

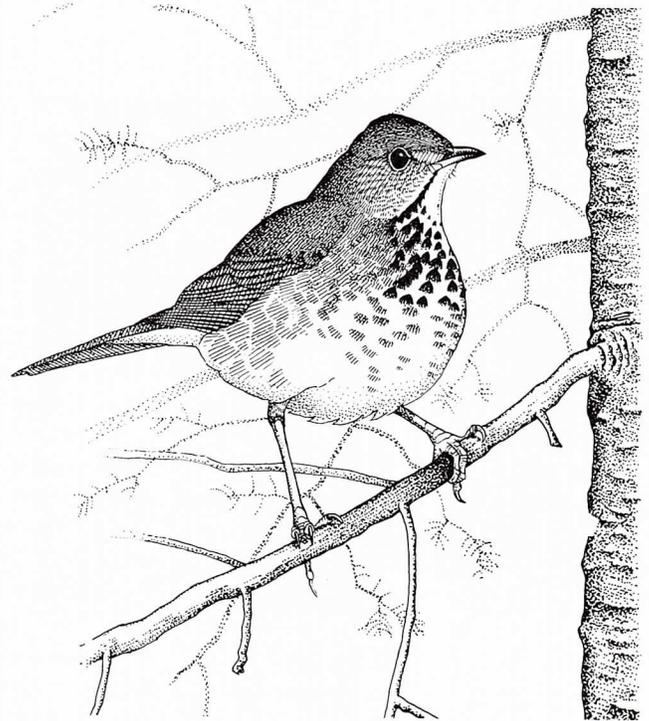
roads. Any of the roads leading to the mountains and hills behind and around Percé lead to Bicknell's Thrush habitat. As well, the path and stairs behind the church lead to a lookout (belvedere) where singing individuals have been observed in June. June would be the preferred time as singing diminishes rapidly and becomes infrequent afterwards. An additional bonus: the gannet and other seabird colonies of Bonaventure Island are close by.

Map 3. There are scattered populations of Bicknell's Thrush in the higher areas of Charlevoix County. I have observed it at locations north of Saint-Urbain, on Highway 381, in Parc des Grands-Jardins and in ZEC (Zone d'exploitation contrôlée) des Martres. The forest roads leading to second growth vegetation, particularly those located east of the highway, are worth exploring, especially at dawn.

Map 3. As well, it has been reported on the higher elevations of Parc Jacques-Cartier and in Réserve faunique des Laurentides using Highways 175 and 169 (Mont Apica). Sideroads are scarce along the highways, but those sideroads going to higher elevations where you can use a car should be productive in June. The road leading to Mont Apica has given good results.

Mont Sir-Wilfrid (46°41'-75°36'), in Labelle County, in the general area of Mont-Laurier, supports a very small population and is difficult to access on an arduous and unpredictable gravel road. It does not offer good chances of observing it in spite of its location close to Ottawa.

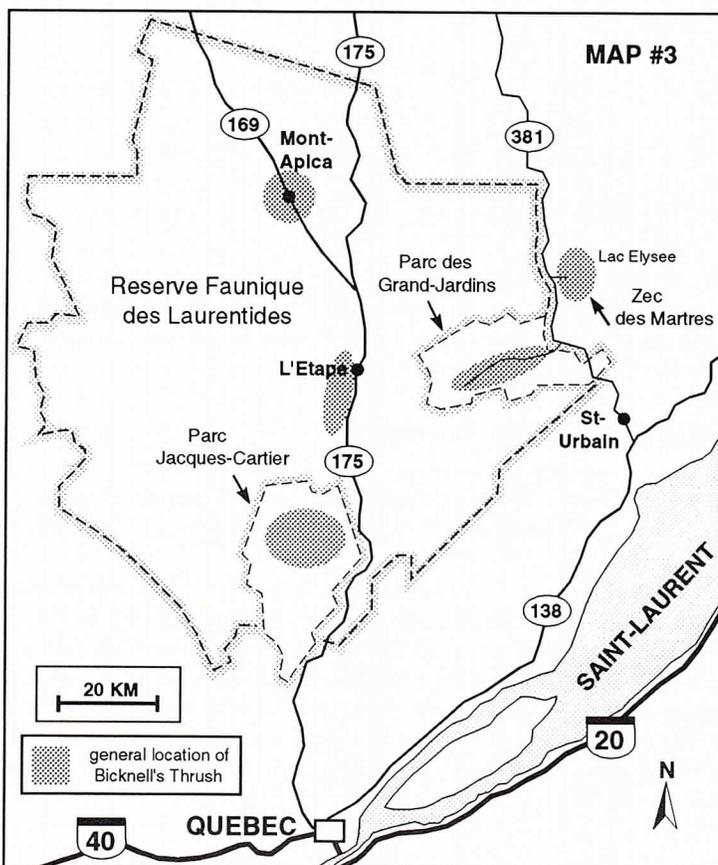
The best times of the day to hear and see Bicknell's Thrush are early morning about sunrise and late evenings just before sunset. It sings occasionally during the night and on calm and



Bicknell's Thrush by Peter Burke

foggy days. The first three weeks in June undoubtedly fall during the safest period to observe it. Patience is important because singing is often very erratic even if several pairs are holding territories. Good birding!

For more information on the Mont Mégantic site and Mont Sir-Wilfrid, see *Ontario Birds* 14(2): 85-88, August 1996.



Map by Michael King

Ornithologist Henri Ouellet spoke about Bicknell's Thrush at the very successful OFO AGM in October 1996. At the meeting, Henri agreed to provide OFO members with help finding Bicknell's Thrush in Quebec. OFO NEWS thanks Michael King for creating the accompanying maps.

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