

# The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

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Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

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## Covey Hill Nature Reserve

### Another sanctuary helped by BPQ

Article by Richard Gregson

Once upon a time, not so long ago, BPQ would organize at least one field trip a year to look at the birds on Covey Hill ... but that was back in the days when 30 birders would turn up at a sanctuary almost a couple of hours' drive distant. A good few readers of this article will perhaps not even know that the sanctuary exists. So, a recent visit there gives a good incentive to shine a fresh light on what is really a rather unique and wonderful place.

Covey Hill is found in southern Quebec hard up against the US border in the township of Havelock just to the west of Hemmingford. It lies at the northern end of the Adirondack Mountains where they terminate just inside the Canadian border. It is an elevated area of extensive peat bogs, pine forests and natural springs which provide important, rare and diminishing habitat for several species of endangered salamanders together with a number of other imperilled plant and animal species.

Today, extensive areas of this land within Quebec are owned by Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC). They acquired the property in two lots. The first purchase occurred in 1993, aided by a contribution of \$55,000 from Bird Protection Quebec. Following this, NCC leased the land to BPQ for a period of forty years – albeit, management of the land is undertaken by NCC specialists. In 2000, a second parcel of land was acquired by NCC. Again, there was a significant financial contribution from BPQ that amounted to 40% of the purchase price.

At the beginning of November, accompanied by two other



*Typical Covey Hill forest on edge of marshland (Photo by NCC)*

members of the BPQ board, I visited Covey Hill along with some twenty or so other major partners of NCC and local landowners for a guided tour of the site in the company of several NCC scientists who were eager to explain their knowledge of the land and its species. The day was cold and there was continuous rain so ending the tour at a local vineyard for a light meal and wine tasting was very welcome. The fact that Covey Hill is so unexpectedly splendid in all its aspects would have made the visit worthwhile regardless.

Although our interest is primarily focussed on birds, we can never forget that, in order to have a healthy bird population, it is essential to have a healthy environment for myriad plants, insects, amphibians and mammals too. Putting up feeders and making sure there are nesting cavities in trees is insufficient. As responsible stewards of the land, we also have to look after the plants and insects so that “our” birds have food and shelter. This is something that Covey Hill most certainly



*Location of NCC nature reserve land at Covey Hill  
(Photo provided by Nature Conservancy Canada)*

provides. To quote from some NCC literature: Covey Hill shelters habitat for rare Appalachian salamanders that reach their northern limit of distribution here, including the Allegheny mountain dusky salamander, a nationally threatened species, and the four-toed salamander, designated as provincially imperilled. These species share the area with plant species, such as the provincially rare twin-scaped bladderwort, bird species such as Wild Turkey and Cooper's Hawk, and mammals, such as bobcat and black bear. We were told how the rocky basin holds what is perhaps the largest sphagnum peat bog in the country with an unusual flora and fauna – similar areas elsewhere have been impinged upon or even drained by developments on adjacent land, something which is unlikely to happen at Covey Hill because of the presence of the NCC and the support of neighbouring farmers and other landowners.

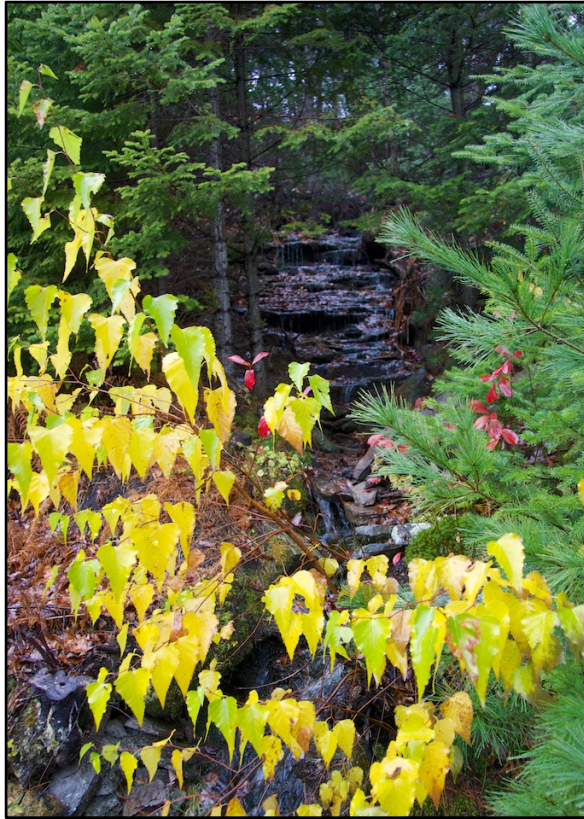


*Lake at western end of the gorge  
(Photo Richard Gregson)*

The main feature of the site, apart from the extensive peat bog and the rich forest, is a deep gorge that runs parallel to the border, sometimes on the US side and sometimes in Quebec. Sheltered areas in the gorge help to add to the species rich nature of this unique place.

Earlier, I referred to field trips made there by BPQ in previous years. Some interesting reports from visits in the past decade include the following notes relating to the Covey Hill birds:

In 2003, it was reported that the weather was gorgeous, but the bugs were appalling – much Deet was in evidence. 50 species were listed, including: Common Loon, Great Blue Heron (several – kettling way up in the sky), Turkey Vulture (many – also kettling, but less surprisingly), Wood Duck, Common Merganser, Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruby-



*Covey Hill stream - characteristic salamander habitat (Photo RG)*

throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, four Woodpecker species (Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker), three Flycatcher species (Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested), Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireo, Tree and Barn Swallow, Red- and White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren (seen and heard), Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, ten Warbler species (Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian,

Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Ovenbird (seen and heard), Northern Waterthrush (heard but not seen), five Sparrow species (Chipping, Song, Swamp, White-throated, Dark-eyed Junco), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and Purple Finch.

In 2008, we read again that there was beautiful weather. 19 birders showed up and observed 56 species, mostly heard as there were not as many good views as normal, even of fairly common species (e.g. Black-throated Blue Warbler). The Birds of the day were Immature Bald Eagle soaring over the marsh;

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were heard and then seen by one observer on his way out, a bit earlier than the rest of the group.

Slightly more recently, a BPQ stalwart commented that “Three of us went to Covey Hill gorge for the first time on the weekend and were much impressed – the birds were as loud at noon as they are in the early morning in other places. The flowers were great too – I’ve never seen so many painted trilliums in one place in my life! Unfortunately, the blackflies were also in fine form but they could have been worse.”

On our early November visit in the cold and the rain? Well, we saw American Crow, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, of course, Black-capped Chickadee, a Ruffed Grouse, and a few hawks. Frankly, the birds seemed to have more sense than we did and stayed tucked up in shelter.

And so, this is the story of another important piece of habitat that BPQ has been able to play a part in preserving. As readers



*Lichen on forest floor (Photo RG)*

know, we own several sanctuaries outright but perhaps our best means of habitat conservation in places where birds will benefit comes from our close links to other charities and non-profit organizations of which Nature Conservancy Canada is perhaps the most important and most effective. Over the years we have worked with them to preserve large and small areas throughout Quebec of which Covey Hill and, a couple of years ago, The Alfred Kelly Nature Reserve at Prévost/ Piedmont are of especial importance.

Are you enthused enough to want to visit Covey Hill yourself? Unfortunately, there is no direct access to the protected land from the road that parallels the border and it is necessary to make arrangements with local farmers to cross their property in order to go birding at Covey Hill so just turning up with your binoculars is not the best way to arrange things. If there is enough interest among members we might be able to arrange another field trip during 2014. Would you be interested? Please contact us if you are.



*The peat bog habitat at Covey Hill (Photo RG)*

## Join our Christmas Bird Counts–BPQ's Most Popular Events



The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is one of the longest-running citizen science programs in North America. It was started, in 1900, by Frank Chapman of the Audubon Society. At the time, another tradition, a contest, was taking place every year: the Christmas Side Hunt. The “winner” was the hunter who had killed the greatest number of birds and mammals, of any species, whether rare or common. Mr. Chapman proposed the idea of counting the birds, rather than killing them.

**Bird Protection Quebec** runs two CBCs each year. December 21, 2013 marks the 78th Montreal CBC while December 28 marks the 73rd Hudson CBC. Each CBC is carried out within a 24-kilometre circle that was drawn up when the count began and must remain the same each year. This is a long-term citizen science project and we do our best to provide accurate data. Each and every bird within the circle is counted. This includes every starling, every pigeon, and every crow, as well as the owls and other less common species. The CBCs

complement the various breeding bird surveys that take place in spring and early summer, providing useful data about the population tendencies of winter birds.

**Get Involved:** You don't need to be an expert birder in order to join in on the fun or make a valuable contribution. You will be part of a team and every pair of eyes and ears is helpful.

**How:** You can contribute to the count as a field participant, a FeederWatcher, or by filling your birdfeeders for count day.

Montreal Count: Sheldon Harvey and Barbara Szabo, coordinators of this year's count, may be contacted by telephone at 514-637-2141 or by e-mail at [christmasbirdcount@yahoo.com](mailto:christmasbirdcount@yahoo.com).

Hudson Count: Jean Demers, coordinator of this year's count, may be contacted by telephone 514 694-8420 or by e-mail at: [cbchudson2@gmail.com](mailto:cbchudson2@gmail.com)

### Field Participant

As a field participant, you will be assigned to one of several existing teams responsible for covering a designated territory within the count circle. An experienced birder leads each team and is responsible for ensuring that detailed records are kept of all species seen and counted throughout the day.

Previously, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) funded its count coordination and data analysis via a mandatory participation fee. As in 2012, BSC is waiving this fee and hopes to fund these activities through donations. With this in mind, we are setting up a donation box at the after-count socials. We hope you will continue sustaining this critically important program.

### FeederWatcher

If you maintain bird feeders at home and live within one of our count circles, you are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count by recording species seen at your feeders on the day of the count. Instructions on how to participate can be found by clicking on the following links:

- [Feeder-Watcher instructions](#)
- [Feeder-watch checklist](#)

There is no charge for being a FeederWatcher participant. However, you are asked to contact one of the Christmas Bird Count coordinators in order to register your name and location.

### Stocking Your Feeders

In the event that you do have well-stocked feeders but cannot participate on the day of the count, we invite you to give us a call so that we may ask the team responsible for your sector to swing by and take a look to record whatever species may show up.

### Where

Christmas Bird Counts are held within mandated 24-km wide circles. The Montreal circle is centered at the intersection of Sherbrooke Street West and Westminster Avenue in Montreal West. The following link provides a detailed map of the Montreal circle: [Map of the Montreal circle](#).

### After-Count Social and Compilation of Results

Montreal: Saturday, December 21

All Christmas Bird Count participants are invited to attend an after-count social at the Montreal West Curling Club (17 Ainslie Avenue in Montreal West) where the day's results will be compiled. Food will be provided free of charge and a cash bar will be available. Doors open at 4 p.m. with the compilation beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m. Come share your stories with us!

the instructions on how to proceed and a tally sheet you can complete either by hand or on your computer.

### Additional BPQ Christmas Count Information

The following links provide additional information on the Christmas counts:

- [Map of the Montreal Christmas Bird Count circle](#)
- [Official 2011 bird species checklist](#)

### Background Information

Historical results from the North American Christmas Bird Counts provide important long-term baseline data on the population dynamics of many early winter species across the continent. You can view these results by visiting the Audubon Christmas Bird Count website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr>

Local historical bird population trends are also evident in the [Historical Species list 1931-2010](#). There you will find a listing of all species seen on Montreal CBCs since its inception. This table provides information on the first year each species was recorded, the number of years recorded, the record high count, and identifies the record year or years.

You can find more historical data on our counts by examining the following table [Level of participation & species totals 1931-2009](#) which lists the number of participants for each year, the total number of participant hours and the total number of species recorded each year since 1931.

## Trinidad and Tobago, BPQ revisited

by Christine C Lengvari

Trinidad and Tobago is a two-island nation located in the southern Caribbean, just off the east coast of Venezuela. It is a tropical paradise, with a rich biodiversity, ideal for birding, with both endemic and migratory birds. Trinidad broke off from the South American coastline: with a little imagination you can see where it might belong. The hills of the northern ranges of Trinidad are the beginning of the Andes mountain range. The weather is hot and humid.



*Scarlet Ibis returning to roost (photo by author)*

I arrived with a small group of other Canadians in the early hours of a March morning. We were greeted by our local guide, Dave Ramlal, and whisked off to the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWNC), a former cocoa / coffee / citrus plantation for a much

needed breakfast and rest. AWNC would be our home for the coming week. It is a world-renowned bird sanctuary and is famous for its verandah overlooking the bird-feeding stations where armchair travellers can view a wide variety of birds: tanagers, toucans, trogons, Orange-winged Parrot, Purple and Green Honeycreepers and a large variety of hummingbirds, including the fabulous Tufted Coquette. The estate is famous for the leks of the White-bearded and Golden-headed Manikin, the Bearded Bellbird and the Nocturnal Oilbird. The grounds are thick with lush vegetation and an abundance of tropical flowers. I was especially fond of the natural rocky pool and the thundering small waterfall that was ideal for a massage.

We were fortunate to have three remarkable guides to accompany us. Joining us from Ottawa was Tony Beck, a freelance naturalist and outstanding photographer. He has travelled extensively and his photographs are widely published. Dave Ramlal is a field naturalist specializing in the flora and fauna of his native island. Dave was a guide for David Attenborough's documentary, *The Life of Birds*, and for the authors of the new field guide, *The Birds of Trinidad and Tobago*. Assisting Dave was his uncle Charran Rameass; guiding is a family business.

From AWNC, we made several day trips around the island: Aripo Savannah for the grassland birds: Blanchisseuse road to Braso Secco and Morne Lacroix for the forest birds; and Nariva Swamp, an area of wetlands, marshes and swamp forest for the Blue-headed Parrot. We stopped at Manzanilla Beach for



*Hawaiian ginger torch (photo by author)*

lunch, and a chance to swim and ride some waves. The last day was capped by an afternoon boat trip to the Caroni Marsh and its avian delights: cormorants, anhingas, and herons. The swamp contains several species of mangrove. In addition to a teeming bird life, we observed the golden tree boa and the silky anteaters. Sundowners were watching the spectacular flight of hundreds of Scarlet Ibis, Trinidad's national bird, come home to roost, truly a magnificent site.

The geology of Tobago is quite different. Our last three nights were spent at the Blue Waters Inn (BWI) which is located at the eastern end of the island and is directly on the beach. There was ample time for swimming and snorkelling, although we had to beware of the stinging sea lice larvae which arrived just as we did.

This smaller island, just a short flight north, has its own attractions. On the way to the hotel, we had several birding stops in a variety of habitats.

We had lunch and a forest walk in the Grafton Wildlife Sanctuary where we encountered the Rufous-vented Chachalaca, the national bird of Tobago. On the second day we visited Little Tobago, just a short boat ride away, where we were mesmerized by the Red-billed Tropicbirds and the Brown Boobies. The last day we headed to what may be the oldest protected rain forest: the Bloody Bay Rainforest Reserve where we embarked on the Gilpin Trace trail. We observed, among many others, the Rufous-tailed Jacamar and the White-tailed Sabrewing.

TT is a great birding destination and our guides were outstanding. We missed the opportunity to watch the leatherback turtles nesting: the season runs from March to

September. This would have been amazing. Most tours are housed at AWNC for the duration. Visitors should note that the Centre is for avid birders; the accommodation and food are not luxurious and the amenities are basic. The Internet connection is difficult at the best of times. There are other resorts that cater to birders with more comfortable accommodation and private tours are available with Dave Ramlal. BWI is a higher end resort. I have done some research on tours to TT and would be happy to share my observations for those contemplating a visit to the islands.

Christine Lengvari is a long-time BPQ member with a special interest in travel and sharing her experiences. If you would like to get in touch with Christine to find out more about travelling in Trinidad and Tobago, contact her at [clengvari@lengvarifinancial.com](mailto:clengvari@lengvarifinancial.com)



## New Directors

Bird Protection Quebec runs its affairs solely by the contributions of volunteers from amongst our members.

There are positions on the board of directors that will be open for election at the May 2014 annual general meeting and we invite all members to submit nominations of new Directors to join the BPQ Board.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations for the 2014–2016 term of office is April 7, 2014.

By joining the board you will help us to develop and implement our charitable work for birds and wildlife, manage our bird sanctuaries, work with the newsletter and website, organize field trips, develop our conservation and education initiatives and all the other fascinating and important things that BPQ is involved in.

If you are interested in furthering the work of BPQ, please get in touch ([birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com)) and ask about what is involved.

## Young Ornithologist's Workshop

The Education Committee of Bird Protection Quebec has money available to help any teen who is interested in attending this workshop at Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario, in August 2014. The program provides teens with a hands-on introduction to the study of ornithology, natural history and science. Applications are due by April 30.

For more information visit [www.birdscanada.org/lpbo](http://www.birdscanada.org/lpbo) and contact Barbara MacDuff at [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca)

## Un bronze pour appuyer l'Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec

Vous aimez les oiseaux et vous vous intéressez à l'art? Vous aimeriez appuyer le plus vaste projet ornithologique jamais entrepris au Québec? Les responsables de l'Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec vous invitent à vous procurer un majestueux bronze du sculpteur Louis St-Cyr, un artiste dont les œuvres se retrouvent dans plusieurs collections privées de par le monde. Intitulé « En péril », ce bronze mesure près de deux mètres de long et représente – grandeur nature – un Faucon pèlerin poursuivant trois Pluviers siffleurs.

En vous procurant l'œuvre, vous apporterez une contribution significative au projet d'Atlas et à la conservation des oiseaux du Québec. Louis St-Cyr ayant généreusement renoncé à son cachet d'artiste sur 10 sculptures, tous les profits de la vente des bronzes serviront à financer la campagne de terrain de l'Atlas et la publication de l'ouvrage.

Les responsables de l'Atlas assumeront les coûts du coulage et du patinage des œuvres, qui seront réalisés à la Fonderie d'Art d'Inverness sous la supervision de l'artiste. Signé et numéroté, chaque bronze sera accompagné d'un certificat d'authenticité et d'expertise.

Un premier bronze (E.A. I/IV) a été coulé et patiné en 2012, et sa

valeur estimative a été évaluée à 29 500 \$ par Marie Fortier, directrice de la Galerie d'art du Château Frontenac. Toutefois, le contexte d'une vente à des fins non lucratives et la générosité de l'artiste permettent aux responsables de l'Atlas d'offrir le bronze « En péril » pour la somme de 15 000 \$. De plus, l'acquisition du bronze afin de l'exposer dans son lieu d'affaires permet de bénéficier d'une déduction fiscale sous forme d'amortissement, tant au provincial qu'au fédéral. Pour toute information supplémentaire, ou pour faire l'acquisition d'un bronze, veuillez contacter les bureaux de l'Atlas par courriel ([info@atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca](mailto:info@atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca)) ou par téléphone (1 877 785-2772).

## A Sculpture to Help Finance the Québec Breeding Bird Atlas

If you appreciate birds and art, and would like to help support the largest ornithological project ever undertaken in Québec,

the partners overseeing the Québec Breeding Bird Atlas invite you to consider acquiring a majestic sculpture by Louis St-Cyr, whose works can be found in private collections around the world.

Louis St-Cyr has kindly renounced his fees for 10 copies of an almost two-metre long, life-



'En péril' (artist's proof I/IV) / En péril (première épreuve d'artiste)  
Peregrine Falcon and Piping Plovers / Faucon pèlerin et Pluviers siffleurs  
62 x 26 x 22 inches / 157 x 66 x 56 cm - Bronze

size, stylized bronze entitled 'En péril' (At risk), depicting a Peregrine Falcon chasing three Piping Plovers. The Atlas project will assume the cost of the casting and patination of the bronzes, which will be done, under the artist's supervision, by the Art Foundry of Inverness. Each bronze will be signed and numbered, and will be issued with a certificate of authenticity.

As all the profits will go towards financing the final (2014) field season, and to the publication of the Atlas, your purchase would make an important contribution to the Atlas project and to bird conservation.

The first artist's proof was produced in 2012, and was valued at \$29,500 by Marie Fortier, the director of the Galerie d'art du Chateau Frontenac. However, given the generosity of the artist and the non-profit-making context, the Atlas partners are offering copies of 'En péril' at \$15,000 each. Furthermore, anyone considering purchasing one of the bronzes to display in a place of work would be eligible for a provincial and federal tax deduction. For additional information, or to enquire about purchasing one of the bronzes, please contact the Atlas Office at [info@atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca](mailto:info@atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca) or 1-877-785-2772.



### **New Item for Sale**

A new item, a handy compact and lightweight "Bottle Sling", stamped with the BPQ logo, will be available for purchase at the Membership Services table at monthly meetings, or through the online "shop" on the BPQ Website. It will be available in a choice of two different colours (dark green and black, or maroon and black). The Bottle Sling is made of 97% recycled content, and is designed to hold most sizes of bottles. It also has a large pocket for an iPod, phone or wallet, a small pocket for lip balm or a flash drive and a skinny pocket for a pen (N.B. bottle not included!). \$12, or buy two for \$22.

### **Nouvel item à vendre**

Ce nouveau porte-bouteille compact et léger, avec le logo de POQ, sera disponible à l'achat à la table des services aux membres lors des réunions mensuelles, ou par le biais de notre « boutique » en ligne sur le site de POQ. Il sera disponible dans un choix de deux couleurs (vert foncé et noir ou marron et noir). Le porte-bouteille est fait à 97 % de matières recyclées et il est conçu pour contenir la plupart des formats de bouteille. Il possède également une grande poche pour un iPod, un téléphone ou un portefeuille, une pochette pour baume à lèvres ou une clé USB et une pochette pour un stylo (bouteille non incluse!). 12 \$ l'unité ou deux pour 22 \$.

# Bird Views

# Parlons d'oiseaux

by/par: Pierre Bannon

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

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

## Août-mi-novembre 2013

**Bernache nonnette** : des oiseaux à Chambord 14-15 sept (J. Rousseau, D. Lavoie), et à Amqui 26 oct (G. Tremblay). **Cygne trompette** : un à Moffet 21-22 sept (A. & J. Barrette), un groupe familial de 5 (2 ad, 3 juv) à Val d'Or 15-18 oct (F, S. & C. Dubois). Finalement, un ad a séjourné longtemps à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 27 oct-11 nov (R. & G. Boulet). Cet oiseau a été vu et photographié par plusieurs. **Plongeon du Pacifique** : un ad en mue vu à Pointe-au-Père 13 oct (L. Messely, J. Goulet). **Pélican d'Amérique** : des oiseaux à Rouyn 1er août (JS. Naud), et à Saint-Thomas-Didyme 29 Aug (C. Pelletier). Un groupe d'une trentaine a été signalé à Baie Cabbage Willows 13-14 août (T. Cheskey et al.). Cette espèce a récemment étendu son aire de nidification vers l'est.

**Urubu noir** : un photographié à la Tabatière 10 nov (R. Jones), une mention très nordique. **Milan à queue fourchue** : un oiseau bien décrit à Sainte-Foy 19 août (S. Lemieux). **Buse de Swainson** : un juv de coloration intermédiaire/sombre a été photographié à Portneuf-sur-mer 6 oct (S. Émond). Le 22 oct, S. Denault a aussi photographié un oiseau, possiblement le même individu, se nourrissant sur la pelouse à l'observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac. Cet oiseau semble avoir traversé le Saguenay

et s'est retrouvé à Baie Ste-Catherine 23 oct (G. Cyr, JP. Ouellet). Finalement, S. Denault a revu cet oiseau à Tadoussac 25 oct. **Buse à queue rousse** : des oiseaux de coloration sombre furent détectés à Tadoussac les 24 sept (S. Denault), et 8 oct (S. Denault, JM. Lagueux-Tremblay) respectivement. Ces formes rares sont probablement issues de la population abieticola du Nord plutôt que de la population calurus de l'Ouest.

**Grue du Canada** : une troupe de 700 à Albanel 27 sept (C. Bellemare) et une autre de 50 volant au-dessus de Rigaud 3 nov (L. Lafleur, *vide* M. Dennis). Par ailleurs, un hybride présumé Grue du Canada X Grue cendrée a été photographié à Nédélec 5-7 oct (C. Siano. R. Ladurantaye). **Avocette d'Amérique** : une photographiée à Bic 22 oct (L. Jolicoeur, CA. Gagnon). **Bécasseau à queue pointue** : un juv. s'est avéré une belle trouvaille à Baie-du-Febvre 24-29 sept (B. Goulet, L. & RM. Cournoyer, pl. ob., ph.). **Bécassin à long bec** : des oiseaux seuls à Baie-du-Febvre 26 sept (M. Bertrand et al.) et à Cap Tourmente 5 oct (P. Lane et G. Cyr), le plus bas total depuis des années.

**Mouette de Bonaparte** : 6713 à Tadoussac 7 sept, un décompte élevé (S. Denault). **Mouette pygmée** : régulière en petit nombre sur la Côte Nord; aussi des juv signalés à Sainte-Catherine, Tadoussac et Baie-Comeau. **Mouette rosée** : un ad a

causé une belle surprise à Chambly 9–20 nov (D. Ouellette, M. Bertrand, F. Grenon, L. den Besten). Il existe une dizaine de mentions fiables pour le Québec et 2 mentions antérieures pour Chambly. **Guillemot à miroir** : un à Chambly 9 nov (D. Ouellette et al.). **COUCOU GRIS** : cet oiseau extraordinaire a été photographié à Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon 29–30 sept (J. Roger). Il s'agissait de la 1<sup>ère</sup> mention pour le Canada et de la 3<sup>ème</sup> pour l'Amérique du Nord, excluant l'Alaska. **Pic à tête rouge** : un ad à Grand-Mère 17 oct (GB. Couture). **Tyran de l'Ouest** : un à Bergeronnes 26–30 oct (J. Bernier). **Tyran gris** : un à Tadoussac 16 oct (ph., S. Denault) et retrouvé à Baie-Sainte-Catherine 23–25 oct (G. Cyr, JP. Ouellet), une 3<sup>ème</sup> mention au Québec. **Tyran des savanes** : un vu à Lac Mont-Louis (Gaspésie) 20 oct, et retrouvé mort 24 oct (C. Gaudreau, *vide* R. Faubert).

**Troglodyte de Caroline** : un à d'Alembert, Abitibi 26 oct (J. Gagnon). **Troglodyte des rochers** : un oiseau bien décrit à Cloridorme (Gaspésie) 23 oct, une première pour le Québec; l'oiseau n'a toutefois pas été photographié ni revu (A. Caughlan). **Gobemoucheon gris-bleu** : 5 oiseaux signalés, dont 4 d'entre eux sur la Côte Nord. **Traquet motteux** : 6 ou 7 individus signalés, tout comme à l'automne 2012. **Solitaire de Townsend** : un à Ruisseau Ferguson (Gaspésie) 13 oct (CP. Gauthier, P. & L. Fradette, J. Larivée).

**Paruline à joues grises** : une à Cap-Chat 31 oct, apparemment un individu de la ssp *rigwayi* de l'ouest (L. Paradis). **Paruline à tête jaune** : un oiseau en plumage de 1<sup>er</sup> automne à l'observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac vu et photographié par S. Denault avant d'être capturé et bagué 29 oct, une première mention pour le Québec. **Paruline à gorge jaune** : une à Cap-Chat 27 oct–8 nov (L. Paradis). **Paruline à capuchon** : une femelle à Cap Tourmente 13 sept (F. & R. Dion). **Bruant à joues marron** : un à Fatima (IDLM) 7 nov (L. Hardy, André Couture). **Bruant à face noire** : un à Macamic 4 oct (R. Plante). **Cardinal à tête noire** : un mâle imm. découvert à Tadoussac 8–16 nov (ph., S. Denault). **Dickcissel d'Amérique** : 7 oiseaux signalés, tous dans l'est du Québec excepté un. **Sturnelle de l'Ouest** : une à Baie-Sainte-

Catherine 23–30 oct (G. Cyr, JP. Ouellet).

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

## August to mid-November 2013

**Barnacle Goose**: singles at Chambord 14–15 Sept (J. Rousseau, D. Lavoie), and at Amqui 26 Oct (G. Tremblay). **Trumpeter Swan**: one at Moffet 21–22 Sept (A. & J. Barrette), a family group of 5 (2 ad, 3 juv) at Val d'Or 15–18 Oct (F, S. & C. Dubois). Finally, an ad made a long stop at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 27 Oct– 11 Nov (R. & G. Boulet). This bird was seen and photographed by many observers of S. Québec. **Pacific Loon**: a moulting ad was seen at Pointe-au-Père 13 Oct (L. Messely, J. Goulet). **American White Pelican**: singles at Rouyn 1 Aug (JS. Naud), and at Saint-Thomas-Didyme 29 Aug (C. Pelletier). A group of at least 30 birds was reported at Cabbage Willows Bay 13–14 Aug (T. Cheskey et al.). This species breeding range has been expanding east in recent years.

**Black Vulture**: a bird photographed at La Tabatière 10 Nov, one of the most northern records (R. Jones). **Swallow-tailed Kite**: one was convincingly described at Sainte-Foy 19 Aug (S. Lemieux). **Swainson's Hawk**: a juv intermediate/dark morph was photographed at Portneuf-sur-mer 6 Oct (S. Émond). On 22 Oct, S. Denault also photographed a bird feeding on the lawn at the Tadoussac Bird Observatory that was possibly the same individual. The same bird seemed to have crossed the Saguenay River and was seen at Baie-Sainte-Catherine 23 Oct (G. Cyr, JP. Ouellet). Finally, S. Denault saw it again at Tadoussac 25 Oct. **Red-tailed Hawk**: single dark-morphs were picked up at Tadoussac 24 Sept (S. Denault), and 8 Oct (S. Denault, JM. Lagueux-Tremblay) respectively. These rare morphs are probably issued from the northern abieticola population instead of the western *calurus* population.

**Sandhill Crane:** a flock of 700 was at Albanel 27 Sept (C. Bellemare) while a flock of 50 flew over Rigaud 3 Nov (L. Lafleur, *vide* M. Dennis). Moreover, an apparent Sandhill Crane X Common Crane hybrid was photographed at Nédélec 5–7 Oct (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye). **American Avocet:** one photographed at Bic 22 Oct (L. Jolicoeur, CA. Gagnon). **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** a juv was a nice find at Baie-du-Febvre 24–29 Sept (B. Goulet, L. & RM. Cournoyer, m. ob., ph.). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** singles at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Sep (M. Bertrand et al.) and at Cap Tourmente 5 Oct (P. Lane, G. Cyr), the lowest number in many years.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 6713 at Tadoussac 7 Sept, a high count (S. Denault). **Little Gull:** regular in small number on the North Shore; also single juv were reported at Sainte-Catherine, Tadoussac and Baie-Comeau. **Ross's Gull:** an ad caused a surprise at Chambly 9–20 Nov (D. Ouellette, M. Bertrand, F. Grenon, L. den Besten). There are about 10 reliable records for Québec and this bird provided the 3rd record for Chambly. **Black Guillemot:** one at Chambly 9 Nov (D. Ouellette et al.). **COMMON CUCKOO:** this most extraordinary bird was photographed at Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon 29–30 Sept (J. Roger). This represented the first record for Canada and the 3rd record for North America outside Alaska. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** an ad at Grand-Mère 17 Oct (GB. Couture). **Western Kingbird:** one at Bergeronnes 26–30 Oct (J. Bernier). **Gray Kingbird:** one at Tadoussac 16 Oct (ph., S. Denault) moved to nearby Baie-Sainte-Catherine 23–25 Oct (G. Cyr, JP. Ouellet), a third record for the province. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** one seen at Lac Mont-Louis (Gaspésie) 20 Oct was found dead 24 Oct (C. Gaudreau, *vide* R. Faubert).

**Carolina Wren:** one at d'Alembert, Abitibi 26 Oct (J. Gagnon). **Rock Wren:** one well described at Cloridorme (Gaspésie) 23 Oct, a first sighting for the province; unfortunately the bird was not photographed and not seen again (A. Caughlan). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 5 birds reported, 4 of them on the North Shore. **Northern Wheatear:** 6 or 7 indiv were reported, about the same number as in fall 2012. **Townsend's Solitaire:** one at

Ruisseau Ferguson (Gaspésie) 13 Oct (CP. Gauthier, P. & L. Fradette, J. Larivée).

**Nashville Warbler:** one at Cap-Chat 31 Oct was apparently an indiv of the western subspecies *Ridgwayi* (L. Paradis). **Hermit Warbler:** a first-year bird at the Tadoussac Bird Observatory was seen and photographed by S. Denault before being trapped and banded 29 Oct, a first record for the province. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Cap-Chat 27 Oct–8 Nov (L. Paradis). **Hooded Warbler:** a female at Cap Tourmente 13 Sept (F. & R. Dion). **Lark Sparrow:** one at Fatima (Magdalen Is.) 7 Nov (L. Hardy, André Couture). **Harris's Sparrow:** one at Macamic 4 Oct (R. Plante). **Black-headed Grosbeak:** an imm. male was discovered at Tadoussac 8–16 Nov (ph., S. Denault). **Dickcissel:** 7 birds reported, all but one in eastern Québec. **Western Meadowlark:** one at Baie-Sainte-Catherine 23–30 Oct (G. Cyr, JP. Ouellet).

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, Qc H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 after 7:00 p.m. or by e-mail at [pbannon@videotron.ca](mailto:pbannon@videotron.ca)

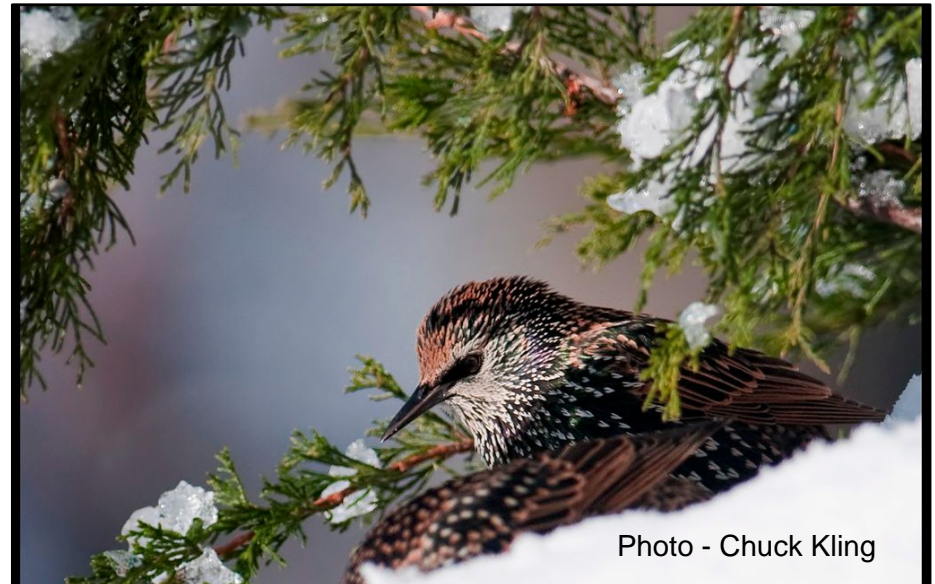


Photo - Chuck Kling

## **2014 Parking Permit for Montreal Nature Parks**

If you go birding in Montreal's network of nature parks, you probably know that the daily parking rate is currently \$9. An annual parking permit allows unlimited parking in any of the following parks: L'Anse-à-l'Orme, Cap-Saint-Jacques, Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard, Bois-de-Liesse, Île-de-la-Visitation, and Pointe-aux-Prairies. For residents of the Montreal agglomeration, the price is \$55 for the first vehicle, \$45 for each additional vehicle registered at the same address. For non-residents the price is now \$75.

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

## **2014 Permis de stationnement pour les parcs Nature de Montréal**

Si vous allez observer les oiseaux dans le réseau des parcs-nature de Montréal, vous savez probablement que le taux journalier de stationnement est actuellement de 9 \$. Un permis de stationnement annuel permet le stationnement illimité dans tous les parcs suivants : L'Anse-à-l'Orme, Cap-Saint-Jacques, Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard, Bois-de-Liesse, Île-de-la-Visitation et Pointe-aux-Prairies. Pour les résidents de l'agglomération de Montréal, le prix est de 55 \$ pour le premier véhicule, et de 45 \$ pour chaque véhicule supplémentaire enregistré à la même adresse. Pour les non-résidents, le prix est maintenant de 75 \$.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Philippe Murphy, Préposé à la perception des Revenus, Ville de Montréal, Direction des grands parcs et du verdissement, Division de la gestion de l'entretien et des opérations des Parcs. 801, rue Brennan - Pavillon Duke, 4e étage, bureau 4146, Montréal, QC, H3C 0G4. Pour payer par carte de crédit (Visa, MasterCard ou American Express), téléphonez-lui au : 514-280-6766.

## **BPQ Winter Bird Course**

The Membership Services Committee announces that it will not be offering a Winter Bird Course in 2014. However, it intends to send out a survey asking members to suggest subjects that might interest them for a bird course in 2015 or following years. It will be looking for volunteers (including those who have so generously given their time and expertise in the past), who would be willing to talk on a subject of their choice relating to learning more about birds - identification, behaviour, habitat, etc., and will also seek suggestions from members for suitable speakers/presenters who might be approached.

## **Cours ornithologiques hivernaux**

Le comité des services aux membres annonce que les cours ornithologiques hivernaux ne seront pas offerts en 2014. Cependant, le comité a l'intention d'envoyer un sondage demandant aux membres de suggérer des sujets qui pourraient les intéresser pour la saison 2015 et les années suivantes. Le comité est à la recherche de bénévoles (y compris parmi celles et ceux qui ont si généreusement contribué leur temps et leur expertise dans le passé) qui seraient prêts à donner une présentation sur un sujet de leur choix relatif aux oiseaux, à leur identification, leur comportement, leurs habitats, etc. Le comité cherche également des suggestions de la part des membres pour des présentateurs ou des thèmes qui pourraient être abordés.

## Forthcoming Lectures from BPQ

### The Origin of Birds

presented by Hans Larsson

Monday, January 6 2014

7:30 p.m. at Knox Crescent, Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG



The origin of birds over 150 million years ago is nested within the carnivorous dinosaurs. Hans Larsen's talk will explore some of the research in his laboratory that covers the ecological origins of birds:

- What musculoskeletal adaptations make birds what they are today?
- What developmental mechanisms may have been at play millions of years ago?
- Are especially fast rates of evolution associated with the incredible diversification of birds to the nearly 10,000 species we have alive today?

Hans Larsson is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair at McGill University. His background is vertebrate palaeontology and experimental embryology where he seeks to understand the interface between ecology, evolution, and developmental biology using the fish to tetrapod and dinosaur to bird transitions.

### Let's Ask the Squirrels What They Really Think of Their Habitat

by Stéphanie Tessier

Monday, February 3, 2014

7:30 p.m. at Knox Crescent, Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG

The optimal foraging theory assumes that an animal makes decisions to maximize its food intake based on the expected gains and costs of foraging within a food patch. I use the giving-up density (GUD), the amount of food left in a patch when the animal decides to leave, as an indicator of the animal's habitat preferences and its foraging efficiency in a given habitat. To do this, we create artificial food patches by placing



feeders filled with sand and sunflower seeds in the animal's natural environment. The idea behind the GUD method is that when an animal eats in a given food patch, it becomes increasingly difficult to find the food resource and there's a turning point when it becomes beneficial to leave the patch and go forage somewhere else. The quantity of seeds left behind varies depending on foraging costs such as perceived predation risk, energy costs or missed opportunity costs. Using a patch enrichment method, I am able to tease apart these costs and identify the main reason why an animal would evaluate its habitat as high or low quality. Interestingly, many birds visited our squirrel feeders at the Morgan Arboretum and it may be possible to test some of my hypotheses with the Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*). This method has the potential to be applied to many other species, including species at risk, in order to protect the habitats they evaluate as high quality.

### Overview of Studies Using Bird Giving-Up Densities (GUD)

The giving-up density (GUD) method has been used on a variety of animals including birds. Following is one example:

#### Inter-taxon competition

Birds, given their ability to move about more freely, can respond to habitat patterns of seed availability at larger scales than small mammals. Therefore, evaluating competition between small mammals and birds is not simple (Wiens 1989). However, when we use GUDs, we are able to evaluate which species can forage more extensively in a given habitat. A lower GUD is an indication of the ability of a forager to harvest food at a lower abundance. For instance, gerbils in the Negev desert are more efficient foragers (had lower GUDs) than the Crested Larks, *Galerida cristata* (Brown et al. 1997). On the other hand, the birds in a study conducted in northern Chile showed opposite tendencies. The birds were able to remove more seeds than the small mammals in all habitats studied

(Kelt et al. 2004). This suggests that there is regional variation in foraging tactics for birds and small mammals.

Stéphanie Tessier is a behavioural ecologist who is interested in foraging behaviour and how this behaviour can be quantified to address diverse questions. She completed a BSc degree at the University of Ottawa and is currently finishing her MSc degree at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM) under the supervision of Dr. William Vickery. Her research focuses primarily on field tests of models and hypotheses based on the optimal foraging theory. She is currently using optimal foraging models to evaluate habitat selection as a potential coexistence mechanism for three sciurid species: the red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), and the eastern chipmunk (*Tamia striatus*).



# Weekend Field Trips

Most weekends during the year, BPQ organises guided field trips to places where good birds are to be seen.

On the following pages you will find details of the trips coming up in the next few weeks. The trip leaders and more experienced participants will be happy to help new birders enjoy their time with us and to identify and see the birds around you.

It is not necessary to be a BPQ member to come on a field trip – though, of course, we hope that you will decide to join us later and support our important work for the birds.

Further details are always available in the Calendar section of our website and if there are any (very rare) last minute changes they will be posted there too .

## Trip Advice – De rigueur pour les excursions

Transportation: Contact the trip leader or the Songsparrow email group if you need or can offer a lift. Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather check with the leader. Clothing: Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear, even if the day seems mild and dry.

Transport : Téléphoner au responsable ou contacter le groupe Songsparrow pour faire du covoiturage. Annulations : En cas d'intempérie, vérifier la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable. Habillement : Vêtements chauds et bottes imperméables sont toujours de rigueur.

## Reports from recent field trips

**21/09/13 – Philipsburg, QC – Leader: Sandy Montgomery**

20–25°C, mostly sunny, very windy. 12 birders; 30 species

**Bird of the Day:** Bald Eagle

**Other Birds of Note:** Blue-winged Teal, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tufted Titmouse, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Scarlet Tanager

**28/09/13 – Parc national d’Oka, Oka, QC – Leader: Wayne Grubert**

Cloudless skies, temperatures climbing to 22°C. 15 birders; 46 species

**Bird of the Day:** Baird’s Sandpiper

**Other Birds of Note:** Great Egret, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler

**05/10/13 – Ile St-Bernard, Chateauguy, QC – Leader: Tom Long**

12 °C – 16 °C sunny and little wind. 13 birders; 35 species

**Bird of the Day:** Tufted Titmouse

**Other Birds of Note:** Wood Duck, Great Egret, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow

**12/10/13 – Morgan Arboretum & Cap-St-Jacques regions, QC – Leader: Richard Gregson**

Chilly start but sunny & warmer later. 16 birders; 32 species

**Bird of the Day:** Red-tailed Hawk

**Other Birds of Note:** Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco

**19/10/13 – Parc Nature, Ile-Bizard, QC – Leader: Felix Hilton**

Sunny, calm, coolish. 10 birders; 27 species

**Bird of the Day:** Young Great Blue Heron

**Other Birds of Note:** Merlin, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird

**26/10/13 – Parc de la Visitation, Montreal, QC – Leader: Sheldon Harvey**

Rainy, windy, mild. 6 birders: 25 species

**Bird of the Day:** Harlequin Duck

**Other Birds of Note:** Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Cooper's Hawk, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco

**02/11/13 – Beauharnois Region, QC – Leader: Wayne Grubert**

Misty with drizzle. Temperatures in the 6 – 8°C range.

**Birds of the Day:** Common Loon, White-winged & Black Scoters

**Other Birds of Note:** Snow Goose, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, American Bittern, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, American Tree Sparrow

**09/11/13 – Parc Pointe-aux-Prairies, Montreal, QC – Leaders: Jean Demers & Clémence Soulard**

Partly cloudy, cold, 3°C. 11 birders; 26 species

**Bird of the Day:** White-winged Scoter

**Other Birds of Note:** Black Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch

**16/11/13 – Cap-St-Jacques Nature Park, Pierrefonds, QC – Leader: Wayne Grubert**

Sunny, 10–12°C. 20 birders; 26 species

**Bird of the Day:** Brown Creeper (because there were 12)

**Other Birds of Note:** Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Cooper's Hawk

**23/11/13 – Parc Bois-de-Liesse, Montreal, QC – Leader:  
Joel Coutu**

Cloudy, windy and cold. 11 birders; 20 species

**Bird of the Day:** American Robin

**Other Birds of Note:** Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco

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## Forthcoming Field trips

**Saturday, January 18 – samedi 18 janvier**

**Montreal Botanical Garden – Jardin Botanique de Montréal**

Guide: **David Mulholland**

514-630-6082 – [davidjhmulholland@sypatico.ca](mailto:davidjhmulholland@sypatico.ca)

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

**8 h 00** Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin sur la rue Sherbrooke Est. Prévoir des frais de stationnement. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday 25 January – samedi 25 janvier**

**South Shore Surprise Trip**

Guide: **Sheldon Harvey**

450-462-1459 – [ve2shw@yahoo.com](mailto:ve2shw@yahoo.com)

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

conditions, bird activity and any special or rare bird sightings reported in the days leading up to the trip. Complete details of the field trip, including the destination, the start time, the meeting spot, and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ webpage and on the Songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

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

**Saturday, February 1 – samedi 1 février**

**Ste-Marthe, St-Clet, Ste-Justine**

Guide: **Wayne Grubert**

450-458-5498 – [wgrubert@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrubert@hotmail.com)

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

**8 h 00** Rassemblement au Hudson Inn, sortie 17 de l'autoroute 40. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, en direction

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

**Saturday, February 8 –samedi 8 février**

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

Guide: **Tom Long**

450-692-1590 – [ram\\_air455@yahoo.com](mailto:ram_air455@yahoo.com)

**8:00 a.m.:** Meet at rue Higgins in Châteauguay. The birds to look for, at Higgins, will be Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse. But you never know what will show up. One Christmas Bird Count, 22 species were counted there in just over an hour including a Carolina Wren and an Eastern Towhee. After checking out Higgins area, we will go to the Récré-O-Parc in Sainte-Catherine where it will be mostly winter ducks and whatever else we can find. There are no facilities at the Récré-O-Parc. **Half day.** From Montreal, take Hwy 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Hwy 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto Boul. St-Francis. Follow St. Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Blvd. Salaberry Nord. Turn right on to Salaberry Nord and continue till rue Higgins and turn right. There is a small parking area on the left next to the cell-phone tower.

**8 h 00** Rendez-vous sur la rue Higgins. Sur la rue Higgins à Châteauguay, les espèces recherchées sont le Pic à ventre roux et la Mésange bicolore. Mais nous ne pouvons prévoir qui sera au rendez-vous. Lors d'un décompte de Noël, 22 espèces ont été dénombrées en un peu plus d'une heure, comprenant un Troglodyte de Caroline ainsi qu'un Tohi à flancs roux. Après avoir

fait le tour de la rue Higgins, nous irons au Récré-O-Parc à Sainte-Catherine. Au Récré-O-Parc, nous rencontrerons presque exclusivement des canards d'hiver mais d'autres surprises peuvent se présenter. Le Récré-O-Parc n'offre ni installation sanitaire ni restauration. **Demi-journée.**

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

**Saturday 15 February – samedi 15 février**

**Southwest Quebec / Sud-ouest du Québec**

**Guides:**

Wayne Grubert

450-458-5498 – Cell 514-774-0811 (Morning of trip only / le matin de la sortie uniquement)

[wgrubert@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrubert@hotmail.com)

Sheldon Harvey – 450-462-1459 – [ve2shw@yahoo.com](mailto:ve2shw@yahoo.com)

**8:00 a.m.:** Meet in the IGA parking in Ormstown. From Montreal take the Mercier Bridge and then follow Highway 138 for approximately 43 km to Ormstown. Turn right on Bridge Street. The IGA shopping centre will be visible on your immediate left. An alternative route from the West Island is to take Highway 20 or 40 west past Vaudreuil-Dorion to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 and approximately 3 km past the toll plaza (\$1.50) take Highway 530 for 12 km to its end. Follow the signs for Highway 201 for 17 km south to its junction with Highway 138 in Ormstown. Follow the 138 east for 1.2 km to Bridge St. Turn left on Bridge and the IGA will be on your immediate left.

This will be an exploratory driving trip along some of the back roads of SW Quebec that BPQ rarely visits in winter. Carpooling is highly advised. **Half Day.**

**08 h 00:** Rendez-vous dans le stationnement de l'IGA à Ormstown. De Montréal, prendre le pont Mercier et suivez la route 138 pour environ 43 km jusqu'à Ormstown. Tournez à droite sur la rue Bridge. Le centre commercial IGA sera visible sur votre gauche. Une voie alternative depuis l'Ouest de l'île est de prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 ouest passé Vaudreuil-Dorion jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prendre l'autoroute 30 et à environ 3 km après le péage (1,50 \$), prendre l'autoroute 530 sur 12 km jusqu'à sa fin. Suivez les indications pour l'autoroute 201 pendant 17 km au sud jusqu'à sa jonction avec la route 138 à Ormstown. Suivez la 138 est pour 1,2 km jusqu'à la rue Bridge. Tourner à gauche sur le pont et l'IGA sera sur votre gauche.

Ce sera une sortie en voiture exploratoire le long de routes peu fréquentées du sud-ouest du Québec où POQ se rend rarement



en hiver. Le covoiturage est fortement conseillé. **Demi-journée**

## Joining BPQ

By becoming a member of BPQ you will become a part of the oldest conservation charity in Quebec and will help us to continue the important work for the birds that we have been involved in for almost a century. BPQ owns and manages bird sanctuaries throughout Quebec, organizes educational courses and activities and advocates for birds and the places birds live. We are also major sponsors of scientific research by means of financial grants, provision of volunteer workers and promotion of citizen science initiatives.

The simplest way to become a member is to visit our website at [www.birdprotectionquebec.org](http://www.birdprotectionquebec.org) and use the easy on-line membership application that you will find there – together with more information about what we do and why we do it..



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