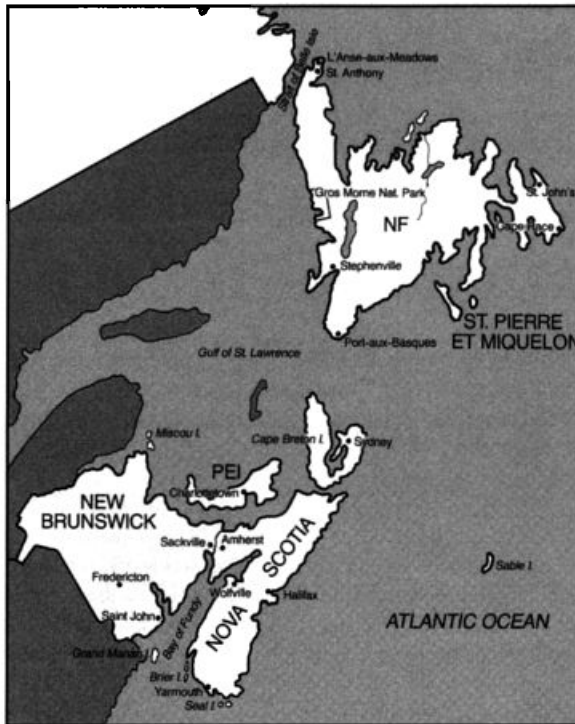


Atlantic Provinces



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Along, harsh winter was followed by an indifferent, reluctant spring. The residents of St. John's, Newfoundland may be forgiven if they thought spring might never arrive: the city received 630 cm of snow, setting a new annual snowfall record for any Canadian city with a population over 30,000! And snowfall continued well into May.

In other weather news, a southerly flow in Nova Scotia 18-19 Apr brought blues and reds in the form of Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks to many areas, with concentrations on islands: Brier, Cape Sable, and Cape Breton. Constant northerly winds across eastern Newfoundland brought a welcome (if tardier-than-average) arrival of European birds, with at least four different species involved. Coverage was excellent from Nova Scotia and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, good from New Brunswick and western Labrador, good from eastern Newfoundland, and poor to absent elsewhere. No data were received from New Brunswick's spring waterfowl migration count at Point Lepreau, and there were no sightings submitted from Prince Edward Island.

Abbreviations: SPM (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France); B.I. (Brier Island, Nova Scotia); C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia); N.A.M.C. (North American Migration Count; Nova Scotia only: 12 May).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A pair of breeding-plumaged Red-throated Loons was at the mouth of the LaHave R., NS on the late date of 19 May (EM). The cool, late spring may explain why a few Horned and Red-necked Grebes lingered along the Nova Scotia coast until 12 May (N.A.M.C.). New Brunswick's first (and the Region's 2nd) Western Grebe was discovered 6 May off Pt. Lepreau (Tracey Dean, m. ob.), where it lingered until at least 17 May. Three Double-crested Cormorants at Little Wabush L., Labrador City 19 May may represent a first for Labrador (BD).

Unsurprisingly, the heavy heron flight of 2000 was not repeated in 2001 (Table 1). Nova Scotia had the lion's share of those Great Egrets that deigned to appear, while New Brunswick hosted the majority of the Snowy Egrets, as well as most of a strong showing of Glossy Ibis, including 3 together at Sackville 30 Apr (Andrew Macfarlane) and 2 at Hammond River, Kings 11 May (Ian Cameron). The latter observer at the same latter locale also had the only multiple sighting of Snowy Egret, with 3 on 5 May. A very

early Black-crowned Night-Heron was on White Head Island, Grand Manan archipelago, NB 28 Mar (Richard Brooks), and the individual at St John's, NE, first discovered in Jan, survived until at least 5 Apr, thereby officially overwintering. This is a rare Regional occurrence and is particularly noteworthy in light of the city's snow accumulation this past winter. Green Herons were scarce, although one reached SPM 21 Apr (Philippe Hacala).

Table 1. Herons, egrets, and ibis recorded in the Atlantic Provinces in spring 2001.

	NS	NB	NF	SPM
Great Egret	12	2	0	1
Little Blue Heron	2	2	2	0
Snowy Egret	2	8	0	0
Tricolored Heron	1	1	0	0
Cattle Egret	1	0	0	0
Green Heron	0	2	0	1
Glossy Ibis	4	13	0	0

WATERFOWL

Ice left lakes and marshes up to five weeks later than "normal," but this did not evidently impact waterfowl, which were reported in near-normal numbers across the Region. The island of Newfoundland, as always, hosted most of the European ducks, but numbers were lower in the Maritimes, with Nova Scotia faring poorly, even being shut out in the Tufted Duck department for the first spring in many years (Table 2). Three of the Newfoundland Eurasian Wigeon were paired with American Wigeon, and they departed in Apr to who-knows-where to produce who-knows-what. Not included in the Table 2 is a drake Eurasian Wigeon at Labrador City 12 May, apparently a first Labrador record (BD).

Spring Snow Goose flights are becoming routine: 225+ were reported in New Brunswick, the bulk 17-27 Apr, including 100 at Atholville Marsh 25 Apr (Margaret Doyle) and 52 at Memramcook Marsh 23 Apr (Alain Clavette). In Nova Scotia, there were five reports of 18 birds, including 13 at C.S.I. in mid-Apr, with 3 blue morphs mixed in (v. ob.). Newfoundland's 2nd Garganey was a male on a St. John's farmyard duck pond 24 May (BMT et al.), a date coincident with the arrival of other European species. A Blue-winged Teal at Saint Rest's Marsh, NB 16 Mar was a record early arrival for the province (DG, SS). The same marsh also hosted an early Northern Shoveler 23 Mar (Merv Cormier). In the absence of New Brunswick waterfowl count data, the only indicator of scoter numbers came from the N.A.M.C., with totals of 116 Black, 846 Surf, and 1760 White-winged. Otherwise, a concentration of 150 Black Scoters off B.I. 13 Apr (EM) was significant. A fine count of 1000 Common Goldeneye 22 Mar was made at Oak Point, Saint John R., NB (Jim & Betty Evans). On

18 May, Little Wabush L., Labrador held 150 Greater Scaup, 16 Lesser Scaup, 200 Surf Scoter, and 200 Long-tailed Ducks (BD).

Table 2. European waterfowl recorded in the Atlantic Provinces in spring 2001.

	NS	NB	NF
Eurasian Wigeon	3	5	8
Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal	1	1	4
Tufted Duck	0	1	8

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

There were 21 Turkey Vultures on the N.A.M.C., a typical number for Nova Scotia, but the species seems to be strengthening its toehold in New Brunswick, where there were 14 reports totaling 31 birds, including 6 in n. New Brunswick. One of the season's highlights was Nova Scotia's (and the Region's) 2nd Swallow-tailed Kite, seen 25 Mar at Glace Bay, Cape Breton (Cathy Murrant, Susann Myers). The observers enjoyed a 30-minute show, as the kite first circled e. of town, then headed nw. over the town and along the coastline, offering marvelous eye-level views. The date is fully consistent with patterns of overshooting migrant Swallow-tailed Kites on the Atlantic coast of the United States.

Red-shouldered Hawks are barely annual in Nova Scotia and usually appear in autumn or winter, so an ad. soaring with Broad-winged Hawks above B.I. 12 May was an unexpected delight (Richard Stern et al.). The Red-shouldered was soaring with a kettle of Broad-winged Hawks numbering 60 birds (BMy et al.). Rough-legged Hawks were numerous across the Maritimes, with more than 20 birds in Nova Scotia, including a late individual 25 May on B. I. In New Brunswick, an impressive concentration of 9 at Tantramar Marsh 17 Mar (Miller, Kathy Popma) and two early May records. There were seven May sightings on SPM, more than is typical (*vide* RE). A Gyrfalcon 1 May over Dorchester Island, NB was quite tardy (Alain Clavette et al.).

A pair of Sandhill Cranes at Havelock, NB 18 Apr was behaving as though nesting (*vide* Jim Brown), and another in the province spent two days at Woodstock 22-23 Apr (George Peabody). In Newfoundland, a Sandhill Crane walked farm fields on the outskirts of St. John's 20-27 May in the same location where one appeared in spring of 2000 (Doug Phelan). A Purple Gallinule strolling the streets of St. Pierre, SPM 18 May was caught and released in better habitat (Laurent Jackman et al.). Only two of the 16 Nova Scotia American Avocet records have been in spring; this year, a bird made a 20-minute visit to Cherry Hill Beach 27 May (SF, James Hirtle). A Black-bellied Plover at O'Donnells, NF 3 Mar

was likely a "month first" for the province (BMT et al.). A single pair of Semipalmated Plovers nested again on C.S.I.; this is the species's southernmost breeding site in North America, a locale they share with the northernmost breeding site for American Oystercatcher. Three ad. oystercatchers returned to C.S.I. in Apr (4 had departed south last autumn), and one pair was on eggs by the end of the period.

Newfoundland's 2nd Common Greenshank was at Harbour Grace, Conception Bay 27-29 May, on precisely the same stretch of beach that hosted the province's first occurrence in Dec 1983 (Chris Brown et al.). The bird was part of the province's mini-invasion of European species, and presumably the same phenomenon propelled the province's 9th Black-tailed Godwit to a Goulds farm field 24-25 May (D. Fifield et al.). There have been fewer than 10 Nova Scotia records of the Eurasian (nominata) race of Whimbrel; this spring a particularly cooperative bird lingered at Morien Bay, Cape Breton, NS 10-13 May (SM, C&AM). Red Knots are gradually becoming more commonplace in spring across the Region. A flock of 53 on C.S.I. 12 May (N.A.M.C.) may have included the 37 birds that successfully overwintered there. Twenty-eight knots were at Maisonette Dune, NB 30 May (Marcel David). Pectoral Sandpipers are rare Regionwide in spring, so Bev Schneider was pleased to find one at Saint's Rest Marsh, NB 19 Apr. Spring Ruffs occur in Nova Scotia roughly every two years on average, and this year C.S.I. enjoyed its first local spring record, a Reeve 2 May (JN, MN). Dunlin have traditionally been scarce in spring, but as more successfully overwinter in the Region, they may become more routine. There were May flocks of 4 & 5 in New Brunswick and 3 in St. Pierre et Miquelon.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Just where were Bonaparte's Gulls in Nova Scotia this spring? A single bird on the N.A.M.C. was the only report after Mar. Perhaps the cool Apr dissuaded them from appearing in their usual Northumberland Strait haunts. Nova Scotia's ad. Black-tailed Gull, last seen Nov 1999, returned to Cape Breton; DM rediscovered it at Big Pond Beach, Florence 6 May, where it remained through the rest of the period. An ad. Yellow-legged Gull was seen in St. John's, NF 11, 16 & 25 Mar (BMT et al.); this species has been annual here of late. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were routine, with sightings spread across the Region: Nova Scotia (4); New Brunswick (8); Newfoundland (20+); and St. Pierre et Miquelon (one). The only Mew (Common) Gulls were in St. John's, NF, which held 4 different birds, the last seen in early Apr. An occupied Great Black-backed Gull nest on Big Wabush L., Labrador City 20 May, was the first confirmed nesting for interior Labrador; the nest apparent-

ly failed in late Jun (BD)

We received two reports of storm-driven arrivals. Mactavish noted that "on 28 Apr, a rapidly moving low-pressure area was responsible for an extraordinarily early influx of Arctic Terns to the Avalon Peninsula. Some 22 individuals were seen in the St. John's area 28 Apr, with several others on the Avalon Peninsula in the ensuing days (BMT et al.). Newfoundland's breeding Arctic Terns typically arrive a month later" Dalzell related that "quite a few northward-migrating Thick-billed Murres in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are believed to have been blown inland over Prince Edward Island by strong easterly gales on both 5-6 Mar and 9-10 Mar. Most reports of grounded birds came from se. New Brunswick and n. Nova Scotia, but many were found close to shore, down the Bay of Fundy and into Maine."

DOVES THROUGH STARLING

On 13 May, Nova Scotia's 7th Chuck-will's-widow was watched by Sheilagh Hunt as it landed on a Halifax driveway, whereupon it was dispatched by an American Crow. Hunt was able to

SA The most intriguing tale this spring comes from St. Pierre et Miquelon. Roger Etcheverry reports that "between 15 and 20 May, a European Turtle-Dove was seen and photographed by Thierry Vogenstahl in St. Pierre. Then a Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported by Philippe Lucas in Miquelon, where it hit a window 28 May. It was captured (and photographed) two days later on a building of the Agriculture department. It was almost as pale as a Ringed Turtle-Dove, but the undertail coverts were like the Eurasian Collared-Dove; the bird had a pink bill. I talked on the radio about this bird as we thought it was possibly an escapee, but we did not get any response. So, two strange species of Columbidae in our islands this spring. Can we consider them wild birds, and new species for us?"

Could the arrival of these two birds be linked to the European influx in e. Newfoundland at the same time? Or did the probable collared-dove arrive from the expanding populations to the south?

retrieve tertials that clinched the bird's identification. Nova Scotia's wintering Northern Hawk Owl in *Cumberland* was last reported 1 Apr. An Eastern Phoebe reached St. Pierre et Miquelon 29 Apr (Jacky and Christine Hébert); the species is less than annual there. A much-appreciated Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found by MN (m. o b., ph.) on C.S.I. 5-6 May; this is about the 10th or 11th provincial record. An overzealous visiting

photographer apparently occasioned the bird's departure. An **Eastern Kingbird** near Churchill Falls 12 May (Annette Janes) is likely the first record for Labrador (*vide* BD). EM reports that N.A.M.C. observers recorded an "astonishing total of 489 Blue-headed Vireos throughout Nova Scotia 12 May." A Northern Rough-winged Swallow, scarce in Nova Scotia in spring, was at Publicover L., *Lunenburg*, together with Tree Swallows, 26 May (SF). Brown Creepers are rare on St. Pierre et Miquelon, so one on 5 Mar was welcome there (Sylvie Allen-Mahé).

Carolina Wren, a vagrant to the Region, was found at Islandview, Fredricton, NB 21 Mar (Murray Neilson). Given the date, it seems more likely to have been an overwintering bird. Probably more Blue-gray Gnatcatchers than usual were seen this spring, all between late Apr and late May, including five reports of 6 birds in

Nova Scotia, and 5 different individuals in New Brunswick. New Brunswick's 3rd **Fieldfare**, which spent the winter in Fredricton, was last reported 15 Mar. A Northern Mockingbird was found on St. Pierre et Miquelon 24 May by two independent observers; the species is vagrant to the islands.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

New Brunswick had the monopoly on rare warbler sightings, with a **Blue-winged Warbler** at St. Andrews 8 May (Tracey Dean), an Orange-crowned Warbler at Alderwood, Acadian Peninsula 23 May (Nicole Benoit, Jollande St-Pierre), and the rarest, a **Cerulean Warbler**, at North Head, Grand Manan archipelago, NB 10 May (Jim Leslie)—there are fewer than 10 New Brunswick records. Also in New Brunswick, a new breeding site for the local Pine Warbler was dis-

covered at Salmon R., Kent, when Denis Doucet located 4 singing males and a female 21 May. Observers on St. Pierre et Miquelon discovered some record-early warbler arrivals, especially notable given the harsh weather this spring. A **Cape May Warbler** 9 May (FPA) was record-early by six days (Frédéric & Patricia Allen-Mahé), while a **Black-and-white Warbler** 11 May was a week earlier than average. A **Black-and-white Warbler** (male) at Labrador City 27 May (Cheryl Davis) may have been a first for w. Labrador (*vide* BD).

Seven **Summer Tanagers** arrived 23 Apr—mid-May, 5 in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick. Both **Eastern Towhees** overwintered in Newfoundland, as did 2 each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found 30 Apr at St-Leonard-de-Madawaska, NB (Charlotte & Roy LaPointe), there are a few previous spring records of singing birds. In Nova Scotia, 2 **Field Sparrows** were found on C.S.I. in late Apr, one of them lingering until mid-May (MN et al.). A more intriguing report came from Hartlen Point, NS 13 May, where IM meticulously described a **Field Sparrow** of the midwestern/western race *arenacea*; there are a couple of previous autumn records of this subspecies, but this is the first for spring. Two **White-crowned Sparrows** on St. Pierre et Miquelon 5 May tied the spring arrival record, set only a year earlier. Another was extremely early in Nova Scotia 9 Apr, where Jane McConnell found one in Falmouth, *Kings*, and another was found a few days later in nearby Avonport. In Nova Scotia, a southerly flow 18-19 Apr brought an influx of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** (nine reports), **Blue Grosbeaks** (four or five), and many **Indigo Buntings** (40+ individuals across at least eight counties). Some lingered into May. A **Bobolink** in Nova Scotia 21 Apr on C.S.I. was exceptionally early (MN). Nova Scotia's overwintering imm. male **Bullock's Oriole** departed 12 Apr. There was a good showing of **Orchard Orioles** this May: 8 were found across Nova Scotia (including 3 or 4 on B.I.), and New Brunswick had 2. **Pine Grosbeaks** were uncommon at best in s. New Brunswick this past winter, so a flock of 35 at Caledonia Mt. 9 Mar was of note (David Christie, Mary Majka). A large very white **Hoary Redpoll** on the Cape Spear cliff 31 Mar was thought to be of the nominate Greenland subspecies (KK, BMt).

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SA Mactavish reports that "the event of the season in Newfoundland was the inundation of **Northern Wheatears**. More wheatears were seen in Newfoundland in May 2001 than in all previous springs of recorded avifaunal history. A total of 42 Northern Wheatears was tallied for the period 15-28 May. Most were in groups of 3-5 individuals. They were likely Greenland, Canadian Arctic, or Labrador birds blown off course by persistent n. winds 15-25 May." Table 3 details the distribution of sightings. As often happens, there was a spill-over into the Maritimes, with sightings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, although the record from late Apr in New Brunswick is almost certainly not linked to the mid-May arrival.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Date	Locale	Number
15 May	Reef's Harbour, N. Pen.	2
16 May	Plum Pt., N. Pen.	1
19-21 May	Blue Cove, N. Pen.	5 (all female)
20 May	Ferrole Pt., N. Pen.	2 (male and female)
22? May	Kilbride	1 (male)
26 May	Brig Bay, N. Pen.	1
26 May	Long Beach, Cape Race	4 (2 male and 2 female)
26 May	Cripple Cove, Cape Race	4 (2 female, 2 not specified)
26 May	Cape Race Lighthouse	5 (2 male, 3 female)
26 May	Cape Race road	1 (male)
26 May	St. Shotts	1 (male)
27 May	Deadman's Bay, Cape Freels	3 (1 male, 2 female)
27 May	Cape Spear	1
27 May	Bay Bulls	1
27 May	Cape St. Mary's	4
27 May	Ferryland	4
28 May	Carmenville	2 (male and female)
	Total	42

NEW BRUNSWICK

Date	Locale	Number
21-25 Apr	Val Comeau, Tracadie-Sheila	1 (female)
26 May	Miscou Island	1 (female)

NOVA SCOTIA

Date	Locale	Number
22 May	Sandhills Provincial Park	1 (female)
27-31 May	Schooner Pond, Cape Breton	1 (female)
31 May	Lockeport, Shelburne	1