

Yellow-throated Warblers reported were all in late autumn, as expected: at The Hawk C.S.I., NS 26-27 Oct (JON, SAN), Saint John, NB 31 Oct (F. Kelly), and at a feeder in Tracadie, NB 24-30 Nov (R. Doiron). Prairie Warbler totals were 3 in New Brunswick and 13 in Nova Scotia, but none were seen in Newfoundland, where it is usually found. Despite the poor showing of southern warblers, there were 3 of the rare Cerulean Warbler: Brier I., NS 30 Aug (EM), Morien Bay, C.B.I., NS, 26 Sep (CM), and Cape Spear, NF 3-5 Sep (IJ et al.). There were no reports of Prothonotary, Worm-eating, or Kentucky Warblers. Five Hooded Warblers, however, was a strong appearance: a male at Blacks Harbour, NB 10 Nov (Ken McIntosh), a male at Cape Sable I., NS 18 Aug (*fide* BMy), a female at Brier I., NS 30 Aug (m. ob.), another at Hartlen Pt., NS 24 Sep (CLS), and a male at Schooner Pond, C.B.I., NS 20 Oct (RK). Yellow-breasted Chats were conspicuous in New Brunswick, with 8 reports, and in Nova Scotia, with 20+ individuals.

It was quite a season for late and rare tanagers. Summer Tanagers were at Brier I., NS in early Oct (m. ob.), Portuguese Cove, NS 9-12 Nov (*fide* BMy), and Campellton, NB 22-24 Nov (*fide* DC). A **Western Tanager** was in Halifax, NS on 22 Nov (IM). The most spectacular tanager report was a trio of tanagers—a **Western Tanager**, a Summer Tanager, and a Scarlet Tanager—frequenting one backyard at Canso, NS in late Nov, all documented with photographs (SB). A Scarlet Tanager was a rarity in St. John's, NF on 6 Nov (DBr). An Eastern Towhee was out of range in the cen. Newfoundland wilderness at Buchans on 18 Nov (DBu). There was an autumn total of 7 Clay-colored Sparrows: one in New Brunswick, 5 in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. The was an above-average Regional total of 10 Lark Sparrows divided between New Brunswick (2) and Nova Scotia (8). Most interesting among the above-average Regional total of 18 Blue Grosbeaks, was a rash of late-Nov birds: 2 at C.S.I., NS 28 Nov (MN), one at Louisbourg, NS 21 Nov (SM), one at L'Ardoise, NS in late Nov (Weldon MacPhail), and one at St. John's, NF 20 Nov (DBr). About 20 Dickcissels reported in the Region was close to average.

Just 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported: an ad. male at Brier I., NS 28 Oct and one at Edgitts Landing, NB 20 Sep (*fide* DC). Brewer's Blackbirds reported with a few details were an ad. male at a feeder on G.M.I., NB 9-10 Oct (*fide* BD) and another compared with a Rusty Blackbird at a feeder at Sand L., C.B.I., NS 22 Nov (SM, AM, CM). An imm. male **Common Chaffinch** began a several week stay

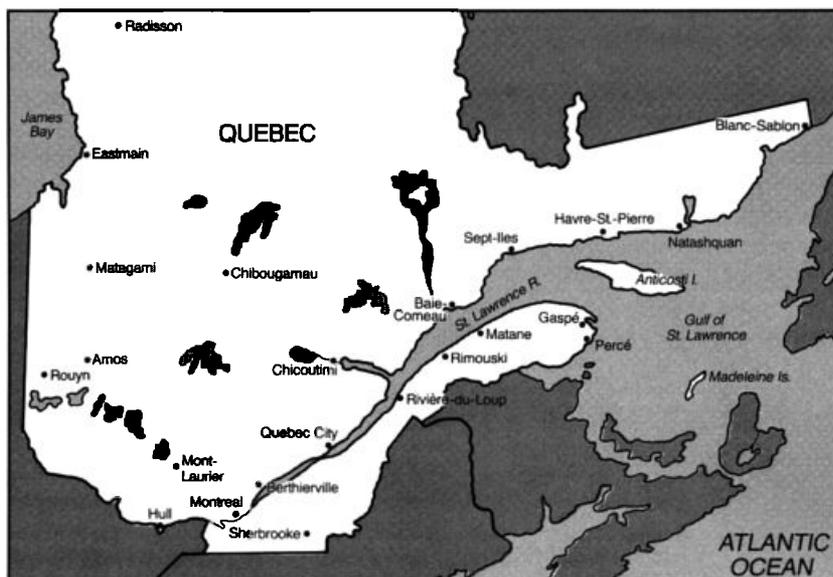
at a feeder in Bedford, NS on 27 Nov (Suzanne Borkowski, m. ob.). This is the 4th for Nova Scotia and at least the 6th for the Region. The question of origin is always a problem. It was a very good autumn for most finches across the Region. Particularly large flights of Common Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak were noted in New Brunswick.

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Québec



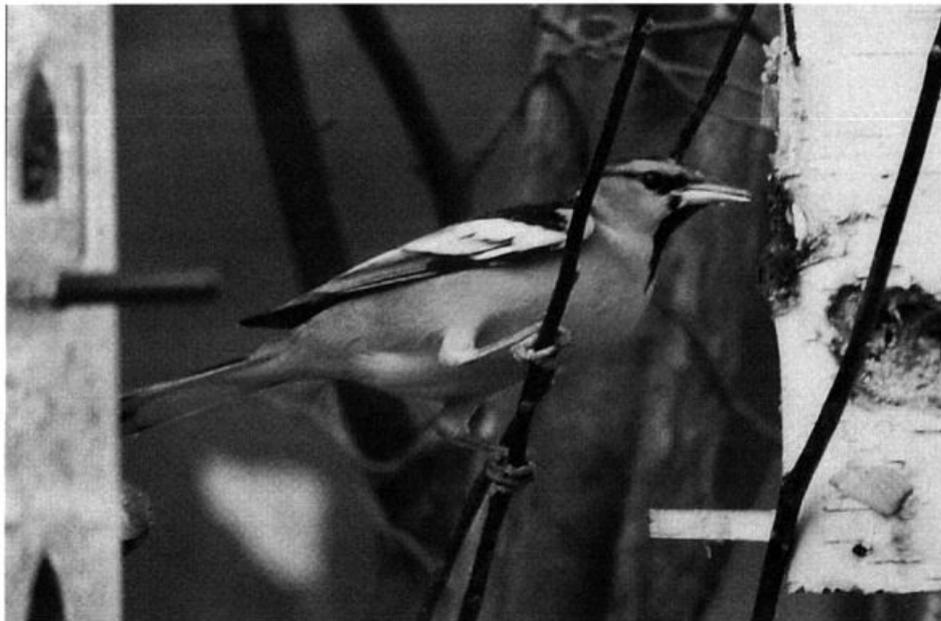
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The province of Québec experienced yet another warm fall in 2001, while precipitation this season remained below average. As a consequence, water levels in the Upper St Lawrence River continued to be very low, with the resulting formation of large areas of suitable habitats for shorebirds. Ironically, it was one of the worse falls ever for shorebirds. Whether it was the case that the birds were more scattered throughout these newly-created habitats or that their low numbers were signs of actual problems remains unknown. Hawks and gulls also appeared to be in lower numbers than usual. Apart from this disturbing news, it was on the other hand an interesting season for stragglers. If one measures the quality of a season by the number of boldfaced bird names, it was indeed an excellent season, considering that Wood Stork, Common Crane, Rufous



This adult male Bullock's Oriole at Ile aux Coudres 24-30 Nov+ (and probably earlier) provided a Regional first, previous provincial records having been of immature or female birds, which are confusable with pale Baltimore Orioles and with hybrid Bullock's x Baltimore Orioles. The pattern of vagrancy for this western species is likewise clouded in most of the East by these identification problems. Photograph by Michele Lafleur.

Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brewer's Blackbird, and Bullock's Oriole all made an appearance.

Late summer and fall sometimes prove better than any other seasons to get useful information about the size of some bird populations. Among some of our well-known expanding species—which include Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Sandhill Crane, Caspian Tern, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Northern Cardinal—some figures recorded this fall were really astounding, when one considers that a few decades ago all the above species were either absent or extremely rare.

FULMAR THROUGH OWLS

A count of 200 Northern Fulmars made from the Souris, NB—Iles de la Madeleine ferry 6 Nov was respectable (A. Richard). Three American White Pelicans first spotted in flight at Alma 10 Sep (M. Maltais, J. Gauthier) were later found at Métabetchouan, *Lac-Saint-Jean* 10-22 Sep (F. Lessard, m. ob., ph.). An exceptional count of 94 Great Egrets was made at the Saint-Timothée marsh 9 Sep (YG et al.). This roosting site probably accounts for a significant proportion of the population that breeds in s. Québec. Single imm. Little Blue Herons showed up at Yamaska Park, near Granby 13-14 Oct (MB, MM), Port-Saint-François 21-31 Oct (R. Barbeau, M. Lemieux et al., m. ob.,

ph.), L. Boivin, Granby 4 Nov (MB, MM) and Saint-Mathias 9 Nov (LS, JM). These very late sightings apparently involved 2 different birds. The previous latest record in the Region was 13 Oct 1998. The routine northward wandering of Cattle Egrets resulted in 9 being reported from widely scattered localities, most of them in late Oct-early Nov. A *Plegadis* Ibis made a one-day appearance at Carignan on the Richelieu R. 18 Oct (G. Garneau, MT).

Confirming the trend documented in the last few falls, more imm. Ross's Geese are turning up in the Region. A group of 4 Ross's at Métabetchouan 28 Sep included 3 imm. (2 white morph and one dark morph; S. Boivin), while a group of 7 at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 10-13 Oct included 3 imm., all white morphs (P. Beaulé, m. ob.). Single Mute Swans were at Bergeronnes 1-18 Aug (A. Gosselin, R. Gilbert) and at Ile aux Coudres 24-30 Nov+ (SD et al.). The 5 male Eurasian Wigeon, an excellent count for fall, included singles at Havre-aux-Basques 10 Sep (DGG), Sainte-Catherine 14-20 Oct (PB), Baie-du-Febvre 28 Oct (*vide* S. Houle), Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park, Montréal 28-30 Oct (SB), and Lachenaie 4-30 Nov+ (F. & S. Rousseau). A female Bufflehead with 3 ducklings at Lac Grosse Roche, ZEC Martin-Valin, *Saguenay* 11 Aug provided the easternmost record for this rare breeding species (M. Tremblay).

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surveys conducted at Laforge I and II reservoirs in North-Central Québec (54° N) in mid-Aug-early Sep noted concentrations of 20+ Bald Eagles; the proportion of breeders versus non-breeders has yet to be determined (YA, R. Cotter, H. Senneville). An imm. **Wood Stork** that reached Bonaventure, *Gaspésie* 3-5 Sep was part of a larger incursion into northeastern North America and provided only our 2nd Regional record (B. Arseneault, ph., *vide* PP). The breeding range of the Turkey Vulture is still expanding northward as supported by the presence of a family group of 2 ad. and 3 imm. birds at Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues, *Témiscamingue* in late Aug (JF). In the same region, 66 were counted at Ville-Marie 3 Sep (JF). During the peak of the migration, an important concentration of 110 was reported farther s. at Plaisance 7 Oct (L. & D. Parenteau), while 19 at Bic 5 Sep (M. Côté, MC. Rancourt) and 11 at the Tadoussac hawkwatch throughout the fall are indicative of the dispersal to more n. locations (CA, CG). A late straggler was photographed at Amos, *Abitibi* 11 Nov (R. Germain). Wild Turkeys appeared in new localities: a group of 20 at Quyon, *Pontiac* 27 Nov (JD) and a group of 10 at Sainte-Justine-de-Newton, *Vaudreuil-Soulanges* 4 Oct (*vide* MA. Boisclair).

A juv. Purple Gallinule was found dead at L'Ancienne-Lorette 12 Nov (D. Labarre). Numbers of Sandhill Cranes are really exploding in northwestern Québec as evidenced by a concentration of 1200 at Palmarolle, *Abitibi* 29 Sep (SG et al.). A flock of 61 between Nédélec and Roulier, *Témiscamingue* 17 Nov furnished a new Regional record late date (JF). For the 3rd consecutive year, an ad. **Common Crane** accompanied by an ad. Sandhill Crane and a hybrid juv. brightened Barraute, *Abitibi* 26 Sep-8 Oct (R. Gauthier, AL, m. ob.). Two Whimbrels at Notre-Dame-du-Nord, *Témiscamingue* 1 Oct were locally rare (JF). A high count of 21 Hudsonian Godwits at Venise-en-Québec 25 Sep was worthy of mention (P. Savoie). A Baird's Sandpiper at Grosse-Ile, *Iles de la Madeleine* 28 Nov was record late (DGG), as was the case for single Stilt Sandpipers at Port Saint-François 22-27 Oct (CM, D. Daigneault, m. ob.) and at Saint-Blaise 26 Oct (LS et al.).

Rarely seen in extreme southwestern Québec, an ad. Black-headed Gull at Carignan 24-30 Nov+ was a welcome sight (JM. Béliveau, m. ob.). A first-year Mew Gull of the nominate (European) race (*L. c. canus*) was an exciting find at Pointe-Claire, Montréal 18 Nov (B. Barnhurst). A group of 3 ad. Black-legged Kittiwakes at L. Davignon, Cowansville 28 Nov was a rare inland occurrence (BH). Caspian Terns can now be termed almost common in late summer in s. Québec, as evidenced by a

peak count of 41 at Maple Grove 31 Aug (LS); one remained until 12 Oct at Oka (JM, LS). A Forster's Tern was spotted from the Trois-Pistoles ferry 2 Sep (M. Lafleur, JP. Ouellet). A Dovekie at Beauport 6-7 Nov was a notable event (I. Deschênes).

Snowy Owls staged a major invasion in the Region. A peak of 14 birds was recorded at Saint-Barthélemy 24 Nov (YG, SM). With about 10 birds reported, the Northern Hawk Owl fall flight was ordinary compared to last year's record flight (*fide* S. Belleau). A juv. Boreal Owl at Labrecque, *Saguenay* 7-11 Aug raised the possibility of local breeding (B. Dumont, m. ob.).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH ORIOLES

The discovery of a male **Rufous Hummingbird**, our 4th Regional record, at Saint-Prime, *Lac-Saint-Jean* 13-19 Sep was a notable event (B. Lavoie, *fide* GS). The only Red-headed Woodpecker was an imm. at Saint-Hyacinthe 28 Oct (H. & A. Deschênes). An imm. male **Vermilion Flycatcher** caused a sensation at the Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park, Montréal 28 Oct-2 Nov, providing a first Regional record (SB, m. ob., ph.). A Western Kingbird was enjoyed by many at Aylmer 31 Oct-12 Nov (JD, m. ob.). A record-late **Eastern Kingbird**

stopped at Saint-Antoine-de-Lavaltrie during an ice storm 30 Nov (MT); this date outdoes most late dates on the eastern United States' coasts. The successful nesting of Carolina Wren was confirmed at Ile des Soeurs by the presence of a pair with 3 juvs. 26 Aug (PB), while an ad. and 2 juvs. were also observed at Châteauguay 12 Aug (PB), accounting for our 6th and 7th Regional breeding records, all of them in the Montréal area. One individual strayed n. to Falardeau, *Lac-Saint-Jean* 12 Aug (C. Cormier, GS), and about a half-dozen birds were reported in the s. later in the season. With 4 reported 16 Oct-6 Nov, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers made a remarkable incursion into the Gaspésie region (*fide* PP).

Single Northern Wheatears graced Chicoutimi 12-18 Sep (GS, ph.) and Les Escoumins 20 Sep (CA, CG, ph.). Single Townsend's Solitaires were encountered at Cap Tourmente 30 Oct-3 Nov (L. Messely et al.) and at Saint-Hubert 17 Nov (R. Belhumeur). A Varied Thrush visited Joliette 15-21 Nov (M. Benney, *fide* R. Piché). A Cape May Warbler at Ile Charron, Boucherville 4 Nov was notably late (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). Worthy of mention was a Yellow-throated Warbler at La Malbaie 10-13 Nov, the 17th for the Region but

a first for Charlevoix county (R. Laberge) A juv. Prairie Warbler, most probably a male, at Bergeronnes 14 Oct was only the 2nd for the North Shore (CG, CA), while a juv. female visited Beauport 21-22 Oct (R. & F. Dion). Totally unexpected for the North Shore was the occurrence of 3 Yellow-breasted Chats: a juv. male banded at Bergeronnes 28 Sep (FG), an unbanded individual found at nearby Tadoussac 9-10 Oct (CA, CG), and one detected at Sept-Iles 11 Nov, a record late date for the Region (M. Poirier, D. Roussy). A first-year male Summer Tanager made the news at Baie-Saint-Paul 19-30 Nov+ (G. Filion, m. ob. ph.), while another one, probably a female, reached Rivière-au-Renard, *Gaspésie* 3-30+ Nov (A. Tapp, R. Reeves, m. ob.). A male Western Tanager was a nice find at Havre-Saint-Pierre 27 Sep (S. Marchand).

Single Eastern Towhees at Moffet in mid-Oct (R. Roy, *fide* JF) and at Amos 9-11 Nov (*fide* SG) were the first records for the Témiscamingue and the Abitibi regions, respectively. Sept-Iles hosted a Lark Sparrow 22 Sep (JF. Laporte, B. Duchesne). A juv. Grasshopper Sparrow banded at Bergeronnes 15 Oct was a first occurrence for the North Shore (FG). An imm. male **Black-headed Grosbeak**, only the 2nd Regional record, was a prize find at Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval 21-30 Nov+ (ME. Lepage, m. ob.) Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared at Baie-du-Febvre 24-28 Oct (C. & R. Côté, J. Lehoux, MT), and Saint-Barthélemy 24 Nov (YG, SM) Single male **Brewer's Blackbirds** visited Dubuisson 28 Sep (AL) and Barraute 1 Oct (CM, ph.) Very few records of this species have been documented with a photograph. An ad. male **Bullock's Oriole** at Ile aux Coudres 24-30 Nov+ was outstanding, providing the first unquestionable record for the Region (SD, G. Zenaitis, PB, m. ob., ph.). All previous sightings had involved imms. or females. This bird had apparently been around for a week before being reported to the birding community.

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2003 BIRDING TOURS

THAILAND
Northwest, Central, Peninsular
4-26 January

SOUTH INDIA
Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman Is.
2-25 January

Forest Owlet Pretour
28 December-4 January

SRI LANKA
24 January-10 February

PHILIPPINES
Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Palawan,
Bohol, Negros
31 January-3 March

CAMBODIA
Giant Ibis
7-25 March

BHUTAN
28 March-20 April

EAST HIMALAYAS
West Arunachal Pradesh
25 April-18 May

MALAYSIA
Malaya, Borneo (Mt. Kinabalu)
3-25 May

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CHINA #1
Beidaihe Migration
3-19 May

CHINA #2
Manchuria, Inner Mongolia
20 May-14 June

INDONESIA #1
Java, Bali
12 July-2 August

INDONESIA #2
Sulawesi
3-24 August