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Bird Protection
Quebec

Protection
des oiseaux
du Québec



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Snow Geese at Cap Tourmente © Richard Gregson

Quebec City's Virée Ornithologique 1

The President Chirps 3

Bird Views 5

Saving the Chimney Swift: Issues and Initiatives for its Protection 8

The Role of Intelligence and Personality in Avian Responses to Environmental Challenges 9

Christmas Bird Counts 10

Seeking Green Birders From Across the Country 12

BPQ 2017 Calendar Photo Challenge 15

Logo Challenge 13

Fall Warbler Walks 2015 14

Past Field Trips 17

Upcoming Field Trips 19

Quebec City's Virée Ornithologique

May 23 and 24, 2015

by Zofia Laubitz

Early this year, my attention was attracted by the online announcements that our sister club in Quebec City, the Club des ornithologues de Québec (COQ), was celebrating its 60th anniversary by hosting the 2015 Virée ornithologique in late May. I was vaguely aware that similar events had been organized by different clubs in the past, but this was the first time I really paid attention. The hook was the announcement that a superstar of the birding world—none other than David Sibley!—would be giving a speech at the banquet. And Quebec City really isn't far... I managed to talk birding buddy Denise Donelle into signing up for the event with me.

Denise and I decided to take the Friday off work and make our way to Quebec in a leisurely manner, birding here and there. Our first stop was at a place well known to BPQ members: Baie-du-Febvre. Although both of us had been to Baie-du-Febvre many times before, we had never been in May, and we were interested to see what would be around in late spring. We got all three of my target species—Black Tern, Ruddy Duck, and Wilson's Phalarope—and many others.

Our next destination was one we'd never visited but often read about in postings on Ornitho-Qc: the Domaine de Maizerets, in Quebec City. It was more than worthy of a visit! It is a lovely city park that combines formal gardens with wooded areas, a pond, and a small wetland. Our arrival coincided with a fallout of Yellow-rumped Warblers: there were yellow-rumps everywhere, on the ground, in the trees, in the bushes, over the water. Birders weren't the only ones to be attracted by the wealth of migrants: a hunting Sharp-shinned Hawk triggered mass panic in its potential prey.

We would have loved to stay and see more, but it was time to head over to the hotel that would be the home base for the Virée and attend the opening

reception—the official start to the weekend. This was a chance to meet and mingle with other participants from across Quebec and learn more about the planned activities. It was also a chance for our hosts at the COQ to celebrate their important birthday. The COQ members were justly proud of their club's history and achievements, but occasionally their pride took them a trifle too far: more than once I heard someone say that the COQ was the oldest birding club in Quebec. I was always quick to point out, politely but firmly, that "la POQ" will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2017! (The usual reaction was to assume that BPQ would therefore be hosting a Virée ornithologique, to which I had to reply that I didn't know what our anniversary committee has planned!)



View of Lac Piché, Forêt Montmorency © Zofia Laubitz, 2015

Participants in the Virée were able to take part in two full-day field trips, one on each day, with a choice of three Quebec-area hot spots: Cap Tourmente, Marais Léon-Provancher, and Forêt Montmorency. Since Denise and I already

knew and loved Cap Tourmente, we opted for the latter two. On the Saturday, we were in the group bound for Marais Léon-Provancher. Breakfast was served at an hour suitable for birders and the buses left at 7:30. Our stated destination was enriched by a couple of extras. We first went to an agricultural area where we got pipits and bobolinks, but sadly no meadowlarks. We then headed to the marsh itself, which proved to be a beautiful and birdy area. We divided into two groups, which headed off in opposite directions; my group visited the wetlands first and the wooded areas later on. We'd expected to see lots of waterfowl but were somewhat disappointed in that regard. The water levels were unusually low, which meant that few dabbling ducks were around. On the other hand, warblers were plentiful. A cluster of dead trees in the swamp, where one might have expected to see a heron, served as stepping stones across the water for a flock of warblers. We saw Palm, Blackpoll, Cape May, Wilson's, and Tennessee warblers, among others. Later that day, we visited nearby Parc des Hauts-Fonds, which overlooks the St. Lawrence, enabling us to add such new species as scoters to our day list.

That evening's banquet featured the talk by David Sibley on the psychology of bird identification, or how an egret becomes a shrike. (You can see Sibley's artwork depicting this phenomenon here: <http://www.sibleyguides.com/2007/10/certainty-in-sight-records/>.) Briefly, Sibley's thesis is that, as one gains in experience as a birder, one's bird identification capacity comes to be served by the same brain areas that underlie the recognition of human faces. Because we humans are hardwired to look for and recognize faces, we see them even where they don't exist—which is why electric sockets seem to be looking at us. Likewise, birders tend to see birds—especially desired birds—where they don't exist, whence the proliferation of stick birds, leaf birds, and the like. The talk was well received and there were many questions and comments afterwards. Sibley and two well-known members of Quebec's birding community, Pierre Morency and Daniel Jauvin, were made honorary members of Regroupement QuébecOiseaux. After the banquet, the line-up to get Sibley guides autographed snaked around the room!

The next day, we were off to the Forêt Montmorency, a teaching and research forest owned by Université Laval some 70 km north of Quebec City, which is known for its boreal species. We participants were all laden down with extra clothes, as we'd been told it had snowed in the forest two days before! However, when we were there, it turned out to be a sunny, balmy day (though there was snow on the ground in spots). We weren't too lucky with boreal birds either, dipping out on the hoped-for Spruce Grouse; the only northern specialty

we got was Gray Jay. As we were to learn, many boreal residents are already nesting in late May, while the migrants had barely started moving through. Still, encounters with a Great Horned Owl and a porcupine kept us interested, and we got to experience a beautiful landscape.



Marais Léon-Provancher © Zofia Laubitz, 2015

When we returned to base in mid-afternoon and then left for Montreal, we were tired but happy. It had been a long weekend! The organizing committee for the Virée ornithologique had done an excellent job of keeping us busy and birding; they earned our hearty congratulations!

The President Chirps

by Sheldon Harvey, President, Bird Protection Quebec

I hope you have all had a great summer. You may have stayed at home and participated in the numerous field trips offered by BPQ over the summer, or perhaps you did some travelling, and birding, in some far-off lands. If you travelled perhaps you might consider telling your fellow members about your experiences in an article for an upcoming Song Sparrow newsletter. We would love to hear from you.

Autumn marks the kick-off of our annual membership drive. If you are already a member, you should have received a renewal notice. Payment of your renewal may be made by cheque, or directly online using PayPal, through the BPQ webpage. A number of years ago a decision was made to switch to an electronic newsletter, distributed by e-mail, to save printing and mailing costs and to be responsible conservationists. This means that more of your annual membership dues are allocated directly to our various protection and conservation efforts. We are also very pleased to be able to issue tax receipts for your membership fees and donations. Please honour your renewal notice. Your continued support of Bird Protection Quebec is greatly appreciated.

Our fall series of field trips is well underway. We were pleased to be able to offer a series of Fall Warbler Walks this year, hosted at Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation by Joël Coutu. The turn-out for the trips was excellent, as were the bird sightings. It was an excellent opportunity to put to use some of the warbler identification skills learned at our Warbler Event, with Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, authors of the Warbler Guide, earlier this year.

Our monthly meetings commence on October 5. Gail Desnoyers has lined up an excellent list of guest lecturers, on a variety of interesting subjects, for this season, beginning with Nick Acheson's talk on Red-eyed Vireos. See page 8.

Our Field Trip committee has scheduled weekly outings through to the end of November. We will take a bit of a break in early December to gear ourselves up for this year's Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts. These important annual citizen science projects draw more participation from our members than any other activities throughout the year. We look forward to seeing everyone out again this year. If you are new to BPQ, and new to the



Fall Migration and Super Moon © Ilana Block, N.D., 2015

Christmas Counts, we encourage you to get involved. Full details appear in this month's newsletter. *See page 10.*

Our BPQ 100th Anniversary Committee is continuing its work planning for our centenary celebrations in 2017. Information has already been released regarding the centenary photo contest and a special 100th anniversary logo contest. Many more events, including a banquet with a keynote speaker, a rally, and birding contests are being planned. A special 100th anniversary BPQ 2017 Calendar will also be issued. Watch for more details on these and other activities in the months ahead. *See page 12.*

New Members

BPQ welcomes new members Antonia Cattaneo, Barbara Goodfellow, and Tyler Krul. We hope to see you out on our field trips and at our lectures.

Night of Discovery

by Simon Duval

The McGill Bird Observatory, in collaboration with the Morgan Arboretum, invites you to join them after dark for a night of discovery! Open to the public for the first time this fall, witness research in action during the Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring program. We will introduce you to the world of this magnificent little owl, such as where it lives, what it eats, and all about its migration. Come learn about the owl banding program of McGill Bird Observatory, a non-profit group dedicated to the research and monitoring of migratory birds. The evening will include short activities and presentations suitable for the whole family. If the weather permits, and depending on the night and the migration of the owls, you may have the opportunity to watch the banding team in action as they band live owls.

The cost of the evening is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 16 (the minimum recommended age is 8 years old). Parking is included in the cost.



Northern Saw-whet Owl © Simon Duval, 2010

Payment can be made by cash or a cheque payable to "The Migration Research Foundation, Inc.". All proceeds for this program are used to support the continued research, monitoring, and education efforts by the McGill Bird Observatory. For more information on the Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring program and the McGill Bird Observatory, visit www.oommbo.org <<http://www.oommbo.org>>.

Schedule

- October 9-10, 7:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.
- October 16-17, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- October 23-24, 7:15 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

Reservations are required. Contact the Morgan Arboretum at 514-398-7811 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Bird Views

Parlons d'oiseaux

by/par: Pierre Bannon

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

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

June – July 2015

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: two birds appeared on a farm pond at Sabrevois 29 July and left 7 Aug (R. Gélinas). There is no reason to believe that these birds were not wild. This represented the 3rd record for the province. **Mute Swan:** one at Rouyn-Noranda 20 June-29 July (J. Gagnon). **Trumpeter Swan:** up to 4 birds in the vicinity of Val d'Or during the summer (*vide* C. Siano et al.). **Eurasian Wigeon:** 5 birds reported throughout the province in June. **Garganey:** an ad. male at Rivière York 16 June (A. Gagnon). **Horned Grebe:** 2 pairs building their nest at Ville-Marie 5 June. One of the nests contained 3 eggs 13 June (J. Fréchette). **American White Pelican:** one at Alma 4-5 June (R. Gagnon) and 2 on Lac De Montigny (Val d'Or) 5 June (G. Noël, S. Rocheleau, *vide* B. Major).

Little Egret: a bird first found in the Ottawa region, Ontario 2 June was also seen roosting on Conroy Island (Gatineau), Quebec from 8 June through 13 July (Ben Di Labio, *m.ob.*). This bird provided the 4th record for Quebec. **Snowy Egret:** one at Saint-Blaise 12 June (P. Laporte, R. Boulet). **Little Blue Heron:** singles at Pointe aux Loups (Magdalen Islands) 12-16 June (DG. Gaudet et al.) and at Dunham 21 June (G. Béland). **Glossy Ibis:** following last spring's large influx, some birds lingered well into June: one at Rimouski 1st June (J. Roy), up to 3 at Baie-du-Febvre 2-5 June (*m. ob.*), one at Mont-Joli 6-19 June (P. Saint-Pierre, G. Raboin), one at Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 13 June (A. Nicole et al.), and up to 2 at Châteauguay 24 June-3 July (C. d'Auteuil, LP. Éthier). Even more intriguing were 2 juveniles at Laval-Ouest

Juin – juillet 2015

Dendrocygne à ventre noir : 2 oiseaux sont apparus sur un étang de ferme à Sabrevois le 29 juillet et ont quitté le 7 août (R. Gélinas). Tout porte à croire que ces oiseaux étaient d'origine sauvage. Il s'agit de la 3^{ème} présence au Québec. **Cygne tuberculé :** un à Rouyn-Noranda 20 juin-29 juillet (J. Gagnon). **Cygne trompette :** jusqu'à 4 oiseaux près de Val d'Or cet été (*vide* C. Siano et al.). **Canard siffleur :** 5 oiseaux signalés dans la province en juin. **Sarcelle d'été :** un mâle ad à Rivière York 16 juin (A. Gagnon). **Grèbe esclavon :** 2 couples construisant leur nid à Ville-Marie 5 juin. Un des nids contenait 3 oeufs 13 juin (J. Fréchette). **Pélican d'Amérique :** un à Alma 4-5 juin (R. Gagnon) et 2 sur le lac De Montigny (Val d'Or) 5 juin (G. Noël, S. Rocheleau, *vide* B. Major).

Aigrette garzette : un oiseau d'abord trouvé dans la région d'Ottawa, Ontario 2 juin a séjourné parfois sur l'île Conroy (Gatineau), Québec du 8 juin au 13 juillet (Ben Di Labio, *pl.ob.*), une 4^{ème} mention pour le Québec. **Aigrette neigeuse :** une à Saint-Blaise 12 juin (P. Laporte, R. Boulet). **Aigrette bleue :** des oiseaux à Pointe aux Loups (IDL) 12-16 juin (DG. Gaudet et al.) et à Dunham 21 juin (G. Béland). **Ibis falcinelle :** suite à un afflux considérable le printemps dernier, certains oiseaux se sont attardés jusqu'en juin : un à Rimouski 1er juin (J. Roy), jusqu'à 3 à Baie-du-Febvre 2-5 juin (*pl. ob.*), un à Mont-Joli 6-19 juin (P. Saint-Pierre, G. Raboin), un à Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 13 juin (A. Nicole et al.), et jusqu'à 2 à Châteauguay 24 juin-3 juillet (C. d'Auteuil, LP. Éthier). Plus intrigant a été la présence de 2 juvéniles à Laval-

12-23 July (G. Lachaine et al.) and another one at Saint-Herménégilde 31 July-4 Aug (M. Osborne, M. Viger). Although unconfirmed yet, local breeding in the province could be a possibility. **Black Vulture**: a bird seen intermittently at Rivière-du-Loup 16 July-3 August (M. Poulin, D. April).

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 females at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 1st June (A. Couture), up to 2 males at Baie-du-Febvre 2-7 June (M. Groulx, *m.ob.*) and one at Rivière-Madeleine 17 June (G. & R. Blanchette). **Little Gull**: about half a dozen birds reported in the province, including 2 first-summer birds at Sainte-Catherine 16 June- 25 July (R. Belhumeur et al.). **Laughing Gull**: 8 sightings in the province, most of them in eastern Quebec as usual. **Franklin's Gull**: singles at La Malbaie 10 June (L. Gervais, G. Cyr) and at Les Escoumins 11-13 June (C. Deschênes). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: an adult at Kangirsuk (Ungava) 12 July (B. Jolicoeur). Although the status of this species remains largely unknown in this region, it is possibly more regular than presumed. **Caspian Tern**: a nest with 2 eggs in Îles de Boucherville National Park 20 June (D. Henri et al.), the second nest found at this place in 2 years.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: singles at Saint-Édouard 14 June-29 July (J. Piuze, *m.ob.*) and at Sainte-Félicité 23-27 July (J. Deschênes).

Red-headed Woodpecker: an ad photographed in Jacques-Cartier Nation Park 5 June (M. Bassinotte et al.). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: breeding was confirmed at 2 different sites in Châteauguay for the 10th consecutive year (*m.ob.*) while a juvenile was also reported at Saint-Armand 27 June (N. Bourdon). **Acadian Flycatcher**: a singing bird was present at Notre-Dame-du-Nord (Témiscamingue) 1 June-4 July for the 5th consecutive summer (J. Fréchette). **Yellow-throated Vireo**: one at Val d'Or 24 June-3 July (R. Gauthier). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: one on Île Bonaventure 7 June (D. Mercier et al.). **American Redstart X Yellow-rumped Warbler hybrid**: this presumed hybrid, paired with a female American Redstart, was seen feeding young in June at Laval (J. Coutu, D. Néron). DNA analyses are awaited for confirmation of identity.

Connecticut Warbler: one at Baie-Comeau 15-16 June (JP. Barry). **Spotted Towhee**: an adult male at Havre-aux-Basques 18-19 July, a first record for the Magdalen Is. (ph., A. Richard).

Ouest 12-23 juillet (G. Lachaine et al.) et d'un autre à Saint-Herménégilde 31 juillet-4 août (M. Osborne, M. Viger). Bien que non-confirmée jusqu'à maintenant, la possibilité d'une nidification locale n'est pas à écarter. **Urubu noir** : un oiseau vu à l'occasion à Rivière-du-Loup 16 juillet-3 août (M. Poulin, D. April).

Phalarope de Wilson : 2 femelles à Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 1er juin (A. Couture), jusqu'à 2 mâles à Baie-du-Febvre 2-7 juin (M. Groulx, *pl. ob.*) et un à Rivière-Madeleine 17 juin (G. & R. Blanchette). **Mouette pygmée** : une demi-douzaine d'oiseaux signalés dans la province, incluant 2 oiseaux de 1er été à Sainte-Catherine 16 juin-25 juillet (R. Belhumeur et al.). **Mouette atricille** : 8 présences dans la province, la plupart dans l'est du Québec, comme c'est souvent le cas. **Mouette de Franklin** : des oiseaux à La Malbaie 10 juin (L. Gervais, G. Cyr) et aux Escoumins 11-13 juin (C. Deschênes). **Goéland brun** : un adulte à Kangirsuk (Ungava) 12 juillet (B. Jolicoeur). Bien que le statut de cette espèce ne soit pas bien connu dans cette région, elle s'y rencontre possiblement plus souvent qu'on ne le croit. **Sterne caspienne** : un nid contenant 2 oeufs au Parc National des Îles de Boucherville 20 juin (D. Henri et al.), un 2ième nid trouvé à cet endroit depuis 2 ans.

Tourterelle turque : des oiseaux signalés à Saint-Édouard 14 juin-29 juillet (J. Piuze, *m.ob.*) et à Sainte-Félicité 23-27 juillet (J. Deschênes).

Pic à tête rouge : un ad photographié au Parc National de la Jacques-Cartier 5 juin (M. Bassinotte et al.). **Pic à ventre roux** : la nidification a été confirmée à 2 sites à Châteauguay pour la 10ième année consécutive (*pl. ob.*) puis un juvénile a été signalé à Saint-Armand 27 juin (N. Bourdon). **Moucherolle vert** : un mâle chanteur à Notre-Dame-du-Nord (Témiscamingue) 1er juin-4 juillet pour le 5ième été consécutif (J. Fréchette). **Viréo à gorge jaune** : un à Val d'Or 24 juin-3 juillet (R. Gauthier). **Gobemoucheon gris-bleu** : un à l'Île Bonaventure 7 juin (D. Mercier et al.). **Hybride Paruline flamboyante X Paruline à croupion jaune** : ce présumé hybride, accouplé à une Paruline flamboyante femelle, nourrissait des jeunes à Laval en juin (J. Coutu, D. Néron). Des analyses d'ADN en cours pourraient confirmer son identité.

Paruline à gorge grise : une à Baie-Comeau 15-16 juin (JP. Barry). **Tohi tacheté** : un mâle ad à Havre-aux-Basques 18-19 juillet, une première mention aux Îles de la Madeleine (ph., A. Richard).

ADDENDUM: Northern Caracara: a belated report of a bird photographed 29 July 2014 at Coin-du-Banc (Gaspésie), a first confirmed record for the province (M. Bilodeau, R. Savard, *fide* P. Poulin).

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

ADDENDUM : Caracara du Nord : la nouvelle d'un oiseau photographié le 29 juillet 2014 à Coin-du-Banc (Gaspésie) et communiquée tout récemment, procure une 1ère mention confirmée pour la province (M. Bilodeau, R. Savard, *fide* P. Poulin).

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



Trumpeter Swan / **Cygne trompette**

Saving the Chimney Swift: Issues and Initiatives for its Protection

A Presentation by Yong Lang and Geneviève Perreault

**Monday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.,
Kensington Presbyterian Church,
6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG**

We share the same neighbourhoods as Chimney Swifts during the summer months, although they may be mostly undetected. In the city or in the country, all we need to do is to look at the sky, just before the sun sets, to see them chasing insects in flight, or listen carefully to hear their twittering clicks. Even though spotting this bird is fairly easy, the species is undergoing a major decline.



Chimney Swift © Christophe Turcotte

Who are these “tenants” of our masonry chimneys? What are the main issues and challenges in safeguarding this threatened species? What initiatives have been made to help Chimney Swifts? These are the main themes that will be discussed in this talk by Yong Lang and Geneviève Perreault.



Geneviève Perreault and Yong Lang © J.-S. Guénette

Yong Lang has been a biologist for Regroupement QuébecOiseaux since 2007. She mainly works for the protection of species at risk. Her goal is to help birders and people working in the environmental field to act collectively for the protection of birds. She has conducted many conservation projects, and increased landowners' awareness of to the protection of Chimney Swifts and Golden-winged Warblers. She holds a Master's degree in biology from Université de Montréal.

Geneviève Perreault has been working as a biologist for Regroupement QuébecOiseaux for over four years. She holds a Master's degree in biology from Université de Sherbrooke, where she studied the effects of landscape on an owl community, accounting for imperfect detection. In 2009, Geneviève joined the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac as the chief owl-bander. Project manager for Regroupement QuébecOiseaux since 2011, she has conducted many conservation projects for species at risk, in particular the Bicknell's Thrush and the Chimney Swift.

The Role of Intelligence and Personality in Avian Responses to Environmental Challenges



Black-capped Chickadee © Chuck Kling, 2015

Studies on Innovation and Learning in Wild Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

A Presentation by Dr Julie Morand-Ferron

Monday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG

Animal populations can respond to environmental changes by changing their morphology, physiology or behaviour. Behavioural changes are especially important when responding to modern challenges resulting from human

impact on the environment, such as climate change or urbanization, because behaviours can be adjusted quickly and fine-tuned to the current context with great precision. I will present different forms of behavioural plasticity exhibited by birds, with an accent on learning, memory and innovation, as well as associated personality traits. I will summarize some of our research on fitness consequences of the ability to solve novel problems in European tits of Oxford, UK, and on the effect of urbanization on the behaviour of Black-capped Chickadees in Ottawa. I will explain why behaviourally flexible birds such as members of the Paridae family are useful models to study the evolution of intelligence, and how this research can help understand why some species seem to thrive rather than decline in perturbed, rapidly changing environments.

Dr Julie Morand-Ferron is an assistant professor of Biology at the University of Ottawa, with an expertise in animal behaviour and ecology. The major goal of her research is to understand how cognitive processes, such as learning and decision-making, are shaped by natural selection. Her research is focused on avian foraging and social behaviour, using experiments in the field and in aviaries, as well as comparative methods. She uses an integrated approach, drawing from behavioural ecology, evolutionary ecology and experimental psychology.



Dr Julie Morand-Ferron © 2015

The 80th Annual Montreal Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, December 19, 2015

by Sheldon Harvey

One of Bird Protection Quebec's (BPQ) most popular annual events, the Montreal Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2015. The annual bird counts play a vital role in tracking local and national birding trends and are one of the most important events on the citizen science calendar. We are once again counting on your important participation.



Black-capped Chickadee in Snow © Chuck Kling, 2015

Barbara Szabo, Jean Demers, Clémence Soulard, and I make up the BPQ Christmas Count Committee. Barbara and I will be responsible for the Montreal Count, with Jean and Clémence looking after Hudson. 70 people participated in the 2014 event. We hope that many of those people will return again this year, but we still have space and territory available to

add more people. We have a long-standing tradition to uphold and, with everyone's support and cooperation, we aim to carry it on.

2015 BPQ Christmas Bird Counts

Montreal: Saturday, December 19

Hudson: Sunday, December 27

The 24-km-wide circle for the Montreal area count is centred at the intersection of Sherbrooke Street West and Westminster Avenue in Montreal West. An overview of the count, a map of the count circle, and the results from past years are all available on our website. (Follow the link at the end of this article.) Teams of birders cover as much of the territory within the circle as possible. In order to do that, as many participants as possible are needed.

It's a fun day of birding, all for a valuable and important purpose. The key thing to remember on a Christmas Bird Count is that every single bird you see is important, regardless of whether it is common or rare. Seeing some "good birds" is always an added bonus, but the goal of the day is to count each and every bird of each and every species.

If you live anywhere within the count circle and have feeders installed, but are unable to join one of our field teams, you can still assist us without leaving the comfort of your home. Our website explains how to participate as a FeederWatcher.

If you participated last year, you should have received an e-mail from us recently, asking if you wish to participate this year, covering the same territory. (If not, get in touch.) If you would like to move to a different target area, we will do our best to accommodate. If you are new to the Christmas count and are interested in becoming a field participant, please contact us and we will assign you to a sector. We will place you on a team with some experienced Christmas counters. Everyone's involvement is extremely important. We will also be presenting an information session and overview of the Christmas Counts at the December BPQ monthly meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015.

75th Hudson Christmas Bird Count

by Jean Demers

This year the 75th Hudson Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 27, 2015. We are looking for volunteers to participate in the event. For those of you who have never done a Christmas Bird Count, you are missing out on a terrific citizen science project which helps to evaluate the numbers of birds who spend the winter with us. This project is conducted throughout North America and in some countries in Central and South America.

You do not need to be an expert birder to participate. We will match new participants with experienced bird count veterans. In Hudson, we have seventeen field teams covering many different habitats.

We cover a 24-km-wide circle. The task is simple: counting all birds of all species seen throughout the day. Participants will receive detailed instructions on how to proceed. Each team will be provided with the required documents to record their findings for the day. If you live within the count circle and prefer to stay in the warmth of your home, you can still participate in the event as a FeederWatcher. For this, you count the birds at your feeders, at specific intervals, throughout the day. Contact me with your address and I will confirm if you live within the coverage area of the Hudson count.

For details on participating in the Hudson Christmas Bird Count, please contact me at: cbchudson2@gmail.com or by phone at: 514-694-8240.



Cedar Waxwing © Chuck Kling, 2014

As in previous years, an informal social will be held immediately following the count at the Montreal West Curling Club, 17 Ainslie Road in Montreal West, at approximately 4:00 p.m. All participants are invited to attend for a bite to eat and to submit their findings of the day. The rough results are tabulated and everyone is encouraged to share their birding experiences of the day.

Complete information on the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, as well as the Hudson Christmas Bird Count being held on Saturday, December 27, is available on the following BPQ webpage http://pqspb.org/bpq2/?page_id=139

We look forward to your participation again this year. If you have any questions, or wish to register for the event, please contact Sheldon Harvey, e-mail: ve2shw@yahoo.com or telephone: 450-462-1459.

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

Seeking Green Birders From Across the Country



As one of BPQ's centenary events in 2017, we are considering inviting birders from all over this huge country to help us celebrate with the birds. This is expected to take the form of a nationwide, year long, Big Day/Big Year birding contest with a strong bias towards "Green Birding"**.

In order to take our plans forward we need to contact as many as possible of the thousands of birders who live in Canada ... and that's where we need your help. If you know of any birders or of a wildlife or a birding club or society in Quebec or anywhere else in Canada whose members might be interested in this unique nationwide contest would you please share their contact details (e-mail address, website, etc.) with us so that when the time comes to announce the challenge we can contact them and invite them to celebrate with BPQ? Please also ask any birding friends, in Quebec or other parts of the nation, who would like to know more to get in touch and register their interest. 2017 might seem a long way ahead but events like this take a lot of planning. Please send any information you have to greenbirding@gmail.com

*** ... and what is Green Birding? Simply it's about local and patch birding where you get to and from observation sites by walking, biking, riding a horse, paddling or any other human-powered means. Some forms of public transportation are allowed. It promotes conservation, cuts carbon emissions and focuses birders on the wildlife they live closest to.*

2017 BPQ Photo Challenge

In 2017, Bird Protection Quebec will be celebrating its 100th anniversary!

From September 2015 to August 2016 we are looking for your bird photos. Each month our panel of reviewers will pick out one favourite and that photo will be added in the 2017 BPQ 100 Year Anniversary Calendar.

For information and guidelines about the Photo Challenge, contact Mathias Mutzl at mathias.mutzl@gmail.com or bpqphotochallenge@gmail.com

Défi Photo 2017 de POQ

Au cours de l'année 2017 Protection des Oiseaux du Québec célébrera son 100^{ième} anniversaire.

De septembre 2015 jusqu'au mois d'août 2016 nous cherchons vos meilleures photos d'oiseaux. Chaque mois notre panel d'évaluateurs choisira la photo qu'ils jugeront la meilleure et elle sera ajoutée à notre calendrier 2017, l'année de notre centenaire.

Pour toute information et les règles de soumission pour notre défi photo, veuillez contacter Mathias Mutzlà : mathias.mutzl@gmail.com ou bpqphotochallenge@gmail.com

Vous êtes un artiste qui s'ignore, alors ceci est pour vous

Le POQ se cherche un joli logo pour son centenaire! Le design doit absolument inclure notre oiseau emblématique, nul autre que le Bruant chanteur et refléter le thème choisi par le comité : cent ans de conservation.

Veuillez soumettre votre design, soit en noir et blanc ou en couleur, dans un format électronique à haute résolution . Toutes les soumissions deviennent la propriété de POQ.

Le prix pour le design gagnant est deux billets pour notre souper anniversaire qui clôturera les célébrations du centenaire. Le concours est ouvert à tous sauf les membres du conseil d'administration ainsi que les membres des divers comités. La date limite pour les soumissions est le 1 décembre 2015, c'est bien deux mille QUINZE. Veuillez envoyer vos designs à :

bpqlogocontest@gmail.com

Calling All Fledgling Artists

BPQ needs a cool logo for its centenary! The winning design must include our "spokesbird," none other than the Song Sparrow, and reflect the theme chosen by the committee: one hundred years of conservation.

Please submit your design (in colour or in black-and-white) in a high resolution electronic format. All entries become the property of BPQ.

The prize is two tickets to our anniversary dinner which will close the celebratory year. The contest is open to everyone except members of the Board of BPQ and the committees. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2015. Yes, two thousand and FIFTEEN! Please send your design to: bpqlogocontest@gmail.com



Hermit Thrush © Chuck Kling, 2015

Fall Warbler Walks 2015

by Joël Coutu

BPQ's second annual series of fall warbler walks took place on Wednesday mornings at Montreal's **Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park from mid-August through to the end of September. This year we added a Sunday bonus walk, thereby doubling the total number from four in 2014 to eight this year.**

We had an increase in participation on these bilingual walks with an average of 28 people – up from 21 last year. There were over 42 on one walk. Visitors turned up from Alberta, Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, the UK, California, and elsewhere in the U.S.

Weather conditions were great. It was cloudy on only two of the eight walks. We managed to observe 81 species and positively identify 79. Among these were 19 warbler species. On average, we observed 48 species per walk (lowest 35, highest 58) and nine to ten species of warblers (lowest five, highest 16). Some of the delightful feathered stars were no doubt our local Screech Owl and our Black-crowned Night Herons, especially the juvenile. Among the favourite warbler sightings was the time we observed a Black-throated Green, Wilson's and Magnolia Warbler bathing in the dew clinging to the leaves near the ground. It was a nice moment for many in the group.

I have made a few quick observations about this year's fall migration in the park and compared them to last year's. We observed fewer Yellow-rumped, Bay-breasted, and Nashville Warblers, but this fall season did bring us more Cape-May, Tennessee, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers. As for other species, there was an excellent ten-day period where different flycatchers were active. However, it has not been a good fall for raptors, up to the writing of this article and there have been no Common Grackles. Normally, we have large groups passing through the park creating chaos.

Birdwatching in the fall is not always easy. Just trying to follow or catch a glimpse of a bird that is moving quickly among the leaves is challenging. There are many different plumages, juvenile, adult, fall, male, female. However, the idea that fall warblers are hard to identify and confusing and that all have a different plumage in fall is a myth. Only a small percentage of North American

warblers have a completely different fall plumage. If you are capable of identifying 80% of warbler species in spring, you are able to identify 80% of warblers in fall.

In the 1930s, Roger Tory Peterson influenced all future generations of birdwatchers when he published the first edition of his field guide. When he got to the warbler section, he was not sure how to show the fall plumages. He decided to group them together on two pages and add the heading "confusing fall warblers." This was at a time when birdwatching was just beginning as a hobby. Rather than discouraging new birdwatchers with the variations of warblers in fall, he felt it was easier to sell their beautiful spring plumages. He was right! It took him nine pages to show these. Yet, the word "confusing" has stuck.

Since the 1930s, field guides for identifying fall warblers have evolved incredibly. The term confusing no longer applies. I have relied on *Warblers* from J.Dunn & K.Garret for 15 years. The Sibley Guide to Birds has better fall warble illustrations than the Peterson's guide.

The *Warbler Guide* by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle is excellent for learning more on warblers and their songs. The 'quick finder' pages are very useful in the field. These are available for free download at <http://www.thewarblerguide.com/>.

Benefits of Fall Warbler Watching

- Fall migration is longer for warblers, meaning more chances of seeing them. In spring, there are two weeks in May, where we can see more than ten warblers in the Montreal region, but in the fall the 'window' lasts from mid-August through to the end of September. You have more days of practice time for observing these beautiful birds.
- There are two to three times more warblers in the fall with new generations participating in their first migration.
- The weather is more often better in September than in May.
- Fall warbler watching gives you the opportunity to learn about the different plumages of other migrating species, such as vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, and kinglets.

- Because it is rare to hear warblers sing in fall, you learn how to be quick with your binoculars and have the opportunity to develop your ability to see and to hear. This is the best time to learn chip calls or call notes. With practice, patience and preparation, you begin to notice more, such as the difference in behaviour among warbler species, the way they move, how they feed, etc. Who says bird watching (warblers in fall) isn't an extreme sport!
- It takes all your concentration. You learn to focus on seeing details and recalling them. You learn what to notice on a bird in order to confirm your observation.

The more often you go out and observe, the easier it gets. Fall warblers become familiar. Trust me. It's true, I have noticed dozens of beginners getting better throughout the years.

Many thanks to all who came out on these walks. I hope you enjoyed them.

Dates / Total Number of	19/8/	26/8	2/9	9/9	16/9	23/9	19/9	20/9
Participants	12	21	25	34	31	42	34	28
Bird Species	47	48	48	35	50	50	58	46
Warbler Species	5	9	12	5	13	9	16	8

- **Average number of participants:** 28 people per walk (last year 21)
- **Total bird species:** 79 species + 2sp. (last year 64 species in 4 walks)
- **Total warbler species:** 19 species (last year 17 species in 4 walks)
- **Bird species observed per walk:** Average: 48 species (last year 40sp)
- **Average number of warbler species:** 9 to 10 species (Last year, 9-10sp)

The 79+2 Species Observed

Tennessee Warbler/Paruline obscure	Nashville Warbler / Paruline à joues grises
Northern Parula / Paruline à collier	Yellow Warbler / Paruline jaune
Chestnut-sided Warbler / Paruline à flancs marron	Magnolia Warbler / Paruline à tête cendrée
Cape May Warbler / Paruline tigrée	Black-throated Green Warbler / Paruline à gorge noire
Yellow-rumped Warbler / Paruline à croupion jaune	Black-throated Blue Warbler / Paruline bleue
Palm Warbler / Paruline à couronne rousse	Blackburnian / Paruline a gorge orangée
Bay-breasted Warbler / Paruline à poitrine baie	Blackpoll Warbler/Parulinerayée
Black & White Warbler / Paruline noir et blanc	American Redstart / Paruline flamboyante
Mourning Warbler/Paruline triste	Wilson's Warbler / Paruline à calotte noire
Canada Warbler / Paruline du Canada	Canada Goose / Bernache du Canada
Wood Duck / Canard branchu	American Black Duck / Canard noir
Mallard / Canard colvert	Hooded Merganser / Harle couronné
Double-crested Cormorant / Cormoran à aigrettes	Great Blue Heron / Grand Héron
Black-crowned Night-Heron / Bihoreau gris	Osprey / Balbuzard pêcheur
Small Accipiter SP./ petit accipiter sp	Cooper's Hawk / Épervier de Cooper
Peregrine Falcon / Faucon pèlerin	Turkey Vulture / Urubu à tête rouge
Spotted Sandpiper/Chevalier grivelé	Solitary Sandpiper / Chevalier solitaire

Eastern Screech Owl / Petit-duc maculé	Chimney Swift / Martinet ramoneur
Ruby-throated Hummingbird / Colibri à gorge rubis	Ring-billed Gull / Goéland à bec cerclé
Herring Gull / Goéland argenté	Great Black-backed Gull / Goéland marin
Rock Dove / Pigeon biset	Belted Kingfisher / Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker / Pic maculé	Downy Woodpecker / Pic mineur
Hairy Woodpecker / Pic chevelu	Northern Flicker / Pic flamboyant
Olive-Sided Flycatcher / Moucherolle à côtés olive	Eastern Wood-Pewee / Pioui de l'Est
Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher / Moucherolle à ventre jaune	Eastern Phoebe / Moucherolle phébi
Eastern Kingbird / Tyran tritri	Empidonax Sp. / Flycatcher, Moucherolle
Blue-headed Vireo / Viréo à tête bleue	Warbling Vireo / Viréo mélodieux
Philadelphia Vireo / Viréo de Philadelphie	Red-eyed Vireo / Viréo aux yeux rouges
Blue Jay / Geai bleu	American Crow / Corneille d'Amérique
Barn Swallow / Hirondelle rustique	Black-capped Chickadee / Mésange à tête noire
Red-breasted Nuthatch / Sittelle à poitrine rousse	White-breasted Nuthatch / Sittelle à poitrine blanche
Brown Creeper / Grimpereau brun	Golden-crowned Kinglet / Roitelet à couronne dorée
Ruby-crowned Kinglet / Roitelet à couronne rubis	Swainson's Thrush / Grive à dos olive
Gray-cheeked Thrush / Grive à joues grises	American Robin / Merle d'Amérique
Gray Catbird / Moqueur chat	Brown Thrasher / Moqueur roux

European Starling / Étourneau sansonnet	Cedar Waxwing / Jaseur d'Amérique
Scarlet Tanager / Piranga écarlate	Chipping Sparrow / Bruant familier
Song Sparrow / Bruant chanteur	White-throated Sparrow / Bruant à gorge blanche
Northern Cardinal / Cardinal rouge	Rose-breasted Grosbeak / Cardinal à poitrine rose
Baltimore Oriole / Oriole de Baltimore	American Goldfinch / Chardonneret jaune
House Sparrow / Moineau domestique	

Reference Guides Noted in This Article

A Field Guide to Warblers of North America by Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1997)

The Sibley Guide to Birds Second edition by David Allen Sibley (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014)

The Warbler Guide by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle (Princeton, 2014)

Past Field Trips

August to September, 2015

01/08/15 – Summer Series Trip #6

Lacolle, Noyan & Henryville

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Sunny, warm. 15 birders; 52 species

Birds of the Day: Bald Eagle, Common Loon

Other Birds of Note: Green Heron, Osprey, Solitary Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Common Raven, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse

08/08/15 – Summer Series Trip #7

Pointe-des-Cascades, Les Cedres, Coteau du Lac, St-Clet

Guide : Sheldon Harvey

Sunny, warm. 14 birders; 42 species

Bird of the Day: Bald Eagle

Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Osprey, Merlin, Caspian Tern, Chimney Swift, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Yellow Warbler, Northern Waterthrush

15/08/15 – Summer Series Trip #8

Parc nature du Cap-St-Jacques, Pierrefonds

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Sunny, humid. 20 birders; 46 species

Birds of the Day: Cliff Swallow, Bald Eagle

Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Great Egret, Red-shouldered Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart, Baltimore Oriole

Opposite page:

Belted Kingfisher © John Moorehouse, 2015





American Redstart © Chuck Kling, 2015

Other Birds of Note: Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler

05/09/15 – Parc Nature du Bois de l'Île-Bizard, Île Bizard

Guides: Wayne Grubert and Felix Hilton

Sunny, 27 C. 31 birders; 48 species

Bird of the Day: Green Heron

Other Birds of Note: Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Virginia Rail, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart

12/09/15 – Baie du Febvre

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Cool, overcast, late showers. 10 birders; 45 species

Bird of the Day: Snow Geese

Other Birds of Note: American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

19/09/15 – Parc-nature de l'Île de la Visitation, Montreal

Guide: Joël Coutu

Excellent weather. 42 birders; 50 species

Birds of the Day: Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Eastern Screech Owl

Other Birds of Note: Black-crowned Night Heron, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood-Pewee

26/09/15 – George H. Montgomery Sanctuary, Philipsburg

Guide: Sandy Montgomery

Sunny, 7 to 22°C. 11 birders; 35 species

Birds of the Day: Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets

Other Birds of Note: Red-tailed Hawk, Philadelphia Vireo, Tree Swallow, Brown Creeper, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Purple Finch

22/08/15 – Summer Series Trip #9 Eastern Ontario Sewage Lagoons

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Sunny, mild. 10 birders; 62 species

Birds of the Day: Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Phalarope

Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Virginia Rail, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Common Raven, Marsh Wren, Bobolink

29/08/15 – St-Lazare Sandpits, St-Lazare

Guide: Mat Mutzl

Cool, breezy. 21 birders; 47 species

Bird of the Day: Wilson's Snipe

Upcoming Field Trips

Trip Advice

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

Online calendar: Consult the website as well.

Questions: Contact the trip leader or post a message on the Songsparrow e-mail group.

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

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

De rigueur pour les excursions

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

Questions/informations: Téléphonnez au responsable ou contactez le groupe courriel Songsparrow.

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

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

Saturday, October 10 - samedi 10 octobre Laval West - Laval Ouest

Guide: Frédéric Hareau

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZfmApDStf2B2> (meeting Place)

Leader: Frédéric Hareau

fredhareau1@yahoo.ca

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

8:00 Meet at the Esso station on service road of highway 13 North (between 440 and Dagenais Boulevard). From Highway 40, take Highway 13 North, take exit 15 and continue on the service road to the ESSO station.

We will explore different habitats in Laval West, woodlands, wetlands and bays along the rivière des Milles-Îles, Looking for dabbling and diving ducks, geese, hawks and late migrants. **Half day.**

8h00 Rendez-vous à la station Esso, sur la voie de service de l'autoroute 13 Nord (entre la 440 et le boulevard Dagenais) Depuis L'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie vers la 13 Nord, Prendre la sortie 15, et continuer sur la voie de service jusqu'à la station ESSO.

Nous explorerons plusieurs habitats, boisés, zones humides et baies le long de la rivière des Milles Îles, à la recherche des oies, des canards plongeurs et barboteurs, des rapaces et des migrants tardifs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 17 - samedi 17 octobre Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville on Île Saint-Bernard

<http://www.heritagestbernard.qc.ca/rfmy.html>

<https://goo.gl/maps/g5spD>

Guide: Tom Long

450-692-1590

ram_air455@yahoo.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île St-Bernard, Châteauguay. From Montreal, take Highway 138

and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Highway 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto Boul. St-Francis. Follow St. Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Boulevard Salaberry Nord. Turn right onto Salaberry Nord. 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 will be a sign and an entrance ramp for the bridge for Beauharnois and Refuge Faunique Marquerite d'Youville. Cross the bridge and continue to Notre-Dame Nord. At the flashing red light turn right onto Notre-Dame and follow the signs to Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville. Cross the small bridge onto Île St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right. Walking trip looking for waterbirds and late migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. \$3.00 admission fee. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, 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 faunique Marquerite-D'Youville 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 et de migrants tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. Frais d'entrée de 3.00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 24 - samedi 24 octobre Parc National d'Oka

<https://goo.gl/maps/sG8gG>

Guide: Wayne Grubert
450-458-5498

514-774-0811 (Cell - morning of trip only)
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 \$6 will be charged. Looking for migrating passerines, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. **Half day.**

8 h 00. 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 6\$. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, rapaces, sauvagine et limicoles. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, October 31 - samedi 31 octobre Parc Nature Du Cap-St-Jacques

<https://goo.gl/maps/TLEH1>

Guide: Wayne Grubert

450-458-5498 **514-774-0811** (Cell – Morning of trip only)
wgrubert@hotmail.com

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

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

Saturday, November 7 – samedi 7 novembre
Fort Chambly and the Richelieu River – Fort Chambly et
vallée du Richelieu

<http://goo.gl/maps/hz9cT>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey
ve2shw@yahoo.com

450-462-1459 or-ou 514-637-2141 (Morning of trip after 6:00 a.m. - Matinée de la sortie après 6 h 00)

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Fort Chambly National Historic Site, 2 rue de Richelieu, Chambly, Quebec, in the main parking lot (free parking). From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge to the South Shore. Continue on Autoroute 10-Eastern Townships Autoroute. Take Exit 11 for Autoroute 30 East-Direction Sorel-Tracy. Continue on Autoroute 30 East to Exit 73 for Highway 112-Cousineau Blvd. Turn right on to Highway 112-Cousineau Blvd. Continue on Highway 112 through St-Hubert, Carignan and into the town of Chambly. NOTE: Highway 112 becomes boul. de Perigny in Chambly. Follow Highway 112-boul. de Perigny to the intersection with boul. Frechette. Turn left on boul. Frechette. Follow boul. Frechette to ave. Bourgogne. Turn right on ave. Bourgogne and follow it along until you cross a small bridge over the Chambly Canal. The entrance to the Fort Chambly parking will be on your left just a little past the bridge.

Optional Route: From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge to the South Shore. Continue on Autoroute 10-Eastern Townships Autoroute. Take Exit 22-Direction Chambly. Drive on Boul. Frechette to the intersection with ave. Bourgogne. Turn right on ave. Bourgogne and follow it along until you cross a small bridge over the Chambly Canal. The entrance to the Fort Chambly parking will be on your left just a little past the bridge.

Itinerary: We begin at the rapids area on the Chambly Basin located behind the old fort. We will then drive through the town of Chambly checking various observation points on the Richelieu River. We'll then drive south along Highway 223 following the Richelieu River through Carignan into St-Jean-sur-Richelieu where we will make several stops at observation points along the riverfront. Combination walking & driving trip. **Half Day.**

8 h 00. Rendez-vous au lieu historique national du Fort-Chambly, 2 rue de Richelieu, Chambly, Québec, dans le stationnement principal (stationnement gratuit). De Montréal, prendre le pont Champlain vers la Rive-Sud. Continuer sur l'autoroute 10 - Cantons de l'Est. Prenez la sortie 11 pour l'autoroute 30 Est-Direction de Sorel-Tracy. Continuer sur l'autoroute 30 Est jusqu'à la sortie 73 pour la route 112, boulevard Cousineau- Tourner à droite sur la route 112, boulevard Cousineau - Continuer sur la route 112, en passant St-Hubert, Carignan jusqu'à la ville de Chambly. NOTE: la route 112 devient boul. de Perigny à Chambly. Suivez la route 112 - boul. de Perigny jusqu'à l'intersection avec boul. Frechette. Tourner à gauche sur le boul. Frechette. Suivez boul. Frechette jusqu'à av. de Bourgogne. Tourner à droite sur l'avenue de Bourgogne et suivez le long du bassin jusqu'à ce que vous traversiez un petit pont sur le canal de Chambly. L'entrée du stationnement du Fort-Chambly sera sur votre gauche juste un peu après le pont.

Itinéraire facultatif: De Montréal, prendre le pont Champlain vers la Rive-Sud. Continuer sur l'autoroute 10 - Cantons de l'Est. Prenez la sortie 22 - Direction Chambly. Continuez sur le Boul. Frechette jusqu'à l'intersection avec av. De Bourgogne. Tourner à droite sur l'avenue de Bourgogne et suivez le long du bassin jusqu'à ce que vous traversiez un petit pont sur le canal de Chambly. L'entrée du stationnement du Fort-Chambly sera sur votre gauche juste un peu après le pont.

Itineraire de la sortie: Nous visiterons tout d'abord la zone des rapides sur le bassin de Chambly situé derrière l'ancien fort. Nous nous déplacerons ensuite en voiture à travers la ville de Chambly pour visiter différents points d'observation sur la rivière Richelieu. Nous nous déplacerons ensuite vers le sud le long de la route 223 en suivant la rivière Richelieu à travers Carignan jusqu'à St-Jean-sur-Richelieu où nous ferons plusieurs arrêts à des points d'observation le long de la rivière. Sortie combinant marche et déplacements en voiture. **Demi journée.**

Sunday, November 15 – dimanche 15 novembre.
PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SUNDAY TRIP – VEUILLEZ
NOTER QUE CETTE SORTIE A LIEU UN DIMANCHE
Voyageur Provincial Park, Ontario

<https://goo.gl/maps/xVGbEjP62n42> (Meeting place- lieu de rencontre)

Guide: Joël Coutu fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Ontario Travel Information Centre on Highway 417. From Montreal take Highway 40 west in the direction of Ottawa/Gatineau. The information centre is 2.6 km west of the Québec/Ontario border after Highway 40 changes to Highway 417. An interesting park with different habitats including mature forests, fields, small wooded areas and small bays on the Outaouais River. Looking for dabbling and diving ducks, geese, raptors, sparrows and possibly an owl. Please bring footwear (rubber boots/hiking boots) suitable for wet grass conditions...etc... **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rendez-vous au Centre d'information des voyageurs de l'Ontario sur l'Autoroute 417. De Montréal, prendre l' autoroute 40 ouest, en direction d'Ottawa / Gatineau . Le centre d'information est situé 2,6 km à l'ouest de la frontière Québec / Ontario après que l'autoroute 40 devienne l'autoroute 417. Un parc intéressant avec différents habitats, notamment des forêts matures, des champs, de petites zones boisées et de petites baies sur la rivière des Outaouais. Nous serons à la recherche des canards barboteurs et plongeurs, des oies, des rapaces, passereaux, et peut-être un hibou . Merci de vous munir de chaussures (bottes en caoutchouc / bottes de randonnée) adaptées aux conditions de prairie humide. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 21 November - samedi 21 novembre
MORGAN ARBORETUM - ARBORETUM MORGAN

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

Guide: Richard Gregson
sparrowworks@gmail.com
<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

8:00 a.m. 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. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members.(\$4 for Seniors 65+ and students). **Half day.**

8 h 00. 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. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres. (4\$ pour les aînés de 65 ans et plus et les étudiants, \$3 pour les enfants de 14 ans et moins). **Demi-journée.**

Saturday November 28 - samedi 28 novembre
Spontaneous Late Autumn Outing - Location TBD – Sortie
spontanée de fin d'automne. Destination à confirmer

Guide: TBA – À confirmer

Late fall is an interesting but unpredictable time for birding as late or vagrant migrants may turn up just about anywhere. As a result, the destination of this trip will be determined mere days prior to the outing. The destination will be chosen based on a number of factors including weather conditions, bird activity and any special or rare bird sightings reported in the days leading up to the trip. Complete details of the field trip, including the destination, the start time, the meeting spot, and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ webpage and on the Songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

La fin de l'automne est un moment intéressant mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux ; des migrateurs tardifs ou des visiteurs rares pouvant se retrouver à peu près n'importe où. En conséquence, la destination pour cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant qu'elle n'ait lieu. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalée dans les jours précédant la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur le site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo Songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.