

The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

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“The President Chirps”

by Sheldon Harvey
President, Bird Protection Quebec

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Our winter field trips are now in full swing. We look forward to seeing many of you out in the field on some of the upcoming outings.

Our annual Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts were very successful events. Reports appear later in this issue of the newsletter. The CBCs are very important citizen science projects, providing vital data on bird populations, and they always seem to draw the highest level of participation of any of the activities we conduct each year. Thank you to all of the participants and to the organizers for your efforts.

Other important citizen science projects are Project FeederWatch and the Great Backyard Bird Count. A number of BPQ members participate each year. The Quebec Nocturnal Owls Monitoring Project, the Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk Monitoring Project, and the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Project are a few more events that will take place in spring and early summer. Details on how to participate in these and many other projects are available on the Bird Studies Canada website at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/index.jsp?lang=EN>

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of Bird Protection Quebec. It may seem like a long way off right now but, really, it isn't. BPQ plans to celebrate the centenary in a big way. As a result, a project group has already been formed and has held a meeting to begin discussions on a schedule of events, field trips, lectures and other special activities that we will hold. 2017 is a big year all round. It marks the 275th anniversary of the city of Montreal; the 150th anniversary of Canada and the 50th anniversary of Expo 67. Rest assured that you will be hearing more about our plans for our BPQ centenary as the weeks and months go by.

On behalf of the BPQ Board members and the BPQ membership at large, I would like to thank Campbell Stuart for his time spent on our Board of Directors. Campbell has decided to step away from the Board. He is a practising lawyer and has been actively involved in many different projects,

including the Meadowbrook Golf Course project. His expertise and assistance in numerous projects while a member of the Board have been greatly appreciated. Campbell has agreed to be available to BPQ in the future for advice and direction on matters of a legal nature, for which we are extremely grateful.

In this newsletter, you'll find information on a call for nominations for open positions on the BPQ Board of Directors. We are also actively searching for someone to fill the position of BPQ's Secretary. Please read the notices. If you feel you might be interested, or if you know of others who you might like to consider for nomination, please get in touch with us. We have many ongoing projects, plus many interesting and exciting things planned, but we need the assistance and involvement of more people to make them happen.

Finally, we were saddened to learn in mid-January of the passing of a long-standing member of the BPQ family, Guy Zenaitis. On behalf of the BPQ Board of Directors and the membership at large, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to Guy's family and friends on their loss. A feature on Guy appears in this issue of *The Song Sparrow*.

New Members

Warm greetings to new members: Leanne de Kock, Andrew Winchester, and Richard Skinner. Please join us on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Good birding!

The Warbler Guide

by Jane Cormack

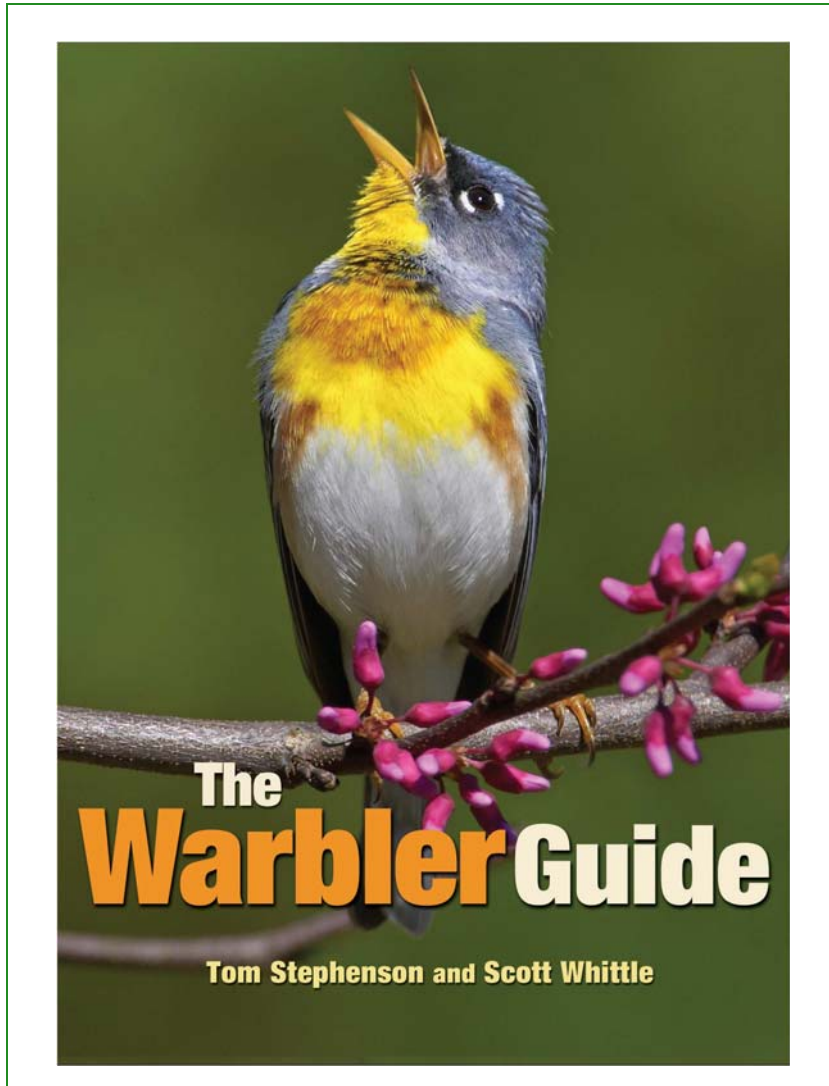
The Warbler Guide, written by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, was published in 2013, by Princeton University Press. It has received rave reviews and recently won the National Outdoor Book Award (NOBA). It's a beautiful book, packed with information. It features pages and pages of stunning photographs showing warblers from a variety of angles, including the side, 45 degrees, face, underneath, undertail, and in flight. In short, it shows birds in as many different ways as they are seen in the field. Most impressively, it includes extensive and innovative work on sonograms and learning how to identify warblers by song and call.

The book is now available in electronic format and, in time for spring migration, *The Warbler Guide app* has just been released on iOS for Apple iPhone, and iPad devices.

The printed version of *The Warbler Guide* includes many innovations in how information is presented. All are designed to facilitate identification of spring and fall warblers. Easy-to-understand icons are presented at the top of each page showing the bird silhouette, colour impression, undertail impression, range, habitat: where the bird is most likely to be seen on a tree, and foraging behaviour. With each species account, the birds are shown from several different angles and in varying plumages. Comparison charts are included on the same page to show similar birds from the same angles. "Why flip through ten pages of a guide in order to make an identification?"

Acquiring photographs of different species from different points of view was perhaps one of the greatest challenges in compiling the material. The authors travelled across the U.S. and approximately 90% of the photographs in the book are their own. The photographers they approached for the remaining 10% had multiple photos of male birds in spring plumage from the side view, but few shots of females and first- and second-year males in drabber plumage. "A great undertail view of a female is tough to come by," they say.

Information on ageing and sexing birds is presented for each species in a few short, illustrated, and easily grasped paragraphs. This is information that isn't readily available elsewhere. It exists only in long text-heavy volumes that are intended for banders and the academic birding community.



The migration maps are extended to show wintering grounds in Central and South America. They show both fall and spring routes.

Author Tom Stephenson has put a lot of thought into memorization and how people learn about bird song and vocalization. In order to prepare for birding trips outside of the U.S., he would spend a lot of time and effort learning how to identify the birds by ear, trying to learn as many different songs as possible. He found that there wasn't a lot of material available in traditional guides.

Although Tom has a strong background in music, he doesn't feel that this is a requirement, or even particularly useful for learning bird songs. The only advantages are that you have some experience and know how to listen to song. Learning how to pay attention to bird song is something that can be taught. Scott Whittle makes the comparison to learning how to identify birds visually: "At first you may see a group of sparrows as a bunch of little brown birds. And they are, until someone points out to you that some have eyebrow stripes and some have chest spots. Then, you start looking for and noticing these specific things."

The first step is to have a vocabulary for describing vocalization. Both Tom and Scott came to the realization that transliterations are essentially useless. They are subjective and vary a lot from one guide to the next. A word like *sweet*, for example, can have several different connotations to different people.

What is required is a structure for thinking about bird song. They break this down into three questions: "Is it rising or falling? Is it buzzy or clear? How many segments does it contain?"

Of course these are easier to understand if you can listen to the song at the same time that you are looking at the sonogram, something that's hard to do in a traditional paper-based guide. Companion audio files are available for free download from their website: TheWarblerGuide.com.

Part of the attraction of the new *Warbler Guide app* is how easy it is to access this type of information. As with other field guide apps, it's easy to listen to the song and look at the sonogram for the particular bird that you have selected. You can compare it with the songs of other similar species at the same time.

The Warbler Guide app has many features that aren't available in other apps, and wouldn't be possible in a paper-based version of a guide or even an ebook

format. It includes all the various views of birds that are available in the guide and all sonograms, with audio. Most impressively, it has a 3D feature that you can use to rotate the image of a bird until it displays in the position that you saw it in a tree a few seconds ago, for example. You can add a second bird and rotate both for comparison.

My favourite feature is the advanced filter. You can pinpoint one or more specific aspects of a bird, such as a yellow eye rings or white wing bars. You can add the type of song to this and then look at the possibilities among the results, in 3D or as flat images.

Traditional guides point out the things that you should pay attention to; for example, the black cap on the Wilson's Warbler or the necklace on the Canada Warbler. Actually, you might not have seen any of these things. Being able to rotate the bird, or to filter by another aspect, helps you to learn to identify birds by often overlooked points that can be just as useful for identification.

Additional features are planned for future releases of *The Warbler Guide app*. At the same time, the authors are releasing a new app for identifying birds, called BirdGenie™. With this, you can record a bird on your Apple or Android device and get an immediate identification.

To learn more about *The Warbler Guide app*, click on the following link: <http://youtu.be/drWlOqn4oyA>

To learn more about *The Warbler Guide* and warblers, visit the Warbler Guide website. You can download charts of warblers in different views, listen to warbler song, and watch several instructional videos: <http://www.thewarblerguide.com>

The Warbler Guide © 2013 ISBN: 978-0-691-15482-4
The Warbler Guide app © 2015 ISBN: 9781400849901
Princeton University Press



Scott Whittle has 20 years' experience as a professional photographer and educator. He holds an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York and is a fellow at the MacDowell Colony. Although he has not been birding that long, he set a record, in 2008, of 350 birds in the New York State Big Year. In 2011, his and Tom's digiscoping team won the World Series Cape Island Cup. With Tom, in 2014, he set the US record for a Photo Big Day.

He lives in Cape May, NJ, where he leads workshops and pursues his passion for birds and photography.



Tom Stephenson began birding early in life, inspired by his brother's fourth-grade teacher. He continued to develop his skills through his high-school years under the tutelage of Dr. Arthur Allen of Cornell University. During college, he began to pursue a music career and the hours weren't conducive to doing much birdwatching. He worked with several Grammy and Academy Award winners and performed with members of the NY Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. His clients included the Grateful Dead, Phil Collins, and the FBI. He later had a successful career with Roland Corporation, where he was Director of Technology, but he never gave up his love of performance: "Nothing in the Corporate world compares to the experience of being on stage in front of an audience of 10,000 people and being called back for a fourth encore."

During those years, he picked up birding again, travelling, and eventually leading groups across the U.S. and Asia. His articles and photographs appear in *Birding*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, *Handbook of the Mammals of the World*, and *Guide to the Birds of SE Brazil*. He has donated many recordings of Eastern Himalayan rarities and other Asian species to Cornell's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds.

Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle are scheduled to give a presentation in Montreal on Friday, May 8, and to lead a field trip Saturday, May 9, before heading to the Magee Marsh festival. The talk and field trip will appeal to anyone interested in birds, song, nature, photography, or electronic media.

Stay tuned for further details.

Montreal Christmas Bird Count

by Sheldon Harvey and Barbara Szabo
BPQ Montreal Christmas Bird Count co-ordinators and compilers



Snowy Owl © 2014 Chuck Kling

The 2014 Montreal Christmas Bird Count, Audubon's 115th annual event, was held on December 20, 2014. This year's count, weather-wise, was definitely a major improvement over last year's when we were faced with a winter storm the day before the count. This year presented us with fairly mild and mostly cloudy conditions and no significant precipitation.

Seventy participants took part in the count, covering 20 different territories throughout the count circle. The teams covered a combined total of 715 kilometres of driving and walking, generating a total effort of 115 hours. Six hours of owling were conducted this year during the count.

We completed the day with a total of 75 species, just two species below our Montreal count record of 77 species achieved two years ago. The total number of individual birds recorded was 13,055. There were three additional species recorded during the count week period (Wild Turkey, Long-tailed Duck, and Orange-crowned Warbler). These, following Audubon's regulations, are not included in the count-day records.

We were able to add one new species to our master species list. A Black-headed Gull was seen by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh offshore near Bishop Power Blvd. and LaSalle Blvd. in Ville LaSalle. We also broke or tied previous high records for the following 12 species: Bald Eagle-2; Cooper's Hawk-14; Eastern Screech-Owl-11; Red-bellied Woodpecker-3; Pileated Woodpecker-18; White-breasted Nuthatch-146; White-throated Sparrow-29; Eastern Bluebird-7; Grey Catbird-1; Hermit Thrush-2; Nashville Warbler-1; and Black-headed Gull-1. Only three species have been recorded in every BPQ Montreal count: Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch.

The top five highest numbers of birds for individual species this year were 1) European Starling-2414; 2) Rock Pigeon-1835; 3) American Crow-1624; 4) House Sparrow-1017; and 5) Mallard-942.

The following table lists the number of each species counted this year; the new high counts or unusual species; the highest number of each species recorded historically in a Montreal count, with the count year; and the number of counts on which each species was recorded.

Species	No.	High or Unusual	Highest / Count Year	No. of Counts Seen
Canada Goose	575		4184/112	27
Wood Duck	1		2/112	9
Gadwall	2		115/103	31
American Wigeon	12		150/72	42
American Black Duck	186		1400/65	55
Mallard	942		3835/99	65

Species	No.	High or Unusual	Highest / Count Year	No. of Counts Seen
Northern Pintail	2		217/79	47
Greater Scaup	3		1205/113	48
Lesser Scaup	2		1502/100	31
White-winged Scoter	2		37/38	14
Long-tailed Duck	CW		3/110	7
Common Goldeneye	810		2423/60	56
Barrow's Goldeneye	2		5/112	16
Hooded Merganser	37		106/113	37
Common Merganser	277		1316/87	56
Red-breasted Merganser	6		120/67	32
Wild Turkey	CW		15/113	4
Common Loon	2		7/112	25
Double-crested Cormorant	3		75/106	26
Great Blue Heron	1		6/94	16
Bald Eagle	2	HC	2/115	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4		6/107	27
Cooper's Hawk	14	HC	14/115	24
Red-tailed Hawk	19		28/113	36
Rough-legged Hawk	6		32/65	54
Merlin	4		10/111	20
Peregrine Falcon	5		6/107	21
Black-headed Gull	1	US, HC	1/115	1
Ring-billed Gull	104		8260/102	55

Species	No.	High or Unusual	Highest / Count Year	No. of Counts Seen
Herring Gull	588		9731/91	75
Iceland Gull	5		64/77	48
Great Black-backed Gull	238		1839/87	68
Rock Pigeon	1835		2256/108	12
Mourning Dove	34		253/96	41
Eastern Screech-Owl	11	HC	11/115	32
Great Horned Owl	1		11/103	51
Snowy Owl	6		10/65	50
Barred Owl	1		4/111	24
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	HC	3/115	10
Downy Woodpecker	121		143/111	77
Hairy Woodpecker	69		70/108	78
Northern Flicker	3		6/107	16
Pileated Woodpecker	18	HC	18/115	33
Hairy Woodpecker	69		70/108	78
Northern Flicker	3		6/107	16
Pileated Woodpecker	18	HC	18/115	33
Blue Jay	37		64/111	56
American Crow	1624		9149/111	65
Common Raven	13		150/82	18
Horned Lark	42		119/106	23
Black-capped Chickadee	656		876/111	78
Tufted Titmouse	5		8/111	11

Species	No.	High or Unusual	Highest / Count Year	No. of Counts Seen
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3		12/111	24
White-breasted Nuthatch	146	HC	146/115	78
Brown Creeper	20		39/86	74
Carolina Wren	3		5/111	17
Winter Wren	1		3/111	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4		36/103	30
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		3/100	11
Eastern Bluebird	7	HC	7/115	3
Hermit Thrush	2	HC	2/115	12
American Robin	373		1064/101	60
Gray Catbird	1	HC	1/115	3
Northern Mockingbird	2		5/91	32
European Starling	2404		14000/71	55
Cedar Waxwing	25		210/71	39
Orange-crowned Warbler	CW	US	1/106	4
Nashville Warbler	1	HC	1/115	2
American Tree Sparrow	79		170/103	58
Song Sparrow	7		31/89	61
White-throated Sparrow	29	HC	29/115	39
Dark-eyed Junco	137		175/113	13
Snow Bunting	64		740/71	67
Northern Cardinal	198		204/111	44

Species	No.	High or Unusual	Highest / Count Year	No. of Counts Seen
Pine Grosbeak	1		206/42	44
House Finch	97		421/96	31
Common Redpoll	3		537/82	54
Pine Siskin	1		55/105	24
American Goldfinch	92		439/109	54
House Sparrow	1017		2794/96	63

Legend:

CW = Reported during count week
 US = Flagged as an unusual species
 HC = Flagged as a high count

Total Individuals 13,055 Total Species Reported 75

A compilation gathering was held at the Montreal West Curling Club following the count. Approximately 35 people attended the event. The food was supplied by Bird Protection Quebec.

Thank you to all who participated in this important citizen science project.

Hudson Christmas Bird Count



by Jean Demers

On December 27, 2014, the 74th annual Hudson Christmas Bird Count was held. 7,190 birds of 57 species were counted. Although the number of species is average for the last 15 years, the number of birds is 20% lower than the average for these years. It is 28% higher than last year.

We had six records: 137 Wild Turkey, 3 Bald Eagle, 12 Red-tailed Hawk, 34 Pileated Woodpecker, 249 White-breasted Nuthatch, 32 Brown Creeper. These species have been seen on over 80% of the counts in the 74 years of the count:

Species	Total	% / Number of Years / Notes
Common Loon	1	
Canada Goose	47	
American Black Duck	2	
Mallard	75	
Common Goldeneye	37	
Common Merganser	273	
Ruffed Grouse	8	72 years
Wild Turkey	137	
Double-crested Cormorant	1	
Great Blue Heron	1	
Bald Eagle	3	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	
Cooper's Hawk	3	
Northern Goshawk	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	12	
Rough-legged Hawk	2	
American Kestrel	1	
Merlin	2	
Ring-billed Gull	1	
Cooper's Hawk	3	
Northern Goshawk	1	
Herring Gull	47	

Species	Total	% / Number of Years / Notes
Great Black-backed Gull	16	
Rock Pigeon	567	
Mourning Dove	258	
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	
Great Horned Owl	1	
Snowy Owl	13	
Barred Owl	1	
Downy Woodpecker	133	73 years
Hairy Woodpecker	85	74 years
Northern Flicker	3	
Black-backed Woodpecker	1	
Pileated Woodpecker	34	82.43%
Blue Jay	436	74 years
Gray Jay		
American Crow	375	
Common Raven	13	
Black-capped Chickadee	1577	74 years
Red-breasted Nuthatch	28	90.54%
White-breasted Nuthatch	249	74 years
Brown Creeper	32	83.78%
Carolina Wren	1	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	
American Robin	108	

Species	Total	% / Number of Years / Notes
European Starling	1219	73 years
Cedar Waxwing	39	
American Tree Sparrow	80	72 years
Song Sparrow	3	
Northern Shrike	4	
Dark-eyed Junco	402	90.4%
Snow Bunting	4	83.78%
Northern Cardinal	108	
Red-winged Blackbird	3	
House Finch	26	
Common Redpoll	127	81.08%
Pine Siskin	10	
American Goldfinch	298	89.19%
House Sparrow	277	97.30%, the average is 835 and this year only 277, the record 3,458 in 1974

7,190 birds of 57 species were counted

Thank you to all the participants and see you all in December 2015.

Bird Views

Parlons d'oiseaux

by/par: Pierre Bannon

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

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

November 2014-January 2015

Barnacle Goose: single birds reported at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 2 Dec (G. Éthier, H. Boivin) and at Montmagny 7-8 Dec (*ph.*, C. Maurice, F. Shaffer, G. Garant, T. Rivière). **Harlequin Duck:** inland records involved single birds at Châteauguay 1-7 Dec (J. Gauthier, *m. ob.*) and at Laval 13 Jan + (L. Auclair, *m. ob.*). **Common Loon:** a high count of 23 for the Tadoussac CBC 28 Dec was noteworthy (S. Denault, O. Barden). **Northern Fulmar:** one at Rivière-Ouelle 12 Dec was late (JF. Rousseau). **Great Egret:** one at Havre-Aubert (Magdalen Is.) 1-27 Dec was record late for the province (A. Richard et al.). **Golden Eagle:** a bird at Chibougamau 1 Dec was late for this locality (A. Anctil, H. Johansen).

American Golden-Plover: a bird at La Baie 1 Dec provided a record late date for the province (Y. Darveau et al.). **Sanderling:** a bird at Dune du Nord (Magdalen Is.) 7 Jan was very late but not unprecedented (C. Bénard). **Sabine's Gull:** a juv at Trois-Pistoles 1 Dec was record late for the province (R. Deschênes). **Black-headed Gull:** a first winter bird at LaSalle 20 Dec (B. Barnhurst). **Thayer's Gull:** a first winter bird at Lachute 5-7 Dec (P. Bannon, D. Ouellette). **Lesser Black-back Gull:** 2 ad at Laval 10 Jan (S. Denault). **Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull:** three different adults were believed to be this hybrid: Sherbrooke 14-31 Dec (C. & A. Turcotte-van de Rydt), Sainte-Catherine 27-28 Dec (P. Bannon, R. Belhumeur), Terrebonne 14 Dec & 21 Jan (S. Denault, P. Bannon). **Glaucous Gull X Herring Gull:** an ad photographed at Laval 20 Jan showing a plumage

Novembre 2014-janvier 2015

Bernache nonnette : des indiv à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 2 déc (G. Éthier, H. Boivin) et à Montmagny 7-8 déc (*ph.*, C. Maurice, F. Shaffer, G. Garant, T. Rivière). **Arlequin plongeur :** des indiv qui semblent hiverner dans les terres à Châteauguay 1-7 déc (J. Gauthier, *pl. ob.*) et à Laval 13 jan + (L. Auclair, *pl. ob.*). **Plongeon huard :** un décompte élevé de 23 indiv pour le RON de Tadoussac le 28 déc était notable (S. Denault, O. Barden). **Fulmar boréal :** un à Rivière-Ouelle 12 déc était tardif (JF. Rousseau). **Grande Aigrette :** une à Havre-Aubert (IDL) 1-27 déc représentait une date tardive record pour la province (A. Richard et al.). **Aigle royal :** un oiseau à Chibougamau 1^{er} déc était tardif pour cette localité (A. Anctil, H. Johansen).

Pluvier bronzé : un oiseau à La Baie 1^{er} déc fournissait un nouveau record de date tardive pour la province (Y. Darveau et al.). **Bécasseau sanderling :** un oiseau à Dune du Nord (IDL) 7 jan était très tardif mais non sans précédent (C. Bénard). **Mouette de Sabine :** un juv à Trois-Pistoles 1^{er} déc constituait un nouveau record pour la province (R. Deschênes). **Mouette rieuse :** un oiseau de 1^{er} hiver à LaSalle 20 déc (B. Barnhurst). **Goéland de Thayer :** un oiseau de 1^{er} hiver à Lachute 5-7 déc (P. Bannon, D. Ouellette). **Goéland brun :** 2 ad à Laval 10 jan (S. Denault). **Goéland argenté X Goéland marin :** trois ad correspondaient à la description de cet hybride : Sherbrooke 14-31 déc (C. & A. Turcotte-van de Rydt), Sainte-Catherine 27-28 déc (P. Bannon, R. Belhumeur), Terrebonne 14 déc & 21 jan (S. Denault, P. Bannon). **Goéland bourgmestre X Goéland argenté :** un ad photographié à

suggesting this hybrid (M. Boisvert). **Parasitic Jaeger**: one at Trois-Pistoles 1 Dec was late (R. Deschênes).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: one reappeared at Saint-Agapit near Saint-Flavien 17-20 Jan (JM. Lagueux-Tremblay, D. Turgeon). **White-winged Dove**: one at Étang du Nord (Magdalen Is.) 6 Dec-22 Jan established a record late date for the province (C. Roy, *m.ob.*). **Snowy Owl**: for the second consecutive winter, birds moved south in large numbers: 20 were counted at Saint-Hubert 20 Dec (A. Provost). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: well established in the south; the northernmost bird was at Rivière-au-Renard until at least 10 Jan (P. Fradette et al.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: singles at the Montreal Botanical Garden 6-15 Dec (M. Groulx) and at Chandler 9 Dec-22 Jan (R. Garrett, *m.ob.*). **Carolina Wren**: well in evidence in southern Québec; the northernmost were at Rimouski 2-7 Jan (P. Fradette) and at Gaspé until 10 Jan (P. Fradette). **Winter Wren**: late birds were at Québec City 2-4 Jan (D. Turgeon), Plessisville 11 Jan (C. Roy), Châteauguay 17 Jan (V. Turcotte), and Sainte-Catherine 18 Jan (JC. Charbonneau). **Marsh Wren**: one at Chandler 1 Dec (P. Poulin et al.). **Eastern Bluebird**: 4 at Longueuil 17 Jan were the latest (G. Charette). **Townsend's Solitaire**: one at Saguenay 14 Dec (J. Ibarzabal et al.). **Swainson's Thrush**: one at Sherbrooke 2 Dec (C. Turcotte-van de Rydt). **Hermit Thrush**: not less than 17 birds were reported throughout the period, the latest at the Montreal Botanical Garden 18 Jan (Z. Laubitz). **Gray Catbird**: singles at Saint-Timothée 8 Dec (P. Laniel) and at Dorval 20 Dec (B. MacDuff). **Brown Thrasher**: singles at Isle aux Allumettes 21 Dec (M. Flegue), Granby from last fall through 29 Dec (R. Papineau et al) and Gatineau 3-5 Jan (R. Bisson).

Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Sainte-Catherine 15 Dec-3 Jan, a record late date for the province (ph., L. Lemay, *m.ob.*). **Nashville Warbler**: one at Sainte-Catherine from last Nov through 2 Jan (S. Denault, *m.ob.*). **Cape May Warbler**: one at Gatineau 20 Nov-11 Dec, a new record late date for the province (ph., R. Pariseau). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: singles at Lachute from last Oct through 30 Dec, a new record late date for the province (D. Miron), Cité du Havre (Montréal) 5-17 Dec (D. Demers) and Châteauguay 22 Dec (D. Gendron). **Common Yellowthroat**: one in the Magdalen Is. 18-20 Dec (B. Vigneault et al.).

Eastern Towhee: an exceptional total of 8 birds reported; singles at Saint-Félix d'Otis 2 Dec-11 Jan (J. Ibarzabal), Chandler 6 Dec-22 Jan (R. Garrett), La Malbaie 11 Dec-1st Jan (R. Charest), Isle-Verte 19 Dec-23 Jan (R.

Laval 20 jan dont le plumage suggérait cet hybride (M. Boisvert). **Labbe parasite** : un à Trois-Pistoles 1^{er} déc était tardif (R. Deschênes).

Tourterelle turque : une est apparue de nouveau à Saint-Agapit près de Saint-Flavien 17-20 jan (JM. Lagueux-Tremblay, D. Turgeon). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches** : une à Étang du Nord (IDL) 6 déc-22 jan a procuré une date tardive record pour la province (C. Roy, *pl. ob.*). **Harfang des neiges** : pour le 2^{ème} hiver consécutif, plusieurs oiseaux se sont déplacés vers le sud : e.g. 20 dénombrés à Saint-Hubert 20 déc (A. Provost). **Pic à ventre roux** : bien présent dans le sud; plus au nord, un oiseau était à Rivière-au-Renard jusqu'au 10 jan (P. Fradette et al.). **Pic maculé** : des indiv au Jardin botanique de Montréal 6-15 déc (M. Groulx) et à Chandler 9 déc-22 jan (R. Garrett, *pl.ob.*). **Troglodyte de Caroline** : très en evidence dans le sud du Québec; des oiseaux se sont rendus à Rimouski 2-7 jan (P. Fradette) and à Gaspé jusqu'au 10 jan (P. Fradette). **Troglodyte des forêts** : des oiseaux tardifs étaient à Québec 2-4 jan (D. Turgeon), Plessisville 11 jan (C. Roy), Châteauguay 17 jan (V. Turcotte), et Sainte-Catherine 18 jan (JC. Charbonneau). **Troglodyte des marais** : un à Chandler 1^{er} déc (P. Poulin et al.). **Merlebleu de l'Est** : 4 à Longueuil 17 jan étaient tardifs (G. Charette). **Solitaire de Townsend** : un à Saguenay 14 déc (J. Ibarzabal et al.). **Grive à dos olive**: une à Sherbrooke 2 déc (C. Turcotte-van de Rydt). **Grive solitaire** : pas moins de 17 oiseaux signalés pour la période, le plus tardif au Jardin botanique de Montréal 18 jan (Z. Laubitz). **Moqueur chat** : des indiv à Saint-Timothée 8 déc (P. Laniel) et à Dorval 20 déc (B. McDuff). **Moqueur roux** : des indiv à Isle aux Allumettes 21 déc (M. Flegue), Granby depuis l'automne jusqu'au 29 déc (R. Papineau et al) et à Gatineau 3-5 jan (R. Bisson).

Paruline verdâtre : une à Sainte-Catherine 15 déc-3 jan, une date tardive record pour la province (ph., L. Lemay, *pl. ob.*). **Paruline à joues grises** : une à Sainte-Catherine depuis nov jusqu'au 2 jan (S. Denault, *pl. ob.*). **Paruline tigrée** : une à Gatineau 20 nov-11 déc, une nouvelle date tardive pour la province (ph., R. Pariseau). **Paruline à gorge jaune** : des indiv à Lachute depuis oct jusqu'au 30 déc, une nouvelle date de départ record pour la province (D. Miron), Cité du Havre (Montréal) 5-17 déc (D. Demers) et Châteauguay 22 déc (D. Gendron). **Paruline masquée** : une aux IDLM 18-20 déc (B. Vigneault et al.).

Tohi à flancs roux : un total exceptionnel de 8 indiv signalés : Saint-Félix d'Otis 2 déc-11 jan (J. Ibarzabal), Chandler 6 déc-22 jan (R. Garrett), La

Chenard et al.), Sainte-Clotilde-de-Châteauguay 12-23 Jan (Y. Demers), Lebel-sur-Quévillon 22 Nov-21 Jan (D & L. Lévesque), Lac Bourgeois (Abitibi) from early Dec through 4 Jan (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye) and Saint-Ulric 3 Jan (P. Fradette). **Chipping Sparrow**: 7 birds reported, a notable total. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one at Rimouski 12 Dec (J. Larivée). **Field Sparrow**: singles at Sainte-Martine 13 Dec-25 Jan (M. Cyr et al., *m. ob.*), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 21 Dec (S. Mathieu et al.) and Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac 21 Dec (D. Ouellette). **Vesper Sparrow**: 2 at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 20 Dec (P. Laporte et al, *fide* S. Mathieu.) and one at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 21 Dec (M. Chalifoux, G. Leroux). **Lark Sparrow**: one at Princeville 15-18 Dec (ph., J & A. Charrette, *m. ob.*). **Savannah Sparrow**: singles at Saint-Sébastien 14 Dec (S. Mathieu et al.), Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 21 Dec (N. Guénette, L. Lemay) and Saint-Alphonse-de-Granby 11-14 Jan (E. Tremblay, M. Leclerc). **Fox Sparrow**: 5 birds reported. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one at Rivière Lorette 14 Dec (L. Plante). **Swamp Sparrow**: singles at Hudson 7 Dec (W. Grubert), Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 21 Dec (M. Chalifoux, G. Leroux), and Châteauguay 15-20 Jan (F. Grondin, D. Clermont). **Harris's Sparrow**: one at Mirabel 4 Dec (*fide* L. Simard). **White-crowned Sparrow**: an exceptional winter for this species with a total of about two dozen birds reported.

Western Tanager: one photographed at Maria 27 Nov-7 Dec was record late for the province (G. Leblanc, M. Lessard). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: singles at Saint-Anaclet 11-15 Dec (P. Fradette), and at Gatineau 15-17 Dec (R. Bisson et al.). **Eastern Meadowlark**: singles at Saint-André d'Argenteuil 13-14 Dec (JC. Charbonneau) and at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 21 Dec (M. Chalifoux, G. Leroux). **Bullock's Oriole**: an ad male at Haldimand (Gaspé) from early Nov through 6 Jan (D. Jalbert, A. Gagnon). **Baltimore Oriole**: one at Gaspé 2 Jan (A. Couture). **European Goldfinch**: one at Saint-Édouard-de-Lotbinière 6 Dec (M. Gauvin).

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

Malbaie 11 déc-1er jan (R. Charest), Isle-Verte 19 déc-23 jan (R. Chenard et al.), Sainte-Clotilde-de-Châteauguay 12-23 jan (Y. Demers), Lebel-sur-Quévillon 22 nov-21 jan (D & L. Lévesque), Lac Bourgeois (Abitibi) depuis début déc jusqu'au 4 jan (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye) et Saint-Ulric 3 jan (P. Fradette). **Bruant familier** : 7 indiv signalés, un nombre notable. **Bruant des plaines** : un à Rimouski 12 déc (J. Larivée). **Bruant des champs** : des indiv à Sainte-Martine 13 déc-25 jan (M. Cyr et al., *pl. ob.*), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 21 déc (S. Mathieu et al.) et Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac 21 déc (D. Ouellette). **Bruant vespéral** : 2 à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 20 déc (P. Laporte et al, *fide* S. Mathieu.) et un à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 21 déc (M. Chalifoux, G. Leroux). **Bruant à joues marron** : un à Princeville 15-18 déc (ph., J & A. Charrette, *pl. ob.*). **Bruant des prés** : des indiv à Saint-Sébastien 14 déc (S. Mathieu et al.), Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 21 déc (N. Guénette, L. Lemay) et Saint-Alphonse-de-Granby 11-14 jan (E. Tremblay, M. Leclerc). **Bruant fauve** : 5 indiv signalés. **Bruant de Lincoln** : un à Rivière Lorette 14 déc (L. Plante). **Bruant des marais** : des indiv à Hudson 7 déc (W. Grubert), Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 21 déc (M. Chalifoux, G. Leroux), et Châteauguay 15-20 jan (F. Grondin, D. Clermont). **Bruant à face noire** : un à Mirabel 4 déc (*fide* L. Simard). **Bruant à couronne blanche** : un début d'hiver exceptionnel pour cette espèce avec un total d'environ deux douzaines d'oiseaux qui ont été signalés.

Piranga à tête rouge : un photographié à Maria 27 nov-7 déc, une date tardive record pour la province (G. Leblanc, M. Lessard). **Cardinal à poitrine rose** : des indiv à Saint-Anaclet 11-15 déc (P. Fradette), et à Gatineau 15-17 déc (R. Bisson et al.). **Sturnelle des prés** : des indiv à Saint-André d'Argenteuil 13-14 déc (JC. Charbonneau) et à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 21 déc (M. Chalifoux, G. Leroux). **Oriole de Bullock** : un mâle adulte à Haldimand (Gaspé) depuis début nov jusqu'au 6 jan (D. Jalbert, A. Gagnon). **Oriole de Baltimore** : un à Gaspé 2 jan (A. Couture). **Chardonneret élégant** : un à Saint-Édouard-de-Lotbinière 6 déc (M. Gauvin).

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

Upcoming BPQ Monthly Lectures

BPQ Monthly Lectures are held on the first Monday of every month, during the fall and winter, at 7:30 p.m. at Kensington Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG

They are free of charge. All are welcome!

Online Calendar:

For up-to-the-minute information about our lectures and other events, visit the calendar page of the BPQ website: [online calendar](#).

Designing Wildlife Corridors: Examples from the Northern Appalachians

**Monday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG**

The Northern Appalachians are one of the most intact temperate broadleaf forests in the world. However, well-established farms, increased second-home development, and new roads threaten to fragment this extraordinary region into a series of disconnected ecological islands. In 2008, Wildlands Network, Two Countries One Forest, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and other organizations identified a set of landscape linkages that are essential for regional-scale movement of wildlife and to maintain ecological processes between large blocks of habitat. A network of partners was convened to share information and mobilize action in those linkages. Two of these critical linkages are found in Quebec: The Northern Green Mountains and the Three Borders. Conserving and restoring connectivity is a challenging undertaking, but according to scientists it is the best way to mitigate the impacts of habitat fragmentation on wildlife populations and biodiversity.

Louise Gratton has an MSc in Biology from UQAM and 35 years' experience working in ecology and conservation, including 12 as Science Director of Nature Conservancy Canada, Quebec region. She has worked with federal and provincial agencies, non-governmental organizations, municipalities, promoters, and landowners across Quebec. Louise is a founding member and acting secretary of the Appalachian Corridor and has been on the board of Two Countries, One Forest from its inception. Both organizations focus on the protection and sustainable development of the Northern Appalachians ecosystems. She has received several awards recognizing her commitment to biodiversity conservation.



Canada Lynx travelling in one of the corridors protected by the NCC near Forillon National Park, QC, as part of a project that Louise initiated. The image was captured by a motion detection camera that was set up by NCC staff.

Ten Years of Migration Monitoring – Highlights of MBO’s First Decade

Monday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave, NDG



McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) was launched as a pilot project in August 2004 by a small team of graduate students from McGill’s Natural Resource Sciences program, assisted by a few BPQ members. Little did anyone realize at the time how successful the program would become. Spring and fall migration monitoring programs have been standardized since 2005, and along the way summer and winter research projects were added and the capacity of

the Northern Saw-whet Owl migration program was expanded. Despite open water being limited to small ponds, the site checklist has grown to 209 species; perhaps more impressively, 115 of these have been banded. MBO’s 50,000th bird was banded in October 2014, and the annual average of over 5,000 individuals banded ranks among the top handful of migration monitoring locations in Canada. Along the way, MBO banders have trained hundreds of volunteers, learned new details about countless species, and generated ever more questions to keep us busy well into the future! This presentation will highlight key results from MBO’s new ten-year report, and provide a sneak peek at what lies ahead.

Marcel Gahbauer is one of the co-founders of MBO, and served as the primary bander-in-charge for the first three years (while procrastinating on completion of his PhD at McGill). He has since scaled back on-site activities, but remains heavily involved with data analysis and program guidance as executive director of the Migration Research Foundation (which operates MBO). Outside MBO and MRF, Marcel serves as co-chair of COSEWIC’s Birds Specialist Subcommittee, and is a senior wildlife biologist with Stantec, based in Ottawa.

Call for New Directors

Bird Protection Quebec runs its affairs solely by the contributions of volunteers from amongst our members. There are positions on the board of directors that will be open for election at the May 2015 annual general meeting and we invite all members to submit nominations of new Directors to join the BPQ Board. The deadline for the receipt of nominations for the 2015-2017 term of office is April 6, 2015. All nominees should be members in good standing of Bird Protection Quebec. Nominations must be signed by the nominee and co-signed by two supporters.

By joining the BPQ board, you will help us to develop and implement our charitable work for birds and wildlife; to manage our bird sanctuaries; to work with the newsletter and website; to organize field trips; to develop our conservation and education initiatives; and all the other fascinating and important work that BPQ is involved in. If you are interested in the work of BPQ, or if you wish to nominate someone, please get in touch by e-mail (birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com) by April 6, 2015.

Appel à candidature pour de nouveaux administrateurs

Protection des oiseaux du Québec réalise ses activités exclusivement grâce aux contributions bénévoles de ses membres. En 2015, des postes au sein du conseil d'administration seront à pourvoir, et feront l'objet d'une élection lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de mai 2015. Nous invitons tous les membres à proposer des candidatures pour le Conseil d'administration. La date limite pour le dépôt des candidatures - pour un mandat s'étalant de 2015 à 2017 - est fixée au 6 avril 2015. Tous les candidats doivent être membres en règle de Protection des oiseaux du Québec. Les candidatures doivent être signées par le candidat et co-signées par deux membres appuyant la candidature.

En rejoignant le conseil d'administration de POQ, vous nous aiderez à développer et à mettre en œuvre nos initiatives en faveur des oiseaux et de la faune sauvage ; à gérer nos sanctuaires d'oiseaux ; à développer notre bulletin d'information et notre site Internet ; à organiser des excursions sur le terrain ; à développer nos initiatives de conservation et d'éducation ; et à mener tous les autres travaux fascinants et importants dans lesquels POQ est impliqué. Si vous êtes intéressé par le travail de POQ, ou si vous souhaitez proposer une candidature, merci de nous contacter par courriel (birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com) avant la date limite du 6 avril 2015.

Bird Protection Quebec Secretary

Bird Protection Quebec is currently seeking a volunteer to fill the position of Secretary on our executive. The Secretary does not necessarily have to be a member of the Board of Directors.

The Secretary plays a very important role within BPQ. Good records must be maintained for the current Board and for those that will follow in the future. The

role of the secretary is vital in helping to keep the Board meetings organized and running smoothly. The Secretary works hand in hand with the President, preparing and organizing the agenda for Board meetings, reviewing notes and distributing the required documents for each meeting. The Secretary also prepares, edits and produces the notes of all Board meetings. There are several other periodic tasks to complete throughout each year.



Barred Owl © Chuck Kling

There are 8 annual Board meetings, between early September and early June, plus the annual general meeting at the end of May. The location of Board meetings currently alternates from month to month between the Kensington Church and the Morgan Arboretum.

If the position of BPQ Secretary is of interest to you, if you have more questions regarding the position and its requirements, or if you wish to suggest someone who might be interested, please contact Sheldon Harvey at 450-462-1459, or by e-mail at ve2shw@yahoo.com

Poste de Secrétaire pour Protection des Oiseaux Québec

Protection des oiseaux du Québec est actuellement à la recherche d'un bénévole pour combler le poste de Secrétaire de notre Conseil d'Administration. Le secrétaire ne doit pas nécessairement être membre du Conseil d'administration.

Le Secrétaire joue un rôle très important au sein de POQ. Des comptes rendus de réunion de qualité doivent être élaborés et archivés pour le conseil d'administration actuel et pour ceux qui suivront. Le rôle du secrétaire est essentiel afin d'assurer la préparation, l'organisation et le bon déroulement des réunions du Conseil d'administration. Le Secrétaire travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Président à la préparation et l'organisation de l'ordre du jour des réunions du Conseil, à la révision des notes et à la distribution des documents requis pour chaque réunion. Le Secrétaire prépare, révise et distribue également les comptes rendus de toutes les réunions du Conseil. Plusieurs autres tâches périodiques doivent également être menées tout au long de l'année.

Huit réunions du conseil d'administration sont organisées annuellement, entre début septembre et début juin; et l'assemblée générale annuelle a lieu à la fin de mai. Les réunions du Conseil se déroulent mensuellement, et alternent entre l'église Kensington et l'Arboretum Morgan.

Si le poste de secrétaire de POQ vous intéresse, si vous avez d'autres questions concernant le poste et les qualités requises, ou si vous souhaitez proposer quelqu'un qui pourrait être intéressé, merci de contacter Sheldon Harvey au 450-462-1459, ou par courriel à ve2shw@yahoo.com

Les candidatures de personnes francophones sont fortement encouragées. La maîtrise de l'anglais est toutefois nécessaire, les affaires courantes de POQ étant gérées dans cette langue.

Vote for Canada's National Bird

by David M. Bird, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Ornithology at McGill University

There are movements afoot in Canada to select a National Bird as part of the Canada celebrations for its 150th year of existence in 2017. Currently we have the maple as our official tree and, for better or worse, the beaver as our official mammal. So why not an official bird? Many countries have one, the U.S. with its bald eagle being a prime example.

Read more: <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/bird.asp?name=Gray-jay&id=1026#essay>

Votez pour l'emblème aviaire du Canada

par Jean-Sébastien Guinette

Depuis quelques jours, le magazine *Canadian Geographic* tient des consultations afin de déterminer l'emblème aviaire du Canada ([National Bird Project](#)). L'objectif ultime est même de faire adopter officiellement l'espèce choisie comme emblème national à temps pour le 150e anniversaire de la Confédération (1er juillet 2017). Plusieurs d'entre vous pensez probablement que le Plongeon huard portait déjà ce titre au même titre que l'érable ou le castor, mais non, le Canada n'a encore jamais désigné officiellement une espèce d'oiseau comme emblème national.

Lisez plus : <https://plus.google.com/103150939135249710097>

Vote / Votez

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/bird>

Guy Zenaitis

1937 - 2015



Guy Zenaitis, Ecuador 2005 © Pierre Bannon

In Guy's memory, we would like to share this link to a YouTube video, highlighting his singing ability: [AVE MARIA - \(Montreal St. Casimir Lithuanian Church\) \(2010\)](#)

by Sheldon Harvey

Sadly, on January 19, we were advised of the passing of Mr. Guy Zenaitis, a BPQ member since 1984. This news sparked an outpouring of comments, anecdotes and memories about Guy from many BPQ members. Condolences go out to Guy's family and friends from the members of BPQ and the birding community in general.

Guy Zenaitis passed away peacefully on Monday, January 19, 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer. Guy was the loving husband for 45 years of Mary (née Shannon), dear father of Michael and father-in-law of Katrina, and proud grandfather of Isabella and Sophia. He is also survived by cousins in Montreal, Ontario and Lithuania. Guy was a teacher for 35 years in the Montreal Catholic School Commission, a baritone with the former Montreal Opera Guild, and an avid birdwatcher.

C'est avec grande tristesse que nous avons appris le décès de M. Guy Zenaitis, membre de Protection des Oiseaux du Québec depuis 1984. Cette nouvelle a suscité, de la part de nombreux membres de POQ, une vague de commentaires, anecdotes et souvenirs à propos de Guy. Nous adressons nos condoléances à la famille et à ses amis ornithologistes de POQ et d'ailleurs.

Guy Zenaitis est décédé paisiblement le lundi 19 janvier 2015, après une lutte courageuse contre le cancer. Guy a été le mari attentionné de Mary (née Shannon) pendant 45 années, le père chéri de Michael et beau-père de Katrina, et fier grand-père d'Isabella et de Sophia. Il laisse dans le deuil des cousins à Montréal, en Ontario et en Lituanie. Guy a enseigné pendant 35 ans à la Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal, était chanteur baryton à l'Opera Guild de Montréal, et était un ornithologue passionné.

Comments from Bird Protection Quebec Members / Commentaires de membres de Protection des oiseaux du Québec

Betsy McFarlane: Guy was a lovely man. I remember some Baie-du-Febvre trips in the absolutely pouring rain, with about three people showing up and Guy keeping on nonetheless.

Wayne Grubert: Guy was always willing to lead trips for us whether it was in the bitter cold of winter at the Botanical Gardens or in the spring rains at Baie-du-Febvre.

One of the first times I met Guy was many years ago when the fields in Vaudreuil still held the possibility of Short-eared Owls. (He claimed not to recall the incident but I know better.) I had spotted an owl on a distant tree just as Guy drove by. In turning his car around, he put the front end in the ditch and had at least one back wheel off the ground. He promptly got out, took one look at the spinning tire and said "Well, let's get the scope out of the trunk and have a look at that bird!" He had his priorities straight.

I also remember his ability, mostly due to sheer tenaciousness/stubbornness, to find Ross's Geese among the thousands of Snow Geese at Baie-du-Febvre by scanning every single one.

I have not seen Guy since his illness started but I will miss him nonetheless. Our chats on birding and teaching were always enjoyable. He was truly a nice man.

Michel Bertrand: Je n'avais pas rencontré Guy depuis un certain temps (j'ignorais qu'il était malade), mais j'ai pleinement apprécié chaque occasion que j'ai eue de miroiser avec lui tout en parlant d'éducation. C'était avant tout un chic type et un observateur très compétent. Je suis allé à la recherche de quelques raretés avec lui et je garde un superbe souvenir de ces sorties communes.

J'offre mes condoléances à sa famille, à son ami Pierre, aux membres de BPQ/POQ où il a été actif et à toutes les personnes qui l'appréciaient. Le Québec vient de perdre un excellent miroiseur.

Peter Tarassoff: I was shocked to hear of Guy's death. It was always a pleasure to bird with Guy, and in recent years, to enjoy his companionship on the Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts. In an e-mail only two months ago he wrote that he had added the Townsend's Warbler to his Quebec list (a very long one) and looked forward to going after birds still missing. His closing remark was "appreciate your health." My condolences to Mary and their son in whom he took great pride.

David Mulholland: I met Guy prior to his joining the Society at work. We were both Math teachers and he was at my school for a meeting. I had a copy of a *Nature Canada* magazine on my desk which caused him to stop and talk. We discussed nature in general with Guy sharing that he had been interested in birding from an early age but raising a family had taken priority during the years. Shortly thereafter, I met him on a field trip.

Guy gladly became a leader for our Baie-du-Febvre field trips. He would always stop at the Longueuil Metro to pick up birders without cars. He eventually accepted to lead trips at the Botanical Gardens, an area which was his patch. He was an excellent leader and an excellent coach for newer birders. He will be missed. I would guess that Guy led (BPQ) trips for 25 years.

I'm proud to say I did some birding with one of the legends of the Quebec birdwatching community. Joël Coutu

Jane Atkinson: It is so sad to hear the news about Guy. During field trips and a few waterfowl counts we did together, we shared our love of great singers, opera and new recordings when we weren't looking at birds. On the PQSPB trip to the Magdalen Islands, Guy was our birding expert (and my right-hand man) and Mary (his wife) was the Den Mother – such a wonderful couple. By departure day we still had not seen a House Sparrow and Guy was determined to find one, which we did 30 minutes before the plane left! Vale (farewell), Guy.

Sheldon Harvey: I had the chance on several occasions to participate in some of the field trips that Guy led for BPQ at the Botanical Gardens. He was so soft-spoken and friendly. He was so happy and willing to share his extensive knowledge of birds with others.

On the last field trip I attended with Guy, on a freezing cold day at the Gardens a few years back, he suggested we get together in the approaching spring, to head out to Baie du Febvre together, offering to give me some tips on finding the Ross. Unfortunately, we never got around to doing that.

I consider myself fortunate to have been able to spend some time with Guy and to have learned from him. I join with all of our BPQ members, and birders from other groups and organizations in the region, in extending my condolences to Guy's family and friends.

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, February 21 - samedi 21 février Morgan Arboretum

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/> <http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

Snowshoes Required / Raquettes Requises

Guide: Richard Gregson sparroworks@gmail.com

8:00 a.m. Something different! We will use snowshoes to explore areas of the Morgan Arboretum not usually accessible in summer. Expect a 5 km hike with numerous stops to listen for birds. Looking for winter forest species including woodpeckers, raptors and with luck an owl. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Exit at exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to Conservation Centre parking lot on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members. **Half day.**

Quelque chose de différent, nous utiliserons des raquettes pour explorer des endroits qui ne sont pas normalement accessibles durant la période estivale. Attendez-vous à une randonnée de cinq kilomètres avec de fréquents arrêts pour écouter les oiseaux. Nous serons à la recherche d'oiseaux d'hiver, espèces forestières qui incluent les pics, rapaces et avec un peu de chance une chouette. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement au Centre de conservation, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, February 28 - samedi 28 février Secteur-Bois-de-l'Heritage, Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies

<https://goo.gl/maps/lAX3e>

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

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

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

Saturday, March 7 - Samedi 7 mars Hudson

<https://goo.gl/maps/z9UtA>

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

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

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

Saturday, March 14 - Samedi 14 mars
Spontaneous Late Winter Outing - Location TBD
Guide: To Be Announced



Bohemian Waxwing © 2015 Wayne Gruber

Late winter is an interesting but unpredictable time for birding. Late or vagrant migrants may turn up just about anywhere. As a result, the destination of this trip will be determined mere days prior to the actual outing. It will be chosen based on a number of factors including weather conditions, bird activity and any recent special or rare sightings reported. Complete details of the field trip, including the destination, the start time, the meeting spot and the duration, will be posted on the BPQ website and on the Songsparrow Yahoo Group two or three days in advance of the outing.

La fin de l'hiver est un moment intéressant mais imprévisible pour l'observation des oiseaux ; des migrateurs précoces, tardifs ou des visiteurs rares pouvant se retrouver à peu près n'importe où. En conséquence, la

destination pour cette sortie ne sera confirmée que quelques jours avant qu'elle n'ait lieu. La destination sera déterminée en fonction d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont les conditions météorologiques, l'activité des oiseaux et la présence d'espèces rares ou spéciales signalée dans les jours précédant la sortie. Les informations détaillées concernant l'excursion, incluant la destination, l'heure de début, le lieu de rencontre et la durée, seront affichées sur la site internet de POQ et sur le groupe Yahoo Songsparrow deux ou trois jours avant la sortie.

Saturday, March 21 - Samedi 21 mars
Montreal Botanical Garden - Jardin Botanique de Montréal

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

Guide: David Mulholland 514-630-6082 davidjmulholland@sypatico.ca

8:00 a.m. This trip is dedicated to Guy Zenaitis. Meet in front of the restaurant, near the entrance on Sherbrooke St. east. There is a charge for parking inside the gates. Looking for winter finches and early migrants. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Cette excursion est dédiée à Guy Zenaitis. Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin botanique située sur la rue Sherbrooke Est. Des frais sont exigés pour le stationnement situé dans le jardin botanique. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver et migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, March 28 - samedi 28 mars
Parc des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfront

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

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

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

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

Saturday, April 4 - samedi 4 avril **Parc-nature du Cap-St-Jacques**

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

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

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd.). Continue for 2 km to the welcome centre of the park. Parking: \$9.00. **Half day.**

8 h 00. Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 9,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 11 - Samedi 11 avril **Parc National de Plaisance**

<https://goo.gl/maps/rHPIP> (Meeting Place in Grenville)

<https://goo.gl/maps/Zy4W1> (Parc National de Plaisance)

Guide: Frédéric Hareau fredhareau1@yahoo.ca

514-805-8491 (cell phone on the day of the trip only – cellulaire pour le jour de la sortie seulement)

7:30 a.m. Meeting in Grenville. From Montreal take Highway 40 to the Ontario border. Continue on Highway 417 and take Exit 9 for Hawkesbury. Continue on Highway 17 approximately 7 km and take the Tupper Street exit on your right (signed for Province de/of Quebec). At 1.8 km at the T Junction, turn left on Main Street . After another 1.8 kms, turn right onto John Street (opposite the big church). Continue on John St. across Long Sault Bridge over the Ottawa River . At the first traffic light in Grenville , QC , turn right on Rue Principale and make an immediate right into SAQ parking lot where we will meet. The distance is approximately 52 kilometres from the Île-aux-Tourtes Bridge at the west end of Montreal Island on Highway 40.

We will explore the various habitats of the Park, including the Ottawa river, the marsh, as well as deciduous and mixed forests. At the time of the year, we should encounter a good diversity of waterfowl, raptors as well as early migrants and resident birds. Always some nice surprises! Bring your lunch. **Full day.**

7 h 30. Rendez-vous à Grenville. À partir de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 et poursuivre jusqu'à la frontière ontarienne (40 km à partir de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue). Continuer sur l'autoroute 417 et prendre la sortie 9 pour Hawkesbury. Continuer sur la route 17 sur une distance d'environ 7 km et prendre la sortie pour rue Tupper, à votre droite (indiquant Province de Québec). Après 1,8 km, à la jonction en T, tourner à gauche sur Main Street. Après encore 1,8 km, tourner à droite sur John Street (en face de l'église). Continuer sur John Street et traverser le pont Long Sault qui passe au-dessus de la rivière des Outaouais. Au premier feu de circulation de Grenville, Québec, tourner à droite sur la rue Principale puis tourner immédiatement à droite dans le stationnement de la SAQ où a lieu le rassemblement. La distance totale à partir du pont Île-aux-Tourtes, situé à l'extrémité ouest de l'île de Montréal, est d'environ 52 km.

Nous parcourons les habitats diversifiés du Parc, et en particulier la rivière des Outaouais, les marais et les forêts mixtes à la recherche de la sauvagine, des rapaces, des espèces migratrices, et des espèces résidentes. **Toute la journée.**

Saturday, April 18 - samedi 18 avril
Baie-du-Febvre

<https://goo.gl/maps/VT02X>

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

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie du Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie du Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left. Alternate route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes' driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. **All day.**

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

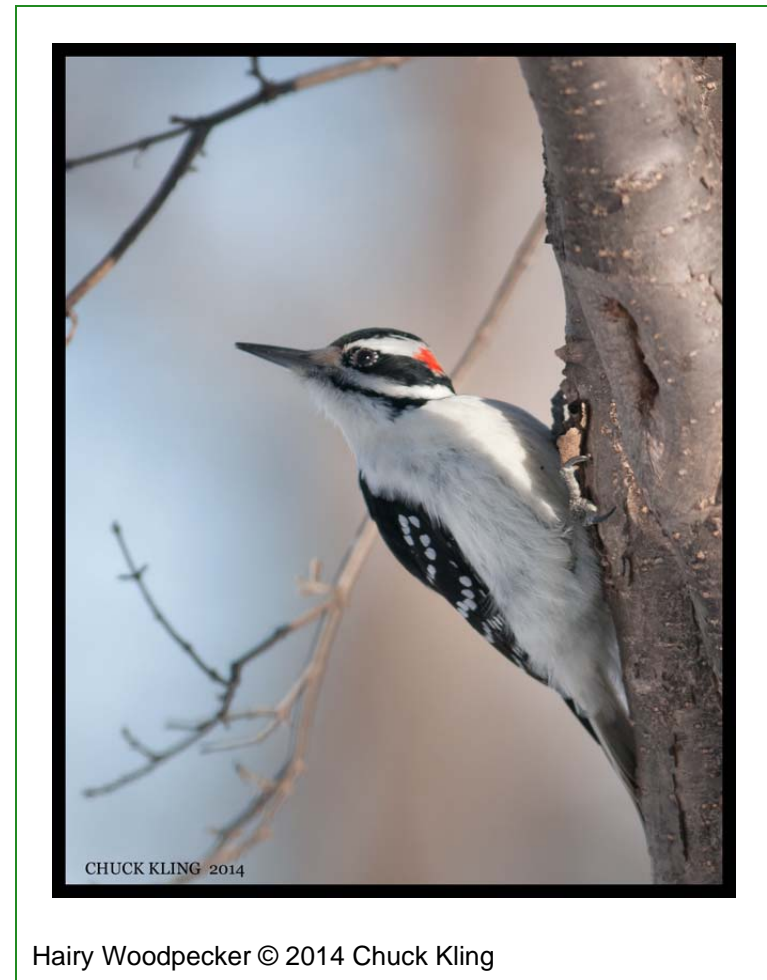
Saturday, April 25 - samedi 25 avril
Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-prairies

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

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

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 East to the exit for Boul. Gouin (Exit 92). Turn left (west) on Gouin Blvd. and follow it for 1.9 km, looking for the blue signs indicating "Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies." The parking lot is located at the Pavillon des Marais section of the park, at 12,300 Gouin Blvd. East. Parking: \$9.00. **Half day.**

8 h 00. À partir de l'autoroute 40 est, prendre la sortie pour le boulevard Gouin (sortie 92). Tourner à gauche, direction ouest, sur le boulevard Gouin. Continuer sur Gouin sur une distance de 1,9 km jusqu'au panneau bleu indiquant l'entrée du Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies. Le stationnement est situé au Pavillon des marais, 12 300 boulevard Gouin Est. Frais de stationnement : 9,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**



Hairy Woodpecker © 2014 Chuck Kling