

Atlantic Provinces Region

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Glorious weather graced the entire Region. Warm, but not uncomfortably hot. Dry, but not a drought. Most news concerning the nesting success of birds was good news. A massive cone crop developing in New Brunswick sparked White-winged Cross-bills into breeding mode in late July. The docile weather resulted in anything but a docile list of birds. Among the summer surprises were a Northern Lapwing and Black-necked Stilt in Prince Edward Island; Black Skimmer, Chuck-will's-widow, and Painted Bunting in Nova Scotia; and a Least Tern in Newfoundland.

Abbreviations: G.M.I. (*Grand Manan I.*), S.P.M. (*St. Pierre et Miquelon*)

Loons to Herons

A pair of Red-throated Loons with two large young were at Langlade, S.P.M., the long known southern-most breeding outpost in N. America, July 23 (BL). Non-breeding birds lingering in Nova Scotia were singles June 30–July 31 near Halifax (IM *et al.*) and July 3 at Cheticamp (KM).

Greater and Sooty shearwaters seemed numerous as usual off the Avalon Pen. despite another poor and late capelin spawning season. Southern heron reports were few enough to list individually. New Brunswick had a Great Egret June 21 at Lamèque (RCh) and single Little Blue Herons June 10 at Shediac (DD) and June 26 at Daley Cr. (R. Elliot). Nova Scotia had an ad. Little Blue Heron June 4 at Conrad's Beach (BMy *et al.*); a Tricolored Heron June 17 at Cape Sable I., NS (SA *et al.*); a Snowy Egret June 12 at Lower La Have (EM) and an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron July 16–31 at Cape Sable I. (WA). Newfoundland had single Great Egrets June 11 at Ellisville (JJ) and in late June at the Grand Codroy R. (CB).

Waterfowl

A ♂ "Eur." Green-winged Teal June 18 at Sable I., NS provided an interesting location and rare summer record for this subspecies (ZL). Mallards nested for the 3rd or 4th time

on Miquelon, S.P.M. (BL). June sightings of ♂ Eur. Wigeons are now the norm for the Region. This year's list included singles at Hillsborough, NB June 5 (J. Tanner), Neguac P. P., NB June 5 (RD), Baddeck, NS in early June (*fide* IM), and a drake with a ♀ wigeon of uncertain identity June 20 at St. Paul's Inlet, NF (CB). Three widely separated June records of ♂ Redheads indicated some sort of flight of this Regionally rare species. There were two June 13–July 31 at the Buctouche, NB sewage lagoons (GM *et al.*), one June 20–25 at Sable I., NS (ZL), and one June 13–July 25 at Three Mile Rock, NF for only a 2nd (!) provincial record (BB *et al.*). The 2nd and 3rd breeding record of Greater Scaup for St. Pierre et Miquelon was established by the discovery of a nest with 5 eggs June 27 (LJ) and a different female with four young July 31 (RE *et al.*). Out-of-season Harlequin Ducks in New Brunswick included a drake June 5 at Mace's Bay (JW) and two females July 24 at Miscou I. (RD). A ♂ Hooded Merganser at St. John's, NF June 6 was one of few summer records of the species on insular Newfoundland (MP).

Diurnal Raptors to Rails

Black Vulture reports in the Region have increased steadily over 10 years to the point where there are now several sightings per year. Prince Edward Island had one of its very few on Ram I., July 14 (AT) and again July 22 (PD). One at Miscou I. in n.e. New Brunswick July 21 almost seemed routine (GB). A seafaring Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Sable I., NS June 5 (ZL). After last summer's huge influx of nesting Rough-legged Hawks on insular Newfoundland, numbers were back to normal with several mid-summer sightings but no nests reported (*fide* BMt).

Shorebirds

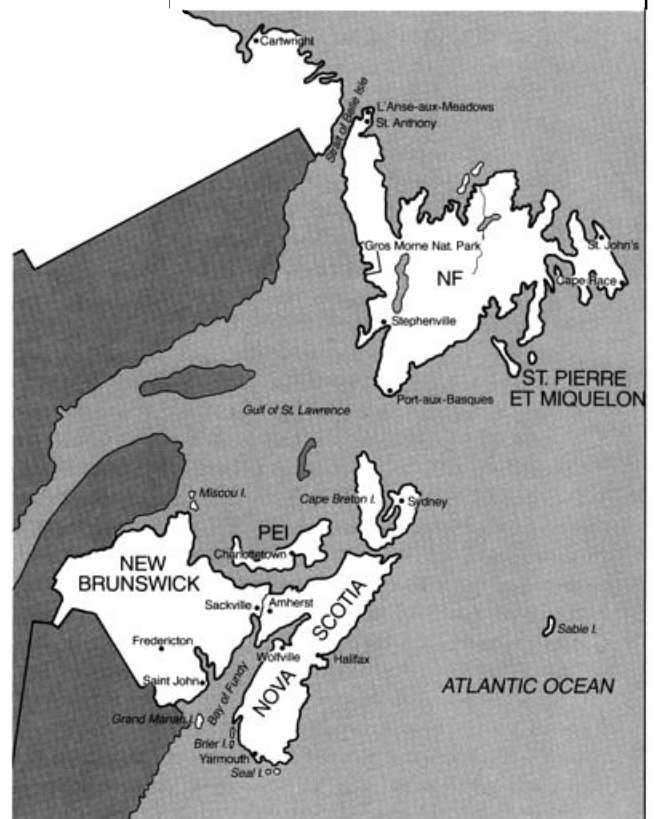
Golden-plovers, presumably Greater Golden-Plover left over from the massive spring influx to Newfoundland, included singles June 8 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows (*fide* DA) and June 12 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE). The new breeding outpost of Piping Plovers on the Isthmus, S.P.M. held on for another year with 2 pairs, one with four just-hatched young, July 5 (RE, DL).



Only a second for the province was this ♂ Redhead at Three Mile Rock, Newfoundland, June 20, 1994. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

Prince Edward Island came through with all the shorebird excitement. A Northern Lapwing July 13 at Fullerton's Marsh near Charlottetown provided an unusual summer record for this European species legendary for late-fall/early-winter incursions (RC, SM). More unexpected was the province's first Black-necked Stilt at Belmont July 14 (RC, SM) & July 24 (LH). There are 5 previous Regional records. Perhaps overdue as a provincial first but nonetheless exciting was a Curlew Sandpiper July 19 & 20 at Covehead Harbor (B&LD *et al.*).

An interesting collection of shorebirds at Cape Sable I., NS June 21 fell between spring and autumn migration: 25 Black-bellied Plovers, one Ruddy Turnstone, one Red Knot, and two Semipalmated Sandpipers (MN *et al.*). Early returning migrants in-



cluded a Black-bellied Plover and a Hudsonian Godwit June 27 at Stephenville Crossing, NF (TB *et al.*). Southbound Whimbrels arrived early. The Isthmus of Miquelon, S.P.M., one of the best locations for Whimbrel in the Region, broke its earliest arrival date by one day with 12 June 26. There was a surprising 100 as early as July 4; a maximum count of 250 July 31 was normal (RE *et al.*).

An Upland Sandpiper acting "very nesty" was in suitable breeding habitat July 14 at Seacomb, NS (KM). There is one previous breeding record for Nova Scotia. The only Stilt Sandpipers reported were three July 24 at Conrad's Beach, NS (BMy). Twenty-three nesting pairs of Least Sandpipers were on that unique sand bar known as Sable I., NS, the southern breeding limit for the species in N. America (ZL).

Jaegers to Alcids

The most interesting of the very few jaeger reports to reach the editor were two sub-ad. Long-tailed Jaegers July 30 at Sable I., NS (ZL). The seasons Franklin's Gull was far to the northeast at Goose Bay July 9, a first Labrador record (GE). Newfoundland lost its Laughing Gull dominance this summer. Provincial totals were: Nova Scotia five, New Brunswick one, and Newfoundland one. Summer Com. Black-headed Gulls away from traditional Newfoundland breeding sites were: two adults and one sub-adult June 19–26 at Antigonish Landing, NS (KM *et al.*); one July 8 at Langlade, S.P.M. (RE), and one July 24 at Covehead, PEI (NP). A Gull-billed Tern was reported without details from a ferry near Cape Tormentine, NB. Common and Arctic tern nesting colonies in Nova Scotia were thought to be recovering from recent lows brought on in part by gull predation (*fide* BMy). The largest nesting colony of Roseate Terns in the Region (and Canada!) off W. Pubnico, NS regained ground with 33 pairs noted (*fide* BMy). Other Roseate Terns included at least 3 nesting pairs on Sable I., NS (ZL) and one nest on Machias Seal I., NB (*fide* JE). Newfoundland's second Least Tern was at Biscay Bay, Avalon Pen., July 15–17 (KE *et al.*). For the 3rd consecutive year a pair of Black Terns nested at Miquelon, S.P.M. A nest with 3 eggs was discovered adjacent to last year's nest June 27 (LJ). A third adult was seen July 12 (RE). A Black Skimmer June 29 at Lower La Have Bay, NS was a rare non-storm related occurrence in the Region (Don Beimer).

A rare midsummer Dovekie was well seen from a boat in Placentia Bay, NF July 19 (ST *et al.*). Albino Atlantic Puffins were reported in breeding colonies at Bird I., NS (KM *et al.*) and Table Bay, Lab. (*fide* BMt).

Owls to Flycatchers

An almost pure white Snowy Owl being mobbed by terns at a tern colony near W. Pubnico, NS was unseasonable July 7 (TH, TD). The 3 known nests of N. Hawk Owl in w. Newfoundland produced a total of only four fledged young (*fide* BMt). Is there a limit to the bizarre bird records that Sable I., NS can produce? The latest addition to the one-of-a-kind list is a Chuck-will's-widow calling nightly from the sand dunes July 7–Aug. 8 (ZL)! This is the 7th record for Nova Scotia, 10th for the Region; but first in summer, and first for more than one day.

Unusual summer woodpeckers for the Region were a Red-headed Woodpecker frequenting a Brier I., NS feeder for several weeks commencing June 6 (*fide* BMy), and a Red-bellied Woodpecker at a Simms Settlement, NS feeder June 11 (AM). A regular late-spring overshooting migrant was an E. Wood-Pewee June 11 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (JH). Singing Willow Flycatchers were in New Brunswick with singles June 5 at G.M.I. (ST) and June 11 at Cape Jourmain (CC); and in Nova Scotia with singles June 5 at Avonport (*fide* RS) and June 11–mid-July at Parrsboro (FS).

Swallows to Warblers

House Wrens continue to tease New Brunswick nest finders with a singing male July 7 at Hammond R. (JW) and a pair July 14–31 at Fredericton (SS). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Mary's Point, NB July 5 was a rare midsummer occurrence (DC).

SA An unprecedented influx of five Northern Wheatears fell within the narrow time span of June 3–6. One was on Sable I., NS June 5 (ZL). The rest were in Newfoundland: a female June 3 at Grand Bay W. (KK), a male June 4 & 5 at Cape Spear (A&MG), and singles June 4 at Terra Nova N. P. (GS) and June 6 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows (BB). A deep low-pressure area over Newfoundland June 3 & 4 generated strong N winds over the e. half of the Region, and up to 18 (!) inches of snow in parts of e. Newfoundland. This may have displaced wheatears on migration to the Labrador breeding range.

Brown Thrasher was finally added to the St. Pierre et Miquelon list with one June 1–8 in St. Pierre (HS). East of the breeding range, where rarely recorded in spring, single Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Isthmus, S.P.M., June 1 (RE) and Grand Codroy R., NF June 4 (KK *et al.*). Sable I., NS recorded late migrant Magnolia and Yellow-rumped warblers June 21 and Am. Redstart June 22 (ZL). On the other end was a very early vagrant Prairie Warbler there July 21 (ZL). A Canada Warbler was

well n. of the breeding range at Goose Bay June 1, providing a first for Labrador (GE).

Tanagers to Finches

A ♂ Painted Bunting photographed at a Glace Bay, NS feeder June 21–24 followed on the heels of last year's two June birds in Nova Scotia (HM *et al.*). Is this the beginning of a trend? A pair of Chipping Sparrows July 5 at Butterpot P.P., NF was e. of the known breeding range in the province (TB *et al.*). Unexpected midsummer Orchard Orioles were an imm. male June 15–July 5 at Moncton, NB (R. Steeves *et al.*) and ad. male July 3 Upper Clyde, NS (MN *et al.*). The first hint of an impending White-winged Crossbill population explosion was many singing birds in the fir and spruce forests of New Brunswick in late July. With a very heavy developing crop, much crossbill propagation was anticipated (ST). A light cone crop developing in w. Newfoundland also started the White-winged Crossbills singing in late July (BMt). Red Crossbills were present in fair numbers in Nova Scotia (IM).

Corrigenda

The following record was left out of the spring report (*NASFN* 48:270): An ad Golden Eagle on Langlade the last week of May (M. Derible) was the first documented record for S.P.M. (*fide* RE).

An editing error resulted in a misplaced caption in *NASFN* Vol. 48:178. It should read: Although Harris's Sparrows seemingly stray to "everywhere" from their usual mid-continent winter range, Newfoundland lacked a record until this season. This provincial first (and 5th for the Region) wintered at Manuels, NF, where it was photographed February 5, 1994. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

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