

# The **SONG SPARROW**

**Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec**  
For the Birds since 1917 - Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917



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Hooded Merganser / Harle couronné© Richard Gregson

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# President's Message

by Simon Duval  
BPQ president



Blackburnian Warbler /  
Paruline à gorge orangée  
© 2020 Chuck Kling

Spring is back! Red-winged blackbirds are now well established in Quebec.

In a few weeks, they will be joined by more neotropical migrants, including thrushes, flycatchers, vireos and warblers. After over a year of confinement due to COVID-19, we are all very excited to be able to get out and enjoy spring migration. We remind you that it is essential to respect the rules in effect in your area and to be very careful with the current pandemic. The next few weeks will be crucial if we are to return to a normal lifestyle more quickly. We hope the situation will have improved enough by fall, so that we can resume our field trips and monthly meetings in person.

Spring is an excellent time to start or continue contributing to citizen science projects. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to submit your observations to the eBird database. These data help researchers to assess population trends of bird species.

As you will have seen from my last "President's Message," the Board has been working hard throughout the year on a number of issues, including improving the efficiency of our organization. All this work culminated in a decision to reduce the number of Board members from 19 to 15. This resolution will be presented to the membership at a special general meeting just prior to the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday, May 31. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for their hard work during the year and a special thank you to the members who are leaving us this year: Émile Brisson-Curadeau, Chris Cloutier, Mélanie Guigueno and Helen Meredith.

# Message du président

par Simon Duval  
Président du POQ



Yellow Warbler / Paruline jaune  
© 2020 Chuck Kling

Le printemps est de retour ! Les Carouges à épaulettes sont maintenant bien présents au Québec et d'ici quelques semaines,

ils seront rejoints par les migrants néotropicaux : parulines, grives, moucherolles, viréos et compagnie. Après plus d'une année en confinement dû à la COVID-19, nous sommes tous très excités de pouvoir sortir et apprécier la migration printanière. Nous vous rappelons qu'il est essentiel de respecter les règles en vigueur dans votre région en plus d'être très prudent en rapport à la pandémie actuelle. Les prochaines semaines seront déterminantes si nous voulons reprendre un mode de vie normale plus rapidement. De notre côté, nous espérons que la situation s'améliore pour l'automne et que nous pourrions reprendre nos sorties terrain ainsi que nos rencontres mensuelles en personne.

Le printemps est aussi un excellent moment pour débuter ou poursuivre une contribution à des projets de science citoyenne. Si

vous ne le faites pas déjà, je vous invite à soumettre vos observations à la base de données eBird. Ces données aident les chercheurs à évaluer les tendances de population des espèces d'oiseaux.

Comme vous avez pu le constater dans mon dernier « message du président », le conseil d'administration a travaillé fort durant toute l'année sur plusieurs dossiers, notamment l'amélioration de l'efficacité de notre organisme. Tout ce travail a culminé avec une décision de réduire le nombre de membres du conseil d'administration de 19 à 15. Cette résolution sera présentée aux membres lors d'une assemblée générale spéciale tout juste avant l'assemblée générale annuelle du 31 mai. Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier tous les membres du conseil d'administration pour leur bon travail durant l'année et

un merci tout spécial aux membres qui nous quittent cette année : Émile Brisson–Curadeau, Chris Cloutier, Mélanie Guigueno et Helen Meredith.

## New Members

by Darlene Harvey  
Membership Secretary

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

Katrin Sermat, Steve Klinck, Carl Carson, Samuel Carson, Maureen Caissy, Lisa Kimberly Glickman, Carol Adamakos, Micheline Laberge, Huguette Longpré, Christine Banfill, Andrew MacDonald, and Christina Juliana.

We look forward to meeting you in person once Covid regulations deem it safe for us to resume our group activities. In the meantime, be sure to join us for our Zoom

monthly lectures and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and to join our Song Sparrow e-list to connect with other members

<https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow>

## Nouveaux membres

par Darlene Harvey  
Secrétaire des adhésions

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

Katrin Sermat, Steve Klinck, Carl Carson, Samuel Carson, Maureen Caissy, Lisa Kimberly Glickman, Carol Adamakos, Micheline Laberge, Huguette Longpré, Christine Banfill, Andrew MacDonald, and Christina Juliana.



Bobolink / Goglu des prés  
© 2020 Chuck Kling

Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer une fois que les règles liées à la Covid nous permettront de reprendre nos activités de groupe de façon sécuritaire. En attendant, n'oubliez pas que vous pouvez assister à nos vidéoconférences mensuelles sur Zoom, vous inscrire à notre liste d'abonnés virtuels du Song Sparrow pour vous connecter avec d'autres membres <https://groups.io/g/bpqsongsparrow> ainsi que nous suivre sur Facebook.

## 2021 Grants



Cedar Waxwing / Jaseur d'Amérique Lachute Golf course

Following recommendations made by the BPQ Grants Committee, the board was pleased to approve research and education grants totalling \$94,000. Some important new projects are described here.

### Aiding Tree Swallow Survival by Insulating Nest Boxes

#### Développement ornithologique Argenteuil

<https://www.developpementornithologiqueargenteuil.org/>

Our preliminary observations show that using insulation pads in nest boxes can help Tree Swallows to survive. To learn more, we began monitoring a network of nest boxes in the spring of 2016 and will continue to do so until 2023.

### Creating Nesting and Feeding Sites for Birds at the Lachute Golf Course

#### Argenteuil, Quebec

Although the Lachute Golf Course is frequented by many bird species, nesting sites and food are scarce. We would like to help by

planting fruit trees and shrubs in strategic locations. These will create three nesting and feeding islets for birds. Feeders will be added and maintained by golf course employees, ensuring year-round use.



Great Horned Owl / Grand-duc d'Amérique © 2017 Jane Cormack

### Surveying Nocturnal Owls in Eeyou Istchee, James Bay

#### FauneENord

The Nocturnal Owl Survey is grossly under represented in

northern Quebec. Due to the size of the territory and the difficulty in accessing it, distribution and abundance data are limited. To help bridge this gap, we are training a large number of Jamesien and Cree citizens to learn and master the appropriate field protocols to survey these species. The standardized protocols chosen specifically target the nocturnal owls and were selected in accordance with widespread use across the country.

A new generation of trained amateur ornithologists will conduct several surveys to gather data for abundance indexes and habitat cartography.

## **Protecting Bobolinks in the Lower-Laurentians**

**Gilles Dufour of IB Initiatives Biodiversité**



For a second year, we are working on an initiative to improve and adapt strategies to save as many Bobolink fledglings as possible. We are doing this through direct interventions on birds and habitats and indirectly through awareness, education and lobbying.

This initiative is part of an ambitious Bobolink protection project.

## **Spring Migratory Bird Survey to Protect the Sandy Beach Forest in Hudson, Quebec.**

**Dr. Briony Lalor**

The iconic Sandy Beach forest in Hudson has been identified by municipal, regional, provincial, and national governments as a priority conservation area. Despite this, urbanization pressure has resulted in a proposed 214-unit residential development that could lead to the destruction of important bird habitat. This three-month 2021 spring bird survey will fill an important knowledge gap, offering hands-on learning opportunities for students, community members, and BPQ volunteers, and ultimately support conservation of this vital, iconic and significant bird habitat.

## Monitoring Songbird Migration at Rocher Blanc

### Rimouski Bird Banding Station / Observatoire d'oiseaux de Rimouski

Rocher Blanc bird banding station in Rimouski is the only banding station south of the Saint Lawrence river. It monitors songbird migration and contributes to the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network by enhancing scientific knowledge about phenology and demography of migratory bird species. It helps to train future biologists and environmental technicians. In the spring, it hosts events for the general public providing information on bird conservation issues.

## Saving the Historic Haute-Maurice Chimney Swift Roost

### Lac-Édouard Sanatorium



Chimney Swift / Martinet ramoneur

Lac-Édouard Sanatorium's historic 30-metre chimney was built nearly a century ago. Repair work is needed to ensure its stability, to keep it accessible to Chimney Swifts and to allow research on the nesting and migration of these birds to continue.

The loss of this important roost could have significant consequences on the occupation of

the territory by the Chimney Swift. The goal of the project is to carry out maintenance work on the chimney to extend its lifespan and allow for continued research.

## Compiling Data for 15 Species of Quebec Birds of Prey

### Union québécoise de réhabilitation des oiseaux de proie (UQROP)

In 2019–20, UQROP compiled its database for 12 species of birds of prey in Quebec from 1986 to 2018. It includes information on the origin of the bird, the cause of admission/mortality and number of admissions over the last 30 years. With this second compilation, we will make it possible to obtain data specific to the province of Quebec for species that were not yet studied in the first part of the project.

## Wildlife Tracking with Motus

### Vanier College Motus Station



The decline in migratory songbird populations is well documented. Recent technological developments, such as the Motus Wildlife Tracking System provide tools to better understand migration and animal movements. Motus was developed to operate in collaboration with many organizations, institutions, and researchers. The Vanier College Field Station in the Laurentians, which provides hands-on training

for technologists, is a perfect fit to join this network. With this grant from Bird Protection Quebec we will be able to cover the annual operational costs associated with Motus registration, NanoTag purchase, and training for the first few years.

## Learning Through Birding

### Gaspé Tri-school Community Learning Centre (CLC)

At the Gaspé Tri-school Community Learning Centre, we will work with community groups to increase the birding and biodiversity knowledge of students, staff and community members at Belle Anse and Gaspé Elementary schools. Our goals are to promote health and wellness through a connection with nature, improve observation skills, and inspire an appreciation of nature through birding.

## Observing Birds in our Community

### Valcartier Elementary School



We will promote the study of birds with a visit from an ornithologist. We will build information

panels and install them under the feeders along the municipal walking trail.

Promoting the Study of Birds ©  
Shelley Longney

# Subventions 2021

Suite aux recommandations du comité des subventions de BPQ, le conseil d'administration a eu le plaisir d'approuver des subventions de recherche et d'éducation pour un montant total de 94 000 \$. Certains nouveaux projets importants sont décrits ici.

## Évaluation d'un isolant sur la survie printanière des Hirondelles bicolores

### Développement ornithologique Argenteuil

D'après nos observations préliminaires, l'ajout d'un isolant dans le fond des nichoirs semble aider la survie des adultes d'hirondelles bicolores tôt au printemps. Nous allons donc vérifier l'effet de l'ajout d'un

isolant dans le fond des nichoirs sur la survie des adultes



Tree Swallows / Hirondelles bicolores © 2019 Chuck Kling

d'hirondelles bicolores tôt au printemps en comparant les mortalités retrouvées lors de nos visites d'inspections et d'entretien selon les conditions météorologiques observées durant la période critique printanière soit du 15 avril au 15 juin de chaque année, et ce, pour 2016 à 2023.

## Création de 3 îlots d'alimentation et de nidification pour les oiseaux sur le terrain de golf de Lachute

### MRC Argenteuil, Québec.

Comme tous les terrains de golf, le terrain de golf de Lachute est un espace vert protégé fréquenté par plusieurs espèces d'oiseaux. Cependant, les sites de nidification y sont très peu abondants et la production de nourriture y est rare. Nous allons donc y créer 3 îlots de nidification et d'alimentation pour les oiseaux en réalisant des plantations d'arbres et d'arbustes fruitiers et de nidification en trois îlots situés à des endroits stratégiques. De plus, des mangeoires entretenues par le personnel du club de golf seront aussi incorporées aux aménagements pour assurer la présence des oiseaux sur toute l'année.

## La science citoyenne au service des strigidés nocturnes en Eeyou Istchee Baie-James

FauneENord



Great Horned Owl Grand duc  
d'Amérique © Alexandre  
Paiement

La sous-représentation de la région du Nord-du-Québec à l'inventaire des strigidés nocturnes est significative. De façon générale, les données sur la répartition et l'abondance de ces espèces sont plutôt restreintes en raison de la superficie du territoire à couvrir et de son niveau réduit d'accessibilité. Le projet vise ainsi à former un grand nombre de citoyens tant québécois que canadiens sur les inventaires ornithologiques adaptés à ces oiseaux afin qu'ils puissent par la suite les réaliser de façon autonome. Ces inventaires permettront de combler le manque de connaissances (indices d'abondance et cartographie des habitats) et de former de futurs ornithologues amateurs au Canada.

## Conservation Goglus des prés dans les Basses-Laurentides

**Gilles Dufour pour IB  
Initiatives Biodiversité**

Dans sa deuxième année, l'initiative vise à bonifier et adapter les stratégies pour sauver un maximum d'oisillons par des interventions directes sur les individus et leurs habitats ou de manière indirecte par la sensibilisation, l'éducation et des représentations auprès des autorités concernées.

L'initiative s'inscrit dans un ambitieux projet qui vise à protéger le Goglu des prés sur l'ensemble de son cycle de vie annuel.

## Conservation de la forêt emblématique de Sandy Beach à Hudson

**Dr. Briony Lalor**



Sandy Beach, Hudson © 2020  
Mouvement MARE

La forêt emblématique de Sandy Beach à Hudson a été identifiée par les gouvernements municipal, régional, provincial et national comme une zone de conservation prioritaire. Malgré cela, la pression d'urbanisation a abouti à la proposition d'un développement résidentiel de 214 unités. Un inventaire des oiseaux au

printemps sera réalisé en 2021, comblant une lacune importante dans les connaissances, offrira des possibilités d'apprentissage pratique aux étudiants, aux bénévoles de la communauté et du BPQ et soutiendra ultimement soutenant la conservation de cet habitat d'oiseau vital, emblématique et d'importance régionale.

## Suivi de migration des passereaux à la station de baguage du Rocher Blanc, Rimouski

### Observatoire d'oiseaux de Rimouski

La station de baguage du Rocher Blanc à Rimouski est un suivi scientifique de la migration printanière des passereaux.



Seule station de baguage d'oiseaux au sud du fleuve Saint-Laurent, ce suivi contribue aux efforts du Réseau canadien de Surveillance des Migrations afin d'enrichir les connaissances scientifiques sur la phénologie et la démographie des passereaux migrateurs.

Ces activités permettent également de former les futurs biologistes et techniciens en environnement. Vitrine de notre organisme au printemps, elle permet enfin d'organiser des événements grand public afin d'informer sur les enjeux de conservation des oiseaux.

## Sauvegarde du dortoir historique de Martinets ramoneurs en Haute-Mauricie

### Sanatorium Historique Lac-Édouard

La cheminée-dortoir du sanatorium de Lac-Édouard d'une hauteur d'environ 30 m construite il y a près d'un siècle nécessite des travaux de réparation pour en assurer la stabilité, la maintenir accessible aux martinets et permettre la poursuite des travaux de recherche sur la nidification et la migration du Martinet ramoneur. La perte de ce dortoir d'importance pourrait avoir des conséquences significatives sur l'occupation du territoire par le martinet. L'objectif du projet est donc d'effectuer des travaux d'entretien du dortoir, afin de prolonger sa durée de vie et de permettre la poursuite des travaux de recherche.

## Compilation des données pour 15 espèces d'oiseaux de proie du Québec

### Union québécoise de réhabilitation des oiseaux de proie (UQROP)



Snowy Owl / Harfang des neiges  
© Audrey Maynard

En 2019–20, l'UQROP a fait la compilation de sa banque de données pour 12 espèces d'oiseaux de proie du Québec de 1986 à 2018. Elle comprend des informations sur la provenance de l'oiseau, la cause d'admission/décès et les nombres

d'admissions durant les 30 dernières années.

Cette 2e compilation permettra d'obtenir des données spécifiques à la province de Québec pour les espèces qui n'ont pas été étudiées dans la première partie de la subvention.

## Station Motus Collège Vanier

### Collège Vanier

Le déclin des populations d'oiseaux chanteurs migrateurs est bien documenté, et les développements technologiques récents, tels que le Système Motus de suivi de la faune, fournissent des outils pour mieux comprendre la migration et les mouvements d'animaux.

Motus a été développé pour fonctionner en collaboration avec de nombreux organismes, institutions et chercheurs, et le campus du Collège Vanier dans les

Laurentides, qui offre une formation pratique aux technologues, est parfaite pour se joindre à ce réseau.

Grâce à cette subvention de Protection des Oiseaux du Québec, nous serons en mesure de couvrir les coûts opérationnels annuels associés à l'inscription au Motus, à l'achat de NanoTag et à la formation pour les premières années.

## Apprendre par l'observation des oiseaux

### Gaspé Tri-school Community Learning Centre (CLC)

Le Gaspé Tri-school Community Learning Centre travaillera avec des groupes communautaires dans le but d'accroître les connaissances ornithologiques et sur la biodiversité des élèves, du personnel et des membres de la communauté des écoles Belle Anse

Elementary et Gaspé Elementary tout en améliorant leur santé et leur bien-être en les reliant avec le monde naturel.

L'objectif est d'améliorer les compétences d'observation des élèves et l'attention aux détails et d'inspirer les enfants à apprécier la nature grâce à l'observation des oiseaux. Les outils et ressources achetés grâce à cette subvention seront utilisés pour y parvenir.



Observation des oiseaux dans la Gaspé © Kristen Dick

## Observer les oiseaux dans notre communauté

### Valcartier Elementary School

Études des oiseaux avec une visite d'un ornithologue et construction de panneaux d'informations sous les mangeoires situées au long du sentier pédestre municipale.



L'apprentissage des oiseaux © Shelley Longney

# Bird Views

## A Summary of Interesting Bird Sightings in Montréal and Around the Province

by Pierre Bannon

### Dec. 2020 – Feb. 2021

**Ross's Goose:** 2 still at Saint-Jean-Baptiste 14 Dec (P. Bergeron) and one at Chambly 21 Dec, a new record late date (R. Belhumeur). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one at Chambly 14 Dec–2 Jan (O. Barden et al.) and one (the same ?) at Ile Fryer (Carignan) 3 Jan ((R. Boulet). Finally, one was at Saint-Hubert 1 Jan (P. Hénault). **Pink-footed Goose:** one at Chambly 14–24 Dec, a new record late departure date for the province (O. Barden et al.). **Tundra Swan:** singles at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 1–14 Dec (R & G; Boulet, m. ob.) and at L'Épiphanie 3 Dec (R. Prévost), and 2 at Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine 4 Dec–6 Mar, a second complete overwintering record for the province (A. Richard et al.). **Northern Shoveler:** a male at Saint-Jérôme 29 Jan, a record late date for the province (L. Tremblay). **King Eider:** a record tally of 14 birds was established for the province at Pointe Saint-Pierre (Gaspésie) 27 Feb (D. Jalbert, A. Gagnon). **Redhead:** 2 males at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 24–26 Feb were likely early migrants (S. Huet).

# Parlons d'oiseaux

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

par Pierre Bannon

### Décembre 2020 - février 2021

**Oie de Ross:** 2 encore à Saint-Jean-Baptiste 14 déc (P. Bergeron) et une à Chambly 21 déc, une date de départ record (R. Belhumeur). **Oie rieuse:** une à Chambly 14 déc–2 jan (O. Barden et al.) et une (la même ?) à l'Île Fryer (Carignan) 3 jan ((R. Boulet). Finalement, une à Saint-Hubert 1 jan (P. Hénault). **Oie à bec court:** une à Chambly 14–24 déc, une date de départ record pour la province (O. Barden et al.). **Cygne siffleur:** des oiseaux solitaires à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 1–14 déc (R & G Boulet pl. ob.) et à L'Épiphanie 3 déc (R. Prévost), puis un couple aux Îles de la Madeleine 4 déc–6 mar, un deuxième hivernage complet connu dans la province (A. Richard et al.). **Canard souchet:** un mâle à Saint-Jérôme 29 jan, une date de départ record pour la province (L. Tremblay). **Eider à tête grise:** un nombre record de 14 oiseaux établi pour la province à Pointe Saint-Pierre (Gaspésie) 27 fév (D. Jalbert, A. Gagnon). **Fuligule à tête rouge :** 2 mâles à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 24–26 fév, probablement des migrateurs hâtifs (S. Huet).

**Willow Ptarmigan:** birds irrupted well south into the Abitibi region in large numbers. One was even reported at Mont-Laurier in the Laurentians 13 Feb (F-A. Joanis, *ph.*). **Western Grebe:** one moved from Newport 4 Feb (JM. Smith, *ph.*) to nearby Chandler 5-9 Feb (P. Poulin et al.) and to Grande-Rivière 12-13 Feb (M. Thibault, A. Couture); fourth record for the province and first in winter. **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** one at Sainte-Marthe 7 Jan-8 Feb (M. Laquerre et al.). **American Coot:** one at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 19 Dec-28 Feb (m. ob.). **Ruddy Turnstone:** one at Matane 21-24 Dec provided a record late date for the province (JA. Banville). **Dunlin:** one at Rivière Madeleine 26 Dec-14 Jan (G. Blanchette). **Spotted Sandpiper:** one at Rimouski 20 Dec provided a record departure date for the species in the province (J. Roy-Drainville et al.).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** at least 100 at Matane 2 Feb (L. Fradette); very unusual at this period. **Bonaparte's Gull:** 200 at Baie-du-Portage (Îles de la Madeleine) 26 Dec (A. Couture), a high count for this date, and 17 at Pointe aux Outardes 28 Dec (E. Hains). **Mew Gull:** a bird continued at Les Escoumins until 10 Dec (D. Turgeon, *ph.*). Another bird was discovered at Port-Daniel 6 Feb, a first provincial record in Feb (R. Deschênes et al., *ph.*). **Pacific Loon:** one at Rivière-Ouelle 1st Dec (JF. Rousseau). **Northern Fulmar:** an exhausted bird was found in a snow-covered field at Saint-Alphonse-de-Granby 27 Dec (N.

**Lagopède des saules :** des oiseaux ont envahi l'Abitibi en grand nombre. Un a même été signalé à Mont-Laurier dans les Laurentides 13 fév (F-A. Joanis, *ph.*). **Grèbe élégant :** un à Newport 4 fév (JM. Smith, *ph.*) s'est ensuite déplacé à Chandler 5-9 fév (P. Poulin et al.) puis à Grande-Rivière 12-13 fév (M. Thibault, A. Couture); une 4<sup>ième</sup> présence dans la province et une première en hiver. **Tourterelle turque :** une à Sainte-Marthe 7 jan-8 fév (M. Laquerre et al.). **Foulque d'Amérique :** une à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 19 déc-28 fév + (pl. ob.). **Tournepiere à collier :** un à Matane 21-24 déc, une date de départ record pour la province (JA. Banville). **Bécasseau variable :** un à Rivière Madeleine 26 déc-14 jan (G. Blanchette). **Chevalier grivelé :** un à Rimouski 20 déc, une date de départ record pour la province (J. Roy-Drainville et al.).

**Mouette tridactyle :** au moins 100 oiseaux à Matane 2 fév (L. radette); très inhabituel pour la date. **Mouette de Bonaparte** 200 à Baie-du-Portage (Îles de la Madeleine) 26 déc (A. Couture), un décompte élevé pour cette date, et 17 à Pointe aux Outardes 28 déc (E. Hains). **Goéland cendré :** un oiseau toujours présent aux Escoumins le 10 déc (D. Turgeon, *ph.*). Un autre oiseau découvert à Port-Daniel 6 fév, une première présence en fév (R. Deschênes et al., *ph.*). **Plongeon du Pacifique :** un à Rivière-Ouelle 1er déc (JF. Rousseau).

Fleury, ph.). **Double-crested Cormorant**: several birds lingered through mid-winter, especially in southern Quebec and Les Îles de la Madeleine.

**Black Vulture**: winter records on the increase: up to 2 birds in the Cap d'Espoir area (Gaspésie) 8-18 Dec (G. Roy, P. Poulin, m. ob. ph.), one reappeared at Chandler 26 Feb-10 mars (J. Blais, M. Thibault). At the other end of the province, one was at Wakefield 1st Dec-15 Jan (*m. ob. ph.*), and one at Obedjiwan (Mauricie) 31 Dec-15 Jan (R. Chachai, *fide* C. Abran, ph.). **Turkey Vulture**: probably encouraged by the mild weather, several birds lingered through mid-winter. **Golden Eagle**: an imm 2-23 Jan at Saint-Rosaire (M. Saint-Louis et al.), an ad at L'Ange Gardien 30 Jan (S. Robert) and one at Saint-Armand 1 Feb (B. Hamel), unusual in this part of the province in winter. Finally, one at Matagami 18 Feb was well north of its known winter range (A. Paiement et al.). **Barn Owl**: one at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 25 Dec-18 Jan, a record late departure date; very unusual at anytime of the year (G. Rémillard, ph., *fide* O. Barden). **Great Gray Owl**: according to the known 4-year migratory cycle, an irruption was expected, but only about a dozen birds were reported during the season. **Short-eared Owl**: fairly common this winter ; a high count of 9 was reported at Île du Moine 18 Dec (J. Lemoyne).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**: an imm at Saint-Raphaël-de-Bellechasse 8-24 Dec (A. Barbeau) and an ad at Chelsea 12 Jan (EM. Hébert). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: according to eBird, 36

**Fulmar boreal** : un oiseau épuisé trouvé dans un champ enneigé à Saint-Alphonse-de-Granby 27 déc (N. Fleury, ph.). **Cormoran à aigrettes** : des oiseaux tardifs jusqu'à la mi-hiver dans le sud du Québec et aux Îles de la Madeleine.

**Urubu noir** : Les présences hivernales semblent à la hausse: jusqu'à 2 oiseaux dans le secteur de Cap d'Espoir (Gaspésie) 8-18 déc (G. Roy, P. Poulin, pl. ob. ph.); un est réapparu à Chandler 26 fév-10 mars (J. Blais, M. Thibault). Vers l'ouest de la province, un était à Wakefield 1er déc-15 jan (pl. ob. ph.), et un à Obedjiwan (Mauricie) 31 déc-15 jan (R. Chachai, *fide* C. Abran, ph.). **Urubu à tête rouge** : encouragé par le temps doux, des oiseaux se sont attardés jusqu'à la mi-hiver. **Aigle royal** : un imm 2-23 jan à Saint-Rosaire (M. Saint-Louis et al.), un ad à L'Ange Gardien 30 jan (S. Robert) et un à Saint-Armand 1 fév (B. Hamel), inhabituel dans cette partie de la province en hiver. Finalement, un à Matagami 18 fév était très au nord de son aire hivernale (A. Paiement et al.). **Effraie des clochers** : un à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 25 déc-18 jan, une date de départ record; très rare à tout moment de l'année (G. Rémillard, ph., *fide* O. Barden). **Chouette lapone** : selon le cycle migratoire de 4 ans, une irruption était prévisible cet hiver, mais seulement environ une douzaine d'oiseaux ont été signalés. **Hibou des marais** : assez répandu cet hiver; notamment un groupe de 9 signalés à l'Île du Moine 18 déc (J. Lemoyne).

**Pic à tête rouge** : un imm à Saint-Raphaël-de-Bellechasse 8-24 déc (A. Barbeau) et un ad à Chelsea 12 jan (EM. Hébert).

locations were visited by the species in Jan–Feb compare to 9 only for the same period last year, which corroborates the amazing success of the species in the province. One was even reported at Val d’Or 12 Dec–28 Feb +, a first overwintering record for the Abitibi region (S. Perreault). **Yellow–bellied Sapsucker**: 5 records in Jan, including 3 birds discovered over a 3–day period: a female in Lafontaine park (Montreal) 8 Jan, a male at Laval 9 Jan (G. Lachaine), and one in the Morgan arboretum (Saint–Anne–de–Bellevue) 10 Jan–22 Mar (DJ. Léandri–Breton). The 2 others were seen at Beauharnois 20 Jan (B. Perras) and at Île Goyer 19 Jan–15 Feb (A. Messier).

**Tufted Titmouse**: one at Sainte–Agathe–des–Monts 16 Nov–2 Feb (P. Dupuis), apparently a first winter record in the Laurentians. **Marsh Wren**: one at Sainte–Catherine 10 Nov–25 Jan (P. Bannon, S. Labbé et al.) and one at Île Bizard (Montréal) 5 Feb (R. Millot), both providing record late dates for the province. **Blue–gray Gnatcatcher**: a late bird at Île Perrot until 11 Dec (M. Juteau). **Ruby–crowned Kinglet**: one at Rivière–au–Renard (Gaspésie) 3 Jan–4–Mar (K. Saint–Onge). **Townsend’s Solitaire**: now a regular vagrant from the West: 5 records during the period. **Hermit Thrush**: still 7 records in Feb but single birds at Ile Notre–Dame (Montréal) and at Saint–Hyacinthe seems the only to have lingered into March. **Fieldfare**: one found at Lévis 13 Jan (D. Garant), traced again 21 Jan–1 Feb (S. Bégin, L. Plante, M. O’Neill et al.). This provided the 9<sup>th</sup> record for the province, but the first in the last decade. **Varied Thrush**: one at Île Bizard (Montréal) 31 Jan–1st Feb (F. Bussière). **Gray Catbird**: definitely more present in

**Pic à ventre roux** : selon eBird, 36 localités ont été visitées par l’espèce en jan–fév comparativement à 9 seulement pour la même période l’an dernier, ce qui atteste du succès phénoménal de l’espèce dans la province. Un oiseau a même hiverné à Val d’Or en Abitibi 12 déc–28 fév+, une première en Abitibi (S. Perreault). **Pic maculé** : 5 présences en jan, incluant 3 oiseaux repérés sur une courte période de 3 jours: une femelle au parc Lafontaine (Montréal) 8 jan, un mâle à Laval 9 jan (G. Lachaine), et un à l’arboretum Morgan (Saint–Anne–de–Bellevue) 10 jan–22 mars (DJ. Léandri–Breton). Les 2 autres ont été vus à Beauharnois 20 jan (B. Perras) et à l’Île Goyer 19 jan–15 fév (A. Messier).

**Mésange bicolor** : une à Sainte–Agathe–des–Monts 16 nov–2 fév (P. Dupuis), une première présence hivernale prolongée dans les Laurentides. **Troglodyte des marais** : un à Sainte–Catherine 10 Nov–25 jan (P. Bannon, S. Labbé et al.) et un à l’Île Bizard (Montréal) 5 fév (R. Millot), les 2 présences procurant des dates tardives record pour la province. **Gobemoucheon gris–bleu** : un oiseau tardif à l’Île Perrot jusqu’au 11 déc (M. Juteau). **Roitelet à couronne rubis** : un à Rivière–au–Renard (Gaspésie) 3 jan–4–mar (K. Saint–Onge). **Solitaire de Townsend** : 5 présences durant la période. **Grive solitaire** : encore 7 présences en fév mais des oiseaux à l’Ile Notre–Dame (Montréal) et à Saint–Hyacinthe semblent être les seuls à s’être attardés jusqu’en mars. **Grive litorne** : une aperçue à Lévis 13 jan (D. Garant), retracée à nouveau 21 jan–1 fév (S. Bégin, L. Plante, M. O’Neill et al.). Cette présence est la 9<sup>ième</sup> au Québec mais la seule pour la dernière décennie.

winter in recent years; 5 records in Jan–Feb, including one at Charlesbourg (Québec City) 17 Dec–5 Mar that could be considered a successful overwintering (m. ob.). **Brown Thrasher**: 4 records in Jan–Feb.

**Hoary Redpoll**: it was a banner year for this species. Birds were reported every day throughout the southern part of the province among flocks of Common Redpolls. **Red Crossbill**: fairly common in ornamental spruce trees in southern Québec. **Lark Sparrow**: single birds at Saint–Charles–de–Bellechasse 7 Dec–11 Mar, confirming a complete overwintering (G. Jean et al.) and at Victoriaville 23 Dec–20 Jan (N. Lemay and F. Lemay). **Golden–crowned Sparrow**: the bird reported in the fall at Rimouski reappeared 1st Dec–3 Mar (G. Bouchard, J. Larivée et al.). **Spotted Towhee**: singles at Lac Mégantic 2–5 Dec (C. Poulin, M. Turcotte et al.), and at Grande–Rivière (Gaspésie) from 25 Nov through at least 3 Mar (A. Leblanc, *m.ob. ph.*). **Yellow–breasted Chat**: one at Neuville 6–14 Dec established a record late date for the province (N. Dupuis Azizah et al.). **Yellow–headed Blackbird**: a male at Saint–Étienne–de–Beauharnois 6–31 Jan (L. Goneau et al.). **Bullock’s Oriole**: a male at Saint–Bruno–de–Montarville was seen twice at a first feeder 29 Nov & 1st Jan (R. Bourassa), but daily at another nearby feeder 2 Dec–11 Feb (S. Martel, G. Giroux). This represented the 6th record for the province and the latest known date in winter. **Baltimore Oriole**: 2 birds were present at Sept–Îles 22 Nov– through 3 Jan but only one through 14 Jan

**Grive à collier** : une à l’Île Bizard (Montréal) 31 jan–1er fév (F. Bussière). **Moqueur chat** : de plus en plus régulier en hiver; 5 présences en jan–fév, dont un oiseau à Charlesbourg (Québec) 17 déc–5 mar qui pourrait être considéré comme un hivernage réussi (pl. ob.). **Moqueur roux** : 4 présences en jan–fév.

**Sizerin blanchâtre**: une année d’abondance pour cette espèce. Des oiseaux ont été signalés tous les jours parmi les groupes de Sizerins flammés. **Bec–croisé des sapins** : assez répandu dans les épinettes décoratives dans le sud de la province. **Bruant à joues marron** : un oiseau à Saint–Charles–de–Bellechasse 7 déc–11 mar, confirmant un hivernage complet (G. Jean et al.) et un à Victoriaville 23 déc–20 jan (N. Lemay et F. Lemay). **Bruant à couronne dorée** : l’oiseau signalé à l’automne à Rimouski est réapparu 1er déc–3 mar (G. Bouchard, J. Larivée et al.). **Tohi tacheté** : des oiseaux à Lac Mégantic 2–5 déc (C. Poulin, M. Turcotte et al.), et à Grande–Rivière (Gaspésie) 25 nov–3 mar + (A. Leblanc, pl.ob. ph.). **Ictérie polyglotte** : une à Neuville 6–14 déc une date de départ record pour la province (N. Dupuis Azizah et al.). **Carouge à tête jaune** : un mâle à Saint–Étienne–de–Beauharnois 6–31 jan (L. Goneau et al.). **Oriole de Bullock** : un mâle à Saint–Bruno–de–Montarville a été aperçu 2 fois à un premier poste d’alimentation les 29 nov & 1er jan (R. Bourassa), mais quotidiennement à un autre poste du 2 déc au 11 fév (S. Martel, G. Giroux). Il s’agit de la 6<sup>ième</sup> présence dans la

(B. Duchesne, C. Couture) while another male was seen at Gatineau 20 Jan (G. Emery).

**Ovenbird:** single late birds at Rimouski (1st–15 Dec (G. Bouchard) and at the Bois de Saraguay (Montréal) 31 Dec (D. Demers). **Common Yellowthroat:** one at Granby 3–5 Jan (S. Jetté). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** a female at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 28 Nov–17 Feb (S. Nadeau Bernard). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Québec City 1–6 Dec (L. Bilodeau et al.). **Northern Cardinal:** continued in unusually large numbers across eastern Québec and Saguenay–Lac Saint-Jean regions. In Gaspésie, there were more sightings this winter than during the whole previous decade. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** one at Rimouski 19 Dec–5 Jan (G. Proulx, G. Bouchard). **Indigo Bunting:** for the second consecutive winter, a first-year male was reported in the province, this time at Grenville 25 Jan–27 Feb (Dottie Mojzak, *ph.*).

**Addendum:** a male Baltimore Oriole was present all winter from 27 Oct 2019 through 9 Mar 2020 at l'Anse-Saint-Jean, Saguenay, providing a first overwintering record for the province (m. ob. *fide* G. Savard).

Please report your interesting bird sightings to Pierre Bannon, by e-mail at [pbannon@videotron.ca](mailto:pbannon@videotron.ca)

province et la plus tardive connue en hiver. **Oriole de Baltimore :** 2 oiseaux présents à Sept-Îles 22 nov–3 jan mais un seul jusqu'au 14 jan (B. Duchesne, C. Couture); un autre mâle présent à Gatineau 20 jan (G. Emery).

**Paruline couronnée :** des oiseaux tardifs à Rimouski (1er–15 déc (G. Bouchard) et au bois de Saraguay (Montréal) 31 déc (D. Demers). **Paruline masque :** une à Granby 3–5 jan (S. Jetté). **Paruline bleue :** une femelle à Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 28 nov–17 fév, une date tardive record (S. Nadeau Bernard). **Paruline à gorge jaune :** une à Québec 1–6 déc (L. Bilodeau et al.). **Cardinal rouge :** signalé en nombre record dans tout l'Est de la province et au Saguenay–Lac Saint-Jean. En Gaspésie, il y a eu plus de mentions cet hiver que durant l'ensemble des hivers de la décennie précédente. **Cardinal à poitrine rose :** un à Rimouski 19 déc–5 jan (G. Proulx, G. Bouchard). **Passerin indigo :** pour le 2<sup>ième</sup> hiver consécutif, un mâle de 1<sup>ère</sup> année a été signalé dans la province, cette fois à Grenville 25 jan–27 fév (Dottie Mojzak, *ph.*).

**Addendum:** un mâle de l'Oriole de Baltimore fut présent tout l'hiver du 27 oct 2019 au 9 mar 2020 à l'Anse-Saint-Jean, Saguenay, établissant un premier cas d'hivernage complet pour la province (pl. ob. *fide* G. Savard).

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon par courriel à: [pbannon@videotron.ca](mailto:pbannon@videotron.ca)

# The Bird Course



Join David Bird and Rodger Titman for a one-of-a-kind opportunity to acquire a great deal of knowledge about birds with no pressure. Two jam-packed Saturdays, a week apart, will delve into everything ornithological, from how feathers work to how birds do it.

The course will be held virtually over Zoom, on two Saturdays (**June 5 and 12**), from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Pacific Time. \*(11:00 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. EST) Participants will watch presentations, and have access to interact with two world-renowned ornithologists.

**Note:** This course is sponsored by the Wildlife Society, not BPQ.

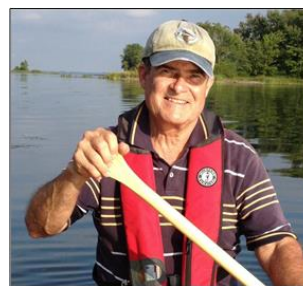
## With Dr. David Bird



An emeritus McGill professor, focused on raptors, Dr. David Bird has received several awards and honours. A writer/editor of popular birding books and newspaper/magazine columns,

Including in the Montreal Gazette, he is working today to make the Canada Jay Canada's national bird.

## And Dr. Rodger Titman



A retired professor of Wildlife Biology at McGill, **Dr. Rodger Titman** served on Birds Canada, BPQ, and NCC boards and received the Doris Spiers Award from the Society of Canadian Ornithologists.

## Registration

To register, complete the secure online form:

[https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/bird2021\\_reg.php](https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/bird2021_reg.php)

The cut off date for early registration is April 15, 2021. Registration is payable by cheque or credit card.

Early Bird Rate: **\$125.00** After April 15 **\$149.00**

Student Early Bird Rate: **\$38.00** After April 15 **\$62.00**

# Field Trip Committee Report

By Wayne Grubert,  
Field Trip Committee Chair



American Wigeon / Canard  
d'Amérique © 2021 Chuck Kling

It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since we last chased birds in person as part of a BPQ sponsored field trip. As of mid-March 2020, COVID-19 and all its associated restrictions forced us into a series of "virtual" trips with various themes.

The latest two events took place in the month of February. In the first, our members were encouraged to participate in the 24th annual Great Backyard Bird Count held Friday, February 12 to Monday, February 15. We feel certain that many of our birding friends contributed greatly to the incredible global tally of 379,726 eBird checklists submitted over the four days.

Speaking of global birding, our second February event was designed to give members and friends a glimpse of what it is like to bird in far off exotic places through the magic of live "birdcams" on the internet. The "BPQ February Challenge – A 'Real Virtual' Birding Tour" asked participants to identify as many species as possible while watching "live" webcams from around the globe and then to submit their lists at the end of the month for inclusion in our group tally. We know anecdotally that many people tried their luck but eventually just seven submitted lists of birds observed

from live cameras located in 17 countries. Even so, an amazing total of 227 species were identified from 64 avian families.

Going forward it would be nice to think we were now "out of the woods", or better still "out in the woods...together...", but caution dictates that we will have to wait a little longer. Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, a ramped-up vaccine program and falling infection rates will allow us to bird together in real time. Until then, as spring migration ramps up, we will host a few more virtual trips by bringing back some popular themes from last year and inaugurating some new ones. Details, as they become available, will be presented on our BPQ webpage, Facebook page and the Songsparrow IO Group email list.

For the latest information on Covid-19 restrictions for birdwatching, visit <https://quebecoiseaux.org/index.php/fr/covid-19>

# Perroquet – Bird Island for All Time

**Monday, April 12, 2021,  
at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Presented by Kathleen  
Blanchard, PhD,  
Intervale Associates**



Ile-aux-Perroquets, Refuge  
d'oiseaux migrateurs de la Baie-  
de-Brador

[Île aux Perroquets](#) is BPQ's oldest sanctuary, a 42-acre island purchased in 1937. Perroquets is part of the Baie de Brador Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The island hosts a major

Atlantic Puffin colony, which for centuries has endured many pressures including dramatic population fluctuations in the mid-20th century.

Four decades ago, BPQ joined the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF), federal and provincial departments, and municipal leaders in a multi-partner initiative to reduce disturbance while engaging citizens in conservation activities. Kathleen will highlight some of these developments and update us on the changing dynamics of this important Quebec seabird colony.

## Registering for the Videoconference

Join us April 12! All are welcome!

For security reasons, you must register in advance via the following link: [Register Now](#)

**Questions?** Contact the Zoom team at [bpq-zm-admin@pqspb.org](mailto:bpq-zm-admin@pqspb.org)



Kathleen Blanchard  
© 2018 Clarence Goodyear

Kathleen Blanchard is the founder of Intervale Associates, a long-time consultant to Canadian government departments, and QLF's Senior Consultant for Biodiversity Conservation. She currently serves on the board of Birds Canada. Intervale is a non-profit organization that conducts programs in biodiversity conservation, principally in Newfoundland and Labrador. For 25

years she worked for QLF and is a former president of QLF Canada.

Through QLF, Kathleen spearheaded the long-term stakeholder initiative, which contributed substantially to a halt in the rapid decline among seabird populations nesting in federal migratory bird sanctuaries of the Quebec Lower North Shore.

With deep ancestral roots in Newfoundland, Kathleen has had a lifelong passion for seabirds. This dates back to her involvement in the restoration of Atlantic puffins in Maine with the National Audubon Society.

## **AGM Monday, May 31, at 7:00 p.m.**

This year, we are holding our AGM via videoconference on Monday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. We hope you will join us. We'd like to see as many members as possible. The agenda for the AGM will include annual reports by the president and treasurer and the election of directors to the board.

A mandatory RSVP is required. Details on how to register will be made available closer to the date.

### **Special General Meeting**

A Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held immediately before the AGM. Members will be asked to vote on a resolution to reduce the number of board members from 19 to 15.

## **AGA lundi 31 mai à 19h00**

L'Assemblée générale (AGA) aura lieu le lundi 31 mai à 19 h 30 via vidéoconférence. Venez nous rejoindre! Nous vous attendons en grand nombre. L'inscription est obligatoire. Les modalités d'inscription seront communiquées à l'approche de la date.

L'ordre du jour de l'AGA inclura comme d'habitude les rapports annuels respectifs du président et du trésorier, ainsi que l'élection des membres du conseil d'administration.

### **Assemblée générale extraordinaire**

Une assemblée générale extraordinaire aura lieu immédiatement avant l'assemblée générale annuelle. Les membres seront invités à voter sur une résolution visant à réduire le nombre

de membres du conseil  
d'administration de 19 à 15.

## **Call for Candidates for the BPQ Board of Directors**

Each year at this time the BPQ Elections and Nominations Committee puts forth a call for nominations to the Bird Protection Quebec Board of Directors. BPQ directors must be members in good standing and at least 18 years of age. They are elected by the members for two-year terms, after which they are eligible for re-election. They can serve for a maximum of ten consecutive years and then must leave the board for at least one year.

If you would like to nominate someone to the board or stand for election yourself, you must submit your nomination to the Elections and Nominations Committee. In addition

to the nominee, each nomination must be supported by a proposer and a seconder, who are BPQ members in good standing and be received by April 19, 2021. No nominations can be accepted beyond this date.

The election for new directors and those seeking re-election will be held at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, May 31, 2021.

For a nomination form, or for any questions regarding the process, please email the Elections and Nominations Committee at [birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com).

## **Appel de candidatures pour le conseil d'administration de POQ**

Chaque année à cette époque, le comité des élections et des nominations de POQ lance un appel de candidatures pour le conseil

d'administration de Protection des Oiseaux Québec. Les administrateurs de POQ doivent être des membres en règle et être âgés d'au moins 18 ans. Ils sont élus par les membres pour un mandat de deux ans, après quoi ils sont rééligibles. Ils peuvent siéger pendant un maximum de dix années consécutives et doivent ensuite quitter le conseil pendant au moins un an.

Si vous souhaitez proposer un candidat au conseil d'administration ou vous porter vous-même candidat, vous devez soumettre votre candidature au comité des élections et des nominations. En plus du candidat, chaque candidature doit être appuyée par un proposant et un appuieur, qui sont des membres en règle de BPQ, et être reçue avant le 19 avril 2021. Aucune candidature ne pourra être acceptée après cette date.

L'élection des nouveaux administrateurs et des candidats à la réélection aura lieu lors de

l'assemblée générale annuelle du  
lundi 31 mai 2021.

Pour obtenir un formulaire de  
candidature, ou pour toute question  
concernant le processus, veuillez  
envoyer un courriel au Comité des  
élections et des candidatures à  
l'adresse

[birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com)



Spotted Sandpiper / Chevalier  
grivelé at the Technoparc © 2018  
Chuck Kling

## Technoparc Clean-up

**Saturday, April 17  
9:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Note:** If it rains, the event will be  
postponed to the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Place:** west end of Chemin  
St-François

For a third year, TechnoparcOiseaux  
is organizing a clean-up day in the  
wetlands area of the Technoparc. The  
municipality and the police are aware  
of this activity. Covid-19 restrictions  
will be observed.

**Note:** Masks are mandatory. Bags,  
gloves and waste tongs will be  
provided.

As the number of participants is  
limited to 30 people, please reserve  
your participation by indicating that  
you will be attending:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/3  
18853376511900](https://www.facebook.com/events/318853376511900)

## Corvée propreté Samedi 17 avril 9h00 à 12h00

**Notez** (en cas de pluie, reportée au  
lendemain)

**Point de rencontre :** Extrémité Ouest  
du chemin Saint-François

Pour une 3e année,  
TechnoparcOiseaux organise une  
corvée propreté dans le secteur des  
milieux humides du Technoparc.  
Notez que la municipalité et les  
policiers sont au fait de cette activité  
qui se tiendra en respectant les  
consignes sanitaires de distanciation  
sociale.

**Notez :** les masques sont  
obligatoires. Sacs, gants et pinces à  
déchets seront fournis.

Comme le nombre de participants est  
limité à 30 personnes, réservez votre  
participation en indiquant que vous  
participerez :

[https://www.facebook.com/events/3  
18853376511900](https://www.facebook.com/events/318853376511900)

# A Tribute to Ethel Fogarty 1923-2021

The BPQ Board of Directors regrets to inform the membership of the passing of Ethel Fogarty, a long-standing member, who was a member of numerous BPQ committees, a former director, and president from 1987 to 1990.

Here is her obituary from the Montreal Gazette today. We extend our condolences to her family members and friends.

Ethel passed away at Lakeshore General Hospital on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at the age of 97 years. She leaves behind her two nieces, Lynn Kennedy and Helen Fogarty. She will be deeply missed. Funeral arrangements entrusted to J.J. Cardinal Funeral Home.

[https://montrealgazette.rememberin  
g.ca/obituary/ethel-fogarty-  
1081550813](https://montrealgazette.rememberinq.ca/obituary/ethel-fogarty-1081550813)

**Jeff Harrison:** She was so typical of the people that I first met when I joined BPQ in the late 90s, kind, affable and always willing to pitch in to be helpful.

**Zofia Laubitz:** If I recollect right, Ethel was newsletter editor when I joined PQSPB and became President a year or two after that. I also wonder if she was on the Membership Committee (if we had one then), as I remember her being one of the first people to greet me when I attended my first PQSPB meetings. That kind of friendliness on the part of old-timers is so important in making newbies feel welcomed and part of the group!

**Barbara MacDuff:** Margaret Arnaudin wrote in *A Bird in a Bush* that in the 70s Ethel Fogarty was in charge of approximately 100 bluebird boxes in the Hudson area that were monitored by BPQ members.

Ethel was immersed in the society and over the years chaired the Education Committee, the Bird Fair

Committee and as well, was editor of *The Song Sparrow*.

Ethel attended most field trips and encouraged participants to share in the joy of birding.



Eastern Bluebird / Merlebleu de l'Est © 2020 Chuck Kling

**Wayne Grubert:** Quite a few of those Bluebird boxes were off Route 201 in an area now taken over by polo fields. Not bad habitat now but crowds of people and dozens of galloping horses several weekends a year would probably not be conducive to rearing young.

But one farm nearby where there were boxes (which, mea culpa, fell into disuse) should still be suitable. Maybe I'll see if the owner is agreeable to having some new ones put up.... a bit of a memorial to Ethel.

Ethel showed me where all those original boxes were on a tour. Even had me pulling out blow fly larvae barehanded with the admonishment "don't worry about them, they're harmless to us! You have to get them all. Just wash your hands after."

Great lady. As others have said, always willing to lend a hand as well as take charge when no one else wanted to.

**Bob Barnhurst:** Ethel was a long-time friend of Mabel and joined us on a field trip to Kenya in 1990. She loved to take pictures of the birds and animals that we saw. She was a personal secretary at Sunlife until she retired. We used to visit her at the retirement homes she lived in, the

last in Pierrefonds, after she gave up her house in Lachine. Unfortunately, COVID -19 prevented us from visiting, although we did talk to her on the phone, when we could get her, that is. She was often off doing something, like playing bingo, cards, board games, etc. She loved to read and passed on some bird-related books to us when she had finished with them. She retained a clear mind right up to her death. She always remained interested in the birds, often asking us what we had seen recently.

We will miss her. Bob.

**Lucille Shiro:** God bless her! I extend my deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

**Margaret Arnaudin:** I remember Ethel as a very staunch and very reliable member of the Society. She showed up on all of the field trips. I know that she was in charge of the Bluebird nest boxes and made a very thorough job of checking up on

them. Not everyone is suited to running a nest-box program. I know that I'm not. You have to source the boxes, know the arrival dates to get the boxes up on time, know and record incubation times. Be handy with tools, be able to drive. Keep records: numbers of eggs, fledglings, successful nestings. Write up the stats. Clean the boxes, keep them in good repair. Recruit monitors. This requires someone with regular habits, punctual, methodical, reliable. This was Ethel. Both feet on the ground. In her own quiet, unassuming way, she did a lot for the Society and for the E Bluebirds. Not an easy job, to keep a nest box program going.

I was happy to see such a cheerful photo of her. From what Bob says, she got a lot of enjoyment out of her final years.

# A Tribute to Chris and Ross Murphy

The BPQ Board of Directors regrets to inform the membership of the passing of Chris and Ross Murphy, two birders who touched the lives of many long-standing BPQ members.



Purple Sandpiper / Bécasseau violet  
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**From Barbara MacDuff:** “Sadly, Chris lost her battle against Covid 19 on February 6, 2021. Her husband Ross died the following day.

Chris was a long-time member who served as director of BPQ (PQSPB), and an assistant to the treasurer of BPQ for several years. She was also a member of many BPQ committees including Conservation, Sanctuaries and Education. In 2008–2009, BPQ presented her with a long-term service award.

In the 70s Chris led early morning bird walks with Jim Houghton at Summit Park in Westmount. She worked closely with the City of Westmount encouraging the administration to leave “wild” areas for the birds at this migration stop over.

She traveled to Point Pelee for BPQ’s annual camping trip and was always enthusiastic about sharing her bird sightings and welcoming newcomers.

Chris had an excellent birding “ear” and she relished marsh monitoring, owl surveys, and activities at the McGill Bird Observatory.

She was a tireless volunteer for BPQ. She had serious health problems in her later years but wouldn’t talk about them. She preferred talking about birds. She will be missed.”

**From Jean Demers:** I remember her at the MBO going to sit in a chair just past the C nets and listening and looking out for warblers – so dedicated and a charming lady.

**From Jeff Harrison:** I wondered when I got back to Montreal in 2016 that I did not see them at BPQ events. Chris was a dynamic and engaging person, always positive, a delight to be around, and Ross always seemed a good compliment, so a terrific couple.

A year on it has been a long slog. Covid is an indiscriminate insidious virus. Let us hope the wait is almost

over and soon we will get our freedom back.

**From Gay McDougall–Gruner:** A dynamic and engaging person, always positive ...a perfect description, Jeff.

Chris and Ross were both keen birders. I met them in the mid to late 80s at Windmill Point on one of my first BPQ outings. A very tall figure (Ross) was bent over a scope exclaiming, "Oh boy, oh boy." A Purple Sandpiper had been spotted, quite a rarity. The enthusiasm of Chris and Ross and their eagerness to share this finding still sticks in my mind.

Chris's ear birding was excellent and she was able to share the knowledge of what to listen for. Chris introduced me to the songs and calls of the Veery (back in the day when I could hear), nothing extraordinary for Chris's sophisticated ear, but so impressive to me. Over the years, Chris taught many of us about bird songs; how to associate habitat to a

species, the importance of conservation and more. She truly will be missed

**From David Mulholland:** Chris was always positive and fun to be around. She will always be remembered.

**From Jean Bacon:** I was so sad to hear the news of the passing of Chris and Ross Murphy. They were really lovely people and lots of fun. They were both very talented birders. Chris, in particular, gave a lot of time to BPQ (PQSPB) with her various volunteer and educational activities, and as a member of the Board. She was a very good and patient teacher, always taking care of new birders and ensuring that they had seen and heard all the birds on field trips. She was also an exceptional baker, making and icing most delicious cakes, including some to celebrate BPQ events.

**From Zofia Laubitz:** This is such sad news. I remember Chris as a really cheerful and enthusiastic person, as well as an excellent birder. And like

Jean B, I look back fondly on the amazing cakes she made for BPQ celebrations! We're losing too many of our people these days.

**From Bob Barnhurst & Mabel**

**McIntosh:** We have shared many birding experiences with Chris and Ross in the past, all of them memorable. Chris and Ross used to visit us at the Hawkwatch on some weekends while they were both still working, improving people's lives on a daily basis. Ross was an orthopedic surgeon and Chris an operating room head nurse. Ross was also a big opera fan, as am I. He would turn to the Saturday afternoon Met broadcasts on the radio and open the rear door on their minivan so that we could hear it while we looked for hawks and eagles. Chris and Ross will always have a place in our fondest memories. Covid-19 claims two more irreplaceable lives, now just a part of the daily infamous COVID-19 statistics.

**From Margaret Arnaudin:** This is very, very sad news. One of my favourite



Black-throated Green Warbler /  
Paruline à gorge noire © 2016  
Chuck Kling

photos in the history book is one that Chris donated, a photo she took when on a PQSPB trip to Ile aux Perroquets. She was only too willing to help. She struck me as being a very kind person, and hospitable too. I once was invited to her place for a sit-down dinner with other members. I can't remember what the occasion was or why I was invited but it was a lovely evening socializing with other birders.

She seemed to me to be a very hard worker. She would have to be, to take on the treasurer's job. Another stalwart gone. I met her husband too. How very sad that these wonderful people are no longer with us.

**From Diana Deakin:** So so sad to hear about Chris and Ross. We have very fond memories of birding together. Our deepest condolences to the family.

**From Marcel Gahbauer:** Chris was indeed one of the most dedicated volunteers in McGill Bird Observatory's early years. Even though parts of the census trail were pretty rough going, she was determined to keep at it! Her contributions helped tremendously at a time when we were working to build up to full capacity.

So sorry to hear she was another victim of Covid 19.

**From Betsy McFarlane:** Birding with Chris was the best!!! She was also a great person to work with on BPQ committees and the Board. A hard worker and always enthusiastic and kind, with lots of good ideas. I learned my first warbler song from Chris--Black-throated Green--at Summit Park. She and Ross were a terrific team. So sad to lose them.