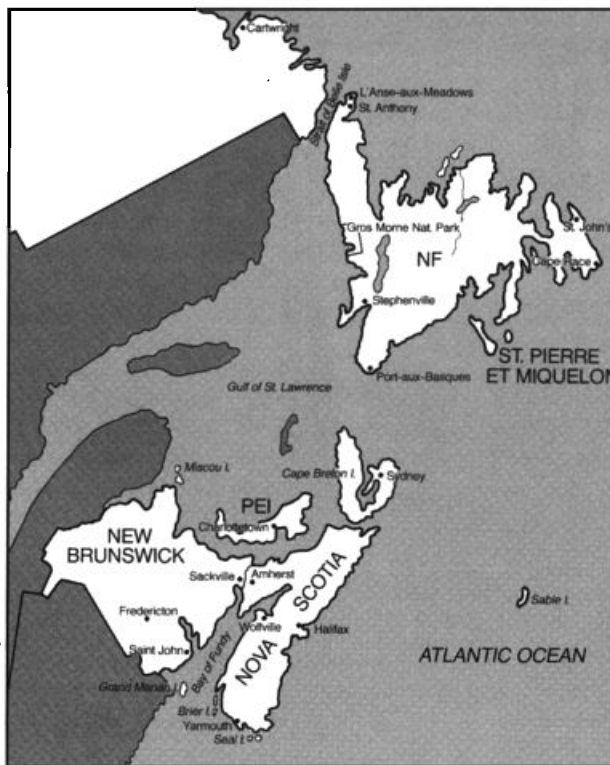


atlantic provinces



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It was a summer of mediocrity for the breeding birds of the Region. The paucity of comments on the weather and breeding successes or failures of birds probably means the breeding season was average. However, summer rarities were anything but mediocre, with such rare species reported as Little Egret, White Ibis, Garganey, Black-necked Stilt, Black-tailed Godwit, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, White-winged Dove, Burrowing Owl and Chuck-will's-widow.

Abbreviations: C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan Island, NB).

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

Red-throated Loons bred as usual in St. Pierre et Miquelon, with a nest containing 2 eggs at Langlade 13 Jun (LJ) and an adult with 2 young at Miquelon 4 Jul (*vide* RE). In 17 years of leading whale-watching tours off Brier I., NS, Carl Haycock had not seen a Cory's Shearwater until 18 Jul

2000, an indication of the species' truly rare status in the Bay of Fundy. The annual spectacle of tens of thousands of Greater and Sooty Shearwaters feeding on spawning caplin *Mallotus villosus* along the southern coastline of the Avalon Peninsula, NF, was prevalent through July (PL et al.). The best count of Wilson's Storm-Petrel was 1000 off Brier I., NS, 18 Jul (CH). There were three Least Bitterns calling at Germantown Marsh, NB, through the first half of June (DC). After a record-smashing spring for Great Egrets, only 4 were reported in the Region during summer: 3 in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia. A **Little Egret** observed by many at Trespassy, NF, 31 May–1 Jul was the 4th for the province (m.ob). Southern herons were in low numbers in contrast to the exceptional spring influx. Single Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were all that were reported, in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia respectively. Nova Scotia also had 2 Cattle Egrets and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Newfoundland had two Little Blue Herons, and 2 Tricolored Herons were at Saints Rest Marsh, NB, 2 Jun (JWh). The **White Ibis** discovered at Beach Pt., PEI, 13 May

moved to Wood Is. in early June, where it was last reported on 16 Jul (KM).

A male **Garganey**, not quite annual in the Region, was a good find at Covehead, PEI, 7 Jun (EMa). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were at Hillsborough, NB, 6–25 Jun (RW) and at the Cap Brulé, NB, sewage lagoon 7 Jul (FD). Five Redheads for most of June at Calhoun Marsh, Riverside-Albert, NB, were interesting in light of the rarity of this species as a breeder in the Region (*vide* DC). Rare summer Barrow's Goldeneyes were single males at Quispamsis, NB, 9 Jul (PW) and Port Clyde, NS, 11 Jun (SH). A male King Eider was out of season at Mary's Pt., NB, on 9 Jul (DC). Two male and a female Ruddy Duck were at Atholville, NB, on the intriguing date of 20 Jun (MD).

A Gyrfalcon was at Machais Seal I., NB, (perhaps enjoying puffin dinners) on the outlandish dates of 27 May (DG) and 13 Jun (REI). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Maces Bay, NB, 2 Jul was the only report of this rare breeder in the Region (JH). A radical Purple Gallinule survived downtown Halifax, NS, 31 May–21 Jun (m.ob). A few Sandhill Cranes are reported each summer in the Region. A pair was at Salisbury, NB, 3–17 Jun (CC et al.) and another pair at Plaster Rock, NB, 11–25 Jun (RJ et al.); surely breeding is inevitable in the Region.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A pair of Piping Plovers with three flying young at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., on 27 Jul were at the eastern extremity of the breeding range (RE). American Oystercatchers continued to strengthen their toehold in the Region, with 3 pairs and 2 nests that produced 3 young at C.S.I., NS (MN). A **Black-necked Stilt** was enjoyed by New Brunswick birders at Jacquet River 21 May–6 Jun (RF et al.). A Willet was well east of the breeding range at Bellevue Beach, NF, 17 Jun (*vide* TB). An Upland Sandpiper at C.S.I., NS, in mid-June was thought to be nesting (JN). A white-rumped Whimbrel, presumably of European origin, was discovered among 74 Whimbrels near Cape Race, NF, 22 July (BMT, PL, JW). A **Black-tailed Godwit** at Glace Bay, NS, 9 Jun (J&GM et al.) and another, or the same, at Inkerman, NB, 23–24 Jul (MD et al.) represented provin-

cial firsts. A rare July Long-billed Dowitcher was at Inkerman, NB, 29–30 Jul (HC, RD). A very early Stilt Sandpiper was at C.S.I., NS, 28 Jun (S&BS). A male Ruff was at W. Lawrencetown, NS, 28 Jun (PM et al.), while a female was at Petit-Rocher, NB, 2 Jul (B&SB). Early concentrations of phalaropes in the Bay of Fundy were 5000 Red-necked and 1000 Red Phalaropes on Brier I., NS, 9 Jul (CH) and 5000 Red-necked Phalaropes on Old Proprietor Shoals, G.M.I., NB, 26 Jul (LM). Thirteen Red Phalaropes off G.M.I., NB, on 5 Jul were also early (LM).

At least 6 identifiably different South Polar Skuas were present off Brier I., NS, 28 Jun–2 Jul (CH). None of the half-dozen skuas seen off the southern Avalon Peninsula, NF, were identified to species. Sub-adult Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were numerous close to shore on southern Avalon Peninsula, NF, where they harassed Black-legged Kittiwakes feeding on spawning caplin. Day counts in July ranged from 25–100 individuals (m.ob). A couple of sub-adult Long-tailed Jaegers were also present: one 14 Jul at Pt. LaHaye (PL) and one 26 Jul at Portugal Cove South (DB). Twenty-five Pomarine Jaegers were at Cape Norman, NE, 18 Jul (ST). A second-summer Franklin's Gull dodged jaegers while accompanying the kittiwake flock feeding on caplin at Long Beach near Cape Race, NF, 22–23 Jul (JW et al.). Another Franklin's Gull was at Fredericton, NB, 7 Jun (DGi). Laughing Gulls were reported in above-average numbers, with 8 in New Brunswick, 2 in Prince Edward I., 5 in Nova Scotia, and 2 in Newfoundland. Single Little Gulls were at Eel River Bar, NB, 3 Jun (DC); Bathurst, NB, 5 Jun (ST); Miscou I., NB, 2 & 25 Jul (ST); and Sable I., NS, 22 Jun (AH). Three adult Black-headed Gulls at Big I., *Pictou*, NS, 5 Jul were intriguing (KM). Breeding Black-headed Gulls are holding their own in Newfoundland, with a fresh juvenile at Stephenville Crossing 30 Jul (MV), and pairs of adults at known breeding sites at Cape Freels and Gambo (KB). Only three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: 2 in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia. Adult **Royal Terns** found by visiting birds were one photographed at Bay Bulls, NF, 27 Jun, representing the 4th provincial record (R. Wiltraut), and one at Morien Bar, C.B.I., NS, 7 Jul (Field Guide Tours). New Brunswick's 4th **Sandwich Tern** was an adult at Tabusintac Bay (RCh). Continued protection of the Region's largest Roseate Tern colony on The

Brothers I., *Yarmouth*, NS, has resulted in an increase from 20 nests in 1991 to a spectacular 86 nests in 2000 (TD). A New Brunswick tern census yielded a mind-boggling 6800 Common Tern nests in Kouchibouguac N.P. (*fide* BD), and 800 Common and 1863 Arctic Tern nests on Machias Seal I. (RE).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Two **White-winged Doves** at St. Shotts, NF, 26 Jun–11 Jul were a long-overdue first for insular Newfoundland (m.ob.), while one at C.S.I., NS, 16–23 Jul seemed almost routine (JN). Although a relatively common fall vagrant, mid-summer Yellow-billed Cuckoos such as one 28 Jun at The Hawk, C.S.I., NS, are very rare (*fide* MN). Almost as unusual was a Black-billed Cuckoo 24 Jun near St. Pierre, SPM (PA et al.). A **Burrowing Owl** at Swallowtail Light, G.M.I., NB, 5 Jun was the 2nd for New Brunswick and the Region (R. Rosenburg, M. Saunders, *fide* BD). Also from G.M.I. and a 2nd for the province was a **Chuck-will's-widow** calling at Bancroft Pt. 14 Jun (BD). Six singing Willow Flycatchers were reported from four locations in New Brunswick during June (*fide* BD). Flycatchers singing in central Newfoundland, east of known breeding ranges, were a Least Flycatcher 19 Jun at Terra Nova N.P. (GS) and an Eastern Wood-Pewee 30 Jul at Gander (KB). Two late spring Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in New Brunswick were at Anchorage Park, G.M.I., 30 May (HD) and at Fundy N.P. 31 May–1 Jun (HD, RW). A Purple Martin 1 Jul at Pt. LaHaye, NE, was an unseasonable date for this regular late spring and early fall vagrant in Newfoundland (*fide* TB). The first Carolina Wren for n. New Brunswick and the Region's only summer report was at Point La Nim 22 Jul (JC et al.). A warbler heard but not seen was singing a song intermediate between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers at Advocate, NS, 16 Jun (BMy, EM). In St. Pierre, S.P.M., a female Blackburnian Warbler 5 Jun and a male 6 Jun narrowly missed each other and thus a chance to extend the breeding range eastward from sw. Newfoundland (FA). Very early migrant Prairie Warblers were different birds at Seal I., NS, on 28 and 30 Jul (*fide* KM).

Rare June Summer Tanagers were an imm. male at Cape Spear, NF, 6 Jun, a 2nd provincial sighting (DB), a female at Sable I., NS, in early Jun (ZL), and an exceptionally late imm. male at Sackville, NB, 27 Jun (RM). The species remains unconfirmed as

a breeder in the Region. An Eastern Towhee was singing on territory at Oromocto Lake, NB, 3–9 Jul (GG et al.). Also unconfirmed as a Regional breeder, Clay-colored Sparrows were in New Brunswick 5 Jun at St. Andrews (KN), 11–24 Jun at Harvey Bank (DC), and 26 Jun at Pointe-Sapin (JG, MT). A late spring Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Memramcook, NB, 11 Jun (RR). Eastern Meadowlarks away from the local breeding sites in New Brunswick were a pair 27–28 Jun at St. Stephen airport (KM) and one 2–3 Jul at Miscou Centre (HC). Finch numbers were stable across the Region.

Observers (subregional editors in bold-face):

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