

A Bibliography of Ornithology for Oxford County, Ontario

by
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As books, journals and reports become more numerous and specialized, birders find it increasingly difficult to remain accurately informed on all aspects of ornithology even within the relatively small confines of a single province. Any researcher who wishes to compile a local list of birds, or to determine the status of a species within a region or throughout the province, must conduct time-consuming literature searches to produce a complete report. Making a list of relevant references is a fundamental step in research. Most public libraries have very little specific information on ornithology in Ontario. Universities, museums, and government ministries all have libraries with extensive ornithological literature collections. Regional bibliographies enable persons to identify and locate information relating to specific aspects of ornithology for a particular region. The following bibliography of ornithology for Oxford County presents an overview of the birding knowledge and activities associated with the county.

Little information is available concerning 19th and early 20th century bird life in Oxford County since references from that period are brief notes on individual species. Even W.E. Saunders, one of Ontario's most prolific ornithological writers, made very few references to the county even though he lived only 15 miles from its western border. Thomas Cottle, the author of one of Ontario's earliest bird lists, lived in Woodstock in the mid-1800s but only mentions three species in the county. No winter or breeding bird population studies have been conducted in Oxford County but Christmas Bird Counts have been held annually at Woodstock since 1934 and at Ingersoll since the late 1940s (not all of these have been published). Donald Bucknell's list of the '*Birds of Oxford County*' (1959) provides the only complete summary of the birds of the county. Since the two naturalists' clubs in the county (Ingersoll and Woodstock) do not have their own newsletters, their members occasionally publish infor-

mation in *The Cardinal*, the organ of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London. The *Stratford Field naturalists Newsletter* regularly reports bird records from the northwestern section of Oxford County. Except for records from Oxford County found in the seasonal accounts of *American Birds, Seasons*, and their predecessors, the following list presents as complete a bibliography of Oxford County Ornithology as I have been able to compile.

I wish to thank Ross James for his comments on an earlier version of this bibliography and the Bibliography of Ontario Ornithology Working Group, who, operating under the support of the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Jim Baillie Memorial Fund, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Royal Ontario Museum and the Ministry of Natural Resources, presently are compiling an extensive Bibliography of Ontario Ornithology.

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Publications of the Ontario Field Ornithologists.

As things have evolved, OFO has two publications, *Ontario Birds* and the OFO Newsletter. In 1983, there will be two issues of *Ontario Birds*, April and October, and probably three issues of the OFO Newsletter, January, June/July and November/December. The deadline for submitting material for the October issue of *Ontario Birds* is 31 August.