

Issue 64-1

September 2021

Fall Migration Issue

News for Members



The SONG SPARROW



Bird Protection Quebec

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Cover Photo: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wayne Grubert

Photo this page: Blue-winged Warbler, Ana Morales

A Word FROM THE EDITORS

CONNIE AND DARLENE

It's fall, ready or not, and a new season of everything birding is beginning, including BPQ's Song Sparrow members' publication!

We announced last issue that the communications committee had taken over from Jane Cormack (and another thanks goes out to Jane for her stewardship of Song Sparrow for so many years) and will now be producing the newsletter, along with what we like to call our "stable of writers" but is actually a group of BPQ's expert birders who we have talked into becoming contributors!

As usually happens with a changing of the guard we are taking the publication in a slightly different direction. The first issue of the season will focus on fall migration. Each subsequent bi-monthly issue will have a different theme and will have something for everybody – from beginning birder to expert and everywhere in between. You will continue to find some of your favourite regular columns, such as Pierre Bannon's *Bird Views*, but you will also find some new ones to enjoy.

Part of the revamp also includes a redesign into something that looks a little more like a magazine and a little less like a newsletter, to go along with the expanded content. We also thought a new look was a fitting way to celebrate the fact that in January of 2022 BPQ will be marking its 105th anniversary! We are pleased with how it turned out and hope you will be too. Comments or suggestions are always welcome and can be sent to communications@pqspb.org.

So, dig into the world of Fall Migration with our feature articles by Wayne Grubert and Richard Gregson, and happy birding!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that fall is already around the corner. The summer was a mixed bag of weather and precipitation; very dry in June, somewhat cool and wet in July and I'm sure you remember the very warm August! Early reports are showing a good breeding year across the eastern boreal forest.

Unfortunately, we have yet to resume our in-person field trips but we hope that you will be able to go out either on your own or with family. (Ed. see message in this issue from the field trip committee.) We tend to forget that migration starts as soon as early August for songbirds and shorebirds. By early September, raptors are starting to move alongside ducks and geese. October will bring the last few species of songbirds such as sparrows, juncos and robins. And next thing you know we'll be looking for our first Snow Bunting and Snowy Owl of the winter!

Migration is a wonderful thing; birds come to our latitudes to breed and raise their young before embarking on a long journey that will take some of them all the way to South America. Along the way, they will face many threats and, as humans, we should do everything we can to minimize those threats. If you want to learn more, I invite you to consult "[The State of Canada's birds](#)" published in 2019 by the NABCI.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, Bird Protection Quebec is eager but cautious about resuming in-person field trips and monthly meetings. We will continue to present online content until the situation improves and we can finally meet (and bird) together again.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very birdy fall migration, and why not a "lifer" or two!

Simon Duval

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Il est difficile de croire que l'automne est déjà à nos portes. L'été fût un mélange de différentes températures et de précipitations : très sec en juin, un peu frais et humide en juillet et je suis sûr que vous vous souvenez du mois d'août très chaud ! Les premiers rapports indiquent une bonne année de reproduction dans la forêt boréale de l'Est de l'Amérique du Nord.

Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas encore repris nos sorties sur le terrain en personne, mais nous espérons tout de même que vous serez en mesure de sortir à l'extérieur, seul ou en famille. (Voir le message du comité des excursions dans ce numéro). Nous avons tendance à oublier que la migration commence dès le début d'août pour les oiseaux chanteurs et les oiseaux de rivage. Début septembre, les rapaces commencent à se déplacer aux côtés des canards et des bernaches. En octobre, les dernières espèces d'oiseaux chanteurs, comme les bruants, les juncos et les merles migrent vers le sud. Et plus rapidement qu'autrement, nous serons à la recherche de nos premiers Plectrophanes des neiges et Harfangs des neiges de l'hiver !

La migration est une chose merveilleuse! Les oiseaux viennent sous nos latitudes pour se reproduire et élever leurs petits avant d'entamer un long voyage qui mènera certains d'entre eux jusqu'en Amérique du Sud. En chemin, ils seront confrontés à de nombreuses menaces et, en tant qu'humains, nous avons le devoir de faire tout en notre pouvoir pour minimiser ces menaces. Si vous voulez en savoir plus sur les menaces qui pèsent sur les oiseaux, je vous invite à consulter " [L'état des populations d'oiseaux du Canada](#) " publié en 2019 par l'ICOAN.

Au risque de me répéter, Protection des oiseaux Québec est impatient de reprendre les sorties sur le terrain en personne et les réunions mensuelles mais nous devons aussi être prudent. Nous continuerons à présenter du contenu en ligne jusqu'à ce que la situation s'améliore et que nous puissions enfin nous rencontrer (et observer les oiseaux) à nouveau ensemble.

En attendant, je vous souhaite à tous une migration automnale très riche en oiseaux, et pourquoi pas un "lifer" ou deux!

Simon Duval

Focus on

OUR MEMBERS



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jesse Feith, Pierre Masse and family, and Giselle Bergeron

We look forward to meeting you in person one day soon! In the meantime, be sure to follow us on Facebook and to join our Song Sparrow e-list

<https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow> to connect with fellow members.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Current memberships expire on September 30th so, unless you are a Life Member or a new member who joined after March 1, 2021, it's time to renew your support and remain a part of BPQ, one of the oldest bird conservation charities in Canada!

[Click here](#) to go to our website, where it is easy to renew on line with your credit card through Paypal (no Paypal account needed) or, if you prefer to pay by cheque, by following the instructions for "Becoming a Member by Mail" at the bottom of the page.

AND NOW ... A FEW WORDS FROM THE FLOCK

Life member Catherine Milne made a very generous donation of \$3,000 in July, commenting: "Birds give and have given enormous pleasure to our lives so it is a pleasure to support BPQ and like organizations."

Supporters Bruno Drolet and Andrew Coughlan conducted their own mini-birdathon during their first visit to our sanctuary in Phillipsburg to show their particular appreciation for BPQ's work protecting important bird habitat. They sent this kind message along with a donation based on the day's species count.

De Bruno: "Andrew et moi aimerions faire un don à POQ en appui à la conservation du Refuge George Montgomery. Nous y avons fait une visite pour la première fois les 5 et 6 juin derniers. En support, nous offrons 1\$ pour chacune des espèces observées (soit 61 espèces x 2 pers.). Merci pour la protection de ce territoire exceptionnel.

Nos visites au refuge et sur la montée Biggar nous ont fait réaliser à quel point les territoires protégés de POQ sont importants pour l'année ornithologique des observateurs d'oiseaux au Québec... Paruline azurée, Viréo à gorge jaune, Pic à ventre roux, Paruline à ailes dorées, Paruline à ailes bleues pour ne nommer que quelques-unes. La protection de ces territoires a été possible parce que des gens ont décidé de contribuer financièrement et leur entretien et protection à long terme n'est possible que parce que des gens continuent toujours de le faire. Ainsi, les ornithologues qui fréquentent ces territoires chaque année pour ajouter ces espèces à leur liste annuelle peuvent faire de même, afin de reconnaître le travail constant réalisé par POQ."

BPQ would like to thank Catherine, Bruno and Andrew for their support and encouragement.

POQ tient à remercier Catherine, Bruno and Andrew pour leur soutien et leurs mots d'encouragement.

BIENVENUE À LES NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

Jesse Feith, Pierre Masse et famille, et Giselle Bergeron

Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer! En attendant, n'oubliez pas de vous inscrire à notre liste d'abonnés virtuels <Song Sparrow>

<https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow> pour vous connecter avec d'autres membres ainsi que nous suivre sur Facebook.

C'EST LE TEMPS DE RENOUELER VOTRE ADHÉSION

Votre adhésion actuelle expire le 30 septembre, donc, à moins que vous ne soyez un membre à vie ou un nouveau membre qui s'est joint après le 1er mars 2021, le temps est venu de renouveler votre soutien et de faire partie de POQ, l'un des plus anciens organismes de bienfaisance de la conservation au Canada!

[Cliquez ici](#) pour accéder à notre site Web et renouveler facilement en ligne avec votre carte de crédit par l'entremise de Paypal (aucun compte Paypal nécessaire) ou, si vous préférez payer par chèque, en suivant les instructions «Si vous préférez payer par chèque» au bas de la page.

IN MEMORIAM

David Mulholland



In August, we were saddened to learn of the passing of long-time life member, past president, member of multiple committees, and tireless supporter of BPQ, David Mulholland. BPQ extends its condolences to David's wife and fellow BPQ life member Phyllis Holtz, and their family.

We would like to share with you the numerous messages and anecdotes posted by our members, who join us in remembering David. He will be greatly missed by many.

Chuck Kling: Very sorry to hear of David's passing. My condolences to Phyllis and the family. I've spent a fair amount of time in the field with David, years ago....especially in Philipsburg, where on one trip he found my lifer Y. billed Cuckoo. This occurred when we almost accidentally crossed into the U. S., while scouring the dense woods.

Zofia Laubitz: I'm so sorry to hear about Dave. I have many memories of him, including his participation in a "duck-walking" race at an anniversary celebration in Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park! I think it must have been in 1997. (I should really dig out my photos of that event.)

Jean Bacon: Very sorry to hear this sad news. My condolences to Phyllis and members of his family.

Averill Craig: I too am very sorry to read of David's death. My condolences to Phyllis.

Peter Mitchell: My condolences to Phyllis and her family on David's passing. I met David when he took the "Birding in Montreal" course Bob Carswell and I were giving maybe as far back as the early 80's. David has been a loyal member, director and President of our organization and his contributions will long be remembered.

Betsy McFarlane: I am very sorry to hear of David's death. He was a true BPQ/PQSPB stalwart. My deepest sympathies to Phyllis and the rest of the family.

Gay McDougall-Gruner: I was very sad to hear of David's death. He was an avid birder and was always ready to share his passion and knowledge with novices and veteran birders alike. David worked tirelessly for BPQ on the Board and in other capacities, particularly on the Education Committee. My condolences to Phyllis and her family.

Peter Tarassoff: My condolences to Phyllis and the Mulholland family. For many years I had the pleasure of joining David and others in doing a Christmas bird count. I still remember how he often picked up the call of a Brown Creeper that I certainly couldn't hear. And in our garden we have another remembrance, wild ginger that originally came from David and Phyllis.

Alison Hackney: I am sorry. I will remember David as a kind and helpful fellow birder.

Connie Morgenstern: Very sorry to hear the news of David's passing. I knew him mostly from the board and Education Committee. He was a dedicated and welcoming member of BPQ. Since COVID all of our Education meetings went digital yet, despite his illness, David still managed to pop in to several of our Zoom meetings to lend his support! His friendly presence will be missed. My sincere condolences to Phyllis and the family.

Jeff Harrison: May I add my condolences to Phyllis and family. I remember first coming to a BPQ meeting at Fraser-Hickson Library in 1998 when we first moved to Montreal. David was a "greeter" at the door. We had an interesting chat and he made me feel welcome from the very first. It has been a rewarding time for me to be part of BPQ. I have met many nice, friendly, welcoming people who like David have kept the long tradition of commitment to Montreal and Quebec birding. I know that David will be missed by me and many who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Diane Demers: I am also very sorry to hear about David's passing. I happened to be a member of the board when David was a director and his thoughts on various topics were invaluable. My condolences to Phyllis and her family.

Barbara MacDuff: David was an enthusiastic member of many of BPQ's committees including education. He participated in education committee activities including the Bird and Nature Camp, the Bird Fair, children field trips to Baie du Febvre to see the snow geese, as well as field trips for beginners in different locations. David was very patient with new birders of all ages and delighted in sharing his love of birds and nature with them. David was a good person who will be missed.

Jean Harwood Gregson: David was also a long term and valued member of the Finance Committee. He was always helpful and supportive in committee meetings and also spent time explaining background to matters when I visited him to countersign cheques. Even when we held different points of view he listened carefully and explained his perspective. Always gracious.

Bonnie Soutar: Very sad to lose such a lovely man and dedicated naturalist/ birder- so sorry Phyllis.

Richard Gregson: He was a gent, good to have known him.



18th Annual “Summer Series of Birding” Report

For the second consecutive year, due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, BPQ’s annual "Summer Series of Birding" field trips could not take place in person. As we did in the summer of 2020, 10 consecutive weekends of birding were scheduled beginning June 26/27, ending August 28/29, with participants invited to bird each weekend at locations of their choosing, reporting their findings, including photographs, to the Field Trip committee.

A summary of each weekend’s sighting was generated and posted, with an accompanying photo album, on BPQ’s Facebook page and the IO Songsparrow Group. The 10 consecutive weekends of birding resulted in a total of 200 species being observed and reported, an increase of 14 over last summer’s total of 186. This produced an average of 117 species per weekend.

Twenty-four different birders participated, birding at 81 different locations in Quebec and Ontario. The final weekend of the series (August 28 & 29) was the most productive, with 134 species reported. Some of the highlights of the summer included reports of 22 warbler species; Little Blue Heron, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Common Murre, Black Guillemot, Black-billed Cuckoo, American Coot, Whimbrel, Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Boreal Chickadee, and Northern Mockingbird.

A complete list of all 200 species reported over the summer is available on the Bird Protection Quebec webpage [here](#).

BPQ Field Trip Committee

Upcoming Field Trips

It is hard to believe that the COVID pandemic has kept us from participating in real field trips for a full eighteen months. Rest assured that the field trip committee is following developments carefully and is constantly re-evaluating public health guidelines, in conjunction with the comfort levels of our numerous volunteer trip leaders.

Hopefully in the not too distant future we can meet up with old friends and welcome some of the new faces that have joined BPQ since our virtual field trips began. We know that no one has aged a bit!



Pierre Bannon's
BIRD VIEWS

SUMMER 2021

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

The event of the year—or perhaps the century—was the discovery of a STELLER'S SEA-EAGLE in eastern North America. After being found in the Restigouche river estuary, NB 28 June-2 July, this majestic Siberian raptor made successive appearances in the York River estuary, Gaspé QC, 7 & 9-11 July (F- X.Tardif, S. Poulin, m.obs.), 17 July (F-X.Tardif, D. Saint-Pierre) and again 30-31 July (D. Saint-Pierre, m.obs.). The bird appears to have made at least one round trip between NB and QC, since it was present again on the Restigouche river 23-24 July, a distance of 187 km from Gaspé.

Later in the summer, the bird moved west and was spotted at Matane 7 Aug (JA. Banville) and 8 Aug (D. Demers). Flight photographs of the bird have revealed great similarities in some fine details of the left wing with the bird photographed along the Denali highway, in interior Alaska 30 Aug 2020, strongly suggesting that it would be the same individual.

In summer, this eagle should normally be found in far eastern Russia where it nests along the coast and surrounding islands of the sea of Okhotsk and Bering sea.

Other highlights in the province this summer included a Black-necked Stilt, a Burrowing Owl and the first breeding record for the Fish Crow. More info on these and on other interesting birds seen this past summer follow.



PIERRE BANNON

PARLONS D'OISEAUX

ÉTÉ 2021

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

L'événement de l'année—ou peut-être du siècle—a été la découverte d'un PYGARGUE EMPEREUR dans l'est de l'Amérique du Nord. Après avoir été repéré dans l'estuaire de la rivière Restigouche, N-B 28 juin-2 juil, ce majestueux rapace sibérien a fait des apparitions successives dans l'estuaire de la rivière York, Gaspé QC, 7 & 9-11 juil (FX.Tardif, S. Poulin, m.obs.), 17 juil (FX.Tardif, D. Saint-Pierre) et à nouveau 30-31 juil (D. Saint-Pierre, pl.obs.). L'oiseau semble avoir fait au moins un aller-retour entre le N-B et le Québec puisqu'il était une fois de plus revenu sur la rivière Restigouche 23-24 juil, à une distance de 187 km de Gaspé.

Plus tard durant l'été, l'oiseau s'est déplacé vers l'ouest et fut aperçu à Matane les 7 août (JA. Banville) et 8 août (D. Demers). Les photographies de l'oiseau en vol ont révélé de grandes similitudes pour certains détails fins de l'aile gauche avec un oiseau photographié le 30 août 2020 le long de la route de Denali, à l'intérieur de l'Alaska, ce qui suggère fortement qu'il s'agirait du même individu.

Durant l'été, cet aigle aurait dû se retrouver dans l'extrême est de la Russie où il niche le long de la côte et des îles environnantes de la mer d'Okhotsk et de la mer de Béring.

Parmi les autres faits saillants dans la province cet été, mentionnons une Échasse d'Amérique, une Chevêche des terriers et une première mention de reproduction pour la Corneille de rivage. Plus d'informations sur ceux-ci et sur d'autres oiseaux intéressants vus l'été dernier suivent.

Mute Swan: singles were reported at Métabetchouan 19 Jun-7 July (C. Harvey, m.obs.), Isle aux Grues (Montmagny) 19 July (C. Lafrance), and Saint-Méthode 25-26 July (D. Lavoie). This swan species has never been confirmed nesting in the wild in the province. **Trumpeter Swan:** the pair that came back to Saint-Fulgence for the 5th season finally nested and produced 8 offsprings (M. Lemieux, m.obs.). This site is the only one where the species has been confirmed nesting outside the Abitibi region. **Common Shelduck:** a juvenile of unknown origin photographed at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 22 July (J.G. Martin). **Bufflehead:** although not too surprising, a female with 7 juveniles east of Natashquan 29 June was the easternmost breeding report for the province (M. Darveau, N. Boutin). **White-winged Dove:** just like last year, the number of this dove reported this summer in the province was surprisingly high with singles reported at Forillon National Park 12 June (J. Roy-Drainville), Saint-Norbert d'Arthabaska 13-16 June (Claude Roy, m. obs.), Pointe-aux-Loups (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) 10-11 July (André Couture) and Rivière-Madeleine 17-22 July (G. Blanchette). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** for the second consecutive summer, birds were numerous in extreme southern Québec. A bird singing at Sagard (Charlevoix-Est) 14 June was the northernmost for the season (L-P. Berrouard). **BLACK-NECKED STILT:** a bird at Pointe-des-Cascades 5-8 June provided the second record for the province (M. Belhard, N. Landry, m.obs.). **Marbled Godwit:** one at Victoriaville 2-6 June (A. Daigle). **Willet:** one at Rivière-Ouelle 12 June (S. Limouzin).

Pacific Loon: one seen on the Les Escoumins-Trois-Pistoles ferry 4 June (A. Florea). **American White Pelican:** one at Yamachiche 4-6 June (Y. Dupont, m.obs.) and up to 3 at Gatineau 5-7 June (G. Seutin, m.obs.). **Little Blue Heron:** single adults at Côte Sainte-Catherine 6-15 June (S. Robert, m. obs.), Chandler 9-10 June (J. Lamarche) and Sainte-Foy 21-23 June (J. Bernier, m.obs.). **Tricolored Heron:** a bird continued at Cap Tourmente until 11 June (m. obs.). **Green Heron:** nesting was confirmed east of its range at Cabano 18 July (M. & S. Dallaire) and at Rimouski 26 July (V. Giroux, A. Florea). **Glossy Ibis:** singles at Portneuf 1st July (P. Allibert) and at Baie-du-Febvre 10-29 July (M. Berlinguette, M. Maheu et al.). **Black Vulture:** possibly 2 different birds seen in 4 localities in Gaspésie 16 June-20 July (m. obs), and one at Saint-Armand 23 July (M. D'Auteuil, Y. Daigle). **Turkey Vulture:** one photographed at Radisson 23 July was north of its range (D. Bellemare).

Northern Hawk Owl: for the second consecutive year, a pair nested at Ile aux Lièvres, raising 4 young in June (M. Boisvert, M. Rousseau). **BURROWING OWL:** for the third consecutive year, a bird appeared in the province, this time on a private property at Grand-Métis. The birdwatchers community was informed of the presence of this bird on 22 July (S. Saint-Pierre), but it had been seen around since at least 18 June (A. Carpentier).

Red-headed Woodpecker: reported in 5 localities in June, but no breeding confirmed. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** breeding range was extended to the lake Saint-Pierre area where a juvenile was photographed at Nicolet 18 June (F. Arbour et al.). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** an immature was briefly seen by 3 observers at Québec City 11 June (P. Dubé, B. Nadeau, F. Carbonneau, ph.). **FISH CROW:** the pair present at Magog since last spring nested with success raising 2 offsprings, a first for the province (S. Beaudette, m. obs.). **House Wren:** a first for the Gaspé peninsula, a pair successfully nested at Pointe à la Croix 8 July (A. Olive). **Sedge Wren:** up to 2 at Highwater (Eastern Townships) 1-22 July, a new site for the species (A. Valade, F. Saint-Arnaud et al.). **Wood Thrush:** rare in Gaspésie, a bird was discovered at Gaspé 10-11 July (S. Robert, D. Ouellette). **Bohemian Waxwing:** 2 near Murdochville (Gaspésie) 11 July were south of their range (J. Roy-Drainville et al.). **American Goldfinch:** rare at this latitude, a bird was seen at Kuujuarapik 22 July (A. Daoust).

Grasshopper Sparrow: although breeding birds are present regularly in Pontiac county, this species is very rare elsewhere in southern Québec. This summer, only one male defended a territory at Godmanchester 1st June-21st July (M. Romar, B. Souter, m. obs.). **Lark Bunting:** a bright male came to a feeder at Québec City 11-12 July, a 20th record for the province but the second only for the month of July (J. Gagné, D. Lemieux). **Nelson's Sparrow:** one at Gatineau 13-14 June was possibly a late migrant (L. Noël, M. Saint-Gelais). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** a regular vagrant from the West, this species was reported in 6 different localities in June. **Western Meadowlark:** one at Rivière-Éternité (Saguenay) 13 June (A. Lavoie, M. Bélanger). **Orchard Oriole:** a female continued at Pointe aux Loups (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) until 9 June (André Couture, B. Arseneau), a male at Tadoussac 4 June (L. Desbordes), and a male feeding a juvenile at Pike River 22-23 July (J. Simard, T. Jobin).

Cygne tuberculé: des oiseaux ont été signalés à Métabetchouan 19 juin-7 juillet (C. Harvey, pl.obs.), à l'Isle aux Grues (Montmagny) le 19 juillet (C. Lafrance) et à Saint-Méthode du 25-26 juillet (D. Lavoie). Cette espèce de cygne n'a jamais été confirmée nicheuse à l'état sauvage dans la province. **Cygne trompette:** le couple qui est revenu à Saint-Fulgence pour la 5^e saison a finalement niché et produit 8 descendants (M. Lemieux, pl.obs.). Ce site est le seul où l'espèce a été confirmée nicheuse à l'extérieur de l'Abitibi. **Tadorne de Belon:** un juvénile d'origine inconnue photographié à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu le 22 juillet (J.G. Martin). **Bufflehead:** une femelle avec 7 juvéniles à l'est de Natashquan 29 juin était la mention de reproduction la plus à l'est de la province (M. Darveau, N. Boutin). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches:** tout comme l'an dernier, le nombre de ce columbidé signalé cet été dans la province était étonnamment élevé avec des oiseaux aperçus au parc PN Forillon 12 juin (J. Roy-Drainville), à Saint-Norbert d'Arthabaska 13-16 juin (Claude Roy, pl. obs.), Pointe-aux-Loups (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) 10-11 juillet (André Couture) et Rivière-Madeleine 17-22 juillet (G. Blanchette). **Coulicou à bec jaune:** pour le deuxième été consécutif, cette espèce était présente en nombre appréciable dans l'extrême sud du Québec. Un oiseau chanteur à Sagard (Charlevoix-Est) 14 juin a été le plus septentrional de la saison (L-P. Berrouard). **ÉCHASSE D'AMÉRIQUE:** un oiseau à Pointe-des-Cascades 5-8 juin constituait la deuxième présence pour la province (M. Belhard, N. Landry, pl.obs.). **Barge marbrée:** une à Victoriaville 2-6 juin (A. Daigle). **Chevalier semipalmé:** un à Rivière-Ouelle 12 juin (S. Limouzin).

Plongeon du Pacifique: un vu sur le traversier Les Escoumins-Trois-Pistoles 4 juin (A. Florea). **Pélican d'Amérique:** un à Yamachiche 4-6 juin (Y. Dupont, pl.obs.) et jusqu'à 3 à Gatineau 5-7 juin (G. Seutin, pl.obs.). **Aigrette bleue:** des adultes à Côte Sainte-Catherine 6-15 juin (S. Robert, pl. obs.), Chandler 9-10 juin (J. Lamarche) et Sainte-Foy 21-23 juin (J. Bernier, pl. obs.). **Aigrette tricolore:** un oiseau encore à Cap Tourmente jusqu'au 11 juin (pl. obs.). **Héron vert:** la nidification a été confirmée à l'est de son aire, soit à Cabano 18 juillet (M. & S. Dallaire) et à Rimouski 26 juillet (V. Giroux, A. Florea). **Ibis falcinelle:** des individus à Portneuf 1^{er} juillet (P. Allibert) et à Baie-du-Febvre 10-29 juillet (M. Berlinguette, M. Maheu et al.). **Urubu noir:** possiblement 2 oiseaux différents vus dans 4 localités en Gaspésie 16 juin-20 juillet (pl. obs), et un à Saint-Armand 23 juillet (M. D'Auteuil, Y. Daigle). **Urubu à tête rouge:** un photographié au nord de son aire, à Radisson 23 juillet (D. Bellemare).

Chouette épervière: pour la deuxième année consécutive, un couple a niché à l'Île aux Lièvres, élevant 4 jeunes en juin (M. Boisvert, M. Rousseau). **CHEVÊCHE DES TERRIERS:** pour la troisième année consécutive, un individu est apparu dans la province, cette fois sur un terrain privé à Grand-Métis. La communauté des ornithologues a été informée de la présence de cet oiseau le 22 juillet (S. Saint-Pierre), mais il était présent depuis au moins le 18 juin (A. Carpentier).

Pic à tête rouge: signalé dans 5 localités en juin, mais aucune nidification confirmée. **Pic à ventre roux:** l'aire de nidification s'est étendue jusqu'au lac Saint-Pierre où un juvénile a été photographié à Nicolet 18 juin (F. Arbour et al.). **Tyrann à longue queue:** 3 observateurs ont aperçu brièvement un immature à Québec 11 juin (P. Dubé, B. Nadeau, F. Carbonneau, ph.). **CORNILLE DE RIVAGE:** le couple présent à Magog depuis le printemps dernier a niché avec succès en élevant 2 jeunes, une première pour la province (S. Beaudette, pl. obs.). **Troglodyte familial:** une première en Gaspésie, un couple a niché avec succès à la Pointe à la Croix le 8 juillet (A. Olive). **Troglodyte à bec court:** jusqu'à 2 à Highwater (Estrie) 1^{er}-22 juillet, un nouveau site pour l'espèce (A. Valade, F. Saint-Arnaud et al.). **Grive des bois:** rare en Gaspésie, un oiseau a été découvert à Gaspé 10-11 juillet (S. Robert, D. Ouellette). **Jaseur boréal:** 2 près de Murdochville (Gaspésie) 11 juillet étaient au sud de leur aire de répartition (J. Roy-Drainville et al.). **Chardonneret jaune:** rare à cette latitude, un oiseau a été aperçu à Kuujuarapik 22 juillet (A. Daoust).

Bruant sauterelle: bien que des individus nicheurs soient présents régulièrement dans le comté de Pontiac, cette espèce est très rare ailleurs dans le sud du Québec. Cet été, un seul mâle a défendu un territoire à Godmanchester 1^{er} juin-21 juillet (M. Romar, B. Souter, pl.obs.). **Bruant noir et blanc:** un superbe mâle a fréquenté une mangeoire à Québec 11-12 juillet, une 20^e mention pour la province mais la deuxième seulement en juillet (J. Gagné, D. Lemieux). **Bruant de Nelson:** un à Gatineau 13-14 juin était peut-être un migrateur tardif (L. Noël, M. Saint-Gelais). **Carouge à tête jaune:** visiteur régulier de l'Ouest, cette espèce a été signalée dans 6 localités différentes en juin. **Sturnelle de l'Ouest:** une à Rivière-Éternité (Saguenay) 13 juin (A. Lavoie, M. Bélanger). **Oriole des vergers:** une femelle toujours à Pointe aux Loups (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) jusqu'au 9 juin (André Couture, B. Arseneau), un mâle à

Blue-winged Warbler: although suspected of nesting in the province for several years, it was never firmly confirmed. A juvenile bird photographed and banded at Godmanchester 22 July definitely corroborated this premise (McGill Bird Observatory). **Prothonotary Warbler:** a bird continued at Sainte-Foy until 3 June (m. obs.). **Hooded Warbler:** a female caused a big surprise in Mount-Royal Park 11 Jun when it was seen building a nest (R. Millot, m. obs.); even more confusing, it laid and incubated at least 4 eggs that had not hatched by 9 July after which time the bird left the area. No male has ever been seen around suggesting that the eggs had not been fertilized. Nevertheless, this represented a first nesting attempt by this species in the province. **Northern Cardinal:** in the wake of its huge movement toward eastern Québec last fall, the species expanded its breeding range to Matane where a pair raised 2 young 14-31 July (M. Ouellet). A pair was also reported at Rimouski 13 Jun-26 July (C. Douville et al.) and singles at Chicoutimi 8 July (J. Saint-Hilaire), Trois-Pistoles 17 July (JC. Pelletier), Grosse Île (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) 22 July (L. Imbeau), l'Étang du Nord (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) 23 July (L. Lemay, N. Guénette), and Rivière-du-Loup 26 July (R. Gagnon). **Indigo Bunting:** a pair was confirmed nesting at Rivière-Éternité, apparently a first for the Saguenay region (A. Lavoie, M. Bélanger, J. Normand).

Please report your interesting bird sightings to Pierre Bannon, by email at pierre.bannon@icloud.com

Tadoussac 4 juin (L. Desbordes), et un mâle nourrissant un juvénile à Pike River 22-23 juil (J. Simard, T. Jobin).

Paruline à ailes bleues: bien que nichant présumément dans la province depuis quelques années, elle n'a jamais été fermement confirmée. Un oiseau juvénile photographié et bague à Godmanchester 22 juil a définitivement corroboré cette possibilité (McGill Bird Observatory). **Paruline orangée:** un oiseau toujours présent à Sainte-Foy jusqu'au 3 juin (pl. obs.). **Paruline à capuchon:** une femelle a créé une grande surprise dans le parc du Mont-Royal 11 juin lorsqu'on l'a vue en train de construire un nid (R. Millot, pl. obs.); encore plus étrange, elle a pondu et incubé au moins 4 œufs qui n'avaient pas encore éclos 9 juil, après quoi l'oiseau a quitté la zone. Aucun mâle n'a été aperçu dans les environs, ce qui laisse présumer que les œufs n'avaient pas été fécondés. Néanmoins, il s'agissait d'une première tentative de nidification de cette espèce dans la province. **Cardinal rouge:** dans le sillage de son formidable mouvement vers l'est du Québec l'automne dernier, l'espèce a étendu son aire de reproduction jusqu'à Matane où un couple a élevé 2 jeunes 14-31 juil (M. Ouellet). Un couple a également été signalé à Rimouski 13 juin-26 juil (C. Douville et al.) ainsi que des oiseaux solitaires à Chicoutimi 8 juil (J. Saint-Hilaire), Trois-Pistoles 17 juil (JC. Pelletier), Grosse Île (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) 22 juil (L. Imbeau), l'Étang du Nord (Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine) 23 juil (L. Lemay, N. Guénette), et Rivière-du-Loup 26 juil (R. Gagnon). **Passerin indigo:** un couple a été confirmé nicheur à Rivière-Éternité, apparemment une première pour le Saguenay (A. Lavoie, M. Bélanger, J. Normand).

S'il-vous-plait, signalez vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon par courriel à pierre.bannon@icloud.com

by
Wayne
Grubert

Migration 101

Birds fly, and how! It may be the most important reason why we have been so enthralled with this diverse group since our first bipedal ancestors stood staring into the sky. Flight certainly makes members of the class Aves more conspicuous than individuals of most other zoological groups. And it goes without saying that we are more than just a little envious of this ability. We are also curious about the myriad physiological adaptations which must coalesce to allow flight to happen and remain in awe of the feats of migration made possible because of it. The last of these is the subject of this article. In future issues we hope to explore different aspects of this seasonal phenomenon but here we look at a few basic ideas along with some interesting terminology. Call it "Migration 101".





American Dipper, Altitudinal Migrant
Photo: Chuck Kling

The Feathered Tide

Those of us living in the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere have no trouble defining migration as the two way trip bringing birds to and from their summer and wintering grounds. Many birders live for what 19th century ornithologist Alfred Newton referred to as the "flow and ebb of the feathered tide" and anticipate spring and fall migration with relish each year. It should be noted here that these terms can be a little misleading. Anyone waiting for the autumnal equinox to begin searching for "fall migrants" will undoubtedly be disappointed to have missed many species of warblers, shorebirds etc. Some of the latter are on the move southward by early July. As examples, Semi-palmated Sandpiper numbers peak in August and Yellow Warblers may be hard to find by mid-September.

Before discussing different aspects of migration we should distinguish it from other major forms of avian movement readily observed by birders including foraging and dispersal. Foraging involves repeated movements around an individual bird's home range in search of food, be it summer or winter. Dispersal is a one-way trip usually undertaken by juveniles of certain species away from the nesting ground in search of new territories. (Think of it as a literal "spreading of wings").

It would be tempting to classify migration as simply the longest of these types of movement but for many species that is not the case.

Foraging would seem to involve the shortest travel distances for most birds but some species of seabird may fly hundreds, if not thousands, of kilometres of open ocean over several days collecting food before returning to their hungry chicks. Post-breeding dispersal of members of the Heron family among others may also involve movements of hundreds of kilometres.

Contrast this with mountainous regions where seasonal migration may simply mean moving up and down in altitude. Depending on the height of the mountain, this can be the equivalent of crossing many degrees of latitude in terms of habitats encountered from tropical forest at the base to the tundra biome at the peak. American Dippers inhabiting fast flowing mountain streams of western North America will descend to lower elevations if freeze-up shuts off their food supply. Dusky Grouse (along with Sooty Grouse, a fairly recent "split" of Blue Grouse) buck the usual trend of descending in winter and actually climb higher when the snow sets in, leaving their deciduous forest breeding grounds for upper level spruce forests.

Interestingly, individuals of this species often simply walk up the mountain ...not exactly the tremendous feat of endurance and navigation we tend to associate with avian migration. Where their ranges overlap, they may greet Mountain Quail doing the same thing but in the opposite direction.

Migration Patterns

On a local scale, keep these three types of movement...foraging, dispersal and migration... in mind as you observe birds at any time of year and try to determine which you are witnessing.

Returning to migration, one of the simplest questions to ponder is "why" do birds or other life forms do it? As with any behaviour in the natural world, the benefits must outweigh the risks. Moving either away from an area of scarce resources, or towards a region of bountiful supplies, must result in a higher survival rate despite seemingly increased energy costs and risk of predation en route. The key method of measuring "benefits" is determining survival rates that allow the passing of genes to the next generation. In other words, reproduce as individuals or risk your species becoming extinct.

Migration patterns come in different forms. All must have, in the past, resulted in the survival of individuals... and consequently species... at least to the point of reproducing. That closely related species can vary widely in their migration habits is interesting. (Think resident Hairy, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers versus migrating Northern Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers).

That individuals within a species can also choose different strategies may be even more intriguing. (All Blue Jays are resident? Try telling that to anyone who has stood on the tip of Point Pelee on an early May morning and watched hundreds plummeting out of the sky towards the closest shelter hoping to avoid the talons of waiting Merlins).

Meet the Locals

Humans love to classify forms and behaviors seen in the natural world albeit with varying degrees of success. So, doing our best to fit some square pegs into round holes, here is an attempt to categorize the various migration strategies observed in the avian world. (Many of the ideas presented here are found in much greater detail in The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Handbook of Bird Biology.)

The first classification is Resident. Easy enough to understand. The majority of individuals of these species stay within a relatively small home range all year round. For birders in temperate climates who live for migration, it may come as a surprise that there are more resident species than migrants in the world, a result of the sheer number of local birds found in tropical zones.

Next up are Facultative Migrants. Consider these as species that only migrate if they must because deteriorating conditions in the form of weather or diminishing food supplies make staying more risky than the perils of migration.



Pileated Woodpecker, Resident Species
Photo: Wayne Grubert



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Migrant Species
Photo: Wayne Grubert



Northern Flicker, Migrant Species
Photo: Connie Morgenstern



Top: Ruffed Grouse, Resident Species
Center: American Robin, Facultative Migrant
Bottom: Juvenile Least Sandpiper, Obligate Migrant
Photos: Wayne Grubert

Think of those American Robins that seem to be everywhere one winter and hard to find the next. Our locally breeding Canada Geese, as opposed to their High Arctic breeding brethren, may also fall into this category. In some winters, depending on the extent of freeze-up and depth of snow in local fields, a few may manage to eke out an existence and never leave. Others travel only a short distance and are back seemingly before we know it as temperatures rise and food sources are exposed.

Obligate Migrants migrate every year and the vast majority of the population are often on the move even before conditions begin to deteriorate. Photoperiod (day length) plays a primary role in determining when to leave and its effect on birds seems to be genetically controlled. A jump start from a passing cold front certainly does not hurt! Most groups of shorebirds seem to fit this category with predictable patterns of females, males and juveniles passing through our area in late summer/early autumn. That juveniles know the route without being led is one of the many marvels of migration. Warblers which depend to a large degree on insects for their diet must also leave us. Again many are on the move before it would seem to be absolutely necessary.

Partial Migrants may be considered a combination of the other categories where some populations migrate and some do not. Many species with large north-south ranges fall into this group with more southern individuals being resident and those breeding farther north being facultative or obligate. This sometimes results in an interesting phenomenon known as leapfrog migration where those summering farthest north winter the farthest south instead of the whole population simply shifting to lower latitudes.

Certain populations of American Robins would fall into this category as those breeding in the boreal forest, taiga or even tundra regions are certainly forced to leave their breeding grounds every year. Those in the southern United States might be considered permanent residents with little annual movement.

The rebels of the avian world with regard to migration pattern may fall into a category we will call Nomadic. In Canada some species breeding at higher latitudes from the boreal forest through to taiga and tundra regions may follow seemingly random paths in their yearly wanderings.

Often this is due to a smaller variety of nutrition being available. Fluctuation cycles in a key food source, with few alternatives available, can force birds out of an area. Unlike facultative migrants which often show philopatry (faithfulness to breeding sites) nomads may wander over vast areas searching for food and settle down and breed where they find it.

Snowy Owls may return to the same general area to breed or might settle hundreds of kilometres away. Check out projectsnowstorm.org to follow the travels of some individual Snowies including a few Montreal area celebrities).

By now it should be apparent that even at its most basic level migration is a very complicated process. Although most of the big questions have been formulated for a long time, the answers have been harder to come by. Teasing out the "why, where, when and especially how" has proven difficult. New discoveries brought about by improved technologies are reshaping our understanding of the phenomenon.

We certainly have come a long way since believing that swallows hibernated in the mud of streams or, more fantastically, migrated to the moon and back each year, but there is still so much to learn. We hope to explore other interesting aspects of migration in future issues.

For now, try putting some of the ideas presented here into practice. As you read these words, "fall" migration is well under way. When you observe different species on your outings try to categorize them as non-migrant residents, or, if that is not the case, decide whether they are facultative, obligate, partial or nomadic migrants. We predict there will be a few "head scratchers" among your sightings. Finally, with winter approaching, you might give some thought to the classification of migrant into which you personally fall as you cope with the harshest of seasons!



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Variegated Fairywren Malurus lamberti © Mat Gilfedder Macaulay Library

QUIZ

Fall Migration Means Shorebirds!

Presented by: Alain Goulet and  Nature-Expert
Specialists in binoculars and birding products in Quebec

Shorebirds are known to be great travellers, but do not all migrate during the same period. Birds born during the year will travel in juvenile plumage while adults will moult during migration. This makes it a real challenge for birders as different types of plumage will be seen within the same flock. Birds of these species can be seen in a wide variety of habitats such as flooded fields, mudflats, and rocky shores. By browsing eBird on the internet, you will be able to plan your outings according to current reports listed by other birders.

Here is a shorebird quiz that will put your knowledge to the test!

1. Which shorebird has the longest migration?
 - a. Pectoral Sandpiper
 - b. Least Sandpiper
 - c. Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 - d. Upland Sandpiper
2. What are the best places to observe migrating shorebirds?
 - a. In flooded fields
 - b. On rocky shores
 - c. In mudflats
 - d. All of the above
3. What is the most common breeding species in all inhabited regions of Quebec?
 - a. Semipalmated Plover
 - b. Piping Plover
 - c. Kildeer
 - d. Black-bellied Plover
4. Which species of sandpiper feeds in deep water?
 - a. American Woodcock
 - b. Red Knot
 - c. Ruddy Turnstone
 - d. Red-necked Phalarope
5. Which bird, when it shows up in our region, causes many birders to go looking for it?
 - a. Purple Sandpiper
 - b. Upland Sandpiper
 - c. Ruff
 - d. Wilson's Snipe

Answers on page 30

QUIZ

L'automne : la saison des oiseaux de ravage!

Présenté par : Alain Goulet et  Nature-Expert
Le spécialiste en jumelles et en produit pour l'ornithologie au Québec

L'automne est une bonne période pour observer les oiseaux de rivage, connus aussi sous le vocable "Limicole". Ces oiseaux sont reconnus comme étant de grands voyageurs; toutefois, ils ne migrent pas tous au cours de la même période à savoir, les oiseaux nés durant l'année voyageront avec leur plumage juvénile tandis que les adultes feront une mue durant leur migration. En conséquence, cela devient un véritable défi pour les observateurs puisque les plumages seront différents selon ces stades de mues. Les oiseaux de ces espèces peuvent être observés dans une grande variété d'habitats tels, les champs inondés, les vasières, et les grèves rocheuses. En parcourant le portail eBird Québec, il vous sera possible de planifier vos sorties d'observations selon les rapports déposés par d'autres observateurs.

Nous vous proposons un quiz qui mettra vos connaissances à l'épreuve pour ce groupe d'oiseaux.

1. Quel est l'oiseau de rivage qui effectue la migration la plus longue?
 - a. Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée
 - b. Bécasseau minuscule
 - c. Bécasseau roussâtre
 - d. Maubèche des champs
2. Quels sont les meilleurs endroits pour observer les oiseaux de rivage en migration?
 - a. Dans les champs inondés
 - b. Sur les grèves rocheuses
 - c. Dans les vasières
 - d. Toutes ces réponses
3. Quelles est l'espèce nicheuse la plus commune dans toutes les régions du Québec?
 - a. Pluvier semipalmé
 - b. Pluvier siffleur
 - c. Pluvier Kildir
 - d. Pluvier argenté
4. Quelle est l'espèce qui s'alimente en eau profonde?
 - a. Bécasse d'Amérique
 - b. Bécasseau Maubèche
 - c. Tournepière à collier
 - d. Phalarope à bec étroit
5. Quel est l'oiseau, lorsqu'il se présente dans nos régions, qui fait se déplacer beaucoup d'observateurs ?
 - a. Bécasseau violet
 - b. Maubèche des champs
 - c. Combattant varié
 - d. Bécassine de Wilson

Vous trouverez les réponses à la page 30



Photo: R. Gregson

by
**Richard
Gregson**

12 TIPS TO ATTRACT BIRDS THIS FALL

A BIRDER'S GARDEN

Whether you've been welcoming birds to your garden for years or this is something you are eager to try, making your outdoor space bird friendly has never been more important. Habitat loss and a host of other factors are making life hard for birds, as indeed for most other wildlife and especially the insects that birds feed on. For this "Fall Migration" issue, I was asked to share some seasonally appropriate notes for birders wanting to prepare their gardens for the birds that will visit in fall and winter. While no garden is too small to adapt for wildlife, the topic is big. To get started, here are a few "must do" tasks.

A growing trend, and something that will provide the quickest payoff in terms of attracting birds, is replacing a mown and boring lawn with native grasses and flowers. Including fruit-bearing shrubs in your garden design will bring birds to you in spring and summer. Birds will choose your garden rather than your neighbour's if it offers them food, shelter and sex (or at least a place to nest). While we can perhaps ignore assisting with the last of those three items, food and shelter are important year-round if you want to attract birds to your landscape.

As summer winds down, south-bound migration will take away a lot of the birds you've been enjoying in your garden over the last few months. That leaves the faithful residents, how we manage our gardens in the coming weeks will determine their future. Here are 12 bird friendly suggestions to welcome your fall and winter visitors.



Photos: R. Gregson



1. Keep the cat indoors

Good for the cat and good for the wildlife.

2. Don't cut it all down

Leave a few seed heads on some flowers and plants in your garden, and you'll feed finches and other small birds far into the autumn. Does it seem that your bright little American Goldfinches have disappeared for the winter? They'll still be out there in their drab winter plumage and will thank you for your care.

3. Don't rake it all up - leave some leaves!

Leave some leaf litter on your garden beds. This natural mulch will decompose and at the same time, offer great scuffling opportunities for ground-feeders.

4. A Scruffy Corner

If you have the time, space, and inclination, you could create a brush or log pile for the wild critters that share your outdoor space. Song Sparrows and their relatives will love you for it! Are you lucky enough to have Carolina wrens? Well, they really will benefit from a scruffy corner with branches and sheltered spaces. Few wildlife management practices can provide a more important part of wildlife habitat for the amount of effort than brush piles.

5. Have you lost a tree?

Rather than cutting it down, consider leaving it as a snag for wildlife. Dead and dying trees are important to a wide variety of birds - Woodpeckers, for example.

6. Let your lawn go

It's all about seed heads. Stop mowing your lawn in late summer, or at least a section of it. Let the long grass go to seed, after all it is natural bird food. Even in deep snow the taller stems will stand tall. Unmown lawn sections attract many species of winter resident and irruptive bird species. Those seed heads don't have to be cut down - there is no law that says your garden must be clean and sterile by the time that the snows arrive. You can do the clean-up in spring while waiting for the temperatures to rise at the end of April.

7. Just add water

During fall migration, when species not normally found in your area are passing through, an attractive birdbath can make them stop to bathe or drink. Make sure your bath is clean and in a spot where you can easily observe it throughout the day. When it gets truly cold have a heated bird bath. They use hardly any electricity and the birds simply adore them. They save your avian visitors a lot of energy, energy they can ill afford to lose, by having unfrozen water to drink rather than snow.

8. Clean out your nest boxes

Use hot soapy water and a scrub brush to clean, then rinse with boiling water to get rid of pests. (Please no pesticides or bleach. If you feel bleach is necessary, use no more than one part bleach to nine parts water and rinse thoroughly.)

After the box is dry, tuck it into the garage or shed to protect it from weathering. Or you could put it back out for small birds to roost in during the winter.

9. Clean up your bird feeders for winter use

Be ready for ice and snow. As with the nest box, a scrub brush and some mild soapy water will do the job. Make sure you have plenty of food in stock such as black sunflower seed, peanuts and suet blocks. Ensure that the feeders are regularly filled and that they are secure from squirrels while being near enough to some bushes to allow birds to retreat from the sudden appearance in the garden of a predatory Hawk.

10. Make your windows safe for migrants

Migrant birds get restless and almost hyperactive in the fall. Watch a red-eyed vireo chase a warbler all over your yard and you'll see what I mean. All this activity around your house can have tragic results if one or more of your windows is in a location where flying birds strike the glass.

11. Plan ahead for next year

You can't arrange this now if you have not started earlier but at least plan ahead for future winters and think about plants for next spring. Bushes with berries are very important. It's also important to have some plants that hold on to their fruit even when it's deep winter. Staghorn sumac, for example, offers berries that provide valuable calories for birds, and then in the summer its flowers attract a variety of beneficial insects.

Holly bushes are the ideal winter plant: red berries bring colour to a white winter landscape. Perhaps the best is the Winterberry, which unlike most hollies, loses its leaves in winter, so the berries stand out. Many birds find those berries irresistible.

Coneflowers attract bees all summer long and after flowering If you let the seed heads stand (see above), they will support seed-loving birds like finches and chickadees. These perennials are also relatively easy to grow, and they tolerate poor soil and drought. Similarly, Rudbeckias or Black-eyed Susan. Zinnias are beautiful annuals, and in the summer busy with pollinators. The flowers bloom into the fall until they face a killing frost. Allow the seed heads to remain after the plant has died back. Viburnum bushes will be replete with red berries going into the winter - but make sure to get the right varieties. I would suggest High-bush Cranberry. There are a number of horticultural varieties with extra big, extra red berries but for some reason many of those varieties are not favoured by the birds unless there is a serious winter famine. I guess they just don't taste good.

12. Participate in Citizen Science

Now that you've gone to all the effort to attract extra avian visitors to your outdoor space you can take pride in reporting the results! Sign up for Cornell's Project FeederWatch, which begins in early November and runs through mid-April. Please visit feederwatch.org for details.

Questions?

If you want to know more email me at greenbirding@gmail.com or perhaps attend one of my occasional illustrated talks on the subject. Remember: no garden is too small to adapt for wildlife!





FOCUS ON GRANTS

Every year BPQ is proud to award grants to fund research, conservation and education projects that are deemed to advance our ECO mission. These grants represent our largest annual financial outlay.

In this column we will provide progress reports from our grant recipients.

This issue's featured project is the MBO MAPS program

McGILL BIRD OBSERVATORY MAPS Program at Montée Biggar

Story and Photos by Ana Morales and Simon Duval

In addition to its migration monitoring efforts during the spring and fall migration periods, MBO also concentrates on a breeding bird monitoring project called MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship).

MAPS (run by the Institute for Bird Populations) is a continent-wide network of hundreds of constant-effort mist netting stations that capture and band landbirds during the breeding season. MAPS is a cooperative effort among public agencies, private organizations, and the bird banders of the continental United States, Canada, and Mexico to provide critical, long-term data on population and demographic parameters for over 150 target landbird species at multiple spatial scales. The MAPS program has two major management objectives: to determine the cause of population declines, if any, and to devise habitat management actions and conservation strategies to reverse population declines.

Thanks to a grant from Bird Protection Quebec, MBO was able to expand their MAPS efforts to monitor the breeding bird populations at BPQ's newly acquired sanctuary: Montée Biggar. This sanctuary is home to the highest density of breeding Golden-winged Warblers in the province.

Bird Protection Quebec is looking at options for managing the habitat for Golden-winged Warblers. This fits right with the second objective of MAPS mentioned above. With a MAPS station at Montée Biggar, BPQ will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the management actions that will take place, and whether or not they will result in increased productivity for Golden-winged Warblers and the many other passerines that use the area.

The grant provided by BPQ allows MBO to operate 12 mist nets placed along the length of the sanctuary, covering all of the different habitats present at the site. Banding takes place on a single day during each of seven consecutive ten-day periods between late May and early August. In addition to operating mist nets, MBO banders and volunteers gather breeding bird evidence on all species heard or seen during each banding day.

The results of the 2021 banding sessions follow.



POINT DE MIRE SUR LES SUBVENTIONS

Chaque année, POQ est fier d'accorder des subventions pour financer des projets de recherche, de conservation et d'éducation qui sont considérés comme faisant avancer notre mission ECO. Ces subventions représentent notre plus grande dépense financière annuelle.

Le projet vedette présenté dans ce numéro est le programme MAPS de l'OOM

OBSERVATOIRE D'OISEAUX DE MCGILL **Programme MAPS à Montée Biggar**

Article et Photos : Ana Morales et Simon Duval

En plus de leurs efforts de surveillance de la migration pendant le printemps et l'automne, l'OOM se concentre également sur un projet de surveillance des oiseaux nicheurs MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship).

MAPS (dirigé par le « Institute for Bird Populations ») est un réseau à échelle continentale de centaines de stations de baguage à effort constant qui capturent et baguent les oiseaux terrestres pendant la saison de reproduction. MAPS est un effort de coopération entre les agences publiques, les organisations privées et les bagueurs d'oiseaux des États-Unis, du Canada et du Mexique pour fournir des données critiques à long terme sur la population et les paramètres démographiques de plus de 150 espèces d'oiseaux terrestres. Le programme MAPS a deux objectifs principaux : déterminer la cause des déclin de certaines populations d'oiseaux, et concevoir des actions de gestion de l'habitat et des stratégies de conservation pour inverser les déclin de ces populations.

Grâce à une subvention de Protection des oiseaux Québec, MBO a pu étendre ses efforts de MAPS pour surveiller les populations d'oiseaux nicheurs sur le nouveau sanctuaire de la POQ : La Montée Biggar. Ce sanctuaire abrite la plus grande densité de Parulines à ailes dorées nicheuses de la province.

Protection des oiseaux Québec cherche des options pour la gestion de l'habitat de la Paruline à ailes dorées sur la Montée Biggar. Cela correspond parfaitement au deuxième objectif de MAPS mentionné ci-dessus. Avec une station MAPS à la montée Biggar, la POQ sera en mesure d'évaluer l'efficacité des actions de gestion qui seront mises en place et si elles se traduiront ou non par une productivité accrue pour la Paruline à ailes dorées et les nombreux autres passereaux qui nichent sur le site.

La subvention accordée par POQ permet à l'OOM d'opérer 12 filets japonais placés le long du sanctuaire, couvrant l'ensemble des différents habitats présents sur le site. Le baguage a lieu une seule journée pendant chacune des sept périodes de dix jours entre la fin mai et le début août. En plus d'opérer la station de baguage, les bagueurs de l'OOM et plusieurs bénévoles collectent des données de reproduction sur toutes les espèces vues et entendues pendant chaque journée de baguage.

Les résultats des sessions de baguage de 2021 suivent.

Session 1 -

June 6: We banded 52 birds of 15 species and recaptured 13 individuals. The most common species were Song Sparrow (11 individuals) and Common Yellowthroat (7 individuals). As for observations, the team recorded a total of 58 species, including the famous Grasshopper Sparrow present on site this summer.

Photos: Golden-winged Warbler, one of the specialities at Montée Biggar, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird.



Session 1 -

Le 6 juin : Nous avons bagué 52 oiseaux de 15 espèces et recapturé 13 individus. Les espèces les plus communes étaient le Bruant chanteur (11 individus) et la Paruline masquée (7 individus). Du côté des observations, l'équipe a recensé un total de 58 espèces, dont le fameux Bruant sauterelle présent sur le site cet été.

Photos : Paruline à ailes dorées, une des spécialités de la Montée Biggar, et Colibri à gorge rubis.

Session 2 -

June 16: We banded 43 birds of 14 species and recaptured 20 individuals. Just like during the first session, the most common species were Song Sparrow (11 individuals) and Common Yellowthroat (7 individuals). As for observations, the team recorded a total of 52 species.

Photo: Brewster's Warbler (hybrid golden-winged x blue-winged)

Photo : Paruline de Brewster (hybride ailes dorées x ailes bleues)



Session 2 -

Le 16 juin : Nous avons bagué 43 oiseaux de 14 espèces et recapturé 20 individus. Tout comme la première session, les espèces les plus communes étaient le Bruant chanteur (11 individus) et la Paruline masquée (7 individus). Du côté des observations, l'équipe a recensé un total de 52 espèces.

Photo: Blue-winged Warbler, one of the rarest species to breed on the Montée Biggar property!

Photo: Parulines à ailes bleues, une des espèces les plus rares qui nichent à la Montée Biggar

Session 3 -

June 23: We banded 33 birds of 16 species and recaptured 15 individuals. The most common species banded were Common Yellowthroat (9 individuals), Black-capped Chickadee (4 individuals) and Red-eyed Vireo (3 individuals). As for observations, the team recorded an impressive total of 65 species.

Session 3 -

Le 23 juin : Nous avons bagué 33 oiseaux de 16 espèces et recapturé 15 individus. Les espèces les plus communes au baguage étaient la Paruline masquée (9 individus), la Mésange à tête noire (4 individus) et le Viréo aux yeux rouges (3 individus). Du côté des observations, l'équipe a recensé un impressionnant total de 65 espèces.

Session 4 -

July 4: We banded 54 birds of 17 species and recaptured 24 individuals. The most common species banded were Black-capped Chickadee with an impressive total of 20 individuals banded, Song Sparrow (8 individuals) and Chestnut-sided Warblers (6 individuals). As for observations, the team recorded a total of 52 species.

Photo: A rare female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with a black cap. Usually the cap is red in this species!!



Session 4 -

Le 4 juillet : Nous avons bagué 54 oiseaux de 17 espèces et recapturé 24 individus. Les espèces les plus communes au baguage étaient la Mésange à tête noire avec un impressionnant total de 20 individus bagués, le Bruant chanteur (8 individus) et la Paruline à flancs marron (6 individus). Du côté des observations, l'équipe a recensé un total de 52 espèces.

Photo: Une très rare femelle Pic Maculé avec une calotte noire, alors qu'elle est généralement rouge chez cette espèce!!

Session 5 -

July 12: We banded 59 birds of 23 species and recaptured 16 individuals. The most common species banded were Common Yellowthroat with 6 individuals and a 4-way tie with 5 individuals each of Black-capped Chickadee, Veery, Song Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. As for observations, the team recorded a total of 51 species including a flyover Double-crested Cormorant, a first for the MAPS program.

Photos: spotlight on juveniles with a Brown Thrasher, an Eastern Phoebe and a Wood Thrush.

Photos : les juvéniles à l'honneur, dans l'ordre Moqueur roux, Moucherolle phébi et Grive des bois.



Session 6 -

July 22: We banded 40 birds of 17 species and recaptured 14 individuals. Session 6 is usually when we start to see juvenile Gray Catbirds and this session was no exception. Gray Catbird was the most common species with a total of 7 individuals banded. As for observations, the team recorded 53 species.



Photos: a first for the MAPS program at Montée Biggar, a juvenile Blue-winged Warbler and a very common juvenile Gray Catbird!!

Session 6 -

Le 22 juillet : Nous avons bagué 40 oiseaux de 17 espèces et recapturé 14 individus. La session 6 est généralement celle où les jeunes Moqueurs chat font leur arrivée sur le site et cette session ne fût pas différente! Le Moqueur fût l'espèce la commune avec un total de 7 individus. Du côté des observations, l'équipe a recensé 53 espèces.



Photos : une première pour le suivi MAPS de la Montée Biggar, une Paruline à ailes bleues juvénile et le très commun Moqueur chat juvénile!!

Session 7 -

The final session took place on **July 31:** We banded 43 birds of 22 species and recaptured 7 individuals. The most common species banded were Trail's Flycatcher (9 individuals) and Black-capped Chickadee (8 individuals). As for observations, the team recorded 57 species.



*Photos: Swainson's Thrush, a first record of molt migrant for the site, a Black-and-white Warbler and a Golden-winged Warbler
Photos : Grive à dos olive, une première mention d'un migrateur de mue pour le site, Paruline noir-et-blanc et Parulines à ailes dorées*

Session 7 -

La dernière session a eu lieu **le 31 juillet.** Nous avons bagué 43 oiseaux de 22 espèces et recapturé 8 individus. Les espèces les plus communes étaient le Moucherolle des aulnes/des saules (9 individus) et la Mésange à tête noire (7 individus). Du côté des observations, l'équipe a recensé 57 espèces.

Two of the members of the MBO banding team : Ana Morales (eating a bagel!) and Kristen Lalla



Photo: Darlene Harvey



Focus On Education

BPQ presents a series of monthly lectures from October through April. Events will continue via Zoom until the situation permits a return to in-person meetings.

Monday, October 4, 2021

7 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Purple Martins in Quebec: Studying behaviour to fill in knowledge gaps in their annual cycle

Speaker: Kristen Lalla

Purple martins are North America's largest swallow. Like many other aerial insectivores, their populations are declining, especially in the northeastern part of their range. With the goal of better understanding the purple martin's decline, Kristen's research focuses on behaviour in several parts of their annual cycle. Using biologging technology, juvenile dispersal and adult foraging behaviour in relation to habitat were studied. During the presentation, Kristen will discuss the results and conservation implications of her master's research.



About our Speaker

Kristen is a master's student at McGill in Natural Resource Sciences studying purple martins under the supervision of Dr. Kyle Elliott. She completed her undergrad at McGill in Environment and aims to finish her master's by the end of this year. Growing up in the Eastern Townships sparked her interest in birds and nature. In her free time, Kristen can be found birding, baking, gardening, or fulfilling her BPQ duties as a board member and chair and co-chair of the Conservation and Education committees, respectively.

Monday, November 1, 2021

7 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Costa Rica: Birding Paradise

Speaker: Gustavo Orozco

Gustavo will introduce us to the wonders of the eastern slope, central region and Cordillera Highlands of Costa Rica. In 1994, Gustavo purchased 300 acres of pristine tropical rainforest in the mountain valley near his home town of San Ramon. Over the years, he has been able to establish there the Jamaical Research Station which currently hosts university students conducting biological research.. The station is located in a region of Costa Rica that is considered to be one of the most biologically rich eco-systems in the western hemisphere. His goal is to help ensure among other species the future of such iconic mammals as Jaguars and Tapirs and rare birds such as the Three-wattled Bellbird and the Bare-necked Umbrellabird.



About our Speaker

Gustavo was born and raised in the mountain valleys of central Costa Rica. He was mentored by his grandfather who encouraged Gustavo's love of nature and developed his expertise in bird lore from an early age. This passion for tropical forest ecosystems compelled Gustavo to study biology at the University of Kansas and the University of Costa Rica. Over the years he has become one of Costa Rica's outstanding conservationists and birding guides with over 30 years of experience in the field.

Monday, December 6, 2021

7 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Montée Biggar Sanctuary: A Birding Spot Full of Surprises

Speakers: Yong Lang and Ana Morales

The 87 acre Montée Biggar property near Huntingdon was purchased by BPQ in August, 2018. Our ability to protect important habitats through our sanctuary network is a direct result of the Alf Kelly legacy and through your membership fees, financial contributions and donations of land, most recently the extensive Lucas property near Montebello. After the Lac-St. Francois-Reserve Montée Biggar is the most important birding spot in southwestern Quebec. Since 2009 eBirders have tallied no fewer than 187 species. Yong and Ana will profile the different habitats of the Sanctuary. They will also discuss key projects related to our MAPS banding and Golden-Winged Warbler research, and other interesting birds attracted to the site.

About our Speakers

Yong Lang and Ana Morales are members of the Board and the Sanctuaries Committee of BPQ.



Ana Morales

Yong is a wildlife biologist working at the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec. She is one of the nature lovers who initially highlighted the importance of preserving Montée Biggar for the generations to come. Ana is a recent MSc graduate at McGill, a bander at the McGill Bird Observatory and Chair of the Sanctuaries Committee. She has been coordinating the MAPS project at Montée Biggar since 2019.



Yong Lang



Global Bird Rescue (GBR) September 27 to October 3, 2021

Global Bird Rescue uses the Global Bird Collision Mapper (GBCM) to document bird-building collisions worldwide. Each year, during the first week in October, teams and individuals take to the streets to search for birds that have collided with buildings in their community, to social media to raise awareness about this conservation issue and take measures to make their own windows bird-safe.

Learn more at globalbirdrescue.org

Did you know? During the peak of fall bird migration in North America, an estimated 4 billion birds will navigate built environments as they travel southward to their wintering grounds. Millions of birds will not arrive at their destination due to a fatal collision with a building.

Trees and Shrubs that Attract Birds

ONE of the best ways to increase the bird population is to plant such vegetation as will provide food and shelter.

A hedge of wild fruits will protect cultivated fruits as birds usually prefer the former. Amongst the best trees and shrubs are the following:

Mulberry, black and choke cherry, shadbush, June berry, dogwood, mountain ash, white ash, Manitoba maple, balsam fir, red cedar, white spruce, pine, sumac, hawthorn, bar berry, cranberry, grape, honeysuckle, Virginia creeper and sunflower.

An excerpt from page 13 of BPQ's *The Message of the Rossignol* (1920)

In this and future editions of this column you'll find excerpts and/or photos from the BPQ archives. This month's choice fits in with our fall themed gardening article on page 19.

From its founding in 1917, BPQ has always been a strong voice for the conservation of birds and bird habitat in Quebec. Not just with large scale projects such as establishing sanctuaries or citizen science endeavours, but also in more direct ways through education and public awareness efforts. One of BPQ's earliest publications was *The Message of the Rossignol* in 1920. The 18-page booklet served as a handbook for members and covered all manner of advice for how citizens could become advocates for our feathered friends

One suggestion noted in the booklet was that "every community should have a protected plot containing a bird bath, drinking-fountains, food houses, lunch counters, bird houses and safe thickets for nesting." To a certain extent, this vision has been fulfilled in a number of parks in and around the Montreal area where feeder installations are made possible by funding from BPQ.

Interestingly, even 100 years ago, the authors of the handbook noted that bird lovers noticed "a lack of opportunities for nesting" and that there were "now very few hedges, and most of the streams and creeks which were bordered with rushes and vines are dried or filled up." Certainly the concern over the loss of habitat is a sentiment echoed in this month's article on fall gardening. The need for bird friendly gardening practices, it seems, is not a new "thing!"



Photo: Jean Boulva
PQSPB field trip at Côte-Sainte-Catherine, 23 November 1963

Answers to the shorebird quiz


1. **a) The Pectoral Sandpiper** has the longest migration of all shorebirds. It nests in the Arctic and winters in South America, all the way down to Argentina. We can observe it in Quebec more commonly during the fall migration. Interestingly, the male starts its migration before the female.
2. **d) All of the above.** Shorebirds are found in all these habitats in order to feed. For example, we find Pectoral Sandpipers in flooded fields where they find terrestrial insects and invertebrates. Dunlins feed on mollusks, crustaceans and marine worms on muddy shores, mudflats and flooded fields. Finally, we find Purple Sandpipers on rocky shores.
3. **c) Kildeer** is the shorebird that nests in all inhabited regions of Quebec. The people of Magdalen Islands have the privilege of observing nesting Piping Plovers. It is the only place in Quebec where it is possible to observe Piping Plovers during the breeding season. The Black-bellied Plover nests in the Arctic tundra. Semipalmated Plovers nest in Northern Quebec, Anticosti and the Magdalen Islands.
4. **d) Red-necked Phalarope**, along with Wilson's and Red Phalaropes, rotate while swimming, creating a whirlpool that causes insect larvae, worms and shrimp to come to the surface where phalaropes can catch them. Woodcocks catch insects on the ground and in flight. Ruddy Turnstones, hence its name, turn stones on the shore and feed on the larvae and mollusks that it finds.
5. **c) The Ruff** may occasionally be observed in Quebec, and usually in migration, as it nests in Europe. It comes from northern Europe and Asia. The Purple Sandpiper is found mostly in the coastal regions of eastern Quebec and the Maritimes. The Upland Sandpiper nests in hay fields and short-grass habitats such as pastures. Fields that are close to marshes and bogs are the favorite nesting sites for Wilson's Snipe.



Réponses au quiz sur les limicoles

1. **a) Le Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée** est l'oiseau de rivage qui effectue la plus longue migration à savoir, il niche dans l'Arctique et hiverne en Amérique du sud, jusqu'en Argentine. Nous pouvons l'observer au Québec plus spécifiquement lors de la migration automnale. Fait intéressant à mentionner, le mâle amorce sa migration avant la femelle.
2. **d) Toutes ces réponses.** Selon l'espèce, les oiseaux de rivages se retrouvent dans tous ces endroits pour s'alimenter. Par exemple, nous retrouvons le Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée dans les champs inondés où il trouve des insectes terrestres et des invertébrés. Le Bécasseau variable s'alimente de mollusques, de crustacés et de vers marins sur les rivages boueux, les vasières et les champs inondés. Enfin, nous retrouvons le Bécasseau violet sur les grèves rocheuses.
3. **c) Le Pluvier Kildir** est l'oiseau de rivage qui niche dans toutes les régions habitées du Québec. Les insulaires des Iles-de-la-Madeleine ont le bonheur d'observer la nichée du Pluvier siffleur; d'ailleurs c'est le seul endroit au Québec où il est possible d'observer le Pluvier siffleur. Le Pluvier argenté, quant à lui, niche dans la toundra arctique. Le Pluvier semipalmé niche pour sa part au Nouveau-Québec, à Anticosti et aux Iles-de-la-Madeleine.
4. **d) Le Phalarope à bec étroit** et ses deux congénères, le Phalarope à bec large et le Phalarope de Wilson nagent en tournant, créant ainsi un tourbillon qui fait monter les larves d'insectes, les vers et les crevettes d'eau douce à la surface où ils peuvent les saisir. La Bécasse d'Amérique capture des insectes dans le sol et en vol. Le Tournepièce à collier, d'où son nom, retourne les pierres sur les rivages et s'alimente des larves et des mollusques qu'il débusque.
5. **c) Le Combattant varié** peut-être occasionnellement observé au Québec et essentiellement en migration car il niche en Europe. Il provient du nord de l'Europe et de l'Asie. Le Bécasseau violet se retrouve surtout dans les régions côtières de l'est du Québec et des maritimes. Comme son nom l'indique, la Maubèche des champs niche dans les champs de foin et les lieux où l'herbe est courte comme les pâturages. Les champs, près des marais et des tourbières sont les sites favoris où la Bécassine de Wilson niche et peut-être observée.

Marbled Godwit / Barge marbrée
Photo: David Bird



Why drink Bird Protection Quebec's Shade Grown Coffee?

Your purchase helps support our work here at home and winter habitat for northern breeding birds. Species like the Golden-winged Warbler found at BPQ's Montée Biggar sanctuary migrate to shade grown coffee farms in the winter. The coffee you choose matters to BPQ and the birds!

Available online at cafebirdfriendly.org