

The SONG SPARROW

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

February 2018 - 60-4



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Winter birding at the Morgan Arboretum © Richard Gregson

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President's Word

by Barbara MacDuff, BPQ President

The Audubon Society has designated 2018 as the “Year of the Bird.” Along with National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, they are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act, the act that protects birds migrating between the U.S. and Canada.

In fact, this is the third successive year that marks a 100-year anniversary of this Act. In 2016, we celebrated the centenary of the year the convention was agreed to. In 2017, it was 100 years since Canada passed the Migratory Birds Convention Act, a Canadian law that contains regulations to protect migratory birds, their eggs, and their nests from hunting, trafficking, and commercialization. Now, in 2018, it is the centenary of the year the U.S. signed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

All these celebrations kicked off in 2014, which marked 100 years since Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, died alone in captivity.

BPQ is ready to join in on any celebration focusing on birds and drawing attention to the need to protect them. In fact, we have just finished celebrating the centenary of our own organization.

Throughout 2017, we ran a series of successful events in honour of our own rich history and what we have been able to achieve as an organization run entirely by volunteers.

To celebrate 2018, the Audubon Society, with its partners, asks you to take the pledge and do something to help the birds each month.

You may wonder what one person can do to help? Perhaps you could do a “Big Day” in March and submit your list to eBird or join a conservation group and pledge some time to help out. Is it possible to bring a friend on a field trip and introduce them to the pleasures of birding?

You could make the space around you more attractive to birds. Red flowers on your balcony could attract a hummingbird and provide some food to help it continue on its migration path.

Make your garden more attractive to birds. It doesn't have to be neat. Birds like scrubby areas full of weed seeds and insects. A brush pile offers them protection. Check out “Bird Friendly Gardening” by Richard Gregson on BPQ's website: <https://pqspb.org/bpqpoq/conservation/bird-friendly-gardening/>



Year of the Bird
Black-capped Chickadee /
Mésange à tête noire © 2017
Chuck Kling

Please keep your cats indoors, under your supervision, or in an enclosed “catio.” In Calgary cats must be licensed and stay on their owner's property.

There are many things that you can do to help the birds. So join in, take the pledge, and help the birds for “2018 Year of the Bird.”

Call for Volunteers

Speaking of helping out, BPQ can always use a hand. Why not join one of our many committees or help out with an activity?.

Call for New Directors

Why not join the BPQ board of directors and have your say on the direction our organization takes in promoting the Education, Conservation, and Observation of birds.

We are looking for several Bird Protection Quebec members who would like to share their skills and knowledge by joining our Board of Directors. As a charity, we rely on volunteers and benefit from the diverse range of skills and backgrounds they bring to the table to help guide policymaking and management decisions.

Term: This position requires a two-year term of election to the BPQ Board of Directors and officially begins at the AGM on May 28, 2018.

Call for a New Treasurer

Do you have an eye for details and an interest in investments? Do you have skills and knowledge that could help us manage our financial resources?

The role of Treasurer also requires a familiarity with up-to-date accounting software, performing various reporting



tasks, tracking property and investments, banking, preparing annual budgets, and liaising with the bookkeeper and auditors.

Term: This position requires a two-year term of election to the BPQ Board of Directors and officially begins at the AGM on May 28, 2018.

Red-tailed Hawk / Buse à queue rousse © 2017 Chuck Kling

Please contact the nominating committee at nominations@pqspsb.org for further information or to express your interest in the above listed positions.



Hawkwatching around Montreal

by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh

A Red-shouldered Hawk passing high over the Montreal fall hawk site, October 27, 2016

Many people have joined us over the years at the hawk watches. We thank them all for their interest and occasional help with the counting (see list below). A dedicated hawk watcher may appear asocial to some, as we are always “looking up” and, apparently, not listening to, or carrying on a conversation with, our friends. The fact is, we need to constantly scan the sky for hawks (and other migrants, more about that in a later article), lest we miss those trying to slip

by unnoticed. It may be surprising to many but raptors use, on occasion, nefarious methods to go uncounted, such as a Romulan “cloaking device,” or flying out of the sun. In all seriousness, blue skies with no background cloud, are some of the most difficult viewing conditions for the over-worked, eye-sore, hawk watcher. Blue skies do not provide the same degree of contrast as skies with background clouds. So, high hawks, especially those gliding through fast, are particularly difficult to spot. Contrary to popular belief, the most difficult place to spot hawks is right overhead, especially on a blue-sky day. Counting requires constant focus, mentally, and not everyone can hack it, especially all day, every day, for months at a time.

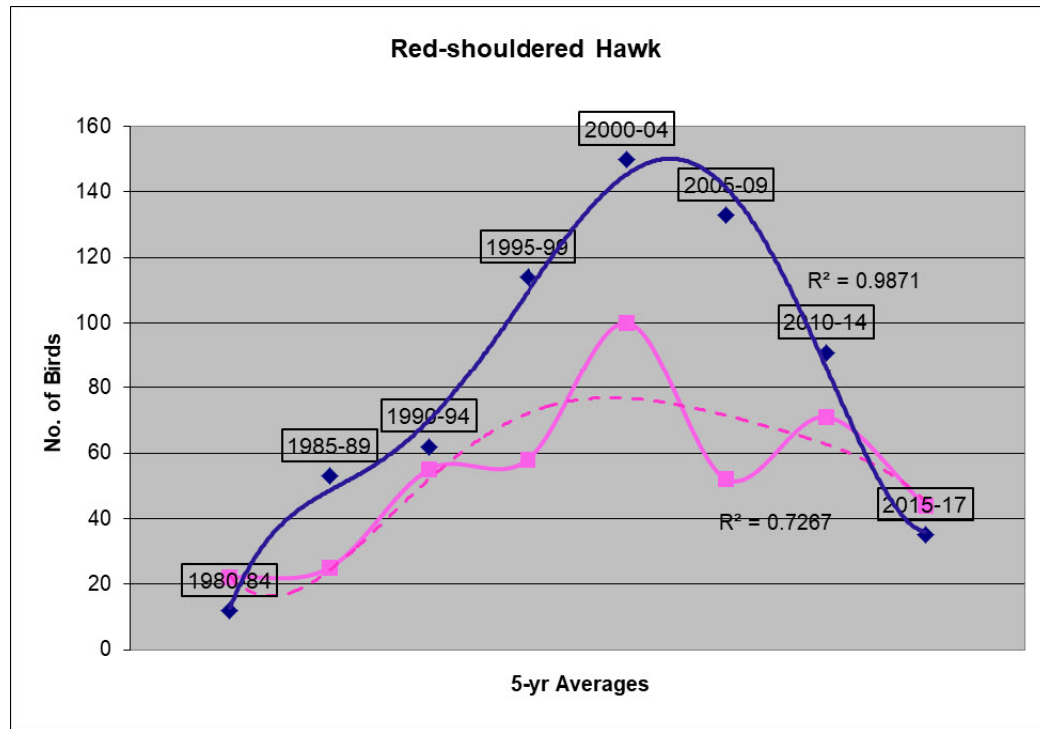
In Montreal, we are not lucky enough to have the kind of flights typical of some more southern sites, where thousands of hawks pass every day, as happens in places like Panama, Mexico, and Texas. On the other hand, many other sites count many fewer hawks, in the hundreds rather than the thousands of hawks per season. All sites, whatever their numbers of hawks, provide for a continent-wide view of the migration, which is a must for good science. Nature abhors a vacuum, so hawks do travel over a broad front most of the time, influenced greatly by the weather and prevailing wind, or geography of the landscape. At our sites

we do have the concentrating effects of large lakes, whereby, hawks funnel along or near shorelines to avoid crossing over water, where thermals are absent.

Birdwatchers that have visited and/or helped us from time-to-time are listed here. They include, in no particular order, David and Phyllis Mulholland, Chris and Ross Murphy, Barbara MacDuff, Jo Wright, Marg Hendrick, Wayne Grubert, Benoit Dorion, Pierre Bannon, Peter and Ann Tarassoff, Lance and Andréé Laviolette, Gay Gruner, Claude Cloutier, Marika and David Ainley, Alison Hackney, Claude Dagenais, Ray Gomm, Richard Yank, Luc Goneau, Pierre Ethier, plus many others.

Red-shouldered Hawk

A forest resident, this hawk is perhaps one of the most attractive species we have breeding here in Quebec. It is found only in the eastern United States and Canada. It will nest close to human habitation but prefers the quiet backwoods, always deciduous, sometimes with evergreen trees spread thinly throughout. It builds its own nests, but competes with Broad-winged Hawks and Long-eared and Great Horned Owls for location, often placing nests in the crux of a large tree. Unlike other species, it adds evergreen boughs to the top of the nest prior to egg laying.



While some populations in the southern states are resident year-round, here Red-shouldered Hawks, referred to by hawk watchers as Red shouldered or just “shoulders,” winter well below the snow line in the mid-eastern states, occasionally over-wintering in the northeastern states, even into Quebec. It nests as far north as the Laurentian Mountains and can be found locally around Montreal. It is frequently the first hawk to arrive back in the spring, often returning when there is still snow on the

ground. It is truly an early sign of spring when this species is once again heard calling loudly over local forests. It feeds mainly on small mammals, frogs and snakes.

We sight the species in relatively small numbers on both the spring and fall hawk watches. In spring, the majority of birds pass through in March and early April and October to early November in the fall. It is often found mixed in with flocks of Red-tailed Hawks at these times. The 5-year

average totals are shown in the graph (mauve squares for spring and blue diamonds for the fall). The long-term trend lines are also shown, blue for the fall and mauve for the spring (dashed). The solid mauve line shown for spring shows the best-fit curve for the entire data set. The fall trend line is a particularly good fit to the data (with an R^2 value equal to 0.99).

As can be readily seen, the fall counts are typically higher than the spring counts, due to the numbers of juvenile birds seen migrating during this time (many juveniles do not make it through their first year). What is most striking is the rapid recovery in numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks from the much lower counts of the early 1980s when the hawk watches began here. This phenomenon is typical of many hawk species following the damage done to their populations by harmful pesticides, like DDT, found in their prey, beginning in the 1940s and 50s. It took many years for the pesticide residues to disappear, even after a complete ban of their use in the 1960s. More about this issue is discussed in other articles in the series. All then appeared well with the species until the 2000s when the populations began to plummet once again. Although the species does show shorter-term cycles in numbers the overall trend discussed here is clearly downward. By the 2015 season, the species was decimated to numbers

not seen since the mid-1980s. The decline of the species in Quebec since the 2000s parallels that recorded by most other sites in the northeast U.S. What caused the latest decline? The low numbers now being seen might be the result of the presence of other chemical pollutants but are most likely due to human disturbance of some type, such as global warming and rapidly changing weather patterns, deforestation (clear-cutting or fragmentation), increasing urbanization, loss of prey, the growth in wind farms, illegal shooting and trapping or the recent (re)introduction and/or population growth of aggressive species, such as fishers, that attack birds' nests and steal eggs and chicks to feed their own young. Of course, the decline could be part of a long-term cycle that we currently do not understand, as yet. This particular scenario is, however, a long shot. As with many other declining species, this loss must be reversed before it is too late. The species has some protection in Canada (COSEWIC), now listed as threatened, and in the United States as endangered, threatened or a Species of Special Concern in 18 eastern states.

The lowest seasonal numbers seen here were in the early 1980s. Only one bird was recorded in fall 1980 and none were seen in 1983. The highest fall counts tallied were in the 1990s and early 2000s. For example, the highest count recorded

here was 236, in 2004. The highest ever one-day count was of 83 birds on October 20, 1991. For the spring, the highest seasonal count was 141 in 2004, with the largest one-day count being 69 on April 30, 1998. Perhaps the most spectacular flight of Red-shouldered Hawks seen here was in 2010, when 68 birds joined a large flight of over 1500 vultures, hawks and eagles (most of them Red-tailed Hawks, with 26 eagles mixed in) over a 2-day period, 2-3 April, a time when a rare, early strong warm front moved up from the south, bringing record high temperatures to southern Quebec. Nine species of raptors were seen at that time, a record for the date and location.

Next time - Broad-winged Hawk

BIRD VIEWS

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

December 2017 - January 2018

by Pierre Bannon

Greater White-fronted Goose: one at La Baie 12–15 Jan established a record late date for the province (Y.E. Gauthier). **Mute Swan:** one at Grenville 10–14 Jan (J. Bouvier). **Tundra Swan:** three continuing birds on Lake Champlain 2 Dec (T. Jobin). **Harlequin Duck:** inland birds included a male at Sherbrooke mid-Dec through 7 Jan (*m. ob.*) and a female in the Lachine rapids 1 Dec through at least 31 Jan (S. Denault, D. Demers).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: singles at Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu until at least 28 Jan (E. Landa) and at Saint-Édouard-de-Lotbinière until 27 Jan (*m. ob.*), probably same indiv as last winter.

American Golden-Plover: a record late bird at Sainte-Pétronille 2 Dec (P. Gosselin). **Red Knot:** one in the Magdalen's Is 8 Dec (A. Couture, B. Vigneault). **Sanderling:** a few birds lingered in the Magdalen Is until 8 Dec (A. Couture, A. Richard). **Dunlin:** one at Blanc-Sablon 14 Jan was very late (B. Jolicoeur). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 25 birds lingered at Trois-Pistoles until 9 Dec (S. Dionne, R. Deschênes). **Wilson's Snipe:** seen at six different places in Dec, including 2 birds at Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton 21–26 Dec (K. Adams).

Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Décembre 2017 - janvier 2018

par Pierre Bannon

Oie rieuse : une à La Baie 12–15 jan, ce qui représente une date tardive record pour la province (Y.E. Gauthier). **Cygne tuberculé :** un à Grenville 10–14 jan (J. Bouvier). **Cygne siffleur :** trois poursuivant leur séjour au lac Champlain jusqu'au 2 déc. (T. Jobin). **Arlequin plongeur :** les oiseaux les plus à l'ouest incluait un mâle à Sherbrooke du mi-déc au 7 janv. (*pl. ob.*) et une femelle dans les rapides de Lachine du 1 déc. au 31 janv. (S. Denault, D. Demers).

Tourterelle turque : des oiseaux à Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu jusqu'au 28 janv. (E. Landa) et à Saint-Édouard-de-Lotbinière jusqu'au 27 janv. (*pl. ob.*), probablement les mêmes indiv que l'hiver dernier.

Pluvier bronzé : un à Sainte-Pétronille 2 déc., une date tardive record (P. Gosselin). **Bécasseau maubèche :** un aux îles de la Madeleine 8 déc. (A. Couture, B. Vigneault). **Bécasseau sanderling :** des oiseaux tardifs aux îles de la Madeleine jusqu'au 8 déc. (A. Couture, A. Richard). **Bécasseau variable :** un oiseau tardif à Blanc-Sablon 14 jan (B. Jolicoeur). **Bécasseau à croupion blanc :** 25 oiseaux à Trois-Pistoles 9 déc. (S. Dionne, R. Deschênes). **Bécassine de Wilson :** aperçue à six endroits en

Dovekie: an odd place to see this bird, one was found on the ground near a feeder at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 5 Jan (A. Couture, Y. Cyr); more expected, 34 indiv were spotted at Blanc-Sablon 14 Jan (B. Jolicoeur). **Red-throated Loon**: one seen on a roadside at Hinchinbrooke 29 Dec was a surprising find (D. Simon). **Pacific Loon**: a juv at Percé 9 Dec (JR. Lepage). **Sooty Shearwater**: totally unexpected in winter, one was recorded late 2 Dec at Rivière-Ouelle (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Leach's Storm-Petrel**: also unexpected in winter, one at Sainte-Pétronille 10 Dec provided a record late date for the province (R. Simard, L. Bateman). **Northern Gannet**: inland records included one at Saint-Élie-d'Orford 10 Dec (*fide* S. Beaudette) and one at Deschambeault 11 Dec (S. Blackburn, S. Lemieux).

Great Cormorant: an imm in the Lachine Rapids at Sainte-Catherine 26 Dec (S. Denault). **Great Egret**: the last migrant was at Châteauguay 10 Dec (*m. ob.*). **Turkey Vulture**: the last was seen at Ayer's Cliff 19 Dec (C. Muir-Norrie). **Red-shouldered Hawk X Red-tailed Hawk**: this putative hybrid was nicely photographed at Shawville 11 Dec (R. Auger). **Short-eared Owl**: seen in eight different localities in Dec; more in evidence compared to recent winters although far less common than a few decades ago.

déc., incluant 2 oiseaux à Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton 21-26 déc. (K. Adams).

Mergule nain : curieusement, un oiseau fut retrouvé au sol près d'une mangeoire à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 5 Jan (A. Couture, Y. Cyr); plus habituel, 34 indiv ont été vus à Blanc-Sablon 14 Jan (B. Jolicoeur). **Plongeon catmarin** : un aperçu en bordure de route à Hinchinbrooke 29 déc était surprenant (D. Simon). **Plongeon du Pacifique** : un juv à Percé 9 déc. (JR. Lepage). **Puffin fuligineux** : complètement inattendu en hiver, un oiseau était à Rivière-Ouelle 2 déc., une date tardive record (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Océanite cul-blanc** : aussi étonnant en hiver, un était à Sainte-Pétronille 10 déc., ce qui fournit une date tardive record pour le Québec (R. Simard, L. Bateman). **Fou de Bassan** : les oiseaux les plus à l'ouest incluaient un à Saint-Élie-d'Orford 10 déc. (*fide* S. Beaudette) et un à Deschambeault 11 déc. (S. Blackburn, S. Lemieux).

Grand Cormoran : un imm à Sainte-Catherine 26 déc. (S. Denault). **Grande Aigrette** : la plus tardive était à Châteauguay 10 déc. (*pl. ob.*). **Urubu à tête rouge** : le dernier migrateur était à Ayer's Cliff 19 déc. (C. Muir-Norrie). **Buse à épaulettes X Buse à queue rousse** : ce présumé hybride a été superbement photographié à Shawville 11 déc. (R. Auger). **Hibou des marais** : noté dans huit localités en déc. ; donc plus en évidence comparé aux hivers récents, mais moins fréquents qu'il y a quelques décennies.

Pic à tête rouge : un oiseau encore présent à l'île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) jusqu'au 7 janv. (*pl. ob.*). **Pic maculé** : des oiseaux tardifs à Loretteville 22-29 déc. (P. Dechêne) et à Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière 5 jan (T. Biteau). **Merlebleu de l'Est** : beaucoup moins présent que l'hiver dernier mais trois indiv à Percé le 21 janv. (C. Simoneau) et le 26 janv. (A. Couture) étaient à noter. **Merlebleu azuré** : une femelle toujours présente à L'Islet 21 janv. (*pl. ob.*) et un splendide mâle au Boisé Sainte-Dorothée (Laval) 2 déc. (L. Auclair et al., ph.). **Solitaire de Townsend** : des oiseaux à



Red-headed Woodpecker / Pic à tête rouge © 2017 Jane Cormack

Red-headed Woodpecker: a continuing ad at Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) until 7 Jan (*m.ob.*). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** single late birds at Loretteville 22-29 Dec (P. Dechêne) and at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière 5 Jan (T. Biteau). **Eastern Bluebird:** much less abundant than last winter but three birds at Percé 21 Jan (C. Simoneau) and 26 Jan (A. Couture) were noteworthy. **Mountain Bluebird:** a continuing female at L'Islet until at least 21 Jan (*m. ob.*) and a gorgeous male at Boisé Sainte-Dorothée (Laval) 2 Dec (L. Auclair et al., *ph.*). **Townsend's Solitaire:** singles

Ville-Marie 4 déc. (J. Fréchette) et à Trois-Rivières 21 jan (G. Garant). **Moqueur chat :** un à Lévis 14 jan était tardif (M. Lamontagne). **Moqueur roux :** un à Saint-Hyacinthe 19-28 jan (M. D'Auteuil, *ph.*)

Paruline noir et blanc : un oiseau à Pointe Yamachiche 2 déc était tardif (G. Garant). **Paruline obscure :** 2 oiseaux tardifs à Rimouski 1 déc. (P. Fradette, G. Bouchard). **Paruline jaune :** une à Sainte-Catherine 4 déc. (D. Sirois, Y. Gauthier). **Paruline rayée :** un oiseau à Terrebonne 2 déc. fournit une date tardive record (JF. Piché, M-C. Brault). **Paruline à croupion jaune :** 4 à Dundee 7 déc. (N. Guénette et al.) et 3 à Fatima (IDLM) 23 déc. (C. Roy, J. Roy). **Ictérie polyglotte :** une à Petit-Matane 5-6 déc. (Saint-Louis Fournier, L. Fradette). **Tohi à flancs roux :** des oiseaux à Saint-Bruno (Lac Saint-Jean) 9 déc. (E. Wilmot et al.) et à Chandler 25 déc-20 Jan (R. Garrett). **Bruant familier :** au moins 12 indiv signalés en déc., mais beaucoup moins en janv. **Bruant des plaines :** des oiseaux à Québec jusqu'au 10 Jan (S. Baker) et à Saint-Blaise jusqu'au 7 janv. (C. Guay) étaient remarquables. **Bruant à joues marron :** un à l'Anse-à-Beaufils 10-18 déc. (P. Poulin). **Bruant à face noire :** un à Chambord 10-28 déc. (S. Boivin et al.). **Junco ardoisé :** cinq oiseaux de type *Oreganus* : Drummondville 10 déc. (E. Lepage), Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 16-19 déc. (S. Labbé, P. Bannon), Mont-Laurier jusqu'au 18 déc. (R Le Brun), Rigaud 26 déc. (J. Asnong) et Gaspé 20-28 déc. (D. Jalbert).

Piranga vermillon : un oiseau tardif à Saint-André d'Argenteuil 1-10 déc. (J. Couture, M. Hewitt, *ph.*, *fide* S. Robert). **Piranga à tête rouge :** un oiseau toujours présent à Québec jusqu'au 14 déc. (MC. Roy). **Passerin indigo :** un à Pabos 17 déc était très tardif (A. Gagnon, D. Jalbert).

at Ville-Marie 4 Dec (J. Fréchette) and at Trois-Rivières 21 Jan (G. Garant). **Gray Catbird**: one at Lévis 14 Jan was late (M. Lamontagne). **Brown Thrasher**: one at Saint-Hyacinthe 19–28 Jan (M. D'Auteuil, *ph.*)

Black-and-white Warbler: a bird at Pointe Yamachiche 2 Dec was late (G. Garant). **Tennessee Warbler**: 2 late birds at Rimouski 1 Dec (P. Fradette, G. Bouchard). **Yellow Warbler**: one at Sainte-Catherine 4 Dec (D. Sirois, Y. Gauthier). **Blackpoll Warbler**: a record late bird at Terrebonne 2 Dec (JF. Piché, M-C. Brault). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 4 at Dundee 7 Dec (N. Guénette et al.) and 3 at Fatima (Magdalen's Is) 23 Dec (C. Roy, J. Roy). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one at Petit-Matane 5–6 Dec (Saint-Louis Fournier, L. Fradette). **Eastern Towhee**: singles at Saint-Bruno (Lac Saint-Jean) 9 Dec (E. Wilmot et al.) and at Chandler 25 Dec–20 Jan (R. Garrett). **Chipping Sparrow**: at least 12 birds reported in Dec but far fewer in Jan. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: singles at Québec City until 10 Jan (S. Baker) and at Saint-Blaise until 7 Jan (C. Guay) were noteworthy). **Lark Sparrow**: one at l'Anse-à-Beaufils 10–18 Dec (P. Poulin). **Harris's Sparrow**: one at Chambord 10–28 Dec (S. Boivin et al.). **Dark-eyed Junco**: five *oreganus* Juncos were reported: Drummondville 10 Dec (E. Lepage), Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 16–19 Dec (S. Labbé, P. Bannon), Mont-Laurier through 18 Dec (R. Le Brun), Rigaud 26 Dec (J. Asnong) and Gaspé 20–28 Dec (D. Jalbert).

Summer Tanager: a late bird at Saint-André d'Argenteuil 1–10 Dec (J. Couture, M. Hewitt, *ph.*, *fide* S. Robert). **Western Tanager**: continuing bird at Québec City until at least 14 Dec (MC. Roy). **Indigo Bunting**: one at Pabos 17 Dec was very late (A. Gagnon, D. Jalbert).

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



Paruline à croupion jaune / Yellow-rumped Warbler © 2016 Chuck Kling

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

Canada Goes Birding 2017 – the BPQ Centenary Birding Challenge

by Richard Gregson – Challenge coordinator

Throughout 2017, our centenary year, we organized a series of “Green Birding” challenges, in the spirit of getting people outside, and doing more birding, while focusing on environmental benefits for birders and for the birds.

We encouraged participation from across the country and towards the end of 2016, almost 100 birders had expressed an intention to take part. Far fewer submitted entries in the end. To be honest, that was expected. Experience has shown that green birders are generally not as competitive as traditional birders.

Green birding rules applied – the count period(s) had to be completed using self-powered means of transport, such as walking, cycling, and boating. You could

use a car to get to and from the starting point only.

The Green Big Year

When you do a traditional big year, you get out and find as many birds and birds species as you can over the period of a year. You are in competition with the keenest and hardest of birders. Doing a green big year encourages you to concentrate on your local patch and find all your own birds without being tipped off by others. Two birders participated in this challenge.

Zofia Laubitz birded the patch containing Ridgewood Avenue and neighbourhood, Summit Park, Mount Royal Park, and the cemeteries on the mountain. These are excellent birding territories and a fabulous migratory bird “trap” in spring and fall. Zofia recorded **74 species**, in this concentrated area, including 12 warbler species and an unexpected Townsend's Solitaire.

Kevin Klantz won this challenge. Walking and cycling in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, Kevin reported **164 species**. As he tells it:

My birding year started much like any other. As usual, there was a bit of a scramble in early January to try and pick a few good birds that had



Kevin Klantz Green Birding

been located during the CBC. Eventually though the short days and winter weather forced me to stay off the roads and within walking distance of home. As daylight increased and spring arrived wet weather and work commitments continued to hamper my birding efforts. By late summer I was 1000 km off the previous year's pace and with the arrival of autumn time and prospective species were slipping away. The chances of meeting my target species total were starting to look bleak until a late October fallout of southern vagrants brought six new birds.



Frédéric Hareau

In the end I did manage to set a new personal high of 164 species for the year. Just one more than 2016. This is low by many standards but represents more than 70% of the total species recorded for the year in all of Lunenburg county.

One of the highlights was completing my ten-thousandth kilometre since taking up birding by bicycle. Top birds included my first Wood Thrush for the province, Scarlet and Summer tanagers as well as White-eyed and Yellow-throated vireos. My first ever Golden Eagle

was my best green bird of the season unfortunately it doesn't qualify for the list as it was seen on a bike ride that started from a cabin in another county.

Green Big Days

Green Big Days involve counting as many birds species as you can in a 24-hour period. A birder could submit as many entries as they wanted – a novel and easy challenge.

Leading Green Big Day reports were submitted by **Zofia Laubitz who found 31 species** in the Montreal Botanical Garden on May 17 and by **Barbara MacDuff, who, with her team, found 72 species** in the MBO/Morgan Arboretum patch on May 25, walking a little over 9 km. The winners were **Diane Demers and Frédéric Hareau, who collected 82 species** in the Lac Philippe sector of the Parc de la Gatineau. They submitted the following account of their excellent day:

Après quelques discussions, nous avons décidé de vivre pleinement l'aventure et d'explorer un endroit que nous ne connaissions ni l'un, ni l'autre : le secteur Nord (lac Philippe) du Parc de la Gatineau. C'est donc avec enthousiasme, mais avec également beaucoup de questions, que nous sommes

arrivées au lac Taylor car devant nous s'étalaient 24 heures de découverte.

Très vite, nous avons réalisé que l'endroit recelait des trésors à découvrir et que les 24 heures passeraient vite.

Ainsi, alors que nous montions les tentes, vers midi, plusieurs espèces se manifestaient par leur chant juste autour de nous : Bruant des Marais, Paruline masquée et à poitrine baie, Plongeon huart, etc. Après 15 minutes, et principalement à l'écoute, nous avons une liste de plus de 20 espèces !

La première journée a ensuite été consacrée à une randonnée en vélo qui nous a permis de découvrir tant les zones boisées (mixtes) du parc, que les zones agricoles et les friches qui couvrent le Nord du Parc. Cette balade de quelques kilomètres, ponctuée de multiples arrêts, nous permit de découvrir de nombreuses espèces. Parmi nos belles observations : les parulines du Canada, des Pins, à joues grises, à gorge orangée, à croupion jaune et tigrée; le Pirangua écarlate, le Pioui de l'Est, le Troglodyte des Forêts, la Grive fauve, le Goglu des prés.

Alors qu'en fin de journée, nous revenions vers le camping, nous avons eu la chance de vivre de beaux moments d'observation. En particulier un Moucherolle à Coté Olives qui, perché à longue distance, nous a tout de même gratifiés de quelques belles envolées à la recherche d'insectes. Puis ce fut au tour des Coulicous à bec noir. Un couple nous a comblé de ses multiples vocalises, sans oublier que l'un des deux a volé devant nous au travers de la clairière. La fin de la journée s'est terminée avec les vocalises des Grives des bois et des Grives solitaires.

Après un dîner frugal au camping, il était temps de repartir à la recherche des espèces nocturnes. C'est très vite que nous entendions une Chouette rayée qui nous livrait tout son répertoire. Un peu plus loin, c'était les Bécasses et un Butor, tous d'Amérique, qui peuplaient la nuit. Avant de faire demi-tour, une autre Chouette rayée vocalisait. Les engoulements ne nous ont malheureusement pas gratifiés de leur présence.

Après une courte nuit, ponctuée des chants des oiseaux nocturnes et de centaines de grenouilles, nous repartions vers une randonnée dans

les alentours du lac Taylor. La randonnée matinale nous permit d'observer une cinquantaine d'espèces, et d'ajouter une dizaine d'espèces à celles observées la veille. Entre autres, les parulines des ruisseaux et rayées et la dernière, un pic mineur qui tentait de se dissimuler au sol!

Au total, nous avons pu, avec un grand plaisir, découvrir un territoire d'une richesse remarquable et observer 82 espèces, dont 20 espèces de parulines, à la force du mollet.

Vive le 'Green Birding' et vive les Grandes journées !

Green Big Foot ('Sasquatch') Hour

This was the "fun" challenge: Step outside and see how many bird species you find in 60 minutes of walking. We fully expected to be flooded with entries and were a little disappointed that only ten people rose to the challenge. Nevertheless, the results were fascinating. I would encourage every birder to have a go at it. It is an excellent means of taking note of the birds living right beside you.

The winner was Rodger Titman with **37 species seen** along the Baie-D'Urfé/Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue lakeshore on June 8. Close behind him were:



Zofia Laubitz

- Zofia Laubitz: 35 species in St-Catherines, Ontario on May 22
- Marcel Gahbauer: 27 species in Scarborough-Guildwood Park, Ontario on April 2
- Richard Gregson: 25 species in the Morgan Arboretum on May 3
- Phyllis & David Mulholland: 13 species in Beaconsfield on April 2
- Rodger Titman: in his first attempt of the year, 12 species in Baie-D'Urfé on February 26
- Wayne Grubert: 10 species in Hudson, on a cold New Year's Day



American Robin / Merle d'Amérique © 2018 Chuck Kling

- Connie Morgenstern: 9 species in Bourbonnais Bog, St-Lazare on April 2
- David Bird: 5 species in Mount Royal Cemetery, New Year's Day

A very special mention must go to **Lucette d'Amours**, who submitted **145 Big Foot Hour records throughout the year**. This is a staggering achievement, but, at the same time, it demonstrates how easy it is to keep regular local patch/green birding records.

This is Lucette's portrait of herself out there "counting the birds."

Je suis une passionnée d'ornithologie depuis avril 1981. Pendant un séjour à Jouvence, une amie m'a passé ses jumelles pour voir un oiseau par terre: c'était une Grive fauve et en voyant cet oiseau, j'ai été tellement impressionnée que le lendemain je suis allée acheter des jumelles, un livre d'identification et je n'ai jamais arrêté d'admirer les oiseaux depuis ce temps-là !! J'ai été membre de plusieurs Club d'Ornitho à travers les années: Membre de la Société de Biologie de Mtl (SBM) d'avril 82 à octobre 2012; j'y ai été monitrice pendant 3 ou 4 ans et j'ai aussi fait quelques voyages à l'extérieur du pays Amazonie, Costa Rica et Cuba avec eux. J'ai été Membre du Club Marie Victorin de 1985 à 1993, Membre de votre club: POQ d'avril 1986 à novembre 1995 Membre de Nature Illimitée de 1988 à 1995 avec qui j'ai voyagé en Floride à 2 reprises, au Texas et en Arizona à 2 reprises ainsi que quelques petits voyages au Québec. Maintenant, je fais plutôt des sorties en solitaire ou avec des amies .

On behalf of BPQ, I would like to thank all those who took part. It seems they enjoyed this simple way to "up" their

green birding skills in the spirit of some friendly competition.

I wish everyone good green birding in 2018.



European Starling / Étourneau sansonnet © 2018 Chuck Kling

Montreal Christmas Bird Count

by Sheldon Harvey
BPQ Montreal Christmas Bird Count coordinator and compiler

The 2017 Montreal Christmas Bird Count, Audubon's 118th annual event, was held on December 16, 2017. There was snow cover in most areas, with some open water, particularly in the St-Lawrence and Rivière-des-Prairies rivers. The temperature ranged from -13°C to -8°C throughout the day with moderate winds.

A total of 79 participants took part in the count, including several first-timers. We covered 21 different territories within the count circle. The teams covered a total of 709 kilometres of driving and walking, generating a total effort of 124.75 hours. Approximately 6 hours of owling were conducted during this year's count.

We completed the day with a total of 69 species, an increase of one over last year. The total number of individual birds recorded was 12,003, down substantially from last year's total of 18,483. There was just 1 additional species recorded during the count week period, a Common Grackle. According to Audubon regulations, count week species are recorded for statistical purposes only and are not reflected in the count day totals. The Red-headed Woodpecker at île-St-Bernard reported by Tom Long's team and the Common/Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid reported by Pierre Bannon's team on the St-Lawrence River, were the first recordings of these species ever in a Montreal Christmas Bird Count.

Our field teams were able to surpass or tie the previous high record for the following species: (Wood Duck-3; Common Loon-8; Bald Eagle-3; Pileated Woodpecker-18; Winter Wren-3; Chipping Sparrow-3; Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon Sub-species)-1; Swamp Sparrow-2.

The Top 5 highest numbers of birds per species this year were: 1) Canada Goose-1,809; 2) Common Goldeneye-1,606; 3) Mallard-1,289; 4) European Starling-1,034; 5) American Crow-1,016.

Following is a summary report of the species recorded, the number of each bird in this year's count, and the highest number of birds, of each species, recorded historically in the Montreal count, indicating the count year. 2017 was Count #118..

Species	No. in 2016 (Count Year: 118)	Highest Number Ever Recorded / Count Year of Record High
Canada Goose	1809	4184/112
Wood Duck	3	2/118
Gadwall	1	115/103
American Wigeon	2	150/72
American Black Duck	88	1575/54
Mallard	1289	3835/99
Bufflehead	1	10/117
Common Goldeneye	1606	2423/60
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	5/117
Common x Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid)	1	1/118
Hooded Merganser	57	106/113
Common Merganser	152	1316/87
Red-breasted Merganser	3	120/67
Common Loon	8	8/118
Horned Grebe	1	2/54
Double-crested Cormorant	17	75/106
Great Blue Heron	5	6/94
Bald Eagle	3	3/118
Cooper's Hawk	1	14/115

Species	No. in 2016 (Count Year: 118)	Highest Number Ever Recorded / Count Year of Record High
Red-tailed Hawk	23	28/113
Rough-legged Hawk	2	32/65
Ring-billed Gull	165	8260/102
Herring Gull	455	9731/91
Iceland Gull	1	64/77
Great Black-backed Gull	288	1839/87
Rock Pigeon	926	4816/98
Mourning Dove	31	253/96
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	15/116
Snowy Owl	5	10/65
Barred Owl	2	4/111
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	1/118
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	3/117
Downy Woodpecker	106	143/111
Hairy Woodpecker	38	70/108
Northern Flicker	2	8/116
Pileated Woodpecker	18	18/118
American Kestrel	1	23/94
Merlin	5	10/111
Peregrine Falcon	1	6/107
Northern Shrike	1	10/88
Blue Jay	31	64/111

Species	No. in 2016 (Count Year: 118)	Highest Number Ever Recorded / Count Year of Record High
American Crow	1016	9149/111
Common Raven	22	150/82
Horned Lark	40	119/106
Black-capped Chickadee	582	876/111
Tufted Titmouse	6	8/111
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	12/111
White-breasted Nuthatch	114	146/115
Brown Creeper	29	39/86
Winter Wren	3	3/118
Carolina Wren	3	5/111
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	36/103
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	3/100
American Robin	179	4135/117
Northern Mockingbird	1	5/91
European Starling	1034	14000/71
Snow Bunting	162	740/71
American Tree Sparrow	54	170/103
Chipping Sparrow	3	3/118
Dark-eyed Junco	73	175/113
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	1	1/118
White-throated Sparrow	21	32/117
Song Sparrow	5	31/89

Species	No. in 2016 (Count Year: 118)	Highest Number Ever Recorded / Count Year of Record High
Swamp Sparrow	2	2/118
Northern Cardinal	207	230/117
Common Grackle (Count week)	1	16/99
House Finch	99	421/96
American Goldfinch	143	439/109
House Sparrow	841	2794/96

Legend:

CW = Reported during count week

Total Individuals 12,003 Total Species Reported 69

A compilation gathering was held at the Montreal West Curling Club following the count. Approximately 30 people attended the event. The food was supplied by Bird Protection Quebec.

Thank you to all who participated in this important citizen science project.

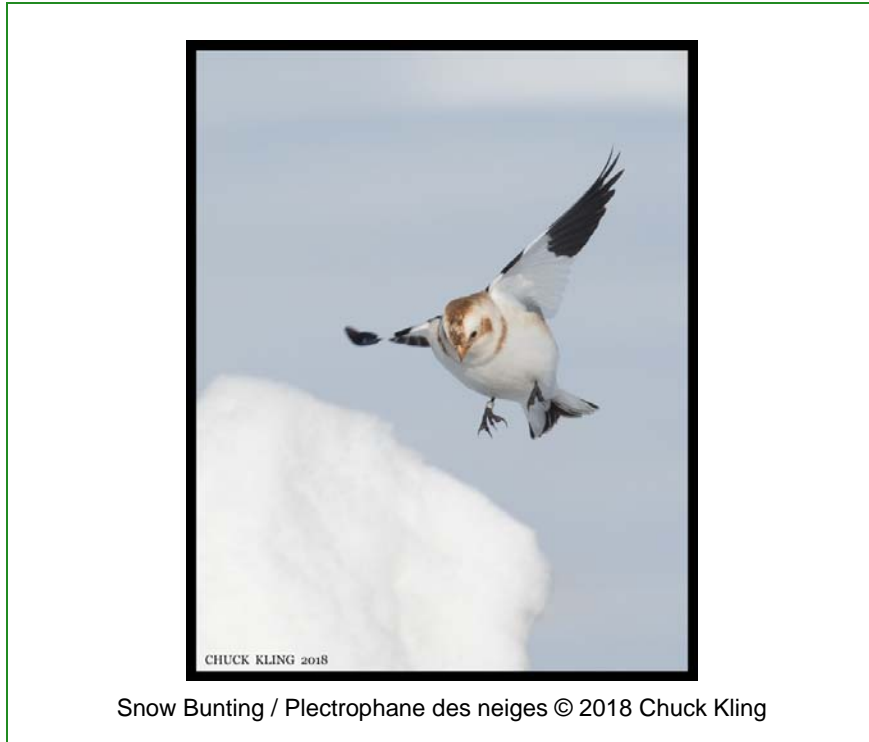


Counting birds at the CBC



Sheldon and Darlene Harvey compiling the results of the CBC

Hudson Christmas Bird Count



by Jean Demers

On December 27, 2017, the 77th annual Hudson Christmas Bird Count was held. We had the lowest number of birds since 1990. Only 4,556 birds were counted. The cold weather may have been a factor. The birds must have been trying to keep warm somewhere.

Species	Number
American Black Duck	3
Mallard	99
Common Goldeneye	55
Common Merganser	12
Gray Partridge	8
Ruffed Grouse	8
Wild Turkey	105
Accipter sp	1
Cooper's Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	6
American Kestrel	2
Rock Pigeon	510
Mourning Dove	217
Eastern Screech-Owl	1
Snowy Owl	5
Downy Woodpecker	69
Hairy Woodpecker	47
Pileated Woodpecker	15
Northern Shrike	1
Blue Jay	319
American Crow	198
Common Raven	16

Species	Number
Horned Lark	3
Black-capped Chickadee	1,006
Red-breasted Nuthatch	22
White-breasted Nuthatch	108
Brown Creeper	2
American Robin	22
European Starling	208
Bohemian Waxwing	3
American Tree Sparrow	57
Chipping Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	2
Dark-eyed Junco	392
Snow Bunting	208
Northern Cardinal	93
Red-winged Blackbird	2
Rusty Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	1
Purple Finch	2
House Finch	103
Pine Siskin	11
American Goldfinch	315
House Sparrow	191

4,527 individual birds of 47 species were counted. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was counted during count week, but is not included in the number of individual birds.

Statistics	Number
Average number of birds over the last 20 years	8,633
Average number of species over the last 20 years	57
Average number of birds over the last 15 years	8,773
Average number of species over the last 15 years	57
Highest number of birds on a Hudson Christmas Bird Count	16,031
Highest number of species on a Hudson Christmas Bird Count	68
Lowest year	2017

Thank you to all the participants and see you all in December 2018.

Birding Safari in Kenya



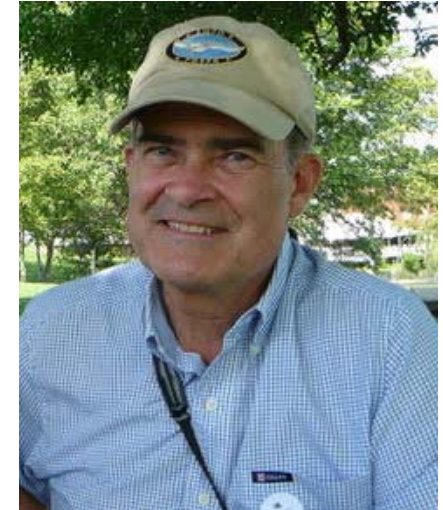
A Presentation by Rodger Titman

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

Rodger Titman and David Bird have organized a safari in Kenya for the autumn of 2018 aiming to introduce participants to birds of East Africa. Their desire is to share enthusiastically the experience they have garnered during the nineteen visits they have made collectively to East Africa since 2000. Both are retired professors from McGill University who have taught in East Africa with the McGill based Canadian Field Studies in Africa program. With the help of a Kenyan friend and highly experienced tour operator, they have arranged transport, food and accommodation to be relatively inexpensive while affording a decent level of comfort. Already several BPQ members have committed to come with them.

The slide presentation will look at sites visited on past trips and birds and mammals encountered. Members of the “Big Five” (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Cape Buffalo and Rhinoceros) and other mammals such as giraffe, cheetah, hyena, wildebeest, impala, and gazelles are regularly encountered as well as the birds that are sought. Some birds that generally excite non-Africans include Ostrich, Secretary Bird, hornbills, Hamerkop, rollers, barbets, some spectacular starlings and sunbirds.

Dr. Rodger Titman is a keen birder with an impressive life list. He has close to 50 years' experience in researching wetland ecosystems, as well as duck behaviour, and ecology across Canada. A key consultant for a number of environmental impact assessments, he is the world expert on the breeding ecology of Red-breasted Mergansers. Rodger is a member of the of Bird Studies Canada board and the Ecomuseum board, has served as a member of the national and regional Nature Conservancy of Canada trustee board, and is a past president and long-time member of BPQ. He is a long-standing member of the Property Acquisition and Conservation committees. He is an active volunteer at the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO), where he conducts bird censuses as well as serving as a scientific advisor and bird bander. He is a recent recipient of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists' (SCO) most prestigious award, the Doris Huestis Speirs Award.



Opposite: Red-billed Hornbill

Above: Dr. Rodger Titman

The Purple Martin: A Great Recovery Challenge in Québec

A Presentation by Geneviève Perrault

Monday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG



Between 1970 and 2015, populations of Purple Martin have declined by almost 50% in Canada and nearly 95% in Quebec. There are currently only 1,100 nesting pairs in Quebec. The entire population of eastern America now nests in colonies, and only in nest boxes.

The presentation will outline the status of the species and promote the best management practices for nest boxes and colonies. Topics will include general information about the species, the status of the species, the threats, the work already done by QuébecOiseaux, the work planned by QuébecOiseaux, and the best

management practices for nesting success of the colonies.

Geneviève Perreault has been working for QuébecOiseaux for more than six years. She holds a Master's degree in biology from Université de Sherbrooke, where she studied the effects of landscape structure on owls' distribution, and detection probability in owl surveys. In 2009, she joined the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac as the owl bander-in-charge. Being a project manager for QuébecOiseaux since 2011, Geneviève has conducted many projects involving declining bird species, such as the Chimney Swift, the Bicknell's Thrush, the Bank Swallow, and the Purple Martin.



Opposite: Purple Martin © Marcel Gauthier

Above: Geneviève Perreault © Jean-Sébastien Guenette

Field 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. 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 leader 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, 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, March 10 - samedi 10 mars

Pincourt Hydro-Cut

<https://goo.gl/maps/JyxqyHCn8wT2>

Guides: Chris Cloutier 514-914-9464 chriscloutier@hotmail.com

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

8:00 a.m. This is the first BPQ field trip to this area. Take highway 20 west to Exit 35 for Pincourt (Boul. Cardinal Leger). Take Boul. Cardinal Leger south for approximately 3.0 km and turn left on 42nd Avenue which is the first street past the fire station located on the right. We will park on this street. Please arrive at least five minutes early so that the outing can start on time.

This area is a right of way for Hydro Quebec vehicles and comprises a nice mix of young forest and open field habitats. Birds of interest will be raptors, woodpeckers and early migrants.

Snowshoes may be useful, but are not required. Those who have them can trailblaze and flatten a trail for everyone else. Please make sure to wear appropriate footwear, and bring binoculars, camera, water and a snack if you wish. Mid-March can have unpredictable weather, so make sure to check the forecast the day before. **Half Day.**

8h00 Une première excursion pour POQ dans ce secteur.

Prendre l'autoroute 20 ouest jusqu'à la sortie 25 direction Pincourt (Boul. Cardinal Léger). Empruntez le boul. Cardinal Léger vers le sud

sur une distance d'environ 3 km, tournez à gauche sur la 42e avenue qui est la première rue au-delà de la station de pompiers que vous apercevrez sur votre droite. Le stationnement se fera sur la rue. Nous vous suggérons d'arriver au moins 5 minutes à l'avance afin que le départ pour l'excursion se fasse à l'heure prévue soit, 8h00.

Ce secteur est un droit de passage pour les véhicules d'Hydro-Québec et nous offre un beau mélange d'habitats soit, une jeune forêt et une aire ouvertes de champs. Nous rechercherons particulièrement les rapaces, les pics et les migrateurs hâtifs.

Nous vous suggérons d'apporter vos raquettes qui pourraient être utiles mais non essentielles. D'ailleurs, si vous n'avez pas de raquettes, vous pourrez marcher dans les traces faites par ceux qui en auront, ses derniers ayant aplani la neige pour vous faciliter la marche. Rappelez-vous d'utiliser de bonnes bottes de marche et chaudes; n'oubliez pas vos jumelles, un appareil photo, de l'eau et une collation. Le temps étant imprévisible à la mi-mars, en conséquence assurez-vous de vérifier les prévisions de la météo avant votre départ. Excursion d'une demi-journée.

Saturday, March 17 - samedi 17 mars

Spontaneous Late Winter Outing - Location to be Determined

Guide: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498 or 514-774-0811 (the morning of the trip/le matin de l'excursion) wgrubert6@gmail.com

Late winter is an interesting but unpredictable time for birding as early, late or vagrant migrants may turn up just about anywhere. As a result, the destination of this trip will be determined mere days prior to the actual outing. The destination will be chosen based on a number of factors including weather conditions, bird activity and any special or

rare bird sightings reported in the days leading up to the trip. Complete details of the field trip, including the destination, the start time, the meeting spot and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ webpage and on the Songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

La fin de l'hiver est un moment intéressant, mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux ; des migrateurs précoces, tardifs ou des visiteurs rares pouvant se retrouver à peu près n'importe où. En conséquence, la destination pour cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant qu'elle n'ait lieu. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de facteurs, dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalée dans les jours précédant la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur le site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo Songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.

Saturday 24 March - samedi 24 mars

Parc de la Frayere, Boucherville

<https://goo.gl/maps/ktQvfi2tt9n>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey 450-462-1459 or 514-637-2141 (the morning of the trip/ le matin de l'excursion) ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. The park is a little less than 30 minutes from the South Shore side of the Champlain Bridge. From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge, to the first exit off the bridge. Follow Highway 20/Highway 132 East, heading towards Varennes/Longueuil). Continue east on Highway 20/132. Note that highways 20 and 132 split at the exit for Quebec City & Hippolyte-Lafontaine Tunnel. Stay to the left at this exit,

continuing east on Highway 132. Continue past the exits for de Montarville, de Montbrun and chemin du General Vanier. The next traffic lights will be at Boul. de la Marine/Boul. Lionel Boulet (Highway 229). Turn left at the traffic lights on to boul. de la Marine, heading north towards the waterfront. Continue north, cross the railway tracks and turn left at the traffic lights at the corner of boul. Marie Victorin. Continue on boul. Marie Victorin, past the hydro pylons. You will see an entrance road into the parking lot for the Parc de la Frayere on your right. Free parking. **Half-day trip**

Note: Highway 132 East can be accessed from the Mercier, Victoria, or Jacques-Cartier bridges, the Lafontaine Tunnel, or Highway 30. Once you are on Highway 132 east, route instructions above apply.

8h00 Le parc de la Frayère se situe à moins de 30 minutes du pont Champlain sur la rive sud de Montréal. Depuis Montréal, utilisez le pont Champlain et empruntez la 1ère sortie (la 20/132 est en direction Varennes/Longueuil). Poursuivre votre chemin sur la 20/132 est. Soyez cependant attentif à l'approche de la jonction du pont-tunnel Louis-H Lafontaine et de la 20 en direction de Québec. Gardez le centre-gauche de la route 132 et poursuivez votre chemin au-delà des sorties pour de Montarville, de Montbrun et du chemin du Général Vanier. Continuer jusqu'aux prochains feux de circulation et rencontrerez la jonction du boul. Vanier sur votre droite et du boul. de la Marine sur votre gauche. Tournez à gauche sur la boul. de la Marine (route 229 nord) et après avoir traversé la voie ferrée, poursuivez votre route en direction du fleuve St-Laurent. Vous croiserez alors le boul. Marie-Victorin aux feux de circulation, vous tournerez sur votre gauche jusqu'au parc de La Frayère après avoir passé outre les pylônes de l'Hydro. Le stationnement du parc se trouve sur votre droite et il est gratuit. **Demi-journée.**

Note: Voici des options pour atteindre la route 132 dépendant de votre point de départ: les ponts Mercier, Victoria, Jacques-Cartier et le tunnel Louis-H Lafontaine ainsi que l'autoroute 30 vous permettront de rejoindre la 132 est; rendu sur la 132 est, utilisez les instructions ci-dessus.

Saturday, March 31 - samedi 31 mars

Parc des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfronts

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

Guide: Diane Demers ddemers03@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle Blvd and 6th Avenue in LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Blvd). Looking for waterfowl and early migrants. If there is enough time left, we will visit Angrignon Park. Be prepared to drive. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement du parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul. LaSalle et de la 6e avenue à ville LaSalle (juste à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power). Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrants hâtifs. S'il reste suffisamment de temps, nous visiterons le parc Angrignon. Il faudra s'attendre à conduire. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 7 - samedi 7 avril

Beauharnois and Valleyfield Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/kmyAR44HsfP2>

Guide: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498 or 514-774-0811 (the morning of the trip/ le matin de l'excursion) wgrubert6@gmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at the east end of the Beauharnois Dam. From the south shore take Highway 30 West and take Exit 22. At the stop sign turn left onto Highway 236 East. After 2.3 km turn left on Highway 132 West and proceed 0.25 km to the meeting area.

Alternatively from the West Island take Highway 20 or 40 west to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 East (\$2.80 toll) to Exit 22. Proceed as above. Looking for waterfowl, raptors and early migrants. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement à la pointe est du barrage de Beauharnois. À partir de la rive sud, prendre l'autoroute 30 ouest puis la sortie 22. À l'arrêt, tourner à gauche sur l'autoroute 236 est. Après 2.3 kilomètres, tourner à gauche sur l'autoroute 132 Ouest et continuer 0.25 kilomètre jusqu'au point de rassemblement.

Autre trajet possible : à partir de l'ouest de l'île, prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 Ouest jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prendre l'autoroute 30 est (péage 2,80 \$) jusqu'à la sortie 22. Puis, continuez comme décrit ci-haut.

Nous chercherons des oiseaux aquatiques, des rapaces et les premiers migrants. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 14 - samedi 14 avril

Lacs Fauvel &Boisé, Blainville QC

<https://goo.gl/maps/xuinmmFRa7z>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey 450-462-1459 or 514-637-2141 (the morning of the trip/ le matin de l'excursion) ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 to Autoroute 15 North (Autoroute des Laurentides). Continue on Aut. 15 North to Exit 25 in Blainville. Take the exit and stay right on boul. de la Seigneurie. Stay on boul. de la

Seigneurie until you reach boul. Industriel. Turn right on boul. Industriel and follow it to rue Omer Deserres. Turn left on rue Omer Deserres and follow it to the intersection with rue Legault. Meet in the parking area at the corner of Omer Deserres and Legault. Walking trip. **Half Day.**

8h00. Prendre la 40 en direction de l'autoroute des Laurentides (15 nord). Poursuivre votre chemin sur l'autoroute 15 jusqu'à la sortie 25 à Blainville. Garder votre droite sur le boul. de La Seigneurie et continuer jusqu'à croiser le boul. Industriel ; tourner à droite sur ce boulevard jusqu'à la rue Omer Deserres. Virez à gauche sur cette rue jusqu'à la rue Legault. Nous rencontrons dans le stationnement à l'intersection de la rue Omer Deserres et de la rue Legault. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 21 April - samedi 21 avril

Baie-du-Febvre, Qc

<https://goo.gl/maps/VTO2X>

Guides: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard 514-694-8240

jd030824@gmail.com

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie du Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie du Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left.

Alternate Route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes' driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. **Half day.**

8h30 Rassemblement au poste d'observation (cache) situé le long de la route Janelle, à Baie-du-Febvre.

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

Thursday, April 26 - jeudi 26 avril

Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum

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

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

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

Guide: Barbara MacDuff 514-942-6330 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.

9h00 – 11h00 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 28 - samedi 28 avril

Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

The meeting place for this trip on montée de l'Eglise

<https://goo.gl/maps/jUN2Laf9Zjy>

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

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. After 0.7 km the parking lot is on your right. Stationnement: \$9.00. **Half day.**

8h00 De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevreumont et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer pour 0.7 km. Le stationnement se trouve sur votre droite. Stationnement : 9,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**