

Québec



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Petrels reached a peak of 300–400 off Percé in late Jul (N. Cadet). Now almost an annual summer sight in s. Québec, 5 American White Pelicans were studied in flight at the mouth of Petite Rivière Yamachiche 7 Jun (MBo), while singles appeared on L. Saint-Pierre 15 Jun (JM) and at Pointe-au-Père 24–25 Jun (D. Blanchette). For the 2nd consecutive year, **Brown Pelican** made the news: an imm. was discovered at La Malbaie 20 Jun and relocated at nearby Saint-Irénée 21–24 Jun (ph., OB et al., m. ob.), while another was reported at Saint-Ulric-de-Matane 25 Jun (SR) and later the same day at Percé (F. Mauger et al.). It is difficult to ascertain if there was more than one bird involved in these three sightings. Illustrating the success of the Double-crested Cormorant in the Upper St. Lawrence, 488 nests were found on islands along the seaway in L. Saint-Pierre (G. Chapdeleine, JF. Rail, P. Brousseau et al.). Although no accurate count was made in L. Saint-Louis, several hundred nests were also estimated there (PB), and 400 birds were present on the Outaouais R. between Masson and Thurso 18 Jun (*vide* DT).

A Great Egret was far out of range at Baie-Trinité 20 Jul (LS, P. Simard, J. May). A **White-faced Ibis** was well described in the Îles-de-la-Paix Wildlife Area, L. Saint-Louis 8 Jun (S. Gagnon, B. Drolet); this represented the 3rd record for the Region. Two Black Vultures turned up at a landfill site at Grande-Rivière, Gaspésie 24 & 27 Jun (DM, PP, G. Roy, O. Lévesque et al.); one was detected again 3 Jul (DM), the 11th record for the Gaspé Pen.

A group of 5 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** lingered on a pond at the Saint-Félicien Zoological Gardens, Lac Saint-Jean 4–31 Jul+ (ph., S. Bouchard et al., m. ob.); 3 of these birds showed one or more holes in the webbing of their feet, which most probably suggest a wild origin. According to Dr. J. E. Thompson, author of the *Birds of North America* account for this species, such holes are frequent in wild birds and result from their habits of perching in thorny trees, notably ebony or mesquite in their home range. An impressive flock of 30 Tundra Swans was seen migrating n. over Chicoutimi 5 Jun (CC). The banded Cinnamon Teal present at Rouyn-Noranda in the spring continued through the summer (m. ob.).

A survey of gobbling Wild Turkeys conducted in the stronghold of the species, sw. of Montréal, led to the finding of 145 males at 64 stations out of 124 visited (*vide* ND). An advanced sta-

After a timid start, summer definitely arrived on 20 June but gave way to more rainy conditions and cooler temperatures by the end of July. On the whole, the temperatures were slightly above average, while precipitation was near normal. June brought a fairly interesting variety of vagrants, and two new species,

Marbled Godwit and Blue-winged Warbler, were confirmed nesting for the first time in the Region.

LOONS THROUGH TERNS

A Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was identified at Port-au-Saumon 20 Jul (LM, J. Goulet, OB). Wilson's Storm-



The northernmost of the wandering Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks of spring and summer 2003, this group of five at the Saint-Félicien Zoo, Québec 5 July (here) to 8 August afforded the province its fourth record. Photograph by Germain Savard.

tistical analysis carried out using these raw data suggested an estimate of 1000–1500 individuals for the surveyed territory. Farther e., a female with 3 young was seen at Saint-Joachim-de-Shefford 3 & 25 Jun (S. Bannon), and a female on a nest was located at East-Dunham in mid-Jun (*vide* BH). Near the Ontario border, a group of 6 or 7 was spotted at Sainte-Justine-de-Newton 10 Jul (W. Grubert). Nesting of Sandhill Crane was again confirmed in *Témiscamingue*, where 2 ads. and 2 young were spotted at Angliers 29 Jun (JF). Single extralimital birds appeared in the Sorel Is. 29 Jun (JM) and at Cape Tourmente 30 Jun–7 Jul (JL et al.), while 2 spent the season at Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides (M. Sokolyk).

For the 2nd consecutive summer, a pair of American Golden-Plovers spent the season near Polemond R. in the *Nunavik*, but no evidence of nesting was found (*vide* RC, JL). Although it was taken for granted, nesting of the *Marbled Godwit* was positively confirmed only this summer at Cabbage Willow (Rupert Bay) with the finding of two nests containing eggs (FM, BG, S. Whiskeychan); a bird at Baie-du-Febvre 12–15 Jun was out of range (m. ob.). A Stilt Sandpiper at Polemond R. 20 Jun was unexpected (*vide* RC, JL), while in the s., one juv. and 15 migrating ad. Stilt Sandpipers at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Jul represented an excellent concentration (FG). An early migrant Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported near Val-d'Or,

Abitibi 27 Jul (R. Gauthier). A female Ruff at Baie-du-Febvre 19 Jul was the only sighting of the season (FG). Short-billed Dowitchers of the *hendersoni* subspecies are increasingly reported: singles were at Godbout 22 Jul (LS et al.), at Sainte-Martine 21–27 Jul (M. Bertrand), and at Pointe-Yamachiche 29 Jul (SD, F. Rousseau). Ad. Long-billed Dowitchers numbered 5 at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Jul (FG), 2 at Sainte-Martine 29–31 Jul (MBe, M. Maheu), and 2 at Pointe-Yamachiche 30 Jul (MBo, J. Gélinas).

Three Parasitic Jaegers were seen migrating overland at Chicoutimi 4 Jun (CC), and 8 showed up at Tadoussac the same day (OB). A subad. Long-tailed Jaeger seen from the Trois-Pistoles ferry 29 Jun was unusual (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). Vagrant Laughing Gulls totaled 3 ads. and 2 imms., and wayward Franklin's Gulls numbered 6. Again this year, 6 ad. Little Gulls were seen in suitable nesting habitat on an island near the mouth of Nottaway R. (Rupert Bay) 20 Jun (BG, FM). A nearly ad. Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) was superbly photographed at La Malbaie 14 Jun (YK, M. Robert). This individual looked rather small and dark, which might suggest one of the

Atlantic forms, but experts familiar with this group of taxa have all remained cautious about its subspecific identity. This represented the 2nd record only for the Region. The first record, also the first for North America, was from the Madeleine Is. in Aug 1973 (*American Birds* 40: 58–60; *Wilson Bulletin* 106: 344–356). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued their success story, with a peak of 8 imms. at Saint-Irénée 15 Jun (m. ob.). Among several other sightings, a second-summer bird was detected on Res. Tauureau in mid-Jul, an exceptional sighting for the Laurentians (FH).

Summering Caspian Terns were well distributed along the St. Lawrence R. in s. Québec, but one in flight over Octave R. (Rupert Bay) 19 Jun (BG, FM) and 2 on Res. Tauureau in mid-Jul (FH) were big surprises. A Roseate Tern

was apparently paired with a Common Tern in the Madeleine Is. 10 Jun (G. Cyr).

CUCKOOS THROUGH ORIOLES

It was a good summer for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 4 were reported in the Outaouais region in Jun (*vide* DT), and one was at Cape Tourmente 5 Jul (CN,



Observers in Canada are finding Yellow Rails in more and more sites during the breeding seasons. This individual was noted at Cap Tourmente, Québec 13 July 2003. Photograph by Yann Kolbeinsson.

JL). A nest of Great Gray Owl containing 2 young in the James Bay area was the 3rd only discovered in the Region (JF Rousseau et al.); one Great Gray at Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer 7 Jun was well e. of typical range (E. Duchesne).

The only Red-headed Woodpecker of the season was seen flying between two islands in Rivière des Mille-Îles 14 Jun (fide B. Crevier). A male Red-bellied Woodpecker continued into Jun at Île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay (fide PB).

Raising hope for a comeback, a Loggerhead Shrike was defending a territory at Shawville 18 Jun–2 Jul, the first in the Region in a few years (G. Desjardins et al.). Last year's abundance of Carolina Wrens was short-lived; the severe cold of winter 2002–2003 has evidently caused significant mortality in the species, as very few were reported in the province during the summer (fide PB). A Sedge Wren at Angliers 4 Jul provided further evidence that the

species is probably nesting in the *Témiscamingue* (JF, GT).

Blue-winged Warbler nested for the first time in the Region, as evidenced by a male—paired with a female Brewster's Warbler—seen carrying food and feeding young on several occasions in Jun at Lake-Brome (JP. Santerre, BH et al.). The Yellow-breasted Chat present at Cape Tourmente in late May remained through 4 Jun (fide M. Lachance).

Clay-colored Sparrows were widely reported, with peaks of 5–6 at Guigues 4 Jun (JF) and 3 singing males at Saint-Philippe-de-Laprairie in Jun (M. Beaupré, PB). Surprisingly, a pair of Grasshopper Sparrows nested at Warwick (M. Grégoire et al.), while single birds were found at Saint-Augustin-des-Desmaures 21 Jun–19 Jul (YK, CN) and at Saint-Prosper 14 Jul (LM, JF Bédard). These records were quite unexpected away from extreme s. Québec, where the species has now almost disappeared from its historical range. Up to 19 Le Conte's Sparrows at Fugèreville, *Témiscamingue* 13 Jul confirmed last summer's high counts (JF, GT). A first-summer male Blue Grosbeak was singing at Frelighsburg 2 Jun (JG. Papineau), while a male Indigo Bunting in the La Vérendrye Wildlife Reserve 24 Jul was at the n. edge of breeding range (F. Bédard). Western Meadowlarks delighted many, with a pair at Saint-Eugène, *Témiscamingue* in Jun, in the same field where the species nested last summer (JF), as well as singles at Franklin 7 Jul (A. Desrosiers, fide ND) and Cacouna 12–23 Jul (ph., FG, N. Chauvette, m. ob.). A male Orchard Oriole showed up at Grande-Rivière, *Gaspésie* 12 Jun (DM), but none were reported in the Montréal area where two pairs had successfully nested last summer.

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