

# The SONG SPARROW

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For the Birds since 1917  
Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

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Canada Geese © Richard Gregson

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# The President Chirps

by Sheldon Harvey, President, Bird Protection Quebec

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. We wish everyone all the best for 2016.

Our annual Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts were very successful events. Reports on the two counts appear in this edition of the newsletter. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2015 counts. The weather certainly co-operated this year. The Christmas Bird Counts are very important citizen science projects, providing vital data on bird populations. We appreciate the effort put in by so many of you again this year.

Several more important citizen science projects are underway or will be getting started shortly including Project Feeder Watch, the Great Backyard Bird Count, the Quebec Nocturnal Owls Monitoring Project, the Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk Monitoring Project, and the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Project, to name just a few. Details on how to participate in these and many other projects are available on the Bird Studies Canada webpage at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/index.jsp?lang=EN>

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bird Protection Quebec in 2017 is now officially just one year away. Our centenary project group is hard at work planning events, field trips, lectures and other special activities to be held throughout the 2017 calendar year. Our Photo Challenge is already underway with the 12 monthly winning photographs to appear on a special centenary edition calendar in 2017. A logo marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bird Protection Quebec has also been chosen. It will be prominently displayed through the year. Keep your eyes on the BPQ webpage, Facebook page and Twitter account for information on events being planned for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Please remember that nominations are open for positions on the BPQ Board of Directors. Details appear in this issue of Songsparrow. BPQ also has a number of committees and special working groups. They are always looking for more volunteers to assist them with their work. If you have some free time to spare, please speak with any of our Board members, who can direct you to the various committee chairs and project leaders. They will provide you with

information on how you can help out. We rely heavily on volunteers to accomplish our goals.

We have an excellent line-up of guest lecturers planned for our next round of monthly meetings, as well as an extensive list of field trips. Details of all of our upcoming events appear on our webpage and in the bulletin. We look forward to seeing many of you at these various events.

## New Members

BPQ welcomes new members Ann Beer, Louis Belanger, Manon Bourdon, Karen Favret, Suzanne Lacroix, Kristen Lalla, Don Trepanier, Pierrette Turcotte, and Nicholas Thorne. and returning members Michael Robb and Connie Morgenstern. We hope to see you out on our field trips and at our lectures.

## Call for New Directors

Bird Protection Quebec runs its affairs solely through the contributions of volunteers from amongst our members. There are positions on the board of directors that will be open for election at the May 30, 2016 annual general meeting and we invite all members to submit nominations of new Directors to join the BPQ Board. The deadline for the receipt of nominations for the 2016-2018 term of office is April 18, 2016. All nominees should be members in good standing of Bird Protection Quebec. Nominations must be signed by the nominee and co-signed by two supporters.

By joining the BPQ board, you will help us to develop and implement our charitable work for birds and wildlife; to manage our bird sanctuaries; to work with the newsletter and website; to organize field trips; to develop our conservation and education initiatives; and all the other fascinating and important work that BPQ is involved in. If you are interested in the work of BPQ, or if you wish to nominate someone, please get in touch by e-mail ([birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com)) by the April 18, 2016 deadline.

# Feeding the Birds

by Jane Cormack

Although it may not have caught the attention of the general public, there have been increasing concerns about the effect of insecticides and pesticides, particularly neonicotinoids, on commercially grown seeds sold for wild birds.

The American Birding Association (ABA), after learning about the allegations faced by companies, such as Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and Kaytee Products demanded the manufacturers of wild bird seed to provide assurance, in the form of documentation, that their products are safe. More about this request, as well as the ABA report on the effects of neonicotinoids on birds, can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://abcbirds.org/article/conservation-group-seeks-assurance-that-wild-bird-seed-products-are-pesticide-free/>

Last summer, Annalisa D'Orsi, a cultural anthropologist living in Quebec, contacted Bird Protection Quebec (BPQ) and Regroupement Quebec Oiseaux (RQO) with concerns about what she was reading on the labels of packages of wild bird seed sold in Quebec:

- Not for human consumption.
- For wild birds only.
- Not suitable for pets.
- Wash your hands after handling.

## What Are We Feeding the Birds?

What exactly do these warnings mean?

Yong Lang, a biologist at RQO decided to investigate. She contacted the major manufacturers of wild bird seed, as well as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. After many e-mails and phone calls, she heard back from two companies.

One company told her that the warning is necessary for purely aesthetic reasons. It is only that the size and the colour of the seeds do not meet the standards set for those intended for human consumption.

The other company, although their seed packages do not carry such warnings, claimed that there are many possible reasons behind the notices, such as:

- Because they are kept in captivity, pet birds, such as finches and parrots, are not as hardy as wild birds. They eat exclusively what is offered by their owners. Therefore, manufacturers of bird seed intended for pet birds must ensure that their product provides a balanced diet. It must have a good ratio of different types of seeds or dried fruits, in order to provide the required protein and vitamins.
- Packages of wild bird seeds are usually not mixed. Companies want to avoid having pet owners feeding their pet birds only one type of seed. Therefore, they must state that the seeds are not for pets.

**Editor's Note:** Annalisa D'Orsi and others have noted that a lot of wild bird seed packages do contain mixed seeds, often inexpensive filler seeds, as well as vitamins and minerals. These packages still carry the warnings.

- Packaged food intended for pet birds must have a minimum of five types of bird seeds. The mix has to be well-balanced and be made specifically for each type of pet bird. There are usually some added vitamins to ensure that the nutritional requirements of the birds are met. This is the reason that other companies must add the "these seeds are not for pets" notice.
- In order for commercial seeds to be graded as fit for "human consumption," they must pass a lot of tests. Sometimes, the seeds that do not meet the requirements for this grade are sold as wild bird seed. However, this does not mean that the seeds contain toxins that are harmful to wild birds.

Yong Lang hypothesizes that there is a small niche market for seeds that are planted for wild birds. The majority of seed crops are presumably planted for human consumption and if it does not make the grade, growers sell it as bird seed in order to absorb some of the loss.

She believes that the warning about hand washing is put there to ensure that consumers do not pick up diseases from wild birds after touching bird feeders.

## How Can We Keep Birds Safe at Our Feeders?



Nuthatch at a feeder © Richard Gregson

Yong Lang has the following recommendations:

- Offer different types of seeds to wild birds, from different companies.

Varying companies will allow for healthy business competition.

Note that some companies sell their seeds under different brands. Armstrong, Scotts, Red Ribbon, and Morning Melodies are all manufactured by Armstrong.

- If you would like to buy local products, note that the only local seeds from Quebec are offered by Picardie, others are from Ontario (Armstrong and Top Crop), Wisconsin (Kaytee) and North Carolina (Wild Bird Feeding Industry).
- Finally, she recommends that birders plant bushes, flowers and trees. These can offer natural, risk-free food for birds.

Recommendations from birders and organizations, such as Cornell and RSPB encourage us to:

- Grow plenty of seed-bearing flowers. Leave plants standing in the snow until the birds have taken all the seed.
- Plant berry-bearing trees and shrubs.
- Keep feeders clean. Scrub feeders with a 10 percent non-chlorinated bleach solution several times a year, most importantly between seasons.
- Research the favourite foods of the species you want to attract with the feeder styles and locations that they like best.
- Often the cheaper bird seed mixtures contain fillers like milo that most birds do not like. The waste accumulates under the feeders. If this is not cleaned up, it can make birds sick. To avoid exposing ground-feeding birds to this waste, install a platform that drains well.
- Buy specific seeds for specific feeders. This decreases interactions between the species that eat the different seeds.
- Make sure that birds are safe from predation by cats and other domestic animals, and from dangers posed by artificial hazards.

It is important to continue to put out food and water for birds. In harsh weather, birds require high energy – i.e. high fat – foods. They need to feed continually, in order to maintain their fat reserves and survive the cold. Food shortages are most likely to occur in winter; however, they can occur at any time of year. A flock of birds can consume all the fruit on a tree pretty quickly.

To ensure that the seeds you put out are as safe as possible, continue to read the labels and ask questions of the manufacturers.

# 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

## December 2015 – January 2016

It was an astounding start for winter 2015-2016 with 191 species of birds reported in December including 13 warbler species and 15 sparrow species. Also noteworthy, 13 species established a new record late departure date for the province. This collection of records was obviously associated with one of the warmest temperatures ever recorded in December.

**Brant:** an indiv of the *nigricans* ssp seen at Lévis 8 Dec (R. Gingras, *ph.*) and possibly the same bird at Victoriaville 12 Dec (C. Roy, *ph.*). **Barnacle Goose:** two at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 6-8 Dec (M. Bourque) and one on the Chambly basin 1-13 Dec, a new record late date for the province (R. Belhumeur, Y. Gauthier). **Tundra Swan:** one at Matane 13 Dec (S. Mercier, L. Fradette). **King Eider:** one at La Baie still present 30 Dec. **Harlequin Duck:** 2 birds have been continuing on Rivière des Prairies for over a year (*m. ob.*). **Ruddy Duck:** singles at Lévis 1 Dec (C. Deschênes) and at Inverness 13 Dec (D. McCutcheon). **Gray Partridge:** a group of 11 birds at Bic near the limits of their range 6-24 Jan (R. Pitre, *m.ob., ph.*). **Wild Turkey:** 2 at Trois-Pistoles 12-13 Dec (G. Fortin, *fide* JC. Pelletier), well north of their known range.

**Pacific Loon:** an ad reported at Newport 30 Dec-2 Jan, a record late date for the province (M. Larrivée, *m. ob.*). **Common Loon:** widely reported as many waterways were unfrozen until mid-Jan. **Northern Fulmar:** singles at La Baie 9 Dec (J. Rousseau, J. Tremblay), and at Gatineau 10 Dec (R. Bisson et al.).

## Décembre 2015 – fin janvier 2016

Grâce à un mois de décembre hallucinant qui nous a gratifiés de 191 espèces dont 13 espèces de parulines et 15 espèces de bruants, on peut dire que ce fut un début d'hiver incroyable. Ajoutons aussi que 13 espèces ont établi un nouveau record de présence tardive. Les températures les plus élevées jamais enregistrées en décembre furent sans doute responsables de cette situation insolite.

**Bernache cravant :** un indiv de la ssp *nigricans* vu à Lévis 8 déc (R. Gingras, *ph.*) et probablement le même oiseau à Victoriaville 12 déc (C. Roy, *ph.*). **Bernache nonnette :** 2 à Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 6-8 déc (M. Bourque) et une sur le bassin de Chambly 1-13 déc, fournissant un record de date tardive (R. Belhumeur, Y. Gauthier). **Cygne siffleur :** un à Matane 13 déc (S. Mercier, L. Fradette). **Eider à tête grise :** un encore à La Baie 30 déc. **Arlequin plongeur :** 2 oiseaux toujours présents sur la Rivière des Prairies depuis un an (*pl. ob.*). **Erismature rousse :** des oiseaux à Lévis 1<sup>er</sup> déc (C. Deschênes) et à Inverness 13 déc (D. McCutcheon). **Perdrix grise :** un groupe de 11 oiseaux au Bic près de la limite de leur aire 6-24 jan (R. Pitre, *pl.ob., ph.*). **Dindon sauvage :** 2 à Trois-Pistoles 12-13 déc (G. Fortin, *fide* JC. Pelletier), bien au nord de leur aire connue.

**Plongeon du Pacifique :** un ad signalé à Newport 30 déc-2 jan, un record de présence tardive (M. Larrivée, *pl. ob.*). **Plongeon huard :** les cours d'eau non gelés ont encouragé plusieurs indiv à rester très tard. **Fulmar boréal :** des

**Great Egret:** one at Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu 13 Dec (*vide* D. Daigneault). **Black Vulture:** one at Ville-Marie 24 Dec (J. Fréchette). **Bald Eagle:** well in evidence throughout the province, e.g. 34 still in the upper Laurentians in early Jan (MA. Montpetit) and 15 at Val d'Or 1st Jan (F. Dubois).

**American Coot:** singles at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu until 26 Jan (R. Boulet) and at Saint-Laurent (Île d'Orléans) until 10 Jan (G. Lord). **Kildeer:** singles at Neuville 21-25 Dec (G. Lord, *m.ob.*) and at Duhamel-Ouest 21 Dec (J. Fréchette). **Greater Yellowlegs:** one at Henryville 12 Dec, a new record late date for the province (S. Vanier). **Ruddy Turnstone:** one at Baie des Capucins 10 Dec (P. Paulin). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** one at Saint-Vallier 8 Dec (G. Cyr et al.). **Black-legged Kittiwake:** thousands of birds remained in the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspésie into early Jan; one reached Beauharnois 8-9 Jan (B. Barnhurst, S. Denault). **Ivory Gull:** one at Les Escoumins 10 Jan (Y. Demers, *ph.*). **Laughing Gull:** a 1st winter bird well described at Beauharnois 3 Jan, a new record late date for the province (B. and T. Goulet). **Thick-billed Murre:** singles at L'Anse-à-Brillant 26 Dec (D. Jalbert), and at Percé 9-18 Jan (A. Couture et al.).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one at La Pocatière 6 Dec-23 Jan (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Eastern Phoebe:** one at Woburn 13 Dec (G. Robert). **Blue-headed Vireo:** one at Saint-Armand 11 Dec, a new late date for the province (J. Vandergaast). **Eastern Bluebird:** one at Duhamel-Ouest 25 Dec (J. Fréchette) and 5 at Sainte-Élisabeth 2 Jan (B. Asselin, C. Gauvreau) were late. **Mountain Bluebird:** a female at Cap Saint-Ignace 6-7 Dec (L. Lamontagne, Y. Bernier, *m. ob., ph.*). **Townsend's Solitaire:** singles at Cap-Chat mid-Nov through 9 Jan (A. Gagnon et al.), Thetford Mines until at least 17 Jan (A. Julien, *m.ob.*), and Adstock 10 and 25-26 Jan (D. Mc Cutcheon). **Veery:** one seen in a garden at Hatley 3, 5, and 30 Dec was astounding (S. Kohl, M. Bradley, *ph.*). This late record preceded the previous known record by more than 2 months. **Swainson's Thrush:** one at Gatineau 19-31 Dec, a new late date for the province (H. Tremblay, *m. ob., ph.*). **Hermit Thrush:** seen in 10 localities throughout the period. **Varied Thrush:** a male at Saint-Adolphe-de-Howard 28 Dec-17 Jan (J. Michaud et al., *m. ob.*) and a female at Otterburn Park 5-21 Jan (J. Noisieux, *m. ob.*). **Gray Catbird:** single birds seen at 7 different locations in Dec. including one at Sainte-Catherine (S. Denault) still present 26 Jan. **Brown Thrasher:** seen at 7 locations throughout the period. **American Pipit:** one at Pointe-au-Père 19 Dec (J. Larivée).

oiseaux à La Baie 9 déc (J. Rousseau, J. Tremblay), et à Gatineau 10 déc (R. Bisson et al.). **Grande Aigrette :** une à Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu 13 déc (*vide* D. Daigneault). **Urubu noir :** un à Ville-Marie 24 Dec (J. Fréchette). **Pygargue à tête blanche :** très en évidence partout, e.g. 34 dans les Hautes Laurentides au début de janvier (MA. Montpetit) et 15 à Val d'Or 1er jan (F. Dubois).

**Foulque d'Amérique :** des oiseaux à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu jusqu'au 26 jan (R. Boulet) et à Saint-Laurent (Île d'Orléans) jusqu'au 10 jan (G. Lord). **Pluvier kildir :** des oiseaux à Neuville 21-25 déc (G. Lord, *pl. ob.*) et à Duhamel-Ouest 21 déc (J. Fréchette). **Grand Chevalier :** un à Henryville 12 déc, un record de présence tardive (S. Vanier). **Tournepierrre à collier :** un à Baie des Capucins 10 déc (P. Paulin). **Bécasseau à croupion blanc :** un à Saint-Vallier 8 déc (G. Cyr et al.). **Mouette tridactyle :** des milliers dans le Bas St-Laurent et en Gaspésie jusqu'en janv; une s'est égarée à Beauharnois 8-9 jan (B. Barnhurst, S. Denault). **Mouette blanche :** un imm à les Escoumins 10 jan (Y. Demers, *ph.*). **Mouette atricille :** un oiseau de 1<sup>er</sup> hiver bien décrit à Beauharnois 3 jan, un record de présence tardive (B. & T. Goulet). **Guillemot de Brünnich :** des oiseaux à L'Anse-à-Brillant 26 déc (D. Jalbert), et à Percé 9-18 jan (A. Couture et al.).

**Pic maculé :** un à La Pocatière 6 déc-23 jan (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Moucherolle phébi :** un à Woburn 13 déc (G. Robert). **Viréo à tête bleue :** un à Saint-Armand 11 déc, un record de présence tardive (J. Vandergaast). **Merlebleu de l'Est :** un à Duhamel-Ouest 25 déc (J. Fréchette) et 5 à Sainte-Élisabeth 2 jan (B. Asselin, C. Gauvreau). **Merlebleu azuré :** une femelle à Cap Saint-Ignace 6-7 déc (L. Lamontagne, Y. Bernier, *pl. ob., ph.*). **Solitaire de Townsend :** des oiseaux à Cap-Chat de la mi-nov au 9 jan (A. Gagnon et al.), Thetford Mines jusqu'au 17 jan (A. Julien, *pl.ob.*), et Adstock 10 & 25-26 jan (D. Mc Cutcheon). **Grive fauve :** un oiseau dans un jardin à Hatley 3, 5, and 30 déc a établi un record de date tardive hallucinant (S. Kohl, M. Bradley, *ph.*) dépassant par plus de 2 mois la mention la plus tardive connue. **Grive à dos olive :** une à Gatineau 19-31 déc, un record de présence tardive (H. Tremblay, *pl. ob., ph.*). **Grive solitaire :** signalée dans 10 localités pendant la période. **Grive à collier :** un mâle à Saint-Adolphe-de-Howard 28 déc-17 jan (J. Michaud et al., *pl. ob.*) et une femelle à Otterburn Park 5-21 jan (J. Noisieux, *pl. ob.*). **Moqueur chat :** des oiseaux signalés à 7 endroits différents, incluant un à Sainte-Catherine (S. Denault) encore présent 26 jan. **Moqueur roux :** signalés à 7 endroits différents durant la période. **Pipit d'Amérique :** un à Pointe-au-Père 19 déc (J. Larivée).



Northern Waterthrush / Paruline des ruisseaux © Chuck Kling

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 2 birds reported in Dec, and one at Sainte-Catherine 25-26 Jan, a new record late date (L. Lemay, L. Lemay, *ph.*).  
**Nashville Warbler:** one at Lévis 13 Dec (G. Lemelin). **Northern Parula:** one at Québec City 1-28 Dec was record late (F. Létourneau et al., *m. ob.*). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** a male at Bécancour 19-20 Dec (N. Pageau, *ph.*).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** several records including 2 birds on Île Notre-Dame (Montreal) until at least 12 Jan (S. Labbé, P. Bannon). **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** one seen on Morrison I. 19 Dec (B. & B. Di Labio). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Rimouski 1-4 Dec (J. Mc Kindley et al., *ph.*). **Pine Warbler:** an incredible 10 birds seen throughout the period including 2 birds fed with mealworms at Sherbrooke still present 26 Jan (C. & A. Turcotte-van de Rydt, *m. ob.*). **Prairie Warbler:** a female or imm. male at Chandler 7-11 Dec (M. Larrivée, *m.ob., ph.*). **Ovenbird:** singles at Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures 28 Dec (R. Robert, *ph.*) and at Montreal since Oct until at least 18 Jan (C. Claude). **Northern Waterthrush:** one at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 11-13 Dec, a new record late date by more than a month (A. Quenneville, *m.ob., ph.*). **Common Yellowthroat:** an amazing 9 birds seen in Dec. **Hooded Warbler:** a female seen at Longueuil 18-28 Dec, a record late date for the province by more than 2 months (D. Daigneault et al., *ph.*)

**Paruline verdâtre :** 2 oiseaux signalés en déc, et un à Sainte-Catherine 25-26 jan, un record de présence tardive (L. Lemay, N. Guénette, *ph.*). **Paruline à joues grises :** une à Lévis 13 déc (G. Lemelin). **Paruline à collier :** une à Québec 1-28 déc, un record de présence tardive (F. Létourneau et al., *pl. ob.*). **Paruline bleue :** un mâle à Bécancour 19-20 déc (N. Pageau, *ph.*). **Paruline à croupion jaune :** quelques mentions incluant 2 oiseaux sur l'Île Notre-Dame (Montréal) jusqu'au 12 jan (S. Labbé, P. Bannon). **Paruline grise :** une à l'île Morrison. 19 déc (B. & B. Di Labio). **Paruline à gorge jaune :** une à Rimouski 1-4 déc (J. Mc Kindley et al., *ph.*). **Paruline des pins :** un surprenant total de 10 oiseaux durant la période incluant 2 oiseaux nourris avec des ténébrions à Sherbrooke encore présents le 26 jan (C. & A. Turcotte-van de Rydt, *pl. ob.*). **Paruline des prés :** une femelle ou un mâle imm à Chandler 7-11 déc (M. Larrivée, *pl.ob., ph.*). **Paruline couronnée :** des oiseaux à Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures 28 déc (R. Robert, *ph.*) et à Montréal depuis oct au moins jusqu'au 18 jan (C. Claude). **Paruline des ruisseaux :** une à Salaberry-de-Valleyfield 11-13 déc, un record de présence tardive par plus d'un mois (A. Quenneville, *pl. ob., ph.*). **Paruline masquée :** un étonnant total de 9 oiseaux vus en déc. **Paruline à capuchon :** une femelle vue à Longueuil 18-28 déc, un record de présence tardive par plus de 2 mois (D. Daigneault et al., *ph.*)



Common Yellowthroat / Paruline Masquée © Chuck Kling

**Tohi à flancs roux** : des oiseaux à Desbiens 27 déc-11 jan (G. Lavoie), et à Sainte-Luce 12-19 jan (N. Tremblay, *ph.*). **Bruant familier** : plusieurs oiseaux signalés. **Bruant vespéral** : des oiseaux à Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 3-5 jan (N. Guénette, L. Lemay, *ph.*) et à Varennes 6 jan (L. Bernier, *ph.*). **Bruant à joues marron** : des oiseaux à Rivière-au-Renard 6-27 déc (D. Jalbert), Cap-d'Espoir 26 déc (D. Jalbert, *ph.*), et à Mont-Laurier 21 déc-25 jan, un record de date tardive (R. LeBrun, *pl.ob., ph.*). **Bruant des prés** : des oiseaux à Philipsburg 2 jan (S. Cardinal, L. Lemay), à Lacolle 5-6 jan (L. Lemay, *ph.*) et à Bécancour 19 jan (J. Anctil). **Bruant de Lincoln** : des oiseaux à LaSarre 1-10 déc (J. Aubé), Saint-Irénée 2 déc (R. Gingras), et Drummondville 9-23 jan (E. Lepage, *ph.*). **Bruant des marais** : un à Rimouski 25 déc (G. Gendron). **Bruant à face noire** : un oiseau de 1<sup>er</sup> année à Lachenaie 20 déc-25 jan (S. Guimond, *pl. ob., ph.*). **Bruant à couronne dorée** : un oiseau de 1<sup>er</sup> hiver signalé à une mangeoire de Gatineau 29 déc-24 jan (K. Guilbault, *ph.*).

**Piranga vermillon** : des oiseaux à Candiac 5 déc (L. Gaudreau, *ph.*), Québec 16-27 déc (R. Lepage, *pl.ob., ph.*) et Alma (mâle ad) 17-23 déc (R. Lantin). **Piranga à tête rouge** : un mâle à Amqui revu jusqu'au 16 déc, un record de présence tardive (R. Lang, *ph.*). **Cardinal à poitrine rose** : des oiseaux à Rimouski jusqu'au 20 déc (J. Roy-Drainville, P. Fradette), et à Waterville 2-4 jan (B. Turgeon et al.). **Passerin nonpareil** : une femelle ou un mâle imm. à Bridgeville 1-3 déc (P. Poulin, *pl. ob.*). **Dickcissel d'Amérique** : un à Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 18 déc (R. Jones). **Quiscale rouilleux** : 2 à Laval 1-15 jan (M. Gascon et al.) et 2 à Saint-Rosaire 8 jan (M. Saint-Louis). **Chardonneret élégant** : un à Ormstown au début jan (*fide* D. Gruer).

**Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à :**  
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**Eastern Towhee**: singles at Desbiens 27 Dec-11 Jan (G. Lavoie), and at Sainte-Luce 12-19 Jan (N. Tremblay, *ph.*). **Chipping Sparrow**: many birds reported. **Vesper Sparrow**: singles at Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 3-5 Jan (N. Guénette, L. Lemay, *ph.*) and at Varennes 6 Jan (L. Bernier, *ph.*). **Lark Sparrow**: singles at Rivière-au-Renard 6-27 Dec (D. Jalbert), Cap-d'Espoir 26 Dec (D. Jalbert, *ph.*), and at Mont-Laurier 21 Dec-25 Jan, a new record late date for the province (R. LeBrun, *m.ob., ph.*). **Savannah Sparrow**: singles at Philipsburg 2 Jan (S. Cardinal, L. Lemay), at Lacolle 5-6 Jan (L. Lemay, *ph.*) and at Bécancour 19 Jan (A. Anctil). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: singles at LaSarre 1-10 Dec (J. Aubé), Saint-Irénée 2 Dec (R. Gingras), and Drummondville 9-23 Jan (E. Lepage, *ph.*). **Swamp Sparrow**: one at Rimouski 25 Dec (G. Gendron). **Harris's Sparrow**: a first-year bird at Lachenaie 20 Dec-25 Jan (S. Guimond, *m. ob., ph.*). **Golden-crowned Sparrow**: a first-winter bird was seen at a Gatineau feeder 29 Dec-24 Jan (K. Guilbault, *ph.*).

**Summer Tanager**: singles at Candiac 5 Dec (L. Gaudreau, *ph.*), Québec City 16-27 Dec (R. Lepage, *m.ob., ph.*) and Alma (ad male) 17-23 Dec (R. Lantin). **Western Tanager**: the male at Amqui was last seen 16 Dec, a record late date for the province (R. Lang, *ph.*). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: singles at Rimouski until 20 Dec (J. Roy-Drainville, P. Fradette), and at Waterville 2-4 Jan (B. Turgeon et al.). **Painted Bunting**: a female or imm. male at Bridgeville 1-3 Dec (P. Poulin, *m. ob.*). **Dickcissel**: one at Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 18 Dec (R. Jones). **Rusty Blackbird**: 2 at Laval 1-15 Jan (M. Gascon et al.) and 2 at Saint-Rosaire 8 Jan (M. Saint-Louis). **European Goldfinch**: one at Ormstown in early Jan (*fide* D. Gruer).

**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](mailto:pbannon@videotron.ca)**

# The 75th Annual Hudson Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

by Jean Demers

The 75th Annual Hudson CBC was held on December 27, 2015,. It seemed like it would be a poor year when the first teams began to trickle in to the after-count gathering with their low tallies, but by the end 68 species and 13,274 individual birds were observed. The total number of species is the highest ever recorded in the Hudson CBC; the total number of birds is the second highest ever. In 75 years of the count, a total of 141 species have been recorded.

Common Loon	3	Cackling Goose	4	Canada Goose	6531
Gadwall	1	American Black Duck	6	Mallard	339
Northern Pintail	1	Greater Scaup	22	Lesser Scaup	4
Green Winged Teal*	7	Common Goldeneye	49	Hooded Merganser	8
Common Merganser	45	Ruffed Grouse	3	Wild Turkey	182
Accipiter sp.	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Cooper Hawk	2
Northern Goshawk	1	Buteo sp.	1	Red-tailed Hawk	8
Rough-legged Hawk	1	American Kestrel	2	Peregrine Falcon	2
Gull sp.	20	Ring-billed Gull	44	Herring Gull	54
Greater Black-backed Gull	17	Rock Pigeon	471	Mourning Dove	112
Eastern-screech Owl	2	Saw-whet Owl	1	Great-Horned Owl	1

Snowy Owl	1	Woodpecker sp.	1	Downy Woodpecker	55
Hairy Woodpecker	33	Pileated Woodpecker	21	Northern Shrike	1
Blue Jay	109	American Crow	633	Common Raven	7
Horned Lark	2	Black-capped Chickadee	1078	Red-breasted Nuthatch	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	152	Brown Creeper	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	American Robin	146	European Starling	1445
Bohemian Waxwing	100	Cedar Waxwing	44	American Tree Sparrow	80
Song Sparrow	1	White-throated Sparrow	5	Dark-eyed Junco	332
Snow Bunting	81	Northern Cardinal	73	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Purple Finch	1	House Finch	29	Common Redpoll	5
Pine Siskin	8	American Goldfinch	442	House Sparrow	411

## Notes of Interest

Total Species            80    Total Birds            13,274

**Record numbers of the following were seen:** Common Loon 3, Cackling Goose 4, Greater Scaup 22, Green-winged Teal 7, and Wild Turkey 182. Green Winged Teal is a new species for the Hudson CBC

# The 116th Annual Montreal Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

by Sheldon Harvey and Barbara Szabo,  
BPQ Montreal Christmas Bird Count co-ordinators and compilers

The 2015 Montreal Christmas Bird Count, Audubon's 116th annual event, was held on December 19, 2015. This year, it was fairly mild, weather-wise, with very little snow coverage and open water contributing to pleasant birding conditions.

67 participants took part in the count covering 20 different territories throughout the circle. The teams covered a combined total of 706 kilometres of driving and walking, generating a total effort of 133.5 hours. Approximately five hours of owling were conducted this year during the count.

We completed the day with a total of 69 species, down from last year's total of 75 species. The total number of individual birds recorded was 10,894, about 2,000 fewer birds than last year. There was one additional species recorded during the count week period (Common Yellowthroat), however, according to Audubon regulations, it is only recorded for statistical purposes and not reflected in the count day numbers.

We were able to break or tied previous high records for the following species (Greater Scaup-1425; Red-shouldered Hawk-1; Eastern Screech-owl-15; Northern Flicker-8; Hermit Thrush-2). One particular item of note this year was the low number of American Crows, with just 453 counted. This is due mainly to our teams being unable to locate a roosting site for the species at the end of the day as we had been able to do in previous years.

The Top 5 highest numbers of birds per species this year were: 1) European Starling-1556; 2) Greater Scaup-1425; 3) Canada Goose-1624; 4) Rock Pigeon-1282; and 5) House Sparrow-932.

The following table lists the species recorded, the number of each species in this year's count; the highest number of each species ever recorded in a Montreal CBC, and the year that the record count occurred.

Species	No. of Birds Seen	Record No. of Birds	Record Count Year
Snow Goose	16	251	113
Canada Goose	1300	4184	112
Gadwall	31	115	103
American Black Duck	46	1575	54
Mallard	639	3,835	99
Northern Pintail	1	217	79
Canvasback	1	12	102
Redhead	4	5	82
Ring-necked Duck	1	50	113
Greater Scaup	1,425	1,425	116
Lesser Scaup	100	1,502	100
White-winged Scoter	1	37	38
Bufflehead	2	5	102
Common Goldeneye	287	2,423	60
Barrow's Goldeneye	3	5	112
Hooded Merganser	92	106	113
Common Merganser	154	1,316	87
Common Loon	1	7	112
Double-crested Cormorant	1	75	106
Great Blue Heron	2	6	94
Northern Harrier	1	7	93
Cooper's Hawk	9	14	115

Species	No. of Birds Seen	Record No. of Birds	Record Count Year
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	116
Red-tailed Hawk	10	28	113
Rough-legged Hawk	2	32	65
Ring-billed Gull	665	8,260	102
Herring Gull	112	9,731	91
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	3	94
Great Black-backed Gull	85	1,839	87
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	1,282	4,816	98
Mourning Dove	53	253	96
Eastern Screech-Owl	15	15	116
Snowy Owl	5	10	65
Barred Owl	1	4	111
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	3	115
Downy Woodpecker	62	143	111
Hairy Woodpecker	16	70	108
Northern Flicker	8	8	116
Pileated Woodpecker	13	18	115
American Kestrel	1	23	94
Merlin	4	10	111
Peregrine Falcon	5	6	107
Blue Jay	22	64	111
American Crow	453	9,149	111

Species	No. of Birds Seen	Record No. of Birds	Record Count Year
Common Raven	10	150	82
Black-capped Chickadee	534	876	111
Tufted Titmouse	3	8	111
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	12	111
White-breasted Nuthatch	106	146	115
Brown Creeper	16	39	86
Carolina Wren	2	5	111
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	36	103
Hermit Thrush	2	2	116
American Robin	268	1,064	101
Northern Mockingbird	1	5	91
European Starling	1,556	14,000	71
Bohemian Waxwing	4	1417	86
Cedar Waxwing	11	210	71
Snow Bunting	2	740	71
Common Yellowthroat	cw	1	102
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	3	80
American Tree Sparrow	13	170	103
Dark-eyed Junco	57	175	113
White-throated Sparrow	7	29	115
Song Sparrow	5	31	89
Northern Cardinal	118	204	111
House Finch	119	421	96

Species	No. of Birds Seen	Record No. of Birds	Record Count Year
Purple Finch	3	45	51
American Goldfinch	185	439	109
House Sparrow	932	2,794	96



Bohemian Waxwing © 2016 Chuck Kling



CHUCK KLING 2016

Cedar Waxwing © 2016 Chuck Kling

## Notes of Interest

Total Individuals 10,894

Total Species Reported 69

cw = Reported during count week

A compilation gathering was held at the Montreal West Curling Club following the count. Approximately 35 people attended the event. The food was supplied by Bird Protection Quebec. Thank you to all who participated in this important citizen science project.

# Trip to Île-Verte 2016

by Clémence Soulard and Jean Demers

This spring we are once again organizing a trip to Île-Verte. This island is situated on the St-Lawrence River off L'Isle Verte, east of Rivière-du-Loup and Cacouna. We will stay three nights and have all of our meals at the only motel on the island, Entre-deux Marées.



BPQ Trip to Île-Verte © Helen Kohler 2014

Usually, we see 80 to 90 species during our trips. These include seabirds, such as Common Eider and Brant, shorebirds and passerines, which we can view right from the motel. There are a few marshes and extensive woods, with a great variety of vegetation. These are rich in bird life. We can walk right up to the other side of the island to check the rocky shore for gulls and possibly some surprise species. At the east end of the island “le bout d'en bas” you can see the dunes of Tadoussac.



Île-Verte © Helen Kohler 2014

The date of the trip will be set after the ferry schedule is published in late March or early April. Reservations open on April 15. We can have a maximum of three cars and a total of twelve people. So, we will carpool for the ferry crossing and island stay. The cost is approximately \$230.00 per person. This includes the ferry, all meals, and three nights at the motel. Clémence and I pay the same price. We take no kickbacks for organizing.

For more information about the island, visit: <http://www.ileverte-tourisme.com/>

If you are interested, please e-mail us at: [jd030824@gmail.com](mailto:jd030824@gmail.com). Then, make your payments to us and we will pay for everything. We need your reply as soon as possible. The motel is very busy at this time of the year. We need to reserve the motel at the latest the first week of March.

# **Bird Protection Quebec Winter 2016 Monday Night Lectures**

## **Are Birds Sensitive to Environmental Pollution?**

**A Presentation by Jessica Head**

**Monday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Kensington Presbyterian Church  
6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG**

Jessica Head will talk about environmental pollution and its effects on birds.

Dr. Jessica Head is an assistant professor in Natural Resource Sciences (Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences) at McGill University.

She is an ecotoxicologist with expertise in avian and molecular toxicology. Her career has taken her through laboratories in industry (Pharmaceutical), academia (McGill, University of Ottawa, University of Michigan) and government (Environment Canada, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).



Dr. Jessica Head

# Cognition in Cowbirds

A Presentation by Mélanie Guigueno



Dr. Mélanie Guigueno

**Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Kensington Presbyterian Church**  
**6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG**

Mélanie Guigueno will talk about cognition in cowbirds: She will discuss the question: “Do females have better spatial memory than males?”

Mélanie Guigueno, postdoctoral fellow, Natural Resource Sciences (Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences), McGill University.

Dr. Mélanie Guigueno completed a BSc (Honours) in zoology and an MSc at the University of Manitoba with theses studying cowbirds from the perspective of their hosts. She then completed a PhD at University of Western Ontario studying cowbirds themselves. Her main interests are behaviour, cognition and neuroscience.



Waxwing © 2016 Chuck Kling

# Calling All Canadian Birders – Let's Have Some Fun



Cedar Waxwing © 2016 Chuck Kling

Next year, 2017, marks the centenary of Bird Protection Quebec. There will be a lot of events happening in the year (as you will soon learn). In addition to all the local events, we are inviting all Canadian birders, wherever they might live, to join us in having some celebratory fun. This is an advance notice and an invitation, without any commitment, to you to register an interest so we can keep in touch with you.

We invite everyone to take part in a little competitive birding by entering some fun birding challenges. We are very aware that birding conditions vary from region to region, so we will be levelling the playing field by looking for winners in *each* province or territory as well as overall Canadian winners.

This will also be a unique opportunity to engage the public in birding, even if only cheering from the sidelines, and also to encourage novice birders to compete against the best we have. The challenges will be in the following categories. Note that, as a conservation charity, we are emphasizing Green Birding:

For experienced birders – a **Green Big Day**. The count period must be completed *entirely* using self-powered means of transport – no cars etc. at any time at all. Walking, cycling, boats etc. are all permitted. It is accepted that teams may use a car to get to and from the starting point *only*, but no further, and may not use the vehicle again until their count period has ended. They must travel together in one vehicle.

For everyone, whatever their birding skills, whatever their age - a **Big Foot Hour (aka: Sasquatch Hour)** - count the species seen or heard while walking for just one hour, any time of day.

**My Birding Year** - a form of achievable-for-most people, relaxed Big Year. Green birding rules apply, but all that is asked is that when people go for a walk or a cycle ride from home they keep a list of the birds they see. You can do it very competitively or just as and when the fancy takes you. To keep the playing field level it is not proposed to offer major prizes for this challenge (beyond publicity and recognition) but to seek to involve everyone in Canada in keeping a record of what they see on their local patches during the year. We will be overjoyed if any records are broken, and encourage all to have a go, but that is not the primary objective. **Note:** Big Days and Big Foot Hours can be attempted in either the spring migration months (May-June) or the fall period (September - October)

At the moment we are inviting birders to **register an early interest** so that we can keep you up to date with planning for the 2017 challenges - there is no commitment requested yet, but if you would like to know more please follow this [link](#) (or e-mail us at [greenbirding@gmail.com](mailto:greenbirding@gmail.com)). Give us your name, location and an e-mail address so that we can make sure you receive full details. It's a year away, but you cannot start scouting and planning too early.

Celebrate 100 years of Bird Protection Quebec when **Canada Goes Birding**  
**We look forward to hearing from you**

## 2017 BPQ Photo Challenge

In 2017, Bird Protection Quebec will be celebrating its 100th anniversary! From September 2015 to August 2016 we are looking for your bird photos. Each month our panel of reviewers will pick out one favourite and that photo will be included in the 2017 BPQ 100 Year Anniversary Calendar.

For information and guidelines about the Photo Challenge, contact Mathias Mutzl at [mathias.mutzl@gmail.com](mailto:mathias.mutzl@gmail.com) or [bpqphotochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:bpqphotochallenge@gmail.com)

## Défi Photo 2017 de POQ

Au cours de l'année 2017 Protection des Oiseaux du Québec célébrera son 100ième anniversaire. De septembre 2015 jusqu'au mois d'août 2016 nous cherchons vos meilleures photos d'oiseaux. Chaque mois notre panel d'évaluateurs choisira la photo qu'ils jugeront la meilleure et elle sera ajoutée à notre calendrier 2017, l'année de notre centenaire.

Pour toute information et les règles de soumission pour notre défi photo, veuillez contacter Mathias Mutzl à : [mathias.mutzl@gmail.com](mailto:mathias.mutzl@gmail.com) ou [bpqphotochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:bpqphotochallenge@gmail.com)

## Winners / Les Gagnants

- **September / Septembre:** Suzanne, Labbé, Montreal, Quebec
- **October / Octobre:** Tom Kingsbury, Pointe Claire Quebec
- **November / Novembre:** Julie Tremblay, Pointe Claire, Quebec
- **December / Decembre :** Pierre Bannon, Montreal, Quebec
- **January / Janvier :** Paul Shay, Montreal, Quebec

## Logo Winner

Bird Protection Quebec's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the anniversary logo. Richard Gregson has won two tickets to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner that will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Congratulations Richard!

The committee has been hard at work since 2015 and we welcome your input. Committee members include: Marie-France Boudreault, Jean Demers, Gay Gruner, Alison Hackney, Sheldon Harvey, Sharon Hayden, Phyllis Holtz, Barbara MacDuff, Mat Mutzl, and Bonnie Soutar.



New logo for the BPQ Centenary designed by Richard Gregson

Stay up-to-date with our Centenary events by visiting our new Web page: <http://pqspb.org/bpqpoq/100-years/>

# Boreal Birds Need Half

by Alison Hackney



On January 6th, Bird Protection Quebec's Board of Directors voted to endorse Boreal Songbirds Initiative's Boreal Birds Need Half campaign.

The boreal forest covers 1.5 billion acres, stretching from Alaska to Newfoundland. 85 percent of it is in Canada which means that Canadian birders and others interested in conservation have both a special responsibility and a special opportunity.

The boreal forest constitutes 25 percent of the world's remaining intact forest – more than the Amazon. Even though about 80 percent is still fairly untouched, more than 30 percent is allocated to current or future development.

For example, *Matériaux Blanchet*, one of Quebec's largest independent forestry companies, proposes to build a road of more than 150 kilometres into relatively untouched wilderness and through sensitive habitat for caribou to reach a huge leasehold.

Although vast, the boreal is very vulnerable. "Canada is number one in the world for the total area of loss of intact forest landscapes since 2000," according to Peter Lee of Forest Watch Canada.

More than half of all bird species in Canada and the U.S. breed or migrate through the boreal forest or its wetlands. Two iconic species, the Canada Warbler and the Rusty Blackbird, have suffered dramatic population declines.

Based on recent conservation science, the Boreal Birds Need Half campaign seeks to persuade politicians, indigenous people, industry representatives and other decision makers to reserve half of the ecosystem for conservation and use the other half in a *sustainable* way. The campaign is not proposing a prescription but rather a framework agreement. Details of exactly what parts of the boreal will be preserved are to be based on scientific work. What is urgent now is to get a policy agreement.

Prestigious organizations that endorse the campaign include Bird Studies Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Pew Charitable Trusts, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Audubon, Nature Canada, American Bird Conservancy, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Swarovski, Zeiss, and Eagle Optics.

Please go to the BSI web site ([www.borealbirds.org](http://www.borealbirds.org)) to learn more about this initiative and the fascinating birds of the boreal forest .

# Observing Owls and Birding Ethics

by Jane Cormack



Eastern Screech Owl © 2016 Chuck Kling

Coming across an owl in the woods, especially when it is unexpected, is one of the highlights of winter birding. Migratory species, such as Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Snowy Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, and Boreal Owl descend into our area in the fall and winter. Other species, such as Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Barred Owl, can be seen year-round, but are more easily seen when there are fewer leaves on the trees. They appeal to our emotions and captivate our imaginations. However, owls are sensitive and more easily disturbed than many other bird species. The majority of northern owls that move south are first-year birds forced to leave the more northern territories by the resident adults. The mortality of these birds is already very, very high.

At the same time, birdwatching and bird photography are becoming increasingly popular and it is becoming much easier to share information and find out where owls and other rare birds are being sighted. When there are a lot of people looking at an owl, there are always a few people who exhibit less than exemplary behaviour.

Many stories are circulating about owls being disturbed and even driven out of nesting and feeding habitats.

Talking too loudly, getting too close, moving branches, and using artificial lights and excessive calls can disturb birds to the point that they are not getting the rest they need to hunt during the night. These stresses cause them to lose the heat that they conserve while they are fluffed up and asleep.

While we would like to encourage more people to get out and enjoy looking at wild birds and their habitats, BPQ feels strongly that it should do its best to actively target all improper behaviour that puts owls and other birds at risk. Although photographers receive almost all the negative press, this type of behaviour is by no means practised by all photographers or limited to photographers alone.



Snowy Owl © 2014 Chuck Kling



Long-eared Owl Observing a Pileated Woodpecker © 2016 Chuck Kling

Various organizations have asked their members not to share the exact location of owls until the end of the season or at least a couple of weeks later. eBird has an option for hiding the location of a sighting for a period of time.

While this strategy may be somewhat effective, there will always be those who will find the location of the bird and feel entitled to act as they see fit.

We cannot change everyone, but we can all do something to educate the public and sensitize them to the dangers of such activities as cutting branches or shaking trees where owls are roosting, getting too close, staying too long to look at a sleeping bird, leaving established paths, or crossing private property to pursue a bird.

It is important to respect the following guidelines:

- Learn about the species you are photographing and observing
- Pay attention to the well-being of birds and other animals.
- Maintain a respectful distance:
  - If the bird flies away or exhibits any other change in behaviour, you are too close.
- If you do cause an owl to fly, do not pursue it.
- Speak softly if at all.
- Do not linger too long in front of a nesting or sleeping bird.
- Obtain permission to enter private property in advance.
- Stay on trails and do not remove branches or vegetation.
- Try and give something back to the local community:
  - Get lunch in town, stop and have a coffee. Get the locals to appreciate birdwatchers.

If you witness any disturbing behaviour, please contact us by e-mail at [birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com).

# Upcoming Field Trips

## Trip Advice

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

**Online calendar:** Consult the website as well.

**Questions:** Contact the trip Guide or post a message on the Song Sparrow e-mail group.

**Cancellations:** Trips are rarely cancelled, but check the BPQ website, just in case. Contact the trip Guide when the weather is extreme.

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

## De rigueur pour les excursions

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

**Questions/informations:** Téléphonnez au responsable ou contactez le groupe courriel Song Sparrow.

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

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

## Saturday, February 20 – samedi 20 février Snowshoe Outing in Morgan Arboretum (Note: Snowshoes Required / Raquettes requises)

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

**Guide:** Richard Gregson [sparroworks@gmail.com](mailto:sparroworks@gmail.com)

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

**8:00 a.m.** Something Different! We will use snowshoes to explore areas of the Morgan Arboretum not usually accessible in summer. Expect a 5 km hike with numerous stops to listen for birds. Looking for winter forest species including woodpeckers, raptors and with luck an owl.

From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members. Half day.

**8h00.** Quelque chose de différent, nous utiliserons des raquettes pour explorer des endroits qui ne sont pas normalement accessibles durant la période estivale. Attendez-vous à une randonnée de cinq kilomètres avec de fréquents arrêts pour écouter les oiseaux. Nous serons à la recherche d'oiseaux d'hiver, espèces forestières qui incluent les pics, rapaces et avec un peu de chance une chouette.

De Montréal de l'autoroute 40 Ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et garder la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins et continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée.**

## Saturday, February 27 - samedi 27 février Mirabel - Lachute Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/EZHf7Yfai8H2> (meeting place)

**Guide:** Frédéric Hareau [fredhareau1@yahoo.ca](mailto:fredhareau1@yahoo.ca)

514-805-8491 (cell phone on the day of the trip only – cellulaire pour la sortie seulement)

**8:00 a.m.** From Montreal, take Highway 15 north, and then exit 31. We will meet at the Petro Canada station, just east of highway 15, at exit 31. Count 25 minutes from crossroads between highways 15 and 40 in Montreal.

We will explore a diversity of habitats in the area between Mirabel and Lachute. We will start with the fields near Mirabel which are known for Snowy Owls, Gray Partridges and Snow Buntings among others. We will then visit more wooded areas as well as a landfill where gulls, including Glaucous and Iceland Gulls concentrate. For people interested in extending the field trip, we will have lunch in Lachute and then visit diverse habitats in the afternoon, including woodlands, open fields and feeders looking for raptors, redpolls and other winter visitors. It will be a driving trip, with several short walks. **Half day with possibility to extend it in the afternoon for those interested.**

**8h00.** De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 15 nord, puis la sortie 31. Nous nous rencontrerons à la station Pétro-Canada, juste à l'est de l'autoroute 15, sortie 31. Compter 25 minutes depuis le croisement entre la 15 et la 40 à Montréal.

Nous allons explorer une diversité d'habitats dans la région entre Mirabel et Lachute. Nous explorerons tout d'abord les champs de Mirabel qui sont connus pour le harfang des neiges, les perdrix grises et passereaux hivernaux. Nous allons ensuite visiter les zones boisées ainsi qu'un site d'enfouissement où les goélands, y compris les goélands bourgmestres et arctiques, se concentrent. Pour les personnes intéressées à poursuivre la sortie, nous dinerons à Lachute et visiterons ensuite divers habitats dans l'après-midi : habitats forestiers, champs et mangeoires à la recherche des rapaces, des passereaux hivernaux et d'autres visiteurs. La sortie s'effectuera principalement en voiture, avec plusieurs courtes marches. **Demi-journée avec possibilité de prolonger dans l'après-midi pour les personnes intéressées.**

## **Saturday, March 5 - samedi 5 mars Hudson**

<https://goo.gl/maps/z9UtA>

Guide: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222 [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca)

**8:00 a.m.** Meet at the CPR station on Wharf Street in Hudson. Highway 40, take exit 22 onto Côte St. Charles north, right on Main Street, left on Wharf Street. Looking for winter finches and early migrants. **Half day.**

**8h00.** Rassemblement à la gare C.P. sur la rue Wharf, à Hudson. Prendre l'autoroute 40, sortie 22, et tourner à droite sur la Côte St-Charles nord. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Main et tourner à droite sur celle-ci. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Wharf puis tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et migrants hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

## **Saturday, March 12 – samedi 12 mars Parc-nature du Bois-de-Liesse**

<https://goo.gl/maps/Z7gh3>

Guide: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498 Cell 514-774-0811 (Morning of trip only)

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

**8:00 a.m.** Meet at the south entrance. Take Henri Bourassa exit 60 off Highway 40 west. Stay on the north service road west to Henri Bourassa Boulevard (approx. 2 km). Exit east on Henri Bourassa Blvd. Almost immediately turn left onto rue Douglas-B-Floreani. Drive to the end of the street. Parking: \$9.00. Looking for winter finches and early migrants. **Half day.**

**8h00.** Rassemblement à l'entrée sud. Prendre la sortie # 60 Henri-Bourassa de l'autoroute 40 ouest. Demeurer sur la voie de service nord vers l'ouest jusqu'au boulevard Henri-Bourassa (environ 2 km). Prendre la sortie est du boulevard Henri Bourassa. Presqu'immédiatement, tourner à gauche sur la rue Douglas-B-Floreani et se rendre au bout de la rue. Stationnement : 9,00\$ Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et migrants hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday, March 19 - samedi 19 mars**  
**Secteur-Bois-de-l'Heritage (Parc-Nature-Pointe-aux-Prairies)**

<https://goo.gl/maps/IX3e>

Guide: Joël Coutu 438-930-5092 [fauconbleu65@hotmail.com](mailto:fauconbleu65@hotmail.com)

**8:00 a.m.** Take Boul. Métropolitain (Highway 40) east toward the northeast end of Montreal Island. Exit at Henri-Bourassa and travel east to Sherbrooke Street. Turn left (northeast) on Sherbrooke and proceed approximately 1.2 km to Ave. Yves-Thériault and turn left (northwest). Follow Ave. Yves-Thériault as it turns right then left to the corner of Jovette-Bernier. The park is across the street. If you don't have a parking permit for the nature parks, parking is available on the streets in this area. Meet at the Chalet. The park has a variety of habitats. Looking for feeder birds, winter finches, and early spring migrants. Owls have been seen in the past. **Half day.**

**8h00.** Prendre Boul. Métropolitain (autoroute 40) direction est vers l'extrémité nord de l'île de Montréal. Prendre la sortie Henri-Bourassa et continuer vers l'est jusqu'à la rue Sherbrooke. Tourner à gauche (nord-est) sur la rue Sherbrooke et continuer environ 1,2 km jusqu'à l'avenue Yves-Thériault et tourner à gauche (nord-ouest). Suivre l'avenue Yves-Thériault qui tourne à droite puis à gauche au coin de Jovette-Bernier. Le parc est de l'autre côté de la rue. Le stationnement est disponible dans les rues du voisinage. Le lieu de rendez-vous sera au Chalet. Le parc a une variété d'habitats. Nous serons à la recherche d'oiseaux de mangeoires et de nos granivores hivernaux et migrants hâtifs. Des hiboux ont été observés dans ce parc dans le passé. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday, March 26 - Samedi 26 mars**  
**Spontaneous Late Winter Outing - Location To Be Determined**

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Late winter is an interesting but unpredictable time for birding as early, 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 Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

La fin de l'hiver est un moment intéressant mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux ; des migrateurs précoces, tardifs ou des visiteurs rares peuvent 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 signalée 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.

**Saturday, April 2 - samedi 2 avril**  
**Parc des Rapides, LaSalle, and Verdun Waterfront**

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

Guide: Diane Demers 514-961-3051 [ddemers03@hotmail.com](mailto:ddemers03@hotmail.com)

**8:00 a.m.** Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle Blvd and 6th Avenue in Ville LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Blvd). Take Hwy 20 to the Blvd de la Vérendrye exit. Heading west on de la Vérendrye, turn left onto the Stephens Street Bridge that crosses the Aqueduct. Follow this street south to the waterfront on LaSalle Blvd. Turn right on LaSalle Blvd and follow it to the parking lot at the corner of 6th Avenue. Looking for waterfowl and early migrants. If there is enough time left, we will visit Angrignon Park or the woods at Nuns Island. Be prepared to drive. **Half day.**

**8h00.** Rassemblement dans le stationnement du Parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul. LaSalle et de la 6e avenue à ville LaSalle (juste à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power). Prendre l'autoroute 20 et prendre la sortie du boul. de la Vérendrye. Aller en direction ouest sur ce boul. À la rue Stephens, prendre le pont qui traverse le canal de l'Aqueduc. Continuer sur la rue Stephens jusqu'au boul. LaSalle, qui longe le fleuve. Tourner à droite sur

ce boul. et continuer jusqu'au stationnement situé au coin de la 6e avenue. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrateurs hâtifs. S'il reste suffisamment de temps nous visiterons le Parc Angrignon ou le boisé de l'île des Soeurs. Il faudra s'attendre à conduire. **Demi-journée.**

### **Saturday, April 9 - samedi 9 avril** **Parc-nature du Cap-St-jacques**

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

Guide: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498 514-774-0811(Cell – Morning of trip only) [wgrubert@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrubert@hotmail.com)

**8:00 a.m.** Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left onto Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd.). Continue for 2 km to the chalet d'accueil of the park. Parking: \$9.00. Half day.

**8h00.** Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 9,00 \$. Demi-journée.

### **Saturday, April 16 - samedi 16 avril** **Baie-du-Febvre**

<https://goo.gl/maps/VTQ2X>

Guides: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard 514-694-8240

[jd030824@gmail.com](mailto:jd030824@gmail.com)

**8:30 a.m.** Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie du Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie du Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left. Alternate route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. **All day.**

**8h30.** Rassemblement au poste d'observation (cache) situé le long de la route Janelle, à Baie-du-Febvre. On propose deux trajets. Premier trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 30 en direction est jusqu'à Sorel puis prendre la route 132 en direction est jusqu'à Baie-du-Febvre. Tourner à gauche sur la route Janelle, juste après l'intersection avec la rue principale. Deuxième trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 20 en direction est jusqu'à la sortie 185 située après Drummondville. A partir de cette sortie, prendre la route 255 en direction nord jusqu'à l'intersection avec la route 132. Tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Immédiatement après, tourner à droite sur la route Janelle. Durée du trajet : 1h30. À la recherche de milliers d'Oies des neiges, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et d'autres migrateurs. **Toute la journée.**

### **Thursday 21 April - jeudi 21 avril** **Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum**

Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.

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

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

Guide: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222 [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca)

**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. **Half day.**

**9h00 - 11h00.** De Montréal de l'autoroute 40 Ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et garder la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins et continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée**

## Saturday, April 23 - samedi 23 avril Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

<https://goo.gl/maps/JFpO4>

Guide: Mathias Mutzl 514-298-7090 [mathias.mutzl@gmail.com](mailto:mathias.mutzl@gmail.com)

**8:00 a.m.** Hwy 40; exit St. Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevremont; left (west) on Chevremont to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$9.00. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and migrating passerines. **Half day.**

**8h00.** De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevremont et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 9,00 \$. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces et passereaux en migration. **Demi-journée.**

## Thursday, April 28 – jeudi 28 avril Birding for Beginners – Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

<https://goo.gl/maps/JFpO4>

*Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.*

Guide: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222 [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca)

**9:00 a.m. - noon** Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevremont; left (west) on Chevremont to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$9.00.

**9h00 - 12h00.** De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevremont et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 9,00 \$.

## Saturday, April 30- samedi 30 avril Laval Cemetery and Tylee Marsh / Le Cimetière de Laval et Le Marais Tylee

<https://goo.gl/maps/7mRBHT4qE5L2>

<https://goo.gl/maps/4NxJ1mBcwsG2>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey 450-462-1459 [ve2shw@yahoo.com](mailto:ve2shw@yahoo.com)

**8:00 a.m.** Meet in the parking lot at the Laval Cemetery, 5505 rang du Bas-Saint-Francois, Laval, QC  
Driving Instructions: The following webpage will give you a map with various route possibilities for getting to the cemetery. <http://www.cimetierelaval.com/en/maps-and-directions/>

The cemetery is a very interesting location with a great mix of habitat. We will drive through it, stopping at a number of different spots to check out the birds. After completing the tour of the cemetery, we will travel in convoy to the Tylee Marsh at 202 chemin de la Grande-Cote in Rosemere. At the cemetery I will provide everyone with a map of the route from the cemetery to Tylee Marsh. Once there, we will walk the long, elevated boardwalk through the marsh and then take a couple of trails that lead down to the waterfront on the Mille-Iles River. **Half day.**

**8h00.** Rencontre au stationnement du cimetière Laval au 5505 rang des Bas-Saint-François à Laval. Les instructions pour se rendre se trouvent sur ce site internet : <http://www.cimetierelaval.com/en/maps-and-directions/> Il devrait vous donner les diverses options pour vous rendre. Le cimetière offre plusieurs endroits intéressants avec une variété d'habitats que nous

parcourrons en voiture. Après notre visite au cimetière, nous partirons en convoi pour nous diriger vers Tylee Marsh au 202 chemin de la Grande Côte à Rosemère. Au cimetière nous vous fournirons une carte de la route du cimetière au Tylee Marsh. Nous marcherons sur la passerelle élevée au travers du marais et prendrons quelques sentiers qui descendent sur le bord de la rivière des Mille-Îles. **Demi journée.**

### **Thursday, May 5 - jeudi 5 mai Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum**

*Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.*

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

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

Guide: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222 [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca)

**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. **Half day.**

**9h 00 - 11h00.** De Montréal de l'autoroute 40 Ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et garder la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins et continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée.**

### **Wood Warbler Walks at Summit Woods – Sorties ornithologiques au Boisé Sommet**

**Tuesday, April 26 and May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 7:00  
a.m. Mardi le 26 avril et tous les mardis de mai**

Guide: Jane Cormack 514 578-8249 [cormackjane@gmail.com](mailto:cormackjane@gmail.com)

Meet us at the Summit Circle Lookout. We are an informal group of BPQ members. All are welcome. It's a perfect start to a spring day. To reach Summit Circle, head north on Côte-des-Neiges. Turn left onto The Boulevard. Proceed to Ch. Belvedere and turn right. Drive up the steep hill on Ch. Belvedere to Summit Circle.

Vous êtes invités à vous joindre aux marches printanières avec un groupe amical des membres du POQ. C'est une belle façon de commencer une journée de printemps. Pour se rendre au Summit Circle, se diriger vers le nord sur Côte-des-Neiges. Tourner à gauche sur le Boulevard. Poursuivre jusqu'au Ch. Belvédère et tourner à droite. Monter la côte abrupte sur le Ch. Belvédère jusqu'à Summit Circle.

**These walks are dedicated to Jim Houghton. – Ces sorties  
sont dédiées à Jim Houghton.**