

The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

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Bird Protection
Quebec

Protection
des oiseaux
du Québec



For the Birds since 1917
Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

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President's Word

by Jane Cormack
BPQ President

Why not make this winter your season year to get involved? Go out and do something for the birds.



White-breasted Nuthatch – Sittelle à poitrine blanche © Chuck Kling 2019

Recent reports of the devastating decline in bird species – 2.9 billion since 1970 – together with recent reports showing a drastic decline in other wildlife species, and daily reports on the impact of climate change have renewed interest in the environment.

100s of 1000s of people – young and old – have come together to demonstrate for radical change in government policies.

While the momentum is strong, you may still wonder what you can do – really. Here are some suggestions:

Winter is a wonderful time to make an impact – contributing to the knowledge of local bird species and changes in bird populations. Keep lists and share them on eBird.

Take part in a citizen science project. This year, BPQ is organizing three Christmas Bird Counts, our long-standing Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts will take place on December 14 and December 21. This year, we are also organizing our first Kids' Christmas Bird Count on December 15.

The idea for Kids' counts was initiated by Régroupement QuébecOiseaux. Many birding clubs in the Montreal region and across Quebec are participating. BPQ's count will take place at the Morgan Arboretum. Get the kids outside. Let them have fun and learn something about birds.

Introduce a new birder to the joys of winter birding. Many people are surprised by the number of species they can see at this time of year. For the novice, the absence of leaves on the trees is a bonus.

Set up feeders and install bird baths in your backyard to help birds already suffering from loss of habitat and ever-increasing threats.

Make sure to keep your feeders and bird baths clean and well maintained. Use a variety of seeds from a variety of manufacturers.

Take part in the Feederwatch program. Above all, get involved in a local conservation organization, like Bird Protection Quebec. Talk to us about your conservation concerns. We can achieve more working together than apart.

New Members

We would like to extend a big welcome to our new members: Quinn Thomas, Matthew Pavouris, Jenna Schlener, Ann Marie Hanley, Alain Chevrette and family, Heidie Lenhart, Jennifer Callaghan, Catherine Ford, Josée Brunelle, Philip Short, Betty Crisante, Louise Falcon, and Sam Liebman.

We hope to see you out on field trips and at our monthly lectures and our other events.

Birding, Not Twitching

The Joys of Watching Local Birds

by Richard Gregson

A friend of mine, one of the two best birders I know and a chap who has devoted his life to getting out looking at birds every day of the year published an article on twitching at the end of last year. It is worth looking at again. Reading what he said sparked me to put down my own thoughts on different approaches to birding. I am focusing on this paragraph and adding my own personal comments:

Non-birders and birder-lite's don't appreciate what twitching is all about. Yes, it is irrational, but so are very many things that Humans do. Yes, it is not very environmentally friendly, so very much in keeping with virtually all Human activity. Yes, it is only a tick, on a tick sheet designed to add ticks to it. What is not considered, especially by those who claim to be purists (no such thing, sorry!), is the amount of data accumulated by those who chase when they complete their

eBird checklists. Sure some just put the tick on it, they may always do that or they may eventually want to add more. Most, and that includes 99.9% of rarity finders, contribute the sort of data that could only have been dreamed of pre-eBird. Counts, distribution and dates for all the other species seen are part of the package along with the tick ... You may not particularly like the notion of (responsible) twitching but you cannot denigrate the data it generates."

Non-birders clearly don't get it, but birder-lites probably do get it while knowing it's not for them. I once went through a period of enthusiastic twitching. I still love to claim a lifer and rarities always appeal, though nowadays

I prefer to see birds where they are "supposed" to be, ideally on their breeding territory.

Most years I travel afar – usually northwards as I am not one for the steamy tropics – to see birds. More often than not I do so as part of a wildlife tour with local guides so I get the most out of the expensive opportunities. But I don't twitch. I almost never jump in the car and hare off to maybe see something I "need"

on my life list unless it is reasonably close to home base. I don't really care if I have a longer list than anyone else. But twitching? Yes, I understand the what and the why.

Twitching is not very environmentally friendly, so very much in keeping with virtually all Human activity

Here we get to "Greenbirding" — using only human motive power to get out to where the birds are – walking, cycling, canoeing, occasionally taking the bus. I was commissioned a few years ago to write a book about this so I know the pros and cons quite well – you can learn more [here](#).

I do care about the environment. I do what I can to keep my fuel consumption low and my GHG emissions minimal. I walk or use the bus for the most part, but I drive rental cars on vacation considerable distances and often while looking for birds, butterflies, or flowers. I just go off somewhere for a good walk (ideally with a pub at the end). I am not here to criticize anyone. I can justify Greenbirding with statistics and factoids, but I am a greenish birder mostly because I enjoy seeing and knowing more about the birds that live near to me rather than those far distant ones. I like to study the changes in their habits and populations with the seasons and over the years. That's just me ... as I said, I have



Northern Cardinal - Cardinal rouge © Chuck Kling 2019

twitched, I occasionally twitch but mostly my approach to birding has changed into one of visiting localish habitats that I know well and just seeing and recording. If I can do some botanising at the same time (my wife is an avid botanist and I am becoming converted) then so much the better. Even more so if there are photos to be had. If I am travelling, then my first

thought is not “what good birds are here” but rather “there’s an interesting field/ marsh/woodland, let’s go and see who lives there.”

Most twitchers, and that includes 99.9% of rarity finders, contribute data that could only have been dreamed of pre-eBird.

Here is where the two approaches meet and where we totally agree. Birding should not be about personal lists as far I am concerned, interesting as they are, but about collecting and sharing data. Citizen Science, in other words. I have very little time for people – robin strokers as they have been named – who say they like watching birds (or butterflies, or plants or whatever) but don’t make a note of what they have seen and certainly never make their observations available to others. Their approach means that science and other enthusiasts cannot benefit from the data they have gathered. The fact that rare bird X’s appearance in an unusual place at an atypical date is lost forever. In today’s world with smartphone apps, websites, eBird, iNaturalist and the like it takes very little time at all at the end of a day in the field or watching your garden to sit down with a cup of tea and upload your sightings to one of the huge databases sitting there eager for your contributions in the knowledge of a job

well done. Twitching is optional, recording and reporting should not be.

So, today I am always exceptionally pleased if I self-find a rarity or just spend time with some nice birds that I don’t often see, but if someone else sees a rare/good bird somewhere distant to where I am I am probably not going off on a twitch to see it myself. I am content to know that it still exists out there and is happily doing its birdy thing in suitable habitat. The record from the finder is now in the database and the bird doesn’t need me peering at it. These days I am more concerned about, and work towards preserving, endangered habitat which, when lost, is going to affect all the wildlife that calls it home. Of course, many twitchers do that also and more strength to their elbows say I. Some don’t but that’s between them and their consciences. Just ‘liking’ a conservation project on social media doesn’t save any bird’s habitat.

Get involved!

Perhaps even more important is making sure the following generations come to know and appreciate wildlife and want to preserve it and the places it lives in. Sadly, that seems less and less to be the case unless we make efforts to show them what’s out there and how vulnerable it is.

In our technology-fuelled world, children are spending less time wandering around the great outdoors and much more time plugged into a screen ... it becomes increasingly important to bestow on our children the importance of interacting with nature and taking care of the environment.

A good way to start the process of “bestowing on our children the importance of interacting with nature and taking care of the environment” is to make sure their gardens are to attracting and holding native wildlife. Put up feeders and nesting boxes, plant fruit trees and seed-rich native flowers, minimize the lawn, install a pond with a waterfall, enroll the kids (and your adult friends and relatives) in projects like

BPQ's Kids Christmas Bird Count and Feederwatch. Enthuse them about the whole process. Show them birds and critters and make sure they do not become the sort of sad people who think all blackbirds are the same or that male and female Northern Cardinal are separate species. No need to lecture, if the kids are anything like I was back then, they will find it fun. Take them for walks in local parks and along rivers and continue the process of gentle education. That way there might still be a habitable world for them to grow up in.

And if the kids and your friends then want to go twitching – good for them.

Great Blue Heron - Grand Héron © Chuck Kling 2019



BPQ announces Bird Friendly® Coffee Partnership with Le Nichoir



New program partners Quebec non-profits with Le Nichoir to promote winter habitat preservation for migratory birds

BPQ is pleased to announce the launch of our own brand of coffee in partnership with Le Nichoir. As part of a new program, you will be able to order certified Bird Friendly®, organic and Fair Trade coffee [online](https://www.cafebirdfriendly.org/) and support both organizations at once.

Le Nichoir's brand of Bird Friendly® certified coffee has been a popular choice for the last several years and has served to help promote the importance of shade-grown coffee plantations for wintering northern birds.

To further this awareness initiative, Le Nichoir has partnered with several other Quebec-based non-profits with an ecological mission. The program lets each organization add their own label, text, and logo to the Nichoir bag. Currently, in addition to Bird Protection Québec, partners include the Ecomuseum Zoo, Héritage Saint-Bernard and the Union québécoise de réhabilitation des oiseaux de proie (UQROP).

Customers will have the option of choosing the organization they wish to support by purchasing coffee packages depicting the organization's label at <https://www.cafebirdfriendly.org/>. Product options include dark or medium roast, and either beans or ground coffee, all available in three bag sizes. Each bag contains 100% certified Bird Friendly®, organic and Fair Trade coffee locally roasted by Totem Roasters.

By purchasing coffee at [cafebirdfriendly.org](https://www.cafebirdfriendly.org/), you support winter habitat for boreal migrants, and at the same time support the important work of the charities you care about at home. A portion of the proceeds from each bag of coffee purchased on the website benefits Le Nichoir, the charity of your choice, as well as the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center to support further conservation research.

Monday Night Lecture Kensington Presbyterian Church 6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG

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, Dec 2, 7:30 p.m. Celebrating Ornithology

The Hawkwatch

We will begin our December 2 meeting with a short ceremony in honour of Mabel McIntosh, presenting her with two awards in recognition of the 30,000 volunteer hours she has dedicated to the hawkwatch.

On July 18, Mabel was awarded the [Sovereign's Medal](#) for Volunteers. The following citation is posted on their website:

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

For more than half a century, Mabel Aston McIntosh has dedicated thousands of hours to studying and protecting birds in Quebec by conducting bird-banding projects, migration research and annual bird counts. As an expert in the field of ornithology, she has made invaluable contributions to Bird Protection Quebec, Bird Studies Canada and the Hawk Migration Association of North America.



Mabel McIntosh celebrating BPQ's Centennial Year in 2017

In September, Regroupement QuébecOiseaux (RQO) recognized Mabel for her efforts in conserving birds and their habitat. You can read an article about the award [here](#)

Following the ceremony, we will take a short break to enjoy some refreshments. Then, we will continue with our monthly speaker.

We hope you will join us for both parts the evening!

The Secret Life of Moulting Migrant Songbirds

Monday, December 2

A Presentation by Ana Morales



Ana Morales with a Moulting Migrant Swainson's Thrush

Moulting, or the process of replacing worn feathers with fresh ones, is a vital part of a bird's life cycle. Migratory birds must moult their flight feathers at least once per year to help them successfully and efficiently complete their long and arduous migratory journeys.

Scientists have long assumed that all migratory songbirds moulted close to their nesting grounds, but recent findings suggest otherwise. Some songbirds appear to undergo a process known as

moult migration, during which they move to special moulting locations away from their breeding grounds to replace their feathers right before the start of fall migration. Why do moult migrants do this and how important are these moulting habitats for these birds? One thing is certain: if these birds rely heavily on these areas during this crucial period of their life cycle, preserving these habitats must be critical for the conservation and safeguard of these migratory species.

In this talk Ana will tell us all about the poorly known phenomenon of moult migration in songbirds, and how she managed to shed some light on this fascinating behaviour by using a novel tracking technology that allowed her to “spy” and follow the secret lives of moult migrants during their moulting stopovers in Montreal.

About the Speaker

Ana is a masters student at McGill University and a current BPQ board member. Growing up in Ecuador, surrounded by the mighty Andean mountains and biodiverse rainforests, she developed a fondness for nature and wildlife from a very young age.

After completing an undergrad in environmental biology at McGill, Ana became involved in a variety of bird-related research projects in Ecuador, from monitoring Galapagos hawks in remote islands, to studying hummingbird physiology in the Andean highlands.

Eventually, her fascination for migratory songbirds brought her back to Montreal and the McGill Bird Observatory, where she began a masters project supervised by Dr. Kyle Elliott from McGill University and Dr. Barbara Frei from the McGill Bird Observatory. Her masters thesis focuses on the the stopover ecology of moult migrant songbirds in Montreal.

The Second Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas

Monday, January 6, 2020,
at 7:30 p.m.

A Presentation by Marie-Hélène Hachey



Available from
QuébecOiseaux
online shop and
from Nature Expert

Released last spring, the *Second Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Southern Québec* is a reference work that will guide many projects for the conservation of Quebec birds in the coming decades. It is the culmination of the largest ornithological project undertaken in Quebec for a quarter of a century. From 2010 to 2014, hundreds of birdwatchers spent more than 100,000 hours raking the various habitats of southern Quebec. They collected half a million records

which are the basis of the new atlas. The writing took over a year and required no fewer than 30 authors. Photographers from all over Quebec provided more than 5,000 photos, from among which we selected those illustrating the Atlas. Marie-Hélène will present the history of the Atlas, from its beginnings in 2009 to its publication in April 2019. Ten years of effort by hundreds of people whose result is a beautiful book.

About the Speaker



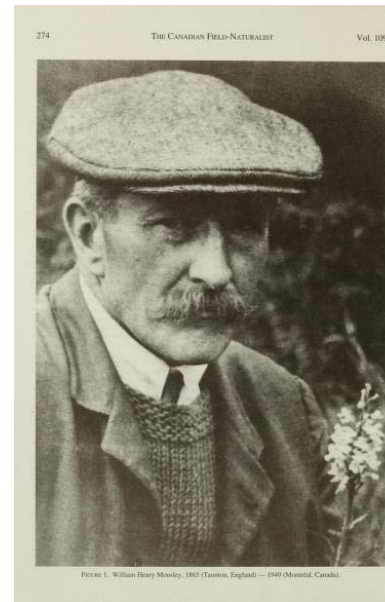
Marie-Hélène Hachey works for the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux. She was Assistant Coordinator of the Québec Breeding Bird Atlas. She is a biologist with a master's degree (MSc) in forest science, which she obtained from Laval University in 2011, for a project that investigated the factors affecting the feeding of chicks and the transport of food by boreal nesting birds. Before returning to do her masters, she worked for eight years as a park warden and interpreter in different national parks across Québec. Previous to her career in ornithology Marie-

Hélène obtained an undergraduate degree in media communications and worked as a journalist for *Espace* magazine and Radio-Canada.

William Henry Mousley Quebec Ornithologist (1865-1949)

Monday February 3, 2020

A Presentation by Dwane Wilkin



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

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

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

About the Speaker

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



Wood Duck - Carnard branchu ©
Chuck Kling 2019



Bird Views

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

June - July 2019

by Pierre Bannon



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: a bird was reported at l'Assomption 6 June (Robert Dupuis) and then an impressive group of 10 resided at Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 20 June through 5 July (Jean Lemoyne, m.ob.). **Mute Swan:** 3 birds at Côteau-du-Lac 12 June (J. Cantara, Luc Tremblay et al.) and one at Saint-Barthélemy 5-26 June (Raymond Piché, Bertrand Dumont, m.ob.). **Trumpeter Swan:** one at Forestville, a new place for this

Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Juin - juillet 2019

par Pierre Bannon

Left - À gauche: Black-bellied Whistling Duck - Dendrocygne à ventre noir © Suzanne Labbé 2019

Dendrocygne à ventre noir: un oiseau signalé à l'Assomption 6 juin (Robert Dupuis) puis un impressionnant groupe de 10 a séjourné à Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 20 juin-5 juillet (Jean Lemoyne, pl.ob.). **Cygne tuberculé:** 3 oiseaux à Côteau-du-Lac 12 juin (J. Cantara, Luc Tremblay et al.) et un à Saint-Barthélemy 5-26 juin (Raymond Piché, Bertrand Dumont, pl.ob.). **Cygne trompette:** un à Forestville, un nouvel endroit pour cette espèce, 3 juillet (Andrew Coughlan). **Canard siffleur:** cette espèce eurasiennne a choisi d'estiver à 6 endroits différents. **Grèbe esclavon:** rare en Abitibi en été, un a séjourné à Val d'Or 7-25 juillet (Raymond Ladurantaye). **Grèbe élégant:** un à Rivière-Ouelle 7 juillet, une 3e présence seulement dans la province (Claude Auchu, Christiane Girard).

species, 3 July (Andrew Coughlan). Eurasian Wigeon: this Eurasian species has chosen to stay at 6 different locations in the province during the summer. **Horned Grebe:** rare in Abitibi in summer, one was at Val d'Or 7–25 July (Raymond Ladurantaye). Western Grebe: one at Rivière-Ouelle 7 July, the third record only in the province (Claude Auchu, Christiane Girard).

Marbled Godwit: one at Baie-du-Febvre 20 June (Jules Brunelle, Yves Dugré). **Willet:** one at Saint-Gédéon 19 July (Jacques Ibarzabal). **Wilson's Phalarope:** now rare in summer, a pair was located at Baie-du-Febvre 16 June (Serge Morneau).

Little Gull: now rare near Montréal in summer, 2 ad were found at Sainte-Catherine 20 July (Pascale Berthe, Lucien Lemay). **Ring-billed Gull:** one north of its range 17–18 June at camp Norpaq (56,827 North, -64,981 West) along George R., Nunavik (Michel Robert).

Right — À droit: Tricolored Heron -
Aigrette tricolore © Suzanne Labbé

American White Pelican: now annual in summer, singles were reported in at least 10 localities. **Snowy Egret:** singles found at Rimouski 6–9 June (Gilbert Bouchard, Lucille Saint-Laurent), Saint-Barthélemy 14 June (Joanne Masson) and Grosse-Île (Les îles de la Madeleine) 24 June–7 July (Claude Roy). **Little Blue Heron:** one continued at Grosse-Île until 6 June. **Tricolored Heron:** one at Saint-Joachim 20 June–28 July (Gilles Garran, m.ob.). **Cattle Egret:** one at Rivière-Ouelle 4 June (Isabelle Trembley), found later at nearby Saint-André 27 June–9 July (Denyse Bérubé). **Black Vulture:** one at Lévis 17 July (Chantal Labbé, Marc Grondin). **Eastern Screech-Owl:** one north of its range at Boileau 2 July (Sylvie Hébert).

Barge marbrée: une à Baie-du-Febvre 20 juin (Jules Brunelle, Yves Dugré). **Chevalier semipalmé:** un à Saint-Gédéon 19 juillet (Jacques Ibarzabal). **Phalarope de Wilson:** maintenant rare en été, un couple a été aperçu à Baie-du-Febvre 16 juin (Serge Morneau).

Mouette pygmée: maintenant rare en été près de Montréal, 2 ad ont été trouvés à Sainte-Catherine 20 juillet (Pascale Berthe, Lucien Lemay). **Goéland à bec cerclé:** un au nord de son aire 17–18 juin au camp Norpaq (56,827 Nord, -64,981 Ouest) le long de la rivière George au Nunavik (Michel Robert).



Pélican d'Amérique: maintenant annuel en été, des oiseaux ont été signalés dans au moins une dizaine de localités. **Aigrette neigeuse:** des oiseaux signalés à Rimouski 6–9 juin (Gilbert Bouchard, Lucille Saint-Laurent), Saint-Barthélemy 14 juin (Joanne Masson) et Grosse-Île (Les îles de la Madeleine) 24 juin–

Red-bellied Woodpecker: a nest with young 19 June at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue was a first for the province (Alyssa De Rubeis). **Western Kingbird:** one at Pointe-aux-Outardes 1 June (Edward Brotherton, Emmanuel Hains). **Loggerhead Shrike:** one discovered 13 June at Bristol (Émile Brisson-Curadeau); then 2 birds were later found there including a female showing coloured bands and incubating on a nest 15-20 June (Pascale Berthe, Chantal Trudel, m. ob.). Unfortunately, the pair left the area after a nearby field covered with mullein used by the birds as perch was cut. The female had been banded and released from captivity at Carden, Ont. in July 2017. **Barn Swallow:** one well north of its range 15 June at camp Norpaq (56,827 North, -64,981 West) along George R., Nunavik (Michel Robert).



Lawrence's Warbler: a juvenile banded at Godmanchester 4 July (McGill Bird Observatory). **Hooded Warbler:** a male at Québec City 3 June (Linda Coté). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Hudson 2 June (Wayne Grubert). **Clay-coloured Sparrow:** a male was paired with a Chipping Sparrow and was seen feeding young at Granby in late July (Monique Berlinguette, Monique Maheu). **Field Sparrow X Clay-coloured Sparrow:** this presumed hybrid continued at Godmanchester until at least 17 June (m.ob.). **Lark**

7 juillet (Claude Roy). **Aigrette bleue:** une encore présente à Grosse-Île jusqu'au 6 juin. **Aigrette tricolore:** une à Saint-Joachim 20 juin-28 juillet (Gilles Garrant, pl.ob.). **Héron garde-boeuf:** un à Rivière-Ouelle 4 juin (Isabelle Trembley), retrouvé plus tard dans la localité voisine de Saint-André 27 juin-9 juillet (Denyse Bérubé). **Urubu noir:** un à Lévis 17 juillet (Chantal Labbé, Marc Grondin). **Petit-duc maculé:** un au nord de son aire à Boileau 2 juillet (Sylvie Hébert).

Pic à ventre roux: une première pour la province, un nid avec jeunes trouvé le 19 juin à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (Alyssa De Rubeis). **Tyran de l'Ouest:** un à Pointe-aux-Outardes 1 juin (Edward Brotherton, Emmanuel Hains). **Pie-grièche migratrice:** un individu signalé 13 juin à Bristol (Émile Brisson-Curadeau); puis 2 oiseaux présents par la suite dont une femelle affichant des bagues de couleur, et couvant sur un nid 15-20 juin (Pascale Berthe, Chantal Trudel, pl. ob.). Malheureusement, les 2 oiseaux sont disparus suite à la coupe d'un champ de molène voisin du nid et dont les tiges leur servaient de perchoir. La femelle avait été baguée et relâchée à Carden, Ont. en juillet 2017. **Hirondelle rustique:** une au nord de son aire 15 juin au camp Norpaq (56,827 Nord, -64,981 Ouest) au bord de la rivière Georges, Nunavik (Michel Robert).

Right - À droit: Loggerhead Shrike
- Pie-grièche migratrice
© Suzanne Labbé 2019

Paruline de Lawrence: un juv bagué à Godmanchester 4 juillet (Observatoire d'oiseaux McGill). **Paruline à capuchon:** un mâle à Québec 3 juin (Linda Coté). **Paruline à gorge jaune:** une à Hudson 2 juin (Wayne Grubert). **Bruant des plaines:** un mâle apparié à une femelle de Bruant familier nourrissait des jeunes en juillet à Granby (Monique Berlinguette, Monique Maheu). **Bruant des champs X Bruant des plaines:** un hybride toujours présent à Godmanchester jusqu'au 17 juin (pl. ob.). **Bruant à joues**

Sparrow: previously seen only twice in summer, singles were found at Île aux Lièvres 7–8 June (Joanne Masson, M. Lemay), Rivière–Saint–Jean 18 June (Réal Poulin), and Île Niapiscou 15 July (Yves Journet). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** a juv photographed at Bristol 21 July, a rare confirmation of breeding for the species (Miriam Baril). **LeConte's Sparrow:** singles at Petit–Saguenay 25–29 June (Gilles Falardeau), Île aux Grues 12–17 July (Frédéric Hareau) and Cap Tourmente 16–21 July (Anne Déry, Laval Roy).

Blue Grosbeak: a male at Kamouraska 1 July (Céline Boilard). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** a female at Rouyn–Noranda 8 June (Milan Kerby) and a male at Rivière–Ouelle 23 June (Claude Auchu et al.). **Orchard Oriole:** a nesting pair was present near Pike River 18 June–13 July (Bertrand Hamel, m. ob.). Single birds were also reported at Sept–Îles 13 June (Jean–François Laporte) and at Hinchinbrooke 24 June (Benoit Goyette).

Please report your interesting bird sightings to Pierre Bannon, by e–mail at pbannon@videotron.ca

marron: précédemment signalé seulement 2 fois en été, des oiseaux furent trouvés à l'Île aux Lièvres 7–8 juin (Joanne Masson, M. Lemay), à Rivière–Saint–Jean 18 juin (Réal Poulin), et à l'Île Niapiscou 15 juillet (Yves Journet). **Bruant sauterelle:** un juv photographié à Bristol 21 juillet, une rare confirmation de nidification pour l'espèce (Miriam Baril). **Bruant de LeConte:** des oiseaux à Petit–Saguenay 25–29 juin (Gilles Falardeau), l'Île aux Grues 12–17 juillet (Frédéric Hareau) et au cap Tourmente 16–21 juillet (Anne Déry, Laval Roy).

Guiraca bleu: un mâle à Kamouraska 1 juillet (Céline Boilard). **Carouge à tête jaune:** une femelle à Rouyn–Noranda 8 juin (Milan Kerby) et un mâle à Rivière–Ouelle 23 juin (Claude Auchu et al.). **Oriole des vergers:** un couple nicheur présent à Pike River 18 juin–13 juillet (Bertrand Hamel, pl. ob.). Des oiseaux aussi signalés à Sept–Îles 13 juin (Jean–François Laporte) et à Hinchinbrooke 24 juin (Benoit Goyette).

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon, tél : 450–905–1127 en soirée ou préférablement par courriel à : pbannon@videotron.ca

Past Field Trips

31/08/19 – Saint-Lazare Sandpits (Sablière), Saint-Lazare

Guides: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard

Weather: Excellent!

Participants: 26; **Species:** 48 species

Birds of the Day: Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs

Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Palm Warbler

07/09/19 – La réserve nationale de faune (RNF) du Lac-Saint-François, Dundee

Guides: Wayne Grubert and Sheldon Harvey

Weather: Mid teens, light breeze, rain later

Participants: 14; **Species:** 41

Bird of the Day: Sandhill Crane

Other Birds of Note: Wild Turkey, American Bittern, Green Heron, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

14/09/19 - Parc-nature du Cap-Saint-Jacques, Pierrefonds

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Weather: Drizzle, cloudy, humid

Participants: 5; **Species:** 40

Bird of the Day: Black-throated Green Warbler

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, Scarlet Tanager

21/09/19 – Parc National Mont-Tremblant, Mont-Tremblant

Guide: Jeff Harrison

Weather: Sunny, mid-20s, light wind

Participants: 13; **Species:** 40

Birds of the Day: White-winged Crossbill; Lincoln Sparrow

Other Birds of Note: Common Loon, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black and white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow

28/09/19 – Parc Frédéric-Back, Montreal

Guide: Claude Cloutier

Weather: Overcast, brief sprinkles of rain

Participants: 5; **Species:** 21

Bird of the Day: Red-tailed Hawk

Other Birds of Note: Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Wilson's Snipe, Herring Gull, Common Raven, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow

BPQ's 2019 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

The 84th Annual Montreal CBC – Saturday, December 14 and the 79th Annual Hudson CBC – Saturday, December 21

Two of Bird Protection Quebec's (BPQ) most popular annual events, the Montreal Christmas Bird Count and the Hudson Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2019, and Saturday, December 21, 2019, respectively. The annual bird counts play a vital role in tracking local and national birding trends and are very important events on the citizen science calendar. We are once again counting on your participation. Jean Demers, Clémence Soulard, and Sheldon Harvey make up the BPQ Christmas Count Committee. Sheldon will be responsible for the Montreal Count, with Jean and Clémence looking after the Hudson Count.

We hope that many of you who participated in previous years will return again this year, but we encourage those of you who have not previously participated to get involved. We still have space and territory available to add more people. We have a long-standing tradition to uphold and, with everyone's support and cooperation, we aim to carry it on.

Teams of birders are assigned designated sections of territory within the Montreal and Hudson circles. It's a fun day of birding, all for a valuable and important purpose. The key thing to remember on a Christmas Bird Count is that every single bird you see is important, regardless of whether it's a common or rare species. Seeing some "good birds" is always a bonus, but the goal of the day is to count each and every bird of each and every species. If you live anywhere within the count circles and have feeders installed, but are unable to join

one of our field teams, you can still assist us without leaving the comfort of your home. Our website explains how to participate as a Feeder Watcher. All previous participants will be receiving an e-mail from us inquiring about your possible participation again this year, covering the same territory. If you would like to move to a different territory, we will do our best to accommodate.



If you are new to the Christmas counts and are interested in becoming a field participant, please contact us and we will assign you to a sector on a team with some experienced Christmas counters.

Following the Montreal count, an informal social will be held at the Montreal West Curling Club, 17 Ainslie Road in Montreal West, at 4:00 p.m. All participants are invited to attend for a bite to eat and to submit their findings of the day. Food will

be provided and there will be a cash bar. The results of the day's count will be tabulated and everyone is encouraged to share their birding experiences of the day.

Following the Hudson count, an informal social will be held at the St-Hubert Barbecue restaurant, 601 avenue St-Charles, in Vaudreuil; Exit 35 from Highway 40. Various finger foods will be provided (onion rings, chicken wings, nachos, mini-brochettes, mini-spring rolls, etc.). The room will be available from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Full details of both BPQ Christmas Bird Counts can be found on the BPQ website http://pqspb.org/bpq2/?page_id=139

We look forward to your participation again this year. If you have any questions, please contact us.

For the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, please contact Sheldon Harvey, e-mail: ve2shw@yahoo.com or telephone: 450-462-1459.

For the Hudson Christmas Bird Count, please contact Jean Demers, e-mail: cbchudson2@gmail.com or telephone: 514-694-8240.

Watch the Songsparrow e-mail forum and the BPQ Facebook page for further information.

BPQ's Kids' Christmas Bird Count

**Morgan Arboretum
(conservation centre)
Sunday, December 15,
2019 9:30 am – noon**

The Christmas Bird Count is a yearly census to track overwintering bird populations. Come join us to learn all about this important Citizen Science event and bird identification! We will go on a Christmas count-style guided bird walk. This event is geared towards kids and their families, but everyone is welcome to attend. If you are already a bird lover, consider bringing along a young friend or family member and "fledging" a new birder!

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served after the count.

What to bring

This is primarily an outdoor event so remember to dress for the weather!

There is no potable water at the Arboretum so a small backpack with snacks and a water bottle are recommended.

Don't forget your binoculars!

Admission: Please note that there is a fee to enter the Morgan Arboretum: <https://mcgill.ca/morganarboretum/visit-us-0>

Registration: Send us an email at education@pqspb.org to register. Please give us your name and the number of adults and children that will be attending.

Recensement des oiseaux de Noël pour enfants de Protection des oiseaux du Québec

Arboretum Morgan
(centre de conservation)

Dimanche 15 décembre
2019 De 9h30 à midi

Le Recensement des oiseaux de Noël a pour but de recenser les oiseaux hivernants chaque année. Joignez-vous à nous pour en apprendre plus sur cet événement de Science citoyenne et sur l'identification des oiseaux. Nous ferons une promenade ornithologique guidée selon le protocole du recensement. Cet événement est prévu pour les enfants et leur famille, mais vous êtes tous les bienvenus. Si vous aimez les oiseaux, amenez un ami ou membre de votre famille pour lui transmettre votre passion !

Des biscuits et du chocolat chaud seront servis après le recensement.

Que dois-je apporter ?

Habillez-vous en conséquence : l'évènement a lieu principalement en extérieur !

Une bouteille d'eau et collation (il n'y a pas d'eau potable à l'Arboretum)

N'oubliez pas vos jumelles !

Frais d'admission : Veuillez noter que l'entrée pour l'Arboretum Morgan est payante : <https://mcgill.ca/morganarboretum/fr/visitez-nous>

Inscription : par courriel à education@pqspb.org Veuillez nous indiquer votre nom et le nombre d'enfants et d'adultes participants.

Black-capped Chickadee -
Mesange à tête noire © Connie
Morgenstern

