



Bruce Mactavish

Weather across the Region was relatively normal in autumn 2006, with prevailing southwesterly winds and little effect from hurricanes, in contrast to 2005. Vagrants came from a variety of bird groups and compass points: Newfoundland had Eurasian Oystercatcher, Slaty-backed Gull, Redwing, and Least Tern; Nova Scotia had Townsend's Warbler and Painted Bunting. White-tailed Tropicbird was added to the Newfoundland list, and Red-billed Tropicbird was added to the Nova Scotia list. The unprecedented appearance of 21 Northern Wheatears and four Common Ringed Plovers may have been linked to the same weather event. Reporting was good from Nova Scotia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, and Newfoundland but sparse from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Abbreviations: C.B.I. (Cape Breton I., NS); C.S.I. (Cape Sable I., NS).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Five hundred Greater Shearwaters s. of St. Pierre, SPM 28 Oct (Thierry Vogenstahl) is getting late for a concentration of this size, although the species is said by fishermen to be present in considerable numbers on the s. Grand Banks of Newfoundland well into Dec (*vide* BMt). A freshly dead ad. **White-tailed Tropicbird** was found on a lawn in St. John's, NL 14 Sep, the day after the remnants of fast-moving Hurricane *Florence* crossed se. Newfoundland (KK). Two different imm. **Red-billed Tropicbirds** (carcasses) were found on Sable I., NS in Jul 2006, furnishing the first records of the species for Nova Scotia (ZL). An **American White Pelican** observed from a fishing boat 3 km offshore from Canso, NS in

SA Completely unprecedented in the Region (and in e. North America s. of Baffin I.) was an influx of 4 **Common Ringed Plovers** to the Avalon Pen. of Newfoundland. There were single ads. at Trepassey 20-29 Aug (DB et al.), Bear Cove 29 Aug (KK et al.), and St. Shotts 16-17 Sep (DB et al.), plus one juv. at St. Shotts 17 Sep (DB, JCI, PL). All records were substantiated with photographs. It is possible the same weather pattern that brought a significant wave of Northern Wheatears to the Region could have also been responsible for the displacement of plovers. There were two previous records of Common Ringed Plover in the Newfoundland, both ads. in the latter half of Aug in 1980 and 2001.

mid-Aug may have been the individual wandering about the Region in summer (Mike Geddes).

Incomplete totals of Great Egrets for the Region were 16 in Nova Scotia and 2 each in St. Pierre et Miquelon and Newfoundland, with a concentration of birds mid-Oct-mid-Nov. Snowy Egrets were either under-reported or scarce, with singles in Nova Scotia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, and Newfoundland. Nova Scotia had 2 Little Blue Herons in Aug and 3 Cattle Egrets in Nov. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was a rarity at St. Pierre, SPM (PA). The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported was in Newfoundland at St. Lawrence, Burin Pen. 5 Aug (Norm & Gail Wilson). The largest fall concentrations of Turkey Vulture in the Region are typically at Brier I., NS, where this fall there were 14 on 27 Aug and 20 on 31 Oct (EM).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The lone Tundra Swan overwintering at Cape Freels, NL for the 2nd consecutive summer was present through at least mid-Sep (Kevin Butler). Three Wood Ducks were well n. of the known breeding range at Labrador City, NL 4 Aug (GP). Eleven Eurasian Wigeons were reported at eight locations in Nova Scotia, while 12 were reported in one location at St. John's, NL. The only Tufted Ducks in the Region were the 11 that arrived to winter in the St. John's parks, beginning with the first 2 on 19 Oct (BMT). A flock of 4 Hooded Mergansers at Burgeo in late Aug may have represented the 2nd breeding record for Newfoundland (JCI et al.). There was a moderate flight of Ruddy Ducks into the Region in late Oct-Nov, with up to 27 at Bissett L., Halifax, NS (*vide* AM) and 2 in St. John's, NL (BMT et al.). At least one of the 6 Cooper's Hawks reported in Nova Scotia was well photographed (*vide* UH). A spectacular migration of Broad-winged Hawk was noted at Brier I., NS, with highest counts be-

ing 500 on 28 Sep and 1000 on 1 Oct (EM). An imm. **Purple Gallinule** was photographed 11-12 Oct at St. Pierre, SPM (PB). Single Sandhill Cranes in Nova Scotia were at Windsor Forks, Hants 17 Oct and Hebbville, Lunenburg, (date unknown) (both *vide* UH).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A nonbirder photographed an unfamiliar bird in St. John's cove on 5 Aug; photographs shown to the birding community a month later revealed Newfoundland's and North America's 3rd record of **Eurasian Oystercatcher** (*vide* BMT). The previous records were Tors Cove, Avalon Pen. 22-25 May 1994 and Eastport, Bonavista Pen. 4 Apr-2 May 1999. Eleven American Oystercatchers were at C.S.I., NS 31 Aug (JN, MN). The only report of an American Avocet was at Cole Harbour, NS 6-8 Oct (Sterling Levy). Record-high numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were noted e. of the main migration route through the Bay of Fundy and w. Nova Scotia: Miquelon, SPM had a record count of 14 on 1 Oct (RE, LJ), while Newfoundland had high single location counts of 10 at Eddies Cove East 10 Sep (JG) and 6 at St. Shotts 3 Oct (BMT). A **Marbled Godwit** at Grand Barachois, SPM 10-12 Oct



The neckband on this Greater Snow Goose photographed 10 November 2006 at Clam Harbor, Nova Scotia indicates that it was banded 9 August 2005 as an adult female on Bylot Island, off northern Baffin Island, Nunavut. Photograph by Lucas Berrigan.

furnished the 2nd record for St. Pierre et Miquelon (LJ, RE). Single Western Sandpipers were at Morien Bar, C.B.I., NS 11 Sep (SM) and The Hawk, C.S.I., NS 14 Oct (FL).



Juvenile Curlew Sandpipers are far less numerous than adults in North America. This juvenile present at Long Beach, near Cape Race, Newfoundland 7-21 (here 15) October 2006 gave observers plenty of time to catch up with this less-than-annual provincial rarity. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

It was a fairly good fall for Baird's Sandpipers, with at least 17 reported in Nova Scotia and a half-dozen in Newfoundland, including a late one 5 Nov at St. Shotts (KK et al.). A juv. Curlew Sandpiper was at Long Beach near Cape Race, NL 7-21 Oct (Bmt et al.). Two Stilt Sandpipers at St. Paul's Inlet, NL 24 Aug (JCI et al.) and one at Renew's, NL 9 Sep (DB et al.) were above the annual quota for Newfoundland. It was a very good year for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, including high counts of 15 at the Sydney, C.B.I., NS airport 27 Aug (CM et al.), 21 at Cape Sable I., NS 31 Aug (JN et al.), 16 at Cape Bonavista, NL 6 Sep (JJ), and 9 at St. Shotts, NL (Bmt et al.). There were 2 Ruffs at Cape Sable, C.S.I., NS 25 Sep (BS, SS) and a single at St. Paul's Inlet, NL 24 Aug (JCI et al.). Single Long-billed Dowitchers were in Nova Scotia at Cape Light, C.S.I. 30 Aug (JCz et al.), Bon Portage I. 2 Sep (JCz et al.), Seal I. 6 Oct (IM, EM), and Cape Sable I. 25 Oct-3 Nov (MN et al.). There were early high counts of 5000 Red-necked and 500 Red Phalaropes off Brier I., NS 9 Aug (BMy).

While both South Polar and Great Skua are routine in offshore waters in the Region, few birders get there, making near-land observations of these species rather exciting. Single South Polar Skuas were at Brier I., NS 27 Aug (JS) and 30 Sep (IM et al.), and at least 2 Great Skuas were noted off Cape Race, NL in Oct (Bmt). Long-tailed Jaeger is by the far the least numerous of the three species of

jaeger observed from land in the Region, but, like the skuas, is not rare in offshore areas rarely visited by birders. A group of 10 imm. Long-tailed Jaegers at West Spit, Sable I. 10 Aug was probably comprised of first-summer birds, which are known to occur regularly in adjacent Newfoundland waters in Jul-Aug (ZL). Laughing Gulls returned to near-normal numbers after an unprecedented summer influx, with about 7 reported Regionwide. The only Little Gull reported was at

Ballantynes Cove, Antigonish, NS 18 Nov (EM, IM). The first of 4 Common Gulls in St. John's, NL during the period was an ad. 12 Oct (Bmt). Yellow-legged Gulls continue a slow increase in Newfoundland, with the first Aug record, an ad. well photographed at Portugal Cove South 6 Aug (DB, JCI), and single ads. found in St. John's 30 Sep and 8 Oct

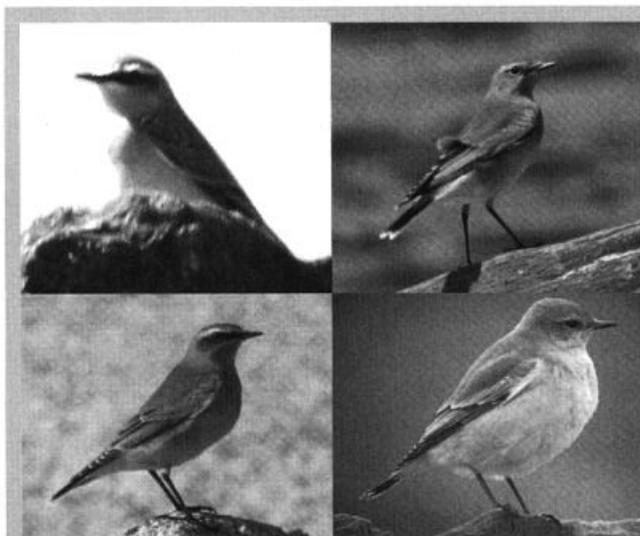
(Bmt, JCI); the latter 2 remained to winter at the St. John's landfill. An ad. Slaty-backed Gull found at the St. John's landfill 26 Nov remained for the winter (Bmt, JCI). It was the 4th of its species observed at this site since Jan 2006!

A Sandwich Tern was seen at Sable I., NS 12 Jun (ZL). Forster's Terns were found at Port Morien, C.B.I., NS 28 Oct (one) and at Biscay Bay, NL 2-4 Nov (2; DS et al.). Hurricane Florence was apparently responsible for Newfoundland's 2nd Least Tern, a single bird at St. Shotts 16 Sep (JWe, JCI, KK). The only report of the now-rare Black Tern was of 2 imm. at Sable I., NS 23-31 Aug (ZL).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Nova Scotia's 36th through 39th White-winged Doves were feeder birds at Advocate, Cumberland 9-11 (Jane Mills), Argyle Head, Yarmouth 15 Nov (Sandy Hiltz), and Canso 23-26 Nov (TK). It was an average fall for Yellow-billed Cuckoos, with minimum totals of 5 in Newfoundland and 20 in Nova Scotia. Record-late and critically identified Nova Scotia Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Spryfield, Halifax 16-20 Nov (FL) and at different feeders at Ballantynes Cove, Antigonish 9 Nov-4 Dec and 13 Nov-1 Dec (m.ob., *fide* IM). An imm. male Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird attended Jim Wilson's Quispamsis, NB feeder 1-4 Oct. Typical autumn totals of the s woodpeckers for Nova Scotia were 2 Red-headed and 9 Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

A wood-pewee giving calls that resembled the song of Western Wood-Pewee was observed near Cape Spear, NL 9 Oct (KK). A late Least Flycatcher was at St. John's, NL 31 Oct (JWe et al.). Five of the 8 Western Kingbirds reported Regionwide occurred in Nov. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found freshly dead under a staircase at Milton, Queens, NS on the late date of 23 Nov (*fide* HT). Single White-eyed Vireos were at Hartlen Pt., Halifax, NS 8 Oct (FL et al.) and 30 Nov (TP), and single Yellow-throated Vireos were at Jeddore, NS 13 Oct (*fide* HT) and Hartlen Pt., NS 24 Oct (AH). A very late Warbling Vireo was at Canso, NS 25 Nov (m.ob.). Single Marsh Wrens in Newfoundland, where less than annual, were at St. John's 6-15 Nov (AH et al.) and Renew's 12-25 Nov (TB et al.). Four Caroli-



Twelve Northern Wheatears were found in Nova Scotia in autumn 2006, among them birds: at Beach Meadows 1 September (top left); at Argyle Sound 10 September (top right); at Pennant Peninsula 21 September (bottom left); and at Grand Pré 23 October. The last bird was much more washed out than the other (strongly peach-toned) birds, raising the possibility that it was of the nominate subspecies from extreme northwestern Canada or Alaska. Photographs by Wayne Forsythe, Garvin Swim, Hans Toom, and Lucas DeCicca, respectively.

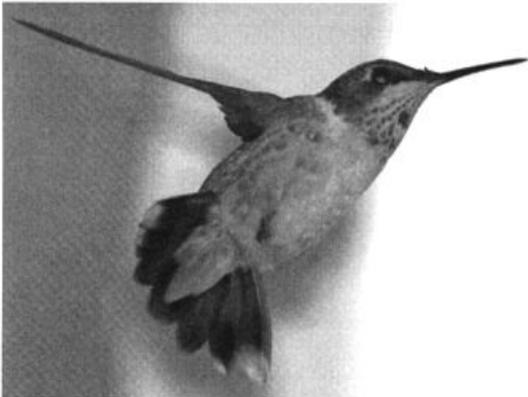
SA A record high total of 21 Northern Wheatears was tallied Regionwide s. of the breeding range: 3 in New Brunswick, 11 in Nova Scotia, and 7 in Newfoundland, 6 Aug-4 Nov, the majority turning up in Sep. Strong northerly winds during much of Aug over the nw. Atlantic may have been responsible for a displacement of Northern Wheatears migrating from Labrador and the e. Canadian Arctic to Europe. The influx of Common Ringed Plovers in Newfoundland may have been part of the same displacement phenomenon.



The adult Slaty-backed Gull found at the landfill in St. John's, Newfoundland on 26 November 2006 was the fourth individual of the species to occur at this location in 2006. There were no prior records for the province. This bird remained for the winter. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

na Wrens in Nova Scotia was about average for the season.

Twelve Eastern Bluebirds at Seal I., NS 31 Oct was an excellent total during migration



A hatch-year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird lingering into November 2006 at Ballantyne Cove, Nova Scotia (here 13 November) provided useful insights into identification of such laggard fall hummers. Photograph by Bruce Stevens.

(EM et al.). A Redwing in St. John's, NL 25 Nov provided about the 10th provincial record and the beginning of an influx into Newfoundland (BMT, JCI et al.). A light flight of Bohemian Waxwings was noted across the Region starting in late Oct.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Nova Scotia as usual had the lion's share of vagrant warblers, including all of the Region's Blue-winged Warblers: at Pubnico 10 Sep (JN), at Hartlen Pt. 17-19 Sep (TP, FL), and at Forbes Pt., Yarmouth 2 Oct (Carolyn Matkovich). Single Golden-winged Warblers were found at Cape Spear, NL 24 Sep (PL, JCI) and at Mobil, NL 11 Nov (Gene Herzberg), the latter record late for Newfoundland. Yellow-throated Warblers were at Cape Race, NL 30 Sep (JWe, KK), Miquelon, SPM 12 Nov (MB), Duncan's Cove, NS 14 Oct (DC, AV), Bible Hill, NS 1-6 Nov (*fide*

KM), and Lower Rose Bay, NS 21 Nov (*fide* JH). Pine Warbler tallies included a respectable 14 in Nova Scotia, all in Nov (*fide* Ken McKenna), and single males in Newfoundland at St. Shotts 5 Nov and Cappahayden 6 Nov (MP). Prairie Warbler totals came in at about 20 in Nova Scotia and 9 in Newfoundland, both average. A Cerulean Warblers at Daniel's Head, C.S.I., NS 15 Oct (MN) was the only one reported. A Prothonotary Warbler was banded at Bon Portage I., NS 16 Aug (Mike Peckford); the only other one reported came from Port Mouton, NS 25 Sep (*fide* KM). A female Hooded Warbler was photographed at C.S.I., NS 21 Sep (Garvin Swim). Twenty-one Yellow-breasted Chats were tallied in Nova Scotia, all but 2 in Oct/Nov (*fide* KM); singles made it to Newfoundland and St. Pierre et Miquelon. Four Connecticut Warblers were found: at C.S.I., NS 2 Sep (JN et al.); at Tiddville, NS 1 Oct (FL); at Grand Manan I., NB 17 Sep (ph. Merv Cormier); and at Lorneville, NB 19 Sep (ST). Western rarities included an Audubon's Warbler at Summerville Beach, Queens, NS 26 Nov (EM) and a Townsend's Warbler at Spryfield, NS 16-19 (FL et al.).

A late Summer Tanager appeared at St. George, NB feeder 15 Nov and remained into Dec (*fide* JWi). Single Western Tanagers were at Newcombe, Lunenburg, NS 28 Nov (*fide* JAH) and Irish Cove, NS 25-30 Nov (Barbara Cash). There were 6 Clay-colored Sparrows in Nova Scotia 1 Oct-7 Nov (*fide* DM). In was an average fall for Lark Sparrow, with 2 in Newfoundland and 8 in Nova Scotia. Vagrant Grasshopper Sparrows in Newfoundland were singles at Cappahayden 11 Nov (BMT) and Cape Race 18 Nov (JWe). Surprisingly, there were no Blue Grosbeaks reported in Nova Scotia, but there was one near Cape Race, NL 30 Sep (JWe). Making up for the lack, a male Painted Bunting was photographed at a feeder at Grand Étang, C.B.I. 25 Nov-Dec (Melissa Welsh et al.). Dickcissel is often taken for granted in autumn, and the species is thus probably under-reported; however, totals of 12 in Newfoundland, 6 in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 15 in Nova Scotia indicate an above-average fall flight. A meadowlark, presumably an



Aside from its crossed bill, this Northern Flicker in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (here 3 November 2006) appeared to be otherwise healthy and normal. Photograph by Bernard Burke.

Eastern, was a rarity at Cape Race, NL 21 Oct (BMT et al.). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Cherry Hill Beach, NS 27 Aug (*fide* DM) and Seal I., NS 27 Aug (BMy). The finch world was lackluster, with no significant numbers of any species reported.



This Redwing, about the tenth for Newfoundland, joined a flock of American Robins in a St. John's suburb on 25 November 2006 (here)—the first in an unprecedented flurry of sightings of the species in the St. John's area during December and January. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Pascal Asselin, Todd Boland, Michel Borota, Dave Brown, Jared Clarke, David Currie, Joan Czapalay, Roger Etcheberry, John Gibbons, James Hirtle, Andy Horn, Anne Hughes, Ulli Höger, Laurent Jackman, Jon Joy, Tom Kavanaugh, Ken Knowles, Fulton Lavender, Lance Laviolette, Paul Linegar, Zoe Lucas, Angus Maclean, Bruce Mactavish (BMT), Blake Maybank (BMy), David McCorquodale, Ken McKenna, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Cathy Murrant, Susan Myers, Johnnie Nickerson, Terry Pacquet, Mike Parmenter, Gordon Parsons, Murray Newell, Dave Shepherd, Betty June Smith, Sid Smith, Jane Swift, Stuart Tingley, Hans Toom, Azor Vienneau, John Wells, Jim Wilson. 🐦

Bruce Mactavish, 37 Waterford Bridge Road
St. John's, Newfoundland A1E 1C5
(bruce.mactavish1@nf.sympatico.ca)