

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1986

by
Alan Wormington

This is the fifth annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. During 1986 a total of 182 records was assessed, of which the identification of 141 (about 77%) was found to be acceptable.

This report officially adds two new species to Ontario's Checklist of Birds — Long-billed Curlew and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher — bringing the provincial total to 434 species. Also accepted is the first breeding record of Snowy Egret in Ontario, raising the provincial total in this category to 284 species. This is the first addition to the Ontario breeding bird list since James (1984) summarized recent new additions. Added to the list of birds which have been recorded in northern Ontario are Burrowing Owl, White-eyed Vireo and Orchard Oriole.

The 1986 Committee members were Dennis F. Rupert (Chairman), Alan Wormington (Secretary), Robert Curry, Kevin A. McLaughlin, R.D. McRae, Ronald J. Pittaway and Michael W.P. Runtz. We very much appreciate the submissions the committee has received during 1986 — included in this report is material received from a total of 166 different contributors; without this excellent support the committee could not function.

Changes in the Review Process
Beginning in 1987, membership of the

OBRC will be increased to eight members from the current seven. The eight members will consist of seven regular voting members plus a non-voting secretary. This change in the committee composition has been made to reduce the workload of the secretary.

Changes in Review List Criteria
Recently, the OBRC has revised the criteria on which the review list for southern Ontario is based. In the future, species reviewed will be those occurring on average five or fewer times annually, and will be dropped from the review list when more than 25 accepted records accumulate for any 5-year period. Formerly (see *Ontario Birds* 2:13-23), the corresponding figures were four and 20 records respectively. These changes do not affect the existing review list and a recently-removed species — Laughing Gull — remains deleted.

Historical Records

Examination of historical records of review list species continued during 1986. The OBRC has now reviewed all American Oystercatcher, Mew Gull, White-winged Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Rufous Hummingbird and Green-tailed Towhee records in Ontario (which were documented and available to the committee) and, similarly, all Great Egret, Ruff and Blue-winged Warbler records which pertain to northern Ontario.

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Species Accounts

In the following accounts, information on age/sex/plumage for each record is included, if known. Place names in italics refer to a county, regional municipality or district in Ontario. All contributors who have provided a written description, photograph or specimen have been credited; contributor's names have also been underlined if they were a discoverer of the bird(s). All records pertain to sight records unless it is indicated that the bird was photographed and/or collected.

An attempt has been made to determine the entire period when birds were present; this information has been obtained from the observers themselves, various regional publications, seasonal summaries in *American Birds* and other sources. (We again repeat here that much of the committee's time could be saved — and accuracy of records improved — if contributors could investigate the occurrence dates of a particular bird before submitting their documentation to the committee.) If previously published information on occurrence

dates, numbers, location, etc. is found to be incorrect for any particular record, then this is outlined along with the data the OBRC considers correct.

We recognize that there are several reasons why previously published information may be deemed incorrect. While blatant errors may exist, many others are simply the result of typographical errors, while still others are the result of authors who (unavoidably) are working with sets of data that are different (and often incomplete) in comparison to those which are eventually available to the OBRC. Since future researchers can only be served if indication is given that the OBRC has considered as much data as possible (when presenting information which is deemed correct), we will continue to provide these "corrections" in the annual reports. The OBRC itself is not infallible, and any reader with data which differ from those published in these pages is urged to contact the committee. Corrections/updates to the first four annual reports published by the OBRC (1982 to 1985 inclusive) are given at the end of this report.

Accepted Records

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1980 — one immature, 8-20 Nov., Burlington Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth/Halton* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Barry Cherriere) - photos on file.

Although field identification of the two species of "Arctic" Loons is probably not possible in most instances, the OBRC intends to publish all records as the North American Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), as the Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*) of Eurasia has yet to be recorded anywhere near Ontario.

Western/Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus* sp.)

1984 — one, 11 May, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Audrey E. Wilson).

With the recent A.O.U. decision that the two "colour morphs" of the Western Grebe actually pertain to different species—Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) and Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*)—the OBRC requires that reports clearly indicate



Immature Pacific Loon, 8-20 Nov. 1980, at Burlington Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth/Halton*. Photo by Barry Cherriere.

which species is under observation. It is presumed that most—if not all—birds occurring in Ontario are Western Grebes, but Clark's Grebe is clearly plausible, especially since it has already been recorded as close to Ontario as Manitoba and Minnesota, including Duluth (on Lake Superior) during the spring of 1987 (R.P. Russell, pers. comm., 1987).

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

- 1985 — two, 19 Oct., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae).
 — one, 21 Oct., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae).

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

- 1985 — one, 17 July, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Beverly Collier).

A White Pelican that was observed five days later, on 22 July 1985 at Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (*Ontario Birds* 4:4), was quite possibly the same individual.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)

- 1986 — one, 11-19 May, Manitowadge, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington) - photos on file.
 1985 — one, 8-12 Oct., Pass Lake (not Sibley as in *American Birds* 40:104), *Thunder Bay* (Ruth Hansen, Thomas Dyke) - photo on file.
 1978 — one, 22 Aug.-14 Sept. (not to 15 Sept. as in *American Birds* 33:172), Fort Frances, *Rainy River* (Alan W. Lowe, Al McRae) - photos on file.
 1956 — one, 29 or 30 June, Kapuskasing, *Cochrane* (L.G. Neve).

These are the only records of Great Egret known for northern Ontario, with the exception of an undocumented sighting on 9 May 1974 at Lulu Lake (49° 46' N. Lat., 94° 42' W. Long.), *Kenora*, by George Warner and Wayne Stack. The refer-

ence to the occurrence of Great Egret at Winisk, *Kenora* (James *et al.* 1976:10), is in error (R.D. James, pers. comm., 1987).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

1986 — breeding pair, nest and fledged young, Hamilton Bay, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Curry, George D. Bryant, D. Vaughn Weseloh) - photos on file.

An account of this breeding record, the first for Ontario and Canada, appears elsewhere in this issue of *Ontario Birds* (Curry and Bryant 1987).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

1986 — one adult, 5-20 May, Hillman Marsh and Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Beatrice Lazar).

1985 — one adult, 4 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Ronald R. Tasker).

— one adult, 13 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Kathy Pickard).

— one juvenile, 4-7 Sept., Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Peter Whelan, Kathleen J. Sleight) - photos on file.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

1985 — one adult, 17 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (George E. Wallace).

— one, 29 July-1 Aug., Big Creek Nat. Wildlife Area (29th to 31st) and Long Point Flats (1st), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Daniel A. Cristol).

1981 — one first summer, 25 May, Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Dennis E. Rupert).

Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*)

1986 — two juveniles, 30 Aug., one to 5 Sept., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, Barry Atkinson) - photo on file.

These birds were suspected by the observers to pertain to fledged young of a local nesting; the undocumented observation of an adult Green-backed Heron on 21 June 1986 at the same location was the sole basis for this supposition.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

1984 — one adult, 27 June (not 1 July as in *American Birds* 38:1014), Wolverine Lake (49° 50' N. Lat., 83° 46' W. Long.), *Cochrane* (Norm Hissa).

There are but few records of this species in northern Ontario, with the



Great Egret, 22 Aug.-14 Sept. 1978, at Fort Frances, *Rainy River*. Photo by Al McRae, courtesy of the Fort Frances Times.

above bird one of the most northerly recorded to date.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

(*Nycticorax violaceus*)

- 1986 — one adult, 15 May (not 15-16 May as in *American Birds* 40:463), Hillman Marsh, Essex (Peter Whelan).
- 1985 — one adult, 11 May, Long Point Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (Lyla R. Messick).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

- 1986 — one adult, 3 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park and Hillman Marsh, Essex (Michael D. Fitzpatrick).

dark ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.)

- 1986 — one adult, 24 May, Strathroy, Middlesex (Stephen J. Birch) - photo on file.

Greater White-fronted Goose

(*Anser albifrons*)

- 1986 — one *frontalis* adult, 21 March, Walsingham, Haldimand-Norfolk (David Beadle).
- one immature, 2 April, Wheatley Harbour, Kent/Essex (Alan Wormington).
- 1985 — three adults (not six as in *American Birds* 39:292), 17-19 March (not 18-20 March as in Shepherd 1985; *American Birds* *ibid.*), Port Rowan, Haldimand-Norfolk (Martin K. McNicholl).
- three (adult, immature & unknown), 7-13 April, Carlsbad Springs, Ottawa-Carleton (Mark Gawn).
- one adult, 17 Nov., Taquanyah Cons. Area, Haldimand-Norfolk (Bruce W. Duncan).
- 1982 — one *flavirostris* adult, 25 April, Carlsbad Springs, Ottawa-Carleton (Paul Davidson) - photo on file.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

- 1986 — one male, 26 March-16 April (not to only 14 April as in *American Birds* 40:463), Hillman Marsh, Essex (Alan Wormington).
- 1985 — one male, 21-23 April, Kanata, Ottawa-Carleton (Roy D. John).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

- 1986 — one, 2-3 July, Walsingham (2nd to 3rd) and Turkey Point (3rd) (not Long Point as in *American Birds* 40:1198), Haldimand-Norfolk (Alan Wormington).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

- 1978 — one intermediate phase immature, 22 Jan.-30 March, Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto (Gordon



Bellerby, Alan Wormington) - photo on file; specimen (skin) in private collection of Barry K. MacKay.

- 1971 — one dark phase, 26 Nov. (not 27 Oct. as in *American Birds* 26:56; Kelley 1978:26; Speirs 1985:198), Kettle Point, Lambton (Alan J. Ryff).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)

- 1974 — one adult, 22-27 April (see below), Cobourg, Northumberland (Alan Wormington, James M. Richards) - photos on file.

- 1967 — one juvenile, 7-14 Oct., Dundas Marsh, Hamilton-Wentworth (George W. North).

The Cobourg bird, after its capture on 27 April (not 22 April as in *American Birds* 28:796; not 28 April as in Speirs 1985:230), was banded and released at nearby Willow Beach (J.E. Mason, pers. comm., 1987), where it was last seen on 28 April (E.R. McDonald, pers. comm., 1987).

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

- 1986 — one adult, 1-2 June, Hamilton Bay, Hamilton-Wentworth (Kayo J. Roy) - photo on file.

- 1985 — one adult, 4 May, Bienenheim, Kent (P. Allen Woodliffe).

- one adult, 29-30 July, Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent (P. Allen Woodliffe) - photo on file.



American Oystercatcher which frequented several Ontario localities in 1960. Photographed (29 May) at Presqu'ile Prov. Park, Northumberland by Donald R. Gunn.

- two juveniles, 9-18 Aug., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry R. Scampion).
- one adult, 19-21 Sept., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ted Cheskey).
- one, 3 Nov., Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Daniel A. Cristol).

1981 — two adults (territorial pair), 27 June, Wasaga Beach Prov. Park, *Simcoe* (Alvaro Jaramillo).

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*)

- 1985 — one adult, 2 Nov., Hamilton Bay and Fifty Point Cons. Area, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Dennis R. Gardiner, Roy E.C. Baker) - photo on file.
- 1960 — one adult, 22 May (not 24-29 May as in Parker 1983:29), Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto*; 23 May-4 June, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland*; and 2-21 July (not only 21 July as in James *et al.* 1976:21), Thunder Bay/Windmill Point area, *Niagara* (Donald R. Gunn, George Letchworth, Harold D. Mitchell, Robert F. Andrie, Ario Gatti) - photos on file; specimen (skin) in ROM: #90937.

It is generally assumed that the multiple sightings in 1960 refer to the same bird, although there is no way to positively determine this. For a full account of this individual, see Lunn (1961). Amazingly, yet another American Oystercatcher (or the 1985 individual on a return visit?) has recently appeared on the Great Lakes: one was present at Barcelona Harbor (Lake Erie), New York, from 22-24 May 1986 (*American Birds* 40:468). These three occurrences of American Oystercatcher are the only records known for the entire Great Lakes.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

- 1962 — two adults, 15-16 Sept. (not 23 Sept. as in Goodwin 1962), Scarborough, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Jeff Harrison).

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

- 1986 — one, 14 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.
- one juvenile, 22-28 Sept., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

- 1959 — one immature, 15 or 16 Oct.-17 Oct., Ajax, *Durham* (Gerald C. Norris) - photos on file.

This bird represents the first record of Long-billed Curlew in Ontario. Details of the sighting have been detailed by a number of authors, including Baillie (1964). Prior to OBRC review, the photographs of this bird—well known to be of poor quality—were sent to several experts on curlew identification; collectively they concurred that all other world curlew species could be satisfactorily eliminated.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

- 1985 — one (not an adult male), 7 July, Nettichi River mouth, *Cochrane* (Duncan S. Evedred).
- 1981 — one female, 30 May, North Point, *Cochrane* (R.I.G. Morrison) - specimen (skin) in NMC: #71583.
- 1955 — one adult summer male, 9 June, Fort Severn, *Kenora* (unknown collector) - specimen (skin) in ROM: #72530.

These birds are the only records for northern Ontario and probably represent one fall and two spring migrants, respectively. Circumstances of the Fort Severn bird were briefly outlined by Lumsden (1955).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

- 1986 — one immature, 1-2 Jan., Fort Erie, *Niagara* (Robert F. Andrie).
- 1985 — one immature, 9 Nov., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae).

1960 — one juvenile, 30 Oct., Rock Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Harold H. Axtell, Rachel C. Axtell) - specimen (skin) in BSNS: #4547.

A Pomarine Jaeger observed 18-29 January 1986 at nearby Buffalo, New York (*American Birds* 40:278), was presumably the Fort Erie individual.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1985 — one juvenile, 1-5 Oct. (but not observed between these dates), Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry R. Scampion, C. Ann Griffin, Ted Cheskey) - photos on file.

— one juvenile, 4 Oct., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1965 — one adult summer, 15-18 June, Algonquin Prov. Park (Lake of Two Rivers), *Nipissing* (Russell J. Rutter, Ronald G. Tozer) - photo on file.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1985 — one adult summer, 20-24 July (not only 20 July as in *American Birds* 39:907), Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Beverly Collier).

— one juvenile, 8-14 Aug., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry R. Scampion).

— one juvenile, 5-8 Sept., Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Daniel A. Cristol).

— one adult winter, 7 Sept., Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry R. Scampion).

— one juvenile, 16 Sept., Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Andrew Whittaker).

— one adult winter, 24 Sept., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ted Cheskey).

— one second winter, 11-18 Oct., Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Gordon Bellerby).

— one juvenile, 15 Oct., Ottawa-Carleton, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Michael W.P. Runtz).

1937 — one juvenile, 18 Sept., Fort Erie, *Niagara* (Roy W. Sheppard).

The above 1985 records were part of the unprecedented fall influx of this species into the lower Great Lakes as outlined in last year's OBRC report (*Ontario Bird* 4:9-11). A description of the 1937 bird at Fort Erie was published by Sheppard (1938).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1986 — one *brachyrhynchus* adult, 4-5 Oct., Cornwall, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry* (Dan L. Jones).

— one *brachyrhynchus* juvenile, 27 Aug., Grand Bend, *Lambton* (Alvaro Jaramillo) - photos on file.

1967 — one *brachyrhynchus* adult, 24 Oct., Port Weller, *Niagara* (Robert F. Andrie) - specimen (skin) in BSNS: #5102.

— one *brachyrhynchus* first winter, 28-30 Nov. (not collected 28 Nov. as in Baillie 1968; James *et al.* 1976:26), St. Catharines, *Niagara* (Daniel R. Salisbury, Robert F. Andrie) - specimen (skin) in BSNS: #5103.

For details on the 1967 Niagara specimens, see Andrie and Axtell (1969). The Grand Bend record on 27 August 1986 is a remarkably early fall migration date for a juvenile Mew Gull in North America any distance south of the species' breeding range.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

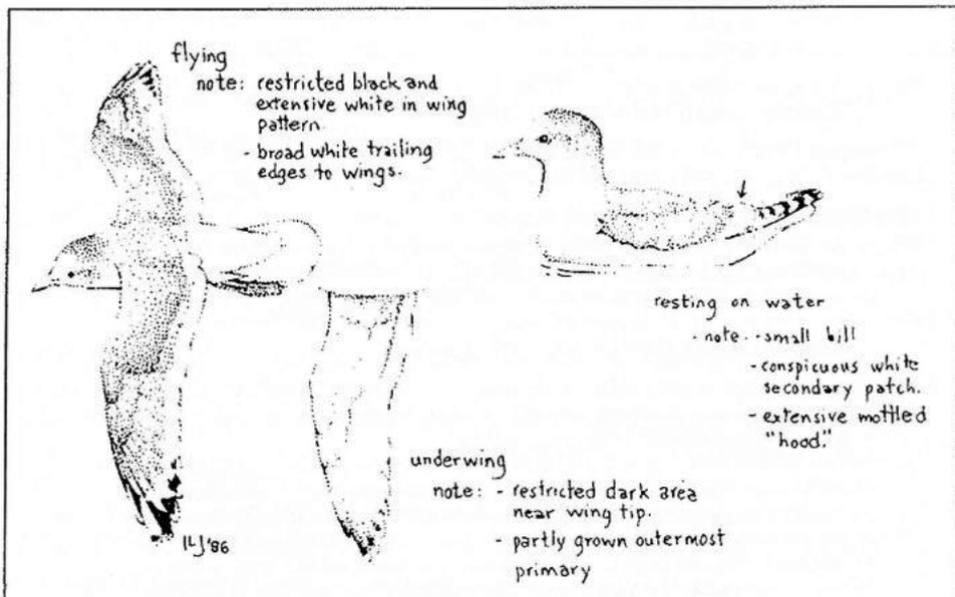
1986 — one adult summer, 10 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Sylfest Muldal).

1985 — one third winter, 11 Nov., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae).

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

1985 — one first winter, desiccated remains found 5 July, West Pen Island, *Kenora* (David Shepherd) - photo on file.

Although the remains of this bird were found in summer, undoubtedly the bird died much earlier, almost certainly when winter-like conditions were present (*i.e.*, some-



Adult Mew Gull, 4-5 Oct. 1986, at Cornwall, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry. Sketches (4 Oct.) by Ian L. Jones. Note the white "divide" between gray and black of the third through fifth primaries; this indicates the North American *brachyrhynchus* subspecies.

time during the prior period of November to May, inclusive).

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

1985 — one adult, 2 Jan., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara (Harold H. Axtell).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1986 — one, 26-27 April, Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay (Isabella Kendall, Roderick Kendall).

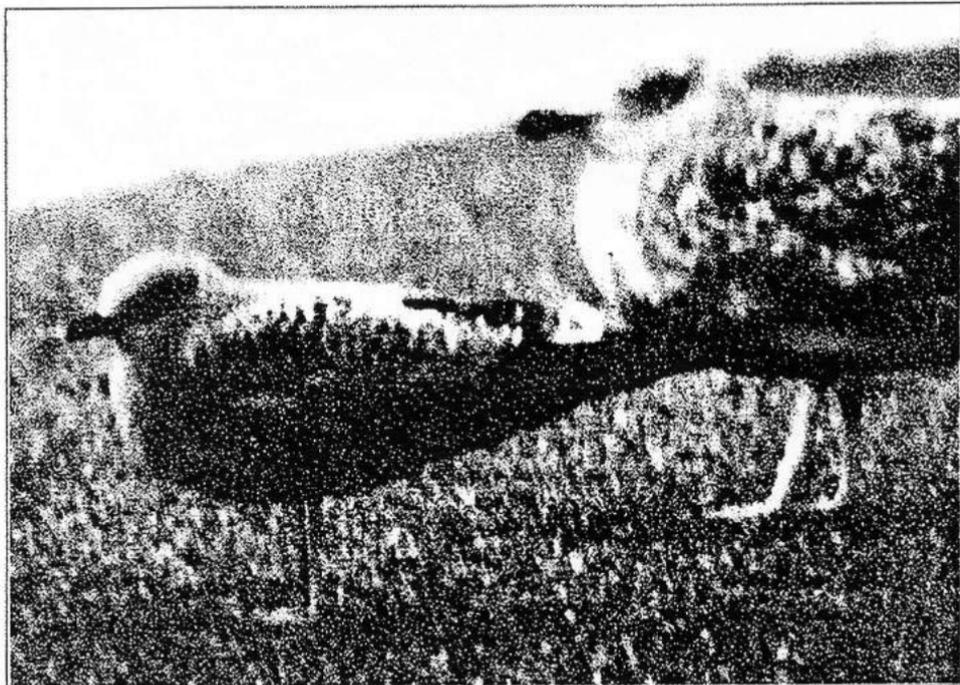
1942 — one *mearnsi* male, 17 June, Fort Albany, *Cochrane* (unknown collector) - specimen (skin) in ROM: #67776.

These birds represent the first and third of a total of three Ontario records to date; the second was present 14-19 December 1975 at Belleville, *Hastings* (*Ontario Birds* 2:58). Details of the bird collected at Fort Albany were published by Shortt and Hope (1943).

During the spring of 1986 two other White-winged Doves occurred in eastern North America (excluding the Gulf Coast): on 10 May one was at Whitefish Point, Michigan, and on 12 May another was near Charleston, South Carolina (*American Birds* 40:474 and 458). It is interesting that the timing of the three records progresses from west to east.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

1968 — one nominate *passerina* immature male, 29 Oct. (not 27 Oct. as in *Audubon Field Notes* 23:474; and James *et al.* 1976:29), Red Rock, Thunder Bay (Doris Freeman) - specimen (skin) in ROM: #103396.



Juvenile Mew Gull of the *brachyrhynchus* subspecies, 27 Aug. 1986, at Grand Bend, Lambton. Photo by Alvaro Jaramillo.

This record is not only unique for Ontario, but is also the most northerly occurrence of this species in North America by a considerable distance. For full details of this intriguing record, see both Freeman (1969) and Dick and James (1969).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

1986 — one, 4 Oct., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).

This occurrence adds Burrowing Owl to the list of birds that have been recorded in northern Ontario.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

1986 — one adult male, 30 July-3 Aug. (not to 4 Aug. as in *American Birds* 40:1199), Algonquin Prov. Park (East Gate), *Nipissing* (Michael W.P. Runtz, D. James Mountjoy, Mark W. Jennings, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

1985 — one female, 31 Oct.-10 Nov. (not beginning 21 Oct. as in *American Birds* 40:276), Parry Sound, *Parry Sound* (Norma Curry) - specimen (skin) in ROM: #151880.

1966 — one immature male, 8 Sept., Winisk, *Kenora* (Daniel Kostachin) - specimen (spirit) in ROM: #99044.

The above represent the first, fifth and sixth of a total of six *Selasphorus* hummingbirds recorded in Ontario, four of which can be identified specifically as Rufous Hummingbird. Details of the bird at Winisk were published by Barlow (1967). The Parry Sound bird, after its capture on 10 November, was placed inside



Adult male Rufous Hummingbird, 30 July-3 August 1986, at the East Gate of Algonquin Prov. Park, Nipissing. Photo by Alan Wormington.

a local greenhouse where it survived until found dead on 11 March 1986.

Recently, the OBRC has decided that reports of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in Ontario must be sufficiently detailed to determine which species was under observation. Therefore, the previously published record of the 1983 Rufous Hummingbird at Sapawe, *Rainy River* (*Ontario Birds* 2:58), should be relegated to read "*Selasphorus* sp." as the documentation available does not allow a specific identification to be made.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

1986 — one immature, 21 Sept., Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Jon Curson).

1985 — one, 24 Sept., Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Daniel A. Cristol).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)

1986 — one, 28 Sept.-1 Oct., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (Tony F.M. Beck, Mark Gawn, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

An account of this remarkable first occurrence for Ontario and Canada has been outlined by Gawn (1987).

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

1986 — one, 13 Aug., Algonquin Prov. Park (Mangotasi/Hombeam Lakes), *Nipissing* (Peter D.

Middleton).

- one, 1 Sept. (not 11 Sept. as in *American Birds* 41:83), Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Kevin A. McLaughlin).

1985 — one, 24 Aug., Beamsville, Niagara (David B. Freeland).

- one, 1 Sept., Long Point Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (Daniel A. Cristol).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

1986 — one immature, 26 July, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Alan Wormington).

This bird represents Ontario's third record. The two prior records for the province were 29 October 1970 at Hay Bay, *Lennox & Addington* (Hughes 1971), and 31 October 1982 at Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Di Labio and Blacquiere 1983).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1985 — one, 5 June, Long Point Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (W.R. Biddle).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

1986 — one, 9-12 April, Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent (P. Allen Woodliffe).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

1986 — one male, 12 May, Nepean, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Roy D. John, Bruce M. Di Labio) - photo on file.

1985 — one male, 2 July, Cape Henrietta Maria, *Kenora* (David J.T. Russell).

The bird at Cape Henrietta Maria was considered by the observers involved to be in suitable habitat for breeding; the nearest known breeding localities are extreme northern Quebec and Coats Island, Northwest Territories (Godfrey 1986:420), both sites approximately 870 km to the north. The bird could also have been a late spring migrant, however, as several early June records have previously been recorded in Ontario, and the cool environment of arctic-like Cape Henrietta Maria probably delays the spring migration of various species on a regular basis. Furthermore, the extension of spring migration to as late as early July in Ontario is already known for a few other species.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1986 — one female, 2 Nov., Shirley's Bay, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Mark Gawn).

1985/1986 — one male, 12 Dec.-25 March, Marvelville, *Prescott & Russell* (Gordon Pringle, Bruce M. Di Labio) - photo on file.

1985 — one female, 26 Feb.-2 March, Pinery Prov. Park, *Lambton* (Terry J. Crabe, Dennis F. Rupert) - photo on file.

- one female, 11 June, Port Hope, *Northumberland* (Margaret Howard).

- one female, 23 Dec., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt).

The bird on 11 June 1985 at Port Hope is the latest spring migrant to be recorded in Ontario, assuming it did not remain to summer.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

1986 — one immature, 13 Oct., Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington).

For details and description of this first White-eyed Vireo to be recorded in northern Ontario, see Wormington (1987).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

1979 — one, 8 Oct., Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).

This is the first northern Ontario record to be accepted by the OBRC. Only one



Immature male Blue Grosbeak, 19 May 1985, at the Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk*. Photo by *Andrew Whittaker*.

other Blue-winged Warbler record (which is undocumented) exists for northern Ontario: one was observed 2 October 1979 (just six days prior to the bird at Marathon) at Moosonce, *Cochrane*, by Mark W. Jennings.

Black-throated Gray Warbler
(*Dendroica nigrescens*)

1986 — one male, 16-17 June, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).

Presumably this bird was a very late spring migrant, but a male Black-throated Gray Warbler was present 6-29 July 1979 at Exeter, Rhode Island (*American Birds* 33:846), indicating that a true summer record in Ontario may also be a possibility.

Yellow-throated Warbler
(*Dendroica dominica*)

- 1986 — one, 30 April, Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David Beadle).
— one, 1 May, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Martin J. Taylor).
1985 — one male, 21 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (G. Tom Hince).
— one, 22 April, Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Duncan S. Evered).
1970 — one *albiflora* female, 25 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.) - specimen (skin) in UMMZ: #216,627.

An account of the Long Point specimen was published by Strauch (1974).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)

1959 — one male, 24 May, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Barry Harrison).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*)

1986 — one, 10-14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (David L. Lindsay, Onik Arian, Robert H. Westmore,

David B. Stirling).

This is the second Swainson's Warbler to be accepted by the OBRC for Ontario; the first also occurred at Point Pelee, on 22 May 1975 (*Ontario Birds* 3:13).

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)

1985 — one immature male, 26 April, Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Duncan S. Evered) - photo on file.

— one immature male, 19 May, Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Andrew Whittaker) - photo on file.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)

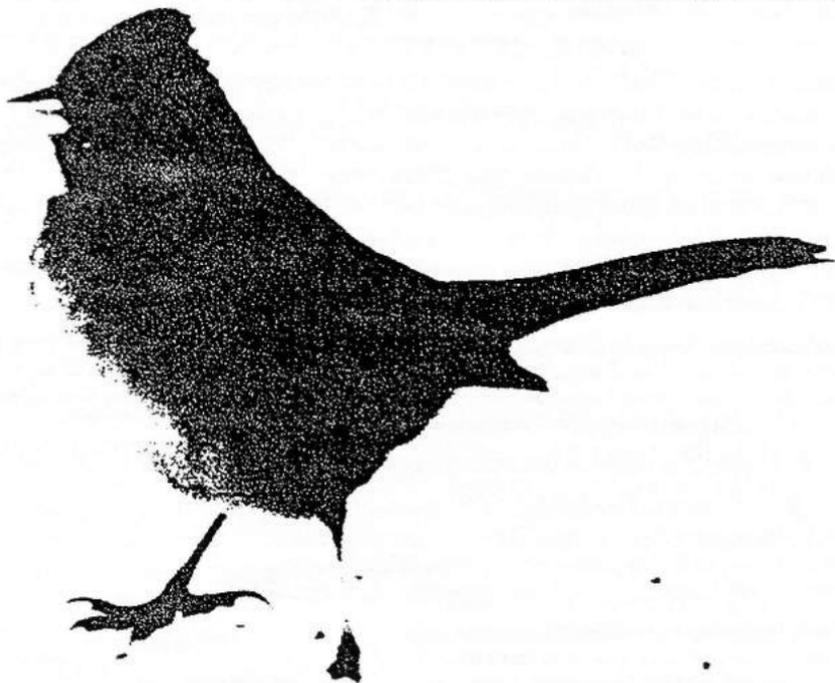
1985/1986 — one, late Oct.-24 April, Windsor, *Essex* (Jack Lossing, Grace Lossing, R.D. McRae, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

1956 — one, 24 Nov. (not 25 Nov. as in Parker 1983:30), Terra Cotta, *Peel* (Robert F. Gunn) - photo on file.

1954 — one, late March-18 April (not beginning 8 April as in Beardslee and Mitchell 1965:429; Sheppard 1970:80), Welland, *Niagara* (Gertrude Selby).

— one, 30 March-1 April (not only 30 March as in *Audubon Field Notes* 8:250; Baillie 1957; James *et al.* 1976:51; Speirs 1985:807), London, *Middlesex* (G.W.A. Aitken, William G. Girling) - photos on file.

An account of the bird at Welland (which includes a brief description) was pub-



Green-tailed Towhee, late Oct. 1985-24 April 1986, at Windsor, *Essex*. Photo (15 Jan.) by Alan Wormington.



Ontario's first wintering Lark Sparrow, 30 Nov. 1985-22 March 1986, at Camden East, *Lennox & Addington*. Photo (15 Feb.) by Alan Wormington.

lished by Selby (1954). A Green-tailed Towhee was also present at Sylvan Lake, Oakland County, Michigan, from late October 1985 to at least early April 1986 (*American Birds* 40:117; D.J. Powell, pers. comm., 1987), paralleling the above Ontario occurrence at Windsor, only 45 km away.

Other than the above birds, only one other record of Green-tailed Towhee exists for Ontario. This concerns an individual 11-12 October 1970 at Whitby, *Durham*, a sighting which is undocumented but widely cited in the literature (e.g., Speirs 1973; Tozer and Richards 1974:288; Speirs 1985:807).

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

- 1979/1980 — one "eastern" male, 16 Dec.-15 March, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).
 1962/1963 — one "eastern" immature male, 15 Nov.-21 Feb., Geraldton, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Henry, L.W. Henry) - specimen (skeleton) in ROM: #93321.

An entertaining account of the bird at Geraldton (which apparently froze to death) was published by Mrs. Henry (1963).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

- 1986 — one, 20-21 Sept., Moosonee, *Cochrane* (William Lamond).
 1984 — one, 24 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

- 1986 — one, 16 April, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Eldcr).
 — one, 20 May, Leamington, *Essex* (Patricia Watson, James Watson) - photos on file.
 — one immature, 18-19 Sept., Moose Factory, *Cochrane* (Mark W. Jennings, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

- 1985/1986 — one, 30 Nov.-22 March, Camden East, *Lennox & Addington* (Peter J. Good, Alan Wormington, Mark W. Jennings, Bruce M. Di Labio, V. Paul MacKenzie) - photos on file.
- 1985 — one, 11 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Duncan S. Evered) - photo on file.
- one immature, 21-22 Sept., Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Herb Elliott, Luc Fazio) - photos on file.
- one, 13 Oct., Algonquin Prov. Park (Lake of Two Rivers), *Nipissing* (Michael W.P. Runtz) - photo on file.

The Camden East individual, which survived at a bird feeder, is the first winter record for Ontario.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

- 1985 — one adult male, 8 April (not 5 April as in *American Birds* 39:296), Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David Shepherd).

This Lark Bunting is the earliest-ever spring migrant to be recorded in Ontario.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

- 1986 — one, 29 April-4 May, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Daniel O. Bong, Glenn Coady) - photos on file.

This is the third Golden-crowned Sparrow to be recorded in Ontario, but is the first to appear as a spring migrant; the previous two birds were a winter visitor and a fall migrant, respectively.

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

- 1986 — one immature, 1 Nov., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe).
- 1985 — one, 10-26 April (not to only 21 April as in *American Birds* 39:296), Mississauga, *Peel* (Alvaro Jaramillo, Tim Sabo).
- one, 1-2 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mary Lou Chomyshyn).

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)

- 1986 — one immature, 25 Sept., Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* (William Lamond, Alan Wormington).

The details and a description of this bird, the first to be recorded in northern Ontario, have been published by Wormington and Lamond (1987).

Deferred Records: *Identification accepted, wild status deferred*

Species in this category are those where the wild status is currently debatable, and a decision on the records has therefore been deferred until definitive information can be assembled — this includes (but is not limited to) the known status of the species in captivity, the prior pattern of extralimital occurrences in North America in both seasonal and geographic terms, as well as other factors (e.g., distances the species normally travels during migration, etc.).

After compilation and analysis of this information, the species will then be placed in either the full acceptance category above or the "origin questionable" category below.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

- 1986 — one adult male, 29 April-1 May, Arva, *Middlesex* (Alan W. McTavish).

The two previously reviewed "identification accepted" records of Painted Bunting in Ontario—21-23 May 1978 at Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, and 4 December 1978-1 January 1979 at Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto (Ontario Birds 2:65)*—are now placed in this temporary "holding" category.

Unaccepted Records: *Identification accepted, origin questionable*

The following species are those considered almost certainly to be escaped or released from captivity, even if wild occurrence is a remote possibility for some species/records. Species placed here could be put into one of the above categories if future records were to clearly demonstrate a pattern of occurrence that suggested a wild (rather than captive) origin.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

1986 — one *frontalis* adult, 18 Jan.-8 March, Guelph, *Wellington* (Rohan A. van Twest).

Although occurrences of this species in Ontario are considered wild, the circumstances of the above record, however, strongly suggest that this particular bird was an escapee.

Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*)

1986 — one male, 28-29 March (not 27-29 March as in Hince 1986), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Although this species occurs naturally in Alaska, and a very remote chance of natural occurrence to Ontario may exist, the species (especially males) is also common in captivity; therefore, captive origin is the most likely source of the bird at Hillman Marsh.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

1985 — one female, 26 June, Kingsville, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

1984 — one, 13-15 May and 21 June (not observed between these dates), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Michael Royce, Alan Wormington) - photo on file.

This bird might be a stray from introduced populations in the eastern United States, or could simply be someone's escaped pet.

Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)

1986/1987 — one, 14 Sept.-late March, Milton, *Halton* (John Goulding).

1986 — one, 4 May, Creighton Heights, *Northumberland* (Bud Gehan) - photos on file.

1985/1986 — one, early Aug.-mid March, Milton, *Halton* (Catherine Clark, Martin Wernaart) - photos on file.

The records during two different winters at Milton do, of course, pertain to the same individual, but how these occurrences relate to the bird at Creighton Heights (about 160 km away) is unknown. Photographs from both sites clearly show that the Florida subspecies—nominate *coerulescens*—was involved (G.E. Woolfenden, pers. comm.), a very unlikely candidate for natural occurrence to Ontario, regard-

less of any scenario that may be postulated for the appearances of this bird (or birds.).

Serin (*Serinus serinus*)

1985/1986 — one male, 22 Dec.-30 March, Pickering, *Durham* (Derrick Marven, Anne Macdonald, Hugh G. Currie).

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

1985/1986 — one male, late Oct.-26 Feb., Burlington, *Halton* (Jan Robertson, Eileen Robertson) - photo on file.

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.

- 1986 — Western Grebes (two), 15 May, Awenda Prov. Park, *Simcoe*.
 — Little Blue Heron, 10 July, Wheatley Prov. Park, *Kent*.
 — Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Mississippi Kite, 25 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.
 — Rufous-necked Stint, 17 May, Erieau, *Kent* - photo on file.
 — Bewick's Wren, 17 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*.
 — Bell's Vireo, 9 May, Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Kirtland's Warbler, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 12 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeaks (two), 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 18 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Lark Sparrow, 22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1985 — Little Blue Heron, 7 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Tricolored Heron, 12 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*.
 — Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 12-14 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*.
 — Gyrfalcon, 31 Dec., Eden Mills, *Halton*.
 — Curlew Sandpipers (two), 13 Oct., Presqu'ile Prov. Park, *Northumberland*.
 — California Gull, 4 Sept., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Gull-billed Tern, 22 May, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Least Tern, 24 Sept., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Common Murre, 18 May, Presqu'ile Prov. Park, *Northumberland*.
 — Western Kingbird, 22 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Bell's Vireo, 7 Oct., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*.
 — Yellow-throated Warbler, 22 April, Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk*; this record refers to a different bird than the individual which is in the accepted category above.
 — Kirtland's Warbler, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Western Tanager, 10 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Western Tanager, 4 Aug., Sandy Lake, *Peterborough*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 1 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 13 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

- Blue Grosbeak, 14 May, Maidstone, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 16 Aug., Long Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
- Bachman's Sparrow, 4 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1984 — Bell's Vireo, 1 Sept., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Black-throated Gray Warbler, 10 Nov., Fanshawe Cons. Area, *Middlesex*.
- Golden-crowned Sparrow, mid Nov.-mid Dec., Campbellville, *Halton*.
- 1983 — Mississippi Kite, 25 June, Scarborough, *Metropolitan Toronto*.
- 1968 — Mew Gull, 27 Jan.-early March, Queenston, *Niagara*.
- 1964 — Bell's Vireo, 23 May, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto*.
- 1958 — Ancient Murrelet, 26 Dec., Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto*.
- 1950 — Swainson's Warbler, 15 May, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto*.

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

1985 Report (*Ontario Birds* 4:3-18):

- under Little Blue Heron (1977 at Rattray's Marsh), change "18-25 Aug." to "18 Aug.-10 Sept." (records of the Toronto Ornithological Club indicate the bird was present later than originally published).
- under Purple Sandpiper (at Caribou Island), change "1981" to "1984" (the submitted document contained a typographical error).

1984 Report (*Ontario Birds* 3:2-17):

- under Black Vulture (1984 at Long Point), change "Shepard" to "Shepherd."
- under American Avocet (1984 at Bright's Grove), change "19-16 May" to "9-16 May."

1983 Report (*Ontario Birds* 2:53-65):

- under Green-backed Heron (at Sable Island), change "1983" to "1981".
- under Eurasian Wigeon (1982 at Port Hope), change "22 April" to "19 April".
- under American Avocet (1983 at Whitby), change "Whitby" to "Ajax/Whitby/Oshawa"; change "9 Sept." to "7-19 Sept." (information recently received gives more specific information on the bird's occurrence).
- under Groove-billed Ani (1983 at Thunder Bay), change "Lakehead University #100" to "specimen (skin) in ROM: #151473" (this specimen has recently been deposited in the Royal Ontario Museum).
- under Rufous Hummingbird (1983 at Sapawe), change "Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*" to "Hummingbird sp., *Selasphorus* sp." (the documentation available does not allow a specific identification to be made).
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification Uncertain (1983 Ash-throated Flycatcher at Point Pelee), change "25 May" to "15 May".
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification Uncertain (1983), add "LARK BUNTING, 14 May, Point Pelee (185)".
- under Unaccepted Records, Origin Uncertain (Painted Bunting records), change "1979" to "1978" for the record at Long Point; for the record at Toronto, add "1978/1979" and change "Dec." to "4 December-1 January" (information recently received gives precise dates for the bird's occurrence).

1982 Report (*Ontario Birds* 1:7-15):

- under Little Blue Heron (1982 at Rondeau Prov. Park), change "22 Aug.-2 Sept." to "22 Aug.-1 Sept."
- under Curlew Sandpiper (1982 at Essex), change "14-17 May" to "13-17 May."
- under Pomarine Jaeger (1982 at Mallorytown Landing), change "9 Nov." to "9-10 Nov."
- under Long-tailed Jaeger (1981 at Long Point), merge the two records to read "6-10 Aug." (information recently received from one of the observers indicates that both sightings almost certainly

pertain to the same individual).

- under California Gull (at Toronto), change "14-29 May" to "8 May-1 June" for 1981; change "19 May-2 June" to "2 May-6 June" for 1982 (records of the Canadian Wildlife Service and Toronto Ornithological Club give more precise dates of the bird's occurrence than originally published).
- under Band-tailed Pigeon (1981 at Long Point), change "20 Aug." to "30 Aug."
- under Common Poorwill (at North Point), change "1892" to "1982."
- under Western Kingbird (1982), change "north of Toronto" to "Concord, York R.M."; change "2 Oct." to "30 Sept.-6 Oct." (records of the Toronto Ornithological Club give specific dates for the bird's occurrence).
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain (1976 Rufous-necked Stint at Toronto), change "11 July" to "25 July".
- under Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain, the record of Arctic (= Pacific) Loon at Kettle Point is for 1981, not 1982 as listed.
- under Unaccepted Records, Origin uncertain (Barnacle Goose at Garden Hill), change "1979" to "1978"; change "Oct." to "15 Oct.-11 Nov." (information recently received gives more precise dates for the bird's occurrence).

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Table 1: Occurrences accepted by the OBRC of review list species (18) averaging one or more records annually in *southern* Ontario (1981 to 1986 inclusive). Numbers refer to the year in which the bird(s) occurred, not the year the record was reviewed. Recent totals (particularly 1986) may be artificially low for some species due to reports yet to be received and/or reviewed.

SPECIES	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE						TOTALS
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Laughing Gull	3	3	10	1	24	DELISTED	41+
Varied Thrush	2	2	4	5	6	2	21
Yellow-throated Warbler.....	2	6	4	4	2	2	20
Eurasian Wigeon	0	5	3	2	4	1	15
Greater White-fronted Goose.....	0	2	1	0	8	2	13
American Avocet	2	2	5	4	0	0	13
Western Kingbird	1	3	2	1	4	2	13
Little Blue Heron	1	1	3	1	3	1	10
Tricolored Heron	2	2	0	3	2	0	9
<i>Plegadis</i> ibis (incl. Glossy).....	0	4	0	2	1	2	9
Piping Plover	1	0	0	2	5	1	9
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	0	2	4	1	2	0	9
Lark Sparrow	0	0	2	1	4	2	9
American White Pelican.....	0	1	4	0	3	0	8
Blue Grosbeak.....	2	0	4	0	2	0	8
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....	2	0	0	0	4	1	7



Portrait of an American Crow / Drawing by Tom Reaume