

flooded with less than 2 feet of water. The dominant submerged vegetation consists of dense beds of pondweeds (*Potamogeton berchtoldi* and *P. pectinatus*). Bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), and sweet gale (*Myrica gale*) are the predominant emergents. Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) is common throughout, often occurring in dense mats. Dominant shoreline vegetation includes broad-leaf (*Spartina pectinata*), blue-joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), and rushes (*Juncus* spp.).

In addition to Gadwall, the following broods of other waterfowl were observed during 1973 at Indian River: five Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), three Black Duck (*A. rubripes*), one Pintail (*A. acuta*), one Green-winged Teal (*A. carolinensis*), one Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*), two American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*), two Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), and two Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*).

Henny and Holgersen (in press) have documented the extension of Gadwall breeding range along the Atlantic coast during the past 30 years and have records of its breeding from South Carolina to Massachusetts, mainly in freshwater impoundments. Other waterfowl have recently extended their breeding range into the Maritime Provinces (Bartlett 1960) and the occurrence of Gadwall breeding on Prince Edward Island is consistent with these recent changes.

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Sighting of a Yellow Wagtail on Old Crow River, Yukon Territory

While collecting Pleistocene vertebrate fossils along the Old Crow River between Timber and Black Fox Creeks on 6 August 1973, I had occasion to tie the boat to willows below a sheltered bluff on "Black Bear Bend" (68°06'42" N, 139°55'00" W). The wind was southwest at approximately 12 mph and the sky was covered by about 5/10 cumulus and 3/10 altocumulus cloud. After about 20 minutes (12:30 p.m. Northern Yukon Time) I noticed a small bird flying overhead. It appeared to be slightly larger than a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and was a very manoeuvrable flyer. It hovered over the river and dipped quickly in and out of the water surface before landing on the sandy point bar opposite the boat. I was able to view the bird through binoculars for about 20 minutes before I departed from the area. Its most remarkable feature was a long, blackish tail, which it began twitching as soon as it landed and started to walk around. The species was new to me, although I had kept records

on birds in the area for the previous 6 years. The size of the bird, its twitching tail, dark head, and bright yellow underparts led me to conclude it was an adult Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*); and I was able to check this identification at the time in *Birds of North America* (Robbins et al. 1966). The species was not detected previously by Irving (1960) in the Old Crow region.

The Yellow Wagtail ranges throughout Eurasia, western and northern Alaska, and northern Yukon Territory. Smith (1950, p. 2) states that the Alaskan Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava alascensis*) originally bred only in extreme northeastern Siberia but has extended its breeding range to Alaska. Apparently its breeding range is spreading farther eastward for it is found in summer near the mouth of Firth River where it probably breeds (Godfrey 1966, p. 307), a position approximately 100 miles north of the Old Crow River observation point. In June 1972 Black (1973, p. 385) sighted 6 pairs of Yellow Wagtails

and found a nest with five eggs on Babbage River about 75 miles north-northeast of the Old Crow locality.

This observation on Old Crow River evidently represents the southernmost occurrence record for the species in Canada. Because the date of observation is after the nesting season, probably this individual was a wanderer from its nesting grounds.

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Apparent Hybridization between a Common Loon and an Arctic Loon

Apparently hybridization in loons can occur, in spite of normal plumage and calls. On July 16, 1973 we located a family of loons composed of an adult Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) and an adult Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) plus two chicks about 5 days old (Figure 1). They were on a small lake at approximately 69°00' N, 133°31' W, several miles north of the tree-line. Both adults were in typical nuptial plumage and on several occasions each gave calls appropriate to its species. This family was observed again on July 18, and regularly between August 14 and 22. By August 14 there was only one chick surviving. When we made our last observations (August 22) this chick appeared healthy, and probably survived the 7 to 10 days necessary to fledge.

During the 8 days in which these loons were seen, we observed them for about 5 hours. The behavior of the mixed pair differed in no obvious way from nearby families of Common Loons and Arctic Loons. Early in brood-rearing it was the Common Loon which behaved 'aggressively' towards us, calling and following us around the lake, while the Arctic Loon remained with the chicks in a less conspicuous place. By August, when brood attentiveness had declined, the Common Loon tended to stay with the chick; other loon broods observed at this time were frequently escorted by a single parent.

As we did not locate these loons until after hatching, there is always the chance that one of the original pair which produced the brood disappeared and that a replacement paired with the remaining parent. But this seems unlikely since it is difficult to imagine pair formation taking place during successful incubation or in the brief period between hatching and the time we found the brood.



FIGURE 1. Common Loon \times Arctic Loon brood. Common Loon on left.

Palmer (1962. Handbook of North American Birds. Volume 1. Yale University Press, New Haven. 567 pp.) cites a possible case of Common Loon \times Arctic Loon hybridization from Belgium.

We made these observations while conducting environmental studies for the Gulf, Imperial, and Shell Oil Companies.

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