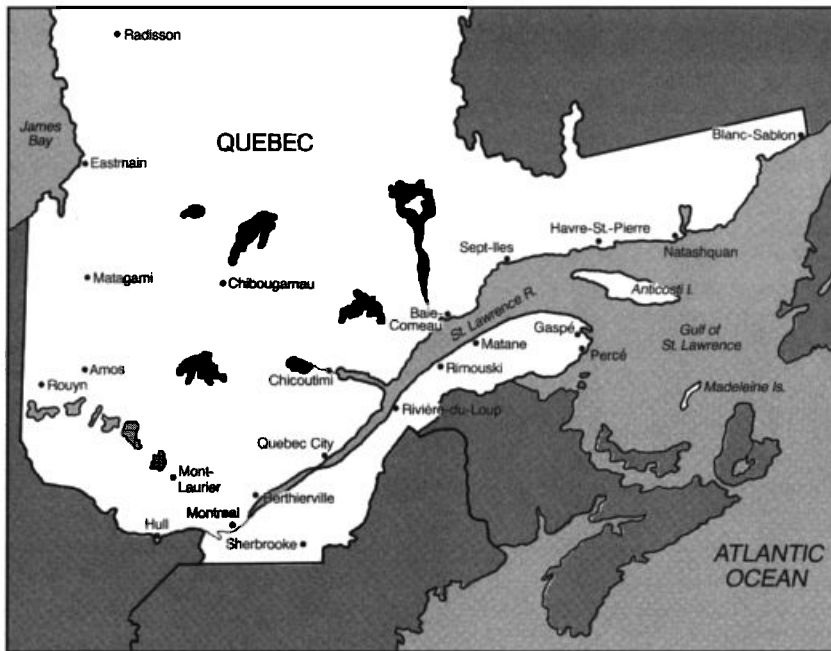


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With cool and wet conditions prevailing most of the time, summer 2000's weather was quite at a variance with that of 1998 and 1999. While we usually consider migration over by the end of May, there were still migrants moving through the Region well into June, and an astonishing number of vagrants was recorded for the period. Outstanding nesting records included the first Regional nesting record for Willet, six nests of Black-headed Gull in

Iles de la Madeleine, and Turkey Vulture nesting in the Québec City region.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The Pacific Loon has now been nesting regularly for the past eight years at Akulivik, *Hudson Bay*, where an incubating bird was observed with its mate 18–23 Jul (Y. Gauthier). Pelagic birding provided excellent results on the *lower North Shore* of the St. Lawrence R. in mid-summer, as shown by counts of 350 Northern Fulmars, 250 Greater Shearwaters, 15 Sooty Shearwaters, and 8 Manx Shearwaters made between Saint-Augustin and Blanc-Sablon 21–22 Jul (J. Larivée, D. Gagné). With close to 40 records in the Region, the sightings of single American White Pelicans near the mouth of Romaine R. 5 Jul (C. Buidin, YR) and at Sept-Îles 14 Jul (I. Normand) were not totally unexpected, but a flock of 14 birds flying in V-formation near the mouth of Duparquet R., *Abitibi*, 17 Jun was one of the most surprising finds of the season (R. Lévesque, *vide SC*).

Numbers of shy and retiring birds such as Least Bittern are frequently underestimated, so only a very diligent search enabled two dedicated observers to discover an amazing total of 11 birds in a small but highly productive marsh at Saint-

Timothée in June (A. Hogue, D. Gervais). A record count of 32 Great Egrets, apparently non-breeding birds, was established at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 25 Jun (L&PS), while one in *Iles de la Madeleine* 4–5 Jun was well east and north of its known range (BL, FS, P. Poirier, C. Soumagnas). The Tricolored Heron reported in the Spring report continued at Cacouna until 28 Jun (m.ob.), and for the 2nd consecutive year, LaSalle hosted an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 7 Jun–3 Aug (J.C. Sorel, M.C. Cardin, m.ob.). An ad. **White Ibis** strayed to Grosse Ile, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 6–12 Jul, establishing a 4th Regional record (M. Bisson, M. Hiller, m.ob.). A nest of Turkey Vultures at Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse 12 Jun was the first for the Québec City region (L-É. Guimond, m.ob.).

A flock of 30 Snow Geese at Étang du Cap, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 30 Jun was not only out-of-range but also out-of-season (DGG, CAG). A Ross's Goose at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Jun–1 Jul represented a first Regional summer record (G&HD, PÉ, SR, m.ob.). A pair of Wood Ducks northeast of Sept-Îles, 3 Jun, was out-of-range (C. Marcotte, MR). A male Cinnamon Teal brightened Baie-du-Febvre 7–8 Jun (A. Daigle, m.ob.).

An imm. Golden Eagle at the east end of Montréal 12 Jun (S. Bérubé) and an adult at Mont Saint-Hilaire 29 Jul (ND, SD) were both out-of-season. Four nests of this species located northeast of Kuujuaq, *Ungava*, 9–10 Jul by two members of a team from the Canadian Wildlife Service were a good find (MR, JFR). According to the same observers, the Peregrine Falcon was almost a pest(!) in this area, where 12 nests were easily found also 9–10 Jul.

The first nest of Sandhill Crane for the *Lac-Saint-Jean* region was discovered at Normandin 13 Jul (D. Bélanger, R. Saint-Gelais), while a chick accompanied by 2 adults at Antoine marsh 19 Jun provided a 5th nesting record for *Abitibi* (R. Deschênes, *vide SC*). In the south, 4 birds spent a few weeks at Saint-Gilles-de-Lotbinière in June (M. Lapointe, AD, LR).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PIGEONS

American Avocets are becoming a regular feature in summer; this year, one lingered at Baie-du-Febvre 8–28 Jun (JD, m.ob.), while another turned up at Sabrevois 26–27 Jun (M. Couture, R. Chartier, M. Desmarais, L. Gingras, m.ob.) and then subsequently moved to nearby Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 30 Jun (PB, R. Yank). The

SA The major avian event of summer 2000 was the discovery of a male **Common Ringed Plover** in breeding plumage at Les Escoumins 7 Jul, representing our first fully documented Regional record (CA, CG). An adult seen and heard at Cacouna 27–28 Jul 1989 was the only previous record. This year's bird was also heard and, fortunately, was captured on film alongside a Semipalmated Plover, providing very conclusive photographs. The 1998 *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list* makes mention of only two substantiated records for continental North America away from Alaska. The first is a specimen collected in Virginia in Sep 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:70). However, the latter was subsequently diagnosed as a first-year Semipalmated Plover by experts at the U.S. National Museum (*Am. Birds* 46:77). Therefore, this record should be omitted from the check-list. The 2nd record refers to a juvenile photographed in Nova Scotia in Oct 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:47). But one feature about that bird that was not consistent with juv. Common Ringed Plover was the bottom edge of the dark lores not extending below or at the gape line but somewhat above the gape, illustrating the difficulty of identifying an immature from photographs (*vide* B. Mactavish). Otherwise, there have been only a handful of birds seen and heard, but not photographed, including an adult in Newfoundland in Aug 1980, and possible immatures in Massachusetts in Sep 1990, Rhode Island in Sep 1991, and California in Sep 1996 (the California Bird Records Committee did not accept this last report).

Willet nested for the first time in the Region; the event took place at Grosse-Ile in *Iles de la Madeleine*, where a pair fledged 3 young 25 Jul (DGG, FS, CAG, BL). This species was also well in evidence in *Gaspésie*, where 9 individuals appeared at Chandler 13 Jun, with a few remaining throughout the month (JR. Lepage); one was spotted at Saint-Omer 11–13 Jun (JD, R. Bisson). Also noteworthy was a Curlew Sandpiper in full breeding plumage at Baie-du-Febvre 30 Jun–3 Jul (D. McCutcheon, E. Arsenault, m.ob., ph. ML). Other interesting shorebirds included a very early Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Res.

Taureau 25 Jul (P. Hilton), a female Ruff at Saint-Siméon, *Gaspésie*, 21 Jul (L&PS), and 2 ad. Long-billed Dowitchers at Montmagny 23 Jul (F. & R. Dion).

Black-headed Gulls maintained their presence in *Iles de la Madeleine*, where 12 adults and 6 nests containing eggs and/or young were discovered at Pointe-de-l'Est 26 Jun (FS). An ad. Forster's Tern, unusual in summer, appeared at Isle-Verte 23 Jun (JPO, ML). A Common Murre near Gyrfalcon I. 21 Jun was a good find in this Thick-billed Murre country (JFR). A **Band-tailed Pigeon**, the 2nd ever for the Region, visited Saint-Norbert-de-Montbrun, *Abitibi*, 16–18 Jun (G. Mercier, R. Gilbert, ph. SGa).

SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES

A large, entirely black swift was seen flying over Pointe-de-l'Est, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 2 Jul at a distance that precluded the distinction of reliable field marks (FS). A Red-bellied Woodpecker enlightened Pointe-au-Père 6 Jun (L. Rioux). An **Acadian Flycatcher**, first located by its song at Cap-Tourmente W.R., responded to a playback of its song 2–5 Jun, providing a 3rd Regional record (Y. Hamel, JM. Giroux).

A pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows entering a nesting cavity in an old wharf by the river at Rivière-du-Loup 26 Jun represented an extension to its known breeding distribution (JLM). A colony of Bank Swallows comprising 75 cavities and at least 25 birds flying nearby at Kuujuaq, *Ungava*, 3–4 Jul represented a noteworthy range extension (MR). A Marsh Wren at Pointe-à-la-Croix 7 Jun provided a first record for *Gaspésie* (JF. Rousseau). At least one Northern Wheatear was repeatedly observed at Kangirsuk, *Ungava*, 24 Jun–4 Jul, furnishing a new locality for this species which is infrequently seen on its seldom-visited breeding grounds (JFR, JPS, GF, SGI). A male Mountain Bluebird was reported at Rimouski 22 Jun (R. Pitre); the lack of reddish tone on the underparts and the long wings and bill as well as its call would eliminate the other species. An American Robin may have bred locally 26 Jun–4 Jul at Kangirsuk, a locality beyond the tree line, since an old nest was found on a tire of an abandoned truck (GF, JFR, SGI).

A well-described male **Hermit Warbler** seen at Sainte-Foy 11 Jun provided only the 2nd report for the Region (JPO, ML). Thus far, there is no photographic documentation available for this species. The Yellow-breasted Chat mentioned at Hull in the

Spring report continued until 12 Jun, establishing a noteworthy record for this seldom-seen straggler (F. Bédard, m.ob.). A male Lark Bunting visited a feeder at Destor, *Abitibi*, 5–6 Jun (R. Villeneuve, S. Chartier, ph.). A singing Le Conte's Sparrow at Matane reported through 27 Jul represented the easternmost record in breeding period (J. Durette *vide* D. Desjardins). Surveys made in the *Ungava* Peninsula also yielded a report of a White-throated Sparrow 27 Jun on Payne I., where the tallest vegetation is about 5-cm high (GF, SGI), as well as a Dark-eyed Junco on Gyrfalcon I. 21 Jun (JFR, JPS). White-winged Crossbills were reported in above-average numbers in the *Charlevoix*, *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean*, and *Gaspésie* regions, where cone crops seemed to be important.

EXOTICS: A pair of Ringed Teal turned up at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Jun, remaining well into July (G&HD, PÉ, SR, m.ob.). A Common Peafowl entertained observers at Hull 24 Jun–5 Aug (F. Fournier). A Gambel's Quail enlivened Lennoxville for most of the summer (G. Gilbert, m.ob.), while a Northern Bobwhite was at Lotbinière 9–11 Jul (LR, AD). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was observed at Québec City 14–15 Jul (MR, C. Simard).

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