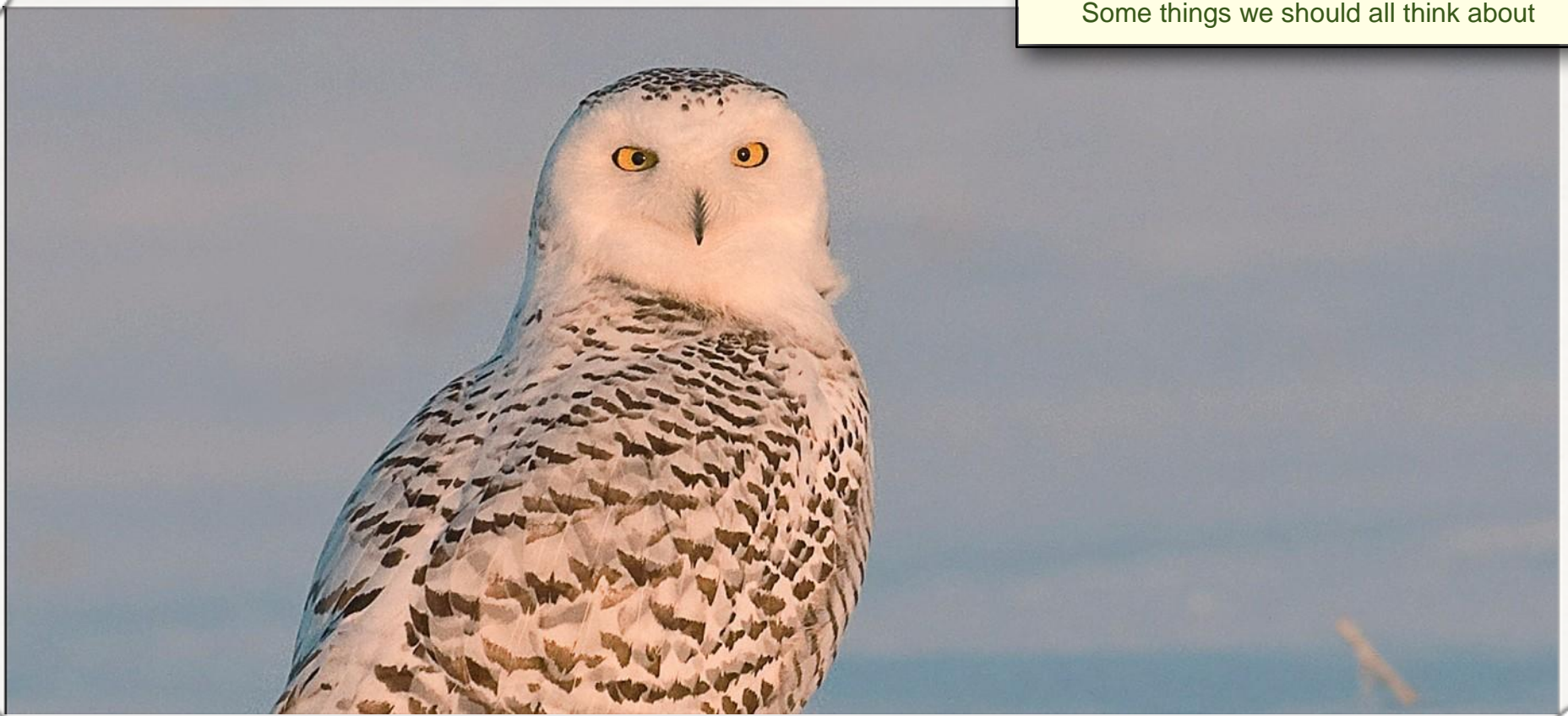


Song Sparrow

December 2012 - Vol. 55-3

Winter Birds

Ethical Winter Birding
Some things we should all think about



2 Winter Birding & Ethics
4 Do Better Optics Equal Better Birders?
6 Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux 2013
9 Sport around Montreal 1845
10 Bird Views/Parlons d'oiseaux
14 Christmas Bird Counts

15 Field Trip Reports
16 Field Trips for Jan/Feb 2013
18 Winter Birding Course
19 Coming Speakers
21 New Items for Sale
22 Calendar





Winter Birding and Ethics A Message from the Editor

Now that winter is approaching, the nights are getting longer and the first snow is clinging to ground, I (for one) am looking forward with anticipation to the arrival of my favourite winter birds, Snow Buntings, redpolls, crossbills, and most of all owls. . I have been lucky enough to have seen a number of Quebec species in the wild, including Snowy, Long-eared, Short-eared, Boreal, and Saw-whet Owls, not to mention a couple in East Africa, but more about those next month. With the long-awaited return of winter birds, my thoughts turn again to the ethics of winter birding. The practice of mousing, using bait to attract owls, has received a lot of press in the last several years.

Last year, at about this time, our Board of Directors and members of our Conservation Committee got together and discussed the subject, over a few e-mails. What sort of policy should BPQ adopt on this issue? What actions should we take? Our ideas covered a wide range of opinions and left us with more questions than answers.

On one side, there is the emotional appeal: In the words of one director: "Owls are incredibly charismatic and are often seen as representing the 'spirit' of the wilderness." Many people are inspired to protect them, to preserve their wildness, not to bring them in too close an association with humans. Laws now exist prohibiting not only baiting but using "... a substance, object, animal or domestic animal to attract or attempt to attract an animal..."

Technically, they argue, this law can be applied to any number of activities, such as operating birdfeeders, chumming to attract seabirds, calling in birds on a field trip or tour, or hand-feeding chickadees.

Others see no comparison between installing feeders to feed wild birds and mousing. They argue that baiting is being done for one reason only; to attract owls and have them put on displays. However, in many cases, the owls coming here from the north are in a



Great Gray Owl

Note - all the owl photos in this edition are by Chuck Kling

weakened state and having them swoop back and forth to attempt to get mice ends up burning up more of their strength and energy than the snack they might end up getting from the mouse. They are also putting owls in danger if they are mousing near busy roads and highways. We already have instances of owls being killed swooping over highways and being hit by cars.

The only potential danger of feeding birds using feeders is that the feeders will occasionally attract raptors such as merlins, sharpies and Coopers looking for an easy meal. The birds do not become dependent on the feeders. It is more the equivalent to us going out to a restaurant even though we have food at home in the refrigerator.

Those on the other side argue that while there are cases of owl mortality resulting from baiting near roads, the majority of northern owls that move south are first year birds that are forced to leave the more northern territories by the resident adults. The mortality of these birds is very, very high. There does not seem to be any research yet that shows that owls that are baited have a lower survivorship than owls that are not, or vice-versa.



Snowy Owl

Most likely, research would show, as studies of survivorship of birds at bird feeders have shown that the activity of baiting is survivor-neutral. There is an increase to survivorship because of the additional food but a reduction in survivorship due to increased predation, increased mortality due to collisions and an increase in the risk of disease. Without any research into the activity, a position against or in support of baiting has no scientific basis.

Nonetheless, while we would like to encourage more people to get out and enjoy looking at wild birds and their habitats, we feel strongly that BPQ should do its best to actively target all improper behaviour which 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. All birders and birdwatchers should practise ethical behaviour. We should all do our best to educate the public, sensitizing them to the dangers posed by such activities as cutting branches or shaking trees where owls are roosting, getting too close or staying too long to look at a sleeping bird, or leaving established paths or crossing marked, private property to pursue a bird, to. How close is too close? As exemplified by numerous signs posted around Bounday Bay, B.C., if the bird flies away, you're too close.

If you have ideas or questions on these issues, if you are aware of any research that supports one position over another, or if you witness behaviour, please contact us by e-mail at birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com.





A Director's Message: Does Better Optical Equipment Equal Better Birders by Wayne Grubert

I have a set of 25–five–year–old Bausch and Lomb binoculars that I still diligently carry around with me wherever I am birding either alone or on BPQ outings. The rest of the time they are stashed under my car seat near the empty potato chip bags and chocolate bar wrappers that I hide from my health-conscious wife. They lie there like a loyal dog within easy reach in case of a sudden birding emergency. I try to think of them as my ultimate weapon in the conservation battle to preserve avian life because over the last two decades they have singlehandedly doubled the population of every species of bird in my area. But alas, it may simply be that the prisms are out of alignment after too many combined cases of fumble fingers and unfortunately situated rocky outcroppings. So I am in the market for a new set but as with many other consumer products in our modern world I am finding the vast array of brands, prices, quality and specifications slightly overwhelming.

Recently, as I was surfing from website to website researching various brands and models in an attempt to narrow down my possible choices, I began to wonder if the superb quality of modern optics has in fact made us better birders or lazier birders. There is no doubt that the image sharpness, colour retention and light-gathering ability of even moderately priced modern binoculars has made it much easier to see distinguishing characteristics. The differing colour patterns on the tertial feathers of our two juvenile dowitcher species become more evident. Whether that distant tern's bill is all red or has a smidgen of black near the tip is now easier to observe. And who among us has not marvelled at the incredibly-detailed pictures being taken by modern nature photographers with their new equipment. Granted, the world of digital photography has given them the ability to fire off hundreds of shots without the worry of going into bankruptcy over the cost of film, but the lenses still have to deliver the product and there is no doubt the product is amazing in its quality.

Still, just as some purists say that the "art" of photography has been compromised by the advent of digital cameras, I occasionally find myself wondering if the all-around art of bird identification is being narrowed in its focus. I especially worry about this with the novice birders who have never known the "joy" of looking for extra identity

clues when one barrel of your bins has fogged over on a rainy November morning. Have we become so reliant on seeing a particular feather pattern that we miss all the other clues that might help in clinching an ID? Such features as flight patterns, habitat, behaviour, diet and inter- and intraspecific relations with other birds and animal life can not only assist us in this regard but also take us beyond the world of simply listing the birds we see to actually understanding their relationships with their environment. If we truly wish to conserve birds then this all encompassing knowledge is more important than simply ticking off a rarity on a checklist. There is also no doubt that it is more fulfilling and more enjoyable.

So, by all means, use those high-quality optics to enjoy the exquisite feather patterns of our avian friends. Take advantage of their ability to distinguish the colour pattern of the undertail coverts of that confusing fall warbler playing hide and seek in the oak tree. But sometimes, just sometimes, put them down and simply observe, enjoy and learn from the "big picture."

All this being said, I think I am closing in on a decision regarding my next set of bins.... Now what about that old Minolta X700 camera stowed away in some unknown cupboard or that 30-year-old scope rolling around in the trunk of the car.

Wayne Grubert is a BPQ board member. He has co-Chaired the Field Trips Committee since 1996 and has served on the Nomination, Awards and Bluebird Trails Committees. He enjoys leading trips for the group and helping novices discover the joys of birding.

Est-ce que de l'équipement d'optique plus sophistiqué fait de meilleurs ornithologues?

par Wayne Grubert



J'ai une paire de jumelles Baush&Lomb de vingt-cinq ans que j'apporte avec diligence partout où je vais. Ne soit-ce seul ou lors d'excursions avec POQ. Le reste du temps, elles sont planquées sous mon siège d'auto parmi les sacs de chips vides et les emballages de tablettes de chocolat que je cache de ma femme qui est soucieuse de ma santé. Elles se trouvent là comme un chien fidèle à porté de main en cas d'urgence d'observation des oiseaux. J'essaie de penser à elles comme mon arme ultime dans la bataille de conservation pour préserver la vie

aviaire parce qu'au cours des deux dernières décennies, elles ont doublé à elles seules la population de toutes les espèces d'oiseaux dans ma région. Il se peut simplement que les prismes soient hors d'alignement après les avoir échappées plusieurs fois. Donc, je suis sur le marché pour une nouvelle paire de jumelles, mais comme pour beaucoup d'autres produits de consommation dans notre monde moderne, je trouve le vaste éventail de marques, de prix, de qualité et de caractéristiques vraiment accablantes.

Mais récemment, alors que je naviguais sur l'internet afin de trouver quelques modèles pouvant convenir à mon loisir, j'ai commencé à me demander si la superbe qualité de l'optique moderne a en effet fait de nous de meilleurs ornithologues amateurs ou est-ce qu'elle nous a rendu plus paresseux. Il n'y a aucun doute que la netteté de l'image, la résolution des couleurs et de la grande captation de lumière, même pour les jumelles à prix modéré, a rendu les moindres caractéristiques beaucoup plus facile à distinguer. Les différentes couleurs des plumes tertiaires de nos deux espèces de bécassin immatures deviennent plus évidentes. La couleur du bout du bec des sternes au loin est maintenant plus facile à observer. Et qui d'entre nous n'a pas admiré les photos incroyablement détaillées prises par les photographes modernes avec leur nouvel équipement. Certes, le monde de la photographie numérique leur a donné la possibilité de déclencher des centaines de photos sans vous soucier de faire faillite sur le coût du film, mais les lentilles doivent encore livrer le produit et il n'y a aucun doute que la qualité du produit est étonnante.

Mais, tout comme certains puristes disent que «l'art» de la photographie a été compromis par l'avènement des appareils photos numériques, je me demande si l'art de l'identification des oiseaux est aussi compromis avec toute cette technologie. Je m'inquiète des ornithologues débutants qui n'ont jamais connu la "joie" de faire la recherche d'indices d'identifications supplémentaires lorsqu'une partie des jumelles s'embue lors d'une matinée pluvieuse en novembre. Sommes-nous devenus si dépendants d'utiliser qu'un seul critère d'identification sur quelques plumes que nous manquons tous les autres indices qui pourraient nous aider à identifier une espèce? Des caractéristiques telles que le type de vol, l'habitat, le comportement, l'alimentation et les relations inter et intra-spécifiques avec d'autres espèces peuvent non seulement nous aider à cet égard, mais aussi nous emmener au-delà du monde de la simple énumération des oiseaux observés et nous aider à comprendre leurs relations avec leur environnement. Si nous voulons vraiment protéger les oiseaux, une connaissance globale est plus importante que de simplement cocher une rareté sur une liste. Il n'y a aucun doute que cette démarche est plus gratifiante et plus agréable.

Donc, utilisez de l'optique de haute qualité pour profiter des magnifiques motifs de plumes de nos amis les oiseaux. Profitez de leur capacité à distinguer les couleurs des caudales des parulines d'automne lorsqu'elles jouent à cache-cache dans les arbres. Mais de temps en temps, mettez-les de côté afin d'observer les oiseaux en toute simplicité, afin d'apprécier et apprendre ce qu'une observation globale peut vous enseigner.

Tout cela étant dit, je pense que je suis très près d'avoir fait mon choix pour ma prochaine paire de jumelles.... Maintenant, que dire de ce vieil appareil photo Minolta X700 rangé au fond d'une armoire ou de la vieille lunette de repérage qui est dans le coffre de la voiture....



GRAND DÉFI QUÉBECOISEAUX 2013

Direction Philipsburg pour l'équipe des Binoculaires!



Équipe Les Binoculaires : Patrick Laniel (32 ans) et Maxime Carbonneau (30 ans)

• Années d'expérience aviaire ensemble : 10 ans

• Projets déjà effectués : inventaires pour l'Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec, pour le Programme de surveillance des marais, pour le programme de suivi des hiboux et des chouettes, pour l'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de McGill, pour SOS-POP, pour CIME Haut-Richelieu, pour le Recensement annuel de Harfangs des neiges au Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean et, bien sûr, pour le plaisir!

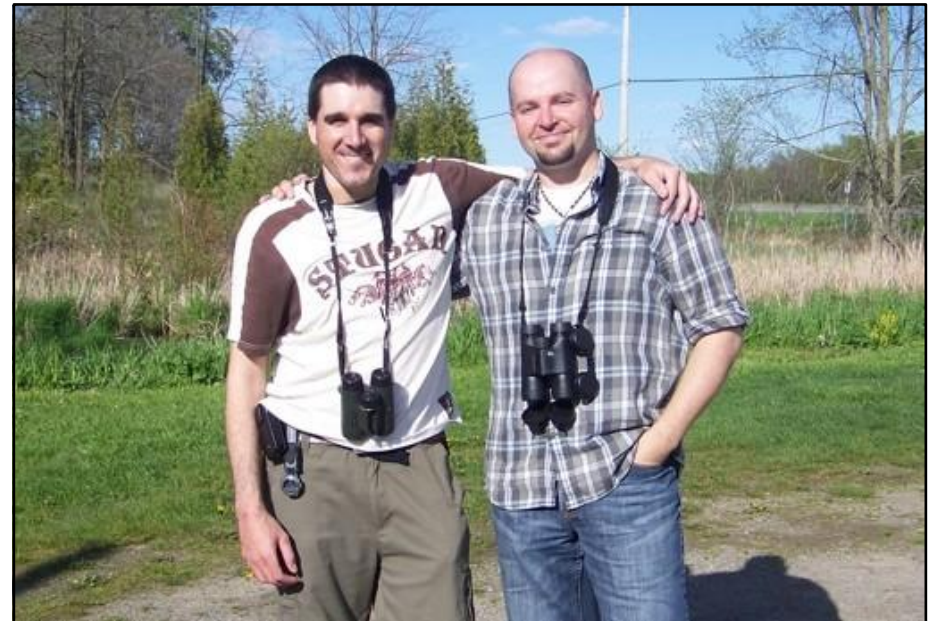
- Date du Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux 2013 : à compter de 18h00 le 10 mai et se terminant à 18h00 le 11 mai (24 heures)
- ENDROIT SÉLECTIONNÉ ET AUTORISÉ : le Sanctuaire George H. Montgomery

Au cours du week-end du 24 heures de science, au Québec, un événement hors de l'ordinaire a lieu : le Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux (GDQO). Organisé par le Regroupement QuébecOiseaux (RQO), cette activité qui attire de plus en plus d'adeptes depuis 2 ans dans la province permet de « sensibiliser la population à l'observation et à la conservation des oiseaux, d'amasser des fonds dédiés à la conservation des oiseaux au Québec et d'offrir aux ornithologues une occasion de confronter leurs connaissances dans le cadre d'une compétition amicale. » Les équipes participantes doivent recenser à la vue et à l'oreille, en 24 heures, le plus grand nombre d'espèces aviaires. Évidemment, l'endroit choisi est déterminant dans le but d'atteindre cet objectif. C'est pourquoi moi et Maxime avons décidé de cibler un milieu humide très près d'une forêt mature. À vrai dire, nous avons déjà parlé du Sanctuaire George H. Montgomery durant la longue nuit du dernier GDQO que nous avons réalisé à la Réserve nationale de faune du lac Saint-François, à Dundee (71 espèces dont le Mésangeai du Canada, le Petit-duc maculé, la Grue du Canada, le Goglu des prés, l'Hirondelle noire et le Pygargue à tête blanche). L'équipe victorieuse en 2012 a réussi à noter 101 espèces.

C'est avec joie que Dr. Richard Gregson, président de POQ, a accepté de nous laisser effectuer le GDQO 2013 à Philipsburg, sur un territoire que je considère personnellement comme étant l'un des 2 plus riches du Québec d'un point de vue biologique. Évidemment, les Binoculaires visent les 80 espèces avec des mentions telles que la Mésange bicolore, le Pic à ventre roux, la Paruline du Canada, le Pygargue à tête blanche, le Dindon sauvage et la Grue du Canada, elle qui pourrait s'établir à l'étang Streit en raison de l'habitat et de la nourriture qui sont très semblables à ceux de Dundee.

ENCOURAGEZ-NOUS ET AIDEZ LA FAUNE AILÉE! Vous pouvez donner le montant d'argent de votre choix pour nous encourager dans cette aventure tout en aidant Protection des Oiseaux du Québec à travers vos dons! En fait, 50% du montant total amassé par les Binoculaires seront donnés au RQO et l'autre moitié sera versée à POQ. Pour le moment, la page web du RQO pour les dons en ligne du GDQO 2013 n'est pas encore disponible. Comme les Binoculaires aident à leur manière l'environnement, nous espérons que vous ferez vos dons via internet, ce qui enrayerait l'utilisation de papier. Après tout, les Parulines azurées du sanctuaire d'oiseaux George H. Montgomery ont bien besoin d'arbres matures pour nidifier!

Pour connaître tous les développements du GDQO 2013 et de l'équipe des Binoculaires (qui pourrait s'agrandir jusqu'à 4 membres),



demeurez à l'affût de notre page Facebook spécialement conçue pour l'événement : <http://goo.gl/oFsU4> ou visitez la page web du RQO au <http://goo.gl/Aswmt> .

En 2013, plus de 80 équipes sont attendues pour ce défi ornithologique de taille qui réunit autant les débutants que les experts. Certaines équipes effectuent ce défi à partir de leur cour arrière, d'autres sont plus compétitives et recherchent les endroits qui offrent une biodiversité très riche avec une multitude d'habitats en un même lieu. Notez que vous pouvez visiter les équipes sur place le jour même et que vous pouvez donner des sous également. Pour connaître l'emplacement exact des Binoculaires, suivez-nous sur notre page Facebook en appuyant sur J'AIME! Pour l'instant, c'est plutôt l'Avicourse 2012-2013 qui cogne à nos portes (recensement d'oiseaux au Québec entre le 1er décembre et le 1er mars). Alors, soyez curieux, ouvrez l'œil jusqu'au printemps et qui sait, peut-être nous croiserons-nous sur le chemin lors d'une observation de Pie-grièche grise, en plein mois de janvier, sur la plaine du mont Rigaud?

Les oiseaux sont toujours présents peu importe la saison et sont des animaux fascinants à détecter, admirer et comprendre. Prenez le temps de sortir à l'extérieur ne serait-ce que pour les écouter chanter ou crier. Vous y découvrirez un répertoire audible digne de Mozart!

Au nom de la faune ailée et des aires de conservation, merci de donner pour une nature que l'on s'efforce de protéger pour les yeux et les oreilles des générations futures!

Patrick Laniel et Maxime Carbonneau, techniciens en milieu naturel diplômés du Cégep de Saint-Félicien et ornithologues ferrés.

GRAND DÉFI QUÉBECOISEAUX 2013: Binoculaires Team Philipsburg-Bound!

Les Binoculaires Team: Patrick Laniel (age 32) and Maxime Carbonneau (30)

Combined years of birding experience: 10

- Achievements: Surveyed birds for the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec, the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program (QMMP), the owl

monitoring program, the McGill Bird Observatory, SOS-POP, CIME Haut-Richelieu, the annual Snowy Owl census in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and much more, just for the fun of it!

- Date of the Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux 2013: from 6 p.m. May 10 until 6 p.m. May 11 (24 hours)
- Selected and authorized site: GEORGE H. MONTGOMERY BIRD SANCTUARY

Every year (since 2011) an extraordinary event takes place during Quebec's 24 Hours of Science weekend: the Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux (GDQO). Organized by Regroupement QuébecOiseaux (RQO), the GDQO is attracting a growing number of enthusiasts. Its goals are to heighten the population's awareness of bird observation and conservation, raise funds for conservation of birds in Quebec and offer ornithologists an opportunity to put their knowledge to the test in a friendly competition. Participating teams must identify, by sight and sound, as many bird species as they can in 24 hours. Obviously, the site selected is crucial to reaching this objective. That is why Maxime and I have decided to target a wetland area very close to a mature forest. Actually, we first heard about the George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary while whiling the night away during the last GDQO, where we staked out the Lac St-Francois Nature Reserve, in Dundee (71 species including the Canada (Grey) Jay, the Eastern Screech Owl, Sandhill Crane, Bobolink, Purple Martin, and Bald Eagle). The winning team in 2012 boasted 101 species.

BPQ president Dr. Richard Gregson was very happy to accept our choice to partake in the GDQO 2013 in Philipsburg, on a site that I personally consider to be one of the two richest in Québec from a biological standpoint. The Binoculaires expect to easily rack up 80 species including the Tufted Titmouse, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Canada Warbler, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey and Sandhill Crane, which may be drawn to Streit pond because of the habitat and food sources that are very similar to those of Dundee.

ENCOURAGE US AND HELP BIRDS! By donating the amount of your choice to encourage us in this adventure, you will be helping Bird Protection Quebec! 50% of the total amount raised by the Binoculaires will be given to RQO and the other half will go toward BPQ. Although RQO's webpage does not yet permit online donations for the GDQO 2013, the Binoculaires are naturally environment conscious and hope you will make your donations via the Internet, to cut down on paper use. After all, the Cerulean Warblers at the George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary need mature trees to build their nests!

For the latest news on the GDQO 2013 and the Binoculaires team (which may expand to four members), please visit our Facebook page specially designed time for the event: <http://goo.gl/oFsU4> or visit the RQO web page at <http://goo.gl/Aswmt> .

In 2013, more than 80 teams are expected to take on this huge challenge that brings together beginners and experts alike. Some teams stick to their own backyards, while more competitive teams seek out places brimming with biodiversity and a multitude of combined habitats. You can visit the teams onsite on the day of the event and of course chip in. To find out the exact location of the Binoculaires, follow us on our Facebook page by clicking Like! In the meantime, the Avicourse 2012–2013 is almost upon us (Québec bird survey running from December 1 to March 1). So give your curiosity free rein, keep an eye peeled until spring and who knows, we may cross paths during an observation



of a Northern Shrike in mid-January, on the Mont Rigaud plain.

Birds are always with us, whatever the season. They are fascinating animals to seek out, admire and get to know. Take the time to go outdoors if only to be serenaded by their songs or calls. You will be treated to a musical repertoire worthy of Mozart!

On behalf of all the avifauna and the conservation areas, thank you for supporting nature, which we are striving to protect for future generations of eyes and ears to enjoy!

Patrick Laniel and Maxime Carbonneau,
Natural habitat technicians who graduated from the Cégep de Saint-Félicien and seasoned ornithologists

Photographs (by Richard Gregson) are of Streit's Pond and the old sugar shack on the BPQ bird sanctuary at Philipsburg

Sport Around Montreal in 1845

Jeff Harrison, our previous BPQ president, continues to be an active birder and contributor to birding knowledge. He has been researching the history of Canadian ornithology for the last 15 years. He is now in the writing stage and the first step is producing a series of articles for various natural history/birding publications. He published in the Toronto Ornithological Club May, 2012 "Newsletter" on Early Ornithology in southern Ontario 1534–1816.

He has amassed a huge amount of material on pre-1860 Quebec ornithology going back to Cartier. As part of that research he has transcribed the following article about Woodcock and Snipe shooting in 1845 in downtown Montreal, and edited it for publication.

The following is an excerpt from an article written by George Horne, founder of the Quebec Fish and Game Protection Club. It first appeared in the Montreal Star in 1895. It was republished on pages 263–271 in an Appendix entitled Original Sporting Sketches, in E. D. Wintle's The Birds of Montreal, Montreal, W Drysdale & Co., 1896

“...Previous to the enacting of the game laws, spring shooting was largely indulged in. Fifty years ago game of all kinds was very numerous (more particularly woodcock), and although in those days we had very few sportsmen who kept dogs and hunted [wood]cock (the king of the feathered game tribe), notwithstanding this, immense numbers of those fine birds were killed on their arrival in early spring. It was no uncommon thing for the writer and others of the well-known sporting gentlemen hereafter named (all crack shots) to bag from twenty-five to thirty-five couple of cock in a day's hunt, whereas today five to six couple is considered good sport. The days of which I write, from 1837 to 1865, we had not to go any great distance from the city to have good sport with both cock and snipe. The following places were our favorite grounds: For snipe, the fields from Beaver Hall hill, including the site where now stands Christ Church Cathedral, comprising the whole district from Sherbrooke to the south of Dorchester, extending as far west as Guy street, there being only two or three houses in the whole tract in those days.

The next convenient snipe grounds were upon the grounds where the Bonaventure Station now stands, thence extending to the Tanneries. Previous to the Lachine Railway being built, this was a regular swamp or quagmire. Passing the Tanneries, we could always depend upon getting good sport with cock and snipe on both sides of the little river St. Pierre, all the way to Blue Bonnets (Editor's note: Montreal West),

and close to where the Lachine Canal now is, which latter was only a ditch at that time. We frequently bagged a few black duck and blue-winged teal along the creek or river St. Pierre. Little attention was paid to duck shooting by us in those days. Snipe and cock received all the time we could spare, they being the game most worthy the attention of sportsmen. Other convenient covers were the district of country known as the “Beaver Meadow” and “Sanganore” running from the head of Papineau road to the woods in rear of Longue Point village (Editor's note: the centre of the village was at the corner of Blvd. Langelier and Avenue Pierre-de-Coubertin).



Still nearer home we could always be safe for a few brace of snipe, at early morning, along the deep and muddy creek commencing at Victoria Square, along Craig street, past the Champ de Mars to Papineau road. I have many times shot ten or twelve brace of snipe in this creek of a morning before breakfast. Between the two mountains, where Mount Royal Cemetery is now situated, was where the first cock was usually killed in early spring, this being before the present game law was in existence...”

Horne goes on to explain that after a day's shooting of snipe and woodcock with Joshua Bell at Blue Bonnets, their dogs uncovered a woodcock sitting on eggs, which they shot. The experience of finding the nest and eggs got them to thinking of the destruction they had caused. The end product was the convening of a meeting of sportsmen and the forming of the Quebec Fish and Game Protection Club in 1858.

Jeff Harrison served on the Board for ten years, during which he contributed enormously to the work of the Society. His first 'assignment' was as head of the Monthly Meeting Committee, where he used his contacts and knowledge of the environmental and ornithological community to find us consistently excellent speakers on widely diverse topics. He initiated the BPQ Awards system, which recognizes members of the Society and of the wider Quebec birding and conservation community and he took over the organization of the Christmas Bird Count as well as the chairmanship of the Property Acquisition Committee. Jeff's birding skills, his enthusiasm for birds and nature in general, and his personal qualities of energy, dedication and scholarship made him an outstanding leader of BPQ.



Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Octobre - novembre 2011

Bernache nonnette : des indiv. à Pointe-aux-Outardes 6 oct (D. Saint-Laurent, D. Dorais, JP. Barry et al.) et à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 28 oct-19 nov (R. & G. Boulet, pl.ob.). **Cygne trompette** : un à Val d'Or 3-4 nov (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye). **Cygne siffleur** : un photographié à Brownsburg-Chatham 30 oct-1 nov (présent depuis 3 semaines) (N. Mayeu, CA. Morency). **Canard siffleur** : un à Plaisance 8 oct, 2 du 14 oct au 4 nov (Y. Gauthier, F. Morand). **Plongeon du Pacifique** : un à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 1er nov (M. Dennis). **Grèbe élégant** : un indiv. de cette espèce à Gatineau 16-24 oct; 1^{ère} mention confirmée pour le Québec (J. Dubois, ph., pl.ob.). **Puffin des Anglais** : régulier (jusqu'à 7) à Tadoussac en août (R. Pintiaux). **Fou de Bassan** : nombre accru d'adultes en août dans l'estuaire du Saint-Laurent. Au même moment, des jeunes mouraient de faim au nid dans la colonie de l'Île Bonaventure. Un succès reproducteur de 8% seulement à été noté à cet endroit comparé à 75% normalement. La température élevée des eaux du golfe serait responsable de la raréfaction des poissons de surface et de la désertion de la colonie par les adultes. **Grand Cormoran** : un sur le bassin de Chambly 8-16 nov (R. Belhumeur, D. Stobbe).

Aigrette bleue : une à Sherbrooke 28 août (Y. Poulin, B. Pichette). **Aigrette tricolore** : une à Baie Sainte-Catherine 20 sep (A. Côté, JP. Ouellet). **Héron garde-boeufs** : des indiv. à Saint-Gédéon 18 oct (S. Boivin), Saint-Fulgence 21 oct (G. Lord), Roberval 22 oct (M. Bouchard et al.), Roquemaure 27 oct (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye) et Lachenaie 4-6 nov (Y. Gauthier, pl.ob.). **Urubu noir** : des indiv. à Gaspé 23 août (D. Jalbert) et à Saint-Germain-de-Kamouraska 30 sep-18 oct (F. Girardin, pl.ob.). **Buse de Swainson** : une à Saint-Jean (Île d'Orléans) 22 oct (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). **Caracara du Nord** : le matin du 28 août, un Caracara du Nord a été aperçu, volant vers le sud à Saint-Aimé, au sud de Yamaska (F. Gagnon). La description faite à une distance de 300-400 mètres correspondait bien à cette espèce. De plus, l'absence de secondaires barrées et l'étendue du blanc sur la poitrine ne supportaient pas l'hypothèse d'un Caracara du Sud. L'origine de cet oiseau reste indéterminée pour l'instant mais il est à noter que les mentions d'oiseaux égarés semblent à la hausse dans l'est de l'Amérique du Nord pour cette espèce depuis quelques années.

Talève violacée : des juv. à. at Les Méchins 8 oct (ph., MH Saint-Pierre), à Cap Tourmente 17 oct (S. Blackburn, S. Lemieux, G. Cyr, ph., G. Garant) et à Rimouski 21-23 oct (G. Proulx). **Grue du Canada** : un groupe de 60 en vol vers l'ouest entre Pentecôte et Baie-Trinité sur la Basse Côte-Nord 9 oct (F. Gallant), une mention surprenante aussi à l'est. Un groupe de 25 signalé

à Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 14 oct (fide M. Gosselin). **Barge hudsonienne** : un compte total de seulement 2 douzaines d'oiseaux comparé à plus de 100 l'automne dernier. **Barge marbrée** : des indiv. à Maple Grove 8-22 août (P. Bannon, pl.ob.) et à Sainte-Flavie 9 août (P. Otis, F. Lachance). **Bécasseau roussâtre** : environ 20 signalés dans la province. **Bécassin à long bec** : un à Gentilly 21 oct (C. Archambault, A. Daigle), 2 à Montmagny 28 oct (M. Lavoie), 6 à Cap Tourmente en oct (G. Cyr, S. Rioux) et un à Rivière-Ouelle 2-4 nov (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Phalarope de Wilson** : un à Montmagny 9 août (C. Nadeau).



©CHUCK KLING 2011

Mouette de Sabine : encore une fois, Tadoussac a été le centre de l'abondance de cette espèce, eg 13 (11 juv, 2 ad) 18 sep et 12 le 4 oct (R. Pintiaux). **Mouette rieuse** : 2 à Les Escoumins (pl.ob.). Une aussi à Port-Daniel 1 sep (A. Couture). **Mouette pygmée** : assez régulière à Tadoussac (R. Pintiaux); en plus, un juv. est apparu à Philipsburg 19 août (ph. A. Deschamps) et un deuxième hiver à Sainte-Catherine 21 oct (R. Belhumeur). **Mouette atricille** : une à Rivière-au-Renard 26 août (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). **Mouette de Franklin** : une à Pointe-du-Lac 7 août (M. Bisson). Probablement 3 ou 4 oiseaux près de Tadoussac entre le 11 août et le 4 sep (pl. ob.). **Sterne royale** : un oiseau superbement photographié à Sainte-Luce 22 août, la seconde mention dans la province (R. Houle). **Labbe pomarin** : la plupart des mentions provenaient de Tadoussac (R. Pintiaux). **Labbe à longue queue** : plusieurs observations en provenance de Tadoussac (R. Pintiaux); une à Rivière-Ouelle 9 août (JF. Rousseau). **Mergule nain** : de petits groupes ont erré jusqu'à La Pocatière et Rivière-Ouelle en oct, tandis qu'environ 500 à Cap d'Espoir 30 oct and 1775 le 5 nov représentaient des nombres notables (A. Couture). **Guillemot de Brünnich** : un à Blanc-Sablon 3 août (H. Tremblay). Un regroupement notable de 126 à Pointe-des-Monts 11 oct (S. Rioux). **Guillemot à miroir** : un à Venise-en-Québec 17-18 nov, très inhabituel dans les terres (ph., JG. Papineau). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches** : une à l'Île Bonaventure 6 août (ph., H. Mailhot-Couture) **Coulicou à bec jaune** : une bonne présence avec une dizaine d'oiseaux entre la mi-sep et la mi-oct. **Chouette épervière** : des indiv. à la baie Lavallière (Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel) 15 oct (P. Messier), Fermont 21 oct (B. Jolicoeur, M. Croteau), Tadoussac 27 oct (R. Pintiaux), la réserve faunique des Laurentides 2 nov (D. Demers), l'Île Sainte-Marguerite (Boucherville) 5 nov (Y. Gauthier). **Chouette lapone** : une à Baie-Comeau 19 oct (M. Létourneaux, N. Caron). **Nyctale de Tengmalm** : 140 oiseaux bagués à l'observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac (OOT) en date du 3 nov, et 3 bagués à l'observatoire d'oiseaux McGill, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue (OOM) 6 nov. **Petite Nyctale** : 234 bagués à l'OOM en date du 6 nov, et 184 à l'OOT en date du 3 nov.

Colibri roux : un photographié à Val-des-Bois 31 août-1 sep (ph., S. Bédard). **Pic à tête rouge** : des indiv. au Parc-Nature Pointe-aux-Prairies 12 août (J. Coutu), à Outremont (Montréal) 15 août (J. Paquette) et à Sainte-Foy 3-17 nov (présent depuis 2 mois) (S. & P. Pleau, G. Cyr, pl.ob.). **Pic à ventre roux** : plusieurs signalés à la fin oct, incluant le premier bagué à l'OOM, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, 24 oct (S. Duval). **Tyran de l'Ouest** : une présence sans précédent avec des indiv. à Rivière-Ouelle 21 sep (C. Auchu, C. Girard), Saint-Joachim 23 sep (B. Fréchette, M. Chalifoux), Gatineau 6 oct (J. Dubois), Tadoussac 19 oct (S. Denault) et Saint-Norbert d'Arthabaska 3 nov (D. Gagné, C. Roy). **Tyran gris** : un à Maria 3 nov, une 2^{ième} mention dans la province (JE. Joubert). **Tyran des savanes** : un photographié à Authier-Nord 22-28 sep (C. Plante, J. Gagnon, ph., et al.).

Viréo aux yeux blancs : des indiv. à Cap Tourmente 27-28 sep (R. Gingras et al.) et à Rimouski 15 oct (G. Gendron). **Viréo mélodieux** : un à Tadoussac 26 sep était au nord de son aire (S. Denault). **Hirondelle à front brun** : environ 20 indiv. à la pointe est de l'Île aux Coudres 13 nov, de loin le plus fort total

connu pour la province (ph. S. Denault). Le jour suivant, 31 furent dénombrés sur l'Île (DJ. Léandri-Breton) et 2 furent trouvés morts (S. Belleau, JM. Lagueur-Tremblay). Un seul oiseau fut observé le 15 nov (G. Lord et al.). Deux autres ont atteint la vallée de la Matapédia 14 nov (A. Couture). **Mésange bicolore** : une au nord de son aire à Ferme-Neuve (Hautes-Laurentides) 12 nov (A. Crépeau). **Gobemoucheon gris-bleu** : un à Tadoussac 13 oct (S. Denault). **Traquet motteux** : des oiseaux se sont manifestés à Old Harry (IDL) 11 sep (N. Frappier, P. Laporte, J. Laporte), Rimouski 17 sep (J. Roy), Yamaska 20 sep (L. Cournoyer, B. Goulet, F. Ouellet), Rimouski 24-27 sep (P. Franche, pl.ob.), Rivière-Ouelle 28 sep (C. Auchu, C. Girard), et Dune du Nord (IDL) 2 oct (A. Richard). **Solitaire de Townsend** : des indiv. à Luskville 18 oct (J. Savard et al.) et à Tadoussac 19 oct (R. Pintiaux). **Grive de Bicknell** : 2 oiseaux bagués à l'OOM, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, 29 sep et 2 oct respectivement (ph., S. Duval). **Jaseur boréal** : des oiseaux sont apparus dans le sud du Québec aussi tôt qu'à la fin de sep. **Paruline à ailes bleues** : une à Princeville 26 août (D. Gagné). **Paruline à gorge jaune** : une à l'Île des Sœurs 19 nov (P. Bannon). **Paruline des prés** : une à Québec 18-20 nov (A. Gagnon, L. Plante). **Paruline vermivore** : une à Gatineau 10 sep (P. Harris). **Paruline polyglotte** : une à l'Île Perrot 13 sep (A. Quenneville). **Bruant des plaines** : une dizaine de mentions incluant un étonnant total de 6 à Tadoussac (S. Denault). **Bruant des champs** : un à Tadoussac 27 oct (S. Denault). **Bruant à joues marron** : des indiv. à Gaspé 12-17 sep (D. Jalbert) et à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 1er oct (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh). **Bruant de Nelson** : 2 à Ville-Marie 27 sep, une première pour le Témiscamingue (J. Fréchette). **Junco ardoisé** : un oiseau de type "Cassiar" à Cantley 11 oct (R. Fournier, D. Saint-Jacques, ph.). **Piranga vermillon** : des femelles signalées à Gatineau 6 août (R. Dubois, D. Dallaire) et à Sainte-Foy 18-19 nov (J. Moreau). **Dickcissel d'Amérique** : des indiv. à Longue Rive 13 sep (D. Mc Cutcheon), Pointe aux Outardes 20 sep (D. Cardinal), et Les Bergeronnes 6 oct (S. Denault). **Carouge à tête jaune** : une femelle à Yamachiche 12 août & 2 sep (M. Bourassa). **Quiscale de Brewer** : un mâle ad à Ville-Marie 27 oct (J. Fréchette). **Oriole des vergers** : des mâles ad. au Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies. 12 août (J. Coutu) et à l'Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 24 août (T. Long). **Durbec des sapins** : bien représenté tard durant la période. **Bec-croisé des sapins** : de petits groupes en vol au-dessus de Tadoussac avant la mi-sep, incluant un vol record de 99 le 24 août. Les cris de certains de ces oiseaux ont été analysés par audiospectrographie, ce qui a confirmé le Type 3 (S. Denault, M. Young). **Bec-croisé bifascié** : observé à plusieurs endroits tard durant la période. **Gros-bec errant** : observé en nombre élevé dans le sud du Québec à partir de la mi-oct.

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



Bird Views

A summary of interesting bird sightings in Montréal and around the province - by Pierre Bannon

August to mid-November 2011

Barnacle Goose: singles at Pointe-aux-Outardes 6 Oct (D. Saint-Laurent, D. Dorais, JP. Barry et al.) and at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 28 Oct-19 Nov (R. & G. Boulet, m.ob.). **Trumpeter Swan:** one at Val d'Or 3-4 Nov (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye). **Tundra Swan:** one photographed at Brownsburg-Chatham 30 Oct-1 Nov had been present for 3 weeks (N. Mayeu, CA. Morency). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one at Plaisance 8 Oct, 2 on 14 Oct-4 Nov (Y. Gauthier, F. Morand). **Pacific Loon:** one at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 1st Nov (M. Dennis). **Western Grebe:** a bird brightened Gatineau 16-24 Oct; first confirmed record for Québec (J. Dubois, ph., m.ob.). **Manx Shearwater:** regular (up to 7) off Tadoussac in Aug (R. Pintiaux). **Northern Gannet:** adults were more numerous than usual in Aug in the St. Lawrence estuary. At the same time, young birds were dying of starvation at the nesting colony of Île Bonaventure. A reproductive success of only 8% was estimated there compared to 75% normally. The high temperature of the water in the gulf was apparently responsible for the rarity of surface fishes and the desertion of the colony by adults. **Great Cormorant:** one on the Chambly basin 8-16 Nov (R. Belhumeur, D. Stobbe).

Little Blue Heron: one at Sherbrooke 28 Aug (Y. Poulin, B. Pichette).

Tricolored Heron: one at Baie Sainte-Catherine 20 Sep (A. Côté, JP. Ouellet).

Cattle Egret: singles at Saint-Gédéon 18 Oct (S. Boivin), Saint-Fulgence 21 Oct (G. Lord), Roberval 22 Oct (M. Bouchard et al.), Roquemaure 27 Oct (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye) and Lachenaie 4-6 Nov (Y. Gauthier, m.ob.).

Black Vulture: singles at Gaspé 23 Aug (D. Jalbert) and at Saint-Germain-de-Kamouraska 30 Sep-18 Oct (F. Girardin, m.ob.). **Swainson's Hawk:** one at Saint-Jean (Île d'Orléans) 22 Oct (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). **Crested Caracara:** on the morning of 28 Aug, an apparent Crested Caracara was reported flying south at Saint-Aimé, south of Yamaska (F. Gagnon). The description made from a distance of 300-400 meters seemed to fit this species. Moreover, the absence of barred secondaries and the extent of white on the breast eliminated the Southern Caracara. Whether this bird was wild or escaped remains unresolved for the moment but a pattern of vagrancy has been emerging for the Crested Caracara in recent summers in the east.

Purple Gallinule: single juv. at Les Méchins 8 Oct (ph., MH. Saint-Pierre), at Cap Tourmente 17 Oct (S. Blackburn, S. Lemieux, G. Cyr, ph., G. Garant) and at Rimouski 21-23 Oct (G. Proulx). **Sandhill Crane:** a flock of 60 flying westward between Pentecôte and Baie-Trinité on the Lower North Shore 9 Oct (F. Gallant), a very surprising sight so far east. A flock of 25 was also reported at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 14 Oct (fide M. Gosselin). **Hudsonian Godwit:** a

total count of only 2 dozen birds compared to over 100 last fall. **Marbled Godwit:** singles at Maple Grove 8-22 Aug (P. Bannon, m.ob.) and at Sainte-Flavie 9 Aug (P. Otis, F. Lachance). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** about 20 were recorded across the province. **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one at Gentilly 21 Oct (C. Archambault, A. Daigle), up to 2 at Montmagny 28 Oct (M. Lavoie), up to 6 at Cap Tourmente throughout Oct (G. Cyr, S. Rioux) and finally one at Rivière-Ouelle 2-4 Nov (C. Auchu, C. Girard). **Wilson's Phalarope:** one at Montmagny 9 Aug (C. Nadeau).



Sabine's Gull: again, Tadoussac was the centre of abundance for this species, eg 13 (11 juv, 2 ad) 18 Sep and 12 on 4 Oct (R. Pintiaux). **Black-headed Gull:** up to 2 ad seen at Les Escoumins (m.ob.). One was also at Port-Daniel 1 Sep (A. Couture). **Little Gull:** a few reported quite regularly off Tadoussac (R. Pintiaux); in addition, a bright juv appeared at Philipsburg 19 Aug (ph. A. Deschamps) and a second winter bird at Sainte-Catherine 21 Oct (R. Belhumeur). **Laughing Gull:** one at Rivière-au-Renard 26 Aug (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). **Franklin's Gull:** one at Pointe-du-Lac 7 Aug (M. Bisson). Probably 3 or 4 different birds in the Tadoussac area between 11 Aug and 4 Sep (m. ob.). **Royal Tern:** a bird was nicely photographed at Sainte-Luce 22 Aug, only the second record for the province (R. Houle). **Pomarine Jaeger:** most sightings were off Tadoussac (R. Pintiaux). **Long-tailed Jaeger:** several sightings were made, mainly in the Tadoussac area (R. Pintiaux); one was at Rivière-Ouelle 9 Aug (JF. Rousseau). **Dovekie:** small flocks wandered east to La Pocatière and Rivière-Ouelle in late October, while 500 at Cap d'Espoir 30 Oct and 1775 on 5 Nov were notable (A. Couture). **Thick-billed Murre:** one at Blanc-Sablon 3 Aug (H. Tremblay). A remarkable count of 126 at Pointe-des-Monts 11 Oct (S. Rioux). **Black Guillemot:** one at Venise-en-Québec 17-18 Nov, very unusual inland (ph., JG. Papineau). **White-winged Dove:** one at Île Bonaventure 6 Aug (ph., H. Mailhot-Couture) **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** a good flight with 10 birds recorded between mid-Sep and mid-Oct. **Northern Hawk-Owl:** singles at Baie Lavallière (Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel) 15 Oct (P. Messier), Fermont 21 Oct (B. Jolicoeur, M. Croteau), Tadoussac 27 Oct (R. Pintiaux), réserve faunique des Laurentides 2 Nov (D. Demers), Île Sainte-Marguerite (Boucherville) 5 Nov (Y. Gauthier). **Great Gray Owl:** one at Baie-Comeau 19 Oct (M. Létourneaux, N. Caron). **Boreal Owl:** 140 birds banded at the Tadoussac Bird Observatory (TBO) as of 3 Nov, and 3 banded at McGill Bird Observatory, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (MBO) 6 Nov. Northern Saw-whet **Owl:** 234 banded at the MBO as of 6 Nov, and 184 at TBO as of 3 Nov. **Rufous Hummingbird:** one photographed at Val-des-Bois 31 Aug-1 Sep (ph., S. Bédard). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** singles at Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park 12 Aug (J. Coutu), at Outremont (Montréal) 15 Aug (J. Paquette) and at Sainte-Foy 3-17 Nov (present since more than 2 months) (S. & P. Pleau, G. Cyr, m.ob.). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** several birds reported in the last few days of Oct, including the first ever banded at the McGill Bird Observatory, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, 24 Oct (S. Duval). **Western Kingbird:** a record flight for this species with singles at Rivière-Ouelle 21 Sep (C. Auchu, C. Girard), Saint-Joachim 23 Sep (B. Fréchette, M. Chalifoux), Gatineau 6 Oct (J. Dubois), Tadoussac 19 Oct (S. Denault) and Saint-Norbert d'Arthabaska 3 Nov (D. Gagné, C. Roy). **Gray Kingbird:** one at Maria 3 Nov, a 2nd record for the province (JE. Joubert). **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** one photographed at Authier-Nord 22-28 Sep (C. Plante, J. Gagnon, ph., et al.).

White-eyed Vireo: singles at Cap Tourmente 27-28 Sep (R. Gingras et al.) and at Rimouski 15 Oct (G. Gendron). **Warbling Vireo:** one at Tadoussac 26 Sep was out of range (S. Denault). **Cave Swallow:** about 20 birds at the eastern tip of Île aux Coudres 13 Nov, by far the highest count known for the province (ph. S. Denault). The next day, 31 were counted on the island (DJ. Léandri-Breton) and 2 birds were found dead (S. Belleau, JM. Lagueux-

Tremblay). Only one bird was observed on the island 15 Nov (G. Lord et al.). Two more reached the Matapedia valley 14 Nov (A. Couture). **Tufted Titmouse:** one at Ferme-Neuve, (Hautes-Laurentides) 12 Nov (A. Crépeau). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one at Tadoussac 13 Oct (S. Denault). **Northern Wheatear:** an excellent turnout with singles at Old Harry (Magdalen Is.) 11 Sep (N. Frappier, P. Laporte, J. Laporte), Rimouski 17 Sep (J. Roy), Yamaska 20 Sep (L. Cournoyer, B. Goulet, F. Ouellet), Rimouski 24-27 Sep (P. Franche, m.ob.), Rivière-Ouelle 28 Sep (C. Auchu, C. Girard), and Dune du Nord (Magdalen Is.) 2 Oct (A. Richard). **Townsend's Solitaire:** singles at Luskville 18 Oct (J. Savard et al.) and at Tadoussac 19 Oct (R. Pintiaux). **Bicknell's Thrush:** 2 birds were banded at the MBO, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, 29 Sep and 2 Oct respectively (ph., S. Duval). **Bohemian Waxwing:** some birds appeared in s. Québec as early as late Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: one at Princeville 26 Aug (D. Gagné). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Île des Sœurs 19 Nov (P. Bannon). **Prairie Warbler:** one at Québec City 18-20 Nov (A. Gagnon, L. Plante). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one at Gatineau 10 Sep (P. Harris). **Yellow-Chat:** one at Île Perrot 13 Sep (A. Quenneville). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** about 10 records including a surprising total of 6 at Tadoussac (S. Denault). **Field Sparrow:** one at Tadoussac 27 Oct (S. Denault). **Lark Sparrow:** singles at Gaspé 12-17 Sep (D. Jalbert) and at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 1st Oct (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh). **Nelson's Sparrow:** 2 at Ville-Marie 27 Sep, a first for Témiscamingue region (J. Fréchette). **Dark-eyed Junco:** a "Cassiar" type individual at Cantley 11 Oct (R. Fournier, D. Saint-Jacques, ph.). **Summer Tanager:** single females reported at Gatineau 6 Aug (R. Dubois, D. Dallaire) and at Sainte-Foy 18-19 Nov (J. Moreau). **Dickcissel:** singles at Longue Rive 13 Sep (D. Mc Cutcheon), Pointe aux Outardes 20 Sep (D. Cardinal), and Les Bergeronnes 6 Oct (S. Denault). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** a female at Yamachiche 12 Aug & 2 Sep (M. Bourassa). **Brewer's Blackbird:** an ad male at Ville-Marie 27 Oct (J. Fréchette). **Orchard Oriole:** single ad males at Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park 12 Aug (J. Coutu) and at Île Saint-Bernard (Châteauguay) 24 Aug (T. Long). **Pine Grosbeak:** widespread late in the period. **Red Crossbill:** small flocks flew over Tadoussac before mid-Sep, including a record total of 99 on 24 Aug. The calls of some of these birds were analyzed audiospectrographically and confirmed as Type 3 (S. Denault, M. Young). **White-winged Crossbill:** seen at a number of locations late in the period. **Evening Grosbeak:** seen in above-average numbers all over s. Québec from mid-Oct onwards.

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

Reminders: Mark your Calendars!

Christmas Bird Counts

Montreal – December 15: Contact Sheldon Harvey at: 450-462-1459 or ve2shw@yahoo.com ; or Barbara Szabo at: 514-735-9812 or aha@videotron.ca

Hudson – December 29th.
Contact Jean Demers jeandemers@sympatico.ca

More reasons to participate!

It's now free of charge! The \$5.00 fee for non-Bird Studies Canada members has been dropped.

You don't have to leave the comfort of your home. If you are unable to join one of the field teams, we welcome you to participate from home as a FeederWatcher. If you live anywhere within the count circle and have feeders installed, you can assist us. Our website explains how to participate as a FeederWatcher.

If you are new to the Christmas count and are interested in becoming a field participant, let us know and we will assign you to a sector. We strongly encourage first-time participants to come out and join in the fun. We will be sure to team you up with some experienced Christmas counters so, please, do not feel shy or intimidated in any way. Everyone's involvement is extremely important.

Once again this year an informal social will be held immediately following the Montreal count at the Montreal West Curling Club, 17 Ainslie Road in Montreal West beginning at approximately 4 pm. All participants are invited to attend for a bite to eat and to submit their findings of the day. The rough results are tabulated in an audio/video setting and everyone is encouraged to share their birding experiences of the day. A similar post-count get-together will be held following the Hudson Christmas Bird Count

Again, complete information on the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, as well as the Hudson Christmas Bird Count being held on Saturday, December 29, is available on this BPQ webpage <http://goo.gl/MTKXE>

** Ongoing FeederWatch programs: (November 18 to April 6)

To participate in the Feederwatch program of Les amis de la Montagne on Mount Royal, call 514-843-8240 ext. 242 or e-mail benevoles@lemontroyal.qc.ca

2013 Parking Permit for Montreal Nature Parks

If you go birding in Montreal's network of nature parks, you probably know that the daily parking rate is currently \$8. An annual parking permit allows unlimited parking in any of the following parks: L'Anse-à-l'Orme, Cap-Saint-Jacques, Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard, Bois-de-Liesse, Île-de-la-Visitation, and Pointe-aux-Prairies. For residents of the Montreal agglomeration, the price is \$50 for the first vehicle, \$40 for each additional vehicle registered at the same address. If you renew your 2012 permit before December 31, 2012, you may do so at the current rate. However, as of January 1, 2013, the price for the 2013 permit will rise to \$55. For non-residents the price will rise from \$70 to \$75.

For more information, contact: Philippe Murphy, Préposé à la perception des revenus, Ville de Montréal, Direction des grands parcs et du verdissement, Division de la gestion de l'entretien et des opérations des parcs, 801 rue Brennan – pavillon Duke, 4e étage, bureau 4146, Montréal, QC, H3C 0G4. To pay by credit card, telephone him at: 514-280-6766.

Young Ornithologist's Workshop

The Education Committee of Bird Protection Quebec has money available to help any teen who is interested in attending this workshop at Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario, in August 2013. The program provides teens with a hands-on introduction to the study of ornithology, natural history and science. Applications are due by April 30th. For more information visit www.birdscanada.org/lpbo and contact Barbara MacDuff at barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

Field Trip Reports

22/09/12 – Parc national d'Oka – Oka – Leader: Wayne Grubert
Windy, overcast, heavy rain, 17°C; 13 birders; 46 species
Bird of the Day: Great Egrets (45)
Other Birds of Note: Common Loon, Black-bellied Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler

29/09/12 – Philipsburg – Leader: Sandy Montgomery
Continuous light drizzle, poor light: 13 birders; 26 species
Bird of the Day:
Other Birds of Note: Ruffed Grouse, Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow

06/10/12 – Ile St-Bernard, Chateauguay – Leader: Tom Long
Rainy. 5 birders; 33 species
Bird of the Day: Tufted Titmouse, Rusty Blackbird
Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Marsh Wren,

13/10/12 – Alfred Bog & Sewage Lagoons, Alfred, ON
Leader: Jacques Bouvier
Partially cloudy, high of + 10°C. 19 birders: 43 species
Bird of the Day: Wood Duck, Greater Yellowlegs
Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Gray Partridge, American Coot, American Pipit,

20/10/12 – Cooper Marsh, S. Lancaster, ON
Leader: Martin Bowman
Sunny with a light breeze, 18°C. 9 birders; 30 species
Birds of the Day: Cape May Warbler, Lesser (and Greater) Scaup.
Other Birds of Note: Ring-necked Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Osprey, N. Harrier, Black-capped Chickadee, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler

27/10/12 – Lac Boivin Nature Centre, Granby
Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Mild, slightly overcast w/sunny breaks. 14 birders; 34 species
Bird of the Day: Bohemian Waxwings
Other Birds of Note: Snow Goose, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Pileated Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Am. Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird

03/11/12 – Parc Pointe-aux-Prairies, Montreal
Leaders: Jean Demers & Clemence Soulard
Very cloudy and a cool 4°C. 6 birders; 20 species
Bird of the Day: Horned Grebe
Other Birds of Note: Green-winged Teal, Common Goldeneye, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow.

10/11/12 – Morgan Arboretum, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue
Leader: Richard Gregson
Crisp and sunny morning. 30 birders; 24 species
Bird of the Day: Barred Owl, White-winged Crossbill
Other Birds of Note: Pine Siskin, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, House Finch, Common Raven

17/11/12 – Reservoir Beaudet, Victoriaville, QC & Etang Burbank, Danville – Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Sunny, 0°C. 12 birders; 17 species
Bird of the Day: Snow Geese (lots of them!)
Other Birds of Note: Ruddy Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Raven



**“So far we’ve had zero sightings
of the ivory-billed woodpecker
and six sightings of Elvis.”**



Field Trips for January/ Early February 2013

Saturday, January 12 - samedi 12 janvier

Montreal Botanical Garden – Jardin Botanique de Montréal

Leader: Guy Zenaitis

514-256-8118 gzenaitis@videotron.ca

8:00 a.m. Meet in front of the restaurant, near the entrance on Sherbrooke St. East. There is a charge for parking inside the gates. Looking for winter finches. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin sur la rue Sherbrooke Est. Prévoir des frais de stationnement. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, January 19 – samedi 19 janvier

Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation Leaders:

Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard

514-694-8240 jd080324@gmail.com

8:00 a.m. From Highway 40 (Metropolitan Blvd) take Papineau north to Henri Bourassa. Turn right (east) on Henri Bourassa and turn left on Rue de Lille. Turn right onto Gouin and left into the parking area. Parking : \$8.00. Looking for winter birds. **Half day.**

8h00 De l'autoroute 40(boul métropolitain) prendre la sortie Papineau nord jusqu'à Henri Bourassa. Tourner à droite (est) sur Henri Bourassa et tourne à gauche sur Rue de Lille. Tourner à droite sur Gouin jusqu'au stationnement du parc. Stationnement : 8,00\$. À la recherche des oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, January 26 - samedi 26 janvier

Sainte-Marthe, Saint-Clet, Sainte-Justine

Leader: Wayne Grubert

450-458-5498 wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at Hudson Inn, exit 17 off Highway 40. From Montreal, take Highway 40 west towards Ottawa. Allow an hour's drive from Montreal. Looking for Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Snow Buntings and other open-country winter birds. Bring warm clothes for standing around or taking short walks (or in case weather conditions dictate a complete change of itinerary). We will try to keep the number of cars to a minimum; therefore, car-pooling arranged ahead of time and/ or at our rendezvous would be greatly appreciated. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement au Hudson Inn, sortie 17 de l'autoroute 40. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, en direction d'Ottawa. Prévoir une heure à partir de Montréal. Espèces recherchées : Harfang des neiges, Buse pattue, Bruant des neiges et autres oiseaux d'hiver. Apporter des vêtements suffisamment chauds pour de courtes marches et permettant de passer du temps à l'extérieur; prévoir également d'éventuels changements de plans, dus à la météo. Nous vous encourageons à faire du covoiturage en vue de limiter le nombre de voitures. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, February 2- samedi 2 février

Mount Royal Cemetery – Cimetière Mont-Royal

Leader: Chuck Kling

514-277-2567 chuckk@videotron.ca

8:00 a.m. Meet at the main gate to the cemetery on Chemin de la Forêt, Outremont. Looking for finches and other winter birds. **Half day.**

8h00 Rassemblement à la porte principale du cimetière sur le chemin de la Forêt, à Outremont. Espèces recherchées oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, February 9 - samedi 9 février

South Shore Surprise Trip

Leader: Sheldon Harvey

450-462-1459 ve2shw@yahoo.com

In the winter months it is difficult to know in advance the best places to go birding. As a result, the destination of this trip will be determined mere days before the actual outing. It 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.

Durant les mois d'hiver il est difficile de connaître à l'avance les meilleurs endroits pour observer les oiseaux. Par conséquent, la destination de cette excursion sera déterminée quelques jours seulement avant la sortie. Elle sera choisie en fonction de certains facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et toutes observations d'oiseaux rares ou spéciaux signalés dans les jours précédents. Deux ou trois jours avant la sortie du samedi, surveillez notre page web sur les sorties ornithologiques et le «Songsparrow Yahoo Group» pour y trouver les détails complets de l'excursion, sa destination, l'heure, le lieu du rassemblement et la durée.

Saturday, February 16 - samedi 16 février

Châteauguay, Rue Higgins & Sainte-Catherine Récré-O-Parc

Leader: Tom Long 450-692-1590

ram_air455@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m.: Meet at rue Higgins in Châteauguay. The birds to look for at Higgins will be Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse. But you never know what will show up. One Christmas Bird Count, 22 species were counted there in just over an hour including a Carolina Wren and an Eastern Towhee. After checking out the Higgins area, we will go to the Récré-O-Parc in Sainte-Catherine, where it will be mostly winter ducks and whatever else we can find. There are no facilities at the Récré-O-Parc. Half day.

From Montreal, take Hwy 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Hwy 138 through Kahnawake into

Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto Boul. Saint-Francis. Follow Saint-Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Blvd. Salaberry Nord. Turn right on to Salaberry Nord and continue till rue Higgins and turn right. There is a small parking area on the left next to the cell-phone tower.

8h00 Rendez-vous à la rue Higgins. Sur la rue Higgins à Châteauguay, les espèces recherchées sont le Pic à ventre roux et la Mésange bicolore. Mais nous ne pouvons prévoir qui sera au rendez-vous. Lors d'un décompte de Noël, 22 espèces ont été dénombrées dans un peu plus d'une heure comprenant un Troglodyte de Caroline ainsi qu'un Tohi à flancs roux. Après avoir fait le tour de la zone Higgins, nous irons à la Récré-O-Parc à Sainte-Catherine. A la Récré-O-Parc, nous y verrons presque exclusivement des canards d'hiver et peut-être autres surprises. Le Récré-O-Parc n'offre aucune installation sanitaire ni de restauration. Demi-journée.

De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. Rester à droite en venant du pont et prenez l'autoroute 138 à Kahnawake dans Châteauguay. Lorsque vous entrez dans Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. Saint-Francis. Suivez Saint-Francis, jusqu'au bout à la rencontre de la rivière Châteauguay au boul. Salaberry Nord. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry Nord et continuer jusqu'à la rue Higgins et tourner à droite. Il y a un petit parking sur la gauche à côté de la tour de téléphonie cellulaire.

New Directors

Are you interested in helping to run our charity?

All members are welcome to get involved as volunteers and in the nomination of new Directors for the BPQ Board. The deadline for nominations for the 2013-2015 term of office is April 9, 2013.

Anyone interested in the work of BPQ is invited to get in touch (birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com) and ask about what is involved.



BPQ Winter Bird Course 2013 Details of Lectures

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays in February and March

Place: Knox Crescent, Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG

Cost: \$15 per lecture for BPQ members and \$20 for non-members

Download an application form from our website <http://tinyurl.com/BPO-Courses> or pick one up at a monthly meeting.

The first snow flurries of winter have already arrived, but the good news is that birders have a lot to look forward to in the 2013 BPQ Winter Lecture Series! BPQ Membership Services is very pleased to announce that we will be offering a terrific slate of experts to help you expand your knowledge of birds and improve your birding skills. Come to all or some of our winter bird course lectures, to be held on alternate Wednesdays in February and March 2013. Mark these dates in your agenda!

February 6 - "A Drift of Buntings"

An overview of the Snow Bunting with Simon Duval

Who has not pulled their car over to watch loose flocks of buntings glide across open fields, their flight giving rise to the species' colloquial name of snowflake? In North America, the Snow Bunting breeds in the Arctic, but winters in the balmy climate of southern Canada. We'll look at nesting behaviour, physiology, plumage changes, habitat and range of the Snow Bunting, and introduce the research of the Canadian Snow Bunting Network.

The lecture will be presented by Simon Duval, Coordinator of the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO). The primary goal of MBO is to monitor migratory birds through banding. In addition to being a centre for scientific research, MBO also serves the local community as a training facility in field-work techniques. In 2013, for the second successive year, Simon, together with Gay McDougall Gruner, the Director of the MBO, will be participating in the Canadian Snow Bunting Network by

catching, banding and collecting scientific data on Snow Buntings at various sites within Quebec.

February 20 - "Seeing the Forest for the Trees!"

Birdfinding by Habitat (Part 2) with Betsy McFarlane

Second in a series of workshops on birdfinding by habitat, the first of which was given in BPQ's 2011 Winter Bird Course, and was very well received. However, participation in the previous workshop is not a prerequisite.

Do you know a Scarlet Tanager when you see one but can't figure out where exactly in the forest they are most likely to be seen? Do you confuse swamps with marshes and young secondary succession forest with evergreen plantations? Do you have a hard time matching the descriptions of habitat in field guides with the reality in the field? Are you baffled why a species like Lincoln's Sparrow, which you associate with bogs, might choose a clearcut instead?

This workshop, which is geared to advanced beginner or intermediate birders, focuses on how to find birds by habitat, with an emphasis on the breeding birds of southern Quebec, although habitat use during migration will also be discussed. The workshop will provide an introduction to understanding, identifying and analyzing the main habitat types in Quebec, with an emphasis on forest habitats, although human-influenced landscapes and wetlands will also be addressed. Areas covered will include the basics of forest succession, general habitat structure and how to analyze it, an overview of habitats in southern Quebec, how birds choose and use habitats and, lastly, matching habitats to species. Since the exception often proves the rule, we will also discuss some unusual habitat choices by birds. The workshop will be fairly interactive, and fun and challenging quizzes will be offered throughout the talk.

Betsy McFarlane is a past president of BPQ (2003-2005) and served on its board for over a decade. She is also a past director of Bird Studies Canada, volunteers at the McGill Bird Observatory and participates in citizen science projects such as the Breeding Bird Survey. In her non-birding life, she works as a freelance translator and dotes on her two ex-racehorses, Radiant Wisdom and Big Bird.

March 6 - "Netting the Bird by Birding the Net"

Removing the Fear Factor from Techno-birding with the assistance of Richard Gregson

A look at the modern and accessible tools available to the birder that make learning about birds, finding them in the field and then telling the world about them (while keeping the bird in your scope) both easy and fun. We will look at tiny pocket-sized electronic field guides, aids to learning bird songs, capturing the exact shrub that a lifer was hiding in so others can see it too, using a GPS to record your route, different methods of keeping your life list, citizen science data-logging, where to find more information about birds than your bookshelves could ever hold, bird-blogging and journaling.

Richard is a biologist who fled England 15 years ago to live closer to "our" birds and bears and wolves and warblers. He is currently President of BPQ as well as Chair of the Sanctuaries Committee, and a keen advocate of GreenBirding. He has long been fascinated by the ways our experience of wildlife can be enhanced and simplified by the judicious use of the modern electronic tools that have become available in recent times and will attempt, in this presentation, to introduce and demystify them for birders of all levels of experience.

March 20 - "Nattering about Nests"

The Natural, the Negligible and the Nasty with Marie-Anne Hudson

Most people have seen a bird's nest in their lives, whether it be an American Robin's nest in the cedar outside their bathroom window or a Barn Swallow nest pasted under a roof rafter. Chances are, though, that those same people have walked right by hundreds of nests without ever knowing they were there. This lecture will examine all things "nest", from type and construction, to camouflage and defence, so that everyone's nest-o-vision becomes switched to the "on" position. A warning though, once activated, nest-o-vision is permanent!

Marie-Anne's nest-o-vision was switched on in 2003 when she began her PhD thesis focusing on birds nesting in urban green spaces. A former BPQ Director, and editor of The Song Sparrow newsletter, she has since gone on to work at Environment Canada as a Bird Surveys Biologist and coordinator of the Breeding Bird Survey.

Monthly Meeting Lectures

All Monday night lectures take place at 7:30 p.m.

Knox Crescent, Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG
Free of charge

International Birding

Many of our members are ecotourists, travelling the world to see birds. We thought it would be interesting and fun to have them share their experiences and perhaps inspire more members to go globe-trotting. So this is the night ... Monday, January 7, 2013

INTERNATIONAL BIRDING

Nick Acheson: GETTING STARTED

I have been on birding trips in the USA (Alaska, Texas, Montana, Arizona) Australia, Antarctica and Ecuador and have enjoyed birding on my own at resorts in Mexico and Central America where we go for short respites from Montreal winters! International birding is great fun and I can give you some advice on how to get involved in such trips.

Jane Cormack: KENYA BIRDING SAFARI

A presentation featuring the highlights of the 2012 birding safari in Kenya, led by David Bird and Rodger Titman. We visited a variety of sites including the famous Nairobi and Maasai Mara game parks and lesser known research and wildlife centres, covering habitats from the vast open savannah to the rich lakes of the Rift Valley to the flooded streets and traffic jams of Nairobi. Our accommodations covered the full gamut from rustic cabins with outdoor facilities to four and five star hotels. The wildlife did not disappoint. We saw the big five, some of the small five as well as flamingoes, ostrich, honeyguides, barbets and tinkerbirds, hornbills, hoopoe, kingfishers, bitterns, pelicans, rollers, secretary birds and go-away birds.

Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard: BIRDING IN COLOMBIA

With approximately 1,900 bird species, 80 of which are endemic, we opted for a Colombian tour. For us, it's very important to hire local people and thereby help the local economy. We were in contact with Luis Eduardo Urena the director and owner of Manakin Nature Tours <http://www.manakinnaturetours.com> for over a year before our

vacation. We felt fortunate to find a tour operator who was very professional and worked hard to ensure that we saw particular birds. (He worked so hard that he found two lifers for himself!)

We travelled mostly in the mountains, between 300m and 4,000m. We started in Bogota (2600m) at Parque La Florida, and then drove to El Jardín Encantado in San Francisco. The main attraction there was 28 Hummingbird feeders. In two hours, we counted 16 species including Long Bill Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Brown Violetear and the magnificent Red-billed Emerald.

Martin Bowman: SOUTH KOREA AND HOKKAIDO, JAPAN'S NORTHERN ISLAND

South Korea is one of the most accessible places on the planet to see birds on migration from Siberia to southern Asia with the west coast of the country on the flyway of many interesting species. We were there in early October, our visit timed to see the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and we were not disappointed. Hokkaido is Japan's wild northern frontier, home to the Red-crowned or Japanese Crane and the spectacular Blakiston's Fish-Owl; it is also the wintering grounds of the Steller's Sea -Eagle. The pelagic birding is amazing.

Eileen Meillon: ON THE FRENCH- SPANISH BORDER

The Parc national des Pyrenees is accessible from six valleys in the Hautes-Pyrénées department of the French-Spanish border. While the mountain scenery is magnificent, one can also see some of the world's largest raptors. The park has recently partnered with La Ligue pour La Protection des Oiseaux for the protection of some of them, including the Lammergeier. Smaller birds like the Alpine Accentor and the Rock Thrush also prefer a mountain habitat.

Virginia Elliott and Nancy Montgomery: .THE GALAPAGOS

"Galapagos " has become synonymous with conservation. Elsewhere in the world environmentalists struggle to have the protection of habitat and animal species recognized as a priority . The Galapagos have become the focus of how to harmonize human impact and the natural world . It is a privilege to travel there, not only because there are unique species but to witness the positive effect that the worldwide attention on conservation has had.

The speakers have ten minutes for their presentation but you will be able to speak to them at the back of the room afterwards.

CHESTER A REED, the Forgotten Early Publisher of Field Guides to Birds

by Michel Chevalier, assisted by Helen Meredith, February 4, 2013

Chester Albert Reed (d 1912), published 24 books and many magazines about natural history between 1901 and 1912. Most of his books are pocket bird guides illustrated in colour. These were very popular. A lot of people learned how to observe birds with his guides, at a time when illustrated bird guides were very few. Even Roger Tory Peterson used Reed's guides when he began his birdwatching career. Reed's drawings were meant to show the major field marks of birds, and certainly influenced Peterson's approach to painting pictures of birds for his field guides. Reed began to place birds with similar plumage together in his guides, another hallmark of the Peterson guides.

Unfortunately Chester Reed has almost been forgotten in North American ornithological history and the emergence of birdwatching. Today few people know about his contribution. Michel Chevalier wants to correct that and to give justice to Chester memory. He has contacted the family and has studied archives which were absolutely unknown. He is currently working with the Smithsonian in Washington to help recognize the contribution Chester Reed made.

Michel Chevalier has been interested in ornithology for over 35 years. He has become fascinated by Chester Reed and has done a lot of research to find out more about him and his early books. Most recently, he published an article in QuébecOiseaux about his discoveries, and has given talks about them at the last two COAQ conferences. He has put together a website about Chester A. Reed. Visit it in French or in English at <http://www.chester-reed.org/>



Microfiber Lens Cleaning Cloth

A new item for sale by BPQ Membership Services is a very handy microfiber lens cleaning cloth, attached to its own weather-resistant neoprene pouch (printed with the BPQ logo). It is available at monthly meetings, and from the "BPQ Shop" on our website.

The cloth safely cleans all scope, binocular, camera and other lenses, while tucking away into its pouch when not in use. The clip attaches to your binocular harness, tripod or anywhere else, giving you a convenient and safe way to clean your prized optics. The cleaning cloth can be hand-washed with mild detergent and air dried to ensure that your optics stay crystal clear.

- Pouch: 1.50" x 2.00" (3.8 cm x 5.1 cm)
- Cloth 6" x 6" (15 cm x 15 cm)
- \$8 each; \$15 for two

Linge en microfibre nettoyeur de lentilles

Le comité de service aux membres offre un nouvel article à vendre, c'est un linge, très pratique, en microfibre pour nettoyer les lentilles, dans une pochette en néoprène, résistante à l'eau avec le logo du POQ. Elle est disponible lors des réunions mensuelles, et de la « Boutique POQ » sur notre site web.

Le linge nettoie, de façon sécuritaire, les lentilles de lunette d'approche, de vos jumelles ainsi que toute autre lentille. Le linge est attaché à une pochette qui sert au rangement lorsque vous ne l'utilisez pas. Une attache très pratique est fixée à la pochette pour que vous puissiez l'attacher au harnais de vos jumelles, de votre trépied ou n'importe où ou vous pourriez avoir à nettoyer vos lentilles. Le linge peut être lavé à la main avec un détergent doux et séché à l'air afin de vous assurer que vos lentilles demeurent très propres.

- Pochette 1.50 x 2.00 (3.8cm x 5.1cm)
- Linge 6 x 6 (15cm x 15cm)
- 8\$ chacune et 15\$ pour deux



Bird Protection Quebec
is a registered charity.
Donations are tax deductible.
Charity Registration # 11925
2161 RR0001.

Principal Officers

President - Richard Gregson
Vice-Presidents -
David Mulholland & Patrick Asch
Treasurer - Jean Harwood Gregson
Secretary - Ron Mudd
The Song Sparrow ISSN 1710-3371
Legal Deposit: National Library and
Archives of Canada - Publication
Mail No. 40044323

Website:
www.birdprotectionquebec.org
On-line discussion group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Songsparrow>

Newsletter Contacts

Editor: Jane Cormack
cormackjane@gmail.com
Layout: Richard Gregson
Birdviews: Pierre Bannon
pbannon@videotron.ca

Contact BPQ:

birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

Bird Protection Quebec
P.O. Box 43, Station B
Montreal QC H3B 3J5

Tel: 514-637-2141

Membership:

Details and subscription
information are on our website.

Subscriptions can be paid online.

BPQ Calendar

Late 2012

Saturday, December 15, 2012
Montreal Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 29, 2012
Hudson Christmas Bird Count

Early 2012

Monday, January 7, 2013
Monthly meeting – International Birding

Saturday, January 12 – samedi 12 janvier
Montreal Botanical Garden – Jardin Botanique de Montréal

Saturday, January 19 – samedi 19 janvier
Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation

Saturday, January 26 – samedi 26 janvier
Sainte-Marthe, Saint-Clet, Sainte-Justine

Saturday, February 2 – samedi 2 février
Mount Royal Cemetery – Cimetière Mont-Royal

Monday, February 4 – lundi 4 février
Chester Reed – The forgotten early publisher of birding
field guides

Saturday, February 9 – samedi 9 février
South Shore Surprise Trip

Saturday, February 16 – samedi 16 février
Chateauguay, Rue Higgins & Sainte-Catherine Récré-O-Parc

New Members

A warm welcome to returning and new members

- Susan & John Drysdale, Montreal
- Patrick Fitzgerald, Westmount;
- Larry Haugh, Shelburne VT
- John Paul Jobin (Ventil-X-Pert), Anjou
- Georges Mony, Montréal
- Andrew Plimer, Beaconsfield
- Harry Slaunwhite, Pointe-Claire

We hope you will join us on our field trips and at our
monthly meetings; be sure to introduce yourself!

Winter Bird Courses

Wednesday, February 6 **“A Drift of Buntings”**

An overview of the Snow Bunting
With Simon Duval

Wednesday, February 20 **“Seeing the Forest for the Trees!”**

Birdfinding by Habitat (Part 2)
With Betsy McFarlane

Wednesday, March 6 **“Netting the Bird by Birding the Net”**

Removing the Fear Factor from Techno-birding!
With Richard Gregson

Wednesday, March 20 **“Nattering about Nests”**

The Natural, the Negligible and the Nasty
With Marie-Anne Hudson