

# THE SONG SPARROW

Newsletter of Bird Protection Quebec  
Bulletin de la Protection des oiseaux du Québec

Volume 49 Number 5

April 2007



Chuck Kling

*Photographic portrait of a Long-eared Owl.*

## And The Winner Is... Big Year Results for January

In the Photo of the Month category, our congratulations go to Chuck Kling. His photograph, selected from a total of 24 entries, is the first of twelve photos to be chosen for entry in the Photograph of the Year contest. Chuck snapped this picture of a Long-eared Owl in the woods of Parc de la Frayère in Boucherville on 24 January 2007.

The photographs are evaluated by a panel of three judges who are not connected with the organization of the Big Year. One judge commented on Chuck's photo, "The photograph is also very strong as a study in composition, from the light edges to the dark centre, we are drawn to the eyes; they are hooded, pupils staring. And are not the eyes the gateway to the soul?"

*Please see **BIG YEAR RESULTS**, page 8.*

## Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program

with Andrew Coughlan

Monday 2 April 2007 8:00 PM

Wesley United Church

5964 N.D.G. Avenue

(corner of Royal Avenue)

For a number of years, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) has been coordinating a range of long-term national and international research programs in Quebec. These include Christmas Bird Counts, Project FeederWatch and the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. Marshes are an important component of many ecosystems and, in the face of environmental change, there is a need for baseline data on the populations of animals that depend on this type of habitat. In 2004, following the success of the Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) that monitors populations of marsh birds and amphibians in the Great Lakes basin, BSC, in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Service, launched the Quebec Marsh Monitoring Program (QMMP).

The QMMP differs slightly from the MMP since only marsh birds are monitored as indicators of marsh health. The program is dependent on

volunteer citizen scientists who, during two visits, count birds (identifying them visually or by call) at stations located within marshes of their choice. QMMP is always in need of volunteers; each participant receives a training kit, CD and an annual newsletter.

Andrew Coughlan will discuss details of the QMMP program and its results to date. He has been involved with wetland research and conservation for a number of years. Before moving to Quebec from England in 1996, Andrew worked for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, a not-for-profit organization working for wetland conservation. He is currently working in BSC's Quebec office as coordinator of the QMMP; as a volunteer, he is involved in the running of the *Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac*.

Jeff Harrison

## Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Bird Protection Quebec (Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds) will be held on:

**Monday 7 May 2007**

**8:00 PM**

**Location to be determined.**

**Please watch for details in the next newsletter,  
and on our website and the group email.**

All members are cordially invited to the end-of-year party following the AGM. Come and celebrate this year's accomplishments. Refreshments will be served.

## Message From Our President

As I write this, many of my friends and colleagues are in places such as Africa, Thailand, Panama, Costa Rica, Barbados and the southern United States seeking warmth, exotic scenery and perhaps some new birds. Having experienced this myself I cannot be too jealous especially since there are neat things to do and birds to see here in our winter. Witness the Snowy Owls, Lapland Longspurs and other birds visiting for the winter that have tickled our fancy recently. To celebrate our 90th year of existence we are hosting the Quebec Big Year of Birding. There are several interesting competitions associated with it involving listing and photography. If you have not checked our website recently, it is certainly worth a look - there are some fantastic photographs and prizes for the competition ([www.birdprotectionquebec.org](http://www.birdprotectionquebec.org)). Richard Gregson has done a great job putting a face to the Big Year that Sheldon Harvey and Barbara Szabo have been instrumental in organizing. The contests may provide further incentive to look for and record the birds around us at different times of the year.

Winter is a good time to prepare for the birds that we enjoy finding and identifying when and where the weather is warmer and the birds are more abundant. Our Membership Services Committee has organized a bird course that will help in this preparation. The course is currently underway, but there are still lectures that you can attend. Whenever I head to some place new I pore over the local field and site guides. Even when close to home I find it helpful to review such guides and books or journals about birds and birding. There is an incredible amount of information available on the Internet as well. All of this provides reinforcement to know what is rare or new to you, or characteristic of a restricted habitat or geographic area. It is always a great thrill to find something new that you have read or learned about, recognizing the significance of its occurrence in a specific situation. I am preparing to take a group of university students to the deserts of the southwestern U.S. With great anticipation I am looking forward to searching for the Colima Warbler in the arid high-elevation woodland of Big Bend National Park. Similarly last February I was excited by the quest for a Shoebill in the wetlands surrounding Lake Victoria in Africa, even though I did not encounter one. Preparation made that experience all the more exciting. What better time to prepare than when the weather is inhospitable.

One aspect that distinguishes Bird Protection Quebec from other bird clubs is that we own property dedicated to bird conservation. We anticipate soon announcing the acquisition of an important addition to one of our existing sanctuaries. Our newly revitalized Sanctuaries Committee is charged with the stewardship of these properties to ensure that we meet our conservation goals. It is vital that our land be monitored to maintain habitat suitable for the fauna and flora that originally inspired its acquisition.

Spring, our time of annual renewal, is coming with its avian harbingers and the flood of migrants returning north to breed. It is an exciting time of the year. Enjoy!

*Rodger Titman*



André Pelletier

Rock Pigeon, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Mourning Dove doing spring lunch at Ste-Julie.

## Bird Protection Quebec



■ Observation ■ Education ■ Conservation

Bird Protection Quebec is the operational name of The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds.

Established 4 January 1917

### Officers

President	Rodger Titman
Vice-Presidents	Eve Marshall Lance Laviolette
Hon. Vice-Presidents	Robert Carswell Felix Hilton Mabel McIntosh Peter Mitchell
Treasurer	Jean Gregson
Secretary	Jean Bacon
Assoc. Secretary	Kyra Emo
Membership Secretary	Sharon Veysey
Website Manager	Richard Gregson
Newsletter Editor	Gay Gruner

Bird Protection Quebec/PQSPB is a registered charity.

Registration # 11925 2161 RR0001.

All donations are tax deductible.

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*The Song Sparrow* ISSN 1710-3371

Legal Deposit: National Library of Canada

Publication Mail No. 40044323

**Deadline for the next newsletter:  
25 March 2007**



Barbara MacDuff

*David Mulholland, the man behind the mask, explains how insect galls form and develop.*

## The Gall of it All

On 27 January, enduring very cold temperatures (-18° C), members of BPQ's Education Committee, Barbara MacDuff, David Mulholland and Chris Murphy, accompanied 35 Cubs on a nature/bird walk in Cap-St-Jacques Nature Park. Although the birds were scarce, the children enjoyed finding empty bird nests, cutting open galls and trying to identify the many tracks in the snow.

Later, in the welcome warmth of the chalet, each child made a pinecone bird feeder filled with suet to take home.

Barbara MacDuff

## Breeding Bird Survey at Philipsburg

Believe it or not, the time is soon coming to start the second year of breeding bird surveys in the George H. Montgomery Bird Sanctuary in Philipsburg! In 2007, the focus will be on conducting point counts, covering all habitats in the sanctuary, picking up species that were missed last year (particularly early and late breeders and nocturnal and crepuscular species) and upgrading breeding evidence. The purpose of the surveys is to obtain an up-to-date picture of the bird species breeding in the sanctuary and to create a pool of skilled BPQ observers who can take part in other breeding bird surveys, particularly the second Quebec breeding bird atlas.

Our training session will be repeated this year on Sunday 29 April with a focus on conducting point counts and instruction in the field. An updated map of the sanctuary is now available to make surveying easier. Birders of all skill levels can participate - the more, the merrier! For more information on the training session or to participate in the surveys, please contact Betsy McFarlane, 514-457-9315; email: [betsy.mcfarlane@sympatico.ca](mailto:betsy.mcfarlane@sympatico.ca).

## New Member

A warm welcome to new member Philip Distin of Montreal. We hope to meet you on our field trips and at the monthly meetings; be sure to introduce yourself!

## Nominating Committee Report

The following nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee were accepted by the Board of Directors at its meeting of 13 February 2007.

### Nominations of Directors

According to our guidelines the following people are due to complete their terms: Sheila Arthur, Albert McArdle, Averill Craig, Sandy Montgomery, David Mulholland, Kyra Emo, Barbara MacDuff and Helen Meredith. Ken Thorpe resigned in November and Betsy McFarlane and Lance Laviolette have completed terms as officers and wish to resign.

This leaves eleven vacancies; however, the maximum that can be elected in one year according to our Bylaws is nine. Averill Craig is eligible for re-election, has agreed to return and is thus nominated to serve another three-year term. Helen Meredith is willing to accept our nomination to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and complying with guidelines concerning extended terms for election of officers is also nominated for election.

Seven new members nominated are:

Joël Bonin  
Shawn Craik  
Normand David  
Jean Demers  
Felix Hilton  
Ron Mudd  
Audrey Speck

### Officers

The following slate of officers is proposed for the next two years:

President:	Eve Marshall
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President:	Jeff Harrison
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:	Helen Meredith
Secretary:	Jean Bacon
Treasurer:	Jean Harwood Gregson

Election of members to the Board of Directors will take place at the Annual General Meeting on 7 May 2007.

Any member of Bird Protection Quebec may be nominated for election to the Board of Directors provided she/he is nominated by the Nominating Committee or in writing by two or more members, accompanied by a declaration of the nominee that she/he is willing to serve. All nominations must be filed, four weeks before the Annual General meeting, with Bird Protection Quebec Secretary, Box 43, Station B, Montreal QC H3B 3J5.

**Rodger Titman, Chair, Nominating Committee**

## Summer Nature Camp

The Education Committee has not received any feedback regarding the Summer Nature Camp to be offered at Tamaracouta in the Laurentians from 5 - 11 August. If you know a young person (ages 10 - 14) who you feel would benefit from this camp, please contact Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222 or Alison Bentley, 450-458-8076. If no interest has been shown by 31 March, the camp will be cancelled.

## Baillie Birdathon

The Baillie Birdathon is the oldest sponsored bird count in North America. It's also challenging, exhilarating, and - beware - addictive!

More than 7,000 people from across Canada (and from several countries around the world) participate in and/or sponsor the Baillie Birdathon in May of every year. During a 24-hour period in May, they attempt to find as many bird species as they can, sponsored at a flat rate, or on a per-species basis. Each birder designates a favourite conservation organization to receive a portion of the funds they raise, with the balance providing funding essential to BSC's efforts to study and conserve birds and their habitats.

As a further incentive, there are numerous prizes. This year's grand winner can choose between three amazing all-inclusive tours, led by expert birders. Other prizes include fine optics, art work, books, notecards (by BPQ member Abigail Sibley) and more. Contact Bird Studies Canada, 1-888-448-2473, or download the Participant's Kit from: [www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/brdathonkit.html](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/brdathonkit.html).

If you are unable to actively participate in the Birdathon, you are encouraged to support those Bird Protection Quebec members who are, by making a pledge. Or, if you want to try a Birdathon, but don't want to do your first one solo, the McGill Bird Observatory does the Baillie Birdathon as a group activity. For more information, email Marie-Anne Hudson, [mbo@migrationresearch.org](mailto:mbo@migrationresearch.org).

## Young Ornithologist's Workshop

The 2007 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund's Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, ON, from Friday 3 August through Sunday 12 August. Workshop activities focus on hands-on training in field ornithology, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, bird skinning, avian energetics, guest lectures, and much more. Come make new friends who share similar interests in the world of birds and the natural sciences. Six lucky applicants (ages 13-17) from across the country will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover expenses. Applications are due 30 April 2007. For additional information and an application form, email Stu Mackenzie at Bird Studies Canada: [lpbo@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:lpbo@bsc-eoc.org), or visit Bird Studies Canada's website: [www.bsc-eoc.org/](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/).

Bird Protection Quebec may provide financial assistance to offset travel expenses. Contact Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222; email: [barb.macduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.macduff@sympatico.ca).

Last year, BPQ member Eric Boodman attended the week-long workshop and found it to be, "...one of the most amazing experiences of my life."

## Last Call for Art Contest

Last chance to send in your bird drawings to the Education Committee's art contest. Entries must be received by 31 March 2007. Send your pictures to: Barbara MacDuff, 111 Elm Crescent, Baie D' Urfé, QC H9X 2P5.

## The American Kestrel: White Mouse of Raptor Research?

For over 30 years Dr. David Bird, Director of McGill's Avian Science and Conservation Centre, and his graduate students have been studying American Kestrels. Countless kestrels have been bred in his captive colony on the Macdonald campus, the only one available worldwide for research purposes. At January's monthly meeting David shared his kestrel expertise, describing breeding techniques, fieldwork and studies using captive-bred birds.

Wild kestrels mark territorial boundaries by copulating some 500 times, producing an average clutch of five. Laboratory techniques allow many more to be bred, employing vibrators, ejaculators, even a special "mating hat" to capture sperm for artificial insemination (amazingly kestrel sperm resembles that of bulls!). Clutch sizes are increased by regularly removing eggs to an incubator. An additional breeding season is created by adjusting the timing of available light. Chicks are hand-fed in groups, and until ready to be bred are kept with other kestrels of the same sex so they neither imprint on handlers, nor form a pair that would try to keep others from the food.

Research with wild birds has included effects of endoparasites on breeding, hunting and mate choice, and how kestrels nesting on hydro poles react to exposure to strong electromagnetic fields. Breeding ease allowed use of kestrels as a substitute species in studies of factors affecting the endangered Peregrine Falcon, and in experiments in species cross-fostering. Toxicological studies using captive-bred kestrels revealed numerous adverse effects: "Nuisance birds" (sparrows) affected by commercial poisoned perches themselves proved toxic to the kestrels that consumed them. Fluoride in prey items decreased skeletal strength. Male gonads were feminized by dicophol (a DDT-related pesticide). Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) caused sperm-count decline of up to 70%. Brominated flame-retardants, used widely in electronics and plastics, severely compromised breeding success.

West Nile Virus studies seem to show that it has not affected kestrel populations adversely; nevertheless some North American populations have nosedived. Why? Changing agricultural practices affecting prey availability, increased competition for cavities from starlings, global warming, research disturbance, increased predation by Cooper's Hawks, as well as new pollutants are all having their effects.

Did David have any regrets at using his kestrels as "white mice"? He had certainly disliked aspects of some studies, but pointed out that much good research had been done which was transferable to other species, and that several organochlorates and PCBs were now forbidden in part because of such studies. Without them many more wild birds would have died.

**Averill Craig**

For more information on the Avian Science and Conservation Centre visit: <http://ascc.mcgill.ca/>.



Barbara MacDuff

Helen Caron talks about the physical and behavioural characteristics of the Great Horned Owl to a rapt audience.

## Birds of Prey Demonstration

Members of BPQ's Education Committee, David Mulholland and Barbara MacDuff, were on hand at the Morgan Arboretum on 29 January to assist with a presentation on birds of prey. Twenty adults and six children attended this fascinating lecture complete with dynamic visual aids - live birds. The birds were sponsored by the Education Committee and were from the nearby Ecomuseum.

Thanks to the Morgan Arboretum for providing the space for the program.

## Sanctuaries Committee

The newly resurrected Sanctuaries Committee needs your help. One of its goals is to compile a library of maps, species lists and historical accounts for each sanctuary. It is seeking photos, maps, funny stories, and of course what birds were spotted at any of BPQ's sanctuaries. The targeted sanctuaries include two islands off the east end of Montreal (Île aux Canards and Îlet Vert), Alf Kelly's Piedmont property, Alderbrooke Marsh, Driscoll-Naylor property, Breckenridge - Ghost Hill Farm, Île aux Perroquets, Philipsburg, Mont St-Grégoire and Covey Hill (not one of "our" sanctuaries, but we're still interested). For a description of each site, and for a list of properties that BPQ has played a role in acquiring, please visit the Society's website: [www.birdprotectionquebec.org/conservation.htm](http://www.birdprotectionquebec.org/conservation.htm).

Stories should ideally include the date of the visit (as accurate as possible), who was present, an overall description of what you thought of the site, what species were seen and any other details you feel are relevant. Please mail your stories to Marie-Anne Hudson, P.O. Box 43, Station B, Montreal, QC H3B 3J5, or email: [marie-anne.hudson@mcgill.ca](mailto:marie-anne.hudson@mcgill.ca) or [sparroworks@gmail.com](mailto:sparroworks@gmail.com). If you have "real" photographs, please let us know and we will arrange to have them scanned and returned.

The new Sanctuaries Committee is very excited to have this opportunity, and thanks you in advance for the outpouring of hilarious field-trip stories and photos!

**Richard Gregson and Marie-Anne Hudson,**  
Co-chairs of the Sanctuaries Committee

## Nature Canada's International Program

Ardent birders braved a wintry night on 5 February to vicariously visit tropical America. Mara Kerry, Nature Canada's Director of Conservation spoke to us about Paraguay, Panama and the Upper Bay of Panama where Nature Canada, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), runs community action programs to protect birds while respecting local traditions and culture.

The tropics contain the highest number of endangered bird species and lowest per capita income. Birdlife International's Important Bird Areas program to identify and protect birds around the world has northern countries such as Canada partnering with southern hemispheric Birdlife NGO's. Birdlife partners are local NGO's with only one permitted per country. However, Canada is an exception with two Birdlife members: Nature Canada, which does the applied program work, and Bird Studies Canada, which is responsible for science-side work. Cuba is also an exception with a government agency as the Birdlife partner.

Northern resources include CIDA money, funds from Birdlife and applied science and conservation expertise from folks such as Mara who reluctantly left her position as Manager of International Programs with Nature Canada to become Director of Conservation. Although she spends less time in the tropics, her passion for this work and deep caring for the people of the communities in the three countries remains undiminished.

Panama's Upper Bay contains vast mud flats and mangrove shorelines that are critical for migrating shore birds, especially Western Sandpipers. Local people are being trained to support eco-tourism and develop sport fishing.

In Mexico, the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve on the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula is both a cultural and ecological area of great importance, protected since 1986. Nature Canada's IBA program has trained local bird guides who have extraordinary bird identification skills, honed without binoculars. Ismail and Alberto lead birding tours and identify birds in both English and Mayan while providing insight to ancient and current Mayan ways of life.

The South American Atlantic coastal forests have been hugely diminished and many endemic plants and animals are threatened with extinction. In Paraguay, Nature Canada works with Guyra Paraguay to develop sustainable and bird-friendly *yerba matte* plantations that complement the existing forest cover. The guiding principle is that local people need to reap the benefits of conservation rather than be ignored or even ousted from traditional lands.

These programs are practical and meaningful to local citizens and involve many small steps. Mara quoted her Spanish Birdlife colleague, Pepa Erresto, "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never slept with a mosquito."

Thanks to Mara for her presentation - might we think of Nature Canada's work in Latin America when we think of mosquitoes?

**Ken Thorpe**

## Parlons d'oiseaux

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

par Pierre Bannon

Décembre 2006-Janvier 2007

Les températures furent très douces jusqu'à la mi-janvier, puis suivies d'une baisse radicale. Ces conditions ont incité plusieurs espèces migratrices à tenter de passer l'hiver ici.

**Oie rieuse:** un groupe de quatre à Lévis 2-27 déc (O. Barden, M. Raymond), une à Sherbrooke le 9 déc (S. Rioux, Y. Charette), une (parfois deux) à Chambly 4 déc-10 jan, 2<sup>ième</sup> mention en jan (R. Chartier *et al.*). **Oie des neiges:** des milliers dans le sud de la province jusqu'à la fin de déc. **Oie de Ross:** une à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka le 17 déc, une date tardive record (S. Rioux). **Bernache de Hutchins:** plusieurs en déc; une à Saint-Mathias jusqu'au 10 jan (R. Belhumeur *et al.*) et une autre à Laval le 14 jan, une date tardive record (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau). **Bernache du Canada:** des milliers dans le sud du Québec jusqu'à la mi-jan; un individu au parc du Mont-Tremblant le 7 jan était très inattendu (L. Cadieux). **Cygne tuberculé:** un à La Malbaie le 22 jan (R. Laberge). **Canard branchu:** au moins sept individus signalés en jan. **Canard souchet:** deux à Bedford le 1<sup>er</sup> jan (C. Lalonde, L. Pagé), un à Saint-Mathias le 6 jan (R. Belhumeur). **Sarcelle d'hiver:** une à Saint-Basile le 13 jan (S. Rioux), deux à Bécancour le 16 jan (R. Barbeau). **Fuligule à dos blanc:** rare au cours des dernières années, mais plus fréquent en déc cette année. **Macreuse à front blanc:** une à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka le 14 jan (A. Quenneville).

**Plongeon huard:** un oiseau attardé à Georgeville le 14 jan (B. Turgeon), deux à Châteauguay le 14 jan (P. Bannon), et un à l'île Sainte-Hélène le 16 jan (L. Ladouceur-Côté). **Puffin fuligineux:** un à Cap-des-Rosiers le 7 jan, une date tardive record (E. Asselin). **Fou de Bassan:** un imm à Sainte-Catherine le 18 déc (R. Belhumeur). **Cormoran à aigrettes:** au moins huit indiv signalés au début de jan, le plus tardif à Chambly le 16 jan (R. Belhumeur). **Grand Héron:** nombreux encore au début de jan., les plus tardifs à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu le 19 jan (F. Bossé), Hudson le 21 jan (S. Vanier *et al.*), et Châteauguay le 23 jan (P. Bannon). **Urubu à tête rouge:** des indiv à Disraeli le 7 jan (D. McCutcheon, R. Jacques), Roxton Ponds le 9 jan (M. Gauthier) et Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon le 10 jan (R. Prévost). **Pygargue à tête blanche:** nombreux dans le sud du Québec, surtout dans les Laurentides. **Busard Saint-Martin:** un indiv tardif à Sainte-Rosalie le 13 jan (P. Bannon), deux à Saint-Hubert le 14 jan (R. Belhumeur, R. Chartier), et un à Saint-Basile le 1<sup>er</sup> fév (R. Belhumeur). **Buse à épauettes:** des indiv à Sainte-Marthe le 11 jan (M. Dennis), et Québec 24-28 jan (S. Cloutier). **Faucon gerfaut:** deux de retour au Mont-Saint-Hilaire (pl. ob.); un à Beaconsfield le 10 déc (M. Dennis).

**Rôle de Virginie:** un indiv à Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré 20-21 jan, date tardive record (F. Shaffer, C. Maurice). **Foulque d'Amérique:** plusieurs se sont attardés jusqu'à la mi-jan, dont une à Saint-Mathias le 13 jan, une à l'Île aux

## Birdviews

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

by Pierre Bannon

December 2006-January 2007

Temperatures were rather balmy until mid-January, and then it turned much colder. These conditions encouraged several late migrants to attempt to overwinter in our area.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** a group of four at Lévis 2-27 Dec (O. Barden, M. Raymond), one at Sherbrooke 9 Dec (S. Rioux, Y. Charette), one (sometimes two) at Chambly 4 Dec-10 Jan, only the second record for Jan (R. Chartier *et al.*). **Snow Goose:** thousands reported in s. Quebec until late Dec. **Ross's Goose:** one at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 17 Dec, a new record late date (S. Rioux). **Cackling Goose:** several in Dec; one lingered at Saint-Mathias until 10 Jan (R. Belhumeur *et al.*) and another at Laval as late as 14 Jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau), providing a new record late date for the province (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau). **Canada Goose:** thousands in s. Quebec until mid-Jan, the most unexpected bird being in Mont-Tremblant Park 7 Jan (L. Cadieux). **Mute Swan:** one at La Malbaie 22 Jan (R. Laberge). **Wood Duck:** at least seven birds reported in Jan. **Northern Shoveler:** two at Bedford 1 Jan (C. Lalonde, L. Pagé), one at Saint-Mathias 6 Jan (R. Belhumeur). **Green-winged Teal:** one at Saint-Basile 13 Jan (S. Rioux), two at Bécancour 16 Jan (R. Barbeau). **Canvasback:** rare in the last few years, but more were present in Dec this year. **Surf Scooter:** one at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 14 Jan (A. Quenneville).

**Common Loon:** late birds included one at Georgeville 14 Jan (B. Turgeon), two at Châteauguay 14 Jan (P. Bannon), and one at St. Helen's Island 16 Jan (L. Ladouceur-Côté). **Sooty Shearwater:** one at Cap-des-Rosiers 7 Jan, a record late date by seven weeks (E. Asselin). **Northern Gannet:** an imm at Sainte-Catherine 18 Dec (R. Belhumeur). **Double-crested Cormorant:** at least eight birds reported in early Jan, the latest at Chambly 16 Jan (R. Belhumeur). **Great Blue Heron:** numerous in early Jan., the latest at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 19 Jan (F. Bossé), Hudson 21 Jan (S. Vanier *et al.*), and Châteauguay 23 Jan (P. Bannon). **Turkey Vulture:** singles at Disraeli 7 Jan (D. McCutcheon, R. Jacques), Roxton Ponds 9 Jan (M. Gauthier) and Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon 10 Jan (R. Prévost). **Bald Eagle:** numerous in s. Quebec, especially in the Laurentians. **Northern Harrier:** late birds included one at Sainte-Rosalie 13 Jan (P. Bannon), two at Saint-Hubert 14 Jan (R. Belhumeur, R. Chartier), and one at Saint-Basile 1 Feb (R. Belhumeur). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** singles at Sainte-Marthe 11 Jan (M. Dennis), and at Quebec City 24-28 Jan (S. Cloutier). **Gyr Falcon:** surprisingly, two were back this year on Mount-Saint-Hilaire (m. ob.); also one at Beaconsfield 10 Dec (M. Dennis).

**Virginia Rail:** a record-late bird at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré 20-21 Jan (F. Shaffer, C. Maurice). **American Coot:** several lingered until mid-Jan, including one at Saint-Mathias 13 Jan, one at Île aux Fermiers 14 Jan and four at

Fermiers le 14 jan et quatre à Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague le 14 jan. **Grue du Canada**: trois indiv présents depuis l'été dernier à Dundee se sont attardés jusqu'au 25 déc, une date tardive record (A. Quenneville, A. Samson, A. Lacasse). **Bécasseau violet**: un à Sainte-Catherine le 10 déc (R. Belhumeur). **Mouette de Bonaparte**: neuf encore à Chambly le 28 déc (R. Belhumeur). **Goéland brun**: des ad à Melocheville le 9 déc (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand), Beauharnois le 12 déc (G. Éthier), et Laval le 14 jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau). **Mouette tridactyle**: un ad à Saint-Hubert le 1<sup>er</sup> déc (R. Belhumeur).

**Guillemot de Brunnich**: un à Percé le 3 déc (JR. Lepage *et al.*). **Petit Pingouin**: un à Beauharnois le 5 déc (M. Dennis). **Tourterelle turque**: une à Gallichan (Abitibi) du début de déc au 30 Jan+, une 2<sup>ème</sup> mention provinciale (S. Rivard, ph.).

**Chouette lapone**: une à Guénette 8-12 déc (G. van der Kelen). **Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique**: un à Chambly le 19 jan (R. Belhumeur). **Pic à ventre roux**: un couple toujours à Châteauguay, exceptionnellement quatre indiv le 27 déc (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). Une femelle à Sainte-Hedwidge 7 nov-24 jan, une mention rare pour le Lac Saint-Jean (L. Chiricota). **Pic maculé**: des indiv à Hudson le 30 déc (J. Reeves), Thivierge le 2 jan (C. Lamarre) et à l'Île Sainte-Hélène 12 déc-25 jan, 4<sup>ème</sup> et 5<sup>ème</sup> mentions en jan (P. Bannon, pl. ob., ph.). **Troglodyte de Caroline**: au moins 15 indiv signalés, soit près de la moyenne pour les dernières années. Un à Saint-Jean-Port-Joli le 29 jan était le plus à l'est (M. Deschêne). **Troglodyte mignon**: des oiseaux attardés au Cap Tourmente 22-27 jan (S. Cloutier) et Châteauguay le 28 jan + (J. Laplante). **Roitelet à couronne rubis**: des indiv à Laval le 4 jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau), et à l'Île Sainte-Hélène 16 déc-25 jan (P. Bannon *et al.*)

**Merlebleu de l'Est**: cinq à Saint-Timothée le 27 déc (E. Samson, A. Lacasse); jusqu'à quatre à Baie-Saint-Paul au début de jan (M. Guillemette, L. Prudhomme, pl. ob.), dont un encore présent le 21 jan (S. Rioux, MH. Pitre). **Grive à dos olive**: une à Beauport le 8 déc (G. Lord, J. Bernier). **Grive solitaire**: au moins sept indiv signalés en jan. **Moqueur chat**: des oiseaux attardés à Rock Forest le 10 déc (R. Côté, *vide* B. Turgeon), Laval le 4 jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau), et Sainte-Foy le 18 jan (P. Savard). **Paruline à croupion jaune**: des indiv à Lachine le 15 jan + (S. Pelletier) et à Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac le 23 jan (JC. Charbonneau). **Paruline grise**: l'indiv de l'Île Sainte-Hélène a été aperçu jusqu'au 16 jan (P. Bannon). **Paruline des pins**: une à Gaspé 14-21 jan (*vide* D. Jalbert). **Paruline masquée**: des indiv attardés au parc Pointe-des-Prairies le 3 déc (D. Ouellette, D. Demers) et Saint-Eustache le 11 déc (J. Coutu, S. Vanier). **Paruline à calotte noire**: une à Pointe Yamachiche le 9 déc (M. Bourassa).

**Tohi à queue verte**: un oiseau d'âge indéterminé trouvé à une mangeoire de Rivière-des-Prairies (Montréal) 17 déc + (E. Samson, S. Robert *et al.*, ph.). Cet oiseau aurait été présent depuis juin d'après les propriétaires de la mangeoire (J. Sanscartier). Il s'agit d'une 2<sup>ème</sup> mention provinciale, la première datant d'oct 1957. **Tohi à flancs roux**: un mâle noté à Châteauguay le 3 déc était encore

Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 14 Jan. **Sandhill Crane**: three birds present since last summer lingered at Dundee as late as 25 Dec, a record late date (A. Quenneville, A. Samson, A. Lacasse). **Purple Sandpiper**: one at Sainte-Catherine 10 Dec (R. Belhumeur). **Bonaparte's Gull**: nine still present at Chambly 28 Dec (R. Belhumeur). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: single ads at Melocheville 9 Dec (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand), Beauharnois 12 Dec (G. Éthier), and Laval 14 Jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau). **Black-legged Kittiwake**: an ad at Saint-Hubert 1 Dec (R. Belhumeur).

**Thick-billed Murre**: one at Percé 3 Dec (JR. Lepage *et al.*). **Razorbill**: one at Beauharnois 5 Dec (M. Dennis). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: one at Gallichan (Abitibi) from early Dec through at least 30 Jan, a second provincial record (S. Rivard, ph.).

**Great Gray Owl**: one at Guénette 8-12 Dec (G. van der Kelen). **Belted Kingfisher**: one at Chambly 19 Jan (R. Belhumeur). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: a pair continued at Châteauguay and, exceptionally, four birds were reported there 27 Dec (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). A female at Sainte-Hedwidge 7 Nov-24 Jan was a rare sighting for L. Saint-Jean (L. Chiricota). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: single late birds at Hudson 30 Dec (J. Reeves), Thivierge 2 Jan (C. Lamarre), and St. Helen's Island 12 Dec-25 Jan, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> records only in the province for Jan (P. Bannon, m. ob., ph.). **Carolina Wren**: at least 15 birds reported, a normal count for the period in the last few years. One at Saint-Jean-Port-Joli 29 Jan was far east (M. Deschêne). **Winter Wren**: late birds at Cap Tourmente 22-27 Jan (S. Cloutier) and Châteauguay 28 Jan+ (J. Laplante). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: singles at Laval 4 Jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau), and St. Helen's Island 16 Dec-25 Jan (P. Bannon *et al.*)

**Eastern Bluebird**: five at Saint-Timothée 27 Dec (E. Samson, A. Lacasse); up to four indiv at Baie-Saint-Paul in early Jan (M. Guillemette, L. Prudhomme, m. ob.), one being still present 21 Jan (S. Rioux, MH. Pitre). **Swainson's Thrush**: one at Beauport 8 Dec (G. Lord, J. Bernier). **Hermit Thrush**: at least seven birds reported in Jan. **Gray Catbird**: late birds at Rock Forest 10 Dec (R. Côté, *vide* B. Turgeon), Laval 4 Jan (G. Lachaine, É. Presseau), and Sainte-Foy 18 Jan (P. Savard). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: singles at Lachine 15 Jan + (S. Pelletier) and at Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac 23 Jan (JC. Charbonneau). **Black-throated Gray Warbler**: the bird at St. Helen's Island was present until 16 Jan (P. Bannon). **Pine Warbler**: one at Gaspé 14-21 Jan (*vide* D. Jalbert). **Common Yellowthroat**: single late indiv. were reported at Park Pointe-des-Prairies 3 Dec (D. Ouellette, D. Demers) and Saint-Eustache 11 Dec (J. Coutu, S. Vanier). **Wilson's Warbler**: one at Pointe Yamachiche 9 Dec (M. Bourassa).

**Green-tailed Towhee**: a bird of undetermined age at a Rivière-des-Prairies feeder (Montreal) 17 Dec + (E. Samson, S. Robert *et al.*, ph.). This bird had apparently been around since last June (J. Sanscartier). This represents only the second provincial record, the first dating back to Oct 1957. **Eastern Towhee**: a male first noticed at Châteauguay 3 Dec was still around in late Jan (D. Paquette, C. Charpentier).

présent à la fin de jan (D. Paquette, C. Charpentier). **Bruant familier:** jusqu'à huit indiv signalés, dont quatre à la même mangeoire à Gaspé du début de déc jusqu'au 21 jan au moins (D. Jalbert *et al.*). **Bruant des champs:** des indiv à Les Cèdres le 30 déc (C. Geraghty, B. McDuff), et au bois de Saraguay (Montréal) le 28 jan (D. Demers). **Bruant à joues marron:** un à l'Anse-au-Griffon depuis le 24 oct signalé jusqu'au 16 jan, une date tardive record (J. Lacasse, *fide* D. Jalbert). **Bruant fauve:** un à Gaspé le 18 jan (*fide* D. Jalbert). **Bruant à face noire:** un imm à Preissac (Abitibi) le 12 déc (N. Blanchette). **Junco ardoisé:** un indiv de la race *oreganus* à Rawdon le 26 jan + (L. Poulin). **Sturnelle des prés:** une à Percé 1-3 jan (*fide* D. Jalbert). **Carouge à tête jaune:** deux mâles à Saint-Timothée le 2 déc (A. Quenneville), dont un dans ce secteur jusqu'à la fin de jan. **Quiscale rouilleux:** des groupes importants en déc, dont 40 à Saint-André-Est le 15 déc (L. Simard, É. Normandeau), 14 à Lachenaie le 17 déc (RON de Longueuil). **Oriole de Bullock:** une femelle à Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud 9 déc-13 jan (M. Lavoie, pl. ob., ph.). **Oriole de Baltimore:** des indiv à Saguenay le 4 déc (J. Gauthier), et Chandler jusqu'à la mi-jan (D. Mercier *et al.*). **Bec-croisé des sapins:** souvent signalé, six à Lachute le 27 jan étant les plus proches de Montréal (S. Robert, G. Laperrière). **Bec-croisé bifascié:** abondant partout excepté dans l'extrême sud du Québec.

Veillez communiquer vos observations intéressantes à: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, QC H4E 1P1. Tél: 514-766-8767 en soirée. Courriel: pbannon@videotron.ca

## Spring Migration Monitoring at MBO

The McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) is gearing up for spring migration. Volunteers are needed to fill many roles that are essential to the operation of the station: observers, net assistants, scribes and banders. You may also support the MBO by participating in the Baillie Birdathon or making a pledge to the MBO Baillie team. For more details or to volunteer, visit: [www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html](http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html).

## BIG YEAR RESULTS *continued from page 1*

Our congratulations also go to Réal Ste-Marie for submitting a splendid list of 77 species seen in Quebec during the month of January. All lists submitted for the Big Month contest were remarkable for their range of species, aided no doubt by the mild weather and open water that we had early in the new year.

Réal has earned himself a copy of *Où observer les oiseaux au Québec: les meilleurs sites* by J. Paquin, courtesy of Éditions Michel Quintin (retail value \$35) and a waterproof watch with calfskin strap, courtesy of Swarovski (retail value \$75).

We thank everyone who participated in these contests. Remember, there are many contests still to come during the year and plenty of prizes still up for grabs!

Full contest details are available on our website: [www.birdprotectionquebec.org](http://www.birdprotectionquebec.org).

Barbara Szabo

**Chipping Sparrow:** as many as eight birds reported, including four at the same feeder at Gaspé from early Dec through at least 21 Jan (D. Jalbert *et al.*). **Field Sparrow:** singles at Les Cèdres 30 Dec (C. Geraghty, B. McDuff), and Saraguay Wood (Montreal) 28 Jan (D. Demers). **Lark Sparrow:** one at l'Anse-au-Griffon since 24 Oct was last reported 16 Jan, a new record late date (J. Lacasse, *fide* D. Jalbert). **Fox Sparrow:** one at Gaspé 18 Jan (*fide* D. Jalbert). **Harris's Sparrow:** an imm at Preissac (Abitibi) 12 Dec (N. Blanchette). **Dark-eyed Junco:** one of the Oregon race at Rawdon 26 Jan + (L. Poulin). **Eastern Meadowlark:** one at Percé 1-3 Jan (*fide* D. Jalbert). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** two males at Saint-Timothée 2 Dec (A. Quenneville), with one staying in the area until late Jan. **Rusty Blackbird:** still good flocks around in Dec, 40 at Saint-André-Est 15 Dec (L. Simard, É. Normandeau), 14 at Lachenaie 17 Dec (Longueuil CBC). **Bullock's Oriole:** a female at Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud 9 Dec-13 Jan (M. Lavoie, m. ob., ph.). **Baltimore Oriole:** singles at Saguenay 4 Dec (J. Gauthier), and Chandler until mid-Jan (D. Mercier *et al.*). **Red Crossbill:** widely reported, the closest to Montreal being six at Lachute 27 Jan (S. Robert, G. Laperrière). **White-winged Crossbill:** abundant anywhere except extreme s. Quebec.

Please report your interesting bird observations to: Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montreal, QC H4E 1P1. Tel: 514-766-8767 after 7:00 PM. Email: pbannon@videotron.ca

## A Good Pun is its Own Reward

In the December 2006 issue of *The Song Sparrow* (Vol. 49, No. 3), BPQ members were issued a challenge to rework the name of a book, movie or song into a birdy theme. Over 50 titles were received, all brilliant and all very much appreciated. (It's things such as this response and good humour that keep an editor going.) Here is a sampling from some of our members.

### Peter Landry:

*Murrechant of Venice*  
*Waiting for Godwit*  
*Das Buteo*

### Wayne Grubert:

*Citizen Crane*  
*Dirty Harry Woodpecker*  
*Larus Theme* (from Doctor Zhivago - you never get tired of Herring it!)  
*My Friend Flicker* (a recent remake)

And, predicting future remakes with a little local flavour:  
*"Network II - The Marcel Gahbauer Story" with the subtitle "Place Mist Nets For Me"*

### Mona Wizenberg:

*Thrasher in the Rye*  
*A Midsummer Nighthawk's Dream*  
*A Bicycle Built for Toucans*  
*Cranes, Quails and Blue-winged Teals*

# Test Your Raptor Identification Skills

by Benoit Dorion



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.

Match the raptors to their silhouettes:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Turkey Vulture      | I) Broad-winged Hawk |
| B) Osprey              | J) Red-tailed Hawk   |
| C) Bald Eagle          | K) Rough-legged Hawk |
| D) Northern Harrier    | L) Golden Eagle      |
| E) Sharp-shinned Hawk  | M) American Kestrel  |
| F) Cooper's Hawk       | N) Merlin            |
| G) Northern Goshawk    | O) Gyrfalcon         |
| H) Red-shouldered Hawk | P) Peregrine Falcon  |

Answers:

- |        |       |
|--------|-------|
| L (9)  | K (8) |
| C (15) | M (7) |
| P (14) | I (6) |
| F (13) | E (5) |
| O (12) | B (4) |
| A (11) | J (3) |
| N (10) | H (2) |
| G (9)  | D (1) |

## Field Trip Diaries

- 13/01/07 MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS** **Leader: Guy Zenaitis**  
**Weather:** Cool, light wind, sunny periods. 15 birders 13 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Cooper's Hawk.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, House Finch. One fox was observed.
- 20/01/07 PARC JEAN DRAPEAU, ÎLE-STE-HÉLÈNE** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**  
**Weather:** Cold and windy, but sunny. 9 birders 11 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Brown Creeper.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Mallard, Common Merganser, Great Black-backed Gull, Downy Woodpecker. A fox was observed near the Hélène-de-Champlain Restaurant.
- 27/01/07 MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY** **Leader: Chuck Kling**  
**Weather:** -17° C with light wind. 4 birders 9 species  
**Bird of the Day:** American Robin.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, N. Cardinal, Am. Goldfinch.
- 03/02/07 HUDSON** **Leaders: Barbara MacDuff & Wayne Grubert**  
**Weather:** -8° C, strong wind, sunny. 12 birders 16 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Cooper's Hawk, American Robin.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.
- 10/02/07 CHAMBLY, ST-BASILE, ST-HUBERT** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**  
**Weather:** Sunny, mild, light wind. 13 birders 18 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, Lapland Longspur.  
**Other Birds of Note:** American Black Duck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting.
- 17/02/07 STE-MARTHE, ST-CLET** **Leader: Wayne Grubert**  
**Weather:** -5° C, stiff breeze. 13 birders 14 species  
**Bird of the Day:** Common Raven.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Rough-legged Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, American Tree Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.
- 24/02/07 BOIS PAPINEAU** **Leader: Chuck Kling**  
**Weather:** -12° C, Clear, breezy. 8 birders 16 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Two Great Horned Owls.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Mallard, Pileated Woodpecker, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.
- 25/02/07 AMHERST ISLAND, ONTARIO** **Leader: Martin Bowman**  
**Weather:** -4° C, sunny. 9 birders 41 species  
**Birds of the Day:** Short-eared owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Tundra Swan.  
**Other Birds of Note:** Mute Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark.

Field Trip Diaries are compiled by Sheldon Harvey

### Conference Dates to Note

- 23 - 28 April American Birding Association  
 Location: Lafayette, Louisiana  
[www.americanbirding.org/index.html](http://www.americanbirding.org/index.html)
- 1 - 5 August Nature Canada  
 Location: Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
 Host: Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists  
[www.naturecanada.ca/about\\_agm.asp](http://www.naturecanada.ca/about_agm.asp)

### For the Birds

If you have antiques or collectibles to spare, consider donating to For the Birds, an auction to raise money for Le Nichoir. The auction, to be held 30 March at the Whitlock Golf and Country Club in Hudson, includes dinner. Tickets are \$50.00.

For more information or to offer donations, call Josée Bonneville, 450-458-2809, or Elise Villeneuve, 514-606-8455 or visit: [www.lenichoir.org](http://www.lenichoir.org).



## Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

Coordinators: Martin Bowman, 613-347-1655; Wayne Grubert, 450-458-5498

### Dedicated to the Memory

As part of our 90th Anniversary celebrations the Field Trip Committee will be dedicating some of our future field trips to past members of our Society. We have chosen to honour several individuals who made significant contributions to the PQSPB (BPQ) through leading our weekly excursions and passing their love and knowledge of birds on to all participants. Please watch for details in future communications.

#### Saturday 31 March - samedi 31 mars PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES

Leader: Wayne Grubert  
450-458-5498  
wgrubert@hotmail.com

**8:00 AM** Take Highway 40 West. Exit chemin Ste-Marie Road. Turn left to l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd). Continue for two kilometres to the chalet d'accueil of the park. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**  
**8 h 00** Prenez l'autoroute 40 ouest. Sortez au chemin Ste-Marie. Tournez à gauche. Continuez jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tournez à droite. Continuez jusqu'au bout. Tournez à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) pendant 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Stationnement : 7,00\$. **Demi-journée.**

#### Saturday 7 April - samedi 7 avril PARC-NATURE DE LA POINTE-AUX-PRAIRIES

Leader: Wayne Grubert  
450-458-5498  
wgrubert@hotmail.com

**8:00 AM** Take Highway 40 East to the exit for Boul. St. Jean-Baptiste/Marien (Exit 83). Follow the service road to the Boul. St. Jean-Baptiste (north) ramp. Take St. Jean-Baptiste north until it reaches Gouin Blvd. Turn right (east) on Gouin Blvd. and follow it, looking for the blue signs indicating "Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies". The entrance to the parking lot is on your right, located at the Pavillon des Marais section of the park, at 12,300 Gouin Blvd. East. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**  
**8 h 00** Prenez l'autoroute 40 direction est, sortie 83 boulevard St-Jean-Baptiste/Marien. Suivez la voie de service jusqu'à la bretelle d'accès du boulevard St-Jean-Baptiste nord. Continuez sur St-Jean-Baptiste nord jusqu'au boulevard Gouin. Tournez à droite, direction est sur le boulevard Gouin, continuez jusqu'au panneau bleu indiquant l'entrée, du Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies. Le stationnement est situé au Pavillon des marais, 12,300 boulevard Gouin. Frais de stationnement : 7,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

#### Saturday 14 April - samedi 14 avril BEAUHARNOIS, STE-BARBE

Leader: Felix Hilton  
514-631-3437  
hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

**8:00 AM** From Montreal, take Mercier, Champlain or Jacques Cartier Bridge to Hwy 132 west, through Châteauguay to Beauharnois. Meet just west of Beauharnois in the parking area at the western end of the bridge in front of the power station. Looking for gulls, waterfowl, hawks and early migrants. A driving trip. **Half day.**  
**8 h 00** De Montréal, prenez le pont Mercier, Champlain ou Jacques Cartier jusqu'à la route 132 ouest, traversez Châteauguay et continuez jusqu'à Beauharnois. Rassemblement à Beauharnois dans le stationnement, côté ouest du pont devant la centrale hydro-électrique. Espèces recherchées : goélands, buses et migrateurs précoces. Sortie en voiture. Excursion en voiture. **Demi-journée.**

Please see **FIELD TRIPS** page 12.

#### Trip Advice - De rigueur pour les excursions



**Cancellations:** Trips are rarely cancelled, but in case of extreme weather check with the leader.  
**Clothing:** Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear, even if the day seems mild and dry.  
**Security:** Be sure to lock your car securely.  
**Transportation:** Contact the leader if you need or can offer a lift.  
**Food:** Bring plenty to eat and drink, even on half-day trips.  
**Annulations :** En cas d'intempérie, vérifiez la possibilité d'une annulation avec le responsable.  
**Habillement :** Vêtements chauds et bottes imperméables sont toujours de rigueur.  
**Sécurité :** Assurez-vous de bien verrouiller les portes de votre voiture.  
**Transport :** Téléphonnez au responsable si vous voulez faire du covoiturage.  
**Nourriture :** Amenez toujours une collation et quelque chose à boire.

André Pelletier

**FIELD TRIPS** continued from page 11

**Saturday 21 April - samedi 21 avril**

**Cooper Marsh**

Leader: Martin Bowman  
613-347-1655  
pict@riverlink.ca

**8:00 AM** Take Hwy 20 (Ontario Hwy 401) and exit at Lancaster, Ontario (exit 814). Follow Hwy 2 west, and follow signs to Cooper Marsh. Park in the gravel parking area. Allow 1 to 1½ hours travel time. A walking trip. Looking for waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks and passerines. Could be muddy. **Half day.**

**8 h 00** Prenez l'autoroute 20 (Ontario 401) et sortez à Lancaster (sortie 814); à l'arrêt, Tournez à droite. Prenez l'autoroute 2 ouest et suivez les panneaux de signalisation jusqu'au marais Cooper. Prévoyez entre 1h et 1h30 de voyage. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux aquatiques, de buses, de passereaux. Excursion à pied. Des chaussures imperméables sont recommandées. **Demi-journée.**

**Saturday 28 April - samedi 28 avril**

**BAIE DU FEBVRE**

Leader: Guy Zenaitis  
514-256-8118  
gzenaitis@videotron.ca

**7:30 AM** Meet at the Longueuil métro station to drive in convoy to Baie du Febvre. Looking for thousands of migrating Snow Geese, waterfowl, hawks and shorebirds. **All day.**

**7 h 30** Rassemblement à la station de métro Longueuil pour ensuite rouler en file jusqu'à la Baie du Febvre. Espèces recherchées : oies des neiges migratrices (des milliers), sauvagines, buses et oiseaux de rivage. **Toute la journée.**

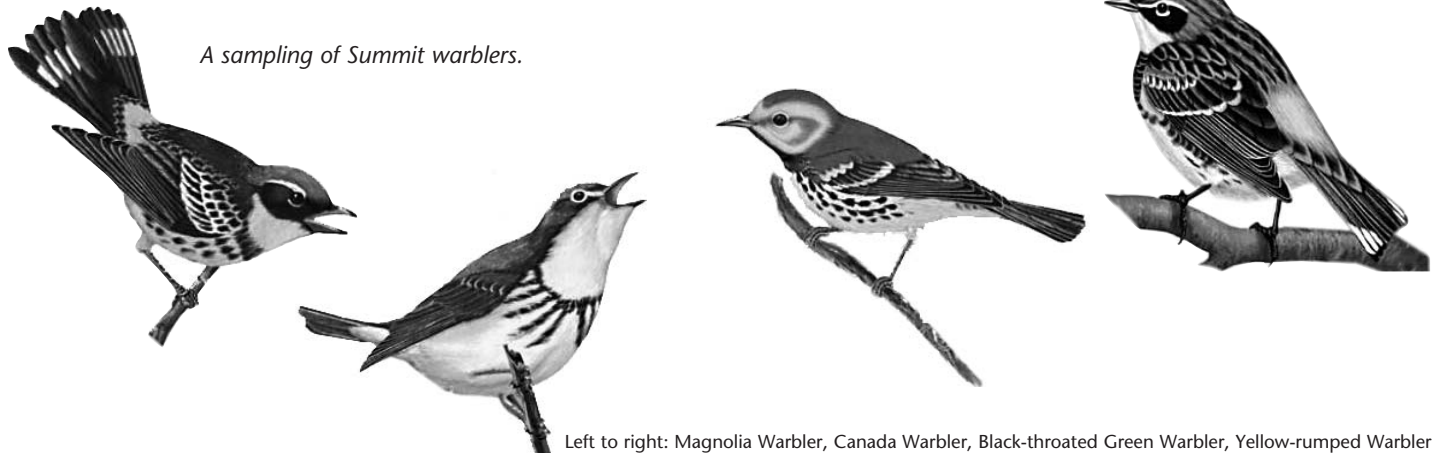
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**Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks**  
**Summit Park Lookout - Au Belvédère du Summit Park**

7:00 AM Tuesdays 24 April; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May

7 h 00 les mardis 24 avril; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 mai

Summit Park is a wooded area, transected with numerous footpaths on which vehicles are not permitted. From mid-April to late May, spring migrants find the Summit an attractive place in which to rest and feed. White-throated Sparrows and kinglets are among the earliest arrivals, May brings waves of warblers. At least 33 warbler species have been seen there over the years, and 24 warbler species are seen each year. Come and participate in one or all of the Jim Houghton Spring Warbler Walks led by Kyra Emo; it's a perfect start to a spring day.



Left to right: Magnolia Warbler, Canada Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler

Bird Protection Quebec  
Protection des oiseaux du Québec  
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Publications Mail Agreement Number 40044323