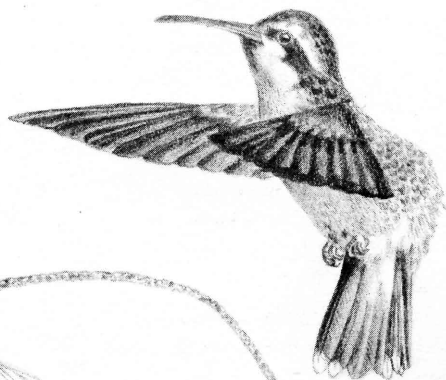


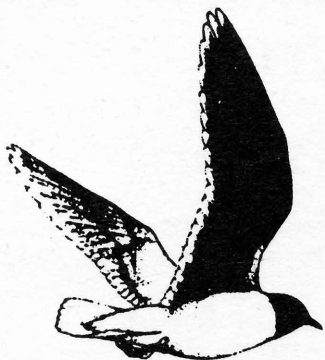
# ONTARIO BIRDS

The Journal of the  
Ontario Field  
Ornithologists

Volume 8 Number 1  
April 1990



Ronald Scavell 1990



Reports of rare birds (those for which the OBRC requires documentation—see supplement to *Ontario Birds* 5[3]) should be sent to:

**Secretary**

**Ontario Bird Records Committee**

c/o Ontario Field Ornithologists  
Box 1204, Station B  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7P 3S9

## Ontario Birds

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All items submitted for publication should be sent to:

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Material should be double-spaced and typewritten if possible. All submissions are subject to review and editing. Camera-ready galley proofs will be sent to authors only if specifically requested on submission.

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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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## Letters to the Editor

### Birding ethics

I read with interest a recent letter to *Ontario Birds* regarding the problems of dealing with the impacts of so-called twitchers. I am writing to alert Ontario birders to the problems that undoubtedly lie ahead.

In the United Kingdom, where I cut my birding teeth, we have had to deal with this problem and have done so with some success. The efficient hotline system there means that a rarity of the Broad-billed Hummingbird level will usually result in 2000 birders present on the first weekend day. Probably fewer than 50 visited the Wilson's Plover on its first day in Hamilton recently. However, it is entirely likely that in the not-too-distant future many more birders will be taking part in these exciting ornithological events regardless of what one might think of the scientific value of extralimital records.

There is no doubt that organization is the key. In my experience, however, the responsibility for measures of control do not lie with the hotline system, but rather with the local birding community or the observers who released the information. In the case of the hummer I understand that a number of days elapsed before the news was out. It would not have been difficult to arrange for a

makeshift tape to have been laid out to mark a no-go area, especially as the site was obviously going to be stressed and likely the bird also. The property owners were not adequately prepared for the onslaught by the person(s) who released the news. The hotline's function should be to pass on information regarding what measures have been taken, how to abide by those measures, and where to park, etc., along with the site directions. I can think of only a very few instances where this type of mitigating measure was thought to have been unable to cope with the situation (one was a tattler at the end of a single track road some several miles long!).

Certain photographers can provide a somewhat more persistent problem. They must also abide by the regular boundary marking (which can be a physical feature). The attitude of birders towards those who deliberately flout locally imposed measures is important. If you see anyone unduly pressing the bird or entering the no-go area, tell them to get the hell out and report their actions to all of the birding organizations and insist that they do not use their work in any publications. Back in the UK the physical well-being of any photographer who chased a rarity off would be in serious doubt!

The British birding community has long since left behind the anti-



twitching letters, recriminations, and arguments and replaced them with sound organization and some forethought; we need to do the same. The British experience shows that in many situations it is simply not enough to rely on "civilized adults" — that is a cop out.

Brian Henshaw  
Pickering, Ontario

### **1990 Point Pelee path policies need revision**

There are a number of flaws in the restrictive path policy instituted at Point Pelee this year.

Firstly, there are not enough approved paths in the area from the Visitors' Centre to the top, or in Tilden's Woods. The huge billboard at the entrance to Tilden's Woods is an eyesore that should be removed.

Secondly, the policy should not apply to the area of the park from the Visitors' Centre to the park gates where relatively few people birdwatch. During the first week of May 1990 birders in the Blue Heron section of this area of the park were ordered by park staff to leave the woods, and to walk along the road. This is not a safe policy for pedestrians.

Point Pelee has a number of rare trees such as hop tree, blue ash, dwarf hackberry, and Kentucky coffee-tree. Restrictive path use is not necessary to protect trees, is it?

Prickly pear cactus is a rare plant at Point Pelee as well as in the Rainy River area. What are the other rare plants at Point Pelee that

the path, road, beach-only policy for walkers is protecting? Does the restrictive path policy exist to protect native plants, introduced plants, or both these categories of flora? The most common plant from the Visitors' Centre to the tip is the white-flowering garlic mustard, an introduced species. If the policy is to safeguard it and other introduced plants, why was a large stand of black locust trees (an introduced species of plant) cut down at the south end of Ander's field, which is a few hundred yards south of where the visitor trains are parked at night?

After visiting Point Pelee National Park, I went to Rondeau Provincial Park. After visiting both locations, my belief is that deer pose a far greater hazard for the plants at Point Pelee than do people. Rondeau Provincial Park is visited by only a few campers and birders in April and May. From the surface of the ground to as high as a deer can reach, most vegetation has been consumed by Rondeau's large deer herd. Point Pelee should consider a policy of deer control rather than a policy of people control in order to protect the vegetation of the park.

My suggestions to allow greater freedom for walkers in Point Pelee National Park are as follows:

1. More approved paths in the area from the Visitors' Centre to the tip, and in Tilden's Woods. Better still would be the freedom to walk anywhere in these areas. A visit in August or September to areas

where there have been temporary birding trails in the spring reveals no trace of the paths! One would need a machete to get through these areas.

2. If the paths are deemed necessary, birders should be granted permission to leave a path in search of a calling or singing bird that is off the path.

3. Adopt a plant protection policy similar to the one that is used along the Bruce Trail, a 700km-long path. Restricted areas with rare plants are outlined with wide yellow tape. The English, French, and botanic names could be given so that the public may observe and learn about them. This labelling policy could and should be extended to the more common plants and trees outside the restricted areas.

John L. Olmsted  
Hamilton, Ontario

*If you wish to express your opinion pro or con about Point Pelee's path policy or any other policy write to the following*

*address: H. R. Thomson,  
Superintendent, Point Pelee National  
Park, R. R. #1, Leamington, Ontario,  
Canada, N8H 3V4.*

### **Blue/Golden-winged Warblers**

Further to J. M. Holdsworth's letter (*Ontario Birds* 7:41-42) on alternative songs of these warblers, there is an added confusion. On the OFO Long Point trip led by Barry Jones (12 May 1990) in the Wilson Tract a Golden-winged Warbler was found singing a pure two-syllable Blue-winged song. This bird appeared to be a normal male Golden-winged Warbler with black throat, white chest and belly — definitely neither a Lawrence's nor a Brewster's. All nine members in the group saw and heard this bird's unusual song. Identification of Blue-winged Warblers by song alone would therefore seem to be unreliable. No Blue-winged Warbler singing Golden-winged songs were noted!

Gordon Bellerby  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

## **Erratum**

In Table 2 of "Are Pine Grosbeaks increasing at bird feeders in Ontario" (*Ontario Birds* 7:90) a line was left out at the bottom. Please note the correct Table 2 in its entirety below.

Table 2: Ten-year average OBFS figures for Pine Grosbeak and possible competitors at feeders. Abundance (A), percent of feeders visited at least once in season (%), and regional rank in abundance at feeders (R).

	North			Central			South		
	A	%	R	A	%	R	A	%	R
Pine Grosbeak	2.5	51	6	0.2	14	19	0.03	3	21
Evening Grosbeak	12.2	88	1	13.4	89	1	3.3	46	5
Blue Jay	3.1	89	4	4.7	95	4	2.7	94	9

# Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1989

by

Alan Wormington and Robert H. Curry

This is the eighth annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Published in this report are the records that were received and reviewed by the committee during 1989. A total of 226 records were assessed, of which 162 (about 72%) were found to be acceptable.

Three species new to Ontario — Magnificent Frigatebird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, and Cave Swallow — are presented, bringing the provincial total to 440 species. Added to the list of birds now known to occur in northern Ontario are Carolina Wren and Kirtland's Warbler; added to the southern Ontario list (in addition to the three new species for the entire province) is Great-tailed Grackle.

Members of the OBRC during 1989 were Ronald G. Tozer (Chairman), Robert H. Curry (non-voting Secretary), Glenn Coady, Ross D. James, Ian L. Jones, R. Douglas McRae, D. James Mountjoy, and Dennis F. Rupert.

## Changes in the review list

All records of Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) in Ontario will now be reviewed by the OBRC. Even when breeding birds are present in Ontario it is unlikely that the species exceeds the OBRC criterion of rarity, which is more than five occurrences (on average) per year. Laughing Gull has been reinstated as a species reviewed in southern Ontario. This species was removed from the review list (*Ontario Birds* 4:4) based on the major incursion which occurred in 1985. However, since that time occurrences of Laughing Gull in Ontario have actually become fewer than before the incursion, prompting its reinstatement on the review list.

## Historical records

During 1989 the OBRC assembled and processed historical records on a number of different species, the results of which are presented here. The committee has now reviewed all records (which were

Alan Wormington, R. R. #1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4  
Robert H. Curry, 92 Hostein Drive, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 2S7

documented and available) of Ivory Gull, Black Skimmer, Virginia's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Painted Redstart in Ontario, and all records of Snowy Egret in northern Ontario.

### **Species accounts**

For each of the records presented in the following accounts, information on age, sex, and plumage is included if it was available and the determination was certain. Place names in italics refer to a county, regional municipality, or district in Ontario. All contributors who have provided a written description, photograph, or specimen have been credited. Contributors' names have also been underlined if they were a discoverer of the bird or birds. We encourage more observers to contribute descriptions of rarities even if they are not the first on the scene. All such contributions will be credited and always enhance the published record. Records presented in this report all pertain to sight records unless it is indicated that a photograph or specimen has been received.

In the following accounts we have made a concerted effort to determine the correct date, number, and location, etc., for each of the records presented. This information often differs from data which have been published elsewhere, and these differences

are detailed in the accounts. These differences are detailed primarily for the benefit of researchers who are often faced with a bewildering array of conflicting data, with no method of sorting out the differences unless it is clearly explained by someone more familiar with the records. Since the OBRC deals with original documents — and has a considerable amount of additional information available — we are uniquely able to present data which we deem to be correct.

In the species accounts we have provided two new features. One is the placing of the term "north only" or "south only" immediately after a species' name to indicate that records are reviewed only from that respective region of Ontario. The other addition to the accounts are the numbers (in brackets) which indicate, respectively, the number of accepted records in the current report, followed by the total number of records which have been accepted by the OBRC to date, including the current report. We realize the total-accepted number may be artificially low for some species, as numerous records (even those supported by specimen or photograph) have yet to be reviewed by the OBRC. However, these numbers will provide an easy reference to those readers wishing to know how many records have been published by the OBRC in *Ontario Birds*.

# Accepted Records

## Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) South Only (1/10)

1988 — one first-winter immature, 19–28 May (but not observed 21–27 May inclusive), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Robert L. Waldhuber, Alan Wormington)— photos on file.

## Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) (1/2)

1980 — one first-winter immature, 19 May (not 14 May as in James 1982), Shirley's Bay, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Jan L. Jones, Robert A. Bracken).

## Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (2/3)

1989 — one, 30 April, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert H. Curry, Rob Z. Dobos, Wilf Yusek) — photo on file.  
 — two (pair), 22 June–9 July (but not observed between these dates), Rainy River mouth (22 June) and Windy Point (9 July), *Rainy River* (Anne B. Lambert, Christopher J. Risley).

Since this species is known to nest in adjacent Minnesota at Four Mile Bay (Katherine Hirsch, pers. comm.), which is only a few kilometres from the mouth of the Rainy River, it is certainly possible that Western Grebes may eventually be found nesting in Ontario.

## Western/Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus* sp.) (1/2)

1985 — one, 31 October–2 November, Pinery Prov. Park, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider) — photos on file.

Figure 1: Two immature American White Pelicans at Wheatley Harbour, *Kent / Essex*, present 2–12 November 1989. Photo by *Alan Wormington*.



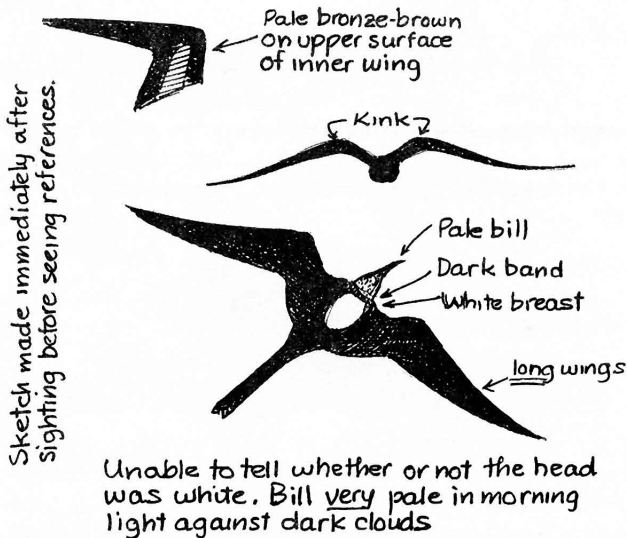


Figure 2: Ontario's first Magnificent Frigatebird (third-stage juvenile) at Point Edward, Lambton, on 28 September 1988. Drawings by Dennis F. Rupert.

#### Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (1/7)

1987 — one juvenile, 25 October–30 November, Fifty Point (25 October, 8 and 14 November) and Van Wagner's Beach (25 October), Hamilton-Wentworth; Bronte, Halton (25 October); Clarkson, Peel (25 October); Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto (1–2 and 7–8 November); and Frenchman's Bay (8 and 30 November) and Thickson Point, Durham (17–21 November) (Robert H. Curry).

A compilation of all sightings of Northern Gannet during the fall of 1987 (detailed by Glenn Coady) demonstrated that there were never any duplicate sightings (or sighting of more than one bird), indicating a single, very mobile individual covering the western extreme of Lake Ontario was involved. For example, on 8 November the bird was recorded at 0900h at Frenchman's Bay, noon at Toronto (Leslie Spit) and sometime in the afternoon at Fifty Point.

#### American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) South Only (3/17)

1989 — one, 24 June, Sky Lake, Bruce (John B. Miles).  
 — two immatures, 2–12 November, Walpole Island, Lambton (2 November), and Wheatley Harbour, Kent / Essex (2–12 November) (Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn) — photos on file.

1988 — five, 31 May, Algonquin Prov. Park (Opeongo Lake), Nipissing (Leon M. Carl).

#### Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) (1/1)

1988 — one third-stage juvenile, 28 September, Point Edward, Lambton (Alfred H. Rider, Dennis F. Rupert) — photos on file.

This Magnificent Frigatebird, the first to be recorded in Ontario, was one of many recorded at numerous sites between the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes, a direct result of Hurricane Gilbert, reportedly the most powerful hurricane of the 20th century. The species was also recorded in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, West Virginia, and western Virginia following the storm (Lehman 1989).

**Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) North Only (1/5)**

1989 — three (not one bird as in *American Birds* 43:471), 13–14 May, Windy Point, *Rainy River* (Alan Wormington).

**Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) North Only (3/3)**

1989 — one first-summer immature, 13 May, Sable Island, *Rainy River* (Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

1988 — one adult, 24–26 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (J.C. Berglund) — photos on file.

1971 — one adult, "May" (exact date not known), Attawapiskat River mouth, *Kenora* (Raphael Wheesk) — specimen (head and legs) in ROM: #110703.

The above records represent the only known occurrences of Snowy Egret in northern Ontario.

Figure 3: First-summer immature Snowy Egret at Sable Island, *Rainy River*, 13 May 1989. Photo by *Alan Wormington*.

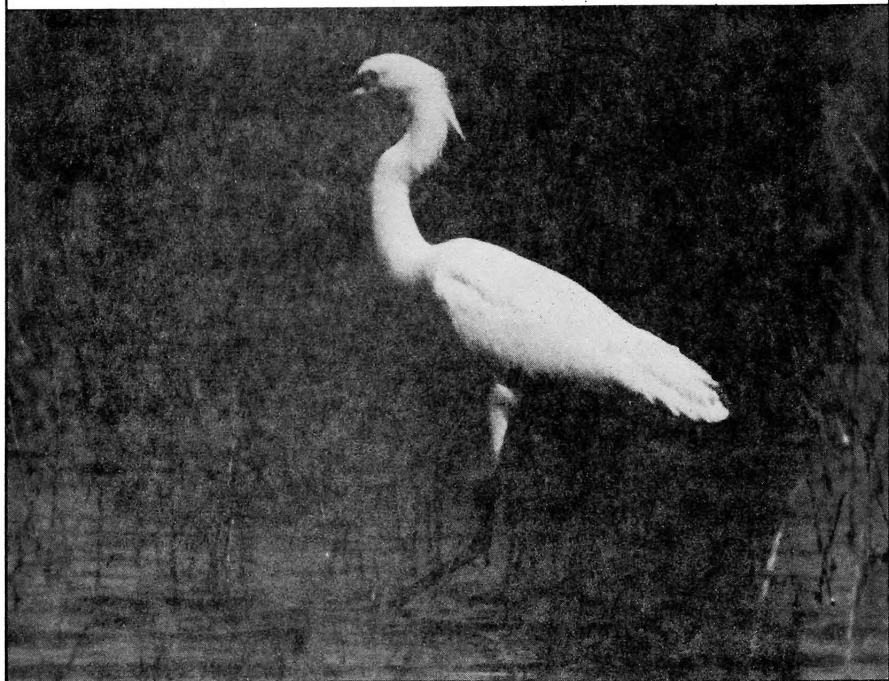






Figure 4: Adult Glossy Ibis at Leamington / Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*, present 27 April–1 May 1989. Photo by Alan Wormington.

**Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) (2/22)**

- 1989 — one adult, 23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).  
 1988 — one adult, 4–21 April, Rattray Marsh Cons. Area, *Peel* (4 April), and Cobourg, *Northumberland* (6–21 April) (William F. Smith) — photos on file.

**Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (2/16)**

- 1989 — two first-summer immatures, 30 August–9 September, St. Clair Nat. Wildlife Area, *Kent* (Alan Wormington, P. Allen Woodliffe).  
 1988 — one, 19 May, Big Creek Nat. Wildlife Area, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry D. Jones).

**Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) North Only (1/4)**

- 1989 — one, 27 May, Jackfish, *Thunder Bay* (Edward B. Poropat).

Records of the Green-backed Heron in northern Ontario are very few, with most birds (such as the one above) representing apparent spring overshoots.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) (2/19)**

- 1988 — one first-summer immature (not adult as in *American Birds* 42:427), 31 March–12 April, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Greg Sadauski, Tim Dyson).  
 1988 — one adult, 17–19 May, Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area (Mallard Pond), *Dufferin* (Liz Yerex).

**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (2/14)**

- 1989 — one alternate-plumaged adult, 27 April–1 May, Leamington / Sturgeon Creek (27 April–1 May) and Hillman Marsh (28 April), *Essex* (Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn) — photos on file.



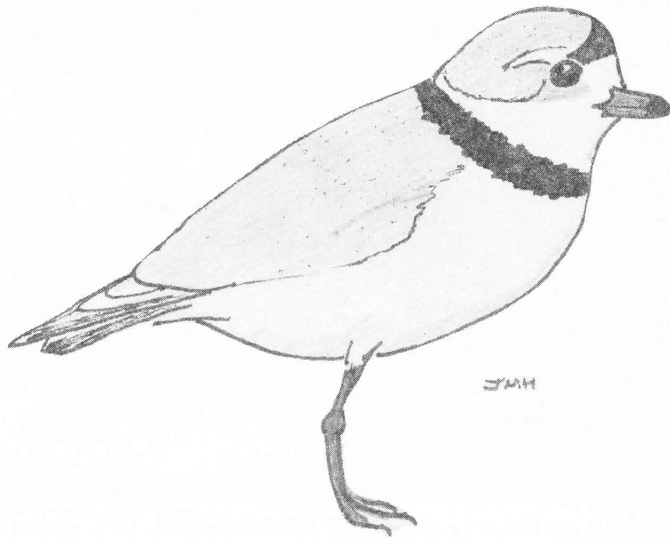


Figure 5: Piping Plover at the Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, present here from 23 May–2 June 1989. Drawing (31 May) by James M. Holdsworth.

- one basic-plumaged adult, 4–16 October, Wheatley Harbour, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Donald G. Cecile, James N. Flynn) — photos on file.

#### dark ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.) (2/9)

- 1989 — one, 29 September, Pickering, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).
- 1988 — one, 23 October, Holiday Beach Cons. Area, *Essex* (Allen T. Chartier).

#### Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) South Only (2/20)

- 1989 — 18 *frontalis* (14 adults + 4 immatures), 22 March–1 April (not beginning 23 March as in *Wood Duck* 42:156), St. Anns, *Niagara* (Robert H. Curry, Glenn Coady) — photos on file.
- 1988 — one adult, 8 October–30 November, Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Larry E. Neily).

#### Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (9/37)

- 1989 — one male, 9–14 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
- one male, 19 April–13 May (not beginning 29 April as in McCracken 1989), Port Dover, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry D. Jones).
- one male, 6 May, Townsend, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Rohan A. van Twest).
- one male, 22 May–3 June, Port Perry, *Durham* (Ronald J. Pittaway).
- one male, 4–7 June (not only 4 June as in *American Birds* 43:1311), Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert) — photo on file.
- one male, 7 October, Kingston, *Frontenac* (Gustave J. Yaki).
- one adult male, 8–19 October, Oshawa, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).

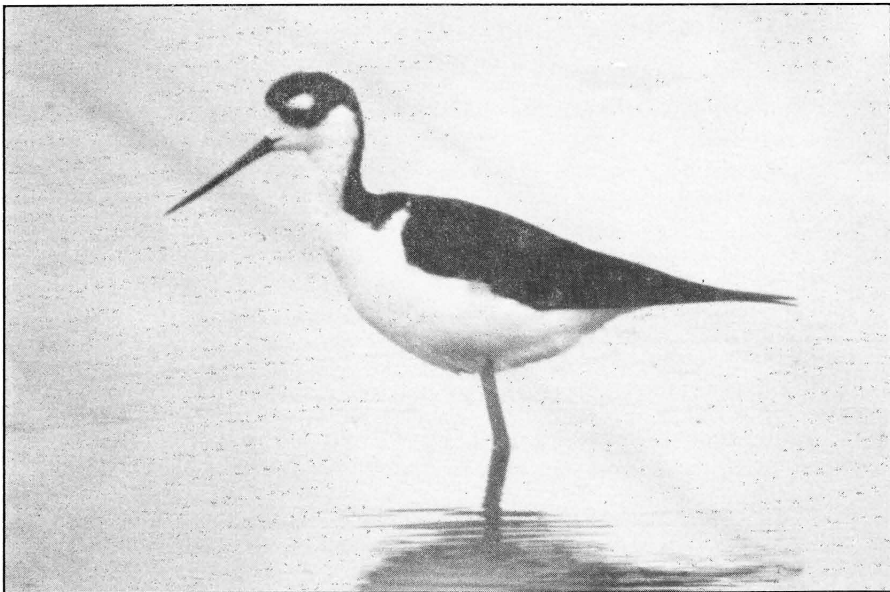


Figure 6: Black-necked Stilt at Stoney Point, *Essex*, present 28 May–16 June 1989. Photo by *James M. Flynn*.



Figure 7: Black-necked Stilt at Stoney Point, *Essex*, present 28 May–16 June 1989. Photo by *Alan Wormington*.

- 1988 — one male, 30 March, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).  
 — one adult male, 11 September–29 October, Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Tony F. M. Beck).

The Eurasian Wigeon at Britannia has returned to the same location for three consecutive years; in addition to being present on 11 September–29 October 1988 it was also present on 26 September–27 October 1987 (*Ontario Birds* 7:45) and 4 September–15 October 1989 (*American Birds* 44:82). Fall records of the Eurasian Wigeon in Ontario are very few.

**Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) North Only (1/7)**

- 1989 — one immature male, 29 March, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder).

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (1/11)**

- 1989 — one adult, 18 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (James A. Smith).

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (1/19)**

- 1989 — one light phase adult, 15 September, Holiday Beach Cons. Area, *Essex* (Michael A. Kielb).

**Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) South Only (1/16)**

- 1988 — two intermediate phase, 21 December, Tobermory, *Bruce* (John B. Miles).

**Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) (1/6)**

- 1989 — one adult male, 29 November, Meaford, *Grey* (Fred Moore, David W. Fidler) — photos on file; specimen (skin) in ROM: #156040.

**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) South Only (5/15 — post 1980)**

- 1989 — two adults, 12 May, one since 7 May, Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Rohan A. van Twest).  
 — one adult, 10–14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (James E. Hayden, Glenn Coady) — photos on file.  
 — one adult, 14–19 May, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Dennis Duckworth, Michele Mougeot, Gordon Bellerby, Joe Serensits, Kathryn Lawless).  
 — one territorial adult male, 23 May–15 June (but not observed 3–14 June inclusive), Long Point Flats (23 May–2 June) and Long Point Tip (15 June), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Alan Wormington, James M. Holdsworth).  
 1982 — six adults, 20–24 April, two to 25 April, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Allen T. Chartier).

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (2/5)**

- 1989 — one male (not two birds as in *American Birds* 43:1311), 28 May–16 June (not to only early June as in *American Birds* *ibid.*), Stoney Point, *Essex* (Richard A. Girardin, Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn) — photos on file.  
 — one adult female, 12–23 June, North Bay, *Nipissing* (Ronald G. Tozer, Michael W. P. Runtz) — photo on file.

The above Black-necked Stilts represent the fourth and fifth of a total of five Ontario records to date. The previous records were single birds 1 September 1955 at Frederick House Lake, *Cochrane*, and 14 October 1979 at Smithville, *Niagara* (*Ontario Birds* 4:8); and two birds 7 June 1981 at Sable Island, *Rainy River* (*Ontario Birds* 1:10). During the spring/summer of 1989 there were numerous extralimital records of Black-necked Stilts to the north and east of



Figure 8: Male American Avocet at Holiday Beach Cons. Area, *Essex*, present 1–14 November 1989. Photo by *Alan Wormington*.

its usual range; birds were also recorded in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) (4/29)**

- 1989 — one female, 8 October, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (William H. DeBacs).  
 — one male, 1–14 November, Holiday Beach Cons. Area, *Essex* (Allen T. Chartier, Alan Wormington) — photos on file.
- 1988 — one alternate-plumaged adult female, 21–22 July, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert H. Curry).
- 1987 — one, 26 September–3 October (not to 13 October as in *American Birds* 42:66), Dundas Marsh (26 September) and Hamilton Harbour (1–3 October), *Hamilton-Wentworth* (William F. Smith) — photo on file.

**Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) North Only (1/7)**

- 1988 — one adult, 13–18 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott) — photo on file.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) (1/2)**

- 1988 — one alternate-plumaged adult, 20 August, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Lorraine H. Foott, William H. Foott, Tim Sabe, Alan Wormington) — photo on file.

This Sharp-tailed Sandpiper represents only the second record for Ontario, the first having occurred 19 November–5 December 1975 at Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (*Ontario Birds* 4:9; see Curry 1976).

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (1/8)**

1989 — one alternate-plumaged adult, 21–24 May, Stoney Point, Essex (B. Michael Chomyszyn).

**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (6/14)**

1989 — one light phase adult, 16 September, Van Wagner's Beach, Hamilton-Wentworth (Rob Z. Dobos, Paul Rose, Kevin A. McLaughlin).

— one light phase adult, 19 October, Van Wagner's Beach, Hamilton-Wentworth (John L. Olmsted).

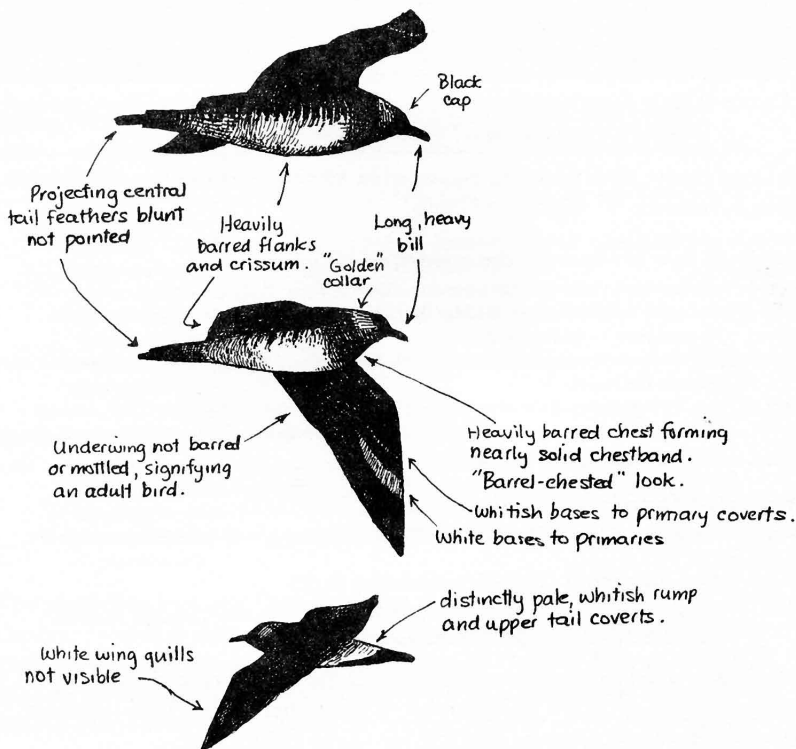
1988 — one juvenile, 24 September, Lake Ontario off Hamilton, Hamilton-Wentworth (Margaret J. Bain).

— one juvenile, 2 October, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Alan Wormington, Roy E. C. Baker, James P. Coey, David Milsom).

— one juvenile, 3 October, The Coves, Haldimand-Norfolk (Ronald C. Ridout).

1987 — one light phase adult, 27 December, Point Edward, Lambton (Dennis F. Rupert) — photo on file.

Figure 9: Adult Pomarine Jaeger at Point Edward, Lambton, on 27 December 1987. Drawings by Dennis F. Rupert.



**Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) South Only (1/9)**

1987 — one light phase adult, 4 September, Big Clear Lake, *Frontenac* (Rob Swainson).

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (1/6)**

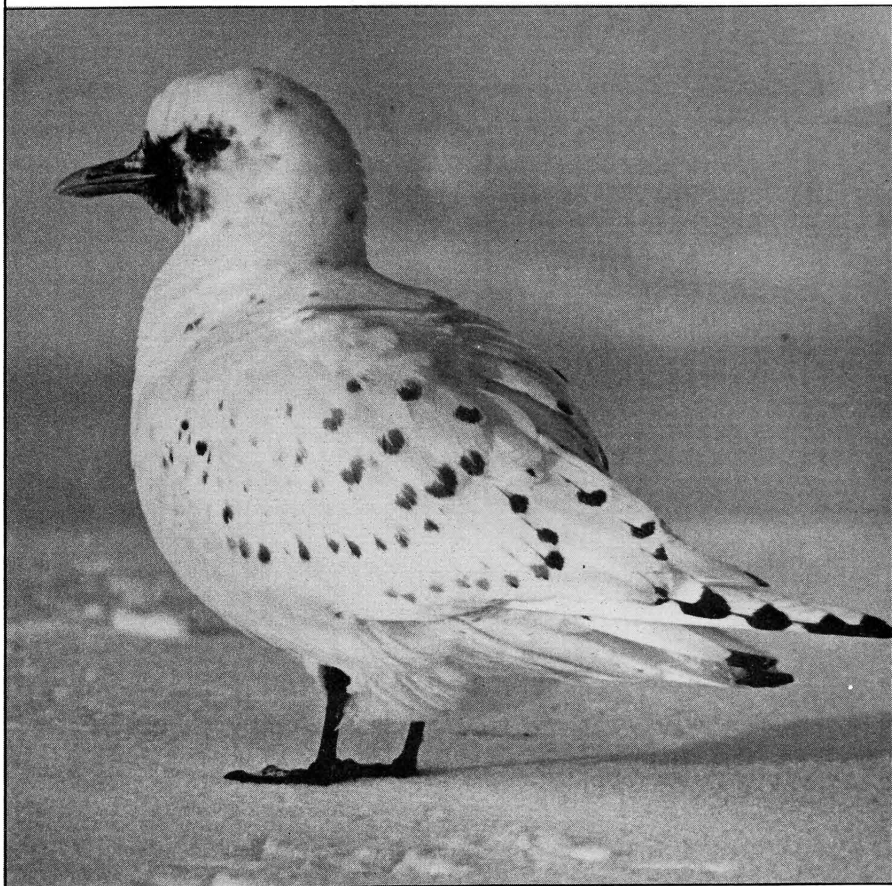
1988 — one first-winter immature, 18 December, Wildwood Cons. Area, *Perth / Oxford* (James M. Holdsworth).

**Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) (16/18)**

1980/81 — one first-winter immature, 22 December–1 January (not only 22 December as in *American Birds* 35:296 and Speirs 1985:367), Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Mary E. Gustafson, Robert F. Andrie, Harold H. Axtell) — photo on file.

1980 — one first-winter immature, 23–27 January (not only 26 January as in *American Birds* 34:269), Beaverton / Thorah Beach, *Durham* (Gordon Bellerby, Alan Wormington, William E. Zufelt) — photos on file.

Figure 10: Immature Ivory Gull at Beaverton / Thorah Beach, *Durham*, present 23–27 January 1980. Photo by Alan Wormington.



- 1977 — one first-winter immature, 9 December, Amherst Island, *Lennox & Addington* (Geoff Matthews, Margaret Matthews).
- 1975 — one first-winter immature male, "winter" (exact date not known), Winisk, *Kenora* (unknown collector) — specimen (skin and skeleton) in ROM: #126285.
- 1973/74 — one first-winter immature, 24 December–1 January (but not observed between these dates), Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* (David D. Calvert, George A. Scott, Ronald G. Tozer, Betty Pegg) — photo on file.
- 1973 — one first-winter immature, 19–27 December, London, *Middlesex* (William R. Jarman, Alan Wormington, Jo Ann MacKenzie, Marvin S. Smout, Dennis F. Rupert, Alan J. Ryff) — photos on file.
- one first-winter immature, 29–30 December (not 29–31 January as in Bull 1976:20; the bird was present 29–30 December in Ontario and then 31 December at Buckhorn Island State Park, New York), Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (William C. Vaughan, Alice E. Ulrich) — photos on file.
- 1971 — one first-winter immature, 3 January, Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* (George A. Scott).
- 1967 — one first-winter immature, 2 January, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Douglas C. Sadler).
- 1966 — one first-winter immature, "December" (exact date not known), Fort Severn, *Kenora* (Lazarus Stoney) — specimen (spirit) in ROM: #99217.
- 1959 — one adult winter male, 15 January, Severn Lake, *Kenora* (John Brown) — specimen (skin) in ROM: #81285.
- 1956 — one first-winter immature female, found dead in "January" (exact date not known), Albany River mouth, *Cochrane* (W. B. Anderson) — specimen (skin) in ROM: #75016.
- 1948 — one first-winter immature, 28–31 December, Port Burwell, *Elgin* (Fred Bodsworth).
- 1937 — one first-winter immature female, 12 December, Cameron Lake, *Algoma* (D. E. MacMillan) — specimen (skin) in ROM: #28893.
- 1909 — one first-winter immature, "spring" (exact date not known), Fort Albany, *Cochrane* (unknown collector) — specimen (skin) in ROM: #39408.

Figure 11: Adult Sandwich Tern (with Common Tern on right) at Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland*, present here 14–25 June 1988. Photo by Alan Wormington.





circa 1887 — one first-winter immature, 25 December, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (William Loane) — specimen (skin) in ROM: #32.7.6.1.

A brief statement concerning the Ivory Gull at Toronto on 25 December (1887?) was published by Fleming (1906:442); the circumstances surrounding the bird at Cameron Lake on 12 December 1937 were published by Snyder (1938); and a detailed account of the bird at London on 19–27 December 1973 was published by Jarman (1974).

Previously published records of the Ivory Gull in Ontario by the OBRC are one on 13 November 1981 at Netitishi Point, Cochrane (*Ontario Birds* 1:11), and desiccated remains of one found 5 July 1985 at West Pen Island, *Kenora* (*Ontario Birds* 5:49). Other than these birds, the only other records of Ivory Gull in Ontario (which are generally considered valid but apparently are not documented) include birds at Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (1934); Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (1952–53); Burlington, *Halton* (1953); Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (1962); Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (1966); Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (1967); and Moosonee, *Cochrane* (1988), for a total of 25 provincial records.

#### **Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) (2/2)**

- 1988 — one alternate-plumaged adult, 24 April, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert H. Curry).  
 — one alternate-plumaged adult, 17 May, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (James M. Holdsworth).  
 — one alternate-plumaged adult, 14–25 June, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Ian Richards, James M. Richards, Bruno Kern, Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

Although the above records are listed separately, it is generally assumed that the observations at Hamilton Harbour and Presqu'île Prov. Park refer to the same bird. However, it is not known how the observation at Long Point relates to these observations, as it does seem unusual for a bird like Sandwich Tern to move to a site on Lake Erie and then return again to Lake Ontario.

During the past several years there has been a peculiar pattern of Sandwich Tern records on the Great Lakes, which are the only known occurrences during this century. In chronological order these records are 1986 (11 June) at Duluth, Minnesota (Kienholz and Backstrom 1986); 1987 (31 July) at St. Joseph, Michigan (*American Birds* 41:1439); 1988 in Ontario (detailed above); and 1989 (26 April) at Waukegan, Illinois (*American Birds* 43:489). Theoretically all of these records could involve the same Sandwich Tern (probably two in 1988) which has returned to the Great Lakes each year, perhaps with other terns.

#### **Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) (1/4)**

- 1977 — one basic-plumaged adult, 1 November, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* (Josephine Burns, Bonnie Burns) — photos on file.



This Black Skimmer represents Ontario's first record, the details of which were published by Bain (1978). Subsequently there have been three additional occurrences: 6 July 1978 at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (*Ontario Birds* 3:9); 11–15 September 1981 at Erieau, *Kent* (*Ontario Birds* 1:11); and late August 1982 at Lake-of-the-Woods (Clearwater Bay), *Kenora* (*Ontario Birds* 2:58).

**Razorbill (*Alca torda*) (1/3)**

1989 — one immature, 1–4 December, Lake Dore, *Renfrew* (Michael W.P. Runtz, Steven M. LaForest).

**Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) (1/5)**

1988 — one, 9–13 October, Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Beverly Collier, George E. Wallace, Alfred H. Rider, Alan Wormington, Robert G. Finlayson) — photos on file.

This Groove-billed Ani represents the fifth of five records now recorded in Ontario. Previous records were 18–20 October 1963 at Red Rock, *Thunder Bay*; 12 October 1969 at Stromness, *Haldimand-Norfolk*; 27 October 1978 at Sundridge, *Parry Sound*; and 1 November 1983 at Rosslyn, *Thunder Bay* (*Ontario Birds* 2:58 and 4:11).

**Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) (1/3)**

1989 — one, 27 May, Walpole Island, *Lambton* (Scott A. Connop) — photos on file.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyananthus latirostris*) (1/1)**

1989 — one female, 16–27 October, Deer Bay, *Peterborough* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Douglas C. Sadler, Margaret J. Bain, Robert H. Curry, Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn) — photos on file.

Seen by literally hundreds of observers, this remarkable rarity came to the hummingbird feeder at the residence of Laurie and Rick Morgan of Deer Bay.

Not only is this the first record for Ontario, but also the first record for Canada and only the second for eastern North America. Occurring mainly in Mexico and barely entering the United States in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, this species of desert canyons and low-elevation woodlands has been recorded no closer to Ontario than Utah, Texas or South Carolina (AOU 1983:337; DeSante and Pyle 1986:205–210; and *American Birds* 40:99).

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) (2/6)**

1989 — one adult male, 24–26 July, Oxtongue Lake, *Haliburton* (R. Dan Strickland).

1987 — one immature male, 16 September–19 December, Battersea, *Frontenac* (Ian L. Jones, Robert H. Curry, Kathy Nihei) — specimen (skin) in NMC: #89040.

The bird at Battersea was destined to become an astonishing wintering record in Ontario but, unfortunately, the bird was captured by supposed bird rehabilitators on 19 December and transferred to Ottawa: in captivity the bird died two days later on 21 December. Additional details of this Rufous Hummingbird have been published by Weir (1988).

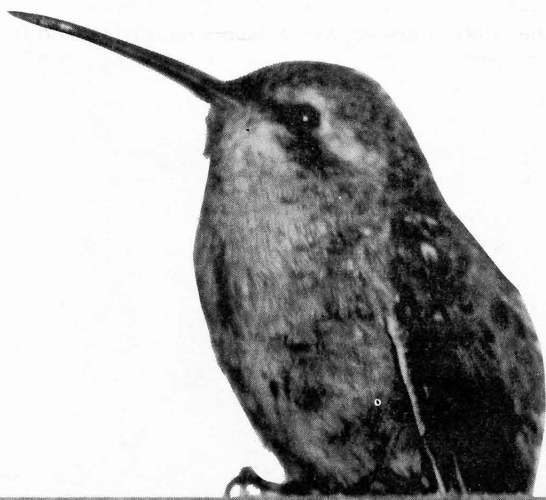


Figure 12: Ontario's first Broad-billed Hummingbird (female) at Deer Bay, Peterborough, 16–27 October 1989. Photo by James N. Flynn.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) North Only (1/4)**

1989 — one male, 15 June, Harris Hill, *Rainy River* (Y. Robert Tymstra).

This Red-bellied Woodpecker represents only the fourth record for northern Ontario, but is the first to appear during spring migration (or summer).

**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (3/35)**

1989 — one, 8 June, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (Alan Wormington, Roy B. H. Smith).

1988 — one, 12 May, Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Alan Hunt).

— one, 31 August–1 September (not to only 31 August as in Wallace 1989 and *American Birds* 43:97–98), Port Rowan (not Long Point as in *American Birds* *ibid.*), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Terrie J. Woodrow, George E. Pond) — photos on file.

The Western Kingbird at Ottawa on 12 May 1988 represents the earliest spring arrival ever recorded for this species in Ontario. The bird at Rainy River on 8 June 1989 was not associated with the nearby nesting pair of Western Kingbirds and was considered a spring migrant by the observers.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (4/17)**

1989 — one, 26 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Joseph E. Faggan).

— one, 19 June, Kakabeka Falls, *Thunder Bay* (Pat Sein, Rod Sein).

1988 — one, 2–3 August, 9km north of Kiosk, *Nipissing* (Winston Chartrand).

1987 — one, 8 July (not 8 June as in *American Birds* 41:1431), Algonquin Prov. Park (Sunday Creek and Lake of Two Rivers), *Nipissing* (Michael W. P. Runtz) — photos on file.

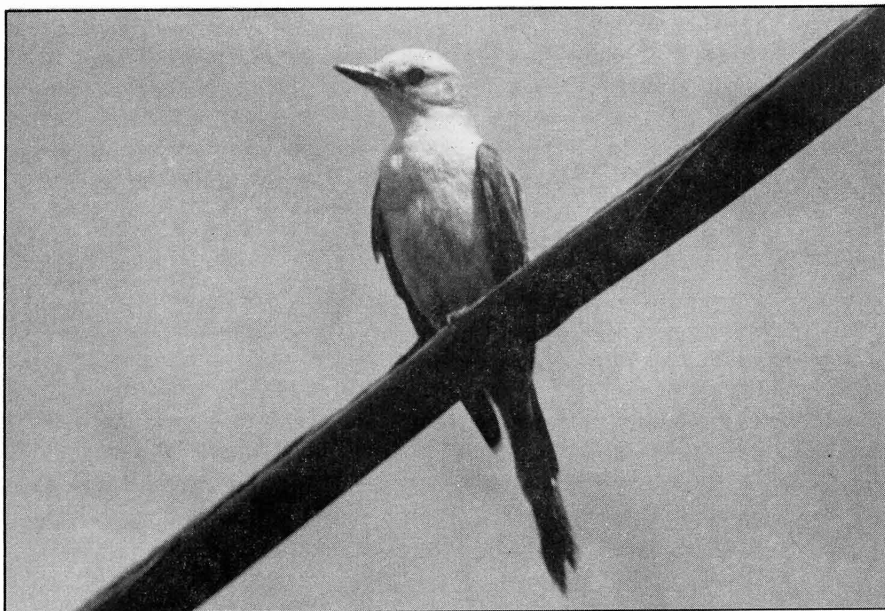


Figure 13: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Algonquin Prov. Park (Sunday Creek and Lake of Two Rivers Airfield), *Nipissing*, 8 July 1987. Photo by *Michael W. P. Runtz*.

**Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*) (1/1)**

1989 — one, 21 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

This occurrence represents the first record of Cave Swallow in Ontario. Apparently there are no records of this species between Nova Scotia and Florida, and the Great Lakes and Texas / Louisiana; however, since the species is expanding its range it seems only a matter of time until in-between records materialize.

**Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) (1/1)**

1989 — one, 12 February–5 March, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Rob Z. Dobos, Robert H. Curry, Alan Wormington, Glenn Coady) — photos on file.

This Rock Wren is the first wintering record for Ontario; the few previous records for the province (yet to be reviewed by the OBRC) all pertain to fall vagrants.

**Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) North Only (1/1)**

1988 — one, 8 October, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Stanley V. Phippen, John L. Olmsted, Alan Wormington) — photo on file.

This Carolina Wren adds the species to the list of birds recorded in northern Ontario; however, it should be noted that one recorded 6 August 1957 by Paul



Figure 14: Rock Wren at Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto*,  
12 February–5 March 1989. Photo by Alan Wormington.



Figure 15: Immature Northern Wheatear at Abitibi Canyon, *Cochrane*,  
23 September 1989. Photo by Alan Wormington.

Harrington 25km east of Longlac, *Thunder Bay* (Bennett *et al.* 1958), is generally considered a valid record, but apparently is not documented.

**Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (2/7)**

- 1989 — one, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Ronald C. Ridout).  
 — one, 17 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (David Ellingwood).

**Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (1/13)**

- 1989 — one immature, 23 September, Abitibi Canyon, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

**Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) (4/8)**

- 1989 — one female, 24 January–20 March (not beginning 31 January as in *American Birds* 43:310; not to only early March as in *American Birds* 43:473), Hungry Hollow, *Middlesex* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Tim Sabo) — photos on file.  
 — one male, 15–17 April, Westover, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Wilf Yusek, Robert H. Curry) — photos on file.  
 — one male, 9 October, Annan, *Grey* (Peter D. Middleton, David W. Fidler).  
 1988 — one female, 6–7 October, Rosspoint, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

**Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (2/13)**

- 1988/89 — one, 23 December–4 January (not beginning 28 December as in *American Birds* 43:310 and Escott 1989; not ending 3 January as in *American Birds* *ibid.*), *Thunder Bay*, *Thunder Bay* (Allan G. Harris, Nicholas G. Escott, Thomas H. Perrons) — photos on file.  
 1984 — one, 12–17 February (not to only 15 February as in *American Birds* 38:313), Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Dian Drew, Fred Drew).

**Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (5/33)**

- 1989/90 — one male, 6 November–30 January, Matheson, *Cochrane* (Percy W. Richter) — photos on file.  
 1989 — one female, 5–6 November, *Thunder Bay*, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).  
 — one male, 27–30 December, Little Redstone Lake, *Haliburton* (Kay Bounsall) — photo on file.  
 1987/88 — one female, 27 December–6 March, Aldershot, *Haldon* (David Stubbing).  
 1987 — one male, 22 November–13 December, Algonquin Prov. Park (Clarke Lake), *Nipissing* (Ronald G. Tozer, R. Dan Strickland) — photos on file.

**Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) (1/3)**

- 1958 — one male, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (George M. Sturrett) — specimen (skin) in NMC: #41430.

Details of this Virginia's Warbler — the first of three now recorded in Ontario — were published by Dow (1962) and Baillie (1964). Subsequent records in Ontario occurred 9–11 May 1974 at Pelee Island and 3–4 May 1975 at Point Pelee Nat. Park, both in *Essex* (*Ontario Birds* 4:15).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) (4/6)**

- 1980 — one adult male, 13–23 November (not only 13 November as in *American Birds* 35:178 and Speirs 1985:721), Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Harold H. Axtell, Robert F. Andrie, Arthur E. Schaffner, Paul S. Conklin) — photos on file.  
 1979/80 — one, 28 December–6 January, London, *Middlesex* (Helen M. Inch, Spencer Inch, Alan Wormington, Marvin S. Smout) — photos on file.



Figure 16: Black-throated Gray Warbler at London, *Middlesex*, present 28 December 1979–6 January 1980. Photo by *Marvin S. Smout*.

1962 — one female, 5–11 May (not only 5 May as in James *et al.* 1976:44 and Speirs 1985:721), Rattray Marsh Cons. Area, *Peel* (Donald R. Gunn) — photo on file.

1952 — one male, 7–15 December (not only 7 December as in James *et al.* 1976:44), North York, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Charles Molony) — photos on file.

Circumstances of the Black-throated Gray Warbler at North York in 1952 were briefly given by Baillie (1957), while those of the bird at London in 1979–80 were published in detail by Inch and Inch (1980).

The only other records of Black-throated Gray Warbler known for Ontario are 8 May 1983 at Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (*Ontario Birds* 2:61); 16–17 June 1986 at Whitby, Durham (*Ontario Birds* 5:54); and two records generally considered as valid, although apparently not documented: one observed (Willard Schaefer and Horace Dahmer) on 11 September 1955 at Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Baillie *ibid.*) and the other (Donald E. Perks *et al.*) on 3 May 1969 at Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Goodwin 1969).

#### **Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) (2/4)**

1989 — one male, 23 May, Burpee, *Manitoulin* (Ronald R. Tasker).

1978 — one immature, 10 September, Bath, *Lennox & Addington* (Ron D. Weir) — specimen (skin) in NMC: #78708.

The above Hermit Warbler occurrences represent the first and fourth of four records now known for Ontario; the other two occurrences were 2–7 May



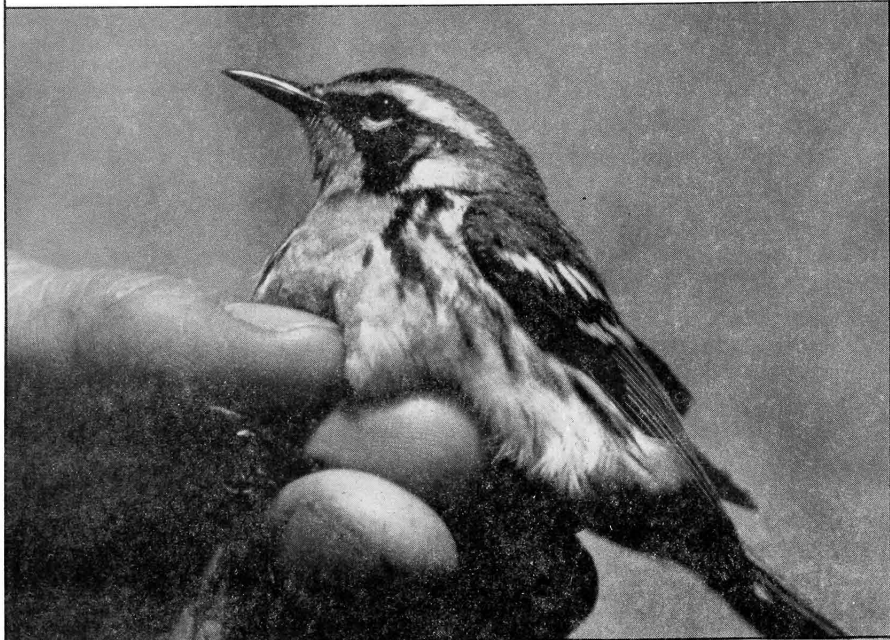
1981 at Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (*Ontario Birds* 1:13), and 30 April 1984 at Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (*Ontario Birds* 3:12).

The Hermit Warbler at Bath on 10 September 1978 — the first record for Ontario — pre-dates the Point Pelee occurrence in 1981, a record which (at the time) was considered the first for the province: the Bath bird was killed by striking one of the chimneys at the Lennox Generating Station but went unrecognized until the specimen (along with thousands of other casualties) was prepared by museum staff several years later.

**Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) (17/52)**

- 1989 — one *albilora* male, 18 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington) — photo on file.  
 — one, 26 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Norman F. Sherwood).  
 — one *albilora*, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (John G. T. Hamilton, David Shute, Joseph E. Faggan).  
 — one, 15 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Ernest Gribble, Jeanne Gribble).  
 — one, 18 May, Cherrywood, *Durham* (Derrick Marven).  
 — one *albilora* male, 18–19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Michael J. Danek, James N. Flynn) — photos on file.  
 — one *albilora*, 31 October–17 November (not beginning 1 November as in *American Birds* 44:86), Chesley Lake, *Bruce* (Lucy Greason, David W. Fidler).  
 1988 — one male, 8 May, Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert H. Curry).  
 1987/88 — one *albilora*, 24 November–3 January, North Bay, *Nipissing* (Richard D. Tafel) — photo on file.

Figure 17: Yellow-throated Warbler at Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 5–6 May 1981. Photo by *Juhanni Karhumaki*.



- 1981 — one *albilora* female, 5–6 May (not only 6 May as in Lemieux 1981), Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Christopher M. Lemieux, Juhanni Karhumaki) — photo on file.
- 1974 — one male, 29 April, Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton* (G. Tom Hince).
- 1972 — one, 30–31 October, Port Britain, *Northumberland* (E. R. McDonald).
- 1971 — one *albilora*, 7–10 October, London, *Middlesex* (J. Paul Prevett).
- 1968 — one, 9 May, Kingston, *Frontenac* (John C. Nicholson).
- 1958 — one *albilora* male, 18 May, Rock Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Albert J. Wright II).
- 1957 — one *albilora*, 4 November, Manotick, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Lewis M. Terrill).
- 1943 — one *albilora*, 20 May, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Roy W. Sheppard).

Details and description of the bird at Niagara Falls in 1943 — the first record for Ontario — were published by Sheppard (1944); those of the bird at Manotick in 1957 were published by Terrill (1958).

### **Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) (1/8)**

- 1988 — one, 14 August, Minaki, *Kenora* (Ian R. Kirkham).

This record is not only the first Kirtland's Warbler to be recorded in northern Ontario, but is also the most northerly occurrence of the species in North America. It should be noted that a more northerly report of the species is known for 3 August 1921 at Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba (Taverner 1921); however, the record was not included in a subsequent work (Taverner 1928), indicating it is probably erroneous.

Nothing about the bird at Minaki was obtained to indicate if it was a fall migrant or was engaged in breeding activity in the vicinity of observation.

### **Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) North Only (1/2)**

- 1989 — one male, 3 October, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Mark W. Jennings).

The Prothonotary Warbler has been recorded previously in northern Ontario only once, a spring migrant on 27 April–3 May 1976 at Quetico Prov. Park (French Lake), *Rainy River* (*Ontario Birds* 2:62). In North America only one other Prothonotary Warbler has been recorded farther north than Moosonee; this concerns a bird found by Bruce D. Mactavish at Goose Bay, Labrador, on 9 October 1987 (*American Birds* 42:227–231).

### **Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) (1/1)**

- 1971 — one, 4–15 November (not only 9 November as in *American Birds* 26:59, James *et al.* 1976:47, and Parker 1983:30; not only 15 November as in James 1976), Balsam, *Durham* (Mrs. Lindsay Death) — photos on file; specimen (skin) in private collection of Barry K. MacKay.

This remains as the only record of Painted Redstart in Ontario, details of which have been published by Speirs and Pegg (1972) and Richards (1972). Considering the relatively restricted breeding range of this species in the extreme southwestern U.S.A., it is amazingly prone to long-distance vagrancy with records for British Columbia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Colorado (AOU 1983:635,



DeSante and Pyle 1986:317–323); Missouri (*American Birds* 41:98); Mississippi (*American Birds* 42:91); and Montana (*American Birds* 42:107).

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (1/7)**

1989 — one male, 15 May, Fort Erie, *Niagara* (Lorne C. Featherston, Maria Featherston).

**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) North Only (6/9)**

1989/90 — one female, 13 November–8 March, Virginiatown, *Timiskaming* (Percy W. Richter).

1988/89 — one male, 20 October–26 April, Wild Goose, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott) — photo on file.

— one female, 7 November–16 March, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).

— one female, 1 December–25 April, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Stanley V. Phippen).

1988 — one female, 5 June, Lake Nipigon Prov. Park, *Thunder Bay* (E. R. "Ted" Armstrong).

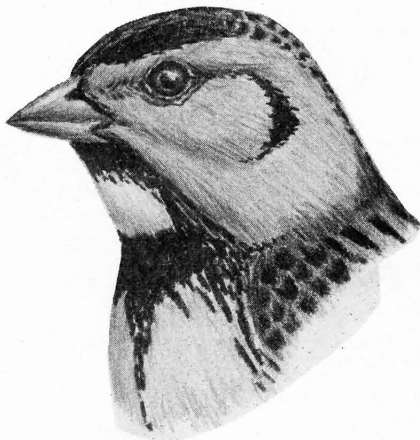
1987/88 — one male, 25 December–28 March, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).

**Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) North Only (1/4)**

1989 — two territorial males, one 23 June–12 July, joined by a second 27 June–5 July, north of Stratton at Pinewood River, *Rainy River* (Dan Lee, Anne B. Lambert).

This is the first time that Dickcissels have been recorded during summer in northern Ontario; previous records in the north (which are numerous) have all concerned spring and fall vagrants. Curiously no territorial birds were found in Rainy River during 1988 (when breeding birds were widespread in southern Ontario), but it is known that almost no visits were made to the region that summer by any field observers.

Figure 18: Immature Harris' Sparrow which wintered at Turkey Point Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 7 February–28 April 1989. Drawing (7 February) by Ronald C. Ridout.



**Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) North Only (1/9)**

1989 — one, 7 May, Batchawana Bay, *Algoma* (Alan Wormington).

**Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (4/25)**

1989 — one, 11–12 May, Big Creek Nat. Wildlife Area, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (James M. Holdsworth)  
— one adult, 10–11 August, Neys Prov. Park, *Thunder Bay* (Edward B. Poropat, Stephen J. O'Donnell).

1988 — one, 30–31 May, Green Park, *Wellington* (Philip D. Taylor, Rohan A. van Twest).  
— one, 4 December, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott) — photos on file.

The bird on 4 December 1988 at Thunder Bay is the latest fall migrant ever recorded in Ontario by over a month; it is a particularly remarkable record for such a northern locality in the province.

**Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (1/8)**

1989 — one adult male, 25 May, Algonquin Prov. Park (Lake Opeongo), *Nipissing* (Jeff Skevington).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (1/5)**

1989 — one adult, 16–22 October (not beginning 20 October as in *American Birds* 44:86), Scarborough, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Margaret J. Bain).

**Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) South Only (3/12)**

1989 — one immature, 7 February–28 April, Turkey Point Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ronald C. Ridout).

— one immature, 26 October, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1988 — one adult, 16 December, Arkona, *Lambton / Middlesex* (Scott A. Connop).

**Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) (1/2)**

1988/89 — one female, 19 November–6 January, Port Rowan / Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ronald C. Ridout, Tim Sabo, George E. Wallace) — photos on file.

Only one prior record of the Great-tailed Grackle exists for Ontario: a fall vagrant which remained from 7–25 October 1987 at Atikokan, *Rainy River* (*Ontario Birds* 7:52; see Elder 1988).

## Deferred Records: Identification accepted, wild status deferred

Species in this category are those where the wild status is currently debatable, and a decision on the records has therefore been deferred until definitive information can be assembled — this includes (but is not limited to) the known status of the species in captivity, the prior pattern of extralimital occurrences in North America in both seasonal and geographic terms, as well as other factors (e.g., distances the species normally travels during migration, etc.). After compilation and analysis of this information, the species will then be placed in either the full acceptance category above or the “origin questionable” category below.



Figure 19: Greater Flamingo at the Thedford Flats, *Lambton*, 2-7 May 1979.  
Photo by Alfred H. Rider.

**Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)**

1979 — one, 2-7 May, Thedford Flats, *Lambton* (David A. Martin, Terry J. Crabe, Alfred H. Rider)  
— photos on file.

It is not entirely convincing that all observations of Greater Flamingo in northeastern North America pertain to escapees; the species appears regularly and consistently — there are several Ontario occurrences yet to be reviewed by the OBRC — and rarely (if ever) are any of these birds traced to any zoo or similar establishment.

**Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)**

1988 — one male, 6 February-28 March, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (T. Ronald Scovell, Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

The status, identification, and distribution of Eurasian Siskin in North America has recently been published by McLaren *et al.* (1989); the authors demonstrate that only male birds are readily identifiable in the field, and since all males but one (the Ontario record) have occurred on either the northeast coast of North America or the Aleutians Islands, they propose that these may represent natural vagrants. However, this viewpoint is not entirely convincing in light of the known fact that substantial numbers are legally imported into the United States (and probably Canada) on a regular basis.

## Unaccepted Records: Identification accepted, origin questionable

Species in this category are those considered almost certainly to be escaped or released from captivity, even though wild occurrence is a remote possibility. Species (or individual records) placed here could be accepted later if future records clearly established a pattern of occurrence suggesting wild (rather than captive) origin.

### Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*)

1987/88 — one adult, 30 August–20 September and 23 September, Bass Lake, and 20 September, Matchedash Bay, *Simcoe*; 1 October–30 November, Whitby, and 1 December, Pickering, *Durham*; and 27 January–12 February, St. Catharines, *Niagara* (Robert L. Bowles, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Christopher J. Escott, Margaret J. Bain, William C. D'Anna, Tim Sabo, Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

The first record of Ross' Goose is certainly overdue in southern Ontario, but the circumstances surrounding this particular bird were questionable: this included the relatively early occurrence date, its association with Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), and initial appearance at a "waterfowl park" where a Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) was also present. Although this Ross' Goose could certainly have been wild, the factors detailed above made such a determination less than positive. A future appearance of a Ross' Goose in association with numbers of Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) would almost certainly indicate a wild bird.

## Unaccepted Records: Identification uncertain

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

- 1989 — Pacific Loon, 11 November, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.  
 — Pacific Loon, 17–18 November, Fanshawe Lake, *Middlesex*.  
 — Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 30 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.  
 — Northern Gannet, 23 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*.  
 — American White Pelican, 11 June, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.  
 — Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) (18), 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.  
 — Great Egret, 29–30 April, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.  
 — Little Blue Heron, 8 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.  
 — Little Blue Heron, 19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.  
 — Little Blue Heron, 26 September, Whitby, *Durham*.  
 — Tricolored Heron, 22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.  
 — Glossy Ibis, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

- Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), 24 August, Newcastle, *Durham*.
- Swainson's Hawk, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), 7 May, Nanticoke, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
- Ferruginous Hawk, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Ferruginous Hawk, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Gyrfalcon, 6 October, Coleraine, *Peel*.
- Piping Plover (two), 28 May, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), 1 June, Emo, *Rainy River*.
- Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), 30 July, Windmill Point, *Niagara*.
- Curlew Sandpiper, 31 August–2 September, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland*.
- Curlew Sandpiper (two), 13 October, Vellore, *York* — photos on file.
- Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), 7 October, Oshawa, *Durham*.
- Ivory Gull (two), 19 October, Komoka, *Middlesex*.
- Western Kingbird, 22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Western Kingbird, 24 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Western Kingbird, 16 September, Blenheim, *Kent*.
- Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) (two), 24 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Mountain Bluebird, 19 April, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.
- Varied Thrush, 22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), 13 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*), 22 May, Burpee, *Manitowlin*.
- MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*), 25–31 May, Port Weller, *Niagara*.
- Western Tanager, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Lark Bunting, 13 May, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Lark Bunting, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1988 — Western Grebe, 11 November, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland*.
- Swainson's Hawk, 21 April, Grimsby, *Niagara*.
- Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), 19 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.
- Sandwich Tern, 7 October, Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara*.
- Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), 25 September, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 25 August, Guelph Lake, *Wellington*.
- Northern Wheatear, 7 June, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
- Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), 31 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.
- MacGillivray's Warbler, 15 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.
- Northern Cardinal, 6 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.
- Lark Sparrow, 15 August, Ancaster, *Hamilton-Wentworth*.
- Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum*), 25 August, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.
- 1987 — Tricolored Heron, 11 June, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*.
- Townsend's Solitaire, 19 September, Pass Lake, *Thunder Bay*.
- 1986 — Lark Sparrow, 17 May, Brighton, *Northumberland*.
- 1986/85 — Mountain Bluebird, 1 May–25 June 1985 and late April–31 July 1986, Port Stanley, *Elgin* — photos on file.

Considerable controversy surrounded this male bird which was mated to a female Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), but it was never clearly established if any eggs produced by the mating of these two birds ever hatched; in 1985, for example, excellent photographs of the three fledged young — which were from the defended nestbox and attended by the male bird — were clearly those of Eastern Bluebird. As for the bird's identification, considerable attention was focussed on the small reddish mark on the bird's upper chest (present both years), extent of blue (restricted) on the underparts, and

overall shape and structure. Opinions by at least one expert on bluebird identification (Jon L. Dunn, pers. comm.) indicated the bird had several characteristics atypical of Mountain Bluebird; subsequently, the record could not be accepted by the committee as definitely pertaining to this species. Additional details on this bird have been published by Risley (1987).

1985 — Pomarine Jaeger, 5 November, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth*.

— MacGillivray's Warbler, 31 August, Long Point (Breakwater), *Haldimand-Norfolk* — photos on file.

1982 — Cave Swallow, 17 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*.

1981 — Mountain Bluebird, mid-April–30 April, La Salette, *Haldimand-Norfolk* — photo on file.

1979 — Ivory Gull, 7 January, Rolphton, *Renfrew*.

1977 — Yellow-throated Warbler, 22 May, Great Duck Island, *Manitoulin*.

1974 — Ivory Gull, 2 March, Niagara Falls, *Niagara*.

1969 — Ferruginous Hawk, 23 March, Grimsby, *Niagara*.

1967 — Western Kingbird, 26 May (not 20 May as in Speirs 1985:514–515), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

## Corrections / Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

### 1988 Report (*Ontario Birds* 7:43–54):

— under Yellow-throated Warbler (1987/1988 at Trenton), add "R. Terry Sprague" as a contributor (additional documentation on the record has recently been obtained).

### 1987 Report (*Ontario Birds* 6:42–50):

— under Lark Sparrow (1987 at Presqu'île Prov. Park), change "6–7 April" to "13–16 April" (information recently received from Presqu'île Prov. Park gives correct dates for the bird's occurrence).

### 1986 Report (*Ontario Birds* 5:42–63):

— under Rufous Hummingbird (1986 at Algonquin Prov. Park), add "A. Geoffrey Carpentier" as a contributor (additional photographs on the record have been obtained).

### 1985 Report (*Ontario Birds* 4:3–18):

— under Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (1978 at Hurkett), change the record to read "29 Oct.–2 Nov., Hurkett (29th to 1st) and Dorion (2nd)" (information on the observation at Dorion has recently been obtained and almost certainly pertains to the Hurkett bird).  
— under Groove-billed Ani (1978 at Sundridge), change the number of the specimen from "13203" to "132031"; add "immature female" to the record.

### 1984 Report (*Ontario Birds* 3:2–17):

— under Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1981 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), change "Jeffrey Bennett" to "Jeffery Bennett."  
— under Blue Grosbeak (11–17 May 1979 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), change "Allen E. Valente" to "Allen E. Valentine."  
— under Blue Grosbeak (1972 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), add "Alan J. Ryff" as a contributor (additional documentation on the record has recently been obtained).

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

- under Groove-billed Ani (1983 at Rosslyn), add "adult female" to the record.
- under Northern Wheatear (1972), change "Fraserdale" to "Abitibi Canyon."
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1982 at Niagara Falls), add "Wavel Barber, Maxine Barber" as contributors (additional documentation on the record has recently been obtained).

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

- under Little Blue Heron (1982 at Rondeau Prov. Park), add "JBW" (= John B. Walty) as a contributor.
- under Cattle Egret (1982 at Dorion), change "23 Oct." to "23 Oct.-2 Nov." (information recently obtained gives more complete dates on this bird's occurrence).
- under American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (1982 at Buckhorn), add "AW" (= Alan Wormington) as a contributor of a photograph.
- under Mississippi Kite (1982 at Point Pelee Nat. Park), add "PDP" (= Paul D. Pratt) as a contributor (additional documentation on the record has recently been obtained).
- under Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) (about 1925 at Crescent Beach), add "ILT" (= I. L. Terry, Sr.) as a contributor.
- under Curlew Sandpiper (1982 at Essex), add "AW" (= Alan Wormington) as a contributor of photographs.
- under Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) (1982 at Point Pelee), add "AW" (= Alan Wormington) as a contributor.
- under Western Kingbird (1982 north of Toronto), add "MWJ" (= Mark W. Jennings) as a contributor of photographs.
- under Yellow-throated Warbler (1982 at Moosonee), add "KFA" (= Kenneth F. Abraham) as a contributor of photographs.

**Acknowledgements**

The OBRC thanks the many individuals who assisted the OBRC during 1989 in a number of different ways. Many individuals obtained reports for the committee which were not their own, provided information on various records, or provided expert opinion on difficult identifications. These include Robert F. Andrie, Margaret J. Bain, Gerry M. Bennett, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Peter Chapman, Allen T. Chartier, Scott A. Connop, Terry J. Crabe, Hugh G. Currie, Rob Z. Dobos, Jon L. Dunn, Nicholas G. Escott, David W. Fidler, Kimball L. Garrett, Michel Gosselin, Peter Harrison, Theo Hofmann, David J. T. Hussell, John

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# Notes

## Broad-billed Hummingbird: New to Ontario and Canada

The twenty-first of October 1989 dawned like any other, but there was a sense of urgency in my pace as I hurried to shave and shower. The night before, Doug Sadler had called to advise that he had spoken to a couple from Buckhorn who wanted advice on how they could save their little hummingbird from the inclement weather that prevailed throughout the past week. After querying them on its field marks, doubt certainly remained as to its identity. Regardless, he gave good advice on feeding and avoidance of disturbance. Their suggestion regarding capture was quickly thwarted, as the bird would likely die from the shock. The field marks offered indicated a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), as it was described as having some small amount of brownish colouration about the lower tail area. Certainly, this would be the expected species at this late date.

The Rufous Hummingbird would have been new to the County of Peterborough, so it was with this thought in mind that we headed out at 0730h on that Saturday morning. Arriving at the small lakeside house just south of Buckhorn in Smith Township, we were met by a pleasant sylvan

setting, framed with tall white pines (*Pinus strobus*) and a scattering of lingering cultivated flowers, despite the recent killing frost. The owners, Rick and Laurie Morgan, were delighted to see us and welcomed us into their home to sit by the large picture window overlooking the lake and the hummingbird feeder that had been maintained with fresh food for the last few days. We soon learned that the bird had arrived in their yard on the previous Monday, 16 October, and had investigated their empty feeder. Obviously finding the site acceptable, it stayed to feed and rest.

Within minutes of our arrival, the drab hummer visited the feeder briefly, offering a tantalizing view. We knew immediately that it was not a Ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*) or a Rufous hummingbird. Its larger size, dark colouration, and long decurved bill led towards another species. But what was it? To our dismay, it promptly left... forever? During its absence, we scoured field guides to try to limit the possibilities, and plan a method of recording details in case our next look was equally brief, and our last!

By 0830h, the bird returned to the feeder, and continued to do so every five minutes for the next

hour. Each visit lasted about 1.5 minutes, with the bird sitting and feeding alternately. Doug attempted to photograph it through the window, while I sketched and made notes on field marks and behaviour. Finally, we agreed incredulously that it was most likely a female Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*), but we still hadn't been able to see the bright orange that was supposed to be so obvious on the lower mandible.

After brief discussion, I decided to go outside under better light conditions and see if we could add to the observed field marks. The bird proved extremely tame and allowed my approach within 10m. Almost immediately I saw the missing field mark. From below, the orange lower mandible was obvious, and I wondered how we could have missed it from inside. Other subtle colour patterns also became evident when viewed in natural light.

The bird fed every few minutes from the hanging hummingbird feeder. It hovered in front of the feeder with its tail broadly spread, fed for a few seconds, and immediately flew either to a perch above or to the side of the feeder and rested for about a minute. As it approached the feeder, it flew somewhat erratically and almost clumsily by hummingbird standards. Although the field guides describe it as a noisy flyer, no sound was ever heard by Doug or

me. It preferred to roost on or near the ground when not at the feeder. It frequently sat about 10cm above the ground in a small remnant flower garden to the south of the house. However, it most consistently roosted, and in fact slept, in a small "canyon" by the entrance to the basement. The owners had dug a 2m-deep trench into a steep embankment and lined it with fractured limestone to provide access to the basement. The bird was observed entering small crevices in the rock periodically and sitting on small ledges out of the wind.

The bird aggressively approached the feeder, but failed to interact with most other birds in the yard. Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) and House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) were tolerated throughout. However, it seemed to become upset when approached by a White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), at which times it uttered a soft and persistent call very similar to the Ruby-crowned Kinglet's (*Regulus calendula*) "je-dit" note.

The following field marks were noted by Sadler and myself. Generally, the bird was chunkier and slightly larger than the similar Ruby-throated Hummingbird. It was green backed, gray fronted, and sported a long decurved bill.

The crown was basically green, with some small amounts of dark feathering apparent. The green

extended down onto the face to a point slightly above the superciliary line. A distinct white eye-stripe was apparent from just in front of the eye to the leading edge of the nape. It seemed to get slightly wider as it approached the back of the head. The eye was dark and surrounded by an area of dark feathering that gave the impression of a mask, extending onto the upper part of the cheek. The cheek was white to the malar zone, while the centre of the throat was distinctly gray. The combination of the cheek and throat colour gave the impression of a tri-coloured throat when viewed from below.

The bill was very long, perhaps 1.25 to 1.5 times the length of the head. The bill was obviously and noticeably decurved along its entire length. The upper mandible was black and unmarked. The lower mandible was quite dark when viewed from the side. However, when seen from below, a bright orange colour was obvious at least at the basal part of the bill. The broadening of the bill was evident only when viewed from below.

The back appeared quite mottled in appearance. Generally, it was green overall down onto and including the rump area, but individual gray feathers showed through, presumably as the feathers were ruffled against the wind.

The breast was gray overall, with no apparent streaking or spotting anywhere. A small area of green feathering, similar to the back

colour, was noted in the area of the shoulder. The undertail area seemed whiter than the rest of the breast.

The primaries were long and blackish in colour. At rest, the wings extended to the tip of the tail. No wing bars, spottings, or other markings were noted on them, however a whitish line was noted along the edge of the wing. Closer observation revealed that it was in fact the edge of the underwing showing, contrasting noticeably with the gray breast.

The tail was slightly forked, but appeared squarish when spread. It showed a metallic blue-black colour, evident only when it perched low to the ground and under good light conditions. It was tipped with diminishing amounts of white on the outer two or three feathers with the largest spots noted on the outer tail feathers.

As expected, females of many species of hummingbirds are very similar. With this thought in mind, Sadler and I set about trying to eliminate all possible species. The Ruby-throated sports a totally different face pattern, has a much shorter bill, and does not have a blue-black metallic coloured tail. Lucifer Hummingbird (*Calothorax lucifer*) has buffy underparts and does not have orange on the lower mandible. The White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*) is heavily streaked underneath, has a straight bill, and a totally dark unspotted tail. The Blue-throated

Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*) has dark undertail coverts, a straight bill without orange colouration, and is a larger hummer. The large Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) has dark cheeks, a streaked throat, and no orange on the mandibles. The Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) has a different call note, short straight bill, white breast, and no orange on the mandible. Costa's

Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) has a short straight bill, unmarked tail, and lack of orange on the mandibles. Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) has a streaked throat, dark cheeks, and straight bill without orange highlights. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) has buff flanks, a short straight bill, and lacks orange on the mandibles. Finally, the Rufous Hummingbird sports various amounts of rufous over parts of the body.

The Broad-billed Hummingbird is not known to wander far from its summering or wintering range. The AOU *Check-list of North American Birds* (6th Edition) states that it breeds primarily in Mexico northward to southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western Texas. It winters from central Sonora southward. Extralimital records seem virtually non-existent. Reportedly, it wanders occasionally to California in winter. Utah has a single recorded sighting.

A previously accepted record in Florida is now considered invalid. Thus, this is a significant extralimital record and the first record for eastern North America.

How this little bird ended up in Buckhorn is anybody's guess. However, by so doing, it represents the first documented record for Ontario and Canada. The record has been reviewed and accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

Ultimately, the little bird left of its own accord on October 26th. We can only hope that it somehow managed to migrate to a more hospitable locale somewhere to the south.

#### Literature cited

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# Book Review

**A Field Guide to the Birds of the U. S. S. R.** 1989. By V. E. Flint, R. L. Boehme, Y. V. Kostin, A. A. Kuznetsov; illustrated by Y. V. Kostin. Translated by N. Bourso-Leland. Princeton University Press. 353 + xxxi pp., 48 colour plates. Cdn\$92 hardcover, Cdn\$39.95 paperback.

Russia, Churchill once observed, is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. Although some of the political fogs may have dissipated somewhat since Stalin's days, ornithologically this statement is almost as true as it was 40 years ago. Here we have the biggest country in the world, almost three times the size of Canada, stretching through 11 time zones from high Arctic tundra to arid desert and everything in between, yet still accessible only with great difficulty and much restriction to most bird-watchers. For all the proud Russian tradition of science, large gaps in the ornithological knowledge of the Soviet Union still exist, as is shown by the discovery of a new species of bird as recently as 1970; and not just some miserable little warbler grovelling around in the undergrowth of an obscure valley, but a gull, with at least 10 breeding colonies and a population of several thousands. Not entirely surprisingly, the popular ornithological literature is also very scant. The standard work, the six-volume *Ptitsy Sovetskovo Soyuz*, by G. P. Dement'ev and N. A. Gladkov, was published almost 40 years ago. The only field-guide-type book that

I have encountered is the Russian-language original of the book under review, *Ptitsy SSSR*, by Vladimir E. Flint and co-authors, published in 1968. This is out of print and almost unobtainable, even in Russia; several times in recent years I have had business colleagues scour bookshops in Moscow for it at my behest, always in vain. Consequently, the publication of an English version by Princeton, albeit at a somewhat increased price (the original in hardcover cost 2 rubles 12 kopecks, a bit over \$3), is a very welcome event.

The book starts off with a translator's foreword, which actually contains much information that would be useful for a visiting birdwatcher. The "Introduction to the English-language Edition" that follows is also worthwhile, since it includes a good map of the biotic zones of the Soviet Union and some substantial sketches of the bird faunas of the different zones. The bulk of the book, just over 300 pages, is devoted to species accounts, which follow a format very familiar to Canadian birders. There is a brief section on field marks, giving the salient

identification features; a longer section on habits, which includes notes on habitat preference, nesting and eggs, general habits and food, and call-notes and song; a very brief description of range (in the Soviet Union only — no mention of world distribution); and a few comments on similar species, which in some cases are somewhat repetitious of details given in the first section. The species accounts are competent and useful, although tending to neglect non-plumage identification features which the field bird-watcher finds useful: for example, the diagnostic “towering” flight of Temminck’s versus Little Stint on being flushed, or the head attitude of Red-throated versus Black-throated Loon. The range of each species is shown by maps, which could be much improved. Up to three species share a map, with ranges indicated by various cross-hatchings and stipples. Where the ranges overlap, or where there is only a very small range in the Soviet Union, the maps are very difficult to interpret. If you don’t already know where Krüper’s Nuthatch or Swinhoe’s Yellow Rail are to be found, you’ll need a magnifying glass and some patience to find out.

The 48 colour plates by Y. V. Kostin are a pleasure to look at and, generally speaking, very reasonably accurate, only falling down occasionally on soft-part colour. The quality of printing by Princeton is also a vast improvement on the original by

Izdatel'stvo Mysl', which was blurred, discoloured, and fuzzy. Western birdwatchers, cossetted by the modern generation of field guides of Europe and North America, will criticize the lack of, for example, flight pictures of gulls and shorebirds, or the sketchy treatment of immature plumages, especially, again, of gulls, but it is perhaps only fair to compare the standard of the present book to what we ourselves had to work from in the sixties. Some plates are more successful than others; I particularly like the buntings (of which Siberia has an abundance), but find the owls and some water-birds to be stilted and unnatural.

One aspect of the present book which is a little disappointing is the apparent lack of any great effort to update it since the original work was published. Writing some time prior to 1968, in the Russian language edition, Dr. Flint stated that the Japanese Crested Ibis was a bird which is “very rare and apparently approaching extinction; in the last 10 years no investigators have succeeded in observing it in our territory.” Twenty-one years later the English version says exactly the same. (In the meantime the situation of this species has indeed become desperate.) Siberia is plagued or blessed (according to your viewpoint) with large quantities of small green or brown warblers, whose identification when they crop up as vagrants in Western Europe or the Aleutians is the

despair or delight (according to your ego) of western observers. Great strides have been made in recent years in the identification of these species (see, for example, *British Birds* 83(3):94-96), but none of this knowledge is included in the species accounts, which are bald translations of the original; indeed, the text specifically states that *Phylloscopus* warblers are "practically indistinguishable in the field", which is quite untrue.

One rather bizarre feature of the book is the extraordinary choice of English names, which seem to be an uneasy hybrid of North American and British usage, with a number peculiar to this book alone, some obviously literal translations of the Russian and some of no provenance discernible to me. Thus we have Red Phalarope, but Red-necked Phalarope and Gray (not Grey) Plover. Horned Grebe is Horned Grebe, but Eared Grebe is Black-necked Grebe, and Little Grebe is Red-throated Dabchik (sic). In what I can only assume is an example of that misplaced pedantry that induces some Canadian birders to call House Sparrows Weaver Finches, Rock Sparrow has become Rock Petronia; ironically, the Russian name, Kam'enniy Vorob'ey means, guess what, Rock Sparrow! There are dozens of other examples; Ring Thrush for Ring

Ousel, Persian Robin for White-throated Robin, Winter Sparrow for American Tree Sparrow. To restore order to the confusion, 30 pages at the end of the book are devoted to a "Cross-reference List", giving a variety of English names, along with scientific equivalents. This is 30 pages wasted; far better to have used the correct names in the text, with synonyms if necessary. It also contains yet further errors, such as obsolete scientific names and other outright mistakes.

I have perhaps been more critical than is my wont in this review, but it is very annoying to see an extremely valuable addition to the ornithological literature (which this book certainly is) marred by error and sloppiness that should have been eliminated by more careful editing. Nevertheless, despite my strictures, I still strongly recommend *A Field Guide to the Birds of the U. S. S. R.* to the armchair dreamer and to the ambitious would-be travelling birder alike.

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# Ontario Field Ornithologists

Ontario Field Ornithologists is an organization dedicated to the study of birdlife in Ontario. It was formed to unify the ever-growing numbers of field ornithologists (birders/birdwatchers) across the province and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its members. The Ontario Field Ornithologists officially oversees the activities of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC), publishes a newsletter and a journal, *Ontario Birds*, hosts field trips throughout Ontario and holds a Spring Field Meeting and an Annual General Meeting in the autumn.

All persons interested in bird study, regardless of their level of expertise, are invited to become members of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Membership dues are \$17.00 Annual Member or \$340.00 Life Member. All members receive *Ontario Birds*, the official publication of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Please send memberships to: Ontario Field Ornithologists, P. O. Box 1204, Station B, Burlington, Ontario L7P 3S9.

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