

ings of Townsend's Solitaire heralded a better-than-average winter for the species. Individuals were at St. Martins, NB 25 Oct (Nancy & Ted Sears), Jeddore, NS 27 Oct (Jan Foley), and Sable I., NS 29 Oct (ZL). It was the poorest autumn for Bohemian Waxwing in at least a decade.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Stray warblers in the Region were in keeping with recent seasons. Single Blue-winged Warblers were at The Whistle, G.M.I. 24 Aug (JWi) and Trepassey, NF 19 Sep (Jeff Harrison), while a Golden-winged was at The Whistle 23 Aug (JWi et al.). Most exciting was the discovery of a female **Townsend's Warbler** at the e. tip of Sable I., NS on the relatively early date of 22 Oct (ZL); most of the Region's autumn records are from Nov or Dec. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers at Net Pt., G.M.I. 1 Oct (Ron Steeves), Hartlen Pt., NS 14–24 Oct (FL et al.), and Halifax, NS 2 Nov (David Curry). It was a big year for Prairie Warblers, with minimal totals in each province being 15 in New Brunswick, 30 in Nova Scotia, and 12 in Newfoundland, most occurring mid-Aug–mid-Sep. Cerulean Warbler continues to be very rare, with an imm. male at Cappahayden, NF 2 Sep (TB et

al.) providing the only report. A Worm-eating Warbler was banded on Bon Portage I., NS 17 Oct (TF). Single Kentucky Warblers were at The Whistle in late Aug (Ken Edwards) and Powles Head, NF 19 Sep (DS). Connecticut Warbler was reported in Nova Scotia at Brier I. 30 Sep (James Hirtle) and C.S.I. 7 Oct (MN et al.). Hooded Warbler was well reported, with singles at Great Pond, G.M.I. 28 Aug (*vide* ST), on Sable I., NS 8 Aug (ZL), on Brier I., NS 1 Sep (LL), at Bear Cove, NF 12 Sep (JC), and at Cherry Hill Beach, NS 20 Sep (SF), while up to 4 frequented Hartlen Pt., NS 18–21 Oct (IM, FL). A Prothonotary Warbler at Bear Cove, NF 24–25 Oct furnished just the 7th provincial record (KK et al.). It was a paltry season for Yellow-breasted Chat, with a mere dozen reported across the Region.

The season's only Summer Tanager was on Bon Portage I., NS 17 Oct (TF). It was a typical year for Clay-colored Sparrow—5 in New Brunswick, 5 in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. A Vesper Sparrow at Langlade, St. Pierre 13 Oct provided a 5th local record (LJ). There were above-average numbers of Lark Sparrows in the Region, with 7 in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and 2 more in Newfoundland. At least 40

Dickcissels were reported across the Region. Newfoundland's 6th Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was near Cape Race 31 Oct (JWe et al.). Amazingly, not one Grasshopper Sparrow was found all fall. Blue Grosbeaks were found in typical autumn numbers, with 2 in New Brunswick and 5 in Nova Scotia. A juv. **Painted Bunting** was identified at Hartlen Pt., NS 15 Sep (IM). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were a little scare, with one each in New Brunswick, St. Pierre et Miquelon, and Newfoundland. A good cone crop in much of Region resulted in fair to good numbers of finches. White-winged Crossbills were particularly abundant in e. Newfoundland.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Todd Boland, **David Christie**, **Brian Dalzell**, Elizabeth Doull, Roger Etcheberry, Trina Fitzgerald, Sylvia Fullerton, Don Gibson, Roger Guitard, Laurent Jackman, Tom Kavanaugh, Ken Knowles, Randy Lauff, Fulton Lavender, Lance Laviolette, **Paul Linegar**, Zoe Lucas, Angus Maclean, Bruce Mac-tavish (BMt), **Blake Maybank** (BMy), **Ken McKenna**, **Ian McLaren**, Eric Mills, Murray Newell, Roland Robichaud, Dave Shepherd, Richard Stern, Stuart Tingley, Hans Toom, Judy Tufts, John Wells, Jim Wilson. 🌐

Québec



Pierre Bannon

1517 Leprohon
Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1
(pbannon@videotron.ca)

Samuel Denault

75 Beauchemin
Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Québec J3N 1J6
(samuel.denault@videotron.ca)

Yves Aubry

Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 4H5
(yves.aubry@ec.gc.ca)

Normand David

347 Donegani
Pointe-Claire, Québec H9R 5M4
(ndavid@netrover.com)

Fall temperatures were at least 1° C above normal for most of the Region, while precipitation was lower than normal. In general, fall birding was excellent, although migrating warblers were again

scantly reported. Birds of note included Brown Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Rufous Hummingbird, and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

LOONS THROUGH BOBWHITES

An ad. Pacific Loon in basic plumage was located offshore at Pointe-au-Père 18 Sep (J. Larivée). Two Red-necked Grebes at Granby 1 Aug (MB, M. Maheu) and 2 at Philipsburg 16 Aug (PB et al.) were early migrants. A Northern Fulmar at Rivière-Ouelle 27 Nov was a good find (CG, CA). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was identified at Beauport 21–24 Oct (JFR, F & R. Dion et al.), while 3 Leach's Storm-Petrels were discovered at the same locale 15–23 Oct (m.ob., *vide* JL); one at Tadoussac 2 Nov was the latest ever for the North Shore (SD). An American White Pelican was enjoyed by many at Île des Soeurs 19–23 Aug (G. Gagnon, D. Gagnon, P. Lamontagne, m.ob., ph.), and possibly the same individual appeared at Chambly 23 Aug (E. Brisson-Curadeau, J. Brisson, P. Boivin). An imm. Brown Pelican flying among a flock of Canada Geese was quite a surprise at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 11 Oct (BB, M. MacIntosh). Great Egrets continued to be unprecedentedly abundant in the south, especially in late Aug–early Sep, with many straying to e. Québec. Little Blue Herons included an imm. at Saint-Barthélemy 3 Sep–13 Oct (M. & M. Boulard, ph., m.ob.), an ad. at Lac de la Tour (Anticosti) 23–25 Aug (P. Boissonneault, L. Desjardins, ph.), and another ad. at La Minerve 20 Sep (C. Landry, J.P. Brisebois). A Cattle Egret at Pointe-aux-Loups 24 Oct was the 2nd ever for the Magdalen Is. (DGG, CAG, C. Poirier, L. Langford, ph.). Turkey Vultures continued their progress towards the northeast. A young bird was photographed at the nest at Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce 26 Aug (P. Chassé, S. Rhéaume), while a group of 40 at Sainte-Louise, near La Pocatière 26 Aug included 2 young (CG). On the North Shore, 7, including a young bird, were seen in flight at Bergeronnes 13 Sep (SD, SB).

The Cackling Goose was the object of an astonishing number of reports, including flocks of 12 at Isle-Verte 13 Oct (JFR) and possibly up to 100 at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 1 Nov (MB, G. Éthier). Three Mute Swans hung around Baie-Sainte-Catherine in mid-Aug (Groupe de recherche et d'éducation sur les mammifères marins), while 4 ad. and one imm. Tundra Swans visited Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 5 Nov (*vide* S. Bougie). Single Tundra Swans were also noted at Cape Tourmente 4–22 Aug (M. Rousseau-Gagnon et al.), Val-Senneville 19 Sep (B. Major), and Taschereau 25 Oct (LI). Two Eurasian Wigeons were spotted at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 19 Oct (M. Gauthier), one remaining through at least 27 Oct. Another was detected at Plaisance 12–16 Oct (DD et al.). Harlequin Duck peaked at 211 on 8 Nov

in the Port-Daniel-Newport area (M. Castiloux). In the south, a female appeared at Laval 21 Oct (L. Laberge), and a pair took up residence at Sainte-Catherine throughout Nov (m.ob.). For the 3rd consecutive year, a male Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye hybrid made an appearance at Laval 7–30 Nov+ (J. Galowski, m.ob., ph.). A dark-morph imm. Swainson's Hawk was meticulously described at the Tadoussac hawkwatch 8 Sep, providing the 8th Regional record and the first since 1992 (SD, SB et al.). A report of 83 male and 16 female Ring-necked Pheasants at Sainte-Anne-du-Lac 24 Sep was subsequent to an earlier release of a group by a local resident (R. Lebrun). A Northern Bobwhite, probably an escapee, was at Cantley throughout the period (K. Baker).

CRANES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A record 3120 Sandhill Cranes were counted at Palmarolle 6 Oct (S. Gagnon). One seen at Arundel 20 Nov provided a new Regional late date (J. Traversy, *vide* M. Renaud). Some excellent counts of shorebirds were made on Anticosti I.: 552 Whimbrels 1 Aug and 870 Ruddy Turnstones 2 Sep (YR, C. Buidin). A Whimbrel at Baie Sainte-Catherine 25 Oct was very late (RP et al.). Hudsonian Godwits were much in evidence this fall, including a group of 41 at Montmagny 23 Oct (O. Barden, M. Lavoie) and 11 at Chandler 15 Aug (PP, DM, JR. Lepage, GR, DJ). A juv. Western Sandpiper was carefully studied and photographed by many at Beauport 10–13 Sep (G. Lord, P. Lane et al.). For the 2nd consecutive year, Baird's Sandpipers reached their peak in Abitibi, where 33 were tallied at Val-d'Or 20–24 Aug (R. Gauthier et al.). A Regional total of 28 Buff-breasted Sandpipers from 17 localities was estimated between 11 Aug and 30 Sep (*vide* C. Nadeau). At Sainte-Martine, the peak of 7 ad. Long-billed Dowitchers was reached 4 Aug (PB et al.), while singles were found at Sandy Hook (Magdalen Is.) 1 Sep (JPO, ML) and Pointe-au-Père 24 Oct (G. Gendron et al.). There were at least eight reports (totaling 16 birds) of Red Phalarope, including a group of 3 at Beauport 16 Oct (M. Raymond, G. Cyr et al.) and one at Aylmer 22 Oct (DD).

A light-morph Parasitic Jaeger reached Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 14 Aug (MB), while 5 were seen at Métabetchouan 28 Aug (SB, GS, CC). An ad. Laughing Gull showed up at Pointe-au-Père 21 Sep (L. Jolicoeur, J.-F. Jetté), and an ad. Franklin's Gull visited Métabetchouan 12–13 Oct (SB). Rarely reported in s. Québec, a juv. Little Gull was present at Sainte-Catherine 23–27 Aug (PB). A Black-headed Gull stopped at Tadoussac 15 Nov (SB, SD), while a Mew Gull was spotted at Pointe-Claire 8–9 Nov (BB). It was a very poor season for Sabine's Gull, with only one ad. reported off Les Escoumins 16 Aug (RP,

M. Moisan, P. Carrier-Moisan). Two Caspian Terns at Ville-Marie (Témiscamingue) 26 Sep were noteworthy (J. & E. Fréchette). An ad. Forster's Tern in basic plumage strayed to Fatima (Magdalen Is.) 3 Sep (JPO, ML). Numbers of Dovekies were down compared to fall 2003, with one at Matane 13 Nov (A. Gagnon) and 300 at Pointe-Saint-Pierre 21 Nov (DM et al.). A White-winged Dove was discovered at Île aux Lièvres, near Rivière-du-Loup 29 Sep (F. & C. Gagné) and seen again 2 Oct (É. Lafond et al.), providing our 12th Regional record. Only 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos visited the Region, one at Île Bizard 10 Oct (L. Turgeon), one at Chandler 26–31 Oct (A. Couture, Y. Cyr), and one at Gatineau 12 Nov (*vide* M. Lalancette).

A few Northern Hawk Owls were encountered in s. Québec in late Nov: one at Saint-Gabriel 27–29 Nov (M. Harnois) and one at Laprairie 29 Nov (A. Labelle). The first signs of an irruption of Great Gray Owls were evident in Oct–Nov in Abitibi, where about 20 birds were reported (*vide* LI). Some gradually reached more s. localities, with singles at Lac Rogecourt (n. Pontiac) 11–16 Oct (C. Blanchette), Gatineau Park 7 Nov (*vide* DT), Entrelacs 21 Nov (A. Lagrenade), and Pointe Yamachiche 24–26 Nov (*vide* S. Houle), but it was not until Dec that the invasion attained its full magnitude in the south. A record 211 Boreal Owls were banded at Tadoussac 8 Sep–13 Oct, far surpassing the previous record of 124 individuals (YR, N. Duchesne). A male Rufous Hummingbird graced Authier-Nord 30 Aug–2 Sep, providing the first record for Abitibi and the 5th record for the Region (D. Major, m.ob., ph.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH ICTERIDS

Single Red-headed Woodpeckers stopped at Sutton 12 Oct (G. Deveault, N. Leblanc) and in the Mount-Royal Cemetery 12–24 Nov (E. Samson, m.ob.). Red-bellied Woodpecker staged a major invasion from late Oct+. Surprisingly, eight of the 20 reports came from the Gaspé Pen., where there were only nine previous records in total (*vide* PP). Other noteworthy records included 2 in the Lower St. Lawrence, one on the North Shore, and one in Abitibi. Willow Flycatcher is a common nesting species in s. Québec, but until this year, its presence had remained hypothetical after mid-Aug. Following the discovery of a nest at Beauharnois 6 Aug, 4 individuals lingered in the vicinity of the nesting site until 20 Aug (PB). Single birds were also identified by their call notes at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 28 Aug (PB) and at Saint-Timothée 1 Sep (PB). All these reports provided new record-late dates for the species. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at the Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park, Montréal 20–30 Nov+ represented the first confirmed record for the Region (J. Coudu, B. Dorion, et al., m.ob., ph.). It was aged by the

presence of a worn juv. rusty-edged secondary as an HY bird (S5). A Western Kingbird at Bassin 13 Oct represented the 2nd record for the Magdalen Is. (DGG). A late Red-eyed Vireo turned up at Ile Sainte-Hélène, Montréal 16-17 Nov (S. Mathieu). A male Purple Martin at Cap-aux-Meules 14 Oct provided the 2nd record for the Magdalen Is. (DGG, CAG). At Saint-Fulgence, an observer witnessed an amazing westward flight of Boreal Chickadees, totaling more than 1000 birds over a period of a week 7-14 Oct (CC). Tufted Titmice appeared in record numbers in the Eastern Townships, e.g., 40 birds were tallied in the w. section of Saint-Armand 9 Nov (JG. Papineau), 25 at the Farnham Nature Center 14 Oct (C. Lalande), and 8 at a single feeder at Drummondville (C. Béland). Two reached Québec City (*vide* JL). A family group of 4 Carolina Wrens was detected at Baie-d'Urfée 19 Aug-5 Sep (J. Harwood Gregson). At least 14 more Carolina Wrens were reported, including one at Chicoutimi 21-22 Oct (D. Gauthier et al.), an encouraging sign after two years of few local reports. Single Marsh Wrens at Cap-des-Rosiers 14 Oct (PP, GR, Denise Gagné, S. Brodeur, DJ) and Tadoussac 8 Nov (SB, SD) were noteworthy. Out-of-range Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included singles at Rivière-Ouelle 19 Sep (P. Gaudet), Île aux Basques 2 Oct (YG et al.), and Cape Tourmente 6 Oct (JM. Giroux); a bird in the Montréal Botanical Gardens 29 Nov matched the record-late date

for the Region (M. Turgeon). A Townsend's Solitaire at Grosse Île 14 Oct was the 3rd for the Magdalen Is. (DGG). Possibly 2 different individuals brightened Tadoussac, the first 19 Oct (SD) and the other 16-17 Nov (RP et al.). Another one was located at Saint-Jérôme 21 Nov (S. Auger, MC. Lemire).

A male Blue-winged Warbler was a prize find at Pabos 29 Sep, providing the 3rd record for the Gaspé Pen. (PP, GR). A Tennessee Warbler at Hull 29 Nov (M. Aubé) and a Northern Parula at the Montréal Botanical Gardens 12-15 Nov (S. Guimond, m.ob.) were both very late. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Asbestos 28-30 Nov+ delighted many observers (N. & G. Lacroix, m.ob., ph.). Late Pine Warblers were at Saint-Luc 11 Nov (G. Boulet), Saint-Jean-Chrysostome 14 Nov (D. Lepage), and Princeville 22 Nov (D. Gagné). A juv. female Prairie Warbler at Pointe-de-l'Est (Magdalen Is.) 3 Sep was noteworthy (JPO, ML). Late Common Yellowthroats included singles at Sept-Îles 6 Nov (JF Laporte) and at Île Sainte-Hélène, Montréal 17 Nov (YG). A record-late Yellow-breasted Chat at Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 23-30 Nov+ provided an outstanding record (G. Desgagnés, m.ob., ph.). Montmagny hosted a Summer Tanager 30 Oct-3 Nov (N. & Y. Bernier), while single Scarlet Tanagers at Park Forillon 23 Oct (M. Côté, MC. Rancourt) and Tadoussac 27 Oct (RP et al.) were late. A Clay-colored Sparrow was spotted at

Cape Tourmente 5 Oct (JPO); another one first found at Tadoussac 10 Oct (RP, V. Laplante) was relocated 20 Oct (SB et al.). A Lark Sparrow graced Gaspé 16-26 Sep (DJ et al., m.ob., ph.). Four Indigo Buntings were reported in Oct, all from e. Québec localities where the species is not known to nest. A total of 9 Dickcissels was reported, including one at Montréal 27 Oct (YG). This species appears regularly in the e. part of the Region in the fall but more rarely around Montréal. A Red-winged Blackbird at Fermont 7 Nov was the first seen by the observer in 15 years at this n. locale (B. Jolicoeur). A Western Meadowlark at Tadoussac 6-8 Nov provided the 2nd record for the North Shore (RP, m.ob., ph.).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): C. Auchu, P. Bannon (Montréal), B. Barnhurst, M. Berlinguette (Brome-Missisquoi), M. Bertrand, S. Boivin, C. Cormier, D. Dallaire, C. Douville (Lower St. Lawrence), R. Fortin (Lower St. Lawrence), CA. Gaudet, DG. Gaudet (Magdalen Is.), Y. Gauthier, C. Girard, L. Imbeau (Abitibi), D. Jalbert, J. Lachance (Québec City), M. Lafleur, D. Mercier, JP. Ouellet, R. Pintiaux, P. Poulin (Gaspésie), Y. Rochepault (North Shore), JF. Rousseau, G. Roy, R. Saint-Laurent (Lower St. Lawrence), G. Savard (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), D. Toussaint (Outaouais). ☺

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