

# Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program

## Inspiring Excellence in Wildlife Science and Conservation

**B**ird Studies Canada leads and oversees waterfowl and wetland research projects in the lower Great Lakes through the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program ([www.birdscanada.org/lpwwrp](http://www.birdscanada.org/lpwwrp)). The program was established in the 1980s with support from The Bluff's Hunting Club, to conserve waterfowl and other wetland-associated wildlife and their habitats through research and monitoring.

The Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program is internationally recognized as a leader in high-quality applied science for conservation planning, and provides hands-on opportunities for young wildlife technicians, biologists, and scientists in all aspects of wildlife science. The program's tremendous success is made possible by diverse supporters in Canada and the United States. One such supporter here in Canada is SC Johnson.

## Samuel C. Johnson's Lasting Legacy

Thanks to his love for wildlife and the outdoors, Samuel C. Johnson created The Samuel C. Johnson Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Graduate Research Scholarship. Mr. Johnson's decision to invest in North America's best and brightest graduate students in the field of waterfowl and wetland science is a powerful reflection of his passion, dedication, and foresight.

For over 20 years, SC Johnson has provided invaluable support through the Graduate Research Scholarship. The company's investment now surpasses \$1.5 million, all of which has supported leading students in conservation science.



### By the numbers:

- 130 waterfowl and wetland conservation research projects completed
- 40 wildlife research biologists specially trained
- 77 peer-reviewed scientific papers published
- 18 active research projects



Least Bittern Photo: Emma Buck & Jeremy Bensette



Toads Photo: Scott Gillingwater



Redhead Photo: Ron Ridout

### Strategic Priorities: Pressing Conservation Concerns

- The influence of climate change, wetland degradation and loss, diseases, and contaminants
- The impact of non-native invasive species on waterfowl and other wetland bird populations
- The benefits and potential improvements of waterfowl habitat management techniques for all species.

## Recipients of 2017-18 Support Include:

**Lisa Elliott, Ph.D.**  
University of Minnesota

"The experience of conducting this research has helped me master new quantitative methods that account for some of the challenges associated with the study of rare and secretive species of conservation concern. I am motivated by the hope that my research on the distributions and habitat associations of declining wetland birds in the Great Lakes basin will help natural resource managers prioritize coastal wetlands for additional protection or habitat improvement, as a way of bolstering bird populations."



Photo: Lisa Elliott



Photo: Valya Roberts

**Haley Roberts, M.Sc.**  
Queen's University

Hayley's research analyzed decades of marsh-breeding frog monitoring data. Findings included that detection of most targeted species was influenced by temperature, time of day, and date (cloud, precipitation, and wind had little influence). These results are beneficial for developing species-specific field survey guidelines when studying a single species or groups of a small number of species, and will be used to suggest improvements to the frog survey guidelines of Bird Studies Canada's Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program.

**Matthew Palumbo, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research**  
Western University/University of Wisconsin

"My research has helped me advance my professional goal of continually learning from professionals of different backgrounds, applying my education to improve managing wildlife populations, and sharing what I have learned to foster the education of wildlife management for others. I intend that the research I conduct will provide useful information to regional conservation planners in making decisions about habitat management regulations and harvest management regulations for Mallards within the lower Great Lakes."



Photo: Mike Moynihan



Photo: Bridget Wheelock

**Bridget Wheelock, M.Sc.**  
Central Michigan University

"I hope to inform managers involved in wetland restoration and conservation projects about locations of frogs and toads in Great Lakes coastal wetlands, where suitable habitat for them exists, and which environmental factors are associated with each Great Lakes species. My research has allowed me to network with many other researchers, learn more about species I'm passionate about, learn new skills - and find a balance between humility and confidence, as I tackle new obstacles in my analyses."