

## ARTICLES

# Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2006

*William J. Crins*

### Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) evaluates documentation it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Ontario (see [www.ofo.ca/obrc](http://www.ofo.ca/obrc)). In addition, it reviews documentation relating to new species, new subspecies, and new breeding species for the province. This 25th annual report deals with the results of the review of 118 records by the OBRC during 2006, of which 76% were accepted. All reports reviewed by the committee are kept on permanent file at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

A total of 135 different observers submitted documentation for review by the 2006 committee. Written reports often were accompanied by photographs (generally digital images, but sometimes prints). As noted in recent years, the trend toward submission of only photographic evidence, with little or no supporting written evidence, continues. Such records often are problematic. For example, it is difficult for the OBRC to compile complete dates of occurrence, and often there are details and circumstances associated with an observation that cannot be ascertained from photographic evidence alone (e.g., behaviour, comparisons with nearby birds, features

hidden from view when the photograph was taken). We continue to urge photographers to submit written reports to accompany their images submitted to OBRC. Those submitting photos to the OFO website also should take the time to send the same photos,



Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee members for 2006. Left to right, Alan Wormington, Jean Iron, Kevin McLaughlin, Ian Richards, Glenn Coady, Margaret Bain, Colin Jones, Bill Crins, Mark Peck.

*Photo: Mark K. Peck*

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

**Ross's Goose** *Chen rossii* South Only Before 2007 (51)

- 2006 two definitive basic, white morph, 1-5 March, Welland, **Niagara** ([John O'Neal](#), Kayo J. Roy, Rick Johnston, David J. Milsom; 06-081) – photos on file.
- 2005/06 two definitive basic, white morph, mid December - 23 February, Point Abino, **Niagara** ([Richard A. Cudney](#), Kayo J. Roy; 06-032) – photos on file.
- 2005 one definitive basic, white morph, 11-28 November; 11-20 November, Merlin, **Chatham-Kent**; 28 November, Sturgeon Creek, **Essex** (Adam J. Hall, Rosalee A. Hall; 06-051) – photos on file.

**Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica* South Only (32)

- 2005 one juvenal, 1-4 December; 1-2 December, Duffins Creek; 4 December, Moore Point, **Durham** ([Ronald J. Pittaway](#), [Jean Iron](#); 06-061) – photos on file.

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (21)

- 2006 one 6 May, Mississauga, **Peel** ([Derek Lyon](#), also found by Jennifer Lyon; 06-101).
- one basic, 18 November, Pinery Provincial Park, **Lambton** ([Blake A. Mann](#); 06-102) – photos on file.
- one basic, 29 November, Minet's Point, **Simcoe** ([James P. Coey](#), also found by Nigel Shaw; 06-111) – photos on file.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* (2)

- 2006 one 31 August – 1 September, Van Wagners Beach, **Hamilton** and Burlington Beach **Halton** ([Barry S. Cherière](#), John Stirrat, Cheryl E. Edgecombe, Ben Edgecombe; 06-112) – photos on file.

This incredible discovery must rank as the bird of the year. It was seen by several observers, unlike the first record for the province, which involved a dead bird found floating in the Ottawa River at Lac Deschênes, **Ottawa**, on 26 August 2001 (Roy 2002). Cherière (2007) published an account of this observation.

**Figure 2: Manx Shearwater present at Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, and Burlington Beach, Halton, from 31 August to 1 September 2006. Photo: Barry S. Cherière**

**Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus* (34)

- 2006 one juvenal, 8 January, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-082).
- 2005 one juvenal, 11 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-041).
- one juvenal, 27 November - 4 December, Port Credit and Clarkson, **Peel**, Van Wagners Beach, **Hamilton** ([Donald E. Perks](#), Robert Z. Dobos; 06-052).
- one juvenal, 4 December, Port Ryerse, **Norfolk** ([David Okines](#), also found by Audrey Heagy; 06-021).

Fascinating details concerning the Port Ryerse bird were provided by David Okines in an Ontbirds posting (4 December 2005). This bird was observed being attacked by an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which attempted to lift it from the water in its talons over a 15-minute period. The eagle was unsuccessful in lifting it, but the Northern Gannet was not seen again, and was presumed to have died.

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* (3)

2005 one definitive basic, male, 23 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, **Essex** (Claude Radley, also found by Robert C. Pettit, R. James McCoy, Brent Schlenk, Pat Schlenk, Fred J. Urie; 06-001).

This bird was seen on 18 September 2005 at Lake Erie Metropark and then Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in Michigan, at the latter location apparently flying in from Ontario (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.). The fact that it was seen on a later date at Holiday Beach indicates that it returned to Ontario after these two Michigan sightings.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* (57)

2005 one, definitive alternate, 2-4 June, Kincardine, **Bruce** Ralph Knowles, Jim Mittelholtz; 06-023) – photos on file.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* (37)

2006 one 6-12 August, 28 August – 3 September;  
two definitive alternate, 13-27 August;  
Niagara Falls **Niagara** (Kayo J. Roy, William W. Watson, Andrew Don, John Nishikawa, Barry S. Cheriére, Raymond J. Barlow, Gabriel Lau Kin Jock, Kenneth W. Newcombe, Derek Lyon, Rick Lauzon, John Ralston, Sam Barone, found by Barbara N. Charlton, Robert Z. Dobos; 06-113) – photos on file.

It is unknown whether the bird that was first seen on 6 August was the same bird that remained until 3 September.

Figure 3: Definitive alternate Tricolored Heron at Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, from 6 August to 3 September 2006.

Photo: Kayo J. Roy

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* North Only (20)

2005 seven basic, 29-31 October, Fort Frances, **Rainy River** (Linda L. Wall, found by Bruce Caldwell; 06-011) – photo on file.

one 1-6 November; two, juvenals, 7-10 November; Slate River Valley, **Thunder Bay** (Mark Conboy, found by Brian J. Moore; 06-012) – photo on file.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* (38)

2006 one definitive alternate, 5-10 May, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** (Alan Wormington, found by Marianne B. Reid; 06-114) – photos on file.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* (46)

2005 seven definitive alternate, 3-4 May, Fonhill, **Niagara** (Dayna Lee; 06-033).

one alternate, 13-16 May, Hillman Marsh to Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** (John G. Cummings, Brenda Cummings, Brandon R. Holden, Carol M. Horner; 06-002) – photos on file.

one definitive basic, 29 October - 7 November; Cranberry Marsh (29 October), Duffins Creek (5-7 November), **Durham** (Gabriel Lau Kin Jock, found by Rayfield Pye and J. Douglas Lockrey; 06-003) – photos on file.

**White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (4)**

2006 one definitive prebasic molt, 2-3 October, Erie View; 3 October, Houghton Centre, **Norfolk** (Ron Ridout, Michael J. Nelson, found by Steve Wilcox; 06-116) – photos on file.

This bird was a member of a flock of 11 dark ibises that appeared in Erie View, **Norfolk**, on 2 October 2006. This is the latest record of a White-faced Ibis in Ontario.



Figure 4: White-faced Ibis in definitive prebasic molt at Erie View, **Norfolk**, from 2 to 3 October 2006.

Photo: Ron Ridout

**Ibis species *Plegadis* sp. (40)**

2006 ten 2-3 October, Erie View; 3 October, Houghton Centre, **Norfolk** (Ron Ridout, Michael J. Nelson, found by Steve Wilcox; 06-115) – photos on file.

2005 two 29 May, Big Creek Marsh, **Norfolk** (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Stuart A. Mackenzie) (06-042).

one 21 September, Dundas Marsh, **Hamilton** (Doug Mannen; 06-083).

It should be noted that the incorrect date of 20 September has been published (Bain 2006) for the Dundas Marsh bird.

**Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (52)**

2006 one basic, 4-5 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, **Chatham-Kent** (Ross W. Wood, Denise Dykema, also found by Emily Slavik; 06-071) – photo on file.

one basic, 14 June, Dunbarton, **Durham** (Mike Williamson; 06-072).

The inaccurate location of Scarborough, **Toronto**, has been published (Cranford 2007) for the Dunbarton bird.

**Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (14)**

2006 one basic, 31 May, Crosby Lake, **Leeds and Grenville** (Pete Stothart; 06-036).

**“Dark Morph” Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (2)**

2004 one definitive basic, 19 September, Port Burwell and Port Stanley, **Elgin** (Kenneth G. Burrell, found by David A. Martin; 06-084).

The dark colour morph of the Broad-winged Hawk appears to be extremely rare in Ontario. The committee has accepted one previous report of this morph, observed at Woodstock, **Oxford**, on 18 August 1992 (Dobos 1998). A small number of unreviewed reports exist, including one by Escott (1986), who provided a good description of a bird of this morph that he observed near Thunder Bay, **Thunder Bay**, on 7 May 1985. Escott (1986) included a brief discussion of the only other report known to him at the time, observed at the Grimsby, **Niagara**, hawk watch on 30 April 1978.

**Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (13)**

2006 one juvenal, 6 February, Apsley, **Peterborough** (unknown finder; 06-055) – photo on file; specimen (skin and wing) in ROM (#104804).

This most unusual winter record involved a bird that was found alive but emaciated, with a fractured tarsometatarsus, and unable to stand, under a discarded Christmas tree. It was taken to a Peterborough veterinary clinic, and then the Toronto Wildlife Centre, where it did not survive (Kate Siena, pers. comm.).

**Wilson’s Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (3)**

2006 one first alternate, 26-27 May, Presqu’île Provincial Park, **Northumberland** (R. Douglas McRae, Rick Lauzon, William J. Edmunds, Allyson Parker, also found by Bill Gilmour; 06-104) – photos on file.

This third documented record for Ontario fits the pattern of mid- to late May occurrences summarized by Crins (2005). Both previous records were from the Hamilton area. It should be noted that a report of this species from this location on 17 May has not been substantiated by any evidence.

**Figure 5: First alternate Wilson’s Plover at Presqu’île Provincial Park, Northumberland, from 17 to 28 May 2006.**

*Photo: William J. Edmunds*

**Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (58)**

2005 one alternate, male, 21 May – 8 June, Presqu’île Provincial Park, **Northumberland** (Melissa Rose, William J. Edmunds; 06-062) – photo on file.  
 one juvenal, 17-21 August, Rock Point Provincial Park, **Haldimand** (Mary Schuster, William W. Watson, Barry S. Cherièrè, also found by Lucy Saruyama; 06-013) – photos on file.

**Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (14)**

2006 two definitive alternate, 11-15 April, Brighton, **Northumberland** (J. Barry Robinson, Margaret J. C. Bain, Jim Dixon, Tony F. M. Beck, William J. Edmunds, Anita Edmunds, Ken Kingdon; 06-056) – photos on file.

The date of 10 April has been published (Holder 2006) for this record, but that date is now considered to be invalid.



**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (26)**

2006 one definitive alternate, female, 23-31 May, Townsend, **Haldimand** (Carol M. Horner, Brandon R. Holden, Barry S. Cheriére, William W. Watson, found by James Lees; 06-073) – photos on file.

**Mew Gull *Larus canus* (19)**

2006 one definitive alternate, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, 31 March, Wheatley Harbour, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-037) – photos on file.



Figure 6: Mew Gull in definitive alternate plumage at Wheatley Harbour, **Essex**, on 31 March 2006.

Photo: [Alan Wormington](#)

**California Gull *Larus californicus* (46)**

2006 one first alternate, 29 June, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-039).

2005/06 one definitive basic, 11 November – 3 January, Queenston, **Niagara** (William W. Watson, found by Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter; 06-025).

2005 one definitive basic, *L. c. albertaensis*, 11 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Kevin A. McLaughlin](#), [Robert L. Waldhuber](#), also found by George M. Naylor; 06-024) – photos on file.

one second basic, *L. c. californicus*, 22 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-038).

Once again, a definitive basic bird appeared on the Niagara River from 11 November 2005 to 3 January 2006. It is quite likely that the same individual has been returning to this location for several years, although in some years, more than one individual is present (see Crins 2005). The total number of reports cited above likely includes some duplication involving the same bird in different years.

**Slaty-backed Gull** *Larus schistisagus* (3)

2006 one third basic, 22-26 January, Wheatley Harbour and Hillman Marsh, **Essex** (Alan Wormington, Brett Groves, found by Dean J. Ware; 06-085) – photos on file.

This third basic bird was well documented, with excellent photographs. A brief account of this record has been published (Anonymous 2006). The two previous records involved definitive basic birds in Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, from 24 November to 29 December 1992 (Bain 1993), and in Toronto, **Toronto**, from 2-9 January 1999 (Roy 2000).



Figure 7: Third basic Slaty-backed Gull at Wheatley Harbour, **Essex**, from 22 to 26 January 2006.

Photo: Brett Groves

**Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* (29)

2006 one juvenal, 8-13 January; 8-11 January, Hillman Marsh, **Essex**; 12-13 January, Wheatley Harbour, **Essex/Chatham-Kent** (Adam J. Hall, Rosalee A. Hall, Sarah E. Rupert, Robert Epstein, David T. Pavlik, Michael A. Savino, Robert A. Horvath, Alfred H. Rider, Tim Lenz, Michael J. Nelson; 06-086) – photos on file.

one definitive basic, 28 March, **Pembroke, Renfrew** (Mark Dojczman; 06-074) – photos on file.

An article on the Hillman Marsh/Wheatley Harbour record has been published (Hall and Hall 2006). The Pembroke bird represents one of the few records of Ivory Gull in definitive basic plumage in southern Ontario (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.).

Figure 8: Definitive basic Ivory Gull at Pembroke, **Renfrew**, on 28 March 2006. Photo: Mark Dojczman



**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South Only (12)**

- 2006 one definitive alternate, 18 May, Long Point (Tip), **Norfolk** ([Ron Ridout](#); 06-117) – photos on file.
- 1989 one first basic, 11-19 November, Fort Erie, **Niagara** (Robert F. Andrlé, Michael F. Galas, William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, Gerald R. Rising, Joseph Gula, Jr., found by Erik A. T. Blom, Wayne Klockner; 06-040) – photos on file.

A photograph of the Fort Erie bird taken by Tim Sabo has been published (Weir 1990); in the same journal issue, the first date of occurrence was incorrectly published as 12 November.

**Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* South Only Before 2007 (40)**

- 2005 one juvenal, light morph, 22 October, Van Wagners Beach, **Hamilton** ([Brandon R. Holden](#), also found by Robert Z. Dobos, J. Bruce Falls, Eric W. Holden; 06-063) – photo on file.

**Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* South Only (1)**

- 2006 one first basic, *C. g. ultimus*, 14-21 November, Massey, **Sudbury** ([Cameron McGregor](#), John G. Lemon, David Bell, Christopher J. Escott, Joe Houle, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway; 06-118) – photos on file.

This bird is considered to be of the eastern Arctic subspecies *ultimus* because of its extreme whiteness (R. J. Pittaway and J. Iron, pers. comm.). This is the subspecies that breeds along the coasts and islands of Hudson Bay; it is known to have bred once in Ontario, on Manchuinagush Island, Polar Bear Provincial Park, **Kenora** (James 1987, 1991). Pittaway (2007) wrote a brief account of this record, including its possible demise at the hands of a Bald Eagle.



Figure 9: First basic Black Guillemot at Massey, **Sudbury**, from 14 to 21 November 2006.

Photo: *Joe Houle*

**Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (18)**

- 2006 one basic, male, 1 May, Wheatley Provincial Park, **Chatham-Kent** ([Andrew Keaveney](#); 06-015). This report represents the earliest spring record in the province.



**Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (18)**

2006 one definitive basic, male, 13-14 July, Port Colborne, **Niagara** (Kayo J. Roy, found by Mary E. McNeil; 06-106) – photo on file.

**Hummingbird species *Selasphorus* sp. (8)**

2006 one basic, female, 7-9 May, Thunder Bay, **Thunder Bay** (Susan Bryan, Brian D. Ratcliff; 06-105) – photos on file.

2005 one basic female or first basic, 18 November – 9 December, London, **Middlesex** (Shay Redmond, Cindy E. Cartwright, found by Alice Kenzie; 06-016) – photo on file.

The Thunder Bay bird is the only spring record of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in the province. A DNA sample was obtained from the London bird during the banding process, but the comparative evidence differentiating Rufous Hummingbird from Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) has not been forthcoming.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* North Only Before 2007 (17)**

2006 one basic, male, 30 May, Rainy River mouth, **Rainy River** (David H. Elder, found by Linda Budreau; 06-091).

Although the specific dates are not known, this bird had been coming to the Budreau feeder at Oak Grove Camp for much of the spring (Linda Budreau, pers. comm., to David H. Elder). This may well have been one of the same birds that nested in this vicinity in 2005 (see Crins 2006).

**Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (11)**

2006 one basic, 28-29 April, Long Point (Tip), **Norfolk** (Michael D. Boyd, Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Peter Coe; 06-092) – photo on file.

2005 one basic, 7 May, Bruce Peninsula National Park (Crane Lake Road), **Bruce** (Virgil Martin; 06-017) – photos on file.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (7)**

2006 one alternate, 26 April, Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay** (John M. Woodcock; 06-076) – photos on file.

This bird was banded at Thunder Cape and the photographic details enabled the exclusion of Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*) as a possibility. In the OBRC's report for 2000 (Roy 2001), the comment was made that all previous Ash-throated Flycatcher records would require the caveat that Nutting's Flycatcher had not been eliminated. This is the first record of Ash-throated Flycatcher in northern Ontario.

**Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* Before 1998 Only (74)**

1996 one alternate, 2 July, McGinnis Creek, **Rainy River** (Blake A. Mann, also found by Stephen R. Charbonneau, Roger M. Simms; 06-064) – photo on file.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (52)**

2006 one definitive alternate, male, 29 April, Iroquois Falls, **Cochrane** (Lars Hildebrandt; 06-119) – photos on file; specimen (skin and wing) in ROM (#110659).

2005 one 14 September, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), **Norfolk** (Michael D. Boyd, also found by Douglas R. Brown, Josh Sayers; 06-065) – photos on file.

one definitive basic, male, 23-27 October, Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay** (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock, Mark Conboy; 06-019) – photo on file.



Figure 10: Alternate Ash-throated Flycatcher at Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay**, on 26 April 2006.

Photo: John M. Woodcock

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii* (9)

2006 one 20 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, **Chatham-Kent** ([Stephen R. Charbonneau](#), [Blake A. Mann](#); 06-107).

This is the first accepted record of this species in 12 years, the last being a bird observed on 18 October 1994 at Fifty Point Conservation Area, **Niagara** (Dobos 1996).

**Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus* (11)

2000 one basic, 20 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, **Chatham-Kent** ([James T. Burk](#), [Blake A. Mann](#), also found by Stephen R. Charbonneau; 06-066).

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva* (49)

- 2005 two 6 November, Long Point (Old Cut), **Norfolk** ([Michael D. Boyd](#), also found by Douglas R. Brown; 06-026).
- one 7 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#), also found by Adam J Hall; 06-043).
- two 7 November, Long Point (The Coves), **Norfolk** ([Michael D. Boyd](#), also found by Catherine Craig; 06-027, in part).
- four 7 November, Long Point (The Coves), **Norfolk** ([Michael D. Boyd](#), also found by Catherine Craig; 06-027, in part).
- twelve 7 November, Long Point (The Coves), **Norfolk** ([Michael D. Boyd](#), also found by Catherine Craig; 06-027, in part).
- two 7-8 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#), also found by Adam J. Hall, Rosalee A. Hall; 06-044).

- one definitive basic, 9 November, West Lake, **Prince Edward** ([Viviane Jennings](#); 06-057) – photos on file.
- one 9 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-045).
- one 11 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#), also found by Kevin A. McLaughlin, Robert L. Waldhuber, George M. Naylor; 06-046).
- three 11 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#), also found by Henrietta T. O'Neill; 06-047).
- one 12 November, Lynde Shore Conservation Area, **Durham** ([Theo Hofmann](#); 06-048).
- twenty 12 November; fourteen, 13 November; six, 14 November; Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-049).
- one 16 November, Stoney Creek, **Hamilton** ([Barry S. Cherie](#); 06-028, in part).
- one 16 November, Stoney Creek, **Hamilton** ([Barry S. Cherie](#); 06-028, in part).

The three sets of birds observed on 7 November 2005 at The Coves, **Norfolk** were incorrectly reported to have been seen on 8 November 2005 (Bain 2006). The two reports from Stoney Creek, **Hamilton** on 16 November 2005 involved individual birds seen 40 min apart, both flying west along Lake Ontario, so these constitute different records.

#### **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* (29)

2002 one 17 August, Sault Ste. Marie, **Algoma** ([Les Piccolo](#); 06-007) – photos on file.

#### **Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi* **South Only After 2000** (58)

2005 one basic, 3 November, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#); 06-050).

#### **Sage Thrasher** *Oreoscoptes montanus* (13)

2006 one 24-27 February, Port Weller, **Niagara** ([Brian R. Ahara](#), Kayo J. Roy, William W. Watson, Michael F. Galas, Barry S. Cherie, Karl Egressy, Brandon R. Holden; 06-088) – photos on file.

This is the first winter record for the province.

**Figure 11:** Sage Thrasher at Port Weller, **Niagara**, from 24 to 27 February 2006.

*Photo: Barry S. Cherie*



**Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (36)**

2006 one definitive alternate, male, 21 May, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** ([Alan Wormington](#), Rosalee A. Hall; 06-120) – photos on file.



Figure 12: Definitive alternate male Kirtland's Warbler at Point Pelee National Park, **Essex**, on 21 May 2006. *Photo: Rosalee A. Hall*

**Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* North Only (3)**

2006 one first alternate, male, 20 June, Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay** ([John M. Woodcock](#); 06-078) – photos on file.

Previous accepted records of Prairie Warbler in northern Ontario include single birds at Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay**, on 26 September 1993 (Dobos 1996) and at Atikokan, **Rainy River**, on 27 May 1998 (Dobos 1999).

**Swainson's Warbler *Limnithlypis swainsonii* (8)**

2006 one male, 12 May, Toronto, **Toronto** ([Attila Fust](#); 06-109).

**Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (21)**

2006 one definitive female or first basic, 15 August, Harris Hill, **Rainy River** ([Kenneth G. Burrell](#), also found by Michael V. A. Burrell, James Burrell; 06-095).

**Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* (5)**

2006 one definitive basic, male, 10 June, Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay** ([John M. Woodcock](#); 06-079) – photos on file.



Figure 13: Definitive basic male Green-tailed Towhee at Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay**, on 10 June 2006. Photo: *John M. Woodcock*

This bird was banded at Thunder Cape, and its band number subsequently was read at a feeder at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood Co., Minnesota, in November 2006, where it remained until at least March 2007 (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.). The distance between these two locations is approximately 700 km. This is the first record of this species in northern Ontario, and the first in the province since 1986 (Wormington 1987).

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus* (20)

2005 one basic, male, 4 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), **Norfolk** ([Kenneth G. Burrell](#), also found by Matt Hindle, Benoit Genereaux; 06-089).

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* (74)

2005 one 20-23 April, Lappe, **Thunder Bay** (Brian D. Ratcliff, found by David Christianson; 06-009) – photos on file.  
 one 30 May, Electric, **Chatham-Kent** ([P. Allen Woodliffe](#); 06-010).

**“Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis princeps* (1)

2005 one first basic, 17-27 December, Port Stanley, **Elgin** ([Robert A. Hubert](#); 06-090) – photos on file.

This is the first record of an “Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow from Ontario, and the farthest inland from the Atlantic coast. Previous to this, the farthest inland record had been from Quebec City, Quebec (Bannon et al. 2003a, 2003b). Ian A. McLaren (pers. comm. to Ronald J. Pittaway), an expert on this subspecies, examined the photographs, and corroborated the identification and age of this bird.

Figure 14: First basic “Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow at Port Stanley, **Elgin**, from 17 to 27 December 2005. Photo: *Robert A. Huber*





**Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* North Only (4)**

2006 one 29 May, Thunder Cape, **Thunder Bay** (John M. Woodcock; 06-080) – photo on file.  
The occurrence of this bird in late May at Thunder Cape fits the pattern of late May to early June occurrences there since 1997 (see Crins 2006).

**Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (12)**

2006 one alternate, male, 17 June – 1 July, north of Kirkfield, **Kawartha Lakes** (Bruce Wilson, Rick Lauzon, Derek Lyon; 06-121) – photo on file.  
one alternate, male, 8 July – 9 August, North Bruce, **Bruce** (Michael E. Carlson, Cindy E. Cartwright, Fred Jazvac, Brett Woodman, Dave Schaus, Gayle Schaus; 06-122) – photo on file.  
2005 two alternate, males, 19 June - 7 July, Dealtown, **Chatham-Kent** (P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Alan Wormington, Keith J. Burk, E. Jane Burk; 06-058) – photos on file.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus* (2)**

2006 one first alternate, male, 25 May, Markham, **York** (Stan Long, Robert Curry, Theo Hofmann; 06-096).

This is the second record of this species that has been accepted by the OBRC. The first record was of a bird observed on 29 April 1991 in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, **Thunder Bay** (Bain 1992). James (1991) lists two additional reports that have yet to be examined by the Committee, one from Sudbury, **Sudbury**, on 17 April 1978, and another from Kington, **Frontenac**, on 2 May 1972.

**Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (5)**

2005 one definitive alternate, male, 23-24 August, Howe Island, **Frontenac** (Sharon David; 06-068) – photo on file.

This is the first fall record for the province and is considerably earlier than expected for western strays.

**Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (63)**

2006 one first alternate, male, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** (Kevin Seymour, also found by John Nishikawa, Rob Miller, Wayne King, Mark Brubacker; 06-110).

2005 one first alternate, male, 26-28 May, Port Hope, **Northumberland** (Roger Frost, William J. Edmunds; 06-029) – photo on file.

Figure 15: First alternate male Blue Grosbeak at Port Hope, **Northumberland**, from 26 to 28 May 2005.

Photo: William J. Edmunds



**Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* North Only (3)**

- 2006 one definitive basic, male, 31 May – 4 June, Harris Hill, **Rainy River** (Cheryl Gauthier, Gary Gauthier; 06-097).
- 2005 one definitive basic, male, 28 May – 7 July, Harris Hill, **Rainy River** (Cheryl Gauthier; 06-030) – photos on file.

These two records, in the same location in consecutive years, probably involved the same bird. The only previous accepted record for northern Ontario occurred on 25 September 1986 at Terrace Bay, **Thunder Bay** (Wormington and Lamond 1987).

## NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS Origin Uncertain

Birds in this category are considered by the committee to be correctly identified, but their origin is suspect. These birds may have escaped or may have been released from captivity. However, if new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the committee.

- 2006 Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), two, 15 April, Ennismore, **Peterborough** (David Barnim; 06-103). These two Whooping Cranes carried satellite transmitters that confirmed that they were part of the flock that had been introduced into Wisconsin as part of the recovery efforts for this species and wintered in Florida.
- Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), one, 2 April, near Craigsholme, **Dufferin** (Jack Wilhelm; 06-077).
- Black-billed Magpie, one, 8-9 May, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** (Alan Wormington, Nicholas Topolnycky, Barry S. Cheriére, Brandon R. Holden, Rosalee A. Hall, also found by William G. Lamond, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Jean Iron; 06-094) – photos on file.
- Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), one, male, 7 May, Atikokan, **Rainy River** (David H. Elder; 06-098) – photos on file.
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), one, 11 March, Sarnia, **Lambton** (Larry Parker; 06-060) – photo on file.
- European Goldfinch, one, circa 17-19 June, Sapawe, **Rainy River** (Jim Koroscil, Jean Koroscil; 06-099).
- European Goldfinch, two, 21 October, Toronto, **Toronto** (John Carley, Michael Dryden, also found by Lynne Dryden; 06-100) – photo on file.
- The phenomenon of Eurasian songbird sightings continues, but there is still no evidence that these birds have become established in the province. However, documentation of these records helps to confirm the extent of these releases or escapes, and evidence may emerge in the future indicating a pattern of true vagrancy in some of these species.
- 2005 European Goldfinch, one, 15 May, Geraldton, **Thunder Bay** (Loraine Zawierucha; 06-059) – photo on file.
- European Goldfinch, one, 20 November, Pickering, **Durham** (Rosemary Harris; 06-070) – photos on file.
- 1986/87 Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), one, definitive basic, male, winter 1986 - 87, Port Credit, **Peel** (David T. C. Ambridge; 06-031). This Barnacle Goose was banded near Monkton, Maryland on 19 April 1985.

## NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS Identification Uncertain

The documentation received for the following reports generally was found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally. In a great many cases, committee members felt that the species being described probably was correctly identified, but that the details provided in the report, perhaps due to the circumstances of the observation conditions, etc., were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

- 2006 Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*), one, 29 March, Hullett Wildlife Management Area, **Huron** (06-075).  
 Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), one, 29-30 June, near Lynden, **Hamilton** (06-087).  
 Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), four, May-June, Kinburn, **Ottawa** – photos on file (06-006).  
 La Sagra's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus sagrae*), one, 8 September, Whitby, **Durham** (06-018).  
 Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*), one, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, **Essex** – photos on file (06-093).  
 Sage Thrasher, one, 24 May, Thunder Bay, **Thunder Bay** (06-108).
- 2005 Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), one, 4 December, Niagara-on-the-Lake, **Niagara** (06-022).  
 Little Blue Heron, one, 14 May, Wallaceburg, **Chatham-Kent** (06-034).  
 Swallow-tailed Kite, one, 19 May, Algonquin Provincial Park (Lake Kioskokwi), **Nipissing** (06-035).  
 Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), one, 9 October, Port Stanley, **Elgin** (06-054).  
 Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), one, 16 October, Haileybury, **Timiskaming** (06-004).  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), three, 22 November, New Liskeard, **Timiskaming** (06-014).  
 Arctic Tern, one, 14 July, Port Hope, **Northumberland** (06-005).  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), one, 5 September, Burlington, **Halton** – photos on file (06-008).

### Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

**2005 Report (Ontario Birds 24: 54-74)** – under Sage Thrasher, 31 May and 10 June, add “Stéphane Menu” after “Michael E. Carlson”.

### Literature Cited

**Anonymous.** 2006. Gulls new to Point Pelee: Slaty-backed Gull. Straight to the Point 6 (1): 3.

**[AOU] American Ornithologists' Union.** 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

**Bain, M.** 1992. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1991. Ontario Birds 10: 43–63.

- Bain, M.** 1993. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1992. *Ontario Birds* 11: 46–63.
- Bain, M.J.C.** 2006. Fall migration: August through November 2005 – Ontario. *North American Birds* 60: 61–65.
- Bannon, P. S., Denault, Y. Aubry and N. David.** 2003a. The winter season: December 2002 through February 2003 – Quebec. *North American Birds* 57: 175–176.
- Bannon, P. S., Denault, Y. Aubry and N. David.** 2003b. Spring migration: March through May 2003 – Quebec. *North American Birds* 57: 319–320.
- Cherriere, B.** 2007. Manx Shearwater found in Hamilton! *The Wood Duck* 60: 172–173.
- Cranford, M.H.** 2007. The nesting season: June through July 2006 – Ontario. *North American Birds* 60: 522–524.
- Crins, W.J.** 2005. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2004. *Ontario Birds* 23: 54–75.
- Crins, W.J.** 2006. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2005. *Ontario Birds* 24: 54–74.
- Dobos, R.Z.** 1996. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1995. *Ontario Birds* 14: 50–71.
- Dobos, R.Z.** 1998. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1997. *Ontario Birds* 16: 51–80.
- Dobos, R.Z.** 1999. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1998. *Ontario Birds* 17: 62–83.
- Escott, N.G.** 1986. A melanistic Broad-winged Hawk at Thunder Bay, Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 4: 114–115.
- Hall, A. and R. Hall.** 2006. Gulls new to Point Pelee: The cruise of a lifetime. *Straight to the Point* 6 (1): 1, 3.
- Holder, M.L.** 2006. Spring migration: March through May 2006 – Ontario. *North American Birds* 60: 369–371.
- Humphrey, P.S. and K.C. Parkes.** 1959. An approach to the study of molts and plumages. *Auk* 76: 1–31.
- James, R.D.** 1987. Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*). Pp. 564–565. *In* Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (Cadman, M.D., P.F.J. Eagles, and F.M. Helleiner, compilers). University of Waterloo Press, Waterloo, Ontario.
- James, R.D.** 1991. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario. Second Edition. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.
- Pittaway, R.** 2000. Plumage and molt terminology. *Ontario Birds* 18: 27–43.
- Pittaway, R.** 2007. Black Guillemot and Bald Eagle. *OFO News* 25 (1): 16.
- Roy, K. J.** 2000. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1999. *Ontario Birds* 18: 53–72.
- Roy, K. J.** 2001. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2000. *Ontario Birds* 19: 45–64.
- Roy, K. J.** 2002. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2001. *Ontario Birds* 20: 54–74.
- Weir, R.D.** 1990. The autumn migration: Ontario region. *American Birds* 44: 81–87.
- Wormington, A.** 1987. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1986. *Ontario Birds* 5: 42–63.
- Wormington, A. and W. Lamond.** 1987. Orchard Oriole: New to northern Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 5: 32–34.

---

*William J. Crins*, 170 Middlefield Road,  
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8G1