



**Pierre Bannon
Olivier Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault
Yves Aubry**

Temperatures in spring 2007 fluctuated from slightly above normal in north-western Québec to slightly below normal on the Lower North Shore. Elsewhere, they were pretty close to normal. Precipitation was above normal in both southern and northern Québec but below normal in central Québec and on the North Shore. A series of late snow storms hit the south in early April, which may have resulted in some mortality among early insectivorous migrants such as swallows.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

For the 2nd consecutive spring, a Pink-footed Goose visited the Chambly–Carignan area 1-9 Apr (R. Belhumeur, m.ob., ph.). There are now more than 10 records for the Region, all since 1988. A Barnacle Goose stopped at Baie-du-Febvre 25 Apr (GP, JP. Santerre). A first-year Trumpeter Swan was identified at Rouyn-Noranda 12 May (LI), a 9th Regional record since 1990. A group of 4 Tundra Swans at Plaisance 7-15 Apr was notable (D. Lauzon et al.). A Common Peafowl at Cantley 6-13 May (L. Laperrière, W. Darou) was not clearly associated with an aviculturist.

Two ad. American White Pelicans stunned lucky observers at Saint-Fulgence 2 May when they spotted these birds from their kitchen window (GS, CC). A Great Egret at Sainte-Martine 26 Mar furnished a new record-early date for the Region (M. Ouellet). Herons and egrets from the south were represented by a Snowy Egret at Grosse-Île 7-12 May (A. Richard), a Tricolored Heron at Saint-Méthode 31 May (C. Launière), and a

Cattle Egret at Cap Tourmente 24 May (PL et al.). Glossy Ibis were more widespread than usual, with 4 at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 23 Apr–1 May (N. Gagné, R. Poulin), one at Baie-du-Febvre 23-25 Apr (m.ob.), 2 at Saint-Alphonse-de-Caplan 25 Apr–1 May (B. Arsenault), one at Châteauguay 19 May (fide M. Groulx), and one at Saint-Blaise 20-21 May (R. & G. Boulet et al.).

CRANES THROUGH OWLS

As usual, several Sandhill Cranes were reported away from their main migration corridor in w. Québec, including one as far e. as Bassin (Magdalen Is.) 13 May (R. Vigneau). A Black-tailed Godwit, the first since 1984, was briefly seen by a lucky observer at Lévis 21 Apr (G. Lemelin), providing a 4th Regional report (as yet, no report is substantiated by photograph). Single Marbled Godwits stopped at Métabetchouan 8-11 May (M. Tremblay, D. Gervais et al.), and Val-d'Or 13 May (R. Moreau). A Semipalmated Sandpiper in alternate plumage was convincingly described at Rivière-Ouelle 6 Apr, an incredibly early date surpassing the previous early date by almost a month (JF. Rousseau). Always rare in spring, a Silt Sandpiper brightened the Sabrevois–Saint-Blaise area 14-18 May (M. Gauthier, m.ob.). A rufous-morph Ruff delighted observers at Blaise 4-7 May (R. & G. Boulet, m.ob.), while another or the same was at Baie-du-Febvre 9 May (JF. Jetté). Rare in spring, a Long-billed Dowitcher was discovered at Cap Tourmente 25 May (P. Otis, J. Laplante).

Single ad. Laughing Gulls appeared at Rivière-Ouelle 1 May (F & R. Dion) and at Saint-Vallier 26 May (JL, D. Boutin). The number of Black-headed Gulls built to 32 birds at Cap-de-l'Est 9 May (DGG), while Lesser Black-backed Gulls reached 13 at La Malbaie 24 May (OB). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Lacs-Écorces 16-17 May was a rarity for the Laurentians region (MA. Montpetit). A Caspian Tern at Angliers 22 May was also locally rare (JF). A concentration of 500 Black Terns at Baie-du-Febvre 23 May was notable (OB). The Eurasian Collared-Dove that wintered at Gallichan (Abitibi) was still there 24 Apr (S. Rivard).

Up to 19 Snowy Owls were present in the Lac St-Jean plain surrounding Hébertville 16 Mar (M. Savard, R. Bouchard). A Great Gray Owl in downtown Québec City 1 May was most unusual, considering the paucity of records last winter (C. Charest). A high count of 22 Northern Saw-whet Owls was detected at Fugèreville 25 Mar (JF). Ironically, only two nest boxes were occupied by the species out of 300 that were monitored farther n. in

the Abitibi region, compared to 18 last spring (fide LI).

SWIFTS THROUGH THRASHERS

An interesting count of 130 Chimney Swifts came from Maria, Gaspé Pen. 30 May, in the ne. corner of their contracting range (C. Lamarre). A very early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was noted 23 Apr at Matapédia (P. Firth, P. Poirier, fide P. Beaupré).

The season's only Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from Trois-Rivières 11 May, in the midst of a warm spell that brought many s. species, chiefly passerines, to the n. of their range (J. Richard, fide S. Richard). A male Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Destor, Abitibi through 17 May (L. Beauregard), where it had apparently been present since Jan; wintering females in Saint-Hedwige and Caplan were seen through 2 (I. Martel, A. Girard et al.) & 26 May (C. Saint-Denis), respectively. The species was found at four different locations in the Montréal area, where it is now regular and possibly prospecting new nesting sites. A Say's Phoebe was seen briefly at Saint-Anne-de-Beaupré 18 May (R. Lapensée et al., ph.), a 6th spring record for the Region. An ad. Loggerhead Shrike at Penouille 29 May was most surprising (J. Cousinard, ph.).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Saint-Anne-de-Sorel 11-12 May (P. Messier, J. Cadieux, ph.). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Cap Tourmente 18 & 31 May was locally unusual (JPO, RL). Only 4 Carolina Wrens were reported throughout the Region and without any evidence of breeding, somewhat perplexing and unlike the situation in 2002, following a mild winter similar to this year's. A total of 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in mid-May in the Québec City region was excellent. Far less regular in spring than in fall, male Northern Wheatears were reported from the North Shore at Port-Cartier 19 May (L. Dubé, M. Couette, ph.) and Les Escoumins 26 May (R. Pintiaux). Six Brown Thrashers in the Saguenay–Lac-St-Jean region throughout the period was unprecedented (fide GS).

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A male Blue-winged Warbler was at Québec City 11 May (L. Messely) and another at Boucherville 24 May (DH, A. Boivin). Single Brewster's Warblers were at Frelighsburg 9 May (GP), Godmanchester 19 May+ (D. Ouellette), and Yamaska Park 21 May (G. Rossini, fide DH). Male Prairie Warblers were reported singly from Saint-Hyacinthe 11 May (R. Gauvin), Summit Park, Montréal 15 May (K. Emo et al.), and Cap Tourmente 23 May (PL). Rarely seen away from a few mature broadleaf forests in the sw. corner of the province, a

Cerulean Warbler was out of range and habitat at Baie-du-Febvre 10 May (H. Brunoni, M. Bisson). A female Prothonotary Warbler visited Sabrevois 23 May, providing a 14th Regional record (A. Labelle). The Louisiana Waterthrush pair was back in Gatineau Park 12 May (D. Dallaire, J. Dubois), though nesting could not be confirmed as last year. A male Yellow-breasted Chat at Cap Tourmente 31 May–2 Jun was notable (RL, m.ob.), but especially intriguing were 2 individuals, one of which was quite vocal, at Saint-Elzéar (Gaspésie) 26 May (M. Bourdages).

First-spring male Summer Tanagers were reported singly at feeders at Beauport 15-19 May (M. Lacroix, JD. Poulin, m.ob., ph.) and Grand-Ruisseau, Magdalen Is. 21 May (S. Cyr et al., ph.). A male Western Tanager frequented feeders at Saint-Méthode, Lac-St-Jean 23 May (P. Simard, J. Boulanger, ph.). Unlike most of its species seen in the Region away from the breeding range, which are usually observed at feeding stations, an Eastern Towhee protecting a territory atop Mt. Arthabaska, Centre-du-Québec 21 May+ (C. Roy) was behaving much like those of the small breeding population on Mt. St-Hilaire,

over 100 km to the southwest. An ad. Harris's Sparrow was at La Sarre, Abitibi 8 May (C. Saint-Pierre), the 3rd individual in that region since last Dec. Single Oregon Juncos were reported at Lac-St-Charles 10 Mar (R. Morin) and at Île-Bizard Nature Park, Montréal 11 Apr (P. Tarassoff).

Largely irregular in spring, a Dickcissel at Baie-Saint-Paul 23 Apr bested the previous record arrival by three weeks (L. Rousseau, N. Burgdorfer). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 4 Mar was likely one of the birds that were sporadically seen in the area through the winter (E. Samson, A. Lacasse), while single males were reported from the w. of the province at Authier-Nord 13-17 May (J. Plante) and at Rouyn-Noranda 24 May (M. Bélanger, ML. Marcoux). Three Orchard Orioles were reported in mid-May in the Region: an ad. male at Saint-Thomas-de-Joliette 10 May (N. Coulombe), an imm. male at Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park, Montréal 11-12 May (S. Vanier, J. Coutu), and a female at Cap Tourmente 18 May (JPO). A European Goldfinch, assumed to be an escapee, was at Destor, Abitibi 11 May (L. Beauregard).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): **P. Bannon** (Montréal), **M. Berlinguette** (Haute-Yamaska), **R. Fortin** (Lower-St. Lawrence), **J. Fréchette**, **D.G. Gaudet** (Magdalen Is.), **D. Henri**, **L. Imbeau** (Abitibi), **J. Lachance** (Québec City), **P. Lane**, **R. Lepage**, **J.P. Ouellet**, **G. Poirier**, **P. Poulin** (Gaspésie), **Y. Rochepault** (North Shore), **R. Saint-Laurent** (Lower-St. Lawrence), **G. Savard** (SaguenayLac-Saint-Jean), **D. Toussaint** (Outaouais). ☺

- Pierre Bannon**, 1517 Leprohon
Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1
(pbannon@videotron.ca)
Olivier Barden, 1652 rue de Bruyères
Sainte-Foy, Québec G1W 3H1
(whitephasegyrfalcon@hotmail.com)
Normand David, 516 Shakespeare
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec H9G 1A2
(normandavid@videotron.ca)
Samuel Denault, 75 Beauchemin
Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Québec J3N 1J6
(samuel.denault@videotron.ca)
Yves Aubry, Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 4H5
(yves.aubry@ec.gc.ca)

New England



Simon Perkins

A very intense, three-day “sou’easter” formed off the middle Atlantic coast in mid-April 2007, at a time of year when storms this powerful are rather rare. The storm tracked slowly northward along the coast, stalled once or twice, and eventually passed across the interior of the Region. Consequently, the winds, which briefly

reached hurricane force, never “backed” (counterclockwise) northeastward, as they would have had the storm passed offshore. Instead, they “veered” (clockwise) into the south, southwest, and eventually, northwest. As a result, birds on the shores of Rhode Island and Connecticut observed species that went undetected on the eastern shores of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bay, these latter areas being more productive during nor’easters. The storm’s fallout included various early (one record-early) marine migrants, five Sooty Terns, and a smattering of early trans-Gulf passerine migrants.

A classic example of “spring” weather in New England came in mid-March. On the 14th, in many parts of Massachusetts, the mercury reached 70° F. Two days later, Worcester, Massachusetts was hit with 46 cm of snow, Lenox, Massachusetts got 50 cm, and Millbury, Vermont was clobbered with 94 cm! These prodigious amounts of snow had predictable effects on early migrants such as American Woodcocks and Fox Sparrows.

The latest trend in the documentation of rarities is the use of cell phone cameras. While the resolution of such images is still



This Tundra Swan, the only one reported in New England in spring 2007, was in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 27-30 (here 27) March 2007. Photograph by Jim Weidenteller.

low (compared to standard digital cameras), the quality can be more than adequate for acquiring images through spotting scopes (“phone-scoping”). For examples, see White-faced Ibis, American Avocet, Ruff, and best of all, the Addendum!