



The first counts of the season

The OOT's fourteenth season was officially launched on the 24 August with the start of the visual counts. However, the start was a fairly slow one, with observations being suspended for two consecutive days due to fog. At the start of the season, it is useful to remember that the data collected by the OOT over the past 13 years offers a mine of useful information. It is, for example, helping us to better understand abundance cycles of species such as Golden Eagles and Goshawks, and to evaluate the state of their populations. Nevertheless, each year the OOT has to turn to funding bodies and generous donators in order to finance its activities. If you would like to help maintain the OOT's activities, you will find a form attached to this issue of the Migration Chronicle (and on our Internet site: www.explos-nature.qc.ca/ooot) that will allow you to make a donation to the Friends of the OOT Fund. In addition to our scientific activities, this fund allows the OOT to communicate its results (by keeping its bilingual Internet site up-to-date) and to provide training in ornithology (through our work with volunteers at the banding station). Another way to help us is by buying one of our T-shirts (20\$). These can be bought at the *Maison des Dunes*, situated in the *Parc national du Saguenay*, or they can be ordered at the following address: ooot@explos-nature.qc.ca. Thank you.



Samuel Denault, one of our ornithologists, proudly wearing an OOT T-shirt.
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A Broad-winged Hawk was seen hunting over the dunes this week. The first week of September should see the first large passages of this species.
© Samuel Belleau

VISUAL COUNTS: The first week of counts was rather quiet with only 200 migrating raptors. By comparison, the mean for the last 13 years for the same period is 533 individuals. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was the most abundant raptor species recorded and most of the individuals observed were juveniles; the adults should start migrating in greater numbers during the first week of October. One hypothesis advanced to explain the early migration of juveniles, is that they are less successful hunters than adults. Therefore, they are less able to cope with reduced food (largely birds) availability brought about by the onset of autumn, and so are forced to leave earlier. It is also interesting to note that juveniles tend to migrate further than adults, and that males, in general, migrate further than females. This, it is believed, all boils down to a question of dominance: females are generally larger and thus more dominant, and tend to choose the closest wintering areas, so avoiding unnecessary energy loss during migration. In the same vein, adults are dominant over juveniles, which allows them to establish their winter quarters closer to the breeding area.

With regards to passerines, this week the OOT has recorded relatively large numbers of Cedar Waxwings and White-winged Crossbills. The observatory's official counters also recorded four Black-backed Woodpeckers in two days (the mean for this time of year is between one and two individuals). The last week of August was also marked by what was probably the last large passage of Trees and Bank Swallows of the season (67 individuals). With regards to coastal birds, a large number of Bonaparte's Gulls (mostly adults) have been coming to feed at low tide. Two Little Gulls were also observed amongst the Bonaparte's Gulls on the 26 August. Although this species is considered rare in the area, there are several sighting annually.

BANDING STATION: Although banding has yet to start, here is some news concerning a Nashville Warbler banded at the OOT on the 19 September 2005. The individual, a first year male, was recaptured on the 11 November 2005 in Mexico, in the City of Oaxaca's botanical garden. This bird had taken less than two months to cover the 4000 km between the two sites. It is likely that it spent the winter in the City of Oaxaca as it was caught again on the 25 December 2005.

Raptor count		
Species	Week 1	Total 2006
	24 - 30 August	
Osprey	1	1
Bald Eagle	5	5
Northern Harrier	16	16
Sharp-shinned Hawk	106	106
Goshawk	4	4
Broad-winged Hawk	31	31
Red-tailed Hawk	7	7
Rough-Legged Hawk	0	0
Golgen Eagle	0	0
American Kestrel	20	20
Merlin	6	6
Peregrine Falcon	2	2
Gyrfalcon	0	0
Turkey Vulture	2	2
<i>Unidentified raptor</i>	0	0
TOTAL		

The five most abundant migrating passerines	
Week 1	Season 2006
Cedar Waxing (1579)	Cedar Waxing (1579)
White-winged Crossbill (264)	White-winged Crossbill (264)
American Crow(65)	American Crow(65)
American Goldfinch (49)	American Goldfinch (49)
Common Raven (40)	Common Raven (40)

Official counters : Samuel Belleau et Samuel Denault

AN INVITATION TO ORNITHOLOGICAL GROUPS: Autumn in Tadoussac offers some wonderful bird watching opportunities. While enjoying the spectacular landscape, you can observe species from both the boreal forest and the St. Lawrence Estuary. The OOT would like to send out a special invitation to all ornithological groups and nature-lovers from Québec, and elsewhere, to come and visit the region. Explos-nature, in concert with the OOT, can offer organised tours that will allow you to discover both the bird-life and the marine-life (from whales to invertebrates) of the area. Participants of organized tours can stay at the *Maison de la mer* in Bergeronnes. For further information, contact the *Maison de la mer* on 1-877-MER-1887.

The migration is underway, so keep your eyes open! We hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in Tadoussac this autumn.

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Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac (OOT)
Corporation Explos-Nature



Contribution to the *Friends of the OOT Fund*

- 25 \$ « *A rule to measure a bird's wing* »
- 50 \$ « *A spring scale* »
- 75 \$ « *A pair of banding pliers* »
- 100 \$ « *A mist net* »
- 200 \$ « *Salary for one of the 120 days of census* »
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THANK YOU !**