Issue 64-4
April 2022

Spring Migration Issue

News for Members

Bird Protection Quebec
Protection des oiseaux du Québec

The SONG SPARROW

Bird Protection Quebec
Protection des oiseaux du Québec
Education Conservation Observation

The SONG SPARROW

Bird Protection Quebec - Mission Statement

VISION

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

MISSION

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

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In this Issue

Features

Cover Photo: Wayne Grubert

A Word FROM THE EDITORS

As this issue goes to print, birders are shedding parkas, tuques and heavy boots and heading out with a "spring" in their step - migration has begun! It's time to dust off the sound recordings, start practising those warbler calls - oh, and don't forget to do a few exercises to strengthen the neck muscles in anticipation of that dreaded spring affliction: warbler neck.

Another sign of spring is the increase in interesting citizen science projects with which you can become involved. In the second edition of his Citizen Science column, Richard Gregson entices you to join the *iNaturalist City Nature Challenge*. His column is followed by a list of other events and challenges taking place in May that would benefit from your participation.

As always, we thank our columnists for their invaluable contributions. This issue, feature writer Wayne Grubert follows up his September article (The Song Sparrow - Issue 64-1) with *Migration 102*, which explores the tools scientists use to study the phenomenon of migration, while Richard Gregson revisits tools gardeners can use to attract migrant visitors to their yards. The field trip committee congratulates the winners of its February birding challenge and, in his Exploring Early Canadian Ornithology column, Jeff Harrison reviews a book on the history of ornithology in Quebec.

So grab a cup of coffee (preferably shade-grown!), sit back in your bird-friendly garden, and get ready to welcome your favourite summer residents, and those just passing through!

Connie and Darlene

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The winters are long where we live but with the temperatures rising slowly through March and into early April, we birders are already on the lookout for the first spring migrants. And what a joy it always is to hear the first Song Sparrow of the year or spot the first Red-winged Blackbird at the local park. Soon enough these species will be joined by many others: waterfowl on the rivers and lakes, raptors flying overhead and warblers and flycatchers in the shrubs of the local green space.

Spring is such a pleasant time to be outside, every day can bring new arrivals, sometimes quite a few! We at BPQ are very happy that current pandemic guidelines have allowed us to resume our in-person field trips just in time for spring migration. It's been a long time coming but I'm sure the birds won't disappoint us.

As for the organization itself, spring migration also means there will be some movement on the board of directors. First, the board was informed of the resignation of vice-president Connie Morgenstern in late February. I want to take the time to thank Connie for all the work and effort that she has put into Bird Protection Quebec, and continues to put in as co-editor of The Song Sparrow. A lot of what you see coming from us in the communication and education departments is thanks to Connie. The board has decided to appoint Kristen Lalla as interim vice-president until the AGM. We also have two board members who will be leaving us at the end of their terms in May, Sue Denoncourt and Maya Longpré-Croteau. Thank you both for your dedication and hard work during the past two years.

This also means that we will have three new members on the board to start our 2022-2023 cycle, a year which I hope will be filled with continued advancement for the organization as well as beautiful bird sightings for all of our members.

Simon Duval

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Les hivers sont longs au Québec, mais avec les températures qui montent lentement en mars et début avril, les ornithologues sont déjà à l'affût des premiers migrateurs printaniers. Et quelle joie d'entendre le premier Bruant chanteur de l'année ou d'apercevoir le premier Carouge à épaulettes dans le parc du quartier. Très vite, ces espèces seront rejointes par de nombreuses autres : canards et bernaches sur les rivières et les lacs, rapaces volant au-dessus de nos têtes, parulines et moucherolles dans les arbustes de votre espace vert favori.

Le printemps est une période si agréable pour être à l'extérieur, chaque jour peut apporter sont lot de nouveaux arrivants, parfois même assez nombreux ! Chez Protection des Oiseaux du Québec, nous sommes très heureux que les directives actuelles en matière de pandémie nous aient permis de reprendre nos sorties sur le terrain juste à temps pour la migration printanière. Cela fait plusieurs mois que l'on patiente, mais je suis sûr que les oiseaux ne nous décevront pas.

En ce qui concerne le fonctionnement de notre organisme, la migration printanière signifie aussi qu'il y aura du mouvement au sein du conseil d'administration. Tout d'abord, le conseil a été informé de la démission de la vice-présidente Connie Morgenstern à la fin février. Je tiens à prendre le temps de remercier Connie pour tout le travail et les efforts qu'elle a consacrés à Protection des Oiseaux du Québec et qu'elle continue de fournir en tant que co-rédactrice de « The Song Sparrow ». Une grande partie de ce que vous voyez venant de nous dans les départements de communication et d'éducation sont grâce à Connie. Le conseil d'administration a décidé de nommer Kristen Lalla comme vice-présidente intérimaire jusqu'à l'AGA. Nous avons également deux membres du conseil qui nous quitteront à la fin de leur mandat en mai, Sue Denoncourt et Maya Longpré-Croteau, merci à vous deux pour votre dévouement et votre travail acharné au cours des deux dernières années.

Cela signifie donc que nous aurons trois nouveaux membres au conseil d'administration pour commencer notre cycle 2022-2023, une année qui, je l'espère, sera remplie de cheminement pour l'organisation ainsi que de belles observations d'oiseaux pour tous nos membres.

Simon Duval

Reminder!
Aide-mémoire!

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Monday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m.

This year, we are holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) via videoconference on Monday, May 30, at 7:00 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.

Avis - l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle
lundi 30 mai à 19h00

L'Assemblée générale (AGA) aura lieu le lundi 30 mai à 19h00 via vidéoconférence. Venez nous joindre! 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.

What says migration more than ...
Que dire de la migration plus que ...

Snow Geese

Photos: Darlene Harvey

Focus on OUR MEMBERS

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Katharine Bernicky, Brad Rogers and Sue Younglai, Karen Colwell, Alessandra Di Fulvio, Elizabeth Dannenbaum and Peter Gomberg, Shawn Taylor, Mark O'Connor, and Claire Charron and Marc Bégin.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

Just a quick reminder that we have a common membership renewal date for everyone of October 1.

No matter what date you join or renew, your expiry date is September 30.

The only exception is in the first year of membership. If you join late in the membership year (after the beginning of our new fiscal year March 1), you get an added benefit of not having to renew until October of the following year.

LEGACY GIFTING

As a charitable non-profit organization, BPQ relies on its members and supporters, through regular renewal fees and donations, to sustain its conservation work.

You might not be aware, though, that our largest support has come in the form of legacy donations - both money and land left to BPQ by incredible bird lovers and supporters, in their Wills. Most notably, Alfred Kelly left a sizeable portion of his estate to BPQ in the 1980s. The income generated by this generous legacy enabled us to expand, and is still the major source of income to support, our conservation, grants and education programs. Our most recent bequest was made by Dr. Alec Lucas of a large and important parcel of undeveloped land in western Quebec that will be protected as one of our nature sanctuaries.

A legacy is more than a gift; it's a way to express your support for the things that matter most to you, and to continue your support into the future.

BIENVENUE AUX NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

Katharine Bernicky. Brad Rogers et Sue Younglai, Karen Colwell, Alessandra Di Fulvio, Elizabeth Dannenbaum et Peter Gomberg, Shawn Taylor, Mark O'Connor, et Claire Charron et Marc Bégin.

Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer! En attendant, n'oubliez pas de vous inscrire à notre liste d'abonnés virtuels « Song Sparrow » en cliquant ici pour vous connecter avec d'autres membres ainsi que nous suivre sur Facebook.

ADHÉSIONS

Juste un petit rappel que nous avons une date commune de renouvellement des adhésions pour tout le monde, le 1er octobre.

Quelle que soit la date de votre adhésion ou de votre renouvellement, votre date d'expiration est le 30 septembre.

La seule exception concerne la première année d'adhésion. Si vous adhérez au milieu de l'année d'adhésion, après le début de notre nouvelle année fiscale le 1er mars, vous bénéficiez d'un avantage supplémentaire en ne devant pas renouveler votre adhésion avant le mois d'octobre de l'année suivante.

DON PLANIFIÉ

En tant qu'organisme de bienfaisance sans but lucratif, POQ compte sur ses membres et ses sympathisants, par le biais de cotisations régulières et de dons, pour soutenir son travail de conservation.

Cependant, vous ne savez peut-être pas que notre soutien le plus important a pris la forme de dons en héritage - à la fois de l'argent et des terres laissés à POQ par d'incroyables amoureux des oiseaux et des supporters, dans leur testament. Alfred Kelly a notamment légué une partie importante de son patrimoine à POQ. Les revenus générés par ce généreux legs nous ont permis de développer, et continuent de soutenir, nos programmes de conservation, de subventions et d'éducation. Notre legs le plus récent est le don par le Dr Alec Lucas d'une grande parcelle de terre dans l'ouest du Québec, qui sera protégée comme l'un de nos sanctuaires naturels.

Un héritage est plus qu'un don ; c'est une façon d'exprimer votre soutien pour les choses qui vous importent le plus, et de poursuivre votre soutien à l'avenir.

Focus on
FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Field Trip Committee Report

With Covid still restricting our activities, in an attempt to keep our intrepid "virtual birders" engaged through the dark and cold days of late winter, the Field Trip Committee put together a multi-week competition in February. Certificates and bragging rights were promised to the top three winners.

Running from February 5 to 21, *The BPQ Super-Olympic-Bowl Challenge* was themed after two sporting events that took place in February 2022, namely the NFL's Superbowl and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games. The challenge was for teams or individual birders to bird as often as they wanted during the period, to as many different birding spots as they liked, with the goal of observing as many different species as possible. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates (Olympics - see what we did there? 😉) would be awarded to the three entrants reporting the most species seen during the period.

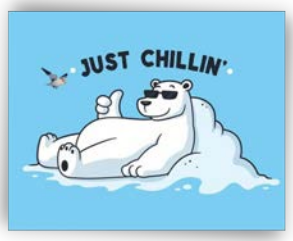
Twenty-four birders in total took up the challenge, divided into six teams of two, one team of three, and nine individual birders. The teams came up with great team names such as Just Chillin' (they even created a team logo!), Team Penguin, The Cowbirds, Westmore Wings, Gregwood Duo, The Two Jays and the Harvey Hawks. Two individuals also got in on the action and labelled themselves, one the "Lucky Duck" and the other "Edwina the Eagle".

The participants got really serious, visiting a total of 59 unique locations throughout Quebec and eastern Ontario. Their efforts proved fruitful, providing us with a snapshot of bird life in our region during the heart of our Canadian winter. Seventy-five unique species were reported by the birders - amazingly one more than the 74 reported on BPQ's 2021 Montreal Christmas Bird Count that took place in December!

Eight species were reported by all entrants: Downy Woodpecker, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, American Goldfinch and Northern Cardinal. Some highlights included Barrow's Goldeneye, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Golden Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, *seven* different Owl species, Belted Kingfisher, Peregrine Falcon, Evening Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll, Lapland Longspur, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle and, perhaps the bird of the Challenge, a Harris's Sparrow seen by the Wayne Grubert in Vankleek Hill, Ontario.

The competition was close with four entries tied at 38 species; one with 36; one with 31; one with each of 29, 28, 27; two with 24, one with 23 and one with 22.

But our Top Three, with an impressive 52, 41 and 40 species respectively, were:



GOLD: Team Just Chillin' - Barbara MacDuff, Don MacDuff and Gay McDougall-Gruner

SILVER: Team Two Jays - Jill Savouré and Julie Mergl

BRONZE: Monique Boivin

Congratulations to the winners, and to everyone who participated in this challenge, despite February testing us with some truly uncomfortable weather conditions!

Super-Olympic-Bowl Winners

Upcoming Field Trips

By the time this goes to print, BPQ will have held its first in-person spring field trips of the past two years.

As the migration season continues, it is definitely our intention to hold more outings but, because we will be carefully monitoring the progression of the pandemic on a weekly basis and consulting with potential trip leaders, the Field Trip Committee prefers not to pre-publish a full slate of spring trips at this time. With any luck, though, we will be offering at least one excursion each week.

Details will be made available several days in advance of each event via our usual communication methods, including social media, the iO Song Sparrow group and direct mailings, so keep an eye out!

First trip of spring 2022 - Parc des Rapides, LaSalle

Pierre Bannon's

BIRD VIEWS

February - March 2022

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

After the record cold January, the months of February and March were slightly milder. However, the milder weather brought more snow. The snow was particularly abundant north of the St. Lawrence River, for example in Abitibi, Lac Saint-Jean and the North Shore. As anticipated for this period, there were few mega-rarities except for a continuing Brambling and a Golden-crowned Sparrow. More expected rarities included two Townsend's Solitaires, a Varied Thrush, and a Harris's Sparrow. Finally, an irruption of fringillidae, mainly Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, White-winged Crossbills, and American Goldfinches was noticeable in southern Québec from mid-Feb onward.

PIERRE BANNON

PARLONS D'OISEAUX

février - mars 2022

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

Après les températures très froides de janvier, février et mars nous ont apportés des températures plus clémentes. Cependant les précipitations de neige furent très abondantes en particulier au nord du fleuve Saint-Laurent, pare example en Abitibi, Lac Saint-Jean et sur la Côte Nord. Tel qu'anticipé pour la période, peu de méga raretés ont été signalées à l'exception du Pinson du Nord et du Bruant à couronne dorée. Par ailleurs les 2 Solitaires de Townsend, une Grive à collier et un Bruant à face noire étaient prévisibles. Finalement, les fringillidés, surtout le Sizerin flammé, le Tarin des pins, le Bec-croisé bifascié et le Chardonneret jaune étaient très présents dans le sud de la province à partir de la mi-février.

Pink-footed Goose: 3 birds seen together at Park Daniel-Johnson, Granby, 27-28 Mar (Samuel Jetté, m. obs) followed by only one afterwards and singles at Victoriaville 28 Mar (Johanne Charrette, Alain Daigle) and at Drummondville 28-29 Mar (Martine Lemieux). **Trumpeter Swan:** one at Dundee 20-21 Mar (Pierre Masse, m. obs.). **Tundra Swan:** one at Sabrevois 15 Mar (Tristan Jobin) and most probably the same bird at nearby Saint-Blaise 19 Mar (Sylvie Robert). **Tufted Duck X Greater/Lesser Scaup:** this presumed hybrid was worthy of note at Lacolle 12 Mar (Tristan Jobin, Sylvie Robert, ph.). **Atlantic Puffin:** one found dead at Québec City 11 Feb was worthy of note (Alain Lajeunesse).

Black Vulture: one was last reported 8 Feb at Matane (Denis Desjardins) while one appeared briefly at Henryville 9 Feb (Tristan Jobin, ph.) and another spent the entire month of Feb at Saint-André-Avellin until 8 Mar, feeding in a waste container (m. obs., ph.). **Turkey Vulture:** despite the cold weather, a movement towards the north was already perceptible near the end of February, as shown by singles at Hemmingford 21 Feb (Mathieu Landry), at Varennes 22 Feb (Sébastien Pellegrini), at Sainte-Clotilde-de-Châteauguay 24 Feb (Louise Lemaire), at Granby 26 Feb (Gérard Viens), at Île Demers (Carignan) 26 Feb (Hélène Hamel) and at McMasterville 26 Feb (Yves Darveau, Nancy Boutin). **Golden Eagle:** a mind-boggling total of 48 migrating birds tallied over Montée Smellie at Godmanchester 17 Mar (Pierre Bannon, Suzanne Labbé, Luc Goneau, Daniel Ouellette, Pierre Masse, Denise Simon et al.). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** about 10 individuals remained in the province throughout the month of Feb, all of them concentrated around Montréal and Québec City (m. obs.). **Great Gray Owl:** although far from a record number, it was definitely an irruption year that takes place every 4-5 years for the species as shown by a total of about 50-60 birds reported in the province (m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: some resisted the cold weather of Jan and lingered into Feb, e.g. one in the Morgan arboretum (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 15-23 Feb (Jean Demers), one continued at Mont-Joli through 21 Mar (Guy Michaud, Sophie Bérubé) and one at Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 18-20 Feb (Madeleine Arcand). **Eastern Bluebird:** very few seem to have persisted through Feb. The northernmost were single birds at La Malbaie 7 Feb (Renaud Pintiaux) and at Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 20 Feb (Michel Lessard et al.). **Townsend's Solitaire:** one continued at Sept-Îles until 25 Feb (m. obs.) while another stopped at Saint-Aubert 24 Feb (Daniel Voyer). **Hermit Thrush:** although there were 5 reports in Feb, only one bird persisted through the end of the month, more precisely until 26 Feb at Laval (Laurence Chartrand). **Varied Thrush:** one at Neuville 19 Feb through 23 Mar (Serge Lemieux, Suzanne Blackburn, m. obs.). **American Pipit:** one at La Malbaie 20 Feb, the first record ever for the month of Feb (Philippe Berrouard, Nancy Lavoie).

Oie à bec court: 3 oiseaux vus ensemble au parc Daniel-Johnson, Granby, 27-28 mars (Samuel Jetté, pl. obs) suivi d'un seul revu par la suite, puis un à Victoriaville 28 mars (Johanne Charrette, Alain Daigle) et un autre à Drummondville 28-29 mars (Martine Lemieux). **Cygne trompette:** un à Dundee 20-21 mars (Pierre Masse, pl. obs.). **Cygne siffleur:** un à Sabrevois 15 mars (Tristan Jobin) et probablement le même à Saint-Blaise 19 mars (Sylvie Robert). **Fuligule morillon X Fuligule milouinan/Petit Fuligule:** un présumé individu hybride à Lacolle 12 mars (Tristan Jobin, Sylvie Robert, ph.). **Macareux moine:** un trouvé mort à Québec 11 fév était digne de mention (Alain Lajeunesse).

Urubu noir: un signalé jusqu'au 8 fév à Matane (Denis Desjardins) puis un vu brièvement à Henryville 9 fév (Tristan Jobin, ph.). Enfin, un autre a passé le mois de fév à Saint-André-Avellin jusqu'au 8 mars, se nourrissant dans un conteneur à déchets (pl. obs., ph.). **Urubu à tête rouge:** malgré le froid, un mouvement migratoire était déjà détectable à la fin de fév, tel que confirmé par des oiseaux à Hemmingford 21 fév (Mathieu Landry), à Varennes 22 fév (Sébastien Pellegrini), à Sainte-Clotilde-de-Châteauguay 24 fév (Louise Lemaire), à Granby 26 fév (Gérard Viens), à l'Île Demers (Carignan) 26 fév (Hélène Hamel) et à McMasterville 26 fév (Yves Darveau, Nancy Boutin). **Aigle royal:** un total ahurissant de 48 oiseaux en migration ont été dénombrés en l'espace de 5 heures sur la montée Smellie à Godmanchester 17 mars (Pierre Bannon, Suzanne Labbé, Luc Goneau, Daniel Ouellette, Pierre Masse, Denise Simon et al.). **Buse à épaulettes:** environ 10 individus sont demeurés dans la province en fév, tous concentrés autour de Montréal et de Québec (pl. obs.). **Chouette lapone:** bien que loin d'un nombre record, les 50-60 oiseaux signalés dans la province cet hiver témoignaient d'une irruption cyclique se produisant à tous les 4 ou 5 ans (pl. obs.).

Pic maculé: certains ont résisté au froid de janv et se sont attardés en fév et même en mars, eg. un à l'arboretum Morgan (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) 15-23 fév (Jean Demers), un à Mont-Joli tout l'hiver jusqu'au 21 mars (Guy Michaud, Sophie Bérubé) et un autre à Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 18-20 fév (Madeleine Arcand). **Merlebleu de l'Est:** peu sont restés jusqu'en fév. Les individus les plus au nord étaient signalés à La Malbaie 7 fév (Renaud Pintiaux) et à Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 20 fév (Michel Lessard et al.). **Solitaire de Townsend:** un toujours présent à Sept-Îles 25 fév (pl. obs.) et un autre s'est arrêté à Saint-Aubert 24 fév (Daniel Voyer). **Grive solitaire:** malgré les 5 mentions en fév, seulement un individu a persisté jusqu'à la fin du mois, soit à Laval 26 fév (Laurence Chartrand). **Grive à collier:** une à Neuville du 19 fév jusqu'au 23 mars (Serge Lemieux, Suzanne Blackburn, pl. obs.). **Pipit d'Amérique:** un à La Malbaie 20 fév, une première mention en fév au Québec (Philippe Berrouard, Nancy Lavoie).

Brambling: the bird already present at Grondines continued throughout the period until 11 Mar (m. obs.). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** very rare in winter, one stopped at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 22 Feb-27 Mar (Diane Ménard, ph.). **Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon):** the females reported previously at Cap Tourmente (Sylvie Martel, Gaétan Giroux) and at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Denise Simon) persisted into late Mar. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one overwintered at Lorrainville (Témiscamingue) (Denis Robert). **Golden-crowned Sparrow:** an adult was back at Rimouski 3 Feb-30 Mar exactly at the same place where it overwintered last year (Vincent Giroux, Andra Florea, ph.). **Harris's Sparrow:** one continued at Saint-Rosaire until at least 21 Mar (Manon St-Louis, m. obs.) while one visited Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides 5 Mar (Pierre Mourant). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** the bird already present at Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel continued until 14 Feb (Jean Lemoyne). **Pine Warbler:** single males at l'île des Sœurs (Montréal) 7 Jan-10 Mar (Denis Tétreault et al.) and at Lachine 5 Feb-4 Mar (Céline Morais, m. obs.). The latter surprised the observers when coming to pick up food from their hands.

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

Pinson du Nord: l'oiseau déjà présent à Grondines depuis décembre est resté sur place jusqu'au 11 mars (pl. obs.). **Bruant des plaines:** très rare en hiver, un individu s'est arrêté à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 22 fév-27 mars (Diane Ménard, ph.). **Junco ardoisé (Oregon):** les femelles déjà signalées à Cap Tourmente (Sylvie Martel, Gaétan Giroux) et à Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Denise Simon) sont demeurées sur place jusqu'à la fin de mars. **Bruant à couronne blanche:** un individu a passé l'hiver à Lorrainville (Témiscamingue) (Denis Robert). **Bruant à couronne dorée:** un adulte était de retour à Rimouski 3 fév-30 mars exactement au même endroit que l'hiver dernier (Vincent Giroux, Andra Florea, ph.). **Bruant à face noire:** un individu a continué à Saint-Rosaire jusqu'au 21 mars (Manon St-Louis, pl. obs.) et un autre a visité Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides 5 mars (Pierre Mourant). **Carouge à tête jaune:** l'oiseau déjà présent à Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel a été revu jusqu'au 14 fév (Jean Lemoyne). **Paruline des pins:** des mâles à l'île des Sœurs (Montréal) 7 janv-10 mars (Denis Tétreault et al.) et à Lachine 5 fév-4 mars (Céline Morais, pl. obs.). Ce dernier a étonné les observateurs en venant régulièrement se nourrir dans leurs mains.

Veuillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon par courriel à : pierre.bannon@icloud.com

FOCUS ON GRANTS

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

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

2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Every year, BPQ offers financial support for research and environmental education projects that accord with our mission and and focus on ornithological research, conservation or education activities within Quebec.

Grants are awarded to a wide range of projects that meet these criteria, including small projects such as those associated with undergraduate or graduate studies or community-based educational initiatives. Larger grants are available for more mature projects from established groups or individuals, especially for those expected to continue their research over multiple years.

The grants committee solicits and evaluates applications each year and presents its recommendations to the board as to which projects qualify for funding in the upcoming financial year.

For 2022/2023, the board has approved grants totaling over $100,000. This amount includes some multi-year projects for which funding was committed in previous years. We are proud to say that once again these awards represent the largest part of BPQ's expense budget.

On the following page is a list of the new projects being supported this year. In addition to those listed, BPQ has multi-year commitments to the McGill Bird Observatory, Vanier College's MOTUS project, the banding station at Rimouski, and several other projects coming to fruition in 2022.

POINT DE MIRE SUR

LES SUBVENTIONS

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

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

BÉNÉFICIAIRES DE SUBVENTIONS - 2022

Chaque année, POQ offre un soutien financier à des projets de recherche et d'éducation à l'environnement qui correspondent à notre mission et qui concernent des activités de recherche, de conservation ou d'éducation ornithologiques au Québec.

Les subventions sont accordées à un large éventail de projets qui répondent à ces critères, y compris les petits projets, comme ceux associés aux études de premier cycle ou de deuxième cycle ou aux initiatives éducatives communautaires. Des subventions plus importantes sont disponibles pour les projets plus matures de groupes ou d'individus établis, en particulier pour ceux qui doivent poursuivre leurs recherches sur plusieurs années.

Le comité des subventions sollicite et évalue les demandes chaque année et présente ses recommandations au conseil d'administration quant aux projets susceptibles d'être financés au cours de l'exercice financier à venir.

Pour 2022/2023, le conseil d'administration a approuvé des subventions d'un montant total de plus de 100 000$. Cela inclut certains projets pluriannuels pour lesquels le financement a été approuvé au cours des années précédentes. Nous sommes fiers de dire qu'une fois de plus, ces subventions représentent la plus grande partie du budget des dépenses de POQ.

Vous trouverez à la page suivante une liste récapitulative des nouveaux projets soutenus cette année. En plus de ceux-ci, POQ a des engagements pluriannuels envers l'Observatoire des oiseaux de McGill, le projet MOTUS du Collège Vanier, la station de baguage à Rimouski, et plusieurs autres parrainages se terminant en 2022.

Bird Protection Quebec - New Grants 2022

Conservation and Research	
Corridor Appalachien	Monitoring of known Peregrine Falcon nesting sites with emphasis on detecting human disturbance that could threaten breeding success, and of Bicknell's Thrush population to evaluate impact of increased hiking on the trails in a protected area. 3-year funding project.
Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac	Monitoring of critically important indicative species of the boreal forest, including tracking of Horned Lark, Purple Finch, Saw-whet and Boreal Owl. 3-year funding project.
Initiative Biodiversité	Restore a chimney swift structure in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines
Association Québecoise de fauconniers et autosiers	Manufacture and installation of American Kestrel nesting boxes in Montérégie and Lower Laurentians
McGill MSc Student, Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences	Studying Northern Gannets as monitors of mercury distribution in the Gulf of Saint-Lawrence
Développement Ornothologique Argenteuil	Monitoring demographic trends of various nesting species in 4 typical habitats in the MRC Argenteuil
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association	Tracking breeding, migration and wintering ecology of Broad-winged Hawks from eastern Canada to the Neotropics
Education	
A. Williamson	Creation of a smartphone app that uses augmented reality technology to provide data on local endangered species and environments to public users in specific locations in Montreal
Union québécoise de rehabilitation des oiseaux de proie (UQROP)	Development of a permanent exhibition on birds of prey at UQROP's new interpretation centre, raising awareness of the important role birds of prey play in the ecosystem
Fondation du patrimonie SDC	Establishment of a bird garden as part of the revitalization of the heritage site of the Fabrique Sainte-Jeanne-de-Chantal in Île Perrot
Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office – Otsi'ten'okón:'a Field Guides and Nest Boxes Project	Focussing on both furthering the creation of field guides in English and Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) and the installation of Eastern Bluebird nest boxes, this project's goal is to increase awareness of birds while also acting as a tool for language revitalization, and to support Bluebird populations while providing opportunities for bird education in the community
O. Jacobs – Birding on the Rez Bird Cam	This community engagement project aims to educate the people of Kahnawà:ke and beyond about birding activities and protection through live streaming and educational campaigns on social media

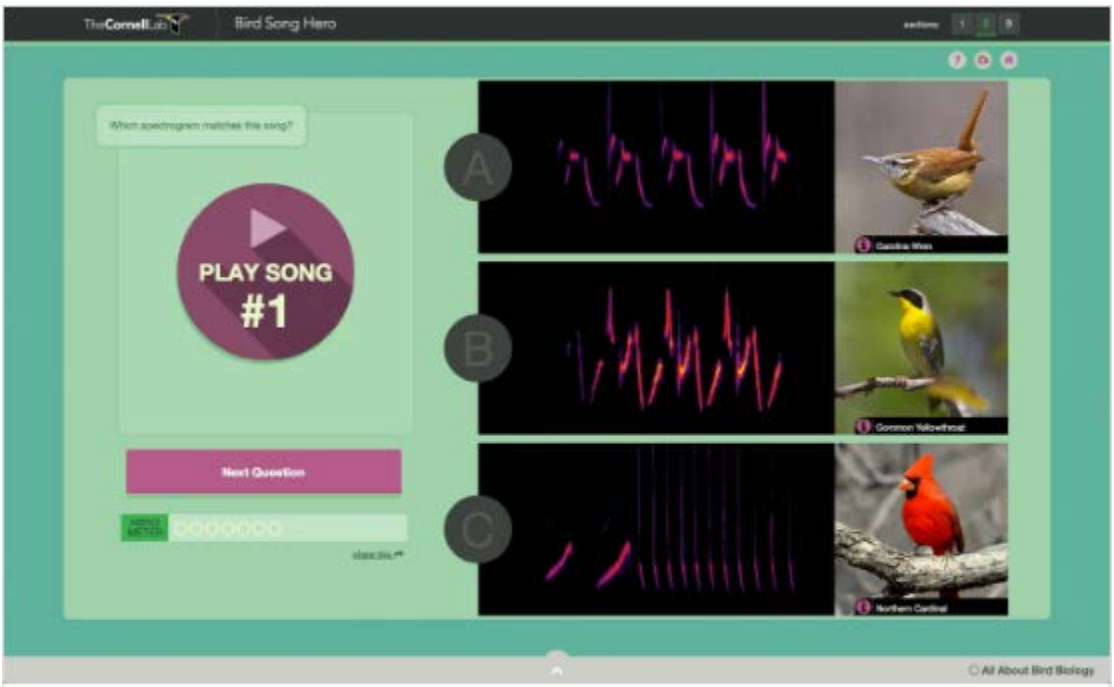
Focus On Education

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

Our last monthly lecture of the season took place on April 4, when Raphaël Lavoie gave a very interesting talk about contaminants in seabirds of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Regular lectures will start again in October, and we're sure our lectures coordinator, Jeff Harrison, will have another fascinating line-up of speakers for you in 2022/23!

We sometimes offer special presentations outside the regular lectures, such as the recent Birding for Beginners event organized by the education committee, which included a Zoom presentation on April 21 followed by a beginners bird walk on April 23, so be sure to follow BPQ on Facebook and Instagram to receive event notifications, and watch for our regular eNews emails.

While you wait for our monthly lectures to resume, why not explore some of the fun and educational offerings available online, many for free. For example, this bird song matching game offered by The Cornell Lab to help you learn how to visualize bird song is particularly appropriate for this time of year, when birds sounds will delightfully, but confusingly, be coming at us from all directions. Give it a try **here**.



by
Wayne
Grubert

Migration 102

How Do They Know That? The Tools of Avian Migration Study

In a previous article entitled Migration 101 [*The Song Sparrow #64-1, September 2021*], we attempted to classify the various strategies used by different species of birds as they go about their seasonal movements. Terms such as resident, obligate and facultative migrant, nomadic and irruptive species were defined and various birds assigned to each category ... with varying degrees of success.

Humans love to classify things but nature does not always "play ball." In reality, the study of migration can only be described as a work in progress. Which brings us to the subject of this current article. How is it that we know as much as we do about bird migration? What are some of the tools and techniques used in its study both historically and in a current context?

Photo courtesy McGill Bird Observatory

Historically, the frustration of studying avian migration has always been linked to the difficulty of following an individual bird for extended periods of time over long distances. Additionally, since most people did not travel far from their own birth place, they saw birds appear and disappear as the seasons progressed without observing them elsewhere. In a few cases some very fanciful explanations were proposed including hibernating at the bottom of ponds or flying to the moon. Even as the world began to shrink through exploration and trade, it was difficult to prove that individuals of a species seen in Europe in July were the exact same birds observed in central Africa in January.

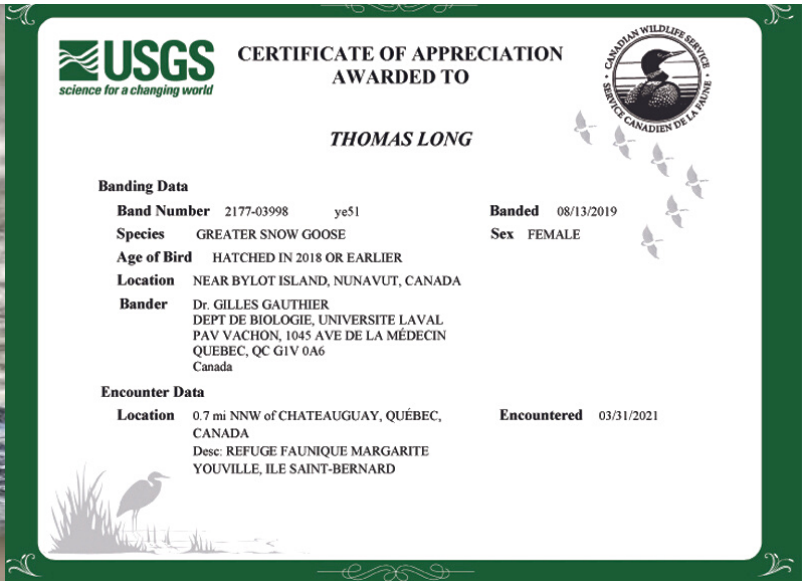
So even though many people over the centuries were correct in postulating that birds probably migrated to and from areas of warmer climate, actual proof was elusive. That is until small pieces of evidence started to fall into place, one of the most interesting being the Pfeilstorch or Arrow Stork. This is not an actual species but an unfortunate individual specimen of White Stork that showed up alive in the German town of Klutz in 1822... with a 76 cm spear of African origin through its neck! That spear became, although inadvertently, one of the earliest tools in migration study by showing where the bird had disappeared for the winter. That this bird, after surviving an incredibly arduous migration while severely handicapped, should end up stuffed in the University of Rostock museum does seem a little unfair but at least the memory of its role in migration study lives on. Incredibly, this individual is only one of several dozen such Pfeilstorch reported over the years. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfeilstorch)

Photo Credit: University of Rostock

The idea of actually attaching recognizable markers to individual birds in order to identify them and claim ownership has deep historical origins. Falconers had almost certainly practised this for centuries. There is a story of France's King Henry IV losing a marked Peregrine Falcon that turned up shortly after in Malta. The idea that the technique also could be used to study bird behavior through identification of individual birds seemed to take seed in the 1800s. In 1805 John James Audubon supposedly attached silver threads (wires) to the legs of Eastern Phoebes to determine if the birds showed nest site philopatry by returning the following year. Although some have questioned the results he claimed (he was, allegedly, thought to exaggerate and even plagiarize on more than one occasion) Audubon may well have been the first in North America to use a primitive form of "banding" or "ringing" as a tool in ornithological study. However, the person usually credited with using banding in a systematic way to study bird movements was a Danish school teacher named Hans Christian Mortensen who, in the 1890s, actually stamped his bands with identifiable markings (for more information see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Christian_Cornelius_Mortensen). That a number of his birds were recovered some distance away proved the usefulness of this strategy. Throughout much of the 20th century the technique mushroomed to the point where the total number of birds banded may be approaching 200 million.

Of course using bands to study bird migration has several major limitations not the least of which is the very poor recovery rate. The number of bands retrieved from songbirds may be less than 1% while waterfowl may approach 10% or higher with hunters responsible for most of those returns. Even if a band is recovered the information gained is limited as it only tells us

Snow Goose
Photo: Tom Long



USGS science for a changing world

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AWARDED TO

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE · SERVICE CANADIEN DE LA FAUNE

THOMAS LONG

Banding Data

Band Number 2177-03998 ye51 **Banded** 08/13/2019
Species GREATER SNOW GOOSE **Sex** FEMALE
Age of Bird HATCHED IN 2018 OR EARLIER
Location NEAR BYLOT ISLAND, NUNAVUT, CANADA
Bander Dr. GILLES GAUTHIER
DEPT DE BIOLOGIE, UNIVERSITE LAVAL
PAV VACHON, 1045 AVE DE LA MÉDECIN
QUEBEC, QC G1V 0A6
Canada

Encounter Data

Location 0.7 mi NNW of CHATEAUGUAY, QUÉBEC, CANADA
Desc: REFUGE FAUNIQUE MARGARITE
YOUVILLE, ILE SAINT-BERNARD
Encountered 03/31/2021

where the bird started and where it ended up. Its travel routes and stopover points must be interpolated. Variations on banding such as coloured leg tags in particular sequences, or numbered neck collars and wing tags which can be viewed from a distance, can fill in some missing location data. Modern optics have certainly helped in this regard by making the information easier to observe from a distance.

Although banding is still an important tool in migration studies, the latter part of the 20th to the beginning of the 21st century has seen an explosion in new and ingenious methods employed to track animals. Miniaturization, improved battery technology, tiny solar panels and completely new communications systems have unveiled aspects of bird migration only dreamed of by researchers a few decades ago. The following is an attempt to summarize just a few of the more important advances.

Automated Radio Telemetry

Readers of a certain age will remember being glued to their (possibly black and white) television sets watching early National Geographic Specials showing the Craighead brothers studying grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park with the aid of radio telemetry. (Here is one that didn't want his new tags and radio collar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ry0yRUtDyw)

This technique involves attaching a radio tag or transmitter to the animal, which then sends out a signal on a particular frequency that can be picked up by a hand held receiver. Using a combination of signal strength and/or triangulation the position of the target individual can then be determined. Battery weight and life as well as effective range are limiting factors in using this technique with birds. Originally this technology was most useful for studying how an individual moved about its breeding territory or how long it might stay at a particular stopover spot for feeding or molting. Attempting to follow and reconnect with migrating birds in most cases proved unreasonable.

Enter Automated Radio Telemetry, the best known example of which for migration studies is the Motus Wildlife Tracking System (MOTUS). Under this system, a set of strategically placed receivers automatically detects the presence or passage of animals with attached radio transmitters. Each individual has a unique identifying signal. Obviously the more receivers in existence the better chance of detecting a bird on migration. There are currently over 1,200 stations in 31 countries on four continents on the lookout for over 30,000 tagged animals. Researchers at Birds Canada (the former Bird Studies Canada) had a big part in the development of the nanotags used in this technology.

Locally, researchers at the McGill Bird Observatory, McGill University and Environment and Climate Change Canada are undertaking important research to determine the value of urban landscapes for migratory birds by using the MOTUS. For the past five years, an array of several automated radio receivers has been installed around Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and the future Grand Parc de l'Ouest and radio tags have been deployed on more than 100 individuals of two abundant fall migrants at the observatory: Swainson's Thrushes and Tennessee Warblers. Thanks to this novel technology, the researchers were able to find that these birds stop over in Montreal for up to two months during fall migration!

Swainson's Thrush with radio tag
Photos: Ana Morales

Satellite Telemetry

In the 1980's the satellite telemetry that was available for non-military use was of limited accuracy but, as evidenced by our ability now to navigate our cars almost anywhere on earth, this imprecision has largely disappeared in the 21st century. Global Positioning System (GPS) tags fitted to birds can determine an individual's latitude, longitude and altitude by communicating with a system of satellites orbiting the earth. Some "archival" type GPS tags store the data and the bird must be recaptured in order to download the information. Others are able to send the data back to the satellites which redirect it to receivers on earth. This potentially provides almost instantaneous information about the bird's location. Often the data is sent at regularly scheduled intervals. Argos tags use this system and communicate with the Argos system of satellites that were launched specifically to study the earth's environment. Satellite tags are quite heavy, have limited battery life and are expensive. Small solar panels can overcome one of these problems but for the most part these are only suitable for larger birds.

Light Level Geolocator

Another recent addition to the toolbox of scientists studying migration is the Light Level Geolocator. These small devices consist of a light sensor, internal clock battery and storage capacity for recording the amount of light. When that combination of data is downloaded into a computer program the approximate latitude of the bird can be determined by studying day length. Longitude can be found by studying how sunrise and sunset at the bird's location compare to the original internal clock settings. Generally the bird must initially be captured in order to attach the device and then recaptured as long as a year later in order to download the data. Recapture rates vary depending on the species' degree of philopatry to its breeding or wintering range, but are generally low. Luckily these devices are relatively inexpensive. (More information here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_level_geolocator)

GSM Transmitters

With the proliferation of cell phones and their associated towers it was only a matter of time before migration scientists found a way to piggyback onto this network. Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) transmitters specially modified for birds can transmit location data via this system instead of relying on satellite technology. They can store data when out of contact with any receiving tower and do a data "dump" when they come within range. The temporal extent of data stored depends on battery life, which in some cases is augmented by small solar panels. Readers familiar with Project Snowstorm will know that this is the system used by these researchers. The data they have accumulated regarding the annual peregrinations of Snowy Owls is absolutely fascinating.

Photo courtesy of Falcon Environmental

Doppler Radar

Doppler radar, best known for its aid in predicting weather, is another tool which can be used to study bird migration in real time on a large scale. Modern versions of this technology are capable of differentiating birds, bats and even insects from rain drops and snow flakes. Amateur ornithologists can follow current migration trends and predict when migrants may arrive in their area using Birdcast, which uses radar to show where birds are currently on the move.

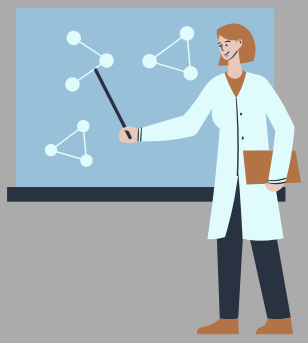
Isotope Analysis

Finally the old adage "you are what you eat" introduces us to a nascent technology in the migration studies toolbox. Without delving too deeply into the world of nuclear physics (and causing an epidemic of glazed over eyes!) , remember simply that many elements on earth come in a variety of isotopes... a.k.a. atoms of the same element with different atomic masses. Some of these isotopes are stable and some, the radioactive ones, are not. The important point here is that the ratio of these unstable to stable isotopes can vary for certain elements depending on one's position on the earth's surface

When ingested by a living organism isotopes in these ratios will be incorporated into inert tissues such as feathers or talons as they grow. An individual that moves across the earth's surface where different isotope ratios exist may lay down a map of where it has been in its developing tissues. As an example, this technique may be used to determine the breeding area of a particular population of birds from samples taken while they are actually on their wintering grounds.

This is by no means a complete list of the methods and technologies used in modern migration studies. But hopefully it gives a little insight into how some of our current knowledge of this important topic has come about. We can only hope that the increased precision of the data collected by these means can help stem the declines seen in many species of birds and other animals. The more we know about where our avian friends are in time and space, the more we can target important resources to help them.

Want to learn more?



Radio Telemetry - Migration Wildlife Tracking System https://motus.org/
- McGill Bird Observatory https://www.oommbo.org/

Satellite Telemetry - Argos System https://www.argos-system.org/applications-argos/wildlife-monitoring/

GSM Transmitters - Project Snowstorm https://www.projectsnowstorm.org/

Doppler Radar - Birdcast https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/

The Warblers are coming!
Les Parulines s'en viennent!

Can you identify this wild array of warblers? Answers on the next page.
Pouvez-vous identifier cet éventail de parulines? Réponses à la page suivante.

Identification of Warbler Collage
Identification des parulines

From left to right:

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Yellow Warbler

Cape May Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler

This page: Ovenbird

De gauche à droite :

Paruline à croupion jaune

Paruline masquée

Paruline jaune

Paruline tigrée

Paruline à tête cendrée

Paruline à flancs marron

Paruline à gorge orangée

Cette page : Paruline couronné

American Robin
Photo: R. Gregson

by
Richard
Gregson

A GUIDE TO CREATING A BIRDER'S GARDEN

Spring migration is just getting underway (ignoring the Grackles) and we all want those highly desirable birds to go via our own gardens on their way to wherever they need to be. You won't get them all (hopefully they are coming through my garden!) but if you manage things right then you can certainly increase the likelihood that they will pay you a visit as well. Some may even stay for the summer.

Anyone can attract birds and other wildlife to their garden, however small - some of this can even apply to condo balconies - given a little work and ingenuity. As a plus, making your garden attractive to birds almost always makes it attractive to other beautiful creatures - butterflies for example. If you are starting from scratch, or from a square of lawn and not much else, then it will take some seasons to get things just right. Regardless of which of these states your garden is in, though, now is a good time to start the process of transformation.

There are a few things that your garden needs to provide if the birds are to drop in rather than fly past:

- Plants at three levels: a mixed environment
- Shelter from weather and predators
- Nesting/breeding opportunities (optional)
- Food and water

and, importantly for us if not the birds,

- somewhere from which we can enjoy the plants and watch the wildlife

Mixed Environment

Level 1 - Ground cover

Ground cover plants serve two purposes - a place to hide when life seems threatening and a place to find tasty food such as insects and seeds. Varieties of ground cover plants at least 5″ in height are perfect for insect loving birds. They can forage nearly undetected. If you allow the ground cover to grow close to shrubs, birds can make quick escapes into the shrubs from cats and other predators.

Replace that lawn with native plants

While people may enjoy them because of their aesthetic appeal, monoculture mown lawns are highly undesirable from an environmental perspective. A study recently demonstrated that there is a key threshold of 70% native species in a garden. If the yard has more than 70 percent native plants biomass, chickadees (they were the species studied but there is good reason to think this number applies to many more species of birds) have a chance to reproduce and sustain their local population. Once the number of native plants drops under 70%, the probability of sustaining the species falls close to zero. Hopefully, these statistics will encourage you to perhaps keep a small area for the dog and convert the remainder of your lawn to a space that showcases more environmentally sound plants. There are many resources online to help you find suitable species for wherever you live. The “essentials” are usually considered to be Goldenrod, Asters, Rudbeckia and Echinacea, all of which look glorious in a repurposed lawn, and for which, by the way, there is even a good traditional word: a “mead.” For an example of a space that was once a lawn see the background image on page 28 that features plant suggestions.

Level 2 - Shrubs and bushes

Shrubs and bushes are not only beautiful to look at. There are several birds that spend a majority of their lives no more than 10′ from the ground, so this layer is absolutely essential to their survival. Shrubs and bushes serve a vital purpose by providing a source of food, a place to perch and observe the surroundings, and a safe retreat from danger for your avian garden visitors.

Ideally, plant some species that start the year covered in flowers and others that end it groaning under a crop of berries. Planting shrubs in groupings of three or more creates a thicket… excellent shelter. Keep in mind that during winter, wildlife need the fruits and berries. Viburnums and Winterberry and Sumac are good species to consider for sustenance in the winter. Some birds would simply not survive without them. If any fruits survive to spring they can also be life savers for early spring arrivals.

Level 3 - Trees

Flowering trees are the backbone of a wildlife garden. They provide places to nest, eat, sing and be seen. Many varieties reach that essential middle height (10′ to 20′) favoured by a great many birds for nesting or quick escapes from predators. They also provide lovely blossoms, always welcome after long winters. Throughout the spring and summer, trees are especially important as places where nesting birds can go to find insects to feed their young. Amongst the most valuable tree species from this respect, that is trees that support many insect species, are native oaks and American Black Cherry. Those do grow tall, but if you have room they are the best to have. For winter shelter think of dense evergreens.

Shelter

No matter how attractive looking you make it, animals won't visit your garden if they don't feel safe there. Wide open spaces with few places to retreat to may look right to a traditional gardener and mirror the designs in glossy magazines, but they terrify most birds and small mammals who know that there are a lot of things out there just itching to eat them. Some ideal safe havens to include in your bird-friendly garden space include dense plantings, places with holes in them, clear fly-ways and feeders distant from cat-hiding shrubs.

Water

Nothing else that you place in your garden will have such an effect on the number of species you see as will a water feature, be it a dripping tap, a puddle of water or a huge pond. Whatever is practical for you - just try hard to include water somehow. Each spring during migration our own garden sees a dozen or more species of warblers drop in to see us. Often it seems they come solely to visit our pond and small waterfall. It never fails. If you do nothing else, install some sort of water feature, ideally one with moving water.

Of course, a pond is better than a bucket or bird bath, and it doesn't have to be huge. Small ponds will suffer more than large ones from problems with algae but that is a solvable problem and the birds usually won't care a great deal, if at all. Moving water is a really desirable feature so if you can manage to attach to your pond a feature such as a waterfall, then the range of species that you see will be magnified many times. A small pump in the pond feeding a low waterfall is ideal. The waterfall should have a shallow pool. Ours is about a square foot in area at the top and is where the warblers will magically appear in May!

Natural Food

Your garden should ideally provide plenty of natural bird foods in addition to anything that you put out for them on feeders. This includes seeds, berries, nectar, fruit, nuts, buds, insects, worms, larvae, eggs, rodents, and other birds because raptors need to eat too. Remember: your plants don't just have to attract birds directly, they should also attract the creatures that birds like to eat.

Most plant-eating insects can only eat plants with which they have coevolved. Non-native plants often have defences in their tissues, which ward off indigenous insects. The indigenous insects cannot eat a given plant unless it has developed its own adaptations to circumvent those defences. Not only do non-native plants smell and taste different, but these species can often be toxic to most native bugs. And - few insects means many fewer birds.

Add a "Scruffy Corner"

Logs and rocks appeal to birds and other creatures just as much as do flowers and fruit and seeds. Leave piles of leaves and twigs, especially for the winter. Birds and other wildlife do not usually like "tidy" gardens.

Pile up some logs left over from the firewood stack in a corner - the nooks and crannies shelter insects and in turn attract foraging birds. Over time, as the wood decays, it will be taken over by fungi and insects, all exploited by the birds. Plenty of wildlife makes its home in dead wood and uses it as a source of food. In woodlands, fallen wood occurs naturally and many species have adapted to use this habitat. But in our increasingly tidy countryside, fallen and dead wood is not as common. A pile of logs simulates fallen trees and is essential in a wildlife garden. You can usually find somewhere to put a pile of logs, even in the smallest backyard. It is best placed in a shady spot, so that it remains cool and damp.

Enjoy your garden!

So now that you've done all the hard work to make your garden appealing to the birds, all that's left to do is to add a place to sit and watch and/or to photograph the birds from; then pour yourself a drink and relax. After all that hard work you deserve it!

Bonus tip:

Everyone likes to attract Hummingbirds to their gardens. Don't put up plastic sugar-water feeders – plant something that works. Hummingbirds are drawn like magnets to Bee-balm (Monarda) and to Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) and doubly attracted to the "Mexican Cigar Plant" which most nurseries sell. It's not going to survive winters here but my goodness, do hummingbirds love its nectar-rich flowers!

Plantings to consider

Plants that support insects such as butterflies/caterpillars:

Butterfly milkweed– Asclepias tuberosa
Common milkweed – Asclepias syriaca
White snakeroot – Eupatorium rugosum
Woodland sunflower – Helianthus divaricatus
Bluestem goldenrod – Solidago caesia

Perennials that produce seed for birds:

Showy goldenrod – Solidago speciosa
Smooth aster – Aster laevis
Lanceleaf coreopsis – Coreopsis lanceolata
Purple coneflower – Echinacea purpurea
Black-eyed susan – Rudbeckia hirta

Grasses that produce seed for birds:

Virginia wild rye – Elymus virginicus
Indian grass – Sorghastrum nutans
Bluejoint grass – Calamagrostis canadensis

Shrubs etc:

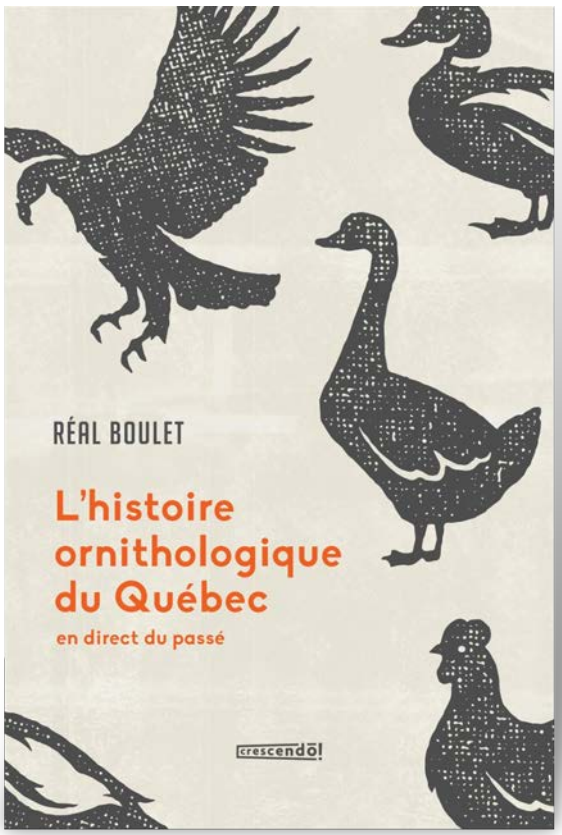
High bush cranberry
Dogwoods– Cornus spp.
Amelanchier canadensis
Winterberry

Exploring Early Canadian Ornithology

with Jeff Harrison

L'histoire ornithologique du Québec

Boulet, Réal. 2022.
Québec: Crescendo



Henri Ouellet wrote a brief ornithological history in the introduction to the first edition of The Breeding Birds of Quebec, published in 1995. Canadian Museum of Nature biologist and ornithologist Michel Gosselin is keenly interested in this subject and has undertaken original research and written some important short articles on aspects of early Quebec ornithology that have been published in Québec Oiseaux.

L'histoire ornithologique du Québec, by Réal Boulet, however, is the first full-length book on the history of early Quebec ornithology. Boulet is a highly experienced lifelong birder with a degree in history. He has successfully combined his interests in this book.

He notes the purpose of his book in his Introduction – to bring together observations about the birds of Quebec since the arrival of European settlers:

"*Pour les puristes en histoire, prenez note qu'il ne s'agit pas ici d'un traité d'histoire sur les personnages ni sur leur importance historique, mais bel et bien d'un assemblage de leurs témoignages sur les oiseaux à travers les siècles depuis l'arrivée des Européens au "Canada". C'est cette suite de propos qui nous permet de découvrir l'évolution des noms d'oiseaux au fil des siècles.*"

What follows is his personal selection of observations by early explorers and residents in their published accounts of New France and Acadia and later nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Quebec. Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century naturalists include Cartier, Champlain, Sagard, Boucher, Denis and Nicolas. In the eighteenth century, he cites naturalists Charlevoix and Pehr Kalm. The French period covers about two-thirds of the book, and about one-third is devoted to nineteenth-century naturalists and ornithologists including Audubon, Vennor, LeMoine, Provancher and Dionne. Boulet finishes his author accounts with twentieth-century American ornithologist Charles Wendell Townsend who wrote about Audubon on the Quebec north shore.

Later sections of the book provide brief accounts of early explorations into the Quebec portion of Hudson's Bay, some history of Le Naturaliste Canadien and a more detailed account of the introduction of the House Sparrow to Quebec. The final ten pages are devoted to some details on general ornithological history and some notes on individual species.

This is a very useful and important introduction to early Quebec ornithology. As Boulet clearly points out, his interest is in the selection and publishing of historical observations on birds. As a result there are many interesting accounts that

transport the reader back to a time when observers came up with their own names for native birds often seen only at a distance, since of course they had no binoculars. Boulet's most extensive chapters are on the naturalists Pierre Boucher, Louis Nicolas and ornithologist James MacPherson LeMoine.

In the New France period observers also often applied names to birds similar to those they knew in France. As a result, Boulet provides an extensive analysis of the names they used and attempts to identify many of them through his own research and with the assistance of Michel Gosselin. Combining their extensive field experience allows for some fairly archaic bird names to be identified. This provides a useful introduction to many birds whose often obscure common French names made their identity otherwise problematic. In other cases the identity of the birds mentioned remains uncertain. These identifications provide first-time records for Quebec, but very few if any have the scientific descriptions and identifications needed to enter the official ornithological record.

As Boulet says, his book does not give much in-depth detail on the history of the science of ornithology. Given the need for a basic introduction to the history of Quebec ornithology, and the lack of publications on the history of Canadian ornithology, one can hardly fault him for not attempting to put these observations in a wider context.

Prior to the twentieth century the most important ornithological work in Quebec was undertaken by Jean-François Gaultier, Thomas Davies and Archibald Hall. Gaultier was the primary collector of about 30 Canadian species for French scientist René Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur. The Réaumur collection was scientifically described by Mathurin Jacques Brisson in his seminal 1760 work, Ornithologie. Thomas Davies was a British military officer who collected about ten species of birds during his posting in Quebec between 1786 and 1790. Davies' birds were described in the works of British authors Thomas Pennant and John Latham. Archibald Hall scientifically described about 175 birds in the ornithological collection of the Montreal Natural History Society in 1839.

Boulet did not include these naturalists, perhaps because none of these authors left any record of personal observation, which forms the cornerstone of Boulet's book. As he says on the omission of Gaultier:

"*Dans ces deux cas, bien qu'ils aient fourni des spécimens à la collection Réaumur de Brissson en 1760, nous n'avons pas retracé de mentions de leurs observations qui auraient pu enrichir notre travail.*"

While their exclusion might be justified in this sense, a comprehensive overview of the complete history of Quebec ornithology is still wanting.

Note: I am greatly indebted to Michel Gosselin for his timely comments and editorial changes to the French text.

American magpie 1 Magpie with very beautiful plumage 2 Large woodpecker with a red head like a fine cock's crest
Louis Nicolas (1634 - ca. 1682) -
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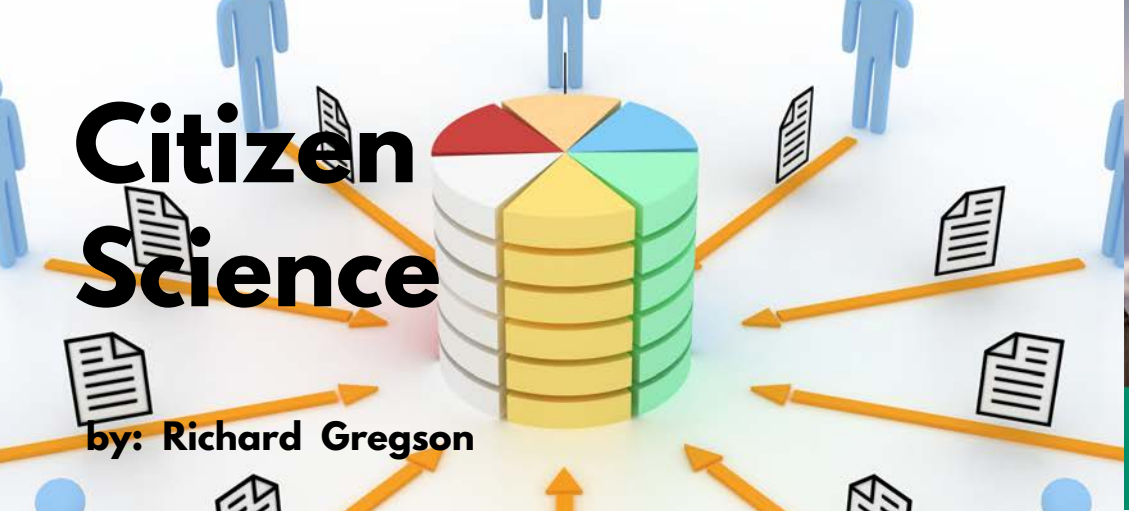


Citizen Science

by: Richard Gregson

Photo: Redha Yacoubi

City Nature Challenge - April 29 to May 2

Spring is one of the best times to get outside and look at nature, add new bird species to our personal year lists and this year to take part in the International City Nature Challenge. This is a worldwide event intended to motivate us to find and document wildlife in our cities. It originated with the Community Science teams at the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and is coordinated in Canada by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. It takes the form of an annual four-day global bioblitz with cities in a collaboration-meets-friendly-competition to see not only what can be discovered when we all work toward a common goal, but also which city can gather the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people in the event. It runs over four days but during that period you can do just an hour of observing, or a morning, or a whole day or four whole days. Up to you.

In Montreal, the Challenge is being coordinated by Technoparc Oiseaux and the Campus Biodiversity Network, who aim to prove that Greater Montreal is a site of exceptional biodiversity. You can find out more at https://inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-canada-2022-defi-nature-urbaine

Members of Bird Protection Québec will, of course, be focussed observing and reporting birds but while waiting for your target birds to show themselves you are also encouraged to take notes of plants and insects, fungi and lichens. The observations are entered into iNaturalist with a photograph and location plus identification. If you are not sure of identification the iNaturalist AI computers will help you and are uncannily accurate.

It couldn't be simpler - Create a free account through iNaturalist.ca and download the free Naturalist app. Record photos or sounds of birds and plants and mammals and insects that you see around the Greater Montreal area (a detailed map of the area can be found on the Montreal project site) during the CNC days and then upload your observations and location to iNaturalist.ca.

It is remarkable how much you will find. Personal experience: Last summer Jean and I took part in a Canada-wide "Bioblitz" organized by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation which although limited to Canada used just the same protocols as the City Nature Challenge. We restricted ourselves to our own end of the West Island community and nearby greenspaces we could access - think Green Birding. What amazed us was that we submitted 217 different species (could have been more, but a photo or a sound recording are required for confirmation) and at the end of the challenge learned that our small patch had the sixth highest species list out of 1259 lists from all over Canada.

These challenges are enormous fun, very interesting and educational too. You may think of yourself as a birder but at the end you will have learned a lot about ferns and fritillaries too.

Here are some useful links to get you started:

The Montreal part of the challenge - join this project to participate:
https://inaturalist.ca/projects/c-n-c-defi-nature-urbaine-2022-montreal-quebec-canada

Canada's "umbrella project" for the global count:
https://inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-canada-2022-defi-nature-urbaine

The International main website:
https://inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022

For further information, including upcoming free Zoom tutorials on using iNaturalist, please contact BPQ Conservation Committee member Katherine Collin at definatureCMM@gmail.com

Other Upcoming Citizen Science Projects

So easy to participate!

- Open an eBird account, if you haven't already
- Watch birds on May 14 - for 10 minutes, an hour or for 24 hours, it's up to you!
- Enter what you see in eBird
- Feel part of something bigger as you watch sightings roll in from all over the world

Information: ebird.org/news/global-big-day-2022

The Great Canadian Birdathon (previously the Baillie Birdathon) has been an annual event since 1976. This national fundraising event raises crucial funds to support Birds Canada in bird conservation efforts throughout Canada.

It's easy and fun to participate! Choose any day in May for your Birdathon birding day, invite your friends and family to join you in helping birds by sponsoring you through your personal fundraising page, and find as many species as you can in the 24-hour period.

Go to the link below for information and to sign up:
https://www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help/birdathon/

Le Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux, un évenement organisé par QuébecOiseaux, a pour objectif de sensibiliser la population à la protection des oiseaux du Québec et de recueillir des fonds pour des projets de conservation.

L'événement prend la forme d'un marathon de 24 heures d'ornithologie durant lequel les participants doivent observer le plus grand nombre possible d'espèces d'oiseaux, durant n'importe quel jour du mois de mai.

Pour s'inscrire:
https://www.quebecoiseaux.org/fr/grand-defi

Birding Basics

Location, location, location!

During spring migration, the biggest challenge is often not when but where to go to see birds given the many amazing locations within a reasonable distance.

Your first consideration when planning an outing is: which birds do I want to see? Early spring requires the annual search for huge flocks of migrating Snow Geese, with Baie du Febvre and Victoriaville being the two best known spots. Many duck species are arriving as well, such as Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler... These ducks can be found on lakes and rivers, of course, but have you ever thought to explore flooded farm fields? Or to visit a sewage lagoon? Both are very popular with migrating ducks at this time of year! Next, the thrushes, vireos and flycatchers will start arriving, quickly joined by the warblers, and it will be time to head into the woods. Keep an eye out for the two earliest-arriving warblers, the Yellow-rumped and the Palm, which usually make an appearance in late April.

Green-winged Teal with friends in a flooded field
Photo: Darlene Harvey

To discover new and different locations to explore during this optimum birding season, take a look at the list of the 100 most popular birding spots in and around Montreal and in other areas of the province that the BPQ field trip committee has compiled. The list includes over 20 sites on the island of Montreal alone, many accessible by public transportation. It is broken down by region, which makes it easy to find spots near you, and links you directly to websites for complete information and directions for each location. Or you can choose to download the entire list, which is available in pdf format.

View the list by region **here** or download the **pdf version** and start exploring!

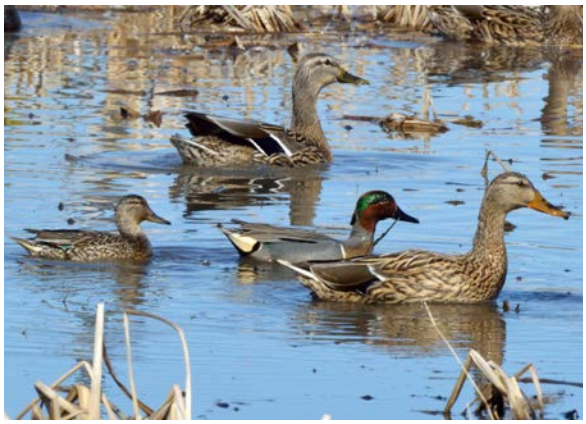
Northern Shovelers at the Mercier Sewage Lagoon
Photos: Tom Long

LES B.A.-BA DE L'OBSERVATION

L'important c'est l'emplacement !

Pendant la migration printanière, le plus grand défi n'est souvent pas de savoir quand mais où aller pour observer les oiseaux, étant donné les nombreux sites exceptionnels situés à une distance raisonnable.

La première chose à prendre en compte lorsque vous planifiez une excursion est la suivante : quels sont les oiseaux que je veux voir ? Le début du printemps exige la recherche annuelle d'immenses volées d'oies des neiges en migration, les deux endroits les plus connus étant la Baie du Febvre et Victoriaville. De nombreuses espèces de canards arrivent également, comme la sarcelle à ailes vertes et à ailes bleues, le canard pilet, le canard souchet... On trouve ces canards sur les lacs et les rivières, bien sûr, mais avez-vous déjà pensé à explorer des champs agricoles inondés ? Ou de visiter une lagune d'eaux usées ? Les deux sont très populaires auprès des canards migrateurs à cette période de l'année ! Ensuite, les grives, les viréos et les gobe-mouches commenceront à arriver, rapidement rejoints par les parulines, et il sera temps de se diriger vers les bois. Gardez un œil sur les deux parulines les plus précoces, la paruline à croupion jaune et la paruline à couronne rousse, qui font généralement leur apparition fin avril.



Sarcelles d'hiver et amis dans un champ inondé
Photo : Darlene Harvey

Pour découvrir des endroits nouveaux et différents à explorer pendant cette saison optimale d'observation des oiseaux, jetez un coup d'œil à la liste des 100 sites d'observation les plus populaires à Montréal, dans les environs et dans d'autres régions de la province, que le comité des excursions de BPQ a compilée. La liste comprend plus de 20 sites sur l'île de Montréal seulement, dont plusieurs sont accessibles par les transports en commun. Elle est divisée par région, ce qui permet de trouver facilement les endroits près de chez vous, et vous permet d'accéder directement aux sites Web pour obtenir des informations complètes et des directions pour chaque endroit. Vous pouvez également choisir de télécharger la liste complète, qui est disponible en format pdf.

Consultez la liste par région **ici** ou téléchargez la **version pdf** et commencez à explorer !

Canards souchets - lagunes d'eaux usées Mercier
Photos : Tom Long

Tales from the BPQ ARCHIVES

Education has been part of Bird Protection Quebec's mission from the start. While that is likely unsurprising to you, what may be of interest is the number of young people the organization counted among its membership during the early decades of its existence. According to the Annual Report of 1928, in 1918 the Junior Membership stood at 504. In 1920, the Education Committee, "with some fears and misgivings," launched what it considered its first major educational initiative aimed at children. This consisted of a lecture at the Imperial Theatre in Montreal attended by 3,000 children, who were entertained with illustrations of birds presented by Herbert K. Job. By 1927, these efforts had brought the youth membership to 16,600 and by 1928 to over 24,000. These large lectures became a spring tradition that continued for several decades. Attendees of these early lectures came from some 40 different private, public and institutional schools around Montreal. That youth membership alone counted in the thousands seems quite remarkable, particularly when you consider as a comparison that today our total membership tends to be in the 400 range!

You need only to have tried herding a few kids during a birthday party to be able to imagine the challenge of entertaining several thousand young charges of varying ages in one space. Expert lecturers were brought in from as far afield as the United States in order to assure an interesting program. In today's context, though, one wonders if it may have been easier to hold a young audience's attention in the pre-television era! The following description is from the Annual Report of 1928:

The outstanding features of the program have been the lectures, by Mr. Edward Davis of Springfield, Mass., the famous Imitator of Bird Songs, and Mr. William L. Findley of Jennings Lodge, Oregon, noted Naturalist, Author, Photographer and Lecturer. On the morning of March 19th, 1927 at the Imperial Theatre, and in the afternoon of the same day at the Victoria Hall, Mr. Avis delighted over 3,000 children with his bird songs and beautifully coloured pictures. On March 3rd, 1928 a lecture entitled "Wild Animal Outposts" was given by Mr. William L. Finley in the morning at the Imperial Theatre and in the afternoon at Victoria Hall. Upwards of 3,000 children attending these lectures were thrilled by the wonderful moving pictures of wild animals and birds which were shown in their natural environment.

Furthering a love for birds and a dedication to their protection among youth was taken seriously by the organizers, who hoped the knowledge and exposure gained through the Society's education initiatives would inspire both "boys and girls of today and of the future." To complement the lecture content, children made written pledges and were able to purchase a special button to remind them of their affiliation to the cause. The following was recorded in the 1928 Annual Report.

The signing of the Society's pledge card is a certificate of membership by which the child pledges himself to protect wild birds from their enemies and to influence others to do the same. We judge of the membership by the number of cards given out, as each new member must sign the card. A button bearing the Society's emblem, the Song Sparrow, is regarded as a very important badge by the children. We issue a new button annually, changing the colour to keep a check on the number likely to attend our Junior Lectures. Over 9,000 buttons were distributed during the year and a half, mostly in advance of lectures.

The card above dates from 1926. The buttons on the right are examples of those sold to schoolchildren at a cost of 5 cents each. The year of issue of these specific buttons is unknown. According to the Annual Reports, in 1927 the PQSPB purchased 4,000 buttons at a cost of $84 and in 1928 another 1,000 buttons were purchased at a cost of $129.

The following ode to the Song Sparrow (the PQSPB's official emblem) and its significance as a sign of spring appeared in the Annual Report of 1927.

THE SONG SPARROW

Half an ounce of feathers,
Half an ounce of bird,
A fluffy mite in brown and white,
And just a touch of gray,
In all sorts of weather
Passing round the word,
At dusk and dawn, that winter's gone
And spring is on the way.

Wee prophetic wizard
Buffeting the blast,
The while he shakes the icy flakes
Off tiny whirring wings,
Well he knows the blizzard,
Soon must blow its last,
And in the lee of yonder tree
He sings, and sings, and sings.

Ere the sun has risen
And its earliest ray
Beams on high across the sky
He pipes his pure delight;
Nothing can imprison
That ecstatic lay
Which bids all men be glad again
For everything's alright.

April showers scorning,
On a tossing limb,
From his throat pours note on note
Ringing all day long;
It is always morning
In the heart of him,
And for me there'll always be
A sermon in his song.

—*Anonymous.*

Why drink
Bird Protection Quebec's Shade-grown Coffee?

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

Good News for Decaf Lovers!

Finally our Smithsonian Bird Friendly Organic Peru Royal Select MWP is back!!! This exclusive coffee is harvested from a group of 2000 small-scale coffee farmers from La Florida Cooperative in the Chanchamayo region. A mixed varietal of Bourbon, Catimor, Pache and Typica arabica beans grown at an elevation of 1,200 meters. This delicious decaf coffee presents with full body, low acidity and a touch of sweetness with flavour notes of chocolate, caramel and almond.

Available at cafebirdfriendly.org

Available in 3 formats

342 g - $17
1Kg - $42.25
2.5 Kg $91.75

2 roasts: Medium and dark
Whole beans or 2 grinds: Filter and espresso
Plus Décaf option available in 1 kg bags

Flat Rate Shipping $12

Café AVIA is the result of a collaboration between Le Nichoir Wild Bird Conservation Centre and Totem Roasters. To help get the word out they partnered with other organizations such as Bird Protection Quebec. It's simple: Many voices are stronger than one. Each participating non-profit organization believes that the coffee you choose can change the world. By putting their logo on Bird Friendly® certified coffee they are helping to get the word out to more people. We hope you select Bird Protection Quebec as your partner of choice when purchasing coffee on cafebirdfriendly.org