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Again, the trend toward increasing temperatures continued in the province, with a departure from the mean varying from +1° C in almost all regions to near +2° C in the Ungava Peninsula. In the south, July was particularly warm and humid. Central Québec was dry, but it was wetter than normal in the extreme southwestern parts of the province and in the Ungava Bay region. Once more, rare gulls and terns continued to amaze the birding community, especially in June, among them a Ross's Gull and a Royal Tern. Out-of-range passerines were also well in evidence throughout June. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Louisiana Waterthrush were confirmed breeding for the first time in the Region.

Abbreviations: C.W.S. (Canadian Wildlife Service), M.I.C.S. (Mingan Island Cetacean Study).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

The so-called "resident" Canada Goose is now well established in s. Québec but not yet considered a nuisance. A local project conducted on a few islands in the Varennes/Repentigny area, e. of Montréal, has shown that from one in 1993, the number of nests has reached 230 this year (F. Saint-Pierre). Up to 7 ad. Gadwall with up to 42 young at Grande-Rivière in Jul were more than needed to confirm a first breeding record for the Gaspé Pen. (PP, G. Roy). Although not as common as they used to be in extreme s. Québec, Gray Partridges are still showing signs of expanding eastward, as evidenced by single pairs at Sainte-Luce 1-8 Jun (L. Lefebvre) and Rivière-Ouelle 18 Jun (L.

Coulombe). An ad. Wild Turkey accompanied by 4 chicks at Mirabel 15 Jul represented a noteworthy breeding record n. of the St. Lawrence R. (S. Auger).

Unusual mid-summer concentrations of Common Loons included 104 on Res. Baskatong 2 Jul (M. Tremblay) and 95 at Saint-Fulgence 14 Jul (C. Cormier, GS). Several hundred Northern Fulmars were sighted in the Jacques-Cartier Strait in Jun; the fulmars were aggregating in large groups of up to 50 individuals and were seen offshore as well as within the Mingan Archipelago (M.I.C.S. team). An American White Pelican continued at Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 1-4 & 23-25 Jun (*vide* OB), while another turned up in the Sorel Is. 26 Jun (AM. Galand et al.). Double-crested Cormorant continues to thrive in extreme s. Québec; six nests at Hull 9 Jun confirmed breeding on the Ottawa R. (B. Bracken, C. Lewis).

A Least Bittern at Saint-Fulgence 10-18 Jun represented only the 2nd report of the species for the Saguenay region (F. Gagnon et al.). Up to 4 Snowy Egrets spent the summer at Sainte-Catherine, near a mixed colony of Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Great Egrets on nearby Heron I. (PB, RB, m.ob.); another was found at nearby Maple Grove 21 Jul (SD, DD). Single Little Blue Herons were reported at LaSalle 1 Jun (J.C. Sorel et al.), Sherbrooke 5 Jun (JP. Pelletier), Sept-Îles 23 Jun (BP, G. Breton), and Bassin 22 Jun (DGG, N. & R. Lapensée). The latter bird or another was seen at La Martinique 26 Jul (DGG). Saint-Fulgence/LaBaie hosted an ad. Tricolored Heron 5-6 Jun (C. Cormier, GS). A concentration of 33 Turkey Vultures at Saint-Damase-de-l'Islet 15 Jul was an interesting total for this locality (JG. Chouinard). A juv. Bald Eagle at Dundee 21 Jul (SD, DD) was perched where 2 ads. and a nest had been located last spring (SD, PB). This is strongly suggestive of local breeding, an event unheard of since early colonial times in extreme s. Québec.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS

A Willet at Sept-Îles 10-11 Jun was the only one outside its limited breeding range in the Magdalen Is. (JFL, BD et al.). An Upland Sandpiper at Sept-Îles 31 May-2 Jun was out of range (BP, N. Chouinard et al.). Three Ruddy Turnstones at Pointe Yamachiche 19 Jun were possibly late migrants (JG, M. Bourassa). In view of the sharp decline of Red Knots in Atlantic coastal staging areas, their situation in Québec bears monitoring. In addition to James Bay, it seems that the Mingan Archipelago could represent one of the most important fall stopover sites for this species in

North America. This summer, groups of over 500 individuals were regularly encountered there, and a maximum of 1200 birds, all ads., was noted there 23 Jul during a C.W.S. survey (CB, YR, YA). A very early Baird's Sandpiper appeared at Rivière-Ouelle 11 Jul (JFR); an unseasonable Purple Sandpiper was at Île Nue (Mingan) 29 Jul (YA, BD, CC). Two female Ruffs stopped briefly at Bridgeville 9 Jul (DJ). A juv. Wilson's Phalarope at Paspébiac 24-28 Jul suggested local breeding (L. & P. Simard, m.ob.). An ad. female Red Phalarope at Beauport 27 Jul was a rare showing for this species (at least in fresh water) so early in the fall migration (M. Tardif).

At least 10 Laughing Gulls were reported, including 3 at Sainte-Catherine 13-23 Jun (RB, G. Zenaitis, PB), 3 at Gaspé 23 Jun-2 Jul (DJ et al.), 3 at La Malbaie/Saint-Irénée (AC), and finally one at Saint-Ulric 23 Jun (FR). Eight different Franklin's Gulls showed up Regionwide (*vide* PB). Little Gulls also attracted attention, with 6 (5 imm.) spending the summer at Sainte-Catherine (PB, m.ob.), 5-6 in the Gaspé Pen. in Jul (L. Simard et al.), 4 imm. at Rivière-Ouelle 3 Jun (CA, CG), up to 3 at Beauport 11 Jun (M. Raymond), 2 at Moisie 16 Jun (BD), and one at Pointe Yamachiche 8 Jul (JG). A Black-headed Gull turned up at Moisie 28 Jun (BD, CC, JFL), the only one recorded away from the Magdalen Is. A Bonaparte's Gull was sitting on a nest at Port-Cartier 26 Jun-15 Jul (M. Couette, L. Dubé, m.ob.), which appears to be one of the easternmost nests ever found in the Region. An ad. Mew Gull of the nominate subspecies was discovered at La Malbaie/Pointe-au-Pic 4 Jun (JL et al.), while an ad. California Gull was well described at nearby Saint-Irénée 5 Jun (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur). The maximum number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the Charlevoix coast reached 16 at Saint-Irénée and 2 at nearby La Malbaie 30 Jun (AC). A Black-legged Kittiwake was unusual at Sainte-Catherine 3 Jun (M. Dennis). A first-summer Ross's Gull at Moisie 23 & 28 Jun was probably one of the 2 that appeared there in late May (BD, CC, JFL, ph.).

A pair of Black Terns was confirmed nesting at Tourville 16 Jun, apparently our easternmost Regional breeding record (CA, CG). An Arctic Tern at Sainte-Catherine 16 Jun (M. Bertrand et al.) and 3 Jul (PB, JPT, ph.) represented a very rare summer record for extreme s. Québec. A large tern at Sainte-Catherine 26 Jun (JPT, J. Luce), first thought to be a Caspian Tern, was identified as a Royal Tern from JPT's photographs (PB), representing the first fully documented occurrence in the Region. Two imm. Long-tailed Jaegers were spotted at Île Nue 8 Jul (CB, YR), and one subad. was at

the same site 17 Jul (YA, SP). A few birds were also seen by the M.I.C.S. team. Although not reported every year, this species appears to be regular in summer in this location.

Late Snowy Owls were in singles at Baies-des-Sables 17-18 Jun (S. Verreault, Y. Emond, M. Leblanc) and at Tourelle, Gaspé Pen. 8 Jun (M. Castilloux), while one summered at Havre-aux-Basques 22 Jun+ (F. Shaffer, *vide* DGG). Solitary Great Gray Owls were glimpsed at Sainte-Flavie 15 Jul (S. Brodeur) and Île Verte 26 Jul (B. Fortin); such sightings are surprisingly regular in the Lower St. Lawrence in recent summers. Five ad. and 51 juv. Long-eared Owls were detected this summer in the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean region; they were readily detectable in the 2nd half of Jul by the plaintive begging cries of the youngsters (*vide* B. Dumont).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

The season's only Red-headed Woodpecker was at Adstock 22-23 Jun (D. McCutcheon). A much-anticipated first breeding record of Red-bellied Woodpecker for the Region was documented at Châteauguay 29 Jun, where a juv. was accompanied by a male (PB). A single Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Lévis 24 Jul (C. Deschenes). Adding to a handful number of Regional records, experienced observers reported single Acadian Flycatchers at Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm 23 Jun (R. Piché, S. Bonin) and Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge 14 Jul (JG. Papineau). The North Shore region was superbly adorned with vagrant *Tyrannus*, starting with a Western Kingbird at Forestville 15 Jun (R. Gilbert, A. Gosselin), followed by a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Sept-Îles 24 Jun (A. Marcoux), and finally by a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Port-Menier, *Anticosti I.* 17 Jul (D. Ward and independently R. Poulin, C. Germain). Interestingly, it represented the 3rd occurrence of the latter species at Port-Menier since 1988.

Ad. Loggerhead Shrikes that bred in captivity this summer were released, along with their offspring, in the latter part of summer at Breckenridge, for a total of 18 released birds (*vide* G. Desjardins). A total of 11 Warbling Vireos in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region in Jun was unprecedented for that area (*vide* GS). A Carolina Wren at Rimouski 30 Jun (GG et al.) was the first summer record and only the 4th overall for the Lower St. Lawrence. A singing Sedge Wren recorded at Mont-Brun 7-9 Jul was only the 2nd ever for the Abitibi region (SG et al.).

Targeted studies on Bicknell's Thrush in the mts. of the North Shore this summer revealed an individual in the Manic-5 area and 5 in the



This Royal Tern was photographed at Sainte-Catherine 26 June 2006, providing the first fully documented occurrence in Québec. Most Royal Terns seen in Canada are along the Atlantic coast, so it was quite unexpected to find the province's first bird so far inland near Montréal (and without hurricane "assistance"). Photograph by J. P. Tousignant.

Port-Cartier-Sept-Îles wildlife reserve, adding to what little previous knowledge there is about the n. range limits of this species (YA, SP, JFR, S. Belleau). An American Robin in the rocky tundra n. of the 62nd parallel at Salluit, Ungava Pen. 6-7 Jun was well n. of its range and habitat (GC). Two Bohemian Waxwings were at René-Levasseur I., e. of their poorly known breeding range 11 Jun (SB, YA).

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

An Orange-crowned Warbler at Kuujuaq 8 Jun was well n. of its range (GC). A male Prothonotary Warbler was heard singing and subsequently seen at Mont-Brun 4 Jun, a first record for Abitibi (SG). A Louisiana Waterthrush pair successfully raised 4 young in Gatineau Park in Jun, a first confirmed breeding record for the Region (FR, C. Savignac). A singing Connecticut Warbler in prime habitat n. of Forestville 1 Jul was markedly e. of its range (J. Piuze). The Yellow-breasted Chat at Neuville continued through at least 12 Jun (*vide* JL).

A juv. with 2 ad. Clay-colored Sparrows at Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm 14 Jul confirmed nesting for this locality (DJ. Léandri-Breton), while a single bird was far n. and e. of its range at the Daniel-Johnson hydroelectric dam in Jun (YA, JFR). A singing Henslow's Sparrow near Huntingdon 2-27 Jun furnished the first local record since 1989 (A. Quenneville, L. Goneau et al.). A Dark-eyed Junco at Salluit, Ungava Pen. 7 Jun was well n. of its range (GC), as was an Indigo Bunting at Sept-Îles 1 Jul (JFL).

Rarely straying from the St. Lawrence lowlands, an Eastern Meadowlark at Baie-Comeau 26 Jun was noteworthy (Y. Rouil-

lard). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird frequented feeders at Rimouski 1-3 Jun (RS). In response to a phenomenal cone crops of spruce and fir throughout the Region, White-winged Crossbills were encountered virtually everywhere in the boreal forest in the e. half of the province, starting in early Jul.

Addendum: A partial survey made by the C.W.S. in Lac Saint-François N.W.R. between 25 May and 28 Jun 2005 established the presence of 61 singing male Sedge Wrens (D. & G. Gervais, B. Jobin et al.).

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