

# Song Sparrow

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## “Homes for Birds”

What marks us out from other birding societies are the sanctuaries we have created



A Cemetery Bluebird Photo: Chuck Kling

2 Homes for Birds  
5 President's message  
10 A Broken Branch  
11 Good News about the NCC  
12 Project FeederWatch  
13 Bird Views

16 CBC Update  
18 Forthcoming Lectures  
19 Summer Series Field Trips  
20 Recent Field Trips  
21 Forthcoming Field Trips



 Bird Protection Quebec  
Protection des oiseaux du Québec  
■ Education ■ Conservation ■ Observation

## Homes for Birds BPQ's Network of Bird Sanctuaries

An overview put together by Richard Gregson



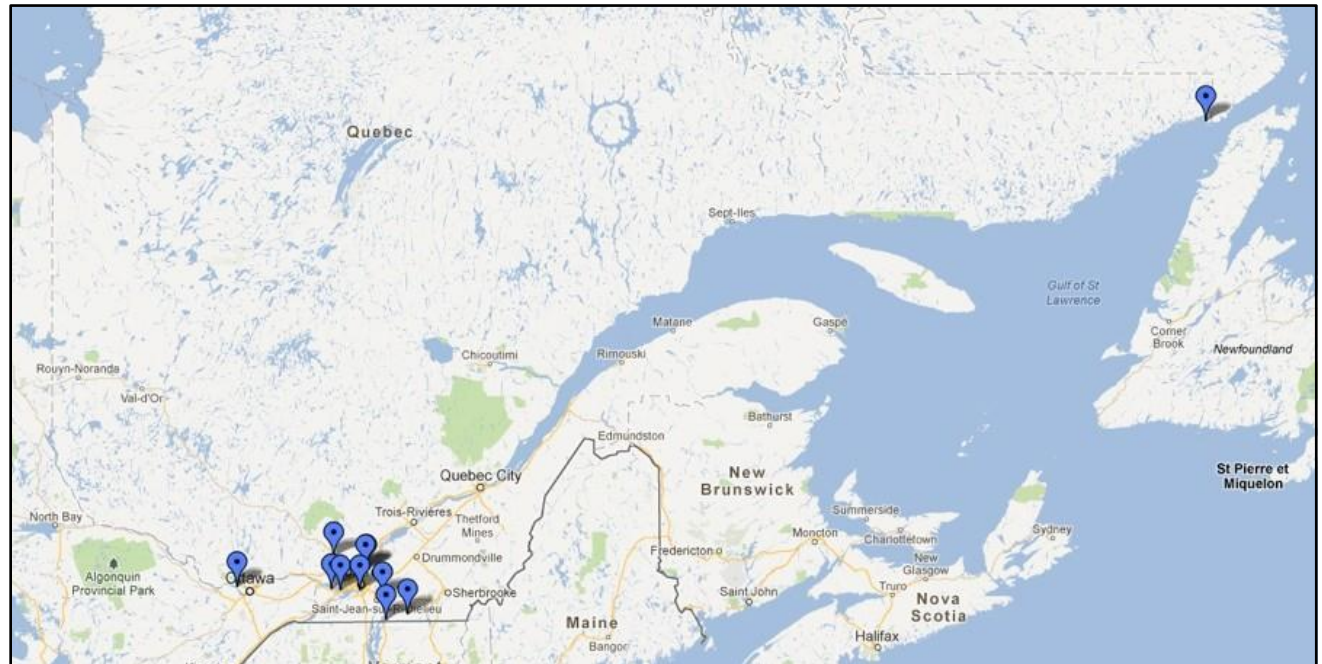
Our name is not Bird *Protection* Quebec without a reason. We are not equipped to do, nor do we wish to be involved with, the “first aid” protection of individual birds that organizations such as [UQROP](#) and [Le Nichoir](#) perform. Rather, we protect birds by two means that have a more long-lasting effect: firstly by providing opportunities for the public to educate themselves about and better understand birds, and thus inevitably to want to protect them, and secondly by the long-term acquisition and management of sanctuary land that will be set aside for all time, safe from development, for the safety and enjoyment of birds ... as well as mammals, reptiles, amphibia, insects and plants.

The first point of BPQ's mission says that we will work “To protect wildlife habitat and to manage our nature reserves for the long-term benefit of wildlife, especially birds.” This is a fundamental part of our raison d'être and a task that we work hard to make a success. In this edition of *The Song Sparrow*, we look at the various sanctuaries that BPQ owns, or is associated with. We conclude by reprinting an article from a much-earlier edition of this newsletter about Île-aux-Perroquets, one of our most remote, yet important, sanctuaries.

BPQ owns a number of sanctuaries in its own right and also works with and alongside partners such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to gradually spread the network of protected habitats in Quebec. The following paragraphs describe the principal properties that your support enables us to preserve.

Our oldest sanctuary, and one that is recognized as being of international significance for the birds that live and breed on it, was the main feature in our last newsletter: Île-aux-Perroquets. This wonderful island is located at the northern tip of Quebec's Lower North Shore. This was our first sanctuary. We acquired it in 1937. More than a dozen species of seabirds flock to Îles Greenly and aux Perroquets during the breeding season. They include Leach's Storm-Petrel, Great Cormorant, Common Murre and Razorbill, all of which are fairly restricted in their Southern Québec breeding grounds. Some familiar species include Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull, as well as the more distinctive Red-breasted Merganser, Common Eider, tern species, Black Guillemot and Atlantic Puffin.

The 200+ acres of the George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary (Philipsburg) are to be found in southeastern Quebec close by the US border, where the foothills of the Green Mountains meet the plain of the St. Lawrence Valley. The sanctuary was officially inaugurated in 1992 and has since been extended by the purchase of additional properties. Among species generally uncommon in



*This map shows the distribution of our major sanctuaries. View an interactive version at <http://goo.gl/maps/VCIRU>*

Quebec that regularly breed here are the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Yellow-throated Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Beavers have created an extensive marsh and pond system that supports Wood Duck, Least Bittern, Sora and Virginia Rail. The sanctuary is a birder's delight. Golden-winged Warblers have nested there and Cerulean Warblers are found regularly. Red-headed Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse are among the other species present. Society field trips to the sanctuary in the spring and fall have been a high point on the birder's calendar for many decades.

The Philipsburg sanctuary is one of the few properties we own that is easily accessible to birders. Currently we are engaged in a multi-year project to improve visitor facilities and birding opportunities while ensuring that the features that attract rare birds to the property are enhanced.

The recently created Alfred Kelly Nature Reserve is an enormous, thousand acre tract of virgin forest and cliffs between Piedmont and Prévost about an hour's drive north of Montreal. The land, apart from two areas which BPQ has owned for a quarter century since they were left to us by Alfred Kelly, is now predominantly owned by the NCC – however, the purchase in 2010 was made possible with the contribution of a significant grant from BPQ. We are major partners with the NCC and local conservation groups in the management and success of this stunning property. This project is new; signage and trail maps are still being developed – more information will be made available in future months.

Alderbrooke Marsh comprises two parcels of wetland and forest near Sutton. It was acquired in 1995, and subsequently BPQ leased it at a nominal fee to the Alderbrooke Marsh Land Trust, which manages the property as part of a much more extensive ecosystem it is working hard to protect. It consists of marshland created by beavers along a brook at the bottom of a shallow, forested valley. Access, other than by canoe along the waters of the stream that runs through it, is very limited – a feature that accounts for the richness of its biodiversity.

Breckenridge / Ghost Hill Farm is jointly owned by BPQ and the NCC. This is an extensive property in western Quebec not far from Gatineau, the primary importance of which is as the site of a breeding and release program to reintroduce the Loggerhead Shrike to Quebec. This program was recently discontinued due to withdrawal of government of funding.

Mont St-Grégoire property is a small site that is jointly owned by Bird Protection Quebec and the Centre d'interprétation du Milieu



*The lake south of the Prévost cliffs near the chosen nesting site of the Peregrine Falcons*

Écologique, which manages it as part of a much more extensive protected area

Driscoll-Naylor Bird Sanctuary is a small, three-acre property forming a sanctuary of marsh and woodland nestled in a residential part of Hudson to the west of Montreal. The society maintains Wood Duck boxes and bird feeders there. Public access is easily gained.

Île aux Canards and Îlet Vert are a pair of islands that were acquired by Bird Protection Quebec in 1984. Part of a series of islands in the St. Lawrence River off Varennes (others such as Île aux Moutons and Île aux Asperges are owned by the NCC or by Ducks Unlimited Canada), they contain a mixture of marshland, meadows and woodland. The islands provide crucial staging habitat for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

In addition to the above properties, which are owned in whole or in part by BPQ, there is a remarkable collection of other properties that, over the past years, BPQ has played a part in saving – usually by making financial grants to facilitate their purchase by other conservation groups. These properties include the following:



*Part of the stream that runs through our sanctuary at Alderbrooke Marsh*

Covey Hill is an area of gorge and adjoining marsh straddling the US-Canada border. The society nominally manages this property on behalf of the NCC. This sanctuary not only has an intriguing topography and bird life but harbours several species of rare salamanders.

Marlington Bog is a peat bog, acquired by the NCC with a contribution from BPQ contains several species of rare plants as well as providing important bird habitat.

Île Beauregard, another site owned by the NCC with a contribution from BPQ, is an island off Verchères.

The Gennings Property near Temiscamingue, similarly owned by the NCC, is home to American Woodcock, white-tailed deer, black bear, moose, timber wolves and other wildlife.

Île aux Lièvres is a large island off Rivière du Loup that was acquired some 27 years by Duvetnor, helped by financing from BPQ, NCC and other agencies. It has a large breeding population of Common Eider. Currently, BPQ is in discussion with Duvetnor about some exciting plans for further bird conservation on this and adjacent islands. We hope to tell you more about this sometime next year.

Clarke Sydenham Nature Reserve is another small property in Hudson owned by the NCC with a contribution from BPQ.

Île du Moine is a large island at the western end of Lake St. Pierre that was acquired by the NCC with the aid of a contribution from BPQ. The island provides crucial habitat for breeding waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Wilson's Phalaropes, Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Sedge Wrens have bred there.

In addition to owning wildlife reserves and assisting other organizations to acquire land for the purpose of creating such reserves, BPQ has also been instrumental over the years in the designation and establishment of federally mandated migratory bird reserves such as those in the Montreal area at Senneville and along the Lachine Rapids / Île-aux-Hérons.

**As you can see, Bird Protection Quebec is far from being the simple “birding club” that too many people believe us to be. Our work goes far beyond the merely recreational, and we look to you, our members and supporters, to help us to continue such important habitat protection projects in the years and decades ahead.**





## President's Message – October 2012

Although it is still summer (well, it is to me as I have not had to wear a coat yet and am still in short sleeves), the days are shortening and, as will be evident from a number of features in this edition, we have to start thinking about cold season citizen science projects such as FeederWatch and the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC).

Many birders do take part in the two CBCs that are organized by BPQ, one in Montreal and one in Hudson, but there are a lot of birders who don't. The Christmas Counts are, we know, the events that are supported by the largest number of birders, but that still leaves several hundred BPQ people who are not involved. Of course, we don't expect everyone to sign up – some people are unable to for a multitude of reasons. We understand that. But I suspect that there are quite a few who don't sign up simply because they do not consider themselves to be "good enough" birders, and that is a shame, because they are undoubtedly selling themselves short. When I was a newcomer to Montreal – to Canada for that matter – one of my first contacts with BPQ and its members was participating in the Hudson CBC under the watchful eye of a couple of long-time local birders. It was a wonderful introduction to winter birding and some lasting friends.

Read the information in this newsletter about the CBCs being organized this year and then give serious thought to helping out. The more eyes and ears in the field, the more accurate the survey and the more birds recorded. If you are new to this, the organizers will pair you with experienced CBC participants so you won't be floundering, wondering what to do. At the end of the day, you will have spent a very enjoyable few hours, made new friends, seen lots of really good birds and helped make a very important citizen science endeavour that much more successful.

The other project you might consider, if you are not already participating, is FeederWatch. You don't even need to get cold for this one as you can do it from your living-room window. All you have to do is to spend some time on a couple of days every couple of weeks counting the birds you see in your garden in the vicinity of your feeders and then reporting them online. Haven't got a garden? Lots of people FeederWatch on their apartment balconies. Need to be away and miss a week? Not a problem.

Birding is not just about ticking species off on a list; it also offers us all the opportunity to take part in serious scientific projects that create the ever-expanding picture we have of bird populations. It is important, valuable, fulfilling and a lot of fun. Please consider joining in this year if you haven't done so before. We will welcome you with open arms.

Meanwhile, as I write this, the first big waves of southward-bound migrating birds are moving through our area. Migration at the start and end of summer is always an exciting time. I have been seeing quite a few birds pass through my garden, which is a blessing right now considering how hot it is! Birding is interesting but it also has other benefits. While we are looking at the birds, it is hard not to see and enjoy the butterflies and other insects, the small mammals, the flowers and the trees around us. Birds get us out of the house but the whole of wildlife welcomes us.

I wish you all good birding during the fall weeks ahead.

## Message du président – Octobre 2012

Bien que soyons encore dans la saison estivale (du moins je n'ai pas encore eu à porter un manteau et je suis toujours en manches courtes), les jours raccourcissent. Et comme vous le constaterez dans ce bulletin, nous avons déjà commencé à réfléchir sur les projets de la saison froide, tels le projet FeederWatch et les recensements des oiseaux de Noël (RON).

De nombreux ornithologues amateurs prennent part aux deux RON qui sont organisés par POQ, l'un à Montréal et l'autre à Hudson, mais beaucoup d'entre nous ne sont pas encore impliqués. Les recensements de Noël sont des événements qui attirent un grand nombre d'ornithologues mais plusieurs centaines de membres de POQ n'y participent pas. Bien sûr, tout le monde ne peut pas s'inscrire, et nous le comprenons fort bien – les raisons qui empêchent nombre d'entre nous de s'inscrire sont multiples. Mais je pense également qu'il y a un bon nombre de membres qui ne s'inscrivent pas simplement parce qu'ils ne se considèrent pas comme d'assez bons ornithologues. Et c'est bien dommage, car ils sous-estiment certainement leur capacité. Quand je suis arrivé à Montréal, l'un de mes premiers contacts avec POQ fût lors du RON de Hudson. Sous l'œil vigilant de quelques ornithologues chevronnés, ce fut une merveilleuse découverte de l'observation des oiseaux en hiver et

une amitié durable s'est formée entre les membres du groupe. Prenez le temps de lire l'information contenue dans ce bulletin à propos des RONs organisés cette année, et assurez-vous de réfléchir sérieusement à votre participation. Plus nous avons d'yeux et d'oreilles sur le terrain, plus nos recensements seront précis et plus nous identifierons d'espèces d'oiseaux. Si les RON sont une nouveauté pour vous, les organisateurs s'assureront de vous jumeler avec des participants expérimentés de sorte que vous ne vous retrouverez pas seul sur le terrain à vous demander quoi faire. À la fin de la journée, vous aurez passé plusieurs heures très agréables avec de nouveaux amis, vous aurez observé beaucoup d'oiseaux tout en contribuant à un projet scientifique très important.

L'autre projet que vous pourriez envisager, si vous n'êtes pas déjà inscrit, est le projet FeederWatch. Vous n'avez même pas besoin d'affronter le froid pour celui-ci. Vous pouvez le réaliser dans le confort de votre maison. Tout ce que vous avez à faire est de passer un temps limité, étalé sur deux journées chaque quinzaine, à compter les oiseaux que vous voyez dans votre jardin et à vos mangeoires pour ensuite les inscrire sur internet. Vous n'avez pas de jardin? Aucun problème. Beaucoup de gens participent au projet FeederWatch depuis leur appartement ou leur balcon. Vous devez manquer une semaine ? Pas de problème non plus.

L'ornithologie ne se limite pas à cocher des espèces sur une liste, c'est aussi l'opportunité de prendre part à des projets scientifiques sérieux qui nous donnent une meilleure compréhension des populations d'oiseaux. Ces recensements sont importants, utiles, enrichissants et très plaisants. Envisagez de vous joindre à un de ces projets cette année si vous ne l'avez jamais fait! Nous vous accueillerons à bras ouverts.

Au moment où j'écris ce message, les premières vagues d'oiseaux migrateurs se déplacent à travers notre région. Les migrations du début et de la fin de l'été sont toujours excitantes. J'ai observé plusieurs oiseaux migrateurs de passage dans mon jardin et c'est une bénédiction en ce moment compte tenu de la chaleur excessive des dernières semaines! L'observation d'oiseaux est intéressante et comporte de nombreux bénéfices. Lorsque nous observons les oiseaux, il est difficile de ne pas observer et apprécier les papillons et les autres insectes, les petits mammifères ainsi que les fleurs et les arbres autour de nous. Les oiseaux nous font sortir de la maison, et l'ensemble de la faune et de la flore nous accueille.

Je vous souhaite à toutes et à tous de belles observations d'oiseaux au cours des semaines à venir.



*This summer a rare visitor to our region spent a long time hanging about the Ste-Catherine riverside and attracted birders from all over North America, who came to Montreal to add it to their lists.*

*This picture - above - of the Little Egret (Egretta garzetta) was taken by Zofia Laubitz. The one to the right is a Wikipedia image showing its plumage in detail*





In the August issue of *The Song Sparrow*, we featured an article about Île-aux-Perroquets, our most distant bird sanctuary. This island, which lies off the coast of Blanc Sablon, is recognized as being of international significance because of the variety and number of seabirds that nest there each year, including almost 80% of Quebec's entire Atlantic Puffin population. However, it is extremely difficult to visit and monitor. The shores are steep and rocky. Choppy white water, weather, wind and tide make landing very tough.

In the 1980s, two PQSPB (as BPQ was then known) excursions were made to visit the island, but each time the boats were unable to land. Then, in July 1992, to celebrate our 75th anniversary, eleven of our members set out in two small boats with several members of the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF). They were able to get a secure "toehold," but had to tie the second boat to the first. They spent a little more than an hour on the island – by design: to harass the breeding puffins for as short a time as possible, and to get away before weather and tide changed boating conditions too much. We are reprinting their adventures as published 20 years ago in *The Song Sparrow* with permission from Sheila Arthur, who was the editor at the time. Sheila edited the account from Ilay Ferrier's hand-written journal.

## Île aux Perroquets 1992

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A TRIP TO QUEBEC'S LOWER NORTH SHORE – prepared from the journal of Ilay Ferrier

(In July 1992, eleven PQSPB members, including the president, at the time, and two past presidents, undertook an historic 75th anniversary celebration pilgrimage to Île-aux-Perroquets off Blanc-Sablon, home to Quebec's largest Atlantic Puffin nesting colony, which was bought to be preserved as a sanctuary by the Society in 1937. The trip arrangements along Quebec's Lower North Shore into "Audubon's Labrador" (boats, plane, lodging) were organized for the PQSPB by Kathy Blanchard and Natalie Zinger of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (a nonprofit conservation organization active in Canada and the United States), and Ken Thorpe, the Society's president. Ilay

Ferrier kept a journal of the trip, its many highlights and memorable events, and of the people who took part in them. He has very kindly made it available to *The Song Sparrow*, from which the following summary has been prepared.)

July 26, 1992, we meet in Sept-Îles, and are joined by Kathy Blanchard, QLF vice-president, who has worked hard and long for the people and the marine birds of the Lower North Shore.

Day 2 – In pouring rain we board the small tour boat "Northern Messenger" to cruise through the bay of Sept-Îles and circle Corossol Island with its bird sanctuary. Soon we see kittiwakes, gannets, Common Murres, Razorbills, guillemots. As we headed towards Corossol the wind howled and the seas grew very rough indeed. Our vessel seems to buck at a 45° angle. We turn back, broadside to the waves, hang on for dear life, a nasty moment as the waves come near to swamping our stern. Back at the hotel, warm towels and hot coffee restore us for the van trip to Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, Kathy at the wheel in the continuing downpour and miserable driving conditions.

Day 3 – Rain again. At the docks at Havre St. Pierre we are joined by Guy Côté, Parks Canada ranger, our guide on this cruise and visit to the Mingan Islands on which we see Whimbrels (almost daily from now on), Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, a lone Killdeer, Common Loons, and a few Canada Geese (the only ones we'll see). On Quarry Island we enjoy a good trail walk and see a Spruce Grouse (fine sighting by Ross Murphy), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, several White-throated Sparrows. The island's shore is dotted with stone monoliths, strange mushroom-shaped rock structures, some quite large. We see Whimbrels, large rafts of Common Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, and an Osprey. Many terns, Common and Arctic. From now on, we'll see few of the former, many more of the latter.

A call on the walkie-talkie has us hurrying back to Havre St. Pierre to take advantage of a weather "window." Our chartered plane flies us to Chevery, lands under a very low ceiling in pouring rain (what else!), the last plane in that day. Here we are joined by Natalie Zinger (knowledgeable, energetic, entertaining) QLF Quebec Projects Director, and share a bottle of Cloudberry liqueur.

Day 4 – No rain! We cruise to the St. Mary's Islands, see our first puffins, smaller than expected, sitting on the water and whizzing past the boat, quite close; Common Murres, Black Guillemots, and as we pass Cliff Island, we see its large colony of Black-legged Kittiwakes,



Razorbills, a few Great Cormorants. Double-crested Cormorants are everywhere on our trip.

At the main St. Mary's Island we climb to the crest for a wonderful view of Red-throated Loons on a nearby pond, then take the trail to the local puffin colony. There are almost no trees. The ground is tundra-like, spongy, quite slippery. Wild blue irises shine. We stay at long range. It is amusing to watch the puffins bobbing out of their burrows, sailing off towards the water, and returning to land holding several fish in their bills. Nearby there is a small Razorbill colony. We watch them emerging from their crevices in the rocks. A Gray Seal lolls off shore. From the crest we can see large rafts of alcids on the ocean. During the 2-hour cruise to Harrington Harbour the sun shines from time to time, whales and porpoises slice through the wake, large colonies of Common Murres are close at hand, alcids, gulls and terns fly all around us. Just great!

Harrington Harbour (350 people) is built on rock, its houses interconnected by wide wooden boardwalks. Here we stay in private homes. We arrive on bingo-by-radio night; the numbers are called out on the air. While we strolled the walks our hosts played the game. They phone in when they complete a card. Big prizes are to win – e.g. a trip to Toronto!

Day 5 – Rain. Cool. Kathy leaves us for a while. A short trip across the bay to Fox Island. We meet a family whose daughter has a summer job with QLF and goes to CEGEP in Lennoxville. Her fisherman father shows us racks used to dry the silvery capelin. The island has no trees, only rocks and the thick spongy tundra-like scrub of these latitudes. In drizzle we pull out our binoculars to see what's around.

Plenty of gulls and Arctic Terns. A few Tree Swallows. Savannah Sparrows. A couple of Song Sparrows. The only White-crowned Sparrow we'll see on this trip, and – surprise in these treeless surroundings – half a dozen Red-breasted Nuthatches and several siskins. Little clusters of berries, here called bakeapples (Cloudberry) abound on the ground.

In the afternoon we visit Harrington Harbour's fish-processing cooperative, the Crafts Shop, a turn-of-the-century residence now under restoration. At the QLF staff house later Ken Thorpe, our president, is asked to speak on radio. He thanks our new friends in Harrington Harbour for their warmth and hospitality to us.

Day 6 – Our day on the ferry and supply ship "Nordik Express", with Natalie in charge. We leave Harrington Harbour at 8:15 a.m. Friday and reach Blanc Sablon at 3:00 a.m. Saturday, making several stops along the way: Tête à la Baleine, La Tabatière (where we stretch our legs, see a few Ravens and a Yellow-rumped – our first trip – warbler), St. Augustin (beautiful approach), and late at night, Vieux Fort. We spend the day on the observation deck. Good weather. Spectacular shore and islands. Many gulls, kittiwakes, terns, gannets, alcids, a few loons, a couple of Osprey, whales from time to time, and then, a long way off, icebergs. At night, we try to sleep.

Day 7 – A few of us on the top deck at 1:30 a.m. No moon. Stars bright. Occasional faint gleams from Aurora Borealis. It's cold. We dock at Blanc-Sablon at 3:00 a.m., and disembark, kittiwakes flying in the ship's light beams. Île-aux-Perroquets is not far. Kathy Blanchard greets us with Larry Morris, QLF president, holding a very long PQSPB welcome banner, beautifully drawn and coloured by the children of Blanc Sablon. Dawn is beginning to rise over the hills.

A couple of hours in our Anse au Clair motel, just over the border in Labrador, then begins the most marvellous day of our trip, for we will manage to land on Île-aux-Perroquets (puffins looked like parrots to early French settlers), seldom possible because it has no beaches, only rocky shore and rough waters round it. At the Lourdes de Blanc-Sablon dock Bob Carswell spots a White-rumped Sandpiper, the only peep we'll see on the whole trip.

Sensational ride to the island in two small fishing boats. Sun shining, sea quite calm, huge spectacular icebergs lie close to shore. This has been a "good" year for icebergs. Porpoises and whales (Minke and Humpback) slide past in a steady stream. The air is full of birds. Hundreds of gulls and terns roost on top of the icebergs. The four alcids – Razorbill, Common Murre, guillemot and puffin – are all around us. We move close (not too close!) to an immense iceberg, marvel at its colours, streaks of blue and green that run down and across it.

The only landing spot is a bed of flat rock, at the bottom of a colony of puffins on a rocky slope. We climb quickly past it to the plateau at the crest of the island. The slope is treacherous, a jumble of rocks and scrub which can mask the entrance to a puffin burrow. At the top we admire the magnificent view, rugged coast, icebergs, and seabirds. Puffins buzz around us like bees. The island also has a small colony of Razorbills. A few of us looking in the right direction at the right time see an iceberg turn turtle and break up. Tree Swallows fly overhead. Several Savannah Sparrows and one Horned Lark are sighted. Kathy finds a burrow from which the young have fledged. We look in and see a puffin at rest. She pulls him out for our inspection, assuring us that this occasional exposure won't harm the bird. We're on the island for about an hour, privileged time on this PQSPB "real estate."

After lunch we board the ferry that crosses the Straits of Belle Isle to Newfoundland. This will be pure birding. There's an air of excitement. Our canny president has worked out, for those with provincial bird lists, where we leave Quebec waters and enter those of Newfoundland. Our day's luck with the weather holds. The ocean is quite calm, few white-caps, few birds. Then, shortly after we're in Newfie waters, Greig Cranna (QLF freelance photographer who is recording the trip on film, pleasant companion, knowledgeable naturalist) yells "Fulmar!", and there it is gliding close to the ship on stiff wings. We see several more. Soon the first Pomarine Jaeger is sighted. Gannets are common, as are whales and porpoises. Alcids, terns and kittiwakes are abundant. We're having fun doing what we enjoy most. The trip across takes 1½ hours. We dock at St. Barbe in

Newfoundland. We see Siskins. Ethel Fogarty and Ilay "get" a Greater Yellowlegs. That's it for us for Newfie! On the crossing back we see a couple of Greater Shearwater, and Ken adds a Sooty Shearwater to the trip list.

At dinner that night, in our motel at Anse au Clair, we are offered a plate of grilled capelin. Kyra Emo had asked what this storied wee fish tasted like. We all take a modest sample. Ken takes the rest, and does a good job of looking like a puffin with five capelin hanging from his mouth. Hilarious!

After dinner we were received by the mayor and other local dignitaries at the Caisse Populaire of Lourdes de Blanc-Sablon, which was decorated by children's drawings of puffins and other seabirds. Back at the motel by 9:30 p.m., exhausted and elated by the many incomparable experiences of this unforgettable day.

Day 8 – Pouring rain, cold high winds. We drive into Labrador, spending more time in the van than outside birding. Nonetheless Ken spots a Glaucous Gull. Delicious fresh cod lunch in West St. Modeste. Buying spree at a crafts shop in Anse au Clair. Farewell to Labrador. We drive to the airport in Blanc-Sablon. Two-hour flight to Sept-Îles where it is "hot" and sunny. Farewell dinner. Chris Murphy calls the count. Final tally 67, several lifers and additions to regional lists. Several birds evoke the special memories of where they were seen.

The trip is over. Tomorrow, back to the "real world." Or is this the "real world?" Each in its time and place no doubt. With thanks to all friends old and new, for making possible and sharing such a unique and enjoyable experience, so ends journal of Ilay Ferrier.

*Again we thank Ilay for his marvellous account. No summary can do it justice. His funny references to lack-of-pit-stop challenges, ship-board sleeping arrangements, the ambulatory antics of the 3-legged birder, and so much more about the trip itself.*

## Returning Members

Welcome to returning member Jim Harris, Pointe-Claire. We hope to meet you on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Join us...

Thank you to members who have already renewed your membership. Prompt renewal of your membership is greatly appreciated; saving in paper and postage. It also saves in time, giving us more opportunity to enjoy the birds!



## A Broken Branch

by Barbara Silverman

On padded, silent feet the dog-like predator carefully crept over to the small group of trees silhouetted in the evening dusk. Alert for any sign of movement, he stopped for a moment to sniff the air. Slowly his eyes travelled upward to a broken branch high above his head. For several seconds he stood unmoving. listening, looking. Finally satisfied no prey lurked about he continued slowly on his way.

Once the hunter was out of sight the broken branch rose, shook itself, then resumed position.

Wildlife – land, sea or air – depend on several factors that are inherited at birth to survive. Speed, cunning, colouring, poison, quills, shells, and size all play a vital role. Of all these elements, colouring or the ability to camouflage, both for hunting or hiding, may well be the most important. Many animals are well known for their abilities to blend in with their environment; however, perhaps no species has mastered the art of hiding in plain sight better than the Tawny Frogmouth bird of Australia. So much so that zoos have been forced to post signs stating this bird is alive, or else be bombarded with questions from upset visitors.



*Tawny Frogmouth, Podargus strigoides, at Featherdale Wildlife Park, Doonside, Sydney,*

Belonging to the Order Caprimulgiformes, the frogmouths, so named due to their broad, froglike gape, are divided into two Families *Batrachostomidae* and *Podargidae*. Related to nightjars, nighthawks, and potoos, as of January 2010, 14 species have been recorded, with 9 considered not in danger while 5 species are decreasing.

With soft, smooth feathering, and colouring containing streaks and bars, they are owl-like in size, plumage and colouring. Living in tropical forests and bushy areas, frogmouths are found mainly in Southeast Asia and Australia; however, they also do occur in India, the Philippines, New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Solomon Islands, and elsewhere.

Nocturnal, frogmouths are most active after dusk and before dawn. However, one can hear their constant oo-oom calls throughout the night as they stay in touch with mates and others in their group. Insects are the main food source, and at one time it was assumed that their large mouths were used as a trap. However, this assumption was proven to be incorrect. They actually hunt slow-moving or motionless prey, some frogmouth species drop down onto the ground to catch an insect, while others pick their quarry off leaves or branches. Though not agile or strong fliers over long distances, they are fast and, like owls, their downy wing feathers give them the ability to fly with almost no sound.

There are three species of frogmouths found in Australia: Marbled Frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus*), Great Papuan Frogmouth (*P. papuensis*), and Tawny Frogmouth (*P. strigoides*). However, the Tawny Frogmouth is the only species residing only in Australia, where it is non-migrant and far more numerous than the Marbled or Papuan Frogmouths.

Also referred to as the Mopoke or Freckled Frogmouth, there are seven subspecies of the Tawny Frogmouth, resulting in large colour and size variation across its habitat. Their average weight is 275 to 350 g (10 to 13 oz.) and in length, from head to tail, they range between 33 and 53 cm (13–21 in). The Tawny Frogmouth has a large head with a flat crown, yellow eyes and pale grey eyebrows. Its short but sturdy bill ends in a small hook, with rictal bristles at the base of the upper mandible and it has have a huge orange gape.

The upper body is generally greyish with black, red, and brown streaks, or variations of such, enabling it to blend in with tree branches. Underparts are paler and females are often darker than the males. In the east and southeast sections of Australia, there is a vividly marked subspecies, which is almost twice the size of the lighter marked Tawny Frogmouth that dwells in the north.

The Tawny Frogmouth is a rather odd-looking bird with a small neck, short ragged tail and small wings. Its feet are not sturdy but they do have long, widely spread digits with sharp claws designed for holding prey. Like owls, the Tawny Frogmouth is equipped with anisodactyl feet, which means three toes face forward and one faces backwards.

Most nests are flimsy affairs but the Large Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus auritus*, creates a pad from its own down, holding it together with spiderwebs and camouflaging it with lichen. However, as with most frogmouths, the nest of the Tawny Frogmouth is simply some twigs thrown together on a platform in the fork of a tree.

Surprisingly, the nests are used year after year, with repair work carried out each time.



*Tawny Frogmouth, Podargus strigoides, in defensive mode at Ealkabout Aviary, Brisbane Forest Park, The Gap, Queensland, Australia.*

The age of the Tawny Frogmouth at first mating is unknown, but breeding takes place from August to December, with the mating interval being one year. There are usually two eggs, which the parents incubate for 28–32 days. Both male and female share the duties of caring for the young during the fledging period of

25 to 35 days. Nestlings have speckled grey down on their backs and heads with paler underparts; juveniles have streaks on the sides of their breasts.

Though they occasionally supplement their diet with berries and fruit, the food selection of the Tawny Frogmouth is mainly large insects, scorpions, spiders, centipedes, frogs, lizards, small mammals, and occasionally cultivated citrus fruits. They hunt from their perches, landing quickly and silently on top of their prey.

Since the Tawny Frogmouth is nocturnal, gathering information about it has been difficult and its lifespan is unknown. However, they are common birds and can be spotted wherever there are trees or shrubs, from forests to city parks.

The Tawny Frogmouth is notorious for its ability to hide. During the daytime they roost at an angle, in a partly upright position on a bare tree branch. If disturbed, the bird will stiffen, drawing the feathers close to the body. Combined with its colouring and the cluster of facial feathers, the bird will now resemble the end of a branch. Although it gives the appearance of sleeping, it is very much awake

and alert, following the intruder through eyes open only a crack and moving its head only slightly. You can be within two feet of a tawny frogmouth and never see it.

Every species – bird, fish, mammal, reptile, or amphibian – has some attribute making it separate and distinctive. So next time you're visiting Australia, if you see a broken branch, perhaps all is not as it seems...you could be looking at a Tawny Frogmouth. Or...it could be just a piece of wood.

Barbara Silverman is a writer of non-fiction dealing with animal mythology, sky lore, ancient astronomy, and wildlife especially little known or unusual species. Photos in this article are from Wikipedia and used under the creative commons licence.



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## Good News about Our Fellow Charity - NCC

by Phyllis Holtz

Occasionally, members ask us about the help we give to our partners in conservation, usually seeking assurance that our contributions are going to be well spent and put to the uses we intend.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a long-time partner, associate, and friend of BPQ. We have worked together over decades to establish and maintain bird sanctuaries.

Like BPQ, NCC is a charity; a charity which solicits donations widely, and whose special interest is the acquisition of lands to create environmental sanctuaries as well as the official designation of sanctuary status to private and public lands.

BPQ administers sanctuaries and helps to fund others, the Alfred Kelly Reserve in the Piedmont being a good example of a recent collaboration with NCC and other environmental groups.

NCC locates properties, assesses them for their need to be protected, negotiates the purchase or change to protected status with private or governmental owners, then turns administration of the sanctuaries over to other groups or individuals such as BPQ or private landowners.

## So – what is the good news?

A regular rating of the 100 largest Canadian charities that solicit donations from the public has recently been completed by *MoneySense Magazine*. *MoneySense* is a Canadian publication that deals with all things relating to finance for individuals.

NCC was rated an A+ by *MoneySense* in the environmental group for its efficient and effective expenditure of the donations it receives. There were four charities in this group; one well-known charity received a C and another received a D.

Canadian Red Cross also received an A+. Of the roughly 10 hospital foundations rated, none received an A+.

So when we or BPQ are donating to or working closely with NCC, we can rest assured that our time and money are well spent.

Those of us who have worked closely with the Nature Conservancy of Canada have always thought of them as good stewards of money as well as of the environment; now we have third-party confirmation that our confidence is well placed.

To learn more about MoneySense, go to [www.moneysense.ca](http://www.moneysense.ca) and to learn about Nature Conservancy of Canada, go to [www.natureconservancy.ca](http://www.natureconservancy.ca).

Phyllis Holz is a BPQ Director and an active member of the Finance Committee.



## Project FeederWatch – Everyday Canadians Contributing to our Understanding of Birds

Backyard birdwatchers across Canada are invited to take part in the 26th season of Project FeederWatch from Saturday, November 10, through Friday, April 5.

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 – important indicator species for the well-being of our planet. Each

checklist submitted by FeederWatchers helps scientists at Bird Studies Canada ([www.birdscanada.org](http://www.birdscanada.org)) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology ([www.birds.cornell.edu](http://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 – we'll 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](http://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!"

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](http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw), or contact the coordinator at 1-888-448-2473 or [pfw@birdscanada.org](mailto:pfw@birdscanada.org). Bird Studies Canada is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to bird research and conservation.

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

There are four ways to register for Project FeederWatch in Canada. Note: A \$35.00 registration fee applies.

- Fill out the online form at [www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw](http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw)
- E-mail [pfw@birdscanada.org](mailto: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.



## Bird Views

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

June – July 2012

**Snow Goose:** 2 ad. photographed with their single gosling at Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 30 May (A. Desmarais). It is exceedingly unusual to find a **Greater Snow Goose** breeding in southern Québec. The only other place where the species is known to breed in s. Québec is on the Loups Marins Is. in the middle of the St. Lawrence, opposite Petite-Rivière-Saint-François. **Mute Swan:** the bird at Sainte-Clothilde-de-Châteauguay continued to at least 1 July (P. Bannon). Singles were also reported at Île aux Fermiers 14 June (Y. Gauthier et al.) and at Lavaltrie 7 July (*vide* B. Cloutier). **Trumpeter Swan:** one at Val-d'Or 23 July + (ph., R. Ladurantaye, J. Hénault, M. Fleury et al.). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one at Pointe-au-Père 30 June–1<sup>st</sup> July (D. Ruest). **Wild Turkey:** birds seem now regular as far north as Mont-Laurier (*vide* R. Le Brun). **Manx Shearwater:** one at Rivière-Ouelle 29 July (JF. Rousseau). **Leach's Storm-Petrel:** one at Rivière-Ouelle 28 July (L. Belleau). **American White Pelican:** 2 on Lake Nominique 9 June (ph. S. Hogan). **Least Bittern:** one at Cacouna 21 June (D. Ruest). **Great Egret:** 2 nests found on Conroy I. on the Outaouais River (Gatineau) 15 July (B. Di Labio), providing the first breeding record for this region. This colonial species now nests at a minimum of 4 sites in s. Québec. A bird was also reported at D'Alembert 17–22 June, a first record for Abitibi (M. Lessard et al.). **Little Egret:** a bird was seen by hundreds of observers at Sainte-Catherine, near Montréal, 5 July–18 August (ph., R. Belhumeur). This represented the second provincial record this year and the 3<sup>rd</sup> record overall. **Tricolored Heron:** one at Les Bergeronnes 7 July (Y. Fabe, S. Pagé). **Glossy Ibis:** one was at Île des Barques (Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel) 18 June–17 July (J. Cadieux, m. ob.).

**Black Vulture:** one at Bic 26 July (R. Barbeau). **Turkey Vulture:** 230 were tallied in a roost at Mont-Laurier 24 July, a definite demonstration of the abundance of the species in Québec now (R. LeBrun). **Rough-legged Hawk:** a nest was discovered 8 June near Blanc-Sablon, a rare event outside Nunavik (H. Tremblay). **American Kestrel:** a pair nested in a nest box at Kuujjuaq, producing 5 young 13 July, while another pair nested in an old building in the same municipality (P. May). This provided a



## Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Juin — juillet 2012

**Oie des neiges:** 2 ad. et leur unique oison ont été photographiés à Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 30 mai (A. Desmarais). La nidification de la **Grande Oie des neiges** est inusitée dans le sud de la province. Le seul autre endroit où l'espèce y a déjà niché est dans les îles aux Loups Marins en face de Petite-Rivière-Saint-François. **Cygne tuberculé:** un ad. encore présent à Sainte-Clothilde-de-Châteauguay au moins jusqu'au 1er juil (P. Bannon). D'autres indiv. signalés à l'île aux Fermiers 14 juin (Y. Gauthier et al.) et Lavaltrie 7 juil (*vide* B. Cloutier). **Cygne trompette:** un à Val-d'Or 23 juil + (ph. R. Ladurantaye, J. Hénault, M. Fleury et al.). **Canard siffleur:** un à Pointe-au-Père 30 juin–1er juil (D. Ruest). **Dindon sauvage:** l'espèce semble maintenant aux portes de Mont-Laurier (*vide* R. Le Brun). **Puffin des Anglais:** un à Rivière-Ouelle 29 juil (JF. Rousseau). **Océanite cul-blanc:** un à Rivière-Ouelle 28 juil (L. Belleau). **Pélican d'Amérique:** 2 sur le lac Nominique 9 juin (ph. S. Hogan). **Petit Blongios:** un à Cacouna 21 juin (D. Ruest). **Grande Aigrette:** 2 nids trouvés à l'île Conroy sur la rivière Outaouais (Gatineau) 15 juil (B. Di Labio) procurant ainsi une première nidification confirmée pour cette région. Au moins 4 colonies sont maintenant connues dans le sud du Québec. Un oiseau à D'Alembert 17–22 juin était le premier signalé en Abitibi (M. Lessard et al.). **Aigrette garzette:** un oiseau a été vu par des centaines d'observateurs à Sainte-Catherine, près de Montréal, 5 juil–18 août (ph., R. Belhumeur). Il s'agit de la 2<sup>ème</sup> présence au Québec cette année et la 3<sup>ème</sup> au total. **Aigrette tricolore:** une à Les Bergeronnes 7 juil (Y. Fabe, S. Pagé). **Ibis falcinelle:** un à l'île des Barques (Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel) 18 juin–17 juil (J. Cadieux, pl. ob.).

**Urubu noir:** un à Bic 26 juil (R. Barbeau). **Urubu à tête rouge:** 230 dénombrés dans un dortoir à Mont-Laurier 24 juil, un signe évident de l'abondance de cette espèce au Québec (R. LeBrun). **Buse pattue:** un nid trouvé 8 juin près de Blanc-Sablon, une découverte inusitée hors du Nunavik (H. Tremblay). **Crécerelle d'Amérique:** un couple a produit 5 jeunes dans un nichoir à Kuujjuaq le 13 juil, tandis qu'un autre couple a niché dans un vieux bâtiment de cette ville (P. May). Il s'agit d'une extension d'aire remarquable pour cette espèce. **Râle jaune:** une espèce qui passe souvent inaperçue: 3

remarkable range extension for the species in the province. **Yellow Rail**: a species under-reported: 3 were at I. aux Grues 9 July (G. Éthier, P. Casavant, J. Hénault), and a single bird at Barachois (Gaspésie) 24 June (G. Hubert). **Marbled Godwit**: one at La Motte (Abitibi) 20–23 June (L. Imbeau). **Stilt Sandpiper**: a rare northbound migrant in the province was intercepted at Yamachiche 1 June (J. Gélinas et al.). **Black-headed Gull**: outside the Magdalen Is., singles were at La Malbaie 3 June (P. Otis) and at Les Escoumins 17 June–4 July (J.G. Beaulieu, M. Bertrand). **Little Gull**: a maximum of 6 were tallied at Tadoussac 2 June (R. Pintiaux). **Laughing Gull**: 4 reported in the province. **Franklin's Gull**: 4 indiv. were reported in June. **Herring X Glaucous Gull hybrid**: one found at La Malbaie 4 June (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: a high count of 31 birds was made between La Malbaie and Saint-Irénée 4 June (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur). **Caspian Tern**: a nest containing 2 eggs was found on the Grandes Battures Tailhandier at Boucherville 18 June. The nest contained 2 young 28 June (ph., D. Henri, P. Wery, S. Côté). This is the first confirmed breeding record for s. Québec. The only other place where the species has been known to nest is on Île à la Brume on the Lower North Shore. **Roseate Tern**: one at Grande-Entrée (Magdalen Is.) 16 June (S. Cyr et al.). **Long-tailed Jaeger**: one was rather unexpected at Sainte-Pétronille (I. d'Orléans) 5 June (P. Otis). **Razorbill**: totally unexpected inland in summer, a bird was on L. Saint-Louis, near Montréal 17–18 June (ph. R. Rousselle et al.).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**: singles at Saint-Flavien 10 June–19 July (J. Piuze, m.ob.) and at Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 19 July (R. & G. Boulet). **White-winged Dove**: singles at Saint-Eulalie 23 Mai–7 June (L. Boily, A. Simard) and at Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia 19–20 June (ph., T. Gallant). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: at least 5 individuals were reported in June in the southern part of the province. **Snowy Owl**: following last winter irruption, birds lingered at Québec City, Gallix, Rimouski and the Magdalen Is. into June. Two birds were still in the Magdalen Is. 19 July (F. Bussière). **Long-eared Owl**: the second Breeding Bird Atlas allowed the discovery of many breeding sites in s. Québec, something unnoticed until now. **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: one at Saint-Urbain (Charlevoix) 6 July was rare for this region (J. Piuze).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**: one at Bromont 30 June (S. Labbé). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: single juv. 9 July at Philipsburg where a pair had been present last spring (J. Laporte) and at Châteauguay 27 July (R. Belhumeur et al.). A pair was also present in the Morgan arboretum (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 22 June

étaient à l'île Grues 9 juil (G. Éthier, P. Casavant, J. Hénault), et un à Barachois (Gaspésie) 24 juin (G. Hubert). **Barge marbrée**: une à La Motte (Abitibi) 20–23 juin (L. Imbeau). **Bécasseau à échasses**: un rare migrateur printannier intercepté à Yamachiche 1er juin (J. Gélinas et al.). **Mouette rieuse**: hors des I. de la Madeleine, des oiseaux à La Malbaie 3 juin (P. Otis) et à Les Escoumins 17 juin–4 juil (J.G. Beaulieu, M. Bertrand). **Mouette pygmée**: un maximum de 6 à Tadoussac 2 juin (R. Pintiaux). **Mouette atricille**: 4 signalées dans la province. **Mouette de Franklin**: 4 indiv. aperçus en juin. **Goéland argenté X Goéland bourgmestre**: cet hybride a été vu à La Malbaie 4 juin (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur). **Goéland brun**: un décompte élevé de 31 oiseaux réalisé entre La Malbaie et Saint-Irénée 4 juin (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur). **Sterne caspienne**: un nid contenant 2 oeufs trouvé sur les Grandes Battures Tailhandier à Boucherville 18 juin. Le nid contenait 2 jeunes 28 juin (ph., D. Henri, P. Wery, S. Côté). Il s'agit d'une première nidification confirmée pour le sud du Québec. Le seul autre endroit connu où l'espèce niche se trouve à l'île à la Brume en Basse Côte Nord. **Sterne de Dougall**: une à Grande-Entrée (IDL) 16 juin (S. Cyr et al.). **Labbe à longue queue**: un indiv. plutôt inattendu à Sainte-Pétronille (I. d'Orléans) 5 juin (P. Otis). **Petit Pingouin**: complètement inattendu à l'intérieur des terres en été, un oiseau a séjourné sur le lac Saint-Louis, près de Montréal 17–18 juin (ph., R. Rousselle et al.).

**Tourterelle turque**: des oiseaux à Saint-Flavien 10 juin–19 juil (J. Piuze, pl.ob.) et à Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 19 juil (R. & G. Boulet). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches**: des oiseaux à Saint-Eulalie 23 mai–7 juin (L. Boily, A. Simard) et à Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia 19–20 juin (ph., T. Gallant). **Coulicou à bec jaune**: au moins 5 indiv. en juin dans le sud de la province. **Harfang des neiges**: suite à l'irruption de l'hiver dernier, des oiseaux se sont attardés à Québec, Gallix, Rimouski et aux îles de la Madeleine en juin. Deux oiseaux encore présents aux IDLM le 19 juil (F. Bussière). **Hibou moyen-duc**: le 2<sup>ième</sup> atlas a permis de découvrir plusieurs sites de nidification dans le sud du Québec. **Engoulevent bois-pourri**: un oiseau à Saint-Urbain (Charlevoix) 6 juil, rare dans cette région (J. Piuze).

**Pic à tête rouge**: un à Bromont 30 juin (S. Labbé). **Pic à ventre roux**: des juv. le 9 juil à Philipsburg où un couple était présent le printemps dernier (J. Laporte) et à Châteauguay 27 juil (R. Belhumeur et al.). Un couple était aussi présent à l'arboretum Morgan (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 22 juin (DJ. Léandri-Breton) et un oiseau seul à Granby 16 juin (JP. Santerre et al.). **Moucherolle vert**: un oiseau entendu et vu à Rimouski 31 juil (G. Gendron). **Moucherolle des saules**: un mâle territorial à Cap-des-Rosiers 20–30 juin, très inhabituel en Gaspésie (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). **Sittelle à poitrine**

(DJ. Léandri-Breton) and a single bird at Granby 16 June (JP. Santerre et al.). **Acadian Flycatcher**: a bird heard and seen briefly at Rimouski 31 July (G. Gendron). **Willow Flycatcher**: a territorial bird at Cap-des-Rosiers 20–30 June, very unusual in Gaspésie (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). **White-breasted Nuthatch**: one at Île Bonaventure 12 July, exceptional so far east (M. Juteau). **Sedge Wren**: a singing male at La Motte 20 June, exceptional for Abitibi region (L. Imbeau). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: the Dundee nest reported last spring was successful (ph., L. Lemay et al.) while a family group of at least 4 birds was reported on I. Bizard 9–16 July (C. Prévost). **Wood Thrush**: a singing male at McWatters 28 June, rare in Abitibi (L. Imbeau). **Brown Thrasher**: one at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts 3 June, rare so far east in the province (M. Daudelin).

**Cerulean Warbler**: 2 at Bristol 14–17 June, a new site for this species (J. Dubois et al.). **Worm-eating Warbler**: one at Anse-à-Beaufils (Gaspésie) 2 July (L. Lagueux, J. Wiseman). **Connecticut Warbler**: one at Les Escoumins 3 July was near the eastern limit of its range (JG. Beaulieu). **American Tree Sparrow**: one at Pointe-à-la-Croix 14 July, exceptional in summer (M. Juteau).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**: an ad. male at Val-d'Or 7 June (R. Ladurantaye) and an imm. male at Saint-Rédempteur (Québec City) 16 July (D & M. Boucher). **Eastern Meadowlark**: 2 indiv. carrying food at Authier 23–27 June, very unusual in Abitibi (S. Gagnon et al.). **Orchard Oriole**: while looking for the **Little Egret**, a few observers were very fortunate to see a first-year male (T. Johnson, N. Senner) and an ad. male (C. Wood) 14 July at Sainte-Catherine.

**Common Redpoll**: again, like in 1995, 2003, 2007 and 2010, several birds in juvenal plumage were reported at Rivière-Ouelle and Rimouski as early as 23 June (C. Auchu, C. Girard, and G. Proulx). The geographic origin of these birds is somewhat mysterious.

ADDENDUM: as reported in a short note by Norman Seymour in the Song Sparrow, Vol. 55.1, Aug 2012, this observer was very fortunate to find a female **Canvasback** with 8 ducklings in late July 2011 on lake Saint-François near Dundee. This provided a first breeding record for the province.

EXOTICS: **Black Swan**: one at Saint-Ours 20 July (ph., C Genest, J. Bergeron). **Orange Bishop**: one at Pincourt 18–24 July (ph., L. & M. Mondor). **European Goldfinch**: one at Sheldrake 2 June (R. Touzel).

**blanche**: une à l'île Bonaventure 12 juil, exceptionnelle aussi à l'est (M. Juteau). **Troglodyte à bec court**: un mâle chanteur à La Motte 20 juin, exceptionnel pour l'Abitibi (L. Imbeau). **Gobemoucheron gris—bleu**: le nid signalé à Dundee le printemps dernier fut un succès (ph., L. Lemay et al.) tandis qu'un groupe familial comprenant au moins 4 oiseaux fut signalé à l'île Bizard 9–16 juil (C. Prévost). **Grive des bois**: un mâle chanteur à McWatters 28 juin, rare en Abitibi (L. Imbeau). **Moqueur roux**: un à Sainte-Anne-des-Monts 3 juin, rare aussi à l'est (M. Daudelin).

**Paruline azurée**: 2 à Bristol 14–17 juin, un nouveau site pour cette espèce (J. Dubois et al.). **Paruline vermivore**: une à l'Anse-à-Beaufils (Gaspésie) 2 juil (L. Lagueux, J. Wiseman). **Paruline à gorge grise**: une à Les Escoumins 3 juil, près de la limite est de son aire (JG Beaulieu). **Bruant hudsonien**: un à Pointe-à-la-Croix 14 juil, exceptionnel en été (M. Juteau).

**Carouge à tête jaune**: un mâle ad. à Val-d'Or 7 juin (R. Ladurantaye) et un mâle imm. à Saint-Rédempteur (Québec) 16 juil (D & M. Boucher). **Sturnelle des prés**: 2 indiv. transportant de la nourriture à Authier 23–27 juin, très inusité en Abitibi (S. Gagnon et al.). **Oriole des vergers**: tout en cherchant l'Aigrette garzette, certains observateurs ont eu la chance de trouver un mâle imm. (T. Johnson, N. Senner) et un mâle ad. (C. Wood) à Sainte-Catherine 14 juil.

**Sizerin flammé**: tout comme en 1995, 2003, 2007 et 2010, quelques oiseaux en plumage juv. furent signalés à Rivière-Ouelle et à Rimouski aussi tôt que le 23 juin (C. Auchu, C. Girard, et G. Proulx). La provenance des ces oiseaux reste un mystère.

ADDENDUM: tel que raconté dans un court texte signé par Norman Seymour dans le Song Sparrow, Vol. 55.1, août 2012, cet observateur a eu la chance de trouver une femelle de **Fuligule à dos blanc** avec 8 canetons à la fin de juil 2011 sur le lac Saint-François près de Dundee. Il s'agit d'une première nidification signalée dans la province.

EXOTIQUES: **Cygne noir**: un à Saint-Ours 20 juil (ph., C. Genest, J. Bergeron). **Euplecte franciscain**: un à Pincourt 18–24 juil (ph., L. & M. Mondor). **Chardonneret élégant**: un à Sheldrake 2 juin (R. Touzel).

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

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, QC H4E1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 after 7:00 p.m. or by E-mail at [pbannon@videotron.ca](mailto:pbannon@videotron.ca)



June 23, 2012 - BPQ birders at Pointe-de-Yamachiche  
Photo: Sheldon Harvey



## The 77th Annual Montreal Christmas Bird Count

by Sheldon Harvey

One of Bird Protection Quebec's (BPQ) most popular annual events, the Montreal Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2012. Planning is already under way. 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.

Barbara Szabo, Jean Demers and 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 were very pleased to have 70 people participate in the event last year. We hope to be able to at least duplicate that this year and we do have space and territory

available to add more people if there is an interest. 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 centred at the intersection of Sherbrooke Street West and Westminster Avenue in Montreal West. An overview of the count, a map of the count circle, and the results from past years are all available on our website. (Follow the link at the end of this article.) 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 your participation 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 p.m. All participants are invited to attend for a bite to eat and to submit their findings of the day. The rough results are tabulated and everyone is encouraged to share their birding experiences of the day.

Again, complete information on the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, as well as the Hudson Christmas Bird Count being held on Saturday, December 29, is available on the following BPQ webpage [http://www.pqspb.org/bpq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=88&Itemid=110](http://www.pqspb.org/bpq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=88&Itemid=110)

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

Watch the Songsparrow e-mail forum for further information as the event approaches.

*Sheldon Harvey is a BPQ Board member, Chair of the Marketing Committee, and serves on the Field Trips Committee. He leads several "spontaneous" field trips throughout the year, leads the bird sightings at our Monthly Lectures, and keeps us informed about rare bird sightings. We are grateful to Sheldon for initiating and continuing to offer his successful Summer Series field trips.*

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## Hudson Christmas Bird Count

by Jean Demers

This year on December 29, we will hold our 72nd Hudson Christmas Bird Count.

You can participate in the Hudson Christmas Bird Count either in the field or in the warmth of your home as a 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, if 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 at the 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 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, your participation is free of charge; if not, you have to pay \$5.00; this will be collected by your party leader. The National Audubon Society publishes the results from all the counts and 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 at [mailto:"Jean Demers" <jd030824@gmail.com>](mailto:Jean.Demers@jd030824@gmail.com) 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://www.pqspb.org/bpq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=115:recensements-des-oiseaux-de-noel&catid=49:activites&Itemid=152](http://www.pqspb.org/bpq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=115:recensements-des-oiseaux-de-noel&catid=49:activites&Itemid=152)

November 5, 2012

## Woodpeckers and Deadwood

Recently Burned and Old Forests in the Boreal Ecosystem: Key Interactions for the Maintaining Biodiversity



with Professor Pierre Drapeau, Département des sciences biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal

Loss of old-growth forests in different ecosystems affects several bird species particularly those associated with decaying and dead wood. Among them, hole-nesting birds, particularly woodpeckers, are considered keystone species given their disproportionate influence in providing resources, such as cavities, to many species in forest ecosystems. This presentation looks at the ongoing work conducted on woodpeckers in recently burned and old forests of the boreal ecosystem. It shows their ecological contribution and their relationship with decaying and dead wood both for nesting and foraging.

Pierre Drapeau is a professor in conservation ecology at the département des Sciences biologiques of Université du Québec à Montréal. He is also co-chair of the Centre for Forest Research (CFR), a research centre that brings together 57 scientists from eleven universities in the province of Québec working in forest ecology and forestry.

His research program investigates wildlife-habitat relationships in managed and naturally disturbed landscapes of temperate and boreal ecosystems covering topics such as habitat loss and fragmentation effects on wildlife populations (birds and mammals), populations dynamics of birds and insects in recently burned forests, and deadwood dynamics and deadwood associates in old-growth forests. Applications of his research program deal with integrating knowledge on habitat requirements of wildlife to refine ecosystem-based approaches to sustainable forest management.

He recently co-edited the book « Ecosystem management in the boreal forest » published by Presses de l'Université du Québec.

December 3, 2012

## Citizen Science: How Can Quebec Birders Best Contribute Their Sightings to Ornithologists and Other Scientists?

If you are a birder but either haven't heard of eBird or haven't bothered to use it because you thought it was too much work, this event is for you.

eBird is a powerful online database. You can use it to keep track of your lists (all of them!) and find out what others have been seeing (really useful when travelling!). Looking for a particular species? If you haven't seen a Dovekie and are going to the East Coast, you can find out dozens of locations where they have been seen (recently or historically). As you enter data, they are simultaneously made available for other birders and researchers to use. It's free, easy and does not have to take much time.

Jeff Skevington will discuss some of the scientific uses of eBird and show you: 1. How to enter data. 2. How to explore your data using it. 3. How to explore other people's data using it. 4. How to use smartphones to get the most out of eBird. Entering a day's records typically takes only a couple of minutes and it is a great feeling knowing that your data are instantly available to study bird distribution and population trends. If you wish, check out eBird ahead of time at <http://ebird.org/content/canada/>

Jeff is an entomologist who studies flies at the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes. Specifically, he studies the taxonomy and phylogenetics of flower flies (*Syrphidae*), thick-headed flies (*Conopidae*) and big-headed flies (*Pipunculidae*). When the weather is not conducive to fly collecting, Jeff turns his attentions to birds. He has been an avid birder since age 8 and is heavily involved in several naturalist clubs and is a regional eBird coordinator for two Ontario counties.

For more about Jeff's research, see <http://canacoll.org/Diptera/Staff/Skevington/Skevington.htm>.

Note: this evening may also include a parallel presentation about the Quebec-based ÉPOQ bird sightings database. Which to use? One or both? That is the question. More information will be available on the Songsparrow e-mail forum as details of the program are finalized.

# Report on the 9th Annual Summer Series of Birding

By Sheldon Harvey

Our 9th consecutive year of summer field trips wrapped up on August 18. This year we conducted six trips, visiting Pointe de Yamachiche, Philipsburg/St-Armand, Ste-Catherine, Mercier/Ste-Martine/Ste-Timothee, the Eastern Ontario sewage lagoons, and a first-time visit to Ste-Anne-de-Sorel. Sunny and warm conditions greeted us on every trip without a single drop of rain on any of the six outings.

The combined trips produced a total of 118 species, not quite reaching our all-time record of 123 species from 2011. Our most productive trip this summer, species-wise, was the combined Philipsburg-St-Armand/Ste-Catherine outing on July 7, where we had a total of 66 species. This matched our highest species count ever which was in the summer of 2010 on the field trip along the Quebec / Ontario border from Ste-Justine-de-Newton to Pointe-Fortune.

We averaged 52 species and 15 people per trip for the summer. Seven new species were added to our Summer Series master list, which now stands at 179 over the nine years. The new species this year were Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, Baird's Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and, of course, what has to be the candidate for the Bird of the Year in the Montreal region, the Little Egret at Ste-Catherine. The bird thrilled local birders as well as visitors from Texas, Florida and several other North American locations, who came here to see this celebrity which chose to spend its summer vacation with us.

In addition to the birding, Chris Cloutier conducted an Insect Walk in conjunction with the July 7 field trip to the Philipsburg bird sanctuary. 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 2013.



July 21, 2012 - BPQ Birders at Ste-Anne-de-Sorel  
Photo: Sheldon Harvey



Bluebirds in the Cemetery  
Photo: Chuck Kling

## Reports from Recent Field Trips

21/07/12 - Ste-Anne-de-Sorel, QC - Leader: Sheldon Harvey  
Hot and humid. 11 birders; 35 species

Bird of the Day: Eastern Wood-Pewees (adult with young)  
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Virginia Rail, Black Tern, Philadelphia Vireo, Baltimore Oriole

28/07/12 - Mercier, Ste-Martine, St-Louis-de-Gonzague & Ste-Timothée, QC - Leader: Sheldon Harvey  
Sunny and warm. 19 birders; 60 species

Bird of the Day: Least Bittern. Other Birds of Note: Redhead, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Chimney Swift

18/08/12 - Eastern Ontario Sewage Lagoons - Leader: Sheldon Harvey  
Sunny, 20°C. 13 birders; 60 species

Birds of the Day: Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope. Other Birds of Note: Blue-winged Teal, Peregrine Falcon, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Common Raven, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bobolink.

25/08/12 - St. Lazare Sandpits, St-Lazare, QC - Leaders: Jean Demers & Clémence Soulard  
Hot & humid. 21 birders; 36 species

Birds of the Day: Shorebirds (both Yellowlegs, Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral, Semipalmated, Least Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe)  
Other Birds of Note: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Green Heron, Merlin, Yellow-rumped Warbler

01/09/12 - Parc nature du Bois de Île-Bizard, Ile-Bizard, QC - Leader: Felix Hilton  
Sunny & mild. 7 birders. 51 species

Birds of the Day: Warblers (Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Palm, Blackpoll, Am. Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's)  
Other Birds of Note: Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting

08/09/12 - Dundee & Ste-Martine, QC - Leader: Wayne Grubert  
Cloudy, 26°C and humid. 6 birders; 49 species

Bird of the Day: Ospreys. Other Birds of Note: Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane (heard), Brown Thrasher, Baltimore Oriole

15/09/12 - Pointe de Yamachiche & Baie-du-Febvre, QC - Leader: Frédéric Hareau  
Windy, cloudy. 9 birders; 69 species

Bird of the Day: Sharp-shinned Hawks, Bald Eagles. Other Birds of Note: 8 warbler species, Solitary Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Redhead, Ruddy Duck

## Field trips planned for October to early December

**Saturday, October 6 - samedi 6 octobre**

**Refuge faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île Saint Bernard**

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

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

8:00 a.m. Meet at the welcome centre of the Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville on Île St-Bernard, Châteauguay. From Montreal, take Highway 138 and cross the Mercier Bridge. Stay right coming off the bridge and take Highway 138 through Kahnawake into Châteauguay. As you enter Châteauguay, turn right onto Boul. St-Francis. Follow St. Francis all the way to the end where it meets the Châteauguay River at Boulevard Salaberry Nord. Turn right onto Salaberry Nord. Continue past the railway bridge. The next bridge that crosses the road and river is Pont de la Sauvagine. Turn right just after the bridge. There will be a sign and an entrance ramp for the bridge for Beauharnois and Refuge Faunique Marquerite D'Youville. Cross the bridge and continue to Notre-Dame Nord. At the flashing red light turn right onto Notre-Dame and follow the signs to Refuge Faunique Marguerite D'Youville. Cross the small bridge onto Île St-Bernard. The parking area is to the right. Walking trip looking for waterbirds and late migrants. The grass paths are usually wet early in the morning so wear appropriate footwear. \$3.00 admission fee. Half day.

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 Marquerite D'Youville y sont visibles. Traverser le pont et continuer jusqu'à la rue Notre-Dame Nord. Au feu rouge clignotant, tourner à droite sur Notre-Dame et suivre les indications pour le refuge. Traverser le petit pont qui mène à l'île Saint-Bernard. Le stationnement est à la droite. Excursion à pied, à la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques et de migrateurs tardifs. Considérant que les sentiers gazonnés sont généralement humides le matin, il est conseillé de porter des chaussures adéquates. Frais d'entrée de 3.00\$. Demi-journée.

**Saturday, October 13- samedi 13 octobre**

**Alfred, ON**

Leader: Jacques Bouvier 613-524-1154 [bouvier@magma.ca](mailto:bouvier@magma.ca)

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Ultramar Service Station in Alfred. Take Hwy 40 to the Ontario border (signpost Ottawa) and continue on Hwy 417 west to exit 9 (Rte 17). Follow Rte 17 beyond Hawkesbury towards Alfred (about 32 km from Exit 9 of 417). Proceed to the edge of Alfred. The Ultramar gas station is on your right at the corner of Rte 17 and Peat Moss Road. About 90 minutes from Montreal. We will explore the area around Alfred including Alfred Bog, Alfred Sewage Lagoon and the Prescott-Russell Recreational Trail. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, and migrating passerines and shorebirds. Half day.

8h30 Rassemblement au poste d'essence Ultramar d'Alfred. À partir de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 jusqu'à la frontière ontarienne et continuer sur l'autoroute 417 ouest jusqu'à la sortie 9 (route 17). Prendre la route 17 et continuer sur celle-ci en dépassant Hawkesbury et en continuant jusqu'à Alfred (environ 32 km). Le poste d'essence Ultramar se trouve sur la droite, au coin des routes Peat Moss et 17. Prévoir environ 1h30 de route à partir de Montréal. Nous comptons explorer les environs d'Alfred, incluant la tourbière d'Alfred, les bassins d'épuration d'Alfred et le sentier récréatif Prescott-Russell. À la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques et de rapaces ainsi que de passereaux et limicoles en migration. Demi-journée.

**Saturday, October 20 - samedi 20 octobre**  
**Cooper Marsh**

[http://www.rrca.on.ca/cooper\\_marsh.htm](http://www.rrca.on.ca/cooper_marsh.htm)

Leader: Martin Bowman 613-347-1655 [pict@riverlink.ca](mailto: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. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces diurnes, limicoles et passereaux en migration.. Demi-journée.

**Saturday, October 27– samedi 27 octobre**  
**Centre d'interprétation de la nature du lac Boivin (CINLB), Granby**

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

8:00 a.m. Meet in the CINLB parking lot, 700 rue Drummond, Granby, Quebec

Centre d'Interpretation de la Nature du Lac Boivin webpage: <http://cinlb.org/>

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: From the Champlain Bridge, follow the Eastern Townships Autoroute (Hwy 10) to Exit 68. Turn right off the exit onto boul. Daniel Bouchard (Hwy 139). Follow boul. Daniel Bouchard into Granby, crossing Hwy 112 and continuing past Granby Zoo. Continue on boul. Daniel Bouchard to the intersection with rue Drummond. Turn right onto rue Drummond. The free parking for the CINLB will be on your left. This site is approximately 75 minutes from the South Shore side of Champlain Bridge.

This is a great spot to visit, particularly at this time of the year with the changing leaves. This is a walking trip, with extensive trails throughout the park and an observation tower overlooking Lac Boivin. The park offers a variety of habitats including the lake itself, wooded trails and areas of open fields and brushy areas. There should be a good selection of species, including migrating songbirds, ducks, geese and, hopefully, a few surprises. Bring along some bird seed as the chickadees, white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches are very friendly here and always looking to feed from the hands of the visitors! Half day.

8h00 Rendez-vous dans le stationnement du CINLB, 700 rue Drummond, Granby, Québec

Centre d'Interprétation de la Nature du Lac Boivin page: <http://cinlb.org/~V>

DIRECTIONS: À partir du pont Champlain, suivez l'autoroute des Cantons de l'Est (autoroute 10) jusqu'à la sortie 68. Tourner à droite après la sortie sur le boulevard Daniel Bouchard (route 139). Suivez le boulevard Daniel Bouchard dans Granby, en traversant la route 112 et continuer jusqu'à dépasser le Zoo de Granby. Continuer sur le boul. Daniel Bouchard jusqu'à l'intersection avec la rue Drummond. Tourner à droite sur la rue Drummond. Le parking gratuit pour le CINLB sera sur votre gauche. Ce site est situé à 75 minutes de la rive sud du pont Champlain.

C'est un endroit formidable à visiter, en particulier à cette période de l'année lorsque les feuilles changent. Il s'agit d'une excursion à pied, sur les sentiers qui sillonnent le vaste parc et à destination d'une tour d'observation surplombant le lac Boivin. Le parc offre une variété d'habitats, y compris le lac lui-même, des sentiers boisés et des zones de champs ouverts et des zones broussailleuses. On devrait y trouver une bonne sélection d'espèces, y compris les oiseaux chanteurs migrants, canards, oies et, espérons-le, quelques surprises. Apportez quelques graines pour les oiseaux qui comme les mésanges, les sîtelles à poitrine blanche et à poitrine rousse sont très peu farouches et cherchent toujours à la recherche à se nourrir dans les mains des visiteurs! Demi-journée.

**Saturday, November 3 - samedi 3 novembre**  
**Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies**

Leaders: To be announced

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: \$8.00. 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 : 8,00 \$. Demi-journée.

**Saturday, November 10 - samedi 10 novembre**  
**Morgan Arboretum - Arboretum Morgan**

Leader: Richard Gregson [sparroworks@gmail.com](mailto:sparroworks@gmail.com)  
<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

8:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on Chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$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, November 17**  
**Beaudet Reservoir, Victoriaville and Étang Burbank, Danville**

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

12:00 Noon Meet at the parking lot of Beaudet Reservoir in Victoriaville, QC (NOTE: From Sherbrooke and Decarie in Montreal, Google Maps calculates 2 hours (170 km to Victoriaville). From all points, head to Autoroute 20 East (Direction-Quebec City). Travel on Autoroute 20 to Exit 210 to Autoroute 955. Follow Autoroute 955 (direction Saint-Albert/Victoriaville/Warwick) for 15 km. and turn LEFT on Route 122. Travel 11 km on Route 122 to Grande-Ligne. Turn left on Grande-Ligne. In 350 m, turn right onto Garand. There is a parking lot on the right just in front of the reservoir. GPS or Google Map Coordinates: +46° 4'7.60", -71°58'38.60" We will view the reservoir from a causeway crossing it, looking for waterfowl, etc.

From Reservoir Beaudet in Victoriaville, we will drive approximately 40 km. to Étang Burbank, in Danville, QC. NOTE: A map of the route from Victoriaville to Danville will be provided to everyone at Victoriaville. We will arrive around mid-afternoon and explore the trails and boardwalks around the pond. Just before dusk, we will return to the observation tower to wait for the arrival of the ducks and geese (Snow & Canada) as they return to the pond, hopefully in the thousands, to spend the night. Half day. Website for Étang Burbank <http://www.etangburbank.ca/>

12:00 – Rendez-vous au parking du réservoir Beaudet à Victoriaville, QC (REMARQUE: De Sherbrooke et Décarie à Montréal, Google Maps calcule 2 heures (170 km pour Victoriaville). Quelque soit le point de départ, prenez l'autoroute 20 Est (direction-Québec). Continuez sur l'autoroute 20 jusqu'à la sortie 210. Prenez alors l'autoroute 955 (direction Saint-Albert/Victoriaville/Warwick). Suivez l'autoroute 955 sur 15 km et tourner à

gauche sur la route 122. Continuez 11 km sur la route 122 jusqu'à Grande-Ligne. Tournez à gauche sur Grande-Ligne. À 350 m, tournez à droite sur Garand. Il ya un parking sur la droite, juste en face du réservoir (Coordonnées GPS ou Google Map: +46 ° 4'7 .60 ", -71 ° 58'38 .60"). Nous allons observer le réservoir depuis la jetée, à la recherche de la sauvagine. Depuis le Réservoir Beaudet à Victoriaville, nous nous dirigerons ensuite à l'étang Burbank, situé à environ 40 km, à Danville, QC. REMARQUE: Une carte de l'itinéraire de Victoriaville à Danville sera fournie à tout le monde à Victoriaville. Nous arrivons à l'étang Burbank en milieu d'après-midi et explorerons les sentiers et les promenades autour de l'étang. Juste avant le crépuscule, nous reviendrons à la tour d'observation pour l'arrivée des canards et des oies qui retourneront à l'étang, je l'espère, par milliers, pour y passer la nuit. Demi-journée. Site web pour l'étang Burbank: <http://www.etangburbank.ca/>

### **Saturday, November 24 - samedi 24 novembre**

#### **Parc nature du Cap-St-Jacques**

Leader: Wayne Grubert 450-458-5498 514-774-0811(Cell - Morning of trip only) [wgrubert@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrubert@hotmail.com)

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to l'Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd). Continue for 2 km to the chalet d'accueil of the park. Parking: \$8.00. Half day.

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

### **Saturday, December 1 – samedi 1 décembre**

#### **Casselman and Ste-Rose-de-Prescott, Eastern Ontario**

Leader : Jacques Bouvier 613-524-1154 [bouvier@magma.ca](mailto: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 Hortons 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.

## BPQ Calendar

Saturday, October 13 – Alfred, ON

Saturday, October 20 – Cooper Marsh

Saturday, October 27 – Centre d'interprétation de la nature du lac Boivin (CINLB), Granby

Saturday, November 3 – Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies

Monday, November 5, – [Lecture] Woodpeckers and Deadwood: Recently Burned and Old Forests in the Boreal Ecosystem: Key Interactions for the Maintaining Biodiversity

Saturday, November 10 – Morgan Arboretum

Saturday, November 17, 2012 – Beudet Reservoir, Victoriaville, & Étang Burbank, Danville

Saturday, November 24 – Parc nature du Cap-St-Jacques

Saturday, December 1 – Casselman and Ste-Rose-de-Prescott, Eastern Ontario

Monday, December 3, – [Presentation] Citizen Science : How can Quebec Birders Best Contribute Their Sightings to Ornithologists and Other Scientists?

Saturday, December 15: Montreal Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 29: Hudson Christmas Bird Count

Please note that all events organized by BPQ, as well as being listed in this newsletter and on our website are also posted in weekly forthcoming events emails sent to o members, on our Facebook page and on the special website news page at [www.pqspsb.org/journal](http://www.pqspsb.org/journal)

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