



Issue 64-2

December 2021



Citizen Science
Issue

News for Members



The
SONG SPARROW

Bird Protection Quebec

President	Simon Duval
Vice-Presidents	Sheldon Harvey Ana Morales Connie Morgenstern
Treasurer	Sheldon Harvey
Membership Secretary	Darlene Harvey
Lectures Coordinator	Jeff Harrison
Song Sparrow Editors	Connie Morgenstern Darlene Harvey

Contact Bird Protection Quebec
birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

Box 67089 – Lemoyne
Saint-Lambert, QC J4R 2T8
Tel.: 514-637-2141
www.birdprotectionquebec.org

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Cover Photos:
Darlene Harvey, Richard Gregson, Connie Morgenstern
Photo this page: Making the Checklist - Darlene Harvey

A Word FROM THE EDITORS

CONNIE AND DARLENE

As the year draws to a close, for many birders it means one of the highlights of the year is on the horizon: the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This is North America's oldest citizen science project as well as BPQ's largest event of the year. This issue of the Song Sparrow focuses on citizen science in hopes of highlighting the important achievements of projects such as the CBC as well as encouraging our members who may not yet have discovered the joy of participation in these kinds of initiatives to give it a try!

Monitoring birds through programs like the CBC that engage the public at all levels, be it as an individual or part of a group or school, is something we can all contribute to regardless of our location, time availability, age or what have you. Our collective efforts through avian-focused citizen science programs help scientists track bird population and movement trends on a scale far greater than could be achieved by ornithologists alone.

In that vein, we are proud to say that you'll be able to take part in our annual Christmas counts again this year, events that even Covid didn't put a stop to last year! If you do not already regularly participate in either BPQ's Montreal or Hudson Christmas Bird Counts, we hope you will consider joining a tradition that, for BPQ, is now over 80 years in the making. Still on the fence? We hope our writers' enthusiasm for the subject of citizen science will give you a nudge!

We thank the writers who've contributed to this issue and can offer little in the way of compensation other than saying we are pleased that they have lent us their expertise! In addition to our regular columns, you'll find an article by Birds Canada's Christmas Bird Count Coordinator, Yousif Attia, writing about the history and importance of the CBC, while Richard Gregson extols the value of participating in Project FeederWatch and Bob Barnhurst provides an account of his and Mabel Macintosh's over four decades-long involvement with the Hawk Migration Monitoring project.

With the publication of this issue we have started to cautiously return to offering in-person field trips and hopefully this will continue on a broader scale as we move into the new year. In the meantime, there is still time to register for our last lecture of the year on December 6 so we hope to see you on Zoom before 2022 rolls in!

Wishing you all the best for a happy holiday season,

Connie and Darlene



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall migration is now over and I hope that it provided you with some interesting bird sightings. The fall was full of surprises in southern Quebec, including an extraordinary surge of alcids to the southwest. This resulted in several sightings of Razorbills, Northern Gannets and Atlantic Puffins in the Montreal area. Some individuals were even observed as far away as Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River. It is quite rare that we can observe these seabirds in the south of the province. The highlight of the fall was undoubtedly the observation of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the Technoparc, a first mention for this species on the island of Montreal.

As for BPQ, we have cautiously started with in-person field trips once again. After almost 20 months of interruption, it was a real pleasure to meet in person to observe birds. We hope to repeat the experience a few times during the winter and that the health situation will allow us to offer you several outings for next spring.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for renewing your BPQ membership. It is a real pleasure to have you with us. If you have not yet done so, it is not too late to renew.

Although birds are studied by scientists on many levels, much of the information about their populations can be derived from observations made by citizens - this is called citizen science. Simply sharing your observations on a database like eBird is a great way to help scientists. Winter is a great time to participate in more coordinated citizen science projects such as the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). We are coordinating two CBCs again this year, one in Montreal and one in Hudson.

I wish you a happy holiday season and hope that your winter birding activities get off to a great start!

Simon Duval

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

La migration automnale est maintenant terminée et j'espère que vous avez réalisé de belles observations. L'automne fût riche en surprises dans le sud du Québec, notamment une poussée extraordinaire d'alcidés vers le sud-ouest. Cela a résulté en plusieurs mentions de Petit pingouin, Fou de Bassan et Macareux moine dans la région de Montréal. Certains individus ont même été observés aussi loin que sur le Lac Ontario et la rivière des Outaouais. C'est plutôt rare que nous pouvons observer ces oiseaux marins dans le sud de la province. Le point culminant de l'automne fût sans aucun doute l'observation du Tyran à longue queue au Technoparc, une première mention pour cette espèce sur l'île de Montréal.

De notre côté, nous avons recommencé avec prudence des sorties terrain en présentiel. Après pratiquement 20 mois d'arrêt, ce fût un réel bonheur de se retrouver en personnes pour faire de l'observation d'oiseaux. Nous espérons répéter l'expérience quelques fois au cours de l'hiver et que la situation sanitaire nous permettra de vous proposer plusieurs sorties pour le printemps prochain.

En mon nom et en celui des membres du conseil d'administration, je tenais à vous remercier d'avoir renouveler votre abonnement à Protection des Oiseaux du Québec, c'est un réel bonheur de vous compter parmi nous. Si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait, il n'est pas trop tard pour renouveler.

Bien que les oiseaux soient étudiés par les scientifiques et ce à plusieurs niveaux, beaucoup d'informations sur leurs populations peuvent être tirées des observations faites par les citoyens, on appelle cela de la science citoyenne. Le simple fait de partager vos observations avec une base de données comme eBird constitue un excellent geste pour aider les scientifiques. L'hiver est une excellente saison pour participer à des projets plus coordonnés de science citoyenne comme par exemple les recensements d'oiseaux de Noël (RON). Nous nous occupons encore cette année de deux RONS soit celui de Montréal et celui de Hudson.

Je vous souhaite un excellent début d'hiver ornithologique et un Joyeux temps des fêtes !

Simon Duval

Focus on

OUR MEMBERS



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Diana Dyer, Denise Donelle, Frederick Gustavsson, Irene Crozier, Franceso Lerario, Linda Doyle, and Pierre Home-Douglas

We look forward to meeting you in person one day soon! In the meantime, be sure to follow us on Facebook and to join our Song Sparrow e-list group at <https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow> to connect with fellow members.

LAST CALL TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Are you enjoying *The Song Sparrow*? Unfortunately this will be your last issue if you haven't renewed your membership for 2021/22 by the end of December!

Remember, no matter what date you renewed last year, all memberships expired on September 30.

So, if it has slipped through the cracks, [click here](#) now to go to our website, where it is easy to renew online with your credit card or to find information on how to renew by mail.

AND NOW ... A WORD OF THANKS TO THE BPQ FAMILY!

With the uncertain world we have all been living in since the COVID-19 crisis began, we have been gratified by the generosity of our members and wanted to send out a special thank you.

The field trip committee organized a mini-birdathon event in October, where birders were encouraged to pledge a per-species-seen donation to a conservation charity of their choice, and several participants chose BPQ, with over \$750 generated by this event! Also, we noticed an increase in the number of members who generously chose to add a supplemental donation to their regular membership fees when renewing this year.

Our committees have tried hard to come up with innovative ways to keep in touch over the last 18 months - be it through Zoom monthly meetings and AGM's or "virtual" field trip events and challenges. Your generosity shows we have been doing something right!



BIENVENUE AUX LES NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

Diana Dyer, Denise Donelle, Frederick Gustavsson, Irene Crozier, Franceso Lerario, Linda Doyle, et Pierre Home-Douglas

Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer! En attendant, n'oubliez pas de vous inscrire à notre liste d'abonnés virtuels <Song Sparrow> <https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow> pour vous connecter avec d'autres membres ainsi que nous suivre sur Facebook.

DERNIER APPEL POUR RENOUVELER VOTRE ADHÉSION

Appréciez-vous *The Song Sparrow* ? Malheureusement, ce numéro sera le dernier si vous n'avez pas renouvelé votre adhésion 2021/22 avant la fin du mois de décembre !

N'oubliez pas que, quelle que soit la date de votre renouvellement l'année dernière, toutes les adhésions ont expiré le 30 septembre. Donc, si vous n'avez pas eu l'occasion de renouveler votre adhésion, [cliquez ici](#) pour accéder à notre site Web, où il est facile de renouveler votre adhésion en ligne avec votre carte de crédit, ou de trouver des informations sur la façon de renouveler votre adhésion par courrier.

ET MAINTENANT ... UN MOT DE REMERCIEMENT À LA FAMILLE POQ !

Avec le monde incertain dans lequel nous vivons tous depuis le début de la crise du COVID-19, nous avons été gratifiés par la générosité de nos membres et nous voulions leur adresser un remerciement spécial.

Le comité des excursions a organisé un < mini-birdathon > en octobre, où les ornithologues étaient encouragés à faire un don par espèce observée à l'organisme de conservation de leur choix. Plusieurs participants ont choisi POQ, et cet événement a généré plus de 750 \$! Nous avons également remarqué une augmentation du nombre de membres qui ont généreusement choisi d'ajouter un don supplémentaire à leur cotisation régulière lors du renouvellement de leur adhésion cette année.

Nos comités se sont efforcés de trouver des moyens novateurs de rester en contact au cours des 18 derniers mois, que ce soit par le biais des réunions mensuelles et des AGA de Zoom ou des excursions et défis " virtuels ". Votre générosité montre que nous avons fait quelque chose de bien !



IN MEMORIAM

Albert "Chief Top Leaf" McArdle

We were saddened to learn of the passing on October 26 of a life member, past board director and part of BPQ history because of his valued contributions to many of our popular educational projects in the past.

Past president and education committee member Barbara MacDuff reflected on Bert's history with BPQ:

Bert first became involved with Bird Protection Quebec when he signed up for BPQ's Bird Identification Course given by Ben Lapin, one of several BPQ members who taught courses back in the 1970s.

Later Bert joined BPQ's board of directors and became an active member of the education committee. He was sponsored by Bird Protection Quebec to attend a course in nature education at Cornell University. Without a doubt, money well spent.

Bert, or as he was fondly known "Chief Top Leaf", founded the Nature Adventure Centre in Dorval, where daycares, schools, seniors, Scouts and Girl Guides could visit and learn about nature. He also started a Bird and Nature Camp in the Laurentians. Three week-long sessions were held for children and adults, and were popular for many years.

The nature puppet shows Bert presented at BPQ's annual Bird Fair were always a highlight for visiting children.

Bert seemed happiest when teaching children about birds and nature. He could captivate the attention of 100 plus children with the help of his special "talking stick". Chief Top Leaf seemed to have an infinite amount of patience and he made every child feel special. He may have been an excellent draughtsman but he was a born teacher.

We would like to share some other tributes and memories posted by our members on our Facebook page and in our members' e-list group:

Wayne Grubert: This is indeed sad news. Bert was a kind, gentle, quiet man who touched many lives, young and old, in a positive way. He was one of those people who you were always glad to see just because he seemed to make any day better. Condolences to all his extended family and friends.

Zofia Laubitz: I remember Bert McArdle best for the puppet shows he always gave at the Bird Fair, which Barbara mentions; they certainly were popular with children (and not just children). And I know the Bird and Nature Camps were a hit as well. He did good work with young people. He was a lovely person. My condolences to his family.

Betsy McFarlane: A lovely man and did so much for birds, nature and kids. My condolences to the family.

Darlene Harvey: I remember Chief Top Leaf from my earliest days with BPQ, when he would participate in the Bird Fair and charm children and adults alike. My sympathies to his family.

Phyllis Holtz: He was so good at getting people to pay attention to his message of caring for animals (and birds). Through Scouts Canada and our own Nature Adventure Centre, he reached generations of youngsters. His legacy is enormous. My condolences to all his family.

Bonnie Soutar: A legend has left us - a wonderful man, mentor, storyteller and nature interpreter - gone to be with his Creator - sympathies to his loved ones and May he Rest In Peace

Minda Bernstein & Harle Thomas: We, too, are appreciative of the work Bert did! About 35 years ago we did a lot of work in the schools in Montreal (as visiting educational consultants with theatre and art programs), and at one of our favourite schools, Bancroft Elementary School, we often heard about his regular and acclaimed visits from the principal there. Then we met him one year at Le Nichoir and were able to enjoy his bird presentation in person! Our condolences to his family.

Focus on

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Field Trip Committee Report

by Wayne Grubert, Chair

With the COVID pandemic still very much in the forefront of people's lives, the BPQ Field Trip Committee chose to continue holding "virtual" field trips for much of the late summer/early autumn birding season. Although not the same as "in-person" excursions these still proved popular with many participants. Only at the very end of October did we finally decide to dip our toes in the realm of actual or real outings as a trial run.

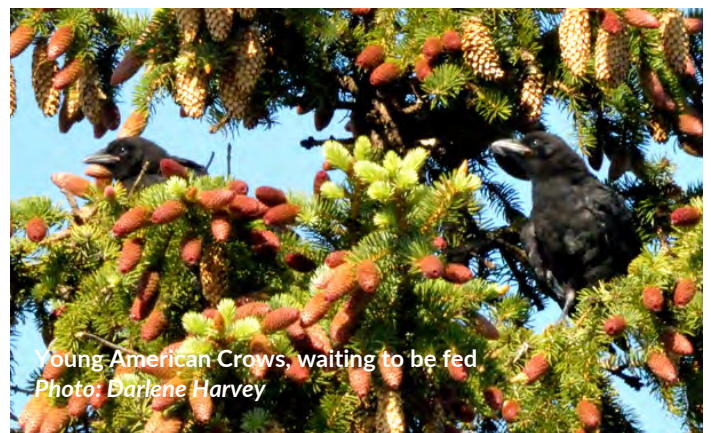
The period kicked off with our Labour Day Weekend Birding Blitz 2.0 and a challenge to add as many species as possible to our group list over the entire three-day holiday weekend of September 4 - 6. With reports from as far away as the Niagara and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions, 27 birders submitted lists and tallied 167 species. Both statistics topped last year's values of 19 and 165 respectively for a similar event.

The following weekend, September 11 - 12, saw us opt for a more sedentary approach to birding with our latest rendition of the BPQ Big Sit. Participants chose a favourite birding spot and counted species observed from that one position. They were free to bird for as many hours as they wished over the two-day period. Saturday was a beautiful late summer day with Sunday proving to be nice but a little blustery. In the end 17 birders tallied 92 species, once again proving that good things come to those who sit and wait!

The weekend of September 18 - 19 saw the committee reprise another popular event in the form of a weekend team challenge. The Last Rays of Summer Weekend Challenge saw teams representing Saturday and Sunday birders compete to observe the most species. Although Saturday's early morning showers gave way to more pleasant conditions, the meteorologist definitely favoured Team Sunday by giving them a glorious late summer day.

Twenty-two birders took part, divided into eleven participants on each day. In the end Team Sunday eked out a 105 to 103 species victory with 131 species observed overall.

Although technically a few days after the official beginning of fall, the committee decided to hold a First Bird of Autumn Equinox Event from September 25 - 26. Participants were asked to record, in chronological order, their first 25 species of birds observed after midnight on September 25. A point system was then applied to see which species would wear the crown of First Bird of Autumn. Most of the 21 birders representing 16 "groups" of one or two people reached their allotted 25 species during the first half of the weekend on a beautiful Saturday. After the resulting points were combined, **American Crow** ended up as the winner with Canada Goose, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee and Ring-billed Gull rounding out the top five rankings. A total of 97 different species made it onto our individual "First 25" species lists.



Young American Crows, waiting to be fed
Photo: Darlene Harvey



BPQ Field Trip - Boucherville
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Cedar Waxwing
Photo: Darlene Harvey

The October 2 - 3 weekend provided a chance for birders to give back a little for all the enjoyment that our avian friends give us. A BPQ Mini-Birdathon was held, with participants asked to pledge a "per species observed" amount to a conservation organization of their choice. Unfortunately rain put a damper on the weekend in most areas but 104 species were still observed by 15 people representing 11 teams. More importantly, several charities including our own Bird Protection Quebec benefitted nicely.

Our October 9 event was a simple one. Birders were asked to participate in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Global Big Day event by submitting as many eBird checklists as possible for that day. A beautiful summerlike autumn day no doubt encouraged participation. Although sharing their eBird lists with us was optional, we do know of at least 21 birders in 15 groups who contributed 32 checklists to eBird. In all worldwide,

33,658 participants submitted 80,492 checklists, with 7,293 species observed - an incredible amount of data collected for scientific research in what surely must be the largest citizen science project in the world.

The Committee then hit the "pause" button for two weekends but returned October 30, with our first actual outings in more than 20 months, albeit in a slightly smaller, modified form that we called Mini-Field Trips.

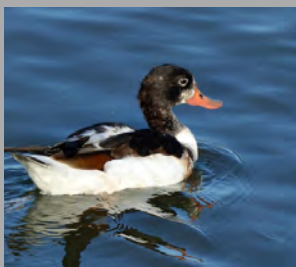
Unfortunately only two of the three planned trips went ahead as scheduled as the meteorologists decided not to be cooperative with our return to in-person excursions. In the end, their predictions of significant rain did not pan out, but the damage had been done as preregistration was required with limited spaces available. In all 18 people participated in outings to two locations: Parc-Nature du Cap-St-Jacques, and Parc de la Frayère in Boucherville, recording 25 and 36 species respectively.

Upcoming Field Trips

We were excited to slowly restart our 'live' field trips in October, and by the time this issue goes to print we will have held two more mini-trips on November 27. It was a pleasure to reconnect with members in the field and share observations and stories. Now, as we move into December, we will take our usual break to prepare for the annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in Montreal and Hudson, and let everyone enjoy the holidays. If you haven't participated in one of the CBCs before, think about signing up this year! See page 36 for more details.

Going on the assumption that Covid conditions will remain stable through the holidays, we are working on plans to restart our trips as usual at the end of January, on a regular weekly basis and with a higher number of participants, and always with the goal of returning to unlimited and open-to-all outings.

Keep an eye out for announcements in January as these plans unfold!



Pierre Bannon's
BIRD VIEWS
FALL 2021

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

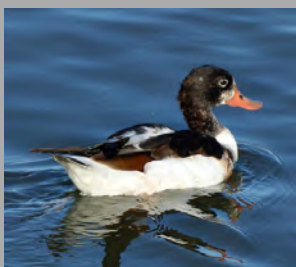
The major events of the fall season in the province were :

1) The incredible number of MEGA-rarities, together with two highly migratory species native to South America. The total of 17 MEGA-rarities included the Tundra Bean-Goose, Common Shelduck, Steller's Eider, Common Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Booby, Little Egret, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Steller's Sea-Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Small-billed Elaenia, Fish Crow, Redwing, and Lesson's Seedeater, most of these birds seen only 10 times or less in the province. Difficult to find a common factor explaining this increase in the number of MEGA-rarities, considering that some species were originating from South America, some from the west, some from Europe, etc. It seems however that the number of skilled observers in the field, which has increased tenfold in recent years, may partly explain this phenomenon.

2) The irruption of seabirds in the St. Lawrence estuary and upper St. Lawrence.

3) The very high number of Pink-footed Geese.

More information on these and on other interesting birds seen this past fall follows.



PIERRE BANNON
PARLONS D'OISEAUX
AUTOMNE 2021

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

Les événements majeurs de la saison automnale dans la province furent:

1) Le nombre incroyable de MEGA-raretés, incluant deux espèces hautement migratrices originaires d'Amérique du Sud. Le total de 17 MÉGA-raretés était composé de l'Oie de la toundra, Tadorne de Belon, Eider de Steller, Pluvier grand-gravelot, Bécasseau cocorli, Bécasseau minute, Frégate superbe, Fou brun, Aigrette garzette, Ibis blanc, Ibis à face blanche, Pygargue empereur, Chevêche de terrier, Éléonie à bec court, Corneille de rivage, Grive mauvis et Sporophile faux-bouvron, la plupart signalée seulement 10 fois ou moins dans la province. Difficile de trouver un facteur commun pouvant expliquer cette augmentation du nombre de MÉGA-raretés, si on considère que certaines espèces proviennent d'Amérique du Sud, d'autres de l'Ouest et d'autres d'Europe, etc. Il semble par ailleurs que le nombre d'observateurs talentueux, qui a décuplé depuis quelques années, pourrait en partie expliquer ce phénomène.

2) L'irruption d'oiseaux marins dans l'estuaire et le Haut Saint-Laurent.

3) Le nombre très élevé d'Oies à bec court.

Plus d'informations sur ceux-ci et sur d'autres oiseaux intéressants signalés cet automne suivent.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: one at Stratford (Eastern Townships) 28 Sep-20 Oct, the 13th record in the province (J. Cadieux, m. obs.). **Tundra Bean-Goose:** one at Victoriaville 4 Nov, 3rd record in the province (J. Charette, C. Roy, ph.), rediscovered 8 Nov-9 Nov in the morning at the same place (S. Martel, G. Giroux, m. obs. ph.), 9 Nov in the afternoon at Danville (D. Cloutier, ph.) and finally at Drummondville 10-14 Nov (A. Lanouette et al. ph.). Comparison with photos taken at Masson (Outaouais) 8 Nov 2020 supports the view that this is the same individual. **Pink-footed Goose:** a grand total of 26 individuals were reported this fall. More intriguing was the presence of what appeared to be familial groups, e.g. 4 at Saint-Félicien 2 Oct (T. Grandmont), 6 at Sept-Îles 2-21 Oct (JF. Laporte), up to 5 at Matane 9 Oct-13 Nov (JA. Banville, m. obs.) and 3 at Danville 24-29 Oct (I. Chavez, C. Araya, A. Bessette). Also intriguing were the early arrival dates of these birds suggesting that they nested earlier than usual or closer to the province. **Barnacle Goose:** singles in Yamaska NP (Granby) 24 Sep-3 Oct (M. Berlinguette, M. Maheu), Cowansville 6 Oct (HB. Boivin), Port Menier (Anticosti Is.) 8 Oct (G. Laprise), Pike River 11 Oct (A. Chevrette) and Bonaventure 21-22 Oct (S. Arbour, m. obs.). **Mute Swan:** one at Saint-Félicien 3 Aug (F. Shaffer, C. Maurice). **Trumpeter Swan:** 2 at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 4 Sep-9 Nov (W. Grubert, m. obs.). The family of 10 (2 ad, 8 juv) present at Saint-Fulgence since last summer continued until 15 Nov, and possibly the same groupe (2 ad, 7 juv) appeared at lake Selby (Dunham) 400km to the south 17-19 Nov. (P. Blain). **Tundra Swan:** an important group of 15 birds stopped a Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 19 Nov (D. Simon). **Common Shelduck:** an imm visited Sorel 21 Aug-28 Sept (Marco Pelletier, Jean Lemoyne). **Tufted Duck:** a female at Montmagny 25 Oct (A. Terrigeol). **Steller's Eider:** a male in nonbreeding plumage at Les Escoumins 2 Oct (J. Bernier, N. Boucher, ph.) and 5 Oct (P. Babeux, M. Raymond), probably the same individual that was reported in breeding plumage at Pointe-des-Monts 29-30 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** much less common this year; only 11 birds reported compared to 40 for the same period last year. Single late birds were at Dundee 3-4 Nov (J. Demarre) and at Saint-André-de-Kamouraska 7 Nov (JF. Giroux, E. Landa).

Common Ringed Plover: a juv at Kamouraska 14 Sep, the 6th record for the province (O. Barden). **Hudsonian Godwit:** culminated at 31 indiv in Missisquoi Bay 25 Sep (L. Lemay). **Marbled Godwit:** one at Rivière-du-Loup 10-20 Nov provided a record late date for the province (L. Desbordes, F. Goulet). **Curlew Sandpiper:** an adult seen at Pointe-Lebel 20 Sep, the 10th record for the province (E. Hains, D. Saint-Laurent). **Little Stint:** an adult in breeding plumage at Bridgeville (Gaspésie) 11-26 Sep was photographed and carefully studied (M. Bourbeau, L. Charron, S. Robert, P. Fradette), providing a first record for the province. **Western Sandpiper:** a juv photographed at Stratford (Eastern Townships) 18 Sep (N. Barden, L. Laflamme, L. Veilleux). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** not so abundant this year. Max: 4 at Venise-en-Québec 26 Sep (P. Masse). One at Barachois (Gaspésie) 28 Sep-2 Oct was rare so far east (O. Barden, M. Raymond). **Willet:** one at Saint-Siméon (Gaspésie) 3 Aug (S. Arbour). **Red Phalarope:** very unusual for the Montréal area, 4 were spotted from the Champlain bridge bike path at Île des Soeurs 28 Sep (Y. Gauthier, L. Falcon).

Long-tailed Jaeger: one at Tadoussac 12 Oct provided a new record late date for the province (J. Roy-Drainville, FX. Grandmont). **Dovekie:** seen frequently in small numbers from the shore along the lower St. Lawrence on both side of the river. **Razorbill:** record numbers were reported in the St. Lawrence estuary. They were also present in the Gatineau and Montréal areas starting 10 Oct and reaching high counts in late Oct, eg 13 at Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montréal) 28 Oct (Y. Gauthier), 10 from he Champlain bridge bike path at Île des Soeurs 28 Oct (C. and J. Carson), 8 from park Jean-Drapeau 28 Oct (D. Soares), and 11 at Sainte-Catherine 29 Oct (A. Sylvain, L. Lemay et al.). Higher counts were obtained at Maizeret (Québec City) eg 29 on 9 Oct (JD. Fiset T. Grandmont) and 49 on 28 Oct (P. Gosselin) and also at Île d'Orléans where a count of 85 was obtained on 27 Oct (M. Raymond). **Atlantic Puffin:** seen in unusual numbers in the St. Lawrence estuary accompanying Razorbill, eg 109 at Rivière Ouelle 8 Oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard), 45 from Les Escoumins ferry 25 Sep and 1st Oct (D. Turgeon, S. Robert). One was seen from the Champlain bridge bike path at Île des Soeurs 28 Oct (D. Tétreault et al.), the second record only for Montréal. Some also reached Québec City in larger numbers, eg 8 on 27 Oct (JD. Fiset et al.). **Black-headed Gull:** an ad at Val d'Or 31 Aug was very unusual for the Abitibi region (O. Lafrance). **Common Gull:** 2 ad of this Eurasian gull photographed at Les Escoumins 29 Oct but only one remained the day after (D. Turgeon, S. Denault et al.). One reappeared 12-16 Nov (JG. Beaulieu). A third adult bird photographed

Dendrocygne à ventre noir: un à Stratford (Cantons de l'Est) 28 Sep-20 Oct, une 13^{ième} présence dans la province (J. Cadieux, pl. obs.). **Oie de la toundra:** une à Victoriaville 4 Nov, 3^{ième} mention dans la province (J. Charette, C. Roy, ph.), retrouvée 8 Nov-9 Nov en matinée au même endroit (S. Martel, G. Giroux, pl. obs. ph.), 9 Nov en après-midi à Danville (D. Cloutier, ph.) et finalement à Drummondville 10-14 Nov (A. Lanouette et al. ph.). Une comparaison avec des photos prises à Masson (Outaouais) 8 Nov 2020 semble indiquer qu'il s'agit du même individu. **Oie à bec court:** un grand total de 26 individus mentionnés cet automne. Plus intrigant était la présence de groupes familiaux présumés, eg 4 à Saint-Félicien 2 Oct (T. Grandmont), 6 à Sept-Îles 2-21 Oct (JF. Laporte), 5 à Matane 9 Oct-13 Nov (JA. Banville, pl. obs.), et 3 à Danville 24-29 Oct (I. Chavez, C. Araya, A. Bessette). D'autant plus intrigant était la date hâtive de ces oiseaux, ce qui suggère qu'ils ont niché plus tôt ou plus proche de la province. **Bernache nonnette:** des oiseaux au PN Yamaska (Granby) 24 Sep-3 Oct (M. Berlinguette, M. Maheu), Cowansville 6 Oct (HB. Boivin), Port Menier (Anticosti) 8 Oct (G. Laprise), Pike River 11 Oct (A. Chevrette) et Bonaventure 21-22 Oct (S. Arbour, pl. obs.). **Cygne tuberculé:** un à Saint-Félicien 3 Août (F. Shaffer, C. Maurice). **Cygne trompette:** 2 à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 4 Sep-9 Nov (W. Grubert, pl. obs.). Le groupe familial de 10 (2 ad, 8 juv) présent à Saint-Fulgence depuis l'été y était encore le 15 Nov, puis possiblement le même groupe (2 ad, 7 juv) est apparu au lac Selby (Dunham), 400km plus au sud 17-19 Nov. (P. Blain). **Cygne siffleur:** un important groupe de 15 oiseaux s'est arrêté à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 19 Nov (D. Simon). **Tadorné de Belon:** un imm a visité Sorel 21 Août-28 Sept (M. Pelletier, J. Lemoyne). **Fuligule morillon:** une femelle à Montmagny 25 Oct (A. Terrigeol). **Eider de Steller:** un mâle en plumage internuptial à Les Escoumins 2 Oct (J. Bernier, N. Boucher, ph.) et 5 Oct (P. Babeux, M. Raymond), probablement le même individu signalé en plumage nuptial à Pointe-des-Monts 29-30 Mai. **Coulicou à bec jaune:** moins nombreux cette année; seulement 11 oiseaux signalés, comparé à 40 pour la même période l'an dernier. Des oiseaux tardifs à Dundee 3-4 Nov (J. Demarre) et à Saint-André-de-Kamouraska 7 Nov (JF. Giroux, E. Landa).

Pluvier grand-gravelot: un juv à Kamouraska 14 Sep, une 6^{ième} mention pour la province (O. Barden). **Barge hudsonienne:** a culminé à 31 indiv dans la baie Missisquoi 25 Sep (L. Lemay). **Barge marbrée:** une à Rivière-du-Loup 10-20 Nov procure une nouvelle date record pour la province (L. Desbordes, F. Goulet). **Bécasseau cocorli:** un adulte aperçu à Pointe-Lebel 20 Sep, la 10^{ième} mention pour la province (E. Hains, D. Saint-Laurent). **Little Stint:** un adulte en livrée nuptial à Bridgeville (Gaspésie) 11-26 Sep a été photographié et étudié soigneusement (M. Bourbeau, L. Charron, S. Robert, P. Fradette), fournissant une première présence dans la province. **Bécasseau d'Alaska:** un juv photographié à Stratford (Cantons de l'Est) 18 Sep (N. Barden, L. Laflamme, L. Veilleux). **Bécassin à long bec:** peu nombreux cette année. Max: 4 à Venise-en-Québec 26 Sep (P. Masse). Un à Barachois (Gaspésie) 28 Sep-2 Oct était rare aussi à l'est (O. Barden, M. Raymond). **Chevalier semipalmé:** un à Saint-Siméon (Gaspésie) 3 Août (S. Arbour). **Phalarope à bec large:** inhabituel pour Montréal, 4 furent dénombrés à partir de l'estacade du pont Champlain à l'Île des Soeurs 28 Sep (Y. Gauthier, L. Falcon).

Labbe à longue queue: un à Tadoussac 12 Oct fournit un nouveau record de date tardive pour la province (J. Roy-Drainville, FX. Grandmont). **Mergule nain:** aperçu fréquemment en petits nombres à partir des deux rives du Bas-St-Laurent. **Petit Pingouin:** des nombres records signalés dans l'estuaire du St-Laurent; présents également dans les régions de Gatineau et Montréal à partir du 10 Oct, puis atteignant des nombres sans précédent à la fin-Oct, eg 13 à Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montréal) 28 Oct (Y. Gauthier), 10 à l'estacade du pont Champlain à l'Île des Soeurs 28 Oct (C. et J. Carson), 8 au parc Jean-Drapeau 28 Oct (D. Soares), et 11 à Sainte-Catherine 29 Oct (A. Sylvain, L. Lemay et al.). Des nombres encore plus élevés ont été enregistrés à Maizeret (Québec) eg 29 le 9 Oct (JD. Fiset T. Grandmont) et 49 le 28 Oct (P. Gosselin) ainsi qu'à l'Île d'Orléans où un compte de 85 a été enregistré le 27 Oct (M. Raymond). **Macareux moine:** vu en nombres inhabituels dans l'estuaire du St-Laurent en compagnie de Petits Pingouins, eg 109 à Rivière Ouelle 8 Oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard), 45 à partir du traversier des Escoumins 25 Sep et 1^{er} Oct (D. Turgeon, S. Robert), L'un s'est même rendu à l'estacade du pont Champlain à l'Île des Soeurs 28 Oct (D. Tétreault et al.), la 2^{ième} présence à Montréal. Plusieurs ont atteint Québec, eg 8 le 27 Oct (JD. Fiset et al.). **Mouette rieuse:** un ad à Val d'Or 31 Août était inhabituel pour l'Abitibi (O. Lafrance). **Goéland cendré:** 2 ad de ce laridé d'Eurasie photographiés à Les Escoumins 29 Oct, puis un revu le jour suivant (D. Turgeon, S. Denault

at the same place 17 Nov was believed to belong to the ssp *kamtschatschensis* (D. Turgeon). **Forster's Tern**: one at Cap-de-Bon-Désir 21 Sep (O. Barden) and another one nicely photographed at Métabetchouan (Lac Saint-Jean) 17-23 Oct (G. Savard, C. Cormier).

Manx Shearwater: usually more regular in the gulf of St. Lawrence, but this fall, birds moved upstream into the estuary where a maximum of 43 were tallied at Les Escoumins 4 Sep (R. Pintiaux). One even reached Québec City 30 Aug (M. O'Neill, A. Desrochers, P. Gosselin). **Magnificent Frigatebird**: a male nicely photographed in flight at Lévis 2 Oct, the 4th record for the province and the latest known (P. Larouche, P. Chagnon). **Brown Booby**: one spotted in flight at Lévis 3 Oct (P. Laniel) and found again the next day at Ile d'Orléans, the 3rd record for the province (P. Otis, A. Desrochers, A. Côté, R. Besançon). **Northern Gannet**: single imm visited Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 15 Oct (E. Brisson-Curadeau, M. Bourdeau, L. Charron), Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 27 Oct (B. Barnhurst), Pointe-aux-Trembles 30 Oct (Y. Gauthier) and Victoriaville 15 Nov (C. Roy). **American White Pelican**: singles at Saint-Vallier 6 Aug (J. Bernier), Neuville 7-15 Aug (N. Roy, F. Lelièvre, m.obs), Cap Rouge 10-11 Aug (G. Cloutier), Lachenaie 14 Aug-7 Sep (M. Mondor, m.obs), at nearby Rivière des Prairies (Montréal) 18 Aug-9 Sep (S. Denault, m.obs), and at Rivière-du-Loup 20 Aug (P. Perren).

Little Egret: one discovered at Port Menier (Anticosti Is.) 27 Oct (G. Laprise, G. Blaney), a 5th record for the province and the latest known. **Little Blue Heron**: following the 3 ad reported last summer, 4 imm visited the province this fall: singles at Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard 10 Aug-11 Sep (D. Saint-Pierre), at Cap Tourmente 14 Aug (A. Côté), at Châteauguay 20 Aug-10 Sep (M. Groulx, m.obs) and at Val d'Or 20 Oct-1 Nov (G. Éthier, m.obs). This makes a surprising total of 9 for the year. **Cattle Egret**: singles at Bolton-Ouest 22 Aug (G. Burbidge), Nicolet 12 Oct-14 Nov (Y. Dugré, m.obs.), Madeleine-Centre 18 Oct-8 Nov (G. Blanchette), at Port-Cartier 23-27 Oct (B. Duchesne), Val d'Or 1 Nov (MF. Frigon), Gaspé 1-3 Nov (S. Bourdages), Labelle 8 Nov (L. Parent) and possibly the same bird at Lac-Nominingue 10 Nov (M. Renaud). Finally, one appeared at Cookshire 14 Nov (J. Lemay), one at Vaudreuil 15 Nov (M. Chalifoux et al.), another at Témiscamingue 18 Nov (J. Fréchette) and another at Saint-Denis de la Boutellerie 20-21 Nov (F. Hudon), et un autre à Saint-Damase 18-21 Nov (*fide* Stephan Lair). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: a juv stopped at l'Anse-à-Valleau (Gaspésie) 10-12 Sept, providing a record late date (V. Cotton, m.obs). **White Ibis**: one photographed in a field at Saint-Jean-de-l'Île d'Orléans 30 Sep, a third record for the province and the latest known (D. Dallain). **White-faced Ibis**: 3 birds at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 29 Oct-3 Nov (M. Leduc, É. Simard), a 6th record and the latest known for the province.

Black Vulture: a single bird reported at Saint-Armand 11 Oct (A. Daigle). **Steller's Sea-Eagle**: the bird that visited the Gaspé peninsula last summer was last seen at Matane 7-8 Aug (JA. Banville, D. Demers). **Swainson's Hawk**: a juv dark morph nicely photographed in flight at Lachenaie 24 Sep (JG. Boisvert, R. Majeau, ph.). **Burrowing Owl**: the bird present at Grand-Métis during the summer was last seen 7 Oct (*fide* S. Denault). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: a total of 322 were banded this fall (26 Sep-6 Nov) at the McGill Bird Observatory, a record high count (A. Chénard). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: a juv photographed at Pointe Yamachiche 22 Aug confirmed a second nesting record this summer for the Lake Saint-Pierre area (M. Lafrenière).

Small-billed Elaenia: this flycatcher native to South America was mistnetted and banded at the Tadoussac banding station 26 Oct (FX. Grandmont, J. Roy-Drainville et al., ph.), and identified from photos with the help of Alvaro Jaramillo. This represented a second record for North America and a first record for the province of Québec and Canada. **Western Kingbird**: singles at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 17-20 Sep (W. von Herff, m.obs.), Gaspé 3 Oct (D. Saint-Pierre, D. Jalbert), Pabos 5 Oct (J. Côté, P. Poulin, G. Roy), and 2 at Cap Tourmente 7 Oct (M. Landry et al.) with one continuing until 18 Oct. Finally, one was at Portneuf-sur-mer 15 Oct-6 Nov (C. Roy, m.obs.). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: one at the Montréal Technoparc 6-21 Nov, the 30th record for the province (L. Cantin, J. Coutu et al.). **Say's Phoebe**: singles at Lavaltrie 6-7 Sep (M. Rochon, m.obs.), at Rivière-Madeleine 15-16 Sep (G. Blanchette) and at Pointe-aux-Outardes 5 Nov (E. Hains). **White-eyed Vireo**: singles at Île Bonaventure 11 Oct (S. Denault), Île Dondaine (Coteau-du-Lac) 18-20 Oct (C. Richer, m.obs.), Grande Grave (Forillon NP) 19 Oct (O. Barden), Beauré 25 Oct (A. Desrochers), Sainte-Foy 13-21 Nov (F. Carbonneau, P. Jobin), Montmagny 13 Nov (T. Grandmont, R. Besançon) and at Park

et al.). L'un a été retrouvé 12-16 Nov (JG. Beaulieu). Un 3^{ième} oiseau vu le 17 Nov semblait appartenir à la ssp *kamtschatschensis* (D. Turgeon). **Sterne de Forster**: une à Cap-de-Bon-Désir 21 Sep (O. Barden) et une autre photographiée à Métabetchouan (Lac Saint-Jean) 17-23 Oct (G. Savard, C. Cormier).

Puffin des Anglais: habituellement plus régulier dans le golfe du St-Laurent, mais plusieurs oiseaux se sont déplacés cet automne vers l'estuaire où un maximum de 43 a été établi à Les Escoumins le 4 Sep (R. Pintiaux). Un a même atteint Québec le 30 Août (M. O'Neill, A. Desrochers, P. Gosselin). **Frégate superbe**: un mâle a été photographié en vol à Lévis 2 Oct, une 4^{ième} mention pour la province et la plus tardive connue (P. Larouche, P. Chagnon). **Fou brun**: un repéré en vol à Lévis 3 Oct (P. Laniel) et retrouvé le jour suivant à l'Île d'Orléans, une 3^{ième} mention pour la province (P. Otis, A. Desrochers, A. Côté, R. Besançon). **Fou de Bassan**: des oiseaux imm ont visité l'Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 15 Oct (E. Brisson-Curadeau, M. Bourdeau, L. Charron), Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 27 Oct (B. Barnhurst), Pointe-aux-Trembles 30 Oct (Y. Gauthier) et Victoriaville 15 Nov (C. Roy). **Pélican d'Amérique**: des oiseaux à Saint-Vallier 6 Août (J. Bernier), Neuville 7-15 Août (N. Roy, F. Lelièvre, pl.obs), Cap Rouge 10-11 Août (G. Cloutier), Lachenaie 14 Août-7 Sep (M. Mondor, pl.obs), à Rivière des Prairies (Montréal) 18 Août-9 Sep (S. Denault, pl.obs), et à Rivière-du-Loup 20 Août (P. Perren).

Aigrette garzette: un indiv trouvé à Port Menier (Anticosti) 27 Oct (G. Laprise, G. Blaney), une 5^{ième} mention pour la province et la plus tardive connue. **Aigrette bleue**: suite aux 3 ad signalés l'été dernier, 4 imm ont visité la province cet automne: un à Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard 10 Août-11 Sep (D. Saint-Pierre), un à Cap Tourmente 14 Août (A. Côté), un à Châteauguay 20 Août-10 Sep (M. Groulx, pl.obs) puis un à Val d'Or 20 Oct-1 Nov (G. Éthier, pl.obs), ce qui représente un étonnant total de 9 pour l'année. **Héron garde-boeufs**: des oiseaux à Bolton-Ouest 22 Août (G. Burbidge), Nicolet 12 Oct-14 Nov (Y. Dugré, pl.obs.), Madeleine-Centre 18 Oct-8 Nov (G. Blanchette), Port-Cartier 23-27 Oct (B. Duchesne), Val d'Or 1 Nov (MF. Frigon), Gaspé 1-3 Nov (S. Bourdages), Labelle 8 Nov (L. Parent) et possiblement le même à Lac-Nominingue 10 Nov (M. Renaud). Enfin, un autre est apparu à Cookshire 14 Nov (J. Lemay), un autre à Vaudreuil 15 Nov (M. Chalifoux et al.), un autre à Témiscamingue 18 Nov (J. Fréchette) un autre à Saint-Denis de la Boutellerie 20-21 Nov (F. Hudon) et un autre à Saint-Damase 18-21 Nov (*fide* Stephan Lair). **Bihoreau violaqué**: un juv s'est arrêté à l'Anse-à-Valleau (Gaspésie) 10-12 Sep, fournissant une nouvelle date tardive pour la province (V. Cotton, pl.obs). **Ibis blanc**: un photographié dans un champ à Saint-Jean-de-l'Île d'Orléans 30 Sep, une 3^{ième} mention pour la province et la plus tardive connue (D. Dallain). **Ibis à face blanche**: 3 oiseaux à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 29 Oct-3 Nov (M. Leduc, É. Simard), une 6^{ième} mention et la plus tardive pour la province.

Urubu noir: un oiseau signalé à Saint-Armand 11 Oct (A. Daigle). **Pygargue empereur**: l'oiseau présent en Gaspésie l'été dernier a été revu à Matane 7-8 Août (JA. Banville, D. Demers). **Buse de Swainson**: un juv de coloration sombre a été photographié en vol à Lachenaie 24 Sep (JG. Boisvert, R. Majeau, ph.). **Chevêche des terriers**: l'oiseau présent à Grand-Métis durant l'été a été revu jusqu'au 7 Oct (*fide* S. Denault). **Petite Nyctale**: 322 oiseaux bagués cet automne (26 Sep-6 Nov) à l'observatoire d'oiseaux McGill, un nombre record (A. Chénard). **Pic à ventre roux**: un juv photographié à Pointe Yamachiche 22 Août confirme un 2^{ième} cas de nidification cet été au lac Saint-Pierre (M. Lafrenière).

Élénie à bec court: ce moucherolle originaire d'Amérique du Sud a été capturé et bagué à Tadoussac 26 Oct (FX. Grandmont, J. Roy-Drainville et al., ph.) puis identifié par Alvaro Jaramillo à partir de photos, ce qui représente une seconde mention pour l'Amérique du Nord et la première pour le Québec et le Canada. **Tyran de l'Ouest**: des oiseaux seuls à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 17-20 Sep (W. von Herff, m.obs.), Gaspé 3 Oct (D. Saint-Pierre, D. Jalbert), Pabos 5 Oct (J. Côté, P. Poulin, G. Roy), et 2 à Cap Tourmente 7 Oct (M. Landry et al.) dont l'un jusqu'au 18 Oct. Enfin, un autre était à Portneuf-sur-mer 15 Oct-6 Nov (C. Roy, pl.obs.). **Tyran à longue queue**: un au Technoparc de Montréal 6-21 Nov, la 30^{ième} présence au Québec (L. Cantin, J. Coutu et al.). **Moucherolle à ventre roux**: des oiseaux à Lavaltrie 6-7 Sep (M. Rochon, pl.obs.), à Rivière-Madeleine 15-16 Sep (G. Blanchette) et à Pointe-aux-Outardes 5 Nov (E. Hains). **Vireo aux yeux blancs**: des oiseaux à l'Île Bonaventure 11 Oct (S. Denault), Île Dondaine (Coteau-du-Lac) 18-20 Oct (C. Richer, pl.obs.), Grande Grave (PN Forillon) 19 Oct (O. Barden), Beauré 25 Oct (A. Desrochers), Sainte-Foy 13-21 Nov (F. Carbonneau, P. Jobin),

Anjou-sur-le-Lac (Montréal) 20-21 Nov (J.F. Franche). **Warbling Vireo**: one at Grandes Bergeronnes 8 Nov established a new record late date for the province (S. Delisle, D. Turgeon, ph.). **Fish Crow**: up to 3 birds continued at Magog until at least 11 Sep (m. obs.). **Carolina Wren**: one in Forillon NP for most of period (L. Desbordes, J. Roy-Drainville, F. Bordeleau). **Northern Wheatear**: singles at Val d'Or 4 Sep (R. Ladurantaye), Saint-Siméon 5 Sep (K. Saint-Onge), Rimouski 10 Sep (Y. Boulanger), Matane 27 Sep-3 Oct (L. Fradette), La Malbaie 1-9 Oct (J. Bernier, N. Boucher), and at Étang du Nord (IDL) 14 Oct (C. Roy et al.). **Mountain Bluebird**: a male near l'Anse-au-Griffon (Gaspésie) 21 Nov (P. Tanguay). **Townsend's Solitaire**: one at l'Ascension 24 Oct (D. Riverin) and another one or the same at Mont-Laurier 28-30 Oct (A. Crépeau et al.). One at Pointe-Lebel 13-14 Nov (E. Hains). **Bicknell's Thrush**: 2 were banded at the McGill Bird Observatory 27 Sep (P. Berthelot). **Redwing**: one at Rivière-Saint-Jean (Minganie) 5 Nov, the 3rd record for the province (C. Buidin, Y. Rochepault). **Varied Thrush**: a male at Sainte-Émilie-de-l'Énergie 18-21 Nov (L. Potvin).

White-winged Crossbill: a record 23000 + birds were tallied at Tadoussac 20 Oct (J. Roy-Drainville). **Lark Sparrow**: 2 at Rivière-Godbout 6-12 Sep (F. Hareau, m.obs), while singles were singles at Lavaltrie 7 Sep (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand), Québec City 6 Sep (G. Poisson), Tadoussac 10 Sep (J. Roy-Drainville), Pointe-aux-Loups (Magdalen Is.) 14 Sep (A. Richard), Forillon NP 28 Sep (V. Cotton), Gaspé 3 Oct (K. Saint-Onge), and Estimauville (Québec City) 6 Oct (P. Goddellin). **Harris's Sparrow**: one at Sacré-Coeur (Haute Côte Nord) 12-14 Nov (S. Desgagnés, D. Turgeon). **Nelson's Sparrow**: one photographed at Saint-Hyacinthe 11 Oct (F. Martin et al.).

Yellow-breasted Chat: singles at Coin-du-Banc (Gaspésie) 16 Sep (A. Valade), Tadoussac 29 Sep (A. Cristiano), Forillon NP 10 Oct (A. Gagnon, P. Fradette), and at Cap-des-Rosiers (Gaspésie) 19 Oct (S. Robert). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: singles at Sept-Îles 12-25 Sep (J.F. Laporte, N. Vibert) and at Les Escoumins 22 Aug (J.F. Desmeules). **Worm-eating Warbler**: one at Cap Tourmente 20 Oct (P. Jobin, F. Carbonneau, ph.). **Golden-winged Warbler**: one seen at Cap Tourmente 28-29 Sep (D. Allard). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: singles at Les Escoumins 18 Sep (R. Gingras), at Rouyn-Noranda 29 Oct (E. van de Walle) and at Lavaltrie 11-21 Nov (D. Beaudoin). **Prairie Warbler**: singles at Forillon NP 18 Sep-9 Oct (J. Delisle, J. Slater, et al), Pointe-des-Prairies NP (Montréal) 1-12 Oct (V. Calderon, m.obs.), and Sept-Îles 7-10 Nov (I. Calderon).

Summer Tanager: one at Sept-Îles 28-30 Oct (B. Duchesne, P. Lalonde). **Western Tanager**: one at Cap d'Espoir 24 Sep (Albini Couture) and possibly the same bird at Grande-Rivière 25 Sep (A. Saint-Jean). **Northern Cardinal**: a male feeding a young at Val d'Espoir 22 Aug (G. Roussy) and another male feeding a young at Gaspé 2 Sep (S. Kenny) confirmed breeding at the tip of the Gaspé peninsula. **Blue Grosbeak**: a female at Newport (Gaspésie) 28 Sep-3 Oct (J.M. Smith, m.obs.). **Lesson's Seedeater**: another remarkable surprise for the year, a male of this native of South America appeared at Pointe-aux-Outardes on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence river 24 Oct-3 Nov (E. Hains, C. Gagnon et al.). Different hypothesis were suggested to explain the origin of this bird, including a misoriented migrant engaged in reverse migration, but an escaped cage-bird cannot be ruled out. If accepted as a genuine vagrant, this would represent a first record for North America. **Dickcissel**: at least 30 individuals reported this fall, several of them near the tip of the Gaspé peninsula. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**: another first record for the province of Québec, an adult appeared in a flock of House Sparrow 17-21 Nov at Saint-Barthélemy (M. Morissette, m.ob.).

Please report your interesting bird sightings by E-mail to pierre.bannon@icloud.com

Montmagny 13 Nov (T. Grandmont, R. Besançon) et au Parc Anjou-sur-le-Lac (Montréal) 20-21 Nov (J.F. Franche). **Viréo mélodieux**: un à Grandes Bergeronnes 8 Nov a permis d'établir une nouvelle date tardive pour la province (S. Delisle, D. Turgeon, ph.). **Cornille de rivage**: jusqu'à 3 oiseaux à Magog jusqu'au 11 Sep (pl. obs.). **Troglodyte de Caroline**: un au PN Forillon pour presque toute la période (L. Desbordes, J. Roy-Drainville, F. Bordeleau). **Traquet motteux**: des oiseaux à Val d'Or 4 Sep (R. Ladurantaye), Saint-Siméon 5 Sep (K. Saint-Onge), Rimouski 10 Sep (Y. Boulanger), Matane 27 Sep-3 Oct (L. Fradette), La Malbaie 1-9 Oct (J. Bernier, N. Boucher), et Étang du Nord (IDL) 14 Oct (C. Roy et al.). **Merlebleu azuré**: un mâle près de l'Anse-au-Griffon (Gaspésie) 21 Nov (P. Tanguay). **Solitaire de Townsend**: un à l'Ascension 24 Oct (D. Riverin) et un autre ou le même à Mont-Laurier 28-30 Oct (A. Crépeau et al.). Enfin, un à Pointe-Lebel 13-14 Nov (E. Hains). **Grive de Bicknell**: 2 baguées à l'observatoire d'oiseaux McGill 27 Sep (P. Berthelot). **Grive mauvis**: une à Rivière-Saint-Jean (Minganie) 5 Nov, la 3^{ième} mention pour la province (C. Buidin, Y. Rochepault). **Grive à collier**: un mâle à Sainte-Émilie-de-l'Énergie 18-21 Nov (L. Potvin).

Bec-croisé bifascié: 23000 + dénombrés à Tadoussac 20 Oct (J. Roy-Drainville). **Bruant à joues marron**: 2 à Rivière-Godbout 6-12 Sep (F. Hareau, pl.obs), et des oiseaux seuls à Lavaltrie 7 Sep (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand), Québec 6 Sep (G. Poisson), Tadoussac 10 Sep (J. Roy-Drainville), Pointe-aux-Loups (Îles de la Madeleine) 14 Sep (A. Richard), PN Forillon 28 Sep (V. Cotton), Gaspé 3 Oct (K. Saint-Onge), et Estimauville (Québec) 6 Oct (P. Goddellin). **Bruant à face noire**: un à Sacré-Coeur (Haute Côte Nord) 12-14 Nov (S. Desgagnés, D. Turgeon). **Bruant de Nelson**: un photographié à Saint-Hyacinthe 11 Oct (F. Martin et al.).

Ictérie polyglotte: des oiseaux à Coin-du-Banc (Gaspésie) 16 Sep (A. Valade), Tadoussac 29 Sep (A. Cristiano), PN Forillon 10 Oct (A. Gagnon, P. Fradette), et à Cap-des-Rosiers (Gaspésie) 19 Oct (S. Robert). **Carouge à tête jaune**: des oiseaux à Sept-Îles 12-25 Sep (J.F. Laporte, N. Vibert) et à Les Escoumins 22 Août (J.F. Desmeules). **Paruline vermivore**: une à Cap Tourmente 20 Oct (P. Jobin, F. Carbonneau, ph.). **Paruline à ailes dorées**: une à Cap Tourmente 28-29 Sep (D. Allard). **Paruline à gorge jaune**: des oiseaux à Les Escoumins 18 Sep (R. Gingras), Rouyn-Noranda 29 Oct (E. van de Walle) et à Lavaltrie 11-21 Nov (D. Beaudoin). **Paruline des prés**: des oiseaux au PN Forillon 18 Sep-9 Oct (J. Delisle, J. Slater, et al), au Parc Nature Pointe-des-Prairies (Montréal) 1-12 Oct (V. Calderon, pl.obs.), et à Sept-Îles 7-10 Nov (I. Calderon).

Piranga vermillon: un à Sept-Îles 28-30 Oct (B. Duchesne, P. Lalonde). **Piranga à tête rouge**: un à Cap d'Espoir 24 Sep (Albini Couture) et possiblement le même à Grande-Rivière 25 Sep (A. Saint-Jean). **Cardinal rouge**: un mâle nourrissant un jeune à Val d'Espoir 22 Août (G. Roussy) et un autre à Gaspé 2 Sep (S. Kenny) confirment la nidification à l'extrémité de la péninsule gaspésienne. **Guiraca bleu**: une femelle à Newport (Gaspésie) 28 Sep-3 Oct (J.M. Smith, pl.obs.). **Sporophile faux-bouvron**: une autre surprise remarquable pour l'année, un mâle de cette espèce d'Amérique du Sud est apparu à Pointe-aux-Outardes (Manicouagan) 24 Oct-3 Nov (E. Hains, C. Gagnon et al.). Différentes hypothèses ont été suggérées pour expliquer sa provenance dont celle d'un oiseau désorienté en migration inversée ou celle d'un oiseau échappé de cage. S'il s'agit vraiment d'un migrateur égaré, cela signifierait alors une première mention pour l'Amérique du Nord. **Dickcissel d'Amérique**: au moins 30 individus signalés cet automne, dont plusieurs au bout de la péninsule gaspésienne. **Moineau friquet**: une autre première pour la province de Québec, un adulte est apparu dans un groupe de Moineaux domestiques 17-21 Nov à Saint-Barthélemy (M. Morissette, pl.ob.).

Signalez vos observations intéressantes par courriel à pierre.bannon@icloud.com



How to get started with CITIZEN SCIENCE

A look at Project FeederWatch

BY RICHARD GREGSON

To start with the basics ... what exactly is citizen science? In brief, citizen science is the involvement of the public in serious scientific research. The US National Park Service defines it this way: "Citizen science is science for everyone! Specifically, citizen science is when the public voluntarily helps conduct scientific research. Citizen scientists collect data, analyze results, and solve problems. These data help professional scientists and resource managers answer scientific questions and solve important problems. And the activity helps participants build meaningful connections to science."

The fact is that there are millions of birds distributed over the entire planet and all of them are moving around doing whatever it takes to simply be birds. Although there are a good number of professional ornithologists they simply cannot by themselves collect as much data about bird behaviour and movements as when they are aided by the tens of thousands of citizens who know enough about birds to be able to add to the size of the database.

Anyone can be a citizen scientist, regardless of where they're from. It doesn't matter how old you are or what your background is. All it takes is some time, curiosity, and a sense of wonder. Don't be scared by the mystical term "scientist". I am one of those strange people with alphabet spaghetti (a.k.a. post-nominal letters) after my name and I can tell you that so long as you follow scientific methodology then you are being a scientist and doing real science.

Frankly speaking, often the difference between a professional scientist and a citizen scientist is that the professionals have followed an in-depth education in the field and (trade secret) know where to look stuff up or have it between their ears while the citizen scientist might take a bit longer to pin down that identification or to puzzle out what a particular group of birds are doing. I can also tell you, that surprisingly often there are amateurs who, through long interest and study, may well know more about some corners of ornithology than many of the professionals.

As birders, we are fortunate in having such a rich and varied number of projects that we can become involved with and contribute to. Most of them are field-based projects run by universities. Participants are asked to collect data - usually what birds were seen when and where. Simple enough. The projects all come with discrete protocols to ensure that all participants are submitting data with equal value using the same methodology. These days, participants will usually submit observations via the internet; sometimes entering data from their field notebooks and other times using smartphone “apps” to do the job.

How to get involved

As winter approaches, Project FeederWatch is a very appropriate project to start with. It is perhaps one of the most well-known citizen science projects and is accessible to people of all ages, skill levels and backgrounds. Why do we watch feeders? Simply put, in order to protect birds and try to mitigate the many factors that are causing bird populations to fall, sometimes rapidly, we have to know where the birds are and monitor the changes over the years. This is something that all birders can contribute to.

FeederWatch began in 1987 and is a partnership between the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. The initiative tracks wintertime populations of feeder birds throughout North America and has now provided scientists with three decades worth of data about bird population trends, range expansions and contractions and how birds adapt to changing environments. This data is all the more valuable during this period of acute climate change that is disturbing the traditional patterns of bird range and behaviour.

The project runs from November through April and allows participants to survey the birds that visit backyards or other sites in North America. A feeder isn't even required! Any area that provides habitat, water or food to attract birds is suitable. The scheduling is flexible within certain criteria.



Common Redpoll,
Photo: Richard Gregson

What does FeederWatch data show?

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website, FeederWatch data has demonstrated that the Northern Cardinal has expanded its range since 1989 and that of the Evening Grosbeak's has contracted,

The Cornell Lab cites the Common Redpoll as yet another example where FeederWatch data has contributed to providing scientists with important insights. This mostly boreal wintering species tended to irrupt southward seemingly like clockwork in an every other year cycle. Beginning in 2005 this cycle appears to have been broken in some years. Since the irruptions are attributed to lower aspen and birch seed crops, Emma Greig, FeederWatch project leader, says that it suggests that the pattern of food availability in the boreal forest is becoming less reliable.

You can read more about what FeederWatch data has shown about these and other species in this article on the Cornell Lab website via this [link](#).

Simply count birds on the days of your choosing for as long as you like (more on this below) and then enter your observations online. FeederWatch provides you with a year to year overview of the bird population around your count site while contributing to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance.

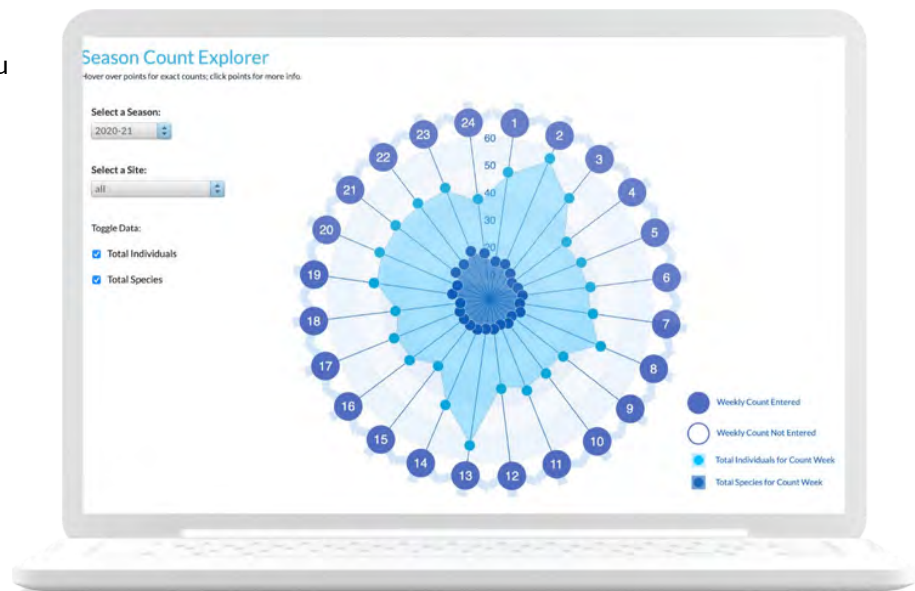
The ABC's of FeederWatching

- Choose the area in which you will be recording birds - your garden, a spot you can see from your balcony, or just out a window. Set up a feeder if you can (though it's not necessary) but be sure to count all birds in the vicinity. A feeder serves merely as a focal point for consistency.
- Choose two successive days in a week on which you will try to watch birds, remembering that you can miss a week if necessary and you can watch for just an hour or two or for a whole day, whatever suits you. You don't even have to be sitting beside the window with your eyes glued to the garden ... listen to some music or chat to whoever is with you, even read a book, looking up regularly will do nicely.
- When you submit your sightings you will be asked to report for roughly how long you watched birds and there is no right or wrong answer - more is better, a little is good, anything contributes. You will also be asked a question about snow depth.
- For this project, you will submit the highest number of birds of each species that you saw at the same time - so one Chickadee at nine in the morning and a group of four later is not five birds, but four. This might seem strange, but FeederWatch counts are a sample, or estimate, of what is in your yard. If everyone samples in the same way, then counts across species, space, and time are comparable to one another, allowing Birds Canada/Cornell to build a valid and consistent dataset of bird abundance over the years. More information about this is available [here](#).
- You can submit your bird sightings on paper, or by going to the FeederWatch website or, new this year, you can use the FeederWatch mobile app.

Tracking your data over time

The data you contribute is always available for you to look at, analyze and learn from whenever you want. The FeederWatch website offers a good selection of visual ways to look at your observations throughout seasons and over many years. You can also download your complete dataset to view and manipulate in a spreadsheet if you wish.

The screenshot on the right is an example of the charts you can view in your FeederWatch account. This chart shows the number of individual birds and the number of species for each observation week in my own garden during the 2022-2021 winter season.



It's easy to contribute so why not get started? Visit the Birds Canada website [here](#) to sign up as a FeederWatcher and start watching any time throughout the season from November 13, 2021 to April 30, 2022. You can download the new mobile app [here](#). You can also share photos and stories by joining the Project FeederWatch [Facebook](#) group.

Editor's Note: Richard Gregson will be back in the February 2022 Song Sparrow edition with a new column taking a look at different citizen science programs in each issue .



A 2020 BPQ Hudson Count Team
Photo: Connie Morgenstern



A 2019 BPQ Montreal Count Team
Photo: Darlene Harvey

by
Yousif Attia
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator
Birds Canada

CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Christmas Bird Count Over 100 Years of Tradition

The Christmas holidays in Canada are a time for celebrating long-standing traditions. Birds have been tied to Christmas traditions in many ways, from cardinals and blue jays with snowy backdrops adorning our greeting cards, to songs about birds that date back to the late 1700s. The Twelve Days of Christmas, which is thought to be of French origin, describes the giving of 12 gifts, half of which are birds! Birds remain important to us during Christmas, whether that be on a plate or in the field. And for many wild bird enthusiasts, it's a time for the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Between the dates of December 14 and January 5 each year, hundreds of Canadians reach for their toques, binoculars and notebooks, and head outside to identify and count birds. Others spend a portion of the day looking out their windows and keeping tabs on who visits their feeders. Collectively, the data are submitted and pooled in a central database where they are available to population scientists, environmental planners and the general public.



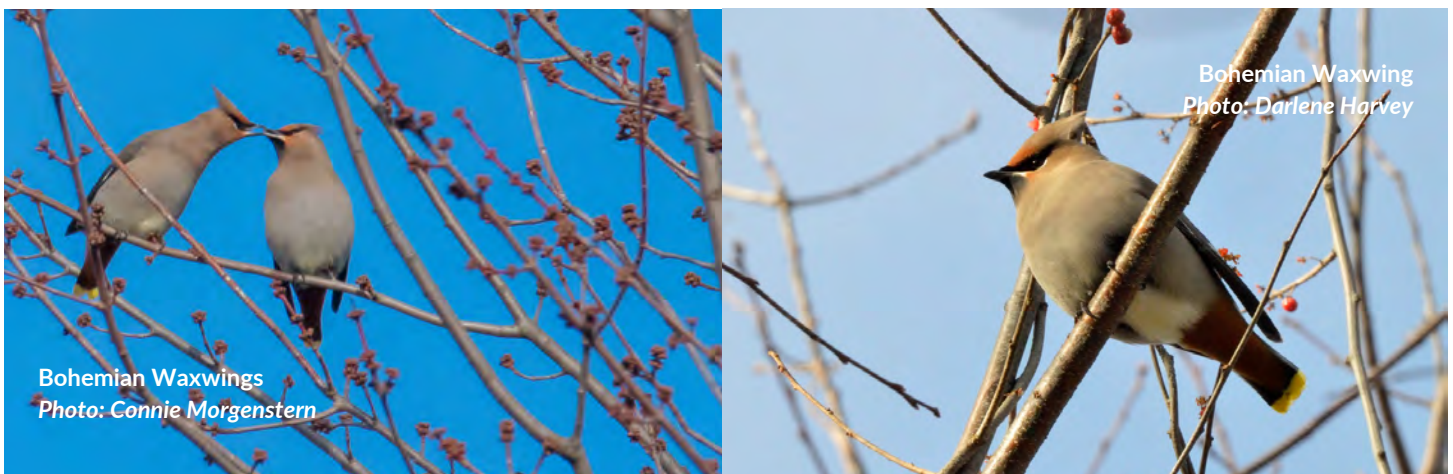
Like many traditions, the Christmas Bird Count has a long history and has evolved over time. During the late 19th century, North Americans engaged in a winter event known as the Christmas Side Hunt. It was a friendly competition to see which team could shoot the most birds and mammals on Christmas Day. At the end of the day, teams would compare the number of critters they shot, and as far as we know today, the prize was bragging rights. Early ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, who had already noticed declines in bird populations in the late 1800s, proposed that it would be just as much fun to count birds. Following Chapman's proposal, 25 counts were conducted in North America in the year 1900, including [two in Canada](#). Today, there are nearly 450 counts that take place annually in Canada, and over 40 in Quebec alone.

Birds Canada began coordinating the CBC in partnership with National Audubon Society around the year 2000. Over the 12 years that followed, participation in Canada increased by over 40%. Regional organizations like Bird Protection Quebec, which has been sponsoring two of the counts in Quebec for over 80 years, play a key role in coordinating events, promoting counts, and publishing local results. Every circle has at least one compiler, who is responsible for organizing participant effort and submitting data. Once the season is complete, a volunteer regional editor reviews data for accuracy and writes a regional summary. You can read national and regional summaries of the results at www.birdscanada.org/cbc

There is no doubt that the CBC season has become a time to enjoy the outdoors and catch up with old friends, both feathered and unfeathered. But how does it help birds? The data collected are used to form a picture of the population size, distribution, and diversity of birds in a given area during early winter: a time of the year when they congregate, often in large numbers. For example, we know that the CBC at Hudson, QC, last year (the 121st count) recorded 32 Ruffed Grouse, which was the highest count of that species for that year – not only for a circle in Canada, but for anywhere in North America! While high counts are interesting, it is the long term data collected every year that are needed for scientists to build the population trends – whether increases or declines – that give us an idea of how birds are actually faring.

One such recent undertaking, using CBC data combined with other survey data, estimated that the size of North America's bird population has decreased by nearly three billion birds compared to only 50 years ago. Considering all the adversities faced by birds, these findings are not surprising, but are nonetheless troubling. If not for the valuable contributions of volunteer citizen scientists over the past century, we might not have been able to shine a spotlight on these declines and the consequences for birds and ecosystems. For this reason, it is so important that the CBC tradition lives on, that compilers continue to submit their results, and that we continue to monitor them in the same way.

If you've never been involved or haven't participated in a while, then perhaps it's time to pick up the tradition. Some birders enthusiastically attend one, two or more counts a season, and for good reason – they're a lot of fun! Covid-19 has temporarily changed the way we interact, which is a shame because the CBC has always been a social event for many. The fun of the social aspect of Christmas Bird Counts shouldn't be overlooked since it's a time to meet new friends and reconnect with old friends in the shared interest of wild birds and their welfare. Visit www.birdscanada.org/cbc to learn more and get involved.



**BPQ coordinates count teams and compiles data for two CBC circles, one in Montreal and one in Hudson.
See page 36 for details!**



Une des équipes POQ à Hudson - 2020

Photo: Connie Morgenstern



Une des équipes POQ à Montréal - 2019

Photo: Darlene Harvey

par
Yousif Attia
coordonnateur –
Recensement des oiseaux de Noël
Oiseaux Canada

SCIENCE CITOYENNE

**Le Recensement des
oiseaux de Noël,
une tradition plus que centenaire**

Au Canada, les fêtes de fin d'année sont l'occasion de célébrer des traditions de longue date. Les oiseaux sont liés à ces traditions de nombreuses façons, depuis les cardinaux et les Geais bleus sur fond de neige qui ornent nos cartes de vœux jusqu'aux chansons sur les oiseaux qui remontent à la fin du 18^e siècle. Ainsi, la chanson anglaise *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, qui viendrait du français, décrit le don de 12 cadeaux, dont la moitié sont des oiseaux. La faune ailée demeure importante pour nous à Noël, que ce soit dans une assiette ou dans les champs. Et beaucoup d'amateurs d'oiseaux sauvages accueillent avec plaisir le retour du Recensement des oiseaux de Noël (RON). Chaque année, du 14 décembre au 5 janvier, des centaines de Canadiens sortent leurs tuques, leurs jumelles et leurs carnets de notes pour identifier et compter les oiseaux. D'autres passent une partie de la journée à regarder par la fenêtre et à garder un œil sur les visiteurs de leurs mangeoires. Collectivement, les renseignements recueillis sont versés dans une base de données centrale, où ils sont accessibles aux scientifiques qui étudient les populations, aux planificateurs environnementaux et au grand public.



Comme beaucoup de traditions, le RON remonte à loin et a évolué au fil du temps. À la fin du 19^e siècle en Amérique du Nord, des équipes de chasseurs participaient chaque hiver à un concours amical consistant à abattre le plus d'oiseaux et de mammifères possible le jour de Noël. À la fin de la journée, les équipes comparaient le nombre d'animaux qu'elles avaient abattus et, pour autant que nous le sachions, le prix remporté était simplement le droit de se vanter. Frank M. Chapman, un ornithologue qui avait déjà constaté des baisses de populations d'oiseaux à la fin du 19^e siècle, a fait valoir qu'il serait tout aussi amusant de compter les oiseaux au lieu de les tuer. C'est ainsi qu'eurent lieu 25 recensements sur le continent, dont deux au Canada, en 1900. Aujourd'hui, on compte chaque année près de 450 recensements au Canada, dont plus de 40 au Québec seulement.

Oiseaux Canada a commencé à coordonner le RON de concert avec la National Audubon Society vers l'an 2000 et, au cours des 12 années qui ont suivi, la participation a augmenté de plus de 40 % à l'échelle du pays. Des organismes d'envergure régionale, comme Protection des oiseaux du Québec qui a parrainé deux des RON au Québec pendant plus de 80 ans, jouent un rôle clé dans la coordination des activités, la promotion des recensements et la diffusion des résultats à l'échelle locale. Chaque cercle de recensement est géré par au moins un compilateur, qui est chargé d'organiser les contributions des participants et de transmettre les données recueillies. Une fois la saison terminée, après le 5 janvier, un réviseur régional bénévole assure la validation des données et produit un sommaire régional. Les sommaires national et régionaux sont présentés à l'adresse www.oiseauxcanada.org/ron.

Il ne fait aucun doute que la saison du RON est devenue une occasion de profiter de la nature et de retrouver de vieux amis, ailés et autres. Mais en quoi cela aide-t-il les oiseaux? Les données recueillies sont utilisées pour dresser un tableau de la taille des populations ainsi que de la répartition et de la diversité des espèces dans une zone donnée au début de l'hiver, une période de l'année où les oiseaux se rassemblent, souvent en grand nombre. Par exemple, nous savons que les participants au RON d'Hudson, au Québec, l'an dernier (la 121^e édition) ont répertorié 32 Gélinites huppées – ce qui a représenté le compte le plus élevé pour l'espèce en 2020 pour un cercle de recensement, non seulement au Canada, mais dans l'ensemble de l'Amérique du Nord! Bien que les comptes élevés soient intéressants, ce sont les données à long terme recueillies chaque année dont ont besoin les scientifiques pour établir les tendances des populations - qu'il s'agisse d'augmentations ou de déclin – et qui nous donnent une idée de la situation réelle de la faune aviaire.

Une de ces recherches récentes, dont les auteurs ont utilisé les données du RON combinées à celles d'autres programmes de dénombrement, a révélé que la taille de la population d'oiseaux d'Amérique du Nord a diminué de près de trois milliards d'individus par rapport à il y a seulement 50 ans. Compte tenu de toutes les difficultés rencontrées par les oiseaux, ces résultats ne sont pas surprenants, mais ils sont néanmoins troublants. Sans les précieuses contributions des citoyens scientifiques bénévoles au cours du siècle dernier, nous n'aurions peut-être pas pu mettre en lumière ces déclin et leurs conséquences pour l'avifaune et les écosystèmes. C'est pourquoi il est si important que la tradition du RON perdure, que les compilateurs continuent à soumettre leurs résultats et que nous continuions d'en faire le suivi de la même manière.

Si vous n'avez jamais participé au RON ou si vous n'y avez pas participé depuis un certain temps, c'est peut-être l'occasion de renouer avec la tradition. Certains ornithologues participent avec enthousiasme à un, deux ou plusieurs recensements par saison, et ce pour une bonne raison : ils s'amusent beaucoup! La COVID-19 a temporairement changé notre façon d'interagir, ce qui est dommage car le RON a toujours été un événement social pour beaucoup. Il ne faut pas négliger l'aspect social des Recensements des oiseaux de Noël, car ils sont des occasions de se faire de nouveaux amis et de renouer avec d'anciens amis, tous manifestant un intérêt commun pour les oiseaux sauvages et leur bien-être. Rendez-vous à l'adresse www.oiseauxcanada.org/ron pour en savoir plus et vous inscrire.

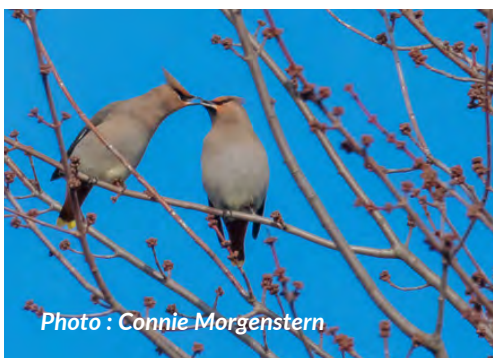


Photo : Connie Morgenstern



Photo : Darlene Harvey

POQ coordonne les équipes et rassemble les données pour deux cercles de recensement, un à Montréal et un à Hudson.

Voir page 36 pour plus de détails !

CITIZEN SCIENCE

and Hawkwatching

by
**Bob
Barnhurst
and
Mabel
McIntosh**

We have been involved with citizen science in several areas over many years, the longest being our hawk migration (or hawkwatch) activities. We strongly value the collection of data in areas where we can most contribute to science. Citizens of whatever ilk are welcome to contribute as volunteers.

Mabel joined the PQSPB in 1961 and went to Point-Pelee, Ontario, each spring from 1966 to 1974. She first observed a kettle of Broad-winged Hawks while attending a field trip to Hudson in the early '60s. That stimulated her interest and she joined with Jack Steeves to investigate likely sites for future fall and spring hawkwatches. Limited watches were mostly conducted on and off, mainly in the spring, west of Huntingdon at a place called Clyde's Crest. While attending a hawk migration conference in Syracuse, NY, in 1975 Mabel learned of the limited number of sites already monitoring hawks and some of the early findings of the work conducted. These sites included Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, made famous by its protection of migrating hawks, and Derby Hill on Lake Ontario.



Red-tailed Hawk
Photo: Stephen Shimizu

After emigrating from the UK, Bob began hawkwatching with Mabel during the mid-to-late '70s. Bob was already a scientist and readily saw the benefits of conducting a hawkwatch on a regular basis. We continued to monitor migrating hawks before settling on the present fall and spring sites. Full-time coverage started in 1980 and data collection began in earnest. This required covering the sites for 6-8 hrs per day, 7 days per week, for 2-1/2 months (early March to the end of May) in the spring and 3 months in the fall (late August to early December). Mabel began regular coverage during the week and I joined her on weekends and holidays until I retired and could devote myself full time. Bus travel and then a motor scooter provided early transport for Mabel (2-1/2hrs each way in the spring), so 12-hour days were common. The only exceptions were rainy days, of which thankfully there were some each season, giving much needed respite.

In Quebec, as in much of Canada, little work was then being conducted on migrating hawks. (One early site was Tadoussac at the mouth of the Saguenay Fjord). Thus, little was known about migration numbers and timing, much of which was inferred by reference to US sites (plus some in Europe). Funding for such work was almost impossible to get at the time (and little is available even now) so volunteerism was the only feasible way.

Fortunately, the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds was able to provide some limited start-up funding. The Society was already doing much useful work in a number of areas to monitor and collect data on birds. The annual Christmas Bird Count and the North American Breeding Bird Survey, both originating with

the Audubon Society in the U.S., are examples.

To date, our citizen science hawkwatching project has totalled 42 years and 83 seasons. We have counted over a quarter of a million migrating vultures, hawks and eagles (going on a third-of-a-million!) of some 14 species during that time. A few of these sightings are of rare hawks seen only a few times over that period. We have lost count of the number of miles travelled and the hours covered! Much of this kind of work is paralleled by other sites in North America, of which there are now over 100 sites that now do regular watches. Our data are uploaded to the Hawk Migration Association of North America "HawkCount" database. Much of these data have been used by professional and amateur scientists, universities and government labs, including the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP).

The monetary cost and time invested in doing citizen science work is high. Other pursuits have to take a back seat. For us, regular birdwatching had to be cut back severely. However, it is also very rewarding and we have loved every minute of it (if you don't count the cold, windy and wet weather one is occasionally exposed to!). Some of our data have most recently been presented in a series of articles that we wrote for the Song Sparrow, beginning in 2017.

Please get involved in citizen science if you can. It is well worth it and stimulates a passion that gets you out, often every day. Your help will be most welcome and invaluable to our understanding of the natural world. The need has never been greater.



Red-shouldered Hawk
Photo: Wayne Grubert



Sharp-shinned Hawk
Photo: Wayne Grubert

BIRDING BASICS



Presented by: Alain Goulet

and  **Nature-Expert**
Specialists in binoculars and birding
products in Quebec

Attracting Birds to your Backyard

Wild birds are more likely to visit your backyard or any area if one or more of their basic needs are met. These basic needs are food, water, shelter and nesting sites.

Bird Feeders

Nyjer Feeders: Nyjer feeders are specialized feeders with small openings to dispense nyjer seeds (also called thistle seeds). Feeders that are easy to clean help prevent the formation of mould and mildew at the bottom of the tube and spoiling of this relatively costly seed. Nyjer attracts a variety of birds including goldfinches, redpolls and Pine Siskins as well as several other bird species. These feeders come in a variety of types such as: tubes, hopper feeders, nyjer socks and squirrel-proof nyjer feeders. Some tube feeders have perches located above the seed hole and the birds end up feeding upside down. This feeder type is recommended when House Sparrows are numerous in your area. House Sparrows have more difficulty feeding upside down.

Peanut Feeders: Peanut feeders are usually wire-mesh tubes or metal tubes with round holes particularly accessible to woodpeckers. Shelled peanuts in these feeders attract a variety of birds including chickadees and nuthatches. However, peanuts with shells may be placed in these feeders which provide hours of feeding activity for Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers while discouraging starlings, House Sparrows and squirrels. There are also several other types of bird feeders in which we can put shelled peanuts or peanuts in the shell. Feeders that dispense peanuts in the shell will attract Blue Jays but will need to be protected from squirrels.

Squirrel-proof Feeders / Large Bird Proof 'State-of-the-Art' Bird Feeders: Several bird feeders are becoming more and more popular for those who wish to discourage squirrels and large birds. Many small yards and larger properties with an abundance of trees provide numerous launching pads for squirrels to access bird feeders. Certain bird feeders have counterweighted perches that close the access to the seed port when a squirrel steps onto them. Some of these feeders are also designed so that squirrels slip or bounce off the feeder as the seed port is approached. These feeders may also prevent heavier birds from reaching the seeds. One bird feeder also has an adjustable counterweight to allow some larger species of birds while preventing access to grey squirrels.

Note: many feeders claim to be squirrel-proof but very few are effective. Squirrel Buster feeders, from a Québec company, are the best squirrel-proof feeders on the market.



Squirrel-proof Seeds: Some manufacturers have created seeds which are squirrel-proof. They accomplish this by adding a very hot pepper mix to their seeds. Birds cannot taste this hot pepper mix but squirrels, on the other hand, *will* taste it and it will burn their mouths. The major problem is that if squirrels get any of these seeds in or near their eyes, the burning sensation will cause unnecessary pain. In worst case scenarios, squirrels have been known to scratch their eyes out due to the extreme pain they were in. Birds are also vulnerable to hot pepper dust that can end up in their eyes. *Therefore, we do not recommend this type of seed as an effective and humane way to prevent squirrels from eating your bird seeds. Squirrel Proof seed cylinders and suet (that contain hot pepper) are safe and very effective because they use a liquid version of hot pepper which is not volatile or harmful to birds.*

Tube Feeders: These cylindrical feeders with multiple feeding ports keep seeds fairly protected from rain and snow and can accommodate a wide variety of small or medium sized birds. Larger birds may be able to access the seeds although with some difficulty as they are usually too big to properly grip the small perches. Polycarbonate plastics, now being used by certain manufacturers for bird feeders, are indicative of higher quality as they are stronger and resistant to yellowing over time. Seed ports made of metal are preferable over plastic ports which can easily be damaged by squirrels. Many specialized tube feeders have been recently designed to come apart with ease for trouble-free, thorough cleaning. These new feeders allow for virtually all removal of seed or dirt residue. Keeping feeders clean is essential in discouraging the presence of mould, bacteria and viruses that affect bird health. House or hopper Feeders: these feeders hold a large quantity of seeds and provide a platform for birds to reach seeds. They are usually made of wood or recycled materials and often chosen for their attractive appearance as well as to feed a wide range of species. However, a little more maintenance is required to keep them clean.

Platform Feeders: Platform feeders are raised, flat surfaces or trays, made with drainage holes or wire mesh to prevent seeds staying in contact with water. Placed just above the ground, they are particularly appreciated by Mourning Doves, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree Sparrows and a number of others depending on climate and habitat. Platform feeders can also be mounted higher on poles or suspended to make bird viewing easier from the kitchen window. Keep in mind that sparrows and juncos prefer to feed near the ground when choosing where to place your platform feeder. Open to the elements and available to any species of birds or rodents, platform feeders may need frequent filling and regular maintenance. In certain areas, a large flock of pigeons or starlings may become a problem when complete access to seeds is provided. While other bird feeders have some important advantages, a platform feeder will nevertheless interest most avian visitors. This aspect of platform feeders can aid homeowners in attracting birds to their yards for the first time. As the yard becomes established as an attractive feeding area, more selective bird feeders can be added to the yard.

** Dogs can get sick from eating the bird seeds that fall on the ground. Placing a tray below your bird feeders can prevent an unwanted visit to the vet with your beloved pet.*

Suet Feeders: Suet can be made available in plastic mesh bags but requires some protection from rodents. Reusable metal cages are preferable for making this high-calorie food source somewhat less available to mammalian species. Suet cakes for these metal cages are widely available. Some retailers may offer several varieties including pure suet which contains the highest source of calories. Pure suet is usually only offered in cold weather as it may melt in warm temperatures. Most other suet varieties contain various seed, nut, fruit mixes, some even contain insects, and most can be used in any season. Suet feeders attract chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, jays, Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens. Available at specialized boutiques, suet feeders in cages with an extended base allow Pileated Woodpeckers to prop their tails for comfortable feeding. Some suet cages are built into a wooden roof-shaped canopy so that the suet is only accessible by clinging to the underside of the feeder, thus preventing larger bird species such as starlings from having access to it.

Selective Feeders

Cardinal Feeder: This feeder has a perch calibrated specifically to this species' weight. Once the Northern Cardinal lands on the perch, the seed port opens. Smaller birds cannot access it and larger birds will close the seed hole. This feeder may be filled with black sunflower seeds but needs to be unavailable to squirrels. Filling it instead with safflower seeds, a Northern Cardinal favourite, will make the feeder less attractive to squirrels.

Chickadee Feeder: Various feeders with small openings are quite efficient at attracting chickadees while preventing larger birds from raiding all the seeds. A house type feeder with a small round opening has been designed for Chickadees. The roof of this feeder is transparent polycarbonate which allows the viewer to see the Chickadee. Filled with black sunflower seeds or peanuts, this feeder needs to be inaccessible to gnawing squirrels. Larger versions of this feeder can also be found.

Small-species Feeder: Feeders with very small perches or no perches will be ideal for small species such as chickadees, nuthatches, and some woodpeckers. Those species are quite agile and will be able to hang on and feed in those feeders.

Hummingbird and Oriole Feeders: Hummingbird feeders can be made of glass or plastic and have small holes from which sugar water is sipped. The best feeders are those which can be easily cleaned as mould can quickly form. Fermentation may also occur. Proper cleaning and replacing of feeder nectar twice a week prevents these problems.

Oriole feeders, which are usually orange, are also filled with nectar and require the same care as hummingbird feeders. With a capacity of up to 4 cups of nectar and 3 or 4 feeding ports this feeder is best placed outside early in the spring to attract Orioles as they migrate back from the South.

Models for both types of feeders are available with bee and wasp guards. However, placing them in areas away from outdoor tables and chairs helps keep wasps from flying near humans. Also, a hanging artificial wasp nest discourages wasps from building their home nearby. While wasps play a beneficial role in insect control, wasp traps can also be placed in certain areas where they have become too troublesome. More numerous in the fall, wasps are less likely to be present in great numbers in the spring.

Ant guards are also available for nectar feeders. Some hummingbird feeders have a built-in reservoir that is filled with water. This reservoir creates a small lake and thus prevents ants from reaching the part of the feeder where nectar is dispensed. *Ants do not swim.*

Squirrel Baffles, Cages and Domes

In addition to using specialized squirrel-proof bird feeders as described above, squirrels can also be kept away from seeds by using baffles, cages or domes. On a pole-mounted feeder, baffles can be placed below to prevent squirrels and raccoons from reaching the feeder by climbing up the pole. Ideally feeders should be placed 10 feet away from tree branches, fences and buildings as squirrels are competent jumpers. Tilting domes placed above a feeder may force those jumping squirrels to slip to the ground. Rigid domes may also be used as effective barriers between squirrels and feeders. Domes or baffles made of metal are generally the most robust. Plastic domes or baffles made of polycarbonate are quite sturdy, resist yellowing and also allow better viewing of the feeders.

Bird Baths and Waterers

Water is essential for birds and will also attract species that do not usually come to bird feeders. Regularly cleaned, bird baths, placed in the yard, will provide a fresh source of drinking and bathing water for birds. Bird baths are available in a wide variety of materials and styles. They may be shallow receptacles on a pedestal or hanging saucers. Some can be mounted on a pole or attached to a fence or the side of the deck with a supporting arm. Concrete or stone bird baths, while attractive, should be reserved for the milder months of the year as they are very susceptible to cracking when the temperature falls below 0 degrees C.

A bird bath with a fountain is a good choice as the sound of trickling water attracts more birds. Some of these bird baths may even be equipped with a solar panel avoiding the need for a wire and electrical outlet.

In the winter months, birds still need water but finding it can be very difficult if virtually all natural sources have frozen over. A bird bath heater may be used to keep the water from freezing. The best heaters are robust, safe and easy to use. The heater is directly placed in the bird bath and secured with its bendable support arm. The heater is equipped with a thermostat preventing it from freezing and will automatically shut off when there is no water left in the bath. Some bird baths come equipped with a built-in heating system inside making it impossible for bacteria, algae or water deposits to accumulate on the heating element. This type of bird bath is very easy to keep clean.

There are also smaller bird baths with reservoirs available on the market. These models provide drinking water from an inverted reservoir, gradually dispensing water into small shallow receptacles or a plate, which serves as a bath for small and medium-sized birds. Some of these baths can be pole-mounted or hung in a variety of ways for easy viewing.

LES B.A.-BA DE L'OBSERVATION



Présenté par : Alain Goulet

et  **Nature-Expert**
Le spécialiste en jumelles et en produit pour
l'ornithologie au Québec

Attirer les oiseaux dans votre cour

Les oiseaux sauvages ont plus de chances de visiter votre cour ou tout autre endroit si leurs besoins primaires sont rencontrés. Parmi ces besoins, on compte la nourriture, l'eau, les abris et les endroits pour nicher.

Mangeoires d'oiseaux

Mangeoires à chardon : Les mangeoires à chardon sont des mangeoires spécialisées avec de petites ouvertures pour offrir des graines de chardon. Les mangeoires qui sont faciles à nettoyer aident à prévenir la formation de moisissures dans le fond du tube (un problème très fréquent pour ce type de mangeoire) qui feront pourrir ce grain plutôt coûteux. Le chardon attire une variété d'oiseaux incluant les chardonnerets, les sizerins, les tarins, ainsi que plusieurs autres espèces. Il existe différents modèles de mangeoires à chardon : silo, mangeoires trémie, bas à chardon et mangeoire à chardon anti-écureuil. Certains silos ont des perchoirs situés au-dessus des ouvertures et les oiseaux se nourrissent la tête en bas (inversé). Ce type de mangeoire est recommandé lorsque le Moineau domestique est nombreux dans votre région car il a plus de difficulté à se nourrir la tête en bas.

Mangeoires à arachides : Les mangeoires à arachides sont souvent en grillage ou en métal avec des trous ronds qui permettent l'accès aux pics et autres petites espèces. Des arachides écalées dans ces mangeoires attireront une variété d'oiseaux comme les mésanges, les sittelles et les pics. Vous pouvez aussi placer des arachides en écale dans ces mangeoires et vous donnerez alors des heures de plaisir au Pic mineur et au Pic chevelu tout en décourageant les étourneaux, moineaux et écureuils. Il y a aussi plusieurs autres types de mangeoires dans lesquels on peut mettre des arachides écalées ou des arachides en écales. Les mangeoires qui vous permettent d'offrir les arachides en écale entières vont attirer le Geai bleu mais auront besoin d'être protégées des écureuils.

Mangeoires anti-écureuils / Mangeoires anti-gros oiseaux : Ces mangeoires sont de plus en plus populaires pour les gens qui veulent décourager les écureuils et gros oiseaux. Plusieurs petites cours et grands terrains avec une abondance d'arbres offrent de nombreux endroits desquels les écureuils peuvent sauter sur les mangeoires. Certaines mangeoires fonctionnent avec des perchoirs à contrepoids qui ferment l'accès à la nourriture lorsqu'un écureuil s'agrippe à celui-ci. Certaines de ces mangeoires sont aussi conçues pour que les écureuils glissent ou rebondissent de la mangeoire alors qu'ils s'approchent des ouvertures. Ces mangeoires peuvent aussi empêcher les gros oiseaux d'accéder au grain. Il existe un modèle en particulier qui est ajustable et qui peut permettre à des oiseaux plus gros de se nourrir tout en limitant l'accès à l'écureuil gris.

Note : Beaucoup de mangeoires se disent anti-écureuils mais peu de modèles sont vraiment efficaces. Les mangeoires Squirrel Buster sont une valeur sûre d'une compagnie québécoise.



Grains anti-écureuil : Certains distributeurs ont créé des mélanges de grains qui sont anti-écureuil en ajoutant un mélange de poivre de Cayenne aux graines. Les oiseaux ne goûtent pas le mélange de poivre mais les écureuils par contre le goûtent et cela brûle l'intérieur de leur bouche. Le gros problème est que si l'écureuil reçoit des poussières de ces graines dans les yeux, cela brûlera aussi ses yeux et causera une douleur atroce et inutile. Dans les pires cas, certains écureuils vont même jusqu'à gratter leurs yeux jusqu'au sang ou même à s'arracher les yeux. Vous pouvez vous imaginer que cette douleur est atroce. Les oiseaux ne sont pas à l'abri des poussières de poivre de Cayenne qui peuvent aussi atteindre leurs yeux.

Nous ne recommandons donc pas ce type de grain car il ne s'agit pas d'une manière efficace et humaine d'empêcher que les écureuils se nourrissent aux mangeoires.

Les cylindres de noix et suifs pimentés sont sécuritaires pour les oiseaux car l'agent actif anti-écureuil est sous forme d'un liquide ou d'une huile qui ne sont pas volatiles.

Silos : Ces mangeoires en tube avec plusieurs ouvertures gardent le grain assez protégé de la pluie et de la neige et accommodent une grande variété de petits et moyens oiseaux. Les gros oiseaux peuvent aussi accéder à la nourriture avec un peu de difficulté car ils sont généralement trop gros pour s'accrocher correctement aux petits perchoirs. Les mangeoires faites de polycarbonate sont maintenant la norme dans le domaine. Il s'agit d'un polymère de haute qualité, plus durable et qui n'a pas tendance à jaunir avec le temps. Les ouvertures en métal sont préférées aux ouvertures en plastique qui sont facilement grugées par l'écureuil. Certaines nouvelles mangeoires permettent maintenant de désassembler la mangeoire très facilement pour un nettoyage rapide. Elles permettent alors d'enlever tous les grains et résidus de poussière. Il est essentiel de garder les mangeoires propres pour prévenir la formation de moisissures ou la transmission de bactéries ou virus qui affectent la santé des oiseaux.

Gazebos et mangeoires trémies : Ces mangeoires contiennent une grosse quantité de grains et offrent souvent une plateforme pour que les oiseaux se nourrissent. Elles sont souvent faites en bois ou en matériaux recyclés et elles sont souvent choisies pour leur côté décoratif. Elles attireront une grande variété d'oiseaux mais vont nécessiter un peu plus d'entretien.

Plateaux : Les mangeoires plateaux sont des surfaces surélevées conçues avec des trous pour le drainage ou bien un fond en grillage qui permet de garder le grain sec. Lorsque l'on place un plateau tout juste au-dessus du sol, on peut attirer la Tourterelle triste, Bruant chanteur, Bruant à gorge blanche, Bruant à couronne blanche, Junco ardoisé, Bruant hudsonien et plusieurs autres tout dépend de votre type d'habitat. Les plateaux peuvent aussi être suspendus plus haut ou montés sur un poteau pour permettre de voir plus facilement les oiseaux à partir de votre maison. Garder toujours en tête que les bruants et juncos préfèrent manger le plus près du sol possible. Parce qu'elles sont ouvertes et accessibles à n'importe quelle espèce, les mangeoires plateaux doivent être remplies et nettoyer plus fréquemment. Dans certaines régions, notamment les régions urbaines, une grande quantité de pigeons ou d'étourneaux peut devenir rapidement un problème. Bien que d'autres types de mangeoires possèdent d'importants avantages, un plateau attirera par contre le plus de visiteurs ailés. Cet aspect peut aider les gens qui veulent attirer les oiseaux dans leurs cours pour la première fois. Lorsque la cour devient un endroit plus populaire pour les oiseaux, on peut ajouter des mangeoires plus sélectives.

* Certains chiens peuvent se rendre malade en consommer les graines qui tombent sous les mangeoires. Un plateau peut donc éviter que votre chien ait à faire une visite chez le vétérinaire.

Mangeoires à suif : On peut donner le suif dans un sac à maille en plastique mais il faut alors le protéger des rongeurs. Les cages en métal réutilisables sont recommandées pour rendre plus difficile l'accès aux rongeurs à cette nourriture riche en calorie. Le suif fait pour ces cages est disponible facilement. Certains détaillants vous offriront plusieurs variétés de suif incluant même du suif pur qui contient le plus de calories. Le suif pur est utilisé seulement l'hiver car il a tendance à fondre à des températures chaudes. La plupart des autres suifs contiennent un mélange de grains, noix, fruits et même parfois des insectes. Ils peuvent être offerts à l'année pour attirer les mésanges, les pics, les sittelles, les geais, la Mésange bicolore et le Troglodyte de Caroline. Vous trouverez dans les boutiques spécialisées des cages à suif avec une base allongée pour permettre au Grand pic d'y accoter sa queue confortablement alors qu'il se nourrit. Certaines cages à suif sont construites avec un toit en bois sur le dessus ce qui fait que le suif est accessible seulement en s'accrochant au dessous de la mangeoire. Cela prévient les plus gros oiseaux comme les étourneaux de s'y nourrir.

Mangeoires sélectives

Mangeoire à Cardinal : Cette mangeoire pour Cardinal rouge possède un perchoir calibre au poids de l'espèce. Lorsque le Cardinal atterrit sur le perchoir, le grain est accessible dans l'ouverture. Les petits oiseaux n'ont pas le poids nécessaire pour faire ouvrir le balancier alors que les gros oiseaux font fermer l'ouverture. Cette mangeoire peut être remplie avec du tournesol noir mais elle doit alors être protégée des écureuils. Lorsqu'on la remplit avec du carthame, adoré par le Cardinal rouge, la mangeoire est moins attrayante pour les écureuils.

Mangeoire à mésange : Différentes mangeoires avec de petites ouvertures qui permettent aux mésanges d'entrer dans la mangeoire sont efficaces pour attirer ces charmants oiseaux tout en empêchant les grands oiseaux de piller toutes les graines. Une mangeoire de type maisonnette avec une petite ouverture ronde a été conçue pour les mésanges. Le toit de cette mangeoire est en polycarbonate transparent qui nous permet d'observer la mésange. Rempli de graines de tournesol noirs ou d'arachides écalées, cette mangeoire doit être inaccessible aux écureuils. Des versions plus grandes de cette mangeoire sont aussi disponibles.

Mangeoires pour petites espèces : Les mangeoires avec de petits perchoirs ou sans perchoirs sont idéales pour les petites espèces comme les mésanges, sittelles et pics. Ces espèces sont très agiles et seront capables de s'agripper sur ces mangeoires et se nourrir.

Abreuvoirs à colibris et à orioles : Les abreuvoirs à colibri peuvent être faits de verre ou de plastique et ont de petits trous qui permettent au colibri de se nourrir. Les meilleures mangeoires sont celles qui se nettoient facilement car la moisissure peut se former rapidement et il peut même y avoir fermentation. Un bon nettoyage et le remplacement du nectar 2 fois par semaine préviennent ces petits problèmes.

Les abreuvoirs à orioles sont généralement de couleur orange et sont remplis de nectar. Elles requièrent le même entretien qu'un abreuvoir à colibri. Elles peuvent avoir une capacité qui peut aller jusqu'à 4 tasses ainsi que 3 à 4 ouvertures pour l'alimentation. Il est recommandé de les placer à l'extérieur tôt en saison pour attirer les orioles alors qu'ils sont de retour du Sud.

Ces deux types de mangeoires sont disponibles avec dispositifs anti-guêpes. Pour éviter que les guêpes ne volent quand même près des humains, placer les abreuvoirs loin des endroits que vous visitez fréquemment. Pour plus de sécurité, vous pouvez placer un faux nid de guêpe qui découragera les guêpes de construire un nid près de chez vous. Bien que les guêpes jouent un rôle clé dans le contrôle des insectes, des trappes à guêpes peuvent aussi être utilisées lorsque le problème devient trop important. Les guêpes auront tendance à être présentes en plus grand nombre à l'automne qu'au printemps.

Des dispositifs anti-fourmis sont aussi disponibles pour les abreuvoirs à colibri. Quelques abreuvoirs viennent avec un petit réservoir intégré que l'on peut remplir d'eau. Ce petit réservoir crée une zone que les fourmis ne peuvent pas traverser pour atteindre la mangeoire. *Les fourmis ne nagent pas.*

Pares-écureuils, cages et dômes anti-écureuils

En plus d'utiliser des mangeoires anti-écureuils comme mentionné ci-haut, vous pouvez utiliser des pares-écureuils, cages et dômes anti-écureuils pour les éloigner des mangeoires. Lorsque vous accrochez votre mangeoire à un poteau, il vous faudra placer un pare-écureuil plus bas pour éviter que les écureuils et les rats-laveurs grimpent sur le poteau. Idéalement, les mangeoires devraient être placées à 3 mètres de tout obstacle comme des branches, clôtures, toits, ou bâtiments. Les écureuils sont d'excellents sauteurs. Des dômes ballottant peuvent être placés au-dessus de la mangeoire et causeront souvent la chute au sol de l'écureuil. Vous pouvez aussi utiliser des dômes rigides pour protéger le dessus des mangeoires. Les dômes et les pares-écureuils fait de métal sont généralement les plus solides. Certains modèles sont aussi fabriqués en polycarbonate, un polymère qui résiste au choc et au jaunissement et qui offre aussi une meilleure vue sur les mangeoires.

Bains et abreuvoirs

L'eau est essentielle pour les oiseaux et elle attirera certaines espèces qui ne visiteront pas nécessairement vos mangeoires. Lorsqu'il est nettoyé régulièrement, un bain d'oiseaux dans votre cour sera une source fraîche d'eau pour boire ou se baigner. Les bains d'oiseaux vous sont offerts dans différents styles et matériaux. Vous trouverez un vaste choix de bains sur pieds jusqu'aux assiettes ou réceptacles suspendus. Vous pouvez les fixer sur le bout d'un poteau ou bien attacher sur le côté du patio avec un bras. Les bains de béton ou de pierre devraient être réservés aux mois plus chauds car ils sont susceptibles de craquer lorsque la température est en-dessous de zéro.

Junco ardoisé
Photo : Darlene Harvey



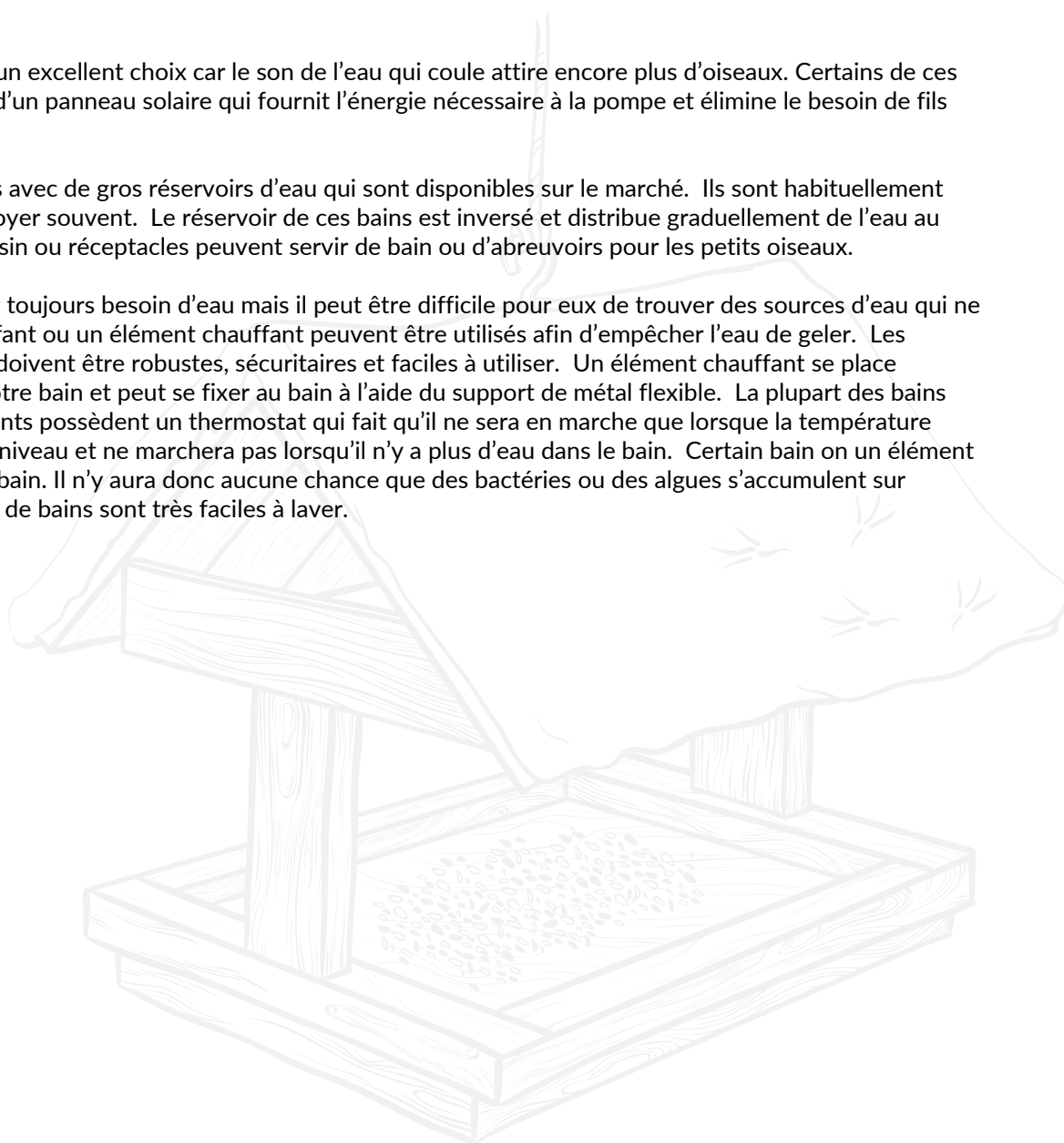
Moineau domestique
Photo : Darlene Harvey



Un bain avec une fontaine est un excellent choix car le son de l'eau qui coule attire encore plus d'oiseaux. Certains de ces bains viennent même équipés d'un panneau solaire qui fournit l'énergie nécessaire à la pompe et élimine le besoin de fils électriques.

Il y a aussi des bains suspendus avec de gros réservoirs d'eau qui sont disponibles sur le marché. Ils sont habituellement économiques et il faut les nettoyer souvent. Le réservoir de ces bains est inversé et distribue graduellement de l'eau au bassin situé en dessous. Le bassin ou réceptacles peuvent servir de bain ou d'abreuvoirs pour les petits oiseaux.

Pendant l'hiver, les oiseaux ont toujours besoin d'eau mais il peut être difficile pour eux de trouver des sources d'eau qui ne sont pas gelées. Un bain chauffant ou un élément chauffant peuvent être utilisés afin d'empêcher l'eau de geler. Les meilleurs éléments chauffants doivent être robustes, sécuritaires et faciles à utiliser. Un élément chauffant se place directement dans le fond de votre bain et peut se fixer au bain à l'aide du support de métal flexible. La plupart des bains chauffants et éléments chauffants possèdent un thermostat qui fait qu'il ne sera en marche que lorsque la température baisse en dessous d'un certain niveau et ne marchera pas lorsqu'il n'y a plus d'eau dans le bain. Certains bains ont un élément chauffant situé à l'intérieur du bain. Il n'y aura donc aucune chance que des bactéries ou des algues s'accumulent sur l'élément chauffant. Ces types de bains sont très faciles à laver.





FOCUS ON GRANTS

Every year BPQ is proud to award grants to fund research, conservation and education projects that are deemed to advance our ECO mission. These grants represent our largest annual financial outlay.

In this column we will provide progress reports from our grant recipients.

This issue's featured project is the School Grants Program

SCHOOL GRANTS PROGRAM

The School Grants Program started with a first award of \$3,000 to the Richelieu Valley Community Learning Centre in 2017. The Centre distributed the funds between five elementary schools in the Riverside School Board on the South Shore. The schools used the money to establish feeder stations, purchase binoculars and field guides, pay for buses to field trips led by BPQ field trip leaders, and more. This initiative has been so successful that BPQ has renewed their grant every year since, with the exception of 2021, when COVID interrupted school activities.

In 2018, BPQ representatives set up an information kiosk and conducted a workshop at the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers' (QPAT) annual convention, where we got the word out about the availability of these grants intended for bird-related educational projects. The focus was on encouraging the integration of the learning into the curriculum, rather than on one-off events or lectures. The program expanded after LEARN (Leading English Education and Resource Network) Quebec, a non-profit educational organization with a mandate to serve the English-speaking community of Quebec, hosted conferences during which the successes of the Riverside schools were shared with other community learning centres and schools throughout the province.

Following these conferences, we were excited to approve grant applications under this program from schools as far flung as Gatineau, Thetford Mines, and Val d'Or.

All BPQ grant recipients are required to submit a report at the end of the year, detailing how the funds were used to realize the approved projects. The reports for 2020 from two of the school projects - the original Richelieu Valley CLC, and an elementary school in St-Gabriel-de-Valcartier that received its first grant in 2020 - follow.

Grant applications are now being accepted for 2022.

For information go to:

<https://pqspb.org/bpqpoq/research-grants/>

Riverside School Board / Richelieu Valley Community Learning Centre

The last BPQ grant money (March 19, 2020: \$3,000 grant) we received from your organization was deposited this past fall, 2020. Prior to receiving that cheque, we did have money in our account left over from a previous BPQ grant. Due to Covid 19, we have not been able to do field trips and as many bird-related activities with our schools and in our community over the last year. As a result, we still have a substantial amount of money in our bank account. We sincerely thank Bird Protection Quebec for their generous support over the last four years. We will continue to explore ways we can use the \$4,000 surplus we have in grant money over the next year including the possibility of opening up bird-related learning opportunities with other Riverside Schools and community partners in the Montérégie. As a result, we will not be applying for grant money this year (2021).

Expenditures over the last 12 months:

- a) Jan.22, 2021: \$425 for bird supplies (bird feeders, poles etc.) for John Adam Memorial Elementary School in Delson.
- b) Nov.6 2020: \$120 for 6 -7 outdoor birding workshops in the forest near Mountainview Elementary School. A total of 250 students passed through the forest and benefitted.



Mountainview Elementary School -
Outdoor Birding Workshops
Photos courtesy of: Brian Peddar,
RVCLC



- c) Nov.24 & 25th, 2020: \$120 for three 1-hour workshops ref: Intro to Birdwatching for John Adam Memorial Elementary School.
- d) Sept.24, 2020: \$423 for bird supplies (bird feeders, poles etc.) for Mount Bruno Elementary School in Saint-Bruno, Qc. \$75 for bird food and installation of feeders.
- e) June 2020: \$40 to Mount Bruno Elementary School related to bird feeder installation on school property, etc.
- f) March 22, 2020: \$40 for Courtland Park International Elementary School: 1 hour workshop "Introduction to Birdwatching" for a class of students.

Brian Peddar
Project Development Officer
Community Development Agent
Riverside School Board and Richelieu Valley CLC

Valcartier Elementary School (Central Quebec School Board)

Let us begin by thanking Bird Protection Quebec for awarding the \$1,000 grant to Friends of Valcartier Elementary School. We managed to achieve our goals even though COVID-19 was changing everyone's lives.

We purchased 20 pairs of binoculars for our Nature Club (which can be used by the rest of the students in our school). We organized a lesson to teach the students how to use them. \$600

We organized a trip to Cap Tourmente Nature Reserve for the Nature Club and our grade 5 & 6 classes in October 2020. \$339

With the remaining funds (\$61) we have been purchasing black sunflower seed to fill the feeders along the nature path in the municipality. This bird feeder project was in cooperation with some senior gentlemen and two schools in the community.

Our grade 5 & 6 teachers enjoyed the Cap Tourmente outing and have decided to continue working on studying birds for science this spring (2021). The students also enjoyed the outing. Unfortunately, there were not many geese the day we visited; however, they do have a bird feeding station and there were biologists capturing and tagging birds, which was of great interest to our students.

We believe that being outside as much as possible during this pandemic has helped everyone with their mental health.

Jayne Doddridge
School Secretary and Community Development Agent

Students on a field trip to Cap Tourmente
Photos courtesy of: Principal Shelley Longney





POINT DE MIRE SUR LES SUBVENTIONS

Chaque année, POQ est fier d'accorder des subventions pour financer des projets de recherche, de conservation et d'éducation qui sont considérés comme faisant avancer notre mission ECO. Ces subventions représentent notre plus grande dépense financière annuelle.

Le projet vedette présenté dans ce numéro est le programme de subventions pour les écoles

PROGRAMME DE SUBVENTIONS AUX ÉCOLES

Le programme de subventions pour les écoles a débuté avec une première attribution de 3 000 \$ au Centre scolaire et communautaire de la vallée du Richelieu en 2017. Le Centre a réparti les fonds entre cinq écoles élémentaires de la Commission scolaire de Riverside, sur la Rive-Sud. Les écoles ont utilisé l'argent pour établir des postes d'alimentation, acheter des jumelles et des guides de terrain, payer les autobus pour les excursions menées par les animateurs de POQ, et plus encore. Cette initiative a connu un tel succès que POQ a renouvelé sa subvention chaque année depuis, à l'exception de 2021, année où le COVID a interrompu les activités scolaires. En 2018, les représentants de POQ ont installé un kiosque d'information et animé un atelier lors du congrès annuel de l'Association provinciale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (APEQ), où nous avons fait connaître la disponibilité de ces subventions destinées aux projets éducatifs liés aux oiseaux. L'accent était mis sur l'intégration de l'apprentissage dans le programme d'études, plutôt que sur des événements ou des conférences ponctuels. Le programme a pris de l'ampleur après que LEARN (Leading English Education and Resource Network) Québec, une organisation éducative à but non lucratif dont le mandat est de servir la communauté anglophone du Québec, ait organisé des conférences au cours desquelles les succès des écoles Riverside ont été partagés avec d'autres centres scolaires communautaires et des écoles de la province.

À la suite de ces conférences, nous avons été ravis d'approuver des demandes de subvention dans le cadre de ce programme provenant d'écoles aussi éloignées que Gatineau, Thetford Mines et Val d'Or.

Tous les bénéficiaires de subventions de POQ sont tenus de soumettre un rapport à la fin de l'année, détaillant comment les fonds ont été utilisés pour réaliser les projets approuvés. Les rapports pour 2020 de deux des projets scolaires - l'original projet de CSC de la vallée du Richelieu et une école primaire de St-Gabriel-de-Valcartier qui a reçu sa première subvention en 2020 - suivent.

**Les demandes de subventions pour 2022 sont
maintenant acceptées.**

**Pour plus d'informations, consultez le site
<https://pqspb.org/bpqpoq/research-grants/?lang=fr>**

Commission scolaire Riverside / Centre d'apprentissage communautaire de la vallée du Richelieu

La dernière subvention de POQ (19 mars 2020 ; subvention de 3 000 \$) que nous avons reçue de votre organisme a été déposée à l'automne 2020. Avant de recevoir ce chèque, il nous restait de l'argent dans notre compte provenant d'une subvention POQ antérieure.

En raison de COVID 19, nous n'avons pas été en mesure d'organiser des excursions et autant d'activités liées aux oiseaux avec nos écoles et dans notre communauté au cours de la dernière année. Par conséquent, nous avons encore une somme d'argent substantielle dans notre compte bancaire. Nous remercions sincèrement Protection des oiseaux du Québec pour son généreux soutien au cours des quatre dernières années. Nous continuerons d'explorer les moyens d'utiliser les 4 000 \$ de subventions excédentaires dont nous disposons au cours de l'année prochaine, y compris la possibilité d'ouvrir des possibilités d'apprentissage sur les oiseaux avec d'autres écoles Riverside et des partenaires communautaires en Montérégie. Par conséquent, nous ne ferons pas de demande de subvention cette année (2021).

Dépenses au cours des 12 derniers mois :

- a) 22 janvier 2021 : 425 \$ pour des fournitures pour oiseaux (mangeoires, poteaux, etc.) pour l'école élémentaire John Adam Memorial à Delson.
- b) 6 novembre 2020 : 120 \$ pour 6 à 7 ateliers d'observation des oiseaux en plein air dans la forêt près de l'école primaire Mountainview. Un total de 250 élèves ont traversé la forêt et en ont bénéficié.



École primaire de Mountainview -
Ateliers d'observation des oiseaux
en plein air
Photos avec l'aimable autorisation de :
Brian Peddar



- c) 24 et 25 novembre 2020 : 120 \$ pour trois ateliers d'une heure sur l'initiation à l'observation des oiseaux pour l'école élémentaire John Adam Memorial.
- d) 24 septembre 2020 : 423 \$ pour l'achat de fournitures pour oiseaux (mangeoires, poteaux, etc.) pour l'école primaire Mount Bruno à Saint-Bruno, Québec. 75 \$ pour de la nourriture pour oiseaux et l'installation de mangeoires.
- e) Juin 2020 : 40 \$ à l'école primaire Mount Bruno pour l'installation de mangeoires pour oiseaux sur la propriété de l'école, etc.
- f) 22 mars 2020 : 40 \$ pour l'école élémentaire internationale de Courtland Park : Atelier d'une heure Introduction à l'observation " pour une classe d'élèves.

Brian Peddar
Agent de développement de projet
Agent de développement communautaire
Commission scolaire Riverside et CSC de la vallée du Richelieu

École primaire Valcartier (Commission scolaire Central Québec)

Commençons par remercier Protection des oiseaux du Québec d'avoir accordé la subvention de 1 000 \$ aux Amis de l'école primaire Valcartier. Nous avons réussi à atteindre nos objectifs même si le COVID-19 changeait la vie de tout le monde.

Nous avons acheté 20 paires de jumelles pour notre club de la nature (qui peuvent être utilisées par le reste des élèves de notre école). Nous avons organisé une leçon pour apprendre aux élèves à s'en servir. \$600

Nous avons organisé un voyage à la réserve naturelle de Cap Tourmente pour le Club Nature et nos classes de 5e et 6e années en octobre 2020. \$339

Avec les fonds restants (61 \$), nous avons acheté des graines de tournesol noir pour remplir les mangeoires le long du sentier de la nature dans la municipalité. Ce projet de mangeoire pour oiseaux a été réalisé en coopération avec des hommes âgés et deux écoles de la communauté.

Nos enseignants de 5e et 6e années ont apprécié la sortie au Cap Tourmente et ont décidé de poursuivre l'étude des oiseaux dans le cadre des sciences ce printemps (2021). Les élèves ont également apprécié la sortie. Malheureusement, il n'y avait pas beaucoup d'ois le jour de notre visite, mais il y avait un poste de nourrissage des oiseaux et des biologistes capturaient et marquaient les oiseaux, ce qui a beaucoup intéressé nos élèves.

Nous pensons que le fait d'être dehors autant que possible pendant cette pandémie a aidé tout le monde à améliorer sa santé mentale.

Jayne Doddridge
Secrétaire d'école et agent de développement communautaire

(Traduction par POQ)

Des élèves en excursion au Cap Tourmente **Photos avec l'aimable autorisation de : Shelley Longney, directrice d'école**



The 86th Annual Montreal Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 18, 2021



The 81st Annual Hudson Christmas Bird Count – Monday, December 27, 2021



Two of Bird Protection Quebec's (BPQ) most popular annual events, the Montreal Christmas Bird Count and the Hudson Christmas Bird Count, will take place on Saturday, December 18, 2021 and Monday, December 27, 2021 respectively. The annual bird counts play a vital role in tracking local and national birding trends and are very important events on the citizen science calendar. We are once again counting on your participation. Sheldon Harvey and Chris Cloutier make up BPQ's Christmas Bird Count Committee. Sheldon is the coordinator for the Montreal Count, with Chris taking over from Jean Demers and Clemence Soulard as the new coordinator of the Hudson Count.

We hope that those of you who have participated in previous years will return again this year. We also encourage new people to get involved. We have a long-standing tradition to uphold and, with everyone's support and cooperation, we aim to carry it on.

Teams of birders are assigned designated sections of territory within the Montreal and Hudson circles. 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's a common or rare species. 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 circles 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 Feeder Watcher. All previous participants will be receiving an e-mail from us inquiring about your desire and availability to covering your territory from last year. If you would like to move to a different territory, we will do our best to accommodate.

If you are new to the Christmas counts and are interested in becoming a field participant, please contact us and we will assign you to a sector convenient to you, on a team with some experienced Christmas counters.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, teams that have historically had numerous participants may be required to reduce the size of their teams in order to comply with pandemic guidelines in place at the time. Also, the traditional post-count socials, normally conducted following each count, sadly will not take place again this year due to the pandemic. However, we will once again conduct post-count compilation meetings virtually, via Zoom. Details of the compilation events will follow in due course.

Details of both BPQ Christmas Bird Counts, including maps of the count circles, can be found on the following BPQ webpage <https://pqspb.org/bpqpoq/activities/christmas-bird-counts/>

We look forward to your participation. To join, or if you have any questions, please contact us:

For the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, contact:

Sheldon Harvey, Montreal Count Coordinator
E-mail: christmasbirdcount@yahoo.com
Telephone: 514-637-2141

For the Hudson Christmas Bird Count, contact:

Chris Cloutier, Hudson Count Coordinator
E-mail: cbchudson2@gmail.com
Telephone: 514-914-9464

Further details and updates will be posted on both the Song Sparrow IO Group forum and the BPQ Facebook page as the events approach.

Bird Protection Quebec Presents

**for
kids**

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Saturday, December 11th, 2021

11 AM to 1 PM

**Morgan Arboretum,
150 Ch. des Pins, St. Anne-de-Bellevue, QC**



Registration Required

Maximum 18 participants + leaders

Learn about birds and citizen science as we survey the birds we see on our walk along the Arboretum trails.



Registration Required.

email education@pqspb.org to register

**please include adult name(s)
and name(s) and age(s) of children**

**Covid protocols apply. Adults with kids only.
Please bring your own binoculars.**

This is a free event conducted by Bird Protection Quebec. Entrance fees for participants who are not members of the Arboretum will be paid by BPQ.



Focus On Education

BPQ presents a series of monthly lectures from October through April. Events will continue via Zoom until the situation permits a return to in-person meetings.

Monday, December 6, 2021

7 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Montée Biggar Sanctuary: A Birding Spot Full of Surprises

Speakers: Yong Lang and Ana Morales

The 87 acre Montée Biggar property near Huntingdon was purchased by BPQ in August, 2018. Our ability to protect important habitats through our sanctuary network is a direct result of the Alf Kelly legacy and through your membership fees, financial contributions and donations of land, most recently the extensive Lucas property near Montebello. After the Lac-St. Francois-Reserve Montée Biggar is the most important birding spot in southwestern Quebec. Since 2009 eBirders have tallied no fewer than 187 species. Yong and Ana will profile the different habitats of the Sanctuary. They will also discuss key projects related to our MAPS banding and Golden-Winged Warbler research, and other interesting birds attracted to the site.

About our Speakers

Yong is a wildlife biologist working at the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec. She is one of the nature lovers who initially highlighted the importance of preserving Montée Biggar for the generations to come. Ana is a recent MSc graduate at McGill, a bander at the McGill Bird Observatory and Chair of the Sanctuaries Committee. She has been coordinating the MAPS project at Montée Biggar since 2019.



Monday, January 10, 2022

7 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Why Birds Matter

Speaker: David Bird, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology at McGill University

In 2019, a study involving American and Canadian scientists revealed that North America has lost almost three billion birds in the last fifty years! What has precipitated this seemingly devastating loss? Should we really care? And if we do, what can we do about it? Join Dr. David Bird, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology at McGill University, for a bird's eye-view of the value of our feathered friends, what is befalling them, who is out there to help them, and what you can do about it.

About our Speaker



David Bird believes the future of our birds truly depends on the next two generations. Says the proud grandfather, "I will definitely be introducing my grandson, Lochlan, to birds (he is already interested at a year and a half!).

As an Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology of McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Dr. Bird has published close to 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers and supervised 50 graduate students on a wide range of wildlife themes, mostly on birds of prey and in more recent years, the application of UAVs (drones) to wildlife research and conservation.

Until his retirement to Vancouver Island in 2013, he taught several university-level courses, including ornithology, wildlife conservation, animal behaviour, and scientific/public communication. He has written and/or edited more than ten books, the most recent ones being various editions of *Birds of Canada*, *Birds of Eastern Canada* and *Birds of Western Canada*, *Pocket Birds of Canada*, *Oiseaux du Québec et du Canada*, and *Guide de Poche du Québec et du Canada*. Dr. Bird is a past-president of both the Raptor Research Foundation Inc. and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO), as well as an elected Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, the International Ornithological Union (IOU) and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He served six years on the board of directors of Birds Canada and he is currently the editor of *The Flutter*, a newsletter for the IOU.

Besides his innumerable public lectures and radio, television and newspaper appearances, Dr. Bird was a regular columnist on birds for *The Montreal Gazette* for almost three decades. He continues to write a bird column for both *BirdWatcher's Digest* and *Canadian Wildlife* magazines and does a biweekly video blog for *Brome Bird News*. He has been the recipient of several awards and honours over the years, but perhaps the most special is the Doris Spiers Award given to him by the SCO in 2013 for his outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. He is currently heading a national team to establish the Canada Jay as Canada's national bird.

Monday, February 7th, 2022

7 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Vile, Cowardly, Contemptible Birds: Encounters with the caracaras, the world's most charming birds of prey

Speaker: Jonathan Meiburg

Jonathan will take us to meet the ten living species of caracaras—the clever, resourceful, and highly entertaining raptors who are the subject of his book. From penguin colonies in the Falklands to the steaming jungles of Guyana, caracaras occupy the same niches in South America as crows and ravens in the rest of the world, and they'll amaze you with their feats of insight and intelligence, their unusual family lives and feeding strategies, and their symbolic importance for Amerindian people in the southern New World. "All manner of subsistence is known to this bird," wrote the Spanish naturalist Felix de Azára. "It pries into, understands, and takes advantage of everything."



About our Speaker

Jonathan Meiburg is best known for his work as a musician with the bands Shearwater and Loma, but his recent book, *A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey* (Knopf, 2021) vaulted him "to the top ranks of science writers" (Publishers Weekly). The book uses the lives and human companions of the unusual falcons called caracaras to tell a grand story about the evolution of our world's life and landscapes, and solves a riddle that puzzled Charles Darwin. "Calling this a bird book is like calling *Moby-Dick* a whaling manual," wrote The Dallas Morning News, and it's been praised by bird-loving luminaries from David Sibley to Margaret Atwood.

With this issue's focus on citizen science and our previous two Bird Views columns highlighting the unusual vagrants that have been creating lots of hoopla among Quebec's birding community recently, we thought that the following account from the 1948 PQSPB Annual Report fits in perfectly. That edition included a summary of the Christmas Bird Counts conducted between 1935 and 1948. One of the more noteworthy events recorded as part of the summary is certainly the bird described as "the most unusual" of the 1948 count. By modern standards, with 24/7 internet access, eBird, countless bird ID books and other information sources available at will, identifying that mystery bird with the sources used at the time, one of which was Ridgway's *"Birds of North and Middle America"* (first published in 1901 and containing some 700+ *unillustrated* pages!) seems a rather enormous task, and certainly not for the easily thwarted! You can see what they were dealing with via this [link](#).

The most unusual bird recorded in the 1948 census was a thrush seen in Mount Royal Cemetery, not only on the day of the count (December 19) but also several times thereafter during the winter. In size and mannerisms it suggested our Robin, but there the resemblance ended for its plumage was entirely black and its bill and legs bright orange yellow. Also it had a pale yellow eye ring.

Ridgway's description of the Black Thrush (*Planesticus infuscatus*) in his "Birds of North and Middle America" fits the bird fairly well although he does not mention the yellow eye ring. It is probable, however, from his description "bill, legs and feet yellowish (bright yellow in life?)" that he had not seen this thrush in life and that the yellow eye ring must have come faded and indistinguishable in the dried specimens at his disposal. In support of this there is a plate in Seebohm's "Monograph of the Thrushes" depicting the Black Thrush with a yellow eye ring.

It was John Rowland who first drew attention to the bird and who insisted that it was not just another Starling. Afterwards it was closely observed by all members of the mount royal party ...It twitched its tail in the manner of our Robin when alighting but the only notes we heard were quite un-robin like - A prolonged musical whistle followed by several hermit-thrush-like notes - "phee...tuk,tuk,tuk."



Black Thrush (*Turdus infuscatus*?) Photographed in Mount Royal Cemetery) by L. McI. Terrill.

We shall probably never know definitely just what thrush it was; whether it had escaped from captivity or flown here from its native haunts either in the Highlands of Veracruz or Guatemala (the home of the black thrush), or from some other country. It was seen several times later by some of the above-mentioned observers and others, and photographed in a Siberian crab tree (see reproduction this issue). There was a plentiful supply of fruit and it appeared to be quite as contented and even more lively than several of our own Robins wintering on the mountain.

The first Montreal Christmas Bird Count - December 22, 1929

The first Montreal area bird census took place near Chambly, Quebec under clear skies with a temperature noted to be at a frigid 0 degrees F. PQSPB founder Louis Terrell and two other participants covered 10 miles on foot as they made their way through the woods in two feet of snow from 10:00 AM to 4:20 PM.

The results below were reported in Bird-Lore magazine which was published by Frank M. Chapman, the originator of the Christmas count as an alternative to the traditional holiday “side hunt” where the aim was for teams to shoot and kill as many birds as possible. Today the Christmas Bird Count is the largest citizen science project in North America.

Total: 11 species and 182 individuals.

Merganser (SP?) 3
(tracks of 12 noted)
Ruffed Grouse 4
Hairy Woodpecker 1

Downy Woodpecker 1
Starling 75
Pine Grosbeak 1
Redpoll 20

Snow Bunting 7
White-breasted Nuthatch 1
Red-breasted Nuthatch 4
Black-capped Chickadee 65



Fun Facts about the History of the Christmas Bird Count

- Chapman's first bird-census in 1900 attracted 27 people across the United States and Canada, who together counted a total of 90 species between them. The first count included two locations In Canada, Toronto, Ontario and Scotch Lake, York County, New Brunswick.
- According to A Bird in the Bush, the official history book of Bird Protection Quebec, the fact that the first bird census only occurred in the Montreal area in 1929 was at the time attributed to few bird species believed to be around during the winter. However, it has now been established that the number of species observed in general during the early years of the counts across North America were much lower than they are today. It isn't that there were fewer birds and/or harsher winters. Instead, fewer observers, the lack of very many skilled observers and lack of good field optics all played a role. As the number of volunteer observers increased, not to mention the availability of better binoculars, so did the number of species observed. In addition, more observers also means better coverage of the count circles. Participation does matter!





Holiday Gift Guide

...for bird lovers

BPQ Shade Grown Coffee

This gift pack is sure to please. Filled with a 342g pack of shade grown, bird friendly coffee, a bar of organic Hummingbird chocolate and a delicious jar of palm oil free hazelnut and Jaguar chocolate spread from Allo Simonne.

Available at cafebirdfriendly.org



Gift box \$48.00

Coffee packages starting at \$16.00

Bird Protection Quebec Gift Membership

Give the gift of conservation this holiday with a membership to BPQ. Starting at \$12.00. Available on birdprotectionquebec.org



Rubber Art Stamps

For the crafty birder in your life! Rubber stamps featuring birds and nature images are fun ways to create your own cards or decorate other surfaces. Available from retailers like Michaels or try designing your own on Zazzle.com



Heated Bird Bath

Heated bird baths provide a much-needed water source during the winter. Available in a variety of styles and prices at NatureExpert.ca and other retailers.

Spot-On Quick-Sight

Tired of people not seeing the birds you are? Then get this nifty gadget for yourself or put it on your wish list! Available from NatureExpert.ca



\$17.99

Why drink Bird Protection Quebec's Shade Grown Coffee?

Your purchase helps support our work here at home and winter habitat for northern breeding birds. Species like the Golden-winged Warbler found at BPQ's Montée Biggar sanctuary migrate to shade grown coffee farms in the winter. The coffee you choose matters to BPQ and the birds!

Holiday Gift Box

This is the perfect gift for the chocolate and coffee lovers on your list! Contains a 342g pack of shade grown, Bird Friendly certified coffee, a bar of organic Hummingbird chocolate and a delicious jar of palm oil free Hazelnut and Jaguar Chocolate Spread from Allo Simonne. Get yours while supplies last!



Available at cafebirdfriendly.org