

ceased this activity after I witnessed two full flights.

In almost 30 years of observation, I have never before noted this behaviour (courtship flight pattern) during

the fall months. An initial search of the literature failed to reveal anything to indicate the regularity of this occurrence.

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Book Reviews

A Bird-finding Guide to Ontario. 1982. By *Clive E. Goodwin*. University of Toronto Press, Toronto. viii + 248 pp. \$12.00.

If our membership numbers in the American Birding Association and interest in OFO are valid indicators, this sport of ours is growing by leaps and bounds. What has been needed for these new legions is an easy-to-use, precise guide not only to the best bird locations in Ontario but also to many out-of-the-way but, nonetheless, fruitful sites. Now we have it in this book, written by Clive Goodwin, whose more than 15 years of experience as Ontario Regional Editor for *American Birds* eminently qualifies him for the task. Long-time birders and neophytes alike will find much of interest in the book.

This is a book to be used, not left on the shelves of a bookcase. Just slightly larger than a standard field guide, it has an attractive soft cover highlighted by a Donald Gunn photograph of an Evening Grosbeak. Most copies will find their way to the rear window-ledge of birders' cars. The soft paper of the text is ideal for

jotting notes of route changes, habitat alteration, differences in the status of the species at particular locations and the like in the margins.

Goodwin follows a tried-and-true format: an overview of Ontario, six chapters each dealing with a separate region of the Province, a short chapter with special advice for the visitor and systematic lists of the birds at the end.

The second or overview chapter, after the obligatory "How To Use This Book" is in many ways my favourite. In "Ontario and Its Bird-life", Goodwin presents a succinct description of our natural and human landscapes which would do justice to any student of geography. Writing in a relaxed, breezy style, he transmits significant information, "Along the lower Great Lakes it is always rather a toss-up whether Christmas will be white or green. . .". An account of the changing seasons in Ontario would be of particular use to

the visiting birder. Lists of the commoner birds to be found in particular habitats and during the various seasons are provided. However, the author quite correctly points out that, at any time of year in this Province, at least some birds are on the move. One can always find a few points with which to disagree in a general account of bird status. I would not consider the Common Nighthawk to be commonly associated with farmland and surely the Eastern Screech Owl is not the easiest owl to find and see in southern Ontario. There are good hints for the beginner or visitor about how to look for birds in different conditions as well as cautions about out-of-habitat birds.

I examined chapter 3, "South-western Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula" as an example of the regional accounts. Again, Goodwin sketches a broad portrait of the landscape and lists notable species peculiar to this region. Within this large geographical area, the communities at or close to interesting birding spots are listed alphabetically. In this way, a road map can be used to get one to the starting point. Then the driver can follow the precise directions to the spot. A map is found at the beginning of each regional chapter. Numbers on the map give the locations of the communities referred to in the text. Sixty-one are given for this region. In addition, maps are provided for high potential and/or complicated sites such as Pelee, Luther Marsh and Halton Region Forest. Meccas such as Point Pelee and Niagara are awarded detailed accounts especially as to directions. A hint to birders interested in the waterfowl staging concentrations at Long Point and Lake St. Clair: unless

it is a colder than normal March the time to see the largest numbers, especially of Tundra Swans, is closer to the vernal equinox than the suggested end of March or early April. By then, they may be virtually all gone.

Sewage lagoons have changed the habitats of birds and birders in this Province over the last 20 years. Recognizing this, the author gives directions to more lagoons than most of us dreamed existed. He cautions that one is on private property and should behave responsibly when visiting them. Although, for me, the sewage lagoon directions alone are worth the price of the book, I still believe there is a need for a separate sewage lagoon guide. Only occasionally does Goodwin make a qualitative comment about particular lagoons, and surely many of those listed without comment are small or steep-sided or in other ways useless for birds. Nevertheless, it is fascinating, if chastening, to read directions to unnoticed lagoons in areas where I thought I knew every good bird spot.

It's a pity that Goodwin did not use the 34th Supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list (in effect the 6th Edition) for his bird names. It was available in July, presumably before this book went to press. Instead, he compares the older A.O.U. nomenclature which he uses to the current ABA names. Many of the official new names are not found on either of Goodwin's lists, which doubtless will confuse some beginning birders.

The most significant omission from the book is the lack of specific directions to "want" birds. True, the systematic list has abundance symbols, which are quite correctly used to aid the reader in determining the likelihood of seeing species rather than as

definitive status statements. And the index has numerous page references to most species. What I am referring to are not so much errors of omission but rather a case of format and emphasis. Goodwin might have emulated James Lane's famous bird-finding guides and devoted a chapter to those birds which occur regularly but are difficult to find in Ontario. Species such as Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Red-throated Loon, Bar-

row's Goldeneye, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Loggerhead Shrike would be given a bold-face heading under which precise locations and dates would help beginners and visitors to zero in on these desirables.

This gap notwithstanding, this book will soon be found almost universally in the possession of Ontario birders and will be an indispensable tool for visiting individuals and tour groups.

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OFO Announcements

The following are announcements of upcoming OFO activities. They have been arranged for *members* of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Because space may be limited at any of these functions, be prepared in some way to identify yourself as an OFO member. Reports on past OFO activities will appear in the newsletter.

14/15 May 1983 — Pelee Week-end Meeting.

With spring birds and birders converging on Pt. Pelee in May, there is an excellent opportunity for OFO members to meet, socialize and discuss the direction of their new organization and *Ontario Birds*. An evening program, with 2-3 speakers, including Paul Prevett speaking on "The Birdlife of Hudson's and James Bays," will be held in the Auditorium of the Interpretive Centre, 7:30-9:30 PM on Saturday. Field trips,

for novice and experienced birders, will be held both Saturday and Sunday. Meet at the NW corner of the large paved parking lot at the Interpretive Centre at 8:00 AM. Watch for "OFO Field Trip" signs. For further details call Chip or Linda Weseloh, 416-485-1464.

22-28 September 1983 — Moosonee Field Trip.

To appeal to those OFO members with a spirit of adventure, we have planned a field trip to Moosonee on James Bay. The trip will depart from Cochrane (via train) at 10:00 AM on Friday, 23 September. Saturday, Sunday and Monday will be spent birding the Moosonee and Moose Factory townsites and Shipsands island at the mouth of the Moose River on James Bay. We will depart Moosonee on Tuesday morning, 27 September, and arrive back in Coch-

rane by mid-afternoon. Individuals who wish to stay in Moosonee longer are free to do so. The next scheduled train from Moosonee is on Thursday morning. Cochrane is approximately a nine hour drive from Toronto. Birds to be expected include all the boreal forest species and hundreds of Snow Geese (with the possibility of a Ross' Goose), Dunlin, Sanderling, yellow-legs and Golden Plover. At Shipsands, we can expect Peregrine Falcon, Merlin and large flocks of longspurs. Commercial accommodation is available in Moosonee at the Lily Pad Guest House (705-336-2353) or the Polar Bear Lodge (705-336-2345). Please make individual arrangements. Train fare between Cochrane and Moosonee is \$20.00 each way. Easy train connections are available directly from Toronto, phone Ontario Northland (416-965-4268) for details. For further details call Ron Ridout, 416-270-1349;

1 October 1983 — Pelagic Trip.

We have planned a pelagic birding trip into eastern Lake Ontario departing from Picton. This end of Lake Ontario has played host to as many as 200 jaegers in a single day as well as kittiwakes and Sabine's Gulls. Three 20-25 passenger fishing boats, with facilities for chumming, have been chartered for the day. The cost of the trip will be \$15.00 per person. Bring a lunch, Gravel and warm clothes! Preregistration will be necessary; to reserve your place, contact Hugh Currie (416-653-0176), Toronto.

22/23 October 1983 — Annual General Meeting.

OFO's 2nd Annual General Meeting will be held in London, Ontario. Plans probably will include field trips to Hawk Cliff, Kettle Point and Long Point. More details will be announced in the summer newsletter.

