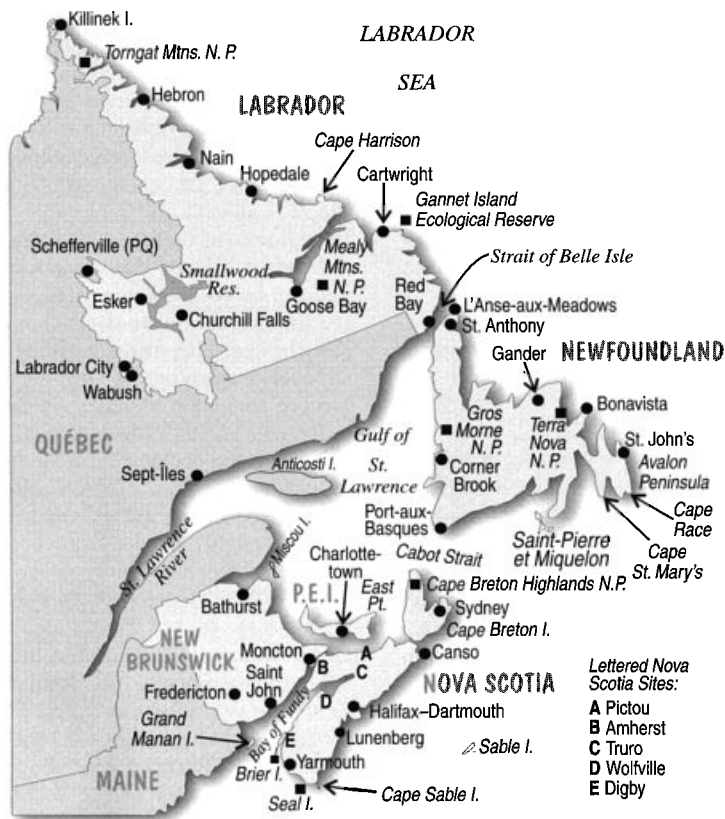


# Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



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The paucity of reports makes this summer report unusually thin but hardly paltry. Two new species for Canada were found—a Red-billed Tropicbird in New Brunswick and a Western Reef-Heron in Newfoundland. Two Little Egrets and a Bar-tailed Godwit were in Newfoundland, and New Brunswick had three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and a Western Tanager.

Abbreviation: G.M.I. (Grand Manan I., NS)

## LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The eventual occurrence of a Red-billed

Tropicbird in the Region has been anticipated (particularly in light of recent reports from New England and an August 1876 report from the Newfoundland Banks [P. E. Freke]), but the circumstances and location of the actual first record were a little surprising. The Region's first Red-billed Tropicbird was an ad. observed by a boatload of tourists and the lighthouse keeper Ralph Eldridge at Machais Seal I., NB 11 Jul (Andy Patterson et al.). Identifiable photographs of the tropicbird flying among breeding-plumaged Common Murres confirm the identification and location. A Great Egret was far n. at Eel River Bar, NB 13 Jun (Mike Lushington). A Tricolored Heron was at Three Fathom Harbour, NS 18-19 Jun (Anna Kozlowski). Critically identified ad. Little Blue Herons in Newfoundland were singles at Cape Freels 3 Jul (Diane Burton) and Frenchman's Cove, Burin Pen. 7-14 (fide PL). Single Snowy Egrets were at the Isthmus of Miquelon 28 Jul (fide RE), at Apple River, Cumberland, NS 1 Jun (Blaine Spicer), and on Brier I., NS 2 Jun (EM); 2 were at Lawrencetown, NS 7 Jul

(Don MacNeill).

A Black Vulture was with Common Ravens in a field near Canard, Kings, NS 12 Jun (EM), and another was reported from Naufrage, PEI 29 Jul (Gerald MacDonald). A pair of Brant was thought to have attempted nesting in Jun in a raspberry patch on Sheep I., NB, in the Bay of Fundy (fide BD). The Tundra Swan that showed up in the Codroy Valley, NL moved to Cape Freels for the summer. Four male Eurasian Wigeons were found in Jun: one at Central Hampstead, Queens, NB 9 Jun (ST); one at Cap Brule, NB 11 Jun (Norm Belliveau); one at Tracadie, NB 12 Jun (Jocelyne Godin); and one at Mount Stewart, PEI 8 Jun (DS). If these are post-breeding drakes, then where did they nest? Every year, there are Jun sightings of male Eurasian Wigeons in the Region, but no evidence of breeding and no hybrid wigeons have been reported. An unseasonal and rare sighting of Redhead was at Brier I., NS 1 Jun (EM). The 3 male and 2 female Ruddy Ducks at the Memramcook, NB sewage ponds 11 Jun were at least partly responsible for the mixed flock of 20 ads. and young found there later in summer (Marc LeBlanc).

A pair of Rough-legged Hawks was seen 15 Jul at Colombier I., St. Pierre et Miquelon, where nesting is nearly annual (RE). No details were received on a pair present all summer and suspected of nesting at Black Brook, Victoria, NB. Mid-summer Sandhill Cranes are annual in the Region, raising suspicion that nesting must be occurring somewhere locally. This year, there were individuals at Juniper, Carleton, NB 12 Jun (Yvon Beaulieu) and Yarmouth, NS all summer (fide BD).

**SA** Stephenville Crossing, in sw. Newfoundland, was put on the North American birding map with a long-staying Western Reef-Heron and a Little Egret this season. The Little Egret arrived first, found on 30 May (Monique Vassallo et al.). The Western Reef-Heron arrived 14 Jun. It was first identified as a Little Blue Heron but was properly identified two weeks later by Paul Linegar when photos were published on the Internet. The birds kept close company and were observed nearly daily into Sep by numerous out-of-province birders. The birds were on occasion observed displaying, including passing a stick back and forth, but there was no suggestion of actual nesting. This is the 2nd record of Western Reef-Heron in North America. The first was on Nantucket I., MA Apr-Sep 1983. The Newfoundland bird has been identified as the nominate race (*gularis*) from w. Africa, based on bluish-gray lores, grayish bill lacking yellow, all-dark legs with yellow feet, and fairly uniform dark body. Another Little Egret was present at Cape Freels in late May (m.ob.). These represent the 6th and 7th sightings of Little Egret in Newfoundland.

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Four nests of Piping Plover at Miquelon in Jun is encouraging from the e. limit of the breeding range (RE, LJ). In Prince Edward Island, a province-wide survey detected 80 ad. Piping Plovers, down from 112 in 2001 (*fide* BD). A lone American Oystercatcher continued to wander among the outer islands of the Grand Manan Archipelago, NB for another summer (*fide* BD). The usual two pairs nested at Cape Sable I., NS (MN). At least one of two pairs of Willets at Stephenville Crossing, NL hatched young in Jul (Bmt). This is only the 2nd known nesting location for Newfoundland. An estimated two dozen Upland Sandpipers at Pennfield Barrens, Charlotte, NB in early Jul is an extraordinary number for the Region (*fide* BD). The first Whimbrel report of the season was from the Isthmus, St. Pierre et Miquelon, a typical location, with 5 on 28 Jun (LJ). There was an impressive count of 225 Whimbrel at Hart I., Guysborough, NS (Tom Kavanaugh). Eighty-three Hudsonian Godwits at Maisonette Dune, NB was a nice concentration (Marcel David). Newfoundland's 3rd Bar-tailed Godwit at Stephenville Crossing 12-31 Jul was found by heron watchers (EM et al.). It was identified as *baueri* (the Alaskan breeding subspecies), based on heavily barred underwing coverts and a dark lower back.

A new high of 10 pairs of Laughing Gulls nested at Machias Seal I., NB, the only known breeding site in the Region, though there was a rumor of a pair nesting on Sable I., NS (*fide* BD). A first-summer Little Gull was at Portugal Cove South, NF 6-10 Jul (Dave Shepherd et al.). Nesting Black-headed Gulls fared well at the oldest breeding site

in North America: the Stephenville Crossing, NF location had 28 barely fledged birds on 13 Jul (Bmt). An ad. Black-headed Gull x Ring-billed Gull hybrid was observed bringing food into the mixed colony. The downy young looked close to a Black-headed Gull, but the other parent was not observed (Bmt). A new Black-legged Kittiwake colony was discovered at the s. end of the breeding range at Pearl I., Mahone Bay, NS, where five nests were noted 11 Jul (BMy).

For the 2nd year in a row, the mixed Arctic/Common Tern colony of some 3500 pairs on Machais Seal I., NB failed to fledge any young because of the total lack of small herring close to the island (*fide* BD). Also on Machais Seal I., 2 unmated female Black Terns laid clutches of eggs, which did not hatch. Seventy-five Atlantic Puffins nesting on Mud I., Yarmouth, NS was a new breeding site (*fide* MN).

## OWLS THROUGH ORIOLES

Three Snowy Owls lingered into summer: one all summer at Cape Sable I., NS (MN et al.), one at Balmoral, NB for the first week of Jun (Irene Doyle), and another found in a moribund state at Belldune, Gloucester, NB 15 Jun (Luc DeRoche). An ad. Northern Hawk Owl feeding a fledged chick at Nictau, Victoria, NB in late Jun was a rare breeding record for the province (Marc-Andre Villard). Two Boreal Owl nests found in bird boxes at St. Pierre were the first breeding evidence of this elusive owl for the French islands (RE et al.).

It virtually rained Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in New Brunswick during the five-day period of 8-12 Jun: one was at St. George 8-11 Jun (Ken MacIntosh), one was at Dorchester

11-12 Jun (Marc LeBlanc et al.), and another was at Ste.-Anne-de-Madawask 12 Jun (Denys Bourque et al.). A Loggerhead Shrike at Jemseg, NB 7-10 Jun was the first summer record for the Region in many years (JW et al.). A late spring Yellow-throated Vireo was singing in a city park in Saint John, NB 15 Jun (RB). A report of a Fish Crow observed and heard calling at St. Stephen, NB 26 Jul was plausible but lacked full details. Ad. Carolina Wrens feeding just-fledged young at Fredericton constituted the 2nd breeding record for the province and the Region (Don Gibson).

Always rare in the Region, a subad. Western Tanager at Seal Cove, G.M.I. 13 Jun was one of the very few recorded in Jun (Durlan Ingersoll). An Eastern Towhee was singing in Saint John, NB 15 Jun (RB). Most interesting was a Grasshopper Sparrow singing in suitable breeding habitat at Pennfield Barrens, NB 2 Jul (Bev Schneider). The species has not previously been suspected of breeding in the Region. An agitated Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in suitable breeding habitat at Stephenville Crossing 13 Jul afforded only the 7th provincial record; the species could be breeding at this site (Bmt et al.). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was Neguac, Northumberland, NB 26 Jun (Ivy Austin). An Orchard Oriole at Mount Stewart, PEI 17 Jun furnished one of the few provincial records (Dave Seeler).

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