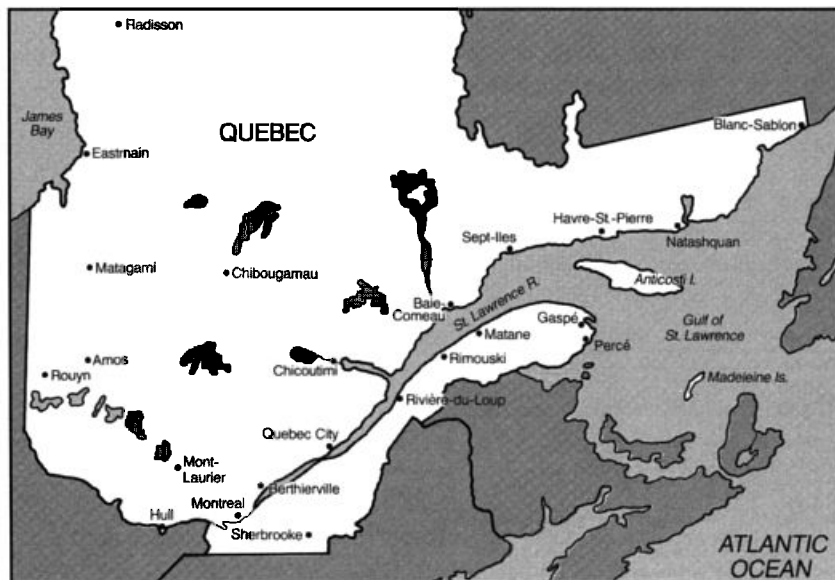


Québec



Pierre Bannon

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

Samuel Denault

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

Yves Aubry

Canadian Wildlife Service
PO Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Québec, G1V 4H5
(yves.aubry@ec.gc.ca)

Normand David

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

This spring, most of the Region, except the St. Lawrence valley, experienced temperatures much above normal. The highest temperatures were reached, of all places, just east of Hudson Bay, where daytime maxima near 90 degrees Fahrenheit were recorded in late May. Most of the Region also had a drier-than-normal spring. In the south, however,

March was just a continuation of last winter, and spring was not felt until mid-April. For the second half of the season, a never-ending series of nice sunny days was not conducive to the occurrence of any big fallouts. Maximum numbers of warbler species at any migrant traps were never above 12-15 species per day, a very low number considering the fact that 23 species in a day have occurred at some of these spots in previous years. The nice weather was, on the other hand, probably responsible for nearly a dozen record-early arrivals among Neotropical species.

GREBES THROUGH GULLS

A count of 250 Horned Grebes at Chambly 25 Apr topped a strong flight in s. Québec (PB, FG, NC). Now almost annual in the Region, an American White Pelican turned up at Île à l'Aigle, Repentigny 13 May (M. Picard et al.). Great Egrets have now been breeding in at least three different localities of s. Québec. Nesting was definitely confirmed at Grande Île, on L. Saint-Pierre, where three nests were discovered in early May (R. Augers, *vide* M. Peloquin). Nest building was also observed at Île aux Hérons, in the Lachine rapids, 30 May (PB). It was the best spring in years for s. herons. Single Snowy Egrets were encountered at Repentigny 30 Apr (É. Desjardins)

and at Baie-du-Febvre 4 May (*vide* S. Houle). Single Little Blue Herons were identified at Paspébiac 8 May (A. Couture) and at Rimouski 23 May (M. Lafleur). Single Tricolored Herons made one-day appearances at Baie Lavallière, Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel 6 May (*vide* Y. Gadbois) and at Montmagny 13 May (Y. Hamel, J. Desmeules). Cattle Egrets were detected in five different localities (*vide* PB). Glossy Ibises probably made one of their strongest incursions, with sightings from 11 different localities (*vide* PB), including peak counts of 6 birds at Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies 3 May (R. Barbeau, J. Ducharme) and 4 at Deschambault 8 May (MA. Rubénovitch).

The northward wandering of Black Vultures manifested itself this year in the form of reports from Wakefield 25 Mar (A. Lalonde) and from Hunter's Point, 45 mi n of Béarn, *Témiscamingue* 17 May (J. Cardinal et al., *vide* JF). Snow Geese migrating through the Gaspésie region were on the increase, as evidenced by flocks of several hundred birds on the coast of Baie des Chaleurs (*vide* PP). Accompanying the Snow Geese, a Ross's Goose at Pointe-à-Bordeau 17 May was a first for the Gaspésie region (C. Pitre). Two were also present 15 May at Canton-Tremblay, in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, where the species had been reported for the 2nd time only last fall (CC, GS). A small individual Canada Goose showing all the features of the *minima* subspecies was well seen at Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, in the upper Richelieu valley, 25 Mar (PB). A Mute Swan 23 May+ at Lac-Kénogami was a first for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, although the origin of such a bird anywhere in the province always remains subject to debate (D. Lalonde et al.).

A Red-shouldered Hawk at Ville-Marie, *Témiscamingue* 11 Apr was n. of normal range (JF). Despite very poor weather conditions in Mar, Golden Eagles migrated in good numbers w. of Montréal, as shown by counts of 19 at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kotska 16 Mar (B. Barnhurst), 12 at Godmanchester 20 Mar (JP. Gagnon et al.), and 10 at Saint-Timothée 24 Mar (PB). Sandhill Cranes were seen in above-average numbers in s. Québec (*vide* PB). Single American Avocets visited Saint-Fulgence 23-30 Apr, establishing a new Regional record early date (D. Côté, C. Samson et al.), and Saint-Barthélemy 4-5 May (G. Pauzé, M. Lebel, m. ob.). A Willet at Île de l'Est, *Îles de la Madeleine* 3 May, pro-

vided the Region with a record-early date (DGG). A flock of 96 Purple Sandpipers at Les Escoumins 1 Mar confirmed this site as an important wintering area for the species (CA, CG). Three Ruffs, two females and a male, at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 6 May, probably represented one of the higher concentrations reported for a single locality in eastern Canada (NC, FG, R. Belhumeur, m. ob.) Rare inland in spring, 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes stopped at Cabano 25 Apr (M. Beaulieu).

OWLS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Barn Owl that spent the day at Île des Soeurs 21 Apr delighted dozens of observers, but many more were disappointed the next day as the bird could not be relocated (R. Chartier, ph. Y. Leduc). Last winter's invasion of n owls gradually came to an end through the season, with a few birds lingering well into late May. The latest Great Gray Owl was located at l'Isle-Verte 28 May (L. Simard, S. Duchemin). The ad. male Red-bellied Woodpecker that overwintered in Îles de la Madeleine continued to be seen in Mar while visiting a feeder at Cap-aux-Meules (MS. Vigneau). A female was also spotted at Saint-Nicolas 10 May (H. Morin, C. Morin).

The 3rd Regional Scissor-tailed Flycatcher since Oct 2000 was sighted at Rimouski 27 Apr (L. Dubé, *fide* R. Pitre). Not seen every year, the White-eyed Vireo that appeared at Île Bizard Nature Park, Montréal 12-19 May was a good find (PB, G. Zenaitis, m. ob., ph. Claude Morin). The singing male Yellow-throated Vireo that showed up at Guigues 30 May was the 2nd only for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region (JF). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Boucherville 11 Apr was record early (P. Dubuc). A high count of 22 Tufted Titmice was tallied at Philipsburg 26 Mar, confirming the successful establishment of this species in s. Québec (JGP). A nesting pair of Carolina Wren at Île des Soeurs throughout the season was worthy of mention (m. ob.). Rarely reported in the past few years, a male Northern Wheatear at Pointe-de-l'Est, Îles de la Madeleine 27 May, was perhaps part of a more widespread incursion of this species in Atlantic Canada (P. Poirier et al.). A Townsend's Solitaire feeding on wild berries in the company of American Robins made a one-day appearance at Saint-Fabien-sur-mer 12 Mar (B. Houde).

Among vagrant warblers, a singing male

Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Saint-Armand 25 May (FG et al.). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler at Chandler 27 Apr (JR. Lepage) and a male Black-throated Green Warbler at Île des Soeurs 21 Apr were both record-early for the Region (PB et al.). Also becoming more regular, a Prairie Warbler visited Sainte-Foy 17 May (F. Dion, R. Dion). A Cerulean Warbler at Philipsburg 5 May was record-early (G. Lachaine et al.). Providing the 2nd record ever for the Québec City region and the 9th for the Region, a Prothonotary Warbler at Cap Tourmente 12-25 May caused great excitement (G. Lemelin et al.). A Worm-eating Warbler was well heard at Philipsburg 19 May (JGP). The Common Yellowthroat at Châteauguay 19 Apr ended a long list of record-early warblers (D. Gendron). An imm. male Summer Tanager graced Beauport 15-18 May (L. Guay, *fide* ML), while the record-early Western Tanager at Saint-Majorique, Gaspésie 6 May was our 4th spring record, all since 1998 (A. Bouchard, *fide* Denise Gagné).

The Spotted Towhee that overwintered at Beauport was last reported in mid-Mar (*fide* ML). A Clay-colored Sparrow returned to its breeding ground 27 Apr at Lorrainville, Témiscamingue, providing our earliest Regional record (JF). A Le Conte's Sparrow appeared at Cap Tourmente 27 Apr, also establishing a record-early arrival (R. Lepage). The Harris's Sparrow that overwintered at l'Ange-Gardien was last seen 4 Mar (É. Razurel). In the category "bird of the season," the award must be assigned to the ad. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** well observed and heard at Île Bizard Nature Park 11 May, representing a long-awaited provincial first (P. Hilton). The now-annual northward spring wandering of the Orchard Oriole gave the Lower St. Lawrence region its first record: a first-year male brightened Rimouski 12 May (J. Larivée, Diane Gagné).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): C. Auchu, **P. Bannon** (Montréal), N. Chauvette, C. Cormier, J. Fréchette, **DG. Gaudet** (Îles de la Madeleine), C. Girard, F. Grenon, **B. Hamel** (Estrie), **J. Lachance** (Québec City), M. Lachance, **JL. Martel** (Lower St. Lawrence), JG. Papineau, **P. Poulin** (Gaspésie), **C. Roy** (Bois-Francs), **G. Savard** (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), **D. Toussaint** (Outaouais).



Birders' Exchange

You can assist in bird conservation, research, and outreach in the Neotropics by donating your used but still functioning birding equipment to Birders' Exchange.

We collect binoculars, scopes, backpacks, and neotropical field guides, for distribution to research and education organizations in the Neotropics. We also accept financial contributions to support the program.

Birders' Exchange,
American Birding Association,
720 West Monument St., PO Box
6599, Colorado Springs,
CO 80934-6599.

<http://americanbirding.org/programs/consbex.htm>