

The nesting season (2003) in Saint-Pierre & Miquelon islands.

June was rather cold and windy and July was mostly foggy ! This kind of weather did not induce much birding. Scarcity of reports cannot explain completely low numbers of some species, mostly passerine insectivorous birds. A rather uneventful season ...

Red-throated Loon : Two birds were seen on a pond of southern Langlade by MD on June 8 with no nesting evidence. One nest with two eggs was found on western Miquelon on June 19 (RE) and on June 24 on the north-eastern corner of the Isthmus (LJ). The latter had two young aged about 2 weeks on July 27 (RE).

Common Loon : One bird was still off the west coast of the Isthmus on June 9 and one was singing in Mirande lake on June 23 ! (RE).

Pied-billed Grebe : One bird was in St. Pierre on July 24 and 25 (FPA) There are observations for June and July only in 1993 where one bird lingered on the Isthmus for quite a while.

Northern Fulmar : No reports of prospecting birds this year around St. Pierre. One only between Miquelon and St. Pierre on July 1 (RE), several between Fortune NFLD and St. Pierre on July 20 and one only between St. Pierre and Langlade on July 27 (BL).

Greater Shearwater : First seen on June 21 ! 5 between St. Pierre and Green island (MD). Very few reports and only in significant numbers at the end of July : Several hundreds off the west coast of St. Pierre (BS) and hundreds between St. Pierre and Langlade on July 27 (BL) and July 28 (LJ). About one hundred, mostly this species were off south-eastern St. Pierre on July 30 (PB).

Sooty Shearwater : Four between St. Pierre and Green island on June 21 is the first report of the season. Only 5 other reports between July 1 and 30, few birds at a time except on July 27 to 30 where they were termed "a few dozens" between St. Pierre and Langlade (BS/LJ/BL).

Manx Shearwater : No early observations this year. The first 3 or 4 birds were off south-eastern St. Pierre on June 16 (PB). A few were around Grand Colombier on July 1 (RE). A few late evening hours spent on Colombier island revealed 1 bird inside a cavity, unfortunately no egg was seen and did not seem to exist, 4 other birds were seen on land that evening. We still do not have a confirmed nesting report ! (RE/AD).

Northern Gannet : 19 reports for the whole period for a maximum of about 20 off St. Pierre on June 16 (TV) and numerous between Fortune NFLD and St. Pierre on July 20 (BS).

Double-crested Cormorant : No nesting census again this year, we really don't know what is the present population. Several birds are seen regularly on Mirande lake and on the salt pond near the village of Miquelon. There are nesting cormorants on the rocks off the east coast of Miquelon we do not know how many and if there is only this species there.

Great Cormorant : Nesting only on Colombier islands. No observers went there to count them.

Canada Goose : Nesting activities of the species was very good again this year with about 20 broods (m. ob.) on Miquelon-Langlade a total surface area of about 200 sq km ! ... (no all is good goose habitat of course !). Noteworthy were one brood of 7 and one brood of 8 goslings on the Isthmus (LJ/RE). 54 birds were moulting in one pond of northern Miquelon on June 19 (RE).

American Black duck : Very few reports. One brood of 7 aged about 2 weeks on north-western Langlade was found by MD on July 3 and one brood of 5 aged about 3 weeks was on the Isthmus July 30 (RE).

Blue-winged Teal : One pair on the Isthmus on June 9 (RE) was not seen or reported later.

Northern Pintail : We have about 10 brood reports between July 8 and July 30 (RE/AD/MD).

Green-winged Teal : One with 4 young aged about 2 weeks on the north-eastern corner of the Isthmus on July 8 (MD) is the only report !

Ring-necked Duck : MD had two males, same date and area as above.

Greater Scaup : 8 observations of males only between June 19 and July 27 (RE/LJ/MD/PA) Although it suggests nesting, no broods or female was reported.

Common Eider : About 10 birds in flight, including one adult male on July 8 off the east coast of Langlade was somewhat unusual (RE).

White-winged Scoter : One bird was in St. Pierre harbour on June 19 (PA/BS) and one stayed a few days on a cove of south-western St. Pierre around the end of June (BL).

Common Goldeneye : A pair on a pond of the north-eastern part of the Isthmus on July 8 (MD) was somewhat surprising ! There is no other report for July and one only for June in 1986.

Red-breasted Merganser : Numerous broods, mostly on Mirande lake, the salt pond near the village of Miquelon and the Isthmus. As it is sometimes the case, females are seen with a lot of chicks : one with 16 young on the Isthmus on July 27 and one near the village with 24 ! ... (RE). The species is doing well.

Osprey : One bird was reported in St. Pierre on June 1 (BL), June 4 (PB) and June 5 (PA). Was it the same bird ? One bird was also in St. Pierre on June 24 (BS) and one only reported from Langlade on July 1 (MJB).

Bald Eagle : The nest on Cape Miquelon had 2 young aged about 4 weeks on June 27 (LJ). The nest on s-w Langlade is occupied as seen on July 7 (RE/AD), we do not have any more data. The nest on St. Pierre had 2 young aged about 4 weeks on June 18 (LJ). No data on the nest usually present on the east coast of Langlade.

Northern Harrier : One report only : one female in flight near the village of Miquelon on June 4 (RE).

Northern Goshawk : One pair is still nesting near the west coast of Langlade. "The pair was almost as aggressive as in 2001" as reported by PB on July 11.

Rough-legged Hawk : The species was seen on Colombier island last year as usual but apparently did not nest. This year one pair was present at an old nesting site, there was an undetermined number of young in the nest by July 7 (RE/AD).

Merlin : Fairly common, possibly somewhat more than in recent years. There is about 7 reports of alarmed birds in the three islands between June 8 and July 27 (MD/RE/PB).

Black-bellied Plover : One unseasonable bird was at Grand Barachois on July 8 (RE/AD). The first fall migrants (2 or 3 birds) were near the village of Miquelon on July 30 and a few near Grand Barachois on July 31 (RE).

Semipalmated Plover : One pair was alarmed near the village of Miquelon on June 21 (RE). There was a brood of 4 young aged 5 or 6 days on the Isthmus on June 29 (RE). Fall migrants : a few birds were heard on the Isthmus on July 30; the next day they were about 80 near the gully of Grand Barachois (RE).

Piping Plover : Apparently we had at least four broods this year all found by LJ : One nest with 4 young on the southern part of the Gully of Grand Barachois on June 24 as well as a pair with two young aged a few days. One nest with 4 eggs and one adult with 1 young aged a few days on June 27 on the northern side of the Gully of Grand Barachois, a fairly quiet zone where there is no ATV or other vehicle traffic. I had two alarmed adults on the southern side on July 24 while none were seen on the northern side by July 27.

Killdeer : The species does not live up to its name “*vociferus*”. One only noticed near the village of Miquelon on July 13 was found the next day with a flying young (RE). One was near Grand Barachois on July 31.

Greater Yellowlegs : Usually the species is rather absent between spring and fall migration. This year there was no report only between June 8 and 22. A few birds were seen here and there in early June and then a few regularly from June 22 to July 26. I had about 40 birds, obviously fall migrants, mostly at Grand Barachois on July 27.

Lesser Yellowlegs : Four or five birds were near Grand Barachois on July 24 and one or two, same area, on July 31 (RE).

Willet : 7 observations between June 3 and June 25, near the village of Miquelon one bird at a time except two on June 14 (RE/LJ/AD). One, possibly two birds were near Grand Barachois on July 8 (RE/AD).

Spotted Sandpiper : Quite common, possibly more than in the last few years. One was alarmed in St. Pierre on July 24 (PB). One flying young was on the north coast of Grand Barachois on July 27 (RE). One young a few days old was on the east coast of Miquelon on July 29 and one young aged a few days at Langlade on July 31 (MD). One adult and one young about $\frac{3}{4}$ adult size was near Mirande lake also on July 31 (RE).

Whimbrel : The first bird was reported on the Isthmus by Gustave Dagort on June 27 while BL had 12 birds in St. Pierre the next day. The population slowly build up in July : 186 birds were counted on the Isthmus on July 30 (RE) while PB had about 100 to 120 at St. Pierre on July 29. If no movement occurs between the three islands we probably have 350 or more birds around ?

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 on the north-eastern corner of the Isthmus on July 8 was somewhat unseasonable (MD). I had one bird, same area, on July 27. There was a maximum of 24 birds at Grand Barachois on July 31 (RE).

Red Knot : About 35 birds were near Grand Barachois on July 31 (RE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper : One bird was seen with Dunlins near Grand Barachois on June 27 (LJ). I had about 30 birds or more at Grand Barachois on July 31.

Least Sandpiper : A few here and there, about as usual and possibly underreported. I had one flying young near Grand Barachois on July 27.

White-Rumped Sandpiper : A few birds were at Grand Barachois on July 31 (RE).

Pectoral Sandpiper : Two in St. Pierre on June 1 and one on June 28 (BS) A fairly rare occurrence in spring.

Dunlin : Two birds in breeding plumage were at Grand Barachois on June 27 (LJ).

Short-billed Dowitcher : The first fall migrant was seen near the Isthmus on July 24 and one at Mirande lake 3 days later. 21 birds were at Grand Barachois on July 31 (RE).

Common Snipe : About as usual, and possibly underreported. 4 birds together on the east coast of Miquelon were probably a brood of flying young on July 14 (RE).

Red Phalarope : Rather unusual were 3 birds near St. Pierre on July 1 (TV) and 29 well seen and photographed between St. Pierre and Langlade on July 28 (LJ/BL/JMD *et al.*)

Great Skua : One between St. Pierre and Langlade July 28 (BL/LJ *et al.*).

Pomarine Jaeger : 1 was well photographed by JMD between St. Pierre & Langlade on July 28 (BL/LJ *et al.*).

Parasitic Jaeger : One at sea between Fortune NFLD and St. Pierre on July 20 (BS).

Laughing Gull : Two or three immature were in St. Pierre on June 14 and 22 (PA).

Black-headed Gull : One immature was still in St. Pierre on June 22 in company with the laughing gulls (PA).

Ring-billed Gull : Common as usual, nesting is scattered colonies on the Isthmus.

Great Black-backed Gull : Not much data ! 18 adults were flying above a small islet on a pond where a few young were seen, on the northern part of Miquelon on June 19 (RE).

Black-legged Kittiwake : Number of birds were lower than usual in St. Pierre and Colombier island this year. The colony in Cape Miquelon, where about 2000 have nested, had numbers somewhat lower than usual. Nesting success was once again extremely low. I counted only about 20 young there on July 20 (RE).

Caspian Tern : 1 bird was in St. Pierre on June 7 (MD). One was near Mirande lake on June 16, 19 and 30 (RE/LJ).

Common Tern : A few were seen in St. Pierre in June (PA), on the 22nd he had about 15 birds and among them one pair apparently nesting. There were two nests and 3 eggs on the southern shore of Grand Barachois on June 9 (RE).

Tern sp. As mentioned every year, most of our terns are seen in mixed colonies. Low level of water was favourable to nesting terns on a small islet of Mirande lake where more than 100 birds were present. A few flying young still begging food were seen there on July 31. Several other small colonies were seen also on the Isthmus.

Common Murre : About 300 birds were seen around and on Colombier island on June 21 and 31. Seeking new breeding territory ? (LJ/SA, respectively). Several birds were reported between Fortune NFLD and St. Pierre on July 20 (BS).

Razorbill : Fairly numerous again this year around Colombier island, not much data ! ... (RE/AD/SA).

Black Guillemot : 26 adults in one area off Cape Miquelon on July 20 (RE). Nobody else reported the species ! ...

Atlantic Puffin : The nesting colony at Grand Colombier, seems in good health. Not much data ! ...

Mourning Dove : One bird in St. Pierre reported on June 3, 15, 19 (FPA/TV). 3 birds were also seen in St. Pierre on June 12 (FPA). MD had one bird near the town of St. Pierre on July 22.

Black-billed Cuckoo : One was found dead in St. Pierre on June 22 (TV).

Belted Kingfisher : One at Langlade June 8 (FPA). JCH had six birds along the coast of north-eastern Langlade on July 30, one was carrying food. We can reasonably think they saw a brood of four !

Northern Flicker : Not much data. One nest near Mirande lake was found occupied on June 5. On June 23 adults were feeding young and seen carrying a faecal sac. Another one was heard in Miquelon where a nest was found a few years ago, on June 16. At Langlade LJ had two birds on June 24 and MD on July 31.

Olive-sided Flycatcher : One male was singing in the woods of eastern Miquelon on June 14.

Eastern Wood-Pewee : One in St. Pierre on June 15 (LJ).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher : Fairly common, about as usual, in the three islands (m. ob.).

Alder Flycatcher : One male was heard singing for the first time in the usual area near Mirande lake on June 23. It was still singing on July 31 (RE). No breeding evidence recorded.

Least Flycatcher : One sang for most of the day in LJ's garden in St. Pierre on June 21. LJ had another one at Langlade on June 25. There are only two confirmed evidence of singing birds for the islands, in 1979 and 1997 and two hypothetical non-singing birds in 1989 and 1991.

Eastern Kingbird : A rather poor year for the species. Two were at Langlade on June 8 (MD).

Blue-headed Vireo : One, possibly two males heard singing in Miquelon on June 3 and one bird seen and heard, same area, on June 5 (RE).

Blue Jay : Few birds were reported from St. Pierre this spring (BL/TV/FPA/LJ), there was a maximum of 3 birds on June 7 (FPA) and 4 birds on June 22 (FPA). After St. Pierre last year, Langlade has a confirmed nesting occurrence : 3 flying young seen by MJB on June 28. One was alone in Miquelon on June 21 and 23.

Common Raven : The nest with one young only noted in the spring report was still at the nest and about adult size on June 8. The other nest was empty and 5 young were nearby the same day. There was one nest not far from the west coast of Miquelon with 2 feathered young on June 22. There was one noisy brood on the woods of eastern Miquelon on June 23 (RE).

Horned Lark : Probably underreported, One flying young was seen near the village on July 14 (RE) and one adult with three downy young were seen at Langlade by FPA also on July 14.

Purple Martin : One in St. Pierre on June 28 (MD).

Tree Swallow : Reported only for St. Pierre where two nesting boxes were occupied, adults were feeding young there on July 22 (LJ).

Barn Swallow : Scarce ! A few with the Tree Swallows in St. Pierre on June 7 (LJ). I had two birds near Mirande lake on June 16.

Boreal Chickadee : One nest was found in St. Pierre by BS on June 15. One adult was feeding a young in St. Pierre on June 18 (FPA).

Winter Wren : At least one male was singing near Mirande lake up to mid-July (RE). Two were heard at Langlade on July 10 (PB). One was singing in Cape Miquelon on July 20 (RE).

Golden-crowned Kinglet : Not reported at all !

Ruby-crowned Kinglet : A few were singing in Miquelon on June 3, 8 and 10 (RE). One in St. Pierre on June 4 (PB). One only singing in Miquelon on June 14 (RE). No other reports ! ...

Gray-checked Thrush : The species is becoming very rare in our islands ! 6 reports only and all for Miquelon between June 3 and 14 (RE). No one else reported it. Is the species low somewhere else ?

Swainson's Thrush : One in the town of St. Pierre on June 7 (PA). Two in Cape Miquelon on June 14 (RE).

Hermit Thrush : 6 reports only for Langlade and Miquelon between June 5 and July 25 (RE). No one else reported it as well ! ...

American Robin : Common about as usual, 7 nesting reports between June 2 and 27 (MD/PA/LJ/RE).

American Pipit : One alarmed individual was reported on Colombier island by LJ on July 31.

Cedar Waxwing : The first ones of the season were seen both in Miquelon and St. Pierre on June 4 : 7 or 8 birds in Miquelon (RE) and one only in St. Pierre (LJ). About 15 birds were near the east coast of Miquelon on June 7 (RE/SA) and still one in St. Pierre the same day (LJ). The last 3 were seen in St. Pierre on June 14 (PA).

Northern Parula : One male in St. Pierre on June 7 (LJ).

Yellow Warbler : Fairly common, several breeding records between June 28 and July 27 (m. ob.).

Magnolia Warbler : 7 records between June 4 and 21 (RE/LJ/PB/PA/SA) in the 3 islands.

Yellowrumped Warbler : Two birds in St. Pierre on June 4 (PB) and June 14 (PA).

Black-throated Green Warbler : 1 heard in St. Pierre on June 8 and 1 singing in Miquelon on June 10 (RE).

Blackpoll Warbler : 9 reports only, few birds at a time between June 1 and July 10 (m. ob.).

Black and White Warbler : Four reports only : a few birds in St. Pierre on June 4 (LJ), one only at Langlade on June 7 and one in Miquelon on June 23 (RE). The numbers seen in migration this spring seemed more promising !

American Redstart : 10 records between June 4 and 14 in the three islands, mostly one bird at a time and very few adult males (m. ob.).

Northern Waterthrush : Still fairly common although much less numerous than many years ago. As an example PA noted : "not a single one, I know I have not prospected good areas but ! ..." LJ had one nest with 3 young aged a few days at Langlade on June 26. Two birds (different broods) were feeding young at Langlade on July 10 (PB). One adult with a flying young was seen in Miquelon July 31 (RE).

Mourning Warbler : One male was in St. Pierre on June 5 (PA). The first one was heard singing in Miquelon on June 10 and up to June 25 then only on July 14. (RE). Two males were on western Langlade on June 25 (LJ) and one male singing at Langlade on July 10 (PB).

Common Yellowthroat : 17 reports between June 1 and July 31 in the three islands. few birds a time. One pair was seen carrying food at Langlade on July 31 (MD).

Wilson's Warbler : 10 reports between June 4 and July 14, mostly one bird at a time (PB/RE/PA/LJ). One male was carrying food near Mirande lake on July 14 (RE).

Savannah Sparrow : Common, about as usual. 7 breeding records between June 17 and July 31 (RE/PA/LJ/PB) The latter one was a nest with 5 eggs on Colombier island (LJ).

Fox Sparrow : Common, about as usual. Two breeding records between June 25 and July 23 (FPA/RE).

Song Sparrow : Probably not reported rather than absent from St. Pierre ! One was singing near Mirande lake on June 8 and 10 and one near the village on June 17 (RE).

Lincoln's Sparrow : One male was singing near Mirande lake on June 14 (RE).

Swamp Sparrow : Common, about as usual, a few singing here and there throughout the season (PB/PA/RE). No nesting report.

White-throated Sparrow : Fairly common, about as usual. one nest with 4 eggs was near Mirande lake on June 16 (RE). One carrying food, same area on July 8 (MD). One carrying food, and followed by one young at Langlade on July 10 (PB).

Dark-eyed Junco : All records from St. Pierre and from FPA (possibly birds fed in winter and spring) : One juvenile on June 12; two already fairly large young on June 14; One adult feeding 2 and 1 young on June 15 and 16 respectively. One adult, also in St. Pierre on June 27 (PA).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak : One male was seen in St. Pierre by BS on June 8.

Common Grackle : Less common than usual or underreported ! Two in St. Pierre on June 14 and 27 (PA).

Pine Grosbeak : Four reports only, few birds at a time, mostly in Miquelon (one at Langlade) between June 7 and July 31 (RE).

Pine Siskin : Four in St. Pierre on June 5 (PA).

American Goldfinch : None reported from St. Pierre where I suspect it is still a resident ? One or two were heard in the village of Miquelon on June 9, 1 or 2 heard at Mirande on June 17 (RE) and one at Langlade on July 9 (PB).

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