

The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec
For the Birds since 1917 - Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917



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Cedar Waxwing / Jaseur d'Amérique © 2021 Richard Gregson

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President's Message

by Simon Duval
BPQ president

It's hard to believe a year has gone by already in my term as president of Bird Protection Quebec. It's not easy getting accustomed to a position like this, and I certainly had big shoes to fill from my fellow past presidents, but doing so in a pandemic year proved to add another level of complexity to everything. That being said, let me reassure you about the great team we have at BPQ. I couldn't have done it without my fellow board members, various committee members and our amazing volunteers/members. In a year when everything had to stop, we just kept going, imagining new ways to do things and to get our work done. Congratulations to all!



Ruby-crowned Kinglet / Roitelet à couronne rubis © 2021 Chuck Kling

Now that the Annual General Meeting is behind us, we're moving into a new year that we hope will be the beginning of a "normal" life. We will continue our amazing education, conservation and observation work. We are really looking forward to resuming our in-person field trips and our monthly meetings together.

In the meantime, I want to wish everyone a happy summer, full of exciting breeding birds. Don't

forget that some species will start migrating at the end of July. Be ready for them.

Communications Team's Message

Connie Morgenstern
and Darlene Harvey
BPQ Communications Committee

This is the final issue of *The Song Sparrow* from Jane Cormack, who has decided to hang up her editor's hat after producing our newsletter for 10+ years.

Although we hate to see her go, we certainly understand that after devoting so much time to almost single-handedly getting the newsletter out five times a year, year after year, a well-deserved break is due!

On behalf of BPQ, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Jane for her many years of dedication to



Canada Warbler / Paruline du Canada © 2021 Chuck Kling

producing a publication that, beyond its intent to inform our membership, serves as a more permanent archive of our activities than other popular but more fluid forms of communication.

Going forward, Darlene and Connie will be taking on the editor role and working with a new team of contributors. We are excited to let you know that *The Song Sparrow*

will be back in a revamped version in September.

Editor's Message – Stepping Down

by Jane Cormack

Just over a decade ago, when I began editing this newsletter, the whole concept of birdwatching was new to me. Although I have always had a profound love of nature and wildlife, strapping binoculars around my neck and spending hours walking through the woods to look for birds was something new but intriguing.

The volunteer role of editor became available, and I answered the call.

This baptism by fire opened up the whole world of birding to me. I met some fascinating people and learnt a lot of fascinating things about

birds, their behaviour, and their amazing adaptations.

Sadly, I also learnt a great deal more about their decline along with the decline of their habitats.



Common Yellowthroat / Paruline masquée © 2021 Chuck Kling

Side-by-side with this, I was able to learn about the conservation of wildlife and wild places.

What I have gained from this opportunity far outweighs the time I have put into it.

I have many people to thank for this, including all those who have contributed regularly and occasionally to this newsletter. Many thanks to Chuck Kling for generous supply of beautiful, educational, and inspiring photos over the years, Pierre Bannon for his contributions to every issue, Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh for their series of articles about hawkwatching, the Field Trip and Monthly Lecture Committees for their informational articles about upcoming events, Richard Gregson for his support with layout and covers, Frédéric Hareau, Jean Harwood Gregson, Darlene Harvey, and Karen Sherman for proofreading over the years.

For me, the time is right for moving on and pursuing other interests, but I would encourage anyone else

who is interested in exploring new ideas in birdwatching and learning more about BPQ to get involved.

New Board of Directors

Each year, BPQ members elect directors from the membership to serve on the board for two-year terms. At the end of two years, directors can stand for re-election. They can serve for ten consecutive years. Then they must step down for at least one year.

At our AGM on June 14, the members re-elected Claude Cloutier, Simon Duval, Darlene Harvey, Don-Jean Léandri-Breton, Connie Morgenstern, and Bonnie Soutar. The following directors are continuing to serve existing terms: Sue Denoncourt, Le Duing Yong Lang, Maya Longpré-Croteau, Kyle Elliott, Jeff Harrison, Sheldon Harvey, Kristen Lalla, Ana Morales,

and Shawna Sevigny, who was appointed by the board when Anne Archambault resigned a few months ago. The following directors stepped down: Émile Brisson Curadeau, Chris Cloutier, and Mélanie Guigueno.

Helen Meredith also stepped down as a director, having completed ten consecutive years. She was elected by BPQ members in 2011, adding on the role of secretary late in 2015. The board has asked her to continue as secretary.



Eastern Bluebird / Merlebleu de l'Est © 2021 Chuck Kling

New Members

by Darlene Harvey
Membership Secretary



Yellow-throated Vireo/ Viréo à gorge jaune © 2021 Chuck Kling

We are pleased to welcome the following new and returning members:

Emma Despland, Gabriel Cliché, Nirupam Silver, Cathy DeChambeau, Mary Palmieri, Louise Todd, Claire Melanson, Kathleen Maher-Wagner, Susan Palmer, Carolyn Grant, Wilma Goodman,

Chantal Gagnon, and Sylvain St-Jean and family.

We look forward to meeting you in person once Covid regulations deem it safe for us to resume our group activities. In the meantime, be sure to follow us on Facebook and to join our Songsparrow e-list to connect with other members:

<https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow>

Nouveaux membres

par Darlene Harvey
Secrétaire aux adhésions

Nous sommes heureux d'accueillir les nouveaux membres et les membres qui reviennent suivants :

Emma Despland, Gabriel Cliché, Nirupam Silver, Cathy DeChambeau, Mary Palmieri, Louise Todd, Claire Melanson, Kathleen Maher-Wagner, Susan Palmer, Carolyn Grant, Wilma Goodman,

Chantal Gagnon, et Sylvain St-Jean et sa famille.



Bobolink / Goglu des prés
© 2021 Chuck Kling

Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer une fois que les règles liées à la Covid nous permettront de reprendre nos activités de groupe de façon sécuritaire. En attendant, n'oubliez pas de nous suivre sur Facebook et de vous inscrire à notre liste électronique, le Songsparrow, pour communiquer avec les autres membres

<https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow>

Field Trip Committee Report

by Wayne Grubert



Wood Duck / Canard branchu
© 2021 Chuck Kling

With COVID-19 health restrictions still in a state of flux for spring 2021, the BPQ Field Trip Committee made the decision to continue holding a series of "virtual" events for the migration season. Some popular themes from last year were

repeated and a few new ones were inaugurated.

The weekend of April 10-11 was christened the "Spring Fling." The goal was to obtain a snapshot of bird life in and around the Montreal area. Birders were encouraged to bird on their own and submit their lists. In all, 21 people participated and found a total of 91 species.

April 24-25 saw a repeat of last year's popular "Virtual Team Challenge," which had birders signing up in advance to compete for either Team Saturday or Team Sunday. When the checklists were collected and tallied, Team Sunday's total of 91 species beat out Team Saturday's 88. In all, 111 species were observed by 23 participants.

The following weekend of May 1-2 saw a reprise of our "Golden Mile" event, this time taking advantage of spring migration. Participants were

asked to map out a mile-long birding route and tally all species observed at any time over the weekend. Seventeen people combined to find 94 species.



Blackburnian Warbler / Paruline à
gorge orangée © 2021
Chuck Kling

For our May 8-9 event, members and friends were encouraged to participate in the Global Big Day organized by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. The main goal was to have birders submit checklists to eBird but 26

lists from 15 individuals or couples totaling 120 species were also shared with us.



Common Tern / Sterne pierregarin © 2021 Chuck Kling

May 15–16 saw a new challenge unveiled in the form of the BPQ Family Feud. Participants were given a list of 39 avian families in Latin that could reasonably be expected to be found in our area at this time of year. Thirteen people participated and managed to observe members of 37 of those families with Certhiidae (Tree Creepers) and Bombycillidae

(Waxwings) the only ones avoiding detection.

May 22–24 saw our latest incarnation of Birding by the Alphabet with birders searching for species whose names contained a major word or section beginning with all the letters of VICTORIA DAY FETE DES PATRIOTES. English, French or the scientific name could be used. Two out of our fourteen participants succeeded in scoring a perfect 27 with all others close at 25 or 26.

May 29–30 had thirteen observers relaxing with an extended version of The Big Sit. Participants were asked to pick a favourite spot from which to bird and could spend as many hours as desired at any time over the entire weekend. Repeat visits were allowed. A total of 96 species were seen or heard at nine different sites with an average of 26 per location.

Undoubtedly many of our regular field trip attendees would rather be enjoying the camaraderie of group birding. The Committee hopes that these theme weekends continue to be an enjoyable substitute for all those who have participated whether once or many times. Hopefully, we can soon gather again in person to share our avian finds.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird / Colibri à gorge rubis © 2021 Chuck Kling

Bird Views

A Summary of Interesting Bird Sightings in Montréal and Around the Province

by Pierre Bannon

March – May 2021

Pink-footed Goose: single birds were reported at Mirabel 1–2 Apr (S. Guertin et al Laval 4 Apr (P. Franche, A. Gosselin), Bic 14 Apr (J. Roy–Drainville) & 2 May (F–X. Grandmont) and finally at Rimouski 14–15 Apr (V. Giroux). **Barnacle Goose:** singles were seen in 6 different municipalities. **Barnacle Goose X Canada Goose hybrid:** one photographed at Lacolle 16 Mar (D. Jauvin). **Trumpeter Swan:** a very early migrant at Brownsburg–Chatham 3 Mar provided a record date for the province (D. Corbeil, É. Charron). Out of Abitibi where the species is nesting, pairs reappeared this year at Saint–Étienne, Saint–Fulgence and Baie–du–Febvre. **Tundra Swan:** the pair that overwintered at Les Îles–de–la–Madeleine was last reported 16 Apr (DG. Gaudet). Migrants were reported in small number in different localities, notably along the Richelieu River. **Garganey:** a male at Rivière–Ouelle 23 Apr (C. Auchu). **Eurasian Wigeon X American Wigeon:** this rare hybrid was present at Saint–Étienne–de–Beauharnois 13–27 Apr (B. Lepage, P. Pontbriand, et al). **Ring–necked Duck X Greater Scaup:** also rare, this hybrid lingered at Chambly 3 Apr–1st May (O. Barden et al.). **Tufted Duck:** singles at Baie–Comeau 16–19 Apr (JP.

Parlons d’oiseaux

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

par Pierre Bannon

Mars– Mai 2021

Oie à bec court: des individus signalés à Mirabel 1–2 avril (S. Guertin et al.), Laval 4 avril (P. Franche, A. Gosselin), Bic 14 avril (J. Roy–Drainville) & 2 mai (F–X. Grandmont) et finalement à Rimouski 14–15 avril (V. Giroux). **Bernache nonnette:** des oiseaux vus dans 6 localités différentes. **Bernache nonnette X Bernache du Canada:** cet hybride a été photographié à Lacolle 16 mars (D. Jauvin). **Cygne trompette:** un migrateur très hâtif à Brownsburg–Chatham le 3 mars a établi un nouveau record pour la province (D. Corbeil, É. Charron). En dehors de l’Abitibi où l’espèce niche, des couples sont réapparus à Saint–Étienne–de–Beauharnois, Saint–Fulgence et Baie–du–Febvre. **Cygne siffleur:** le couple qui a hiverné aux Îles–de–la–Madeleine a été noté jusqu’au 16 avril (DG. Gaudet). Des migrateurs ont été aperçus en petit nombre dans différentes localités en particulier le long du Richelieu. **Sarcelle d’été:** un mâle à Rivière–Ouelle 23 avril (C. Auchu). **Canard siffleur X Canard d’Amérique:** ce rare hybride a été présent à Saint–Étienne–de–Beauharnois 13–27 avril (B. Lepage, P. Pontbriand, et al). **Fuligule à collier X Fuligule milouinan:** également rare, cet hybride s’est attardé à

Barry et al.) and at Sept-Îles 15–28 May (B. Duchesne et al.). **Steller's Eider**: certainly, the most unexpected bird of the season was an ad male at Pointe-des-Monts (Lower North Shore) feeding with Common Eiders 29–30 May (E. Hains, JP Barry, ph.). The only records on file for the province of Québec were 2 specimens collected in 1898 also on the North Shore

American Avocet: one at Port-Cartier 30 May (JF. Laporte, N. Vibert). **Purple Sandpiper**: one at Gatineau 23 Apr–13 May was out of range (R. Dubois, JP. Ruddy et al.). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one at Rimouski 31 Mar was only the second ever seen in March in the province (V. Giroux, A. Florea). **Willet**: always rare out of Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, singles were seen at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 12 May (M. Grenier), Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 23–24 May (F. Saint-Arnaud et al.), and Contrecoeur 24–29 May (D. Tétreault et al.). **Wilson's Phalarope**: in recent years, the number of migrating birds has shown ups and downs. This year, birds were reported in at least 15 localities with an estimated total of 35 individuals, a peak for the last 2 decades. **Parasitic Jaeger**: one at Gatineau 9 May (R. Dubois). **Little Gull**: southern Québec was gratified by this species, notably four 1st summer birds at Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 24 May (S. Denault).

Chambly 3 avril–1^{er} mai (O. Barden et al.). **Fuligule morillon**: des oiseaux à Baie-Comeau 16–19 avril (JP. Barry et al.) et à Sept-Îles 15–28 mai (B. Duchesne et al.). **Eider de Steller**: certainement l'oiseau le plus inattendu de la saison a été un mâle ad se nourrissant avec des Eiders à duvet 29–30 mai à Pointe-des-Monts (Basse-Côte-Nord) (E. Hains, JP Barry, ph.). Deux spécimens collectionnés également sur la Côte Nord en 1898 constituaient les seules mentions antérieures connues au Québec.

Avocette d'Amérique: une à Port-Cartier 30 mai (JF. Laporte, N. Vibert). **Bécasseau violet**: un à Gatineau 23 avril–13 mai était hors de son aire (R. Dubois, JP. Ruddy et al.). **Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée**: un à Rimouski 31 mars était seulement le second noté en mars dans la province (V. Giroux, A. Florea). **Chevalier semipalmé**: toujours rare en dehors des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, des oiseaux ont été notés à Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 12 mai (M. Grenier), l'Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 23–24 mai (F. Saint-Arnaud et al.), et Contrecoeur 24–29 mai (D. Tétreault et al.). **Phalarope de Wilson**: depuis quelques années, cette espèce montre des hauts et des bas. Cette année, des oiseaux ont été aperçus dans 15 localités totalisant 35 individus, un sommet depuis deux décennies. **Labbe parasite**: un à Gatineau 9 mai (R. Dubois). **Mouette pygmée**: le sud du Québec a été choyé par cette espèce, notamment 4 oiseaux de 1^{er} été à l'Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 24 mai (S. Denault).



Little Blue Heron / Aigrette bleue © 2021
Chuck Kling

Neotropic Cormorant: an immature bird at Gatineau 22 Apr–15 May provided a second record for the province (R. Bisson et al.). Amazingly the bird appeared at almost the same place where an adult had been recorded in Apr 2018. **American White Pelican:** 4 birds seen at Gatineau 21 May (S. McCarthy, R. Dubois) were relocated at Ile des Soeurs 21–22 May (C. & S. & J. Carson) and later the same day in eastern Montréal (Y. Gauthier). **Snowy Egret:** singles at Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines 29 Apr (P. Mourant) and at Berthierville 3–4 May (M. Bourassa et al.). **Little Blue Heron:** single adults at Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard 16 Apr (D. St-Pierre, J. Veillette), and at Pabos 14–20 May (J. Blais et al.). **Tricolored Heron:** an adult at Cap Tourmente 16–31 May (C. Girard et al.). **Cattle Egret:** one at Terrebonne 11 Apr (B. Lavoie et al.). **Glossy Ibis:** seen in 8 municipalities with a maximum of 6 at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-

Cormoran vigua: un immature à Gatineau 22 avril–15 mai constitue une deuxième mention dans la province (R. Bisson et al.). Étonnamment cet oiseau est apparu au même endroit où un ad avait été présent en avril 2018. **Pélican d'Amérique:** 4 oiseaux vus à Gatineau 21 mai (S. McCarthy, R. Dubois) ont été relocalisés à l'Ile des Soeurs 21–22 mai (C. & S. & J. Carson) et plus tard le même jour dans l'est de Montréal (Y. Gauthier). **Aigrette neigeuse:** des oiseaux à Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines 29 avril (P. Mourant) et à Berthierville 3–4 mai (M. Bourassa et al.). **Aigrette bleue:** des adultes à Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard 16 avril (D. St-Pierre, J. Veillette), et à Pabos 14–20 mai (J. Blais et al.). **Aigrette tricolore:** un adulte à Cap-Tourmente 16–31 mai (C. Girard et al.). **Héron garde-boeufs:** un à Terrebonne 11 avril (B. Lavoie et al.). **Ibis falcinelle:** aperçu dans 8 localités avec un maximum de 6 à Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 11 mai (M. Landry et al.) et un oiseau retrouvé très au nord à Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon 26–29 mai (V. Buckle).

Urubu noir: un oiseau arborant une étiquette patagiale photographié à Gascons (Gaspésie) 14 avril avait été marqué à Hershey, Penn en oct 2020 (L. Roussy). Des oiseaux ont aussi été signalés dans 5 localités différentes. **Buse à queue rousse:** un morphe foncé de la ssp *calurus* ou possiblement *abieticola* a été photographié à Laval 18–27 mars (L. Turcot et al.). **Petite Nyctale:** une femelle affichant une plaque incubatrice s'est emmêlée dans un filet japonais à l'observatoire d'oiseaux de McGill (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 13 mai (S. Duval) ce qui

aux-Noix 11 May (M. Landry et al.) and a bird found as far north as Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon 26–29 May (V. Buckle).

Black Vulture: a bird with a patagial tag photographed at Gascons (Gaspésie) 14 Apr had been tagged at Hershey, Penn in Oct 2020 (L. Roussy). Otherwise, single birds were seen in 5 different municipalities. **Red-tailed Hawk: a dark-morph calurus or putative abieticola bird** was photographed at Laval 18–27 Mar (L. Turcot et al.). **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** a female with a brood patch was mist netted at the McGill Bird Observatory (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 13 May (S. Duval). This would give strong support for a first nesting record on the island of Montréal since 1952.



Red-headed Woodpecker / Pic à tête rouge © 2017
Jane Cormack

témoigne d'un premier cas de nidification sur l'île de Montréal depuis 1952.

Pic à tête rouge: un adulte à Val-des-Monts 16–31 mai (A. Lawes et al.) et jusqu'à 2 à Racine 25–31 mai (C. Larocque). **Moucherolle vermillon:** un mâle ad au boisé Sainte-Dorothée (Laval) 28–31 mai, une troisième présence au Québec et la deuxième en moins d'un an (J. Boismenu). **Viréo aux yeux blancs:** un au Jardin botanique de Montréal 16 mai (O. Barden et al.). **Corneille de rivage:** signalée à 2 reprises au Québec— en 2012 et en 2019—, ce fut toute une surprise de trouver jusqu'à 3 oiseaux à Magog 11 avril–31 mai (É. Tremblay, B. Turgeon et al.). Plusieurs indices de nidification incluant la construction de nid furent notés durant la période. Des oiseaux ont aussi été entendus au parc du Mont-Royal 8 mai (S. Denault), et à Philipsburg 16 mai (O. Barden). **Grive à collier:** l'oiseau trouvé à l'Île Bizard (Montréal) durant l'hiver est demeuré jusqu'au 26 mars (F. Bussière et al.).

Bec-croisé des sapins: la plupart des oiseaux présents durant l'hiver semblaient avoir quitté à la fin de mai. **Bruant à joues marron:** l'oiseau qui a hiverné à Saint-Charles-de-Bellechase fut signalé jusqu'au 11 mai (G. Jean). **Bruant à couronne dorée:** l'oiseau qui a hiverné à Rimouski fut signalé jusqu'au 7 avril (J. Rocheteau). **Tohi tacheté:** l'oiseau qui a hiverné à Grande-Rivière fut signalé jusqu'au 21 mars (A. Leblanc). **Ictérie polyglotte:** une à Lévis 26 mai (S. Bégin, L. Plante).

Red-headed Woodpecker: an adult at Val-des-Monts 16–31 May (A. Lawes et al.) and up to 2 ad. at Racine 25–31 May (C. Larocque). **Vermilion Flycatcher:** an ad male at the Boisé Sainte-Dorothée (Laval) 28–31 May, a third record for the province and the second in less than a year (J. Boismenu). **White-eyed Vireo:** one in the Montréal Botanical Gardens 16 May (O. Barden et al.). **Fish Crow:** recorded only twice in the province—in 2012 and 2019—, it was a big surprise to find up to 3 birds at Magog 11 Apr–31 May (É. Tremblay, B. Turgeon et al.). Numerous signs of breeding including nest building were recorded throughout this period. Single birds were also heard calling in Mont-Royal Park 8 May (S. Denault), and at Philipsburg 16 May (O. Barden). **Varied Thrush:** the bird present at Île Bizard (Montréal) in late winter remained until 26 Mar (F. Bussière et al.).

Red Crossbill: most birds present last winter seemed to have vanished by the end of May. **Lark Sparrow:** the bird that overwintered at Saint-Charles-de-Bellechase was last reported 11 May (G. Jean). **Golden-crowned Sparrow:** the bird that overwintered at Rimouski was last seen 7 Apr (J. Rocheteau). **Spotted Towhee:** the bird that overwintered at Grande-Rivière was last seen 21 Mar (A. Leblanc). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one at Lévis 26 May (S. Bégin, L. Plante).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: seen at 7 locations. **Western Meadowlark:** a bird at Grandes Bergeronnes 8 May (S. Delisle, D. Guillemette) and probably the same at Les Escoumins 24 May (P-A. Dumas et al.). **Orchard Oriole:** birds were seen in

Carouge à tête jaune: noté dans 7 localités. **Sturnelle de l'Ouest:** un oiseau à Grandes Bergeronnes 8 mai (S. Delisle, D. Guillemette) et probablement le même aux Escoumins 24 mai (P-A. Dumas et al.). **Oriole des vergers:** des oiseaux présents dans 8 localités différentes, incluant un mâle à Baie-Comeau 29 mai (M. Létourneau) et une femelle aux Îles-de-la-Madeleine 28–30 mai (A. Richard et al.).



Palm Warbler / Paruline à couronne rousse
© 2021 Chuck Kling

Paruline hochequeue: une au cimetière Mont-Royal (Montréal) 5 avril a procuré une date hâtive record pour la province (N. Wathier, G. Levitchouk, S. Denault). **Paruline à ailes bleues:** signalée à 4 endroits différents. **Paruline orangée:** un mâle à Sainte-Foy (Québec) 23–31 May (A. Anctil, HM. Johansen). **Paruline verdâtre:** une à Baie-du-Febvre 17 avril, une date hâtive record pour la province. (J. Lachance). **Paruline à**

8 different localities, including a male at Baie-Comeau 29 May (M. Létourneau) and a female at Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine 28-30 May (A. Richard et al.).

Louisiana Waterthrush: one in the Mount-Royal Cemetery (Montréal) 5 Apr provided a record early date for the province (N. Wathier, G. Levtchouk, S. Denault). **Blue-winged Warbler:** reported at 4 different sites. **Prothonotary Warbler:** a male at Sainte-Foy (Québec City) 23-31 May (A. Anctil, HM. Johansen). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one at Baie-du-Febvre 17 Apr was record early (J. Lachance). **Hooded Warbler:** a female was mistnetted twice at Grandes-Bergeronnes 17-18 May (P-A. Dumas et al.). **Palm Warbler:** one at Laval 27 Mar was record early for the province (M. Bouchard). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Technoparc Montréal 8-9 May (M. Romer, B. Soutar et al.).

ADDENDUM

Manx Shearwater: one at Québec City 20 May 2020 provided the first record in spring for the province (A. Terrigeol, B. Drolet, A. Caughlan).

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

capuchon: une femelle capturée deux fois dans les filets japonais à Grandes-Bergeronnes 17-18 mai (P-A. Dumas et al.). **Paruline à couronne rousse:** une à Laval 27 mars, une date hâtive record pour la province (M. Bouchard). **Paruline à gorge jaune:** une au Technoparc Montréal 8-9 mai (M. Romer, B. Soutar et al.).

ADDENDUM

Puffin des Anglais: un à Québec 20 mai 2020 procure une première mention au printemps dans la province (A. Terrigeol, B. Drolet, A. Caughlan).

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon par courriel à pbannon@videotron.ca

Celebrating the New Parc écologique des Sources (ADM)

by Jane Cormack

In celebration of Earth Day 2021, Parc écologique des Sources was officially opened.

This new park was created by Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) with help and advice from TechnoparcOiseaux following discussions with the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau.

It is located north of the Montréal–Trudeau airport and comprises approximately 19 hectares of federal land, which is managed and operated by the ADM.



The inauguration was attended by Pierre Lussier, president of Jour de la Terre, François Riou of Technoparc Oiseaux, Joël Coutu, avian consultant for Falco–Ornitho, Lyne Michaud, Director of Sustainable Development and Environment at ADM, and Philippe Rainville, president and CEO of the ADM. Symbolically, they planted five trees at the entrance.

Parc écologique des Sources and other areas of the Technoparc–Wetlands that are rich in biodiversity.

According to Phillipe Rainville, "As part of its environmental policy, ADM is committed to protecting areas with high ecological value at its sites. Preserving this sector underscores this commitment."



Least Bittern / Petit Blongios
© 2021 Chuck Kling

For the members of TechnoparcOiseaux and other environmentalists this is indeed cause for celebration, a sign that their efforts are paying off. Since 2016, they have been raising awareness and fighting for the protection of TechnoparcMontréal with its surrounding forests and wetlands,

There is still more to do. The whole area, collectively known as the Technoparc Wetlands, contains critical habitat and efforts to

protect more of it are by no means tailing off.

This year, the BPQ Conservation Committee has written letters to municipal and federal ministers of the environment and climate change and are currently engaged in conversation with municipal leaders to share their concerns.

A primary interest is protecting the habitat of the Least Bittern. This species has suffered general habitat loss and degradation and is considered Threatened under the Species at Risk Act. It has been observed in the Technoparc Wetlands with young every year for the past five years.

Other species at risk on the site include Wood Thrush, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Bobolink, Chimney Swift, Eastern Meadowlark, and Eastern Whip-poor-will.

To a number of bird species that is among the highest anywhere in the Montreal region, this is a migration stopover, and it is home, for at least part of the year.

For these reasons, it has been close to the hearts of BPQ members for a long time. It has been part of our Montreal Christmas Bird Count for decades and is included in both editions of the *Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas*.

Mabel McIntosh, a long-time member and one of our most celebrated, began birding there in 1961. She recalls, “the variety of birds was great, probably one of the best localities on the West Island.” In the ‘70s, she and Bob Barnhust often saw Short-eared Owls there and once even a nest. A Loggerhead Shrike was observed one spring and was probably breeding. A record of the nest they found is included in the Canadian Museum of Nature archives. The

Short-eared Owl is now in decline and the Loggerhead Shrike is no longer present in Quebec.

Efforts to protect the area were sparked again in 2016, when birders, collecting data for the *Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas*, noticed the number and variety of species. TechnoparcOiseaux was formed then by Joël Coutu and an eclectic group of birders. The organization has worked non-stop to this day.

Back in 2016 and 2017, the BPQ Conservation Committee wrote letters to the Honourable Catherine McKenna, then Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, asking for general protection of the area and for protection of the Least Bittern site in particular. More about our involvement can be read [here](#):

The creation of this new ecological park shows some progress. It will bring more awareness of the need

to protect it to the general public, who are now frequenting parks much more often.

This trend was confirmed by a survey conducted by Park People. As reported by the Canadian Press on June 23, two thirds of the 3,500 participants said they had visited parks more often during the pandemic. Nearly 40 per cent said they had doubled the time they normally spend in them, and 85% said they plan to continue using them.

Although people use parks for a variety of reasons, some can't help but notice their fragility. The landscape can at times seem stark.

Trees have been felled in large numbers due to the ravages of the emerald ash borer in recent years. Other species have lost their leaves and needles due to the invasion of gypsy moth caterpillars this spring and summer.



Yellow Warbler / Paruline jaune
© 2021 Chuck Kling

More people visiting parks can mean that more people will want to save them. At the same time, the heavy traffic does put more of a strain on their existing nature.

At all times, but especially now during breeding season, it is important to stay on trails and practice good birding ethics, as described [here](#). People wandering off trail are the greatest threat to biodiversity.

WANTED!!!



Mabel McIntosh and Bob Barnhurst at the end of one of many long days of hawkwatching.

Since 1980, they have dedicated six to eight hours per day for 56 days every spring and 78 days every fall to the hawkwatch.

Birding Checklists and Newsletters from the '60s,' 70s and '80s

by Francis Brabant

In his President's Report for the 1939-1940- *PQSPB Annual Report*, as it was then called, V. C. Wynne-Edwards noted:

"Of the two principal activities of the members of this Society, the study of birds is to us a recreation. The conservation of wildlife, on the other hand, is a serious duty. We work for this purpose first by education, trying to rouse a wider and wider interest among the public, old and young, in natural history."

This statement is even more true today. Conservation and history are important. Those of us who were birdwatching in the 1970s will

remember the impressive numbers of ducks that could be seen in the fall at Île-des-Sœurs or Île Perrot as well as the raptors!

Mabel McIntosh and Bob Barnhurst are privileged witnesses of this era. I had the opportunity to meet them at some of our favourite sites in those years.

Many of their lists had been added towards the end of the 1980s to the ÉPOQ database but were still not in eBird. Earlier this year, I undertook the project of entering them with their authorization, obtained through the help of Frédéric Hareau, as a BPQ conservation project.

eBird is an extremely useful, efficient and easy-to-access online database providing scientists and birders alike with information on the abundance and distribution of birds.



Ring-necked Ducks / Fuligule à collier at Île-des-Sœurs © 2021 Chuck Kling

I am now attempting to supplement Mabel and Bob's data by soliciting those who have been birdwatching with them. Pierre Bannon, Richard Yank and Normand David answered the call.

I also looked up their observations in ornithological publications. This is how I got some great advice from Helen Meredith about *The Song Sparrow* newsletter. Among other things, she suggested that I call upon everyone who might have

issues dating back to the '60s,'70s and '80s.

I therefore invite those who have issues of *The Song Sparrow* newsletter from those years, or who have kept checklists of their birding trips with Mabel or Bob, or together with both of them, to contact me at the following email address: brabantft@videotron.ca We can agree on how to share these documents and how to return them to you.

As I thank you for your contribution to this project, I wish you excellent birding!

Contributing Data

Mabel McIntosh and Bob Barnhurst's data are entered in the Hawk Migration Association of North America's (HMANA) database. Their data represent one of only six North American studies that have been carried out for longer than 30 years.

Their data are used by government and university researchers and others doing environmental impact studies. Along with the recorded hawk numbers and flight height, the weather is noted at the start of each hour spent monitoring.

Their censuses of migrating Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Osprey and Cooper's Hawk have been particularly important. All four of these species were listed as endangered or threatened due to the thinning of their eggshells by the overuse of the organochlorine chemicals such as DDT. Counts like these help biologists and government officials make decisions on the recovery of those species. The value of their censuses continues to this day with the annual count of the American Kestrel, a species in decline for reasons thus far unknown.

eBird data serve a similar purpose but have a more general outreach.