

# Ontario Bird Records Committee, Checklist of the Birds of Ontario

by  
Alan Wormington and Ross D. James

The last checklist of the birds of Ontario (in card form) was published in 1980 by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in co-operation with the Ontario Ornithological Records Committee (hereinafter OORC). It listed a total of 406 species.

Early in 1982 the Ontario Bird Records Committee (hereinafter OBRC) was formed, replacing the OORC, to review records of rare birds in the Province. For the purposes of this checklist we have tentatively adopted the decisions of the former OORC, with the exception of several records recently re-assessed by the new committee. Furthermore, continual changes to the checklist are possibly forthcoming as the OBRC reviews the status of every species in Ontario. Deliberations will be presented in future issues of *Ontario Birds* in the form of committee Annual Reports.

Since the publication of the last checklist several additional species have been accepted by the OORC and OBRC and two species have been deleted - Snowy Plover and Painted Bunting (see OBRC 1984 Annual Report, in prep.). There

are no additions or deletions as a result of taxonomic revisions. The following 23 species have been added to the Ontario list: Yellow-billed Loon, Tufted Duck, Black-necked Stilt, Slender-billed Curlew, Little Stint, California Gull, Ross' Gull, Royal Tern, Sooty Tern, Common Poorwill, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Siberian Rubythroat, Eurasian Blackbird, Sprague's Pipit, Hermit Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Brambling and Lesser Goldfinch. Taking into account the additions and deletions the Ontario checklist now stands at 427 species.

Due to its immense geographic size, the OBRC proposes a new system for presenting bird occurrences in Ontario by dividing the Province into North and South regions (Figure 1). We feel this new approach will indicate more clearly the significance of species found in each region from a North American viewpoint. The checklist, in effect, serves a dual purpose by indicating with an "N" those species which are recorded in the

Alan Wormington, R.R. 1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4  
Ross D. James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum,  
100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6

North (347) and, correspondingly, an "S" for species in the South (415). Due to the acute paucity of documented reports the North "checklist" has been compiled taking into account known specimens, photographs, published accounts, and other selected observations in addition to

accepted reports on file with the OORC and OBRC. We have not listed certain extreme rarities or difficult-to-identify species as occurring here until documented reports are received and accepted by the OBRC.

Species which are reviewed (i.e. requiring documentation) by the



*Figure 1*

Ontario showing North and South regions. The line A-B approximates the 4°C (39.2°F) mean daily temperature for the year isotherm, and is adopted here as representing the northern limit of southern Ontario. (from Chapman, L.J. and M.K. Thomas. 1968. *The Climate of Northern Ontario*. Climatological Studies No. 6, Department of Transport, Toronto). Note that the cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and North Bay are in the South region of Ontario.

OBRC in the South region of Ontario are those birds averaging four or fewer records per year over five years ([S]). Species are dropped from the review list when more than 20 reports are accepted by the OBRC for any 5-year period. Using these criteria for the North region is not realistic, as even relatively common birds may go unrecorded annually due to the lack of observers. Therefore, the review list of species for the North ([N]) will be reviewed periodically at the discretion of the OBRC. All documented reports of rare birds in Ontario should be

sent to the OBRC Secretary. Species which have been accepted by the OBRC as breeding in Ontario (283) are marked with an asterisk; a status review of the Provincial breeding bird list is presented elsewhere in this issue.

Classification and nomenclature for the Ontario checklist follows the recent A.O.U. Check-List (A.O.U. 1983. *The Check List of North American Birds*, 6th Edition. Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.) On the following list the number of species occurring in Ontario is given in parentheses *after* the name of each family.

## Checklist of the Birds of Ontario

### Legend

- 
- N - Species recorded in North; [N] indicates the OBRC requires documentation when the species is recorded in the Region.  
 S - Species recorded in South; [S] indicates the OBRC requires documentation when the species is recorded in the Region  
 \* - Species recorded as breeding in Ontario
- 

### GAVIIDAE (4)

- \* Red-throated Loon N/S  
*Gavia stellata*  
 \* Arctic Loon N/[S]  
*Gavia arctica*  
 \* Common Loon N/S  
*Gavia immer*  
 Yellow-billed Loon [S]  
*Gavia adamsii*

### PODICIPEDIDAE (5)

- \* Pied-billed Grebe N/S  
*Podilymbus podiceps*  
 \* Horned Grebe N/S  
*Podiceps auritus*  
 \* Red-necked Grebe N/S  
*Podiceps grisegena*  
 Eared Grebe [N]/S  
*Podiceps nigricollis*  
 Western Grebe [N]/[S]  
*Aechmophorus occidentalis*

### PROCELLARIIDAE (3)

- Northern Fulmar [N]/[S]  
*Fulmarus glacialis*  
 Black-capped Petrel [S]  
*Pterodroma hasitata*  
 Audubon's Shearwater [S]  
*Puffinus lherminieri*

### HYDROBATIDAE (3)

- Wilson's Storm-Petrel [S]  
*Oceanites oceanicus*  
 Leach's Storm-Petrel [N]/[S]  
*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*  
 Band-rumped Storm-Petrel [S]  
*Oceanodroma castro*

### SULIDAE (1)

- Northern Gannet [N]/[S]  
*Sula bassanus*

### PELECANIDAE (2)

- \* American White Pelican N/[S]  
*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*  
 Brown Pelican [S]  
*Pelecanus occidentalis*

### PHALACROCORACIDAE (2)

- Great Cormorant [S]  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*  
 \* Double-crested Cormorant N/S  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*