

The SONG SPARROW



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Quebec

Protection
des oiseaux
du Québec

For the Birds since 1917 - Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917



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What inspires you?

While many BPQ members participate in at least two Christmas Bird Counts every year, the Montreal and the Hudson CBCs, a few get caught up in the spirit of the season

and join in on some of the other CBCs in and around the Montreal region and into Ontario. In the following article, Frédéric Hareau recounts his experience of the CBCs in and around the Outer Banks of North Carolina. These have become an annual event for Fred, replacing a traditional Christmas holiday with a chance to pursue his passion with his family. Later on in this issue, we present three very different points of view about what it means to be a birder.

What inspires you? Is it the adventure, the chance to travel to exotic and difficult-to-get-to places in order to discover birds that few get the chance to see? Or is it the chance to learn more about your surroundings and the rich biodiversity that can be found in a local patch? Is it the competition? Or is it simply the chance to get out and enjoy birds? If you would like to share your stories, get in touch with us at birdprotectionquebec.org.

Noël entre ciel et mer dans les Outer Banks

Alors que pour la plupart des gens, les fêtes de Noël riment avec réunions familiales et repas gargantuesques, notre famille a opté pour une destination plus insolite : un havre situé à 16 heures de Montréal et presque totalement déserté à cette époque de l'année : les Outer Banks.

Les Outer Banks, communément appelés «OBX», sont constitués d'un chapelet d'îles côtières qui s'étale sur 320 km séparant le continent américain de l'Océan Atlantique, au large de la Caroline du Nord. Nous avons découvert cet endroit un peu par hasard il y a 6 ans, et en sommes tombés immédiatement amoureux : les longues plages désertes, le vent, la mer, et bien sûr les oiseaux nous ont époustoufflés... une similitude certaine avec les côtes de l'Europe du Nord dont nous sommes originaires y est également sûrement pour quelque chose.

Si les Outer Banks sont envahis par les touristes une bonne partie de l'année, un temps incertain – tempête, vents violents, et même parfois neige – et des températures tiennent éloignés la plupart des visiteurs en décembre. Seuls quelques mordus, pêcheurs, surfeurs extrêmes, et évidemment ornithologues se partagent des centaines de kilomètres de plage et de marais. Pour l'amateur d'ornithologie, les Outer Banks représentent un paradis en toute saison. La richesse ornithologique s'explique tant par la position géographique si particulière de ces côtes les plus à l'est des États-Unis, que par la diversité des habitats qu'on y retrouve: immenses marais salants, marais d'eau douce, forêts maritimes côtières, plages, et proximité du Gulf Stream qui apporte nourriture en quantité. Les migrations de



Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*)

Photo: F. Hareau



North Carolina's Outer Banks

Photo: F. Hareau

hivernent est également impressionnant : un décompte de plus de 10,000 individus par recensement d'oiseaux de Noël est régulier.

Plusieurs sites ornithologiques majeurs, notamment l'Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge ou le Lake Matamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, sont de plus situés sur le continent, à moins de 2 heures des OBX, et permettent d'observer bon nombre d'espèces qu'on ne retrouve pas sur la côte, incluant rapaces diurnes et nocturnes, bruants ainsi que des espèces forestières telles que la Sittelle à tête brune et les pics, dont le rare Pic à face blanche.

Le recensement des oiseaux de Noël en Caroline du Nord

Participer au recensement des oiseaux de Noël (RON) dans les Outer banks a été une opportunité fantastique. Participer à cinq recensements, sur trois territoires différents, m'a permis de découvrir une multitude d'habitats et de rencontrer des ornithologues incroyables qui m'ont fait comprendre le territoire.

passereaux, de limicoles et de rapaces y sont exceptionnelles. Hatteras est également un des hauts lieux, sinon LE lieu pour l'observation d'espèces pélagiques sur la côte est. En été, les plages abritent des colonies de Pluviers siffleurs, de Sternes naines et de Bec-en-ciseaux noirs pour ne citer que quelques espèces protégées. Le nombre de raretés qui y a été recensé est exceptionnel, qu'il s'agisse d'espèces originaires de l'Europe, des tropiques ou de l'Ouest du continent.

Les OBX constituent également une zone d'hivernage de grande importance pour de nombreuses espèces et en particulier les cygnes, canards, oies, grèbes et plongeurs. Les mouettes et goélands s'y retrouvent également par milliers. Plusieurs limicoles (pluviers, bécasseaux, chevaliers et bécassins) y prennent également leurs quartiers d'hiver. La diversité des passereaux, évidemment moindre à cette période de l'année, reste toutefois intéressante, avec par exemple, 5 espèces de troglodytes et une dizaine d'espèces de bruants qui peuvent être observés. Le nombre de Parulines à croupion jaune qui

Si l'esprit du RON qui existe à Montréal s'y retrouve par l'engagement des ornithologues et par le plaisir de se retrouver ensemble, quelques saveurs particulières existent en Caroline. A quoi ressemble un RON dans les OBX ? Cela dépend du territoire, bien sûr, mais en général, on commencera par un peu de owling, à la recherche du Grand-duc d'Amérique ou du Petit duc maculé. Au lever du jour, on essaiera de caller les râles : Râle de virginie, Râle gris, et dans certains marais, Râle élégant et Marouette de Caroline. On marchera ensuite dans les marais salants, à la recherche des bruants de Nelson, à queue aigue, et maritime ainsi que du Troglodyte des marais et autres espèces, ou on visitera les forêts maritimes pour trouver passereaux et rapaces résidants - éperviers, faucons et Buse à épaulettes. On passera ensuite du temps à compter les centaines ou milliers d'anatidés et les limicoles qui peuplent les étangs salés ou d'eau douce. Et enfin, on passera quelques heures à scruter les plages, les dunes et la mer afin de compter les goélands, ou à la recherche de plongeurs, fous, macreuses, et pourquoi pas d'un labbe.

Difficile de résister à de telles journées, au cours desquelles il n'est pas inusité de trouver une ou deux surprises. Cette année ? Les raretés venaient du Nord et de l'Ouest. Du Nord, 3 Harfangs des neiges représentaient un attrait irrésistible dans la région, quelques goélands bourgmestres et arctiques arrivant tout juste derrière. De l'Ouest, 2 Tyran à gorge cendrée et une Moucherolle à ventre roux étaient hautement prisés. Pour moi, le souvenir de 2013 restera un radeau compact de plus de 10,000 fuligules à têtes rouge et de petits fuligules, ainsi qu'un triplet bruant de Nelson, à queue aigue, et maritime observé en quelques minutes.

Un des avantages des RON en Caroline du Nord est la coordination qui existe entre les différents comptes. Ils sont organisés pour que les passionnés puissent les enchaîner - on pourrait presque le qualifier de «RON à la chaîne.» Plusieurs



Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Photo: F. Hareau

ornithologues planifient en effet leurs vacances afin de contribuer, jour après jour, à un maximum de RON. Paul, avec qui j'ai fait équipe cette année sur Pea Island, a organisé son premier RON en 1962. Il en coordonne 7 (étalés sur 3 états) et participe à 7 autres... Il s'agit sûrement d'un cas extrême, mais les ornithologues qui participent à 4 ou 5 RON durant la semaine sont nombreux. Vive le RON!

Cape Hatteras Christmas Bird Count in the words of its coordinator: Patricia Moore

Starting date: 1964

Number of species: average - 133.4 (low: 109, high: 153)

Participants: 30 per year, from several states and provinces. In 2013: GA, MD, NC, PA, VA, Ontario, Quebec. In the past SC, TN, AZ, CA.

A nice count? When a good day produces great numbers of birds along South Beach between Frisco and the Point. Finding Snow Buntings, Red Knots on the beach, thousands of cormorants, Gannets, gulls over the water.

What is special about the count?

It is not just the birds, but the people whom I get to see only once a year. To share the occasion with those who have become my friends. To talk over the strategy with those who were already my friends before they came to the count. To know that I can depend upon people to cover their territory and always report an amazing number of species, and to share an activity with my husband.

To be considered unequalled by all the talented, dedicated, well-known birders who have kept the count alive.

Quelques sites :

- Carolina bird club – <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>
- Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge – <http://www.fws.gov/peaisland/>
- Hatteras National seashore – <http://www.nps.gov/caha/index.htm>
- Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge – <http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/>
- Lake Matamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge – <http://www.fws.gov/mattamuskeet/>



King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

Photo: F Hareau

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

At a professional level, as Director of Programs and Partnerships at Canada World Youth, he oversees projects implemented in 17 countries and reaching over 1,000 young people every year. A majority of these projects focus on the conservation of the environment in Canada and throughout the world. In the past ten years, he has played a leadership role in fundraising over \$6,000,000 with the support of co-workers and partners.

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



Report for the 2013 Montreal Christmas Bird Count

The 2013 Montreal Christmas Bird Count, Audubon's 114th annual event, was held on December 21, 2013. This year's count was definitely one of the more challenging events in BPQ's 78 years of staging the Montreal count. A major winter storm hit the Montreal region the day before the count and continued, although to a lesser extent, on the count day. Postponement of the count was considered but, given the logistical problems of rescheduling, the majority of our field participants agreed to go ahead as planned.

Certainly the inclement weather impacted the results of the count, as a few field teams had difficulty getting to some areas within their territories due to snow and ice and, in some cases, unplowed roads or trails. This year, 51 participants took part in the count covering 17 different territories throughout the count circle. The teams covered 59.5 hours and 73.7 kilometres on foot and 48.25 hours and 553 kilometres by car. Only two hours of owling were conducted this year during the count.

We completed the day with a total of 54 species, well down from our Montreal count record of 77 species recorded in last year's count. The total number of individual birds recorded was 10,029. There were 3 additional species recorded during the count week period (Harlequin Duck, Bufflehead and Great

Horned Owl) but these are not recorded as official species for the formal count statistics on count day. We did not have any individual records for any species this year. Only three species have been recorded in all 78 Montreal counts (Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch).

The highest number of birds for an individual species this year was the Common Goldeneye, with 2,220 recorded. Second place went to American Crow, with 1,972; and third place to European Starling, at 1,496.

A compilation gathering was held at the Montreal West Curling Club following the count. Approximately 30 people attended the event, despite the inclement weather. Food was supplied by Bird Protection Quebec. The leftover food was donated to the Welcome Hall Mission in downtown Montreal, a gesture greatly appreciated by the Mission.

Thank you to all who braved the elements this year to participate in this important citizen science project.

| Species | Number | Record*/ Count Year | # of counts recorded |
|---------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose | 401 | 4184/112 | 26 |
| American Wigeon | 1 | 150/72 | 41 |
| American Black Duck | 81 | 1400/65 | 54 |
| Mallard | 553 | 3835/99 | 64 |
| Greater Scaup | 1 | 1205/113 | 47 |
| Lesser Scaup | 1 | 1502/100 | 30 |
| Harlequin Duck | Count week | 2/107 | 11 |
| Long-tailed Duck | 2 | 3/110 | 6 |
| Bufflehead | Count week | 5/102 | 22 |
| Common Goldeneye | 2220 | 2423/60 | 55 |
| Hooded Merganser | 7 | 106/113 | 36 |
| Common Merganser | 328 | 1316/87 | 55 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 1/114 | 7 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | 6/107 | 26 |

| Species | Number | Record/ Count Year | # of counts recorded |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Coopers Hawk | 1 | 10/111 | 23 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 14 | 28/113 | 35 |
| American Kestrel | 2 | 23/94 | 52 |
| Merlin | 1 | 10/111 | 19 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 5 | 6/107 | 20 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 8 | 8260/102 | 54 |
| Herring Gull | 63 | 9731/91 | 74 |
| Iceland Gull | 2 | 64/77 | 47 |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 24 | 1839/87 | 67 |
| Rock Pigeon | 1064 | 2256/108 | 11 |
| Mourning Dove | 57 | 253/96 | 40 |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 2 | 8/113 | 31 |
| Great Horned Owl | Count week | 11/103 | 50 |
| Snowy Owl | 5 | 10/65 | 49 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 1 | 2/112 | 9 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 61 | 143/111 | 76 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 14 | 70/108 | 77 |
| Northern Flicker | 2 | 6/107 | 15 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 4 | 15/111 | 32 |
| Blue Jay | 16 | 64/111 | 55 |

| Species | Number | Record/ Count Year | # of counts recorded |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| American Crow | 1972 | 9149/111 | 64 |
| Common Raven | 7 | 150/82 | 17 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 290 | 876/111 | 77 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 2 | 8/111 | 10 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | 12/111 | 23 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 64 | 118/111 | 77 |
| Brown Creeper | 15 | 39/86 | 73 |
| Carolina Wren | 3 | 5/111 | 16 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 2 | 36/103 | 29 |
| American Robin | 135 | 1064/101 | 59 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 1 | 5/91 | 31 |
| European Starling | 1496 | 14000/71 | 54 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 8 | 210/71 | 38 |
| American Tree Sparrow | 37 | 170/103 | 57 |
| Song Sparrow | 3 | 31/89 | 60 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 9 | 16/111 | 38 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 95 | 175/113 | 12 |

| Species | Number | Record/ Count Year | # of counts recorded |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Snow Bunting | 41 | 740/71 | 66 |
| Northern Cardinal | 140 | 204/111 | 43 |
| Purple Finch | 2 | 45/51 | 28 |
| House Finch | 95 | 421/96 | 30 |
| American Goldfinch | 89 | 439/109 | 53 |
| House Sparrow | 62 | 2794/96 | 62 |
| Total birds | 10029 | | |
| Total species | 54 | 77 in 2012 | |

*Note the Record / Count Year refers to the record number of birds and the year they were seen. For example, the last line tells us that 2,794 House Sparrows were seen in the 96th year of the Montreal CBC.



Report for the 2013 Hudson Christmas Bird Count

For the 2013 Hudson Christmas Bird Count, both the number of species and the number of birds were very low. In fact, they were the second lowest since 2000. The lowest numbers were not too long ago, in 2009.

There were record numbers of birds for only two species: Wild Turkey (123) and Snowy Owl (17). In 2012, we had seven records.

The data collected over the years show that four species have been observed now for 73 years in a row: Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch and Black-capped Chickadee. Additionally, 12 species have been seen over 80 percent of the time and 7 of these over

90 percent. In 2013, we counted 53 species and 5,601 birds. This is 2,662 fewer birds but only 6 fewer species than 2012. The temperature was not a factor. The low was -5° C and the high 3° C.

The 51 participants logged 130.33 hours in the field, 906.5 km by car and 87.1 km on foot. With 48 participants last year, the number of hours is very similar but the distance by car is down by 160 km, possibly due to the milder weather. We logged 42.9755 birds per hour in the field compared to 64.8129 birds per hour last year. This is the lowest in the last 10 years, beating the previous low in 2009 when only 45.4947 birds per hour were counted. The 13 FeederWatchers this year added 331 birds.

Again this year, like 8 times in the last 11 years, the highest number of species, 35, was counted by party 15, Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh. The second place is party 16 with 27 species, third place is party 17 with 23 species. The highest number of birds is party 15 with 635 birds. The highest number of birds, per species, for this year is 1,399 for the Black-capped Chickadee.

| Species | Number | Record number | Year |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|------|
| Canada Goose | 7 | 7647 | 2006 |
| American Black Duck | 10 | 300 | 1964 |
| Mallard | 134 | 362 | 2010 |
| Greater Scaup | 8 | 22 | 1996 |
| Common Goldeneye | 4 | 215 | 2011 |
| Common Merganser | 23 | 458 | 1977 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 2 | 39 | 1983 |

| Species | Number | Record number | Year |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------|------|
| Wild Turkey | 123 | 79 | 2012 |
| Bald Eagle | 2 | 2 | 2012 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 2 | 8 | 2002 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 1 | 6 | 2007 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 7 | 12 | 1987 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 2 | 49 | 1990 |
| Merlin | 2 | 3 | 2005 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 4 | 21 | 2003 |
| Herring Gull | 3 | 480 | 1973 |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 2 | 141 | 1977 |
| Rock Pigeon | 409 | 1131 | 1982 |
| Mourning Dove | 279 | 922 | 2006 |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 1 | 5 | 2012 |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | 10 | 1987 |
| Snowy Owl | 17 | 17 | 2013 |
| Short-eared Owl | 1 | 12 | 1992 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 76 | 134 | 2005 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 57 | 208 | 2005 |
| Northern Flicker | 2 | 3 | 1999 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 23 | 24 | 2012 |

| Species | Number | Record number | Year |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------|------|
| Northern Shrike | 4 | 16 | 1987 |
| Blue Jay | 377 | 609 | 2000 |
| American Crow | 269 | 763 | 2011 |
| Common Raven | 16 | 32 | 2010 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1399 | 1768 | 2010 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 23 | 111 | 2000 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 137 | 179 | 2005 |
| Brown Creeper | 13 | 29 | 2000 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 7 | 30 | 1953 |
| American Robin | 81 | 226 | 2011 |
| European Starling | 658 | 2437 | 2002 |
| Bohemian Waxwing | 20 | 739 | 2010 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 64 | 98 | 2002 |
| American Tree Sparrow | 86 | 305 | 2006 |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | 15 | 1990 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 241 | 450 | 2012 |
| Snow Bunting | 71 | 3642 | 1994 |
| Northern Cardinal | 102 | 132 | 2012 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1 | 31 | 2003 |
| Rusty Blackbird | 1 | 3 | 1988 |

| Species | Number | Record number | Year |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 22 | 195 | 1982 |
| Purple Finch | 3 | 44 | 1996 |
| House Finch | 155 | 296 | 1994 |
| Pine Siskin | 2 | 397 | 1987 |
| American Goldfinch | 418 | 1110 | 2000 |
| House Sparrow | 227 | 3458 | 1974 |
| Total birds | 5601 | 16031 | 2006 |
| Total species | 53 | 67 | 2006 |



New Directors

Bird Protection Quebec runs its affairs solely by the contributions of volunteers from amongst our members. There are positions on the board of directors that will be open for election at the May 2014 annual general meeting and we invite all members to submit nominations of new Directors to join the BPQ Board. The deadline for the receipt of nominations for the 2014–2016 term of office is April 7, 2014. By joining the board, you will help us to develop and implement our charitable work for birds and wildlife, manage our bird sanctuaries, work with the newsletter and website, organize field trips, develop our conservation and education initiatives and all the other fascinating and important things that BPQ is involved in. If you are interested in the work of BPQ, please get in touch (birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com) and ask about what is involved.



Forever Mediocre

Zofia Laubitz

I have been birding for dismayingly close to 50 years. (As I'm sure you will understand, the dismay is triggered by the realization of what this says about my age and not by the time spent birding.) My first bird list in my first notebook dates from when I was nine years old. And yet I'm sure that many fellow birders would be surprised to know how long I've been birding—not because they'd expect me to look older but because they'd expect me to be a better birder. After all, I'm someone who has all but abandoned hope of ever being able to identify peep sandpipers, who is frequently scuppered by scaup, and who can never remember whether the remiges are in the wing and the rectrices in the tail or vice versa (and doesn't much care).

Many people would imagine that someone with over 40 years' birding experience under their belt would be a highly advanced birder. Instead, I remain perpetually at mid level. I used to refer to myself as an intermediate birder, but in 2011 Richard Gregson drew my attention to John R. Nelson's essay in *Birding*, "Details, Details," for which the cover teaser read "In praise of mediocre birders," and I decided to own the mediocrity.

How is it possible, you may be wondering, to do anything for so long without getting really good at it? Actually, it's surprisingly easy. You don't have to work hard at it. In fact, that's really the key—not working at it. Just as many people would like to be rich but they don't want to do what it takes to get there, so some of us would like to be good birders but we don't want to put in the necessary work. For me, and for others like me, that would take away some of the fun.

For example, some birders prepare avidly for an upcoming birding trip by studying their field guides and birding websites; they memorize field marks, listen to tapes of songs and calls, and generally aim to know every bird they see before they see it. Not me! I tend to hit the ground semi-prepared—not completely clueless but by no means ready to identify absolutely anything I might come across.

I have several reasons—some might call them excuses—for my slackness. One is my work. As an editor and translator, my job



Time for luncheon

Photo: RG

involves being a perfectionist. I need to have an eye for detail, do a lot of research, and often meet tight deadlines. Consequently, I enjoy being sloppy and laidback in my recreational activities; in fact, I truly believe it's important for me to let my leisure hours be a perfectionism-free zone. There's also the fact that I'm self-employed. Some of my birding friends are able to do some bird study during the quiet periods at work—the time traditionally consecrated to gossiping at the water cooler, playing computer solitaire, or watching funny cat videos. When you're a freelancer, those mental health breaks become time *away* from work, not time *at* work. To put it baldly, I don't get paid to polish my birding skills.

Given this focus on my work, then, will retirement mark the time when I make that quantum leap and become the Davina Sibley of the Great White North? Maybe, but I'm not counting on it. Because there's another factor at play: my own nature. Even when I have the time, I just don't think I'll be inclined to put in the necessary hard work. Birding for me is fun, it's pure enjoyment, and those things just don't fit with putting in the amount of study required to be able to reliably distinguish non-singing Empidonax flycatchers in the field. (For me, that is—for other people, they clearly are compatible.) So I suspect I'll just continue on my slapdash way.

Now, I wouldn't want you to get me wrong: it's not that I never work at my birding. And it's not that I never improve, either. Every year, I learn more—both from books and from experience—and become (I fondly hope) a better birder. It's just that it's all very gradual and I haven't yet become a really good birder. And honestly, I don't suppose I ever will. Kenn Kaufman famously wrote, "Birding is something we do for enjoyment; so if you enjoy it, you're a good birder. If you enjoy it a lot, you're a great birder." It's a comforting thought but sorry, Kenn: I know darn well I'm not a good birder. But I do enjoy it a lot. And so I look forward whole-heartedly to a few more decades of being a mediocre birder!

Zofia Laubitz is a long-term BPQ member with a passion for birds and wildlife. She is a professional translator and editor and has a PhD in linguistics.



Young Ornithologist's Workshop

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

For more information, visit the Bird Protection Quebec Web site or the Birds in Canada Web site www.birdscanada.org/lpbo and contact Barbara MacDuff at barb.macduff@sympatico.ca



Names We Can Bank On

What's in a name? Apparently a lot! BPQ has opened a new account at TD Canada Trust. There are many pros to the new account, but one limitation – cheques must be made payable to one of these two names:

Bird Protection Quebec

or:

La société québécoise de protection des oiseaux, Inc.

The bank is very strict – no initials, no other names. In an effort to prevent having to ask our members to reissue cheques, Bird Protection Quebec is making a push to alert one and all of this new policy. Please note and remember this change when making your renewal next fall. Thank you in advance.

The renewal period is finished, although there are one or two forms still trickling in. No worries if you are late. Your membership will be processed – who has not procrastinated in their lives?

This year, there has been an increase in the number of members renewing online, which is a time saver for both parties. The links to join, renew or make a donation are http://pqspb.org/bpq2/?page_id=80 and http://pqspb.org/bpq2/?page_id=82.

Give it a try if you have not already done so.

Welcome to new members: Colette Mersy, Montreal; Andrée Dubreuil, Trois-Rivières; and Douglas Fisher, Brossard.

Keep engaged and active this winter with our field trips and/or monthly meetings.



Bird Views

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

Late-November 2013-mid-January 2014

Wood Duck: one male at Sainte-Catherine 1-15 Jan (JM. Béliveau). And up to 3 at Saint-Eustache 1-9 Jan (L. Simard, J. May, S. Deschamps). **Blue-winged Teal**: one at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 6 Dec was very late (S. Vanier, M. Laporte). **Green-winged Teal**: one at Beauceville 13 Jan (L. Légaré). **Lesser Scaup**: single males at Cowansville 14 Dec-14 Jan (JP. Santerre) and at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 15 Jan (M. Juteau). **King Eider**: singles at Cap-des-Rosiers 27 Dec (D. Jalbert) and at Cap-d'Espoir 7 Jan (A. Couture) and finally a high count of 6 at Cap d'Espoir 14 Jan (A. Couture, Y. Cyr). **Harlequin Duck**: 2 at Gatineau 4-20 Dec (R. Bisson et al.), 2 males at Verdun 23 Dec-13 Jan (P. Bannon), and a female at Laval 5-14 Jan (P. Fortin, D. Lepage). **Willow Ptarmigan**: a few reported; one at Hébertville 9 Jan (M. Tremblay) and 6 at La Ferme 11 Jan (*fide* P. Perreault) were the southernmost. **Northern Fulmar**: one at Lévis 4 Dec (D. Labarre, M. O'Neill, ph., P. Otis). **American Bittern**: one at Gatineau 3-8 Dec was record late (L. Sirois).

Killdeer: one at Trois-Rivières-Ouest 15 Jan (MA. Rubénovitch). **Dunlin**: singles at Côteau-du-Lac 1 Dec (P. Laniel), and at L'Isle-Verte 6 Dec (M. Poulin). **Wilson's Snipe**: singles at Val d'Or 1-31 Dec (F. Dubois), and Gatineau 10-14 Dec (E. Prud'Homme) and 2 at Québec City throughout the period (L. Bateman). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: singles at Laval 25 Dec-8 Jan (S. Denault), and at Lachute 28 Dec (TL. Hoar). **Glaucous Gull X Herring Gull**: a first cycle bird at Laval 25 Dec (S. Denault). **Dovekie**: a bird at Lévis 3 Dec was exceptional so far upstream (J. Bernier, G. Cyr, O. Barden). **Thick-billed Murre**: one at Percé 9 Dec (A. Couture).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: singles at Sainte-Élizabeth 29 Dec (G. Cossette) and at Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 14 Jan (G. Éthier, H. Boivin). **Snowy Owl**: birds moved southward in huge numbers all across eastern North America; 33 birds were counted along a distance of 30 km between Saint-Cuthbert and Yamachiche 8 Dec (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: an imm. at Saint-Godefroi 24 Dec-11 Jan (E. Arsenaault). **Yellow-bellied**



Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Fin novembre 2013-mi-janvier 2014

Canard branchu : un mâle à Sainte-Catherine 1-15 janv. (JM. Béliveau). Jusqu'à 3 à Saint-Eustache 1-9 janv (L. Simard, J. May, S. Deschamps). **Sarcelle à ailes bleues** : une très tardive à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 6 déc (S. Vanier, M. Laporte). **Sarcelle d'hiver** : une à Beauceville 13 janv (L. Légaré). **Petit Fuligule** : des mâles à Cowansville 14 déc-14 janv (JP. Santerre) et à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 15 janv (M. Juteau). **Eider à tête grise** : des indiv. à Cap-des-Rosiers 27 déc (D. Jalbert) et à Cap-d'Espoir 7 janv (A. Couture) puis enfin un nombre élevé de 6 à Cap d'Espoir 14 janv (A. Couture, Y. Cyr). **Arlequin plongeur** : 2 à Gatineau 4-20 déc (R. Bisson et al.), 2 mâles à Verdun 23 déc-13 janv (P. Bannon), et une femelle à Laval 5-14 janv (P. Fortin, D. Lepage). **Lagopède des saules**: quelques-uns notés; un à Hébertville 9 janv (M. Tremblay) et 6 à La Ferme 11 janv (*fide* P. Perreault) étaient les plus méridionaux. **Fulmar boréal** : un à Lévis 4 déc (D. Labarre, M. O'Neill, ph., P. Otis). **Butor d'Amérique** : un à Gatineau 3-8 déc, une date record (L. Sirois).

Pluvier kildir : un à Trois-Rivières-Ouest 15 janv (MA. Rubénovitch). **Bécasseau variable** : des indiv. à Côteau-du-Lac 1 déc (P. Laniel), et à L'Isle-Verte 6 déc (M. Poulin). **Bécassine de Wilson** : des indiv. à Val d'Or 1-31 déc (F. Dubois), à Gatineau 10-14 déc (E. Prud'Homme) et 2 à Québec durant la période (L. Bateman). **Goéland brun** : des indiv. à Laval 25 déc-8 janv (S. Denault), et à Lachute 28 déc (TL. Hoar). **Goéland bourgmestre X Goéland argenté** : un indiv. de 1^{er} cycle à Laval 25 déc (S. Denault). **Mergule nain** : un oiseau à Lévis 3 déc, exceptionnel aussi en amont (J. Bernier, G. Cyr, O. Barden). **Guillemot de Brünnich** : un à Percé 9 déc (A. Couture).

Tourterelle turque : des indiv. à Sainte-Élizabeth 29 déc (G. Cossette) et à Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 14 janv (G. Éthier, H. Boivin). **Harfang des Neiges** : mouvement important vers le sud dans

Sapsucker: a male at Baie-d'Urfé 30 Dec-1 Jan (R. Titman).
Carolina Wren: a good early winter season for the species with at least 20 reports. The northernmost were at Rouyn-Noranda throughout Dec (J. Gagnon) and at Chicoutimi-Nord 1-9 Dec (J. Fortin, G. Voyer). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** singles at Rimouski 9 Jan (J. Roy) and at Sainte-Adèle 11 Jan (T. Grandmont). **Hermit Thrush:** singles at Gatineau 20 Dec (P. Laniel) and at Sainte-Luce 21 Dec (G. Proulx). **Varied Thrush:** one at Sept-Îles 1 Dec (C. Couture). **Gray Catbird:** singles at Gatineau 3 Dec (G. McNulty et al.) and at Dunham 8 Dec (R. Morel). **Northern Mockingbird:** at least 10 birds reported, the northernmost at Albanel 4-7 Dec (T. Bellefleur). **Brown Thrasher:** singles in the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery until 8 Dec (JS. Mayer), at Sainte-Foy 14 Dec (C. Simard, PE. Sirois, G. Lord) and at Saint-Léon-le-Grand 26 Dec (L. Vallières).

Yellow Warbler: a late bird at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 7 Dec (A. Quenneville et al.) and one at nearby Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 8 Dec (D. Ouellette) probably involved the same bird. **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** one at Gatineau 3-6 Dec (G. McNulty, R. Dubois, D. Dallaire, R. Bisson et al.). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** the bird already present at Cap-Chat was last seen 25 Nov (L. Paradis). **Pine Warbler:** a male at Verdun 1-15 Dec (D. Demers) was joined by a female on 15 Dec (E. Artigau). Another bird was at Île Notre-Dame 11 Dec (JS. Guénette). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one at l'Islet-sur-Mer 24 Nov (G. Germain).

Spotted Towhee: one at Stoke 13-19 Dec (F. Rocheleau-Lieutenant, K. Saint-Cyr). **Eastern Towhee:** singles at Le Bic 23 Nov-19 Dec (L. Jolicoeur), Drummondville 29 Nov-1-Dec (N. Biron), and at les Bergeronnes 28 Dec (O. Barden). **Chipping Sparrow:** 2 at first and then one bird at La Baie 7 Dec-3 Jan (H. Simard); one at Orsainville 14 Dec (M. Raymond, F. Cauchon). **Fox Sparrow:** singles at Saint-Étienne-de-Lauzon 17 Dec-12 Jan (F. Cauchon, P. Dechêne, L. Morin), at Stoke 17-20 Dec (M. Tétrault) and at the Montreal Botanical Gardens 4-14 Jan (J. Giroux et al.). **White-crowned Sparrow:** at least 4 birds were found. **Dark-eyed Junco:** single "Oregon" type birds were reported at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 28 Nov (R. Barnhurst) and at Valleyfield 17 Dec (*vide* A. Hogue).

Eastern Meadowlark: one at Mirabel 2-8 Dec (L. Simard, J. May, M. Bertrand). **Western Meadowlark:** one at Cap-d'Espoir 7-8 Dec (A. Couture). **Baltimore Oriole:** one at Saint-Martin 14-15 Dec (J. Lachance).

toute l'Amérique du Nord; 33 oiseaux dénombrés sur une distance de 30 km entre Saint-Cuthbert et Yamachiche 8 déc (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand). **Pic à tête rouge :** un imm. à Saint-Godefroi 24 déc-11 janv (E. Arsenault). **Pic maculé :** un mâle à Baie-d'Urfé 30 déc-1 janv (R. Titman). **Troglodyte de Caroline :** un bon début d'hiver pour l'espèce avec au moins une vingtaine de mentions. Des oiseaux à Rouyn-Noranda en déc (J. Gagnon) et à Chicoutimi-Nord 1-9 déc (J. Fortin, G. Voyer) étaient les plus septentrionaux. **Roitelet à couronne rubis :** des indiv. à Rimouski 9 janv (J. Roy) et à Sainte-Adèle 11 janv (T. Grandmont). **Grive solitaire :** des indiv. à Gatineau 20 déc (P. Laniel) et à Sainte-Luce 21 déc (G. Proulx). **Grive à collier :** une à Sept-Îles 1er déc (C. Couture). **Moqueur chat :** des indiv. à Gatineau 3 déc (G. McNulty et al.) et à Dunham 8 déc (R. Morel). **Moqueur polyglotte :** au moins une dizaine d'oiseaux notés, dont un à Albanel 4-7 déc (T. Bellefleur). **Moqueur roux :** des indiv. au Cimetière Notre-Dames-des-Neiges jusqu'au 8 déc (JS. Mayer), à Sainte-Foy 14 déc (C. Simard, PE. Sirois, G. Lord) et à Saint-Léon-le-Grand 26 déc (L. Vallières).

Paruline jaune : un oiseau tardif à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 7 déc (A. Quenneville et al.) et un tout près à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 8 déc (D. Ouellette) concernaient probablement le même individu. **Paruline grise :** une à Gatineau 3-6 déc (G. McNulty, R. Dubois, D. Dallaire, R. Bisson et al.). **Paruline à gorge jaune :** l'oiseau déjà présent à Cap-Chat a survécu jusqu'au 25 nov (L. Paradis). **Paruline des pins :** un mâle à Verdun 1-15 déc (D. Demers) était accompagné d'une femelle 15 déc (E. Artigau). Un autre oiseau à l'île Notre-Dame 11 déc (JS. Guénette). **Paruline polyglotte :** une à l'Islet-sur-Mer 24 nov (G. Germain).

Tohi Tacheté : un à Stoke 13-19 déc (F. Rocheleau-Lieutenant, K. Saint-Cyr). **Tohi à flancs roux :** des indiv. à Le Bic 23 nov-19 déc (L. Jolicoeur), Drummondville 29 nov-1^{er} déc (N. Biron), et à Bergeronnes 28 déc (O. Barden). **Bruant familial :** 2 oiseaux puis un seul à La Baie 7 déc-3 janv (H. Simard); un à Orsainville 14 déc (M. Raymond, F. Cauchon). **Bruant fauve :** des indiv. à Saint-Étienne-de-Lauzon 17 déc-12 janv (F. Cauchon, P. Dechêne, L. Morin), à Stoke 17-20 déc (M. Tétrault) et au jardin botanique de Montréal 4-14 jan (J. Giroux et al.). **Bruant à couronne blanche :** au moins 4 oiseaux signalés. **Junco ardoisé :** des indiv. de type « à tête

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

On Chasing Rarities

by Steve Charlton



Black Noddy (Wikipedia)

I met David Sibley ages ago when he was a promising birder but still only the son of the famous ornithologist Fred Sibley, now known for the reclassification of birds from DNA analysis. When I seriously decided to chase rarities, I received some valuable advice from Pete Kaestner, one of today's top "world" birders, at whose place I was staying in India. He said, "Go after the rare birds first – the regular ones will drop into place along the route, without trying. If you get the rare ones, the others are in the bag. Most people make the mistake of getting all the easy ones first, and then find it's too expensive to go after the rare ones, with little chance of success. If you go after the rare ones first, at least seeing some new 'common' ones makes up for dipping out once in a while...."

To find the number of rarities, he said "Count the regular birds normally seen." In North America, this was 650. "Subtract that number from your goal." This was 700. "The difference is the number of rarities and accidentals you must see. This is the number to attack." So I spent several years trying to diminish this number (50) to zero.

This was a good strategy. The reason I sit at 716 today – instead of 701 – is that I got enough rarities early on and could occasionally pick up one of the common birds in my travels, whether I wanted to or not! One of the last birds I added was the lowly Spruce Grouse, a jinx bird for me, in spite of several trips to La Sarre!

noire » signalés à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 28 nov (R. Barnhurst) et à Valleyfield 17 déc (fide A. Hogue).

Sturnelle des prés : une à Mirabel 2–8 déc (L. Simard, J. May, M. Bertrand). **Sturnelle de l'Ouest** : une à Cap-d'Espoir 7–8 déc (A. Couture). **Oriole de Baltimore** : un à Saint-Martin 14–15 déc (J. Lachance).

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

One "rarity" was a single **Black Noddy**, spotted on a spring trip to the Dry Tortugas. The only access to this group of seven islands is by boat. Fort Jefferson, now part of the Dry Tortugas National Park, is located on Garden Key, one of the islands. Across a stretch of water is Bush Key, home of 100,000 nesting Sooty Terns, as well as many nesting Brown Noddies and an occasional Black Noddy.

I boarded a boat that was full of birders and birded all day on the main island. We returned to the boat to sleep overnight while at anchor. Then, we spent another day on the island and finally returned to Key West. There were four guides on the trip: the head guide being Jon Dunn – the Chief Consultant/Editor for the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* – while the "junior" was David Sibley.

David's responsibility was to find the Black Noddy, if it returned that year at all (not a certainty). Since that was my target too, it was he and I who sat, side by side, scanning thousands of Brown Noddies, while the other birders walked around looking for other things, all of which I eventually saw "for free."

To see birds on Bush key from Garden Key, one needs a scope. It was 1987. Both David and I had Questars. When he spotted the bird, we switched scopes, and he put mine on the bird too. There were quickly two lineups to see the bird, which took flight partway through the viewing and was never spotted again.

I joined the regular groups for the rest of that day, and enjoyed the second day without pressure.

But needless to say, David and I talked while searching (it was about three hours we two were alone). He was a very quiet, gentle, shy young man, but certainly an excellent birder. Now having produced the excellent Sibley Guides, he's more famous than his father.

And as for me, as I had wanted, I got my magic number down by one. There were some "common" birds I missed (like Poorwill), but I got the Noddy, and was still the second Canadian and first in Québec (potentially still the only) to reach 700 species in the ABA area.

So I have fond memories of birding with David Sibley.

Steve Charton is a long-time BPQ member. He contributed bird humour and trivia to numerous issues of The Song Sparrow in the 90's under the noms de plume Ani Landers and W.C..Fieldsparrow, while his serious listing made him the first Quebecer and 2nd Canadian to attain an ABA list of over 700 birds. He co-taught "Montreal Birds" with Pete Mitchell and continues to stump us with his quizzes and crossword puzzles.

surprise.

We are planning to hold the trip from June 2 to June 5; however, the dates can possibly be moved as we have to plan the ferry. The schedule won't be published before late March and we can't make reservations before April 15. We will carpool for the crossing. There is a maximum of three cars and twelve people including Clémence and me.

The total cost for the trip is around \$230.00 per person. This includes the ferry, all meals and the three nights in the hotel. Payments will be made to us and we will pay for everything. FYI, we pay our own way too, no kickbacks for organizing!

Follow this link for information on the island: <http://www.ileverte-tourisme.com/>

If you are interested, please e-mail us at: <mailto:jd030824@gmail.com>.

We need your reply as soon as possible because the motel is very busy at this time of the year. We need to reserve the motel at the latest by the first week of March.



Trip to Île-Verte 2014!

by Clémence Soulard and Jean Demers

This year, we are once again organizing a trip to Île-Verte. This island is situated on the St. Lawrence River off Isle Verte, east of Rivière-du-Loup and Cacouna. We will stay three nights and have all of our meals at the only motel on the island, Entre-deux-Marées.

Typically, we see an average of between 80 and 90 species during our stay, including, of course, seabirds like the Common Eider and Brant, also some shorebirds right from the balcony of the motel. We have some passerines in front of the motel but we also have a lot of woodland to walk with a great variety of vegetation and a few swamps. To help you visualize it a little better, at the east end of the island, "le bout d'en bas," you can see the dunes of Tadoussac. We can walk right up to the other side of the island and check the rocky shore where we can find gulls and any possible



Point Pelee Spring Camping Trip

Traditionally, the Field Trip Committee announces the spring camping trip to Point Pelee National Park in the February issue of this newsletter. They reserve a number of camping spots and if you go, you can wake up and start birding from your tent!

From the campsite, it is a five-minute walk to the Interpretation Centre, walking trails and tram service to the tip. Although this is not a field trip per se, several Pelee veterans may be on hand to orient you to the park and its amenities. Nearby is the superb shorebird migratory area at Hillman Marsh.

The park has changed the way they do things and have pushed the date for making reservations from January to early February. Keep reading the weekly e-mail updates and the Songsparrow Yahoo Group for more information within the next couple of weeks.

Forthcoming Monthly Lectures

Monday, March 10, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.
Title and lecturer to be announced

Note that the March lecture will take place a week later than is traditionally scheduled. Also, due to last-minute changes, we cannot give you the details about this presentation or the presenter, at this time. Keep reading the weekly e-mail updates and the Songsparrow Yahoo Group for information.

Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas in Remote Areas: A Tale!
Presentation by Hugues Brunoni, member of Team BPQ 2013
Monday, April 7, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

Kensington Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG
Free of charge

Hugues Brunoni will talk about his involvement as a volunteer and as the regional coordinator for the Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) in the Mauricie region. He will describe the fieldwork

of a handful of teams, each covering remote areas of the vast boreal forest. He will also describe his personal experience as an atlaser, three summers in the deep wilderness, sleeping in a tent, waking up at 3:30 a.m. every day, seven days a week, driving pickup trucks and riding ATVs or bikes over rough terrain, all while enduring swarms of blackflies – in an attempt to cover as many atlas squares as possible.



Hugues will use the atlas data collected so far to show changes in bird distribution have taken place since the data for the first Quebec BBA were compiled. Although some new species have literally appeared on the Quebec map over the last 25 years, others have almost disappeared. He should convince BPQ members who are not already contributing to the Atlas to do so!

Hugues, an historian from Trois-Rivières, is a former editor-in-chief of *QuébecOiseaux* magazine and still a regular contributor to its pages. He has been an active administrator of the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux (RQO) and on the board of various committees within the organization. He was involved in the establishment of the Refuge faunique du lac Saint-Pierre last summer and was a proud member of the BPQ-sponsored Atlas team. This experience was described by his teammate, Jean-Pierre Artigau, in the August 2013 issue of this newsletter.

Silence of the Songbirds by Bridget Stutchbury.

272 pages
Walker & Company; Reprint edition (March 3, 2009)
ISBN-10: 0802716911
ISBN-13: 978-0802716910

Reviewed by Alison Hackney

Silence of the Songbirds comprises three interwoven themes: bird ecology, causes for the alarming decline in songbird populations, and suggestions for actions bird lovers might take in defence of birds. I heartily recommend it for these reasons and also as a good read.

The author, Bridget Stutchbury, is the Canada Research Chair in Ecology and Conservation Biology at York University in Toronto. Her specialty is the behavioural ecology of neotropical birds and includes many warblers, vireos, and thrushes that are familiar to us.

Dr. Stutchbury's style is informal and easy to read. She succeeds very well in explaining the field studies used to illustrate ecological principles. Her research and that of her students and colleagues give us a surprising and fascinating peek into the most intimate secrets of birds that we know fairly well. Her description of how a suburban neighbourhood might appear if the human residents acted as though they were a bunch of philandering Hooded Warblers is very funny. At the same time, it serves to emphasize the importance to breeding birds of having not only suitable habitat but neighbours of the same species as well as a mate.

That's the fun part of this book. It is in stark contrast to her descriptions of the massive poisoning of Swainson's Hawks (not to mention chronic poisoning of human agricultural workers). Besides the threats of massive habitat loss in their breeding and non-breeding habitats and pesticide poisoning, both acute and chronic, Dr. Stutchbury discusses predation by cats and others, as well as collisions caused when migrating

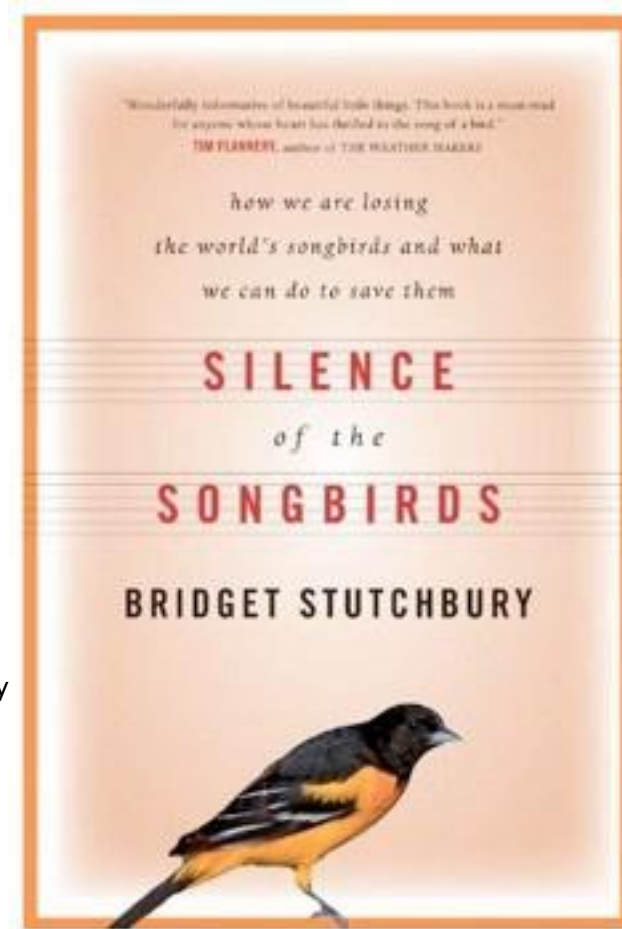
birds are disoriented by artificial lights. What is lacking in the book is that there are relatively few references to work done in Canada. The studies she quotes are mostly from the United States.

Nevertheless, the sheer loss documented by Dr. Stutchbury is enough to make you gasp: "In the coming century, roughly 20 percent of birds and mammals worldwide will be threatened with extinction or will become so small in number that they are functionally extinct. Their jobs as pollinators, fruit-eaters, insect-eaters, scavengers, and nutrient recyclers will not get done, and this will disrupt ecosystems and affect everyone on the planet" (page 216).

A relatively short Epilogue, "Answering the Cry of the Songbirds," suggests actions each of us might take to mitigate the factors causing the songbirds' decline. Table 10.1, How You Can Make a Difference (page 221) features a list of "What to Buy or Do." Dr Stutchbury enumerates individual actions such as buying forest products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, but she seems to studiously avoid any whiff of political or

collective action. Why?

Although Dr. Stutchbury acknowledges that most North Americans are unaware of the threat of songbird extinction ("millions of people ...have never experienced the joy of seeing a wood thrush..."), she is nothing if not an optimist: "Our day-to-



day choices add up to an enormous ecosystem boost for birds and other wildlife” (p. 222).

In her spare time she volunteers with the Toronto Bird Observatory’s “Birds in the City” program to introduce city residents to migrating birds. She no doubt hopes this will lead to more bird lovers taking the conservation actions she recommends: not letting their cats out, buying recycled paper products.

If, indeed, introducing city dwellers and suburbanites to the thrill of birding translates into conservation of birds (although I hope it does, I sometimes wonder), Bridget Stutchbury’s passion for songbirds and curiosity about our natural world will be a powerful and contagious force for good.

The text is complemented by Julie Zickefoose’s charming drawings and four pages of colour photographs.

Alison Hackney has a B.Sc. in Agriculture (Renewable Resources) from McGill University and an M.Sc. (Écologie animale) from the Université du Québec à Montréal and is the former owner and operator of La Ferme du Fort Senneville, where she grew organic vegetables. She was on the board of Green Coalition for several years and is now realizing her dream of studying birds by volunteering at the McGill Bird Observatory. Follow her blog about being car free at www.alisononabike.wordpress.com and if you would like to read Silence of the Songbirds, she is willing to lend her copy to any BPQ member.

Recent Field Trip Reports

30/11/13 – South Shore Driving Trip, Boucherville, Varennes, St-Bruno & St. Hubert, QC – Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Very cold but clear skies and sunshine. 16 birders; 19 species
Birds of the Day: Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike
Other Birds of Note: Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal

07/12/13 – Casselman, ON – Leader: Jacques Bouvier
Sunny, cold with strong winds. 4 birders; 24 species
Birds of the Day: Lesser Black-backed Gull; Bald Eagle; Snow Buntings
Other Birds of Note: Red-tailed Hawk, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Snowy Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Raven



Field Trips Planned for Late February, March, and April 2014

Saturday, February 22– samedi 22 fevrier
Secteur-Bois-de-l’Héritage (Parc-Nature-Pointe-aux-Prairies)

Leader: Joël Coutu 438-930-5092
fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Take Boul. Métropolitain (Highway 40) east toward the northeast end of Montreal Island. Exit at Henri-Bourassa and travel east to Sherbrooke Street. Turn left (northeast) on Sherbrooke and proceed approximately 1.2 km to Ave. Yves-Thériault and turn left (northwest). Follow Ave. Yves-Thériault as it turns right then left to the corner of Jovette-Bernier. The park is across the street. If you don't have a parking permit for the nature parks, parking is available on the streets in this area. Meet at the Chalet. The park has a variety of habitats. Looking for feeder birds, winter finches. Owls have been seen in the past.
Half day.

8 h 00. Prendre Boul. Métropolitain (autoroute 40) direction est vers l'extrémité nord de l'île de Montréal. Prendre la sortie Henri-Bourassa et continuez vers l'est jusqu'à la rue Sherbrooke. Tournez à gauche (nord-est) sur la rue Sherbrooke et continuer environ 1,2 km jusqu'à l'avenue Yves-Thériault et tournez à gauche (nord-ouest). Suivez l'avenue Yves-Thériault qui tourne à droite puis à gauche au coin de Jovette-Bernier. Le parc est de l'autre côté de la rue. Le stationnement est disponible dans les rues du voisinage. Le lieu de rendez-vous sera au Chalet. Le parc a une variété d'habitats. Nous serons à la recherche d'oiseaux de mangeoires et de nos granivores hivernaux. Des hiboux ont été observés dans ce parc dans le passé. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday, March 1 – samedi 1 mars
Hudson**

Leader: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222
barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Meet at the CPR station on Wharf Street in Hudson. Highway 40, exit 22 onto Côte St. Charles north, right on Main Street, left on Wharf Street. Looking for winter finches and early migrants. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement à la gare C.P. sur la rue Wharf, à Hudson. Prendre l'autoroute 40, sortie 22, et tourner à droite sur la Côte St-Charles nord. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Main et tourner à droite sur celle-ci. Continuer jusqu'à la rue Wharf puis tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday, March 8 – samedi 8 mars
Morgan Arboretum – Arboretum Morgan**

Leader: Betsy McFarlane 514-457-9315
betsy.mcfarlane@sympatico.ca
<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 the Conservation Centre parking lot on the left. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members. Looking for woodpeckers, owls and migrants. **Half day.**

8 h 00. 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 au Centre de conservation, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres. Espèces recherchées: Pics, hiboux et migrateurs. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday, March 15 – samedi 15 mars
Boisé Ste-Dorothée and Laval West**

Leader: Frédéric Hareau 514-805-8491
fredhareau1@yahoo.ca

8:00 a.m. Meet at 517 rue des Pivoines in Laval. Allow 15 minutes from the intersection of Highway 40 and Highway 13. Take Highway 13 North. After 4 km, take exit 12 towards QC-148/Boulevard Notre-Dame/Boulevard Saint-Martin. Continue on the service road for 1 km then follow the signs to the Boulevard Saint-Martin Ouest. Continue on Blvd. St-Martin Ouest for 2.5 km. Take rue des Pivoines on the right and park. We will first walk the mature forest of Boisé-Ste-Dorothée before visiting several spots along the Rivière des Mille-Îles. Bring warm clothes and adequate boots for taking short walks. Target species: forest birds, raptors, waterfowl, early migrants. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rendez-vous au 517 rue des Pivoines à Laval. Prévoir 15 minutes à partir de l'intersection entre l'Autoroute 40 et l'Autoroute 13. Prendre l'autoroute 13 Nord. Après 4 km, Prendre la sortie 12 vers QC-148/Boulevard Notre-Dame/Boulevard Saint-Martin. Continuer sur la voie de service pendant 1 km puis suivre les indications vers le Boulevard Saint-Martin Ouest. Continuer sur le boul. St Martin Ouest pour 2,5 km. Prendre la rue des Pivoines à droite et gardez-vous. Nous visiterons tout d'abord la forêt mature du Boisé-Ste-Dorothée avant de nous rendre à plusieurs endroits le long de la rivière des Mille-Îles. Prévoir des vêtements chauds et des chaussures adéquates pour effectuer quelques marches. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux forestiers, rapaces, sauvagine, migrants hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday, March 22 – samedi 22 mars
Spontaneous Early Spring Outing – Location to be determined**

Leader: To Be Announced

The time around the vernal equinox can be unpredictable for birding. Will it be an early spring with plenty of migrants or will winter continue to hang on, leaving us with our last look at our overwintering northern friends? As a result, the destination of this

trip will be determined mere days prior to the actual outing. The destination will be chosen based on a number of factors including weather conditions, bird activity and any special or rare bird sightings reported in the days leading up to the trip. Complete details of the field trip, including the leader, the destination, the start time, the meeting spot and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ webpage and on the Songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the Saturday outing.

Sortie spontanée de début de printemps - Lieu à déterminer
Leader: À déterminer

La période de l'équinoxe de printemps peut être imprévisible pour l'observation d'oiseaux. Aurons-nous un printemps précoce remplis d'oiseaux migrateurs ou est-ce que l'hiver continuera à tarder en nous laissant jeter un dernier coup d'œil à nos amis du nord? Par conséquent, la destination de cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant l'excursion. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalée durant les jours précédents la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur le site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo Songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.

Saturday, March 29 - samedi 29 mars
Parc des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfront

Leader: Diane Demers 514-729-3051
ddemers03@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle Blvd and 6th Avenue in Ville LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Blvd). Take Hwy 20 to the Blvd de la Vérendrye exit. Heading west on de la Vérendrye, turn left onto the Stephens Street Bridge that crosses the Aqueduct. Follow this street south to the waterfront on LaSalle Blvd. Turn right on LaSalle Blvd and follow it to the parking lot at the corner of 6th Avenue. Looking for waterfowl and early migrants. If there is enough time, we will visit the riverfront or the woods on Nuns' Island. Be prepared to drive. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement du Parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul. LaSalle et de la 6e avenue à ville LaSalle (juste à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power). Prendre l'autoroute 20 et prendre la sortie du boul. de la Vérendrye. Aller en direction ouest sur ce boul. À la rue Stephens, prendre le pont qui traverse le canal de l'Aqueduc. Continuer sur la rue Stephens jusqu'au boul. LaSalle, qui longe le fleuve. Tourner à droite sur ce boul. et continuer jusqu'à stationnement, situé au coin de la 6e avenue. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrateurs hâtifs. S'il reste suffisamment de temps, nous visiterons la rive ou le boisé de l'île des Soeurs. Quelques déplacements en auto seront requis. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 5 - samedi 5 avril
Parc-nature du Cap-St-Jacques

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

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to 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: \$9.00. **Half day.**

8 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 : 9,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 12 - samedi 12 avril
Baie-du-Febvre, QC

Leaders: Jean Demers and Clémence Soulard
514-694-8240 jd030824@gmail.com

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie du Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie du Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left. Alternate route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and

look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. **All day.**

8 h 30. Rassemblement au poste d'observation situé le long de la route Janelle, à Baie-du-Febvre. On propose deux trajets. Premier trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 30 en direction est jusqu'à Sorel puis prendre la route 132 en direction est jusqu'à Baie-du-Febvre. Tourner à gauche sur la route Janelle, juste après l'intersection avec la rue principale. Deuxième trajet : Prendre l'autoroute 20 en direction est jusqu'à la sortie 185 située après Drummondville. A partir de cette sortie, prendre la route 255 en direction nord jusqu'à l'intersection avec la route 132. Tourner à gauche sur celle-ci. Immédiatement après, tourner à droite sur la route Janelle. Durée du trajet : 1h30. À la recherche de milliers d'Oies des neiges, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et d'autres migrants. **Toute la journée.**

Saturday, April 19 - samedi 19 avril
Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies

Leader: Joël Coutu 438-930-5092
fauconbleu65@hotmail.com

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: \$9.00. **Half day.**

8 h 00. 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 : 9,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Thursday, April 24- jeudi 24 avril
Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for Beginners / Jeudis, Jaseurs, et Geais pour Débutants, Session 1
Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Leader: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222
barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$9.00.

9 h 00 - 12 h 00. De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 9,00 \$.

Saturday, April 26 - samedi 26 avril
Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard

Leader: Felix Hilton
514-631-3437
hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

8:00 a.m. Hwy 40; exit St- Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevrement; left (west) on Chevrement to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du- Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$9.00. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and migrating passerines. **Half day.**

8 h 00. De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevrement et

continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 9,00 \$. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces et passereaux en migration.
Demi-journée.

Thursday, May 1- jeudi 1 mai
Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for Beginners / Jeudis, Jaseurs, et Geais pour Débutants, Session 2
Morgan Arboretum, Qc

Leader: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222
barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. From Montreal take Hwy 40 west. Exit at 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. \$6.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members.

9 h 00 – 12h00. 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 : 6,00 \$ pour les non-membres.

Thursday, May 8 – jeudi 8 mai
Parc-nature du Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard, Qc
Thursdays, Thrushes and Thrashers for Beginners / Jeudis, Jaseurs, et Geais pour Debutants, Session 3

Leader: Barbara MacDuff 514-457-2222
barb.macduff@sympatico.ca

9:00 AM – 12:00 noon Hwy 40; exit St-Jean Blvd north to Gouin Blvd; left (west) on Gouin to Jacques-Bizard Blvd; right (north) on Jacques-Bizard Blvd, over bridge to Blvd Chevreumont; left (west) on Chevreumont to Montée de l'Église; right (north) on de l'Église to Ch. Bord-du-Lac; right (east) on Bord-du-Lac to park entrance, approx. 1 km. Parking: \$9.00.

9h00 – 12h00. De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boul. St-Jean nord et continuer sur celui-ci jusqu'au boul. Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boul. Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boul. Chevreumont et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) sur celle-ci et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 9,00 \$.

Last, but not least ...

Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks on the Summit
7:00 a.m. Tuesdays April 22 and 29 and May 6, 13, 20 and 27

Summit Woods in Westmount is a wooded area transected by numerous footpaths. From mid-April to late May, spring migrants find the woods an attractive place in which to rest and feed. At least 33 warbler species have been seen over the years and about 24 warbler species are seen each year. Come out and participate in one or all of the Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks with an informal group of BPQ members. It's a perfect start to a spring day!

Les marches printanières aux Parulines Jim Houghton au Bois Summit

Les marches se tiendront les mardis 24 et 27 avril et les 6, 13, 20, et 27 mai à 7 h 00 au Bois Summit de Westmount.

Le parc offre un secteur boisé traversé par de nombreux sentiers. De la mi-avril à fin mai, les migrateurs printaniers trouvent cet endroit attrayant et ainsi s'arrêtent pour se reposer et s'alimenter. Au cours des années, quelques 33 espèces de Parulines ont été répertoriées et environ 24 espèces sont observées à chaque année. Vous êtes invités à vous joindre à l'une ou toutes les marches printanières avec un groupe amical des membres du POQ. C'est une belle façon de commencer une journée du printemps



The Patchwork Challenge: 2014 A Friendly Contest for All Birders.

More and more birders today are more and more focused on Patch Birding – so, here's something to think about as we go into 2014: The Patchwork Challenge.

Birders have often wondered about ways to compare their achievements and lists when geographically limited to their local patches. Most birders like some friendly competition but, if you bird locally and thereby eliminate driving or flying the world after good birds, just how do you compare someone living in an inner city with another living in the ultimate hotspot? One answer may have been found by a group of birders in the UK who have been running the Patchwork Challenge for a couple of years with considerable success. Their contest is now starting in North America. The method has been field-tested and it seems to answer most people's reservations.

The organizers hope to attract enough Canadian and US birders to take the challenge in 2014. This is a friendly GreenBirding Challenge – are you up to it?

What is the Patchwork Challenge?

Great pleasure can be derived from getting to learn a place inside out, observing how the seasons change, and getting value from common species that otherwise wouldn't get a second glance. Throw in the potential for the odd rare bird or scarcity and you have a really exciting, involving way to enjoy your birding without minimal carbon emissions.

We're a competitive bunch. We like to gloat; we like to add things to lists, and we like to know what the numbers are. So why not see if we can add a little friendly competition to our patch birding?

How do you compare one patch with another? The birder in Texas or Arizona is probably going to see more species than the birder at some inner city park. Also, how do you rate the species seen? It's hardly fair that the hard-earned code 3 or even code 4 rarity earns the same number of points as a chickadee.

And it's a bit unfair that a self-found county first would score the same as one that you'd found after

another birder announced its presence to the world. Coming up with an absolutely bulletproof way of scoring a competition like this is impossible – there are too many variables, but after some long and hard thought, we've found a scoring system that we believe is suitable.

How it works

There is a simple scoring system – Just adding up the ticks doesn't work if we want to make fair comparisons between birders and their patches – so each bird gets a numerical score. The score each bird earns is related to its rarity, according to ABA checklist categories, which give every species on the North American list a number from 1 to 6 depending on rarity. Thus, if you see a bird on your patch, you score points related to its rarity. Those species categorized as scarce or rarer, if self-found, have their points doubled. Thus, for example, a code 3 species will be worth 3 points if you find it after someone else has told you it is in the area, but 6 if you find it all by yourself.

For further information about the codes, visit the ABA website.

To make it easier, a spreadsheet with all the rarity codes and an automated scoring system can be downloaded – how simple is that? [You can download this spreadsheet here](#)

- A code 1 or 2 species (common) = 1 point
- A code 3, 4 or 5 species that you found following information from other birders who had seen it before you = 3, 4 or 5 points
- A code 3, 4 or 5 species you found by yourself = 6, 8 or 10 points

Again though, this perhaps favours people living in hot spots: A patcher working Point Pelee or southern Texas could score an awful lot of points with little effort. To level the playing field further, the scoring system relates the observers' score to their tallies run up over previous years. This makes your score representative of how good your year has been on your patch. To do this, all you need to do is present your score as a percentage of your score from the previous year - and as the competition goes on, as a percentage of the average of the previous two years' scores

For people who are new to patch listing, or don't have lists for their patch from earlier years as a baseline, we will run a league for points only patches for the first year. Thereafter, in the second year everyone can be included in the main percentage league using their score from year one. If you already have a patch list from 2013, you can use that as your baseline.

Simple? Well, not totally...but it certainly goes a fair way towards levelling the playing field. After all, this is a competition between patchers and not patches.

The other rule is also pretty simple. Your patch should have an area of up to 3 sq km. It doesn't have to be rectangular, or comply with any topographic map grid lines. It can be any shape you want it to be.

Which birds can you count? The birds that contribute to your score must be seen or heard within or from within the boundaries of your patch. Heard-only birds count, distant passing seabirds count, flyovers count, and birds flushed from the patch while you approach your site count.

We rely on the honesty of the competitors ... but we're an honest lot, so that won't be a problem!

If you're interested in taking part in the challenge, e-mail us at greenbirding@gmail.com with your name and your patch location. Please, get in touch if you have any questions or want help with your patch boundaries.

We look forward to hearing from you. The sooner you start, the sooner you are on track to winning.



Cooper's Hawk

Photo: RG

GRAND DÉFI

Québec

Oiseaux

Événement organisé dans le cadre
de la Journée internationale
des oiseaux migrateurs

Date limite d'inscription :
2 mai 2014

**Plusieurs prix à gagner pour
les participants et les donateurs**

PLAISIR GARANTI!

SOYEZ PRÊTS

pour le retour des migrateurs
du 9 mai (18 h) au 10 mai (18 h)

**Formez une équipe, choisissez votre site
et tentez d'observer le plus grand
nombre d'espèces en 24 heures**

**Participez au Grand Défi et contribuez au financement
de projets de conservation importants, notamment :**

- Campagne de sensibilisation à l'impact sur les insectivores aériens de l'utilisation des pesticides
- Conservation de la biodiversité aviaire dans les milieux agricoles
- Campagne de sensibilisation des propriétaires de chats afin de réduire le taux de mortalité des oiseaux



REGROUPEMENT
Québec Oiseaux

Pour tous les détails, visitez le
www.quebecoiseaux.org/gdqo
ou communiquez au
514 252-3190 ou **1 888 OISEAUX**
ou à l'adresse info@quebecoiseaux.org

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