

The Song Sparrow

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UdeM Peregrines Make Guardians of Us All

Birds of prey have always fascinated humans, probably because they are so stunningly beautiful yet so fierce and ruthless. As a bird lover and a bird of prey admirer myself, I was absolutely delighted to discover a pair of Peregrine Falcons at my place of work in 2007.

At the time, I had just been awarded a new office with a window in our research centre at the École Polytechnique. My office is located in the André-Aisenstadt building on the University of Montreal (UdeM) campus, and my window is one of the few with a great view of the UdeM tower, a 26-storey building centrally located on campus. When I saw that the falcons seemed to have adopted the tower, I started watching them every day with great pleasure. As the months went by, I gradually became more and more interested, and I started reading about peregrines on the web. I found out that when they nest in an urban environment, they usually need a nest box or a tray. Peregrine Falcons do not build a nest like ravens or other birds, they simply make a scrape in sand, rocks or debris to hold the eggs. Of course I had no way of knowing if such material was available somewhere on the tower.

At the end of 2007, I contacted Dr. David Bird from McGill University, a bird of prey expert, and asked for his input on whether a nesting box was required for these falcons. He

suggested that we remain patient as the birds might have already chosen a nest site. As I watched them during courtship, I could not see where they could possibly nest. So again with the help of Dr. Bird, we visited the tower and selected the appropriate area to install a box. The CCFA (Centre de conservation de la faune ailée) generously financed the construction of the box, which was installed in March of 2008. A nice condo with a view as I liked to call it! By that time, I had found names for the two falcons: Roger for the male, in honor of Roger-Gaudry, the building where the tower is, and Polly for the female, for Polytechnique. I later discovered from her leg bands that the female's name is in fact "Spirit".

It took them a little more than four months to start using the nestbox perch, and another three months before they started entering it. By then I was really excited and hopeful that they would use it for the 2009 nesting season. When courtship started in February, it became clear that it was going to be the case. I watched with great interest as Roger and Spirit took turns during the 39-day incubation period. A friend generously offered me his telescope; I hooked it up to a webcam so I could always have the image of the nestbox in the corner of my screen while I worked.

On Mother's Day weekend, Spirit became a mother herself. Two of her four eggs hatched. During the next

weeks, it was with fascination that I and other observers witnessed the parents bringing food constantly. The young grew so quickly: a male and a female.

They were banded at 26 days of age, to the great distress of their parents. Rest assured, Peregrine Falcons never abandon their offspring, so we knew no harm would be done by banding. I named the male Algo, in honour of Alain Goulet, owner of the CCFA, and the female Polly, Spirit's former name. They were two cute white balls of down at that age - hard to believe that they would be ready to fly 15 days later! But indeed they were...

I knew from following other urban nest sites that I would have to babysit the young during their first flight attempts, as there are so many dangers in the city if they end up on the ground. My friend Richard Dupuis and I spent five days watching for them from dawn to dusk. When Algo fell off the nest for the first time, it was clear that he could not fly very well. We followed him all day long as he fell from the 23rd floor to the 10th down to the 8th and finally to the 2nd, where I picked him up and safely returned him to his family. He fell again the next day, but this time his attempt to fly was a little more successful and one of my colleagues witnessed him flying towards the city.

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Message From Our President

I look forward to serving as President for the next two years. Over the last 30 years, I have served on the boards of natural history, bird and environmental organizations in Toronto, Ottawa, St. John's and now Montreal. I think I am qualified to say that the "roll-up-your sleeves" board of BPQ is as good as it gets. I hope that I can live up to the high leadership standards of my immediate predecessors, Eve Marshall, Rodger Titman and Betsy McFarlane, who have presided over the renewal of our Society in recent years.

I welcome our new Board members: Lance Laviolette, David Mulholland and Alain Goulet. Few volunteer organizations today are in such a fortunate position to attract such talented, thoughtful and dedicated people. Indeed, our strength lies with our many excellent candidates, including those who were not elected this time. I strongly believe that the reason we have such an effective board is, first, we have a well-articulated mission and, second, the breadth of our activities serves an important need in the province of Quebec. That said, no organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of natural history can stand still in the face of the unprecedented changes coming to our environment.

You may be interested in a few items (among many) that our board will be dealing with over the next year. In no particular order, they include:

- ✂ the printing of our new brochure: this Marketing Committee initiative is in final revisions;
- ✂ the dispersal of our library and the interpretation materials from the Nature Adventure Centre: we are winding down the NAC and as part of that initiative we hope to offer the contents of our library to our membership this fall, so watch for notices in our newsletter and the Songsparrow email group;
- ✂ a few years ago, at a BPQ focus group session animated for us by Nature Quebec, our membership expressed strong interest in getting more involved with natural history/birding issues in the Montreal urban environment; in the fall, we hope to start examining how we might carry this out.



Jean De Marre was awarded the Member of the Year Award at the AGM in May. His citation read, in part: "Jean was the quintessential behind-the-scenes volunteer. His work has for the most part been done anonymously. He volunteered his creative talent and technical skills as a graphic designer to the society. He has designed the new banner for *The Song Sparrow* newsletter, he has given our annual report, *tchébec*, a vibrant new layout which has greatly increased its readability and largely contributed to the success of our BPQ 2009 calendar whose layout he helped create."

Bird Protection Quebec



■ Observation ■ Education ■ Conservation

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

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Introducing BPQ's New President

Jeff Harrison, our new President, came to Montreal only 11 years ago, but he joined BPQ immediately and has been an important member of the Society ever since. His birding skills, his enthusiasm for birds and nature in general, and his personal qualities of energy, dedication and talent for sensitive negotiation made him an obvious choice as a member of the Board (1999 on) and Vice-President (2005). There is no doubt that he will be an outstanding President.

Jeff's most public activity with the Society has been as Chair of the Monthly Meetings Committee, where he has, over the past six or so years, used his contacts and knowledge of the environmental and ornithological community to find us consistently excellent speakers on widely diverse topics. Four years ago, he initiated the BPQ Awards system which recognizes members of the Society and of the wider Quebec birding and conservation community who have contributed significantly to the Society and to nature

education and conservation in Quebec. In addition to those onerous tasks, Jeff took over the organization of the Christmas Bird Count from Felix Hilton three years ago and has also undertaken the chairmanship of the Property Acquisition Committee. It is clear he has been very active on our behalf even before becoming President.

His background has prepared him well for all these roles and we are the lucky beneficiaries of his years of experience. He has been Program Manager for the Quebec-Labrador Foundation's Atlantic Centre for the Environment in New Brunswick (1979); Foundation VP, Wilderness Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (1980-83); President of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club (1989-90), on the Board of Directors of Ontario Nature (1986-91); and a long-time member of the OFNC, Ontario Nature, and Ontario Field Ornithologists.

Jeff was born in Toronto and graduated from U. of T. with a BA (Hons) in Political Science and Economics. Before settling down in Ottawa, working for the federal government in 1973, he travelled extensively in the US, Australia, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. He was away for seven years, which included five years working in Australia and one in London, England. Even once back in Canada, he has lived in several cities: first Ottawa, where he met and married his wife, Victoria Dickenson; then St. John's, NL, where he earned an MBA and worked as a business consultant; then back to Ottawa and finally to

Montreal in 1998.

In Ottawa in the late '80s, Jeff and Victoria formed a partnership called Urban Naturalists, dedicated to promoting the value of observing and protecting nature in the urban environment. They wrote feature articles for Canadian magazines and worked with non-profits and institutions to create educational exhibits and school

materials on environmental issues. In 1990, he co-founded the OFN's Fletcher Wildlife Garden, reclaiming degraded habitat and planting indigenous grasses, trees and bushes to produce viable habitat for birds and other animals in the urban setting. He chaired the management committee for eight years.

Jeff worked as a tour guide for Nature Travel Holidays from 1995 to 2001. During this time, he led tours to two of his favourite places: Belize and Australia. He also introduced many hundreds of people to

birdwatching through adult education courses he taught in Ottawa and Montreal. In 2001, Jeff retired to devote himself to his natural history interests, primarily researching and writing a book on the history of Canadian ornithology (1534-1860).

Jeff and Victoria spend their summers in Newfoundland. They have three sons, one of whom is following in his father's footsteps, working on a PhD in Biology at McGill.

As our new President, Jeff would like to see the Society spend some time, energy and money on conserving urban habitat. An exciting possibility he sees for such a project would be the *falaises* area of the soon-to-be-reconfigured Turcot yards. In addition, he wants to raise the profile of BPQ in the public eye by making sure all our properties are well marked and attributed to us, for one thing. On the administrative level, he has already made a start toward disposing, in a useful, acceptable manner, of the books and stuffed birds and animals owned by the Society and at present reposing in cupboards in a Lachine high school. Members will hear more about this in the next couple of months.

We wish Jeff a high level of success and satisfaction as he guides the Society over the next two years. Good luck, Jeff.

Eve Marshall, Past President



Jeff gazing down in admiration at a newfound friend, a little Northern Parula banded at the McGill Bird Observatory. Photo by Gay Gruner.

... Continued from page 1...

I began to get very worried because it started to rain in the afternoon and I did not see him again for the rest of the day. What a relief to find him safely near the tower on the 10th floor the next morning, calling his parents for food. The next day, it was Polly's turn to get rescued, when I found her on the ground, harassed by crows. I caught her and returned her safely to the 10th floor with her brother. As I watched them in their flight attempts, it became clear that their goal was to return to the nest level on the 23rd floor as soon as possible. After a few days of practice: victory! Algo first, and then the next day it was Polly's turn to make it back, greeted by her brother who was very happy to see his play partner back.

The friendship and camaraderie

between brother and sister was another very interesting behaviour to watch. It was such a relief for me to see them both flying well with their parents, learning the life of a peregrine.

My job as a fledgling watcher was done. During the following weeks, they explored the roofs of the campus's various buildings, watched their parents carefully as they were hunting and eventually learned techniques from them. To this day, they are still with their parents but by the end of summer they will leave the nest site.

As I shared their story on my blog online, many people thanked me for everything I do for these birds, but in fact I should be the one thanking this wonderful peregrine family. I gave them a box, and they gave me hours and hours of pleasure and emotion... not to

mention hundreds of unique pictures!

I would never have believed two years ago that I would hold a young Peregrine Falcon in my arms one day! I truly admire these birds' force, intelligence, agility and beauty. Watching them every day has been a privilege that I would like to share as much as possible. That is why I am working on installing a web camera inside the "condo" so that we can all follow them online next year. Hopefully, they will give us many more young in the years to come.

For more details, please visit my blog, *Histoires de faucons à l'université*:

<http://fauconsudem.blogspot.com>

Eve Belisle

Front page photo: Spirit captured in flight, prey in her talons. Photo by Eve Belisle.

Speakers' Corner



Changes in Bird Behaviour

with André Cyr

Monday, October 5, 2009, at 7:30 pm

Beyond identification, there is the whole world of bird behaviour. Sometimes these behaviours are subtle. They might reveal an upcoming issue. Changes in nature affect some behaviours, to some extent. Birds migrating too early might not get enough food for their young at the proper time. Some might not reach their final destination or find a partner. This presentation will explore the issues of changes in bird behaviour caused by their local surroundings and other environmental factors.

André Cyr is Mr. Quebec Birder! He has contributed an enormous amount of knowledge through his teaching in the Biology Department at the Université de Sherbrooke over the past 40 years and through his professional journal articles and association memberships. He has also shared his expertise with the general public through the media, books, translations and as a speaker.

He published a *Seasonal Atlas of the Birds of Quebec* (1995) with Jacques Larivée of Rimouski, a first for North America. He served on a US-Canada committee for monitoring migrant birds, while coordinating the Breeding Bird Survey program in Quebec for many years. He also played a major role in the scientific analysis, promotion and distribution of the Quebec bird monitoring system, EPOQ, with Jacques Larivée. This work contributed to the recognition of the importance of checklists for scientific studies and that led to ebird.

He was presented with the Quebec Education Award at the BPQ Annual General Meeting in May 2009 in recognition of his contribution to the knowledge of ornithology in Quebec.

As a long-time friend of BPQ, we are delighted to have him back with us. Don't miss it!

Gail Desnoyers

Madagascar: The 8th Continent

Jay Vander Gaast, master birder and leader for Field Guides, has safely led six trips to Madagascar – but even the best birders may have to overcome unexpected obstacles. Fortunately, Jay deals with them calmly, since at the March meeting, equipment incompatibility forced him to speak without being able to project his pictures onto the big screen. Undeterred, the equally resilient BPQ audience drew in their chairs as close as possible to his laptop screen, and enjoyed his talk nevertheless.

After 80 million years of isolation, Madagascar finally saw humans 1,500 years ago; since then almost 90% of the original vegetation has disappeared. The highlands have been most affected. Much of the interior is covered only with a few species of non-native vegetation, with a resulting scarcity of wildlife there. What forest remains is mostly on the east coast, but that is the most heavily settled area, and the pressure of agriculture (mainly rice farming) is intense.

With only 204 breeding bird species, Madagascar boasts an amazing 120 endemics, including five families: Mesites - terrestrial rail-like birds; Ground-rollers - elusive terrestrial birds of rainforest and thorn scrub; Cuckoo-roller - a large-headed bird with a far-reaching characteristic voice; Asities - forest birds with vividly coloured wattles round the eye; and Vangas - small to medium-sized insect eaters of many bill types, who fill the roles taken elsewhere by such varied species as shrike, nuthatch, tree creeper and tits. The colourful Coua sub-family fills the niches of pheasants and road-runners. There are over 100 types of lemur, Madagascar's most famous

Speakers' Corner

endemic mammal, which range in size from tiny Mouse Lemurs to the large and vocal Indri. There are 500 types of reptiles (including 50% of the known chameleons) but only eight carnivores.

Jay took us on an island-wide tour showing and describing many extraordinary and often gorgeous birds, charming lemurs, vividly coloured reptiles, and widely varied flora. We moved first through the area of rice-paddies, where some water birds occur. Next was the rainforest of the west coast, where 40,000 hectares have been preserved as Ranomofana National Park. Then it was on to the dry and spiny forests of the south-west near Tulear, and thence to Fort Dauphin, where in the Berenty reserve several thousand hectares have been privately preserved since the 1930s. The final area was the incredibly hot rainforest of Perinet and Mantidea in the north-west. Sadly, in unprotected areas, jealous neighbours have been known to destroy or poach birds and other creatures on the land of people who make a living showing them to visitors. Fortunately, where reserves have been set up, animals and birds are safe from being hunted for food. They are also becoming more used to visitors and are often easier to see than they were in the past. However, with a young and growing population to be fed, and the widespread use of charcoal as fuel, pressure on the remaining areas of unprotected habitat is intense.

Having been lucky enough to visit Madagascar myself, I found this reminder of its amazing wildlife delightful. However, Jay feels that, if you want to bird Madagascar, you should do so soon – and perhaps be lucky enough to see his “nemesis bird”: the very rare Helmet Vanga.

Averill Craig

Bird Photography – Pure and Simple

Christopher Dodds, well-known freelance nature photographer, treated the assembled audience at our April meeting to an amazing array of super-sharp, full-frame photos of many of our favorite birds.

Chris gave the audience many guidelines on how to improve our bird photography. He discussed the importance of the direction and quality of light, explaining that light coming from behind the photographer generally gives better colour rendition, while off to one side might work better with a white bird (giving it more definition). Chris enjoys overcast days as there are fewer bright elements in the background to compete visually with the image.

Using only SLR (single lens reflex) cameras with 300-mm to 1000-mm lenses, Chris almost always uses a tripod, although many of the newer big lenses can be hand-held as they have image stabilization. Exposure should ideally be set manually as the in-camera meter will fluctuate according to the colour of the subject. To do this, one can

use a hand meter, use the “sunny 16 rule” (on a sunny day, set aperture to f/16 and shutter speed to the ISO film speed) or take a meter reading of the sky 30° to the side of the sun (+ 2/3 of a stop).

Chris emphasized the importance of careful observation of birds in order to predict where they will land or dive next and thus be prepared to get the shot. He also stressed that only through years of practice can one capture that perfect moment consistently.

He discussed the ethics of baiting, used by increasing numbers of bird photographers. He doesn't approve of the use of mice to entice owls or recorded bird calls near nesting sites, both of which disturb the natural behaviour of the birds. He would prefer to wait for several hours to get his photo.

A small flash is used to light up the underside of many of Chris' bird photographs; especially flying birds against a bright sky or ducks in shaded water (the water will stay very rich while the bird's feathers will show their bright colour. In winter, flash isn't usually needed as the snow reflects light up into the underside of flying birds.

Many photographers abhor white or grey skies, but Chris enjoys the challenge and showed us many beautiful shots with a totally white background. Shots of white gannets against white skies were particularly impressive. He even enjoys working in the rain – there is better colour saturation and not many other photographers to compete for space with, he said!

Throughout the presentation, Chris described the circumstances, the place where each image was taken and why he keeps going back to the same sites (there's always something different to take).

Chris ended the evening with some outstanding shots of Great Grey Owls. He had a series of shots of a pair doing an amazing courtship dance and then a number of eerie images of these huge owls flying through falling snow. Many thanks, Chris.

Audrey Speck



A Northern Gannet, illustrating the beauty of a white bird photographed against a light-coloured sky. Image copyright Christopher Dodds www.chrisdoddsphoto.com.

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:

Mars-Mai 2009

Oie rieuse: signalée plus souvent qu'à l'habitude; au moins 44 indiv. dans 22 localités différentes. **Oie de Ross:** une rare forme bleue signalée à Cap Tourmente 18 mai, sans document photographique (S. Rioux, JS. Guénette). **Bernache nonnette:** un oiseau à Victoriaville vu et photographié par plusieurs du 19 avril au 9 mai (C. Roy). **Cygne tuberculé:** 4 oiseaux signalés dans 4 localités. **Cygne trompette:** des oiseaux solitaires à Rouyn-Noranda 28 avril (J. Lapointe), Fabre 7-10 mai (J. Fréchette) et au Lac Dufault 31 mai (M. Lessard, S. Prince). **Cygne siffleur:** noté à 4 reprises seulement. **Canard siffleur:** 8 oiseaux signalés. **Arlequin plongeur:** 150 indiv. à Cap-Bon-Ami 24 mai (S. Brodeur). **Lagopède des saules:** une femelle imm. trouvée morte le 2 mars à Québec, possiblement suite à une collision avec un bâtiment (ph. N. Davignon, *fide* M. Gosselin). Le spécimen est au Musée canadien de la nature. Le seul autre spécimen provenant de Québec date de déc 1895. **Plongeon catmarin:** 350 oiseaux en migration en une heure à Cap d'Espoir 5 avril, un nombre élevé pour cette date hâtive (A. Couture). **Plongeon du Pacifique:** un oiseau en plumage de 1ère année à Sainte-Félicité 30 mai (J. Deschênes). **Grèbe à cou noir:** un indiv. à Victoriaville 1-4 mai fut photographié par plusieurs (D. Gagné et al.). **Héron garde-boeufs:** des oiseaux solitaires à Bonaventure 20 mai (L. Arsenault), Forestville 30-31 mai (L. Boucher, *fide* JP. Barry) et à l'île Verte 31 mai (C. Soulard et al.). **Héron vert:** un à Tadoussac 30 mai, 2ième mention seulement pour la Côte-Nord (S. Belleau et al.). **Ibis falcinelle:** un à Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 3 mai, le seul de la saison (L. Laflamme, N. Barden).

Urubu noir: un à Rivière-au-Renard 29 mai-2 juin (J. Bernatchez et al., ph. Y. English). **Épervier de Cooper:** un adulte à Gaspé 6 mai était à l'est de son aire (S. Marchand).

Grue du Canada: des oiseaux hors de leur aire étaient aux IDM 10-25 mai (DG. Gaudet, CA. Gaudet et al.) et à Ivujivik (Nunavik) 27 mai (*fide* G. Cyr). Un décompte de 40 oiseaux dénombrés entre Hérouxville et Saint-Narcisse 10 avr était hors de l'ordinaire (*fide* M. Sokolyk). Pour une 3e année, un couple a niché à Dundee (ph. D. Gagnon). **Grue blanche:** un oiseau apparemment de 1ère année planait au-dessus du mont Saint-Hilaire 25 avr (C. Côté, M. Laramée). **Pluvier siffleur:** un à Gaspé 22 mai, apparemment le 1er depuis 1973 pour la Gaspésie (ph. D. Jalbert). **Chevalier semipalmé:** des oiseaux à Baie-du-Febvre 19-23 avr (date hâtive record, M. Raymond), à Rivière-Ouelle 10 mai (C. Girard, C. Auchu) et à Port Saint-François 22 mai (D. Lever), semblaient appartenir à la race *inornata*, tandis qu'un autre à Barachois 31 mai appartenait à la race *semipalmata* (P. Poulin, R. Bisson et al.). **Barge marbrée:** 3 signalés en mai. **Bécasseau à échasses:** des oiseaux à Amos 18 mai (P. Perreault) et à Rivière-Ouelle 20 mai (JF. Rousseau). **Bécasseau roussâtre:** un oiseau à Val-d'Or 30 mai (ph. L. Imbeau et al.). **Combattant varié:** un à Masson 5-7 mai

March-May 2009

Greater White-fronted Goose: reported in above-average numbers; at least 44 indiv. from 22 different localities. **Ross's Goose:** a rare blue-morph reported at Cap Tourmente 18 May but without supporting photographs (S. Rioux, JS. Guénette). **Barnacle Goose:** a bird at Victoriaville was seen and photographed by many from 19 Apr to 9 May (C. Roy). **Mute Swan:** 4 birds reported from 4 different localities. **Trumpeter Swan:** singles at Rouyn-Noranda 28 Apr (J. Lapointe), Fabre 7-10 May (J. Fréchette) and Lac-Dufault 31 May (M. Lessard, S. Prince). **Tundra Swan:** only 4 birds reported; below average. **Eurasian Wigeon:** 8 birds reported. **Harlequin Duck:** 150 indiv. at Cap-Bon-Ami 24 May (S. Brodeur). **Willow Ptarmigan:** an imm. female was found dead 2 Mar at Québec City, presumably after a collision with a building (ph. N. Davignon, *fide* M. Gosselin). Specimen in the Canadian Museum of Nature. The only other specimen for Québec City dated back to Dec 1895. **Red-throated Loon:** 350 birds migrating in a one-hour period at Cap d'Espoir 5 Apr, an exceptional number for this early date (A. Couture). **Pacific Loon:** an apparent first-year bird at Sainte-Félicité 30 May (J. Deschênes). **Eared Grebe:** one at Victoriaville 1-4 May was photographed by many (D. Gagné et al.). **Cattle Egret:** singles at Bonaventure 20 May (L. Arsenault), at Forestville 30-31 May (L. Boucher, *fide* JP. Barry) and at Île Verte 31 May (C. Soulard et al.). **Green Heron:** one at Tadoussac 30 May was only the second for the North Shore (S. Belleau et al.). **Glossy Ibis:** a bird at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 3 May was the only one for the season (L. Laflamme, N. Barden).

Black Vulture: one at Rivière-au-Renard 29 May-2 Jun (J. Bernatchez et al., ph. Y. English). **Cooper's Hawk:** an adult at Gaspé 6 May was east of its range (S. Marchand).

Sandhill Crane: out-of-range indiv. were in the Magdalen Is. 10-25 May (DG. Gaudet, CA. Gaudet et al.) and at Ivujivik (Nunavik) 27 May (*fide* G. Cyr). A high of 40 was recorded between Hérouxville and Saint-Narcisse 10 Apr (*fide* M. Sokolyk). For the 3rd year, a pair successfully nested at Dundee (ph. D. Gagnon). **Whooping Crane:** an apparent 1st year bird was seen soaring over Mont Saint-Hilaire 25 Apr (C. Côté, M. Laramée). **Piping Plover:** one at Gaspé 22 May, apparently the first since 1973 for the Gaspé Pen. (ph. D. Jalbert). **Willet:** singles at Baie-du-Febvre 19-23 Apr (record early date, M. Raymond), at Rivière-Ouelle 10 May (C. Girard, C. Auchu), and at Port Saint-François 22 May (D. Lever), were apparently of the *inornata* race, while one at Barachois 31 May was of the *semipalmata* race (P. Poulin, R. Bisson et al.). **Marbled Godwit:** 3 reported in May. **Stilt Sandpiper:** rare in spring; singles were at Amos 18 May (P. Perreault), and at Rivière-Ouelle 20 May (JF. Rousseau). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** casual in spring, one was found at Val-d'Or 30 May (ph. L. Imbeau et al.). **Ruff:** one at Masson 5-7 May (J. Montplaisir et al.). **Wilson's Phalarope:**

(J. Montplaisir et al.). **Phalarope de Wilson**: des oiseaux à Longue-Rive 21-23 mai (F. Gallant et al.) et Val-d'Or 29 mai (R. Ladurantaye). **Mouette pygmée**: 8 indiv. signalés, tous en mai. **Mouette atricille**: des oiseaux à Paspébiac 14 mai (A. Couture) et Rivière-Ouelle 23 mai (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Mouette de Franklin**: un oiseau de 1er été à Pointe-au-Pic 30 mai (D. Boutin, J. Lachance) et un adulte à La Malbaie 31 mai (G. Lemelin, K. La Plante).

Tourterelle turque: une à Sainte-Félicité 22-26 avr (ph. J. Deschênes). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches**: une photographiée à Cap Tourmente 22-23 mai (D. Lavoie et al.). **Coulicou à bec jaune**: des oiseaux à Laval 15 mai (F. Bussièrès) et au parc de la Gatineau 23 mai (J. & A. Brisebois). **Harfang des neiges**: les oiseaux les plus tardifs étaient à Boucherville (M. Ostiguy) et Bergeronnes (R. Pintiaux) le 30 mai. **Chouette épervière**: plusieurs présences en mars. **Chouette lapone**: certaines se sont attardées sur la rive sud, p. ex. des oiseaux à Rivière-Ouelle 10 mai (C. Girard, C. Auchu), Rimouski 15 mai (JM. Turgeon) et à l'île Verte 23 mai+ (P. Franche, Y. Gauthier et al.). **Nyctale de Tengmalm**: au moins 7 présences rapportées au début de la période.

Martinet ramoneur: 739 indiv. entraient dans une cheminée à Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 18 mai, une nouvelle encourageante (A. Beauchamps). **Pic à tête rouge**: des oiseaux à Lachute 9-10 mai (ph. C. Dagenais, C. Barfuss) et à Blainville 11-14 mai (ph. J. Desmeules, E. René). **Pic à ventre roux**: 8 oiseaux notés, incluant des couples à l'Arboretum Morgan (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 27 avr (J. Koppes) et à Philipsburg 9 mai (M. Arnaudin). **Moucherolle vert**: un oiseau entendu et vu brièvement à Tadoussac 20 mai (R. Pintiaux). **Viréo aux yeux blancs**: des oiseaux à Sherbrooke 29 avr-2 mai (R. Tanguay), Cap Tourmente 14-24 mai (C. Vachon et al.), Québec 18-22 mai (L. Messier) et Rimouski 26 mai (G. Proulx). **VIRÉO À TÊTE NOIRE**: un photographié 24 mai à Pointe-aux-Outardes, à 2900 km de son aire de nidification la plus rapproché (JP. Barry), une première pour le Québec et une 3e mention pour le Canada. **Corneille mantelée**: 4 oiseaux d'origine indéterminée photographiés sur une pelouse à Beebe Plain, près de la frontière américaine 28 mai (P. Vallières). **Solitaire de Townsend**: un à Rimouski 3 mai (C. Hébert). **Grive des bois**: une au parc d'Aiguebelle (Abitibi) 30 mai, en dehors de son aire (L. Imbeau et al.).

Paruline à ailes bleues: un mâle à l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de McGill à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 14 mai, le 2e à être bague à cette station (MA. Hudson); des mâles ont aussi été trouvés à Lac-Brome 16 mai (G. Poirier) et à Godmanchester 22 mai+ (A. Quenneville, L. Goneau). **Paruline bleue**: une à Bromont 27 avr égalisait la date hâtive record (JP. Santerre). **Paruline de Townsend**: un mâle adulte bien décrit au Cap Tourmente 17 mai (J. Bernier, G. Lord). **Paruline à tête jaune**: une vue à Saint-Vallier-de-Bellechasse 22 mai (C. Deschênes). **Paruline des prés**: une femelle à Cap Tourmente 16 mai (JP. Ouellet). **Paruline azurée**: des oiseaux au parc du Mont-Tremblant 15 mai (JG. Papineau) et au parc du Mont-Royal 22 mai (S. Denault et al.); 2 mâles et une femelle à Saint-Armand 25 mai (JG. Papineau). **Paruline vermivore**: une à Québec 24 mai (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). **Paruline à capuchon**: un mâle photographié alors que la neige recouvrait encore le sol le 22 avr à Rimouski (ph. H. Dionne, A. Patry), une date hâtive

singles at Longue-Rive 21-23 May (F. Gallant et al.) and Val d'Or 29 May (R. Ladurantaye). **Little Gull**: 8 indiv. reported, all in May. **Laughing Gull**: singles at Paspébiac 14 May (A. Couture) and Rivière-Ouelle 23 May (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Franklin's Gull**: a 1st summer bird was at Pointe-au-Pic 30 May (D. Boutin, J. Lachance), and an adult at La Malbaie 31 May (G. Lemelin, K. La Plante).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: one at Sainte-Félicité 22-26 Apr (ph. J. Deschênes). **White-winged Dove**: one photographed at Cap Tourmente 22-23 May (D. Lavoie et al.). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: singles at Laval 15 May (F. Bussièrès) and Gatineau Park 23 May (J. & A. Brisebois). **Snowy Owl**: late birds included singles at Boucherville (M. Ostiguy) and Bergeronnes (R. Pintiaux), both on 30 May. **Northern Hawk-Owl**: still widely reported in Mar. **Great Gray Owl**: some lingered on the south shore until May, e.g., singles at Rivière-Ouelle 10 May (C. Girard, C. Auchu), Rimouski 15 May (JM. Turgeon) and Île Verte 23 May+ (P. Franche, Y. Gauthier et al.). **Boreal Owl**: at least 7 birds from last winter's invasion lingered into early spring.

Chimney Swift: an impressive 739 indiv. entering a chimney at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 18 May was encouraging news (A. Beauchamps). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: singles at Lachute 9-10 May (ph. C. Dagenais, C. Barfuss) and Blainville 11-14 May (ph. J. Desmeules, E. René). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: 8 birds reported, including pairs at Morgan Arboretum (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 27 Apr (J. Koppes) and at Philipsburg 9 May (M. Arnaudin). **Acadian Flycatcher**: a bird was heard and briefly seen at Tadoussac 20 May (R. Pintiaux). **White-eyed Vireo**: singles were at Sherbrooke 29 Apr-2 May (R. Tanguay), Cap Tourmente 14-24 May (C. Vachon et al.), Québec City 18-22 May (L. Messier) and Rimouski 26 May (G. Proulx). **BLACK-CAPPED VIREO**: one photographed 24 May at Pointe-aux-Outardes, 2900 km from its nearest breeding ground (JP. Barry), first record for Québec and third for Canada. **Hooded Crow**: 4 birds of undetermined origin were photographed on a lawn at Beebe Plain, near the US border 28 May (P. Vallières). **Townsend's Solitaire**: one at Rimouski 3 May (C. Hébert). **Wood Thrush**: one in Aiguebelle Park (Abitibi) 30 May was out of range (L. Imbeau et al.).

Blue-winged Warbler: a male at the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue McGill Bird Observatory 14 May was the second to be banded at this station (MA. Hudson); single males were also found at Lac-Brome 16 May (G. Poirier) and at Godmanchester 22 May+ (A. Quenneville, L. Goneau). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: one at Bromont 27 Apr tied the previous early arrival date (JP. Santerre). **Townsend's Warbler**: an adult male was well described at Cap Tourmente 17 May (J. Bernier, G. Lord). **Hermit Warbler**: one seen at Saint-Vallier-de-Bellechasse 22 May (C. Deschênes). **Prairie Warbler**: a female at Cap Tourmente 16 May (JP. Ouellet). **Cerulean Warbler**: singles at Mont-Tremblant Park 15 May (JG. Papineau) and Mount-Royal Park 22 May (S. Denault et al.); 2 males and a female at Saint-Armand 25 May (JG. Papineau). **Worm-eating Warbler**: one at Québec City 24 May (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). **Hooded Warbler**: a male photographed while snow was still covering the ground 22 Apr at Rimouski (ph. H. Dionne, A. Patry). Record early date. **Canada Warbler**: one at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 2 May

record. **Paruline du Canada:** une à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 2 mai, une date hâtive record (M. Beaupré). **Tangara vermillon:** un nombre record; des mâles adultes à l'Anse-à-Beaufils 28-29 avr (date hâtive record, R. Côté, ph. A. Couture) et à Baie-Saint-Paul 3 mai (B. Cloutier, ph. A. Henry), un mâle imm. à Jonquière 6-9 mai (L. Potvin et al., ph., G. Savard), une femelle à Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 24 mai (C. Charlotte, H. Mead, A. Séguin) et un 5e oiseau à Cap Tourmente 30 mai (R. Lepage et al.). **Tangara à tête rouge:** un mâle adulte à Roberval 29 avr-4 mai (R. Guay et al., ph., C. Bellemare); cette espèce de l'ouest est devenue plus régulière dans la province, ayant été notée chaque année à l'exception d'une lors des 11 dernières années.

Bruant familier: un à Dundee 25 mar, une date hâtive record, bien que difficile de faire le tri avec les nombreux oiseaux ayant hiverné (D. Gagnon). **Bruant des plaines:** 4 mentions en mai. **Bruant à joues marron:** des oiseaux à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 20 avr (ph. A. Couture, Y. Cyr et al., date hâtive record) et à Saint-Mathieu-de-Rioux 2-3 mai (ph. J. Larivée et al.).

Cardinal à tête noire: une femelle décrite à Notre-Dame-du-Cap 21 mai (J. Bélin). **Guiraca bleu:** un mâle à Sainte-Luce 29-31 mai (L. Lefebvre, ph., J. Larivée). **Passerin nonpareil:** un mâle noté à Sacré-Coeur 24 mai (P. Tremblay, *fide* D. Lepage). **Dickcissel d'Amérique:** rare au printemps, un mâle fut noté aux IDLM 23 mai (DG. Gaudet et al., ph. A. Richard).

Carouge à tête jaune: un mâle adulte à Authier-Nord 24 mai (J. Gagnon, C. Plante). **Oriole des vergers:** des mâles adultes au Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation (Montréal) 16 mai (J. Coutu), à Matapédia 22 mai (G. Bélanger) et à Saint-Armand 31 mai (N. Bourdon). **ORIOLE MASQUÉ:** un mâle adulte à Macamic 30 mai-2 juin (ph. A. Lebel), 2e présence au Québec. **Pinson des arbres:** des mâles adultes d'origine indéterminée rapportés dans 3 localités différentes à la fin de mai: Saint-Léonard-de-Portneuf 25 mai (ph. JC. Laplante, J. Braga), Baie-Sainte-Catherine 26 mai-9 juin (ph. Y. Tremblay, G. Vallières), Saint-Fulgence 28-29 mai (C. Cormier, ph. G. Savard). **Chardonneret élégant:** un à Cap Tourmente 23-27 mai, le seul signalé ce printemps (P. Larouche, pl. ob.).

was record early (M. Beaupré). **Summer Tanager:** record number; single adult males at l'Anse-à-Beaufils 28-29 Apr (record early date) (R. Côté, ph. A. Couture) and Baie-Saint-Paul 3 May (B. Cloutier, ph. A. Henry), an imm. male at Jonquière 6-9 May (L. Potvin et al., ph., G. Savard), a female at Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 24 May (C. Charlotte, H. Mead, A. Séguin) and a 5th bird at Cap Tourmente 30 May (R. Lepage et al.). **Western Tanager:** one adult male at Roberval 29 Apr-4 May (R. Guay et al., ph., C. Bellemare); this western species has become surprisingly regular in the province, being seen 10 out of the last 11 years.

Chipping Sparrow: one at Dundee 25 Mar was apparently record early although several birds overwintered in the province (D. Gagnon). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** 4 reports in May. **Lark Sparrow:** singles at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 20 Apr (ph. A. Couture, Y. Cyr et al., record early date), and at Saint-Mathieu-de-Rioux 2-3 May (ph. J. Larivée et al.).

Black-headed Grosbeak: a female described at Notre-Dame-du-Cap 21 May (J. Bélin). **Blue Grosbeak:** a male at Sainte-Luce 29-31 May (L. Lefebvre, ph., J. Larivée). **Painted Bunting:** a male reported at Sacré-Coeur 24 May (P. Tremblay, *fide* D. Lepage). **Dickcissel:** rare in spring, a male was in the Magdalen Is. 23 May (DG. Gaudet et al., ph. A. Richard).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: an adult male at Authier-Nord 24 May (J. Gagnon, C. Plante). **Orchard Oriole:** single adult males at Île de la Visitation (Montréal) 16 May (J. Coutu), at Matapédia 22 May (G. Bélanger) and at Saint-Armand 31 May (N. Bourdon). **HOODED ORIOLE:** an adult male at Macamic 30 May-2 Jun (ph. A. Lebel), second record for Québec. **Chaffinch:** adult males of undetermined origin were reported from 3 different localities in late May: Saint-Léonard-de-Portneuf 25 May (ph. JC. Laplante, J. Braga), Baie-Sainte-Catherine 26 May-9 Jun (ph. Y. Tremblay, G. Vallières), Saint-Fulgence 28-29 May (C. Cormier, ph. G. Savard). **European Goldfinch:** one at Cap Tourmente 23-27 May was the only report for the season (P. Larouche, m. ob.).

Nominating Committee Invitation

Although the 2009-10 Board of Directors has barely got its teeth into the year's work, we are already thinking of next year and possible future members of the Board. If you are interested in learning more about the responsibilities and activities of Board members, or if you know of someone whom you think has the necessary skills and leadership qualities, we would like to hear from you. The Nominating Committee will meet in the fall to start putting together a slate. Please submit nominations as early as possible. Elections, if necessary, will take place at the Annual General Meeting on May 31, 2010.

Eve Marshall
Past-President and Chair, Nominating Committee
eve.george@sympatico.ca

BPQ Awards - Winners All

As part of BPQ's ongoing effort to recognize outstanding contributions and excellence within our birding community as well as Quebec at large, the Awards Committee was pleased to present awards, at the AGM on May 11, to the following winners:

Member of the Year Award: **Jean De Marre**
Quebec Conservation Award: **Louise Gratton**
Member Education Award: **David Mulholland**
Member Conservation Award: **Gerard Desjardins**
Quebec Education Award: **André Cyr**
Service Award: **Chris Murphy**
Long-term Service Awards:

Kyra Emo	Sarah Jane Hills
Rodger Titman	Marika Ainley (posthumous)

The Greening of a Song Sparrow

We are now several issues of *The Song Sparrow* along the electronic road and we have to say that it has been a *huge* success, with only a very small number of members still opting for the printed version (most of those people without access to a computer). For the vast majority of members, our change has been almost a non-event, as everyone seems to have taken it in stride, often congratulating us on taking this decision.

As you know, the changeover saves BPQ several thousand dollars a year in printing costs and in the very expensive mailing charges we were subject to. Members now get their newsletter faster, and in colour with active web links. It is altogether a better product than we were ever able to offer you on paper. The significant amounts of money saved can now be applied to projects that we all have an interest in – projects to help the birds.

But we do not only save money and have more to use for our charitable purposes. Did you know that, for every ton of paper not used, the environment benefits to the tune of 15 mature trees, 22 m² of landfill space, 23,850 L of water, 3,780 kWh of electricity, 1,328 L of oil and 24 kg of air pollutants simply because we are no longer logging, hauling, processing and distributing all that wood pulp? Our distribution is now entirely free and easy. We probably have not yet actually saved a *ton* of paper (though it's heavy stuff) but you see where we are heading. We DO know that in the past two issues we have avoided using 5,276 pages of 75-g paper stock, and so in a year (5 issues) we can expect to save 0.75 of a big

tree, 1,230 L of water, 195 kWh electricity, and 68 L of oil, to say nothing of all that gas used by Canada Post to get it to over 500 doors every edition.

This is very much the future for publications such as ours. More and more similar organizations are starting to do as we have done. In addition to our *Song Sparrow* newsletter, we have our intermittent BirdCalls e-mailing to get out items of immediate concern and interest between major publication dates, we have our website with everything you need to know about our activities, we have the on-line birding discussion group and over time we will undoubtedly develop other similarly efficient, easy-to-use and friendly means of keeping our community in touch with each other.

Thank you all so much for accepting our new direction and for helping to make the change over so easy and rewarding. Just one more thing we would welcome from our readership: do you have any suggestions for projects that our significant savings could be used for? Let us know what you think we could be doing that we are not.

Richard Gregson

(for *The Song Sparrow* editorial team)

Footnote: To continue this theme, calculate how much the environment would benefit if we all switched to reading our daily newspapers on-line rather than having them delivered to our doorsteps and the vast benefits if all those PubliSacs vanished from the streets. Every tree saved is a tree a bird can nest in and find insects to feed its young.

tchébec Is Turning Green!

Following the successful introduction of the electronic version of *The Song Sparrow* newsletter a few months ago, distribution of the annual report of BPQ will also be by electronic means starting with the 2008-09 version, which is expected to be available by the end of October 2009. Those members who indicated that they wished to receive *The Song Sparrow* in printed format will receive a printed copy of *tchébec*.

Jean Bacon

Having Problems Reading *The Song Sparrow* on Your Computer?

For the vast majority of our readers, this will be redundant information, but those who are not sure how to access the new format (PDF), you may find that this helps.

HTML (the code behind Web pages) cannot maintain all of the original formatting and presentation of many documents. As our editor puts a lot of effort into making each edition look “just right,” we need to find a way to ensure that what you see is what she intended. Because of this, we use a different format: Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). PDF documents maintain the precise look of the original document, and they can be viewed on any Macintosh, PC, or Linux computer. It is almost 100% certain your computer already has the free reader software installed on it, but just in case it does not, or you cannot find it, you can [download and install the free Adobe Reader](#) program by clicking on the highlighted blue text. If you have a very old computer, you may not have the latest version of the reader so it might be worthwhile getting an update anyway.

When you access the hyperlink that you are sent by email when each new edition of *The Song Sparrow* is announced, your browser will go and “fetch” the file, download it and then automatically, open it in Adobe Reader. If this does not happen automatically then one of the essential settings in your browser has been set incorrectly and we refer you to your browser help screens for assistance. Should you still have difficulties, then please send us an email detailing the browser you are using and its version and whether or not Adobe Reader is installed, and we will try to help.

By the way, if you feel that you need to print a copy of any of the pages in the newsletter, or of any PDF files for that matter (but please think of the trees), do *not* use the web browser print facility. Rather, use the print button at the left end of the special Adobe Reader tool bar, which appears immediately above the viewing window. This will ensure proper printing.

Richard Gregson, Webmaster

Field Trip Diaries

- 28/02/09** GRENVILLE, QC, HAWKESBURY & VANKLEEK HILL, ON **Leaders: Jacques Bouvier & Martin Bowman**
Sunny, cold & bitter wind off the Ottawa River, -18 to -12 °C 7 birders 20 species
Bird of the Day: Bald Eagle in Quebec; N. Hawk Owl in Ontario
Other Birds of Note: Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-winged Crossbill, N. Shrike
-
- 07/03/09** BOIS PAPINEAU, LAVAL, QC **Leader: Chuck Kling**
Cloudy, 4 °C 6 birders 14 species
Bird of the Day: Pine Siskin
Other Birds of Note: Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, N. Cardinal, Common Redpoll
-
- 14/03/09** BOTANICAL GARDENS, MONTREAL, QC **Leader: David Mulholland**
Sunny, windy, -5 to 0 °C 16 birders 19 species
Birds of the Day: Red-winged Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill
Other Birds of Note: Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin
-
- 21/03/09** PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES, PIERREFONDS, QC **Leader: Wayne Grubert**
Clear, calm, -9 °C 13 birders 30 species
Birds of the Day: Common Goldeneye, Pileated Woodpecker
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Siskin
-
- 04/04/09** PARC DES RAPIDES, VERDUN WATERFRONT & NUNS' ISLAND, VERDUN, LASALLE, QC **Leader: Diane Demers**
Cloudy, damp & cold. 11 birders 41 species
Bird of the Day: Red-bellied Woodpecker
Other Birds of Note: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Bufflehead, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin
-
- 11/04/09** BEAUHARNOIS, ST-LOUIS DE GONZAGUE, ST-TIMOTHÉE, HUNGRY BAY, QC **Leader: Felix Hilton**
Sunny, cold 14 birders 49 species
Bird of the Day: Tundra Swan
Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, N. Shoveler, Redhead, Pied-billed Grebe, Am. Coot, Great Horned Owl, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin
-
- 18/04/09** BAIE-DU-FEBVRE, QC **Leaders: Jean Demers & Clémence Soulard**
Clear, windy 14 birders 43 species
Bird of the Day: 20,000 Snow Geese
Other Birds of Note: Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, N. Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Dunlin, Eastern Phoebe, Am. Tree Sparrow.
-
- 25/04/09** HUDSON, QC **Leader: Barbara MacDuff**
Sunny, warm 36 birders 55 species
Birds of the Day: Wild Turkey, Broad-winged Hawk
Other Birds of Note: Pied-billed Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, E. Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin
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- 02/05/09** COOPER MARSH, ON **Leader: Martin Bowman**
Mix of sun and cloud, 14 °C 26 birders 55 species
Bird of the Day: Black-crowned Night-Heron
Other Birds of Note: Am. Bittern, Osprey, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Warbling Vireo, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, E. Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird
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- 03/05/09** PARC-NATURE DE LA POINTE-AUX-PRAIRIES, MONTREAL, QC **Leader: Diane Demers**
Sunny, windy 11 birders 51 species
Bird of the Day: Am. Robin with a white head!
Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Red-necked Grebe, Green Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Blue-headed Vireo, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Baltimore Oriole
-
- 09/05/09** PHILIPSBURG, QC **Leader: Sandy Montgomery**
Cool, cloudy, heavy rain later on 22 birders 68 species
Birds of the Day: Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Common Raven, E. Bluebird, Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole

10/05/09	PARC-NATURE DU BOIS DE L'ÎLE-BIZARD, ÎLE BIZARD, QC	Leader: Felix Hilton
Cool and cloudy with showers		5 birders 34 species
Bird of the Day: Barred Owl		
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Virginia Rail, Sora, Barred Owl, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Brown Thrasher		
16/05/09	ST. JEAN, ST-BLAISE, ST-PAUL, QC	Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Mild, cloudy		10 birders 52 species
Bird of the Day: Semipalmated Plover		
Other Birds of Note: Common Goldeneye, Am. Bittern, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, Philadelphia Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers		
18/05/09	SUMMIT PARK & MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY, MONTREAL, QC	Leader: Darlene Harvey
Warm, clear sky		16 birders 46 species
Bird of the Day: E. Screech Owl		
Other Birds of Note: Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Philadelphia Vireo, Common Raven, E. Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Bay-breasted and Black and White Warblers, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting		
23/05/09	REFUGE FAUNIQUE MARGUERIT D'YOUVILLE, ÎLE ST-BERNARD, CHÂTEAUGUAY, QC	Leader: Tom Long
Light winds; 11 to 18 °C		19 birders 76 species
Bird of the Day: Pectoral Sandpiper		
Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Common Loon, Cooper's Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Black Tern, Alder, Willow and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireo, Purple Martin, Brown Thrasher, Blackpoll and Wilson's Warblers, N. Waterthrush		
24/05/09	UPPER CANADA MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, INGLESIDE, ON	Leader: Wayne Grubert
Cool and breezy, 8 to 20 °C		8 birders 51 species
Bird of the Day: Baltimore Oriole		
Other Birds of Note: Ruffed Grouse, E. Wood-Pewee, Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Nashville, Black-throated Green and Blackpoll Warblers, N. Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Bobolink		
06/06/09	ALFRED & THE LAROSE FOREST, ON	Leader: Jacques Bouvier
Sunny, windy and hot, 26 °C		14 birders 71 species
Birds of the Day: Cape May Warbler & Whip-poor-will		
Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Am. Coot, Wilson's Phalarope, Upland Sandpiper, Common Raven, E. Meadowlark, Bobolink		
13/06/09	HUNTINGDON, GODMANCHESTER, DUNDEE, ST-TIMOTHÉE, MELOCHEVILLE, QC	Leader: Michel Bertrand
Sunny, hot		80 species
Birds of the Day: Brewster's Warbler, Sedge Wren		
Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, N. Rough-winged Swallow, N. Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, E. Towhee, Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink		
20/06/09	SUMMER SOLSTICE TRIP, RIGAUD, QC	Leaders: Martin Bowman & Wayne Grubert
Cloudy, light breeze, 20 °C		15 birders 54 species
Bird of the Day: Mourning Warbler		
Other Birds of Note: Black-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker, Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Black-and-white Warblers, Am. Redstart, N. Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch		
27/06/09	SUMMER SERIES TRIP #1: ST. HUBERT, CARIGNAN & CHAMBLY, QC	Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Cloudy, numerous showers		6 birders 47 species
Bird of the Day: Bobolinks		
Other Birds of Note: Am. Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, N. Harrier, Purple Martin, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, Brown Creeper		
04/07/09	SUMMER SERIES TRIP #2: PHILIPSBURG & ST-ARMAND, QC	Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Overcast, windy, occasional rain		8 birders 63 species
Bird of the Day: Yellow-throated Vireo (heard only)		
Other Birds of Note: Green Heron, Osprey, N. Harrier, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, Am. Kestrel, Merlin, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, E. Bluebird, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Black-and-white Warblers, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch		
11/07/09	SUMMER SERIES TRIP #3: BOTANICAL GARDENS, MONTREAL, QC	Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Warm, breezy with sun		12 birders 25 species
Bird of the Day: Cooper's Hawk		
Other Birds of Note: Pied-billed Grebe, Chimney Swift, Common Raven, Warbling Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak		

Cloudy with sunny periods

4 Birders 48 species

Bird of the Day: Ruffed Grouse

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Virginia Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House and Marsh Wrens, E. Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch

Field trip diaries compiled by Sheldon Harvey

Birding Among the Ruins: A Trip to Belize and Guatemala

I had long wanted to visit Belize. I purchased a field guide for the area over a decade ago, and my interest was further piqued when my brother, a geologist for a gas company, was sent on a "course" in Belize at about that time ("Modern Carbonates," which is geologists' code for reef snorkelling). Somehow, though, I never actually got there. Last year, however, friends went birding in Belize and I was galvanized again. I soon signed up for a trip to Belize and Guatemala, and in January I was on my way.

The trip combined nature and culture: in addition to birding and other natural explorations, we also visited four Mayan sites: Lamanai and Xunantunich in Belize and Yaxhá and Tikal in Guatemala. Except for the first couple of nights in Belize City, we were based in jungle lodges.

The birding started in the garden of our first hotel, which was full of hibiscus and bougainvillea, and of tropical orioles, flycatchers and hummingbirds, as well as friends from home such as Magnolia Warbler and Gray Catbird. On our first full day in Belize, we took a boat tour up the New River to Lamanai, stopping often along the way for a Black-collared Hawk here, a colony of Boat-billed Herons there, or a Morelette's crocodile on the bank. Luis, our guide, and his brother, who captained the boat, had an amazing capacity to spot these creatures while we flew up the river at a spanking pace, raising rooster-tails of spray as we rounded the bends! Our visit to Lamanai was to set the tone for much of our tour, as our lessons about the history and archaeology of the site were frequently interrupted when some

member of the group spotted an interesting creature in the vicinity.

Perhaps the highpoint of our tour was Tikal, where wildlife is so thick on the ground that it boggles the Canadian mind. Without even leaving the grounds of the lodge, one might trip over a Plain Chachalaca or Ocellated Turkey outside one's cabin, wake to the roars of howler monkeys, watch the ubiquitous White-nosed Coatis foraging for food, or laugh at the antics

billed Toucans (*pictured below* at Tikal) and Red-lore'd Parrots in the golden light; and watch as the ruins turned first gold and then copper in the setting sun. Night falls fast in the tropics and we were so engrossed in the sights that it was already dusk as we set out on our way back to the lodge. Then it was that we had perhaps our greatest thrill when we encountered a venomous Jumping Fer-de-lance on the path. These snakes are reputed to be able to jump 5 or 6

feet, but fortunately this one opted not to demonstrate that ability but instead chose to play dead, allowing our guide to remove it from the path with a long stick, while the rest of us watched the drama from a safe distance. We still had a ways to walk, it was getting darker and darker, and, since we had set out in broad daylight, not one of us had thought to bring a flashlight! Small wonder that the mood on the rest of our walk was somewhat jittery.



Zofia Laubitz

of a group of indignant Gray-necked Wood-Rails engaged in their constant turf wars. More unnerving creatures are also present, as we were to find out... The highpoint of the highpoint had to be our visit to Tikal National Park in the late afternoon. We had already toured the site that morning and had been regaled with Mayan architecture, a wealth of anecdotes from our park guide, and a satisfying quota of new birds. But late in the afternoon, most of the tour groups are gone and the wildlife takes over. Now we could see a flock of Ocellated Turkeys (which make our own Wild Turkeys look like poor relations) browsing among Mayan walls; photograph Crested Guans, Keel-

Other highlights included the night drive out from one of our Belize lodges to see a Northern Potoo, a bird that looks strange enough by daylight, downright otherworldly by flashlight; our sighting of a rare Agami Heron, notable as much for Luis's excitement as for the beauty of the bird itself, though it is a stunner; and our finding of a field containing at least a hundred Fork-tailed Flycatchers, perhaps staging in preparation for the move north. All this plus (mostly) warm weather, excellent food, and an apparently inexhaustible variety of rum drinks - what more could a Canadian birder want in winter?

Zofia Laubitz

iBird: The Ultimate Portable Field Guide?

Most of you will, by now, have seen references in the birding chat-groups and media to a new application from the iPhone and iPod going under the name of, what else, iBird. Understandably, there is some natural resistance to gimmicks in our interest group, but LBJ is a sucker for technology and so had to check this out.

Well, it is not perfect, but it is pretty amazing and if you have an iPod, as so many do these days, you might want to give it serious consideration. It may not have the big name status of the National Geographic field guide or Sibley, but it is cheap, just about as portable as anything can be these days, fast to use and truly “cool” as well. You can obtain it as a down-loadable application from the iTunes store at prices varying from \$5 to almost \$30 depending on the level of sophistication and searchability you require. There is even a Canada-only version if the ABA area is too big, and there are rumours of other geographic regions being added as well.

What do you get? Most of the things you'd expect in a field guide: pretty good drawings but also sets of photographs, song recordings (Sibley doesn't have that), range maps, anatomical descriptions, information about habitat, etc., and a

nifty facility to track down truly difficult birds by entering various features such as size, habitat, beak shape, activity. You then receive an ID or a small selection of possible IDs in return, which is terrific for the not-so-cutting-edge birders amongst us. Depending on the internet connection options you have in the field, you can also rapidly access further information on Bird-Wi-Fi and other online databases. This feature is probably only workable with the phone and not the iPod version, although the latter is fine using your home (or Starbucks') wifi access.

Personally, I found the song recordings really helpful and immediately available. Not quite as detailed as the Stokes or BirdJam recordings, but if you have an iPod, you probably have those with you anyway and the two together are very useful.

National Geographic also has something similar available, but only at a fairly primitive stage, with more features coming along in the future. At the moment, I have found that an iBird in the hand and a “traditional” field guide in my pack make IDs a cinch and certainly lighten the load as all the features are available with one hand – thumb actually – while the other keeps the bird in the binoculars. Very neat, very cool, very useful... LBJ says you should get it. **LBJ**

Passenger Pigeon Donated to Redpath

The Board has decided to wind up the NAC operation and donate furniture, mounted specimens, and our extensive book collection to good homes. The Passenger Pigeon was our most important specimen. We felt it important to act quickly and donate it to an institution that would appreciate its unique value and have the resources to properly look after it.

In March, I delivered our Passenger Pigeon, complete with display case from the Nature Adventure Centre (NAC) collection, to Virginie Millien, Curator-in-Chief, Zoology and Paleontology Collections at the Redpath Museum.

I have arranged for David Bird to speak about endangered and extinct birds at the Redpath on Sunday afternoon, October 18. Our pigeon will be on display at that time. This lecture will be part of McGill Homecoming activities. It will be advertised in the McGill events calendar. A formal handing-over ceremony with photo-op will take place before the lecture. The Library Committee intends to offer, at modest prices, most of our nature book collection to members in the fall. Watch for announcements on the Song Sparrow email group and other electronic media. **Jeff Harrison**

Big Sit Report for 2009

Cool, damp weather seemed to keep members from participating in this year's Big Sit competition in May. Only two birders took part, although Germain Savard from the Saguenay enjoyed the experience so much he did five counts! Germain set the record for this event during our 90th Anniversary celebrations with 62 species. This year, his best during the official weekend was 50 species on May 16, but he did reach 60 on May 27. Numbers like this are very impressive and mean Germain has an excellent vantage point with a wide variety of

habitats. Your compiler had a total of 40 species from his usual picnic table in Hudson. Hopefully next year the weatherman will cooperate and a few more people will participate. It really is a good deal of fun as well as being a challenge.

Wayne Grubert

Education Update

Members of BPQ's Education Committee accompanied 130 grade 4 children from St. John Fisher School to Bois-de-l'île Bizard Nature Park in May (*pictured below*). The children thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful spring weather as well as the birds, turtles and frogs. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this trip memorable.



The children in grade 3 from Ecole St. Rémi enjoyed learning about birds thanks to a presentation by Gay McDougall and David Mulholland. Rain made the planned trip to a nature park impossible so the children enjoyed a trip to the Ecomuseum instead.

Environmental Studies students from John Abbott College were shown flora and fauna in the L'Anse-à-l'Orme woods in early spring. Thanks to Chris Murphy, Gay McDougall, David Mulholland and Barbara MacDuff for finding all the birds.

Barbara MacDuff



Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

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

Saturday, August 29 - samedi 29 août

COOPER MARSH, ON

Leader: 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. Allow at least an hour's travel time. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds and migrating passerines. **Half day.**
Martin Bowman 8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401), prendre la sortie pour Lancaster, Ontario (sortie 814). Prendre l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivre les indications pour le marais Cooper. Prévoir au moins 1 h de route. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces diurnes, limicoles et passereaux en migration. **Demi-journée.**
613-347-1655
pict@riverlink.ca

Saturday, September 5 - samedi 5 septembre

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

Leader: 7:30 AM From Hwy 40 exit St. Jean Blvd north, left (west) on Gouin Blvd, right (north) on Jacques Bizard Blvd, over bridge, left (west) on Chevreumont, right (north) on de l'Église, right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approximately 1 km. Parking: \$7.00. Looking for shorebirds, waterfowl, confusing fall warblers. **Half day.**
Felix Hilton 7h30 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 parulines en migration. **Demi-journée.**
514-631-3437
hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

Saturday, September 12 - samedi 12 septembre

HUDSON, QC

Leader: 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. A good choice of habitats to visit with a combination of driving and walking. Looking for confusing fall warblers, waterfowl and hawks. **Half day.**
Barbara MacDuff 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. Une belle variété d'habitats seront visités en combinant marche et déplacements automobiles. Espèces recherchées : parulines en migration, sauvagine et rapaces diurnes. **Demi-journée.**
514-457-2222
barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

Saturday, September 19 - samedi 19 septembre

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 highway at the motel. Note the small PQSPB 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. Bring a lunch. Looking for migrating passerines, waterfowl and hawks. **All day.**
Sandy Montgomery 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. L'entrée du motel permet d'accéder au stationnement de POQ, situé juste au sud. Bonne variété de sentiers dont les niveaux de difficulté vont de longs et ardues à courts et faciles. Apporter un lunch. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, sauvagine et rapaces diurnes. **Toute la journée.**
514-482-0565
sandy_montgomery@sympatico.ca

Saturday, September 26 - samedi 26 septembre

ALFRED, ON

Leader: 8:30 AM Meet at the Ultramar Service Station in Alfred. Take Hwy 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. About 90 minutes from Montreal. We will explore the area around Alfred including Alfred Bog, Alfred Sewage Lagoon and the Prescott-Russell Recreational Trail. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, and migrating passerines and shorebirds. **Half day.**
Jacques Bouvier
613 524-1154
bouvier@magma.ca

08h30 Rassemblement au poste d'essence Ultramar d'Alfred. À partir de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 jusqu'à la frontière ontarienne et continuer sur l'autoroute 417 ouest jusqu'à la sortie 9 (route 17). Prendre la route 17 et continuer sur celle-ci en dépassant Hawkesbury et en continuant jusqu'à Alfred (environ 32 km). Le poste d'essence Ultramar se trouve sur la droite, au coin des routes Peat Moss et 17. Prévoir environ 1h30 de route à partir de Montréal. Nous comptons explorer les environs d'Alfred, incluant la tourbière d'Alfred, la lagune d'Alfred et le sentier récréatif Prescott-Russell. À la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques et de rapaces ainsi que de passereaux et limicoles en migration. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 3 - samedi 3 octobre

DUNDEE, STE-MARTINE, QC (LA RÉSERVE NATIONALE DE FAUNE DU LAC SAINT-FRANÇOIS)

Leader:

Wayne Grubert

450-458-5498

wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 AM Meet at the Visitor Centre parking lot. From Montreal take the Mercier bridge to Hwy 132 and follow it west through Châteauguay to Beauharnois. At Beauharnois (before reaching the bridge and dam), turn left on Hwy 236 and follow it through St-Étienne-de-Beauharnois, St-Louis-de-Gonzague, and St-Stanislas-de-Kostka until it once again joins Hwy 132. Take Hwy 132 west past Ste-Barbe and St-Anicet to Cazaville. Continue approximately 8 km on Hwy 132 past Cazaville to chemin-de-le-Pointe-Fraser. Turn right on this road and meet at the visitor centre parking lot about 1 km along on the left. From the West Island, take Hwy 20 west to Exit 14 and cross over the river at Valleyfield on the Msgr Langlois Bridge, along Hwy 201 to join up with Hwy 30, continue west to Hwy 132 and from there to Dundee. About 1 to 1.5 hours from Montreal. After birding the Dundee area, we will return in convoy to Ste-Martine to look for shorebirds. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, migrating passerines and shorebirds. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement de l'Accueil. De Montréal, prendre l'un ou l'autre des ponts Mercier, Champlain ou Jacques-Cartier et rejoindre l'autoroute 132 ouest. Continuer sur celle-ci en passant par Châteauguay jusqu'à Beauharnois. À Beauharnois (avant d'atteindre le pont et l'étang) tourner à gauche sur la route 236 et suivre celle-ci à travers Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois, Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, and Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka jusqu'à ce qu'elle rejoigne à nouveau la route 132. Prendre la 132 ouest en passant par Sainte-Barbe et Saint-Anicet jusqu'à Cazaville. Après Cazaville, continuer sur cette route sur une distance d'environ 8 km jusqu'au chemin de la Pointe-Fraser. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au stationnement de l'Accueil, situé à environ 1 km de là, à gauche. Prévoir environ 1h à 1h30 de route à partir de la région de Montréal. Après avoir parcouru la région de Dundee nous reviendrons vers Sainte-Martine, en roulant à la file, à la recherche de limicoles. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces, parulines en migration et limicoles. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 10 - samedi 10 octobre

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

Leader:

Felix Hilton

514-631-3437

hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM From Hwy 40 exit St. Jean Blvd north, left (west) on Gouin Blvd, right (north) on Jacques Bizard Blvd, over bridge, left (west) on Chevrement, right (north) on de l'Église, right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approximately 1 km. Parking: \$7.00. Looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and migrating passerines. **Half day.**

8h00 De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement 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, October 17 - samedi 17 octobre

CENTRE D'INTERPRETATION DE LA NATURE DU LAC-BOIVIN, GRANBY, QC

Leader:

Sheldon Harvey

450-671-3773

ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 AM Meet in the CINLB parking lot. From the Champlain Bridge, follow Eastern Townships Autoroute (Hwy 10) to Exit 68. Turn right off the exit on to Daniel Bouchard Blvd (Hwy 139). Follow Daniel Bouchard Blvd into Granby, crossing Hwy 112 and continuing past Granby Zoo. Continue straight on Daniel Bouchard Blvd to the intersection with Drummond. Turn right on to Drummond. The free parking for the CINLB will be on your left. This site is approximately 75 minutes from the South Shore side of Champlain Bridge. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement du CINLB. Du pont Champlain, prendre l'autoroute 10 jusqu'à la sortie 68. À cette sortie, tourner à droite sur le boul. Daniel-Bouchard (route 139). Continuer sur ce boul. jusqu'à Granby, en traversant l'intersection avec la route 112 et en passant devant le Zoo de Granby. Continuer tout droit sur le boul. Daniel-Bouchard et tourner à droite sur la rue Drummond. L'entrée du stationnement se trouve à gauche. Le stationnement est gratuit. La durée du trajet, à partir du pont Champlain, Rive-Sud, est d'environ 1 h 15. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 24 - samedi 24 octobre

PARC NATIONAL D'OKA, QC

Leader: **Wayne Grubert**
450-458-5498
wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 AM Take Hwy 13 north to Hwy 640. Go west on 640 to its intersection with Hwy 344. Cross 344 into Parc d'Oka. Proceed 6.2 km to the Accueil Camping. An entrance fee of \$3.50 will be charged. Looking for migrating passerines, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. **Half day.**

8h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 13 nord jusqu'à l'autoroute 640. Continuer sur l'autoroute 640 ouest jusqu'à l'intersection avec l'autoroute 344. Traverser la 344 et entrer dans le Parc d'Oka. Continuer sur une distance de 6,2 km jusqu'à l'Accueil Camping. Frais d'entrée: 3,50 \$. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, rapaces, sauvagine et limicoles. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 31 - samedi 31 octobre

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

Leader: **Tom Long**
450-692-1590
ram_air455@yahoo.com

8:00 AM Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île St-Bernard, Châteauguay. From Montreal, take Hwy 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Hwy 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto St-Francis Blvd. Follow St. Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Salaberry Blvd 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 St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right. Walking trip looking for waterbirds and late migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. **Half day.**

8 h00 Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, l'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 se trouve à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques et de migrateurs tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. **Demi-journée.**

 <p>André Pelletier</p>	Trip Advice - De rigueur pour les excursions
	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.	

Last But Certainly Not Least... Welcome New Members!

Welcome to new and returning members Mario Besette, Léry; Frédéric Hareau, Montreal; Robert Levesque, Rougemont; Brian Mahoney, Les Cèdres; Sandra Minotti, Montreal; Madeleine Murray, Montreal; Dave Myburg, Brossard; Paoly Tang, St. Lambert; and Felipe A. Vazquez & Family, Montreal. We hope to meet you on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Join us...

Membership renewals will be mailed soon. Thank you to those of you who renew before October, which saves us postage, paper and the additional time required to send out reminders. Please take a moment to verify that your membership and volunteer information is correct. We rely solely on the enthusiasm and talents of volunteers to make BPQ an active and vital voice in the avian world.

The renewal notice also includes an option to make a tax-deductible donation to BPQ, which helps us fund bird-related activities such as education and research programs. Membership also has other benefits. Be sure to ask for a discount at the stores listed on BPQ's Equipment Sources website, posted at <http://www.pqsp.org/equipmentetc.html>. **Sharon Veysey**