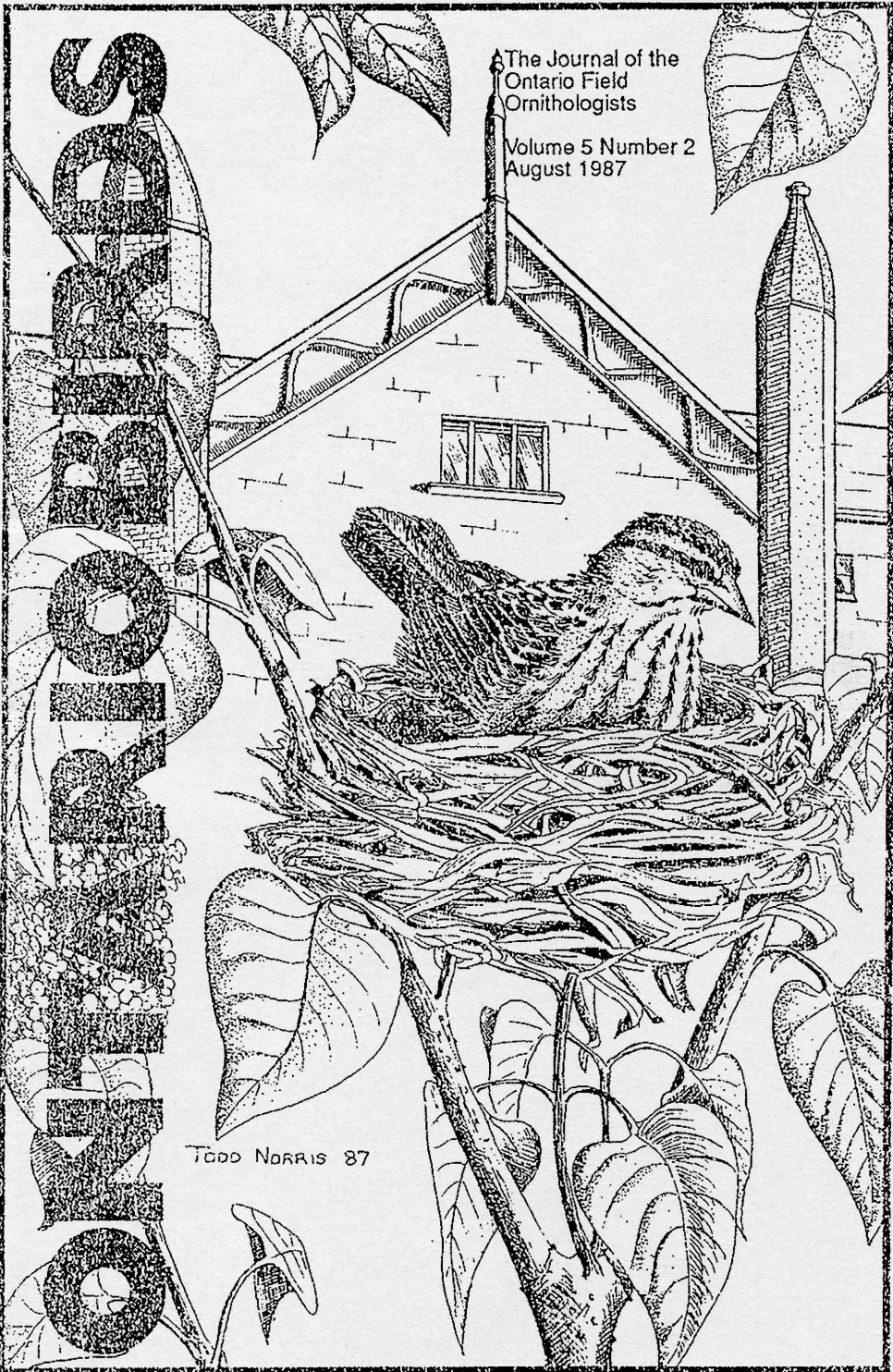


The Journal of the  
Ontario Field  
Ornithologists

Volume 5 Number 2  
August 1987



TODD NORRIS 87



## Ontario Birds

*Editor:* Donald M. Fraser

*Editorial Consultant:* Mitchell Temkin

*Design/Production:* Franca Leeson

*Copy Editor:* Chip Weseloh

*Book Review Editor:* William J. Crins

*Editorial Assistants:* R.D. McRae,

William J. Crins, Donald A.

Sutherland, Alan Wormington

Reports of rare birds (those for which the OBRC requires documentation — see *Ontario Birds* 2:13-23) should be sent to:

**Secretary, Ontario Bird Records Committee**

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

All items submitted for publication should be sent to:

**The Editor, Ontario Birds**  
c/o Ontario Field Ornithologists  
Box 1204, Station B  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7P 3S9

Material should be double-spaced and typewritten if possible.

Publication costs of *Ontario Birds* are partially offset by an annual grant from the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund. OFO gratefully acknowledges this generous support.

## 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*.

# Ontario Birds

Volume 5 Number 2 August 1987 Pages 41-80

## Table of Contents

### Letter to the Editor

- Collection of sandpipers defended /  
*Dan and Erika Tallman* 41

### Articles

- Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1986 /  
*Alan Wormington* 42

- Snowy Egret: A New Breeding Species for Ontario  
and Canada /  
*Robert Curry and George D. Bryant* 64

### Notes

- Breeding Bird Survey – Ontario Summary for 1986 /  
*J. Murray Speirs* 68

- Monitoring an Urban Population of Aerial-foraging  
Insectivorous Birds /  
*Phil Weller and George Francis* 69

- Selective Feeding by the American Crow /  
*Tom Reaume* 71

- An Observation of Scavenging Behaviour by a Northern  
Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) /  
*Ross D. James and Tom G. Harrison* 72

- First Confirmed Record of Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*)  
in Sudbury District /  
*Chris Blomme* 73

- Red-winged Blackbirds Nesting in Urban Downtown Toronto /  
*Martin K. McNicholl* 74

### Book Reviews

- Charles Broley, an Extraordinary Naturalist* /  
reviewed by *C. Stuart Houston* 76

- The Joy of Birding* /  
reviewed by *Ted (E.R.) Armstrong* 77

- A Guide to the Birds of Columbia* /  
reviewed by *David Brewer* 79

- OFO Announcements 80

Cover Illustration: Female Red-winged Blackbird at nest in lilac bush (see p. 74)  
by *Todd Norris*

## Letter to the Editor

### Collection of sandpipers defended

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to reply to Jim Coey's criticisms of our work in Canada. We would like to make just a few comments.

We realize that some people cannot justify the scientific collecting of birds. However, carefully permitted collecting does not adversely affect bird populations. Admittedly, collecting does cause the demise of individual birds. But birds have been shown to have floating populations of nonbreeding individuals that replace lost breeders. It is by the destruction of habitat that bird species are threatened or lost. Furthermore, our collecting in Canada was limited to only ten specimens of a species that is plentiful in Canada (although not seen in huge flocks).

Mr. Coey does not seem to realize that the breeding data we obtained from Solitary Sandpipers were incidental to our study. We were studying the internal parasites of these birds to answer the question as to the effects of intercontinental avian migration on parasites. We also collected birds in the United States and Ecuador. The study encompassed several years of

work and was published in *The American Midland Naturalist*. In any event, the birds to be studied had to be killed. We did not throw these corpses away, but prepared them as scientific specimens and gave the skins to the National Museum of Canada. Because we carefully noted gonadal conditions, we were able to contribute our note for Canadian ornithology. We believe this was a discernible gain in knowledge that was, albeit, beyond the scope of our original study.

Finally, we would give laurels to the Canadian Wildlife Service for not being xenophobic or nationalistic but, instead, judging our application on its scientific merits. As we stated above, we were conscientious about the preservation of the specimens and the data that pertained to them, we did not "blast away" Canadian birds since we collected only a small number, and we left materials collected in Canada within the country. We trust that Canadian nationals are given the same respect, review, and courtesy that we received from the CWS.

Thank you,

Dan and Erika Tallman  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

## Wanted: Original Photographs and Artwork for *Ontario Birds*

Calling all artists and photographers! Have you ever looked at the illustrations in *Ontario Birds* and felt that you could produce something as good, if not better? Well, here's your chance. The Journal needs original artwork (preferably pen-and-ink although some pencil drawings will reproduce well) and photographs to use in upcoming issues. Photos should ideally be black-and-white prints (please don't send negatives) of identifiable birds and preferably taken in Ontario. We can convert good quality colour slides or prints to black-and-white prints and will then return the originals. Artwork will also be returned. Thanks for your help.

Donald M. Fraser, Editor, *Ontario Birds*