

editor of *American Birds* and the OBRC, so that such incongruities don't continue. Considering the much larger readership of *American Birds* (now in its new, hideous, and glamorized version), one must ask which organ represents the final say considering Ontario bird records? Surely, it is the OBRC, but the readers of *American Birds* hear not of the OBRC's decisions concerning records in *AB*. A union of sorts between these two journals would prevent such major discrepancies and give North American birders an authoritative view of Ontario bird records.

James Holdsworth  
Woodstock, Ontario

**Editors' Note:** The Ontario Bird Records Committee, not *Ontario Birds*, adjudicates rare bird records in Ontario and determines which birds are to be reported. Consequently, Mr. Holdsworth's suggestions for changes in reporting policy are more appropriately directed to the OBRC. However, the Editors recognize a growing interest in "recognizable forms" among Ontario birders, and as a result, have instituted a new feature on this subject. See page 49 in this issue for a checklist.

## Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1990

by  
Robert Curry

This is the ninth annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Published herein are the records that were received and reviewed by the Committee during 1990. In total, 187 records were assessed, the identification of which 165 (about 88%) were found to be acceptable. Observers are to be commended for their increasing levels of skill in both observing and describing rare birds.

A review of North American bird records committees in *Birding* by

Roberson (1990) indicated that we are following the same procedures as similar groups across North America and elsewhere. Unfortunately, there remain certain portions of the province from which very few submissions are received despite requests for existing reports of review list species. We estimate about 30 records annually are not reported and are missing from the central archives maintained at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The OBRC encourages readers of this report to please submit reports for all review

list species, regardless of whether or not they were the discoverers, and to promote submissions of reports from other observers across the province. We especially encourage submissions from anywhere in eastern Ontario to help make these reports as complete as possible.

In the introduction to the Eleventh Report of the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), Bevier (1990) explained the purpose and procedures of that Committee. Much of what he wrote is appropriate to repeat here since it states clearly the shared objectives of bird records committees such as the CBRC and OBRC. The OBRC cannot, nor does it intend to verify or invalidate personal records. Observers whose reports are not accepted by the Committee

should not infer that we believe the bird or birds were misidentified, or that the observer's ability is being questioned. The judgements relate solely to the acceptability of reports for the permanent historical record, and to this end, the accuracy and completeness of reports are scrutinized as objectively as possible. Furthermore, it is important to realize that all non-accepted reports are stored in the appropriate species file in the OBRC archives at the Royal Ontario Museum. New evidence at a later date can result in decisions being reconsidered and possibly reversed.

In the writing and submitting of reports several points deserve emphasis. Careful field notes, sketches, photographs, and sound



Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee studying Western and Cassin's Kingbirds in the Bird Room at the Royal Ontario Museum, 16 March 1991. Left to right: Ron Tozer, Dennis Rupert, George Wallace, Bob Curry, Ross James, Margaret Bain, Kevin McLaughlin, Doug McRae, and Mike Runtz. Photo by T. Ron Scovell.

recordings provide the evidence necessary for a record of lasting value. A neatly printed or typed report is necessary, but more critical are notes and sketches done in the field. Certainly, in the follow-up report, usually completed at home, it is important for the observer to document the presence of characters that exclude other species. Finally, the descriptions should be completed, as much as possible, without reference to guides. When they are used, this must be noted and explained.

Among the most difficult problems faced annually by the Committee are those pertaining to the natural occurrence of a bird. It is virtually impossible to prove that a bird did not escape from some form of captivity. Where wild status is at issue, the degree of certainty for a record to be accepted has been, in practice, slightly lower than that for acceptance of identification. Nevertheless, we encourage reporters to supply the Committee with information on the captive status and likelihood of vagrancy just as they would provide evidence in support of the identification.

Members of the OBRC in 1990 were Ronald G. Tozer (Chairman), Robert Curry (non-voting Secretary), Ross D. James, Kevin A. McLaughlin, R. Douglas McRae, Michael W.P. Runtz, Dennis F. Rupert, and George E. Wallace (Fig. 1). They have reviewed, revised and endorsed this report.

#### **Additions to the provincial list**

Five species new to the province — Ferruginous Hawk, Black Rail, Wilson's Plover, Black-chinned Hummingbird and Cassin's Finch —

are presented, bringing the provincial total to 445 species. Added to the list for northern Ontario are California Gull and Blue Grosbeak while southern Ontario finally recorded its first Ross' Gull. Two new species — Bohemian Waxwing and Snow Bunting — are added to the list of birds known to breed in Ontario, bringing that total to 287.

#### **Changes to the review list**

The records for Fall 1990 indicate that Long-billed Dowitcher is a regular migrant in northern Ontario, generally in areas not visited by observers. Hence, it will be dropped from the Northern Ontario Review List effective 1 January 1991. The Committee still invites reports of this species from northern Ontario from previous years.

Effective 1 January 1991, Snowy Egret, Arctic Tern and Barn Owl are added to the Southern Ontario Review List.

#### **Format**

The organization and style of this report are similar to those used in the Report for 1989 (Wormington and Curry 1990). For each record presented, information on age, sex, and plumage is included if it was available and the determination was certain. Place names in italics refer to counties, regional municipalities, or districts in Ontario. All contributors who have provided a written description, photograph, audiotape or specimen have been credited. Contributors who discovered a bird and submitted documentation have their names underlined. In a departure from previous reports, if the discoverer is known but did not submit documentation, this person is

also acknowledged, it being an important part of the record. Readers must understand, however, that this information is incomplete and may, occasionally, be in error as we have no written material on file from these people. This can be corrected in future if discoverers are encouraged by friends to submit reports to the OBRC. Records presented all pertain to sight records unless other evidence is indicated.

A concerted effort has been made to determine the correct occurrence dates, number and location of each record. The seasonal reports in *American Birds* and personal correspondence from Ron D. Weir have been most useful in this regard. However, with a much longer time period to accumulate information and with original documents at our disposal we have been, in some cases, able to present more accurate information. Consequently, dates or other information which are different from that appearing in other publications are italicized. The revised information and all other dates listed are considered correct by the Committee.

An additional feature has been added to the summary numbers in brackets next to the species name which first appeared in last year's report. Following the system used in *British Birds* (see Rogers 1988), the three numbers refer respectively to the total number of accepted records before 1981 (first OBRC report), total number for the period since the formation of the OBRC, but excluding the number of records for the current year, which is the last number shown. An individual in the same locality in a subsequent year judged as the same, or probably the same, as recorded previously, is not counted in the total of accepted records, whereas an individual considered not the same, or possibly the same, is added to the total. We hope this will give the reader a greater appreciation of the status of each species in Ontario. Clearly for many species this is not a totally accurate status as there are many records which occurred before 1981 (and some since) which we have yet to review. We hope that this will encourage readers to submit any documentation on these older records which are a vital part of the historical record.

## Accepted Records

### Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (0/3/1)

1990 — two (pair), 9-12 June, Rainy River mouth, *Rainy River* (Rohan A. vanTwest, Philip Walker, Wilf Yusek) - photo on file.

It is possible that this pair is the same one seen in 1989 but here it is considered a separate record.

### Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) (3/4/0)

1989 — one adult male light phase, 15 January, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Brian Henshaw), Specimen (skin) in ROM: #0154524.

1988 — one light phase, 14 December, New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (Susan Weilandt, Gerry VanLeeuwen).

The New Liskeard bird was found along the highway unable to fly. It was fed, transported south and released by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources personnel

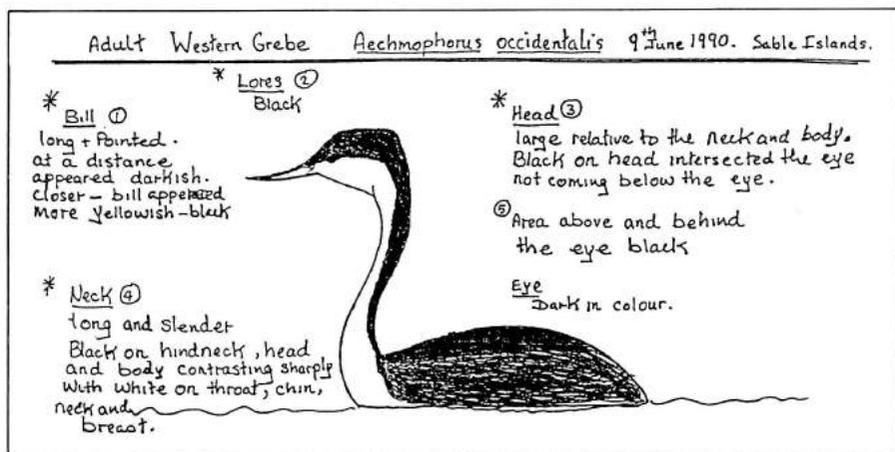


Figure 2: Western Grebe (one of a pair) at Sable Islands, Rainy River, 9-12 June 1990.  
Drawing by Rohan vanTwest.

on Lake Erie near the mouth of the Welland Canal at Port Colborne (Niagara) on 23 December (Gerry Van Leeuwen pers. comm.). The Presqu'île bird found on shore ice was freshly dead it had not stiffened or frozen. We consider it unlikely that the same bird was involved. More likely is the probability that as James Bay freezes, a small number of Northern Fulmars are trapped from time to time and fly southwards mostly to perish in the boreal forest. Support for this hypothesis is one found near Manitouwadge (Thunder Bay) on 11 December 1970 and another near Moosonee (Cochrane) on 8 December 1974 (James et al 1976), and the numerous late fall dates for James Bay itself...

### Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (2/6/3)

1990 - one first winter, 21 November - 8 December, Niagara-on-the-Lake to Queenston, *Niagara* (Rod and Marlene Planck, Gordon Bellerby, William C. D'Anna).

- one first winter, 23 November, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Matt Holder, Phill Holder, George E. Wallace).

- one adult, 24 November, Moore Point, *Durham* (Brian Henshaw).

1988 - one first winter, 5 November, Van Wagner's Beach, and 3 December, Fifty Point, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Alvaro Jaramillo, David A. Martin) - photos on file.

1987 - one first winter female, 29 November, Ferguson Falls, *Lanark* (Ronald Dickinson). Specimen (skin) in Canadian Museum of Nature: #89753.

As in similar past situations (Wormington and Curry 1990), the 1988 reports are, conservatively, considered to refer to the same individual as this is a large mobile species. It is interesting that for an apparently hardy species there are few provincial records after the first week of December. The Moore Point bird is the first adult accepted by OBRC.

### American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) South Only (2/15/5)

1990 - one, 28 April, Bobcaygeon, *Victoria/Peterborough* (Peter S. Burke) - photos on file.

- one, 9-12 June, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain, Brian Henshaw) - photo on file.

- two adults, 9 August, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* and 10-15 August, Camden Lake, *Lennox and Addington* (Alan F. and Shirley J. Tregenza) - photos on file.

- two, 21-23 August, Kincardine, Bruce (William and Marlene Pace, Thomas R. Murray, Martin and Kathy Parker).
- one adult, 3-7 September, Pittock Lake, Oxford (James M. Holdsworth).

A banner year for the species which may reflect a general expansion eastward in the nesting range i.e. to Lake Nipigon in 1991. (A. Wormington pers. comm.). The Tregenzas did an incredible piece of sleuthing to refind the two pelicans at Camden Lake approximately 80 km by air north-east of Presqu'île the day after initially finding them at Presqu'île. To quote from their report, "After reading Ron Weir's *Birds of the Kingston Region* that they (Am. White Pelicans) had been seen there in 1986 we jumped in the car and headed to Camden Lake even though it was late in the day".

#### Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) (7/15/2)

- 1990 - one first summer, 8 and 13 May, Point Pelee Natinal Park, Essex and 13 May, Wheatley, Kent (William J. Clark, Moss Taylor, Mitchell Temkin, Wilf Yusek) - photo on file.
- one immature, 21-22 August, Nonquon, Durham (Ronald G. Tozer; also found by Douglas C. Tozer).

#### Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) North Only (4/5/1)

- 1990 - one, 24 October - 3 November, Mackenzie, Thunder Bay (Nicholas G. Escott, Thomas Dyke; found by Ruby Owen) photo on file.
- 1989 - nine, 28 October, Cloud Bay, Thunder Bay (Allen and Doraleen Gosling) - photos on file.
- 1986 - one, 27 October and two 28 October, Swastika, Timiskaming (Kenneth Dolmage) - photos on file.
- 1982 - one, 24 October, Lillabelle Lake, Cochrane (fide Lloyd Taman; shot by hunter) - photo on file.

Remarkably, all ten Cattle Egret records accepted by OBRC fall between 20 October and 8 November. The 1989 Cloud Bay birds were photographed standing in a bare tree!

#### Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) (5/14/1)

- 1990 - one adult, 11-18 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent, (P. Allen Woodliffe, James N. Flynn, Wilf Yusek) - photos on file.

#### Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (2/12/2)

- 1990 - one adult, 21-22 September, Wildwood Lake, Oxford (James M. Holdsworth, William G. Lindley) - photos on file.
- one winter adult, 6 October, Dundas Marsh, Hamilton-Wentworth (Luc S. Fazio, Jerry Guild).

#### Dark Ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.) (3/7/2)

- 1990 - one, 3 May, Oshawa, Durham (J. Brian Hobbs).
- one, 12-17 October, Turkey Point Marsh, Haldimand-Norfolk (R. Douglas McRae).
- 1989 - one, 14 October, Dundas Marsh, Hamilton-Wentworth (Kathleen MacNamara).

When conditions permit, observers are urged to carefully examine *Plegadis ibis* as there is a distinct possibility that White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) will occur in Ontario.

#### Great White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) South only (2/18/2)

- 1990 - five *frontalis* (three adults and two immatures), 2-11 March, Port Royal, Haldimand-Norfolk (Robert Curry, James M. Holdsworth, Ronald C. Ridout; found by William F. Smith).
- one adult, 30 September, Cranberry Marsh, Durham (Ronald J. Pittaway).

#### Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) (0/6/1)

- 1990 - one male, 9 May, Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay (Alan Wormington, Donald G. Cecile) - photo on file.

#### Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (3/35/3)

- 1990 - one male, 23-25 April, Oshawa, Durham Margaret J. Bain; found by David D. Calvert).
- one male, 16 May, Hurkett, Thunder Bay (Donald G. Cecile, Nicholas G. Escott).
- one male, 12-14 June, Ekwan Point, Kenora (Donald G. Cecile, Alan Wormington).



Figure 3: Adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent, 11-18 May 1990. Photo by Alan Wormington.

The Ekwon Point bird is the first record for the Hudson Bay Lowland. A single record for southern Ontario is considerably below average.

**Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) South Only (0/0/1)**

1990/91 — one female, 24 November - 6 January, Amherst Island and Millhaven, *Lemox and Addington* (Terry Osborne).

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (8/11/1)**

1990 — one immature, 27 September - 3 October, Nanticoke, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (H. Michael Street, Margaret J. Bain, R. Douglas McRae).

The circumstances, habitat and behaviour of this bird were very similar to the bird at Rock Point Prov. Park 19-27 September 1984, just over 40 km east of this location (Wormington 1985).

**Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) (0/0/1)**

1990 — one light phase adult, 17 March, St. Clair Nat. Wildlife Area, Kent (G. Tom Hince).

And participants thought this was a bus trip led by Tom Hince to see swans! A Ferruginous Hawk wintered in adjacent Michigan in 1989/90 and, presumably the same one again in 1990/91 (Powell 1991). Elsewhere there are vagrant records from most of the American Mid-Western states and "questionable" records from a few north and central eastern states (DeSante and Pyle 1986). An account of the observation of this first accepted record for the province will appear in a later edition of *Ontario Birds*.

**Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) (0/1/0)**

1987 — one, 14 June, Durham, Grey (Paul D. Pratt) - audiocassette on file.

This is the first confirmed record for the province. Godfrey (1986) lists as hypothetical several records from Canada, and James (1991) cites four undocumented sight records for Ontario between 1857 and 1959. It has been recorded in all those states contiguous with Ontario (DeSante and Pyle 1986). Pratt will write an account of the remarkable circumstances of this record in *Ontario Birds*.

**Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) North only (0/0/1)**

1990 — four, 15 September, Hearst, Cochrane (Pamela H. Sinclair, Peter W. Jones).

Although no aging of these birds was attempted, Wormington (in litt.) suggests that this was almost certainly a family group which had bred at this site rather than a group of vagrants. If so, it would be the first breeding record for northern Ontario.

**Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) (0/1/1)**

1990 — one adult male, 9 May, Long Point Flats, Haldimand-Norfolk (Alan Hannington, Vince Parslow, Jeffrey Sykes, Ian Richards) - photo on file.

A *deja vu* of the first provincial record here 4-9 May 1987 (see Collier and Curson 1988), complete to being first discovered by a visiting British birdwatcher!

**Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) (0/0/1)**

1990 — one female, 26 May - 2 June, Hamilton Harbour, Hamilton-Wentworth (Kevin A. McLaughlin).

An account of this first documented record for the province appeared in *Ontario Birds* 8:82 (McLaughlin 1990).

**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) South Only (\*/17/3)**

1990 — one, 18 April, Hillman Marsh, Essex (James Lesser).

— one, 26 April, Turkey Point, Haldimand-Norfolk (R. Douglas McRae).

— one winter adult, 23 August, Crescent Beach, Niagara (Alec Humann).

1988 — one, 3 June, Darlington Prov. Park, Durham (Alan F. and Shirley J. Tregenza).

— one, 23 July, Crescent Beach, Niagara (Alec Humann).

Documentation is not required for pre 1981 records as this species formerly nested on the sandy beaches of Lakes Ontario, Huron and Erie.

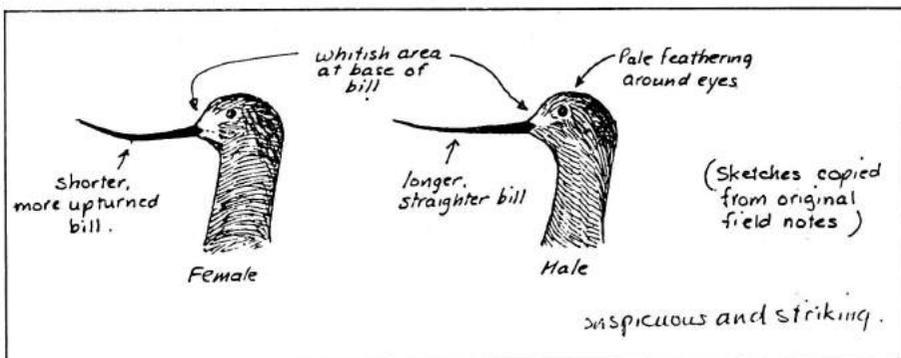


Figure 4: Adult male and female American Avocets at Wawanosh Wetlands, Sarnia, Lambton, present 24-27 May 1990. Drawings by Dennis F. Rupert.

**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) (7/22/5)**

1990 — one summer adult male, 25 April - 2 May, Taquanayah Cons. Area, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Alan J. Smith).

— three summer adults (one male, two females), 24-27 May, Wawanosh Wetlands Cons. Area, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert).

— one summer adult male, 28 May, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Rob Z. Dobos).

— three summer adults, 4 June, Strathroy, *Middlesex* (Donald Graham).

— one summer adult female, 8-10 June, Port Perry, *Durham* (Michael King, Margaret J. Bain).

**Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) (0/1/1)**

1990 — one summer adult, 19-24 July, Casselman, *Prescott and Russell* (Rob Z. Dobos, Tim Sabo) - photo on file.

The first provincial record, as yet undocumented with OBRC, was also in late July.

**Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) North Only (2/5/1)**

1990 — one, 21 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (John J. Barker).

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (0/8/2)**

1990 — one summer adult, 22-23 July, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Brian Henshaw).

— one winter adult, 28 August - 1 September, Wawanosh Wetlands Cons. Area, *Lambton* (Malcolm P. McAlpine, Rob Z. Dobos).

**Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) North Only (1/3/5)**

1990 — one winter adult, 30 August, Little Shagamu River mouth, *Kenora* (Alan Wormington).

— four juveniles, 5-6 September, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (Jeff Skevington).

— three winter adults (one 9-10 September; two 10 September only), Ekwan Point, *Kenora* (Alan Wormington).

— one, 12 September, Ekwan Point, *Kenora* (Alan Wormington).

As noted in the introduction, documentation will no longer be required for this species. Clearly, and hardly surprisingly, it probably occurs on the Ontario coasts of James and Hudson Bays with about the same frequency as it does in southern Ontario. Probably juveniles occur just a little later than the above Hudson Bay Lowland records indicate.

**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (3/13/2)**

1990 — one juvenile, 15 September, Long Point (2 km west of), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (James M. Holdsworth).

— one juvenile, 10 December, Point Edward, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert) - photos on file.

1988 — one juvenile, 30 October - 12 November, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Roy E.C. Baker, Peter S. Burke, Kevin A. McLaughlin).

— six juveniles, 5-19 November, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Alvaro Jaramillo).

That 1988 was an incursion year seems beyond question; this brings the number of records accepted by the OBRC to five. The precise number of individuals sighted from Van Wagner's Beach at Hamilton was extremely difficult to determine. The single accommodating juvenile provided the best studies most Ontario birders have had of this usually frustrating species as it came in to shore to harass gulls gorged on french fries. Numerous observers also saw the six birds together and even saw them briefly joined by the "chip" bird.

**Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) South Only (3/7/1)**

1990 — one juvenile, 1 October, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Kevin A. McLaughlin; also by Malcolm P. McAlpine and Douglas Miller).

An extremely well documented record for this notoriously difficult species group.

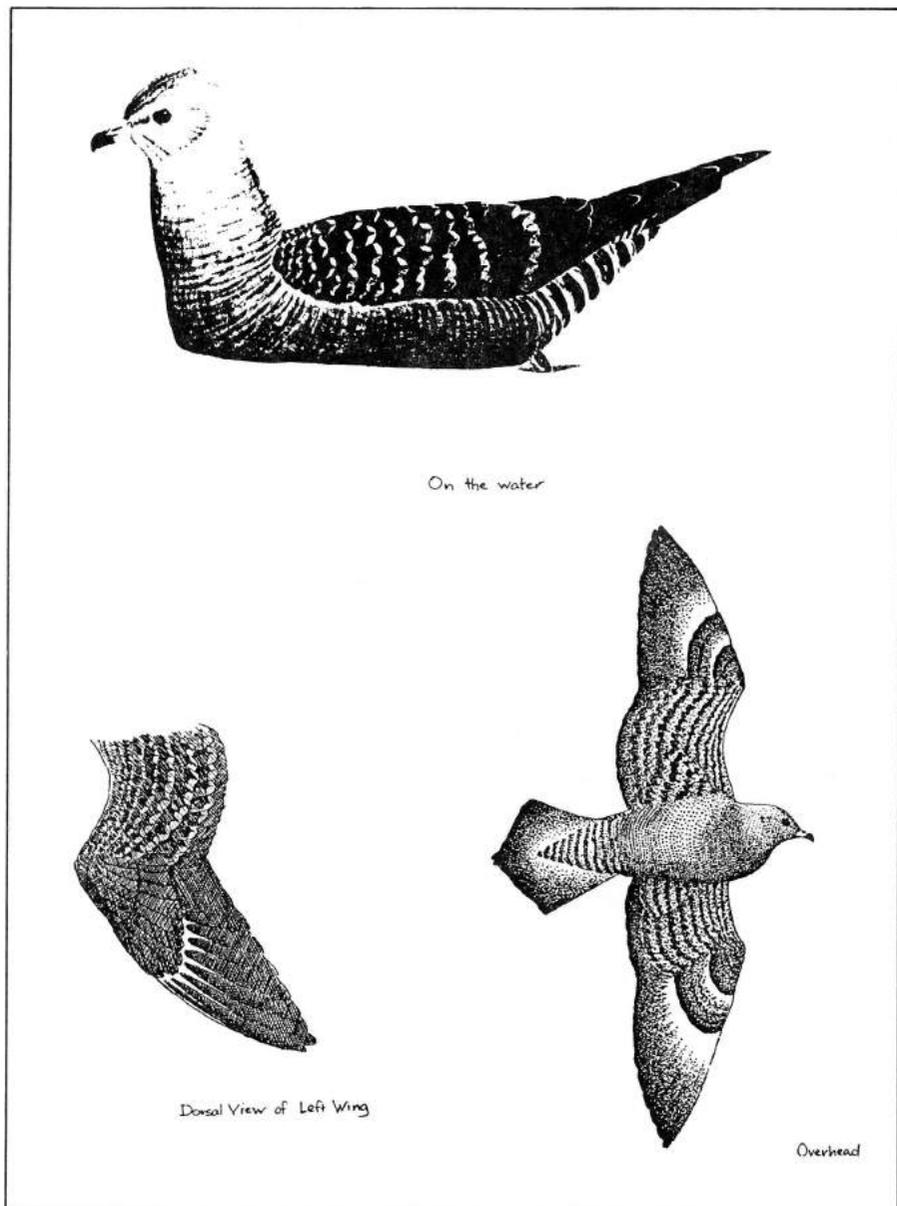


Figure 5: Juvenile Pomarine Jaeger at Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, present and seen by many 30 October - 12 November 1988. Drawings by *Peter J. Burke*.

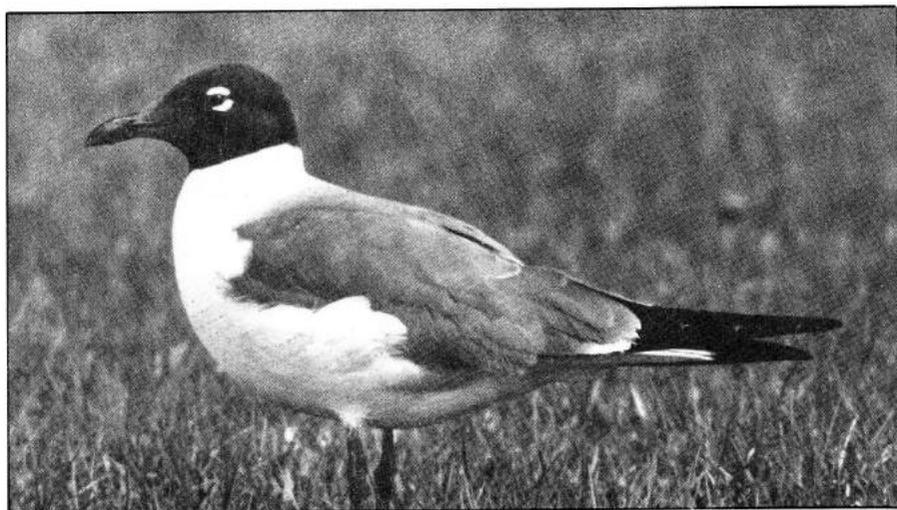


Figure 6: Adult Laughing Gull, 1-14 May 1989 at various localities on western Lake Ontario. Photo (3 May at Grimsby, *Niagara*) by Alan Wormington.

### Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) (14/47/5)

- 1990 — one summer adult, 11 May, Port Rowan, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Rohan A. vanTwest)  
 — one summer adult, 17-18 May, Port Alma, *Kent* (John G. Keenleyside).  
 — one summer adult, 9 June, Erieau, *Kent* (Rob Z. Dobos, P. Allen Woodliffe).  
 — one first winter, 19 August, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Donald G. Cecile).  
 — one adult, 18 September, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Steve Dougill).  
 1989 — one summer adult, 1-14 May (but not observed 4-13 May inclusive), Aldershot, *Halton* (1 May), Grimsby, *Niagara*, and Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (3 May), and Fifty Point Cons. Area, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (14 May) (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Alan Wormington) - photo on file.  
 1987 — one juvenile, 22 August, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).  
 — one juvenile, 28 August, Burlington Beach, *Halton* (Robert Curry).  
 1986 — one summer adult, 1-3 May, Wheatley Harbour (1 May), Marentette Beach (2 May) and Point Pelee Nat. Park (2-3 May), *Essex* (Alan Wormington).  
 1971 — three adults, 27 May, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Monica Connolly, A. Ralph Gibson, David J.T. Hussell et al).

### Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) (3/5/2)

- 1990/91 — one *brachyrhynchus* winter adult, 14 December 1990 - 12 February 1991, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Robert Yukich, Gordon Bellerby, John R. Carley, James P. Coey, Robert Curry, Ronald J. Pittaway) - photo on file.  
 1990 — one adult, 15 February, Bronte Harbour, *Halton* (Mark W. Jennings, Robert Curry, John Olmsted) - photos on file.

The Bronte bird found in a vicious storm with a flock of spring arrival Ring-billed Gulls had characteristics of the nominate *canus* subspecies but, unfortunately, the diagnostic primary pattern was not seen. The Toronto bird, while often difficult to find, was seen by many over the winter (the only winter record for Ontario) and superbly documented by multiple contributors.

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (0/6/1)**

1990 — one summer adult, 2 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

Excellent photographs accompany this first for northern Ontario at the Moosonee dump the day after the fourth Lesser Black-backed Gull for the North!

**Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) North Only (0/3/1)**

1990 — one summer adult, 1 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington).

**Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) (0/1/1)**

1990 — one winter adult, 11 December, Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (R. Douglas McRae, William F. Smith) - photos on file

It only seems fitting that the custodian of the Churchill birds for several years should find the first for the South. Over one hundred birders were frustrated later in the day and the next morning when the bird failed to reappear. McRae (1991: 9-10) has written an article for *Ontario Birds* on this exciting find.

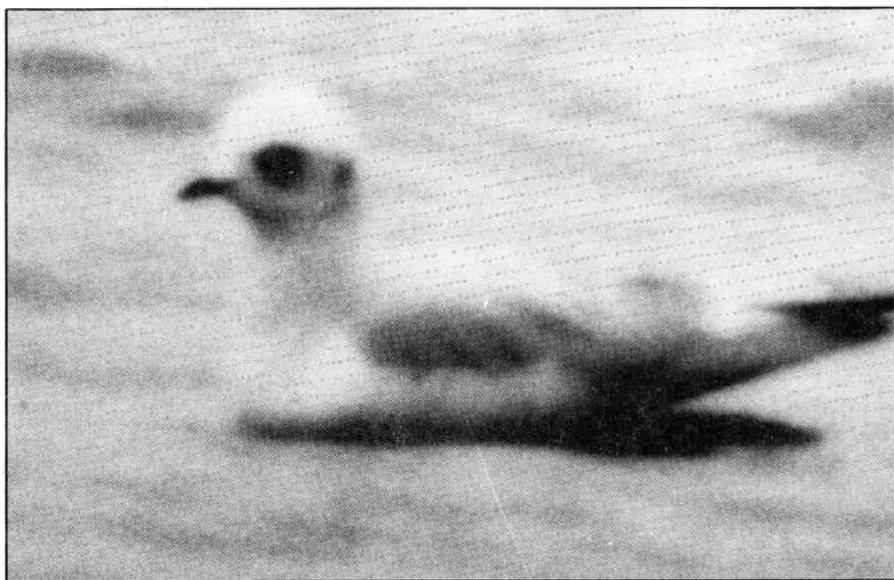


Figure 7: Winter adult Ross' Gull at Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 11 December 1990. Photo by *William F. Smith*.

**Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) (15/3/1)**

1990 — one first winter, 22 November, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Donald Shanahan).

**Dovekie (*Alle alle*) (0/1/0)**

1988 — one adult female, 23 October, Port Weller Harbour, *Niagara* (J. Butler)  
- specimen (skin) in ROM: #154509.

**Razorbill (*Alca torda*) (0/4/0)**

1984 — one, 29 November, Wolfe Island, *Frontenac* - photo on file of bird shot by unknown hunter.

**Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) (2/2/0)**

1988 — one, 26 October - 5 November, Wabigoon, *Kenora* (Janette and Herman Johnson) - photo on file.

A small colour print taken with a non telephoto lens from inside a kitchen window provides part of the supporting evidence for this interesting record.

**Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (\*/\*/1)**

1990 — one male, 26 April, Baldwin, *York* (James R. Macey; found by Paul Harpley).

This will serve as a reminder that the Committee now requests documentation on the species.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) (0/0/1)**

1990 — one adult male, 25-26 May, Rideau Ferry (Coutt's Bay), *Lanark* (Nora M. Mansfield, N. Ronald Beacock; found by Dr. and Mrs. A.A. Sterns).

Well documented. DeSante and Pyle (1986) indicate no Canadian records east of Saskatchewan and a vagrant record from Massachusetts.

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) (2/5/1)**

1990 — one adult male, 19-25 August, Alton, *Peel* (Terry Osborne, Wilf Yusek) - photos on file.

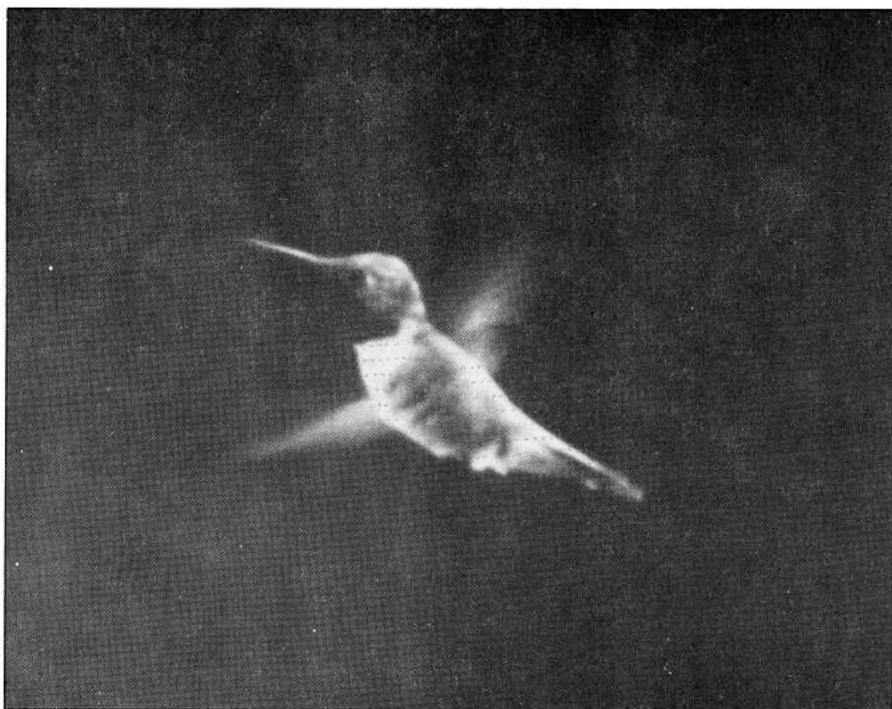


Figure 8: Adult male Rufous Hummingbird, Alton, *Peel*, present 19-25 August 1990.  
Photo by *Wilf Yusek*.

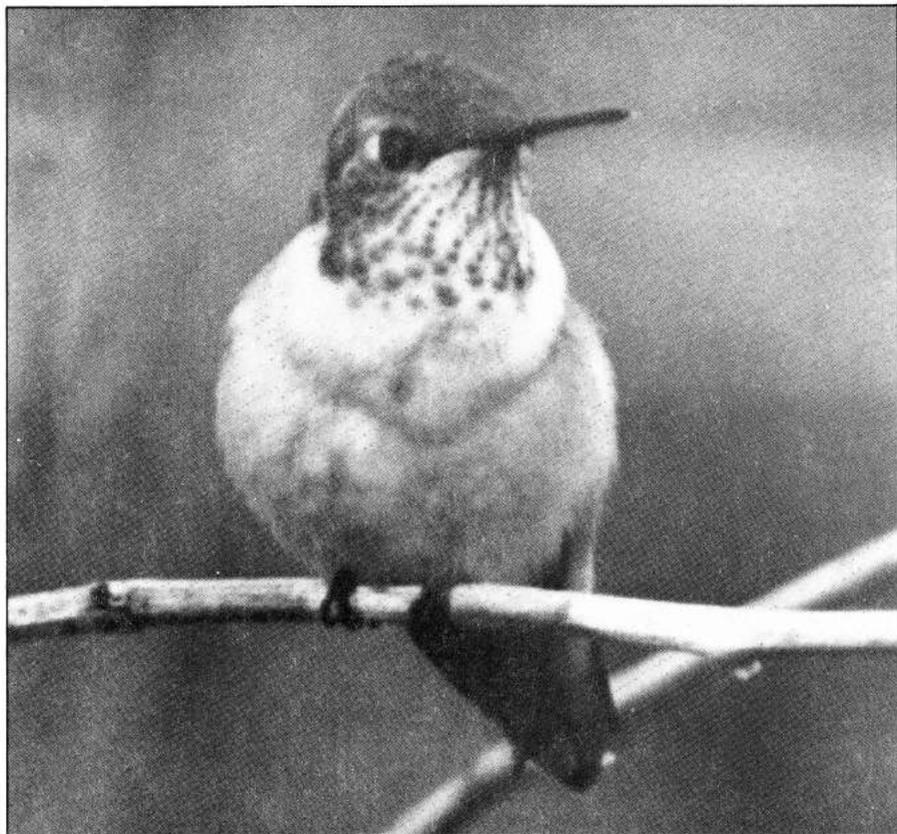


Figure 9: Immature male *Selasphorus sp.* hummingbird, Grimsby Beach, *Niagara*, present from about 1 October - 10 December 1990. Photo (1 December) by James N. Flynn.

**Hummingbird sp. (*Selasphorus sp.*) (0/2/1)**

1990 — one immature male, circa 1 October - 10 December, Grimsby Beach, *Niagara* (Robert Curry, George Naylor, James N. Flynn; found by Patricia Gilbert) - photos on file.

Patricia and Stephen Gilbert ministered to this bird which they discovered at their feeder and flowers. Moreover, they provided coffee and inspiration to the perhaps hundreds of visiting birders and fended off less than amused neighbours. Unfortunately, even Jim Flynn's excellent photos fail to reveal the diagnostic shape of rectrix number two. Amazingly, this is not the latest *Selasphorus* for Ontario as readers will remember the Battersea Rufous which lasted until captured on 19 December 1987 (Wormington and Curry 1990).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) North Only (0/4/1)**

1990/91 — one male, 4 November - 8 May, Paipoonge Township, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott; found by Alice Venrick) - photo on file.

**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (8/30/5)**

1990 — one, 4 June, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Arun K. Bose).

— one, 14 June, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Stanley V. Phippen).

— one, 28 August, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Roger Frost).

— one, 7 September, Oxtongue Lake, *Haliburton* (R. Dan Strickland).

— one, 8 September, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Steven Dougill, Nicholas Robinson).

1988 — one immature, 25 August, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Alvaro Jaramillo).

1984 — one, 9-10 June, Great Duck Island, *Manitoulin* (Ronald R. Tasker).

1981 — one, 26 June, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David J.T. Hussell, M. Schade, Roy C. Smith).

**Western/Cassin's Kingbird sp. (*Tyrannus verticalis/vociferans*) (0/1/0)**

1988 — one, 24 August, Deep River, *Renfrew* (Philip Walker, William H. Walker).

This bird was well described and the observers particularly noted that no white outer retrices could be seen despite a concerted effort. This and other plumage characters meant that members could not, with certainty, eliminate the possibility of Cassin's Kingbird.



Figure 10: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 13 June 1990 (Rainy River) where photographed by *Wilf Yusek* and 15 June 1990, Harris Hill, *Rainy River*.

### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (3/14/2)

1990 — one, 20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Donald G. Cecile, James N. Flynn; found by Marika Ainley, Kyra Erno and John Lightener) - photo on file.

— one, 13 June (Rainy River) and 15 June (Harris Hill), *Rainy River* (Philip Walker, Wilf Yusek; also found by Denys Gardiner) - photo on file.

### Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) North Only (0/2/1)

1990 — one, 15 November - 23 December, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Tom J. Nash) - photos on file.

1988/89 — one, 15 December - 15 February, New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (Robert Beach) - photo on file.

With the first for the North in just 1988 (Wormington and Curry 1990: 20-22), this southern species is apparently attempting a beachhead.

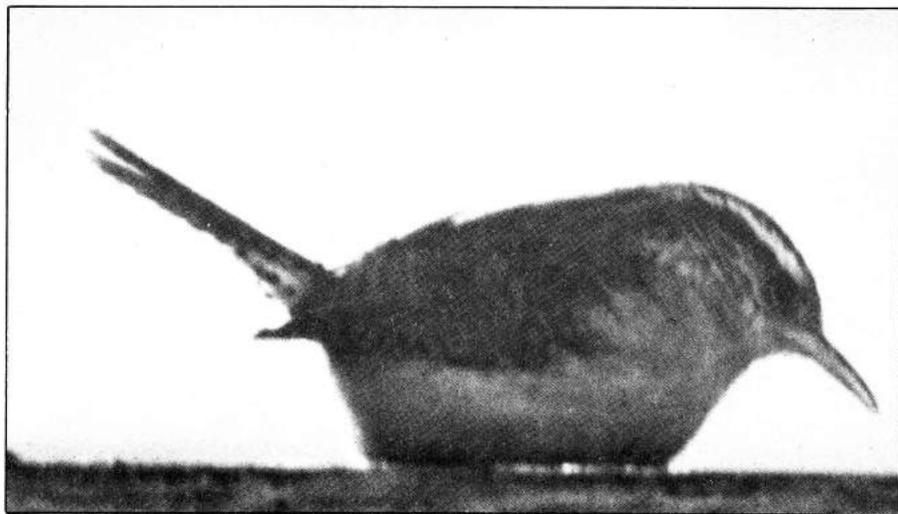


Figure 11: Carolina Wren, Atikokan, *Rainy River*, present 15 November - 23 December 1990. Photo by Tom Nash.

### Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (0/8/0)

1981 — one, 7 April, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Christopher M. Lemieux, Peter Verburg).

This bird was banded. A tail feather was attached to the LPBO journal page for that day and a photocopy of it is in our files.

### Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) North Only (2/2/3)

1990 - one male, 29 April, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Alan Wormington).

— one male, 2 June, Little Shagamu River mouth, *Kenora* (Alan Wormington, Nabil H. Khairallah).

— one male, 1-4 June, Rainy River mouth, *Rainy River* (Mark A. Kubisz).

At 55° 46' N lat on the shore of Hudson Bay, the Little Shagamu bird is the northernmost record for this species in North America.

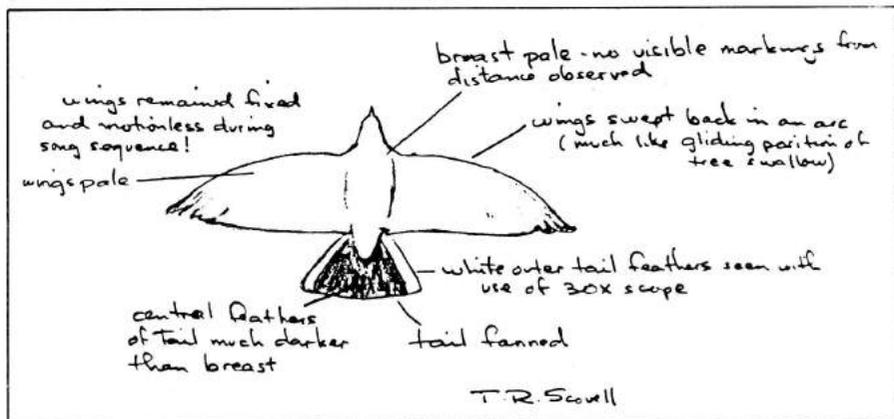


Figure 14: Sprague's Pipit at Rainy River, Rainy River, 2-12 June 1990.  
Drawing by T. Ron Scovell.

### Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) (0/0/1)

1990 — one territorial male, 2-12 June, Rainy River, Rainy River (Mark A Kubisz, T. Ronald Scovell)  
- audiotape on file.

This bird here in July 1980 was also a displaying male. It is possible that this species may occasionally breed at Rainy River.

### Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

1984 — breeding pair and two fledged young, 18 July, Winisk River [54° 32' N on river], Kenora (George Fairfield) - photos on file.

Presumably this species breeds regularly in remote northwestern Ontario. The details of this record have been published by Cadman (1987).

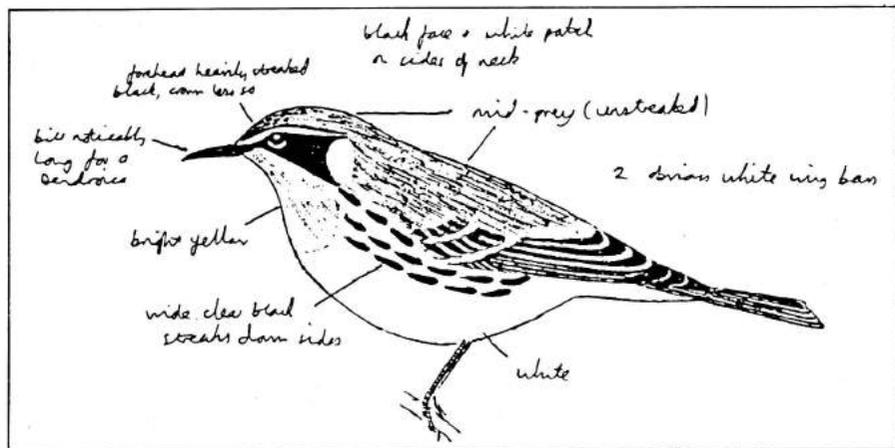


Figure 15: Male Yellow-throated Warbler *albilora* at Tip of Long Point, Haldimand-Norfolk, 28 April 1990. Drawing by Jon Curson.

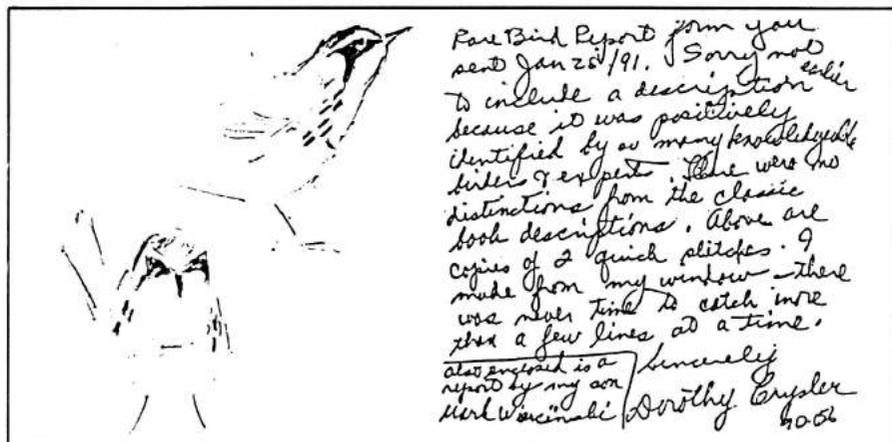


Figure 16: Male Yellow-throated Warbler at Heathcote, Grey, 26 October - 26 December 1990. Drawings by Dorothy Cryslor.

### Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) North Only (0/3/1)

1990 — one, 28 September, Moose River mouth, Cochrane (Alan Wormington, Kevin A. McLaughlin; also found by Barbara N. Charlton, Rob Z. Dobos and John L. Olmsted).

This is the northernmost Ontario bird to date and the first for the Hudson Bay Lowland.

### Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) (17/35/4)

1990 — one *albiflora* male, 28 April, Long Point Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (Jon Curson).

— one male, 14-20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Onik Arian, William A. Martin).

— one male, 26 October - 26 December, Heathcote, Grey (Dorothy Cryslor, Mark Wiercinski).

— one, 22 December, Leamington, Essex (Martin Blagburn).

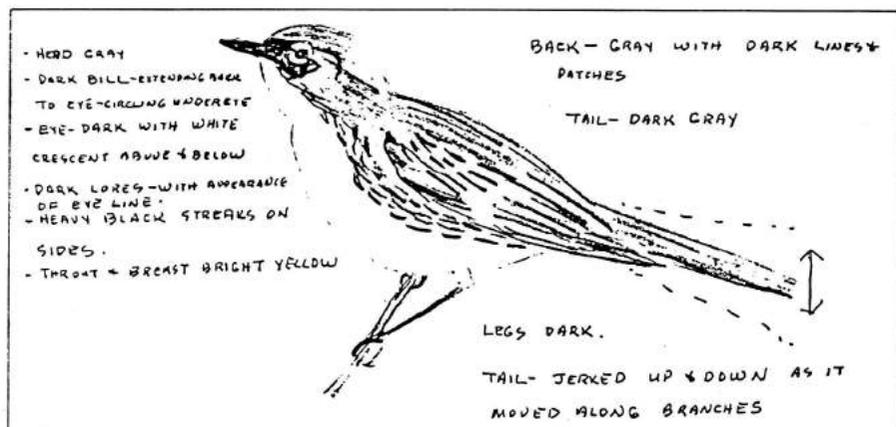


Figure 17: Male Kirtland's Warbler at Port Hope, Northumberland, 31 May 1990. Drawing by E.R. McDonald.

**Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) (7/2/2)**

1990 — one male, 26 May, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (Chris Michener; also found by Gordon B. Cameron, Audrey Heagy) - photo on file.

— one male, 31 May, Port Hope, *Northumberland* (Alice K. Sculthorpe, E.R. McDonald; also first found by C. Ian P. Tate) - photos on file.

1961 — one male, 17 June, Pointe au Baril, *Parry Sound* (collector unidentified); photos of spec. on file and specimen (skeleton) in ROM: #91663.

The 1990 birds are interestingly late in the spring migration. Were they wandering males looking for new colonization opportunities?

**Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) North Only (1/2/1)**

1990 — one immature male, 28 April - 11 May, Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington, Donald G. Cecile) - photos on file.

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (2/5/1)**

1990 — one adult female or immature, 16 September, *Thunder Bay*, *Thunder Bay* (Jeffrey Skevington; also found by Angela Goering).



Figure 18: Immature male Summer Tanager, 28 April - 11 May 1990 at Red Rock, *Thunder Bay*. Photo (10 May) by Alan Wormington.

**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) North Only (1/10/3)**

1990/91 — one female, 17 November - 8 January, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder; found by Jerry Zajac).

1990 — two males, 17 November, Boston Creek, *Timiskaming* (fide Lloyd Taman).

— one female, 17 November, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Jeffrey Skevington; found by Walter S. Zarowski).

1989 — one female, 17 October - 2 December, Swastika, *Timiskaming* (Ann and Ralph Gaston, Lloyd Taman) - videotape on file.

— two, male and female, 30 October - 6 November, Matachewan, *Timiskaming* (Lloyd Taman; found by Harold King).

The four fall 1990 birds all appeared on 17 November possibly indicating a widespread movement.

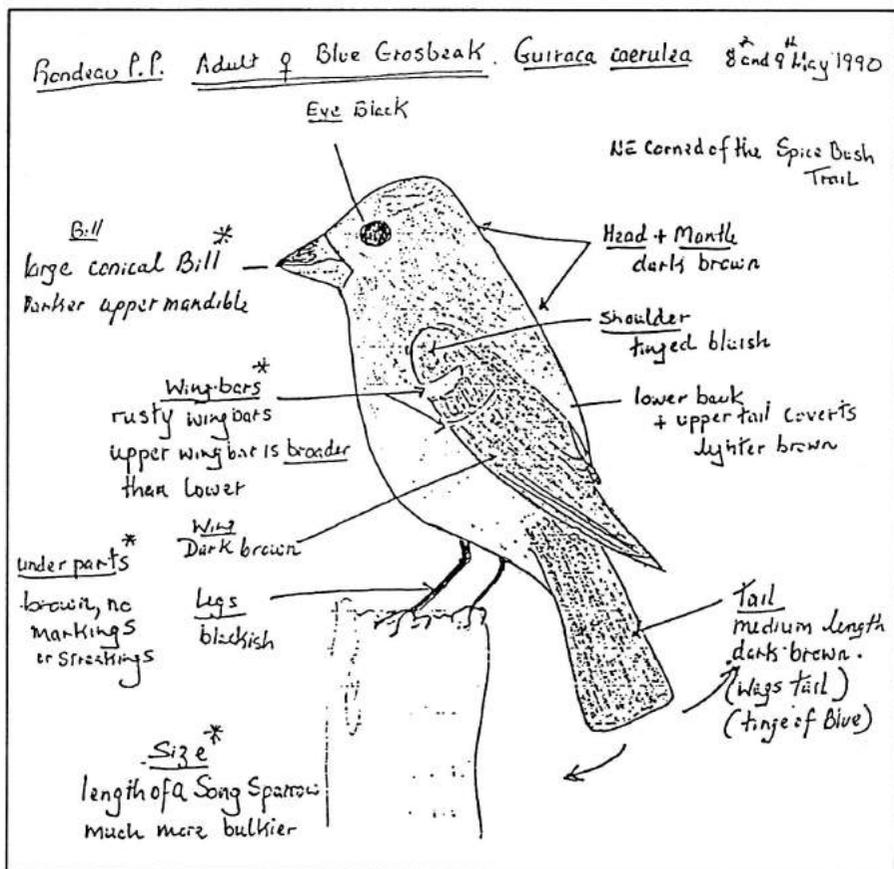


Figure 19: Adult female Blue Grosbeak at Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent, present 7-10 May 1990. Drawing by Rohan van Twest.

### Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) (7/12/2)

1990 — one female, 7-10 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent (Rohan A. van Twest, P. Allen Woodliffe).

— one adult male, 27 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Donna M. Kuchapsky).

1989 — one adult male, nominate *caerulea*, 21 May, Rosspport, Thunder Bay (Colleen Keaney).

Specimen (skin) in ROM: #156150.

The Rosspport bird, found dead on a porch, is the first for northern Ontario. It is the eastern *G. c. caerulea* by plumage (R.D. James pers. comm.)

### Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) North Only (2/3/2)

1990 — one male, 22-24 October, Matachewan, Timiskaming (Lloyd and Olga Taman).

— one "western" female, 10-17 November, Silver Islet, Thunder Bay (Jeffrey Skevington).

The features of the Silver Islet bird suggest that, while it was of a western race, it was not positively, *arcticus*, the most likely subspecies.

**Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) (1/4/2)**

1990 — one singing male, 17 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Margaret J. Bain).

— one immature, 17 October, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington) - photo on file.

**Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (4/23/2)**

1990 — one adult, 10 September, Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider, Dennis F. Rupert) photos on file.

— one immature, 25 October - 1 November, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Malcolm P. McAlpine, Kirk Zufelt).

1984 — one adult, 22-29 October, Matachewan, *Timiskaming* (Lloyd and Olga Taman).

1976 — one, 10 May, Woodstock, *Oxford* (James M. Holdsworth).



Figure 20: Adult male Lark Bunting at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, 4 October 1990. Photo by *G. Tom Hince*.

**Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (3/6/3)**

1990 — one male, 13-14 June, Tilbury, *Essex* (P. Allen Woodliffe; found by Peter R. Satterly).

— one adult male, 4 October, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Johanne Ranger, G. Tom Hince) - photo on file.

— one female, 13-14 October, Winona, *Niagara* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, George Naylor, Robert Curry).

1977 — one male, 8 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Claire Button).

A banner year as indicated by only six over the past nine years and three in 1990.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (0/5/0)**

1988 — one immature, 20 October, Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (James M. Holdsworth, William G. Lindley) - photos on file.

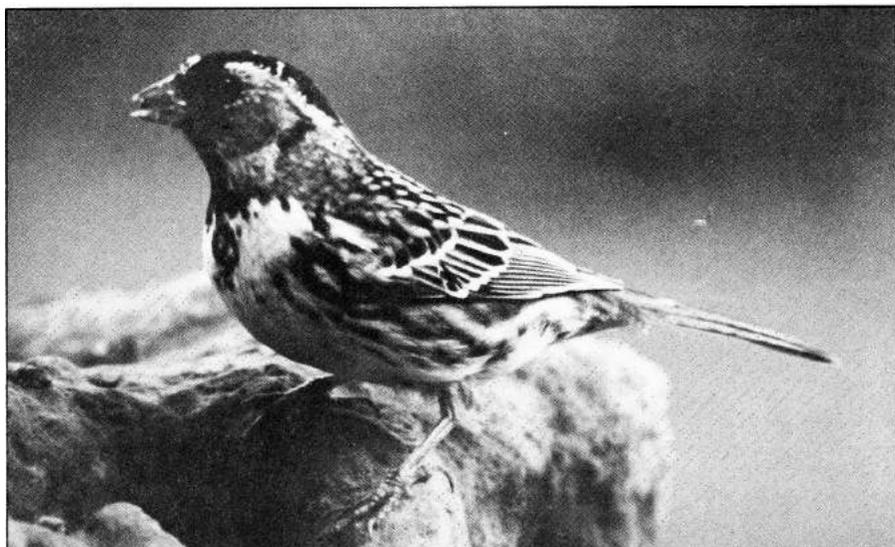


Figure 21: Harris' Sparrow at Wallaceburg, Kent, 14-16 May 1990.  
Photo by James N. Flynn.

### Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) South Only (3/11/0)

1990 — one adult, 14-16 May, Wallaceburg, Kent (James N. Flynn; at Tom Chatterton feeder) - photos on file.

1989/90 — one immature, 15 December - 25 March, Thornbury, Grey (George K. Peck).

1989 — one immature, 14 October, Corner Marsh, Durham (Mark A. Kubisz) - photos on file.

1983 — nest four eggs, 4 July and pair with fledged young, 25 July, Fort Severn, Kenora (Tim and Dorris Nowicki, Robert and Terri Thobaden).

An account of this first nest is found in Cadman (1987).

### Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

1985 — two fledged young, 20 July, West Pen Island, Kenora (Gregory Poole).

Another first breeding record found as a result of atlasing (Cadman et al 1987). This is far south of the nearest nesting on the Hudson Bay coast as there are no Manitoba nestings (R. D. McRae pers. comm.).

### Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa*) (0/0/1)

1990 — one *littoralis*, 8-13 December, Pine Bay, Thunder Bay, (Sharon and Robert Illingworth, Nicholas G. Escott) - photos on file.

### Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) (0/0/1)

1990 — one, 13 August, Long Point Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (Steven Dougill).

Trapped and carefully measured; it had no pink coloration and was probably an immature male. The AOU Checklist (1983) describes the range as no farther east than southeastern Montana and casual or irregular east to western Kansas, and DeSante and Pyle (1986) records indicate that this is the easternmost record in North America. This is an outstanding first for the province and an intriguingly early date.



Figure 22: Rosy Finch (*L. l. littoralis*) at Pine Bay, Thunder Bay, 8-13 December 1990.  
Photo by Nicholas G. Escott.

## Unaccepted Records:

### Identification accepted, origin questionable

Records in this category are those considered by the committee to be escaped or released from captivity. Species or individual records placed here could be accepted at a later date if circumstances come to light which bear on them or a pattern of occurrences suggests wild (rather than captive) origin.

#### Greater White-fronted Goose

1990 — one, 15-19 May, Harrow, Essex (Anne Barbour) - photos on file.

This bird joined a few clipped waterfowl in a farm pond. This, in combination with the late date which lies outside the recorded migration period in southern Ontario led to the present decision.

#### Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

1990 — one adult male, 2-5 January, Sombra (2-3 January), Corunna (4 January) and Sarnia (5 January), Lambton (P. Allen Woodliffe).

All other records of this species have been accepted as wild by the committee. However, correspondence from James Granlund, secretary of the Michigan Bird Records Committee, indicated that a Tufted Duck and a few other "exotic" waterfowl such as Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) and Eurasian Wigeon spent part of the previous winter near this site. The prudent course of action, then, is to regard this individual as a probable escape.

### Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*) South Only

1990 — one, 11 April, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Bev Collier, R. Douglas McRae)

This was (and is) a particularly difficult record to decide on. It was actively moving at a known migration "hotspot" in the correct season. However, as there does not seem to have been an irruption of the species in the previous winter the committee has taken this conservative decision.

## 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.

1990 — Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), two, circa 15 June, Cormac, *Renfrew*.

— Eurasian Wigeon, one, 26 September, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*.

— Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), one, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), one, 27 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), one, 16 October, Beachville, *Oxford*.

— Gyrfalcon, one, 19 October, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*.

— Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), one, 7 October, Dog Lake, *Thunder Bay*.

— Townsend's Solitaire, one, 2 May, Patten River, *Cochrane*.

— Western Tanager, one, 17 May, Port Hope, *Northumberland*.

— Blue Grosbeak, one, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Blue Grosbeak, one, 11 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Blue Grosbeak, one, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Blue Grosbeak, one, 17 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Lark Bunting, one male, 17 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), one, 13 October, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto*.

1989 — Swainson's Hawk, one, 21 April, Beamer Cons. Area, *Niagara*.

— Bell's Vireo (*Vireo billii*), one, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

— Blue Grosbeak, one, 6 August, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1987 — Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), one, 12 August, Woodstock, *Oxford*.

1984 — House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), one, 1-4 May, Matachewan, *Timiskaming*.

1977 — Gyrfalcon, one, 2 September, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.

1970 — Laughing Gull, one, 15 June, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.

## Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

### 1989 Report (*Ontario Birds* 8:4-33):

— under Western Grebe (1989 at Rainy River mouth): add - "photo on file".

— under Razorbill (1989 at Lake Dore): add "Chris Michener" who discovered the bird and submitted a report.

## Acknowledgements

The OBRC would like to thank all those observers who took the time and care to write and submit reports and, without whom, of course, this report could not exist. We especially thank those who submitted photographs and drawings. In addition to those which enhance this report, many excellent photos and drawings now reside in the archives at the ROM.

Among those who obtained reports which were not their own, provided information on records, or who provided expert opinion on difficult identifications are Margaret J. Bain, Gordon Bellerby, William C. D'Anna, Rob Z. Dobos, Nicholas G. Escott, James Granlund, Brian Henshaw, Harry Kerr, Stephen M. LaForest, Anthony Lang, Curtis A. Marantz, Terry Osborne, Ronald J. Pittaway, Gordon Pringle, Peter Pyle, J. Van Remsen Jr., Lynne Richardson, Roy C. Smith, Ross C. Snider,

Richard D. Tafel, Lloyd Taman, Rohan A. van Twest, P. Allen Woodliffe, and Brian K. Wyatt.

Ron D. Weir deserves thanks for providing, at the end of each *American Birds* reporting season, a list of all those observed species requiring OBRC documentation along with their finders.

In addition to their regular voting duties, Doug McRae and George Wallace were extremely helpful to this writer in obtaining records, suggesting species experts for consultation and providing status information on extreme rarities.

I thank the 1990 Committee members and Alan Wormington for their comments on an earlier draft of this report.

Once again we thank Robert G. Finlayson and James N. Flynn for their photographic services in making slides and colour prints printer-ready.

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