

The Song Sparrow

April 2013 (Vol. 55-5)



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Get Involved

Along with the warmer weather and arrival of migrating birds come several opportunities to get outside, observe birds, and participate in any of the bird surveys and challenges that are offered throughout Southern Quebec and further afield.



These surveys are fun to do and at the same time help to raise awareness of the beauty and benefits of wildlife conservation.

Starting with the Breeding Bird Atlas Survey, we have interspersed this issue, our last before the traditional late spring and early summer break, with news and reminders about how to get involved, for both the beginning birder and those with many years of experience to share, regardless of their age...

Keep watching our website and Songsparrow e-mail forum for news about the team we are sponsoring for the Breeding Bird Survey in northern Quebec.

What is the future of BPQ?

BPQ is now close to celebrating its first 100 years of existence and it is only fitting that we pause for a moment and take a look at our past and think about

our future. What have we achieved? Where are we going?

The Board of Directors has been working with Catalina Barbarosi, a Masters student in Concordia University's Human Systems Intervention program. We have been thinking about our achievements, our strengths and our weaknesses and now it's your turn.

What are **your** thoughts? What activities do **you** participate in? What would **you** like to see more of? What draws **you** to BPQ?

If you would like to **share your ideas**, e-mail us at: birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

If you would like to **take part** in a day-long session to discuss and plan for the future of our organization and are able to join us on June 15, e-mail us at birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

Do you like to BIRD?

Take on a Breeding Bird Survey route and count birds...for the birds!

What is the BBS?

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is the primary source of long-term, large-scale population data for over 400 North American breeding bird species. Collected since 1966, this standardized roadside survey relies on volunteer participation.

How does the BBS work?

Coordinated jointly by the U.S. Geological Survey and Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, the BBS is based on: a standardized, rigorous sampling design, a simple field protocol and a core of expert observers, mostly volunteers. One day a year, during the peak of the breeding season and for as many years as possible, BBS observers run their assigned route(s). Each route is about 40 km long, with 50 stops spaced every 800 m. Observers record all birds seen or heard within 400 m of each stop for three minutes. Each route takes four to five hours to complete.

Why we need your help

The future of bird conservation in North America depends on BBS data. The BBS can't get good data without expert birders. Though over half of the 1000 active BBS routes across Canada are run each year, increasing BBS coverage by running currently unassigned routes is one of the best ways to improve the BBS's statistical power. We need new recruits to help fill these gaps in survey coverage, and to take over existing routes when observers move away or retire.

The BBS is a great way to explore and bird in new regions, immerse yourself in the beauty that is the Canadian landscape, and give back to the birds by putting your skills to good use.

Birders, apply here!

BBS observers must be able to identify all regional species by sight and song, and should be able to commit to their route(s) for at least two years. Brush up on birdsong and quiz yourself using NatureInstruct's Dendroica program (www.natureinstruct.org).

Still learning?

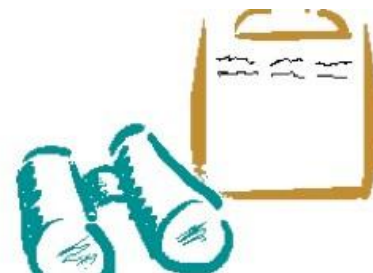
If you are still working on your identification skills, consider pairing up with an existing BBS observer as their assistant until you learn the ropes and are able to take on a route of your own. Contact Marie-Anne Hudson, the National BBS Coordinator for Canada, at BBS@ec.gc.ca for more information, or visit the BBS website: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS.

The BBS works for you

BBS data are freely available to the public through the BBS website, and are used by scientists, wildlife managers, educators, students and the general public. The importance of the BBS for bird conservation is partly shown in the 450+ scientific publications that rely on BBS data.

What does the BBS tell us?

BBS data provide information locally, regionally and continentally on population trends, species' relative abundance and species composition and richness. BBS data have been used to answer such questions as: "How are bird populations changing?", "Which species are of conservation concern?", and "How is climate change affecting bird populations?"



Prenez un parcours du BBS et comptez les oiseaux... pour l'amour des oiseaux!

Qu'est-ce que le BBS?

Le Relevé des oiseaux nicheurs (Breeding Bird Survey - BBS) est la principale source de données sur les populations à long terme et à grande échelle de plus de 400 espèces d'oiseaux nicheurs en Amérique du Nord. Ce relevé normalisé en bordure de route est effectué depuis 1966 et repose sur la participation de bénévoles.

Que révèle le BBS?

Les données du Relevé des oiseaux nicheurs fournissent des renseignements à l'échelle locale, régionale et continentale sur les aspects suivants :

- tendances des populations;
- abondance relative des espèces;
- composition et diversité des espèces.

Les données du relevé sont utilisées pour répondre à des questions, notamment : Quelles sont les incidences des changements climatiques sur les populations d'oiseaux? Quels sont les changements que connaissent les populations d'oiseaux? Quelles sont les espèces préoccupantes en matière de conservation?

Le BBS vous est bénéfique

Les données du relevé sont disponibles gratuitement sur le site Web, et sont utilisées par les scientifiques, les gestionnaires de la faune, les enseignants, les étudiants et le grand public. Leur importance pour la conservation des oiseaux est en partie présentée dans les quelque 450 publications scientifiques qui se servent de ces données.

Comment fonctionne le BBS?

Le United States Geological Survey (USGS) et le Service canadien de la faune d'Environnement Canada assurent conjointement la coordination du Relevé des oiseaux nicheurs, qui est fondé sur :

- une conception d'échantillonnage normalisée et rigoureuse;
- un protocole sur le terrain simple;
- un noyau d'observateurs spécialistes, bénévoles pour la plupart.

Un jour par année, en pleine saison de nidification et pour le plus grand nombre d'années possible, des observateurs font le ou les parcours qui leur ont été attribués. Les parcours, d'une longueur d'environ 40 km chacun, comportent 50 arrêts espacés de 800 m. À chaque arrêt, l'observateur compte, pendant 3 minutes, tous les oiseaux vus ou entendus dans un rayon de 400 m. Chaque parcours prend de quatre à cinq heures à compléter.

Pourquoi nous avons besoin de votre aide

L'avenir de la conservation des oiseaux en Amérique du Nord dépend des données du BBS. Le BBS ne peut pas obtenir de données utiles sans la participation d'ornithologues amateurs. Bien que plus de la moitié des 1 000 parcours actifs du BBS au Canada soient effectués chaque année, l'élargissement de la couverture du relevé en exécutant des parcours actuellement non attribués est l'une des meilleures façons d'améliorer l'efficacité statistique du BBS. Nous avons besoin de nouvelles recrues pour aider à combler ces lacunes sur le plan de la couverture du relevé et à prendre en charge les parcours existants lorsque des observateurs déménagent ou prennent leur retraite.

Le BBS est une façon merveilleuse d'observer les oiseaux dans de nouvelles régions, de s'immerger dans la beauté du paysage canadien et de contribuer à la conservation des oiseaux en mettant à profit ses compétences.

Avez-vous ce qu'il faut?

Appel aux ornithologues amateurs!

Les observateurs du BBS doivent pouvoir identifier toutes les espèces régionales d'oiseaux par leur chant ou leur apparence et s'engager à effectuer leur(s) parcours pendant au moins deux ans. Rafraîchissez vos connaissances sur les oiseaux et testez-les à l'aide du programme Dendroica de NatureInstruct (www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/).

En cours d'apprentissage?

Si vous travaillez toujours à parfaire vos compétences d'identification, réfléchissez à la possibilité de faire équipe avec un observateur existant du BBS qui vous aidera à apprendre les ficelles jusqu'à ce que vous puissiez effectuer un parcours par vous-même.



La Grande Fête des Oiseaux

Le 8 juin, la boutique du CCFA-Nature Expert vous invite à la grande fête des oiseaux. Lors de cette journée, vous aurez la chance de rencontrer :

- Jean Paquin, ornithologue et auteur
- Daniel Dupont, photographe
- La compagnie Vortex (jumelles, lunettes de repérage, accessoires)
- La compagnie Swarovski (jumelles, lunettes de repérage, accessoires)
- Clay Taylor, expert en digiscopie
- Service environnementaux faucons (avec oiseaux de proie)
- U.Q.R.O.P. (avec oiseaux de proie)
- Regroupement QuébecOiseaux
- Protection des oiseaux du Québec
- Danie Gagnon, peintre animalier

Vous aurez la possibilité de:

- Rencontrer des experts ornithologues et artistes
- Tester les meilleurs équipements pour l'observation d'oiseaux
- Discuter de conservation des oiseaux avec des groupes environnementaux
- Voir des oiseaux de proie vivants et vous faire prendre en photo avec eux
- Gagner l'un des nombreux prix (livres, mangeoires d'oiseaux, jumelles, etc.)
- Profiter de plusieurs économies et promotions en magasin

Bird Fest

On June 8, 2013, CCFA-Nature Expert invites you to their annual Bird Fest. On that day, you will have the opportunity to meet:

- Jean Paquin, author and birding expert
- Daniel Dupont, photographer and author

- Vortex Optics (binoculars, spotting scopes, accessories)
- Swarovski Optik (binoculars, spotting scopes, accessories)
- Clay Taylor, digiscoping expert
- Service environnementaux faucons (with their birds of prey)
- U.Q.R.O.P. (with their birds of prey)
- Regroupement QuébecOiseaux
- Bird Protection Québec
- Danie Gagnon, wildlife artist

You will have the opportunity to:

- Meet birding experts and artists
- Test the best birding equipment
- Discuss bird conservation with environmental groups
- See live birds of prey and have your picture taken with them
- Win one of several prizes (books, bird feeders, binoculars, etc.)
- Take advantage of several in-store savings and promotions



Bird Studies Canada's Baillie Birdathon 2013

by Sheldon Harvey

This May I will be participating in my eleventh Baillie Birdathon, together with my wife Darlene, who will be participating in her fifth. In the previous ten years we have raised over \$16,000 in pledges for the cause.

Twenty-five cents of every dollar raised by participants is returned to a local organization of their choice. Darlene and I are once again raising funds for [Les amis de la réserve nationale de faune du lac Saint-François](#), in Dundee, QC.

In 2012, over \$234,000 was raised and distributed to 92 conservation organizations across the country. I'd like to encourage you to support our team, or the team of your choice. Several members of Bird Protection Quebec have been organizing Baillie teams for the last number of years. All donations are appreciated. Tax receipts are issued for amounts of \$10 or more. You can donate a flat amount or make a "per species observed" pledge.

All the Baillie teams will be strategizing in the weeks ahead, trying to predict the best day during the month of May to head into the field to complete their Birdathon. In this region, if you're too early, the warblers haven't arrived. If you're too late, many of the migrating ducks have already passed through. Careful planning, together with a bit of luck, can result in an excellent day of birding, with the ultimate goal of seeing the greatest number of species within a 24-hour period and raising the most money possible for an excellent cause.

To learn more about the Baillie Birdathon, please visit

<http://birdscanada.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1048292>

I encourage you to support any of the participating teams or individuals in this year's Birdathon. It is a simple way to give back to the birds and to the groups who help look after them.

Sponsor a Birder and Help BPQ



For 24 hours on May 10 and 11, teams of birders will be trying to see the maximum number of species of birds possible without moving more than 5 metres from a fixed point. This is part of the annual Grand Défi Québec Oiseaux organized by RQO to focus awareness on International Migratory Birds Day and to raise money for bird conservation in Quebec.

One of the teams (Les Trinoculars – comprising Patrick Laniel, Maxime Carbonneau and Samuel Guay) will be spotting birds within the BPQ bird sanctuary at Philipsburg and **will donate any sponsorship money that they raise to BPQ to help fund our conservation programs.**

We are making them very welcome at our sanctuary and hope that BPQ supporters will feel moved to sponsor the birding skills of Les Trinoculars. You can offer your support to them by visiting their Grand Défi website page at <http://goo.gl/zPwB3>

Or you could form your own team – all the details you need are on the website above.

BPQ – So Much More Than “Just Another Birding Club”

by Richard Gregson

You have heard about our field trips, informational public lectures, education programs, and network of bird sanctuaries, but there is another aspect of our work as a major conservation charity that tends to be overlooked: We support science.

One of the important things that we do is to give grants that facilitate research which benefits birds. Some of these grants go to support educational initiatives, but most years the majority of our grant awardees are scientists working to unravel the mysteries of avian biology. By knowing what birds are, how they behave, where they are, and why they are there and not elsewhere, we are able to formulate and promote policies that will help them to survive.



Examining the wings of a Long-eared Owl at the MBO

We are only able to do this because of the financial support we receive from our members, from donors and from inheritances. By supporting BPQ, you directly contribute to the growth of biological knowledge and so keep birds around us just that little bit longer.

In return, it is important that we report back to you about the projects that you have helped to make possible.

This year we will be continuing to support two ongoing projects at the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) that we have been involved with for some years as well as starting a third. The MBO, for those of you not familiar with it, operates from a partially forested area beside the Morgan Arboretum where its scientists and students, aided by numerous skilled volunteers (many are BPQ members), study migration and population distribution, among other related topics. Our support goes towards enabling banding programs, observations of winter finch behaviour, and now laboratory studies of bird DNA that help in the sexing of birds – not always an easy thing to determine, unless you are another bird! The MBO is a wonderful organization that we are proud to work with. It is one of those terrific examples of professional and citizen scientists working side by side to shed light on things that would otherwise remain hidden from us.

Another well-established bird-banding operation, working on migration studies, is the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac. This year we are supporting its program to monitor migrating songbirds and raptors.

We have become involved with studies on Red-breasted Merganser behaviour being conducted by a former McGill professor and president of this society with his colleague. This is part of a series of investigations into the biology of these birds that they have been pursuing for many, many years.

In the Beauce, extensive areas of wetland are being preserved by a local conservation group that employs a biologist to conduct population surveys on the birds living there. These surveys provide necessary information for habitat management and are financed by BPQ grants. This is a continuing program, following on from initial work we helped with in 2012.

We support an environmental educator employed by Scouts Canada at a summer camp not far from Montreal. This program is instrumental in introducing a younger generation to the wonders of our natural environment – something that is more and more important in this increasingly materialistic world.



Mist net at the MBO

Finally, **our biggest project this year** is concerned with the Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas, currently some three years into its five-year program. This massive, expensive and unique project is repeated every 20 years and amasses essential baseline data about the status, presence and population of birds in Quebec. These data are absolutely essential to so many other research projects. For example, they are used in environmental assessments undertaken to determine the likelihood of such things as development projects going ahead. These are the data that say “you can’t open a mine there or log that valley because endangered species X and Y call it their home.” By comparing current data with those from two decades ago, we can know which species are thriving, which are increasing and which are declining and help to direct resources

and policies. Much of these data are gathered by experienced citizen scientists as a voluntary contribution, but there are some corners of Quebec that are simply too far away from habitation for any volunteers to access and so teams of professional scientists are “dropped” into them with equipment and tents and told to get on with it for a couple of months. Sometimes this necessitates flights to remote lakes; usually it needs the provision of tough trucks and ATVs etc., plus their salaries and maintenance costs. As you can imagine, this is an expensive undertaking.



In 2013 the **entire** cost of one of these teams is being contributed by BPQ.

Each year, we ask our support recipients for a report on their achievements. Many of these from previous years are available on our website.

As you can see, BPQ is very busy, in the background, financing work that otherwise would be impossible to start – all the more so in these days of reduced government funding for essential environmental studies, to say nothing of frank withdrawal from some fields of study. This is why we are a charity – this is our contribution and one that few others are able to offer.

On behalf of the scientists and volunteers doing this work, may I thank you all for your continuing support and interest in what we do. Your membership and donations make it all possible.

Fourth Annual CWF Walk for Wildlife

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) Walk for Wildlife encourages all Canadians to get outside and explore the beauty of wildlife and natural spaces. From the beginning of National Wildlife Week on April 7 until the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, participants can add their kilometres to the national tally by logging them online at WalkforWildlife.ca and help the CWF achieve its 15,000 km goal. Then, on May 11, Chris Cloutier, BPQ Director and Morgan Arboretum Naturalist, will lead a two-hour walk at the arboretum (www.morganarboretum.org) and point out the birds, amphibians, insects, and flowers. A number of kiosks from various conservation groups will be set up on this day. Be sure to visit BPQ's!

To track your kilometres:

🕒 Log on to the Canadian Wildlife Federation site:

<http://cwf-fcf.org/en/do-something/events/national-wildlife-week/nww-walk-tracking.html>

🕒 Enter our user name: **BPQ-POQ**.

🕒 Enter our password: **songsparrow22**

🕒 Click **Submit**.

Enter the date, number of participants, and kilometres per person.

Click **Submit**. The total (participants * km) is automatically calculated and added to our tally and the National Total.



CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

La Marche pour la conservation de la faune

La « Marche pour la faune » de la FCF encourage tous les Canadiens à sortir et à découvrir la beauté de la faune sauvage et des espaces naturels sur le pas de leurs portes. À compter du 7 avril, début de la Semaine nationale de la conservation de la faune, et jusqu'au 22 mai, Journée internationale de la biodiversité, les participants peuvent ajouter leurs kilomètres au compte national en les consignants en ligne sur le site MarchePourLaFaune.ca, pour nous aider à totaliser 15 000 km. Cette année, la FCF est fière de célébrer le cinquantenaire de Faune et flore du pays. Le 11 mai, Chris Cloutier, membre du conseil d'administration de Protection des oiseaux du Québec, et naturaliste de l'Arboretum Morgan, guidera une sortie de 2 heures et présentera les oiseaux, amphibiens, insectes et fleurs de l'Arboretum (www.morganarboretum.org). Plusieurs kiosques, présentant des groupes de conservation, seront installés le long du parcours. Soyez sûrs de visiter celui de POQ!

POQ a créé un compte afin qu'il vous soit facile de comptabiliser vos kilomètres et augmenter notre visibilité. Nous avons commencé le 29 mars.

Pour enregistrer vos kilomètres:

🕒 Connectez-vous au site de la Fondation canadienne de la faune : <http://cwf-fcf.org/en/do-something/events/national-wildlife-week/nww-walk-tracking.html>

🕒 Entrer le nom d'utilisateur: **BPQ-POQ**

🕒 Entrer le mot de passe: **songsparrow22**

🕒 Cliquer sur **soumettre** (submit)

Entrer la date, le nombre de participants et le nombre de kilomètres par personne.

Cliquez sur **soumettre**. Le total (nombre de participants * kilomètres) est calculé automatiquement et s'ajoutera au total de POQ ainsi qu'au total national.

Améliorer le sanctuaire d'oiseaux George H. Montgomery avec votre aide

Nous avons besoin de votre aide. BPQ a lancé un projet pluriannuel visant à améliorer notre sanctuaire d'oiseaux à Philipsburg et cela débutera par une meilleure signalisation des sentiers - sur lesquels nous souhaitons que les visiteurs restent. Le samedi 27 avril (remis au samedi 4 mai en cas de mauvais temps), nous allons parcourir les sentiers principaux du sanctuaire et mettre en place un balisage temporaire, dégager les branches tombées sur les sentiers et plus généralement essayer de rendre le repérage des sentiers plus facile. Des marqueurs permanents seront plus installés ultérieurement, mais nous devons tout d'abord définir clairement le trajet de chaque sentier.

Nous vous demandons donc de vous joindre à nous pour une journée spéciale, en compagnie de vos amis et des oiseaux forestiers. Vous serez affecté à l'avance à un groupe de travail, guidé par quelqu'un qui connaît bien le sanctuaire.

Si vous êtes prêt pour cette activité, qui promet d'être passionnante, merci d'envoyer un courriel avec votre nom et vos coordonnées à birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. Si vous indiquez également votre adresse, nous essaierons de mettre en place un co-voiturage pour se rendre sur place.

Nous sommes impatients de vous voir



Improving the George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary With Your Help

We need your help. BPQ has started a multi-year project to improve our bird sanctuary at Philipsburg. An essential part of this is better marking of the trails that we want visitors to stick to. On Saturday, April 27 (May 4 if the weather is bad), we will walk the main trails and put temporary trail markers in place, clear fallen branches and generally try to make it easier to find your way around. More permanent markers will be installed in the future, but initially we need to clearly define the trail routes.

Please join us for an interesting day in the company of friends and forest birds. You will be assigned to a working party with a leader who knows the sanctuary well.

If you would like to volunteer, please send an e-mail with your name and contact details to birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. If you include your address, we will also try to set up some car-pooling to get down there.

We look forward to seeing you.

Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program

The Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program (QMMP), now in its ninth year, is run by Bird Studies Canada and supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (Quebec Region). This year the program begins May 27 and runs until July 12.

Volunteer participants are asked to spend about ten hours during this period monitoring marshes in a designated area. If you are interested in getting involved, visit the BSC website: www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/qcmmmp. Bird Protection Quebec holds a CD player and portable speakers purchased by BSC to help

participants do their surveys. If you would like to borrow this equipment, get in touch with Mary Ellen Graham at 514-484-6261, marellgra@aol.com, or Averill Craig 514-484-6575, ak.craig@sympatico.ca

Your Electronic Song Sparrow

After three years plus of delivering *The Song Sparrow* newsletter electronically we have the procedure down to a fine art – but we are always striving to make it better. There is going to be a summer hiatus before publication restarts in late summer and we would like to take the opportunity to fine-tune the layout and appearance of the thing ... but for that to be successful, we need input from our readers. Please send an e-mail to our layout team (greenbirding@gmail.com) and tell us your overall impressions and how you would improve it if you had the choice.

In particular –

Landscape or portrait format? We have opted for landscape because that means you can screen-read it without needing to scroll ... but do you have a preference?

Number of columns? One, two or three?

Font – larger, smaller, serif or sans-serif for the body text?

Do you use the contents list or just browse through it?

Do you print or screen-read?

We could make it more open and incorporate more white space – which would help reading – if we increase the number of pages. How would you feel about that?

Would relevant advertisements annoy you if we ever started selling the space for a few?

It would also be helpful for us to get some idea of the screen you usually read it on – desktop, laptop, tablet computer or even smartphone?

Please help us to help you – drop a line to the above address.

Bird Notes

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

Mid-January-February 2013

Wood Duck: singles at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 14 Jan (L. Lemay) and at Saint-Eustache 9-26 Feb (JC. Charbonneau). **Northern Pintail:** one at Baie-Comeau 18 Feb (O. Barden). **Lesser Scaup:** 2 at Verdun 16 Feb onwards (S. Denault). **King Eider:** at least 4 birds reported during the period. **Harlequin Duck:** 3 different birds reported in the Lachine Rapids (Montreal) during the period (P. Bannon, m. ob.). **Common Loon:** 7 birds still reported after mid-Jan but only 3 in Feb: Saint-Fabien-sur-mer 15 Feb (M. Therriault, G. Proulx), Chandler 16 Feb (A. Couture) and Laval 16 Feb (M. Boisvert). **Pied-billed Grebe:** one overwintered at Sherbrooke (m. ob.). **Great Blue Heron:** late or overwintering birds reported at Sainte-Catherine 13 Jan (J. Roy, F. Bussières), Granby 12-22 Feb (M. D'Auteuil, D. Trescak), and Bécancour 26 Feb (Y. Rivard). **Black Vulture:** one still at Fatima (Magdalen Is.) 19 Jan (G. Cyr et al.). **Turkey Vulture:** singles at Hudson 17 Feb (C. Buddle) and at Saint-Ferdinand 25 Feb (S. Roy, *fide* D. Gagné). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 7 birds were reported, most of them continuing well into February.

American Coot: one at Valleyfield 10-25 Feb (R. Fortin, m. ob.). **Red Knot:** 3 birds at Grosse-Île 16 Jan (S. Cyr., B. Vigneault); reported in the Magdalen Is. for the second consecutive winter. **Sanderling:** Magdalen Is. 13 Jan (A. Richard). **Wilson's Snipe:** 2 at Fatima (Magdalen Is.) 14 Feb (B. Vigneault, C. Roy). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** singles at Terrebonne 20 Jan (S. Denault) and at Clermont 1 Feb (D. Martel).

Northern Hawk-Owl: a few birds continued to be seen. **Great Gray Owl:** a little more than 100 birds were reported in the province throughout the winter. **Boreal Owl:** a few birds reported, especially late in February.

Belted Kingfisher: singles at Saint-Damien-de-Buckland 15 Jan-15 Feb (R. Gingras), at Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides 15-17 Jan (L. Cyr, C. Veevaete) and at Lac-Saguay 22 Jan (MA. Montpetit). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** the bird present at Sainte-Foy continued throughout the period (m. ob.). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** at least 15 birds were reported in the south, while singles at Havre-aux-Maisons (Magdalen Is.) through at least 15 Feb (JL. Leblanc) and at Luceville 20 Feb+ (I. Bérubé) were unusual locally. **Winter Wren:** up to 2 birds at Île des Sœurs in Feb and one at I. Notre-Dame 15 Feb (P. Bannon). **Northern Mockingbird:** 9 birds still reported after mid-Jan. **Brown Thrasher:** one has successfully overwintered at Saint-Léon-le-Grand

Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Mi-janvier-février 2013

Canard branchu : des individus à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 14 jan (L. Lemay) et à Saint-Eustache 9-26 fév (JC. Charbonneau). **Canard pilet :** un à Baie-Comeau 18 fév (O. Barden). **Petit Fuligule :** 2 à Verdun à partir du 16 fév (S. Denault). **Eider à tête grise :** au moins 4 oiseaux signalés au cours de la période. **Arlequin plongeur :** 3 indiv. différents signalés dans les rapides de Lachine (Montréal) au cours de la période (P. Bannon, pl. ob.). **Plongeon huard :** 7 oiseaux signalés après la mi-jan, mais seulement 3 en fév : Saint-Fabien-sur-mer 15 fév (M. Therriault, G. Proulx), Chandler 16 fév (A. Couture) et Laval 16 fév (M. Boisvert). **Grèbe à bec bigarré :** un a hiverné à Sherbrooke (pl. ob.). **Grand Héron :** des oiseaux tardifs ou hivernants à Sainte-Catherine 13 jan (J. Roy, F. Bussières), Granby 12-22 fév (M. D'Auteuil, D. Trescak), et Bécancour 26 fév (Y. Rivard). **Urubu noir :** un toujours à Fatima (Îles de la Madeleine.) 19 jan (G. Cyr et al.). **Urubu à tête rouge :** des indiv. à Hudson 17 fév (C. Buddle) et à Saint-Ferdinand 25 fév (S. Roy, *fide* D. Gagné). **Buse à épauettes :** 7 oiseaux signalés, la plupart prolongeant leur séjour en février.

Foulque d'Amérique : une à Valleyfield 10-25 fév (R. Fortin, pl. ob.). **Bécasseau maubèche :** 3 oiseaux à Grosse-Île 16 jan (S. Cyr., B. Vigneault); signalés aux Îles de la Madeleine pour le 2^{ième} hiver consécutif. **Bécasseau sanderling :** Îles de la Madeleine 13 jan (A. Richard). **Bécassine de Wilson :** 2 à Fatima (IDL) 14 fév (B. Vigneault, C. Roy). **Goéland brun :** des indiv. à Terrebonne 20 jan (S. Denault) et à Clermont 1 fév (D. Martel).

Chouette épervière : quelques oiseaux ont continué leur séjour en fév. **Chouette lapone :** un peu plus de 100 oiseaux signalés dans la province durant l'hiver. **Nyctale de Tengmalm:** quelques oiseaux signalés, surtout à la fin de février.

Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique : des indiv. à Saint-Damien-de-Buckland 15 jan-15 fév (R. Gingras), à Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides 15-17 jan (L. Cyr, C. Veevaete) et à Lac-Saguay 22 jan (MA. Montpetit). **Pic à tête rouge :** l'oiseau de Sainte-Foy a continué son séjour jusqu'à la fin de fév (pl. ob.). **Pic à ventre roux:** au moins 15 oiseaux signalés dans le sud, mais des indiv. à Havre-aux-Maisons (IDL) jusqu'au 15 fév (JL. Leblanc) et à Luceville 20 fév+ (I. Bérubé) étaient inhabituels localement. **Troglodyte des forêts :** jusqu'à 2 oiseaux à l'île des Sœurs en fév et un à l'île Notre-Dame 15 fév (P. Bannon). **Moqueur polyglotte :** 9 oiseaux encore signalés après la mi-jan. **Moqueur roux :** un a hiverné avec succès à Saint-Léon-le-Grand (Bas-Saint-Laurent) (R. Lang).

(Lower St. Lawrence) (R. Lang). **American Pipit**: a bird photographed at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 26 Jan (S. Denault) was seen again 3 March (J. Héneault), representing a first overwintering record for the species.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: one has overwintered at l'Annonciation (ph., MC. Campeau, *fide* M. Renaud). **Eastern Towhee**: singles at Rivière-Ouelle for the whole season (G. Pelletier) and at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu from 22 Dec through at least 2 Feb (S. Riel). **Savannah Sparrow**: one still at Brigham 17 Feb (B. Hamel). **White-crowned Sparrow**: at least 8 indiv. reported during the period, most of them persisting into Feb. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: an imm. male at Vaudreuil-Dorion 22-27 Jan (ph., F. Chatel, JP. Lebel). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: a female at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois through 22 Jan (m. ob.).

ADDENDUM: A **Northern Fulmar** was found alive in a snowbank at Mistissini 20 Dec 2012 (*fide* S. Denault, ph.,) while an ad **Ross's Gull** was videotaped alive as it was sitting and flying low over a snow-covered road approximately 150 km north of Girardville (Lac-Saint-Jean) 22 Jan 2011 (F. Demers, *fide* G. Savard).

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

Pipit d'Amérique : un oiseau photographié à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 26 jan (S. Denault) a été revu le 3 mars (J. Héneault), ce qui représente un premier cas d'hivernage pour cette espèce au Québec.

Paruline à croupion jaune : une a hiverné à l'Annonciation (ph., MC. Campeau, *fide* M. Renaud). **Tohi à flancs roux** : des indiv. à Rivière-Ouelle toute la saison (G. Pelletier) et à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu du 22 déc au 2 fév (S. Riel). **Bruant des prés** : un encore à Brigham 17 fév (B. Hamel). **Bruant à couronne blanche** : au moins 8 indiv. signalés durant la période, la plupart prolongeant leur séjour en fév. **Cardinal à poitrine rose** : un male imm. à Vaudreuil-Dorion 22-27 jan (ph., F. Chatel, JP. Lebel). **Carouge à tête jaune** : une femelle à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois jusqu'au 22 jan (pl. ob.).

ADDENDUM : Un **Fulmar boréal** a été trouvé vivant dans un congère à Mistissini 20 déc 2012 (*fide* S. Denault, ph.,) tandis qu'une **Mouette rosée** ad a été filmée posée sur une route enneigée et en vol 150 km au nord de Girardville (Lac-Saint-Jean) 22 jan 2011 (F. Demers, *fide* G. Savard).

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

MBO Update

by Gay Gruner

By the time you read this, spring will be well under way at McGill Bird Observatory! Daily censuses began on March 28 and banding will begin on April 18. Volunteers are needed to fill the many roles that are essential to the smooth running of the station: observers, net assistants, lane maintenance, scribes and extractors. If you like walking in the morning, keeping company with nature enthusiasts, observing birds in the bush and in the hand, and improving your skills, then MBO is the place for you. Send us an e-mail to volunteer mbo@migrationresearch.org.

As of December 31, 2012, a total of 41,512 individuals of 111 species have been banded at MBO and 207 species observed. These numbers are remarkably high for an inland site and reflect MBO's potential for monitoring changes in populations of spring and fall migrants. What species number 208 might be is anyone's guess, but you will certainly have a better chance to observe it if you are volunteering at MBO. N.B. Rumours of an MBO "guess the species" pool are greatly exaggerated.

MBO website: <http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html>

Open Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/oombbo>



Second-year Brown Thrasher, sex unknown, May 12, 2012.
Photo by Gay Gruner

Passport Thief Takes Flight!

by Barbara Silverman

The first part of this story was written in 2009 based on an event that occurred in New Zealand. To see the original news story, [follow this link](#).

Tourists visiting Fiordland, on the South Island of New Zealand, are being warned to be on their guard for a daring passport thief. Visitors are being cautioned to be extra careful when transporting documents in brightly coloured bags. Based on current evidence, shining objects frequently attract the attention of these would-be bandits.

An unfortunate British tourist, while travelling by bus on the way to Milford Sound, became the victim of one such robber. According to reports, the thief carried out a fearless daylight heist during a stopover, snatching the passport from a courier bag and absconding with it before anyone could react.

The suspect, described as a Kea Parrot about one foot high, was last seen fleeing the scene of the crime with the passport gripped firmly in its hooked bill. Quickly heading for cover in dense forest, the culprit was careful to fly high enough to elude capture. Keas are well known for their impish and daring nature, with this particular thief living up to a much-deserved reputation.

An eyewitness at the scene described the bird as large and stocky, dressed in olive-green feathers with dark edging, and sporting bright red underwings.

Though an APB has been issued, finding the stolen passport will be almost impossible. The thief could be any one of the protected Keas living on the alpine slopes of New Zealand, all of which will be dressed in the same manner in hopes of concealing the culprit. Due to lack of manpower and the officers' inability to crawl into small crevices, a nest-to-nest search has been ruled out by the authorities. Wishing to remain anonymous, a spokesperson admitted there was little chance this thief would ever be a jailbird.

Though non-migrant, border points are on the alert for a Kea attempting to leave the country. No other passports have yet to be reported stolen; however, it is

possible that the thief could be travelling with its mate, described as wearing the same outfit and about the same size.

Since these birds are native to New Zealand and never travel abroad, anybody seeing a Kea with a British passport can be certain the parrot is claiming a false identity.

Kea Parrot

Throughout history, birds have played a long and honoured role with humans. In ancient Egypt, a person's *ba* (soul) was portrayed as a bird with a human head, and in Hindu mythology birds contain the souls of the deceased. A parrot drew the chariot of Kama, god of love, and in Chinese folk tales parrots were said to betray adulterous wives.

Black Elk, a Lakota Sioux, has been quoted as saying: "The most important of all creatures are the wingeds, for they are nearest to the heavens and are not bound to the earth as are the four-leggeds, or the little crawling people."

Due to their sociable nature and ability to "talk," parrots may well be the best known of our feathered friends, often considered in ancient times as messengers between the gods and mere mortals. Worldwide, the parrot family *Psittacidae* consists of over 320 species. Generally living in forests, parrots exist on a diet consisting mainly of nuts, seeds, fruits, and berries.

The Kea, *Nestor notabilis*, differs from other parrot species in two

unusual ways. Native to and only found in the mountains of New Zealand's South Island, it is one of the few parrots capable of surviving in near freezing temperatures. It also holds the distinction of being the world's only meat-eating parrot. Ranging from Fiordland north to Nelson and the Marlborough Provinces, they are generally found at elevations of 600 to 3000 m.

They are listed as near threatened or vulnerable, with their lifespan unknown and a population estimated to be about 5,000. Generally scarce, they are locally common in the wooded, steep valleys and Nothofagus forests along subalpine scrublands. Keas are frequently spotted in large numbers on Mount Cook and Arthur's Pass National Parks.

Measuring on average 48 cm in length and weighing 800–950 g, the Keas spend the summer above the tree line in high mountain upland shrub and grassland, moving down to wooded valleys for the winter. This brown-headed, rather large, stocky bird has dark-edged, olive-green feathers streaked with orange and



Nestor notabilis - the Kea Parrot of New Zealand

bright red underwings. The tail is on the square side with shafts of feathers exposed and projecting at the tips. Keas have grey-brown bills, dark brown irises, and a wingspan of over one metre. Legs are grey, ending in well-developed feet perfect for food foraging on the ground.

The hooked, elongated bill is close to 5-cm long with a long upper mandible, which is longer than deep and contains lengthwise serrations along the underside. The tip is extremely sharp and strong, and it has been rumoured that Keas are capable of ripping open corrugated iron roofs. The females are slightly smaller in size, with a less hooked bill.

Juveniles have a yellowish crown that darkens as they mature. The cere and eye-circle are yellow instead of grey and the base of the mandible is orange-yellow. Legs are yellowish-grey.

Inquisitive by nature, Keas are often found near ski lodges or parking lots, waiting to grab any food scraps that come their way, and they have a well-earned reputation for mischief. Returning from the slopes after a long day of skiing, many skiers have discovered the rubber stripped from wiper blades or from around car windows. Keas are also well known for shredding clothing and it is not unknown for campers to discover their unintended favourite shirt in tatters.

Extremely playful, these parrots have been seen sliding on their backs down the roofs of ski lodges, or rolling around in the snow. Should a Kea cause too much damage, it is taken into captivity, where it is used in breeding and educational programs; however, their mischievous natures have led the Keas to become a major tourist attraction.

Unfortunately, it was not always this way. As far back as the 1880s there was a misconception that Keas were sheep killers. Thousands were killed until 1970 when this error was corrected and the remaining Keas placed under partial government protection. This was upgraded in 1986 to full protection.

Breeding starts at the age of one year and their two to four eggs are incubated for three to four weeks. The youngsters fledge at about 13 weeks. Breeding does occur year-round; however, it is most common

between July and January, the New Zealand spring and summer.

Lichen, moss, leaves, ferns, and wood chips are used to build nests under boulders, in a crevice, in a hollow log, or among the roots of a tree. It is not unusual for the Keas to have an entrance tunnel up to six metres long leading to a nest. Well-worn pathways and accumulated droppings show these nests are used year after year.

The male roosts outside the nest, with the female joining him when the chicks are eight weeks old, leaving no room for mother in the nest. At first the chicks are fed by the female until she loses interest, then the male takes over. Four weeks after fledging, the young male Keas leave the nest and disperse, while the male continues to feed the young females for another few weeks.

Keas are extremely strong fliers, gracefully soaring from one limb to another or from rock to rock; however, on the ground they are less nimble, hopping from spot to spot.

The Kea Parrot is closely related to the Kaka, *Nestor meridionalis*. While also sporting red underwings, Kakas generally have brown feathers with a white crown and a greenish back. Kakas live in dense forests where they can be hard to see, unlike the Keas, which make their presence well known. Both Keas and Kakas are, like most parrots, extremely noisy, with their names stemming from their loud, piercing calls.

While young leaves and tree buds are the Keas' favourite, the birds will often saunter along branches pulling off moss and lichen. During the New Zealand fall season, Keas dine on the snow totara berries, a species of podocarp that is endemic to New Zealand. The parrots use the upper part of their bill as a lever and the lower as a scoop, feeding slowly, carefully choosing the desired morsels.

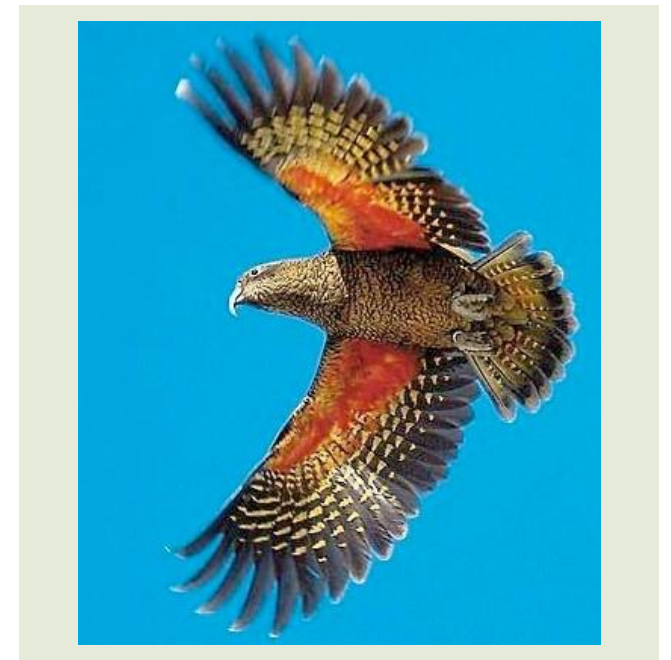
Similar to lorikeets and lories, Keas have a fringe of hairs along their tongues used for extracting nectar or juice from flowers and fruit. However, unlike many other nectar-drinking birds, Keas do not pollinate the flowers. Instead, they mince the flowers into a pulp, extracting the juice then spitting out whatever remains.

Keas also eat grubs and beetles picked up on the ground, and some of the colonies along the coast will prey on seabird nestlings. Since they also eat carrion, this led to their erroneous reputation as sheep-killers. Though they have been known to kill sheep, this is extremely rare and they usually will attack only injured or ill sheep.

Centred on nest and roosts, territories are not strictly maintained. Flocks freely travel from one area to another, joining the resident pair to feed but returning to their own roosts at night. Should the calls of the young attract an unknown Kea, the newcomer is tolerated as long as it remains at least 23 m (25 yards) from the nest. If the stranger does venture too close, it is then challenged with a kua-ua-ua-ua, a call used to confront not only an outside, Kea but also humans and even vehicles.

Their normal call is distinctive, with a long, far-reaching, descending kee-aah when in flight. However, the Keas have softer conversational sounds.

Kea Parrots are bold, playful and inquisitive, and fun to watch. However, a word of warning – be careful of your passport.



Jeune Ornithologue/Young Birder

Souvent la nature nous invite à l'aimer...

par Justin Lapierre

Souvent, la nature nous invite à l'aimer, mais encore faut-il l'inviter à nous aimer. Respectons-la! Et pas seulement en la protégeant, en la nourrissant. Elle peut aussi nous aimer parce qu'on la transforme en art.

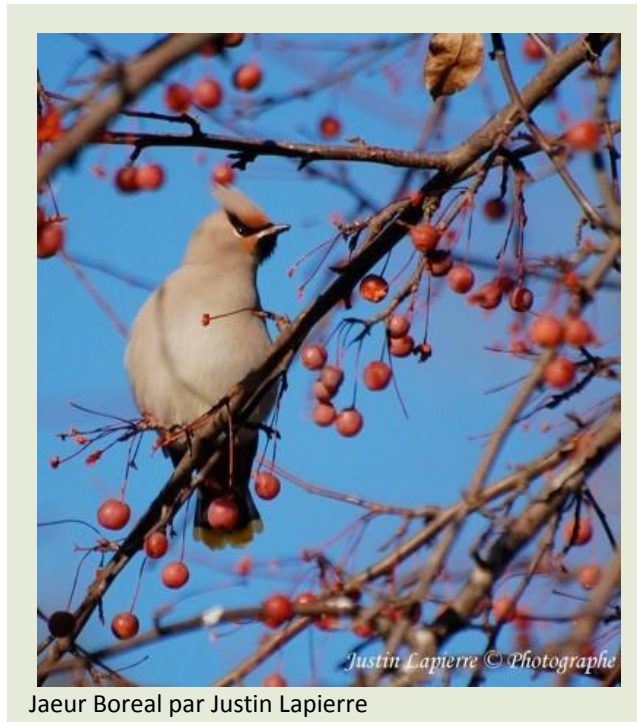
Je la transforme à mon goût en clichés photographiques, tout en respectant le plus possible ses habitants. Ça fait déjà 7 ans que les oiseaux me passionnent, c'est une passion indescriptible, une passion que peu de gens de mon âge connaissent et qui a conduit à une seconde passion, celle qui est devenue pour moi une raison de les aimer encore plus, ces bêtes à plumes : la photographie.

À l'âge de 10 ans, deux ans après avoir découvert ma passion pour les oiseaux, la photographie est apparue dans ma vie. C'est maintenant par elle que je vis.

Il faut dire que l'ornithologie est très présente dans ma vie. Je donne même des cours sur cette science à mon école secondaire depuis deux ans. Pour moi, voir des oiseaux, c'est comme être au paradis! Mais il est rare que je parte en randonnée avec des amis, de la famille – en dehors de mes «élèves» avec qui je sors de temps à autre, pour aller voir les mésanges à tête noire ou encore les gélinottes huppées, parfois même on rencontre des bruants des prés et des éperviers bruns!

En fin de compte, je dois avouer que la nature m'a toujours aidé dans les domaines que j'ai explorés et je suis sûr qu'elle m'aidera dans les prochains qui apparaîtront dans ma vie. J'ai bien hâte de connaître la suite de mon histoire et de celles des oiseaux qui m'entourent et qui entourent ceux qui les aiment autant que moi.

Visit Justin Lapierre's website / Visiter le site web de Justin Lapierre <http://www.justinlapierrephotos.com/>



Jaeur Boreale par Justin Lapierre

If you are under 18 and love to photograph birds, draw them, write about them, or just observe them, we would love to hear from you.

Tell us about the birds you see and hear, send us your photographs, drawings, articles, and stories. We will publish the best in three categories (under 10), (10–13), (14–18). Age as of August 1, 2013.

Si vous êtes âgés de moins de 18 ans et aimez la photographie d'oiseaux, la peinture animalière, écrire à leur sujet ou tout simplement les observer, nous aimerions avoir de vos nouvelles.

Parlez-nous des oiseaux que vous observez et entendez, envoyez-nous vos photos, dessins, articles et histoires. Nous publierons les meilleures soumissions dans trois catégories : moins de 10 ans; 10-13 ans et 14-18 ans. Âge en date du 1er Août 2013.

Annual General Meeting & Party

Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 7:30 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at the Knox Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG.

The agenda for the AGM will include presentation of annual reports by the President and Treasurer respectively, and the election of directors by members in good standing.

The biographies of candidates for election to the board will be distributed to members by e-mail at least two weeks prior to the AGM. Members wanting copies in advance of the meeting are advised to ensure that an e-mail address is registered with us. Printed copies will be available at the door on arrival at the meeting.

Join us at the end-of-the year party following the AGM. Be prepared for a fun quiz / trivia contest.

Assemblée générale et Party le mardi 21 mai 2013 à 19h30

L'Assemblée générale (AGA) aura lieu le mardi 21 mai 2013 à 19h30 à l'église Knox Presbyterian, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG.

L'ordre du jour de l'AGA inclura comme d'habitude les rapports annuels respectifs du président et du trésorier. Il y aura aussi élection des directeurs par les membres en règle.

Les notes biographiques des candidats en élection au conseil, ainsi que l'amendement proposé de l'article 20 des règlements seront envoyés par courriel à tous les membres au moins deux (2) semaines avant la tenue de l'AGA. Les membres désirant obtenir une copie avant la tenue de l'AGA devront s'assurer que leur adresse courriel est enregistrée auprès du secrétaire. Le cas échéant, des copies papier seront à votre disposition à la porte.

À la suite d'AGA, venez célébrer avec nous. Soyez aussi prêt pour notre grand quiz / jeu-questionnaire.

BPQ Volunteer Extraordinaire

Quiz – who has served BPQ for eight years, outlasting four Presidents and three newsletter editors?

Answer – Sharon Veysey, Membership Secretary.

Sharon started as BPQ Membership Secretary in 2005, replacing Sylvia Wees, who held the post when our first database was introduced. At that time, I recall Sharon expressing doubts about managing the many duties that the role entails. Hah! Not only did Sharon ably administer all tasks, but she designed and created a completely new membership database that has improved BPQ's ability to serve our membership.

After several training sessions, Sharon is passing the Membership Secretary baton to me. Accepting the job seemed like a good idea at the time; of course Sharon was sitting beside me and making everything look easy-peasy! How I will fill her very capable shoes remains to be seen. Sharon has promised support over the coming year and that is very reassuring. The post involves much more than computer skills. For the last eight years, Sharon has gently welcomed new and returning members, listened to members' problems, respected confidences and kept track of each and every one of us, no easy feat.

A relative of mine has just written a booklet entitled, "If I retire, how will I know when it's the weekend?" (Kathleen Wronski) Sharon, the answer is clear; you will be going on a BPQ field trip, but only if you want to do so that week, of course! That is the beauty of your new-found free time – choosing to do what you wish, rather than run queries and prepare batch reports, send out membership information and reminders to renew, etc., etc.

Many thanks for all you've done for us, Sharon, and best of luck with your future plans!

Gay McDougall Gruner
Averill Craig

June 10, 2013

Unravelling the Breeding Strategies of Australasian Robins – Adventures of an Ornithologist in Australia and New Guinea

with Richard Donaghey



Pale-faced Robin by Rick Franks
<http://rixpix.aminus3.com/>

The Australasian robins, family *Petroicidae*, are an ancient endemic family of 47 species that radiated throughout Australasia and the Pacific. The highest species richness (40 species) is in New Guinea and Australia. Relative to most Northern Hemisphere passerines, Australasian robins are sedentary, long-lived and have small clutch sizes, low reproductive rates and extended parental care. Robins are pair breeders but ten species are also cooperative breeders. We studied nine robin species in Australia over eight years and six species in New Guinea. The talk will begin with images and vocalizations of robins at Gluepot in the semi-arid mallee of South Australia. Here we studied breeding behaviour of four coexisting ground-foraging robin species (Jacky Winter, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Southern Scrub-robin) over two breeding seasons. We spent hundreds of hours watching nests and documenting the patterns and differences in incubation behaviour and parental care, nest visitation rates, anti-predator behaviour, reproductive rates and nest placement. The breeding

behaviour of most tropical robins in northern Australia and New Guinea is poorly known. The nesting behaviour and vocalizations of many of these robins will be presented.

Introduction to Richard Donaghey

My passion for birds was kindled as a teenager in Sydney, Australia, where I fell in love with a confiding robin, the Eastern Yellow Robin, during the 1950s. Climbing mountains and banding birds in Papua, New Guinea (PNG) in the 1960s awakened me to the delights of tropical bird behaviour and ecology. Studying birds at Philipsburg Bird Sanctuary in 1971 gave me the desire to do an M.Sc. at the University of Alberta, where I studied the spacing behaviour of marked breeding buffleheads. In 1981 I gained my Ph.D. at Monash University and had the dream job of doing field research in rainforest comparing the ecology of monogamous and polygynous bowerbird mating systems. Since "retirement," eleven years ago my principal research interest has been the comparative ecology and breeding behaviour of Australasian robins, with a focus on breeding systems, social organization and parental care. We have studied colour-banded populations of 4 species of robins in the semi-arid mallee of South Australia, two species in tropical rainforest at Cape York Peninsula, 1 species in woodland in southwest Australia and two species in wet forest in northwest Tasmania. I studied the breeding behaviour and vocalizations of endemic robins in the highlands of PNG in 2011 and in the Arfak Mountains of West Papua, Indonesia, in 2012. I have observed 37 of the 47 robin species in Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand.



White-faced Robin

Past Field Trips

19/01/13 – Parc Nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation, Montreal

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard

Trip cancelled due to weather conditions

26/01/13 – St-Clet, Ste-Marthe, Ste-Justine

Leader: Wayne Grubert

-24° to -26°C but "warmed up" to -16°C; sunny. 10 birders; 19 species

Bird of the Day: Wild Turkey

Other Birds of Note: Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Common Redpoll

02/02/13 – Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal

Leader: Chuck Kling

Cold, little wind; 14 birders; 8 species

Bird of the Day: Common Redpoll

Other Birds of Note: Downy Woodpecker; White-breasted Nuthatch; Dark-eyed Junco; House Finch

09/02/13 – South Shore, Boucherville, Varennes, St-Bruno, St-Hubert

Leader: Sheldon Harvey

Sunny, -13°C; 10 Birders: 16 species

Bird of the Day: White-throated Sparrow

Other Birds of Note: Red-tailed Hawk, Great Black-backed Gull, Dark-eyed Junco, Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch

16/02/13 – Châteauguay and the Récré-O-Parc, Ste-Catherine

Leader: Tom Long

Sunny & chilly. 10 Birders; 27 species

Birds of the Day: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse

Other Birds of Note: Common Goldeneye, Red-tailed hawk, Bald Eagle, American Tree Sparrow

23/02/13 – Lachute region

Leader: Frédéric Hareau

Snowy & windy; 3 birders; 23 species

Bird of the Day: Evening Grosbeak

Other Birds of Note: Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Common Raven, Hoary Redpoll

02/03/13 – Botanical Garden, Montreal

Leader: David Mulholland

Bird of the Day: Northern Goshawk

Other Birds of Note: Cooper's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Robin, Pine Grosbeak, House Finch, Hoary Redpoll

09/03/13 – Parc Nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation, Montreal

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard

Excellent weather; 20 birders; 16 species

Bird of the Day: Common Redpoll

Other Birds of Note: American Black Duck, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Robin, House Finch

16/03/13 – Hudson

Leader: Barbara MacDuff

-10°C, cloudy. 12 birders; 20 species

Bird of the Day: Pileated Woodpecker

Other Birds of Note: Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Pine Siskin

Field Trips: April to early July 2013

Spring Series of Birding

This season, BPQ is pleased to present several special series of field trips in celebration of spring migration. We also have a full calendar of Saturday morning trips, with several Sunday trips in May.

Transportation: Contact the trip leader or the Songsparrow e-mail group if you need or can offer a lift. Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather, check with the leader.

Transport : Téléphoner au responsable ou contacter le groupe Songsparrow pour faire du covoiturage. Annulations : En cas d'intempérie, vérifier la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable.

Note: Exceptionally, the trip to **Cooper Marsh** will take place on **Sunday, April 28**, and not the regular Saturday morning.

À noter, la sortie à **Cooper Marsh** aura lieu le **dimanche le 28 avril** au lieu de samedi

Tuesday Evenings with Peter Mitchell - Les mardis soir avec Peter Mitchell - l'Île Bizard

Peter Mitchell: 514-489-1012

Tuesdays, starting April 9 and continuing into May, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - tous les mardis à compter du mardi le 9 avril jusqu'en mai, 6h00 à 20h00.

Meet in parking lot at Île Bizard - Rendez-vous au stationnement Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Pete invites all alumni of the courses he gave with Bob Carswell and Steve Charlton to join him for evening walks on the boardwalk at Île Bizard. All other interested birders are welcome to join in.

Pete invite tous les anciens participants des cours qu'il a donné avec Bob Carswell et Steve Charlton and tout ornithologue amateur intéressé à se joindre à lui pour des promenades en soirée sur la passerelle de l'Île Bizard

"Hopefully we will be able to see most migrants during this period of time. Looking forward to seeing everyone."

« Nous espérons être en mesure d'observer la plupart des migrants à cette période de l'année. Je vous attends tous avec impatience. »

Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for Beginners Jeudis, Jaseurs et Geais pour débutants

Thursdays April 18 and 25 and May 2 - 9:00 a.m. - noon.

Les jeudis les 18 et 25 avril et le 2 mai - 9h00 - 12h00

Leader: Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222 arb.macduff@sympatico.ca

Session 1: Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Thursday April, 18 - jeudi 18 avril 9:00 a.m. - noon - 9h00 - 12h00

Stationnement : 8,00 \$. Parking: \$8.00

Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$8.00.

De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer

jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 8,00 \$.

Session 2: Morgan Arboretum <http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

Thursday, April 25 9:00 a.m. - noon - jeudi le 25 avril 9 h 0 0 à 1 2 h 0 0

\$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members.

Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres de l'Arboretum Morgan.

From Montreal take Hwy 40 west. Exit at exit 44 (Morgan Blvd). Turn left on chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left.

De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement principal, situé à gauche.

Session 3: Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Thursday, May 2 - jeudi 2 mai

9:00 a.m. - noon 9h00 - 12h00

Stationnement : 8,00 \$. Parking: \$8.00

See April 19 for driving instructions. Voir les instructions de 19 avril.

Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks on the Summit

Les sorties printanières aux parulines Jim Houghton au Bois Summit

7:00 a.m. Tuesdays, April 23 and 30, and May 7, 14, 21 and 28 - Les sorties se tiendront les mardis 23 et 30 avril et 7, 14, 21 et 28 mai à 7 h 00.

Meet at Summit Woods Lookout on Summit Circle in Westmount. To reach Summit Circle, head north on Côte-des-Neiges. Turn left onto The Boulevard. Proceed to Ch. Belvedere and turn right. Drive up the steep hill on Ch. Belvedere to Summit Circle.

Summit Woods in Westmount is a wooded area transected by numerous footpaths. From mid-April to late May, spring migrants find the woods an

attractive place in which to rest and feed. At least 33 warbler species have been seen over the years and at least 24 are seen each year. Come out and participate in one or all of the Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks with an informal group of BPQ members. It's a perfect start to a spring day!

Rassemblement au belvédère sur Summit Circle à Westmount. Pour vous rendre au Summit Circle, dirigez vous vers le nord sur Côte-des-Neiges. Tourner à gauche sur le Boulevard. Poursuivre jusqu'au Ch. Belvédère et tourner à droite. Monter la côte abrupte sur le Ch. Belvédère jusqu'à Summit Circle.

Bois Summit offre un secteur boisé traversé par de nombreux sentiers. De la mi-avril à fin mai, les migrateurs printaniers trouvent cet endroit attrayant et s'y arrêtent pour se reposer et s'alimenter. Au fil des années, au moins 33 espèces de parulines ont été répertoriées et 24 espèces y sont observées chaque année. Vous êtes invités à vous joindre à l'une ou toutes les marches printanières Jim Houghton avec un groupe informel de membres de POQ. C'est une belle façon de commencer une journée du printemps.

Weekend Field Trips

Saturday, April 6 - samedi le 6 avril

Parc des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfront

Leader: Diane Demers 514-729-3051 ddemerso3@hotmail.com

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

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement du Parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul. LaSalle et de la 6e avenue à ville LaSalle (juste à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power). Prendre l'autoroute 20 et prendre la sortie du boul. de la Vérendrye. Aller en direction ouest sur ce boul. À la rue Stephens, prendre le pont qui traverse le canal de l'Aqueduc. Continuer sur la rue Stephens jusqu'au boul. LaSalle, qui longe le fleuve. Tourner à droite sur ce boul. et continuer jusqu'à stationnement, situé au coin de la 6e avenue. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrateurs hâtifs. S'il reste suffisamment de temps, nous visiterons la rive du côté sud de l'île-des-Soeurs. Il faudra s'attendre à conduire. Demi-journée.

Saturday, April 13 - samedi le 13 avril

Baie-du-Febvre

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

jdo30824@gmail.com

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

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

Saturday, April 20 - samedi le 20 avril

Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Leader: Felix Hilton 514-631-3437 hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Hwy 40; exit St- Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$8.00. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and migrating passerines. Half day.

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

Sunday, April 28 - dimanche le 28 avril

Cooper Marsh

Note: This trip takes place on Sunday. À noter : Cette sortie aura lieu le dimanche

Leader: Martin Bowman 613-347-1655 pict@riverlink.ca

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 20 (Ontario Highway 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Highway 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Park in the gravel parking area. Allow 1 to 1-1/2 hours travel time. A walking trip. Looking for waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks and passerines. Could be muddy. Half day.

8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401), prendre la sortie pour Lancaster, Ontario (sortie 814). Prendre l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivre les indications pour le marais Cooper. Prévoir entre 1h et 1h30 de voyage. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux aquatiques, de buses, de passereaux. Excursion à pied. Des chaussures imperméables sont recommandées. Demi-journée.

Saturday, May 4 - samedi le 4 mai

Parc-national D'Oka

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

8:00 a.m. Take Hwy 13 north to Hwy 640. Go west on 640 to its intersection with Hwy 344. Cross 344 into Parc d'Oka. Proceed 6.2 km to the Accueil Camping. An entrance fee of approximately \$5.00-\$6.00 will be charged. Looking for migrating passerines, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. Half day.

8h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 13 nord jusqu'à l'autoroute 640. Continuer sur l'autoroute 640 ouest jusqu'à l'intersection avec l'autoroute 344. Traverser la 344 et entrer dans le Parc d'Oka. Continuer sur une distance de 6,2 km jusqu'à l'Accueil Camping. Frais d'entrée: environ 5,00-6.00\$. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, rapaces, sauvagine et limicoles. Demi-journée.

Saturday, May 11 - samedi le 11 mai

BPQ (George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary) at Philipsburg

http://www.pqspb.org/bpq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=75

Leader: Sandy Montgomery, 514-482-0565 sandymontgomery@sympatico.ca

8:30 a.m. Meet at the defunct Motel Frontière. From Montreal take the Champlain Bridge, Highway 10 east to exit 22, Highway 35 south to St. Jean to join Highway 133 south to Philipsburg. Now that the motel has been demolished, the location is

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

8h30 Rassemblement au défunt Motel Frontière. De Montréal, traverser le pont Champlain et continuer sur l'autoroute 10 est. Prendre la sortie 22 et rejoindre l'autoroute 35 sud. Continuer sur celle-ci jusqu'à Saint-Jean. De là continuer sur l'autoroute 133 sud en direction de Philipsburg. Maintenant que le motel a été démolit le stationnement est difficile de voir du côté sud de la route. Donc, continuer vers le poste frontalier. Juste avant les bâtiments de passage, prendre le bien-marquée demi-tour sur la gauche pour passer sur la direction du nord côté de la route. Chercher le grand panneau blanc indiquant aux conducteurs de boucler leur ceinture de sécurité sur votre droite - l'entrée sur le site vieux motel et le stationnement est immédiatement au-delà. Bonne variété de sentiers dont les niveaux de difficulté vont de longs et ardues à courts et faciles. Apporter un lunch. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, sauvagine et rapaces diurnes. Toute la journée.

Fourth Annual CWF Walk for Wildlife

Saturday, May 11 – samedi le 11 mai

Morgan Arboretum

Leader: Chris Cloutier, 514-398-8170 chriscivic90@hotmail.com

12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) Walk for Wildlife encourages all Canadians to get outside and explore the beauty of wildlife and natural spaces. From the beginning of National Wildlife Week on April 7 until the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, participants can add their kilometres to the national tally by logging them online at WalkforWildlife.ca and helping to achieve their 15,000 km goal. On May 11, Chris Cloutier, BPQ Director and Morgan Arboretum Naturalist, will lead a two-hour walk and point out the birds, amphibians, insects, and flowers. A number of kiosks from various conservation groups will be set up on this day. Be sure to visit BPQ's! To get to the Arboretum, from Montreal take Highway 40 west, take exit 44 (Morgan Blvd). Turn left on chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. Free admission for participants.

La Marche pour la conservation de la faune

La « Marche pour la faune » de la FCF encourage tous les Canadiens à sortir et à découvrir la beauté de la faune sauvage et des espaces naturels sur le pas de leurs portes. À compter du 7 avril, début de la Semaine nationale de la conservation de la faune, et jusqu'au 22 mai, Journée internationale de la biodiversité, les participants peuvent ajouter leurs kilomètres au compte national en les consignants en ligne sur le site MarchePourLaFaune.ca, pour nous aider à totaliser 15 000 km. Cette année, la FCF est fière de célébrer le cinquantenaire de Faune et flore du pays. Le 11 mai, Chris Cloutier, membre du conseil d'administration de Protection des oiseaux du Québec, et naturaliste de l'Arboretum Morgan, guidera une sortie de 2 heures et présentera les oiseaux, amphibiens, insectes et fleurs de l'Arboretum. Plusieurs kiosques, présentant des groupes de conservation, seront installés le long du parcours. Soyez sûrs de visiter celui de POQ!

Thursday, May 16 – jeudi le 16 mai

Hudson – Evening trip

Leader: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222 barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

6:30 p.m. Meet at Finnegan's Market, 775 Main Road, Hudson Heights. Take Hwy 40 to Exit 22. Turn right onto Côte St-Charles. Drive to its end at T-intersection with Main Road. Turn left. Drive (about 2 km) to Finnegan's Market parking lot on left. Looking for rails, woodcock and owls.

18h30 Rassemblement au marché Finnegan, 775 Main Road, Hudson Heights. Prendre l'autoroute 40, sortie 22. Tourner à droite sur Côte St-Charles. Suivre cette route jusqu'au bout. Tourner à gauche sur la rue Main. Poursuivre (2 km environ) jusqu'au stationnement du Marché Finnegan, situé à gauche. Espèces recherchées : râles, hiboux et Bécasse d'Amérique.

Saturday, May 18 – le samedi le 18 mai

Refuge Faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, Île Saint-Bernard

Leader: Tom Long 450-692-1590 ram_air455@yahoo.com

7:30 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge on Île St-Bernard, Châteauguay. 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 St-Francis Blvd. Follow St-Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Salaberry Blvd North. Turn right onto Salaberry North. Continue past the railway bridge. The next bridge that crosses the road and river is Pont de la Sauvagine. Turn right just after the bridge. There is a sign and an entrance ramp for the bridge for Beauharnois and the Refuge. Cross the bridge and continue to Notre-Dame Nord. At the flashing red light, turn right onto Notre-Dame and follow the signs to the Refuge. Cross the small bridge onto Île St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right.

Walking trip: Looking for waterbirds, summer breeding birds and late migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. \$3.00 admission. Half day.

7h30 Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge, île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay. De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. A la sortie du pont, garder la droite et continuer sur la 138, passé Kahnawake, jusqu'à Châteauguay. A l'entrée de Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. St-Francis. Continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'à l'intersection avec le boul. Salaberry Nord, qui longe la rivière Châteauguay. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry nord, passer en-dessous du pont de la voie ferrée et continuer jusqu'à un deuxième pont : il s'agit du pont de la Sauvagine. Tourner à droite juste après avoir passé sous ce pont et accéder à une rampe d'accès au pont. Des indications pour le refuge y sont visibles. Traverser le pont et continuer jusqu'à la rue Notre-Dame Nord. Au feu rouge clignotant, tourner à droite sur Notre-Dame et suivre les indications pour le refuge. Traverser le petit pont qui mène à l'île Saint-Bernard. Le stationnement est à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques, d'oiseaux nicheurs et de migrateurs tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. 3.00\$. Demi-journée.

Saturday, May 25 - samedi le 25 mai

Hudson

Barbara McDuff 514-457-2222 barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

7:30 a.m. Meet at the CPR station in Hudson. Hwy 40, exit 22 onto Côte St. Charles north, right on Main Street, left on Wharf Street. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and early spring arrivals. Half day.

7h30 Rassemblement à la gare C.P. sur la rue Wharf, Hudson. Prendre l'autoroute 40, sortie 22, et tourner à droite sur Côte St-Charles nord jusqu'à la rue Main. Tourner à droite et se rendre à la rue Wharf puis tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux nicheurs. Demi-journée.

Saturday, June 1 - samedi le 1 juin

Dundee (La Réserve Nationale de Faune du Lac Saint-François)

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

7:30 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Centre parking lot. From Montreal take the Mercier bridge to Hwy 132 and follow it west through Châteauguay to Beauharnois. At Beauharnois (before reaching the bridge and dam), turn left on Hwy 236 and follow it through St-Étienne-de-Beauharnois, St-Louis-de-Gonzague, and St-Stanislas-de-Kostka until it once again joins Hwy 132. Take Hwy 132 west past

Ste-Barbe and St-Anicet to Cazaville. Continue approximately 8 km on Hwy 132 past Cazaville to chemin-de-le-Pointe-Fraser. Turn right on this road and meet at the visitor centre parking lot about 1 km along on the left. From the West Island, take Hwy 20 west to Exit 14 and cross over the river at Valleyfield on the Msgr Langlois Bridge, along Hwy 201 to join up with Hwy 30, continue west to Hwy 132 and from there to Dundee. About 1 to 1.5 hours from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, and passerines. Half day.

7h30 Rassemblement dans le stationnement de l'Accueil. De Montréal, prendre l'un ou l'autre des ponts Mercier, Champlain ou Jacques-Cartier et rejoindre l'autoroute 132 ouest. Continuer sur celle-ci en passant par Châteauguay jusqu'à Beauharnois. À Beauharnois (avant d'atteindre le pont et l'étang) tourner à gauche sur la route 236 et suivre celle-ci à travers Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois, Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, and Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka jusqu'à ce qu'elle rejoigne à nouveau la route 132. Prendre la 132 ouest en passant par Sainte-Barbe et Saint-Anicet jusqu'à Cazaville. Après Cazaville, continuer sur cette route sur une distance d'environ 8 km jusqu'au chemin de la Pointe-Fraser. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au stationnement de l'Accueil, situé à environ 1 km de là, à gauche. Prévoir environ 1h à 1h30 de route à partir de la région de Montréal. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces, parulines. Demi-journée.

Family afternoon walk at Île Bizard Après-midi ornithologique en famille à l'Île Bizard

Sunday, June 2 4:00-6:00 p.m. Dimanche le 2 juin, 16h00-18h00

Leaders: Frédéric Hareau 514-747-4904 fredhareau1@yahoo.ca

Barbara McDuff 514-457-2222 barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

BPQ will lead an afternoon field trip with the goal of promoting birdwatching and nature conservation. We hope that many members will join us, and maybe bring their family to these field trips designed for all ages! All are welcome. Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$8.00.

POQ organise une après-midi ouverte au grand public afin de promouvoir l'ornithologie et la conservation de la nature. Nous espérons que les membres viendront nombreux et pourquoi pas accompagnés de leur famille pour cette sortie ouverte à tous les âges. De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite

(nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 8,00 \$.

Saturday, June 8 - samedi le 8 juin

Rigaud Mountain

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

Cell (PLEASE use only on morning of trip) 514-774-0811

7:00 AM Take Hwy 40 west toward Ottawa to Exit 17. ("Facilities" available here.) Take Hwy 201 south for 2 km to Rue St-Georges on your right. Follow St-Georges for 6 km to the parking lot for the Sucrerie de la Montagne. Drive carefully as this is a narrow, winding road. We will explore some of the walking trails and roads which criss-cross Rigaud Mountain and surrounding area looking and listening for breeding songbirds and raptors. Bring insect repellent, water and something for an early lunch if desired. Half day.

7h00 Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest en direction d'Ottawa puis la sortie 17 (services disponibles à cette sortie). Prendre la route 201 et rouler sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chemin Saint-Georges. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer sur une distance de 6 km jusqu'au stationnement de la Sucrerie de la montagne. Conduire prudemment, cette route étant étroite et sinueuse. Nous allons explorer à pied certains sentiers et routes qui parcourent le mont Rigaud et ses environs, à la recherche de passereaux nicheurs et de rapaces. Apporter un insecticide, de l'eau et, si désiré, un lunch. Demi-journée.

**Saturday, June 15 - samedi le 15 juin Southwestern Quebec –
Early Solstice Trip -- Sud-ouest du Québec - Excursion du solstice d'été**

Note exceptional start time! **Notez** l'heure de départ!

Leader: Martin Bowman, 613-347-1655 pict@riverlink.ca
Cell (PLEASE use ONLY on morning of trip) 613-240-1777
Wayne Grubert, 450-458-5498 wgrubert@hotmail.com

5:30 a.m. Meet on 3ème rang, just off Hwy 201. From Montreal, take the Mercier Bridge and follow Hwy 138 to Ormstown. Turn left on Hwy 201 to 3ème Rang (called Rang de Tullochgorum on opposite side of 201). Turn right on 3ème Rang and wait there for the group. From the West Island take Hwy 20 west to exit 14 (Hwy 201) for Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. Take Hwy 201 through Grande-Île, following signs for Ormstown. There are a number of lights and turns on this route (see a map). Stay on 201 beyond Ormstown. Turn right on 3ème Rang and wait there for the group. This is a driving trip; carpooling is recommended. This trip will explore some of the roads of southwestern Quebec in the Ormstown-

Huntingdon area. We are starting early because some of the roads are busy and parking can be difficult. Looking for birds of the forests and of open country. Possible species include Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Field Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird as well as more common passerines. Half day. Possibility of extension into the early afternoon.

5h30. Rassemblement sur 3ème rang, à proximité de la route 201. De Montréal, prendre le pont Mercier. Tourner à gauche sur la route 201 et continuer jusqu'à l'intersection avec le 3ème rang (indiqué rang Tullochgorum de l'autre côté). Tourner à droite sur le 3ème rang et y attendre le reste du groupe. De l'Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 20 direction ouest jusqu'à la sortie 14 (route 201) pour Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. Prendre la route 201 et traverser Grande-Île en suivant les indications pour Ormstown. On rencontre un bon nombre de lumières et tournants sur cette route : consulter une carte. Continuer sur la 201 après avoir traversé Ormstown. Tourner à droite sur le 3ème rang et y attendre le reste du groupe. Les déplacements se feront principalement en voiture. Le covoiturage est recommandé. Cette excursion permettra d'explorer certaines routes du Sud-Ouest du Québec, dans la région de Ormstown et Huntingdon. L'excursion débute tôt car certaines routes sont très achalandées et

il peut être difficile d'y trouver un stationnement. À la recherche d'oiseaux forestiers et d'oiseaux d'espaces ouverts. Parmi les espèces susceptibles d'être rencontrées, notons le Viréo à gorge jaune, la Paruline à ailes dorées, le Bruant des champs, le Merlebleu de l'Est ainsi que d'autres passereaux plus communs. Demi-journée, avec possibilité de poursuivre jusqu'en début d'après-midi.

2013 Summer Series of Birding

Watch the Songsparrow e-mail forum for news and updates on the Summer Field Trips program.

Visit the Bird Protection Quebec website, www.birdprotectionquebec.org, and watch the Songsparrow e-mail forum for trip reports and changes to driving directions.

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