

The Song Sparrow

February 2013 (Vol. 55-4)



Helping Science by Birding
Reporting your sightings regularly so that others can make use of the knowledge.
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Collecting Bird Sighting Information for Science - How All Birders Can Play Their Part

By Richard Gregson

All birders, and ultimately all birds, benefit from the collection of information about where birds are and when they can be seen. Once upon a time, these data were only available in small and discrete packages – either curated by ornithologists or in individual birders' daily logs and notebooks. Now we have large multi-user databases that bring all these small packages together and at last give us a hint of what is going on in the birding world and where problems are arising. It is to the benefit of all birders to add sightings to these mass databases. It is easy to do and it is hugely important. We can all share in the



endeavour and responsibility of building a detailed picture of bird life and distribution over years. In most of North America, and increasingly in the rest of the world, there is really only one multi-user database to consider and that is **eBird**. Here in Quebec, there is also the original birding database (**ÉPOQ**). How do they compare and what are their benefits?

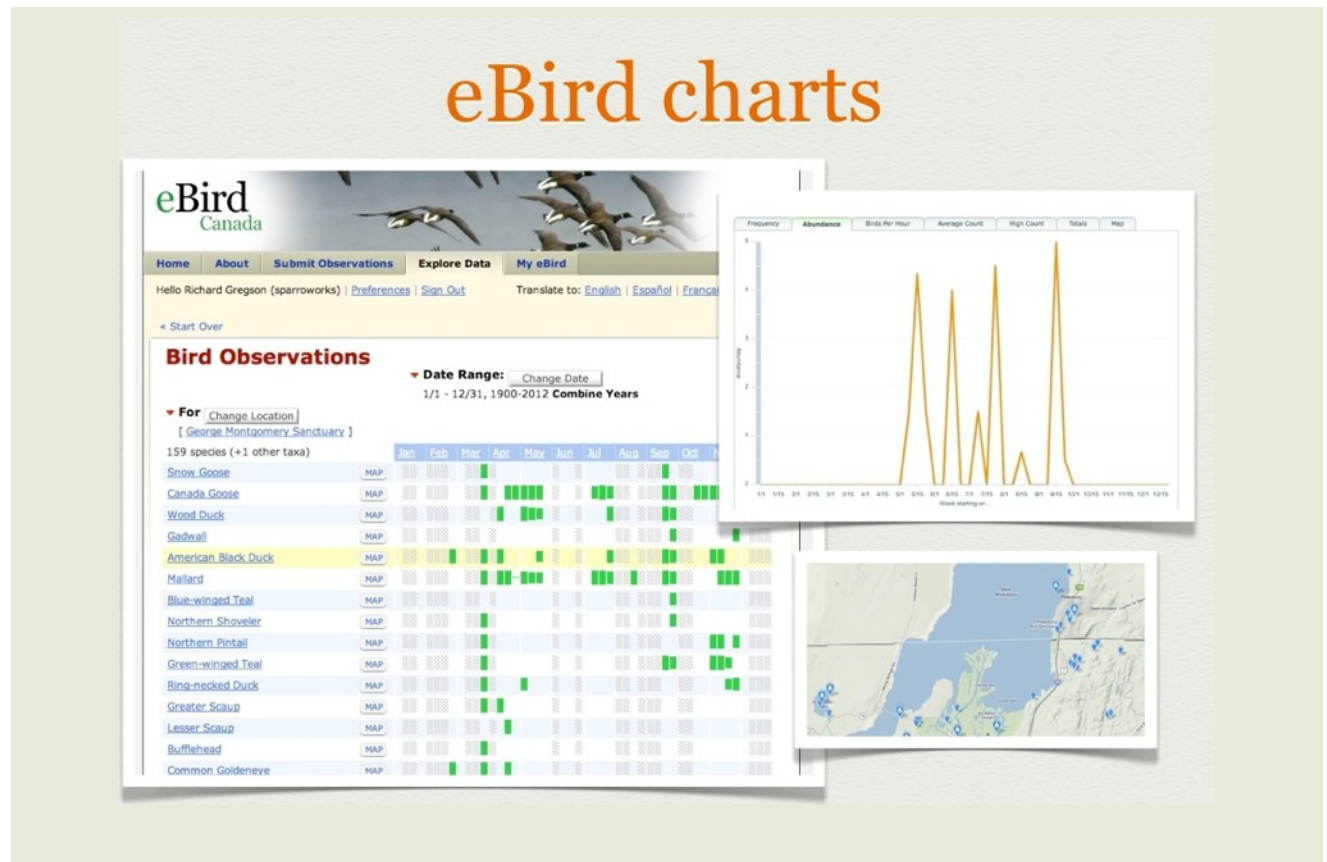
Let me make it clear that I am speaking personally here and *not* as the president of BPQ. Bird Protection Quebec does not have a formal position on this matter. Last December, we turned our monthly meeting over to a discussion of the pros and cons of the two main data recording options in the hope of helping birders decide where best to report their sightings. The two camps are not in opposition; rather they are complementary and each has its strengths and weaknesses.

In Quebec we are fortunate to have the longstanding Étude des populations d'oiseaux du Québec (ÉPOQ) database that is administered by [Regroupement QuébecOiseaux \(RQO\)](#) and eBird, which in Canada is administered by [Bird Studies Canada](#). ÉPOQ concerns itself solely with recording sightings within Quebec while eBird now accepts data from all over the world – including Quebec. ÉPOQ has been in existence for considerably longer than eBird and has a huge wealth of information within it going

back to the '40s; eBird has been functioning for long enough to have become a fully, perhaps the most, mature system. Because of the prior existence of ÉPOQ, eBird is less complete in the coverage of bird sightings in our territory than it should be as fewer birders make submissions to it, though growing numbers are doing so. For the moment, we can all submit our data to both databases, but in the longer term we have to ask ourselves where it is best to devote our energies. I live in hope that one day the ÉPOQ data will be merged with those of eBird to the great benefit of both.

One difference becomes immediately apparent. Anyone using eBird can not only submit sightings, but can also query the database and receive fascinating answers to those questions we all have about where birds are being seen today, how populations of particular species vary over the map throughout a year, what birds have been reported in each month at any given birding site, and so on. eBird is truly international in scope, with birding records from almost every country on the globe. It offers access in English, French and Spanish and is simply the biggest and the most complete collection of bird information on the planet – albeit collected over a shorter and more recent timespan than that held by ÉPOQ. It is truly birding without borders.

Such free sharing of information is not as openly offered by ÉPOQ but there are some excellent reasons for its more closed system. These data have value and by charging organizations (groups doing environmental impact assessments for developers, for example) to use them, significant sums are raised; these are redirected to support conservation projects. The Quebec-centric focus of ÉPOQ and the fact that the database is “owned” by the clubs that comprise RQO also adds to the willingness of some individual birders to contribute to it without great personal expectations of getting much back – though it seems that there are plans to roll out more interactivity to compete with that offered by eBird. ÉPOQ is also quite strict about not publicizing sightings of



sensitive birds (owls for example) while eBird relies on birders themselves to manage such reporting in a way that will minimize potential for problems such as huge numbers of birders and photographers descending on a mega-rarity at the same time. The club aspect of ÉPOQ also adds to the social side of birding at a personal level ... eBird has its social aspect too but it is more Internet based. Lastly, ÉPOQ data have contributed to, and continue to contribute to, important publications and studies relevant to Quebec birding.

For example:

- *Les oiseaux des Îles-de-la-Madeleine* - 1992 (Pierre Fradette)

- *L'Observation des oiseaux en Estrie* - 1993 (Denis Lepage)
- *Guide des sites ornithologiques de la Grande région de Québec* - 1993 (Pierre Otis et al.)
- *Chronobiologie des oiseaux du Bas-St-Laurent* - 1993 (Jacques Larivee)
- *L'Atlas saisonnier des oiseaux du Québec* - 1995 (A. Cyr & J Larivée)
- *Liste commentée des oiseaux du Québec* - 1996 (Normand David)

As a professional biologist, I hold it to be axiomatic that scientific data should be freely available. The free exchange of data and information between scientists is so fundamental to the process of advancing knowledge that anything that hinders such exchange has to be

questioned very closely. Thus, I am naturally drawn to making use of an open system when I report my sightings – and so that is what I do. I think ÉPOQ is amazing in what it has done, I applaud the people who have made it what it is over several decades ... but personally I believe it is now time to make a concerted effort to merge the ÉPOQ database with eBird so that there is no longer a virtual “black hole” of knowledge on either side of the Quebec border into which birds disappear as they migrate and travel about. Cooperation, complementarity and sharing are the goals we should strive to achieve. So what does eBird offer? Let me quote from their literature:

eBird data are ... accessible to anyone via the eBird website and other applications developed by the global biodiversity information community. For example, eBird data are part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), which integrates observational data on bird populations across the western hemisphere. In turn, the AKN feeds eBird data to international biodiversity data systems, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). In this way any contribution made to eBird increases our understanding of the distribution, richness, and uniqueness of the biodiversity of our planet.



ÉPOQ is managed by RQO

Making use of eBird is amazingly easy. There are several ways to enter your sightings, from logging on to the website and filling out the online forms to using of the many smartphone apps that help you to record your sightings as you go through the day and to submit them directly to eBird before you drive or cycle home or move on to the next location. Some of these apps even mark the location of each sighting on a map and are accurate to within a few feet!

Accessing the data is equally simple. Detailed maps, charts, and graphs can be viewed at the eBird website. In addition, the computers “know” what should be where and when each month and will automatically flag rarities and unusual sightings for confirmation.

You can sign up for e-mail alerts of what’s around in your area, you can create your own life lists and compare your achievements with thousands of other birders in friendly competition. BPQ is currently updating and creating new birding site information pages for its website and these will include real-time extracts from eBird of what has been reported right up to the moment that you are viewing each page. If you want to know what has been seen recently at the marsh at St-Timothée, it will be on the website for you to check before you head out to see for yourself. This sort of facility is already overtaking the chat groups and phone lines we have used in the past for sharing information simply because it is so simple and absolutely bang up to the minute accurate. Of course, a database is only as good as the quantity and quality of the data submitted to it. The more birders submit their sightings, the richer and more detailed this information becomes, the more we all benefit from the fruit of our collective labours and contributions.

What we do with our sightings is personal. We can keep them in our own notebooks or we can also share them with the wider world of birders and ornithologists and thereby add our small contribution to the knowledge base that will help ensure there are always birds for us to see. Contributing such sightings to ÉPOQ or to eBird is really so rapid that it is hard to understand why anyone committed to conservation would not choose to do so. If you are not already using these databases, might I earnestly encourage you to take a closer look. The feedback is so very useful.

Start today. eBird or ÉPOQ, it is up to you but do make friends with one of them this year. This is important.



A part of the BPO bird sanctuary at Philipsburg

We will be inviting members to join us there over the next few seasons to help us carry out important enhancements to the facilities and trails. You will be able to see some fine birds too.

See the back page for more details.

Birding in Colombia

by Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard

Last September, after a year of planning and waiting an additional six months, we were finally able to go to Colombia. This trip was originally planned for March, but due to unfortunate circumstances, we had to postpone it. We were eager to go!

From our research, we learnt that there are approximately 1,900 bird species in Colombia, 80 of which are endemic (*Birds of Colombia*, ProAves 2010). We spent some time looking for a Colombian tour operator. When we travel like this, it's very important for us to hire people from the country and thereby help the local economy. We opted for Luis Eduardo Urena, the director and owner of Manakin Nature Tours <http://www.manakinnaturetours.com>. We were in contact with him from June 2011 until our departure in September 2012. We feel we were very fortunate to have found such a reliable and professional tour operator. He worked very hard to find birds for us, often insisting that we needed to see a particular bird. He worked so hard, in fact, that he also found two lifers for himself!

On September 9, we left for a 17-day trip with Luis, our guide and Carlos our driver in the Andes and Choco region. We travelled through the three Cordilleras. Upon our arrival in Santa Fe de Bogota, Luis took us in charge and took very good care of us. Carlos drove us on the winding roads and the very bad ones, with rocks, crevasses, branches and the precipice a few inches from the wheels. We always felt very safe, even on very remote trails.

Most of our travel was in the mountains, where a good four-wheel drive vehicle was essential. The highest peak was 4,000 m and the lowest was 300 m. We started in Bogota (2,600 m) at Parque La Florida, and then drove to El Jardín Encantado in San Francisco. It lives up to its name with flowers all over the place, but the main attraction is 28 hummingbird feeders. These are frequented by 15 to 22 species a day. We stayed for two hours and counted 16 species, including the **Long-billed Hermit, White-necked Jacobin,**

Brown Violetear, and the magnificent **Red-billed Emerald.**

Unfortunately, space is too short to give all the details of the many places we went and the species we saw. This is an outline of our itinerary:

Day 1 La Florida Parque (2,600 m), El Jardín Encantado (1,300 m) La Laguna el Tabacal (1,100 m).

Day 2 Chingaza National Park (3,300 m)

Day 3 Mama Dulce Reserve Agua de Dios (300 m)

Day 4 Los Nevados del Tolima National Park (2,800 m), Jardín botánicas San Jorge Ibagué (1,300 m)

Day 5 Doima Road (800 m), Otum Quimbaya Sanctuary Fauna y Flora

Days 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Otum Quimbaya Sanctuary Fauna y



Andean Motmot

Flora, Cerro Montezuma Natural Reserve, Tatama National Park (Rainforest)

Day 11 Rio Blanco Natural Reserve (2,800 m) Day

12 Nevado Del Ruiz National Park (4,000 m)

Day 13 Yellow-Eared Parrot Reserve (3,000m) Jardín Antioquia

Day 14 Jardin Village (1,900 m) and Bolombolo Village (300 m)

Day 15 La Romera Reserve Medellín (1,500 m)

Our days were very busy and sometimes we had to travel a long time to get to our next destination. Because the road conditions were rather bad, we often felt we were back home in Montreal! One road we travelled was only 14 km long, but it took 90 minutes to arrive at our destination. Each place we went was very beautiful and we savoured every moment, but our favourite was the Cerro Montezuma Natural Reserve in the Tatama National Park (rainforest). This park is managed by a large indigenous family. Léo (Léopoldina), the matriarch, is 36 years old and widowed with six children. She is surrounded by her brother, mother and father and various other family members. The comfort is basic but acceptable: hot water (from an electric shower, very peculiar), different but surprisingly tasty food, and above all very cordial people. Léo came birding with us once and her brother brought us lunch on his donkey – an excellent transportation mode for these roads. Overall, our stay there was very peaceful and filled with good people.

In general, the food was good. Pork and chicken play a large role in the diet, along with beans, rice, corn and avocado, even for breakfast. We were surprised that there wasn't much fruit available outside of the hotels. When we did find it, it wasn't expensive, compared to what we would pay here. One day we bought a bag of eight mangoes for \$2.00. We stayed in some chic four-star hotels and other times at reserves that were basic but very acceptable.

At the end we had 377 species seen, 24 heard only and 287 lifers. To give you an idea, we saw 56 Tanager, 39 Hummingbird, and 54 Tyrant and Flycatcher species.

In conclusion this trip was one of our very special ones and most prolific, in terms of the number of species. We felt very safe all the time; there are a lot of transportation police officers everywhere. Luis and Carlos are very dedicated and very friendly with the clients; we felt that they were more like friends.

Colombia is a very big country, we saw only a very small portion of it, and so it's very probable that we will go back again to visit another part of this very fascinating country.

People who would like more information on the tour operator or any other information, you can contact us at: jd030824@gmail.com



Barred Puffbird

Merveilleuse Colombie

Par Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard

Un voyage comme celui que nous décrivons dans les lignes qui suivent demande une longue préparation. En effet, une année a été nécessaire et un imprévu ajouta une attente de six mois. Prévu d'abord pour le mois de mars, notre départ pour la Colombie s'est finalement concrétisé en septembre.

Notre recherche nous a permis de découvrir qu'environ quelques 1 900 espèces d'oiseaux étaient présents en Colombie dont environ 80%, des résidents (*Birds of Colombia*, ProAves 2010). Afin de s'assurer de trouver ces oiseaux, nous nous sommes attardés à chercher un guide local car nous croyons d'une part, que nous serions mieux servis

et que d'autre part, nous encouragerions l'économie locale. Nous avons donc choisi Luis Eduardo Urena, le directeur et propriétaire de «Manakin Nature Tours <http://www.manakinnaturetours.com>. Étant en contact avec ce monsieur depuis le mois de juin 2011, nous avons été heureux de découvrir chez lui le professionnalisme qui répondait à nos attentes. Monsieur Urena n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour les trouver à tel point qu'il a même pu observer des primecoches pour lui!

Un séjour de 17 jours, débutant le 9 septembre, en compagnie de notre guide, Luis, et de notre chauffeur, Carlos, qui nous amènera dans la Cordillère des Andes et dans la région des Choco. Luis s'occupera de nous dès notre arrivée à Santa Fe de Bogota. De là notre chauffeur Carlos nous amènera sur des routes sinueuses, parsemées de roches et de racines, longeant quelquefois des précipices avec virages en épingle. Grâce à Carlos, nous nous sommes toujours sentis en sécurité même dans les chemins les plus reculés.

Nous avons constaté que le choix d'un véhicule mu par quatre roues motrices était essentiel car nous étions majoritairement sur des routes de montagne dont l'altitude variait de 300 à 4 000 mètres. Depuis le terrain de golf Parque La Florida à Bogota, nous avons roulé jusqu'au Jardin enchanté (El Jardin Encantado) à San Francisco; ce jardin porte bien son nom car il est fréquenté par quelques 15 à 22 espèces de colobris attirés par 28 mangeoires installées par la propriétaire des lieux. Les deux heures durant lesquelles nous sommes restés, nous a permis d'observer 16 espèces et pour n'en nommer que quelques uns, le **Ermite à longue queue**, le **Colobri Jacobin**, le **Colobri Delephine** ainsi que le magnifique **Émeraude de Gibson**.

L'espace étant restreint, nous vous proposons notre itinéraire où nous identifions les endroits visités:

Jour 1 La Florida Parque (2600 m), El Jardín Encantado (1300 m) La Laguna el tabacal (1,100m).

Jour 2 Parc national Chingaza (3 300 m)

Jour 3 Mama dulce reserve Agua de Dios (300 m)

Jour 4 Parc national Los Nevados del Tolima (2800m) Jardín botánica San Jorge Ibagué (1 300 m)

Jour 5 Doima road (800 m), Otum Quimbaya Sanctuary fauna y flora

Jours 6, 7, 8, 9,10 Otum Quimbaya Sanctuary fauna y flora, Cerro Montezuma Natural reserve, Parc National Tatama (Forêt tropicale humide)

Jour 11 Rio Blanco Natural Reserve (2 800 m)

Jour 12 Parc National Nevado del Ruiz (4 000 m)

Jour 13 Yellow-Eared Parrot Reserve (3 000 m) Jardín Antioquia

Jour 14 Jardin Village (1 900 m) et Bolombolo village (300m)

Jour 15 La Romera Reserve Medellin (1500 m)

Le constat, un horaire bien rempli particulièrement dû à l'état lamentable des routes que nous devions quelquefois emprunter; par exemple, à une occasion, il nous a fallu 1h30 pour ne parcourir que 14 km. Nous nous sommes émerveillés de tous les sites visités et nous en avons apprécié chaque instant. Toutefois, un endroit ressort parmi tous ceux visités et notre préférence va au «Cerro Montezuma Natural Reserve» (Rainforest) dans le Parque Tatama. Une famille indigène, avec en tête Léo (Leopoldina) la mamita, âgée de 36 ans et mère de 6 enfants, entourée de son frère et de ses parents ont la responsabilité de gérer l'endroit. Les personnel chaleureux nous accueillent dans un confort rudimentaire mais acceptable. Nous avons accès à l'eau chaude à partir d'une douche électrique plutôt inusitée. La nourriture, évidemment différente de la nôtre, est bonne et très goûteuse. Léo est venu faire du «birding» avec nous et son frère s'est chargé de nous apporter notre lunch, à dos d'âne. Bref, dépaysement assuré, nourriture délicieuse et des gens hors du commun.

La plupart du temps, la nourriture était satisfaisante et le menu était surtout constitué de porc et de poulet accompagnés de fèves, de riz, de maïs, d'avocats parfois même servis lors du déjeuner. Nous avons été surpris par l'absence de fruits dans leur quotidien malgré leur présence dans les hôtels. Si nous comparons avec ce que ça nous coûte ici, un sac de 8 mangues pour 2\$ ce n'est pas cher pour nous mais pour eux c'est différent.

Nous étions hébergés dans des hôtels très chics cotés quatre étoiles et nous avons aussi goûtés quelquefois à du logement plus rudimentaire et très acceptable dans ce qu'ils appellent «les lodges».

Notre voyage s'est terminé avec un nombre très acceptable d'espèces d'oiseaux : vues 377, entendues 24, lifers 287. Pour vous donner un aperçu, dans la famille des tangaras et alliés, nous en avons vu 56 espèces, dans la famille des colibris 39 espèces, dans la famille des tyrans et moucherolles 54 espèces.

Pour conclure, de tous les voyages que nous avons eu le plaisir de faire, celui-ci ressort comme étant le plus prolifique quant au nombre d'espèces d'oiseaux observées. Luis et Carlos, de par de leur implication et leur respect nous ont offert leurs services on ne peut plus que satisfaisants et nous ont permis d'être en confiance tout au long de notre périple en leur compagnie. La Colombie n'est pas le Canada, mais il n'en demeure pas moins un grand pays dont nous avons eu le plaisir de visiter qu'une infime partie. Nous souhaitons évidemment pouvoir peut-être y retourner un jour afin de découvrir d'autres lieux magnifiques et tout aussi fascinants.

Pour ceux qui voudraient avoir des informations sur le tour opérateur ou tout autre renseignements, vous pouvez toujours nous contacter.

Jd030824@gmail.com



Tarantule sur la route

Monthly Lectures

7:30 pm at the Knox Crescent Presbyterian Church, 6255 Godfrey Avenue, NDG

Monday, March 4

A Human Venture to Give Birds of Prey a Second Chance

With Dr. Guy Fitzgerald



The Union québécoise de réhabilitation des oiseaux de proie (www.UQROP.qc.ca), in collaboration with the Clinique des oiseaux de proie of the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire of the Université de Montréal, treats about 350 birds of prey annually. Over the years, we have observed a decrease in the admitted birds wounded by gunshots. More than 2,200 raptors have been released back into their habitat. The work has been cited in scientific papers, and we are still learning about those magnificent birds. There is no doubt environmental education, associated with wildlife rehabilitation, has become a conservation tool. Some success stories will be described, but you must come and meet the ambassadors. Two live birds of prey are looking forward to seeing you.

Dr. Fitzgerald has been a veterinarian since 1987. He has a Master's degree in avian anesthesiology. He started the Raptor Clinic in 1986 at the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire of the Université de Montréal while he was working for the summer with David M. Bird at the Macdonald Raptor Research Centre. Dr. Fitzgerald has been the promoter and president of the Union québécoise de réhabilitation des oiseaux de proie (UQROP) since 1987.

Monday, April 8

My Forty Years of Ornithology in Quebec.... Who Would Have Thought....

With David Bird

When I came to Montreal to study raptors at McGill University in 1973, who would have thought that forty years later, such bird-friendly organizations as Le Nichoir <http://lenichoir.org/>, UQROP www.UQROP.qc.ca, the Ecomuseum <http://www.ecomuseum.ca/>, the McGill Bird Observatory <http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html>, and Falcon Environmental Services <http://www.falcon.bz> would be thriving in the Montreal area?

Who would have thought that I would end up writing about birds in the *Montreal Gazette* for 28 years? Who would have thought that Peregrine Falcons, once a species on the verge of extinction, would become so numerous that some folks now regard them as nuisances? Who would have thought that Rodger Titman and I would become such close lifelong friends, to the point of taking birders with us to Kenya on a regular basis? Who would have thought that over those years, Rodger and I would collectively teach thousands of undergraduate students and over 80 graduate students at Macdonald College, some of whom have left McGill to take up important posts in the "wildlife" world? I have been giving annual presentations to Bird Protection Quebec for at least a dozen years. Will this edition in 2013 be my "swan song"? Please join me in my reminiscences of life as an ornithologist in the Montreal area for four decades.



Bird Views

A summary of interesting bird sightings in Montréal and around the province by Pierre Bannon

Mid-November 2012-mid-January 2013

Barnacle Goose: the bird previously found at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu was last reported 21 Nov (R. & G. Boulet, m.ob.). **Eurasian Wigeon:** a male at Léry 20 Dec (S. Denault). **Common Eider:** a male at Île Bizard 2 Dec (F. Bussière). **Common Loon:** several birds still reported in early Jan. **Horned Grebe:** one was late at Verdun 20 Dec (D. Demers). **Red-necked Grebe:** one at Gatineau 6 Jan (R. Bisson). **Northern Fulmar:** one at Gros-Cacouna 6 Dec (R. Deschênes). **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** one at Cap-des-Rosiers 3 Dec, a record late date (E. Asselin). **Great Cormorant:** singles at Terrebonne 1-7 Jan (L. Dumont) and at Verdun 12 Jan (P. Bannon, R. Guillet). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one at Sainte-Catherine 14-20 Dec (M. Juteau).

Black Vulture: one at Fatima (Magdalen Is.) 9 Dec onward. **Turkey Vulture:** one at La Prairie 25 Dec (A. Dubois, L. Laviolette).

Purple Sandpiper: one at Sainte-Catherine 14 Dec (D. Ouellette, G. Cyr). **Little Gull:** one at Pointe-des-Monts 1 Dec (O. Barden et al.). **Mew Gull:** an ad. (*L. c. canus*) at Baie-Comeau 15 Dec (O. Barden). **Parasitic Jaeger:** one at Saint-Simon-sur-Mer 12 Dec (R. Deschênes). **Common Murre:** one at Pointe Mercier 15 Dec (A. Couture, Y. Cyr). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** one at Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 12 Jan (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand). **White-winged Dove:** one at Sept-Îles 21 Dec, a record late date (ph., L. Dubé). **Northern Hawk-Owl:** several birds reported. **Great Gray Owl:** as expected from its 4-year cycle, this northern owl moved south of the boreal forest into southern Québec, where at least 55 individuals were reported from mid-Dec through mid-Jan. **Boreal Owl:** a few birds reported.

Rufous Hummingbird: a juv. male present at Maria since early Oct was last seen 1 Dec (D. Mill, L. Bernier), while a juv. female was at Sherbrooke 2 Oct-30 Nov (*fide* J. Turgeon). **Belted Kingfisher:** one at Lejeune (Lower St. Lawrence) 6-11 Jan (R. Deschênes). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** the bird present at Sainte-Foy continued throughout the period (m. ob.). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** several birds reported. **Eastern Phoebe:** one at Laval 4 Dec (G. Lachaine). **Western Kingbird:** one at Cap d'Espoir 24 Nov (A. Couture). **Blue-headed Vireo:** one at Pointe-Claire 10 Dec, a record late date (G. Cyr, ph., S. Denault). **Cave Swallow:** singles at Beauport 24 Nov (D. Labarre) and at Saint-Laurent (Île d'Orléans) 2 Dec, a record late date (M. Lafleur, JP. Ouellet). **Winter Wren:** singles at Lorrainville 8 Dec (J. Fréchette) and at Cap Tourmente 5 Jan

Parlons d'oiseaux

Un bilan des observations intéressantes à Montréal et à travers la province par Pierre Bannon

Mi-novembre 2012-mi-janvier 2013

Bernache nonnette : l'oiseau présent à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu fut signalé jusqu'au 21 nov (R. & G. Boulet, pl. ob.). **Canard siffleur :** un mâle à Léry 20 déc (S. Denault). **Eider à duvet :** un mâle à l'Île Bizard 2 déc (F. Bussière). **Plongeon huard :** quelques oiseaux encore présent au début de janv. **Grèbe esclavon :** un oiseau tardif à Verdun 20 déc (D. Demers). **Grèbe jougris :** un à Gatineau 6 jan (R. Bisson). **Fulmar boréal :** un à Gros-Cacouna 6 déc (R. Deschênes). **Océanite de Wilson :** un à Cap-des-Rosiers 3 déc, une date record (E. Asselin). **Grand Cormoran :** des indiv à Terrebonne 1-7 jan (L. Dumont) et à Verdun 12 jan (P. Bannon, R. Guillet). **Bihoreau gris :** un à Sainte-Catherine 14-20 déc (M. Juteau).

Urubu noir : un à Fatima (IDLM) à partir du 9 déc. **Urubu à tête rouge :** un à La Prairie 25 déc (A. Dubois, L. Laviolette).

Bécasseau violet : un à Sainte-Catherine 14 déc (D. Ouellette, G. Cyr). **Mouette pygmée:** une à Pointe-des-Monts 1er déc (O. Barden et al.). **Goéland cendré :** un ad. (*L. c. canus*) à Baie-Comeau 15 déc (O. Barden). **Labbe parasite :** un à Saint-Simon-sur-Mer 12 déc (R. Deschênes). **Guillemot marmette :** un à Pointe Mercier 15 déc (A. Couture, Y. Cyr). **Tourterelle turque :** une à Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 12 jan (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches :** une à Sept-Îles 21 déc, une date record (ph., L. Dubé). **Chouette épervière :** quelques oiseaux signalés. **Chouette lapone:** tel qu'anticipé suivant le cycle de 4 ans de cette espèce, plusieurs indiv. se sont déplacés vers le sud du Québec où au moins 55 ont été signalés entre la mi-déc et la mi-janv. **Nyctale de Tengmalm :** quelques indiv. aperçus.

Colibri roux : un mâle juv. présent à Maria du début d'oct au 1er déc (D. Mill, L. Bernier), et une femelle juv. femelle à Sherbrooke 2 oct-30 nov (*fide* J. Turgeon). **Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique:** un à Lejeune (Bas-Saint-Laurent) 6-11 jan (R. Deschênes). **Pic à tête rouge :** l'oiseau signalé à Sainte-Foy était toujours présent à la mi-janv (pl. ob.). **Pic à ventre roux:** plusieurs oiseaux signalés. **Moucherolle phébi:** un à Laval 4 déc (G. Lachaine). **Tyran de l'Ouest:** un à Cap d'Espoir 24 nov (A. Couture). **Viréo à tête bleue:** un à Pointe-Claire 10 déc, une date record (G. Cyr, ph., S. Denault). **Hirondelle à front brun :** des indiv. à Beauport 24 nov (D. Labarre) et à Saint-Laurent (Île d'Orléans) 2 déc, une date record (M. Lafleur, JP. Ouellet). **Troglodyte des forêts :** des indiv. à Lorrainville 8 déc (J. Fréchette) et à Cap Tourmente 5 jan (D. Labarre). **Troglodyte des marais :** un à Maria 1er déc (M. Larrivée). **Solitaire de Townsend :** un à Saint-Damien-de-Buckland

(D. Labarre). **Marsh Wren**: one at Maria 1 Dec (M. Larrivée). **Townsend's Solitaire**: one at Saint-Damien-de-Buckland 29 Nov (R. Gingras). **Swainson's Thrush**: one at Chandler 12 Dec (JR. Lepage). **Varied Thrush**: one at Les Éboulements 29 Nov-2 Dec (N. Savard). **Gray Catbird**: singles at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 15 Dec (D. Collins), and at Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 29-31 Dec (J. Lemoyne). **American Pipit**: one still at Saint-Armand 19 Dec, a very late date (JG. Papineau).

Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Île Sainte-Hélène 3-9 Dec (S. Matthieu, m. ob.). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one at Île des Sœurs 19-28 Nov (P. Bannon). **Pine Warbler**: singles at Île Notre-Dame 1-7 Dec and at Sainte-Catherine 22-26 Dec (Y. Gauthier). **Prairie Warbler**: one at Québec City 18-26 Nov (A. Gagnon, L. Plante). **Wilson's Warbler**: one at Sainte-Catherine 22-26 Dec (Y. Gauthier). **Spotted Towhee**: a male at Angliers 10 Nov-1 Dec (G. Bernèche). **Clay-colored Sparrow**: singles at Anse-au-Griffon 14 Dec (J. Lacasse) and at Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 28 Dec (ph., L. Lemay, N. Guénette). **Field Sparrow**: one at Sainte-Pétronille 22 Dec (O. Barden). **Vesper Sparrow**: one at Nicolet 26 Dec (M. Bisson). **Savannah Sparrow**: singles at Venise-en-Québec 29 Dec (S. Matthieu, M. Gauthier) and at Saint-Jude 6 Jan (R. Clermont). **Swamp Sparrow**: one at Beauport 26 Dec-12 Jan (P. Lane, G. Cyr). **Harris's Sparrow**: singles at Mirabel 7 Dec (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand) and at Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard 22 Dec onward (P. Lambert, *fide* GB. Couture). **White-crowned Sparrow**: several birds reported. **Summer Tanager**: one at Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane 5-6 Dec (ph., J. Deschênes). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: one at Gaspé 12 Dec (D. Jalbert). **Dickcissel**: one at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts 2 Dec (O. Barden). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: a male at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 12 Jan (D. Ouellette). **Red Crossbill**: many reports, often at feeders. Most appeared to be type 3, but some type 10 were identified at Tadoussac.

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, Qc H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 after 7:00 p.m. or by e-mail at pbannon@videotron.ca

29 nov (R. Gingras). **Grive à dos olive** : une à Chandler 12 déc (JR. Lepage). **Grive à collier** : une à Les Éboulements 29 nov-2 déc (N. Savard). **Moqueur chat** : des oiseaux à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 15 déc (D. Collins), et à Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 29-31 déc (J. Lemoyne). **Pipit d'Amérique** : un encore à Saint-Armand 19 déc, une date très tardive (JG. Papineau).

Paruline verdâtre : une à l'Île Sainte-Hélène 3-9 déc (S. Matthieu, pl. ob.). **Paruline à gorge jaune** : une à l'Île des Sœurs 19-28 nov (P. Bannon). **Paruline des pins** : des indiv. à l'Île Notre-Dame 1-7 déc et à Sainte-Catherine 22-26 déc (Y. Gauthier). **Paruline des prés** : une à Québec 18-26 nov (A. Gagnon, L. Plante). **Paruline à calotte noire**: une à Sainte-Catherine 22-26 déc (Y. Gauthier). **Tohi tacheté** : un mâle à Angliers 10 nov-1er déc (G. Bernèche). **Bruant des plaines** : des indiv. à l'Anse-au-Griffon 14 déc (J. Lacasse) et à Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 28 déc (ph., L. Lemay, N. Guénette). **Bruant des champs** : un à Sainte-Pétronille 22 déc (O. Barden). **Bruant vespéral** : un à Nicolet 26 déc (M. Bisson). **Bruant des prés** : des indiv. à Venise-en-Québec 29 déc (S. Matthieu, M. Gauthier) et à Saint-Jude 6 jan (R. Clermont). **Bruant des marais** : un à Beauport 26 déc-12 jan (P. Lane, G. Cyr). **Bruant à face noire** : des indiv. à Mirabel 7 déc (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand) et à Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard à partir du 22 déc (P. Lambert, *fide* GB. Couture). **Bruant à couronne blanche** : plusieurs oiseaux signalés. **Piranga vermillon**: un à Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane 5-6 déc (ph., J. Deschênes). **Cardinal à poitrine rose**: un à Gaspé 12 déc (D. Jalbert). **Dickcissel d'Amérique**: un à Sainte-Anne-des-Monts 2 déc (O. Barden). **Carouge à tête jaune**: un mâle à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 12 jan (D. Ouellette). **Bec-croisé des sapins**: plusieurs présences, souvent à des mangeoires. La plupart semblaient du type 3, mais le type 10 a aussi été identifié à Tadoussac.

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, Qc H4E 1P1 Tél: 514-766-8767 en soirée. Courriel: pbannon@videotron.ca

Point Pelee Spring Camping Trip

The Field Trip Committee is pleased to announce the spring camping trip to Point Pelee National Park. We have reserved 13 camping spots in the for the nights of May 13-16, departing on May 17.

Wake up and start birding from your tent! Cost is approximately \$56 per person for four nights. From the campsite, it is a five-minute walk to the Interpretation Centre, walking trails and tram service to the tip. Although this

is not a field trip per se, several Pelee veterans may be on hand to orient you to the park and its amenities. Nearby is the superb shorebird migratory area at Hillman Marsh.

BPQ members may invite non-member friends to join them.

For further information or to reserve camping (first come, first served), please contact Martin Bowman at pict@riverlink.ca. Martin will confirm receipt of e-mail within a week of receiving it. If you know someone who might be interested but does not have access to e-mail, phone Martin at: 613-347-1655.

The 77th Bird Protection Quebec Montreal Christmas Bird Count – Preliminary Report

by Sheldon Harvey and Barbara Szabo, Montreal Christmas Count Compilers

The 77th Bird Protection Quebec Montreal Christmas Bird Count was held on December 15, 2012. Sixty-seven field observers covered 20 sectors within the Montreal area circle which is centred at Sherbrooke Street West and Westminster in Montreal West.

Seventy-seven species were recorded on Count Day surpassing the previous record of 75 set in 1993 and tied in both 2004 and 2011.

The total number of birds recorded was 20,369, down from last year's record total of 24,513. This final number may be adjusted slightly to account for possible duplication on certain species such as Canada Goose, American Crow, and European Starling, plus some additional FeederWatcher data. We will be reviewing the total numbers prior to submitting the final report to Audubon.

New records were set for sightings of the following species: Hooded Merganser (106), Red-tailed Hawk (28), Dark-eyed Junco (175), Ring-necked Duck (50), and Snow Goose (251). Records were tied for Eastern Screech-Owl (8) and Black-crowned Night Heron (1). Other birds of note included 4 Northern Goshawk, 15 Wild Turkey, 1 Northern Mockingbird, 1 Bald Eagle, 2 Northern Harrier and 1 Hoary Redpoll.

Lance Laviolette and Andrée Dubois-Laviolette took on the responsibility of tracking the Montreal area crow roost. The final tally for American Crows for the 2012 count was 3,882, far below the record number of 9,149 in the 2010 count.

A complete detailed report on this year's Count will be distributed to all count participants; it will also be made available on the BPQ webpage at a later date,

once the final numbers have been tabulated and submitted to Audubon.

The after-count compilation social, attended by approximately 35 people, was held at the Montreal West Curling Club, with food from Dagwood's supplied by BPQ. Special thanks to Jean Demers, Clémence Soulard, Virginia Elliott and Raymonde Simard for assisting with the setup, the tabulation of data for presentation, and the cleanup.

We thank everyone for their effort and dedication to this important annual citizen science project. We look forward to the 78th Montreal Christmas Bird Count, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 21, 2013.

Report for the 2012 Hudson Christmas Bird Count

by Jean Demers

The 2012 Hudson Christmas Bird Count was not remarkable for the number of species or number of birds counted. However, we added a species not seen in the area in 71 years, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, spotted in the Kanesatake reserve in a tree close to a few feeders. It was our 140th species in 72 years of the Hudson count.

We had a record number of birds for seven species: Wild Turkey 79, Bald Eagle 2, Eastern Screech-Owl 5, of course the Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker 24, Dark-eyed Junco 450, and Northern Cardinal 132.

Four species seen 72 years in a row: Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch and Black-capped Chickadee. Thirteen species were seen

in over 80 percent of the counts and 7 of these over 90 percent.

This year we counted 59 species with a total of 8,263 individuals, down from last year by 4,398 but only 5 fewer species. It's very possible that the weather had something to do with it: morning temperature -17°C with a high of -6°C.

The 48 participants logged 127.5 hours in the field, and covered 1,066 km by car and 54.5 km on foot. With 59 participants last year, the number of hours is very similar but the distance by car is up by 223 km – due to the cold again? We logged 64.8 birds per hour in the field compared to 103.3 birds per hour in 2006, a record year for the number of species and number of birds. In the last 10 years, 2009 was the lowest with only 45.5 birds per hour.

Again this year, like 7 times in the last 10 years, the highest number of species, 37, was counted by party 15, Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh. Second place was a tie between party 9, Mark and Sandra Dennis, and party 17, Rhéal Bélanger, Marie-Hélène Bécot, Francine Guimond, Louis Richard, Michel Beaupré, Clémence Soulard, and Jean Demers. Both parties counted 28 species. In third place was party 7, Kerry Blake-Savery, Alex Stone, and Lance Laviolette, with 25 species. The highest number of birds was party 1 with 1,034 birds. The 10 FeederWatchers added 473 birds of 25 species. The highest number of birds for this year is 1,751 for the Common Redpoll; however, this does not match the record number we had in 1971 with 1,895 birds.

** The numbers of birds of each species with historical records are shown on the next page.

Birds seen on the 2012 Hudson Christmas Count

Species	Count	Record	Year
Canada Goose	12	7647	2006
American Black Duck	4	300	1964
Mallard	179	362	2010
Greater Scaup	1	22	1996
Common Goldeneye	7	215	2011
Hooded Merganser	2	14	2001
Common Merganser	194	458	1977
Gray Partridge	43	177	1973
Ruffed Grouse	1	39	1983
Wild Turkey	79	79	2012
Bald Eagle	2	2	2012
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Count period	8	2002
Coopers Hawk	4	6	2007
Red-tailed Hawk	6	12	1987
Rough-legged Hawk	1	49	1990
Merlin	1	3	2005
Gull sp.	11	21	2003
Herring Gull	3	480	1973
Great Black-backed Gull	8	141	1977
Rock Pigeon	648	1131	1982
Mourning Dove	416	922	2006
Eastern Screech-Owl	5	5	2012

Species	Count	Record	Year
Great-Horned Owl	2	10	1987
Great Gray Owl	1	9	1983
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1	2012
Downy Woodpecker	71	134	2005
Hairy Woodpecker	77	208	2005
Pileated Woodpecker	24	24	2012
Northern Shrike	6	16	1987
Blue Jay	198	609	2000
American Crow	206	763	2011
Common Raven	9	32	2010
Horned Lark	13	202	2006
Black-capped Chickadee	1401	1768	2010
Red-breasted Nuthatch	24	111	2000
White-breasted Nuthatch	135	179	2005
Brown Creeper	6	29	2000
Hermit Thrush	1	1	1988-2012
American Robin	13	226	2011
European Starling	569	2437	2002
Bohemian Waxwing	264	739	2010

Species	Number	Record	Year
Cedar Waxwing	35	98	2002
American Tree Sparrow	190	305	2006
Song Sparrow	8	15	1990
Dark-eyed Junco	450	450	2012
Lapland Longspur	4	85	1979
Snow Bunting	134	3642	1994
Northern Cardinal	132	132	2012
Red-winged Blackbird	11	31	2006
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	195	1982
Pine Grosbeak	48	187	1977
Purple Finch	6	44	1996
House Finch	33	296	1994
White-winged Crossbill	5	198	1953
Common Redpoll	1751	1895	1971
Hoary Redpoll	6	12	1991
Pine Siskin	116	397	1987
American Goldfinch	269	1110	2000
House Sparrow	402	3458	1974
Total Birds	8263	16031	2006
Total Species	59	67	2006

Notes from Past Field Trips

24/11/12 – Cap St-Jacques, Pierrefonds

Leader: Wayne Grubert

Gusty winds, cloudy, 2° C, snow squalls. 9 birders; 22 species

Bird of the Day: Immature Bald Eagle

Other Birds of Note: Lesser Scaup, Common Loon, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet.

01/12/12 – Casselman-St. Rose, ON

Leader: Jacques Bouvier

Cloudy, cold (-10 to -6° C), windy. 9 birders; 25 species

Bird of the Day: Bald Eagle

Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, Pine Grosbeak, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak

12/01/13 – Botanical Garden, Montreal

Leader: Guy Zenaitis

Overcast, misty morning, clearing by noon. +4° C. 14 birders, 22 species.

Bird of the Day: Hoary Redpoll

Other Birds of Note: Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, House Finch, Common Redpoll

Special Seasonal Trips Organized in 2013

Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks on the Summit

7:00 AM Tuesdays on April 24 and May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Summit Woods in Westmount is a wooded area transected by numerous footpaths. From mid-April to late May, spring migrants find the woods an attractive place in which to rest and feed. At least 33 warbler species have been seen over the years and about 24 warbler species are seen each year. Come out and participate in one or all of the Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks with an informal group of BPQ members.

It's a perfect start to a spring day!

Les marches printanières aux Parulines Jim Houghton au Bois Summit

Les marches se tiendront les mardis 24 avril et les 1, 8, 15, 22, et 29 mai à 7h00 au Bois Summit de Westmount.

Le parc offre un secteur boisé traversé par de nombreux sentiers. De la mi-avril à fin mai, les migrateurs printaniers trouvent cet endroit attrayant et ainsi s'arrêtent pour se reposer et s'alimenter. Au cours des années, quelques 33 espèces de Parulines ont été répertoriées et environ 24 espèces sont observées à chaque année. Vous êtes invités à vous joindre à l'une ou toutes les marches printanières avec un groupe amical des membres du POQ.

C'est une belle façon de commencer une journée du printemps!

Peter Mitchell's Tuesday Evening Outings

Start April 9 and continue into May.

They will all take place at Île Bizard.

Starting time is 6:00 p.m.

Peter's phone number is 514-489-1012.

New Members

Warm greetings to new members Pierre Ethier & Family, Laval; Connie Morgenstern & Amanda Erndt, Saint-Lazare; and Barry Tagg, Verdun.

Please join us on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Good birding!



Working for Our Birds

BPQ is always on the lookout for active members who would be interested in joining the board of directors or taking on specific responsibilities. We are particularly eager to talk to people with good financial, administrative or Internet skills who might be interested in working with our existing officers to further the work of this charity.

To find out more, please contact our nominations committee via birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com.

Field Trips for Late February, March, April 2013

Transportation: Contact the trip leader or the Songsparrow e-mail group if you need or can offer a lift. **Cancellations:** Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather check with the leader. **Clothing:** Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear, even if the day seems mild and dry. **Food:** Bring plenty to eat and drink, even on half-day trips.

Transport : Communiquer avec le guide de l'excursion ou contacter le groupe de discussions Yahoo Songsparrow pour faire du covoiturage. **Annulations :** Vérifier la possibilité d'une annulation, quoique rare, avec le guide car la météo nous réserve quelquefois des surprises.. **Habillement :** Vêtements chauds et bottes imperméables sont toujours de rigueur. **Nourriture :** Toujours prévoir une collation et quelque chose à boire.

Note: Exceptionally, the trip to Cooper Marsh will take place on **Sunday, April 28**, and not the regular Saturday morning.

À noter, la sortie à Cooper Marsh aura lieu le dimanche le 28 avril au lieu de samedi

Saturday, February 23 - samedi 23 février Grenville - Lachute Area

Leader: Frédéric Hareau
Fredhareaul@yahoo.ca
514-815-8491 (cell phone on the day of the trip only)

8:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 to the Ontario border (40 km from Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue). Continue on Highway 417 and take Exit 9 (9 km) for Hawkesbury. Continue on Highway 17 approximately 7 km and take the Tupper Street exit on your right (sign for Province de/of Quebec). At 1.8 km at the T junction, turn left on Main Street. After another 1.8 km, turn right onto John Street (opposite the big church). Continue on John St. across Long Sault Bridge over the Ottawa River. At the first traffic light in Grenville, QC, turn right on Rue Principale and make an immediate right into the SAQ parking lot where we will meet. The distance is approximately 52 km from the Île-aux-Tourtes Bridge at the west end of Montreal Island on Highway 40.

We will explore a diversity of habitats in the area between Grenville and Lachute. It will be a driving trip, and some of the roads will not be paved. Looking for winter finches, raptors and waterfowl. Half day.

8h00 À partir de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 et poursuivre jusqu'à la frontière ontarienne (40 km à partir de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue). Continuer sur l'autoroute 417 sur une distance d'environ 9 km et prendre la sortie 9 pour Hawkesbury. Continuer sur la route 17 sur une distance d'environ 7 km et prendre la sortie pour rue Tupper, à votre droite (indiquant Province de Québec). Après 1,8 km, à la jonction en T, tourner à gauche sur Main Street. Après encore 1,8 km, tourner à droite sur John Street (en face de l'église). Continuer sur John Street et traverser le pont Long Sault qui passe au-dessus de la rivière des Outaouais. Au premier feu de circulation de Grenville, Québec, tourner à droite sur la rue Principale puis tourner immédiatement à droite dans le stationnement de la SAQ où a lieu le rassemblement. La distance totale à partir du pont Île-aux-Tourtes, situé à l'extrémité ouest de l'île de Montréal, est d'environ 52 km. On explorera une diversité d'habitats dans la région située entre Grenville et Lachute. Les déplacements auront lieu en voiture sur des routes

dont certaines ne sont pas pavées. Les oiseaux recherchés sont les fringillidés, les rapaces et la sauvagine. Demi-journée

Saturday, March 2 - samedi 2 mars Botanical Garden - Jardin Botanique de Montréal

Leader: David Mulholland
514-630-6082 davidjhmullohand@sympatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Meet in front of the restaurant, near the entrance on Sherbrooke St. East. There is a charge for parking inside the gates. Looking for winter finches and early migrants. Half day.

8h00 Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin botanique située sur la rue Sherbrooke Est. Des frais sont exigés pour le stationnement situé dans le jardin botanique. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et migrants hâtifs. Demi-journée.

Saturday, March 9 - samedi 9 mars Spontaneous Late Winter Outing - Location to be Determined

Leader: To Be Announced

Late winter is an interesting but unpredictable time for birding as early, late or vagrant migrants may turn up just about anywhere. As a result, the destination of this trip will be determined mere days prior to the actual outing. The destination will be chosen based on a number of factors including weather conditions, bird activity and any special or rare bird sightings reported in the days leading up to the trip. Complete details of the field trip, including the destination, the start time, the meeting spot and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ webpage and on the Songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

La fin de l'hiver est un moment intéressant mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux ; des migrants précoces, tardifs ou des visiteurs rares pouvant se retrouver à peu près n'importe où. En conséquence, la destination pour cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de



facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalée dans les jours précédents la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur le site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo Songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.

Saturday, March 16 - samedi 16 mars Hudson

Leader: Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222 barb.macuff@wypmatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Meet at the CPR station on Wharf Street in Hudson. Highway 40, exit 22 onto Côte St. Charles north, right on Main Street, left on Wharf Street. Looking for winter finches and early migrants. Half day.

8h00 Rassemblement à la gare C.P. sur la rue Wharf, à Hudson. Prendre l'autoroute 40, sortie 22, et tourner à droite sur la Côte St-Charles nord. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Main et tourner à droite sur celle-ci. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Wharf puis tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et migrateurs hâtifs. Demi-journée

Saturday, March 23 - samedi 23 mars Morgan Arboretum - Arboretum Morgan

Leader: Richard Gregson
sparrowworks@gmail.com

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

8:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west, take exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members. Looking for woodpeckers, owls and migrants. Half day.

8h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au

stationnement principal, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres. Espèces recherchées: pics, hiboux et migrateurs. Demi-journée.

Saturday, March 30- samedi 30 Parc-nature du Cap-St-Jacques

Leader: Wayne Grubert
450-458-5498
514-774-0811 (Cell – Morning of trip only)
wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 am Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd.). Continue for 2 km to the chalet d'accueil of the park. Parking: \$8.00. Half day.

8 h 00 Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 8,00 \$. Demi-journée.

Saturday, April 6 - samedi 6 avril Parc régional des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfront

Leader: Diane Demers 514-729-3051
Ddemers03@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle. and 6th Avenue in Ville LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Blvd.). Take Hwy 20 to the Blvd. de la Vérendrye exit. Heading west on de la Vérendrye, turn left onto the Stephens Street Bridge that crosses the aqueduct. Follow this street south to the waterfront on LaSalle Blvd. Turn right on LaSalle Blvd. and follow it to the parking lot at the corner of 6th Avenue. Looking for waterfowl and early migrants. If there is enough time left, we will visit the riverfront at Nuns' Island. Be prepared to drive. Half day.

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement du Parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul.

LaSalle et de la 6e avenue à ville LaSalle (juste à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power). Prendre l'autoroute 20 et prendre la sortie du boul. de la Vérendrye. Aller en direction ouest sur ce boul. À la rue Stephens, prendre le pont qui traverse le canal de l'Aqueduc. Continuer sur la rue Stephens jusqu'au boul. LaSalle, qui longe le fleuve. Tourner à droite sur ce boul. et continuer jusqu'à stationnement, situé au coin de la 6e avenue. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrateurs hâtifs. S'il reste suffisamment de temps, nous visiterons la rive du côté sud de l'île-des-Soeurs. Il faudra s'attendre à conduire. Demi-journée.

Saturday, April 13 - samedi 13 avril Baie-du- Febvre

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard
514-694-8240 Jd030824@gmail.com

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie du Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie du Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left. Alternate route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. All day.

8h30 Rassemblement au poste d'observation (cache) situé le long de la route Janelle, à Baie-du-Febvre. On propose deux trajets. Premier trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 30 en direction est jusqu'à Sorel puis prendre la route 132 en direction est jusqu'à Baie-du-Febvre. Tourner à gauche sur la route Janelle, juste après l'intersection avec la rue principale. Deuxième trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 20 en direction est jusqu'à la sortie 185 située après Drummondville. A partir de cette sortie, prendre la route 255 en direction nord jusqu'à l'intersection avec la route 132. Tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Immédiatement après, tourner à droite sur la route Janelle. Durée du trajet : 1h30. À la recherche de milliers d'Oies des neiges, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et d'autres migrateurs. Toute la journée.

Thursday, April 18 – jeudi 18 avril
Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for
Beginners / Jeudis, Jaseurs et Geais
pour débutants, Session 1
Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Leader: Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222 barb.macfuff@wypmatico.ca

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 PM Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd. north to Gouin Blvd.; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd.; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd. Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$8.00.

9h00 - 12h00 De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St- Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 8,00 \$.

Saturday, 20 April - samedi 20 avril
Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Leader: Felix Hilton
514-631-3437 hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Hwy 40; exit St. Jean Blvd. north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd.; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd., over bridge to Blvd. Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$8.00. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and migrating passerines. Half day.

8h00 De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et

continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 8,00 \$. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces et passereaux en migration. Demi-journée

Thursday, April 25 – jeudi 25 avril
Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for
Beginners / Jeudis, Jaseurs et Geais
pour débutants, Session 2

Morgan Arboretum, QC

Leader: Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222 barb.macfuff@wypmatico.ca

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 PM From Montreal take Hwy 40 west. Exit at exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members.

9h00 - 12h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement principal, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres.

Sunday, April 28 - dimanche 28 avril
Cooper Marsh

Leader: Martin Bowman
613-347-1655 pict@riverlink.ca

Note: This trip takes place on Sunday.
À noter: Cette sortie aura lieu le dimanche

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 20 (Ontario Highway 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Highway 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Park in the gravel parking area. Allow 1 to 1-1/2 hours' travel time. A walking trip. Looking for waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks and passerines. Could be muddy. Half day.

8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401), prendre la sortie pour Lancaster, Ontario (sortie 814). Prendre l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivre les indications pour le marais Cooper. Prévoir entre 1h et 1h30 de voyage. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux aquatiques, de buses, de passereaux. Excursion à pied. Des chaussures imperméables sont recommandées. Demi-journée.

Thursday, May 2 – jeudi 2 mai
Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for
Beginners / Jeudis, Jaseurs et Geais pour
débutants, Session 3

Parc-nature du Bois-de- l'Île -Bizard

Leader: Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222 barb.macfuff@wypmatico.ca

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 PM Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd. north to Gouin Blvd.; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd.; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd., over bridge to Blvd. Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$8.00.

9h00 - 12h00 De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St- Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 8,00 \$.

BPQ Winter Bird Course 2013

Details of Lectures

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays in February and March

Place: Knox Crescent, Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG

Cost: \$15 per lecture for BPQ members and \$20 for non-members

NOTE: Fuller details are on the BPQ website ... Where you will also be able to register and pay online for the lectures that you wish to attend

February 6

“A Drift of Buntings”

An overview of the Snow Bunting
With Simon Duval

February 20

“Seeing the Forest for the Trees!”

Birdfinding by Habitat (Part 2)
With Betsy McFarlane

March 6

“Netting the Bird by Birding the Net”

Removing the Fear Factor from Techno-Birding ...!
With Richard Gregson

March 20

“Nattering about Nests”

The Natural, the Negligible and the Nasty
With Marie-Anne Hudson

Improving our Philipsburg Sanctuary

Our Philipsburg Bird Sanctuary Project Team have been working hard since last summer to develop plans for improving visitor facilities and trails and finding ways to help visitors see the wonderful birds we have there without disturbing them unduly.

One of the first things we will be doing this year is to improve the trail marking. To this end we shall be “walking the trails” on **Saturday, April 27**, putting temporary trail markers in place that will later be replaced by more permanent signs.

We will be asking members and supporters to help with this by volunteering to join us. You will be

allocated to a work team under an experienced leader who knows the sanctuary. It will be an enjoyable day in a beautiful place and we will see some good birds while we work. If the weather is terrible we will do this on May 4 instead.

More details later - but meanwhile why not keep these days free in your diary?

Bird Protection Quebec

is a registered charity. Donations are tax deductible. Charity Registration # 11925 2161 RR0001.

Principal Officers

President - Richard Gregson

Vice-Presidents -

David Mulholland & Patrick Asch

Treasurer - Jean Harwood Gregson

Secretary - Ronald Mudd

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www.birdprotectionquebec.org

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Songsparrow>

Calendar of Events

Family Trip to Baie-du-Febvre Saturday, April 13, 2013

The Education Committee is organizing a family trip to Baie-du-Febvre to correspond with BPQ's annual trip to that area. Baie-du-Febvre is located on the southern shore of Lac Saint Pierre (a UNESCO biosphere reserve), about 90 km from Montreal.

Participants will travel by bus with members of the Education Committee to this excellent birding site. This is a wonderful opportunity to view thousands of Snow Geese, waterfowl and early spring migrants. There is no charge for this trip; however, reservations are required. To reserve, email Barbara MacDuff barb.macduff@sympatico.ca or telephone her at 514-457-2222.

There will be two bus pick-up locations: Dorval Shopping Centre at 8:00 am and Decarie Square at 8:35 am. Return trip will load between 13h00 and 13h30, with anticipated arrival home 90 minutes after departure.

Dress in layers, pack a lunch and drinks. Binoculars and scopes will be available for participants without optics.

Each spring thousands of Snow Geese use the Baie-du-Febvre site as a major stop-over in their long migration. They are returning from their wintering grounds on the east coast of the United States in huge numbers and strong voice. Not only can they be observed (and heard!) in the river, but they are also easy to observe munching on rhizomes, other nutritious plant parts and discarded corn in the fields. They rest here, building up their food resources before they continue to their breeding grounds in the Arctic.

In addition to Snow Geese, Baie-du-Febvre also hosts numerous ducks, hawks and shorebirds. A trip to Baie-du-Febvre is an essential element of spring migration

Not to be missed!

Philipsburg: Sunday, March 3, 2013

The Philipsburg Project Group is looking for a couple of extra volunteers to join us in cleaning and restoring the Wood Duck / Merganser nesting boxes— in anticipation of spring. For information, contact: birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com.

Saturday, Feb. 23 - samedi 23fevrier 8:00 a.m. Grenville - Lachute Area

Leader: Frédéric Hareau fredhareaul@yahoo.ca
514-815-8491 (cell phone on the day of the trip only)

Saturday, Mar. 2 - samedi 2 mars 8:00 a.m. Botanical Garden - Jardin Botanique de Montréal

Leader: David Mulholland
514-630-6082 davidjhmulholland@sympatico.ca

Monday, Mar. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Knox 6225 Godfrey Ave., Montreal

A Human Venture to Give Birds of Prey a Second Chance: With Dr. Guy Fitzgerald

Saturday, March 9 - samedi 9 mars Spontaneous Late Winter Outing - Location To Be Determined

Saturday, Mar. 16 - samedi 16 mars 8:00 a.m. Hudson

Leader: Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222 barbmacduff@sympatico.ca

Saturday, Mar. 23 - samedi 23 mars 8:00 a.m. Morgan Arboretum - Arboretum Morgan

Leader: Richard Gregson sparroworks@gmail.com

Saturday, March 30 - samedi 30 8:00 a.m. Parc-nature du Cap-St-Jacques

Leader: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498
514-774-0811 (Cell – Morning of trip only)

Saturday, April 6 - samedi 6 avril 8:00 a.m. Parc régional des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfront

Leader: Diane Demers 514-729-3051
ddemers03@hotmail.com

Monday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. Knox 6225

Godfrey Ave., Montreal.

Lecture: My Forty Years of Ornithology in Quebec...."Who Would Have Thought...."
With David Bird

Saturday 13 April - samedi 13 avril 8:00 a.m. Baie-du-Febvre,

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard 514-694-8240 jd030824@gmail.com
Combined with a Family Educational Excursion by bus

Thursday April 18, 25, May 2 – jeudi 18 et 25 avril et 2 mai

Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for Beginners /
Jeudis, Jaseurs et Geais pour débutants ,
Leader: Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222 barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

April 6 into May

Peter Mitchell's Tuesday Evening Outings
Ile Bizard Starting time is 6:00 p.m.
Peter Mitchell 514-489-1012

Saturday, April 20 - samedi 20 avril

Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard
Leader: Felix Hilton
514-631-3437 hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

Tuesdays April 24 and May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
7:00 a.m. Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks on the Summit

Thursday, April 25 – jeudi 25 avril

Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for Beginners /
Jeudis, Jaseurs et Geais pour débutants, Session 2

May 13 – 16

Point Pelee Spring Camping Trip
Organized by: Martin Bowman pict@riverlink.ca

Sunday April, 28 - dimanche 28 avril

Cooper Marsh
Leader: Martin Bowman
613-347-1655 pict@riverlink.ca