

The **SONG SPARROW**

Bird Protection Quebec - Protection des oiseaux du Québec

February 2019 (vol: 61.4)

Bird Protection
Quebec

Protection
des oiseaux
du Québec



For the Birds since 1917
Pour les oiseaux depuis 1917

Bird Protection Quebec is a registered charity:
Donations are tax deductible.

Charity Registration #: 11925 2161 RR0001.

Principal Officers

President: Jane Cormack

Vice-Presidents: Sheldon Harvey, Connie Morgenstern

Treasurer: Sheldon Harvey

Secretary: Helen Meredith

Membership Secretary: Darlene Harvey

Contact: Bird Protection Quebec

Box 67089 – Lemoine

Saint-Lambert, QC J4R 2T8

Tel.: 514-637-2141

E-mail: birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

Website: www.birdprotectionquebec.org

Online discussion group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Songsparrow>

The Song Sparrow: ISSN 1710-3371

Legal Deposit: National Library and Archives of Canada

Publication Mail No.: 40044323

Newsletter Editor & Layout: Jane Cormack cormackjane@gmail.com

Cover Design: Richard Gregson sparrowworks@gmail.com

Bird Views: Pierre Bannon pbannon@videotron.ca

Cover Photo

White-throated Sparrow © Richard Gregson 2019

In this Issue

President's Word 1

Dietary Peculiarities of the White-winged Crossbill 2

Hawkwatching Around Montreal 6

Bird Views 13

Do Canada's Laws Protect Quebec's Birds 16

Montreal Christmas Bird Count 18

Upcoming Field Trips 21

President's Word – Call for New Directors

by Jane Cormack
BPQ President

Every year at this time, BPQ begins to look for new members to sit on its board of directors.

We are a member-run organization whose work is carried out solely by volunteers.

Our board of directors comprises 19 members, including the president, vice-presidents, treasurer, and secretary. All directors are elected by BPQ's members for two-year terms and can serve for a maximum of ten years. We are continually seeking new directors as at the end of each year, some directors will have completed their terms and will step down from the board.

This keeps our organization dynamic. It shifts and changes slightly each year as new directors bring new ideas and new goals of what they would like to accomplish while upholding our mandate of promoting the education, conservation, and observation of Quebec birds and their habitats.

At the same time, we have committees whose members are dedicated to carrying out the work of our organization. They bring continuity to our organization. Some of them have been doing what they do for an incredible length of time. Wayne Grubert, chair of our field trips committee, has been with our organization for well over 20 years, as have many members of conservation and grants committees. Mabel Macintosh and Bob Barnhurst have been chairing the Hawkwatch committee and will be celebrating 39 years of carrying out the spring hawkwatch and 40 years of the fall hawkwatch later this year.

If you like what BPQ does, if you would like to see the organization continue to carry out its excellent work, or if you have new ideas you would like to bring to our organization, you may decide this is your year to join the board of directors.

Even if you're not ready to match the dedication of some of our longest standing, most-dedicated members, you might want to join the board for a two-year period or perhaps you would like to begin by joining a committee.

Our education, conservation, field trips, sanctuaries, and marketing committees are looking for new members. As well, our new Montée Biggar and existing George Montgomery sanctuary project groups could use a hand.



BPQ directors Ana Morales and Kristen Lalla with their team at the Montreal CBC.

If you would like to get involved or learn more about what we do, contact us birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

New Members

We would like to extend a big welcome to our new members: Alexis Desgagnés, Theresa-Rose Prosen, Anne Archambault, Sally Livingston, and Jeremie Vienneau.

We're happy to have you and hope to meet you soon! Be sure to check out our upcoming monthly meetings and weekly field trips; we have some interesting lectures and outings planned.

Dietary Peculiarities of the White-winged Crossbill

by Dr David F. Bird

We who live in the tropics of Southern Quebec don't have much contact with boreal birds. Those hardy free spirits may, or may not, drop by in any given decade. They live on a schedule that we cannot follow or foresee, no more than we can predict a good or bad cone year. So when our BPQ group, on an outing near Mont Tremblant, first came upon a small roving band of crossbills, we were wide-eyed. Our wonder and curiosity were further piqued by the curious behaviour we witnessed at that meeting with White-winged Crossbills, at the end of September in 2017.

The White-winged Crossbill is a medium-sized finch with a winsome crossbite. It does not consistently migrate, but lives as a vagabond. It roams across the continent, looking for large crops of spruce cones that will permit it to settle down and raise a small brood, even in the depths of winter. It has the distinction of nesting even earlier than the Canada Jay. If the cone crop is exceptional, the female

may even start a second batch in a new nest before the first are fledged, leaving the male behind to finish the job. Crossbills are dedicated conifer seed eaters, though they will not turn down a spruce budworm if it is on offer; they can eat a sizeable fraction of their weight in conifer seeds in a day. Holding a dislodged cone in one claw, they pry it open with their can-opener bill to deftly winkle out the seed with a spoon-shaped tongue. The long tongue is partly stored in the back of the skull, hummingbird style. Three ridges in the upper palate make quick work of the seed's husk. They can temporarily stock the shucked seeds in a large pouch wrapped around the esophagus. They share this adaptation with those other boreal finches, their first cousins, the redpolls. Possession of an internal food store helps them to tolerate the night's deep freeze by stocking up heavily in advance, before retiring to the shelter of dense conifers. There they can keep the internal fires burning, puffed up into a well-insulated ball, calling up fuel as needed. Male White-winged Crossbills may also take the occasional spruce bud, as a source of the carotenoids that they will modify, to tint their feathers in fire-engine red (or as Audubon says, "their plumage is rich carmine, inclining to crimson.") The females are tobacco marigold with hints of lipstick smudge.

But their seedy fuel is not necessarily ideal. Conifers, especially spruces, can

protect their seeds with pitch, tannins and resins that make digestion difficult. And seeds might not provide a diet complete with all the minerals birds need. Does this explain their strange behaviour?



Male White-winged Crossbill
© David Bird 2017

We met in the Sector of the Devil underneath Trembling Mountain, convoked there by Jeff Harrison. The air was crisp and the sky the deep blue of autumn. It was an unusually distant destination for a BPQ outing, a special

event as part of the centennial celebrations. Our objective: find the Canada Jay, or even, fingers crossed, the Boreal Chickadee. After a turn around Lac Chat, Jeff headed us due north, gradually leaving the familiarity of maple reds and birch yellows to climb up into the conifer-rich boreal zone. We stopped briefly at the river campsite at Pont Brulé, where one of our party tried to entice any lurking Canada Jays into the open by offering sunflower seeds in her upstretched hand – no luck.

At noon, 35 km farther north and 175 m higher in altitude, and still jayless, the hungriest among us had settled onto park benches strung out along the sandy beach at Lac des Sables. The lake is a glorious expanse of clean water, ringed by birch and evergreen and haunted by loons. We were halfway through our lunches when the word went out. Crossbills! We jumped up and hurried up the beach, to where their small dark figures were outlined against the sky on the drooping branches of a tamarack. Our approach was initially cautious, binoculars trained on the distant birds in case they suddenly vanished back into the wilderness. Gradually, we crept closer. And closer. Finally, we found we could stand within 10 feet of the birds without too visibly disturbing their activity.



White-winged Crossbills at the Firepit © David Bird 2017

It became clear that the birds were intent upon attaining a certain objective, so intent that they would tolerate the proximity of a dozen humans with clicking cameras. They hopped from tree to tree until they could discretely flutter down to reach their target: a barbecue grill and its spilled contents of charcoal and ash. We watched with puzzlement and a bit of disbelief as they stalked about, examining and pecking up something or other among the cinders. What could they possibly be seeking? Pebbles to grind the seeds? Minerals? We couldn't help thinking they were seeking

bits of charcoal or ash, since they happily foraged within the firebox itself.

We stood watching their comings and goings for a good 45 minutes. The whole flock would fly off from time to time, to pillage more cones, and then return to the firepit for more of whatever it was they wanted there. The females were the bravest.

Thinking it over, there are three main goods they could want: grit, ashes or charcoal. Or all three. The mundane explanation would be that they were seeking right-sized pebbles, carefully selected, to serve as grit in their stomach to grind dry seeds. But they could get those anywhere, and probably most easily on the road or along the beach. And they do a good job of turning their seeds into paste using only their beaks. Nevertheless, grit for grindstones is a possibility.

Another possibility is geophagy, that is eating dirt. An impressive array of animals seek the minerals that plants lack, especially sodium and maybe calcium, at clay licks. The list of clay-eating mammals includes humans in preindustrial societies worldwide – particularly children and pregnant women. Birds are enthusiastic geophagers. The parrots of Ecuador and Peru spend an important part of the day at clay licks. Conventional wisdom says

that this is also a way to detoxify plant defensive compounds by permanent adsorption onto clay surfaces.



A courageous female White-winged Crossbill © David Bird 2017

Yet the notion of charcoal snacking seemed new, maybe unique. I wanted to see if I could determine experimentally what they were selecting. I returned twice in the following two weeks; grateful that the small nomad band was still present (later checking on eBird showed that this was not just luck; we had probably stumbled upon a family group with fully-fledged young almost ready to leave). I laid a cookie sheet out on the BBQ grill, arrayed with sorted, neatly separated crushed charcoal, ashes, and sand. It

looked appetizing. I waited in the bushes. No takers at the smorgasbord!



A male White-winged Crossbill intently pecking at charcoal © David Bird 2017

I changed tactics. I laid the crushed charcoal out on one side of the firepit, and spread ashes across the other. With my camera taking video footage, again I retired. A courageous female fluttered down to examine the fresh buffet. I carefully timed her activities on both sides of the pit. She spent more feeding time on the charcoal side than in the ashes. But I couldn't help feeling she was nonplussed, or at least curious about the sudden change in her dining area. There were no more volunteers before I got impatient. So much for my experimental approach: I had a sample size of one with suggestive but ultimately unconvincing

results. The next time I came back, the crossbills had moved on. I don't think it was my landscaping that scared them off, however. The entire campground was littered with cone scales; the formerly abundant cone crop had finally been decimated by red squirrels.

The experimental approach was fun, but I could have just looked in the literature, and on the web, before striking out on my own. A goldmine of information on crossbill diet idiosyncrasies was collected by Algonquin Park naturalist Ron Tozer and published in Ontario Birds, in 1994. His review of the literature was motivated by his own observations of Red Crossbills feeding in the park. Around the world, crossbills have been seen feeding on the grout from chimneys, plaster walls, brine, salt blocks, the salt crust that develops on cliff faces, and dog urine. They are attracted to and will ingest the mud at moose salt licks. They're just fond of salt, specifically sodium, though their health does not depend on sources beyond their normal diet. They're attracted to road salt; more than 300 were seen along a 20-km stretch of Algonquin Park in 1985. Too much salt intoxicates them, but they can't seem to resist it.

Calcium may also be a target. They will pick at bones and eggshells. They might be able to differentiate different levels of calcium in wood ash, and choose the one that is higher. "Red Crossbills allow a very

close approach when eating mortar or cement, indicating their strong motivation to feed on this material.*” There have in fact been numerous reports of Red Crossbills eating campfire ash in Algonquin Park.

The last word must come from the new online edition of Birds of North America. <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/home> The chapter on the White-winged Crossbill by scientist Craig Benkman lays it out plainly. “Crossbills often forage on charcoal, such as in campfire pits.” In captivity, crossbills can survive for longer periods feeding on green cones if provided charcoal, likely as a means to detoxify plant resins. One has to wonder, then, how did this clever adaptation develop? Through long association with the nomad campfires of human wanderers? Our wonder, and curiosity, were further piqued.

Special thanks to Ron Tozer and the other David Bird (the First?) for interesting email exchanges on crossbill behaviour.



David Bird © Helen Kohler 2016

David Bird (the Second) has spent most of his life studying the ecology of lakes. He teaches at the University of Quebec at Montreal, but is soon to be retired. Birding has been a lifelong interest, but only lately has he had the luxury to take it up more seriously. He joined BPQ, by chance, several months after well-known ornithologist David M. Bird had left. He enjoyed the instant notoriety.

Reference

*Tozer, R. 1994. Red crossbills feeding at mineral sources. Ontario Birds 12(3): 102-108

Online version of the Birds of North America <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/home>



A male White-winged Crossbill, a medium-sized finch with a winsome bill © David Bird 2017

Viewing

White-winged Crossbills at the Firebox, a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ND5SGdg-QY>

Hawkwatching Around Montreal

By Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh



Albino Red-tailed Hawk photographed as it passed high over the fall hawk site, October 16, 2012 © Bob Barnhurst

As we write this article, we are deep in the cold and snow of winter. Nevertheless, in just a few short weeks, we will be back at the St. Stanislas de Kostka hawk site for our 39th spring season. Winter provides us the time needed to recover from the

rigours/daily grind of the hawkwatch and to enter data from the previous year's spring and fall seasons into the Hawk Migration Association of North America's (HMANA) database. It takes many hours/days to enter data from just one season.

The data used to be entered directly into the database using online access to the HawkCount website (initiated in the early 2000s) but the use of Excel spreadsheets has speeded things up. Once completed, each season's spreadsheet can be uploaded into the database in a few minutes by HMANA personnel. While some hawk sites have yet to finish entering all their historical data, many have made the not inconsiderable effort required to achieve data entry from the very beginning of their coverage. Collectively, HMANA now have enough data entered to allow a preliminary statistical analysis of a site and region. This involves from as little as three sites in any particular region to 20 or more. The minimum amount of continuous coverage – i.e. seasonal, every day – to be included in this preliminary analysis has been set at 10 seasons. This is in recognition of the need for prolonged coverage to make the data statistically valid and to demonstrate any long-term changes in hawk populations. Montreal has exceeded this minimum by 30 years, one of the few sites in North America to do so. Moreover, we have conducted coverage for two seasons a year, not just one, as many sites do.

Ultimately, the hawk migration data will allow us to quantify the status of hawk populations on a North America-wide scale. (This includes recording the numbers of both adults and immatures).

Of course, much remains to be done. So far, our own data have shown trends in hawk populations, which can be used for developing future plans for hawk conservation in southern Quebec and eastern Ontario. As far as we are concerned, the time to act is now, not 10 years down the road. Time has run out. We need to step up and push an advanced conservation agenda now. On their own, national, regional and local government protection laws and rules are not enough, especially if not enforced.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk

This species is the most common hawk sighted and reported by the general populace. It typically frequents roadsides and farmers' fields. Anyone driving to Toronto from Montreal during the fall, winter and spring may see as many as 20 to 30 of these birds sitting on lampposts or fence posts, as well as trees and buildings, or circling overhead. Red-tailed Hawks (aka Redtails) used to be very rare in southern Quebec (and elsewhere) in winter but now they are common. Up to the 1990s, wintering Rough-legged Hawks were far more common than Red-tailed Hawks. More about Rough-legged Hawks next time.

Red-tails are regular breeders in Quebec. As many as four young may be fledged from each nest. Changes in breeding status can be referenced and compared in the first and second editions of the Quebec Atlas. We will concern ourselves here with the migration of this iconic species.

The seasonal numbers of Red-tailed Hawks (adults and immatures) counted here each spring and fall can be seen in the charts on the last page of this article. Totals have varied from as high as 1,667 in spring 1991 and 2,889 in fall 1991 to 500 or less in earlier and later years. A trend curve is provided for each season. A five-year-average plot provides for another perspective, giving a better trend-line fit. When looking at either chart, it is immediately obvious that this species has undergone a population decline since the late 1990s. These data are supported by the decreased numbers of immatures sighted, the details of which will not be covered here. When we began our counts in 1980, Red-tailed Hawk numbers were still low following the use of DDT in the 1950s and early 60s prior to it being banned. Now, the species has declined back to those earlier numbers. While we might be tempted to blame the new generation of chemicals for this decline, little is known about their use and impact, especially on farms.

At one point we theorized that some Red-tailed Hawks, particularly adults, rather than migrating, were wintering further north during the increasingly mild falls. Of course, prey abundance may have had some influence on this phenomenon. However, we have seen similar reductions in numbers of many other hawk species during the same period, some of whom feed on different prey than Red-tailed Hawks. We conclude that the numbers of Red-tailed Hawks (and some other species) are, indeed, falling. (This is further supported by the fall off in the numbers of Red-tailed Hawks and other species at many sites in the NE and central US). The exact reasons remain unknown, at present, but climate change/global warming is still the No. 1 suspect. Environmental and ecological stress typically produce subtle changes, which often affect species in unique and unknown ways. Many studies of the world's animal and insect populations show that our understanding of these effects remain poor.

The data do demonstrate that Red-tailed Hawk numbers show a circa four-to-five-year cycle (see the chart following this article). Typically, moderate increases in numbers over two to three years were followed by sharp declines over the next one to two years. In this instance, Red-tailed Hawks staying north of Montreal through the late fall and winter does not explain the phenomenon. Even though



Eastern Red-tailed Hawk heading west high over the fall hawk site.

Note the white “afterburner”. Modern avian technology!
© Bob Barnhurst

cycles in abundance are normal in nature, long-term decreases in overall numbers remain the top concern.

During most seasons we see some Red-tailed Hawks nearly every day. Our best ever flights were 907 on April 3, 2010 (over 1,100 in two days) and 859 on

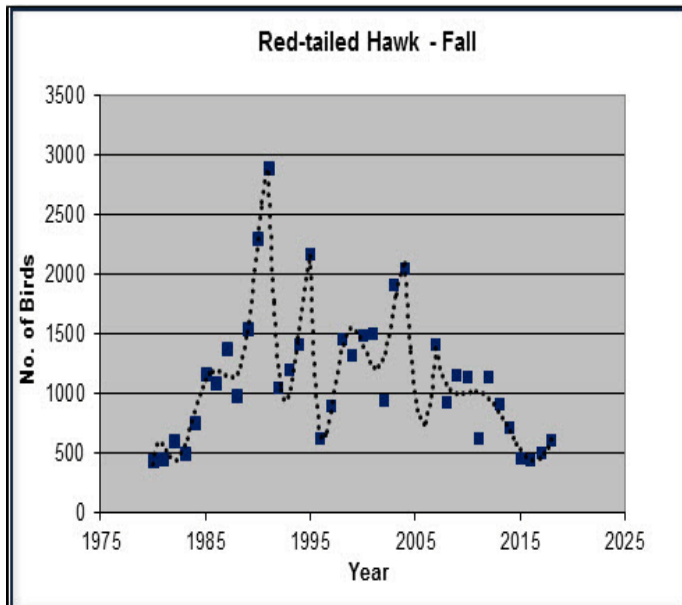
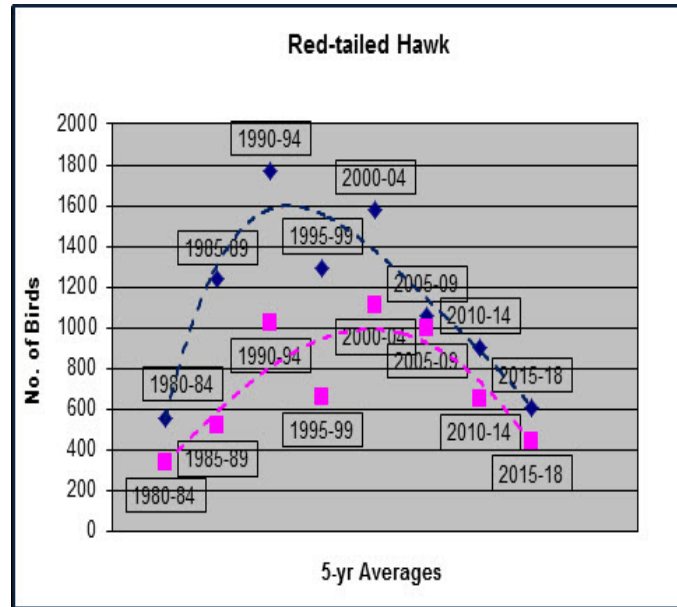
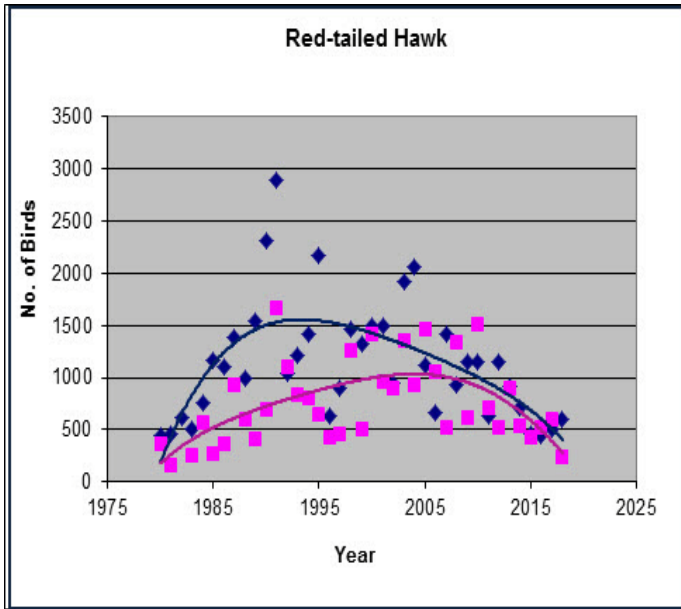
October 12, 1991 (over 1400 in four days). During both flights we were treated to kettle after kettle of up to 30 Redtails per kettle, plus many other hawks and vultures. April 3, 2010, flight was very special in that we saw 11 species of hawks and eagles that day and which

included over 200 Turkey Vultures, 21 Bald Eagles and 11 Golden Eagles.

We have recorded very rare melanistic and albino (see photo on the first page) birds. Subspecies recorded over the four decades include Western (1), Harlan’s (4) and Krider’s (1). A few birds with mixed parentage (intergrades) were also seen.

We will close with a short description of a phenomenon peculiar to Red-tailed Hawks. When the time is right, say, late afternoon of a bright sunny, light wind, October day, and the angle is just right (as it can be at the MDA parking lot), Red-tailed Hawks put on a special show as they flap and glide towards us from the NE. When sunlit, a small area of feathering near the wrist appears as a white patch on the otherwise dark leading edge of the wing (patagial line), providing a contrast that resembles the landing lights of an aircraft. Seeing these “landing lights” is a special treat for us. No other NA hawk species shows this effect.

Next time: Rough-legged Hawk



The charts show the seasonal totals of Red-tailed Hawks in Spring and Fall and the five-year averages of Spring and Fall totals.

Data show moderate increases in numbers over 2 to 3 years were followed by sharp declines over the next 1 to 2 years.

Bird Views

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

December 2018 - January 2019

by Pierre Bannon

Wood Duck: seen in 7 localities in Jan including 4 birds at Laval 7 Jan (G & P. Vaillancourt). **Common Eider:** inland migrants stopped in the Eastern Townships where 6 were found at Sherbrooke 1–2 Dec (G. Gilbert) and 90 at Magog 2 Dec (A. Perras). **Red-necked Grebe:** one at Lacolle 6 Jan (A. Bessette et al.). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** one wintering at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu for the 3rd consecutive year (J. Gaboriau). **Wilson's Snipe:** one in the Montréal Botanical Gardens 8–9 Jan (D. Tétreault).

Northern Gannet: single imm at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 1 Dec (R. Boulet), Lévis 1 Dec (S. Bégin, M. O'Neil) and Laval 4 Dec (P. André, J. Bertrand). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 2 birds at Île Perrot 1–5 Jan (C. Cloutier, G. Rand) and singles at Chambly 2–7 Jan (Christian Côté), and Beauharnois 11 Jan (Jean Côté). **Great Blue Heron:** 6 birds still reported in Jan including singles at Magog 12 Jan (B. Turgeon) and Bécancour 23 Jan (L. Jacques). **Turkey Vulture:** singles at Philipsburg 2 Jan (JG. Papineau), Forillon 3 Jan (M. Chagnon), and Québec City 13 Jan (P. Tanguay). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 3 birds lingered into Jan.

Parlons d'oiseaux

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

Decembre 2018 - janvier 2019

par Pierre Bannon



Eurasian Collared Dove/Tourterelle turque © Ghislaine Boulet

Canard branchu: présent dans 7 localités en janv, incluant 4 oiseaux à Laval 7 janv (G & P. Vaillancourt). **Eider à duvet :** des migrants se sont arrêtés en Estrie où 6 ont été dénombrés à Sherbrooke 1–2 déc (G. Gilbert) et 90 à Magog 2 déc (A. Perras). **Grèbe jougris:** un à Lacolle 6 jan (A. Bessette et al.). **Tourterelle turque:** une hiverne à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu pour une 3e année consécutive (J. Gaboriau). **Bécassine de Wilson:** une au Jardin botanique de Montréal 8–9 jan (D. Tétreault).



Townsend's Solitaire / Solitaire de Townsend © Pierre Bergeron

Red-bellied Woopecker: widely reported in s. Québec; 2 birds lingered in Gaspésie en Jan. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one at Saint-Armand 13 Jan (A. Labelle). **Eastern Phoebe:** one at

Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 1 Dec (S. Labbé, P. Bannon). **Tree Swallow:** one at Melocheville 1 Dec (S. Robert, D. Ouellette). **Eastern Bluebird:** a pair still at Hudson 17 Jan (W. Grubert). **Townsend's Solitaire:** three birds were reported: singles at Yamachiche 4-8 Dec (Y. Dupont, R. Chartier), Québec City 15 Dec (P. Lane et al.), and Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 17-24 Dec (F. Smith). **Hermit Thrush:** at least 6 birds survived into Jan, all around Montréal, including 2 at the Montréal Botanical Gardens 15-26 Jan (C. Araya, I. Chavez et al). **Gray Catbird:** singles at Longueuil 5 Jan (MJ. D'Amour) and Pointe-aux-Trembles 4-16 Jan (Y. Gauthier). **Brown Thrasher:** at least 5 survived into Jan including one at Rouyn-Noranda 19 Jan (C. Dion, D. Dion).

Fou de Bassan: des imm. à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 1 déc (R. Boulet), Lévis 1 déc (S. Bégin, M. O'Neil) et Laval 4 déc (P. André, J. Bertrand). **Cormoran à aigrettes:** 2 oiseaux à l'Île Perrot 1-5 jan (C. Cloutier, G. Rand), un à Chambly 2-7 jan (Christian Côté), ainsi qu'un autre à Beauharnois 11 jan (Jean Côté). **Grand Héron:** 6 oiseaux encore signalés en janv incluant un à Magog 12 jan (B. Turgeon) et un à Bécancour 23 janv (L. Jacques). **Urubu à tête rouge:** des oiseaux à Philipsburg 2 Janv (JG. Papineau), Forillon 3 janv (M. Chagnon), et Québec 13 janv (P. Tanguay). **Buse à épaulettes:** 3 oiseaux se sont attardés jusqu'en janv.



Eastern Phoebe / Moucherolle phébi © Suzanne Labbé

Pic à ventre roux: signalé fréquemment dans le sud du Québec; 2 oiseaux présents en Gaspésie en janv. **Pic maculé:** un à Saint-Armand 13 janv (A. Labelle). **Moucherolle phébi:** un à Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 1 déc (S. Labbé, P. Bannon). **Hirondelle bicolore:** une à Melocheville 1 déc (S. Robert, D.

Ouellette). **Merlebleu de l'Est:** un couple à Hudson 17 janv (W. Grubert). **Solitaire de Townsend:** 3 oiseaux signalés à Yamachiche 4-8 déc (Y. Dupont, R. Chartier), Québec 15 déc (P. Lane et al.), et Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville 17-24 déc (F. Smith). **Grive solitaire:** au moins 6 oiseaux ont survécu jusqu'en janv, tous près de Montréal, dont 2 au Jardin botanique de Montréal 15-26 jan (C. Araya, I. Chavez et al). **Moqueur chat:** des oiseaux à Longueuil 5 jan (MJ. D'Amour) et Pointe-aux-Trembles 4-16 janv (Y. Gauthier). **Moqueur roux:** au moins 5 ont survécu



Harris's Sparrow / Bruant à face noire
© Lucien Lemay

Jan including singles at Chandler 19 Jan (A. Gagnon, D. Jalbert) and at Rivière Magpie 26 Jan (Y. Rochepault, C. Buidin). **Swamp Sparrow:** singles at Roberval 15 Jan (C. Bellemare), Québec City 23 Jan (G. Lord) and at PN de la Pte-aux-Prairies 27 Jan (P. Murphy). **Harris's Sparrow:** one at Saint-Liguori 4-10 Jan (JF. Piché, MC. Brault). **White-crowned Sparrow:** at least 12 birds lingered into Jan throughout the province including one at Rouyn-Noranda 23 Jan (ME. Gauthier).

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, Tel: 450-905-1127 after 7:00 p.m. or preferably by email at: pbannon@videotron.ca

Ovenbird: one at Montréal 11 Dec (J. McGill). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one at Île aux Lièvres (Carignan) 14 Dec (H. Hamel). **Chipping Sparrow:** at least 7 still present in Jan. **Vesper Sparrow:** one at Saint-Armand 5-9 Dec (S. Labbé, P. Bannon). **Fox Sparrow:** at least 7 survived into

jusqu'en janv incluant un à Rouyn-Noranda 19 jan (C. Dion, D. Dion).

Paruline couronnée: une à Montréal 11 déc (J. McGill). **Paruline verdâtre:** une à l'Île aux Lièvres (Carignan) 14 déc (H. Hamel). **Bruant familier:** au moins 7 encore présents en janv. **Bruant vespéral:** un à Saint-Armand 5-9 déc (S. Labbé, P. Bannon). **Bruant fauve:** au moins 7 ont survécu jusqu'en janv incluant un à Chandler 19 jan (A. Gagnon, D. Jalbert) et un à Rivière Magpie 26 janv (Y. Rochepault, C. Buidin). **Bruant des marais:** des oiseaux à Roberval 15 janv (C. Bellemare), Québec 23 janv (G. Lord) et au PN de la Pte-aux-Prairies 27 jan (P. Murphy). **Bruant à face noire:** un à Saint-Liguori 4-10 jan (JF. Piché, MC. Brault). **Bruant à couronne blanche:** au moins 12 oiseaux se sont attardés jusqu'en janv dans la province incluant un à Rouyn-Noranda 23 jan (ME. Gauthier).

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à Pierre Bannon, tél: 450-905-1127 après 19h00 ou préféablement par courriel à pbannon@videotron.ca

Do Canada's Laws Protect Quebec's Birds

A Presentation by Nathalie Gendron and Isabelle-Anne Bisson

Monday, March 4. 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Ave., NDG

Occasionally, we cancel a lecture due to bad weather. If you are unsure, contact Jeff Harrison at lagopus7@gmail.com for details.

Signs that Canadian laws are failing to protect wildlife are increasing. Bird groups such as shorebirds and aerial insectivores are suffering severe population declines, even though many species within these groups are protected under Canadian environmental laws.

In 2018, TerraHumana Solutions received a grant from BPQ to study issues associated with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Quebec's Loi sur la Conservation et la Mise en Valeur de la Faune* and with non-compliance of these laws. They did so at the municipal level.

Municipal governments have a critical role to play in protecting birds. They have the power to issue or withhold permits that can lead to violations of environmental laws. Tree cutting and felling permits are prime examples. Yet, there is a lot of misunderstanding at the council level of what can be done and what has to be done.

TerraHumana conducted carefully designed interviews with four municipal governments in the vicinity of Montreal. They also

spoke with the authorities responsible for the laws to understand the failure in compliance and how to properly disseminate information among all parties. They will talk about what they discovered.



Nathalie Gendron received an MSc for her study of the effects of tree pruning on the choice of bird-nesting sites in urban areas. She has a special interest in ornithology and regularly conducts bird surveys. She is a member of Eco-corridors Laurentiens, le Comité Régional pour la Protection des Falaises,

and QuébecOiseaux, as well as TerraHumana Solutions.



Dr. Isabelle-Anne Bisson is an expert in environmental impact and community needs assessment, helping communities and organizations achieve sustainability. Dr. Bisson has over 20 years of experience as a scientific consultant, coordinator and manager of global science and conservation projects. In 2014, she co-founded and is now solely running TerraHumana Solutions, a firm that offers expert services in sustainability.

Montreal Christmas Bird Count

by Sheldon Harvey

BPQ Montreal Christmas Bird Count coordinator

The 2018 Montreal Christmas Bird Count, Audubon's 119th annual event, was held on December 15, 2018. With limited amounts of snow in December, and with above 0 Celsius temperatures on Count Day, conditions were pleasant with light winds and open water on the rivers. Everyone hoped for lots of bird life but, in many sectors, our birders reported somewhat quiet conditions.

83 people took part in the count, including several first-time participants, covering 20 different territories within the count circle. The teams covered a combined total of 754 kilometres of driving and walking, generating a total effort of 134.25 hours. Approximately 5 combined hours of owling were conducted during this year's count.

We completed the day with a total of 69 species, matching last year's total. The total number of individual birds recorded was 12,394 slightly up from last year's 12,003. There were 4 additional species recorded during the count week period; Brown Thrasher, European Goldfinch, Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk. According to Audubon regulations, count week species are recorded for statistical purposes only and are not reflected in the count day totals. There were no new species added to our historical record of species on the Montreal count. Our field teams were able to surpass or tie the previous high record for the following species (Wood Duck-3; Downy Woodpecker-150; Peregrine Falcon-5; White-breasted Nuthatch-175, Hermit Thrush-2, and Winter Wren-3).

The top five highest numbers of birds per species this year were: European Starling-2,348; American Crow-2,065; Rock Pigeon-1,493; Canada Goose-1,461; and House Sparrow-1087. Although the Montreal crow roost was not located this year, Christine Burt did find a large gathering of crows, between 1,500 and 2,000, in Westmount, close to Greene Avenue and Sherbrooke Street West.

The following is a summary report of the species recorded and the number of each in this year's count; the highest number of each species recorded historically in the Montreal count, indicating the count year (this year is Count #119); and the number of counts each species was recorded.

Species	No. in 2018 (Count Year: 119)	Highest Number Recorded	Count Year of Highest Record	Number of Years Seen
Snow Goose	15	251	113	8
Canada Goose	1461	4184	112	31
Wood Duck	3	3	119	12
American Black Duck	54	1575	54	71
Mallard	678	3835	99	69
Greater Scaup	16	1425	116	51
Lesser Scaup	3	1502	100	34
Bufflehead	1	10	117	26
Common Goldeneye	403	2423	60	83
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	5	117	20
Hooded Merganser	33	106	113	41
Common Merganser	207	1316	87	80
Common Loon	4	8	118	29
Double-crested Cormorant	1	75	106	30
Northern Harrier	3	7	93	14

Species	No. in 2018 (Count Year: 119)	Highest Number Recorded	Count Year of Highest Record	Number of Years Seen
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	6	107	29
Cooper's Hawk	8	14	115	28
Accipiter sp.	1	2	109	5
Red-tailed Hawk	12	28	113	40
Rough-legged Hawk	cw	32	65	60
Ring-billed Gull	40	8260	102	59
Herring Gull	84	9731	91	79
Glaucous Gull	1	69	77	45
Great Black-backed Gull	76	1839	87	72
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	1493	4816	98	45
Mourning Dove	8	253	96	45
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	15	116	36
Great Horned Owl	1	11	103	58
Snowy Owl	2	10	65	54
Barred Owl	2	4	111	28
Short-eared Owl	cw	8	74	25
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	3	117	14
Downy Woodpecker	150	150	119	83

Species	No. in 2018 (Count Year: 119)	Highest Number Recorded	Count Year of Highest Record	Number of Years Seen
Hairy Woodpecker	47	70	108	82
Northern Flicker	6	8	116	21
Pileated Woodpecker	13	18	118	37
American Kestrel	4	23	94	67
Merlin	5	10	111	26
Peregrine Falcon	7	7	119	29
Northern Shrike	3	10	88	58
Blue Jay	29	64	111	62
American Crow	2065	9149	111	73
Common Raven	36	150	82	22
Black-capped Chickadee	630	876	111	82
Tufted Titmouse	6	8	111	15
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	12	111	28
White-breasted Nuthatch	175	175	119	82
Brown Creeper	17	39	86	78
Winter Wren	3	3	119	7
Carolina Wren	2	5	111	21
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	36	103	34
Eastern Bluebird	4	7	115	4

Species	No. in 2018 (Count Year: 119)	Highest Number Recorded	Count Year of Highest Record	Number of Years Seen
Hermit Thrush	2	2	119	14
American Robin	269	4135	117	75
Brown Thrasher	cw	1	111	6
Northern Mocking-bird	4	5	91	36
European Starling	2348	14000	71	83
Cedar Waxwing	14	210	71	42
Snow Bunting	40	740	71	71
American Tree Sparrow	24	170	103	65
Chipping Sparrow	2	3	118	3
Dark-eyed Junco	25	100	93	35
White-throated Sparrow	25	32	117	
Song Sparrow	6	31	89	65
Swamp Sparrow	1	2	118	11
Northern Cardinal	174	230	117	49
Pine Grosbeak	47	206	42	46
House Finch	153	421	96	35
Common Redpoll	48	537	82	55
Hoary Redpoll	1	4	113	9
American Gold-finch	263	439	109	59

Species	No. in 2018 (Count Year: 119)	Highest Number Recorded	Count Year of Highest Record	Number of Years Seen
European Gold-finch	cw	1	111	2
Evening Grosbeak	1	214	77	30
House Sparrow	1087	2794	96	82

cw = Reported during count week.

Total Individual birds 12,394 Total Species Reported 69



Mallard © Darlene Harvey 2018

A compilation gathering was held at the Montreal West Curling Club following the count. Approximately 30 people attended. The food was supplied by BPQ.

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

Trip Advice

Updates: We send an update of our upcoming events every week by email. This serves as a reminder and keeps you informed of any changes. It also provides additional information about trip conditions when required. If you are not receiving this e-mail, contact us at birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Online calendar: Consult the website as well.

Questions: Contact the trip guide or post a message on the Songsparrow email group.

Cancellations: Trips are rarely cancelled, but check the BPQ website, just in case. Contact the trip guide when the weather is extreme.

Nice to have: binoculars, field guide, scope, hat, gloves, walking shoes, extra socks, extra layers, sun screen, water, and snacks.

De rigueur pour les excursions

Mise à jour: Nous envoyons par courriel des mises à jour hebdomadaires sur les événements à venir. Ils servent de rappel pour vous garder informés de tout changement. Ils fournissent des informations supplémentaires sur les particularités reliées aux excursions au besoin. Si vous ne recevez pas ces courriels, contactez-nous à : birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com. Vous pouvez annuler votre participation en tout temps.

Questions/informations: Téléphonnez au responsable ou contactez le groupe courriel Songsparrow.

Annulations: En cas d'intempérie, vérifiez la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable.

Prévoir pour les sorties : Jumelles, guide, télescope, chapeau, gants, souliers de marche, bas de rechange, crème solaire, vêtements pour temps froid, bouteille d'eau, et collations.

Upcoming Field Trips & Events

Saturday, February 16, 2019 Bird Protection Quebec's 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count Event & "Birds, Bites & Beer Social"

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. More than 160,000 people worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

While we encourage your participation for the full 4 days, BPQ is concentrating our efforts on one day. On February 16th let's see, hear and count as many birds as possible and submit our findings to the Great Backyard Bird Count. Where you choose to count birds is up to you; from the comfort of your home, recording the birds at your feeders, or out in a local park or your favourite birding spot. Bird alone or with a group of birding buddies, for as long or short a period of time as you like. Please e-mail us at birdprotectionquebec@yahoo.ca to let us know where you will be birding. Bird casually, or intensely, but just bird!

To wrap up the day the BPQ Field Trip Committee has planned a "Birds, Bites & Beer" late afternoon/early evening social at PJ's Pub, 6910 St-Jacques West <http://pubpjs.com/> for those wishing to eat, drink, and share the experiences of the day.

The BPQ Field Trip Committee will be providing appetizers and refreshments (beer, soft drinks). For those wishing to stay for dinner PJ's Pub offers a variety of reasonably priced meals. Free parking and

free wi-fi is available. It's simple to get to by car, or by public transit (#90 bus from Vendome Metro stops across the street). Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/ZWtJTE9Y82N2>

Please let us know, by e-mail, birdprotectionquebec@yahoo.ca, if you plan on attending the social so that we can reserve a section at PJ's.

Your observations can be entered directly through the Great Backyard Bird Count webpage at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> which is linked to eBird. If you have an eBird account, it's simple to do. If you need assistance, you can bring along your list of observations to PJ's. There we'll have a laptop set up to help you set up your account and enter your findings.

We look forward to a great day of birding and a fun gathering at PJ's at the end of the day. We sincerely hope that many of you will choose to participate in this annual citizen science project.

Saturday, February 23 - samedi 23 février

Snow Outing - Sortie de la Neige Morgan Arboretum - Arboretum Morgan

(Note!!! Snowshoes may be useful / Raquettes peuvent être utiles) <http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

Guide: Richard Gregson sparroworks@gmail.com 514-816-4172
<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

8:00 a.m. Something Different! We will use snowshoes to explore areas of the Morgan Arboretum not usually accessible in summer. Expect a 5 km hike with numerous stops to listen for birds. Looking for winter forest species including woodpeckers, raptors and with luck an owl.

From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$8.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members (\$5.50 seniors and students). *Please arrive a few minutes early to pay the entry fee. Half day.*

8h00. Quelque chose de différent! Nous explorerons en raquettes des endroits qui ne sont pas normalement accessibles durant la période estivale. Attendez-vous à une randonnée de cinq kilomètres avec de fréquents arrêts pour écouter les oiseaux. Nous serons à la recherche d'oiseaux d'hiver, d'espèces forestières incluant pics, rapaces et avec un peu de chance, une chouette ou un hibou

De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 en direction ouest, emprunter la sortie 41, garder la droite et conserver la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et, au panneau d'arrêt, tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins; continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 8,00 \$ pour les non-membres. (5,50\$ pour les aînés et les étudiants). *Veillez arriver quelques minutes à l'avance pour payer les frais d'entrée. Demi-journée.*

Saturday, March 2 - samedi 2 mars Mirabel - Lachute Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/o7emhub5CJz> (meeting place)

Guide: Frédéric Hareau fredhareau1@yahoo.ca

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

8:00 a.m. From Montreal, take highway 15 north, and then exit 31. We will meet at the Petro Canada station, just east of highway 15, at exit 31. Count 25 minutes from crossroads between highway 15 and 40 in Montreal.

We will explore a diversity of habitats in the area between Mirabel and Lachute. We will start with the fields near Mirabel which are known for snowy owls, gray partridges and snow buntings among others. We will then visit more wooded areas as well as a landfill where gulls, including Glaucous and Iceland Gulls concentrate. It will be a driving trip, with several short walks. **Half day.**

8h00. De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 15 en direction nord, puis la sortie 31. Nous nous rencontrerons à la station Pétro-Canada, juste à l'est de l'autoroute 15, sortie 31. Compter 25 minutes depuis le croisement entre la 15 et la 40 à Montréal.

Nous allons explorer une diversité d'habitats dans la région entre Mirabel et Lachute. Nous explorerons tout d'abord les champs de Mirabel qui sont connus pour le Harfang des neiges, la Perdrix grise et les passereaux hivernaux. Nous allons ensuite visiter des zones boisées ainsi qu'un site d'enfouissement où les goélands, y compris le Goéland bourgmestre et le Goéland arctique, se concentrent. La sortie s'effectuera principalement en voiture, avec plusieurs courtes marches. **Demi-journée.**



Barred Owl © Chuck Kling 2018

Saturday, March 9 - samedi 9 mars St-Laurent Technoparc

<https://goo.gl/maps/sHw2wBo9eG62>

Guide: To Be Announced

8:00 a.m. Meet in the Hospira Canada building parking lot at 2600 boul. Alfred-Nobel, St-Laurent in the Technoparc off Highway 40 (Trans-Canada Highway), south-side between Hymus Blvd. and Highway 13.

Coming from the east take Exit 60 off of Highway 40 and stay on the service road, following the signs for Hymus Blvd/Henri-Bourassa. Follow the signs for Hymus Blvd. Stay left on to Hymus Blvd, crossing over Highway 40. Once across the highway, look for a sign indicating "Technoparc" and take the ramp on the right. It will loop around and bring you to a traffic light. Continue through the traffic light on to Alfred Nobel Blvd. The Hospira Canada building will be the first building on the right.

Coming from the west take Exit 58 off of Highway 40. Stay on the service road, passing Tim Hortons and the Portovino restaurant. Watch for the sign for "Technoparc-boul. Alfred-Nobel" on the right. Veer right off the service road. Continue to the traffic lights at Hymus Blvd. Turn left on Hymus Blvd. and follow to boul. Alfred-Nobel. Veer right on to Alfred-Nobel. The Hospira Canada building will be the first building on the right.

Looking for winter birds, hawks, owls, etc. **Half Day**

8h00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement de Hospira Canada au 2600 boul. Alfred-Nobel, St-Laurent, dans le Technoparc, côté sud de l'autoroute 40, entre le boul. Hymus et l'autoroute 13. En provenance de l'est, emprunter la sortie 60 de l'autoroute 40 et rester sur la voie de service en suivant les indications pour boul. Hymus/Henri-Bourassa. Suivre ensuite les indications pour le boul. Hymus. Garder la gauche sur le boul. Hymus, en traversant l'autoroute 40. Après avoir traversé l'autoroute, repérer l'écriteau indiquant «Technoparc» et

prendre la rampe sur la droite. Après une boucle vous arriverez à un feu de circulation. Continuer passé ce feu sur le boul. Alfred-Nobel. Le bâtiment de Hospira Canada est le premier sur votre droite.

À partir de l'ouest, emprunter la sortie 58 de l'autoroute 40. Rester sur la voie de service et dépasser le Tim Horton ainsi que le restaurant Portovino. Repérer l'écriteau indiquant «Technoparc- boul. Alfred-Nobel», sur la droite. Prendre à droite pour quitter la voie de service. Continuer jusqu'au feu de circulation situé à l'intersection avec le boul. Hymus. Tourner à gauche sur le boul. Hymus et continuer jusqu'au boul. Alfred-Nobel. Tourner à droite sur Alfred-Nobel. Le bâtiment de Hospira Canada est le premier sur votre droite.

À la recherche d'oiseaux d'hiver, de rapaces, de hiboux, etc. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, March 16 - samedi 16 mars Parc de la Frayère, Boucherville, and St-Hubert Airport

<https://goo.gl/maps/ktQvfi2tt9n>

Guide: Sheldon Harvey ve2shw@yahoo.com 450-462-1459
514-637-2141 (the morning of the trip/ le matin de l'excursion)

8:00 a.m. The park is a little less than 30 minutes from the South Shore side of the Champlain Bridge. From Montreal, take the Champlain Bridge, to the first exit off the bridge. Follow Highway 20/Highway 132 East, heading towards Varennes/Longueuil). Continue east on Highway 20/132. Note that Highways 20 and 132 split at the exit for Quebec City & Hippolyte-Lafontaine Tunnel. Stay to the left at this exit, continuing east on Highway 132. Continue past the exits for de Montarville, de Montbrun and chemin du General Vanier. The next traffic lights will be at Boul. de la Marine/Boul. Lionel Boulet (Highway 229). Turn left at the traffic lights on to boul. de la Marine, heading north towards the waterfront. Continue north, cross the railway tracks and turn left at the traffic lights at the corner of boul. Marie Victorin.

Continue on boul. Marie Victorin, past the hydro pylons. You will see an entrance road into the parking lot for the Parc de la Frayère on your right. Free parking.

Note: As alternates to the Champlain Bridge, HIGHWAY 132 East can also be accessed from any of the other bridges to the South Shore (Mercier, Victoria, Jacques–Cartier, or the Lafontaine Tunnel, as well as Highway 30. Once on Highway 132 east, route instructions above apply.

After exploring the park we will drive to St Hubert Airport to look for Snowy Owls, Hawks and other open area birds. **Half day.**

8h00. Le parc de la Frayère se situe à moins de 30 minutes du pont Champlain sur la rive sud de Montréal. Depuis Montréal, traverser le pont Champlain et emprunter la 1ère sortie (la 20/132 est en direction Varennes/Longueuil). Continuer sur la 20/132 direction est. Porter attention à l'approche de la jonction du pont–tunnel Louis–H Lafontaine et de la 20 en direction de Québec. Garder le centre–gauche sur la route 132 et poursuivre au-delà des sorties pour de Montarville, de Montbrun et du chemin du Général–Vanier. Continuer jusqu'aux prochains feux de circulation se trouvant à la jonction du boul. Vanier sur votre droite et du boul. de la Marine sur votre gauche. Tourner à gauche sur la boul. de la Marine (route 229 nord) et après avoir traversé la voie ferrée, poursuivre votre route en direction du fleuve St–Laurent. Vous croiserez alors le boul. Marie–Victorin au feu de circulation. Tourner sur votre gauche et continuer jusqu'au parc de la Frayère après avoir dépassé les pylônes d'Hydro–Québec. Le stationnement du parc se trouve sur votre droite et il est gratuit.

Note: Voici des alternatives pour atteindre la route 132: les ponts Mercier, Victoria, et Jacques–Cartier, le tunnel Louis–H Lafontaine ainsi que l'autoroute 30 vous permettront de rejoindre la 132; à partir de la 132 direction est, utiliser les instructions ci-dessus.

Après avoir exploré le parc, nous nous rendrons à l'aéroport de Saint–Hubert à la recherche du Harfang des Neiges, de rapaces et d'autres oiseaux de milieux ouverts. **Demi-journée.**



Northern Cardinal © Chuck Kling 2019

Saturday, March 23 - samedi 23 mars

Parc-Nature du Cap-St-Jacques

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

Guide: Wayne Grubert wgrubert6@gmail.com 450-458-5498
514-774-0811 (Cell - Morning of trip only)

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste–Marie. Turn left to Anse–à–l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on

Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd.). Continue for 2 km to the chalet *d'accueil* of the park. Parking: \$9.00. **Half day.**

8h00. Prendre l'autoroute 40 direction ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 9,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, March 30 - samedi 30 mars

Parc des Rapides, LaSalle and Verdun Waterfronts

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

Guide: Diane Demers ddemers03@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle Blvd and 6th Avenue in LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Blvd). Looking for waterfowl and early migrants. **Half day.**

8h00. Rassemblement dans le stationnement du parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boul. LaSalle et de la 6e avenue dans l'arrondissement LaSalle (juste à l'est du boul. Bishop-Power). Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 6 - samedi 6 avril Beauharnois and Valleyfield Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/kmyAR44HsfP2>

Guides: Wayne Grubert wgrubert6@gmail.com 450-458-5498
514-774-0811 (Cell - Morning of trip only)

Sheldon Harvey ve2shw@yahoo.com 450-462-1459
514-637-2141 (the morning of the trip/ le matin de l'excursion)

8:00 a.m. Meet at the east end of the Beauharnois Dam. From the south shore take Highway 30 West and take Exit 22. At the stop sign turn left onto Highway 236 East. After 2.3 km turn left on Highway 132 West and proceed 0.25 km to the meeting area.

Alternatively from the West Island take Highway 20 or 40 west to Highway 30. Take Highway 30 East (\$3.10 toll) to Exit 22. Proceed as above.

Looking for waterfowl, raptors and early migrants. Half day.

8h00. Rassemblement à la pointe est du barrage de Beauharnois. À partir de la rive sud, prendre l'autoroute 30 en direction ouest puis la sortie 22. A l'arrêt, tourner à gauche sur l'autoroute 236 direction est. Après 2,3 kilomètres, tourner à gauche sur l'autoroute 132 direction ouest et continuer sur 0,25 kilomètre jusqu'au point de rassemblement.

Autre trajet possible : à partir de l'ouest de l'île, prendre l'une ou l'autre des autoroutes 20 ou 40 en direction ouest jusqu'à l'autoroute 30. Prendre l'autoroute 30 en direction est (péage 3,10 \$) jusqu'à la sortie 22. Puis, continuer comme décrit ci-haut.

À la recherche d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et de migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 13 - samedi 13 avril Pointe-du-Moulin, Île Perrot

<http://pointedumoulin.com/en/home/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/Khx9NnsPUkw> (meeting place)

Guide: Chris Cloutier chriscivic90@hotmail.com

8:00 a.m. Take Highway 20 west to Boul. Don Quichotte on Île Perrot. Turn left on Don Quichotte and follow it 10 km to the meeting place at its end. Looking for waterfowl and migrants. **Half day.**

8h00. Emprunter la route 20 direction ouest jusqu'au boulevard Don-Quichotte à l'île Perrot. Tournez à gauche sur Don Quichotte et continuer sur environ 10 kilomètres jusqu'au lieu de rencontre, situé au bout de la route. À la recherche de sauvagine et d'autres migrateurs. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday, April 20 - samedi 20 avril Baie-du-Febvre, Qc

<https://goo.gl/maps/VTO2X>

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

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Route Janelle lookout at Baie du Febvre. Two possible driving routes. First route: Take Hwy 30 east to Sorel and then Hwy 132 east to Baie du Febvre. Look for Route Janelle on your left.

Alternate Route: Take Hwy 20 east to Exit 185 past Drummondville and then Rte 255 north to Hwy 132. Turn left and look for Rue Janelle almost immediately on your right. Allow 90 minutes driving time from Montreal. Looking for waterfowl, hawks, early spring migrants and thousands of migrating Snow Geese. **Half day.**

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

recherche de milliers d'Oies des neiges, d'oiseaux aquatiques, de rapaces et d'autres migrateurs. **Demi-journée.**

Thursday, April 25 - jeudi 25 avril Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum

Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.

<http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

Guide: Barbara MacDuff barb.macduff@sympatico.ca
514-942-6330

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$8.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. (\$5.50 seniors and students)

9h00 – 11h00. De Montréal, à partir de l'autoroute 40 direction ouest, emprunter la sortie 41. Garder la droite puis garder encore la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt, tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins puis continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 8,00 \$ pour les non-membres. (5,50\$ pour les aînés et les étudiants).

Saturday, April 27 - samedi 27 avril Laval/Mount Pleasant Cemetery/ Cimetière Laval–Mount Pleasant

<https://goo.gl/maps/YAkQCKMyE7q> (Meeting spot/ Point de rendez-vous)

Guides: Michel Beaupré and Sheldon Harvey
Contact: ve2shw@yahoo.com 450-462-1459 or 514-637-2141 (the morning of the trip/ le matin de l'excursion)

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Laval Mount Pleasant Cemetery at 5505 Rang du Bas-Saint-François, Laval. From Highway 440 E, take exit 34 for QC-125/Montée Masson toward Rang du Bas Saint François/Avenue Marcel Villeneuve. Turn left onto Montée Masson/QC-125 N (signs for Saint François/Rg du Bas/Avenue Marcel Villeneuve). Turn left onto Rang du Bas-Saint-François, then turn left at the T-intersection. After 2 km the cemetery is on the right.

From highway 25, Take exit 14 toward Québec 125/Montée Masson. Turn left on Lortie. Turn left onto Montée Masson/QC-125. Turn right at the 2nd cross street onto Rang du Bas-Saint-François. Turn left at the T-intersection. After 2 km the cemetery is on the right.

We'll explore the cemetery, then drive to a second location in eastern Laval at the intersection of boul. des Mille Iles and rue Debussy to explore a new birding spot. **Half day.**

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/txn3wTxkoqt>

8h00. Rencontre au stationnement du cimetière Laval Mount Pleasant au 5505 rang du Bas-Saint-François, Laval. De l'autoroute 440 en direction est, prendre la sortie 34 pour QC-125 / Montée Masson en direction de Rang du Bas-Saint-François / Avenue Marcel Villeneuve. Tourner à gauche sur le rang du Bas-Saint-François. Tourner à gauche à l'intersection en T. Après 2 km, le cimetière se trouve sur la droite.

De l'autoroute 25, prendre la sortie 14 vers Québec 125 / Montée Masson, tourner à gauche sur l'avenue Lortie, tourner à gauche sur Montée Masson / QC-125 puis tourner à droite au 2e croisement sur le rang du Bas-Saint-François / Montréal. Tourner à gauche à l'intersection en T. Après 2 km le cimetière se trouve sur la droite.

Nous allons explorer le cimetière, puis nous nous dirigerons vers un deuxième emplacement dans l'est de Laval, à l'intersection du boul. des Mille-Iles et de la rue Debussy où nous explorerons un nouvel endroit pour observer les oiseaux. Carte "Google": <https://goo.gl/maps/txn3wTxkoqt>

Thursday, May 2 - jeudi 2 mai Birding for Beginners - Morgan Arboretum

Come learn the basics of bird identification in the field and observe some early migrants.

<http://goo.gl/maps/etLSX>

<http://www.morganarboretum.org/>

Guide: Barbara MacDuff barb.macduff@sympatico.ca 514-942-6330

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Take Exit 41. Keep right and bear right at the traffic light. Climb the hill. At the stop sign turn left onto Chemin des Pins and drive 1 km to the parking lot on the left. \$8.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. (\$5.50 seniors and students)

9h00 – 11h00 De Montréal, à partir de l'autoroute 40 direction ouest, emprunter la sortie 41. Garder la droite puis garder encore la droite au feu de circulation. Monter la côte et au panneau d'arrêt, tourner à gauche sur le chemin des Pins puis continuer jusqu'au stationnement. Frais d'entrée : 8,00 \$ pour les non-membres. (5,50\$ pour les aînés et les étudiants).