



The Song Sparrow

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

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Linda Dydyk

Bogdan Karasek at his recent photo exhibition.

Bird Photography: Documentation or Interpretation? with Bogdan Karasek Monday 3 March 2008 at 8:00 PM

Bogdan Karasek will examine two distinct approaches to photographing birds. He stresses that we should not make a judgment and declare one technique to be superior than the other. Rather, in the spirit of open debate and critical thinking, we need to understand what we are doing when we take a picture of a bird, the possibilities that each approach opens for us, and the fact that each method is valid in relation to its intention.

Bogdan describes the first approach as the documentation or scientific approach. In the tradition of John James Audubon, the photographic images are exact replicas of the bird(s) in question. The object of the illustration is to allow the observer to distinguish different species and their subtle variations. This is an objective scientific approach that enables us to study the bird(s).

The second approach is the artistic or interpretive approach. In

this sense, the first cave paintings and later, photographs are creative interpretations. Thus, the owl is represented as a wise bird, the eagle is a warrior symbol in Native American culture, and the dove is the symbol of peace. The subjective interpretation of the bird is what is important.

Bogdan started his photography career in high school as photographer for the school newspaper and yearbook. He completed undergraduate and graduate studies in Philosophy, and taught Philosophy at Collège de Valleyfield for thirty-two years. After this hiatus, he returned to his first passion, photography. Over the past four years, he has had several photographic exhibitions in Montreal and abroad, and is currently engaged in several photo and multimedia projects, including judging the 2007 Big Year of Birding photograph competition.

Jeff Harrison

BIG YEAR March Meeting

Our March meeting will have a slightly different twist in that it will also serve as the closing event for the Big Year. The agenda features our guest speaker and contest judge Bogdan Karasek, and the presentation of many of our Big Year prizes. Sponsors will be in attendance and there will be some fun surprises. Hope to see you there.

Big Month Winners:

November: Sylvie Vanier 66 species
December: Zofia Laubitz 32 species

Photograph of the Month Winners:

November: Marco Baiocchi
December: Francis Bossé

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Monthly meetings are held at 8:00 PM at
Knox Crescent Kensington & First
Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG

Message From Our President

With the start of 2008, we've wrapped up the Big Year of our venerable, but ever-young bird society. I would like to recognize once again those who made it so successful. Barbara Szabo, Richard Gregson and Sheldon Harvey set the bar very high with their splendid organization of the Big Year of Birding, Gay McDougall Gruner and her crew of Membership Services helpers gave us a spectacular dinner in November, and the Field Trip Committee was thoughtful and imaginative in dedicating field trips to former loyal members. We give you all a huge vote of thanks.

It's not quite finished yet - the final celebration of the Big Year of Birding will take place at the monthly meeting on 3 March, with prizes for all the year-end winners being awarded. I do urge everybody who can possibly make it to come that evening and applaud our great Quebec birders and photographers. Not everybody will win a prize, but I think everyone must have benefited from the experience of concentrating on Quebec birds. As Zofia Laubitz said on the Song Sparrow group email, we may not have reached our personal goals, but one of the best things about doing monthly and yearly lists was the way it "added lustre to so-called garbage birds." Every House Sparrow and American Robin achieved fresh importance.

And now on to BIGBY. If you haven't heard about the Big Green Big Year, you should find out about it. Go to our website, click on the News and Events tab and select BIGBY. All the rules and incentives are there for carbon-neutral birding. Its popularity has come as a great surprise to Richard Gregson, our website manager and initiator of BIGBY, who says more than 200 birders have signed up from six provinces, 34 states and eight countries outside North America. I urge you to register too and join the green wave!

Speaking of green, the Nature Canada Conference, which BPQ is hosting 12-15 June 2008, will be as green as we can make it - no disposable cups and plates, well-filled buses, recyclable everything. The link to the conference website is www.pqspb.org/NCconf_2008/nc08_home.htm. Registration will begin 1 March. We won't be sending out flyers - we'll save the trees and use the Internet to transmit information.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2008. Have a great birding year!

Eve Marshall

The Big Green Big Year

This is a low-key, friendly bit of birding rivalry that is not especially original, but seems appropriate in these days of carbon emissions and climate change. If you have ever felt even a tiny bit guilty about driving or flying to see a good bird (or several), why not join us in a year of carbon-neutral birding?

The Big Green Big Year has the acronym BGBY and is therefore pronounced Bigby. It is simply a Big Year in which you count only those species seen at locations reached under your own steam from your home or principal place of work. As simple as that, no dashing off to the far corners of the planet, burning fossil fuels as you go.

There are three categories: the Walking Bigby, the Self-propelled Bigby, and the Public Transport Bigby. There are no prizes other than the glory, but we can have fun, keep fit and make a small statement about what we value.

Birders throughout the world have responded to the challenge. To view a map of the location of local and international BIGBY participants, or for more information, visit www.sparroworks.ca/bigby.htm. To register, email Richard Gregson at richard@sparroworks.ca.

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

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|----------------------|---|
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Bird Protection Quebec/PQSPB is a registered charity.

Registration # 11925 2161 RR0001.

All donations are tax deductible.

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**Deadline for the next newsletter:
3 March 2008**

Education

The Education Committee is organizing a trip for young people to see the phenomenon of migrating Snow Geese at Baie-du-Febvre on 13 April 2008. Mark your calendars and let us know if you would like to volunteer or know of a young person who would be interested in joining us.

Funding is available for young people, ages 13 to 17, to attend the weeklong Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop held in the summer at Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario. The workshop focuses on hands-on learning and training in field ornithology. Participants will learn how to identify, age and sex birds, and to study their populations and behaviour. For more information on this and other Education Committee activities, please contact Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222, email barb.macduff@sympatico.ca; or Lynn Miller, 450-458-2169, email mbeland@securenet.net.

Remember to visit BPQ's website for activities for children as well as information about the Bird of the Month (www.pqspb.org/education.html). Many thanks to Greg Rand for contributing his photographs.

2008's Big Event

How can we top our 90th Anniversary and the Big Year of Birding? Well, one major event will be our hosting of Nature Canada's Annual General Meeting. It is billed as "St. Lawrence Rendezvous" and takes place from 12 to 15 June 2008, at McGill's New Residence Hall, 3625 Avenue du Parc, Montreal. Check it out online at www.pqspb.org/NCconf_2008/nc08_home.htm.

Of course, we need your help! We are planning a **Silent Auction** to raise sufficient funds to cover the costs of the conference and are looking for **donations**. Go to the back of your cupboards, search through the attic and find those lost treasures that someone would give their eye teeth for. They should be bird or nature related, and we would like to put a minimum bid of \$20.00 on each. Try to think outside the box. For instance, have you a country chalet you could lend for a weekend, or would you cater a dinner party for six, or take care of a cat for a weekend? How imaginative can you be to aid BPQ?

We are also going to need volunteers to help with soliciting donations from businesses, and organizing the actual event.

For further information or to volunteer, contact Pat Steele, 514-369-3473, email patricia.steele@videotron.ca.

This is going to be fun! I hope to hear from lots of you.

Pat Steele

Support Grants

The Support Grants Committee is now accepting applications for the funding of projects consistent with the mission of Bird Protection Quebec. Guidelines and application forms are available on our website (www.pqspb.org/supportgrants.html). The first deadline for 2008 project submissions is 31 March. The Committee will meet to evaluate proposals in April.

Camping at Point Pelee 13 - 16 May

The Field Trip Committee is pleased to announce the 2008 spring Point Pelee Trip. We have reserved 13 camping spots in the park for the nights of 13 - 16 May, departing on 17 May. Wake up and start birding from your tent! Among the species seen during the May 2007 trip were Chuck-Will's-Widow, Kirtland's Warbler and American Avocet. Finding 100 species a day in this park and adjoining areas is not uncommon. From the campsite, it is a five-minute walk to the Interpretation Centre, walking trails and tram service to the tip. Cost per person is around \$52.00.

Although this is not a field trip *per se*, several Pelee veterans will likely be on hand to orient you to the park and its amenities. Spaces will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve places and for more information please email **both** Field Trip Committee Co-chairs: Martin Bowman, pict@riverlink.ca, and Wayne Grubert, wgrubert@hotmail.com. Resend email if you have no reply within 72 hours. If you do not have access to email, telephone Wayne, 450-458-5498, or Martin, 613-347-1655.

Weekend Field Trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park 9-10 May

The Field Trip Committee is running a field trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park, Ontario, for the nights of 9 - 11 May, with an option for 11 May. This park equals Point Pelee in terms of spring migrants and has the advantages of not being over-crowded and being closer to Montreal.

Those who prefer to be indoors may stay in a nicely appointed cottage overlooking Salt Point or in another nearby cottage. Both cottages are within easy walking distance of the lighthouse and Calf Pasture. There is also the option to stay in the Presqu'île Beach Motel. Space will be reserved in the campground for those who prefer the great outdoors. For details, please contact trip leader Alison Bentley, 450-458-8076, email alison.bentley@sympatico.ca.

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to Marie-Hélène Gauthier, Beaconsfield; James Laurie, Hemmingford; Milan Swoboda, Dorval; and Pierre Tellier, Roxboro. We look forward to seeing you on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Good birding!

Ecology & Conservation of Bobolinks with Barbara Frei

Monday 7 April 2008 at 8:00 PM

In recent years ornithologists and amateur birders have become increasingly alarmed about the decline of grassland birds such as Bobolinks. Barbara Frei, M.Sc. candidate at McGill University, has been researching the ecology of some local field birds, including the Bobolink. Barbara will outline the nature of her research, what she has learned about the issues and offer some local management practices to encourage the survival of Bobolinks and other grassland birds. Further details of her lecture will be provided in the next issue of *The Song Sparrow*.

Montreal Christmas Bird Count - 15 December 2007

| Montreal CBC SPECIES | South Shore | | | | | Downtown | | | | | West End | | | North End | | | GRAND |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | P 1 | P 2 | P 3 | P 4 | P 5 | P 1 | P 2 | P 3 | P 4 | P 5 | P 1 | P 2 | P 3 | P 1 | P 2 | P 3 | TOTAL |
| Canada Goose | | | 50 | 30 | 6 | 47 | | | | | 46 | 35 | | | | | 179 |
| American Black Duck | 1 | 9 | 2 | | | 10 | | | | 7 | 22 | 15 | | | | 145 | 189 |
| Mallard | 176 | 10 | 100 | 510 | | 191 | | 11 | | 85 | 60 | 20 | | 12 | | 179 | 1249 |
| Black Mallard Hybrid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 |
| American Wigeon | | | 4 | | | 1 | | | | | 25 | | | | | | 30 |
| Gadwall | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 7 |
| Northern Pintail | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | 3 |
| Greater Scaup | | | 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 200 |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Long-tailed Duck | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Bufflehead | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Common Goldeneye | | 503 | 65 | 200 | | 106 | | | | | 75 | 30 | 34 | | | | 949 |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | | | 3 | | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | 7 |
| Common Merganser | 6 | 40 | 50 | | | 13 | | | | 5 | 175 | 16 | 14 | | | | 284 |
| Gray Partridge | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 |
| Common Loon | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| Accipiter Species | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | | | | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | 21 |
| American Kestrel | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 5 |
| Merlin | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 5 |
| Peregrine Falcon | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Mew Gull | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | 40 | 1 | | 12 | | | | 4 | 53 | 4 | 3 | | 12 | 1 | 130 |
| Herring Gull | | 86 | 30 | | | 25 | 4 | | 110 | 7 | 210 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 36 | 1 | 519 |
| Iceland Gull | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Great Black-backed Gull | | 7 | 40 | 26 | 5 | 10 | | 4 | | 37 | 107 | 20 | 13 | | | | 236 |
| Gull Species | 1 | | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 101 |
| Rock Pigeon | 100 | 108 | 75 | 307 | 65 | 18 | 12 | 390 | | 230 | 61 | 57 | 409 | 210 | 33 | 181 | 2256 |
| Mourning Dove | 76 | 9 | | 24 | 8 | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 6 | 11 | 8 | 148 |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | 5 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 6 | 92 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | | 4 | 2 | 11 | 1 | | 3 | 4 | | 8 | 14 | 5 | 70 |
| Northern Flicker | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 | | 7 |
| Northern Shrike | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Blue Jay | 5 | 18 | | 4 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 12 | 13 | 2 | 57 |
| American Crow | 25 | 62 | 20 | 203 | 2 | 12 | 58 | 20 | 76 | 415 | 38 | 159 | 310 | 193 | 230 | 2483 | 2795 |
| Common Raven | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 4 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 31 | 68 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 94 | 31 | 60 | 22 | 15 | 34 | 28 | 22 | 79 | 110 | 57 | 736 |
| Tufted Titmouse | cw | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 11 | 7 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | | 6 | 5 | cw | 10 | 18 | 7 | 84 |
| Brown Creeper | 7 | 4 | 7 | | | 8 | | | | | | 1 | | | 4 | | 31 |
| Carolina Wren | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| American Robin | | 1 | 20 | 1 | | 1 | | 10 | 12 | | | | 3 | | 29 | 2 | 79 |
| European Starling | 97 | 321 | 3 | 93 | 30 | 14 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 196 | 172 | 48 | 142 | 420 | 392 | 109 | 2069 |
| Tree Sparrow | 34 | 5 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 6 | 10 | | 59 |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 4 |
| White-throated Sparrow | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | cw | | | | 3 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 6 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 4 | | 3 | | 34 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 90 |
| Snow Bunting | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 7 | | | | 12 |
| Northern Cardinal | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 28 | 28 | 9 | 150 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | | | | | | | cw | | | | | | | cw |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Pine Grosbeak | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 9 | | 1 | | | | | | 14 |
| Purple Finch | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| House Finch | 1 | | | 25 | 70 | 2 | | 28 | | 1 | 2 | 31 | 8 | 5 | | 10 | 183 |
| Common Redpoll | | 12 | | | | 4 | | 9 | 20 | | 4 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 28 | | 113 |
| Pine Siskin | | | | | cw | | | | | | | | | | | | cw |
| American Goldfinch | 16 | | 4 | 16 | 80 | 14 | | 25 | 8 | | 11 | 30 | 24 | 17 | 7 | 10 | 262 |
| House Sparrow | 47 | 255 | 1 | 495 | 10 | 28 | 40 | 42 | | 105 | 64 | 85 | 186 | 151 | 88 | 118 | 1715 |
| Sp. Count Week | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Sp. Count Day | 28 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 16 | 31 | 9 | 21 | 14 | 21 | 33 | 29 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 61 |
| Total Individuals | 667 | 1558 | 872 | 1999 | 332 | 626 | 155 | 755 | 177 | 1164 | 1206 | 634 | 1227 | 1204 | 1092 | 3341 | 15202 |
| Species Total | 29 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 17 | 31 | 9 | 21 | 14 | 22 | 33 | 29 | 26 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 63 |

2007 Montreal Christmas Bird Count

The final tally from the 72nd Montreal Christmas Bird Count held on Saturday 15 December 2007 was 61 species. Rusty Blackbird and Pine Siskin were recorded during Count week (12 to 18 December) but not on the Count day. The total of 61 is well below the ten-year average of 69 species. Given the low temperatures, two feet of snow cover, and lack of open water, the species total was not unexpected.

Seven birds were recorded only by FeederWatchers, or at other private and public feeders: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch and Brown-headed Cowbird.

An examination of the results shows that the variety of waterbirds was also down and no owls, except Eastern Screech-Owl, were recorded. Entirely absent were Horned Larks, kinglets, waxwings and warblers.

No new birds were recorded this year, leaving the total number of species recorded for the Montreal Christmas Bird Count, first held in 1931, at 150.

Highs were recorded for the following eight species: Red-tailed Hawk - 21; Merlin - 5; Downy Woodpecker - 92; Hairy Woodpecker - 70; Pileated Woodpecker - 7; Black-capped Chickadee - 736; White-breasted Nuthatch - 84; Northern Cardinal - 150. Record highs were equalled for Barrow's Goldeneye - 2; and Mew Gull - 1.

A total of 2,795 American Crows were recorded making them the most abundant species recorded on the Count. Other species seen in large numbers include: Rock Pigeons - 2,256; European Starlings - 2,069; and House Sparrows - 1,715. In total, 15,202 birds were recorded.

The record numbers of common bark-foraging birds indicates an ample insect supply for these birds, and one might speculate why. Possible explanations might be a larger than average southern movement of these birds, or possibly a die-off of the local tree populations.

This year there were 67 field participants forming a record 16 teams, allowing for the most complete coverage in recent years. This included a new team from the Kahnawake Reserve. High counts were recorded by the team covering the St. Lawrence River from Dorval to the Douglas Hospital (33 species), followed by the team covering Nuns' and Expo Islands (31 species).

Jeff Harrison, Montreal CBC Compiler

New Editor Sought for Newsletter

Gay Gruner has resigned as newsletter editor effective May 2008, and the Communications Committee is searching for a new editor. Does this challenging yet rewarding role interest you? If you have some experience with editing and word processing, please step forward. You'll be working with dynamic people and the potential for learning is huge. As much, or as little, support as you wish will be provided during the transition period. The job begins late July 2008. For more information, contact Gay Gruner, 514-426-0658, email pggruner@videotron.ca.

Communications Committee

Legend of Montreal CBC Parties

South Shore

- P 1. Châteauguay
- P 2. Kahnawake
- P 3. Ste-Catherine Locks
- P 4. Candiac
- P 5. Longueuil

Downtown

- P 1. Nuns' Island - Expo Islands
- P 2. Westmount
- P 3. Mount Royal Park
- P 4. Mount Royal Cemetery
- P 5. Montreal East

West End

- P 1. Waterfront
- P 2. Montreal West
- P 3. Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

North End

- P 1. Airport
- P 2. Bois-de-Liesse
- P 3. Rivière-des-Prairies

Counting the Hours

Heartfelt thanks to Jeff Harrison and Alison Bentley for coordinating BPQ's Christmas Bird Counts. Also, many thanks to the party leaders who organized their respective territories, all the observers who came out and counted the birds, and to Sheila Arthur and Alison and Stewart Bentley, who graciously hosted the post-count celebrations.

Approximately 150 field observers and Feeder-Watchers participated in the two CBCs. However, since many people volunteer for both CBCs, a better way to interpret participation is to count volunteer hours. Factoring in the work of Jeff and Alison both before and after the Counts, and an estimated six-hour day per observer, yields an impressive figure of nearly 1,000 BPQ volunteer hours! Clearly, BPQers love to bird and contribute to science.

And here's the first advance notice - the next BPQ Christmas Bird Count is only a mere 7,536 hours away.

Special Field Trip to Presqu'île

Saturday 29 March 2008

Think spring! Join members of Bird Protection Quebec and the Club d'ornithologie d'Ahuntsic on a one-day bus trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park, Ontario. These joint trips are always great fun, and Presqu'île is a major stopover for birds migrating north in the spring and south in the fall. By the end of March, early spring birding should be at its best, the many waterfowl not yet having moved on and new songbirds, particularly sparrows, arriving almost every day. The bus will leave from Decarie Square; cost \$70.00. Registration forms can be picked up at the 4 February and 3 March monthly meetings, or downloaded from the BPQ website. Registration deadline is 11 March, but space is limited, so don't delay. For more information on Presqu'île, visit www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/birding.htm.

Membership Services Committee

Parlons d'oiseaux

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

par **Pierre Bannon**

Mi-octobre-décembre 2007

Arlequin plongeur: des indiv. à Terrebonne 2-21 déc (J.C. Charbonneau) et Verdun 15 déc (B. Barnhurst). **Oie à bec court:** des indiv. à Montmagny 20 oct (J. Lachance *et al.*) et Victoriaville 5-7 nov (C. Roy *et al.*). Ce dernier fut fâcheusement abattu par un chasseur le 8 nov. **Bernache nonnette:** une à Métabetchouan 18 oct (S. Boivin). **Gélinotte à queue fine:** deux indiv. différents tirés par un chasseur au nord de Girardville les 3 oct et 3 nov respectivement; premières mentions pour le Lac-Saint-Jean (J. Girard, ph.). **Plongeon du Pacifique:** quatre indiv. signalés dans l'est de la province en nov, mais un seul fut photographié: un juv. à Godbout 1-11 nov (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur, J.F. Laporte). **Fulmar boréal:** des indiv. égarés à Rivière-Ouelle 14 oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard) et Tadoussac 23 nov (R. Pintiaux).

Grande Aigrette: un oiseau à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 26-30 nov, une nouvelle date record (J.P. Matton). **Héron garde-boeufs:** 10 oiseaux dans six municipalités différentes en nov représentaient un nombre élevé. **Goéland cendré:** un oiseau de premier hiver à LaSalle 15 déc (B. Barnhurst). **Mouette blanche:** une à Saint-Vallier 1 déc (G. Cyr *et al.*). **Mergule nain:** une invasion majeure cet automne dans le golfe du Saint-Laurent et dans l'estuaire, probablement équivalente à celle de 2003. Un max de 20,000 oiseaux à Pointe-des-Monts 1 nov (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur).

Tourterelle turque: des indiv. à Saint-Anselme 3-30 nov (A. Labadie *et al.*) et à Sept-Îles 4-10 nov (P. Gaudet, pl. ob.). **Tourterelle à ailes blanches:** une à Sept-Îles 21-29 oct (B. Duchesne, C. Couture *et al.*). **Coulicou à bec jaune:** un total de 18 mentions pour l'automne. **Effraie des clochers:** une trouvée morte dans une grange de Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu 5 déc (*fide* AM. Roth). **Petite Nyctale:** un nombre record de 438 indiv. capturés et bagués à Tadoussac cet automne (A. Bénard). Le record antérieur de 239 oiseaux datait de 1998. **Martinet ramoneur:** un oiseau à Tadoussac le 25 oct, une nouvelle date record (A. Bénard, S. Belleau).

Tyran à longue queue: un à Rimouski 12 nov (G. Bouchard, J. Marcoux). **Tyran des savanes:** un à Tourelle (Gaspésie) 3 nov (V. Ruiz Marquis, *fide* D. Jalbert). **Hirondelle bicolor:** un oiseau très tardif à l'île des Soeurs 26 nov (A. Goulet). **Mésange bicolor:** un important déplacement vers l'est cet automne en direction de Québec où 16 indiv. furent dénombrés à 13 sites différents. **Troglodyte de Caroline:** bien en évidence avec 16 indiv. signalés durant la période. **Solitaire de Townsend:** assisterons-nous à une invasion semblable à celle de 2005 alors que 18 oiseaux avaient été dénombrés? Jusqu'à la fin de la présente période, 10 oiseaux ont été notés, incluant deux dans la région de Montréal: Boucherville, 12-14 nov (G. Néron) et île Notre-Dame 31 déc + (D. Millar). **Grive à collier:** une à Notre-Dame-du-Laus 11-13 nov (D. Tremblay *et al.*). **Pipit d'Amérique:** un oiseau très tardif à Boucherville 9-12 déc (M. Bertrand).

Birdviews

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

by **Pierre Bannon**

Mid-October-December 2007

Harlequin Duck: singles at Terrebonne 2-21 Dec (J.C. Charbonneau) and Verdun 15 Dec (B. Barnhurst). **Pink-footed Goose:** singles at Montmagny 20 Oct (J. Lachance *et al.*) and at Victoriaville 5-7 Nov (C. Roy *et al.*). Regrettably, the latter was shot by a hunter on 8 Nov. **Barnacle Goose:** one at Métabetchouan 18 Oct (S. Boivin). **Sharp-tailed Grouse:** two different birds shot by a hunter north of Girardville 3 Oct and 3 Nov respectively; first records for the Lac Saint-Jean area (J. Girard, ph.). **Pacific Loon:** four birds were reported in eastern Quebec in Nov, but only one was documented with a photograph: a juv. at Godbout 1-11 Nov (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur, J.F. Laporte). **Northern Fulmar:** stray single birds at Rivière-Ouelle 14 Oct (C. Auchu, C. Girard) and Tadoussac 23 Nov (R. Pintiaux).

Great Egret: a bird was record-late at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 26-30 Nov (J.P. Matton). **Cattle Egret:** 10 birds from six different municipalities in Nov represented a good flight. **Mew Gull:** a first-winter bird seen at LaSalle 15 Dec (B. Barnhurst). **Ivory Gull:** one at Saint-Vallier 1 Dec (G. Cyr *et al.*). **Dovekie:** there was a major irruption this fall in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and also in the estuary in Nov, probably equivalent to the one noted in 2003. A peak of 20,000 birds was estimated at Pointe-des-Monts 1 Nov (O. Barden, I. Lechasseur).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: singles at Saint-Anselme 3-30 Nov (A. Labadie *et al.*) and at Sept-Îles 4-10 Nov (P. Gaudet, m. obs.). **White-winged Dove:** one at Sept-Îles 21-29 Oct (B. Duchesne, C. Couture *et al.*). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** a total of 18 reports for the fall. **Barn Owl:** one found dead in a barn at Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu 5 Dec (*fide* AM. Roth). **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** a record 438 indiv were mist-netted and banded at Tadoussac throughout the fall (A. Bénard). The previous record was 239 birds in 1998. **Chimney Swift:** a record-late indiv seen at Tadoussac 25 Oct (A. Bénard, S. Belleau).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: one at Rimouski 12 Nov (G. Bouchard, J. Marcoux). **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** one at Tourelle (Gaspésie) 3 Nov (V. Ruiz Marquis, *fide* D. Jalbert). **Tree Swallow:** a very late bird at Nuns' Island 26 Nov (A. Goulet). **Tufted Titmouse:** an important movement was detected this fall, east toward Quebec City, where 16 indiv were found at 13 different locations. **Carolina Wren:** well in evidence with 16 indiv reported for the period. **Townsend's Solitaire:** will we witness a repeat of the 2005 winter irruption, when 18 birds were reported? Up to the end of this period, 10 birds have been reported, including two in the Montreal area: Boucherville, 12-14 Nov (G. Néron) and île Notre-Dame 31 Dec + (D. Millar). **Varied Thrush:** one at Notre-Dame-du-Laus 11-13 Nov (D. Tremblay *et al.*). **American Pipit:** a very late indiv at Boucherville 9-12 Dec (M. Bertrand).

Yellow Warbler: a late bird at Boucherville 27 Nov-1 Dec

Paruline jaune: un oiseau tardif à Boucherville 27 nov-1 déc (G. Éthier). **Paruline à gorge jaune:** une à Breakyville (Lévis) 4-8 nov (D. Labarre). **Paruline des pins:** détectée en grand nombre en Gaspésie en oct-nov alors qu'on a enregistré 13 mentions. **Tangara vermillon:** un à Lasarre 24 oct (R. Paquin), une première en Abitibi.

Bruant à face noire: un juv. à Préissac 26 nov-4 déc, à la même mangeoire où un autre fut noté en déc 2006 (N. Blanchette, J. Lapointe). **Guiraca bleu:** un oiseau de première année à Rimouski 5-11 nov (C. Douville, ph.). **Passerin nonpareil:** un oiseau de type femelle à Rouyn-Noranda 29 oct-7 nov (G. Maltais). **Carouge à tête jaune:** un à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 26-28 déc (D. Ouellette).

(G. Éthier). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one at Breakyville (Lévis) 4-8 Nov (D. Labarre). **Pine Warbler:** a very good flight was observed in the Gaspé Peninsula where 13 records were made for Oct-Nov. **Summer Tanager:** one at Lasarre 24 Oct (R. Paquin), a first record in Abitibi.

Harris's Sparrow: a juv. at Préissac 26 Nov-4 Dec, at exactly the same feeder where one appeared in Dec 2006 (N. Blanchette, J. Lapointe). **Blue Grosbeak:** a first-year bird appeared at Rimouski 5-11 Nov (C. Douville, ph.). **Painted Bunting:** a female-type indiv at Rouyn-Noranda 29 Oct-7 Nov (G. Maltais). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** one at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 26-28 Dec (D. Ouellette).

Héritage Laurentien at Work

When Patrick Asch of Héritage Laurentien spoke to BPQ in November, it had been seven years since he last visited us. In that time, some of the projects his organization was working on then were completed, whereas others stalled because of the municipal mergers and demergers.

Héritage Laurentien's mission is to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the St. Lawrence Valley, with a particular focus on the area around the Lachine Rapids and La Prairie Basin. To do this, it carries out studies and inventories, restores habitat and manages natural areas, formulates restoration and management plans, and educates local citizens of all ages. It has been active in Nuns' Island, Parc des Rapides and Récré-O-Parc in Sainte-Catherine, among other places.

Despite being located in the midst of a major metropolis, the St. Lawrence Valley near Montreal is rich in natural diversity. For example, Heron Island is one of the top ten heronries in North America, tern colonies off Verdun have expanded almost tenfold in recent years, and concentrations of nesting ducks on nearby islands are about seven times higher than average. Nor are birds the only fauna to be found. Area reptiles include the rare Brown Snake and Map Turtle, while fish include the endangered Copper Redhorse, previously thought to be endemic to the Richelieu River. The region also played a key role in the history of Montreal and Canada as a base for the fur trade and is a world-renowned centre for water sports such as kayaking and river surfing.

Although this environment is rich, it is also fragile. Almost all the shorelines have been modified and vast areas of wetlands were land-filled during the 1960s. Development on Nuns' Island in recent years made many birders aware of the stakes, and also of the role of *Héritage Laurentien*. The organization generally avoids confrontation and seeks collaboration with all the stakeholders involved in a project: developers, governments, local citizens, etc. It works to achieve compromise, present alternatives to harmful projects, and ensure that as much vital habitat as possible is protected. This requires determining which areas are most important and which can be developed without undue damage to wildlife.

Patrick spoke of a number of projects Héritage

Laurentien has been involved in and mentioned that the development currently of greatest concern is a proposed hydro dam between Cité du Havre and Île Ste-Hélène, promoted by Société du Havre. If built, this dam would raise water levels high enough to destroy the grass beds on which so much aquatic fauna depends. The higher water levels would also ruin many of the low-impact recreational activities now practised in the area, making it suitable only for large boats. The project, which many groups have spoken out against, is currently dormant but far from dead. This is just one of the dossiers Héritage Laurentien is monitoring on behalf of Montrealers as it remains alert to potential threats to the local environment.

Zofia Laubitz



Above:
Sharp-shinned Hawk by
Marco Baiocchi,
November Big Year Photo

Right:
Black-capped Chickadee
by Francis Bossé,
December Big Year Photo

View all Big Year Photos at:
[http://www.pqspb.org/
by_galleries/index.html](http://www.pqspb.org/by_galleries/index.html)



Hudson Christmas Bird Count - 29 December 2007

| Hudson CBC | P 1 | P 2 | P 3 | P 4 | P 5 | P 6 | P 7 | P 8 | P 9 | P 10 | P 11 | P 12 | P 13 | P 14 | P 15 | P 16 | P 17 | FIELD | FEEDER | GRAND | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|--------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----|
| SPECIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL | TOTAL | TOTAL | | | |
| Snow Goose | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | cw | | |
| American Black Duck | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 14 | | | | | | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Mallard | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 66 | 200 | | | | | 271 | 0 | 271 |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 68 | | | | | | 68 | 0 | 68 |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Common Merganser | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11 | 33 | 29 | | | | | 73 | 0 | 73 |
| Red-br. Merganser | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | cw | 0 | 0 |
| Gray Partridge | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ruffed Grouse | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Wild Turkey | | 3 | 6 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Great Blue Heron | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Eagle sp. | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | cw | 0 | 0 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| American Kestrel | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Merlin | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Herring Gull | | | | | 4 | 6 | | | | 2 | | | | | 15 | 2 | 1 | | | | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Great Black-backed Gull | | | | | | | | | | 7 | | 4 | | 4 | 20 | 3 | | | | | 38 | 0 | 38 |
| Rock Pigeon | 160 | 77 | 90 | | | | 38 | | 15 | 170 | | | | 126 | 41 | 82 | 10 | | | 809 | 5 | 814 | |
| Mourning Dove | 37 | 18 | 21 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 97 | 4 | 4 | 26 | | 18 | 15 | 44 | 23 | 20 | 25 | | | 370 | 29 | 399 | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Great Horned Owl | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Snowy Owl | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | cw | 0 | 0 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 | | 1 | 5 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | | | 47 | 8 | 55 | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | | | 33 | 8 | 41 | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Northern Shrike | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Blue Jay | 47 | 24 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 4 | 3 | 41 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 5 | 20 | 12 | | | 228 | 17 | 245 | |
| American Crow | 32 | 107 | 102 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 11 | | 66 | 38 | 28 | 32 | 10 | 15 | 7 | 64 | 18 | | | 557 | 5 | 562 | |
| Common Raven | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Horned Lark | 5 | | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 75 | 135 | 50 | 113 | 32 | 91 | 159 | 75 | 46 | 72 | 47 | 72 | 100 | 25 | 63 | 26 | 61 | | | 1242 | 109 | 1351 | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 5 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | | 3 | | | 74 | 9 | 83 | |
| Brown Creeper | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| American Robin | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | | | | | | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| European Starling | 52 | 44 | 52 | | 1 | | 12 | | 1 | 79 | | 23 | | 274 | 86 | 130 | 107 | | | 861 | 0 | 861 | |
| Bohemian Waxwing | 12 | | | 110 | 180 | | | | | | 200 | 34 | | | | | | | | 536 | 0 | 536 | |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| American Tree Sparrow | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 21 | | | 9 | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 13 | | 5 | | | 77 | 0 | 77 | |
| Song Sparrow | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 3 | 6 | 18 | 4 | | | 1 | 3 | | 49 | | | 15 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 38 | | | 148 | 57 | 205 | |
| Snow Bunting | 1 | 4 | 45 | | | 50 | 10 | 100 | 25 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | 250 | 0 | 250 | |
| Northern Cardinal | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 1 | | | 46 | 18 | 64 | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 27 | | | | | | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Pine Grosbeak | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| House Finch | 2 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | 25 | 2 | 27 |
| Common Redpoll | 43 | 3 | 40 | 4 | 19 | 202 | 35 | 2 | 30 | 20 | | | | 20 | | | | | | 418 | 125 | 543 | |
| Hoary Redpoll | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Pine Siskin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | | | | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| American Goldfinch | 5 | 4 | | 29 | | 35 | 81 | 25 | 1 | 4 | | 4 | 50 | 17 | 12 | 27 | 4 | | | 298 | 57 | 355 | |
| House Sparrow | 133 | 71 | 49 | | | | | | | 13 | | 7 | | 91 | 109 | 78 | 38 | | | 589 | 0 | 589 | |
| Total Individuals | 641 | 530 | 520 | 292 | 278 | 423 | 520 | 227 | 201 | 576 | 284 | 213 | 206 | 670 | 643 | 714 | 330 | | | 7268 | 473 | 7741 | |
| Species Total | 25 | 22 | 23 | 14 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 15 | 23 | 7 | 17 | 11 | 20 | 33 | 20 | 19 | | | 54 | 21 | 54 | |

The 2007 Hudson Christmas Bird Count

On 29 December, 56 birders from the Hudson area and from as far away as St-Bruno counted birds in a 24 kilometre-wide circle centred roughly in St-Lazare. A further 14 FeederWatchers reported birds visiting their feeders on the count day. Additional species were observed in the area during the count period stretching three days either side of the count. This data provides an accurate snapshot of the winter distribution and status of birds in our area.

As can be seen from the data on the opposite page, 17 field parties and 14 FeederWatchers found a total of 7,741 individual birds in our area representing 54 species. Another four species were observed during the count period. Totals for woodland birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches were disappointing. The only really common bird in the woods was the ubiquitous Black-capped Chickadee, which was reported by every field group. American Crows were also reported in high numbers. Owing to the heavy snow cover obliterating much natural food, field species such as Snow Bunting and Horned Lark were scarce. The absence of a good cone crop in such areas as the St-Lazare Pinery meant that the northern finches also were in short supply.

Thanks to everyone who helped out on the Count either in the field or by observing at their feeders. Counts such as this have been conducted for over 100 years and now take place in over 2,000 localities across Canada, the

United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. These observations have been amassed into a huge database reflecting the distribution and numbers of winter birds over time. This, in turn, is used to pinpoint areas of concern where habitat destruction or contamination has impacted bird populations and to identify threatened species.

Alison Bentley, Hudson CBC Compiler

Legend of Hudson CBC Parties

- P 1: 201 West
- P 2: 201 East
- P 3: Pinery and fields south
- P 4: Mount Victoria and Main Road
- P 5: Alstonvale
- P 6: Montée Harwood
- P 7: Como east
- P 8: St-Lazare north, including Saddlebrook & Cedarbrook
- P 9: St-Lazare south, Forestières, etc.
- P 10: St-Lazare east
- P 11: Hudson Heights
- P 12: Hudson Village
- P 13: Como west
- P 14: Vaudreuil-Dorion, Île Perrot etc.
- P 15: St. Lawrence east of Les Cèdres
- P 16: St. Lawrence west of Les Cèdres
- P 17: Oka

Spotted Owls: Shadows in an Old-Growth Forest

Jared Hobbs, Photographer, Text by Richard Cannings

Greystone Books October 2007 ISBN: 978-1-55365-241-0

Spotted Owls is a beautiful book showcasing the images captured by Jared Hobbs, biologist and photographer. Drawing on ten years of study of these mysterious birds, Jared reveals many of the secrets about North America's most elusive owl.

Jared was inspired by the writings of Eric Forsman, a noted biologist and pioneer in the study of Spotted Owls. In the course of his own intensive fieldwork, Jared amassed many rare images, which enabled him to further "tell the story of this magical owl."

The text by biologist Richard Cannings complements Jared's photographs. Dr. Cannings details the bird's natural history, including the three subspecies, a map of their ranges and their function as predators. Just enough scientific information is presented without overwhelming the reader.

The photographs and text beautifully balance each other. Pertinent images fall on the same page as the written subject at hand. The flow of images and words takes us logically through the physical characteristics of the bird and extensive descriptions of its habitat, breeding cycle and relationship to other owls in its area.

Aside from the well-publicized problems of habitat loss and fragmentation due to forestry practices, we are told of the little-known involvement of the Barred Owl. The Barred Owl, a larger cousin of the Spotted Owl, has gradually moved west since the 1800s, with the warming of the world's

climate. It needs less specialized forest and has begun to displace Spotted Owls. Something else is revealed to us: evidence of some hybridization between the two species.

Combined pressures of forestry practices, an increase in recent wildfires and interaction with Barred Owls have led to a rapid decline in the estimated number of breeding pairs. In Canada, the Spotted Owl was listed as endangered in 1986. Historically, the estimate in Canada was 500 breeding pairs. That number was down to 100 pairs in 1990, fewer than 50 pairs by the year 2000, and in 2006, only three known pairs - and only one pair bred successfully that year.

Personally, I have visited old-growth forests in British Columbia, California and Washington several times. On my last visit to Muir Woods, north of San Francisco, in 2005, I had a long walk and conversation about the Spotted Owl with a veteran park ranger. He tantalized me with the fact that he had been monitoring a nest site for close to ten years. Wisely, he absolutely declined to point out its location.

To me, there is no group of birds more mysterious and fascinating than owls. The Spotted Owl faces extinction on the Pacific coast as the debate continues for and against logging the old-growth forests. What the final outcome will be is anyone's guess. We are fortunate that *Spotted Owls* provides us with a powerful record of this endangered bird.

Chuck Kling

Field Trip Diaries

- 17/11/07 STE-MARTINE, ST-ÉTIENNE, ST-LOUIS-DE-GONZAGUE, ST-TIMOTHÉE, MAPLE GROVE, MERCIER
Leader: Felix Hilton
Weather: Sunny, cold, very windy. 8 birders 31 species
Birds of the Day: Osprey, Northern Shoveler.
Other Birds of Note: Green-winged Teal, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Horned Lark, American Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting.
- 24/11/07 BOIS PAPINEAU
Leader: Chuck Kling
Weather: Sunny, calm, -8° C. 6 birders 17 species
Birds of the Day: Two Barred Owls.
Other Birds of Note: Merlin, Accipiter species, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Grosbeak.
- 01/12/07 PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES
Leader: Wayne Grubert
Weather: Very cold and windy. 3 birders 16 species
Bird of the Day: Pine Grosbeak.
Other Birds of Note: Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Northern Cardinal; Diving duck species, possibly Long-tailed Duck.
- 08/12/07 CASSELMAN & STE-ROSE-DE-PRESCOTT, ON
Leader: Jacques Bouvier
Weather: Mild, some blowing snow. 11 birders 30 species
Bird of the Day: Evening Grosbeak.
Other Birds of Note: Gray Partridge, Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll.
- 12/01/08 MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
Leader: Guy Zenaitis
Weather: Pleasant but windy conditions. 35 birders 18 species
Birds of the Day: Two Peregrine Falcons, Carolina Wren, European Goldfinch.
Other Birds of Note: Merlin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll.
- 19/01/08 PARC JEAN DRAPEAU
Leader: Sheldon Harvey
Weather: Sunny, light winds, -3°C. 17 birders 16 species
Bird of the Day: Townsend's Solitaire (seen by five birders only)
Other Birds of Note: Common Merganser, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Raven, American Robin, Northern Cardinal.

Field Trip Diaries are compiled by Sheldon Harvey

Great Backyard Bird Count - Count for Fun, Count for the Future

The 11th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place 15 - 18 February 2008. This year's "Count for Fun, Count for the Future" theme emphasizes the value of birding, not only for enjoyment but as a way to monitor changes in bird population.

Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. Observations are reported using an online checklist available at the GBBC web site (<http://birdsource.org/gbbc>).

In 2007, participants reported over 11 million birds of

613 species, submitting 81,203 checklists. Quebec birders observed 36,694 birds of 96 species (up from 93 in 2006) and submitted 592 checklists, an increase of 291 checklists from 2006! Oddly enough, the top three reported species for each of the last nine years have been Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco and Mourning Dove. Is this the case at your feeder? Make your observations count and participate!

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from Canada and the United States, compare this year's numbers with previous years and/or submit photographs of their GBBC birds.

BPQ Monthly Meetings

4 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May 2008

Knox Crescent Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG



Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

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

Saturday 23 February - samedi 23 février

MORGAN ARBORETUM - ARBORETUM MORGAN

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

Leader:

Betsy McFarlane
514-457-9315

betsy.mcfarlane@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM From Montreal take Highway 40 west. Exit at exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on Chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum Road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum members. **Half day.**
8 h 00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement principal, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 1 March - samedi 1 mars

GRENVILLE AREA

Leaders:

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

Jacques Bouvier
613-524-1154
bouvier@magma.ca

8:00 AM From Montreal take Highway 40 to the Ontario border (40 km from Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue). Continue on Highway 417 and take Exit 9 (9 km) for Hawkesbury. Continue on Highway 17 approximately 7 km and take the Tupper Street exit on your right (signed for Province de/of Quebec). At 1.8 km at the T junction, turn left on Main Street. After another 1.8 km, turn right onto John Street (opposite the big church). Continue on John St. across Long Sault Bridge over the Ottawa River. At the first traffic light in Grenville, QC, turn right on Rue Principale and make an immediate right into the SAQ parking lot where we will meet. The distance is approximately 52 kilometres from the Île-aux-Tourtes Bridge at the west end of Montreal Island on Highway 40.

This is an exploratory field trip to the area around Grenville, Quebec, across the Ottawa River from Hawkesbury, Ontario. It will be a driving trip, and some of the roads will not be paved. The leaders will have scouted the area in the days before. We will probably bird along Chemin Scotch, which can be good for winter finches and other passerines, as well as exploring other potentially interesting habitat in the area. **Half day.**

8 h 00 À partir de Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 et poursuivre jusqu'à la frontière ontarienne (40 km à partir de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue). Continuer sur l'autoroute 417 sur une distance d'environ 9 km et prendre la sortie 9 pour Hawkesbury. Continuer sur la route 17 sur une distance d'environ 7 km et prendre la sortie pour rue Tupper, à votre droite (indiquant Province de Québec). Après 1,8 km, à la jonction en T, tourner à gauche sur Main Street. Après encore 1,8 km, tourner à droite sur John Street (en face de l'église). Continuer sur John Street et traverser le pont Long Sault qui passe au-dessus de la rivière des Outaouais. Au premier feu de circulation de Grenville, Québec, tourner à droite sur la rue Principale puis tourner immédiatement à droite dans le stationnement de la SAQ où a lieu le rassemblement. La distance totale à partir du pont Île-aux-Tourtes, situé à l'extrémité ouest de l'île de Montréal, est d'environ 52 km.

Il s'agit d'une excursion exploratoire de la région de Grenville, Québec. Les déplacements auront lieu en auto sur des routes dont certaines ne sont pas asphaltées. Les responsables de l'excursion auront exploré les lieux durant les jours précédant l'excursion. Le chemin Scotch, qui peut offrir des observations intéressantes d'oiseaux d'hiver et d'autres passereaux, fera sans doute partie des points d'observation, de même que d'autres habitats potentiellement intéressants de la région. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 8 March - samedi 8 mars

BOIS PAPINEAU, LAVAL

Leader:

Chuck Kling
514-277-2567

chuckk@videotron.ca

8:00 AM From Highway 40 (Metropolitan Boulevard) take exit for Papineau Ave. north (Highway 19). Cross bridge into Laval. At the third exit, take St. Martin east for approximately 1.5 km. On the left are a police garage and a community centre. Take the lane between them to a parking area at the back. **Half day.**

8 h 00 De l'autoroute 40 (boul. Métropolitain) prendre la sortie Papineau nord (rte 19). Traverser le pont qui mène à Laval. À la 3ème sortie, prendre le boulevard Saint-Martin est et continuer sur une distance d'environ 1,5 km. À gauche se trouvent un garage de police et un centre communautaire. Prendre la ruelle entre les deux édifices et continuer jusqu'au stationnement situé à l'arrière. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 15 March - samedi 15 mars

MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS - JARDIN BOTANIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

Leader: 8:00 AM Meet in front of the restaurant, near the entrance on Sherbrooke St. East. There is a charge for parking inside the gates. Looking for winter finches. **Half day.**
David Mulholland 8 h 00 Rassemblement devant le restaurant, près de l'entrée du jardin sur la rue Sherbrooke
514-630-6082 est. Prévoir des frais de stationnement. Espèces recherchées : oiseaux d'hiver. **Demi-journée.**
davidhmulholland@sympatico.ca

Saturday 22 March - samedi 22 mars

PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES

Leader: 8:00 AM Take Highway 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road. Continue for 2 kilometres to the chalet d'accueil of the park. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**
Wayne Grubert 8 h 00 Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 7,00\$. **Demi-journée.**
450-458-5498
wgrubert@hotmail.com

Saturday 29 March - samedi 29 mars

ÎLE PERROT

Leader: 8:00 AM From Highway 20, exit Don Quichotte Boulevard. Meet at Windmill Point at the end of Don Quichotte. Looking for waterfowl, hawks and early migrants. **Half day.**
Peter Mitchell 8 h 00 De l'autoroute 20, prendre le boul. Don Quichotte jusqu'au bout. Rassemblement à la Pointe du Moulin. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, buses et migrateurs hâtifs. **Demi-journée.**
819-687-2850
lpitchell@sympatico.ca

Saturday 5 April - samedi 5 avril

PARC DES RAPIDES

BRING A FRIEND BIRDING DAY - JOURNÉE AMICALE

Leaders: 8:00 AM Meet in the parking lot at Parc des Rapides, corner of LaSalle Boulevard and 6th Avenue in Ville LaSalle (just east of Bishop Power Boulevard). Take Highway 20 to the Boulevard de la Vérendrye exit. Heading west on de la Vérendrye, turn left onto the Stephens Street Bridge that crosses the Aqueduct. Follow this street south to the waterfront on LaSalle Blvd. Turn right on LaSalle Blvd. and follow it to the parking lot at the corner of 6th Avenue. Looking for waterfowl and early migrants. We may also visit Angrignon Park, the waterfront next to Douglas Hospital or the belvedere at Nuns' Island. Be prepared to drive. **Half day.**
Diane Demers
514-729-3051
ddemers03@hotmail.com

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

This trip has been designated "*Bring a Friend Birding Day.*" Everyone is encouraged to bring along a family member, friend or neighbour to experience birding for perhaps the first time. New birders are especially invited to join us.

8 h 00 Rassemblement dans le stationnement du Parc des Rapides. Celui-ci est situé à l'intersection du boulevard LaSalle et de la 6ème avenue à ville LaSalle (juste à l'est du boulevard Bishop Power). Prendre l'autoroute 20, puis la sortie pour le boulevard de la Vérendrye. Aller en direction ouest sur ce boulevard. À la rue Stephens, prendre le pont qui traverse le Canal de l'Aqueduc. Continuer sur la rue Stephens jusqu'au boulevard LaSalle, qui longe le fleuve. Tourner à droite sur ce boulevard et continuer jusqu'à stationnement, situé au coin de la 6ème avenue. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine et migrateurs hâtifs. Nous pourrions visiter d'autres sites tels le parc Angrignon, la rive du Fleuve en face de l'hôpital Douglas ou le belvédère de l'île des Soeurs. Il faudra s'attendre à conduire. **Demi-journée.**

Cette excursion a été désignée « *Journée amicale.* » Nous vous encourageons à amener un membre de votre famille, ami ou voisin à venir expérimenter l'observation d'oiseaux, pour une première fois peut-être. Les nouveaux observateurs sont particulièrement invités.

Bird Protection Quebec
Protection des oiseaux du Québec
P.O. Box 43, Station B
Montreal, QC H3B 3J5

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