

is accompanied by shockingly explicit photographs. This appears to be the first Sage Sparrow in e. North America!

The only reports of Grasshopper Sparrow were singles Oct. 24 at Cape Sable I., NS (BMy *et al.*) and Nov. 6 at Broad Cove, NS (SF). A description of a sparrow most closely resembling that of a Henslow's Sparrow in juv. plumage was at Seal I., NS Sept. 26 (BMy *et al.*). A Seaside Sparrow at Economy, NS Oct. 20 came as little surprise from this location, which has a peculiarly long history of sightings (FS). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was found on Seal I., NS Sept. 26–30 for the 2nd consecutive autumn, providing the 4th provincial and Regional record (BMy *et al.*). Three Yellow-headed Blackbird sightings is consistent with autumn totals over the past 2 decades: one Sept. 2–4 Castalia, G.M.I., NB (BD), one Sept. 7–10 at Dartmouth, NS (JT), and one Oct. 14 at Canning, NS (S. Allday).

Both Red and White-winged crossbills were common in New Brunswick, where there was a bumper cone crop. White-winged Crossbills, including many juveniles, were enjoying a very heavy cone crop at Cartwright, Lab., in mid-August (BMT). Elsewhere in the Region crossbills were in low to moderate numbers. In general all other species of finches were uncommon to scarce across the Region.

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—Bruce Mactavish, 37 Waterford Bridge Rd., St. John's, NF, A1E 1C5.

# Quebec Region

## YVES AUBRY AND PIERRE BANNON

August and September had near normal temperatures and precipitation. October was very dry, with sunny days and mild temperatures. November remained mild, but with more frequent precipitation. A destructive storm that hit the province November 6–7 downed millions of trees in *Charlevoix* and Gaspé Peninsula. More winter-like conditions prevailed in the last week of November.

The fall migration proved variable; the shorebird and hawk flights were poor, while gulls and passerines had a good season. The province had its largest incursion ever of Northern Wheatears.

## Grebes to Waterfowl

The Eared Grebe present at L. Malbaie since July 23 enjoyed the site until at least Sept. 24 (m.ob.). A winter-plumage Horned Grebe puzzled observers Aug. 23, while the Eared Grebe was temporarily unnoticed; another early individual at Saint-Gédéon, *Lac-Saint-Jean*, Aug. 21 was still in summer plumage (CC, GS).

Single N. Fulmars were detected from the Matane-Godbout ferry Sept. 12 (CM, J.F. Rousseau) and Nov. 3 (GB), and from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 23. Only three Manx Shearwaters were sighted, singles from the Cap-aux-Meules-Souris ferry, *Magdalen Is.*, Aug. 1 (PB); off the Gaspé Pen., Sept. 4 (JRL *et al.*); and off I. Brion, *Magdalen Is.*, in early September (LD *et al.*). Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels were at Beauport, *Quebec City*, Sept. 29 (LM) and Oct. 22 (FD, RD), while one at Rivière-Ouelle, *Kamouraska*, Nov. 3 (CA) provided the Region with its latest-ever record.

The Am. White Pelican is straying into the province with increasing frequency; a remarkable four individuals were found: singles at Baie d'Urfé, *Montréal*, Sept. 5–6 (*fide* D. Bird) and Rivière-du-Loup, Sept. 12 (GG *et al.*), and two at St-Ignace-de-Loyola, *Berthier*, Sept. 3 (P. Désy, *fide* JB). One was later found exhausted, but soon rehabilitated at the St-Hyacinthe College of Veterinarian Medicine and flown to w. Canada.

**SA** The Brown Pelican was at the center of the most fascinating story of late summer and early fall. A dozen or so reports were received from an extensive territory along the St. Lawrence R. All reports listed below in chronological order refer to a single ad. bird. How many individuals were involved is anyone's guess, but we feel that two birds at the most may have created this commotion. Indeed, any highly visible birds such as pelicans that rely on the St. Lawrence R. for finding food would rarely escape notice. The case of the Eur. Pelican that escaped from the Montreal Zoological Garden and wandered E to the Gaspé Pen. and back to Montreal during summer and fall 1988 [see AB 43:1 (70)] clearly illustrated this assertion. Only two sightings of Brown Pelican were known before this year. Sightings included:

- L. Témiscouata, late July (D. Thériault, *fide* M. Beaulieu, ph) and early August (A. Du mont, R. Beaulieu); the only record away from the St. Lawrence R.
- Off Rimouski, Aug. 25 (L. Morisset, *fide* J. Larivée, ph)
- Ile-aux-Grues, *Montmagny*, Sept. 5. (J. Landry, †)
- Cap Bon Désir, *Saguenay*, Sept. 8 (N. Maltais)
- Cap Granite, *Saguenay*, Sept. 8 (*fide* N. Maltais)
- Grandes Bergeronnes, *Saguenay*, Sept. 9. (ph J. Lemyre)
- Cap-Rouge, *Québec*, Sept. 13 (observers unknown)
- Ste-Croix, *Lotbinière*, Sept. 17–25 (L. Roy & A. Desrochers, video taped, m.ob.); reported by local fishermen to be present since the beginning of September
- St-Romuald, *Lévis*, Sept. 24 (AC, †)
- Pointe-au-Pic, *Charlevoix*, Sept. 25 (J.-L. Marcoux)
- Repentigny, *L'Assomption*, Sept. 30 (J.-G. Lépine, *fide* J. Brisson)
- Boucherville Is, near Montreal, Oct. 14–15 (ph B. Brault in *La Presse*)
- St-Ignace-de-Loyola, *Berthier*, Oct. 18+ (R. Carignan, J.-L. Boutin, ph in *Journal de Montréal*, Oct. 31)

An imm. Great Cormorant lingered at Rivière-Ouelle until Sept. 18 (CA). Great Egrets were widely reported, including birds that strayed E to the Gaspé Pen. for the first time in autumn: singles at Cap-Chat from mid-August until at least Sept. 6



**A long series of sightings of single Brown Pelicans along the lower St. Lawrence River this fall may have involved only a single bird, or perhaps two. This photo was taken at Grandes Bergeronnes, Quebec, on Sept. 9, 1994. Photograph/J. Lemyre.**

(P. Greffard, P. Lane), and at Pabos Mills Nov. 19–20, the latter breaking the previous late record for the Region by almost a month (R. Garrett, D&G Belwin *et al.*). A juv. Little Blue Heron visited R. des Mille Iles, *Laval*, Sept. 23 (J. Brisebois, L.M. Soyez). There was a high, but now expected, Regional total of 15 Cattle Egrets from 7 different localities Aug. 9–Nov. 5. A Black-crowned Night-Heron at Pabos Mills Nov. 24 was very late (JRL), while one at Fatima Aug. 4–Sept. 3 was the 3rd record only for the Magdalen Is. (DGG *et al.*). Seven Glossy Ibis included singles at Rimouski Aug. 9 (PF) and Montmagny Aug. 17–30 (JL, m.ob.) and five at I. du Moine, *Richelieu*, Aug. 27–Sept. 4 (PQSPB).

Only two Tundra Swans visited the province—one juvenile accidentally killed at St-Méthode, *Roberval*. Oct. 12 (*vide* R.

Tremblay); an ad. swan observed in flight at St-Siméon, *Charlevoix*, Oct. 29 (LM *et al.*) may pertain to the same species. Three Whooper Swans at Penouille, Gaspé, first brought to the attention of the birding community in the latter part of July, were seen by many before disappearing Aug. 7 (N. David *et al.*; DD *et al.*; A. Bilodeau, ph). All the observers emphasized that the birds were extremely wary, taking flight as soon as they were approached. Their behavior was in contrast with that of three Whoopers wandering about coastal Massachusetts and Long Island during the last 2 years, which were described as “very approachable” (AB 47: 394). Three Whoopers reported from Labrador Aug. 18–20 were presumably the same birds, their description and behavior closely corresponding to those of the Penouille birds (Bruce Mactavish, p. comm.). Three Mute Swans took up residence at L. à la Croix, *Anticosti I.* throughout the summer (R. Duguay, ph); two adults were still there Oct. 16–23 (G. Cayer). Were these birds members of a larger group of five reported on the island last summer (Achille Côté, *vide* D. Morin)?

Surprisingly, there were no Greater White-fronted Geese reported. A Snow Goose at Beauharnois Aug. 13–28 was out of season (m.ob.), while the main migrating flock at Cap Tourmente and Montmagny included a very low proportion of young, apparently as a result of predation by foxes on the breeding ground. Of interest was the report of two hybrid geese: an apparent *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser* at St-Vallier, *Bellechasse*, Sept. 16 (R. Lapointe, D. Beauseigle, ph) and a tentative *Branta canadensis* x

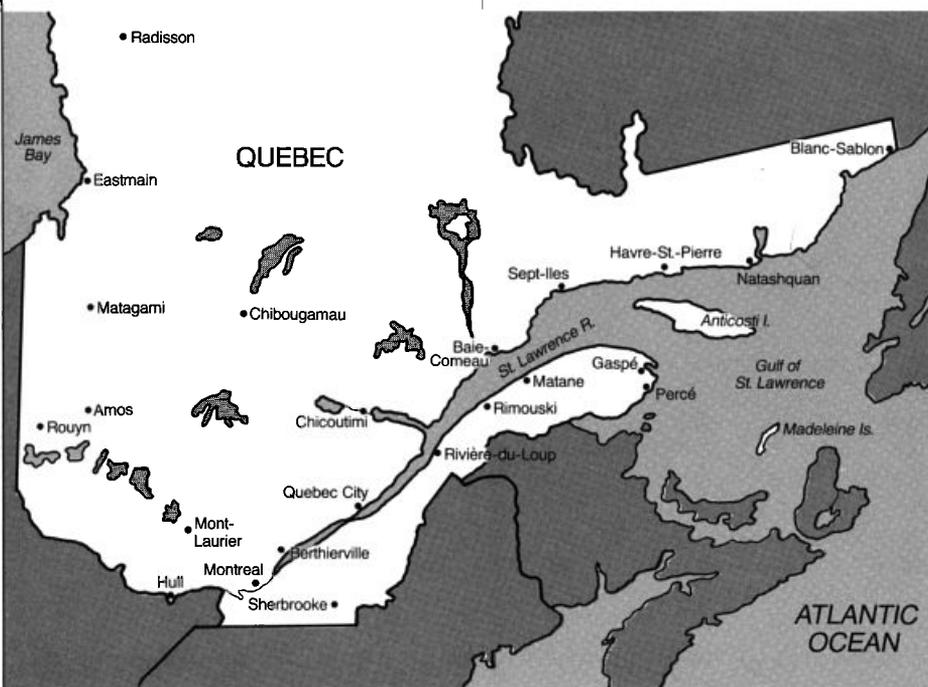
*Anser cygnoides* at Boucherville throughout October (M. Bertrand).

Ducks of undetermined origin included two Shelducks at I. du Moine Aug. 27 (*vide* B. Weeds) and ≤ six Ruddy Shelducks at Yamaska P.P., *Shefford*, Oct. 1–16 (R. Dauphin, *vide* J.-P. Pratte). Infrequently reported in autumn was an Eur. Wigeon at Cacouna, *Rivière-de-Loup*, Oct. 18–19 (A. Brisson). The Hull-Aylmer region hosted two ♀ Harlequin Ducks Oct. 30–Nov. 30, a rarity for this s. locality (D. Dallaire *et al.*).

### Raptors to Shorebirds

The hawk flight was not particularly impressive at the 2 major hawk-watching sites in s. Quebec (M. McIntosh *et al.*, JI *et al.*). Low numbers may have been related to the unfavorable weather conditions prevailing in the Region. A Black Vulture feeding on a dead moose in the Bas-St-Laurent (ZEC) Control Fishing-Hunting Area Oct. 20 was the Region's 14th (*vide* L. Brisson). Peak numbers of 100 Turkey Vultures in the St-Jean-de-Matha region, *Berthier*, in mid-August (JB), 64 in a single tree on Mt. Yamaska in early August (*vide* P. Bannon), and 34 at Otterburn Park Oct. 2 (C. Côté) attest of the suitability of s. Quebec for the species. An injured adult that reached Franquelin, *Manicouagan*, Oct. 29 on the N. Shore of the St. Lawrence R. (B. Allard, *vide* GS) was picked up while feeding on a beaver carcass along roadside, but later succumbed despite a rehabilitation attempt. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at Havre-Aubert Sept. 4 represented the first record ever for the Magdalen Is. (DGG, LD). Three young Peregrine Falcons successfully fledged from a nest in Bic P.P., *Rimouski*, in August, providing the easternmost breeding record for s. Quebec (S. Rhéaume, *vide* PF). Gyrfalcons numbered low with only 5 individuals reported.

Only three Sandhill Cranes visited the province; one reached Tadoussac, *Saguenay*, Sept. 12 (CA *et al.*) and two adults were found at Nouvelle, *Gaspé*, Oct. 13 (R. Caissy). Shorebirds migration is rarely documented in n. Quebec but noteworthy was the observation of 60 Am. Golden-Plovers feeding in the open tundra on the mountain tops near Kuujuaq, *Ungava*, Sept. 4 (Y. Gauthier). A Marbled Godwit was locally rare at Baie-St-Paul, *Charlevoix*, Aug. 17–21 (M. Hamel, J. Piché, R. Gingras, L. Labeaume). Single W. Sandpipers were found at St-Vallier, *Bellechasse*, Aug. 4 (AC, †); Ste-Anne-de-Portneuf, *Saguenay*, Sept. 4 (GL *et al.*, †), and Pointe-Label, *Saguenay*, Sept. 10 (GB *et al.*, †). A Purple Sandpiper at Pointeau-Père, *Rimouski*, Aug. 9 was very early (PF), while one strayed W to Aylmer, *Pontiac*, Nov. 6 (DP *et al.*). A partially described Curlew Sandpiper seen at Les Escoumins,





**Above and below: Two views of a gull at Chicoutimi, Quebec, Sept. 24, 1994, thought to be a Slaty-backed Gull near the end of its molt into second-winter plumage. If confirmed, it would represent a 2nd record for Quebec. Photographs/Claudette Cormier.**



*Saguénay*, Sept. 24, provided one of few provincial records (JD). Fourteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 13–Sept. 8 were well above average. Two Ruff reports were average for recent years: a female at Montmagny Aug. 13–22 (JL *et al.*, AC) and a molting male at I. Dupas, *Berthier*, Aug. 17 (A. Gauthier *et al.*, videotaped). Only one Long-billed Dowitcher was sighted, an adult at Montmagny Aug. 26 (FD, RD).

### Gulls to Terns

Uncommon larids included single Laughing Gulls at Rivière-du-Loup until Sept. 5 (GG *et al.*) and at Beaudet Res., *Victoriaville*, throughout October (MG *et al.*), and a winter-plumaged Franklin's Gull at Métabetchouan, *Lac-St-Jean*, Sept. 24 (CC, GS, ph). Average numbers of Little Gulls were found: two adults at Beauharnois Aug. 8–21 (PB, m.ob.), one at Les Escoumins Sept. 5 (m.ob.), one at Pabos Sept. 14 (M. Castiloux, JRL), six off Tadoussac Sept. 24 (S. Lévesque and F. Goulet), one at St-Romuald Nov. 2 (AC), and one at Chambly Nov. 19 (DD, FG). Four Com. Black-headed Gulls

included an immature at I. du Moine Sept. 4 (P. Schoening), a first-year bird at Montmagny Sept. 7 (B. Gariépy, D. Lever), an adult at Sept-Îles, *Duplessis*, Oct. 9–10 (B. Duchesne, C. Couture) and an immature at Les Escoumins Nov. 25 (GB). It is not clear whether the late influx of Bonaparte's Gulls noted on the Richelieu R. in late autumn represents a new migration pattern or whether it has remained unnoticed until the 1990s; good numbers have been recorded there in the past 4–5 years only. This year, a peak number of 800 birds feeding on Rainbow Smelt was reported Nov. 19 (PB). It is suspected that from early November–early December several thousand Bonaparte's make use of this natural migratory route that leads to the ocean by way of L. Champlain and the Hudson R. As birders are becoming more familiar with its field marks, the **Mew Gull** is detected with increasing frequency. No fewer than three birds were encountered this fall: a briefly described first winter-plumaged bird of the Eur. race visited Beaufort Oct. 7–8 (FD, RD); an adult of undetermined race was at Ste-Anne-de-Portneuf Oct. 18–22 (JI, CA, F. Gagnon, m.ob., †) and an adult of the Eur. race discovered at Beauharnois, Nov. 26, stayed well into December (PB, m.ob., †). There are now 14 records for the province, seven are attributed to the Eur. race, one to the North American race, and six of undetermined race. Also detected with increasing frequency, an ad. **California Gull** at Beaudet Res., Oct. 17–Nov. 2, represented the Region's 6th (JD *et al.*, m.ob.). The number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was the lowest in more than a decade: singles were at L'arrière, *Chicoutimi*, Nov. 4–8 (CC, GS), Baie-St-Paul, *Charlevoix*, Aug. 27 (JL *et al.*), and Beaudet Res. from early October–Nov. 12 (MG *et al.*). It may be incredible, but a gull superbly photographed at Chicoutimi Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 at the same site where Quebec had its first **Slaty-backed Gull** last fall is

strongly suspected of also being an individual of this species (CC, GS). Pierre Yésou, an European expert on gulls who has studied the photos, is convinced that the bird is a Slaty-backed Gull near the end of its molt into second-winter plumage. Confirmation by other experts are awaited. Regularly reported since the early 1970s, a Sabine's Gull was at Tadoussac Sept. 15 (CA) and two were at Beauharnois Sept. 17–18 (FG *et al.*). A banded Caspian Tern was spotted at Beauharnois Aug. 12 and ≤ seven birds lingered at nearby Maplegrove Aug. 17–Sept. 5. The latter group included two juveniles still begging for food and adult carrying food (PB). Interestingly, a juvenile had been at this same site in 1992. However, there is up to now no conclusive evidence that this species is nesting in s.w. Quebec as all the juveniles reported since 1989 were able to fly and could have originated from an area where the species is known to nest, e.g. L. Ontario or the Lower N. Shore of the St. Lawrence R. A careful study of the staging Com. Terns at Beauharnois in August revealed 48 birds color-banded at a breeding colony on L. Champlain, Vt (PB). A Black Tern at Pointe-à-Michel, Bersimis R., *Charlevoix*, Aug. 22, was locally rare (CM *et al.*).

### Doves to Swallows

A **Laughing Dove** (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) coming to a feeder at Neuville, *Portneuf*, from July+ (M. Darveau, C. Brodeur) was of questionable origin, although this African species is not known to be kept in captivity locally. In the same category, a Ringed Turtle-Dove was at Hull July 15–Sept. 10 (DP, L. Parenteau). A **White-winged Dove** photographed Aug. 2 at a feeder of Authier-Nord, *Abitibi* (G. Dubé) represented a 2nd documented record for the province (the first was photographed last June, see previous *AB*) and the 4th record for the Region. This fall brought a very modest incursion of Yellow-billed Cuckoos: singles were at Baie-Comeau Oct. 13 (GB) and at I. Bizard, *Montreal*, Oct. 8 (R. Mudd).



**White-winged Dove at Authier-Nord Aug. 2, 1994. Second documented record for Quebec. Photograph/Gilles Dubé.**

No important owl movement was reported this fall, and the first Snowy Owl observed Oct. 9 at St-Barthélemy, *Berthier*, was one of the few reported. The follow up into August of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Long-eared Owl night survey revealed 7 new broods, giving a total of 34 broods for this breeding season (C. Girard, B. Dumont, M. Savard).

Three Red-headed Woodpecker reports involving ad. birds occurred in the same period: Delisle, *Saguenay*, Sept. 23 (JD), Philipsburg, *Missisquoi*, Sept. 24 (P. Hilton), and Bois-de-Liesse, *Montreal*, Sept. 26 (D. Ainley). The only immature was observed in late November at Iberville, *Richelieu* (D. Henri). Only two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported this season: one in flight at Godbout, *Manicouagan*, Oct. 18 (GC) and one heard at Hudson, *Vaudreuil*, Oct. 1 (B. MacDuff). The Three-toed Woodpecker was reported in greater number than usual in many parts of the Region. Hawk watchers at Tadoussac uncovered apparent migration movements of Pileated Woodpeckers; a total of 64 birds were counted Sept 7–Nov. 5, with maximum counts of seven individuals Sept. 12 and eight Oct. 7 (JI, m.ob.). Many of these birds were probably migrating along the shore. The only noteworthy flycatcher reported this fall was an E. Kingbird, which stayed until Oct. 30 at Îlets Jérémie, *Charlevoix* (GB). Warm weather in November brought some Barn Swallows back on the Gaspé Pen.: two at Cap-des-Rosiers Nov. 8 (M. St-Amour, D. Turcotte) and one the following day (D. Comeau); one at Forillon N. P., Nov. 11 (J.G. Bretz); and one which remained until Nov. 26 at Cap d'Espoir (R&C Collin) was chasing insects close to windows, setting a new record-late date for the Region.

### Jays to Shrikes

The Gray Jay was reported to be particularly abundant on the N. Shore of the St. Lawrence R. and also in the Lower St. Lawrence region.

Unexpected and of questionable origin was a Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*) at Matane in late September (*vide* PF). Even if this southern Africa corvid is subject to erratic migration movements, we cannot rule out a ship-assisted passage either by being trapped into the holds or kept as a pet. This relatively tame bird fed on waste near fast-food restaurants and butcher's stores, and was observed until the end of the period. The possibility that this bird would be the same one seen on Prince Edward Island in late July and early August (*Birders Journal* 3(4):179, 1994, P.B. pers. obs.) remains to be proved.

Tufted Titmouse may have bred in s. Quebec at Saint-Armand, *Missisquoi*, where a maximum of six birds were observed regularly throughout July and four were still in the area at the end of the period (F. Fournier). This locality will need to be closely monitored in the spring and may yield a first breeding confirmation for the Region. Carolina Wren sightings were average, with singles at Summit Park, *Outremont*, Nov. 20 (M. Beauchamps); at I. Charron, *Montreal*, Oct 22 (Y. Gauthier); at Lac-St-Charles, *Quebec*, Oct. 8 (R. Morin); at Cap-Tourmente Natl. Wildlife Reserve Oct 14–Nov. 26 (m.ob.); and at Î. aux Basques Oct. 8–9 (m.ob.). A ♀ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Havre-Aubert, *Magdalen Is.*, Oct. 31 (D.G. Gaudet *et al.*) was the only out-of-range report for this species.

**SA This fall was the best N. Wheatear season ever in Quebec ornithological history, with nearly 20 sightings involving at least 18 birds. Most reports came from an area comprised between Quebec City and the Magdalen Is., but 2 originated from areas well n. of the St. Lawrence R. Valley: La Baie, Saguenay, Sept. 17 (H. Simard, S. Tremblay) and the Ungava region. Interestingly a bird was still at Kuujuaq, Ungava, Sept. 4 in n. Quebec (Y. Gauthier) when a first wave of migrants involving a minimum of 13 birds was recorded Sept. 2–17 at Ste-Foy, Beauport, Pointe-au-Père, Matane, Les Escoumins, Rivière-Portneuf, Baie-Comeau, and Anse au Griffon (Gaspé). A 2nd wave of lesser extent Oct. 3–19 included four birds recorded at Beauport, Rimouski, Ragueneau, and Baie-Comeau. Unfortunately the age of the birds was undetermined in most sightings.**

A single Gray Catbird was found at L. des Canots, *Saguenay* (49°38'N), Aug. 11 (GS) in a young, deciduous second-growth forest amidst an old burned area of extensive Black Spruce, n. of the Saguenay R. Only few scattered Bohemian Waxwings were reported this fall. The N. Shrike was reported in slightly above-average numbers, particularly along St. Lawrence R., while an imm. Loggerhead Shrike reached Grande-Grève, *Gaspé*, Oct. 9 (SM).

### Warblers to Finches

A Prothonotary Warbler at La Baie, *Saguenay*, Oct. 10 (CC, GS) established a record-late date and a 6th record for the Region. A first for the Magdalen Is. was an imm. Prairie

Warbler on Île d'Entrée Sept. 3 (DGG, Lucette D'Amours, m.ob., †). A ♂ Summer Tanager at Bernières, *Lévis*, Oct. 23 (L. Turgeon, †) was the 15th for the Region but the 2nd only in fall.

A splendid ♂ Painted Bunting lightened Quebec City Nov. 6–26 (J. Gaudreault). This 3rd record for the province appeared in close association with a violent wind-storm that swept the province overnight Nov. 6–7. Now becoming regular, Dickcissel showed up at feeders on the N. Shore of St. Lawrence R. with single female types at Baie-Comeau, *Charlevoix*, Oct. 6 (GB) and Sept-Îles, *Duplessis*, Oct. 1 (B. Duchesne, C. Couture). A Lark Sparrow at Anse-au-Griffon, *Gaspé*, Sept. 12–13 (SM, D. Gagné) represented the 16th record for the Region. The observation of a Le Conte's Sparrow at Saint-Fulgence, *Saguenay*, Oct. 4 (GS) broke the previous record-late date by 13 days. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Î. aux Fermiers in mid-August (G. Duquette) were welcomed after a few years' absence at this inland locality of the upper St. Lawrence R., while a bird performing active anting was observed at La Pocatière Aug. 20 (CA). The summering White-crowned Sparrow at Sainte-Luce, *Rimouski*, was still



A startling sight was this Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*), an African species, at Matane, Quebec, in late September and October. Photograph/Louis Ruelland.

present in August and provided one of few summering records for *s. Quebec*. (R&L Claveau). Four early Lapland Longspurs arrived at Rimouski Sept. 14 (J. Larivée).

A female-type Brown-headed Cowbird at Natashquan, *Duplessis*, Sept. 1 (GH) was *e.* of its usual range. A female-type Orchard Oriole at Sept-Îles Oct. 7 (JB) provided the Region with its first fall record and the latest date.

The House Finch continued its progress in the Region; extralimital records included ≤four birds at Alma, *Lac-Saint-Jean*, Sept. 27–Nov. 7 (S. Boivin), two at Sept-Îles Aug. 24 (JB); a pair at Saint-Elzéar, *Témiscouata* (R. Deschênes) and four female types attending a feeder at Bonaventure, *Gaspé*, in October (J.M. Pitre). White-winged Crossbills were reported in good numbers in September and October from the Laurentides, n. of Quebec City, in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and the N. Shore regions. Red Crossbills were found among these flocks, and ≤85 were counted at Tadoussac Oct. 27 (CA, JI, m.ob.). Also noteworthy was the passage of Pine Siskins at Tadoussac, where >18,000 were counted Oct. 25–27 moving from SW to NE. Moreover, 3000–4000 were reported from Bonaventure on the s. side of the Gaspé Pen., Oct. 30 (J.M. Pitre), while at the same period movements of similar but lesser magnitude were observed at Château-Richer near Quebec City (GH). No movement of Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, or Evening Grosbeaks was reported in the Region.

### Exotic

A pair of Red-cheeked Cordonbleus were reported in the Mount-Royal cemetery, *Montreal*, Sept. 29 (DD; FG).

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# New England Region

## WALTER G. ELLISON AND NANCY L. MARTIN

Two words sum up the autumn weather: mild and dry. Even most frontal activity was mild, taking the form of weak troughs; thunderstorms in August produced much of the precipitation. This pattern led to little waterbird fallout inland, and generally poor seawatching save for an impressive wreck on Cape Cod September 5. A rare major cold front caused a bizarre waterbird wreck in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, November 3, when an observer picked up or shooed several grebes, ducks, and even a bittern out of the road through this mountain pass. Midwestern waterbirds were abundant and some midwestern passerines followed suit. A lack of southerners, save for a major Blue Grosbeak flight, suggested a midwestern origin for the grosbeaks as well. Wheatears flooded the region again, and *Selasphorus* hummer numbers took flight (all presumably Rufous, but, hey, you never know). Passerine migration ran a bit late, with a heavy passage September 27–October 2. Other major flights occurred September 2–4, and September 13. Extraordinary numbers of presumably reversed late migrants were seen at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, October 30, and all along the coast November 12. Finally, after last winter's invasion fiesta, absolutely no true invasions were in the offing at the season's close.

**Abbreviations:** Appledore (*Appledore I., Kittery, York, ME*); Block I. (*Block I., RI*); Dead Creek (*Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison & Pantton, Addison, VT*); Gay Head (*Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA*); Monhegan (*Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME*); Monomoy (*Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA*); Oxbow (*Oxbow N.W.R., Harvard, Worcester, MA*); Plum I. (*Plum I., Newburyport & Rowley, Essex, MA*).

### Loons to Ibises

Numbers of migrating loons were unimpressive, probably due to a lack of strong frontal systems. A well-described Pacific Loon was at Scarborough, *Cumberland, ME* Oct. 23 (LB†). Pied-billed Grebes were numerous, with highs of 25 Nov. 19 at Canobie L., Salem, *Rockingham, NH* (K. Folsom); and 32 at Lakeville, *Plymouth*

Oct. 23 (WP). Eighty-seven Red-necked Grebes were seen on inland waters, with a high of 16 Nov. 5 in *Grand Isle, VT* (DJH), and a good coastal count of 53 achieved in *Rockingham, NH* Nov. 25 (A&BD). An above-average three Eared Grebes included Vermont's 4th at E. Creek W.M.A., Orwell, *Addison, Sept. 25–27* (E. Jones, FP†, SWM†, *et al.*); one Sept. 3–4 at Greenwich Pt., *Fairfield, CT* (J. Bove), and another Sept. 17–18 in Litchfield, *CT* (D. Tripp, G. Hanisek). Modest numbers of N. Fulmars included >50 Oct. 8 from the M.V. "Bluenose" in the Gulf of Maine (WT, C. Whitney). The best counts of Greater Shearwaters were 2000 Aug. 4 s. of Block I. (DF); and another 2000 40 mi off Bar Harbor, *ME*, Oct. 26 (*vide* WT). Single Audubon's Shearwaters were seen 50 mi s. of Block I., Aug. 11 & 23 (DF), and at Atlantis Canyon 100 mi s. of Block I., Aug. 28 (WP). An impressive 6000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen at Cashes Ledge Aug. 22 (Gd'E); even more impressive were >600 seen from shore at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, *Barnstable, Sept. 5* (RAF). Accompanying these were 1400 Leach's Storm-Petrels, a record autumnal count. Also amazing were >300 in enclosed Town Cove in Orleans on the same day (BN). Another waif was found inside Great Bay, *Rockingham, NH* Oct. 15 (PH†, SM). The region's 3rd **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** was seen at Atlantis Canyon Aug. 28 (WP *et al.*). An Am White Pelican was found at Wareham, *Plymouth, MA* Nov. 30 (B. Peters, *vide* SP). The only inland Great Cormorant report was an immature at Mascoma L., Enfield, *Grafton, NH* Nov. 19 (PH).

The regional tally of 60 Am. Bitterns was good for a hard to see and presumably declining species. Also good was the total of seven Least Bitterns. Great Egrets dispersed well into Maine with up to five in the Bangor area and one 60 mi inland at Skowhegan, *Somerset, Aug. 25* (*vide* JD). A count of seven Tricolored Herons at Scarborough, *Cumberland, ME* Aug. 24–27 (G. Carson) was exceptional at the n. edge of the species' range and tied the Regional record. The best count of Cattle Egret was a post-breeding flock of 44 at Charlotte, *Chittenden, VT* near the species' Grand Isle colony Aug. 27 (TM), five reverse-migrant immatures were found in November north to n. Vermont and New Hampshire, with the last at Ipswich, *Essex, MA* Nov. 20 (R. Lockwood). A count of 85 Glossy Ibis entering the traditional Hellcat Swamp heron roost on Plum I., Aug. 7 was very good (JB). An imm. **Wood Stork** took up residence at Cotuit, *Barnstable, MA* Nov. 16–December (A. Hughes, m.ob.); this is the first report in the Region in at least 30 years