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President's Word

by Barbara MacDuff, BPQ President

The atmosphere was festive on November 4, 2017: It was a night to celebrate

Bird Protection Quebec's 100th Anniversary Dinner was a time to engage with old friends and to meet new ones.

We applauded long-time dedicated members, and thanks to Jeff Wells of the Boreal Songbird Initiative we learned more about the importance of preserving the Boreal Forest.

Mabel McIntosh was honoured with a plaque from Bird Protection Quebec for her commitment to observing migrating hawks in Montreal. Mabel and Bob Barnhurst count migrating raptors in spring and fall every day from March until May and from August until December. Mabel is still counting hawks at the age of 94!

A financial donation for conservation was received from Maqbool Spencer in honour of past president and long-time member Michael Spencer.

Door prize tickets were drawn between meal courses, culminating in the long-anticipated raffle draw, after a delicious dessert. Proceeds from the raffle will go



to improvements at the George Montgomery Sanctuary in Philipsburg.

Robert Carswell recounted stories of his introduction to birding by PQSPB founder Lewis Terrill and reminded us that Terrill discovered the first European Starling in Quebec!

Alison Hackney thanking Jeff Wells for his presentation at the anniversary dinner © Calvin Fong

The feeling at the end of the evening was one of pride for the accomplishments of this 100-year-old volunteer-run organization and we look forward to more success in the future.

New Members

A warm welcome to new and returning members, Angelika Aleksieva, Louise B elanger, Frank Csik, Jane Eaves, Joseph McGill, Ana Morales, Stephen Shimizu, Madeleine St-Gelais,

We look forward to seeing you on our field trips, and at our monthly presentations and other events.

BPQ History Update

In further celebration of our centenary, Bob Tittler has written an update of BPQ history which brings Margaret Pye Arnaudin's *A Bird in the Bush* (2002) up to the present.

The Recent Past: an Update in Celebration of the Society's Centenary Year, 2017, is available on-line at the following address:

<http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/983262/> You should be able to ignore the log-in, and simply click on the image of the text.

Any difficulties should be reported to Bob at: Robert.Tittler@Concordia.ca

Many Thanks

by Barbara MacDuff

Thank you to the following 100th anniversary committee members who have met with me and planned activities for this special year: Marie-France Boudreault, Jean Demers, Gay McDougall Gruner, Alison Hackney, Jeff Harrison, Sheldon Harvey, Sharon Hayden, Phyllis Holtz, Connie Morgenstern, Mathias Mutzl, and Bonnie Soutar.

Thank you to our Raffle Donors: Eagle Eye Tours for the first prize, Alain Goulet of Nature Expert for the Vortex Viper Binoculars, and Robert Comeau for the Blue-winged Teal carving.

Thank you to the following for donating Door Prizes:

Arbo2 Service Arboricoles, Robert Alvo, David M. Bird, Brome Bird Care, La Cabane D'Oiseaux, Alain Goulet and Nature Expert, Chuck Kling, Charlotte Payette, and Physical Park Fitness.

BPQ's Canada Goes Birding Challenge



During 2017, the centennial year for BPQ, we challenged birders to compete in our three part "Canada Goes Birding Challenge."

If you have taken part in any of the challenges, up to the end of 2017, it is now time to turn in your results.

Please submit your data no later than January 10, 2017. Send them by e-mail to greenbirding@gmail.com Include your name, date of the day or days you did the challenge, number of species, plus the location. Any routes or descriptive comments would be nice to have as well.

Complete results will be published later in January and will appear in the next issue of *The Song Sparrow*.



Hawkwatching around Montreal

by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh

Accipiters are a family of bird-hunting hawks that catch prey by stealth and ambush. They are particularly adept at hunting in woodland where their long tails and short rounded wings allow them to manoeuvre with great skill and speed

between the trees and branches. Many an Accipiter will even dive headfirst into a cedar tree or hedge in pursuit of birds as they try to escape. The Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk are infrequent visitors at feeders in the fall, winter and early spring and it is the presence of the birds there that has allowed these hawks to over winter. Of the three species of Accipiter that we have in Quebec, the Sharp-shinned Hawk is, by far, the commonest and most migratory.

Cooper's Hawks are the next most common, followed by Northern Goshawk. Nesting in stands of pines or spruces, only their alarm calls give them away. Otherwise, they are like ghosts.

At present, Cooper's Hawks are still a very uncommon migrant through southern Quebec. Once a rare summer visitor only, a number now nest as far north as the lower Laurentian Mountains, and are frequently seen only when they leave their woodland haunts to hunt over fields and at feeders. Most of the birds also stay through the winter and hunt here. Northern Goshawk, the largest of the three species, is a permanent resident that was once more common, but which is now rare and almost unknown in migration. However, it is the most irruptive of hawk species, typically following a 4-year cycle tied to the abundance of hares and rabbits (and to a lesser extent Ruffed and Spruce Grouse). For these reasons, only the Sharp-shinned Hawk migration will be discussed here.

Sharp-shinned Hawk /Épervier brun © Pierre Bannon

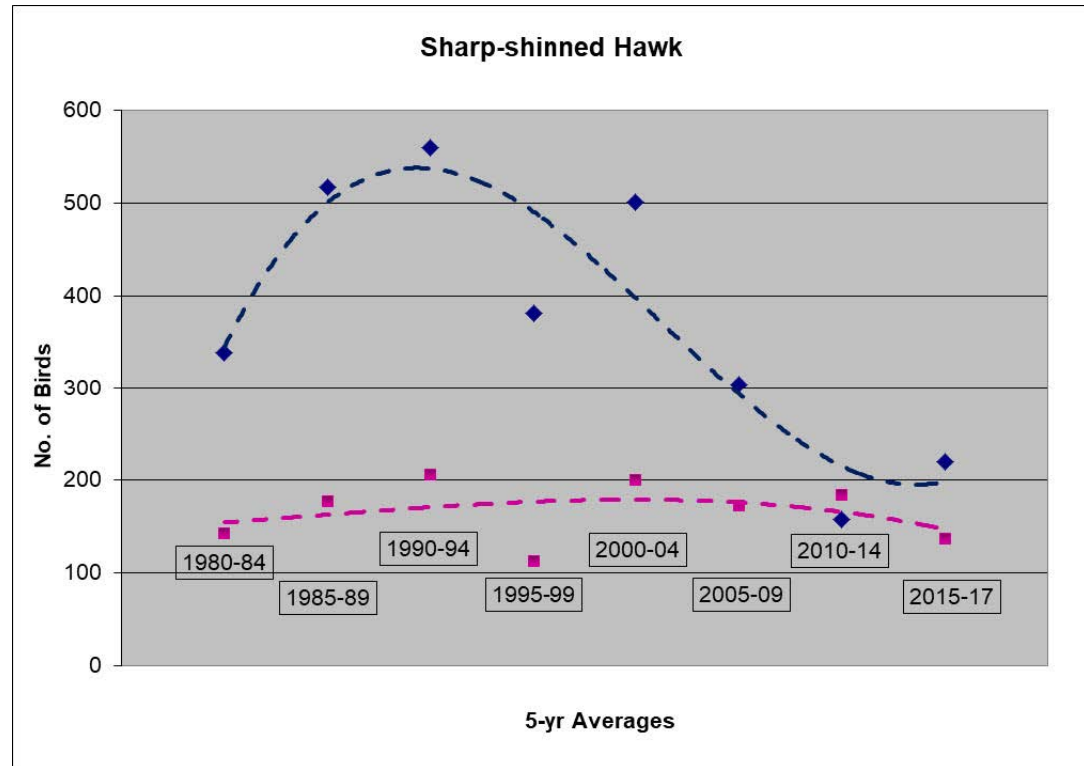
Sharp-shinned Hawk

Compared to more southern sites, particularly along the Great Lakes, the Sharp-shinned Hawk is seen here in smaller numbers. It was once more numerous.

In the fall, during the 1980s to mid-1990s, the flight at Montreal averaged well over 500, with some seasons seeing numbers as high as 700 plus. Then, during the mid-late 1990s, the flight fell markedly to numbers averaging 300-400. This was at a time when Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers declined at most sites, particularly in the east, causing concerns to be raised in many quarters. Then, in the 2000s, there was a recovery, of sorts. For example, in 2003, over 800 birds were counted here in the fall. Since then the flight has dropped off again and it now numbers in the 125 to 200 range.

The spring flight, by comparison, has always been smaller than the fall, typically lying in the 100 to 250 range. The three highest spring counts were 359 in 1986, 382 in 1990 and 322 in 2011.

The five-year averages for the spring (mauve square) and fall (blue diamond) are shown in the chart. We have found evidence among the data that the Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers are cyclic – from three to four years – but only the long-



term trend will be discussed here. The largest one-day flight in the fall was 286 on September 11, 1987. For the spring, it was 173 on May 7, 1986. Both are from the early years when Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were still climbing.

The long-term trend for the fall is especially striking in that the number of birds counted each fall during the last decade are now well below those seen in the first decade of the count (1980-90).

To understand this phenomenon, we first have to consider the flight dynamics. Sharp-shinned Hawks are seen throughout the season; however, most are seen in April in the spring and September in the fall. The largest flights of Sharp-shinned Hawks usually occur following the passage of a warm front in the spring and cold front in the fall. In this respect they closely follow the Broad-winged Hawk flight, which will be featured in a future article. On days with

high Broad-winged Hawk numbers, good numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks are also seen. Although Sharp-shinned Hawks can and do migrate on moderate-strong winds, many prefer to use thermals, when they are available. A hawkwatcher will usually find Sharp-shinned Hawks thermaling above the Broad-winged Hawks. Strong warm fronts are scarce in southern Quebec until late April and May. Often warm fronts that reach upper New York state (i.e. the Adirondack Mountains) in March and April stall there and do not pass through into southern Quebec. In other words, winter has a tendency to hang on here, which is something every Quebecer knows. Similarly, strong cold fronts are becoming rarer in September and now even into October. Thus, the hawks tend to trickle through rather than migrate on a few select days, as they used to in the past. The larger number of Sharp-shinned Hawks seen during the fall count has to do with the greater concentration of hawks at the fall site, as compared to the spring, and the presence of young of the year, following nesting north of Montreal.

As to the fall-off in numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks, in general, over the last decade and a half, we have to look to the population densities of their prey. Predators like the Sharp-shinned Hawks must have a healthy population of small birds on which to feed. As the number of

insectivorous birds dropped precipitately due to global warming, the observed lack of insects and habitat loss, the Sharp-shinned Hawk has declined, in direct proportion. This compares to the '80s and early '90s when numbers of insectivorous birds were much higher, partially as a result of the many outbreaks of spruce-budworm infestations in Quebec and elsewhere, especially in the Boreal zone.

Unlike some other species, Sharp-shinned Hawks are not in danger of disappearing entirely, at least for the foreseeable future. For example, unlike the Northern Harrier, which was discussed in the last article, Sharp-shinned Hawks are not ground nesters and, thus, are less vulnerable to predators and disturbance. Plus, they are fierce in defence of their nests, even attacking animals (including humans, racoons and squirrels) much bigger or heavier than themselves. Sharp-shinned Hawks will also happily nest in groves of evergreens planted close to roads and houses and hunt at the many feeders now available.

Next time: Red-shouldered Hawk



Bob and Mabel at the end of a long day of hawkwatching. Note the glazed over eyes. (Author's words)

Bird Views

by Pierre Bannon

August–November 2017

Opposite:
Common Ground-Dove / Colombe à queue noire

First Record for the province/ Première Mention pour la province.

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Pink-footed Goose: one at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 15–17 Nov (ML. Beaudin, C. Bélanger). **Barnacle Goose:** singles at Amqui/Lac Humqui 27 Oct–9 Nov (S. Dechamplain, *m.ob.*) and at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 4 Nov (COA). **Mute Swan:** one photographed at Salluit (*Nunavik*) 6 Aug represents by far the northernmost seen in Canada (A. Anctil). Other birds were reported at Chambly 8 Nov (R. Lafrance, *m.ob.*), and at Les Éboulements 9 Nov (G. Éthier). **Trumpeter Swan:** the birds that summered at Saint-Fulgence remained until 18 Oct when 3 were seen. Up to 13 birds, including a family group of 2 ad and 5 juv. were present at Val d'Or 22–29 Oct (R. Ladurantaye, *m. ob.*). **Tundra Swan:** 2 on Baie Missisquoi 3 Nov (JG. Papineau) and one at Danville 6 Nov (G. Huot). **King Eider:** single females 4 Nov at Granby (M. Grégoire), Lévis 4–5 Nov (C. Deschênes), and an imm male at Sainte-Catherine 11 Nov (L. Lemay). **Sharp-tailed Grouse:** one killed by a hunter at Venosta, north of Gatineau (O. Cameron Trudel), the southernmost report for the province. **Common Ground-Dove:** one seen and photographed at Val d'Or (*Abitibi*) 21–26 Oct (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye, *m.ob.*), a **FIRST RECORD** for the province. **White-winged Dove:** one at Rivière-Saint-Jean 12 Aug (R. Poulin). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** a very late bird at Trois-Pistoles 1 Nov (M. Beaulieu).

Août–novembre 2017



Oie à bec court : une à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 15–17 nov (ML. Beaudin, C. Bélanger). **Bernache nonnette :** des oiseaux à Amqui/Lac Humqui 27 oct–9 nov (S. Dechamplain, *pl.ob.*) et à Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 4 nov (COA). **Cygne tuberculé :** un photographié à Salluit (*Nunavik*) 6 août, sans doute la présence la plus nordique au Canada (A. Anctil). Des oiseaux aussi signalés à Chambly 8 nov (R. Lafrance, *pl.ob.*), et à Les Éboulements 9 nov (G. Éthier). **Cygne trompette :** trois des oiseaux présents à Saint-Fulgence durant l'été y sont restés jusqu'au 18 oct. Jusqu'à 13 oiseaux, incluant une famille de 2 ad et 5 juv. étaient présents à Val d'Or 22–29 oct (R. Ladurantaye, *pl. ob.*). **Cygne siffleur :** 2 à la Baie Missisquoi 3 nov (JG. Papineau) et un à Danville 6 nov (G. Huot). **Eider à tête grise :** des femelles à Granby 4 nov (M. Grégoire) et à Lévis 4–5 nov (C. Deschênes), puis un mâle imm à Sainte-Catherine 11 nov (L. Lemay). **Tétràs à queue fine :** un oiseau tué par un chasseur à Venosta, au

Yellow Rail: one at Parc-Nature de Pointe-aux-Outardes 5 Aug was the only bird reported this season (JP. Barry). **Sandhill Crane:** the number of birds flying in the direction of their roost at Nédélec (*Témiscamingue*), late on 28 Oct was estimated to be 18 000, needless to say, this represents a record number for the province (D. Robert). **Hudsonian Godwit:** a total of 340 was tallied at Boatswain Bay 22 Aug, also a record number for the province (MA. Montpetit). Three birds at Val d'Or 4 Nov were late (R. Ladurantaye). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** high counts of 13 birds were received from Portneuf 1 Sep (O. Barden, A. Villalon) and from Saint-Denis-de-Kamouraska 2 Sep (R. Jacques). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** a total of only 5 birds reported this fall, quite a low count. A bird at Montmagny 25 Nov was late (G. Lord, J. Bernier). **Wilson's Phalarope:** a total of 11 reports this fall, the northernmost at Boatswain Bay 21-24 Aug (MA. Montpetit). **Red Phalarope:** 10 seen from the harbour at Matane 18 Nov (D. Jauvin et al.). **Dovekie:** a few birds were reported in Oct in the Lower St. Lawrence. **Thick-billed Murre:** singles at Rivière-Ouelle 29 Oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard) and at Tadoussac 31 Oct, a first record for this locality (O. Barden). **Razorbill:** record numbers in Oct at Rivière-Ouelle (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Atlantic Puffin:** this species was unusually abundant this fall in the St. Lawrence estuary, e.g. 58 and 24 indiv at Rivière-Ouelle 22 Oct and 29 Oct respectively (C. Auchu, C. Girard). The reason for this displacement remains a mystery.

Little Gull: besides the birds seen on the North Shore and Gaspésie where the species is more expected, there were 4 different reports from s. Québec. **Franklin's Gull:** 6 reports, including one at Laval 10 Oct (P. Franche, A. Gosselin). **Mew Gull:** an ad of the North American race photographed by many at Laval 10-12 Oct (P. Franche, Y. Gauthier et al.). **California Gull:** a 3rd year bird at Victoriaville 10-12 Oct (C. Roy et al., *ph.*). **Arctic Tern:** one photographed at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 4 Nov (M. Juteau et al.), unexpected inland at this time of the year.

Pacific Loon: singles at Saint-Simon-sur-mer 17 Sep (R. Deschênes), Rivière-Ouelle 7 Oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard), Roberval 9 Nov (C. Bellemarre, J. Rousseau, *ph.*), l'Isle-Verte 9 Nov (J. Roy-Drainville et al.) and at Rivière-au-Renard 12 Nov (D. Jalbert). **Northern Gannet:** one at Saint-André d'Argenteuil 12 Nov (T. & FX. Grandmont) and at nearby Oka the next day (S. Vanier, D. Ouellette). **American White Pelican:** a record high count of 41 birds at Cabbage Willows (James Bay) 25 Aug

nord de Gatineau (O. Cameron Trudel) représentait la mention la plus méridionale pour la province. **Colombe à queue noire :** un oiseau vu et photographié à Val d'Or (*Abitibi*) 21-26 oct (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye, *pl.ob.*) représentait une **PREMIÈRE MENTION** pour la province. **Tourterelle à ailes blanches :** une à Rivière-Saint-Jean 12 août (R. Poulin). **Coulicou à bec jaune :** un oiseau très tardif à Trois-Pistoles 1 nov (M. Beaulieu).

Râle jaune : un au Parc-nature de Pointe-aux-Outardes 5 août a été le seul oiseau de la saison (JP. Barry). **Grue du Canada :** le nombre d'oiseaux volant vers leur dortoir à Nédélec (*Témiscamingue*), tard le 28 oct a été estimé à 18 000, un nombre record pour la province (D. Robert). **Barge hudsonienne :** un total de 340 rassemblées à la baie de Boatswain 22 août, représentait aussi un record pour la province (MA. Montpetit). Trois oiseaux à Val d'Or 4 nov étaient tardifs (R. Ladurantaye). **Bécasseau roussâtre :** des groupes inhabituellement élevés de 13 oiseaux étaient présents à Portneuf 1 sep (O. Barden, A. Villalon) et à Saint-Denis-de-Kamouraska 2 sep (R. Jacques). **Bécassin à long bec :** un total de 5 oiseaux seulement signalés cet automne, un total plutôt modeste. Un oiseau à Montmagny 25 nov était tardif (G. Lord, J. Bernier). **Phalarope de Wilson :** un total de 11 oiseaux signalés cet automne, dont un à la baie Boatswain 21-24 août (MA. Montpetit). **Phalarope à bec large :** 10 dénombrés à partir du port de Matane 18 nov (D. Jauvin et al.).

Next page: **Mew Gull / Goéland cendré**
© Suzanne Labbé 2017

and

Red-headed Woodpecker / Pic à tête
rouge © Suzanne Labbé 2017

(L. Giroux, HM. Johansen). **Great Egret:** a total of 149 birds at Saint-Barthélemy 1st Aug represented a record high count for the province (P. Bannon, S. Labbé). **Cattle Egret:** at least 8 birds reported between 11 Oct and 12 Nov. Their number varies much from year to year. **Glossy Ibis:** 2 at Saint-Basile-le-Grand 26 Aug (S. Denault).

Black Vulture: singles at Rivière-Madeleine 14 Aug (G. Blanchette), Rimouski 23 Aug (G. Bouchard), Cap des Rosiers 26 Sep (J. Turland), Pointe Saint-Pierre 28 Sep (K. Touzel), Cap Tourmente 18 Oct (F. & R. Dion) and at Sainte-Julienne 26 Nov (B. Dugas). **Swallow-tailed Kite:** one at Saint-Romuald 28 Aug (R. Barbeau) and one at Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides 8-9 Sep (P. Gaudet, ph.). **Swainson's Hawk:** a juv intermediate morph at in the Tadoussac/Portneuf-sur-mer area 20-25 Sep (O. Barden, *m.ob.*), an almost identical bird at Ile Bonaventure 9-21 Sep (A Gagnon, J. Lamarche, *ph.*, *m.ob.*) and a darker juv at l'Anse-à-Beaufils 1-10 Oct (D. Mercier, *m.ob. ph.*)



Mergule nain : quelques oiseaux signalés en oct dans le Bas-Saint-Laurent. **Guillemot de Brunnich :** des oiseaux à Rivière-Ouelle 29 oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard) et à Tadoussac 31 oct, une première pour cette localité (O. Barden). **Petit Pingouin :** des nombres records à Rivière-Ouelle en oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Macareux moine :** cette espèce a été inhabituellement abondante dans l'estuaire cet automne, p. ex. 58 et 24 indiv à Rivière-Ouelle 22 oct et 29 oct respectivement (C. Auchu, C. Girard). La raison de ces déplacements reste un mystère.

Mouette pygmée : en plus des présences régulières sur la Côte Nord et en Gaspésie, 4 oiseaux ont été signalés dans le sud du Québec.

Mouette de Franklin : 6 mentions, incluant une à Laval 10 oct (P. Franche, A. Gosselin). **Goéland cendré :** un ad de la ssp nord américaine photographié à Laval 10-12 oct (P. Franche, Y. Gauthier et al.). **Goéland de Californie :** un oiseau âgé de 3 ans à Victoriaville 10-12 oct (C. Roy et al., *ph.*). **Sterne arctique :** une photographiée à Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 4 nov (M. Juteau et al.), inattendue dans les terres à cette période de l'année.

Plongeon du Pacifique : des oiseaux à Saint-Simon-sur-mer 17 sep (R. Deschênes), Rivière-Ouelle 7 oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard), Roberval 9 nov (C. Bellemarre, J. Rousseau, *ph.*), l'Isle-Verte 9 nov (J. Roy-Drainville et al.) et à Rivière-au-Renard 12 nov (D. Jalbert). **Fou de Bassan :** un à

Red-headed Woodpecker: an imm at Bécancour 24–25 Sep (F. Arbour) and an ad at Châteauguay 31 Oct + (S. Tremblay, *m.ob.*). **Say's Phoebe:** one at islet Vert (Varenes) 2 Sep (F. Hareau et al., *ph.*). **Western Kingbird:** one at Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière 6–8 Sep (S. Lemieux, S. Blackburn, *m.ob.*). **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** singles at Port Menier (*Anticosti Is*) 29 Sep (C. Laflamme, G. Laprise, *ph.*) and at Pointe-Label (Baie-Comeau) 10–17 Oct (R. Marsan, *m.ob.*), bringing the total to 3 records for this year.

Yellow-throated Vireo: one at Québec City 6 Nov (P. Blouin, *ph.*) established a new record late departure date for the province. **Red-eyed Vireo:** one at Chambly 12 Nov was late (R. Belhumeur). **Black-billed Magpie:** 2 at Rawdon 11 Sep + were confirmed to have been caught in Alberta and released locally. **Cave Swallow:** one at Parc Jean-Drapeau (Montréal) 31 Oct (M. Aubert, *ph.*), one at Rimouski 1 Nov (P. Fradette, J. Larivée), 2 at l'Isle-Verte 1 Nov (J. Roy-Drainville et al.), and finally one at Pointe-Claire 8 Nov (B. Barnhurst). **Barn Swallow:** 2 weakening birds were caught at Châteauguay and brought to a rehabilitation centre 10 Nov (D. Gendron et al.). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** late birds were at Cap-Chat 7 Nov (L. Paradis) and at Rimouski 17 Nov (R. Saint-Laurent). **Northern Wheatear:** a total of 6 reports: Rivière-Ouelle 2–5 Sep (J. Moreau, A. Lafleur), Saint-Frédéric 5 Sep (M. Therrien et al.), Havre-Saint-Pierre 17 Sep (C. Gouraud), Pointe-aux-Outardes 24 Sep (JP. Barry), Mistissini 2–5 Oct (J. Reynolds), and Pointe-au-Père 5 Oct (L. Saint-Laurent). The norm in recent years has been 3 to 5 reports each fall.

Mountain Bluebird: a female at l'Islet 24–30 Nov (Y. Bernier, L. Lamontagne, *m.ob.*). Interestingly, a female was found in Dec 2015 just a few kilometres away from this place by the same observers. **Townsend's Solitaire:** one indiv 4–23 Nov at Tadoussac (O. Barden et al.). **Red Crossbill:** 16 in the Mount-Royal Cemetery 14 Nov (JS. Mayer), rare in the Montréal area. **Pine siskin:** 18 200 at Tadoussac 21 Oct (O. Barden), a record one-day count. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one at Saint-Fulgence 21 Oct (J. Fortin, *ph.*). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** singles at Granby 11 Sep (M. Berlinguette, M. Maheu), and at Franquelin 21–25 Oct (*vide* D. Dorais). **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** one at Tadoussac 1–9 Nov (A. Desrochers et al.).

Saint-André d'Argenteuil 12 nov (T. & FX. Grandmont) et tout proche à Oka le 23 nov (S. Vanier, D. Ouellette). **Pélican d'Amérique :** un nombre record de 41 oiseaux à Cabbage Willows (Baie James) 25 août (L. Giroux, HM. Johansen). **Grande Aigrette :** un total record of 149 oiseaux à Saint-Barthélemy 1^{er} août (P. Bannon, S. Labbé). **Héron garde-boeufs :** au moins 8 oiseaux signalés entre les 11 oct et 12 nov. Leur nombre varie beaucoup d'une année à l'autre. **Ibis falcinelle :** 2 à Saint-Basile-le-Grand 26 août (S. Denault).

Urubu noir : des oiseaux à Rivière-Madeleine 14 août (G. Blanchette), Rimouski 23 août (G. Bouchard), Cap des Rosiers 26 sep (J. Turland), Pointe Saint-Pierre 28 sep (K. Touzel), Cap Tourmente 18 oct (F. & R. Dion) et à Sainte-Julienne 26 nov (B. Dugas). **Milan à queue fourchue :** un à Saint-Romuald 28 août (R. Barbeau) et un autre à Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides 8–9 sep (P. Gaudet, *ph.*). **Buse de Swainson :** un juv de coloration intermédiaire à Tadoussac/Portneuf-sur-mer 20–25 sep (O. Barden, *pl.ob.*), un autre semblable à l'Île Bonaventure 9–21 sep (A. Gagnon, J. Lamarche, *ph.*, *pl.ob.*) et un juv plus foncé à l'Anse-à-Beaufils 1–10 oct (D. Mercier, *pl.ob. ph.*)

Pic à tête rouge : un imm à Bécancour 24–25 sep (F. Arbour) et un ad à Châteauguay 31 oct + (S. Tremblay, *pl.ob.*). **Moucherolle à ventre roux :** un à l'islet Vert (Varenes) 2 sep (F. Hareau et al., *ph.*). **Tyran de l'Ouest :** un à Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière 6–8 sep (S. Lemieux, S. Blackburn, *pl.ob.*). **Tyran à queue fourchue :** des oiseaux à Port Menier (*Anticosti*) 29 sep (C. Laflamme, G. Laprise, *ph.*) et à Pointe-Label (Baie-Comeau) 10–17 oct (R. Marsan, *pl.ob.*), portant le total à 3 mentions cette année seulement.

Viréo à gorge jaune : un à Québec 6 nov (P. Blouin, *ph.*) ce qui fournit une date de départ record pour la province. **Viréo aux yeux rouges :** un à Chambly 12 nov était tardif (R. Belhumeur). **Pie d'Amérique :** 2 à Rawdon 11 sep + étaient des oiseaux ramenés d'Alberta et relâchés localement. **Hirondelle à front brun :** une au Parc Jean-Drapeau (Montréal) 31 oct (M. Aubert, *ph.*), une à Rimouski 1 nov (P. Fradette, J. Larivée), 2 à l'Isle-Verte 1 Nov (J. Roy-Drainville et al.), et enfin une à Pointe-Claire 8 nov (B. Barnhurst). **Hirondelle rustique :** 2 oiseaux affaiblis capturés à Châteauguay et amenés à un centre de réhabilitation 10 nov (D. Gendron et al.). **Gobemoucheon gris-bleu :** des oiseaux tardifs à Cap-Chat 7 nov (L. Paradis) et à Rimouski 17 nov

Lark Sparrow: singles at Tadoussac 13 Sep (O. Barden) and at Rivière-la-Madeleine 9 Nov (G. Blanchette). **Nelson's Sparrow**: a rare migrant in the Outaouais Valley: one seen intermittently near Greenville 14 Sep–14 Oct with a max of 3 on 9 Oct (J. Bouvier), and one at Plaisance 2 Oct (C. Baumann). **Harris's Sparrow**: singles at Neuchatel 20 Oct + (M. Lessard, ph.) and at Nicolet 2–7 Nov (Y. Dugré, ph.) **Summer Tanager**: single female-type bird at LaPocatière 12 Nov (C. Girard) and at Cowansville 13 Nov (B. Hamel). **Western Tanager**: an imm male at Québec City 18 Nov + (MC. Roy, ph.). **Dickcissel**: at least 16 reports, including 5 at Tadoussac and also 5 in the Percé area. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: single males at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 26 Sep (A. Couture, Y.Cyr) and at Parc Jean-Drapeau (Montreal) 7 Oct (K. Russell), and finally a female at Tadoussac 19 Oct (O. Barden).



Piranga à tête rouge / Western Tanager
© Suzanne Labbé 2017

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

(R. Saint-Laurent). **Traquet motteux** : un total de 6 rapports : Rivière-Ouelle 2–5 sep (J. Moreau, A Lafleur), Saint-Frédéric 5 sep (M. Therrien et al.), Havre-Saint-Pierre 17 sep (C. Gouraud), Pointe-aux-Outardes 24 sep (JP. Barry), Mistissini 2–5 oct (J. Reynolds), et Pointe-au-Père 5 oct (L. Saint-Laurent). De 3 à 5 oiseaux sont habituellement signalés chaque automne au cours des dernières années.

Merlebleu azuré : une femelle à l'Islet 24–30 nov (Y. Bernier, L. Lamontagne, pl.ob.). Non sans intérêt, une femelle avait été trouvée en déc 2015 près de cet endroit par les mêmes observateurs. **Solitaire de Townsend** : un 4–23 nov à Tadoussac (O. Barden et al.). **Bec-croisé des sapins** : 16 au cimetière Mont-Royal 14 nov (JS. Mayer), rare à cet endroit. **Tarin des pins** : 18 200 à Tadoussac 21 oct (O. Barden), un décompte record pour une seule journée. **Paruline vermivore** : une à Saint-Fulgence 21 oct (J. Fortin, ph.). **Paruline à gorge jaune** : des oiseaux à Granby 11 sep (M. Berlinguette, M. Maheu), et à Franquelin 21–25 oct (*fide* D. Dorais). **Paruline grise** : une à Tadoussac 1–9 nov (A. Desrochers et al.).

Bruant à joues marron : des oiseaux à Tadoussac 13 sep (O. Barden) et à Rivière-la-Madeleine 9 nov (G. Blanchette). **Bruant de Nelson** : un rare migrateur dans la vallée de l'Outaouais : au moins un près de Greenville du 14 sep au 14 oct avec un max de 3 le 9 oct (J. Bouvier), et un à Plaisance 2 oct (C. Baumann). **Bruant à face noire** : des oiseaux à Neuchatel 20 oct + (M. Lessard, ph.) et à Nicolet 2–7 nov (Y. Dugré, ph.) **Piranga vermillon** : des oiseaux de type femelle à La Pocatière 12 nov (C. Girard) et à Cowansville 13 nov (B. Hamel). **Piranga à tête rouge** : un mâle imm à Québec 18 nov + (MC. Roy, ph.). **Dickcissel d'Amérique** : au moins 16 mentions, incluant 5 à Tadoussac et 5 près de Percé. **Carouge à tête jaune** : des mâles à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 26 sep (A. Couture, Y.Cyr) et au Parc Jean-Drapeau (Montréal) 7 oct (K. Russell), et enfin une femelle à Tadoussac 19 oct (O. Barden).

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

Birding Antarctica

A Presentation by Steve Charlton and Peter Mitchell

Monday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG

Arrive early!

A special screening, showcasing the photos of various clients on the trip, will run before the presentation from **6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Birding Antarctica is unlikely for many birders, due to distance, cost, weather, and the simple paucity of species. Antarctica has a total of only 58 bird species. This includes a single endemic, the Emperor Penguin, which is not usually seen. Most birds give only a quick pelagic view. Many are difficult to identify and separate from each other. And yet those who have been, inevitably, long to go back!

Fittingly enough, in our own winter environment of snow and ice, BPQ members Pete Mitchell and Steve Charlton will talk about their three week trip. One year ago, they travelled to this desolate Bottom of the World expanse with the National Geographic Society. Petrels, albatrosses, penguins, and even whales, were a daily treat. See for yourself whether “starkly beautiful” or “cold, desolate” best describe the area, and whether “fascinating, elegant” or “cold, frigid” best describe the birds.

January’s presentation will be given by two long-standing members of BPQ, Peter Mitchell and Steve Charlton.



Interested in taking this voyage yourself? Click on this link to get started:

http://www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/expeditions/antarctica-south-georgia-falklands/detail?utm_source=Criteo-Display&utm_medium=banner&utm_content=201509_Criteo&utm_campaign=NGExpeditions



Pete Mitchell is a life member, who joined BPQ in 1950. He was president from 1974 to 1976. He is a popular BPQ guide who has led many local field trips, excursions to the Gaspé, and several trips to one of his favourite areas,

the boreal forest in the area around LaSarre.

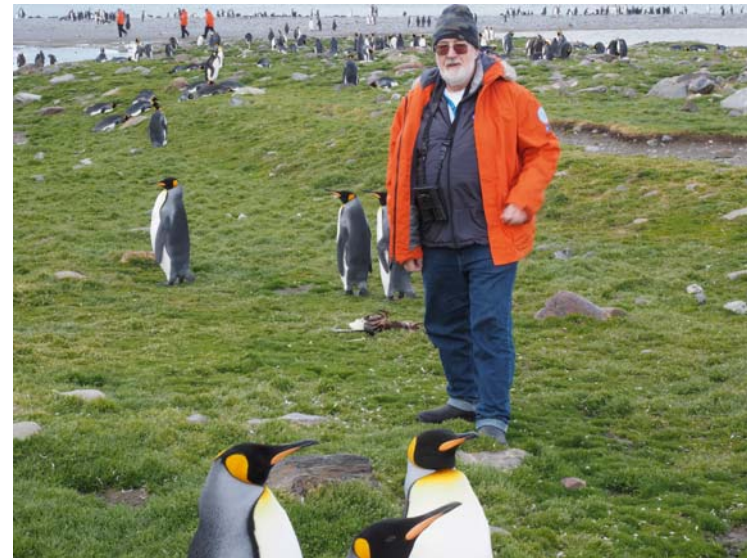
Along with Bob Carswell, Pete also taught a birding course at John Abbott for many years. Pete is well-travelled, having birded in the Caribbean, Argentina, parts of Europe, the Middle East, both West and East Africa, and in Hong Kong.

He is joined by his good friend and fellow traveller, Steve Charlton. Whereas Steve has never been a member of the BPQ executive, he is an active birder in his own right.

For several years he was newsletter editor for the Birding SIG (Special Interest Group) within Mensa, and at about the same time he made various contributions to this newsletter, *The Song Sparrow*, then edited by Sheila Arthur. He has also done several trivia quizzes for our BPQ Annual General Meetings.

Steve has also travelled extensively – he has now visited and birded on all seven continents, and Antarctica was the 100th “country” in the world Steve has been to. Although his world life list is a modest 2500 (a quarter of the world’s birds), Steve was the first Quebecker and second Canadian to see over 700 species

of birds in the “ABA area”, i.e. in Canada and USA. He has presented at monthly meetings on Bharatpur, India, on Attu, on Gambell in Alaska, and with Peter on The Gambia, in Africa, so this is his fifth time presenting to us.





Being a Bird in North America, North of Mexico (BABINA)

A Presentation by Robert Alvo

**Monday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG**



Robert Alvo is a conservation biologist living in Ottawa. He will discuss his unique book entitled *Being a Bird in North America, North of Mexico (BABINA), Volume 1: Waterfowl to Shorebirds*, which combines science and humour for a wide audience.

Robert first discovered his passion for the natural world at age 12 in the hills outside Thessaloniki Greece. He studied biology at Queen's University in Kingston. He then examined the effects of acid rain on Common Loon breeding success for his M.Sc. thesis at Trent University. This project turned into a 25-year study, which he published in 2009 and hopes to revive in 2018.

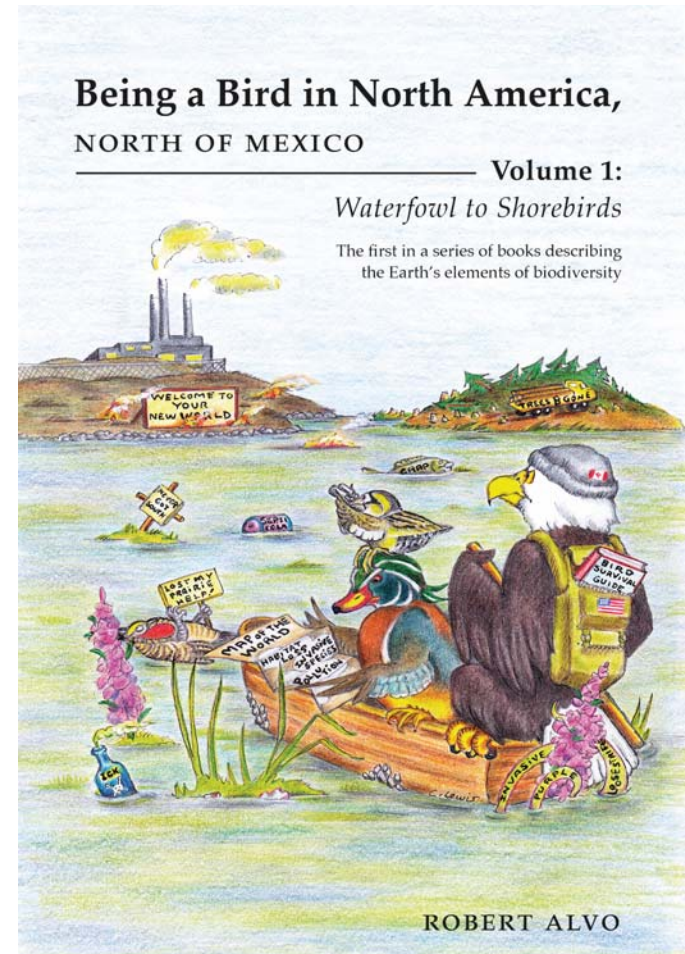
As Program Zoologist and Data Manager, Robert founded Canada's first Conservation Data Centre in 1988 in St-Foy, and this *Centre de données sur le patrimoine nature du Québec* has become Quebec's go-to source of data on species-at-risk. His salary was paid for in part by the then-called PQSPQ, now BPQ.



Common Loon © Chuck Kling

Robert wrote numerous species and family accounts for Quebec's first breeding bird atlas, and has worked closely with Quebec's arm of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Of his varied contributions to conservation, his most important was to help initiate the development of the Canadian National Vegetation Classification, a standardized hierarchical classification of all of Canada's terrestrial habitats. He also wrote eight Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status reports for the Canadian Wildlife Service and managed Parks Canada's species database. He has contributed articles to *The Song Sparrow* on Kenauk and on the Long Point bird observatory.

His next book, along the lines of BABINA, will cover all forms of life on Earth.



An Appreciation of Sheila Arthur

by Jean Bacon
(with a little help from her friends)

Sheila Mappin Arthur, who died on November 3, 2017, just a month short of her 95th birthday, was a most enthusiastic birder and an ardent and loyal supporter of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, the name she continued to use even after the change of name to Bird Protection Quebec. She had been a member since 1988, and served on the Board for a number of years, leaving it in 2007. Her most notable accomplishment in the birding sphere, however, was as the devoted editor of this newsletter, *The Song Sparrow*, for nearly 13 years (from 1989 to May 2002), during which time it was imbued with her distinctive, personal style and delightful humour. She was a fine writer and a stickler for detail. In her early days as editor, she prepared the layout on her typewriter, subsequently moving from the typewriter era to the computer age without missing a beat.

She almost never missed a monthly meeting or a Saturday field trip, and many BPQ members will remember her with a little notebook out in the field, noting the number of participants, the weather conditions and all the sightings as they occurred. Recently, due to failing eyesight and declining health, Sheila was much less active on the birding front but she remained very interested and always enjoyed hearing about the exploits and sightings of others. Many years ago, she most unfortunately broke her hip on a field trip to île-des-Moines. She



Sheila Arthur © Averill Craig

enjoyed relating how (in those pre-cell phone days) she had been taken by helicopter from this small island to the mainland and then transferred by ambulance to the Montreal General Hospital. Since the ambulance driver did not know how to get to the Montreal General and there was no GPS at that time, the recumbent patient had to give directions from the back of the ambulance.

Sheila was an exceptional woman. Her keen intelligence and prodigious memory, her wide-ranging interests and her generosity were

recognized and appreciated by all who knew her. Friendly and helpful, she always welcomed and encouraged new birders whether they were anglophone or francophone. Her friends spent many happy times with her in and around Montreal and travelling to other birding hotspots, in Canada and overseas. Occasions with Sheila were always filled with laughter, fun and good conversation, but she could also be a tiger, vigorously defending her principles and friends, never failing to speak her mind.

Her pre-birding life was also quite remarkable. During WWII, as a lieutenant in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Services, she had been part of an elite team of Canadian codebreakers supporting the efforts of Alan Turing and many others at Bletchley Park in Britain. She would never speak about her work there, bound as she was by the Official Secrets Act of Great Britain, and brushed off any impertinent attempt to know more about it with a comment along the lines of "I just made the tea...!" She subsequently worked at *The Gazette* as a reporter and then, with her husband, she wrote bilingual educational scripts for radio and television, all the while raising her daughter Isabelle and son Pierre. She was later appointed French book critic for *The Gazette*.

Her husband of over 30 years was Gérard Arthur, a French-speaking journalist with Radio-Canada. She accompanied him, in 1953, to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, when he was reporting on the event from inside Westminster Abbey. She was proud to have in her house on Royal Avenue a lovely velvet chair with the coronation crest, which they had received as a souvenir.

She will be much missed by her family, to whom we extend our sincere condolences, and by her many friends.

Past Field Trips: October to November

14/10/17 – Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal

Guides: Darlene & Sheldon Harvey

Overcast. 11 birders; 19 species

Bird of the Day: Hermit Thrush

Other Birds of Note: Pileated Woodpecker, Merlin, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow

21/10/17 – Parc national d'Oka, Oka

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Sunny, 17°C. 27 birders; 49 species

Birds of the Day: Eastern Bluebird, Red-throated Loon, Canvasback

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Redhead, Surf Scoter, Ruffed Grouse, Bonaparte's Gull, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler

28/10/17 – Lac Boivin, Granby & Roxton Pond

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Clear, light wind, temperatures in the high teens. 11 birders; 28 species

Bird of the Day: Wood Ducks

Other Birds of Note: Osprey, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird

04/11/17 – Hungry Bay, Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, Saint-Timothée

Guide: Frédéric Hareau

Clear, temperature slightly above zero. 18 birders; 49 species

Birds of the Day: White-winged and Surf Scoters, Golden Eagle, Greater White-fronted Goose

Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, Brant, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Tree Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird

12/11/17 – Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne- de-Bellevue

Guides: Richard Gregson & Chris Cloutier

Sunny. 17 birders; 18 species

Bird of the Day: Brown Creeper

Other Birds of Note: Great Blue Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin

18/11/17 – Cap-Saint- Jacques, Pierrefonds

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Cloudy skies, windy, -3°C. 13 birders; 20 species

Bird of the Day: Pileated Woodpecker

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco

25/11/17 - Chambly and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Overcast, mild. 11 birders; 25 species

Birds of the Day: Long-tailed Duck and Snow Geese

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Common Goldeneye, Common Loon

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, extra layers, sun screen, 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, vérifiez 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.

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, January 20 – samedi 20 janvier

Montreal Botanical Garden – Jardin Botanique de Montréal

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

Guide: Sheldon Harvey: 450-462-1459
Cell on Saturday morning 514-637-2141 ve2shw@yahoo.com

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. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin sur la rue Sherbrooke Est. Prévoir des frais de stationnement. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, January 27 – samedi 27 janvier

Mirabel – Lachute Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/EZHf7Yfai8H2> (meeting place)

Guide: Frédéric Hareau 514-805-8491 (cell phone on the day of the trip only – cellulaire pour la sortie seulement) fredhareau1@yahoo.ca

8:00 a.m. From Montreal, take highway 15 north, and then exit 31. We will meet at the Petro-Canada station, just east of highway 15, at exit 31. Count on 25 minutes from the crossroads between highways 15 and 40 in Montreal.

We will explore a diversity of habitats in the area between Mirabel and Lachute. We will start with the fields near Mirabel, which are known for Snowy Owls, Gray Partridges and Snow Buntings. We will then visit more wooded areas as well as a landfill where gulls, including Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, concentrate. It will be a driving trip, with several short walks. **Half day.**

8h00. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 15 Nord, puis la sortie 31. Nous nous rencontrerons à la station Petro-Canada, juste à l'est de l'autoroute 15, sortir 31. Compter 25 minutes depuis le croisement entre la 15 et la 40 à Montréal.

Nous allons explorer une diversité d'habitats dans la région entre Mirabel et Lachute,. Nous explorerons tout d'abord les champs de Mirabel qui sont connus pour le harfang des neiges, les perdrix grises et passereaux hivernaux. Nous allons ensuite visiter les zones boisées ainsi qu'un site d'enfouissement où les goélands, y compris les goélands bourgmestres et Arctique, se concentrent. La sortie s'effectuera principalement en voiture, avec plusieurs courtes marches. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, February 3 — samedi 3 février

Châteauguay, Rue Higgins and Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/MWFd2>

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

8:00 a.m. Meet at rue Higgins in Châteauguay. The birds to look for, at Higgins, will be Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse. But you never know what will show up. One Christmas Bird Count, 22 species were counted there in just over an hour including a Carolina Wren and an Eastern Towhee. After checking out Higgins area, our next destination will depend on species seen recently and weather conditions. It may be île-St-Bernard, the Récré-O-Parc in Sainte-Catherine or another local destination. Be prepared to walk and dress appropriately as several of these possible destinations are close to the water. **Half day.**

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 Boul. St-Francis. Follow St. Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Blvd. Salaberry Nord. Turn right on to Salaberry Nord and continue to rue Higgins and turn right. There is a small parking area on the left next to the cell-phone tower.

8h00 Rendez-vous à la rue Higgins. Sur la rue Higgins à Châteauguay les espèces recherchées sont le Pic à ventre roux et la Mésange bicolore. Mais nous ne pouvons prévoir qui sera au rendez-vous. Lors d'un décompte de Noël, 22 espèces ont été dénombrées dans un peu plus d'une heure comprenant un Troglodyte de Caroline ainsi qu'un Tohi à flancs roux After checking out Higgins area, our next destination will depend on species seen recently and weather conditions. It may be île-St-Bernard, the Récré-o-Parc in Sainte-Catherine or another local destination. Be prepared to walk and dress appropriately as several of these possible destinations are close to the water. **Demi-journée.**

De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. Restez à droite en venant du pont et prenez l'autoroute 138 à Kahnawake dans Châteauguay. Lorsque vous entrez dans Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. St-François. Suivez St. François jusqu'au bout à la rencontre de la rivière Châteauguay au boul. Salaberry Nord. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry Nord et continuer jusqu'à la rue Higgins et tourner à droite. Il y a un petit parking sur la gauche à côté de la tour de téléphonie cellulaire.

Saturday, February 10 — samedi 10 février

Urban Birding

<https://goo.gl/maps/6eOF3>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey: 450-462-1459
Cell on Saturday morning 514-637-2141 ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. Meet in the Costco parking lot at the corner of Bridge and Mill Streets in the Pointe-St-Charles area of Montreal. We will first explore Parc de Dieppe on Cité-du-Havre. We will then walk across the Concorde Bridge and visit Parc Jean-Drapeau (Ile-Ste-Helene & Ile-Notre-Dame). Looking for resident winter birds in an urban setting. Possibilities include raptors, ravens, waterfowl, woodpeckers, and winter finches. **Half day**

8h00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement de Costco à l'angle des rues Mill et Bridge dans le quartier de Pointe-St-Charles à Montréal. Nous explorerons parc de Dieppe au Cité-du-Havre. Après nous traverserons le pont Concorde pour visiter Parc Jean-Drapeau (Ile-Ste-Helene et Ile-Notre-Dame). Nous serons à la recherche des oiseaux d'hiver résidents en milieu urbain, avec la possibilité de rapaces, de corbeaux, oiseaux d'eau, pics-bois, et fringillidés. **Demi-journée**

Saturday, February 17 — samedi 17 février

Ste-Marthe, St-Clet, Ste-Justine

<https://goo.gl/maps/pHfxmt1EJuH2>

Guide: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498
or on the morning of the trip 514-774-0811
wgrubert6@gmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at Hudson Inn, exit 17 off Highway 40. From Montreal, take Highway 40 west towards Ottawa. Allow an hour's drive from Montreal. Looking for Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Snow Buntings and other open-country winter birds. Bring warm clothes for standing around or taking short walks (or in case weather conditions dictate a complete change of itinerary). We will try to keep the number of cars to a minimum; therefore, carpooling arranged ahead of time and/or at our rendezvous would be greatly appreciated. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement au Hudson Inn, sortie 17 de l'autoroute 40. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 Ouest, en direction d'Ottawa. Prévoir une heure à partir de Montréal. Espèces recherchées : Harfang des neiges, Buse pattue, Bruant des neiges et autres oiseaux d'hiver. Apportez des vêtements suffisamment chauds pour de courtes marches et permettant de passer du temps à l'extérieur; prévoir également d'éventuels changements de plans, dus à la météo. Nous vous encourageons à faire du covoiturage en vue de limiter le nombre de voitures. **Demi-journée.**