

Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



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June was generally considered cool across the Region. July was hot or cool, depending on how close to the coast you were. The unusually persistent southwesterly winds brought prolonged stretches of fog to southern coasts. The same winds probably aided in the arrival of an impressive array of mid-United States coastal species to the Region, such as three Brown Pelicans, one

Black-necked Stilt, one Sandwich Tern, one Royal Tern, and two Gull-billed Terns.

Abbreviation: G.M.I. (Grand Manan I.). The new postal code for "Newfoundland & Labrador" is NL; in this report, sites marked "NF" are from the island of Newfoundland and those marked "Lab." are from Labrador.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

As usual, Red-throated Loons bred on Miquelon, SPM, with two nests containing eggs found in Jun (RE). A Pied-billed Grebe on a nest at Loch Lomond, Codroy Valley, NF 20 Jun provided the 2nd breeding record for the province and for this location (AH). For the 2nd year

in a row, a Red-necked Grebe summered at Napadogue L., York, NB (DG et al.). Manx Shearwaters again frustrated researchers' attempts to confirm nesting on Grand Columbian I., SPM. A bird was found in a burrow and 4 others on the island, but no eggs were located (RE, AD).

Low to moderate numbers of s. herons were found in the Region. Totals by province were: Great Egret — 4 in New Brunswick and 2 in Nova Scotia; Snowy Egret — 2 in Nova Scotia; Little Blue Heron — one each in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; Tricolored Heron — one in Nova Scotia; and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron — one in Nova Scotia.

American White Pelicans made news, with one at Cap-Lumière, NB 14 Jul (RR et al.) and one at Lethbridge, NF mid-Jul-10 Aug, for a 3rd provincial record (m. ob.). The real pelican story belonged to the 3 Brown Pelicans found in the Region. New Brunswick's first confirmed record was of an imm. photographed at Lamèque I. in the n. part of the province (Judy Larocque et al.). Newfoundland and Labrador's first Brown Pelican took up residence 8-31 Jul at a fish plant in Hermitage, where it became a minor media star (m. ob.). Nova Scotia's 2nd Brown Pelican in the last 20 years was photographed on Cape Breton I. at Forchu 3 Jul (Lillian Lund) and Louisbourg 8-9 Jul (Carlo Lunn).

An unseasonal Brant at G.M.I., NB 29 Jun was thought to be unfit for migration (LM). A pair of Redheads lingered at Calhoun Marsh, NB 8-21 Jun (DC). The male Tufted Duck that wintered at Saint John, NB remained through the summer to molt, raising questions about its provenance (fide DC). A female Harlequin Duck with a brood of 6 ducklings at Charlo R. in n. New Brunswick marked the 8th consecutive year that the species has bred at this isolated s. breeding site (fide ML). A female Ruddy Duck with a brood of 7 at the St. Joseph, NB sewage lagoon in late Jul provided the 3rd breeding record for the province (AC).

Two Yellow Rails were heard 27 Jun at the traditional site at Grand Lake Meadows Queens, NB (DG). A pair of Sandhill Cranes was again present for part of the summer at Havelock, NB (fide JB). Another pair lingered at Schooner Pt., C.B.I., NS until 11 Jun (fide BMy).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALICDS

Two European Golden-Plovers at Cape Bonavista, NF 16 Jun were probably left over from the light spring flight to the province (Jon Joy). Continuing the intriguing summer sightings of Ameri-

SA Offshore islands are often responsible for changing the way we perceive patterns of avian vagrancy. Machais Seal I., New Brunswick is one of those islands where bird records continue to challenge the established thinking about bird movements. A male **Western Tanager** 21 Jul was found at an unexpected season for this less-than-annual Regional vagrant (Thomas Collins et al.). But an ad. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** photographed and observed by many there 28 Jun (Russell Ross, David Larsen et al.)—the first for for New Brunswick—confounds everything we expect about vagrancy in this species, particularly in ne. North America. There is always something new to learn.

can Oystercatcher from the G.M.I. Archipelago, one was observed at Sheep I. 12 Jun (BD). There were 4 ad. and 3 young American Oystercatchers at the traditional Cape Sable I., NS breeding site (*fide* BMy). A kayaker stumbled across a **Black-necked Stilt** in Wolfville, NS 21 Jun (Ulli Hoeger), which remained until 1 Jul, to the delight of Nova Scotia birders. Two Willets were present for much of Jun at Miquelon, SPM, leading to speculation about eventual breeding there (RE). Early southbound shorebirds at St. Pierre et Miquelon were 2 Dunlin and a Semipalmated Sandpiper 27 Jun and 12 Whimbrel and a Pectoral Sandpiper 28 Jun (RE, LJ). A Marbled Godwit was at Maisonnette Dune, NB 5 Jun (MD). Two breeding-plumaged **Western Sandpipers** at Cherry Hill Beach, NS 5 Jun were studied carefully by veteran shorebirders Sylvi Fullerton for a first provincial, and probably first Regional, spring sighting. An exceptionally early **Purple Sandpiper** was at Charlo R., NB 20 Jul (ML). A male Ruff graced New Harbour *Guysborough*, NS 30 Jun (Han Buck).

A Great Skua near St. Pierre, SPM 28 Jul was the only skua reported (BL, LJ). It was a good summer for Laughing Gull, with one in New Brunswick, 6 in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. Single ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were on the Avalon Pen. of Newfoundland at Biscay Bay 10–31 Jul+ (ST, BMT) and Cape Broyle 26 Jul (BMT); there was also the usual scattering of subads. in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. It was a good summer for rare terns. A subad. **Royal Tern** was at Machais Seal I., NB 16 Jun (Kate Devlin), while Nova Scotia's 3rd **Sandwich Tern** was a crowd-pleaser at Eastern Passage 3–12 Jun (IM et al.). Newfoundland and Labrador's first **Gull-billed Tern** was photographed at Renew, Avalon Pen. 9–10 Jul (ST et al.), and the first **Gull-billed Tern** in n. New Brunswick was at Eel River Bar, *Restigouche* 4 Jul (BG, RC). Two pairs of **Black Terns** apparently nested on Machais Seal I., NB (BD).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

This summer's **White-winged Dove** was at a feeder on White Head I., G.M.I., NB 21 Jun (*fide* DC). A dead **Black-billed Cuckoo** was a rare find on St. Pierre, SPM 22 Jun (*fide* RE). A pair of **Warbling Vireos** teased birders during Jun at Starrs Pt., Kings, NS without ever revealing evidence of nesting (JT et al.). A **Purple Martin** was out of range at St. Pierre, SPM 18 Jun (MD). A **House Wren** sang at Fredericton 1–8 Jun but apparently did not stay to nest (PP, JWi). Observers in both Nova Scotia and St. Pierre et Miquelon reported a paucity of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** this season. An unseasonal **Northern Wheatear** was flycatching at Martinique Beach, NS 8 Jun (TP). Two male **Wood Thrushes** singing off against each other at Blackhead, Avalon Pen., NF 6–15 Jun were completely unexpected (DB et al.), as the species is only a vagrant to Newfoundland. A most unusual mid-summer **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed for an hour at Scotch Settlement, NB 13 Jul (BS). A late-spring **Hooded Warbler** was at Cape Sable I., NS 3 Jun (JN).

A late-spring **Blue Grosbeak** was at Long I. Digby, NS 30 May–2 Jun (LC). A **Common Grackle** feeding recently-fledged young at Cape Broyle, NF 26 Jul extended the breeding range considerably eastward in the province (BMT, JWe). An ad. male **Orchard Oriole** was in an apple tree, of course, at St. Andrews, NB 7 Jun (TD).

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