

Most of the Region experienced below-normal spring temperatures and below-normal precipitation, one exception being the extreme southern part of the province, where precipitation was above average. The migration was slightly delayed, and there were few vagrants and no big fallouts. On a positive side, the hawk migration was the fourth best ever recorded in the Montréal area.

LOONS THROUGH OWLS

An estimated 4000 Red-throated Loons migrating off the tip of the Gaspé Pen. at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 12 May certainly made an impressive sight (A. Couture). The major invasion of Red-necked Grebes noticed s. of the Great Lakes in late Feb-early Mar was also felt here, with singles at Saint-Côme 7 Mar (*vide* Luc Tremblay), Beauharnois 8 Mar (PB et al.), and Noyan 8 Mar (S. Mathieu et al.). Southern herons were very scarce, with only one Glossy Ibis being reported, at Saint-Barthélemy 4-11 May (LS et al., m. ob.). Noteworthy was a Black Vulture at Restigouche, Gaspésie 11 May (Lyne Tremblay). Turkey Vultures established a seasonal record of 266 at the Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka hawkwatch located w. of Montréal (BB, MM).

Single Barnacle Geese turned up at Boucherville 8-9 Apr (R. Calderoni, m. ob.), Portneuf 17 Apr (P. Caron), and Victoriaville 2-3 May (J. Nadeau, CR). Two Tundra Swans at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 5 May (R. Turgeon) and 4 at Saint-Pamphile 30 May (J.G. Chouinard) were e. of their range. A banded Cinnamon Teal of undetermined origin took up residence at Rouyn-Noranda 15-31 May+ (A. Lévesque, C. Aubé, m. ob., ph.). An American x Eurasian intergrade Green-winged Teal at Baie-du-Febvre 27 Apr represented a rare sighting (P. Franche). A very cooperative male Tufted Duck spent several days at Venise-en-Québec 24 Apr-4 May (JP. Thompson, m. ob., ph.), while one stopped briefly at Beauport 7 May (C. Vachon).

The Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka hawkwatch produced record numbers of both species of eagles: 55 individuals for Bald Eagle and 66 for Golden Eagle, including 16 birds 18 Mar (BB, MM). Two ad. Cooper's Hawks were reported at Pointe-à-la-Croix 9 May, the first since 1979 for the Gaspé Pen. (C. Pitre, G. Bélanger). A Northern Bobwhite at Île des Soeurs (Montréal) 18 Apr was presumed to be an escapee (M. Bridger). Most Sandhill Cranes nesting in nw. Québec are believed to migrate through e. Ontario, but there are signs of increasing numbers of birds moving through the s. part of the Region, as evidenced by the 10 sightings and a total of 13 individuals reported in s. Québec throughout the period.

Québec



Single Marbled Godwits stopped at Métabetchouan 9-26 May (D. Gervais et al.) and Verdun (Montréal) 28-30 May (JC. Sorel et al.). A Curlew Sandpiper molting into alternate plumage at Île Dupas (Berthierville) 24-26 May was a noteworthy spring sighting (Y. Gauthier, S. Moran, m. ob.). Always rare in spring, single Stilt Sandpipers were detected at Métabetchouan 27-29 Apr, a record-early date for the Region (CC, GS), and at Lévis 11 May (G. Lemelin). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Saint-Méthode 26 May, only our 2nd spring record and also the earliest, was outstanding (D. Lavoie). The only Ruff was a female at Baie-du-Febvre 21 Apr (J. Gélina). A very early Red-necked Phalarope at Baie-du-Febvre 11 May matched our earliest record (J. Pelletier, N. Frappier, P. Laporte). Chambly hosted 3 Little Gulls 7-15 May (RB, m. ob.), while Les Escoumins had 2 individuals 27-28 May (CA); singles were also located at Baie-du-Febvre 18 May (S. Rhéaume et al.) and at Sainte-Catherine 29 May (PB). Rarely reported in the Montréal area in spring, an ad. Black-headed Gull in breeding plumage visited Chambly 8-11 May (SD et al., m. ob.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued to flourish, with at least 27 individuals reported in the Region, including 4 ads. at

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Rimouski 25 Apr (JF. Rousseau, LS, M. Larouche) and 5 ads. at Victoriaville 13 May (CR). An ad. Forster's Tern in flight was well described at Sillery 16 May (O. Barden).

Rare in spring in recent years, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found in Gatineau Park 24-30 May (G. McNulty, J. Brisebois). A Great Gray Owl appeared at Pointe-au-Père 28 Apr (R. Pitre), while the same or another one was seen intermittently in May at nearby Sainte-Luce (J. Marcoux, JP. Larouche). Although the Boreal Owl is expected to nest

in Abitibi, no definitive confirmation has yet been established. A bird seen in a tree cavity on the Maskuchi Hills 28-29 May probably represented the most serious evidence of nesting up to now (J. Thibault, M. Cheveau, A. Nappi).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Single male Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at Châteauguay 2 Apr-late May (PB, m. ob.) and Gatineau 18 May (J. Descôteaux); single females were at Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle early Mar-3 May (D. Daigneault et al.) and

at Saint-Benoit-Labre 25 May (R. Cloutier, M. Cloutier). The Region still awaits a first breeding record for this species. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Les Escoumins 22 Apr was surprisingly early so far away from its breeding range (CA, CG). Single Townsend's Solitaires were encountered at Sainte-Blandine 6 Mar-29 May (L. Brisson, m. ob.) and Forillon Park 8 Mar (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). Several thousand Bohemian Waxwings brightened Gaspésie in Mar and Apr, the only part of the province where the species appeared in abundance (fide PP).

Warblers from the s. included a Blue-winged Warbler at Lake-Brome 16-31 May+ (JP. Santerre), a Worm-eating Warbler at Summit Park (Montréal) 29 May (D. Hughes), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Cape Tourmente 31 May+ (M. Darveau, M. Rousseau-Gagnon). While the number of Golden-winged Warblers has diminished significantly in recent years, Brewster's Warblers appear to be detected more frequently. This spring, single birds were reported at Yamaska Park 17 May (D. Brunelle), Freightsburg 20 May (RB), and Cape Tourmente 23 May (J. Bernier). Clay-colored Sparrows numbered at least 9 in the Region, including 4 at Lorrainville, *Témiscamingue* 28 May (J. Fréchette). Other extralimital sparrows included a Lark Sparrow at Cape Tourmente 20 May (B. Lacroix, L. Giguère), the now-famous Ipswich Sparrow that overwintered at Québec City which remained at least through 2 Apr, and a Harris's Sparrow at Longueuil 11 May (ph. M. Laporte).

A female Blue Grosbeak at Rimouski 23 Apr-2 May was a highlight (ph. A. Bouliane, m. ob.). Yellow-headed Blackbirds included an ad. male at Saint-Lambert-de-Lévis 15-21 Apr (D. Dupont, m. ob.) and one at Low 23 Apr (L. Denny). Single Orchard Orioles stopped at Kingsey Falls for three days around 10 May (ph. AM. Lettre) and at Cape Tourmente 17-19 May (G. Lord et al.). A male Red Crossbill at LG4, James Bay 9 Apr represented one of few records for this area (M. Breton).

Addendum: A Scarlet Tanager at L. LeGardeur, James Bay 23 May 2002 was well n. of its range (ph. R. Goneau).

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