

outnumbered Bohemians in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, although the "highest numbers ever" of the latter were in Gros Morne N.P., NF in December (HD). Bohemians became common in the s. Maritimes and St. John's, NF during January, but not in last year's huge numbers. Northern Shrikes were rated fairly common in New Brunswick (DSC), Nova Scotia (RS), and s.e. Newfoundland (BMct).

### Vireos to Finches

A late Solitary Vireo was at W. Chezzetcook, NS Dec. 14–18. (*vide* F. Lavender). Including the routine Yellow-rumped, the winter list of 13 warblers almost matched last year's. At least three Orange-crowned survived past mid-January in Nova Scotia. A well-described Nashville Warbler was at Broad Cove, NS Dec. 29 (SJF *et al.*). Four Yellow Warblers were in St. John's, NF (JW, BM) in early December. In Nova Scotia, a ♂ Black-throated Blue was at Caledonia Dec. 18 (*vide* KK), and another was at a feeder in Dartmouth to Jan. 12 (J. Taylor *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Hermit Warbler found Dec. 29 at Green Bay, NS (JSC *et al.*, ph.) was savored by many until Jan. 27; it provided the province's 3d and the Region's 5th record. A Yellow-throated Warbler attended a Glace Bay, NS feeder through December (CM), and individuals were sustained to Dec. 4 and from Dec. 28+ in St. John's, NF (BM *et al.*). At least six Pine Warblers in Nova Scotia and two in St. John's, NF survived into January or February, but four in New Brunswick disappeared in December. There were four post-CBC Palm Warblers in Nova Scotia (v.o.), and a "western" to Jan. 1 on G.M.I., NB (*vide* BD). An Ovenbird Dec. 25 in Halifax (JSC) was Nova Scotia's second latest. A N. Waterthrush Jan. 27–29 on Cape Sable I. († JC *et al.*) was the latest ever in the Region. Wilson's Warblers were at Baccaro, NS Dec. 17 (JC *et al.*), and Cape Sable I., Dec. 23 (MN *et al.*). Of four Yellow-breasted Chats in Nova Scotia, only one was seen through January. Northern Cardinals stalled somewhat, with CBC totals of 26 in New Brunswick and 12 in Nova Scotia. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak lingered at Port L'Hebert, NS Dec. 18–20 (v.o.). An imm. Blue Grosbeak with House Sparrows at Donnelly Settlement, NB Jan. 1–21 (v.o.), provided a provincial first (and Regional 5th) for winter. Eleven Dickcissels were noted in Nova Scotia, two in New Brunswick, and two on S.P.M.; two survived winter at feeders in Pubnico, NS (RD). Two Rufous-sided Towhees wintered at feeders in Nova Scotia, and two more in New Brunswick; one of the latter, at Taymouth through January, was of a western, "spotted" race (M. Pacey *et al.*). Among the usual sparrows, only Am. Tree Sparrows were rated as

"common," or "abundant" in the Maritimes, although not in S.P.M. or Newfoundland. A Field Sparrow was at Alma, NB Jan. 13–21 (v.o.). Clay-colored Sparrows were in *Pictou*, NS Dec. 1 (†C. Brennan); Chezzetcook, NS early January (v.o.); and Sackville, NB Jan. 22+ (A. Smith *et al.*, ph.). A Vesper Sparrow was at Alma, NB Dec. 11–Jan. 3 (RW *et al.*). A Lark Sparrow wintered at Malpeque, PEI (v.o.). At least 225 "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows stayed on Sable I., NS; many became victims of a wintering Am. Kestrel (ZOL). Grasshopper Sparrows appeared Dec. 27 at Economy, NS (FS), and Jan. 1–5 on Sable Island, NS (ZOL, ph.). A healthy Lincoln's Sparrow was found Feb. 12 in St. John's, NF (BMct). New Brunswick's 4th Harris' Sparrow, an immature with juncos, was well documented Dec. 20 in Fundy N.P., NB (DSC, P. Martin). Single "Oregon" Dark-eyed Juncos were detected in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Two imm. White-crowned Sparrows wintered in Nova Scotia. In Nova Scotia, a notable 250 Lapland Longspurs were at Grand Pré Jan. 30 (JCT), and >1000 Snow Buntings wintered at the Halifax airport. Wintering meadowlarks (v.o.) included two Easterns and one unidentified in Nova Scotia, two Easterns in s.e. Newfoundland, three Easterns and two unidentified in New Brunswick, and an Eastern in P.E.I. Of >10 N. Orioles in December, two survived through February in Nova Scotia; another appeared briefly Feb. 15 in St. John's, NF (BMct). A "Bullock's" was in St-Pierre, S.P.M., Dec. 27 (RE). All winter finches except Pine Grosbeaks were scarce in or absent from s.e. Newfoundland (BMct). Elsewhere, Purple Finches were initially numerous in n. New Brunswick (DSC), becoming so later in Nova Scotia. House Finches continued to increase in New Brunswick (a record 330 on CBCs; DSC) and Nova Scotia (about 20 through winter). White-winged Crossbills and Am. Goldfinches were numerous in the Maritimes, especially by later winter in Nova Scotia. Other winter finches were average or scarce, with redpolls virtually absent.

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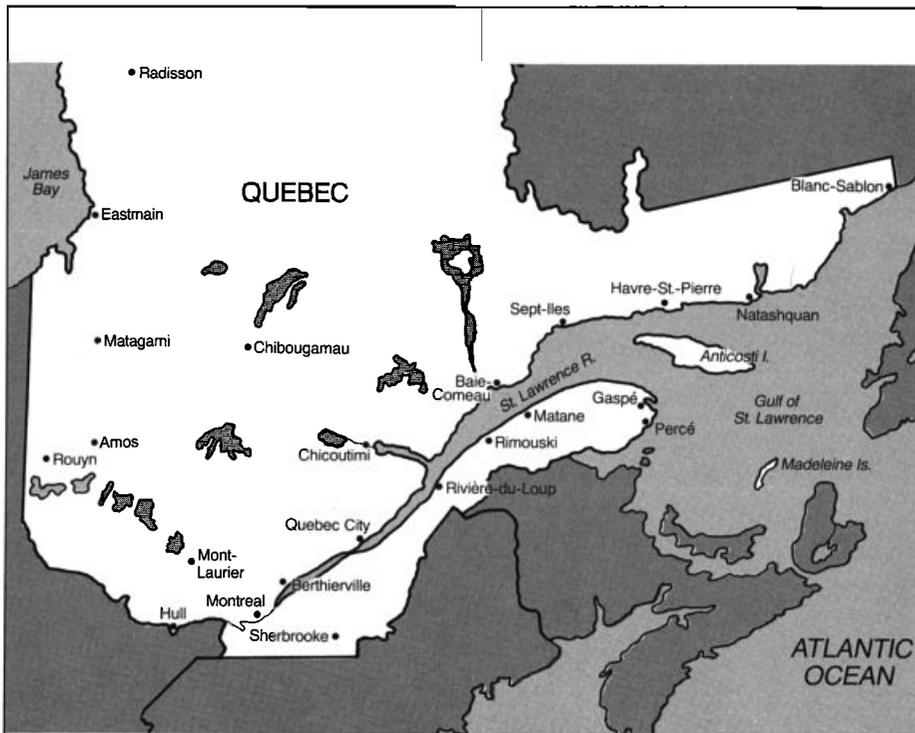
# Quebec Region

### YVES AUBRY AND PIERRE BANNON

Southwestern Quebec experienced a very mild winter with very little snow on the ground at any given moment. Mild conditions in December were responsible for an unusual number of lingering migrants until late in the month. After a cold snap in early January, the mild weather was back again. The mid-January thaw raised temperatures to an impressive 17°C near the United States border January 15, and ice eventually disappeared from most of the rivers. Temperatures were closer to normal in February. It was a completely different story in the eastern part of the province, where storm after storm hit the Gaspé Peninsula and the Lower North Shore. At the end of the period, Gaspé had six feet of snow on the ground.

### Loons to Waterfowl

A Red-throated Loon trapped in ice at Desbiens Dec. 14 (F. Charlton) and one found on the roadside at St-Gédéon Dec. 16 (J. Desmeules) provided first December records for the Lac Saint-Jean region, but four birds off Nun's I., *Montréal*, Dec. 3 (R. Guillet) and two at Gros-Cap, *Magdalen Is.*, Dec. 18 (BL, J. Bourque) were more expected. A Red-necked Grebe at Rimouski Jan. 21 provided only the Region's 3rd January record (G. Gendron). Several exhausted N. Fulmars were encountered inland in December, including an intermediate morph found in a driveway at Jonquière Dec. 14 (A. Landry *et al.*), a light morph in a field at Chicoutimi Dec. 16 (G. Parent), and a light morph picked up in a backyard at St-Félix-de-Dalquier, *Abitibi*, Dec. 28 that died 4 days later despite a rehabilitation effort (M. Pageau). These birds must have been attempting to move S overland from Hudson Bay. How many ended up in the middle of the boreal forest without being noticed will never be known. Northern Gannets penetrated the Upper St. Lawrence valley in larger numbers than usual. An immature at the Beauharnois dam Dec. 3–5 (R. Belhumeur *et al.*) heralded an invasion in the Montreal area: Six were counted Dec. 10 at Beauharnois (BB, MM), five at Côte Ste-Catherine (DD *et al.*), one at Longueuil (R. Boyer *et al.*) and one at Ste-Hélène I. (N. David *et al.*), all immatures. An adult at Les Escoumins, *Saguenay*, Jan. 4 provided the Region's first January record



(J.P. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). A Great Blue Heron wintered successfully at Cowansville, *Brome-Missisquoi*, for the 2nd time in this locality (BH).

A Mute Swan at St-Basile, *Chambly*, Dec. 23, was apparently of captive origin (R. Roy, D. Roy). A single Snow Goose overwintered at the Hemmingford zoo with Canada Geese (PB). Two Greater White-fronted Geese shot by a hunter at Havre-aux-Maisons Dec. 8 furnished a first record for the Magdalen Is. (DGG, BL). Corn-fed waterfowl at Léry, *Châteauguay*, included three ♀ Wood Ducks throughout the season (AL), while one at Cowansville Feb. 26 was considered an early migrant (BH). A male at Beauport Feb 19–25 represented a first mid-winter record for the Quebec City region (RG, JFR). A pair of Green-winged Teal at Châteauguay Jan. 29–Feb. 17 (FG, DD) provided one of few winter records for the Region. The Montreal mid-February waterfowl census produced 1656 Mallards, an all-time high. A N. Shoveler at Léry Jan. 4 was record late by more than 2 weeks, while a ♂ Gadwall and a ♀ Am. Wigeon overwintered in the same locality (AL). A ♂ Ringed-necked Duck at Châteauguay Jan. 29 was noteworthy (PB). As expected, a few Harlequin Ducks appeared in s. Quebec; an imm. male at Nun's I., Dec. 26–27 was later relocated off Ste-Hélène I., Dec. 30–31 (MM, BB) while a female was identified at Morrisson I., *Pontiac*, Dec. 17 (Pembroke and Area Bird Club). A Black Scoter at Bassin Jan. 21 represented the 2nd January record for the Magdalen Is. (DGG), while a ♂ Hooded Merganser at Alma, *Lac St-Jean*, Jan. 19–Feb. 28 was considered rare locally (S. Boivin).

### Raptors to Gulls

Two Turkey Vultures lingered at Ste-Béatrix, *Berthier*, until Dec. 24 (RT *et al.*). Mid-winter observations of N. Harriers included singles at Valleyfield Jan. 21 (DD, FG) and at nearby St-Stanislas Feb. 19 (PB, RP). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Mistassini, *Saguenay*, Feb. 5 was n. of its winter range (BV). There was a high, but now expected, Regional total of 10 Cooper's Hawks, including singles n. to Charlesbourg, *Quebec City*, Dec. 22 (R. Lepage) and Dosquet, *Lotbinière*, Jan. 1 (A. Côté). The only Red-shouldered Hawk reported was an adult at Hudson, *Vaudreuil*, Dec. 28–Jan. 13 (FG, DD), while almost no Rough-legged Hawks wintered in the province. As has become the norm in recent winters, 14 Gyrfalcons were sighted. Merlins are increasingly reported in urban areas in winter: Montreal had 6 reports throughout the winter, including a bird returning nightly to its roosting site for the 4th consecutive winter (M. Ainley, D. Ainley, m.ob.).

Two notably late Com. Moorhens visited Boucherville, *Montreal*, Dec. 4–10 (J.M. Béliveau, m.ob.). An Am. Coot at Côte Ste-Catherine, *Laprairie*, Jan 3 was very late but not totally unexpected (FG, PB), while one at Iberville Feb. 11 furnished the Region's first February record (*vide* D. Henri). A Killdeer at Deschênes, *Pontiac*, Feb. 19 was probably an early migrant (Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club). Five Purple Sandpiper reports included two individuals at l'Anse Saint-Jean, *Saguenay*, Dec. 3 (CC, GS), 17 at Rivière-Ouelle, *Kamouraska*, Dec. 5 (CA, JFR), 24 at Pointe St-Pierre, *Gaspé*, Dec. 26 (PP, J.R.

Lepage), eight at Baie-Trinité, *Saguenay*, Dec. 27 (J. Boulianne *et al.*) and, finally, one at Bonaventure Jan 22 (J.M. Pitre). A Dunlin at Pointe-au-Père, *Rimouski*, Dec. 17 (I. McQuinn) and a Long-billed Dowitcher at Longueuil, *Montréal*, Dec. 3 (GZ) were both record late.

A jaeger spotted from Nun's I., Dec. 2 (GZ) was identified the next day as a Pomarine Jaeger when it flew over roosting gulls at Côte Ste-Catherine (PB). An ad. Little Gull brightened Chambly Dec. 2–4 (MM), while a Bonaparte's Gull at Rivière-Ouelle Dec. 27 was very late (CA). The ad. Mew Gull discovered at the Beauharnois dam in November remained in the area until Dec. 11 (PB, m.ob.). Noteworthy was a Ring-billed Gull at Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, *Charlevoix*, Feb. 11 (J. Lachance) and several in the Montreal region until Jan. 29 (PB, m.ob.). Single Thayer's Gulls were reported from Rivière-Ouelle Dec. 15 (CA, JFR, †), from Matane Dec. 30 (LM, †), and from Côte Ste-Catherine all winter (PB, m.ob.). The only Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared at the Beauharnois dam Dec. 5 (J. Houghton, B. Dilabio). An ad. Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid reappeared at Laterrière Dec. 2–10, where one had been seen last year at about the same period (CC, GS, ph.). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes spotted at Pointe-au-Père (PF) and Gros-Cap, *Magdalen Is.*, Jan. 19 (DGG, BL) were the latest ever reported in the province. Unquestionably the best gull sighting of the period, Montreal's first and the province's 2nd Ross' Gull was present at Chambly Dec. 1–11 (PB, RP, m.ob., ph.). This winter-plumaged adult associated with a mixed flock of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls.

### Alcids to Titmouse

A Dovekie at Rivière-Ouelle Dec. 1 was the westernmost record for the season (CA), while two Com. Murres in the Magdalen Is. until Feb. 4 were unprecedentedly late (DGG). Quite surprising was the occurrence of a Black Guillemot on L. Témiscouata Dec. 26 (MB). It was an average winter for the Snowy Owl in s. Quebec, but 21 birds counted at St-Barthélémy, *Maskinongé*, Feb 23 (RP) probably represented an early local movement. Except for one wintering N. Hawk Owl at Beauport, this species and the Boreal Owl were unreported in the Region.

Reports of Belted Kingfishers included singles at Côte Ste-Catherine Dec 24–Jan. 25 (PB, NR, DP); Valleyfield Dec 30 (MM); Ste-Béatrix, *Berthier*, Dec 30; St-Thomas, *Joliette*, Jan 23–24 (RP), and St-Damien, *Bellechasse*, Jan. 22 (Y. Maheu, C. Therrien).

Both Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported in above-average numbers in the Region. Away from the Moutrea area where the species overwinter regularly in small numbers, sightings of single N. Flickers were reported from La Pocatière Feb. 23 (CA), Chicoutimi Jan. 1–12 (M. Tremblay, m.ob.), and Jonquière Dec. 20–Jan. 5 (M. Gauvin, m.ob.). The Pied Crow, first reported last season from Matane, was not reported for a while after Jan. 13 (M. Bouffard); its origin is still unknown. Up to four Tufted Titmice were at St-Armand, *Missisquoi*, Jan. 3+ (G. Huot, m.ob.).

### Wrens to Warblers

In s. Québec, the Carolina Wren benefited from the mild winter. Singles were noted at Laval Dec. 11 (*vide* J.-P. Pratte); Pointe-Claire, *Montréal*, Jan. 2 (MM, BB); Beaurépaire, *Montréal*, late January (*vide* G.E. Cartier); *Montréal* Feb. 17+ (C. Coté), and Hull Feb. 1+ (R. Morin, A. Sirois). A Winter Wren wintered at the Cap-Tourmente W.R. (RG, J. Guérin), while singles were observed on Notre Dame I., *Montréal*, Feb. 4 (PB) and Oka, *Vaudreuil*, Feb 13–26 (PB, RP). A ♂ E. Bluebird appeared at Hemmingford (M. Frey) Jan. 15, the 2nd mid-winter record for the Region. A molting ♂ Mountain Bluebird enlightened Mistassini, *Saguenay*, Jan. 28–Feb. 25 (BV, ph.), representing the 4th record for the province. The Am. Robin was well represented throughout s. Quebec, but numbers were exceptional along the St. Lawrence R. The only Varied Thrush reported was observed at Forillon N.P., *Gaspé*, Dec. 23 (F. Villeneuve).

~ A N. Mockingbird at Baie-Comeau Dec. 17–Jan 31 represented one of the first wintering attempts for this location. Rarely encountered in winter was a Brown Thrasher

at Aylmer Feb. 17 (G. Bruins). The Bohemian Waxwing was virtually absent from the Region except for a few scattered individuals in the Lower St. Lawrence. The N. Shrike was reported in above-average numbers in s. Quebec. Late Water Pipits included one at Henryville, *Richelieu*, Dec. 3 (PB) and two at St-Pie, Bagot, Dec. 18 (NR). Yellow-rumped Warblers wintering in s. Quebec included singles at Notre-Dame I., *Montréal* (PB) and Dorval, *Montréal* (R. Gomm, MM, BB), while one was found at Fatima, Magdalen Is., Feb. 11 (C. Roy).

### Towhees to Finches

Rufous-sided Towhee sightings included a male in the south at St-Léon, *Maskinongé*, in January (G. Lachaine), a male east at Baie-Trinité, *Saguenay*, Dec. 7–16 (JB), and a female at in the west at Sheldrake, *Saguenay*, Feb. 2–4 (JB, M. Savard). The mild season may have contributed to the above-average numbers of N. Cardinal throughout the Region, as illustrated by a high count of 44 at the Hull CBC Dec. 18, and single females wintering at n. localities: L'Isle-Verte (F. Marquis) and Baie-Comeau (m.ob.).

Sparrows were well represented this winter. Late birds included a Fox Sparrow at St-Lazare, *Vaudreuil*, Dec. 30 (B. MacDuff *et al.*) and a Swamp Sparrow at Châteauguay Dec. 28–31 (PB). Single Field Sparrows were noted at Dorval Jan. 29 (PB) and at Perkins, *Outaouais*, Jan. 13–22 (D. Osborne, D. St-Hilaire), while a Vesper Sparrow first noted in January disappeared Feb. 5 after the temperature dropped to -28°C (MA, m.ob.); it represented the first January and February records for the Region. Tree Sparrows were numerous over all the Region. A Chipping Sparrow was reported at Joliette Feb. 4 (C. Gauvreau-Asselin). Win-

tering White-crowned Sparrows included singles at L'Acadie, *Laprairie* (MA); St-Thomas-de-Joliette (*vide* RaP), St-Thimothée, *Beauharnois*, (A. Hogues), and Bassin, *Magdalen Is.* (G. Lebel, C. Bouchard), while a ♂ Dark-eyed Junco of the Oregon race wintered at Longueuil (M. Bertrand).

~ Four Red-winged Blackbirds and a ♂ Rusty Blackbird wintered at feeders on Cap-aux-Meules I., *Magdalen Is.* (DGG, C.A. Gaudet, U&S Décoste). A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch brightened a feeder at St-Norbert-de-Montbrun, *Abitibi*, Jan. 22–Feb. 4 (S. Gagnon, v.t.), providing a first record for the province. The bird was aggressive and kept away Evening and Pine grosbeaks. The House Finch was reported from Gaspé Pen. localities, while three birds showed up at St-Jules Dec. 17 (AC, JMP) and a female was at Bonaventure Dec. 18–Jan. 11 (JMP).

~ The White-winged Crossbill was common in the Region and even abundant at some localities; occasional Red Crossbills accompanied these flocks. Redpolls were virtually absent from s. Quebec, while Pine Siskins were abundant in many parts of s. Quebec. The Am. Goldfinch was present in very good numbers across s. Quebec. The Evening Grosbeak seemed to have been more abundant in regions outside the St. Lawrence valley and was better represented at more extensively forested localities.

### Exotics

A Lady Amherst Pheasant was observed at Dégelis, *Témiscouata*, Feb. 12–26 (MB *et al.*). A Ring-necked Pheasant at Saint-Jules, *Bonaventure*, escaped hunters until Dec. 17 (AC, JMP). A N. Bobwhite survived the winter at Cap Tourmente, *Charlevoix* (m.ob.). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was reported from Ste-Foy, *Quebec City*, Jan. 27 (P. Filiatrault), while the Laughing Dove previously reported at Neuville, *Portneuf*, died the night of Feb. 6–7 (M. Darveau). A banded Eur. Goldfinch lightened a feeder at Bedford, *Missisquoi*, Dec. 24–Jan. 4 (D. Giroux, P. Marzioli).

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A fourth for Quebec was this male Mountain Bluebird, feasting on berries at Mistassini February 22, 1995. Photograph/Bruno Duchesne.