

The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

April 2017



For the Birds since 1917
Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

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President's Word 1

Hawkwatching Around Montreal 2

Antarctica: The End of the world! 6

Bird Views 10

Our Money Working for Birds 10

Annual General Meeting and Party 11

In Memoriam 13

**Invitation: Bird Protection Quebec 100th Anniversary Dinner
Reception November 4, 2017** 14

Our Jewel in the Crown 16

Past Field Trips 18

Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration 19

Upcoming Field Trips 20

President's Word

Migration Is Under Way!

by Barbara MacDuff, BPQ President

The Canada and Snow Geese are flying north. Finally migration is well under way!

It is important to note that “our” returning birds need all the help we can provide. Suet at a bird feeder can be a lifesaver for an early arriving Warbler on a cold, rainy day in May. The energy found in sugar water will help not only Hummingbirds but other species like Orioles. You can also help the birds by sharing your love of nature this season with others of all ages and by encouraging conservation efforts.

Migration is also the perfect time to do your part for Citizen Science. When you go out in the field take a notebook with you, keep track of your sightings and report them to eBird – the online database of bird observations. eBird provides researchers with data about bird distribution and abundance. All bird sightings are important and the absence of birds is just as important to note. So take a notebook, spread the word and send in your sightings – it's easy and it's fun.



American Redstart © 2014 Chuck Kling

New Members

A warm welcome to Cynthia Chesmer, Sally Cole, Irene Crozier, Lori Dupuis, Jane Quail, Chantal Raymond, Karen Richardson, André Tellier, and Diane Wood

We look forward to seeing you on our field trips and at our other centenary year celebrations.

Hawkwatching around Montreal

by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh

As we have conducted the hawkwatches over the last several decades many people have joined us at the hawkwatch sites from time to time. Unfortunately, because of the weather, hawk migration is anything but predictable to the day. Thus, whilst planning a field trip for a particular day – weeks in advance is necessary for organization – it rarely works when it comes to seeing a flight. So, it is very difficult to show people hawks on a planned basis, especially by the hour. On some days, hawks may



A high-flying immature Bald Eagle at the spring site © 2011 Bob Barnhurst

move in the morning and be finished by the afternoon, or vice-versa. For example, a Broad-winged Hawk flight may be over in a couple of hours. Thus, the only “guaranteed” way to observe a flight is to be there all day, everyday, something that few people can do. When it does work, it is fun and there is lots to see. When it doesn’t work, boredom quickly sets in.

Of recent years, the number of eagles migrating past our sites has increased dramatically, to the point that we may see an eagle, or two, on most days. The majority of birders come primarily to see eagles but the possibility of sighting one is still low unless they stay all day. Once in a while a big flight of eagles does occur. For instance, one day, in March, 2016 we counted 35 Golden Eagles and one Bald Eagle in one two-hour period. The next day we saw 16 more. On another day in that month, we saw 18 Golden Eagles and 15 Bald Eagles. As we have said before, patience is definitely a virtue when it comes to hawkwatching. Still, if you do want to see hawks, plan for the whole day and you could be rewarded, as we have been many times.

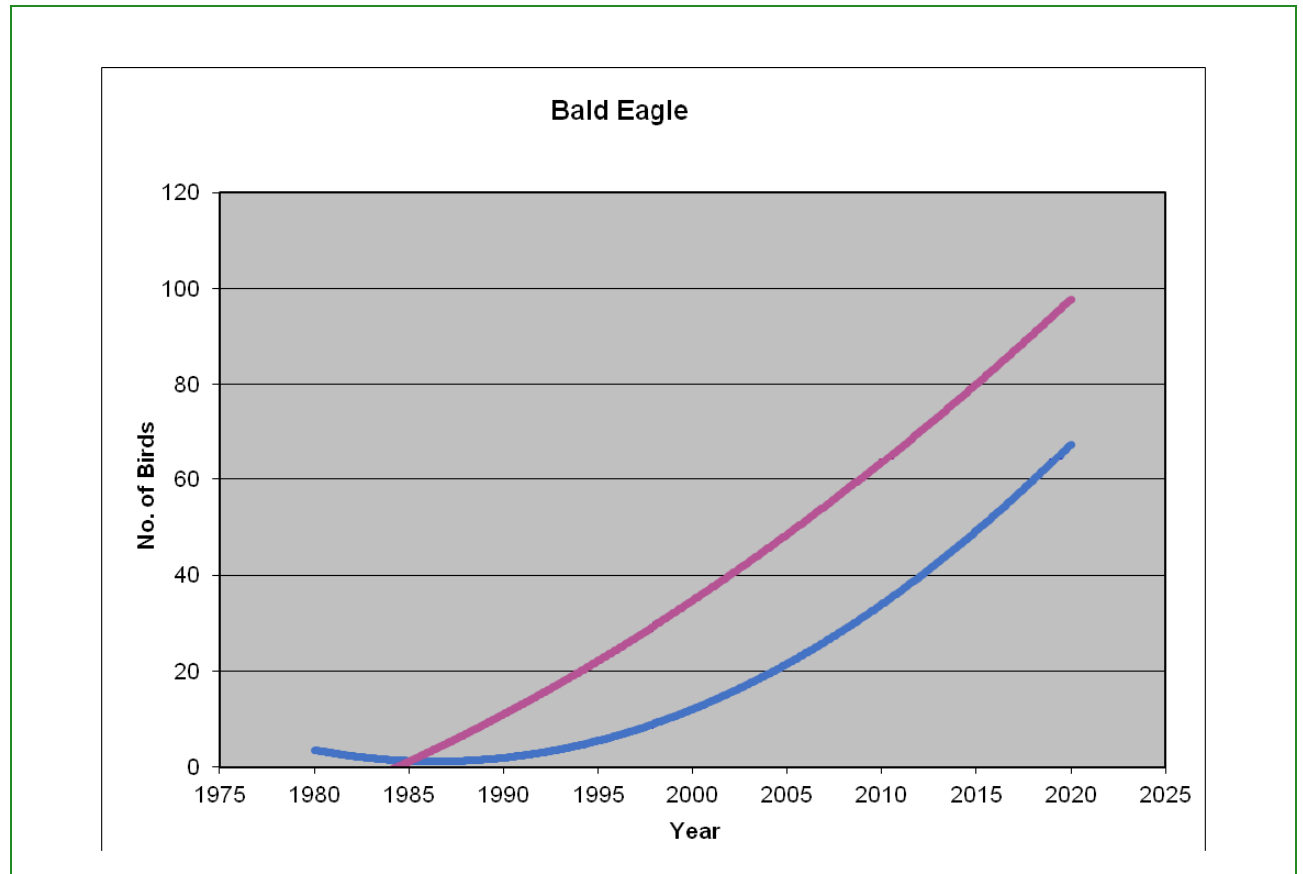
Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle is undoubtedly the most iconic bird in North America. Once on the verge of extinction, especially in the

‘north-east, due to DDT poisoning, amongst other causes, the Endangered Species Act was invoked to help protect them in the United States. Canada also made Bald Eagles a priority for conservation. Now, the Bald Eagle population has recovered to the point that it has been delisted as an endangered species, although it is still considered threatened. This, depending on your point of view, may be premature or timely – only time will tell! Sightings of the species have increased to the point that most birders can sight one-or-two a day on most days. Breeding has increased markedly in the north-east U.S. Quebec, as well, now has many breeding pairs, from the extreme southwest of the province to the far north. The only way to record this success story in a precise way is to conduct carefully organized counts. One method is through the Breeding Bird Censuses and, to a lesser extent, Bird Atlas coverage in each province. However, the immense size of the area precludes accurate counts. A preferred method, as far as we are concerned, is through hawk migration studies conducted over many decades. This method produces statistically sound data wherein precise year-by-year changes are enumerated. Our spring study shows an overall average of a modest 3% increase in Bald Eagles per year, with annual increases reaching an average of 10% in the last decade. These data can even be used to predict eagle numbers in

the future (over 4–5 years) and thus give an early warning of potential problems – such as the effect of the placement of wind farms – on Bald Eagle survival. Unfortunately, at least so far, these data are not being used to the full extent they could be, due largely to the political lobby of the energy industry and government inaction. We can only hope that this short-sighted approach will change, but this is increasingly unlikely .

In 1980, the first year of full coverage of the spring and fall migration seasons at Montreal, the number of Bald Eagles counted was just 4 (with only 0–1 per season from 1981 to 1984) in the spring and only 1 in the fall! At Derby Hill, a major spring hawkwatching site, the number of birds seen in 1980 was a mere 10. Even at Hawk Mountain, where hawk counts originated, the count reached just 22 for the entire fall. We were living through a time when the species almost became extinct in the north-eastern US. Each successful nesting became critical to the recovery of the species. To assist in the recovery, young birds, taken from nests both inside and outside the north-east states, were hacked¹ from holding boxes as a stopgap measure. By 2016, the numbers of Bald Eagles seen were up to 75 at Montreal, 452 at Derby Hill and 522 at Hawk Mountain. Many other sites show similar changes.



As has been found for many raptors, the fall count is much smaller than the spring count. However, the fall counts are rapidly catching up. Our counts started early enough that the accelerated warming of the earth’s climate in recent decades can be factored into the data. Bald Eagles, like several other species, are now wintering further north as the

Trend lines for Bald Eagles recorded for the years 1980 to 2016 inclusive, at both the spring and fall sites of the Montreal West Island Hawkwatch, are shown in the chart. These trend lines are calculated statistically from the yearly data. The upper mauve line refers to the spring, the blue to the fall. The data allow for a modest, positive, forecast up to 2020.

climate warms. As a result, many birds are delaying or suspending their fall migration until the winter months when the fall counts are already finished. In the past decade, it has become common to observe many birds wintering around Montreal. In 2011, the spring count at St. Stanislas-de-Kostka topped the 100 mark for the first time. We have come a long way from the early days. Our highest one day count for the spring occurred on March 27, 2016 when 15 birds were sighted (and when 18 Golden Eagles also flew by the site). For the fall, the highest count ever recorded was 64 in 2016, with the highest one-day count reaching 19 on September 23 of the same year.

For now, all appears to be well with the Bald Eagle. The population does not show any signs of a (sustained) drop in overall numbers. The birds we see in migration run the gamut from immatures to adults. It takes 5 years to reach adulthood and individuals can live up to 30 years in the wild, longer in captivity. However, as is common for many bird species, many immatures die during their first year. As alluded to earlier, collisions with windmills at inappropriately placed wind farms is a new risk factor which the species must now face for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, eagles continue to fall prey to collisions with vehicles, lead poisoning, baited traps, illegal shooting, disease and other dangers.

At the Great Lakes sites flights of 5 to 10 Bald Eagles per day are not unusual. Indeed, in May, the count is swelled by dozens of non-breeding birds. Most summer at much lower latitudes than adults. Some of the birds seen at this time result from post-nesting dispersal from nests in the middle-to-lower U.S. states, particularly along the eastern seaboard. These birds are noticeably smaller overall than their northern counterparts, with shorter tails and wingspans and smaller head/necks. Breeding begins as early as December in Florida. At our spring site at St. Stanislas-de-Kostka we have identified a few of these birds in recent years.

At Montreal, we endeavour to record the age of all the Bald Eagles we see. The species shows variable but identifiable plumages for each age class until they reach adulthood and many are in moult when we see them. In the last decade, some Bald Eagles have been captured around Chesapeake Bay using baited, cannon-fired nets and fitted with small GPS units. Data from this study show that several Bald Eagles actually migrated close to or over the Montreal spring site before heading to the far north for breeding. Evidence suggests that many raptors, including eagles, are faithful to their established migration routes,



A migrant adult Bald Eagle
© Bob Barnhurst

passing within a few kilometres of a particular location, year-after-year. Only the presence of very strong winds will cause them to veer from their traditional route. They achieve this feat of navigation using their innate ability to “tack” across the wind, as is commonly done with a sail boat, in order to achieve a more direct course. We witness this phenomenon almost every day at the sites.

Our extensive experience with hawks has led to our ability to identify birds at long distances. Perhaps surprisingly, identifying an eagle to species can be tricky when they are migrating a kilometre or more away. Part of the problem is that immature Bald Eagles can



An immature Bald Eagle, in moult, migrating north late in the spring. Size, shape and plumage characteristics suggest a bird bred in the southern United States. Eagles are known to wander widely during post-nesting dispersal.

© Bob Barnhurst

appear all dark at a distance, thus causing confusion with Golden Eagles. Even adult Bald Eagles can look all dark in poor light. Over the years, we have developed a protocol for separating Golden Eagles from Bald Eagles observed at a distance. This chiefly involves a difference in the profile and flight characteristics of the two species, a topic best left for a master class.

Editor's note ¹: Hacking, in this context, refers to a method of raising a bird to maturity without its natural parents. The bird is placed in an artificial nest or "hacking box." It is fed and monitored, but there is no interference with its natural development. Gradually, the box is opened and the bird can take short flights. Once mature, it is released to the wild.

The next instalment of Hawkwatching in Montreal will feature the Northern Harrier

100th Anniversary Celebrations

Visit our special 100-year page on the BPQ web site for up-to-the minute details on the latest events: <http://pqspb.org/bpqpoq/100-years/>

100th Anniversary Raffle Tickets

Be sure to get your raffle tickets at our AGM on May 29. Prizes include an Eagle Eye Tours birding trip, Vortex binoculars, and a beautiful waterfowl wood carving by award-winning Quebec carver Bob Comeau. Winning tickets will be drawn at BPQ's anniversary dinner on November 4, 2017. Good luck!

Proceeds from ticket sales go towards two new interpretative panels in the George Montgomery Sanctuary. These are designed by Yannick Sauro. They showcase photos of representative bird species, taken by BPQ members and other Quebec photographers. They include a map of the sanctuary with marked trails. We hope to have both panels up this spring.

Antarctica: The End of the world!

by Steve Charlton



Wilson's Storm-Petrel © 2017 Steve Charlton

Pete Mitchell and I just returned from a 3-week trip to Antarctica, where it was less cold than Montreal, and certainly produced more exciting birds. After all, it was the end of the austral summer, we were on a cruise ship, and the birds were plentiful! But we almost didn't make it.

The trip was a 3-week extravaganza offered by National Geographic, starting with a first night "meet-&-greet" in a hotel in Buenos Aires, followed by a charter flight to "the most southern city in

the world" – Ushuaia – from which we boarded our home for the next 3 weeks, the ship *National Geographic Explorer*.

But we dodged a bullet when it came to Montreal weather! Fearing our flight from Montreal to Toronto to catch the Air Canada flight to Buenos Aires might have delays due to the weather, we changed our itinerary and flew to Toronto a day early, just in case, and took an overnight hotel at the airport there. As it turned out, our originally scheduled flight from Montreal to Toronto was cancelled.

The *Explorer* was wonderful, a small (148 passenger) comfortable, all-inclusive luxury ship, with good food and wine and even better birds. Scheduled to visit the peninsula portion of Antarctica, then South Georgia, and finally the Falkland Islands, I had drawn up a checklist of about 100 possible species, and by spending several hours on the bridge, looking out over open seas, and doing one or two shore excursions daily (by zodiac), we saw over half of them! This was due in no small part to the bird experts with us, as pelagic birding with albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, and prions, flying ahead of and across the ship's bow through the troughs of the waves, was a real challenge!

The penguins were easier – in some cases hundreds of thousands of them, all crowded on rocky beaches, competing for

space with fur seals, sea-lions, and elephant seals, unafraid of us interlopers walking among them, and taking pictures.

It was certainly a trip to remember, and Pete and I hope to do a lecture on Antarctica as a birders' destination in the new season.



King Penguins © 2017 Steve Charlton

Bird Views

Parlons d'oiseaux

by/par: Pierre Bannon

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

Un bilan des observations intéressantes à Montréal et à travers la province

February to Early March 2017

February was very mild in s. Québec, particularly near the end of the month, driving many migrants north much earlier than usual.

Pink-footed Goose: one at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 12-14 March established a record early arrival date for the province (A. Messier, *m. ob.*). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 5 March was early (G. Riel, F. Perrera, *ph.*). **Greater White-fronted Goose X Canada Goose:** this hybrid was photographed at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 8 March (S. Labbé et al.); three were seen 13 March. **Snow Goose:** several thousand birds arrived in the Upper-St. Lawrence and Upper-Richelieu River as early as 22-24 Feb (*m. ob.*). **Barnacle Goose:** one at Saint-Blaise 3-4 March, established a record early date for the province (L. Paquette, R. Faucher, *ph.*). **Barnacle Goose X Canada Goose:** this hybrid was well documented at Dundee 28 Feb (D. Gochfeld, M. Roach, T. Johnson, *ph.*). **Tundra Swan** 5 individuals at Saint-Blaise 6 March (R & G. Boulet, *ph.*) and one at Saint-Zotique 12 March (J. Cantara, B. Fréchette). **Northern Shoveler:** two birds at Mascouche 28 Feb, established a record early arrival date (S. Guimond). **Northern Pintail:** several hundreds birds were already present in the Upper St-Lawrence 25 Feb. **Canvasback:** a

Février – début mars 2017

Février fut très doux, en particulier vers la fin du mois, ce qui a favorisé une migration très hâtive.

Oie à bec court : une à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 12-14 mars a établi une date d'arrivée record pour la province (A. Messier, *pl. ob.*). **Oie rieuse :** une à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 5 mars était hâtive (G. Riel, F. Perrera, *ph.*). **Oie rieuse X Bernache du Canada :** cet hybride a été photographié à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 8 mars (S. Labbé et al.); trois étaient présents 13 mars. **Oie des neiges :** quelques milliers sont arrivés dans le Haut-Saint-Laurent et le Haut-Richelieu aussi tôt que les 22-24 fév (*pl. ob.*). **Bernache nonnette :** une à Saint-Blaise 3-4 mars a établi une date d'arrivée record pour la province (L. Paquette, R. Faucher, *ph.*). **Bernache nonnette X Bernache du Canada :** cet hybride a été bien documenté à Dundee 28 fév (D. Gochfeld, M. Roach, T. Johnson, *ph.*). **Cygne siffleur :** 5 individus à Saint-Blaise 6 mars (R & G. Boulet, *ph.*) et un à Saint-Zotique 12 mars (J. Cantara, B. Fréchette). **Canard souchet :** deux à Mascouche 28 fév ont établi une date d'arrivée record pour la province (S. Guimond). **Canard pilet:** quelques centaines déjà présents dans le Haut-Saint-Laurent 25 fév. **Fuligule à dos blanc :** un mâle à

male at Hungry Bay 28 Feb (ML. Beaudin, *m. ob.*). **Ring-necked Duck**: a continuing male at Dégelis until at least the end of the month (M. Beaulieu). A few migrants began to appear in s. Québec late in the month. **Harlequin Duck**: a female continued at Laval throughout the period, a pair continued at Parc Jean-Drapeau (Montréal) until at least 6 Feb (M. Aubert, *m. ob.*) and a female at Verdun until at least 8 March (P. Bannon, S. Labbé, *m. ob.*). Finally, a male paused at Sherbrooke 18 Feb (V. Comeau). **White-winged Scoter**: a bird seen 29 Jan and 26 Feb at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague has most probably overwintered there (A. Quenneville).

Red-necked Grebe: one successfully overwintered at Laval (*m. ob.*). **Turkey Vulture**: first birds arrived 23 Feb notably one at Saint-Armand (N. Osborne, C. Muir-Norrie), one at Saint-Hyacinthe (R. Buteau) and 3 at Saint-Pie-de-Bagot (Y. Daigle). They were already numerous on 25 Feb with 16 at Saint-Armand (E. Tremblay) and 14 at Granby (R. Guénette). **Killdeer**: single birds at Dundee (A. Quenneville) and at Saint-Jude 25 Feb (C. Dion, M. Bouchard) were most probably early migrants. **Purple Sandpiper**: a record number of 1975 individuals was tallied at l'Îlet aux Alouettes (Charlevoix-Est) 21 Feb (C. Marcotte, F. Bolduc, S. Orichefsky)

Great Gray Owl: close to 60 birds were reported throughout the winter. Most were seen in the Montreal area and in Abitibi. **Boreal Owl**: a bird was found dead at the Saint-Laurent Technopark 31 Jan (J. Coutu)

Red-headed Woodpecker: the imm at Godbout continued through the period (D. Saint-Laurent, JP. Barry) while an ad was seen at Saint-Eustache 20-21 Feb (L. Auclair, ph.). **Tree Swallow**: an incredibly early bird was well seen at Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montréal) 26 Feb, eclipsing the previous record by 12 days (Y. Gauthier). **Eastern Bluebird**: it was the first time ever that so many birds continued until late in Feb. At least 2 dozen birds in 8 different localities of s. Québec were reported throughout the

Hungry Bay 28 fév (ML. Beaudin, *pl. ob.*). **Fuligule à collier** : présence hivernale à Dégelis qui s'est prolongée jusqu'en mars (M. Beaulieu). Des migrateurs sont apparus dans le sud de la province dès la fin de fév. **Arlequin plongeur** : une femelle toujours présente à Laval, un couple au Parc Jean-Drapeau (Montréal) jusqu'au 6 fév (M. Aubert, *pl. ob.*) puis une femelle à Verdun jusqu'au 8 mars (P. Bannon, S. Labbé, *pl. ob.*). Finalement, un mâle a fait une pause à Sherbrooke 18 fév (V. Comeau). **Macreuse brune** : un oiseau vu les 29 janv et 26 fév à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague a fort probablement passé l'hiver à cet endroit (A. Quenneville).

Grèbe jougris : un oiseau tout l'hiver à Laval (*pl. ob.*). **Urubu à tête rouge** : les premiers sont arrivés le 23 fév notamment un à Saint-Armand (N. Osborne, C. Muir-Norrie), un à Saint-Hyacinthe (R. Buteau) et 3 à Saint-Pie-de-Bagot (Y. Daigle). Ils sont rapidement devenus nombreux le 25 fév avec 16 à Saint-Armand (E. Tremblay) et 14 à Granby (R. Guénette). **Pluvier kildir** : des oiseaux à Dundee (A. Quenneville) et à Saint-Jude 25 fév (C. Dion, M. Bouchard) étaient sûrement des migrateurs hâtifs. **Bécasseau violet** : un décompte record de 1975 individus recueilli at l'Îlet aux Alouettes (Charlevoix-Est) le 21 fév (C. Marcotte, F. Bolduc, S. Orichefsky)

Chouette lapone : près de 60 oiseaux signalés cet hiver. La plupart ont été aperçus près de Montréal et en Abitibi. **Nyctale de Tengmalm** : un oiseau trouvé mort au Technoparc de Saint-Laurent 31 jan (J. Coutu)

Pic à tête rouge : un imm à Godbout encore présent en mars (D. Saint-Laurent, JP. Barry) tandis qu'un ad. a été trouvé à Saint-Eustache 20-21 fév (L. Auclair, ph.). **Hirondelle bicolore** : un oiseau extrêmement hâtif à Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montréal) 26 fév a battu le record précédent par 12 jours (Y. Gauthier). **Merlebleu de l'Est** : présence sans précédent de plusieurs oiseaux en fév. Au moins 2 douzaines d'oiseaux dans 8 localités différentes du sud du Québec signalés au courant du mois (*pl.*

month (*m. ob.*). **Townsend's Solitaire**: single birds continued through the period at Québec City, Rimouski and Montréal (*m. ob.*).

Spotted Towhee: the male at Saint-Mathieu-de-Rieux continued through early March (L. Dionne, *m. ob.*). **Eastern Towhee**: one continued at Chute aux Outardes until at least 24 Feb (D. Saint-Laurent, JP. Barry). **Vesper Sparrow**: one at Saint-Blaise 9-18 Feb was probably a wintering bird (L. Lemay, S. Cardinal, *m. ob.*). **Savannah Sparrow**: one at Saint-Armand 15-28 Feb was most probably a wintering bird (JG. Papineau). **Swamp Sparrow**: a bird was found at Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 5 Feb (F. Langlois, S Vézina), while one was singing at Saint-Armand 1 March (JG. Papineau).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: an ad male at Saint-Zéphirin de Courval 19 Feb (ME. Boudreault). **Eastern Meadowlark**: one at Mirabel 28 Feb was probably an early migrant (P. Marinier). **European Goldfinch**: single birds were at Île de la Visitation (Montréal) for a good part of the season (*m. ob.*) and at Vaudreuil-Dorion 23 Feb onwards (M. Chalifoux).

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

ob.). **Solitaire de Townsend** : des oiseaux toujours présents à Québec, Rimouski et Montréal durant la période (*pl. ob.*).

Tohi tacheté : le mâle de Saint-Mathieu-de-Rieux toujours présent au début mars (L. Dionne, *pl. ob.*). **Tohi à flancs roux** : un toujours présent à Chutes aux Outardes le 24 fév (D. Saint-Laurent, JP. Barry). **Bruant vespéral** : un à Saint-Blaise 9-18 fév était probablement un hivernant (L. Lemay, S. Cardinal, *pl. ob.*). **Bruant des prés** : un à Saint-Armand 15-28 fév était aussi probablement un hivernant (JG. Papineau). **Bruant des marais** : un oiseau trouvé à l'Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 5 fév (F. Langlois, S Vézina), tandis qu'un chantait à Saint-Armand 1 mars (JG. Papineau).

Carouge à tête jaune : un mâle ad à Saint-Zéphirin de Courval 19 fév (ME. Boudreault). **Sturnelle des prés** : une à Mirabel 28 fév était probablement un migrateur hâtif (P. Marinier). **Chardonneret élégant** : un oiseau à l'Île de la Visitation (Montréal) pendant une bonne partie de la saison (*pl. ob.*) et un autre à Vaudreuil-Dorion 23 fév (M. Chalifoux).

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

Our Money Working for Birds

by Richard Gregson
Chair – BPQ Grants Committee

For many years, BPQ has provided funding for research and educational programs. In the past, the amounts offered were relatively small – a \$3000 maximum was the norm – and supported projects were mostly student based at local universities. However, in recent years there has been a sea-change. Several things came together to encourage BPQ to do things on a different scale and with modified intentions. Firstly, there are fewer students pursuing courses based around field biology than there used to be. They are still with us – thank goodness – but science today relies on outside funding to guide its pathways and that more and more directs resources to laboratory studies. Secondly, the field research projects we like to support have fewer places to turn to for their funding and continuity. Lastly, the board realized we have the resources to do more than we had in the past.

As a consequence, although we still fund student projects, we are more and more involved with larger, longer-term projects, particularly with those studying

bird population and migration. Almost uniquely, we are in a position to provide multi-year support to such groups so that researchers can see a future for their work. That's the context in which the BPQ Grants Committee works. Now for a rundown on the projects currently being supported by our charity.

Population and Migration Research

BPQ works closely with the two main bird banding groups in Quebec, the **McGill Bird Observatory (MBO)** in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and **L'Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac (OOT)**. Many BPQ members volunteer at both stations, especially the MBO, and know their work well. We have supported many of their small projects for a long time. Now, both are involved in the relatively recent Motus technology motus.org/ for real-time monitoring of individual birds by radio-telemetry. This is proving to be a game-changer for the amount of detailed data that can be gathered, but it is expensive to establish the telemetry stations that make it possible. Accordingly, we have committed to multi-year support for both MBO and OOT, amounting to some \$70,000 over the next three years. This will enable these exciting studies to get under way with confidence. Our smaller grants will be supporting "traditional"



Motus Tower at MBO © Simon Duval

banding migration monitoring studies at these stations. We are also providing the second year of seed money to the new station at Rimouski to help them on their way. Who knows, in years to come they may get into the Motus game too.

The data gathered at these stations are essential for effective conservation and habitat management, such as that carried out by **Corridor Appalachian** www.corridorappalachien.ca/en/ in eastern Quebec. We have awarded almost \$14,000 over a five-year period to this group. Their work includes the annual monitoring of known Peregrine Falcon nesting sites and the search for new ones in Appalachian Corridor's territory of action. At the same time, it focuses on detecting human disturbance likely to affect the species' breeding success. The confirmation of new nesting sites will

help the organization in its prioritization of conservation actions, steering efforts towards the protection of private lands encompassed within the Peregrine Falcon's breeding and feeding habitats.



Magnolia Warbler © Simon Duval
The most commonly banded warbler at MBO

The project also aims to monitor Bicknell's Thrush yearly at Round Top in the Sutton Mountain range. It focuses on the consequences of a high density of hikers using trails in this protected area, in the *Montagnes-Vertes* Nature Reserve.

Educational Projects

For the past three years, BPQ has underwritten the considerable costs of setting up a school outreach program run

from **Le Nichoir** <http://lenichoir.org/> in Hudson. This year we have continued our support of the "Bird Adaptations: Custom-made for Habitat" course. In their words, "Bird Protection Quebec's support of Le Nichoir these last three years has allowed us to get through the challenging initial years developing and delivering our education program."

At **Scouts Canada** we underwrite the stipend for an Ecology Director at their Tamaracouta summer camp.

We have provided funds for audio-visual equipment at a new community nature project being run by the **Westmount Park United Church** westmountparkuc.org/

We have a new relationship with **Richelieu Valley Community Learning Centre** www.rsb.qc.ca/ which has an interesting project to increase Ornithological and Environmental Knowledge of students and citizens from the Richelieu Valley and South Shore of Montreal.

Our final grant this year has been made to the **Redpath Museum** www.mcgill.ca/redpath/ to help them to revitalize the Quebec Biodiversity Displays in the Redpath Museum plus create an online display featuring BPQ and its centenary.

Thanks to our Supporters

Of course, none of this would be possible were it not for the supporters over the years who have helped provide the resources on which we draw. None of this is cheap!! But it is essential and we are uniquely placed to be able to support important work in fields of research that are otherwise sadly underfunded. This is what a charity such as ours exists to do. Our mission statement, which you can read at pqspb.org/bpqpoq/about/missionvision states that we are required to "to support, financially and by our volunteer skills, appropriate scientific studies and research projects."

My thanks to the hard working and knowledgeable members of the BPQ Grants Committee who have engaged in the difficult task of considering grant applications and deciding where our resources are best directed. They are Jean Demers, Barbara Frei, Lance Laviolette, David Mulholland, and Paul Shay. These friends bring their various scientific and educational expertise to a difficult but rewarding task.

Applications for grants must be submitted, each year, no later than the last day of February. This is the end of the BPQ fiscal year. The format is described on the website: pqspb.org/bpqpoq/research-grants/

Annual General Meeting and Party

Monday, May 29, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for the 100th AGM of BPQ!

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday, May 29, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG.

The Agenda for the AGM will include annual reports by the President and Treasurer respectively, and the election of directors by members in good standing.

The biographies of candidates for election to the board will be distributed to members by e-mail at least two weeks prior to the AGM. Members wanting copies in advance of the meeting are advised to ensure that an e-mail address is registered with us. Printed copies will be available at the door on arrival at the meeting.

Join us for the end-of-the-year party following the AGM. Be prepared for a fun quiz / trivia contest.

100^e Assemblée générale et party

le lundi 29 mai 2017 à 19 h 30

Venez nous rejoindre pour notre 100^e AGA !

L'Assemblée générale (AGA) aura lieu le lundi 29 mai 2017 à 19 h 30 à l'église Knox Crescent Kensington & First Presbyterian, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG.

L'ordre du jour de l'AGA inclura comme d'habitude les rapports annuels respectifs du président et du trésorier.

Les notes biographiques des candidats en élection au conseil seront envoyés par courriel à tous les membres au moins deux (2) semaines avant la tenue de l'AGA. Les membres désirant obtenir une copie avant la tenue de l'AGA devront s'assurer que leur adresse courriel est enregistrée auprès du secrétaire. Le cas échéant, des copies papier seront à votre disposition à l'entrée lors de votre arrivée à l'AGA.

À la suite d'AGA, venez célébrer avec nous. Soyez aussi prêt pour notre grand quiz / jeu questionnaire.

In Memoriam

George E. Midgley

1925–2017

by Zofia Laubitz

It's a familiar cliché to say of a recently deceased person that they lived a “long, full life,” but if ever that cliché truly applied to anyone, it applied to George Midgley. George got a lot done in his long life. Still, I'd never dare claim that he did everything he wanted because, right to the end, George remained forward-looking and busy with plans for the future.

George was born in England and spent his early years in an orphanage. At the age of 14, he was sent to Canada as a “home child” and assigned to a farm near Sherbrooke. He didn't stay there long. When World War II broke out, he hitchhiked to Halifax and tried to join the Royal Navy. Rejected because he was too young, he instead joined the Norwegian merchant marine, where he got firsthand experience of the convoy battles of the Battle of the Atlantic.

After the war, George served with the Canadian Army for a time and studied

mechanical engineering. He had a long career with Shawinigan Engineering (later acquired by Lavalin), working on projects around the world. He and his wife Shirley married in 1957.

In 1964, George became one of the founding members of the Zoological Society of Montreal. Ironically enough, Shirley had to practically drag him to his first meeting, and he went with the firm intention of sitting at the back so he could leave early if he wanted to—little did he know how much time he would end up devoting to the society! George sat on the Zoological Society's board for many decades and served as president for more than one long stretch. He participated actively in all of the society's field trips and other activities, travelling as far afield as Africa and being instrumental in organizing the society's whale-watching tours in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He was involved in planning the Zoological Society's exhibit at the former Man and His World site, and many BPQ members will remember George as a constant presence at the Zoo Society booth at Bird Fairs over the years.

After his retirement, George started volunteering at the Montreal Children's Hospital and stepped up his involvement with the Zoological Society. He was the heart and soul of that organization, and the decision in 2016 to wind up the Zoological Society, which was greeted



George Medgley © Zofia Laubitz

with sadness by all the members, hit him especially hard. Nevertheless, he continued to play an active role in the society's affairs during the winding-up process and remained on the board of directors until his death. George had an extensive circle of friends, all of whom will miss him very much. But he leaves behind a multitude of happy memories of a life lived with a sense of service and a spirit of adventure!

Invitation: Bird Protection Quebec 100th Anniversary Dinner Reception November 4 2017

In honour of Bird Protection Quebec's 100th anniversary, join us for a very special evening featuring a dinner reception with keynote speaker Jeff Wells, Ph.D., Science and Policy Director for the Boreal Songbird Initiative and one of the nation's leading bird experts and conservation biologists.

Be part of this commemorative event celebrating the notable achievement of 100 years dedicated to protecting birds and their habitats, education and supporting scientific research by Canada's oldest bird conservation charity. We look forward to an evening that not only highlights BPQ's past accomplishments but will also inspire us to take on the challenges ahead as we embark on our second century of operations.

Whether you are an old or new friend of BPQ, don't miss what is sure to be the birding social event of the year!

The evening will feature some great door prizes and the draw of the winners of the 100th Anniversary Raffle benefiting the George Montgomery Bird Sanctuary.

Details

- **Cost:** \$60.00 per ticket
- **Location:** Holiday Inn Point Claire, 6700 Trans Canada Pointe Claire, Qc. H9R1C2
- **Date** Saturday, November 4, 2017
- **Cocktail Reception** 6–7 p.m. Cash Bar
- **Dinner** 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Get your tickets online, at our AGM on May 29, or at the October 2 meeting

Dinner Menu

- Appetizer
- **Main Course:** Chicken, Salmon or Vegetarian option.
- Complimentary glass of wine
- Dessert

Note that you must indicate the main course choice at time of ticket purchase.

Keynote Speaker: Jeff Wells, Ph.D.

Science and Policy Director for the Boreal Songbird Initiative

Dr. Jeff Wells is the Science and Policy Director for the Boreal Songbird Initiative. He is also a science advisor to The Pew Charitable Trusts. Jeff has previously worked as a conservation ornithologist at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY. From 1996–2003 Jeff was with the National Audubon Society, first as Bird Conservation Director for the New York State office, then as the National Director of Bird Conservation. Jeff has earned a reputation as one of the nation's leading bird experts and conservation biologists.

He is dedicated to understanding and protecting the land where many of North America's birds are born and raised, the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska. Jeff received his Ph.D. and Master's degrees in avian ecology from Cornell University. He has authored or co-authored dozens of scientific papers, reports, and popular articles on birds and bird conservation.

Dr. Wells is the author of the *Boreal Birds of North America: A Hemispheric View of Their Conservation Links and Significance and Birder's Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk*.

Invitation: Protection des Oiseaux du Québec Réception pour le 100^e anniversaire 4 Novembre 2017



Conférencier / Kenote Speaker :
Dr. Jeff Wells

En l'honneur du 100^e anniversaire de Protection des Oiseaux du Québec, joignez-vous à nous pour une soirée bien spéciale avec un conférencier de renom, Jeff Wells Ph.D. directeur des sciences et des politiques de Boreal Songbird

Initiative et un des plus grands experts de la nation en ornithologie et en biologie de la conservation.

Prenez part à cet événement commémoratif qui célébrera la réussite exceptionnelle de ces cent dernières années dédiées à la protection des oiseaux et de leur habitat, à l'éducation et au soutien à la recherche scientifique par le plus ancien organisme de bienfaisance de conservation au Canada. Nous soulignerons lors de cette soirée les réalisations passées du POQ et nous nous en inspirerons pour affronter les défis qui sont devant nous au moment où nous entamons notre second siècle.

Que vous soyez un vieil ou nouvel ami du POQ, ne manquez pas ce qui sera assurément l'évènement ornithologique de l'année.

De nombreux prix de présence seront attribués lors de la soirée ainsi que le grand tirage de la loterie organisée au profit de notre sanctuaire d'oiseaux de Philipsburg.

Détails

- **Coût du billet** : 60\$
- **Lieu** : Holiday Inn Pointe Claire, 6700 route Trans-Canada, Pointe Claire QC H9R 1C2
- **Date et heure** : Samedi le 4 novembre 2017
- Cocktail de 1800H à 1900H
- Souper de 1900H à 2300H Bar payant

Au menu :

- Hors d'oeuvre
- Plat principal : poulet, saumon, végétarien en option
- Dessert
- Breuvages : le souper comprend un verre de vin

Billets disponibles en ligne, à l'Assemblée annuelle du 29 mai ou à la réunion mensuelle du 2 octobre 2017

Veillez noter que vous devez indiquer votre choix de menu au moment de l'achat de votre billet.

Our Jewel in the Crown

Please join us at Bird Protection Quebec's "Jewel in the Crown Sanctuary" at the **George Montgomery Sanctuary in Philipsburg on Saturday, May 13th**, International Migratory Bird Day. Bird migration should be at its peak. Bird Protection Quebec is celebrating its 100th Anniversary too. Trails have been cleared and marked and new footbridges will make walking easy. We hope you will visit this unique area.

Notre Joyau!!

Vous êtes priés de vous joindre à nous au **Sanctuaire George Montgomery à Philipsburg le samedi 13 mai**. C'est notre bijou à nous! Ce sera la journée internationale des oiseaux migrateurs et la migration devrait être à son maximum. De plus, c'est aussi le 100^e anniversaire de Protection Oiseaux du Québec. Les sentiers sont propres et identifiés et de nouveaux ponts piétonniers faciliteront la marche. Nous espérons que vous viendrez visiter ce lieu unique.

Alfred Kelly Reserve Piedmont, June 3

In honour of Bird Protection Quebec's 100th Anniversary, Joel Bonin, from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), will give a presentation on the Alfred Kelly Reserve after our morning bird walk. Coffee and muffins will be provided. We hope to see you at this special event.

Réserve Alfred Kelly Piedmont, 3 juin

En l'honneur du centième anniversaire de Protection Oiseaux du Québec, Joël Bonin, directeur de Conservation de la nature Canada, donnera une présentation au sujet de la Réserve Alfred Kelly après notre randonnée d'observation. De café et des muffins seront servis et nous espérons que vous resterez pour cet événement spécial.

June Birding Marathon

Mark your calendars now! As a part of Bird Protection Quebec's 100th anniversary celebrations in 2017 we are organizing a "Big Week of Birding". **From Sunday, June 4 through Saturday, June 10, inclusive**, BPQ will be organizing a daily

field trip to a different, hotspot birding location in and around the Montreal region, with a variety of field trip leaders.

At this peak time of the birding season there is no telling just how many species we will find. Keep an eye out for details of the 7 field trips as the date approaches. This will be great fun. For those of you working, you might even consider booking a week's vacation!

Marathon d'observation des oiseaux en juin

Québec en 2017, nous organisons « la Grande Semaine d'Observation des Oiseaux » (la GSOO)! **De dimanche le 4 juin à samedi 10 juin inclusivement**, POQ organise une sortie journalière à un endroit différent, un endroit privilégié dans ou aux alentours de Montréal, avec toute une variété de guides.

A ce temps incroyable de la saison d'observation, qui sait combien d'espèces nous trouverons. Gardez l'œil ouvert pour les détails des 7 sorties à l'approche des dates choisies. Ce sera vraiment agréable. Pour ceux qui travaillent, vous pouvez même envisager de prendre une semaine de congé!

Past Field Trips

04/02/17 - Chateauguay, QC (Rue Higgins & Île-St-Bernard)

Guide: Tom Long

Cold, windy, -9° C. 10 birders; 20 species

Bird of the Day: Great Gray Owl

Other Birds of Note: Common Merganser, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird

11/02/17 – St Clet/Ste Marthe/ Ste Justine /St Polycarpe, QC

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Snow, strong winds, cold. 11 birders; 19 species

Bird of the Day: Snowy Owl

Other Birds of Note: Wild Turkey, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting

18/02/17 – Great Backyard Bird Count at the Morgan Arboretum

Sunny, warm. 35 participants; 18 species

Bird of the Day: Purple Finch

Other Birds of Note: Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker

25/02/17 – Bois-de-Liesse, Montreal, QC

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Foggy, damp, mild. 10 birders; 14 species

Birds of the Day: Brown Creeper and Pileated Woodpecker

Other Birds of Note: Mallard, Northern Flicker, Common Raven, American Robin

04/03/17 - Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies, Montreal, QC

Guide: Joel Coutu

Trip cancelled due to inclement weather

11/03/17 – Laval Cemetery and Laval East, Laval, QC

Guide: Frederic Hareau

Very cold, windy. 3 birders; 29 species

Bird of the Day: Harlequin Duck

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Glaucous Gull, Northern Shrike, Common Raven, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle

18/03/17 – Parc de la Frayère, Boucherville, QC –

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Sunny, cool. 6 birders; 17 species

Birds of the Day: Bald Eagles (3)

Other Birds of Note: Bufflehead, Common Merganser, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird

25/03/17 - Parc-nature du Cap-St-Jacques, Montreal, QC

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Snow-covered, 0° C. 13 birders; 20 species

Birds of the Day: Snow Buntings

Other Birds of Note: American Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Northern Flicker, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird

Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration

BPQ presents the following series of spring walks in celebration of spring migration:

Wood Warbler Walks at Summit Woods – Sorties ornithologiques au Boisé Sommet

Tuesday, April 25 and May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 7:00 a.m.
Mardi le 25 avril et tous les mardis de mai

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 cormackjane@gmail.com

Meet us at the Summit Circle Lookout. We are an informal group of BPQ members. All are welcome. It's a perfect start to a spring day. To reach Summit Circle, head north on Côte-des-Neiges. Turn left onto The Boulevard. Proceed to Ch. Belvedere and turn right. Drive up the steep hill on Ch. Belvedere to Summit Circle.

Vous êtes invités à vous joindre à l'une ou toutes des marches printanières avec un groupe amical des membres du POQ. C'est une belle façon de commencer une journée du printemps. Pour vous rendre au Summit Circle, dirigez vous vers le nord sur Côte-des-Neiges. Tourner à gauche sur le Boulevard. Poursuivre jusqu'au Ch. Belvédère et tourner à droite. Monter la côte abrupte sur le Ch. Belvédère jusqu'à Summit Circle.

These walks are dedicated to Jim Houghton. – Ces sorties sont dédiées à Jim Houghton.

Migratory Bird Watching – Observation d'oiseaux en migration Parc-nature de l'île-de-la-Visitation Wednesday, May 10, 17, and 25 from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. Mercredi 10, 17, et 25 mai de 7 h 00 à 11 h 00

<https://goo.gl/maps/jU9nT>

Guide: Joël Coutu 438-930-5092 fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

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Tennessee Warbler © Chuck Kling 2014

7:00 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre at the park at 2425, Gouin E., Montreal. From Highway 40 (Metropolitan Blvd) take Papineau north to Henri-Bourassa. Turn right (east) on Henri-Bourassa and turn left on Rue de Lille. Turn right onto Gouin and left into the parking area. Parking available on nearby roads or in the Nature Park's parking lot (cost \$9.00).

Discover the birds of Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation (passerines, ducks, raptors, and more) during spring migration, with Joël Coutu. The walks in this series are geared towards new and beginning birders. Joël will point out and identify the birds that frequent the park, introduce participants to birding ethics and build on basic observation skills and techniques.

Joël Coutu is a birding specialist, consultant and lecturer. He has taken courses in ornithology at McGill and Cornell, and conducted bird surveys for Sépaq, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Studies Canada, and several other clients. He has over thirty years experience as a birder, 20 of them at Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation.

7h00 Rassemblement au Chalet d'accueil, 2425, boul. Gouin E., Montréal. De l'autoroute 40 (boul. métropolitain), prenez la sortie Papineau nord jusqu'à Henri-Bourassa. Tournez à droite vers l'est sur Henri-Bourassa et tournez à gauche sur la rue de Lille. Tournez à droite sur Gouin jusqu'au stationnement du parc. Stationnement disponible sur les rues dans le voisinage du parc ou le stationnement du Parc Nature (9\$)

Découvrir les oiseaux du Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation (passereaux, canards, rapaces, etc.) durant la période de la migration printanière, avec Joël Coutu. Cette activité est offerte à ceux et celles qui commencent ou qui ont déjà commencé l'observation de la faune ailée. Votre guide vous présentera les espèces qui fréquentent le parc. Les objectifs de ces randonnées seront d'apprendre ou de perfectionner la base, les techniques et l'éthique d'observation des oiseaux, ainsi que de développer une nouvelle façon de regarder et de respecter les oiseaux.

Joël Coutu, spécialiste, consultant, et conférencier en ornithologie, a suivi une formation en ornithologie à McGill et à Cornell. Joël a mené plusieurs inventaires d'oiseaux pour la Sépaq, le Service Canadien de la faune, Études d'Oiseaux Canada, etc. Il possède plus de 30 ans d'observation d'oiseaux et plus de 20 ans au parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation.

Upcoming Field Trips

Trip Advice

Updates: We send an update of our upcoming events every week by e-mail. This serves as a reminder and keeps you informed of any changes. It also provides additional information about trip conditions, when required. If you are not receiving this e-mail, contact us at birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Online calendar: Consult the website as well.

Questions: Contact the trip Guide or post a message on the Songsparrow e-mail group.

Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but check the BPQ website, just in case. Contact the trip Guide when the weather is extreme.

Nice to have: Binoculars, field guide, scope, hat, gloves, walking shoes, extra socks, sun screen, layers for cold weather, water, and snacks.

De rigueur pour les excursions

Mise à jour: Nous envoyons par courriel des mises à jour hebdomadaires sur les événements à venir. Ils servent de rappel pour vous garder informés de tout changement. Ils fournissent des informations supplémentaires sur les particularités reliées aux excursions au besoin. Si vous ne recevez pas ces courriels, contactez-nous à : birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. Vous pouvez annuler votre participation en tout temps.

Questions/informations: Téléphonnez au responsable ou contactez le groupe courriel Songsparrow.

Annulations: En cas d'intempérie, vérifier la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable.

Prévoir pour les sorties : Jumelles, guide, télescope, chapeau, gants, souliers de marche, bas de rechange, crème solaire, vêtements pour temps froid, bouteille d'eau, et collations.

Saturday, April 22 - samedi 22 avril Morgan Arboretum

<http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

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

This will be a combined trip for members of Bird Protection Quebec and the Morgan Arboretum. Cette sortie se fait conjointement avec l'Arboretum Morgan.

Guides: Richard Gregson sparroworks@gmail.com
Chris Cloutier chriscivic90@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. Looking for early migrants. **Half day.**

8 h 00 De Montréal de l'autoroute 40 Ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et garder la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins et continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres. Espèces recherchées : migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

Wood Warbler Walk at Summit Woods – Sortie ornithologique au Boisé Sommet

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 a.m. – Mardi le 25 avril à 7 h 00

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 cormackjane@gmail.com

See / Voir page 18.

Thursday, April 27 - jeudi 27 Avril Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum

<http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.

Venez apprendre les techniques de base pour l'identification des oiseaux sur le terrain et observez les premiers migrateurs.

Guide: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222 barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members.

9 h 00 – 11 h 00. De Montréal de l'autoroute 40 Ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et garder la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins et continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres.

Saturday, April 29 - samedi 29 avril **Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'île-Bizard**

<https://goo.gl/maps/JFpO4>

Guide: Mathias Mutzl mathias.mutzl@gmail.com 514-298-7090

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 Chevreumont; left (west) on Chevreumont 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: \$9.00. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and migrating passerines. **Half day.**

8 h 00 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. Chevreumont 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 : 9,00 \$. Espèces recherchées : sauvagines, rapaces et passereaux en migration. **Demi-journée.**

Wood Warbler Walk at Summit Woods – Sortie ornithologique au Boisé Sommet

Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 a.m.
Mardi le 2 mai à 7 h 00

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 cormackjane@gmail.com

See / Voir page 18.

Thursday, May 4 - jeudi 4 mai **Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum**

Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.

Venez apprendre les techniques de base pour l'identification des oiseaux sur le terrain et observez les premiers migrateurs.

<http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

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

Guide: Barbara MacDuff barb.macduff@sympatico.ca 514-457-2222

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members.

9 h 00 – 11 h 00. De Montréal de l'autoroute 40 Ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et garder la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins et continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres.

Saturday, May 6 - samedi 6 mai Dundee (La Réserve Nationale de Faune du Lac Saint-François)

<https://goo.gl/maps/u3ihE>

Guides: Sheldon Harvey ve2shw@yahoo.com 450-462-1459

Wayne Grubert wgrubert6@gmail.com 450-458-5498 514-774-0811
Cell (PLEASE use only on morning of trip)

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Centre parking lot. If you are taking the Mercier Bridge from Montreal go (left) east on Highway 132 for 4.5km to Highway 730. Take Highway 730 to its junction with Highway 30. Proceed west on Highway 30 for approximately 33 km to the exit for Highway 530. Take Highway 530 until its end. Turn left onto Highway 132, crossing the bridge, and continue approximately 33km past Sainte-Barbe and Saint-Anicet to Cazaville. Continue another 8 km on Hwy 132 past Cazaville to chemin-de-le-Pointe-Fraser. Turn right on this road and meet at the visitor centre parking lot about 1 km along on the left.

An alternative route, especially from the West Island, is to take Hwy 20 or 40 west past Vaudreuil-Dorion to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 (Toll \$2.80) and then exit onto Highway 530 and continue as per instructions above.

Allow about 1.5 hours from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, migrating passerines and Sandhill Cranes. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement de l'Accueil. Si vous arrivez depuis le pont Mercier en provenance de Montréal, prenez vers l'est (gauche) sur la route 132 pour 4.5km jusqu'à l'autoroute 730. Prenez l'autoroute 730 jusqu'à sa jonction avec l'autoroute 30. Continuez vers l'ouest sur l'autoroute 30 pendant environ 33 km jusqu'à la sortie vers l'autoroute 530. Prenez l'autoroute 530 jusqu'au bout. Tournez à gauche sur la route 132, traversez le pont et continuez

environ 33 km, en passant par Sainte-Barbe et Saint-Anicet jusqu'à Cazaville. Continuez encore 8 km sur la route 132 passé Cazaville jusqu'au Chemin-de-la-Pointe-Fraser. Tournez à droite sur cette route et rendez-vous au stationnement du centre d'accueil sur la gauche à environ 1 km.

Un itinéraire alternatif, en particulier depuis l'Ouest de l'Île de Montréal, consiste à prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 ouest passé Vaudreuil-Dorion jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prenez l'autoroute 30 (frais de 2,80 \$), puis sortez sur l'autoroute 530 et continuez en suivant les instructions données ci-dessus. Prévoir environ 1 h à 1 h30 de route à partir de la région de Montréal. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces, parulines en migration et Grues du Canada. **Demi-journée.**

Wednesday, May 10 - mercredi 10 mai Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

<https://goo.gl/maps/jU9nT>

7 h 00 à 11 h 00

Guide: Joël Coutu fauconbleu65@hotmail.com 438-930-5092

See/ Voir Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration on page 18

Saturday, May 13 - samedi 13 mai George Montgomery Bird Sanctuary, Philipsburg

<https://tinyurl.com/kzzhe7h> (Sanctuary)

<https://goo.gl/maps/y4UwW> (Location)

Guide: Sandy Montgomery sandy_montgomery@sympatico.ca
514-212-6208

8:00 a.m. Meet at the defunct Motel Frontière. From Montreal take the Champlain Bridge, Highway 10 east to exit 22, Highway 35 south to St. Jean to join Highway 133 south to Philipsburg. Now that the motel has been demolished the location is not easy to see from the southbound side of the road so continue towards the border crossing. Immediately before the border buildings take the well-marked U-turn on the left to cross over to the northbound side of the road. Look on your right for the large white sign telling drivers to fasten their seat belts – the entrance to the old motel site and the parking area is immediately beyond it. Note that there are two gravelled entrances – do NOT take the first, it is washed out and impassable; the second entry is excellent. Good choice of trails from long and strenuous to short and easy. Looking for migrating passerines, waterfowl and hawks. **Half day.**

**International Migratory Bird Day!
Bird Migration could be at its peak.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement au défunt Motel Frontière. De Montréal, traverser le pont Champlain et continuer sur l'autoroute 10 est. Prendre la sortie 22 et rejoindre l'autoroute 35 sud. Continuer sur celle-ci jusqu'à Saint-Jean. De là continuer sur l'autoroute 133 sud en direction de Philipsburg. Maintenant que le motel a été démoli le stationnement est difficile de voir du côté sud de la route. Donc, continuer vers le poste frontalier. Juste avant les bâtiments de passage, prendre le bien-marqué demi-tour sur la gauche pour passer en direction du côté nord de la route. Chercher le grand panneau blanc indiquant aux conducteurs de boucler leur ceinture de sécurité sur votre droite – l'entrée sur le site du vieux motel et le stationnement est immédiatement au-delà. Bonne variété de sentiers dont les niveaux de difficulté vont de longs et ardues à courts et faciles. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, sauvagine et rapaces diurnes. **Demi-journée.**

**Ce sera la journée internationale des oiseaux
migrateurs et la migration devrait être à son
maximum.**

Wood Warbler Walk at Summit Woods – Sortie ornithologique au Boisé Sommet

**Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 a.m.
Mardi le 16 mai à 7 h 00**

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 cormackjane@gmail.com

See / Voir page 18.

Tuesday, May 16 - mardi 16 mai Hudson – Evening trip – sortie en soirée

<https://goo.gl/maps/fMLfj>

Guide: Barbara MacDuff barb.macduff@sympatico.ca 514-457-2222

6:30 p.m. Meet at Finnegan's Market, 775 Main Road, Hudson Heights. Take Hwy 40 to Exit 22. Turn right onto Côte St-Charles. Drive to its end at T-intersection with Main Road. Turn left. Drive (about 2.5 km) to Finnegan's Market parking lot on left. Looking for rails, woodcock.

18 h 30. Rassemblement au marché Finnegan, 775 Main Road, Hudson Heights. Prendre l'autoroute 40, sortie 22. Tourner à droite sur Côte St-Charles. Suivre cette route jusqu'au bout. Tourner à gauche sur la rue Main. Poursuivre (2.5 km environ) jusqu'au stationnement du Marché Finnegan, situé à gauche. Espèces recherchées : râles, Bécasse d'Amérique.

Wednesday, May 17 - mercredi 17 mai **Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation**

<https://goo.gl/maps/jU9nT>

7 h 00 à 11 h 00

Guide: Joël Coutu fauconbleu65@hotmail.com 438-930-5092

See/ Voir Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration on page 18

Saturday, May 20 – samedi 20 mai **Refuge Faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, Île Saint-Bernard, Qc**

<https://goo.gl/maps/g5spD>

Guide: Tom Long cardinalis.1997@gmail.com 450-692-1590

7:30 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge on Île St-Bernard, Châteauguay. From Montreal, take Hwy 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Hwy 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto St-Francis Blvd. Follow St-Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Salaberry Blvd North. Turn right on to Salaberry North. Continue past the railway bridge. The next bridge that crosses the road and river is Pont de la Sauvagine. Turn right just after the bridge. There will be a sign and an entrance ramp for the bridge for Beauharnois and the Refuge. Cross the bridge and continue to Notre-Dame Nord. At the flashing red light turn right onto Notre-Dame and follow the signs to the Refuge. Cross the small bridge onto Île St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right. Walking trip looking for waterbirds, summer breeding birds and migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. \$3.00 admission fee will be charged. **Half day.**

7 h 30 Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge, île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay. De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. A la sortie du pont, garder la droite et continuer sur la 138, passé Kahnawake, jusqu'à Châteauguay. A l'entrée de Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. St-Francis. Continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'à l'intersection avec le boul. Salaberry Nord, qui longe la rivière Châteauguay. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry nord, passer en-dessous du pont de la voie ferrée et continuer jusqu'à un deuxième pont : il s'agit du pont de la Sauvagine. Tourner à droite juste après avoir passer sous ce pont et accéder à une rampe d'accès au pont. Des indications pour le refuge y sont visibles. Traverser le pont et continuer jusqu'à la rue Notre-Dame Nord. Au feu rouge clignotant, tourner à droite sur Notre-Dame et suivre les indications pour le refuge. Traverser le petit pont qui mène à l'île Saint-Bernard. Le stationnement est à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques, d'oiseaux nicheurs et de migrants. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. Frais d'entrée de 3.00\$. **Demi-journée.**

Monday, May 22 – lundi 22 mai **Mount Royal Cemetery - Cimetière** **Mont-Royal**

<https://goo.gl/maps/kAWiSJGXA1Q2>

Guides: Darlene Harvey darleneharvey80@gmail.com and Sheldon Harvey ve2shw@yahoo.com 450-462-1459

7:30 a.m. Meet at the main gate to the cemetery on *chemin de la Forêt*, Outremont. Looking for spring migrants. **Half day.**

7h30 Rassemblement à la porte principale du cimetière sur *le chemin de la Forêt*, à Outremont. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration **Demi-journée.**

Wood Warbler Walk at Summit Woods – Sortie ornithologique au Boisé Sommet

Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 a.m.
Mardi le 30 mai à 7 h 00

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 cormackjane@gmail.com

See / Voir Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration on page 18

Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

<https://goo.gl/maps/JU9nT>

Wednesday, May 24 – mercredi 24 mai

7 h 00 à 11 h 00

Guide: Joël Coutu fauconbleu65@hotmail.com 438-930-5092

See / Voir Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration on page 18

Saturday, May 27 – Samedi 27 mai- Cooper Marsh, Ontario

<https://goo.gl/maps/D7D2UfuxLKq>

Guide: Wayne Grubert wgrubert6@gmail.com 450-458-5498
Cell (Please use only on morning of trip) 514-774-0811

8:00 a.m. Take Hwy 20 (Ontario Hwy 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Hwy 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Park in the gravel parking area. Allow 1 to 1.5 hours travel time. Looking for waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks and passerines. A walking trip. 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, buses et passereaux. Excursion à pied. Des chaussures imperméables sont recommandées. **Demi-journée.**

Wood Warbler Walk at Summit Woods – Sortie ornithologique au Boisé Sommet

Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 a.m. – Mardi le 30 mai à 7 h 00

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 cormackjane@gmail.com

See / Voir Celebrating Spring Migration / Fêtez la Migration on page 18

Saturday, June 3 – samedi 3 juin Alfred Kelly Nature Reserve at Prévost/Piedmont

<http://goo.gl/nzhUq>

Guides: BPQ Members with Local Guide Marc Boudreau

In honour of Bird Protection Quebec's 100th Anniversary, Joel Bonin, Director of philanthropy and major projects for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), will give a presentation on the Alfred Kelly Reserve after our morning bird walk. Coffee and muffins will be provided so we hope that you will stay for this special event.

8:00 a.m. Meet at La Gare de Prévost which is located at 1272, rue de la Traverse, Prévost. Take Autoroute 15 north in the direction of St-Jerome; take the right fork in St-Jerome on Autoroute des Laurentides Ouest which in 2 km becomes Boulevard du Curé-Labelle/QC-117 N; in about another 7 km in Prévost turn right on Rue de la Station (sign reads Saint-Hippolyte) and you will find the station in less than 100 metres. Looking for raptors (hopefully Peregrine Falcons), warblers and other Laurentian Forest species in the reserve. **Half day.**

Réserve Alfred Kelly à Piedmont

En l'honneur du centième anniversaire de Protection Oiseaux du Québec, Joël Bonin, directeur de Conservation de la nature Canada, donnera une présentation au sujet de la Réserve Alfred Kelly après notre randonnée d'observation. De café et des muffins seront servis et nous espérons que vous resterez pour cet événement spécial.

8 h 00. Rassemblement à la gare de Prévost, qui est située au 1272, rue de la Traverse, Prévost.. Prendre l'autoroute 15 Nord en direction de St-Jérôme. A la bifurcation de St-Jérôme, prendre la voie de droite sur l'autoroute des Laurentides Ouest qui, après 2 km, devient le Boulevard Curé-Labelle/QC-117 N; après 7 km, tourner à droite dans Prévost sur la Rue de la Station (direction Saint-Hippolyte), la gare est située à moins de 100 mètres. À la recherche des oiseaux de proie (avec optimisme le faucon pèlerin), des parulines et autres espèces de la forêt laurentienne dans la nouvelle réserve naturelle Alfred Kelly.
Demi-journée.

Alfred Kelly Reserve Piedmont

In honour of Bird Protection Quebec's 100th Anniversary, Joel Bonin, directeur de la philanthropie et des grands projets à Conservation de la nature Canada (CNC) au Québec, will give a presentation on the Alfred Kelly Reserve after our morning bird walk. Coffee and muffins will be provided so I hope that you will stay for this special event.

Sunday, June 4 to Saturday, June 10 - Dimanche 4 juin à samedi 10 juin Birding Marathon- Marathon d'observation des oiseaux

Mark your calendars now! As a part of Bird Protection Quebec's 100th anniversary celebrations in 2017 we are organizing a "Big Week of Birding". From Sunday, June 4 through Saturday, June 10, inclusive, BPQ will be organizing a daily field trip to a different, hot-spot birding location in and around the Montreal region, with a variety of field trip leaders.

At this peak time of the birding season there is no telling just how many species we will find. Participate in one, some or all of the 7 field trips. Keep an eye out for details of the 7 field trips as the date approaches. This will be great fun. For those of you working, you might even consider booking a week's vacation!

A vos calendriers! A l'occasion du centième anniversaire de Protection Oiseaux du Québec en 2017, nous organisons « la Grande Semaine d'Observation des Oiseaux » (la GSOO)! De dimanche le 4 juin à samedi 10 juin inclusivement, POQ organise une sortie journalière à un endroit différent, un endroit privilégié dans ou aux alentours de Montréal, avec toute une variété de guides.

A ce temps incroyable de la saison d'observation, qui sait combien d'espèces nous trouverons. Participez à une, quelques unes ou à toutes les 7 sorties ornitho. Gardez l'œil ouvert pour les détails des 7 sorties à l'approche des dates choisies. Ce sera vraiment agréable. Pour ceux qui travaillent, vous pouvez même envisager de prendre une semaine de congé!

Saturday, June 18 - samedi 18 juin Southwestern Quebec - Early Solstice Trip - Sud-ouest du Québec - Excursion du solstice d'été

Note exceptional start time! Remarquez l'heure de depart!!

<https://goo.gl/maps/AKwGmsUBQKT2>

Guides: Sheldon Harvey ve2shw@yahoo.com 450-462-1459

Wayne Grubert wgrubert6@gmail.com 450-458-5498
Cell (Please use only on morning of trip) 514-774-0811

5:15 a.m. Meet in Ormstown, at Petro Canada gas station–Tim Hortons, crossroads of Hwy 201 and Hwy 138. From Montreal take the Mercier Bridge and follow Hwy 138 to Ormstown. From the West Island take Hwy 40 –20 west then take highway 30 (toll). Take 530 toward Salaberry de Valleyfield. Take exit 9 from 530. Turn left onto Boulevard Pie–XII. Continue onto Pont St. and onto Rang du 40. Turn right on 138 west, following signs for Ormstown. Turn left on Hwy 201 in Ormstown. Petrocanada Station is located a few hundred metres on the right. This is a driving trip; carpooling is recommended. This trip will explore some of the roads of southwestern Quebec in the Ormstown–Huntingdon area. We are starting early because some of the roads are busy and parking can be difficult. Looking for birds of the forests and of open country. Possible species include Yellow–throated Vireo, Golden–winged Warbler, Field Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird as well as more common passerines. **Half day.** Possibility of extension into the early afternoon.



Eastern Kingbird on nest © Chuck Kling 2014

5 h 15. Rassemblement à Ormstown, à la station Pétro Canada – Tim Hortons au croisement des routes 201 et 138. De Montréal, prendre le pont Mercier. Tourner à gauche sur la route 138 jusqu'à Ormstown. De l'Ouest–de–l'Île de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40–20 direction ouest puis l'autoroute 30 (péage). Prendre l'autoroute 530 en direction de Salaberry de Valleyfield. Prendre la sortie 9, puis tourner à gauche sur la route Pie XII. Continuer sur la Route du Pont puis sur le Rang du 40. Tourner à droite sur la route 138 et suivre les directions vers Ormstown. A Ormstown, prendre la route 201 vers le sud, sur quelques centaines de mètres jusqu'à la station Pétro Canada. Les déplacements se feront principalement en voiture. Le covoiturage est recommandé. Cette excursion permettra d'explorer certaines routes du Sud–Ouest du Québec, dans la région de Ormstown et Huntingdon. L'excursion débute tôt car certaines routes sont très achalandées et il peut être difficile d'y trouver un stationnement. À la recherche d'oiseaux forestiers et d'oiseaux d'espaces ouverts. Parmi les espèces susceptibles d'être observées, notons le Viréo à gorge jaune, la Paruline à ailes dorées, le Bruant des champs, le Merlebleu de l'Est ainsi que d'autres passereaux plus communs. **Demi–journée,** avec possibilité de poursuivre jusqu'en début d'après–midi.