

On May 25 at 5:30 am, McGill Bird Observatory's third Birdathon team, the **Specialty Species Spotters**, started out by bike from 64 Senneville Road. Team members were Alison Hackney and Catherine Russell. In spite of intermittent rain and strong winds, we listed 68 species. Most of our birds, including 11 species of warbler, were heard along Senneville Road – a great birding route! Our first destination was Bois-de-la-Roche farm in Senneville where we saw at least a dozen displaying male Bobolinks. Next we stopped at the fields east of the Rivière à l'Orme, usually a good spot for Indigo Buntings, but they disappointed us this time. We crossed the river and walked as far as the marsh before heading north again on Senneville Road and stopping to tour the Druelle farm, part of the Arboretum, and Braeside Golf Course. Our next stop, next to the Ile-aux-Tourtes Bridge, was so wind and rain whipped that no swallows were about, only a Spotted Sandpiper who barely avoided being carried away by the gale. At our last site, the Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue locks, we saw four species of swallow feeding over the rapids among the small islands, a Raven guarding its nest, and a Common Tern just south of the locks.

Highlights of the trip were a Common Nighthawk over the Anse-à-l'Orme Road, a gorgeous Scarlet Tanager at the marsh west of the same road, and Eastern Bluebirds on Braeside Golf Course.



Alison Hackney and Catherine Russell, Baillie Birdathon 2013