

# The Song Sparrow

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Bulletin de la Protection des oiseaux du Québec



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## Birds of East Africa

with Rodger Titman and David Bird -- Monday, January 11, 2010, 7:30 pm

As regular participants in McGill University's Canadian Field Studies in Africa program, Rodger and Dave have collectively made nine trips, each generally lasting three to four weeks, to Kenya as well as Uganda and Tanzania. During those trips, they not only taught ornithology, but also introduced their students to some of the most spectacular birds in the world - Ostrich, Shoebill, Secretary Bird, Hamerkop, Martial Eagle, and Lappet-faced Vulture! Kenya is also home to an array of other interesting and colourful birds such as Bee-eaters, Barbets, Hornbills, Mousebirds, Sunbirds, Turacos, and Woodhoopoes. Come share the evening with Rodger and Dave, not only two highly enthusiastic bird-lovers but also best buddies, and learn about the amazing habits and secrets of the birds inhabiting the wilds of East Africa!

Rodger retired in September from the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, at McGill University, where his main academic interest was behavioural ecology. Although he prefers working with birds - and above all, his beloved

ducks - his research has involved a variety of animals from Musk Turtles to forest-dwelling bats. Over the years, he has amassed an ABA list of over 550 bird species and has recorded birds in East Africa while participating in McGill University's Canadian Field Studies in Africa program.

As a Full Professor of Wildlife Biology and Director of the Avian Science and Conservation Centre of McGill University, David has published over 165 scientific papers on birds of prey and supervised over 40 graduate students on a wide range of wildlife themes. He teaches several university-level courses, including ornithology, wildlife conservation and wildlife management. He has written and/or edited several books, the most recent one being *Raptor Research and Management Techniques* in 2007. Besides his innumerable public lectures and radio and television appearances, Dave is also a regular columnist on birds for *The Gazette* of Montreal and *BirdWatcher's Digest* magazine.

**Rodger Titman and David Bird**



Rodger Titman



Rodger Titman

## Table of Contents

President's Message.....	2	Help Wanted.....	5	Field Trip Diaries.....	9
Second Breeding Bird Atlas.....	3	Birdviews.....	6-7	Wisdom of Birds.....	10
Membership News & Meetings.....	3	Parking Permits.....	7	GBBC and Project FeederWatch.....	10
Education Update.....	3	In Memoriam.....	8	Upcoming Field Trips.....	11-12
Speakers' Corner.....	4-5	BPQ Winter Lecture Series.....	8	Invitation from Mont Tremblant.....	12

## Message From Our President

Now that fall is upon us and winter approaches, the BPQ Board is back in full swing dealing with the affairs of our Society. High on the agenda is a range of initiatives, some of which I have already alluded to. In this message, I would like to comment on three: the disposal of our library collection, the commencement of our urban nature initiative, and the Montreal Christmas Bird Count.

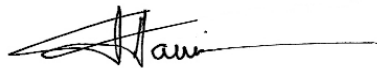
The Library Committee has drafted a disposal plan for the 750 books in our library. With the decision to wind-up the Nature Adventure Centre, the books have been sitting in boxes in storage at Bishop Whelan School for the last few years. We are hoping that the Blacker-Wood Library of Ornithology will take some of the rarer ones. After that, they will be available to members on a first-come, first-served basis. We expect to notify members of sale details through *The Song Sparrow* Newsletter in February, the Songsparrow Listserv, and our website. There are a lot of interesting books available so make sure you look out for our announcements. While the sheer volume of books makes it difficult for us to properly assess their condition, most are in good shape and will be sold at deep discount prices as a benefit of your membership.

A few years ago, at a focus group session hosted by Nature Quebec, BPQ attendees set a high priority on a new initiative to get involved with urban nature. This matter was discussed and our interest reaffirmed at a recent Executive Committee meeting. The Executive thinks that a project might be the best way to get started. Possible future actions will be a subject of further discussion and Board approval. While this would be a new initiative, we are already managing about 60 bluebird and wren boxes in Mount Royal Cemetery under the capable guidance of Helen Meredith. We hope to build on this initial success by adding boxes at our Philipsburg sanctuary next year as well as examining other sites in the Montreal region where boxes would be beneficial. If you have any interest in getting involved in the nest box program, or have ideas about a suitable urban project, speak to me at a monthly meeting or give me a call at 514-486-4943.

The 74th Montreal Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 19 this year. Plans are already afoot with most of our leaders back to organize their areas. This year we will have a new venue for the post-count social: the Montreal West Curling Club. The second-floor lounge is cozy and looks ideal. This year there will be a small organizing committee to help ensure a well-run event. More details will be available from the area leaders and through the Songsparrow Listserv.

As this message will reach you just before Christmas, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

Jeff Harrison, BPQ President



## 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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January 11, 2010

## The second *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec* is on its way!

Who hasn't heard of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Québec*?

Edited by Gauthier and Aubry, and published in 1996, this monumental work is a veritable encyclopedia of the birds of Quebec. Between 1984 and 1989, nearly 1000 volunteers collected atlas data that allowed the mapping of the distribution of breeding bird species in Southern Quebec.

Twenty years later, Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service and Bird Studies Canada have joined forces to work on the second *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Québec*.

We expect to find that changes have occurred in the distribution of a number of species during the last two decades. For example, the ranges of the Turkey Vulture, Northern Cardinal, Wild Turkey and Tufted Titmouse have all undergone a northward expansion. In contrast, we may also discover that the ranges of certain species have contracted.

The data collected for the second Atlas will allow us to measure these changes, providing a powerful tool for the conservation and monitoring of bird populations in Quebec. Furthermore, the data will also be used for a wide range of other avian research programs.

As you know, atlasing is birdwatching with a particular goal: finding breeding evidence for the largest number of species within a given area. To conduct this project, we need your help. Beginner or experienced birdwatcher, alone or as part of a group, everyone can participate. As of next spring (2010) and for the next five years, we hope that the atlas project will unite all the birdwatchers in Quebec!

For further information, and to follow the development of the project and the activities associated with the Atlas, keep an eye open for advertisements and articles in your club's newsletter, the magazine *QuébecOiseaux* and the website of Regroupement QuébecOiseaux. Happy atlasing!

**Benoit Laliberté**

Assistant Coordinator

Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec

## Membership News

A very warm welcome to returning and new members Michele Carignan & Herb Greenslade, Brossard; and Bonnie Soutar & Family, Montreal. We hope to see you on our field trips and at our monthly meetings.

**Sharon Veysey**

## Bird Protection Quebec Monthly Meetings 2009-2010

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

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

## Le deuxième *Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec* s'en vient!

Connaissez-vous l'*Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec*?

Paru en 1995 et véritable « Bible des oiseaux du Québec », cet ouvrage (Gauthier & Aubry 1995) nous a permis de cartographier la répartition des espèces d'oiseaux du Québec méridional. De 1984 à 1989, près de 1000 bénévoles ont contribué à récolter des données pour ce premier atlas.

Vingt ans plus tard, le Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, le Service canadien de la faune d'Environnement Canada et Étude d'oiseaux Canada s'associent afin de réaliser un deuxième *Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec*.

On s'en doute, de nombreux changements sont survenus au cours des deux dernières décennies au sein des populations d'oiseaux. Par exemple, l'Urubu à tête rouge, le Cardinal rouge, le Dindon sauvage et la Mésange bicolore sont toutes des espèces qui ont connu une expansion vers le nord. À l'inverse, peut-être découvrirons-nous que d'autres espèces sont en régression dans certaines régions.

Les atlas nous permettent de mesurer ces changements. Les données serviront à la recherche et surtout, s'avéreront des outils très utiles pour la conservation et le suivi des populations d'oiseaux du Québec.

Seul ou en groupe, débutant ou expérimenté, vous pourrez tous participer à ce grand projet. Participer à l'atlas, c'est pratiquer une activité d'observation où l'on se donne comme défi de trouver des indices de nidification pour le plus grand nombre d'espèces.

Pour réaliser ce projet, nous avons besoin de votre participation. À partir du printemps prochain (2010) et pour les cinq prochaines années, le projet d'atlas sera sur les lèvres de tous les ornithologues du Québec!

Surveillez les annonces dans votre club et le magazine *QuébecOiseaux* pour connaître le déroulement des activités de l'atlas. Bon atlas!

**Benoit Laliberté**

Adjoint à la coordination

Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec

## Education Update

BPQ's education committee has donated money to the Morgan Arboretum for the purchase of seed for the feeders located there. Walkers, skiers and snowshoers will enjoy bird observations all winter long as birds flock for a free hand-out.

### Doug Tarry's Young Ornithologists Workshop

Keen teen birders are invited to apply to Bird Studies Canada, located near Port Rowan, Ontario, for their summer camp held in August. Camp activities will include bird banding and field identification. Six applications will be accepted from across Canada and the deadline is April 30, 2010. BPQ will help with transportation costs. Please contact Barbara MacDuff at [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca) for more information, or go to [lpbo@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:lpbo@bsc-eoc.org).

**Barbara MacDuff**

## Speakers' Corner: Upcoming Speakers and Reviews



### Feeding Behaviour: A Window on Avian Intelligence

with Louis Lefebvre

Monday, February 1, 2010, 7:30 pm

Birders, both academic and amateur, have been recording novel and unusual feeding behaviours for decades. The accumulated database is a useful tool to look for species differences in innovativeness. Invention of new behaviours is one of the definitions of intelligence, so we can examine the relationship between the brain and the rate of innovation in particular birds

Louis Lefebvre, our speaker for the evening, is Professor

of Biology at McGill University and Program Director for the Minor Concentration in Science for Arts Students Program. Though he has a Ph.D. in Psychology from Université de Montréal, Louis decided to focus on animals, more specifically the non-genetic means by which new behaviours originate and are maintained and transmitted in animal populations. He studies innovations, learning and cultural transmission in the field, in captivity and with data from the literature. Most of his research centres on birds, with field work conducted on nine avian species out of the Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University, Barbados, and on feral pigeons in Montreal.






Louis is the perfect blend of science and art. He has published scores of scientific articles, several works of fiction and articles for non-specialists. He is also a photographer and a sculptor. A man of many talents and not to be missed!

### How Bird Song Inspired the Great Composers

Have you ever heard a bird singing from a written score? We did! Denis Hamel entertained us during the November monthly meeting with classical music from composers who included many bird songs in their written scores.

While working with a scientific research group, part of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations, Denis took nature photos. As a warm-up, he showed his photos of colourful birds (some with voice-over) taken in countries worldwide.

Composers have long been fascinated with bird songs and have used them as a source of inspiration for their works. The main event included music from the following classical repertoire:

-  a choral piece from Janequin *The Song of the Birds*
-  baroque music by Vivaldi, Rameau and Handel
-  classical period music by Beethoven
-  romantic period music by Dvorak
-  French repertoire by Ravel and Messiaen

Different genres were highlighted within each period: choral, concerto, symphonic and chamber music. Different instruments imitated the rhythm, pitch and even the trills of our feathered friends, demonstrating a myriad of glorious songbird melodies. Although probably every orchestral instrument could be programmed to imitate birds, it was mostly flutes, violins, clarinets and oboes that dominated the scene.

Strengthened by his high school teaching experience and expertise, Denis knew how to engage and focus attention on

conductors' musical scores. For tracking, a moving target bounced over the notes on the screen. That made following along easy!

Just as birds are chatty social creatures, so were the instruments which imitated their sounds. Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, a Handel organ selection and Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* (No. 6) echoed nightingales (flutes), cuckoos (clarinets) and a corncrake (oboe). In Messiaen's *Quartet to the End of Time*, we were expected to identify cardinal, Wood Thrush, and Veery. Dvorak, who spent three years in the U.S., composed his *American Quartet* while on holiday in Iowa, choosing the Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin and Scarlet Tanager as his personal favourites.

It is rare to have a speaker who is a mix of ornithologist, musician, world traveller and master teacher, eager to share his knowledge. More than 40 people were present to delight in Denis Hamel's multi-media presentation. He even topped it off with an oboe solo of bird song.

BRAVO! Denis, for an intriguing lesson in listening and learning.  
**Lesley Taylor and Gail Desnoyers**

### Ducking With Shawn Craik

It will come as no surprise to the lucky BPQ members who came to the October monthly meeting that Shawn Craik was awarded his Ph.D. only a couple of weeks later. His deep knowledge of all ducks, but especially the sea ducks, was so evident, and so complete, that any other outcome was unthinkable.

Shawn stepped in at the last minute when André Cyr became ill and could not give us his talk. Shawn's solution? Make the audience do the work. Or at least that's what he said he was going to do. In fact, of course, he did the work and we got the kudos for our wild guesses answering his well-structured and informative quizzes.

## Speakers' Corner... Continued

Shawn's talk focused on the five tribes of ducks. Can you name all five? We couldn't. They are: dabbling, diving, sea ducks, perching and stiff-tailed, distinguished by morphology, genetics and behaviour. There is only one species of each of the latter two tribes in Eastern North America, eight dabblers, five divers and thirteen sea ducks. Having established the five tribes, Shawn led us through the differences based on flight, feeding preferences, nesting patterns and plumage. He was assiduous in showing how the development of the birds' particularities in all these features originated through evolutionary advantages.

For instance, why do waterfowl generally moult all their flight feathers at once, while passerines don't? Answer: because they can. Waterfowl can hide and feed in shoreline reeds or far out on the ocean while flightless, whereas the small woodsy birds would perish in no time, prey to cats, hawks and hunger.

Why do diving ducks and sea ducks have smaller wings than dabblers? Answer: smaller wings trap less air so, with smaller wings, the deep divers have less buoyancy and are therefore able to manoeuvre better underwater.

Whether we were looking at the size and shape of the bills, the position of the legs on the body, or the speed of flight, Shawn carefully related it to the evolutionary advantages each particular feature gave to the bird in question. We all came away with an enhanced appreciation of the wonder of evolution and the depth of Shawn's knowledge of his preferred birds.

Many thanks to Shawn for an informative and very amusing evening, and congratulations on his doctorate.

**Eve Marshall**

Photo: Pair of Red-breasted Mergansers courtesy of Ann Cook.



### Duck Factoids... Test Your Knowledge!

#### Question

Which duck migrates farthest from its breeding location in Quebec?

Blue-winged Teal, which winters in Panama, Brazil and Peru, as discovered by satellite telemetry.

#### Answer

#### Question

Which duck dives the deepest?

Long-tailed Duck, which dives up to 200 m for clams. The eiders come a poor second at 100 m for mussels and other crustaceans.

#### Answer

#### Question

Which bird is the fastest flyer in a straight line on the level?

Red-breasted Merganser, at 130 km/hr. The Peregrine Falcon only beats it when diving through the air.

#### Answer

#### Question

Which duck species must nest in holes?

Wood Duck, Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Bufflehead. The Red-breasted Merganser may nest in holes, but not always.

#### Answer

### Directors Wanted

The election of the new members to the BPQ Board of Directors (for 2010-2013) will take place at the Annual General Meeting on May 31, 2010. There will be spots for between two and five new members, depending on how many seats become vacant. The Nominating Committee will be preparing a slate early in the New Year, and additional nominations may be proposed.

If you would like to submit your name, or if you know someone who might be interested in being on the Board, please contact us. The deadline for nominations, probably late April, will be announced in the next newsletter.

**Eve Marshall**

Chair, Nominating Committee, [eve.george@sympatico.ca](mailto:eve.george@sympatico.ca)

### tchébec Editor Wanted

After nine years, Jean Bacon is stepping down as editor of our annual report, *tchébec*. We need a volunteer to take over from Jean as soon as possible, and no later than the end of 2009. This position requires organizational and editing skills, an eye for detail and good computer skills. This is an excellent opportunity for someone to become more involved in BPQ, to work with a committee and to contribute to the functioning of our organization. Anyone interested should contact Jean at [jean.bacon@sympatico.ca](mailto:jean.bacon@sympatico.ca) or 514-935-3416 and she will be happy to provide more details.

## Parlons d'oiseaux

Bilan des observations intéressantes à travers la province  
par Pierre Bannon

Communiquez vos observations intéressantes à:

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

## Birdviews

Summary of interesting sightings from around the province  
by Pierre Bannon

Please report your interesting bird observations to:

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

### Septembre-mi-novembre

**Oie de Ross:** plusieurs oiseaux solitaires signalés; un pic de 6 indiv. à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 12 oct (M. Dennis). **Cygne trompette:** un au lac Anticagamac (PN de la Mauricie) 1-10 sept (A. van Dijk, S. Désilets). **Sarcelle cannelle:** une femelle signalée à Montmagny 4 oct (G. Lemelin, D. McCutcheon). **Fuligule à dos blanc:** un seul oiseau signalé, à Sainte-Angèle-de-Laval 1-4 nov (E. & P. Brassard et al.). **Harle couronné:** 500 à Mont-Laurier 6 nov, un nombre imposant (MA. Montpetit). **Perdrix rouge:** une photographiée à Sainte-Anne-du-Lac 14 oct (ph. N. Lapointe, *fide* R. Lebrun). **Dindon sauvage:** une femelle avec 2 jeunes signalés à Magog 4 oct, une date tardive (B. Turgeon).

**Puffin des Anglais:** des oiseaux solitaires à Bergeronnes 1er oct (R. Pintiaux) et Pointe-des-Monts 6 oct (S. Rioux et al.). **Aigrette tricolore:** une à Port Saint-François 6 sept (J. Brunelle et al.). **Ibis falcinelle:** un à Longue-Rive 22 sept (Y. Fabe). **Urubu noir:** des indiv. à Cap Tourmente 14 oct (JP. Ouellet) et Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 18 oct (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh). **Grue du Canada:** de plus en plus d'oiseaux migrent par le sud de la province, où s'y trouvent aussi des nicheurs locaux, e.g. 25 à Saint-Narcisse 9 sept (L. Dumas), 9 à Dundee 18 sept (A. Pelletier, P. Laniel), 11 à Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 5 oct (A. Sheinck).

**Barge marbrée:** une à Pointe-au-Père 2 sept, la seule mention (C. Potvin, R. Noël). **Bécasseau roussâtre:** une concentration de 10 oiseaux à Portneuf-sur-mer 5 sept était inhabituelle (S. Guimond). **Combattant varié:** un juv. à Yamachiche 14 sept (J. Gélinas). **Bécassin à long bec:** signalé dans 7 localités du sud québécois entre 11 sept et 19 oct, totalisant 2 douzaines d'individus. **Phalarope à bec large:** signalé surtout sur la Basse-Côte-Nord, avec un pic de 11 à Bergeronnes 28 sept (S. Denault et al.).

**Mouette de Sabine:** plusieurs signalées sur la Basse-Côte-Nord entre 10 sept et 25 oct, bien que pas aussi commune que lors des 2 dernières années. **Mouette pygmée:** régulière sur la Basse-Côte-Nord, avec un pic de 5 à Godbout 1er nov (S. Rioux, F. Gallant). **Mouette de Franklin:** un adulte aux Escoumins 1-7 sept, la seule mention (C. Roy). **Mergule nain:** des oiseaux présents surtout sur la Basse-Côte-Nord à partir du 12 oct; des max de 283 à Pointe-des-Monts 3 nov (S. Rioux, F. Gallant) et 1039 au large de La Romaine 12 nov (O. Barden). **Guillemot de Brünnich:** toutes les mentions proviennent de Pointe-des-Monts, incluant des groupes de 12 et 13 les 4 et 12 nov, respectivement (S. Rioux).

**Coulicou à bec jaune:** un à Québec 2 oct, la seule mention (C. Gauvreau). **Chouette épervière:** 8 oiseaux signalés, incluant un à Laval 18 oct (J. Roger) et un à Longueuil le 16 nov (A. Provost). **Colibri à gorge rubis:** 2 oiseaux tardifs à Montauban 15 oct (*fide* M. Ouellet).

### September-mid-November 2009

**Ross's Goose:** mainly reported as single birds; a max of 6 at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 12 Oct (M. Dennis). **Trumpeter Swan:** one at Lake Anticagamac (La Mauricie NP) 1-10 Sept (A. van Dijk, S. Désilets). **Cinnamon Teal:** a female reported at Montmagny 4 Oct (G. Lemelin, D. McCutcheon). **Canvasback:** only one bird reported, at Sainte-Angèle-de-Laval 1-4 Nov (E. & P. Brassard et al.). **Hooded Merganser:** 500 at Mont-Laurier 6 Nov represented a large number (MA. Montpetit). **Red-legged Partridge:** one photographed at Sainte-Anne-du-Lac 14 Oct (ph. N. Lapointe, *fide* R. Lebrun). **Wild Turkey:** a female with 2 young reported at Magog 4 Oct, a late date (B. Turgeon).

**Manx Shearwater:** singles at Bergeronnes 1 Oct (R. Pintiaux) and Pointe-des-Monts 6 Oct (S. Rioux et al.). **Tricolored Heron:** one at Port Saint-François 6 Sept (J. Brunelle et al.). **Glossy Ibis:** one at Longue-Rive 22 Sept (Y. Fabe). **Black Vulture:** singles at Cap Tourmente 14 Oct (JP. Ouellet) and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 18 Oct (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh). **Sandhill Crane:** more and more birds migrating through s. Québec, where some may have been local breeders, e.g. 25 at Saint-Narcisse 9 Sept (L. Dumas), 9 at Dundee 18 Sept (A. Pelletier, P. Laniel), 11 at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 5 Oct (A. Sheinck).

**Marbled Godwit:** one at Pointe-au-Père 2 Sept was the only sighting (C. Potvin, R. Noël). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** a concentration of 10 birds at Portneuf-sur-mer 5 Sept was very unusual (S. Guimond). **Ruff:** one juv. at Yamachiche 14 Sept (J. Gélinas). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** reported in 7 localities of s. Québec between 11 Sept and 19 Oct, totalling 2 dozen individuals. **Red Phalarope:** reported mainly on the Lower North Shore with a max of 11 at Bergeronnes 28 Sept (S. Denault et al.).

**Sabine's Gull:** several sightings on the Lower North Shore between 10 Sept and 25 Oct, although not as common as it has been in the last 2 years. **Little Gull:** regular on the Lower North Shore including 5 at Godbout 1 Nov (S. Rioux, F. Gallant). **Franklin's Gull:** an adult at Les Escoumins 1-7 Sept was the only report (C. Roy). **Dovekie:** birds reported mainly on the Lower North Shore starting on 12 Oct; max of 283 at Pointe-des-Monts 3 Nov (S. Rioux, F. Gallant) and 1039 off La Romaine 12 Nov (O. Barden). **Thick-billed Murre:** all sightings were from Pointe-des-Monts including flocks of 12 and 13 on 4 and 12 Nov, respectively (S. Rioux).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** one at Québec City 2 Oct was the only sighting (C. Gauvreau). **Northern Hawk-Owl:** 8 birds reported, including one at Laval 18 Oct (J. Roger) and one at Longueuil 16 Nov (A. Provost). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 2 late birds at Montauban 15 Oct (*fide* M. Ouellet).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** one adult at Sainte-Malachie 12 Oct (B. Lacroix, L. Giguère et al.). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** only 2 birds reported: Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 14 Oct

**Pic à tête rouge:** un adulte à Sainte-Malachie 12 oct (B. Lacroix, L. Giguère et al.). **Pic à ventre roux:** 2 oiseaux signalés: Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 14 oct (L. Lemoyne) et Ahuntsic 16 nov (C. Champagne). **Tyrann de l'Ouest:** un automne exceptionnel pour cette espèce avec 4 mentions: Cap Tourmente 2 sept (O. Barden, S. Rioux), Saint-Fulgence 17 sept, Tadoussac 26 sept (S. Denault et al), et Tadoussac 3-6 nov (G. Olsen, S. Denault et al.). **Viréo aux yeux blancs:** un à l'étang Burbank 30 oct (S. Kohl, K. Adams). **Hirondelle de fenêtre:** un oiseau dont la description correspond à cette espèce a été bien vu à Pointe-des-Monts 22 oct, mais aucune preuve photographique n'a pu être obtenue (F. Gallant). La seule mention pour l'est du Canada est un oiseau photographié à Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon 26 mai 1989. **Troglodyte de Caroline:** 2 mentions hors limites: un à Baie-Saint-Paul jusqu'au 4 oct (N. Burgdorfer, L. Rousseau) et un à Saint-Honoré-de-Chicoutimi 27 oct (R. Gagnon). **Gobemoucheon gris-bleu:** des oiseaux à Pointe-des-Monts 17 oct (S. Rioux) et Cap Tourmente 19 oct (H. Durocher). **Traquet motteux:** un à Saint-Basile-le-Grand, près de Montréal, 26 sept-10 oct (R. Belhumeur, pl.ob.). **Solitaire de Townsend:** un à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 29 oct jusqu'au 6 nov au moins (B. Barnhurst, S. Duval). **Grive de Bicknell:** 2 oiseaux tardifs au Massif du Sud 1er Oct (Y. Aubry). **Paruline à gorge jaune:** une au cimetière Mont-Royal (Montréal) 4 sept, la première mention aussi hâtive à l'automne (E. Samson). **Paruline des prés:** un imm. ou femelle à Lacolle 11 oct (R. & G. Boulet). **Paruline vermivore:** une signalée à Beauport 20 sept (R. Bélanger). **Paruline polyglotte:** une à Mont-Joli 14-15 nov (*vide* R. Pelletier). **Piranga vermillon:** un photographié à Saint-Romuald 7 nov (B. Casault, C. Jeffrey). **Bruant des plaines:** un à Tadoussac 24 sept (S. Denault et al.), de 1 à 3 individus à Godbout 10-21 oct (F. Gallant et S. Rioux) et un autre à Tadoussac 12-13 nov (S. Denault). **Bruant à joues marron:** un à Cap Tourmente 20-21 sept (A. Côté). **Bruant noir et blanc:** un imm. photographié à Pointe Lebel 17-23 oct (D. Dorais). **Bruant maritime:** un oiseau en mue post-juvenile active, ayant perdu toutes ses grandes tectrices, était présent à Port-Daniel 20-22 sept, une première mention en territoire québécois (D. Jalbert, ph. A. Couture). **Dickcissel d'Amérique:** 9 oiseaux signalés, la plupart dans l'est de la province. **Quiscalde de Brewer:** un oiseau photographié à Bergeronnes 7-11 oct (S. Denault, O. Barden et al.). **Oriole de Baltimore:** très en évidence sur la Côte-Nord en oct and nov; un pic de 4 à Tadoussac 15 oct (R. Pintiaux).

(L. Lemoyne) and Ahuntsic 16 Nov (C. Champagne). **Western Kingbird:** a very special fall for this species with 4 reports: Cap Tourmente 2 Sept (O. Barden, S. Rioux), Saint-Fulgence 17 Sept, Tadoussac 26 Sept (S. Denault et al), Tadoussac 3-6 Nov (G. Olsen, S. Denault et al.). **White-eyed Vireo:** one at Burbank Pond 30 Oct (S. Kohl, K. Adams). **Common House-Martin:** a bird whose description fits this species was well seen at Pointe-des-Monts 22 Oct but unfortunately no photographic confirmation was obtained (F. Gallant). The only other report for e. Canada is a bird photographed at Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon 26 May 1989. **Carolina Wren:** 2 out-of-range records: one at Baie-Saint-Paul 4 Oct and before (N. Burgdorfer, L. Rousseau) and one at Saint-Honoré-de-Chicoutimi 27 Oct (R. Gagnon). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** singles at Pointe-des-Monts 17 Oct (S. Rioux) and at Cap Tourmente 19 Oct (H. Durocher). **Northern Wheatear:** one at Saint-Basile-le-Grand, near Montréal, 26 Sept-10 Oct (R. Belhumeur, m.ob.). **Townsend's Solitaire:** one at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 29 Oct through at least 6 Nov (B. Barnhurst, S. Duval). **Bicknell's Thrush:** 2 late birds at Massif du Sud 1 Oct (Y. Aubry).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** one in the Mount Royal Cemetery (Montréal) 4 Sept, the first ever so early in fall (E. Samson). **Prairie Warbler:** an imm. or female at Lacolle 11 Oct (R. & G. Boulet). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one reported at Beauport 20 Sept (R. Bélanger). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one at Mont-Joli 14-15 Nov (*vide* R. Pelletier). **Summer Tanager:** one photographed at Saint-Romuald 7 Nov (B. Casault, C. Jeffrey).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** one at Tadoussac 24 Sept (S. Denault et al.), from one to 3 birds at Godbout 10-21 Oct (F. Gallant et S. Rioux) and another at Tadoussac 12-13 Nov (S. Denault). **Lark Sparrow:** one at Cap Tourmente 20-21 Sept (A. Côté). **Lark Bunting:** an imm. photographed at Pointe Lebel 17-23 Oct (D. Dorais). **Seaside Sparrow:** a bird in active post-juvenile moult, lacking most of its greater coverts, was present at Port-Daniel 20-22 Sept, representing a first provincial record (D. Jalbert, ph. A. Couture). **Dickcissel:** 9 birds reported, most of them in e. Québec. **Brewer's Blackbird:** a bird photographed at Bergeronnes 7-11 Oct (S. Denault, O. Barden et al.). **Baltimore Oriole:** well in evidence on the North Shore in Oct and Nov; a max of 4 at Tadoussac 15 Oct (R. Pintiaux).

## 2010 Parking Permit for Montreal Nature Parks

If you go birding in any of Montreal's network of nature parks, you probably know that the daily parking rate is currently \$7. An annual parking permit allows unlimited parking in any of the following parks: Anse-à-l'Orme, Cap-Saint-Jacques, Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard, Bois-de-Liesse, Île-de-la-Visitation, and Pointe-aux-Prairies. The price is \$40 for the first vehicle, and \$30 for each additional vehicle registered at the same address. The 2010 permit is available now, so people buying in December will benefit. For more information, contact: Philippe Murphy, Préposé à la perception des revenus, Ville de Montréal, Gestion des grands parcs, 801 rue Brennan - pavillon Duke, Bureau 4146, Montréal, QC, H3C 0G4. To pay by credit card, telephone him at 514-280-6766.



## Ilay Ferrier - In Memoriam

Ilay Ferrier, a long-time member of PQSPB/BPQ and good friend to many birders, died on October 27, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Betty O'Brien, and their six children, all of whom were with him in his last hours.

Ilay was a delightful and knowledgeable birding companion. He and I, along with other PQSPBers such as Peter Landry, Derek Drummond and Peter Mitchell, made many birding trips together, whether far afield, to the Dry Tortugas, Cape Hatteras or Southern California, or closer to home, to Hawk Mountain or La Sarre. All this, in addition to regular PQSPB excursions to Philipsburg, Île du Moine and Île Perrot, among others.

He was a keen lister. Pete Mitchell tells the story of driving Ilay, Pete Landry and Guy Zenaitis to a remote logging road near Forestville, on the north shore opposite Rimouski, to tick a Willow Ptarmigan which had been reported there. They found it, after much effort, and drove all the way back the following day.

Ilay and the late Pete Landry were great friends, having met while playing competitive squash at McGill. Every year until recently, the two of them would do an annual outing along the Richelieu River, counting Snow Geese and other early arrivals.

In 1992, Betty and Ilay joined Sheila Arthur, Ken Thorpe, Chris and Ross Murphy, Kyra Emo and other club members on a memorable trip to the Lower North Shore to visit the Atlantic Puffin colony on Île aux Perroquets, off Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon. Ilay wrote a delightful diary of the expedition.

He served for many years on the board of PQSPB. When

Alf Kelly died and left his estate to the PQSPB, Ilay devised the administrative structure that would see to the best use of the money. He was reasonably well qualified for the task, as he was CFO of Dominion Textile (and later of Labatt's)!

After retirement, Betty and Ilay lived in Knowlton. There Ilay founded and organized the Knowlton Christmas Bird Count, which still runs today. He was also a stalwart member of a singing group there.

Ilay was a wonderful friend and led an exemplary life. We will miss him.





**Robert Carswell**



Ilay and his wife Betty.

## BPQ's 2010 Winter Lecture Series

Winter was late in arriving this year, but it's always a fine time to brush up your birding skills and knowledge. Come to all or some of BPQ's winter bird course lectures, to be held on alternate Wednesdays in February and March. Mark these dates in your agenda!

- |  |  |                       |
|--|--|-----------------------|
|  <b>February 10</b> | "What a Hoot - Owling 101"   | with Kristen Keyes    |
|  <b>February 24</b> | "Raptor ID? No Need to Despair!"   | with Marcel Gahbauer  |
|  <b>March 10</b>    | "Breeding Bird Atlas Techniques and Their Application to Day-to-Day Birding" | with Lance Laviolette |
|  <b>March 24</b>    | "Gardening for Birds - or How to Lengthen Your Life-list in Comfort"         | with Richard Gregson  |

**Place:** Knox Crescent Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**Cost:** \$15 per lecture for members and \$20 for non-members

Further information and registration forms will be available at monthly meetings, or on the website: [www.birdprotectionquebec.org](http://www.birdprotectionquebec.org). Please contact Averill Craig at 514-484-6575, or at [ak.craig@sympatico.ca](mailto:ak.craig@sympatico.ca) for more information.



# Field Trip Diaries

- 19/09/09**      **PHILIPSBURG, QC**      **Leader: Sandy Montgomery**  
Fair, breezy in the morning      19 birders      46 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle  
**Other Birds of Note:** Snow Goose, Wild Turkey, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren
- 
- 26/09/09**      **ALFRED SEWAGE LAGOONS & PRESCOTT-RUSSELL REC. TRAIL, ALFRED, ON**      **Leader: Jacques Bouvier**  
      18 birders      55 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, Nelson's Sharp-Tailed Sparrow  
**Other Birds of Note:** Redhead, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Lincoln's Sparrow
- 
- 03/10/09**      **LAC ST-FRANÇOIS NATURE RESERVE, DUNDEE, QC**      **Leader: Wayne Grubert**  
Calm, mild, up to 15°C      7 birders      48 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Sandhill Crane  
**Other Birds of Note:** Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Veery, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Rusty Blackbird
- 
- 10/10/09**      **PARC NATURE DE L'ÎLE-BIZARD, QC**      **Leader: Felix Hilton**  
      5 birders      25 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Hermit Thrush  
**Other Birds of Note:** Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart
- 
- 17/10/09**      **LAC BOIVIN NATURE CENTRE, GRANBY, QC**      **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**  
Sunshine, clear, -4°C      5 birders      36 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Tufted Titmouse  
**Other Birds of Note:** Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-throated Green Warbler
- 
- 24/10/09**      **PARC NATIONAL D'OKA, QC**      **Leader: Wayne Grubert**  
Heavy rain & strong wind      1 birder      41 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Snow Bunting  
**Other Birds of Note:** Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Cooper's Hawk, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird
- 
- 31/10/09**      **REFUGE FAUNIQUE MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE, ÎLE SAINT-BERNARD, CHÂTEAUGUAY, QC**      **Leader: Tom Long**  
      8 birders      32 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Tufted Titmouse  
**Other Birds of Note:** Common Loon, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow
- 
- 07/11/09**      **PARC POINTE-AUX-PRAIRIES, MONTREAL, QC**      **Leaders: Jean Demers & Clémence Soulard**  
Cloudy and 1°C      18 birders      25 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Northern Mockingbird  
**Other Birds of Note:** Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Harrier, Gray Catbird
- 
- 14/11/09**      **CAP ST. JACQUES NATURE PARK, PIERREFONDS, QC**      **Leader: Wayne Grubert**  
Sunshine with cloudy periods, -5°C      10 birders      19 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Brown Creeper, Common Goldeneye  
**Other Birds of Note:** Scaup sp., Hooded Merganser, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Pileated Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch

Field Trip Diaries compiled by Sheldon Harvey

## The Wisdom of Birds: An Illustrated History of Ornithology

By Tim Birkhead. 2008. Greystone Books. ISBN 978-1-55365-426-1

This amazing and informative book is best read in short stints. There is so much detailed material in its many pages concerning the history of the ornithological sciences that it takes some digesting to fully appreciate how far we have come and how long ago people started looking at birds with serious intent.

This tome was compiled by Tim Birkhead, a professor at the University of Sheffield who teaches animal behaviour and the history of science. There is simply too much information in this book, covering too many scientists and observers, to go into excessive detail in the few words your reviewer is permitted here.

A strong theme is the historical and often acrimonious division between the academic ornithologist and the amateur naturalist. One never left the laboratory to look at birds being birds, and the other spent a little too much time waxing lyrical over the wonders of God's creation to make the serious observations required of a

proper scientist. Both groups produced some startling and totally mad ideas before rational thought managed to get to grips with the birds and we were able to see them for what they are.

Not all early ornithologists were crazy, though. It is worth mentioning, as the author does with some emphasis, one John Ray, an early proponent of what was to become field biology. This 17th-century author of *The Wisdom of God Manifested in the Works of the Creation* was an expert botanist, zoologist and natural historian, whose strong religious faith, as an ordained minister and Cambridge don, went hand in hand with a hard-nosed scepticism as to anything unproven by scientific inquiry and experiment. "Let it not suffice to be book-learned," he wrote, "to read what others have written and to take on trust more falsehood than truth, but let ourselves examine things as we have the opportunity, and converse with Nature as well as with books." We tend to

think of serious field biology as a relatively modern discipline, but there were clear thinkers centuries ago.

There have been some weird ideas, long and firmly held, as a consequence of people not looking at what was before them. One wonders how anyone could have supported the idea that swallows passed the winter in the sludge at the bottom of the sea, although such an outlandish idea seemed perfectly rational when compared with a contending thesis - that swallows set sail for the moon each autumn. Monumental untruths such as these survived as "reasonable" conjecture among European naturalists for almost three centuries, and still retained some credibility when the young Queen Victoria mounted the British throne.

We have come a long way to the state of knowledge we have today and have followed some strange pathways in getting here. This is a splendid book. Treat yourselves and wonder.

LBJ



### 13TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The Cornell Lab  
of Ornithology

Audubon

## It's Time for the GBBC and Project FeederWatch!

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2010. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!" During last year's count, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. We hope you'll join us again and help spread the word, since the success of the count depends on people tallying birds from as many locations as possible across the continent.

Each year, we rely on you to spread the word about the GBBC. One way we do this is through our volunteer ambassador program. Volunteer ambassadors do a variety of things, including hanging up GBBC fliers, giving presentations in their community, and even talking to their local media. For

more ideas on how to promote the GBBC, fill out the online ambassador sign-up form and specify the kinds of activities you'd like to do. You can also get involved by inviting friends and family to participate as well!

The 2009-10 season of Project FeederWatch began November 14, though you can sign up at any time. FeederWatchers keep track of their birds through the winter and report their tallies each week. This helps scientists track changes in winter bird populations from year to year. To learn more and to sign up, visit the Project FeederWatch website. New participants receive a kit with a handbook, bird-identification poster, calendar, and instruction booklet. There is a \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) to help cover the costs of materials and participant support. For more information, please contact Bird Studies Canada or call 888-448-2473.



## Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

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

Saturday January 9 - samedi 9 janvier

### MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN, QC

**Leader:**

**David Mulholland**

**514-630-6082**

[davidmulholland](mailto:davidmulholland@sympatico.ca)

[@sympatico.ca](mailto:dsympatico.ca)

**8:00 AM** Meet in front of the restaurant, near the entrance on Sherbrooke St. East. There is a charge for parking inside the gates. Looking for winter finches. **Half day.**

**8 h 00** Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin sur la rue Sherbrooke Est. Prévoir des frais de stationnement. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday January 16 - samedi 16 janvier

### PARC JEAN DRAPEAU, ÎLE STE-HÉLÈNE & ÎLE NOTRE-DAME, QC

**Leader:**

**Sheldon Harvey**

**450-462-1459**

[ve2shw@yahoo.com](mailto:ve2shw@yahoo.com)

**8:00 AM** From the island of Montreal, take the Jacques-Cartier Bridge. At the midway point of the bridge, take the exit for Parc Jean-Drapeau (Île-Ste-Hélène), which leads down a ramp. Stay right at the bottom of the ramp, following the one-way road that circles the island. Continue around the island to the Hélène-de-Champlain Restaurant. Meet in the parking lot adjacent to the restaurant, in front of the Biosphere. There is a mixture of habitats, including open waterfront on the St. Lawrence and the channel between the two islands, numerous wooded areas, as well as open fields and shrubbery around several artificial lakes. This will be a lengthy walking trip as we plan to explore both Île-Ste-Hélène and Île-Notre-Dame. **Half day.**

**8 h 00** De Montréal, prendre le pont Jacques-Cartier. Vers le milieu du pont, prendre la sortie Parc Jean Drapeau (île Ste-Hélène), qui mène à une rampe. Suivre la route à sens unique qui fait le tour de l'île. Rassemblement dans le stationnement situé à côté du restaurant Hélène-de-Champlain, en face de la Biosphère. On y trouve plusieurs habitats dont le fleuve St-Laurent, le canal séparant les deux îles, plusieurs boisés, champs, arbrisseaux et lacs artificiels. Ce sera une longue randonnée puisque nous planifions d'explorer l'île Ste-Hélène et l'île Notre-Dame. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday January 23 - samedi 23 janvier

### STE-MARTHE, ST-CLET, STE-JUSTINE, QC

**Leader:**

**Wayne Grubert**

**450-458-5498**

[wgrubert@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrubert@hotmail.com)

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

**8 h 00** Rassemblement au Hudson Inn, sortie 17 de l'autoroute 40. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, en direction d'Ottawa. Prévoir une heure à partir de Montréal. Espèces recherchées : Harfang des neiges, Buse pattue, Bruant des neiges et autres oiseaux d'hiver. Apporter des vêtements suffisamment chauds pour de courtes marches et permettant de passer du temps à l'extérieur; prévoir également d'éventuels changements de plans, dus à la météo. Nous vous encourageons à faire du covoiturage en vue de limiter le nombre de voitures. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday January 30 - samedi 30 janvier

### PARC-NATURE DU BOIS-DE-LIESSÉ, QC

**Leader:**

**Wayne Grubert**

**450-458-5498**

[wgrubert@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrubert@hotmail.com)

**8:30 AM** Meet at the south entrance. Take the Henri-Bourassa exit 60 off Hwy 40 west. Stay on the north service road west to Henri-Bourassa Blvd. (approx. 2 km). Exit east on Henri-Bourassa Blvd. Almost immediately, turn left onto rue Etingin. Drive to the end of the street. Parking: \$7.00. Looking for winter finches, owls, Pileated Woodpecker. **Half day.**

**8 h 30** Rassemblement à l'entrée sud. À partir de l'autoroute 40 ouest, prendre la sortie 60 pour Henri-Bourassa. Demeurer sur la voie de service nord en roulant vers l'ouest jusqu'au boul. Henri-Bourassa (environ 2 km). Prendre la sortie est du boul. Henri-Bourassa. Presqu'immédiatement, tourner à gauche sur la rue Etingin et se rendre au bout de la rue. Stationnement : 7,00\$. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et Grand pic. **Demi-journée.**



Saturday, February 6 - samedi 6 février

### MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY - CIMETIÈRE MONT-ROYAL, QC

**Leader:** 8:00 AM Meet at the main gate to the cemetery on chemin de la Forêt, Outremont. Half day. Looking for finches and other winter birds. **Half-day.**  
**Chuck Kling**  
**514-277-2567** 8 h 00 Rassemblement à la porte principale du cimetière sur le chemin de la Forêt, à Outremont. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**  
[chuckk@videotron.ca](mailto:chuckk@videotron.ca)

Saturday, February 13 - samedi 13 février

### SOUTH SHORE SURPRISE EXCURSION - EXCURSION HIVERNALE, RIVE-SUD, QC

**Leader:** N.B. Trip destination will depend on interesting sightings prior to the trip. Check the Songsparrow Group email as the date approaches.  
**Sheldon Harvey** N. B. L'excursion aura lieu là où des observations intéressantes d'oiseaux auront été faites dans les jours précédant l'excursion. Pour connaître la destination exacte, consulter le groupe de discussion Songsparrow quelques jours avant la sortie.  
**450-462-1459** 8:00 AM Meet in the parking lot in front of Zeller's on Taschereau Blvd., west of the Champlain Bridge. From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge to Exit 8 (Taschereau Blvd.). Turn right on Taschereau Blvd. Zeller's will be immediately on your right. There will be lots of driving (weather permitting), and little walking. Car-pooling is recommended. **Half day.**  
**ve2shw@yahoo.com** 8 h 00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement du magasin Zellers, 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 droite. La sortie implique beaucoup de déplacements en voiture, en supposant la température favorable, mais peu de marche. Nous recommandons le covoiturage. **Demi-journée.**

#### Trip Advice - De rigueur pour les excursions



André Pelletier

Transportation: Contact the leader or the Songsparrow email group if you need or can offer a lift.  
Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather check with the leader.  
Clothing: Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear, even if the day seems mild and dry.  
Food: Bring plenty to eat and drink, even on half-day trips.  
Transport : Téléphoner au responsable ou contacter le groupe Songsparrow pour faire du covoiturage.  
Annulations : En cas d'intempérie, vérifier la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable.  
Habilleme nt : Vêtements chauds et bottes imperméables sont toujours de rigueur.  
Nourriture : Toujours prévoir une collation et quelque chose à boire.

## An Invitation from Parc national du Mont-Tremblant

### Chouettes, Raquettes et Chocolat!

Dégustez une fondue au chocolat bien garnie et des hydromels de la région autour d'un feu de foyer, tout en découvrant la vie hivernale des mystérieux rapaces nocturnes du parc. Par une présentation multimédia, un garde-parc naturaliste vous communiquera sa passion des chouettes, hiboux et nyctales avant de vous guider dans une randonnée en raquettes sous les étoiles à la recherche de ces strigidés.

Tous les samedis, du 16 janvier au 6 mars 2010.

Horaire : 19 h, arrivée 30 min à l'avance

Durée : 3 heures

Rendez-vous : Centre de services du Lac-Monroe

Tarifs : Adultes : 24,75 \$, enfants de 10 à 17 ans : 12,50 \$; payables lors de la réservation.

Réservation obligatoire avant le mercredi précédant l'activité : 819-688-2281 ou [parc.mont-tremblant@sepaq.com](mailto:parc.mont-tremblant@sepaq.com)

Location de raquettes pour la durée de l'activité : 5 \$

Activité recommandée pour les enfants de 10 ans et plus.

Apportez une lampe de poche.

### Owls, Snowshoes and Chocolate!

Bask around a warm fire and enjoy delicious chocolate fondue and honey wine from the area while discovering the winter lives of the park's mysterious nocturnal raptors. With the help of a multimedia presentation, one of the park's naturalists will share their passion for owls before guiding you on an owl-finding snowshoe excursion under the stars.

Every Saturday from January 16 to March 6, 2010.

Time: 7:00 pm, arrive at 6:30 pm

Length: 3 hours

Meeting Place: Service Centre for Lac-Monroe

Cost: Adults: \$24.75, children aged 10 - 17: \$12.50. Payable on reservation.

Reservations required before the Wednesday preceding the activity: 819-688-2281 or [parc.mont-tremblant@sepaq.com](mailto:parc.mont-tremblant@sepaq.com)

Snowshoe rentals: \$5

This activity is recommended for children aged 10 and over.

Please bring a flashlight.

**...And don't forget to participate in the Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts, December 19 and January 3, respectively.**