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S. L. HOUSE



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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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Editorial

Exotics on the Doorstep

In commenting on the first special issue of *Ontario Birds* (4:81-82; 1986), Ross James characterized northern Ontario as a frontier offering much to learn. We might expect the opposite of southern Ontario, where large numbers of people are crowded into the highly urbanized "Golden Horseshoe". We probably do know more about the population and distribution of birds in southern Ontario generally than in any other part of Canada. Nevertheless, much of the area we know well is man-altered landscape, and the comment by Bothwell and Hillmer (1988:1569) that "the history of Ontario's forests has been one of depletion" applies especially here, where special efforts are now required to secure what little remains of "Carolinian Canada".

A visit to Backus Woods (north of Port Rowan) in late May, June, or July has added Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler to numerous year, life, and Canadian lists within seconds of emerging from the vehicle. "Pishing" will soon bring Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager over to inspect the source of the noise. An hour of enduring the thousands of mosquitoes will easily add several more species regarded elsewhere in Canada as exotic southerners. Though Backus Woods probably represents much of

extreme southern Ontario's "natural" habitat, its 263 hectares is tragically our largest remnant of these magnificent forests.

When Thomas McIlwraith (1894) revised his *Birds of Ontario*, he still lacked any evidence of such Carolinian species as Chuck-will's-widow, Tufted Titmouse, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler even wandering into Ontario, let alone breeding. He included Acadian Flycatcher only speculatively, and was delighted to "introduce" readers to the Carolina Wren. Forty years ago, the finding of a Hooded Warbler nest near Orwell, Elgin Co. was a very special event. More recent surveys for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, an extensive biological inventory of the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, and some of the specific studies in this special issue of *Ontario Birds* all indicate that these species breed on a regular basis in Ontario, albeit at varying densities and over different expanses. These studies should not be regarded as final, but rather stimulate birders to explore further. Here we have the opportunity to not only document the northern limits of the ranges of several species, but also to study their interactions with more northern species where their ranges intersect and to document their responses to changing habitat.

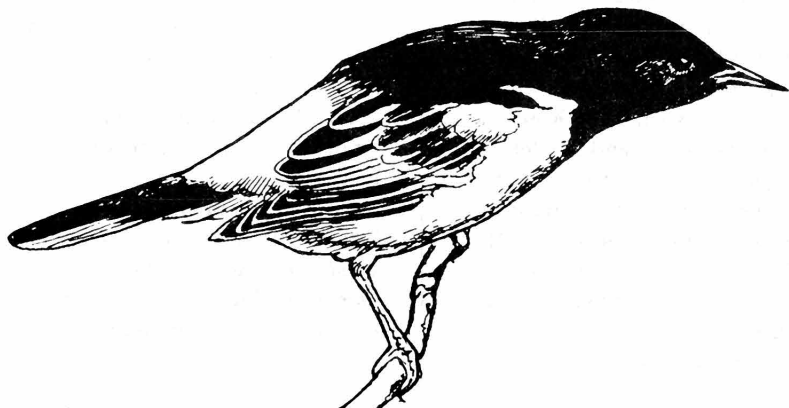
Some of the recent evidence of

higher populations than known previously undoubtedly reflects expansion of knowledge, but some also involves expansion of range. The Northern Cardinal is a classic example of a species that had expanded extensively into southern Ontario, but there are several other species that have undergone such an expansion (see reviews by Snyder 1957 and de Vos 1964). Forest depletion both in Ontario and on tropical wintering grounds (see review by Hutto 1988) is producing declines in populations of several species. Even where some forest is left intact, fragmentation-produced "edge" habitat often results in increased predation and/or parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbird. In Ontario, birders have an excellent opportunity to examine the dynamics produced by such changes in habitat and resulting interactions among species. Such studies are not only a pleasure to undertake, but also vital to our efforts to maximize species diversity and richness in a rapidly vanishing

habitat on the very doorstep of Canada's largest concentration of birders. And then there are the numerous questions one might ask concerning adaptations to the new urban and agricultural habitats that are replacing the pristine forests. May the publication of this special issue stimulate the greater exploration and study of both dwindling Carolinian habitat and the expanding habitats that replace it.

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Northern Oriole / drawing by Barry Kent MacKay

Letters to the Editor

In defence of the Long Point Company

Frankly, I found Tim Sabo's letter re "Closing of the Long Point Cuts" (*Ontario Birds* 6:12) to be more than a little disturbing. Amongst other things, I wonder whether *Ontario Birds* is really the proper forum for registering personal complaints — particularly when they can only worsen an already delicate situation. Mr. Sabo clearly should have addressed his concerns privately with the Long Point Company (LPC).

In any event, he should not have to be reminded that the LPC has provided an enormous service through its long stewardship and protection of Long Point and through its recent donation of an immense natural area to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Moreover, the LPC has generously permitted the Long Point Bird Observatory access to portions of its land for use as a much-valued field station. Mr. Sabo presents a very unbalanced and distorted view of the LPC.

Judging from the tone of his letter, I am certain that Mr. Sabo loves Long Point, cherishes its solitudes, and is a thoughtful and careful naturalist. And I empathize with his "loss". However, the "Cuts" have come under increasingly heavy recreational pressure, despite the fact that CWS and LPC holdings have been clearly posted with "No Trespassing" signs for several years.

Beach "traffic" had increased enormously, to the point where there was visible damage occurring to the vegetation and sand dunes of an internationally significant natural area. Certainly, the solitude of which Mr. Sabo speaks was fast disappearing. Certainly, there was great potential to needlessly disrupt nesting gulls and terns (perhaps even a Piping Plover?), not to mention the loafing and feeding flocks of shorebirds and waterfowl.

Since access was impossible to regulate, the LPC had no other recourse but to completely prohibit it. After all, if you let in one well-meaning birdwatcher, why not let them all in? And how do you tell the well-meaning ones from the slob? What do you tell the masses of well-meaning picnickers, partyers, sun-bathers, and the just plain curious? The LPC's answer, while seemingly extreme, was rational, fair, and ultimately well-intentioned. Furthermore, as a private landowner, the LPC has every right, perhaps even an obligation in this case, to enforce the Trespass Act. Finally, Mr. Sabo failed to mention that in order to access the "Cuts", he first must trespass across CWS property.

Sadly, conservation measures in southern Ontario appear to be destined to become increasingly more severe as recreational pressures are further exerted upon natural areas. Birders, being part of the pressure, should not expect to somehow be

exempt from controls. Maybe it's time we took a look down from our lofty perches and wised up.

Jon D. McCracken
Vittoria, Ontario

Corrections to Crow Note

My note on "wing-tail flicking" as a means of separating crows from ravens in Volume 6(2):74-75 of *Ontario Birds* had a typographical error and an omission. In the first sentence of the third paragraph, replace "does" with "done". Add the words "in ravens" at the end of the third paragraph. In the future

would it be possible to send proofs to authors for checking before publication?

Ron Pittaway
Minden, Ontario

Editor's Note

Despite rigorous proofreading, errors and omissions do occasionally slip through in Ontario Birds. We are happy to send proofs to authors who specifically request this when they submit their manuscript, however, because of time constraints we do not have the luxury of doing this for all manuscripts.

D. M. Fraser

A Summary of the Breeding Status of Hooded Warblers in Ontario

by
M. E. Gartshore

Introduction

The purpose of the following paper is to bring together information on the Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) as it relates to summer occurrence in Ontario. In doing so I have attempted to summarize important occurrences and to put them into the context of habitat and known breeding distribution of the species. For the most part, I have relied on unpublished data and personal accounts, however, much of the earlier information has appeared in the literature and is

repeated here to provide background to the current information.

I have focussed on records in June, July, and August to eliminate the possibility of considering migrants. Given that Hooded Warblers begin nesting in May and may not leave until September, such a restriction may not be valid. In addition, I have not considered records from sand spits, islands, or known migration "hot spots" because wandering birds may linger well into the breeding season. I have made an exception for

M. E. Gartshore, R. R. #3, Dundas, Ontario L9H 5E3

Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent Co., and Point Abino, Regional Municipality of Niagara, where I believe the species will be confirmed as breeding in the near future.

History

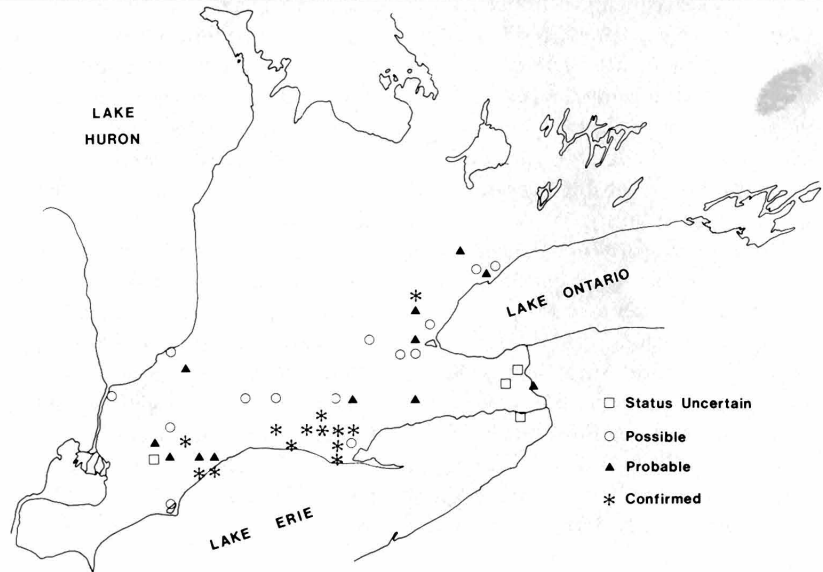
The first published Canadian record of the Hooded Warbler was one observed in the Hamilton area, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, by Thomas McIlwraith prior to 1860 (McIlwraith 1860). Possibly the same record was elaborated on by McIlwraith (1894) when he described it as a young male (likely a female) "carried away in the crowd" of spring migrants.

Thereafter, records of this species were reported sporadically

and were summarized by Baillie (1925), who concluded that the species was a "rare migrant". Baillie did not, however, rule out the possibility of breeding because of an immature (skull not ossified) female collected by W. E. Saunders at Point Pelee, Essex Co., on 21 August 1912 (and now deposited at the Royal Ontario Museum; J. Dick, pers. comm.).

It is of interest that a southwesterly gale produced no fewer than nine Hooded Warblers in Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto, around 6 April 1947 (Bodsworth, unpubl. ms.; Gunn and Crocker 1951). Several lingered into June and at least one female was seen carrying a caterpillar by I. Halliday on 4 June in Sherwood Park (Baillie 1962).

Figure 1: Summer occurrences of Hooded Warblers mapped with symbols relating to increasing levels of breeding following the criteria used by the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (Cadman et al. 1987).



This was the first indication that the species would breed in Ontario.

In 1941 W. E. Saunders wrote to F. Bodsworth concerning E. M. S. Dale's observation of a territorial Hooded Warbler in 1940 and 1941 in Fred White's Woods (Springwater Forest) near Orwell, Elgin Co., saying "looks like a steady thing" (Brooman 1954). Not until 1949 was the first nest for Canada discovered at this site by Bodsworth (see below).

Only five more nests were recorded in the province over the next 36 years, although other evidence of breeding may have been observed. The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project provided an important focus for further investigations. Between 1985 and 1988 a minimum of 41 confirmed breeding records have been documented, most of these in Elgin and Haldimand-Norfolk and two from Middlesex Co. During and since the *Atlas*, observers may have tended to establish confirmed breeding through indirect evidence (e.g., observations of adults carrying food/fecal sac, fledged young) and this may account for the increased records in general.

However, most (37) of the recent records are a result of the Natural Areas Inventory of Haldimand-Norfolk (NAIH-N), the Kent-Elgin Natural Areas Survey (KENAS), and follow-up studies by myself and the Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO). Fig. 1 maps summer occurrence according to level of breeding evidence.

Habitat

Hooded Warblers occur in a variety of forested situations in southern Ontario. Where deciduous trees dominate, territories are usually established in small clearings in forests which have been selectively logged (Fig. 2). The nests are often located in regenerating shrubs in the middle of log-skidder trails. Hooded Warblers invade areas 1-5 years after harvesting and will remain for up to 12 years or longer or until saplings exceed 5m in height and begin to shade out ground cover. At Springwater Forest, where Hooded Warblers were once common, but have since disappeared, the former dense shrub layer consists of maple saplings which are now 5-10m high. The ground is virtually devoid of cover. Where coniferous trees are dominant, Hooded Warblers will occupy the dense deciduous shrub layer or regenerating hardwoods without the benefit of logging activities. In the southern United States it is standard forestry practice to burn off the low deciduous layer in pine stands and this can be detrimental to local Hooded Warbler populations (Hamel 1980).

At six Haldimand-Norfolk nest sites I measured the vegetation using the quantitative methods recommended by James and Shugart (1970). The canopy height averaged 27.7m, the canopy cover was 88 per cent and the shrub cover was 87 per cent. Shrub stem counts ranged from 3.3 to 27.9 per m², with an average of 10.5 per m².

In my analysis, I broke down shrub stem density by species. A total of 66 species of woody plants were involved in the sample of six territories. The dominant species in the shrub layer were maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* var. *strigosus*), black raspberry (*R. allegheniensis*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginianus*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). In Ontario, Hooded Warblers appear to require mature, open, mesic forest with a dense deciduous shrub layer. Forests which have been severely high-graded and have therefore lost height of canopy and the ability to regenerate woody vegetation are not usually occupied.

Distribution

An aspect of distribution, which was originally suggested to me by D. A. Sutherland, is the strong correlation between the occurrence of Hooded Warblers and sand plains or sand deposits in southern Ontario. In Fig. 3 I have mapped summer records of Hooded Warblers and the distribution of sand plains. The data have been broken down by decade. Most of the records fall on large sand plains and the remainder can probably be accounted for by local soil conditions. For example, at Cayuga, Haldimand-Norfolk, a Hooded Warbler territory was located at the south end of the Oriskany sandstone formation where there is rich sandy loam in a landscape dominat-

Figure 2: Typical habitat in the Wilson Tract, Norfolk Tp. Mun., Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, where several pairs of Hooded Warblers have bred 1985-88. Photo by M. E. Gartshore.



ed by the Haldimand clay plain.

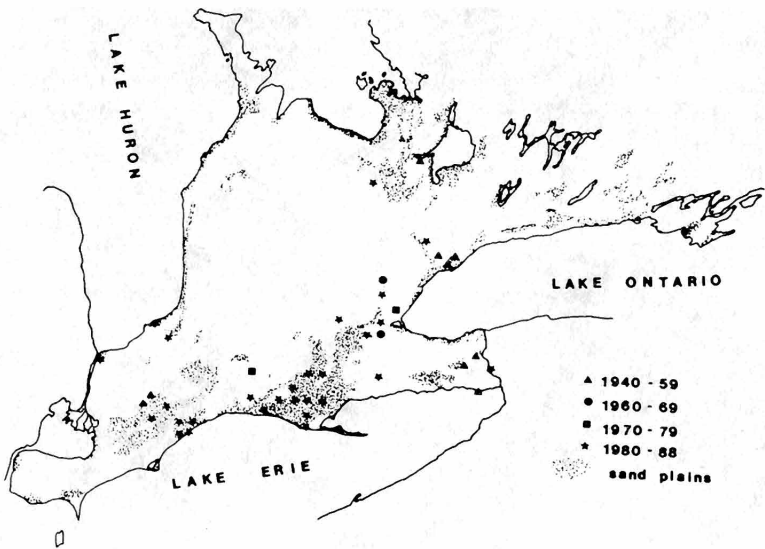
Hooded Warblers tend to occur where good forest cover remains. Eastern Elgin and western Haldimand-Norfolk still support 16-25 per cent forest cover.

Hooded Warblers appear to be absent from western Kent Co. and southern Lambton Co. where sand plains occur but the forest cover is as low as 3 per cent. However, the sand plain may not support the right kind of habitat. For instance, at Dunnville, Haldimand-Norfolk Co., the sand plain does not appear to support Hooded Warblers, even though the per cent forest cover is high (NAIH-N data). However, the

soils in this area are alluvial in origin and contain a higher proportion of organic material. Aspen (*Populus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.), and weedy herbaceous species tend to invade open sites.

From the available records, Hooded Warblers appear to avoid an area (roughly bounded by the towns of Flesherton, Teeswater, Seaforth, Woodstock, and Guelph) which is termed the "Ontario Island", land which first emerged during the retreat of the Wisconsin ice sheet (Chapman and Putnam 1984). It is an area of higher elevation, usually greater than 300m asl.

Figure 3: Hooded Warbler summer occurrences mapped in relation to the distribution of sand plains in southern Ontario (after Chapman and Putnam 1984). Records are mapped using different symbols to indicate decades. Where applicable, earlier records are superseded by more recent records.



Population Trends

Without good long-term data, it is very difficult to assess population trends realistically. A quick glance at the Ontario data would suggest that Hooded Warbler numbers are increasing. More likely the species is being found in places where few people had searched previously. In order to provide some insight into population trends I looked at 15 sites in Elgin and Haldimand-Norfolk which had been monitored (albeit in a cursory fashion) in at least two out of four years (1985-88). In six cases Hooded Warbler numbers were about the same, in seven they had decreased and in only two had they increased. However, Hooded Warblers are somewhat temporary tenants in any given situation, so these figures may not present an accurate picture.

Table 1 summarizes, by county and regional municipality, the number of breeding pairs of Hooded Warblers which I believe occur at present in southern Ontario. If projections seem high for Elgin and Haldimand-Norfolk it is because

many potential woodlots possessing suitable breeding habitat have yet to be surveyed for this species.

Another exercise which might prove useful in assessing trends is to look at migration tallies from around the Great Lakes. This task is arduous, but preliminary results suggest that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Hooded Warbler sightings over the past two decades, particularly in the 1980s. However, this may be an artifact of more field observers and caution should be taken in interpreting the significance of these data.

Confirming Breeding in Hooded Warblers

It is relatively easy to confirm breeding in Hooded Warblers. The species arrives early and leaves late. The earliest date for territorial birds in my study site this year was 9 May (D. A. Sutherland, pers. comm.) and the last date was 28 September (N. Mahony, pers. comm.). The males sing throughout the season (at least until early

Table 1: Summary of estimated number of breeding pairs of Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) in Ontario in 1988.

County/RM	Pairs	Comments
Elgin	17-50	many areas of good habitat
Haldimand-Norfolk	50-100	many areas of good habitat
Hamilton-Wentworth	1-2	a few areas of good habitat
Halton	1-2	a few areas of good habitat
Lambton	4-5	several areas of good habitat
Kent	1-2	several areas of good habitat
Middlesex	4-10	several areas of good habitat
Oxford	2-4	a few areas of good habitat
Waterloo	0-1	good habitat restricted
Total	80-176	

September) and throughout the day, even when the weather is hot and humid. Hooded Warblers are often the only species singing.

Male Hooded Warblers tend to wander widely, probably for the purpose of engaging in extra-pair copulations, so they may not be in exactly the same spot on successive visits.

Nesting pairs can be remarkably secretive, however. In a few instances, nests were located beside well-travelled paths or near mist net lanes and were not detected by us until the young were close to fledging. In other instances, the adult birds would chip constantly and feed nestlings without caution. Through quiet observation, an approximate nest site can be located. The nest cup can be spotted in the dense shrubbery by getting down on hands and knees and scanning upwards. Nests can be observed relatively easily at a distance of 6-10m without disturbing the site. It is important not to approach the nest further, in view of the fact that predators frequently follow human trails and find nests.

Nestlings fledge at around eight days after hatching and, although they are sparsely feathered, seem to survive well. Adults feed and care for fledglings for as long as eight weeks after they hatch. At five to six weeks after hatching, fledglings complete post-juvenile moult and assume basic plumage. At this stage they can only be distinguished from their parents with difficulty. The best clue is the colour of the bill,

which is yellowish in young and black in adults. Since adults and young spend so much time together it is relatively easy to locate family groups.

In Ontario, Hooded Warblers are apparently single-brooded, but will renest throughout the summer until successful or until the progression of the season prevents further attempts. My last date for fledged young (about two days out of the nest) was 16 August.

Potential Breeding Areas

Territorial Hooded Warblers have been observed in Lambton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Kent, and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, yet breeding has not been confirmed in any of these counties to date.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara has few recent summer records, although good habitat remains at Point Abino, Short Hills, and below the Niagara Escarpment. However, the Hooded Warbler is generally absent as a breeding species in Niagara and northern Erie counties, in adjacent New York State (Eaton 1988). Although considerably to the north, the extensive sand plains around Lake Simcoe and Midland, Simcoe Co., are potential sites for new breeding records. Similarly, recent increases in Hooded Warbler observations in spring and fall at Prince Edward Point, Prince Edward Co., and the Kingston, Frontenac Co., area would suggest possible breeding either at those localities or farther

to the north (Weir 1989). This seems even more likely in view of the breeding concentration of this species in New York State just to the south of Lake Ontario (Eaton 1988).

Hooded Warblers seem to wander widely (see below) and I consider them to be somewhat opportunistic breeders. Any summer occurrence therefore should be closely monitored with the expectation that breeding will occur outside currently recognized areas.

Extralimital Records

It is worth reviewing extralimital records of wandering males in light of the possibility of breeding attempts north of the species' presently known breeding range. These records represent a sample rather than an exhaustive search of the literature. Reports of Hooded Warblers north of the southern extent of the Canadian Shield are few. The most extreme record is that of a male-plumaged bird observed by M. Jennings and A. Wormington on Shippans Island at the mouth of the Moose River, Cochrane District, on 27 September 1976 (A. Wormington, *in litt.*). Mills (1981) reported what he considered to be a hypothetical record from near Huntsville, Muskoka District, a male on 26 August 1964. In Ottawa, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, a Hooded Warbler was seen on 30 July 1975 by B. DiLabio and J. Harris (Goodwin 1975). On 22 May 1988 near a creek leading into Dog Bay,

Baptiste Lake, Hastings Co., D. A. Sutherland (pers. comm.) heard a Hooded Warbler singing in dense maple saplings in a maple, beech, hemlock, white pine (*Pinus strobus*) forest. I searched the site the next day and although the bird was not seen the habitat looked suitable.

South of the Canadian Shield but outside the Carolinian Zone there are a few scattered records, as follows. A male was heard singing on 9 June 1959 near Tollendal, Simcoe Co. It was observed for about one hour and was not seen again (F. Westman, *in litt.*). A bird was observed at South Baymouth, Manitoulin Island, Manitoulin District, on 13 August 1968 by G. McKeating and R. Knapp (Goodwin 1969). A singing male was reported to the *Atlas* in 1985 near Terra Nova, Dufferin Co., by H. Hart. Unfortunately, most details are lacking. I searched this area with V. Martin in July 1987 without luck, although at least one area looked similar to prime habitat in Haldimand-Norfolk.

Acknowledgements

Warm thanks to Peter Carson for undertaking the often tedious task of searching regional journals for details on Hooded Warblers. Special thanks go to Don Graham, Nancy Mahony, and James Holdsworth, who worked diligently over the past summer on Hooded Warblers and rare birds in general through the Long Point Bird Observatory.

I wish to thank the following

people for providing details on Hooded Warbler distribution in Ontario: Marg Bain, Gerry Bennett, Fred Bodsworth, Mike Cadman, John Cartright, Ted Cheskey, Scott Connop, Frank Cook, Jim Dick, Jim Dowall, Bill Edmunds, Bill Jarmain, Bill Prieksaitis, Bill Rayner, Doug Sadler, William Stewart, Don Sutherland, Ron Weir, Phil Weller, Frances Westman, Alan Wormington, and many others.

A Hooded Warbler status report is presently being prepared for World Wildlife Fund and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). I wish to thank COSEWIC for permission to publish preliminary findings of the report. Nancy Mahony and Don Graham were hired through a federal SEED grant and James Holdsworth was hired through a provincial Environmental Youth Corps grant.

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Appendix I

Summary of Summer Occurrences of Hooded Warbler in Ontario

In the following list I present a summary of Hooded Warbler occurrences by district, township, and local name. Specific localities are omitted for reasons of security, but dates, breeding evidence, and observers are detailed.

ELGIN COUNTY

Aldborough Tp. Mun.

Eagle: An agitated pair was seen in a large woodlot on 22 July 1986 NE of Eagle (A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

Port Glasgow: An adult male carrying food was noted NE of Port Glasgow in 1986 by W. Lamond (A. Wormington, pers. comm.). V. Martin and I visited the area again in 1987 but no birds were found.

Rodney: Two singing males were noted SW of Rodney on 9 June 1986 by A. Wormington (pers. comm.). V. Martin and I heard one singing male on 20 July 1987. Two singing males were seen in same woods on 10 and 19 June 1987 by W. Rayner (*in litt.*). In a nearby woodlot

just E of Rodney one pair was involved in a courtship chase in a grape tangle on 30 June 1985. On 5 July the female was not observed and the male was silent (W. Priekšaitis, pers. comm., Atlas files).

Malahide Tp. Mun.

Copenhagen: A pair was found feeding fledged young near Silver Creek just E of Copenhagen on 26 July 1988 and a second male could be heard singing farther upstream (D. Graham field notes).

Orwell: Springwater Forest S of Orwell was the site of the first recorded nesting of the Hooded Warbler in Canada. E. M. S. Dale first noted a singing male at this locality in 1940 and again in 1941 (Brooman 1954). A nest with eggs was found by F. Bodsworth on 27 July 1949. It contained young on 4 August, which had fledged by 11 August (F. Bodsworth, unpubl. ms.). On 9 June 1952 five singing males were heard and a nest containing four eggs was discovered. Another nest was found on 22 June of the same year which contained three warbler and two Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs (Field and Robertson 1952). During the rest of the 1950s observations were as follows: seven singing males on 30 June 1953 and several singing males on 29 May 1954, 1955, and 1956 (Baillie 1953; Field 1954; Sutton 1957). Although no location is given for these latter two dates it is presumed to refer to Springwater. A female was reported in July 1957 and males were reported 24 May 1958 and again in 1959 but not in 1960 (Sutton 1957; Lemon 1958, 1959). In the 1970s birds were noted at Springwater during 1970, 1971, and 1974 (Speirs and Frank 1970; Field 1972; Goodwin and Rosche 1974). Speirs and Frank (1970) carried out a Breeding Bird Census and estimated 10 pairs per 40 ha. The species ranked fifth in abundance amongst 20 breeding species in the plot. On 12 July 1982 J. Lemon reported an agitated pair and a single bird was seen again in 1983 (Atlas files). This appears to be the last time a Hooded Warbler was recorded at Springwater. P. Carson and I searched the forest in 1987 and D. Graham in 1988 without success.

Bayham Tp. Mun.

Calton: Two males and a pair were seen N of Calton along Big Otter Creek on 18 July 1986 (W. Lamond, pers. comm.; A. Wormington, Atlas files). Two fighting males were noted by W. Lamond on 8 June 1987 (Atlas files) and I saw a pair carrying food and could hear a singing male in the distance on 15 June. The area was searched by D. Graham, W. Rayner, and R. Kingswood (pers. comm.) in 1988 but none was found.

Eden: Two singing males were recorded S of Eden along a branch of Little Otter Creek on 19–20 June 1986 (A. Wormington, pers. comm.). I noted only one singing male on 6 July 1987. On 25 June 1988 a nest containing four young was found in a small Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) (D. Graham, field notes).

Richmond: Two singing males and a pair were recorded at the confluence of Big Otter and Little Otter Creeks in the summer of 1986 (A. Wormington, pers. comm.). At the same site on 28 June 1988, D. Graham (field notes) found a female feeding two fledged young and, nearby, another female was feeding a fledged young male.

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK RM

The first published reference to Hooded Warbler in the region is given in McIlwraith (1894) as the following: "Mr. Norval reports finding it occasionally at Port Rowan". No other details are known of either Mr. Norval or his sightings.

Delhi Tp. Mun.

Silver Hill: A singing male was observed E of Silver Hill on 29 May 1988 (D. A. Sutherland, pers. comm.). The area was searched but the bird was not found again.

Smith Tract: This is a rich woodlot SW of Walsh which contains a stand of cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*). During extensive survey work carried out in this tract in 1985–86 by the

NAIH-N no Hooded Warblers were noted. I found two singing males here on 14 June 1987 and at least four singing males, one feeding fledged young, were observed on 11 July 1988 (D. Graham, field notes). Another bird was singing across the road in King Tract.

Vanessa: One or two territories have been noted SW of Vanessa annually from 1985 to 1988 (NAIH-N data; D. Graham, field notes).

Town of Haldimand

Cayuga: A singing male was observed NE of Nelles Corners on 13 May 1981 and 8 May 1982. The site was visited again 12 June 1982 by G. North and the bird was still present. A singing male was noted again in 1983 from 10–12 May 1983 (M. Furber, pers. comm.; North 1982).

Norfolk Tp. Mun.

Backus Woods: A pair of Hooded Warblers was noted by G. North in Backus Woods on 4 June 1939 (McCracken 1987). There are no recent records for Backus, to my knowledge.

Big Creek: At least four singing males have been recorded annually from 1986–88 on the east side of Big Creek S of Walsingham (NAIH-N data; D. Graham, field notes). In 1987 I found a nest containing two young and one cowbird on 19 July. On the west side of Big Creek one or two singing males have been recorded annually from 1985–88. On 6 July 1985 two recently fledged males responded to "pishing" and in 1988 an agitated female was observed on 15 August (NAIH-N data; D. Graham, field notes).

Cultus: A singing male was found NW of Cultus on 10 June 1985. The area was checked in 1986–87 but no birds were found.

Deer Creek: Hooded Warblers were first recorded in the Deer Creek Valley NW of Walsingham 4 June 1986. Up to four territories were suspected and I observed an agitated pair on 19 July (NAIH-N data). Surprisingly, only one bird stayed in the area for a short time in 1987 and none could be found in 1988 although the area still offers good habitat (D. Graham, field notes).

Langton: A male was heard singing NE of Langton on 7 June and seen carrying food on 19 June 1985 (D. A. Sutherland, NAIH-N data). Two pairs were present in 1986, including a nest with eggs on 18 July and a singing male was present again on 4 July 1987. No birds were present in 1988 (D. Graham, field notes).

St. Williams Forestry Station: A singing male was noted in rather marginal habitat at the northern edge of the forestry station from 23 May to 5 June 1985 and was never seen again (B. Jones, pers. comm.; NAIH-N data).

South Walsingham: This is an area of extensive forest about 5 km SW of Walsingham. Hooded Warblers were first suspected to be breeding in this area when R. Smith noted a singing male on 14 June 1984 (Atlas files). In 1985 B. Jones discovered a pair and an additional male at the same site on 23–25 May. At least 11 territories were found in the area in 1985, including seven singing males, three carrying food or feeding fledged young, and a nest with young being fed by adults on 8–9 June 1985 (NAIH-N data). In 1986, at least 13 territories existed, of which nine had singing males, two had adults carrying food, one a pair and one a nest with young on 15 July (NAIH-N data). Again in 1987 at least a dozen territories were recorded, including several with adults carrying food and five nests with young. In 1988, an LPBO-sponsored study of this population was undertaken. This resulted in the colour-banding of 60 adults and nestlings and the discovery of 14 active nests. We estimated that banded birds probably represented no more than 70 per cent of the Hooded Warblers in the area. Additional pairs of birds were found peripheral to the study area by D. Graham on 16 August 1988.

Tillsonburg: In 1957 A. R. Weeks discovered the second Canadian nesting of Hooded Warbler SE of Tillsonburg. The nest contained four Hooded Warbler eggs on 14 June and four young by 26 June 1957 (Weeks 1958). Very near this site M. Alton found a singing male in a small woodlot on 23 June 1985 (Atlas files). Despite several visits to the site in 1985–87 the bird was not seen again. A pair was noted SW of Tillsonburg near Big Otter Creek in 1982 by D. Bucknell (*vide* J. Holdsworth, pers. comm.). In 1988 two pairs were again seen in the area,

including a female carrying food and another female carrying a fecal sac on 7 June 1988 (J. Holdsworth, pers. comm.).

Venison Creek: Two territories of Hooded Warblers were located along Venison Creek SW of Walsingham on 1 July 1986 (NAIH-N data). A nest containing three young and a cowbird was discovered on 14 June 1988 SW of Walsingham in a small eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and another singing male was heard upstream on the east side of Venison Creek on 15 June 1988 (D. Graham, field notes).

Wyecombe: Two males were noted NW of Wyecombe by D. A. Sutherland on 5 June 1985. One male was recorded in 1986 but in 1987 no birds could be located.

HALTON RM

Halton Hills Tp. Mun.

Mansewood: These records are of particular interest because they represent the northernmost confirmed breeding locality in Canada. Summer records for the Milton area include observations of a singing male by H. Moore in one of his father's woodlots from 31 July to 19 September 1954. A singing male was also seen the following year from 20 June to 14 September 1955 and again on 22 May 1956 (J. Dowall, *in litt.*; North 1954, 1955, 1956). On 16 June 1969 a nest containing eggs was found 3.3km W of Mansewood by K. Carmichael and J. L. Baillie (Ontario Nest Records Scheme (ONRS)). On 27 June the nest was found disturbed by felled timber and was collected (K. Carmichael, pers. comm.). The most probable location for these observations is an old growth forest which was acquired by the Halton Region Conservation Authority in 1958 from J. K. Moore (B. Axon, pers. comm.). Two birds were seen by J. Lamey in June 1972 at "the mountain above Milton" and this likely refers to the above site (North 1972).

Milton Tp. Mun.

Rattlesnake Point: I observed a singing male in Nassagaweya Canyon just west of Rattlesnake Point on 5 July 1979 in a recently logged clearing on the rich slope of the valley. A singing male was observed from 6–19 July 1986 in a clearing of maple saplings east of Crawford Lake on the brow of the escarpment in an area that had been heavily logged in 1979 (M. Jennings, pers. comm.).

Lowville: D. A. Sutherland and I heard a male singing in a small creek valley below the escarpment SE of Lowville on 7 July 1979.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH RM

Town of Ancaster

Ancaster: A Hooded Warbler was recorded on the grounds of the Tamahaac Club 31 July and 1 August 1964 by H. Moore (North 1964).

Dundas Valley: While atassing near my family's farm I heard and saw a singing male on 13 July 1983 in a natural clearing created by summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*).

Flamborough Tp. Mun.

Rock Chapel: A singing male was observed 28 June 1953 by G. North in the Royal Botanical Gardens at Rock Chapel (North 1953).

Hamilton City Mun.

Westdale Ravine: This is a steep wooded ravine skirting the south shore of Coote's Paradise. Hooded Warblers were possibly seen in the vicinity of the Westdale Ravine earlier than 1860 (McIlwraith 1860, 1894). The first summer record was noted for Westdale Park by G. North on 21 June 1941 and North's 21 June 1947 observation almost certainly refers to the same area (G. North field notes, *vide* R. Curry; F. Bodsworth unpubl. ms.). Other dates include 18 August 1966 by A. Epp, 23 August 1970 by A. Epp, female 30 July 1972 by A. Epp, 24 August 1974 and 22–29 May 1976 by R. Westmore, 27 August 1978 by R. Westmore, 16 August 1979 by

R. Curry, 8 June 1980 by R. Westmore (North 1966, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980). Although breeding has never been confirmed, it is likely that Hooded Warblers have nested here intermittently since the early 1940s and perhaps earlier.

LAMBTON COUNTY

Bosanquet Tp. Mun.

Port Franks: During the Atlas, A Wormington heard a singing male NE of Northville on 24 July 1984 (Atlas files).

Thedford: A male Hooded Warbler was present for over a month S of Thedford near the Ausable River in 1979. The site was suitable and the bird exhibited agitated behaviour (T. Cheskey, pers. comm.). A singing male was recorded here again during the Atlas by A. Rider on 17 May 1984; however the bird failed to remain for the summer (A. Rider, pers. comm.).

Brooke Tp. Mun.

A male in full song was heard by F. S. Cook and J. K. Reynolds on 23 July 1947 in a woodlot near the SW corner of the township (Cook 1953).

Dawn Tp. Mun.

Florence: A singing male was heard along a forested tributary of the Sydenham River from 13–17 June 1947 by W. W. H. Gunn *et al.* (Cook 1953). An effort was made to find a nest, without success. Ten years later on 26 July 1957 a male and female were seen at the same locality by F. S. Cook and W. D. Sutton. The female was agitated and a non-singing, full-plumaged male was observed nearby (Sutton 1957).

Euphemia Tp. Mun.

County Line Woods: A singing male was heard NE of Bothwell from 18–23 June 1985 and on 26 June 1986 by S. Connop (*in litt.*; Atlas files).

Sarnia City Mun.

Sarnia Indian Reserve: A male was observed on 12 July 1984 by P. Dent and T. Dyson in a mature forest in the northern portion of the reserve. It responded to "pishing" with agitated behaviour (Atlas files).

KENT COUNTY

Orford Tp. Mun.

Moravian Indian Reserve: An agitated female was observed within the reserve in the summer of 1986 (W. Lamond, pers. comm.).

Harwich Tp. Mun.

Rondeau: There are numerous spring reports which suggest that Hooded Warblers are migrants only; however the possibility of this species breeding at Rondeau either currently or in the past must not be discounted. Apparently H. P. Attwater found Hooded Warblers in some numbers in June around 1878 in Rondeau (F. Bodsworth, unpubl. ms.). The species was also noted on 6 July one summer by Ussher (1965) and R. Simpson had one on 26 June 1971 (Goodwin and Rosche 1971).

Camden Tp. Mun.

Thamesville: Kelley (1978) suggests that Hooded Warblers were present in the Thamesville area before 1951. One was seen on 30 May 1952 at Thamesville by A. Wood and D. Middleton (Baillie 1952). To my knowledge there are no other records for this area.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO

Toronto City Mun.

The southwesterly gale of early April 1947 produced nine Hooded Warblers in the city of

Toronto. By late spring some birds were still present, including a female seen carrying a caterpillar on 4 June at Sherwood Park by I. Halladay (Baillie 1962). There is a good chance these birds attempted to breed in the ravines of Toronto.

Donalda Woods: A singing male was observed on 24 June 1951 by F. Bodsworth (Baillie 1951).

Hogg's Hollow: On 7 June 1953 a persistently singing male was observed in a hemlock with fairly dense understory (G. Bennet, *in litt.*). It remained in the ravine for one week (Baillie 1953).

Sunnybrook Park: A male was observed by R. Stewart on 7-8 June 1953 (Baillie 1953).

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

London City Mun.

Reservoir Park: On 19-21 June 1966 a singing male was reported by W. and T. Maddeford at Reservoir Park (Jarman 1966). I have no information on the suitability of habitat at this site.

Delaware Tp. Mun.

Delaware: One was observed on 25 June 1971 by T. and W. Maddeford (Jarman 1971b).

Camp Kee Mo Kee: A singing male was observed from 25 May to early June 1985 in a clearing in woods by P. and S. Read but apparently did not stay for the breeding season (Atlas files).

North Dorchester Tp. Mun.

Dorchester Swamp: One was noted on 21 July 1971 by P. Prevett (Jarman 1971b).

Mosa Tp. Mun.

Middlesex County Forest: Hooded Warblers were first recorded in this forest in 1971 by T. Maddeford on several dates between 23 and 30 May (Jarman 1971a). At least two birds were noted on 23 May, 25 June, and 21 July 1971, probably also at this location, by T. Maddeford *et al.* (Jarman 1972a). At least three singing males were noted here on 16 June 1972 by J. Tabak and although no females were seen, nesting was suggested (Jarman 1972b). Birds were observed again on 2 June 1974 by W. R. Jarman (Goodwin and Rosche 1974). On 18 May 1979 a female was observed and later a male was observed on 20 May (Jarman 1979). Finally, in 1978 a nest containing four eggs was found on 9 June by T. Hayman and J. Grom (ONRS). This was the first confirmed breeding for Middlesex County. Another nest was discovered 7 July 1985 by A. Wormington and M. Matheson, which contained two young, one unhatched egg, and a cowbird (*A. Wormington, in litt.*). A pair was seen on 9 June and a female was observed carrying food on 19 June 1987 and there were as many as four singing males in the area on 4 and 23 June 1988 (S. Connop, *in litt.*).

NIAGARA RM

There are surprisingly few summer records for this area given the availability of good habitat. D. Gamble and W. Brockner have noted summer occurrences of Hooded Warbler in the Niagara region in the vicinity of Decew Falls, Niagara Falls, and Welland, probably during the 1940s (F. Bodsworth, unpubl. ms.; Baillie 1962). According to B. Farnan (pers. comm.) there are no recent summer occurrences.

Niagara City Mun.

Navy Island: On 23 May 1985 a pair was seen by G. Meyers in a clearing of a blowdown area of mature forest. The site was revisited on 6 June 1985 but no birds were noted (Atlas files).

Fort Erie Town Mun.

Point Abino: A bird was noted in early June 1947 by B. Nathan (Baillie 1962).

St. Catharines City Mun.

Decew Falls: A Hooded Warbler was noted in the breeding season (date unknown) by W. Brockner (Baillie 1962).

OXFORD COUNTY*Norwich Tp. Mun.*

Otterville: A singing male was seen NW of Hawtreby by D. A. Sutherland (pers. comm.). Although the habitat looked suitable, I saw no birds on a visit to the site on 22 June 1987.

Tillsonburg Tp. Mun.

Tillsonburg: Two singing males were observed on the south side of Big Otter Creek in July 1988 (J. Holdsworth, pers. comm.). Two pairs were confirmed in Haldimand-Norfolk RM farther upstream at the same time.

WATERLOO RM*North Dumfries Tp. Mun.*

Sudden Tract: A singing male was observed on 16 June 1987 (T. Cheskey, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, the site was not visited again that summer. There are one or two other records for spring and fall in the Waterloo Region.

YORK RM*Vaughan Town Mun.*

Kortright Conservation Area: A singing male was noted from 26 May to mid-June 1985 by C. Ellingwood *et al.* in a maple-ash forest with raspberry canes and saplings (Atlas files).

First Breeding Record of the Lawrence's Warbler in Ontario

by

Donald S. Graham and Alan Wormington

On 1 July 1988, Alan Wormington observed an adult female Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. pinus*) at the edge of a clearing in a large wooded area northwest of Vanessa, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk (42°59'N, 80°25'W). The bird was identified as a female on the basis of its dark grey mask and throat patch and its pale dirty yellow underparts and crown. In the male

Lawrence's Warbler these parts are solid black and brighter yellow, respectively (see National Geographic Society 1983:355).

At this time the bird remained relatively close (about 10m) to the observer for a period of 5 to 10 minutes; 10X50 binoculars were used during the observation. The female became quite agitated in response to occasional "spishing", indicating the nearby presence of a

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nest or fledged young.

On 5 July 1988, Donald Graham visited the same area and observed the same Lawrence's Warbler with a second bird, which was assumed to be the adult's offspring. This fledgling had pale grey wings with no wingbars. The head and tail were also pale grey. Underneath there were pale grey areas extending along the sides of the throat, and down onto the sides of the breast. Another pale grey area was observed on the bird's belly. Otherwise the underparts were pale yellow. It appeared similar to a fledgling Blue-winged Warbler seen several hours later.

Both birds were initially seen on the edge of the same clearing where the Lawrence's Warbler had originally been found by Wormington. At this time both birds were easily visible in relatively open vegetation and carefully observed for several minutes with 10X50 binoculars at distances of 8-10m.

For the next 40 minutes, the birds were followed and observed at distances of 3-12m. During this time the birds slowly moved north about 50m, while remaining in close proximity (9m or less) to each other.

Throughout Graham's observations, the fledgling made frequent "buzzy" sounding begging calls to which the female responded by moving towards it. These begging calls sounded like those of fledgling Blue-winged Warblers. As the female approached, the fledgling's

begging calls increased in volume and its wings quivered. Several times the female moved right beside the fledgling and although feeding probably occurred, thick vegetation prevented Graham from actually observing this.

Because of the dense vegetation, Graham attempted to move closer to the birds on several occasions. As he approached, the female usually flew towards him and acted alarmed. It would chip loudly and rapidly, move closely (3m) about him and flick its tail. After several minutes it would become less conspicuous and vocal and move back towards the fledgling, which continued to make begging calls.

After observing the birds for about 40 minutes Graham returned to the clearing to make notes on their appearance and behaviour. No mate was observed, and there appeared to be only one fledgling. The next day, Graham returned to the area with Mary E. Gartshore in an attempt to mist-net and photograph the birds, but were unable to relocate them.

The Lawrence's Warbler is very rare in Ontario and elsewhere. It results from the backcrossing of a hybrid with one of the parent species, or from the mating of two hybrids (Mills 1987). Other intermediates can also arise from matings within the Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler complex (Gill 1980).

Peck and James (1987) do not specifically mention any Lawrence's Warbler nest having been found in

the province, and Ross James (pers. comm., 1988) knows of no breeding records. The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project yielded three possible and one probable breeding record of Lawrence's Warbler for the province (Mills 1987). Speirs (1985:688) lists only one summer record. Hence, this record appears to be the first confirmed breeding record for the province, but not unexpected in light of the widespread distribution of the parent types in southern Ontario.

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An Enigmatic Case for the Breeding of the Kentucky Warbler in Canada

by

J. D. McCracken

Introduction

Though not generally accepted as such, Canada's first report of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) was recorded at Ste. Foy, Quebec in 1879. In this instance, John Neilson claimed that a pair, "showing every indication of breeding", was observed daily from 2-15 July (Fleming 1937). Because the record was hundreds of kilometres north of the species' known breeding range, it was understandably later discounted by several authors. Still, Fleming (1937) defended

Neilson as being a competent observer. The Canadian status of the Kentucky Warbler (KEWA) remains somewhat enigmatic over 100 years later.

Including the handful of occurrences that were summarized by Smith and Devitt (1943) and Stirrett (1945), there are now over 230 records of the KEWA for Ontario. About 90 per cent of these were reported during spring migration, primarily along the north shores of lakes Erie and Ontario. Some unprecedented spring

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influxes (10–28 birds annually) were recently noted (e.g., Goodwin 1976, 1979; Weir 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986).

There are only about 20 fall records, including two hatch-year birds recorded at Long Point, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, on 12 August 1976 and 23 September 1977 (Long Point Bird Observatory files). The "nationality" of these birds is, of course, unknown.

Ontario's first summer record concerns a KEWA found singing on 29 June and 3 July 1966 at Newbury, Middlesex Co. (Goodwin and Rosche 1967). All other summer records have occurred in the 1980s, coinciding with the recent spring influxes as well as with the intensive ornithological coverage associated with the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project (see McCracken 1987a).

There is some circumstantial evidence for a northward range expansion. As early as the 1950s, Snyder (1957) felt that the KEWA's status in Ontario had changed from "fortuitous" to "casual". Since then,

there has been a dramatic increase in the number of reports (Fig. 1). A large part of this can probably be attributed to heightened ornithological coverage, but it is also consistent with a range expansion.

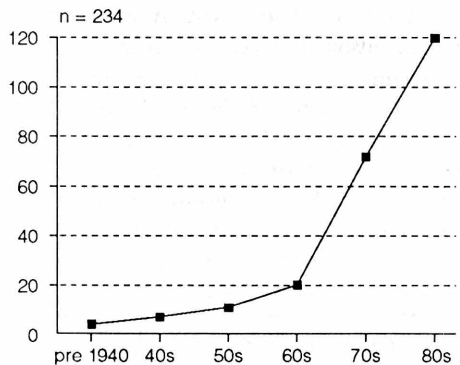
Although Bull (1974) noted that the KEWA's range had inexplicably retracted in New York, recent northward range extensions have been reported for Erie Co., Pennsylvania (Stull and Stull 1985) and Jackson Co., Michigan (Baker 1984). These two nestings occurred only 60–70km away from the Ontario border.

The most convincing breeding evidence for Canada concerns a male KEWA which returned to occupy precisely the same territory in at least four consecutive summers. Details of this case are summarized below.

1985

In 1985, a KEWA was found singing in an extensive swampy woodland located about 2km northwest of Vanessa, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk (McCracken 1987b). Having been ravaged by a

Figure 1: Numbers of published reports of Kentucky Warblers in Ontario (1898–1987).



devastating tornado which struck the area almost a decade earlier, the site provided ideal, dense habitat. Interestingly, the KEWA is likely to profit from gale-damage to forests, due to the subsequent proliferation of shrubs and saplings (Whitcomb *et al.* 1977).

The shrub layer was dominated by a virtually impenetrable growth of raspberry (*Rubus* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), large-tooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), willow (*Salix* sp.), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) saplings. Canopy cover (10–20 per cent) was sparse and was dominated by a few silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*), red maples, and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*). The more open sections supported a dense herbaceous layer composed of various species of sedges, grasses, ferns, and flowering plants. Leaf litter and ferns characterized the ground cover in the more heavily shaded, tall-shrub sections.

First found singing on 11 July (the date of my first visit to the site), the bird remained at least until 19 July (the date of my last visit). It had probably been present throughout the breeding season.

During most of my visits in 1985 and later, it usually sang from the low branches of scattered trees, describing a large, roughly oval territory measuring about 150 x 250m. On some occasions, it responded excitedly to my "pishing". On 12 July, M. E. Gartshore and I

observed the male engaged in a heated territorial dispute with a pair of nesting Mourning Warblers (*Oporornis philadelphia*).

1986

I returned to the site on 28 May 1986 and was surprised to find a KEWA singing incessantly at precisely the same spot as in 1985. As in later years, I assumed it was the same bird.

I returned on 17 and 24 June, but did not hear it during each of the two-hour visits, perhaps because of the cool and windy weather. However, it was relocated on 8 July, singing briefly during the mid-afternoon. During a two-hour visit on 14 July, it sang only briefly upon my arrival. It was not heard during a one-hour visit on 15 July and it sang for only about 10 minutes during seven hours of observation on 17 and 18 July.

1987

On my first visit to the site in 1987 (25 May), a KEWA was again found singing repeatedly. It was singing again on 1 June, 7 June (R. Curry, pers. comm.) and during my last visit on 10 June. T. and F. Woodrow (pers. comm.) heard it on 20 and 24 June, the date of their last visit.

1988

I returned to the site on 28 May 1988. There was no sign of the KEWA then or on 4 June. Although it was seen and heard on 6 and 7 June (D. W. Graham, pers. comm.), it was not found during at least

eight subsequent visits made to the site, ending on 6 July. While the bird may have merely fallen silent, I suspect that it vacated the area or succumbed to a predator.

The Cases for and against Breeding

Approximately 60 hours were spent observing and searching for this bird during the years 1985–88. At no time was a female seen by myself or nearly a dozen other competent observers. Breeding evidence consisted of territory maintenance, infrequent aggressive encounters with other species, and occasional alarm calling.

The amount of time spent at the site and the competence of the observers would normally have generated stronger breeding evidence, if in fact breeding occurred. However, the dense nature of the habitat greatly impeded efforts to observe and follow the bird, let alone discover a nest. Also, the KEWA is known for its remarkable abilities to escape nest detection, partly because breeding females are so elusive (e.g., Sprunt 1957; Bent 1963). In a similar case in Michigan, Baker (1984) did not find a female KEWA until the fourth consecutive year of a male's occurrence. Even then, it was only with luck and persistence that a nest was found.

The fact that the Vanessa bird occupied precisely the same territory, in suitable habitat, during at least four successive breeding seasons, is not consistent with

behaviour to be expected from an "over-shoot" migrant or a "lost" individual. Rather, such circumstances are more characteristic of a site-tenacious breeding bird. Indeed, I know of no instance of a non-breeding passerine displaying such a high level of tenacity, particularly when on the fringe of its breeding range, though it must occasionally happen.

It could be argued that the remoteness of the site from Lake Erie (30km inland), together with the general rarity of the species in Ontario, makes it improbable that the male could have attracted a female. However, the chances of successful mate attraction are surely heightened given the recent record numbers of spring occurrences in Ontario. Moreover, summer occurrences of singing males in other parts of the region, and the presence of hatch-year birds during fall migration, strengthen the assertion that this species has bred in the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk.

Conclusions

Though still unconfirmed as a breeding species in Canada, a Kentucky Warbler probably bred at Vanessa, Ontario sometime during the period 1985–88, and perhaps earlier. There is some evidence to suggest that the Kentucky Warbler's breeding range has been expanding northwards into Ontario over the past decade. Hence, spring occurrences here should no longer be dismissed as involving "over-

shoot" migrants. The Kentucky Warbler is probably now a rare and somewhat irregular breeding species in southern Ontario.

Acknowledgements

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Male Golden-winged Warbler Attends Blue-winged Warbler Nest

by
William J. Rayner

Introduction

Beginning in 1986, Ron Kingswood and the author initiated a project to document, by photographic means, the breeding warblers and vireos of Elgin Co., Ontario. The Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), although referred to by Brooman (1954) as "a regular, but not common summer resident", is one of a number of warblers lacking breeding evidence for the county (G. Peck [Ontario Nest Record Scheme], pers. comm.). The first sight record of the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*) for Elgin Co. occurred in 1963 but the species was not found breeding within its borders until 1985.

It is a well established fact that where the breeding range of these two warblers overlap, as is the case in Elgin Co., hybridization between the species can occur (Parkes 1951). Gill (1980) notes that Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers normally do not defend breeding territories against each other. However, Grom and Panza (1986) describe in detail the fierce defence of a nest in Pennsylvania by a male Brewster's Warbler (*V. chrysoptera* x *V. pinus*), mated to a

female Brewster's, against a persistent interloper, a male Golden-winged Warbler.

Description

On 8 June 1988, we found a male Golden-winged Warbler near a concession road in Bayham Township, Elgin Co. When first observed it appeared to be carrying food to and alternately singing from the west side of a semi-circular opening on the edges of a mixed deciduous wood.

The Golden-wing was also noted to repeatedly chase what we initially identified as a female Blue-winged Warbler across the opening into a thicket of shrubs. Closer observations, however, showed it to be a male Blue-wing. A visit to the site the following day failed to disclose the whereabouts of a nest but both males were observed carrying food and engaging in further "dog fights" across the clearing, always in a west to east direction.

Returning on 13 June, Kingswood discovered a well-concealed ground nest containing five young nearly ready to fledge. It was situated about 2m in from the west edge of the open area and sur-

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rounded by several saplings. The dead top half of a broken bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) rested across the nest, effectively camouflaging the dome-shaped leaf structure beneath. The broken stalk also provided a perch by which the adults would descend to the nest.

We immediately began to set up the blind and photographic equipment. I was not quite settled in and Kingswood was scarcely out of sight when a female Blue-winged Warbler arrived and began feeding the young, followed closely by the male. As the male Blue-wing departed, a male Golden-winged Warbler with food in its bill appeared about 30cm above the nest. After a momentary pause, it left without further approaching the nest.

During one of the subsequent visits by both Blue-wings, the male Golden-wing again appeared above the nest at approximately the same distance as before. Anticipating his return, I was able to obtain one exposure of the Golden-wing at the nest, with food clearly visible in his bill, while the female Blue-wing attended to the nestlings just below him. As was the case during his first visit, the Golden-wing departed without delivering the food to the young.

Soon thereafter the nestlings began to leave the nest, one by one. In the interval that followed, four adult birds were observed simultaneously in the immediate area, all endeavouring to feed the fledglings: a male Golden-wing, a male Blue-wing, and two female Blue-wings.

Summary

It is quite possible that a second nest existed in close proximity to the subject nest where the two Blue-wings appeared to be the dominant pair. By attrition it would seem that the male Golden-wing was paired with the second female Blue-wing.

To test our theory, we returned to the area on 15 June, by which time we hoped that the five nestlings and their rightful parents would have left the area, leaving the remaining pair to confirm the coupling of all four adults. Instead, we found one young being alternately fed by the male Golden-winged Warbler and the male Blue-winged Warbler. Careful examination of the transparencies obtained at the nest suggest that both adult Blue-wings appeared to be "pure", with no signs of any ancestral hybridization. Also, studies were made of each photograph to determine if more than one female attended the nest, but no discernible differences were noted. Plumages of the nestlings appeared to be uniform, a further indication that the adult male of the subject nest was a Blue-winged Warbler.

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Further Evidence for the Breeding of the Summer Tanager in Canada

by

P. Allen Woodliffe

The Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) is considered to be rare in Canada, with casual records from southern Manitoba and southwestern Quebec (Godfrey 1986). It occurs more frequently in southern New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. In Ontario it has recently been recorded annually during spring migration at various localities along the north shore of Lake Erie. At Point Pelee National Park, Essex Co., for example, an average of 7.2 birds were observed in spring for the years 1978–87, inclusive (Wormington 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984; Runtz 1983; Pratt and Pratt 1985; Hince 1986; Pratt 1987). During this period the earliest date noted was April 20 and the latest was May 27.

At Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent Co., about 50km east of Point Pelee, the park records indicate that only one or two Summer Tanagers are recorded in an average spring migration. In addition, there is a record of two males being collected by the late J. L. Baillie on 12 June 1933 and one June record in 1965 (Speirs 1985). These were the only summer records for Rondeau until 1985, and two of the very few for

Ontario. Only one other "summer" record occurred during the five years of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, that being in 1983 when a singing male was recorded in late May at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth (Woodliffe 1987). The spring of 1985 saw a minor influx of Summer Tanagers at Rondeau, involving at least five different birds from 1–9 May. Two of the five birds were females. There was a lull in observations until 26 May when a male and female were noted in the park's sighting book as being seen along the South Point Trail. There were no further records until 8 July, when Dr. Richard Knapton excitedly reported observing a pair along the South Point Trail. They seemed to be intent on one certain area, and copulation had been observed. I checked the area on 9 July and saw no sign of either the male or female. However, early in the morning of 10 July, I again checked the location. Within two minutes of my arrival, what I identified as a male Summer Tanager appeared approximately 15m up in a nearby American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) tree. It was giving

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an alarm call which can best be described as a distinct "tic-tucketytuk". These calls are well recorded on both the Peterson and National Geographic tape guides to bird songs. The bird I saw was about 15–18cm long and an almost uniform rich rosy but dull red. The wings were much the same colour, but perhaps slightly dusker towards the tips. The bill was fairly stout and yellowish. The bird worked its way to within 20m of me, all the while giving its alarm note. I hid behind a nearby tree trunk, hoping to keep an eye on the bird to follow it to its mate. The bird flew back to the beech tree and then out of sight beyond it. It could not relocate it. I left the area intending to come back in a few days, thinking that if the bird was nesting, it may be quite early in the cycle and, therefore, I did not want to disturb it. The habitat consisted of a mature beech-maple woods, with numerous basswood (*Tilia americana*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) present as well. A few of the mature trees had fallen over in recent years, making the overstory relatively open. The South Point Trail and nearby slough made it seem even more open.

On 16 July I checked the area again and heard but did not see the bird. On 22 July I saw the male with food in his mouth and heard him giving alarm calls. He flew to a tree where the female was, fed her and then they both flew off away from me. Although I examined this tree and nearby ones quite thoroughly, I

could not find a nest. I again checked the area for two hours in the early evening of that same day, but saw no sign of either bird. I checked the area on four subsequent occasions from 23–29 July but neither saw nor heard anything of the Summer Tanagers. Then, on the morning of 30 July, I heard the male call twice, the last time I found any concrete evidence of either tanager being in the area. It is possible that because of the absence of other Summer Tanagers in the area at the time, the male did not feel compelled to call and "defend" the territory with any regularity. As a result, the birds may have been more difficult to detect. Farrand (1983) states that this species "often remains concealed in higher vegetation, especially when breeding."

On 15 November I found a tanager type nest that Phil Taylor had mentioned to me a few weeks earlier. It was approximately 180m south of the area where the pair had been most frequently seen. It was in a sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) tree, approximately 10m up and 4m out from the trunk in the crook of a misshapen, bent branch about 2–3cm in diameter and almost directly over the road. It was neat, circular, and flat-shaped, approximately 10cm in outside diameter and appeared to be comprised of coarse grasses and weed stems. Small branches and the presence of leaves protruding from the limb supporting the nest would have likely obscured the view from below. The nest was not that of any thrush, vireo, or warbler species that

I am familiar with. If this was in fact the location of the Summer Tanager's nest, its distance (180m) from the scene of all the observations described above may partially explain the infrequency of activity noted.

There is no conclusive evidence that this pair of Summer Tanagers bred at Rondeau Provincial Park in 1985. Activities such as copulation, male feeding the female, alarm calls, and length of time the birds were noted in one area — together with the presence of suitable habitat and the finding of an unoccupied tanager-like nest in the vicinity — all suggest that these birds did indeed breed or at least attempt to breed at Rondeau. However, based on this account, the status of the Summer Tanager in Ontario and Canada continues to be that of an occasional visitor and suspected breeding resident.

In future, field ornithologists should make a concerted effort to determine if pairs do establish subsequent to the occurrence of spring "overshoots", in the hope of adding the Summer Tanager to the list of breeding birds in Ontario and Canada.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Phil Taylor for his helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

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The Ontario Specimen of Carolina Chickadee

by

Kenneth C. Parkes

On 18 May 1983 a Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*) was netted at the tip of Long Point, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, Ontario. It was said to have been emaciated and weak, and died soon after capture. It is now specimen no. 28494 in the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. I have found this event mentioned in three places in the literature. Weir (1983) pointed out that it was the first record of this species for Canada, but did not mention age or subspecific identification. James (1984) added the name of the collector, D. Shepherd, and the catalogue number of the specimen at the ROM. He stated furthermore that it was "the southern subspecies, *impiger*." Finally, Gustafson (1987), in a letter to the editor of *Birding*, claimed that this record removed the Carolina Chickadee from the list of species endemic to the United States, and also stated that it was "a hatchling of that year of the southern nesting race *P. c. carolinensis*."

This record caught my attention, as I am much interested in the Carolina Chickadee and its relationship to the Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*) in the

northeastern areas of sympatry. I felt that both the subspecific identification (already equivocal, with two names having been cited) and the age ("hatchling of that year") could be questioned. Dr. Jon C. Barlow, Curator of Ornithology at the ROM, was kind enough to send me the specimen on loan. In his covering letter he reiterated that the bird was "in fact a young of the year, but a fully flying bird, although obviously immature." The specimen was examined after its death by Dr. Ross D. James.

To clear up the matter of the subspecific identification first, it should be pointed out that the name *impiger*, used by James (1984), refers not to the widespread southern race of Carolina Chickadee (which is nominate *carolinensis*), but to an alleged small Florida race, only reluctantly and provisionally accepted as separable from *carolinensis* in the thorough study of this species published by Lunk (1952). I have compared the Ontario specimen to the excellent series of 84 Carolina Chickadees in the collection of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. I was not surprised to find that it belongs to neither of the southern races, but is an exam-

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ple of *P. C. extimus*, the subspecies that breeds nearest to Long Point (less than 250km south in Ohio and western Pennsylvania). This subspecies differs from *carolinensis* both in size and colour. Among populations assigned to *carolinensis* by Lunk (1951) females had wing chords measuring 56.5 to 62mm, and tails 46.5 to 52.5mm. Females of *extimus* had wings of 57 to 65mm, and tails of 48.5 to 58mm. With a wing chord of 60mm and a tail of at least 55mm (the rectrices are worn), the Ontario bird's measurements clearly match those of the larger northern population.

As for colour, the best character

for distinguishing *extimus* from the more southern races is the much whiter (less grey) edgings of its flight feathers and wing coverts. Also useful is the colour of the sides and flanks, described by the authors of *extimus* (Todd and Sutton 1936) as "brighter reddish brown" than in *carolinensis*. Lunk (1952) describes northern birds as having "a heavy wash of pale rufous along the sides," whereas southern birds "are on the whole not quite so brightly washed on the sides." The Ontario specimen is a good match in both of these colour characters for specimens of *extimus* from West Virginia (including the type series)



Carolina Chickadee / drawing by Chris Blomme

and Pennsylvania.

My skepticism about the alleged age of the chickadee remains. The earliest egg date I have found for the Carolina Chickadee at the northern end of its range is 12 April (New Jersey), and most dates are significantly later. According to Dickey (in Bent 1946) the incubation period for this species is 11 days. This would mean that the *earliest* hatching date would be 23 April. We have stub-tailed nestling specimens from western Pennsylvania taken 9 June and from coastal Virginia taken 23 May. It would appear unlikely on the face of it that a Carolina Chickadee juvenile would be old enough and strong enough to fly across Lake Erie and arrive at Long Point by 18 May. There is further evidence from the specimen itself. Although the label is annotated "SNCO" (skull not completely "ossified" or pneumatized), a sign of immaturity, the skull in the specimen is mostly rigid to the touch. Posteriorly it has some "give", and I suspect that the skull was partly crushed, possibly in the net. In any case, the cranium of a chickadee only a month old would show hardly any pneumatization at all, and would not feel hard, as this one does. Additional evidence that this bird was not a juvenile lies in the condition of the flight feathers. The remiges and the rectrices are very worn (the latter to the extent that only a minimum tail measurement is possible), far more than would be true of a chickadee a month after hatching. A third piece

of morphological evidence lies in the label description of the ovary as having measured 3 x 2mm. An ovary of only 3 x 2mm on 18 May suggests that this bird would not have come into breeding condition that year, but not that it was a juvenile. The ovary of a month-old female chickadee would be expected to be a tiny, barely perceptible blob of tissue.

In short, then, all of the evidence indicates that ROM no. 28494, Canada's first Carolina Chickadee specimen, represents a non-breeding adult female of the northern subspecies *Parus carolinensis exlimus*.

There remains one more peripheral "loose end". Ms Gustafson's (1987) claim that the Ontario record negates the status of the Carolina Chickadee as a US endemic bird species has no validity. "Accidentals" do not affect the concept of endemism; if they did so, then many species presently considered endemic to North America would lose that status owing to accidental records in western Europe.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Dr. Jon C. Barlow for lending me the ROM specimen, and to Dr. Barlow and Dr. D. Scott Wood for reading an earlier draft of this note.

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First Nest Record of White-eyed Vireo in Ontario

by

William J. Rayner

The White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) is presently considered a rare breeding species in the Carolinian Zone of Ontario (James 1987).

Although there is an unsubstantiated nesting record from Toronto in 1898 (Macoun and Macoun 1909), the White-eyed Vireo was not confirmed as a breeding species in Ontario until 1971.

On 24 May 1971, M. A. Rayner and the author observed a White-eyed Vireo flitting nervously between bushes on either side of a moderately travelled private road, 75m west of the shoreline of Lake Erie and 2km north of the entrance to Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent Co., Ontario. We soon located a second bird of this species in the immediate area and a closer study with 10-power binoculars revealed that one vireo was carrying nesting material to a choke cherry (*Prunus*

virginiana) bush situated 1.5m from the edge of the road. Upon examination of the bush, we observed the placement of anchor strands of a nest from a fork of a branch about 1m above the ground.

On the evening of 28 May we returned to the site and found a completed, cone-shaped nest, tightly built and constructed of various materials, including twigs, pine needles, paper, grasses and string (Fig. 1). No eggs were present in the nest. The following day, M. H. Field arrived and confirmed our findings. In response to a playback of the vireo's recorded song, one of the birds began uttering a series of scolding notes not unlike the call of a nuthatch (*Sitta* sp.) but increasing in volume and intensity and lasting approximately 40 seconds.

The next morning (29 May) one of the birds was observed on the

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nest. Several photographs were taken with a hand-held 35mm camera and telephoto lens from a distance of about 3.5m. During this period of photography the bird on the nest did not flush. Field and the author visited the nest on 3 June and found it to be unattended and to contain one egg of a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).

Upon a search of the immediate area, a White-eyed Vireo began to sing from the edge of a thicket, about 300m to the north of the original nest site. We soon located a second bird, which was observed to be carrying nesting material to a small oak (*Quercus* sp.), where we found the beginnings of another nest. This structure was also in the

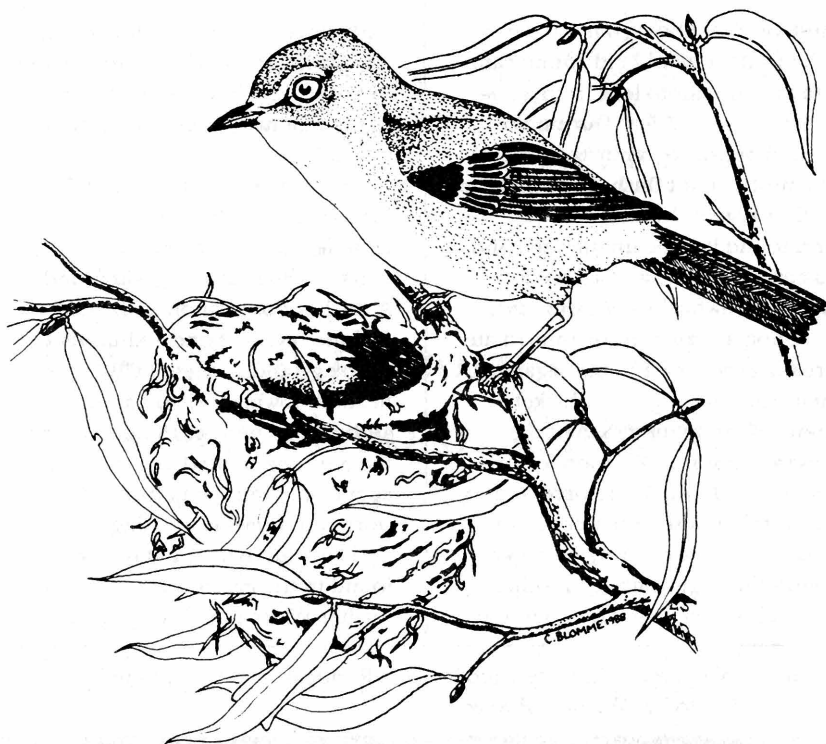
early stages of construction and it was placed so as to hang from a fork in the sapling in the same manner as the first nest, about 1m from the ground.

Subsequent visits on 5 and 6 June indicated that the nest was complete and on 7 June one creamy-white vireo egg was found. A further observation at the nest on 11 June revealed one additional vireo egg and an egg of a Brown-headed Cowbird. Field and the author returned on 15 June to find the nest unattended and the three eggs cold, even damp from a rain-storm the previous evening.

The adult pair could not be found in the general area and no further White-eyed Vireo sighting

Figure 1: White-eyed Vireo nest (collected), Rondeau, Kent Co., June 1971.
Photo by William J. Rayner.





White-eyed Vireo / drawing by *Chris Blomme*

were recorded in the area of either nest during the remainder of the breeding season.

Both nests and the two vireo eggs were subsequently collected and deposited in the Department of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, along with a detailed description, colour slides, and tape recordings. The Ontario Ornithological Records Committee (precursor of the Ontario Birds Records Committee) accepted these findings as the first nesting record for the province of Ontario (Goodwin 1971).

Acknowledgements

The assistance of Clive E. Goodwin in processing our information and materials and in reviewing earlier drafts of this paper is greatly appreciated.

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Notes

Early Spring Date for Red-necked Phalarope

On 12 April 1986 at 1500h the author and Linda Guzman discovered a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) in basic plumage at the Comber Sewage ponds, Essex Co. What was undoubtedly the same bird was independently discovered and identified by Michael J. Oldham two hours later. The sighting of this individual is significant in that it represents the earliest spring record for Ontario by 24 days.

The phalarope was extremely tame, allowing approaches within 5m to note salient features. The swimming behaviour, general whitish colouration and smaller size than nearby Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) immediately identified it as a phalarope. Further observation noted the following: underparts a clean white except for a hint of grey on the sides of the breast; back, wings, and rear of neck generally black with two bold rows of white-edged back feathers; head white except for two black areas, one a patch through the eye and the other a continuation of the black on the back of the neck ending on the crown above the eye; bill very slender, black, length about equal to head size; call note a distinct soft "pik". Bill shape and colour, darker upperparts and call

note were characters that clearly separated this from the other two phalarope species.

James *et al.* (1976) list the earliest spring occurrence for this species in Ontario as 20 May. A search of recent issues of *American Birds* detected a few Ontario records prior to 20 May, the earliest being 7-9 May 1985 at Long Point Provincial Park, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk (Weir 1985). The Long Point record appears to be the previous earliest for Ontario.

Outside Ontario within the Great Lakes basin, no April records could be located. However, in coastal New York state the species appears regularly in late March and early April and concentrations of several hundred are not uncommon in late April (Bull 1974).

The origin of this individual is intriguing. No particularly unusual influx of early migrants occurred simultaneous to the record and weather patterns seemed rather normal. The individual was notably tame, fed very actively, and seemed somewhat scruffy (both parties emphasized this), all factors which suggest a recent extended flight. The origin that comes to mind immediately is that it was an early coastal departure.

I will hypothesize one other possible origin just for fun. This species winters almost exclusively on the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans (Harrison 1986). However, Bond (1985) lists four records for the West Indies, including one as late as 21 January. It is possible that this individual could have overwintered in the West Indies and headed northwards until it reached the Gulf Coast. In the absence of other individuals to stage with along the coast, the urge to migrate may have carried it inland, thereby accelerating its arrival in Ontario.

Regardless of origin, this observation provided a notable early record and some surprising excitement for two lucky parties.

ment for two lucky parties.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Michael J. Oldham for providing his field notes and valuable comments.

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An Unusual Barn Swallow Nest in Elgin County

In June of 1986, Harry and Shirley Foster drew my attention to a rather unusual Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nest on their farm located on the Golf Club Road, Southwold Township, near St. Thomas, Elgin Co.

The nest was located in a small barn used for the storage of garden tractors, feed, and tools. When the two front sliding doors of the barn were closed, the swallows gained access through open windows situated on the southeast side of the building. Several other pairs of Barn Swallows also used the shed for nesting purposes.

What made this nest so unique was its placement on a 3/16" wire which was strung from above the front doors near the peak of the barn roof and extended approximately 4m towards the rear of the barn where it again was fastened near the peak of the roof. The distance from the nest to the barn floor was about 3.65m.

The mud structure was anchored to the wire in such a manner so as to remain completely stationary. The centre of gravity thus produced ensured that the contents of the nest would remain in place. The nest was situated

about halfway between each end of the wire, which caused the front rim of the bowl to be parallel to the floor.

The form of the nest was quite different from those built on platforms such as barn beams. The overall shape can be likened to a large thimble with a V-shaped wedge being removed from one side about a third of the way up, creating the actual nest cup (Fig. 1).

The circular top, 9cm in diameter, was completely open and a 3.5cm hole on either side of the nest just below the wire provided a

“window” from which a nestling was observed to beg for food (Fig. 2); however, during the day-long photographic session, none was fed at that opening (nor through the top of the nest) by either adult.

All four nestlings fledged successfully. The Fosters reported to me the following spring that during the winter months the nest was accidentally hit by a ladder and was substantially damaged. Watch was kept but no pair attempted to repair the remaining portion of the structure and no attempt was made to begin a new nest on the suspended wire.

Figure 1: Barn Swallow nest suspended from wire inside barn, near St. Thomas, Elgin Co., June 1986. Photo by William J. Rayner.

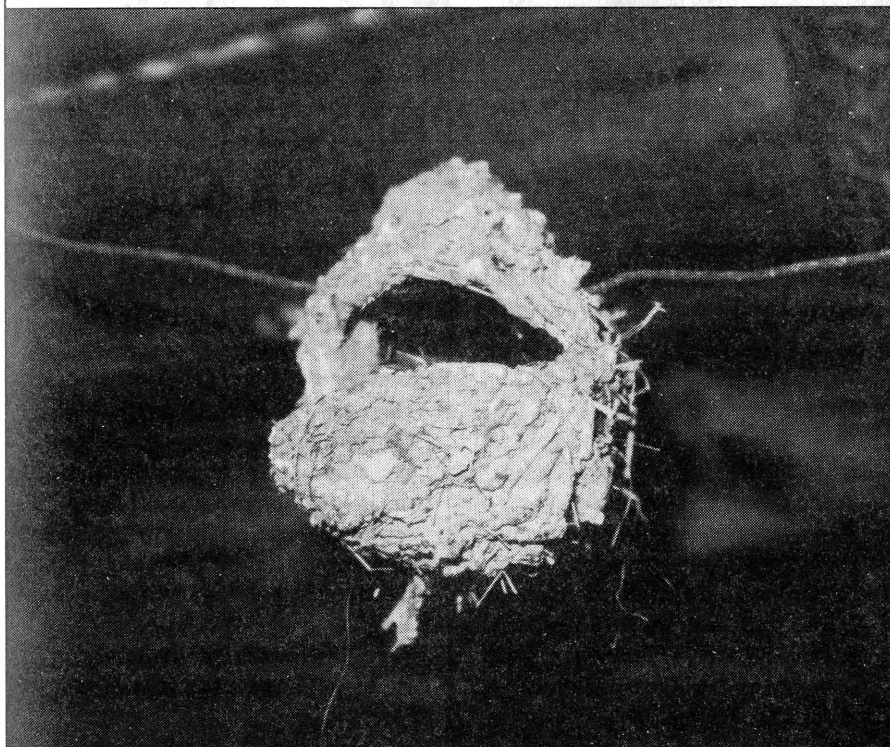
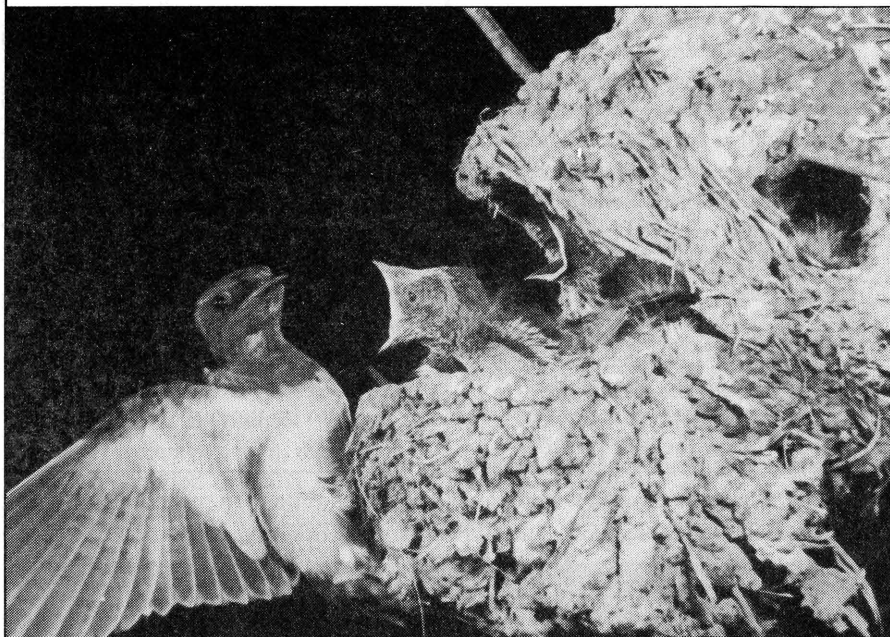


Figure 2: Barn Swallow nestlings begging for food, near St. Thomas, Elgin Co., June 1986. Photo by William J. Rayner.



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Book Reviews

National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America. 1987. Shirley L. Scott (editor). National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. 464pp. Available from ABA Sales @ US\$17.95 members price, paperbound.

When the *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (NGS) burst upon the scene in 1983 it was quickly hailed as the crème de la crème of North American guides and was immediately adopted by serious birders. Now, as seems to be the trend, barely four years later we have a revised Second Edition. The first was reviewed by Don Fraser (*Ontario*

Birds 2:48-51) and Guy McCaskie (*Birding* 16:25-32). This review will concentrate on changes from the first edition, with an emphasis on the meticulous criticisms of those reviewers, in an attempt to help you answer the question: "Should I buy the second edition so soon after the first?"

At first glance there are few changes. The number (464) and

sequence of pages remains identical and virtually all the plates are the same at a glance. Indeed, many are unchanged (if it ain't broke don't fix it) but careful examination of both text and plates discloses numerous refinements and improvements; the revision was a careful job of work — not a slapdash effort to get a new edition on the booksellers' shelves.

To the status terminology has been added the term "accidental". The writers avoided this term first time around. This can be done in a local study where the exact number of records can be listed, but in the first edition, the all-purpose "rare" often resulted in a misleading likelihood of occurrence. Now, "accidental" is used to describe the extreme rarity of many species at certain locations. Actually, the term "rare" is never clearly explained, but the reader will quickly infer that it means more frequently occurring than "casual", which is defined as less than annual.

A few species and forms which have begun to occur in the guide area since the first edition have been added to the plates. These are Green Parakeet, "Eurasian" Barn Swallow, Eurasian Jackdaw, Red-breasted Flycatcher, and Golden-crowned Warbler.

Much more significantly, many plates have had major improvements. These are sometimes subtle but then this is the nature of this sophisticated guide. The loons (p. 19) look considerably better in both plumage and form, although they

are still not as good as those painted by Killian Mullarney (*British Birds* 79:366). Buller's Shearwater (p. 31) has a much lighter grey mantle, leading correctly to depiction of the M dorsal pattern. Now the western cormorants (p. 47) are not so green. The heron colours (p. 51) are toned down and the Little Blue Heron immatures now have correct grey bill bases and lores. The excellent dowitcher plate (p. 123) is even better. The primaries of the Long-billed Dowitchers are laid more naturally on the tails without losing the depiction of broader dark tail bands and *hendersoni* (our race) of Short-billed Dowitcher now, correctly, has a bill as long as some of the Long-billed Dowitchers illustrated. Both immature and adult Northern Harriers (p. 189) are now the correct colours. The cuckoos and anis (p. 235) have been totally redrawn and now have the appearance of real, rough-plumaged birds. On page 279 the Western Kingbird is lighter and Cassin's has a whiter throat to depict a diagnostic difference between these congeners. The bizarre eye-rings and far too intense colours of some small flycatchers (p. 293) have been appropriately modified. The Connecticut Warbler's embarrassingly huge foot is covered by a (fig?) leaf.

Not all errors have been corrected. The female Cinnamon Teal (p. 75) still has its bill immersed in water, the juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper (p. 134) still lacks yellow scapular stripes, the flying accip-

iters (p. 191) still have shrunken heads, some empidonaces (p. 291) still have curious elongate shapes, the swallows have had major revisions but some are still too broad-winged, and the *Catharus* thrushes still need a visit to a fat farm.

Several labelling errors on the plates have been corrected. The Yellow-footed Gull (p. 157) is now a first summer and the Plain-capped Hummingbird (p. 257) is now a Starthroat. However, the better-drawn cuckoos (p. 237) have the adult Black-billed labelled as a juvenile.

If anything, the text has had even more significant and extensive revisions to improve syntax, remove repetition and redundancy, and add specific new knowledge of identification subtleties. Here is only a sampling of the excellent additions. Clark's Grebe has a more extensive wingstripe than Western; Great Cormorant has a thicker neck and larger head than Double-crested; look for the pale pink facial skin and reddish eye on White-faced Ibis; note the fine dark speckling on and below the breast of many Short-billed Dowitchers in winter to help distinguish them from Long-billed; and the centre of the breast of some winter Western Sandpipers is faintly streaked, which Semipalmated Sandpiper never has. A good cautionary note for those who use the Peterson guide for hawks: the Broad-winged Hawk may have a pale area at the base of the primaries but it lacks the distinct pale crescents of the

Red-shouldered Hawk. The short wings of Bell's Vireo make the tail look long and the dark bars on the central tail feathers of Cassin's Sparrow should be looked for.

Other information on status has been updated or changed. The Cattle Egret spread to South America (it was introduced according to the first edition); the Carribean Coot is not only perhaps a subspecies but considered by some authors to be a "colour phase" of American Coot; Piping Plover is declining and press time information on California Condor is provided.

A nice new feature is that species mentioned in the text but neither illustrated nor given a separate species heading are boldfaced (e.g., Bermuda Petrel, Townsend's Shearwater, and Variegated Flycatcher).

Not much could be done with the tiny range maps except to provide a small magnifying glass (try it — it works!), although some maps have been modified in response to criticisms. For instance, Bobolink is now shown as a migrant through Louisiana. Given the abundance of other bird distribution information available, I suspect few birders use these maps seriously.

Well then, should you come up with the US\$17.95 to get the second edition? Certainly the best North American bird identification guide for the serious birder is now even better. If you're planning a trip elsewhere in North America where you are less familiar with the birds,

possibly yes. If you can afford the most up-to-date and best equipment and aids then you'll no doubt want the second edition. Or if you're the type who studies and

memorizes your guide then you'd better have the best information. Come to think of it, who's left?

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Guía para la identificación de las aves de Argentina y Uruguay [Guide for the Identification of the Birds of Argentina and Uruguay]. T. Narosky and D. Yzurieta.

Vásquez Mazzini Editores, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Available from Victor Emanuel Tours, Box 33008, Austin, Texas, 78764.

South America has the richest avifauna of any continent, but, to the intense frustration of visiting bird-watchers, was until recently singularly ill-served by workable bird-books. This woeful gap in the ornithological literature is, piece by piece, being remedied, but most of the important recent publications have dealt with the northern part of the continent — Venezuela, Colombia, Suriname; the temperate parts of South America which, while not as diverse as the tropical areas, are enormously interesting but still largely unserved.

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world, but prior to the publication of the present work was treated only in one very inferior guide (a book of truly spectacular dreadfulness, published in 1959). Thus any serious book on the birds of southern South America is an important work. The geographic area covered by this guide is Uruguay, Argentina, and the Falkland Islands and Dependencies (which the authors, in a fit of inaccurate if entirely predictable patriotism, treat as a

province of Argentina). The book is also highly relevant to Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, and much of southern Brazil.

The layout of the guide follows a familiar pattern. After some brief pages of introduction and explanation, there is a useful set of thumbnail sketches of the 82 families found in Argentina and Uruguay. The book then launches into the species accounts.

Broadly speaking, there are two possible formats which can be used in a field guide. The side-by-side approach, as exemplified by the new Peterson guide, treats a species entirely within one double page, with the picture adjacent to the written account. Or, one can put all the pictures in a set of pages, and the descriptions and other data elsewhere, as Peterson originally did in his earlier guides. Both approaches have their advantages and disadvantages.

The major disadvantage of the "side-by-side" approach is that it severely limits the space available for text. The present guide uses this approach, and it is instructive

to compare the amount of information given about each species to that found in, for example, Hilty and Brown's new Colombian guide (see *Ontario Birds* 5:79-80), which uses the other format. Hilty and Brown deal with 1,700 species in 840 pages, while the present guide takes 340 pages for just under a thousand species. However, even allowing for the inherent verbosity of the Spanish language, Hilty and Brown manage to devote about four times as much text to their species accounts as does the present work.

Consequently the present work is much less informative than it could be. Nests and eggs, for example, are totally ignored. Even within the restricting format chosen, space is not used very efficiently, and there is a lot of blank page.

What makes or breaks a modern field guide is the quality of the illustrations, their accuracy, and their completeness. It has to be said that the artwork in this guide is by today's standards rather indifferent. Many of the species appear unnatural and crude in form, and the colouring is frequently inaccurate.

In some cases — in my copy the trogon page — this is exacerbated by poor quality printing. There is one page of illustrations of hypothetical species — identified for some reason only by scientific name, without a Spanish or English equivalent — which contains a truly remarkable sky-blue prion and a

purple and pink ani.

A trivial but rather annoying feature of the illustrations is that similar species are often drawn in different attitudes; artistically more satisfying, doubtless, but making it difficult to compare plumage features critically — see, for example, the various red-breasted meadowlarks.

The descriptions are generally workmanlike and useful, but in many cases could with advantage be expanded. To take an example familiar to Canadian birders, the description of Baird's versus Semipalmated Sandpiper concentrates entirely on plumage differences, and makes no mention of the distinctive long-winged shape of the former; a distinction which is also concealed in the illustrations. The accounts of the skuas — which are treated as two species, Great and South Polar — do not deal with the problems of phases, despite the existence of several recent critical publications which go a long way to solving the identification problems of this group.

In summary, Narosky and Yzurieta's guide is not an outstanding book. It may not even be a very good one. But it is nevertheless still a useful and usable work, which will be an essential piece of equipment for any bird-watcher who ventures into southern South America.

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Ontario Field Ornithologists

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