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Almost all of Québec experienced above-normal temperatures, the departure from the average being most notable in the cooler Ungava Peninsula. As a whole, precipitation was 20 per cent above normal, but some parts of southern Québec had 40–50 percent more precipitation. The heaviest rainfalls occurred 31 August (remnants of Hurricane *Katrina*) and 26 September, reaching close to 100 mm on both occasions. Hurricane *Wilma* had little effect in Québec, although a Caspian Tern and a Forster's Tern in the Gaspé Peninsula 30 October were probably related to this storm. Many of the Regional rarities this season were from western North America.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague hosted a Barnacle Goose 22–29 Oct (F. Gariépy et al.), possibly the same bird later killed by a hunter in Ontario near the Québec border, a bird that was banded in Scotland (*vide* S. Percival; cf. Ontario Region report). The Trumpeter Swan present since last spring at Rouyn-Noranda continued until at least 24 Oct (C. Robichaud). Single Tundra Swans stopped at Mandeville 8 Nov (M. Harnois) and Montréal 12–20 Nov (LS, MB et al.). Now a much sought-after species in the Region, up to 6 Canvasbacks at Pointe-Claire in late Nov were a welcome sight (m.ob.). Difficult to explain was an unprecedented influx of Redheads, especially in the Abitibi, Lac Saint-Jean, Lower St. Lawrence, and Gaspésie regions. A peak of 180 at Métabetchouan 27–28 Sep (GS, DG) was especially noteworthy. A male Bufflehead × Common Goldeneye hybrid at Laval 11 Nov+ (GLa) was presumably the same bird

seen annually since 1999.

Six Willow Ptarmigans on the Groulx Mts., e. of Res. Manicouagan 21 Sep, plus 12 more there on 22 Sep (RG et al.), improved our knowledge about the s. limit of their summer range at high altitude. Gray Partridges nested e. of their usual range, as evidenced by 3 ads. and 15 juvs. at Rivière-Ouelle 14 Aug (CA, CG).

An impressive flight of Red-throated Loons along the Saguenay R. in late Nov included 483 at Saint-Fulgence 22 Nov and 520 there 24 Nov (CC). A Pacific Loon was meticulously described at Saint-Fulgence 23 & 25 Nov, a new Regional record-late date for the species (CC). Northern Fulmars were represented by one at Saint-Gédéon 11 Nov, plus a dead bird there 12 Nov (SBo). These sightings may indicate an overland migration from Hudson Bay. Manx Shearwaters were well in evidence, with at least 12 birds distributed between the St. Lawrence estuary, Gaspésie, and Magdalen Is. Out-of-range Northern Gannets included singles at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 28 Oct (S. Bougie) and Laval 29 Nov (GLa). About 80 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants were found breeding on two hydro-towers, a very unusual nesting platform for this species, at Saint-Timothée 6 Aug (PB, G. Zenaitis). A Great Cormorant at Sainte-Hélène I., Montréal 21 Nov was noteworthy (S. Mathieu). Late Great Egrets included one at La Romaine 20 Oct–20 Nov (R. Marcoux et al.) and one at Île Perrot 6 Nov (R. Gregson). In the Magdalen Is., a late Snowy Egret visited Havre-Aubert 25–28 Oct (G. Chiasson et al.), followed by an ad. Cattle Egret at Bassin 13–14 Nov (DGG et al.).

The Tadoussac bird observatory recorded its second-lowest raptor totals in 13 years of observations. All raptors were below average except Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, both showing strong positive trends. Single imm. Cooper's Hawks at Tadoussac 9 (SBe, D. Roy) & 16 Sep (SBe, G. Rondeau) represented the first and 2nd records for the North Shore. A dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk at Tadoussac 5 Sep was quite a surprise (SBe). Also unusual, a dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen migrating at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 23 Oct (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh). For the 3rd consecutive year, a Western Red-tailed Hawk (subspecies *calurus*) was recorded at Gatineau 25 Oct+ (A. Cloutier).

AVOCET THROUGH ALCIDS

An American Avocet at Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière 30 Nov–1 Dec provided a new Regional record-late date for the species (R. Noël, m.ob.). Rare in fall, Willets were represented by 2 ads. at Sainte-Luce 18 Aug (M.

Gauthier) and 2 more at Maria 1 Sep (C. Lamarre). Single Marbled Godwits turned up at Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly 5 Sep (G. Martineau), Pointe-Calumet 9–28 Sep (LS, m.ob.), and Rimouski 9–10 Sep (GP). A juv. Western Sandpiper was well described at Kamouraska 3 Sep (JPO, M. Lafleur). A total of 24 Buff-breasted Sandpipers between 17 Aug and 14 Sep continued the recent trend of excellent fall numbers. Sightings of Ruff included a female at Montmagny 17–23 Aug (G. Lord, m.ob.) and a juv. at Penouille 28 Aug (DJ, D. Rochat). Numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers were lower this fall, but one at Métabetchouan 18 Sep was notable (SBo).

Single Parasitic Jaegers reached Sainte-Catherine 21 Sep (R. Belhumeur) and Beauharnois 28 Sep (A. Leduc) in extreme s. Québec. At least 4 different Long-tailed Jaegers of different ages were photographed at Île Nue de Mingan 4 Aug (GP, M. Therriault), while one provided a rare sighting for Rivière-Ouelle 4 Sep (CA, CG). Laughing Gulls included a first-winter bird at Sainte-Catherine 20 Sep (MB et al.) and a late individual at Sheldrake 26 Nov (CB, YR). At least 7 Franklin's Gulls reported province-wide included one at East Sullivan 24 Sep (R. Gauthier), a first record for Abitibi. Little Gulls are regular in s. Québec in fall, but single juvs. at Saint-Méthode 17 Sep (D. Lavoie) and Tadoussac 28 Sep (JS. Guénette) were worthy of mention.

Black-headed Gulls totaled 6 this season, including 2 juvs. in Forillon Park 25 Oct (DJ et al.) and one at Chandler 6 Nov (M. Larrière). Mew Gulls were represented by an ad. of undetermined race at Victoriaville 17–20 Oct (J. Ducharme et al.), a juv. *brachyrhynchus* at Tadoussac 21 Oct (SD, SBe), and finally 2 ad. *canus* at La Pocatière 30 Oct (CA, CG). A juv. Slaty-backed Gull at Lévis 12–20 Nov was thoroughly documented (GLe, m.ob., ph.). Sabine's Gulls totaled 13 (10 juvs., 3 ads.) between 30 Aug and 13 Oct, compared to only one last year.

A Caspian Tern lingered at L. Kenogami 3 Sep–3 Oct (DG), while one found injured at Pabos 30 Oct provided a new record-late date for the Region (D. Mercier, PP). Not often reported inland in the fall, 2 Arctic Terns were found at Matagami 2 Sep (MA. Montpetit) and 9 at Saint-Vallier 17 Sep (OB). Two juv. Forster's Terns turned up at Sainte-Catherine 17–18 Sep (PB, m.ob.), while one at Cap-des-Rosiers 30–31 Oct provided a first record for Gaspésie (DJ).

Dovekie numbers slowly built up in the St. Lawrence estuary beginning in mid-Oct, but counts were generally in the range of a few individuals to a few dozen birds. A Ra-

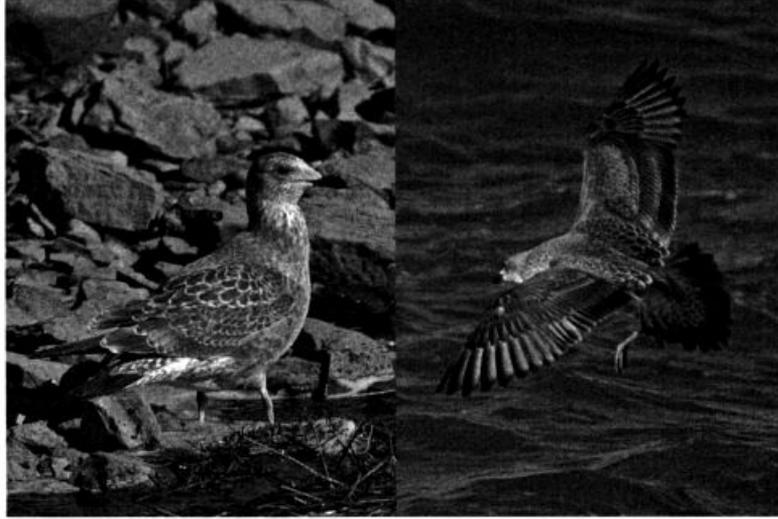
zorbill at Montréal 9 Nov was unusual there (SG). Counts of Atlantic Puffin were on the rise in the estuary, with up to 7 at Île aux Basques in early Oct (DJ. Léandri-Breton et al.) and 7 more seen from the Matane ferry 30 Oct (OB, IL). An ad. Thick-billed Murre was also spotted from the Matane ferry 30 Oct (OB, IL).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove was detected on Anticosti I. 9 Aug (J. Gauthier, D. Larouche); possibly the same bird appeared at Moisie 12-

14 Aug (JFL, B. Duchesne). A total of 17 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was reported throughout the Region in Sep–Oct, which is distinctly more than in most years. Rare and unpredictable at all times in the Region, a Barn Owl was found roosting daily in a barn at Saint-Armand mid-Aug–late Sep (M. Bellefroid et al., ph.). A Northern Hawk Owl was quite out of place at Bonaventure I. 5 Aug (I. Katuna, H. Bokor, *vide* D. Bélanger). At least 8 Great Gray Owls were reported outside the Abitibi region; most were likely individuals that summered far from their breeding range. A female Anna's Hummingbird at Montmagny 12–23 Nov, positively identified 17 Nov (JPO, M. Laffleur, G. Germain), was a delightful first for the Region as well as the northeasternmost record away from its typical range (Y. & L. Bernier, m.ob., ph.). An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker was sighted at Lac-Brome 23–26 Aug (C. Laramée), while an imm. was found at Saint-Philibert, *Beauce* 11–13 Nov (M. Nadeau, *vide* A. Beauchamp). With only three reports, Red-bellied Woodpecker numbers were back to normal after the overwhelming 2004 fall season.

The Gaspé Pen. hosted 2 Fork-tailed Flycatchers, the first at Cap Chat 2 Oct (P. Grifard, D. Vézina, JP. Caron), the other a long-staying individual at Saint-Jules-de-Caspédia 15 Oct–6 Nov (B. Harrison et al., m.ob., ph.). Single imm. White-eyed Vireos were found at Longueuil 5 Oct (D. Millar) and Montréal 15–16 Oct (E. Samson, SG, ph.). A flock of 55,000 Tree Swallows roosting in a cornfield s. of Montréal 14 Sep was a high count for the Region, especially in recent years (MGah, D. Bird). Notably late swallows included a Tree Swallow 30 Nov at Fatima, *Magdalen* Is. (DGG) and 10+ Barn Swallows



This putative juvenile Slaty-backed Gull at Lévis 12-20 (here 14 November) November 2005 provided potentially the second photographically documented record for Québec. Photographs by Alain Côté.

scattered along the Gaspé Pen. 2–15 Nov.

The s. and e. parts of the Region received a major influx of migrant Black-capped Chickadees, starting in early Sep and tapering off in the 2nd half of Oct. Some 943 individuals were banded at Tadoussac, more than three times the usual tally. This movement was mostly of hatch-year birds—over 99.5% of the Tadoussac chickadees were aged as such. A massive single-day count of 560 Black-capped was made at Cap-des-Rosiers 21 Oct (R. Guitard, J. Jantunen). Boreal Chickadees were also on the move, as evidenced by 1072 migrating through Saint-Fulgence between 14 Sep and 12 Oct (CC); a small push southward on the order of 12+ birds was felt in the vicinity of Montréal. A Marsh Wren at Sept-Îles 8 Oct was far out of range (JFL). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers made a good show, with 6 in the Region this fall, 5 of which were found out of range in the e. part of the province between 5 Sep and 22 Oct. The discovery of 3 Northern Wheatears is a better harvest than most years, the first being at Beauport 11 Sep (JF. Rousseau), the next at Lévis 8–11 Oct

(GLe, m.ob., ph.), and a late individual at Pointe-au-Père 13 Nov (A. Bouliane, C. Gagné). A small incursion of single Townsend's Solitaires was noted: at Montréal 30 Oct (RG, C. Larocque), at Boischatel 31 Oct (JMG, JPO), at Cap Tourmente 5 Nov (C. Simard et al.), and at Saint-Fulgence 21 Nov (C. Samson).

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

The increasingly regular Blue-winged Warbler was represented by a female banded at the McGill Bird Observatory, Sainte-Anne-

de-Bellevue 27 Aug (MGah) and a male at Sept-Îles 29 Sep (JFL, ph.). Noteworthy late warblers include a Northern Parula at Laval 15 Nov (GLa), a Magnolia Warbler at Québec 9–12 Nov (tying a record late date; M. Raymond, m.ob.), a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Rivière-Saint-Jean 19 Nov (YR, CB), and another at Sept-Îles 20–27 Nov+ (H. Hamel, G. Hamelin). A male Audubon's Warbler at Sainte-Hélène I., Montréal 27 Nov+ was unusual there (D. Demers, m.ob.). Another westerner, an ad. male Black-throated Gray Warbler, was well described from Dégelis 21 Nov (M. Beaulieu); it provided the Region with its 3rd documented record and first for the Lower St. Lawrence. A Yellow-throated Warbler of the subspecies *albiflora* frequented feeders at Saint-François-Xavier-de-Brompton 15 Oct–13 Nov (D. & J. Labbé, m.ob., ph.). Pine Warblers were reported from various localities across e. Québec, including 8 in the Gaspé Pen. 21 Oct–27 Nov (*vide* PP). A Prairie Warbler paused by Sandy Hook, *Magdalen* Is. 30 Aug (DGG), while an imm. male was at Cap Tourmente 23 Sep (JPO). Always difficult

SA Single male **Spotted Towhees** were seen at Piedmont 8–9 Oct (J. Guimond) and Les Escoumins 16 Nov–9 Dec (JG. Beaulieu, m.ob., ph.). On the subject of recent records of this species, Michel Gosselin, Canadian Museum of Nature, provides the following cautionary note. "There seems to be confusion about the significance of occasional white primary bases in Spotted Towhees. A majority of specimens of the migratory *arcticus* ssp. from Alberta and Saskatchewan at the Canadian Museum of Nature (35 out of 42) have white primary bases, but these white bases are hidden under the primary coverts in about a third of the birds and are therefore invisible. It may be tempting to regard all indication of white primary bases as a sign of extensive introgression from Eastern Towhees, but in the absence of other signs of introgression in the heavily spotted *arcticus* Spotted Towhees (one of the most divergent from Eastern Towhees in this respect), this may not necessarily be the only possible explanation for this character. There is a much variation among the various Spotted Towhee subspecies in the extent and type of white markings in the upperparts, the westernmost subspecies being generally darker above. White primary edgings, on the other hand, occur in both towhee species, but their distribution pattern along the feathers differs on average (they are more distal on Spotted Towhees)."

to intercept in migration in the Region, single Connecticut Warblers were seen at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 4 Sep (PB) and Cap Tourmente 9 Sep (JPO, JMG). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were found at Carignan 1 Oct (P. Beaulé, P. Laporte) and Pabos 24 Oct (PP, G. Roy). A total of 6 Scarlet Tanagers in Oct in Gaspésie was remarkable (*fide* PP), as was a late individual at Tadoussac 30 Oct–3 Nov (SD et al.).

A Field Sparrow at Longue-Rive 8 Oct was noteworthy (P. Otis). The fall's 3 Lark Sparrows were all recorded on the North Shore, the first being a juv. at Moisie 16 Sep (JFL et al.), the next at Longue-Rive 18 Sep (R. Gilbert), and the last an imm. at Tadoussac 18 Oct (SBe et al.). An imm. Blue Grosbeak was banded at Tadoussac 23 Sep (CB et al.) and still present 27 Sep (SD). A few wayward Indigo Buntings were found w. to Cap Tourmente starting in late Sep, with a notably late individual at Magpie 17–24 Nov (YR et al.). A male Painted Bunting was present at Saint-Félix-de-Dalquier, Abitibi 11–13 Aug (P. Ouellet, C. O'Brien, *fide* S. Gagnon, ph.), providing

our 10th Regional record. Ten Dickcissels were reported across the Region, including 7 on the Gaspé Pen. and one at Moisie 11–12 Oct (V. Vogel).

A wayward male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Valleyfield 2 Oct (Y. Gauthier, S. Moran, SG) and still present 16 Oct (A. Quenneville). A young male Brewer's Blackbird was well described from Cap Tourmente 12–13 Nov (P. Lane, A. Couture); documentation of this icterid in the Region is quite scarce, both historically and in recent years. Baltimore Orioles were particularly numerous on the Gaspé Pen., mainly in Oct–Nov, with approximately 20 birds reported (*fide* PP); the North Shore also had its share of orioles, with up to 6 in the Tadoussac area in early Oct (*fide* SD). A fall total of 110 Red Crossbills was unprecedented for the Tadoussac bird observatory (SD et al.).

Addendum: A wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan was photographed at L. Ostaboningué, *Témiscamingue*, in Jul (M. Rannou, *fide* J. Fréchette).

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New England



Walter G. Ellison • Nancy L. Martin

Autumn 2005 was warmer than average, especially so in September, and wetter than normal. Only October was wet in Boston, but precipitation was over 14 cm above the norm for the month. Over 10 cm of October's 24 cm of rain fell from 8–15 October, with another heavy input on 25 October as Hurricane Wilma passed by offshore. The infamous Hurricane Katrina was a less organ-

ized low-pressure area by the time it arrived in the northwest of our Region, but it caused a notable, albeit brief, shorebird fallout in the Champlain Valley. The wet period in mid-October caused some waterbird fallout, including a spectacular 28,000 sea ducks and other seabirds at Andrew's Point on Cape Ann, Massachusetts; the northwesterly winds in its aftermath pushed great hawk flights and large numbers of passerines through the Region. November was characterized by seemingly constant southwesterly winds (16 of the 30 days at Boston). A parade of late reversed migrants and spectacular vagrants rode the winds into coastal New England, including yet another big flight of Cave Swallows. Other November vagrants included a record 10 Franklin's Gulls, Scissor-tailed and Ash-throated Flycatchers in Massachusetts, the Bay State's second Sage Thrasher, Black-throated Gray Warbler in Maine, Townsend's Warbler in New Hampshire, and MacGillivray's Warbler and Painted Bunting in Massachusetts. Other vagrants of the season included Black-capped Petrel, Purple Gallinule, Bell's Vireo, and Townsend's Solitaire in Massachusetts, Mississippi Kite in Connecticut, Black-tailed Gull in Vermont, New Hampshire's first MacGillivray's Warbler,

Lark Bunting in Maine, and an offshore Band-rumped Storm-Petrel.

Abbreviations: A.P. (Andrew's Pt., Rockport, Essex, MA); Charlotte (L. Champlain shore, Charlotte, Chittenden, VT); D.C.W.M.A. (Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison and Panton, Addison, VT); Gay Head (on Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA); G.M.N.W.R. (Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Middlesex, MA); Hammonasset (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, New Haven, CT); Lighthouse Pt. (Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, New Haven, CT); M.N.W.R. (Missisquoi N.W.R., Swanton, Franklin, VT); Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); S Monomoy (South Monomoy I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA); Plum I. (Plum I., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA); Race Pt. (Provincetown, Barnstable, MA); S. Beach (South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA).

WATERFOWL

Geese continue to increase and to attract the odd rarity to their growing flocks. Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in double digits again; 1997 was the first double-digit year in New England, but such numbers have become routine of late. The first clear migrant was seen at Turner's Falls, Franklin, MA 16