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Temperatures for autumn 2006 were near normal in the south but 2° C above normal in the northern half of the province. Southern Québec had precipitation amounts greater than 40% above normal. In the south, November turned out very mild, allowing many birds to linger late in the province, among them 12 species of warblers. Song Thrush and Gray Kingbird were new for the Region, bringing to four the number of new species documented in 2006 in the province.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Pink-footed Goose at Penouille 20-30 Oct provided a first record for the Gaspé Pen. and our 10th Regional record (S. Marchand, m.ob., ph.). Single Barnacle Geese stopped at Laval 16 Oct (GLa) and at Métabetchouan 17-19 Oct (M. Tremblay, D. Gervais et al.). Two Trumpeter Swans were photographed at L. Duparquet (Abitibi) 8-15 Oct, furnishing the 8th Regional record since 1990 (J. Lecours, fide D. Lepage). Again this fall, a male Bufflehead × Common Goldeneye hybrid was reported at Laval 6-30 Nov+, presumably the same bird seen annually since 1999 (GLa). Seven Wild Turkeys at Saint-Barthélemy 27 Nov were apparently part of a larger flock released by local farmers (R. Houde).

An imm. Pacific Loon was an exciting find at Gascons 17-18 Sep (D. Mercier, JR. Lepage et al.). Two Greater Shearwaters were a rare occurrence at Métis 30 Sep (GG, DR). Two Manx Shearwaters in fresh water at Saint-Valier 20 Aug provided a 3rd record for the Québec City region (C. Vachon, D. Boutin, JL); singles were also detected from the Matane-Godbout ferry 7 Oct (GG, DR) and

at Cap-des-Rosiers 29 Oct, the latter tying the record-late date for the Region (DJ, E. Asselin). Single imm. Northern Gannets strayed westward to Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 5 Nov (N. Frappier), Victoriaville 11 Nov (M. Grégoire), and Montréal 30 Nov (PB). An unidentified male frigatebird at Pabos Mills 22 Oct (J. Blais) and Chandler 3 Nov (D. Lavoie) caused some excitement in the Gaspé Pen.

A Great Egret at Chambly 24 Nov was record late (MB, MM). Two Snowy Egrets continued at Sainte-Catherine until at least 14 Aug (PB); another showed up at Pointe Yamachiche 18 Aug–10 Sep (J. Gélinas, m.ob.). A Little Blue Heron at l'Anseau-Griffon 9 Aug was found dead the next day (B. Chouinard, fide DJ). Single Cattle Egrets were found at Beauharnois 9-13 Aug (M. Ouellet, R. Guillet et al.), Mercier 21 Oct (fide J. Laplante), and in the Magdalen Is. 11-30 Nov (DGG et al.). Single Glossy Ibis paused at Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley 16 Sep (B. Turgeon et al.) and at Lévis 3 Oct (PA. Gagnon). Two other ibis could only be identified as White-faced/Glossy: one at Cap-Tourmente 7 Oct (DO, D. Paquette) and one at Victoriaville 15 Oct (JL, DB).

A Black Vulture visited Cap-des-Rosiers 26 Sep (JP. Salin, fide S. Brodeur). Numbers of Bald Eagles at the Tadoussac hawkwatch reached 187 this fall, a new high (SBe, SD). Swainson's Hawks have been increasingly reported in the Region in recent years; this fall, a subad.

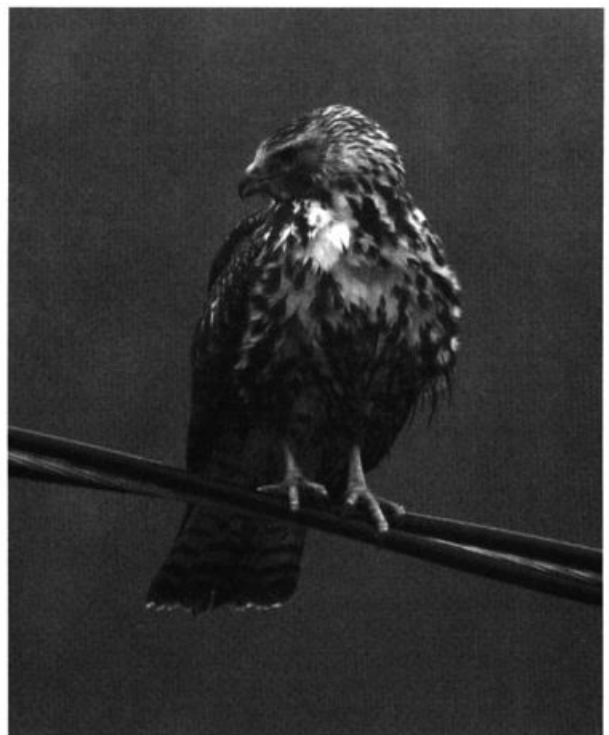
light morph was observed migrating over Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 10 Sep (BB), and a juv. dark morph was photographed and seen by many at Longue-Rive 19-23 Oct (SD, SBe et al.). Other observers had apparently noticed the latter bird 8 Oct (J. Tremblay et al.). Single *calurus* Red-tailed Hawks were documented at La Baie 10 & 25 Sep (M. Tremblay, S. Tremblay, H. Simard, GS, ph.) and at Gatineau 24 Nov, where presumably the same individual was back again for the 4th winter (A. Cloutier et al.).

CRANES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Sandhill Cranes reached an all time high of 4308 at their Palmarolle staging area 20 Sep

(SG). A Willet appeared at Bonaventure 1-5 Sep (AC, YC). A juv. Western Sandpiper was photographed by visiting French birders at New Carlisle 5 Sep (A. Larousse, JP. Jordan et al.). Peaks of 315 Whimbrels, 75 Hudsonian Godwits, 920 Red Knots, and 12,000 White-rumped Sandpipers in early Aug were notable for the Mingan Archipelago (YA, YR, CB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a strong appearance throughout the Region, with a peak of 17 at Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse 9 Sep, possibly a record high for a single locality in the Region (JL, m.ob.). A Wilson's Phalarope was late at Sainte-Luce 16 Oct (YC, AC).

A late first-winter Laughing Gull was spot-



This dark-morph juvenile Swainson's Hawk was present at Longue-Rive 19 (here) through 23 October 2006—the fourth record in Québec in two years and the first individual to be observed for more than one day. Photograph by Samuel Denault.

ted at Lévis 19 Nov (G. Lemelin). Métabetchouan hosted a juv. Little Gull 6 Sep (SBo), while an ad. was late at Chambly 24 Nov–2 Dec (PB, m.ob.). Single Black-headed Gulls at Rivière Saint-Jean 26 Oct (CB), Sept-Îles 18 Nov (BD), and Tadoussac 15 Nov (R. Pintiaux) were noteworthy. An ad. Mew Gull was well documented at Portneuf-sur-mer 16 Nov (SD), while another stopped at Sept-Îles 25 Nov (BD). A juv. Sabine Gull at Lévis 1 Oct was apparently the only one for this season (JL, DB), while an Ivory Gull was a highlight at Sept-Îles 18-21 Nov (BD, CC et al.).

A White-winged Dove accompanying Mourning Doves made a brief stop at a Saint-Anne-de-Beaupré feeder 17 Nov (C. Tremblay,

SA While Northern Wheatears are reported nearly annually in fall in the e. half of the Region, this autumn's incursion late Aug–mid-Sep (Table 1), involving several ad. males, was much more substantial than most years and mirrors the spate of records elsewhere in coastal locations of e. Canada and New England in that same short time frame.

Table 1. Reports of Northern Wheatears in Québec, fall 2006.

Date	Number and Location	Observer(s)
29 Aug	1, Pointe-au-Père	D. Levaire
31 Aug	1, Sept-Îles	C. Bordage, C. Bordage
2 Sep	2, Baie-Trinité	J.F. Laporte, B. Duchesne
6-7 Sep	1, Beauport	J. Beaudoin
10-11 Sep	1, Gaspé	E. Asselin, D. Jalbert
14-16 Sep	1, Métabetchouan	D. Gervais, M. Tremblay et al.
16 Sep	1, Québec City	C. Nadeau
4 Oct	1, Québec City	L. Messely

M. Lagacé, *vide* GLo). Five Yellow-billed Cuckoos were discovered 16-30 Sep, and late birds were located at Pointe-des-Monts 7 Oct (BG) and Port-Saint-François 27 Oct (R. Barbeau, J. Brunelle). A Snowy Owl at Saint-Hyacinthe 5 Aug+ (JSG), and one found dead at Laval 29 Aug (*vide* JSG), provided interesting summer records for s. Québec. A summering Great Gray Owl was at Bic P.P. 29 Aug (D. Ruest, J.P. Saint-Cyr). A Whip-poor-will at Forestville 13 Oct bested by five days the record-late date from 1944 (R. Gilbert). An unidentified hummingbird was at La Baie on the late date of 26 Nov (S. Charest).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Single imm. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Québec City 24 Aug (MR), Pointe-des-Monts 14 Oct (BG), and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 17 Oct (BB). The local Red-bellied Woodpecker pair in Châteauguay was still present 16 Aug+ (PB), whereas wandering individuals were noted at feeders in the Magdalen Is. 16 Oct (C. Cyr) and at Sainte-Hedwige 7-29 Nov (A. Girard, I. Martel et al.), the latter representing only the 2nd record for the Saguenay–Lac-St-Jean region.

Intriguing for the date, an unidentified *Myiarchus* flycatcher was glimpsed at Cap-Tourmente 5 Oct (RD, FD). A long-staying imm. Gray Kingbird contrasted with the landscape of L'Anse-à-Beaufils, Gaspé Pen. 5-30 Nov, a Regional first, adding to only a handful of records from e. Canada (J. Wiseman, m.ob., ph.). An imm. White-eyed Vireo at Métabetchouan 2 Oct was a first for the Saguenay–Lac-St-Jean region (SBo). A record-

late Philadelphia Vireo lingered at Beauport 16-17 Nov (JMG, ph.). A Black-billed Magpie seen in a forested region n. of Authier-Nord, Abitibi 18 Oct seemed likely to be a genuine stray from the west (vt. B. Gagnon); many historical records in the Region, however, may pertain to released or escaped birds.

East of their slowly contracting range, late Purple Martins were noted singly at La Pocatière 15 Oct (C. Auchu) and Rivière-Hatée 16 Oct (RS-L). A tardy Tree Swallow lingered at Sainte-Catherine 19 Nov (P. Otis). A White-breasted Nuthatch at Pointe-des-Monts 16 Sep was well n. of its range (R. Gilbert). An extraordinary concentration of 100 House Wrens at Ruau I. of the Montmagny Archipelago 19 Aug was especially surprising, as this location is near the e. limits of its range, out of which it seldom strays (A. Desrochers, P. Lamothe et al., *vide* YA); a single bird at Tadoussac 2 Oct was unusual (SD). Ten Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported this fall in the Region, the tardiest at Chandler 11 Nov (R. Garrett, M. Garant).

The season's only Townsend's Solitaire was noted at Saint-Adalbert 11 Nov (J.G. Chouinard, J. Dussault). The skulking Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported more widely than usual during its short stopover through the inhabited regions of the province, peaking in the night of 26-27 Sep at Québec City, with a conservative estimate of 2015 individuals identified by flight call (OB). A hardy Gray-cheeked Thrush at Boischatel 18-20 Nov (JMG, OB, ph.) was record late.

MIMIDS THROUGH SISKINS

This fall's bumper crop of Mountain Ash across the Region surely aided in retaining a high count of 5 Northern Mockingbirds at Sept-Îles 11 Nov, well n. of their typical range (JFL et al.). An unfortunate Magnolia Warbler hopping in the tundra near Kangiqsujuaq, Nunavik 11 Sep had chosen an unusual migration stopover site (F. Rousseu). An ad. female Black-throated Gray Warbler

delighted many at Île Sainte-Hélène (Montréal) 4 Nov+ (D. Demers, DO, m.ob., ph.), only the 4th documented Regional record and 2nd in as many years. Single Yellow-throated Warblers were seen at feeders in Lachenaie 6 Nov (JP. Hameury) and Saint-Urbain, Charlevoix 24-30 Nov (C. Pinel). A female Prairie Warbler was found at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 24 Sep (M. Larrivée). The flurry of birders chasing the Île Sainte-Hélène Black-throated Gray Warbler led to the discovery of a Worm-eating Warbler only a few hundred m from the Black-throated Gray 7-10 Nov (A. Quenneville, m.ob., ph.), providing the 3rd Regional fall record for this species, which is most often found in spring. An imm. Connecticut Warbler was intercepted in migration at Neuville on the early date of 13 Aug (FD, RD). An ad. female Hooded Warbler at Québec City 4-6 Nov provided another rare fall record (just the 3rd in autumn ever) of a species normally seen in spring (G. Cyr, m.ob., ph.). A very late Wilson's Warbler was at Wakeham, Gaspésie 17 Nov (DJ). A Yellow-breasted Chat of the expected nominate subspecies was at Québec City 1-2 Oct (A. Gagnon, MR, L. Plante).

A lost and late Scarlet Tanager was at Sept-Îles 2 Nov (L. Dubé). A male Western Tanager stopped by a yard in L'Ascension-de-Patapédia 27 Oct, three years after the last Regional fall record (C. Francoeur). A wayward Field Sparrow graced Sept-Îles 4 Nov (N. Chouinard, B. Poulin). Surprisingly regular on the North Shore in fall, single Lark Sparrows were noted at Tadoussac 16 Sep (SD, SBe) and 9 Oct (YR), while one was at L'Anseau-Griffon 24 Oct+ (J. Lacasse, DJ et al.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Granby 22 Sep was rare for the inland location (MB, MM). Six Dickcissels were recorded between 10 Sep and 8 Oct, all e. of Québec City, as is most often the case. An Eastern Meadowlark at Mont-Brun 30 Oct–1 Nov was a first fall record for Abitibi (SG). A male Bullock's Oriole was sighted at Havre-aux-Maisons, Magdalen Is. 1 Nov, providing only the 2nd photographically documented record for the Region (N. Langford, ph.). While displaced Baltimore Orioles usually peak in Oct on the up-

SA Meticulous record keeping by Icelandic birders (see <<http://www.hi.is/~yannk/index-eng.html>>) has demonstrated that significant numbers of European migrant passerines make it part of the way across the North Atlantic annually in fall. Very few ever make it to the eyes of North American birders on the coasts, let alone to inland locations. A Song Thrush was thus a heart-stopping sight in a Saint-Fulgence, Saguenay–Lac-St-Jean yard 11-17 Nov (C. Samson, D. Côté, GS et al., ph.). The skittish first-year bird was only identified 16 Nov, and it was subsequently observed by fewer than a dozen birders the following day. It was presumed to have departed the next evening, with the passage of a cold front. If accepted, this would represent a first for North America.



This adult Gray Kingbird, the first for Québec, spent 5-30 (here 9) November 2006 at L'Anse-à-Beaufils, near the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula. This individual fed mainly on the fruits of the Seabuckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*). Photograph by Albini Couture.

per North Shore, the highest concentrations were attained farther ne. late in the season, with a daily maximum of 5 at Sept-Îles 11 Nov (BD, CC).

A good fall was expected for White-winged Crossbills following the phenomenal cone crop and late-summer incursion of the species into much of the Region, but few could have fathomed totals of 82,952 at Tadoussac late Aug-25 Nov (SBe, SD) and 143,687 at Pointe-des-Monts 4-19 Oct, with a single-day high count of 34,782 on 10 Oct (F Gagnon, BG). The unique geographical situation of Pointe-des-Monts in the St. Lawrence estuary surely created a concentration effect higher than that of Tadoussac's, mainly known for its bottlenecking of raptors in fall. Common Redpolls also came through in impressive numbers, with totals of 42,433 and 33,181 at Tadoussac and Pointe-des-Monts respectively, and a single-day maximum of 17,587 on 10 Oct at the latter study site. A count of 18 Hoary Redpolls mainly picked out in flight over Tadoussac 19 Nov was noteworthy (SBe, SD). Pine Siskins were also flying southwestward in droves, mainly in Oct, with season totals of 10,083 at Tadoussac and 5677 at Pointe-des-Monts, also peaking at the latter location 10 Oct with 3036. The study period was 15 days at Pointe-des-Monts compared to 90 days at Tadoussac.

Addendum: Three imm. Trumpeter Swans photographed at Mashteuatsh, near Roberval 4 Jun 2006 were the first for the Sague-

nay-Lac-Saint-Jean area and represented the 7th record for the Region since reintroduction programs were initiated in the Great Lakes Region in the early 1990s (MC. Harvey).

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