

The Song Sparrow

Newsletter of Bird Protection Quebec
Bulletin de la Protection des oiseaux du Québec



Volume 51 Number 5

April 2009

GreenBirding: a Montreal Initiative Goes Global

In our understandable desire to see far away birds and other wild creatures in their natural habitats, we have all expended energy and added to greenhouse gas emissions over the years. Many people now find that this is no longer as acceptable as it once was and are discovering that, by birding locally and traveling by human-power alone, we can minimise our contribution to climate change while really coming to know and appreciate the birds and other lives we live with and amongst.

This was the basic idea behind the original BIGBY challenge. BIGBY, derived from Big Green Big Year, is now starting to pop up in other contexts as a shorthand word for GreenBirding. The idea is not new, but as a mass movement it was conceived here in Montreal and then took us all by surprise when it was taken up by almost 500 people in 14 countries; a friendly and low-key gathering together of like-minded birders concerned to varying degrees about the effect their activities have on the environment. This is a friendly activity that seems appropriate in these days of carbon emissions and climate change. If you have ever felt even a tiny bit guilty about driving or flying to see a good bird (or several), you can easily join

us in a year of carbon-neutral birding!

During 2008, many GreenBirders shared their experiences with each other via an on-line forum moderated by the BIGBY coordinator in Montreal. A lot of them made it abundantly clear that while

chase elusive rarities. So far, local, carbon-neutral birding hasn't solved the planet's climate problems but it *has* served to focus those who have taken part in something practical that we can all do to help. It has unveiled a wealth of unsuspectedly good birding on our home patches.

Of special Montreal interest is that the 2008 Baillie Birdathon run by the McGill Bird Observatory was organized on GreenBirding principles with all participants spending the day on foot around the Arboretum. They recorded very nearly 100 species on that one day - not over the 365-day year, but on *one single day*. Pretty wonderful isn't it? In 2009, the plan is to break that century barrier.

GreenBirding is *not* a membership organisation, nor does it have any pretence to grow into one. Rather, it is simply somewhere for people with similar interests and an urge to minimize our impact on the planet to keep in touch with each other. No memberships, no fees, no pressure. A register of GreenBirders has been set up which acts as a clearing house for information and ideas and helps to put individuals in touch with other like-minded wildlifers, because, of course, this approach to studying the local wildlife is not confined to birds alone.

Continued on page 4...



Sue Bishop

Proving that you can find interesting birds locally, this Red-bellied Woodpecker shares BPQ's feeder at the Morgan Arboretum with a Black-capped Chickadee.

everyone was having a lot of fun and doing some excellent birding, they discovered that, despite some initial skepticism, there was a lot more fascinating birding (and wildlife watching in general) to be done on our own doorsteps than most of us ever suspected. Many had hitherto simply not been aware of the lives lived close-by while frantically heading over the hills and far away in a cloud of exhaust fumes to

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Message From Our President

As birders polish their binocs and listen to birdsong recordings in preparation for the return of our migrating birds, Bird Protection Quebec also prepares for reflection and renewal with its annual reports and Annual General Meeting, coming up on 11 May 2009. It's an important event in the life of the Society and I urge our members to attend.

There is always a lot to reflect upon after a year of busy BPQ activity. In 2008-09, amongst many other things, we finished up the final cataloguing of the archives and held the first Big Green Year of Birding. The Conservation Committee has been revived and reorganized and the Sanctuaries Committee has visited almost all our sanctuaries, some of them for the first time in many years. This, in addition to our usual business of field trips, monthly meetings, school and library visits, citizen science projects, and bird counts.

A big change this year has been the conversion of our beloved newsletter, *The Song Sparrow*, to electronic form. Some members have elected to continue to receive the printed format, but most have accepted the contemporary and green solution of the email version. Congratulations to Marie-Anne Hudson and the Communications Committee for effecting the change so smoothly.

At the Annual General Meeting in May, my two-year term as President will be over. Jeff Harrison, currently First Vice-President, is on the Nominating Committee's slate to become President and I hope and expect he will be elected in May. I have enjoyed my two years as President, but I know the Society will be in good hands under Jeff's leadership. I speak for all the members when I wish him, the new Executive and Board members and indeed the entire Society, best wishes for the coming years.

Good birding,



Put on Your Party Hats: Annual General Meeting Monday 11 May 2009 at 7:30 PM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of BPQ will be held Monday 11 May 2009 at 7:30 PM at the Knox Crescent Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG. Members will be elected to the Board of Directors (see slate at http://www.pqspb.org/newsletters/biographies_51-5.pdf), so make sure you attend!

All members are invited to the end-of-year party following the AGM. Come and celebrate this year's accomplishments. The party will begin immediately following the business of the AGM. There will be lots of good things to eat and drink, music, another one of Martin's amazing quizzes and very congenial company. Be sure to be there!

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to new members Edward Bilodeau, St. Lambert; Rosalie & Marcus Foyle, Pierrefonds; Anne Tittler, Montreal. We hope to see you on field trips and at monthly meetings. Introduce yourself to the meeting greeter; we want to get to know you!

Evening Field Trips with Peter Mitchell

Further to the announcement in the February newsletter (Vol. 51-4) that the John Abbott College course BIRD WATCHING will be given again this spring, Peter Mitchell has confirmed that the associated evening field trips will be from 6:00-8:00 PM on Tuesdays, and that graduates of the course from previous years are most welcome to attend.

The field trip schedule is as follows:

April 7 – Île Perrot	May 5 – Cap St-Jacques Nature Park
April 14 – Parc des Rapides, LaSalle	May 12 – Morgan Arboretum/MBO
April 21 – Île Perrot	May 19 – Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park
April 28 – Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park	May 26 – Hudson (Finnegan's Market)

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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Bird Protection Quebec/PQSPB is a registered charity.

Registration # 11925 2161 RR0001.

All donations are tax deductible.

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The Song Sparrow ISSN 1710-3371
Legal Deposit: National Library and Archives of Canada

Publication Mail No. 40044323

Deadline for the next newsletter:
July 20, 2009

Education

The Education Committee is taking a group of children to Baie-du-Febvre to observe the arrival of Snow Geese on April 19. Your help would be greatly appreciated, so don't be shy!

Volunteers will also be needed in May to help with birding activities at St. John Fisher School in Pointe-Claire and St. Remi School in Beaconsfield. A trip to the Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park is planned for May as a culmination of classroom activities.

The deadline for the Doug Tarry's Young Ornithologists Workshop this August is approaching. If you know a young person who is interested in birds, please submit his/her name. The Education Committee has funds available to help with transportation costs. For more information, contact Barbara MacDuff at barb.macduff@sympatico.ca.

It was a snowy but mild day at Beaconsfield's Winterfest. BPQ's volunteers introduced many young families to the joys of birding through the use of telescopes and by helping youngsters make bird feeders to take home. Thanks to the following who volunteered their time on this day: Mark Brenchley, Sophie Cauchon, Judy Collinge, Averill Craig, Jean Demers, Gay and Peter Gruner, David Mulholland, Chris Murphy, André Pelletier and Clémence Soulard.



Gay Gruner

A birder-to-be watches a Pileated Woodpecker at Winterfest.

Birding and Paddling on the Kiamika: June 12 - 14

Located about 35 km northeast of Mont Laurier is the Kiamika Reservoir, a site of outstanding beauty and significant biological diversity. The central island on the lake, île de la Perdrix Blanche, is recognized as an exceptional forest ecosystem by the ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The Kiamika hosts a variety of northern species with many breeding warblers, terns, water birds and, of course, Bald Eagles.

The trip will begin on the reservoir where we will camp on one of the islands; the next day will be spent paddling around, fishing, swimming and doing a bit of whitewater paddling instruction. The next day we will head downriver where we can expect to see herons, kingfishers, mergansers, hawks and an eagle or two. Warbler song will serenade us from the banks. The river has class I and II rapids but is easily paddled by anyone with basic-intermediate canoeing skills. There is one portage. For more details, please contact trip leader Alison Bentley at 450-458-8076 or alison.bentley@sympatico.ca.

Big Sit 2009

Want to take a break from all those spring chores? Want to sharpen your birding skills from a relaxed, leisurely position? Why not try our "Big Sit" competition this year? It's lots of fun and the rules are very simple:

- ✎ Set aside one hour over the long weekend in May (16,17,18)
- ✎ Pick a location (no geographical restrictions)
- ✎ Bird by yourself or with a group
- ✎ Record all species seen or heard

Submit your list, the time and coordinates of your "sit" and any interesting anecdotes by mail to Wayne Grubert, 67 Mount Victoria, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0, or by email to wgrubert@hotmail.com. Our cumulative total over 12 years is 197 species, proving that good things come to those who "sit" and wait. Who will give us species number 200? It could come from your own back yard!

What's all this Baillie-hoo?

Want to have a lot of fun and help birds at the same time? Do a Baillie Birdathon this May! More than 7,000 people participate in and/or sponsor a Birdathon. During any 24-hour period in May, find as many bird species as you can, sponsored at a flat rate or on a per-species basis. Not only is it fun, but you can also designate a favourite conservation organization to receive a portion of the funds you raise. For more information or to register, contact Bird Studies Canada, 1-888-448-2473, or visit <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/brdathonsummary.html>.

McGill Bird Observatory Needs You!

Bird-banding and the observation that goes along with it provide a unique opportunity to learn about the timing and routing of migration, survival rates, social structures and population trends. McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) is gearing up for its spring migration, and we are in desperate need of censurers and observers who are willing to spend part or all of the morning with us - we need those experienced eyes! We also invite you to participate in the Baillie Birdathon or to pledge the MBO Baillie team. For more details, please visit www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html.

Marsh Monitoring Equipment for Loan

2009 marks the sixth year of the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program (QMMP), which is run by Bird Studies Canada (BSC), supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (Quebec Region). If you are a QMMP participant, this is a reminder that BPQ holds a CD player and portable speakers purchased by BSC to help participants do their surveys. If you live in the Montreal area, and would like to borrow this equipment for your own survey, please get in touch with: Averill Craig at 514-484-6575, ak.craig@sympatico.ca, or Mary Ellen Graham at 514-484-6261, marellgra@aol.com.

If you think you might be interested in joining the QMMP, which takes about 10 hours per season between late-May and early July, see the BSC website www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/qcmmp for more information.

Averill Craig and Mary Ellen Graham

GreenBirding cont'd from page 1...

GreenBirding is based on the idea of a Big Year in which you only count those species seen within walking or cycling distance of your home or principal place of work. As simple as that - no dashing off to the far corners of the planet burning fossil fuels as you go.

There are no prizes other than glory, but we do have fun, keep fit and maybe make a statement about what we value. There are almost no rules; those you see here are where we start from, but the community makes the rules as the year progresses: it's in your hands. There are two principal categories: The BIGBY and the Life-BIGBY.

BIGBY: To qualify for inclusion in a BIGBY or any of the sub-categories, birds must have been encountered as follows:

1) The birder will have been GreenBirding from a consistent base. Normally this will be the birders' home, place of work or other location they will usually be at during the count period.

2) The birder may move about their count area by any legitimate means of self-propulsion such as walking, cycling, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking - even horsebacking. The use of any powered vehicle is forbidden, with the sole exception of the occasional use of public ground or ferry transport. If public transport is used at all, then birds

counted should be included on a separate list to those seen by other means of transport. But also you can record...

Life-BIGBY (BIGBYLIFE): The same rules apply, but multiple base-locations may be included as you move from house to house during your life. This was added because we needed to be more flexible over a lifetime. *Note:* Because a Life-BIGBY is just that, a cumulative list built up over the years, the inclusion of vacation birds seen around the cottage, or in the vicinity of Granny's homestead, is going to be asked for (we get these questions already) but it is also somewhat controversial to go down that route. It's time to ask for the birding public's thoughts on this and to develop some guidelines. For the moment we will keep a BIGBYLIFE simply as a cumulative list of annual BIGBY scores, but if anyone can come up with an acceptable means to work in other variations, then let's hear it.

Many sub-categories can be played with. Choose your own, but the more obvious ones are perhaps:

1) The Big Green Day (BIGBYDAY), the Big Green Sit (BIGBYSIT) and any other similar achievements that birders can come up with. BIGBYDAY is a wonderful emissions-free alternative to the traditional "Big Day" which generally involves a lot of internal combustion.

2) The Big Green Circle (BIGRING), an ongoing self-propelled census in an area described by a circle of 15 km radius around the base. This idea was derived from the annual Christmas Bird Counts that most North American birders are familiar with.

As you can see, this is something positive that all birders can enjoy: you will find a lot of birds near your home base that you probably never knew existed and feel virtuous while ticking them off. Folks commonly ask: Can we really see enough birds to satisfy us? Indeed you can! The longest lists in 2008 came from birders in places such as California where lists of 250 or more species were not uncommon, but even here in Quebec, carbon-neutral lists of 120-150 species were regularly reported.

Many blogs and magazine or newspaper articles have appeared in recent months extolling GreenBirding. Here's a typical extract: *"For me, BIGBY captures the spirit of birding. I bird, because I love birds. BIGBY helps reduce my harmful impact on their environment, but more importantly helps me appreciate the birds that I see."*

You can do this too! Details at <http://www.sparrowworks.ca/greenbirding/> where you can also find the on-line registration form.

Richard Gregson

In Memoriam - Dr. John Summerby



John Summerby in 1964, Bruce Peninsula.

John Summerby, a keen and capable birder and one of the stalwarts of the PQSPB/BPQ in the 40s and 50s, died in London, Ontario on January 22, in his 86th year.

When my family moved to Senneville in 1950, we found that the Summerbys were our neighbours over the back fence. One day, John asked me if I'd like to join him for some birdwatching in Morgan's Woods (that's what we called the Arboretum). I had no idea what bird-watching was but was happy to join this pleasant, sophisticated man (he was 25 while I was all of 10) on a new adventure. At the time, John,

having graduated McGill in honours mathematics and physics, was studying medicine. He was a brilliant student. At any rate, after one brief outing, during which we saw an American

Kestrel and a Mourning Dove among other species, I was hooked. Not long after that outing I asked my friend Pete Mitchell to join John and me on another trip to Morgan's Woods, and Pete caught the same bug. John always enjoyed working with youngsters, both in birding and in sports, and on his death mourners were asked to make donations to the Memorial Boys and Girls Club in London.

I went on many PQSPB field trips with John, to La Prairie, Chambly, and Philipsburg as well as the Arboretum. I recall one of the other members saying that John was a "good field man" as indeed he was. He was a delight to be with. He was a PQSPB Director from 1952 - 1954.

He married Mary, another physician, and they moved to London where John practiced psychiatry. Their departure was a loss for the BPQ community. After his move to London we saw him at Macdonald High School reunions, and on a few occasions he attended BPQ monthly meetings, unannounced and sitting quietly at the back of the room.

John was a kind, thoughtful, knowledgeable, reserved person, much admired by all who knew him. He is survived by Mary, their five children and many grandchildren.

Bob Carswell

Speaker's Corner

They Kept Us Guessing

No score was kept, but if you missed it, we had a very vocal, interactive quiz with David Bird and Rodger Titman for our January 2009 meeting. Pairing, divorcing, feathers, feet, beaks, innards, colours and albinos: They trotted it all out in pictorial form.

Did you know that there is a period in the year when the Northern Cardinal's beak turns from black to red? Did you know that crested birds can raise their crests to indicate aggression or make them disappear? Did you know that American Black Ducks are in decline because the females find Mallards much more seductive than the same old Black Duck males? Think again about that flashy tie, boys.

What keeps chickadees going in this frigid weather? Is it fat, feathers or behaviour? Mostly the latter two as they seek shelter in warm places and can reduce their temperature at night, among other things. Albinos, Cactus birds, and African Zuzees were also thrown into the mix to throw us off course. Who was the non-ornithologist who wrote the classic text on Song Sparrows? Margaret Morse Nice and Rodger met her in 1903?! He really did meet her but the date may be wrong.

Are cats or chipmunks the most predatory animals for birds' nests? Ask someone who was there. Great Grey Owls are seen about every four years, following the cycles of small rodents. Feathers evolved for insulation not flight. Who divorces? Mute Swans and Canada Geese... but you likely didn't want to hear that or all that stuff about penises... or maybe you did.

Do you want more? What clever techniques come out of bird brains to protect their nests? Here are some that have been observed by larger brains: 1) build it on a cliff edge or hang it from the end of a branch of a thorny bush with the entrance on the bottom, 2) build it near a nest of really nasty stinging insects that are friendly to you, or seal yourself into it, 3) colonize and use bodyguards for protection, or keep moving and building more nests, and 4) make it look like its environment so no one notices it (they didn't account for dummies like us who may step on it).

There are 200 billion birds in the world, plus or minus a few. It was a most entertaining and fact-filled meeting presented by the inimitable Drs. Bird and Titman. Thanks again.

Gail Desnoyers

Seventy Years of Sanctuary

Richard Gregson, a Director of BPQ and Co-chair of its Sanctuaries Committee, took the February monthly meeting on a virtual tour of the reserves owned by BPQ. He prefaced his talk by highlighting that land acquisition and management sets BPQ apart from all the other bird clubs in Quebec and that, whilst independent, BPQ often works with Nature Conservancy Québec, government agencies, conservation organizations and others. This very informative talk made known to members the involvement of BPQ in sanctuary acquisition and management, something many may not have been fully aware of previously and it underlined for all that

BPQ is definitely not just another birdwatching club.

Richard stressed that, to be successful to the extent possible, sanctuaries need care and attention against many outside pressures. Fortunately, BPQ's efforts have paid off and, in their small way, have been successful. One particularly successful sanctuary was the first one acquired by BPQ in 1934, Île aux Perroquets. This island, close to the Labrador border, is home to the largest Atlantic Puffin colony on the eastern seaboard as well as to many other nesting seabirds, and is believed to be the only breeding site in North America where the puffin population is increasing.

All the other BPQ properties are located within a one to one and a half hour drive of Montreal. Richard presented a number of them, illustrating his descriptions with maps, photos of the locations and birds seen on them, as well as some humorous cartoons. First, Richard considered Philipsburg, the most important of the BPQ-owned sanctuaries, a sanctuary of such significance that it is managed by its own separate committee. The site, acquired in 1955 and enlarged by an additional parcel of land purchased in 2007, hosts most of the species commonly occurring in southern Quebec. Censuses carried out at the site in the summers of 2006-2007 recorded 104 species, including the endangered Cerulean Warbler. Next, Richard described: Piedmont, located in the Laurentians, bequeathed to BPQ by Alfred W. B. Kelly whose legacy to BPQ has enabled it to continue purchasing land; the tiny sanctuary at mont St-Grégoire, of more strategic than ornithological value in its contribution to the preservation of the whole mountain; the Driscoll-Naylor sanctuary in Hudson, where Barbara MacDuff maintains feeders and Wood Duck nesting boxes; île aux Canards, which provides crucial staging and feeding habitat for migrating waterfowl; îlet Vert, one of the most important St. Lawrence islands for shorebirds; Ghost Hill Farm at Breckenridge, where a long-term program for the restoration of the Loggerhead Shrike is under way; and Alderbrooke Marsh, south-west of Sutton, which is actively managed by local people. From small to large, it is clear that all the sanctuaries play a very important role.

In addition, Richard discussed BPQ's interest in numerous protected properties owned by other conservation organizations which have been acquired with BPQ's assistance. Yet a further aspect of BPQ's land conservation activities is that the society has also been active in such acts as petitioning the government to establish Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

In closing, Richard left a thought for BPQ members to take away: what is the function of a bird sanctuary? He offered four options for consideration: Keep them private and let nature and the birds take their course in undisturbed isolation? Keep the public out but do minimal essential maintenance? Allow controlled public access and provide educational programs? Or sell or donate BPQ sanctuaries to larger organizations? Details of these and more information on any aspect of Richard's presentation or BPQ sanctuaries can be found on the website at www.pqspb.org or from birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com.

Jean Bacon

Parlons d'oiseaux

Bilan des observations intéressantes à travers la province
par Pierre Bannon

Birdviews

Summary of interesting sightings from around the province
by Pierre Bannon

Communiquez vos observations intéressantes à :

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

Please report your interesting bird observations to:

Janvier-février 2009

Cygne tuberculé : un à Les Cèdres 3 janv., possiblement le même qui était présent à Maple Grove l'automne dernier (M. Dennis). **Sarcelle d'hiver** : un mâle tout l'hiver à Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac (JC. Charbonneau). **Macreuse noire** : un mâle présent en janv. à Sainte-Martine (M. Dennis, S. Vanier); un à Verdun 9 fév. était possiblement le même indiv. (D. McCutcheon). **Harelde kakawi** : rare près de Montréal en hiver, jusqu'à 10 oiseaux aperçus à Verdun et aussi à Sainte-Catherine en fév. (P. Bannon). **Garrot d'Islande X Garrot à œil d'or** : un mâle de ce rare hybride présent à Sainte-Catherine en fév. (P. Bannon, M. Bertrand). **Dindon sauvage** : la région de Dunham a été égayée par plusieurs groupes totalisant 327 oiseaux 10 & 11 janv. (Y. Cardinal). Un groupe de 20 oiseaux a été relâché à Saint-Prospere-de-Champlain en Mauricie en janv. (*vide* M. Gosselin). **Grèbe à bec bigarré** : un indiv. tout l'hiver à Magog (B. Turgeon).

Pygargue à tête blanche : la région de Eardly a été choyée par 11 indiv. 16 fév. (H. Tremblay). **Buse à épauettes** : une signalée à Laval 2 janv. (E. Samson) fut retrouvée à partir du 9 fév. (L. Bruneau). **Aigle royal** : Eardly, Chute Saint-Philippe, Sainte-Anne-du-Lac et Cap-Tourmente se retrouvent parmi les localités visitées par cette espèce.

Mouette rieuse : 4-5 indiv. étaient à Fatima (IDL.M.) 31 déc. (C. & J. Roy). **Goélands** : un fort regroupement de goélands a été signalé dans la région de Terrebonne-Lachenaie pendant l'hiver (Y. Gauthier, R. Prévost, DJ. Léandri, pl. ob.). Le décompte maximal en date du 25 janv. s'élevait à 1510 Goélands marins, 485 Goélands bourgmestres, 480 Goélands argentés et 220 Goélands arctiques (DJ. Léandri). **Guillemot de Brünnich** : un à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 31 déc. (JR. Lepage). **Harfang des neiges** : cette espèce a envahi la région en grand nombre comme en témoignent les 21 indiv. dans la région de Saint-Barthélemy 15 fév. (*vide* R. Piché). **Chouette épervière** : s'ajoutant aux 40 oiseaux signalés en nov.-déc., au moins 30 autres indiv. aperçus en janv.-fév., la plus importante invasion depuis l'hiver 2000-2001. **Chouette lapone** : environ 35 indiv. découverts en janv.-fév. pour un total d'environ 50 cet hiver, un nombre nettement inférieur aux 600 signalés à l'hiver 2004-2005. **Hibou des marais** : un hiver encourageant pour cette espèce qui a été signalée dans cinq localités. **Chouette de Tengmalm** : un total de 17 oiseaux pour l'hiver. Un regroupement de quatre oiseaux aux îles de Boucherville 9 fév. était exceptionnel (*vide* Y. Gauthier).

Pic à tête rouge : un à Matapédia 26 déc. (*vide* A. Couture). **Pic à ventre roux** : signalé dans trois localités seulement. **Troglodyte de Caroline** : signalé dans six localités seulement. **Troglodyte mignon** : un à l'île des Sœurs jusqu'au début de janv. (P. Bannon) et un autre à Cap-Tourmente 23 fév. (O. Barden). **Grive à collier** : une tout l'hiver à Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson (*vide* G. Gauthier). **Moqueur polyglotte** : quelques oiseaux ont hiverné, le plus notable à Rimouski (J. Boulva).

Bruant familier : au moins trois oiseaux semblent avoir hiverné. **Bruant des marais** : un à Philipsburg 13 janv. (J.G. Papineau).

January-February 2009

Mute Swan: one was at Les Cèdres 3 Jan, possibly the same indiv. that spent the fall at Maple Grove (M. Dennis). **Green-winged Teal**: a male spent the winter at Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac (JC. Charbonneau). **Black Scoter**: a male spent the month of Jan at Sainte-Martine (M. Dennis, S. Vanier); one at Verdun 9 Feb was possibly the same individual (D. McCutcheon). **Long-tailed Duck**: rare in the Montreal area in winter, up to 10 birds were seen at Verdun and also at Sainte-Catherine in Feb (P. Bannon). **Barrow's X Common Goldeneye**: a male of this rare hybrid was present at Sainte-Catherine in Feb (P. Bannon, M. Bertrand). **Wild Turkey**: the Dunham area was greeted by several flocks totaling 327 birds 10 & 11 Jan (Y. Cardinal). A group of 20 birds was released at Saint-Prospere-de-Champlain in La Mauricie in Jan (*vide* M. Gosselin). **Pied-billed Grebe**: one spent the winter at Magog (B. Turgeon).

Bald Eagle: the Eardly area was greeted with 11 indiv. 16 Feb (H. Tremblay). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one was reported at Laval 2 Jan (E. Samson) and found again from 9 Feb onwards (L. Bruneau). **Golden Eagle**: Eardly, Chute Saint-Philippe, Sainte-Anne-du-Lac and Cap-Tourmente were among the localities visited by this species.

Black-headed Gull: 4-5 indiv. were at Fatima (Magdalen Is.) 31 Dec (C. & J. Roy). **Large gulls**: an incredible concentration of large gulls was reported in the Terrebonne-Lachenaie area throughout the winter (Y. Gauthier, R. Prévost, DJ. Léandri, m.ob.). The maximum count on 25 Jan was 1510 Great Black-backed Gulls, 485 Glaucous Gulls, 480 Herring Gulls, 220 Iceland Gulls (DJ. Léandri). **Thick-billed Murre**: one at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 31 Dec (JR. Lepage). **Snowy Owl**: birds irrupted in the area in large number as evidenced by a count of 21 indiv. in the Saint-Barthélemy area 15 Feb (*vide* R. Piché). **Northern Hawk Owl**: adding to the 40 birds reported in Nov-Dec, at least 30 new birds were reported for the period, making this winter irruption the most important since 2000-2001. **Great Gray Owl**: about 35 indiv. were discovered during the period for a total of about 50 this winter, a total far less than the 600 reported in 2004-2005. **Short-eared Owl**: it was not a bad winter for this species, as birds were reported from 5 localities. **Boreal Owl**: a total of about 17 birds seen throughout the winter. A concentration of 4 birds in the Boucherville Is. 9 Feb was exceptional (*vide* Y. Gauthier).

Red-headed Woodpecker: one at Matapédia 26 Dec (*vide* A. Couture). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: reported from 3 localities only. **Carolina Wren**: reported from 6 localities only. **Winter Wren**: one on Nuns' I. until early Jan (P. Bannon) and one at Cap-Tourmente 23 Feb (O. Barden). **Varied Thrush**: one spent the winter at Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson (*vide* G. Gauthier). **Northern Mockingbird**: a few birds overwintered, most notably one at Rimouski (J. Boulva).

Chipping Sparrow: at least 3 birds spent the winter in the region. **Swamp Sparrow**: one was at Philipsburg 13 Jan

Bruant à couronne blanche : un encore à Hatley 23 janv. (S. Kohl) et deux à Cap Tourmente 23 fév. (O. Barden). **Quiscal rouilleux** : fait notable, huit oiseaux étaient à Saint-Armand 5-16 janv. (Y. Cardinal). **Sizerin flammé** : bien présent dans la région pour la 2e année consécutive. **Tarin des pins** : selon certains observateurs, cette espèce était une des plus abondantes aux mangeoires. Probablement la plus grande invasion depuis 1987-1988. **Chardonneret élégant** : des oiseaux solitaires à Thurso 7 janv. (R. Bisson *et al.*) et à Beaconsfield 31 janv. (R. Duiven).

(JG. Papineau). **White-crowned Sparrow**: one was still at Hatley 23 Jan (S. Kohl) and 2 at Cap Tourmente 23 Feb (O. Barden). **Rusty Blackbird**: most notably, 8 birds were at Saint-Armand 5-16 Jan (Y. Cardinal). **Common Redpoll**: widespread in the region for the second consecutive year. **Pine Siskin**: according to many observers, it was one of the most abundant species at feeders. Probably the most important invasion since 1987-1988. **European Goldfinch**: singles at Thurso 7 Jan (R. Bisson *et al.*) and at Beaconsfield 31 Jan (R. Duiven).

Spring Arrival Dates and Winter Waterfowl Counts

Pierre Bannon has been compiling data on spring arrival dates of migrating birds for over 15 years. Using data collected between 1992-2007, he calculates the mean arrival date for each species. The table is an important scientific record and a valuable reference for all birders. Pierre also maintains the records of the Winter Waterfowl Census, summarized below. Visit Pierre's website for the latest update on this year's spring migration dates: <http://pages.videotron.com/pbannon/tableau19922006.htm>.

BPQ Donates Rare Books



Ted Synniewski holding the beautifully illustrated *Keepsake d'histoire naturelle - Description des oiseaux* by Achille Compte (1841), which belonged to Napier Smith, President of BPQ 1926-1929. Also in the photo: Kristen Keyes, a McGill student researching Short-eared Owls, and Michel Gosselin, Collections Manager (and a former BPQ Director).

Since the closing of the Nature Adventure Centre, BPQ has been looking to devolve its collection of books and bird-related artefacts to more suitable locations. BPQ recently donated four of the most valuable books to the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) in Ottawa, where they will be housed in the temperature- and light-controlled Rare Books Collection.

Winter Waterfowl Count 1-15 Feb 2009 Dénombrement des canards hivernants 1-15 Fév 2009 Coordinator: Pierre Bannon	St. Lawrence River Montreal Region	St. Lawrence River Valleyfield Region	Chateauguay River	Richelieu River	Rivière des Prairies Rivière des Mille-Îles	2009 total	2008 total
Mute Swan/Cygne tuberculé						0	0
Snow Goose/Oie des neiges						0	0
Canada Goose/Bernache du Canada	1				6	7	38
Wood Duck/Canard branchu						0	0
Gadwall/Canard chipeau						0	45
American Wigeon/Canard d'Amérique						0	0
American Black Duck/Canard noir	10	16	24	65	232	347	545
Mallard/Canard colvert	300	632	350	740	1848	3870	5002
Mallard X Black/Colvert X Noir	1				11	12	23
Northern Pintail/Canard pilet	2			1		3	1
Green-winged Teal/Sarcelle d'hiver					1	1	0
Canvasback/Fuligule à dos blanc						0	0
Redhead/Fuligule à tête rouge						0	1
Ring-necked Duck/Fuligule à collier						0	1
Greater Scaup/Fuligule milouinan	1					1	0
Lesser Scaup/Petit Fuligule						0	0
King Eider/Eider à tête grise						0	1
Harlequin Duck/Arlequin plongeur						0	0
Black Scooter/Macreuse noire	1					1	0
Long-tailed Duck/Harelda kakawi	10					10	0
Bufflehead/Petit Garrot	1					1	1
Common Goldeneye/Garrot à œil d'or	1600	46		86	8	1740	1836
Barrow's Goldeneye/Garrot d'Islande	3					3	3
C. Goldeneye X Barrow's Goldeneye	1					1	0
Hooded Merganser/Harle couronné	5	2		5		12	35
Common Merganser/Grand Harle	560	60	3	180	34	837	2919
Red-breasted Merganser/Harle huppé						0	0
Total	2496	756	377	1077	2140	6846	10451

SOS-POP Nest Site Monitoring Program 2009

For a 16th year, BPQ will participate in monitoring nest sites populations of bird species at risk in Quebec (*Suivi de l'occupation des stations de nidification des populations d'oiseaux en péril du Québec - SOS-POP*). For the greater Montreal area, the SOS-POP database now contains 226 sites for monitoring and protecting species at risk. In the last five years, participants (including BPQ members) have documented the use of 94% of these sites. Last year alone, 44% of sites were monitored, and 19 new habitats used by one or more species at risk were found. In addition, new nesting sites were discovered for the Grasshopper Sparrow (3), Peregrine Falcon (5), Least Bittern (2), Golden-winged Warbler (8) and Bald Eagle (1).

This year, 28 species are being monitored, 16 of which are known to have nested in the greater Montreal area. To encourage greater participation by BPQ members, a copy of the SOS-POP submission form (http://www.pqspb.org/newsletters/SOS-POP_Submission_Form_2009.pdf) is enclosed with this newsletter, together with a table detailing the species being followed this year, an explanation of what you would be expected to do, and instructions on how to participate in the program.

In Memoriam - Bob Weeds

Bob Weeds, an enthusiastic birder for over 40 years, passed away on January 5 after a long illness. He is survived by Denise, his wife of 55 years, and their three sons, Fred, Harry, and Tom.

Bob was a BPQ member since 1976. Over the years, he led many field trips, helped out at the annual bird fair, participated in Christmas Bird Counts, and was known for being extremely patient with new birders.

One of his favourite birding spots was his backyard. Bob always had several feeders with different kinds of seed during the winter, as well as a heated birdbath. In spite of his obvious love of birding, he never kept a life-list, and had no idea how many species he had seen.

Bob worked for Texaco for over 25 years as a driver, and always kept an eye out for birds while he was on the road. After retiring, he worked part-time for Texaco for several years checking the meters at bulk stations for accuracy throughout Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritimes, and did it as much for the

opportunity to do more birding than anything else.

In 1994, Bob and Denise went to the Republic of South Africa to visit me. Over the course of 11 weeks, they traveled over 15,000 kilometers through South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia and visited most of the major national parks. They saw countless new species and tried many new foods. Bob and Denise really enjoyed Cape Town and S. Africa's famous red wines. In those 11 weeks, Bob was birding every single day.

One of Bob's favourite vacation spots was Vancouver. He liked the idea of having to mow the lawn in February. Another big attraction was the birding. He liked the fact that there were all sorts of species not found back home.

When Bob's children were young, he used to take them and all of the children on the street to zoos, museums, and other places for a day of fun. A few years ago, he and Denise took one of their young neighbours to a carnival. Bob carried him on his shoulders, and ended

up with a head full of cotton candy for his troubles.

Bob was always an animal lover, and remembered delivering milk with a horse-drawn wagon. Over the years, the family had four dogs and he always enjoyed taking them out for a walk in the morning. As a young Sea Cadet, he was responsible for the ship's mascot, and always remembered that the goat did not smell particularly pleasant. Among his other interests were reading and music. He particularly enjoyed biographies, historical books, and John Le Carre-type mysteries. His musical taste was quite varied, and included classical, jazz, and pop standards. Bob and Denise took ballroom dancing lessons for several years, and enjoyed going out dancing. Bob was always very active. In his younger years, he enjoyed swimming. Before retiring, he played on the Texaco hockey team for many years, and he continued enjoying going for a walk until he was no longer physically able to.

Fred Weeds

Need a Hand With Those Spring Songsters? *BirdJam* to the Rescue!

We are not all blessed with the auditory skills needed to identify 20 different warblers by their songs. For some, like me, identifying two would be quite a triumph, and so a little assistance is needed. *Finally*, the tool for the job is available!

Once there were bird song impersonators on the radio, then long-playing records, then tapes, tape-cassettes, CDs, DVDs, and now downloads from the internet to help us learn songs. None of those were exactly portable until the MP3 player was invented and even then you had to have some idea of what the bird was in order to find the right track in the field and compare it to whatever was shooting its mouth off over in yonder bush. They were either ordered alphabetically or taxonomically, but never helpfully. Then up popped the iPod and its little assistant *BirdJam* and suddenly (most of) our problems were solved: we finally had a means to put a name to the song.

You could, if you wanted to and had the time (it takes a *lot* of time, skill and fancy software), assemble themed playlists of bird song recordings, strip out the irritating spoken introductions, load them onto your player and use this to quickly track down your wanted song. However, *BirdJam* has done all of the hard work for you. For a small fee, you can download *Birdjam Maker* from <http://www.birdjam.com> and,

with a set of birdsong discs and an iPod, be ready to go in minutes. You can even purchase an iPod pre-loaded. What you get is a set of bird songs and calls, each with a photograph, organised alphabetically (English, French or Latin names) or in taxonomic groups (warblers, sparrows, etc.) but also, and this is the neat and useful innovation, grouped logically in habitat groups to narrow the search even further (marsh, mountain, etc.). In addition, you can build your own personal playlists for special habitats or groups of interest using free iTunes tools. You can group the birds pretty much any way you want, and there's no need to be a computer expert, as it is all very intuitive.

BirdJam claims that you can track down any call in 20 seconds or less. That is more than a bit ambitious unless you are almost good enough not to need such an aid, but you can certainly achieve it fast enough to make that crucial field identification almost every time. It takes only an hour or two for the whole process to become pretty automatic – you just need to familiarize yourself with the groupings and playlists.

More controversially, a portable speaker attached to the iPod could enable you to "call in" birds by playing their songs or, less controversially, to share recordings with friends. The company will sell you speakers suitable for field use, but it's up to you how you use them.

LBJ

Camping at Point Pelee: May 18 - May 22

There are still places available on the BPQ camping trip to Point Pelee National Park. See previous newsletter for more details. For further information or to reserve camping, please contact Field Trip Committee co-chair Martin Bowman at pict@riverlink.ca. If you do not have access to e-mail, please phone Martin at (613) 347-1655.

Off the Beaten Path

Heading off-trail, off the beaten path or off into the wild. The words alone bring on a sense of adventure. For many of us with a love of nature, the idea of going off-trail brings on a sense of freedom and, when searching for that elusive bird, it can bring on a primal instinct, a basic urge to "hunt" for our bird. In many ways, we remain hunters searching for our prey, and when we find it, the "high" we feel urges us to search for another. At one point the question becomes: How far should we go?

The stories about people going too far are more and more common: residents in rural environments dealing with people equipped with cameras, scopes or binoculars constantly trespassing, and areas in parks now closed because of damage caused by off-trail walkers. These stories have sparked debates on birding forums. Though easier for one group to accuse another, the truth is that there are people in all walks of life who are less respectful than others and, as a result, both camera- and binocular-wielding people are at fault.

The impact of one person walking off-trail does seem minimal. However, with increasing interest in birding and technology allowing rare bird sightings to be distributed to thousands in minutes, one quickly becomes many more. In the case of most urban parks or any other site likely to see significant use, the problem is never caused by one person but by the cumulative impact of many.

Cumulative impacts are often underestimated, but are nonetheless important. Two people see their impact as minimal. However, if two people pass every half hour, six hours a day, 250 people will have passed in 10 days. This is enough to compact the soil and create an informal



Parc des Rapides in 1998. The shoreline was eroding, compromising its stability.

trail. Soil compaction alters drainage, particularly in forested environments, modifying the plants that wildlife depend on. Informal trails also form breaks in vegetation. Such breaks are used by birds to limit their territories. More trails equal more breaks, which equal fewer birds. So, when birders go off-trail, they cause damage that ultimately decreases the number of birds present.

Shoreline erosion is also a factor. At LaSalle's Parc des Rapides, before it was naturalized, paths up to 7 m wide were heading towards and through vital habitats. These were so important that they destabilized the shore. One m per year was eroding along a 250 m stretch threatening the stability of much of the park. Had the park shorelines not been stabilized in 2001, the whole eastern section of the park, including many small islands, would have eroded away by 2015.

Another impact is human presence itself. Each time a person passes through an animal's habitat, they disturb it. One time is minimal, but every half hour is a different story. Animals continuously disturbed simply don't return. At Parc des Rapides, from 1995-1997, Héritage Laurentien noted that ducks would leave for at least half an hour each time a person walked or boated around the islands. By 1997, birds were virtually absent and birders felt this park was not worth visiting anymore. Now that access is limited to this sector, there are more birds and it is common on weekends to see dozens of people looking at them.

For those who feel a bit targeted, you may take solace in knowing cumulative impacts are not limited to birding: One off-road bike has an impact equivalent to 30 people walking. Individual dogs may not be a problem, but Héritage Laurentien staff estimate over 1300 piles of excrement are left on the trails at Nun's Island from December-March every year. Similar impacts have been noted from boating, hiking and even plant or flower picking. Plants such as wild garlic have become endangered in Quebec, while some urban parks have no more flowers due to over-picking. Take all the impacts from people not respecting the rules in our parks and you will find that these seemingly minor

incidents are the most important problems park managers have to deal with.

We have all had the urge to follow an elusive bird beyond the edge of the trail. We must balance our urges with the need to ensure everyone, now and in the future, can enjoy nature. This requires personal sacrifice in order to protect habitats and avoid having birders banned. The rules are simple:

On public land,

1. Always stay on the paths in high traffic areas and respect park rules.
2. Do not alter the area in any way by moving, picking or breaking any plant or other natural object.

On private land,

3. Do not enter without permission.
4. Do not inform others about any special observations requiring access to private land without prior permission from the owner.

Near private land,

5. If a bird on private land can be observed from public land, avoid disturbing the surrounding residents. Do not block roads, gather in large groups or spend all your time with telescopes aimed at a person's house.

These elements are at the core of the American Birding Association's code of ethics and should be respected by all birders. If we are to ensure ongoing access to birding sites, we must all curb our urges and become stewards of the natural areas we enjoy. We must teach those who disrespect the code of ethics at least these basic rules. It is my experience that most will, over time, come to understand the need to respect them. Only with such a concerted effort will we be able to ensure the future of birding in Quebec. **Patrick Asch**



Shore access is now limited to specific points to reduce damage to the shoreline.

Field Trip Diaries

10/01/09	Botanical Gardens, Montreal, QC	Leader: Guy Zenaitis
A sunny but cold morning of -18°C		10 birders 18 species
Birds of the Day: White-winged Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak		
Other Birds of Note: Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, Pine Siskin		
17/01/09	St. Clet, Ste-Marthe, Ste-Justine, St-Polycarpe, QC	Leader: Wayne Grubert
A balmy -18 to -20°C with light flurries and haze		12 birders 18 species
Birds of the Day: 7 Snowy Owl & 15 Gray Partridge		
Other Birds of Note: Cooper's Hawk, Northern Shrike, Common Raven, Horned lark, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll		
24/01/09	Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park, St. Laurent, QC	Leader: Wayne Grubert
Cold winds and -17°C with sunshine		7 birders 18 species
Bird of the Day: American Robin		
Other Birds of Note: Pileated Woodpecker, American Tree Sparrow, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin		
31/01/09	South Shore Trip: Varennes, Boucherville, St. Bruno, St. Hubert, QC	Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Windy, sunny and -15°C		9 birders 17 species
Bird of the Day: Snowy Owl		
Other Birds of Note: Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak		
07/02/09	Hudson, QC	Leader: Barbara MacDuff
-16°C, bone chilling!		11 birders 16 species
Birds of the Day: Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Siskin		
Other Birds of Note: Great Black-backed Gull, American Robin, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll		
14/02/09	Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, QC	Leader: Chuck Kling
Wind chill of -22°C!		11 birders 11 species
Birds of the Day: Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll		
Other Birds of Note: American Robin, House Finch, Pine Grosbeak		
21/02/09	Morgan Arboretum, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC	Leader: Betsy McFarlane
Pleasant day but cold winds		9 birders 18 species
Bird of the Day: White-winged Crossbills		
Other Birds of Note: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin		
28/02/09	Grenville, QC, Hawkesbury & Vankleek Hill, ON	Leaders: Jacques Bouvier & Martin Bowman
-18 to -12°C; sunny, bitter wind off the Ottawa River		7 birders 20 species
Bird of the Day: Bald Eagle in Quebec, Northern Hawk Owl in Ontario		
Other Birds of Note: Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-winged Crossbill, Northern Shrike		

Field trip diaries compiled by Sheldon Harvey

An Invitation From the South Shore

My name is Jeremy. I'm 15 years old and I have an interest in birds. You may have read a previous article about me attending the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists Workshop this past summer at Long Point. It was an incredible experience for me.

Another amazing birding trip that I recently went on was when I traveled to Amherst Island to see some owls. I've always been fascinated by owls and their secret lives, and always had hopes of catching a glimpse of one someday. I'm grateful to my friend Alain Goulet and his friends for inviting me along. I was in awe to see Snowy, Long-eared, Short-eared, and Saw-whet Owls.

I live approximately 80 km south of Montreal, in the Chateaugay Valley, and this area is a wonderful place to go birding. I am very lucky to live in a rich birding area with such an abundance of bird species. Around my area, I have seen Northern Mockingbird, Merlin, Tufted Titmouse and

Clay-coloured Sparrow. Of the four times that the Henslow's Sparrow has been seen in Quebec in the past 50 years, three of these times (the latest in 2006) were very close to my home, near the border. Maybe one day I'll be at the right place at the right time to get a look at one. There are many country roads around the area that are known for providing glimpses of rare birds like the Red-headed Woodpecker, Cerulean Warbler and Yellow-throated Vireo.

In a bird study that I participated in involving Grasshopper Sparrows and Golden-winged Warblers in the region this past spring, we were able to find eight Grasshopper Sparrows nesting and nine male Golden-winged Warblers. It was great to see these numbers for such declining species that have to be conserved.

One protected place around here is the Lac St. Francois

Continued on page 11...

Continued from page 10...

National Wildlife Area. It is located on the south shore of Lac St. Francois, at the end of Route 132 W near the border. The reserve is an exceptional birding area covered by a mosaic of open marshes and forests along the St. Lawrence River. You can paddle on the lake or through the marshes in a rabaska or a canoe to see ducks, herons and rails. There are some nature trails that give you the opportunity to spot some of the 260 species of birds that have been recorded there, along with other marsh wildlife. One of my favourite trails is the Great Egret Trail. Great Egrets and even Sandhill Cranes nest there and I have seen them both during my walks. The reserve has the largest colony of breeding Sedge Wrens in Quebec. It is a very important place and they do a great job in protecting the unique environment and all the wildlife that inhabit it, including the birds.

It would be terrific to see more people become more aware of the birds and I hope to get a local bird club going

someday. David Smith and John Hodges (two very knowledgeable birders), who live in a town close to mine, have been great about organizing an annual bird field trip to another very special and unique place, the Covey Hill Gulf, a spectacular chasm. It is always a great learning experience and a lot of fun. Actually that is when my interest in birds started developing - along with starting to notice different birds at our feeders - a neighbour friend having invited me along one day on this field trip. One day, I would like to travel and have the opportunity to see different birds across the country and around the world. But right now there are so many birds to learn about and discover here! We must protect them so they remain here in the future for everyone to enjoy and appreciate.

If you are ever in the area to go birding, please contact me at kbjj@sympatico.ca. I'd love to go along with you, or you related your sightings and experiences to me so that they can be shared with our readers.

Happy Birding, **Jeremy Pauze**

Adirondack Birding

Par John M.C. Peterson et Gary N. Lee. Lost Pond Press. 2008

Pour un Montréalais, le parc des Adirondacks (New-York) permet de retrouver, à moins de deux heures vers le sud, une nature luxuriante et protégée, comprenant une forêt à essences boréales ainsi que des zones subalpines et alpines. Le guide Adirondack Birding publié dernièrement propose 60 sites d'observation d'oiseaux sur ce vaste territoire (avec en bonus cinq sites se trouvant en périphérie du parc). Il s'agit du premier livre à traiter spécifiquement de sites d'observation d'oiseaux dans ce parc.

Les sites proposés sont regroupés selon cinq principales sections des Adirondacks : la partie est, décrivant les espèces aquatiques observées dans la vallée du lac Champlain; la région des High Peaks, décrivant les espèces d'oiseaux typiques de ces hauts lieux tels la Grive de Bicknell; la région du nord, couvrant tourbières et lacs, dont la plus grande tourbière des Adirondacks; la région du centre-ouest, semée de lacs, rivières et forêts; et la région du sud, couvrant entre autres la rivière Sacandaga, le site le plus au sud décrit dans ce guide.

Les textes sont écrits par l'un ou l'autre des deux auteurs, selon leurs connaissances des lieux. De façon générale on y trouve une description de l'habitat que rencontrera le visiteur, et dans bien des cas des essences florales et arbustives présentes. Plusieurs textes proposent de courtes à moyennes randonnées à pied ou en canot, meilleurs moyens pour découvrir le charme des Adirondacks.

En plus d'une superbe introduction à l'histoire de l'observation d'oiseaux dans les Adirondacks, plusieurs textes comprennent des détails historiques très intéressants, propres au site décrit. Par exemple, on apprend qu'à Crown Point, au sud du lac, nichait en immense quantité le Pigeon migrateur en 1749. On apprend également comment le Webb Royce Swamp en est venu à son état actuel, c'est-à-dire presque complètement asséché, malgré avoir autrefois été désigné IBA. Finalement, une anecdote personnelle de l'un des auteurs nous permet de découvrir le personnage d'où vient le nom d'un site très connu, Fern's Bog.

Ce guide comporte cependant un désagrément. Une

personne à la recherche d'une espèce nicheuse particulière pourrait noter qu'il manque des détails concernant la possibilité de rencontrer l'espèce recherchée : commune, peu commune, rare ou extrêmement rare? Par exemple, il pourrait se demander qu'elles sont les chances de rencontrer en été, lors d'une randonnée en milieu propice, une Paruline à poitrine baie, une Paruline tigrée ou encore un Pic à dos rayé. Notons cependant que les auteurs présentent à la fin du guide des suggestions de complément à ce guide, dont The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York, paru tout récemment et disponible à prix raisonnable.

En contrepoids, on trouve pour plusieurs raretés observées en migration dates et lieux des dernières mentions. On lit ainsi qu'une Paruline à gorge jaune a été observée de la mi-novembre 2006 jusque tard en janvier 2007 à Ausable Point; individu que je me suis d'ailleurs permis d'aller visiter le 31 décembre 2006 en cet endroit, à la veille du nouvel an. Bonne lecture et bonne visite des Adirondacks!

Diane Demers

English Summary

Split into the five major parts of the park, this book is the first to specifically discuss birding in Adirondack Park. For each section, the reader will find descriptions of encountered habitats, including details on flower, tree and shrub species. There is also information concerning which trails to take depending on length and where you can launch your canoe or kayak. The text is rich with fascinating historical details, but occasionally falls short due to lack of details concerning the encounter possibility in different sections of the park; which species are common, uncommon, rare or extremely rare? The upshot is that the authors include the last-observed dates and locations of rarities that have been found in the park during migration, providing the reader with clues that might enable them to find these special birds. This reader did just that: Yellow-throated Warbler, December 31 2006 at Ausable Point... What a way to start the New Year!

Killing Them With Kindness: Problems With Feeding Waterfowl

Most of us have fed waterfowl at some point in our lives, or at least been witness to others doing so. Why do people feed waterfowl, and why is that a concern? Both questions have several answers.

People feed waterfowl because they derive enjoyment from it, and many genuinely believe they are helping through their actions. Especially for urbanites, it offers a relatively rare connection with wildlife beyond the common backyard species. If challenged to justify feeding waterfowl, some will say it's better to provide waste food to animals than throw it in the garbage. Others engage in feeding to enable close-up photo opportunities.



Regardless of whether the motivations are selfish or altruistic, there are many undesirable consequences. A fundamental concern is how waterfowl cope with the nutrition (or lack thereof) associated with an artificial diet. Under natural conditions, they feed on a variety of foods ranging from grains to invertebrates, which collectively supply their nutritional needs. Unfortunately, the white bread typically provided by people is nutritionally poor – we shouldn't even be eating it ourselves, let alone providing it in bulk to wild animals! Waterfowl that fill up on bread may suffer from malnutrition, eventually contributing to death in some cases. Death has also been reported from waterfowl choking on waterlogged chunks of bread. Cracked corn and wheat are a better diet, but there are plenty of other reasons to avoid feeding altogether. The faulty argument is sometimes made that any food is better than no food at all. However, shortages of natural food are usually on a regional and seasonal scale, and waterfowl (like other birds) have evolved to cope with this through migration. If provided with an abundance of food, waterfowl may be tempted to remain farther north in winter. Ultimately starvation may result if deep cold or severe storms cause people to interrupt feeding in mid-winter, when it is too late for waterfowl to migrate and natural alternatives nearby are covered in ice.

Whereas natural foods tend to be a scattered resource, feeding stations concentrate large numbers of waterfowl at the

same location on an ongoing basis. This can result in greater competition among the birds, with dominant individuals claiming the majority of the food, and subordinate individuals being left with little, though still lured to the site; this aggressive behaviour may also drive away other species that would otherwise be present. Having so many waterfowl in the same location also becomes a health concern, since they defecate there too. In recent years, multiple incidents with thousands of ducks dying as a result of avian botulism, aspergillus, or duck virus enteritis have been linked to the unsanitary conditions associated with feeding stations. The high volume of nutrients released into the water through excrement can also cause algal blooms and other water quality concerns including elevated *E. coli* levels that make it unsuitable for human use.

Even if waterfowl avoid malnutrition and disease, feeding poses other risks. Over time, waterfowl become habituated to humans. Losing their natural wariness increases their vulnerability to a host of threats, especially in urban areas where traffic and pets are common near feeding stations. They can also become a nuisance by aggressively pursuing people for food – ironically, while some people are trying to build a bond with nature through feeding waterfowl, the consequences of their actions can devalue the same wildlife for others. Over-grazed lawns, golf courses and sports fields covered in goose droppings, and polluted water all become points of contention in which the birds become the villains, despite being present as a consequence of human behaviour. This often prompts management to control waterfowl numbers, ranging from egg-oiling to translocation or even culling individuals... surely the last thing that people feeding waterfowl would want.

People may defend their feeding of waterfowl by saying they are “doing no harm”. However, the potential for malnutrition, disease, or even death as a consequence of feeding bread to waterfowl should in itself be enough to convince any true bird lover to denounce the practice, let alone the assorted other ecological consequences that result even if a better diet is supplied. Waterfowl won't starve if they aren't provided these handouts – they'll just return to more natural behaviour that's healthier for both them and us.

Marcel Gahbauer



An aggregation of waterfowl (and pigeons) in St. John's, NL.



Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

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

Saturday, April 11 - samedi 11 avril

BEAUHARNOIS, STE-BARBE, QC

Leader:

Felix Hilton

514-631-3437

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8:00 AM From Montreal, take Mercier, Champlain or Jacques Cartier Bridge to Hwy 132 west, through Châteauguay to Beauharnois. Meet just west of Beauharnois in the parking area at western end of bridge in front of power station. Looking for gulls, waterfowl, hawks and early migrants. A driving trip. **Half day.**
8 h 00 De Montréal, prendre l'un ou l'autre des ponts Mercier, Champlain ou Jacques Cartier jusqu'à la route 132 ouest. Traverser Châteauguay et continuer jusqu'à Beauharnois. Rassemblement à Beauharnois dans le stationnement situé du côté ouest du pont, devant la centrale hydro-électrique. Espèces recherchées : goélands, buses et migrateurs hâtifs. Excursion en voiture. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 18 - samedi 18 avril

BAIE-DU-FEBVRE, QC

Leaders:

Jean Demers and

Clémence Soulard

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8:30 AM Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie-du-Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie-du-Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left. Alternate route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. **All day.**
8 h 30 Rassemblement au poste d'observation (cache) situé le long de la route Janelle, à Baie-du-Febvre. On propose deux trajets. Premier trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 30 en direction est jusqu'à Sorel puis prendre la route 132 en direction est jusqu'à Baie-du-Febvre. Tourner à gauche sur la route Janelle, juste après l'intersection avec la rue principale. Deuxième trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 20 en direction est jusqu'à la sortie 185 située après Drummondville. A partir de cette sortie, prendre la route 255 en direction nord jusqu'à l'intersection avec la route 132. Tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Immédiatement après, tourner à droite sur la route Janelle. Durée du trajet : 1h30. À la recherche de milliers d'Oies des neiges, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et d'autres migrateurs. **Toute la journée.**

Saturday, April 25 - samedi 25 avril

HUDSON, QC

Leader:

Barbara MacDuff

514-457-2222

barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM Meet at the CPR station in Hudson. Hwy 40, exit 22 onto Côte St. Charles north, right on Main Street, left on Wharf Street. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and early spring arrivals. **Half day.**
8 h 00 Rassemblement à la gare C.P. sur la rue Wharf, à Hudson. Prendre l'autoroute 40, puis la sortie 22 qui mène à Côte St-Charles. Continuer sur Côte St-Charles direction nord jusqu'à la rue Main puis tourner à droite sur celle-ci. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Wharf puis tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, buses et migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, May 2 - samedi 2 mai

COOPER MARSH, ON

Leader:

Martin Bowman

613-347-1655

pict@riverlink.ca

8:00 AM Take Hwy 20 (Ontario Hwy 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Hwy 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Park in the gravel parking area. Allow 1 to 1.5 hours travel time. A walking trip. Looking for waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks and passerines. Waterproof shoes or boots are recommended. **Half day.**
8 h 00 À partir de l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401), prendre la sortie pour Lancaster, Ontario (sortie 814). Prendre l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivre les indications pour le marais Cooper. Prévoir entre 1h et 1h30 de route. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux aquatiques, buses et passereaux. Excursion à pied. On recommande de porter des chaussures imperméables. **Demi-journée.**

Sunday, May 3 - dimanche 3 mai

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

Leader:

Diane Demers

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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 Gouin et continuer 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, May 9 - samedi 9 mai

GEORGE H. MONTGOMERY BIRD SANCTUARY, PHILIPSBURG, QC

Leader: **8:30 AM** Meet at the Motel Frontière. From Montreal take the Champlain Bridge, Hwy 10 east to exit 22, Hwy 35 south to St. Jean to join Hwy 133 south to Philipsburg. Continue past flashing light, cross to the east side of the Hwy at the motel. Note the small BPQ sign; enter the motel drive, park in the BPQ lot just south of the motel. Good choice of trails from long and strenuous to short and easy. Looking for migrating passerines, waterbirds and hawks. Bring a lunch. **All day.**
Sandy Montgomery
514-482-0565
sandy_montgomery@sympatico.ca

8h30 Rassemblement au Motel Frontière. De Montréal, traverser le pont Champlain et continuer sur l'autoroute 10 est. Prendre la sortie 22 et rejoindre l'autoroute 35 sud. Continuer sur celle-ci jusqu'à Saint-Jean. De là continuer sur l'autoroute 133 sud en direction de Philipsburg. Dépasser le feu clignotant puis traverser la voie inverse (133 nord) pour rejoindre le motel, situé du côté est de la route. Remarquer la pancarte de POQ. L'entrée du motel permet d'accéder au stationnement de POQ, situé juste au sud. Bonne variété de sentiers dont les niveaux de difficulté varient de courts et faciles à longs et ardues. Espèces recherchées : passereaux migrateurs, sauvagines et rapaces. Apporter un dîner. **Toute la journée.**

Sunday, May 10 - dimanche 10 mai

PARC-NATURE DU BOIS-DE-L'ÎLE-BIZARD, QC

Leader: **8:00 AM** Hwy 40; exit St. Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevreumont; left (west) on Chevreumont to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$7.00. Looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and migrating passerines. **Half day.**
Felix Hilton
514-631-3437
hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

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 jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 7,00 \$. Espèces recherchées : limicoles, sauvagine et passereaux en migration. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, May 16 - samedi 16 mai

WESTERN SHORE OF THE RICHELIEU RIVER/RIVE-OUEST DE LA RIVIÈRE RICHELIEU - ST-JEAN/ST-BLAISE/ST-PAUL DE L'ÎLE AUX NOIX/LACOLLE, QC

Leader: **7:00 AM** Meet in the parking lot in front of Zellers, Place Portobello on Taschereau Blvd, west of the Champlain Bridge. From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge to Exit 8 (Taschereau Blvd). Turn right on Taschereau Blvd. Zellers will be immediately on your right. There will be lots of driving, but little walking. Car-pooling is recommended. **All Day.**
Sheldon Harvey
450-671-3773
ve2shw@yahoo.com

7 h 00 Rassemblement dans le terrain de stationnement de Zellers, Place Portobello, situé sur le boul. Taschereau, à l'ouest du pont Champlain. De Montréal, prendre le pont Champlain et continuer jusqu'à la sortie 8 (boul. Taschereau). Tourner à droite sur le boul. Taschereau. Le magasin Zellers se trouve immédiatement à votre droite. La sortie implique beaucoup de déplacements en voiture, mais peu de marche. On recommande le covoiturage. **Toute la journée.**

Monday, May 18 - lundi 18 mai

SUMMIT PARK LOOKOUT AU BELVÉDÈRE DU PARC SUMMIT, QC

Leader: **7:00 AM** Meet at Summit Park Lookout on Summit Circle in Westmount. To reach Summit Circle from downtown, head north on Côte-des-Neiges. Turn left on to The Blvd. Proceed to Chemin Belvedere and turn right. Drive up the steep hill on Chemin Belvedere to Summit Circle. **Half day.**
Darlene Harvey
450-671-3773
settertwins@yahoo.com

7 h 00 Rassemblement au belvédère situé sur le Cercle Summit à Westmount. À partir du centre-ville de Montréal, prendre le chemin De la Côte-des-Neiges, direction nord. Tourner à gauche sur Le Boulevard et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au Chemin Belvédère. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et monter la côte abrupte jusqu'au chemin Summit, qui rejoint le Cercle Summit. **Demi-journée.**

Tuesday evening, May 19 - mardi soir 19 mai

HUDSON, QC

Leader: **7:00 PM** Meet at Finnegan's Market, 775 Main Road, Hudson Heights. Take Hwy 40 to Exit 22. Turn right onto Côte St-Charles. Drive to its end at T-intersection with Main Road. Turn left. Drive (about 2 km) to Finnegan's Market parking lot on left. Looking for rails, woodcock and owls. **Evening Trip.**
Barbara MacDuff
514-457-2222
barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

19h00 Rassemblement au marché Finnegan, 775 rue Main, Hudson Heights. Prendre l'autoroute 40 puis la sortie 22. Tourner à droite sur Côte Saint-Charles. Rouler jusqu'au bout, à son intersection en T avec la rue Main. Tourner à gauche sur celle-ci et rouler sur une distance d'environ 2 km jusqu'au stationnement du marché Finnegan, situé à gauche. À la recherche de râles, hiboux et Bécasse d'Amérique. **Excursion en soirée.**

Saturday, May 23 - samedi 23 mai

REFUGE FAUNIQUE MARGUERITE-D'YOUVILLE ON ÎLE SAINT-BERNARD, QC

Leader:

Tom Long

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

7h30 Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay. De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. A la sortie du pont, garder la droite et continuer sur la 138, passé Kahnawake, jusqu'à Châteauguay. A l'entrée de Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. St-Francis. Continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'à l'intersection avec le boul. Salaberry Nord, qui longe la rivière Châteauguay. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry nord, passer en-dessous du pont de la voie ferrée et continuer jusqu'à un deuxième pont : il s'agit du pont de la Sauvagine. Tourner à droite juste après avoir passé sous ce pont et accéder à une rampe d'accès au pont. Des indications pour le refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville y sont visibles. Traverser le pont et continuer jusqu'à la rue Notre-Dame Nord. Au feu rouge clignotant, tourner à droite sur Notre-Dame et suivre les indications pour le refuge. Traverser le petit pont qui mène à l'île Saint-Bernard. Le stationnement est à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques, d'oiseaux nicheurs et de migrateurs tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. **Demi-journée.**

Sunday, May 24 - dimanche 24 mai

UPPER CANADA MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, ON

Leader:

Wayne Grubert

450-458-5498

wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 AM Take Hwy 401 west to exit 770 (Ingleside). Proceed south to Hwy 2. Take Hwy 2 west for several km. Watch for signs on left for "Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary". Turn left and follow road for 2 km to main parking lot. Allow 1.5 hrs driving time from Montreal. Looking for nesting waterfowl, passerines and possibly shorebirds on a good network of trails through varying habitat. **Half day.**

8 h 00 Prendre l'autoroute 401 ouest jusqu'à la sortie 770 (Ingleside). Rouler en direction sud jusqu'à l'autoroute 2. Prendre l'autoroute 2 en direction ouest et rouler sur une distance de plusieurs kilomètres. Surveiller à votre gauche pour trouver la pancarte "Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary". Tourner à gauche et prendre ce chemin sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au stationnement principal. Prévoir 1,5 heures de route à partir de Montréal. À la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques nicheurs, de passereaux et possiblement de limicoles en parcourant un bon réseau de sentiers et une bonne diversité d'habitats. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, June 6 - samedi 6 juin

ALFRED/FORÊT LAROSE, ON

Leader:

Jacques Bouvier

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2:30 PM Meet at Alfred's Ultramar Service Station. Take Autoroute 40 to the Ontario border (signpost Ottawa) and continue on Hwy 417 west to exit 9 (Rte 17). Follow Rte 17 beyond Hawkesbury towards Alfred (about 32 km from Exit 9 of 417). Proceed to the edge of Alfred. The Ultramar gas station is on your right at the corner of Rte 17 and Peat Moss Road. Allow about 1.5 hours driving time from Montreal. We will visit the Alfred Sewage Lagoons and adjacent open areas. We will be looking for ducks, shorebirds, and open country birds such as Grasshopper Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow. After supper we will depart for Larose Forest where we will be seeking such forest nesting birds as Evening Grosbeak, Cape May Warbler and at dusk, Whip-poor-will. Bring a "lunch" for supper. **Trip ends at about 9:00 PM.**

14h30 Rassemblement au poste d'essence Ultramar d'Alfred. À partir de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 417 ouest jusqu'à la sortie 9 (route 17). Prendre la route 17 et dépasser Hawkesbury en continuant jusqu'à Alfred (environ 32 km). Le poste d'essence Ultramar se trouve à l'est d'Alfred, à votre droite, au coin des routes Peat moss et 17. Prévoir environ 1,5 heures de route à partir de la région de Montréal. On prévoit arrêter à la « lagune » d'Alfred et examiner les champs adjacents. Espèces recherchées: canards, limicoles, oiseaux de terrains découverts tel le Bruant sauterelle et le Bruant des plaines. Après le souper on se dirigera vers la Forêt Larose où les espèces recherchées seront le Gros-bec errant, la Paruline tigrée et, à la brúnante, l'Engoulevent bois-pourri. Apporter un "lunch" pour le souper. **La sortie se termine vers 21h00.**

Saturday, June 13 - samedi 13 juin

GODMANCHESTER, DUNDEE, ETC. LOOKING FOR FLYCATCHERS - À LA RECHERCHE DE TYRANNIDÉS

Leader:
Michel Bertrand
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8:30 AM. Meet at the Sainte-Martine dam. Take Rte 138 south to Sainte-Martine, then turn right at restaurant Grégoire and drive to the rear of the lot near the river where we will assemble. We will be birding in Godmanchester and Dundee. We will be searching for various tyrant flycatchers to cement ID skills learned during the flycatcher lecture of the Winter Lecture Series in March (though it is not required to have attended this lecture; all are welcome). We will also try for area specialties such as Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, and Sedge Wren. *Possibility that the field trip will be rescheduled for Sunday if the weather turns sour. A warning will be issued via the Songsparrow group.* Bring a lunch. **All day.**

8:30 AM. Regroupement au barrage de Sainte-Martine. Prendre la route 138 vers le sud-ouest jusqu'à Sainte-Martine, tourner à droite au Restaurant Grégoire et se rendre à l'extrémité du stationnement, près de la rivière. Nous nous suivrons ensuite pour visiter plusieurs sites à proximité de chemins tranquilles, particulièrement à Godmanchester et à Dundee. Nous viserons principalement l'observation visuelle et auditive de divers tyrannidés (tyrans et moucherolles), afin de concrétiser l'apprentissage amorcé lors de la soirée consacrée à cette famille d'oiseaux, en mars 2008, dans le cadre des "Winter Lecture Series" (mais il n'est pas obligatoire d'avoir assisté à la soirée pour participer à l'excursion ; toutes et tous sont bienvenus). Nous profiterons aussi de notre passage dans cette région riche en espèces intéressantes pour tenter de voir des spécialités comme le Tohi à flancs roux, le Bruant des champs, le Troglodyte à bec court, etc. *L'excursion pourrait être reportée au dimanche si les conditions météorologiques le commandaient et un avis serait alors diffusé via le forum Songsparrow.* Apporter un lunch. **Journée complète.**

Saturday, June 20 - samedi 20 juin

RIGAUD MOUNTAIN AREA SUMMER SOLSTICE TRIP

Leaders:
Wayne Grubert
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wgrubert@hotmail.com
Martin Bowman
613-347-1655
pict@riverlink.ca

5:30 AM Take Hwy 40 west toward Ottawa to Exit 17. ("Facilities" available here.) Take Hwy 201 south for 2 km to Rue Saint-Georges on your right. Follow Saint-Georges for 6 km to the parking lot for the Sucrierie de la montagne. Drive carefully as this is a narrow winding road. We will explore some of the walking trails and roads which criss-cross Rigaud Mountain and surrounding area looking and listening for breeding songbirds and raptors. Bring insect repellent, water and something for an early lunch if desired. **Half day.**

5h30 Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest en direction d'Ottawa puis la sortie 17 (services disponibles à cette sortie). Prendre la route 201 et rouler sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chemin Saint-Georges. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer sur une distance de 6 km jusqu'au stationnement de la Sucrierie de la montagne. Conduire prudemment, cette route étant étroite et sinueuse. Nous allons explorer à pied certains sentiers et routes qui parcourent le mont Rigaud et ses environs, à la recherche de passereaux nicheurs et de rapaces. Apporter un insecticide, de l'eau et, si désiré, un lunch. **Demi-journée.**

Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks on the Summit

7:00 AM Tuesdays on April 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19, 26; 7h00 les mardis 21, 28 avril et 5, 12, 19, et 26 mai

Summit Park is a wooded area, transected with numerous footpaths. From mid-April to late May, spring migrants find the Summit an attractive place in which to rest and feed. At least 33 warbler species have been seen there over the years, and 24 warbler species are seen each year. Come and participate in one or all of the Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks led by Kyra Emo; it's a perfect start to a spring day.

It's Summer Already?

The Song Sparrow Team would like to wish you all wonderful spring and summer seasons replete with birds. This issue followed a rather "green" theme - fitting for spring, we think. We hope that the articles have not left you depressed, but energized and raring to go out and spread the word! There are many ways to involve yourselves (if you haven't already): become a more active volunteer within BPQ, encourage your child's or grandchild's school to "green" up the next generation's education (the key in so many ways), or visit green.cbc.ca to see how you can change the world.

Marie-Anne Hudson

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.