

tery Sydney R., Cape Breton I.

Last fall's record incursion of N. Cardinals produced 57 CBC birds in New Brunswick, ≥ 25 through winter in Nova Scotia, and two on Prince Edward I. An Indigo Bunting Dec. 17–26 at an Alma, NB feeder (JW) was the province's third and latest in winter. Of four Dickcissels in Nova Scotia, none was reported after December. Feeders hosted a Rufous-sided Towhee Dec. 6–late-January at Alma, NB, and three through winter in Nova Scotia.

Both brush and grassland sparrows were generally rated as below average in numbers in New Brunswick (DSC) and Nova Scotia (DAC). A few Chipping Sparrows occurred in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and a more unusual Field Sparrow was at Trudel, NB Jan. 3 (M. David). A Lark Sparrow stayed until Dec. 18 at Newport, NS (†F. Woolhaver). Savannah Sparrows were rare on Nova Scotia beaches, and 40 "Ipswiches" staying on Sable I. (ZL) were fewer than usual there. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow Dec. 18 near Cape St. Mary (BM *et al.*) was Newfoundland's fifth. A Seaside Sparrow lasted until Dec. 28 at Economy, NS (FS, ph.). Single White-crowned Sparrows survived at feeders until Jan. 30 at Cambridge Narrows, NB (E. Inch), and through winter near Wolfville, NS (v.o.); the latter was immature but yellow-billed, suggestive of *gambellii*. A Harris' Sparrow at a feeder at Manuels, NF Dec. 23+ was the province's first and the Region's fifth (v.o., ph.). A Lincoln's Sparrow Dec. 29 at Cape Broyle (P. Linegar) was the only one reported of this now-expected laggard in s.e. Newfoundland. Among the year-round sparrows, only Dark-eyed Juncos seemed to maintain their numbers in both New Brunswick (DSC) and Nova Scotia (DAC). Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia may have reflected concentration (some at feeders) rather than abundance.

An E. Meadowlark survived at a feeder at Pubnico to Jan. 30 (R d'Entremont), and individual meadowlarks (sp.) were present Jan. 3 at Mary's Pt., NB (DSC), and in early January at a feeder near Woodstock (D. Myles). The black icterids, including (gratifyingly) Brown-headed Cowbirds, did not fare well. A Com. Grackle at Brackley, PEI to Jan. 26 was exceptional (RC). Of the "many" N. Orioles in Nova Scotia (DAC) that attempted to winter—perhaps four in New Brunswick (DSC) and "several" in St. John's, NF (BM)—only one, at Economy, NS (FS), evidently succeeded.

Although Pine Grosbeaks were "abundant" until mid-January in St. John's, NF (BM) and staged a moderate flight in New Brunswick (DSC), they were below average

on CBCs in Nova Scotia (DAC). Purple Finches were generally uncommon, especially in Nova Scotia. The seemingly stalled spread of House Finches was evident in at least 90 birds seen on CBCs in New Brunswick, but only ≥ 7 wintering in Nova Scotia. Although not matched elsewhere, an apparent increase in Red Crossbills (small-billed when noted) occurred in Nova Scotia in late winter (v.o.). After years of dearth, Com. Redpolls appeared in large numbers throughout the Region, although New Brunswick CBCs reported higher numbers per party-hour in 1968–1969, 1986–1987, and 1991–1992 (DSC). Most were not at first found at feeders, but came to depend on them. Inevitably, there were reports of (and disputes about) Hoary Redpolls among them. None were noted in Newfoundland. Four on Miquelon Dec. 19 (JCH) were the first ever on S.P.M. About ten were reported (3 ph.) in New Brunswick (JW) and ≥ 7 in Nova Scotia (v.o.). Only two were noted as possibly of the larger *hornemanni*. Although "common" in s.e. Newfoundland (BM), Pine Siskins were scarce elsewhere. American Goldfinch numbers also varied within the Region. More than usual wintered on S.P.M. (RE); they were in "record-smashing numbers" in s.e. Newfoundland (BM), "well down" in New Brunswick (DSC), and "common" in Nova Scotia (DAC).

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Quebec Region

YVES AUBRY AND PIERRE BANNON

The 1993–1994 winter will be remembered as the coldest ever for the Region, with temperatures below normal from the end of December through mid-February. The Region experienced the coldest January in history, with many record-low maximum temperatures, while its mean temperature was 6–8°C below normal. Total precipitations were below normal in December, near normal in January, and below normal in February. In contrast, the mild conditions of the first three weeks of December enabled some passerines to remain in southern Quebec, delighting winter listers.

Loons to Waterfowl

Most of the late geese and ducks were gone from the province by Christmas. An unidentified swan flew over Delson Jan. 12 (S. Larson), while a wintering ♀ Wood Duck shared food with a flock of domestic geese at Beauharnois Jan. 19+ (DD, FG). A ♀ Blue-winged Teal at Côte-Sainte-Catherine Dec. 18 provided a record-late date for the Region (B. Weeds). Three Hooded Mergansers were observed at Dégelis Jan. 30 (M. Beaulieu, m.ob.).

Raptors to Gulls

Bald Eagles were reported by many observers along the St. Lawrence R. and from Laurentides, Lanaudière, and Eastern Township regions. Only a few Cooper's Hawks were reported: one at Saint-Narcisse, Lotbinière Feb. 12 (JL) and four or five in the Montreal area. Red-tailed Hawk was the most widespread hawk in the Montreal area; ten were counted in the Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, Beauharnois area Jan. 30 (PB). For the 4th consecutive winter Gyrfalcons were found in higher-than-average numbers, with >15 individuals reported along the St. Lawrence R.

An early Killdeer was located at Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Chambly Feb. 28 (C. Lépine), while a Greater Yellowlegs at Saint-Jean Dec. 5 was the latest ever by 7 days (PS). Single Black-headed Gulls were observed at Saint-Romuald, Lévis Dec. 4 (LM), and at Bonaventure Dec. 14 & 22 (J.-M. Pitre). The only Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings this season involved one adult and one immature at Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Laprairie Dec. 11–18 (B. Barn-

hurst, M. McIntosh), and one immature at Beauharnois Dec. 31 (MB, m.ob.). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was observed at Sainte-Hélène I. in early February (MB); an adult was seen at Dorval Dec. 11 (PB). A total of 1000 Glaucous Gulls were counted in the Laterrière-Chicoutimi area Dec. 19; this dropped to 70 Jan. 8, (CC, GS). An ad. Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid was studied at the Laterrière dump Dec. 19 (CC, GS).

Doves to Thrashers

Noteworthy was a Mourning Dove at Lac Joannès, *Abitibi* Feb. 23 & 26 (G&T Berthiaume), and 53 at a feeder at Chicoutimi Jan. 3 (J. Bergeron). It was an above-average winter for Snowy Owls; they were widespread in many areas with the Saguenay/Lac Saint-Jean area hosting an estimated 40 birds (*vide* GS). Only a few N. Hawk Owls were located during the period; singles at Renault, *Abitibi* Dec. 3 & 7 (S. Lehoullier), and one at Delson, *Laprairie* Dec. 18 (PS). No Great Gray Owl was reported. Short-eared Owls were reported from the Gaspé Pen., Lower St. Lawrence, Chicoutimi, and Montréal regions, including an impressive 17 birds at Saint-Barthélémy, *Berthier* Dec. 3–Jan. 23 (m.ob.).

A ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker overwintered at Saint-Armand, Missisquoi (K. Kaiser), while a White-breasted Nuthatch

Gadbois), Dunham, Missisquoi (*vide* R. Guillet), and at Saint-Agapit, Lotbinière (m.ob.). Some ten Carolina Wrens lightened several feeders at Valleyfield, Hudson, Pointe-Claire, Beaconsfield, Île des Soeurs, Crabtree, Cowansville, and Drummondville. A belated fall report was of one caught in a squirrel trap and studied before being released at Dubuisson, Val D'Or Oct. 2 (A. & P. Lefebvre). A Marsh Wren was observed at Cap-Tourmente Dec. 7 (B. Gariepy), a record-late date by more than 5 weeks. A Brown Thrasher attempted to overwinter at Aylmer Dec. 28–Jan. 23 (m.ob.).

Warblers to Finches

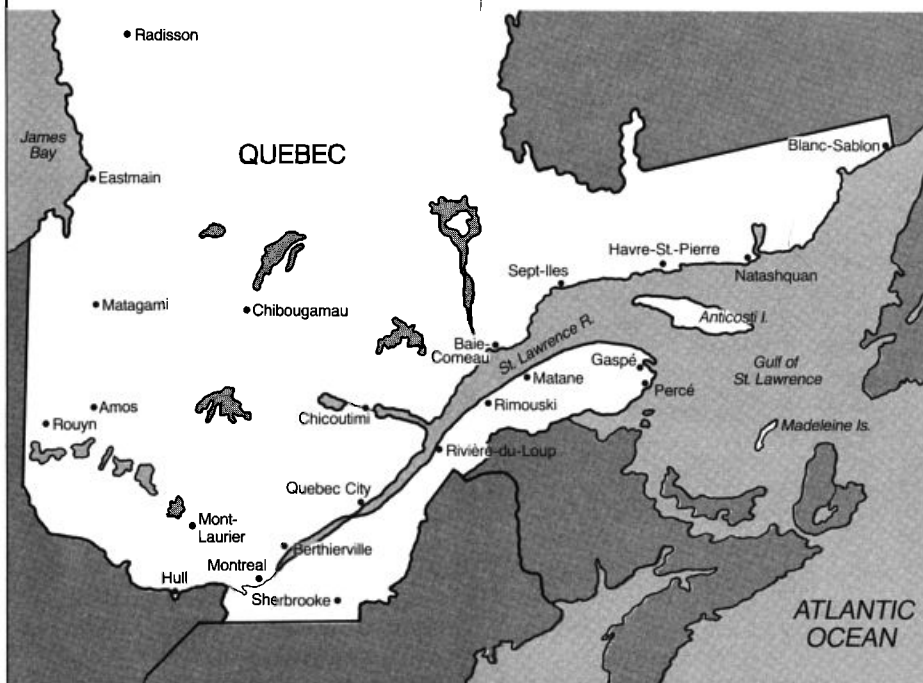
An incredible 7 species of warblers were reported in December. In absence of exceptional conditions, the origin of these late warblers remains a mystery. A Yellow Warbler at Saint-Timothée, *Beauharnois* Dec. 19–20, established a new record date by more than 4 weeks (B. Derome, m.ob.). Pine Warblers were present at feeders at various localities: Gaspé Dec. 28–Feb. 5 (PB); Saint-Vallier, *Bellechasse* Dec. 19 (C. Deschênes, JL); St-Hyacinthe Dec. 1–Jan. 6 (C. Bonin); Saint-Lambert, *Chambly* Jan. 13–14 (J.J. Hills); One ♂ Pine wintered successfully on Notre-Dame I., *Montreal*, the first time ever in the province (m.ob.). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was observed at

-27°C. An imm. Com. Yellowthroat lingered on I. des Soeurs Dec. 10–24 (PW, JS, m.ob.), while a ♂ Wilson's Warbler on Notre-Dame I., Dec. 13–26 (PW, JS, m.ob.) established a record-late date by more than 2 months.

Rufous-sided Towhees made a good showing, with birds recorded from Percé, Jonquière, Beauport, Sainte-Foy, Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly, Drummondville, Ahuntsic, and Pointe-Claire. A Dickcissel was observed at a feeder at Saint-Joachim, *Beaupré* Dec. 20 (F. Grenon, L. Gauthier). Despite the record-breaking cold, N. Cardinals were reported from several unexpected localities: one at Malartic, *Abitibi* in early December (F. Robillard-Forcier); a pair at Saint-Prime, *L. Saint-Jean* Jan. 8 (F. Tremblay, m.ob.); a male at Sacré-Coeur, *Rimouski* Jan. 11 (G. Beaulieu); and a female at Matane, Dec. 28–Jan. 25 (G. Burnett, C. Provost). Wintering birds included a female at Chicoutimi (D. Dufour, m.ob.), a male at Notre-Dame-du-Lac, *Témiscouata* (L. Bourgeois), a female at La Pocatière (C. Auchu), and a male at Black-Lake, *Thetford Mines* (G. Rouleau). A total of 63 was counted at Hull during the CBC Dec. 19 (m.ob.).

A late Field Sparrow was observed at Saint-Timothée, *Beauharnois* Dec. 19 (B. Lazzoni). An exceptionally late Grasshopper Sparrow carefully observed at Gatineau Dec. 19–20 (ML, A. Cloutier, D. Saint-Hilaire, m.ob.), established a record-late date by more than 2 months. A Fox Sparrow overwintered at Havre-Saint-Pierre (J. Blais), while another was at Notre-Dame I. until Feb. 26 (m.ob.). A Song Sparrow overwintered at Grande-Rivière, *Bonaventure* (M. Larrivée, E. Lavoie). Single White-Crowned Sparrows spent the winter at Sept-Iles (C. Couture) and at Notre-Dame I., *Montreal* (m.ob.). Lapland Longspurs were found in S. Quebec throughout the period, in the Lower St. Lawrence, Quebec City, Lanaudière, Montreal, and Hull areas.

Few Icterids were reported; wintering birds included one Rusty Blackbird at Sacré-Coeur, *Rimouski*, a first for that area (R. Côté); 13 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Rimouski, and two ♂ Red-winged Blackbirds at Kénogami L., *Chicoutimi* (R. Larouche, M. Goulet). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird for the Region was an imm. male found dead at a feeder in Melocheville, *Beauharnois* in early February (*vide* D. Gervais). Northern Oriole sightings, all in December, originated from Grande-Rivière and Newport, on the Gaspé Pen., and from Repentigny. Noteworthy was the widespread occurrence of Pine Grosbeaks and Hoary and Com. redpolls, with many reported at feeders. On the other hand, Purple Finch, crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were scarce throughout the season.



overwintered at Pointe-au-Père (P. Fradette), and another attempted to do so at Chicoutimi (N. Tremblay, m.ob.). Tufted Titmice were well represented; four overwintered at Saint-Armand, Missisquoi (PW, JS, m.ob.) and singles at Hinchinbrooke, Huntingdon, (J. & A. Gras), Yamaska (Y.

Gaspé Dec. 28–Jan. 10 (PB), while a Prairie Warbler, located at Beaconsfield for the 2nd time this year Dec. 15, provided a record-late date (P. & A. Tarassof). An Ovenbird was observed on Notre-Dame I., Dec. 17–26 (PW, DD, m.ob.). On the latter date, the afternoon temperature reached

Exotics

A Northern Bobwhite observed at Repentigny, *Montreal* from late November to early December was probably of captive origin (N. Langlois). A Monk Parakeet was observed at Chicoutimi until Dec. 19 (R. Demers, R. Dufour). A Canary survived this exceptionally cold winter at a feeder in Beauport. The bird spent the night under the roof of a sheltered balcony; it disappeared in early March (J.-F. Rousseau). Three sightings of European Goldfinch in the Montreal area were reported.

Addenda

An adult Emperor Goose was killed by a hunter at Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce in October (N. Woo, ph.). This is the first ever recorded for the province. The condition of the bird did not indicate captivity. A live Purple Gallinule was reported from Sainte-Lucie de Beaugard, *Montmagny* Oct. 30–31 (L. Leclerc). It was described as olive-gray with several purplish feathers on the belly and the neck.

Corrigenda

Last spring Black-bellied Whistling Duck observations were coming from Commune-de-Berthier I. instead of Dupas I. The last sentence of the S.A. concerning Yellow Rail in the Summer Regional Report (AB 47: 1087) should have read: "Among them was a male banded at Cacouna June 17, recaptured there July 7, and again recaptured July 20, but this time on I. aux Grues, located about 125 km w. of the banding site (MR, PL)."

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New England Region

BLAIR NIKULA

Whew, what a winter! It was a season that will be long remembered—though more for its weather than its birds; meteorological highlights were many, but avian highlights few. Most significant among the former was over 96 inches of snow in Boston, breaking a more than 100-year record. It's not clear who was impacted more, birds or birders.

December began innocently enough, the first 25 days averaging almost 4° F above average. A couple coastal storms mid-month blew in a few pelagics and a variety of birds remained well past their normal departure dates, presumably seduced by the mild late fall and early winter. However, winter arrived with a vengeance just after Christmas and persisted unrelentingly until the third week of February. By mid-January virtually all bodies of fresh water were frozen solid, and by month's end even the larger salt water bays were solidly encrusted. The cold was accompanied by abundant snow, and even south coastal sections were buried under a deep, intractable snow cover by the end of January.

The weather's effect on the wintering avifauna is always difficult, at best, to determine, but many of the species that would have been most severely impacted, such as ground-dwellers, seemed to have vacated the area long before things turned onerous.

The bird of the winter was Bohemian Waxwing, which invaded New England in numbers far exceeding anything previously recorded. It was also a significant flight year for Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks, while Boreal Chickadees, though not numerous, staged their largest incursion since 1981–1982. Although not typically considered an irruptive species, the pattern of Varied Thrush appearances in the northeast has similar characteristics, and this could certainly have been termed a flight year for

that species. Boreal raptors, on the other hand, were generally scarce this season.

Vagrants were few, but included a pair of peregrinating American White Pelicans, two Townsend's Solitaires, two Townsend's Warblers, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur. Somewhat less rare were Pacific Loon, Western and Eared grebes, Tufted Duck, Black Vulture, Yellow Rail, Painted Bunting, and Harris' Sparrow.

Except for a few rarities, CBC data are not included in this summary.

Abbreviations: C.C.L.&P.W.S. (*Cape Cod Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey*); F.E. (*First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA*); H.B.S.P. (*Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT*); M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard*).

Loons to Pelicans

Red-throated Loons are among the last of the fall migrants, but >600 moving W past M.V., Jan. 12 (VL) were exceptionally late and presumably responding to the extreme weather. Perhaps related were >45 Red-throateds at Old Saybrook, CT Feb. 7 (GH), a good concentration for Long Island Sound. Meticulous details were provided for a Pacific-type loon in Brattleboro, VT Dec. 18 (W. Nichols) and one was described from Provincetown, MA Dec. 4–11 & 18 (Gd'E, v.o.). Others were reported, without details, from Westport, MA Dec. 18 (RB *et al.*) and Sachuest Pt., RI Jan. 3 (C. Raithel).

Eighty Pied-billed Grebes on the C.C.L.&P.W.S. Dec. 4–5 (CCBC) was the highest total on that survey since 1987. The sudden, severe ice-up in January resulted in

