February 2010, the governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador announced their commitment to establish Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve and a waterway provincial park to protect the Eagle River. Over 13,000 square kilometres of boreal habitat will be protected in these new parks.

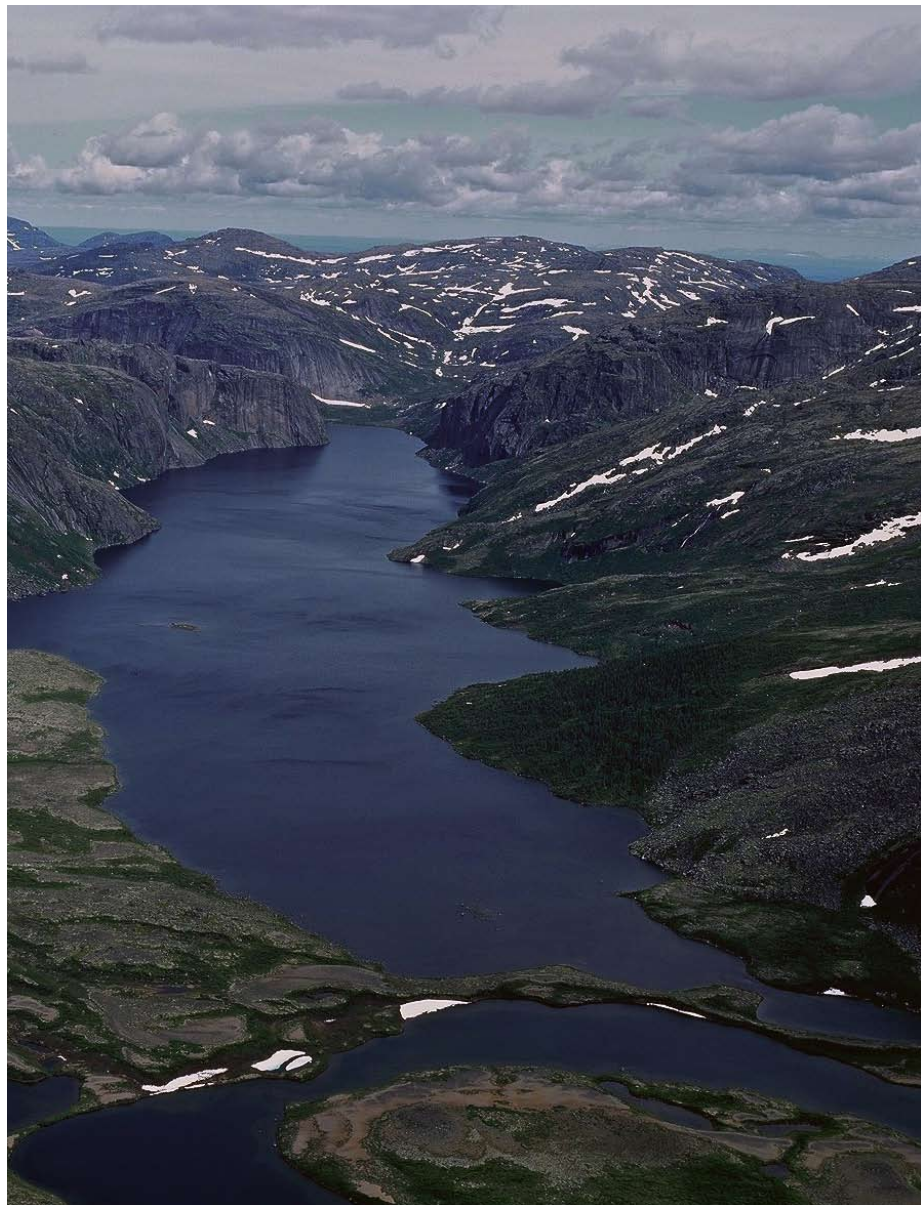
This will be the largest protected area in eastern Canada, and larger than Yellowstone and Yosemite parks combined. By protecting at least three IBAs within its boundaries, the park will anchor the northern end of the Atlantic Flyway, a pathway of important breeding grounds and migration routes for many arctic bird species.

Nature Canada has been working towards the creation of a national park in the Mealy Mountains for more than 15 years, and we were proud to be standing alongside government, First Nations and local leaders when the announcement was made. We realized this success thanks in large part to the Canadian Boreal Initiative, EJLB, a number of private donors and your ongoing support.

Standing Guard for Species at Risk

In collaboration with David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice and Environmental Defence, Nature Canada assessed the federal government's performance in implementing the Species at Risk Act (SARA). The report, *Canada's Species at Risk Act: Implementation at a Snail's Pace*, was released in advance of the long-awaited five-year review of SARA begun by Parliament in 2009. Our report offered practical steps to strengthen Canada's most important wildlife protection law and its application across the country.

Last fall, we held a reception on Parliament Hill to raise awareness of SARA among Members of Parliament and other decision-makers. During this event, we spoke directly to legislators with a clear message: Make SARA work.



© Garth Lenz

Species, Sites, Habitats & People

Species Spotlight: Chestnut-collared Longspur

The Chestnut-collared Longspur is a medium-sized, sparrow-like bird that occurs in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Its breeding habitat is being fragmented by road development associated with the energy sector. This grasslands species was assessed as Threatened in 2009 due to severe population declines since the 1960s.

We are calling on the government to close the legislative loopholes that could allow industrial development in Suffield National Wildlife Area, one of the last large areas of unploughed mixed grass prairie in Canada.

Teaming Up for Birds with Margaret Atwood

We were honoured to join award-winning author Margaret Atwood for four very special evenings last fall on her tour to promote her latest novel, *The Year of the Flood*. The unique performances drew crowds and glowing reviews across the country, and Ms. Atwood used the spotlight to raise awareness about Nature Canada and our regional partners in bird conservation. Donations made at Margaret Atwood's Year of the Flood performances have gone directly to support bird conservation work at IBAs in Canada.

Margaret Atwood is the Joint Honorary President of BirdLife International's Rare Bird Club with her husband, Graeme Gibson.

Along Flyways: Conserving Birds and Developing Livelihoods

As a partner in BirdLife International, we not only work to protect birds and their habitat in Canada, but we also join forces with partners in the Americas to conserve bird habitat in biodiversity hotspots throughout the hemisphere. The islands of Cuba and Hispaniola in the Caribbean are important stopovers and wintering grounds for migratory birds that breed in Canada, including

Bicknell's Thrush, Ovenbird and Black-and-White Warbler, among others.

Last fall, working with our partner Haïti Audubon Society, we opened a new school in Formon, Haïti, a remote community in the buffer zone of Macaya National Park. This park contains one of the last remnants of forest in Haïti and is a refuge for migrating birds and many endemic threatened species.

After January's devastating earthquake, each dollar you donated helped us expand the school to ensure that children from displaced families will also have access to an education. By providing the resources for education, we help local families secure a better future through improved understanding of the area's biological importance and work with local communities to improve their livelihoods. Financial support has been provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Calling for Climate Legislation

We met with Bruce Hyer, the NDP Member of Parliament behind the Climate Change Accountability Act, in fall 2009. In the face of an urgent need for climate legislation, we called on all MPs for swift passage of this Bill through the House of Commons. Although

the Bill remained stalled in committee through the winter, it passed Third Reading in the House in spring 2010 and began making its way through the Senate.

We asked you to contact your MP at every step along the way, and hundreds of you responded with phone calls and e-mails demanding that Canada take a responsible stand on climate change.

Preserving Suffield National Wildlife Area

With the Suffield Coalition, we continue to monitor the situation inside Suffield National Wildlife Area (NWA). The integrity of this unique grassland habitat remains in peril because of legislative loopholes that allow gas well drilling on the site.

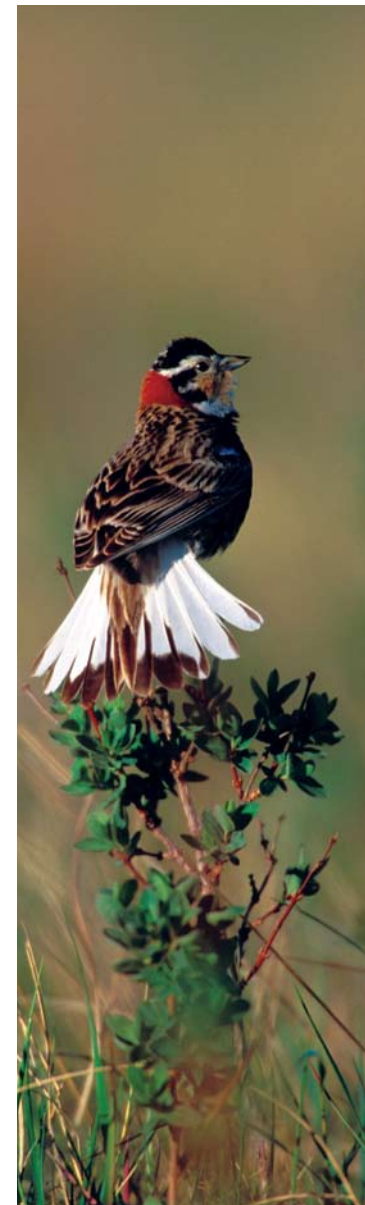
We are keeping up the pressure on the federal government to deny any permits for EnCana Corporation's project proposal to perforate an additional 1,275 new gas wells. Thousands of you have supported this campaign by sending letters to the Ministers of Defence and the Environment. We have also repeatedly called on EnCana to abandon the new project and instead focus on addressing existing issues related to their current operations in this NWA.

Demanding Sustainable Development in the North

The Joint Review Panel (JRP) for the Mackenzie Gas Project, tasked by the government to report on the environmental, socio-economic and cultural effects of the proposal, released its report in December 2009. Nature Canada succeeded in convincing the Panel to include key recommendations to protect bird habitat before the project could proceed.

In particular, the JRP called for seven Important Bird Areas to be preserved under the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy, regulations to protect Kendall Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the designation of the Mackenzie Delta as a special management area.

A final decision is expected in fall 2010 on whether or not the project will be approved, and Nature Canada will continue to speak out in favour of sustainable development in Canada's North.



© Al MacKeigan

Species, Sites, Habitats & People

Piping Up for B.C.'s Marine Biodiversity

Nature Canada joined BC Nature and Nature Alberta in calling for a comprehensive and independent public inquiry on the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project that would export oil sands products to a marine terminal on the B.C. coast.

The development of an oil port at Kitimat and tanker traffic on B.C.'s coast could have potentially devastating effects for the region's wildlife. Fourteen globally Important Bird Areas and critical staging, moulting and feeding areas for tens of millions of murrelets, puffins and auklets are situated in the fragile coastal waters of the Pacific Northwest.

With over a hundred signatories – including First Nations, businesses and prominent Canadians – we sent an open letter to Enbridge CEO Patrick Daniel opposing these plans.

Nature Canada will be participating in the review hearings for the project.

Mobilizing and Informing Our Community

Our committed supporters helped our conservation campaigns by sending nearly 30,000 letters and petition signatures to government decision-makers demanding stronger protection for species at risk, effective action on climate change and the creation of more protected areas across the country.

Our online community is growing, with over 40,000 eNewsletter subscribers, hundreds of blog readers and thousands of Twitter followers.

We also enjoyed meeting hundreds of you face-to-face at the Green Living Show in Toronto and other events from coast to coast.

Outreach like this is one way we help people to connect with nature and share their passion for the natural world with others.



© Parks and People Program

Working Through Partnerships

Strength in Numbers

Nature Canada believes that conservation success comes from collective efforts. The greatest threats to nature today – habitat destruction, species extinction, biodiversity loss, climate change – cannot be solved by any single organization. That is why we choose to work in partnership with others.

The **Canadian Nature Network (CNN)** is a national network of people who care about nature and who share a common interest in protecting it. The CNN represents approximately 100,000 individuals and 360 organizations. Together, we work at the national, provincial and local levels to effect positive change in areas of nature conservation, habitat restoration, species at risk, conservation monitoring, environmental education, invasive species and ecological integrity.

Nature Canada acts as a coordinating body for the Canadian Nature Forum, a formal agreement that includes regional partners from 11 provinces and territories: Ecology North, the Natural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Island Nature Trust of PEI, Nature Nova Scotia, Nature New Brunswick, Nature Quebec, Ontario Nature, Nature Manitoba, Nature Saskatchewan, Nature Alberta and BC Nature.

**canadian
nature
network** 

The **Green Budget Coalition (GBC)** brings together Canada's leading environmental and conservation organizations to assist the government in developing budgetary and fiscal measures that are critical to long-term environmental sustainability.

Founded and chaired by Nature Canada since 1999, the Coalition has 21 member organizations representing over 600,000 Canadians. Together, we recognize that the annual federal budget is often the most important Canadian environmental policy document of the year, and that integrating environmental values into economic and fiscal policy is fundamental for achieving lifelong environmental and human health. The GBC recommendations for Budget 2010 include: protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, investing in Canada's freshwater future and re-investing in renewable energy.



Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada celebrated the release in spring 2010 of an inventory of 2,300 Important Bird Areas throughout the Americas which provides a backbone for site-based

Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada are the Canadian co-partners in **BirdLife International**, a global alliance of conservation organizations working together for the world's birds and people. As BirdLife in Canada we deliver the Important Bird Areas Program which aims to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provides essential habitat for bird populations.

Working internationally with other BirdLife partners throughout the Americas, we develop and advance hemispheric bird conservation objectives for migrating and local birds.



conservation throughout the western hemisphere. A grant from Environment Canada provided the critical investment to kick start the Canadian component of this inventory in 2000.

 © Jonathan Ward

Financial Statements

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2010, with comparative figures for 2009

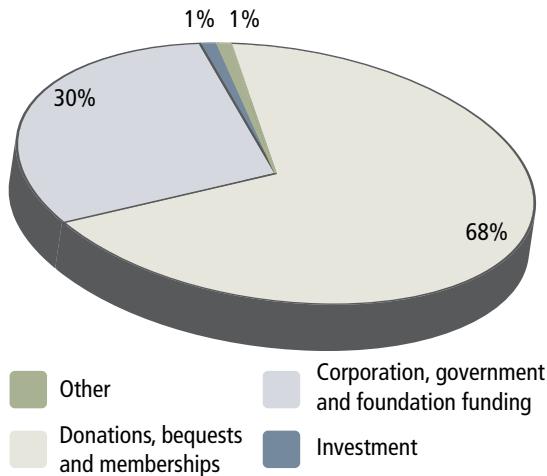
	2010	2009
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 955,255	\$ 639,059
Amounts receivable	97,217	134,344
Prepaid expenses	23,736	17,382
	1,076,208	790,785
Capital assets	30,572	27,708
Investments		
externally restricted	302,410	302,410
unrestricted	799,849	558,071
Investment in life insurance	25,067	23,982
	\$ 2,234,106	\$ 1,702,956
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 236,952	\$ 154,800
Deferred revenue	332,943	303,145
	569,895	457,945
Deferred revenue – life insurance	25,067	23,982
Net assets (deficiency)		
Invested in capital assets	30,572	27,708
Externally restricted	302,410	302,410
Internally restricted	989,404	985,126
Unrestricted (deficiency)	316,758	(94,215)
	1,639,144	1,221,029
	\$ 2,234,106	\$ 1,702,956

Summarized Statement of Operations

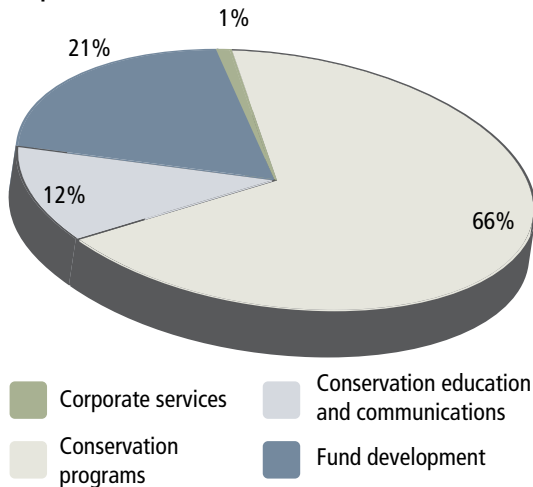
Year ended March 31, 2010,
with comparative figures for 2009

	2010	2009
Revenue		
Donations, bequests and memberships Corporation, government and foundation funding	\$ 1,968,107	\$ 1,654,642
Investment	871,212	840,293
Other	42,381	53,127
	20,214	13,246
	2,901,914	2,561,308
Expenses		
Conservation programs	1,628,829	1,517,918
Conservation education and communications	302,560	429,266
Fund development	525,883	617,637
Corporate services	26,527	123,190
	2,483,799	2,688,011
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	418,115	(126,703)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,221,029	1,347,732
Net assets, end of year	\$ 1,639,144	\$ 1,221,029

Revenue



Expenses



Auditors' Report to the Members

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and summarized statement of operations and changes in net assets are derived from the complete financial statements of Nature Canada as at March 31, 2010 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 28, 2010. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Canada

May 28, 2010

Your Support Makes Our Work Possible

Guardians of Nature

Thousands of individual Canadians support Nature Canada's conservation programs with monthly donations. These donations allow us to respond quickly to the most pressing threats to Canada's nature the moment they arise. We salute every one of them.

Supporters

Our family of supporters - birders, scientists, activists, gardeners, parents, grandparents, volunteers and community groups - are at the core of our activities and the foundation of who we are. We are sustained by your generosity and every one of our conservation successes is thanks to you.

Whittemore Legacy Circle

Members who have chosen to make a thoughtful gift in their Will or other type of future gift enter into our Whittemore Legacy Circle. This year, we welcome **Marianne I. Ritchie, Nicholas Roeder, Jean & Michael Stahnke, Marilyn F. Wiley** and one benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous into our Legacy Circle. They join their **51** fellow members:

Diana M. Bainbridge, Margaret Blackmore, Ronald & Muriel Bremner, Judith E. W. Carder, Ruth Catana, Christie Chute, Sheila Whittemore Davies & Family, Patricia Dray,

Linda & Wayne Dyck, Dr. Martin H. Edwards, Nadine Fowler, Julie Gelfand, Mary Gilliland, Louise Gratton, Dr. Brian Hitchon, Ross Hodgetts, Lori Holowaychuk, Cendrine Huemer & Matthew Owers, Lawrence Kane, William Kellet, Jackie Krindle, Dr. William A. & Lois Lang, Dr. William A. Montevocchi, Bob & Helen Nation, Evelyn & Martin Nowoselski, William John Pratt & Tracy Kerluke, Janet M. Pattinson, Dr. Yolande Prénoveau, Suzanne Ryan, Caroline Schultz, Barbara Vengshoel, Cliff Wallis, Joyce Wontner, Richard Yank, Doug & Joanne Zbetnoff and eight additional benefactors who wish to remain anonymous.

Legacy donors

We are saddened by the passing of the following members whose passion and commitment to nature protection will be greatly missed. With their kind legacy gifts, they hope to ensure that future generations will enjoy nature as they did. They put their trust once again in Nature Canada to protect the animals and places they cared so much about.

Estate of Catharine Bensley, Estate of Armelda Buchanan, Estate of Hugo Germeraad, Estate of Donald & Francis Hatherly, Estate of Constance Hawley, Estate of Reginald William Jennings, Estate of Charles Labatiuk and the Estate of Henry Charles Pegg.

The Board and staff are grateful for their thoughtful legacy gifts in support of our conservation and education efforts.



Nature Protectors Gifts

\$2,500-\$10,000

- Jack & Mary Gingrich
- Bill & Natalia Labatiuk*
- R. Lornie
- Doug MacCaulay
- Barbara Vengshoel
- and 2 donors who wish to remain anonymous

Nature Leaders Gifts

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Karen & Bill Barnett
- Jeremy Baumbach & Yvette Lepage
- Robert D. Crockford
- Deborah B. Dancik
- Mark Dorfman
- Dr. Martin H. Edwards
- John Eydt & Danielle Gelinas*
- Glenn Gracie
- Dr. Donald Hedges
- Mr. Lawrence A. Kane
- Dr. Cortlandt Mackenzie
- Dr. Linda Pilarski
- Dr. Yolande Prenoveau
- Jack & Joan Sherman
- Ms. Cynthia L. Smurthwaite*
- Grant Snell
- Ron Varley
- Sharolyn Vettese
- Cliff Wallis
- Debbie Weiers
- Sheila Whittemore Davies & family
- Josephine Williams*
- Mr. Glen Wood*
- Richard Yank
- Doug & Joanne Zbetnoff
- and 10 donors who wish to remain anonymous

Nature Builders Gifts

\$500-\$999

- Miss Evelyn Ashford
- Dr. I.K. Barker
- Doug Belcher
- Paul & Patricia Bigelow*
- Alan S. Canavan*
- Mr. Brian R. Carr
- Gabriella Carrelli
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Clayton
- Mr. Robert Creighton
- Irene Crofts
- John Cuthbertson & Rhonda Wishart
- Mrs. Yvonne Cuttle*
- Terry DeMarco & Fraser Godfrey
- Wayne & Emilia Fletcher
- Enid Frankton*
- Mark W. Gallop
- Bill Gard
- Rosanne Gasse
- Mr. John Geale
- Ms. Helen K. Gibson
- Al Grosvenor
- Mr. Chester Gryski
- Mr. Martin R. Haase
- V. J. Higgins
- Ms. Patricia Hinds
- Matt Hisko
- Ms. Marian Hofmann & family
- Mr. Robert J. Howard
- Joan & Ralph Hudgins
- Ms. Beth Kantrud
- May Kersten
- Luc Lemieux
- Ron & Kim Lentz
- Ms. Lynn Matthews
- Deb McCabe
- Sheila & David McCracken
- Dr. Wallace M. Mitchell

- Lorelie Mitchell & Piet van Dijken
- Mrs. Barbara Munves
- Ms. Lorraine Ourom
- Joanne Papineau
- Dr. & Mrs. Diether & Heidi Peschken
- Peter & Diane Petrik
- Gisele Quesnel-Oke
- Steve (Frogman) & Elaine Racey
- Catherine Rand
- Dr. Kate Reed*
- Neil Richards & family
- Nicholas Roeder
- Dr. Doug Schmeiser
- Mr. Jon D. Snipper
- Ms. Teri Storey*
- Ms. Cynthia Termorshuizen
- Mr. Kenneth W. Thorpe
- Ron Varley
- Catherine Whitfield
- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher J. Winn
- Charlotte Witty
- Joyce A. Wontner
- Dr. Peter Wm. & Mrs. Ann E. Wood
- Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Wyatt
- John and Susann Young
- Dr. Jean H. Young
- and 43 donors who wish to remain anonymous

* These individuals are the newest members of our Nature Builders program.

Member Focus

Remembering Charles Labatiuk: Through His Parents' Eyes

Love and respect for nature grew in his family.

Bill and Natalia Labatiuk are immersed in their memories as they sit on the bench that honours the legacy of their son, Charles, and watch the energetic bird feeding station at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. They spent part of the day walking the trails and reminiscing about Charles. Bill reaches for Natalia's hand and they sit together for a long, long time.

After some time, they reflect that this bench would be a place that Charles would love to sit and listen to the birds. And they laughed as they agree that "he actually wouldn't sit too long – he would just have to get up and explore."

Charles Labatiuk hiked, paddled and explored wild spaces like Beaverhill. He was a keen naturalist, photographer, mountaineer and environmental professional. As a boy, his parents remember him at his grandparents' farm: "he discovered the magic of our natural world through bugs, frogs and plants. By his 12th birthday, he was blazing his own trails and taking his younger siblings, other neigh-

bourhood kids and his slower but enthusiastic parents to identify bird songs."

In his Will, Charles left a bequest to Nature Canada that will preserve and protect magnificent places like Beaverhill and other Important Bird Areas (IBAs). IBAs allow us to monitor birds – counting, banding and reporting on trends. Birds are nature's sentinels: you can gauge the health of an ecosystem based on the activity and presence of birds.

Charles' legacy will support the ongoing and future work at Beaverhill Bird Observatory, including extensive education programs, local conservation efforts protecting rare species including songbirds and Burrowing Owls, and research on bird ecology.

Charles shared his love of nature with his whole family, and especially his nieces. As Bill says, "he loved those girls with his whole heart." He inspired them to be active, adventurous and helped nurture their love of nature. Funds from Charles' legacy will also encourage children to get involved in nature through Nature Canada's education programs.

The Charles Labatiuk Entrance Scholarship will be awarded to a young naturalist attending post-secondary studies in the natural

sciences, and the Charles Labatiuk Volunteer Award is for exceptional bird conservation and stewardship efforts.

Nature Canada staff member Jodi Joy is inspired by the Labatiuk family and their shared, enduring commitment to protecting nature: “We are truly honoured that Charles remembered Nature Canada in his Will, and we will ensure that his gift is used to protect the wild spaces he explored in his life and to foster a love of nature in the next generation. And we are deeply grateful to Bill and Natalia for sharing his story with us.”

The Charles Labatiuk Endowment Fund is an excellent example of how a planned gift (through an endowment or gift in your Will) allows you the opportunity to protect and preserve your favourite spot for birds and other wildlife, now and forever.



Charles Labatiuk, summitting Mt. Chester

Celebrating Excellence

The Charles Labatiuk Scholarship Award and Volunteer Award

Nature Canada is proud to announce the establishment of the Charles Labatiuk Scholarship Award and the Charles Labatiuk Volunteer Award. These awards have been established through the legacy gift of Charles Labatiuk and the Charles Labatiuk Nature Endowment Fund, which Nature Canada announced in 2009 and established in 2010.

This year's recipient of the Charles Labatiuk Scholarship is Jeff Howard. Jeff has just completed his first year in the Ecosystem Management program at Sir Sandford Fleming College. His essay about the value of wetlands and their contribution to biodiversity, water and air filtration, and nature education clearly shows his dedication to their conservation.

Nature Lovers Who Inspire Us

Each year, we celebrate the achievements of extraordinary individuals and groups representing all who work to protect and conserve nature for future generations. Their example and dedication inspire us. We congratulate each of this year's award winners!

Douglas Pimlott Award Winner

Douglas Humphreys Pimlott was a renowned conservationist, wildlife biologist, ecologist

and environmentalist. The award was created over 30 years ago and is Nature Canada's preeminent award. This award is presented each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Canadian conservation. This year's recipient of the Douglas Pimlott Award is Jackie Waddell.

Jackie has been a tireless advocate for nature over the past 23 years. In her work with the Island Nature Trust in Prince Edward Island, she has reached hundreds of landowners with information about the importance of private stewardship, helped many thousands of school children appreciate the importance of wildlife and habitat and contributed to endangered species protection, including significant work on the Piping Plover Guardian program.

Affiliate Award Winner

This award recognizes the conservation efforts of a partner organization whose work directly supports Nature Canada's mission. This year's recipient of the Affiliate Award is the British Columbia (BC) Nature Caretakers group.

The BC Nature Caretakers have served as a model for the burgeoning national Important Bird Area (IBA) Caretaker Network. With volunteers performing monitoring and stew-

ardship tasks at over 90% of the IBAs in the province, the BC Nature program has developed recruitment and outreach materials and shown how this initiative can be successful.

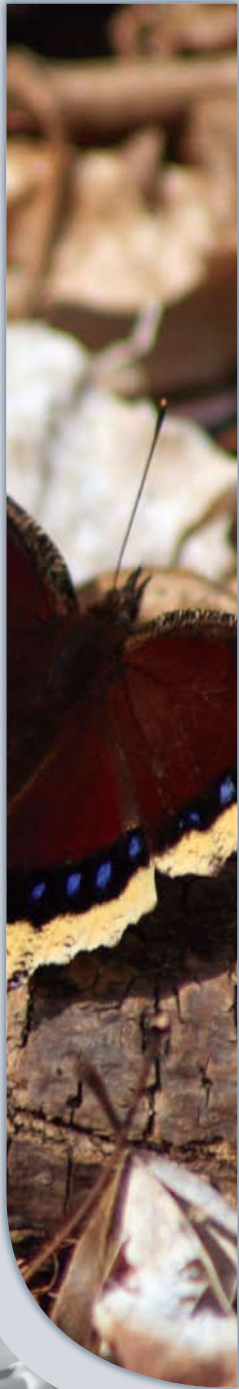
Volunteer Award Winner

This award is presented to an outstanding volunteer who increases Nature Canada's ability to expand our conservation work. This year's recipient of the Volunteer Award is Tony Dean.

Tony is a retired public servant with management experience in both human resources and financial planning. In the past year, he has generously donated his time and expertise to advancing Nature Canada's employee classification projects that are allowing us to effectively restructure our organization and streamline our work.



© Jean Wyenberg



Corporate, Foundation and Government Supporters

Champion's Circle

(\$50,000 and above)

- Canadian International Development Agency
- Friends of BirdLife
- Google Grants
- TransCanada Corporation

Protector's Circle

(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

- EJLB Foundation
- Ivey Foundation
- Kruger Products
- Parks Canada Agency
- TD Bank Financial Group

Defender's Circle

(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

- Anonymous Donor
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- The McLean Foundation

Guardian's Circle

(\$1,000 to \$9,999)

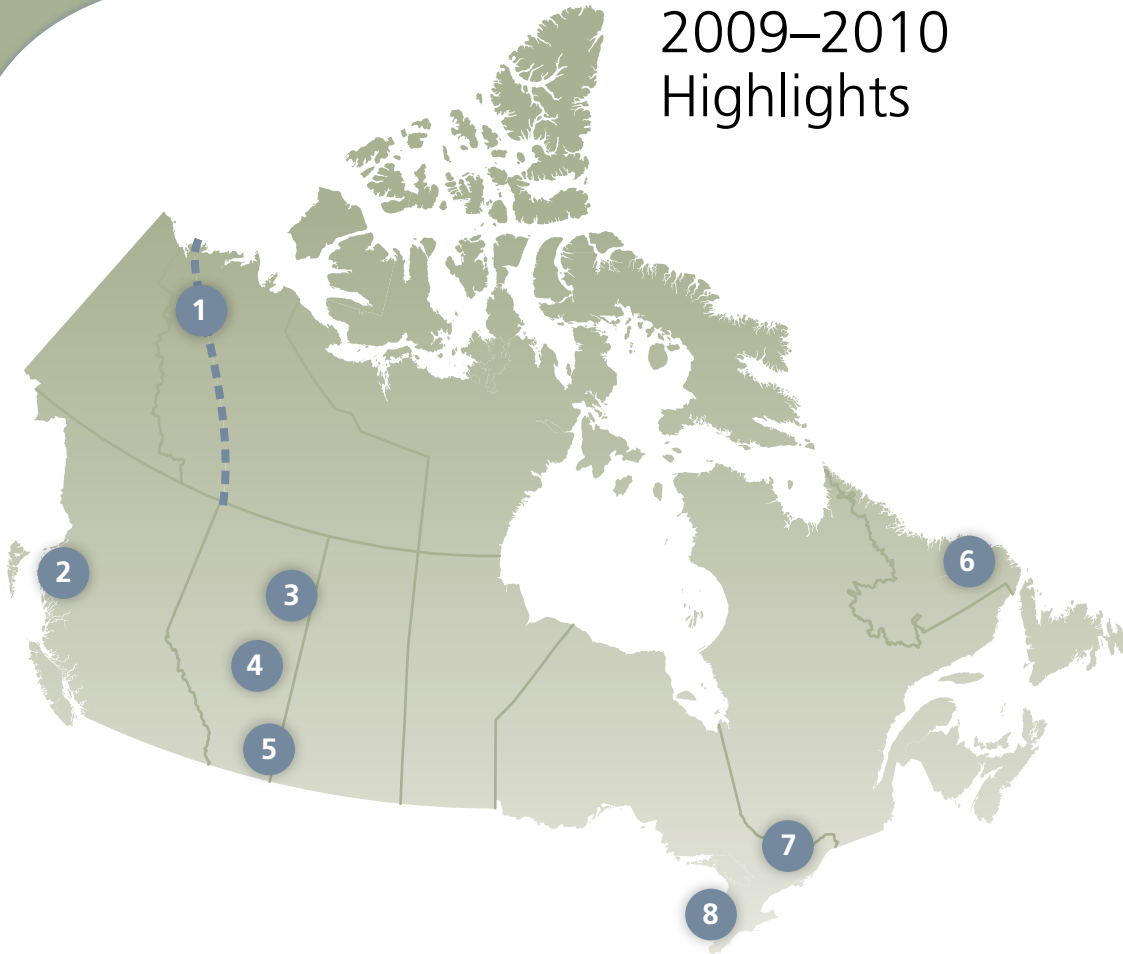
- Bird Studies Canada
- Bulrush Foundation
- Calgary Foundation
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Forest Products Association of Canada
- John Deere Foundation of Canada
- LGL Limited
- Mining Association of Canada
- Rae & Lipskie Investment Council
- Vale INCO

Special Thanks

(up to \$999)

- Avani Creations
- bitHeads Inc
- BMO Employees Charitable Foundation
- Dicom Express
- Hydro-One Employees' and Pensioners Charity Trust
- IBM Employees and Pensioners Charity Trust
- Lee Valley Tools
- Mackenzie Charitable Giving Fund
- Manitoba All Charities Campaign
- Ontario Power Generation Employees and Pensioners Charity Trust
- SF Charitable Foundation
- Telus Corporation
- Union Gas
- VanCity Community Foundation

2009–2010 Highlights



1 Mackenzie
Gas Project

2 EnBridge's Northern
Gateway Project

3 Alberta
Oilsands

4 Beaverhill
Lake Important
Bird Area

5 CFB Suffield
National
Wildlife Area

6 Mealy Mountains
National Park Reserve

7 Species at
Risk Advocacy

8 Wind Energy
Development





Nature Canada

75 Albert Street, Suite 300
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5E7

📞 1-800-267-4088

☎ 613-562-3371

✉ info@naturecanada.ca

🌐 naturecanada.ca

Nature Canada's charitable registration number
is 11883-4704-RR0001

On the cover

The Whimbrel is a globetrotter, breeding in the Arctic and wintering in the Caribbean and Central and South America. Recent telemetry work revealed that one bird travelled from the eastern seaboard across the boreal forest, west to the Aleutians, before returning to the eastern seaboard. Whimbrels are declining throughout their range and Important Bird Areas are an important tool for their conservation.

📷 © **Brendan Toews**. Brendan is a self-taught, freelance nature photographer in Ontario. He first came to Nature Canada's attention through his discovery of Endangered Piping Plovers nesting at Sauble Beach at the age of 13. We have been delighted by his photos and focus on capturing intimate portraits of birds in their natural surroundings.

🖋️ Annual Report design and layout:
Jeff Hammell.