

2008 Bird Protection Quebec Awards

Member of the Year Award: Jean de Marre

The purpose of the Member of the Year Award is to recognize the member who is judged to have contributed the most to Bird Protection Quebec during the previous year.

The official citation reads:

"Jean De Marre is the quintessential behind the scenes volunteer. His work, which has been appreciated by every member of BPQ, has for the most part been done anonymously.

Following his retirement Jean volunteered his creative talent and technical skills as a graphic designer to the society. Among his contributions has been the design of the new banner for The Song Sparrow newsletter which has given it a crisp modern look and was received with rave reviews by the membership. Jean has also given our annual report, tchébec, a vibrant new layout which has greatly increased its readability. The society also owes Jean a debt of gratitude for the success of our BPQ 2009 calendar whose layout he helped create.

Unfortunately for our organization the Nature Canada Conference which we were to host in June 2008 was canceled at the last minute but not before Jean had put in many long hours of work designing a very impressive logo and website for the event.

As one nominator so eloquently stated, "Throughout each design process Jean maintained a positive attitude and was able to work harmoniously with the members of each committee, a miracle in itself!"

For these contributions and more Jean De Marre is a most deserving recipient of our Member of the Year Award."

BPQ Service Award: Chris Murphy

The purpose of the Service Award is to recognize the member who is judged to have contributed most to the smooth running of Bird Protection Quebec over the past several years.

The official citation reads:

"To many BPQ members Christine Murphy is one of the "faces" of the society. She is easily recognized because she has been at the forefront of many of our visible activities as well as a tireless volunteer behind the scenes.

Chris joined the PQSPB in 1986 and became a director in 1989. She took on the position of Assistant Treasurer where she used her considerable organizational skills to ensure the smooth running of the society from a financial perspective and oversaw the computerization of our accounting procedures.

Chris' contributions to society committees is most probably second to none. She was an integral part of the Bird Fair organization team for many years overseeing its finances among other duties. At various times she has served on the Finance, Nominating, Membership Services, Sanctuaries, Bluebird Trails, Nature Adventure Center, Support Grants, Piedmont and Archives Committees. With all this she still found time to be part of the team which leads our early morning warbler walks on Westmount Summit, help out significantly during the AOU Conference hosted by the PQSPB in 1991, be one of our "go to" people on many of our Point Pelee trips, represent BPQ at public presentations involving birding, volunteer at the McGill Bird Observatory, and bake and decorate cakes for special birding occasions!

However, it is perhaps through her role with the Education Committee that Chris has been most visible.

Numerous people, young and old, have benefited from her presentations to groups of all ages. She has been a leader in activities involving local scout troupes including trips to Baie du Febvre and also volunteering during bird camps at Camp Tamaracouta. As one nominator wrote, "In all her various roles, one characteristic is evident: Chris is a born teacher. She teaches new birders to look and listen carefully and, in what defines the quintessential teacher, encourages the learner to think for him or herself."

For all her contributions Chris Murphy is a most deserving candidate of the BPQ's Service Award for 2008."

Member Education Award: David Mulholland

The purpose of the Education Award is to recognize the member or members who has (have) made an outstanding contribution to the cause of bird education in the Montreal area over several years.

The official citation reads:

"David Mulholland first joined the PQSPB in 1979 and was welcomed to the Board of Directors in 1983 where he served for the next 25 years. From 1997 to 1999 he admirably filled the role of President of the society and has also served at various times on the Field Trip, Support Grants, Membership Services, Property Acquisition, Bluebird Trails, Finance, Bird Hot Line, Piedmont, Executive, and Bird Fair Committees. Throughout this time he has built up a wealth of "institutional memory" which has proved invaluable to the running of the organization as a whole.

It is perhaps from his role on the Education Committee that David receives much of his gratification as a prominent member of BPQ. As a lifelong educator in the public high school system it fell naturally into place that David should take an active role on this committee. He was involved with the Nature Adventure Centre throughout its existence and was always available to help welcome and teach groups of eager young children about the beauty and intricacies of the natural world. He still takes these skills on the road to visit classes in various schools and has been involved with excursions by scout troupes to areas like Baie du Febvre. On weekly field trips he is always willing to help novice birders improve their identification skills and their appreciation of the nature in general.

For his tireless work for the Society in general, and in particular for his dedication to the Education Committee, David Mulholland is a most deserving candidate of this year's Society Education Award."

Member Conservation Award: Gérard Desjardins

The purpose of the Conservation Award is to recognize the member or members who has (have) made an outstanding contribution to the cause of bird conservation over several years.

The official citation reads:

"The identification, preservation, and protection of important wildlife habitats is of great importance to present and future generations of Quebecers. There are a number of government and non-profit agencies which work to fulfill this mission but their effectiveness is greatly strengthened by the volunteer efforts of nature clubs and concerned citizens.

A case in point is the acquisition in 2004 of the 270 acre property known as Ghost Hill Farm. Located near Breckenridge, Quebec, the property was offered to the the Nature Conservancy, Quebec region, by the Aldred family and Bird Protection Quebec was asked to assist with its purchase. This large farmland property had previously been identified as highly suitable habitat for the re-introduction of the provincially extirpated Loggerhead Shrike.

Through the long process of shrike reintroduction, many partners have been involved. On the ground at the Farm we have been assisted by the Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais, based in Gatineau. Within the Club Gérard Desjardins took a key leadership role as President, and as a person responsible for field work. He has personally spent hundreds of hours assisting with the management, and with other Club members, the practical implementation of the re-introduction program. Their efforts to protect the environment also include the 1998 work to protect Leamy Lake Ecological Park.

With others, Gérard has been instrumental in the following actions at the Farm:

- working with all the partners including: community organizations, government representatives, scientists and volunteers;
- building the large acclimatization cages which house the young birds, and planning and building nesting cages;
- observing and feeding young birds and, once released, ensuring that they can hunt on their own and are behaving normally;
- maintaining the habitat in a condition suitable for the released shrikes;
- organizing and participating in searches for wild shrikes;
- supporting shrike researchers from McGill University.

It is certain that without Gérard's involvement in this project, we would be much further behind in our progress towards once again seeing Loggerhead Shrikes nest in Quebec.

Bird Protection Quebec recognizes Gérard Desjardins with its Member Conservation Award for 2008 in honour of his significant contributions to the Ghost Hill Farm Loggerhead Shrike re-introduction project."

BPQ Quebec Education Award: André Cyr

The purpose of the Quebec Education Award is to recognize an individual, group, or organization who through education or communication to the general public has demonstrably helped an individual or a group to become an enthusiastic supporter of bird conservation and environmental protection in Quebec over several years.

The official citation reads:

"André Cyr has spent his 30 year professional career as an ornithologist at the University of Sherbrooke. He recently retired as professor of Ornithology in the University's Department of Biology. Over the years his passion for birds has led him to an outstanding career as a scientist, educator, author and promoter of the birds of Quebec. His interest in birds started when he was very young and he has translated that enthusiasm into his teaching career where he is noted for non-traditional but highly effective methods.

Dr. Cyr is a widely published author and conference presenter who is noted for his many collaborative papers in biological journals and conference proceedings. With Jacques Larivée he is the author of the *Seasonal Atlas of the Birds of Quebec*. He also played a major role in the scientific analysis, promotion, and recognition of the Quebec bird monitoring system: EPOQ, with Jacques Larivée. This work contributed to the recognition of the importance of checklists for scientific studies that led to ebird. With N. David, M Gosselin, and P. Blain, he translated Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies* into French.

Equally important is Dr Cyr's role as a public face and popularizer of birding in Quebec through various media and public appearances. With tireless dedication he has used his skills as an

educator, public speaker, promoter, bird photographer, and his unique talent as an imitator of bird calls, to promote public interest and support for birds. His many contributions has led to numerous awards including the Charles Eusèbe-Dionne prize from the RQO.

Bird Protection Quebec recognizes Dr. André Cyr with its Quebec Education Award for 2008 in honour of his significant educational contributions to Quebec birding."

BPQ Quebec Conservation Award: Louise Gratton

The purpose of the Quebec Conservation Award is to recognize an individual, group or organization who has (have) made an outstanding contribution to the cause of bird conservation in Quebec over several years.

The official citation reads:

"Louise Gratton graduated from UQAM with a M.Sc. in Biology in 1981. Since that time she has devoted her considerable talents to a career in habitat conservation in Quebec. She is an expert in plant ecology and botany and was an ecological consultant for 20 years and still, occasionally, will provide expertise to environmental groups. She currently shares most of her time between her position as Director of Science with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Québec region, and as scientific adviser to the Appalachian Corridor, an organization she co-founded in 2002. This unique and creative project, using ecological data on the habitat needs of birds, other fauna, and plants, biological surveys, and the involvement of governments, institutions, businesses, landowners and the general public, is making a significant contribution to wildlife conservation in Quebec

In addition to her professional work, Louise has given her time freely to the cause of conservation in Québec and Canada. She is past Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Nature Canada (formerly the Canadian Nature Federation). Over the years, she has also been associated with many Quebec organizations or government committees involved in conservation including the Quebec Government Advisory committee on endangered flora; Floraquebeca; Association des biologistes du Québec; Fondation pour la sauvegarde des espèces menaces and Nature Québec (formerly the Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature). She is currently on the board of the bi-national organization Two Countries, One Forest; Secretary-Treasurer of the Appalachian Corridor; President of Les Amis de la tourbière de Saint-Joachim-de-Shefford and President of the Environmental and Sustainable Development Committee of the City of Sutton.

Bird Protection Quebec recognizes Louise Gratton with its Quebec Conservation Award for 2008 in honour of her significant contributions to Quebec conservation."

2008 Long Term Service Awards

The Long Term Service Awards are discretionary awards given most years in recognition of members who have contributed significantly to the smooth running of Bird Protection Quebec over many years and are now reducing active involvement. The following individuals were given Long Term Service Awards in 2008:

Marika Ainley (Posthumously)

The official citation reads:

"Marika Ainley was a long-time member of Bird Protection Quebec. Born in Hungary she came to Montreal in the 1970s and joined Bird Protection Quebec soon after. Marika became a Director of the Society and served as Chair of the Research Committee from 1982 to 1992. She also served on the Education Committee for many years and sat on the editorial board of *tchébec*. When the rare bird hot line was in danger of collapse she took it over and ran it well for many years. Marika often said that one of her proudest achievements was the instigation of the early morning field trips to Westmount Summit, now dedicated to the memory of Jim Houghton. Marika moved with her family to Prince George, B. C. in 1995 and retired to Victoria. Throughout her days in western Canada she kept up her contacts with her many friends in Bird Protection Quebec.

Marika Ainley was a significant force within BPQ during her long residence in Montreal. She was also an active promoter of the history of science specifically Canadian ornithology. She obtained her PhD. from McGill University in 1985 with a dissertation entitled : *From Natural History to Avian Biology: Canadian Ornithology 1860-1950*. She also authored a book on the Canadian ornithologist, William Rowan, and contributed many papers to scholarly journals on Canadian science, particularly ornithology, as well as on women in science and the environment.

Bird Protection Quebec posthumously recognizes Marika Ainley with a Long Term Service Award in honour of her significant contributions to our Society."

Sarah Jane Hills

The official citation reads:

"Sarah Jane Hills is a long time member of Bird Protection Quebec. She initially became interested in birds when a Mockingbird showed up in her yard in the fall of 1966. This event brought out BPQ old-timers George and Mary Montgomery, and Gladys Hibbard, who introduced her to birding and to the Society.

Sarah Jane joined the Board in the late 1960s and served for over 25 years. She was particularly interested in education. Over the years Sarah Jane has taken an active role in many important committees including the Research, Education, Support Grants, Monthly Meetings, Archives and Publications Committees.

Sara Jane was active in promoting birds. She gave talks at our Monthly Meetings, organized field trips for children, and gave lectures to community groups in St. Lambert and around the South Shore area. For almost forty years Sarah Jane has maintained her participation in the St. Lambert section of the Montreal Christmas Bird Count.

Bird Protection Quebec recognizes Sarah Jane Hills with a Long Term Service Award in honour of her significant contributions to the Society."

Kyra Emo

The official citation reads:

"Kyra Emo joined Bird Protection Quebec in 1985. Since that time she has had a long standing interest and significant involvement on many of our committees. She worked as an administrative officer at McGill University, and over the last twenty years used her administrative talents and her interest in birds to greatly assist the smooth running of our Society. Kyra served on the Board for twenty one years (1985-2006) including ten years on the Executive Committee as Secretary.

Kyra also served on numerous other committees for varying lengths of time including: Philipsburg (16 years); Education (13 years); Membership Services (10 years) and Monthly Lectures (8 years). In addition she cheerfully took on many other duties including manning the Bird Information Line for eight years, serving for eight years each of the Archives and the Bird Fair Committees, and in the latter capacity regularly helping out at the Bird Fair. One of her favourite outings was the Summit Park early morning warbler walks in spring. When Marika Ainley moved to British Columbia, Kyra took over the leadership and still plays a key role in organizing and leading these popular spring walks.

Bird Protection Quebec recognizes Kyra Emo with a Long Term Service Award in honour of her significant contributions to our Society."

Dr. Rodger Titman

The official citation reads:

"Rodger Titman is an associate professor of Wildlife Biology at McGill University specializing in behavioral ecology. He is well known to BPQ members for having served on the Board of Directors from 1978 to the present time including the years 2005-2007 as President of the Society.

Rodger has also served on numerous committees for our organization including the Executive, Finance, Conservation, Support Grants and George H. Montgomery Sanctuary Committees. His work with the Ad Hoc Committee for Board Renewal has led to the appointment of new directors with fresh ideas for the society. Rodger has also made significant contributions as a liaison with other conservation organizations. As a director or executive of Nature Conservancy Canada, Nature Conservancy Quebec, and the Ecomuseum, he has been able to expedite projects involving the collaboration of BPQ with each of these others. His lectures at monthly meetings are always entertaining and his thorough knowledge and affable nature have made his contributions to our winter lecture series most enjoyable.

All of these activities have been undertaken with the rigorous approach of a scientist and for these, and many other contributions to BPQ, Rodger is certainly a most deserving candidate for our Long Term Service Award."