

THE SONG SPARROW



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Bird Protection Quebec and the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Reintroduction Project

Lance Laviolette

Through its history, Bird Protection Quebec (BPQ) has been able to assist in the protection of a large amount of critical bird habitat and participate in many conservation efforts.

In 2004, BPQ received an ecological gift of land in the Breckenridge, Quebec area from Mr. Alan Aldred in accordance with the wishes of his late wife Diane. They had already transferred land to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) a few years earlier; this action completed their goal of preserving over 400 acres of ecologically sensitive and valuable land that comprised their property known as Ghost Hill Farm. Since that time, BPQ has jointly owned and managed the property with NCC.

Soon after officially receiving the gift, Bird Protection Quebec entered into a joint project with Le club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais (COO), NCC, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune Québec, the National Capital Commission and the Avian Science and Conservation Centre (ASCC) of McGill University. Together, representatives of these groups formed a recovery action group (RAG) with the intent to use Ghost Hill Farm as the location at which to re-establish Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.

The *L. l. migrans* subspecies of the Loggerhead Shrike is considered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) to be endangered in Canada and no evidence of breeding in Quebec had been reported for several years prior to the start of this initiative.

Ghost Hill Farm is comprised of riparian and actively farmed pasture lands liberally dotted with hawthorn trees. It



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is ideal habitat for shrikes and the joint ownership of the land by BPQ and NCC provided the perfect opportunity for establishing a reintroduction site.

To this end, two hacking cages (each about 140 cubic metres in size and covered with a double layer of wire screen) were built in the pastures of Ghost Hill Farm to allow young birds to be raised and released in as natural an environment as possible. The cages were large enough to encompass entire hawthorn trees and birds could develop their flying and hunting skills inside the cages without fear of predators that might pass through the area.

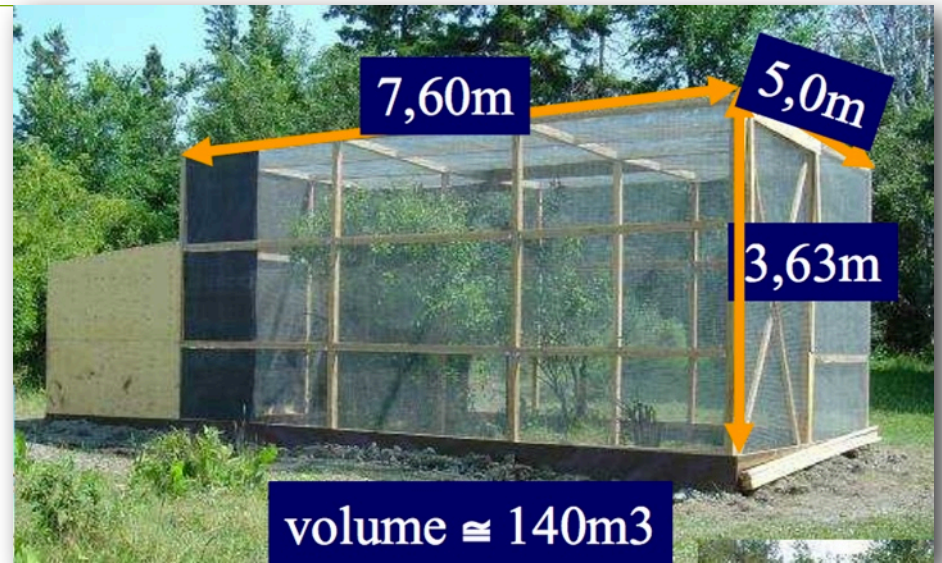
The COO, and particularly Gérard Desjardins, played a key role in constructing the cages and providing daily support for the birds over the entire duration of the project.

There were a number of goals established by the RAG for the project. First and foremost it was hoped that the introductions would lead to the return and successful breeding of Loggerhead Shrikes in the Ghost Hill Farm area. Eventually it was hoped a viable breeding population would be re-established in Quebec.

Regionally, the Ghost Hill Farm birds would augment the pool of possible breeders comprising birds from similar projects taking place at several



The boundary of the Ghost Hill Bird Sanctuary with one of our distinctive signs



*One of the Hacking cages used to hold the Loggerhead Shrikes prior to their release
(This and previous photo: courtesy of COO)*

locations in eastern Ontario and 'wild' birds nesting at existing Ontario breeding sites.

A second goal was to refine and improve the techniques used to raise and release captive shrikes at the release site. At the time the project started, raising and releasing shrikes 'in the field' in Canada was still in its infancy and it was hoped that lessons learned in this project would contribute to better introductions in the future.

Third, studies were to be carried out by McGill University graduate students to learn more about the behaviour of the shrikes after they were released. This included an evaluation of their ability to catch food in the fields around the release cages where there was an abundance of species they would naturally prey on; a determination of the time spent by the birds on various activities (e.g. perching, grooming, actively hunting); and the dispersal patterns of birds when they finally left the Ghost Hill Farm area.

Finally, it was hoped that additional information might be discovered as to why the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike had disappeared from Quebec and was declining drastically in Canada.

The techniques developed and refined at Ghost Hill Farm produced very healthy shrikes that, when released, were able to successfully hunt for

themselves and survive on site until they headed south on migration. These methods were shared with other researchers throughout the country.

Graduate research using radio telemetry and observations produced a great deal of useful information regarding the behaviour and movements of the Ghost Hill Farm shrikes.

While a definitive cause was not found for why Loggerhead Shrikes disappeared from Quebec, the successful survival of the released birds at Ghost Hill Farm may point to factors away from the breeding grounds, at least in western Quebec, as the cause.

From 2004 to 2009, 101 shrikes were released from the Ghost Hill Farm site. These birds came from the captive breeding population of McGill's ASCC. In 2009, a bird released at Ghost Hill Farm was found nesting at a well-known nesting site at Carden, Ontario, northeast of Toronto. In 2010, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes composed of a bird released at Carden and an apparent 'wild' individual successfully nested at Quyon, Quebec, about 25 km west of Ghost Hill Farm.

Sadly, the Quebec reintroduction effort ended on this successful note due to funding cuts to Environment Canada. Hopefully the 2010

successful nesting marks the start of an increased presence of breeding Loggerhead Shrikes in Quebec.

http://coo.ncf.ca/ProjetsSpeciaux/Piegrieche_photos2005.php
http://coo.ncf.ca/ProjetsSpeciaux/Piegrieche_photos2006.php
http://coo.ncf.ca/ProjetsSpeciaux/Piegrieche_photos2007.php
http://coo.ncf.ca/ProjetsSpeciaux/Piegrieche_photos2009.php

Lance Laviolette has been involved with conservation and birding organizations nationally and provincially for most of his life. He is a Director of BPQ, and is active on the Conservation, Sanctuaries, Property Acquisition and Grants Committees. Lance currently represents Nature Canada on the National Science Advisory Council of Bird Studies Canada, is co-chair of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Steering Committee and is the Records Editor for the Nova Scotia Bird Society's quarterly publication, Nova Scotia Birds. He is also a past Director of Nature Canada.

Lance studied biology and computer science at Acadia University. While at Acadia, he became involved with the bird banding station operated on the university's property on Brier Island, Nova Scotia and has been the master-permit holder at the Brier Island Bird Migration Research Station for over 30 years.

President's Message

After a few months in the role of President, I am coming to the realization that getting the right tone for my message in each edition of The Song Sparrow is not easy. I think that the best route to take is to try to speak to you as I would were we sharing a beer after a day's birding, when I would undoubtedly be talking about the things that I feel passionate about — though sadly for me and fortunately for you our editor rations the number of words I can write! I see this column, not as a pronouncement from on high, but as my personal conversation with you — take me as you find me and if you have questions or comments please e-mail me.

Bird Protection Quebec is not only a birding club. Many years ago, this society opted to become a charity, and for excellent reasons. For one thing, it frees us from paying taxes on our income; however, it means that the government keeps an increasingly strict eye on us and we do not have a totally free hand in all that we would like to achieve. At the same time though, being a charity permits us to do important things that no

other group of birders can even think about — for example, we can give valuable tax receipts for gifts of land, some of which form the basis of our collection of bird sanctuaries. Our mission and our responsibilities are spelled out by the acronym ECO. The many programs, field trips, courses, lectures and other activities that involve you, our members, are just the more visible parts of what we do for birds and birding in this region. Together they form the E for Education and the O for Observation part of our mandate and are dear to the hearts of all BPQ supporters. The C stands for our Conservation work whereby we support many important ornithological research projects and acquire, own, and manage a growing number of Quebec bird sanctuaries. All of which is done entirely by volunteers.

A couple of weeks before you read this, the Board of Directors of BPQ will have held an intensive, day-long "retreat" with the objective of examining in detail the many things that we are involved with and establishing a multi-year rolling plan (effective from spring 2012) that will further our charitable mandate, raise the profile of BPQ, and increase our effectiveness, income and support base. We are still digesting the

implications of our deliberations, but over the next few months you are going to hear a great deal about where BPQ is going and how you, our supporters, can work with us to make sure we achieve what we need to do. — “For Birds, For People, For Ever”.*

These are exciting times. It is a privilege to be involved in the evolution of BPQ.

This edition of our newsletter is published in the beginning of autumn with the trees turning to those beautiful colours we all look forward to, the pleasant temperatures and birds hurrying southwards. Nevertheless, there are a lot of birds that choose to stay with us for the cold months of winter and even some that come south to be with us. Maybe I am a strange sort of birder but, in many ways, I find that winter birding can be the most interesting of the seasons. I actually enjoy standing in minus 25 temperatures trying to stare down owls (they always win), but what I really enjoy are the Snow Buntings — they can't arrive soon enough.

There will be many opportunities for you to join us on our weekly field trips, with our expert leaders, and to discover just how many fabulous winter birds are in the fields and forests waiting for us to admire and enjoy them. You will find details of these trips near the end of this newsletter and on our website - why not put some of the dates in your diaries now?

Richard Gregson

**A slogan of the RSPB that fits well with the work of BPQ*

Message du Président

Après quelques mois dans mon rôle de président, je réalise que trouver le bon ton pour mon message dans chaque édition du Song Sparrow n'est pas chose aisée. Je crois que la meilleure voie à prendre est d'essayer de vous parler comme si nous prenions une bière après une journée d'observation. Je parlerais sans doute longtemps des choses qui me passionnent - mais malheureusement pour moi et heureusement pour vous, notre rédacteur en chef limite le nombre de mots que je peux écrire! Quoiqu'il en soit, je considère cette colonne, non pas comme un énoncé venu d'en haut, mais comme une conversation personnelle avec vous. Prenez-le comme ainsi et si vous avez des questions ou commentaires, merci de m'envoyer un courriel.

POQ n'est pas un simple club d'observation d'oiseaux. Il y a plusieurs années, nous avons pour d'excellentes raisons décidé de devenir un organisme de bienfaisance. Cela nous libère donc de payer des impôts sur nos revenus mais cela signifie d'autre part que le gouvernement garde un œil de plus en plus attentif sur nous. Nous ne sommes pas totalement libres de faire tout ce que nous aimerions réaliser. Cependant, ces règlements nous permettent de mener des actions importantes qu'aucun autre groupe d'ornithologues amateurs ne pourrait même rêver de faire. Par exemple, nous pouvons donner des reçus d'impôt pour les dons de terrains, ces derniers formant la base de notre réseau de sanctuaires d'oiseaux. Notre mission et nos responsabilités sont représentées par l'acronyme ECO. Nos nombreux programmes, excursions, cours, conférences et autres activités dans lesquels vous êtes impliqués en tant que membres ne sont que quelque uns des éléments parmi les plus visibles de ce que nous faisons pour les oiseaux et pour leur observation dans cette région. Ensemble, ils forment le E pour Éducation et le O pour observation de notre mandat et sont chers au cœur de tous les supporters de POQ. Le C représente notre travail de Conservation, qui couvre de nombreux projets de recherche en ornithologie et nos projets d'acquisition et de gestion d'un nombre croissant de sanctuaires d'oiseaux au Québec. Tout ceci est entièrement réalisé par des bénévoles.

Quelques semaines avant que vous ne lisiez cet article, le conseil d'administration de POQ aura eu sa journée de «retraite», celle-ci ayant pour objectif d'examiner en détail les nombreuses initiatives dans lesquelles nous sommes impliqués et d'établir un plan d'action pluriannuel (qui entrera en vigueur à partir du printemps 2012). Ce plan d'action nous permettra de faire avancer notre mandat de bienfaisance, rehaussera le profil de POQ et augmentera notre base de revenus et d'appuis. Nous digérons encore les implications possibles de nos délibérations mais au cours des prochains mois, vous allez recevoir des nouvelles sur de nombreux projets de POQ, sur les actions menées et sur les façons dont vous, nos supporters, pouvez travailler avec nous à la réalisation de ce que nous devons faire - «Pour les oiseaux, pour les gens, pour toujours».*

Ce sont des moments passionnants. C'est un privilège d'être impliqué dans l'évolution de POQ. Cette édition de notre bulletin est publiée en début d'automne, avec les arbres qui s'ornent de ces belles couleurs que nous attendons tous avec

impatience, avec ces températures agréables et ces oiseaux qui se dirigent vers le sud. Néanmoins, il y a beaucoup d'oiseaux qui choisissent de rester avec nous pour la période froide et même certaines espèces qui viennent du nord pour passer l'hiver avec nous. Je suis peut-être un ornithologue un peu blizzard, mais à bien des égards, je trouve que l'hiver est peut-être la saison la plus intéressante pour l'observation d'oiseaux. J'aime réellement être debout par une température de moins 25 et essayer d'observer les hiboux. Mais ce que j'aime par-dessus tout, ce sont les Plectrophanes des neiges. Ils n'arrivent jamais assez tôt. Il y aura de nombreuses possibilités de vous joindre à nous et à nos experts lors de nos excursions hebdomadaires, et de découvrir combien les oiseaux d'hiver sont fabuleux. Que ce soit dans les champs ou les forêts, vous pourrez les admirer et les apprécier. Vous trouverez les détails de nos excursions vers la fin de ce bulletin et sur notre site Web. Pourquoi ne pas inscrire certaines de ces dates à vos agendas dès maintenant? Peut-être nous rencontrerons-nous dans la neige.

Richard Gregson

** Un slogan de la RSPB en Grande-Bretagne*

Suivi des espèces vulnérables au morcellement dans les parcs-natures de la Ville de Montréal

By Frédéric Hareau

Certaines espèces d'oiseaux qui fréquentent les milieux forestiers sont particulièrement sensibles au morcellement, notamment en milieu urbain que l'on retrouve sur l'Île de Montréal. Un des objectifs de la création des parcs-nature de la Ville de Montréal est d'ailleurs de lutter contre la

disparition des boisés et leur morcellement et d'assurer la conservation des espèces forestières. Dans le passé, un suivi des espèces d'oiseaux



vulnérables au morcellement a été réalisé par la Ville dans les parcs-nature. Ce suivi avait montré des hausses et des baisses, dépendant des espèces. Cependant, la faible abondance d'espèces vulnérables au morcellement observées a suscité des questions sur l'évolution de ces populations et a amené les parcs-nature à développer un nouveau projet.

C'est dans ce cadre que Denis Fournier, de la Direction des grands parcs de la Ville de Montréal, proposait l'hiver dernier un projet pour le suivi d'espèces nicheuses vulnérables dans les parcs-nature de l'Île de Montréal. Ce projet vise d'abord et avant tout à répondre aux questions suivantes: les espèces sensibles au morcellement se maintiennent-elles dans les parcs-nature et si oui, comment? Se maintiennent-elles d'elles-mêmes ou dépendent-elles de l'immigration continue d'individus provenant d'autres zones périphériques à l'île de Montréal? Ce suivi vise également à préciser le rôle des parcs-nature pour ces espèces. Ces parcs sont-ils suffisants? Et si ce n'est pas le cas, qu'est-ce qui doit être fait?

Le projet de suivi s'est concentré sur quatre espèces jugées vulnérables au morcellement : la Paruline couronnée, la Grive des bois, le Pirangua écarlate et la Paruline bleue. En 2011 cette étude a été effectuée dans les parcs suivants: parcs-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies, du Bois-de-Liesse, du Bois-de-Saraguay, de l'Anse-à-l'Orme, du Cap-Saint-Jacques. Le suivi sera étendu à l'Île-Bizard et au Bois d'Anjou en 2012.

L'étude a été réalisée au travers de deux visites, entre le 15 juin et le 14 juillet. Chaque visite a nécessité deux points d'écoute avec une repasse des chants des quatre espèces ciblées (possible par autorisation spéciale de la Ville de Montréal car la repasse des chants est formellement interdite dans les parcs-nature). Durant les points d'écoute, la présence, et le comportement des espèces cible ont été notées par les participants afin de fournir des données détaillées sur leur présence en période de nidification et sur la probabilité de nidification (établie selon des codes bien définis, par exemple comportement agressif, transport de matériel de nidification, transport de nourriture, jeunes à proximité, etc.)

Les résultats à ce jour restent très parcellaires. Deux espèces cible ont été notées : la Paruline couronnée dans trois parcs de la Ville (Bois-De-Liesse, Cap-St-Jacques et Saraguay) et le Pirangua écarlate dans un

parc (Saraguay). Deux espèces étaient absentes. Cette première année soulève donc plus de questions qu'elle n'amène de réponses, mais les résultats de cette étude et les orientations de la Ville restent à suivre.

Le projet était mené par les membres de Club Ornithogues de Ahunsic (COA).

This article was originally published in October 2011 in Le Grand Duc, the newsletter of the COA.

Frédéric Hareau has always been passionate about nature conservation and wildlife, including bird life. He has travelled throughout the world to discover more about these interests. At BPQ, he is an active member of the Conservation Committee, a popular field trip leader, and a new Director. He coordinated the SOS-POP project with BPQ in 2010 and is kept busy with translation for The Song Sparrow and the Web site. He is also a Board member of the COA, where he is responsible for the conservation files of the club, and a volunteer at McGill Bird Observatory.

At a professional level, as Director of Programs and Partnerships at Canada World Youth, he oversees projects implemented in 17 countries and reaching over 1,000 young people every year. A majority of these projects focus on the conservation of the environment in Canada and throughout the world. In the past ten years, he has played a leadership role in fundraising over six million dollars with the support of co-workers and partners.

He has a degree in biology and agriculture, from the Institut National Agronomique of Paris-Grignon, France.

News from the MBO

by Gay Gruner

It will be an anticlimax to read this column as, by the point it arrives in your mailbox, enough time will have elapsed to add to the data reviewed below. As you read, please keep in mind that the data presented here derive from the period between August 1 and September 8, 2011.

MBO's Fall Migration Monitoring Program began on August 1. A typical day consists of five hours of banding, a standardized one-hour census walk around the property one hour after sunrise, and observation of all birds throughout the morning period (six hours per day). Daily estimated totals (DET) are compiled at the end of each observation period, as the sum of all



Cape May Warbler (by Simon Duval)

individuals counted throughout the day through banding, census and observation.

At the time of writing this article (September 8) we crunched the data to provide a picture of this year's warbler migration. A total of twenty warbler species have been observed and banded for the FMMP 2011 season. Note: data are already out of date as **Orange-crowned Warbler** and **Northern Parula** were observed on September 10. We have also broken the record for **Bay-breasted Warbler** now, having caught one on September 12 and on September 13. We now stand at seven for the season and the previous record was five.

Although migration is nowhere near finished, new records are already established for three species: **Tennessee Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler**. The final count is definitely not complete; a review of MBO records indicate that migration for **Tennessee Warbler** will continue into the second half of September while **Cape May Warbler** may continue into the second week of September. *

Species	# banded	DET total	Previous banded record and year
Tennessee Warbler	122	195	114 (2010)
Nashville Warbler	63	147	164 (2005)
Yellow Warbler	75	244	50 (2009)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	29	61	33 (2010)
Magnolia Warbler	168	267	264 (2008)
Cape May Warbler	18	33	6 (2010)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	23	45	50 (2009)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	21	2361 (2010)
Black-throated Green Warbler	14	33	28 (2008)
Blackburnian Warbler	6	12	8 (2006)

Species	# banded	DET total	Previous banded record and year
Bay-breasted Warbler	5	5	6 (2010)
Blackpoll Warbler	13	21	44 (2008)
Black-and-white Warbler	18	58	39 (2010)
American Redstart	133	317	149 (2010)
Ovenbird	38	42	46 (2006)
Northern Waterthrush	24	34	53 (2010)
Mourning Warbler	7	11	14 (2009)
Common Yellowthroat	52	240	100 (2010)
Wilson's Warbler	31	54	53 (2008)
Canada Warbler	13	30	35 (2010)
Total	854	1870	

Table 1. Number of individual warblers banded and observed between August 1 and September 8, 2011. Orange text denotes new record for MBO.

Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers are considered **spruce budworm** specialists. These warblers devour the abundant budworms that are present during outbreaks and their populations expand during this time of plentiful food resources. Outbreaks of spruce budworm are cyclical, occurring approximately every 35 to 40 years, with the last extensive eruption in Canada occurring in the 1970s. Populations of spruce budworm in Quebec have since increased to cover more than 550,000 hectares in 2010.

The latest banding records set at MBO for **Tennessee and Cape May Warblers, and the numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers** banded, suggest these species are responding positively to the budworm infestation. It will be interesting to learn what other bird-banding stations report for these species. As birders we also reap the benefits of the outbreak with increased sightings of these three warblers.

Evening Grosbeak also has a taste for spruce budworm which could signal good news for this species whose status was elevated to High Priority for detailed assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Although purely speculative, let's hope observations of Evening Grosbeak increase this fall and winter!

Last fall MBO experienced a huge influx of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, banding 2361 individuals of this species. It appears this species follows a two-year cycle, with a mean abundance six times higher and number banded ten times higher in even-numbered years.** We are eager to know our Yellow-rump numbers for this year and whether or not the hypothesis of the two-year pattern is borne out. Stay tuned for the next issue of *The Song Sparrow*.

* Gahbauer, M.A. 2010. McGill Bird Observatory Five-Year Report #1: 2005-2009. Migration Research Foundation, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue QC. pages 109, 112.

** Gahbauer, M.A. 2010. McGill Bird Observatory Five-Year Report #1: 2005-2009. Migration Research Foundation, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue QC. page 113.

Gay Gruner is the Director of the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) after having begun volunteering at the station in 2004 (the year of its inception). When she's not out running the MBO or birding with friends, she's in the field with BPQ's Education Committee teaching children to identify and appreciate birds and critters alike. She is also Chair of the BPQ Communications Committee and a long-standing member of the Board.



Spruce budworm. (Photo reproduced with permission from Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forestry Service)



Bay-breasted Warbler (by Gay Gruner)



Tennessee Warbler (by Gay Gruner)

25 Years of Bird Observations Reveal Changes

Project FeederWatch – Everyday Canadians Contributing to our Understanding of Birds

September 7, 2011 Port Rowan, Ontario – Backyard birdwatchers across Canada are invited to take part in the 25th season of Project FeederWatch from Saturday, November 12 through Friday, April 6. With each season, FeederWatch increases in importance as a unique and indispensable monitoring tool for more than 100 bird species that winter in North America. Last year, over 2,500 Canadians and 11,000 Americans counted backyard birds; their observations help scientists better understand the health and behaviour of birds – an important indicator species for the well-being of our planet. Each checklist submitted by FeederWatchers helps scientists at Bird Studies Canada (www.birdscanada.org) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (www.birds.cornell.edu) learn more about where birds are, how they are doing, and how to protect them.

Participating in Project FeederWatch is a great way for families and friends to connect with nature, have fun, and help birds. You do not have to be an expert to participate – BSC will send you a poster of common birds, and help is just a phone call or e-mail away. Participants choose how much time they want to dedicate to the project. They are asked to select their own two-day count period once every two weeks, and then count for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they like) on one or both of

those days. Sightings are entered online at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw or reported on paper data forms and mailed in at the end of the season.

Participating in Project FeederWatch is fun! One participant said, “I have been doing FeederWatch since 1975 and have enjoyed every year. My whole family is now hooked on identifying birds and counting them. Thanks for the fun!”



Common Redpoll (front) and Hoary Redpoll by Helena Garcia, QC

Data from FeederWatchers have helped scientists learn about changes in the distribution and abundance of feeder birds over time, expansions and contractions in their winter ranges, the spread of disease in bird populations, and the kinds of habitats and foods that attract birds. For more information about Project FeederWatch, please visit their website at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw, or contact the coordinator at 1-888-448-2473 or pfw@birdscanada.org. Bird Studies Canada is a national non-profit organization dedicated to bird research and conservation.

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Note: A \$35.00 registration fee applies if you are not a member of Bird Studies Canada

There are several ways to register:

- Fill out the online form at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw
- E-mail pfw@birdscanada.org
- Write to: P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (enclose a \$35 cheque payable to Bird Studies Canada)
- Call Bird Studies Canada toll-free at 1-888-448-2473.

The 76th Annual Montreal Christmas Bird Count

by: Sheldon Harvey

One of Bird Protection Quebec (BPQ)'s most popular annual events, the Montreal Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place on Saturday December 17, 2011. Planning is already underway. The annual bird counts play a vital role in tracking local and national birding trends and are one of the most important events on the citizen science calendar. We are once again counting on your important participation.

This year we have some very big shoes to fill. For many years, Jeff Harrison and Alison Bentley were the coordinators of the Montreal and Hudson Christmas counts, respectively. Due to other commitments that have taken them away from Montreal and Hudson, it is not practical for them to continue to perform these roles this year and so Barbara Szabo, Jean Demers, Clémence Soulard, and I now make up the BPQ Christmas Count Committee. Barbara and I will be responsible for the Montreal Count, with Jean and Clémence looking after Hudson. We have a long standing tradition to uphold and, with everyone's support and cooperation, we aim to carry it on.

The 24 km wide circle for the Montreal area count is centered at the intersection of Sherbrooke Street West and Westminster Avenue in Montreal West. An overview of the count, a map of the count circle, and the results from past years, are all available on our Website. (Follow the link at the end of this article.) The count circle is divided into sectors which are covered by teams of birders. It is always our goal to cover as much of the territory within the circle as possible. In order to do that, as many participants as possible are needed.

It's a fun day of birding, all for a valuable and important purpose. However, we are unable to control two key factors: the weather and the presence of birds! The key thing to remember on Christmas Bird Count days is that every single bird you see is important, common or rare. Seeing some "good birds" is always an added bonus but the goal of the day is to count each and every bird, regardless of the species. If you are unable to join up with one of the field teams, we welcome you to participate from home as a FeederWatcher. If you live anywhere within the count circle and have feeders installed, you can assist us without leaving the comfort of your home! Our website explains how to participate as a FeederWatcher.

If you participated last year, please contact us to confirm your desire to return this year, indicating if you wish to cover the same territory. If you would like to move to a different target area, we will do our best to accommodate, assigning you to a new sector. If you are new to the Christmas count and are interested in becoming a field participant, let us know and we will assign you to a sector. We strongly encourage first-time participants to come out and join in the fun. We will be sure to team you up with some experienced Christmas counters so, please, do not feel shy or intimidated in any way. Everyone's involvement is extremely important.

Once again this year an informal social will be held immediately following the count at the Montreal West Curling Club, 17 Ainslie Road in Montreal West beginning at approximately 4 pm. All participants are invited to attend for a bite to eat and to submit their findings of the day. The rough results are tabulated in an audio/video setting and everyone is encouraged to share their birding experiences of the day. Information on the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, as well as the Hudson Christmas Bird Count being held on Tuesday, December 27, is available on the following BPQ webpage <http://tinyurl.com/3jxrm2z>

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

Sheldon Harvey joined Bird Protection Quebec in 2002 and since then has become active in many aspects of birding. He is the Chair of the Marketing Committee as well as a member of the Field Trip Committee and a regular field trip leader. He participates annually in the Bird Studies Canada's Baillie Birdathon and National Nocturnal Owl Surveys, the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program, four annual Christmas Bird Counts and the Great Backyard Bird Count. We are grateful to Sheldon for having organized the Summer Series of Birding field trips for the past eight years and are looking forward to next summer for another series.

Hudson Christmas Bird Count

by: Jean Demers (jeandemers@sympatico.ca)

This year on December 27, we will hold our 71st Hudson Christmas Bird Count. Due to the busy schedules of many of our participants we had to choose this date and we hope that most of you will be available.

I am taking over from Alison Bentley who has done a tremendous job as compiler for over 25 years. Unfortunately the after-count party cannot take place at her home or mine, so there will be another venue for this; the location will be announced at a later date.

You can participate in the Hudson Christmas Bird Count either in the field or in the warmth of your home as FeederWatcher. It is a very rewarding experience whichever way you choose and you are helping to gather very important data.

FeederWatcher:

We are interested in attracting Project FeederWatch participants, particularly those familiar with feeder counts,. However, even if you have never been a [Project FeederWatch](#) participant before, and you want to get involved, please feel free to participate. There are no entry restrictions. It's not difficult; you just count the number of birds that you see at your feeders during count day. Then, you report the largest number of each species seen at the same time. For example, if at 10:00 a.m. you saw five Song Sparrows, at 11:00 three, and at 1:00 p.m. ten, you would report ten. This is the largest number seen at a single time. This doesn't mean that you need to be glued to your window all day. All counts, even those made during a short period of time, contribute towards bird research. You will find a list of instructions on how to participate by following the link on end of this article and you can also download our feeder checklist. There is no charge for being a FeederWatcher and you do not have to be a member of a Bird Protection Quebec or any other group. However, it is important that you reside within our Count Circle. As we are an entirely volunteer organization, we ask that you make sure of this ahead of time. Please contact me for verification..

Field Participants:

If you are a member of Bird Studies Canada (BSC), your participation is free of charge, if not, you have to pay \$5.00; this will be collected by your party leader. This money is passed on to BSC which publishes the results and to the National Audubon Society which maintains the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) website. The names of all field participants are included in the results published by Bird Studies Canada and the National Audubon Society.

If you want to participate, please contact me and I will assign you to one of our 17 parties. Normally the count starts at dawn - not very early at this time of the year! You will be compiling all the birds you see, by species and by number of each. Don't worry, you will be with an experienced birder.

For further information, visit <http://goo.gl/0FkR2>

The day following his retirement, Jean Demers took an introductory bird watching course and immediately became hooked on birding. He and his partner Clémence Soulard are dedicated Bird Protection Quebec members, participating in most Saturday field trips and Monthly Lectures. Jean is a BPQ Board member, as well as a Membership Services Committee and Marketing Committee member. He has participated for a number of years in the Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts, Project FeederWatch, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program. He is a regular field trip leader and volunteers at the McGill Bird Observatory. Jean is always willing to take the time to point out the finer details about bird identification.

Recensement des Oiseaux de Noël de Hudson

par: Jean Demers (jeandemers@sympatico.ca)

Cette année notre 71ième Recensement des Oiseaux de Noël de Hudson se tiendra le 27 décembre. À cause de plusieurs contraintes d'horaire de certains participants nous avons dû choisir cette date en espérant que la plupart des participants seront disponibles.

Cette année je prends la relève d'Alison Bentley qui a fait un travail exceptionnel durant plus de 25 ans. Malheureusement la rencontre post recensement ne pourra avoir lieu ni chez Alison ni chez moi, donc nous choisirons un autre endroit, lequel vous sera communiqué ultérieurement.

Vous pouvez participer au recensement d'Hudson soit sur le terrain ou dans le confort de votre foyer comme FeederWatcher. C'est une expérience très enrichissante quel que soit votre choix, vous contribuez à l'acquisition de données très importantes.

FeederWatcher:

Si vous êtes familier avec le recensement des oiseaux à vos mangeoires, votre participation serait très appréciée. Votre tâche n'est pas très exigeante, vous devez seulement compter le nombre et les espèces d'oiseaux qui fréquentent vos mangeoires durant la journée. Vous n'avez pas besoin de rester à vos fenêtres toute la journée. Tous les oiseaux que vous verrez, même durant une courte période, ajouteront des données importantes pour la recherche. Votre décompte doit comprendre le plus grand nombre d'oiseaux de chaque espèce que vous voyez à la fois ex : à 10h00 vous voyez cinq Bruants chanteurs et à 11h00 vous en voyez trois et à 13h00 vous en voyez dix, alors le chiffre que vous devez

rapporter est dix parce que c'est le plus grand nombre que vous avez observé en une fois. Il n'y a aucun frais pour y participer et vous ne devez pas être membre de Protection des Oiseaux du Québec ni d'aucune autre organisation environnementale. Par contre nous vous demandons de vous assurer que vous résidez dans les limites du cercle. Veuillez me contacter en me donnant votre adresse afin que je vérifie si vous êtes admissible.

Participants de terrain :

Si vous être membre d'Études des Oiseaux du Canada, vous n'avez aucun frais pour participer, sinon vous devez payer 5\$, ce montant sera récolté par le leader de votre groupe. Cette somme est transmise à National Audubon Society qui publie les résultats de tous les décomptes

et fait la mise à jour du site pour le Recensement des Oiseaux de Noël. Le nom de tous les participants est inclus dans les résultats publiés par la Société Audubon et par Bird Studies Canada.

Si vous voulez participer, que vous ayez de l'expérience ou non veuillez me contacter et vous serez assigné à un de nos 17 groupes.

Normalement le recensement commence à l'aube, ce qui n'est pas très tôt à cette période de l'année. Vous devez compiler les espèces et le nombre de chaque espèces, ne nous en faites pas vous serez jumelé avec une personne expérimentée.

Bird Views

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

June-July 2011

Mute Swan: one found at Pointe-au-Père 23 June (A. Brisson, J. Larivée) wandered in the Lower St. Lawrence until 25 July; another one was at Boucherville 13-25 July (G. Legault). **Trumpeter Swan:** singles at Val-Senneville 6-17 June (L. Boucher, m. ob.), Béarn 13-18 June (M. Gervais), L. Anticagamac (La Mauricie NP) 1 July+ for the third consecutive summer (D. Masse, C. Bourgeois). **Red-necked Grebe:** 2 at Rivière-Ouelle 16 July and 4 on 31 July, unusual in summer for this part of the province (C. Girard, C. Auchu). **Eared Grebe:** one in full breeding plumage at Saint-Basile-le-Grand 23-25 July (ph., S. Denault). There are less than ten records for the province. **Manx Shearwater:** one at Tadoussac 19 July (R. Pintiaux). **American White Pelican:** one at Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 13-22 July (M. Chabot, m.ob.). **Cattle Egret:** singles at Baie-du-Febvre 1 June (L. Jacques, G. Huot, L. Labonté) and at Henryville for most of summer (M. Gauthier, S. Mathieu).

Black Vulture: one at l'Anse-à-Beaufils 24 July, seen again at Percé the same day (ph., A. Saint-Jean, MA. Bélanger). **Bald Eagle:** a high count of 30 birds at Rivière York 5 July (M. Castilloux, A. Dupuis). **Red-tailed Hawk:** a dark-morph reported at Mansonville 18 June (R. Carswell). One was well north at Shefferville 7 July (J. Coutu). **Sandhill Crane:** 68 indiv including more than 20 juv in a field at

Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Juin-juillet 2011

Cygne tuberculé: un trouvé à Pointe-au-Père 23 juin (A. Brisson, J. Larivée) a vagabondé dans le Bas St-Laurent jusqu'au 25 juil; un autre à Boucherville 13-25 juil (G. Legault). **Cygne trompette:** des oiseaux à Val-Senneville 6-17 juin (L. Boucher, pl. ob.), Béarn 13-18 juin (M. Gervais), L. Anticagamac (PN de La Mauricie) 1er juil+ pour la troisième année (D. Masse, C. Bourgeois). **Grèbe jougris:** 2 à Rivière-Ouelle 16 juil et 4 le 31 juil, inhabituel en été dans cette partie de la province (C. Girard, C. Auchu). **Grèbe à cou noir:** un en plumage nuptial complet à Saint-Basile-le-Grand 23-25 juil (ph., S. Denault). Il y a encore moins de 10 présences dans la province. **Puffin des Anglais:** un à Tadoussac 19 juil (R. Pintiaux). **Pélican d'Amérique:** un à Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 13-22 juil (M. Chabot, pl. ob.). **Héron garde-boeuf:** des oiseaux à Baie-du-Febvre 1er juin (L. Jacques, G. Huot, L. Labonté) et Henryville tout l'été (M. Gauthier, S. Mathieu).

Urubu noir: un à l'Anse-à-Beaufils 24 juil, revu à Percé le même jour (ph., A. Saint-Jean, MA. Bélanger). **Pygargue à tête blanche:** un fort total de 30 oiseaux à Rivière York 5 juil (M. Castilloux, A. Dupuis). **Buse à queue rousse:** un oiseau de forme sombre à Mansonville 18 juin (R. Carswell). Un très au nord à Shefferville 7 juil (J. Coutu). **Grue du Canada:** 68 indiv incluant plus de 20 juv dans un champ de Latulipe 14 juil, un fort total pour

Latulipe 14 July, a high summer count for Témiscamingue (J. Fréchette). **Willet**: a nest with 4 eggs at Dune du Nord 8 June (A. Richard), 8 birds at Bassin 22 June (A. Richard). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one was out of date at Henryville 15 June (M. Gauthier). **Ruff**: singles at Cap Tourmente 6 June (F. & R. Dion) and at Baie-du-Febvre 10 June (S. Houpert). **Black-headed Gull**: outside the Magdalen Is, birds were seen at La Malbaie, Tadoussac and Les Escoumins. **Laughing Gull**: a total of 8 birds reported across the province. **Franklin's Gull**: singles at La Malbaie 2 June (O. Barden), and Rivière-Ouelle 4 June (C. Girard, C. Auchu).

Band-tailed Pigeon: a bird was nicely photographed at Portneuf-sur-mer 21-22 July, the fourth provincial record and the second in summer (ph. G. Doiron). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: the range of this dove has been expanding rapidly in North America since it first nested in Florida in 1982. In Canada, the species has nested in BC and in the Prairies, but its arrival in the east has been much slower with nesting evidence only as far north as S. Pennsylvania and S. Connecticut. So, confirmation of its nesting at Sainte-Brigide d'Iberville in S. Québec, this summer was a stunning find. A pair first noted 11 July by S. Mathieu et al. was nicely photographed by M. Bertrand et al 13 July (ph. J. Hénault). Subsequently, 2 juv were found and photographed 15-16 July (JM. Giroux, ph. P. Bannon, R. Belhumeur, P. Simard). On 17 July, a singing bird was found sitting on a nest (S. Denault, D. Daigneault). Birds continued to be seen in the same area in August. **White-winged Dove**: also expanding north, this dove has now become regular in Québec at any season except winter. This summer, 3 birds were reported and photographed: Natashquan 27 June-18 July (G. Tremblay, *vide* J. Piuze), Saint-Hyacinthe 1-3 July (R. Millier), and Port-Daniel 22-24 July (J. Affleck et al.) **Mourning Dove**: well established in the inhabited part of the province, this dove is still expanding north, as evidenced by a pair found this summer at Shefferville (S. Denault, J. Coutu). No confirmation of nesting has ever been found north of 50° 30'N, but it should not be too long before it happens. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: singles at Godmanchester 19 July (ph., M. Amyot, L. Lemay) and at Iberville 25 July (M. Gauthier, A. Moreau). **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: a nocturnal search for this species south of Montreal this summer led to the discovery of 86 birds at 49 sites in 12 atlas squares, an unexpectedly high count for this part of the province (P. Bannon).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: one juv at Châteauguay 7 July (G. Poirier, JP. Santerre) and again 21 July (ph. L. Lemay). An adult at Matane 7 June was the first in summer for the Lower St. Lawrence (N. Blouin, Y. Lemieux). **Acadian Flycatcher**: a bird sang on the same territory for

le Témiscamingue en été (J. Fréchette). **Chevalier semipalmé**: un nid avec 4 oeufs à Dune du Nord 8 juin (A. Richard), 8 oiseaux à Bassin 22 juin (A. Richard). **Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée**: un à Henryville 15 juin, une date inhabituelle (M. Gauthier). **Combattant varié**: des oiseaux à Cap Tourmente 6 juin (F. & R. Dion) et Baie-du-Febvre 10 juin (S. Houpert). **Mouette rieuse**: en dehors des IDLM, des oiseaux signalés à La Malbaie, Tadoussac et Les Escoumins. **Mouette atricille**: un total de 8 oiseaux signalés à travers la province. **Mouette de Franklin**: des oiseaux à La Malbaie 2 juin (O. Barden), et Rivière-Ouelle 4 juin (C. Girard, C. Auchu).

Pigeon à queue barrée: un oiseau très bien photographié à Portneuf-sur-mer 21-22 juil, la quatrième présence provinciale et la deuxième en été (ph. G. Doiron). **Tourterelle turque**: cette tourterelle s'est rapidement propagée en Amérique du Nord depuis qu'elle a niché en Floride en 1982. Au Canada, l'espèce a niché en Colombie britannique et dans les Prairies, mais son arrivée dans l'est fut beaucoup plus lente, des oiseaux nicheurs n'ayant atteint le sud de la Pennsylvanie et du Connecticut que récemment. La confirmation de sa nidification à Sainte-Brigide d'Iberville dans le sud du Québec cet été fut donc une trouvaille renversante. Un couple d'abord aperçu 11 juil par S. Mathieu et al. fut très bien photographié par M. Bertrand et al 13 juil (ph. J. Hénault). Par la suite, 2 juv furent trouvés et photographiés 15-16 juil (JM. Giroux, ph. P. Bannon, R. Belhumeur, P. Simard). Le 17 juil, un mâle chanteur fut trouvé sur son nid (S. Denault, D. Daigneault). Des oiseaux étaient encore notés en août dans le même secteur. **Tourterelle à ailes blanches**: aussi en expansion, cette tourterelle est maintenant signalée à toutes les saisons excepté l'hiver au Québec. Cet été, 3 oiseaux furent photographiés: Natashquan 27 juin-18 juil (G. Tremblay, *vide* J. Piuze), Saint-Hyacinthe 1-3 juil (R. Millier), et Port-Daniel 22-24 juil (J. Affleck et al.) **Tourterelle triste**: bien établie dans les régions habitées du Québec, cette tourterelle progresse encore vers le nord. Un couple cet été à Shefferville le démontre bien (S. Denault, J. Coutu). Au nord du 50° 30'N, il n'y a toutefois aucune confirmation de la nidification, mais cela ne saurait tarder. **Coulicou à bec jaune**: des oiseaux à Godmanchester 19 juil (ph., M. Amyot, L. Lemay) et Iberville 25 juil (M. Gauthier, A. Moreau). **Engoulevent bois-pourri**: une recherche nocturne de cette espèce au sud de Montréal cet été a révélé la présence de 86 oiseaux à 49 sites dans 12 parcelles d'atlas, un résultat inespéré dans cette partie de la province (P. Bannon).

Pic à ventre roux: un juv à Châteauguay 7 juil (G. Poirier, JP. Santerre) et à nouveau 21 juil (ph. L. Lemay). Un adulte à Matane 7 juin, première présence en été pour le Bas-St-Laurent (N. Blouin, Y. Lemieux). **Moucherolle vert**: un oiseau a chanté sur le même territoire pendant 20 jours à Notre-Dame-du-Nord, Témiscamingue, 20 juin-9 juil (ph.,

at least 20 days at Notre-Dame-du-Nord, Témiscamingue, 20 June-9 July (ph., J. Fréchette et al.). **Eastern Phoebe:** a nest found at Saint-Simon 16 June, one of the easternmost on the Gaspé Pen. (P. Poulin, G. Roy, D. Robert). **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** one at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 8 June (ph. S. Larochelle et al.). A belated report of one north of L. Mégantic in late May possibly involved the same individual as the 2 localities are only 60 km apart (J. Poulin, *vide* C. Poulin, G. Duquette). **Loggerhead Shrike:** an ad at Saint-Ludger-de-Milot 5 June (J. Ibarzabal, ph., S. Bergeron), second record for Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. **Sedge Wren:** 2 singing birds at Franklin 28 June, a new place for this species (P. Bannon). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** a male accompanied by a bird of undetermined sex and age seen at Godmanchester 26 June (ph. M. Lapointe, L. Lemay), surprisingly the only summer record after 2 years in the second Québec breeding birds Atlas. **Gray Catbird:** one at Shefferville 13 July (S. Denault); there are only five records north of 50° 30'N.

Blue-winged Warbler: one at Tadoussac 2 June (O. Barden). **“Brewster” Warbler X Golden-winged Warbler:** a rarely seen hybrid similar to a Golden-winged Warbler but with double wing bars and mostly yellow underparts was photographed at Godmanchester 24 July (L. Lemay, M. Amyot). This hybrid, known as a heterozygous Golden-winged Warbler, is the result of a cross between a “Brewster Warbler” and a pure Golden-winged Warbler (see Parkes, Wilson Bulletin, v.63, p.6-15, 1951). **Prairie Warbler:** singles at Deschênes 2 June (M. Aubé), Rimouski 5 June (G. Gendron), and Montreal 17 June (J. Brisson).

Clay-colored Sparrow: this species has now been found in 90 atlas squares since the beginning of the second Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas, including 40 squares in Abitibi-Témiscamingue where it was totally absent during the first atlas project (1984-1989). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** a singing bird at Hinchinbrooke 4 July, a new place for this vulnerable species (P. Bannon). **Dickcissel:** singles at Tadoussac 1 June (O. Barden) and at Laval 7 June (J. May, ph., L. Simard).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: one of unknown sex at Newport 1-2 June (*vide* JR. Lepage), an imm. male at Bonaventure 3 June (ph., A. & J. Charette), and a pair at Les Bergeronnes 7-10 June (E. Bouchard, *vide* S. Belleau). **Western Meadowlark:** a singing bird at Sacré-Coeur 11-14 June (S. Denault, F. & R. Dion) was probably the same that overwintered at nearby Les Escoumins. Another bird was singing at Danville 17 July (G. Huot, J. Cadieux).

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

J. Fréchette et al.). **Moucherolle phébi:** un nid trouvé à Saint-Simon 16 juin, un des nids les plus à l'est en Gaspésie (P. Poulin, G. Roy, D. Robert). **Tyran des savanes:** un à Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 8 juin (ph. S. Larochelle et al.). Un autre signalé au nord du L. Mégantic à la fin de mai était peut-être le même individu puisque les deux localités ne sont qu'à 60 km l'une de l'autre (J. Poulin, *vide* C. Poulin, G. Duquette). **Pie-grièche migratrice:** un ad à Saint-Ludger-de-Milot 5 juin (J. Ibarzabal, ph., S. Bergeron), 2ième mention pour le Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean. **Troglodyte à bec court:** 2 mâles chanteurs à Franklin 28 juin, un nouveau site pour l'espèce (P. Bannon). **Gobemouche gris-bleu:** un mâle accompagnant un oiseau d'âge et de sexe indéterminé observé à Godmanchester 26 juin (ph. M. Lapointe, L. Lemay), la seule présence en été depuis le début du second atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec. **Moqueur chat:** un à Shefferville 13 juil (S. Denault); il n'y a que 5 mentions au nord du 50° 30'N.

Paruline à ailes bleues: une à Tadoussac 2 juin (O. Barden). **Paruline de “Brewster” X Paruline à ailes dorées:** un rare hybride semblable à une Paruline à ailes dorées mais avec deux barres alaires jaunes et des dessous jaunâtres a été photographié à Godmanchester 24 juil (L. Lemay, M. Amyot). Cet hybride, connu comme une Paruline à ailes dorées hétérozygote, est le résultat d'un croisement entre une Paruline de “Brewster” et une Paruline à ailes dorées “pure” (voir Parkes, Wilson Bulletin, v.63, p.6-15, 1951). **Paruline des prés:** des oiseaux à Deschênes 2 juin (M. Aubé), Rimouski 5 juin (G. Gendron), et Montréal 17 juin (J. Brisson).

Bruant des plaines: cette espèce a été trouvée dans 90 parcelles depuis le début du second atlas, ce qui inclut 40 parcelles en Abitibi-Témiscamingue où l'espèce était complètement absente lors du 1er atlas (1984-1989). **Bruant sauterelle:** un mâle chanteur à Hinchinbrooke 4 juil, un nouveau site pour cette espèce vulnérable (P. Bannon). **Dickcissel d'Amérique:** des oiseaux à Tadoussac 1 juin (O. Barden) et Laval 7 juin (J. May, ph., L. Simard).

Carouge à tête jaune: un oiseau de sexe inconnu à Newport 1-2 juin (*vide* JR. Lepage), un mâle imm à Bonaventure 3 juin (ph., A. & J. Charette), et un couple à Les Bergeronnes 7-10 juin (E. Bouchard, *vide* S. Belleau). **Sturnelle de l'Ouest:** un mâle chanteur à Sacré-Coeur 11-14 juin (S. Denault, F. & R. Dion), probablement le même qui a hiverné à Les Escoumins. Un autre oiseau chantait à Danville 17 juil (G. Huot, J. Cadieux).

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



Bird Protection Quebec Calendar for 2012 Available for Purchase

A year ago, in the October 2010 issue of The Song Sparrow newsletter, members of BPQ were invited to submit bird photographs, taken by them in Quebec, for inclusion in a 2012 calendar to be published to mark the 95th anniversary of the founding of The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, the legal name of what is now known as Bird Protection Quebec (BPQ).

Thanks to all the members who sent in entries, and congratulations to those whose photos were selected for inclusion in the calendar: Sophie

Cauchon; Jean De Marre; Gary Duncan; Daniel Gélinas; Richard Gregson; Jeffrey Greenwood; Zofia Laubitz; André Pelletier; and Matthew von Bornhoft.

The BPQ 2012 calendar, featuring bird photos submitted by those members, is now available for purchase from the Membership Services table at BPQ monthly lectures/meetings (while quantities last). The price is \$20. The calendar can also be purchased online through the “BPQ Shop” page on our website: <http://tinyurl.com/BPQ-shop>

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go towards promoting the many conservation and educational activities of the organization.



Monthly Meeting - November 7

The Golden-Winged Warbler, a rare and threatened bird



The Golden-Winged Warbler is a threatened species. Since 2008, QuébecOiseaux has been working with volunteers and biologists in order to detect the presence of the species in the Montérégie region. Le Duing Lang will present the Golden-Winged Warbler, the threats to the species, the hybridization of the species with the Blue-Winged Warbler, the detection project in private lands, the genetic analyses as well as the banding of the warblers found in the area.

Le Duing Lang did her Master's degree in Biology at the Université de Montréal. She has been working for QuébecOiseaux since 2007. She is responsible for projects concerning endangered species such as the Golden-Winged Warbler and the Chimney Swift.

She also participates in the restoration of the Sainte-Martine Dam, an important site for the observation of shorebirds.

All monthly lectures take place at 7:30pm at Knox Crescent Kensington and First Presbyterian Church
625 Godfrey Avenue
Montreal

Monthly Meeting - December 5

For the Birds: an Introduction to Winter Bird Ecology.



Join Chris Cloutier and discover some of the strategies employed by our native bird species to cope with the challenges of winter. Learn some neat facts about some common species. Discover what they eat, how they live and how they keep those skinny exposed feet warm!

Chris Cloutier, a BPQ Board member, currently works as the Interpretive Naturalist and Events coordinator for the Morgan Arboretum. He leads guided walks and workshops on a wide array of topics, from birds and butterflies, to spiders, trees, wildflowers, frogs, and ecology. He has been a nature interpreter for nearly three full years and a keen naturalist his entire life.

He graduated with distinction from McGill University's Macdonald campus in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. His degree program was Applied Zoology. He specialized in the field of Entomology (insects and spiders).

Membership Renewals

A hearty thanks to the many members who have responded so speedily to the first membership renewal notice.



New Membership Secretary, Christine Burt.

You help BPQ save stamps and paper. We are looking forward to seeing all members and prospective members at our upcoming monthly lectures and field trips. Please stop by at the Membership Services table and introduce yourselves.

ANNUAL BIRD PROTECTION QUEBEC AWARDS

Bird Protection Quebec is entirely dependent on its volunteer membership for its operations. We recognize and reward outstanding member achievement as well as related achievements by members of the public or public groups. Recognition is accomplished through the making of discretionary awards. At its meeting on March 24, 2011, the BPQ Board of Directors agreed that, in future, all awards should be discretionary and left in the hands of the Executive Committee. Therefore, there will no longer be a call to the membership for nominations for awards; however, suggestions are welcome and invited.

Report on the 8th annual Summer Series of Birding

Sheldon Harvey

Our eighth consecutive year of summer field trips wrapped up on August 20th. We had eight trips, visiting Ile Bizard, Pointe-des-Cascades, Philipsburg/St-Armand, Parc des Rapides, Iberville & Lacolle, and the always popular eastern Ontario sewage lagoons. Included in the eight outings were two special trips; one to the McGill Bird Observatory and one to Le Nichoir in Hudson. We had excellent weather throughout the summer with the exception of the Ile Bizard trip which was conducted during breaks between some fairly heavy rain showers.

The combined trips netted a total of 123 species which broke our previous record of 122 seen during our 2004 Series. Our most productive trip this year, species-wise, was the Ontario sewage lagoon outing on

August 20th where we had a total of 64 species. This was only two species short of our highest species count ever on a summer outing: 66 in the summer of 2010 on the trip along the Quebec/Ontario border from Ste-Justine-de-Newton to Pointe-Fortune.

Six new species were added to our Summer Series master list which now stands at 172 over the eight years. They were Sanderling, Eurasian Collared Dove, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Parula and Cape May Warbler.

I'd like to thank Gay McDougall and the staff of the McGill Bird Observatory for providing us with the grand tour of their operation. As well, we were pleased to participate in the open-house event at Le Nichoir in Hudson. I thank everyone who came out to join in the fun, contributing to another enjoyable season. I look forward to another great summer series in 2012.

There follow, reports of Summer Series birding trips:

23/07/11 – Summer Series Trip #5 – Parc des Rapides, LaSalle, QC

Leader: Sheldon Harvey

7 birders; 40 species - 26°C Mainly Clear

Birds of the Day: Osprey, Belted Kingfisher

Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole

30/07/11 – Summer Series Trip #6 – Ste-Brigide, Iberville & Lacolle

Leader Sheldon Harvey

11 birders; 42 species - 22°C Mainly Clear

Birds of the Day: Eurasian Collared Dove, Carolina Wren

Other Birds of Note: Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow Warbler (feeding a young Cowbird)

07/08/11 – Summer Series Trip #7 – McGill Bird

Observatory, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC Leader: Sheldon Harvey

25°C Mostly Cloudy



Sewage Lagoon Trip (Darlene Harvey)

Birds of the Day: Cape May Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Indigo Bunting
Other Birds of Note: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

20/08/11 – Summer Series Trip #8 – Eastern Ontario Sewage Lagoons (St-Isidore, Casselman, Embrun, St-Albert)

Leader: Sheldon Harvey

25°C Mainly Clear followed by heavy wind and rain

Birds of the Day: Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Red-necked Phalarope

Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Common Raven, Mourning Warbler, Indigo Bunting.

First trips of the new season :

27/08/11 – Parc nature du Cap-St-Jacques, Pierrefonds

Leader: Wayne Grubert

Sunny, light breeze, warm. 9 birders; 39 species

Birds of the Day: Hooded Merganser, Belted Kingfisher

Other Birds of Note: Green Heron, Caspian Tern, Pileated Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch

03/09/11 – Lac St-François Nature Reserve, Dundee, QC & Ste-Martine

Leader: Wayne Grubert

High temperatures, humidity, overcast. 5 birders; 41 species

Birds of the Day: Bald Eagle (3), Sandhill Crane (2), Northern Harrier

Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Magnolia Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bobolink

10/09/11 – Hudson

Leader: Barbara MacDuff

Cool, warming throughout the morning. 17 birders; 53 species

Bird of the Day: Bald Eagle

Other Birds of Note: 50 Turkey Vultures, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Semipalmated Plover, Caspian Tern, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Purple Finch

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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. **Food:** Bring plenty to eat and drink, even on half-day trips.

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.* **Nourriture :** *Toujours prévoir une collation et quelque chose à boire.*

Saturday October 8 - samedi 8 octobre Cooper Marsh

http://www.rca.on.ca/cooper_marsh.htm

Leader: Martin Bowman

613-347-1655 pict@riverlink.ca

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 20 (Ontario Highway 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Highway 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Allow at least an hour's travel time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds and migrating passerines. Half day.

8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401), prendre la sortie pour Lancaster, Ontario (sortie 814). Prendre l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivre les indications pour le marais Cooper. Prévoir au moins 1 h de route à partir de Montreal. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces diurnes, limicoles et passereaux en migration. Demi-journée.

Saturday October 15 - samedi 15 octobre Parc national d'Oka, QC

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

8:00 a.m. Take Hwy 13 north to Hwy 640. Go west on 640 to its intersection with Hwy 344. Cross 344 into Parc d'Oka. Proceed 6.2 km to the Accueil Camping. An entrance fee of \$3.50 will be charged.

Looking for migrating passerines, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. Half day.

8h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 13 nord jusqu'à l'autoroute 640. Continuer sur l'autoroute 640 ouest jusqu'à l'intersection avec l'autoroute 344. Traverser la 344 et entrer dans le Parc d'Oka. Continuer sur une distance de 6,2 km jusqu'à l'Accueil Camping. Frais d'entrée: 3,50 \$. Espèces recherchées : passereaux en migration, rapaces, sauvagine et limicoles. Demi-journée.

Saturday October 22 - samedi 22 octobre Refuge faunique Marguerite D'Youville, Île Saint-Bernard

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

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

8:00 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay. From Montreal, take Highway 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Highway 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto Boul. St-Francis. Follow St-Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Boulevard Salaberry Nord. Turn right on to Salaberry Nord. Continue past the railway bridge. The next bridge that crosses the road and river is Pont de la Sauvagine. Turn right just after the bridge. There will be a sign and an entrance ramp for the bridge for Beauharnois and Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville. Cross the bridge and continue to Notre-Dame Nord. At the flashing red light turn right onto Notre-Dame and follow the signs to Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville. Cross the

small bridge onto Île St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right. Walking trip looking for waterbirds and late migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. \$3.00 admission fee. Less for BPQ members. Half day.

8h00 Rassemblement à l'accueil du refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, Île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay. De Montréal, prendre la route 138 et traverser le pont Mercier. A la sortie du pont, garder la droite et continuer sur la 138, passé Kahnawake, jusqu'à Châteauguay. A l'entrée de Châteauguay, tourner à droite sur le boul. St-Francis. Continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'à l'intersection avec le boul. Salaberry Nord, qui longe la rivière Châteauguay. Tourner à droite sur Salaberry nord, passer en-dessous du pont de la voie ferrée et continuer jusqu'à un deuxième pont : il s'agit du pont de la Sauvagine. Tourner à droite juste après avoir passé sous ce pont et accéder à une rampe d'accès au pont. Des indications pour le refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville y sont visibles. Traverser le pont et continuer jusqu'à la rue Notre-Dame Nord. Au feu rouge clignotant, tourner à droite sur Notre-Dame et suivre les indications pour le refuge. Traverser le petit pont qui mène à l'île Saint-Bernard. Le stationnement est à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques et de migrants tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. Frais d'entrée de 3.00\$. Moins pour les membres de POQ. Demi-journée.

Saturday October 29 - samedi 29 octobre Spontaneous Autumn Outing - Location TBD

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

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

songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

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

Saturday 5 November - samedi 5 novembre Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard
514-694-8240 jeandemers@sympatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 East to the exit for Boul. Gouin (Exit 92). Turn left (west) on Gouin Blvd. and follow it for 1.9 km, looking for the blue signs indicating "Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies." The parking lot is located at the Pavillon des Marais section of the park, at 12,300 Gouin Blvd. East. Parking: \$7.00. Half day.

8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 40 est, prendre la sortie pour le boulevard Gouin (sortie 92). Tourner à gauche, direction ouest, sur le boulevard Gouin. Continuer sur Gouin sur une distance de 1,9 km jusqu'au panneau bleu indiquant l'entrée du Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies. Le stationnement est situé au Pavillon des marais, 12 300 boulevard Gouin Est. Frais de stationnement : 7,00 \$. Demi-journée.

Saturday 12 November - samedi 12 novembre. Voyageur Provincial Park

Leader: Joël Coutu
514-324-5092 fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

Please note the starting time!

1:00 p.m. Meet at Voyageur park. Take the 40 ouest direction Ottawa/Gatineau. Take Exit 5 and turn north. Follow Front Rd/County Rd #4 and turn right at Voyageur park's gate entrance. Some walking; so dress warmly. A variety of ducks, and other species can be seen here at this time of year. Trip ends at sunset. At the end of the day, the geese fly back to the river and bay. This destination is worth seeing at sunset.

Veillez noter l'heure de départ!

13h00* Rendez-vous au Parc Voyageur. Prendre l'autoroute 40 vers Ottawa/Gatineau. Prend la sortie 5 et tourner vers le nord. Suivre Front Rd/County Rd # 4 et tourne à droite à l'entrée du Parc Voyageur. Vêtements chauds et un peu de marche prévu. À l'automne, les baies sont prises d'assaut par les canards migrateurs et aussi autres espèces. L'excursion se terminera aux coucher du soleil. Vers la fin de la journée, les oies retournent vers la rivière et la baie. Cet endroit vaut la peine d'être vue au coucher du soleil.

Saturday November 19 - samedi 19 novembre Spontaneous Late Autumn Outing - Location TBD

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

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

La fin de l'automne est un moment intéressant mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux ; des migrateurs tardifs ou des visiteurs rares pouvant se retrouver à peu près n'importe où. En conséquence, la destination pour cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant qu'elle n'ait lieu. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des

oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalée dans les jours précédant la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur le site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.

Saturday 26 November - samedi le 26 novembre Morgan Arboretum - Arboretum Morgan

Leader: TBA

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

8:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on Chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. Half day.

8h00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement principal, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres. Demi-journée.

Saturday 3 December – samedi le 3 décembre Casselman and Ste-Rose-de-Prescott, Eastern Ontario

Leader: Jacques Bouvier

613-524-1154 bouvier@magma.ca

8:30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot of Tim Hortons in Casselman, Ontario. From Montreal, take Highway 40 to the Ontario border. Continue on Highway 417 to Exit 66 (Casselman). From the exit, continue north towards Casselman for a short distance. Tim Hortons is on the right as you head north. This will be mostly a driving trip with the possibility of a couple of short walks. Looking for Snowy Owl, Horned Lark and other winter birds of open country as well as other winter residents. Half day.

8h30 Rassemblement au Tim Hortons à Casselman, Ontario. Emprunter l'autoroute 40 jusqu'à la frontière avec l'Ontario. Poursuivre sur l'autoroute 417 jusqu'à la sortie 66 (Casselman). À la sortie, continuer vers le nord en direction de Casselman sur une courte distance. Le Tim Horton sera à votre droite. Excursion en voiture principalement, avec la possibilité de faire quelques courtes randonnées. Espèces recherchées : Harfang des neiges, Alouette hausse-col et autres oiseaux d'hiver se tenant dans des endroits à découvert en plus des résidents. Demi-journée.

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