

BIRD PROTECTION QUEBEC COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2007 TO 2008

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Members: Jeff Harrison (Chair), Wayne Grubert

Nomination forms were placed in the *Song Sparrow* newsletter, two reminders were put on our Listserv, and reminders were given at recent monthly meetings. Unfortunately very few nominations were received. We hope to encourage more nominations, especially from Board members, next year.

Despite the limitations of member response, the nominations we did receive were excellent and contributed significantly to the selection the following winners who were approved at the Board meeting on March 27, 2008:

Member of the Year: Gail Desnoyers
Service Award: Barbara MacDuff
Education Internal: No award given
Conservation Award Internal: Lance Laviolette
Education External: Roger Bider
Conservation Award External: Patrick Asch

In addition, the committee considered candidates for our Long Term Service Awards. The award winners were:

- Sheila Arthur
- Betsy Barber (posthumously)

In addition to citations, the winners will receive a newly-designed framed certificate and a letter from the President. In addition we anticipate giving each winner a carving of a bird.

The Committee included Wayne Grubert, David Mulholland and Normand David. We wish to thank Gay McDougall for her valuable assistance in developing the bilingual nomination form and the certificates, and Richard Gregson for making the forms available through our website.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Harrison, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Members: Jean Bacon, Averill Craig (Chair), Diane Demers, Richard Gregson, Jean Harwood-Gregson, Zofia Laubitz, Gay McDougall-Gruner.

The Communications Committee produces the Society's communications arms: newsletter, website, electronic newsletter and group email which, together, keep members informed of the all the Society's activities, be they field trips, monthly meetings, courses, special events and, of course, what birds have been seen and where. After six years as newsletter editor, Gay McDougall-Gruner produced her last issue of *The Song Sparrow* in March 2008. The Society has been extremely lucky in having had such a skilled, dedicated and innovative editor, and the Communications Committee team will miss working with her very much.

The Song Sparrow Newsletter

Gay McDougall-Gruner (editor), Diane Demers (French editor)

The Song Sparrow reports to the membership on the three mainstays of BPQ: conservation, education and observation. To this end, five issues of the newsletter were published between August 2007 and March 2008. (An electronic version of the newsletter was also available.) Core articles included rare-bird listings, articles about our sanctuaries, citizen-science projects, educational programs, monthly lectures, field-trip listings, book reviews and travelogues. Many thanks to the 48 members who contributed articles and/or photographs to the newsletter.

BPQ web site and email

Richard Gregson (Website Manager)

The website has been entirely rebuilt with a new, more up-to-date design and a much improved navigation system. The whole site has a greater sense of visual consistency and is easier to maintain. The home page now includes a tabbed news and forthcoming events feature. Website visitors continue to arrive at between 50 and 100 a day with occasional spikes above that during seasonal high spots. Although most are from our own region, a significant number come from all over the world – often being potential visitors to Quebec seeking information about our birds and the best places to see them. New features will be added as the need arises – we always welcome input from members and visitors and will try to incorporate the best of your suggestions and requests.

The BPQ email address, which is linked to the website, is monitored daily. Messages vary from "how can I contact my old friend X who used to be a birder around here?" to "I am visiting Montreal next week, where can I see really rare birds?" and "here is a large collection of really fascinating documents about a cause that you should be interested in too". In most cases, messages are forwarded to the person or committee most able to respond. We also often get enquiries about bird identification, bird welfare and various features of our programmes of events and field trips.

Bird Calls

Richard Gregson (Coordinator)

Our brief monthly e-newsletter is now well into its second year of existence. At the very least it includes a reminder of field trips and lectures in the month ahead, but has also carried items relating to conferences, appeals for volunteers and as a means to solicit information from our members. It has the benefit of immediacy and is distributed to over 75% of the membership.

Group email (listserv)

Averill Craig (Moderator)

Membership in BPQ's *Songsparrow* group email grew to around 220 during the reporting period, partly as a result of the popularity of the 90th Anniversary "Big Year", with participants using information posted to the group email to help track down target species for their lists. Members reported that they also found the automated reminders about forthcoming field trips and other events to be very useful.

Respectfully submitted,
Averill Craig, Chair

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Members: Martin Bowman, Shawn Craik, Normand David, Diane Demers, Richard Gregson, Lance Laviolette, Barbara MacDuff, Betsy McFarlane, Rodger Titman

The Conservation Committee is currently without a Chairperson. Normand David has agreed to organise the Committee's meetings until one is appointed.

Only one meeting was held, on 15 November 2007. At that meeting, two members were asked to act as Chairperson but they indicated that they were regrettably unwilling to accept, emphasizing that the task was "too daunting".

The Conservation Committee members agreed that the purpose and long-term objectives of the Committee largely matched those of BPQ and that the terms of reference of the Committee were therefore too broad and must be revisited. The members agreed to meet again in March 2008 at which time this issue would be discussed.

With regard to the Conservation Committee's short-term objectives:

- 1) A number of BPQ volunteers were trained in bird atlassing procedures.
- 2) The two year survey of the breeding birds of the Philipsburg Sanctuary was successfully completed and data analysis is scheduled to be released in fall 2008.
- 3) The Committee promoted the idea of BPQ members contributing to bird sighting databases.
- 4) The Committee is continuing the process of assembling data from bluebird trails and continues to organize the monitoring of Montreal area trails.
- 5) The Committee participated in the monitoring of Bobolinks at several locations in the Montreal area and southern Quebec.

Respectfully submitted,
Normand David, Conservation Committee

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members: Alison Bentley, Sarah-Jane Hills, Barbara MacDuff, Gay McDougall, Lynn Miller, David Mulholland, Chris Murphy, Albert McArdle

A bird drawing contest for children was held and approximately 40 drawings were submitted. Some of the drawings were excellent and prizes of field guides, colouring books and feeders were awarded.

In April 2007, 40 Scouts visited Baie du Febvre to see migrating Snow geese. Bus transportation was paid by Bird Protection Quebec. Alison Bentley reported that she received many thanks from those who attended. Thank you to Jane Atkinson, Alison and Stewart Bentley, Sarah Jane Hills, Felix Hilton, Eve Marshall, and David Mulholland for their help.

The Morgan Arboretum thanked the Education Committee of Bird Protection Quebec in their newsletter for providing seed for the feeders there. The Arboretum placed plaques on the feeders with the BPQ logo.

In May 2007, bird surveys were made at two local golf courses. Thanks to Chris and Ross Murphy, Felix Hilton, Barbara MacDuff and 6 others who helped survey the Royal Montreal Golf Course.

Thanks to Lynn Miller, Chris Murphy, Barbara MacDuff, Greg Rand and six others who surveyed Whitlock Golf Course in Hudson. Highlights were 3 Eastern bluebirds, 1 Barred owl and a Red-shouldered hawk.

The bird walk to Île Bizard Nature Park in May with 35 grade four students from Lakeside Academy was a success. This was a follow up to bird projects that Mrs. Claire Borelli's students had worked on in the classroom. Highlights were the many frogs and Painted turtles sunning themselves as well as birds like the Tree swallow, Mallard, Belted kingfisher and Great-blue heron. Thank you to Felix Hilton, David Mulholland, Chris Murphy and Barbara MacDuff for helping out.

In June 2007, \$1000.00 was sent to Camp Tamaracouta in the Laurentians to pay for a camp animator in the Ecology Centre. The centre is in need of bird games and posters as well.

In February 2008, David Mulholland and Barbara MacDuff gave a presentation on feeder birds to residents of the Maxwell, a senior residence in Baie d'Urfé.

In the same month Lynn Miller gave a talk entitled "A Year of Birds in the Garden" to the Dorval Garden Club. Peter Mitchell gave a bird slide show to a seniors group in Beaconsfield.

The education committee purchased badges with BPQ's logo to distribute to children.

BPQ's website now has a link to a children's page. The page features a bird of the month as well as fun nature activities for children. The site also has links to Cornell University, Le Nichoir and the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO). Thanks to Gay McDougall and Richard Gregson for setting this up.

Thanks to Kyra Emo for organizing the Jim Houghton Warbler Walks at the summit every Tuesday morning from April until the end of May. Peter Mitchell deserves thanks as well for his Tuesday evening walks in April and May to various birding "hot spots" in Montreal. Both activities attract experienced and novice birders alike.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara MacDuff, Chair

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Members: Martin Bowman (Co-chair), Wayne Grubert (Co-chair)

For the March 2007 to February 2008 time period members of the PQSPB (BPQ) again had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of field trips to many birding locales in the immediate Montreal area as well as western Quebec and eastern Ontario.

As part of the society's 90th anniversary celebrations several of our regular outings were dedicated to the memories of past members who were closely associated with the sites visited.

A total of 39 full and half day formal weekend outings were organized for the spring, autumn and winter seasons. A cumulative total of approximately 500 birders took part giving an average of

13 participants per trip. Seventeen different leaders and co-leaders volunteered their time to guide these excursions to 28 different areas. In what is a rare occurrence for the society two additional trips were cancelled because of inclement weather.

For the fourth year in a row Sheldon Harvey organized a “Summer Series of Birding” on weekends from mid-June to late August. With Sheldon leading (with able assistance from “pinch hitter” Tom Long for one excursion) this year’s schedule again proved popular with 9 outings averaging 12 participants per trip.

The annual “Jim Houghton Memorial Spring Warbler Walks” at Summit Park in Westmount again took place on Tuesday mornings during the peak spring migration period from late April to late May. These early morning trips were well attended with coordinator Kyra Emo reporting an average of 20 participants for each of the six outings.

The Field Trip Committee, with special help from Gillian Horgan, was able to procure camping sites at Point Pelee National Park for the annual spring migration in early May. Eighteen members took advantage of these reservations and enjoyed four days of birding at this world famous area. They observed, as a group, a total of 175 species.

Accommodations were also organized by Alison Bentley for a May weekend trip to Presqu’île Provincial Park in Ontario. Eleven birders stayed at the park campground, local cottages or motels and spotted 113 species over two days.

On behalf of Bird Protection Quebec, the Field Trip Committee would like to thank all those who volunteered generously of their time to lead and co-lead our trips. Their efforts and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated by all involved.

Wayne Grubert
Martin Bowman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members: Harrison, J. Harwood Gregson (Chair), E. Marshall, H. Meredith, D. Mulholland, R. Titman

The financial highlight of the year has been the purchase of additional land for our George Montgomery sanctuary at Philipsburg. We received administrative and financial assistance for this project from Nature Conservancy of Canada, through their Quebec branch: *Conservation de la Nature – Québec*. As a result, we were awarded a substantial grant by le Ministre du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) towards the costs of purchase and management of the site.

Grants of this size are paid via a bank loan subject to terms laid down by MDDEP, which required a fair amount of time to set up. However, by mid-January the details had been finalized and arrangements were in place for MDDEP to make the monthly repayments. The whole procedure seemed quite complicated but we now have the knowledge to deal with any future grant awards.

After the AGM there were changes to the composition of the committee, following the resignation and appointment of vice-presidents. As I become established in the role of Treasurer a schedule for committee meetings is evolving around the setting of budgets and

other events in our financial year. I am very grateful for the support and knowledge of the committee in these matters.

Meetings with our auditors and investment managers have helped to establish good working relationships during the year. The bulk of our working capital is now in managed investments which performed well until the later part of the year when markets fell generally, although there was some recovery towards the end of the year.

As a result of this, and also the fact that we spent some of our capital on land purchase, we have had to look very carefully at our projected spending for the forthcoming year. We will continue to monitor our financial progress to avoid erosion of our capital which would lead to a reduction in our investment income, which finances most of our society's research and conservation activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Harwood Gregson, Chair

HAWK COMMITTEE

Members: Bob Barnhurst, Jeff Harrison, Barbara MacDuff, Mabel McIntosh (Chair)

The spring and fall 2007 counts were completed successfully. Due to consistently bad weather the spring count was poor with well-below average numbers for many species, particularly Broad-winged Hawks. The fall count was much better with excellent totals of Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks and a record one-day count of Turkey Vultures for the second year in a row. The spring 2008 watch is currently underway.

Data from all counts continues to be entered on-line through the Hawk Migration Association of North America 'HawkCount' website. We are pleased to report that, after a special effort made throughout the past winter, data entry is now completed for both the spring and fall counts from 1990 to date. This leaves only 10 years of historic data to enter, but which will require several hundreds of hours of effort yet to achieve. These data are being used by the Raptor Population Index initiative of the HMANA to help develop a continent wide view of hawk migration. Our data is also being entered into the EPOQ provincial data base. Reports on the seasonal counts are published yearly in *tchébec* and the HMANA Hawk Migration Studies publication.

We were recently approached by the Ministère des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune to provide data and analysis assistance for a study they are conducting into the impact of wind farms on hawk migration and mortality. The ultimate goal is to provide a map of "hot spots" for hawk migration in the province where wind farm development would not be allowed. The Ministère is to provide well-established hawk sites in the province, including our own, with modest funding to ensure their continuation well into the future. Details are currently being worked out.

Another environmental impact study of a proposed wind farm proposed for the region of St.-Valentin, south of St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, is being conducted by Enviro Science Inc. We were asked to supply data for the 2006 migration at Ste. Anne-de-Belleville for inclusion into the report.

Bob Barnhurst was very pleased to receive a grant for the sixth year from the Society as a part of our continuing efforts.

No formal Committee meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Barnhurst (for Mabel McIntosh)

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Members: Jean Demers, Alain Goulet, Sheldon Harvey (Chair), Barbara Szabo.

In the fifth year of its existence, the Marketing Committee continued to liaise with several Bird Protection Quebec committees to assist with the promotion and publicity of various projects and activities of the organization.

Due to heavy workloads throughout the year, particularly on the part of Barbara Szabo and Sheldon Harvey with The Big Year contest activities and Jean Demers with his work on the 2008 Nature Canada conference steering committee, several of the projects of the Committee were temporarily set aside. With the Big Year events and BPQ's 90th anniversary activities behind us, the Committee is beginning work in earnest on the creation of the new Bird Protection Quebec bilingual information brochure.

Throughout the year, the Committee publicized several Bird Protection Quebec events including the monthly meetings, the Christmas counts and the birding lecture series, as well as various citizen science projects such as Project Feeder Watch, the Great Backyard Bird Count and the Baillie Birdathon.

The Committee's continued efforts to raise the public profile and the media's awareness of Bird Protection Quebec proved successful this past year. In November 2007, Global TV featured BPQ on their live morning show with a series of live reports and interviews with several BPQ members from Parc des Rapides in LaSalle. There were several newspaper articles and radio interviews throughout the year featuring BPQ members discussing subjects such as the annual Christmas bird counts, the Great Backyard Bird Count, bird migration and a West Island bird invasion!

BPQ has been invited by the Montreal Gazette to be the key contributor to a series of thematic inserts on the subject of bird watching scheduled to appear in the newspaper in the spring of 2009.

The Committee set up a Bird Protection Quebec information booth for the Festival mondial de la terre on June 22 at Parc des Rapides in LaSalle and for Ecology Day on September 15 in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Special thanks to Irene Lepine and Jeff Harrison for their work as members of the Committee. They have decided to step down this year. The Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Alain Goulet as a new member this year. The committee continues to seek new members from the ranks of Bird Protection Quebec.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheldon Harvey, Chair

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Members:: Sheila Arthur, Sophie Cauchon, Averill Craig (Co-Chair), Jean Demers, Gail Desnoyers (Chair), Gay McDougall-Gruner, David Mulholland, André Pelletier, Clémence Soulard, Audrey Speck, Barbara Szabo, Sharon Veysey

The Membership Services Committee continued trying to make new members feel welcome and to offer activities not provided by other committees, sometimes in cooperation with other birding clubs in the Montreal area. As usual it organized the annual post-AGM party. At the party members were able to enjoy good food and drinks, team up to solve another of Zofia Laubitz's famous and elegantly fiendish bird quizzes, and win prizes, which included a delightful CD of "birdy" music compiled by Sheldon Harvey.

With the closing of the Fraser-Hickson Library, Membership Services undertook the search for an alternative venue for BPQ meetings. Fortunately a suitable new location, with good parking and easier access by public transportation, was found at the Knox Crescent Kensington and First Presbyterian Church, on Godfrey Avenue in NDG. Since September 2007 its handsome Knox Hall has been the venue for our monthly meetings, and the more intimate MacKay Hall has proved ideal for Board Meetings and the Winter Lecture Series.

Searching out the fall migrating birds of the Tadoussac area was the quest of 18 members of BPQ who spent a late September long weekend there. The birds were good (63 species), the company excellent, and the exuberant beauty of the fall colours, especially in the Charlevoix region, blew our minds. The naturalists of l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac (OOT) treated us to an unusual experience at the Hawk Watch station. We walked quietly in the dark, through the sandy, sparse woods at the top of the dunes, and were lucky enough to find five (!) Saw-Whet Owls in the mist nets. We watched as the Bander-in-Charge banded and measured the tiny creatures with the big eyes and released them into the night. It was a magical experience.

Membership Services took a lead role in organizing celebrations for the Society's 90th Anniversary. The extremely successful Big Year of Birding concluded at the end of 2007. Many thanks to Barbara Szabo, Richard Gregson and Sheldon Harvey who organized it, and to all members who took part. More details about this year-long competition are to be found in the President's report. On 3 November 2007, 115 members of Bird Protection Quebec gathered at the Beaconsfield Golf Course to celebrate 90 years of commitment to the protection of birds and bird habitat. The organizing spirit behind this memorable evening was Gay McDougall Gruner. The reception hour sped by as members traded stories and took a virtual tour down BPQ memory lane, jogged by the photo and historical displays. Masters of Ceremony Peter Mitchell and Bob Carswell regaled us during dinner with personal and BPQ-related anecdotes. After dinner, Chris Earley's presentation did not allow any postprandial napping; all eyes were riveted on the superb raptor photographs displayed on the screen, and his amazing ability to mimic their calls impressed and entertained us all.

Despite often challenging weather conditions for would-be participants, the 2008 Winter Bird Course held at two-weekly intervals was well attended by approximately 25 people each night in the Mackay Hall of the Knox Crescent and First Presbyterian Church. The theme was: "Bird Identification Through Location, Season, Song and Colour". Participants thoroughly enjoyed the excellent presentations by the following speakers: "The Basics of Bird Identification" by Wayne Grubert; "Where to Find Warblers in Montreal During the Breeding Season" by Lance Laviolette; "Birding by Ear – The Inside Story," by Betsy McFarlane; and "Those Puzzling Tyrant Flycatchers" by Michel Bertrand.

Sharon Veysey continued as our Membership Secretary, with Sylvia Wees looking after Life Members. Sharon sent renewal notices out at the end of August and several reminders after that. At the end of the fiscal year there were 426 annual and life memberships, three fewer than at the same time last year. We gained 33 new memberships, eight returning memberships, but 42 memberships were not renewed, usually for very understandable reasons. We also lost two life members. Sharon would also like to thank the following people for their help and support throughout the year: Sheila Arthur, Jean Bacon, Averill Craig, Jean Demers, Jacqueline Desbaillets, Gail Desnoyers, Richard Gregson, Irene Lepine, Tom Long, Gay McDougall-Gruner, Karen Sherman, Clémence Soulard, Sylvia Wees, Fran Wright.

Membership Services continued to offer various items for sale at monthly meetings and via the website. During the year, we were pleased to be able to reduce the price of the BPQ bilingual *List of the Birds of Montreal* to \$0.25. Fleece jackets embroidered with the BPQ logo in a choice of cobalt blue or artichoke green were new items this year that proved very popular. The bird-friendly, shade-grown, organic, fair-trade (and delicious) coffee that we offer continued to sell steadily to our members

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Desnoyers, Chair, Averill Craig, Co-Chair

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members: Jeff Harrison

The meeting hall at the Knox Presbyterian Church in NDG is proving to be an excellent venue for presentations. All our speakers used power point presentations which contributed to the overall high quality of the presentations and the high level of interest shown by our members. This year our attendance ranged between 50 and 80.

As in previous years speakers and topics were selected with a view to offering a variety of scientific, quasi-scientific, and popular topics. A hearty thanks to those who suggested topics and speakers for our meetings.

The following is a brief summary of this year's speakers, their topics, and attendance details:

March 5, 2007:

Jeff Harrison, ornithological historian, spoke about his research on early Quebec ornithology.
Attendance: 50. Official thanks : Eve Marshall

April 2, 2007

Andrew Coughlan, Bird Studies Canada, outlined his work with the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program.
Attendance: 60. Official thanks: Helen Meredith

October 1, 2007

Marie-Anne Hudson, PhD. Candidate at McGill, spoke about the results of her research on city birds and their habitats.
Attendance: 70. Official thanks: David Mulholland

November 5, 2007

Patrick Asch, of Heritage Laurentien, discussed his organization's ecological work in the LaPrairie Basin, and future plans for the creation of a green space around Montreal.

Attendance 60. Official thanks: Sheldon Harvey

December 5, 2007

Erin Maxwell, PhD. Candidate at McGill, was to give a talk on the skeletal development of birds. Unfortunately her talk was cancelled because of a major snowstorm. Since Erin has completed her PhD. studies it is unlikely we will be unable to re-schedule her talk.

January 7, 2008

Dr. David Bird, Director of the Avian Science and Conservation Research Centre, gave his annual presentation, this year on domestic cats and bird preservation.

Attendance 70. Official and extra special thanks: Averill Craig

February 4, 2008

Shawn Craik a PhD. Candidate at McGill, spoke about his research on the ecology of Red-breasted Mergansers, a follow-up to Dr. Rodger Titman's talk in November, 2006.

Attendance: 50. Official thanks: Sheila Arthur.

I wish to especially thank all our speakers for a job well done, and those who offered the Society's official thanks. A special mention also to *Song Sparrow* editor Gay McDougall, and to webmaster Richard Gregson for their continued strong behind-the-scenes assistance with the work of the committee-of-one.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Harrison

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Members: Marcel Gahbauer, Richard Gregson (Chair), Sarah Jane Hills, Doug Jackson, Peter Tarrassoff

Our principal period of activity is in late winter when we receive applications for grants and decide how best to distribute the funds that are available to us. Thus, we do most of our work right at the end of the reporting period. In spring 2008 we received a total of five grant applications, two from PhD students, two from the RQO and one from the Tadoussac Bird Observatory. Of these, we felt that at least one of the RQO applications was best suited to be considered by the Support Grants committee and redirected the paperwork to them. At the time or preparing this report we were still assessing the applications and awards will be made in early April.

The funding available to us to disburse amounted to \$6000 this year, as it has for some time. This places some restrictions on our ability to give meaningful support to some worthwhile projects. We have learned that perhaps a decade ago this committee was operating with budget of up to \$12000 and we will take time during the next operating year to look carefully at our guidelines and consider seeking to increase our available budget in order to better carry out our important mandate in furtherance of a key part of the mission of BPQ. We must also seek a way to make our existence better known in the research community as we are conscious of the fact that the number of applications we receive may be declining.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Gregson, Chair

SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE

Members: Richard Gregson and Marie-Anne Hudson (joint chairs), Jeff Harrison, Lance Laviolette, Barbara MacDuff

The committee, after a period of some years, was reformed at the beginning of 2007 and has taken on its mandate with considerable enthusiasm.

During the past year we concentrated on gathering together the various documents relating to our properties at Breckenridge, Alderbrooke Marsh, Piedmont, Île-aux-Perroquets and the Varennes Islands. We sought to get personal memories and information about our properties from long-standing members of BPQ, but this has not been an overwhelming success. Several of our sites have not been visited for a long time and it is our initial purpose to become better acquainted with the land under our stewardship.

In spring 2007 we paid two visits to the sanctuary at Piedmont which was originally the property of Alf Kelly. Discussions are ongoing in the committee concerning the future management of this small property and we hope to be able to report to the board sometime during 2008 with our recommendations.

In mid-summer some of us met with representatives of a local conservation group and visited the land we own in the Alderbrooke Marsh conservation area. This area is of immense conservation value and is rich with wildlife – quite a hidden gem in our portfolio. The more northerly plot we own in the area has undergone a change of status in recent months; we have donated a 50% share in the property to CNQ) who were then able to accept a conservation servitude on adjacent land that had been donated by a local family, thus extending the legal protection over the entire valley.

Île-aux-Perroquets was not visited, as it is simply too far away. We are currently improving contacts with the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) who have resources in the area and we hope to be able to report in more detail next year.

We had intended to visit the two islands we own in the Varennes group but circumstances prevented us from doing so. We will visit during spring/early summer of 2008 and look forward to rediscovering the secrets of these small, but important, pieces of land which serve as staging and breeding areas for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

During 2007 we prepared a short series of informative articles about our sanctuaries that were published, to general acclaim, in the *Song Sparrow* newsletter. We plan on continuing this series in 2008 in an effort to keep our sanctuaries at the forefront of BPQ.

Our sanctuary lands are the lifeblood of the work of BPQ – we welcome information and assistance in their management from any interested members.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Gregson, Marie-Anne Hudson (Joint Chairs)

SUPPORT GRANTS

Members: Rodger Titman (Acting Chair), David Mulholland (Interim Chair), Ethel Fogarty, Sarah Jane Hills, Christine Murphy

The committee receives applications to be evaluated for grants according to guidelines formulated in association with its terms of reference as revised in 2007. These terms of reference are still being considered for updating and revision. Deadlines for submission of applications are 31 March and 30 September.

During this budget year three grants were awarded as follows: \$3000 to Intervale Associates for their project entitled “Important Bird Areas and responsible hunting of Turrs”; \$3000 to Bird Studies Canada for the installation of a nocturnal owl monitoring network for Quebec; and \$1000 to Le Nichoir for employees to attend the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Symposium 2008 in New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,
Rodger Titman (Acting Chair)

TCHÉBEC COMMITTEE

Members: Jean Bacon (Editor), Averill Craig, Richard Gregson, Felix Hilton, Betsy McFarlane

The 2006-2007 edition of *tchébec* was published in December 2007 and mailed to the membership early in January 2008. The report contained the regular features on Rare Birds in Quebec in 2006 (by Pierre Bannon), the Hawkwatch reports for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 (by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh), the Research Reports from the recipients of Alfred Kelly Fund Grants, and the Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2007. In addition, articles were published on the Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts (by Jeff Harrison and Alison Bentley, respectively), BPQ Bird Sanctuaries (by Richard Gregson and Marie-Anne Hudson) and Birding in La Diable sector of Mont Tremblant National Park (by Jeff Harrison). Brief histories of their association with PQSPB/BPQ of the outgoing directors in May 2007 were also included. Once again, the beautiful photograph of a Least Flycatcher by Pierre Bannon was used on the cover, this time incorporated in an eye-catching design by Jean De Marre. Other photographs were supplied by Richard Gregson. All contributions, both written and visual, are most gratefully acknowledged.

Many thanks to all members of the committee who assisted with ideas, coordination with authors and photographers, editing and proofreading. I should like particularly to thank Richard Gregson who did all the layout work, as well as the other members of the committee who assisted with ideas, coordination with authors and photographers, editing and proofreading. Also, many thanks to Jean De Marre for the cover design.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Bacon, Editor