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Bird Protection
Quebec

Protection
des oiseaux
du Québec



For the Birds since 1917
Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

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Red-tailed Hawk / Buse à queue rousse © Richard Gregson

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President's Word – Citizen Science in the Spotlight

by Jane Cormack
BPQ President

Scientists of the Year

BPQ has just learnt that Radio-Canada has awarded the title of Scientists of the Year for 2019 to the authors of the *Second Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Southern Quebec*, Andrew Couturier, Marie-Hélène Hachey, Denis Lepage, and Michel Robert. We couldn't be more thrilled with their choice:

Last spring, the atlas was released simultaneously in French and English – a monumental achievement. It is the largest ornithological project undertaken in Quebec for a quarter of a century. Over 1,800 birders, professional and amateur alike, participated in the project, collecting data on the breeding birds of southern Quebec between 2010 and 2014.

BPQ members contributed greatly to the project. Radio-Canada's recognition of these professional scientists is also a tribute to the dedication of citizen scientists.

Bird Protection Quebec

Recognition of the Montreal Hawkwatch

The data Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh have rigorously collected from their 40-year dedication to the hawkwatch will be used in a new project to evaluate the status of hawk populations.

As you can read in this issue's *Hawkwatching Around Montreal*, the project is an initiative of the Quebec Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. Data from the Tadoussac and Bic hawkwatches will also be used.

This is far from the first time Bob and Mabel's work has been referenced by professionals. Yet, it is a clear illustration of the following:

“One thing that distinguishes ornithology from many other sciences is the important role played by amateurs and citizen scientists, who have made remarkable contributions to advancing and refining our knowledge of birds and their habitats.” (*Ornithology, Foundation, Analysis, and Application*, p. 395)

As David Bird put it: “Citizen science of immense importance. Little in the way of advancement would be possible without it.

Make your observations count! Get involved in the Feederwatch program. Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Report your sightings on eBird.



Pileated Woodpecker / Grand Pic © Chuck Kling 2020

Call for New Directors

Every year at this time, BPQ begins to look for new members to sit on its board of directors.

We are a member-run organization whose work is carried out solely by volunteers.

Our board of directors comprises 19 members, including the president, vice-presidents, treasurer, and secretary. All directors are elected by BPQ's members for two-year terms and can serve for a maximum of ten years consecutively. At the end of each year, some directors will have completed their terms and will step down from the board. So, we are continually seeking BPQ members who can step in as new directors and take their place.

This keeps our organization dynamic. It shifts and changes slightly each year as new directors bring new ideas and new goals of what they would like to accomplish while upholding our mandate of promoting the education, conservation, and observation of Quebec birds and their habitats.

At the same time, we have committees whose members are dedicated to carrying

out the work of our organization. They bring continuity to our organization. Some of them have been doing what they do for an incredible length of time. Wayne Grubert, chair of our field trips committee, has been with our organization for well over 20 years, as have many members of conservation and grants committees. As mentioned above, Mabel Macintosh and Bob Barnhurst have been chairing the Hawkwatch committee for 40 years.

If you like what BPQ does, if you would like to see the organization continue to carry out its excellent work, or if you have new ideas you would like to bring to our organization, you may decide this is your year to join the board of directors.

Even if you're not ready to match the dedication of some of our longest standing, most-dedicated members, you might want to join the board for a two-year period or perhaps you would like to begin by joining a committee.

Our education, conservation, field trips, sanctuaries, and marketing committees are looking for new members. As well, our new Montée Biggar and existing George Montgomery sanctuary project groups could use a hand.

New Members

We are happy to welcome the following new and returning members:

Daryl Erickson, Elizabeth Sacca, Myron Frankman, Steve and Laurence Croteau, Graham Pengelley, Kristen Schell & family, Rebecca McCabe, Katherine Collin and Monique Boivin.

Linda Reven, Brian Nicholson, Richard Poole, Irene Crozier, Frank & Marilyn Csik, Michel Beaupré, and Andrew and Elaine Hall.

We appreciate your support and hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings or on a field trip. Be sure to take a look at the listings of our upcoming activities in this edition of Song Sparrow and to follow us on Facebook, where reminders are posted a few days before each event.

Hawkwatching Around Montreal

by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh

Further to our previous article, the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs of the Government of Quebec has initiated a project to evaluate the status of hawk populations in Quebec, using migration data from not just our site(s) but also Tadoussac and Bic. As such, they have access to data for up to 40 years (from us) and 15 to 30 years from the other sites. Our hawkwatch is unique in that we have covered 40 years of migration in both spring and fall. The other sites are covered only in the fall and spring, respectively. Working with the University of Sherbrooke the MFFP's ultimate aim is to come up with a plan to save hawks from the devastating losses caused by global warming and other factors. The Rough-legged Hawk that we discuss in this article is one of the species most impacted.



Rough-legged Hawk

This species is perhaps the most iconic northern breeder of all the hawk species, apart from Gyrfalcon. It typically breeds only in the arctic, where it hunts lemmings for food, and nests on the tundra or rocky outcrops. In the past, the species was only seen in southern

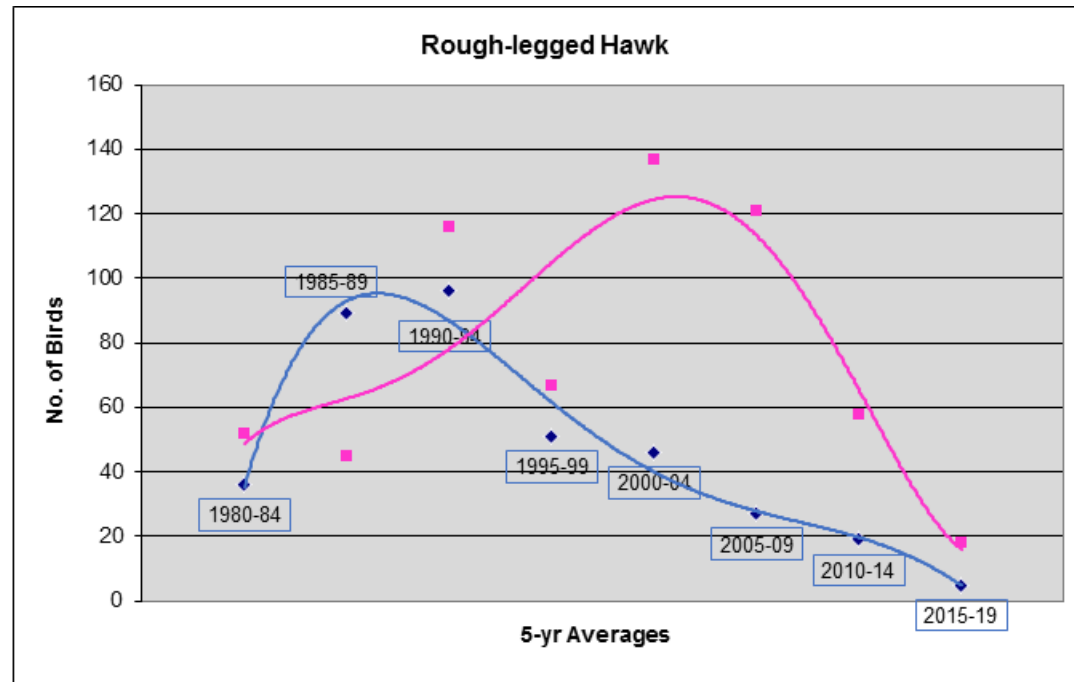
Immature female light-phase Rough-legged Hawk photographed high over the spring hawkwatch

Quebec during the late fall and winter, many passing through into New York and the mid-west into January and February. It is found throughout the north and migrates through western Canada as well.

This hawk was seen more frequently than it is now. It was once the most common buteo seen hunting here late into the fall, winter and early spring, often collecting at sites where voles and mice were abundant. As many as 20 were occasionally seen in such areas, often

several to a tree, when perch sites were at a premium. In this respect, it has been almost entirely replaced by Red-tailed Hawks, which used to be rare in southern Quebec in winter. Refer to our article in the February 2019 issue of *The Song Sparrow* (vol. 61-4)

The total numbers of migrating Rough-legged Hawks counted at Montreal sites over the spring and fall seasons since 1980 are shown in the figure below. Here, 5-year averages are used to offer better trendline fit with R^2 as high as 0.96. The trendline for spring shows an increase in numbers until the early 2000s, followed by a sharp decline. The fall trendline shows a peak up to the mid-90s, followed by a sharp decline. The reason the spring trendline is higher is because of returning birds that moved through over the winter months after the fall count was finished, perhaps driven by the variability of prey abundance. Of course, this difference became smaller and smaller as the decline of the species increased and its migration numbers dropped dramatically. There is little doubt that the species has declined drastically. This parallels similar declines at other sites from the NE to NW of Canada and Alaska. One explanation may be the loss of nests and broods during the increased melting of the permafrost during recent summers as a result of global warming. This is a crisis equal to the loss of arctic sea ice.



Five-year averages of numbers of Rough-legged Hawks seen each spring and fall

In terms of outright numbers, the following are the peak numbers recorded during the four decades of our counts. In spring, numbers of Rough-legged Hawks reached 232 birds in 1991. This was matched the following fall by a high of 237. Corresponding numbers have declined to fewer than 10 birds in recent years. The species occurs in two main phases, light and dark, with some intergrades. Our data show that we see

more LP than DP, the opposite of birds seen in the western provinces and states.

Perhaps the most startling statistic regarding this species is that we now see far fewer birds in migration than we see Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle or Turkey Vultures, whereas the opposite was true in the 1980s and 90s.

Let us hope the species recovers!



Immature female light-phase Rough-legged Hawk photographed high over the spring hawkwatch



Dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk photographed high over the spring hawkwatch

Bird Views

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

August - November 2019

by Pierre Bannon

Pink-footed Goose: possibly 2 different birds lingered in the Rimouski–Matane area 9 Oct–4 Nov (*m.ob.*); singles also stopped at Victoriaville 2–4 Nov (Claude Roy et al.) and Berthier–sur–mer 7 Nov (Claude Deschênes). Finally, two appeared at Paspébiac 26–30 Nov (Pierre Poulin et al.). **Trumpeter Swan:** the 2 birds that summered at Saint–Fulgence (*Saguenay*) remained until 7 Nov (Jacynthe Fortin) while a max of 13 birds was tallied at Val d’Or 20–24 Oct (Claudia Siano, Raymond Ladurantaye). **Tundra Swan:** one at Péribonka 26 Oct (Jacques Ibarzabal), 2 at Port Saint–François 4 Nov (France Arbour) and one at Saint–Louis–de–Gonzague 6 Nov (Robert Trottier et al.). **Harlequin Duck:** a female at Saint–Hyacinthe 8–14 Sep (François Bourret, *m.ob.*) and 3 males at Beauharnois 2 Nov (Dominique Bellemare).

Eurasian Collared–Dove: one at Lac–Delage 21–22 Aug (Sylvain Prince). **Rufous Hummingbird:** one at Matapédia 17 Sep provided the 10th record for the province (Gilles Gallant, Christianne Pitre). **Yellow Rail:** a bird was calling regularly in marginal habitat during daytime at Lévis 9–18 Aug (Marie O’Neill). More expected, a bird was at île aux Grues 3 Aug (Marie–Hélène Hachey) and 2 at Saint–Fulgence 12–15 Aug (Claudette Cormier, Germain Savard). **Purple Gallinule:** one photographed in the

Parlons d’oiseaux

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

Août - novembre 2019

par Pierre Bannon



Pink-footed Goose / Oie à bec court © Daniel Jauvin

Oie à bec court : possiblement jusqu’à 2 indiv ont fréquenté le secteur de Rimouski–Matane 9 oct–4 nov (*pl.ob.*); un indiv s’est arrêté à Victoriaville 2–4 nov (Claude Roy et al.) et un autre à Berthier–sur–mer 7 nov (Claude Deschênes). Finalement, deux

snow at Girardville (Lac Saint-Jean) around 23–24 Nov (*vide* Julie Simard). **Common Ringed Plover**: an ad at Anse Saint-Étienne 26–30 Aug provided the 5th record for the province (Annie Lavoie, Martin Bélanger, *ph.*). **Hudsonian Godwit**: a flock of 6 birds at Gatineau 17 Oct was exceptional for this locality (Rodolphe Dubois). **Marbled Godwit**: singles at Matane 12 Aug (Louis Fradette) and Pointe-au-Père 20 Aug (Lucille Saint-Laurent et al.). **Red Knot**: a flock of 26 birds at Sandy Hook (Magdalen Is) 4 Nov represented a large number for the date (Clément Giasson, Donna Gail Gaudet). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: as reported for last year, very few birds were seen again this fall. One at Réservoir Baskatong 21 Oct was record late (Marc-Antoine Montpetit). **Western Sandpiper**: a juv at Portneuf-sur-Mer 14 Sep (Jacques Lachance). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: a total of 9 reports comprising 14 individuals represented a significant increase from last year. **Willet**: birds were seen in 6 different localities including one at Rimouski 20 Oct–5 Nov, a record late date for the province (Jean Misson, Lucille Saint-Laurent). **Parasitic Jaeger**: single birds were out-of-range at Lac Boivin (Granby) 5–8 Aug (Normand Fleury) and at Île Perrôt 7 Nov (Olivier Barden). **Dovekie**: there was a small movement of these birds in the Lower St. Lawrence in Oct, including a bird that reached Sainte-Pétronille (Île d'Orléans) 12 Oct (Peter Lane et al.). **Razorbill**: one at Sainte-Catherine 10–16 Nov (Sylvie Robert, Olivier Barden).

sont apparus à Paspébiac 26–30 nov (Pierre Poulin et al.). **Cygne trompette** : les 2 oiseaux qui ont séjourné à Saint-Fulgence (*Saguenay*) durant l'été semblent avoir quitté le 7 nov (Jacynthe Fortin) tandis qu'un groupe de 13 était encore présent à Val d'Or 20–24 oct (Claudia Siano, Raymond Ladurantaye). **Cygne siffleur** : un à Péribonka 26 oct (Jacques Ibarzabal), 2 à Port Saint-François 4 nov (France Arbour) et un à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 6 nov (Robert Trottier et al.). **Arlequin plongeur** : une femelle à Saint-Hyacinthe 8–14 sep (François Bourret, *pl.ob*) et 3 mâles à Beauharnois 2 nov (Dominique Bellemare).

Tourterelle turque : une à Lac-Delage 21–22 août (Sylvain Prince). **Colibri roux** : un à Matapédia 17 sep, une 10^{ième} présence dans la province (Gilles Gallant, Christiane Pitre). **Râle jaune** : un oiseau chantait régulièrement durant le jour dans un habitat marginal à Lévis 9–18 août (Marie O'Neill). Un oiseau à l'île aux Grues 3 août (Marie-Hélène Hachey) et 2 à Saint-Fulgence 12–15 août (Claudette Cormier, Germain Savard) étaient plus prévisibles. **Talève violacée** : une photographiée dans la neige à Girardville (Lac Saint-Jean) autour du 23–24 nov (*vide* Julie Simard). **Pluvier grand-gravelot** : un ad à l'Anse Saint-Étienne 26–30 août constituait la 5^{ème} présence dans la province (Annie Lavoie, Martin Bélanger, *ph.*). **Barge hudsonienne** : un groupe de 6 à Gatineau 17 oct était exceptionnel pour cette localité (Rodolphe Dubois). **Barge marbrée** : des oiseaux à Matane 12 août (Louis Fradette) et à Pointe-au-Père 20 août (Lucille Saint-Laurent et al.). **Bécasseau maubèche** : un groupe de 26 à Sandy Hook (IDL) 4 nov constituait une mention remarquable pour la date (Clément Giasson, Donna Gail Gaudet). **Bécasseau roussâtre** : tout comme l'an dernier, très peu d'oiseaux ont été aperçus cet automne. Un au réservoir Baskatong 21 oct fournissait toutefois une date record provinciale (Marc-Antoine Montpetit). **Bécasseau d'Alaska** : un juv à Portneuf-sur-Mer 14 sep (Jacques Lachance). **Bécassin à long bec** : un total de 9 signalements totalisant 14 indiv représentait une amélioration comparée à l'an dernier. **Chevalier semipalmé** : des oiseaux ont été vus dans 6 localités incluant un



Sterne hansel © Suzanne Labbé

Black-legged Kittiwake: a 1st winter bird at Chambly 21 Nov (Pierre Bannon, Suzanne Labbé) followed by an ad at the same place 25–30 Nov (Olivier Barden). **Sabine's Gull:** a disoriented juv was late and out of place in a parking lot at Vaudreuil–Dorion 4–5 Nov (Kevin Boivin et al.). **Little Gull:** one at Beauharnois 31 Aug (André Lanouette). **Laughing Gull:** single juv were reported at Beauharnois 25 Aug–3 Sep (Samuel Denault, *m.ob.*), Victoriaville 26–27 Sep (Claude Roy), and Montmagny 4–11 Oct (Vincent Létourneau). **BLACK-TAILED GULL:** another first for the province, the third one this year, a second-cycle individual was seen and photographed at Tadoussac 21 Oct (Olivier Barden). **Mew Gull:** single ad at Baie–Comeau 21–22 Aug (Jean–Pierre Barry, *ph.*), Kamouraska 30 Aug (Marie O'Neill et al.) and at Notre–Dame–des–Pins 4 Nov (Olivier Barden, *ph.*) showed features of the Kamtchatka race. **Gull-billed Tern:** 2 ad reached Kamouraska 16–22 Sep about a week after the passage of hurricane Dorian over the Atlantic provinces, providing a second provincial record

à Rimouski 20 oct–5 nov, une date record (Jean Misson, Lucille Saint–Laurent). **Labbe parasite :** des oiseaux loin de leur aire au Lac Boivin (Granby) 5–8 août (Normand Fleury) et à l'île Perrot 7 nov (Olivier Barden). **Mergule nain :** présence modeste dans le Bas St–Laurent en oct, incluant un oiseau qui est apparu à Sainte–Pétronille (Île d'Orléans) 12 oct (Peter Lane et al.). **Petit Pingouin :** un à Sainte–Catherine 10–16 nov (Sylvie Robert, Olivier Barden).

Mouette tridactyle : un imm à Chambly 21 nov (Pierre Bannon, Suzanne Labbé) puis un ad au même endroit 25–30 nov (Olivier Barden). **Mouette de Sabine :** un juv désorienté était très tardif et hors de son habitat dans un stationnement à Vaudreuil–Dorion 4–5 nov (Kevin Boivin et al.). **Mouette pygmée :** une à Beauharnois 31 août (André Lanouette). **Mouette atricille :** des juv signalés à Beauharnois 25 août–3 sep (Samuel Denault, *pl.ob.*), Victoriaville 26–27 sep (Claude Roy), et Montmagny 4–11 oct (Vincent Létourneau). **GOÉLAND À QUEUE NOIRE :** une autre première pour la province, la 3^{ème} cette année, un oiseau de 2^{ème} cycle bien photographié à Tadoussac 21 oct (Olivier Barden). **Goéland cendré :** des ad à Baie–Comeau 21–22 août (Jean–Pierre Barry, *ph.*), Kamouraska 30 août (Marie O'Neill et al.) et à Notre–Dame–des–Pins 4 nov (Olivier Barden, *ph.*) affichaient des caractéristiques de la race Kamtchatka. **Sterne hansel :** 2 ad présents à Kamouraska 16–22 sep, une semaine après le passage de l'ouragan Dorian sur les provinces Atlantiques, une 2^{ème} présence au Québec (François Smith et al.). **Sterne de Forster :** une à Venise–en–Québec 20–24 sep (Tristan Jobin, *pl.ob.*).

Plongeon du Pacifique : un ad en plumage internuptial à Cap à l'Aigle 4 sep (Pierre Otis et al.). **Océanite cul-blanc :** un à Lévis 1 nov (Olivier Barden). **Pélican d'Amérique :** un à Sainte–Catherine jusqu'au 11 août (*pl. ob.*); un oiseau aussi présent à Saint–Georges–de–Clarenceville 18–30 août (Tristan Jobin et al.), un autre à l'Anse–au–Goémon 7 août (Éric Deschamps) et finalement 2 à Sherbrooke 18 août (Bernadette Forest).

(François Smith et al.). **Forster's Tern**: one at Venise-en-Québec 20-24 Sep (Tristan Jobin, *m.ob.*).

Pacific Loon: an ad in nonbreeding plumage at Cap à l'Aigle 4 Sep (Pierre Otis et al.). **Leach's Storm-Petrel**: one at Lévis 1 Nov (Olivier Barden). **American White Pelican**: one continued at Sainte-Catherine through 11 Aug (*m.ob.*). Singles were also seen at Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville 18-30 Aug (Tristan Jobin et al.) and at l'Anse-au-Goémon 7 Aug (Éric Deschamps) and finally 2 at Sherbrooke 18 Aug (Bernadette Forest). **Little Blue Heron**: single juv were seen at Cacouna 22-24 Aug (Jean-Claude Pelletier), Woburn 27-30 Aug (Jean Roy), Mercier 2 Sep (Olivier Barden), and Bic 13-23 Sep (Vincent Giroux). **Cattle Egret**: 4 birds at Waskaganish (James Bay) 20 Oct provided the northernmost sighting in the province (Angela Coxon). Single birds were also seen at Saint-André-de-Kamouraska 2-10 Aug (Evelyne Samson), Chambly 23 Oct (Pierre Bannon, Suzanne Labbé), Les Coteaux 2-6 Nov (Sylvie Latreille, *m.ob.*), and Saint-Barthélemy 4-9 Nov (Michelle & Michel Boulard, *m.ob.*) **Glossy Ibis**: singles at Henryville 9 Aug (Benoit Tanguay, Tristan Jobin) Saint-Vallier 9 Aug (Patrick Laniel), and Saint-Liboire 19 Sep (Pierre Bergeron). **Black Vulture**: one at Wotton 3 Nov (Daniel Banville) and 2 at Mont-Laurier 13-27 Nov (Jacques Dumont). **Swallow-tailed Kite**: one photographed in flight at Saint-Hyacinthe 12 Sep provided the 7th record for the province (Régis Buteau, François Bourret). **Swainson's Hawk**: one at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 16 Sep (Bob Barnhurst, Mabel McIntosh).

Red-headed Woodpecker: singles at Mont Saint-Hilaire 1-9 Nov (Gérald Fréchette, *m.ob.*) and at Wotton 3 Nov (Daniel Banville). **White-eyed Vireo**: 5 birds reported in a short period of time were surprising: Châteauguay 19 Oct (Jacek Mlynarek), Parc Angrignon (Montreal) 25-31 Oct (Marc-André Villard), Maizerets (Québec City) 25-29 Oct (Charles Vachon), Rivière Magpie 8 Nov (Christophe Buidin, Yann Rochepault) and Gatineau 10 Nov (Clark Sollows). **House Wren**: a late bird at the Montreal Technopark 24-26 Nov (Samuel Denault, Charles Samoisette-

Aigrette bleue : des juv aperçus à Cacouna 22-24 août (Jean-Claude Pelletier), Woburn 27-30 août (Jean Roy), Mercier 2 sep (Olivier Barden), et Bic 13-23 sep (Vincent Giroux). **Héron garde-boeufs** : 4 oiseaux à Waskaganish (Baie James) 20 oct, la présence la plus septentrionale au Québec (Angela Coxon). Des oiseaux aussi aperçus à Saint-André-de-Kamouraska 2-10 août (Evelyne Samson), Chambly 23 oct (Pierre Bannon, Suzanne Labbé), Les Coteaux 2-6 nov (Sylvie Latreille, *pl.ob.*), et Saint-Barthélemy 4-9 nov (Michelle & Michel Boulard, *m.ob.*) **Ibis falcinelle** : des oiseaux à Henryville 9 août (Benoit Tanguay, Tristan Jobin) Saint-Vallier 9 août (Patrick Laniel), et Saint-Liboire 19 sep (Pierre Bergeron). **Urubu noir** : un à Wotton 3 nov (Daniel Banville) et 2 à Mont-Laurier 13-27 nov (Jacques Dumont). **Naucler à queue fourchue** : un photographié en vol à Saint-Hyacinthe 12 sep représentait la 7^{ème} présence au Québec (Régis Buteau, François Bourret). **Buse de Swainson** : une à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 16 sep (Bob Barnhurst, Mabel McIntosh).

Pic à tête rouge : des oiseaux à Mont Saint-Hilaire 1-9 nov (Gérald Fréchette, *pl.ob.*) et à Wotton 3 nov (Daniel Banville). **Viréo aux yeux blancs** : 5 oiseaux signalés dans une courte période de temps : Châteauguay 19 oct (Jacek Mlynarek), Parc Angrignon (Montréal) 25-31 oct (Marc-André Villard), Maizerets (Québec) 25-29 oct (Charles Vachon), Rivière Magpie 8 nov (Christophe Buidin, Yann Rochepault) et Gatineau 10 nov (Clark Sollows). **Troglodyte familier** : un oiseau tardif au technoparc de Montréal 24-26 nov (Samuel Denault, Charles Samoisette-Pilon). **Traquet motteux** : 4 présences : 2 à Wemindji 9 sep (Ted Cheskey), un à Gallix 15-16 sep (Marielle Vanasse), un à Sept-Îles 18-22 sep (Christian Briand et al.), puis un à Pointe-au-Père 6 oct (Lucille Saint-Laurent, Mikael Jaffré). **Grive des bois** : une à Gatineau 13 nov procure une nouvelle date record pour la province (Laetitia Desbordes). **Grive à collier** : une à Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac 17-20 nov (Sylvain Lapointe).

Pilon). **Northern Wheatear**: a total of 4 reports: 2 at Wemindji 9 Sep (Ted Cheskey), and singles at Gallix 15–16 Sep (Marielle Vanasse), Sept-Îles 18–22 Sep (Christian Briand et al.), and Pointe-au-Père 6 Oct (Lucille Saint-Laurent, Mikael Jaffré). **Wood Thrush**: one at Gatineau 13 Nov was record late (Laetitia Desbordes). **Varied Thrush**: one at Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac 17–20 Nov (Sylvain Lapointe).



Laark Sparrow / Bruant à joues marron
© Suzanne Labbé

Grasshopper Sparrow: breeding evidences are rare now in the province, so a juv at Bristol 4 Aug was interesting (Eric Patry). **Lark Sparrow**: singles at Tadoussac 15 Oct–27 Nov (Laetitia Desbordes, Jessé Roy-Drainville), Rivière-Madeleine 3–7 Nov (Georgette Blanchette) and Montreal Technopark 24–30 Nov (Samuel Denault, Charles Samoisette-Pilon). **Nelson's Sparrow**: 2 birds at Grenville-sur-la-Rouge 28 Sep (Yves Gauthier). **Eastern Towhee**: five birds appeared at feeders on 12 Nov, a snowy day in the province: Saguenay (M. Bélanger), Pointe-aux-Trembles



Western Meadowlark / Sturnelle de l'Ouest ©
Suzanne Labbé

Bruant sauterelle : les preuves de nidification sont très rares au Québec maintenant, d'où l'intérêt de la présence d'un juv à Bristol le 4 août (Éric Patry). **Bruant à joues marron** : des oiseaux à Tadoussac 15 oct–27 nov (Laetitia Desbordes, Jessé Roy-Drainville), Rivière-Madeleine 3–7 nov (Georgette Blanchette) et au Technoparc de Montréal 24–30 nov (Samuel Denault, Charles Samoisette-Pilon). **Bruant de Nelson** : 2 oiseaux à Grenville-sur-la-Rouge 28 sep (Yves Gauthier). **Tohi à flancs roux** : 5 oiseaux signalés à des mangeoires le 12 nov après une chute de neige : Saguenay (M. Bélanger), Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montréal) (Isabelle Goyer), Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Denise Simon), Parc Saint-Georges (Montréal) (Samuel Denault), et Saint-Jérôme (Josiane Cornut). **Ictérie polyglotte** : une à Percé 6 nov (Albini Couture). **Carouge à tête jaune** : un mâle imm à Saint-Armand 13 oct (Olivier Barden). **Sturnelle de l'Ouest** : une formellement identifiée à partir de photos prises par de nombreux

(Montreal) (Isabelle Goyer), Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Denise Simon), Parc Saint-Georges (Montreal) (Samuel Denault), and Saint-Jérôme (Josiane Cornut). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one at Percé 6 Nov (Albini Couture). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: an imm male at Saint-Armand 13 Oct (Olivier Barden). **Western Meadowlark**: one formally identified from photographs taken by many observers at Saint-Simon-de-Bagot 16-18 Nov (Nelson Roy, *m.ob.*). **Orchard Oriole**: a male at Rosemère 1 Oct was late (Denis Fyfe). **Prothonotary Warbler**: one at Châteauguay 3-8 Sep (Tristan Jobin et al.). **Pine Warbler**: one at Val d'Or 30 Nov, very late for *Abitibi* region (Claudia Siano, Raymond Ladurantaye). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one at Deux-Montagnes 25-30 Nov (Sophie Janelle, Joanie Lavigne). **Prairie Warbler**: three reports from the Gaspé Peninsula were interesting: Percé 9 Oct (Albini Couture), Port-Daniel 27 Oct (Albini Couture, Yvette Cyr), and Gaspé 28 Oct (Jean-François Rousseau). **Painted Redstart**: one at Trois-Rivières 18-19 Oct provided the second record for the province, only a little more than 2 years after the first record (Gilles Garant, *ph.*).

Please report your interesting bird observations by email at pbannon@videotron.ca

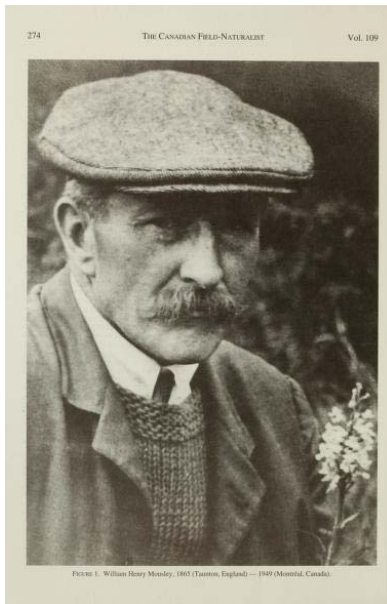
observateurs à Saint-Simon-de-Bagot 16-18 nov (Nelson Roy, *pl.ob.*). **Oriole des vergers** : un mâle tardif à Rosemère 1 oct (Denis Fyfe). **Paruline orangée** : une à Châteauguay 3-8 sep (Tristan Jobin et al.). **Paruline des pins** : une à Val d'Or 30 nov, très rare en Abitibi en tout temps (Claudia Siano, Raymond Ladurantaye). **Paruline à gorge jaune** : une à Deux-Montagnes 25-30 nov (Sophie Janelle, Joanie Lavigne). **Paruline des prés** : 3 présences, toutes en Gaspésie : Percé 9 oct (Albini Couture), Port-Daniel 27 oct (Albini Couture, Yvette Cyr), et Gaspé 28 oct (Jean-François Rousseau). **Paruline à ailes blanches** : une à Trois-Rivières 18-19 oct représentait la 2ième présence au Québec, un peu plus de 2 ans après la première mention (Gilles Garant, *ph.*).

Signalez vos observations intéressantes par courriel à pbannon@videotron.ca

William Henry Mousley Quebec Ornithologist (1865-1949) A Presentation by Dwane Wilkin

Monday February 3, 2020
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG

Free of charge to members and non-members alike.



William Henry Mousley was a father of seven and well into middle age when his career in the family's railroad-building firm came crashing to an inglorious end. The Mousleys were forced to sell their London home to stay out of debt, parting ways forever with their prosperous life in the metropolitan nerve-centre of the British Empire. But riches of another kind awaited Henry in the bogs and woodlands of the Eastern Townships: an abundance of birds and wildflowers that seemed to reawaken his boyhood love of nature, fed his mind, and eventually furnished him with the means to earn a living after sailing to Quebec in 1910. In the

course of the next four decades, while living first near Hatley Village and later in Montreal, Mousley gained a reputation as the best all-round naturalist-ornithologist of 20th century Canada.

In ornithology, Mousley was perhaps best known for his extensive field studies on birds such as the American Black Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, Sedge Wren and the Great Crested Flycatcher which were published in important publications such as *Auk* and the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

About the Speaker

Dwane Wilkin was born in the Eastern Townships. He obtained a BA in Economics and Political Science from McGill University and a Graduate Diploma in Journalism from Concordia University. Dwane started his career as a newspaper reporter with the *Stanstead Journal*, the *Sherbrooke Record* and the *Nunatsiq News* and freelanced for the *Montreal Gazette*, the *Ottawa Citizen*, the *Globe and Mail* and other newspapers. Since 2002 Dwane has worked with the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) in a number of capacities including researcher, writer, editor and community organizer.

Past Field Trips



American Robin / Merle
d'Amérique © 2020 Chuck Kling

05/10/19 - île -Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay

Guide: Tom Long

Warmer than expected

Participants: 24; Species: 49

Birds of the Day: White-winged Scoters and Black Scoters

Other Birds of Note: Wood duck, Green-winged Teal, Wilson's Snipe, Common Loon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warbler

12/10/19 - Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Guides: Wayne Grubert and Sheldon Harvey

Sunny, light breeze, 10° to 15°C.

Participants: 15; Species: 29

Bird of the Day: Blue-headed Vireo

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler

19/10/10 - Parc des Rapides, LaSalle

Guide: Diane Demers

Sunny, mild

Participants: 26; Species: 34

Bird of the Day: Palm Warbler

Other Birds of Note: Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler

26/10/19 - Candiac and Sainte-Catherine

Guide: Frédéric Hareau

Sunny, light wind

Participants: 13; Species: 41

Bird of the Day: Merlin

Other Birds of Note: Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Bufflehead, Hermit Thrush

02/11/19 - Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies, Montreal

Guides: Jean Demers and Clemence Soulard

3°C

Participants: 10; Species: 32

Birds of the Day: American Coot, Long-tailed Duck

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, White-wing Scoter, Black Scoter, Long-tail Duck, Bufflehead, Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher

09/11/190 - CINLB-Lac Boivin, Granby

Guides: Tom Long and Wayne Grubert

-5°C, windy

Participants: 8; Species: 27

Bird of the Day: Snow Goose

Other Birds of Note: American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Rough-legged Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, American Robin



Red-tailed Hawk / Buse à queue rousse © Chuck Kling 2020

16/11/19 - Morgan Arboretum, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

Guide: Richard Gregson

Cold, -13°C, sunny and windy

Participants: 24; Species: 16

Birds of the Day: Red-bellied Woodpecker; Song Sparrow

Other Birds of Note: Mourning Dove, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch

23/11/19 - Hungry Bay, Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague and Beauharnois

Guides: Wayne Grubert and Sheldon Harvey

-5°C; windy; mostly cloudy

Participants: 11; Species: 35 species

Birds of the Day: Long-tailed Duck; Ruffed Grouse

Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Peregrine Falcon, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse

30/11/19 - Parc nature du Cap St-Jacques, Pierrefonds

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Clear skies; -10° to -6°C

Participants: 9; Species: 18

Bird of the Day: Long-tailed Duck

Other Birds of Note: Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet

Trip Advice

Updates: We send an update of our upcoming events every week by e-mail. This serves as a reminder and keeps you informed of any changes. It also provides additional information about trip conditions when required. If you are not receiving this e-mail, contact us at birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but always check the BPQ website or contact the trip guide if the weather is extreme.

Nice to have: Binoculars, field guide, scope, hat, gloves, good walking shoes, extra socks, sunscreen, extra layers for cold weather, water, and snacks.

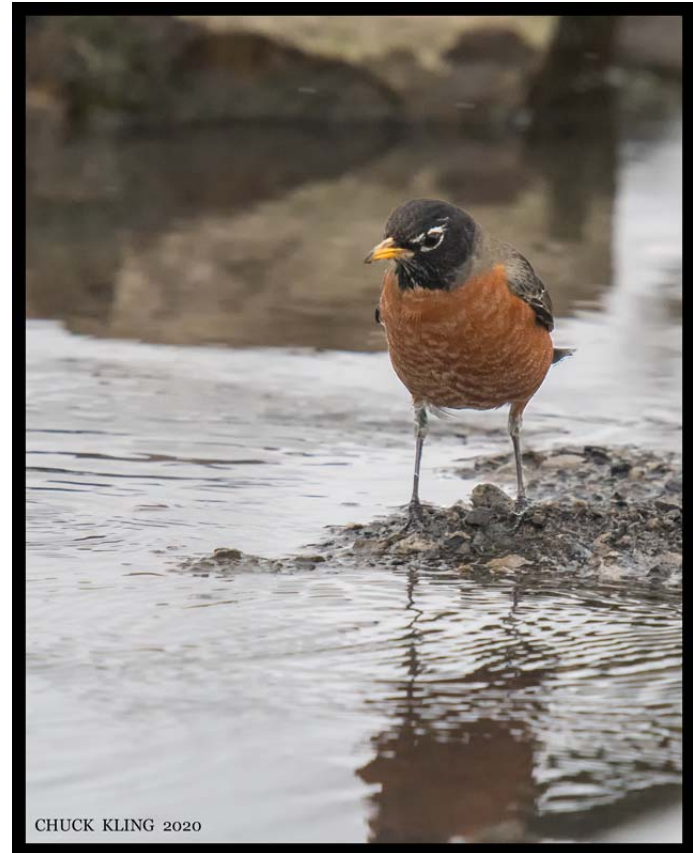
Online calendar: Consult the website as well.

De rigueur pour les excursions

Mise à jour: Nous envoyons par courriel des mises à jour hebdomadaires sur les événements à venir. Ils servent de rappel pour vous garder informés de tout changement. Ils fournissent des informations supplémentaires sur les particularités reliées aux excursions au besoin. Si vous ne recevez pas ces courriels, contactez-nous à : birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. Vous pouvez annuler votre participation en tout temps.

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

Prévoir pour les sorties : Jumelles, guide, télescope, chapeau, gants, souliers de marche, bas de rechange, crème solaire, vêtements pour temps froid, bouteille d'eau, et collations.



CHUCK KLING 2020

American Robin / Merle
d'Amérique © Chuck Kling 2019

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, February 8 - samedi 8 février

(Note the special starting time)

Urban Birding

<https://goo.gl/maps/6eOF3>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

450-462-1459 or on the morning of the trip 514-637-2141

ve2shw@yahoo.com

9:00 a.m. Meet in the Costco parking lot at the corner of Bridge and Mill Streets in the Pointe-St-Charles area of Montreal. We will first explore Parc de Dieppe on Cité-du-Havre. We will then walk across the Concorde Bridge (weather permitting) and visit Parc Jean-Drapeau (île-Ste-Helene and île-Notre-Dame).

Looking for winter birds in an urban setting. Possibilities include raptors, ravens, waterfowl, woodpeckers, and winter finches. **Half day**

9h00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement de Costco à l'angle des rues Mill et Bridge dans le quartier de Pointe-St-Charles à Montréal. Nous explorerons parc de Dieppe au Cité-du-Havre. Après nous traverserons le pont Concorde (si la météo permet) pour visiter le parc Jean-Drapeau (île-Ste-Helene et île-Notre-Dame). Nous serons à la recherche des oiseaux d'hiver en milieu

urbain, avec la possibilité de rapaces, de corbeaux, oiseaux d'eau, pics-bois, et fringillidés. **Demi-journée**

Sunday, February 16 - dimanche 16 février

Bird Protection Quebec's Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) Event!

Morgan Arboretum

9:30 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Conservation Centre of the Morgan Arboretum, 150 chemin des Pins, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC

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

Admission and GBBC Event Parking: FREE

Parking fees for non-members attending the event will be paid by Bird Protection Quebec.

The GBBC is a global event and each year tens of thousands of people around the world submit checklists reporting many millions of birds. The data collected during a 4-day count period every February helps scientists monitor avian population and migration trends. Come learn all about feeder birds and what you need to know to join in this fun citizen science initiative.

- Learn about birds and how to identify them
- Find out about bird feeding and the array of feeders on the market
- Go on a bird walk with experts and identify birds in the wild
- Observe birds through a high-powered birding scope
- Hand-feed the Black-capped Chickadees (note: we've requested their cooperation, but no guarantees!)
- Learn all about on-line data submission to eBird, a free global database for bird observation
- Warm up with some complimentary hot chocolate after the walk

Already passionate about birds? Help a new birder take flight!

Attend the event with a non-birding friend or relative. If every bird watcher inspired just one other person to watch birds, we could double the number of people who enjoy and care not only about birds, but the wild places where they live. All ages welcome.

Admission includes all day access to the Arboretum - bring skis, snowshoes or toboggans for after the event.

Saturday, February 22 - samedi 22 février

Saint-Clet, Sainte-Justine-de-Newton, Sainte-Marthe

<https://goo.gl/maps/pHfxmt1EJuH2>

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Bird Protection Quebec

450-458-5498 or on the morning of the trip 514-774-0811

wgrubert6@gmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at Hudson Inn, exit 17 off Highway 40. From Montreal, take Highway 40 west towards Ottawa. Allow an hour's drive from Montreal. Looking for Snowy Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Snow Bunting 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, carpooling arranged ahead of time and/or at our rendezvous would be greatly appreciated. **Half day.**

8h00 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.**