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Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2010

Alan Wormington and Mark H. Cranford

Introduction

This is the 29th Annual Report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. The first Annual Report (pertaining to 1982) was published in 1983 (James 1983). Over its 29 years of operation, the OBRC has assessed and accepted an impressive 3,346 individual records. The resulting database constitutes an extensive record documenting the occurrence and distribution of rare bird species throughout Ontario. This very large and growing collection of detailed information has been used regularly over the years by researchers for a variety of projects. These include both species-specific studies (*e.g.* Toews *et al.* 2008) and assessments of regional avifaunas (*e.g.* Curry 2006, Black and Roy 2010) in Ontario and across North America.

The OBRC reviews rare bird occurrences in Ontario based on documentation that has been submitted. Species and recognizable forms that are evaluated are based on the Review List for Ontario, which can be viewed online at http://www.ofo.ca/. Any new species, or first breeding records for Ontario, are also reviewed. During 2010, the OBRC received documentation for 155 separate records. Of these, 125 records (81%) were fully accepted. For an additional 15 records, identification-only was accepted, but origin (wild status) was considered questionable. Submissions were received from a total of 158 different observers.

The members of the 2010 Committee (Figure 1) were Glenn Coady (Chairperson), Mark H. Cranford (non-voting Secretary), Brandon R. Holden, Ross D. James, Blake A. Mann, Donald A. Sutherland, Ronald G. Tozer, and Alan Wormington (also Assistant to the Secretary). Mark K. Peck acted as Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison for the OBRC (non-voting).

Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds

Yellow-nosed Albatross, Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater and Anna's Hummingbird are new to the Checklist of Ontario Birds, increasing the provincial total to 486 species. Western Wood-Pewee (along with Yellow-nosed Albatross and Anna's Hummingbird) is new to southern Ontario. Dovekie and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (along with Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater) are new to northern Ontario.

Listing of Records

For all accepted records (and also records for which the identification was accepted but the origin is questionable), detailed information is always provided (if known) for the following: year of occurrence, number of birds, the plumage, age and sex of each individual, dates of occurrence, location, contributors and OBRC file number. All contributors who have provided documentation are listed; if a contributor is also a finder of the bird(s), their name is underlined. Additional finders of the bird(s), when known, are also listed, even though they did not provide any documentation. Place names in italics refer to various municipalities in Ontario including counties and districts. For accepted records, the current total number of records is indicated in parentheses after the species name.

Common and scientific names, as well as taxonomy, follow the seventh

Figure 1. Members of the 2010 OBRC - front row, seated (left to right): Glenn Coady (Chair), Ron Tozer, Mark Cranford (Secretary); back row, standing (left to right): Alan Wormington, Blake Mann, Ross James, Brandon Holden, Don Sutherland. *Photo: Mark Peck*

edition of the Check-list of North American Birds published by the American Ornithologists' Union (1998), along with its annual supplements published in the *Auk* (up to the 52nd supplement inclusive). Changes that affect the Checklist of Ontario Birds, based on the 52nd supplement, were detailed recently by Maciver (2011).

In the listing of records, plumage terminology follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and moult terminology, see Pittaway (2000). Following plumage designation, an age designation is then provided in parentheses as either adult or immature. These are general terms, since the definition of either can vary. For example, Humphrey and Parkes (1959) defines adult as when a bird attains its definitive plumage. Others, however, contend that adult is defined by sexual maturity; in other words, breeding birds are considered "adults" even though they may be one-year-olds in first-alternate plumage.

Comments following the species accounts, for those that specifically pertain to Ontario, are based on records that have been accepted by the OBRC; other records published in the literature are not discussed here.

All records that were not accepted due to either uncertain identification or questionable origin have been listed separately. Contributors of all "not accepted" records are notified by the Chairperson. Reasons for the decision are explained, and copies of each member's written comments are also provided. Any "not accepted" record can be reconsidered by the OBRC if additional documentation is provided in the form of new evidence.

All documentation provided to the OBRC is permanently archived at the ROM. Researchers and other interested parties are welcome to examine any of this material evidence, by appointment. Please contact Mark K. Peck in writing at Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6; or alternatively by e-mail at markp@rom.on.ca or by telephone at 416-586-5523.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the many individuals who have taken the time to document rare bird species that they have observed in Ontario. This Annual Report is a result of their efforts. We also thank numerous individuals who have assisted the OBRC during 2010 in a number of ways. This includes locating and forwarding documentation that originated from others, providing clarity on dates of occurrence (and other information) for specific records, providing expert review for difficult identifications, and reviewing all or parts of the Annual Report. These include: James W. Arterburn, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Michael V.A. Burrell, Cindy E.J. Cartwright, Philip C. Chu, Bruce M. Di Labio, Greg Gillson, Michel Gosselin, Matt T. Heindel, Jean Iron, Paul E. Lehman, Tony Leukering, Christina A. Lewis, Sue Meech (Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre), Ron Pittaway, Gordon J. Pringle, Brian D. Ratcliff, Ron Ridout, Kayo J. Roy, Roy B.H. Smith, Douglas Stotz and John M. Woodcock.

The other OBRC members also had considerable input into the writing of this Annual Report, and their contributions are likewise acknowledged.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (5)

2010 — 13, 2-4 May, Tiny Marsh (2 May) and Riverside (4 May), *Simcoe* (Alex M. Mills Michelle Hudolin; 2010-001 and 2010-002) – photo on file.

— 10, 15 May, Windsor, *Essex* (W. Alan Wright; 2010-003) – photo on file.

— one definitive basic (adult), 13 July–23 August, Milford, *Prince Edward* (Michael Burge, Kathy Felkar, Patricia E. Clark, Stuart A. Mackenzie, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Langis Sirois, John R. Allan, Bruce M. Di Labio, Michael D. Williamson, Rodney V. Lee, Maureen Campeau, Ron Goodridge, Kevin R. Shackleton, Gregory A. Piasetzki, Mark Field, Joshua D. Vandermeulen; found by David Okines; 2010-004) – photos on file.

These Ontario records were part of a dramatic dispersal of this species northward that occurred during the spring and summer of 2010. Other Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks during this period were reported in North Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York and Maine (Brinkley 2010, 2011a).

Whistling-duck species *Dendrocygna* sp. (1)

2010 — nine, 28 August, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (Michael V.A. Burrell, Brendan A. Toews; 2010-005).

Unfortunately these birds were seen after sunset and only in flight, thus a specific identification could not be made.

Figure 2. A flock of ten Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Windsor (Peche Island), *Essex* on 15 May 2010. *Photo: W. Alan Wright.*

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* South Only (pre-1998) (60)

1981 — one definitive basic (adult), 25 October–17 December, Britannia Bay/Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Langis Sirois, Roger Taylor, Daniel F. Brunton; 2010-006).

1979 — one, 8 April, Carlsbad Springs, *Ottawa* (Gordon J. Pringle; also found by Emily Pringle; 2010-007).

1978 — one, 11-14 November, Andrew Haydon Park / Britannia Bay, *Ottawa* (Jo Ann M. MacKenzie; found by Bruce M. Di Labio, James R. Harris; 2010-008).

1977 — one *flavirostris* definitive basic (adult), 23-27 April, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Richard M. Poulin; also found by Roger A. Foxall, Mark Gawn, Simon C. Gawn, G. Tom Hince, Richard C. Tait; 2010-009).

All of these *Ottawa* occurrences were during an era when Greater White-fronted Goose was genuinely rare in southern Ontario. The dramatic increase in the number of sightings in subsequent years resulted in the removal of the species from the Review List in 1998.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* North Only / South Formerly (pre-1994) (66)

1990 — one male, 15 September–16 October, Britannia, *Ottawa* (Tony F.M. Beck; found by V. Bernard Ladouceur; 2010-014) – photo on file.

1982 — one male, 25-28 April, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Jo Ann M. MacKenzie; found by Jacques L. Cantin; 2010-015).

1979 — one male, 16 April, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Stephen Gawn; also found by Rukmin Gawn; 2010-017).

The total for this species does not include the 1990 record listed above, since it is generally assumed that the same Eurasian Wigeon returned to Britannia every fall during the years 1987 to 1990 inclusive. In previous OBRC Annual Reports, details of the bird's presence were provided for the years 1987 (Coady and Wormington 1989) and 1988 (Wormington and Curry 1990).

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca crecca* (4)

2010 — one male, 28 November, Burlington, *Halton* (Bill Bright; 2010-020).

This taxon is called Common Teal in the Old World, where it received full species status in 2000 (Sangster *et al.* 2001). This viewpoint is not universally accepted; for example the American Ornithologists' Union considers the two conspecific because of considerable interbreeding in Alaska.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (46)

2010 — one first alternate (immature), 16 May, Long Point (Bluff Point), *Norfolk* (Ron Ridout; also found by Robert W. Stamp; 2010-132).

— one definitive alternate (adult), 24-25 October, Oshawa, *Durham* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Daniel S. Kaczynski, Janice C. Melendez; 2010-023a) – photos on file.

— one definitive basic (adult), 29 October, Oshawa, *Durham* (Jean Iron; 2010-023b) – photo on file.

— one definitive basic (adult), 29 October–9 November, Oshawa, *Durham* (Jean Iron; also found by David B. Worthington; 2010-023c) – photos on file.

Figure 3. One of three adult Pacific Loons that were at Oshawa, *Durham*, during the fall of 2010; this individual was present 29 October to 9 November. *Photo: Jean Iron.*

— one definitive basic (adult), 30 October–21 November, Whitby (Thickson Point), *Durham* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen; found by Glenn Coady; 2010-025).

— one definitive basic (adult), 8 November, Fifty Point, *Hamilton* (David R. Don; also found by Barbara N. Charlton; 2010-024).

— one definitive basic (adult), 26 November, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Alan Wormington; 2010-142).

The Pacific Loons in *Durham* during the fall of 2010 caused some confusion as to how many birds were actually involved, but based on different plumages it was decided that four individuals had been present.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (19)

2010 — three definitive alternate (adults), 3-5 May, Emo, *Rainy River* (Alan Wormington; also found by Richard P. Carr; 2010-027) – photos on file.

The first recorded nesting of Eared Grebe in Ontario was at the Emo sewage lagoons in 1996 (Elder and Simms 1997), and the species nested again at this location in both 1997 and 2001 (Coady *et al.* 2002). In 2010, however, the birds were not present after the dates listed above.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (31)

2010 — one, 18-21 March, Port Credit, *Peel* (Reuven D. Martin, Sam Barone; 2010-028) – photos on file.

— one, 10-18 April, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Mark H. Cranford; 2010-105) – photos on file.

— one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen; 2010-029).

1975 — one, 8 October, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Jo Ann M. MacKenzie; 2010-063).

Within southern Ontario, the vast majority of Western Grebe records are concentrated at the western end of Lake Ontario in the general area of Oshawa (*Durham*) to Burlington (*Halton*); it is suspected that some of these occurrences pertain to the same individual birds that have made repeat appearances in successive years.

Western/Clark's Grebe ***Aechmophorus occidentalis/clarkii*** **(7)**

1976 — one, 5 November, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Richard C. Tait; also found by Shirley A. Tait, Ted Oaks; 2010-064).

Yellow-nosed Albatross ***Thalassarche chlororhynchos*** **(1)**

2010 — one definitive basic female (adult), nominate *chlororhynchos*, 4 July and 16-17 July (not observed between these dates), Kingston (4 July) and Browns Bay, Wolfe Island (16-17 July), *Frontenac* (Paul R. Martin, Emma K. Brown, Gregory R. Brown; also found by Sean Thomas Martin; 2010-030) – photos on file; specimen (skin) in ROM: #120272.

This is certainly one of the most interesting species ever to be found in Ontario. A complete account of this remarkable occurrence has been published by Martin

Figure 4. "Atlantic" Yellow-nosed Albatross at Wolfe Island (Browns Bay), *Frontenac* on 17 July 2010. *Photo: Emma K. Brown.*

and Di Labio (2011), which includes multiple photographs in addition to a complete listing of all extra-limital records of this species in North America. On the last occurrence date, the bird was picked up alive on Wolfe Island and found to be emaciated. It was sent first to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee, and later to other rehabilitation centres, but ultimately the bird could not be saved.

The Ontario bird was determined to be the nominate *chlororhynchos* subspecies, which is also known as "Atlantic" Yellow-nosed Albatross. Most world authorities consider this and the "Indian" Yellow-nosed Albatross (*T. c. carteri*) to be separate species, based on genetic differences as originally proposed by Robertson and Nunn (1998). The American Ornithologists' Union does not recognize this split, partly because it has yet to receive a formal proposal to do so (J. Van Remsen, *in litt.*, 9 August 2010).

Figure 5. A composite image of the Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater flying over the waters of southern James Bay at Netitishi Point, *Cochrane*, on 13 November 2010. *Photos: Brandon R. Holden.*

Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus griseus/tenuirostris* (1)

2010 — one, 13 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington, Brandon R. Holden; 2010-150) – photos on file.

This record was submitted as Sooty Shearwater. Despite expert opinion that was received from Matt T. Heindel (Texas) and Greg Gillson (Oregon), the OBRC could not establish that Short-tailed Shearwater was eliminated with absolute confidence. It is well recognized that this species pair presents one of the more difficult seabird identification challenges, even though new information on the subject has been published recently (Gillson 2008).

Based on range Sooty Shearwater is the more likely of the two species to appear on James Bay, since it regularly ranges northward in the Atlantic Ocean as far northeast as Hudson Strait (Godfrey 1986:44). From here there are no physical barriers

for a wandering individual to enter Hudson Bay and then, ultimately, southern James Bay. On the other hand, during recent years Short-tailed Shearwater has steadily increased in the Western Arctic (*i.e.*, in the Beaufort Sea) possibly due to a general trend of reduced sea ice coverage. Furthermore there are two specimen records of Short-tailed Shearwater that are of interest, both of which are in the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa (Michel Gosselin, pers. comm.). One was found alive (but later died) at Inuvik, Northwest Territories, on 25 October 1990. Another was found dead at Bathurst Inlet, Nunavut, in February of 1994 (presumably it had died there the previous fall). Both of these birds were at "dead-end" locations, suggesting that their intent was to proceed farther eastwards into the Arctic Archipelago. If Short-tailed Shearwater indeed has the ability to cross the Arctic Ocean from west to east across Canada, then an appearance on James Bay would seem possible. This hypothesis may seem extreme, but it should be noted that a Northern Gannet was recently observed offshore from Barrow, Alaska, on 16-17 August 2010 (Tobish 2011); this bird may have crossed the Arctic Archipelago, but in the opposite direction.

Based on the available evidence (and supplemental information), the OBRC decided that confirming the observed bird as a Sooty Shearwater was simply not possible. However, there was no doubt that the bird in question was either this species or a Short-tailed Shearwater, and on this basis the species pair is added to the Checklist of Ontario Birds. Our knowledge of late fall avifauna on southern James Bay is still poorly known, and this new frontier for Ontario birders may produce additional pelagic species in the future.

Audubon's Shearwater ***Puffinus lherminieri*** **(1)**

1975 — one juvenal female (immature) found dead (very fresh), 8 September, Almonte, *Lanark* (J. Stuart McGiffin; 2010-039) – specimen (skin) in CMNAV: #62529 (not #62521 as published by James 1976, James *et al.* 1976).

A complete account on this first occurrence for Ontario and Canada was published by Godfrey (1976), who described the finding of this dead bird by J. Stuart McGiffin on the lawn of his house. The bird was so fresh that the eyes, interior of the mouth, and feet were still moist and soft. Godfrey examined weather data to see if any potential hurricane activity may have caused this Audubon's Shearwater to appear in Ontario, but no correlation could be found.

At the time Godfrey considered the bird to be the nominate *lherminieri* subspecies, which breeds in the West Indies and the Bahama Islands. Later, however, he considered the subspecies to actually be *loyemilleri*, which breeds off eastern Panama (Godfrey 1986: 46). But recent authors generally consider Audubon's Shearwater to be monotypic, since other (former) subspecies found in the Pacific and Indian Oceans are now classified as separate species (*e.g.*, Pyle 2008:275-276). Furthermore, DNA analysis by Austin *et al.* (2004) demonstrated that "*loyemilleri*" is not distinct from other *lherminieri*. Thus, any attempt to assign the Ontario specimen to one of the supposed subspecies is not likely to provide any clues to its possible origin.

Figure 6. The Audubon's Shearwater that was found dead on 8 September 1975 at Almonte, *Lanark*; the specimen resides at the Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa). *Photo: Colin Bowen.*

Although this Audubon's Shearwater is the sole record for the province, it is not new to the Checklist of Ontario Birds since it had already been listed based on this known specimen.

Northern Gannet ***Morus bassanus*** **(43)**

2010 — one juvenal female (immature), 15 November, Newcastle, *Durham* (Anthony Wood; 2010-157) – specimen (skin) in ROM: #120264.

This bird was inland from Lake Ontario, where it unfortunately was hit by a truck and killed. There were additional gannet reports along Lake Ontario just prior to and after this event, thus it is not possible to determine if the earlier sightings may have pertained to this particular bird.

Anhinga ***Anhinga anhinga*** **(4)**

2010 — one first basic (immature) *or* definitive basic female (adult), 1 May, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (David M. Bell, Kirk W. Zufelt; 2010-034).

When last seen this Anhinga was flying into adjacent Chippewa County, Michigan, where it established a second state record (Reinoehl 2010); subsequently the occurrence was accepted by the Michigan Bird Records Committee (Philip C. Chu, pers. comm.). The appearance of this bird was associated with a strong frontal system with strong south winds that passed through southern Ontario on 1-2 May 2010. This same weather event also produced a dozen or more Purple Gallinules that were scattered across several midwestern U.S. states, including Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan (Brinkley 2010), although none were found in Ontario.

Great Egret ***Ardea alba*** **North Only (13)**

2010 — one, 21-22 May, Ignace, *Kenora* (Amanda M. Lahaie; 2010-036) – photo on file.

— one, 5-19 June, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James R. Barber; found by Dan N. Bascello; 2010-037) – photo on file.

Little Blue Heron ***Egretta caerulea*** **(72)**

2010 — one definitive alternate (adult), 9-13 May (not to only 10 May as published by Wormington 2010), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Margaret J.C. Bain; found by Rayfield R. Pye; 2010-121).

— one definitive alternate (adult), 6 June, Tremur Lake, *Hastings* (Marie Dunkley; 2010-107) – photos on file.

— one juvenal (immature), 14-20 September, Cornwall, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Martin Bowman, Rob Fry; found by Paul Schoening; 2010-035) – photos on file.

Cattle Egret ***Bubulcus ibis*** **North Only (23)**

2010 — one, 8-12 November, Wawa, *Algoma* (Friedrich A. Fischer; found by Pat Tremblay; 2010-111) – photos on file.

This Cattle Egret represents the latest fall migrant of the species to be recorded in northern Ontario.

Glossy Ibis ***Plegadis falcinellus*** **(53)**

2010 — two definitive alternate (adults), 18-20 May, Nottawa (18 May) and Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area (20 May), *Simcoe* (Barry Griffiths; also found by Dynese M. Griffiths; 2010-040) – photos on file.

The two locations listed above in *Simcoe* are only about 27 km apart, thus the same birds are considered to have been involved in both sightings; no other ibises were reported anywhere near these locations during the spring of 2010 (Wormington 2010).

White-faced Ibis ***Plegadis chihi*** **(9)**

2010 — one first alternate (immature), 25 April–10 May, Big Creek Marsh, *Essex* (Jean Iron, Mark K. Peck; found by Thomas Ouchterlony; 2010-048) – photos on file.

— one definitive alternate (adult), 6-13 May, Tecumseh (6 May) and Big Creek Marsh (8-13 May), *Essex* (David G. McNorton, Mark K. Peck; found by David D'hondt; 2010-049 and 2010-050) – photos on file.

2009 — one definitive alternate (adult), 11 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Barry S. Cherriere; 2010-117) – photos on file.

Sightings of the adult bird in 2010 at Tecumseh (6 May) and Big Creek Marsh (8-13 May) are assumed to be the same bird, even though this viewpoint cannot be established with certainty. However, listing them separately as two different birds would likewise not be considered certain.

Figure 7. Great Egret at Thunder Bay (Mission Island Marsh), *Thunder Bay* on 5-10 June 2010. *Photo: James R. Barber.*

Figure 8. Cattle Egret at Wawa, *Algoma* on 8-12 November 2010. *Photo: Friedrich A. Fischer.*

Glossy/White-faced Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus/chihi* (54)

2010 — three, 22 April, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (J. Brett Fried; also found by Ross W. Wood; 2010-051).

— one, 6 May, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (Jean Iron; also found by Raymond Blower; 2010-115).

— two, 8 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Michael V.A. Burrell; also found by Charla D. Patterson; 2010-125).

— one, 11-13 June, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (James T. Burk; 2010-154) – photo on file.

— one, 26-31 August, Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area, *Huron* (Norman K. Holden, Matt Oswald, David J. Brown; 2010-116).

— one, 12-13 September, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Randy H. Holland; 2010-156) – photo on file.

2009 — one, 26 October, Narrows Lock, *Leeds and Grenville* (Jeff R. Wimperis; 2010-118) – photos on file.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (72)

2010–2011 — one, 8 June 2010–15 April 2011 (but not observed continuously during this period), Thunder Cape (8 June), Marie Louise Lake, Sleeping Giant Provincial Park (30 October), Shuniah (late December–15 April), and Current River mouth (29 March), *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, Scott A. Parker, Brian D. Ratcliff, Susan J. Fagan; also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Christopher A. Sukha, Jennifer L. Jefferys; 2010-056 and 2010-109) – photos on file.

2010 — one, 19-20 March, Grimsby, *Niagara* (19 March), Dundas, *Hamilton* (19-20 March) and Rock Chapel, *Hamilton* (20 March) (Brandon R. Holden, Mark H. Cranford; also found by Thomas G. Thomas; 2010-052).

— one, 24 March, Port Rowan to Turkey Point Marsh, *Norfolk* (Jody R. Allair, Michael V.A. Burrell; 2010-053).

— one, 28 March, Smith Bay, *Prince Edward* (R. Terry Sprague; 2010-054).

— one, 11-27 April, Dundas, *Hamilton* (11, 20 and 24 April), Hamilton, *Hamilton* (21 and 24 April) and Grimsby, *Niagara* (27 April) (Kenneth M. Newcombe, Jacob K. Bruxer; found by Gavin Wells; 2010-055) – photo on file.

— four, 5 and 27 December (not observed between these dates), Queenston, *Niagara* (Gerry Binsfeld, Jan Doherty, Marcie L. Jacklin; also found by Gwen Binsfeld, Antonio Coral; 2010-144).

The multiple sightings in *Thunder Bay* during 2010-2011 are assumed to be the same Black Vulture, although it is not possible to establish this with certainty. With the assumption that the same individual was involved, the 10-month stay of the bird is exceptional. But this is eclipsed by what was generally assumed to be the same Black Vulture that remained for 13 months at various locations within *Prince Edward*, from 9 September 2003 to 22 October 2004 (Crins 2005, Wormington MS).

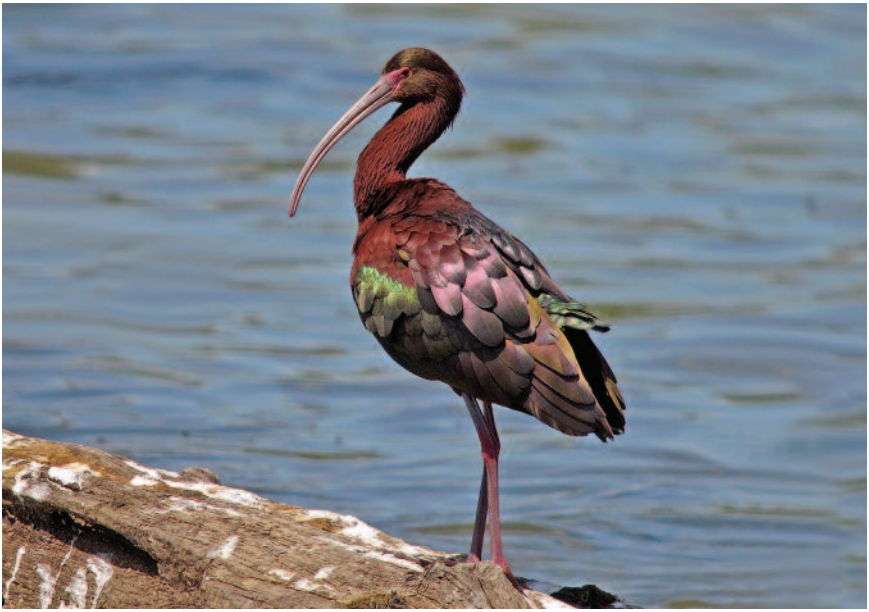

Figure 9. This immature (first alternate) White-faced Ibis remained at Big Creek Marsh, *Essex* from 25 April to 10 May 2010. *Photo: Jean Iron.*

Figure 10. Black Vulture at Hamilton (Valley Inn), ***Hamilton*** on 21 April 2010. *Photo: Kenneth M. Newcombe.*

Another twist associated with the *Thunder Bay* record is the fact that a Black Vulture was seen on the north shore of Lake Superior in St. Louis County, Minnesota, on 15-16 May 2010 (Green 2010) — perhaps the same bird again. In addition to the *Thunder Bay* bird staying for an extended period, it is only the second occurrence in northern Ontario to be accepted by the OBRC.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (53)

2010 — one dark morph, 1 September, Milford, *Prince Edward* (Robert W. Stamp; 2010-108) – photos on file.

This is the earliest fall migrant of the species to be recorded in Ontario.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (5)

1999 — one, 4 January, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Clive E. Goodwin; found by Lori Wensley; 2010-130).

A mega-storm with very strong winds, heavy snow, and plunging temperatures was probably responsible for this bird's occurrence at Cobourg. The storm struck Ontario on 3-5 January 1999, with continued severe weather for more than a week thereafter. Goodwin (1999) described this storm, citing several examples of various species that were engaged in mass exodus from the province, in addition to the appearance of this American Oystercatcher.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* North Only (18)

2010 — nine *inornata* definitive alternate (adults), 1 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James R. Barber; found by Geoffrey Gooding; 2010-058) – photo on file.

— one, 23 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott; also found by Allan G. Harris, Brian J. Moore, Brian D. Ratcliff; 2010-061).

Both of the above records are typical for the north (spring migrants during the month of May), but the nine birds on 1 May 2010 at Thunder Bay is an unusually high number.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* North Only (6)

2010 — one first basic (immature), 17 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden, Alan Wormington; 2010-138) – photos on file.

— two first basic (immatures), 17 November, Netitishi Point (different from above bird), *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden; 2010-139).

— two first basic (immatures), 20 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden; 2010-140).

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (30)

2010 — one definitive basic (adult), 15 February, Toronto, *Toronto* (Jean Iron; also found by Paul N. Prior; 2010-047) – photos on file.

Figure 11. Adult Mew Gull (nominate *canus* group) at Queenston, *Niagara* on 6-7 January 2010. Note the diagnostic wing-tip pattern. *Photo: W. Bradley Carlson.*

Mew Gull *Larus canus* (23)

2010 — one *brachyrhynchus* definitive basic (adult), 1-6 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, Willie C. D'Anna; also found by Betsy Potter; 2010-041) – photos on file.

— one *canus/heinei* definitive basic (adult), 6-7 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, Kevin A. McLaughlin, James M. Pawlicki, W. Bradley Carlson; also found by Dean DiTommaso; 2010-042) – photos on file.

Even though there have been a number of suspected occurrences, the bird at Queenston on 6-7 January 2010 is the first Common Gull (nominate *canus* group) to be accepted for Ontario. This is considered a separate species in the Old World (*e.g.*, Olsen and Larsson 2003:65-82), but the American Ornithologists' Union recognizes only one species.

California Gull *Larus californicus* (60)

2010 — one third basic (immature), 26 January–2 February, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier; found by Steven M. LaForest; 2010-044).

— one third alternate (immature), 6 May, Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent* (Jean Iron; 2010-043) – photos on file.

Figure 12. Third alternate California Gull at Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent* on 6 May 2010.
Photo: Jean Iron.

"Vega" Herring Gull *Larus argentatus vegæ* (1)

2010 — one definitive basic (adult), 30 October, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Kirk W. Zufelt; 2010-090) – photos on file.

This is the first Ontario record for this subspecies of Herring Gull, which breeds in northeast Asia and in North America only on St. Lawrence Island in Alaska (Howell and Dunn 2007:412-416). Although not recognized as a full species by the American Ornithologists' Union, many authorities consider Vega Gull a distinct species, based mostly of the work of Crochet *et al.* (2002) and Liebers *et al.* (2004).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South Only (post-1990) (19)

2010 — one juvenal (immature), 3 October, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden, Stuart A. Mackenzie; 2010-143).

2003 — one alternate, 31 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (Denis Lepage; 2010-081).

Two Arctic Terns were reported at Long Point Provincial Park on 31 May 2003 (Holder 2003), but submitted documentation to the OBRC only details a single bird.

Pomarine Jaeger ***Stercorarius pomarinus*** **North Only / South Formerly (pre-1994) (34)**

2010 — one dark-morph juvenal (immature), 13 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden, Alan Wormington; 2010-133) – photos on file.

— one intermediate-morph juvenal (immature), 20 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington, Brandon R. Holden; 2010-134).

— one intermediate-morph juvenal (immature), 20 November, Netitishi Point (different from above bird), *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden, Alan Wormington; 2010-135).

Dovekie ***Alle alle*** **(4)**

2010 — one, 10 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington, Brandon R. Holden; 2010-136).

— one, 12 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden, Alan Wormington; 2010-137).

Although these are the first records of Dovekie for northern Ontario, the appearance of this species on James Bay was not totally unexpected. The species has occurred far into the interior of North America in such locations as Manitoba (Manitoba Avian Research Committee 2003: 216), Minnesota (Green and Janssen 1975:104), Wisconsin (Barger *et al.* 1988:18), Illinois (McKee 1993) and Michigan (McPeek and Adams 1994:134), where a Hudson Bay origin would seem more logical than the East Coast. The two flying singles at Netitishi Point are considered different birds for a number of reasons. First, southern James Bay is vast and largely featureless, thus birds are rarely attracted to a specific location. Secondly, experience at Netitishi Point by multiple observers over the years has demonstrated that various birds flying past this site are virtually never seen again.

In addition to the birds at Netitishi Point, the other two occurrences accepted by the OBRC for Ontario were 23 October 1988 at Port Weller, *Niagara* (Curry 1991), and 26 October 1993 at Glen Isle, *Lanark* (Pittaway 1995). Di Labio (1995) published a detailed account of the bird at Glen Isle.

Eurasian Collared-Dove ***Streptopelia decaocto*** **(12)**

2010 — one, 23 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Michael V.A. Burrell; also found by Jeremiah C. Kennedy, Eleanor Page, Glen Reed; 2010-059) – photo on file.

Even though Eurasian Collared-Dove has colonized many regions of the continent, the species remains very rare in Ontario.

White-winged Dove ***Zenaida asiatica*** **(34)**

2010 — one, 21 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Michael V.A. Burrell, Neil A. Pearson; also found by Jeremiah C. Kennedy, Eleanor Page; 2010-060) – photos on file.

— one, 9 July, Glen Morris, *Brant* (W. George Sims; also found by Joan Sims; 2010-119) – photos on file.

— one, 13 September, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (Bruce E. Ripley; 2010-153) – photos on file.

Chuck-will's-widow ***Caprimulgus carolinensis*** **(22)**

2010 — one territorial male, 18 June–28 July, Victoria Road, *Kawartha Lakes* (Martin J. Parker, Daniel Q. Bone, Stephen J. O'Donnell, Judy Arai, John Bick, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, J. Brett Fried, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Jack Romanow; 2010-100) – audio-recording on file.

— one, 17 September, Fanshawe Conservation Area, *Middlesex* (William G. Lindley, R. Gordon Payne; 2010-101) – photo on file.

The bird at Fanshawe Conservation Area is the first fall migrant of the species to be recorded in Ontario. The breeding distribution of this species in the province is probably more extensive than generally believed. In addition to the bird at Victoria Road in 2010, other territorial males in southern Ontario have been recorded as far north as Burpee, *Manitoulin* (Bain 1994, Sutherland and Wormington 2007). The habitat at the Victoria Road site was described as having sandy soil, with mixed woods and open areas under power corridors, with farm fields and pastures also present.

Anna's Hummingbird ***Calypte anna*** **(1)**

2010 — one female, 25-30 October, Cottam, *Essex* (Peggy J. Hurst, Thomas P. Hurst, Paul D. Pratt; 2010-149) – photos on file.

This represents the first record of Anna's Hummingbird for Ontario. During the same fall and early winter the species was also found in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan (two), Pennsylvania, Québec, Newfoundland and Maryland (Brinkley 2011b), indicating a widespread displacement albeit in very small numbers.

Rufous Hummingbird ***Selasphorus rufus*** **(23)**

2010 — one first basic female (immature), late October–4 November, Kemble, *Grey* (Cindy E.J. Cartwright; found by Mary Alice Marcoux; 2010-147) – photo on file.

2009 — one first basic male (immature), mid-October–15 November, Stirling, *Hastings* (Cindy E.J. Cartwright; found by Margaret Gray; 2010-145) – photos on file.

Hummingbird species ***Selasphorus*** **sp. (12)**

2010 — one male, early November–9 December, Markham, *York* (Bob Gray; also found by Janet Gray; 2010-146) – photo on file.

— one first basic male (immature), 13-21 November, Simcoe, *Norfolk* (Michelle Bayne; 2010-148) – photo on file.

Western Wood-Pewee ***Contopus sordidulus*** **(2)**

2010 — one, 27-28 August, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood, Avery Nagy-MacArthur, Ron Ridout, Michael V.A. Burrell, Brendan A. Toews; also found by Ryan Rea, Erika K. Hentsch; 2010-126) – photos on file.

This represents the second record of Western Wood-Pewee for Ontario, and the first to be recorded in the south. The first provincial record concerns a singing male that was observed (and then collected) on 18-20 June 1984 at Northbluff Point, *Cochrane* (Coady 1988).

Figure 13. Ontario's third Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* on 30 September 2010. *Photo: Sachiko L. Schott.*

Vermilion Flycatcher ***Pyrocephalus rubinus*** **(5)**

2010 — one definitive basic male (adult), 13 October, Wolfe Island (Button Bay), *Frontenac* (Sandra Hannah; also found by Ken Robinson, Steven Seiffert; 2010-151) – photos on file.

All five Ontario records pertain to male individuals, with four occurring during fall migration and one in spring, all in the south.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher ***Myiodynastes luteiventris*** **(3)**

2010 — one first basic (immature), 30 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, Sachiko L. Schott; also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Kyle R. Myschowada, Stacey J. Carnochan, A. Eric Matheson, Nikolas I. Kotovich; 2010-120) – photos on file.

This third provincial record is the first for northern Ontario. The other two occurred on 28 September–1 October 1986 at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Gawn 1987, Wormington 1987), and on 6 November 2009 at Oakville, *Halton* (Cranford 2010).

Figure 14. Adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Monticello, *Dufferin*, that remained from 2 August to 1 September 2010. *Photo: Frank G. Horvath.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher ***Tyrannus forficatus*** **(58)**

2010 — one, 19 June, Pelletier Bridge, *Kenora* (Lillian J. Anderson; 2010-057) – photos on file.

— one worn definitive alternate (adult), 2 August–1 September, Monticello, *Dufferin* (Gordon H. Cassidy, Robert L. Maciver, Kevin R. Shackleton, Frank G. Horvath, Sandra L. Horvath, Cody R. Law; also found by Donna S. Cassidy, John Tomins, Michelle Tomins; 2010-099) – photos on file.

Loggerhead Shrike ***Lanius ludovicianus*** **North Only (11)**

2010 — one first alternate (immature), 3-5 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington, James R. Barber; also found by Richard P. Carr; 2010-066) – photos on file.

Fish Crow ***Corvus ossifragus*** **(14)**

2010 — one, 15 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (Michael V.A. Burrell; also found by R. Douglas McRae, Donald A. Sutherland, George E. Wallace; 2010-124).

Cave Swallow ***Petrochelidon fulva*** **South Formerly (pre-2010) (63)**

2009 — two, 20 November, Fifty Point, *Hamilton* (Kevin A. McLaughlin; 2010-082).

Northern Wheatear ***Oenanthe oenanthe*** **(36)**

2010 — one, 16 October, Petrie Islands, *Ottawa* (Gary Fairhead; 2010-152) – photo on file.

Figure 15. Loggerhead Shrike at Thunder Bay (Chippewa Landfill), *Thunder Bay*, on 3-5 May 2010. Note the brown primary feathers, indicating the bird is in first alternate plumage. *Photo: James R. Barber.*

Figure 16. Northern Wheatear at Petrie Islands, *Ottawa* on 16 October 2010. *Photo: Gary Fairhead.*

Figure 17. Sage Thrasher at Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay* on 9 October 2010.
Photo: John J. Schelling.

Figure 18. Kirtland's Warbler on 22-23 May 2010 at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex.*
Photo: Alan Wormington.

Townsend's Solitaire ***Myadestes townsendi*** **South Only / North Formerly (pre-2001) (69)**

2010 — one, 21 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Graeme C.A. Gibson; 2010-067).

This represents one of the latest spring migrants to be recorded in Ontario, exceeded only by the individual that was found at Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk*, on 6 June 2006 (Richards 2008).

Sage Thrasher ***Oreoscoptes montanus*** **(16)**

2010 — one, 4 May, Harris Hill, *Rainy River* (Alan Wormington; also found by Richard P. Carr; 2010-068) – photo on file.

— one, 9 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (John J. Schelling; 2010-102) – photo on file.

— one, 15 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Alexander L. Darling; 2010-103).

These are, respectively, the 14th, 15th and 16th records of Sage Thrasher for Ontario. The bird at Harris Hill on 4 May 2010 is the earliest spring migrant of the species in northern Ontario, while the one at Thunder Bay on 15 November 2010 is the latest fall migrant recorded in the north.

Kirtland's Warbler ***Setophaga kirtlandii*** **(45)**

2010 — one first alternate male (immature), 7 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Jean Iron; 2010-045) – photos on file.

— one first alternate male (immature), 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Jean Iron, J. Brett Fried, Bruce D. Mactavish; 2010-046) – photos on file.

— one first alternate male (immature), 22-23 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Stephen T. Pike; also found by William G. Lamond, Kevin A. McLaughlin; 2010-070) – photos on file.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler ***Setophaga coronata auduboni*** **(11)**

2010 — one male, 26 May, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (Michael V.A. Burrell; 2010-069).

This bird represents the latest spring migrant of this subspecies to be found in Ontario. A recent (2010) proposal to the American Ornithologists' Union to split the four subspecies (*auduboni, nigrifrons, goldmani* and nominate *coronata*) into either two, three, or four species, was not accepted. Both field and DNA studies have demonstrated distinct differences among the four subspecies, but the exact relationship of these has yet to be fully understood.

Figure 19. Green-tailed Towhee at Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* on 21-25 October 2010. *Photo: Neil A. Pearson.*

Figure 20. Male Spotted Towhee of the *arcticus* subspecies, at Port Rowan, *Norfolk*, where it was present from 13 November 2010 to 24 January 2011. *Photo: Ron Ridout.*

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* (7)

2010 — one first basic (immature), 21-25 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood, Neil A. Pearson; also found by Janice J. Chard, Eleanor Page; 2010-122) – photos on file.

The seven Green-tailed Towhees accepted by the OBRC for Ontario comprise three in spring, three in fall, and one in winter.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (24)

2010–2011 —one *arcticus* first basic male (immature), 13 November 2010–24 January 2011, Port Rowan, *Norfolk* (Ron Ridout, Jody R. Allair, Alan Wormington; found by George Finney; 2010-128) – photos on file.

When subspecies is determined for occurrences of Spotted Towhee in Ontario, almost all pertain to *arcticus* including this bird at Port Rowan. This subspecies occurs in the Great Plains where it breeds east to central Saskatchewan, north-central North Dakota, and north-central Nebraska (American Ornithologists' Union 1957:580).

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* North Only (15)

2010 — one male, 26-30 October, Swastika, *Timiskaming* (Ann E. Black, Michael J. Leahy; 2010-129) – photo on file.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* North Only (18)

2010 — one, 21 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock; also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Christopher A. Sukha, Jennifer L. Jefferys; 2010-074) – photo on file.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (92)

2010 — one, 10 April, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Lisa A. Kutschbach-Brohl; 2010-075) – photo on file.

— one male, 19 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell; 2010-076) – photos on file.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* North Only (5)

2010 — one first basic (immature), 18-21 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock; 2010-110) – photos on file.

This bird at Thunder Cape is only the second fall migrant to be found in northern Ontario; the first was at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay,* on 8-13 November 1966 (Dobos 1998).

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (22)

2010 — one, 2 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Blake A. Mann; 2010-078).

Figure 21. This Grasshopper Sparrow that was caught for banding at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, was present 18-21 October 2010. *Photo: John M. Woodcock.*

Figure 22. Golden-crowned Sparrow at West Bay, *Manitoulin* on 3-6 May 2010. *Photo: Erwin J. Meissner.*

Golden-crowned Sparrow ***Zonotrichia atricapilla*** **(13)**

2010 — one alternate, 3-6 May, West Bay, *Manitoulin* (David R. Scott, Terry Land, Erwin J. Meissner; found by Osker Jones, Annette Jones; 2010-079) – photos on file.

— one first basic (immature), 10-16 October, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Giovanni Pari, Ben F. Di Labio, Bruce M. Di Labio, Joshua D. Vandermeulen; 2010-113) – photos on file.

— one first basic (immature), 30 October, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (J. Brett Fried; also found by Erika K. Hentsch; 2010-112).

The bird at Ottawa on 10-16 October 2010 is the earliest of six fall records for this species in southern Ontario.

"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco ***Junco hyemalis mearnsi*** **(4)**

2010 — one first basic (immature), 29 October, Woodbridge, *York* (Lev A. Frid; 2010-131) – photos on file.

Western Tanager ***Piranga ludoviciana*** **(38)**

2010 — one female, 5 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock; also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Nick Bartok, Christopher A. Sukha, Jennifer L. Jefferys; 2010-071) – photo on file.

— one male, 7 May, Point Clark, *Bruce* (Lorne Dowling; also found by Sue Dowling; 2010-072) – photos on file.

— one male, 28-29 May, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Eric B. Marcum; 2010-073) – photos on file.

The bird at Sarnia on 28-29 May 2010 is the latest spring migrant of the species to be recorded in southern Ontario.

Blue Grosbeak ***Passerina caerulea*** **(83)**

2010 — one female, 7-10 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell; found by Felicity Pope; 2010-080) – photos on file.

— one female, 8-15 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann, Michael J. Irwin, J. Brett Fried; found by Cy Noble; 2010-083) – photos on file.

Painted Bunting ***Passerina ciris*** **(28)**

2010 — one first alternate (immature) *or* definitive alternate female (adult), 21 May, Rossport, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith; 2010-084) – photo on file.

— one first basic (immature), 24-25 November, Miners Bay, *Haliburton* (Robert K. Beeney; 2010-086) – photos on file.

— one first basic (immature), 25-28 November, Kincardine, *Bruce* (James A. Turland, Joshua D. Vandermeulen; also found by Simon Turland; 2010-087) – photos on file.

Figure 23. Female Blue Grosbeak at Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*, on 8-15 May 2010. *Photo: Michael J. Irwin.*

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (19)

2010 — one female, 27 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock; also found by Maureen E .Woodcock, Christopher A. Sukha, Jennifer L. Jefferys; 2010-091).

— one first basic male (immature) *or* definitive basic female (adult), 8 November, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington; 2010-141) – photo on file.

The bird at Moosonee is the latest fall migrant of the species to be found in northern Ontario. Also, it is only the second record of Dickcissel for the Hudson Bay Lowlands; the first was at Fort Albany, *Cochrane*, on 10 October 1981 (James 1983).

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (3)

2010 — one first basic male (immature), 8 November, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood, Neil A. Pearson; also found by Avery L. Bartels, Edward Conrad, Rebecca Wilcox; 2010-123) – photos on file.

Of the three Ontario occurrences, the above Hooded Oriole is the first to be recorded during fall migration. The other records are from Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk*, on 19-20 May 1992 (Boardman 1992, Bain 1993), and North Bruce, *Bruce*, on 12-19 May 2005 (Crins 2006).

Figure 24. Painted Bunting at Miners Bay, ***Haliburton*** on 24-25 November 2010. *Photo: Robert K. Beeney.*

Figure 25. Immature male (first basic) Hooded Oriole at the Tip of Long Point, ***Norfolk***, on 8 November 2010. *Photo: Neil A. Pearson.*

Figure 26. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Marathon, *Thunder Bay*, where it was present from 20 December 2009 to 13 March 2010. *Photo: Nicholas G. Escott.*

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch ***Leucosticte tephrocotis*** **(15)**

2009–2010 — one first basic (immature), nominate *tephrocotis*, 20 December 2009–13 March 2010 (but not observed continuously during this period), Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler, Nicholas G. Escott; also found by Martha L. Allen; 2010-088) – photos on file.

This very elusive bird was associating with three Snow Buntings for most of the period of its stay, but by the end of the period (starting 11 March 2010) only two Snow Buntings remained.

NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

Not Accepted Records: Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

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

Barnacle Goose ***Branta leucopsis***

2010 — one definitive basic (adult), 2 July, Port Colborne, *Niagara* (Mark Milton; also found by Ron Ward; 2010-010) – photos on file.

— one definitive basic (adult), 22-29 November, Port Elgin, *Bruce* (Beverly A. Carlisle, Fred Jazvac, Doug Sheepway, James A. Turland; 2010-011) – photos on file.

2003 — one, 20-21 April, Nepean, *Ottawa* (Richard M. Poulin; 2010-012) – photo and videotape on file.

1984 — one, 29 April, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Raymond P. Holland; found by Robert A. Bracken, Brian Penney, Jacqueline Budd; 2010-013) – photos on file.

The bird at Port Colborne on 2 July 2010 is possibly the same Barnacle Goose that has been reported irregularly in *Niagara* during the past several years, including 19 December 2009–22 January 2010 at Grimsby (Cranford 2010) and 9 December 2006–7 January 2007 at Beamsville (Richards 2008). For the bird at Port Elgin in 2010, it was reported that a Barnacle Goose had escaped from an aviculturist nearby in the south Bruce Peninsula area about six weeks prior to the observation (Ross C. Snider, message posted to the ONTBIRDS listserv).

Baikal Teal ***Anas formosa***

1979 — one definitive basic male (adult), 31 March, Carlsbad Springs, *Ottawa* (Stephen Gawn, Hubert N. MacKenzie; also found by Roger A. Foxall, Michael Foxall; 2010-019).

Considerable discussion surrounded this Baikal Teal at the time. Bruce M. Di Labio (pers. comm.) was able to observe that the bird was not banded. In a letter to the editor of *Birding,* Gawn (1979) enquired about the wild status of this species. This enquiry was answered by Richard Ryan (1979), an expert on captive waterfowl, who indicated it was basically impossible to know one way or the other. He mentions that an almost-certain escaped Baikal Teal had been present in New Jersey during December of 1978, and suggested that it might have been the same bird as seen in Ontario the following spring. The American Ornithologists' Union (1983:74) lists occurrences in eastern North America for Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina, but all are categorized as presumed escaped individuals. The bird in North Carolina had been shot in 1912 (Sykes 1961).

Chukar ***Alectoris chukar***

2010 — four, 10 October, Kincardine, *Bruce* (Paul van de Bospoort; also found by Chandler B. Andrews, Jo van de Bospoort, Martin Greenall, Susan Greenall, Jon Van Kesteren; 2010-022) – photo on file.

Eurasian Siskin ***Spinus spinus***

2010 — one male, 12-22 April, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler; 2010-089) – photos on file.

There are two previous records of Eurasian Siskin in Ontario that have been accepted (identification only) by the OBRC: one on 6 February–28 March 1988 at Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Wormington and Curry 1990), and another on 10 May 2005 at Red Lake, *Kenora* (Crins 2006).

European Goldfinch ***Carduelis carduelis***

2010 — two (one *carduelis* group + one *caniceps* group) (not only one bird as published by Wormington 2010), 25 February–11 March, New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (Linda D. Fielder; also found by Kent Fielder; 2010-095) – photos on file.

— one (*caniceps* group), 23-25 March, Murillo, *Thunder Bay* (Ron Lacey; 2010-093) – photo on file.

— one (*carduelis* group), 5 April, Port Burwell, *Elgin* (Bruce C. Bolin; 2010-094) – photo on file.

— one (*carduelis* group), 4-5 May, Cavan, *Peterborough* (L. Scott McKinlay; 2010-097) – photo on file.

— two (*caniceps* group), 6 June, Aurora, *York* (Linda S. Zack; 2010-096) – photos on file.

— one (*caniceps* group), 21-22 June, Crooks, *Thunder Bay* (Robert I. Illingworth; also found by Sharon E. Illingworth; 2010-098) – photos on file.

— one (*caniceps* group), 29 September–6 October, North Bay, *Nipissing* (Gary S. Emms; also found by Cliff McCaul, Judy McCaul; 2010-155) – photos on file.

2009 — one (*carduelis* group), 15 April, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Kyle Drake; 2010-092) – photo on file.

This species and other Old World finches continue to be recorded irregularly across Ontario and in adjacent areas of the Great Lakes Region. Some of these probably originated from the massive release or escape of birds from a bird importer in the Chicago, Illinois, area some years ago (apparently in the early 2000s), as described in detail by Craves (2008). To date there is no evidence that European Goldfinch has reproduced in Ontario, although this is a future possibility since there have been sporadic nestings of the species (since 2003) in Illinois and Wisconsin (Craves 2009).

Not Accepted Records: Identification Uncertain

Submitted documentation for the following reports was found to be insufficient to establish with certainty the claimed species. Committee members sensed that the species being described was probably identified correctly, but the details submitted were either too terse or were otherwise deemed to be incorrect in some aspect. It should be noted, however, that any of these reports can be re-submitted to the OBRC if additional documentation in the form of new evidence becomes available in the future.

2010 — **Willow Ptarmigan**, 18 August, Oakville, *Halton* (2010-021)

— **Pacific Loon**, 30 May, Guelph Lake, *Wellington* (2010-031)

— **Northern Gannet**, 20 November, Whitby (Thickson Point), *Durham* (2010-033)

— **Swallow-tailed Kite**, 27 May, London, *Middlesex* (2010-114)

— **Mississippi Kite**, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2010-106)

— **Western Wood-Pewee**, 18 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (2010-065)

— **Lark Bunting**, 20 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (2010-077)
— **Painted Bunting**, 4 August, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (2010-085)

1998 — **Cassin's Vireo**, 16 May, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (2010-127)
1986 — **Yellow-billed Loon**, 15 November, Britannia Bay, *Ottawa* (2010-026)
1982 — **Pacific Loon**, 27 October, Britannia Bay, *Ottawa* (2010-032)
1981 — **Eurasian Wigeon**, 28 March, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (2010-016)
1979 — **Northern Fulmar**, 18 November, Rockcliffe Park, *Ottawa* (2010-038)
1974 — **Western Grebe**, 8 May, Lac Deschênes, *Ottawa* (2010-062)
1972 — **Eurasian Wigeon**, 3 September, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (2010-018)

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2009 Report (*Ontario Birds* 28:58-86):

- under Lesser Black-backed Gull (Thunder Bay), change "2009" to "2008" as the year of occurrence for both records
- under Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (2009 at Long Sault Parkway), change "Michael Jacques" to "Michael Jaques" (note corrected spelling of last name)
- under Arctic Tern, change the number of accepted records from "15" to "17"
- under Phainopepla (2009-2010 at Brampton), at the end of the record add "specimen (skin) in ROM: #125612"; and under the commentary add "After picked up in a weakened state on 9 February 2010, the bird died on 14 February. A necropsy conducted by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (University of Guelph) indicated the bird had died due to emaciation, pneumonia and airsaculitis. The specimen was donated to the ROM via Songbirds Only Avian Rehabilitation (SOAR) of Rockwood, Ontario"
- under Townsend's Warbler, change the number of accepted records from "8" to "9"
- under Blue Grosbeak, change the number of accepted records from "80" to "81"
- under European Goldfinch (2009 at Englehart), change "*Cochrane*" to "*Timiskaming"*

1993 Report (*Ontario Birds* 12:41-58):

- under Painted Bunting (1978 at Long Point), delete the entire entry and replace with the following: "1978 – one adult male, 21-24 May (but not observed between these dates), 5 km east of Long Point Provincial Park boundary (21 May) and Courtright Ridge (24 May), *Norfolk* (Erica Nol, Warren Russell) – photos on file." The wrong year and incorrect occurrence dates have repeatedly been listed for this record in various publications, including *Ontario Birds* (most notably by Nol 1983). The information presented here corresponds to the written documentation submitted to the OBRC, and this information matches the Daily Logs of the Long Point Bird Observatory *(per* Jon D. McCracken).

1991 Report (*Ontario Birds* 10:43-63):

- throughout the report, change "Point Pelee" to "Point Pelee National Park" (technically "Point Pelee" refers to the Point Pelee peninsula, an area much greater than Point Pelee National Park)
- under Western Grebe (1991), change "Lake of the Woods P.P." to "Lake of the Woods P.P. (23 June) and Windy Point (24 June)"; change "*Kenora"* to "*Rainy River*"

- under Northern Gannet (1991 at Niagara-on-the-Lake to west Hamilton Bay), change "John G. Keenleyside" to "John G. Keenleyside"
- under American White Pelican, the records listed should be merged as a single occurrence to read as follows: "1991–1992 — two adults, 9 June 1991–13 January 1992 (but not observed 13-15 June and 22-28 September), Oliphant, *Bruce* (9-12 June); Luther Lake, *Wellington / Dufferin* (16 June–21 September); Mountsberg Reservoir, *Wellington / Hamilton* (29 September–9 November); and Jordan Harbour, *Niagara* (10 November–13 January) (Larry W. Elliott, Robert Z. Dobos, Mary Ellen Hebb, James P. Coey, Robert Tymczyszyn, Alan Wormington) – photos on file." This new entry includes several updates including changes to occurrence dates for each site, the addition of more contributors, and changing "Larry W. Elliott" to "Larry W. Elliott" (he was not the finder of the birds at Oliphant).
- under Snowy Egret (22-26 April 1991 at Long Point), add "townsite" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Snowy Egret (30 April 1991 at Long Point), add "Tip" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Snowy Egret (1991 at Algonquin Park), change "Ron Tozer" to "Ron Tozer"
- under Cattle Egret (1991 at Hurkett), add "immature female" and "specimen (skin) in ROM: #157343" to the record
- under White Ibis (1991 at Turkey Point Marsh), add "John Lamey" as a contributor (the paper published on the occurrence (Lamey 1991) is a contribution to the record)
- under Greater White-fronted Goose (1986 at Presqu'ile Prov. Park), change "Bernd Krueger" to "Bernd Krueger"
- under Eurasian Wigeon, delete "adult" from all records (all reports were correctly submitted as "male" only, since by the spring of the year adult males and first-year males are perhaps indistinguishable in the field)
- under Eurasian Wigeon (1991 at Port Royal), add "Paul N. Prior" as a contributor (additional documentation on the record has been received)
- under Eurasian Wigeon (1991 in *Thunder Bay*), change "Chippewa Landfill" to "Thunder Bay" (this provides a more recognizable locality for where the bird occurred); add "Walter S. Zarowski, Donald S. Graham" as contributors; and add "photo on file" to the record (additional documentation and a photograph on the record has been received)
- under Black Vulture (1991 at Port Hope), delete "adult" from the record (age was not stated in the report and the description given does not allow a determination of age to be made)
- under Gyrfalcon (1991 at Amherst Island), add "16 December 1990, Wolfe Island, *Frontenac"* to the record; change "*Addington*" to "*Lennox and Addington*"; and change "Don Shanahan" to "Don Shanahan"
- under Piping Plover (1991 at Long Point), add "(*circa* 7 km west of Tip)" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred); and delete "male" from the record
- under Piping Plover (1990 in Bruce), change "North Oliphant" to "Oliphant"
- under American Avocet (1991 at Longridge Point), change "Doug McRae, Robert Tymstra" to "Doug McRae, Robert Tymstra"

- under Long-tailed Jaeger, add "SOUTH ONLY"
- under Laughing Gull (1991 records at Long Point), add "Tip" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the birds occurred)
- under Laughing Gull (1991 at Point Pelee), add "Alan Wormington" as a contributor (additional documentation on the record has been received), and change "Barry Cherriere" to "Barry Cherriere" (and placed second in the listing)
- under Common Black-headed Gull (1991 at Longridge Point), change "Don Shanahan" to "Don Shanahan"
- under White-winged Tern (1991), add "Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn" as contributors of the *Lambton* occurrence (additional documentation and photographs on the record have been received); and change "18 May" to "19 May" as the last occurrence date at Big Creek Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (based on the detailed account published by Tymstra 1992)
- under Chuck-will's-widow (1991 at Long Point), change "male" to "territorial male"; add "(Gravelly Bay)" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred); and change "Michael Richardson" to "Michael Richardson"
- under Green Violet-ear (1991 at Kakabeka Falls), add "nominate *thalassinus* adult" to the record, which is based on the account published by Escott (1992); change "Tim Nash" to "Tom Nash"; and add "Jeanette Momot" as a contributor
- under Western Kingbird (1991 at Long Point), add "Tip" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Western Kingbird (1991 at Point Pelee), change "Jon Dunn, Kevin McLaughlin" to "Jon Dunn, Kevin McLaughlin"
- under Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1991 at Long Point), add "Tip" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1991 at Kincardine), add "immature" to the record
- under Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (9-10 October 1991 at Thunder Cape), change "Nicholas G. Escott" to "Nicholas G. Escott"; and add "Alan Wormington" as a contributor, to be listed first (additional documentation and photographs on the record has been received)
- under Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (9 October 1991 at Thunder Cape), change "Nicholas G. Escott" to "Nicholas G. Escott"; and add "Alan Wormington" as a contributor, to be listed first (additional documentation and a photograph on the record has been received)
- under Mountain Bluebird (1991 at Atikokan), delete "adult" from the record (although submitted as "adult" the documentation does not establish that the bird was in definitive basic plumage, as opposed to first basic plumage)
- under Mountain Bluebird (1991 at Rainy River), change "Rainy River" to "Sleeman" (the occurrence site is closer to the latter location)
- under Townsend's Solitaire (1991), add "(Pickerel Lake)" after Sleeping Giant P.P. (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Varied Thrush (1991-92 at Boston Mills), delete "adult" from the record (by winter adult and first-year males are not easily distinguishable in the field with certainty, and the submitted description does not allow a determination on age to be made)

- under Black-capped Vireo (1991), add "(Courtright Ridge)" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1991 at Long Point, 1991 at Wheatley P.P., and 1991 at Scarborough), delete "adult" from all records (the age of the birds were not reported and a determination cannot be made from the available documentation)
- under Kirtland's Warbler (1991 at Leslie Street Spit), delete "adult" from the record (age was not stated in the report and the description given does not allow a determination between first-year and definitive adult to be made)
- under Swainson's Warbler (1991 at Long Point), change "adult" to "first-year" (in one of the submitted descriptions, the tail feathers of the hand-held bird are described as being slightly pointed; as correctly stated in the report, this indicates that the bird was a first-year individual as opposed to a definitive adult); add "James N. Flynn" as a contributor (an additional photograph on the record has been received)
- under Northern Cardinal (1990-91 at Chapleau and 1991 in Glackmeyer Twp.), delete "adult" from both records (by winter, differentiating in the field between first-year and adult males is probably not possible)
- under Northern Cardinal (1991 at Kirkland Lake), change "(pair)" to "(male + female)" (there was no evidence to indicate if these two birds were actually a mated pair)
- under Blue Grosbeak (1991 at Wyevale), delete "adult" from the record (the description and single photograph available does not allow a determination of age to be made)
- under Blue Grosbeak (1991 at Long Point), add "(Courtright Ridge)" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Blue Grosbeak (1991 at Wheatley), delete "Victoria Carley" as a contributor (this observer was listed as a contributor, but no documentation was actually received); and add "James N. Flynn" as a contributor (an additional photograph on the record has been received)
- under Painted Bunting (1991 at Long Point), add "female or immature male" to the record; add "(Courtright Ridge)" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred); and change "Paul N. Prior" to "Paul N. Prior"
- under Rufous-sided Towhee (1991 in *Cochrane*), change "Clute Twp." to "Cochrane"; change "male" to "eastern male"; and change "3 December" to "4 February 1992" as the last date of occurrence
- under Lark Sparrow (1991 at Rondeau Prov. Park), change "10 May" to "10-11 May" and change "Bennett Hennessey" to "Bennett Hennessey"
- under Lark Sparrow (at Neys P.P.), change "1991" to "1990" as the year of occurrence and add "immature" to the record
- under Lark Bunting (1990 at Greenbank), change "Stuart Williams" to "Stuart Williams"
- under Harris' Sparrow (1991 at Greens Corner), delete "adult" from the record (by spring it is not normally possible to separate in the field the differences between first-year and definitive adult birds of this species)
- under Chestnut-collared Longspur (1991), add "(Marie Louise Lake)" after Sleeping Giant P.P. (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)

- under Brambling (1991 in *Northumberland*), change "Hamilton Twp." to "Cold Springs" (this provides a more precise locality where the bird occurred); add "Alan Wormington" as a contributor (additional documentation and photographs on the record has been received)
- under Rosy Finch (1975 at Thunder Bay), change "January/February (exact dates unknown)" to "31 January–early February" (further research has provided specific occurrence dates); delete "Nicholas G. Escott" from the record (this person provided information on the record, but was not an observer of the actual bird); and add "Howard Quackenbush" as a contributor (this observer took the indicated photographs)
- under House Finch (1991 at Thunder Bay), change "Ted Armstrong" to "Ted Armstrong"
- under Unaccepted Records, Origin questionable (1976 Chihuahuan Raven at Long Point), change "16 May" to "14-26 May" for the dates of occurrence; add "Tip" after Long Point (this provides a more precise locality where the bird occurred); and add "Diane DeSteven" as a contributor
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain (Great Egret at Smooth Rock Falls), change "1991" to "1990" as the year of occurrence
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain (1991 Piping Plover), change "Rondeau P.P." to "Blenheim"
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain (1991 Dovekie), add "(Brant River mouth)" after Polar Bear P.P. (this gives a more precise locality for the reported sighting); and change "*Cochrane*" to *"Kenora*"
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain (1986 Gyrfalcon at Presqu'ile P.P.), change "24 December" to "21 December" as the date of occurrence
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain (1985 Roseate Tern), add "west of Courtright Ridge" after Long Point (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)

1990 Report (*Ontario Birds* 9:18-44):

- under American White Pelican (1990 at Cranberry Marsh), change "9-12 June" to "9-11 June" (the incorrect dates were the result of a typographical error); change "Margaret J. Bain" to "Margaret J. Bain"
- under Greater White-fronted Goose (1990 at Cranberry Marsh), add "*frontalis*" to the record; and add "Brian Henshaw" as a contributor (not just "Brian Henshaw" as published by Bain (1992) under "Corrections / Updates to Previous OBRC Reports")
- under Laughing Gull (17-18 May in *Kent*), change "Port Alma" to "Coatsworth" (the occurrence site is closer to the latter location)
- under Laughing Gull (1986 at Wheatley Harbour, Marentette Beach and Point Pelee Nat. Park), add "William S. Morton" as a contributor and add "photo on file" to the record
- under Rosy Finch (1990 in *Thunder Bay*), change "Pine Bay" to "Crooks" (this provides a more accurate location for where the bird occurred)

1989 Report (*Ontario Birds* 8:4-33):

- under Glossy Ibis (1989 at Wheatley Harbour), change "basic-plumaged adult" to "juvenile" and change "Alan Wormington" to "Alan Wormington"
- under Black-throated Gray Warbler (1979-80 at London), add "immature male" to the record
- under Black-throated Gray Warbler (1962 at Rattray Marsh Cons. Area), change "female" to "first-year female"
- under Black-throated Gray Warbler (1952 at North York), change "male" to "adult male"
- under Northern Cardinal (1988-89 at Wild Goose), add "Marion Koehler" as a contributor

1985 Report (*Ontario Birds* 4:3-18):

- under American Avocet (1978 at Hillman Marsh), delete "juvenile" from the record (the submitted report does not indicate age, and the description provided does not allow an age determination to be made)
- under Western Kingbird (1976 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), change "P. Allen Woodliffe, Dennis F. Rupert" to "Dennis F. Rupert, P. Allen Woodliffe"

1984 Report (*Ontario Birds* 3:2-17):

- under Tricolored Heron (1959), change "Rondeau Prov. Park" to "Rondeau Park (townsite)" (in a short note published by Ussher (1961), it states the bird was "... just north of Rondeau Provincial Park ...")
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1984), add "*albilora*" to all four records
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1979), add "*albilora*" to both records
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (11 April 1977 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), add "albilora male" to the record

1983 Report (*Ontario Birds* 2:53-65):

- under Varied Thrush (1983-84 in *Wellington*), change "Puslinch Twp." to "Corwhin" (this gives a more precise locality where the bird occurred)
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1976 at Point Pelee and 28-29 April 1983 at Point Pelee), add "male" to both records
- under Blue Grosbeak (1983 at Point Pelee), change "male" to "immature male"
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification Uncertain (1934 Ross' Gull), change"August" to "26 August" and change "Toronto" to "Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto*"

1982 Report (*Ontario Birds* 1:7-15):

- under Eurasian Wigeon (1982 at Whitby), add "MJB" (= Margaret J. Bain) as a contributor (additional documentation on the record has been received)
- under Northern Wheatear (1981 at Trenton), change location to "Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Hastings Co." (not "Northumberland Co." as published); and add "Peter Serwylo" as a contributor (who was the discoverer of the dead bird)
- under Varied Thrush (1982 at Dundas), add "first-year male" to the record
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1982 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), add "*albilora*" to the record

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No evidence of large-scale fatality events at Ontario wind power projects

Lyle E. Friesen

It is a well-documented fact that birds collide with wind turbines, as they do with virtually all large human-made structures. However, large-scale avian mortality events at modern wind power projects (*i.e.* excluding old-generation projects in California such as those found in the Altamont Pass area) have been rare. Prior to 2011, only four multi-bird mortality events (conservatively defined as >three birds killed in one day at a single turbine) had been reported at the estimated 31,000 modern wind turbines operating across the United States, with the largest event involving 27 passerines at the Mountaineer facility in West Virginia in May 2003 (Kerlinger *et al.* 2010, 2011). In late 2011, a multi-bird mortality

Figure 1. Mortality studies have been conducted at all Ontario wind farms to assess impacts to bird populations. *Photo: Lyle Friesen*

event occurred in West Virginia involving a much larger number of avian fatalities than had been reported previously. On 2–3 October, 484 birds perished at the 61-turbine AES Laurel Mountain facility; almost all were passerine migrants with Blackpoll Warblers (*Setophaga striata*) representing 64% of the casualties (Stantec 2011a).

The recent multi-fatality incident in West Virginia raises the question of whether something similar has been reported at wind energy facilities in Ontario. Fatality studies were conducted at 10 Ontario wind power projects (Figure 1) from 2006 to 2010 as part of follow-up monitoring requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment (CEA) Act. I examined each of the study reports (Table 1; all the reports are public documents accessible by request via the CEA Registry) to determine if multi-bird fatalities had occurred and if so, their number and frequency. All but one of the wind facilities is located in southern Ontario (the exception being the Prince Wind Power Project near Sault Ste. Marie) and all but one are located either along or within 10 km of a Great Lakes shoreline (the one exception being the Melancthon Wind Project near Shelburne). Facility size ranged from five to 133 turbines and the number of turbines searched at each facility ranged from five to 126. Turbine height ranged from 110 to 125 m (360 to 410 ft) and maximum turbine generating capacity ranged from 1.5 to 2.3 megawatts (MW). Turbine lighting at all but one of the facilities consisted of flashing red lights; the one exception was the Erie Shores facility which employed steady red lights. The study duration at the facilities varied from 10 weeks to over two years of continuous monitoring. The frequency of carcass searches at individual turbines ranged from once/week to five times/ week, with the most common frequency being twice/week; the one exception was at Erie Shores where the time between searches ranged from 3 to 24 days. The total number of individual turbine searches from the 10 studies combined was <33,000, with most being conducted during the bird migration periods in spring and fall.

The raw or uncorrected number of carcasses found at a facility ranged from three to 166/year, which translated into an average of 0.1 to 1.9 birds detected/ year at each of the turbines searched. The maximum number of avian carcasses found at a single turbine during one visit was three (European Starling [*Sturnus vulgaris*], Common Yellowthroat [*Geothlypis trichas*], and an unidentified passerine); this number was recorded on just one occasion after a three-day period between visits on 29 May 2009 at the Enbridge Wind Power Project. Two avian carcasses were found at a turbine during a single visit on seven occasions; the remaining dead birds were found as single individuals at searched turbines. The maximum number of bird carcasses found at a single facility during one visit was six (at a facility where 33 turbines were monitored per visit) when two carcasses apiece were found at three turbines after a three-day period between visits.

TABLE 1. Summary of avian mortality at 10 wind power projects in Ontario

Location	Study year	Number of turbines (total/study)	Study duration	Search interval	Total bird carcasses found	Corrected estimated fatalities/ MW/yr	Corrected estimated fatalities/ turbine/yr	Reference
Cruikshank	2009	5/5	22 weeks	2x/week	4	0.9	1.5	Stantec 2010a
Cruikshank	2010	5/5	13 weeks	2x/week	1	1.1	1.9	Stantec 2011b
Enbridge	2009	110/33	22 weeks	2x/week	43	2.0	3.4	Stantec 2010b
Enbridge	2010	110/33	13 weeks	2x/week	8	0.8	1.3	Stantec 2011c
Erie Shores	2006	66/66	52 weeks	3-24 days	30	1.7	2.5	James 2008
Erie Shores	2007	66/66	52 weeks	3-24 days	29	1.7	2.5	James 2008
Kingsbridge	2006	22/22	10 weeks	2x/week	3	0.3	0.6	Stantec 2008a
Melancthon	2007	45/45	12 weeks	2x/week	12	0.9	1.4	Stantec 2008b
Melancthon	2009	133/45	21 weeks	2x/week	63	3.0	4.5	Stantec 2010c
Melancthon	2010	133/45	21 weeks	2x/week	27	1.8	2.7	Stantec 2010d
Mohawk	2009	6/6	17 weeks	2x/week	5	1.8	3.0	Natural Resource Solutions 2010
Port Alma	2010	44/15	22 weeks	2x/week	22	2.4	5.6	Stantec 2011d
Prince	2008	126/126	28 weeks	3-5x/week	72	0.9	1.3	Natural Resource Solutions 2009
Ripley	2008	38/38	27 weeks	1-2x/week	31	1.5	3.0	Jacques Whitford Stantec 2009
Wolfe Island	2009/10	86/86	52 weeks	1-2x/week	166	5.8	13.4	Stantec 2010e Stantec 2010f
Wolfe Island	2010/11	86/86	52 weeks	1-2x/week	85	4.3	10.0	Stantec 2011e Stantec 2011f

The multitude of individual turbine searches coupled with the low raw carcass numbers provides strong evidence that the probability of large-scale avian mortality events at Ontario's wind energy facilities is very low. Raw numbers do not, of course, represent the true magnitude of bird mortality at these facilities. A corrected estimate in birds/MW/year requires adjustments for factors such as searcher efficiency, scavenging effects, area adjustments if the entire area around a turbine could not be searched due to dense vegetation or difficult terrain, and the production capacity (*i.e.* maximum MW size) of the turbines. The corrected avian mortality estimates for the 10 wind power projects in Ontario ranged from 0.3 to 5.8 birds/MW/year and all but one of the facilities reported fatality levels less than 3 birds/MW/year which is consistent with findings from the majority of 63 studies undertaken at wind energy facilities across the U.S. (Strickland *et al.* 2011) and with studies in Ontario of single turbines along the Lake Ontario shoreline (James 2003, James and Coady 2004). The mortality (*i.e.*, adverse) effects of the Wolfe Island Wind Project, which has reported the highest fatality levels to date in the province, are likely not significant with respect to local or regional populations of species, in part because the mortality is spread among at least 58 bird species.

The near absence of multi-fatality events and the low number of fatalities reported annually to date suggest that wind turbines are not a major concern with respect to the sustainability of migratory bird populations in Ontario (impacts to bats may be of much greater concern; see National Wind Coordinating Collaborative 2010). Other human-associated causes of avian

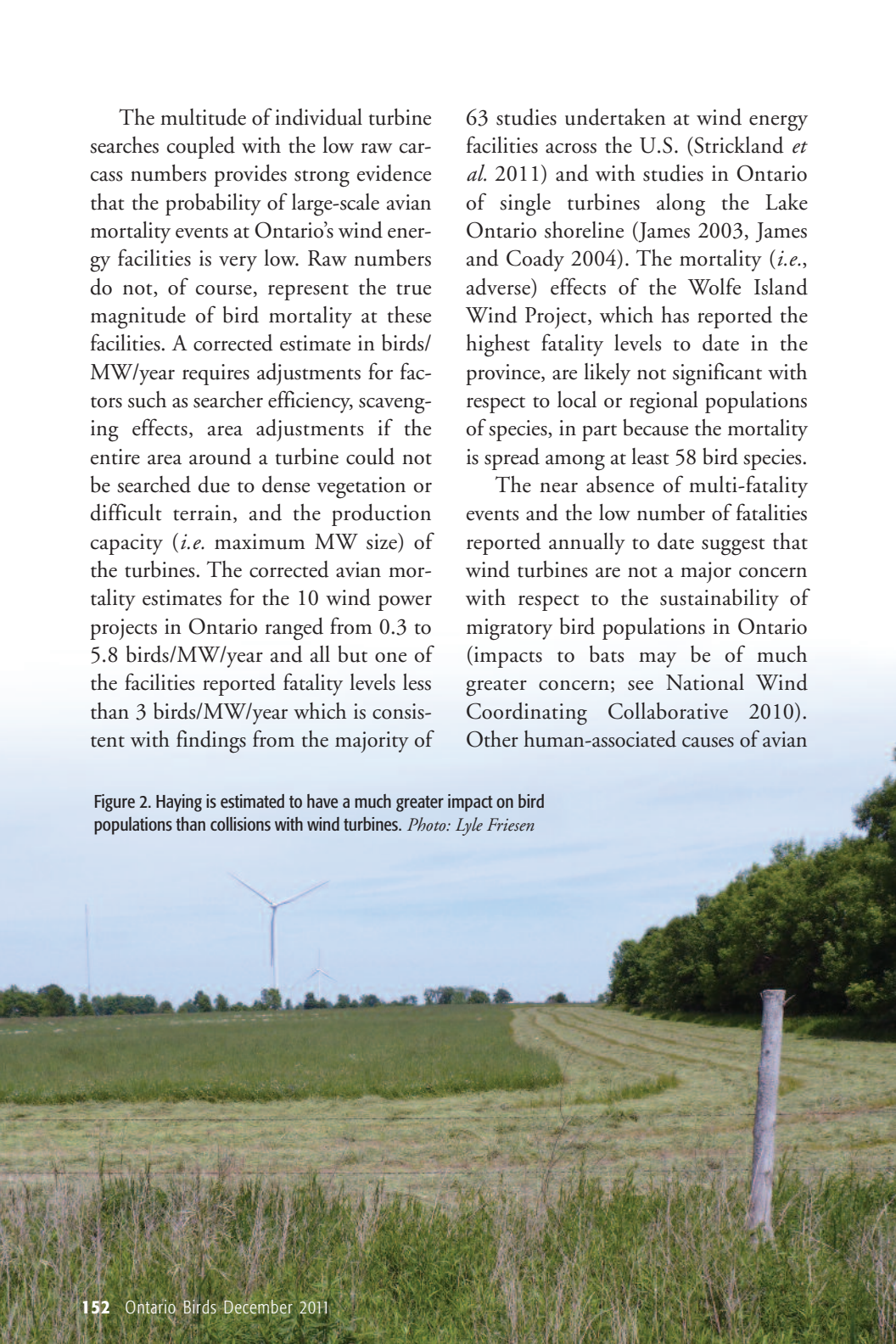

Figure 2. Haying is estimated to have a much greater impact on bird populations than collisions with wind turbines. *Photo: Lyle Friesen*

mortality have impacts that are orders of magnitude higher than those estimated for wind turbines (Machtans and Elliot 2011). An estimated 7000 birds were killed in Canada by wind turbines in 2010 (Pomeroy *et al.* 2011), with approximately 35% of the deaths occurring in Ontario (extrapolating based on the amount of installed wind-power capacity in Canada by province as of 2010 [CanWEA 2011]). By comparison, agricultural mowing, which is often common in and around wind power projects (Figure 2), is estimated to kill almost 10 million birds annually in Canada (Tews *et al.* 2011). Window strikes may claim over a million birds each year in Toronto alone (Fatal Light Awareness Program 2011) and over one billion birds annually across the U.S. (Sheppard 2011)

It is important to note that steady burning flood lights have played a crucial role in almost all the multi-fatality events reported at wind power projects in the U.S. At the Laurel Mountain AES facility in West Virginia, the fatalities were not caused by collision with turbines. Rather, the birds succumbed after being attracted to eight floodlights surrounding a battery storage unit. The birds, migrating at low altitude in conditions of high wind and thick fog, became disoriented by the dusk-to-dawn lighting at the battery substation, and either slammed into the building or circled around it to the point of exhaustion (Stantec 2011a). Standardized mortality searches at turbines throughout the facility immediately after the fatality event confirmed that no multi-bird fatality events had occurred anywhere but at the brightly illuminated battery storage unit. No further multi-bird fatality events occurred at the substation after the floodlights were extinguished (Stantec 2011a).

Steady burning flood lights around an electrical substation and three adjacent turbines were also implicated in the fatality events at the Mountaineer facility in 2003 (Kerlinger *et al.* 2010). An obvious solution to reducing avian mortality at wind energy facilities, and indeed at any large structure in urban and rural areas, is simply to turn off the floodlights (at a minimum, with seasonal shutdown during the bird migration seasons). If floodlighting is absolutely necessary for operational or safety reasons, an efficient lighting system should be installed that reduces light 'spill' in areas where lighting is not required (Sheppard 2011).

Wind turbines in North America are almost universally equipped with flashing red lights. This type of lighting, in the absence of lighting associated with ancillary structures (*e.g.*, substations), may be an important reason (along with their smaller heights and absence of guy wires) why turbines have much lower avian fatality rates and no large-scale fatality events compared to communication towers which often feature steady-burning lights (Kerlinger *et al.* 2010). Birds are both attracted to and disoriented by steady-burning lights although the mechanisms involved are poorly understood (Sheppard 2011). Collisions with wind

turbines will increase as the number of wind power facilities increases in Ontario. Cumulative mortality levels can likely be kept relatively low by employing the wind turbine lighting system currently recommended by Transport Canada (flashing red beacon) and by limiting turbine heights to less than 150 m (Kerlinger *et al.* 2011).

The collective evidence to date suggests the risk to birds from wind energy projects is low relative to other anthropogenic factors and is unlikely to be causing significant population declines. However, wildlife, including many bird populations, is under increasing pressure worldwide because of rapidly expanding human populations and associated land-use activities. Not every area need be developed for wind energy, particularly those areas encompassing uncommon or unique habitats, or that have unusually high concentrations of wildlife including species at risk. It is also important that post-construction monitoring be continued as the number of wind energy facilities increases to allow for a broader assessment of possible cumulative and significant population impacts on birds and bats.

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David Brewer
Distinguished Ornithologist

Bob Curry

David Brewer (right) receiving the 2011 Distinguished Ornithologist Award from Bob Curry at the OFO Annual Convention at Point Pelee on 17 September 2011. *Photo by Jean Iron*

Always one of the highlights of the Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual General Meeting is the presentation of the Distinguished Ornithologist Award. This year (2011) the award goes to A. David Brewer.

David is a trifle enigmatic I think as far as the general membership of our organization is concerned. On the one hand it seems that he has always been around; in fact, this is true as he is a charter member having been at the first meeting back in 1982. On the other hand he has kept a low profile in recent years, beavering away at many writing projects from his home office in Puslinch Township, south of Guelph or traveling across the world to study birds.

So let me tell you about Dave's passion, skills, experience, and major contributions to the study of birds in Ontario, for OFO, and in the world at large.

Dave was born in Evesham, Worcester, England and grew up in Surrey, near London. He started bird watching at age 11, when he got his first bicycle. At his high school there were two bird clubs, one a general club and a second group, the "elite", with a maximum of 15 members, to which one was elected. Of course, Dave was a member of both.

In the UK, bird-banding or ringing has always played a larger part in the training of ornithologists, both professional and amateur, than on this continent. Dave got into bird-banding at the age of 14 and earned a Master Permit when he was 17. In fact, his high school had five master banders including Dave, and from this group of his contemporaries has come an amazing number of leaders in the field of biology, bird study and bird conservation.

After a BA and MA in Natural Sciences at Cambridge, Dave earned a PhD in heterocyclic chemistry at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. He did all of this whilst banding Northern Gannets and other seabirds in Scotland, and birding across all of Europe and North Africa in his trademark ramshackle vehicles.

David cleverly planned his education to fit with great birding places. He took a post-doctoral fellowship in chemistry at University of Arizona, made many trips to Mexico and Central America and taught himself Spanish.

In August 1968, he emigrated to Canada to do research in agricultural-chemistry for two years but, much to our advantage, he never left. For his professional work in Guelph, Dave produced about 20 papers in chemistry and about 32 US and Canadian patents, mostly in agricultural chemistry or anti-cancer chemotherapy, before retiring in 2004.

Once in Ontario, Dave soon became an active participant in the Ontario Bird Banding Association (OBBA). He obtained his Canadian Master Banding Permit in 1973 under which the banding operation at Mountsberg Conservation Area was run for 20 years. At its height this was the largest non-institutional banding operation in Canada. At one point, Dave, the master teacher, had 12 sub-permitees working under his direction and tutelage. He also established the Ausable Bird Observatory at Pinery Provincial Park that ran for three years. He is an OBBA Life Member having served as editor of *Ontario Bird Banding* (1970 – 73) and president (1979 – 80). He co-authored eight papers in *Ontario Bird Banding*. Dave received the Janette Dean Award from the Ontario Bird Banding Association in 2001, an award presented annually for outstanding contributions to bird banding in Ontario.

Dave has also nurtured a long and close association with Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO); he is a Life Member, and served on the LPBO Board of Directors for several years.

Dave's writing has been truly prodigious. He has produced close to 100 papers, chapters, species accounts, book reviews and books.

In no small part due to a lifetime of handling and banding birds, Dave is an expert at identification.

A few members here may remember the John Gooders series on Birds of the World that appeared in magazine form every month from 1969-1973. Dave wrote 36 of those accounts. More recently, he has co-authored three chapters in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World,* Lynx Edicions, writing many accounts of wrens, vireos and Cardinalidae.

He wrote *Birds of Wellington County, Ontario* and co-authored *Where to watch birds in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean*, and four volumes of *The Canadian Atlas of Bird Banding*.

Dave's contributions to Ontario ornithology are extensive. In addition to the Wellington book, he has written a chapter on bird banding in the Hamilton area in *Birds of Hamilton*, five species accounts for the two Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas publications, and 17 articles in *Ontario Birds* or *OFO News*. These papers include book reviews, behavioral notes, accounts of new species to Ontario and bird quizzes.

In no small part due to a lifetime of handling and banding birds, Dave is an expert at identification. Usually only a piece of a bird is necessary for the identification to be clinched. It follows that, David was a founding member of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) from 1982 to 1985, served as its Chair in 1985 and was a voting member again from 1996 to 1998. During the first few years of OFO, Dave was quizmaster at our AGMs. These invariably had twists — the classical allusions fooled most birders — and he has been known as "Diabolical Dave".

Beginning with those early road trips in the UK, Dave's wanderlust and bird lust continue to this day. He has traveled and watched birds on all seven continents and has led tours to Costa Rica, Panama, Trinidad and, since retiring, now is a guide and lecturer on Antarctic tours. It is the multiple trips to some countries and continents that are so impressive: Antarctica (25 trips!), Ecuador (10), Costa Rica (6), Peru (3) and so on.

These are not all just bird ticking junkets. He sometimes takes his mist nests, has detected secretive and difficult-to-find species and has advanced our knowledge of these birds in several countries. Most notably, he was involved, along with well-known American ornithologist Robert Ridgley, in the collection and naming of the Jocotoco Antpitta, that is found only in southeastern Ecuador. Also involved with this discovery were Ontario's own David J. Agro, originally of Hamilton (and whom David mentored) and one of those old UK high school friends of Dave's, Nigel Simpson. Dave plans to work with Ridgley on the last two volumes of the four-volume *Birds of South America*.

Dave's memberships include: Ontario Field Ornithologists (charter, life); Bird Studies Canada (life), Ontario Bird Banding Association (life), Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (life), Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Guelph Field Naturalists, Wilson Ornithological Society, Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society and the Neotropical Bird Club.

A. David Brewer has made and continues to make major contributions to the knowledge and scientific study of birds not only in Ontario and Canada but at the world level. He is a most worthy recipient of the OFO Distinguished Ornithologist Award.

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First observation of polyterritorial polygyny in Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)

Mark Andrew Conboy

Pine Warbler: *Mark Conboy*

MALE PASSERINES typically maintain a single territory throughout the breeding season which is used concurrently for foraging and breeding. Polyterritoriality, the maintenance of two or more territories, has been observed in numerous species of North American passerines (Ford 1996) but as a general life history strategy, is far less common than the maintenance of a single territory. Some species split aspects of their life histories between polyterritories, where a primary territory is used for breeding and a secondary territory is used only for foraging. In other cases, polyterritories are maintained by polygynous males and both territories are used for breeding activities. In polyterritorial polygyny, males defend two or more disjunct territories in which they pair with separate females and usually provision broods in both.

Here I report the first case of polyterritorial polygyny documented for the Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*). General information about territoriality in Pine Warblers is limited, but to date polyterritoriality has never been documented.

Similarly, the mating system of Pine Warblers is not well studied, but it has been assumed that this species is socially monogamous as are many other *Setophaga* wood-warblers (Rodewald *et al.* 1999). Of field observations I made on 12 colour-banded birds at Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) in eastern Ontario, most Pine Warblers were monoterritorial and socially monogamous, but I found one male that was polyterritorial and polygynous.

I captured and colour-banded an after second year male (Pyle 1997) Pine Warbler in May 2008 at QUBS. I relocated the bird where I had banded it three days earlier without using playback to avoid changing its normal behaviour. Using a handheld Garmin GPSMAP 60 unit, I collected waypoints at singing perches. A waypoint was marked every two minutes or when the bird changed perches. Points were collected only when birds were singing actively in order to ensure that the waypoints corresponded to the male's breeding territory and did not include extraterritorial forays during which males are often silent (Norris and Stutchbury 2001). Pilot studies of territory mapping at QUBS determined that 50 waypoints were sufficient to map the territories of numerous *Setophaga* species (including Pine Warbler). This number was determined by plotting the size of the territory (m^2) mapped against the accumulated number of waypoints. The accumulation curve was constructed by measuring the area of the first three waypoints collected at a territory using Garmin MapSource version 6.11.6 (Garmin Ltd.). I then added the next point and measured the area again. I did this until all points were measured and the curve approached an asymptote. I restricted mapping of territories to two dimensions: length and width; I did not attempt to quantify vertical dimensions of wood-warbler territories. Territories were mapped in ArcMap 9 using maximum convex polygons.

Based on previous work with wood-warblers, a territory can be mapped in 2 –3 hours if the target male is or remains vigile and actively sings. In the case of this particular male, mapping took almost five hours because the bird would disappear from its territory for long periods of time (longest time between marked waypoints = 40 minutes). During the bird's absences I searched the general area where appropriate habitat existed and relocated him almost 400 m away. Suspicious of this behaviour I returned the next day to see if I could observe the male at the second site. I observed him singing, delivering food to a nest and interacting with a different female and subsequently mapped its movements at this site. The primary territory (the first territory I mapped) had an area of 1.95 ha and the secondary territory had an area of 0.54 ha. The minimum distance between the two territories was 398 m (Figure 1).

Polyterritories are in part characterized by the male singing in multiple

territories but not in between them. In some cases, territories of other males are interspersed between the primary and secondary territories. At other times, there is an expanse of unsuitable habitat between the polyterritories putting them out of hearing and visual range (Ford 1996). In the present case, I found there was a zone of unsuitable habitat (*i.e.* lacking mature Eastern White [*Pinus strobus*] and Red [*P. resinosa*] Pines) between the primary and secondary territories. As expected, this zone of unsuitable habitat was not occupied by other territorial male Pine Warblers. The male behaved territorially (singing and chasing conspecifics and Yellow-rumped Warblers [*S. coronata*]) in both its primary and secondary territories.

Male song is the primary means by which territories are established and defended by *Setophaga* wood-warblers. The male was observed singing on both territories. I broadcasted locally recorded Pine Warbler songs to test the responsiveness of the male to conspecific song in both territories. A 10 minute playback (two minutes of song followed by two minutes of silence, repeated five times) was broadcasted in the primary and secondary territories twice during the field season, five days apart. In the primary territory, the male responded by descending out of the canopy to within 2 m of the speaker. He counter-sang and overlapped his song with the playback. He also gave a variety of call notes, characteristic of aggressive encounters among

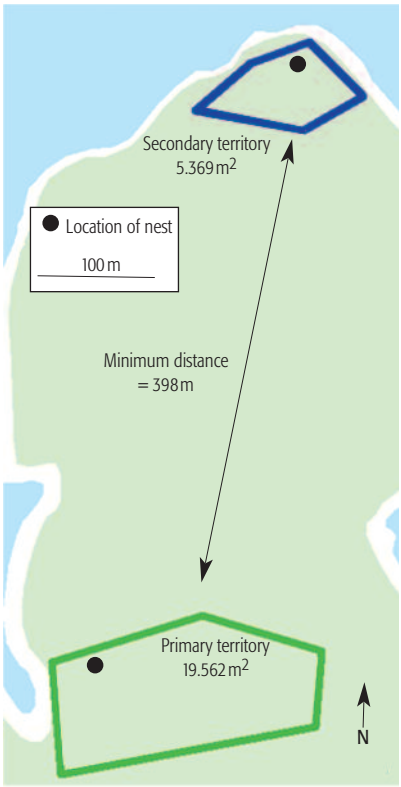

Figure 1. Polyterritories of a male Pine Warbler.

Pine Warblers. In the secondary territory, the male did not approach the speaker and counter-sang only from the canopy. He maintained a distance of 10 m from the speaker even when playback was preformed directly below the nest. I also broadcasted playback at two points in the zone between the primary and secondary territories and received no response. Given the aggressive nature of the species and ease with which I regularly elicited response to playback from territorial males, and my failure to detect the

male during many additional hours of field work in the zone between territories, it is probable the male's territorial behaviours were confined to the two mapped areas and excluded the space between.

The difference in response to playback between territories may be representative of the degree of parental investment that the male was willing to make in each territory. Aggressive interactions between male Pine Warblers were observed commonly on our study site. Costs associated with chases and counter-singing may be sufficient to discourage males from engaging in overtly aggressive territorial defence on secondary territories where parental investment in offspring may be limited anyway. Further to this, the secondary territory was only about one quarter the size of the primary territory, perhaps also representing diminished male investment there. Male American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*) make fewer foraging trips to nests in their secondary territories than their primary territories, indicating reduced parental investment (Secunda and Sherry 1991). I observed males provisioning nests on both territories, but did not measure feeding rates so I could not directly quantify male parental investment.

Although polyterritorial polygyny has a received only limited study among wood-warblers, it has been documented in at least five other species: Yellow Warbler (*S. petechia*) (Spector 1991; Ford 1996), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*S. caerulescens*) (Petit *et al.* 1988), Kirtland's Warbler (*S. kirtlandii*) (Walkinshaw 1983), Prairie Warbler (*S. discolor*) (Nolan 1978), and American Redstart (Secunda and Sherry 1991). This behaviour could also be present in other species. It is suspected in Common Yellowthroat (*Geothylpis trichas*) (Stewart 1953), Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) (Lein *in* Ford 1996), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (*S. pensylvanica*) and Black-throated Green Warbler (*S. virens*) (Kendeigh 1945). Because our knowledge of territoriality in general is limited, there is still ample opportunity to discover new cases of polyterritoriality or other novel territorial strategies among wood-warblers.

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