

THE SONG SPARROW

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George Finney and Ben at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, Nova Scotia.

Bird StudiesCanada: Citizen Science in Action

with Dr. George Finney
Monday 3 April 2006 at 8:00 PM

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) is Canada's largest national non-government organization devoted to the study of birds in order to aid in their conservation. BSC has a wide array of programs, some familiar national programs such as Project FeederWatch and the Christmas Bird Count, others more regionally focused, such as the Marsh Monitoring Program in Ontario and Quebec and Beached Bird Surveys on our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. BSC relies heavily on its 20,000 volunteers and supporters in order to collect the data and to spread the word that the conservation of birds is important. This presentation will provide an overview of BSC's programs.

The data that Bird Studies Canada gathers supports conservation efforts of governments and other not-for-profit organizations. In 2005, the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) was amended in order to better deal with

ships deliberately dumping oily wastes at sea and thereby killing hundreds of thousands of sea-birds. Dr. Finney will discuss this problem along with highlights of the amendments and BSC's monitoring role.

George Finney received his doctorate from Queen's University where he worked on Snow Goose population biology under the supervision of Dr. Fred Cooke. After a brief career as a consultant working on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline proposal, he joined the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) where he worked for 27 years. He left CWS as the Regional Director of the Atlantic region, a post he held for 19 years. His last assignment with CWS was to lead the team that drafted the amendments to the MBCA noted above. Dr. Finney left CWS to become President of BSC in October 2004.

Jeff Harrison

Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Bird Protection Quebec will be held on:

Monday 8 May 2006
8:00 PM

Fraser-Hickson Library
4855 Kensington Avenue, NDG

Let's Party!

All members are cordially invited to our end-of-year (Bird Protection Quebec year anyway) party on:

Monday 8 May 2006
About 9:00 p.m.

Fraser-Hickson Library

The Annual General Meeting begins at 8:00 PM and lasts about an hour, the party begins right after.

There'll be lots of good things to eat and drink, music, games and a quiz. Be sure to be there.

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Message From Our President

I am very fortunate to be living a fantastic birding experience in East Africa as I participate as an instructor with McGill University's Canadian Field Studies in Africa program with 38 students. I am writing this as I sit beside Lake Victoria at Mbita in western Kenya having just traveled from Jinja, Uganda, at the northern tip of this same lake where it becomes the source of the Nile. From my look-out the following list may give you a taste of this experience: on the lake I can see an African Fish Eagle, several Hamerkop which have their huge nests of piled vegetation in the trees near me, two species of egrets, a stork, two ibises, two cormorants, two kingfishers, two wagtails, a tern, a sandpiper and a goose; in the trees beside me are four species of weavers, two thrushes, two flycatchers, two doves, a moosebird, a gonolek and a sunbird; overhead are at least three species of swallows, a swift, a kite and two other raptors. How is that for biodiversity from about an hour of observation? It should be enough to engage my ornithology class and any budding ornithologists among them.

Lake Victoria faces several serious conservation issues as the population surrounding it increases. There are currently 30 million people in the catchment basin of the lake, most of whom rely on it for water, food and energy. Three million people are employed by fisheries on the lake. Among the issues of concern are pollution of the water by agricultural activity and human effluent, deforestation around the lake and the introduction of exotics. Do these problems sound familiar?

Although it is large (68,800 km²) Lake Victoria is relatively shallow (mean depth 40 m). With silt from run-off, coverage along shallow shorelines from introduced Water Hyacinth and alteration of the fish population due to over-fishing and introduced Nile Perch, the structure of the lake has changed completely since the 1960s. The temperature has increased, the water does not circulate as it did before, its clarity is significantly reduced and it lacks oxygen at depths. Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemical pollutants enter the lake and contribute to this eutrophication. Overfishing and predation by larger fish such as the introduced Nile Perch have removed a whole class of small fish that feed on aquatic algae and other small organisms.

The deforestation has occurred so residents can obtain fuel-wood. Electricity is significantly more expensive than charcoal for cooking. The trees removed to make charcoal once provided important ground cover to dissipate heat, accommodate other plants and animals and hold the soil. When habitat is lost the birds disappear too!

There is a real dilemma here - what can be done to support the increasing human population around the lake and still conserve biodiversity? The people who live here are very poor and the lake and its surrounding trees provide them with sustenance and whatever income they can generate. For the lake to remain a sustainable resource, those involved must be made aware of what is available and the consequences of all actions taken that affect the lake. Solutions do not come easily: they require the input of scientists, public education, community participation and commitment from all involved.

Meanwhile I feel privileged to be able to enjoy the biodiversity surrounding me and hope that the students we are attempting to educate will contribute to conserving it for future generations.

Rodger Titman

New Members

Welcome to new members: Alain & Dora Goulet, Montreal; Freda Keet, Westmount; Sylvie Nadeau & Luc Nadeau St-Arneault, Lachine. Please join us on our field trips and at our monthly meetings.

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 4 January 1917

OFFICERS

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Bird Protection Quebec/PQSPB is a registered charity.

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All donations are tax deductible.

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**Deadline for the next issue of
The Song Sparrow
26 March 2006**

Trail Clearing at Philipsburg Sunday 7 May 2006 at 10:00 AM

The trails at Philipsburg need some serious work done on them if we are to be able to have a safe and "birdy" field trip in May. Sandy Montgomery, Gordon Renny and the rest of the Philipsburg committee are planning the day so there'll be productive work for whoever comes. Bring whatever tools you can - secateurs, saws and gloves are most needed.

Have fun with fellow members; feel the satisfaction of making a useful contribution; enjoy an early spring day in the beautiful Philipsburg woods. We hope to see you on the 7th.

Meet at the Montgomery home. 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. Turn right at the flashing light down Montgomery Avenue to the waterfront, then left into the Montgomerys' driveway.

Bring A Friend Birding Day

The field trip to Île Bizard Nature Park on 15 April has been designated "Bring a Friend Birding Day". This is a great opportunity for family and friends to get together ... and go birding! Everyone attending this trip is encouraged to bring along a family member, friend or neighbour to experience birding for the first time and to enjoy one of Montreal's most beautiful and popular birding locations.

Junior Birding Club

The Education Committee of Bird Protection Quebec wants to hear from young birders who are interested in forming a Junior Club. Fun birding activities will take place on Saturday mornings in April at the Morgan Arboretum.

To participate, contact Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222; e-mail: barb.macduff@sympatico.ca, or David Mulholland, 514-630-6082; e-mail: davidjmulholland@sympatico.ca.

The Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop

The Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards foster the development of ornithological interests in Canadian teenagers, 13-17 years old. Recipients of the award will attend a week-long camp, 28 July - 6 August at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario. For more information, visit: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/lpbo/yow.html>.

Bird Protection Quebec may provide financial assistance to any interested young person. Contact Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222; email: barb.macduff@sympatico.ca.

New Species and Taxonomic Order for the List of Birds of Montreal

The bilingual checklist of the birds of Montreal, last published by the Society in 1998, has been updated. Pierre Bannon, Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh painstakingly reviewed and updated our list according to regional records and the names and taxonomic order of the 7th A.O.U. (1998) checklist and its 42nd to 46th supplements (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005). We would also like to acknowledge the important past contributions of the late Henri Ouellet of the Museum of Nature in Ottawa. As an eminent ornithologist, friend of Bird Protection Quebec and a member, later Chairman, of the Checklist Committee of the AOU during the 1990s, Dr. Ouellet kindly provided input into previous editions of the checklist, particularly the 1998 edition.

Eleven species have been added to the list of birds known to have nested or occurred five times or more in the Montreal area, bringing the total to 314. They are: Cackling Goose; Tufted Duck; King Eider; Tricolored Heron; Yellow-crowned Night-Heron; American Avocet; Pomarine Jaeger; California Gull; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Townsend's Solitaire; Harris's Sparrow. A few changes in status have also occurred: for example, Great Egret and Peregrine Falcon are no longer considered rare and Osprey, Merlin and Orchard Oriole have all achieved breeding status. On the negative side, Mute Swan and Loggerhead Shrike are no longer considered breeding species in Quebec. Other changes include name changes for Oldsquaw (to Long-tailed Duck) and Common Snipe (to Wilson's Snipe) and a change from *Pic tridactyle* to *Pic à dos rayé*. Be warned, you will also find some changes in the taxonomic order of species; for instance should you see a Red-throated Loon you will no longer check it off at the top of the list - that honour now falls to the Greater White-fronted Goose!

The new checklist, printed on card, will be available for purchase at monthly meetings at a cost of 35 cents each, or three for \$1.00. If you would like some mailed to you at cost, please contact Averill Craig, 514-484-6575, email: ak.craig@sympatico.ca. A free PDF version of the list can be downloaded from the Songsparrow group email site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Songsparrow> or from our website: www.birdprotectionquebec.org.

Bob Barnhurst and Averill Craig

Nominating Committee Report

The 2005-2006 Nominating Committee, composed of Rodger Titman (Chair), Averill Craig, Lance Laviolette, Barbara MacDuff, Eve Marshall and Betsy McFarlane, nominates the following members to serve as directors for the next three years:

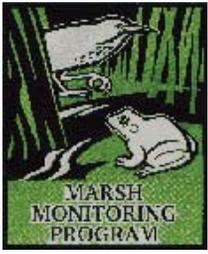
Alison Bentley Martin Bowman Jean Demers Wayne Grubert Marie-Anne Hudson Lynn Miller

Any member of Bird Protection Quebec may be nominated for election to the Board of Directors provided she/he is nominated by the Nominating Committee or in writing by two or more members, accompanied by a declaration of the nominee that she/he is willing to serve. All nominations must be filed, four weeks before the Annual General Meeting, with Bird Protection Quebec Secretary, Box 43, Station B, Montreal QC H3B 3J5.

Election of members to the Board of Directors will take place at the AGM, 8 May 2006.

Eve Marshall, Acting Chair, Nominating Committee

Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program



The Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program (QMMP) will begin its third season this summer. QMMP participants follow a standardized protocol, which consists of two evening bird surveys conducted in a chosen marsh between 27 May and 12

July paired with a short description of the habitat monitored. To elicit response from secretive species such as Virginia Rails, broadcast calls of six species are used after an initial silent period. Goals of the QMMP are to obtain information on distribution, abundance and diversity of marsh birds, along with species' usage of wetland systems. In 2005, 141 stations were surveyed in 52 marshes, providing data on 120 bird species.

Information about the program, including the 2004

and 2005 newsletters, can be found in French at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/regional/qcmarais.html>. People interested in participating can contact Catherine Poussart, 418-649-6062; email: cpoussart@bsc-eoc.org. The QMMP is co-ordinated by Bird Studies Canada with financial help from Environment Canada and precious time dedicated from enthusiastic bird watchers.

Catherine Poussart

Wood Duck Boxes

Thanks go out to Bob Barnhurst, Holly Bockus, and Des Snow for constructing Wood Duck nest boxes for our sanctuary in Philipsburg. Des Snow sent four boxes from his home in Burlington, Ontario, while Holly Bockus has her Dawson College students building Wood Duck and Bluebird boxes.

Winter Waterfowl Count 1-15 Feb 2006 Dénombrement des canards hivernants 1-15 fév 2006 Co-ordinator: Pierre Bannon	St. Lawrence River Montreal Region	St. Lawrence River Valleyfield Region*	Châteauguay River	Richelieu River	Rivière des Prairies Rivière des Mille-Îles	2006 total	2005 total
Mute Swan/Cygne tuberculé						0	1
Snow Goose/Oie des neiges				2		2	0
Canada Goose/Bernache du Canada	6	4	2	34	5	51	6
Wood Duck/Canard branchu				1	2	3	0
Gadwall/Canard chipeau	23					23	0
American Wigeon/Canard d'Amérique					1	1	0
American Black Duck/Canard noir	45	2	53	241	244	585	654
Mallard/Canard colvert	460	80	254	1799	1804	4397	6337
Mallard X Black/Colvert X Noir				2	9	11	55
Northern Pintail/Canard pilet	2					2	2
Green-winged Teal/Sarcelle d'hiver						0	0
Canvasback/Fuligule à dos blanc						0	0
Redhead/Fuligule à tête rouge						0	0
Ring-necked Duck/Fuligule à collier						0	0
Greater Scaup/Fuligule milouinan	2					2	1
Lesser Scaup/Petit Fuligule						0	0
King Eider/Eider à tête grise						0	0
Harlequin Duck/Arlequin plongeur						0	0
Long-tailed Duck/Harelde kakawi						0	0
Bufflehead/Petit Garrot	1					1	0
Common Goldeneye/Garrot à œil d'or	1389			188	3	1580	1329
Barrow's Goldeneye/Garrot d'Islande	2					2	1
C. Goldeneye X Barrow's Goldeneye						0	2
Hooded Merganser/Harle couronné	7			12		19	5
Common Merganser/Grand Harle	552	75		753	58	1438	1181
Red-breasted Merganser/Harle huppé						0	2
Total	2489	161	309	3032	2126	8117	9576
*partial coverage only							

Monitoring Nest Sites of Species at Risk

This spring and summer Bird Protection Quebec will again participate in a province-wide programme to monitor the nest sites of populations of bird species at risk in Quebec (*Suivi de l'occupation des stations de nidification des populations d'oiseaux en péril du Québec* - or SOS-POP). As in 2005, the following species are to be monitored (not all found in the Montreal area): Horned Grebe; Least Bittern; Harlequin Duck; Barrow's Goldeneye; Bald Eagle; Golden Eagle; Peregrine Falcon; Yellow Rail; Piping Plover; Caspian Tern; Roseate Tern; Short-eared Owl; Red-headed Woodpecker; Sedge Wren; Loggerhead Shrike; Bicknell's Thrush; Golden-winged Warbler; Cerulean Warbler; Grasshopper Sparrow; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Another species, the Louisiana Waterthrush, may be added to this list for 2006 but this had still to be confirmed at the time of going to press.

The area assigned to Bird Protection Quebec in the Montreal region is quite extensive, and we need more volunteers to cover it. Volunteers will be provided with observation sheets, a detailed guide (in English or French), and a topographic map indicating one or more known breeding sites. Sites must be visited at least once during the species' nesting period, or more frequently if none are found during the first visit. Should a new site be found occupied by one of the species during its breeding season, the monitor is asked to record detailed information.

If you are already participating in the programme, or can identify by sight or ear the species concerned, and you know a location or locations where they might be found, please contact BPQ's programme representative for SOS-POP - Averill Craig, 514-484-6575; email: ak.craig@sympatico.ca.

Averill Craig

Le Nichoir

Le Nichoir has been open for 12 years, providing care to orphaned, injured and ill wild birds. Last year we looked after over 1,700 birds, and more than 50% survived and were released back into their natural wild environment. We also responded to over 5000 telephone calls on our help-line, providing assistance and advice to many people about wild birds. We could not do this without our many supporters, including Bird Protection Quebec and many of its individual members. Thank you all very much!

Our annual dinner/auction provides approximately one-third of our operating budget of \$45,000. This year it will be held on Friday 31 March at Whitlock Golf Club. This is an evening of fun and excitement, combining the opportunity to party with your friends, to bid on the many items in our auction and to support Le Nichoir.

Le Nichoir always needs volunteers to assist with the direct care of birds, daily maintenance, fundraising and the many other activities associated with keeping the centre open.

For more information about the auction, the help-line, or to become a member of the Le Nichoir team, call Le Nichoir, 450-458-2809 or Judi Collinge, 514-484-1475.

Judi Collinge

Tadoussac Bird Observatory Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac

We were very happy to welcome to our December meeting the Director of the *Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac* (OOT), Bruno Drolet, and his colleague Andrew Coughlan. Bruno spoke to us about the history of OOT and its current work, and shared with us many of the statistics collected over the past 13 years. The Observatory was founded in 1993 with the object of monitoring boreal birds. Tadoussac is well situated for this work, being on a raptor migratory route, with an important concentration of birds, and a large diversity (raptors, land birds and coastal birds) due to its varied environments. The site is open, accessible and protected, situated as it is in the Parc national du Saguenay.

Bruno pointed out that the newly designed logo of OOT consists of a stylized Golden Eagle, Black-backed Woodpecker and Boreal Owl, these being three of the main species under study. The main priority of the Observatory is a visual count carried out each fall from mid-August to November. Two qualified ornithologists spend six to eight hours each day at two sites doing an hourly count of raptors, woodpeckers and passerines (migrant flow), and a daily estimated count of gulls and waterfowl (migrant build-up). There is also a banding program which had to be put on hold for the past four years because of lack of funds, but has been reinstated this year.

Bruno provided interesting details of the study programs of raptors, passerines and woodpeckers, land birds, coastal birds, and owls including many graphs and bar charts. In addition to its own activities, OOT cooperates with other observatories, notably Hawk Mountain, to do cross analyses using standardized counts. The aim is continuing long-term data collection from many comparable sites.

We were also given details of the banding program that includes owls as well as passerines. Bruno warned that if you stay overnight at the site, you must be prepared to have your sleep disturbed by the tape recordings used to attract the shy Boreal and Northern Saw-whet Owls. (Also, watch out for black bears!) Playback mist netting is used to trap these species and the black-backed and three-toed woodpeckers. Passive mist netting is used to trap passerines. The most banded species are Yellow-rumped Warbler, Boreal Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped Chickadee and White-throated Sparrow. Owl studies include plumage patterns to determine age and biometric measures to determine sex and physiological condition.

We are grateful to Bruno for giving us this rapid overview of the important work being done at the Observatory. And we should point out that funding for the operation is very uncertain. Please check the website to see how you can help, and also to obtain more details of the OOT's work. The address is www.explos-nature.qc.ca/ooot. The mail address for further information, to make a donation, or to adopt an owl is: *Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac, Corporation Explos-nature*, 302 rue de la Rivière, Les Bergeronnes, QC, G0T 1G0, Telephone 877-MER-1877, Fax 418-232-6558; email: oot@explos-nature.qc.ca.

Pat Steele

Parlons d'oiseaux

Un bilan des observations intéressantes à Montréal
et à travers la province
par **Pierre Bannon**

Décembre 2005-Janvier 2006

Oie rieuse: deux à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague le 5 déc (L. Goneau). **Canard branchu:** une femelle à Beauport le 8 janv (pl. ob.) et deux à Boisbriand à partir du 12 janv (P. & L. Simard). **Canard souchet:** des mâles imm. à Sherbrooke le 31 déc (L. Germain) et Beauport 27-31 janv, une date record (C. Chevalier, N. Hallé). **Sarcelle d'hiver:** un groupe de 22 à Lachenaie le 18 déc (S. Denault *et al.*) est passé à 34 le 25 déc (S. Robert). **Fuligule à dos blanc:** des oiseaux toujours présents à Pointe-Claire le 3 déc. **Harle couronné X Garrot à oeil d'or:** un mâle ad. à Sainte-Catherine le 4 janv (P. Bannon).

Plongeon huard: un à l'île Sainte-Hélène le 5 janv (S. Guimond). **Grèbe à bec bigarré:** un à LaSalle le 4 janv (P. Lamontagne), deux à Sherbrooke au moins jusqu'à la mi-janv (pl. ob.) et un à Magog 8-15 janv (S. Rioux). **Fulmar boréal:** un à Les Escoumins le 9 déc (R. Pintiaux, V. Plante). **Grand Héron:** plusieurs jusqu'à la mi-janv; un max de 12 à Bécancour le 8 janv (N. Hallé). **Urubu à tête rouge:** des indiv. à Hébertville le 4 déc (*fide* G. Savard) et Hemmingford le 27 déc (D. Ouellette). **Balbusard pêcheur:** un oiseau très tardif à Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix le 13 déc (R. Saint-Jean). **Buse à épaulettes:** une à Québec 8-11 janv (P. Otis). **Faucon gerfaut:** bien présent dans la région de Montréal dont deux vus quotidiennement au mont Saint-Hilaire (pl. ob.), un blanc à Sainte-Catherine le 13 janv (F. Parkinson) suivi d'un gris ad. le 17 déc (P. Bannon).

Râle de Virginie: un indiv. à Rimouski le 25 déc, une date record (R. Pitre). **Gallinule poule-d'eau:** une à Gatineau le 18 déc (*fide* M. Aubé). **Pluvier kildir:** un oiseau tardif à Lachenaie 17-18 déc (G. Cyr, J. Perras). **Mouette de Franklin:** un ad. à Tadoussac le 3 déc, une date record (R. Pintiaux). **Mouette de Bonaparte:** un oiseau à Forillon le 8 janv, une date record (M. Côté, M-C. Rancourt). **Goéland deThayer:** un ad. à LaSalle le 17 déc (B. Barnhurst). **Goéland brun:** un à Laval 6-7 déc (G. Lachaine), un ad. à Sainte-Catherine le 3 déc (M. Gauthier), et un 1^{re} hiver à Pointe-Claire le 4 déc (B. Barnhurst). **Sterne de Forster:** un indiv. tardif à Barachois le 6 déc (A. Couture).

Mergule nain: un max de plus de 3000 oiseaux atteint à Les Escoumins le 9 déc (R. Pintiaux). **Guillemot de Brunnich:** un à Chandler le 28 janv (A. Couture, J-R. Lepage).

Petit-duc maculé: jusqu'à 15 indiv. entendus au mont Saint-Grégoire le 28 janv (M. Gauthier *et al.*). **Chouette lapone:** au moins deux aperçus près de Montréal: une à Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel le 17 janv (P. Piché), et une à l'île Grosbois (Boucherville) le 27 janv (P. Wery). **Petite Nyctale:** des oiseaux au Bois Papineau et à Longueuil durant toute la période et un à Lac-Supérieur le 17 janv (D. Anderson, *fide* R. Carswell). **Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique:** des indiv. à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 14-27 janv (A. Couture), Sherbrooke le 15 janv (S. Rioux), et Bécancour le 17 janv (R. Huxley). **Pic à ventre roux:** des indiv. à Saint-Godefroid le

Birdviews

A summary of interesting bird sightings in Montreal
and around the province
by **Pierre Bannon**

December 2005-January 2006

Greater White-fronted Goose: two at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 5 Dec (L. Goneau). **Wood Duck:** a female at Beauport 8 Jan (m. ob.) and two at Boisbriand 12 Jan + (P. & L. Simard). **Northern Shoveler:** single imm. males at Sherbrooke 31 Dec (L. Germain) and Beauport 27-31 Jan, a record-late date (C. Chevalier, N. Hallé). **Green-winged Teal:** a flock of 22 at Lachenaie 18 Dec (S. Denault *et al.*) increased to 34 on 25 Dec (S. Robert). **Canvasback:** some present at Pointe Claire until 3 Dec. **Hooded Merganser X Common Goldeneye hybrid:** an ad. male at Sainte-Catherine 4 Jan (P. Bannon).

Common Loon: one at St. Helen's Island 5 Jan (S. Guimond). **Pied-billed Grebe:** one at LaSalle 4 Jan (P. Lamontagne), two at Sherbrooke until at least mid-Jan (m. ob.) and one at Magog 8-15 Jan (S. Rioux). **Northern Fulmar:** one at Les Escoumins 9 Dec (R. Pintiaux, V. Plante). **Great Blue Heron:** many were reported until mid-Jan; a peak of 12 at Bécancour 8 Jan (N. Hallé). **Turkey Vulture:** singles at Hébertville 4 Dec (*fide* G. Savard) and Hemmingford 27 Dec (D. Ouellette). **Osprey:** a very late bird at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 13 Dec (R. Saint-Jean). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one at Quebec City 8-11 Jan (P. Otis). **Gyr Falcon:** well represented in the Montreal area with two roosting nightly on Mount St. Hilaire (m. ob.), also one white morph seen at Sainte-Catherine 13 Jan (F. Parkinson) followed by an ad. gray morph 17 Dec (P. Bannon).

Virginia Rail: a record-late bird at Rimouski 25 Dec (R. Pitre). **Common Moorhen:** one at Gatineau 18 Dec (*fide* M. Aubé). **Killdeer:** a late bird at Lachenaie 17-18 Dec (G. Cyr, J. Perras). **Franklin's Gull:** a record-late ad. at Tadoussac 3 Dec, (R. Pintiaux). **Bonaparte's Gull:** a record-late bird at Forillon 8 Jan (M. Côté, M-C. Rancourt). **Thayer's Gull:** an ad. at LaSalle 17 Dec (B. Barnhurst). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one at Laval 6-7 Dec (G. Lachaine), an ad. at Sainte-Catherine 3 Dec (M. Gauthier), and a 1st winter bird at Pointe Claire 4 Dec (B. Barnhurst). **Forster's Tern:** a very late bird at Barachois 6 Dec (A. Couture).

Dovekie: a peak of over 3000 birds was reached at Les Escoumins 9 Dec (R. Pintiaux). **Thick-billed Murre:** one at Chandler 28 Jan (A. Couture, J-R. Lepage).

Eastern Screech-Owl: up to 15 indiv. heard calling at Mont-Saint-Grégoire 28 Jan (M. Gauthier *et al.*). **Great Gray Owl:** at least two reached the Montreal area: singles at Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 17 Jan (P. Piché), and Île Grosbois (Boucherville) 27 Jan (P. Wery). **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** singles at Bois Papineau and Longueuil for most of the period and one at Lac Supérieur 17 Jan (D. Anderson, *fide* R. Carswell). **Belted Kingfisher:** singles at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 14-27 Jan (A. Couture), Sherbrooke 15 Jan (S. Rioux), and Bécancour 17 Jan (R. Huxley). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** singles at Saint-Godefroid 3 Dec (M. Arsenaault) and Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 8 Dec

3 déc (M. Arsenault) et l'île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) le 8 déc (M. Groulx). **Pic maculé**: un oiseau tardif à Sainte-Pétronille le 10 déc (O. Barden). **Moucherolle phébi**: un autre oiseau attardé à l'île Goyer le 12 déc (S. Denault). **Troglodyte de Caroline**: 16 indiv. signalés, un excellent total pour la période. **Troglodyte mignon**: un à Hudson le 28 janv (Y. Gilbert *et al.*).

Solitaire de Townsend: des indiv. à Pointe Platon le 1^{er} déc (P. Lane, M. Raymond), Charlesbourg 18-21 déc (J-F. Bédard), et Beauport le 20 janv + (J-M. Giroux). **Grive à collier**: des indiv. à La Ferme (Abitibi) 25 nov-18 déc (A-G. Bernier), Saint-Bruno 30-31 déc (P. Bouchard), et Grande-Rivière 18-27 janv (A. Couture *et al.*). **Moqueur chat**: un oiseau s'est attardé à Boucherville 3 déc-28 janv, produisant un record de date tardive (S. Picard, pl. ob.). **Moqueur roux**: des indiv. à Trois-Rivières 15-20 déc (S. Saint-Louis), Saint-Gédéon 10 déc-31 janv (S. Boivin), et Montréal 17 déc-17 janv (*fide* F. Hilton). **Paruline verdâtre**: une à l'île Sainte-Hélène 1-4 déc (D. Demers) et sans doute le même à l'île Notre-Dame le 17 déc (G. Zenaitis *et al.*). **Paruline bleue**: la femelle de Sept-Îles fut présente jusqu'au 9 déc (J-F. Laporte *et al.*). **Paruline à croupion jaune (Audubon)**: le mâle en plumage d'automne à l'île Sainte-Hélène (Montréal) est resté jusqu'au 6 déc (D. Demers, pl. ob.). **Paruline des pins**: une à Gaspé le 9 déc (O. Deruelle, D. Jalbert). **Paruline à couronne rousse**: un oiseau à Percé le 11 déc, une date record (D. Mercier, P. Poulin). **Paruline masquée**: des indiv. tardifs signalés à Châteauguay le 1^{er} déc (P. Bannon) et LaSarre le 4 déc (J. Aubé).

Tohi tacheté: un toujours à Les Escoumins le 29 déc (P. Lamothe, T. Beaudet). **Tohi à flancs roux**: des oiseaux à Sept-Îles au moins jusqu'au 2 janv (J-F. Laporte, B. Duchesne), Roberval au moins jusqu'au 13 janv (*fide* G. Savard), et Gaspé le 20 janv (A. Couture *et al.*). **Bruant familier**: des oiseaux à Lachenaie le 26 déc (F. Rousseu), et Saint-Laurent (Montréal) 24-25 janv (F. Riou). **Bruant des champs**: des indiv. à Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 2-31 janv + (J. Lachance), et Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu le 15 janv (M. Gauthier). **Bruant des prés**: des oiseaux à Saint-Alexandre le 17 déc (D. Dessureault *et al.*), Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 2-7 janv (J. Lachance), et Moisie au moins jusqu'au 2 janv (B. Duchesne). **Bruant fauve**: des oiseaux à Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 2-7 janv (J. Lachance), et Chelsea au moins jusqu'au 24 janv (R. Godbout, *fide* D. Saint-Hilaire). **Bruant de Lincoln**: un à Québec 17 déc-23 janv (M. Raymond, P. Lane). **Bruant à couronne blanche**: des oiseaux de la race *gambelli* à Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon le 3 jan (O. Barden), et Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka le 1^{er} janv (L. Goneau). **Cardinal à poitrine rose**: des mâles à Sherbrooke le 26 déc (D. Lebreux), Saint-Georges-de-Beauce le 1^{er} janv (M. Poulin, D. Paquet), et Orford 12-23 janv (J. Tougas). **Passerin indigo**: un oiseau à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé le 4 déc, une date record (C. Gariépy). **Sturnelle des prés**: une à L'Acadie le 17 déc (R. Boulet *et al.*). **Oriole de Baltimore**: des oiseaux à Sept-Îles le 3 déc (J-F. Laporte, B. Duchesne), et Saint-Godefroid le 3 déc (M. Arsenault).

(M. Groulx). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: a late indiv. at Sainte-Pétronille 10 Dec (O. Barden). **Eastern Phoebe**: another indiv, also very late, on Île Goyer 12 Dec (S. Denault). **Carolina Wren**: up 16 indiv. were reported, an excellent count for the period. **Winter Wren**: one at Hudson 28 Jan (Y. Gilbert *et al.*).

Townsend's Solitaire: singles at Pointe Platon 1st Dec (P. Lane, M. Raymond), Charlesbourg 18-21 Dec (J-F. Bédard), and Beauport 20 Jan + (J-M. Giroux). **Varied Thrush**: singles at La Ferme (Abitibi) 25 Nov-18 Dec (A-G. Bernier), Saint-Bruno 30-31 Dec (P. Bouchard), and Grande-Rivière 18-27 Jan (A. Couture *et al.*). **Gray Catbird**: a bird lingered at Boucherville 3 Dec - 28 Jan, establishing a new record-late date (S. Picard, m.ob.). **Brown Thrasher**: singles at Trois-Rivières 15-20 Dec (S. Saint-Louis), Saint-Gédéon 10 Dec-31 Jan (S. Boivin), and Montreal 17 Dec-17 Jan (*fide* F. Hilton). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one at St. Helen's Island 1-4 Dec (D. Demers) and most probably the same one was at nearby Île Notre-Dame 17 Dec (G. Zenaitis *et al.*). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: the female at Sept-Îles was present until 9 Dec (J-F. Laporte *et al.*). **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)**: the male in fall plumage at St. Helen's Island (Montreal) remained in the area until 6 Dec (D. Demers, m. ob.). **Pine Warbler**: one at Gaspé 9 Dec (O. Deruelle, D. Jalbert). **Palm Warbler**: a record-late bird at Percé 11 Dec (D. Mercier, P. Poulin). **Common Yellowthroat**: late singles were reported at Châteauguay 1st Dec (P. Bannon) and LaSarre (Abitibi) 4 Dec (J. Aubé).

Spotted Towhee: one still present at Les Escoumins 29 Dec (P. Lamothe, T. Beaudet). **Eastern Towhee**: singles at Sept-Îles until at least 2 Jan (J-F. Laporte, B. Duchesne), Roberval until at least 13 Jan (*fide* G. Savard), and Gaspé 29 Jan (A. Couture *et al.*). **Chipping Sparrow**: singles at Lachenaie 26 Dec (F. Rousseu), and Saint-Laurent (Montreal) 24-25 Jan (F. Riou). **Field Sparrow**: singles at Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 2-31 Jan + (J. Lachance), and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 15 Jan (M. Gauthier). **Savannah Sparrow**: singles at Saint-Alexandre 17 Dec (D. Dessureault *et al.*), Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 2-7 Jan (J. Lachance), and Moisie until at least 2 Jan (B. Duchesne). **Fox Sparrow**: singles at Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 2-7 Jan (J. Lachance), and Chelsea until at least 24 Jan (R. Godbout, *fide* D. Saint-Hilaire). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one at Quebec City 17 Dec-23 Jan (M. Raymond, P. Lane). **White-crowned Sparrow**: single birds of the *gambelli* race were at Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 3 Jan (O. Barden), and Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 1st Jan (L. Goneau). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: single males at Sherbrooke 26 Dec (D. Lebreux), Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 1st Jan (M. Poulin, D. Paquet), and Orford 12-23 Jan (J. Tougas). **Indigo Bunting**: a record-late bird at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 4 Dec (C. Gariépy). **Eastern Meadowlark**: one at L'Acadie 17 Dec (R. Boulet *et al.*). **Baltimore Oriole**: singles at Sept-Îles 3 Dec (J-F. Laporte, B. Duchesne), and Saint-Godefroid 3 Dec (M. Arsenault).

Veuillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, QC H4E 1P1. Tél: 514-766-8767 en soirée. Courriel pbannon@videotron.ca

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montreal, QC H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 after 7:00 PM. Email: pbannon@videotron.ca

Darwin's Finches

Size matters - when it comes to the beaks of Darwin's finches. Dr. Andrew Hendry, an evolutionary biologist and assistant professor at the Redpath Museum and the Department of Biology at McGill University, has the rare opportunity, in his research project in the Galapagos Islands, to study speciation in these finches and to see evolution actually taking place. He presented to the January monthly meeting of Bird Protection Quebec a most interesting and stimulating talk on his work, setting it in the context of the natural history of the Galapagos Islands.

Located 960 km off the coast of Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands have particular and complex geological, geographical, oceanographic and meteorological characteristics. Volcanic in nature and situated on three constantly moving tectonic plates, the Galapagos are located in a geological "hotspot". Never having been connected to the mainland, the islands are unusual, biologically and ecologically, since very few continental organisms are found there. The climate, too, is most curious, with two distinct seasons - wet and dry - and with great variations in the amount of precipitation in the wet seasons. In *el niño* years, rainfall is abundant and in other years there may be none. Reproduction takes place in the wet season, there being no standing fresh water on the island and no plants when there is no rainfall, so a wet season "drought" has a major impact on the wildlife and vegetation of the islands. The pattern of the rainfall also leads to contrasting geographic conditions - arid regions with practically no vegetation and other areas where the vegetation is extremely dense. The Galapagos are home to some unique species, many of which are threatened.

In no immediate danger is the large population of Darwin's finches of which there are fourteen recognized species. These maintain themselves as separate species by mating only with birds of the same species, despite there being no genetic incompatibility between the various species. The species have adapted to take account of the different food resources on the islands which, of course, vary according to the diverse natural habitats and climatic conditions - some eat insects, some eat fruit and others eat seeds - and different beak sizes have evolved, and continue to evolve, to accommodate the particular food type. Dr. Hendry's research focuses on the seed-eating finches. It has been observed that the larger-beaked finches, which have evolved to eat large and hard seeds, fare much better than the smaller-beaked soft-seed eating finches, in a dry "wet" season. During major "drought" seasons, significant mortality has been registered in the smaller-beaked birds because the fewer seeds available in such a hostile environment are much harder and the larger-beaked finches are more successful in breaking them open, thereby resulting in natural selection of the larger-beaked variety. The beak size adapts to the available food source and is a highly heritable trait. Dr Hendry stressed that natural selection and evolution vary dramatically over the course of time and are in no way linear in progression.

Jean Bacon

City of Westmount Bird Course

Once again the City of Westmount is offering its "Birdwatching in Summit Park" course. It begins Wednesday 19 April with a workshop at Victoria Hall at 8:30 AM and will continue every Monday and Wednesday, 7 - 9 AM on Westmount Mountain, until 31 May.

For information on the birding course, contact Kyra Emo, 514-939-9666; email: kyraemo@sympatico.ca.

For registration, contact Anitra Bostock, 514-989-5353. Cost: \$40.00 Westmount residents, \$64.00 non-residents.

Ornithology For Birders

16-20 May 2006

McGill University's Macdonald Campus
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Instructors: David Bird and Rodger Titman

Ever wanted to know how birds do what they do, learn how to catch and band wild birds, know more about the inner workings of birds, learn to identify birds and start a backyard feeding program? Ornithology for Birders, a one-of-a-kind course for bird-lovers, provides a marvellous, fun-filled opportunity to get some answers!

Topics include the biology and conservation of birds, including: migration, reproduction, bird song, backyard feeding, housing, and species identification. There are also optional, hands-on laboratory sessions on comparative anatomy & physiology. Field trips to exceptional locations will feature birding as well as mist netting and banding.

For registration details, call 1-800-850-2473, ext. 235, or visit: <http://www.americanbirding.org/ifo/register.html>.

Baillie Birdathon

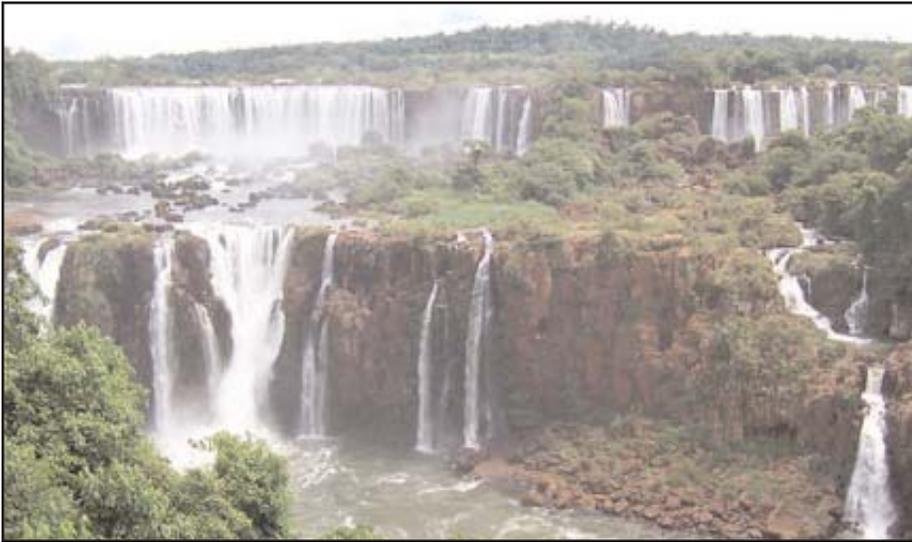
Each May, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) organizes the annual Baillie Birdathon. By the 2005 year-end, over \$209,000 had been raised. With over 400 participants registered across Canada, money was raised for 86 conservation organizations as well as Bird Studies Canada.

Your Birdathon can take place anytime during the month of May. During a 24-hour period, you simply attempt to spot as many bird species as possible. Funds are raised by obtaining sponsors who pledge either a flat amount, or a "per-species" amount. Each birder designates a favourite conservation organization to receive a portion of the funds they raise, with the balance providing funding essential to BSC's efforts to conserve wild birds and their habitats.

By participating, you may win one of many donated prizes, including a choice between three amazing all-inclusive guided tours: a 15 day tour of Costa Rica (airfare not included); birding and whale-watching in New Brunswick and Grand Manan (trip for two with no airfare); or explore the rugged beauty of the Arctic (including airfare from Edmonton), all courtesy of Eagle-Eye Tours.

If you are unable to actively participate in the Birdathon, you are encouraged to support those Bird Protection Quebec members who are, by making a pledge.

For a registration form, pledge forms, and a complete participant's kit, contact Bird Studies Canada, 1-888-448-2473, or visit: www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/brdathon.html.



Above: A determined Magellanic Penguin makes its way to shore.

Left: The mighty Iguassu Falls are situated on the border between Brazil and Argentina.

BIRDING ARGENTINA

Argentina! Tango! Wine! Beef! Pampas! Birds?

Yes, birds! Pete Mitchell and I just came back from a wonderful birding trip to Argentina, a secret country. Secret because no one seems to go there, but I don't know why. It's huge - eighth largest country in the world. It's safe - you can even drink the tap water. It has all the birdy places you could hope for - from high Andes to beach (the equivalent of Cuba to James Bay). It's inexpensive - good steak for \$5 and a bottle of wine for another \$5, and there's no jet lag to get there as it's practically the same time zone.

Our trip was booked through a British company, but was run by a local sub-contractor, in this case Trogon Tours. Pete and I joined three Brits at the airport in Buenos Aires, and we five, plus our tour leader, flew north to the mighty Iguassu Falls (the second most important tourist attraction in South America after Machu Picchu). Then we visited six National Parks over the next two weeks, saw over 200 species, and thoroughly enjoyed every minute. The bird-of-the-trip was Austral Rail, a little-known high-Andes bird, seen by only a few-dozen people in the entire world. I exchanged Christmas greetings with Peter Kaestner and even he has never seen the bird! (Peter has a life list above 8,000 birds and is ranked in the top four of world listers.)

Argentina boasts nearly a thousand species, many with strange names, and several new families (e.g. Seedsnipe, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover). Many are tropical species and hard to see, of course. Fortunately our guide had remarkable ears. Basically what he did was to walk through the tropical forest, listening. When he heard a bird, he would find its song on his MP3 player (many calls of which he had taped himself), play the recording and out would pop the bird! We would all look at it, then we'd move on. We saw many skulking birds this way, but no mosquitoes.

The birds changed as we moved south, first to penguins, then to waterfowl. My personal favourite was the magnificent Magellanic Woodpecker (photo at right), found near Ushuaia, the southernmost city of the world. Dreaming of future excursions, we admired the tour ships in the harbour destined for points further south, including mysterious Antarctica.

Wondering where to go where the birds are good, but the place is safe and welcoming? I recommend Argentina.

Steve Charlton



Conference Dates

2-4 June Ontario Nature - Federation of Ontario Naturalists
 Location: Kitchener, Ontario
 Host: Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists
<http://cobalt.golden.net/~kwfnconference>

19-25 June American Birding Association
 Location: Bangor, Maine
<http://www.americanbirding.org/mtgs/conventions/2006bangor/index.html>

6-9 July Nature Canada Annual General Meeting
 Location: Red Deer, Alberta
 Host: Red Deer River Naturalists
www.cnf.ca/ and www.rdrn.fanweb.ca/

Electronic Newsletter

An electronic version of *The Song Sparrow* is now available. Not sure if you want to take the plunge? There is no need to decide right away; the newsletter will still be mailed to you.

Eventually we hope that the majority of people who download the newsletter will opt to receive the electronic version only, thus reducing our astronomical postage charges. However, the decision to receive the newsletter electronically or via Canada Post will remain with each individual member.

Sign up to try the electronic newsletter and enjoy some immediate advantages: interactive links, colour, quick filing. Email Gay McDougall-Gruner, pggruner@videotron.ca, to receive the electronic newsletter.

Field Trip Diaries

- 07/01/06 **Bois de Liesse, St. Laurent, QC** **Leader: Wayne Grubert**
Weather: Sunshine, -18 °C 13 birders 15 species
Birds of the Day: Pileated Woodpecker (two)
Other Birds of Note: American Black Duck, American Robin, American Tree Sparrow.
- 14/01/06 **Montreal Botanical Gardens, Montreal, QC** **Leader: Guy Zenaitis**
Weather: Heavy rain to start, then cloudy & mild 5 birders 17 species
Birds of the Day: Cooper's Hawk, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin
Other Birds of Note: White-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch.
- 21/01/06 **Ste-Marthe, St-Clet, Ste-Justine, QC** **Leader: Wayne Grubert**
Weather: Rain, windy 6 birders 8 species
Birds of the Day: Rough-legged Hawks (two)
Other Birds of Note: American Crow, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, American Kestrel.
- 28/01/06 **Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, QC** **Leader: Chuck Kling**
Weather: Breezy, sunny, 3°C 13 birders 13 species
Bird of the Day: Adult Cooper's Hawk
Other Birds of Note: Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, Pine Grosbeak.
- 04/02/06 **Hudson, QC** **Leaders: Barbara MacDuff**
Weather: Cloudy, no wind, 4°C **Wayne Grubert**
Birds of the Day: Bohemian Waxwing (125) 10 birders 17 species
Other Birds of Note: Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, Black-capped Chickadee with a white tail.
- 11/02/06 **St-Basile, Verchères, Varennes, Boucherville, QC** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Cold, sunshine, no wind 10 birders 20 species
Birds of the Day: Gyrfalcon, Snowy Owl
Other Birds of Note: Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Common Raven, Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch.
- 18/02/06 **Morgan Arboretum, St-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC** **Leader: Betsy McFarlane**
Weather: Sunny and very cold 8 birders 15 species
Bird of the Day: Bohemian Waxwings (60)
Other Birds of Note: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, American Tree Sparrow, Common Redpoll.
- 25/02/06 **Bois Papineau, Laval, QC** **Leader: Chuck Kling**
Weather: Breezy, -14°C 3 birders 10 species
Bird of the Day: None designated
Other Birds of Note: Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, American Tree Sparrow, Common Redpoll.

Sheldon Harvey

Birding Sites on the Internet

Spring Arrival Dates for Quebec
 Avian Conservation and Ecology
 Nature Canada's e-newsletter.
 The Internet Bird Collection
 Birds of Quebec
 Rare Bird Sightings in Quebec
 Children's Bird Colouring Book

<http://pages.videotron.com/pbannon/tableau19922006.htm>
<http://www.ace-eco.org/>
<http://www.naturecanada.ca/>
<http://www.hbw.com/ibc/>
<http://www.oiseauxqc.org/>
<http://www.oiseauxrares.qc.ca/>
<http://www.50birds.com/CB/CBb.htm>

Spring is Well on its Way at the McGill Bird Observatory...

...and we need your help! The McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) is seeking volunteers for the nine-week spring season, running from 5 April to 3 June. Volunteers occupy a variety of important jobs, such as net assistant, scribe, census leader, and extractor (experienced volunteers only). We could not run the Observatory without your help, and we certainly would not have had such a successful first year of operation without the enthusiastic members of Bird Protection Quebec.

We are also planning a Baillie Birdathon Extravaganza to raise funds for the station. Please join us for one or

both bird-filled days, Saturday 20 May and Sunday 28 May. We will be starting at the MBO and branching out from there, sighting as many species as possible. For more information about the Baillie Birdathon and how to register, please visit www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/brdathon.html. Just be sure to specify the Migration Research Foundation as your charity of choice!

For more information concerning bird-banding operations at the MBO, please visit www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html. We look forward to seeing you at the station!

Marie-Anne Hudson



Marcel Gahbauer

After-second year male Common Yellowthroat. This species was present August to early October during the Fall Migration Monitoring Program.



Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

Co-ordinators: Martin Bowman, 613-347-1655, Wayne Grubert, 450-458-5498

Field Trip Advice - De rigueur pour les excursions

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

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

Security. Be sure to lock your car securely; bring as little of value as possible; leave nothing visible in your car; keep important papers and credit cards with you.

Transportation. Telephone the leader if you need or can offer a lift. Always travel with good maps.

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

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

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

Sécurité. Assurez-vous de bien verrouiller les portes de votre voiture; gardez toujours avec vous tout document important et cartes de crédit.

Transport. Téléphonnez au responsable si vous voulez faire du covoiturage. Apportez des cartes récentes.

Nourriture. Amenez toujours un bon goûter et beaucoup à boire même pour les excursions d'une demi-journée.

Saturday 25 March - samedi 25 mars

Leader: Peter Mitchell

819-687-2850

ÎLE PERROT

8:00 AM Meet at Windmill Point at the end of Don Quichotte Blvd. From Highway 20, exit Don Quichotte. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and early migrants. **Half day.**

8 h 00 Rassemblement à la Pointe du Moulin. De l'autoroute 20, emprunter le boul. Don Quichotte jusqu'au bout. À la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques, de buses et de migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 1 April - samedi 1 avril

Leader: Wayne Grubert

450-458-5498

PARC NATURE DU CAP ST-JACQUES

8:00 AM Take Hwy 40 West to the Chemin Ste-Marie exit. Turn left. Continue to l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Turn right. Continue to the end. Turn right on Chemin Senneville/Gouin Boulevard, drive two km to the newly built Welcome Chalet of the park. Parking: \$5.00. **Half day.**

8 h 00 Emprunter l'autoroute 40 ouest. Sortir au chemin Ste-Marie. Tournez à gauche. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite. Continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) pendant 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Stationnement: 5,00\$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 8 April - samedi 8 avril

Leader: Felix Hilton

514-631-3437

BEAUHARNOIS, STE-BARBE

8:00 AM From Montreal, take the Mercier, Champlain or Jacques Cartier Bridge to Hwy 132 west, through Châteauguay to Beauharnois. Meet just west of Beauharnois in the parking area at the western end of the bridge in front of the power station. Looking for gulls, waterfowl, hawks and early migrants. A driving trip. **Half day.**

*Please see **FIELD TRIPS** page 12*

FIELD TRIPS continued from page 11

8 h 00 De Montréal, emprunter le pont Mercier, Champlain ou Jacques Cartier jusqu'à la route 132 ouest, traverser Châteauguay et continuer jusqu'à Beauharnois. Rassemblement à Beauharnois dans le stationnement, côté ouest du pont devant la centrale hydro-électrique. À la recherche de goélands, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et de migrateurs hâtifs. Excursion en voiture. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 15 April - samedi 15 avril

Leader: Sheldon Harvey

450-671-3773

PARC NATURE DE L'ÎLE BIZARD

This trip has been designated "**Bring a Friend Birding Day.**" Everyone is encouraged to bring along a family member, friend or neighbour to experience birding for the first time.

Cette excursion est nommée "**Amenez un ami voir les oiseaux.**" Chacun est encouragé à amener un membre de la famille, un ami ou un voisin pour une expérience d'observation, pour la première fois.

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 Chevremont, right (north) on de l'Église, right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx 1 km. Parking: \$5.00. Looking for warblers, waterfowl, hawks and shorebirds. **Half day.**

7 h 30 De l'autoroute 40, sortir au boulevard St-Jean nord jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche et se rendre jusqu'au boul. Jacques Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques Bizard et traverser le pont; tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevremont jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église, tourner à droite (nord). Se rendre jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac; tourner à droite (est) et se rendre jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement: 5,00 \$. À la recherche des parulines, d'oiseaux aquatiques, des rapaces et d'oiseaux de rivage. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 22 April - samedi 22 avril

Leader: Guy Zenaitis

514-256-8118

BAIE DU FEBVRE

7:30 AM Meet at the Longueuil métro station to drive in convoy to Baie du Febvre. Looking for thousands of migrating Snow Geese, waterfowl, hawks and shorebirds. **All day.**

7 h 30 Rassemblement à la station de métro Longueuil pour ensuite rouler en file jusqu'à la Baie du Febvre. À la recherche de milliers d'Oies des neiges en migration, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de buses et d'oiseaux de rivage. **Toute la journée.**

Saturday 29 April - samedi 29 avril

Leader: Martin Bowman

613-347-1655

COOPER MARSH

8:00 AM Take Hwy 20 (Ontario Hwy 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Hwy 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Park in the gravel parking area. Allow 1 to 1-1/2 hours travel time. A walking trip. Looking for waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks and passerines. Could be muddy. **Half day.**

8 h 00 Emprunter l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401) et sortir à Lancaster (sortie 814); à l'arrêt, tourner à droite. Emprunter l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivre les panneaux de signalisation jusqu'au marais Cooper. Prévoir entre 1h et 1h30 de voyage. À la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques, de buses, de passereaux. Excursion à pied. Des chaussures imperméables sont recommandées. **Demi-journée.**

Early Morning Trips 2006 Excursions Matinales

Warbler Walks led by Kyra Emo. Une marche à la recherche des parulines guidée par Kyra Emo.

Westmount Summit Park Lookout - Au Belvédère du Summit Parc à Westmount

6:30 AM Tuesday 25 April; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May

6 h 30 les mardis 25 avril; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 mai

Bird Protection Quebec
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