

Issue 64-5
July 2022



Summer Birding Issue

News for Members



The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Mission Statement

VISION

We envision a world in which people appreciate the intrinsic benefits of birds and act to protect our planet and its wildlife.

MISSION

Our mission is to protect birds and bird habitat while fostering an appreciation of them through conservation, observation, research, and education.



President	Simon Duval
Vice-Presidents	Sheldon Harvey Ana Morales Kristen Lalla
Treasurer	Sheldon Harvey
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Wilson's Snipe

Photo courtesy of Wendy Conn

A Word FROM THE EDITORS

Summer is upon us, bringing an end to the traditional birding season that runs from September to June, and a short break in some of Bird Protection Quebec's regular activities.

However, as Sheldon Harvey explains in his feature article in this issue - "Summer Birding: Is it even a thing?" - don't despair! Sheldon convinced BPQ years ago that the summer months offer a multitude of different birding opportunities so we hope you will join him for the *19th Summer Series of Birding* field trips that will take place every weekend throughout July and August.

Also in this issue, former board member Suzan Denoncourt shares the experience of being a first time Pointe Pelee birder. Read her account and find out if this "birding mecca" lived up to its hype. We also introduce you to BPQ's collaborative nesting box programs at the Belvedere Cemetery and the Technoparc Montréal and thank Gay McDougall-Gruner, and Katherine Collin and François Riou for updating us on these important programs.

This is the final issue of *The Song Sparrow* for the season as well, and the fifth in its revamped format. We hope you've enjoyed the new lay-out, and the new regular columns and feature articles by our talented writers. We'd like to send a shout-out to our meticulous proofreaders, who keep us on our toes checking facts and spelling: Jean Harwood-Gregson, Karen Sherman and Jill Savouré.

As we prepare to start all over again in the fall for the 2022-2023 season, we'd like to hear from you. What did you like? What didn't you like? What would you like to see more of? Drop us a line at communications@pqspb.org. And to those who have encouraged us with kind words throughout the year, thank you!

Have a great summer everybody!

Connie and Darlene



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2022 already? It sure has been a special start to summer, with cold periods followed by rain, and then some more rain. Birds are singing nonetheless, and most species are now feeding young, with some already from a second brood. Other late nesting species like American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwing will start courtship fairly soon, while a species like American Redstart will start to think about migration in less than a month. Our summer here in Quebec sure goes by fast!

Speaking of things going too fast, my two-year term as president of Bird Protection Quebec came to an end in May. It was a privilege to lead the organization during the past two years. As you know, the pandemic situation didn't allow us to conduct our activities as we normally would but, despite that, with the help of our amazing group of volunteers, we were able to adapt ourselves to make the most out of these difficult times.

Personally, at the end of my term there remained more that I wanted to accomplish for BPQ, more projects that I wanted to move forward. With that in mind, I was very pleased to accept when my fellow board members voted, at the first meeting of the new board in mid-June, to re-elect me for another two-year term as president of our organization.

My hope for the next two years is to use all the resources that we have available to us to continue our mission to protect birds and foster their appreciation through education, conservation and observation.

Simon Duval

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Déjà juillet 2022 ? Le début de l'été a été particulier, avec des périodes de froid, suivi de pluie, puis encore de pluie. Les oiseaux chantent toujours par contre, et la plupart des espèces nourrissent maintenant leurs jeunes, certains en sont déjà à leur deuxième couvée. D'autres espèces qui nichent plus tardivement comme le Chardonneret jaune et le Jaseur d'Amérique commenceront à faire la cour assez rapidement, tandis qu'une espèce comme la Paruline flamboyante commencera à penser à la migration dans moins d'un mois. Notre été ici au Québec passe vraiment très vite !

En parlant de choses qui passent trop vite, mon mandat de deux ans à la présidence de Protection des oiseaux du Québec a pris fin en mai. Ce fut un privilège de diriger l'organisme au cours des deux dernières années. Comme vous le savez, la situation de la pandémie ne nous a pas permis de mener nos activités comme nous l'aurions normalement fait mais, malgré cela, avec l'aide de notre formidable groupe de bénévoles, nous avons su nous adapter pour faire de notre mieux durant ces temps difficiles.

Personnellement, à la fin de mon mandat, il me restait encore des choses que j'aimerais réaliser pour POQ, d'autres projets que je voulais faire avancer. Dans cette optique, j'ai été très heureux d'accepter lorsque mes collègues du conseil d'administration ont voté, lors de la première réunion du nouveau conseil à la mi-juin, de me réélire pour un nouveau mandat de deux ans à la présidence de notre organisation.

J'espère pour les deux prochaines années être en mesure d'utiliser toutes les ressources dont nous disposons pour poursuivre notre mission de protection des oiseaux et de promotion de leur appréciation par l'éducation, la conservation et l'observation.

Simon Duval

New Board Elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting - May 30, 2022

At our recent AGM, nine directors were elected or reelected to the Board of Directors to serve with five others who were elected last year for a two-year term.

A call for nominations had been put forward earlier in the year. Seven sitting directors out of nine whose terms were ending offered themselves for reelection, and two candidates submitted their duly signed and supported nomination forms to the Elections/Nominations Committee: Helen Meredith, past board member and current secretary, and Émile Brisson-Curadeau, also a past board member. There being no other nominations, it was motioned that the slate of nine people presented be approved by the membership. One position left vacant by a director who resigned mid-term remains open and, as permitted by our by-laws, will be filled by the board when a suitable candidate can be identified.

The board thanks Suzan Denoncourt and Maya Longpré-Croteau, who completed their first terms in May and chose not to stand for reelection, for their contributions over the last two years. Their involvement with BPQ is happily not over as both continue their work as members of different committees.

New Board of Directors

Émile Brisson-Curadeau
Claude Cloutier
Simon Duval
Kyle Elliott *
Jeff Harrison *
Darlene Harvey
Sheldon Harvey *

Kristen Lalla *
Le-duing (Yong) Lang *
Don-Jean Léandri-Breton
Helen Meredith
Ana Morales *
Shawna Sevigny *
Bonnie Soutar

* reelected

Officers - Elected by the Board

President:	Simon Duval
Vice-President, Administration:	Sheldon Harvey
Vice-President, Conservation:	Ana Morales
Vice-President, Education & Outreach:	Kristen Lalla
Treasurer:	Sheldon Harvey
Secretary:	Helen Meredith

The Executive Committee, as appointed by the board, is comprised of the President and the three V-Ps.

Nouveau conseil élu par les membres lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle - 30 mai 2022

Lors de notre récente AGA, neuf administrateurs ont été élus ou réélus au conseil d'administration pour servir avec cinq autres qui avaient été élus l'an dernier pour un mandat de deux ans.

Un appel à candidatures avait été lancé plus tôt dans l'année. Sept administrateurs en poste sur les neuf dont le mandat se terminait se sont proposés pour être réélus, et deux candidats ont soumis leur formulaire de candidature dûment signé et appuyé au comité des élections et des nominations : Helen Meredith, ancienne membre du conseil d'administration et secrétaire actuelle, et Émile Brisson-Curadeau, également ancien membre du conseil d'administration. En l'absence d'autres candidatures, il a été proposé que la liste des neuf personnes présentées soit approuvée par les membres de POQ. Un poste laissé vacant par un administrateur qui a démissionné à mi-mandat reste ouvert et, comme le permettent nos règlements, sera comblé par le conseil lorsqu'un candidat approprié pourra être identifié.

Le conseil remercie Suzan Denoncourt et Maya Longpré-Croteau, qui ont terminé leur premier mandat en mai et ont choisi de ne pas se représenter, pour leur contribution au cours des deux dernières années. Leur engagement auprès de POQ n'est heureusement pas terminé puisqu'elles poursuivent toutes les deux leur travail en tant que membres de différents comités.

Nouveau conseil d'administration

Émile Brisson-Curadeau	Kristen Lalla *
Claude Cloutier	Le-duing (Yong) Lang *
Simon Duval	Don-Jean Léandri-Breton
Kyle Elliott *	Helen Meredith
Jeff Harrison *	Ana Morales *
Darlene Harvey	Shawna Sevigny *
Sheldon Harvey *	Bonnie Soutar

* réélu

Dirigeants - Élus par le conseil

Président:	Simon Duval
Vice-président, administration:	Sheldon Harvey
Vice-présidente, conservation:	Ana Morales
Vice-présidente, éducation & sensibilisation:	Kristen Lalla
Trésorier:	Sheldon Harvey
Sécrétaire:	Helen Meredith

Le comité exécutif, nommé par le conseil, est composé du président et des trois vice-présidents.

Summer beauties ...

Les beautés d'été...



Indigo Bunting/Passerin indigo
Photo: Fred Gustavsson



Baltimore Oriole de Baltimore
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Eastern Bluebird/Merlebleu de l'est
Photo: Tom Long



Scarlet Tanager/Tangara écarlate
Photo: Joe McGill



Purple Martin/Hirondelle noire
Photo: Tom Long

Focus on

OUR MEMBERS



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

We are grateful that so many people have joined us in our mission to support birds in the last few months!

Please help us welcome:

Vytautas Bucionis, Talia Hamalian and Gerry Bard, Leslie Richardson and Mike Wiener, Marc-Antoine Labelle and family, Barry Solman, Mary-Ellen Hebb, Mona Wizenberg, Glen Chipman and Rina Calabrese, Ralph Thompson, Suzanne Bélanger, Penny Arsenault, Bonnie McEachern, Susan Szalpeter and Joseph Carlton, Debra Surjadinata, Karen Evoy and Jeffrey Landry, Terry Graham, John Guerin and Lucie Discepola, Stefania Vani, Diane Seguin, and Jules Delisle.

We look forward to meeting you in person, particularly now that our field trip committee has us back in the field! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and to join our Song Sparrow e-list group [here](#) to connect with fellow members.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Do you have good bird identification skills? Our coordinator, Jules Delisle, is currently managing a census project for the sanctuaries committee and is looking for volunteers.

The project's goal is to update our knowledge of the birds present on three of our properties and volunteers are needed this summer to assist with bird surveys.

If you would like to sign up for this important study, or if you would like more information, please contact Jules at: protectionoiseauxquebec@gmail.com.

BIENVENUE AUX NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

Nous sommes reconnaissants que tant de personnes se soient jointes à nous dans notre mission de soutien aux oiseaux au cours des derniers mois !

Rejoignez-nous pour accueillir :

Vytautas Bucionis, Talia Hamalian et Gerry Bard, Leslie Richardson et Mike Wiener, Marc-Antoine Labelle et famille, Barry Solman, Mary-Ellen Hebb, Mona Wizenberg, Glen Chipman et Rina Calabrese, Ralph Thompson, Suzanne Bélanger, Penny Arsenault, Bonnie McEachern, Susan Szalpeter et Joseph Carlton, Debra Surjadinata, Karen Evoy et Jeffrey Landry, Terry Graham, John Guerin et Lucie Discepola, Stefania Vani, Diane Seguin, et Jules Delisle.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous rencontrer en personne, surtout maintenant que notre comité des excursions nous a remis sur le terrain ! N'oubliez pas de nous suivre sur Facebook, ainsi de vous inscrire à notre liste d'abonnés virtuels « Song Sparrow » en cliquant [ici](#) pour vous connecter avec d'autres membres.

RAPPEL À BÉNÉVOLES

Vous avez une bonne connaissance de l'identification d'oiseaux ? Notre coordonnatrice, Jules Delisle, gère actuellement un projet de recensement pour le comité des sanctuaires et est à la recherche de bénévoles.

L'objectif du projet est de mettre à jour nos connaissances sur les oiseaux présents sur trois de nos propriétés et nous avons besoin de bénévoles cet été pour aider aux relevés des oiseaux.

Si vous souhaitez vous inscrire à cette importante étude, ou si vous souhaitez obtenir de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter Jules à l'adresse suivante : protectionoiseauxquebec@gmail.com.



Focus on FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Past Field Trips

It is hard to believe that the last *Song Sparrow* that contained a full "Past Field Trips" report was the March 2020 issue! After more than two years, we decided, along with our dedicated volunteer guides, that pandemic conditions had improved to the point that we could restart our regular outings - open to all, with no participant limits, and just in time for spring migration! And it has been obvious from the enthusiastic participation of long-time and new members alike that everyone has been itching to get out in the field together. May we never again go so long without seeing you all! - *BPQ Field Trip Committee*

15/05/22 (Sunday) Parc de la Frayère

Guides: Darlene Harvey, Sheldon Harvey
Weather: Brief rain shower, then cloudy skies, comfortable temp
Participants: 9 Species: 63
Birds of the Day: 4 Great Egrets, 2 Wood Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow
Other Birds of Note: Common Gallinule, 13 warbler species

21/05/22 George Montgomery Sanctuary, Philipsburg

Guide: Nicholas Acheson
Weather: Humid, cloudy (= mosquitoes)
Participants: 15 Species: 51
Birds of the Day: Cerulean Warbler, singing Yellow-throated Vireos (heard not seen)
Other Birds of Note: Singing Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings, good view of Ovenbird

23/05/22 (Monday) Mount Royal and Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemeteries

Guides: Darlene Harvey, Sheldon Harvey
Weather: Sunny, pleasant temperatures
Participants: 15 Species: 40
Birds of the Day: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Other Birds of Note: Philadelphia Vireo, 4 Eastern Bluebirds, Red-shouldered Hawk, Indigo Bunting, 8 warbler species

28/05/22 Montée Biggar Sanctuary, Huntingdon

Guides: Wayne Grubert, Sheldon Harvey
Weather: Showers then clearing, 15-20°C, NW breeze
Participants: 14 Species: 53
Birds of the Day: Willow Flycatcher, Black-billed Cuckoo (heard), 2 Eastern Towhees
Other Birds of Note: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Scarlet Tanager

04/06/22 Parc-Angrignon

Guide: Diane Demers
Weather: Seasonal temperatures, mainly clear, calm early but increasingly windy
Participants: 22 Species: 43
Birds of the Day: Cooper's Hawk eating prey, Black-billed Cuckoo on nest, circling Red-shouldered Hawk
Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-heron, Black-throated Blue Warbler



Mount Royal Cemetery
Photo courtesy of Krongkarn (Noon) Sutham, one of two students from Thailand who joined the trip

11/06/22 Parc Frédéric-Back

Guides: Claude Cloutier, Chris Cloutier

Weather: Partly cloudy, SW breeze, 17-22°C

Participants: 18 Species: 33

Birds of the Day: Peregrine Falcon

Other Birds of Note: Numerous singing Savannah Sparrows



Parc Frédéric-Back
Photo: Chris Cloutier

18/06/22 Parc-Nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Weather: Cool 10°C, Windy, Rain for 2nd half of trip

Participants: 12 Species: 44

Birds of the Day: Red-eyed Vireo nest with 4 young

Other Birds of Note: Green Herons, Belted Kingfisher, Wilson Snipe

25/06/22 Southwestern Quebec Summer Solstice Trip

Guides: Wayne Grubert, Sheldon Harvey

Weather: Sunny, comfortable temperatures heating up towards the end of the trip

Participants: 11 Species: 69

Birds of the Day: Indigo Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark

Other Birds of Note: Bobolink, Eastern Bluebird



Northern Cardinal
Mount Royal Cemetery



Black-crowned Night Heron
Parc-Angrignon

Tuesday Morning Warbler Walks - Summit Park, Westmount

Supplemental early morning events offered to take full advantage of spring migration

Guide: Jane Cormack

3/05/22 8 people 15 species

Birds of Note: Brown Creeper, Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren

10/05/22 19 people 21 species

Birds of Note: Cooper's hawk, Blue-headed Vireos, 5 warbler species

17/05/22 8 people 16 species

Birds of Note: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler

24/05/22 3 people 12 species

Birds of Note: Pileated Woodpecker, Magnolia Warbler, Indigo Bunting

31/05/22 6 people 16 species

Birds of Note: Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Great Crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting



Upcoming Field Trips

Our last field trip of the birding year took place on June 25. But don't think that we're deserting you! We will move almost immediately into Sheldon Harvey's "19th Summer Series of Birding" (see his article on page 16).

The summer trips are planned last minute and take us to spots not frequented during the regular season. We also take advantage of the chance to track down rare bird sightings whenever possible.

Summer brings a whole different experience, from nesting and feeding birds to changes in plumage as fall approaches. So, watch your inbox, visit our Facebook page or check out the Song Sparrow iO group to see what we have planned for you each week and come discover summer birding!

Note: if you are not already a member of our iO email group, join [here](#) .

Eastern Kingbird guarding a nest last July
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Slightly odd looking Red-winged Blackbird in August
Photo: Darlene Harvey





Pierre Bannon's
BIRD VIEWS

April - May 2022

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

Spring is a good season to see vagrant birds and this year was no exception. Among the waterfowl, Québec birders had the opportunity to see old world species like Tundra Bean-Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Tufted Duck, and Common Pochard. Furthermore, the record-breaking numbers of Golden Eagles and Broad-winged Hawks astounded hawkwatchers. Finally, there were many passerines that overshot their normal stopping area located south of the province.



PIERRE BANNON
PARLONS D'OISEAUX

avril - mai 2022

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

Le printemps est une bonne saison pour découvrir des oiseaux désorientés et cette année n'a pas fait exception. Parmi les anatidés, les ornithologues québécois ont eu la possibilité de voir des espèces de l'ancien monde tel l'Oie de la toundra, l'Oie à bec court, la Bernache nonnette, le Fuligule morillon et le Fuligule milouin. De plus, le nombre record d'Aigles royaux et de Petites Buses a stupéfié les observateurs de rapaces. Enfin, de nombreux passereaux égarés ont dépassé leur aire normal situé au sud de la province.

Tundra Bean-Goose: for the third consecutive year, one appeared in the province, this time at Cap Tourmente 15 May, most probably always the same individual travelling around (Philippe Hénault et al.).

Pink-footed Goose: following last fall invasion, birds turned up in 9 different localities, including 3 birds at Granby 27-28 March (Samuel Jetté et al.).

Barnacle Goose: singles at Victoriaville 17-24 Apr (Claude Roy et al.), Bic 23-27 Apr (Rita St-Laurent et al.), Saint-Barthélemy 9 May (Joanne Masson), Laval 27 May (François Lapointe), and L'Assomption 29 May (Sylvia Hérédia, Sylvain Proulx).

Trumpeter Swan: in addition to the Abitibi and the Saguenay regions where the species has already nested, birds showed up this spring in at least 6 other localities of southern Québec, including a maximum of 5 birds at Louiseville 10-11 Apr (Luc Lemoyne et al.).

Tufted Duck: singles at Gatineau 3 Apr (Éric Patry), at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 18-24 Apr (Emmanuel Milot et al.) and at Sept-Îles 25 Apr-14 May (Patricia Lalonde et al.).

Common Pochard: a male was present at Saint-Gédéon, in the Lake Saint-Jean region, 8-12 May, providing a second record for the province of Québec and a third for Canada (Laurent Bédard et al.). The first record for Canada also occurred in Québec 2-11 May 2008 (see NAB 62: 375).

American Avocet: one stopped at Rouyn-Noranda 27 Apr-21 May (Jonathan Gagnon).

Upland Sandpiper: one at Fatima 30 May contributed a first record for Les Îles de la Madeleine (André Couture et al.).

Ruff: one at Nicolet 13 May (Yves Dugré, Jean Carpentier).

Arctic Tern: one photographed at Rouyn-Noranda 23 May, very rare in Abitibi (Jonathan Gagnon).

Least Bittern: one at Tadoussac on the North Shore 27 May (Yannick Lapointe) and one at l'Anse à Beaufile in the Gaspé peninsula 31 May (Yves Giroux) represented both first records for their respective region.

Green Heron: one at Lake Osisko 23-29 May produced a first record for the Abitibi region (Jonathan Gagnon et al.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: an adult was photographed at Laval 3 May (Manon English, Jean-Pierre Machet).

Glossy Ibis: seen in 8 localities with a maximum of 3 birds at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 15-16 May, accompanied by a presumed White-faced Ibis X Glossy Ibis hybrid (Ghislaine Boulet, Réal Boulet).

Black Vulture: a least one bird, sometimes 2, was regularly seen on the same territory at Philipsburg 15 Apr-23 May (m. obs.). Singles were also reported in 3 other localities.

Mississippi Kite: one at Saint-Valérien-de-Milton 16 May, provided the 3rd record for the province (Daniel Demers, Nelson Roy, ph.).

Broad-winged Hawk: an unprecedented count of 7,583 birds was tallied at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 25 Apr (Bob Barnhurst, Mable McIntosh).

Red-headed Woodpecker: singles seen in 7 localities, the northernmost at LaMorandière (Abitibi) 16-19 May (Daniel Laforce, Cynthia Laforce).

Western Kingbird: one at Gatineau 16 May (Rodolphe Dubois).

Acadian Flycatcher: one seen and heard at Sherbrooke 27 May (Chelsey Paquette, Alexi Hobbs).

Loggerhead Shrike: a one-day wonder at Sainte-Félicité 24 May (Jules Alex Banville).

White-eyed Vireo: one at Cap Tourmente 21 May (Cristina Araya, Ismael Chavez).

Fish Crow: a bird was back at the last year nesting site at Magog 28 May (Sylvie Robert).

Northern Wheatear: one at LaPocatière 30 May (Frédéric Hareau).

Townsend's Solitaire: singles at Saint-Narcisse-de-Rimouski 3-15 April (Pierre Fradette), Val d'Or 15 Apr (Raymond Ladurantaye, Claudia Siano) and Pont-Rouge 25 Apr (Roger Dion, François Dion).

Lark Sparrow: one at Authier-Nord 26 Apr (Cécile Plante).

Lark Bunting: one at Lac à l'Anguille (Rimouski) 23 May (Denise St-Pierre).

Golden-crowned Sparrow: the bird that overwintered at Rimouski was last seen 16 Apr (Alexandre Anctil).

Harris's Sparrow: the bird that overwintered at Saint-Rosaire continued until 27 Apr (Martine St-Louis), while another one stopped at Roberval 9-14 May (Josée Rousseau).

Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Baie Lavallière 21 May (André Lanouette).

Western Meadowlark: one at Saint-Siméon (Gaspésie) 31

Oie de la toundra: pour la 3^{ème} année consécutive, un oiseau est apparu dans la province, cette fois à Cap Tourmente 15 mai, vraisemblablement toujours le même individu en déplacement (Philippe Hénault et al.).

Oie à bec court: faisant suite à l'invasion de l'automne dernier, des oiseaux sont réapparus dans 9 localités différentes, dont 3 à Granby 27-28 mars (Samuel Jetté et al.).

Bernache nonnette: des oiseaux aperçus à Victoriaville 17-24 avr (Claude Roy et al.), Bic 23-27 avr (Rita St-Laurent et al.), Saint-Barthélemy 9 mai (Joanne Masson), Laval 27 mai (François Lapointe), et L'Assomption 29 mai (Sylvia Hérédia, Sylvain Proulx).

Cygne trompette: en plus des régions de l'Abitibi et du Saguenay où l'espèce a déjà niché, des oiseaux sont apparus ce printemps dans au moins 6 autres localités du sud du Québec, dont un maximum de 5 oiseaux à Louiseville 10-11 avr (Luc Lemoyne et al.).

Fuligule morillon: des oiseaux à Gatineau 3 avr (Éric Patry), à Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 18-24 avr (Emmanuel Milot et al.) et à Sept-Îles 25 avr-14 mai (Patricia Lalonde et al.).

Fuligule milouin: un mâle était présent à Saint-Gédéon (Lac Saint-Jean) 8-12 mai, fournissant une 2^{ème} mention pour le Québec et une 3^{ème} pour le Canada (Laurent Bédard et al.). Le premier signalement pour le Canada a également eu lieu au Québec 2-11 mai 2008 (voir NAB 62 : 375).

Avocette d'Amérique: une à Rouyn-Noranda 27 avr-21 mai (Jonathan Gagnon).

Maubèche des champs: une à Fatima 30 mai constituait une première présence pour Les Îles de la Madeleine (André Couture et al.).

Combattant varié: un à Nicolet 13 mai (Yves Dugré, Jean Carpentier).

Sterne arctique: une photographiée à Rouyn-Noranda 23 mai, très rare en Abitibi (Jonathan Gagnon).

Petit Blongios: un à Tadoussac (Côte-Nord) 27 mai (Yannick Lapointe) et un à l'Anse à Beaufile (Gaspésie) 31 mai (Yves Giroux) représentaient des premières mentions pour leur région respective.

Héron vert: un au lac Osisko 23-29 mai a produit un premier record pour la région de l'Abitibi (Jonathan Gagnon et al.).

Bihoreau violaçé: un ad a été photographié à Laval 3 mai (Manon Anglais, Jean-Pierre Machet).

Ibis falcinelle: vu dans 8 localités avec un maximum de 3 oiseaux à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 15-16 mai, accompagnés d'un hybride présumé Ibis à face blanche X Ibis falcinelle (Ghislaine Boulet, Réal Boulet).

Urubu noir: au moins un oiseau, parfois 2, occupaient le même territoire à Philipsburg 15 avr-23 mai (pl. obs.). Des indiv aussi signalés dans 3 autres localités.

Milan du Mississippi: un à Saint-Valérien-de-Milton 16 mai, produisait la 3^{ème} mention pour la province (Daniel Demers, Nelson Roy, ph.).

Petite Buse: un décompte sans précédent de 7,583 oiseaux enregistré à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 25 avr (Bob Barnhurst, Mable McIntosh).

Pic à tête rouge: des indiv vus dans 7 localités, le plus nordique étant à LaMorandière (Abitibi) 16-19 mai (Daniel Laforce, Cynthia Laforce).

Tyran de l'Ouest: un à Gatineau 16 mai (Rodolphe Dubois).

Moucherolle vert: un vu et entendu à Sherbrooke 27 mai (Chelsey Paquette, Alexi Hobbs).

Pie-grièche migratrice: une merveille d'un jour à Sainte-Félicité 24 mai (Jules Alex Banville).

Viréo aux yeux blancs: un à Cap Tourmente 21 mai (Cristina Araya, Ismael Chavez).

Cornelle de rivage: une de retour à Magog 28 mai, où l'espèce a niché l'an dernier (Sylvie Robert).

Traquet motteux: un à LaPocatière 30 mai (Frédéric Hareau).

Solitaire de Townsend: des indiv à Saint-Narcisse-de-Rimouski 3-15 avr (Pierre Fradette), Val d'Or 15 avr (Raymond Ladurantaye, Claudia Siano) et Pont-Rouge 25 avr (Roger Dion, François Dion).

Bruant à joues marron: un à Authier-Nord 26 avr (Cécile Plante).

Bruant noir et blanc: un au Lac à l'Anguille (Rimouski) 23 mai (Denise St-Pierre).

Bruant à couronne dorée: l'oiseau qui a hiverné à Rimouski a été vu jusqu'au 16 avr (Alexandre Anctil).

Bruant à face noire: l'oiseau qui a hiverné à Saint-Rosaire a été aperçu jusqu'au 27 avr (Martine St-Louis), et un autre s'est arrêté à Roberval 9-14 mai (Josée Rousseau).

Ictérie polyglotte: une à Baie Lavallière 21 mai (André Lanouette).

Sturnelle de l'Ouest: une à Saint-Siméon (Gaspésie) 31 mai (Sylvie

May (Sylvie Landry). **Orchard Oriole:** 3 birds were back at their nesting site at Pike River 18 May for the 5th consecutive year (Michel Asselin et al.). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one at Saint-Hyacinthe 13 May (Nelson Roy). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** one at Shefford 26 May, a new location for the species (Samuel Jetté). **Prothonotary Warbler:** one at Luskville 18 May (Langis Sirois, Hervé Tremblay). **Kentucky Warbler:** one at Victoriaville 19 May (Jean Ducharme). **Summer Tanager:** has become a more regular vagrant, seen in 5 localities. **Scarlet Tanager:** a male at Blanc Sablon 14 May was near the limit of its range (Lucia Purcell, ph.). **Blue Grosbeak:** a female at Matane 2 May (René Côté, *fide* Jules Alex Banville). **Lazuli Bunting:** one at Rivière-Saint-Jean (Minganie) 5-7 May provided the 6th record for the province (Réal Poulin et al.).

Please report your interesting bird observations to Pierre Bannon by E-mail at pierre.bannon@icloud.com

Landry). **Oriole des vergers:** 3 oiseaux de retour à leur site de nidification de Pike River 18 mai pour la 5ième année consécutive (Michel Asselin et al.). **Paruline vermivore:** une à Saint-Hyacinthe 13 mai (Nelson Roy). **Paruline hochequeue:** une à Shefford 26 mai, un nouveau site pour cette espèce rare (Samuel Jetté). **Paruline orangée:** une à Luskville 18 mai (Langis Sirois, Hervé Tremblay). **Paruline du Kentucky:** une à Victoriaville 19 mai (Jean Ducharme). **Piranga vermillon:** de plus en plus régulier, vu dans 5 localités. **Piranga écarlate:** un mâle à Blanc Sablon 14 mai, à la limite de son aire (Lucia Purcell, ph.). **Guiraca bleu:** une femelle à Matane 2 mai (René Côté, *fide* Jules Alex Banville). **Passerin azuré:** un à Rivière-Saint-Jean (Minganie) 5-7 mai fournissait la 6ième mention pour la province (Réal Poulin et al.).

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon, par courriel à pierre.bannon@icloud.com

"I think we consider too much the good luck of the early bird and not enough the bad luck of the early worm."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Some things you only see in summer!

Immature Least Bittern

Photo: Darlene Harvey



SUMMER BIRDING

Is it even a Thing?

by
**Sheldon
Harvey**

My first exposure to Bird Protection Quebec and its organized field trips took place in October 2002 - yes, almost 20 full years ago. I was introduced to BPQ during a lecture I attended at the Montreal Gazette given by Dr. David Bird. A group that goes out every weekend to look at birds? It sounded exactly like what I had been looking for.

My first trip with the group was to Parc National d'Oka, a trip that was led by guide Wayne Grubert. Wayne led the group to the beach front and, as we emerged from the trail on to the beach, an Osprey rose up from the water with a large fish in its talons. I was in the right place!

I attended most of the field trips throughout the rest of the autumn, the winter months and right into my first spring migration in 2003. I was thrilled with all the great birds, and all the amazing birding spots we visited, most of which I had never known existed.

I learned as much as I could from leaders like Wayne Grubert, Felix Hilton and Martin Bowman, to name just a few. However, I was shocked and disappointed to learn that the final trip of the season would be in mid-June, and there would be no others scheduled until September. What about the summer?

I was given a long list of reasons why BPQ didn't organize trips in the summer: it was too hot ... there aren't a lot of birds to see ... there are too many insects ... people go away for the summer. I couldn't believe it. I was all charged up to continuing birding and learning, but now I had to wait until September?!

I decided to continue birding throughout the summer of 2003. I convinced Darlene, my wife, to come along with me, using the appeal of all the amazing places I had visited with the group. Once out I, of course, took the opportunity to show her the amazing variety of birds. We spent the summer birding on our own, waiting for the new season of BPQ trips to start.

Fall 2003 through spring 2004 was another great season, but June was rolling around again and the club was about to begin the annual summer hiatus. I approached members of the BPQ board of directors and the field trip committee, letting them know that I planned to keep birding throughout the summer and that if other members wanted to join me they were more than welcome to do so.

My proposal was shot down. I was given the same list of reasons why the club didn't do summer trips and that if I wanted to organize trips throughout the summer, I was on my own. They would neither be promoted by BPQ, nor sanctioned by the organization.

Not letting that discourage me, the "Summer Series of Birding" was born. I found ways to get the word out and, sure enough, people turned out, many wondering why BPQ didn't do field trips in the summer. Many of the participants were people I had not met during the rest of the year.

I led nine trips to nine different locations, drawing an average of 16 participants per outing. We reached a single-trip high species count of 60, twice, during the summer and a grand total of 122 different species over the Summer Series outings combined. Did someone say there were no birds in the summer?

It seems the summer trips were being watched by the BPQ field trip committee, and the board. As the spring 2005 trips were wrapping up, I was approached by the board and asked if I would consider conducting another summer series in 2005. The trips would be "official" and I could use BPQ channels to promote the outings. The summer trips have been held every year since.

Summer 2022 is approaching and I'll be kicking off the 19th consecutive year of "The Summer Series of Birding" shortly. Modified versions of the outings were organized during the 2020 and 2021 Covid summers to keep the streak going. People were encouraged to go out on their own, birding wherever they liked, for the 10-week period each year. Those "trips" proved to be very popular and, in fact, the 2021 season saw the highest number of species recorded in one summer: 200!

Usually held on Saturday, the destination of each summer field trip is determined just a few days prior. I monitor rare bird sightings and if something special is out there, within a reasonable distance, we may head out to look for it. Otherwise, I do try to find new locations, or locations that we haven't visited for some time.

Statistically, combining our previous 18 seasons of summer field trips, our overall species count stands at 232, including some rare ones over the years such as Mute Swans in 2004 and 2021; Eurasian Wigeon in 2004; Red-necked Grebe in 2012; American White Pelican in 2019; Marbled Godwit in 2010; Little Egret in 2012; Black-bellied Whistling Duck in 2018; Red-headed Woodpecker in 2016; Eurasian Collared Dove in 2011; and Orchard Oriole in 2019.

Keep an eye out starting in late June for details as we begin our 19th season. The outings will be announced on the BPQ Facebook page, through the iO email group and through the weekly direct e-mailings. I look forward to seeing you out in the field this summer.



Common Grackle enjoying summer's bounty
Photo: Darlene Harvey

Sunrise at the tip

Photo: Sue Denoncourt

Destination Point Pelee - Take Three...

BY SUZAN DENONCOURT

There are nearly 157,000 eBird hotspots across North America, and among the highest in ranking is none other than Point Pelee National Park. Excluding locations inaccessible by car (specifically Farallon Islands), it sits a mere seven species shy of top spot. In fact, it is so well known that its reputation as Canada's birdwatching paradise extends beyond the birding community. Hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to this national gem each year, while just as many others await the chance to check it off their bucket lists.

And yet, despite all the accolades, it isn't a draw for every bird lover. Among even the most ardent checklist-keepers, some remain unconvinced Pelee is a must-see.

Are they missing out on the experience of a lifetime? Or is the hype just a tad overblown. The opportunity for me to form my own impression came smack during its longstanding annual Festival of Birds 2020 ... nope 2021 ... make that 2022.

But first, the backstory

My 2020 trip was planned in celebration of "my freedom to bird at will" (aka early retirement). By then, it had been three years since my introduction to the wonder of birding, and I was hooked. A regular on BPQ field trips, I fed my obsession whenever I could including during business travel, which had become a golden opportunity to join local guides across the continent. My life-list had surpassed 350 and yet, regularly surrounded by experts, I still felt like a newbie. It was time to reach a new level and Pelee seemed like the perfect rite of passage.

Then came that nasty airborne intruder migrating its way across the planet. Begrudgingly, I would have to wait a year before rubbing elbows with Margaret Atwood. (For those not in the know, our famed literary darling has a sweet spot for Pelee.) To satisfy my itch for all things avian, I binged literature, online courses, podcasts, live birdcams, you name it. By May 2021, I was convinced Point Pelee Take Two would be that much better... Fast-forward to May 2022 please. At last, the festival is a go, wave six be damned!

Why the fuss?

After two years of planning, my research was sufficiently exhaustive to appreciate the significance of the park's geography and ecology. Not only does it sit within the (proportionately tiny) Carolinian forest zone, it occupies one of the most biodiverse peninsulas. Add the fact that it forms the southernmost tip of mainland Canada - where both the Atlantic and Mississippi migratory flyways just so happen to intersect - and the result is an annual 370 bird species drawn to its nutrient-rich habitats. How many such habitats you ask? Five: dry forest, marsh, swamp forest, a beach, and the unique Lake Erie Sand Spit Savannah, all contained within 15 square kilometres.

You know it's a good sign when...

It was now Mothers' Day and time to finally hit the road after a family brunch. I would split the 9-hour drive over two days with a stop in Whitby, where I met up with my birding buddy (and very best friend). A bit of daylight left to savour, she introduced me to Thicksons Woods. Spotting scope in hand, we walked the cliff's edge toward "the point" where waterfowl could be seen below. Having barely panned a few Gadwalls along the shoreline, I gasped when a spectacular male Harlequin Duck came into view just beneath us. We marvelled as it sat on a rock for at least ten minutes before flying out of sight. And just like that, we were already off to a great start.

Off we go

By dawn the next morning, we headed to Rondeau Provincial Park, considered by some as "the other - or quieter - Pelee". This would be our one birding spot for the day before grabbing groceries on route to our Kingsville Airbnb. We parked near the Warbler Way trail and walked a short distance to the famous Pony Barn. Barely out of the car, we were surrounded by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Brown-headed Cowbirds and an Indigo Bunting, with chirping coming from every direction. For fun, I opened Merlin Sound ID to see what would happen. It spewed out a long list of species as fast as a casino slot machine hitting jackpot. Too mesmerized by this flurry of activity, it didn't register with either of us that we were surrounded by folks on the hunt for a Kirtland's Warbler reported nearby. By the time we clued in, we were among a group of 20 people observing a bare tree that hosted a steady stream of different warbler species for the better part of 30 minutes. Such an unbelievable sight. While we never did see the Kirtland's, we compiled a list of over 60 species with so little effort, it seemed too good to be true.



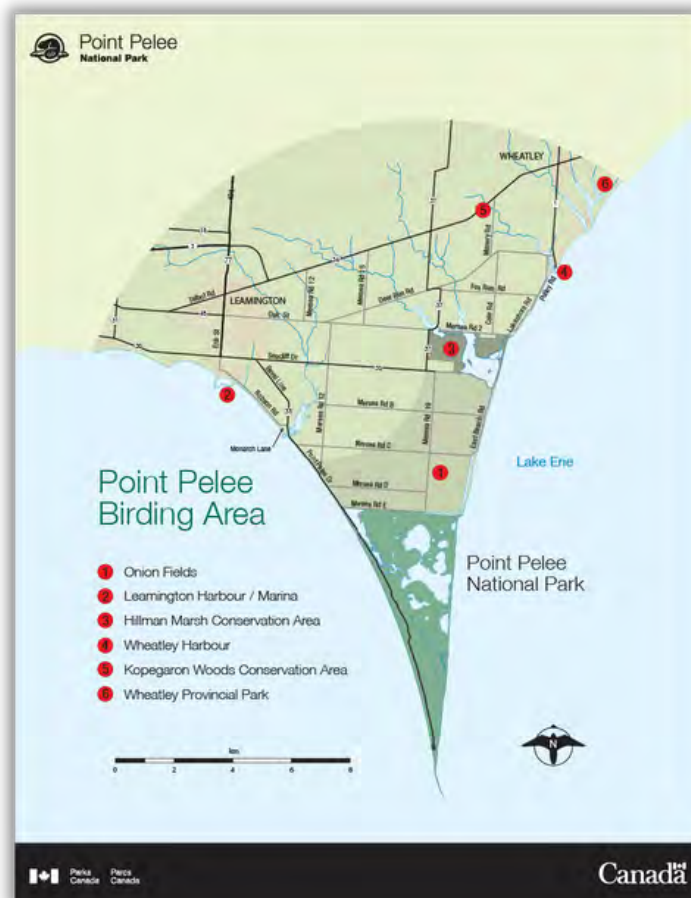
Launching mission-100-species

In choosing to visit Pelee during spring migration, the intent was to take advantage of the Festival of Birds. Among its events is the 100 Species Challenge. Bird anywhere within the Pelee Birding Area (which includes the park itself plus six other hotspots just to the north), and reach a daily tally of 100 species to collect a commemorative pin upon verification of your list in either eBird or iNaturalist. Daunting for sure, but we had four days to put our ID skills - and stamina - to the test. It helped that over 170 species had already been spotted over the prior nine days (with a good portion still present). It also helped that we would be joining 2-hour bird walks during our first three days, each in a different area and at a different time. Our plan of attack was to divvy up the park into three sections and cover one per day based on the walk location, leaving day 4 free to figure out later.

On day 1 we could have rushed for the first shuttle at 6 a.m. to 'tip watch' as is customary for those doing the challenge, but we feared the crowds (remember those?) and didn't trust our ID skills enough. Instead we targeted a 7 am park arrival to give us wiggle room to find passerines ahead of our 8:30 am walk at the Woodland Trail.

As expected, there was already a line-up of cars at the entrance. Fortunately, it was only a 15 minute wait before we presented our annual passes (early bird rates were cheaper than four day fees). From there, the main road ran several kilometres toward the Visitor Centre parking lot. Rolling down the windows, we listened to a symphony of bird vocalizations so deafening, it drowned out the car engine and made individual songs barely discernible. The Pelee avian welcome committee was certainly making a powerful first impression. So much so, it felt as though we were somewhere far more exotic than the province of Ontario.

The magic was briefly interrupted when the parking guards blocked the road to direct us to the White Pines lot 1.4 km north of the Visitor Centre due to lack of space. With no shuttle to connect us south, we had to walk (and plan for the return later). Not a problem. The well-groomed trail was flat and wide enough for two to walk side-by-side. Well, maybe a problem.



Within moments, the warblers appeared. And not just Yellow Warblers, which by now were everywhere. "Oh and listen, there's a Red-headed Woodpecker. And a Blue-headed Vireo." And on and on it went. If not for someone darting past us, we may never have advanced more than 400 meters. And where were all the crowds we feared? We crossed folks here and there, alone or in pairs, but far fewer than expected. And those we did see were so equally focused on the birds that we barely noticed each other, other than to share sightings nearby.

We made it just in time to our meeting area outside the Visitor Centre - which also doubled as the Festival hub. Adjacent to it was the shuttle stop. Next to that was a large tent erected above rows of picnic tables which served as an outdoor theatre for daily presentations on topics such as bird ID by groupings, marsh conservation initiatives, etc. At the back of the Centre, the Friends of Point Pelee provided a daily continental breakfast. Four separate groups of 12 were heading out that morning, each taking a slightly different route to avoid creating a bottleneck. Our guide provided input on the park's history, was well-versed on its diverse flora, and a whiz at identifying birds by sound. It took no time to understand the popularity of the Woodland Trail. The 2.75 km loop winds back and forth over a series of wooded wet sloughs to the east, attracting an abundance of warblers low to the ground. The one remaining Kentucky Warbler in that area was not to be seen, but we did enjoy our first sighting of the notorious Prothonotary Warbler (or Polyurethane as the twenty-year-old new birders in our group preferred to call it). Four of them flitted about within view for as long as we meandered along the boardwalk. Simply magnificent.

The two hour walk turned into three thanks to our guide's enthusiasm and the plethora of birds along our path. When done, the shuttle had just arrived so we hopped on for a chance to see the Tip. To our surprise, it was quiet upon arrival in comparison to the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd that was rumoured to have amassed at dawn. We lingered for a bit, then headed back, knowing our growling stomachs would not be satiated until after a shuttle ride plus a 1.4 km walk with distractions (who can help stopping when a Scarlet Tanager is perched right along the path?).

We decided to break at the newly named Madbin Jina picnic area (which we later learned means 'come and sit a while' in Anishinaabemowin). Facing our camping chairs towards the forest, we rested our legs to feast on our packed lunch. One bite in and two orioles perched eye-level fifteen feet in front of us. When they left, in came a hummingbird performing its pendulum display flight for a nearby female. Then the grosbeaks, warblers, vireos, flycatchers all joined in as if vying for our attention. This was the least taxing and most pleasant birding imaginable. With barely anyone around, it quickly became one of our favourite spots. We could've stayed for hours if not for mission-100.

Before packing up, we thought it best to take a peek at the beach close by for possible shorebirds. Lo and behold two Great Blue Herons and one Egret flew overhead. Midway back, we noticed a narrow footpath at the back side of the forest we had just been facing. May as well check that out too. We stayed for an hour. And walked barely 200 meters. No fewer than 18 warbler species fluttered eye to ground-level along the path. No leaves to obstruct the view, no neck-stretching



Prothonotary Warbler
Photo: Sue Denoncourt

or mosquitoes or allergies to endure, just a bountiful number of birds. It was warbler-viewing heaven. Encountering fewer than a dozen people, we were convinced we had landed on the park's best kept secret.

We made a few more quick stops along the way and had reached 91 species by the time we exited. Our best option to hit goal 100 before collapsing from fatigue, was the mudflats at Hillman Marsh, a short drive away. We hoped it would be teeming with shorebird varieties (nine to be precise) at 4 pm. We were lucky. Interspersed among a fling of 40 Dunlins were four sandpiper species including a Pectoral, plus a Willet, a Lesser Yellowlegs, two Sanderlings and two Black-bellied Plovers. Our tally hit 104 by the time we dragged ourselves back to the car just past 5 pm. This spot was so productive, we planned an early return the next morning, with more energy to explore its other areas. (That second visit would net us a Black-Necked Stilt – so rare that eBird withheld it from the public list to avoid drawing a crowd).

Power birding successful, time to slow the pace

Having begun day 2 at Hillman Marsh, we only entered Pelee mid-morning and bee-lined it to the Visitor Centre to collect our pins (which we proudly wore as badges of honour). From there, we hit the middle section of the park, where our 7 pm twilight walk would end the day. Beginning at the Marshland Boardwalk, we knew it was too late to see Soras and Bitterns or hear Black Rails, but we didn't expect to be entertained by the theatrical manoeuvres of six Black Terns as Sandhill Cranes called out from nearby. Common Yellowthroats, Marsh Wrens and Swamp Sparrows were in abundance and a snapping turtle poked its head out as we passed it along the 1 km boardwalk. We had plenty of trails to explore on both the east and west sides. Meanwhile, parking lots and picnic areas were prime areas for birding from the comfort of our chairs. Though exhausted by the time our twilight walk began, the DeLaurier trail was spectacular and worth redoing in daylight. As for highlights, the most notable were a Carolina Wren sanding its feathers in the middle of our path so vigorously that it created a dust cloud, and, of course, the American Woodcock display shortly after dusk, with a shout-out to a Great Horned Owl and more cranes calling in the distance.



Scarlet Tanager
Photo: Sue Denoncourt

By day 3, our focus was on the top section which would include a 1:30 pm bird walk departing from North Beach. To our surprise, a large cruise ship was anchored offshore with zodiac boats transporting passengers to and from an area reserved specifically for their use. When moving through the different habitats throughout the park, it often felt like going to a completely new destination, but this view was on a whole other level. And it was a complete turn-off. Fortunately our walk would take us back into the dry forest where our young guide - a McGill Wildlife Biology student - might steer us toward a Cerulean Warbler if the sightings were validated. Sadly they were not. On the upside, I don't know if this particular group was less experienced or if I had graduated to a new level of birding, but my ID skills were on point and it felt great. Before leaving, our guide was insistent that we should absolutely get on that first shuttle to the Tip the next morning. Though it wasn't the plan, we would consider it. But first, a final stop at the Sanctuary picnic area before calling it a day. Upon arrival, we intended on seated birding until someone informed us a Hooded Warbler had just been spotted 500 metres along the trail. I darted out immediately, only to cross paths with two women who had eyes on a Yellow-throated Warbler (even more rare). After locking my binoculars onto it, I continued on. Though I had no luck with the Hooded, I did come across another surprise: a Yellow-breasted Chat. Nice treat to cap off yet another great day.

The last stretch

We bit the bullet and made the 6 am shuttle on our final day, promising ourselves that this moment would be about savouring the experience - no camera, no scope. Choosing the sandy path to get to the Tip, we relished the sound of waves lapping against the shore as the red-orange sun rested on the horizon. If we hadn't known better, we would have thought ourselves in the Caribbean. And though the Tip was busy, there was plenty of room, perhaps because the reverse migration hadn't occurred or because the real troopers had walked the 2 km trail long before shuttle service began. A few photographers with impressively large lenses propped on tripods lined the west side. Many younger birders (in their 20s) with exceptional eyesight and ID skills were nearest to the point spotting everything in flight and narrating their finds. We sat for an hour in a complete state of Zen, then lingered along the east shore back toward the shuttle stop. En route, we were graced by two more Red-headed Woodpeckers that swooped in and perched above us in the sunlight. A few more hours in the park would yield my very first Mourning Warbler, followed by another Canada Warbler, before we reluctantly left to head back home.

Lasting impression

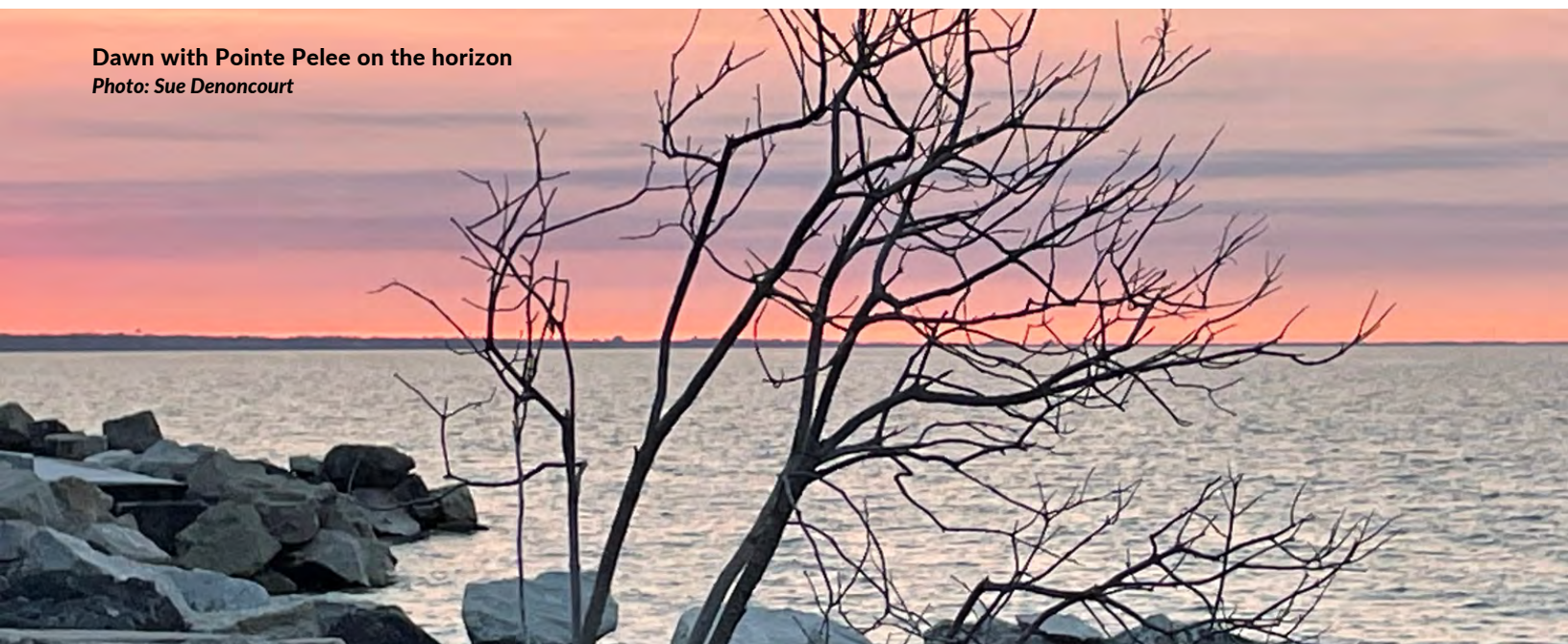
My expectation of Pelee was high and it did not disappoint. We saw more species, in greater numbers, more frequently, and for much longer than just brief glimpses. What's more is how much of our time was spent with so few people around. Here I thought an endless row of birders would be lined up along each trail. Not so. Perhaps because we avoided the weekend, or maybe the trail network was just vast enough. When we did encounter a grouping, we hurried over to see what they found because if there's one thing we all know, birders love to share. As for the folks that were there, imagine a place where birders outnumber joggers and dogs, where binoculars are more popular than sunglasses on sunny days, where pull-carts for massive camera lenses are more common than strollers. Where the elderly hellbent on maintaining their decades-long tradition outnumber young children who are barely present. From the novice birders early into this obsession marveling wide-eyed at every sighting, to the tag-alongs who suddenly found themselves more intrigued than they expected, to the experts delighting in seeing yet another first-of-the-year, and everyone in between, we were all singularly focussed on admiring birds. A quiet community of easily distracted observers with a shared passion and devotion. I got my fill, was satisfied, and yet wished for more.

It goes without saying that Mother Nature played her part in granting us five days of sunshine visible through branches still bare, with daily highs of 14-20 C. And with Birdcast reporting up to 2.4 million migrants crossing Essex County during a single night of our stay, it all combined into the most perfect birding conditions possible.

Though I never did cross paths with Margaret Atwood (trust me, I checked every curly gray-haired woman), I shared an unforgettable experience with the person to whom I owe my love of birding. My one regret: to not have stayed longer as there was so much more to explore within the park and the surrounding area. So don't be surprised if you hear that this not-so-newbie ends up putting that annual pass to more use.

Dawn with Pointe Pelee on the horizon

Photo: Sue Denoncourt





FOCUS ON GRANTS

BPQ has, over the years, worked with various organizations and conservation groups to install nest boxes in likely areas around Montreal to encourage nesting by several different species, notably the Eastern Bluebird. One of the first and best known of these projects is still flourishing at the Mount Royal Cemetery. Encouraged by that success, other projects have been undertaken during the last few years and are proving equally successful thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, who continue to maintain and monitor the boxes every year. An update on two of these projects follows.

If You Build It, ~~He~~ They Will Come - more than a quote from a feel-good movie!

A synopsis of the nest box program at Belvedere Cemetery

by *Gay McDougall-Gruner*

Photos courtesy of: Gay McDougall-Gruner and Claude Cloutier

In the fall of 2018, Bird Protection Quebec (BPQ) installed 22 nest boxes at the Belvédère Cemetery and Funeral Complex located in Senneville, QC. The main purpose was to expand the existing network of nest boxes at the Morgan Arboretum, McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) and along the Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue bicycle trail. The project was spearheaded by BPQ volunteers Claude Cloutier and Pascal Berthelot who built, installed, and monitored the boxes.

The potential of the project was evident in the spring and early summer of 2019. A total of 46 Tree Swallows and five Eastern Bluebirds were banded by MBO staff that very first year. These encouraging numbers spurred Claude Cloutier to install nine additional boxes in the fall of 2019 and nine more in the spring of 2022, bringing the total to an impressive 40. By the end of the third year the number of banded birds tripled to 170.

The real estate rule of location, location, location is borne out by the number of birds using the Belvédère nest boxes. Although the habitat is not as established as Mount Royal Cemetery (its parent organization), Belvédère has a mixture of mature trees, shrubs, edges along woods, mowed fields, and water elements. All these factors, plus minimal disturbance at the site, make this location highly valued. The location is attractive to other species as well: eBird records 114 species observed at Belvédère.



FYI - Other Nest Boxes west of Morgan Road

McGill Bird Observatory: 37 nest boxes, plus 9 Wood Duck boxes

Morgan Arboretum: approx. 10 nest boxes

Along the Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue bicycle trail: approx. 8 nest boxes

Scattered in the vicinity: approximately 20 nest boxes

Frequently Asked Questions about nest boxes

1) *Should I touch the eggs and/or nestlings?*

Not recommended! Banders and the people monitoring nest boxes know each species' incubation periods, nestling phases and when it is the optimal time to band the nestlings. Handling a nestling after the recommended banding time may cause early fledging, thus reducing its odds of survival.

2) *What should I do if I see a young bird near the nest box?*

As counter as it is to our innate wish to help, do nothing but observe! Often the adult birds are nearby and will continue to feed and care for the nestling. For more information: <https://lenichoir.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Finding-an-Injured-Bird-6HR.pdf>

3) *What about predators?*

Birds do not have an easy life. Nest box users have many potential predators: squirrels, mice, snakes, weasels, and even some birds. Predator guards should be installed below the box to prevent climbers from accessing the box. It is also common for birds to have ectoparasites: mites, fleas etc. as well as blood-sucking blowfly larvae that are laid in the nest material by adult blowflies. The ectoparasites do not kill the nestlings, but if environmental conditions are extreme, the birds' immune systems may be weakened.





**"The
bluebird
carries
the sky on
his back"**

Henry David Thoreau

Monitoring of Nest Boxes at the Technoparc – Parc écologique des Sources

Story and photos: François Riou and Katherine Collin

Since Spring 2021, a team of volunteers from the citizen mobilization group Technoparc Oiseaux (TO) has been monitoring nest boxes located in the Technoparc Montréal sector and adjacent federal lands. The objective of this initiative is to provide nesting sites for Tree Swallows (TRSW) and Eastern Bluebirds (EABL). Monitoring is done according to the protocol used by Pascal Berthelot of the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO), with data transmitted at the end of the season. Swallows have been banded by licensed bander, biologist and BPQ Board Member Anita Morales. At the beginning of the season, the group of volunteers meets in the field to do a tour of the nesting boxes, review protocol, and learn about data collection, including how to use the endoscopic cameras to examine and photograph the inside of the nest boxes.

In 2021, we monitored fourteen nest boxes installed at the Parc écologique des Sources (ADM). Ten of these nest boxes were provided by Bird Protection Quebec. These were installed in the fall of 2020 by Barbara McDuff and Claude Cloutier of BPQ, who were accompanied by two members of Technoparc Oiseaux. The other four nesting boxes were built and installed by TO.

For this first year, the occupancy rate was 79%, or 11 of the 14 nesting boxes. Three species used the nesting boxes: Black-capped Chickadee (2), House Wren (5) and Tree Swallow (5). We also note that a House Wren (HOWR) used a nesting box where a Tree Swallow had already built a nest on top of a Black-capped Chickadee (BCCH) nest!

The team made 15 visits in 2021, from May 1 to July 5. In total, Anita was able to band 25 swallows (3 adults and 22 young).

In the spring of 2022, three more nest boxes were installed at Parc écologique des Sources, bringing the total to 17 in this area.

Monitoring for this second year began in mid-May 2022. The nest boxes were visited 10 times between May 16 and June 11. 13 of the 17 nesting boxes were occupied (4 by HOWR and 9 by TRSW). The first eggs hatched on May 29. A first banding session was held on June 11 and 18 chicks were banded in four nests.

During our visits we noticed that two Tree Swallow nests were victims of predation. We suspect the House Wren to be the culprit. It is a known fact that this species is very intolerant to the presence of other species on its territory. Furthermore, the literature mentions that HOWR pierce the eggs of other species. We also found shells at the foot of one of the nesting boxes. In order to validate or invalidate our hypothesis, we installed surveillance cameras. We also observed that the nesting boxes that were victims of predation were located near nesting boxes occupied by HOWR. The proximity of certain nesting boxes was planned at the time of installation so that the Swallows could cohabit with Bluebirds, which have been observed in this sector in previous years.

In addition to the nesting boxes located in the Parc écologique des Sources, there are seven nesting boxes installed in the Marais Ipex sector (six for Tree Swallows and one for Wood Ducks). In addition, two other nesting boxes for Wood Ducks and one for American Kestrel are installed in the Technoparc sector.

The monitoring of these nesting boxes is complete for the season, and we look forward to providing an overview of this year's success in the coming months. All nest boxes will be cleaned in the fall and checked again in early spring because sometimes families of Deer Mice use the nesting boxes attached to the trees in winter.

Protocol for Nest Box Monitoring at the Technoparc

Prepared by:

François Riou with Katherine Collin,
Technoparc Oiseaux

Inspection of nest boxes

- In the beginning, observe from a distance whether there is activity around the boxes
- From April 15 until the last egg is laid, nestbox is observed once a week
- After the last egg is laid, we monitor the boxes every two days
- Once incubation begins, we return after 10 days
- In the period between hatching and fledging, visits may resume 1 x week
- We refrain from lingering around the nest boxes
- We enter all our data at a distance from the nest box

After fledging

- Nests are left, in case there is a second clutch
- In the fall, we clean the nest boxes and make any necessary repairs
- In early spring, we do an additional preparatory tour of the nestboxes to make sure no Field Mice have nested in them.

Species-specific information

Tree Swallow (TRSW)

- The nest is made of grass and feathers
- Adult usually lays 4 eggs, but can lay up to 5 and rarely 6 white eggs
- Adult lays at a rate of 1 egg per day and begins to incubate after the 3rd egg.
- Incubation lasts from 11 to 19 days (can vary according to the temperature), on average 14 days
- Banding should take place between the 8th and 13th day, never after

Eastern Bluebird (EABL)

- Nest is made of grass and fine twigs (pine needles) and often contains a wild turkey or grouse feather
- Adult lays 4 to 5 blue eggs
- They lay at a rate of 1 egg per day
- It starts to incubate from the last egg for 11 to 19 days, usually 14.
- Banding should take place between the 8th and 13th day after hatching

House Wrens (HOWR)

- Nest is made of twigs, usually hawthorn
- The nest box is completely filled
- Adult lays from 6 to 8 eggs at a rate of 1 per day of mottled beige colour
- We do not band them because the young hide in the twigs and there is a risk of injury and destruction of the nest
- Incubation lasts from 12 to 14 days

Black-capped Chickadee (BCCH)

- Nest is made of moss and feathers
- Adult lays 6 to 8 eggs of whitish colour spotted with red
- Incubation lasts an average of 13 days
- When a nest box is occupied by a chickadee, we stop going there because the chickadee easily abandons its nest
- For this reason, we do not band the chicks



Inspection of a nest via endoscopic camera



Banding of a female adult Tree Swallow

House Wren eggs



Tree Swallow eggs



Black-capped Chickadee nest



Suivi des nichoirs au Parc écologique des Sources

article et photos par : François Riou et Katherine Collin

Depuis le printemps 2021, une équipe de bénévoles du groupe de mobilisation citoyenne Technoparc Oiseaux (TO) effectue un suivi des nichoirs situés dans le secteur du Technoparc Montréal et des terres fédérales adjacentes. L'objectif de cette initiative est de favoriser la nidification des hirondelles bicolores et du merle bleu de l'est. Le suivi est effectué selon le protocole utilisé par Pascal Berthelot de l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de McGill (OOM) et les données lui sont transmises en fin de saison. Les hirondelles sont baguées par la biologiste et membre de l'exécutif de Protection Oiseaux Québec Anita Morales. En début de saison, le groupe de bénévoles se réunit sur le terrain afin de faire une tournée des nichoirs, de revoir le protocole et de s'initier à la prise de données et à l'utilisation de la caméra endoscopique utilisée pour regarder et photographier l'intérieur des nichoirs.

En 2021, nous avons effectué le suivi de quatorze nichoirs installés au Parc écologique des Sources (ADM). Dix de ces nichoirs ont été fournis par Protection Oiseaux Québec (POQ). Ces derniers ont été installés à l'automne 2020 par Barbara McDuff et Claude Cloutier de POQ qui étaient accompagnés de deux membres de Technoparc Oiseaux. Les quatre autres nichoirs ont été fabriqués et installés par TO.

Pour cette première année, le taux d'occupation a été de 79%, soit onze nichoirs sur les quatorze. Trois espèces ont utilisé les nichoirs, soit : la Mésange à tête noire (2), le Troglodyte familier (5) et l'Hirondelle bicolore (5). À noter que le Troglodyte familier a utilisé un nichoir où l'Hirondelle bicolore avait déjà construit un nid par-dessus le début d'un nid de Mésange à tête noire !

L'équipe a effectué 15 visites en 2021, soit du 1er mai au 5 juillet. Au total, Anita a pu baguer 25 hirondelles (3 adultes et 22 jeunes).

Au printemps 2022, 3 autres nichoirs ont été installés au Parc écologique des Sources, portant le total à 17 dans ce secteur.

Le suivi de cette deuxième année a débuté à la mi-mai 2022. Les nichoirs ont été visités 10 fois entre le 16 mai et le 11 juin. 13 des 17 nichoirs étaient occupés (4 par TRFA et 9 par HIBI). Les premiers œufs ont éclos le 29 mai. Une première session de baguage s'est tenue le 11 juin et 18 oisillons ont été bagués dans quatre nids.

Lors de nos visites nous avons constaté que deux nids d'Hirondelles bicolores ont été victimes de prédation. Nous soupçonnons le Troglodyte familier d'être le coupable. C'est un fait connu que cette espèce est très intolérante à la présence d'autres espèces sur son territoire. De plus, la documentation mentionne que les TRFA perce les œufs des autres espèces. Nous avons aussi trouvé des coquilles au pied d'un des nichoirs. Afin de valider ou invalider notre hypothèse, nous avons installé des caméras de surveillance. Nous observons également que les nichoirs victimes de prédation sont situés près de nichoirs occupés par des Troglodytes familiaux. La proximité de certains nichoirs était prévue lors de l'installation afin que les Hirondelles puissent cohabiter avec des Merles bleus qui ont été observés dans ce secteur les années précédentes.

En plus des nichoirs situés au Parc écologique des Sources, il y a sept nichoirs installés dans le secteur du Marais Ipex (six pour Hirondelle bicolore et un pour Canard branchu). De plus, deux autres nichoirs pour les Canards branchus et un pour la Crécerelle d'Amérique sont installés dans le secteur du Technoparc.

Le suivi de ces nichoirs est fait, et nous nous attendons avec enthousiasme à faire le bilan de notre réussite dans quelques mois. Tous les nichoirs sont nettoyés à l'automne et vérifiés au printemps car il arrive que des familles de Souris Sylvestres utilisent les nichoirs fixés aux arbres en hiver.

Protocole du suivi des nichoirs au Technoparc (Parc écologique des Sources)

préparé par :

François Riou avec Katherine Collin, Technoparc Oiseaux

Protocole d'inspection des nichoirs

- Au début, observer à distance s'il y a activité au nichoir
- Du 15 avril à la ponte du dernier œuf, on visite les nichoirs 1 fois par semaine
- Après la ponte du premier œuf, revenir aux 2 jours jusqu'à la ponte du dernier œuf
- Quand la couvaison est commencée, on espace les visites à 10 jours
- De l'éclosion au départ des oisillons, on peut revenir à 1 visite par semaine
- On évite de rester trop longtemps à proximité des nichoirs qui sont occupés
- S'éloigner du nichoir pour inscrire les données sur le formulaire *Suivi des nichoirs*

Après le départ des oisillons

- On laisse les nids au cas où il y aurait une deuxième nichée
- À l'automne, on vide les nichoirs et effectue les réparations nécessaires
- Au printemps, on refait la tournée des nichoirs afin de vérifier qu'ils ne sont pas occupés par des souris

Information spécifique aux espèces

Hirondelle bicolor (HIBI)

- Le nid est constitué de brins d'herbe et de plumes
- Elle pond en général 4 œufs, mais peut aller jusqu'à 5 et rarement 6 de couleur blanche
- Elle pond au rythme de 1 œuf par jour et commence à couvrir après le 3e œuf.
- La couvaison dure de 11 à 19 jours (peut varier selon la température), en moyenne 14 jours
- Le baguage doit avoir lieu entre le 8e et le 13e jour, jamais après

Merle bleu de l'est (MEES)

- Le nid est constitué d'herbes et de fines brindilles (aiguilles de pins) et contiennent souvent une plume de dindon sauvage ou de gélinotte
- Il pond de 4 à 5 œufs de couleur bleu
- Il pond à un rythme de 1 œuf par jour
- Il commence à couvrir à partir du dernier œuf pendant 11 à 19 jours, en général 14
- Le baguage doit avoir lieu entre le 8e et le 13e jour après l'éclosion

Troglodyte familier (TRFA)

- Le nid est constitué de brindilles, en général d'aubépine
- Le nichoir est complètement rempli
- Il pond de 6 à 8 œufs à un rythme de 1 par jour de couleur beige tacheté
- On ne les bague pas car les jeunes se cachent dans les brindilles et il y a risque de blessure et de détruire le nid
- L'incubation dure de 12 à 14 jours

Mésange à tête noire (METN)

- Le nid est constitué de mousse et de plumes
- Elle pond de 6 à 8 œufs de couleur blanchâtre tacheté de rouge
- L'incubation dure en moyenne 13 jours
- Quand on a un nichoir occupé par une mésange, on arrête d'y aller car la mésange abandonne facilement son nid
- Pour cette raison, on ne bague pas les oisillons



Inspection d'un nid avec une caméra endoscopique



Baguage d'une Hirondelle bicolor femelle adulte

Œufs de Troglodyte familier



Œufs d'Hirondelle bicolor



Nid de Mésange à tête noire



Summer means ... feeding time!

C'est l'été et les bébés ont faim !

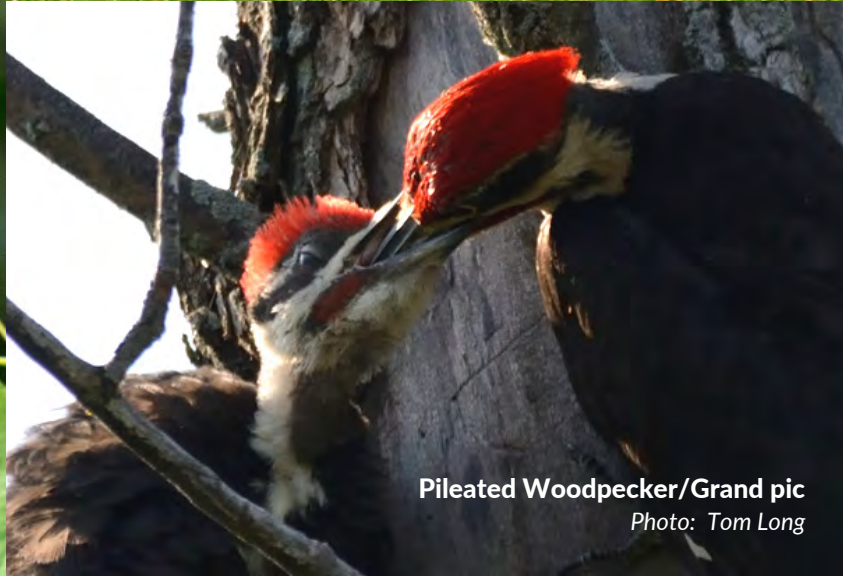
Mmm ... grubs! Les larves !
Hairy Woodpecker/Pic chevelu
Photo: Diane Seguin



American Robin / Merle d'Amérique
Photo: Wayne Grubert



Pileated Woodpecker/Grand pic
Photo: Tom Long



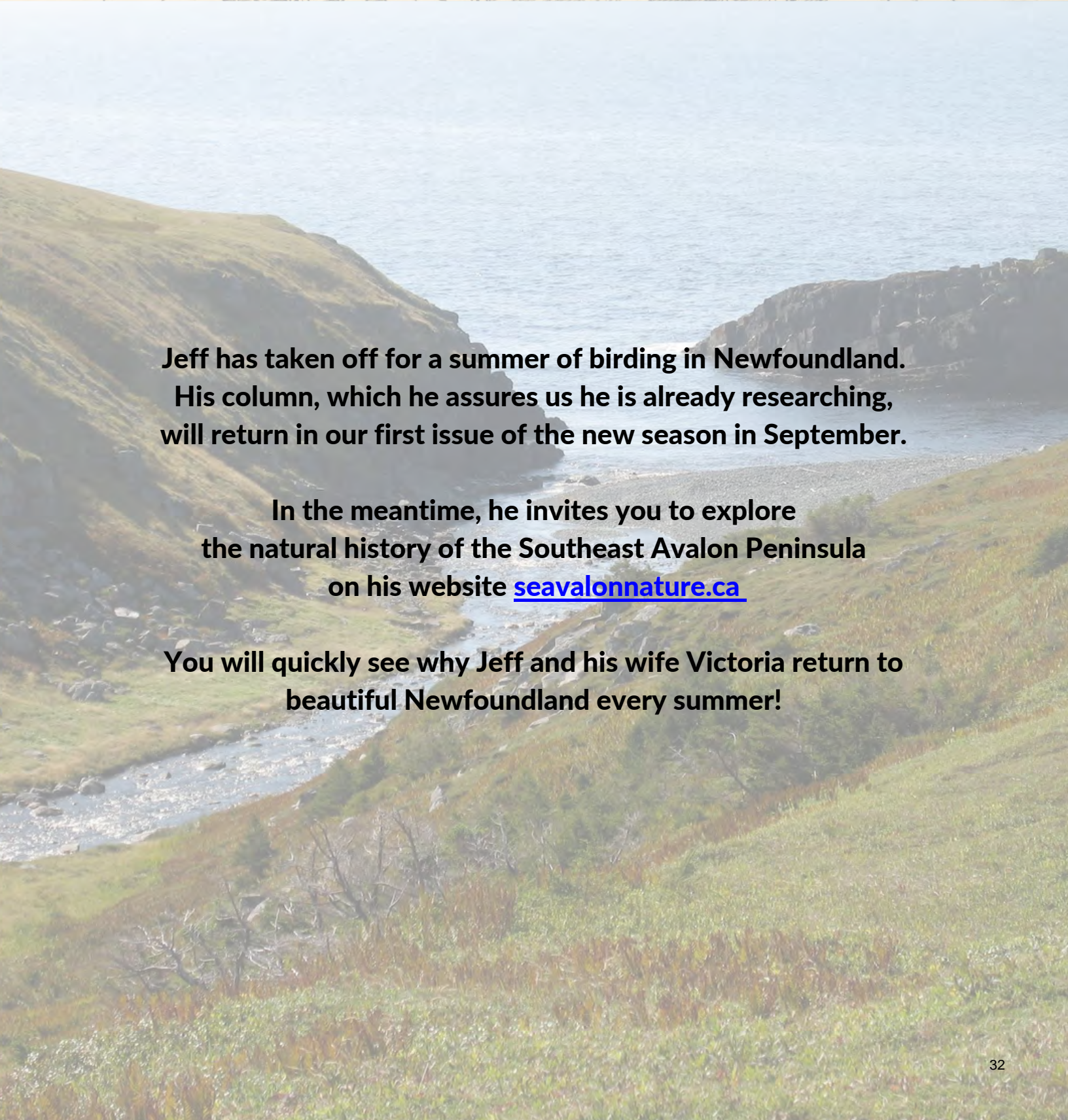
Osprey family/Balbuzard pêcheur
Photo: Darlene Harvey





Exploring Early Canadian Ornithology

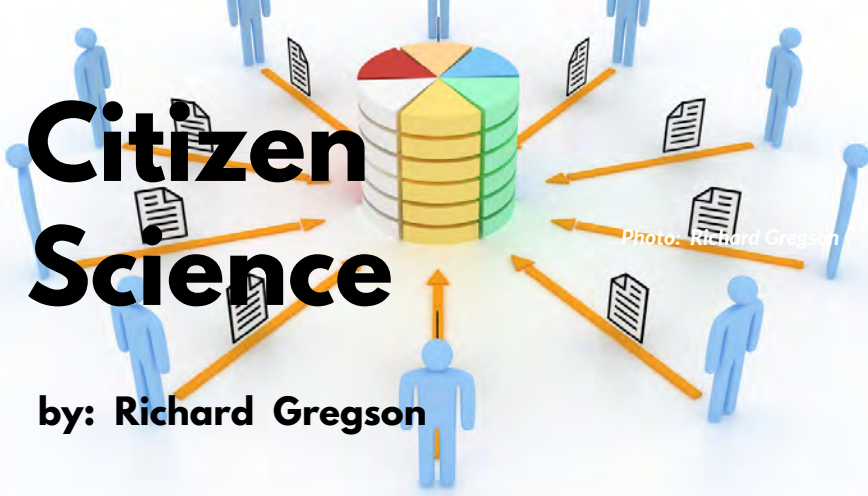
with Jeff Harrison



Jeff has taken off for a summer of birding in Newfoundland. His column, which he assures us he is already researching, will return in our first issue of the new season in September.

In the meantime, he invites you to explore the natural history of the Southeast Avalon Peninsula on his website seavalonnature.ca

You will quickly see why Jeff and his wife Victoria return to beautiful Newfoundland every summer!



Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

This issue's featured citizen science project is best suited to birders with a cabin on a lake or who are regular and reliable visitors to one or more lakes used by Common Loons.

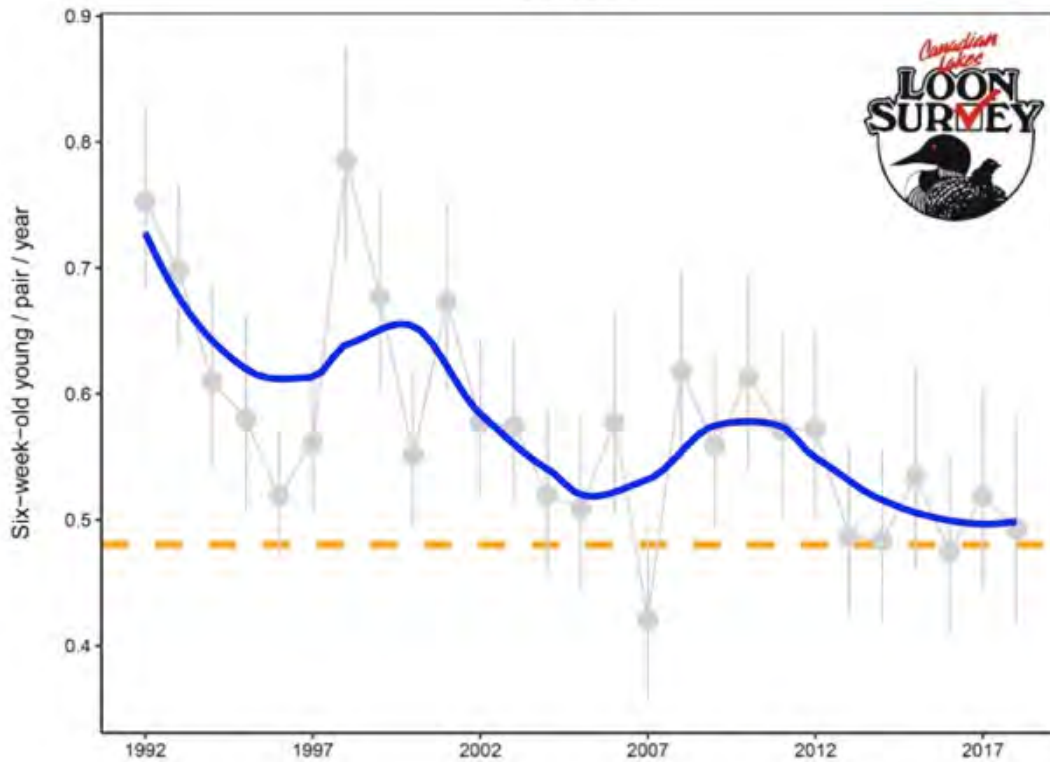
The survey started over 40 years ago when there was considerable concern over lake acidification due to acid rain and focussed on Loons which are excellent indicators of general lake health. If the lakes are not in good condition then the Loons will not be able to successfully breed since their reproductive success is dependent on the water status and fish and wasteland invertebrate populations.

Participants agree to watch their lake at least once in June for signs of nesting, once in July for chicks, and once more in August to see whether the chicks survive long enough for their first flight.

Supplemental data from water sampling allied with Loon success has demonstrated that acid and mercury levels in lakes decrease Loon chick survival. It seems that successful populations have been higher in western regions of Canada (British Columbia, Yukon, and the Prairies) than in the east (Ontario, Québec, and Atlantic Canada). Other threats facing Loons across Canada include increased boating activity, water level fluctuations, contaminants, and habitat loss due to shoreline development.



It is evident that for many reasons, the average number of fledglings produced across Canada has been decreasing over the years during which monitoring has been taking place. This is shown in the following chart of the average number of Common Loon fledglings per breeding pair per year as reported by the survey participants.



An excellent and well illustrated summary of the data for 30 years up to 2012 can be downloaded from: <https://birdscanada.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CLLSsummary.pdf>

More volunteer Loon monitors are needed. If you can spend at least one day a month on a lake in Canada this summer, please participate in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey.

Visit birdscanada.org/loons for more information.



Photo: Richard Gregson

Birding Basics



Summer: our favourite time of the year ... but ...!

As strange as it may sound, there is a "dress code" for birders; however, these days it is more concerned with ensuring the outing is pleasant and safe than with being fashionable!

Comfort should always be your first consideration when preparing for a day on the trails, in both clothing and shoes. It is also always a good idea to plan for unexpected changes in weather and trail conditions, so rain jackets and rubber boots should be kept handy. Dressing in layers ensures comfort as temperatures change from early morning chill to noon heat. However, one of the most important considerations when planning for a day in the field is to always be mindful of an increasing menace: the prevalence of ticks in Quebec.

According to the Institut national de santé publique du Québec, there have been 12 tick species identified in Quebec. Luckily not all of these species like humans, but enough do.

Of most concern is the black-legged tick. Also known as the deer tick, this is the species known to carry Lyme disease and it has been spreading in the province, even onto the island of Montreal. In 2019, while carrying out MAPS banding on BPQ's Montée Biggar property in southwestern Quebec, the McGill Bird Observatory participated in a study that aimed to determine the prevalence of black-legged ticks in specific regions by analyzing ticks gathered from nesting songbirds during banding. It was determined on examination that **42%** of the ticks collected from birds on Biggar tested positive for Lyme disease! The full study paper is available [here](#) if you would like to learn more.

So, what can we do to bird safely?

- Stay on the trails!! Unlike other insects, ticks do not jump. They sit in wait for you to brush up against the leaves and branches they are sitting on, and then catch a ride.
- Wear light-coloured clothing. This makes it easier to spot a tick that has hitched a ride home with you.
- Sandals and shorts are a no-no! Always wear long pants, long sleeves and closed shoes. It is also preferable to wear a hat - ticks love latching on along the hairline.
- Keep your shirt tucked in, and tuck your pant legs into your socks.
- Use an insecticide that contains DEET.
- Take a hot shower when you return home.



Following these tips will help protect you but, as evidenced by the following story that a BPQ member asked us to share, even if you take all these precautions you can still find yourself with an unwanted companion. It is, therefore, important to stay vigilant and check yourself carefully after every outing. If you do find a tick latched on, the Quebec health department recommendations to follow can be found [here](#).

Hi all,

I just received an interesting call from Public Health about the tick I removed from my arm in mid-April, after a visit to the Philipsburg Bird Sanctuary. The tick tested positive for the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. She said that because the rash on my arm that developed on day 2 after my visit was slightly greater than 5 cm in diameter by the time I started the antibiotics, they consider that I had Lyme disease (with a rash being the only symptom, fortunately). Lucky that I noticed the tick when I did.

I always put my socks over my pant cuffs, and apply DEET, which does a good job preventing attacks on the legs. And am sure to always keep my shirt tucked in at all times. With these precautions, somehow, I still often find ticks on the back of my hands. How they get there, I don't know. This time, it tricked me by first attaching itself under my cuff under my wrist where I didn't notice it. Luckily, it moved and reattached where I could see it.

That's your scary bedtime story for today, kids.

David Bird



LES B.A.-BA DE L'OBSERVATION



L'été : la saison préférée de l'année ... mais ... !

Aussi étrange que cela puisse paraître, il existe un *code vestimentaire* pour les ornithologues ; toutefois, il s'agit davantage de rendre votre sortie agréable et sûre que d'être à la mode !

Le confort doit toujours être votre première préoccupation lorsque vous vous préparez pour une journée sur les sentiers, tant pour les vêtements que pour les chaussures. Il est également toujours bon de prévoir des changements inattendus dans les conditions météorologiques et l'état des sentiers ; il faut donc avoir à portée de main des imperméables et des bottes en caoutchouc. Le fait de s'habiller en plusieurs couches assure un certain confort lorsque les températures passent de la fraîcheur matinale à la chaleur de midi. Cependant, l'une des considérations les plus importantes lors de la planification d'une journée sur le terrain est de toujours être attentif à une menace croissante : la prévalence des tiques au Québec.

Selon l'Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 12 espèces de tiques ont été identifiées au Québec. Heureusement, toutes ces espèces n'aiment pas les humains, mais plusieurs le font.

La tique à pattes noires est la plus préoccupante. Aussi connue sous le nom de tique du cerf, c'est l'espèce connue pour être porteuse de la maladie de Lyme et elle s'est propagée dans la province, même sur l'île de Montréal. En 2019, alors qu'il effectuait le baguage MAPS sur la propriété de POQ à la Montée Biggar, dans le sud-ouest du Québec, l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de McGill a participé à une étude qui visait à déterminer la prévalence des tiques à pattes noires dans des régions spécifiques en analysant les tiques recueillies sur des oiseaux chanteurs nicheurs lors du baguage. L'examen a permis de déterminer que **42 %** des tiques prélevées sur des oiseaux à Biggar étaient positives pour la maladie de Lyme ! Vous pouvez trouver le document complet de l'étude ici si vous souhaitez en savoir plus.

Alors, que pouvons-nous faire pour que les oiseaux soient en sécurité ?

- Restez sur les sentiers ! Contrairement aux autres insectes, les tiques ne sautent pas. Elles attendent que vous frôiez les feuilles et les branches sur lesquelles elles sont installées, puis elles s'envolent.
- Portez des vêtements aux couleurs pâles. Il est ainsi plus facile de repérer une tique qui vous accompagne chez vous.
- Les sandales et les shorts sont à proscrire ! Portez toujours des pantalons longs, des manches longues et des chaussures fermées. Il est également préférable de porter un chapeau - les tiques aiment s'accrocher à la racine des cheveux.
- Gardez votre chemise rentrée et rentrez les jambes de votre pantalon dans vos chaussettes.
- Utilisez un insecticide qui contient du DEET.
- Prenez une douche chaude lorsque vous rentrez chez vous.



Suivre ces conseils vous aidera à vous protéger mais, comme le montre l'histoire suivante qu'un membre de POQ nous a demandé de partager, même si vous prenez toutes ces précautions, vous pouvez toujours vous retrouver avec un compagnon indésirable. Il est donc important de rester vigilant et de se vérifier soigneusement après chaque sortie. Si vous trouvez une tique accrochée, les recommandations du département de la santé du Québec à suivre se trouvent [ici](#).

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David Bird





Focus On Education

Birding Camps for Teens

Bird Protection Quebec's education committee is making funding available to pay transportation costs to one of two birding camps being offered to teens this August:

- **Camp Ornithologique des Jeunes Explos** is being offered at l'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Tadoussac in Tadoussac, QC
- **Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists Workshop** is offered at Long Point Bird Observatory in Port Rowan, Ontario

If you know a teen who would be interested in either of these week-long camps, please contact the education committee at education@pqspb.org with the name of the teen and a short description about why they are interested in attending the camp. The teen must already be registered for one of the camps.



Camps ornithologiques pour adolescent(e)s

Protection des oiseaux du Québec offre des subventions pour payer les frais de transport d'un adolescent(e) participant à un des deux camps ornithologiques offerts cet août :

- **Camp Ornithologique des Jeunes Explos** à l'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Tadoussac à Tadoussac, Québec
- **Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists Workshop** à Long Point Bird Observatory à Port Rowan, Ontario

Si vous connaissez un adolescent(e) qui est intéressé(e) par un de ces camps d'une semaine, veuillez contacter le comité d'éducation de la POQ à education@pqspb.org incluant le nom de l'adolescent(e) et une courte description des raisons pour lesquelles ils(elles) souhaitent y participer. L'adolescent(e) doit être déjà inscrit(e) à un des camps.

Supporting nest box programs has been an important part of BPQ's work as you can see from the articles in this issue. One of our longest running of such programs began at our bird sanctuary in Philipsburg, Quebec. BPQ's plans to create a sanctuary there began in the early 1950s and by 1954 200 acres had been acquired that, together with property belonging to several adjacent private landowners, was incorporated into the federal Philipsburg Migratory Bird Sanctuary, which spans both sides of the highway. The hope was that this, BPQ's second sanctuary, would develop as a place for field study and wildlife education.

In the Annual Report of 1955, members were reminded that the roads were now in good condition so a visit by car was only an hour away from Montreal. Or, they could opt to take any number of transport company buses which serviced the area. Good accommodations for birders exhausted from a long day of birdwatching or cutting trails could be found either at the [now defunct] Fieldcrest Motel that bordered the sanctuary or at one of the two hotels to be found in the village.

Once the new Sanctuary was established, volunteers immediately set to work to post the property boundaries and cut and mark trails. That year member Alf Kelly donated and helped to set up 25 Bluebird boxes and, over the years, he is credited with donating and maintaining many additional nest boxes for Bluebirds, Purple Martins and Wood Ducks.

The tradition of maintaining and monitoring nest boxes at Philipsburg continues to the present day. We hope you enjoy the excerpts below that show us some of the challenges and rewards faced in the early years of the nest box program. We also hope that it may, perhaps, inspire you to volunteer at Philipsburg at our next call for help with either nest box or trail maintenance! Email us at protectionoiseauxquebec@gmail.com for more info.

Excerpt from 1961 Annual Report

One of the primary objectives in the establishment of this sanctuary was to encourage the breeding of Wood Ducks. In this respect the summer of 1961 was our most successful yet, and by September there was a substantial flock using the swamp at the North End of Strait's Pond. Unfortunately, they established a pattern of flight over a ridge along the easterly side of the Symington farm, probably flying to and from Rock River. This was observed by local hunters, and after the opening of the season many of these ducks were shot by men posted just outside the sanctuary. Two factors aggravated the situation. Warm weather delayed the arrival of migrants, causing the hunters to concentrate on locally-breeding birds, and the summary of the game laws issued by the Quebec Department of Fish and Game, which is the publication upon which the local hunter relies, omitted to mention the special bag limit of two Wood Ducks.

Excerpt from 1962 Annual Report

We continued to erect and maintain nesting boxes for Wood Ducks, Purple Martins and Bluebirds. Additional Wood Duck boxes were constructed by Messrs. John Delafield and Edgar Naylor. Unfortunately, these ducks did not recover from the heavy shooting that took place just outside the sanctuary the previous year. We have had no success in establishing a Martin colony on the Society's land, though there is one beside the Juvenat St. John Baptist within the boundaries of the Sanctuary. We have had some success with nesting Bluebirds, though the boxes provided for them are used more extensively by Tree Swallows. Many members assisted in this program, but we are particularly indebted to Mr. A.W. Kelly, who also contributed part of the cost for two large sanctuary signs and assisted in erecting them near the north and south ends of Strait's Pond.

Excerpt from 1963 Annual Report

Mr A.W.B. Kelly continued to supervise our nesting boxes; a high proportion were used by Wood Ducks, Tree Swallows, Bluebirds and other species.

Excerpt from 1964 Annual Report

Last year we erected our first observation hut, on the rocks overlooking Strait's Pond, north of the Fieldcrest Motel... A vista has been cut through the dead trees to the edge of the pond, and the hut has proved to be a good point from which to observe various residents of the area, such as Green Herons and Wood Ducks... On June 14, observers in the new hut saw a brood of Wood Ducks being pursued, apparently unsuccessfully, by a small dark mammal. This was probably a mink, and one of these was observed a few days later making its way over fallen logs in the swamp at the south end of the pond.

Excerpt from 1965 Annual Report

We saw fewer ducks on the Pond. This may have been due to the work on the highway, but the Great Horned Owls that nested in woods overlooking the pond may also have been a factor. We were, however, gratified to find that, of fifteen nesting-boxes in the swamp north of the pond examined at the end of the year, seven showed signs of having been occupied by Wood Ducks.



The most recent volunteer team at Philipsburg in February of 2022 performing nest box maintenance. Eggs, shells, down feathers and a cedar bark nest were found in some of the boxes, indicating recent breeding activity.

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Your purchase helps support our work here at home and winter habitat for northern breeding birds. Species like the Golden-winged Warbler found at BPQ's Montée Biggar sanctuary migrate to shade-grown coffee farms in the winter. The coffee you choose matters to BPQ and the birds. [Click](#) to discover seven simple actions you can take to live bird friendly!

Good News for Decaf Lovers!

Finally our Smithsonian Bird Friendly Organic Peru Royal Select MWP is back!!! This exclusive coffee is harvested from a group of 2000 small-scale coffee farmers from La Florida Cooperative in the Chanchamayo region. A mixed varietal of Bourbon, Catimor, Pache and Typica arabica beans grown at an elevation of 1,200 meters. This delicious decaf coffee presents with full body, low acidity and a touch of sweetness with flavour notes of chocolate, caramel and almond.

Available at cafebirdfriendly.org



Available in 3 formats

342 g - \$17

1Kg - \$42.25

2.5 Kg \$91.75

2 roasts: Medium and dark

Whole beans or 2 grinds: Filter and espresso

Plus decaf option available in 1 kg bags

Flat Rate Shipping \$12

Café AVIA is the result of a collaboration between Le Nichoir Wild Bird Conservation Centre and Totem Roasters. To help get the word out they partnered with other organizations such as Bird Protection Quebec. It's simple: Many voices are stronger than one. Each participating non-profit organization believes that the coffee you choose can change the world. By putting their logo on Bird Friendly® certified coffee they are helping to get the word out to more people. We hope you select Bird Protection Quebec as your partner of choice when purchasing coffee on cafebirdfriendly.org