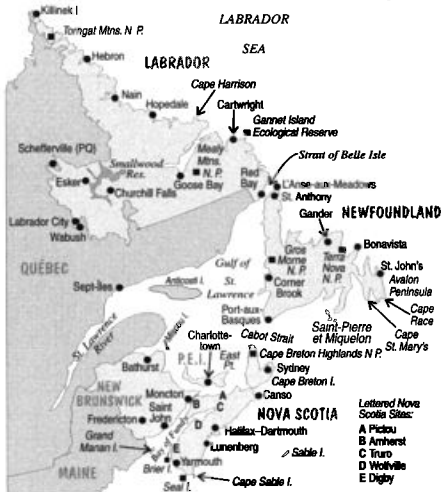


# Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



Brian Dalzell

“Abnormal” is the new normal weather in the Atlantic Provinces, it would seem, and the winter of 2005–2006 was the warmest on record. The traditional “January thaw” lasted all month, with temperatures almost 5° C higher than normal, but with precipitation down a third (snowfall by 40%). Heavy rains fell over most of the Region in mid-January, when temperatures of 10° C caused Wood Frogs and Spring Peepers to commence calling, Ruffed Grouse to drum, and dandelions to flower. On Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, maple syrup production began in mid-February, a full month ahead of normal. Northumberland Strait did not freeze over for the first time in recent memory, forcing Gray Seals to pup onshore, and great clouds of red dust swirled over the normally snow-covered potato fields of western Prince Edward Island. As the global climate continues to change, we expect more of the same.

The only regions to experience normal snow cover were Labrador, western Newfoundland, and northwestern New Brunswick; eastern Newfoundland got buried in snow late in the period. The mild weather allowed many “Wilma waifs” from late October to survive much longer than normal, and lingering/wintering species were legion this year: American Bittern, Great and Snowy Egrets, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Long-billed Dowitcher, Forster’s Tern, Tree and Barn Swallows, and Gray Catbird, among others. Waterfowl such as Brant, Canada Goose, and Long-tailed Duck took advantage of mild conditions to return early or to remain in larger-than-normal numbers. New Brunswick had its highest-ever winter list (175 species), Nova Scotia tied their best total (214), and even Prince Edward Island tallied

a respectable 116 species for the season. I thank Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, and Bruce Mactavish for their extensive assistance in the preparation of this report.

**Abbreviations:** C.B.I. (Cape Breton I., NS); C.S.I. (Cape Sable I., NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan I., NB); H.R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality, NS); NF (the island of Newfoundland, as opposed to the province of Newfoundland & Labrador [NL]); SPM (St. Pierre et Miquelon, France).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Snow Geese were notable along the outer coast of Nova Scotia and s. Newfoundland in mid- to late Dec: 13 were at Dean’s Corner, Lunenburg, NS 26-27 Dec (JH), 9 at Hartlen’s Pt., H.R.M., NS 22-28 Dec (TP), 4 at Frenchman’s Cove, Burin Pen., NF 12 Dec+ (Allan Nolan), and 4 at Miquelon 23 Dec (Guillaume Desmalles). This flight likely brought Newfoundland’s first Ross’s Goose to St. John’s, an ad. 16 Dec+ (m.ob.). A Barnacle Goose at Moncton, NB into early Dec was of note (SIT). Canada Geese normally vacate Prince Edward I. in winter, but this year, thousands remained, such as 5000+ at Vernon R. throughout. Fair numbers of Brant began returning to spring staging areas in mid-Jan,

The best counts of American Wigeon were 75 on the Halifax C.B.C. 19 Dec and about 75 throughout the season at Wentworth Park, Sydney, NS. Eight Eurasian Wigeons wintered at St. John’s (BMT), 4 were at Glace Bay, NS 27 Dec (m.ob.), 4 at Grand Barachois, SPM into Dec (RE), 2 in se. New Brunswick in early Dec (SIT), and 2 at Sullivan’s Pond, H.R.M. in Feb (m.ob.). Near-record numbers of American Black Duck were found at St. Pierre et Miquelon, with counts of up to 575 at Grand Barachois, which notably did not freeze over significantly this winter (RE). Ten Blue-winged Teal included a pair at St. John, NB throughout (m.ob.), 2 on the Halifax-Dartmouth, NS C.B.C. 18 Dec, 3 at Lunenburg Harbour, NS 12 Jan (EM), one at Brier I., NS 13 Dec (EM), and a pair at C.S.I. throughout (MN). The total of 15+ Northern Shovelers was well above normal; notable were 6 in Antigonish, NS 16 Dec+ (RL), 3 at St. John’s (BMT; “a rare event”), 2 at Yarmouth, NS 14 Jan (GS), a female at St. Pierre (a Wilma evacuee; RE), and singles at Montague, PEI 14 Jan (Charlie Trainor) and Windsor, Dominion, Dartmouth, and Port Williams, NS.

Three Canvasbacks were found at Cherry Hill Beach 1 Jan (SF) and one at Sackville, NB 25 Jan+ (Kathy Popma). Following last fall’s big flight, many Redheads remained behind to



At East Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia, this Great Egret stayed at least into February 2006, the latest on record for the province (here 25 January). Photograph by Hans Toom.

principally at G.M.I. and C.S.I., a full month ahead of normal. Two imm. Mute Swans at Pembroke, Yarmouth, NS 11-18 Dec may have come from the nearest established population in s. Maine (MN); they furnished the 2nd provincial record of the species.

winter, e.g., 7 at Cap Bimet, Westmoreland, NB 1-4 Dec (SIT), 10 at Three Fathom Harbour, H.R.M. 29 Jan, and 5 at Oyster Bed Bridge, PEI 18 Feb (DO); and Newfoundland’s first winter record was furnished by a drake throughout at Spaniard’s Bay (BMT).

The largest wintering flock of Ring-necked Ducks to come to light was 10 at Salmon River, H.R.M. throughout (Joan Czapaly). Winter flocks of Greater Scaup continue to increase in Newfoundland; 100 through Feb at Miquelon Salt Pond was a notable number there (RE). King Eider is seldom reported from the Bay of Fundy shore of Nova Scotia, where 2 drakes were present at Port George 25 Jan+ (m.ob.). Long-tailed Duck wintered in greater numbers than normal around Prince Edward I. due to the lack of sea ice in protected bays—much to the consternation of mussel farmers, whose sites are normally frozen in. A good count of Barrow's Goldeneye for Nova Scotia was 12 at North Sydney 15 Jan (Andrew MacDonald).

Up to 6 Pied-billed Grebes wintered successfully along the coast of Nova Scotia, w. of Halifax; one near Miquelon Village, SPM 13 Dec was most unusual (RE). A Sooty Shearwater off C.S.I. 10 Feb was probably attempting to winter (GS); there are fewer than 10 records of the species in the w. North Atlantic in midwinter. One American Bittern per winter is normal, so 4 in Nova Scotia represents somewhat of an invasion: singles on the Halifax C.B.C. 19 Dec, at Lockeport 19 & 30 Dec (DC), at Smelt Cove, Lunenburg 7-9 Jan (JH), and very late near Dingwall, Victoria at the n. tip of Cape Breton 18 Feb (Fritz McEvoy). Great Egrets set winter survival records, with birds lasting until 23 Dec at St. Johns, NF, 1 Jan at Trinity Bay, NF (*vide* BMT), 28 Jan at East Chezzetcook, H.R.M. (Tim Wershler), and 20 Jan at Seal River, PEI (Walter Conohan). A Cattle Egret remained until 1 Dec near Grand Tracadie, PEI (Roy McNab). Single Snowy Egrets pushing the envelope were at St. Pierre Harbour, SPM 1-6 Dec (m.ob.) and at St. John's late Oct–23 Jan, the latter found dead 25 Jan (*vide* BMT). Tardy Black-crowned Night-Herons were found at C.S.I. in mid-Dec (*vide* MN) and St. John's 9 Dec (Dave Brown, KK), the latter found dead a few days later. The center of abundance for wintering Turkey Vulture in the Region is in Digby and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; 10 were found on the C.B.C. at Brier I. 14 Dec, 20 at a Chebogue offal feeder 10 Feb (Jennifer LeBlanc), and an outlier at Shelburne 28 Feb (Roland Chiasson).

## HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Cooper's Hawk is now a rare-but-regular winter resident throughout its breeding range in New Brunswick, where they appear to subsist principally on Rock Pigeons. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was carefully studied at Antigonish, NS 18 Dec (RL), while the identification



A species now annual in December in Newfoundland, this Dickcissel was photographed 7 December 2006 at Lower Cove. Photograph by S. LeShane.

of one at Mader's Cove, Lunenburg, NS 19 Dec was less certain (JH). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Pembroke, Yarmouth, NS in Jan provided one of very few winter records for the province (JN). An imm. Golden Eagle at the St. John's landfill 26 Dec+ was very rare for Newfoundland (BMT). Six imm. Bald Eagles together on the Isthmus of Miquelon 4 Jan was a high count locally (Christine Hebert). Reports of wintering Peregrine Falcon continue to increase: C.B.C. birds included 2 at Miquelon 3 Jan, 3 at Memramcook, NB 26 Dec, 3 at Halifax–Dartmouth, NS 18 Dec, plus singles in at least six other Nova Scotia and s. New Brunswick locales. A dark-morph Gyrfalcon found at Brier I., NS 14 Dec was the only report of the species (EM).

A moribund Virginia Rail found in a Christmas tree lot at Canso, NS 21-22 Dec (SB) was later taken into rehabilitation. A Purple Gallinule picked up on a street in St. John's, NF 30 Dec following strong southerly winds was later released in a city marsh (BMT). A few American Coots wintered in Nova Scotia as usual, but one at St. Pierre 5-29 Dec was notably far east (m.ob.). Further evidence of a warm winter, 19 species of shorebird were found in Nova Scotia this season. The rarest shorebird by far was a Northern Lapwing at St. Lawrence, Burin Pen., NF 30 Nov–4 Dec (Gail & Norman Wilson). The highest count of Black-bellied Plovers was 17 at C.S.I. 14 Jan (MN). Five Killdeer at St. Pierre 6 Dec were likely *Wilma* birds (PB); one lasted there until 17 Jan at Grand Barachois. Two American Avocets (leftover from *Wilma*) remained at Morien Bar, C.B.I. through 1 Dec (DM) The odd Greater Yellowlegs attempts to winter in sw. Nova Scotia, but one at Apple River, Cumberland, NS 1 Jan+ (Kathleen Spicer) was most unusual. A Lesser Yellowlegs was found at Cole Harbour, H.R.M. 15 Dec (Ian McLaren). A Marbled Godwit, also from *Wilma*, lingered until 6 Dec at Ogdens Pond, Antigonish, NS (RL). In the Region, Red Knots winter princi-

pally at St. Pierre et Miquelon, where 15 were found on the Isthmus of Miquelon 24 Dec (RE), and C.S.I., where 11 was a high count 14 Jan (MN). Four Semipalmated and 5 White-rumped Sandpipers were carefully studied at C.S.I. 14 Jan (MN), while a Least Sandpiper near Cape Race, NF 3 Dec was very late (BMT). A Baird's Sandpiper reported at River Bennett, C.B.I. 16 Dec was most unusual (SM, John McKay).

Purple Sandpiper winters regularly at St. Pierre et Miquelon, but 217 on the St. Pierre C.B.C. 19 Dec set a record. A flock of 45 Dunlins at Evangeline Beach, Kings, NS 17 Dec was away from usual winter haunts along the s. shore (PK, Barry Youll), where 68 were found at C.S.I. 14 Jan (MN). Notably late, thanks to *Wilma*, was a Stilt Sandpiper through 3 Dec at Three Fathom Harbour, NS (SM); the hurricane also bequeathed significant numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers, many of which remained well into winter, such as 13 in Antigonish, NS 18 Dec (RL), 19 at Rainbow Haven, H.R.M. 31 Dec (TP), 19 at Melbourne, Yarmouth, NS through 31 Jan (PG), 5 at C.S.I. 20 Feb (MN), and singles at Cymbria, PEI 4 Dec (D&ES) and G.M.I. 21 Dec (BED). An American Woodcock at C.S.I. 19 Feb (MN) was in a known wintering area, but one at Wolfville Ridge, Kings, NS 20 Jan (Bernard Forsythe) definitely was not. It was flushed from a stream with moss-covered banks in woods with many tangled, fallen trees. Five Wilson's Snipe together at St. Pierre 19 Dec was quite a sight but upstaged by one that landed on the street in front of Etcheberry in Miquelon 18 Feb! A few Red Phalaropes are sometimes reported in the outer Bay of Fundy in early winter, but one inland at the head of the Bay on 13 Dec in a sewage lagoon at Windsor, NS was certainly unexpected (PK).

## GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS

The last of a dozen *Wilma* Laughing Gulls in St. John's, NF was seen 15 Dec (m.ob.); another that had arrived in late Oct at St. Pierre was found dead 9 Dec (RE). At least 200 Black-headed Gulls in St. John's harbor in early Dec was the "highest ever" (BMT). The only Little Gull to come to light was an ad. 9 Dec at Canso Causeway, C.B.I. (Angus MacLean) A Thayer's Gull at Stratford, PEI 16 Jan was returning for a 2nd winter (Dwight Cargill) At least 15 Lesser Black-backed Gulls wintered in St. John's, with only scattered singles found elsewhere in the Region. At least 3 Mew Gulls of the nominate subspecies wintered in St. John's; one at Stratford, PEI 26 Dec was an excellent find for the province (DO) Two ad. Yellow-legged Gulls were regularly

seen and well photographed in St. John's mid-Dec–mid-Feb (BMT, m.ob.). An ad. Slaty-backed Gull at the St. John's landfill 28 Jan–12 Feb (Dave Brown, BMT et al.) was a first for Newfoundland (but followed closely by a third-winter bird there 19 Mar!). A late Caspian Tern was at Ogden's Pond, *Antigonish*, NS 6 Dec (BMy), certainly a *Wilma* bird, as were 2 Common Terns at Canso, NS 14 Dec (TK) and single Forster's Terns through 1 Jan at Florence, C.B.I. (DM), 6 Feb at Conrad's Beach, H.R.M. (m.ob.), 19 Feb in normally frozen Northumberland Strait, at the Pictou Causeway, NS (Ken McKenna), and through the period in s. coastal *Lunenburg* (m.ob.). Only slightly more unusual, and another *Wilma* refugee, was a Black Skimmer 6 & 16 Dec at Canso harbor, NS (TK).

## DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

Single White-winged Doves were found at Alma, NB 4-16 Dec (Doreen Rossiter) and Canso, NS through 21 Dec (TK). "Barely a handful" of Snowy Owls was found in Newfoundland (BMT), while "more reports than usual" (10+) came from Prince Edward I., up to 5 were found on G.M.I., NB in late Dec (BED), and 2 were at C.S.I. in late Feb (MN). Great Horned Owls were apparently starving in w. Labrador, with at least three reports of birds carrying off small dogs (at least two on leashes!) in and near Labrador City. At least one attack was successful, with another resulting in the death of the owl after the dog's owner beheaded it with a hunting knife (*fide* GP). Up to 8 Short-eared Owls were present on the Grand Pré dykelands, *Kings*, NS in late Dec (m.ob.). A dead Boreal Owl was found at Coleman, PEI in late Feb (*fide* DO), while a live one responded to a taped call somewhere in the wilds of *Antigonish*, NS 26 Feb (RL). The last of *Wilma's* Chimney Swifts bravely survived until early Dec in Nova Scotia, with singles noted at Halifax 2 Dec (Jean Hartley) and River Bourgeois, C.B.I. 6-7 Dec (GD).

Very few Red-bellied Woodpeckers showed up in the Region following last winter's record flight, with about 12 reports in Nova Scotia, 8 in New Brunswick, and one in Prince Edward I. Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers came to light in Nova Scotia, including one returning for a 2nd winter to a feeder in Hantsport, NS. An unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher at St. John's 4 Dec was "probably a good one" (John Wells et al.). A Western Kingbird survived until 26



Yellow-legged Gull is now annual at St. John's, Newfoundland in winter. An adult returning for its fourth consecutive winter and this new individual (here 8 January 2006) were seen regularly from December into February. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

Dec at Oakland, *Lunenburg*, NS (*fide* JH), while an Eastern Kingbird lasted until 16 Dec at Canso, NS (SB). The Bell's Vireo found in Nov in Halifax survived until at least 4 Dec (m.ob.). It appears some of the swallows deposited in the Region by *Wilma* tried to make their way back southward. Nine Tree Swallows were still at Chebogue, *Yarmouth*, NS 20 Dec (PG), while 2 at Melmerby Beach, *Pictou*,



Representing a first record for Newfoundland and second for the Atlantic Provinces region, this adult Slaty-backed Gull was found 29 January 2006 (here) and remained through 12 February at the city landfill at St. John's; another Slaty-backed was found there on 19 March. The so-called "string of pearls" pattern of the primaries is visible on both sides of the wing. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

NS 10-20 Jan (Harry & Jean Brennan) and one at Point Michaud, *Richmond*, C.B.I. 8 Feb (GD) were obviously intent on wintering. Barn Swallows lasted until early Dec, with one

at Cape Race, NF 3 Dec (BMT), one at C.S.I. 2 Dec (MN, JN), 2 at Cape Tormentine, NB 5 Dec (*fide* SIT), and 12 at Soldier's Cove, *Lunenburg*, NS through 6 Dec (Helen MacDonald).

## NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were very low in the Maritimes but amazingly high at the extreme n. edge of their range in w. Labrador. For example, 40+ per day could easily be found in suitable habitat throughout the period at Smokey Mt., Labrador City (GP). The only Carolina Wren was one at Saint John, NB throughout (*fide* JW). A House Wren was at Ferryland, NF until 18 Dec, while a Marsh Wren

found nearby 17 Dec (BMT et al.) was only the 7th for Newfoundland & Labrador. Only at St. Pierre et Miquelon did American Robin elicit comment: where there are usually none, 102 were on the Miquelon C.B.C. 3 Jan, 200 were near Mirande L. 5 Feb, and 100 were in St. Pierre 15-16 Feb (RE). After last winter's unprecedented flight, only a single Townsend's Solitaire was found, near Lameque, NB 18 Dec (Marianna Duguay). A Varied Thrush at a feeder in Penobsquis, NB 14-18 Dec died after hitting a window (Bob Secord; \*New Brunswick Museum), while one at a feeder in Renewes, NF was present late Dec–late Feb (Joe Hynes), the province's 5th. A Fieldfare at Cymbria, PEI 11 Jan+ (D&SE) was a first for the province and spent most of its time in plowed fields with starlings.

Gray Catbird was found in unprecedented numbers, probably thanks to *Wilma*, with 20+ in Nova Scotia, 5+ in New Brunswick, and even 2 on the St. Pierre C.B.C. 19 Dec. Groups of 2-3 birds were found in parts of Nova Scotia, where most likely wintered successfully. Brown Thrashers are not unusual at feeders in Nova Scotia and s. New Brunswick, but outlying singles were at Miscou I., NB 7 Jan (Frank Branch), Huntley, PEI 6 Jan (Theresa D'Armour), and Lumsden, NF (near Gander) through the period (m.ob.). Bohemian Waxwings were said to be uncommon and late in Newfoundland, with a few flocks in the hundreds (BMT). In s. New Brunswick and e. Prince Edward I., fair flocks (250-500) were found in late Dec, with the largest counts in Nova Scotia, such as 2000 at Canning 18 Feb (Merrit Gibson), 1800 at Granville Ferry 1 Jan (BMy), 1500+ on the Springvale C.B.C. 17 Dec, and many flocks of 500+ in the Annapolis Valley

in Feb. Cedar Waxwing was outnumbered by Bohemians about 25:1. A flock of 20 was at Miquelon 4 Jan (Laurent Jackman), and the largest flock reported was 55+ at Charlottetown, PEI 14 Jan (Ian Scott).

## WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

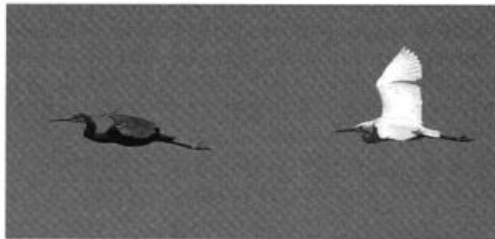
A male Black-throated Blue Warbler at St. Pierre through at least 4 Jan was unique in the Region (PB). Four Yellow-throated Warblers turned up in New Brunswick, with singles in Dec at Richibucto, at Taymouth (subspecies *dominica*), and at Moncton; another lasted 27 Nov–31 Jan at Fredericton (Ron Wilson), one at Middle Musquodobbitt, NS 13 Jan was observed feeding on flies (*vide* BMT), and another at St. Pierre 22 Jan (*vide* RE) was locally very rare. Pine Warbler continues to increase each winter, with many reports of single birds at feeders throughout the Region. The only Prairie Warbler of the period was at Biscay Bay, NF 3 Dec (PL). A Black-and-white Warbler lasted until 26 Dec at St. John's. An Ovenbird was found at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, NS 7 Jan (JH). An imm. Cape May Warbler in Halifax 1 Dec (Andy Horn, BMy), and a male at a feeder in Kentville, NS 13–20 Dec (David Webster) provided the first winter records from the province in about 15 years. New Brunswick's 2nd Townsend's Warbler was eventually killed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Gondola Pt. 9 Dec (*vide* JW). Two more made it into Dec in St. John's, one through 1 Dec and another 4 Dec (BMT), the latter being about the 13th for Newfoundland & Labrador. A Common Yellowthroat was at Mundy Pond, St. John's 12 Jan (BMT). There were several reports of Yellow-breasted Chat surviving into Feb in Nova Scotia, such as one 10 Feb at Lockport (DC) and one at Sullivan's Pond 19 Feb (Ann Morrison).

The female Western Tanager attending a feeder in Port Hawkesbury, NS was last reported 3 Jan (Weldon MacPhail). As usual, there were several reports (10+) of Eastern Towhee at feeders in the Maritimes. Clay-colored Sparrows at feeders included one at Canso, NS 21 Dec–9 Feb (TK) and another at St. John's, NF through 10 Feb (PL). The only Lark Sparrow wintered at a Murray River, PEI feeder (*vide* DO). A Grasshopper Sparrow was a good find at Cape Race, NF 3 Dec (BMT, John Wells, KK), and 2 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Saint's Rest Marsh, Saint John, NB 13 Dec probably attempted to winter (SIT). Careful examination in recent years has indicated that most White-crowned Sparrows found in the e. part of the Region in winter are of the *gambelli* subspecies. Four were found in Nova Scotia, while singles at St.

Pierre and at Ferryland, NF were the first confirmed reports of the subspecies in those jurisdictions. A few Lincoln's Sparrows sometimes turn up in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in winter, but one at Memramcook, NB 18–28 Feb (YL) and another in Labrador City in late Dec (GP) were of note. New Brunswick's 4th Golden-crowned Sparrow was present at a Memramcook, NB feeder 26 Dec+ (YL), while the 8th for Nova Scotia was at a Barrington feeder 2 Jan+ (MN). A Fox Sparrow successfully wintered at a feeder in Labrador City (GP). A total of 68 Dark-eyed Juncos on the St. Pierre C.B.C. 19 Dec was said to be a record for the islands (RE).

## CARDINALIDS THROUGH FINCHES

Northern Cardinal is resident in sw. Nova Scotia; 50+ were found in a day of birding in Yarmouth and Shelburne 13 Dec (MN), with as



Accompanying the Western Reef-Heron (left) at Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland through most of the summer and early autumn was a Little Egret; first noted 30 May 2006, it became inseparable from the reef-heron and was even observed in a mixed colony of Black-headed and Ring-billed Gulls, passing sticks with the reef-heron, as if nesting (no nest was observed). The Little Egret was last seen 20 September. Remarkably, another Little Egret had been seen in Newfoundland in late May, at Cape Freels. Photograph by Paul Linegar.

many as 10 at some feeders. In Lunenburg, small roaming flocks of 3–6 birds were encountered in late Jan (JH). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Jeddore, NS 8 Dec (Lucas Berrigan), at Shediac, NB 1 Dec (*vide* SIT), and at a feeder in Wabush, Labrador early Oct–19 Dec and apparently later (Sandy Slaney). A Black-headed Grosbeak at Clifton Royal, NB 28 Dec–9 Jan (Jean MacDonald) was about the 4th for the province. The only Blue Grosbeak reported was at Fredericton, NB 10 Dec (Peter Pearce). One Indigo Bunting report per winter seems to be the norm, with this season's bird present at a Yarmouth, NS feeder 18–25 Feb (Eric Ruff). An ad. female Painted Bunting found at Bridgewater, Lunenburg, NS 8–10 Feb (*vide* JH) provided only about the 13th provincial record. Eastern Meadowlarks were very scarce, at both Sackville (Nev Gerrity) and Marys Point, NB (David Christie) in the last week of Feb. There were 6 Dickcissels reported from Nova Scotia, including up to 3 at one Canso feeder, and 2 in Newfoundland. Balti-

more Orioles survived much longer than normal, all at feeders, but many more likely perished. Notable outside Nova Scotia were one at Moncton in the last week of Feb (BED) and another at Mayfield, PEI 26 Jan (Bill Evans)

Pine Grosbeak had a good winter, with the best count being 160 on the Wabush–Labrador City C.B.C. 19 Dec. The species numbers were called “normal” in Newfoundland but drew comments in sw. Nova Scotia, where it had not been reported for at least five years. Examples of flock sizes were 16 at Round Hill, Queens 13 Dec (Peter Hope) and 12 at Eel Lake, Yarmouth 18 Dec (MN). Purple Finch was common only in w. Newfoundland and sw. Nova Scotia. At C.S.I., heavy snow 16 Jan brought 60 to a feeder (GS), where they eventually built up to 87 birds by 20 Feb. Red Crossbill was uncommon at best, mostly at feeders, e.g., 5 at Port Blandford, NF 18 Feb (*vide* BMT), 6 near Buctouche, NB in late Dec (Roger LeBlanc), 9 at Barrington, NS 14 Jan (MN), and a “number” the same day in Lunenburg, NS (SF). White-winged Crossbill was common in Labrador, abundant in w. Newfoundland, and uncommon in e. Newfoundland and the rest of the Region. Common Redpoll had a peak winter as it does every other year, although really large flocks did not reach as far s. (to sw. Nova Scotia, for example) as during winter 2003–2004. Hoary Redpolls were few and far between, with the southernmost being 2 at Mader's Cove, Lunenburg, NS 22 Feb (JH). Pine Siskin was common only in w. Newfoundland and sw. Nova Scotia. Evening Grosbeak had its best winter in years but still not close to historical highs in the 1970s and 1980s; a flock of 33 at Montague, PEI 30 Dec (Gary Schneider) was called the “largest in a long time,” while 20 at Windsor, NS 18 Dec were labeled the “most in many years” (Angela Slaunwhite); some feeders in se. New Brunswick had up to 65 birds

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