



# OFO NEWS

Newsletter of the Ontario Field Ornithologists

Volume 20 Number 1

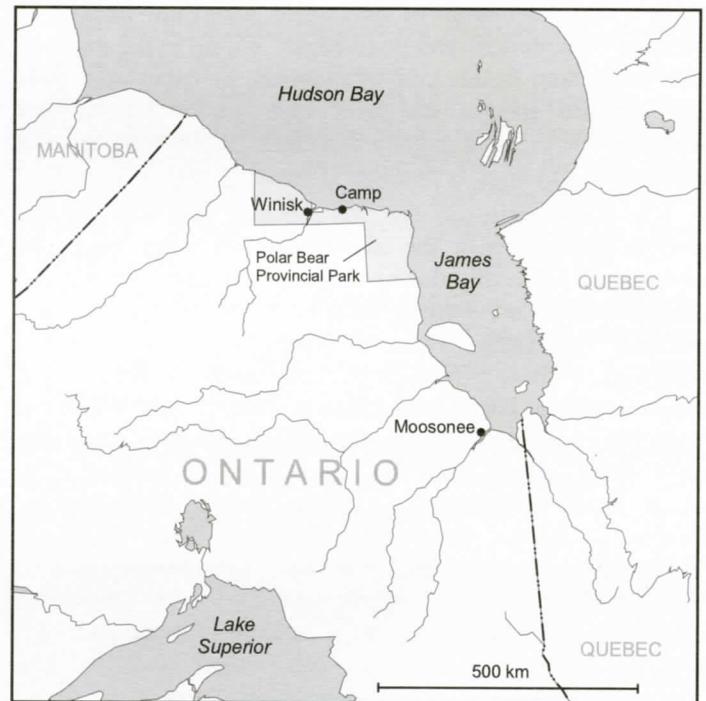
February 2002

## Ontario's Far North

Ken Abraham

My first real taste of Ontario's far north came in mid October 1982, just two weeks after I arrived in Moosonee to begin working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. I accompanied Conservation Officer Pat Brown on a trip to Winisk where he was to put official seals on some polar bear hides so they could be sold by local Cree hunters. We traveled in a De Havilland Turbo-Beaver, looking down on the crisp greens of spruce and golds of tamarack, and as we went north the myriad small wetlands gained covers of translucent ice even as the rivers ran freely with the steel-grey waters of fall. When we landed on the frozen 3000 foot gravel runway of the former Mid-Canada Line radar station at Winisk, I spied a flock of Willow Ptarmigan rocketing away across the taiga. At the dock on the Winisk River where we began a chilly freighter canoe ride to the village on the other side, we were greeted by a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger. As we pushed off into the current, the last of the migrating Snow Geese and Canada Geese and a few hardy Black Duck flushed from the marshes lining the river's estuary.

Almost 20 years later, despite spending weeks there in most summers and making countless flights over this wilderness, I still get a thrill out of discovering new places and "new" birds in the Hudson Bay Lowland. Ontario contains approximately 80% of this crown jewel of wetlands, the third largest wetland complex in the world. There is always another wetland, river, lakeshore, or beach ridge to explore. In 2001, I had the good fortune to be based in a new research camp 70 km east of the new community of Peawanuck (30 km upriver from old Winisk) for nearly five weeks, spread over May to August. Our primary purpose was to monitor the reproduction of Canada Geese, a Mississippi Flyway Council waterfowl project conducted as part of the management plan to ensure sustainable use. As it was also the first year of the new *Ontario Breeding Bird*



Research camp at Burntpoint Creek, east of Winisk, in Polar Bear Provincial Park. Map by Andrew Jano.

*Atlas*, we made every effort to document the breeding and other birds of the 16 square kilometre study area we called Burntpoint Creek, after the nearest named feature on the topographic map.

We arrived on 22 May and found the surrounding tundra clear of snow due to an unusually early thaw; the temperatures were also more like late June. While the geese were already in the middle of their four week incubation period, shorebirds were busily displaying on territories and



Pacific Loon on nest. Photo by Ken Abraham.

landbirds were just arriving. Our camp was 3 km inland from the Hudson Bay coast on a raised beach ridge, covered mostly with low-growing tundra plants, but spiced here and there with a few clumps of spruce and tall willow thickets in protected depressions and pond edges. We sat in the midst of vast sedge fens. In this kind of situation, we expected a wide mix of bird species and over time we've learned that whenever you put a human structure in the middle of a wilderness, anything is possible in terms of vagrants.

The first minutes of the first morning at a new site are always charged with the anticipation of what might be discovered, especially during migration season. We weren't disappointed as we were greeted by an eclectic mix of new arrivals, including Harris's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (vagrant), Wilson's Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Barn Swallow. Hudsonian Godwit, Dunlin and Whimbrel were calling and displaying throughout the area. Over the next three weeks our list grew to 75 species. The characteristic northern boreal species were all there, such as Common Raven, American Robin, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Common Redpoll, White-crowned Sparrow and Herring Gull. Ontario's Arctic and sub-Arctic specialties were also conspicuously present, including Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Tundra Swan, Long-tailed Duck, Willow Ptarmigan and Common Eider. Over the season we found nests or young of 18 species, including Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Willow Ptarmigan, Herring Gull, Arctic Tern, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Semipalmated Plover, Dunlin, White-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Horned Lark and Common Redpoll.

Everyone's birding highlights are different because each person's accumulated experience is so varied. I count those instances that add significant new knowledge about a species or a place, those that are singularly pleasant for me, and those that are just plain odd. This year provided some of each. We added significantly to the knowledge of Canada Goose nesting ecology and habitat use in the Lowland which

will help manage them better. We monitored over 300 nests, tagged nearly a thousand young at hatch and captured almost 100 of them six weeks later, providing growth, survival and movement data.

Daily encounters with the beautiful and vocal Smith's Longspur were especially pleasant for me. I've seen them a few times in the Lowland before, but never become intimate with their singing, their displays or their habitat choices. It was a real treat to be in their company and watch them on a daily basis. For oddities, the Brown Thrasher that showed up on our third morning (25 May) and stayed until our last departure (29 July) just couldn't be beaten. This species commonly "over-shoots" its primary range during spring migration. Although it's never been confirmed nesting in the Lowland, it often is recorded wherever people spend more than a few hours or days. Our bird sang its heart out in May and June, and though we never saw two birds together, the fact that we were in perfectly suitable habitat with abundant food has to make you wonder about the possibilities. This is one species that future atlasers in the Hudson Bay Lowland will want to keep in mind.

The final tally of species in our study area for 2001 was 84 species. The later season additions included Willet, Sprague's Pipit, Blackpoll Warbler and Hooded Merganser. I fully expect that every season and every new place that I and other birders visit in the Lowland will produce many more worthwhile observations and lasting personal birding memories.



Willow Ptarmigan. Photo by Ken Abraham.

*Ken Abraham is a waterfowl biologist specializing in geese with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.*



# Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

Atlas activities in 2002

**Mike Cadman**

Plans are coming together for year two of the Atlas. The big push this year is to get point count surveys underway and to start people thinking about how we can help fill in coverage of less populated areas. Point counts will allow us to map the relative abundance of many species, showing which regions are most important for each. Birders who know their birds well by song are encouraged to do point counts, and those who don't are encouraged to study hard and be ready for future years.

There are a growing number of opportunities for atlas-ing in the far north and in unassigned squares in central Ontario. A number of potential trips down northern rivers and to coastal areas are outlined on the atlas web page, as are unassigned squares.

## Atlas Workshops

Come out and meet your fellow atlasers and get tuned up for the coming season. We'll be covering the basics about the atlas and results to date; providing atlas-ing tips; giving a hands-on training session on point counts; and telling you more about atlas-ing opportunities in northern and central Ontario. There will be a dastardly atlas quiz and prizes galore.

### Rondeau

Saturday 6 April 2002, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Rondeau Provincial Park, Visitor Centre Theatre

### Toronto

Saturday 13 April 2002, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kortright Centre for Conservation

### Guelph

Sunday 14 April 2002, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Guelph Arboretum Auditorium

### Ottawa

Saturday 20 April 2002, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Prince of Wales Drive

### Peterborough

Sunday 21 April 2002, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 300 Water Street  
Peterborough

### Sault Ste Marie

Saturday 27 April 2002, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Great Lakes Forestry Centre (location to be confirmed)

For more details on any of the above, including directions to workshops, or on any aspect of the atlas, see our website [www.birdsontario.org](http://www.birdsontario.org) or phone toll free 1-866-900-7100. If you aren't involved yet, please contact us and we'll help you get started.

[www.birdsontario.org](http://www.birdsontario.org)

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, Blackwood Hall, Room 211  
University of Guelph, Guelph ON N1G 2W1  
Phone: 519-826-2094, Fax: 519-826-2113

# Carden Bluebirds Have Banner Year

**Herb Furniss**

2001 was the most productive year for Eastern Bluebirds in Carden. With the introduction of the "mud room boxes" we seem to have solved the raccoon problem. We fledged 150 young in 2001 from 72 boxes with a heavier occupancy in the second nesting. We will always lose some to wrens and other predators.

## Mud Room Boxes

I'll try to describe a "mud room box". It was developed by George Coker who lives in Winona, Ontario, and should have his name on it. He was looking for a box where wet birds could shake themselves off prior to feeding their young in cold wet weather. He felt that a lot of young were lost due to being soaked by their "bird brained" parents!

When I saw it at the Eastern Bluebird annual meeting last year, I realized it could be the answer to our raccoon problem. So I went home and made ten of them and put them up. They work perfectly because the raccoons cannot reach the depth of the box.

The box looks like a rural mail box. It is 14 inches long with a 24 inch roof. The bird enters the hole at the end which is the "mud room" and goes to the far end of the box, hops over a 2 inch partition and builds a nest. The birds will do this believe it or not. The end result is they are out of reach of the raccoons.

We have converted the bottom portion of Juniper Lane in Carden and haven't lost a bird. This is an area where we used to lose up to thirty birds and eggs a year. We will gradually convert the whole trail.

Herb Furniss and Don Parkes maintain the *Carden Bluebirds Trail* on Wylie Road and Juniper Lane (off County Road 6 near the south end of Wylie Road).



Eastern Bluebird in Carden. Photo by Sam Barone

# Cooper's Hawk Cannibalism

John Miles

On Sunday 4 November 2002, as I went to close the last net at my passerine banding station in Selkirk Provincial Park, Ontario, I spotted a hawk in the bottom panel that jumped up and flew into the hedgerow leaving its prey in the net. It was a Cooper's Hawk of good size. When I reached the prey I found an juvenile male Cooper's Hawk with the head and neck eaten away.

It appears the larger bird brought the kill to the clearing beside the net and took off as I approached, leaving a pile of feathers near the net. I put the prey on an open branch as I have had Cooper's come back for their prey after being scared off. Then I closed the net.

On Monday the prey had gone. However, while doing the station's daily census, as I started up the hill into the south pine plantation, a large adult female Cooper's flew out from under a pine and landed in a further pine. Where it took off from was what remained of the prey, the 2 wings.

On Tuesday this bird was in the same net where I had first seen it Sunday: an adult female Cooper's with a 270 mm wing cord. There was not much slack on the left leg for the 6L band. This bird was missing the talon on the left front toe of the right foot. From the last joint to the tip of the toe was a black hard growth about 3 times the size of the other toes and nearly 5 cm long. It appeared to have been fowl pox. This enlargement of the toe had penetrated a couple of the meshes and held the bird in the net.

I am aware that larger hawks will take smaller hawks such as a Peregrine taking a Sharp-shinned, but am not aware of one taking one of its own species. Raptor young in the nest will eat their smaller siblings especially when food is scarce but a free flying Cooper's eating another Cooper's seems a little odd.

## Hermit Thrush at a bird feeder

Jean Iron and Ron Pittaway

On 25 February 2002, we saw a Hermit Thrush near our bird feeder in Toronto. It fed on the ground picking up bits of suet dropped by Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. On the third day, it went into an elevated shelf feeder which had a mesh grate cover used to keep out big birds and squirrels. It appeared to feed on bits of sunflower seeds after finches and cardinals had opened the shells. So we put bits of suet and shelled sunflower seeds on the feeder, which the Hermit ate. Several birders saw the Hermit Thrush on 28 February, which was the last day of winter listing.

This is the first time that we have seen a Hermit Thrush eating at a bird feeder. Dunn and Tessaglia-Hymes (1999) in their book *Birds at Your Feeder* say "most regular as a feeder species in California where it is resident year-round and joined by migrants for the winter...Feeders are most likely to be visited in midwinter and on spring migration, although most visits are for water rather than sustenance...Infrequent choices: mixed seed and according to small samples, niger, bird puddings, peanut butter mixes, and dried fruit. Other sources report that suet and bread crumbs are sometimes eaten."

# Virginia Rail Attacks Object

Kevin Dance

I am an 18-year-old birder who had an extraordinary first experience seeing a Virginia Rail. In early fall 2000, I called for rails using tapes with some success hearing both Virginia Rail and Sora. Since then I've been intrigued by these secretive marsh birds. So I volunteered to lead a rail outing for the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists Club in early May 2001.

On the night of 27 April 2001 with my friend Tina Packer, we went to Black Creek Swamp in Oxford County where I was going to lead the June rail outing. The marsh is divided by narrow gravel roads, where on most nights I see only one or two cars. The noise and lights of a vehicle going by usually don't stop rails from calling.

At one spot, we stood at the roadside facing the marsh. Beside the road was a narrow ditch with water bordering the marsh. I put the tape player on the ground close to us and played the Virginia Rail calls. Soon a Virginia Rail called about two metres away. Then we heard rustling in the vegetation. With our eyes adjusted to the darkness of only moonlight, we saw the outline of a small bird fly from the marsh to the recorder. Just before reaching the tape player, it changed direction and flew back to the edge of the marsh. A minute or two later, we again heard the rail rustling along the edge of the marsh. This time the rail flew and landed clumsily on the road, because its large feet are adapted to land and walk on wetland plants.

On the road it called using its descending grunts, which is the Virginia's most common call. The rail then did something unexpected. It pecked the speaker of my tape player and hopped on top of the tape player, which is almost the same height as the Virginia Rail. It stood on the recorder, calling and turning around like an olympic athlete. We saw its long pink toes, which seemed so out proportion to the rest of its body. Once it raised its head slightly and called using its descending grunts, but the neat thing this time was that we saw the bird side on. This allowed us to see its throat feathers vibrate as it called.

The rail never stayed in one spot for long. It scurried to the edge of the ditch and pushed off into the water of the ditch. It seemed to use its momentum shoving off from the land to launch itself across the ditch. The rail appeared not to use its feet to swim until it was barely moving. We had the impression that it wasn't used to swimming across open water, which seemed strange since Virginia Rails live near open water.

Anyone hearing a Virginia Rail's descending grunts only a few metres away at night knows that there is nothing else like it. If the opportunity ever arises to see a Virginia Rail, I suggest you take it - you won't be disappointed.

In no way did we bother the rail. The rail satisfied its curiosity and we gained knowledge and appreciation for rails and marshes. Our preparation enabled me to lead a successful field trip for the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists Club on 18 May, when along with our 6 participants we heard two Virginia Rails and one Sora. The well-being of the bird is always the first priority, so please do not overly use tapes and stress the rails.



# Notes from the OBRC

## Peter Burke

On March 23, 2002 the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) will meet at the Royal Ontario Museum for their Annual General Meeting. The Committee for 2001 has voted on almost 130 records this year.

Three new members will be joining the OBRC in 2002. They are Chris Escott, Dave Elder and Ron Tozer. Ron, who is known to many OFO members as an editor of *Ontario Birds*, has served several times in the past and chaired the committee as well. We look forward to the return of his expertise and organizational skills. Chris Escott of Toronto is on the OFO Board of Directors and a veteran birder who will be serving with his brother Nick of Thunder Bay. Dave Elder is a former MNR employee who resides in Atikokan. Many members know Dave from his annual pilgrimages to Pelee in May or have heard of his impressive bird library. We welcome both Dave and Chris as first time members to the committee.

Kayo Roy will be stepping down as Secretary in 2002. His abilities to organize and perform his duties have been a great help to the OBRC during the last 3 years. If you see Kayo out in the field, take a minute to thank him for his service to the Ontario birding community. Bill Crins will be taking over in 2002 and we look forward to having Bill's skills in such a demanding position.

Coming to the end of their three year terms on OBRC at the end of the March 2002 meeting are Kevin McLaughlin, Margaret Bain and Rob Dobos. On behalf of OFO members, we thank them for providing knowledgeable input and many hours of service to the committee.

The committee is hoping to have the revamped guidelines on "How to Document a Rarity" available in time for the spring waves of migrants. Look for this on the OFO website in the next while. As well, we hope to have the OBRC guidelines up there shortly for viewing.

We are currently addressing how best to accomplish our goal of creating a database for all OBRC rarities, and discussing the controversy over whether or not we should require a specimen or photographic evidence for a provincial first. These topics will emerge at our AGM in March along with the discussion of many reports we have received. Thanks to everyone who has submitted documentation to the OBRC in 2001.

Please send rare bird reports to:

Bill Crins, OBRC Secretary  
170 Middlefield Road  
Peterborough ON K9J 8G1

E-mail: bill.crins@sympatico.ca

# Young Ontario Birders

The Board of Directors and OFO members eagerly support young birders by encouraging them to attend and lead field trips, involving them in the breeding bird atlas, hawk counts, banding, and having them write and illustrate articles for *OFO News*. Examples are Kevin Dance's article on page 4 of this issue, Ian Shanahan's articles and illustrations of Presqu'ile's birds, and Chris Kimber's articles about Long Point and ABA Texas Challenge. OFO is happy to write letters supporting the applications of young birders. The letters below are about and from young birders.

## Brandon Holden Attends Long Point

Dear Jean,

4 August 2001

I would just like to thank you for your letter of reference for the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists Workshop. I was chosen to participate and went there this past week. I had a great time there learning about bird banding and bird watching. It was really hot there, close to 35°C each day, but I still had a great time. We also had some great birds considering the time of year. On 31 July we saw a Marbled Godwit fly over Big Creek Marsh (and over us) and on 2 August we saw the Summer Tanager at Wilson Track. I had a great time banding as well. Throughout the week we banded 141 birds in 4 days. We banded birds like Carolina Wren, Eastern Kingbird, Baltimore Oriole and Northern Waterthrush. I also met other kids my age who are also interested in birds as I am. I am going to attend some OFO trips to different places this fall and winter. Thanks again.

Brandon Holden  
Binbrook

## Ian Shanahan Wins ABA Awards

Dear Jean,

8 February 2002

Ian got some good news today from the ABA's Young Birder of the Year contest. In his age group (16-18), he won first as the Young Birder of the Year, first in the Illustration Module and received an honourable mention in the Field Notebook Module. As a Dad, I feel obliged to mention that as his birthday is in early September, he did most of his work as a 15 year old. Also, one of his Western Sandpiper drawings will be published in February's *Winging It*. They are a bit behind *OFO News* on this one. I am sure he will be contacting you himself, but on behalf of both of us, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement of Ian and other young Ontario birders.

Dad of Ian Shanahan

Don Shanahan  
Brighton

# 1905 Bird Checklist of Ontario

Comparing 1905 and 2002

Jean Iron and Ron Pittaway

Old bird checklists are fun to read and much can be learned from them. Here we compare Nash's 1905 annotated Ontario checklist with the 2002 list. Nash's 1905 list comprises 317 species, including three species now considered morphs and two subspecies (races) now considered species. Comparing 1905 and 2002 using today's taxonomy, Ontario's bird list would have been 316 species in 1905 and is 474 species in 2002, a difference of 158 species. For a list of birds added since 1905, see page 18. Checklist sequence and many bird names were different in 1905. We retain Nash's checklist sequence. Where bird names differ, the 1905 name is followed by the 2002 name in square brackets [ ]. We include selected annotations from Nash's checklist for many species to show the status and beliefs about birds a century ago, usually followed by our comments in *italics*. We retain Nash's spellings and use of language. Nash's treatment of subspecies was uneven and incomplete. Some subspecies were listed as full headings like species, while others were mentioned only in the annotations. We also include a number of Nash's bird drawings. When interpreting old checklists, note Ontario's boundary extensions in Figure 1.

**Who was Charles William Nash?** C.W. Nash (1848-1926) in 1905 was a Lecturer in Biology for the Ontario Department of Agriculture. He was an all-round naturalist who published annotated checklists on vertebrates of Ontario. Nash succeeded William Brodie as provincial biologist in 1910. He prepared his bird checklist from specimens in the provincial museum and included all birds known to occur in Ontario. His checklist was supported by a small network of correspondents, mostly from southern Ontario. Nash spent much of his time in Hamilton and Toronto. His knowledge of northern Ontario birds was understandably extremely limited.

Nash's 1905 checklist is often cited as being published in 1908. However, the 1905 checklist was published again in 1908 as part of the *Manual of Vertebrates of Ontario* (Nash 1908).

## 1905 Bird Checklist

### Holbøll's Grebe [Red-necked Grebe]

A regular, but never a common, spring and autumn visitor to the waters of southern Ontario. Probably breeds in the northern part of the Province.

*Last sentence has proven true. Has nested intermittently at various points along western Lake Ontario since 1943 (Dobos and Edmondstone 1998).*

### Horned Grebe

Abundant on the great lakes and all large bodies of water throughout the Province in spring and autumn; breeding in the large marshes. A few remain on Lake Ontario through the winter.

*May have bred more commonly in the past; James (1991) says "One substantiated breeding record since 1938."*

### Pied-billed Grebe

#### Loon [Common Loon]

*The Ontario Legislature passed Bill 147 on 23 June 1994 designating the Common Loon our provincial bird.*

#### Black-throated Loon [Pacific Loon]

A very rare winter visitor.

*Most recent southern records are in fall and spring.*

### Red-throated Loon

#### Puffin [Atlantic Puffin]

One specimen has been recorded, taken on the Ottawa River.

*This record was rejected by the OBRC because it may have been in Quebec. There are now several accepted records.*

#### Black Guillemot

Like the last, a bird of the ocean, which occasionally has wandered up to Lake Ontario. Mr. John Maughan, jr., has a specimen taken near Toronto, and Mr. McIlwraith mentions one taken on Burlington Bay many years ago.

*Black Guillemot also occurs on Hudson Bay, but Lake Ontario records likely originate from the lower St. Lawrence River population.*

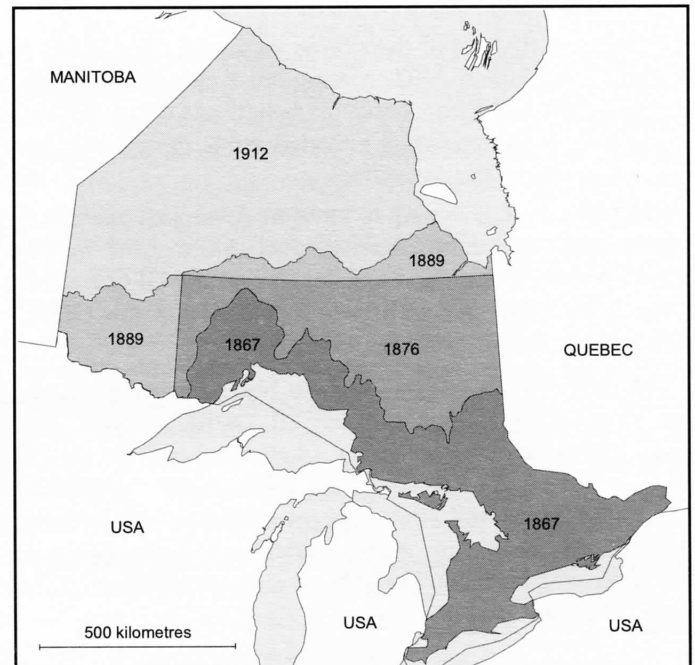
#### Brunnich's Murre [Thick-billed Murre]

Common on the Atlantic coast and an occasional winter visitor to Lake Ontario. During the winter of 1893 a large number of these birds appeared on Lake Ontario, and each season since that time, a few have been seen there.

*The last big wreck of murrens was in late November 1950.*

#### Razor-billed Auk [Razorbill]

Another ocean bird which has found its way up Lake Ontario occasionally in late autumn or early winter.



**Figure 1:** Ontario boundary changes from Confederation in 1867 to the most recent northward extension in 1912 to the shorelines of James and Hudson Bays. Note that the islands, seabed and waters of James and Hudson Bays are *not* part of Ontario; however, the islands, lake and river beds, and waters of the Great Lakes and other border waters are part of Ontario, extending to the USA, Quebec and Manitoba boundaries. Also note the northern boundary of the province when Nash (1905) published his checklist. Map is a composite from Dean (1969). Map by Andrew Jano.

### **Dovekie**

Common on some parts of the North Atlantic coast. One specimen taken by Mr. John Maughan on Lake Ontario.

### **Pomarine Jaeger**

### **Parasitic Jaeger**

### **Ivory Gull**

A regular but not a common winter visitor to Lake Ontario. It probably occurs on the northern lakes also, but as yet I have not heard of it.

*One wonders if Iceland Gulls were misidentified as Ivory Gulls on Lake Ontario. Also, Ivory Gulls are not usually found on our "northern lakes", being a vagrant everywhere in the province.*

### **Kittiwake Gull** [Black-legged Kittiwake]

### **Glaucous Gull**

A regular, but not common, visitor to the great lakes.

### **Iceland Gull**

Mr. Kay reports having taken one at Port Sydney, Muskoka, April 6th, 1898, and Mr. J. H. Ames has one taken at Toronto.

*Iceland Gull is now regular in small numbers in southern Ontario.*

### **Great Black-backed Gull**

A regular, but not abundant, winter visitor to the great lakes, more frequently observed than either of the preceding species, perhaps because it is more readily distinguishable when flying.

*This species has increased greatly in recent years. Thousands now migrate along the St. Lawrence River to winter mainly on Lakes Ontario and Erie. Hundreds of migrants are now seen in Ottawa where they were once uncommon. Breeds uncommonly on Lakes Ontario and Huron; it has not increased as breeder on the Great Lakes as expected.*

### **American Herring Gull** [Herring Gull]

### **Ring-billed Gull**

A very common resident; like the last, most abundant in winter. Breeds in the lakes and marshes of the interior.

*This is the most abundant gull in Ontario. The Ring-billed Gull frequents parking lots and follows the farmer's plow.*

### **Laughing Gull**

### **Franklin's Gull**

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

### **Caspian Tern**

A regular but not common spring and autumn visitor to the great lakes.

*At the beginning of the last century, there were only two known colonies in Ontario on Lake Huron (Don Sutherland, pers. comm.) It has increased greatly in recent years, with the Great Lakes population accounting for one third of the North American breeding population (Iron 1995).*

### **Cabot's Tern** [Sandwich Tern]

The capture of a specimen of this Tern in the spring of 1882, at Lucknow, is recorded by Mr. McIlwraith.

*James (1991) and Godfrey (1986) say "autumn 1881."*

### **Forster's Tern**

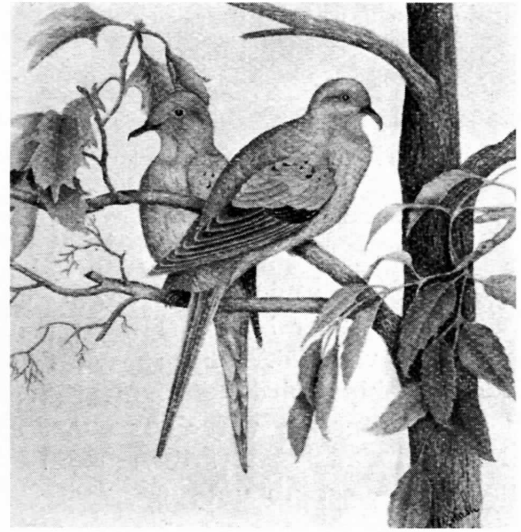
### **Common Tern**

### **Least Tern**

An accidental visitor. Breeds on the Atlantic coast. Mr. John Maughan has a specimen, taken at Toronto in 1897.

### **Black Tern**

This Tern is common in some of the large marshes throughout the Province during the summer, but is not generally distributed.



Passenger Pigeon by C.W. Nash

Breeds where it occurs.

*Numbers have declined in recent years, mainly because many once productive marshes have stagnated and filled in with thick monocultures of cattails. A good example is Point Pelee's once fabulous marsh. Many large unproductive marshes need water level controls to encourage a variety of marsh habitats for a diversity of species. Ideal Black Tern habitat has an interspersion of 50% vegetation and 50% open water. We can bring back Black Terns to their former marshes if water levels are managed to meet their needs.*

### **Black-capped Petrel**

One found dead on the shore of the Island at Toronto.

### **Gannet** [Northern Gannet]

An accidental visitor from the Atlantic coast, which has been met with on Lake Ontario three or four times.

*Now an annual fall visitor to Lake Ontario and occasional elsewhere.*

### **Cormorant** [Great Cormorant]

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

A regular but not a common spring and autumn visitor to our lakes; probably breeds about the waters of the northern part of the Province, as it does commonly in Manitoba and Assiniboia.

*Now breeds abundantly on the Great Lakes and locally elsewhere.*

### **American White Pelican**

An accidental visitor to the great lakes. They breed commonly in Northern Manitoba and the Western Provinces.

*Increasing and breeding in large colonies at Lake of the Woods and recently a few at Lake Nipigon. Some migrants are seen in southern Ontario.*

### **American Merganser** [Common Merganser]

These birds are very destructive to our fisheries.

*This and the next species were considered destructive in 1905 and still are with some people.*

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

### **Hooded Merganser**

### **Mallard**

Common summer resident of the western part of the Province, less abundant in the east.

*Now much more abundant in southern Ontario than the American Black Duck.*



**Black Duck** [American Black Duck].

A very common summer resident, breeding in all suitable places throughout the Province. It is more abundant in the east than in the west, and is only a rare visitor in Manitoba.

*The American Black Duck has decreased greatly and has been replaced by the Mallard due to hybridization and because the Mallard is better adapted to people-altered open habitats.*

**Red-legged Black Duck** [American Black Duck]

Frequently met with in late autumn. Its breeding range is not positively known, but probably includes the Hudson Bay region.

*In 1905, considered a subspecies of the Black Duck. Godfrey (1986) says "For years the large red-legged winter adults were thought to belong to a separate subspecies, supposedly breeding in the northern part of the range and migrating southward with the advent of cold weather. These characters have been shown by T.M. Shortt (1943 in the Wilson Bulletin) to be a product of age, sex, and season. That they are not peculiar to birds of any one geographical area has been well demonstrated by bird banding. The myth of a 'northern' race of Black Duck is still prevalent, however, among sportsmen."*

**Gadwall**

A very rare summer resident.

*A huge status change in this species; it is now a common breeder. Formerly thought to be a warm weather duck, it now winters in large numbers in southern Ontario. Edmunds (2002) reported a record 2036 Gadwall on the Lake Ontario Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory on 13 January 2002. See historical account of the Gadwall by Curry (1994) in Ornithology in Ontario.*

**Baldpate** [American Wigeon]**Green-winged Teal****Blue-winged Teal****Shoveller** [Northern Shoveler]**Pintail** [Northern Pintail]**Wood Duck**

Formerly an abundant summer resident, breeding everywhere throughout the Province; it is still common, but its numbers are fast decreasing.

*The Wood Duck benefited from the Migratory Bird Convention Act in 1917. Now fairly common and still increasing in Ontario.*

**Redhead****Canvas-back Duck** [Canvasback]

A regular, but not generally a common spring and autumn migrant in Ontario. It breeds commonly in the marshes of the North-West Provinces.

*Coady (2000) documented the Canvasback's "long history as a very rare and localized breeding bird in Ontario."*

**American Scaup Duck** [Greater Scaup]**Lesser Scaup Duck** [Lesser Scaup]**Ring-necked Duck****American Golden-eye** [Common Goldeneye]**Barrow's Golden-eye** [Barrow's Goldeneye]**Buffle-head** [Bufflehead]**Long-tailed Duck**

*Many birders will be surprised to learn that the Oldsquaw was called Long-tailed Duck in 1905. In 2000, the American Ornithologists' Union changed Oldsquaw back to Long-tailed Duck.*

**Harlequin Duck****American Eider** [Common Eider]**King Eider****Black Scoter****White-winged Scoter****Surf Scoter****Ruddy Duck****Greater Snow Goose** [Snow Goose]

A rare visitor to the western part of this Province. Breeds in the barren grounds along the Arctic coast.

*The Snow Goose referred to above was undoubtedly the Lesser Snow Goose subspecies. Interestingly, the first verified Greater Snow Geese in Ontario were photographed east of Ottawa by Bruce Di Labio in the spring of 1986. His photos were confirmed by goose expert Graham Cooch of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Thousands of Greaters are now regular in eastern Ontario in spring and smaller numbers are seen there in fall. See Pittaway (1992) for a full account of the subspecies and morphs of the Snow Goose in Ontario.*

**Blue Goose** [Snow Goose]

An accidental visitor, which has been met with two or three times in this Province.

*The Blue Goose was considered a separate species in the past, but is now known to be the blue morph of the Snow Goose. It breeds commonly in northern Ontario and is a regular migrant in southern Ontario.*

**White-fronted Goose** [Greater White-fronted Goose]**Canada Goose**

A regular spring and autumn visitor to our marshes, but not nearly so abundant now as formerly.

**Hutchin's Goose** [Canada Goose]

An occasional spring and autumn visitor. Breeds chiefly on the shore of the Arctic Sea.

*This very small, pale, short-billed subspecies is now called the Richardson's Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*).*

**Brant**

A rare visitor.

*Now a regular migrant in eastern Ontario, but less common in the rest of southern Ontario. Common on James Bay.*

**Whistling Swan** [Tundra Swan]

Of somewhat irregular occurrence; generally a few are seen in the spring. Breeds on the shores of the Arctic Sea.

*Now a locally abundant early spring migrant in southwestern Ontario, with smaller numbers in fall. Sometimes winters in small numbers.*

**Trumpeter Swan**

Like the last, rarely seen now. Breeds on the barren grounds and in the marshes of the far north.

*Introduced birds are breeding and increasing in southern Ontario and birds from Minnesota are breeding in northwestern Ontario.*

**Glossy Ibis**

An accidental visitor. Mr. McIlwraith records the capture of two near Hamilton in 1857.

*Now a regular very rare visitor.*

**American Bittern****Least Bittern**

An abundant summer resident of the larger marshes of southern Ontario, breeding throughout its range.

*Least Bitterns have declined significantly in recent years because many marshes have overgrown and stagnated with dense monocultures of cattails. We could increase numbers of Least Bit-*

terns if water levels were regulated to promote hemi-marsh conditions, which are an interspersed of 50% vegetation and 50% open water.

#### **Cory's Least Bittern** [Least Bittern]

This species seems now to be a regular though very rare summer visitor to the marsh near Toronto. During the last few years over a dozen specimens have been taken there. I have not heard of its capture in any other part of the Province.

*Cory's is now considered an extremely rare dark morph of the Least Bittern. It has virtually disappeared. More Cory's have been seen in Ontario than anywhere in the world. The last Cory's collected in Ontario was on 5 June 1913 at Point Pelee. The last reliable sight record in Ontario was in July 1981 in Prince Edward County. See Pittaway and Burke (1996) for illustrations and a detailed analysis of the Cory's Least Bittern.*

#### **Great Blue Heron**

##### **American Egret** [Great Egret]

A wanderer from the south.

*There are now 10 breeding locations in the province and it is a regular post breeding visitor to much of southern Ontario (Don Sutherland, pers. comm.).*

##### **Snowy Heron** [Snowy Egret]

An accidental visitor to our southern border.

*Now a regular rare visitor and one breeding record.*

#### **Green Heron**

##### **Black-crowned Night Heron** [Black-crowned Night-Heron]

##### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** [Yellow-crowned Night-Heron]

One taken at Toronto by Mr. John Maughan.

*Now a rare regular visitor.*

#### **Whooping Crane**

##### **Sandhill Crane**

An accidental visitor from the western prairies, which has been met with five or six times, in our Province.

*Increasing and breeding in many areas of northern Ontario and also increasing as a breeder in southern Ontario.*

#### **King Rail**

A regular summer resident of the marshes of the western end of Lake Erie.

*Now very rare and endangered. The King Rail is disappearing because once productive marshes have become old and stagnant, filling in with organic matter and dense monocultures of cattails. We can bring back the King Rail by restoring marshes to hemi-marsh conditions, with an interspersed of 50% vegetation and 50% open water. We must mimic natural cycles by managing water levels to create a diversity of marsh conditions that will benefit King Rails and a wider range of other species.*

#### **Virginia Rail**

##### **Carolina Rail** [Sora]

##### **Yellow Rail**

A regular but not common summer resident of our marshes. I have found it in all large marshes from the St. Clair River, east to Toronto.

*Formerly may have nested more widely in southern Ontario, but most records were probably migrants.*

#### **Black Rail**

Very rare, probably a summer resident where it occurs. Dr. Cottle of Woodstock recorded the capture of a specimen at Ingersoll in 1856. In August, 1874, I took four at the upper end of Dundas marsh and saw others. These birds are very secretive and it requires good dogs to flush them from the rank vegetation in which they

skulk.

*May have occurred more often in the past, but no specimens from that time exist today. There are several more recent records.*

#### **Purple Gallinule**

##### **Florida Gallinule** [Common Moorhen]

##### **American Coot**

##### **Red Phalarope**

##### **Northern Phalarope** [Red-necked Phalarope]

##### **Wilson's Phalarope**

An irregular spring and autumn visitor, but rather more frequently met with than either of the preceding Phalaropes.

*Now breeds in southern Ontario and around James Bay.*

##### **Avocet** [American Avocet]

An accidental visitor from the prairies of the North-West, where it is common.

*Now a very rare spring and fall migrant in southern Ontario.*



Woodcock by C.W. Nash

##### **Woodcock** [American Woodcock]

Formerly an abundant summer resident of our swampy woods, but now becoming scarce. Breeds throughout its range. Arrives about the end of March and departs in November, usually remaining until the first severe frost.

*Woodcock numbers are dropping by about 3% a year according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The major reason is maturing forests. The woodcock is best adapted to the forest floor of young forests up to 30 years old (Pittaway 1997).*

##### **Wilson's Snipe** [Common Snipe]

##### **Dowitcher** [Short-billed Dowitcher and Long-billed Dowitcher]

Formerly this bird was not uncommon on the shore of Lake Ontario during the migrations, but now it is a rather rare spring and autumn visitor.

*No doubt most old records refer to the Short-billed Dowitcher, but a few Long-billed Dowitchers probably occurred back then too. The Long-billed became a full species in 1957.*

##### **Stilt Sandpiper**

##### **Knot** [Red Knot]

In the neighbourhood of Toronto and Hamilton I have found this species abundant from the twenty-fifth of May to the end of the first week in June. In the autumn it is seldom seen.

##### **Purple Sandpiper**

##### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

##### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Rather an uncommon species. Possibly breeding, as I have found

them here, from the middle of June to the middle of October.

*We now know that mid-June birds are not local breeders, but late spring migrants going to the high arctic to nest.*

**Baird's Sandpiper**

**Least Sandpiper**

**Red-backed Sandpiper** [Dunlin]

**Semi-palmated Sandpiper** [Semipalmated Sandpiper]

**Sanderling**

**Marbled Godwit**

A very rare visitor.

**Hudsonian Godwit**

Rather more frequently seen than the last. Breeds on the barren grounds.

**Greater Yellow-legs** [Greater Yellowlegs]

**Yellow-legs** [Lesser Yellowlegs]

**Solitary Sandpiper**

Dr. C.K. Clarke, of Kingston, has reported finding a nest of this sandpiper near that town, and no doubt it breeds in the interior of the Province, as it is said to be a regular summer resident of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

*The Solitary Sandpiper breeds in the boreal forest. It is unlikely that the breeding record from Kingston is correct. The summer records from Muskoka and Parry Sound are probably early fall migrants. Nash also suggested that Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers may nest in southern Ontario. This idea originated from the fact that many shorebirds migrate north late in spring and return in late June, so their presence in June and July suggested nesting. Also see comments under White-rumped Sandpiper.*

**Willet**

**Ruff**

A specimen of this European bird in some way wandered to Toronto and was taken there in 1882.

*The Ruff is now seen annually in Ontario. It has nested in Alaska and a few possibly nest in the vast Hudson Bay Lowland of Ontario and Manitoba.*

**Bartramian Sandpiper** [Upland Sandpiper]

This is a bird of the prairie and is of rare and local occurrence here. I have found it breeding in the Counties of Brant and Norfolk, and Dr. C. K. Clarke also reports it as regularly nesting near Kingston.

*Upland Sandpipers became more widespread and common after 1905, but have since declined in numbers because of a reduction in pastureland and a switch to intensively managed row crops.*

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

A rather rare and irregular visitor to Ontario during the autumn migration. I have usually found it in August. Mr. McIlwraith, on the authority of Dr. Macallum, records the discovery of a nest and eggs of this species near Dunnville.

*This species breeds in the high arctic. The nest reported at Dunnville is undoubtedly an error, perhaps a misidentified Upland Sandpiper.*

**Spotted Sandpiper**

An abundant summer resident.

**Long-billed Curlew**

A very rare visitor, usually in spring.

*It may have been seen more often in the past before populations declined (Ross James, pers. comm.).*

**Hudsonian Curlew** [Whimbrel]

An irregular visitor, sometimes occurring in large numbers in spring; in the autumn it is rarely seen.

**Eskimo Curlew**

A very rare visitor. Breeds on the barren grounds.

*Now extinct.*

**Black-bellied Plover**

Common spring and autumn visitor.

**Golden Plover** [American Golden-Plover]

I have never found the Golden Plover in Ontario in the spring. Dr. C. K. Clarke informs me that it sometimes occurs near Kingston at that season. In the autumn it is generally fairly abundant in most parts of the country, visiting the newly ploughed fields, the muddy flats of marshes and the sand bars of the lakes.

**Killdeer**

**Semipalmated Plover**

**Piping Plover**

A regular but not a common summer resident. They arrive early in May and probably leave as soon as the young can fly, for I have never found them in the autumn.

*Now endangered and no longer breeding on the Canadian Great Lakes. It is doubtful, except at Long Point, that many Piping Plovers will nest again on Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, unless human use of large sand beaches is restricted. One or two pairs still nest at Lake of the Woods.*

**Snowy Plover**

Only two specimens have been taken in the Province to my knowledge.

**Turnstone** [Ruddy Turnstone]

Very abundant at some points along the lake shores in spring; particularly so in some seasons on the sandbar near Toronto and on Burlington Beach near Hamilton...In autumn they are never common.

**Quail** [Northern Bobwhite]

A common resident in the south-western counties of Ontario, sometimes ranging east to the County of Ontario. A valuable game bird and one of the farmer's best friends. Few birds are of greater utility than this. Its whole life is spent among the crops we cultivate, and its food consists during the summer months almost entirely of the insects which are injurious to plants. During the winter



Quail by C.W. Nash



it consumes great quantities of weed seeds, a large portion of which are gathered from fence corners and other neglected parts of the farm lands. It is from these places that the cultivated fields are regularly seeded down with weeds every season, and the Quail is an important factor in keeping them in check.

*Now declining and endangered in south-western Ontario due to intensive agriculture and disappearance of its preferred weedy and shrubby habitat. See Lumsden (1994) for an historical account of bobwhite in Ontario.*

#### **Canada Grouse [Spruce Grouse]**

Common resident in the northern districts. It formerly ranged much further south than it does at present, but its tameness has led to its extermination in the settled parts of the country.

#### **Ruffed Grouse**

A common resident in woodlands throughout the Province. Three sub-species have been separated from the typical form, all of which are found here with endless intermediate variations.

#### **Willow Ptarmigan**

A regular winter visitor to the northern parts of the Province, sometimes coming as far south as Sault Ste. Marie, Lake Superior. Mr. J.H. Ames, of Toronto, has one, which was taken near Whitby on Lake Ontario.

#### **Pinnated Grouse [Greater Prairie-Chicken]**

Formerly a resident of the open country along our south-western border, but now extinct there.

*The Greater Prairie-Chicken later spread to St. Joseph's Island about 1925 and Manitoulin Island about 1938, but it now has disappeared again from Ontario because of hybridization with Sharp-tailed Grouse and loss of natural tall grasslands (Godfrey 1986).*

#### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

A scarce resident of the north-western part of the Province.

#### **Wild Turkey**

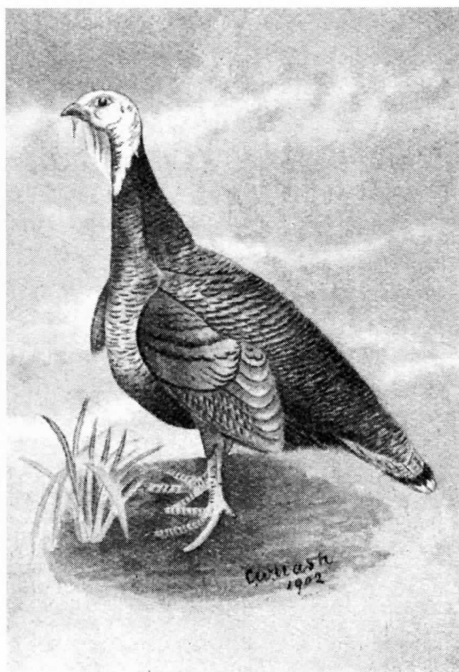
Formerly common in all the south-western counties, ranging east into Wentworth. There may still be a few left in that district, but I have not heard of any for several years. Resident wherever found.

*Extirpated a few years before 1900. Remains in Huron middens suggest that Wild Turkeys occurred north to Simcoe County (Don Sutherland, pers. comm.). Introduced birds are now widespread and increasing in southern Ontario. Current population estimate is more than 35,000 (Bellamy 2000). Wild Turkey hunting seasons were opened in three wildlife management units in the spring of 1987 and in all or part of 61 wildlife management units across southern Ontario in the spring of 2001.*

#### **Passenger Pigeon**

Formerly a very abundant summer resident, occurring in flocks of countless thousands, but now very scarce. Dr. C. K. Clarke informs me that he found a small colony breeding in eastern Ontario in 1898.

*Last nesting colony in Ontario was near Kingston in Frontenac County in 1898. Last sighting in Ontario was a pair seen on 18 May 1902 at Penatanguishene in Simcoe County by A.L. Young (Mitchell 1935). Last known wild specimen taken at Sargento, Ohio on 24 March 1900. Last individual died in captivity in Cincinnati, Ohio on 1 September 1914 (Godfrey 1986).*



Wild Turkey by C.W. Nash

#### **Mourning Dove**

A common summer resident, but somewhat locally distributed. Breeding throughout its range.

*Now common in winter mainly because of bird feeders.*

#### **Turkey Vulture**

A great wanderer, which is of occasional occurrence in Ontario, specimens having been taken at various places from the eastern boundary to the west, where it was formerly not uncommon.

*This species is now common in southern Ontario and continues to increase and spread northward.*

#### **Swallow-tailed Kite**

Mr. McIlwraith records the occurrence of this species in western Ontario and also at Ottawa, and it is quite likely to be seen here again, as it is a great wanderer.

#### **Marsh Hawk [Northern Harrier]**

Very common summer resident, breeding in secluded marshy places throughout the Province...One of our most useful hawks, feeding principally upon the destructive meadow mouse...A heavy penalty should be

inflicted on persons who destroy these birds.

*In 1905 this species was considered beneficial and the next three Accipiter species were considered destructive. The harrier was commoner in 1905 when there were many more pastures, wet meadows, and less intensive agricultural practices.*

#### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Common summer resident, breeding throughout its range. Arrives early in April. The bulk depart about the middle of September, but stragglers often remain until the end of October. This bird is very destructive to young poultry and the small insectivorous birds.

*Both this and the next species now winter regularly in southern Ontario, often preying on birds at feeders.*

#### **Cooper's Hawk**

A summer resident, but not nearly so abundant as the last. Breeds in the interior of the Province. A very destructive hawk.

#### **Goshawk [Northern Goshawk]**

A winter visitor to southern Ontario. Resident and breeding in the interior. This hawk is capable of killing full grown fowls and does so at every opportunity.

#### **Red-tailed Hawk**

This is one of the most useful species, feeding largely upon meadow mice, grasshoppers, and frogs.

#### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Common summer resident. Less frequently seen than the last. Breeds in the interior. I have seen specimens in winter, but not often. A very useful hawk, feeding chiefly on mice, reptiles and grasshoppers.

*Once a common breeder in southern Ontario, the forest loving Red-shouldered Hawk was displaced by the open country loving Red-tailed Hawk as land was cleared for agricultural (Bryant 1994). Today, the stronghold of breeding Red-shouldered Hawks is the forested southern edge of the Canadian Shield from Parry Sound, Muskoka, and the Ottawa Valley south to Kingston. The population is stable or increasing. The future of the Red-shouldered Hawk in Ontario looks promising (Iron 1995).*

### Swainson's Hawk

A rare visitor from the western provinces, where it is abundant.

### Broad-winged Hawk

A common summer resident, breeds throughout its range. A useful species.

### American Rough-legged Hawk [Rough-legged Hawk]

One of our most beneficial birds, its food consisting almost entirely of mice and grasshoppers. I have found as many as eight meadow mice in the stomach and crop of one of these birds.

### Golden Eagle

An irregular visitor to southern Ontario.

*A few pairs nest in northern Ontario. Most of the migrants seen in southern Ontario probably breed in Quebec. Numbers are increasing every year.*

### Bald Eagle

A resident species which until a few years ago regularly bred in certain localities along the shores of our lakes, but which has now retired to the quiet of the interior to raise its young, visiting southern Ontario in winter.

*Bald Eagles declined further in the 1950s-60s-70s because of pesticides. DDT was banned in Canada in 1971 and in the United States in 1972. Now Bald Eagle numbers are increasing dramatically.*

### White Gyrfalcon [Gyrfalcon]

An accidental visitor.

*White and Gray Gyrfalcons (below) were considered separate species in 1905. They are now colour morphs of one species.*

### Gray Gyrfalcon [Gyrfalcon]

As rare as the last.

*A few Gyrfalcons are regular most winters south to Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa and occasionally farther south.*

### Duck Hawk [Peregrine Falcon]

A regular, but not a common, autumn visitor to southern Ontario. Rarely seen in spring. Has been found breeding in eastern Ontario and also in Muskoka.

*Some have suggested that Peregrines were more common before the demise of the Passenger Pigeon, but there is no historical evidence to support this idea. Nash's annotation above suggests that Peregrines were a rare breeding bird in Ontario. With the banning of DDT in Canada in 1971 and restoration programs, the Peregrine is increasing and may be more common today in Ontario than ever before. The limiting factor in the past was probably the number of cliff nest sites near good prey populations. However, the future limiting factor may be how close to one another urban Peregrines will tolerate other nesting pairs.*

### Pigeon Hawk [Merlin]

Not often seen in the spring, but common in autumn...The great majority go south about the end of September. It breeds in the unsettled districts of the interior from Muskoka northward.

*Merlin numbers are increasing spectacularly. It is spreading south of the Canadian Shield and breeding in urban areas.*

### Sparrow Hawk [American Kestrel]

A very useful bird, feeding on mice and insects chiefly.

### Audubon's Caracara [Crested Caracara]

Mr. G. E. Atkinson has recorded finding a dead specimen washed

up on the north shore of Lake Superior on the 18th of July, 1892.

### American Osprey [Osprey]

### American Barn Owl [Barn Owl]

A rare visitor from the south. Five or six specimens of this bird have been met with in southern Ontario.

*Now endangered in Ontario. It became more common after 1905 in extreme southern Ontario because of the abundance of unplowed weedy meadows full of voles combined with many open wooden barns for nesting. The Barn Owl has now virtually disappeared because of intensive agriculture, annual plowing of most fields and a switch to closed metal barns. Great Britain and British Columbia use large nest boxes, known as "dog houses" in BC, that are mounted on steel poles in suitable habitat. These nest boxes should be tried in Ontario, but lack of old field habitat may be the limiting factor.*

### American Long-eared Owl [Long-eared Owl]

Feeds almost entirely upon meadow mice and large insects, I have examined a great many of these birds and so far have never found anything else in their stomachs; never even the trace of a feather.

### Short-eared Owl

This owl is sometimes very common in the autumn, about the low meadows and marshes. In such places I have found them also during the winter at times. Its movements seem to depend upon the food supply...If these owls were less persecuted than they are, they would certainly breed here whenever their favourite food was abundant, as they do in Great Britain, and we should hear less about the damage done to grain and fruit trees by meadow mice.

*Some decline in recent years, probably because of more intensive agriculture and fewer weedy fields with meadow voles.*

### Barred Owl

It is not sufficiently abundant to be of importance from an agricultural point of view. Those I have taken here always contained mice, but to the south of us, where poultry are allowed to roost on trees, it is accused of killing half-grown chickens.

*The Barred Owl is most common in the extensive unbroken forests of central Ontario, such as Algonquin Park, where the Great Horned Owl is rare.*

### Great Grey Owl [Great Gray Owl]

### Richardson's Owl [Boreal Owl]

A winter visitor from the far north, seldom seen in southern Ontario.

### Saw-whet Owl [Northern Saw-whet Owl]

### Screech Owl [Eastern Screech-Owl]

A particularly useful bird and one which, if left unmolested, will become almost domesticated. It will take up abode in and about the barns and outbuildings and soon becomes comparatively tame. It is the most indefatigable mouser we have, for not only does it kill mice to supply its immediate wants, but also for the pleasure of hunting them. Besides this, it also does useful work in keeping the common House Sparrow within proper limits.

*Nash was an early advocate of protecting valuable birds of*



Short-eared Owl by C.W. Nash

prey, although he classified owls and hawks as either beneficial or injurious to agriculture.

#### **Great Horned Owl**

A common resident, breeding throughout its range. The strongest and most courageous of our birds of prey. Commonly considered to be injurious to the farmer, because it occasionally kills poultry. No doubt it will do this in winter, when its natural food is difficult to get; but the farmer who leaves his fowls to roost out and unprotected on cold nights cannot find them very profitable and certainly deserves to lose them. As against this, should be set off the value of the bird's services in keeping in check the rats, mice, crows and other injurious creatures; even skunks often fall victims to the Horned Owl's strength and rapacity.

#### **Snowy Owl**

**Hawk Owl** [Northern Hawk Owl]

#### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

#### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

#### **Belted Kingfisher**

#### **Hairy Woodpecker**

#### **Downy Woodpecker**

**Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker** [Black-backed Woodpecker]

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** [Three-toed Woodpecker]

**Yellow-bellied Woodpecker** [Yellow-bellied Sapsucker]

#### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Resident, but restricted to that part of the country still covered with heavy timber.

*See Dance (1994) in Ornithology in Ontario for an historical and modern account of the Pileated Woodpecker in Ontario.*

#### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

A summer resident, still common, but much less abundant than it was a few years ago.

*Preferred habitat is open areas with scattered large dead trees used for nesting. This species is declining rapidly in Ontario because of (1) more intensive agriculture and (2) fewer old woodlots with dead trees near weedy fields and (3) collisions with vehicles.*

#### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

**Flicker** [Northern Flicker]

#### **Whip-poor-will**

A common resident in the woods.

*This species is now much less common than in 1905, probably due to intensive agriculture and forest maturation. Whip-poor-wills are most common in young woodlands with openings.*

**Night Hawk** [Common Nighthawk]

An abundant summer resident.

*Nighthawks have disappeared as breeders from city roofs in recent years, perhaps due to urban crows and gulls easily finding their nests. Migrant numbers from northern Ontario also have declined.*

#### **Chimney Swift**

Formerly nested in hollow trees, but has abandoned them and now takes up its residence in chimneys and barns.

*Numbers are much reduced from the days of brick chimneys.*

**Ruby-throated Humming Bird** [Ruby-throated Hummingbird]

**Kingbird** [Eastern Kingbird]

**Crested Flycatcher** [Great Crested Flycatcher]

**Phoebe** [Eastern Phoebe]

A most useful bird and one that will return year after year to its nesting place on the farm, if not molested.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**



Whip-poor-will by C.W. Nash

**Wood Pewee** [Eastern Wood-Pewee]

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

**Trail's Flycatcher** [Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher]

*Alder and Willow Flycatchers, split in 1973, were formerly lumped together as Trail's Flycatcher. Apparently only Alder was known to occur in Ontario in 1905.*

**Least Flycatcher**

**Horned Lark**

This form of the Shore Lark is a winter visitor and is rarely seen now. Twenty-five years ago it was common here in severe weather, frequently with the Snow Buntings. I have never found it breeding in the Province. Its summer home is in the far north.

*The subspecies referred to here is the Northern Horned Lark (Eremophila alpestris alpestris), which in Ontario breeds along the coast of Hudson Bay and winters in small numbers in southern Ontario.*

**Prairie Horned Lark** [Horned Lark]

This sub-species is now a common summer resident, breeding in the open fields wherever it occurs in the Province. It appears to have extended its range from the prairies as the timber has been cleared off and the land brought under cultivation.

*The subspecies referred to here is E.a. praticola, which breeds in southern Ontario.*

**Blue Jay**

**Canada Jay** [Gray Jay]

A common resident in the northern part of the Province. Breeds in the northern part of its range.

*Many older birders remember when the AOU in 1957 unwisely changed Canada Jay to Gray Jay.*

**Northern Raven** [Common Raven]

Tolerably common in the interior of the Province. Probably breeds in the remote forests towards James Bay.

*Ravens are increasing and spreading southward into southern Ontario.*

**Common Crow** [American Crow]

Abundant resident in southern Ontario, summer resident in the northerly portions of the Province.

*About 25 years ago, crows began increasing in urban areas. Now they are common in every town and city in southern Ontario.*

**Bobolink**

Abundant summer resident. Breeds in the hay meadows throughout its range, which does not extend north of the cultivated country.

*Many grassland birds, such as the Bobolink, are declining be-*



cause hay meadows are being cut much earlier than in the past.

**Cowbird** [Brown-headed Cowbird]

An abundant summer resident.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

A very rare summer visitor from the western prairies.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

**Meadowlark** [Eastern Meadowlark and Western Meadowlark]

A common summer resident in southern Ontario, gradually extending its range northward as the land is cleared...This species is of great value to the farmer, as it lives almost entirely in the cultivated field and with us feeds upon the insects most injurious to the crops. The western form, *S. m. neglecta*, has been taken by Mr. White at Ottawa.

*Comparing the 1905 and 2002 lists using today's taxonomy, we counted Western Meadowlark (neglecta) as species in 1905. The two meadowlarks were split by the AOU in 1908. See Falls (2000) for information on Eastern and Western Meadowlarks in Ontario.*

**Orchard Oriole**

**Baltimore Oriole**

**Rusty Blackbird**

**Bronzed Grackle** [Common Grackle]

**Evening Grosbeak**

An accidental visitor from the west, sometimes occurring in winter.

*It is now a regular breeder and commonly visits feeders in winter. There is a myth that Evening Grosbeaks moved east following the planting of Manitoba Maples. See Brunton (1994) in Ornithology in Ontario for the most accurate historical account of this species in Ontario.*

**Pine Grosbeak**

**Purple Finch**

**House Sparrow**

**American Crossbill** [Red Crossbill]

A regular and sometimes an abundant winter visitor. As I have found representatives of this species in southern Ontario in nearly every month of the year, I think they breed throughout the Province, wherever there are pine forests still standing.

*In 1905 the remaining white and red pine forests of the upper Ottawa Valley and northern Ontario were being leveled by logging and fire. Some pine forms of the Red Crossbill declined at that time.*

**White-winged Crossbill**

An irregular winter visitor to southern Ontario, never abundant.

*Breeds in Ontario. Some winters this species is abundant in Algonquin Park with a North American high count of 8728 on its 1984 Christmas Bird Count (Ron Tozer, pers. comm.).*

**Greenland Redpoll** [Hoary Redpoll]

Probably occurs as a winter visitor, but I have no record of it other than that given by Mr. McIlwraith.

*Greenland Redpoll refers to the larger and paler nominate subspecies hornemanni of the Hoary Redpoll of the high arctic, which is extremely rare in Ontario.*

**Hoary Redpoll**

A somewhat irregular winter visitor, occurring in varying numbers at any time between September and May.

*The subspecies exilipes of the Hoary Redpoll of the low arctic is referred to here. Exilipes is the Hoary Redpoll usually seen in Ontario.*

**Common Redpoll**

Generally common in winter, but sometimes entirely absent. Breeds in the far north; commonly near Hudson's Bay.

**Holboell's Redpoll** [Common Redpoll]

Occurs in winter, sparingly with other Redpolls.

*Nash listed Holboell's Redpoll (holboeli) as a subspecies of the Common Redpoll. Godfrey (1986) says holboellii is of doubtful validity (Godfrey 1986). Note different spellings of subspecies scientific name.*

**Greater Redpoll** [Common Redpoll]

Occurs in winter sparingly with other Redpolls.

*Greater Redpoll (rostrata) is a subspecies of the Common Redpoll. See Pittaway (1992) for a detailed analysis of redpoll subspecies in Ontario.*

**American Goldfinch**

**Pine Siskin**

**Snow Bunting**

**Longspur** [Lapland Longspur]

**Vesper Sparrow**

An abundant summer resident.

*Now declining due to intensive agriculture and less pastureland.*

**Savanna Sparrow** [Savannah Sparrow]

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

**Henslow's Sparrow**

This bird has been recorded by Mr. W. E. Saunders as a summer resident of south-western Ontario, and by Mr. Fleming as occurring and apparently breeding near Lake Joseph, Muskoka.

*Locally common north to Ottawa in the 1960s. Since then it has mysteriously declined to a few scattered birds. Now endangered.*

**Leconte's Sparrow** [Le Conte's Sparrow]

An accidental visitor from the western provinces.

*We now know that it breeds in northern Ontario and commonly around James Bay.*

**Nelson's Sparrow** [Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow]

A regular, but not a common, visitor in autumn to the neighbourhood of Toronto.

*Breeds in sedge/grass marshes along James Bay.*

**Acadian Sharp-tailed Finch** [Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow]

An accidental visitor to the eastern part of the Province.

*The Acadian subspecies subvirgatus is not accepted as occurring in Ontario by James (1991). However, it now occurs just downriver from Montreal so a record from eastern Ontario is possible.*

**Lark Sparrow**

A regular, but not a common, summer resident of some localities in southern Ontario. I find a few pairs near Toronto every season.

*More common in the past.*

**White-crowned Sparrow**

**White-throated Sparrow**

**Tree Sparrow** [American Tree Sparrow]

**Chipping Sparrow**

**Clay-coloured Sparrow** [Clay-colored Sparrow]

**Field Sparrow**

**Junco** [Dark-eyed Junco]

**Song Sparrow**

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

**Swamp Sparrow**

**Fox Sparrow**

**Towhee** [Eastern Towhee]

An abundant summer resident in the woods of southern Ontario and one which is extending its range as the land is brought under

cultivation.

*Much less common now and declining because its preferred brushy habitat is (1) overgrowing and changing to shady mature forests (Iron 1994) or (2) being cleared for intensive agriculture.*

**Cardinal** [Northern Cardinal]

A rare summer resident of the south-western counties. Stragglers have been taken at various places as far east as Toronto.

*Now a common resident in much of southern Ontario, having increased greatly because of bird feeders with sunflower seeds. See Dow (1994) in Ornithology in Ontario for an historical account of Northern Cardinal in Ontario.*

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

A tolerably common summer resident...This is one of the few birds that will eat the Colorado Potato-beetle.

**Indigo Bunting**

**Dickcissel**

**Scarlet Tanager**

**Summer Tanager**

**Purple Martin**

A common summer resident...This is one of the birds which appears to be rapidly decreasing in southern Ontario and increasing northward and in Manitoba as the land is settled.

*Now declining in many areas, especially near the northern edge of its range. Decline may be related to a reduction of open areas returning to forest in the north and intensive agriculture in the south.*

**Cliff Swallow**

**Barn Swallow**

**White-breasted Swallow** [Tree Swallow]

**Bank Swallow**

**Rough-winged Swallow** [Northern Rough-winged Swallow]

**Bohemian Waxwing**

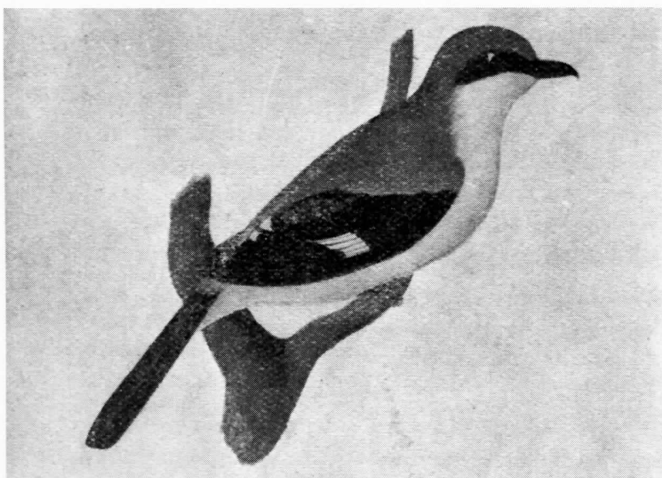
**Cedar Waxwing**

**Northern Shrike**

**Migrant Shrike** [Loggerhead Shrike]

A regular but not abundant summer resident.

*Now endangered in Ontario. A gradual decline started more than 50 years ago, probably caused by (1) the disappearance of rough cattle pastures with scattered shrubs and (2) the enormous increase in roads and motor vehicles in North America resulting in more collisions with vehicles, particularly on migration. There is no evidence that contaminants are causing the decline.*



Migrant Shrike by C.W. Nash

**Red-eyed Vireo**

**Philadelphia Vireo**

**Warbling Vireo**

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

**Blue-headed Vireo**

**White-eyed Vireo**

One specimen near Listowel...and another near Woodstock. Now a regular visitor and rare breeder.

**Black and White Warbler** [Black-and-white Warbler]

**Prothonotary Warbler**

Mr. McIlwraith has recorded the capture of one specimen near Hamilton in May, 1888, which is all I have heard of.

*Small numbers later were found breeding at places such as Rondeau Provincial Park, but the population has declined in recent years and now is endangered. It adapts well to nest boxes, which are being used as part of the recovery program.*

**Golden-winged Warbler**

A rare summer visitor recorded from several places in the southern and western counties and Mr. Kells reports having found it breeding near Listowel.

*It later spread north to Ottawa and to the north shore of Lake Huron. In 1905, there were no records of the Blue-winged Warbler, which hybridizes with the Golden-winged producing Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids. Blue-winged Warblers continue to spread north into the range of the Golden-winged. Hybridization and habitat changes could eliminate Golden-winged in Ontario, unless some Golden-wings maintain a separate breeding range. See account by McCracken (1994) in Ornithology in Ontario.*

**Nashville Warbler**

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

**Tennessee Warbler**

A regular, but not a very common, visitor in spring. I have not found it at any other season.

*Now a common spring and fall migrant and common breeder in northern Ontario. It may have been overlooked in the past or it may have been less common, probably both. John James Audubon (1785-1851) saw only three Tennessee Warblers before there was extensive logging in the boreal forest. The Tennessee likely increased after logging of the boreal forest in the 1900s created more habitat. Also, this species increases temporally during Spruce Budworm outbreaks and there were several large budworm outbreaks during the 1900s. Audubon's three sightings suggest that major budworm outbreaks were rare during his time.*

**Parula Warbler** [Northern Parula]

A common spring and summer migrant. Probably breeds in the interior. Arrives about the fifteenth of May, departs towards the end of September.

*The reference to summer migrant may refer to fall. This species is not common today or in recent decades. Parulas were likely much more common in 1905 when extensive old growth forests still existed. Older forests, particularly moist coniferous ones, often have a lush growth of hanging tree lichens, Usnea or Old Man's Beard, the Parula's preferred nesting habitat.*

**Cape May Warbler**

**Yellow Warbler**

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

**Myrtle Warbler** [Yellow-rumped Warbler]

**Magnolia Warbler**

**Cerulean Warbler**

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

A common summer resident.

This species was common in 1905, as it is now, yet Audubon (1785-1851) saw only one. This indicates that large areas of mature forest in the deciduous and mixed forest regions were logged between Audubon's time and 1905, resulting in much edge and young forest habitat, which is the ideal nesting habitat of the Chestnut-sided Warbler.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

**Black-poll Warbler [Blackpoll Warbler]**

**Blackburnian Warbler**

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

**Kirtland's Warbler**

On the 16th of May, 1900, Mr. J. H. Samuel took a bird of this species near Toronto, the only one I have heard of so far. It may yet be found breeding in the interior of the Province, as it does so regularly in Michigan. It is, however, a very rare species everywhere.

While training at Camp Petawawa during the first world war, Paul Harrington (1939) reported Kirtland's Warblers to be fairly common and probably breeding on the Jack Pine sand plains near Petawawa in Renfrew County, just northeast of Algonquin Park. Petawawa's habitat is very similar to Michigan's, but most of the Jack Pines have grown too big and high for Kirtland's restricted needs. The first and only breeding record for Ontario was in 1945 near Camp Borden in Simcoe County (Speirs 1984).

**Pine Warbler**

**Palm Warbler**

Our form may be referable to D.p. hypochrysea. Specimens taken by me vary very much in the brilliancy of the yellow coloring.

The common migrant and breeding subspecies in most of Ontario is the nominate D.p. palmarum. A few "Yellow" Palm Warblers (hypochrysea) may still breed in eastern Ontario. The latter is a very rare migrant. See Pittaway (1995) for the subspecies of the Palm Warbler.

**Prairie Warbler**

A very rare visitor, two specimens of which were taken near Toronto in May, 1900, one each by Messrs. Samuel and Ames. Since then it has been found in south-western Ontario by Mr. Klugh.

Today, the breeding stronghold of Prairie Warblers in Ontario is the shoreline of Georgian Bay in Muskoka District and southern Parry Sound District (Sutherland 1998).

**Oven Bird [Ovenbird]**

**Water Thrush [Northern Waterthrush]**

**Louisiana Water Thrush [Louisiana Waterthrush]**

**Kentucky Warbler**

An accidental visitor. One specimen taken by Mr. Robert Elliott near Bryanston, Middlesex, in May, 1898.

Now a few are seen every spring in southern Ontario, but there is no breeding record to date.

**Connecticut Warbler**

A rare summer resident. Mr. W. L. Kells records having found nests near Listowel, and I have seen and watched the birds here in summer, but failed to discover their nesting place.

Seems doubtful that it ever nested in southern Ontario; suggests confusion with Mourning Warbler. Now known to breed in northern Ontario.

**Mourning Warbler**

**Maryland Warbler [Common Yellowthroat]**

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

**Hooded Warbler**

A very rare summer visitor to our southern border.

The Hooded Warbler is now increasing and spreading northward. Its breeding stronghold is near Long Point. Nesting habitat consists of shrubby openings in large woodlots.

**Wilson's Warbler**

**Canadian Warbler [Canada Warbler]**

**American Redstart**

**American Pipit**

**Mocking-bird [Northern Mockingbird]**

I include this species on the authority of Mr. McIlwraith, who has recorded the occurrence of two specimens in southern Ontario.

Now a widespread resident and locally uncommon breeder.

**Catbird [Gray Catbird]**

**Brown Thrasher**

**Carolina Wren**

Mr. McIlwraith has recorded the capture of a specimen at Mount Forest, and recently Mr. Klugh found a pair breeding here.

Now a rare to uncommon resident breeder.

**Bewick's Wren**

Mr. W. E. Saunders records having taken one specimen on the thirteenth December, 1898, near Appin, Ontario.

Three breeding records during the 1950s at Point Pelee. For unknown reasons, Bewick's has almost disappeared in recent years from Ontario and much of its former range in the east.

**House Wren**

**Winter Wren**

**Short-billed Marsh Wren [Sedge Wren]**

A regular summer resident of the south-western part of the Province, but never abundant. Very rare elsewhere. I have taken two at Toronto and have since found a pair breeding there. Breeds wherever found.

Now known to occur north to Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, and Kenora.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren [Marsh Wren]**

**Brown Creeper**

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

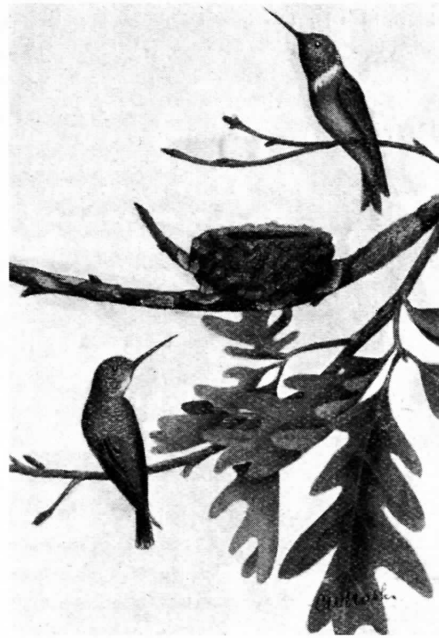
**Chickadee [Black-capped Chickadee]**

**Hudsonian Chickadee [Boreal Chickadee]**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

An abundant migrant and common winter resident. Probably breeds in our northern forests, as it does in Massachusetts.

Today it is considered an uncommon winter resident in the south (James 1991).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird by C.W. Nash



## Ruby-crowned Kinglet

### Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

A rare summer resident of the south-western counties, which occasionally strays as far east as Toronto.

*Now breeding and still increasing and spreading northward.*

### Wood Thrush

Fairly well distributed throughout southern Ontario, but nowhere abundant. Breeds wherever it occurs.

*Now slowly declining.*

### Wilson's Thrush [Veery]

#### Gray-cheeked Thrush [Included Bicknell's Thrush]

A common migrant in spring and autumn, breeds far north. Arrives about the middle of May, departs October. Mr. Saunders states that a specimen of *H. a. bicknelli* was taken by Mr. Robert Elliott near Bryanston, Ont., September 19th, 1898.

*Bicknell's Thrush became a separate species in 1995. Comparing the 1905 and 2002 lists using today's taxonomy, we counted Bicknell's as species in 1905. Several recent specimens of Bicknell's have been taken near Kingston. Interestingly, one of the Kingston specimens is from 19 September 1979, the same day and month as the Bryanston (near London) Bicknell's referred to above.*

#### Olive-backed Thrush [Swainson's Thrush]

A common migrant in spring and autumn. Breeds far north. Arrives about the middle of April and soon goes on, returning in September and departing early in October.

*Now known to breed commonly south to Haliburton and Peterborough Counties. The "middle of April" spring arrival suggests confusion with Hermit Thrush, a much under-appreciated identification problem even today. Most Swainson's migrate mid to late May. Based on night calls, many Swainson's are migrating south by late August.*

### Hermit Thrush

#### American Robin

#### Wheatear [Northern Wheatear]

A specimen of the sub-species *S. æ. leucorhoæ*, was taken by Mr. Tavernier at Beaumaris, Muskoka, in September, 1896, having wandered out of its range.

*Mr. Tavernier above should be Percy A. Taverner, who later became Canada's first ornithologist at the National Museum in Ottawa.*

#### Bluebird [Eastern Bluebird]

A common summer resident, breeding throughout its range in the Province. Arrives about the middle of March, departs towards the end of October.

*Several major die-offs in the 1900s were caused by severe weather on the wintering grounds. Overall decline in bluebirds happened because steel replaced wooden fence posts, there is less pastureland, and probably because of competition for nest sites. Today, bluebirds are doing well because of volunteer bluebird nest box trails. A few now winter in southwestern Ontario. See Risley (1994) in Ornithology in Ontario for an historical perspective on population changes.*

## Acknowledgements

We thank Janet Pineau for giving us an original copy of Nash's 1905 checklist. Valuable comments were made on the checklist by Ross James, Don Sutherland and Ron Tozer. Thanks to Andrew Jano for making the historical map of Ontario and to Rory MacKay, Mark Peck, Ron Scovell and Joan Winearls for information.

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## 158 Species Added Since 1905 Checklist

The following 158 birds have been added to the Ontario list since Nash's (1905) checklist. Sequence and names follow AOU Check-list (1998) and its 42nd Supplement (2000).

Yellow-billed Loon	California Gull	Cave Swallow
Eared Grebe	Thayer's Gull	Carolina Chickadee
Western Grebe	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Tufted Titmouse
Northern Fulmar	Slaty-backed Gull	Rock Wren
Greater Shearwater	Sabine's Gull	Siberian Rubythroat
Manx Shearwater	Ross's Gull	Mountain Bluebird
Audubon's Shearwater	Royal Tern	Townsend's Solitaire
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Arctic Tern	Eurasian Blackbird
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Sooty Tern	Fieldfare
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	White-winged Tern	Varied Thrush
Brown Pelican	Black Skimmer	Sage Thrasher
Anhinga	Long-billed Murrelet	European Starling
Magnificent Frigatebird	Ancient Murrelet	Sprague's Pipit
Little Blue Heron	Rock Dove	Phainopepla
Tricolored Heron	Band-tailed Pigeon	Blue-winged Warbler
Cattle Egret	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Virginia's Warbler
White Ibis	White-winged Dove	Black-throated Gray Warbler
White-faced Ibis	Inca Dove	Townsend's Warbler
Wood Stork	Common Ground-Dove	Hermit Warbler
Black Vulture	Groove-billed Ani	Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Burrowing Owl	Worm-eating Warbler
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Lesser Nighthawk	Swainson's Warbler
Ross's Goose	Common Poorwill	MacGillivray's Warbler
Mute Swan	Chuck-will's-widow	Painted Redstart
Eurasian Wigeon	Green Violet-ear	Western Tanager
Cinnamon Teal	Broad-billed Hummingbird	Green-tailed Towhee
Garganey	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Tufted Duck	Rufous Hummingbird	Cassin's Sparrow
Smew	Lewis's Woodpecker	Bachman's Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Western Wood-Pewee	Black-throated Sparrow
Ferruginous Hawk	Acadian Flycatcher	Lark Bunting
Prairie Falcon	Willow Flycatcher	Baird's Sparrow
Gray Partridge	Gray Flycatcher	Harris's Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Dusky Flycatcher	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Rock Ptarmigan	Say's Phoebe	Smith's Longspur
Mongolian Plover	Vermilion Flycatcher	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Wilson's Plover	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Black-headed Grosbeak
American Oystercatcher	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Black-necked Stilt	Variegated Flycatcher	Lazuli Bunting
Spotted Redshank	Tropical/Couch's Kingbird	Varied Bunting
Wandering Tattler	Cassin's Kingbird	Painted Bunting
Slender-billed Curlew	Western Kingbird	Brewer's Blackbird
Black-tailed Godwit	Gray Kingbird	Great-tailed Grackle
Western Sandpiper	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Hooded Oriole
Little Stint	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Bullock's Oriole
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Scott's Oriole
Curlew Sandpiper	Black-capped Vireo	Brambling
Long-billed Dowitcher	Plumbeous Vireo	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
Long-tailed Jaeger	Clark's Nutcracker	Cassin's Finch
Little Gull	Black-billed Magpie	House Finch
Black-headed Gull	Eurasian Jackdaw	Lesser Goldfinch
Heermann's Gull	Fish Crow	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Mew Gull	Violet-green Swallow	

## Future OFO Trips

**March 23 (Saturday) Long Point Area. Leader: George Pond.**

Meet at **9 a.m.** at the main parking lot of the St. Williams Forestry Station on County Road 24 west of the intersection with County Road 16. Waterfowl and early spring migrants. **\*\*New Trip\*\***

**April 13 (Saturday) Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island. Leader: Steve Hall.** This trip is limited to 15 participants. Cost: \$20 per person. Sharp-tailed Grouse lek. **Trip Full.**

**April 20 (Saturday) Algonquin Provincial Park. Leader: Ron Tozer.** Meet at **9 a.m.** at the WEST GATE of the park. Park entrance fee. Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee.

**April 28 (Sunday) Minesing Swamp and Area. Leader: Dave Milsom.** Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at Tim Hortons in Angus on Simcoe County Road 90, west of Barrie. Waterfowl and early spring migrants.

**May 4 (Saturday) Rondeau Provincial Park. Leader: Allen Woodliffe.** Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Visitor Centre. Park entrance fee. Spring migrants.

**May 18 (Saturday) Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area. Leader: Terry Sprague.** Meet at **7 a.m.** at the bird sightings board at the Ducks Dive Cottages & Charters, just outside the entrance to Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area. From Picton, take County Road 10 (Lake Street at the LCBO) for 8 km to Cherry Valley, then left at the stop sign and follow for 6 km to Milford. At the post office, turn right and follow County Road 10 to the Mariner's Museum at South Bay. Turn right and follow County Road 13 for 17 km to Prince Edward Point. Spring migrants.

**May 25 (Saturday) Opinicon Road Area North of Kingston, and Amherst Island. Leader: Ken Kingdon.** Meet at **6:30 a.m.** in the parking lot of Denny's Restaurant next to the Days Inn just south on Division Street, Kingston (exit 617 from Hwy 401). In the morning, breeding birds north of Kingston, e.g. Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. The afternoon on Amherst Island for shorebirds, ducks and more. Ferry charge \$5.

**May 26 (Sunday) Leslie Street Spit, Toronto. Leader: John Carley.** Meet at **8 a.m.** at the base of the Spit parking lot near the intersection of Leslie Street and Unwin Avenue. Late migrants, breeding birds and butterflies.

**June 8 (Saturday) Long Point and Area. Leader: John Miles.** Meet at **6 a.m.** at the main parking lot of the St. Williams Forestry Station on County Road 24 west of the intersection with County Road 16. Carolinian specialties and nesting warblers.

**June 15 (Saturday) and June 16 (Sunday) Bruce Peninsula. Leader: John Miles.** On Saturday meet at **7 a.m.** at the Tim Hortons in Hepworth, about 12.5 km south of Warton on Highway 6. On Sunday meet at **7 a.m.** in the parking lot of the Tobermory airport, west of Highway 6 on Warner Bay Road. Park entrance fees. *Accommodations on the Bruce can be difficult in summer. It is strongly recommended that participants arrange their lodgings early.* The Bruce birds: Brewer's Blackbird, Common Raven, Virginia Rail, Clay-colored Sparrow, Sandhill Crane, Upland Sandpiper, breeding warblers. Also wildflowers and ferns.

**June 19 (Wednesday) to June 25 (Tuesday) Algonquin Provincial Park. Leader: Ron Tozer.** Breeding Bird Atlas "square bashing" week on the "East Side" of Algonquin Park, based at Achray Campground on Grand Lake. Experienced birders will be present (especially on June 22-23) to assist other atlasers. Opportunities to atlas by vehicle, canoe, backpacking, and mountain bike, from one to seven days. For registration, directions, and non-camping accommodation information, by June 1 contact:

Ron Tozer: phone 705-635-2315 or e-mail: rtozer@vianet.on.ca or Nicole Kopysh: phone: 519-826-2092 or e-mail: atlas@uoguelph.ca

Merlin, Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, 15+ warbler species, Red Crossbill. See next page for more information. **\*\*New Trip\*\***

## Hawk Cliff Area South of London

**Pete Read**

On 27 October 2001, Pete Read and Ian Platt led a very successful OFO trip to Hawk Cliff to see the fall migration of hawks and passerines. 28 birders took part in this outing to Hawk Cliff on Lake Erie. The winds were out of the north-northwest. After days of southerly winds and much rain, the birds were eager to migrate, so it was a good day to watch them moving.

Thousands of blackbirds migrated, as did many American Robins, American Pipits, Eastern Bluebirds, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and of course lots of hawks. We had 14 species of hawks. The highlights included 7+ juvenile Northern Goshawks, 3 immature Bald Eagles, a late Broad-winged Hawk, more than 15 Red-shouldered Hawks, a Rough-legged Hawk and finally around 2:30, a Golden Eagle. A Peregrine and a Merlin also passed the observers on the road.

Many passerines were noted along the road, the most interesting being a Philadelphia Vireo. Better for viewing was a Saw-whet Owl, first found by the chickadees and nuthatches, and we had a Short-eared and a Long-eared Owl. A Palm Warbler, Field Sparrow and a couple of Fox Sparrows were also good. Several groups of Pine Siskins, a group Common Redpolls, and even a flock of about 40 Evening Grosbeaks were seen.

We moved on to Port Stanley to pick up a few species including Great Black-backed Gull at the breakwall and Horned Grebe along the shore, as well as some french fries in town.

We finished the trip at the Port Stanley lagoons where the Eared Grebe still resided in the 4th lagoon from the east. About 20 other species were present, including many ducks, Tundra Swans, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Dunlin. A great day with the final total being about 100 species.

**Barbara Mann, OFO Trips Coordinator, phone: 705-466-6233  
e-mail: bjpmann@hotmail.com**

**Breeding Bird Atlas Square Bash**  
**Achray Campground, Algonquin Park**  
**19 to 25 June 2002**

**Ron Tozer**

This special OFO event will be a great opportunity to participate in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and see some interesting birds such as Merlin, Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, numerous warblers, and Red Crossbill, amid the spectacular scenery of Algonquin's "East Side", including Grand Lake, Barron Canyon and Lake Travers.

Everyone is welcome to attend for part or all of the square bash. Experienced birders will enjoy the chance to atlas the Shield's diverse birdlife, while those trying to improve their birding and atlasing competency will be able to atlas with more skilled observers (especially on the weekend of 21-23 June). We anticipate atlasing on foot, and by canoe, bicycle and vehicle. Opportunities to atlas on backpacking trails or canoe routes can also be arranged.

Camping at Achray and interior canoeing or backpacking will be free for atlassers. Just bring all your own food, equipment, camping gear, insect repellent and enthusiasm! If you don't want to camp, there are B&Bs and motels within driving distance. An information sheet (including road directions to Achray Campground) is available upon request.

To register or for more details up to 1 June 2002, contact Ron Tozer, 1017 Spring Lake Road, Dwight ON P0A 1H0 Phone: 705 635-2315. E-mail: rtozer@vianet.on.ca

After 1 June, please contact Nicole Kopysh, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, c/o University of Guelph, Blackwood Hall, Room 211, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1. Phone: 1-866-900-7100. E-mail: atlas@uoguelph.ca

**Registration Deadline 1 June 2002.**

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**Banquet Speaker**

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