

East Uniacke, 24–25 Mar (P. Bower). Newfoundland's 2nd, at first just a February rumor, became reality following a March snowfall when an adult male was discovered at a Pouch Cove feeder 19–29 Mar (D. Klaroft et al.). A Brown Thrasher spent most of March on G.M., while Nova Scotia hosted 3 in April and May. Given the heavy winter flight of Bohemian Waxwings, it is not a surprise that some were still being noted into mid-May, in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

#### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was on G.M. 13 May. Cape May Warblers are rare on S.P.M., but 1–2 males were seen 22 & 27 May; an equally rare Blackburnian was there 21 May. S.P.M. enjoyed its first spring **Yellow-throated Warbler**, when one patronized RE's buggy garden compost from 24 Apr–3 May (ph). Two of Nova Scotia's overwintering Pine Warblers persisted until 27 Mar in Halifax and 22 Apr in Dartmouth; 2 on S.I. 30 May were migrants (IM et al.). Three in New Brunswick lingered until 4 Mar in Sackville, 21 Apr in Fredricton and 26 Apr in Fundy NP. Nova Scotia hosted a minor invasion of **Hooded Warblers**. The earliest patrolled the beach at C.S.I. 29 Mar (m.ob.), eating spiders and tolerating close photography. Two more (undocumented) appeared on the NAMC, and a 4th was at Schooner Pond 25 May (CAM).

Summer Tanagers made their now-anticipated annual spring visit, with 4 in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick (5 of them, as expected, on s. islands). A Scarlet Tanager delighted residents of the town of St.-Pierre on S.P.M. 29 Apr–17 May and was photographed by many, including non-birders. At least one Eastern Towhee successfully overwintered in Nova Scotia, and there were 6 spring arrivals, including 4 on C.S.I. and one far n. in Louisbourg. A Chipping Sparrow overwintered in Hantsport, NS, and, more remarkably, so did one in Gander, NF. There were 7 Field Sparrows in Nova Scotia, including one far afield in Schooner Pond; there was but one in New Brunswick, on G.M. Nova Scotia's 4th spring Lark Bunting was on Sable 27 May (ZL); there are <20 records overall. Closer scrutiny of migrant Savannah Sparrows turned up at least 4 Ipswich race birds in New Brunswick, 3 between 20–25 Mar. Significant sparrow "waves" occurred 26–27 Mar in New Brunswick (mostly Song) and 4–5 May in Nova Scotia, especially on C.S.I., with a fall-out of hundreds of White-throateds and dozens of White-crowned.

Northern Cardinals continue their move

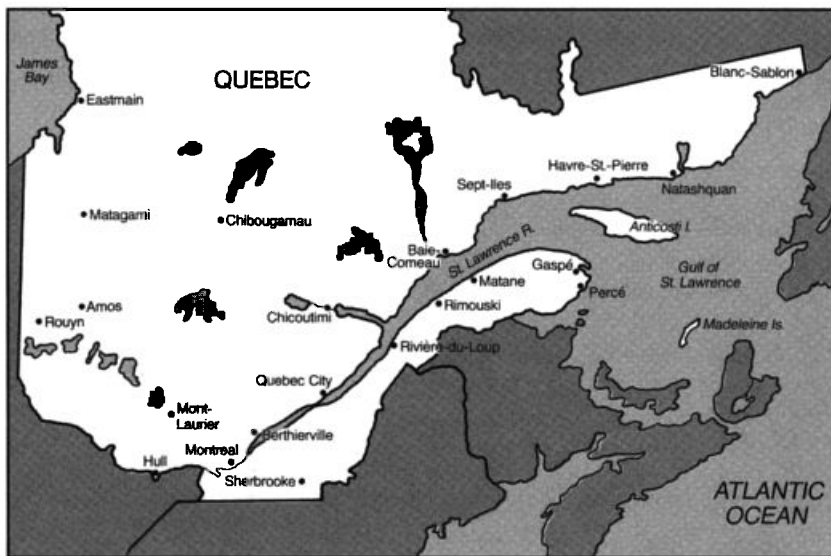
into Nova Scotia, with more than 30 birds reported in spring, many on territory, and doubtless many more not reported. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made early arrivals across the region. Nova Scotia's first was 10 Apr at Hemeon's Head (average 1 May), and 9 more were found later in April. New Brunswick also had an early bird 23 Apr, on G.M. This early arrival was mirrored in Newfoundland, where a pronounced southerly air flow 24–25 Apr propelled many early migrants to the Avalon Peninsula, including 9 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Red-eyed Vireo, 2 Scarlet Tanagers, and 4 Indigo Buntings, as well as the Eastern Kingbird mentioned earlier. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia each had 4 Blue Grosbeaks, an average number, and each had a good May flight of Indigo Buntings, with more than 30 in both provinces. Just one Indigo was reported from P.E.I. A male **Painted**

**Bunting** briefly visited a feeder 21 May in Kings, NS (M.&L. Norden). P.E.I.'s first Painted Bunting, a male, was a Marshfield May 24–30 (V.C. MacDonald, et al.). Three Dickcissels overwintered in Nova Scotia. Bobolinks were last seen on S.P.M. in 1991, so this spring's appearance of 4 males and 2 females 21 May was most welcome. The spring's oriole flight was disappointing, with but a single Orchard in Nova Scotia and 3 on G.M. And regarding wandering "winter" finches: all quiet on the western front.

**Contributors** (subregional editors in bold-face): **Brian Dalzell**, **Fred Dobson**, Raymond d'Entremont, **Roger Etcheberry**, **Sylvia Fullerton**, **Andy Horne**, **Richard Napton**, Randy Lauff, Zoe Lucas, **Bruce Mactavish** (Bmt), Blake Maybank (BMy), **Dave McCorquodale**, **Ian McLaren**, **Eric Mills**, Cathy & Allan Murrant (CAM), Murray Newell.



# québec



#### Normand David

11931 Lavigne, Montréal, Québec H4J 1X9  
(ndavid@netrover.com)

#### Samuel Denault

75 Beauchemin  
Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Québec J3N 1J6  
(samuel.denault@videotron.ca)

#### Pierre Bannon

1517 Leprohon  
Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1  
(pbannon@total.net).

**F**ollowing the spring-like weather of late February, March continued very mild,

which led to numerous record-early arrivals. By the end of March, 57 migrant species had been recorded in the Montreal area, six of them record-early for the Region and 32 the earliest for the last decade. A noticeable change in the weather pattern took place in April and May when cool and wet conditions prevailed. Although an important storm on 9 April dumped up to two feet of snow on s. Quebec, there was no evidence of a major bird mortality, although there was undoubtedly some mortality among the early insectivorous migrants. Although

most neotropical migrants got here on time in May, some migrants were running behind schedule by the end of the month, with birds still arriving as late as mid-June.

With this Seasonal Report, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Samuel Denault, at age 19 perhaps the youngest of all NAB Regional Editors. His birding skills have won him the respect of the local birding community, including that of the "oldies," as he respectfully calls us, and his "hard-drive" memory has been often instrumental in tracking down many of the records published in this column in recent years. In the future, Samuel will be co-signing our Regional reports when his full-time studies allow.

### GREBES THROUGH IBISES

A Horned Grebe was extremely early in La Baie 4 Mar (S. Tremblay *et al.*). Casual inland in spring, a Great Cormorant visited Chambly 18–28 Apr (MB, DD, m.ob.) and the American White Pelican seen in flight in Saint-François, *Île d'Orléans*, 6 May (C. Pépin), was also notable.

The northward dispersal of southern herons was more significant than in past years. A Great Egret in Kahnawake 31 Mar (PB) was the earliest ever, and singles in Longue-Rive (Pointe-à-Boisvert) 29 Apr–7 May (R. Gilbert, A. Gosselin) and in Old Harry 29–31 May (J.-C. Richard, FS, BL), were the farthest out of range. A Snowy Egret made a brief appearance in Saint-Timothée 15 Apr (R. Belhumeur *et al.*). Another was sighted in Grande-Entrée 28 Apr–11 May (C. Cyr, m.ob.). Five Little Blue Herons, all adults, were unprecedented. Individuals were in Grosse-Île, *Magdalen Is.*, 7 May (J. Villeneuve *et al.*), lingered s. of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 14–24 May (S. Mathieu, m.ob.), appeared for a second consecutive year at Cap Tourmente 16–19 May (R. Bisson), stopped in Pabos 20–21 May (J. R. Lepage *et al.*), and appeared briefly in Lasalle 29 May (J.-C. Sorel). Single Cattle Egrets were noted in Métabetchouan 5 May (S. Boivin), Masson-Angers 12 May (D. Bouffard), and in Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues 16 May onwards (R. Tessier, JF). Our first Tricolored Herons in three years were found in Neuville 6–17 May (FD, RD) and in Cacouna 22 May onwards (LS, m.ob.). Green Herons were n. of their normal range, with an individual in Saint-Gédéon 20 May (H. Claveau, J. Ibarzabal) and another in Étang-du-Nord 30–31 May (FS, BL). Finally, single Glossy Ibises were encountered in Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Blaise, Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix, and Barachois.

### GEESE THROUGH TERNS

Two Greater White-fronted Geese in Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 2 Mar (LS *et al.*) and a Ross's Goose in Sainte-Barbe 6 Mar (JMB) were our earliest ever. Snow Geese showed up in good numbers in the Gaspé Peninsula again this year, including a high count of 1000 in Restigouche 20 May (ND *et al.*). The two imm. Tundra Swans in Barachois 17 May (M. Larrivée) constituted a good find for the Gaspé. A male Eurasian Wigeon in Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix 25 Mar (SD *et al.*) established a record-early arrival. Although American and Eurasian Wigeons are both regular in the province, few hybrids have ever been reported; 3 this spring alone were thus notable: in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu at the end of Mar (PB *et al.*), in Baie-du-Febvre 25 Apr (LM *et al.*), and in Saint-Gédéon 14–16 May (B. Dumont *et al.*).

There was just one report of Canvasback in the Montreal area, in Noyan 20 Mar (JMB, DD *et al.*), but the species was also sighted in Métabetchouan 15–16 Apr (C. Cormier, GS *et al.*), Cacouna 14–16 Apr (C. Gauvreau *et al.*), and in Victoriaville 21 May (JD *et al.*). A dozen Redheads in Saint-Siméon 20 May (PB *et al.*) furnished a high number and a rare report for the Gaspé Peninsula. Most remarkable, however, was the occurrence of a **Tufted Duck** in Saint-Henri 16 Apr (S. Bégin, L. Plante). Sandhill Cranes appeared at a record-early date, with two in Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues 25 Mar (JF).

The only Willets of the season were in the Lower-Saint-Lawrence, with one each in Pointe-au-Père 15–16 May (GG, R. Fortin) and Cabano 18 May (M. Beaulieu). Marbled Godwits were well-reported: one appeared in Deschambault 18 May, a single was discovered in Baie-du-Febvre 19 May (LM), 2 were found on Île Evers 27 May (GZ *et al.*), and a last one was spotted in Montmagny the same day (M. Lachance, L. Vinette). Rare in spring, an adult Stilt Sandpiper in Pointe-au-Père 23–26 May (GG *et al.*) was a good find. The only Long-tailed Jaeger of the season was seen from the Trois-Pistoles-Les Escoumins ferry 30 May (J.-P. Ouellet, M. Lafleur, FD, RD). Casual in the Montreal area, an ad. Laughing Gull stopped briefly in Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix 6 May (PB, GZ). At Victoriaville, an ad. Black-headed Gull 24 Apr (MG *et al.*) and an ad. Little Gull 17 May (A. Daigle *et al.*), were both Regional firsts. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are no longer unexpected wherever there are gulls; 8 birds were reported, including one in Duhamel-Ouest 31 Mar (JF), the first ever in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue area. An

ad. Sabine's Gull in Saint-Irénée 26–27 May (FD, RD, R. Gingras, J. Forgues) furnished one of our rare spring records. Unreported in e. North America since 1995 (*Birding* 32:216–230), an adult **White-winged Tern** graced Baie-du-Febvre 27–30 May (E. Samson, A. Lacasse, m.ob.).

### WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Two Red-headed Woodpeckers irregularly attended a Saint-Anicet feeder in May (*vide* A. Hogue, P. Fradette) and single birds were in Westmount 6–7 May (J. Lussier *et al.*), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 7–12 May (MB, L. L'Écuyer), and Montreal about 20 May (C. Huard); the adult at a Chicoutimi feeder 23–25 May (F. Gauthier *et al.*) was out of range. The only Red-bellied Woodpecker of the season was in Abercorn 5 May (R. Gaudreault). Although the Loggerhead Shrike has virtually vanished from the Northeast and has not bred in the Region since 1995, singles were reported (and described) in Rimouski-Est 16–20 Apr (Y. Boulanger, D. Côté *et al.*) and near Coleraine 26 Apr (Y. Hamel, D. McCutcheon). Warbling Vireos noted at Ville-Marie 27 May (JF) and Pointe-à-la-Croix 29 May (L. Tremblay, C. Pitre) were, respectively, at the nw. and e. edges of the their range.

A Tree Swallow seen in Saint-Stanislas 9 Mar (M. McIntosh, B. Barnhurst) was record-early. "Feedermania" and global warming are most likely responsible for the steady influx of White-breasted Nuthatch records at the n. and e. edges of its range, namely, at least 6 different birds near Chicoutimi (*vide* GS) and at least 7 in the sw. parts of the Gaspé Peninsula (*vide* PP). As singing Carolina Wrens remained in Cowansville (BH), Philipsburg (G. Renne) and Carignan (SD *et al.*), they too are perhaps finally establishing a permanent foothold in the Region.

Although the weather was miserable, Claude Simard was scouting Cap Tourmente 9 Mar for a scheduled field trip that he was to lead there two days later. His reward was nothing less than a **Redwing**, the 9th record in North America! Numerous observers had excellent views of the bird 10–11 Mar as it fed on the ground at the base of trees and bushes where snow had melted. It could not be relocated the next day, due to a heavy snow storm, and was last seen 13 Mar in late afternoon. Seven of the eight previous North American occurrences (Newfoundland, Sable Island, Jamaica Bay) were recorded between 25 Nov and 24 Feb; it is presumed

that the Cap Tourmente bird overwintered somewhere in the East, as spring migrants usually appear only in early April in Iceland, the likely source of birds seen in North America. The other occurrence, in Newfoundland 26 Jun–11 Jul 1980, was associated with a wave of Icelandic vagrants that reached Newfoundland that spring (*vide* B. Mactavish).

#### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Record-early parulids included a Black-throated Green Warbler in Westmount 24 Apr. (M. Beauchamp) and a Wilson's Warbler in Boucherville 29 Apr (C. Ménard). Local hotlines and birdchats were quite busy keeping track of a rather long list of casual but expected strays that included: a Prairie-Warbler on Ile des Soeurs 8 May (F. Morneau et al.), a Yellow-breasted Chat in Hull 27 May onwards (F. Bédard), a Summer Tanager in Victoriaville 11 May (MG), Western Tanagers 26 May in Amqui (R. Vaillancourt, L. Bérubé) and 19–29 May in Baie-Comeau (G. Deraps), a Lark Bunting in Rivière-Madeleine 16 May (G. Blanchette), Harris's Sparrows in D'Alembert, Abitibi, 16–18 May (G. Bergeron, M. L'Heureux) and nearby in La Ferme 18 May (M. Bigué), and finally a Blue Grosbeak in Bic 10–12 May (J. Chenard, R-C. Bérubé).

With some 12 records in May spread from Témiscamingue through the Gaspé Peninsula, the Clay-colored Sparrow is maintaining its well-established pattern of several consecutive years of showing up in any suitable site where breeding can occur. No less than 3 hybrid Dark-eyed Junco × White-throated Sparrow were found in the Québec City area, one by L. Vézina in Saint-Benjamin 2–3 May and the other 2 by the same lucky observers (JL, C. Nadeau) at Cap Tourmente 6 May and in Lévis 7 May. Several records of male and female Northern Cardinals in both the Chicoutimi (*vide* GS) and Rimouski (*vide* JLM) areas indicate that this species is establishing viable breeding outposts, as has happened with the White-breasted Nuthatch.

A description of a **Lazuli Bunting** was received from Saint-Léon, Lac Saint-Jean, 7 May (R. Savard), where a male spent about five minutes in the vicinity of a feeder; it emphasized a blue head, russet upper-breast, white belly and two white wing bars. Unfortunately, local observers were unable to relocate the bird and no photographic documentation was obtained for this sighting, which would represent a first record for the Region.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds included 3

different birds in the Montreal area (*vide* PB, ND) and one each in Lorrainville 10–11 May (F. Cadotte, JF), Amqui 10 May (L. Gagné), and Port-Cartier 19 May (B. Duchesne, J-F. Laporte). Single Orchard Orioles in Saint-Louis-de-France 7 May (S. Houle, J. Brunelle), and Montreal 23 May (M. Renaud) are pushing the species into the category of an annual spring visitor, not to mention the possibility of casual nester, since it has bred not that far s. in Vermont and New York.

**Subregional editors (boldface) and observers:** C. Auchu (North Shore), P. Bannon (Montréal), M. Bertrand, J-M. Béliveau, C. Buidin (Lower North Shore), D. Daigneault, F. Dion, R. Dion, J. Ducharme (Bois-Francis), J. Fréchette (Témiscamingue), S. Gagnon (Abitibi), D. G. Gaudet (Iles de la Madeleine), G. Gendron, M. Grégoire, B. Hamel (Brôme-Missisquoi), B. Leblanc, J. Lachance (Québec City), J-L. Martel (Lower St. Lawrence), L. Messely, P. Poulin (Gaspésie), G. Savard (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), F. Shaffer, L. Simard, D. Toussaint (Outaouais), G. Zenaitis.



# new england



#### Simon Perkins

Center for Biological Conservation  
Massachusetts Audubon Society  
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773

**A**s usual, New Englanders rode another weather see-saw this spring. Warm southerly winds in March and early April induced the early arrival of some migrants and also put foliage well-ahead of schedule. Then, a two-week cold spell in the latter half of April put everything behind schedule, before the next stretch of warm weather in early May got everything cooking again. Thereafter, winds remained highly conducive to migration more or less through the rest of the month. These conditions produced one of the most consis-

tently productive months of May in recent memory. There were no huge waves; just a steady flow of migrants that kept birders busy and happy.

Probably the series of weather events that produced the most prevalent results occurred in the latter half of March and the beginning of April. In Boston, the last week of March was unseasonably warm. That trend continued in the first eight days of April, with temperatures roughly 8° above average. The abrupt end to this trend coincided with the passage of an intense storm that tracked just to the west of New England. The prolonged warm spell, and especially the strong, deep southerly draw that immediately preceded the storm, might have accounted for the early (in