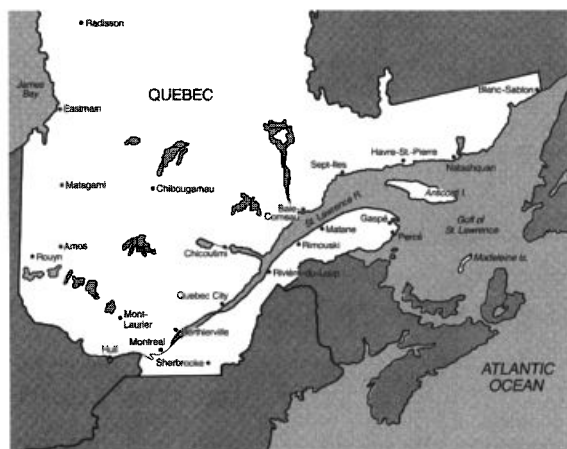


québec region



SA Last winter, biologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service (MR, JPS) initiated a study of Barrow's Goldeneyes wintering in the St. Lawrence estuary, which may constitute the bulk of the species' population in the northeast. Seven males were captured (three at Baie-des-Rochers and four at Mistassini) and equipped with satellite transmitter implants. At the end of April, birds started to leave their winter quarters, and were located 60 to 300 km inland on the n. shore of the St. Lawrence R., from Tadoussac to w. of Mingan. One of them stayed a few weeks at ZEC Martin-Valin (Saguenay), where subsequent ground surveys conducted in May led to the discovery of 5 other pairs and one male. Many lakes were also visited at the nearby ZEC Chauvin during spring, of which 19 were found to be inhabited by either pair, female, or male Barrow's Goldeneyes. During subsequent surveys in early July, females were found on 7 of these lakes, and breeding was confirmed for the first time in Québec as a female with her brood of six ducklings was observed July 2 on Lac des Polices (CM, MR, JPS). This constitutes the first documented breeding evidence of Barrow's Goldeneyes in e. North America. The journey made by the seven males can be watched at the following web site: <http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/envcan/faune.html>

PIERRE BANNON, YVES AUBRY, and NORMAND DAVID

After a very dry May, numerous June and July thunderstorms contributed to bring total rainfall back to near normal in the south, but the drought persisted in the north. Otherwise, summer weather was normal. According to several observers, last winter's ice storm in the Montreal area was, at first sight, of little consequence with respect to the local occurrence of breeding woodland species, but no data were available in relation to the abundance of these species.

FULMARS THROUGH CRANES

Enriching our knowledge of the distribution of the N. Fulmar in n. Québec was the sighting of two individuals at Kangisqsualujuaq, *Ungava Bay*, July 20 (YG). A nest of Great Blue Herons found in a colony of Double-crested Cormorants in the Mingan Is. June 2 proved to be the easternmost known for the Region (DD et al.). Two nests of Great Egret found in the Lachine rapids, July 30, provided a 2nd nesting locality for this species in the Region (P. Mousseau). Baie-du-Febvre hosted a Glossy Ibis June 24–July 6 (E. Samson, A. Lacasse).

Rarely reported so far east, a male Wood Duck was encountered at Havre-Saint-Pierre June 11 (DD et al.). As usual, King Eiders were present in small numbers along the St. Lawrence estuary throughout the season. More surprising and intriguing were the reports of adults accompanied by

young. A pair was seen with four ducklings at Bic June 7 (R. Roy, *vide* J. Larivée) and a female with young was seen driving off a displaying male at Île aux Basques June 13 (A. Déry et al.). But even if the identification of the adults was most likely correct in both cases, the downy young seen at a distance could probably not be ascertained to belong to the same species. Although interspecific guarding behavior in eider species is not well known, the possibility that a female King Eider (a so-called "auntie") would guard the brood of a female Com. Eider cannot be ruled out completely. A more definitive proof of breeding is still needed. The closest site where the species is known to nest regularly is Ungava Bay, roughly 1000 km to the north of the St. Lawrence estuary. A Hooded Merganser turned up e. of its range at Havre-Saint-Pierre July 2 (DD).

The sighting of a Black Vulture at Saint-André-de-Kamouraska July 23 was notable (JPO, ML). Turkey Vultures were present at the limits of their summer range in the Saguenay, Charlevoix, and lower St. Lawrence regions. Considering how rapidly this species has spread in the Region, it would not be completely unexpected to find that it is already nesting in these regions. The status of the Bald Eagle in the Mingan Is. has changed dramatically in recent years; 6 nests were discovered this year, while previous surveys had shown the presence of only one nest (B. Roberge et al.). Nesting Merlins

found in urban areas are increasingly common; this summer nesting was confirmed at Saint-Hyacinthe (NR), Sherbrooke (SDes), Québec City (YA), and Hull (F Bédard).

At the limit of their range were two Soras in the Mingan Is. June 27 (DD). A pair of Sandhill Crane at Katevale until at least June 19 suggested local nesting (CD)

KILLDEER THROUGH DOVES

A Killdeer at Kuujuaq, *Ungava Bay*, June 13 was exceptional, if not unprecedented (YG). An Am. Avocet reappeared at Rivière-du-Loup June 20 onwards (JPO, ML), where one spent last summer. The appearance of two Willets at Havre-aux-Maisons, *Magdalen Is.*, was not completely unexpected as the species is nesting in the Maritimes Region, less than 200 km away (*vide* J Laporte). Quite surprising was an Upland Sandpiper in a bog near Havre-Saint-Pierre, well e. of its range, June 26 (DD) Single Marbled Godwits at Saint-Fulgence June 21 (CC, GS) and Île aux Basques June 27 (M. Darveau et al.) furnished rare summer records for the Region. Following a fallout of 9000 northbound shorebirds at Saint-Méthode June 5, 1200 Sanderlings and 7000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, both very high numbers for spring, were recorded (CC, GS). A Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage graced Havre-aux-Basques, *Magdalen Is.*, July 21 (A. Richard, C. Roy),

and a Ruff visited Sainte-Martine July 22–26 (A. Hogue). More unusual was a *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitcher in breeding plumage near Saint-Hyacinthe July 29 onwards (NR).

Small gulls included five Laughing Gulls, two Franklin's Gulls, and four Little Gulls. A Black-headed Gull was sitting on a nest in the midst of a colony of 3500 Ring-billed Gulls in the Mingan Is. May 31 (C. Kavanagh), where the species had been found nesting in 1988. Three pairs of Black-headed Gulls were noted at Havre-aux-Basques in late June, where breeding was first recorded in 1981 (J. Laporte). Three single birds were also reported along the St. Lawrence estuary. An apparent 2nd-summer Herring Gull × Great Black-backed Gull was closely observed at Les Escoumins June 6 (CA, CG). Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbered 14 of various ages and were found mainly along the St. Lawrence estuary. Roseate Terns maintained their presence in the Magdalen Is., where a nest was found (AR). A Forster's Tern at Lévis June 17 was noteworthy (GL).

Two Mourning Doves at Kuujuaq July 5–7 suggested local breeding (YG); the species had nested there in 1989.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

This summer seems to have been favorable to rodents in the boreal zone. Observers reported a single N. Hawk Owl at Mingan June 18 (G. Falardeau et al.) and 3 broods:

one pair and four juveniles 75 km n. of Villebois, *Abitibi*, June 30 (D. Brongo et al.); one adult and one juvenile w. of Val-Paradis, *Abitibi*, June 30 (A. Nappi et al.); one adult and two juveniles at L. Uchichicau (49°47' N, 69°41' W) mid-July (CM); and one juvenile s. of Val-Paradis July 24 (E. Milot). A minimum of 13 broods of Long-eared Owl were surveyed in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean lowlands in late July (B. Dumont). A pair of N. Saw-whet Owls nested in a box at Rivière-Saint-Jean, n. of its known range (Y. Rochepot, CB). An E. Wood-Pewee at Les Escoumins June 2 represented a rare sighting e. of the Saguenay R. (CA, CG). A singing Willow Flycatcher was located at Havre-Aubert, *Magdalen Is.*, June 20–24 (F. Shaffer, A. Richard), representing a first for the islands.

An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that turned up at Havre-Saint-Pierre in late May was apparently still around in early June, providing our 12th Regional record (R. Plouffe).

Rarely reported e. of Québec City, up to five N. Rough-winged Swallows were spotted at Rivière-du-Loup June 19–July 1 (M. St-Pierre, J.R. Pelletier, et al.).

TITMICE THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

The Tufted Titmouse nested again in s. Québec, providing our 3rd breeding record, as a family group of four–five birds was observed in early June at Otterburn Park (A.M. Roth, PB). In July, up to nine birds,

including young, were observed in another part of this municipality (H. Richard). Also, lone birds were reported from Oka July 31 (B. Lismonde) and Rock Forest in July (A. Mireault). Single Sedge Wrens at Bellefeuille, near Saint-Jérôme, June 24 (PB), and at Dunham June 7 onwards (B. Hamel) were new for these localities. Single pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested successfully at Longueuil, Nun's I., and Pointe du Gouvernement. Single male E. Bluebirds made incursions into the boreal forest, at camp Myrica, 140 km n. of L. Saint-Jean, June 10–18 (L. Imbeau, F. Gouge), and Lac des Graines (49°03' N, 69°47' W) July 2–4 (SDes). Field work on Bicknell's Thrush produced little noteworthy this year. In the Eastern Townships, surveys of Mt. Gosford indicated that this site would host a population as important as Mt. Mégantic (V. Connolly, G. Rompré). Observers reported a dozen birds in ZECs Martin-Vallin and Chauvin, which is indicative of a possibly more important local population (GS et al.). Bohemian Waxwing was observed on Perroquet I., *Mingan*, July 8 (CB, L. Del-Giudice), and three birds were at Lac Cabituquimats, near Labrieville, July 17 (CM); there is yet no breeding evidence for this species in s. Québec.

An occupied nest of Eur. Starling was found at Kuujuaq June 19 onwards (YG, J. Rodrigue et al.), the northernmost locality in the Region. Singing Warbling Vireos were reported at Havre-Saint-Pierre June 14 (G.

SA One of the most interesting observations in years was of a **Tropical Kingbird** that graced Cap Tourmente July 3–22. First found in bad weather late July 3 (B. Gariépy), and reported tentatively as a W. Kingbird, the bird was well studied July 5 and identified as a Tropical by several observers, including some with previous experience with both Couch's and Tropical kingbirds (LM, R. Dion, F. Dion, v.o.). In subsequent days, observers were able to note at leisure the rather long bill, obvious grayish back (with barely a hint of green), and shortish wings; in addition, although the bird did not respond to play backs of both Tropical and Couch's kingbird recordings, it emitted occasional series of high-pitched calls, "identical," according to the observers (LM, AC, JPO, v.o.), to the usual calls of the Tropical, lacking the nasal and burry components found in the calls of Couch's. In other words, nothing indicated a Couch's Kingbird, and everything pointed to a Tropical.

The calls of the bird were not recorded. On the other hand, many photographs were obtained at close range (ML, JPO, AC), and extremely detailed descriptions were submitted (AC, GM, J. Lachance, ML, JPO). The bird was not in juvenal plumage based on the absence of apparent rufous fringes on wing coverts, etc. From the photos showing the bird in profile, it is possible to calculate the bill/wing index (see Traylor 1979; *Auk* 96: 221-233); resulting values between 0.165 and 0.170 all fall within the range of variation for Tropical Kingbird, and outside the range for Couch's. It should be noted that the length of the flattened wing of museum specimens, used in the bill/wing index, adds 1–2 mm to the length of the wing as measured on a photo (*vide* M. Gosselin); therefore, measurements that take this factor into account are considered reliable.

Photo enlargements (see <http://www.globetrotter.qc.ca/gt/usagers/acot/index.htm>) and available descriptions showed that the Cap Tourmente bird most likely did not belong to the nominal *melancholicus* subspecies (South America), since both chin and throat were white (throat gray in *melancholicus*). They also showed that the bird had several unnotched primaries, thus indicating a 2nd-year bird retaining its juvenal primaries. Since Tropicals of the w. Mexican *occidentalis* subspecies start replacing juvenal primaries with the first pre-basic and pre-alternate molts (Pyle 1997; Traylor 1979), and since the Cap Tourmente bird showed no newly grown feathers, we conclude that it belonged most likely to the e. Mexican *satrapa* subspecies, as these birds sometimes retain all juvenal primaries through the 2nd prebasic molt.

Extraordinary as it may seem, this occurrence is the 2nd in our Region, the first being a recently published report for Anticosti, June 16, 1984 (*Field Notes* 52 (1): 9, 11), of a bird identified as a Tropical Kingbird by the bill/wing index measured from a photograph.

Falardeau et al.) and Hébertville June 27 (CC et al.), 2 localities n. of its known range. Saint-Bruno and Pointe-du-Gouvernement, 2 localities where local forests greatly suffered from last winter's ice storm, hosted single male Cerulean Warblers in early summer (SDen, v.o.). A Louisiana Waterthrush reported at Orford in May was still singing June 13 (A. Schmidt).

A small population of N. Cardinals seems to be established in the Québec City region, where at least 2 breeding pairs were observed. Extralimital sparrows included single Clay-colored Sparrows at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf June 1 (AR) and at Rivière-du-Loup in mid-July (JPO, ML), and a Field Sparrow at Les Escoumins July 30 (CA). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Saint-Luce June 2 (v.o.) and a female at Saint-Eusèbe (M&C Beaulieu) were out-of-range.

INTRODUCED

A Bar-headed Goose lingered at Barachois June 4–14 (É. Arseneault, v.o.). A White-cheeked Pintail appeared at Longueuil July 30 (N. Richard). A Ring-necked Pheasant with five young at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois was interesting (SDen). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was at Lennoxville in July (CD, H. Durocher). A Crested Myna of unknown origin was observed at Amos June 20–22 (A. Lefebvre et al., A.G. Bernier). Two spectacular species endemic to Africa were found in the Montreal Botanical Gardens, first a Paradise Whydah June 17–25 (P. Gingras, v.o.) and then a Lavender Waxbill June 30 (D. Vizbara, *vide* G. Zenaitis).

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new england region

WAYNE R. PETERSEN

In marked contrast to the past few years, June was punctuated by heavy rain, cloudy weather, and cool temperatures. In Boston, rain totaled 11.58 inches, well over triple the average, and the second highest amount in the 128-year official record. Temperatures averaged 64.7°F, 3.0° below normal. July, by contrast, was practically normal, with both rainfall and temperatures falling very close to long-term averages. Not unexpectedly, there was apparently some cavity-nesting bird mortality, most notably Tree Swallows, and heavy rain was thought by some to have an adverse effect on May's super-abundant caterpillar crop, which in turn caused a sudden disappearance of cuckoos in certain parts of the Region.

First state breeding records and significant range extensions were set by Black Vulture in Massachusetts, and Fish Crow in Vermont. No less interesting were reports of Audubon's Shearwater in Maine, Little Egrets in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, White-faced Ibis in Connecticut, Gull-billed Tern in Maine, and Western Kingbird in Massachusetts.

Abbreviations: Appledore I. (*Isles of Shoals, ME*); M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard, MA*); M.D.F.W. (*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*); McKinney N.W.R. (*Stratford, CT*); Monomoy I. (*Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, MA*); Plum I. (*Parker River N.W.R., Newburyport/Newbury, MA*); Scarborough Marsh (*Scarborough, ME*); South Beach (*South Beach, Chatham, MA*); Seavey I. (*Isles of Shoals, NH*); Stratton I. (*Cumberland Co., ME*); West Meadows W.M.A. (*West Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., MA*).

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Red-throated Loons were reported from at least 10 localities, highest tallies being three each at Quoddy Head S.P., ME, July 28 (PL) and Tiverton, RI, July 19 (KH), where the observer also reported a loon in at least partial breeding plumage that was thought to be a Pacific, possibly the same bird described in the spring report from not-too-distant



Portsmouth, RI. A count of 102 non-breeding Com. Loons in Buzzards Bay, MA, June 24 (RFa) was respectable. The Bay State also boasted a seasonal total of 19 pairs of loons (*vide* BB). In Vermont, 30 nesting Com. Loons successfully raised 30 young (*vide* SF), but in Maine and New Hampshire, a report from the North American Loon Fund suggested that 25% of the loon nests in those states may have been lost to heavy rain, which created such extremely high water conditions that many shoreline nest sites were under a foot of water.

In spite of a scattering of Pied-billed Grebe reports, the only confirmed breeding in s. New England was an adult with a juvenile at Tyngsboro, Middlesex, MA. Unusual was a Horned Grebe that spent June at W. Haven, CT (GH), as were single Red-necked Grebes at 2 localities on the New Hampshire coast in late June (SM). Tubenoses made a modest showing, as reflected by the following *maxima*: 475 Greater and 260 Sooty shearwaters at Stellwagen Bank July 22 (MG), 361 Sooty Shearwaters at Provincetown June 13 (ML), and 20 Manx Shearwaters at Truro June 13 (ML) and 15 off Rockport, MA, July 15 (GW). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were notably scarce over most inshore waters throughout the season. More notable was a very well-described **Audubon's Shearwater** observed between