



# OFO NEWS

Newsletter of the Ontario Field Ornithologists

Volume 25 Number 2

June 2007

## OFO's 25th Anniversary 1982 to 2007

Watch for coming events and register for the big celebration at the OFO Annual Convention at Point Pelee on 13-14 October 2007. See page 22.

## Mike Cadman

### Distinguished Ornithologist

Ron Tozer, Ron Pittaway, Bill Crins

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Mike Cadman will be the 2007 and tenth recipient of OFO's Distinguished Ornithologist Award.

Mike Cadman has been a life-long student of birds. He received his Master of Science degree from the University of Toronto in 1980 based on studies of the American Oystercatcher.

Mike Cadman is a Songbird Biologist with Ontario Region of the Canadian Wildlife Service. He is best known as the driving force behind the first and now the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, both monumental projects. The new atlas will be published this fall and pre-publication sales have been excellent.

Mike Cadman takes a lead role in many important survey programs designed to monitor Ontario's bird populations including the Forest Bird Monitoring Program, 1992 to present. Mike is active on committees and organizations devoted to the conservation of birds and their habitats such as the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Birds Studies Canada. He was chair of the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Team from 1992-1999.

Mike has been studying birds for over 35 years. He has authored and co-authored many publications in both peer-reviewed and popular publications. Mike has published many articles in *Ontario Birds* and *OFO News*.

Mark Peck of the Royal Ontario Museum will present the Distinguished Ornithologist Award to Mike Cadman at the OFO Annual Convention Banquet on Saturday evening, 13 October 2007, at Point Pelee.

## New Bird Gallery Canadian Museum of Nature Jean Iron and Ron Pittaway

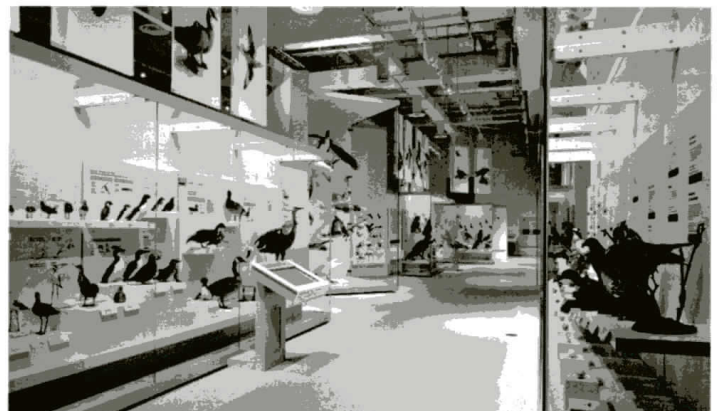
If you are visiting Canada's Capital be sure to see the new Bird Gallery at the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) in downtown Ottawa. It is the largest and most modern bird gallery in Canada. The setting is the historic castle-like Victoria Memorial Museum Building, which once housed Parliament.

The gallery is a 3D field guide with 500 specimens of Canadian birds, interactive electronic displays and dioramas. A full scale model bird clinic lets children explore the equipment used to treat injured and sick wild birds.

Learn about the science of ornithology, bird songs, nests and eggs, behaviour, identification and plumages, adaptations, habitats, migration and bird conservation. Other displays show the official provincial and territorial birds, and birds of the prairies, mountains and shorelines of the Great Lakes.

The museum is minutes from Parliament Hill by car or bus or exit Metcalfe Street from Highway 417.

See [http://nature.ca/museum/visinfo\\_e.cfm](http://nature.ca/museum/visinfo_e.cfm)





# Additions to Ontario Bird Checklist: 1982 to 2006

Ron Tozer

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC), it is interesting to look back at the birds that have been officially added to the Ontario checklist during that period. In the following annotated summary, each new species is discussed under the year of the OBRC annual report in which its addition to the Ontario checklist was published. Details of the first accepted records, the significance of the occurrence, the total number of accepted records to date, and other relevant factors are also mentioned. The total number of species on the Ontario checklist is shown for each year. I was unable to locate a published total for the Ontario list when the OBRC was formed in January 1982, but my research indicated 408 species. The total increased to 479 species by the end of 2006.

When reading this summary, it is helpful to be aware of the following. Often, there may be several years between the occurrence of a bird and the subsequent evaluation of reports by the OBRC and addition of the species to the Ontario checklist. For some of the birds listed in this article, there are additional Ontario reports known that have not been reviewed by the OBRC. This summary includes published and unpublished corrections of information that appeared in the original OBRC annual reports. In 1982, the OBRC required two or more acceptable reports of the same or different individuals for a species to be added to the Ontario checklist, unless a specimen or photograph was available (James 1983). This was changed to just one accepted report beginning with the 1983 OBRC annual report (James 1984). The names of all contributors of documentation are listed for each record, and discoverers of the bird(s) are underlined. Abbreviations in the text are: ABA (American Birding Association), AOU (American Ornithologists' Union), BSNS (Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences), CMN (Canadian Museum of Nature), OBRC (Ontario Bird Records Committee), OORC (Ontario Ornithological Records Committee), and ROM (Royal Ontario Museum).

## 1982 – 418 species

### Yellow-billed Loon

1967: one adult, 4 May, Grimsby, *Niagara*, Robert Curry (James 1983). Since this first record, there have been two more: one at Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, on 19 May 1980 (Wormington and Curry 1990); and another at Port Abino, *Niagara*, 2 to 7 January 1997 (Dobos 1998). A specimen (ROM #76360) collected at Port Credit, *Mississauga*, 7 December 1956, was reported as a Yellow-billed Loon (Baillie 1957). Subsequently, it was considered a probable Common x Yellow-billed Loon hybrid by Godfrey (1986), and identified as a Common Loon by some other experts (Curry 2006).

### Spotted Redshank

1976: one alternate in prebasic molt, 25 July, St. Davids, *Niagara*, Harold H. Axtell, John E. Black, Paul M. Benham, Robert Curry (Axtell et al. 1977, James 1982, Roy 2001).

1981: one summer adult (photo), 7-8 May, Lakefield, *Peterborough*, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Tony Bigg (James 1983).

It was added to the Ontario list on the basis of these two records (James 1983). Typical of his legendary thoroughness, Harold Axtell prepared an "excruciatingly detailed" typed eight-page description of the 1976 bird (Roy 2001), and published an account of the sighting (Axtell et al. 1977). Later accepted records involved single birds at Casselman, *Prescott and Russell*, 19 to 24 July 1990 (Curry 1991); and at Nepean (Ottawa Beach), *Ottawa*, 21 August 1998 (Roy 2001).

### Slender-billed Curlew

"About" 1925: one (specimen: BSNS #2092), autumn, Crescent Beach, *Niagara*, L.L. Terry, Sr. (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965, James 1983, Wormington and Curry 1990).

The circumstances surrounding the shooting of this bird "probably in October or early November" by Dr. Terry were described in convincing detail by Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), who published a photograph of the mounted specimen in the Buffalo Museum of Science, which is reprinted in Figure 1. The specimen is presumed in storage at the museum (Mark Peck, pers. comm.). The record is accepted by the AOU (1998), and is the only one for North America. Slender-billed Curlew is "on the verge of extinction and additional records from the ABA Area are highly unlikely" (ABA 2002).

### California Gull

1981: one adult female, on nest with two eggs, 8 May – 1 June, Toronto, *Toronto*, Hans Blokpoel (James 1983, Wormington 1987).

1982: one adult female, on nest with one egg (photos), 2 May – 6 June, Toronto, *Toronto*, Hans Blokpoel, Robert Curry, Alan Wormington, J.E. "Red" Mason (James 1983, Wormington 1987).

These first two Ontario occurrences may pertain to the same individual (James 1983). There are now 46 accepted records for the province, with many likely involving the return of birds in subsequent years. This western gull has become annual on the Niagara River since 1992 (Roy 2001).

### Common Poorwill

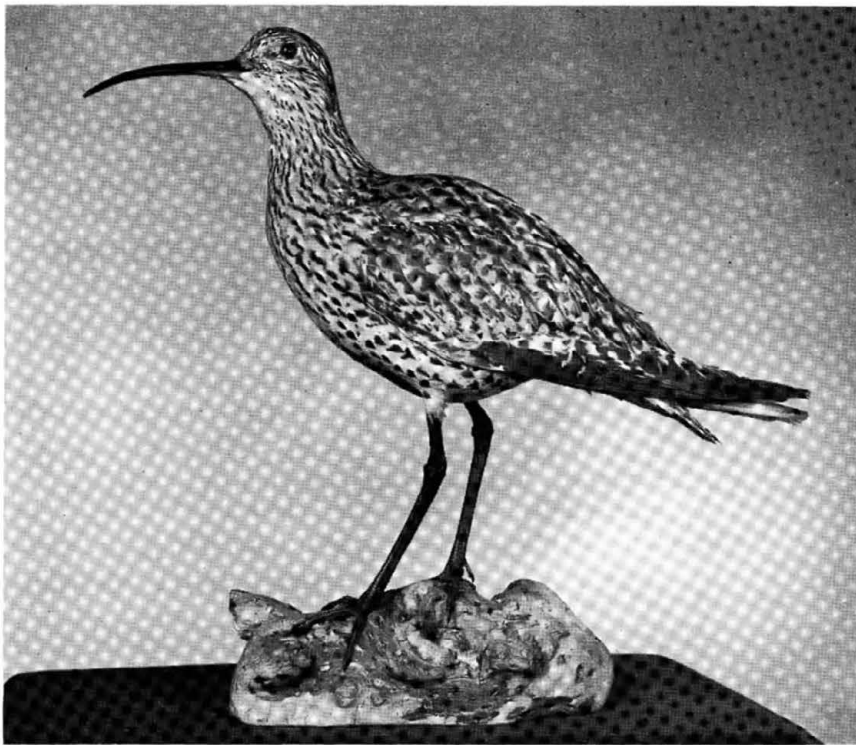
1982: one female (specimen: CMN #78695), 4 June, North Point, *Cochrane*, Christopher C. Rimmer (James 1983, Wormington 1987, James 1991).

This is the only Ontario record, but there are additional vagrant occurrences of this western species from southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and eastern Oklahoma (AOU 1998).

### Ash-throated Flycatcher

1962: one, 24-25 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, Wilf Botham (James 1983).

1982: one (photos), 27-29 October, Whitby (Cranberry Marsh), *Durham*, D. James Mountjoy, R. Douglas McRae (James 1983, Mountjoy and



Photograph by N. C. Hazard

Figure 1: Slender-billed Curlew. Only record for North America. Specimen reported taken about 1925 at west end of Crescent Beach, Ontario, on north shore of Lake Erie. Photo reproduced from page 213 in Beardslee and Mitchell (1965).

McRae 1983).

1982: one, 7 November, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward*, Ron D. Weir (James 1983, Weir 1983).

With the acceptance of these three records, it was added to the Ontario list (James 1983). Five of the seven Ontario records (1962 to 2006) have occurred from 22 September to 25 November. The OBRC has a policy to accept Ash-throated Flycatcher records with the caveat that Nutting's Flycatcher has not been eliminated, unless identification criteria to positively exclude Nutting's are provided (Roy 2001). The extremely unlikely possibility of Nutting's Flycatcher was not eliminated in the seven Ontario occurrences to date.

### Gray Kingbird

1970: one immature, 29 October, Hay Bay, *Lennox and Addington*, Mary C. Edwards, A. Elizabeth Hughes (Hughes 1971, James 1983).

Two reports of this Hay Bay bird were the basis for adding Gray Kingbird to the provincial list (James 1983). There are now seven Ontario records (1970 to 2003), four of which were in October. The Gray Kingbird is casual along the Atlantic coast north to Massachusetts, and accidental in Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario and New York (AOU 1998).

### Fish Crow

1978: one, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, Alan Wormington, G. Tom Hince, Ron Ridout (James 1983).

1982: one, 21 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, Donald A. Sutherland (James 1983).

Following the acceptance of these two records, Fish Crow

was added to the Ontario list (James 1983). The OBRC has accepted 11 Ontario records now (1978 to 2003). All have been at Point Pelee, between 21 April and 24 May, except for two records at Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*, on 20 May 2000 (Crins 2007), and 14 May 2003 (Crins 2004). Notably, Wormington (2006) reported that the pair of Fish Crows present at Point Pelee in 1999 remained to 27 June, and probably nested.

### Hermit Warbler

1981: one male (photo), 2-7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, G. Tom Hince, Ron Ridout, George A. Cooney, Jr., Luc S. Fazio, Clive E. Goodwin, James N. Flynn (James 1983).

The OBRC added Hermit Warbler to the Ontario list based on this 1981 record. However, a previously unknown specimen came to light later, involving a bird that hit one of the chimneys of the Lennox Generating Station at Bath, *Lennox and Addington*, on 10 September 1978 (Wormington and Curry 1990, Jarmillo 1995). It went unrecognized until the specimen (CMN #78708), along with thousands of other casualties, was prepared by National Museum staff several years later. There are now seven Hermit Warbler records for Ontario (1978 to 2003). All have been during April and May, except for the fall record at Bath.

### Golden-crowned Sparrow

1982: one immature (photos), 3-20 January, Gosport, *Northumberland*, Christopher G. Harris, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Alvaro Jaramillo (Harris 1983, James 1983).

The first provincial record of this western sparrow involved this bird located by Chris Harris in a small cattail marsh. It subsequently visited a feeder regularly in Gosport and was seen by many birders (Harris 1983). There are 10 accepted Ontario records, nine of which occurred during April, May, October or November.

## 1983 – 427 species

### Tufted Duck

1983: one adult male (photo), 23 January – 24 April; Oakville, *Halton* (23 January – 9 February) and Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton* (27 February – 24 April), Denys R. Gardiner, Alan Wormington, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Donald R. Gunn (James 1984).

This first accepted record was believed to involve the same bird that had originally been found by Kevin McLaughlin and frequented Hamilton Harbour from 24 January to 8 March 1981 (Wormington 1985). Curry (2006) estimated that at least eight Tufted Ducks occurred at Hamilton from 1956 to 1997, with some individuals returning to the same location for several winters in succession. There are 27 Tufted Duck records (1981 to 2004) accepted by the OBRC, all from southern Ontario except for two at Thunder Bay that are thought to have involved the same bird (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.).



### **Ross's Gull**

1983: one adult (photos), 14-23 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane*, Kenneth F. Abraham, Alan W. McTavish, Alan Wormington (Abraham 1984, James 1984).

Abraham (1984) described his discovery of this bird on the Moose River for the first Ontario record. There are nine accepted occurrences (1983 to 2003), all from southern Ontario except for the first. One at Port Weller on 18 December 1994 was found during a Christmas Bird Count, seen to go to roost on the shoreline, and then its remains were discovered the next morning after it had apparently been killed by a Great Horned Owl (Dobos 1996).

### **Royal Tern**

1974: one adult, 22 August, Cedar Beach, *Essex*, Alan Wormington (James 1984).

This is the only record for Ontario, but other vagrant occurrences away from the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts have been reported from Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee (AOU 1998).

### **Sooty Tern**

1955: one, 14 August, Brockville, *Leeds and Grenville*, David Hurrie (James 1984).

This first Ontario record followed the passage of Hurricane Connie. There were five reported sightings and one found dead in Ontario associated with Hurricane Fran in September 1996, although only three of these records were submitted to the OBRC (Curry 1996, Curry and Olmsted 1996, Jalava 1996, Dobos 1997). A bird associated with Hurricane Isabel was at Point Pelee on 22 September 2003 (Crins 2004), and one displaced by Hurricane Katrina was observed at Long Point on 31 August 2005 (Crins 2006), for a total of six records accepted by the OBRC.

### **Carolina Chickadee**

1983: One adult female (specimen: ROM #28494), 18 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk*, David Shepherd (James 1984, Parkes 1988).

Parkes (1988) determined this first and only Carolina Chickadee for Ontario and Canada to be a non-breeding adult female of the northern subspecies *extimus*, the race that breeds nearest to Long Point (less than 250 km south in Ohio and western Pennsylvania). The Carolina Chickadee has wandered northward to northern Illinois and southeastern Michigan, as well (AOU 1998).

### **Siberian Rubythroat**

1983: one adult male, found dead (specimen: ROM #148368), 26 December, Hornby, *Halton*, Mia A.W. Lane (Brewer et al. 1984, James 1984)

This is the only North American record outside extreme western Alaska for this species, which breeds primarily in Asiatic Russia (AOU 1998). The freshly dead bird was found by Mia Lane in front of her farmhouse near Hornby, lying beside a car which had just arrived from Brampton (Brewer et al. 1984). It is possible that the bird had been struck by the vehicle at some location en route, and then fallen off when the car was parked. There were no obvious signs of the bird having been in captivity, and there was a widespread influx of Eurasian landbirds in unprecedented numbers (termed "The Siberian Express" by Paul Lehman) in North America during the autumn and winter of 1983-84

that included Brambling, Rustic Bunting, Siberian Accentor and Stonechat (Lehman 1984).

### **Eurasian Blackbird**

1981: one male, 12 April, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent*, Keith J. Burk (James 1984).

This is the first record for Ontario, and the second for North America, following the taking of a specimen near Montreal on 23 November 1970 (McNeil and Cyr 1971). Doubts have been raised concerning the wild status of this Ontario bird and the Quebec specimen, since a Montreal dealer in the illegal bird trade during the 1980s was reported to be doing most of his business in Quebec and Ontario, and the Eurasian Blackbird was prominent on the list of species he sold (Ryan 1990, DeBenedictus 1991, AOU 1998, ABA 2002). However, one found dead at Bonavista, Newfoundland, 16 November 1994, is not questioned since this species is a vagrant to Greenland (Mactavish 1995, ABA 2002).

### **Brambling**

1983: one male, 23-26 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River*, David H. Elder (Elder 1984, James 1984).

Although this was the first record to be accepted by the OBRC, subsequently an earlier record of Brambling came to light; there was one at Brampton, *Peel*, 12 to 18 November 1980 (Coady and Wormington 1989). The fall and winter of 1983-84 saw an "invasion" of Bramblings, with 17 records across North America outside Alaska (Jones 1995). There are seven accepted Ontario records (1980 to 1994), almost all involving birds visiting feeders in fall and winter.

### **Lesser Goldfinch**

1982: one adult female, 10 August, Toronto, *Toronto*, Donald M. Fraser (James 1983, Fraser 1984).

Fraser (1984) described finding this bird on Toronto's Eastern Headland. The record was accepted, but Lesser Goldfinch was not added to the Ontario list since a second acceptable report was required (James 1983). However, following a change in OBRC procedures, just one accepted report was needed and this species was then put on the list (James 1984). There are other extralimital occurrences of this western species, including records from British Columbia, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Maine (AOU 1998).

## **1984 – 429 species**

### **Lesser Sand-Plover (formerly Mongolian Plover)**

1984: one alternate (photos), 4 May, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Northumberland*, R. Douglas McRae, D. James Mountjoy (McRae 1985, Wormington 1985).

About 40 people saw this rare shorebird on 4 May after Doug McRae found it on the beach at Presqu'ile during the afternoon, but it was not present the next morning at dawn when 150 birders were waiting. This was the first Ontario and Canadian record of this Eurasian shorebird that has bred in Alaska. McRae (1985) reported that there were only five other North American vagrant records outside Alaska, from Louisiana, Oregon and California. Additional records have



included birds in New Jersey, British Columbia, and Alberta (AOU 1998).

### **Swainson's Warbler**

1975: one, 22 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, N. Bruce Broadbooks (Wormington 1985).

This is the first of eight records for Ontario (1975 to 2006), which ranged in date from 6 to 28 May, with occurrences at Point Pelee (3), Long Point (2), Tremblay Beach, Rondeau and Toronto. There are also vagrant records of this southern warbler from Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Maine and Nova Scotia (AOU 1998).

## **1985 – 432 species**

### **Crested Caracara**

1892: one adult female (specimen: now missing), 18 July, Victoria Island, *Thunder Bay*, George E. Atkinson (Atkinson 1894, Wormington 1986).

Lightkeeper George Cosgrove discovered this bird dead below the Victoria Island light, reportedly on the day after a strong southwest gale struck Lake Superior (Atkinson 1894). The year of occurrence, location and circumstances were considered to be good evidence against this bird being an escape (Wormington 1986). Subsequent Ontario records have been one at Pelee Island, *Essex*, 6 July 1994 (Pittaway 1995); and another at Fort Albany, *Cochrane*, 16 to 26 July 2002, which was reported to be eating frogs (Crins 2003). The OBRC cited a reported pattern of vagrancy during summer and recent breeding range expansion northward in Texas in support of wild status for these Crested Caracara records (Crins 2003), but the AOU (1998) considered reports from Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming, Ontario, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey to be "of questionable origin."

### **Atlantic Puffin**

1985: one juvenile (photos), 15 December, Westmeath, *Renfrew*, Cathie Timm, Douglas Lapointe, Jacques M. Bouvier, Bruce M. Di Labio (Di Labio and Bouvier 1986, Wormington 1986).

This bird was found alive on a road, and later flown to Newfoundland for release (Di Labio and Bouvier 1986). There are two other Ontario records. A juvenile was found alive in the middle of the night on the headframe of a gold mine at Detour Lake, *Cochrane*, 10 December 1991, and later flown to Halifax (Bain 1993). A weakened juvenile was observed at Cornwall Dam, *Stormont*, from 14 to 16 October 1994, and then died while being taken to a rehabilitator after capture (Di Labio 1995, Pittaway 1995).

### **Eurasian Jackdaw**

1985: one, 13 April, Whitby, *Durham*, Margaret J.C. Bain (Bain 1986, Wormington 1986).

Bain (1986) described her discovery of this first record for Ontario, the natural origin of which was accepted by the OBRC in light of the recent occurrences in eastern North America (Wormington 1986). A second Ontario report involving a bird at Toronto, 20 October 1985, was also accepted (Coady 1988). There were records of nine Eurasian Jackdaws on coastal islands in northeastern North America in 1984, for which Smith (1985) presented arguments sup-

porting natural vagrancy. However, there were up to 52 jackdaws near Port-Cartier, Quebec, from November 1984 to March 1985, at which time most had been shot or poisoned in a control program (ABA 2002). There have been additional more recent reports in North America, but there is widespread belief without firm evidence that many (if not all) these records may be the result of ship-assisted individuals (AOU 1998, ABA 2002).

## **1986 – 434 species**

### **Long-billed Curlew**

1959: one juvenile (photos), 15-17 October *or* 16-17 October, Ajax, *Durham*, Gerald C. Norris (Baillie 1964, James 1976, Wormington 1987).

William Newman, a hunter, told Dave O'Brien that he had seen a Long-billed Curlew on the extensive, uncultivated fields at Ajax on either 15 or 16 October 1959, noting the unusually long bill compared to the Whimbrel with which he was familiar (Baillie 1964). Unaware of Newman's sighting, Gerry Norris independently found the bird there on 17 October and managed to get colour photographs of it from a distance of 50 feet (James 1976). Prior to OBRC review of this first and only Ontario record, the poor quality photographs were sent to several experts on curlew identification, and collectively they concurred that all other world curlew species could be satisfactorily eliminated (Wormington 1987).

### **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**

1986: one (photos), 28 September – 1 October, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland*, Tony F.M. Beck, Mark A. Gawn, Alan Wormington (Gawn 1987, Wormington 1987).

During three days following its discovery at Calf Pasture in Presqu'île, 150 to 200 people were able to observe this remarkable bird (Gawn 1987). It was the first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher for Canada and remains the only Ontario occurrence, although the species has since been recorded in New Brunswick (AOU 1998) and Newfoundland (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.).

## **1987 – 436 species**

### **Snowy Plover**

1987: one adult male (photos), 4-9 May, Long Point Flats, *Norfolk*, Jon Curson, Alan Wormington, Dennis F. Rupert, Edmund D. Johns (Collier and Curson 1988, Coady 1988).

This represents the first record for Ontario, and the occurrence was described in detail by Collier and Curson (1988). Snowy Plover was previously on the provincial list (James et al. 1976) based on two specimens reported from Toronto: May 1880 (Seton 1885) and 6 July 1896 (Fleming 1906). However, the species was later deleted since the 1880 specimen had been destroyed (thus the identification could not be confirmed), and the 1896 specimen was missing also and it originated from an unreliable collector (James 1984, 1991). Three additional records have been accepted: Long Point, 9 May 1990 (Curry 1991); Presqu'île Provincial Park, 24 to 31 May 2001 (Roy 2002); and Amherst Island, *Lennox and Addington*, 25 May to 6 June 2002 (Crins 2003).

### **Western Wood-Pewee**

1984: one male (specimen: CMN #84372), 18-20 June, North Point, *Cochrane*, Mark Fournier, Christopher C. Rimmer (Coady 1988).

This specimen represents the only Ontario record of this western flycatcher. There have been other occurrences in Massachusetts, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana (AOU 1998).

## **1988 – 437 species**

### **Great-tailed Grackle**

1987: one female (photos), 7-25 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River*, David H Elder, Thomas J. Nash, Nicholas G. Escott, Alan Wormington (Elder 1988, Coady and Wormington 1989).

Elder (1988) described this bird in his Atikokan backyard, a first record for Ontario and reportedly the third for Canada. Two subsequent accepted records were from Port Rowan/Port Royal, *Norfolk*, 19 November 1988 to 6 January 1989 (Wormington and Curry 1990); and Turkey Point, *Norfolk*, 7 to 8 February 2004 (Crins 2005). A bird at Honey Harbour, *Muskoka*, 29 August 1999, was accepted as Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle only, since a specific identification could not be established (Roy 2000).

## **1989 – 440 species**

### **Magnificent Frigatebird**

1988: one third-stage juvenile (photos), 28 September, Point Edward, *Lambton*, Alfred H. Rider, Dennis F. Rupert (Wormington and Curry 1990).

Wormington and Curry (1990) noted: "This Magnificent Frigatebird, the first to be recorded in Ontario, was one of many recorded at numerous sites between the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes, a direct result of Hurricane Gilbert, reportedly the most powerful hurricane of the 20th century. The species was also recorded in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, West Virginia, and western Virginia following the storm (Lehman 1989)." The only other Ontario record was at Stoney Point, *Essex*, on 28 October 1995, likely associated with Hurricane Opal (Dobos 1997). In addition, there are two accepted frigatebirds that could not be identified to species. In 1995, one was at Mississippi Lake, *Lanark*, on 15 October, and then at Snow Road Station, *Frontenac*, on 30 October; Hurricane Opal was likely the source of this bird (Dobos 1997). The other was at Port Elgin/Frenchman Bay, *Bruce*, 1 to 2 August 2005, and was probably associated with Hurricane Dennis (Crins 2006).

### **Broad-billed Hummingbird**

1989: one female (photos), 16-27 October, Deer Bay, *Peterborough*, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Douglas C. Sadler, Margaret J.C. Bain, Robert Curry, Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn (Carpentier 1990, Wormington and Curry 1990).

Carpentier (1990) described how he and Doug Sadler initially identified this rarity, after the homeowners reported an unusual hummingbird. Wormington and Curry (1990) stated: "Seen by literally hundreds of observers, this remarkable rarity came to the hummingbird feeder at the residence of Laurie and Rick Morgan of Deer Bay. Not only is this the

first record for Ontario, but also the first record for Canada and only the second for eastern North America. Occurring mainly in Mexico and barely entering the United States in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, this species of desert canyons and low-elevation woodlands has been recorded no closer to Ontario than Utah, Texas or South Carolina (AOU 1983: 337; DeSante and Pyle 1986: 205-210; and *American Birds* 40: 99)."

### **Cave Swallow**

1989: one, 21 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, Alan Wormington (Wormington and Curry 1990, Wormington 1992).

Wormington (1982) predicted that Cave Swallow would first occur in Ontario on Lake Erie in spring. This came to pass with the first Ontario record in 1989 (Wormington 1992). Wormington and Curry (1990) noted there were "no records of this species between Nova Scotia and Florida, and the Great Lakes and Texas/Louisiana," but since the species was "expanding its range it seems only a matter of time until in-between records materialize." Wormington (1999) described how he and Fred Urie discovered Ontario's second Cave Swallow, again at Point Pelee, from 7 to 9 December 1998. Curry and McLaughlin (2000) outlined the massive Cave Swallow invasion of 1999, believed to have involved between 90 and 125 individuals in Ontario. There are now 46 accepted Cave Swallow records for Ontario, with many sightings involving multiple birds.

## **1990 – 445 species**

### **Ferruginous Hawk**

1990: one light morph adult, 17 March, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, *Chatham-Kent*, G. Tom Hince (Curry 1991).

There are seven Ontario records. All have been accepted "with the caveat that wild origin cannot be determined with certainty" for any of them (Roy 2001). This approach was reported to be followed by some other Great Lakes area records committees, and the OBRC intends to apply it to future records of this species (Roy 2001). The Ontario occurrences (1990 to 2004) were in March (1), April and May (5), and September (1).

### **Black Rail**

1987: one male (audiotape), 14 June, Durham, *Grey*, Paul D. Pratt (Curry 1991, Pratt 1992).

Pratt (1992) related the remarkable story of finding and eventually *seeing* this singing Black Rail in a roadside ditch after midnight when he was out recording locations of calling frogs for the Ontario Herpetofaunal Survey. Curry (1991) noted that this was the first confirmed record for the province, but an earlier Ontario record was subsequently accepted by the OBRC; one at Point Pelee National Park, 17 May 1958, was heard by Harold H. Axtell and Rachel C. Axtell (Dobos 1996). Another was heard at Big Creek Marsh, *Norfolk*, 10 June 1991 (Bain 1992). The Black Rail has been recorded in all the states contiguous with Ontario (Desante and Pyle 1986).



### **Wilson's Plover**

1990: one female, 26 May – 2 June, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton*, Kevin A. McLaughlin (McLaughlin 1990, Curry 1991).

McLaughlin (1990) outlined his discovery of this first documented Ontario record. The second accepted occurrence involved a bird at Hamilton Harbour also, 15 to 19 May 2004, quite close to the location of the 1990 bird (Crins 2005). The third accepted Ontario record was at Presqu'île Provincial Park, 17 to 27 May 2006 (Crins 2007). A Wilson's Plover discovered by George W. North and seen by many local birders, at Hamilton Beach from 17 to 20 May 1966, was given the "historical record" designation by the OBRC (Bain 1994); the documentation for this observation had gone missing, and thus the record was considered unreviewable (Crins 2005). There is also a valid record of one seen by multiple observers at the tip of Point Pelee, 8 May 1967 (Curry 2006).

### **Black-chinned Hummingbird**

1990: one male, 25-26 May, Rideau Ferry (Coult's Bay), *Lanark*, Nora M. Mansfield, N. Ronald Beacock; found by Dr. and Mrs. A.A. Sterns (Curry 1991, Mansfield 1992).

Mansfield (1992) described the circumstances and identification of this well documented rarity, including the loss of photographs due to an error in the developing process. At the time of this first and only record for Ontario, there were no Canadian occurrences east of Saskatchewan and just one vagrant record from Massachusetts (DeSante and Pyle 1986). Since then other eastern locations have included Nova Scotia and Tennessee (AOU 1998).

### **Cassin's Finch**

1990: one, 13 August, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk*, Steven Dougill (Curry 1991).

This Cassin's Finch was trapped and carefully measured; it had no pink coloration and was probably an immature male (Curry 1991). It was the easternmost confirmed occurrence in North America (DeSante and Pyle 1986, AOU 1998). An amazing second Ontario record involved an adult male found by Tom Hince at Point Pelee, 1 June 1994 (Pittaway 1995).

## **1991 – 449 species**

### **White-winged Tern**

1991: one adult (photos), 8-12 May and 15-19 May (not recorded between these periods); Port Lambton / Sombra, *Lambton* (8-12 May) and Big Creek Marsh, *Norfolk* (15-19 May), Y. Robert Tymstra, Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn, Michael A. Patten, Allen T. Chartier, Mark J. Palmer, Beverly Collier, John R. Carley (Bain 1992, Tymstra 1992).

Tymstra (1992) described finding this bird at the Port Lambton sewage lagoons and listed about three dozen North American records of this Old World tern. The only other Ontario record involved what was undoubtedly the same bird returning to the Sombra lagoons on 7 May and the Port Lambton lagoons on 8 May 1992 (Bain 1993; Alan Wormington, pers. comm.).

### **Green Violet-ear**

1991: one (photos), 30 June – 3 July, Kakabeka Falls, *Thunder Bay*, Nicholas G. Escott, David H. Elder, Thomas J. Nash, Jeanette Momot; found by Bob Broome (Bain 1992, Escott 1992).

This was a new species for Ontario and Canada, and a truly

remarkable occurrence (Escott 1992). The bird was thought to be the nominate *thalassinus*, the only migratory subspecies (Escott 1992). The Green Violet-ear breeds in the highlands of central and southern Mexico, Central America, and South America to Bolivia and Brazil, and occurs rarely north to southern Texas, and casually to Arkansas, with locations of vagrant records including Ontario, North Carolina, Michigan, Missouri, and Alabama (AOU 1998).

### **Black-capped Vireo**

1991: one female (photo), 27 April, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk*, Julian R. Hough (Hough 1991, Bain 1992).

"Another amazing record, and another new species for Ontario and Canada. The Black-capped Vireo is a short distance migrant and considered endangered in its restricted North American breeding range in Oklahoma and southwest Texas, so to find one in a mistnet at Long Point was incredible" (Bain 1992). In a survey of ten prominent North American birders, this Ontario Black-capped Vireo was ranked sixth in the all-time most amazing vagrant records among species that are a regular part of the avifauna of the U.S. and Canada (Mlodinow 2001). The Long Point bird was 1600 km from the species current range and about 1300 km away from the next nearest record (Mlodinow 2001).

### **Painted Bunting**

1991: one female or first year male (photos), 4 June, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk*, Mark J. Palmer, Paul N. Prior (Bain 1992).

Painted Bunting has a complicated history on the Ontario list. It was finally added based on this Long Point bird that was netted, thoroughly examined, measured and photographed, since the committee decided that by then there were enough established extralimital records to justify it being considered a true vagrant (Bain 1992). However, the species had first been put on the list because of records at Long Point, 21 to 24 May 1978 (Nol 1983); and at Toronto, 4 December 1978 to 1 January 1979, only to be removed later due to doubts about wild origin (James 1984). Eventually, these two records and one from 1986 were placed in a deferred category while the OBRC studied evidence concerning vagrancy (Wormington 1987). Finally, Bain (1994) noted: "At the OBRC Policy meeting in November 1993, Bob Curry presented a summary of his research into extralimital records of Painted Buntings. The consensus was that if these birds were escaping captivity, they would be turning up all over North America, and not mostly in the eastern states. It is also no longer legal to keep Painted Buntings in captivity. The Committee therefore decided that henceforth, Ontario records of Painted Buntings should be accepted unless there is definite evidence making the likelihood of an escape outweigh the probability of wild status." The three earlier deferred records were then accepted. Now, there have been 21 records accepted in total.

## **1992 – 454 species**

### **Slaty-backed Gull**

1992: one adult winter (photos), 24 November – 29 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara*, Rod Planck, Rob French, Nancy French, Tony Leukering, Terry Osborne, Robert W. Brock (Bain 1993).

Many birders got to see this long-staying bird on the Niagara River. The other two Ontario records involved an adult at Toronto, 2 to 9 January 1999 (Roy 2000, Yukich and Varela 2000); and a third winter bird at Wheatley Harbour and Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, 22 to 26 January 2006 (Anonymous 2006, Crins 2007, Wormington 2007).

### Inca Dove

1992: one (photos), 7-13 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River*, Donald S. Graham, David H. Elder, Thomas J. Nash, Alan Wormington (Bain 1993, Graham and Wormington 1993).

This was a first record for Ontario and Canada. Graham and Wormington (1993) described the occurrence and other extralimital records, noting that "Inca Dove periodically erupts northward from its normal range as a post-breeding wanderer." The only other Ontario record was at Fort Frances, *Rainy River*, 24 to 28 September 2001, but birders learned of it only after the bird had disappeared; fortunately, the observer obtained an identifiable photograph (Crins 2003).

### Violet-green Swallow

1992: one immature male (photos), 28-29 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, Peter S. Burke, Nicholas G. Escott (Bain 1993, Burke 1993).

Burke (1993) provided a beautifully illustrated description and photos of this first and only Ontario record. Bruce Di Labio correctly predicted 10 years earlier that Violet-green Swallow would first turn up in Ontario on the shore of Lake Superior in October (Wormington 1982).

### Black-throated Sparrow

1992: one first winter (photos), 2-3 October, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay*, Mark S. Dugdale, Nicholas G. Escott (Bain 1993, Escott 1994).

This Silver Islet bird was the first of a major invasion of Black-throated Sparrows into eastern North America from October 1992 to April 1993 (Escott 1994). It is the only provincial record. In a forecast of potential new species for Ontario in 1982, it was independently predicted by Tom Hince, Doug McRae and Alan Wormington that Black-throated Sparrow would first be found on Lake Superior during October, and Bruce Di Labio said it would occur there in October or November (Wormington 1982).

### Hooded Oriole

1992: one definitive male (photo), 19-20 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk*, Paul B. Stanbury, Pamela E. Hickman (Boardman 1992, Bain 1993).

Bain (1993) stated: "Not only a provincial first, but a first for Canada too. Very thorough documentation was made after this bird was seen and mist-netted at the Breakwater station at Long Point Bird Observatory. It was part of a wave of vireos, warblers and Northern Orioles arriving on the 18th and 19th, and both location and date suggest a wild origin (Boardman 1992)." There is one other Ontario record, a definitive basic male at North Bruce, *Bruce*, from 12 to 19 May 2005, and determined to be of the *sennetti* subspecies normally found from southern Texas to eastern Mexico (Crins 2006).

### Garganey

1993: one male (photos), 18-23 April, Micksburg, *Renfrew*, Chris Michener, Catherine Bayly, Bruce M. Di Labio, Mark A. Gawn, Sidney Hadlington, Steve M. LaForest, Myron Loback, Ken Hooles (Bain 1994).

Bain (1994) outlined the committee's rationale concerning this record: "In the last 30 years, there have been spring records of this Eurasian species across North America, including most of the other Canadian provinces, and it has a known propensity to wander. It was therefore felt that this bird on this date was considerably more likely to be a true vagrant than an escape, and the species has been added to the Ontario checklist. Account was taken of reports of exotic teal, including some Garganeys escaping from a waterfowl collection in New York State during a severe blizzard a few weeks prior to the sighting. The reader is referred to the excellent article 'The recent occurrence of Garganey in North America and the Hawaiian Islands' by Larry B. Spear et al. (1988)." There are two other records for Ontario: one at Pelee Island, *Essex*, 12 to 15 May 1993 (Pittaway 1995); and one at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, 6 to 10 May 1995 (Dobos 1996).

### Long-billed Murrelet (formerly Marbled Murrelet)

1993: one (photo), 11-30 October, Cornwall, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*, Bruce M. Di Labio, Alan Wormington, Kayo J. Roy, David A. Sibley (Bain 1994, Di Labio 1996).

Di Labio (1996) described discovering this bird at Cornwall Dam and later close study by boat, and estimated that over 300 birders saw it. Prior to recognition as a full species, the Long-billed Murrelet was considered the Asiatic subspecies of Marbled Murrelet, *Brachyramphus marmoratus perdux* (Sibley 1993). There have been interior North American records from Alaska, California, Montana, Colorado, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, Quebec, Ontario/New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida (AOU 1998).

### Dusky Flycatcher

1993: one immature (specimen: ROM #157852), 12 September, Point Porphyry, *Thunder Bay*, David Shepherd (Bain 1994).

This bird was netted in a weakened condition and died the following day (Bain 1994). Ross James (ROM) and Earl Godfrey (CMN) both concurred with the identification. Other occurrences of this western species in the east include records from Pennsylvania and Delaware (AOU 1998). In an amazing year for flycatchers, during 1993 there were also Ontario records of Gray Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Variegated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

### Variegated Flycatcher

1993: one (photos), 7 October – 6 November, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*, David Houle, Jaye Houle, James P. Coey, Brian Henshaw, Ronald R. Tasker, Alan Wormington (Houle and Houle 1993, Bain 1994).

Houle and Houle (1993) described finding and identifying this Variegated Flycatcher on Centre Island, which was voted "Canadian Bird of the Year" for 1993, and seen by thousands of birders from all over North America during its month-long stay (Iron 1994). There are only two other fully



confirmed North American records: at Biddeford Pool, Maine, 5 to 11 November 1977; and near Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, 13 to 15 May 1984 (AOU 1998, ABA 2002).

## 1994 – 460 species

### Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

1993: nine adults (photos), 17 June – 7 July, Rayside-Balfour, *Sudbury*, Fred Marshall, John G. Lemon, Charles J. Whitelaw, Kayo J. Roy, Alan Wormington, Nancy L. Barrett; also found by Deborah Kuehnbaum (Pittaway 1995).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was added to the Ontario list based on this record, after the report had been designated “identification accepted, wild status deferred” the previous year pending further study of extralimital occurrences (Bain 1994). It was subsequently noted that during the past few years there had been numerous records (involving flocks of birds) in such places as Quebec, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas and Nevada (Pittaway 1995). The only other accepted Ontario record involved 12 birds at Kingsville, *Essex*, 16 May to late May 1994 (Pittaway 1995). There is also an undocumented record of a single bird on 9 July 2002 at Middle Sister Island, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.).

### Eurasian Tree Sparrow

1994: one (photos), 16-18 February, Edenhurst, *Bruce*, Russell W. Ferguson, Timothy J. Soper; also found by Katherine Ferguson (Pittaway 1995).

The photographs confirmed the identification and showed that this bird was not a hybrid (Pittaway 1995). The species was expanding its range in North America and the Committee had no serious concerns that it might be an escape. There are two additional Ontario records, possibly the same bird. The sightings were at Sturgeon Creek on 20 May 1999 (Roy 2000), and Leamington on 24 August 2003 (Crins 2004); these two *Essex* locations are only about 8 km apart.

## 1995 – 465 species

### White-faced Ibis

1995: one first summer (photos), 20-21 July; Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (20-21 July) and Bowmanville (21 July), *Durham*, Rayfield Pye, Brian Henshaw, Margaret J.C. Bain, J. Michael Tate (Dobos 1996).

1995: one adult, 21 September, Etobicoke, *Toronto*, James P. Coey; found by Michael DeLorey (Dobos 1996).

These were the first and second records for Ontario, and were judged to involve different birds based on plumage differences (Dobos 1996). Two other records have been accepted: a definitive alternate bird at Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*, 5 May 2003 (Crins 2004); and a bird at Erieview, *Norfolk*, 2 to 3 October 2006 (Crins 2007).

### Prairie Falcon

1995: one, 19 April, Grimsby, *Niagara*, Roy E.C. Baker, Jerry H. Guild, Michael H. King, Terry Osborne, David B. Worthington; also found by George A. Meyers, James H. Fairchild, Jack Ryan (Dobos 1996, Meyers 2005).

Meyers (2005) described the exciting observation of this falcon at the Beamer Hawkwatch as it flew in and landed with a meadowlark in its talons. “There was no compelling

evidence to suggest that the bird was not of wild origin” (Dobos 1996). Similarly, in the only other accepted record, a juvenal at Long Point, *Norfolk*, on 24 August 1996, “the location, date and age of the bird point to a wild origin” (Dobos 1997).

### Black-tailed Godwit

1995: one juvenile, 10 September, Port Perry, *Durham*, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Anders Brodin, Roy B.H. Smith, Hugh G. Currie, David B. Worthington, Patrick Stepien-Scanlon, Michael H. King (Brodin 1996, Dobos 1996).

1995: one (photos), 8-21 December, Kingston, *Frontenac*, Ron D. Weir, R. Douglas McRae, Glenn Coady, John L. Olmsted, Robert Curry, Kayo J. Roy; found by Tony Miller (Weir 1996, Dobos 1997).

Brodin (1996) described the discovery of the bird at Port Perry’s Nonquon sewage lagoons during the Toronto Ornithological Club’s fall field day, for the first Ontario record. The Kingston sighting was accepted as the second Ontario record, since there was “no evidence to clearly support” the suggestion that both occurrences pertained to the same individual (Dobos 1997); however, both records probably do involve the same bird.

### Varied Bunting

1995: one female or first year male (photos), 7 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk*, Paul N. Prior, D. Steve Anderson; also found by Alejandro L. Llanes, Daysi Rodriguez Batista, Barbara Sanchez Oria, Lorraine Brown, Jen Heal (Prior 1995, Dobos 1996).

The bird was netted, photographed and banded at Long Point, and constitutes the first and only record for Ontario and Canada of this resident of the southwestern United States, Mexico and Guatemala (AOU 1998). In a survey of ten prominent North American birders, this Varied Bunting was ranked fifth in the all-time most amazing vagrant records among species that are a regular part of the avifauna of the U.S. and Canada (Mlodinow 2001). The Long Point Varied Bunting was about 2000 km northeast of the next nearest record, and approximately 2400 km from its normal range (Mlodinow 2001). Prior (1995) argued in support of wild status that: the Varied Bunting was apparently travelling with migrating White-throated Sparrows; it had moderate to heavy fat like those migrants; it showed no physical signs of captivity; and the species is migratory in the northern portion of its range. Suggestive of it being an escape, there are very few extralimital records of Varied Bunting north of southern Arizona, southern New Mexico and south and southwest Texas (Prior 1995, AOU 1998). In the OBRC annual report, Dobos (1996) stated: “A pattern of vagrancy for this species, as summarized by Prior (1995), provides evidence for a wild origin. This includes a record of an adult male collected at Locke, Michigan, on 18 May 1874 (Barrows 1912).” However, the Michigan Varied Bunting was considered a likely escaped bird by both Barrows (1912) and McWhirter and Beaver (1977), although no evidence for that was provided. The record has not been reviewed by the Michigan Bird Records Committee, and Varied Bunting is not on the state list (Adam Byrne, pers. comm.).

### Spotted Towhee

1984: one male, 27 October – 3 November, Atikokan, *Rainy River*, David H. Elder (Wormington 1986).

1990: one female, 10-17 November, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay*, Jeffrey H. Skevington (Curry 1991).

This species was added to the Ontario list after Rufous-sided Towhee was split into Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee (AOU 1995). At that time there were already two records that were accepted by the OBRC, both from northern Ontario as listed above (Dobos 1996). There are now 20 records (1976 to 2005) that have been accepted.

## 1996 – 467 species

### Bicknell's Thrush

1979: one first basic female (specimen: CMN #69348), 19 September, Bath, *Lennox and Addington*, Ron D. Weir (Dobos 1997).

1979: one first basic female (specimen: CMN #69604), 23 September, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward*, Fred Cooke, R. Douglas McRae (Dobos 1997).

1980: one (photos), 17 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward*, R. Douglas McRae (Dobos 1997).

1981: one first basic male (specimen: CMN #88666), 26 September, Bath, *Lennox and Addington*, Ron D. Weir (Dobos 1997).

These are the first four records accepted for Ontario following the split of this species from Gray-cheeked Thrush (AOU 1995). The specimens and photographs were verified by Dr. Henri Ouellet, former Curator of Ornithology at the Canadian Museum of Nature, whose research led to the recognition of Bicknell's Thrush as a full species (Ouellet 1993a, 1993b). Pittaway (1996) summarized identification features and suggested that Bicknell's Thrush is probably identifiable in the field given a superb view by an expert observer. There have been no additional records accepted in Ontario.

### Bullock's Oriole

1977: one female or first basic male (photos), 13-19 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, Walter S. Zarowski; found by Keith Denis (Dobos 1997).

1980-1981: One female or first basic male (photos), 30 December 1980 – 12 March 1981, Port Dover, *Norfolk*, Marvin S. Smout, Alan Wormington; found by Ted Shiltz (Dobos 1997).

1989: one female, 2 June, Schreiber, *Thunder Bay*, Alan Wormington; also found by William G. Lamond (Dobos 1997).

Following the split of the former Northern Oriole into Bullock's Oriole and Baltimore Oriole (AOU 1995), this species was added to the Ontario list based on these three records (Dobos 1997). In 1999, the OBRC re-reviewed all previously evaluated reports of female and basic plumaged Bullock's Orioles in light of new information related to identification criteria published by Lee and Birch (1998), and Jaramillo and Burke (1998). Five records have now been accepted, including first alternate males at Willowdale, *Toronto*, 1 to 18 April 1980 (Roy 2000), and at Port Ryerse, *Norfolk*, 22 May 1997 (Dobos 1999).

## 1997 – 470 species

### Greater Shearwater

1997: one male (specimen: ROM #159988), 20 August, Toronto, *Toronto*, Wendy Hunter (MacKay 1997, Brewer et al. 1998, Dobos 1998).

This first and only record for Ontario involved a bird found in a weakened condition by a person who was walking along the Toronto waterfront. It was taken to the Toronto Humane

Society for rehabilitation, but did not survive (MacKay 1997). Brewer et al. (1998) described the occurrence, and reviewed other inland records of Greater Shearwater in New York, Vermont and Georgia.

### Plumbeous Vireo

1997: one (photos), 3 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn (Wormington 1997, Dobos 1998).

This first record for Ontario occurred just prior to the official split of the Solitary Vireo complex (AOU 1997). Wormington (1997) published a detailed account of the bird and photographs by Jim Flynn. There were few extralimital records of Plumbeous Vireo in eastern North America, the only previous Canadian records being three occurrences in Nova Scotia (Wormington 1997). A bird at Rondeau on 10 May 2001 is the only the other Ontario record (Roy 2002).

### Baird's Sparrow

1996: one alternate male, 2-9 July, Rainy River, *Rainy River*, Blake A. Mann, Jerry H. Guild, Donald E. Perks; found by John Lamey (Dobos 1998).

Dobos (1998) noted that "this prairie grassland species breeds as close as southcentral Manitoba (Godfrey 1986), and it seems likely that it may occur from time to time in extreme western Ontario." However, this territorial male at Rainy River is the only Ontario record to date. There have been other reports of vagrants in the east, including from New York, Maryland, and Ohio (AOU 1998).

## 1998 – 472 species

### Eurasian Collared-Dove

1993: one, 25 July and 4 September, Pittock Lake, *Oxford*, James M. Holdsworth (Dobos 1999).

1998: one (video), 21 May, Pelee Island (Scudder), *Essex*, Y. Robert Tymstra (Dobos 1999).

1998: one male, 24 June, Burlington, *Halton*, John G. Keenleyside (Dobos 1999).

Dobos (1999) reported that these were the first three records for Ontario, and apparently for Canada as well. The 1993 record had been previously designated as "deferred" pending information about wild status (Pittaway 1995). The Eurasian Collared-Dove is a Palearctic species which had first become established within North America in Florida by the mid-1980s via introductions to the Bahamas (Smith 1987), from which it steadily expanded north and west. There have now been seven records for the province, all in the south.

### Tropical/Couch's Kingbird

1998: one, 27 September, Hurkett, *Thunder Bay*, Nicholas G. Escott (Dobos 1999).

Dobos (1999) stated: "This is the first record of this 'species group' for Ontario. Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds are very similar in appearance, and are likely only safely separated in the field by voice (Mlodinow 1998). This bird at Hurkett did not vocalize, thus the Committee decided not to assign the bird to either species." The Tropical Kingbird occurs regularly as a rare fall northbound migrant along the Pacific coast north to southern Alaska and has been observed in the east rarely to Maine, Quebec and Michigan (Anonymous 2002),



while Couch's Kingbird extralimital records are mainly from the eastern Gulf Coast states (Dobos 1999). Several unidentified Tropical/Couch's have also been recorded from as far north as Nova Scotia and Maine (Mlodinow 1998).

## 1999 – 473 species

### Heermann's Gull

1999-2000: one first basic/first alternate (video and photos), 14 November 1999 – 16 September 2000: Toronto Harbour, *Toronto* (14 November – 16 September, not present continuously); Hamilton Harbour (LaSalle Park), *Hamilton* (23 February – 6 March); Etobicoke (Humber Bay Park), *Toronto* (25-30 March); and Bronte Harbour, *Halton* (16 April), Bruce E. Massey, Robert K. Yukich, Craig S.A. McLaughlan, Roy B.H. Smith, Raymond Geras, Edmund D. Johns, Kayo J. Roy, Linda J. Nuttall, Mark Chojnacki, Christopher J. Escott (Roy 2000, Yukich 2000).

This remarkable first record for Ontario was also the most easterly occurrence for eastern North America (Yukich 2000). A bird observed in Michigan and Ohio from August 1979 to November 1981 was the previous most easterly record (Yukich 2000). Iron and Pittaway (2001) published a detailed account of the molts and plumages of the Heermann's Gull, after studying it for several days each week at Toronto for nine months.

## 2000 – 473 species

No new species were added to the Ontario list (Roy 2001).

## 2001 – 474 species

### Manx Shearwater

2001: one female (specimen; CMN #77920), 26 August, Lac Deschenes, *Ottawa*, Bruce Squirrel (Roy 2002).

This first accepted Ontario record was of a bird found dead (fresh), floating in the Ottawa River. Amazingly, there has since been a second Manx Shearwater record involving a live bird found by Barry Cherie and seen at Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton*, and Burlington Beach, *Halton*, on 31 August and 1 September 2006 (Cherie 2007, Crins 2007). Brewer (2003) speculated that a Manx Shearwater found in a weakened condition on 19 August 2000 in Macomb County, Michigan (due north of Windsor), almost certainly passed through Ontario, and thus could have been the province's first record.

## 2002 – 475 species

### White-collared Swift

2002: one, 10 June, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*, Tristan ap Rheinallt (ap Rheinallt 2003, Crins 2003).

Tristan ap Rheinallt (2003) related his amazing discovery and identification of this neotropical species, a first record for Ontario and Canada. The White-collared Swift is prone to wandering, and has occurred in North America as a vagrant in Florida, Texas, California and Michigan (AOU 1998).

### Tropical Kingbird

2002: one definitive basic (photos), 26 October – 30 November, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent*, Irene Woods, Alan Wormington, J. Burke Korol, Willie C.

D'Anna, Douglas C. Sheepway, Curtis A. Marantz; found by Anne Anthony and Jerry Ball (Anonymous 2002, Crins 2003).

"Almost every active birder in southern Ontario" got to see this bird during its stay at Erieau for over a month (Anonymous 2002). Tropical Kingbird was added to the Ontario list, and the previously accepted Tropical/Couch's Kingbird complex was removed. The Erieau bird vocalized on many occasions and so it could be identified unequivocally (Crins 2003).

## 2003 – 476 species

### Brewer's Sparrow

2003: one alternate male (photos), 27 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, John M. Woodcock, Nicholas G. Escott; also found by Allan Hale (Crins 2004, Woodcock 2006).

Believed to be of the nominate race *breweri*, this bird was captured, photographed and banded at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (Woodcock 2006). It is the only accepted provincial record. Based on an earlier report from Port Stanley, *Elgin*, in 1980, the OORC had placed Brewer's Sparrow on the Ontario list (Goodwin 1981), and then subsequently removed it due to doubts about the identification (James 1982). Through a detailed comparison of specimens in the CMN and photographs of the Port Stanley bird, Poulin and Di Labio (1982) concluded that this sparrow was probably a hybrid Chipping x Clay-colored.

## 2004 – 477 species

### Cackling Goose

With its recognition as a full species by the AOU (Banks et al. 2004), Cackling Goose was added to the Ontario list (Crins 2005). Ontario specimens of Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) are in the ROM. This small goose is a regular and abundant migrant in northern Ontario during spring and fall, and a rare to very uncommon winter visitant and transient in southern Ontario (Abraham 1997, 2005; Curry 2006).

## 2005 – 479 species

### Neotropic Cormorant

2005: one definitive alternate (photos), 3-6 May, Wheatley Harbour / Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, David J. Milsom, Ronald G. Tozer, Donald E. Perks, Harold E. Stiver, Karl Egressy, Alan Wormington (Crins 2006, Tozer and Milsom 2006).

This was the first occurrence for Ontario and Canada. Other vagrant Neotropic Cormorants have been reported from Minnesota, Illinois, and Maryland (AOU 1998, Tozer and Milsom 2006).

### McCown's Longspur

2005: one female (photos), 21 June, Weagamow Lake, *Kenora*, Peter A. Read; also found by Josh Shook (Crins 2006, Read 2006).

Read (2006) described finding this bird while atlassing in a remote northern Ontario community, and noted other extralimital records from southwestern Manitoba, the north shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota, Whitefish Point in Michigan, and Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

## 2006 – 479 species

No new species were added to the Ontario list (Crins 2007).

### Acknowledgements

I thank the following for their assistance in the preparation of this article: Adam M. Byrne (Secretary, Michigan Bird Records Committee), Allen Chartier, Bill Crins (Secretary, Ontario Bird Records Committee), Jean Iron, Mark Peck and Ron Pittaway. I am particularly indebted to Alan Wormington for his many painstaking hours of checking the details of an earlier draft, and his provision of corrections and additions to previously published records. Lastly, thanks to Jim Richards for suggesting this overview as part of OFO's 25th Anniversary celebrations.

### Literature Cited

- [ABA] **American Birding Association. 2002.** *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada.* American Birding Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- [AOU] **American Ornithologists' Union. 1983.** *Check-list of North American Birds.* 6th Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- [AOU] **American Ornithologists' Union. 1995.** Fortieth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 112: 819-830.
- [AOU] **American Ornithologists' Union. 1997.** Forty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 114: 542-552.
- [AOU] **American Ornithologists' Union. 1998.** *Check-list of North American Birds.* 7th Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Abraham, K.F. 1984.** Ross' Gull: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 2(3): 116-119.
- Abraham, K. 1997.** Small Canada Geese in Ontario. *OFO News* 15(3): 4.
- Abraham, K. 2005.** Cackling Goose, NOT new to Ontario. *OFO News* 23(1): 2-6.
- Anonymous. 2002.** Tropical Kingbird at Erieau: New to Ontario. *Point Pelee Natural History News* 2(4): 65.
- Anonymous. 2006.** Gulls new to Point Pelee: Slaty-backed Gull. *Straight to the Point* 6(1): 3.
- ap Rheinalt, T. 2003.** White-collared Swift: New to Ontario and Canada. *Ontario Birds* 21(2): 77-83.
- Atkinson, G.E. 1894.** *Polyborus cheriway* on Lake Superior. *Biological Review of Ontario* 1: 9-10.
- Axtell, H.H., P. Benham, and J.E. Black. 1977.** Spotted Redshank sighted in Ontario. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 91: 90-91.
- Baillie, J.L. 1957.** Recent additions to Ontario's bird list. *Ontario Field Biologist* 11: 1-3.
- Baillie, J.L. 1964.** Ontario's newest birds. *Ontario Field Biologist* 18: 1-13.
- Bain, M. 1986.** Eurasian Jackdaw: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 4(2): 64-65.
- Bain, M. 1992.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1991. *Ontario Birds* 10(2): 43-63.
- Bain, M. 1993.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1992. *Ontario Birds* 11(2): 46-63.
- Bain, M. 1994.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1993. *Ontario Birds* 12(2): 41-58.
- Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2004.** Forty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 121: 985-995.
- Barrows, W.B. 1912.** *Michigan Bird Life.* Special Bulletin of the Department of Zoology and Physiology, Michigan Agricultural College, Lansing, Michigan.
- Beardslee, C.S. and H.D. Mitchell. 1965.** Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. *Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 22: 1-478.
- Boardman, R. 1992.** Hooded Oriole at Long Point, Ontario: A potential first for Canada. *Birders Journal* 1(5): 228-229.
- Brewer, D. 2003.** Manx Shearwater: The possible first Ontario record? *Ontario Birds* 21(2): 98-99.
- Brewer, D., M.A.W. Lane, and M.L. Wernaart. 1984.** Siberian Rubythroat: A species new to Canada. *Ontario Birds* 2(2): 66-69.
- Brewer, D., B.K. MacKay, W. Hunter, and P. Plant. 1998.** First occurrence of Greater Shearwater in Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 16(3): 128-131.
- Brodin, A. 1996.** Black-tailed Godwit in Ontario. *Birders Journal* 5(4): 176-177.
- Burke, P. 1993.** Violet-green Swallow: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 11(1): 6-10.
- Carpentier, G. 1990.** Broad-billed Hummingbird: New to Ontario and Canada. *Ontario Birds* 8(1): 34-37.
- Cherriere, B. 2007.** Manx Shearwater found in Hamilton! *Wood Duck* 60: 172-173.
- Coady, G. 1988.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1987. *Ontario Birds* 6(2): 42-50.
- Coady, G. and A. Wormington. 1989.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1988. *Ontario Birds* 7(2): 43-54.
- Collier, B. and J. Curson. 1988.** Snowy Plover: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 6(1): 4-10.
- Crins, W.J. 2003.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2002. *Ontario Birds* 21(2): 54-76.
- Crins, W.J. 2004.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2003. *Ontario Birds* 22(2): 54-74.
- Crins, W.J. 2005.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2004. *Ontario Birds* 23(2): 54-75.
- Crins, W.J. 2006.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2005. *Ontario Birds* 24(2): 54-74.
- Crins, W.J. 2007.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2006. *Ontario Birds* 25(2): In prep.
- Curry, R. 1991.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1990. *Ontario Birds* 9(2): 18-44.
- Curry, B. 1996.** Hurricane Fran: September 1996. *Birders Journal* 5(6): 283-297.
- Curry, R. 2006.** *Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas.* Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Hamilton, Ontario.
- Curry, R. and K.A. McLaughlin. 2000.** The November 1999 Cave Swallow invasion in Ontario and northeastern North America. *Ontario Birds* 18(1): 13-26.
- Curry, B. and J. Olmsted. 1996.** The gifts of Hurricane Fran. *Birders Journal* 5(5): 231-232.
- DeBenedictus, P.A. 1991.** ABA Checklist report, 1990. *Birding* 23: 190-196.
- DeSante, D.F. and P. Pyle. 1986.** *Distributional Checklist of North American Birds.* Volume 1: United States and Canada. Artemisia Press, Lee Vining, California.
- Di Labio, B.M. 1995.** Atlantic Puffin: Third Ontario record. *Ontario Birds* 13(3): 99-101.
- Di Labio, B.M. 1996.** First record of the Asiatic Marbled Murrelet in Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 14(1): 15-22.
- Di Labio, B.M. and J. Bouvier. 1986.** Atlantic Puffin: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 4(1): 19-21.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1996.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1995. *Ontario Birds* 14(2): 50-71.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1997.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1996. *Ontario Birds* 15(2): 47-66.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1998.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1997. *Ontario Birds* 16(2): 51-80.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1999.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1998. *Ontario Birds* 17(2): 62-83.
- Elder, D.H. 1984.** Brambling: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 2(1): 38-39.
- Elder, D.H. 1988.** Great-tailed Grackle: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 6(1): 28-31.
- Escott, N. 1992.** Green Violet-ear: First for Canada. *Ontario Birds* 10(3): 86-89.
- Escott, N.G. 1994.** Ontario's first Black-throated Sparrow, with a review of extralimital records in Canada and eastern North America. *Birders Journal* 3(6): 289-293.
- Fleming, J.H. 1906.** Birds of Toronto, Ontario. *Auk* 23: 437-453.
- Fraser, D.M. 1984.** Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) at Toronto:

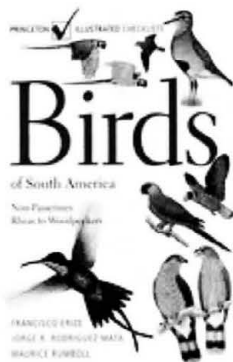


- Ontario's first record. *Ontario Birds* 2(3): 120-123.
- Gawn, M. 1987.** Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher: New to Ontario and Canada. *Ontario Birds* 5(3): 87-93.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1986.** *The Birds of Canada*. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.
- Goodwin, C.E. 1981.** Ontario Ornithological Records Committee report for 1980. *Ontario Field Biologist* 35(1): 22-24.
- Graham, D.S. and A. Wormington. 1993.** Inca Dove: New to Ontario and Canada. *Birders Journal* 2(3): 153-159.
- Harris, C.G. 1983.** Sight record of a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) in Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 1(2): 70-71.
- Hough, J.R. 1991.** Black-capped Vireo: New to Canada. *Ontario Birds* 9(3): 64-66.
- Houle, D. and J. Houle. 1993.** First record of Variegated Flycatcher for Canada. *Birders Journal* 2(6): 291-300.
- Hughes, A.E. 1971.** A Gray Kingbird in eastern Ontario. *Blue Bill* 18: 45-46.
- Iron, J. 1994.** 1994 Canadian bird of the year. *Birders Journal* 3(3): 127-128.
- Iron, J. and R. Pittaway. 2001.** Molts and plumages of Ontario's Heermann's Gull. *Ontario Birds* 19(2): 65-78.
- Jalava, J. 1996.** Sooty Tern on Lake Ontario. *Birders Journal* 5(5): 234-235.
- James, R.D. 1976.** Changes in the list of birds known to occur in Ontario. *Ontario Field Biologist* 30(2): 1-8.
- James, R.D. 1982.** Ontario Ornithological Records Committee report for 1981. *Ontario Field Biologist* 36(1): 16-18.
- James, R.D. 1983.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1982. *Ontario Birds* 1(1): 7-15.
- James, R.D. 1984.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1983. *Ontario Birds* 2(2): 53-65.
- James, R.D. 1991.** *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario*. Second Edition. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.
- James, R.D., P.L. McLaren, and J.C. Barlow. 1976.** *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario*. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.
- Jaramillo, A. 1995.** Townsend's and Hermit Warblers in eastern Canada. *Birders Journal* 4(5): 232-236.
- Jaramillo, A. and P. Burke. 1998.** *New World Blackbirds: The Icterids*. Helm, London.
- Jones, C. 1995.** A review of North American Brambling records. *Birders Journal* 4(2): 75-79.
- Lee, C.T. and A. Birch. 1998.** Field identification of female and immature Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles. *Birding* 30: 282-295.
- Lehman, P. 1984.** The changing seasons. *American Birds* 38: 287-292.
- Lehman, P. 1989.** The changing seasons. *American Birds* 43: 50-54.
- MacKay, B.K. 1997.** A great navigator wanders to its doom, far off course. *Toronto Star*, 31 August.
- Mansfield, N.M. 1992.** Black-chinned Hummingbird: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 10(1): 27-30.
- Mactavish, B. 1995.** Eurasian Blackbird: Specimen for Newfoundland. *Birders Journal* 4(2): 82-83.
- McLaughlin, K. 1990.** Wilson's Plover at Windermere Basin. *Ontario Birds* 8(3): 82-84.
- McNeil, R. and A. Cyr. 1971.** European Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) in Quebec. *Auk* 88: 919-920.
- McRae, R.D. 1985.** Mongolian Plover: New to Canada. *Ontario Birds* 3(1): 18-23.
- McWhirter, D.W. and D.L. Beaver. 1977.** *Birds of the Capital Count Area of Michigan with Seasonal and Historical Analyses*. Biological Series, Volume 5, Number 5. Publications of the Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Meyers, G. 2005.** An account of the Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) at the Beamer Hawkwatch on April 19, 1995. *Wood Duck* 59: 105-106.
- Mlodinow, S.G. 1998.** The Tropical Kingbird north of Mexico. *Field Notes* 52: 6-11.
- Mlodinow, S.G. 2001.** Aves inexpectata: Amazing vagrants within North America. *Birders Journal* 10(3): 146-157.
- Mountjoy, D.J. and R.D. McRae. 1983.** An Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) at Whitby. *Ontario Birds* 1(2): 64-66.
- Nol, E. 1983.** The first substantiated record of the Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) in Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 1(1): 33-34.
- Ouellet, H. 1993a.** Bicknell's Thrush in Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 11(2): 41-45.
- Ouellet, H. 1993b.** Bicknell's Thrush: Taxonomic status and distribution. *Wilson Bulletin* 105: 545-572.
- Parkes, K.C. 1988.** The Ontario specimen of Carolina Chickadee. *Ontario Birds* 6(3): 111-113.
- Pittaway, R. 1995.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1994. *Ontario Birds* 13(2): 46-65.
- Pittaway, R. 1996.** AOU decisions. *OFO News* 14(2): 1, 8.
- Poulin, R. and B. Di Labio. 1982.** Those perplexing Spizellae. *Birdfinding in Canada* 9 (May 1982): 10-12.
- Pratt, P.D. 1992.** Black Rail: New to Ontario and Canada. *Ontario Birds* 10(3): 90-92.
- Prior, P. 1995.** Varied Bunting at Long Point, Ontario: Probable first for Canada. *Birders Journal* 4(5): 239-241.
- Read, P.A. 2006.** McCown's Longspur: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 24(2): 88-91.
- Roy, K.J. 2000.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1999. *Ontario Birds* 18(2): 53-72.
- Roy, K.J. 2001.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2000. *Ontario Birds* 19(2): 45-64.
- Roy, K.J. 2002.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2001. *Ontario Birds* 20(2): 54-74.
- Ryan, R. 1990.** Bustling illegal bird traffic. *Birding* 22: 190-191.
- Seton, E.E.T. 1885.** Interesting records from Toronto, Canada. *Auk* 2: 334-337.
- Sibley, D. 1993.** An Asiatic Marbled Murrelet in Ontario. *Birders Journal* 2(6): 276-277.
- Smith, P.W. 1985.** Jackdaws reach the New World. *American Birds* 39: 255-258.
- Smith, P.W. 1987.** The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas. *American Birds* 41: 1371-1379.
- Spear, L.B., M.J. Lewis, M.T. Myres and R.L. Pyle. 1988.** The recent occurrence of Garganey in North America and the Hawaiian Islands. *American Birds* 42: 385-392.
- Tozer, R.G. and D.J. Milson. 2006.** Neotropical Cormorant: New to Ontario and Canada. *Ontario Birds* 24(2): 84-87.
- Tymstra, Y.R. 1992.** White-winged Tern: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 10(3): 81-86.
- Weir, R.D. 1983.** An Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) at Prince Edward Point. *Ontario Birds* 1(2): 68-69.
- Weir, R.D. 1996.** Black-tailed Godwit at Kingston, Ontario. *Birders Journal* 5(4): 179-180.
- Woodcock, J.M. 2006.** Brewer's Sparrow: First record for Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 24(1): 44-46.
- Wormington, A. 1982.** Trends in the Ontario list of birds: Past, present & future. *Birdfinding in Canada* 9 (May 1982): 15-17, 19.
- Wormington, A. 1985.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1984. *Ontario Birds* 3(1): 2-17.
- Wormington, A. 1986.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1985. *Ontario Birds* 4(1): 3-18.
- Wormington, A. 1987.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1986. *Ontario Birds* 5(2): 42-63.
- Wormington, A. 1992.** Cave Swallow: New to Ontario and the Great Lakes region. *Birders Journal* 1(4): 176-180.
- Wormington, A. 1997.** Plumbeous Vireo: New to Ontario. *Birders Journal* 6(5): 237-240.
- Wormington, A. 1999.** Cave Swallow: Second record for Ontario and the Great Lakes region. *Birders Journal* 8(1): 35-37.
- Wormington, A. 2006.** The Breeding Birds of Point Pelee National Park, with an Emphasis on Species-at-Risk. Unpublished report, Parks Canada, Leamington, Ontario.
- Wormington, A. 2007.** Gulls of Point Pelee: Record 18 species in 2006. *OFO News* 25(1): 2-6.
- Wormington, A. and R.H. Curry. 1990.** Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1989. *Ontario Birds* 8(1): 4-33.
- Yukich, B. 2000.** Heermann's Gull in Toronto: First for Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 18(1): 3-7.
- Yukich, B. and J. Varrel. 2000.** Slaty-backed Gull at Toronto. *Ontario Birds* 18(2): 73-77.

# Book Reviews

Geoff Carpentier

**Birds of South America Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers.** 2006. Jorge R. Rodriguez Mata, Francisco Erize and Maurice Rumboll, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540. Softcover 376 pages. \$29.95US. ISBN13: 978-0-691-12688-3.



In recent years, numerous new field guides have emerged to assist traveling birders and each year the books get better and better. The bar has been raised to a level where quality must be guaranteed and high expectations met. I eagerly awaited the arrival of this new book for I travel frequently to South America and have been frustrated because, except for certain countries that have excellent dedicated guides, I either have to carry several books or I have to settle for something less than ideal. I was hoping that this book would fill the gap in my library. So let's see what I found.

The book is compact in size, 5" x 7.5", with a stiff paper cover and glossy pages. It should easily withstand normal field wear. The layout of the book is appealing and follows an established and proven format. The book opens with an excellent map of South America, showing the political boundaries and major river systems. This is followed by a timely article on conservation and an excellent primer on bird topography.

Now to the meat of the book. The species accounts are preceded by information for each of the 63 families covered in the book. A small painting shows a typical representative for each family. Information is provided on general characteristics for the group, reproduction, food, voice, behaviour, habitat, and human interaction. The book is beautifully illustrated with 156 color plates of high quality and accuracy representing approximately 1300 species. Each account includes common and scientific name, body length and wingspan (for seabirds), identifying field marks and habitat. Each account is accompanied by a map showing its range. The book closes with a brief, but helpful, glossary and reference list.

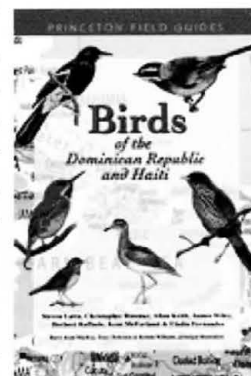
Did I like the book? Simply stated, yes. It is an excellent compilation of information that is well presented and generally accurate. Although the plates seem busy at first, the species are clearly presented and identified, with various postures and sexes clearly and discernibly shown. The plates and accompanying text are well laid out with enough information provided to identify most well seen birds – what guide could offer more?

I would be remiss, however, if I did not point out what the authors acknowledge that information on many recently split species is lacking. This may be problematic for certain groups of birds. For example, the science surrounding the large skuas is unfolding but certain species are widely recognized. The authors acknowledge only two species in the book—the Great and South Polar Skuas. They failed to discuss the Brown/Sub-Antarctic and the Chilean Skuas and did not make mention of the Falklands subspecies, which is being considered by some for species status. The scientific name given for the Great Skua is antiquated and should be updated.

The albatross family is another that has undergone major revision with several new species recognized around the world. One group that stands out is the Wandering Albatross complex. Only one species (i.e. Wandering) is discussed, but it is now accepted that 5 species make up the complex. Any one of these, except perhaps the Amsterdam Albatross could occur. Likewise the Royal Albatross is now considered two species, both of which occur in the offshore waters.

What I was hoping to get from this book was information that was hard to glean from other sources, so I'm not too worried about the seabird issues. I was very pleased to see detailed coverage of large groups of confusing birds, such as the hummingbirds (24 plates) and the parrots, parakeets, toucans and allies (19 plates). The errors/omissions I found are not fatal, and the good information provided outweighs, in my mind at least, these shortfalls. Without question, I recommend buying the book. The next volume, dealing with Passerines, is being prepared. I, for one, am anxiously awaiting its publication.

**Birds of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.** 2006. Steven Latta, Christopher Rimmer, Allan Keith, James Wiley, Herbert Raffaele, Kent McFarland and Eladio Fernandez. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540. Softcover 258 pages. US\$35.00. ISBN13: 978-0-691-11891-8.



I opened this new field guide with some trepidation since its scope was so narrow, two tiny countries in the Caribbean, how much could there be to say? Immediately, my fears were alleviated for the content was substantive and informative. It offers an innovative format that is pleasing and easy to



read.

Of note is that seven authors collaborated with five artists, including our own Barry Kent MacKay, to produce this volume. Let's walk through the book. It opens with the obligatory map, albeit this one is detailed enough to show all the political boundaries, major cities, physical features and significant ecological sites of Hispaniola in a readable format. This is followed with an elevational map, which any serious birder will know is critical to successfully bird an area. They then explain how and why they laid the book out as they did and how they will provide information on each species. A short essay on the major habitats is provided, followed by a list of endemic species and subspecies. They discuss conservation issues and protected areas and finally offer an ornithological history of Hispaniola. This is an excellent introduction to the book as few have traveled there and these insights are very helpful to ensuring a successful adventure.

Now on to the species accounts. Fifty-seven plates deal with all 306 species recorded for the island. The plates are of two formats, one typical of most guides with clear paintings of several species of birds sitting and in flight, with males and females shown as appropriate, the other is a series of beautiful portraits of one or two significant species in their natural habitat. Each of the latter is worthy of framing since they are of such high quality. Adjacent to every picture is a brief descriptor providing key identification points. Following this are the detailed species accounts, including current information on names, physical characteristics, similar species, voice, status, nesting and range. Each account is accompanied by a good map and information on local names. An introduction to each family also provides additional information on general characteristics, feeding and habitat.

In addition, they provide a birding site guide to Hispaniola and a checklist of all the birds found there to make your trip even more successful. I really like this book—compact, informative, complete and useful. If you are thinking of going anywhere near Haiti or Dominican Republic, pick this one up. It's an excellent book.

## Piping Plovers Nest at Sauble Beach

Cindy Cartwright

On Mother's Day (12-13 May 2007) weekend 13 year old Brendan Toews and his mother, Kim were walking the beach near the mouth of the Sauble River on Lake Huron in Bruce County. The family from Ottawa was camping in the area. Kim pointed out a pair of "Killdeer" which Brendan quickly and correctly identified as Piping Plovers. Although Kim was reluctant to report the



Male Piping Plover with orange band on upper left leg. Sauble Beach on 20 May 2007. Photo by George Peck.

sighting for fear that people would disturb the birds, Brendan insisted that this endangered species be reported to authorities to protect them.

This led to a flurry of phone calls, emails and much excitement. It has been over 30 years since Piping Plovers successfully nested in the Ontario Great Lakes region (they have nested recently at Lake of the Woods in northwestern Ontario) and about 40 years since they bred on the beaches at Sauble. Members of the general public, the Friends of Sauble Beach, CWS, MNR and local birders all became involved. Colour bands identified the plovers as hatched in Michigan.

Over the next two weeks, the site was watched carefully and people using the beach were asked to avoid the area where it appeared the pair was going to nest. Nest scrapes led to the first egg being laid on 26 May and incubation began on 31 May. An exclusion enclosure was placed over the nest to prevent nest predation and a buffer area was established to prevent disturbance by visitors to the beach.

At the present time, the male and female are sharing incubation duties. If all goes well, the eggs should hatch during the last week of June.

**Directions:** At stop light in Sauble Beach, turn down to lake at main beach. Turn right just before *Welcome to Sauble Beach* sign over beach entrance. Follow road along lakeshore, past split into a one-way street. Turn left when you reach the river, then turn right onto sand road after boat launch. Park on left side. Follow yellow flagging tape to beach and look for enclosure on your left.



Enclosure sign and yellow tape at Sauble Beach to protect nesting Piping Plovers on 29 May 2007. Photo by Peter Middleton.

**ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Balance Sheet 31 December 2006**

<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>		<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Cash in Bank	\$18,162	\$13,269	Prepaid Membership Dues	\$15,750	\$12,264
Canada Savings Bonds	0	5,000	<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Ontario Savings Bonds	40,000	40,000	Balance beginning of Year	50,450	45,214
Convention Deposit	450	450	Net Income for Year	653	5,236
Accounts Receivable	3,725	2,228	Balance end of Year	51,103	50,450
Accrued Interest	3,059	1,767			
GST Rebate	1,457				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$66,853</u></b>	<b><u>\$62,714</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$66,853</u></b>	<b><u>\$62,714</u></b>

**INCOME and EXPENSE STATEMENT  
Year Ended 31 December 2006**

<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>		<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Membership Dues	21,805	24,980	Printing and Mailing		
Donations	6,721	7,032	- Journal Ontario Birds	\$19,880	\$22,080
Annual Convention (Net)	-928	675	- Newsletter OFO News	9,037	8,378
Baillie Birdathon	2,255	3,991	Liability Insurance	2,203	3,013
Advertisements	7,725	7,500	Field Trips	852	2,231
Sale of Merchandise	1,682	2,158	Purchase of Merchandise	0	2,148
Interest	1,400	699	Administration	4,581	3,977
Sale of Publications	311	211	Awards	408	414
GST Rebate	1,457	1,552	Checklists	1,543	0
			Stationery	1,883	0
			OFO Website and Ontbirds	888	321
			Windmill Ranch-Carden Alvar	500	1,000
			<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>41,775</b>	<b>43,562</b>
			Net Income for Year	653	5,236
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$42,428</u></b>	<b><u>\$48,798</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 42,428</u></b>	<b><u>\$48,798</u></b>

  
Christopher J. Escott  
President

  
Eileen B. Beagan  
Treasurer

I have examined the 2006 Financial Statements of Ontario Field Ornithologists and reviewed supporting documentation and information supplied by the Treasurer to the extent I deemed necessary.

In my opinion, these Financial Statements accurately reflect the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended

  
Donald E. Burton, Auditor



## Thank You OFO Donors

OFO thanks the following members for their generous donations, which are an important source of revenue, helping with our publications and services to members. All donations over \$10 receive a tax receipt.

Ted Armstrong  
Janet Barnes  
Bryan Baxter  
Gregor Beck  
Mary and Peter Booker  
Carol and Ian Cannell  
Margaret and John Catto  
Elizabeth Chalmers  
Barbara Charlton  
Ian Clark and Louise Martin-Damant  
Dan Clifffen  
Charles Clifford  
Ronald and Madeline Collum  
Derek Connelly  
Anita Cortez  
Douglas Craig  
Thomas Crooks  
Len Dembicki  
Robert Dobos  
Marilyn and Bill Doekes  
Dave Don  
James A.N. Dowall  
Helen and Peter Dubeau  
Erica Dunn and David Hussell  
Jim Eadie  
Marienna and Karl Egressy  
Kevin Empey  
Christopher J. Escott  
Lois Evans  
Kittie and George Fells  
Michael and Jenny Foley  
Richard Fort  
Lynne Freeman  
John Geale  
Shirley Getty and Allen Ascott  
Lynne and Brian Gibbon  
Brian Gibson  
Nadine and Martin Gingrich  
Barbara Glass  
Ann C. and Brian L. Gray  
Ernest Gribble  
James Griffin  
Jim Griffith  
Jan and Len Grincevicius  
Chester Gryski  
Linda and Robert Hansen  
Ross Harris  
Derek Hasler  
The Hazel Bradley Investment Corp  
Theo Hofmann  
Norman and Marilyn Holden  
Cathy and William Holding  
Wendy Hunter  
Helen Ing and Neil Henden  
Ross D. James  
Ian Jeffrey

Susan and Don Johnston  
Colin D. Jones  
Ron and Lynne Keegan  
Michael, Susan and Chris Kimber  
Dorothy Kings  
Dan E. Lee  
Mary and Dennis LeFeuvre  
Gwen and Dennis Lewington  
Anthony Lisanti  
Donald Lloyd  
Sarah Mainguy  
Dave Martin  
Claire and Jim McAllister  
Elizabeth McFarlane  
John R. McKeeman  
Peter A. McParland  
Nancy McPherson and Garth Riley  
John Miles  
Alec Monro  
Frank Morley  
Michael W. Newell  
Thomas S. Parsons  
Karalee and Brian Patel  
Jean and Doug Paton  
Daphne Payne  
David Pelteret  
Winnie Poon  
Felicity Pope  
Paul Pratt  
George Prieksaitis  
Rayfield Pye  
Alfred Raab  
James H. Runnings  
Allan Sandilands  
David and Rosemary Scott  
Leola and Keith Sealy  
Howard Shapiro  
Robert Sharp  
Meredith and Malcolm Silver  
William Siverns  
Glenda J. Slessor  
Anna-Marie and Paul Smith  
Penny and Paula Smith  
Rosemary Smith  
John Sparling  
Alex Stone  
David Sutton  
Annette Van Niejenhuis  
Laura and David Wang  
Thomas T. Warren  
Linda Wells  
Glen Wood  
Irene Woods  
Irene and Gordon Wright  
Terry Wurdemann

## Future

### OFO Field Trips

Dave Milsom, Trips Coordinator  
<milsomdave@hotmail.com>  
905-857-2235

For full trip details

[www.ofo.ca/news.htm#upcoming](http://www.ofo.ca/news.htm#upcoming)

**August 11 (Saturday) Rock Point Provincial Park & Eastern Lake Erie Shore. Leader: Dan Salisbury.**

**August 19 (Sunday) Durham Region and Lake Ontario Marshes Leader: Rayfield Pye**

**August 26 (Sunday) Palgrave, Tottenham Sod Farms, Schomberg Lagoons Leader: Dave Milsom.**

**September 8 (Saturday) Ottawa [until noon] Leader: Jeff Skevington.**

**September 9 (Sunday) Presqu'île Provincial Park Leaders: Don and Ian Shanahan.**

**September 30 (Sunday) Point Pelee National Park. Leader: Marianne Reid.**

**October 6 (Saturday) Hamilton, Burlington and Vicinity. Leader: Tom Thomas.**

**October 20 (Saturday) Hawk Cliff & Area, South-west of London Leaders: Pete Read, Ian Platt.**

**November 4 (Sunday) Grand Bend, Pinery Provincial Park, Kettle Point and Point Edward (north winds). Leader: Maris Apse.** Meet 8:30 a.m. in Grand Bend at new Sobey's parking lot on north side of Huron County Road 81, east of traffic lights at Highway 21. From points east take Highway 401 westbound to Highway 402 at exit 183. Continue on Highway 402 to exit 81 Centre Road and proceed north on Middlesex County Road 81 via Parkhill (after jogging left at Middlesex County Road 7). Continue on Middlesex/Huron County Road 81 to Grand Bend (about 3 hours from Toronto). Check maps for more direct routes or from other starting points. Late fall/early winter migrants: waterfowl, gulls, jaegers, eagles, owls, passerines and resident Tufted Titmouse.

## 2006 Certificates of Appreciation

Bob Falconer, Coordinator

Each year the OFO Board of Directors recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contribution to the birds and birding community of Ontario. Here are the recipients of the 2006 Certificates.

- **William "Bill" McNair** for making his farm available for the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Program near Dyers Bay on the Bruce Peninsula and for working with Lee Redford and Rina from the University of Guelph to look after the 20 cages on the farm.
- **Linda Henebury** for bringing the Yellow-headed Blackbird (among other interesting birds) to the attention of the birding community and for gracefully and enthusiastically allowing people to visit her property near Embrun. January-February 2006.
- **Gord and Carol Duff** of Deep River, for enthusiastically welcoming many birders into their home for an excellent view of a male Varied Thrush, first seen on 11 January 2006 feeding on cracked corn. They patiently waited with everyone until the bird appeared often plying their visitors with warm drinks. January-February 2006.
- **Robert Bossu and the Cornelis family** for creating a wetland on Robert's property north of Wallaceburg that has attracted hundreds of shorebirds, other birds and wildlife, including a Snowy Egret on 26 May 2006. They also hosted a Ruff from 29 April to 2 May 2006.



Blake Mann (right) presenting Robert Bossu (left) with the OFO Certificate of Appreciation on 4 October 2006 at the meeting of the Sydenham Field Naturalists of Chatham-Kent. Robert owns the land and provided funds. His nephew, Larry Cornelis, was the inspiration and driving force. Photo by Tom Chatterton.

## Hummingbird Torpor? Cause of Death?



Cheryl Baxter of Almonte, Ontario, photographed this male Ruby-throated Hummingbird hanging in a tree outside her living room window on 6 June 2007. The temperature went down to 1C the night it apparently died. It also was cold the day and night before with a slight frost. Here are the opinions of two experts for your consideration or you decide the cause of this unusual position.

Allen Chartier, "I've seen published photos of Ruby-throats in torpor on feeders, hanging upside-down. It is purely an accident, where the bird's grip has loosened and the bird has flipped upside-down. I can't imagine it is good for them to be in this position, but they do tend to survive this freak accident."

Michel Gosselin, "This may be a position accidentally assumed after death. In many species, the grasping mechanism is involuntary so that birds don't fall off their perch when sleeping. If the bird dies while asleep, the toes stay closed and "rigor mortis" adds to the strength. I have seen dead starlings, owls, etc. in this position."

### Birds of Ontario—now \$49.24 in paperback

Sandilands, A. 2005. *Birds of Ontario: habitat requirements, limiting factors, and status. vol. 1: nonpasserines, waterfowl through cranes.* UBC Press. 365 pp. Includes shipping, handling and GST. Reviewed and recommended by Ron Tozer in *Ontario Birds* 23(2):99-100. Available from uniPRESSES, 34 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown ON L7G 4R9. Toll free 1-877-864-8477. Email: [orders@gtwcanada.com](mailto:orders@gtwcanada.com)



# Markham's Reesor Pond

Stan Long

Reesor Pond was named by birding enthusiasts to honour the farm family on Reesor Road. Its 20 or so acres of open land and water occupy what's left of a farmer's field on the eastern edge of Markham. The result of a bylaw requirement that developers set aside a certain acreage of greenspace or parkland within their housing projects, the stormwater pond and surrounding land, now rehabilitated after excavation, fulfill the agreement.

During 2005 the topsoil was bulldozed aside and thousands of tons of underlying glacial till removed. By fall, the initial work was done and naturalization begun. Planting hundreds of native plants including hardwoods, conifers, shrubs and many water plants continued into 2006. Completed by early summer, its barren acres were forever changed through the careful planning of people skilled in the science of environmental engineering. The result is parkland in its earliest moment of creation, full of promise, with new habitats beginning to emerge.

Six boulder weirs impede the flow in the steep channel of the feeder creek and provide a series of pools, ideal spawning grounds for native fish and frogs. A variety of sandpipers, ducks and herons, regularly frequented the ponds and muddy shoreline during the first year. Its banks were secured with pegs to prevent erosion while shrubs, trees and water plants were planted, providing habitat for a diversity of living things.

Though frowned upon by some conservationists, I welcome this introduced habitat to a region where cultivation has overwhelmed the countryside, even to the exclusion of ponds. Beaver dams and their habitats were probably common in this area before settlement so it will be interesting to note over the years to what extent this pond, which is the near equivalent of a beaver dam, will have on the local wildlife.

In the spring of 2006, sparrows, robins and grackles nested in newly planted conifers. Red-winged Blackbirds wove nests in the imported cattails and Mallards nested in new cover. Horned Larks nested in the grasses. Several pairs of Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeers nervously gave alarm calls alerting their broods to intruders. Muskrats, deer and coyotes are attracted to the pond and frogs call during the mating season.

As the year progressed, native species of water plants such as Pickerelweed, Water-plantain, Arrowhead and Bur-marigolds bloomed in succession. Most oak, ash, beech, basswood, conifer saplings survived transplanting and in spring four species of swallows used them as perches filling the air with their twittering. I saw a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds land on a slender 20 foot beech and bow to the ground. Upon departing, it sprang straight up again. Fifty years from now that same tree may have



Reesor Pond on 29 May 2007. Photo by Jean Iron

nesting Red-tailed Hawks.

I delight in witnessing the inception of a new landscape for it is easy to imagine how it will be long years into the future. Before the oak, beech and willow trees reach maturity, many species will take advantage of the emerging habitats. It will occur slowly with successional changes of as the habitats mature. Water plants will gradually encroach and enrich the open pond, drawing waterbirds not found there today. The American Bittern's *chugalug* and various calls of Virginia Rail, Sora and perhaps Common Moorhen will be heard in season and new generations of birders will keep records of their seasonal comings and goings.

At the outlet of the creek, a decent mudflat may develop, which will attract shorebirds migrating to and from the Arctic. In the Fall of 2005 after initial excavation a mud floor was fully exposed and numerous shorebirds stopped over on their way south. Among them were Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper and Baird's Sandpiper. These species are not usually seen in Markham for lack of shorebird habitat. As the pond develops, I hope these and other birds rarely seen here today will become a common sight during migration.

The record for the year of its inception, 2006, includes over 100 bird species, among them Le Conte's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Common Tern, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Red-shouldered Hawk and Bald Eagle—an enviable list for a place so new. Reesor Pond's future seems assured having already registered in the annals of the birding community and will be a boon to generations of nature lovers. The town of Markham has created a wonderful natural area.

Reesor Pond is on the west side of Reesor Road close to Toronto just north of Highway 407 in Markham.

# In Memorium

## John Baxter Miles 1942-2006

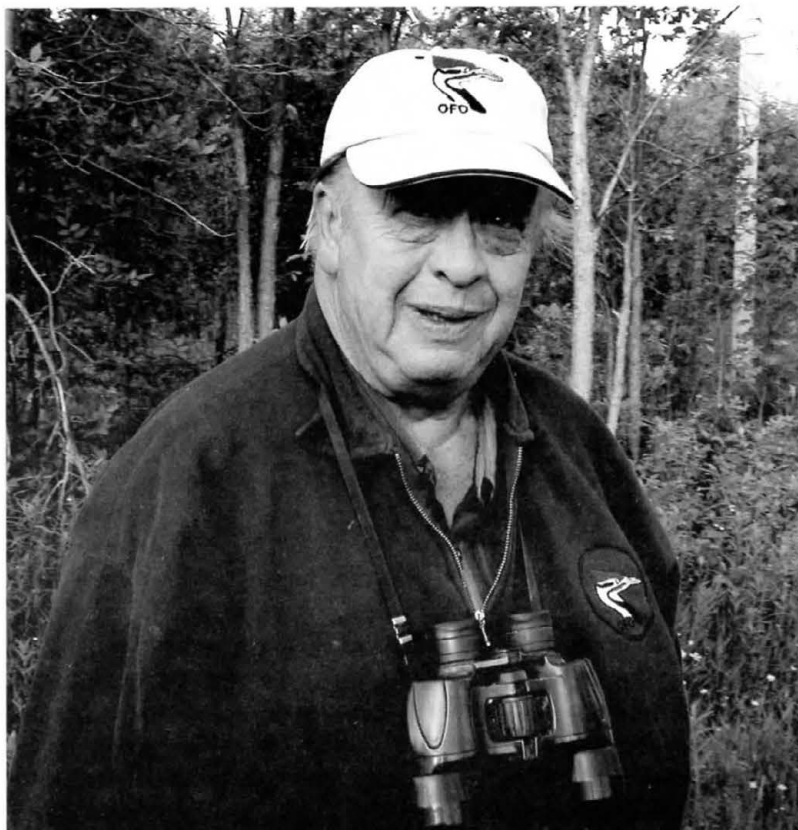
Jean Iron

John Miles, 64, died of pneumonia on 14 December 2006, just one month after closing his banding station for the season at Selkirk Provincial Park. John was husband of the late Ann Miles who died in 2003, and father of Steven and Larissa of Vineland and James of Jarvis, Ontario. On 18 December 2006, John's friends joined his family to remember fondly his many accomplishments. John's legacy to OFO members and naturalists is a delight and appreciation of birds, nature and special habitats.

I first met John on 13 February 1994 when 72 OFO members set off in 23 cars on his famous Fisherville trip to see hawks and owls. Our friendship developed over the next 13 years. Through his OFO trips, John introduced hundreds of people to the love of birds and birding. He was an all round-naturalist whose expertise extended beyond birds to the Carolinian Forest, ferns and wildflowers. He took us to great places such as Long Point for breeding birds, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, Point Pelee and Rondeau. He led late June weekend trips to the Bruce Peninsula, taking us up and down scenic back roads, covering different routes each time, and always finding the Bruce's unusual birds, orchids, ferns and alvar specialties. John's intimate knowledge of the Bruce came from living there for many years. He was a popular leader with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists because of his exceptional knowledge of the Bruce's natural wonders.

John had an eye for finding rarities. Riding high in his lead van, he spotted many birds, bringing the convoy behind him to a halt. One time on the Bruce, he found a Great Gray Owl perched on a dead tree in a marsh. We'll never know how he spotted it because even after stopping it was difficult to see.

John was born in Brantford, Ontario, on 1 March 1942 and grew up in Hamilton where he started birding in 1955 at age 13. As a young birder he benefited from the careful mentoring of Hamilton's legendary birder, George North. John remembers the annual January Duck Counts, shivering in the back of George's car. "After looking over the Mallards and Black Ducks on the edge of the ice, several of us juniors crawled into George's car, a 1938 Nash Lafayette which he inherited from his father's estate. This 'tank' had fenders that were twice as thick as the bumpers on today's cars. George insisted that we drive with the windows down, and he would not put on the heater in case it fogged the windshield. In those days, we juniors wore plain rubber boots, and if we were lucky we might



John Miles on the OFO weekend on Bruce Peninsula 26 June 2004.  
Photo by Jean Iron.

have a pair of felt insoles. Needless to say, on one of these air conditioned outings, Ross Anderson ended up with frost bitten toes."

John was a banker with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in many parts of Ontario such as Warton, New Hamburg, Cannington and Manitouwadge north of Lake Superior. Near Manitouwadge on 11 December 1970, he and K. Charles picked up an exhausted Northern Fulmar being harassed by ravens, which is now a specimen in the ROM. Later in his career John was bank manager at Cayuga and moved to Jarvis where he retired.

George Pond became John's close friend after they met in 1978 on the Board of Long Point Bird Observatory. They often went to John's tiny cottage on the Maitland River he lovingly called his banding "shack", where John's boys, Steven and James, enjoyed going as well to fish and help. John and George spent much time birding together. George was a new birder eager to learn from John, whose acute hearing allowed him to identify birds by songs and calls. George recalls trips with John "a la George North" with car windows down as they drove back roads at 60 mph while John called

*Continued next page*



# OBRC Notes

## Margaret Bain, Chair OBRC

The Ontario Bird Records Committee held its Annual Meeting at the Royal Ontario Museum on Sunday, 1 April 2007. Our thanks again go to Mark Peck for shepherding us through the Museum's security system and organizing the meeting room.

Discussion and final voting on submitted bird records constitutes the main item of business at the AGM. The 2006 Committee had reviewed 119 reports processed for voting. Of these, 90 were Accepted (75.6%), 15 were Not Accepted on the basis of ID, 10 were Not Accepted because of doubts on Origin, and three were Accepted as to genus but not species.

Two members of the 2006 Committee, Kevin McLaughlin and Alan Wormington, having completed their three year terms, were thanked for their thoughtful approach to assessing reports and their expert advice on many ID problems. In their place, two new voting members, Bill Crins and Rob Dobos, were duly elected. Margaret Bain was elected Chair of the Committee for a third year. Mark Peck agreed to continue as ROM Liaison in addition to his place on the Committee. Thus, the voting members of the 2007 OBRC are Margaret Bain (Chair), Glenn Coady, Bill Crins, Rob Dobos, Jean Iron, Colin Jones, and Mark Peck (ROM liaison). Bill Crins was thanked for his sterling five years as OBRC Secretary. Ian Richards, who had been Assistant Secretary in 2006, was duly elected Secretary, with Alan Wormington as his assistant.

Other topics discussed at the AGM included an update submitted by Doug Woods on the OBRC electronic database. The database is now undergoing test runs and seems

to be working very well. Doug deserves many thanks and congratulations for providing the OBRC with such a detailed, versatile computer program. Many thanks go too to David Britton, Jean Iron, and Ian Richards who between them have entered every single OBRC record into the database!

At the Policy Meeting last fall, Ian Richards and Alan Wormington were asked to research the OBRC Review List to see if any species could be deleted from the List, using the criterion of more than 20 records in any five years. Ian and Alan presented a very thorough summary which showed that none of the species considered, even likely candidates such as Northern Gannet, fulfilled this criterion, so there are no changes at this time to the OBRC Ontario Review List for either the North or the South of the province. A Policy Meeting to discuss further topics will be held on Saturday, 27 October 2007 at the Burlington Library.

The OBRC looks forward to another successful year in 2007, and encourages birders to submit reports of all Review List species and forms observed in Ontario. The Review List of species requiring documentation, together with an online report form, is easily accessed through the OFO website at [www.ofo.ca/obrc/](http://www.ofo.ca/obrc/). The Review List is also incorporated into the pocket field checklist of Ontario birds produced by OFO Publications. Online report forms and electronic photographs should be emailed to [obrc@ofo.ca](mailto:obrc@ofo.ca). Written forms, sketches, and photographic prints or slides may be mailed to Ian Richards, OBRC Secretary, 501-1305 Ontario Street, Burlington ON L7S 1Y1.

---

### *In Memorium John Miles continued*

out heard birds. George was amazed. When they stopped to check, John was always right.

John found many rarities along the north shore of Lake Erie when George was away on vacation, such as White-winged Tern, Tufted Duck, and a Least Tern in the Fisherville Christmas Bird Count circle. John told George, "You should go away again so we can find more rarities."

John's OFO trips always attracted large groups so George often assisted. He admired John's gentle and encouraging manner with novices to experts. Even if someone made a wrong identification John never made anyone feel uncomfortable.

John's served on the board of what was then Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) in 1968-69, 1972, 1984-87, 1989-92 as treasurer, and 1998. During some of those years, he was the Ontario Bird Banding Association's (OBBA) representative to LPBO. He later represented

OBBA on Bird Studies Canada for six years from 1998-2004. John was youngest president of Hamilton Naturalists' Club from 1965-67 and 1968-69, and was president of Kitchener Waterloo. John is credited with initiating and participating in record numbers of Ontario Christmas Bird Counts, setting the record of 11 in one year. In the 1996-1997 CBC season, John did Fisherville, Hamilton, Kincardine, Long Point, Niagara Falls and Woodhouse.

John's finest accomplishment was the establishment of the Selkirk Banding Station and Haldimand Bird Observatory in 1996. He loved banding, and applied discipline and high standards to his passion. John banded more birds than any other bander in Canada. During spring banding he went to bed early and awoke at 3:00 a.m. to be at the station half an hour before sunrise. No one would call him after 7:00 p.m. and wake him up.

John imparted a love of birds and birding to his many friends and to OFO members. He is greatly missed.

# OFO's 25th Anniversary

## Annual Convention, Point Pelee, 13 and 14 October 2007

- ◇ 2007 is OFO's 25th Anniversary. Join the celebration at the Annual Convention at Point Pelee. We have planned many special events including the sealing of a *Time Capsule* to be opened on OFO's 50th Anniversary in 2032.
- ◇ Saturday evening's banquet is at Roma Club in Leamington. The food is delicious. Our MC is Ron Tozer whose wit will keep you rolling. Ron is also keeper of the convention's bird list. We expect at least 150 species.
- ◇ Banquet speaker is Alvaro Jaramillo who is one of North America's top ID specialists. Al's presentation on the Ontario-Chile Connection will make you see birds in new ways.
- ◇ This year's Distinguished Ornithologist Award goes to Mike Cadman for his outstanding contributions to two Breeding Bird Atlases. Mark Peck of the ROM will present the award to Mike and roast him too.
- ◇ Experience fall migration at Point Pelee in the company of Ontario's finest birders.
- ◇ Meet founding members ♦ Special Displays of OFO's History ♦ Photo shows of OFO Members ♦ Photos of Trip Leaders ♦ Bird Photo Show by OFO Photographers ♦ Photography walk with well known OFO photographer.

## 25th Anniversary Time Capsule

Dear OFO Member,

For OFO's 25th Anniversary we are making a Time Capsule to be opened at OFO's 50th Anniversary in 2032. The Time Capsule will contain OFO publications, photographs and letters from members. Please write a short note to future birders about what OFO means to you. A maximum of 250 words is needed before 1 August. Please sign with your full name, the town/city where you live and the date.

The letters will be displayed at the OFO Annual Convention at Point Pelee on 13/14 October before being sealed in the Time Capsule.

Please do it soon by email <jeaniron@sympatico.ca> or postal mail to Jean Iron, 9 Lichen Place, Toronto ON M3A 1X3

## Predictions for Time Capsule

What will be the next birds added to the Ontario Bird Checklist? Send your predictions.

Make a list of 10 species of birds you think will be added to the Ontario List between 2007 and OFO's 50th Anniversary in 2032. Please sign with your full name, town/city where you live and the date. Send your predictions by 1 August by email to <jeaniron@sympatico.ca> or postal mail to Jean Iron, 9 Lichen Place, Toronto ON M3A 1X3.

The predictions will be displayed at the OFO Annual Convention at Point Pelee on 13/14 October before being sealed in the Time Capsule.

# Carden Alvar News

## Loggerhead Shrike Update

Elaine Williams

Wildlife Preservation Canada

The discovery of yet another captive bred released bird on the Carden Alvar with an active nest (this time a male) is great news. Our staff trapped him to read the band number, confirming that it was released in 2006 in Carden. There is also a 2006 captive bred and released bird sighted on numerous occasions by our interns near our Dyer's Bay re-



lease site on the Bruce Peninsula, though they have not seen it with a mate. So for three years in a row, we have seen a (or in this year's case two) captive raised and released shrikes return to the breeding grounds.

To date we've had at least 7 sightings of released birds after leaving the release area. In 2004 a released bird was caught in a mist net at Long Point (it dropped a big frog in the net) a month after its release. Then a female released at Dyer's Bay in 2004 bred in Carden in 2005, followed by another released 2005 female that bred in Carden. Last fall there were three sightings of released shrikes in the Point Pelee area, though counted only as one bird. In March there was a sighting of an Ontario released shrike in Ohio. This is first US band return since banding began in 1999 of over 1000 shrikes. No other captive breeding and release program has had this success so early in the program, and I believe it is a first involving a songbird.

Our Carden biologist, Janet Lapierre has confirmed 12 pairs (including a released bird) on the Carden Alvar, up from the 7 pairs last year, including the pair near bluebird box 10 on Windmill Ranch which fledged 6 young this year. Only 7 wild pairs are confirmed in the Napanee area near Kingston, plus a pair near Pembroke in the Ottawa Valley. The Ontario Loggerhead Shrike population in 2007 is 20 breeding pairs, plus a few single birds.

To report Loggerhead Shrikes call toll free 1-800-956-8840. For more information about Wildlife Preservation Canada and the Loggerhead Shrike, please see our website <http://www.wptc.org/>

## Letter about Carden from England

We had great birding at the Carden Alvar on our recent trip. We arrived in Kirkfield late on Wednesday June 6, as we had taken our son to Wonderland that day. We stayed at the Sir William Mackenzie Inn, but had problems finding anywhere open for food after 7 p.m. so it messed up our evening birding plans, but Jeremy at the Inn kindly provided.

We went out birding next day before and after breakfast and had a great time. It was some of the nicest birding of our trip. What great habitat! Nice not to be eaten to death by bugs. Saw quite a few other people there, at least 4 groups/cars on Wylie Road who we stopped to talk to.

Prize birds for us were the Loggerhead Shrike family, we had five fledglings with the 2 adults in our scope behind box 10 which was just great, and gave some other people some good looks too.

Also had Sedge Wren at the Sedge Wren Marsh in the scope, a life bird for us so we were well pleased. We had missed them at Nayanquing in Michigan, they were so much easier and closer in Carden.

Just so nice to have such a bird rich area after all the bird desert farmlands we drove through elsewhere. Really enjoyed the spectacle of so many Bobolinks in breeding plumage, as well as displaying Wilson's Snipe (surely a different species from our Common Snipe) and Upland Sandpiper at point blank range. We also finally caught up with Eastern Phoebe (another life bird) at the Lift Lock, a bird which we had not seen the rest of the trip. We enjoyed a flyover Pileated Woodpecker, our only one of the trip, plus the buzzy Grasshopper Sparrows, with a song not unlike our Grasshopper Warbler. Other birds we enjoyed were the nesting pair of Merlin at Sir William Mackenzie Inn (just amazing to see them as a garden bird, Merlins in the UK are shy elusive moorland breeders only). Also 4 Sandhill Crane flew over Kirkfield and we saw them again down Prospect Road. Had 2 Sora singing at the marshes there but didn't see them.

In total on the trip, we had 13 life birds, including Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan. We had a great trip, the Carden Alvar made a grand finale. Most British birders tend to visit Ontario in mid-May for migration, so are probably a bit early for the Carden Alvar at its best, but we'll certainly let everyone know what they are missing.

Kind regards,

Liz and John Watson  
Culcheth, Warrington  
United Kingdom



# Carden Nature Festival

Jean Iron

Carden's first Nature Festival was held in perfect weather on 15-17 June 2007. The festival attracted 190 people who attended field trips with expert guides to see grass-land birds, learn birding by ear, tour Loggerhead Shrike breeding facilities, butterflies, dragonflies, alvar wild-flower photography, exciting night hike, wetlands, canoeing. Many children participated in the programs.

Saturday evening's dinner at the Lions Club Hall in Kirkfield was delicious. After the evening programs we drove Alvar Road hearing an abundance of Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks. The festival was organized by the Couchiching Conservancy, Carden Important Bird Area, Carden Field Naturalists, Kawartha Field Naturalists and City of Kawartha Lakes. I hope the Carden Nature Festival becomes a yearly event.



Nath Rockhill of the Carden IBA presented Ron Pittaway with Carden's first Conservation Award on 16 June 2007 recognizing Ron's important role in bringing the Carden Alvar to the attention of so many people through his birding site guides, annual OFO field trips since 1992 and for promoting the values of the Carden Alvar. The award features a magnificent Prairie Smoke, Carden's wildflower emblem, by photographer David Kennedy. In thanking the festival organizers, Ron remarked that "10 years ago who would have ever imagined that the acquisition of Cameron Ranch, Windmill Ranch, Prairie Smoke Alvar, other properties and conservation easements would protect the heart of one of the finest alvars in the world."

## Index

- Page 1 Mike Cadman: Distinguished Ornithologist ♦ New Bird Gallery, Canadian Museum of Nature
- Page 2-13 Additions to Ontario Bird Checklist: 1982 to 2006
- Page 14 Birds of South America Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers
- Page 15 Piping Plover
- Page 16 2006 OFO Financial Report
- Page 17 Thank You OFO Donors ♦ Field Trips
- Page 18 2006 Certificates of Appreciation ♦ Hummingbird Torpor
- Page 19 Reesor Pond
- Page 20 In Memoriam-John Baxter Miles 1942-2006
- Page 21 OBRC Notes
- Page 22 OFO 25th Anniversary ♦ OFO Annual Convention
- Page 23 Carden Alvar News
- Page 24 Carden Nature Festival

## Ontbirds

**Mark Cranford - Coordinator**

*Ontbirds* with 2100 subscribers is OFO's successful listserv for reporting and receiving bird sightings. *Ontbirds* has revolutionized birding in Ontario.

To Subscribe

First read the instructions

<http://www.ofo.ca/ontbirdsguide.htm>

Then subscribe here

<http://www.ofo.ca/ontbirdshow.htm>

Questions: contact Mark Cranford

[ontbirds@ofo.ca](mailto:ontbirds@ofo.ca)

## Museum Consultants

The editors thank Michel Gosselin of the Canadian Museum of Nature and Mark Peck of the Royal Ontario Museum for their on-going assistance to *OFO News*.

## OFO Website

[www.ofo.ca](http://www.ofo.ca)

E-mail: [ofo@ofo.ca](mailto:ofo@ofo.ca)

Valerie Jacobs and Doug Woods  
Coordinators

## Publications Mail Agreement Number

40046348

Return undelivered mail to:  
Ontario Field Ornithologists  
Box 455 Station R  
Toronto ON M4G 4E1

## OFO News Editors

**Jean Iron and Ron Pittaway**

9 Lichen Place, Toronto ON M3A 1X3

Phone: 416-445-9297

Email: [jeaniron@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeaniron@sympatico.ca)

**Ontario Field Ornithologists**

**Box 455 Station R**

**Toronto ON M4G 4E1**

© OFO Pileated Woodpecker logo is a copyright registered with the Government of Canada. The OFO logo and material published in *OFO News* may not be reproduced without permission.

ISSN 1200-1589

© OFO News 2007

Printed by Paragon dpi  
Toronto