ONTARIO BIRDS

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2
AUGUST 2008

JOURNAL OF THE ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

ONTARIO BIRDS

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2
AUGUST 2008
PAGES 81– 144

Articles

In Memoriam

Nikon Photo Quiz

Cover Illustration: Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra)*
Barry Kent MacKay

ISSN 0822-3890 Publications Mail Agreement No. 40046348

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2007

Ian M. Richards

Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) evaluates documentation it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Ontario (see www.ofo.ca). In addition, it reviews documentation relating to new species, new subspecies, and new breeding species for the province. This 26th annual report details the results of the adjudication of 161 records by the OBRC during 2007, of which 123 (76%) were accepted.

A total of 157 observers submitted documentation for review by the 2007 Committee. Written reports were often accompanied by photographs (mostly digital images, but also a few prints), as well as field notes and sketches. As noted in recent years, the trend toward submission of only photographic evidence, with little or no supporting written evidence, is an ongoing problem. This makes it much more difficult for the Committee to compile dates of occurrence. In addition, many details and circumstances associated with an observation, such as behaviour, comparisons to nearby birds and vocalizations, cannot be determined from photographic evidence alone. As such, we urge observers to submit written reports with their images submitted to OBRC. For those submitting photos to the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) website, please send the same photos, along with written documentation, directly to the OBRC Secretary. That being said, the OBRC reserves the right to use, as evidence, photographs that have been posted on the OFO website. Guidance regarding the documentation of rare birds can be found on the OBRC page of the OFO website (www.ofo.ca/obrc/guide lines.php).

The members of the 2007 Committee were Margaret J. C. Bain (Chair), William J. Crins, Glenn Coady, Robert Z. Dobos, Jean Iron, Colin D. Jones, Mark K. Peck (also serving as Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison), Ian M. Richards (non-voting Secretary), and Alan Wormington (non-voting Assistant to the Secretary) (Figure 1).

One new species, Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger)*, was added to the provincial list, bringing the total to 480 species.

Figure 1. Ontario Bird Records Committee for 2007. Left to right, **Mark Peck, Glenn Coady, Jean Iron, Rob Dobos, Margaret Bain, Bill Crins, Ian Richards, Colin Jones.** *Photo: Alan Wormington.*

Northern Ontario had its first accepted record of Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) was added as a new breeding species in Ontario. Also added to the breeding list for Ontario was Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) since the introduced population is now considered to be established and self-sustaining, based on evidence published by Moser (2006) and Lumsden (2007, 2008). These two additions bring the number of breeding birds in Ontario to a total of 291 species.

Listing of Records

In the following species accounts, the total number of accepted records is indicated by a single number in parentheses. Accepted records are arranged taxonomically by their English and scientific names following the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and subsequent supplements (42nd to 48th; see www.aou.org/ checklist/index. php3). Dates of occurrence, number of birds, sex, plumage, and location are provided when known. Place names in italics refer to a county, regional municipality or district in Ontario; they also appear in colour. The plumage terminology used here follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and moult terminology, see Pittaway (2000). The names of all contributors of documentation are listed, while those contributors who are known to be the discoverers of the bird are also underlined. Additional discoverers of the bird are also listed (if known), even if they did not submit documentation. The OBRC file number is shown in parentheses at the end of each record.

The Committee attempts to verify documented information prior to the acceptance and publication of a record, but occasionally inaccuracies will occur. Anyone with pertinent information that would correct or strengthen a published record, such as dates of occurrence, number of birds, plumages, location,

discoverers, etc., is urged to communicate this to the Secretary. In addition, there may be dates quoted in other sources that differ from those listed by the OBRC — these discrepancies are corrected whenever possible.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or questionable origin are listed separately. Contributors of all "not accepted" reports receive a letter from the Chairperson explaining the reasons for the decision, along with copies of the comments written by voting members.

These reports, as well as documentation for all accepted records, are kept on permanent file at the ROM. A "not accepted" report can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new evidence, in the form of additional documentation, is submitted to the Committee for review. Researchers and other interested individuals are welcome to examine any of the filed reports at the ROM, by appointment only. Please contact Mark K. Peck, Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 (e-mail: markp@rom.on.ca or telephone 416-586-5523).

Changes to the Review List

In addition to Black Swift (new to southern Ontario) and Eurasian Collared-Dove (new to northern Ontario), the only change to the Review List is the addition of "Yellow-lored" Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica dominica*) as a recognized form for which the OBRC requests documentation of all sightings.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the numerous observers who took the time to submit documentation of their observations of rare birds for consideration by the 2007 Committee. We also thank the following people who assisted the Committee in acquiring additional data and other material evidence that supplemented the information submitted directly by observers and Committee members, or by providing expert opinions on evidence submitted to the Committee: Kenneth F. Abraham, Jean Claude Bermond, Jon L. Dunn, Carolle Eady, Lisa Eddy, David H. Elder, Nicholas G. Escott, Manson Fleguel, Michel Gosselin, Kevin C.R. Kerr, Keith Lee, Paul E. Lehman, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Blake A. Mann, Ronald J. Pittaway, Gordon Pringle, Brian D. Ratcliff, Ron Ridout, Kayo J. Roy, Diane Salter, Louise Schmidt, Ted Schmidt, Emily Slavik, Roy B.H. Smith, Donald A. Sutherland, Ronald G. Tozer, Alice Van Zoeren, John M. Woodcock, and Doug Woods.

Ontbirds continues to be a useful source of information pertaining to rare birds that appear in the province; this listserve of the Ontario Field Ornithologists is moderated by Mark H. Cranford. In addition, the photographic pages on the OFO website, maintained in 2007 by Carol M. Horner, provide an excellent source of documentation for rarities. These sources of information make the Secretary's job of securing documentation much more efficient. During 2007, Alan Wormington, in his role as Assistant to the Secretary, provided valuable assistance in tracking down documentation for reports. I also wish to thank the members of the 2007 Committee for their support and assistance during the year.

Accepted Records

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only Before 2007 (54)

2006 one juvenal or first basic, white morph, 17 October – 6 November, Kingston, *Frontenac* (Peg Hauschildt, found by Bruce E. Ripley; 2007-111) – photos on file.
one definitive basic, white morph, 12 November, Elmstead, *Essex* (Robert A. Horvath; 2007-071) – photos on file.
2005 one definitive basic, white morph, 23 October – 20 November, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, found by Gerard Phillips; 2007-041).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* North Only (10)

2006 one definitive basic, June (exact date unknown) to circa 6 November, Oxdrift (June to September) and Dryden (6 October to circa 6 November), *Kenora* (Owen Vaughn; 2007-141) – photos on file.
2004 one definitive basic, 16 July, Attawapiskat River mouth, *Kenora* (Kenneth F. Abraham, also found by Carrie Sadowski, Derek Potter, Sarah Hagey; 2007-002).
1996 one definitive basic, 6 August, Black Currant River mouth, *Kenora* (Kenneth F. Abraham, also found by Brian Arquilla; 2007-001).

Details on the 1996 and 2004 *Kenora* records were published by Abraham and Ross (2005) in *Ontario Birds*.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* (4)

2006 one alternate, male, 5 May, Whitby and Oshawa, *Durham* (David B. Worthington, Glenn Coady, found by W. Dennis Barry; 2007-031).

With waterfowl species such as this, questions often arise regarding their origin. However, the Committee concluded that this record fit the previous pattern of accepted Garganey records in Ontario and northeastern North America: the bird was migrating with Blue-winged Teal in May, and only stayed for a brief period. Also, at present, there are no known feral populations of this species in eastern North America (Paul E. Lehman, pers. comm. to Margaret J.C. Bain). The previously accepted records for Ontario, all of single males, are 18-23 April 1993, Stafford Twp., *Renfrew* (Bain 1994), 12-15 May 1993, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Pittaway 1995), and 6-10 May 1995, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Dobos 1996).

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca crecca* (3)

2006 one alternate, male, 7 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden; 2007-131) – photos on file.

The Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal was formerly considered to be a separate species, the "Common Teal", which is casual in eastern North America including Ontario (AOU 1998). The previous accepted records of this subspecies are 30 March to 13 April 1991, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Bain 1993), and 29 March 1998, Vinemount, *Hamilton* (Dobos 1999). There are numerous undocumented records for the province that are as yet unreviewed by the OBRC (for example, see Curry 2006).

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* North Only (19)

2005 two adult females or juvenals/first basics, 15 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock, Mark Conboy, Allan G. Harris, Brian D. Ratcliff, Judith Read; 2007-032) – photo on file.

Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

2006 female with brood of five, 25-26 July, Peawanuck, *Kenora* (Kenneth F. Abraham, Jean Hall-Armstrong, also found by Don Filliter, Brenda Hill; 2007-092) – photos on file.

Details of this first documented breeding record for the province can be found elsewhere in this issue (Abraham *et al.* 2008).

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (38)

2007 one juvenal, 2-4 November, Oshawa, *Durham* (David B. Worthington, Margaret J.C. Bain; 2007-121).

one juvenal, 4 November, Grand Bend, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann, also found by Maris P. Apse, Heather Anne Campbell, Richard Thornton, Michael J. Nelson; 2007-122).

one definitive basic, 2 December, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 2007-142).

2006 one 5 May, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J.C. Bain, also found by Margaret Carney, W. Dennis Barry; 2007-003).

one definitive alternate, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Mark K. Peck, Brandon R. Holden, also found by Gerry Binsfeld, Glenn Coady; 2007-004) – photos on file.

one juvenal, 18 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden; 2007-132).

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (14)

2007 one alternate, 18 May, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Laura Darby, Derek Thompson, John Van den Broeck; 2007-101).

one alternate, 18 May, Emo, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Laura Darby, Derek Thompson, John Van den Broeck; 2007-102).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (23)

2007 one pre-alternate molt, 10 March – 8 April, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (Robert Kortright, Winnie Poon, Iain Fleming, John R. Carley, Rick Lauzon; 2007-114) – photos on file.

one pre-alternate molt, 5-9 April, Bronte, *Halton* (Jean Iron, John Millman, found by Mark W. Jennings; 2007-151) – photos on file.

Initially it was thought that the Toronto bird was possibly a Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), but continued observation and excellent photographs indicated that it was in fact a Western Grebe. The bird had probably overwintered on Lake Ontario, since the initial observation date of 10 March is considerably earlier than the earliest spring migrant recorded in Ontario – 27 March 1949 at Oshawa, *Durham* (Tozer and Richards 1974).

Western/Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus sp.* (6)

2006 one 5-6 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock, David Jaffe, Eryn Bordes; 2007-042) – photo on file.

Figure 2. Western Grebe at Bronte, *Halton*, from 5-9 April 2007. *Photo: Jean Iron.*

Figure 3. Little Blue Heron in definitive alternate plumage at Hillman Marsh, *Essex,* on 6 June 2007. *Photo: Cherise Charron.*

Northern Gannet ***Morus bassanus*** **(36)**

2007 one juvenal, 2 December, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 2007-143).

2006 one juvenal, 17 December, Bronte, *Halton*, to Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (Gavin R. Edmondstone, James S. Anderson; 2007-093).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (12)

2007 one definitive basic, 2 October, Wolfe Island (Marysville), *Frontenac* (Virginia Clark; 2007-094) – photos on file.

This record represents by far the earliest fall record for Ontario – the previous earliest date was a single bird collected on 21 November 1896 at Toronto, *Toronto;* the specimen resides in the ROM, but has not yet been reviewed by the OBRC.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (63)

2007 one definitive alternate, 20 April, Toronto (Colonel Samuel Smith Park), *Toronto* (Graham Jones, Jody Melanson; 2007-021) – photos on file.
one definitive alternate, 13-16 May, St. Catharines, *Niagara* (Suzanne Taylor; 2007-034).
one definitive alternate, 6 June, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Cherise Charron; 2007-144) – photos on file.

2006 one definitive adult, 2 May, Hopkins Bay, *Bruce* (Michael Penfold, found by John Haselmayer; 2007-005) – photo on file.
one juvenal, late July – 20 August, Casselman, *Prescott and Russell* (Art Kornienko, Jacques M. Bouvier, David Moore; 2007-022) – photos on file.

2000 one definitive adult, 7 May, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Ken Allison, also found by Tim Allison; 2007-033).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (40)

2007 one definitive alternate, 9 April, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Michele Rodrick, also found by Nicholas Baumberg; 2007-035).

2005 one first basic, 11-14 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Tim Baerwald, Brandon R. Holden, found by Mary Booker, Peter Booker; 2007-043) – photos on file.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (50)

2007 one definitive alternate, 20 May, Casselman, *Prescott and Russell* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, also found by V. Bernard Ladouceur, Paul Mirsky, Jan Slumkoski, Kim Zbitnew; 2007-076).
one definitive alternate, 23 May, Winchester, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (David Britton, also found by Jack Romanow; 2007-077).
one definitive alternate, 10 June, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Cherise Charron; 2007-152) – photos on file.
one definitive alternate, 13-26 June, Brighton, *Northumberland* (William J. Edmunds, found by Erin McGauley, Karen Tomkins; 2007-116) – photos on file.

Considering the proximity of the Casselman and Winchester sites (approximately 25 kilometres apart), there exists the possibility that both records pertain to the same individual.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (6)

2007 one definitive basic, 19-21 October, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (David R. Don, Barry S. Cherriere, John Millman, Rick Lauzon, Sandra C. Hawkins, Robert Hawkins, found by David K. Donn; 2007-123) – photos on file.
one definitive basic, 20-28 October, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Paul D. Pratt, found by Dean J. Ware; 2007-145) – photos on file.

The Hillman Marsh bird is the latest fall record for Ontario.

Figure 4. Definitive basic White-faced Ibis at Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton,* from 19-21 October 2007. *Photo: Barry S. Cherriere.*

Ibis species *Plegadis sp.* (43)

2007 one definitive alternate, 12-15 May, Collingwood, *Simcoe* (Dagmar McNichol, John McNichol; 2007-073).

2006 one juvenal or first basic, 6-8 October, Beachburg, *Renfrew* (Ian Macfarlane; 2007-074) – photos on file.

one 9 October, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, also found by Yousif Attia; 2007-115).

The ibis at Collingwood was documented in an atypical fashion. Mary Little (who did not see the bird) provided a written description that was based on photographs taken by the McNichols, who were the discoverers of the bird. Unfortunately the OBRC has yet to receive these photographs.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (53)

2007 one 3 May, Point Pelee National Park and Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Kenneth G. Burrell, Ian M. Richards, David McNorton, Bradley Davis; 2007-146).

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (15)

2007 one juvenal, 11 September, Harrow, *Essex* (Claude Radley; 2007-081) – photo on file.

This record constitutes only the fourth accepted fall record for the province.

"Dark Morph" Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (4)

2007 one first basic, 24 April, Grimsby (Beamer Memorial Conservation Area), *Niagara* (Barry S. Cherriere, also found by Glenda J. Slessor, Robert Curry; 2007-023) – photos on file.

one juvenal in prebasic molt, 26 April, Burlington, *Halton* (Tom Thomas; 2007-082) – photos on file.

These two records constitute the first accepted spring records for the province. Only two previous reports have been accepted by the Committee: 18 August 1992 at Woodstock, *Oxford* (Dobos 1998), and 19 September 2004 at Port Burwell and Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Crins 2006). Three as yet unreviewed reports are 30 April 1978 at Grimsby, *Niagara*, 7 May 1985 at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, (Escott 1986) and 27 April 2002 at Grimsby, *Niagara* (Curry 2006).

Figure 5. First basic "dark morph" Broad-winged Hawk at Grimsby, *Niagara*, on 24 April 2007. *Photo: Barry S. Cherriere.*

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (50)

2007 one definitive basic, light morph, 4 November, Clappison's Corners, *Hamilton* (Barbara N. Charlton; 2007-103).

2006 one light morph, 20 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Claude Radley; 2007-012).

one juvenal, light morph, 26 September, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (Ian M. Richards; 2007-006).

one juvenal, light morph, 5 October, Seacliff, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden; 2007-013) – photos on file.

The Clappison's Corner bird represents the latest accepted record for the province. The previous latest date was 29 October 1984, at Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Crins 2004).

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* South Only Before 1994 (38)

1971 one juvenal, female, dark morph, 13 November, Wellandport, *Niagara* (2007-147) – photo on file.

This bird was picked up in an emaciated condition by a conservation officer, and brought into captivity; it was photographed on 5 January 1972 by Robert F. Andrle at the home of Kay McKeever, a wildlife rehabilitator in Vineland.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (5)

2007 one definitive alternate, 29 May – 1 June, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Adam C. Pinch, Sumiko Onishi, Claire Sanders; 2007-052) – photos on file.

Figure 6. Juvenal female Gyrfalcon (dark morph) found on 13 November 1971 at Wellandport, *Niagara* (photographed in captivity on 5 January 1972). *Photo: Robert F. Andrle.*

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (63)

2007 pair definitive alternate male and female, nest, four fledged juvenals, 13 May – 28 July, Sauble Beach, *Bruce* (Brendan A. Toews, also found by Kimberly J. Toews; 2007-104) – photos on file.

one definitive prebasic molt, female, 9 August, Wasaga Beach, *Simcoe* (David J. Milsom; 2007-083) – photos on file.

2006 one alternate, 29-30 May, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (R. Doug McRae, found by Donald Shanahan; 2007-007).

one juvenal or basic, 27-28 July, Ipperwash Beach, *Lambton* (Tim Snieder, found by Maris P. Apse; 2007-008).

one juvenal or first basic, 1 October – 12 November, Point Pelee National Park (1 October) and Hillman Marsh (15 October – 12 November), *Essex* (Stephen T. Pike, Rosalee A. Hall; 2007-153) – photos on file.

Details of the remarkable nesting record at Sauble Beach have been published in *Ontario Birds* (Toews *et al.* 2008). The Wasaga Beach bird was banded, which revealed that it was raised in 2003 in a captive rearing program at the University of Michigan Biological Station (Alice Van Zoeren, pers. comm.); this female bird nested in 2004 and 2005 at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan, and in 2006 at North Manitou Island, Michigan. The Hillman Marsh bird is the latest fall record accepted by the OBRC, with the previous late record being 3 November 1985, at the Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Wormington 1987).

Black-necked Stilt
***Himantopus mexicanus* (16)**

2007 one female, 22 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Stephen T. Pike, also found by Michael J. Simms; 2007-154) – photo on file.

2004 one 18 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Graeme C. Gibson; 2007-064).

Figure 7. Female Black-necked Stilt at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, on 22 May 2007. *Photo: Stephen T. Pike.*

Figure 8. Juvenal or first basic Willet at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay,* on 6 August 2007. *Photo: Nicholas G. Escott.*

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* North Only **(15)**

2007 one juvenal or first basic, *C.s. inornata*, 6 August, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Brian J. Moore; 2007-148) – photos on file.

California Gull *Larus californicus* **(50)**

2007 one definitive basic, 6-8 and 15 November, Nepean, *Ottawa* (Tony F.M. Beck; 2007-124).

2006/07 one definitive basic, 11 November – 14 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Brandon R. Holden, Willie D'Anna, Sean Sime, Peter S. Burke, Ian M. Richards, also found by Lauren Rae; 2007-084) – photo on file.

2006 one definitive basic, 6 October, Wheatley Harbour, *Essex/Chatham-Kent* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden; 2007-014) – photos on file.

one definitive basic, 18 November, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Willie D'Anna, also found by Joe DiCostanzo, Betsy Potter, Sean Sime; 2007-085).

By plumage characteristics, the bird at Niagara Falls on November 18, 2006, was considered different from the individual that was present at the same time at Queenston. As in 2005 (see Crins 2006), a definitive basic bird showed up at Queenston from 11 November 2006 to 14 January 2007 – this is probably the same individual that has been returning to this location for several years. Therefore, the total number of reports cited above involves some duplication.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* **(4)**

2006 one third basic, 2-13 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Kevin J. McGowan, Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna, Shane Blodgett, Christopher J. Escott; 2007-086) – photos on file.

The three previous records were in Niagara Falls, *Niagara,* from 24 November to 29 December 1992 (Bain 1993), Toronto, *Toronto*, from 2-9 January 1999 (Roy 2000), and Wheatley Harbour and Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, from 22-26 January 2006 (Crins 2007).

Figure 9. Slaty-backed Gull in third basic plumage at Niagara Falls, *Niagara*, from 2-13 December 2006. *Photo: Jean Iron.*

Black-legged Kittiwake
Rissa tridactyla North Only (3)

2007 four juvenal, 25 August, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Michael V.A. Burrell, John Klymko, Devin Turner; 2007-096).
one juvenal, 25 August, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Michael V.A. Burrell, John Klymko, Devin Turner; 2007-097).
one juvenal, 25 August, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Michael V.A. Burrell, John Klymko, Devin Turner; 2007-098).

These are the first northern Ontario records to be accepted by the OBRC. Other undocumented records for northern Ontario, as yet unreviewed by the OBRC, include sightings from Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Wormington 2008). All three sightings involved birds that were apparently flying southwest up the Moose River in separate groups over several hours, indicating they were all different individuals. The source of these birds is not known, as the nearest breeding colonies in the Canadian Arctic are on Lancaster Sound and eastern Baffin Island. Several days of strong northeast winds preceded the sightings, suggesting that the birds may have been from breeding colonies on the Atlantic coast.

Arctic Tern ***Sterna paradisaea*** South Only (13)

2007 two definitive alternate, 27 May, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, found by V. Bernard Ladouceur; 2007-053).

This record fits the usual pattern of this species in spring in southern Ontario.

Razorbill ***Alca torda*** (8)

2006/07 one juvenal or first basic, 19 November – 7 January, Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna, Christopher J. Escott, Bruce Wilson, Ian M. Richards, Peter S. Burke, Curtis A. Marantz, Gavin R. Edmondstone, found by Norma Platt, Bob Spahn; 2007-087) – photos on file.

Previous accepted records of this species in Ontario involved birds that stayed for much shorter periods; therefore, this long-staying bird was enjoyed by hundreds of birders from across the province (and New York).

Eurasian Collared-Dove ***Streptopelia decaocto*** (10)

2007 one basic, male, 17 July – 1 September, Vinemount, *Hamilton* (Stuart A. Mackenzie, Theo Hofmann; 2007-099) – photos on file.
one 3-9 November, Squaw Bay, *Thunder Bay* (June Huston, also found by Tom Huston; 2007-125) – photos on file.
2006 one 25 May, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd; 2007-118).

The Squaw Bay bird represents the first record for northern Ontario, and the latest record for the province; the previous latest date was 4 September 1993 at Pittock Lake, *Oxford* (Dobos 1999). The Vinemount bird had been present for several months prior to the first documentation according to local residents (R. Dobos, pers. comm.).

White-winged Dove ***Zenaida asiatica*** **(26)**

2007 one 15-28 November, Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* (Tammie Hache; 2007-133) – photos on file.

2006 one basic, 12-13 May, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, Olivier Barden; 2007-054) – photos on file.

one 14-24 July (not to 25 July as published in *North American Birds* 60: 523), Nipigon, *Thunder Bay* (Betty Brill, also found by Donald Brill; 2007-015) – photos on file.

one 15 August - 3 September, Rossport, *Thunder Bay* (David Speer; 2007-155) – photo on file.

one 13 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock; 2007-046).

The 2006 bird at Nipigon may have been the same bird as sighted at Rossport and Thunder Cape, approximately 60 and 90 kilometres away, respectively. The Manitouwadge bird was last seen in extremely poor health, having endured a number of nights with temperatures below –10°C.

Chuck-will's-widow
Caprimulgus carolinensis **(20)**

2007 one basic, female, 12 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (Christopher J. Escott, Jacques Girard; 2007-036) – photos on file.

one basic, 13-14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Jean Iron, Stewart DeWalle; 2007-126) – photos on file.

Figure 10. Male Eurasian Collared-Dove at Vinemount, *Hamilton*, from 17 July – 1 September 2007. *Photo: Stuart A. Mackenzie.*

Figure 11. White-winged Dove at Long Point Tip, *Norfolk,* from 12-13 May 2006.
Photo: Michael D. Boyd.

Figure 12. Basic Chuck-will's-widow at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, from 13-14 May 2007.
Photo: Jean Iron.

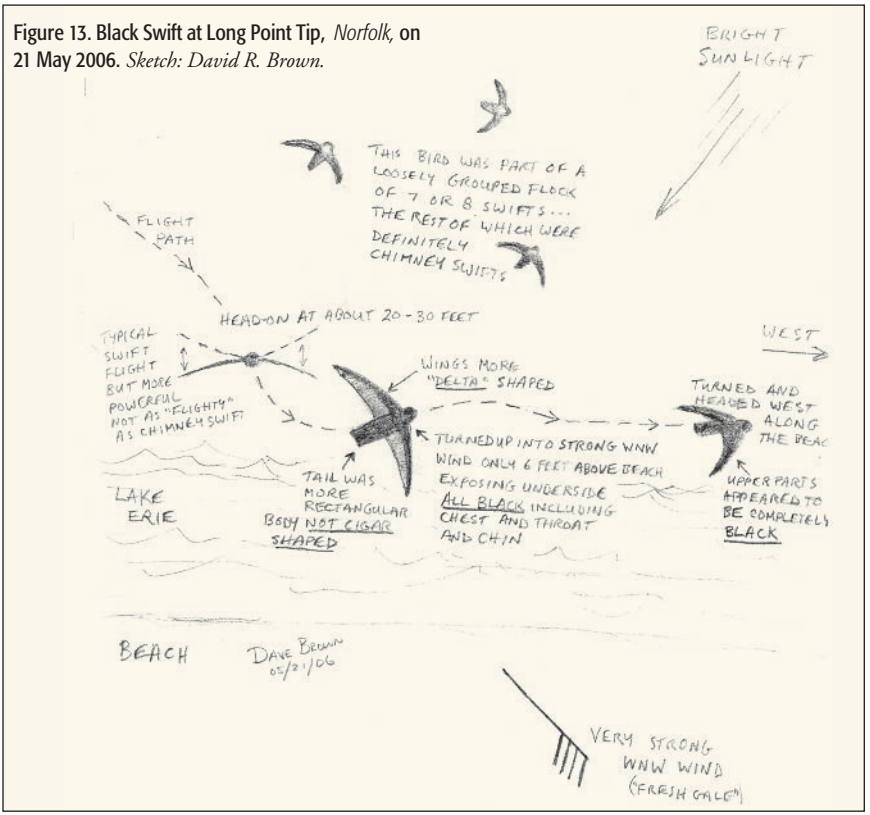


Figure 13. Black Swift at Long Point Tip, *Norfolk*, on 21 May 2006. *Sketch: David R. Brown.*

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* (1)

2006 one 21 May, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (David R. Brown, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Henri Robert; 2007-047).

This exceptional record involved a bird travelling with a group of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica)*, after several days of sustained westerly winds; the detailed report was accompanied by excellent field sketches (see Figure 13). The level of documentation was deemed sufficient to accept this record as a first for the province, even in the absence of a specimen or photograph.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (21)

2007 one definitive basic, male, 30 August, White Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Becky Johnson, Carl Johnson; 2007-156) – photo on file.

one definitive basic, female, 18 November – 1 December, Kingsville, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt, Carl A. Pascoe, Rachel A. Powless, found by Chris Heil, Pam Heil; 2007-157) – photos on file.

2005 one female or first basic male, 18 November – 9 December, London, *Middlesex* (Shay Redmond, Cindy E.J. Cartwright, found by Alice Kenzie) – photo on file (2007-161).

The 2005 London record was previously accepted only as an unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbird (see Crins 2007). However, DNA bar code analysis subsequently obtained from the University of Guelph allows this bird to be differentiated from other *Selasphorus* species.

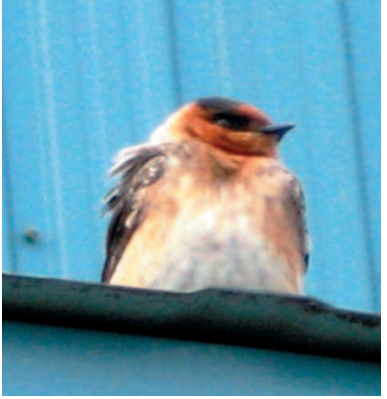


Figure 14. Cave Swallow at Erieau, *Chatham-Kent*, on 7 November 2007. *Photo: Blake A. Mann.*

Hummingbird species *Selasphorus sp.* (8)

2007 one female or first basic male, 15 July, Elk Lake, *Timiskaming* (Michael Werner, found by Lionel Venne; 2007-134).

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* North Only Before 2007 (18)

2006 one first basic, male, 20-21 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock, David J.T. Hussell, Erica Dunn; 2007-025) – photo on file.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (53)

2007 one 9 June, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (E.R. "Ted" Armstrong, found by Heidi Strobl; 2007-149) – photo on file.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (52)

2007 two 6-7 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, also found by Marianne B. Reid; 2007-150).

one *pelodoma*, 7 November, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2007-106) – photos on file.

one 7 November, Pelee Island, Essex (Adam C. Pinch; 2007-119).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* North Only (16)

2007 one definitive alternate, male, 26 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Ray Gribble; 2007-055) – photo on file.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (33)

2007 one juvenal or first basic, 13-15 September, Wolfe Island, *Frontenac* (Jerry Smith, Paul O'Toole; 2007-127) – photos on file.

one juvenal or first basic, 14-15 October, Shrewsbury, *Chatham-Kent* (Robert Epstein, David J. Milsom, Mark K. Peck, Paul D. Pratt, found by James T. Burk; 2007-128) – photos on file.

2006 one juvenal or first basic, 6-9 September, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Keith D. Wade; 2007-135) – photo on file.

one juvenal or first basic, 19 October, Nepean, *Ottawa* (Christina Lewis, Robert A. Bracken, Tony F.M. Beck; 2007-018) – photo on file.

The Nepean bird represents the latest accepted fall date for the province, the previous latest date being 15 October 1995, at Oshawa, *Durham* (Dobos 1998). The Shrewsbury bird was found during the Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual Convention at Point Pelee, allowing many birders to enjoy the bird on their way home.

Figure 15. Northern Wheatear at Nepean, *Ottawa*, on 19 October 2006. *Sketch: Christina Lewis.*

Figure 16. Northern Wheatear at Shrewsbury, *Chatham-Kent*, from 14-15 October 2007. *Photo: Mark K. Peck.*

Figure 17. Townsend's Solitaire at Long Point Tip, *Norfolk,* on 6 June 2006. *Photo: Michael D. Boyd.*

Townsend's Solitaire ***Myadestes townsendi*** **South Only After 2000 (62)**

2007 one 11 November, Halfway Lake Provincial Park, *Sudbury* (Randy N. Moratz, also found by Rodney Campbell, Christopher T. Bell, Christopher G. Blomme; 2007-158) – photos on file.

2006/07 one 5 November – 27 February (but not seen between these dates), Little Bluff Conservation Area, *Prince Edward* (V. Paul Mackenzie, found by Martin H. Edwards, Joel H. Ellis, Peter J. Good, Kathy Innes, Bud Rowe, Ronald D. Weir; 2007-026) – photos on file.

2006 one first basic, 6 June, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Henri Robert, Michael D. Boyd, also found by Simone Immler, Carl Wegenschimmel, Elizabeth Denten; 2007-048) – photos on file.

2005/06 one 31 December – 1 April, Reevecraig, *Ottawa* (Susan Lehmann, Rubby Neville; 2007-038) – photos on file.

The Long Point bird represents the latest accepted spring record for the province; the previous latest date was 11 to 15 May 2002 at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Crins 2003).

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler ***Dendroica coronata memorabilis/auduboni*** **(8)**

2007 one alternate, male, 27 April – 3 May, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Margaret J.C. Bain, Owen Weir, Rod Lee, Chris Hominuk; 2007-056) – photos on file.

one 7 May, Mountsberg Conservation Area, *Hamilton/Wellington* (Marian L. Thorpe; 2007-057).

Yellow-throated Warbler ***Dendroica dominica*** **North Only (South Before 1994) (75)**

2007 one *albilora,* 18 May (not 19 May as published in *North American Birds* 61: 436), Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Allan Hale; 2007-039) – photo on file.

This record is the first accepted sighting for northern Ontario since 2000 and also constitutes the first spring record.

"Yellow-lored" Yellow-throated Warbler ***Dendroica dominica dominica*** **(3)**

2007 one male, 26-30 April, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (Jean Iron, found by Karl Dix; 2007-136) – photos on file.

This subspecies, the more southern of the two continental subspecies recorded so far in Ontario, has only two previous accepted records for the province: 14 October to 13 November 1982, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (James 1983), and 12 November to 4 December 1993, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma,* (Bain 1994); details of the Moosonee bird were previously published (see McRae and Hutchison 1983). There are two undocumented records that have yet to be adjudicated by the OBRC: 13 August 1971, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Curry 2006), and 8 September to 3 October 1993, Teeswater, *Bruce* (Wormington 2008).

Figure 18. "Yellow-lored" Yellow-throated Warbler at Stoney Creek, *Hamilton*, from 26-30 April 2007.
Photo: Jean Iron.

Figure 19. First alternate female Kirtland's Warbler at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, on 14 May 2007. *Photo: Barry S. Cherriere.*

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (38)

2007 one first alternate, female, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Barry S. Cherriere, also found by Robert L. Waldhuber; 2007-129) – photos on file.

one male, 18 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2007-049).

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* North Only (5)

2005 one female, 22 April, Thunder Bay (not Geraldton as published in *North American Birds* 59: 591), *Thunder Bay* (Barry Atkinson; 2007-058) – photo on file.

This record, only the fifth accepted for northern Ontario, constitutes only the second in spring; the other spring record was 23 May 1994 at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Pittaway 1995).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (22)

2005 one definitive alternate, male, 21 May, Houghton Centre, *Norfolk* (David J. Agro, also found by Peter Carson, Allan Arthur; 2007-027).

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (77)

2007 one male, 12 May, St.Williams, *Norfolk* (Christopher J. Escott; 2007-137) – photos on file.

2006 one first alternate/basic, 26 April, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, also found by Peter H. Coo, Barbara Bleho, Leslie Latt; 2007-050) – photo on file.

one 8 May, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (Stéphane Menu; 2007-068) – photos on file.

At Walsingham, *Norfolk*, two singing males were present from 14 May – mid-June 2007. Considering the proximity to St. Williams, it is possible one of these birds is the same as the 12 May individual, but there is no direct evidence to support this viewpoint. Furthermore, the OBRC has yet to receive any documentation for the birds at Walsingham.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (17)

2007 one 17 March, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Adam C. Pinch, Blake A. Mann, Robert Dietz; 2007-028) – photos on file.

one 29-30 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Ian M. Richards, Stephen T. Pike, found by Peter Granka; 2007-040) – photos on file.

one 3-7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (David J. Milsom; 2007-138) – photos on file.

one 12 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Eric W. Holden, also found by Brandon R. Holden; 2007-130) – photos on file.

one male, 26 May, Kirkfield, *Victoria* (Robert Carswell, also found by Don Barnett, Lynne Freeman; 2007-090).

The 17 March record represents the earliest spring migrant for the province.

Figure 20. Lark Sparrow at Long Point Tip, *Norfolk*, **on 26 April 2006.** *Photo: Michael D. Boyd.*

Figure 21. Henslow's Sparrow at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, **from 29-30 April 2007.** *Photo: Stephen T. Pike.*

Figure 22. Male Blue Grosbeak in first alternate plumage at Etobicoke, *Toronto,* from 16-17 May 2007. *Photo: Alyson Hazlett.*

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (66)

2007 one definitive alternate, male, 2-4 May, Bay Lake, *Parry Sound* (Kip Daynard; 2007-059) – photos on file.
one definitive alternate, male, 11 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Y. Robert Tymstra, also found by Darrell Parsons; 2007-029).
one first alternate, male, 16-17 May, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Alyson Hazlett; 2007-030) – photos on file.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (23)

2006 one female or first alternate male, 15 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Sylvain Sabourin, found by Alison J. Bentley, Stewart Bentley; 2007-009) – photos on file.
one definitive alternate, male, 26 May, Sudbury (Lake Nepahwin), *Sudbury (*Stephen Monet, found by Connie Monet; 2007-010) – photos on file.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (16)

2007 one first basic, male, 26 October – 2 November, Dryden, *Kenora* (Penny Ratushniak; 2007-159) – photos on file.
2006 one definitive alternate, male, 12 June, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (James E. Heslop; 2007-020) – photos on file.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (10)

2006/07 one 30 December – 20 March, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Thomas J. Nash; 2007-108).

Not Accepted Records
Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Birds in this category are considered by the Committee to be correctly identified, but their origin is questionable. These birds may have escaped or may have been released from captivity. However, if new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the Committee.

2007 European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), one, mid-January, Moonbeam, *Cochrane* (Denis A. Trudel; 2007-110) – photos on file.

European Goldfinch, one, 4 May, Toronto, *Toronto* (Sandra Eadie, also found by Linda Wells; 2007-060).

European Goldfinch, one, 18 December, Huntsville, *Muskoka* (Justin Peter, Tracey Harper, also found by Chris Boettger; 2007-160) – photo on file.

2006/07 Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), one, definitive basic, 9 December – 7 January, Beamsville, *Niagara* (Brandon R. Holden, found by Jennie Foley, Mike Foley; 2007-091) – photo on file.

2006 Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), one, 11-13 October, Windsor, *Essex* (Mathilda Thibert, found by Mr. Dito, Robert Thibert; 2007-017) – photo on file.

European Goldfinch, one, 22 April, Huntsville, *Muskoka* (J. Burke Korol; 2007-140) – photo on file.

The sightings of Eurasian songbirds, such as European Goldfinch, continue although there is still no evidence to suggest that they are now established in the province.

Identification Uncertain

The documentation received for the following reports generally was found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally. In many cases, Committee members felt that the species being described probably was correctly identified, but that the details provided in the report, perhaps due to factors such as the conditions during the observation, were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

2007 Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), one, 17-19 July, London, *Middlesex* – photo on file (2007-072).

Little Blue Heron, one, 9 July, Stouffville, *York* (2007-061).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 7 June – mid-June, Sharbot Lake, *Frontenac* (2007-062).

Glossy Ibis, one, 16 May, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (2007-075).

Black Vulture, fourteen, 30 September, Rattlesnake Point, *Halton* – photos on file (2007-095).

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), 16 June and 23 July, Kingston, *Frontenac* (2007-063).

Broad-winged Hawk (dark morph), one, 3 May, French River, *Parry Sound* – photos on file (2007-044).

Broad-winged Hawk (dark morph), one, 3 May, Mattawa, *Nipissing* – photos on file (2007-045).

Rufous Hummingbird, one, 19 July, Sharbot Lake, *Frontenac* (2007-088).

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*), one, 21 May, Selkirk Provincial Park, *Haldimand* (2007-037).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), one, 10 July, Westport, *Leeds and Grenville* (2007-078).

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), two, mid-June – 25 June, Cambridge, *Waterloo* (2007-065).

Cave Swallow, one, 23 October, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (2007-105).

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri)*, two to three, 8 July, Toronto, *Toronto* (2007-066).

Northern Wheatear, one, 8-9 November, Hamilton, *Hamilton* – photo on file (2007-107).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), one, 29 August, Whitby, *Durham* (2007-089).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), two, 31 May and 19 June, Hillsport, *Thunder Bay* – photos on file (2007-067).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), one, 7 July, Bracebridge, *Muskoka* (2007-079).

Blue Grosbeak, two, 15 June, Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, *Halton* – photos on file (2007-069).

Blue Grosbeak, one, 1 July, Uxbridge, *Durham* – photos on file (2007-080).

Blue Grosbeak, two, 17 July, Rockwood, *Wellington* (2007-070).

"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi)*, one, 16 November, Whitby, *Durham* – photo on file (2007-120).

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*), one, 28 October, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (2007-109).

2006 Ross's Goose, one, 21 December, Pine Beach, *York* – photos on file (2007-112).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii)*, one, 11 August, Bidwell Lake, *Nipissing* – photos on file (2007-113).

Yellow-billed Loon, one, 14 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (2007-051).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 7 October, Amherstburg, *Essex* (2007-011).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus)*, one, 29 August, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (2007-117).

Lucifer Hummingbird (*Calothorax lucifer*), one, 14 September, Ridgeway, *Niagara* (2007-016).

Selasphorus hummingbird, one, 30 October, Belleville, *Hastings* – photo on file (2007-024).

Northern Wheatear, one, 1 November, Georgetown, *Halton* (2007-019).

Lark Bunting, one, 10 November, Whitby, *Durham* (2007-139).

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), one, 23 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* – photos on file (2007-100).

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2006 Report (Ontario Birds 25: 50-68):

- under Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, insert "Marianne B. Reid" before "Alan Wormington".
- under Sage Thrasher, add "Willie D'Anna" after "Brandon R. Holden".

2003 Report (Ontario Birds 22: 54-74):

- under White-faced Ibis, insert "Alan Wormington" before "Stephen T. Pike" and delete "found by Edward P. LeBlanc"; change "5 May" to "4-5 May"; and change locations to read "Point Pelee National Park (4 May) and Sturgeon Creek (5 May)."

Literature Cited

Abraham, K.F. and **R.K. Ross**. 2005. Mute Swans in the Hudson Bay Lowland. Ontario Birds 23: 26-30.

Abraham, K.F., D.M. Filliter and **D.A. Sutherland.** 2008. First Documentaion of Black Scoter Breeding in Ontario, Ontario Birds 26: 108-118.

[AOU] American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Bain, M. 1993. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1992. Ontario Birds 11: 46-63.

Bain, M. 1994. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1993. Ontario Birds 12: 41-58.

Crins, W.J. 2003. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2002. Ontario Birds 21: 54-76.

Crins, W.J. 2004. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2003. Ontario Birds 22: 54-74.

Crins, W.J. 2006. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2005. Ontario Birds 24: 54–74.

Crins, W.J. 2007. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2006. Ontario Birds 25: 50-68.

Curry, R. 2006.Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas. Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Hamilton.

Dobos, R.Z. 1996. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1995. Ontario Birds 14: 50–71.

Dobos, R.Z. 1998. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1997. Ontario Birds 16: 51–80.

Dobos, R.Z. 1999. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1998. Ontario Birds 17: 61-83.

Escott, N.G. 1986. A melanistic Broad-winged Hawk at Thunder Bay, Ontario. Ontario Birds 4: 114-115.

Humphrey, P.S. and **K.C. Parkes**. 1959. An approach to the study of molts and plumages. Auk 76: 1–31.

James, R.D. 1983. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1982. Ontario Birds 1: 7-15.

Lumsden, H.G. 2007. Trumpeter Swan, pp. 66-67 in Cadman, M.D., D.A. Sutherland, G.G. Beck, D. Lepage, and A.R. Couturier, eds. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005. Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, Toronto.

Lumsden, H.G. 2008. Trumpeter Swans in Ontario 1982 – 2006. Toronto Birds 2: 51-60.

McRae, R.D. and **W.A. Hutchison**. 1983. A Record of the Yellow-throated Warbler from Moosonee. Ontario Birds 1: 16-17.

Moser, T.J. 2006. The 2005 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey. A Cooperative North American Survey. Published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Denver, Colorado. April 2006.

Pittaway, R. 1995. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1994. Ontario Birds 13: 46-65.

Pittaway, R. 2000. Plumage and molt terminology. Ontario Birds 18: 27–43.

Roy, K. J. 2000. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1999. Ontario Birds 18: 53-72.

Toews, B.A., **K.J. Toews** and **C.E.J. Cartwright**. 2008. The successful nesting of the Piping Plover at Sauble Beach marks a return to the Canadian Great Lakes after 30 years. Ontario Birds 26: 16-48.

Tozer, R.G. and **J.M. Richards**. 1974. Birds of the Oshawa-Lake Scugog Region, Ontario. The Alger Press Ltd, Oshawa, Ontario. 384 pp.

Wormington, A. 1985. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1984. Ontario Birds 3: 2-17.

Wormington, A. 1987. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1986. Ontario Birds 5: 42-62.

Wormington, A. 2008. The rare birds of Ontario: A catalogue of distributional records. Unpublished manuscript.

Ian M. Richards, 501 – 1305 Ontario Street, Burlington, Ontario L7S 1Y1

Bushnell® *Birding Companions*

Elite®

RAINGUARD

Inspired by a combined commitment to heritage and innovation to create the sharpest, clearest and brightest optics available today. Nothing compares to what you see through Elite binoculars.

- 99.7% light transmission per lens
- Premium BaK-4 Roof prisms
- PC-3 phase coating
- XTR® technology • Locking diopter
- Lightweight magnesium chassis

Elite® e2™

RAINGUARD

Next in the evolution of the series is the Elite e2. Featuring our Advanced Fusion Hybrid lens system that improves overall edge to edge image clarity and contrast.

- XTR® technology • Close Focus
- PC-3 phase coating
- Long eye relief and wide field-of-view
- Lightweight magnesium chassis
- Locking diopter and focus wheel

New 7x26mm compact. Sized to go everywhere. Now available

Infinity™

RAINGUARD

Introducing the Infinity™ binocular by Bushnell. They're the perfect combination of lightweight open-bridge styling, optical quality and rugged durability.

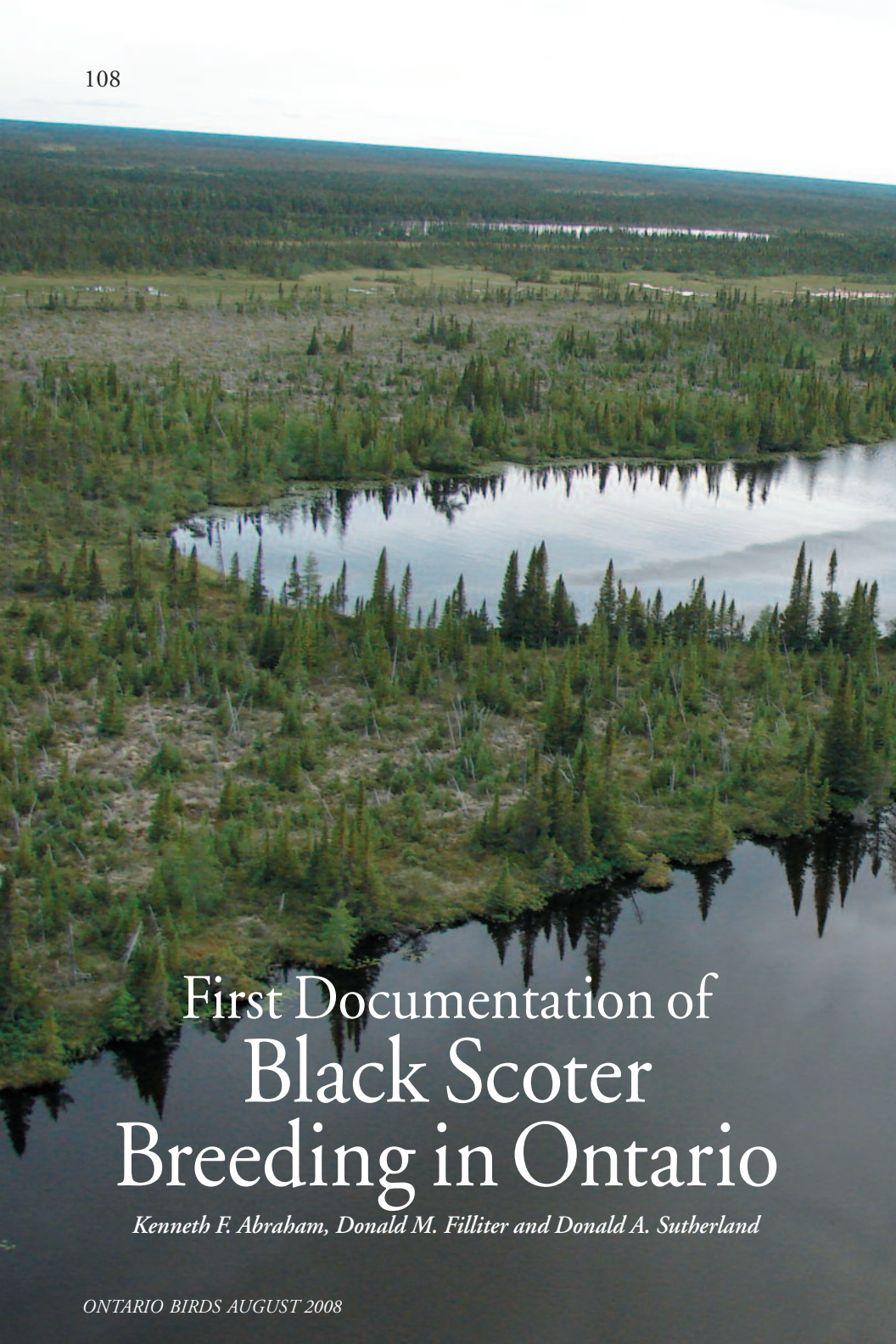
- New SHR - Super High Reflection prism coating
- Fully multi-coated optics for maximum light transmission
- Long-eye relief and wide field of view
- Open bridge style
- **Available in a 8-16x42 zoom**

www.bushnell.com

RAINGUARD®

Our patented Rainguard lens coating prevents fogging by forcing condensation from rain, sleet and snow or even your own breath to bead up into tiny droplets. Smaller droplets scatter less light, for a clearer, brighter view.

Magnifying nature and all its beauty for 60 years



First Documentation of Black Scoter Breeding in Ontario

Kenneth F. Abraham, Donald M. Filliter and Donald A. Sutherland

Figure 1. Lakes on which the first documented brood of Black Scoters was found 25 July 2006, 8 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long recorded by GPS 55° 00′ 12.9″ N, 85° 18′ 08.3″ W. *Photo: Jean Hall-Armstrong.*

Introduction

The Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) is a large sea duck that breeds primarily in boreal and subarctic regions of North America, and winters on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. There are two relatively discrete breeding segments, the eastern and the western populations (Bordage and Savard 1995). Black Scoters in Ontario are representative of the eastern population, documented breeding for which is centered in northern Québec (Ross 2007). Small numbers migrate through and winter on the Great Lakes, but the primary presence of the species in or near Ontario are the flocks of moulting males in July and August along the coasts of James Bay and Hudson Bay (Ross 1983, 1994).

Breeding in Ontario has long been assumed, but not confirmed (Ross 1994, 2007; Sandilands 2005), and is believed to be limited to the Hudson Bay Lowlands. Observations of pairs in apparently suitable breeding habitat during June waterfowl surveys have been the basis of

breeding status assessment and population estimates (Ross 1994, 2007, pers. obs.) but no nests have been found, and until the observations reported here, neither were there any brood records.

In this paper, we describe the first observations of Black Scoter broods confirming breeding in Ontario. They occurred after the field work for the recent Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (Cadman *et al.* 2007) was completed. We refer to one non-definitive observation during the atlas period.

Observations of Black Scoter broods in Ontario

Observation 1: 8 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, 40 km south of Hudson Bay. Location recorded by GPS: 55° 00' 12.9" N, 85° 18' 08.3" W; 16 608584 6096508 NAD83.

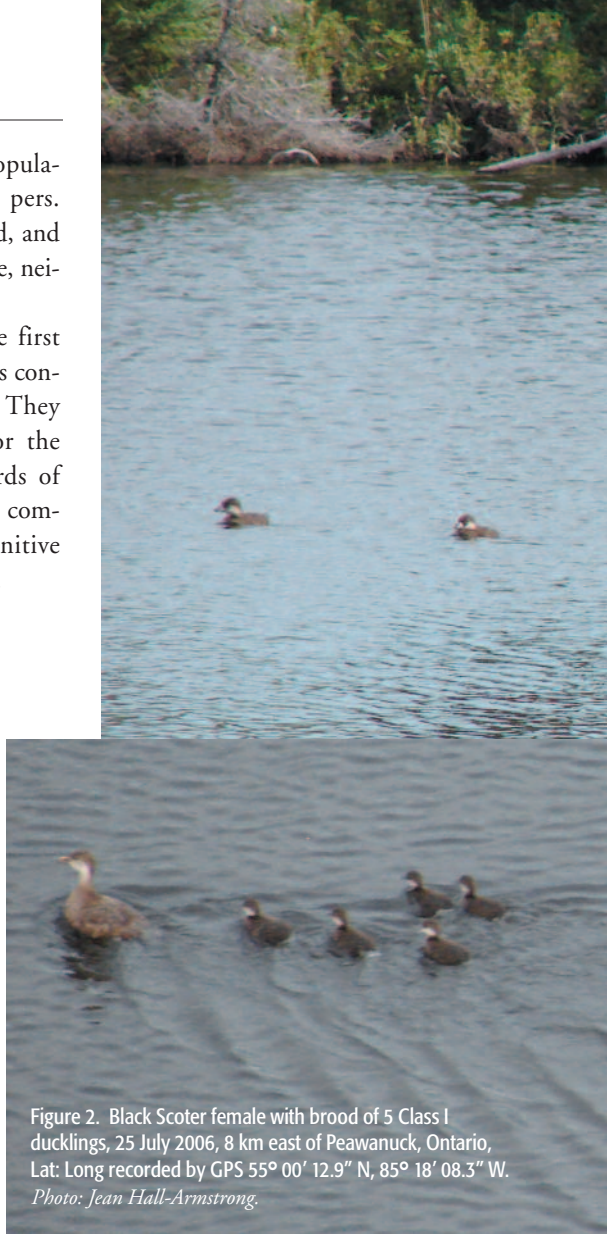


Figure 2. Black Scoter female with brood of 5 Class I ducklings, 25 July 2006, 8 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long recorded by GPS 55° 00' 12.9" N, 85° 18' 08.3" W. *Photo: Jean Hall-Armstrong.*

On 25 July 2006, during a helicopter flight after a day of goose banding on the Hudson Bay coast east of the Brant River, we were on a direct flight to Peawanuck, recording wildlife observations as we went. At 20:21 EDT, a duck brood caught our attention and we circled back to look. As we circled lower, Ken Abraham (hereafter KFA) caught a glimpse of the head and bill markings of the female through his binoculars and tentatively identified her as a Black Scoter. The sun was illuminating the yellow on her bill to such an extent that he was perplexed (most illustrations do not show so much yellow on the bill of the female). She clearly was accompanying a brood of five very young ducklings (estimated as Class I, Gollop and Marshall 1954). They had dark caps and white-sided faces, consistent with the sea duck tribe (Mergini). We hovered to

Figure 3. Female Black Scoter with her ducklings, note upright tail of alert posture, 26 July 2006, 8 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long recorded by GPS 55° 00′ 12.9″ N, 85° 18′ 08.3″ W.
Photo: Jean Hall-Armstong.

get general location and higher altitude pictures of the lake (Figure 1), then got low enough for all aboard the aircraft to see the birds and for Jean Hall-Armstrong to take the definitive first pictures of the female and brood (Figure 2).

The next day, we returned to the lake and dropped Jean and Brenda Hill on the ground to take more photographs from better vantages (Figure 3). We maneuvered the brood by hovering at a sufficient altitude to keep it reasonably close to the shore where Jean and Brenda were concealed. While they were photographing the birds, our activity disturbed or attracted a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), which landed near the brood and was apparently taken as a threat by the female scoter. She assumed alert postures and agitated behaviours (cocked tail, vocalizations, short hopping flights toward the loon and around her young, and calling the young close to her, etc.). She later escorted them to an adjacent smaller lake through a small connecting channel (visible in Figure 1). The habitat was typical of a large number of lakes with indeterminate depth (our guess is about 2 m), with dark substrates and tannin coloured water. The banks are lined with thick spruce and tamarack.

Observation 2: 80 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, 20 km south of Hudson Bay. Location recorded by GPS: 55° 07' 26.9" N, 84° 13' 37.2" W; 16 676813 6112117 NAD83.

On 24 July 2007, again during a helicopter flight after a day of goose banding, we were on another direct flight to Peawanuck at 18:30 EDT when a scoter-like duck brood caught our attention, but in different habitat than the 2006 confirmed observation. This habitat was a shallower lake in more open sedge fen, but with a surrounding elevated rim ringed with tamarack, willow and birch. We circled, hovered, and this time KFA easily determined with binoculars that it was a Black Scoter female with a brood. We quickly dropped Andrew Silver on the northwest shore with the sun behind him so he could take pictures of the female with 3 Class I ducklings from a good vantage point (Figure 4). We landed on a peat plateau at the opposite side of the lake and shut down to make our own observations, and to assure that the

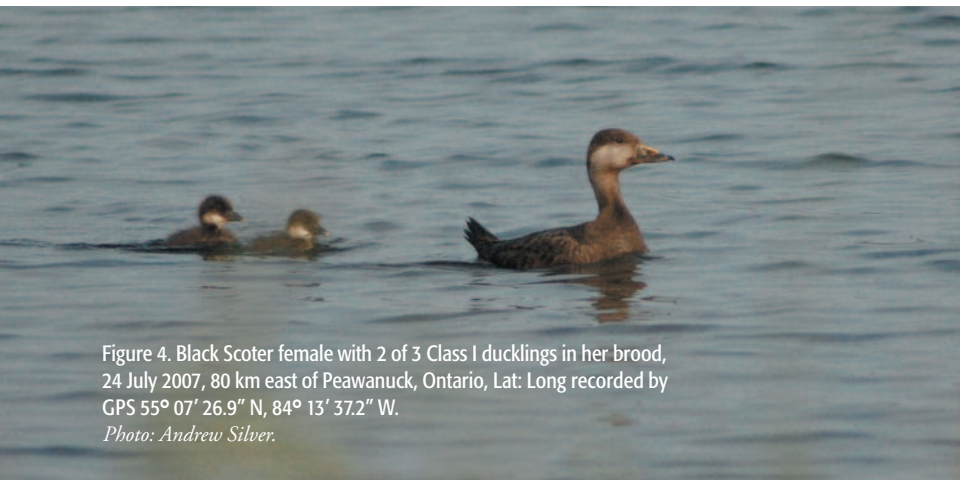


Figure 4. Black Scoter female with 2 of 3 Class I ducklings in her brood, 24 July 2007, 80 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long recorded by GPS 55° 07' 26.9" N, 84° 13' 37.2" W.
Photo: Andrew Silver.

Figure 5. Lake on which a Black Scoter female with brood of 3 Class I ducklings was found, 24 July 2007, showing emergent vegetation on the shoreline, 80 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long recorded by GPS 55° 07′ 26.9″ N, 84°13′ 37.2″ W. *Photo: Ken Abraham.*

Figure 6. Lake on which Black Scoter female with brood of 3 Class I ducklings was found, 24 July 2007, showing a tamarack hedge along the shoreline, 80 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long recorded by GPS 55° 07′ 26.9″ N, 84° 13′ 37.2″ W. *Photo: Ken Abraham.*

birds went in the direction where Andrew was concealed. We took photos of the lake and surrounding habitat from this second vantage point (Figures 5, 6). One duckling became separated for a while but rejoined the female and its siblings before we left. A female scaup (*Aythya* sp.) was also attracted to the group during our observation.

Observation 3: 109 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, 28 km south of Hudson Bay. Location recorded by GPS: 55° 01' 50.8" N, 83° 43' 08.7" W; 17 326220 6101596 NAD83.

On 25 July 2001, during a helicopter flight on the way to band geese, we flew over a small lake, ringed with black spruce and tamarack (much like the one in Observation 1, but with more emergent vegetation like the one in Observation 2). KFA saw a dark adult duck of scoter size with what appeared to be a duckling at its side, and the brief glimpse was of a bird about 1/4 the size of the adult. When we circled, the adult was agitated but did not flush or dive; the apparent young bird did dive into some nearby emergent vegetation. We circled repeatedly, hovering low enough so that KFA could positively identify the duck as a female Black Scoter by its bicoloured head and lack of white wing markings (Figure 7), but the other bird could not be seen. We hovered at a higher altitude for a few minutes hoping they would be reunited, but the presumed duckling could not be relocated. We returned on the following two days for quick passes and the female was present on both days. On 27 July, we landed near the lake and KFA took videos of the female on the lake and as she flushed (photos on file with the Ontario Bird Records Committee). No duckling was seen on either of the latter two occasions, thus we cannot be certain of its identification. The persistent presence of the female, on her own and in such habitat on those dates, is suggestive of successful breeding, but not conclusive.

Figure 7. Black Scoter female leaving lake, 27 July 2001, 109 km east of Peawanuck, Ontario, Lat: Long: recorded by GPS 55° 01' 50.8" N, 83° 43' 08.7" W.
Photo (still image captured from digital video): Ken Abraham.

Observation 4: 92 km east of Peawanuck, 43 km south of Hudson Bay. Location recorded by GPS: 54° 51' 57.0" N, 84° 00' 32.4" W; 16 691938 6083960 NAD83.

On 9 August 2007, while in transit by helicopter between Mid-Canada Line (MCL) Radar Sites 415/416 and Peawanuck, a female Black Scoter with a brood of six half-grown ducklings was observed by Don Sutherland (hereafter DAS) on one of a series of small interconnecting lakes in open to sparsely treed taiga with extensive palsa development, near the Aquatuk River. The lake was bordered by a discontinuous band of low birch and willow and sedge marsh.

Observation 5: 45 km east of Peawanuck, 18 km south of Hudson Bay. Location recorded by GPS: 55° 03' 55.8" N, 84° 43' 46.2" W; 16 644991 6104436 NAD83.

On 10 August 2007, while in transit by helicopter between the mouth of the Sutton River and Peawanuck at 17:39 EDT, DAS and Bill Crins observed a large aggregation of duck broods in open water near the south end of a relatively large lake in sparsely treed taiga. Circling back in the helicopter, it was evident that broods comprised several species of duck, and as we circled overhead our attention was first drawn to a female White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca)* with a brood of six small ducklings near the periphery of the flock, then a female Black Scoter with a brood of 10-14 small ducklings. As we circuited the lake, the duck broods moved to the shoreline against the darker backdrop of shrub willow-birch and spruce growth bordering the lake, where they became more difficult to discern. A second pass along the shoreline revealed a second female Black Scoter with a brood of eight small ducklings, and at least two broods (9 and ~14 young, respectively) of Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata)* and several broods of Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). On 11 August, while in transit between Peawanuck and MCL Radar Sites 415/416 at 09:30 EDT, we returned to the lake with the intention of obtaining photographic documentation of the Black Scoter broods; however, we were unsuccessful in relocating broods of either Black Scoter or White-winged Scoter, but were able to locate and photograph two broods of Surf Scoter (9 and ~14 ducklings) and several broods of Greater Scaup.

Observation 6: 17 km east of Peawanuck, 30 km south of Hudson Bay. Location recorded by GPS: 55° 01' 5.4" N, 85° 09' 55.6" W; 16 617294 6098352 NAD83.

On 10 August 2007, at 17:49 EDT, while in transit by helicopter between the Sutton River and Peawanuck, a female Black Scoter with a brood of ~12 small ducklings was observed through binoculars by DAS while overflying a series of sinuous, interconnected small marshy lakes, bordered by low willow-birch thickets and open, sparsely-treed taiga.

Discussion

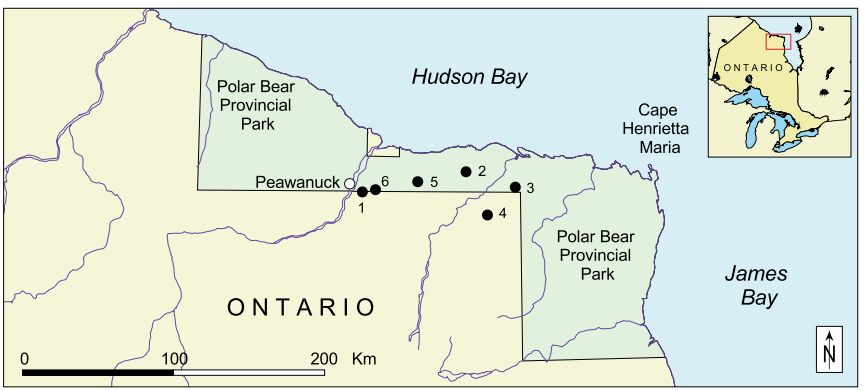
Why has it taken so long to confirm the breeding of Black Scoter in Ontario? Ross (2007) discusses this question with respect to waterfowl surveys and volunteer atlas field work. We agree with his view that it is a reflection of remoteness, timing and population size and distribution. The extreme remoteness and restricted access to the breeding range in general, and the preferred habitats in particular (taiga ponds), especially in Ontario, is a primary factor. This affects both routine surveys and atlas-type field work. In addition, routine waterfowl

surveys are conducted at times that are not optimal for observing either pairs of this late-nesting species. Pair surveys are done in late May or early June (while Black Scoters arrive in mid June) and brood surveys are done in early to mid July (while Black Scoters hatch in mid to late July or early August). Finally, the number of breeding Black Scoters may be as low as 6500 (Ross 1994) in a vast area of over 200,000 km^2.

Our ability to use helicopters, and our practice of using all point to point flights between our primary study sites (e.g., banding locations) and base camp in Peawanuck as survey flights, and by varying the flight paths on the homeward leg, has given us access to areas most visitors to the Hudson Bay Lowlands do not get. If distribution of suitable habitat is patchy, as Ross (2007) suggests, this practice may have worked to our advantage. An alternate view is that distribution is less patchy, and that our good fortune in locating broods was a result of more intense search effort at appropriate times of the season. All of our brood observations occurred after 20 July, and as late as 10 August, due to the nature of the primary objectives. As a result, our visits were well timed with respect to hatch and the presence of broods. Finally, we suggest that the population of Black Scoters breeding in Ontario may be substantially higher than the very preliminary projection of Ross (1994).

Given that little is known of the breeding habitat of Black Scoter in Ontario, a summary of the general characteristics of brood habitat for the species in Ontario from the above observations is warranted. All sites were between 18 and 43 km inland (south) of the Hudson Bay coast in open to sparsely-treed muskeg/taiga (Figure 8). Three sites (2, 4 and 6) were in more open, sparsely treed taiga and were surrounded by sedge fen and/or marsh with some to extensive low-palsa

Figure 8. Map showing the locations (1-6) where Black Scoter broods have been observed on the Hudson Bay Lowlands. *Map: Andrew Jano.*



development, while the other sites (1, 3 and 5) were rimmed by a curtain forest of larger spruce (*Picea* spp.) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*). Brood lakes were generally small (<1 to 22 ha; average 5.4 ha) with shallow (est. 1-4m), generally tannin-stained to clear water. Four of six lakes were free of emergent aquatic vegetation, while two (Observations 2 and 6) had moderate to extensive emergent sedge growth and were surrounded by more open sedge fen. All lakes had shorelines rimmed with a continuous to discontinuous thicket of low (generally <2 m) willow (*Salix* spp.) and birch (*Betula* spp.). Characteristics of brood habitat for Black Scoter in Ontario correspond well with those observed in Québec (Bordage and Savard 1995; Morrier 1996), where small (10-30 ha), relatively shallow (<5m) productive taiga lakes with little emergent vegetation were preferred, and larger (>30 ha), deeper lakes and rivers were avoided.

In Ontario, as elsewhere in its range, the Black Scoter typically breeds at low densities, usually with a single pair to a lake and less commonly or rarely in company with other waterfowl species. In Québec, the Black Scoter tends to breed in company with the other scoter species only on larger (20-100 ha) lakes (Morrier 1996). Our observations (see Observation 5) suggest that in Ontario this may be true as well, and that Black Scoter may be less likely to be found in company with the other scoter species, as suggested by Ross (2007).

As there is still much to learn about the Black Scoter in Ontario, and because there is concern at a continental level about its status, we recommend the development and implementation of a systematic brood survey in early August. Such a survey would also improve information about the other scoter and waterbird species in this vast wetland area.

Acknowledgments

We thank Kim Bennett, Bill Crins, Peter Davis, Jean Hall-Armstrong, Brenda Hill, Dan Kennedy, Wade Murrant, Lorraine Norris, and Andrew Silver for their assistance with the observations. Some of the observations were made on flights whose primary purpose was goose banding, activities that are cooperatively funded by the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service (Observations 1-3). Others were made during assessment activities for the Mid-Canada Line clean-up program supported by Ontario Parks and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Observations 4-6).

Literature Cited

Bordage, D. and **J.L. Savard.** 1995. Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/177doi:10.2173/bna.177

Cadman, M.D., D.A. Sutherland, G.C. Beck, D. LePage and **A.R. Couturier** (eds.). 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005. Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, Toronto, xxii + 706 pp.

Gollop, J.B. and **W.H. Marshall**. 1954. A guide to aging duck broods in the field. Mississippi Flyway Council, Technical Section Report. 15 pp.

Morrier, A. 1996. Black Scoter, pp. 1115-1117 *in* Gauthier, J. and Y.E. Aubry (eds.) The Breeding Birds of Québec: Atlas of the Breeding Birds of southern Québec. Association Québécoise des Groupes d'Ornithologues, Province of Québec Society for the Protection of Birds, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Québec Region, Montreal, xviii +1302 pp.

Ross, R. K. 1983. An estimate of the Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*, population moulting in James and Hudson Bays. Canadian Field-Naturalist 97:147-150.

Ross. R. K. 1994. The Black Scoter in Northern Ontario. Ontario Birds 12: 1-7.

Ross, R. K. 2007. Black Scoter, pp. 104-105 *in* Cadman, M.D., D.A. Sutherland, G.C. Beck, D. LePage and A.R. Couturier, eds. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005. Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, Toronto, xxii + 706 pp.

Sandilands, A. 2005. Black Scoter *in* Birds of Ontario: habitat requirements, limiting factors and status. Nonpasserines: Waterfowl though cranes. UBC Press, Vancouver.

Kenneth F. Abraham, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Research & Development, 2140 East Bank Drive, Trent University Campus, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8.

Donald M. Filliter, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sudbury Fire Management Centre, Postal Bag 500, 2621 Skead Road, Unit 14A, Garson, Ontario P3L 1W3.

Donald A. Sutherland, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Information Centre, 300 Water Street, Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5.

Wind Turbines and Birds

The Erie Shores Wind Farm Experience: Nesting Birds

Ross D. James

Introduction

The Erie Shores Wind Farm (ESWF) extends along the north shore of Lake Erie for about 29 km to the east and west of the town on Port Burwell, in eastern Elgin County and western Norfolk County. During the first two years of operation (2006-2007) it consisted of 66 turbines placed in agricultural fields. A gravel laneway led to each turbine, but otherwise crops were planted close around the turbines and the laneways. Crops were mainly corn and soybeans or grain, less often squash, cucumbers, asparagus, or peppers, and a few were in cherry orchards where grass was mowed regularly. Turbines were located about 150 m to 2.5 km inland from the high bluffs of the Lake Erie shores. Some were located near wooded areas, or there were trees and shrubs along fence rows passing at various distances from the turbines. Except for a few in orchards, almost all were at least 40 m (to the base of the tower) away from any number of trees or shrubs, and some were well out in fields more than 100 m from the nearest tree or bush.

The turbines are on tubular towers, with no guy wires, that rise 80 m at the centre height of the hub of the blades. Blades span 77 m. At the lowest part of the sweep the blades are thus well above tree height, at more than 41 m in the air. At lighter wind speeds blades rotate at about 13-15 rpm, rising to a maximum of 22 rpm in stronger winds. Other than a relatively quiet swish as the blades rotate, turbines are fairly quiet. One can easily carry on a conversation at the base of a tower without raising one's voice. It can be more difficult to talk over the sound of the wind than the sound of a turbine.

The turbines are spaced at least 300 m apart, where grouped at all, to reduce wind interference in variable winds. Although some are grouped where land was available, because of various set-back restrictions, turbines were often much farther apart, even several kilometres.

This paper presents information on some nesting birds in proximity to wind turbines. There was seldom time to devote specifically to nest finding. These were nesting/breeding observations made during the course of other activities. Most nests were located in 2007. There was construction activity into May of 2006, with considerable traffic on laneways into June, probably limiting bird activity that year, and I was present more days in 2007. All distances are from the base of the towers unless otherwise indicated. Any distance less than about 37 m will be below the reach of the turbine blades. Observations for small birds are generally limited to those closer than 100 m. Some nests were not followed to completion as I was not present through the nesting season. Additional details of nests are on ONRS cards at the Royal Ontario Museum. Breeding bird population studies will be considered separately.

Observations

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). A pair nested in a swampy woodland within 300 m of a turbine in 2006. They had small flightless goslings in the area in late May. Geese were frequently seen flying past a turbine within 200 m to visit a farm pond near this nest.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). A nest was found 23 May 2007 just <100 m from a turbine, but there were only broken eggs remaining. As second nest was about 130 m from a turbine; it had 5 eggs on 11 June and 8 eggs on 14 June 2007.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Two broods of young were seen in 2007, one about 200 m and one about 400 m from turbines. However, since turkey tracks were noted <50 m from turbines on 75 occasions, these broods were not particularly close.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A pair that traditionally nested in a tree about 400 m from the site of a turbine installed in late winter 2006, left that site during construction, and moved to another nest about 600 m away, about 900 m from the turbine. At this new nest, just north of the wind farm, this pair successfully raised two young during 2006. The adults flew through and over the wind farm much of the year. The two young flew about the nest area, and into the wind farm area, for several weeks, and two immatures together, probably these same two, were along the Lake Erie shores south of the nest in the autumn. Here they would have flown past a turbine many times at distances within 150 m of a turbine there. Both adults and young were seen perching within 200 m of active turbines, and at times flying past as close as 100 m from rotating blades.

In 2007, a pair returned to the same nest north of the wind farm used in 2006. An adult was observed settling on the nest over several weeks in March, indicating the nest was active again. But, by May the nest

had obviously failed for unknown reasons not related to turbines. Both adult and immature eagles were seen in the area of and at this nest several times through 2007, indicating they were still active in the wind farm area through the year.

In 2008, a pair again returned, but this time they reoccupied the original nest about 400 m from a turbine. They were incubating in March when they were seen several times there. On 18 June 2008, two fairly large young were seen in the nest with the adult female.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii)*. An adult was on a nest 110 m from a turbine on 3 May 2007, and scolding loudly nearby on 9 May. A second nest was found on 10 May 2007, and the adult was seen on this nest 170 m from a turbine on 17 May. A Cooper's Hawk was also seen in this same woodland in 2006.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). In 2006, a pair began nesting in a dead tree 135 m from a turbine under construction. Before the turbine was in operation, an adult from this nest was seen several times flying past <75 m from the tower, and a couple times <50 m away. Once one was seen flying through the blades. The turbine began operating in mid May, and the pair continued to live and raise one young over the next month. In 2007, a pair returned, and nested in a live tree 265 m away from the same turbine, but in the middle of a quadrangle of turbines. They hunted in fields near all four turbines and again raised one young in this nest.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). Killdeer were quite willing to use the newly-constructed laneways as a place to nest. Few were seen in 2006 when vehicle traffic was still frequent in early spring. Many moved in during 2007. It was easily one of the most frequently encountered species near turbines. In 2006, two broods were noted, both <100 m from turbines, one on 8 May and one 31 May. In 2007, there were 17 nests located on the laneways and no doubt some were missed. Empty nest scrapes were noted at at least 10 other places along laneways, all under the extent of the blades, indicating at least courtship activity in close proximity to turbines.

A nest with 4 eggs on 1 May was only 3 m from a turbine; it was destroyed by a cultivator. A nest with 4 eggs on 28 May was 8 m from a turbine, in the middle of a laneway. It lost a couple eggs, but the adult was still incubating after 2.5 weeks when last checked. A nest with 4 eggs from 23 May to 6 June was 12 m from a turbine in a corn field; it was run over by a tractor. Six other nests were on the edges of laneways all under the extent of the blades, and a seventh was just beyond at 40 m from a tower. Few nests survived the raccoons, skunks and human activity.

On 28 May 2007, a pair was watched in courtship flights, going around and around an operating turbine, at blade height, passing across the face of the blades and around past the tips <10 m away much of the time. Many pairs probably made similar flights, all without any recorded mortality.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). A pair spent the summer of 2006 in a small woodland that extended 75-200 m from a turbine, and a pair returned to this woodland in 2007. At another turbine a family group was in trees <50 m from the tower in late summer 2006. They were noted in these trees on 5 occasions, and on another 7 occasions <100 m away.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). A nest was being excavated 29 May 2007, only 35 m from a turbine, and one of the birds was incubating in the nest on 7 June when last checked. A second nest was being excavated 22 May 2007 just <50 m from a turbine, but apparently was never occupied.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). An adult and noisy young were in a woodland within 100 m of a turbine in 2006. Another pair regularly flew into a woodland, and out into a field to forage, passing usually 100-200 m from a turbine. They were probably nesting in the woodland within 200 m of the turbine.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*). A pair spent the summer in trees largely within 100 m of a turbine, and in October a nest was found in the tree closest to the turbine, on the side of the tree closest to the turbine, about 24 m from the tower. At five other places birds were present in summer long enough to suggest they nested within 100 m of a turbine.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). A nest with 4 eggs was found 7 May 2007 at 37 m from a turbine; later destroyed by seeding operations. A second nest with 4 eggs was found 23 May 2007 at 21 m from a turbine; later depredated. A nest at 40 m from a turbine, found 1 June 2007, had only the remains of one of the adults killed on the nest. A fourth nest, only 15 m from a turbine, had 3 young on 13 June 2007, close to fledging age.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia)*. Thousands nested along the Lake Erie shore bluffs each year, but because of the height and steepness of the cliffs, it was usually not possible to tell just where they had burrows. At one location, however, a small eroded ravine cut back into a field, and there were at least 28 burrows there in 2007, all <150 m from a turbine.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). A nest with 3 eggs was found 8 June 2006 on the breaker hardware of a hydro pole, about 45 m from a turbine. At another turbine a bird was carrying nest material into a tree about 75 m from a tower on 23 May 2006. On 10 May 2007, a raccoon was on a robin nest eating the contents, about 40 m from a turbine. A nest being built <100 m from a turbine on 21 May 2007 had 3 eggs at month's end. Another nest was being built about 40 m from a turbine, but was either not used or very quickly depredated.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*). A pair spent the summer of 2006 in trees and shrubbery within 150 m of a turbine. One was seen several times perching on plants in the field within 50 - 75 m of the turbine as it searched for food items that were carried back to the shrubbery. A male was singing in the same area in the spring of 2007.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). During 2006, adults were noted feeding young in nests about 25 m, 40 m, 50 m and 75 m from operating turbines. The only pair given any attention in 2007 was about 100 m from a turbine, building a nest on 8 May, and the young depredated by the end of May. Birds were also carrying food into trees at two other locations within 50 m or turbines in 2007.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). Although birds were commonly seen in shrubbery in close proximity to turbines, the thorny vegetation made searching for nests uninviting. The only nest found, on 24 May 2007, was about 100 m from a turbine. It contained 3 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs partially buried in the nest bottom.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*). A nest in an orchard had 4 eggs on 29 May 2007, at 30 m from a turbine. The young hatched but were depredated between 11 and 15 June. This was grassland habitat newly created in 2006.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). A nest with 2 eggs was found 29 May 2007, at 20 m from a turbine. Four eggs were laid, but the nest was abandoned when the grass was cut short, removing all cover. Another nest with 4 eggs was found 5 June 2007 only 16 m from a turbine. The eggs were hatching when last checked 13 June. Both these nests were in habitat not available in 2006.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Recently fledged young were in a woodland <100 m from a turbine on 5 July 2006.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). The only nest found was just <100 m from a turbine, with 4 eggs by 30 May 2007.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Several pairs were carrying nest material into a row of spruce trees <50 m from a turbine recently under construction in 2006. Young fledged from these nests before the turbine began operation. Another pair nested <50 m from a turbine in 2006, and adults were regularly seen carrying fecal sacs past the tower of an operating turbine, dropping them in puddles at the base of the tower. In May 2007, 9 nests were located in a windbreak extending past two turbines. Three nests with eggs were found on 3 May at 52 m, 54 m and 60 m from a turbine. A fourth nest, on 9 May, was nearly 100 m away. The rest were at greater distances.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). A pair was building a nest <100 m from a turbine on 22 May 2006. A nest was under construction 40 m from a turbine on 23 May 2007. It was in the nearest branch of the nearest tree to the turbine. The nest was completed and the birds were incubating on 6 June. Another pair in 2007 spent the spring near a different turbine and a nest was found in October <50 m from the turbine.

Discussion

In the agricultural setting of the Erie Shores Wind Farm, with surrounding fields under cultivation, relatively few

bird species would find suitable habitat close to the turbines. However, apart from those listed above, species that were regularly seen in the trees or shrubbery within 100 m of operating turbines often enough to indicate they were likely nesting there included: Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) in 2 places, Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) in 1 place, House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) in at least 8 places, Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) in 1 place, Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis)* in 1 place, Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) in 1 place, Mourning Warbler *(Oporornis philadelphia)* in 2 places, Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) in 1 place, Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus)* in 1 place, Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis)* in 8 places and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) in 5 places.

Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) and Brown-headed Cowbirds were also regularly encountered foraging on the ground within 50 m of operating turbines and may have nested/laid eggs numerous times close to turbines. Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) were noted many times on the ground and in shrubbery near turbines, sometimes pairs looking for nesting material; there were no doubt a few nests within 100 m of turbines. Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) were also regular at many places and no doubt nested many times <50 m from turbines.

Birds were limited in nesting more by a lack of available habitat than by the proximity of a turbine at Erie Shores. They seemed to be nesting as close as the habitat allowed.

Most studies at wind power installations that have been concerned with breeding birds have considered only census numbers; few have specifically mentioned nests. The few that do mention nests also indicate that birds had little difficulty adapting to wind turbines. In Denmark, "there are several examples of birds (falcons) nesting in cages mounted on wind turbine towers" (Krohn 2002). In Britain, Golden Plover has been found nesting within 30 m of a turbine at Ovenden Moor, and Peregrine Falcon within 250 m of one at Bryn Tytli (Percival 1998). Ravens (*Corvus corax)* and Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) have nested in the turbine nacelles, and Red-tailed Hawks and ravens have nested on the turbine work platforms in California (Altamont Pass) (Kerlinger 2003). Mallards have been noted nesting about 35 m from turbine towers in Minnesota (Osborne *et al.* 1998) and at Pickering, Ontario (James 2003). A Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) nested 400 m from a turbine in Oregon (Johnson *et al.* 2003).

In Belgium, despite significant mortality of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo)* and Sandwich Terns (*Thalasseus maximus)* from a nearby colony, "the breeding terns were almost not disturbed by the wind turbines" (Everaert and Stienen 2007). Obviously poorly sited turbines near a port breakwall with a tern colony.

At a facility in Washington/Oregon, there were a similar number of active

Buteo nests from 2001 (before most construction occurred) through 2003 (2 years after construction) within 3 km of turbines. The largest number of active nests for all *Buteo* species (Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk and Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)) was observed in 2003 (11 to 13 nests) (Erickson *et al.* 2004). At the same facility, Common Ravens were somewhat more abundant after construction than noted historically, and Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*) successfully nested in close proximity to turbines, with nesting activity continued at similar levels for at least 2 years after construction (Erickson *et al.* 2004).

At the Pickering wind turbine a Killdeer nested within 60 m, Red-winged Blackbirds within 30 m, Song Sparrows within 50 m, American Robins within 30 m and possibly several other species that were seen numerous times within 100m (Mourning Dove, Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird); a small colony of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) nested on a floating platform about 350 m away (James 2003).

A wind turbine, that remains in the same place, rotates in the same way and makes much the same noise each day for long periods of the day, but is not unduly noisy, is something that birds can quickly become familiar with and adapt to. For smaller birds that, apart from migratory movements, are living through the summer below the height of the tallest trees, a turbine does not represent any threat at all. Only if the noise from the turbine was loud enough to interfere with their song/call communication would it pose a problem. Generally wind noise is as loud or louder than that of the turbines. Small birds have no reason to avoid a turbine.

For larger birds, that may be flying above tree canopy height, it should be obvious that the turning blades are something to be avoided. But the hazard is always in a known specific location that could be readily avoided. They only become a hazard when birds become so adapted to the presence of a turbine that they no longer stay a safe distance away from the blades. The willingness of birds to approach turbine blades in flight, is the subject for another time.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the people at AIM PowerGen Corporation who first involved me in the Erie Shores project, and supported my endeavours along the way; Ansar Gafur in particular fielded most of my inquiries. David Price, Dennis Haggerty and Herman Kolke at ESWF are thanked also for support during field studies. Without their help, things would have been much more difficult. Thanks particularly to Pud Hunter, Ministry of Natural Resources, Aylmer and Lyle Friesen, Canadian Wildlife Service, who joined me in the field on several occasions to inform themselves of the field conditions and the situation. I am grateful particularly to the various landowners who have tolerated my intrusions onto their properties in order to carry out studies at the wind farm.

Literature Cited

Erickson, W.P., J. Jeffrey, K. Kronner and **K. Bay.** 2004. Stateline Wind Project wildlife monitoring final report, July 2001 – December 2003. Technical report to FPL Energy, the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council and the Stateline Technical Advisory Committee.

Everaert, J. and **E.W.M. Stienen**. 2007. Impact of wind turbines on birds in Zeebrugge (Belgium). Significant effects on breeding tern colony due to collisions. Biodiversity and Conservation 16(12):3345-3359.

James, R.D. 2003. Bird observations at the Pickering wind turbine. Ontario Birds 21: 84-97.

Johnson, G., W. Erickson, J. White and **R. MacKinney**. 2003. Avian and bat mortality during the first year of operation of the Klondike Phase 1 Wind Project, Sherman County, Oregon. Report to Northeast Wind Power.

Kerlinger, P. 2003. Avian risk assessment for the East Haven Windfarm, East Mountain Demonstration Project, Essex County, Vermont. Report to East Haven Windfarm.

Krohn, S. 2002. Birds and wind turbines. Danish Wind Energy Association. www.windpower.org/ tower/env/birds.htm

Osborne, R.G., C.D. Dieter, K.F. Higgins and **R.E. Usgaard.** 1998. Bird flight characteristics near wind turbines in Minnesota. American Midland Naturalist 139:29-38.

Percival, S.M. 1998. Birds and wind turbines: managing potential planning issues. Proceedings of the 20th British Wind Energy Association Conference, 1998.

Ross D. James, R.R. #3, S1480, Conc. 7, Sunderland, Ontario. LOC 1H0

In Memoriam

Donald H. Baldwin (1934–2007)

A Classical Naturalist Remembered

Gregor G. Beck

Don Baldwin *Photo courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum.*

In December 2007, Ontario lost a respected and distinguished member of the ornithological community with the passing of Donald Baldwin. Don was a co-founder of the Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO), a gifted science teacher, a pioneer environmental educator, a leader in nature-related tourism, and a keen outdoorsman throughout his life. He was born and raised in Bristol, England, received formal training in aviation-related tool making, saw active duty with the Royal Marines during the Suez conflict, but his lifelong passion was always birds and nature. He was, in fact, the epitome of the "classical naturalist" with a broad knowledge of natural history and a gentleman's demeanor.

In 1958, Don immigrated to Canada, meeting his future wife, Maureen, on board ship during the crossing. Shortly thereafter, Don was one of a handful of visionary ornithological pioneers investigating the potential of various southern Ontario sites for North America's first permanent banding station. On the Victoria Day and Civic Holiday weekends in 1959, Don, Maureen, and David Hussell hiked out to Courtright Ridge, carrying tents and banding equipment to evaluate prospects for a banding station at the "Breakwater" at the southwest end of the ridge. On Thanksgiving weekend of that

Don Baldwin leading a "Walk with a Naturalist" run by the City of Toronto in the mid-1960s.
Photo courtesy of Maureen Baldwin.

year, an expanded group, which included Jim and Pat Woodford, made a first memorable trip to the Tip of Long Point. Long Point showed excellent potential for ornithological and practical reasons, and LPBO was officially established in the spring of 1960. Don remained active in the development of the fledgling observatory, both in the field and the initial organizing committee, and later on the board of directors. He also organized LPBO's first off-site survey, investigating mortality of birds at lighthouses and television towers.

During these early years in Canada, Don worked in the Department of Ornithology of the Royal Ontario Museum, where, among other responsibilities, he played a major role in northern field expeditions in Ontario and Québec. In the mid-1960s, Don also worked part-time at Upper Canada College teaching science and nature programs at their Norval Outdoor School near Georgetown on the Credit River. In 1966, he was hired full-time by the school, spending a majority of his early years at Norval developing and leading outdoor science programs. The study of birds and bird banding, of course, figured prominently in many lessons, and Don kept meticulous records for over two decades, ultimately publishing a checklist of birds seen on the 450-acre property. In the 1960s and 1970s, environmental education was in its infancy and once again Don played a pioneering role.

After retirement from teaching in 1990, Don and Maureen moved to their summer retreat on Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy, where Don led natural history tours and Maureen managed their bed and breakfast business. With his methodical approach and trademark diplomacy, Don made himself invaluable with the rapidly developing nature tourism business on the island. He played a particularly important role in the development and maintenance of an extensive system of nature trails, as well as building an impressive network of friends and supporters for local trails and nature. During these years, Don and Maureen continued to winter on Big Pine Key in Florida, birding and fishing, as they had done for years. In 2003, Maureen and Don moved to Port Rowan and once again Don could be found sharing his knowledge of nature and passion for birds with new friends and old, or enjoying a walk on a nature trail. Not infrequently, Don would visit the Old Cut field station of LPBO to watch birds, observe the banding, go for a walk, or reminisce about the early years of the banding station he co-founded close to a half century earlier.

Don Baldwin was a pioneer in bird studies and science education in Canada, and a gentleman naturalist who is greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Selected References

Downing S.C. and **D.H. Baldwin**. 1961. Sharp-shinned Hawk preys on Red Bat. Journal of Mammalogy 42:540.

Baldwin, D.H. 1964. Large numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks banded at Point Pelee. Contributions of the Ontario Bird Banding Association 2:7-8.

Baldwin, D.H. 1964. The Varied Thrush in Ontario. Ontario Field Biologist 18:14-15.

Baldwin, D.H. 1965. Ageing and sexing the Wood Duck. Ontario Bird Banding 1(2): 16-18.

Baldwin, D.H. and **R.D. Montgomerie**. 1965. The spring banding of Redheads at Long Point. Ontario Bird Banding 1(3): 22-30.

Baldwin, D.H. 1965**.** Enquiry into the mass mortality of nocturnal migrants in Ontario. Ontario Naturalist 3:3-11.

Baldwin, D.H. 1966. A simple device for taking wing and tail measurements. Ontario Bird Banding 2(4):19-21.

Baldwin, D.H. 1967. The Fort Albany bird bones. Royal Ontario Museum Newsletter, New Series, No. 26.

Baldwin, D.H. 1967. Bird-banding and outdoor science education. Ontario Bird Banding 3:117-126.

Baldwin, D.H. 1968. Bird-banding in Ontario: an analysis of five years' records, 1960-64. Ontario Bird Banding 4:89-132.

Barlow, J.C., **J.A. Dick**, **D.H. Baldwin** and **R.A. Davis**. 1969. New records of birds from British Honduras. Ibis 111:399-402.

Schueler, F.W., **D.H. Baldwin** and **J.D. Rising.** 1974. The status of birds at selected sites in northern Ontario. Canadian Field-Naturalist 88:141-150.

Gregor G. Beck, 1634 Front Road, RR#2, St. Williams, Ontario N0E 1P0

In Memoriam

Marshall H. Field (1919-2007)

Remembering a St. Thomas Force of Nature

Winifred Wake

Marshall Field holds a Golden Eagle in October 1995 at his banding station near Union, Ontario.
Photo: Don Fowler

Marshall Howard Field was born on 27 June 1919 at St. Thomas, and died there on 10 November 2007, at the age of 88. His passing marks the end of a very full life as a naturalist and active, hands-on volunteer in numerous monitoring and conservation causes. Examples of groups or initiatives he founded, or helped found, include the Elgin Nature Club (1941), St. Thomas Christmas Bird Count (1948), St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club (1950), Ontario Bird Banding Association (1956), Long Point Bird Observatory (1960), Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station (1969), and Elgin County Heritage Tree Committee (1990).

In 1941, Marshall was among a group of people interested in birds and nature (including Fred Bodsworth, Ronald Brooman, Bill Stewart and Donald Young) who joined together to form the Elgin Nature Club in St. Thomas. This group worked closely with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, an organization in which Marshall was to hold lifelong membership.

During World War II, while serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Bagotville, Québec, Marshall honed his skills as an observer of birds. Possessing neither bird book nor binoculars, he taught himself to recognize the various species by their songs and habits.

Although the Elgin Nature Club had lapsed during the later years of the war, in early 1946 Marshall and other local naturalists began amassing bird records from the county, an undertaking that culminated in the 1954 publication of *Birds of Elgin County*, by Ronald C. Brooman. In 1948, Marshall organized the first St. Thomas Christmas Bird Count. The late 1940s also saw Marshall arranging the first of many field trips and campouts that introduced young boys to nature. In 1950, the St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club was founded, with Marshall Field serving as the first president. He continued his involvement with their Christmas Bird Count for the next half century, and also served as the club's Migration Secretary for many years.

Marshall Field with other long-time members of the Ontario Bird Banding Association at the association's 50th anniversary banquet at Bird Studies Canada headquarters on 24 March 2006. Left to right: **Bill Ansley, Bill Wasserfall, David Hussell, Pat Woodford, Jim Woodford and Marshall Field.**
Photo courtesy of the Ontario Bird Banding Association

An active bird bander for 63 years (the longest tenure of any bander in Ontario history), Marshall initially focussed his attention on waterfowl and passerines. He first obtained his own federal bird-banding permit in 1946, and banded many thousands of birds over a career spanning seven decades. He was a member of the Ontario Bird Banding Association since its formation in 1956, and was also a founding member of the Long Point Bird Observatory in 1960. He organized Long Point's first Christmas Bird Count in 1961. In 1998, the Ontario Bird Banding Association awarded him their Janette Dean Award in honour of a lifetime of outstanding contributions to bird banding in Ontario.

During the early 1950s, Marshall became increasingly interested in raptor migration. Along with John Roberts and Bill Wasserfall, he was the driving force and guiding spirit behind the establishment of the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station in 1969. By 1975, this station was banding more raptors than any other in North America. Marshall continued to band hawks actively at Hawk Cliff right up until his death in the fall of 2007. In later decades, his efforts became more concentrated on raptors, and most specifically on eagles. He considered the banding of a Golden Eagle in the fall of 1995 to be the highlight of his banding career.

It was probably inevitable that such an experienced observer, active in the field for so many decades, would have many other memorable experiences. He found three separate Bewick's Wrens in Elgin County — at Pinafore Park in St. Thomas on 15 May 1950, near Port Bruce on 20 April 1952, and again in St. Thomas on 2 April 1953. On 15 October 1953, a co-worker at Pinafore Park called Marshall out from the greenhouse to look at a "large hawk", which he soon recognized

as a Black Vulture. On 16 March 1966, he found a female Varied Thrush at Pinafore Park. On 27 December 1975, Reinhold Pokraka, Lloyd Auckland and Marshall made an incredible discovery when they found a male Phainopepla at Duttona Beach in Elgin County. Marshall was able to photograph this bird and had the photo published in *American Birds.* This bird remained until 21 January 1976, to the delight of many observers. On another occasion, while he was capturing lure birds for the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station at the farm property of the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, he found an immature Northern Wheatear on 20 September 1990, while checking one of the lure bird traps.

When Bald Eagles were reintroduced into Elgin County in the 1980s, Marshall became their local champion, taking on the task of monitoring their nesting activities. It was with great pride that he later reported annually in *The Cardinal,* the quarterly publication of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists (MFN), on their gradually growing numbers in the county.

Marshall was a person who liked to work with his hands, whether constructing banding shacks, bird blinds or nesting platforms, or figuring out ways to make practical improvements to such structures. In earlier years, Marshall made it a priority to mentor youth and encourage their interest in nature. More recently he had expressed concern over the small numbers of the younger generation who were developing naturalist skills.

Although Marshall lived in St. Thomas all of his life, he maintained membership in the McIlwraith Field Naturalists in London for more than 55 years, and his complete set of *The Cardinal* (first published in 1951) was a prized possession. In recognition of his lifetime as an outstanding naturalist and conservationist, MFN presented him with its W.E. Saunders Award in 2002.

Marshall was always very generous in sharing his acquired natural history knowledge, whether in person or through his prolific writing for publications such as *The Cardinal* and *Ontario Bird Banding*. Beginning with the very first issue of *The Cardinal* in 1951, he contributed numerous articles on topics such as hawk migration, Cliff Swallows, Wood Ducks, bird banding, Elgin County bird records and regular updates on the comeback of Bald Eagles along the shore of Lake Erie.

Fifty years after participating in the compilation of records for R.C. Brooman's *Birds of Elgin County* in 1954, Marshall had the satisfaction of seeing his lifetime's worth of ornithological observations included in a comprehensive new 2004 publication *Birds of Elgin County: A Century of Change*.

In addition to being interested in birds, Marshall was an accomplished gardener. He had a successful 45-year career with the St. Thomas Parks Department, during which he rose from gardener to park superintendent. Along the way, he established a waterfowl sanctuary in Pinafore Park, where he was also a pioneer in bird rehabilitation efforts.

In retirement, he was a founding member of Elgin County's Heritage Tree Committee in 1990. He spent much of his time in the later years of his life scouring Elgin County for examples of the largest, oldest, tallest and rarest trees. He helped arrange for the placement of identification markers on hundreds of such trees and the publication of lively and informative brochures showing their whereabouts.

In summarizing Marshall's more than seventy years as an active field naturalist in Ontario, one characteristic stands out — his ability to come up with innovative ideas and then engage others to help make them happen. Other significant traits included his dedication to mentoring others, honing skills in the field and undertaking projects that had practical benefits for wildlife. Besides his many contributions, Marshall will be remembered for his energy, enthusiasm, outgoing personality and unflagging curiosity about the natural world. In addition to being an able administrator, leader and mentor, Marshall was a hands-on person, whether sleuthing the countryside for outstanding trees or sitting for hours in a chilly blind awaiting the arrival of a hawk. He also possessed a warm, outgoing friendliness and a contagious enthusiasm for sharing his love of nature.

Selected References:

Field, M. 1951. The great hawk flight of September 16 and 17, 1950. Cardinal 1:5-8.

Field, M. 1951. Roy Baker's Cliff Swallows. Cardinal 3:18-19.

Field, M. 1952. Bird banding. Cardinal 5:11-15.

Field, M. 1965. Nesting notes on Wood Ducks. Cardinal 53:14.

Field, M. 1967. Birds of the past in Elgin County. Cardinal 58:9-10.

Field, M. 1969. Variance of food in Mallard ducks. Cardinal 65:8.

Field, M. 1970. Fall migration of hawks at Hawk Cliff, Elgin County. Cardinal 69:6.

Field, M. 1971. Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding station first annual report, 1971. Ontario Bird Banding 7:56-75.

Field, M. 1972. Elgin County bird report – 1971. Cardinal 72:27-28.

Field, M. 1974. 1973 summary of waterfowl banded in Elgin County. Cardinal 79:13-15.

Field, M. and **W. Raymer.** 1977. Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding station fifth annual report, 1975. Ontario Bird Banding 11:1-28.

Field, M. 1982. First nest record for House Finch in Elgin County. Cardinal 106:6.

Field, M. 1999. Stabilizing a Bald Eagle's nest tree. Cardinal 175:15-17.

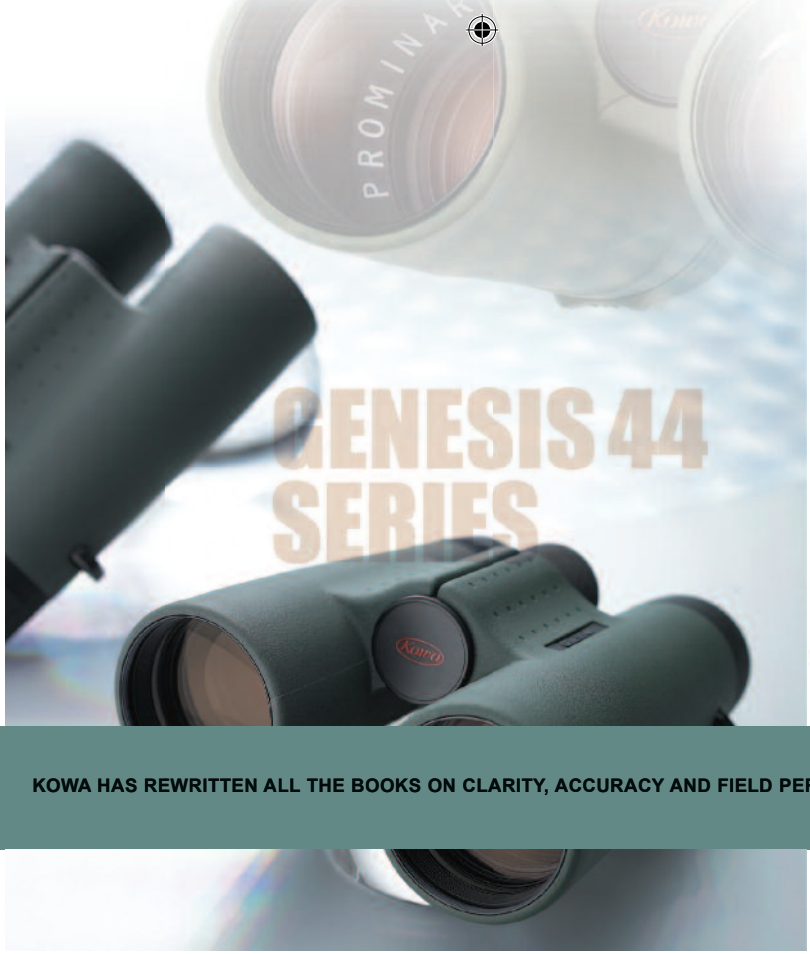
Field, M. 2006. Summary of nesting results of free-flying Bald Eagles in Elgin County for 2006. Cardinal 205:22.

Winifred Wake, 597 Kildare Road, London, Ontario N6H 2H8

Editors' Note: This contribution has been adapted from the following articles:

Wake, W. 2003. W.E. Saunders Award: Marshall Field. Cardinal 190:14-15.

Wake, W. 2008. Remembering Marshall Field. Cardinal 210:8.



KOWA HAS REWRITTEN ALL THE BOOKS ON CLARITY, ACCURACY AND FIELD PERFORM

These Are The Next Generation of Sporting Optics Excellence.

So if you demand crystal clear detail, brighter images and superior quality, the new TSN series spotting scopes a
High Performance Genesis 44 XD Lens binocular—have set the standard for clarity, accuracy and field performa
Our new TSN 880 Series scopes not only have an 88mm objective lens—feature for feature—have been design
specifically for the most discriminating user. Our Prominar pure fluorite crystal lenses ensure unequaled image q
and no chromatic aberration. Both the TSN 880 and 770 Series have a 2-revolution quick focus, a super fine foc
compact, lightweight magnesium bodies. *See your Kowa dealer today!*

Visit online

www.kowa-usa.com

800.966.5692

Kowa

Crystal Clear Optics™

A colour-banded Great Egret from Ontario sighted in the Azores Islands

D.V. Chip Weseloh and Dave Moore

Figure 1. This map shows the Nottawasaga Island banding location (star)of a Great Egret and the Azores Islands where the bird was resighting during December 2005 - January 2006. *Map courtesy of Andrew Jano.*

Since 2001, the Canadian Wildlife Service has colour-banded over 850 young flightless Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*, henceforth GREGs) at three sites in Lake Huron and the Niagara River; 95% of those birds were banded at Nottawasaga Island in southern Georgian Bay, near Collingwood, Ontario (Figure 1). The colour bands were red with large visible white numbers and letters (Figure 2). Each autumn several reports of colour-banded birds have been received from southern Ontario and western New York). Less frequently, and later in the year, reports of these colour-banded egrets have been received from the southern U.S. and the Caribbean, e.g. North Carolina, Florida and Cuba. Recently, a report of one of these colour-banded birds was received from the Azores Islands, a group of 9 islands located approximately 1500 km SW of Lisbon, Portugal, and 3900 km from the east coast of North America (Figure 1). The details of that sighting are the subject of this short note.

Figure 2. An Ontario-banded Great Egret, similar to this one, was observed in the Azores Islands from November 2005 –January 2006. *Photo courtesy of Mike Veltri.*

Figure 3. A Great Egret showing its aluminum band. *Photo courtesy of Sandra Hawkins.*

On 5 November 2005, a Great Egret, attributed to the North American subspecies (*A. a. egretta*), was observed by Ricardo Guerreiro at Mosterios on the western end of São Miguel Island in the central Azores Islands (See large scale map of this island and the below-listed locations at http://azores. seawatching .net). The North American subspecies is identifiable from the European subspecies (*A .a. alba*) by leg colouration. The legs of the North American subspecies are entirely jet black while those of the European subspecies are mottled dark, with the tibia suffused with a pink to reddish tinge (Hancock and Kushlan 1978). There is also an African subspecies, *A. a. melanorhynchos*, which does not migrate. The observed bird carried a red plastic band on its left leg, enumerated 27F, and an aluminium band on its right leg, # 1717-33033, both of which were read from afar by birders with telescopes.

The colour-banded egret was next observed on 13 November, 8 days later, at Vila Franca do Campo on the south coast of São Miguel Island, approximately 40 km SE of Mosterios. The band characteristics were read by several different observers: Rami Lindroos, Keijo Wahlroos, Ingvar Torsson, Svante Åberg, and Bosse Carlsson. The bird was then next observed inland, 12 km NNE, at Lagoa das Furnas, where it was regularly seen until 14 January 2006, by Staffan Rodebrand. Thus, this bird was probably resident on São Miguel Island for a period of not less than 70 days. Little information is available on the habits or behaviour of the bird while it was present on the Azores. It was the only Great Egret present at the first two locations but was one of 2-3 feeding at the Lagoa. Of the bird's appearance in the Azores, Mssr Rodebrand relates (in litt.): "The situation in autumn in 2005 was that there were a lot of Nearctic

species around due to a high number of depressions moving eastward off the Atlantic this year (see link to Hurricane weather on Birding Azores page General information). Late autumn this year hosted also a rather good number of North European birdwatchers (Portuguese birdwatchers are still very few, even if this bird first was spotted by a Portuguese), all keen birdwatchers with good bird knowledge and very active in searching for birds in suitable habitats. But all these moving around and rarely staying any longer in one place (like for watching the behaviour of a Great White Egret)."

This record, of an Ontario-banded GREG in the Azores, provides conclusive proof that the North American subspecies does occasionally find its way to the Azores. It adds credence to the visual observations of 18 other black-legged GREGs, thought to be the North American subspecies.

Obviously, the Azores Islands are not on the Great Egret's normal migration route. This bird was, assuredly, a vagrant, albeit perhaps a regular one, to the Azores. With this record, Great Egrets had been recorded on 19 occasions on the Azores since 2001. For comparison, the American Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) also occurs in the Azores — 23 birds so far known. For more information, see: Birding Azores at http://azores.seawatching.net and go to the database, http://azores.seawatching.net/index.php?page=rarebirdref&id=1999.

The observed egret was banded on 27 June 2005 at Nottawasaga Island, Collingwood, Ontario, as a flightless young; it was one of 143 banded there in 2005. The three records from the Azores are the only reported sightings of this individual.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Louise Laurin and Danny Bykstray, of the Canadian and U.S. banding offices, respectively, for bringing this record to our attention, also to Bill Watson (Buffalo, NY) for aiding in contacting the observers, and to Rami Lindroos (Finland), Staffan Rodebrand (Sweden) and Frederic Jiguet (France), for details about the sightings in the Azores. It involves real detective work and patience to locate the banding details and the original bander when foreign banded birds are observed. We are most appreciative to the above individuals for their assistance in documenting the movements of this bird, 27F. Richard Joos assisted with the banding at Nottawasaga Island on 27 June. We are very appreciative to Sandra Hawkins and Mike Veltri, who provided the photos of the Great Egret, and to Andrew Jano, who provided the map. Jack Hughes commented on a previous draft of this note.

Literature Cited

Hancock, J. and **J. Kushlan**. 1978. The Herons of the World. Harper and Row, New York.

D.V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, 4905 Dufferin St. Toronto, Ontario M3H 5T4
(email: chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca)

Dave Moore, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Canada Centre for Inland waters, Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

Nikon Photo Quiz

Sponsored by Nikon Canada *Glenn Coady*

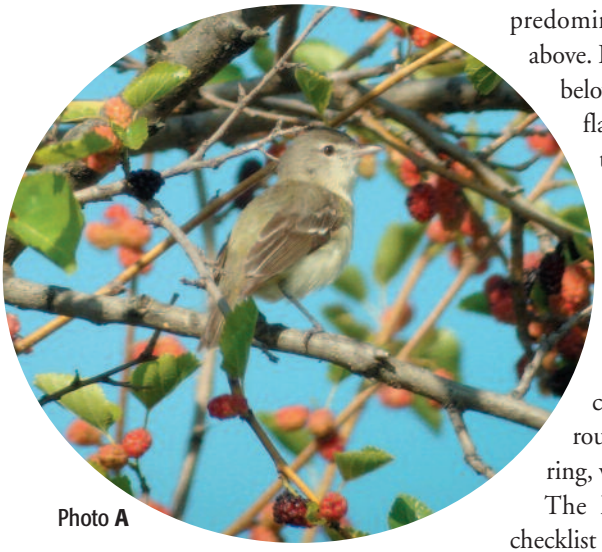


Photo **A**

Some readers are undoubtedly relieved to see that the subject of this quiz is an adult songbird, rather than a nest and eggs, a nestling, a juvenile bird, or some combination thereof. Other readers, having had a chance to puzzle over the photo a little, are probably beginning to appreciate how little advantage this may confer upon them. Many readers, as usual, will find the identification of this bird quite straightforward.

Let us begin by listing some of the general characteristics of this bird that are immediately apparent and useful in narrowing the list of possibilities to a reasonable number of species. Our quiz bird is a rather small and drab songbird that is predominantly olive-gray and greenish above. It is uniformly plain and whitish below from the chin to the belly and flanks. Its back is not streaked and the rump is plain and close to concolour with the back. The wings are a slightly darker brown, with two narrow, white wing bars, formed by the fine white tips on both the median and greater secondary coverts. It has a dark iris surrounded by a prominent white eye ring, with white in the lores as well.

The list of birds on the Ontario checklist that might reasonably meet this fairly general description includes several of the flycatchers of the genus *Empidonax* (including Acadian, Willow, Alder, Least, Dusky and Gray), several of the vireos (including Bell's, White-eyed and Blue-headed), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, several of the female wood-warblers of the genus *Dendroica* (including Chestnut-sided, Pine and Bay-breasted) and Western Tanager.

When trying to determine the identity of a bird species from such a disparate group of possibilities, it is always useful to begin by recalling the old maxim "you are what you eat" (or perhaps more accurately, in the case of birds: "you are *how* you eat").

Close examination of the bill structure of many birds will help in the separation of species that otherwise exhibit many similarities.

Our quiz bird's bill is much too long and thick for it to possibly be a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. It also lacks the dark bar that is easily noted at the base of the secondaries in the kinglets.

The bird has a grayer upper back that forms a "saddle" effect in its contrast with the lighter nape and the greener lower back. It also has a very pale wash of yellowish on the breast and its tertials are broadly margined in white. Although these are all field marks that are similar to a pale female Western Tanager, our quiz bird's bill is not stout enough at the base for that species. Female Western Tanagers tend to have more yellow-orange bills than the uniform horn-coloured bill on this bird. In addition, our quiz bird has much shorter primary projection than one would expect for any Ontario tanager species.

Another important aspect of this bird's bill is that it appears to be laterally (or sagittally) flattened. This is very useful in helping to distinguish it from the superficially similar *Empidonax* flycatchers, whose bills tend to be broad-based and more transversely flattened (top to bottom). Our bird is clearly not one of these flycatchers.

Closer inspection of the bill shape reveals that the upper mandible has a very pronounced downward curvature near the tip, which forms a distinct hook. Of the remaining species in our original list, this is most characteristic of the vireos, and rules out any of the superficially similar female *Dendroica* warblers, which have rather pointed bills lacking a hooked tip.

So we know that our quiz bird is, therefore, one of the Ontario vireo species with wing bars. Many will have also noticed the blue-gray legs on our quiz bird – this is another very good, but easily overlooked, vireo field mark.

Of the Ontario vireo species that have barred wings, we can easily eliminate the accidental Plumbeous Vireo from consideration, since our bird is not uniformly lead-coloured like that species. Similarly, we need not consider the Yellow-throated Vireo, since our bird lacks the bright yellow throat and breast of that species.

The only remaining candidates are, therefore, Bell's Vireo, White-eyed Vireo and Blue-headed Vireo. We can eliminate the Blue-headed Vireo because our quiz bird lacks the dark, blue-gray head with the boldly contrasting white "spectacles" of that species.

Our quiz bird lacks both the white iris and yellow "spectacles" of an adult White-eyed Vireo, but one must beware that hatch year White-eyed Vireos have dark eyes, and juveniles lack the bright yellow "spectacles". However, White-eyed Vireos

of all ages tend to have considerably darker (almost blackish) greater secondary coverts than the brownish coverts of Bell's Vireos. This tends to present a much higher contrast appearance to the barred wing of the White-eyed Vireo than the Bell's Vireo. Our quiz bird has light brownish greater secondary coverts and wing bars with a very weak contrast. It also has a much more prominent lower wing bar and a fainter upper wing bar. These are both characteristics that favour Bell's Vireo. White-eyed Vireo tends to have a much darker moss-green back than the Bell's Vireo, which can be quite variable from a plain grayish to a paler, olive-green back. Our quiz bird also conforms better with Bell's Vireo in this regard. Another field mark we can see is a very faint, dark post-ocular line on our quiz bird. This is another very good Bell's Vireo field mark, and one which gives them a more Warbling Vireo-like appearance to the head. Indeed, they are often visually mistaken for Warbling Vireos by those who don't notice the barred wings. The White-eyed Vireo, on the other hand, does not have any hint of a post-ocular line, but rather a strikingly solid head colour behind its bold "spectacles", imparting a more "Solitary" Vireo-complex type of head pattern. Our quiz bird also exhibits a broken eye-ring that is more in keeping with a Bell's Vireo than a White-eyed Vireo.

The bird in photo A is an adult male **Bell's Vireo.** The photo was taken near a nest on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, on 22 June 2008 by Mikey Lutmerding.

I chose this photo particularly because of its deceptive nature. The nominate

"eastern" Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii bellii*) tends to be brighter (greener dorsally and more yellowish ventrally — see photos B and C for examples of more typical eastern individuals) and shorter-tailed than the three more western subspecies in North America. However, very drab, worn and faded adults like this one also occur in the east. This bird is also in a fairly vertical posture that gives it more of a flycatcher "gestalt" than the typically more horizontal postures one normally associates with the vireos.

This quiz serves as a good example of how bird identification from a single photo, from a lone angle, is often fraught with much more difficulty than bird identification in the field, where several angles, repeated viewings, ranges of lighting conditions, habits, vocalizations and comparison with other available species, help to form the basis for a more solid identification.

Accuracy of colour saturation in photographs can strongly bias first impressions, often producing identification dilemmas that may be much more easily sorted out "in the field". This quiz clearly presented that challenge as well.

Fortunately, the drab, secretive, and often chameleon-like Bell's Vireo has a very distinctive and unmistakable song, which makes its detection and identification pretty simple.

For the past 50 years, the "eastern" Bell's Vireo has been undergoing a slow, but steady, eastward and northward range expansion. It was first detected nesting in Ohio in the Cincinnati area in 1968. Since the mid-1980s it has bred annually in very small numbers in Columbus and other counties across Ohio. In the recently completed Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, there was a confirmed breeding record not very far inland from the south shore of Lake Erie, directly across from Point Pelee National Park. An interesting paradox is that, although the Bell's Vireo is an exceedingly rare vagrant species in Ontario (with very few recent accepted records), it is probably also a good candidate to be one of the next newly-confirmed breeding species in Ontario. Birders in Ontario, particularly those living in the southwest counties, should make a point to become familiar with its distinctive song, and be sure to give ample coverage to its dense, early successional, scrubland habitat in spring and summer.


Photo **C**

Photo B was taken at the Catalina Woods Forest Preserve in Orland Park, Illinois, on 2 July 2008, by Paul Dacko. Photo C was taken at the Cook County Forest Preserve in suburban Chicago, Illinois, on 30 June 2008, by Craig Thayer.

Glenn Coady, 604 – 60 Mountview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2L4

Ontario Field Ornithologists

President: John Black, 17 Valerie Drive, St. Catherines, Ontario L2T 3G3 (416) 444-8055, E-mail: black@brocku.ca

Ontario Field Ornithologists is an organization dedicated to the study of birdlife in Ontario. It formed in 1982 to unify the ever-growing numbers of field ornithologists (birders/birdwatchers) across the province, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its members. The Ontario Field Ornithologists officially oversees the activities of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC); publishes a newsletter (*OFO News*) and a journal (*Ontario Birds*); operates a bird sightings listserv (ONTBIRDS), coordinated by Mark Cranford; hosts field trips throughout Ontario; and holds an Annual Convention and Banquet in the autumn. Current information on all of its activities is on the OFO website (**www.ofo.ca**), coordinated by Carol Horner, Valerie Jacobs and Doug Woods. Comments or questions can be directed to OFO by e-mail (**ofo@ofo.ca**).

All persons interested in bird study, regardless of their level of expertise, are invited to become members of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Membership rates can be obtained from the address below. All members receive *Ontario Birds* and *OFO News*.

Please send membership enquiries to:
Ontario Field Ornithologists, Box 455, Station R, Toronto, Ontario M4G 4EI.

Ontario Birds

Editors:
Ross James, R.R. #3, S1480, Conc. 7, Sunderland, ON. L0C 1H0
Glenn Coady, 604 – 60 Mountview Ave. Toronto, ON. M6P 2L4
Chip Weseloh, 1391 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, ON. M4N 2T7

Editorial Assistance: Ron Tozer, Ron Pittaway

Ornithology Consultants: Michel Gosselin, Ross James, Mark Peck

Art Consultant: Barry Kent MacKay

Photo Quiz: Glenn Coady

Advertising: Chester Gryski

Design/Production: Judie Shore

Printing: DTP Inc., Toronto

The aim of *Ontario Birds* is to provide a vehicle for documentation of the birds of Ontario. We encourage the submission of full length articles and short notes on the status, distribution, identification, and behaviour of birds in Ontario, as well as location guides to significant Ontario birdwatching areas, book reviews, and similar material of interest on Ontario birds.

Submit material for publication by e-mail attachment (or CD or DVD) to either :
rossjoann.james@sympatico.ca
glenn_coady@hotmail.com
or **chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca**

Please follow the style of this issue of *Ontario Birds*. All submissions are subject to review and editing and may be submitted to peer review beyond that of the editors. For photographic material used in *Ontario Birds* the copyright remains in the possession of the photographers.