



**Pierre Bannon
Olivier Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault
Yves Aubry**

The summer temperatures were close to normal in most of the Region, although a slight departure towards higher values was observed in Nunavik. Precipitation was also near normal, but some parts of Nunavik had 30% more rain. Despite these near-normal conditions, 300,000 hectares of forest were lost to fire, which is four times the average. This increase is apparently due to longer periods of drought followed by heavy thunderstorms accompanied by lightning. Half of the fires this summer were caused by lightning, which is now twice as frequent in summer in northern areas as in the past. The effect of these fires on nesting boreal species remains difficult to assess. Various reports from northern Québec, especially from the Nunavik region, by biologists of the Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) and by others also contributed new insights into the Regional distribution of some species.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A Wood Duck a few km n. of the Rupert R. along James Bay Road in mid-Jun was notable (MMe), as were 2 Mallards between Eastmain and Radisson, also in mid-Jun (LC, SB). The finding of 2 male Northern Shovelers at Kangiqsujuaq, in n. Nunavik 21-28 Jun, was quite intriguing (D. McMullen, ph., *vide* MR), although the species nested at Puvirnituq, some 300 km to the sw., along the coast of Hudson Bay, in 2002. Five male Northern Pintails and a female in the Pingualuit N.P., 23 Jun and 28 Jul respectively, were n. of the species' expected breeding range (MR). Up to 3 male Redheads took up residence in the Magdalen

Is, a first record there in summer (OB et al.). Rare inland, 3 male Common Eiders on L. Mégantic 13 Jun were quite puzzling (C. Roy). A male Harlequin Duck on the Toulnostouc R., ne. of Baie-Comeau (MR, C. Marcotte), and two pairs, each on a different river sw. of Kangiqsujuaq (MR), contributed to our knowledge of the distribution of this species.

Red-necked Grebe is doing well in the Abitibi region, where 12 pairs produced 17 young on four different lakes near Rouyn-Noranda (LI). One made an untimely appearance at Tadoussac 29 Jun (MMo, RP). Northern Fulmars were widespread along the lower n. shore, with a maximum count of 500+ made from the Rimouski-Blanc-Sablon ferry in mid-Jun (ES et al.). A Manx Shearwater wandered w. to Bergeronnes 18 Jul (RP, MMo). An extraordinary influx of American White Pelicans included one at Bécancour 1 Jun (D. Poliquin), one at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 2-3 Jun (D. Paquette, *vide* D. Ouellette, ph.), one at Gatineau 2 Jun (M. Gosselin, M. Jacob), one at Saint-Timothée 23 Jun (D. Hugues, D. Guillemette, ph.), 2 at Rouyn-Noranda 26 Jun (JP. Lacasse, ph.), 2 near the mouth of the Yamaska R. 2 Jul (M. Chabot), one at Plaisance 22 Jul (D. Collins), and finally an ad. at Saint-Coeur-de-Marie 26-27 Jul (N. Fortin, ph.).

Single Snowy Egrets turned up at Yamachiche 8 Jun and 18 Jul (JG, M. Bourassa) and at Saint-Barthélemy 24 Jun (M. & M. Boulard). Two Little Blue Herons at La Martinique, Magdalen Is. 4-20 Jun (*vide* A. Richard) were apparently displaying on 20 Jun (DGG). A Tricolored Heron graced Saint-Damien-de-Buckland 7 Jun (R. Gingras, J. Forgues). A Cattle Egret showed up at Lennoxville 12-17 Jun (C. Jetté, JP. Charuest), and a Glossy Ibis stopped at L. Georges 10-11 Jun, a first for Anticosti I. (D. Morin).

RAPTORS THROUGH OWLS

A concentration of 14 Bald Eagles at Deschambault 29 Jul represented a high summer count for the Region (S. Gosselin). An ad. Golden Eagle at Hemmingford 28 Jul was locally unexpected in midsummer (ES, A. Lacasse). A Common Moorhen was heard calling 19-23 Jun at La Martinique, Magdalen Is., where the species is only accidental (OB et al.). Sandhill Cranes continued their range expansion. Extreme s. Québec had its first confirmed breeding records: a nest containing a chick at Dundee 20 Jun (P. Tarassof, ph., m.ob.), 2 ads with a half-grown young at Trois-Rivières 28 Jun (S. Hamel, D. Pronovost). Also notable were 2 individuals at Saint-Édouard-de-Maskinongé 18 Jun (YG, SM), 3 at Low 16 Jul (J. Brûlé), and one at Gaspé all summer (D. Jal-

bert et al.). A flock of 102 birds at Roquemare 19 Jun provided a record summer count for Abitibi (P. Brousseau).

A late Marbled Godwit was detected at Barachois 9 Jun (E. Asselin, D. Jalbert). Three northbound Ruddy Turnstones were notably late at Yamachiche 17 Jun (JG). Again this year, a C.W.S. survey of southbound Red Knots staging in the Mingan Archipelago confirmed the presence of 1500-1800 ads. in late Jul-early Aug (*vide* C. Buidin). An agitated Dunlin was found in suitable nesting habitat in the Pingualuit N.P. 28 Jul, providing further potential evidence for the breeding of the species in the Ungava Pen. (MR).

Totals for Laughing Gulls and Franklin's Gulls were close to normal, with 9 and 5 individuals, respectively. A Laughing Gull at Gagnon 2 Jul was apparently the northernmost for the Region (B. Jolicœur), while an ad. Franklin's Gull at Blanc Sablon 28 Jun was certainly worthy of mention (H. Tremblay). Black-headed Gull is doing well in the Magdalen Is., where 15 nests and 35 individuals were found at Pointe-de-l'Est N.W.A. 20 Jun (OB et al.). Again this year, a late Arctic Tern visited Sainte-Catherine 14 Jun (PB). Common Murres are thriving in the Magdalen Is., where 9000 nesting birds were concentrated in two colonies this summer (JF. Rail). One located at Rivière-Ouelle 20 Jul was the westernmost bird this summer (JFR).

A White-winged Dove, the 15th for the Region, was a nice find at a Danville feeder 13 Jun (G. Lacroix, ph.). Two Mourning Doves at Radisson in mid-Jun were n. of their current range (LC, SB). Four Yellow-billed Cuckoos represented a good summer total. Black-billed Cuckoos were also well in evidence, e.g., 11 at Bellecombe, Abitibi 25 Jun (LI). The only Great Gray Owl reported outside of breeding range was at Saint-Anaclet 19 Jun (S. Rhéaume, J. Marcoux).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLING

A Red-headed Woodpecker at Sainte-Foy 7 Jul was outside of its former range in Québec (D. Lapointe, M. Drolet). Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested for the 2nd consecutive year at Châteauguay, where 2 juvs. and an ad. were noted 22 Jun (A. Lévesque, PB, G. Duquette). A female was at Maskinongé 1 Jul (SM, YG). Two American Three-toed Woodpecker nests were discovered in the Appalachian Mts. of the Beauce-Étchemin region, where the species' summer haunts are poorly known on both sides of the border (F. Chabot, *vide* L. Tremblay).

An Eastern Kingbird at km 274 along James Bay Rd. in mid-Jun was near the limits of its

range (MMe). An unbanded Loggerhead Shrike was photographed at Les Cèdres 7 Jun, barely a week after the last report of this formerly regular species in the Region (M. Dennis). The secretive Yellow-throated Vireo at Cap Tourmente was seen or heard sporadically up to 16 Jun (m.ob.), while another was at Saint-Raphaël 9 Jul (R. Lepage). Ruby-crowned Kinglets seem to have nested in the Montréal Botanical Gardens as evidenced by one bird 19 Jun (L. D'Amours) and several 16 Jul (SV).

Three downy juv. Northern Wheatears at Kangiqsujuaq 29-30 Jul provided one of few nesting records for the Region (MR). In addition, two nests have been found at Kangiqsujuaq "in recent years" (P. May, *fide* MR). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was heard on a mountain near the 51st parallel 100 km ne. of Sept-Îles 13 Jul, representing a potential extension of its poorly known range in Québec (OB). Following a strong showing last spring across much of the Region, Northern Mockingbirds were reported to be breeding in many new localities.

WARBLERS THROUGH REDPOLLS

Blue-winged Warblers were reported from Saint-Anicet 30 Jun (G. Falardeau) and Lac-Brome in Jun (2 birds), where the species is known to nest (JP. Santerre). An impressive (troubling?) total of 9 Brewster's Warblers was reported in sw. Québec. An intriguingly early southbound movement of Tennessee Warblers was noted in s. Québec, starting in late Jun. In Montréal, where the species is not known to breed at all, singles were sighted at Summit Park 21 Jun (PB) and at Pointe-des-Prairies Nature Park 24 Jun (D. Daigneault, SD). Significant numbers followed in the first week of Jul, as evidenced by 10 at both Sainte-Foy 4 Jul (M. Raymond) and on Mount Royal, Montréal 6 Jul (PB). The species also appeared more abundant than usual on its breeding grounds in e. Québec and n. of the 50th parallel, based mainly on B.B.S. data. Such early departure from the breeding

grounds is well documented for this species, but the extent of this event appeared unparalleled this summer. It is worth noting that severe defoliation of Trembling Aspen occurred across vast areas of the Region, notably in Charlevoix and the North Shore at least up to the 51st parallel. A pair of Pine Warblers was at the e. reaches of the species' breeding range at Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth 24 Jun (JFR). Thirteen Connecticut Warblers (12 males and a female) were banded at Normandin in Jun in the context of a research project directed at this skulking species (J. Ibarzabal et al).

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported widely and in good numbers this summer, e.g., 14 singing males in Abitibi 3-24 Jun (LI et al.). A Field Sparrow was at Saint-Philémon-Sud 13 Jun (JFR). A harvest of 22 singing Le Conte's Sparrow was reached in Abitibi 2 Jun-23 Jul (LI et al.); one was at La Pocatière 21-24 Jul (C. Auchu, C. Girard). Two ad. Dark-eyed Juncos at Kangiqsujuaq 29 Jul were n. of their expected breeding range (MR). A female Northern Cardinal was at Preissac, Abitibi 9 Jun (M. Lefebvre). Providing a rare summer record, a female Dickcissel was reported at Rivière-Ouelle 9 Jun (M. Cloutier, Y. Gilbert). A first-summer male Orchard Oriole was at Pointe-des-Prairies Nature Park, Montréal 7 Jul (A. Martin, SV et al.).

Last year's White-winged Crossbills largely vacated the forests in which they were so abundant from Jul 2006 onwards due to this summer's poor cone crop. The Canadian Maritimes had a strong influx, with many birds moving into the relatively isolated Magdalen Is. in late Jun (e.g., 150 at Pointe-de-l'Est N.W.A. 30 Jun), as masses of new cones were growing (OB et al.). One of the most remarkable events of the summer was the appearance of several Common Redpoll groups, with up to 30 juvs., in late Jun and Jul along the s. shore of the St. Lawrence R. between Montmagny and Rimouski (m.ob.). No birds were reported from the n. shore aside from the mts. n. of Sept-Îles. It is tempting to believe that

nesting occurred in coniferous forest in the Lower St. Lawrence, possibly well to the w. of historic breeding localities among the summits of the Chic-Choc Mts. in Gaspésie. The high numbers of birds lingering late in the area last spring, coupled with the locally good remnants of last summer's good cone crop definitely support this hypothesis.

EXOTICS

Not your ordinary pet shop escapee, a Northern Carmine Bee-eater at Saint-Ferdinand 9-30 Jun dazzled many curious birders (D. Langlois, B. Lemay). Somewhat less surprising, a European Goldfinch was at Duparquet L., Abitibi 9 Jun (P. Letendre).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): **P. Bannon** (Montréal), **M. Berlinguette** (Haute-Yamaska), S. Bouchard, L. Corriveau, L. Decoste (Magdalen Is.), R. Fortin (Lower-St. Lawrence), **DG. Gaudet** (Magdalen Is.), Y. Gauthier, J. Gélinas, L. Imbeau (Abitibi), J. Lachance (Québec City), M. Medler, M. Moisan, S. Morand, R. Pintiaux, P. Poulin (Gaspésie), M. Robert, **Y. Rochepault** (North Shore), J.F. Rousseau, C. Roy (Bois-Francs), R. Saint-Laurent (Lower-St. Lawrence), E. Samson, G. Savard (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), D. Toussaint (Outaouais), S. Vanier. 🐦

Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon

Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1

(pbannon@videotron.ca)

Olivier Barden, 1652 rue de Bruyères

Sainte-Foy, Québec G1W 3H1

(whitephasegyrfalcon@hotmail.com)

Normand David, 516 Shakespeare

Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec H9G 1A2

(normanddavid@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)



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