tchébec
2009-2010

Annual Report - Rapport Annuel
# BIRD PROTECTION QUEBEC DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

## 2009-2010

### DIRECTORS ELECTED BY THE BOARD TO SERVE AS OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jeff Harrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Vice-President</td>
<td>Marie-Anne Hudson</td>
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<td>Second Vice-President</td>
<td>Helen Meredith</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jean Harwood Gregson</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jean Bacon</td>
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### DIRECTORS ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010

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<td>Patrick Asch</td>
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### OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD

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<tr>
<td>Robert Carswell</td>
<td>Honorary Vice-President</td>
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<td>Felix Hilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mabel McIntosh</td>
<td>Honorary Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Mitchell</td>
<td>Honorary Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Veysey</td>
<td>Membership Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie-Anne Hudson</td>
<td>Song Sparrow Newsletter Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Gregson</td>
<td>Webmaster</td>
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BIRD PROTECTION QUEBEC DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

2010-2011

DIRECTORS ELECTED BY THE BOARD TO SERVE AS OFFICERS

Jeff Harrison  
Richard Gregson  
Marie-Hélène Gauthier  
Jean Harwood Gregson

President  
First Vice-President  
Second Vice-President  
Treasurer

DIRECTORS ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2010-2011

Nicholas Acheson  
Jean-Emmanuel Arsenault  
Patrick Asch  
Martin Bowman  
Jane Cormack  
Jean Demers  
Gail Desnoyers  
Barbara Frei  
Marie-Hélène Gauthier  
Alain Goulet  
Richard Gregson  
Wayne Grubert  
Jeff Harrison  
Sheldon Harvey  
Jean Harwood Gregson  
Lance Laviolette  
Barbara MacDuff  
Sarah Marteinson  
Gay McDougall-Gruner  
Ron Mudd  
David Mulholland  
Jim Murray  
Audrey Speck

OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD

Jean Bacon  
Robert Carswell  
Felix Hilton  
Mabel McIntosh  
Peter Mitchell  
Marie-Anne Hudson*  
Sharon Veysey  
Richard Gregson

Secretary  
Honorary Vice-President  
Honorary Vice-President  
Honorary Vice-President  
Honorary Vice-President  
Song Sparrow Newsletter Editor  
Membership Secretary  
Webmaster

* replaced by Jane Cormack in October 2010
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Since annual reports submitted by committee chairs ran to 17 pages of text, these reports are summarized here and copies of these complete reports are available for your perusal on the BPQ website. Were you to read all of them I am sure that you would be impressed with breadth and scope of our work over the last year. In keeping with previous Presidents’ Annual Reports I am presenting summaries of our work over the last year. This was doubly necessary due to extra meetings we had on revisions to the BPQ Bylaws which preceded the AGM. My report is presented under our three basic missions: conservation, education and observation. This is followed by a few comments on our club’s administrative functions. Each of these mission areas is managed by a variety of committees. Grouped under conservation I have included the work of eight committees: Conservation, Hawk Watch, the Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts, Research, Sanctuaries, Property Acquisition and Support Grants.

**Conservation Committee**

Some of the work carried out by the Conservation Committee, chaired by Shawn Craik, over the last year included: Cerulean Warbler monitoring at Philipsburg Sanctuary and Eastern Bluebird nest box cleaning, repair and monitoring at the Mount Royal Cemetery. We were once again involved in an Regroupement Québecoiseaux (RQO) led project to monitor species at risk and identify important breeding habitat for Blue and Golden-winged Warblers in the southwest. The committee established a database of sightings from some BPQ field trips on eBird and Richard Gregson began entering (into eBird) sightings data posted by field trip leaders on the Song Sparrow email list.

**Hawk Watch Committee**

The 2009 spring and fall hawk counts were conducted by Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh. Bob and Mabel have been carrying out this unparalleled effort for 30 years. While year-to-year results often vary, the startling increase in Bald and Golden Eagle records continue. Data from their counts continues to be entered on-line through the Hawk Migration Association of North America ‘HawkCount’ website. The complete set of spring and fall counts from 1980 to 2009 inclusive have now been entered.

For many years we have managed two Aubudon Christmas Bird Counts in Montreal and Hudson. These committees are reported separately in ticébec so I will not deal with them here except to say that they are both well managed with excellent participation.

**Research Committee**

During the past year, our five-member Research Committee chaired by Richard Gregson handed out grants to three deserving individuals and their projects. This year the recipients have been requested to submit a summary of their progress two of which are published in this report (see p19).

**Support Grants Committee**

The Support Grants Committee is chaired by Jean Demers. Our Research, Support Grants and Education Committees all dispense grant funds. During the year we have decided to conduct a review which will be carried out in 2010. The review is intended to ensure that our grants closely relate to our mission and that they are well coordinated to ensure our programs are efficient and effective.

**Sanctuaries Committee**

2009 was a fairly quiet year. We made no formal visits to our properties. We did install a number of signs depicting our logo and contact information at strategic points around the Ghost Hill Farm property at Breckenridge in western Quebec.

At our Alderbrooke Marsh property a court order was issued to our neighbour to restore his property after it was discovered that the earthworks from his fish pond were silting local streams. The Quebec government is taking rigorous action on this issue.

We are financially supporting the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) on the installation of webcams on Ile-aux-Perroquets to monitor breeding birds including Puffins. We hope to be able to access the feed from these, once available, and display it on our website. The breeding bird colonies on our island are seemingly in good condition.

**Property Acquisition Committee**

We did not acquire any properties during the year. With our limited resources we reaffirmed that we should concentrate future acquisitions around current sanctuaries wherever possible. We are monitoring NCC negotiations on properties in the Boucherville Island complex and at Piedmont, which are close to our current holdings in these locations.

**Education Committee**

My report about our education activities includes the work of the following three committees: Education, Monthly Meetings and Membership Services.

The Education Committee, chaired by Barbara MacDuff, is one our largest. This committee is heavily involved with various schools, community-sponsored organizations like the Scouts and Guides and with community-related work. Some of the activities included:

Preparation and presentation of interpretive materials on Île-Bizard to students of the École St. Rémi in Beaconsfield, and John Fisher School, followed up with field trips; preparation of a checklist and accompanying Girl Guides to Baie-du-Febvre in April; construction and installation of three Wood Duck boxes in Angell Woods; donation of funds to Camp Tamarracouta for an animator; purchase of seeds for the feeders at the Morgan Arboretum; and securing a grant from Nature Canada to purchase a telescope to assist youth bird walks.Alain Goulet of Nature Expert
was of great assistance with this purchase.

The committee arranged for David Bird to speak on Species Extinction at McGill in conjunction with the donation of the Passenger Pigeon from our NAC collection to the Redpath Museum.

**Monthly Meetings Committee**

Gail Desnoyers took over the management of the committee this year. She reported that finding speakers of interest to members was for her a challenging and enlightening experience. Gail organized seven lectures during the year on a wide variety of topics including: birds in Madagascar, birds in East Africa, photography, bird song, and bird intelligence. Gail's speakers continued the high standards of talks that we have been able to secure for many years. Under her chairmanship the speaker program is in excellent hands.

**Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee is admirably chaired by Averill Craig. This is one of our key committees responsible for BPQ's communications arms: newsletter, website, electronic newsletter, group email and telephone line which together keep members in touch with all BPQ’s activities, be they field trips, monthly meetings, courses, special events and, of course, what birds have been seen and where.

The Song Sparrow Newsletter: Marie-Anne Hudson has now been editor of The Song Sparrow for two full years and Diane for over five years.

The transition to electronic distribution of the newsletter has been virtually seamless thanks to the ongoing efforts of Richard Gregson, Averill Craig and Sharon Veysey. With only about 60 members or organizations receiving a printed copy, the number is much lower than initially projected. This represents significant savings to BPQ and to the environment. Many thanks to the 40 members who contributed articles and/or photographs to the newsletter. We truly hope you continue to submit articles and photos for upcoming issues, as we cannot continue without your participation!

BPQ web site and email: Richard Gregson (Website Manager). The website has continued to attract a regular stream of visitors. Visitors arrive at between 30 and 80 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.

Plans are well advanced to replace the website with a new version that makes use of the latest technology and will give us a really striking new style and incorporate the latest in 'social media' facilities including offering members somewhere to create their own on-line photograph galleries and engage in on-line discussions about birding topics with each other. The new website will be fully bilingual.

The BPQ email address, which is linked to the website, is monitored daily and communications are efficiently forwarded to individuals to reply although many are handled by Richard himself.

Bird Calls: Richard Gregson (Coordinator). Our occasional e-newsletter is now well established and provides a very useful means of rapidly conveying information to members. It can include a reminder of forthcoming field trips and lectures, items relating to upcoming conferences, appeals for volunteers and is 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 290 during the reporting period. Members continued to find reports of interesting birds and their locations to be a very useful service, as well as reminders about forthcoming field trips, the winter bird course and other events.

BPQ phone line: Sheldon Harvey. The number of phone calls to the BPQ phone line is fairly low, presumably because more people seeking information about the society are now comfortable with contact by email. Most callers were seeking information on what to do with an injured bird, and were referred to organizations best able to respond, such as Le Nichoir.
accomplishment during the year. This others great legal assis
adoption of our new By
Gregson with the presentation on the We have already heard from Richard
Bylaws Revision
Ad hoc Committee on
Baillie Birdathon, through various media
projects such as Project Feeder Watch,
series, as well as various citizen science
Christmas counts and the birding lecture
including the monthly meetings, the
committees were
required to fund our activities, so
committees were asked to keep their
expenditure to a minimum during the
year to avoid depleting our capital any
more than necessary. As a result, there
was not much financial activity during
the year, apart from essential
expenditure.

Executive Committee

The new Executive met in November,
and a combined Executive and Board
meeting was held on February 9, 2010
specifically to discuss concerns about
decreasing membership.

The November meeting discussed issues
arising from our last meeting in April
including:

- allocation of separate funds for
  property acquisition;
- one of the requirements of NCC
  Quebec in the acquisition of the latest
  property at Philipsburg was the
  creation of a Land Stewardship Fund
  and our Treasurer presented a paper
  on the costs for all our properties;
- the President presented a short paper,
  Guide to Committee Chairs, as a way
to standardize committee operations;
but it was decided that such formality
was unnecessary.

Marketing Committee

This committee is chaired by Sheldon Harvey. Much of the Marketing
Committee's work has focused on the design, layout and content of the new
BPQ publicity brochure. The text and presentation have been approved by the
Board and the new brochure will be out soon. A special thanks to Jean De Marre
for his exceptional work and artistic
talents in helping with the brochure.

The committee continues to publicize
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, through various media
outlets.

Ad hoc Committee on
Bylaws Revision

We have already heard from Richard
Gregson with the presentation on the
adoption of our new By-Laws. The
committee, chaired by Richard with the
great legal assistance of Marie-Hélène
Gauthier and the active assistance of
others, was perhaps our major
accomplishment during the year. This
was an excellent piece of work
conducted with rigour and enthusiasm.

Finance Committee

Jean Harwood Gregson, our Treasurer,
has already presented our financial
report. I will say that our books are in
excellent hands! It is very evident from
her presentation that Jean's dedication to
her work is second to none. I will
comment that our finances have been
recovering with the markets after fairly
straitened circumstances last year.

Although the markets recovered
somewhat during the year from the low
at the end of last year, the market value
of our managed investments barely
returned to their original cost by the year
end. This meant that we had to withdraw
more units to receive the amounts
required to fund our activities, so
committees were asked to keep their
expenditure to a minimum during the
year to avoid depleting our capital any
more than necessary. As a result, there
was not much financial activity during
the year, apart from essential
expenditure.

New business discussed included:

- the disposal plan for the BPQ
Library;
- concerns raised about the falling
attendance at monthly meetings and
field trips; possible solutions and
future actions were discussed.
- I raised the issue of what urban nature
initiatives we might get involved in
following a BPQ focus group session

The meeting to discuss declining
membership was well attended. There
was considerable discussion of the issues
and possible solutions. The group felt
that the issue had two components: loss
of existing members, and failure to
attract new members.

The group was not short of ideas. Most
people felt that declining membership
was a widespread trend amongst
volunteer organizations but felt we could
do more for our members. It was thought
that the production of our new brochure
and a marketing plan to distribute it
would greatly help attract new members.
I prepared a discussion paper which was
circulated. This matter will be the subject
of considerable discussion and action
over the next few years.

Finally we lost from our Board during the
year “Mr. Quebec Birding”, Normand
David, and Joel Bonin from NCC
Quebec. These are very important people
in the conservation movement in our
province. Also leaving the Board are
despite well known to all of you: Eve
Marshall, our Past President; Helen
Meredith, our Second Vice-President;
and longtime Board members Felix
Hilton (a past president), Averill Craig
and Jean Bacon. You really can't replace
people of this caliber but our
Nominations Committee has an excellent
slate of candidates.

Jeff Harrison
President
Conservation

Normand David, Richard Gregson and Betsy McFarlane resigned from the committee and Helen Meredith, Barbara Frei and Frédéric Hareau joined it.

The Committee continued its involvement in the following projects:

1) Cerulean Warbler monitoring. Diane Demers surveyed the Philipsburg Sanctuary twice during the breeding season for evidence of Cerulean Warblers. She confirmed three male Cerulean Warblers at two sites, and recorded vocalizations of each bird.

2) Eastern Bluebird nest box monitoring. Helen Meredith initiated a standardized monitoring program of the Eastern Bluebird nests erected at the Mount Royal Cemetery. In April, volunteers examined 63 nest boxes and identified the remains of three Eastern Bluebird nests, one Tree Swallow nest, and 14 House Wren nests. In October, 59 nest boxes were examined, five Eastern Bluebird nests, two Black-capped Chickadee nests, and 18 House Wren nests were identified.

3) Regroupement QuébecOiseaux (RQO) threatened birds project. BPQ was once again involved in an RQO-led project to monitor species at risk and identify important breeding habitat for these species in the Montérégie region. Surveys occurred between 25 May and 19 June 2009 in the Huntingdon and Godmanchester areas. Volunteers identified 19 Golden-winged Warblers, two Blue-winged Warblers, and five Brewster’s Warblers.

4) Field trip data entry. The committee established a database of sightings from some BPQ field trips on eBird.

5) Suivi de l’occupation des stations de nidification des populations d’oiseaux en péril au Québec (SOS-POP). The Conservation Committee took over as BPQ’s representative for Regroupement QuébecOiseaux’s SOS-POP program.

Frédéric Hareau volunteered to manage this project.

Property Acquisition

BPQ did not acquire any properties during the year although a number of potential sites are being monitored including the possible acquisition with NCC of the Audette property at Philipsburg, which proved unfeasible, as well as an island in the St. Lawrence River near the BPQ properties of Île-Verte and Île-aux-Canards.

Education

The committee carried out the following educational events:

École St. Rémi: Gay McDougall and David Mulholland prepared a PowerPoint presentation on birds that could be seen at Bois-de-l’Île-Bizard Nature Park. In April it was presented to the grade 3-4 students at École St. Rémi in Beaconsfield by Marie-Hélène Gauthier. The students also learned about conservation and the goals of Bird Protection Québec and visited the Ecomuseum.

Committee members accompanied Girl Guides to Baie-du-Febvre in April. The girls and their parents were thrilled with the spectacle of thousands of Snow Geese against the blue sky.

Albert McArdle built three Wood Duck boxes to be placed in Angell Woods.

Doris Miller, chair of Environmental Studies at John Abbott College, requested birders to accompany her students to the woods on L’Anse-à-L’Orme in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue to observe “edge birds”. This was in preparation for the year 2010 that has been declared the year of biodiversity by the UN Secretariat on Biodiversity. Three trips were held in the spring and three in the fall.

The Education Committee paid for a bus to transport students to Bois-de-l’Île-

Bizard Nature Park in June. It was a perfect morning for birding and many of the enthusiastic students were thrilled to see some of the birds that they had researched in the classroom.

Bird of the Month: Information on local species was available on BPQ’s website.

Royal Montreal Golf Course: A bird survey of the course was done in May. Thanks to Chris Murphy, Felix Hilton, Ross Murphy, Ann and Peter Tarassoff and Barbara MacDuff for their help.

BPQ Labels: Gay McDougall prepared some Bird Protection Quebec labels that have the BPQ web site address. They will be used for publicity.

Camp Tamaracouta: $1200.00 was donated to the camp for an animator for their Ecology Centre in the summer.

Morgan Arboretum: $210.00 was used to purchase food for the feeders at Morgan Arboretum. Thanks to Bill Webster for picking up the seed and for filling the feeders all winter long.

The stuffed Passenger Pigeon that had been stored at the Bird and Nature Centre was donated to McGill University by David Bird during Homecoming Week.

Thanks to a grant from Nature Canada a sturdy telescope was purchased to accompany children on their bird walks.

Warbler walks were held at the Summit every Tuesday morning during late April and May.

Membership Services

Gail Desnoyers, former Chair, resigned from the Committee. Averill Craig, who had been Co-Chair, took over as Chair and Audrey Speck became Co-Chair.

The 2010 Winter Bird Course organized by the Committee was attended by an average of 25 people a lecture. The following lectures were given:
“What a Hoot – Owling 101” with Kristen Keyes
“Raptor ID? No Need to Despair!” with Marcel Gahbauer
“Breeding Bird Atlas Techniques and their Application to Day-to-day Birding” with Lance Laviolette
“Gardening for Birds – or How to Lengthen your Life-list in Comfort” with Richard & Jean Gregson

At the end of the fiscal year there were 372 annual and life memberships, 33 fewer than at the same time last year. We gained 15 new memberships and five returning memberships; 53 memberships were not renewed.

Membership Services continued to offer various items for sale at monthly meetings and via the website, including bird-friendly, fair-trade, organic coffee. Coffee, tea and cookies are now offered before rather than after the meeting which has encouraged more socializing.

Field Trips
A total of 43 full and half day formal weekend outings, given by 17 different leaders and co-leaders, to 33 different areas were organized for the spring, autumn and winter seasons. A cumulative total of approximately 569 birders took part in trips, giving an average of 13 participants per trip. One weekday evening trip to Hudson was also held with six participants. Nine outings in the “Summer Series of Birding” were held, averaging 10 birders per trip. The annual “Jim Houghton Memorial Spring Warbler Walks” at Summit Park in Westmount took place on Tuesday mornings during the peak spring migration period from late April to late May with an average of 17 participants per outing.

Ten birders went to Point Pelee National Park for the annual spring migration in May, spotting 168 species. In May, two weekend trips were organized, one to Presqu’ile Provincial Park in Ontario where ten birders spotted approximately 120 species and another to Île Verte where ten birders spotted 100 species.

Marketing
Jane Cormack and Christine Burt joined the Marketing Committee this year. The design, layout and content of the new BPQ publicity brochure were of major focus this year. The text and presentation have been approved by the Board. Discussions have been held to determine the most effective method of distribution of the brochures throughout the community, with the ultimate goal of raising the public awareness of BPQ and its activities and attracting new members.

Communications
The Communications Committee continued to support the newsletter, website, electronic newsletter, group email and telephone line, keeping members in touch with all the Society’s activities, be they field trips, monthly meetings, courses, special events and, of course, what birds have been seen and where.

Finance
In April 2009 a joint meeting of the Executive and Finance Committees was held to discuss the allocation of funds and the formation of financial policies. Unfortunately it was not possible to follow up on this work until later in the autumn, so the Finance Committee met in December to consider various aspects of policy and strategy. Part of BPQ’s strategy for capital will be driven by the new CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) requirements for calculating the Disbursement Quota. As a registered charity, BPQ has always been required to spend 80% of donated income on its charitable activities, but from 2009, the society is also required to use 3.5% of its invested capital for charitable purposes.

Information received from both BPQ auditors and CRA makes it plain that regulations governing charities are increasing and also that more attention is being paid to compliance. This means that we have to increase the amount of effort and effectiveness of BPQ’s record keeping. This applies particularly to finance but also affects other records of the society.

Monthly Meetings

October 5, 2009: Shawn Craik spoke on "How Well Do You Know the Ducks of Eastern Canada?"
November 2, 2009: Denis Hamel spoke on "The Songs of Birds as a Source of Inspiration for the Great Composers."
December 7, 2009: Marie-Anne Hudson and Barbara Frei spoke on "From a Ramshackle Shed to Partnering with a National Organization: McGill Bird Observatory Turns Five Years Old."
January 11, 2010: Dr. Rodger Titman and Dr. David Bird spoke on "The Birds of East Africa."
February 1, 2010: Dr. Louis Lefebvre spoke on "Feeding Behaviour - A Window on Avian Intelligence."
Awards

The following people were given awards at the Annual General Meeting of BPQ held on May 31, 2010:

**Member of the Year:** Diane Demers

**Service Award:** Sophie Cauchon & André Pelletier

**Member Education Award:** Peter Mitchell

**Member Conservation Award:** Dr. Rodger Titman

**Quebec Education Award:** Eve Belisle

**Quebec Conservation Award:** Jean Gauthier & Yves Aubry

Support Grants

The committee awarded the following grants:

- $1,500 to Bird Studies Canada for the expansion of Bird Studies Canada’s Québec nocturnal owl survey;
- $1,000 to the McGill Bird Observatory for the continuation of their work at the banding station;
- $1,000 to Le Nichoir to send volunteers and student-staff to a class at the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association held in March in Chicago.

Research Grants

During the past year, the BPQ Research Committee considered a smaller than usual number of applications and made awards to the following projects:

- Nicola Fleming (McGill) for an undergraduate project concerning the breeding status of certain species in the Stoneycroft pond site adjacent to the Arboretum.
- François Rousseau (Sherbrooke) for a postgraduate project employing the use of transponders to monitor the activities and interactions of a population of hummingbirds.
- Pascal Coté (Tadoussac banding station) for a project investigating reasons why Common Nighthawks are in serious decline.

Grants and Awards
Long Term Service Awards

Sylvia Wees

Betsy McFarlane

Bob Barnhurst

Pierre Bannon

Mabel McIntosh
## Committee Members

### Archives
- Helen Meredith (Chair)
- Sara-Jane Hills
- Christine Murphy
- Sheila Arthur

### Awards
- Jeff Harrison (Chair)
- Wayne Grubert
- David Mulholland

### Bylaws Revision
- Marie-Hélène Gauthier
- Martin Bowman
- Jean Bacon
- Jean Harwood Gregson
- Jeff Harrison
- Richard Gregson

### Conservation
- Martin Bowman
- Shawn Craik
- Normand David
- Diane Demers
- Barbara Frei
- Richard Gregson
- Frédéric Hareau
- Lance Laviolette
- Barbara MacDuff
- Helen Meredith
- Betsy McFarlane
- Rodger Titman

### Communications
- Jean Bacon
- Averill Craig
- Diane Demers
- Richard Gregson
- Jean Harwood-Gregson
- Marie-Anne Hudson
- Zofia Laubitz

### Education
- Christine Burt
- Marie-Hélène Gauthier
- Sarah-Jane Hills
- Barbara MacDuff
- Gay McDougall
- Lynn Miller
- David Mulholland
- Christine Murphy
- Albert McArdle

### Executive
- Marie-Anne Hudson
- Helen Meredith
- Jean Bacon
- Eve Marshall
- Jean Harwood Gregson
- Jeff Harrison

### Field Trip
- Martin Bowman
- Wayne Grubert
- Sheldon Harvey
- Alison Bentley
- Darlene Harvey
- Felix Hilton
- David Mulholland

### Finance
- Jean Harwood Gregson (Chair)
- Jeff Harrison
- Helen Meredith
- Phyllis Holtz
- Marie-Anne Hudson
- David Mulholland
- Ron Mudd

### Marketing
- Patrick Asch
- Christine Burt
- Jane Cormack
- Jean Demers
- Alain Goulet
- Sheldon Harvey

### Membership Services
- Sophie Cauchon
- Averill Craig (Chair)
- Jean Demers
- Gay McDougall-Gruner
- David Mulholland
- André Pelletier
- Clémence Soulard
- Audrey Speck (Co-Chair)
- Sharon Veysey

### Montreal Christmas Count
- Jean Demers
- Clémence Soulard
- Virginia Elliott
- Jeff Harrison

### Property Acquisition
- Jeff Harrison (Chair)
- Joel Bonin
- Marie-Hélène Gauthier
- Richard Gregson
- Lance Laviolette
- Eve Marshall

### Research
- Barbara Frei
- Marcel Gabbauer
- Richard Gregson
- Doug Jackson
- Peter Tarassoff
- Rodger Titman

### Sanctuaries
- Lance Laviolette
- Jeff Harrison
- Richard Gregson
- Marie-Anne Hudson
- Barbara MacDuff
- Ron Mudd

### Support Grants
- Jean Demers
- Alain Goulet
- David Mulholland
- Helen Meredith
- Rodger Titman

### TCHÉBEC
- Jean Bacon (Editor 2009)
- Averill Craig
- Jean De Marre
- Richard Gregson
- Sarah Marteinson (Editor 2010)
- Betsy McFarlane

### Monthly Meetings
- Gail Desnoyers
Outgoing Directors

Jean Bacon

Jean joined PQSPB, as it was then, in 1995. She was elected as a director in 2000 and, in 2005, was appointed secretary to the Board. Over the years, she has served on the Communications, Executive, Membership Services, Nominating and tchébec Committees. She was co-editor of tchébec with Felix Hilton from 1999 to 2004 and when she took over the editorship in 2004. She was editor until early 2010, ably assisted by the members of the tchébec Committee. She is one of the proof readers of the Song Sparrow newsletter. She was also a member of the Ad hoc committee on the revision of the BPQ bylaws in 2010. She is continuing in her role of secretary, as appointed by the Board after the AGM in 2010.

Averill Craig

Averill was first elected to the Board in 2000. She has served on the Membership Services, Communications, and Library Committees (all of which she has chaired) and is also a member of the tchébec Committee. She is responsible for the Membership Services table which sells items at monthly meetings, helps proofread the newsletter and is moderator of the Songsparrow email group. For several years she was BPQ’s representative for SOS-POP (Suivi de l'occupation des stations de nidification des populations d’oiseaux en péril du Québec). Averill helped catalogue the 750 books in the BPQ Library. After the Board decided that the library’s books should be disposed of, she researched their current value, and with Jeff Harrison arranged for their sale. She continues as co-chair of the Membership Services Committee together with Audrey Speck.
Montreal Christmas Bird Count

The final tally from the 74th Montreal Christmas Bird Count held on Saturday December 19, 2009 was 68 species. Two additional species were recorded during count week bringing the total to 70. A total of 17,118 birds were recorded this year. This was slightly greater than the previous five year average of 16,173. The highest number of birds recorded on a count in recent years was 18,384 in 2005. No new birds were recorded on count day this year. However, a Wild Turkey was seen which was a new bird for the overall count period. This year we had a record number of field participants (70) in 16 teams. Up-to-date historical results, including 2009 data, can be found on our website. Due to careful monitoring of participant fees, overseen by Virginia Elliott, we managed to reduce the deficiency to $70.00. It seems unlikely that this can be reduced much lower.

Jean Demers continued as the Assistant Compiler in charge of developing the feeder watcher program. In total 10 feeder watchers participated this year scattered widely around the count area finding three birds that were not recorded by field teams. As the years pass we hope to attract more feeder watchers to assist in providing a more accurate record of the variety of birds and their total populations within the count area. The after-count compilation was held at the Montreal West Curling Club. The relaxed and cozy atmosphere turned out to be ideal venue for an event such as ours. The new compilation format, which consisted of inputting sector counts for each bird, displayed on a large screen, was well received. About 45 people attended which is more than recent years.

Jeff Harrison
Compiler

Hudson Christmas Bird Count

On Sunday January 3, 41 brave birders headed out into the biting winds and blowing snow to count birds for the Hudson Christmas Bird Count. The count covers an area based on a 24 km diameter circle centered on St-Lazare. Sixteen field parties and 10 feeder watchers found a total of 5357 individual birds representing 46 species. Another two species were observed during the count week. There was one possible rarity on the count, a Brewer’s Blackbird, normally a more western species. A detailed record of its sighting has been sent to the regional bird count editors for analysis and eventual acceptance or rejection.

Birds were generally low on the ground, possibly due to the fact that the period of prolonged fine weather in November did not encourage southward migration of northern species and then the sudden cold snap prompted the departure of many birds that were here. Furthermore the driving snow and cold winds on the count day itself severely limited visibility. Very few hawks were spotted, there were no shrikes, and watchers on the river were unable to find many ducks or gulls. Most feeder watchers reported less than usual numbers of birds and some were dismayed not to have even a single visitor to their feeders! The post-count get together was hosted by Gillian Kinsman.

Alison Bentley
Compiler
Hawk Watch

By: Bob Barnhurst and Mabel McIntosh

Spring 2009 Eagle Crossing Hawkwatch Report

While our 2009 watch was not as good overall as the 2008 watch, both eagles and Turkey Vultures did turn in excellent flights this season. Slow and steady best described the migration.

As usual, bitter cold winter weather prevailed in late February and early March. On March 7, the first warm front of the season made its way through the Montreal area. Temperatures rose to above the freezing point, winds turned from the north to the SW and W and the sun shone for the first time in days. In contrast to the previous two springs, lots of earth began to show early as the snow melted back on the fields, and the Canada Geese began to arrive in ever-increasing numbers. As a result, we began the hawkwatch on March 6, several days earlier than usual. From that date on, Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks and Northern Harriers began to drift from New York State into southern Quebec and a single Bald Eagle joined them on March 8. Although a cold front passed through on March 12, with the gradual development of a large Omega-block high-pressure system over central and eastern Canada and the return of warmer temperatures, the migration began to pick up steam. The winds moderated and the snow disappeared rapidly from the landscape, in complete contrast to 2008, when snow lay on the fields all month. Turkey Vultures, Golden Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks and more Bald Eagles began to join the Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. From March 14 on, we recorded hawks and eagles everyday until Mar. 28, this despite several days with north winds. After two days of rain the flight picked again on Mar. 31. The month of March brought 268 hawks in total, 62 of which were eagles. Contrast this with only 80 hawks and 13 eagles seen in March 2008. The 65 Rough-legged Hawks counted in the month was above average and 60 more than were seen in March 2008, although well below the record of 132 counted in March 1991.

In April, only two days of coverage were lost due to rain and, as it was in March, hawks were seen everyday except one. The flight was steady the whole month with the highlight being 1003 hawks recorded on April 27, 810 of which were Broad-winged Hawks. Despite the fact that Red-tailed Hawks were seen everyday, the monthly total of 520 was disappointing. In contrast, the Turkey Vulture flight in April exceeded 300 for the first time, but, unlike the fall count, there were no big days, the highest tally being 31 on April 30. Remarkably, at least for a north-eastern site, eagles were spotted on all but eight days in the month, their monthly totals being: 38 Balds and 36 Goldens. This year, the highest daily total for Golden Eagles was eight on March 20; for Bald Eagles it was eight on April 1 and for both species combined it was 13 on April 30. Ospreys achieved a respectable total of 85 for the month, with the highest one-day count consisting of the 36 seen on April 27. The excellent flight of Turkey Vultures continued into May. The monthly Osprey total, at 49, was below average. All other hawks were seen in well below average numbers.

Due to the disappointing Red-tailed Hawk flight and only modest Broad-winged flight, the seasonal total for all species reached just 2744, only 300+ above average, and over 1300 less than in 2008. Nevertheless, the Turkey Vulture flight of 443 was a new record by 55 birds over the previous record high of 388, set in 2008. The outstanding eagle flight of 142 birds was just one short of the record 143 seen in 2005. The most disappointing statistic, however, was the 17 Red-shouldered Hawks recorded in 2009, by far the lowest number in recent years. A very early migrant here, many individuals of the species were undoubtedly missed by us during early March when moderate west to north-west winds probably blew them south of the site.

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Spring 2009</th>
<th>Average 1980 to date</th>
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<td>Osprey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
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<td>Broad-winged Hawk</td>
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<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
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<td>Unidentified Raptors</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours of observation</strong></td>
<td><strong>412</strong></td>
<td><strong>319</strong></td>
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</table>
Fall 2009 Montreal West Island Hawkwatch Report

Overall, the count this season was below average. Once again, the lack of strong cold fronts negatively affected the numbers, especially of Broad-winged Hawks. One of the few highlights was the sighting of a Black Vulture, only the second in our history. The count ran from August 31 to December 13, with 89 of 105 days covered, the balance of which were lost due to bad weather. The total hours of coverage were 488, the fourth highest in our 30-year history.

As might be expected Turkey Vultures numbers continue to rise. This year, 350 were observed, a new record for our site. As was the case last year, no 100+ days were tallied, in contrast to the 2006 and 2007 seasons. The two highest one-day counts this season were 52 on October 5 and 64 on October 15. Whereas these numbers are very low in comparison to Great Lake sites, it does well to remember that, in the 80s and early 90s, TV seasonal totals ranged from just a single bird in 1988 to a mere 28 in 1990. Osprey numbers are never as high as are tallied at our spring site, so the 37 migrants seen were not a surprise; however, again it was below average. Bald Eagles continue their steady increase in numbers, with many individuals now wintering in the area. This species is beginning to nest in the Montreal area. This year saw a breeding pair occupying a nest on an island in the St. Lawrence River, within sight of the city centre. Similarly, Golden Eagle numbers continue to show a steady increase at our hawkwatch site. The 26 counted this year is a new record. Nevertheless, this is still far below the numbers seen during the spring flight. If anything, Golden Eagles were even rarer than Bald Eagles back in the 70s, 80s and 90s. Their comeback has been nothing but spectacular, rivalling that of the Peregrine Falcon.

Northern Harrier numbers were the biggest surprise, with only 20 recorded for the season, the lowest number since 1984. We are at a loss to explain this, except to say that our long-term data show a strong 5-to-6 year cycle in numbers, with the highest years followed almost immediately by the lowest years. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers are also showing a similar cycle, except that the drop in numbers from high-to-low is less dramatic. Cooper’s Hawks, despite being an uncommon breeder in the area, remains one of our rarest migrants, both in spring and fall. This is because we are at the northern limit of their range. Many Cooper’s Hawks now winter here, frequenting the many feeders. Northern Goshawk count numbers have also been very low, but especially so in the last two decades. Red-shouldered Hawk numbers have dropped steadily in the last few years, with the 119 seen this season barely above the 30-year average. This species appears to show a 9 to 10 year population cycle in our region. The Broad-winged Hawk flight this year spanned two weeks, finishing at a very low 830 birds. The Broad-winged Hawk flight has gone from a treasured highlight to a cause for concern. The Red-tailed Hawk flight continues to coast along at about average. There does appear to be a strongly cyclic nature to this species’ numbers also, but gone are the 2000 plus seasons seen during the early 1990s. The Rough-legged Hawk has also become a species recording much lower migration numbers in the past decade, peaking in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In contrast, numbers are much higher during our spring flight, leading us to conclude that many Rough-legged Hawks delay migration through our area until the winter months when the hawksite is closed. The possible connection with increasingly mild winters is a hard one to ignore.

As everywhere these days, the numbers of American Kestrel remain our deepest concern (please see last year’s report), although the 81 seen this fall was a marked improvement over the last 5 years. Long gone are the days of 200 plus per season. The numbers counted are over an order of magnitude lower than those typically tallied at sites along the birds’ preferred coastal migration path, but the numbers still show the same trend — down. Thankfully, breeding and wintering numbers of both Merlins and Peregrine Falcons in southern Quebec have increased greatly from the dark days of the 70s, although the migration numbers have remained flat or even declined over the last five years. This is clearly a case of the constant presence of local birds making truly migrating birds hard to distinguish.
The McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) is a bird-banding station located on the West Island of Montreal. MBO focuses on migration monitoring, volunteer training and research. After six years of operation MBO has proven itself to be a stable and effective year-round organization for avian research.

**Seasonal Highlights**

MBO completed the first season of its five-year commitment to the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program in the summer of 2009. In addition to operating mist nets on seven occasions, breeding bird evidence was gathered on all species heard or seen during each banding day. Although the numbers are low (105 individuals of 25 species banded), MAPS data can be crunched to provide us with indices of adult population size and post-fledging productivity as well as estimates of adult survival rate and population size.

The Fall Migration Monitoring Program (FMMP) follows very closely on the heels of the MAPS program, actually overlapping it by four days. Between August 1 and October 30, 3390 birds of 75 species were banded. This is one-third fewer individuals than during FMMP 2009; the difference is almost entirely attributable to the lower number of Yellow-rumped Warblers (106, compared to 1732 in 2008). White-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco and Song Sparrow dominated the top three species banded. Black-capped Chickadee numbers rose dramatically compared to 2008, supporting the trend of their two-year cyclical pattern. Conversely, Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers fell, consistent with them appearing to be on a two-year cycle opposite to that of Black-capped Chickadee. The largest surprise for the season was Hermit Thrush, making its first appearance in MBO’s top ten, with 86 individuals banded, compared to 33 in 2008. We added Townsend’s Solitaire to the species-observed list, bringing the site total to 199 species.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl Migration Monitoring Program was very successful this year. This is largely the result of relocating the nets to a fir/spruce grove, and a greater effort to run the program (28 nights compared to between 8 and 11 in previous years). In all, 75 Northern Saw-whet Owls and two Eastern Screech-Owls were banded; an additional two Northern Saw-whet Owls were foreign recaptures (banded in 2008 in northern Michigan and coastal Virginia).

MBO’s winter season began on October 31 and ran to 27 March. This winter was relatively mild, with far below average snowfall. We were able to conduct observations on 42% of days this winter and band on 16 occasions, a substantial improvement over the past couple of years. Overall we observed 58 species and banded 317 birds of 17 species.

This spring we observed Great Egret, increasing the cumulative species-observed list to 200 species. 137 species were observed on site this spring and 628 individuals of 58 species were banded. This is approximately 23% fewer birds than in 2008. We will need to look at the numbers more closely, but our initial speculation is that these totals reflect the unusually early movement of some species through the area prior to the start of our season combined with the unseasonably hot temperatures in late May that likely inspired later migrants to continue north more rapidly than in other years.

Detailed banding logs can be found at [http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/log.html](http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/log.html). An extra project for MBO this year is the compilation of a report summarizing the first five full years of operation, 2005 to 2009. Although five years is a relatively short period for population monitoring, we have already started to notice some interesting patterns during both spring and fall migration. This report will summarize all results to date, and provide an opportunity to identify specific research questions to follow up on over the next five year period.

**Education, training and research**

While the primary focus at MBO is avian research, education is also very important. Last fall we provided training to 66 undergraduate students (McGill Ornithology and Natural History of Vertebrates classes), our return team of volunteers plus 20 new spring-season volunteers. MBO partnered with Vanier College to invite Peter Pyle to lead a four-day workshop with field practice and a mixture of lectures, discussions, specimen examinations, and quizzes afterwards. We also presented slide shows to several local birding and conservation groups (Bird Protection Quebec, Club d'Ornithologie de la Région Des Moulins, Club d'ornithologie d'Ahuntsic and the Ecomuseum Adventure Camp).

<table>
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<th>June 5 2006</th>
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<th>June 5 2009</th>
<th>June 5 2010</th>
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<tr>
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<td>105</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Number of species observed at MBO</td>
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<td>198</td>
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<td>55.5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, please visit our website at

Acknowledgments

MBO gratefully acknowledges the continued financial support of Bird Protection Quebec, Environment Canada, Canada Steamship Lines, the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, Bird Studies Canada and the many individuals who have generously donated their time and funds.
François Rousseau (Université de Sherbrooke)

Les travaux réalisés sur notre site d’étude en 2009 ont permis d’ajouter une année de données à notre base de données, ce qui porte à 4 le nombre d’années où les colibris sont marqués et suivis individuellement sur la grille. Un total de 77 individus marqués à l’aide de transpondeurs (PIT tag) ont été suivis entre la période du 20 mai au 4 septembre 2009. Plus de 77 000 visites ont été enregistrées par nos détecteurs. Malgré ces nombres élevés, la saison 2009 fut moins bonne que les années précédentes en terme de nombre d’individus suivis ou d’utilisation des abreuvoirs en général. Les causes de cette diminution ne sont pas connues, mais il est possible de penser que les conditions météos difficiles. Plusieurs observations qualitatives intéressantes peuvent être faites à propos de l’utilisation des abreuvoirs par les colibris. 1) Il y a une très grande variabilité entre les individus et dans la fréquentation des différents abreuvoirs. En général, on retrouve une plus grande fréquentation des abreuvoirs en milieu ouvert (friche et champs) comparativement aux milieux fermés (forêts jeunes et matures); 4) On note toutefois une certaine ségrégation des sexes selon l’habitat: les femelles sont beaucoup plus souvent retrouvées en forêt que les mâles; 5) Quant aux jeunes, les premiers sont capturés vers le début août et ils sont presque exclusivement retrouvés en milieu ouvert. Malgré le fait qu’il y ait une certaine monopolisation des abreuvoirs par les individus, particulièrement entre les mâles, on note toutefois un chevauchement important entre les individus dans l’utilisation des abreuvoirs. Les colibris n’ont donc généralement pas un accès entièrement exclusif à un abreuvoir donné et plusieurs individus peuvent être vus à un même abreuvoir.

Nicola Fleming (McGill University)

For the last five years, the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) has carried out spring and fall migration monitoring programs at the Stoneycroft Wildlife Area. While some nest-site monitoring was done at the site as part of a Ph.D. project from 2003–2005, no formal monitoring had been carried out since. In this project, nest monitoring was conducted at the McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) during two months of the summer in 2009. The three objectives of the project were: (1) to determine what species are breeding at MBO; (2) to determine the nest success of the dominant breeding species; and (3) to create baseline data for future determination of site fidelity in banded nestlings. Eight species were confirmed as breeding on site: Red-winged Blackbird, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing and Gray Catbird. Red-winged Blackbirds and Tree Swallows were determined to be two of the dominant breeding species at the site, where 34 and 22 nests were monitored respectively. For Red-winged Blackbirds, 32.35% of nests successfully produced fledglings and 31 nestlings were banded; most nest failure was due to egg predation. For Tree Swallows, 71.43% of nests were successful and 22 nestlings were banded; of the two nests that failed, one was due to egg predation, and the other was due to abandonment after an ant infestation. These nest success rates demonstrate that these two species are breeding well at the MBO site. It is hoped that banded nestlings will return to the site the following breeding season, providing evidence for nest-site fidelity and further supporting the area’s importance as a breeding site for passerines.
I began my Ph.D. at McGill University in January 2003, with the goal of examining the ability of birds to breed on suburban golf courses and other green spaces in the Montreal Area. I also examined which species were breeding in these two types of habitat and which habitat characteristics contributed to species diversity. I discovered that sites with vegetated ponds, a greater percentage of forested area, or those that bordered undeveloped land had richer communities than those that had been stripped of vegetation. Hardly shocking, but up until now no one had quantified how much these landscape characteristics might influence bird richness on such sites. The size of a site also played a large role, with larger sites supporting more species. In terms of the ability of some of the more common species to breed, I found that nest survival was influenced by where the nest was built (e.g. tree, shrub, grasses) and how much vegetation surrounded it. Because some of my sites were golf courses with previous use of pesticides, I thought I had also better look at potential contamination in the birds. I collected all unhatched eggs and tested them for historical and currently used pesticides. While we did find some contamination, the levels were not sufficient to interfere with the ability of these birds to successfully reproduce. Overall, suburban green spaces, including golf courses, can play a role in maintaining healthy bird populations, if managers follow several specific recommendations.

Once I had defended my thesis, I applied for a job as National Coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey at the Canadian Wildlife Service. I got the job and, instead of gleefully relaxing in the months after submitting my thesis and rejoicing in the fact that my seven-year project was finally completed, I had to adjust to a 9-to-5 lifestyle that most biologists try to dodge like a bullet. I have gotten used to it and just recently found out that my contract position is now permanent and my responsibilities have grown significantly. I apply the knowledge that I accrued during my time as a Ph.D. student at McGill, my tenure at the McGill Bird Observatory and during my time on the Board of BPQ every day. The fact is that I may have learned more outside the walls of McGill than inside, but that is no reflection on McGill. Rather, I like to think of it as a reflection on the friends and colleagues who helped guide me through my graduate student career, and to whom I am forever indebted.

Marie-Anne Hudson
National Coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey
Environment Canada
I still recall quite vividly the first time that I identified a Red-breasted Merganser. I observed a male swimming in a shallow bay in the Grand Manan Archipelago of New Brunswick in the spring of 1999. And although I had no more than just general interest in nature at that time, there was something special about seeing this merganser (crazy, eh?). But in no way did I envision spending the better part of a decade (2002-2009) studying this funny-looking sea duck as part of my graduate studies at McGill University. Over five field seasons, my assistants and I collected data on habitat use by breeding and moulting Red-breasted Mergansers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence through nest searching, radio telemetry, SCUBA diving, and by spending way too much time in a cramped duck blind! My project, which was supervised by Rodger Titman of McGill and Jean-Pierre Savard of Environment Canada, provided the first information on habitat selection by Red-breasted Mergansers in North America, and is serving as a stepping-stone for current research on this species.

During my tenure as a Ph.D. student at McGill University, I became passionate about teaching at the undergraduate level. As such, I was committed to finding a faculty position at a small Canadian teaching university upon completion of my thesis. In February 2010, I was offered a tenure-track professorship at Université Sainte-Anne, a small French-speaking school in Church Point, Nova Scotia (500 full-time students), and I began my appointment in July. I am responsible for giving undergraduate courses in biology, ecology and zoology, and with the help of my students, I will continue my involvement with sea duck research. I consider myself extremely fortunate to be in a position where I work with young scientists and continue studying those special mergansers!

Shawn Craik
Assistant Professor, Département des Sciences
Université Sainte-Anne

We invite submissions for Special Announcements from all members for next year’s publication.
Photography Credits

Cover: Pierre Bannon
Bluebird (p3): Pierre Bannon
Northern Flicker (p9): Pierre Bannon
Award photos (p10): Raymonde Bergeron
Jean Bacon (p12): Jean De Marre
Averill Craig (p12): Thea Pawlikowska
CBC photos (p13): Pierre Bannon
MBO owl (p18): Simon Duval
Red-winged Blackbird (p18): Nicola Fleming
Nicola Fleming (p19): Gay McDougall
Marie-Anne Hudson (p19): Barbara Frei
Shawn Craik (p20): Phil Laurin
Mallard (this page): Pierre Bannon
The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc.  
Financial Statements  
For the year ended February 28, 2010
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Auditors' Report

To the Members of
The Province of Quebec Society
for the Protection of Birds, Inc.

We have audited the statement of financial position of The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc. as at February 28, 2010 and the statements of revenue and expenditures - General Fund, fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the Society’s records and, as a consequence, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenues, excess of revenue over expenditures, assets, liabilities and fund balances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at February 28, 2010 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

BDO Canada LLP/s.r.l./S.E.N.C.R.L.
Chartered Accountants

Montréal, Québec
March 24, 2010

1 CA auditor permit No. 16740
# The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc.  
## Statement of Financial Position  

**February 28  
2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$8,153</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term investments (Note 3)</td>
<td>$2,509,868</td>
<td>$2,078,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund receivable, non-interest bearing</td>
<td>$165,429</td>
<td>$119,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$436,946</td>
<td>$2,684,967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Capital assets**   |         |       |
| Land                 | $411,047| $410,812|
| Office equipment     | -       | $234  |
| **Total**            | $436,946| $2,210,158|

| **Liabilities and Fund Balances** |       |       |
| **Current**                |       |       |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | $10,087 | $10,000|
| Interfund payable, non-interest bearing | $165,429 | $119,829|
| **Total**                  | $175,516| $129,829|

| **Fund balances**         |       |       |
| General Fund              | $261,430| $(22,921)|
| Invested in capital assets| -      | $411,047|
| A.W. Kelly Bequest Fund - unrestricted (Note 2) | - | $2,082,592|
| Property Acquisition Fund (Note 2) | - | $93,429|
| Internally Restricted Land Stewardship Fund (Note 2) | - | $72,000|
| **Total**                 | $261,430| $2,920,498|

| **Contingency (Note 5)**  |       |       |
| On behalf of the Board   | $436,946| $2,620,970|

_____________________________ Director  
_____________________________ Director  

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc.
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - General Fund

For the year ended February 28

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>59,502</td>
<td>79,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>12,178</td>
<td>14,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities income</td>
<td>3,629</td>
<td>8,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>3,283</td>
<td>4,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>78,592</td>
<td>106,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and newsletter</td>
<td>17,063</td>
<td>22,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>10,944</td>
<td>17,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants awarded</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>8,289</td>
<td>11,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary maintenance and taxes</td>
<td>7,820</td>
<td>8,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>54,916</td>
<td>67,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</strong></td>
<td>23,676</td>
<td>39,079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
## The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc.
### Statement of Fund Balances

**For the year ended February 28, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Invested in Capital Assets</th>
<th>A.W. Kelly Bequest Fund Unrestricted</th>
<th>Property Acquisition Fund</th>
<th>Internally Restricted Land Stewardship Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>$ (22,921)</td>
<td>$ 410,812</td>
<td>$ 1,983,421</td>
<td>$ 93,429</td>
<td>$ 26,400</td>
<td>$ 2,491,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments for the year</strong></td>
<td>405,798</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>405,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</strong></td>
<td>23,676</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfer to Land Stewardship Fund (Note 8)</strong></td>
<td>(45,600)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acquisition of capital assets</strong></td>
<td>(352)</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amortization of office equipment</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(117)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(117)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interfund transfers (Note 2)</strong></td>
<td>(99,171)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>99,171</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$ 261,430</td>
<td>$ 411,047</td>
<td>$ 2,082,592</td>
<td>$ 93,429</td>
<td>$ 72,000</td>
<td>$ 2,920,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
### The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc. Statement of Fund Balances

For the year ended February 28, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Invested in Capital Assets</th>
<th>A.W. Kelly Bequest Fund Unrestricted</th>
<th>Property Acquisition Fund</th>
<th>Internally Restricted Land Stewardship Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, beginning of year</td>
<td>$ 44,438</td>
<td>$ 410,812</td>
<td>$ 2,480,526</td>
<td>$ 93,429</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 3,029,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized loss on available-for-sale investments for the year</td>
<td>(577,143)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(577,143)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</td>
<td>39,079</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Land Stewardship Fund (Note 8)</td>
<td>(26,400)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26,400</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund transfers (Note 2)</td>
<td>497,105</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(497,105)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, end of year</td>
<td>$ (22,921)</td>
<td>$ 410,812</td>
<td>$ 1,983,421</td>
<td>$ 93,429</td>
<td>$ 26,400</td>
<td>$ 2,491,141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended February 28

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</td>
<td>$ 23,676</td>
<td>$ 39,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in non-cash working capital balances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>2,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total changes in non-cash working capital balances</strong></td>
<td>25,454</td>
<td>41,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of capital assets</td>
<td>(352)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of short-term investments</td>
<td>(25,949)</td>
<td>(56,295)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total decrease in cash during the year</strong></td>
<td>(26,301)</td>
<td>(56,295)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash, beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>24,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$ 8,153</td>
<td>$ 9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
1. General Information

The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc. (the "Society") was incorporated as a corporation without share capital under Part III of the *Québec Companies Act* on April 29, 1931 and operates under the name Bird Protection Quebec. The objects of the Society are detailed in its letters patent and include the elicitation and fostering of the interest of the public in the birds that frequent the Province of Québec. As a registered charity entity, the Society is a recognized non-profit organization under the *Income Tax Act* and therefore not subject to income taxes.

The Society's objective is to carry on its operations without pecuniary gain to its members and any profits or other accretions to the Society are to be used in promoting its objectives.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies followed by the Society are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting policies. Outlined below are the policies considered particularly significant:

**Fund Accounting**

In order to ensure compliance with the limitation and restriction placed on the use of resources available to the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds Inc., the accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This procedure groups resources for accounting purposes into funds according to similar activities or specific objectives. Therefore, separate accounts are maintained for each fund, and the statement of financial position regroups the following funds:

**General Fund**

The General Fund accounts for the administrative activities of the Society. This Fund reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants.

**Capital Assets Fund**

The Capital Assets Fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures related to the Society's capital assets.

**A. W. Kelly Bequest Fund**

The A.W. Kelly Bequest Fund consists of surpluses of investment income from the A. W. Kelly Will Trust accumulated during the 25 years since his death, together with the capital from the residue of his Estate received in October 2006. Income in excess of 5% generated by this Fund will support financially activities of the Society, unless decided otherwise by the Board from time to time.
Property Acquisition Fund

The Property Acquisition Fund represents surpluses set aside by the Board to be applied to future land purchases.

Internally Restricted Land Stewardship Fund

The Fund represents surpluses set aside by the Board to safeguard the stewardship of certain properties.

Capital Assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Donated capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of donation.

The office equipment is amortized using the straight-line method over three years.

Revenue Recognition

The Society follows the deferred method of accounting for contributions whereby restricted contributions related to expenses of future periods are deferred and recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenditures are incurred. Restricted contributions, comprised of restricted donations and grants, are defined as contributions on which stipulations are imposed that specify how the resources must be used. Unrestricted contributions, comprised of membership fees, activities income and unrestricted donations, are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Investment income is recognized as revenue as earned.

Investment income and unrealized gain or loss on available-for-sale investments are recognized as revenue of the general fund and A. W. Kelly Bequest Fund.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Contributed Services

Volunteers contribute a significant number of hours per year to assist the Society to carry out its activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Financial Instruments

The Society’s financial instruments consist of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivable, interfund receivable, accounts payable and interfund payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management’s opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.
The Society classifies its financial instruments into one of the following categories based on the purpose for which the asset was acquired. The Society's accounting policy for each category is as follows:

**Available-for-sale Investments**

This category is comprised of cash and pooled funds classified as short-term investments. When they have a quoted market price in an active market, they are carried at fair value. Any unrealized gains or losses related to available-for-sale investments are excluded from operations and are included in the statement of fund balances until such gains or losses are realized or an other than temporary impairment is determined to have occurred and the financial asset is then written down to fair value. When they do not have a quoted market price in an active market, they are carried at cost. Transaction costs related to available-for-sale investments are expensed as incurred.

**Held-to-maturity**

This category is comprised of term deposits classified as short-term investments. These assets are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Society's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity and comprises certain investments in debt securities. These assets are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently carried at amortized cost, using the effective interest rate method, less any provision for impairment. Transaction costs related to instruments classified as held-to-maturity are expensed as incurred.

**Loans and Receivables**

Accounts receivable and interfund receivable are classified as loans and receivables. These assets are non-derivative financial assets resulting from the delivery of cash or other assets by a lender to a borrower in return for a promise to repay on a specified date or dates, or on demand. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers (accounts receivable), but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary assets. They are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently carried at amortized cost, using the effective interest rate method, less any provision for impairment. Transaction costs related to loans and receivables are included in the amount initially recognized.

**Other Financial Liabilities**

Other financial liabilities include accounts payable and interfund payable. These liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently carried at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method. Transaction costs related to other financial liabilities are netted against the amount initially recognized.
New Accounting Pronouncement

The Society uses trade date accounting for its available-for-sale investments and held-to-maturity financial assets.

A recent accounting pronouncement that has been issued but is not yet effective, and has a potential implication for the Society, is as follows:

Accounting Changes

In June 2009, the CICA issued amendments to CICA Handbook Section 1506, Accounting Changes. Section 1506 was amended to exclude from its scope changes in accounting policies upon the complete replacement of an entity's primary basis of accounting. The amendments are effective for annual and interim financial statements relating to fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2009.

Changes in Accounting Policies

The Society has adopted the following new Handbook sections issued by the CICA, effective March 1, 2009:

Financial Statement Concepts

CICA Handbook Section 1000, Financial Statement Concepts has been amended to focus on the capitalization of costs that truly meet the definition of an asset and de-emphasizes the matching principle. The adoption of these changes did not have any material impact on the financial statements.

Cash Flows Presentation by Not-for-Profit Organizations

Section 1540 was amended to include not-for-profit organizations within its scope. The impact of these changes is reflected by the presentation of the Statement of Cash Flows.

Financial Statement Presentation by Not-for-profit Organizations

Section 4400 has been amended for the treatment of net assets invested in capital assets and for the presentation of revenue and expenditures. The adoption of this new standard did not have any material impact on the financial statements.

Disclosure of Related Party Transactions by Not-for-Profit Organizations

Section 4460 has been amended to make the language in Section 4460 consistent with Related Party Transactions, Section 3840. The adoption of this new standard did not have any material impact on the financial statements.

Disclosure of Allocated Expenses by Not-for-profit Organizations

This new Section 4470 establishes disclosure standards for not-for-profit organizations that choose to classify their expenses by function and allocate expenses from one function to another. The adoption of this new standard did not have any material impact on the financial statements.
3. Short-term Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments, available-for-sale</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pooled funds at market value (cost: $2,640,561; 2009 - $2,612,119)</td>
<td>2,459,868</td>
<td>2,026,121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments, held-to-maturity</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term deposit, 1.0% (2009 - 4.8%), maturing in October 2011, at amortized cost (market value: $50,000; 2009 - $52,000)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,509,868</td>
<td>2,078,121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Donated Property

Contributions invested in the Capital Assets Fund included donated land received in the following years, recorded at their fair value at the date of contribution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>$38,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$33,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$69,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$141,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Contingency

In 2007, the Society purchased a property for a cash consideration of $190,000, net of contributions of $20,000 received from Conservation de la Nature Québec, for which the Society qualified for a grant from the "Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs" (the "Ministère") in the amount of $107,881 to cover a portion of the acquisition cost of the property and other related expenses. The entire amount of the grant was received in cash prior to February 29, 2008 through a bank financing arrangement where the Ministère will be repaying the loan and the interest over a 38-month period, but the Society is liable for the debt, if the Ministère does not respect the payment arrangement.

The balance of the loan as at February 28, 2010 is $39,231 (2009 - $73,826).
6. **Income Taxes**

The Society is recognized as a non-profit organization under Section 149.1(1) of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). This status exempts the Society from income taxes.

7. **Capital Management**

The Society's capital includes net fund balances. The Society's objectives in managing its capital are to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern so it can continue to protect birds and foster the interest of the public in the birds that frequent the Province of Québec. The Society manages and adjusts its capital structure according to the evolution of economic conditions and risks related to underlying assets. Annual budgets are developed and monitored to ensure the Society's capital is maintained at an appropriate level.

There are no external capital requirements.

The objectives of the Society in managing the capital did not change during the year.

8. **Internal Restriction**

During the year, the Society has bound an additional internal restriction in the amount of $45,600 (2009 - $26,400) to safeguard the stewardship of certain properties. Balance of this internally restricted fund at February 28, 2010 amounted to $72,000.
Bird Protection Quebec (The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds) is one of the oldest conservation organizations in Quebec. Since its founding in 1917, it has been active in bird protection and advocacy. In addition to managing and maintaining several bird sanctuaries, BPQ sponsors numerous bird-related education and research programs.

For more information or to become a member write:

Membership Secretary
Bird Protection Quebec
P.O. Box 43, Station B
Montreal QC
H3B 3J5

or consult our website: www.birdprotectionquebec.org

Protection des oiseaux du Québec (La société québéquoise de protection des oiseaux) est parmi les plus anciennes organisations de défense de la nature du Québec. Depuis sa fondation en 1917 elle a toujours pris une part active pour la protection des oiseaux. En plus d’administrer plusieurs réserves, Protection des oiseaux du Québec parraine de nombreux programmes d’éducation et de recherche en ornithologie.

Pour de plus amples renseignements ou pour devenir membre veuillez écrire à:
Secrétair-Aadhésions
Protection des oiseaux du Québec
C.P. 43, Station B
Montréal QC
H3B 3J5

ou consultez notre site web : www.birdprotectionquebec.org

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