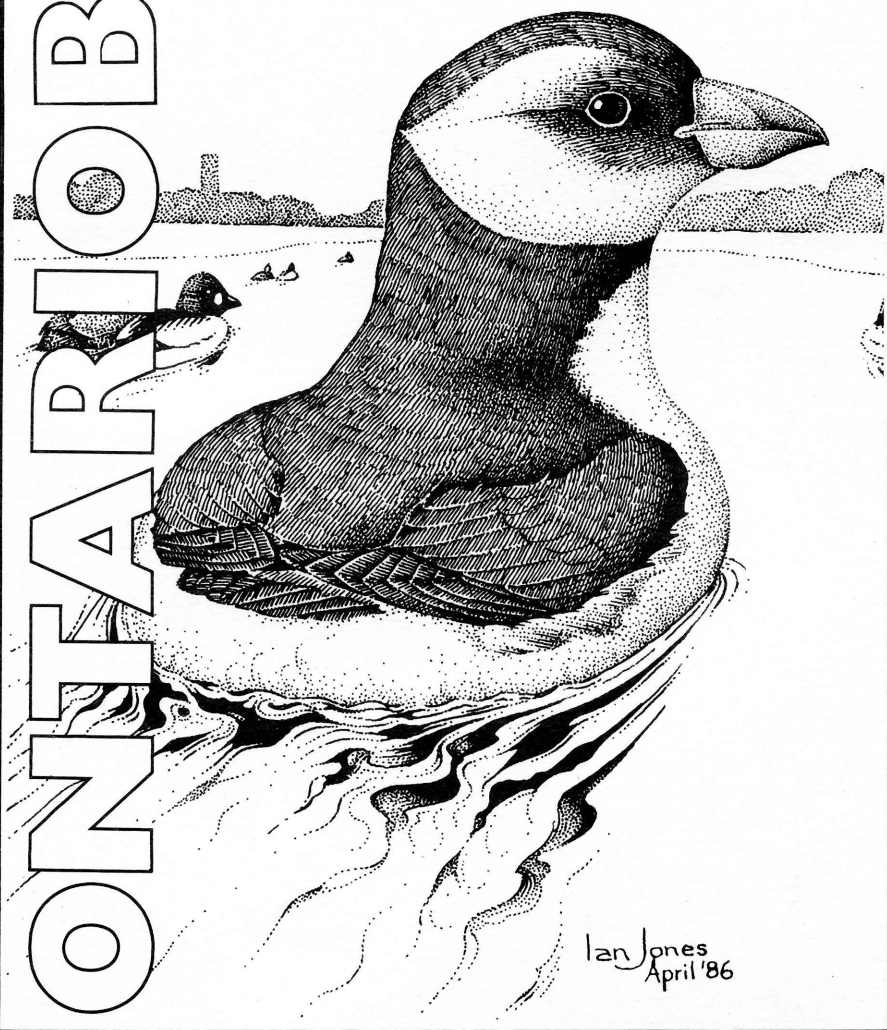


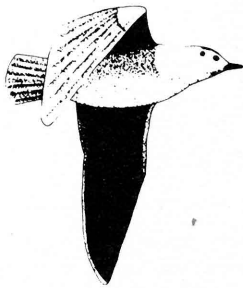
ONTARIO BIRDS

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Ian Jones
April '86



Ontario Birds

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Editorial Policy

Ontario Birds is the journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Its aim is to provide a vehicle for the documentation of the birds of Ontario. We encourage the submission of full length articles or short notes on the status of bird species in Ontario, significant provincial or county distributional records, tips on bird identification, behavioural observations of birds in Ontario, location guides to significant birdwatching areas in Ontario, book reviews and similar

material of interest on Ontario birds. We do not accept submissions dealing with “listing” and we discourage Seasonal Reports of bird sightings as these are covered by *Bird Finding in Canada* and *American Birds*, respectively. Distributional records of species for which the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) requires documentation must be accepted by them before they can be published in *Ontario Birds*.

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Cover Illustration: Atlantic Puffin by *Ian Jones*

Letters to the Editor

Unsubstantiated records in the literature

Distributional notes serve two main functions—to summarize and evaluate existing information and to solicit additional information, especially records that are buried in note books. When I have prepared such papers, I have always attempted to compile *all* published and other readily available information, including records that have not been substantiated and those which are clearly false. The purpose of including the latter is to dismiss them so that subsequent compilers will not believe them to be merely overlooked. I include unsubstantiated records as such because I do not think that they can be dismissed outright without further information, though they cannot be considered as valid records either, while such information is lacking. Thus, in a more general treatment of the birds of a particular geographic area, such records would generally be excluded. I also hope that their inclusion will elicit additional details by which others may evaluate the record.

My review of winter records of Swainson's Thrush in Ontario (*Ontario Birds* 3:64-67, 1985) elicited additional details of a 1967 record in London from Professor Emeritus W.R. Jarman, who compiled the count. Prof. Jarman unfortunately interpreted my comment "not questioned by the compiler" to indicate that he

had not questioned the observer of the bird as to its validity, whereas I intended to indicate that he had not questioned the observation in print (and therefore presumably believed it to be valid) in contrast with the St. Thomas records that were categorized as "inconclusive." In fact, as I presumed, he did have the bird checked. It was first reported about 15 December by the late John Huggins, and later confirmed by J.W. Leach, migration secretary of the local naturalists club for 14 years. The bird was last seen on 20 December (the first day of the count period in 1967). I thank Prof. Jarman for putting these details of dates and observers on record and apologize for any inadvertent slight to his reputation implied by the wording in my article.

Martin K. McNicholl
Port Rowan, Ontario

Books for the Ontario birder—35 years ago

I was interested in Don Fraser's recommendations listed in "On Building a Balanced Library for the Ontario Birder" (*Ontario Birds* 3:100-104, 1985) because it took me back 35 years!

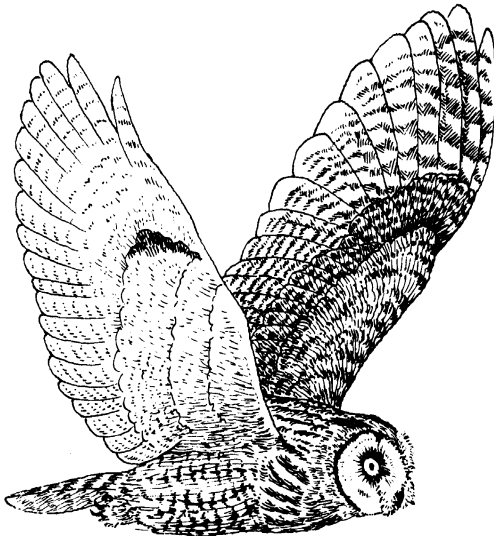
I thereupon engaged in a lengthy research and produced the enclosed copies of my column in Huntsville's *The Forester*, for which I began writing in 1951. Readers may be interested in the changes due to books having become out of print or improved by newcomers.

William C. Mansell
Mississauga, Ontario

Ed. Note: The following excerpt is taken from Mr. Mansell's column of Dec. 6th, 1951 and outlines what he considered at the time to be the requisite books for the beginning Ontario birder:

"The present day beginner has the choice of two books (one of which comes in two volumes) of excellent quality. Roger Tory Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" revolutionized bird study. Now in it's second revised edition, I prefer it for sentimental reasons, at least. The illustrations are by Peterson himself, Houghton, Mifflin are the publishers; and it retails for \$4.00. Of more recent appearance are the "Audubon Bird Guides" by Richard H. Pough. The two-volume set (Water Birds and Land Birds) are illustrated by Don Eckelberry. They sell for \$3.50 each and are published by Doubleday. Each volume is about the size of Peterson's guide, thus requiring two pockets for field transportation, but the illustrations are superior.

For home reference there are three volumes combining both biographies and excellent color portraits. Gilbert Grosvenor edited the two-volume "Book of Birds" published by the National Geographic Society and illustrated by Allan Brooks. The major North American species (some 700) are covered. "The Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America," by E.H. Forbush, is not so wide in geographical scope but contains more complete pen sketches. Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Brooks and Peterson are the artists. Fuertes also illustrated "Birds of America," something along the lines of Forbush's work but not so complete. "The Birds of Canada," by P.A. Taverner, falls short in illustrations (Brooks and F.C. Hennessey) and is really more for collectors. Frank M. Chapman's "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America" is definitely so but a necessary part of any bird library. There are many other worthwhile volumes of less general scope."



JH

Short-eared Owl

ARTIST: John Schmelefske

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1985

by
Alan Wormington

This is the fourth annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. A total of 189 records were assessed during 1985, of which 169 (about 89%) have been accepted.

The report officially adds Crested Caracara, Atlantic Puffin and Eurasian Jackdaw to Ontario's Checklist of Birds, bringing the provincial total to 432 species. Other than the addition of the above three species to the respective regions, the only changes to the North/South lists for Ontario (see Wormington and James 1984) are the addition of Cinnamon Teal, Greater Prairie-Chicken and Black-headed Grosbeak to northern Ontario.

The 1985 Committee consisted of A. David Brewer (Chairman), Alan Wormington (Secretary), Kevin A. McLaughlin, R.D. McRae, Ronald J. Pittaway, Michael W.P. Runtz and Dennis F. Rupert. Although we continue to review many older records, current records are increasing. The Committee acknowledges those contributors for documenting these observations, thereby adding to the

knowledge and database of the occurrence of rare species in Ontario. The documents and photographs forming the basis for records published by the OBRC, along with all Committee member votes and comments, are permanently filed at the Royal Ontario Museum. Anyone requiring access to the OBRC files can do so by arranging a visit with the ornithological curators of the museum.

Historical Records

During the 1985 year, the OBRC continued to review historical records as they were found or assembled. With the publication of this report, the OBRC has now reviewed all available documented records of Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Tufted Duck, Black-necked Stilt, Groove-billed Ani and Sage Thrasher in Ontario. In addition, we have now completed reviews of all available northern Ontario documentations for Cattle Egret, Willet and Yellow-breasted Chat. A further 53 Point Pelee-area records are presented (the total is now about 188 records), almost completing the review of all known

Alan Wormington, R.R. #1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4

documented records from this single, productive locality.

Changes in the Review List

The following species have been removed from the OBRC Review List for northern Ontario: Gray Partridge (permanent resident when and where it occurs), Ring-necked Pheasant (birds are apparently escapes and/or deliberate releases) and Purple Sandpiper (recent observations on James Bay indicate it is a regularly occurring species). Removed from the Review List for the South is Laughing Gull, as this species now exceeds our criteria of rarity in southern Ontario (*ie.* more than four per year/20 in five years). For both Purple Sandpiper (North) and Laughing Gull (South), records prior to 1986 will continue to be reviewed and published by the OBRC.

Species Accounts

In the following accounts all records pertain to single birds unless otherwise indicated. If

known, information on age/sex/plumage is included. Place names in italics refer to a County, Regional Municipality or District in Ontario. All contributors who have provided a written description, photograph or specimen are credited; underlined names refer to contributors who were also discoverers of the birds. All records are sight records unless the bird is indicated as having been photographed or collected.

I have attempted to determine the entire period when birds were present, obtaining this information from the observers themselves, regional publications, seasonal summaries in *American Birds*, and other sources. If previously published information is found to be incorrect for any particular record (*ie.* for occurrence dates, numbers or location, etc.), then this is outlined along with the correct information.

Recent name changes of the American Ornithologists' Union (35th Supplement in the *Auk* 102: 680-686, 1985) are incorporated.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1974—adult winter, 9 Nov., Burlington, *Halton* (Robert Curry)

1964—first winter, 12 April, Aldershot, *Halton* (J. Murray Speirs)

Details and description of the bird at Aldershot have been published (Speirs 1964).

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

1985—22 July, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Larry Oliver Jr.)

—two, 28-31 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (William Edmunds, R.D. McRae)—photos on file.

1978—15-24 Sept., Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Barry Cheriére)—photo on file.

1975—14-ca.24 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (unknown contributor)—photo on file.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

- 1983—first summer, 14 Aug., Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Richard Brouillet)—photo on file.
 1980—first summer, 23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Thomas N. Hayman, Paul D. Pratt).
 1977—juvenile, 18-25 Aug. (not beginning 21 Aug. as in *Am. Birds* 32:197), Rattray's Marsh, *Peel* (Gordon Bellerby, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.
 1975—adult, 3-27 May (not 3-25 May as in *Am. Birds* 29:844), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).
 1974—adult, 3-4 April, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Douglas A. Smith).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

- 1970—adult, 8-14 May (not 14 May as in Kelley 1978:13 and Speirs 1985:44), Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Robert C. Simpson)—photo on file.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

- 1985—31 Oct.-8 Nov., (not two birds or 1-8 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 40:104), Mijinemungshing Lake (31st), Red Rock Lake (31st to 8th), Lake Superior Prov. Park, *Algoma* (Peter Stinissen)
 1979—1-2 Nov., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Walter S. Zarowski)—photo on file.
 1978—20 Oct., Hornepayne, *Algoma* (unknown collector)—specimen (skeleton) in ROM: #149270.
 —29 Oct.-1 Nov., Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman)
 1970—30 Oct.-8 Nov. (not 31 Oct.-8 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 25:50), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Keith Denis)

The above records are typical of fall occurrences in northern Ontario; birds inexplicably appear in late October /early November, which is just prior to when winter-like conditions can be expected at this latitude.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*)

- 1985—adult, 22 April, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Paul Merritt, Enid Merritt).
 —adult, 7 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (William W. Smith).
 —adult, 11 May, St. Williams (not 10-11 May or Long Point as in *Am. Birds* 39:292), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry D. Jones).
 1971—adult, 16 July-4 Aug., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Robert C. Simpson)—photo on file.
 1970—adult, 26-30 April, Rockcliffe Park, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Brian Morin)—photo on file.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

- 1985—adult, 15-22 Nov., St. Clair Nat. Wildlife Area, *Kent* (John E. Pilkington, Carol Kopchuk, Alan Wormington).

This bird is the latest *Plegadis* ibis ever recorded during autumn in Ontario.

Ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.)

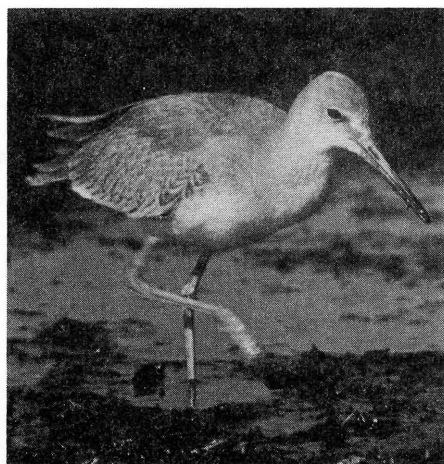
- 1980—6 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Ronald C. Ridout)
 1977—imm., 14 Sept., Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (James S. Pringle).
 1976—six, 24 Sept., Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Richard G. Snider).

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

- 1980—4-11 May, Rodney, *Elgin* (Robert Curry, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.
 1979—two (not one as in Blacquiere & Di Labio 1985), 23-25 Sept. (not 23-25 Oct. as in *Am. Birds* 34:156 and Blacquiere & Di Labio *ibid.*; not 23 Oct. as in Kelley 1983), Erieau, *Kent* (Keith J. Burk, P. Allen Woodliffe).
 1976—28 May-5 June (not 4-5 June as in *Am. Birds* 30:949 and Blacquiere & Di Labio *ibid.*), Hamilton Bay, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Alan Wormington)—photo on file.



Juvenile Little Blue Heron, 18-25 Aug. 1977, Rattray's Marsh, *Peel*. Photo by Alan Wormington.



Juvenile Willet, 27-30 Sept. 1985, Neys Prov. Park, *Thunder Bay*. Photo by Alan Wormington.

1962—two, 20 Aug. (not 10 Aug. 1961 as in Sheppard 1970:12), Yacht Harbour, *Niagara* (Daniel R. Salisbury, Robert F. Andriele)—photos on file.

—three, 27 Nov., Frenchman Bay, *Durham* (Thomas Klein)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #93291.

1960—8 Dec., Big Point Club, *Kent* (L.E. Roberts)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #95559.

The status of this species in Ontario has been presented by Barlow (1966), and more recently for Canada by Blacquiere & Di Labio (1985). A detailed account of the 1976 Hamilton bird has been published by McLaughlin (1976).

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

1985—19 adults, 8-10 March (not 8-12 March as in Pratt & Pratt 1985), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—eight, 13-20 March, (not 13-18 March as in Gardiner *et al.* 1986), York, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Bruce W. Duncan).

—five (family group), 22-23 March, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—7 April, Pickering, *Durham* (J. Murray Speirs, Derrick Marven).

—nine, April 9, eight to April 13, Waterford, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Tim Sabo)—photos on file.

The above birds (plus others yet to be reviewed by the OBRC) were part of an unprecedented influx of this species into southern Ontario and adjacent states during the spring of 1985. All of those identified to the subspecific level were the prairie-migrating *frontalis* race; when this subspecies occurs in southern Ontario it tends to be in flocks, and is most often seen during spring migration. In contrast, the birds of western Greenland—*A. a. flavirostris*—appear in much smaller numbers, but are likely during either spring or fall migration.

The record of 19 birds at Hillman Marsh, on 8-10 March 1985, is both the largest flock and earliest spring migration date ever recorded in southern Ontario.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

- 1985—male, 11-13 May (not 27 April as in *Am. Birds* 39:292), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).
 —male, 29 May-11 June (not to only 2 June as in Pratt & Pratt 1985), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
 —male, 1 July, Sable Island, *Rainy River* (Paul E. Lehman).

The birds at Thunder Bay and Sable Island represent the first records of Cinnamon Teal in northern Ontario.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

- 1985—male, 7 April, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (William Lamond).
 —male, 14-15 April, Fanshawe Lake, *Middlesex* (Alan W. McTavish).
 —male, 27 April-2 May, Holland Landing, *York* (Roy B.H. Smith, Anne B. Lambert).
 1984—male, 25 March-6 April, Big Creek Nat. Wildlife Area, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Roy B.H. Smith).
 1979—male, 25 March, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Joseph P. Kleiman, Jeffrey A. Greenhouse).
 1974—male, 21-23 April, Valens Cons. Area, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Christopher J. Escott).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

- 1984/1985—adult male, 17 Nov.-7 April, (not to only 10 March as in Gardiner *et al.* 1986), Hamilton Bay, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Curry).

As previously stated (*Ontario Birds* 3:6-7), this is believed to be the same bird present at the same location (in first winter plumage) during the previous winter from 26 Dec. to 25 March.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

- 1981—female, 15 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

- 1974—24 Aug., Cayuga, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Douglas A. Smith).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

- 1975—adult, 18 May, Grimsby, *Niagara* (George A. Meyers).

This bird represents the third of eight records now known for Ontario.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

- 1985—light phase adult, 20 Oct., Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Alan W. McTavish).
 1984—light phase adult, 26 Sept., Port Rowan, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Martin K. McNicholl).
 1977—light phase adult, 10 April, Grimsby, *Niagara* (George A. Meyers).

Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*)

- 1892—adult female, 18 July, Victoria Island, *Thunder Bay* (George E. Atkinson)—specimen now missing.

A description and the details of this unique Ontario occurrence were published by Atkinson (1894). Lightkeeper George Cosgrove discovered the dead bird below the Victoria Island light, reportedly the day after "a strong south-west gale struck Lake Superior." Although Mr. Cosgrove had the bird mounted, over the years various ornithologists have failed to locate the deposition of the specimen, if it still exists at all.

Although recent extralimital records of this species have usually been dismissed as pertaining to escapes (see, for example, A.O.U. 1983:122-123), the circumstances, location and historical date of the above bird would seem to argue conclusively against this viewpoint for the Ontario record.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1984—intermediate, 19 Nov., Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).

1981—intermediate, 5 Jan., Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Ian L. Jones)—photo on file.

1980—(not 1960 as in Kelley 1983), dark, 11 Nov., Kettle Point, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider).

1979/1980—intermediate, 27 Dec.-31 Jan., Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Robert A. Bracken)—photo on file.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

1929—adult male, Dec., James, *Thunder Bay* (unknown collector)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #33.9.1.122.

This bird was clearly a vagrant individual and represents the only record for northern Ontario. It occurred during the period when the species irrupted in the mid-western United States, resulting also in the colonization of both Manitoulin Island in Ontario and portions of adjacent Michigan.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)

1981—(not 1891 as in Speirs 1985:230), adult, 8 July, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Judy Major, Gary J.D. Smith)—photo on file.

This bird is one of only two summer records of this species in Ontario.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

1984—6 May, Rock Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Alan J. Smith).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

1979—14 Oct., Smithville, *Niagara* (Gerald Chapple, Gary A. Novosel).

1955—1 Sept., Frederick House Lake, *Cochrane* (Frances Bourne).

These birds are the first and second records for Ontario; the third record for the province was of two birds on 7 June 1981 at Sable Island, Rainy River Dist. (*Ontario Birds* 1:10). The 1955 bird at Frederick House Lake probably occurred as a result of Hurricane "Connie", also producing (in southern Ontario) Black-capped Petrel, Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels, and Sooty Tern.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

1981—adult summer, 15-27 May, Green's Creek, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Ian L. Jones)—photo on file.

1978—juvenile, 13-21 Oct., Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Peter Whelan).

1975—adult winter, 26 Aug., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)—photo on file.

1969—8-22 Oct., north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (William R. Wyett, Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

1968—eight adult summer, 4 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Clive E. Goodwin).

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

1985—juvenile, 27-30 Sept., Neys Prov. Park, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington, Alan J. Ryff)—photos on file.

1959—twelve, 1 Oct., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Eva Beckett).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

1975—juvenile, 19 Nov.-5 Dec. (not 26 Nov.-5 Dec. as in *Am. Birds* 30:61, James *et al.* 1976:23, and Speirs 1985:301; not 29 Nov.-5 Dec. as in Goodwin 1976), Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Curry, Robert H. Westmore, Barry Cherriere)—photos on file.

This record still stands as the only Ontario record and was, at the time, one of only a few for North America away from the Pacific Coast. A complete account of this bird's occurrence has been presented by Curry (1976).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

1985—4 Nov., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae).

—seven, 8 Nov., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae)—photo on file.

1981—adult summer, 25 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Recent records on the Ontario shoreline of James Bay indicate that the Purple Sandpiper is a regular overland migrant between James Bay (where it breeds on North Twin Island) and the Atlantic Coast. The Caribou Island record, however, is in a different class entirely, since it was relatively far to the west during spring migration.

This species has now been removed from the OBRC Review List for northern Ontario, but pre-1986 records will continue to be reviewed and published.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

1985—adult summer, 11-20 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (R.D. McRae, Joanne Dean, Ronald J. Pittaway, Raymond P. Holland)—photos and breast feathers on file.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1973—adult, 13 Oct., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1978—adult, 12 Sept. (not 9 Sept. as in Kelley 1983), Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider).

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1985—second summer, 13 May, Wheatley Harbour, *Kent/Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).

—adult summer, 20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt).

—juvenile, 7 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—second winter, 8-9 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—two juveniles, 10 Aug., (not to 5 Sept. as in *Am. Birds* 40:107), Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)—photo on file.

—juvenile, 13 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—juvenile, 20 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—adult summer, 21 Aug., Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Margaret J. Bain).

—second winter, 24 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Paul E. Lehman).



Juvenile Laughing Gull, 5 Sept. 1985, Southeast Shoal, *Essex*. Photo by Alan Wormington.

- juvenile, 29-31 Aug., Marentette Beach, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Karl Overman)—photo on file.
- juvenile, 5 Sept., Blenheim, *Kent* (Keith J. Burk).
- juvenile, 5 Sept., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington)—photos on file.
- juvenile, 15 Sept., Port Dover, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert Curry).
- juvenile, 17 Sept., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Tony Leukering).
- juvenile, 19 Sept., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
- first winter, 24-27 Oct., (not 17 Sept. and 25 Oct. as in *Am. Birds* 40:107), Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Alan W. McTavish).
- 1984**—adult summer, 10 July, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Robert A. Behrstock).
- 1979**—second summer, 10-11 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mark Gawn).
- juvenile, 24 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jean Hoffman, Dick Hoffman).
- 1978**—adult summer, 20-27 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Charles Chase III).
- 1977**—second summer, 2 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).
- 1974**—second winter, 14 Sept.-5 Oct., Wheatley Harbour, *Kent/Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

In the fall of 1985, beginning in early August, an unprecedented number of Laughing Gulls were recorded from the lower Great Lakes, the above OBRC-accepted records being an incomplete listing of all those actually reported in Ontario; “dozens” were also reportedly seen along Lake Erie in Ohio (V.W. Fazio, pers. comm.). All birds were juvenile and second-winter immatures (which is typical of fall records on the Great Lakes) with the exception of the adult bird at Niagara-on-the-Lake. This bird was also one of few reported on Lake Ontario, suggesting it may not have been associated with the major incursion. Many birds were clearly differentiated from others based on circumstances, plumage and individual markings etc., and although we list all records as separate, some duplication amongst the records is likely.

In the future, only pre-1986 records of Laughing Gull in southern Ontario will be reviewed and published by the OBRC; the species has now exceeded our criteria of southern Ontario rarity, having averaged more than four accepted occurrences annually over a five year period (33 records for 1981-85 inclusive).

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

1985—juvenile, 15 Dec., Westmeath, *Renfrew* (Cathie Timm, Douglas Lapointe, Jacques M. Bouvier, Bruce M. Di Labio)—photos on file.

Full details of this first Ontario record are presented elsewhere in this issue of *Ontario Birds*.

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)

1978—27 Oct., Sundridge, *Parry Sound* (Ethel Dale Sivell)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #13203.

1969—12 Oct., Stromness, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert M. Wagner).

1963—18-20 Oct., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

These represent the first three of four records now known for Ontario. Groove-billed Ani is an almost-annual visitor to the Great Lakes region, with all occurrences confined to the autumn; post-breeding dispersal is probably the reason for these remarkable long-distance records.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

1972—adult male, 7-12 Aug. (not only 7 Aug. as in *Am. Birds* 26:854; not 7-9 Aug. as in Kelley 1978:46), Wheatley, *Essex* (Norman Chesterfield, Robert Curry).

Hummingbird sp. (*Selasphorus* sp.)

1984—adult female or imm., 1-4 Oct., Grimsby, *Niagara* (George A. Meyers).

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

1984/1985—male, 14 Nov.-31 March (not 1-30 Dec. as in *Am. Birds* 39:162), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Thomas Dyke, Irene Macdonald, Nicholas G. Escott)—photo on file.

This Red-bellied Woodpecker is only the third to be found in northern Ontario, but is all the more remarkable since it successfully overwintered; the other two occurrences were during fall migration.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

1981—male, 20 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Northern Ontario records are very few and have involved both the above spring "overshoot", and also apparent territorial birds.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

1964—18 April, Bradley's Marsh, *Kent* (Dennis F. Rupert).

This represents only the second record for Ontario; subsequent records have yet to be reviewed by the OBRC.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

- 1985—imm., 2 Sept., Narine Island, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry* (Mark Gawn)—photo on file.
 —imm., 15 Sept., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (William Edmunds, R.D. McRae)—photos on file.
 1984—imm., 9 Sept., Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Victor W. Fazio).
 1983—14 June, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Thomas Dyke).
 1980—24 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mike Parmenter).
 1979—19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (John Lamey).
 1977—23 May, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (G. Tom Hince).
 1976—19-23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.
 1974—imm., 29 Aug., Mountsberg Cons. Area, *Wellington* (Douglas A. Smith).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

- 1985—20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mark Gawn, Peter Read).
 1984—16-26 May (not only 16 May as in *Am. Birds* 38:906), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Thomas Dyke, Walter S. Zarowski)—photos on file.
 1972—7 Oct., Aldershot, *Halton* (David K. Powell).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)

- 1984—5 March-7 June (but not observed between these dates), Stewart Hill, *Peterborough* (Jean Stewart, William Stone).
 1973—9 Jan.-10 Feb. (not beginning 12 Jan. as in *Am. Birds* 27:610, Kelley 1978:55, and Speirs 1985:552), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan J. Ryff, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.
 1972—25 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Brian Morin).

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

- 1985—13 April, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).

Although new to Ontario, this species was not totally unexpected in light of recent Jackdaw records elsewhere in northeastern North America. A complete analysis of the factors responsible for these appearances, along with a listing and summary of North American and North Atlantic records, has recently been published by Smith (1985).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

- 1981—3-4 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Gerald W. Paul).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

- 1972—10-11 Oct., Tobermory, *Bruce* (Joseph W. Johnson)

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

- 1981—22 April-10 May (not 26-28 April as in *Am. Birds* 35:819, Kelley 1983, and Speirs 1985:617), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Thomas J. Olkowski, Robert D. Knudsen, J. Robertson Graham)—photos on file.
 1976—16 Feb., Ancaster, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Sarah Wood).
 —25 March, Cedar Springs, *Kent* (Keith J. Burk).

The Point Pelee bird is the latest spring migrant to be recorded in Ontario.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

- 1985—male, 18 Jan.-9 March (not beginning 1 Jan. as in *Am. Birds* 39:163; not only 3 Feb. as in Gardiner *et al.* 1986), Oakville, *Halton* (Sylvia van Walsum, Robert Curry)—photos on file.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 16-26
May 1984, Thunder Bay, *Thunder
Bay*. Photo by Walter S.
Zarowski.



Townsend's Solitaire, 22 April-10
May 1981, Point Pelee Nat. Park,
Essex. Photo by J. Robertson
Graham.



Female Varied Thrush, 16 Dec. 1977-12 April 1978, Nobleton, *York*.
Photo (8 Feb.) by Alan Wormington.

—male, 15 April-early May, Port Sydney, *Muskoka* (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Scotland)—photos on file.

1984/1985—male, 30 Dec.-4 April, Pembroke, *Renfrew* (James E. Clarke, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

1983/1984—female, 19 Nov.-7 April (not 19 Nov.-5 Feb. as in *Am. Birds* 38:313), Dorcas Bay, *Bruce* (Martin Parker).

1983—female, 9-29 Dec., Frost Centre, *Haliburton* (Steven A. Williams)—photos on file.

1977/1978—female, 16 Dec.-12 April, Nobleton, *York* (Alan Wormington)—photo on file.

—male, 19 Dec.-9 April, Cumberland, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Lynda McGuire, Peter McGuire)—photos on file.

1977—female, 7-15 Nov. (not 6-14 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 32:199; not 14 Nov. + as in Speirs 1985:640), Nepean, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Bruce R. Barrett)—photo on file.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

1985—adult, 21 July, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Keith J. Burk, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

1966—20 Oct., Port Robinson, *Niagara* (Daniel R. Salisbury)—specimen (skin) in BSNS: #5095.

1965—12 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Thomas N. Hayman)—photos on file.

These are the first, second and fourth of four records now known for Ontario. The 21 July 1985 record is particularly remarkable as it occurred in summer, a season for which there are no vagrant records in Ontario of *any* passerine species originating from western North America; perhaps it can be theorized that the bird arrived during spring migration and lingered until its discovery date in July.



Adult Sage Thrasher, 21 July 1985, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*.
Photo by Alan Wormington.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

1985—male, 22 May, Aldershot, *Halton* (Robert Curry).

1980—male, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Clive E. Goodwin, Alan W. McTavish, Joseph P. Kleiman).

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

1975—3-4 May (not 5 May as in *Am. Birds* 29:847 and Speirs 1985:700; not only 3 May as in Kelley 1978:70), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jeffrey A. Greenhouse, George Sirk, Alan Wormington, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.

1974—9-11 May (not 10 May as in James *et al.* 1976:43), Pelee Island, *Essex* (David Broughton, R. Dan Strickland)—photos on file.

The above represent the second and third of three Ontario records—the first was collected at Point Pelee on 16 May 1958. Only two other records of this southwestern species are known for eastern North America: one on 24 Sept. 1966 at Island Beach, New Jersey (*Aud. Field Notes* 21:18) and the other on 6 May 1979 at Evanston, Illinois (Mlodinow 1984:165).

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)

1981—male, 18-19 May, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

1972—male, 11-12 May (not 10 May as in *Am. Birds* 26:757, James *et al.* 1976:44, Kelley 1978:72, and Speirs 1985:722; not only 11 May as in Goodwin 1974 and James 1976), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Brian Morin, Donald M. Ross)—photos on file.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1983—1-14 Nov., Rosseau, *Parry Sound* (Robert Swainson)—photos on file.

1977—19 Nov.-6 Dec., Blackburn Hamlet, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Bruce R. Barrett)—photo on file.

1973—12 May, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Daniel S. Bastaja).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)

1978—territorial male, 2 June-18 July, Petawawa, *Renfrew* (Bruce R. Barrett)—photo on file.

1977—territorial male, 9 June-14 July (not beginning 8 June as in Walkinshaw 1983:23), Petawawa, *Renfrew* (Paul L. Aird, Jacques M. Bouvier)—photos on file.

The above records, which pertain to the same bird, were in the famous Petawawa jack pine barrens, the locality where Kirtland's Warbler was considered "not uncommon" in 1916 (Harrington 1929).

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

1981—17 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1974—14-17 Sept., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

1973—1-16 Dec., Port Hope, *Northumberland* (E.R. McDonald, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

1971/1972—female, 9 Nov.-10 Feb., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

1978—male, 6-7 May (not only 6 May as in *Am. Birds* 32:1001 and Speirs 1985:798), Rosslyn Village, *Thunder Bay* (not *Essex* County as in Speirs *ibid.*) (Arne L. Maki)—photo on file.

This species is an addition to the list of northern Ontario birds.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

1984—female, 27 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

1980—male, 6-8 May, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott)—photo on file.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

1984—male, 27 Oct.-3 Nov. (not 2 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 39:49), Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder).

This bird was one of the western "spotted" towhees.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

1981—17 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

1985—5 May, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder).

—10 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1978—10-11 May, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott)—photos on file.

1966—12 Oct., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

1970—male, 19 May, Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

1985—adult, 12 Jan.-15 April, Kanata, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Peggi Armstrong, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

1974—17 May, Kirkwall, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert H. Westmore).

1972—imm., 8 Jan.-4 May (not to only 17 April as in *Am. Birds* 26:758 and Speirs 1985:873), Bronte, *Halton* (Mark W. Jennings)—photos on file.

1970—8-11 May (not 10 May as in *Aud. Field Notes* 24:598; not 10-11 May as in Kelley 1978:89 and Speirs 1985:873), Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Robert C. Simpson, Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

1984—31 Oct.-2 Nov. (not 1-2 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 39:49), Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Victor W. Fazio).

Only two records exist for southern Ontario; the first was also at Long Point, but was a spring migrant on 20 April 1980 (*Ontario Birds* 3:15).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain

In the majority of records listed below, an insufficient or imprecise description was presented in the reports to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed; in only a few cases was the Committee actually convinced that an *incorrect* identification was made.

- 1985—Pacific Loon, 14 Oct., Inverhuron Prov. Park, *Bruce*.
 —Gyrffalcon, 3 Jan., Enniskillen, *Durham*.
 —Ross' Gull, 24 July, Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton*.
 —Ash-throated Flycatcher, 30 April, Mud Lake, *Niagara*.
 —Bell's Vireo, 2 June, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1984—Curlw Sandpiper, 15 Oct., Rondeau Bay Estates, *Kent*.
 —Dusky Flycatcher, 9-11 Oct. (not 2-11 Oct. as in Parker *et al.* 1985:34), Whitby, *Durham*.
 —Baird's Sparrow, one 20 July, four 11 Aug., Sutton River Delta, *Kenora*.
- 1981—Blue Grosbeak, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1980—Little Blue Heron, 19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 —Western Kingbird, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1979—Black-throated Gray Warbler, 7 Oct., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1978—Lark Bunting, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1977—Laughing Gull, 19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 —Gyrffalcon, 20 April, Grimsby, *Niagara*.
 —Western Tanager, 11 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 —Blue Grosbeak, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1976—Western Grebe, 10 Oct., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1975—California Gull, 22 March, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*.
 —Roseate Tern, 18 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

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I thank the other six members of the OBRC for reviewing a draft of this report and providing valuable comments on its contents.

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Atlantic Puffin: New to Ontario

by
Bruce M. DiLabio and Jacques Bouvier

On the afternoon of 15 December 1985, Douglas Lapointe and Cathie Timm discovered a small black bird on the roadside 3 km southeast of Westmeath, Renfrew Co. (Figure 1). It was barely alive and had ice caked to one wing and the upper tarsus of one leg. The bird was unlike any they had ever seen. Upon consulting their field guides, they concluded it must be an Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). Noting also that puffins rarely range inland, they contacted and later delivered the bird to Jacques Bouvier of nearby Pembroke. The puffin, an immature, was subsequently photographed (Figure 2) and taken to the Avian Care and Research Foundation at Verona, north of Kingston, Frontenac Co. The puffin weighed 315.0 g upon arrival at Verona on 16 December 1985. On 10 January 1986 the puffin weighed 390.0 g, having regained a substantial portion of its lost weight. For comparative purposes, one October immature from West Greenland and a winter immature from Newfoundland weighed 511.5 g and 503.0 g respectively. Both specimens are housed in the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. One specimen,

housed in the National Museum of Natural Sciences (NMNS), Ottawa, of a bird found dead from starvation at Chateauguay, Quebec, weighed 283.4 g.

The puffin was kept at Verona until 10 January 1986 when it was returned to Ottawa, Ottawa-Carleton R.M., and placed on a commercial flight to Newfoundland. Arrangements were made to have it stay at the Salmonier Wildlife Park until its feathers regained their natural water-proofing.

There is a previous report of an Atlantic Puffin from Ontario, but this is uncorroborated. White and Scott (1883) reported "A young bird of this species was shot on the Ottawa River towards the end of October 1881. It had probably been blown inland by a severe storm, which took place some days previous". Lloyd (1923), in a list of the birds of Ottawa, wrote "Accidental. One record, that of a young bird shot late in October 1881. Fate of specimen unknown, but E.G. White remembers the occurrence and prepared the specimen, which was in the White collection for some time". The specimen was apparently never examined by an ornithological

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Jacques Bouvier, 100 Eddy Street, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 7X3

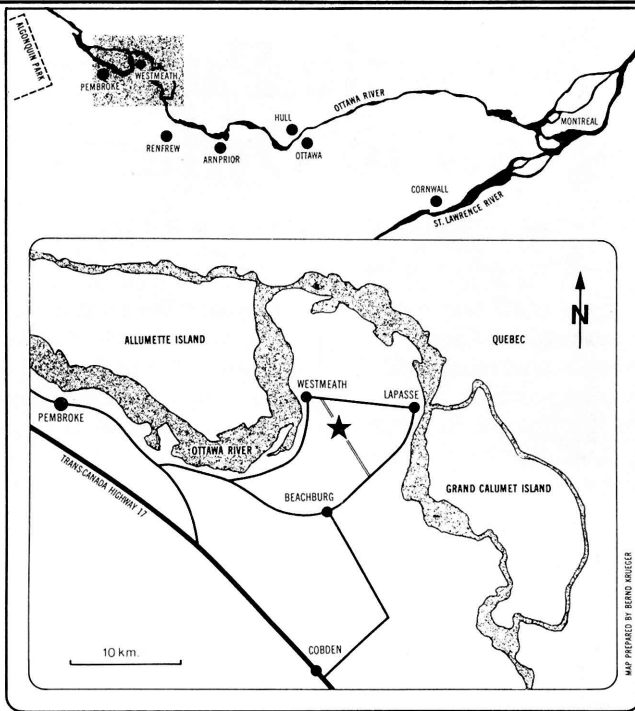


Figure 1. Map showing location of Atlantic Puffin discovery (star).

curator of a major institutional collection which would have validated the identification of the bird under the guidelines of the Ontario Bird Records Committee. Furthermore, it was never established if the bird was actually taken in Ontario.

The unresolved question as to the exact location where it was shot on the Ottawa River (which is the Ontario-Quebec boundary) resulted in the Atlantic Puffin being given "hypothetical" status for Ontario by James *et al.* (1976). The Westmeath bird therefore, represents the first provincial record of Atlantic Puffin.

We can only speculate on the origin of the Westmeath bird. All nearest extralimital records are

from the St. Lawrence River Valley in southern Quebec. They are single immature birds from Lake St. Peter, 30 October 1949 (specimen in NMNS collection), Sainte-Geneviève, November 1961 (David 1980) and Chateaugay, 30 December 1980 (specimen in NMNS collection). Other inland records of the Atlantic Puffin listed by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983) include Rutland, Vermont, and Toledo, Ohio. It appears that the most likely route taken by the Westmeath puffin was up the St. Lawrence River from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Ottawa River, although one cannot discount the possibility that the bird originated from James Bay.

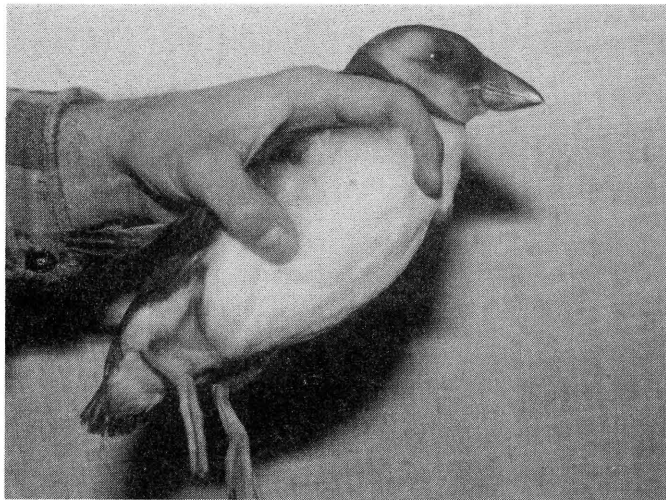


Figure 2. Immature Atlantic Puffin (*Fraterecula arctica*), 15 December 1985. Photo by J. Bouvier.

How the puffin ended up on a roadside 3 km from the Ottawa River is a question in itself. It is worth noting that very low temperatures were recorded during the night of 14–15 December 1985, possibly freezing up the remaining open water and forcing the bird to wander inland. No strong wind or major weather disturbance was noted in the eastern part of the continent prior to the discovery.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our appreciation to the original discoverers of the bird for bringing it to our attention, and to Louise Damant for typing the manuscript, Bernd Krueger for preparing the map, and Richard Blacquiere, David Gray, Ross Harris, Alan Wormington and Douglas McRae for their helpful comments.

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Avifauna of an Urbanizing Environment in Southern Ontario, 1921–1982

by
Kenneth W. Dance

Introduction and Background

Data on the occurrence of bird species dating to 1921 are available for a 35 ha area surrounding a kettle lake located in Kitchener, Waterloo R.M., Ontario. A municipal water supply complex has been located on part of the study area since the 1890s. Land use surrounding the site, now called Lakeside Park, changed from agricultural to urban during the study period. The urban park was established between 1968 and 1978. Dance (1982, 1983) provides a description of portions of the study area.

An annotated discussion of 172 species recorded during the 1921–1982 study period has been prepared previously (Dance 1984). The present paper describes changes in land use and vegetation patterns and changes in status of 13 bird species at Lakeside Park. Factors which may have affected the avifauna at Lakeside Park during the study period are also discussed.

Methods

Aerial photos and discussions with residents provided information on changes in site specific vegetation patterns.

The sources of bird observation data by individual and years of observation are listed in Table 1. The observation effort by decade is indicated in Figure 1.

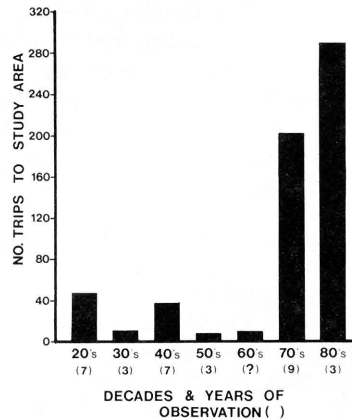


Figure 1. Number of Trips to Study Area and Number of Years of Observation Each Decade.

Kenneth W. Dance, 140 Armitage Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 5L7

Between 1921 and 1979, observations of birds were made during an estimated 290 visits to the site. Few observations exist for the 1950s and 1960s. Birders may have visited the area less frequently because of "the grinding and hammering of construction activity on all sides" (Bender 1958). During the 1980–1982 period approximately 320 visits were made to the site.

An assessment of annual occurrence of bird species revealed that 13 species had undergone obvious changes in status during the study period. Figures were prepared which show the number

Table 1. Observers and Years of Observation

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| G. W. Knechtel | – 1921–1947 |
| W. & G. Schaefer | – 1946–1972 |
| F. Bender | – 1958 |
| P. Warzecha | – 1973–1982 |
| Ecologistics Limited | – 1973, 1979–1980 |
| H. & M. Walker | – 1979–1982 |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. Moores | – 1979–1982 |
| K. Dance | – 1979–1982 |
| A. Sandilands | – 1982 |

of years of occurrence by decade for those species which exhibited a change in status. Birds were grouped on these figures according to the following habitat types: wetland, woodland and field.

Findings and Discussion

Figures 2 and 3 provide a comparison of land use surrounding the study site in 1955 and 1982. Residential and some commercial

development extended to the south and engulfed the Lakeside Park area during this period.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 depict vegetation patterns in the study area in 1955, 1968 and 1978. Agricultural land use and large trees were replaced by grass and successional tree and shrub species. Between 1955 and 1968, considerable tree cutting and earth filling occurred. Many of the trees around the lake were elm (*Ulmus* sp.), tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and willow (*Salix* sp.). The elms were killed by dutch elm disease and were cut.

The data contained in Figures 7, 8 and 9 are for the 13 species which occurred frequently prior to urbanization. Although there is only positive breeding evidence for the Red-shouldered Hawk, records on seasonal frequency of occurrence suggest that all of these species, with the exception of the Black-crowned Night-Heron, have bred in the past on the site or in adjacent areas.

Of the 13 declining species only the night-heron, Eastern Phoebe, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark have been observed at Lakeside during the 1970s and 1980s. These five species are now considered to be migrants in the study area.

Species addressed in Figures 7, 8 and 9 require grassland/pasture, wetland or woodland habitats which were modified dramatically during the late 1950s and 1960s. Several of the displaced species, particularly American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Ruffed Grouse may have also been

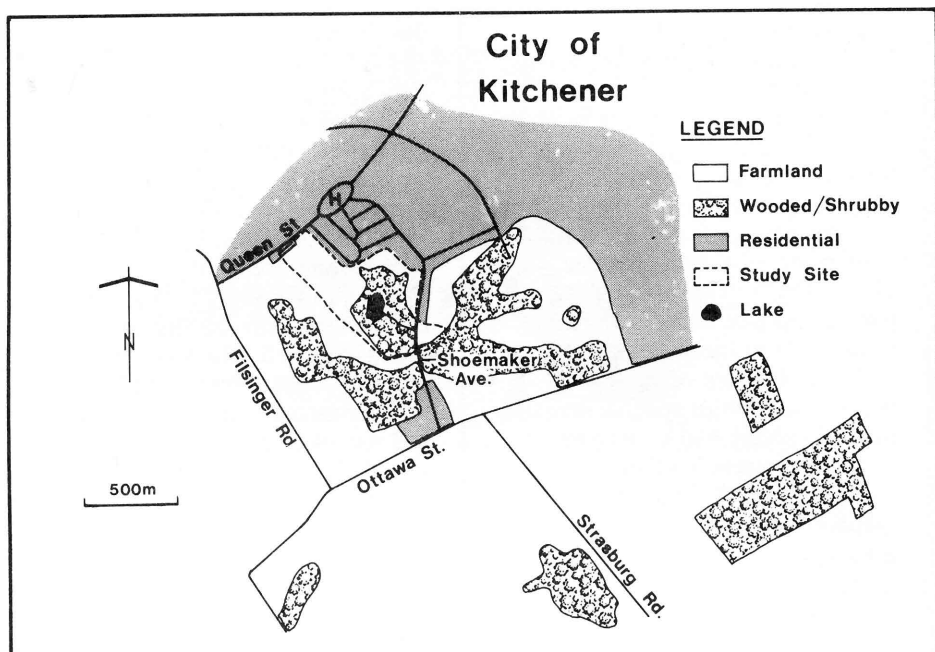


Figure 2. Land Use Surrounding Study Site, 1955.

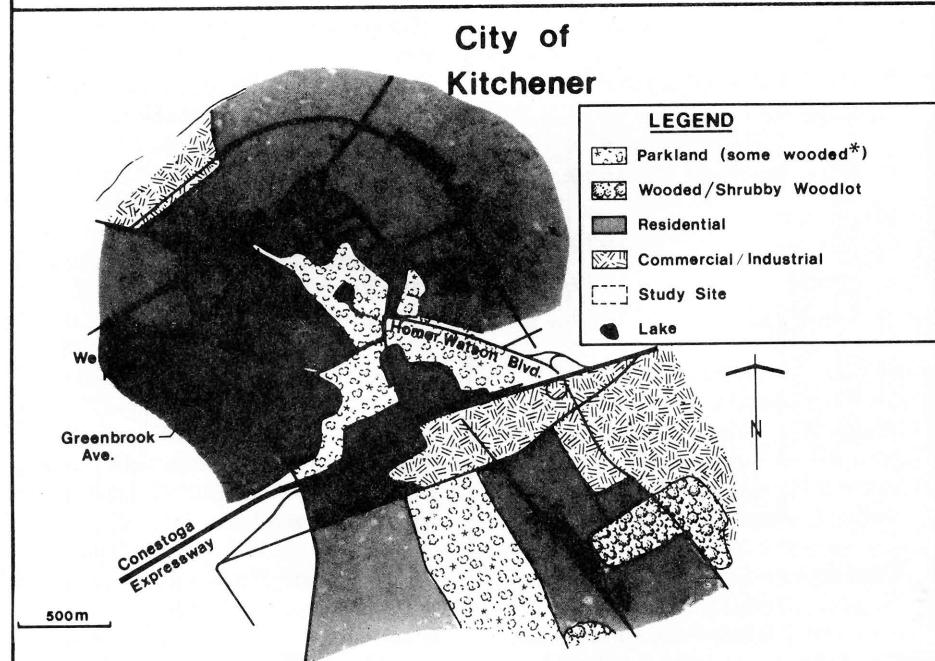


Figure 3. Land Use Surrounding Study Site, 1982.

sensitive to increases in human intrusion and development of the site for recreational use. Loss of forest cover on adjacent lands (Figure 3) may have been an additional factor which affected Red-shouldered Hawk and Ruffed Grouse populations.

Red-shouldered Hawk and Eastern Bluebird are known to have declined in numbers and distribution across southern Ontario during the study period (Risley 1982; Baillie 1967).

Four species, Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Cardinal, and Orchard Oriole, have become established as elements of the Lakeside avifauna since 1921.

confirmed as a breeding species during 1981 (Dance 1984). Breeding bird atlas data indicate that the breeding distribution of the Orchard Oriole (Cadman 1984) is more extensive than previously recognized in Ontario.

Factors which may have influenced the bird fauna of the Lakeside Park area are listed in Table 2.

Despite certain negative factors, 127 bird species were observed during the 1980-1982 period. The number of breeding, migrant and winter species are given in Table 3.

Table 2. Factors Affecting Avifauna at Lakeside

A. *Vegetation Change*

- Planting
- Succession
- Digging
- Cutting
- Burning
- Filling

- Mowing
- Trampling
- Pesticide Spraying

B. *Direct Human Activity*

- Intrusion During Breeding Season
- Feeding Birds
- Hunting

Observations of Canada Geese at Lakeside have only been of migrating flocks. The first record was in 1977. Peck and James (1983) indicate that breeding in southern Ontario is thought to be primarily a result of reintroductions. Mallard and Northern Cardinal are presently common breeding species. Both species have extended their distribution in eastern North America during the study period (Heusmann 1974; Baillie 1967). Orchard Oriole was

Table 3. Status of Bird Species Observed at Lakeside Park, 1980-82

| | No. | % |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Nesting: | | |
| On Site | 35 | 28 |
| Adjacent Areas | 17 | 13 |
| Migrants only | 66 | 52 |
| Winter only | 9 | 7 |
| TOTAL: | 127 | 100 |

Figure 4. Land Use and Vegetation, Lakeside Park, 1955.

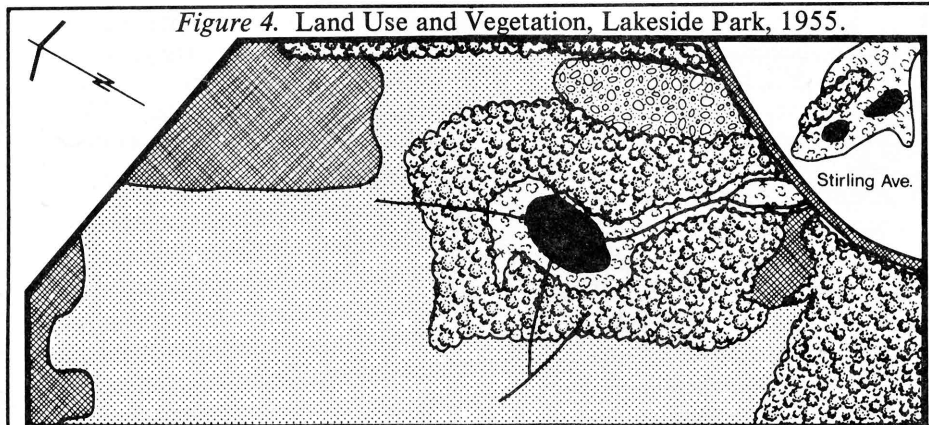


Figure 5. Land Use and Vegetation, Lakeside Park, 1968.

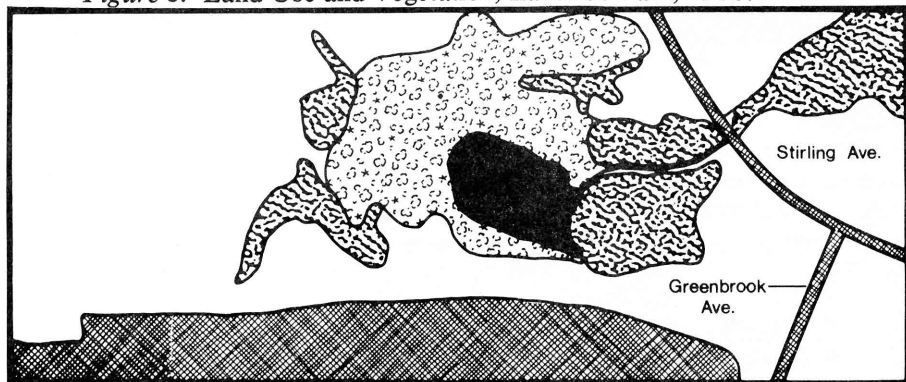
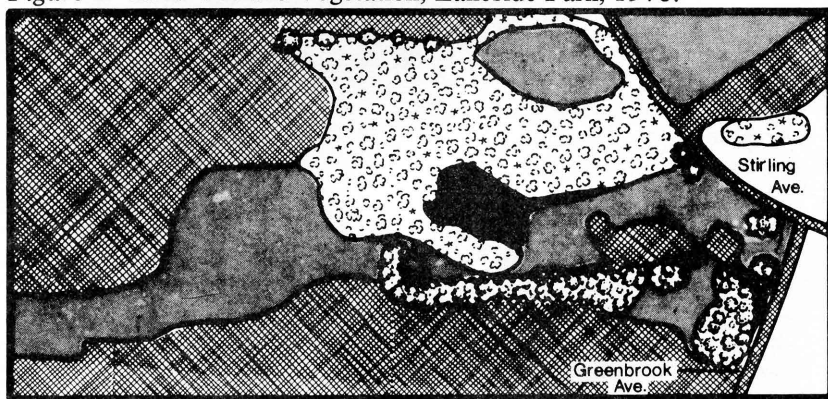










Figure 6. Land Use and Vegetation, Lakeside Park, 1978.



LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | Water |  | Large trees |  | Soil fill |
|  | Small trees, shrubby vegetation |  | Weeds, grass, lawn |  | Residential, services |
|  | Fields, Orchards |  | Sand/gravel pit | | |

Slightly more than half of the avian species observed during the 1980–1982 period used the site exclusively during migration. Forty-one percent bred on or adjacent to the study site. The remaining seven percent have occurred only in winter. This illustrates the potential significance of urban habitat islands to migrant and winter bird populations.

Several authors have shown that habitat island size has a significant effect on the richness of breeding bird species (Galli *et al.* 1976; Graber and Graber 1976; Martin 1980). Rafe *et al.* (1985) have demonstrated that habitat diversity also has a significant influence on avian species richness. “Edge” habitat, often created by forest fragmentation, usually increases breeding bird richness (Anderson 1979).

The avian richness at Lakeside may result from a broader attraction which the four park complex (adjacent lands to the south) holds for migrating and breeding birds. The 17 species which forage but do not nest on the site are an indication that Lakeside Park is used intensively by individuals inhabiting surrounding habitat. Middleton and Merriam (1983) concluded that woodland plants and animals have evolved efficient mechanisms for medium-distance movement and that isolation of woods in farmland did not restrict the distribution of woodland species.

Loss of agricultural land, including farm woodlots, has been extensive during the study period. Warren and Rump (1981) report that from 1971 to 1976 forest and

swamp/marsh constituted nearly 9% and 1%, respectively, of the rural land converted to urban use at Kitchener. During the 1966–1971 period, three times as much rural forest was converted to urban use than during the following five year period at Kitchener.

Aldrich (1980) reports that following suburban development in a mature deciduous forest in Virginia, the number of breeding bird territories and species increased. Six formerly abundant forest bird species did not breed following residential development. Typical suburban species became dominant. Although detailed breeding bird data are lacking for the period when mature trees were dominant at Lakeside, a similar pattern of change to that found by Aldrich likely occurred.

Walcott (1974) compared breeding bird data for study tracts

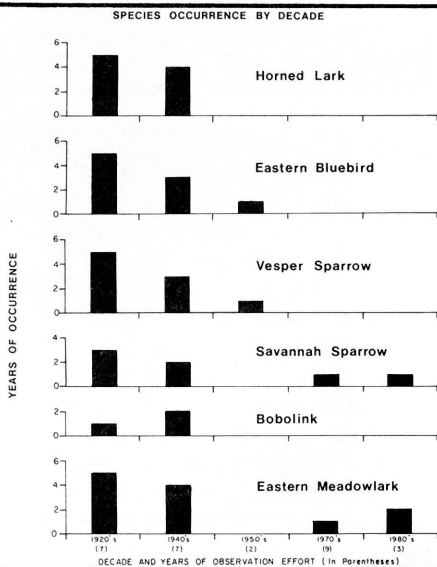


Figure 7. Changes in Occurrence of Field Species.

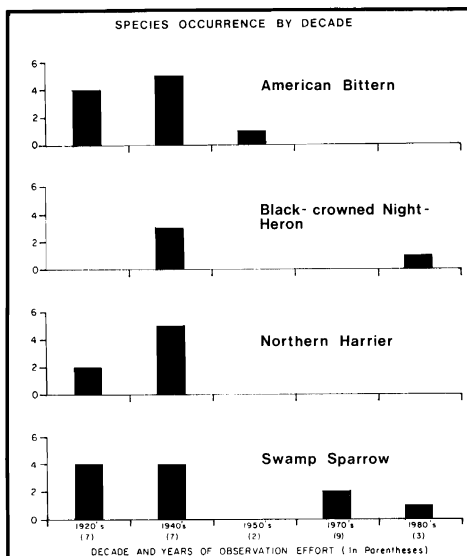


Figure 8. Changes in Occurrence of Wetland Species.

in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the 1940s and 1960s with historical data collected between 1860 and 1904.

Between 1873 and 1900, treed, garden and pasture areas of certain study tracts were "subdivided and closely built upon" (Walcott 1974). A number of factors resulted in subsequent changes in the breeding bird community: maturation of trees, tree and shrub planting and pesticide spraying.

Walcott also reported that despite marsh filling and industrial and residential development, which engulfed a pond and parkland area, breeding bird richness remained similar, with migrant summer residents constituting 70% of the nesting species.

Changes in avifauna recorded at the Lakeside site are undoubtedly typical of those which have occurred across extensive areas on the urban fringe of southern Ontario. Forest and wetland

species are displaced and the breeding bird community becomes dominated by such "suburban" species as: Mallard, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Northern Oriole and American Goldfinch.

Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to the following individuals who provided their bird observation data: Mr. and Mrs. G. Moores, A.P. Sandilands, H. and M. Walker and P. Warzecha.

Craig Campbell and Ron Brooman made me aware of the historic Knechtel observations and provided access to the Schaefer

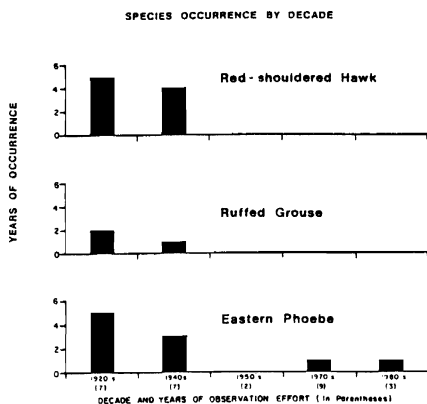


Figure 9. Changes in Occurrence of Woodland Species.

field notes. Dr. Ross James of the Royal Ontario Museum provided access to the Knechtel notes.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Becker, R. Forwell and W. Schmidt offered descriptions of historical land use and vegetation patterns.

Gartner Lee Associates Limited supplied typing and graphics services.

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Correlations Among Winter Finch Numbers at Ottawa, 1958–1983

by
Alex Mills

In Ontario, winter finches comprise nine seed-eating species: Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*), Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*), Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*), Pine Siskin (*C. pinus*), American Goldfinch (*C. tristis*), Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), and White-winged Crossbill (*L. leucoptera*). All but the Purple Finch and the American Goldfinch are typically northern breeders in eastern North America, summering in the coniferous forests and even beyond in the case of the redpolls. Winter numbers of Purple Finches and goldfinches in the south vary each year, and the numbers of the grosbeaks and northern *Carduelis* finches can vary dramatically. Crossbills, of course, are famous for their sporadic irruptions.

People have been trying to determine the factors governing the irregular patterns of occurrence of winter birds for some time. It is generally agreed that irruptions are dependent on high numbers of birds and poor food crops (Bock and Lepthien 1976), but knowing these factors does not seem to

allow accurate predictions of what sort of winter it will be. The formula for estimating the timing of flights is even more elusive. In some years redpolls arrive in numbers in southern Ontario by early November, while in others they do not appear until March.

After the spectacular numbers of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and both crossbills in the winter of 1984–85, I found myself wondering about the synchrony of winter finch flights in Ontario. To what extent do large numbers of one species coincide with either large or small numbers of another?

To find out, I assembled data from the Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Counts for the period 1958–83 (published in *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*). Ottawa was chosen because it receives thorough coverage, because it often has good finch numbers, and because it is essentially at the north-south interface that extends along the south edge of the shield. Freedman and Riley (1980) have shown that some winter finch species have established “modern” population levels only since the mid- to late 1950s, and so I selected the period beginning in 1958.

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For each species for each year, I determined numbers of individuals counted per party hour, as recommended by Bock and Smith (1971). I then looked at each species pairing (36 in all) and calculated the extent to which the numbers for each pairing varied together. I did this by using correlation analysis, as described in most statistical texts (e.g., Sokal 1973). In short, coefficients of determination derived from the analysis and indicated as percentages reveal to what extent high numbers of one species correlate with either high or low numbers of another.

Following standard statistical procedures, any percentage less than 15.1 is not considered significant. Using this value, only seven of the 36 pairings were significant. The results for the seven are presented in Table 1. The numbers indicate the strengths of the relationships and the +/- signs indicate whether the relationships are positive (high numbers of one species coinciding with high numbers of the other) or

negative (high numbers of one species coinciding with low numbers of the other). Thus, for example, Hoary Redpoll and Common Redpoll show a strong positive relationship while Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch show a moderate negative one.

For the most part, the significant results make sense. Goldfinches and Purple Finches, the two species that regularly breed in both the south and the north, correlate positively with each other and negatively with Evening Grosbeaks, a more exclusively northern breeder. Evening Grosbeaks also correlate positively with Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls, two other northern species, and the Hoary Redpoll-Common Redpoll correlation is certainly no surprise. The only perplexing result is the positive Purple Finch-Red Crossbill correlation; winters of large numbers of Purple Finches at Ottawa have also tended to be winters of large numbers of Red Crossbills. That 29 of the 36 pairings (including all those of Pine Siskin and White-winged

Table 1. Significant correlations among winter finch numbers based on Ottawa-Hull CBC data, 1958-1983. All other species pairings (29 in number) had percentages of less than 15.1, making them statistically non-significant.

| SPECIES PAIRING | STRENGTH OF RELATIONSHIP AS AS PERCENTAGE | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------|
| | +/- | |
| Evening Grosbeak — Pine Grosbeak | + | 23.6 |
| Evening Grosbeak — Purple Finch | - | 21.3 |
| Evening Grosbeak — Common Redpoll | + | 22.6 |
| Evening Grosbeak — American Goldfinch | - | 24.0 |
| Purple Finch — American Goldfinch | + | 24.4 |
| Purple Finch — Red Crossbill | + | 20.9 |
| Common Redpoll — Hoary Redpoll | + | 48.7 |

Crossbill) reveal strict independence indicates considerable autonomy of response to the factors that determine movements.

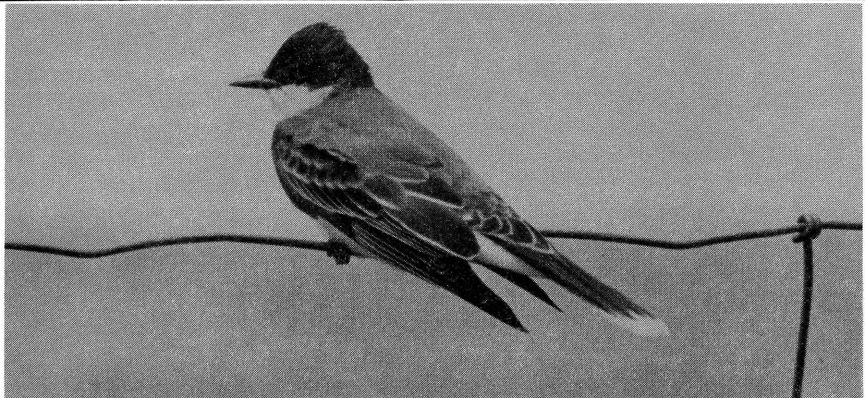
This method of analysis is subject to some of the problems encountered in other CBC data studies. Weather factors and accuracy of identification and enumeration are two obvious ones. Parker (1973) clearly showed that Pine Grosbeaks moved through southern Ontario over the duration of the 1971 CBC period; obviously, the date of each 1971 count in southern Ontario influenced the Pine Grosbeak tally. This leads me to acknowledge that what is true in late December may be very different from what is true in, for instance, late February. Perhaps my results can be applied no further than Ottawa for the period used!

Lack (1954) claimed that different species irrupted independently of each other. Bock and Smith (1971) plainly showed, however, that Colorado populations of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) and Red

Crossbills cycled together. Their data, and the data presented here, suggest that Lack's claim is not always true.

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Eastern Kingbird

PHOTO: R.D. McRae

Topic of Note

Natural Foods of Black-capped Chickadees

On 19 December 1985, Vicky Johnston and myself observed four Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) foraging in a swampy area of Storrington Township, Frontenac County, about 18 km south of Westport, Ontario. The swamp was completely frozen over with about 30 cm of snow cover. The chickadees were seen perched on the heads of cattails (*Typha latifolia*) growing along the edge of the swamp against a roadway. They plucked the fluff from the cattail heads with their bills, then probed for and fed upon something within the heads. We assumed that the chickadees, being fond of insect larvae and eggs, were

feeding on the tiny larvae of the cattail moth (*Lymnaecia phragmitella*) of the family Cosmopterygidae, which feeds in the heads of cattails (Borror *et al.* 1976).

The same chickadees were also seen feeding on the fruits from the clusters of staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) trees growing along the swamp edge.

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Winter Foods of Northern Cardinal, American Tree Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak in Southern Ontario

Observations of plant foods taken in winter by Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) and Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola*

enucleator) were made at the Mabel Davis Conservation Area, Newmarket, York R.M. The 6.5 ha study area is described in Dance (1984). Observations were

made over 34.5 hours on 22 dates between 20 December 1985 and 9 February 1986. Plant material was collected and species identifications were confirmed in the lab.

The food items selected by each bird species and dates of observed consumption are listed in Table 1.

Northern Cardinals were observed cracking and ingesting riverbank grape seeds on four dates from early to mid-January. De Graaf and Witman (1979) and Martin *et al.* (1951) have noted consumption of wild grape by the Northern Cardinal.

American Tree Sparrows were observed consuming seeds of three species of goldenrod, two grass species, and catnip. Late

goldenrod, catnip, and Virginia wild rye were used on three occasions. I observed the use of gray goldenrod, zig zag goldenrod and meadow fescue on only one date.

In the United States, the American Tree Sparrow subsists almost entirely on weed and grass seed during the winter (Martin *et al.* 1951). Apparently this sparrow consumes a higher proportion of grass seed than do other fringillids (Bent 1968b). None of the sources checked by the author mentions catnip seeds as a winter food of the American Tree Sparrow. These sparrows returned to a 6 m patch of catnip on at least three dates over a 23 day period.

Table 1: Plant Food Consumed by Three Species of Winter Birds in Southern Ontario

FOOD PLANT

| BIRD SPECIES | Common Name | Scientific Name | Date of Observation | Comments |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Northern Cardinal | riverbank grape | <i>Vitis riparia</i> | Jan. 4, 1986 | feeding on seeds |
| | | | Jan. 5, 1986 | feeding on seeds |
| | | | Jan. 11, 1986 | feeding on seeds |
| | | | Jan. 18, 1986 | feeding on seeds |
| American Tree Sparrow | late goldenrod | <i>Solidago altissima</i> | Dec. 20, 1985 | flock of 14 |
| | | | Dec. 23, 1985 | flock of 16 |
| | | | Jan. 11, 1986 | flock of 16 |
| | catnip | <i>Cataria nepeta</i> | Dec. 21, 1985 | flock of 11 |
| | | | Dec. 23, 1985 | flock of 16 |
| | | | Jan. 12, 1986 | fresh tracks in snow |
| | | | Dec. 23, 1985 | flock of 6 |
| | Virginia wild rye | <i>Elymus virginicus</i> | Jan. 11, 1986 | flock of 16 |
| | | | Jan. 12, 1986 | 4 birds |
| | | | Jan. 5, 1986 | flock of 15 |
| gray goldenrod | <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> | Jan. 5, 1986 | flock of 15 | |
| | | Jan. 5, 1986 | flock of 15 | |
| | | Jan. 18, 1986 | flock of 10 | |
| zig zag goldenrod | <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> | Jan. 5, 1986 | flock of 15 | |
| | | Jan. 18, 1986 | flock of 10 | |
| meadow fescue | <i>Festuca pratensis</i> | Jan. 18, 1986 | flock of 10 | |
| | | | | |
| Pine Grosbeak | riverbank grape | <i>Vitis riparia</i> | Jan. 5, 1986 | 3 feeding on seeds |
| | American bitter-sweet | <i>Celastrus scandens</i> | Jan. 5, 1986 | flock of 15 |

The winter food of the Pine Grosbeak is approximately 99.1 per cent vegetable material (Bent 1968a). Bent notes that wild grape seeds have been recorded as winter food by other observers. Literature reviewed by the author did not indicate previous instances of American bittersweet being consumed by the Pine Grosbeak.

Although good crops of highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*) fruits and seeds were available, I did not observe their consumption by any of the 15 bird species present on the study plot.

The author gratefully acknowledges that Tom Hilditch identified the plant specimens.

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Book Reviews

The Encyclopedia of Birds. Edited by *C.M. Perrins and A.L.A. Middleton.* Facts on File Publications, New York. 445 + xxxi pages, \$49.95.

Editors or authors of Bird Encyclopedias set themselves a rather daunting task; by its very nature an Encyclopedia must be authoritative and a ready reference to hand, but in today's competitive world of ornithological publications it must be visually attractive

and entertaining. The editors of *The Encyclopedia of Birds* have, generally speaking, succeeded quite well in walking this tightrope between the twin pitfalls of excessive dryness and excessive popularisation.

Unlike (for example) Lands-

Snow on Manakins, C.H. Fry on Bee-eaters, M.P. Harris on Boobies, J.C. Barlow on Vireos, to name only a few.

The book starts with two essays by Perrins, on classification and under the title "What is a Bird?" Both are worthwhile introductions for the general audience, although expert bird-watchers will also find some useful information therein; both would also, incidentally, be more stylistically attractive without the excessive use of exclamation marks.

The format of the remainder of the Encyclopedia is taxonomically based. For each family, or in some cases, group of closely related families, there is an account, the style of which varies somewhat with the individual author. There is, in addition, for each family a small section giving a range map, borough Thompson's *New Dictionary of Birds*, the present work consists almost entirely of accounts of the 180 different families of birds; there are no articles on general topics, such as sexual dimorphism or display. Instead, a comprehensive index refers to such items where they occur within the family accounts. To write the accounts themselves, the editors have assembled some of the world's best-known ornithologists (the selection is heavily biased towards the British Commonwealth, indicating that both the editors and this reviewer share similar prejudices as to where the world's best ornithologists are to be found). Among the 90-odd contributors are many who are recognized as *the* authority on their specialty—D.W.

the number of genera and species, a size indicator, brief generalised details of plumage, voice, nest, eggs and food, and finally the names of a number of species. The criteria for the selection of these appear to be somewhat capricious.

The actual accounts of the families are generally very informative, while at the same time making interesting and entertaining reading. As an example I would quote from G.T. Smith's essay on Lyrebirds: "The existence of lyrebirds became known to Europeans in Australia in 1797 through the reports of an ex-convict who had lived for some years with, and fomented trouble among, aborigines in the bush. Surrendering to the authorities clad only in a kangaroo-skin apron, he told suspicious officials of the existence of "pheasants" near the Hawkesbury River". Smith then goes on to give an excellent and detailed account of the life history and biology of the Lyrebirds and Scrub-birds. This meld of popular and informative is typical of the writing in this book, and generally succeeds.

The Encyclopedia is lavishly illustrated throughout with photographs and paintings. The quality of the photographs varies from good to superb; the artwork is good, sometimes very good, but on occasion suffers from over-flamboyance. The Flicker on page 296, for example, owes far more to the artist's imagination than to a careful examination of museum skins. Fortunately a photograph of the real thing is to be found a couple of pages further on.

Given the quality of the

contributors the number of errors in the book would be expected to be small, and indeed it is. The range of the Boat-billed Flycatcher (page 318) extends not from Panama but from north-central Mexico to Uruguay; the maps of cuckoos and turacos (page 230) have been interchanged; the "Black-eared" Bushtit (page 382) has been treated as a good species; and if we really want to be picky, my ancient drouthy crony Chris Mead does not have a Ph.D.—in fact he doesn't have a B.Sc. either, but the lack of these academic albatrosses around his neck has not prevented him from writing an excellent account of swifts. Most other errors are trivial.

One area which could be greatly improved is in the range maps. They are generally too small; further, for families with restricted ranges, the whole world is nevertheless illustrated. Thus, for example, the range of the Todies is so small as to be indecipherable, even with a hand-lens, while on the same map Greenland and Australia are quite uselessly included. It would have been better to have discarded a uniform approach and to have used a larger

map of the Caribbean for this family. No clear distinction is made on the maps between breeding range and wintering range; for example the map for loons includes all range, summer and winter, while that for sandpipers seems to refer to breeding range only. Many of the maps are inaccurate in minor detail—for example, Stone Curlews and Cotingas—and something very bizarre, I'm not sure precisely what, has happened to the Woodpecker map.

However, having pointed out some relatively minor problems in the book, this reviewer would like to state clearly his opinion that *The Encyclopedia of Birds* is a very successful effort which will prove both useful and entertaining for the fanatical birdwatcher and the armchair ornithologist alike. There will, I am sure, be criticisms that with a less opulent style of publication more information could have been included for the same price, but I feel that these critics will not be taking into account the realities of the market. Given the lavish production, the price (\$49.95), while steep, is not excessive by today's standards.

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A Field Guide to Personal Computers for Bird Watchers and Other Naturalists. 1985. Edward M. Mair. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. xv + 207 pp. \$13.95 (paper).

In this so-called computer age, it is perhaps not surprising that high computer technology should now embrace the world of birders and

birding. This little book, which is far more than a field guide, is a succinct and well-written volume appearing appropriately at a time

when personal computers are becoming familiar and accessible tools, and thereby allowing easier and quicker organization and analysis of observational data. Mair's style of writing is enthusiastic and easy to follow, and the sections on computer technology are readily understandable. Computer language jargon is kept to a minimum, and when such terms are used (for example, "bauds", "megabytes" and "CPUs"), they are carefully and clearly explained.

The book falls into two distinct parts. The first part is a general introduction to computers and computer languages, and is organized in a clever and innovative way along the lines of classical ornithological topics. For example, the construction and various parts of the computer are compared with the anatomy of birds, the changes in size and efficiency of computers are compared with the evolution of birds from Archaeopteryx, operating systems and computer languages are compared with bird behaviour, and so on. At times the comparisons seem forced and contrived, but overall the approach makes for entertaining and informative reading. There is also a handy section on the pros and cons of the various computers available today. Mair compares Apples with IBMs, Commodores, and others, points out the basic abilities of each system, and gives a rough guide to costs—certainly a starting point for someone entering the market for a personal computer today.

Part II concentrates on software—programs on floppy

discs, in effect. In this section, Chapter 6 on data base management is particularly useful. The organization of one's observations is always a bit of a dilemma. Should one organize one's sightings by date, by location, or by species? Each has its advantages and uses. Organizing sightings by species (as I do) is fine if one wishes to quickly determine how many Hooded Warblers, for example, one has seen this year, in comparison perhaps with previous years, but such a system is awkward when one needs records for a given time period (for submission to *American Birds*, for example) or for a given location (the Wainfleet Bog, as a recent example). Loading and storing records on a computer means one can have all three; merely giving a simple instruction to the computer results in a list by species or date or location or whatever one wishes—very handy.

Other chapters in Part II go beyond the level of listing sightings. They introduce methods by which data can be analyzed graphically, and once again Mair shows how simply such analyses can be mastered. Some graphics, pie charts for example, would be beyond the needs of most birders, but others might certainly prove useful, histograms or graphs showing annual numerical trends being a case in point. The book ends with a couple of Appendices discussing the actual set-up of data files, and how such files can be sorted, changed and/or rearranged to serve one's own personal needs.

I am not sure that I agree with

the claim of Phalarope Books that "the personal computer is the best new tool for birders since the invention of binoculars." Not everyone owns or has the money to run out and buy a personal

computer. However, for those who do have access to a personal computer, this book is a worthy and useful introduction to computers for birders.

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OFO Announcements

New and Used Bird Book Sale/1986 OFO Annual General Meeting

Do Annual General Meetings bore you? Here's one with a new twist! The 1986 OFO Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 25, 1986 at the Scarborough Civic Centre. It will feature the usual business meeting, talks, evening social and A SALE OF NEW AND USED BIRD BOOKS. We invite all OFO members to go through your libraries and select new or used bird books or journals that you no longer need or want and offer them for sale at the 1986 Annual General Meeting. There are no OFO commissions or booth fees; you set the price that you think your books are worth and you take home the proceeds. Of course, donations to OFO will be accepted. Field trips to local birding hot spots will be held on Sunday, October 26th. For more details contact book sale organizer Rob Nisbet (416-683-4852) or AGM Co-ordinator Reid Wilson (416-831-1745).

Ontario Birds: Northern Ontario Issue

Just a reminder that the December 1986 issue of *Ontario Birds* (Vol. 4, No. 3) will be a special issue devoted to **Northern Ontario**—roughly that area of Ontario north of a line from Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury to the Ontario-Quebec border. Several manuscripts have already been received, but additional material is needed. Anyone with bird data suitable for publishing from that area is encouraged to write it up and submit it before 1 November 1986. We also invite Ontario artists, who work in pen and ink or pencil to submit ideas now for a cover illustration and/or inside illustrations consistent with this theme (include sample copies of your work).

This will be OFO's first special issue. Let's make it a good one with a full complement of articles, notes and illustrations on the birds of northern Ontario. Send all material to the Editor, Box 1204, Station B, Burlington, Ontario, L7P 3S9.