

Issue 65-1
September 2022



Fall Migration

News for Members



The SONG SPARROW

Bird Protection Quebec - Mission Statement

VISION

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

MISSION

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



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Vice-Presidents	Sheldon Harvey Ana Morales Kristen Lalla
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ON THE COVER

Canada Warbler
Photo courtesy of Mathias Mutzl

Photo this page: Simon Duval

A Word FROM THE EDITORS

We're back for the start of a new birding season and it feels like we were never gone! As usual, our Montreal summer has flown by in the blink of an eye, but the "glass half full" for birders is that fall migration is in full swing with all the special treats it brings.

In this issue, feature writer Wayne Grubert brings us the third instalment in his migration series titled "Timing is Everything" (this one is a little different and is sure to get you thinking), while Richard Gregson reminds us how to best prepare our gardens for winter in a bird-friendly way. We also bring you Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh's thirteenth and final article in their in-depth series on hawk migration in the Montreal area that began as part of the BPQ centenary celebrations in 2017. We're hoping that despite the "final" descriptor they will be back with more stories for us soon, though, since they have teased a couple of new topics in this article!

Our regular columns are also back, starting with, for the first time since the Covid pandemic began, a full slate of Upcoming Field Trips organized by our field trip committee, and the return of our monthly lectures. Jeff Harrison has lined up some fascinating speakers for the first three instalments so be sure to block off the first Monday of each month in your agenda! Also, if you've been thinking about investing in a spotting scope, Alain Goulet brings us Birding Basics this issue, offering all the information you need to make an informed choice.

Connie was unavailable to edit this issue, so any mistakes, missteps or omissions are mine alone. She'll be back next issue, thankfully!

Happy fall birding, try not to let those confusing fall warblers drive you too crazy.

Darlene



Migration means ... confusing fall warblers!

La migration et les parulines !

Yellow-rumped Warbler / Paruline à croupion jaune

Photo: Darlene Harvey



Northern Parula / Paruline à collier

Photo: Darlene Harvey

Cape May Warbler / Paruline Tigrée

Photo: Tom Long



Magnolia Warbler / Paruline à tête cendrée

Photo: Tom Long

Focus on

OUR MEMBERS



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming the following new and returning members:

Christiane Poirier, Alexandra Camargo, Irene Svoronos, Marianne Roy, Deborah Brin, Marie White, Carol Wightman, Benoit Legault, and Michael Bueckert.

We look forward to meeting you, either on Zoom at a monthly meeting or in the field, now that our field trip committee has announced a full slate of trips for the fall season! Keep reading this issue for details of our planned activities, and be sure to follow us on Facebook and to join our Song Sparrow [e-list group](#) to connect with fellow members.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Current memberships expire on September 30, so, unless you are a Life Member or a new member who joined after March 1, 2022, it's time to renew your support and remain a part of BPQ, one of the oldest bird conservation charities in Canada!

Keep an eye out for the renewal notice that will have hit your inbox by now ... or simply click [here](#) to go to our website, where it is easy to renew online 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.

BIENVENUE AUX NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

Veillez vous joindre à nous pour accueillir les nouveaux membres et anciens membres qui ont renouvelé leur adhésion qui suivent:

Christiane Poirier, Alexandra Camargo, Irene Svoronos, Marianne Roy, Deborah Brin, Marie White, Carol Wightman, Benoit Legault, et Michael Bueckert.

Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer, que ce soit par Zoom lors d'une réunion mensuelle ou sur le terrain, maintenant que notre comité d'excursion annonce une liste complète d'excursions pour la saison d'automne ! Continuez à lire ce numéro pour plus de détails sur les activités prévues, et n'oubliez pas de nous suivre sur Facebook et de rejoindre notre [groupe de liste électronique](#) « Songsparrow » pour vous connecter avec d'autres membres.

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 2022, 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!

Gardez l'œil ouvert pour l'avis de renouvellement qui sera déjà arrivé dans votre boîte de réception ... ou cliquez [ici](#) pour accéder à notre site Web et renouveler facilement en ligne avec votre carte de crédit par l'entremise de PayPal (pas nécessaire d'avoir un compte PayPal) ou, si vous préférez payer par chèque, en suivant les instructions « Si vous préférez payer par chèque » au bas de la page.

How can you do more for the birds? Why not volunteer!

Our coordinator, Jules Delisle, is in the process of building a bank of volunteers that can be drawn on to assist our committees as needed for specific projects. Any and all skills are helpful, ranging from carpentry to administration to bird identification for censusing. The only experience necessary is a love of birds!

If you have been wondering how you can help, let us know about your interests and abilities by completing the "Become a Volunteer" form available [here](#) and returning it to Jules at: protectionoiseauxquebec@gmail.com or, if you have questions, don't hesitate to simply send them an email.

BPQ volunteers at work

The most recent sanctuary project completed by a team of enthusiastic volunteers was the repair of the roof of the structure at the entrance to our George H. Montgomery Sanctuary in Phillipsburg. Knowing how much Eastern Phoebes love to nest on wooden structures (especially roofs!), they even thought to add platforms just for this purpose.

Récemment, des bénévoles ont travaillé fort pour réparer le toit de la structure à l'entrée du Sanctuaire George H. Montgomery à Phillipsburg. Des plateformes pour le Moucherolle phébi ont même été installées, parce qu'ils adorent nicher dans les structures en bois - en particulier les toits!

In August, members of our marketing committee were invited to the Huntingdon Fair, where they set up our BPQ kiosk. As well as talking up BPQ to attendees, they also demonstrated to children how to make a DIY bird feeder and gave out kits (and sometimes a pre-made feeder!) containing everything needed to try it out themselves at home.

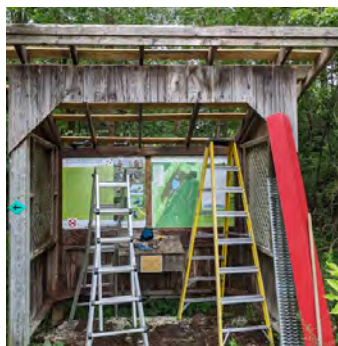
En août, notre comité de marketing a été invité à tenir un kiosque à la foire de Huntingdon. En plus de parler de POQ aux participants, ils ont également fait une démonstration aux enfants sur la façon de fabriquer une mangeoire et leur ont donné un kit avec tout ce dont ils avaient besoin pour l'essayer eux-mêmes à la maison.

Que pouvez-vous faire de plus pour aider les oiseaux ? Faire du bénévolat !

Notre coordonnateur, Jules Delisle, est en train de constituer une banque de bénévoles qui peuvent être sollicités pour aider nos comités selon les besoins pour des projets individuels. Toutes les compétences sont utiles, de la menuiserie à l'administration en passant par l'identification des oiseaux pour le recensement. La seule expérience requise est l'amour des oiseaux !

Si vous vous demandez comment vous pouvez nous aider, faites-nous part de vos intérêts et de vos capacités en remplissant le formulaire " Devenir bénévole " disponible [ici](#) et en le renvoyant à Jules à l'adresse suivante : protectionoiseauxquebec@gmail.com, ou, si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à leur envoyer un courriel.

Bénévoles sur le terrain



BEFORE

&

APRÈS



Photos : Jules Delisle

Photos: Darlene Harvey





Focus on FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Summer Series of Birding

by Sheldon Harvey

Following two years of Covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021, BPQ resumed its annual "Summer Series of Birding" in-person field trips in 2022. This was the 19th consecutive year of the Summer Series, and consisted this year of eight outings beginning on July 2 and ending on August 27. The locations visited, and the species count for each, were:

Week 1: Ile-de-la-Visitation, Montreal – 32 species

Week 2: Cooper Marsh, S. Lancaster, ON – 53 species

Week 3: Laval Cemetery, Laval – 47 species

Week 4: Domaine-de-la-Pêche-au-Saumon, Sainte-Martine, and Gué de Mercier and the Mercier Sewage Lagoons, Mercier – 56 species

Week 5: Lacolle, and Sentier de la Nature & Ruisseau McFee, Venise-en-Quebec – 39 species

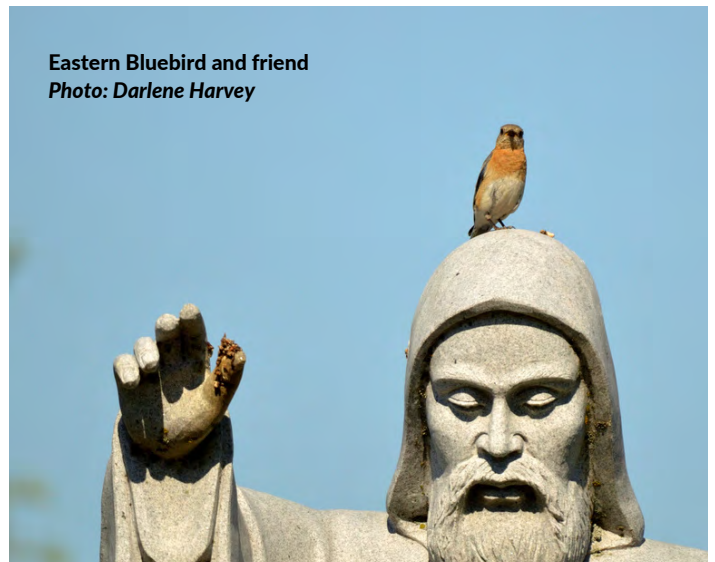
Week 6: Bois-de-Liesse, Saint-Laurent – 37 species

Week 7: Carillon Dam, Pointe-Fortune to Hudson – 57 species

Week 8: Domaine Florent Campgrounds, Venise-en-Quebec – 62 species



Cimetière Laval Cemetery
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Eastern Bluebird and friend
Photo: Darlene Harvey

The eight field trips combined produced a total of 119 different species, an average of 48 species per trip. The average number of participants on each trip was 21, with a high of 27 and a low of 14.

A report for each weekend's trip was posted, with accompanying photos shared by participants, on BPQ's Facebook page and Facebook group, as well as on the BPQ iO Songsparrow Group. E-bird reports were also submitted for each trip.

This summer two species were seen for the first time in the 19 years of Summer Series field trips. These were an American Golden Plover and a Red Knot, both seen at the Week 8 trip to Venise-en-Quebec. These two additions bring our total species count for all 19 summers to 234.

A few other highlights from this summer included 18 species of shorebirds, all six species of Swallows/Martins, and 13 warbler species.

My thanks to my field trip committee co-chair Wayne Grubert for filling in for me on two of the eight field trips, and thank you to all of the birders whose participation contributed to another successful and enjoyable summer of birding. We all look forward to our 20th anniversary season of the Summer Series of Birding in 2023!

American Golden Plover
Photo: Darlene Harvey



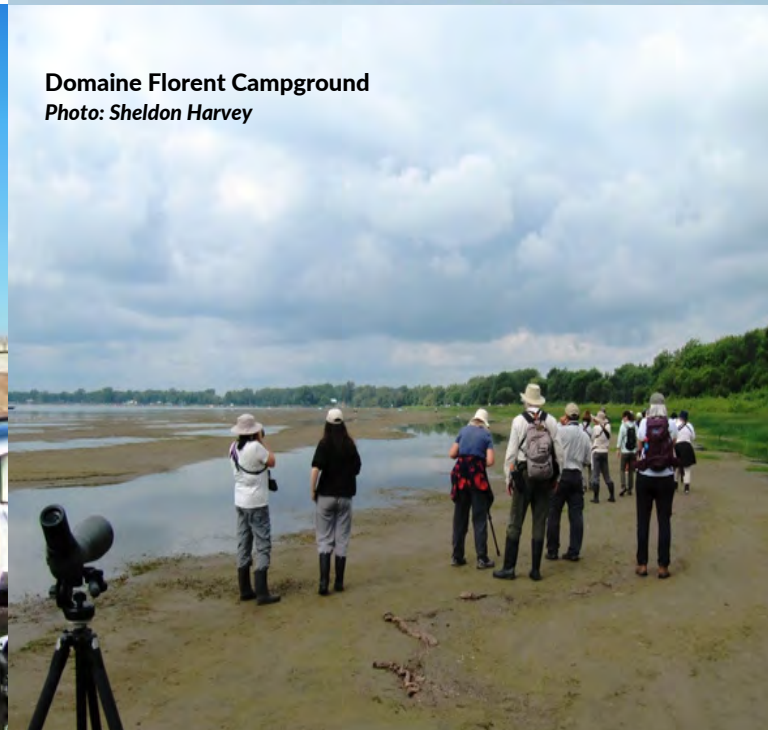
Red Knot
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Carillon Dam
Photo: Sheldon Harvey



Domaine Florent Campground
Photo: Sheldon Harvey





Upcoming Field Trips

The first two fall trips took place before The Song Sparrow's publication date:

Saturday September 17 / samedi 17 septembre
REFUGE FAUNIQUE MARGUERITE-D'YOUVILLE,
ÎLE SAINT-BERNARD

Guide: Tom Long

Saturday September 24 / samedi 24 septembre
MONTRÉAL TECHNOPARK, VILLE SAINT-LAURENT

Guide: Émile Brisson-Curadeau

Saturday October 1 / samedi 1er octobre
PARC DE LA FRAYÈRE, BOUCHERVILLE
<https://goo.gl/maps/ktQvfi2tt9n>

Guides: Sheldon & Darlene Harvey
Tel: 450-462-1459 Cell (day of trip only): 514-629-3874
Email: ve2shw@yahoo.com

8:00 am The park is a little less than 30 minutes from the South Shore side of the Champlain Bridge. From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge to the first exit off the bridge. Follow Highway 20/Highway 132 East, heading towards Varennes/Longueuil. Continue east on Highway 20/132. Note that highways 20 and 132 split at the exit for Quebec City & Hippolyte-Lafontaine Tunnel. Stay to the left at this exit, continuing east on Highway 132. Continue to the traffic lights at Boul. de la Marine/Boul. Lionel Boulet (Highway 229). Turn left on to boul. de la Marine, heading north towards the waterfront. Cross the railway tracks and turn left at the traffic lights at boul. Marie Victorin. Continue on boul. Marie Victorin, past the hydro pylons. You will see an entrance road into the parking lot for the Parc de la Frayere on your right. Parking is free. Note: Highway 132 East can also be accessed from the Mercier, Victoria, or Jacques-Cartier bridges Once you are on Highway 132 east, route instructions above apply. *Half-day - walking trip*

8h00 Le parc de la Frayère se situe à moins de 30 minutes du pont Champlain sur la rive sud de Montréal. Depuis Montréal, utilisez le pont Champlain et empruntez la première sortie (la 20/132 est en direction Varennes/Longueuil). Poursuivre votre chemin sur la 20/132 est. Soyez cependant attentif à l'approche de la jonction du pont-tunnel Louis-H Lafontaine et de la 20 en direction de Québec. Gardez le centre-gauche de la route 132 et poursuivez votre chemin jusqu'aux prochains feux de circulation au boul. de la Marine/boul. Lionel Boulet (Route 229). Tournez à gauche sur la boul. de la Marine et après avoir traversé la voie ferrée, tournez à gauche sur boul. Marie-Victorin, continuez jusqu'au parc de La Frayère après avoir passé outre les pylônes de l'Hydro. Le stationnement (gratuit) se trouve sur votre droite. Note: Voici des options pour atteindre la route 132 dépendant de votre point de départ: les ponts Mercier, Victoria, ou Jacques-Cartier vous permettront de rejoindre la 132 est; rendu sur la 132 est, suivez les instructions ci-dessus.
Demi-journée - excursion à pied

Saturday October 8 / samedi 8 octobre
PARC-NATURE DE LA POINTE-AUX-PRAIRIES, MONTREAL
<https://goo.gl/maps/XMqELZwnJWpHYji9A>

Guide: Claude Cloutier
Email: claudecloutier15@gmail.com

8:00 am 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 to the second parking lot, looking for the green sign indicating "Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies - SECTEUR DES MARAIS - 12 300." The parking lot is located at the Pavillon des Marais, at 12,300 Gouin Blvd. East. Parking: \$9.75 (credit card). *Half day - walking trip*

8h00 À partir de l'autoroute 40 est, prendre la sortie pour le boulevard Gouin (sortie 92). Tourner à gauche, direction ouest, sur le boulevard Gouin. Continuer sur Gouin sur une distance de 1,9 km jusqu'au deuxième stationnement à recherche du panneau vert indiquant l'entrée du Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies - SECTEUR DES MARAIS - 12 300. Le stationnement est situé au Pavillon des marais, 12 300 boulevard Gouin Est. Frais de stationnement : 9,75 \$ (carte de crédit).
Demi-journée - excursion à pied

Saturday October 15 / samedi 15 octobre
PARC-NATURE DU BOIS-DE-L'ÎLE-BIZARD, ÎLE-BIZARD
<https://goo.gl/maps/JFpO4>

8:00 am Highway 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: \$9.75.

Half day - walking trip

Guide: Wayne Grubert
Tel: 450-458-5498 Cell (day of trip only): 514-779-0811
Email: wgrubert6@gmail.com

8h00 De l'autoroute 40, prendre la sortie pour le boulevard St-Jean nord, continuer jusqu'au boulevard Gouin. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur Gouin et continuer jusqu'au boulevard Jacques-Bizard. Tourner à droite (nord) sur Jacques-Bizard et traverser le pont. Tourner à gauche (ouest) sur le boulevard Chevrement et continuer jusqu'à la Montée de l'Église. Tourner à droite (nord) et continuer jusqu'au chemin du Bord-du-Lac. Tourner à droite (est) et continuer jusqu'à l'entrée du parc (environ 1 km). Stationnement : 9,75 \$.

Demi-journée - excursion à pied

Saturday October 22 / samedi 22 octobre
LA RÉSERVE NATIONALE DE FAUNE DU LAC-ST-FRANÇOIS, DUNDEE
<https://goo.gl/maps/u3ihE>

8:00 am Meet at the Visitor Centre parking lot. If you are taking the Mercier Bridge from Montreal go (left) east on Highway 132 for 4.5km to Highway 730. Take Highway 730 to its junction with Highway 30. Proceed west on Highway 30 for approximately 33 km to the exit for Highway 530. Take Highway 530 until its end. Turn left onto Highway 132, crossing the bridge, and continue approximately 33km past Sainte-Barbe and Saint-Anicet to Cazaville. Continue another 8 km on Hwy 132 past Cazaville to chemin-de-le-Pointe-Fraser. Turn right on this road and meet at the visitor centre parking lot about 1 km along on the left. An alternative route, especially from the West Island, is to take Hwy 20 or 40 west past Vaudreuil-Dorion to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 (Toll \$3.10) and then exit onto Highway 530 and continue as per instructions above.

Half-day - walking trip

Guide: Wayne Grubert
Tel: 450-458-5498 Cell (day of trip only): 514-779-0811
Email: wgrubert6@gmail.com

Guide: Sheldon Harvey
Tel: 450-462-1459 Cell (day of trip only): 514-629-3874
Email: ve2shw@yahoo.com

8h00 Rassemblement au stationnement du Centre des visiteurs. Si vous venez de Montréal en traversant le pont Mercier, allez vers l'est (à gauche) sur la route 132 pendant 4,5 km jusqu'à l'autoroute 730. Prenez l'autoroute 730 jusqu'à sa jonction avec l'autoroute 30. Continuez vers l'ouest sur l'autoroute 30 pendant environ 33 km jusqu'à la sortie pour l'autoroute 530. Prendre l'autoroute 530 jusqu'à sa fin. Tournez à gauche sur la route 132, traversez le pont et continuez pendant environ 33 km en passant par Sainte-Barbe et Saint-Anicet jusqu'à Cazaville. Continuez encore 8 km sur la route 132 après Cazaville jusqu'au chemin-de-le-Pointe-Fraser. Tournez à droite et parcourez environ 1 km jusqu'au stationnement du centre d'accueil, sur la gauche. Un itinéraire facultatif, surtout en venant de l'ouest de l'île, consiste à prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 en direction ouest après Vaudreuil-Dorion jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prenez l'autoroute 30 (péage 3,10 \$) jusqu'à la sortie vers l'autoroute 530 et continuez selon les instructions ci-dessus.

Demi-journée - excursion à pied

Saturday October 29 / samedi 29 octobre
PARC DES RAPIDES, LASALLE & VERDUN WATERFRONTS, LASALLE (MONTREAL) <https://goo.gl/maps/ZKadR>

8:00 am Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle Blvd and 6th Avenue in LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Blvd).

Half day - walking trip

Guide: Diane Demers
Email: ddemers03@hotmail.com

8h00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement pour le parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul. LaSalle et de la 6e avenue à ville LaSalle (à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power).

Demi-journée - excursion à pied

Saturday November 5/ samedi 5 novembre
CENTRE D'INTERPRÉTATION DE LA NATURE DU LAC
BOIVIN, GRANBY (CINLB) <https://goo.gl/maps/iS88JxucxAs>

8:00 am Meet in the CINLB parking lot, 700 rue Drummond, Granby, Quebec. From the Champlain Bridge, follow the Eastern Townships Autoroute (Hwy 10) to Exit 68. Turn right off the exit on to boul. Daniel Bouchard (Hwy 139). Follow boul. Daniel Bouchard into Granby, crossing Hwy 112 and continuing past Granby Zoo. Continue on boul. Daniel Bouchard to the intersection with rue Drummond. Turn right on to rue Drummond. The free parking for the CINLB will be on your left. This site is approximately 75 minutes from the South Shore side of Champlain Bridge.

Half day - walking trip

Guide: Sheldon Harvey
Tel: 450-462-1459 Cell (day of trip only): 514-629-3874
Email: ve2shw@yahoo.com

8h00 Rendez-vous dans le stationnement du CINLB, 700 rue Drummond, Granby. **DIRECTIONS:** A partir du pont Champlain, suivez l'autoroute des Cantons de l'Est (autoroute 10) jusqu'à la sortie 68. Tourner à droite après la sortie sur le boulevard Daniel Bouchard (route 139). Suivez le boulevard Daniel Bouchard dans Granby, en traversant la route 112 et continuer jusqu'à dépasser le Zoo de Granby. Continuer sur le boul. Daniel Bouchard jusqu'à l'intersection avec la rue Drummond. Tourner à droite sur la rue Drummond. Le parking gratuit pour le CINLB sera sur votre gauche. Ce site est situé à 75 minutes du côté rive sud du pont Champlain.

Demi-journée - excursion à pied

Saturday November 12 / samedi 12 novembre
HUNGRY BAY, BEAUHARNOIS, ST-TIMOTHÉE
<https://goo.gl/maps/uE4FZJDKsM12>

We will begin our trip at Hungry Bay near Valleyfield, then go back along the Beauharnois Canal, visiting the ponds at Saint-Louis de Gonzague and finishing our outing at St Timothée. *Half-day*

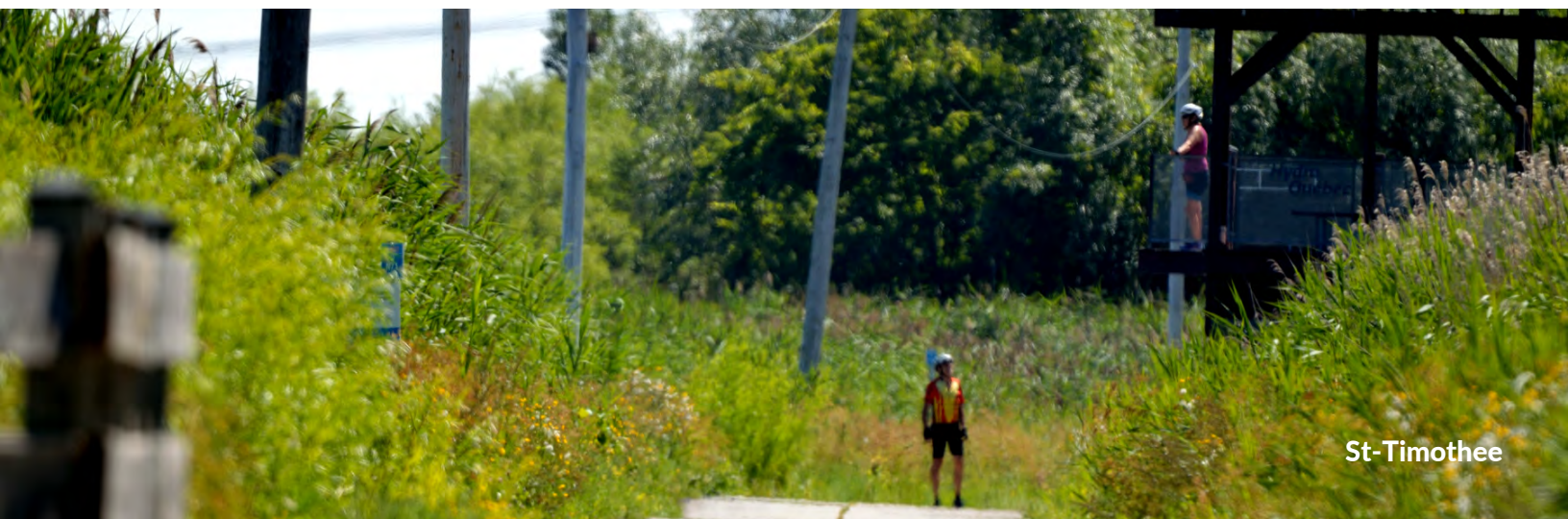
8:00 am Meet at Hungry Bay. If you are taking the Mercier Bridge from Montreal, go (left) east on Highway 132 for 4.5 km to Highway 730. Take Highway 730 to its junction with Highway 30. Proceed west on Highway 30 for approximately 33 km to the exit for Highway 530. Take Highway 530 until its end. Turn left onto Highway 132, crossing the bridge, and continue approximately 1.0 km. Turn right on Chemin du Canal. Bear right after 2.3 km and continue following Chemin du Canal to its end. Caution: This becomes a very narrow road. An alternative route, especially from the West Island, is to take Hwy 20 or 40 west past Vaudreuil-Dorion to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 (Toll \$3.10) and then exit onto Highway 530 and continue as per instructions above.

Guide: Wayne Grubert
Tel: 450-458-5498 Cell (day of trip only): 514-779-0811
Email: wgrubert6@gmail.com

Guide: Sheldon Harvey
Tel: 450-462-1459 Cell (day of trip only): 514-629-3874
Email: ve2shw@yahoo.com

Nous débuterons notre excursion à Hungry Bay, près de Valleyfield, puis nous reviendrons le long du canal de Beauharnois, en visitant les étangs de Saint-Louis de Gonzague, et en terminant notre sortie à St Timothée. *Demi-journée*

8h00 Rassemblement à Hungry Bay. Si vous arrivez par le pont Mercier en provenance de Montréal, prenez la route 132 vers l'est (à gauche) pour 4.5 km jusqu'à l'autoroute 730. Prendre l'autoroute 730 jusqu'à sa jonction avec l'autoroute 30. Continuez vers l'ouest sur l'autoroute 30 pendant environ 33 km jusqu'à la sortie vers l'autoroute 530. Prendre l'autoroute 530 jusqu'au bout. Tournez à gauche sur la route 132, traverser le pont et continuer environ 1.0 km. Tournez à droite sur Chemin du canal. Après 2.3 km rester à droite et continuez jusqu'au bout du Chemin du Canal. Faites attention: C'est une route très étroite. Un itinéraire alternatif, surtout de l'Ouest de l'Île de Montréal, consiste à prendre l'autoroute 20 ou 40 ouest passé Vaudreuil-Dorion jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prenez l'autoroute 30 (frais de 3.10 \$), puis sortez sur l'autoroute 530 et continuer en suivant les instructions données ci-dessus.



Saturday November 19 / samedi 19 novembre

PARC DE CONSERVATION DU MARAIS (DE L'ARRONDISSEMENT), LA PRAIRIE

<https://goo.gl/maps/ccFTUyW42TYFWK1M6>

8:00 am From Montreal, take Champlain Bridge to first exit to Autoroute 15/Highway 132. Follow signs for Autoroute 15 South/Highway 132 West - La Prairie/New York. Follow Aut. 15/132 west to exit 46 - La Prairie/boul. Salaberry. Turn left on boul. Salaberry. On boul. Salaberry, at the roundabout, stay right on to boul. Saint-José. Follow boul. Saint-José to traffic lights at boul. Taschereau. Turn left on Taschereau and immediately right into the parking lot for the Dollarama store at 993 boul. Taschereau, La Prairie. This will be our rendezvous point <https://goo.gl/maps/ra3nqpaEFxKhJue87> From the rendezvous point, we will drive to Parc de l'Arrondissement. *Half day - walking trip*

Guide: Sheldon Harvey

Tel: 450-462-1459 **Cell (day of trip only):** 514-629-3874

Email: ve2shw@yahoo.com

8h00 De Montréal, traversez le pont Champlain et prenez la première sortie pour l'autoroute 15/route 132. Suivez les indications pour l'autoroute 15 sud/route 132 ouest - La Prairie/New York. Suivez l'autoroute 15/132 ouest jusqu'à la sortie 46 - La Prairie/boul. Salaberry. Tournez à gauche sur le boul. Salaberry. Sur le boul. Salaberry, au carrefour giratoire, rester à droite sur boul. Saint-José. Suivez le boul. Saint-José jusqu'aux feux de circulation du boul. Taschereau. Tourner à gauche sur boul. Taschereau, puis tournez immédiatement à droite dans le stationnement du magasin Dollarama au 993 boul. Taschereau, La Prairie. Ce sera notre point de rendez-vous: <https://goo.gl/maps/ra3nqpaEFxKhJue87> Du point de rendez-vous, nous nous rendrons au Parc de l'Arrondissement. *Demi-journée - excursion à pied*

Saturday November 26 / samedi 26 novembre

PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES, MONTREAL

<https://goo.gl/maps/TLEH1>

8:00 am 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: \$9.75. *Half day - walking trip*

Guide: Wayne Grubert

Tel: 450-458-5498 **Cell (day of trip only):** 514-779-0811

Email: wgrubert6@gmail.com

8h00 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 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 : 9,75 \$ *Demi-journée - excursion à pied*

A few things to know about BPQ field trips

- Trips are open to all, members and non-members alike, so feel free to bring a friend (maybe they'll decide to join!). No reservations required.
- Please arrive on time. It's unfair to ask those who do to hang around when they could be looking for birds! Our guides won't wait more than a few minutes past the start time to head out.
- Trips are very rarely cancelled because of weather, and cancellations are at the discretion of the guide. Check the forecast the morning of the trip and bring appropriate shoes, raingear, etc. In extreme conditions (ie. a blizzard!), check the BPQ Facebook page for a cancellation notice and use your own judgement if you don't see one.
- Ticks are a problem. We stick to trails but they are persistent. It is strongly recommended not to wear shorts or sandals.
- We love our dogs too! But not everyone is comfortable around them, and many of the sites we visit have eco-sensitive areas, so please leave pets at home.
- Although guides will try to build in comfort breaks when possible, be aware that there are not always facilities at the locations we visit.
- Many of our guides graciously provide their email addresses with their trip descriptions. If an instruction is unclear or you have a trip-related question, you can contact them directly.
- Our trips are learning and sharing experiences - beginner birders are always welcome and our experienced guides are eager to share their knowledge. Sometimes this means we take our time on the trails, often discussing the details of what is being seen.



Pierre Bannon's
BIRD VIEWS

June - July 2022

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

Highlights in the province this summer included two Black-necked Stilts, a Royal Tern, a Sandwich Tern and a Rock Wren. More information on these and on other interesting birds seen through the summer months follow.



PIERRE BANNON
PARLONS D'OISEAUX

juin - juillet 2022

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

Parmi les faits marquants dans la province cet été, on retrouvait deux Échasses d'Amérique, une Sterne royal, une Sterne caugék et un Troglodyte des rochers. Plus d'informations sur ceux-ci et sur d'autres oiseaux intéressants vus cet été suivent.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: a group of seven birds was reported at Rivière-Trois-Pistoles 5 Jun (Jean-Claude Pelletier) while two birds flew over Henryville 16 Jul (Tristan Jobin). **Trumpeter Swan:** a pair nested again at Saint-Fulgence and produced seven offspring (m.obs.). As well, three birds were at Plaisance 6 Jun (Jean Laperrière, Johanne Marquis), three at Gatineau 14-30 Jun (Judith Allanson et al.) and two at Cacouna 21-31 Jul+ (Jean-Claude Pelletier, m. ob.). **Tufted Duck:** one at Métabetchouan 24-30 Jul+ (Louis-Philippe Berrouard, Nancy Lavoie). **White-winged Dove:** one at Beauport 4-6 Jul (Esther Fortin). **Eastern Whip-poor-will:** a bird stopped on a boat mid-way between Les Îles de la Madeleine and Cap Breton 20 Jun, a first record for Les Îles de la Madeleine (Andra Florea). **Black-necked Stilt:** 2 birds at Baie-du-Febvre 6-27 Jun provided a third record in 3 years for the province (Serge Lemieux, Suzanne Blackburn). Even more enigmatic were the 2 birds seen at La Pocatière 7 Jun, about 238 km east of Baie-du-Febvre (Roger Simard). **Marbled Godwit:** one stopped at Baie-du-Febvre 16 Jun-2 Jul (René Langlois, m.ob.). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** an adult at Contrecoeur 21-31 Jul+ (Denis Tétreault). **Willet:** one at Rivière Trois-Pistoles 21-22 Jul (Sébastien Rioux). **Razorbill:** 17 birds at Sainte-Pétronille 2 Jul were unusual for the location and the date (Robin Besançon). **Ivory Gull:** an ad at Île d'Anticosti 5 Jun (Daniel Néron, Rémi Bouchard). **Sabine's Gull:** a first summer bird at Rimouski 18 Jul was very unusual for the season (Vincent Giroux). **Bonaparte's Gull:** a high count of 1900 at La Malbaie 9 Jun (André Desrochers). **Roseate Tern:** for the first time since 2017, two birds—most likely nesting—returned to Les Îles de la Madeleine 6-8 Jun (Robin Gingras et al.) and stayed until Jul (Alain Richard). **Royal Tern:** an adult photographed at Rivière Ouelle 17 Jul represented the 4th record in Québec (Claude Auchu, Claudette Girard). **Sandwich Tern:** an adult, the fourth reported in the province, was seen at Havre-aux-Maisons (Les Îles de la Madeleine) 7-9 Jun (Robin Gingras et al.) and found again 21 Jul near Grande Entrée (Alain Richard). **Great Shearwater:** one off Cap-Gaspé 25 Jul (Laetitia Desbordes) and seven on 26 Jul (Patsy Skene). **American White Pelican:** as has been the case in recent years, this vagrant is detected more and more frequently as shown by the eight individuals reported in as many different localities. **Snowy Egret:** singles at Saint-Barthélemy 2-8 Jul (Frédéric Hareau) and at Pointe à la Croix 30 Jul (Marty Finch, Joanne Morgan). **Tricolored Heron:** one at Sept-Îles 6-11 Jun (Nathalie Vibert, Jean-François Laporte). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** an ad at Brigham 17-19 Jun (Charles-Alexandre Mercure), a juv at Sherbrooke 20-23 Jul (Chelsey Paquette), and possibly the same at Cabano 25-28 Jul (Raymond Morin). **Glossy Ibis:** a juvenile bird in a golf course at Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 16-21 Jul (François Grenon, Leah den Besten). **Glossy Ibis X White-faced Ibis:** one photographed at Rivière-au-Renard (Gaspésie) 24 Jun (Vanessa Cotton, Diane Jalbert). **Black Vulture:** two continued at Philipsburg until 11 Jun (Tristan Jobin); singles at Laval 15 Jul (Louise Courtemanche et al) and at Baie-Saint-Paul 29 Jul (Samuel Denault). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** reported in five localities in Jun, including one at Pointe au Loup (Les Îles de la Madeleine) 14-17 Jun (Dorina Déraspe et al.). **Willow Flycatcher:** one lingered in Forillon NP 3-16 Jun, rare at the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula (Jessé Roy-Drainville). **Fish Crow:** single pairs were present at Magog for the whole period (m. ob.) and in the Rosemont district of Montréal 25 Jun-9 Jul (Maxence Valade et al.). **Rock Wren:** providing the second record for the province, the most unexpected bird of the summer was a male seen and heard singing by many at Pointe-au-Père 4-6 Jun (Geneviève Rabouin, Patrice St-Pierre et al.) **Grasshopper Sparrow:** three birds at a new location in Saint-Armand 11 Jun (David Turgeon). **Field Sparrow:** two birds at Val d'Or 16 Jul were unusual for Abitibi (Raymond Ladurantaye, Réal Gauthier). **Orchard Oriole:** singles at Sherbrooke 13 Jun (Jean Carpentier) and at Saint-Armand 14 Jun (Jean-Guy Papineau). **Cerulean Warbler:** a male photographed at Longueuil 2 Jun was a first for this locality (Mike Jones). **Lazuli Bunting:** an adult male found dead at Salluit (Kativik) 1 Jun (Elise Legault, *vide* Samuel Denault). **Dickcissel:** a singing male at Dunham 6-14 Jun (Sheila Sherman, m. ob.).

Dendrocygne à ventre noir: un groupe de sept oiseaux signalés à Rivière-Trois-Pistoles 5 juin (Jean-Claude Pelletier) puis deux oiseaux ont survolé Henryville 16 juillet (Tristan Jobin). **Cygne trompette:** un couple a niché à nouveau à Saint-Fulgence, donnant naissance à sept rejetons (pl. obs.). Par ailleurs, trois oiseaux étaient présents à Plaisance 6 juin (Jean Laperrière, Johanne Marquis), trois à Gatineau 14-30 juin (Judith Allanson et al.) et deux à Cacouna 21-31 juillet+ (Jean-Claude Pelletier, pl. ob.). **Fuligule morillon:** un à Métabetchouan 24-30 juillet+ (Louis-Philippe Berrouard, Nancy Lavoie). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches:** une à Beauport 4-6 juillet (Esther Fortin). **Engoulevent bois-pourri:** un oiseau s'est arrêté sur un bateau à mi-chemin entre Les Îles de la Madeleine et le Cap Breton 20 juin, une première mention pour Les Îles de la Madeleine (Andra Florea). **Échasse d'Amérique:** 2 oiseaux à Baie-du-Febvre 6-27 juin, une troisième présence en 3 ans dans la province (Serge Lemieux, Suzanne Blackburn). Tout à fait énigmatique furent les 2 oiseaux vus à La Pocatière 7 juin, 238 km à l'est de Baie-du-Febvre (Roger Simard). **Barge marbrée:** une à Baie-du-Febvre 16 juin-2 juillet (René Langlois, pl. ob.). **Bécassin à long bec:** un adulte à Contrecoeur 21-31 juillet+ (Denis Tétreault). **Chevalier semipalmé:** un à Rivière Trois-Pistoles 21-22 juillet (Sébastien Rioux). **Petit Pingouin:** 17 oiseaux à Sainte-Pétronille 2 juillet étaient inhabituels pour le site et la date (Robin Besançon). **Mouette blanche:** un ad à l'Île d'Anticosti 5 juin (Daniel Néron, Rémi Bouchard). **Mouette de Sabine:** un oiseau à Rimouski 18 juillet était inhabituel pour la saison (Vincent Giroux). **Mouette de Bonaparte:** un nombre élevé de 1900 à La Malbaie 9 juin (André Desrochers). **Sterne de Dougall:** pour la première fois depuis 2017, deux oiseaux—apparemment nicheurs—étaient de retour aux Îles de la Madeleine 6-8 juin (Robin Gingras et al.) et sont restés jusqu'en juillet (Alain Richard). **Sterne royale:** un adulte photographié à Rivière Ouelle 17 juillet représentait la 4ième mention au Québec (Claude Auchu, Claudette Girard). **Sterne caugek:** un adulte, la 4ième mention provinciale, a été vu à Havre-aux-Maisons (Les Îles de la Madeleine) 7-9 juin (Robin Gingras et al.) et retrouvé 21 juillet près de Grande Entrée (Alain Richard). **Puffin majeur:** un au large de Cap-Gaspé 25 juillet (Laetitia Desbordes) et sept le 26 juillet (Patsy Skene). **Pélican d'Amérique:** comme pour les récentes années, ce visiteur fut détecté plus fréquemment tel que le démontrent les huit individus aperçus dans autant de localités différentes. **Aigrette neigeuse:** des oiseaux à Saint-Barthélemy 2-8 juillet (Frédéric Hareau) et à Pointe à la Croix 30 juillet (Marty Finch, Joanne Morgan). **Aigrette tricolore:** une à Sept-Îles 6-11 juin (Nathalie Vibert, Jean-François Laporte). **Bihoreau violaçé:** un ad à Brigham 17-19 juin (Charles-Alexandre Mercure), un juv à Sherbrooke 20-23 juillet (Chelsey Paquette), et possiblement le même individu à Cabano 25-28 juillet (Raymond Morin). **Ibis falcinelle:** un juvénile à l'Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 16-21 juillet (François Grenon, Leah den Besten). **Ibis falcinelle X Ibis à face blanche:** cet hybride fut photographié à Rivière-au-Renard (Gaspésie) 24 juin (Vanessa Cotton, Diane Jalbert). **Urubu noir:** deux toujours présents jusqu'au 11 juin à Philipsburg (Tristan Jobin); des oiseaux aussi aperçus à Laval 15 juillet (Louise Courtemanche et al) et à Baie-Saint-Paul 29 juillet (Samuel Denault). **Pic à tête rouge:** signalé dans cinq localités en juin, incluant un à Pointe au Loup (Les Îles de la Madeleine) 14-17 juin (Dorina Déraspe et al.). **Moucherolle des saules:** un s'est arrêté au PN Forillon 3-16 juin, rare au bout de la péninsule gaspésienne (Jessé Roy-Drainville). **Corneille de rivage:** des couples présents à Magog pour toute la période (pl. ob.) et dans le quartier Rosemont de Montréal 25 juin-9 juillet (Maxence Valade et al.). **Troglodyte des rochers:** fournissant la seconde mention pour la province, l'oiseau le plus inattendu de l'été était un mâle chanteur vu et entendu par plusieurs à Pointe-au-Père 4-6 juin (Geneviève Rabouin, Patrice St-Pierre et al.) **Bruant sauterelle:** trois oiseaux à un nouveau site à Saint-Armand 11 juin (David Turgeon). **Bruant des champs:** deux oiseaux à Val d'Or 16 juillet étaient inhabituels pour l'Abitibi (Raymond Ladurantaye, Réal Gauthier). **Oriole des vergers:** des oiseaux à Sherbrooke 13 juin (Jean Carpentier) et à Saint-Armand 14 juin (Jean-Guy Papineau). **Paruline azurée:** un mâle photographié à Longueuil 2 juin, une première pour ce site (Mike Jones). **Passerin azuré:** un mâle adulte trouvé mort à Salluit (Kativik) 1 juin (Elise Legault, *vide* Samuel Denault). **Dickcissel d'Amérique:** un mâle chanteur à Dunham 6-14 juin (Sheila Sherman, pl. ob.).

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

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



Focus On Education

BPQ presents a series of monthly lectures from October through April. Events are for the most part held via Zoom in order to reach a broader audience.

Monday, October 3, 2022

7:30 PM - Via Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Shorebirds and the Arctic Tundra Ecosystem

Speaker: Don-Jean Léandri-Breton, M.Sc.. Ph.D. candidate, McGill University

We usually see most shorebird species as they pass through our latitudes, stopping for a little while before resuming their long migration. But what do we know about their ecology at their Arctic breeding grounds? The tundra ecosystem is highly dynamic, its productivity dependent on the cyclic abundance of a small mammal - the lemming. Predator-prey interactions are at the heart of this dynamic and shorebirds are entangled in it. This presentation will provide an introduction to the Arctic tundra ecosystem, its species, and their complex interactions.



About our Speaker

Don-Jean (seen here with an adult Pectoral Sandpiper) studies migration behaviour and seabird ecology in Svalbard and Alaska as a PhD candidate in the Arctic Ecology Laboratory at McGill University. Before turning to the ocean, he participated in expeditions to the Canadian and Russian Arctic to study shorebird ecology and migration, and their interactions with other species in the tundra ecosystem. He notably worked five years at the Bylot Island Research Station (Nunavut) where long-term interdisciplinary research has been carried out to understand the dynamic of this fascinating system.

Monday, November 7, 2022

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

Why Birds Sing at Dawn

Speaker: Robert Montgomerie, Ornithologist, Queens University

The dawn chorus of birds is familiar to everyone who wakes up early enough anywhere in the world. Despite the familiarity of this singing pattern, we still know very little about why so much singing is performed so early in the morning. In his talk, Bob will provide some plausible answers to this question from his own research in the high arctic and in tropical Australia, and on the American Robin and several wood warblers in Ontario.



About our Speaker

Bob Montgomerie (seen here with a friendly Sabine's Gull) is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Biology, Queen's University. He retired in 2019 after 40 years on the faculty at Queen's, to devote full time to research and writing. While much of his research has focused on arctic birds, he has studied more than 50 species worldwide, mainly asking questions about sexual selection, parental care, and the evolution of gametes (sperm and eggs). He has also published widely on the history of ornithology, including an award-winning book on that topic in 2014—Ten Thousand Birds—coauthored with Tim Birkhead and Jo Wimpenny.

Monday, December 5, 2022

Further details will be provided closer to the event.

Diving into the Penguins' World

Speaker: Émile Brisson-Curadeau

Each year, hundreds of thousands of King Penguins gather for breeding on the beaches of Kerguelen, one of the largest (but also most remote...) sub-Antarctic islands. Pairs will then spend over a year trying to raise a single chick, making it the longest breeding cycle among birds. We will look at this long journey from egg to fledging, taking place in one of the most wonderful scenic areas on Earth, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will also look at how climate might influence negatively (or not) the reproduction of this species. So buckle up for a trip to the antipodes, about 17,000 kilometres from where you are reading this, and where penguins are kings!



About our Speaker

Émile Brisson-Curadeau has been a bird enthusiast since a young age and started conducting research on Arctic diving seabirds over 5 years ago. After a master's degree at McGill University on the foraging behavior of Thick-billed Murres in the Canadian Arctic, Émile decided he was "bipolar" and next studied birds on the Southern extremity of the planet. His PhD project working with King Penguins is being supervised by researchers from both McGill University and Université de La Rochelle, in France.

Have you heard about the new Bird Migration Explorer?

Just in time for fall migration 2022, Birds Canada and nine partner organizations announced the Bird Migration Explorer, a state-of-the-art digital platform that reveals migration data consolidated for 458 bird species found in Canada and the US. The free, interactive platform allows birders to see the most complete data collected on migratory species in their area and to see where those birds go throughout the year. You can check it out [here](#)



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.

American Kestrel Nest Box Network

Original Grant Proposal from l'Association Québécoise des Fauconniers et Autoursiers (AQAF)

"This conservation project aims to build, install and monitor a network of American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) nesting boxes in southern Quebec in order to obtain more information on the status of this species in the province and explain its decline. The project plans to install 30 nesting boxes by the end of 2019, and aims to double this number in 2020. The installed nest boxes will be under the responsibility of members of the Association Québécoise des Fauconniers et Autoursiers, which will submit the data collected to the McGill Bird Observatory and the American Kestrel Partnership. The information collected will include data on the habitat in which each nest box is installed (size and nature of the nearest open area, distance from buildings, distance from the forest, etc.) as well as data on nesting success (incubation start date, clutch size, fledgling survival rate, etc.). The project also includes banding of young from the network's nesting boxes. In the long term, the objective will be to rally other associations (such as birdwatching clubs) in order to extend the network of nesting boxes and to allow studies to be carried out by McGill University students."

Decision:

On the recommendation of the grants committee, the board approved the awarding of the requested grant in the amount of \$2,955 for this project.

An extract from the report (in French) from the AQFA on their achievements through the 2020 and 2021 breeding seasons follows. The full report, with many more photos, can be found [here](#).

The board was so encouraged by the success of this project that a second grant was approved in 2022 to allow the network to be expanded further, into western Montérégie and the lower Laurentians. Stay tuned!



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.

Dans cette rubrique, nous vous présenterons les rapports d'activité de nos bénéficiaires de subventions.

Réseau de nichoirs à Crécerelle d'Amérique

Proposition de subvention de : l'Association Québécoise des Fauconniers et Autoursiers (AQFA)

"Ce projet de conservation vise la fabrication, l'installation et le suivi de nichoirs à crécerelle d'Amérique (*Falco sparverius*) constituant un réseau dans le sud du Québec, de manière à obtenir davantage d'information sur l'état de cette espèce dans la province et expliquer son déclin. Le projet prévoit l'installation de 30 nichoirs à la fin 2019, et vise à doubler ce nombre en 2020. Les nichoirs installés seront sous la responsabilité des membres de l'Association Québécoise des Fauconniers et Autoursiers, laquelle soumettra les données recueillies à l'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de McGill et à American Kestrel Partnership. Les informations récoltées incluront des données sur l'habitat dans lequel chaque nichoir est installé (ex. : taille et nature de la parcelle de milieu ouvert la plus proche, distance des bâtiments, distance de la forêt, etc.) ainsi que des données sur le succès de nidification (ex. : date de début d'incubation, taille de la couvée, taux de survie des oisillons, etc.). Le projet prévoit également le baguage des jeunes issus des nichoirs du réseau. À long terme, l'objectif sera de rallier d'autres associations (tels que les clubs d'ornithologie) dans le but d'étendre le réseau de nichoirs et de permettre la réalisation d'études par des étudiants de l'Université McGill."

Décision :

Conformément à la recommandation du comité des subventions, le conseil d'administration a approuvé l'octroi d'une subvention d'un montant de
2 955 \$ pour ce projet.

Un extrait du rapport de l'AQFA sur ses réalisations au cours des saisons de reproduction 2020 et 2021 suit. Le rapport complet, avec de nombreuses autres photos, est disponible [ici](#).

Le conseil d'administration a été suffisamment impressionné par le succès de ce projet pour qu'une deuxième subvention soit approuvée en 2022 afin de permettre l'expansion du réseau, dans l'ouest de la Montérégie et dans les Basses-Laurentides. Restez à l'écoute !

Extrait du :

**Rapport de projet « Réseau de nichoirs à Crécerelle d'Amérique »
Par Joanie Lavigne (secrétaire)**

Réalisations

Année 2020

En janvier, deux (2) bénévoles de Bird Protection Québec, Pascal Berthelot et Claude Cloutier, ont procédé à la découpe du bois permettant de fabriquer un total de 37 nichoirs. Malheureusement, en raison des incertitudes et des restrictions sanitaires liées à la COVID-19, il s'est avéré impossible de recruter des jeunes d'une école secondaire pour assembler les nichoirs tel que prévu. Afin de gagner du temps et de respecter les consignes sanitaires interdisant les rassemblements, Pascal et Claude ont accepté d'assembler les nichoirs eux-mêmes, puis des membres de l'AQFA ont procédé à leur identification/numérotation. Malgré certaines complications organisationnelles (ex. difficulté à se déplacer entre les régions) dues à la COVID-19, une vingtaine de nichoirs ont pu être distribués parmi nos membres et installés au printemps.



**Atelier de fabrication d'une seconde série de nichoirs en juillet sous la supervision de Pascal Berthelot et Claude Cloutier (BPQ)
© Pascal Berthelot**

Les suivis hebdomadaires réalisés par nos bénévoles ont permis de constater que quatre (4) de ces nichoirs ont été occupés par des couples de crécerelle dès cette première saison. Ce départ plutôt timide du projet était toutefois attendu en raison de l'installation tardive de plusieurs des nichoirs. Aucun permis de baguage n'a été demandé en 2020 étant donné les restrictions sanitaires en place à ce moment.

À la fin de l'été, 41 nichoirs supplémentaires ont été fabriqués par notre équipe en prévision de la saison 2021, et leur distribution a débuté dès l'automne parmi nos membres ainsi que certains partenaires ayant entendu parler de notre projet et voulant y contribuer.

À la fin de la saison, toutes les données colligées lors du suivi hebdomadaire des nichoirs ont été transmises à l'American Kestrel Partnership à des fins d'analyse.

Année 2021

La distribution des nichoirs s'est poursuivie durant l'hiver et au début du printemps. Parallèlement, notre équipe a localisé, parfois par simple coïncidence (!), des nichoirs d'un ancien réseau géré par l'Université McGill dans l'ouest de Montréal il y a plusieurs années et aujourd'hui laissé à l'abandon. Certains de ceux-ci étant occupés par des crécerelles, on a donc décidé de les intégrer à notre réseau, avec l'accord du professeur David Bird de l'Université McGill. Étant donné leur usure, ils ont été ou seront éventuellement remplacés par des nichoirs fabriqués par notre association.

Au total, 57 nichoirs ont ainsi pu être suivis durant la saison 2021 ; parmi ceux-ci, 26 ont été occupés par des crécerelles (taux d'occupation de 45%). Fait intéressant, l'éclosion la plus hâtive a eu lieu le 20 mai à Saint-Lazare (Montérégie), alors que la plus tardive a eu lieu à Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (Laurentides) le 20 juillet, en pleine canicule!

Les activités de baguage ont été menées par Simon Duval, directeur de l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de McGill, et deux (2) membres de l'AQFA ont reçu une formation qui devrait leur permettre de baguer des crécerelles de façon autonome en 2022. Un total de 71 juvéniles et une (1) femelle adulte ont ainsi été munis d'une bague d'identification en métal au courant de la saison. Une première crécerelle issue d'un de nos nichoirs situé à Saint-Lazare (Montérégie) a d'ailleurs été capturée (et relocalisée) le 15 août par l'équipe de gestion de la faune de l'aéroport de Montréal.



Baguage d'une jeune crécerelle à Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (Laurentides)
© Joanie Lavigne



Femelle adulte baguée à Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (Laurentides)
© Simon Duval

Parmi les nichoirs suivis, plusieurs ont été occupés par des étourneaux, et quelques-uns par des écureuils. Dans plusieurs cas, lorsque le bénévole retirait systématiquement tout début de nid par des étourneaux, visite après visite (parfois plusieurs fois par semaine...), des crécerelles ont fini par s'y installer, ce qui démontre l'importance de réaliser des visites fréquentes au début du suivi (mars-avril) et de contrôler les tentatives de nidification par des espèces indésirables. Un (1) des nichoirs situé à Rawdon (Lanaudière) a accueilli un couple de petites nyctales, et tout porte à croire que les jeunes se sont envolés sans problème. Enfin, un (1) nichoir situé à l'Île-Perrot (Montérégie) a été utilisé comme dortoir par un petit-duc maculé en février.

Finalement, des chercheurs de l'Université McGill ont utilisé quelques-uns de nos nichoirs en Outaouais pour mener un premier essai d'utilisation de drone dans la surveillance.

À la fin de la saison, toutes les données colligées lors du suivi hebdomadaire des nichoirs ont été transmises à l'American Kestrel Partnership à des fins d'analyse.

Conclusions et remerciements

Compte tenu des résultats obtenus en 2020 et en 2021, l'AQFA désire poursuivre son projet au cours des prochaines années afin d'atteindre les objectifs qu'elle s'est fixés, notamment d'offrir la possibilité à des chercheurs et des étudiants de l'Université McGill d'utiliser son réseau de nichoirs pour la réalisation d'études liées à la crécerelle d'Amérique.

L'AQFA souhaite remercier tous ses bénévoles qui participent aux suivis hebdomadaires des nichoirs, ainsi que Pascal Berthelot et Claude Cloutier (bénévoles de BPQ) sans qui nous n'aurions jamais pu assembler les nichoirs aussi rapidement et de façon aussi efficace! Un gros merci également à Simon Duval (directeur de l'OOM), qui a fait preuve d'une grande disponibilité lors de la coordination des activités de baguage et qui nous a partagé ses connaissances avec générosité! Finalement, nous tenons à remercier tous les propriétaires qui nous ont autorisé à installer des nichoirs sur leur terrain.

"A kestrel can and does hover in the dead calm of summer days, when there is not the faintest breath of wind. He will, and does, hover in the still, soft atmosphere of early autumn, when the gossamer falls in showers, coming straight down as if it were raining silk."

Richard Jefferies





MIGRATION 103

Timing is everything

by
**Wayne
Grubert**

Timing and Migration - Sooooo many questions!

In two previous articles on avian migration in *The Song Sparrow*, we introduced some interesting terminology used to describe the different patterns of movement practised by various species ([Issue 64-1](#)). We also looked at the many technologies used both historically and by modern ornithologists to gather data and, hopefully, draw conclusions for a better understanding of the mysteries of migration. ([Issue 64-4](#))

Such studies, however, often introduce more new questions than provide answers. In this short article we will look at one simple idea and see how it could balloon into myriad additional investigations concerning the "timing" of birds' yearly peregrinations. We think you will quickly realize how much is left to be learned. It really is an "Alice in Migrationland" trip down the rabbit hole as more and more questions pop up related to an initial idea. Or maybe a better analogy is "Whack-A-Mole... The Avian Migration Version!"

Let's start with Zugunruhe. This interesting word of German origin, adopted by many others, was coined to describe the migratory restlessness exhibited by many species of birds at different times of year. Embedded in that simple statement is a key word - *times*. In order to use some of the sensory mechanisms in their migration tool box, birds must be able to tell time both from a seasonal and quotidian perspective. The first helps the bird know when to migrate and the second aids with several of the navigational and orientational processes thought to be used by birds. As a simple example of the latter from a human point of view, imagine you wake up disoriented and see the sun hanging low over the horizon. You would really need to know the approximate time of day in order to determine if you are looking in an easterly or westerly direction, i.e. at sunrise or sunset. A bird using solar position for orientation would face the same problem continually as a day progresses.

So, if birds do possess these internal clocks, are said clocks controlled completely by genetics or also by external environmental factors? The answer appears to be a little bit of both. Experiments with some migratory species that were kept in enclosures with constant temperature and day length (photoperiod) still showed annual cycles of Zugunruhe despite the lack of a known external stimulus. So the controls must be completely genetic, right? Not so fast. It seems that although periods of restlessness were cyclical, and approximately a year in length, they were not always exactly twelve months. Some were as much as several months faster or slower than a full year. The conclusion drawn was that some external stimulus was needed on a regular basis to help calibrate or reset those clocks. The pat answer to what that factor could be is photoperiod, or day length. Note that this is also the quick answer we often give new birders when they ask how birds know when to migrate. It most certainly is the correct answer, but theorizing that day length is a stimulus and calibration tool would appear to raise many new questions.... Beware, here come those moles we alluded to above, starting to rear their heads!

For example, after a bird decides it is time to be on its way north or south, the photoperiod will change with latitude. Maybe it realizes this and somehow makes an adjustment. Or could it be that once seasonal movement is initiated then length of day no longer matters and the bird is simply programmed to keep going to its destination after the initial triggering? Or, think of an individual who decides to spend our winter season at the equator and the additional problem it might face: photoperiod does not change, twelve hours light and twelve hours dark for 365 days a year. Is this when a completely internal clock kicks in, which does not need the checks and balances of photoperiod to tell the bird when to head back to its breeding grounds?

Snow Geese - Migratory Restlessness

Photo: Wayne Grubert



What about species whose non-breeding range extends to both sides of the equator, as is the case with many shorebirds? Individuals on opposite sides of this divide are experiencing not only different photoperiods but in one case days are lengthening and in the other they are shortening as spring approaches in the northern hemisphere (autumn in the southern). Can an individual spend consecutive winters on two different sides of the equator or must it always spend the non-breeding season on the same side? Do all the birds from both sides of the equator arrive back on the breeding grounds at the same time so they can all breed together?

If there is enough disparity in arrival time, could this eventually lead to speciation, where those wintering north (or south) of the equator can only breed with like-minded individuals and eventually traits develop which separate them completely from each other? Would this tendency towards differentiation be exacerbated if the two groups actually bred in slightly different areas and showed philopatry to those nesting sites?

**Baird's Sandpiper -
Winters on both sides of the equator**

Photo: Wayne Grubert



In some species of birds such as Ospreys and certain shorebirds the return to the breeding grounds is delayed by as much as several years. Is their internal clock simply put on hold until physiological maturation kick starts it again? Our avian friends can also advance or delay migration if environmental conditions are not right. If their own physiological condition is not ready the clock can also be paused or overridden, but for how long?

**Osprey - Young birds may
stay on non-breeding grounds**

Photo: Wayne Grubert

The previous paragraphs literally contain many question marks and, purposefully, not many answers. Remember that the goal of this short essay was to show how one idea in ornithological study can give rise to so many new lines of questioning. We invite you to run with this idea, become a "mole" and stick your head out by forming more queries about internal clocks, photoperiod and migration. Note that we have not even touched orientation and navigation yet...many more rabbit holes to slide down and explore in the future!

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Many of the basic Ideas for this piece were gleaned from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Handbook of Bird Biology - Third Edition. Highly recommended for those wishing to go beyond mere identification of birds.

Carolina Wren

Photo: Richard Gregson

Preparing the Garden for Winter Birds

BY RICHARD GREGSON

There is a lot of information out there (I am guilty of adding to it myself!) about how best to design and manage your garden for wildlife and to attract birds.

More strength to the arms of those who share the information and congratulations

to those who implement it on their own plots. But almost all of this information is focused on spring and summer, which are now behind us.

So, as fall and winter approach, what is a bird gardener supposed to do to prepare?

Here are a few essentials that will help you get your resident birds through the winter and coming to your garden for mutual admiration sessions.

- Clean your feeders and lay in a good stock of food to put out between now and next spring. It's going to be cold and tough out there for our resident species so make sure you are giving them high quality, nutritionally dense food. In particular, think black sunflower seeds and suet blocks.
- The snow is going to get deep and will develop a crust at some point that will support light seed thieves such as squirrels. Is the height of snow around your feeders going to make it easier for squirrels to jump past your squirrel baffles? Have a shovel handy and use it to keep the adjacent ground level from getting too high.
- Talking about shovels, be sure to have one handy to keep the route to your feeders clear after storms so you will be able to get out there easily to top things up.
- Consider a heated water bath to give birds easy access to unfrozen water on the coldest days. Be amused by the groups of Mourning Doves that (at least in our garden) congregate around the edge at dusk with tails in the water, benefitting from a little warm air and pooping gently into your bath!
- Provide shelter from wind, rain and snow. There are several ways to do this - from having some shrubs with sheltering foliage that birds can huddle inside to the provision of roost boxes for species that seek such opportunities to building a loose brush pile in a quiet corner that provides shelter and can contain overwintering insect food.

Once this is all done, clean your windows, place a comfortable chair in a spot from which you can see the birds and keep your binoculars close to hand to enjoy your grateful visitors. And don't forget to report your daily observations to eBird!

Imagine attracting a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Pileated Woodpecker to your garden - at the same time!

Photo: Richard Gregson



Common Redpoll

Photo: Richard Gregson





HAWKWATCHING AROUND MONTREAL

Editors' Note: Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh have been hawkwatching for an incredible 46 years. This is the 13th and final of a series of articles they began writing for The Song Sparrow in October 2016. All articles can be found in past issues on the BPQ website, starting with the introductory article available [here](#) that describes how they became hooked on watching hawks and how the data they collect are used for research.

The series so far has concentrated on those hawk species expected to be seen in greater or lesser numbers migrating around Montreal. An introductory article was published in the Song Sparrow in 2016 and the number has reached a dozen or more as of this article.

We have still to talk about the hawks rarely seen in migration. This includes some hawk subspecies as well as species. Since we began our hawk watching in the 1970s, we have sighted many individuals of these rare or accidental species/subspecies, as outlined below. Only those species or subspecies that have been positively identified are included herein. Colour variants have also been seen in certain species, the details of which were covered in the individual species accounts in previous articles.

by
**Bob Barnhurst
&
Mabel McIntosh**

Black Vulture

This species has been seen increasingly in south-eastern Canada of recent years in all four seasons – some individuals are now even overwintering in Quebec. When we began our counts in the 1970s even Turkey Vultures were rare visitors to the Montreal area (numbers in the 1980s remained low both in spring and fall – see the earlier article). Our first record of a Black Vulture was of a single bird seen flying over the fall site at the western end of Montreal Island on September 11, 1980. It was migrating with Broad-winged Hawks. We then had to wait 29 years until October 18, 2009 for our second fall sighting, a bird that circled high over us at the edge of the Morgan Arboretum for 10 minutes before leaving to the SW with a few Red-tailed Hawks. Our first record for the spring hawkwatch was on March 20, 2010 and was, in fact, the earliest vulture we saw that spring. The first Turkey Vulture only turned up on March 24! Our second spring sighting came in 2013, on April 29, the bird seen in the company of TVs at the western end of the seaway where it enters Lac St. Francois. Just four sightings, so far, in all that time, but, of course, we could have missed one or two! Derby Hill has noted some 40 plus birds in the same time frame, a 10:1 ratio in keeping with our hawk flight, in general. At the time, Black Vulture sightings were still very rare in Quebec, and are still very unusual, even now.

One of our rarest migrants. A Black Vulture seen high over the spring site on April 29, 2013. Note typical flight shape and white wing tips.



Cooper's Hawk and Goshawk

Both of these species remain rare migrants. Unlike hawk sites further south-west, such as Derby Hill and Braddock Bay, Cooper's Hawks have remained largely unrecorded in spring and fall. The difficulty has been separating migrants from locally wintering or breeding birds, and still is today. We erred on the side of caution for this reason. It is obvious that the species, which is such a common migrant in parts of the US, remains rare here in spring. Summering and wintering birds are however, more common now. Numbers of Goshawks seen in the fall have fallen from a dozen or so to just the odd bird, of late. It remains a very rare migrant at our spring site.

Swainson's Hawk

Records of Swainson's Hawks at the Montreal hawkwatches can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The first was of an adult, light-phase, bird seen on April 28, 1981, followed by just four dark or intermediate phase sightings, so far, during the fall hawkwatch. They occurred on October 23, 2005 (intermediate phase), October 10, 2006 (immature intermediate phase), October 11, 2010 (dark phase), October 14, 2013 (intermediate phase) and October 22, 2014 (dark phase, unaged). (There was one other record of a possible Swainson's in 2018. Derby Hill has seen some 50 birds since the 1970s/80s, the number increasing gradually over the years). The bird seen in Quebec in spring 1981 was at a low altitude, the others at intermediate-to-high altitude.

Common Buzzard

A bird believed to be a Common Buzzard was seen on September 2, 1984 by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh. However, no photo was obtained and the bird disappeared quickly to the SW. A bird seen to the south in the US later in the season may have been the same individual.

Mississippi Kite

We had been expecting a bird or birds to appear sometime at the spring site since the species had been moving north in the last two decades, even nesting in the New England states. Our single sighting is of a bird seen migrating over the Salaberry de Valleyfield Airport on May 24, 2017. Derby Hill has reported only one bird thus far, seen on May 25, 2008. By comparison, Braddock Bay has seen 19 in the same time frame.

(Swallow-tailed Kite has not yet been reported on the Montreal Hawk Watch, although it has been seen in the province more than once during the summer. It has been sighted twice at Derby Hill and once at Braddock Bay)

Red-tailed Hawks

Since 1980, calurus, fuetesi, harleni and krideri have all occurred at least once during the Montreal hawkwatches. Harleni (dark phase) has been seen in migration here five times but probably represents only two different individuals seen twice each over consecutive years, plus a new individual this year.

Gyr Falcon

Only seen twice on the hawk count since 1980, once in 1993 and once in 1994, both in April, probably the same bird seen two years in a row.



Peregrine Falcon

This species falls into the same category as the Cooper's and Goshawk with some confusion of migrant birds with locally breeding pairs. Still, about 260 have been recorded altogether as migrants over the past 40+ years of the spring and fall hawkwatches, for an average of 2-4 per season. We only count individuals when birds appear in the distance and fly directly away from us in the opposite direction (NE in the spring and SW in the fall). Occasionally local birds go up and harry the migrants until they disappear.

Other bird species

As a part of our spring hawkwatch we have also been monitoring the Blue Jay migration since 2010. Every spring, many Blue Jays migrate past the hawk site, almost exclusively in May. They concentrate along the side of the lake. Depending on the prevailing wind we may only be near the shore occasionally, typically on easterly winds. The Blue Jays almost certainly start moving from dawn whereas our hawkwatch typically begins at 8 a.m. or later. During the hawkwatch hours, usually up until around noon, flocks of 20 to 30 often move past, flying short distances and landing briefly in trees en route. Our best migration of Blue Jays occurred in 2011, when we counted 3,758 in May. That season we had an unusually high number of days with consistently easterly winds from mid-May onwards. Since then, numbers have been typically lower than 1,000/season, with the exception of 2019 when we recorded almost 1,500. Besides Blue Jays, we often see other common diurnal spring migrants, including such species as Yellow-shafted Flickers, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Kingbirds, Chickadees and Goldfinches, to name a few. Besides rare hawks there have been many rare avian visitors to Quebec seen during the hawkwatch, which may be covered in another article.

Other species with wings

In the fall, one of our biggest thrills is seeing Monarch Butterflies, now an endangered species. We count them and our highest number occurred in 1999 with 1,353 seen. Since then, the numbers have fallen considerably to just a few hundred or less per season. Our best recent season saw 510 fly by in 2019.

Migration log

The weather remains the most important factor in hawk migration. There are many examples of this fact. Perhaps the most important, at least for a spring season, occurred in 2022.

The peak of the Broad-winged Hawks is typically late April and early May, occurring invariably with the passage of warm weather fronts. (Warm fronts are rare in southern Quebec until late April or May, whereas at sites like Derby Hill and Braddock Bay, to name two, warm fronts are more common earlier in the season – indeed, many warm fronts stall just south of the Quebec/New York border.) In the past, we had two well-established “waves” of Broad-winged Hawks, the first and larger wave occurring in late April, the second smaller wave invariably occurring at the end of the first week of May.

In 2022, we had a lot of unsettled weather in the spring with a lot of west winds. This does not favour good hawk flights for us in the spring as we rely on easterly winds to push migrating Broad-winged Hawks up against the shore of Lac St. Francois. However, this year, a warm front passed over the hawk site overnight on April 24/25. We also had a switch to light-to-moderate ENE to ESE winds, with some light cloud cover. Few birds moved during the morning of April 25 but, just after noon, kettles of Broad-winged Hawks began to appear alongside the lake, with many birds trying to move inland against the easterly winds. The result was our best flight ever of Broad-

winged Hawks, with 8,171 being recorded in just over 2 hours. With them came TVs, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, a single Rough-legged Hawk, 2 Golden Eagles, American Kestrels, two unidentified eagles and some unidentified hawks. The result was a spectacular 8,788 hawks for the day. We even had a migrating Sandhill Crane mixed in with a kettle of hawks!

As a part of our records, we record atmospheric pressure, humidity, temperature, wind speed and direction, visibility and cloud cover every hour of every day we are out at the hawk site. What is little understood is that atmospheric pressure and humidity vary greatly during the day. Typically, atmospheric pressure and humidity both decrease during the day. However, rarely, the reverse is true as weather fronts move through. In our 42 years of hawk site history, the highest pressure we have recorded was 103.63KPa in spring 2010 and 104.88KPa in fall 1996. The lowest pressures recorded were 98.17KPa in spring 1996 and 97.8KPa in fall 1990. While the highest humidity in both spring and fall is typically 100%, the lowest occurred in spring 2008 (11%), and 17% in fall 1984. The low values of pressure are found when large, low-pressure weather (rain) fronts move through, the low pressures sometimes matching those found typically in hurricanes.

A weather curiosity -

Was this a raptor photographed by a weather satellite off Nova Scotia on June 4, 2019? If so, it was huge!

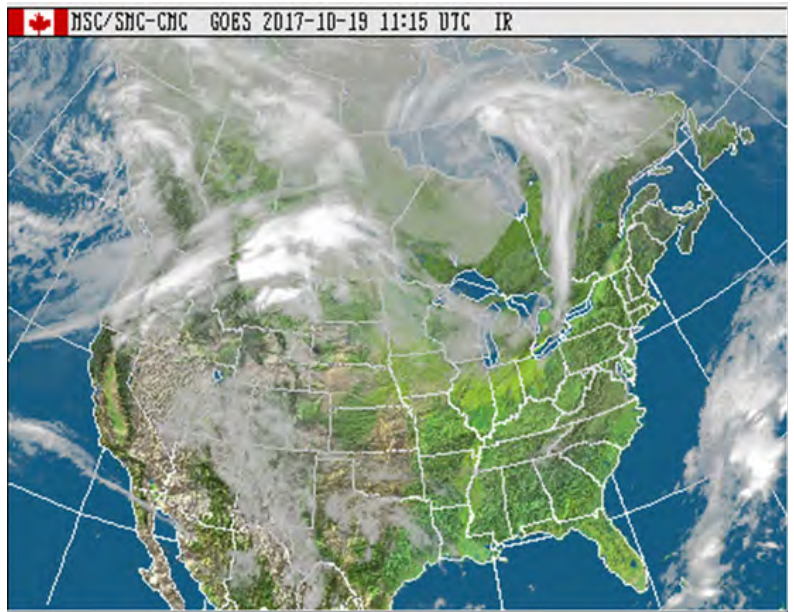
Perhaps a Steller's Sea Eagle?

(No, this was not photo shopped in!)



Another weather curiosity:

In the early morning of October 19, 2017, the jet stream, as outlined by the cloud, took the shape of an upside-down, misshapen trumpet. A typical west-to-east pattern occurs west of Lake Ontario but, beginning over Toronto, the jet-stream shifts dramatically to a south-north axis before weakening and fanning out over Ungava Bay, thus forming the bell of the trumpet. This formation is very rare. The skies are clear on either side of the jet-stream. On this day, the wind over the West Island hawk site switched to south from west around midday, the opposite of that expected at this time of year.

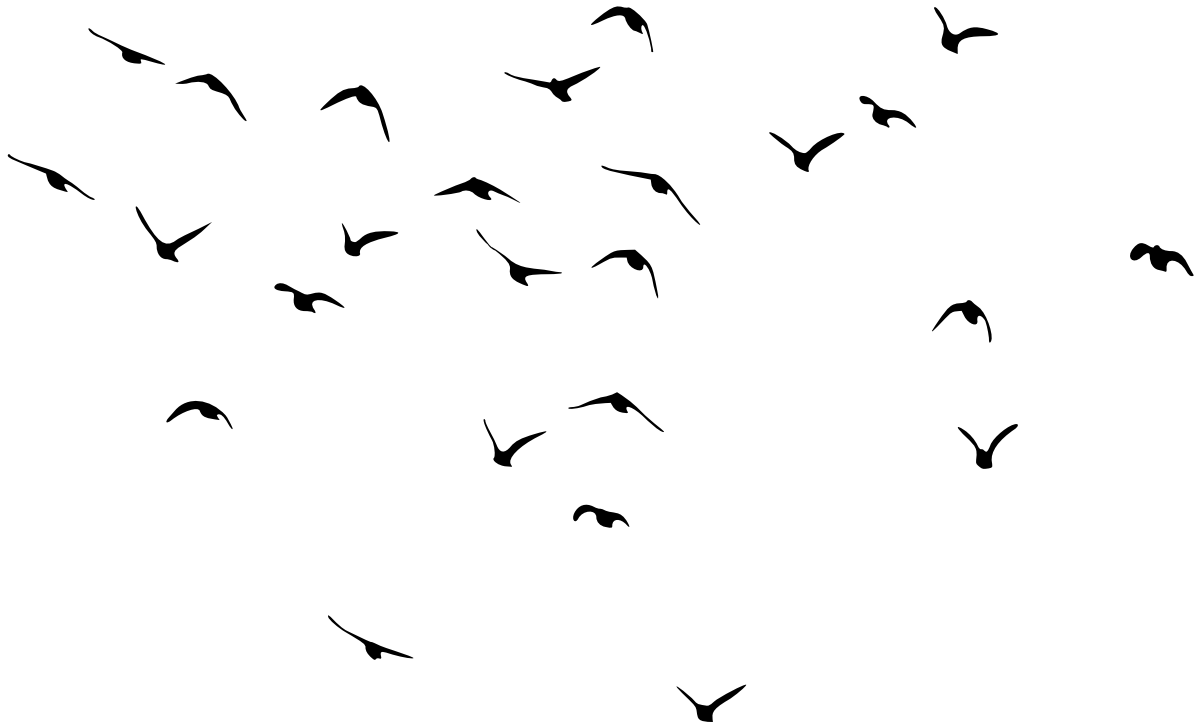


What few people realize is that different hawk species migrate at different times during the spring and fall seasons, including immatures. In spring, adult Golden Eagles migrate in March and early April, immature Golden Eagles in May, Turkey Vultures in late March, April and May, adult Bald Eagles in late March and April with immatures throughout the season, adult Red-shouldered Hawks from mid-March to early April, with immatures in May, harriers in March and April, Rough-legged Hawks throughout March and April, even into early May, Sharp-shinned Hawks in April and May, adult Red-tailed Hawks in late March and April, immatures in May, kestrels in April and May, Broad-winged Hawks in late April and early May, with immatures later in May and Ospreys in late April and May. The fall is almost the reverse with Ospreys, Bald Eagles, kestrels, Broad-winged Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks (adults and immatures) seen first, followed by TVs, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles, in that order.

History

This series of articles was begun and written over several years in celebration of BPQ's 100th anniversary, in 2017. We hope you have enjoyed them. Indeed, BPQ has been stalwart in its support of the Montreal hawkwatches since their inception, with many members joining us, occasionally, on site. (During that period we have seen many comic and not-so-comic incidents but those must be the subject of another article.)

If you are interested in hawkwatching, please contact BPQ.



Shorebirds coming through!

Les limicoles sont partout!



Ruddy Turnstone/Tournepieuvre à collier
Photo: Joe McGill



American Golden-plover/Pluvier bronzé
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Short-billed Dowitcher/Bécassin roux
Photo: Darlene Harvey



Stilt Sandpiper/Bécasseau à échasses
Photo: Marcia Mason



Pectoral Sandpiper/Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée
Photo: Joe McGill



Sanderling/Bécasseau sanderling
Photo: Richard Gregson

Citizen Science

by: Richard Gregson

Celebrate Urban Birding Program

Members of Bird Protection Quebec like us know how important urban birds are, even if sometimes we are surprised to find there are any urban birds at all given the parlous state of many areas of our cities, with their concrete acres and tower blocks. But at least we, the lucky ones, are aware that birds exist in our cities and that there are things we can do to help enable them to stick around. We are able to look up and see a Chickadee or a Sparrow and enjoy the sight.

Many urbanites, though, are sadly unaware of the wildlife around them. Either they simply don't see wildlife as they go about their lives or they think watching birds is not for them – especially if they are disadvantaged by reason of education, poverty, disability or ethnicity for example.

This is where the “Celebrate Urban Birds” (CUBs) comes into play. The program, not surprisingly, is run out of the Cornell ornithology department and is an eBird outreach programme with a social, as well as ornithological, mission. This is how they describe what they trying to do:

"Celebrate Urban Birds strives to co-create bilingual inclusive, equity-based community science projects that serve communities that have been historically underrepresented or excluded from birding, conservation, and citizen science. The project seeks to promote better science through the equitable exchange of knowledge, increased access, centering missing voices and experiences, and by intentionally advocating for community ownership and leadership of scientific research. Together with participating communities the project has co-developed processes to co-design, pilot, and implement research and scientific programming while focusing on race and equity."

Working with local community groups, CUBs has projects all over this continent, using the medium of various art forms to draw in and engage people and promote inclusive, accessible, and equitable birdwatching for all. They firmly believe, as I think we all do, that birds have the power to connect us. The programme operates in many countries and focuses on 16 "focal species:" the American Crow, American Robin, Baltimore Oriole, Barn Swallow, Black-crowned Night Heron, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, House Finch, House Sparrow, Killdeer, Mallard, Mourning Dove, Peregrine Falcon and Rock Pigeon. A few regional species may also be included.

One of their themes is urban wildlife gardening - something which can be very hard to imagine if the only dirt you see near your home is in the cracks in the pavement, but which is doable with a little creativity. For example, we can all grow plants - plants that will attract insects and produce seeds that in turn draw in the urban bird population - on windowsills, balconies, rooftop gardens and in hanging baskets. We can widen cracks in the pavement to encourage vines to climb up the sides of buildings, and make rock and box gardens on the streets or just by the side of our front doors. These small things can bring some green into a hard-landscaped world. However, if that world is all you know, it helps to have someone who will encourage you and show you how to get started and this is where CUBs can come in, offering ideas, tips and programs to help people develop greenspace in their cities.



Of course, not all of the land is paved over; there are usually small green(ish) areas in even the most urban areas. Sometimes this is by design, more often it is because an abandoned area has been overtaken by “weeds”. There will certainly be some birds to be found in those places and, here, CUBs provides online tools to enable locals to note and record their observation - rather like eBird and iNaturalist.

Starting small and simple, they encourage participants to choose an area in which they will watch birds. The area should, they say, be around 50 feet by 50 feet—not large at all and easy to visually set the boundaries of. Even if no birds are seen, that is important to know and participants are asked to note the fact. But they probably will see something, even if only a Pigeon! Then participants are asked to go back and repeat the operation on three separate days, ideally within the same week. These are the sort of protocols we as experienced birders are already comfortable with. They enable people to gather meaningful data and the organisers can provide encouragement.

CUBs even makes grants available to community groups and organizes local events, often involving play and art as a means of learning about birds and nature. It’s a great initiative, take a look to at <https://celebrateurbanbirds.org> to learn more.



Birding Basics



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

Choosing a spotting scope

Birds are often too far away to see easily with binoculars. A good spotting scope is a great tool that will allow you to better identify and enjoy them in a whole new way. Here are a few tips to consider when choosing a spotting scope.

The numbers

Spotting scopes are described by a few numbers. e.g. 20-60x85 or 15-48x65. The first set of two numbers represents the magnification of the spotting scope. Most spotting scopes have a zoom eyepiece that will allow you to zoom in on birds for more details. Most binoculars, on the other hand, commonly have a fixed magnification of 8x or 10x. Therefore a 20-60x spotting scope will have a minimum power of magnification of 20x and can be zoomed in up to a power of 60x.

The second number after the hyphen represents the diameter of the objective lens (the larger lens at the front of the spotting scope) in millimetres. In our examples above, we have an 85mm lens and a 65mm lens. This determines the size of the spotting scope.

Primary use and size

The first thing to consider in our choice of a spotting scope will be its use. Will this be something to be used only at home or at the cottage or will it be carried everywhere, sometimes over long distances while birding in the field?

People who travel a lot might want to opt for a smaller spotting scope such as a 50mm or 65mm. Birders who do not mind the extra weight and who will be carrying it over short distances will choose an 85mm or greater version. A larger spotting scope will allow you to have a greater magnification. Most birders who want to look at shorebirds, seabirds and other birds that are usually far away will tend to choose a spotting scope with a 20-60x zoom eyepiece. For brighter images an objective lens larger than 80mm is recommended.

The advantages of getting a larger spotting scope are:

- brighter images (in most cases)
- better resolution, especially at higher magnification
- better possibilities for higher magnification
- a heavier spotting scope will be more stable on top of a tripod

The advantages of a smaller spotting scope are:

- easier to carry over long distances
- usually have a wider field of view and shorter close focus (the closest distance that you are able to focus on)



Angled vs Straight

Two types of spotting scopes are available on the market. There is a straight version, where the eyepiece of the spotting scope is in a straight line or parallel to the body of the scope, and an angled version, which has an eyepiece that points upwards at a 45-degree angle.

The advantages of an angled spotting scope are:

- Will sit lower on the tripod. No need for a large tripod.
- More stable.
- Can be used easily by people of different heights.
- Eyepiece can be rotated and brought down (on most scopes) in order to allow a child to look through the spotting scope or when observing birds while sitting down.
- Easier to watch birds at the top of large trees or at high elevations .
- Easier to observe the moon, stars and planets.

The advantages of a straight spotting scope are:

- Easier to locate a bird. You are pointing straight.
- Easier to follow a bird in flight.

There is one more prism in an angled scope but that extra prism does not change the image quality in any way compared to a straight spotting scope.

Angled spotting scopes are more popular by a factor of about 10 to 1 because of all the advantages they will provide. Some companies do not even offer straight scopes in some of their models.



Price range

Under \$250

If you plan on using it often or if you are in the process of developing a new birding passion, anything around \$200 and under will not be a wise purchase. You will have a product with poor image quality, something fragile and it will not perform well at higher magnifications. Better wait a little longer and invest in something better or buy a used spotting scope.

Around \$300 - \$500

Here you will have something that is usable and will perform fairly well under most circumstances.

Around \$700 - \$1,500

You are now getting something that will be excellent for most of your birding needs. Most will have HD glass and will be waterproof.

Above \$2,000

You are getting the best of the best. The best HD glass and the best performance, especially at higher magnifications.

Photography or Digiscoping

There are several adaptors that can be used to easily take pictures and videos through a spotting scope using a cell phone or a DSLR camera.

Most adaptors for cell phones are very easy to use but some on the market can be very flimsy and harder to use. Adaptors for DSLR cameras are available for high-end spotting scopes only.



With the help of an adaptor, this amazing photo of a Crowned Woodnymph was taken with a cell phone!
Photo: Alain Goulet

Carrying your spotting scope in the field

Lastly, when travelling over long distances, carrying your spotting scope over your shoulder will be tiring. There are harnesses and back packs that will make this task a lot easier. The advantages of these scope carriers is that they are more ergonomic and will free your hands so that you can use your binoculars easily while travelling around in the field.



LES B.A.-BA DE L'OBSERVATION



Présenté par : Alain Goulet

et  Nature-Expert
Le spécialiste en jumelles et en produit pour
l'ornithologie au Québec

Choisir une lunette de repérage

Certains oiseaux sont souvent trop éloignés pour être identifiés facilement avec des jumelles. Une bonne lunette de repérage est un outil formidable qui vous permettra de mieux les identifier et de les apprécier d'une toute nouvelle manière. Voici quelques conseils à considérer lors du choix d'une lunette de repérage.

Les chiffres

Les lunettes de repérage sont décrites par quelques chiffres. Par exemple : 20-60x85 ou 15-48x65. La première série de deux chiffres représente le grossissement de la lunette. La plupart des lunettes de repérage ont un oculaire zoom qui vous permet de rapprocher les oiseaux pour obtenir plus de détails. D'autre part, la plupart des jumelles ont généralement un grossissement fixe de 8x ou 10x. Par conséquent, une lunette de repérage 20-60x aura un pouvoir de grossissement minimum de 20x et vous pourrez l'augmenter jusqu'à 60x.

Le dernier chiffre après le x représente le diamètre de l'objectif (la plus grande lentille à l'avant de la lunette de repérage) en millimètres. Dans nos exemples ci-dessus, nous avons un objectif de 85 mm et un objectif de 65 mm. Cela détermine la taille de la lunette.

L'utilisation principale et la taille

La première chose à considérer dans le choix d'une lunette de repérage est son utilisation. Sera-t-elle utilisée uniquement à la maison, au chalet ou sera-t-elle transportée partout, parfois sur de longues distances, lors de l'observation d'oiseaux sur le terrain ?

Les personnes qui voyagent beaucoup voudront peut-être opter pour une lunette d'observation plus petite, comme une 50 mm ou une 65 mm. Les ornithologues qui ne sont pas gênés par le poids supplémentaire et qui la transporteront sur de courtes distances choisiront une lunette de 85 mm ou plus.

Une lunette de repérage plus grande vous permettra d'avoir un plus fort grossissement. La plupart des ornithologues qui veulent observer les oiseaux de rivage, les oiseaux de mer et autres qui sont généralement éloignés, auront tendance à choisir une lunette de repérage avec un oculaire à zoom 20-60x. Pour des images plus lumineuses, un objectif de plus de 80 mm est recommandé.

Les avantages d'une lunette de repérage plus grande sont :

- Des images plus lumineuses (dans la plupart des cas)
- Meilleure résolution, notamment à un grossissement plus élevé
- Meilleures possibilités de grossissement plus élevé
- Une lunette de repérage plus lourde sera plus stable sur un trépied.



Les avantages d'une lunette de repérage plus petite sont :

- Plus facile à transporter sur de longues distances
- Les petites lunettes de repérage ont généralement un champ de vision plus large et une mise au point rapprochée (la distance la plus proche sur laquelle vous pouvez faire la mise au point).

Coudée ou droite

Deux types de lunettes de repérage sont disponibles sur le marché. Il existe une version droite, où l'oculaire de la lunette est en ligne droite, ou parallèle au corps de la lunette. Sur la version coudée, l'oculaire pointe vers le haut à un angle de 45 degrés.

Les avantages d'une lunette coudée sont les suivants :

Elle est plus basse sur le trépied. Pas besoin d'un grand trépied

- Meilleure stabilité
- Peut être utilisée facilement par des personnes de différentes tailles
- L'oculaire peut être tourné et abaissé (sur la plupart des lunettes) pour permettre à un enfant de regarder dans la lunette ou pour observer les oiseaux en position assise.
- Plus facile d'observer les oiseaux à la cime des grands arbres ou à haute altitude
- Il est plus facile d'observer la lune, les étoiles et les planètes.

Les avantages d'une lunette droite sont les suivants :

- Il est plus facile de localiser un oiseau. Vous pointez tout droit.
- Il est plus facile de suivre un oiseau en vol.
- Il y a un prisme de plus dans une lunette coudée mais il ne change en rien la qualité de l'image par rapport à une lunette droite.

Les lunettes de repérage angulaires sont plus populaires dans un rapport d'environ 10 à 1 en raison de tous les avantages qu'elles offrent. Certaines compagnies n'offrent même pas de lunettes droites pour certains de leurs modèles.



Gamme de prix

Moins de 250 \$

Si vous prévoyez l'utiliser souvent ou si vous êtes en train de développer une nouvelle passion pour l'ornithologie, tout ce qui se situe autour de 200 \$ et moins ne sera pas un achat judicieux. Vous aurez un produit avec une qualité d'image médiocre, quelque chose de fragile et il ne sera pas performant à des grossissements élevés. Il vaut mieux attendre un peu et investir dans quelque chose de mieux ou acheter une lunette de repérage d'occasion.

Environ 300 \$ à 500 \$

Vous aurez ici quelque chose d'utilisable et qui fonctionnera assez bien dans la plupart des circonstances.

Environ 700 \$ - 1 500 \$

Vous obtenez maintenant quelque chose qui sera excellent pour la plupart de vos besoins en matière d'observation des oiseaux. La plupart auront un verre HD et seront étanches.

Plus de 2 000 \$

Vous obtenez ce qu'il y a de mieux. Le meilleur verre HD et les meilleures performances, surtout à des grossissements élevés.

Photographie ou digiscopie

Il existe plusieurs adaptateurs qui peuvent être utilisés pour prendre facilement des photos et des vidéos à travers la lunette de repérage en utilisant un téléphone intelligent ou un appareil photo reflex.



Avec l'aide d'un adaptateur, cette étonnante photo d'une dryade couronné a été prise avec un cellulaire !!

Photo: Alain Goulet



Les adaptateurs pour cellulaires sont très faciles à utiliser, mais certains d'entre eux sur le marché peuvent être très fragiles et difficiles à utiliser.

Les adaptateurs pour appareils photos reflex ne sont disponibles que pour les lunettes de repérage haut de gamme.

Transport de votre lunette de repérage sur le terrain

Enfin, lorsque vous voyagez sur de longues distances, porter votre lunette de repérage sur votre épaule est fatigant. Il existe des harnais et des sacs à dos qui vous faciliteront grandement la tâche. Ils ont l'avantage d'être plus ergonomiques et de libérer vos mains pour que vous puissiez utiliser facilement vos jumelles lors de vos déplacements sur le terrain.



A historical map of Canada, showing the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Atlantic coast. The map is labeled with various geographical names and coordinates. Overlaid on the map is the title "Exploring Early Canadian Ornithology" in a large, bold, black font. To the right of the title, the text "with Jeff Harrison" is written in a smaller, black font.

Exploring Early Canadian Ornithology

with Jeff Harrison

Charles Fothergill (1782-1840)

Charles Fothergill was the most important ornithologist living in Canada in the first half of the 19th century. He emigrated from Liverpool, England in July 1816. After a two-month voyage, he arrived in Quebec on September 6, 1816. Fothergill's passage took him along the south coast of Newfoundland, through the Cabot Strait and into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and his ship appears to have stopped as well at Anticosti Island. Fothergill described the trip in his manuscript "Voyage from Liverpool to Quebec, 1816". This is one of many unpublished Fothergill manuscripts discovered in the 20th century by the noted Ontario ornithologist and curator, Jim Baillie.

Fothergill passed through Quebec on his way to Ontario to take up a land grant near Port Hope. In January 1817, he was in Montreal, where he met a "Mr. Hall" who shared his interest in natural history. This may have been American-born Jacob Hall, one of four brothers who emigrated to Montreal after the American Revolution. Jacob was the father of Dr Archibald Hall, who in 1839 wrote an important manuscript on the bird collection of the Montreal Natural History Society.

In early February, Fothergill left Montreal by sleigh, passing through Les Cèdres on February 8 and arriving in Ontario the following day. Fothergill established himself as a businessman, politician and publisher in Toronto. He never returned to Quebec. His career as a Canadian ornithologist is associated with Ontario, where he studied the bird life for 23 years until his death in 1840. He scientifically described 147 bird species, many of them first records for Ontario and Canada.

Fothergill's Quebec bird records are all from the St Lawrence or the Quebec area and date to 1816-17. His observations and collecting are important in the early history of Quebec ornithology given that between 1760 and 1820 the only other ornithologist of consequence was the British army officer, artist, and collector, Thomas Davies (c1737-1812). Davies was posted to Quebec between 1786 and 1790 but never published his records. His Quebec bird records can be found in the published works of his close associates, British ornithologists Thomas Pennant and John Latham, who described about 20 species collected by Davies in Quebec.

Unfortunately, Fothergill also did not publish his observations in Quebec. Most of Fothergill's Quebec records can be found in a list of birds contained in an alphabetical index he prepared in the late 1820s for his "Memoirs and illustrations of natural history in various parts of the British Empire." This manuscript was never published and is known today as the Clendenan volume.

One of the birds on the list he called the "Golden-crowned Povoine". A later description of this bird, which we now know as the Chestnut-sided Warbler, can be found in a companion volume known as the McGillivray manuscript (p.229). Included in his description are some interesting notes:

"There is a very beautiful family of small insectivorous birds that are neither titmice nor warblers i.e. I mean Pari or Mottiacillae, which inhabit the Canadas that for the present I shall name Povoines after the Provincial [Quebec] name mentioned by a Pilot from Father Point for the bird caught on board the William in the St. Lawrence on my voyage to Quebec in 1816, and which I painted from the life and described in the journal of my voyage with sufficient exactness immediately on shews.

*That bird to the Pilot on board he named it. The word Povoine in French means a "gnat catcher" which is very appropriate for all the birds which I shall place in this family the principal character of which is the formulation of the bill which is longer and straighter than the *Pari* and beset with bristle."*

(For transcriptions of all Fothergill's bird observations, see my transcriptions of Fothergill's bird records, Birds of Upper Canada, 1840 in the section on 19th-century Ontario in my Canadian ornithology website - <http://preconfederationornithology.ca>).

Regrettably, Fothergill's painting of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, like almost all of his extensive collection of artworks, has never been found.

Quebec bird records can also be found in the interleaved pages of Fothergill's copy of Bewick's British Birds. In total I have identified 23 Quebec species in various Fothergill writings as follows: Clendenan (13), McGillivray (4), Bewick (6). Nine Quebec birds in the Clendenan list: a gull, some terns, a phalarope, two shorebirds from Anticosti, etc. are given vernacular names. They are not identifiable at species level.

Fothergill's most interesting Quebec bird records are found in the McGillivray manuscript. In addition to the Chestnut-sided Warbler, he listed the Cinereous Godwit (Greater Yellowlegs), St. Lawrence Povoine (Red-breasted Nuthatch), Golden-vented Wren (Warbler species), and Ash-coloured Finch (Dark-eyed Junco).

The most complete description of birds Fothergill collected in Quebec is that of a pair of Greater Yellowlegs. His detailed description, not transcribed here, is followed by some interesting notes:

"Of a pair shot on the river St Charles called [indecipherable name] by the Indians on account of the numerous curvatures of its channel above the falls of La Jeune Lorette October 10th 1816, I could perceive no difference whatever except that there was a little more white on the upper tail coverts on one specimen than in the other. The Canadians about Quebec for want of a more apt knowledge, call this bird a woodcock. It is not infrequent in the market of Quebec in the autumn and the bird cannot be said to be uncommon in Lower Canada although it ranks among the most rare of British Birds.....I found them exquisite eating but being considered and named Woodcock by the Canadians their cooks generally dress them with tail in on a toast which spoils the birds -"

Fothergill intended to publish his writings in a four-volume set entitled Birds of the British Empire. He prepared considerable artwork for these unpublished volumes that has been mostly lost. The finest artwork that has survived is his Red-breasted Nuthatch, rendered from a bird he collected on board the William in the St. Lawrence River on his way to Quebec.



St. Lawrence Povoine (Red-breasted Nuthatch) August, 1816
McGillivray Manuscript (p. 247).

Another watercolour has also survived. Ash-coloured Finch (Dark eyed Junco) was collected at the mouth of the Chaudiere River in Quebec on September 29, 1816. He may have described it at the time but the description and artwork that has survived is from a bird collected in Ontario.

Six bird records were found in Fothergill's copy of Bewick's British Birds: Rock Pigeon, Common Murre, Razorbill, Purple Martin (which Fothergill called the Great Black Martin), Bohemian Waxwing (Waxen Chatterer), and American Pipit (Rock Lark).

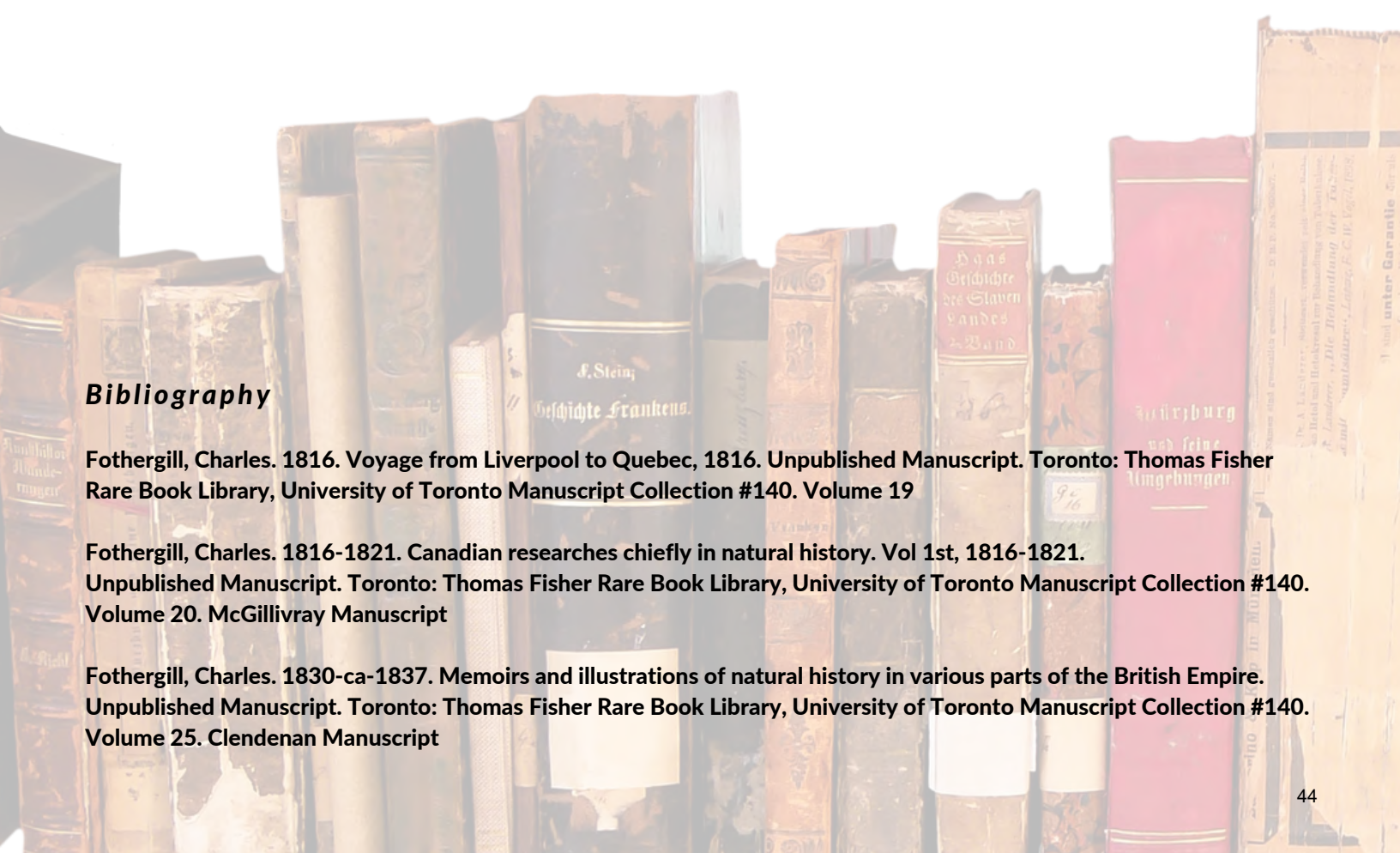
The Rock Pigeon record is notable. A drawing of a dovecote appears in early works from Champlain's settlement at Port Royal (Nova Scotia). Despite the early introduction of his bird, which was traditionally raised in France and New France for food, Fothergill's listing may be the earliest record from Quebec and Canada.

Finally, in his unpublished manuscript entitled Natural History Notes (p. 32) ascribed to the 1839-1840 period, Fothergill notes the range of the Bohemian Waxwing:

"William P. Smith, Ornithologist, has killed this bird in the neighbourhood of Quebec. A few also are occasionally seen in the Upper Province [Ontario] but is more rare here than lower down or more towards the north-east."

(William Patrick Smith assembled a massive early collection of Canadian birds during this period).

He also mentions Purple Martins at Quebec and Montreal, the latter location record most certainly provided by Hall.



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