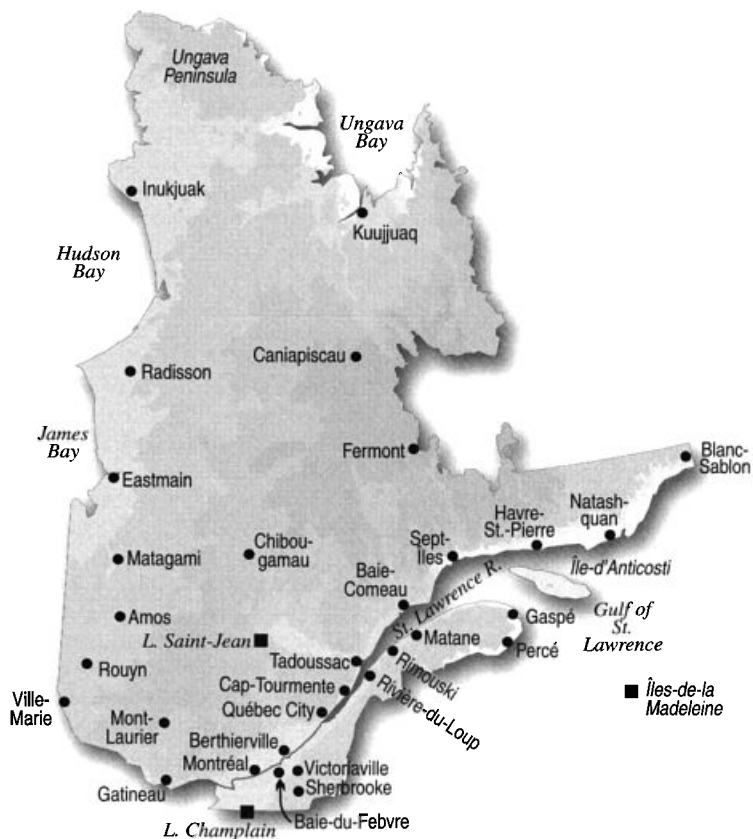


Québec



Pierre Bannon

1517 Leprohon
Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1
(pbannon@videotron.ca)

Samuel Denault

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

Yves Aubry

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

Normand David

347 Donegani
Pointe-Claire, Québec H9R 5M4
(ndavid@netrover.com)

After a generally mild December, temperatures in January plummeted into the subfreezing but rebounded to near normal in February, with the overall result that winter 2003–2004 was only slightly colder than usual in southern Québec. In central Québec, temperatures were close to normal but well above normal farther north in Nunavik and on the lower North Shore. Precipitation was near

normal in most of the Region except for the North Shore, where it was below normal.

LOONS THROUGH OWLS

Several Common Loons lingered into Dec and early Jan, but one at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 15 Feb was most probably a wintering bird (AC). A light-morph Northern Fulmar was unexpected on the Saguenay R. at Saint-Ful-

gence 26 Dec (C. Cormier, GS). Another one was found alive along a road at Bégin 3 Jan (L. Boulianne) and was taken to a rehabilitation center, where it died 8 Jan. These represented the 3rd and 4th records for the Saguenay–Lake Saint-Jean region. These birds were believed to have traveled overland from the James Bay–Hudson Bay region on their way to the St. Lawrence estuary. Three Double-crested Cormorants at Bonaventure 2 Jan were unusual so late in the season (PP, O. Poulin, G. Roy).

An imm. male Eurasian Wigeon was very late at Maria, Gaspésie 3–5 Dec (C. Lamarre et al.). A pair of Green-winged Teal was reported at Labrecque 30 Dec and again 20 Feb (R. Savard, S. Girard). A Northern Pintail at Tadoussac 28 Jan represented a rare winter sighting for this locality (RP). At least 2 male Ring-necked Ducks overwintered in the Montréal area (PB), while another one was at North Hatley 7 Feb (FR). A female Tufted Duck was well described at Lévis 3 Dec (C. Deschênes). Two Harlequin Ducks overwintered in the Lachine Rapids, near Montréal (P. Lamontagne, PB, G. Gagnon). A total of 48 Hooded Mergansers on the Magog R. 13 Feb represented an exceptional winter count for the Region (FR).

Four Bald Eagles gathered at Kiamika, in the upper Laurentians 30 Jan (MAM). This species has been increasingly reported in winter especially around the Gaspé Pen. and in the Outaouais region. In the latter region, it has been suggested that this increase would be linked to the high abundance of the White-tailed Deer. There were four reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk in the Gaspé Pen., a notable event in winter (*vide* PP). A Cooper's Hawk at Rimouski 8 Feb was quite unexpected (G. Gendron). Single Red-shouldered Hawks appeared at Aylmer 12 Feb (JP. Artigau) and Rimouski 17 Dec–18 Jan (R. Pitre et RSL). The dark-morph *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk reported at Gatineau in the fall report made it through the winter (A. Cloutier). An eastern-race bird at Tadoussac 6 Jan was late for this latitude (RP). A second-year Golden Eagle at Kiamika 17 Jan was later followed by an ad. 30 Jan (MAM).

Unexpectedly, Willow Ptarmigans appeared in good numbers in the L. Saint-Jean area, only four years after the last irruption (*vide* GS). This species' irruptions generally follow a 9- to 12-year cycle. Once again this winter, Wild Turkeys were reported very close to Montréal, at Châteauguay and Chambly (*vide* PB). An American Coot at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé was last seen 11 Jan (JR. Lepage, D. Mercier). A Wilson's Snipe at Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane represented only the 3rd winter record for the Lower St. Lawrence (D. Desjardins).

A first-winter Black-headed Gull stopped at Sainte-Catherine 27–29 Dec (P. Tarassoff, m. ob., ph.), while an ad. Mew Gull was discovered at LaSalle (Montréal C.B.C.) 14 Dec (BB). An ad. Thayer's Gull was also at LaSalle (Montréal C.B.C.) 14 Dec (BB), while a first-winter bird appeared at Sainte-Catherine 20 Dec (PB).

An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull lingered at Laval 28 Dec–10 Jan (FR). Dovekies remained abundant off the Gaspé Pen. (*fide* PP) and at Tadoussac (RP) until mid-Jan. The last sighting was of 2 at Anse-à-Beaufils 15 Feb (J. Wiseman). A Barred Owl was apparently successful in killing a Wild Turkey at Sutton 24 Jan (*fide* R. Gaudreault, ph.). Great Gray Owls included one at Laval 1–29 Feb+ (C. Kling, m. ob.), 2 at Cape Tourmente 23 Dec+ (*fide* JL), and one at Plaisance N.P. 19 Jan (JF Houle). Reports of Short-eared Owls were above normal in the Saguenay–Lake Saint-Jean region (*fide* GS) and in the Gaspésie region (*fide* PP)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A female Red-bellied Woodpecker turned up at Lavaltrie 7 Dec (C. O'Connor). Single Carolina Wrens at Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly 7 Dec–10 Jan (HL, RB) and at Mont-Laurier 10–24 Dec (A. Boisclair) were interesting sightings; one at Gaspé 6–19 Jan was very unusual for the Gaspé Pen. (O. Deruelle et al.). A Winter Wren remained at Gatineau 16 Dec–6 Jan (*fide* DT). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found at Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly 7 Dec–10 Jan (HL, RB) and another one was at Gaspé 4 Jan (M. Côté, MC. Rancourt). A late Eastern Bluebird at Les Éboulements 26 Dec was noteworthy so far north (H. Mead). A Townsend's Solitaire showed up at Cape Tourmente 4 Jan–2 Feb (M. Mongeon, m. ob.). Always rare in winter, a Brown Thrasher graced Saint-Méthode 7 Dec–15 Jan (G. Dufresne et al.), while another one was at Moisie 21–29 Feb (JFL). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Nominiguan 4 Jan was notable for the upper Laurentians (M. Blais). A Pine Warbler was reported at Victoriaville 25 Dec–7 Jan (Y. Dupuis, *fide* CR).

Two Spotted Towhees were discovered, a female at Moisie 6 Dec–29 Jan (N. Roy), and a male at Saint-Vallier 29 Dec (L. Mercier, ph.). A Chipping Sparrow was at Pointe-aux-Trembles 28 Dec–16 Jan (YG, SM). The Vesper Sparrow that overwintered at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka represented a first for the Region (LG, AQ), and another one was noted at Saint-Bruno 8–17 Dec (G. Daoust, R. Belhumeur). A late Savannah Sparrow was seen at Saint-Alexandre 12–22 Dec (D. Dessureault). Two Fox Sparrows at Pabos (J. Blais) and one at Sept-Îles (JFL, BD) successfully made it through the winter with the help of feeders, while another one made a brief appearance at Penouille 9 Feb (C. Dufort). Unexpected during the cold season, a Lincoln's Sparrow visited Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 17 Dec–17 Jan (LG, AQ). A Swamp Sparrow at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré 31 Jan was probably a wintering bird (P. Otis, A. Rasmussen, F. Lachance).

An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird brightened Varennes 4–15 Jan (YG, SM, F. Gariepy, D. Paquin, m. ob.). The 10 Rusty Blackbirds at Bonaventure 29 Feb represented a very high count for the season (AC). Following a large fall incursion in ne. Québec, a few Baltimore Orioles continued to show up in Dec, in-

cluding one at La Baie until 6 Jan (M. Tremblay, S. Tremblay, m. ob.) and another at Sept-Îles 4 Dec–7 Jan (C. Couture, BD, JFL).

Exotics: Two European Goldfinches were reported: one at Neuville 7 Dec (L. Plamondon) and one at Repentigny 10 Jan (R. Nolet).

Addendum: A Say's Phoebe stopped at Mount Saint-Bruno 7–8 May 2003. This singing male was identified separately by two different parties (H. & G. Daoust, Y. Dion).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): P. Bannon (Montréal), B. Barnhurst, M. Berlinguette (Brome-Missisquoi), R. Bourrassa, A. Couture, C. Douville (Lower St. Lawrence), B. Duchesne, R. Fortin (Lower St. Lawrence), Y. Gauthier, H. Lansac, J. Lachance (Québec City), JF Laporte, MA. Montpetit, S. Moran, R. Pintiaux, P. Poulin (Gaspésie), S. Rhéaume (Lower St. Lawrence), Y. Rochepault (North Shore), F. Rousseau, C. Roy (Bois-Francis), R. Saint-Laurent (Lower St. Lawrence), G. Savard (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), D. Toussaint (Outaouais). ☺

AviSys™ Version 5

As Simple As You Wish ~ As Powerful As You Need

See our web site for great new features!

Palm Support! Clements' 2003 Taxonomy! Subspecies Support!

New! Over 2,000 Formal Places, Unlimited Locations!

The Leader ~ Always a Giant Step Ahead of All The Rest!

AviSys is a full-featured worldwide database and reporting system for serious birders. It can be enhanced by adding the Official Shawneen Finnegan Worldwide Nation Checklist Add-On (as provided in BirdArea by Santa Barbara Software Products), providing the most authoritative, highest quality, and most up-to-date checklists of the 254 nations of the world. The checklists are tightly and seamlessly integrated with AviSys, providing beautiful screen and printed output with seen, seen-in-nation, and endemic markers, and instant worldwide nation-by-nation range query for any species. AviSys produces seen reports, checklists and hit lists of any nation or state, any group of nations or states, and all ABA Regions and Areas.

You can instantly reduce the on-screen list from a world or NA list to the checklist of any nation, state, county, wildlife refuge, etc., whether provided by AviSys or created by you. Deal with only the birds you need. Rotate through modes instantly.

One AviSys user wrote: "OUTSTANDING! I have been a computer professional for over 30 years and must congratulate you on generating state-of-the-art, convenient to use, efficient and reliable software." Another says: "AVISYS IS A BLAST!" Precisely our objective.

- * **Unlimited Number of Lists:** all major geographic lists automatically updated. Example: assigning a sighting to your yard also updates your City, County, State, Nation, Continent, worldwide ABA Area, worldwide ABA Region, and Life lists.
- * **Full ABA N.A. Checklist, Clements World Checklist, and Official Tony White State/Province Checklists,** all fully integrated with screen and report facilities.
- * **The Fastest, Easiest and Most Flexible** sighting entry—just click on the birds. AviSys has absolutely unmatched search facilities, including **World Band Codes!**
- * **Unlimited Reporting and Listing** by date range, season, geography, species, habitat, behavior, sex, nesting status, heard-only, photographed, key-words, etc.
- * **NO DANGEROUS COPY PROTECTION OR REGISTRATION SCHEMES!**
- * **Free! NABA Butterfly, Dragonfly, Reptile/Amphibian, and Mammal data sets!**
- * **BirdBase users -- ask for our free comprehensive data conversion facility.**

Visit our web site at: www.avisys.net

Orders or info, call 1-800-354-7755 ~ MC/VISA

AviSys 5.0 for Windows 95/98/XP/NT/2000 ~ \$99.95 ~ S&H \$4.00

Nation Checklist Add-On (BirdArea) ~ \$59.95 ~ (S&H \$4.00 if ordered separately)

60 day money back ~ Perceptive Systems, PO Box 369, Placitas, NM 87043

Fast as a Falcon ~ Powerful as an Eagle ~ Friendly as a Chickadee