

The SONG SPARROW

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

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For the Birds since 1917
Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

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Cover photograph:

Puffins on (*the other*) Île-aux-Perroquets, Québec

by Robert Lévesque

Stepping Down

At the AGM in May, I finally completed the third year of my two-year mandate as President of Bird Protection Quebec and handed over the reins to Sheldon Harvey, who was the Board of Directors' choice to succeed me. I have written an introduction to Sheldon elsewhere which will convince you that he is the best man with the best vision to carry things forward.

I have enjoyed my time in the hot seat. The support of an excellent group of directors helped put into action many of the plans we have been developing to take BPQ into the changing years ahead. In particular, I am extremely proud of the fact that we have begun a solid program of work to improve facilities at our Philipsburg (George Montgomery) sanctuary, have confirmed our important ties and partnership with Nature Conservancy Canada and have quadrupled the amount of grant aid funding we give to important scientific research projects.

Bit by bit, building on the foundations put in place by some of my predecessors, we are turning BPQ into the effective, *modern* conservation charity it needs to be to survive into its second century of work (beginning in 2017).

I will remain on the board for another couple of years as chair of the important grants, sanctuaries and property acquisition committees. If you would like to talk to me about any of those areas of our mandate or have suggestions to make, please do get in touch.

Thank you to everyone for your friendliness and support these past few years.

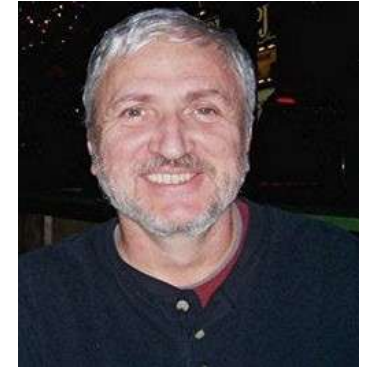
Best wishes and good birding.

Richard Gregson



Sheldon Harvey - President

One of the traditions of BPQ is that the outgoing president has the pleasure of introducing his or her replacement to the membership. It is with great pleasure that I therefore have the honour to introduce to you Sheldon Harvey who took over the reins from me at the recent AGM and with it acquired the responsibility for steering our charity through the shoals that lie ahead of us for at least the next two years.



I have known Sheldon since he first joined BPQ over a decade ago and count him as a personal friend. He is someone who I know has the skills and determination to do what has to be done. He will enable BPQ to fulfill its charitable missions and to carry forward the initiatives that started under my presidency but which need bringing to fruition.

Sheldon has a background in financial systems and broadcast media, primarily radio. He joined the board of directors nine years ago and has since been a member of or chaired the marketing, field trip, bird fair, nominating and fundraising committees. He coordinates the Montreal Christmas Bird Count each winter, regularly leads field trips, and most notably, he initiated the "summer series of birding" and has run it successfully for the past ten years. He also coordinated the Big Year of Birding contest as part of our 90th anniversary celebrations in 2007. As you can see, he has extensive experience in the organization of many of the things that we do.

Over and above these duties, he and his wife Darlene have raised funds for conservation via the Baillie Birdathon for the

past dozen years, take part in Bird Studies Canada's marsh monitoring program and the Quebec Nocturnal Owl Monitoring project. He runs courses for novice birders at Montreal colleges and other venues.

Sheldon is a man of many parts who can be relied on to finish any task that he has started and who is amongst the first to volunteer for essential tasks. He has put together a team of officers who share his vision for our next few years and who will work with him to develop our policies. He tells me that he wants BPQ to become more proactive and concentrate on developing an outreach program that will bring in more members and supporters as well as the always essential volunteers without whom none of our plans can be put into effect. Developing educational and informational programs for existing members will be high on his list, as will making sure that "birds are what we do best" is our guiding principle during his mandate.

Like me, Sheldon thinks that our research grants program and development of our sanctuaries and conservation initiatives are hugely important and they will continue to be supported to the hilt.

The world of conservation has changed rapidly in recent years, as have the people who support charities like BPQ. Sheldon and I have often talked about this and I am reassured that he is firmly of the opinion that BPQ has to change with the times and be ready to develop and put into action new and innovative ideas to make sure that we continue to fulfill our mission for the birds and the preservation of their habitats.

I can think of nobody better to be our President at this crucial time in the history of Bird Protection Quebec, as we approach our centenary in a world where the environment seems so often to take second place. BPQ is in safe hands. Please join with me and give Sheldon your complete support and an enthusiastic welcome to his new role.

Richard Gregson



Juvenile Tree Swallows at the George H. Montgomery Sanctuary at Philipsburg Bird Sanctuary (Robert Lévesque 2014)

“The President Chirps”

I'd like to begin by thanking our outgoing Executive – Richard Gregson, David Mulholland, Patrick Asch, Ron Mudd and Jean Harwood–Gregson – for their service to Bird Protection Quebec. There is much work that goes on behind the scenes in our organization. Their efforts, combined with those of the members of our Board of Directors, committee members and other volunteers keep BPQ running smoothly and efficiently.

Our new Executive has high standards to meet, set by our predecessors. I, as President, together with Jane Cormack and Barbara MacDuff as Vice Presidents, Patrick Asch as Secretary and Phyllis Holtz as Treasurer, with the assistance of Francine Marcoux, will work hard to serve BPQ.

BPQ's work is divided into three sub-divisions, each overseen by a director: Sanctuaries & Conservation by Jane Cormack; Outreach & Education by Barbara MacDuff; and Administration by Jean Demers. Under each division there are various committees, each with “Terms of Reference” to guide them in their work. We are always looking for people to serve on our committees. We encourage you to approach any of our directors or committee chairs for more information regarding how you can be of assistance.

These are very busy and productive days in BPQ. We have been working throughout the spring and summer months. Here are some of the highlights of activities and projects that have been taking place, as well as activities being planned for the future.

- Our Grants Committee has increased the number of grants being awarded for research and educational programs.
- Our Education Committee is working together with Le

Nichoir on a new education project supported by a grant from BPQ.

- A working group has been marking and mapping the trails at our George H. Montgomery Sanctuary at Philipsburg. As well, they are studying the possible replacement of the damaged boardwalk in the marsh and/or the possibility of installing an observation tower on the property. Studies are also being undertaken to analyze changes taking place to the natural habitat within the reserve.
- Discussions are continuing on the development of the Alfred Kelly Reserve in Piedmont/Prévost. BPQ sits on a board, together with a number of other organizations including, Nature Conservancy Canada, designing and implementing the development of the reserve.
- We have been approached by Nature Conservancy Canada to assist them with bird survey in newly acquired property in the Kenauk Reserve, north of Montebello, QC.
- BPQ publicity kiosks were set up at various public events in 2014 at Le Nichoir, the Morgan Arboretum and CCFA–Nature Experts, providing BPQ with opportunities to promote the organization and its work to the public. More public events are being planned. Through these and other types of activities, we hope to increase our number of members.
- A new, fully bilingual BPQ website is being designed. It should be completed sometime this fall.
- A revised, fully bilingual BPQ publicity pamphlet will also be ready for distribution in the fall.
- We have just announced that, from this point forward, tax receipts will be issued for BPQ membership fees as well as for any donations made to BPQ.

- We will once again be organizing the annual Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts in December.
- We will shortly be announcing the formation of a working group to be responsible for activities related to our 2017 centenary celebrations.
- Our usual slate of weekly field trips throughout the year; our monthly meetings, with guest lecturers, from October to May; and publishing of *The Song Sparrow* newsletter five times a year will continue.
- We are increasing our use of social media (Facebook, Twitter) to promote BPQ and its activities.

So, BPQ continues to be a very active, unique and important organization, protecting birds and their habitat as we have since 1917. We keep working to achieve our goals and establishing new ones as we move forward. To accomplish those goals, we rely on your continued support and involvement.

Sheldon Harvey
President, Bird Protection Quebec



Tax Receipts

À tous nos membres : Il nous fait plaisir de vous informer que le coût de votre carte de membre est dorénavant considéré comme une contribution déductible pour l'impôt. Ce changement fait suite à la recommandation de nos vérificateurs en conformité avec la réglementation de l'Agence du Revenu du Canada.

As a matter of interest to all our members, we would like you to know that beginning in the current membership year, we will be giving each member a donation receipt for the full amount of the membership fee. This has been decided after confirmation with our auditors and Canada Revenue Agency regulations.

New Members

Warm greetings to new members Normand Lavallée, Steve Rosenstein, and Sarah Tobias. Please join us on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Good birding!

Membership Renewals

It's time to renew your Bird Protection Quebec membership. We are pleased to announce that membership fees are now 100% tax deductible!

This year, membership renewal notices will be sent via email during the month of August. We hope most members will renew online, but the option to renew using the traditional snail-mail method still remains. Renewing online helps BPQ reduce paper, postage and printing costs, allowing your dollars to go even further.

The Song Sparrow

What Is It Singing About?

by Richard Gregson

For more years than almost anyone can remember, the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) has been the centrepiece of Bird Protection Quebec's logo and lends its name, perhaps slightly confusingly, to both our newsletter/magazine and our web discussion group. These noisy little birds are everywhere and so we perhaps take them for granted. It is time to learn something about the banner under which we march.



Song Sparrow at BPQ's Philipsburg Bird Sanctuary
(Robert Lévesque 2014)

Song Sparrows are common and widely distributed around this continent – just another LBJ to many people but one that is hard to ignore, especially if you are trying to sleep while it is busy telling the world “here I am and this is my territory” in

the small hours of the morning. They are a remarkably diverse species that contains an amazing 39 subspecies. While not flashy or colourful, like our eagerly awaited warblers each spring, they have their charms and attractions for those who can see. One sparrow enthusiast is quoted as saying (Cocker & Tipling 2013; *Birds and People*, Jonathan Cape – London, p. 518):

“Tell me again,” this from my Mom, “why you stopped studying those pretty warblers with their bright colours to study birds that are hard to find, hard to tell apart and whose nests are so hard to find?” “Mom,” I said, “I started studying sparrows exactly for all the reasons you just mentioned.”

Cocker goes further and notes that “the act of discriminating tiny details in birds of such plainness calls forth our highest powers of observation ... we are rendered most human when we recognize the most humble of birds.”

It has been known since at least the thirties that some hardy Song Sparrows are resident in northern regions where a majority of their species are migratory. According to the data held by eBird, a small number of Song Sparrows may be seen in Quebec all year around, but the numbers really start to pick up in mid-May and stay consistently high until early to mid-October. Examination of the distribution maps shows that these little birds can be found pretty well anywhere in Quebec that people are looking for them – certainly as far north as the latitude of Quebec City, with extensive numbers along the St. Lawrence estuary, although, to an extent, that merely mirrors the places that people go birding. After all, any species could be present in its millions, but if it prefers to inhabit places that people do not often venture into, how would we know and how easy would it be to assume they are rare? Rarity is clearly not a problem for the Song Sparrow.

I won't repeat the information about Song Sparrows that is widely available in any decent field guide, but as the Song Sparrow is named for its song, let us consider what it is singing about.

We are all very familiar with its "typical" song, which is described by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology as "a loud, clanking song of 2-6 phrases that typically starts with abrupt, well-spaced notes and finishes with a buzz or trill. In between, the singer may add other trills with different tempo and quality. The song usually lasts 2-4 seconds." The typical song is uttered by males on territory and used to establish their right of ownership and as a warning to other males to keep away. Females, on the other hand, do not produce the typical song and use a simpler "chitter" call as a means of communication. Interestingly Elekonich (1998, *The Condor*, 100: 145-148) found that outside the breeding season males also use the female chitter call, and suggests that this shared call may allow adults to communicate about territories to juvenile males who cannot yet sing the full adult song to mark territorial boundaries.

There are a good number of individual and regional variations in the song an adult male produces, although you probably have to be another sparrow to distinguish many of the subtleties. Adult males on territory - and their territory is usually a bit less than an acre in extent - hearing a potentially invading other adult male will first begin by matching the precise song of the "invader" (Beecher et al. 2000. *Animal Behaviour*, 59: 21-27) which is perceived as a threat and is usually enough to cause the prospecting bird to look elsewhere for territory. If the new bird persists in approaching, they switch to a softer type of song accompanied by wing fluttering and posturing before actual combat commences. Thus, while we may consider the song of the Song Sparrow to be melodious, others of the species know it for what it is - a warning to keep away. It is not telling us that it is a beautiful day and all's well with the world. Furthermore, a recent paper (Grunst & Grunst 2014 *General and Comparative*

Endocrinology. 200: 67-76) shows that bigger, feistier males with the greatest reproductive success have more complex songs - just the sort of information that a female Song Sparrow might be listening out for.



Song Sparrow in the Morgan Arboretum
Richard Gregson 2014

Male Song Sparrows learn their basic repertoire when they are young. There are many variations between individual birds and between geographically distinct populations and subspecies (remember, there are 39 of those); so, the "typical" song described in the field guides and available in recordings may not, in fact, be all that typical at all. One amateur bird song enthusiast was quoted (Smithsonian Institution Life History monographs series) as stating that "I have 885 records of the song, no two of them alike. If we count trills as single notes, the number of notes per song varies from 4 to 20, averaging about 11. The length of songs varies from 1.8 to 5.2 seconds, the average being 2.7. The pitch varies from D" to F"" (Editor's Note: This is approximately 587 to 2793 Hertz - or, for non-musicians this means from a note a human could easily sing to

one way above the human voice range). The pitch interval varies from 1 to 7½ tones, the average about 3½ tones. Each individual song sparrow sings a number of different songs. It commonly sings the same song over a half a dozen times or so, and then takes up a different song. The number of songs per individual varies from 6 to 24, the latter being an unusual bird.”

And people try to tell you that learning bird songs is an easy way to identify any bird you cannot see!

However, just because Song Sparrows are fairly ubiquitous does not mean they will always be so. After all, what is common today may well not be tomorrow simply because its “commonness” means we don’t pay it enough attention and notice too late that things are going amiss.

Studies appear to show that the Song Sparrow, while apparently more territorially aggressive in urban than rural areas (aren’t we all?), is one of the species of birds that seems to adapt relatively well to living in the places where people live and do not appear to be badly affected by noise and bustle. Nevertheless, Song Sparrows require certain features to be present in their environment in order to be successful and to breed.

They like to place their nests relatively low down in shrubs and bushes or even to nest on the ground and so they need you to make sure that those shrubs are available to them and that the ground is not swept and raked clean of leaves and twigs but left a bit “scruffy.” They want adequate green cover, trees and shrubs, some dense ground cover and available sources of food. Even though they are an adaptable species, if we want them to continue – and we do – to sing outside our bedroom windows at dawn (and sometimes earlier!), we should all make sure that our gardens are Song Sparrow-friendly. We should plant and manage them accordingly so that the birds will find places to feed, places to nest, places to display and sing.

Gardening for wildlife should be the core thinking behind the

way we manage our properties – a diversity of plants, long grass, plenty of plants which attract insects that birds eat. You know the stuff – don’t be too neat and tidy, be bird-friendly and we can all enjoy the Song Sparrow alarm clock for years to come.



Great Horned Owl – Morgan Arboretum
Richard Gregson 2014

Bird Views

Parlons d'oiseaux

by/par: Pierre Bannon

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

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

March–May 2014

Barnacle Goose: singles at Baie-du-Febvre 7 April (J. Gélinas, *m. ob.*) and at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 21–28 April (R. & G. Boulet). **Trumpeter Swan:** 3 first-year birds born at Val d'Or last summer were back 29 April–28 May (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye). **Tundra Swan:** singles at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 15 March (F. Boulet et al.) and at Saint-Méthode 12–15 May (C. Bombeeck). **Garganey:** a male at Cabano 5 May (M. Beaulieu). **Green-winged Teal** (American X Eurasian intergrade): an adult male was seen at Baie-du-Febvre 24 April (O. Barden). **Willow Ptarmigan:** 330 reported north of Waswanipi 23 March (R. Ladurantaye et al.) and a late bird at Val d'Or 9 May (R. Gauthier, R. Ladurantaye).

Manx Shearwater: rare in spring, one was reported at Rivière Ouelle 25 May (L. Belleau). **Northern Gannet:** an imm. at Lac Simon (Duhamel) 24 May, extremely rare inland (ph., D. Perrier et al.). **American White Pelican:** one at Trois-Rivières 20 April was record early (L. Jacques). **Snowy Egret:** singles at Carignan 12 April (R. Belhumeur), Barachois de Malbaie 11–18 May (S. Marchand), and at Saint-Blaise 12–16 May (A. Martrel). **Tricolored Heron:** singles at Cap Tourmente 15 May + (R. Gingras) and at Longue-Rive 23–26 May (R. Gingras, J. Forgues). **Cattle Egret:** one at Sainte-Cécile-de-Milton 24 April (L. Desnoyers, *fide* M. Desnoyers). **Glossy Ibis:** 2 at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 3–10 May (V. Létourneau, *m.ob.*); singles at Pointe-du-Lac (Trois-Rivières) 10–11 May (L. Dauphinais, M. Gaudreault), Domaine de Maizerets (Québec City) 11 May (G. Garant), and Saint-Léon-de-Stanton 12–18 May (R. Gingras, J. Forgues, *m. ob.*).

Piping Plover: considering the wintery conditions, a bird in the Magdalen Is. 19 April was extremely early (C. & J. Roy). **Willet:** one at Montmagny 31 May (G. Cyr). **Marbled Godwit:** 3 sightings including one at Saint-Barthélemy 22–25 May (P. Franche, M. & M. Boulard), one at Chambord 24 May (J. Rousseau et al.) and one at Métis-sur-Mer 31 May (M. Larrivée). **Stilt Sandpiper:** always unpredictable in spring, one was at Longue-Rive 24 May (R. Gingras et al.). **Ruff:** a male at Métabetchouan 5–13 May (D. Lavoie et

al.). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: rare in spring, one was at Kamouraska 25 May (F. & R. Dion). **Wilson's Phalarope**: although there are no confirmed breeding records for the past 5 years, this species appeared more in evidence this spring with about 10 birds reported.

Black-headed Gull: singles at Cap Saint-Ignace 22 May (S. Lemieux, S. Blackburn), and at Les Escoumins 29 May (JG. Beaulieu). **Laughing Gull**: one at La Malbaie 31 May (P. Otis et al.). **Franklin's Gull**: 2 ad. at Métabetchouan 19 May (C. Cormier, G. Savard) and one at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 22 May (R. & G. Boulet). **Pomarine Jaeger**: one at La Malbaie 31 May (G. Lord, J. Bernier). **Parasitic Jaeger**: a high count of 128 was made at Rivière-Ouelle 24 May (C. Auchu, C. Girard).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: a bird was back at Saint-Flavien in April-May (M. Lapointe). **Snowy Owl**: a concentration of 17 birds sitting on the ice at Valois Bay (Dorval) 29 March (P. Bannon); several birds lingered into late May, especially in eastern Québec. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: the bird present at Saint-Godefroi this past winter was last seen 15 March (M. & E. Arsenault). Another bird was briefly seen at Saint-Armand 22 May (F. Trempe).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: a record early bird appeared at l'Anse-au-Griffon (Gaspé) 15 April (ph., C. Côté). **Fish Crow**: one heard at Saint-Armand 9 March (JG. Papineau). **Purple Martin**: singles at Saint-Gédéon 3 May (C. Cormier et al.), at Grande-Rivière 4 May (A. Couture) and at l'Anse-à-Beaufils 22 May (J. Wiseman) were out of range. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: some birds appeared early, e.g. Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 14 April (L. den Besten), l'Anse à l'Orme (Montreal) 17 April (J. Coutu) and Pointe au Chêne 20 April (F. Morand). **Northern Wheatear**: there was a major fallout in May in eastern Québec with a total of 10 birds reported, including 3 to 4 birds at Blanc-Sablon 4-8 May (J. Joncas). **Townsend's Solitaire**: one in Réserve faunique de Matane 22-26 March (P. Beaupré). **Bohemian Waxwing**: rare this past winter, a count of 1200 at La Pocatière 30 March was surprising (C. Auchu, C. Girard).

Blue-winged Warbler: one at Cap Tourmente 16 May (O. Barden, D. Lavoie). **Townsend's Warbler**: a brilliant male at Pointe-Calumet, a first confirmed record for Québec 16-21 April (ph., JC. Charbonneau, *m. ob.*). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one at Le Bic 16 May (L. Masson). **Prairie Warbler**: a male at Île de la Visitation (Montreal) 8 May (J. Coutu). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: one at the Montreal Botanical Gardens 10 May (L. D'Amours). **Connecticut Warbler**: rare in S. Québec, a bird was found at I. Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 22 May (M. Dennis). **Hooded Warbler**: a male appeared at Hull 17 May (F. Bédard), and a female at the Montreal Botanical Gardens 26 May (M. Bridger). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one at Cap Tourmente 24 May-2 June (J. Guérin et al., *m. ob.*).

Spotted Towhee: the bird present at Cap à l'Aigle this past winter was last reported 4 April. **Clay-colored Sparrow X Chipping Sparrow**: a probable hybrid was photographed at Domaine de Maizerets (Québec) 4-5 May (L. Roy, A. Déry, P. Otis). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: rare on the island of Montreal, one was heard and seen at Pierrefonds 26 May (J. Coutu et al.).

Summer Tanager: more frequent in recent years, this species made a good showing this spring; singles were at Trois-Pistoles 17 April-10 May. (ph., L. Belzile, B. Breault, *m. ob.*), Brossard 21-25 April (ph., C. Tanguay, *m. ob.*), Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer 11-15 May (ph., G. Raboin, *m.ob.*), and Buckingham 18 May (J. & M. Laviolette, *fide* D. Toussaint); all were first-year males. **Western Tanager**:

single males were at Rimouski 11–14 May (ph., C. Ruest, S. Gagné, D. Ruest) and at Saint-Prime 11–13 May (ph., S. Godin). **Blue Grosbeak**: single males at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 16 April (T. Maranda, *vide* F. Lavoie) and at Saint-Juste-du-Lac 17–18 May (N. Nadeau, M. Normand). **Indigo Bunting**: one at Mistissini 25 May was out of range (*vide* A. Anctil). **Dickcissel**: singles at Lac-Mégantic 17–18 May (M. & L. Turcotte), Chibougamau 22 May (A. Anctil et al.) and at Montmagny 24 May (Y. Bernier).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: a female at Camp Eastmain 19 May (S. Hamel et al.) and a male at Val-Paradis 21 May (MF. Fortin). **Brewer's Blackbird**: a female was seen by many at Baie-du-Febvre 20 April–4 May (ph., D. Ouellette, D. Paquette). **Orchard Oriole**: a female was reported at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 12 May (R. Turgeon), a first-year male at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 30 May (A. Couture, Y. Cyr) and a female at Val d'Or 31 May (ph., R. Thibault). **European Goldfinch**: singles were at Clerval (Abitibi) 14–22 April (F. Beauvais), and at Île de la Visitation (Montreal) 25 May (E. Desfossés-Foucault).

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, QC H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 after 7:00 p.m. or by e-mail at: pbannon@videotron.ca

Mars-mai 2014

Bernache nonnette : des oiseaux à Baie-du-Febvre 7 avril (J. Gélinas, *pl. ob.*) et à Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 21–28 avril (R. & G. Boulet). **Cygne trompette** : 3 jeunes nés à Val d'Or l'été dernier était de retour 29 avril–28 mai (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye). **Cygne siffleur** : des oiseaux à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 15 March (F. Boulet et al.) et à Saint-Méthode 12–15 mai (C. Bombeeck). **Sarcelle d'été** : un mâle à Cabano 5 mai (M. Beaulieu). **Sarcelle d'hiver** (intermédiaire *Carolinensis* X *Crecca*) : un mâle adulte vu à Baie-du-Febvre 24 avril (O. Barden). **Lagopède des saules** : 330 signalés au nord de Waswanipi 23 mars (R. Ladurantaye et al.) et un oiseau tardif à Val d'Or 9 mai (R. Gauthier, R. Ladurantaye).

Puffin des Anglais : un signalé à Rivière Ouelle 25 mai (L. Belleau), rare au printemps. **Fou de Bassan** : un imm. au Lac Simon (Duhamel) 24 mai, rarissime à l'intérieur des terres (ph., D. Perrier et al.). **Pélican d'Amérique** : un à Trois-Rivières 20 avril, une date hâtive record (L. Jacques). **Aigrette neigeuse** : des indiv. à Carignan 12 avril (R. Belhumeur), Barachois de Malbaie 11–18 mai (S. Marchand), et à Saint-Blaise 12–16 mai (A. Martrel). **Aigrette tricolore** : des indiv. à Cap Tourmente 15 mai + (R. Gingras) et à Longue-Rive 23–26 mai (R. Gingras, J. Forgues). **Héron garde-boeufs** : un à Sainte-Cécile-de-Milton 24 avril (L. Desnoyers, *vide* M. Desnoyers). **Ibis falcinelle** : 2 à Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 3–10 mai (V. Létourneau, *pl. ob.*); des indiv. à Pointe-du-Lac (Trois-Rivières) 10–11 mai (L. Dauphinais, M. Gaudreault), Domaine de Maizerets (Québec) 11 mai (G. Garant), et à Saint-Léon-de-Stanton 12–18 mai (R. Gingras, J. Forgues, *pl. ob.*).

Pluvier siffleur : considérant les conditions hivernales, un oiseaux aux Îles de la Madeleine 19 avril était très hâtif (C. & J. Roy). **Chevalier semipalmé** : un à Montmagny 31 mai (G. Cyr). **Barge marbré** : 3 mentions incluant une à Saint-Barthélemy 22–25 mai

(P. Franche, M. & M. Boulard), une à Chambord 24 mai (J. Rousseau et al.) et une à Métis-sur-Mer 31 mai (M. Larrivée). **Bécasseau à échasses** : imprévisible au printemps, un était à Longue-Rive 24 mai (R. Gingras et al.). **Combattant varié** : un mâle à Métabetchouan 5-13 mai (D. Lavoie et al.). **Bécassin à long bec** : rare au printemps, un était à Kamouraska 25 mai (F. & R. Dion). **Phalarope de Wilson** : bien que non nicheur depuis 5 ans, cette espèce fut plus en évidence ce printemps avec une dizaine d'oiseaux signalés.

Mouette rieuse : des oiseaux à Cap Saint-Ignace 22 mai (S. Lemieux, S. Blackburn), et à Les Escoumins 29 mai (J.G. Beaulieu). **Mouette atricille** : une à La Malbaie 31 mai (P. Otis et al.). **Mouette de Franklin** : 2 ad. à Métabetchouan 19 mai (C. Cormier, G. Savard) et une à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 22 mai (R. & G. Boulet). **Labbe pomarin** : un à La Malbaie 31 mai (G. Lord, J. Bernier). **Labbe parasite** : un décompte élevé de 128 oiseaux aperçus à Rivière-Ouelle 24 mai (C. Auchu, C. Girard).

Tourterelle turque : un oiseau était de retour à Saint-Flavien en avril-mai (M. Lapointe). **Harfang des neiges** : un regroupement de 17 oiseaux posés sur la glace dans la baie Valois (Dorval) 29 mars (P. Bannon); quelques oiseaux encore présents dans l'est de la province à la fin de mai. **Pic à tête rouge** : l'oiseau présent à Saint-Godefroi durant l'hiver a été revu le 15 mars (M. & E. Arsenault). Un autre oiseau fut aperçu brièvement à Saint-Armand 22 mai (F. Trempe).

Tyran à longue queue : un oiseau à l'Anse-au-Griffon (Gaspé) 15 avril, une date hâtive record (ph., C. Côté). **Corneille de rivage** : une entendue à Saint-Armand 9 mars (J.G. Papineau). **Hirondelle noire** : des indiv. à Saint-Gédéon 3 mai (C. Cormier et al.), Grande-Rivière 4 mai (A. Couture) et l'Anse-à-Beaufils 22 mai (J. Wiseman) étaient hors de leur aire. **Gobemouche gris-bleu** : des oiseaux sont arrivés tôt, eg Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 14 avril (L. den Besten), l'Anse à l'Orme (Montréal) 17 avril (J. Coutu) et Pointe au Chêne 20 avril (F. Morand). **Traquet motteux** : une dizaine d'oiseaux signalés en mai dans l'est du Québec, un nombre inhabituellement élevé, qui incluait 3-4 indiv. à Blanc-Sablon 4-8 mai (J. Joncas). **Solitaire de Townsend** : un dans la Réserve faunique de Matane 22-26 mars (P. Beaupré). **Jaseur boréal** : rare l'hiver dernier, un décompte de 1200 at La Pocatière 30 mars était étonnant (C. Auchu, C. Girard).

Paruline à ailes bleues : une à Cap Tourmente 16 mai (O. Barden, D. Lavoie). **Paruline de Townsend** : un mâle en plumage éclatant à Pointe-Calumet, une première mention confirmée pour le Québec 16-21 avril (ph., J.C. Charbonneau, *pl. ob.*). **Paruline à gorge jaune** : une à Le Bic 16 mai (L. Masson). **Paruline des prés** : un mâle à l'Île de la Visitation (Montréal) 8 mai (J. Coutu). **Paruline hochequeue** : une au Jardin botanique de Montréal 10 mai (L. D'Amours). **Paruline à gorge grise** : un oiseau à l'Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 22 mai, rare localement (M. Dennis). **Paruline à capuchon** : un mâle trouvé à Hull 17 mai (F. Bédard), et une femelle au Jardin botanique de Montréal 26 mai (M. Bridger). **Paruline polyglotte** : une à Cap Tourmente 24 mai-2 juin (J. Guérin et al., *pl. ob.*).

Tohi tacheté : l'oiseau présent at Cap à l'Aigle l'hiver dernier a été revu jusqu'au 4 avril. **Bruant des plaines X Bruant familier** : un hybride probable photographié au Domaine de Maizerets (Québec) 4-5 mai (L. Roy, A. Déry, P. Otis). **Bruant sauterelle** : rare sur l'Île de Montréal, un oiseau a été vu et entendu à Pierrefonds 26 mai (J. Coutu et al.).

Piranga vermillon : plus fréquent depuis quelques années, cette espèce était encore bien en évidence ce printemps; des indiv. notés à Trois-Pistoles 17 avril-10 mai. (ph., L. Belzile, B. Breault, *pl. ob.*), Brossard 21-25 avril (ph., C. Tanguay, *pl. ob.*), Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer 11-15 mai (ph., G. Raboin, *pl.ob.*), et Buckingham 18 mai (J. & M. Laviolette, fide D. Toussaint), tous des mâles imm. **Piranga à tête rouge** : des mâles à Rimouski 11-14 mai (ph., C. Ruest, S. Gagné, D. Ruest) et à Saint-Prime 11-13 mai (ph., S. Godin). **Guiraca bleu** : des mâles adultes à Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 16 avril (T. Maranda, fide F. Lavoie) et à Saint-Juste-du-Lac 17-18 mai (N. Nadeau, M. Normand). **Passerin indigo** : un à Mistissini 25 mai était hors de son aire (fide A. Anctil). **Dickcissel d'Amérique** : des indiv. à Lac-Mégantic 17-18 mai (M. & L. Turcotte), Chibougamau 22 mai (A. Anctil et al.) et à Montmagny 24 mai (Y. Bernier).

Carouge à tête jaune : une femelle à Camp Eastmain 19 mai (S. Hamel et al.) et un mâle à Val-Paradis 21 mai (MF. Fortin). **Quiscale de Brewer** : une femelle a été vue par plusieurs à Baie-du-Febvre 20 avril-4 mai (ph., D. Ouellette, D. Paquette). **Oriole des vergers** : une femelle notée à Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 12 mai (R. Turgeon), un jeune mâle à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 30 mai (A. Couture, Y. Cyr) et une femelle à Val d'Or 31 mai (ph., R. Thibault). Chardonneret d'Europe : des indiv. à Clerval (Abitibi) 14-22 avril (F. Beauvais), et à l'Île de la Visitation (Montréal) 25 mai (E. Desfossés-Foucault).

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

BPQ Monthly Lectures

All Monday night lectures take place at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Crescent, Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG, and are free of charge

Monday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG

Restoring ecosystems, improving livelihoods and tackling climate change

Brooke van Mossel-Forrester

Another season begins on Monday nights at 7:30 pm at the Kensington Presbyterian Church in NDG. Our first speaker will be Brooke van Mossel-Forrester co-founder of Taking Root/EnRacine. Their mission is to use reforestation as a tool to restore ecosystems, improve livelihoods and tackle climate change using carbon offsets. Brooke is focusing on

Nicaragua at the moment.

We are currently in contact with other speakers who are exploring loss of habitat, declines in insect populations, plants, and other food sources, use of toxins, as well as changing migration routes, and how these may be affected by climate change and the practice of monoculture.

As always, we are open to presentations on other topics, such as bird-related travel, new research, and anything else related to Quebec birds and their habitats. Be sure to let me know if you know of a particularly interesting speaker that our members would like to hear. Many thanks to all those involved in making these lectures a success.

Gail Desnoyers
Speaker Coordinator BPQ

Weekend Field Trips

Most weekends during the year, BPQ organises guided field trips to places where good birds are to be seen.

On the following pages you will find details of the trips coming up in the next few weeks. The trip leaders and more experienced participants will be happy to help new birders enjoy their time with us and to identify and see the birds around you.

It is not necessary to be a BPQ member to come on a field trip – though, of course, we hope that you will decide to join us later and support our important work for the birds.

Further details are always available in the Calendar section of our website and if there are any (very rare) last minute changes they will be posted there too .

Trip Advice – De rigueur pour les excursions

Transportation: Contact the trip leader or the Songsparrow email group if you need or can offer a lift. Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather check with the leader. Clothing: Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear, even if the day seems mild and dry.

Transport : Téléphoner au responsable ou contacter le groupe Songsparrow pour faire du covoiturage. Annulations : En cas d'intempérie, vérifier la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable. Habillement : Vêtements chauds et bottes imperméables sont toujours de rigueur.

Reports from recent field trips

29/03/14 – Parc des Rapides, LaSalle

Leader: Diane Demers – 24 birders; 27 species

Bird of the Day: Snowy Owl

Other Birds of Note: Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird

05/04/14 – Parc-nature de Cap-Saint-Jacques

Leader: Wayne Grubert – 3 C, windy & cloudy. 9 birders; 32 species

Bird of the Day: Horned Grebe

Other Birds of Note: Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Pileated Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow

12/04/14 – Baie-du-Febvre

Leaders: Jean Demers & Clémence Soulard – 11 birders: 35 species

Birds of the Day: Snow Geese

Other Birds of Note: 10 duck species, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer, Snowy Owl, Common Raven, Horned Lark

19/04/14 – Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies

Leader: Joël Coutu – Sunny, mild. 21 birders; 40 species

Birds of the Day: Rough-legged Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel

Other Birds of Note: Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Swamp Sparrow

26/04/14 – Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Leader: Felix Hilton – Cool, rainy. 12 birders; 28 species

Bird of the Day: American Bittern

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Herring Gull, Tree Swallow, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet

27/04/14 – Mont-Saint-Grégoire

Leader: Sheldon Harvey – Cloudy, early morning fog; cool. 25 birders; 17 species

Bird of the Day: Peregrine Falcon

Other Birds of Note: Turkey Vulture, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Ruffed Grouse

Note: Following the trip we enjoyed a cabane à sucre lunch at La Goudrelle.

03/05/14 – Réserve nationale de faune du Lac-Saint-François

Leader: Sheldon Harvey – Cloudy; rare sunny breaks. 14 birders; 51 species

Bird of the Day: Sandhill Crane

Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Coot, Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Waterthrush, Eastern Towhee, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch

10/05/14 – George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary at Philipsburg

Leader: Nick Acheson – Cloudy with occasional light rain. 15 birders; 57 species

Bird of the Day: Barred Owl

Other Birds of Note: Red-shouldered Hawk, Virginia Rail, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Scarlet Tanager

17/05/14 – Île Saint-Bernard (Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville)

Leader: Tom Long – Chilly, 9 C., windy. 9 birders; 51 species

Bird of the Day: Tufted Titmouse

Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Sora, Solitary Sandpiper, American Kestrel, House Wren, Northern Waterthrush, Nashville Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

24/05/14 – Falloon & Avoca Roads, Grenville

Leader: Frederic Hareau – Mild weather. 18 birders; 72 species

Bird of the Day: Northern Goshawk

Other Birds of Note: Ruffed Grouse, American Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Bluebird, Warblers: Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green, Canada Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark

31/05/14 – Hudson

Leader: Wayne Grubert – Sunny, light breeze, high of 17 C. 22 birders; 56 species

Bird of the Day: Olive-sided Flycatcher

Other Birds of Note: American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Veery, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark

08/06/14 – Alfred Kelly Reserve, Piedmont/Prévost

Leader: Richard Gregson – Hot and sunny. 20 birders; 35 species

Bird of the Day: Peregrine Falcon

Other Birds of Note: Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting

14/06/14 – Rigaud Mountain, Rigaud

Leader: Wayne Grubert – Sunny, cool, breezy. 13 birders; 53 species

Bird of the Day: Mourning Warbler

Other Birds of Note: Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager

21/06/14 – Summer Solstice Trip, Ormstown/Huntingdon Region

Leaders: Wayne Grubert and Sheldon Harvey – Sunny with cloudy periods, cool start. 12 birders; 78 species

Bird of the Day: Dickcissel

Other Birds of Note: Ruffed Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Golden-winged warbler, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark

28/06/14 – Summer Series of Birding Trip #1 – Parc des Rapides, LaSalle

Leader: Sheldon Harvey – Sunny and hot. 24 birders; 31 species

Birds of the Day: Baltimore Orioles with young

Other Birds of Note: Gadwall, American Wigeon, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Tern

12/07/14 – Summer Series of Birding Trip #2 – Cooper Marsh, S. Lancaster, ON

Leader: Wayne Grubert – Partly cloudy, 18 to 27 C. 10 birders; 43 species

Birds of the Day: Osprey, Black-billed Cuckoo

Other Birds of Note: Green Heron, Northern Harrier, Merlin, Purple Martin, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

19/07/14 – Summer Series of Birding Trip #3 – Le Nichoir Open House

BPQ set up a promotional booth at the annual event introducing visitors to our organization.

26/07/14 – Summer Series of Birding Trip #4 – Sainte-Martine, Saint-Étienne, Saint-Timothée

Leader: Sheldon Harvey – Mix of sun and cloud, mild, low humidity. 13 birders; 56 species

Birds of the Day: Caspian Tern/Least Bittern

Other Birds of Note: American Wigeon, Redhead, Common Moorhen, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Black Tern, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Bobolink

02/08/13 – Summer Series of Birding Trip #5 – Le parc nature de Pointe-des-Cascades

Leader: Sheldon Harvey–Warm, hazy, humid. 14 birders; 43 species

Birds of the Day: Cedar Waxwings with young

Other Birds of Note: Spotted Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Pileated Woodpecker, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole

Planned Field Trips - August, September & October

Saturday, August 30 – samedi 30 août

St-Lazare Sand Pits and Area

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard – 514-694-8240 – jd030824@gmail.com

7:30 a.m. From Highway 40 west towards Ottawa, take Exit 26. Turn left on Chemin Daoûst (which becomes Avenue Bédard) and proceed 4 km to Chemin Ste-Angelique. Turn right and after 1.4 km turn left on Montée St-Robert. Continue for 2.6 km to Parc St-Robert on the left and meet in the parking lot. Looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and early fall migrants. \$2.00 charge (exact change). **Half day.**

7 h 30. Depuis l'autoroute 40 ouest vers Ottawa, prendre la sortie 26. Tourner à gauche sur le Chemin Daoust (qui devient l'avenue Bédard) et continuer 4 km jusqu'au Chemin Ste-Angélique. Tourner à droite puis après 1,4 km, tourner à gauche sur la Montée St-Robert. Continuer 2.6 km jusqu'au Parc St-Robert sur la gauche. Le lieu de rencontre est situé dans le stationnement. Nous rechercherons les oiseaux de rivage, la sauvagine et les oiseaux migrateurs hâtifs. 2,00 \$ pour l'entrée (monnaie exacte). **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, September 6 – samedi 6 septembre

Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary

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

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

8 h 00. Prendre l'autoroute 401 ouest. Vingt km dépassé Cornwall, prendre la sortie 770 (Ingleside). Rouler en direction sud jusqu'à l'autoroute 2 pendant plusieurs kilomètres. À gauche, chercher la pancarte du "Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary."

Tourner à gauche et prendre ce chemin pendant 2 km jusqu'au stationnement. Prévoir 1,5 heures de route de Montréal. **Demi-journée.**

Tuesday, September 9 and every Tuesday in September – mardi le 9 septembre et tous les mardis de septembre
Fall Warbler Walks / Les oiseaux d'automne à Parc nature de l'Île de la Visitation

Leader: Joël Coutu

Place: l'Île de la Visitation (Nature Park) – **Date:** Tuesdays September 9, 16, 23, 30 – **Time:** 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: The welcome centre at the park at 2425 boul. Gouin E., Montréal. From Highway 40 (Metropolitan Blvd.) take Papineau north to Henri Bourassa. Turn right (east) on Henri Bourassa and turn left on Rue de Lille. Turn right onto Gouin and left into the parking area. Parking available on nearby roads or in the Nature Park's parking lot (cost \$9).

Background: L'Île de la Visitation Nature Park is a true gem! Located along the Rivière des Prairies, in the heart of Sault-au-Récollet, this park is full of historical elements but has over the years become one of the best areas on the island of Montreal to observe migrating songbirds and other species. With more and more development in Laval and Montreal, green spaces for migrating birds in fall to feed and rest are few around the city. Every fall, with a variety of tree and shrub species, this park attracts many species of warblers and other bird species as well. The field leader will try to help you identify these fall warblers and maybe even give you some 'tricks of the trade' in recognizing them. These walks are open for everyone from beginners to experts.

Mardi 9 septembre Les oiseaux d'automne à l'Île de la Visitation

Guide : Joël Coutu

Lieu : l'Île de la Visitation (Parc Nature) – **Date:** Septembre 9 – **Durée :** 8 h 00 à 11 h 00

Lieu de rencontre : Chalet du parc, 2425 boul. : Gouin E, Montréal. De l'autoroute 40 (boul. métropolitain) prenez la sortie Papineau nord jusqu'à Henri Bourassa. Tourner à droite vers l'est sur Henri Bourassa et tournez à gauche sur la rue Lille. Tournez à droite sur Gouin jusqu'au stationnement du parc. Stationnement disponible sur les rues dans le voisinage du parc ou le stationnement du Parc Nature (9\$)

Résumé : Le parc nature de L'Île de la Visitation est un véritable joyau historique ! Situé le long de la rivière des Prairies, dans le cœur du Sault-au-Récollet, ce parc est plein d'éléments historiques, mais au fil des années, est l'un des meilleurs endroits sur l'île de Montréal pour observer les oiseaux chanteurs migrateurs et d'autres espèces. Avec de plus en plus de développement à Laval et à Montréal, les espaces verts pour les oiseaux migrateurs à l'automne pour se nourrir et se reposer se font plus rares dans la ville. Chaque automne, avec une variété d'espèces d'arbres et d'arbustes, ce parc attire de nombreuses espèces de parulines et d'autres espèces d'oiseaux. Le guide tentera de vous aider à identifier ces parulines de l'automne et peut-être même vous donner quelques « trucs du métier » pour les reconnaître. Ces excursions sont accessibles à tous, du débutant à l'expert.

Saturday, September 13 – samedi 13 septembre

Pointe Yamachiche

Leader: Sheldon Harvey – 450-462-1459 – ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. Allow 75 minutes, driving time from Montreal. Take Highway 40 east to Exit 174. At the intersection in the middle of the exit drive straight forward. Within 100 metres there is a large parking lot which will serve as our meeting area. This is mainly a walking trip on trails that are usually dry, but bring boots just in case. We will visit two areas on Lac Saint-Pierre with a variety of habitats (woods, marsh, riverside, fields.) Bring a lunch in case the trip runs a little long. Half day.

8 h 00. Prévoir 1 h 15 de route depuis Montréal. Prendre l'autoroute 40 est, sortie 174. À l'intersection, au centre de la sortie, continuer tout droit. À 100 mètres de l'intersection se trouve un grand stationnement, lieu de notre rendez vous. Une bonne promenade nous attend au bord du Lac St-Pierre à travers champs, bois et terres qui risquent d'être humides, alors apportez des bottes imperméables. Apporter à boire et à manger si jamais notre sortie se prolonge. Demi-journée.

Tuesday, September 16 – mardi 16 septembre

Fall Warbler Walks at Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

Leader: Joël Coutu – fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

Refer to details given above for September 9

Sunday, September 21 – dimanche 21 septembre

Fall Warbler Walks at Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

Leader : Joël Coutu – fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

Refer to details given above for September 9

Note: This is a Sunday trip.

Tuesday, September 23 – mardi 23 septembre

Fall Warbler Walks at Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

Leader: Joël Coutu – fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

Refer to details given above for September 9

Saturday, September 27 – samedi 27 septembre

George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary, Philipsburg, QC

<http://www.pqspsb/sanctuaries.html>

Leader: Sandy Montgomery 514-212-6208 sandy_montgomery@sympatico.ca

8:30 a.m. Meet at the defunct Motel Frontière. From Montreal take the Champlain Bridge, Highway 10 east to exit 22, Highway

35 south to St. Jean to join Highway 133 south to Philipsburg. Now that the motel has been demolished, the location is not easy to see from the southbound side of the road so continue towards the border crossing. Immediately before the border buildings take the well-marked U-turn on the left to cross over to the northbound side of the road. Look on your right for the large white sign telling drivers to fasten their seat belts – the entrance to the old motel site and the parking area is immediately beyond it. Note that there are two gravelled entrances – do NOT take the first, it is washed out and impassable; the second entry is excellent. Good choice of trails from long and strenuous to short and easy. Bring a lunch. Looking for migrating passerines, waterfowl and hawks. All day.

8 h 30. Rassemblement au défunt Motel Frontière. De Montréal, traverser le pont Champlain et continuer sur l'autoroute 10 est. Prendre la sortie 22 et rejoindre l'autoroute 35 sud. Continuer sur celle-ci jusqu'à Saint-Jean. De là continuer sur l'autoroute 133 sud en direction de Philipsburg. Maintenant que le motel a été démoli le stationnement est difficile de voir du côté sud de la route. Donc, continuer vers le poste frontalier. Juste avant les bâtiments de passage, prendre le bien-marquée demi-tour sur la gauche pour passer sur la direction du nord côté de la route. Chercher le grand panneau blanc indiquant aux conducteurs de boucler leur ceinture de sécurité sur votre droite – l'entrée sur le site vieux motel et le stationnement est immédiatement au-delà. Bonne variété de sentiers dont les niveaux de difficulté vont de longs et ardues à courts et faciles. Apporter un lunch. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, sauvagine et rapaces diurnes. Toute la journée.

Tuesday, September 30 –mardi 30 septembre
Fall Warbler Walks at Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

Leader: Joël Coutu – fauconbleu65@hotmail.com
Refer to details given above for September 9

Saturday, October 4 – samedi 4 octobre
Dundee, Ste-Martine (La Réserve Nationale de Faune du Lac Saint-François)

Leaders: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498 wgrubert@hotmail.com
Sheldon Harvey 450-462-1459 ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Centre parking lot. If you are taking the Mercier Bridge from Montreal, go (left) east on Highway 132 for 4.5 km to Highway 730. Take Highway 730 to its junction with Highway 30. Proceed west on Highway 30 for approximately 33 km to the exit for Highway 530. Take Highway 530 until its end. Turn left onto Highway 132, crossing the bridge, and continue approximately 33 km past Sainte-Barbe and Saint-Anicet to Cazaville. Continue another 8 km on Hwy 132 past Cazaville to chemin de la Pointe-Fraser. Turn right on this road and meet at the visitor centre parking lot about 1 km along on the left.

An alternative route, especially from the West Island, is to take Hwy 20 or 40 west past Vaudreuil-Dorion to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 (Toll \$2.00) and then exit onto Highway 530 and continue as per instructions above. Allow about 1.5 hours from Montreal. After birding the Dundee area, we will return in convoy to Ste-Martine to look for shorebirds. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, migrating passerines and shorebirds. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement de l'accueil. Si vous arrivez depuis le pont Mercier en provenance de Montréal, prenez vers l'est (gauche) sur la route 132 pour 4.5 km jusqu'à l'autoroute 730. Prendre l'autoroute 730 jusqu'à sa jonction avec l'autoroute 30. Continuez vers l'ouest sur l'autoroute 30 pendant environ 33 km jusqu'à la sortie vers l'autoroute 530. Prendre l'autoroute 530 jusqu'au bout. Tournez à gauche sur la route 132, traverser le pont et continuer sur environ 33 km, en passant par Sainte-Barbe et Saint-Anicet jusqu'à Cazaville. Continuez encore 8 km sur la route 132, passez Cazaville jusqu'au Chemin de la Pointe-Fraser. Tournez à droite sur cette route et rendez-vous dans le stationnement du centre d'accueil sur la gauche à environ 1 km.

Un itinéraire alternatif depuis l'ouest de l'île de Montréal consiste à prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 ouest au-delà de Vaudreuil-Dorion jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prenez l'autoroute 30 (frais de 2,00 \$), puis sortez sur l'autoroute 530 et continuer en suivant les instructions données ci-dessus. Prévoir environ 1h à 1h30 de route à partir de la région de Montréal. Après avoir parcouru la région de Dundee, nous reviendrons vers Sainte-Martine, en roulant à la file, à la recherche de limicoles. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces, parulines en migration et limicoles. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 11 – samedi 11 octobre
Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île St-Bernard
<http://www.heritagebernard.qc.ca/rfmy.html>
Leader: Tom Long 450-692-1590 ram_air455@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île St-Bernard, Châteauguay. From Montreal, take Highway 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Highway 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto Boul. St-Francis. Follow St. Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Boulevard Salaberry Nord. Turn right on to Salaberry Nord. Continue past the railway bridge. The next bridge that crosses the road and river is Pont de la Sauvagine. Turn right just after the bridge. There will be a sign and an entrance ramp for the bridge for Beauharnois and Refuge Faunique Marguerite d'Youville. Cross the bridge and continue to Notre-Dame Nord. At the flashing red light turn right onto Notre-Dame and follow the signs to Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville. Cross the small bridge onto Île St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right. Walking trip looking for waterbirds and late migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. \$3.00 admission fee. Half day.

8 h 00. Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville de l'île Saint-Bernard à Châteauguay. De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. A la sortie du pont, garder la droite et continuer sur la 138 au-delà de Kahnawake, jusqu'à Châteauguay. A l'entrée de Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. St-Francis. Continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'à l'intersection du boul. Salaberry Nord qui longe la rivière Châteauguay. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry nord, passer en-dessous du pont de la voie ferrée et continuer jusqu'à un deuxième pont : il s'agit du pont de la Sauvagine. Tourner à droite juste après avoir passé sous ce pont et accéder à une rampe d'accès au pont. Le refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville est

indiqué. Traverser le pont et continuer jusqu'à la rue Notre-Dame Nord. Au feu rouge clignotant, tourner à droite sur Notre-Dame et suivre les indications pour le refuge. Traverser le petit pont qui vous amènera à l'île Saint-Bernard. Le stationnement est à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques et de migrateurs tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. Frais d'entrée de 3.00\$. Demi-journée.

Saturday, October 18 – samedi 18 octobre
Hungry Bay, Beauharnois, St-Timothée Area

Leader: Fred Hareau

8:00 a.m. Meet at Hungry Bay. If you are taking the Mercier Bridge from Montreal, go (left) east on Highway 132 for 4.5 km to Highway 730. Take Highway 730 to its junction with Highway 30. Proceed west on Highway 30 for approximately 33 km to the exit for Highway 530. Take Highway 530 until its end. Turn left onto Highway 132, crossing the bridge, and continue approximately 1.0 km. Turn right on Chemin du Canal. Bear right after 2.3 km and continue following Chemin du Canal to its end. Caution: This becomes a very narrow road. An alternative route, especially from the West Island, is to take Hwy 20 or 40 west past Vaudreuil-Dorion to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 (Toll \$2.00) and then exit onto Highway 530 and continue as per instructions above.

During this fall migration period, we will be looking for goldeneyes, scaup, grebes, scoters and other diving waterfowl which never fail to frequent this region. We will also look for other migrants including passerines and raptors. We will begin our trip at Hungry Bay near Valleyfield, then go back along the Beauharnois Canal visiting the ponds at Saint-Louis de Gonzague and finish our outing at St-Timothée. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement à Hungry Bay. Si vous arrivez depuis le pont Mercier en provenance de Montréal, prenez vers l'est (gauche) sur la route 132 pour 4.5 km jusqu'à l'autoroute 730. Prendre l'autoroute 730 jusqu'à sa jonction avec l'autoroute 30. Continuez vers l'ouest sur l'autoroute 30 pendant environ 33 km jusqu'à la sortie vers l'autoroute 530. Prendre l'autoroute 530 jusqu'au bout. Tournez à gauche sur la route 132, traverser le pont et continuer sur environ 1.0 km. Tournez à droite sur Chemin du canal. Restez à droite après 2.3 km et continuez jusqu'au bout du Chemin du Canal. Faites attention car c'est une route très étroite.

Un itinéraire alternatif depuis l'Ouest de l'île de Montréal, consiste à prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 ouest au-delà de Vaudreuil-Dorion jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prenez l'autoroute 30 (frais de 2,00 \$), puis sortez sur l'autoroute 530 et continuer en suivant les instructions données ci-dessus.

En cette période de migration automnale, nous serons à la recherche des garrots, fuligules, grèbes et macreuses et autres canards plongeurs qui ne manquent pas de fréquenter la région du Canal de Beauharnois. Nous chercherons également les autres migrateurs, notamment les passereaux et rapaces. Nous débuterons notre excursion par Hungry Bay, aux abords de Valleyfield, puis remonterons le canal de Beauharnois, visitant les étangs de Saint-Louis de Gonzague, pour finir notre sortie à St Timothée. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 25 – samedi 25 octobre
Parc National d'Oka, QC

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

8:00 a.m. Take Hwy 13 north to Hwy 640. Go west on 640 to its intersection with Hwy 344. Cross 344 into Parc d'Oka. Proceed 6.2 km to the Accueil Camping. An entrance fee of approximately \$5.00 will be charged. Looking for migrating passerines, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. **Half day.**

8 h 00. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 13 nord jusqu'à l'autoroute 640. Continuer sur l'autoroute 640 ouest jusqu'à l'intersection avec l'autoroute 344. Traverser la 344 et entrer dans le Parc d'Oka. Continuer sur une distance de 6,2 km jusqu'à l'Accueil Camping. Frais d'entrée: environ 5,00\$. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, rapaces, sauvagine et limicoles. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, November 1 – samedi 1 novembre
Spontaneous Autumn Outing – Location TBD

Leader: Sheldon Harvey – 450-462-1459 – ve2shw@yahoo.com

Late fall is an interesting but unpredictable time for birding as late or vagrant migrants may turn up just about anywhere. As a result, the destination of this trip will be determined mere days prior to the actual outing. The destination will be chosen based on a number of factors including weather conditions, bird activity and any special or rare bird sightings reported in the days leading up to the trip. Complete details of the field trip, including the destination, the start time, the meeting spot, and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ webpage and on the Songsparrow e-mail forum two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

La fin de l'automne est un moment intéressant mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux; des migrateurs tardifs ou des visiteurs rares pouvant se retrouver à peu près n'importe où. En conséquence, la destination pour cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant qu'elle n'ait lieu. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalées dans les jours précédant la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur le site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo Songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.

Note:

Full details of all field trips, often with maps, and other events are always listed on our website calendar at <http://pqspb.org/bpq2/events/>