

The Song Sparrow

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The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS): Little Day, Big Results

I've been running my Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route for four years now. Run—which is BBS-speak for survey—is the operative word because you don't have time to stop or dawdle. At each stop, you pause for three minutes and count all birds seen and heard and then quickly move on to the next stop. The 40-km route, which consists of 50 stops, must be completed in a single morning.

This little day produces big results, however. The Breeding Bird Survey, jointly coordinated by the U.S. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Service, is a long-term program introduced in 1966 to monitor North American bird populations. Under the BBS protocol, between two and three thousand pre-established routes are run every summer in Canada and the United States (to be introduced in Mexico in 2010) during the height of the breeding season, providing invaluable data in guiding conservation actions, among other things.

I signed up for my BBS route (Van-Bruyssel, or #136) in 2006 after a monthly BPQ lecture by the Quebec BBS coordinator. Soon afterwards, I had an

assistant, Averill Craig, who was as keen as I was. BBS assistants play a crucial role by driving, navigating and recording the required data for the survey (which includes weather, bird observations, noise and passing cars).



Marcel Gahbauer

Imagine being greeted by 50,000 singing White-throated Sparrows. It may very well happen if you adopt a BBS route!

In preparation for our first year, Averill and I followed an online training course on the BBS protocol and methodology and I tuned up my birdsong ID. The first year, we had to carefully scout the route, which had not been run since 1994, to locate the starting point, found amidst a tangle of unmarked logging roads, as well as the other 49 stops. In subsequent years, we continued this

tradition to look for potential problems like construction and detours and to refresh our memory of the stop locations, which makes things go faster the actual day of the survey.

Since the BBS is done from the roadside in the early morning, safety is primordial. We keep a constant eye out for traffic, find safe pull over areas, use our four-way flashers and wear safety vests issued by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS).

The BBS starts at one-half hour before sunrise, or in our region, 4:22 am. On our first BBS day, we rose at the astonishing hour of 2:45 am and drove an hour to our starting point in regenerating clearcuts east of La Tuque. When I climbed out of the car that first year, I was bowled over by the wall of sound: a dawn chorus that seemed to consist of 50,000 White-throated Sparrows, numerous warblers, thrushes and other species, all singing in stereo. I only had three minutes to count them, compared with the five minutes I was accustomed to for the Ontario atlas point counts, and then I had to get back in the car and do this 49 more times, all within the five-hour limit.

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Message From Our President

After my long summer in Newfoundland I recently returned to Montreal to get involved with our many activities. That said, what with high-speed internet, telephone, and access to my Montreal email, even in the fairly remote southern Avalon town of Trepassey, I felt pretty plugged in to BPQ affairs.

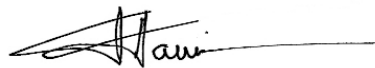
While summer might be a bit of hiatus in our yearly cycle, our members have been far from idle. Sheldon Harvey, with his Summer Series of Birding field trips, doubtless made it seem like it was business as usual. Sheldon and his Marketing Committee were also busy assembling the final pieces of our new brochure. He turned over the most recent version to Jean De Marre who has put his fine graphic skills to work. The product, our first colour brochure ever, already looks terrific. With some great constructive comments from various Board members, Sheldon is now at work with Jean on the next version which I expect will be close to the final product. The brochure should be printed and in circulation later this fall. This new, fully bilingual brochure has been a long time coming. It will be an important new marketing tool to introduce us to the wider public, something that is greatly needed.

I joined BPQ when I came to Montreal 12 years ago. I have come to understand that we are much more than merely a birding club. I suspect that if the public is aware of us at all, they likely see us as a bunch of bird-watchers. That perception needs to change, and the new brochure will greatly help. Who outside our organization is aware that we own and have a hand in managing a variety of sanctuaries that stretch from Île-aux-Perroquets on the north shore near Blanc Sablon, to Ghost Hill Farm on the Ottawa River west of Gatineau? Who is aware that we work closely with Nature Conservancy Quebec to provide them with financial assistance to purchase other lands for conservation? Who is aware that, for years, we have been dispensing support grants to institutions and individuals to assist in their important environmental research? There is much more.

The Montreal Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which takes place on December 19 this year, will be our 74th. The CBC provides important long-term data on early winter bird populations. Long-time members Mabel McIntosh and Bob Barnhurst have been faithfully conducting their spring and fall hawk migration observations for 30 years. Their records are particularly useful to ornithologists, providing an unparalleled data set for Quebec.

I am confident that if we can gain recognition for these important environmental functions, and for the other work we do, we will be more widely supported by the Quebec public. After all, the RSPB in the UK has over one million members who support them largely for their widely known activities in environmental conservation and protection. Of course, we are different. As an all-volunteer organization, we always have to closely consider how we use our limited resources. Simply put, if we gain more public awareness and support for what we currently do, we should attract more members and volunteers. If we can do that, I am sure we can do even more.

Jeff Harrison, BPQ President



Bird Protection Quebec Monthly Meetings 2009-2010

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm at Knox Crescent Kensington and First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG.
(between Grand Boulevard & Kensington Ave, 1.5 blocks north of Sherbrooke, bus #105)

Meeting Dates: **October 5, November 2, and December 7, 2009**
January 11, February 1, March 1, April 12, and May 31, 2010 (AGM)

Bird Protection Quebec



■ Observation ■ Education ■ Conservation

Bird Protection Quebec is the operational name of The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds.

Established January 4, 1917

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November 16, 2009



74th Annual Montreal Christmas Bird Count

The date for the 2009 Montreal Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has been set for Saturday, December 19. Mark the date on your calendar and plan on participating!

CBC's are an important source of data for tracking local and national birding trends. Many long-time participants consider the Christmas Bird Count a highlight of their birding year.

An overview of the count, a map of the count circle, and the results from past counts are all available on our website. The count circle is divided into areas which are covered by teams which regularly include beginners as well as experienced birders. Fair weather or "fowl," it's a great excuse to get out with old friends and to make new ones.

If you live in the count area and have a feeder, but can't participate in the field, we welcome you to become a feeder-watcher. Our website has instructions for feeder-watchers, which will explain how you can participate, and a downloadable feeder checklist. If you participated last year, your leader will be contact you by early December. If you are new to the Christmas count and are interested in becoming either a field participant or a feeder-watcher, please get in touch with me.

There will be an informal social event and compilation of results immediately after the count. Details are forthcoming. Since almost all of our birders participate, the after-count social is one event in our birding year where you have a chance to chat and swap birding stories. Looking forward to seeing you December 19!

Jeff Harrison, Coordinator

Email: dha@videotron.ca, Tel: 514-486-4943

Hudson Christmas Bird Count

The Hudson CBC will take place on Sunday, January 3, 2010, and will require about 50-60 keen people in the field, split into 17 different parties. Team leaders from last year will be receiving a list of previous volunteers and are asked to contact them to confirm involvement. We are always looking for new observers, so please let me know if you would like to be assigned a group.

The count area stretches from Île Perrot west to part way up Mont Rigaud, and from Valleyfield north to Oka. There are many different habitats and both walking and driving options are available.

Once the birds have been counted, we will meet to compile the results, eat chili and soup and enjoy each others' company! Contributions of supplementary foodstuffs are always welcome. This year the post-count get-together will be *chez Bentleys* at 106 Selkirk, Hudson. Please contact Alison if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Alison Bentley, Coordinator

E-mail: alison.bentley@sympatico.ca, Tel: 450-458-8076

Membership News

Greetings to returning and new members Joël Coutu, Montreal, and Maureen Murray, Senneville. We look forward to meeting you on our field trips and at our monthly meetings.

Thanks to those members who have renewed their membership on time, saving us the extra effort required to send out reminders. Good birding!

Sharon Veysey


Education Update


Bird Protection Quebec Education Committee members are looking forward to accompanying students from John Abbott College's environmental studies program to the L'Anse-à-l'Orme woods in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. They hope to show the students birds that are migrating through the area.


Barbara MacDuff

Support Grant Update

A summary of the grants awarded for the year 2008-2009:

 Bird Studies Canada; \$1,500 to continue the Nocturnal Owl Survey for 2009

 Le Nichoir; \$1,000 to attend the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association's conference held on March 10, 2009

 McGill Bird Observatory; \$1,000 for the fall banding season

Unfortunately, our budget was cut in half because of the harsh economic climate. We also had to deny a few requests because they did not meet the Support Grant criteria. To ensure that your project fits BPQ's criteria, please visit:

<http://www.pqspb.org/supportgrants.html>

Jean Demers

Chair of the Support Grants Committee

... Continued from page 1.

After the first few stops, however, the exercise started to feel doable, although in retrospect a practice session would have been prudent. Over the years, these clearcuts have produced such species as Lincoln's Sparrow, American Woodcock, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and numerous Mourning Warblers.

After negotiating a narrow one-lane suspension bridge over the St. Maurice River, we enter the city of La Tuque itself. At this hour of the morning, the city is deserted except for mill workers going on shift and late-night revellers heading home. However, it is fairly rich in birds and usually produces soaring gulls (although Herring is the most common gull in the region, there is a small Ring-billed Gull colony here), Chimney Swift, Tree Swallow, House Sparrow, Yellow Warbler and other assorted town birds. The city has also surprised us (though not on the count itself) with a Northern Mockingbird singing in a subdivision.

Past La Tuque, we turn north on a secondary highway along the winding La Croche River. The forest here is more deciduous in character with a good selection of warblers (including Canada, American Redstart and Black-throated Blue). Toward the village of La Croche,

the river valley becomes primarily agricultural, with wheat and hayfields and pastureland, along with alder swamps bordering the river. This part of the route has yielded Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Killdeer, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Turkey Vulture, Swamp Sparrow, Mourning Warbler and American Kestrel. The last fifth of the route consists of boreal forest, first jack pine plantations and then natural forests, as we take a very dusty road northward heavily travelled by logging trucks (headlights mandatory). In the first part, we have found such species as Dark-eyed Junco, White-winged Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak and Brown Creeper. The later part is rich in warblers, though it is difficult to bird because of the traffic. After five hours of solid concentration and no coffee, a celebratory breakfast stop back in La Tuque is mandatory.

That first year, we had 66 species (compared with 69 in 2007, 62 in 2008 and 70 species in 2009). As in all long-term birding projects, one particularly gratifying aspect is the chance to glimpse trends over the years, although one also quickly realizes that what appears to be a trend one year can be quickly reversed the next. For example, Canada Warblers have been fairly common along my route

in general, but were rare in 2009 for some reason. In addition, during our four years of counting, we have seen the gradual incursion of more southern species such as Mourning Dove and Turkey Vulture.

This year, our highlights included a Great Horned Owl being mobbed by 50 crows, Gray Catbird (somewhat unusual this far north), Gray Jay (a first for us) and an American Woodcock displaying on the road that we flushed as we drove in and tallied at our first stop. Raw data on this and other BBS routes can be viewed at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/ (choose "Raw Data").

The requirements for participating in the BBS are the ability to quickly and accurately identify all birds in the area by sight and by sound, good hearing and eyesight, appropriate transportation and the desire to carry out the survey over a period of years. Be prepared for a somewhat gruelling experience the first year, but one that will get easier as you go along. The adventure is worth it!

For a list of vacant routes in Quebec in 2010, see: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/results/routemaps/

For more information, please contact your provincial BBS coordinator or the national CWS office.

Betsy Macfarlane

Speakers' Corner

Birdsong as a Source of Inspiration for the Great Composers



with Denis Hamel

Monday, November 2, 2009, at 7:30 pm

If you have trouble storing and retrieving bird songs from your memory for identification, this lecture will be a unique opportunity to put birds and music together, anchoring them in your mind. This presentation will permit us to see images of birds, hear their songs and listen to the music that was inspired by them. Musical scores from European composers such as Ravel, Handel, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Dvorak and Messiaen reflect the vocalizations of European birds but, surprisingly, also a few North American species including Scarlet Tanager, Bobolink,

cardinals and thrushes. One of the most well-known themes of one of the most popular pieces in the symphonic repertoire inspired by birdsong will be revealed - if you don't guess it first...

Our speaker, Denis Hamel, has a lifetime of experience in the fields of music and ornithology, holding a B.A. in Music from Université Laval in Québec. Outside all his musical endeavours, he has worked for a scientific research group, part of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations, has been an invited ornithologist on the radio and TV, and has written articles for *Canadian Field Naturalist*, the *Bulletin Ornithologique* and *Science-Loisir*, among others. He is working on a bird survey of the Parc national des Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie, and has participated in the Québec Marsh Monitoring Program. He has guided for the Centre écologique de Port-au-Saumon in Charlevoix. On a more musical note, he has also taught the oboe to high school students. Perhaps he can teach us!

See you there, **Gail Desnoyers**

From the Desk of a Young Birder: Discovery and the MBO Birdathon

It was Saturday, May 23, when I arrived at the McGill Bird Observatory to begin my first Baillie Birdathon. The weather was very nice, with warm temperatures and sunny breaks. I had never been there before and I was greeted by 11 other people. It was a thrill to meet some serious birders.

We began by walking around the MBO, passing mist nets set up in the woods where birds are caught and taken to the field station for banding and research. There, we had a chance to see some birds up close, including a brightly plumaged Northern Parula, before they were extracted from the nets.

After we had finished the census around the MBO, we went to the Morgan Arboretum and walked the trails through forests, swamps and meadows. I was surprised that we were still on the island of Montreal. It is one of the largest green spaces in the Montreal area, and the diversity of habitats makes it a great place to go birding.

While walking in the woods someone ahead of us said that he had seen a Great Horned Owl being harassed by dozens of crows. We scrambled to go see, but only managed to see the group of crows (*Editor's note: a lucky few did manage to see the owl*). The Arboretum is a great place to see owls, including Barred and Northern Saw-Whet Owls. They're my favourite type

of bird, denizens of the forests and plains that hunt on silent wings and pierce the night air with nocturnal eyes.

One particularly interesting species, which has been seen a few times at the Morgan Arboretum, is the Boreal Owl (*illustrated here*). It is a secretive bird, a rare visitor from up north, a fugitive of the vast boreal wilderness.

Although we didn't get to see the owl, we were treated to a look at a Cooper's Hawk, soaring over a field, and a Canada Warbler (now designated as threatened in Canada) perching in a fruit tree. We had 14 species of warblers in total.

Unfortunately, the mosquitoes got worse throughout the day and people started leaving the group to go home. But in all, our group recorded 77 species that day. I missed a few of them but I had a chance to see some rare birds and I added two new species to my life list.

The Morgan Arboretum is a great place to go birding and I want to go back again someday. I'm glad to have been able to participate in the Baillie Birdathon with this group of people. It was great learning experience and it was a fun day. I came back home in the afternoon and continued looking for birds around my home.

Jeremy Pauzé



Fonds commémoratif Alfred B. Kelly de POQ

Protection des oiseaux du Québec offre des subventions (\$3,000 maximum) pour la recherche visant directement l'étude des oiseaux au Québec. Ce concours est ouvert à tous, quelque soit le lieu de résidence ou le niveau de scolarité, ou bien qu'il soit académique (e.g. thèse de doctorat), ou pratique (e.g. inventaire d'un marécage). Toute candidature sera évaluée selon son mérite et comparée aux autres candidatures. Enfin, pour raison d'impôts, le numéro d'assurance sociale du candidat ou un numéro d'enregistrement d'organisation à but non lucratif doit être indiqué. Pour obtenir les formulaires de candidature, contactez birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. La date limite pour les formulaires complétés est le **16 février 2010**.

Alfred B. Kelly Memorial Fund of BPQ

Research grants (\$3,000 maximum) are available for studies pertaining directly to Quebec ornithology. Previously funded projects have covered a wide range of research, from doctoral theses to much less formal wetland inventories. Applications will be accepted from all, regardless of place of residence or educational background, and will be evaluated based on merit and ranked against other applications. For income tax purposes, a social insurance number or charitable organization number must be supplied. Requests for applications should be sent by email to: birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. Deadline for completed applications: **February 16, 2010**.

Parlons d'oiseaux

Bilan des observations intéressantes à travers la province
par Pierre Bannon

Communiquez vos observations intéressantes à:

Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, QC, H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 en soirée/after 7:00 pm. Courriel: pbannon@videotron.ca

Birdviews

Summary of interesting sightings from around the province
by Pierre Bannon

Please report your interesting bird observations to:

Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, QC, H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 en soirée/after 7:00 pm. Courriel: pbannon@videotron.ca

Juin-Août 2009

Bernache nonnette: 2 oiseaux sur un terrain de golf de Longueuil 23 août avaient sûrement été relâchés localement (C. Laporte, *vide J. Laporte*). **Cygne trompette:** 2 imm. à Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides 10-14 août (M. Sokolyk, A. Gélinas, LG. Gélinas) et 2 oiseaux bagués à Joutel 13-14 août (MA. Montpetit). L'un d'eux avait une étiquette à l'aile, apposée en février 2009 près de Hamilton, ON. Cette espèce est vue annuellement depuis les 6 dernières années. **Érismature rousse:** un mâle à Cap-de-Bon-Désir 16-19 juin, une rareté locale (M. Maury). **Plongeon du Pacifique:** un ad. en plumage nuptial à Neuville 16 juin (F. Grenon et al.). **Fulmar boréal:** un à Saint-Fulgence 4 juin, premier individu observé en été pour la région du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (C. Cormier). **Puffin majeur:** 150 au large des IDLM 5 juillet (G. Cyr, G. Éthier et al.). **Puffin fuligineux:** 25 au large des IDLM 5 juillet (G. Cyr, G. Éthier et al.). **Puffin des Anglais:** bien en évidence en Basse-Côte-Nord en août, avec un max. de 4 au large de Cap-de-Bon-Désir 17 août (S. Belleau). **Océanite de Wilson:** 4 au large de Tadoussac 27 juillet (R. Pintiaux). **Pélican d'Amérique:** un au Lac Duparquet 15 juillet (P. Cadieux et al.) puis 6 signalés à différents endroits en août. **Frégate superbe:** 2 mentions possibles: un premier individu à l'île Verte 2 juin (R. Gaudreault) et un second à Sept-Îles 9 juin (JF. Laporte). **Aigrette bleue:** un ad. à Trois-Rivières 18-21 juillet (J. Bénin, M. Bisson, pl. obs.) et un juv. à Irlande 12-24 août (A. Boucher, ph. C. Leclerc). **Héron garde-boeufs:** un à Saint-Vallier 5 juin (A. Baron). **Urubu noir:** un à Baie-Saint-Paul 22 août (I. Deschênes). **Pygargue à tête blanche:** de bons nombres en juin, e.g. 22 le long du St-Laurent entre Deschaillons et Neuville 19 juin (C. Roy) et 11 à Gaspé 22 juin (O. Deruelle).

Chevalier semipalmé: 2 égarés à Métabetchouan 3 juillet (ph. D. Sangster); un à Barachois 12 juillet (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). **Courlis corlieu:** un à Varennes 25-27 juillet, une rareté locale (S. Lamoureux, M. Thibeault). **Barge marbrée:** une à Sainte-Flavie 11-23 août (C. Gagné, S. de la Durantaye). **Phalarope de Wilson:** un à Baie-Comeau 5 juin (Y. Rouillard). **Phalarope à bec large:** une femelle à Saint-Gédéon 13 juin, rare en juin (C. Cormier, G. Savard). **Mouette de Sabine:** des ad. à Yamachiche 14 juin (A. Rasmussen), Portneuf 16 juin (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur) et Tadoussac 23 août (R. Pintiaux). **Mouette rosée:** un oiseau âgé de 2 ans découvert à Neuville 16 juin, 8e présence pour la province et 4e en juin (R. Dion et al.). **Goéland brun:** bien en évidence partout en province avec un pic de 23 imm. à Rivière-Saint-Jean 4 juillet (C. Buidin, Y. Rochepault). **Labbe à longue queue:** cette espèce apparaît très irrégulièrement en juin. Cette année, des ad. solitaires ont été notés à Les Escoumins 13 juin (N. Boucher, J. Bernier, ph. JG. Beaulieu), Saint-Fulgence 14 juin (G. Savard) et Tadoussac 18 juin (M. Moisan, R. Pintiaux), tandis que 2 oiseaux se sont

June-August 2009

Barnacle Goose: two birds on a golf course at Longueuil 23 Aug were certainly locally released birds (C. Laporte, *vide J. Laporte*). **Trumpeter Swan:** two imm. at Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides 10-14 Aug (M. Sokolyk, A. Gélinas, and LG. Gélinas) and 2 banded birds at Joutel 13-14 Aug (MA. Montpetit). One had a wing tag that was attached in Feb 2009 near Hamilton, ON. This species has now been seen annually for the past 6 years. **Ruddy Duck:** one at Cap-de-Bon-Désir 16-19 Jun was considered a local rarity (M. Maury). **Pacific Loon:** an ad. in definitive plumage at Neuville 16 Jun (F. Grenon et al.). **Northern Fulmar:** one at Saint-Fulgence 4 Jun, the first in summer for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region (C. Cormier). **Greater Shearwater:** 150 at sea off the Magdalen Is. 5 Jul (G. Cyr, G. Éthier et al.). **Sooty Shearwater:** 25 at sea off the Magdalen Is. 5 Jul (G. Cyr, G. Éthier et al.). **Manx Shearwater:** seen quite regularly along the North Shore in Aug, with a max of 4 off Cap-de-Bon-Désir 17 Aug (S. Belleau). **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 4 off Tadoussac 27 Jul (R. Pintiaux). **American White Pelican:** one at Lac Duparquet 15 Jul (P. Cadieux et al.) and 6 birds reported singly in Aug from widely separated localities. **Magnificent Frigatebird:** 2 reports possibly involving this species were received, the first from Île Verte 2 Jun (R. Gaudreault) and the second from Sept-Îles 9 Jun (JF. Laporte). **Little Blue Heron:** an ad. was seen at Trois-Rivières 18-21 Jul (J. Bénin, M. Bisson, m. obs.), while a juv. turned up at Irlande 12-24 Aug (A. Boucher, ph. C. Leclerc). **Cattle Egret:** one at Saint-Vallier 5 Jun (A. Baron). **Black Vulture:** one at Baie-Saint-Paul 22 Aug (I. Deschênes). **Bald Eagle:** good concentration in Jun, e.g. 22 along the St. Lawrence between Deschaillons and Neuville 19 Jun (C. Roy), and 11 at Gaspé 22 Jun (O. Deruelle).

Willet: 2 at Métabetchouan 3 Jul were out of place and date (ph. D. Sangster); one at Barachois 12 Jul was more expected (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). **Whimbrel:** one at Varennes 25-27 Jul, a local rarity (S. Lamoureux, M. Thibeault). **Marbled Godwit:** one at Sainte-Flavie 11-23 Aug (C. Gagné, S. de la Durantaye). **Wilson's Phalarope:** one at Baie-Comeau 5 Jun (Y. Rouillard). **Red Phalarope:** a female at Saint-Gédéon 13 Jun, rare in Jun (C. Cormier, G. Savard). **Sabine's Gull:** single ads at Yamachiche 14 Jun (A. Rasmussen), Portneuf 16 Jun (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur), and Tadoussac 23 Aug (R. Pintiaux). **Ross's Gull:** a 2nd summer bird discovered at Neuville 16 Jun, 8th record for the province and the 4th in Jun (R. Dion et al.). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** well in evidence throughout the province with a peak count of 23 imm. at Rivière Saint-Jean 4 Jul (C. Buidin, Y. Rochepault). **Long-tailed Jaeger:** this species has a history of irregular appearance in Jun. This year, single ads were found at Les Escoumins 13 Jun (N. Boucher, J. Bernier, ph. JG. Beaulieu), Saint-Fulgence 14 Jun (G. Savard), Tadoussac

attardés à Neuville 14-16 juin (S. Deladurantaye et al., pl.obs.)

Tourterelle à ailes blanches: une photographiée à Ville-Marie 19-22 juillet (ph. J. Fréchette). **Harfang des neiges:** 2 ont passé l'été aux IDLM (*vide* A. Richard) tandis qu'un était à Percé début juillet (*vide* P. Poulin). **Chouette lapone:** une à l'île Verte 3 juin (R. Gaudreault, D. Boulet). **Engoulevent bois-pourri:** un couple trouvé à La Doré 13-16 juin, première mention au Lac-St-Jean depuis 2001 (M. Larouche, pl.obs.)

Martinet ramoneur: de bonnes concentrations à certains dortoirs: 869 individus à Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 1er juin (A. Beauchamp), 308 à Bromont 1er juin (L. Lacroix, F. Mallette et al.), 53 à Magog 31 juillet (B. Turgeon) et 108 à Lennoxville 27 août (C. Dufresne). **Pic à ventre roux:** un mâle à Sherbrooke 3-4 juin (S. Brûlotte); mâle et femelle présents à Danville début juin (G. Lacroix). **Tyrann des savanes:** un à Cap Tourmente 13 août (ph. J. Normandeau et al.). **Troglodyte de Caroline:** des oiseaux solitaires à Québec 21 juillet (D. Campeau), Pointe-des-Cascades 13 août (P. Bannon), île des Soeurs tout l'été (P. Bannon) et Hudson 25 août (W. Grubert). **Troglodyte à bec court:** un égaré au Bic 22 juin-10 juillet (J. Munro, ph. G. Proulx). **Moqueur polyglotte:** bien en évidence cet été avec de nombreux cas de nidification.

Paruline à ailes bleues: 2 à Huntingdon en juin (Le Duing Lang et al.). **Paruline à ailes dorées:** en plus des 2 Parulines à ailes bleues, 18 Parulines à ailes dorées et 3 Parulines de Brewster furent recensées à Huntingdon en juin (Le Duing Lang et al.). De plus, 4 oiseaux furent découverts à Kazabazua en juin (C. Savignac et al.). **Paruline des prés:** un mâle chanteur à Frelighsburg 25 juin (ph. S. Beaudette). **Paruline à gorge grise:** 4 nids repérés à Normandin en juin (J. Ibarzabal et al.). Un oiseau chanteur était aussi à Bergeronnes 11 juin, au même endroit que l'été dernier (ph. J.G. Beaulieu). **Paruline du Canada:** 23 mâles chanteurs au Mont Sutton 21 juin représentaient des nouvelles encourageantes pour cette espèce en déclin (R. Guillet).

Tohi à flancs roux: un oiseau égaré à D'Alembert 10 juillet (L. & N. Ouimet). **Bruant des plaines:** signalé dans 9 localités différentes en juin. **Bruant à joues marron:** un à Longue-Rive 23 août (R. Lepage, R. Jones, *vide* M. Robert). **Bruant noir et blanc:** un mâle à L'Anse-au-Griffon 17 juin (ph. J. Lacasse). **Bruant de Nelson:** un à Châteauguay 3 juin, une rareté locale (L. d'Amours). **Passerin indigo:** 2 à Chandler 2 juin (R. Garrett) et un mâle à Chibougamau 10 août étaient au nord de leur aire de nidification (M. MacKinnon).

Sturnelle de l'Ouest: 2 mâles chanteurs furent découverts dans l'ouest de la province en juin; le premier à Isle-aux-Alumettes 4 juin (V. Létourneau) fut revu le 23 juin (R. Bisson et al.), tandis que le 2e trouvé 21 juin à Onslow-Corner (D. Morin) fut revu jusqu'au 1er juillet (R. Bisson et al.). **Carouge à tête jaune:** une femelle vue au parc Yamaska 1er juillet (M. Berlinguette) et un mâle à Danville 5 août (A. Maire). **Oriole des vergers:** une femelle accompagnée d'un mâle de 1ère année fut découverte 24 juin à Philipsburg (C. Auchu, C. Girard); le 30 juin et le 1er juillet, 4 oiseaux - incluant le couple précédent ainsi qu'un oisillon fraîchement sorti du nid et un mâle adulte - furent repérés au même endroit. Il s'agit de la 3e mention de nidification connue dans la province (J.G. Papineau, pl.obs., ph. G. Éthier). **Pinson des arbres:**

18 Jun (M. Moisan, R. Pintiaux), while 2 lingered at Neuville 14-16 Jun (S. Deladurantaye et al., m.obs.)

White-winged Dove: one photographed at Ville-Marie 19-22 Jul (ph. J. Fréchette). **Snowy Owl:** 2 summered in the Magdalen Is (*vide* A. Richard) while one was at Percé in early Jul (*vide* P. Poulin). **Great Gray Owl:** one at Île Verte 3 Jun (R. Gaudreault, D. Boulet). **Whip-poor-will:** a pair was found at La Doré 13-16 Jun, first for the Lac Saint-Jean area since 2001 (M. Larouche, m.obs.)

Chimney Swift: good concentration at some roosts; 869 at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 1 Jun (A. Beauchamp), 308 at Bromont 1 Jun (L. Lacroix, F. Mallette et al.), 53 at Magog 31 Jul (B. Turgeon), 108 at Lennoxville 27 Aug (C. Dufresne). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** a male at Sherbrooke 3-4 Jun (S. Brûlotte), male and female seen at Danville in early Jun (G. Lacroix). **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** one graced Cap Tourmente 13 Aug (ph. J. Normandeau et al.). **Carolina Wren:** singles at Québec City 21 Jul (D. Campeau), Pointe-des-Cascades 13 Aug (P. Bannon), Île des Soeurs 20 Aug (P. Bannon), and Hudson 25 Aug (W. Grubert). **Sedge Wren:** one was out of range at Bic 22 Jun-10 Jul (J. Munro, ph. G. Proulx). **Northern Mockingbird:** well in evidence this summer with numerous breeding reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 in the Huntingdon area in Jun (Le Duing Lang et al.). **Golden-winged Warbler:** in addition to the 2 Blue-winged Warblers, 18 Golden-winged Warblers and 3 "Brewster's Warblers" were tallied in the Huntingdon area in Jun (Le Duing Lang et al.). In addition, 4 Golden-winged Warblers were discovered at Kazabazua in Jun (C. Savignac et al.). **Prairie Warbler:** a male was singing at Frelighsburg 25 Jun (ph. S. Beaudette). **Connecticut Warbler:** 4 nests were discovered at Normandin in Jun (J. Ibarzabal et al.). A singing bird was also at Bergeronnes 11 Jun at the same location where one had been seen last summer (ph. J.G. Beaulieu). **Canada Warbler:** 23 singing birds on Mount-Sutton 21 Jun was encouraging news for this species of special concern (R. Guillet).

Eastern Towhee: one was out of range at D'Alembert 10 Jul (L. & N. Ouimet). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** reported from 9 different localities in Jun. **Lark Sparrow:** one at Longue-Rive 23 Aug (R. Lepage, R. Jones, *vide* M. Robert). **Lark Bunting:** a male at l'Anse-au-Griffon 17 Jun (ph. J. Lacasse). **Nelson's Sparrow:** one at Châteauguay 3 Jun (L. d'Amours). **Indigo Bunting:** 2 at Chandler 2 Jun (R. Garrett) and a male at Chibougamau 10 Aug were well north of their range (M. MacKinnon).

Western Meadowlark: 2 singing males were discovered in western Québec; the first at Isle-aux-Alumettes 4 Jun (V. Létourneau) was seen again 23 Jun (R. Bisson et al.), while the second discovered 21 Jun at Onslow-Corner (D. Morin) was seen until 1 Jul (R. Bisson et al.). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** a female seen in Yamaska Park 1 Jul (M. Berlinguette) and a male at Danville 5 Aug (A. Maire). **Orchard Oriole:** a female accompanied by a 1st year male were discovered 24 Jun at Philipsburg (C. Auchu, C. Girard); on 30 Jun and 1 Jul, 4 birds, including the former pair, plus a fledgling and an ad. male were seen in the same spot. This represents the 3rd known breeding record in the province (J.G. Papineau, m.obs., ph. G. Éthier). **Chaffinch:** a male

un mâle présent à Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 24 juin-15 juillet (D. Hamel, pl.obs.). Il s'agissait d'une 4^e présence cette année dans la province. **Chardonneret élégant:** des oiseaux solitaires de sous-espèce indéterminée signalés à Saint-Donat (Bas St. Laurent) 2 juin (F. Boily, A. Kemp) et à Chapais 5 juillet (A. Riverin). Deux oiseaux de la sous-espèce *caniceps* ont visité une mangeoire à Frelighsburg 13 juillet (ph. Y. & S. Cardinal), puis 2 autres de la même sous-espèce étaient signalés à Chibougamau 29 juillet (A. Riverin); enfin un dernier à Saint-Germain-Boulé 3-5 août (M. Bégin). Il y a peu de doute que ces oiseaux aient été relâchés localement, mais leur dispersion assez remarquable à travers la province demeure intrigante.

was present at Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 24 Jun-15 Jul (D. Hamel, m.obs.). This was the 4th record this year for the province. **European Goldfinch:** single birds of undetermined subspecies were reported at Saint-Donat (Lower St. Lawrence) 2 Jun (F. Boily, A. Kemp) and at Chapais 5 Jul (A. Riverin). Two birds of the subspecies *caniceps* visited a Frelighsburg feeder 13 Jul (ph. Y. & S. Cardinal) while 2 more birds of the same subspecies were reported at Chibougamau 29 Jul (A. Riverin) and another at Saint-Germain-Boulé 3-5 Aug (M. Bégin). There is little doubt that all these birds were locally released, but the extent of their dispersal throughout the province is intriguing.

The Winter Finch (and Others) Forecast 2009 - 2010

This article focuses on Ontario. However, we thought that this well-known forecast would very much interest BPQ members as most of these predictions will likely apply to our Quebec birds. Ron Pittaway, the author, is a life member of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and a past editor of Ontario Birds. Previous forecasts can be accessed at www.ofo.ca/reportsandarticles/winterfinches.php.

– The Song Sparrow Editorial Team

The theme this winter is there will be no major finch irruptions outside their normal ranges. Finch numbers will be low and thinly distributed or absent in southern and northeastern Ontario and Quebec, where seed crops are poor.

The key tree species in Ontario's boreal forest triggering finch movements and distribution are white and black spruces, white birch, and mountain-ashes. South of the boreal forest in the mixed coniferous/deciduous forest region, white pine and hemlock are additional key finch trees. Other trees play a lesser role in finch movements, but often buffer main seed sources. These include tamarack, balsam fir, red pine, white cedar, alders, and yellow birch.

Pine Grosbeak: Expect very little or no southward movement into southern Ontario because mountain-ash berry crops are excellent in most of the boreal forest.

Purple Finch: Most Purple Finches should migrate south out of the province this fall because many seed crops are poor in the north. This finch has declined significantly in recent decades.

Red Crossbill: This crossbill comprises at least 10 "call types" in North America. Each type has its cone preferences related to bill size and shape. The types are exceedingly difficult to identify in the field. Red Crossbill types other than Type 2 (white pine specialist) are possible in Ontario.

White-winged Crossbill: This crossbill has no subspecies or types in North America. In Ontario, it prefers the small soft cones of white, black and red spruces and hemlock. White-winged Crossbills will be rare or absent this winter in traditional areas such as Algonquin Park because spruce and hemlock cone crops are low.

Common and Hoary Redpolls: Redpolls are a birch seed specialist in winter. Since the birch crop is poor in northeastern Ontario and Quebec, a few Common Redpolls should move south into southern Ontario and farther east and south.

Pine Siskin: Siskins are a conifer seed specialist when they winter in northern Ontario. Hemlock seed is another

favourite in central Ontario. Most siskins departed the province early this past summer and appear to have gone mainly to western Canada. Banding recoveries show that siskins wander both ways between eastern and western North America. Siskins are currently very scarce in the Northeast. If siskins find good conifer crops in the Northwest, such as the interior of British Columbia, they will stay to winter and breed.

Evening Grosbeak: Breeding populations are much lower now than 35 years ago due mainly to a decrease of large outbreaks of spruce budworm beginning in the 1980s. A very few grosbeaks may move south from northeastern Ontario and Quebec where coniferous and deciduous seed supplies are generally poor.

Northern Goshawk: A good flight is very possible this fall or next. Goshawks in the boreal forest in winter prey on hares, grouse and Red Squirrels. Snowshoe Hares have been abundant in parts of northern Ontario the past few years and they should crash soon. Also, Ruffed Grouse likely had a poor breeding season due to a cool, wet spring and summer, which lowered chick survival.

Blue Jay: The flight began in the second week of September. This year's flight is much larger than in 2008 along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie because most acorn, beechnut and hazelnut crops were poor this summer in Ontario with some local exceptions. Many fewer jays will winter in Ontario because most could not find enough food to store.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Movements of this nuthatch in Ontario are linked to cone crop abundance, particularly white spruce, white pine and balsam fir when bumper. There has not been a noticeable southward movement along Lakes Ontario and Erie, indicating this is not an irruption year for it and associated winter finches such as White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins. Many nuthatches likely dispersed to better cone crops north and west of Lake Superior and east to the Maritime Provinces.

Bohemian Waxwing: Like the Pine Grosbeak, this waxwing is a mountain-ash berry specialist in winter. Mountain-ash crops are high around Lake Superior and in many areas of northern Ontario. Crops are also good in Quebec, so this nomad may show up this winter.

Ron Pittaway

Field Trip Diaries

- 20/05/09** **EVENING FIELD TRIP: HUDSON, QC** **Leader: Barbara MacDuff**
Cloudy with strong winds 6 birders 20 species
Bird of the Evening: Bobolink
Other Birds of Note: Merlin, Tree Swallow, Eastern Meadowlark (heard only)
-
- 25/07/09** **SUMMER SERIES TRIP #5: YAMACHICHE & MASKINONGÉ, QC** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Cloudy with sunny periods & breezy 7 birders 57 species
Bird of the Day: American Bittern
Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, Great Egret, Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Black Tern, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Marsh Wren, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird
-
- 02/08/09** **SUMMER SERIES TRIP #6: MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY, MONTREAL, QC** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Cloudy & windy 14 birders 26 species
Bird of the Day: Eastern Bluebird
Other Birds of Note: Cooper's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Chimney Swift, House Wren, Common Raven, Rose-breasted Grosbeak
-
- 09/08/09** **SUMMER SERIES TRIP #7: EASTERN ONTARIO SEWAGE LAGOONS, ON** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Cloudy with sunny periods 18 birders 56 species
Birds of the Day: Ruddy Duck, Indigo Bunting
Other Birds of Note: 11 duck species, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart
-
- 16/08/09** **SUMMER SERIES TRIP #8: STE-MARTINE/MERCIER/MAPLE GROVE/ST-ETIENNE/ST-TIMOTHÉE, QC** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Hot and humid 7 birders 51 species
Bird of the Day: Bobolink
Other Birds of Note: American Kestrel, Caspian Tern, Purple Martin, Bank Swallow, Indigo Bunting
-
- 22/08/09** **SUMMER SERIES TRIP #9: PARC DE LA VISITATION, MONTREAL, QC** **Leader: Joël Coutu**
Hot and humid 18 birders 35 species
Bird of the Day: Blackburnian Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo (seen only by Joël)
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole
-
- 29/08/09** **COOPER MARSH, SOUTH LANCASTER, ON** **Leader: Martin Bowman**
Windy, 16°C, overcast 3 birders 22 species
Bird of the Day: Osprey
Other Birds of Note: American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Merlin, Ruby-throated Hummingbird
-
- 05/09/09** **PARC-NATURE DU BOIS DE L'ÎLE-BIZARD, ÎLE BIZARD, QC** **Leader: Felix Hilton**
Warm, sunny 22 birders 46 species
Birds of the Day: Merlin, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks
Other Birds of Note: Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Swainson's Thrush, House and Marsh Wrens, Blackpoll Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak
-
- 12/09/09** **HUDSON, QC** **Leader: Barbara MacDuff**
Clear, sunny & mild 8 birders 44 species
Birds of the Day: Several raptors, Great Egret
Other Birds of Note: Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, Northern Shoveler, Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks, Merlin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker

Field Trip Diaries compiled by Sheldon Harvey



Jim Houghton Memorial Spring Warbler Walks Summit Park, Westmount, 2009

21/04/09 **Weather:** Cold, windy and rainy 5 observers 14 species
Birds of Note: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco

28/05/09 **Weather:** Sunny, light wind, few clouds 16 observers 35 species
Birds of Note: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, 5 warbler species (Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Pine, Black-and-White), 3 sparrow species (Chipping, Song, White-throated), Purple Finch

05/05/09 **Weather:** Sunny, cool, light wind 25 observers 30 species
Birds of Note: Merlin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, 4 warbler species (Nashville, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped), Chipping, Song and White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin

12/05/09 **Weather:** Sunny, bright 22 observers 39 species
Birds of note: E. Screech Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Blue-headed Vireo, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, 10 warbler species (Nashville, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Ovenbird), Chipping Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Pine Siskin

19/05/09 **Weather:** Sunny, no wind 12 observers 29 species
Birds of Note: Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, 6 warbler species (Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, American Redstart), Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting

26/05/09 **Weather:** Sunny, warm, light breeze 20 observers 33 species
Birds of Note: E. Screech Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, E. Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, 8 warbler species (Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Canada), Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole

Compiled by Kyra Emo



Chuck Kling

Don't Leave This Little Marsh Wren Hanging!

Please renew your BPQ membership today, and remember that renewal is a good opportunity to update your member profile. BPQ relies solely on volunteers to carry out its numerous functions and you can help! It is the enthusiasm and talent of our members that make BPQ an active and vital voice in the bird world.

The renewal notice also includes an option to make a tax-deductible contribution to BPQ. Support from members is a key source of funding for our conservation and education programs. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past. We truly appreciate your support. **Sharon Veysey**

Please note: Thank you to Chuck Kling for this wonderful photo. *The Song Sparrow* team is always looking for fresh material, so please send your photos to mHUDSON@videotron.ca!



Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

Coordinators: Martin Bowman, 613-347-1655; Wayne Grubert, 450-458-5498

Saturday 7 November - samedi 7 novembre

PARC-NATURE DE LA POINTE-AUX-PRAIRIES, QC

Leaders:

**Jean Demers &
Clémence Soulard**
514-694-8240
jeandemers@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM Take Hwy 40 East to the exit for Gouin Blvd (Exit 92). Turn left (west) on Gouin Blvd and follow it for 1.9 km, looking for the blue signs indicating "Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies." The parking lot is located at the *Pavillon des Marais* section of the park, at 12,300 Gouin Blvd East. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**
8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 40 est, prendre la sortie pour le boul. Gouin (sortie 92). Tourner à gauche, direction ouest, sur le boul. Gouin. Continuer sur Gouin sur une distance de 1,9 km jusqu'au panneau bleu indiquant l'entrée du Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies. Le stationnement est situé au Pavillon des marais, 12 300 boul. Gouin Est. Frais de stationnement : 7,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 14 November - samedi 14 novembre

PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES, QC

Leader:

Wayne Grubert
450-458-5498
wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 AM Take Hwy 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd). Continue for 2 km to the *chalet d'accueil* of the park. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**
8h00 Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin). Tourner à droite sur Senneville et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 7,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 21 November - samedi 21 novembre

BOISÉ PAPINEAU, LAVAL, QC

Leader:

Chuck Kling
514-277-2567
chuckk@videotron.ca

8:00 AM From Hwy 40 (Metropolitan Blvd) take exit for Papineau Ave. north (Hwy 19). Cross bridge into Laval. At the third exit take St. Martin east for approx. 1.5 km. On the left are a police garage and a community centre. Take the lane between them to a parking area at the back. **Half day.**
8h00 De l'autoroute 40 (boul. Métropolitain) prendre la sortie Papineau nord (rte 19). Traverser le pont qui mène à Laval. À la 3ème sortie, prendre le boul. Saint-Martin est et continuer sur une distance d'environ 1,5 km. À gauche se trouvent un garage de police et un centre communautaire. Prendre la ruelle entre les deux édifices et continuer jusqu'au stationnement situé à l'arrière. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 28 November - samedi 28 novembre

MORGAN ARBORETUM - ARBORETUM MORGAN, QC

Leader:

Betsy McFarlane
514-457-9315
betsy.mcfarlane@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM From Montreal take Hwy 40 west. Take exit 44 (Morgan Blvd). Turn left on Chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. **Half day.**
8h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement principal, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 5 December - samedi 5 decembre

CASSELMAN AND STE-ROSE-DE-PRESCOTT, EASTERN ON - JOINT TRIP WITH CLUB DE MIROISE DE L'EST ONTARIEN

Leader:

Jacques Bouvier
613-524-1154
bouvier@magma.ca

8:30 AM Meet in the parking lot of the Tim Hortons in Casselman, Ontario. From Montreal, take Hwy 40 to the Ontario border. Continue on Hwy 417 to Exit 66 (Casselman). From the exit, continue north towards Casselman for a short distance. Tim Hortons is on the right as you head north. This will be mostly a driving trip with the possibility of a couple of short walks. Looking for Snowy Owl, Horned Lark and other winter birds of open country as well as other winter residents. **Half day.**
8h30 Rassemblement au Tim Hortons à Casselman, Ontario. Emprunter l'autoroute 40 jusqu'à la frontière avec l'Ontario. Poursuivre sur l'autoroute 417 jusqu'à la sortie 66 (Casselman). À la sortie, continuer vers le nord en direction de Casselman sur une courte distance. Le Tim Hortons sera à votre droite. Excursion en voiture principalement, avec la possibilité de faire quelques courtes randonnées. Espèces recherchées : Harfang des neiges, Alouette hausse-col et autres oiseaux d'hiver se tenant dans des endroits à découvert en plus des résidents. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, December 12 - samedi 12 décembre

PARC RÉGIONAL DE LONGUEUIL & ST. HUBERT AIRPORT, QC

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

8:00 AM Meet in the parking lot of Parc régional de Longueuil, entrance off Jean-Paul Vincent Blvd, Longueuil. After the Champlain Bridge, take Hwy 132 East (direction Longueuil/Varennes). Continue on Hwy 132 East to Exit 11 - Roland-Therrien Blvd. Take Exit 11, which puts you heading south on Roland-Therrien Blvd. Follow Roland-Therrien Blvd a short distance to Fernand-Lafontaine Blvd. Turn left (you can only turn left!) onto Fernand-Lafontaine Blvd. Follow Fernand-Lafontaine Blvd to the second major intersection, which will be Jean-Paul-Vincent Blvd. Turn right on Jean-Paul-Vincent Blvd. On your right, a short distance along, you will see the entrance to the park, clearly marked with signs. Turn right into the park and follow the road to the parking lot on the left, which will be our meeting point. Parking is free and there is no admission fee to access the park. Washroom facilities are available at a few locations in the park.

Half day.

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement, à l'entrée du Parc régional de Longueuil, entrée boul. Jean-Paul-Vincent à Longueuil. Après avoir traversé le pont Champlain, prendre la route 132 en direction est vers Longueuil et Varennes. Continuer sur la 132 jusqu'à la sortie 11 pour le boul. Roland-Therrien. Celle-ci mène au boul. Roland-Therrien, en direction sud. De là, continuer sur une courte distance jusqu'au boul. Fernand-Lafontaine. Tourner à gauche sur celui-ci (seule possibilité !) et continuer jusqu'à la deuxième intersection principale, où vous tournerez à droite sur le boul. Jean-Paul-Vincent. À partir de là, rouler sur une courte distance avant de remarquer sur la droite, l'entrée du parc, clairement indiquée. Prendre cette entrée et continuer jusqu'au stationnement, situé à gauche. Le stationnement est gratuit et il n'y a aucun frais d'entrée pour le parc. On retrouve des toilettes publiques en quelques endroits sur le site. **Demi-journée.**

Trip Advice - De rigueur pour les excursions



André Pelletier

Transportation: Contact the leader or the Songsparrow email group if you need or can offer a lift.

Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather check with the leader.

Clothing: Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear, even if the day seems mild and dry.

Food: Bring plenty to eat and drink, even on half-day trips.

Transport : Téléphoner au responsable ou contacter le groupe Songsparrow pour faire du covoiturage.

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

Habillement : Vêtements chauds et bottes imperméables sont toujours de rigueur.

Nourriture : Toujours prévoir une collation et quelque chose à boire.

Report on the 6th annual Summer Series of Birding

I'm pleased to report on the results of the 6th year of summer field trips held between June 27 and August 22, 2009. Nine trips were held this summer, visiting St-Hubert/Carignan, Philipsburg/St-Armand, the Montreal Botanical Gardens, Pointe de Yamachiche, Mount Royal Cemetery, the eastern Ontario sewage lagoons, Ste-Martine/Mercier/Maple Grove/St-Etienne/St-Timothée, and Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation. While it seemed like everyone was complaining about the lousy summer weather this season, we were seriously rained on only once, during the first trip of the summer.

A total of 113 species of birds were seen throughout the summer; an average of 45 species per trip. Each trip attracted an average of 10 participants. The most productive trip, species-wise, was our visit to Philipsburg and St-Armand, Qc, on July 4 where 62 species were seen. Six of the nine trips had species counts of 45 or more.

Four species were added this year to our Summer Series master list of species seen. They were Snow Goose, Wild Turkey, Yellow-throated Vireo and Blackburnian Warbler. Over the six years of Summer Series trips, we now have a total of 161 species. There were only six species of birds which were seen on all nine field trips this summer. They were American Crow, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the summer trips. I'd especially like to thank Joël Coutu who led our final trip of the summer to Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation. I look forward to another year of summer birding in 2010.

Sheldon Harvey

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