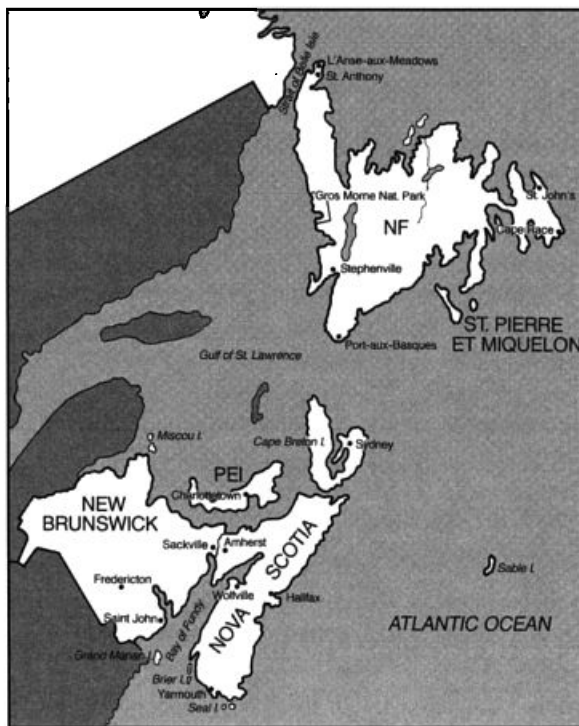


Atlantic Provinces



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It was a dry, warm summer across most of the Region. The lack of comments on birds' breeding success, either positive or negative, probably indicates an "average" breeding season. A pair of Northern Wheatears raised two broods at Cape Pine, Newfoundland, 700 km south of the known breeding range. Rarity highlights were a Red-necked Stint at St. Pierre et Miquelon, a molting Garganey in Nova Scotia, a Loggerhead Shrike on an offshore island in New Brunswick, a Black-tailed Godwit, and two provincial firsts, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Brewer's Blackbird in Newfoundland.

Abbreviations: C.B.I. (Cape Breton Island); C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan Island, NB), SPM (St. Pierre et Miquelon, France).

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

As usual, a pair of Red-throated Loons nested at Miquelon S.P.M. (RE). Rare mid-summer grebes in Nova Scotia were 2 Horned Grebes 7 Jul at Summerville Beach (JH) and 4 Red-

necked Grebes 21 Jun at Hartlen Pt. (FL). The usual tens of thousands of Greater Shearwaters and Sooty Shearwaters fed on capelin off the s. coast of the Avalon Pen., NF in Jul (PLi et al.). The 100 Manx Shearwaters near Colombier I., SPM 1 Jul represented the largest concentration reported (LJ). Unusually high numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were encountered on the Cabot Strait ferry between N. Sydney, NS and Port-aux-Basques, NF, with counts of 295 on 30 Jun and 75 on 2 Jul (RK). One hundred pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nesting on two islands in Groswater Bay made for the first known breeding occurrence in Labrador in nearly a century (KC *vide* PLI).

Hérons wandering n. of their breeding ranges were reported in below-average numbers: Great Egret numbered 3 in Nova Scotia, one in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 2 in Newfoundland, while a single Little Blue Heron was noted in Nova Scotia, and there were no reports of Snowy Egret. More unusual was a single Tricolored Heron at Homeville, C.B.I., NS 1 Jun (RK et al.) and an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at St. Pierre, SPM 26 Jul (PA). A Turkey Vulture in the Great Codroy Valley, NF 10–21 Jun was only the 3rd to be recorded on insular Newfoundland (DP, JW et al.).

A male Eurasian Wigeon at Cow Bay, NS 16

Jun was the only report of the species (CSS). The Garganey discovered at Amherst, NS in May was last seen 18 Jun (FL, CLS). A pair of Redhead remained at Riverside-Albert, NB until at least 10 Jun (DC). A female Hooded Merganser summering in St. John's was far from breeding sites in the w. half of the Region (PLi). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks was at Sunpoke L., NB 11 Jun (DG, PP). Rough-legged Hawks were widespread on insular Newfoundland due to an abundance of voles (*vide* PLi). Five Common Moorhens were at their e. breeding stronghold, Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, on 18 Jun (FL, CLS).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A new high total of four pairs of Piping Plover nested on the Isthmus of Miquelon, SPM (RE). An isolated n. population of 10 pairs of Killdeer had territories at Labrador City, Labrador (BD). American Oystercatcher continues to maintain a toehold as breeder in the Region, with 3 ads. and 2 juvs. present at The Cape, C.S.I., NS during Jul (MN). A Willet strayed e. to Grand Barchois, SPM 3–28 Jul (RE et al.). Up to 300 Whimbrel were at Barchois, S.P.M. 19 Jul (RE).

SA A host of early southbound shorebirds arrived in the last days of Jun. The diversity, as well as the numbers of some species, made this an extraordinary event. Early Hudsonian Godwits were 2 at Three Fathom Harbour, NS 21 Jun (FL), one at The Hawk, C.S.I. 28 Jun (MN), 5 at Morien Bar, C.B.I., NS 1 Jul (SM), and one at Grand Barchois, SPM 28 Jun (RE). The Hawk, C.S.I., NS also had 8 Ruddy Turnstones, 5 Red Knots, and a remarkable 700 Short-billed Dowitchers 28 Jun (MN). A further 60 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Three Fathom Harbour 27 Jun (IM). Perhaps related was the appearance of an impeccable, alternate-plumaged Red-necked Stint in company with an early Stilt Sandpiper and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Grand Barchois, SPM 1 Jul (RE et al.). This was the first for the French Islands and perhaps a 2nd for the Region.

A Black-tailed Godwit at Stephenville Crossing, NF 1–3 Jun was part of the moderate late May influx of European birds to the province (KK et al.). A Reeve at Portugal Cove S., NF 3 Jun (AH, JP) was followed by a spectacular white Ruff at the same location on 8 Jun (KS, GS). A molting Ruff was at Morien

Bar, C.B.I., NS 14–25 Jul (SM et al.). The only report of the increasing rare Wilson's Phalarope was a juv. 29 Jul at Morien Bar, C.B.I., NS (SM et al.). Two Red Phalaropes near Machias Seal I., NB on 23 Jun fell between migration periods (PLe).

Most midsummer jaeger reports were, as usual, from Newfoundland, where they join in with other seabirds and marine mammals to feed on spawning capelin. The highest of several counts was a mixed group of 55 Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers at Portugal Cove S. 28 Jul (AH, PLi). Four ad. Long-tailed Jaegers were migrating n. at O'Donnells, St. Mary's Bay, NF 4 Jun (AB). The lack of s. winds in May seems to be responsible for the complete lack of Laughing Gulls in Newfoundland during the summer, but Nova Scotia made up for it with 3 during Jun (*vide* BMy). A few Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all subads., were reported during the period in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. A pair of Great Black-backed Gulls attempted to nest far inland at Labrador City, Labrador (BD). Caspian Terns were rediscovered nesting in Hamilton Inlet, Labrador, with five nests on three islands (KC). Seventy Roseate Tern nests, an encouraging number, were tallied at The Brothers, NS (TD). Four Black Terns were at the e. edge of the breeding range at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary 18 Jun (FL).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

What would a summer be like without a **White-winged Dove**? This time it was at Sainte-Jacques *Madawaska*, NB 14 Jun (JB). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, very rare in the Region outside of the autumn season, was an extraordinary find at Goose Bay, Labrador on 19 Jun (TB, JS). An unseasonable Snowy Owl was at St. Pierre, SPM 25 Jun (BL). An Eastern Wood-pewee was e. of mapped breeding range at St. Pierre, SPM 11 Jun (LJ). Newfoundland's long overdue first **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was beautifully photographed from a canoe by a nature photographer in a remote area of the central part of the province 3 Jul (DT). The first **Loggerhead Shrike** in the Region in years was obviously a vagrant on Machias Seal I., NB 8 Jun (AM). Philadelphia Vireo is a widespread summer singer in second-growth deciduous forest in w. Newfoundland, but the first actual breeding evidence was a singing male feeding a barely fledged young bird near Highlands 10 Jul (PLi, BMT). Seven territorial Philadelphia Vireos around Goose Bay, Labrador, during Jun was expected (TB, JS). A stray Purple Martin hit the end of the road at Cape North, C.B.I. 16 Jul (RK). House Wren, a rare breeder in New Brunswick, was heard singing 17 Jun Thomaston Corner (CA). A

total of 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets in Goose Bay during Jun were perhaps the first Labrador sightings of this inconspicuous summertime species (TB, JS). A female Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Mary's Pt., NB 10 Jun was probably a late migrant (DC).

SA One of the most extraordinary events of the period was a pair of nesting **Northern Wheatears** at Cape Pine, Avalon Peninsula, NF. This is 700 km s. of the previously known s. extreme of the breeding range in North America at Black Tickle, Labrador. Kim Eckert (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours) discovered the pair feeding fledged young on 15 Jul. On 18 Jul, the male was observed in care of 6 (!) large bobbing, bob-tailed fledglings. On the same date, the agitated female was seen entering a hole in a rock wall; she did not emerge for two hours (PLi, BMT). On several dates in August, the pair was seen carrying food into the hole in the rock wall, presumably raising another brood (KK et al.). This isolated breeding record follows a massive influx involving at least 42 storm-driven Northern Wheatears to e. Newfoundland in late May (cf. *N. A. B.* 55: 269-271).

A singing Gray Catbird at Goose Bay, Labrador 12 Jun was far n. of the breeding range (TB, JS). Nova Scotia's first confirmed breeding record for Brown Thrasher was a well-documented pair raising 2 young to maturity from Jun through Aug at The Hawk, C.S.I., NS (JN et al.). Meanwhile, a lost Brown Thrasher took up residence on Machias Seal I., NB during Jun (PLe). Bohemian Waxwing is widespread in small numbers throughout forested zones of Labrador in summer. The first breeding record was close to being confirmed with sightings of a pair of ads. repeatedly carrying insects 150 m across an area of old burned forest near Esker 28 Jun (BD) and 3 streaky juvs. among a flock of 20 ads. 7 Aug at Lobstick (BK, EK).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Totals of 5 Cape May Warblers, 2 Bay-breasted Warblers, and one Ovenbird found in the Goose Bay Labrador area in Jun were strong indications of breeding n. of published breeding ranges (TB, JS).

A lingering Clay-colored Sparrow sang at Fredericton, NB 28 May–6 Jun (DS et al.). A Field Sparrow singing in suitable breeding habitat at Brockway Airstrip, NB 21 Jun raised expectations of breeding once again in New

Brunswick (DG et al.). Intriguing were the sightings of possible Seaside Sparrows at LaHave and nearby Cherry Hill Beach, *Lunenburg*, NS in late Jul (JH). Generally regarded as a rare late autumn/early winter vagrant to s. ends of the Region, this saltmarsh sparrow could easily go undetected among the large coastal marshes of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick during the summer. Recently instigated surveys of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Nova Scotia revealed impressive populations of 60 pairs from Conrad's Beach to Lawrencetown Beach (DW et al.) and 75 pairs at Belleisle Marsh (JJN et al.). An indication of the abundance of Northern Cardinals breeding in s. Nova Scotia was revealed by an unorthodox survey method: visiting garage sales in the Yarmouth and Hebron area, where some 20 pairs were thus discovered (MN).

A male **Brewer's Blackbird**, well studied and photographed at Cape Race, NF 2–8 Jun, was a provincial first and one of the very few spring records for the Region (PLi, BMT et al.) Common Grackles well n. of typical breeding range were Jun singles at Labrador City (BD) and Goose Bay (TB, JS). Except for good numbers of White-winged Crossbills across Labrador, finches kept a low profile in the Region this summer.

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