

August and September saw record-breaking warm temperatures, especially in August, while October and November were cooler than normal. Winter settled in early in November, with a total snow accumulation of 60 cm by the end of the month in the south. Because weather fronts were so weak in early fall, the migration of Neotropical passerines took place without being much noticed. Shorebird migration showed some improvement compared to last year. Large numbers were reported in the James Bay area by workers of the Canadian Wildlife Service and Hydro-Québec, and also around Lake Saint-Pierre in the south. The very warm weather of late summer could have been a significant factor in the appearance of some interesting strays from the south, e.g., Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Swallow-tailed Kite.

### LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

Providing the 2nd and 3rd records this year, an imm. Pacific Loon was located offshore at Pointe-au-Père 2 Aug (DR, R. Saint-Laurent), while one in complete breeding plumage was spotted from the Matane-Godbout ferry 6 Aug (JPO, ML). An exceptional total of 8 inland Northern Gannets in s. Québec involved single birds at Trois-Rivières 3 Nov (*vide* SH), Victoriaville 8 Nov (CR), Saint-Luc 9 Nov (AM), Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 11 Nov (*vide* S. Bougie), L. of Two-Mountains 13 Nov (FH), Hull 15 Nov (G. Seutin), Brossard 14 Nov (JGP), and in the Boucherville Is. 30 Nov (S. Cournoyer). The 2 American White Pelicans present since early Jun in the Lachine Rapids, near Montréal, were still there 28 Sep (PB, m. ob., ph.). Singles also appeared at Lévis 15 Aug (L. Langlais), at Baie-du-Febvre 1-26 Sep (D. Demers, M. Dubuc, J. Gélinas), and at Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville 28 Sep (P. Croteau, *vide* SR). Two more birds were reported at L. Cayamant in the Gatineau region 26 Aug (per *The Ottawa Citizen*). An imm. Brown Pelican was totally unexpected at L. Beauchêne, *Témiscamingue* 13-18 Sep (JF, C. Schryer). What appeared to be the same bird moved to nearby L. Kipawa 18-23 Sep. (*vide* JF). Exceptional in s. Québec away from the St. Lawrence R., single imm. Great Cormorants stopped at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 14-30 Sep (GZ, J. Juce, PB) and at Châteauguay 27 Oct-12 Nov (D. Gendron, D. Bernard).

A female Magnificent Frigatebird graced four different localities along the St. Lawrence R. First seen 15 Aug at Pointe-des-Monts, near Baie-Comeau, by casual observers camping at the Domaine de l'Astérie (M. Renaud, J. Bélanger, m. ob., *vide* JP. Barry, ph.), it was then relocated at Grandes-Bergeronnes 17 Aug (J. Saint-Georges et al.), at Île aux Grues 18 Aug (JF. Rousseau, C. Plante), and finally at Saint-François-de-l'Île-d'Orléans 19 Aug (JM. Giroux, JPO). This is the first report for the

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Region with a complete description. Two previous sightings (1882, 1884), and the report of a lost specimen (early 1930s) lacked details altogether, and the possibility of another frigatebird species had not been eliminated.

A maximum count of 93 Great Egrets was made at Saint-Timothée 2 Sep (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). Extra-limital herons included single Snowy Egrets at Saint-Mathias 1 Aug (AM), Pointe Yamachiche 4-14 Aug (J. & MF. Breton), and Saint-Siméon, Gaspésie 24-26 Oct (BA, m. ob.), an imm. Little Blue Heron seen intermittently at Sainte-Martine 24 Aug—2 Sep (FH, m. ob.), a Tricolored Heron at Penouille 2-7 Sep (S. Brodeur, m. ob.), and single Glossy Ibis at Petite-Rivière-Yamachiche 11 Aug—2 Sep (*vide* H. Brunoni), Baie-du-Febvre 20-24 Aug (A. Daigle), Sainte-Angele-de-Laval 22 Aug (J. Ducharme, R. Barbeau), and Contrecoeur 7-15 Sep (D. Néron, C. Corbeil, D. Tétrault). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was flying n. over Hudson 16 Oct (WG). A Black Vulture was accompanying Turkey Vultures at Ville-Marie, *Témiscamingue* 5-6 Oct (JF, R. Gauthier). Turkey Vultures were present in above-average numbers in Gaspésie, contributing two very late sightings: 2 at Bonaventure 20 Nov (B. Arsenaull), and 2 at Pointe Saint-Pierre 29 Nov (AC).

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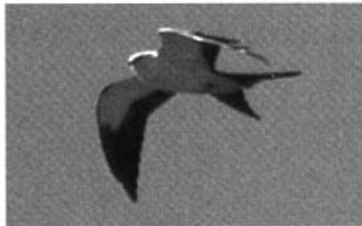
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A Canada Goose x Greater White-fronted Goose hybrid was reported at Canton-Tremblay 11 Oct (C. Cormier), while a presumptive Snow Goose x *hutchinsii* Canada Goose hybrid was photographed at Laval 2 Oct (L. Simard from Laval et al.). A mixed pair comprised of a Lesser Snow Goose and a Ross's Goose accompanied 2 juv. hybrids 30-31 Oct at Réservoir Beaudet, Victoriaville (CR). A Barnacle Goose brightened Réservoir Beaudet 6-28 Oct (L. Simard from Stoke, L. Corriveau et al.), while another one or the same was found at Saint-Charles-de-Man-denville 3 Nov (M. & M. Boulard). Single Tundra Swans visited Sept-Îles 1 Aug—20 Sep (B. Duchesne, JFL et al.), Saint-Méthode 4-7 Oct (DL et al.) and Laval 21 Sep—15 Nov (GL, É. Presseau, m. ob.). A probable Bufflehead x Common Golden-eye hybrid was photographed at Laval 8-13 Nov (GL et al.). A Ruddy Duck at Ville-Marie, *Témiscamingue* 11 Nov was locally rare (JF).

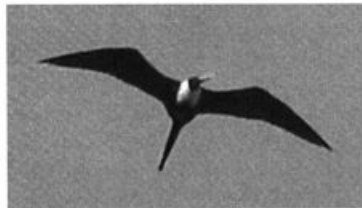
A Swallow-tailed Kite, the first fully documented in the Region, was reported at Forestville 24 Aug (I. Tremblay, JM. Belisle, *vide* R. Gilbert) and was rediscovered independently the next day by Bill Sheehan, a birder from Maine, who spread the good news on Internet. The bird remained until 4 Sep in the same area, where it was seen and photographed by many. A Gyrfalcon at Cacouna 14 Aug was out of season (R. Pitre, DR).

An ad. Purple Gallinule made a sensation at Marais des Graves, Cap Tourmente N.W.R. 20-31 Oct (ML et al., m. ob., ph.). A Common Moorhen at Ville-Marie 22 Aug was the 2nd for *Témiscamingue* (JF), while an usually large group of 50 birds visited L. Hertel on Mount Saint-Hilaire 27 Oct (A. Lavoie). Four Sandhill Cranes that appeared in mid-Jul at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, near Plessisville, remained through the end of Sep (*vide* CR, m. ob.). Over 1000 were in Abitibi in late Sep (SG), and 450 were counted at Nédélec, *Témiscamingue* (JF). A presumed Sandhill Crane x Common Crane hybrid was described at Sainte-Marguerite-Marie 12 Sep (DL), but the ad. Common Crane reported at Barraute for the last three years was not seen this year.

Single Western Sandpipers appeared at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf 9 Sep (A. Gosselin et al.) and at Palmarolle 18 Oct, a first for Abitibi (SG). An ad. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper found 18 Aug by D. Mercier and JR. Lepage at Saint-Siméon, *Gaspésie* furnished the 3rd Regional record. It was seen by many until 23 Aug. Single Long-billed Dowitchers at Saint-Méthode 11-13 Sep (DL) and at Métabetchouan 14-26 Sep (M. Tremblay, D. Gervais et al.) provided the 3rd and 4th records for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, while 25 at Baie-du-Febvre 20 Oct represented a high Regional count (*vide* SH). A Wilson's Phalarope at Baie-du-Febvre 12-23 Oct established a new Regional record late date (D. Houx, m. ob.). Single Red Phalaropes at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 8-21 Oct (C. Morin et al., m. ob.) and Pointe-du-Lac 26 Oct (SD, MA. Montpetit) were interesting inland records. A second-year Mew Gull was at Dorval 14 & 24-27 Nov (BB). Sabine's Gulls were scarce, with one at Saint-Vallier 7 Sep (C. Nadeau, JL) and an ad. at Île aux Basques 13 Oct (O. Barden et al.). An ad. Forster's Tern turned up at Maple Grove 3-5 Aug (PB, GZ, H. Tremblay, m. ob.). An out-of-range Razorbill paused in the fresh waters of the Chambly basin for over a month, 22 Oct—1 Dec (GZ, m. ob.).



This Swallow-tailed Kite, the first for Québec, showed up at Forestville 24 August (here 31 August) through 4 September 2002. Photograph by Pierre Simard.



A conspicuous bird wherever it appears, this female Magnificent Frigatebird was seen at four different locations along the St. Lawrence River 15-19 August 2002 (here 15 August at Pointe-des-Monts). Photograph by Michel Renaud.

### CUCKOOS THROUGH DICKCISSEL

The post-breeding dispersal of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo resulted in the appearance of 8 individuals in the Region late Sep—24 Oct (*vide* SD). A Red-bellied Woodpecker showed up at Frelighsburg 27 Sep, in the only area where it seems to be a little more regular than elsewhere (JGP). An impressive movement of n. woodpeckers was documented at Tadoussac, where 178 Three-toed and 186 Black-backed were banded throughout the season (CB et al.). On the other hand, it was a poor season for Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers (*vide* YA). Barraute, Abitibi's hot spot, hosted a Say's Phoebe 5 Oct (R. Bélanger), while a Western Kingbird was located the same day at Les Escoumins (CA, CG). An ad. Fork-tailed Flycatcher was well seen in flight at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 19 Sep, establishing the 8th Regional record (BB, M. MacIntosh).

Carolina Wrens were too numerous to keep track of, but noteworthy was a very late nest containing 4 young at Pointe-Claire 15 Sep, while at the same time 5-6 birds from a previous brood were still in the vicinity (*vide* FH). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Port-Daniel 26 Oct was both late and out of range (JL Martel, H. Lambert). Single Northern Wheatears were

noted at Les Escoumins 9 Oct (CA, CG), and at La Malbaie 25-31 Oct (C. Marcotte, m. ob.). An imm. female Prairie Warbler stopped at Côte-Saint-Luc, *Montréal* 14 Sep (K. Thorpe). The first Yellow-breasted Chats for the Gaspé Pen. since 1992 included a dead bird found at Pabos 25 Sep and a singing male at Chandler 22 Oct (PP, G. Roy).

A first-year female Summer Tanager lingered at Sainte-Martine 19-27 Nov (M. Ouellet, m. ob., ph.). A juv. Eastern Towhee was found 13 Aug at Saint-Anaclet, where a pair of ads. had spent the summer (RF, m. ob.). This provided the first breeding evidence for this species in the Lower St. Lawrence and the northernmost ever for the Region. Late Clay-colored Sparrows included singles at Guigues, *Témiscamingue* 9 Nov (JF) and at Rimouski 11-12 Nov (G. Gendron). A Lark Sparrow strayed to Waskaganish, *James Bay* 31 Aug (D. Daigneault et al., ph.), and another one was found at Banc des Blancs, *North Shore* 15 Sep (C. Couture et al.). Interestingly, 10 out of the 32 records known for the Region were established on the North Shore. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Sept-Îles 29 Aug was noteworthy (JFL). With a total of 5 individuals, Dickcissels were well in evidence, and included one at LaSarre, the first ever for Abitibi-*Témiscamingue* (J. Aubé, m. ob.). Others were seen at Pointe-au-Père 24 Aug (F. Sénécal), Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 28 Oct—1 Nov (L. Légaré), Cap-aux-Meules 16 Nov (DGG et al.), and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 23-26 Nov (AC).

### ADDENDA

A Trumpeter Swan, the first documented with a photograph, graced Breckenridge 1-2 May 2002 (J. Dubois et al.). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Lebel-sur-Quévillon 12 May 2002 was one of the northernmost records ever for the Region (*vide* EV).

### EXOTICS

Interesting exotic species included a Northern Bobwhite at Ville-Marie, *Témiscamingue* 16 Sep (JF), a Zebra Dove at Hudson 17 Aug—2 Sep (WG, m. ob., ph.), and a Common Waxbill at Île des Sœurs 20 Oct (PB).

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