

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1984

by
Alan Wormington

This is the third annual report of the Ontario Field Ornithologists' Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC). It contains a total of 190 records, of which 136 have been accepted. These figures represent an acceptance rate of about 72%.

This report officially adds Mongolian Plover and Swainson's Warbler to Ontario's Checklist of Birds, bringing the provincial total to 429 species. Additionally, changes to the North/South lists for Ontario (see *Ontario Birds* 2:13-23) are: (1) deletion of Prairie Warbler from the North, and (2) addition of American Swallow-tailed Kite to the North based on a previously accepted record (*Ontario Birds* 2:56), but mistakenly overlooked by OBRC as a northern Ontario occurrence.

The 1984 Committee consisted of Robert Curry (Chairman), Alan Wormington (Secretary), A. David Brewer, G. Thomas Hince, R.D. McRae, Ronald J. Pittaway and Dennis F. Rupert. The Committee acknowledges the fine support of all observers who have taken the time to submit their records, thus helping to document the status of rare birds in Ontario.

New reports should continue to be sent to the OBRC Secretary. We further encourage documentation of rare birds which are *not* on the Committee's official review list – these reports can also be forwarded to the OBRC Secretary or sent directly to the Royal Ontario Museum (Ornithology Dept.) where they will be permanently filed.

The documents and photographs forming the basis for records published by the OBRC, together with all Committee votes and comments, are permanently housed in the Ornithology Department of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. All photographic material received by the Committee is incorporated into the existing ROM photographic collection; the purposes of this collection have been outlined previously by James (1977). All interested parties are at liberty to examine the files of the OBRC by making an appointment with the curators of the ROM.

Historical Records

In addition to reviewing current records, it is the intention of the

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OBRC to eventually review all records of rarities in Ontario for which a written description, photograph and/or specimen exists. With the publication of this third annual report, just over 500 records (of an estimated total of 1100) have now been processed. Along these lines we urge all contributors to submit written descriptions or photographs of older records since such material may in fact pertain to records totally unknown to the Committee.

The current report includes all Mississippi Kite and Swainson's Hawk records available to the Committee: 65 Point Pelee records, and 19 Rondeau-area records (the latter assembled courtesy of P. Allen Woodliffe). Plans in 1985 include a review of all specimen records of the National Museum of Canada, Royal Ontario Museum and Buffalo Museum of Natural Sciences.

Research Sub-committee

In 1984 a Research Sub-committee of the OBRC was formed. The purposes of the Sub-committee are to support the operations of the OBRC by tackling a number of specific research projects, including (1) researching and gathering together documents/photographs pertaining to historical records; (2) locating specimens in university, small museum and private collections; and (3) arranging the preparation of status reports on species where the wild vs. captive origin could be controversial, example species being Greater Flamingo, Tufted

Duck, Baikal Teal and Painted Bunting to name a few. (The recent paper on the status of the Barnacle Goose in North America (Ryff 1984), where virtually all records are convincingly argued as pertaining to escapees, could serve as a model). Membership in the Sub-committee is 'open' and the OBRC invites anyone with an interest in assisting on any of the above projects to contact the OBRC Secretary.

Species Accounts

In the following accounts, all records pertain to single birds unless otherwise noted. If known, information on age/sex/plumage is included. The term 'alternate' refers to summer/breeding plumage, while the term 'basic' refers to winter/non-breeding plumage. Place names in italics refer to a County, Regional Municipality or District in Ontario. Credited contributors are those who have provided a written description, photograph or specimen. If the persons discovering a bird have submitted documentation, their names are given first and are separated from any others by a diagonal slash '/'. All records are sight records unless the bird is indicated as having been photographed or collected. I have attempted to determine the entire period when birds were present, obtaining this information from the observers themselves, seasonal summaries in *American Birds*, regional publications and other sources. Obtaining this information continues to be extremely time-consuming for the Committee;

contributors are asked to research occurrence dates *fully* before submitting a record. The comments following each species are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the OBRC. Corrections to any of

the information presented are welcome.

(Eds. Comment: We would greatly appreciate comments from our readers on the new format of the OBRC Report.)

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*)

- 1984—alternate adult, 23 April, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (Ron D. Weir)
 —basic adult, 1 May, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret Bain)
 —basic adult, 21-22 May, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret Bain)

Few records exist for southern Ontario in spring, thus three in one year is exceptional. Perhaps related to these occurrences, Red-throated Loons were in above average numbers during Spring 1984 (also on Lake Ontario) with numerous individuals remaining throughout the summer.

Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*)

- 1983—adult, 13 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (R.K.F. Edwards)
 1973—first-winter, 25 Nov., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jeffrey A. Greenhouse, Joseph P. Kleiman, James W. Wilson, Sr.)

Virtually all Great Lakes Gannets pertain to immature birds in fall-winter. Adults, when they occur, have been in spring, which suggests a Gulf of Mexico origin rather than 'leftovers' from fall. A recent adult in central Indiana on 18 April 1981 (*Am. Birds* 35:828) supports this hypothesis.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

- 1983—two, 28 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Joan Thomson, John Thomson)
 —imm., 18 Nov. - 8 Dec. (not only 18-27 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 38:196), Port Dover/Nanticoke, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Terrie Woodrow)- photo on file.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

- 1984—adult, 1 Feb., Squire's Beach, *Durham* (J. Murray Speirs)

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

- 1984—juvenile, 21 Aug., Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder) - photos on file.

One of very few records for northern Ontario, this unfortunate individual was captured downtown in front of a store; it was subsequently released in a cattail marsh.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

- 1984—adult, 14 May, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (R.D. McRae)
 1980—adult, 2-5 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Kevin McLaughlin)
 1964—adult, 12 May, Wheatley, *Kent* (Robert Curry)



Least Bittern, juvenile, 21 Aug. 1984, Atikokan, *Rainy River*. Photo by David H. Elder.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

- 1984—adult, 29 April, Smithville, *Niagara* (Roy E.C. Baker) – photos on file.
 —adult, 30 April, Wye Marsh, *Simcoe* (David J. Hawke) – photo on file.
 —adult, 13-17 May, Amherst Island, *Lennox and Addington* (Joel H. Ellis)
 —first summer, 28 May, Stoney Point, *Essex* (Alan J. Ryff)
 1981—adult, 25 April, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)
 1959—adult, 1 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (R.D. Ussher)

For details of the 1959 Rondeau bird see Ussher (1961). Years ago numbers of Little Blue Heron in Ontario far exceeded those of Tricolored Heron; recently, however, the former species has seemingly been recorded less and less and the Tricolored more frequently, with the current result being about equal occurrences of both.

Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*)

- 1984—27 May, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (William J. Crins)

There are very few records for northern Ontario, but the repeated observations at Rainy River indicates that the species probably breeds in this area.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*)

- 1981—adult, 5 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jeffrey Bennett)
 —adult, 10-21 May (not only 10-12 May as in *Am. Birds* 35:817), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Thomas A. Murray, Terrie Smith/C. Towe).
 1977—adult, 5-14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Michael J. Austin/Martin F. Whitehead, J. Robertson Graham) – photo on file.

1974—juvenile, 22-24 Aug. (not only 24 Aug. as in *Am. Birds* 29:49), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Robert Curry)

The April 5th bird represents the earliest spring date for Ontario.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1984—adult, 14 May, Stoney Point, *Essex* (Margaret Wilson, Reid Wilson)

Ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.)

1984—adult, 14 May, Point Pelee N. Park, *Essex* (William A. Martin)

Recently the OBRC has decided that reports of *Plegadis* ibis must clearly differentiate between the two species. Glossy Ibis is the expected species in Ontario, but White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) has occurred in New York, Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota and is, therefore, a potential (probably overdue) addition to Ontario's avifauna. The future appearance of a *Plegadis* ibis in Ontario west of Lake Superior would almost certainly pertain to White-faced.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

1983—adult female, 22 Oct., Lower Rideau Lake, *Lanark* (Ted Curtis) – specimen in NMC: #75124.

Details of this record have been published by Di Labio and Blacquiere (1984).

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

1979—adult, 20 March, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Gary Tetzlaff) – photos on file.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

1984—pair, 23 June-2 July, male to 21 July, Townsend sewage lagoons, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert Curry) – specimen (head) in ROM: #150121.

Unfortunately, the death of the female bird (cause unknown) put an end to the inevitable nesting of this pair. The record closely parallels the first recorded Ontario nesting in 1983 at Amherstburg, *Essex* (also at a sewage lagoon), some 1500 km east of the species' normal breeding range (see *Ontario Birds* 2:24-25).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

1984—adult male, 14-21 Oct., Wolfe Island, *Frontenac* (James Mountjoy)

1983—first winter male, 15 Nov.-18 Dec. (not only 15 Nov.-2 Dec. as in *Am. Birds* 38:196), Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Robert F. Andrie, Richard W. Knapton, Richard Byron)

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

1983/1984—first winter male, 26 Dec.-25 March, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Curry)

1983—adult male, 15 Dec., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)

1981—adult male, 24 Jan.-8 March, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin McLaughlin/Gordon Bellerby)

The 1981 bird is believed to be the same individual present at the same locality (and briefly at nearby Oakville, *Halton*) during the winter of 1982-83 (see *Ontario Birds* 2:56). It was apparently not present during the

winter of 1981-82. The 1983-84 first winter male is believed to be the adult male present during the winter of 1984-85 (record currently under review by the OBRC). The site tenacity of other wintering waterfowl in Ontario (e.g. Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye) is well-known.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

1964—female, 30 June, Rosspport, *Thunder Bay* (Gerry Bennett)

There are very few records for northern Ontario and this bird also represents one of four summering records for the province as a whole; the other three summer occurrences are in the south.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

1965—male, 28 June, Nipigon, *Thunder Bay* (Gerry Bennett)

This is one of few northern Ontario occurrences and the first summer record for the province as a whole. The only other summer record was at Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton*, on 1-2 July 1979 (*Am. Birds* 33:859). Like the Harlequin Duck, birds do not breed until two years old (Palmer 1976); therefore summering records of both species should be expected from time to time.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

1984—16-17 Feb., Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David Shepard, Terrie Woodrow/Mark Jennings) – photos on file.

—31 March, Point Pelee Nat. Park and Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, and Bothwell, *Kent* (Karl Overman/Sol Hanft) – photos on file.

The Long Point bird represents the first winter occurrence in Ontario. The other bird was first detected at Point Pelee's tip at sunrise, shortly thereafter over the park's East Beach, about noon at nearby Hillman Marsh and finally, late in the day, some 80 km to the northeast at Bothwell. Such examples of 'tracking' individual rarities in this manner are few indeed but always intriguing.

American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

1978—15 and 22 May, Sturgeon Creek (15th), Point Pelee Nat. Park (22nd), *Essex* (Douglas Jackson, Carl Urquhart, Alvin T. Shireman, Tony Smith/Doug Knuff, Barry Cherriere) – photo on file.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

1984—first summer, 19-26 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Ronnie Howard, Ray Berry, J. Robertson Graham) – photos on file.

—adult, 21 May, Strabane, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (James Marsh)

1979—first summer, 16-20 May (not only 16-17 May as in Goodwin [1980]; not 16 May as in Kelley [1983]), Hillman Marsh (16th), Point Pelee Nat. Park (16th to 20th), *Essex* (M.J. Bronskill, K.A. Quickert/Peter Maker, Donald R. Gunn, Alan Worrington) – photos on file.

1977—adult, 28 May, Long Beach, *Niagara* (Thomas W. Weir)

1971—adult, 21 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Anthony Parsons, Roger E. Coker, Robert H. Westmore)

1964—first summer, 17 May, Bradley's Marsh, *Kent* (Eric Tull, Ronald J. Pittaway)

These records bring the total occurrences in Ontario to seven. Remarkably, all have occurred during the 13-day period from May 16th to 28th inclusive.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

- 1984—light phase first summer, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Bret Whitney)
 —light phase imm., 19-27 Sept., Rock Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Bruce Duncan)
- 1982—light phase adult, 25 May, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Daniel F. Brunton)
- 1976—light phase adult, 19 Sept., Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Harold H. Axtell)
 —light phase imm., 3 Oct. (not 3-4 Oct. as in *Am. Birds* 31:170), Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Marshall Field, John Lemon)
- 1975—light phase imm., 13 Sept., Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Marshall Field, Gary Mulawka/Anne Ionson) – photos on file.
- 1933—light phase, 22 Oct., Burlington, *Halton* (George W. North)
- 1894—dark phase adult female, 22 May, Willowdale, *Metropolitan Toronto* (J.H. Fleming) specimen in ROM: #35982
- 1890—light phase imm. male, 5 Sept., Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (William Cross) – specimen in ROM: #35987

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

- 1984—intermediate, 18 March, Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Rosemary Gaymer)
- 1983—intermediate, 10 April, Wolfe Island, *Frontenac* (John D. Reynolds, Sylfest Muldal)

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)

- 1984—adult, 3 May-27 June, Stoney Point, *Essex* (Ronald J. Pittaway/J. Robertson Graham, Barry Cherriere) – photos on file.
- 1980—juvenile, 17 Oct., Kingston, *Frontenac* (Kit Chubb) – photo on file.



Purple Gallinule, 3 May – 27 June 1984, Stoney Point, *Essex*. Photo by Barry Cherriere.

Mongolian Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

1984—alternate, 4 May, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (R.D. McRae/James Mountjoy) – photos on file.

In his report to the OBRC, the discoverer of this bird states “. . . up the beach I saw another bird. For the first second or so it was facing directly away and looked similar to a Killdeer, but then it turned its head toward me and I just about died! Had I been 10 years older I would have been discovered as a tideline corpse – the victim of a massive heart attack . . . this bird was such a shock to me that [afterwards] I even saw the damn bird in my dreams!!!” Full details of this first Ontario (and Canadian) record are presented elsewhere in this issue.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

1984—26 April, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (R.D. McRae) – photo on file.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

1984—alternate female, 19-16 May, Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Rob Tymstra) – photo on file.

—alternate male, 23-26 May, Port McNicoll, *Simcoe* (David J. Hawke) – photo on file.

—basic male, 23 Sept.-2 Oct., Blenheim, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe) – photo on file.

—basic female, 23 Oct., Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (William Lamond).

1980—alternate male, 6-9 June, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Donald M. Fraser) –photos on file.

The Toronto June 9th occurrence is the latest involving an alternate-plumaged spring migrant in Ontario.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

1984—23 Sept., Middleboro Island, Moose River, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae)

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1984—imm., 30 Sept., Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Ron Ridout)

1975—second summer, 24 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Robert Curry)

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1984—juvenile, 3 Sept., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)

1973—adult summer, 3-5 May, Bronte, *Halton* (Mark Jennings) – photos on file.

—adult summer, 22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Harold H. Axtell)

1969—juvenile, 18-19 Sept., Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Harold H. Axtell)

The above are four typical records. Most birds of this species occur in spring and are exclusively adult or near-adult birds; the majority appear in May and occasionally linger through June, rarely to early July. Fall-winter birds are almost exclusively in juvenile/first winter plumage.

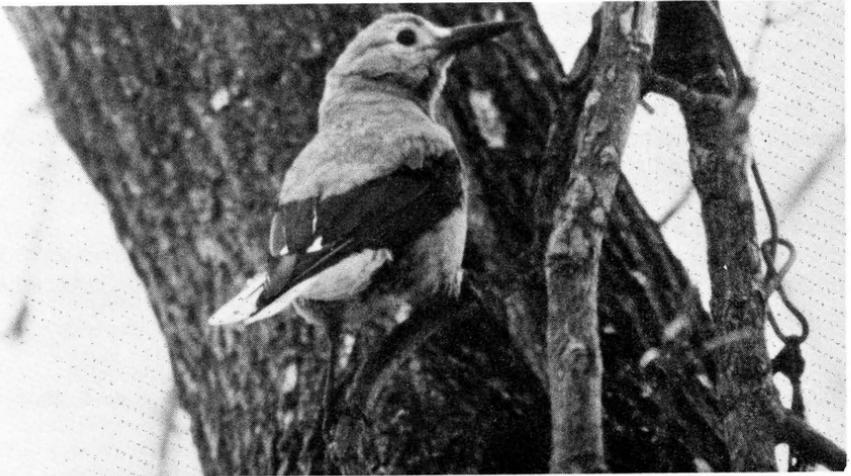
Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1979—adult, 30 Nov., Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert)

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

1978—adult, 6 July (not 16 July as in Kelley [1983]), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Mark Gawn, Simon Gawn, Jim Wilson Jr.)

This represents the second of four records now known for Ontario.



Clark's Nutcracker, 14 Nov. 1972 – 19 June 1973, Oxdrift, Kenora. Photo by Alan Wormington.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

1984—female, 18 Oct., Silver Islet, Thunder Bay (Alan Wormington)

The second record for northern Ontario. The first was found on the shores of James Bay near Moosonee almost exactly one year earlier.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

1984—imm., 29 Aug., Rainy River, Rainy River (Michael W. P. Runtz)

1983—three adults, 3-8 July (not only 3-6 July as in *Am. Birds* 37:984) Rainy River, Rainy River (Barry Jones, Luc Fazio)

There are now a number of summer (non-migrant) records for western Rainy River Dist.; it seems probable that the species will eventually be found nesting in this area.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1984—19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (John W. Chardine, Joan M. Burley)

1983—imm., 17 Sept.-8 Oct., St. Thomas, Elgin (George E. Pond, Luc Fazio) – photos on file.

1969—25 June, Deep River, Renfrew (William H. Walker)

1961—3 June, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Robert E. Mara)

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*)

1972/1973—two, 14 Nov.-19 June (not 9 Nov.-19 June as in James *et al.* [1976]; not only 14-24 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 27:54; not 18 April as in James [1976] and *Ontario Birds* 1:12), Oxdrift, Kenora (Alan Wormington) – photos on file.

This first Ontario record (a second occurred on 9 May 1981, at Caribou Island, Thunder Bay) was part of an unprecedented irruption of this species in all directions away from its normal montane range during the fall of 1972 (Able 1973). The invasion resulted in numerous birds being recorded as far east as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri.

Fisher and Myres (1980) incorrectly list and map three Ontario occurrences. Dryden (=Oxdrift) is mapped correctly, but of the other records one is of a known misidentification (see *Am. Birds* 27:610), and the other – Aubrey Township (in which Oxdrift is located) – is erroneously considered an additional record and is, furthermore, placed incorrectly on their map.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

1980—8-14 Sept., Arnprior (not Ottawa as in *Am. Birds* 35:178), Renfrew (Michael W.P. Runtz) – photo on file.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

1983—male, 30 Oct., Ipperwash Prov. Park, Lambton (Dennis F. Rupert) – photo on file.
1967—male, 19-20 May, Kawene, Rainy River (Shirley Peruniak)

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

1967—8 Jan., Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa-Carleton (H.N. MacKenzie)

Details of this first of three Ontario records to date have been published (MacKenzie 1968). The repeated occurrences of this species in eastern North America (now about a dozen records) suggest that at least a portion of the small population breeding in southern Greenland (naturally established in 1937) is wintering regularly in the New World.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1984—female, early Jan., Beeton, Simcoe (David Milsom)
—female, 14 Jan.-29 Feb. (but not observed between these dates), Cedar Springs, Kent (David Kinzie)
—male, 31 Jan.-14 May, Whitby, Durham (Alan Wormington)
1980/1981—male, 6 Dec.-early Feb., Horseshoe Valley, Simcoe (David J. Hawke) – photo on file.
1979/1980—female, 13 Dec.-30 Jan., Cedar Springs, Kent (W.J. Kerr/Keith J. Burk)
1965—female, 26 Sept., Atikokan, Rainy River (Shirley Peruniak)



Sage Thrasher, 27 April – 16 May 1981, Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent. Photo by Dennis F. Rupert.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

1981—27 April-16 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe/Keith J. Burk, Dennis F. Rupert) – photos on file.

This is the most recent of the three Ontario occurrences to date; the others were in 1965 and 1966.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

1984—11 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington/Michael W.P. Runtz, Bruce D. Mactavish)

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)

1984—female, 11 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*)

1984—male, 30 April, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Trevor Johns, Robert Yukich, Hugh Currie, William J. Crins, Luc Fazio)

With three Ontario occurrences to date, it is of interest to note that the species remains unrecorded in the majority of states and provinces east of its Pacific coast breeding range.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1984—28 April, Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert Curry)

—28 April-10 May, Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert Curry/Kevin Lord)

—2 May, Bronte, *Halton* (Mark Jennings) – photos on file

—22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Kevin McLaughlin)

1983—22 May, Kettle Point, *Lambton* (Alf Rider)

1982—29 Nov.-11 Dec., Cornwall, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Les Harris) – photo on file.

1981—25 April, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)

—12 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jonathan Grant)

1980—18-19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Carole Johnston)

1979—28-29 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Peter Boyd/John Lamey, Joseph P. Kleiman, Dennis F. Rupert) – photo on file.

—9-17 May (not only 10-17 May as in *Am. Birds* 33:767), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Kay Doris)

1977—11 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (David Martin) – photo on file.

—27-29 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (J.R. Taylor)

1974—3 May (not 2 May as in James *et al.* [1976]), Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Finlayson) – photo on file.

Where subspecific determination was possible (eight records) all were the expected *D. d. albiflora*, the "Sycamore" Warbler of the interior. The 11 April 1977 Pelee bird is the earliest spring migrant to be recorded in Ontario. This species continues to appear annually, principally as a spring overshoot; to date there is no evidence to suggest nesting in the province.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)

1979—male, 14-19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (not Ontario County as in Walkinshaw [1983]) (R. Smith/A. Parker, Roger E. Coker, Peter Carlton, Joseph P. Kleiman)

1974—16 May, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (John A. Kelley)

1958—territorial male, 8-30 June, McVicar, *Bruce* (James L. Baillie, Jr.)

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

1975—22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (N. Bruce Broadbooks)

The first record for Ontario. The seemingly late date of this early spring migrant is consistent with other records of the species north of its normal range (e.g. in New York, Ohio). The OBRC is unable to locate documentation on another bird reported as this species 7-9 May 1968, also at Point Pelee. Readers with any existing written description of this individual are encouraged to contact the committee.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1984—adult male, 30 May, Windy Point, Lake-of-the-Woods, *Rainy River* (William J. Crins)



Blue Grosbeak, female, 9 May 1979, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*. Photo by Robert Finlayson.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)

1983—female, 8 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (R.D. Mooi, Diane Lepage, Paul Davidson)

1981—imm. male, 11-13 May (not 11 May as in *Am. Birds* 35:820; not 11-16 May as in Kelley [1983]), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (John A. Kelley)

—female, 16-17 May (not only 16 May as in *Am. Birds* 35:820; not 11-16 May as in Kelley [1983]), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jim Flynn, Mike Brown) – photos on file.

1980—imm. male, 10 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Tom Hanrahan)

1979—adult male, 7 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Andrew Goodwin, P.A. Flint, Elizabeth Cleland)

—female, 8-9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (L. Verne Evans)

—female, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Robert Finlayson) – photo on file.

—imm. male, 11-17 May, (not only 13 May as in Kelley [1983]), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jeanne M. Pratt/Allen E. Valente, Donald R. Gunn) – photo on file.

—imm. male, 17 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (P. Allen Woodliffe) – photos on file.

1972—female, 7-11 May (not 7-19 May as in *Am. Birds* 26:758; not 7-20 May as in Kelley [1978]), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jeffrey A. Greenhouse/Brian Morin) – photo on file.

The five 1979 birds (plus another undocumented) are unprecedented in a single year. This species occurs in Ontario exclusively as a spring overshoot; to date there is no accepted fall record.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*)

1984—male, 19-23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Gerry Shemilt/Alan Wormington, G. Thomas Hince, Michael W.P. Runtz) – photos on file.

1967—13 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (John G. Keenleyside, Robert F. Andrie, Victor Crich) – photos on file.

Details of the 1967 bird have been published by Long (1968). An additional 1984 bird in Indiana brings the total of eastern North American occurrences to seven, three of which pertain to Ontario.



Cassin's Sparrow, 19-23 May 1984, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*. Photos by Alan Wormington.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

1984—18 Oct., Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington)

—21 Oct., Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington)

—21 Oct., Marathon (different bird), *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington)

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

1984—28 April, Long Point (tip), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (George E. Wallace)

1966—21 May, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Shirley Peruniak)

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

1983—imm. female, 31 Aug.-1 Sept., *Presqu'ile Prov. Park, Northumberland* (Linda Weseloh/Joan Thomson, John Thomson) – photos on file.

1974—definitive alternate male, 16-17 May (not only 17 May as in *Am. Birds* 28:797; not 17-18 May as in Kelley [1978]), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Stafford O. Kratz/Brian Morin) – photo on file.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

1983—imm., 9 Nov., Toronto Island, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Robert Yukich)

The second record for Ontario, this occurrence follows closely the first: 3-20 Jan. 1982 at Gosport, *Northumberland* (see Harris[1983])

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

1980—female, 20 April, Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (T. Ronald Scovell).

Although one would expect this species to occur regularly in southern Ontario, the present record is, nonetheless, unique to the region.

Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa*)

1984/1985—3 Nov.-7 Jan., Dryden, *Kenora* (Harold J. Gibbard) – photos on file.

This bird was the race *tephrocotis*, the “Gray-crowned” Rosy Finch.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain

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

1984—Arctic Loon, 29 April, Cobourg, *Northumberland*

—Arctic Loon, 3 June, Whitby, *Durham*

—Great Cormorant, 29 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*

—Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 20 May, North Watcher Island, *Muskoka*

—Swainson's Hawk, 17 July, Rainy River, *Rainy River*

—California Gull, 26 May, Windy Point, Lake-of-the-Woods, *Rainy River*

—Rufous Hummingbird, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Gray Kingbird, 29 July, Wakimi Prov. Park, *Sudbury*

—Fish Crow, 21 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Bell's Vireo, 7 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Townsend's Warbler, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Kirtland's Warbler, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Western Tanager, 11-12 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Western Tanager, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Western Tanager, 20 May, Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton*

—Western Tanager, 21 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Lazuli Bunting, 24 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—Harris' Sparrow, 20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*

—McCown's Longspur, 26 May, Cobourg, *Northumberland*

—McKay's Bunting, 13 April, Blenheim, *Kent*

1983—Swainson's Hawk, 13 May, Kingston, *Frontenac*

—Blue Grosbeak, 5 Oct., Port Hope, *Northumberland*

—Rosy Finch, 12-16 Aug., Nolalu, *Thunder Bay*

1982—Pomarine Jaeger, 16 Nov., Deep River, *Renfrew*

—Pomarine Jaeger, 22 Nov., Deep River, *Renfrew*

—Prairie Warbler, 1 June, Makwa Lake, *Sudbury*

Previously accepted (*Ontario Birds* 2:61-62), the record was re-evaluated by OBRC on the basis of new evidence submitted.

- 1981—Long-tailed Jaeger, 21 Aug., Erieau, *Kent*
 —Laughing Gull, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Western Kingbird, 7 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Western Tanager, 11 May, Pinery Prov. Park, *Lambton*
- 1980—Mississippi Kite, 19 April, Mississagi Light, *Manitoulin*
 —Mississippi Kite, 3 May, Speyside, *Halton*
 —Yellow-throated Warbler, 19 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
- 1979—Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 30-31 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Lesser Nighthawk, 18 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*
 —Blue Grosbeak, 13 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
- 1978—Laughing Gull, 16 April (not 15 April as in Wormington [1978]), Hillman Marsh, *Essex*
 —Sage Thrasher, 22 Oct., Great Duck Island, *Manitoulin*
 —Swainson's Warbler, 20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
- 1977—Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 30 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Mississippi Kite, 11 Sept., Morpeth, *Kent*
 —Swainson's Hawk, 11 Sept., Mississagi Light, *Manitoulin*
- 1976—Swainson's Hawk, 19 May, Burpee Twp., *Manitoulin*
 —Kirtland's Warbler, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Swainson's Warbler, 24 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*
- 1974—Arctic Loon, 13 Dec. (not 17 Dec. as in Kelley [1978]), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Swainson's Hawk, 5 Oct., Barrie Island, *Manitoulin*
 —Common Cuckoo, 4 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
 —Say's Phoebe, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
- 1973—Smith's Longspur, 24 Sept., Amherstview, *Lennox and Addington*
- 1971—Corn Crane, 11 Sept., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*
 —Roseate Tern, 17 June, Rondeau Bay, *Kent*
- 1969—Western Tanager, 18 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*
- 1960—Carolina Chickadee, 3 July, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*
 Details of this record (based on song only) have been published (Jarvis 1965)

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Ontario Birds in 1985

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