

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1992

by
Margaret Bain

This is the eleventh annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. A total of 172 records was reviewed by the Committee in 1992. Of these, 129 (75.0%) were accepted, five were deferred awaiting photographic evidence which was available but not yet received, and 38 were not accepted.

Five new species were added to the Ontario list: Slaty-backed Gull, Inca Dove, Violet-green Swallow, Black-throated Sparrow and Hooded Oriole, bringing the provincial total to 454. Two of these, Inca Dove and Hooded Oriole, were also firsts for Canada. No new provincial breeding species were added in 1992. Because of its increasingly precarious and poorly understood status, Henslow's Sparrow was added to the Review List.

Members of the OBRC in 1992 were Ronald J. Pittaway (Chairman), Margaret J. C. Bain (non-voting Secretary), Robert H. Curry, Nicholas G. Escott, Richard W. Knapton, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Michael W.P. Runtz and Ronald G. Tozer. Ross D. James acted as Royal Ontario Museum Liaison. The Committee held two meetings in 1992, as in 1991 - the November meeting to discuss Policy, and the March meeting to review records still requiring final decisions.

Almost 50 more reports were received in 1992 than in the previous

year. The Committee found that most were of an excellent standard, thoroughly covering all salient points of the observation and often meticulously detailed. There were fewer reports with very brief or non-existent descriptions. It must be emphasized again that non-acceptance of a report does not imply disbelief, only that the details actually written on the piece of paper received by the Committee were not sufficient to identify the bird with certainty and eliminate all similar species. Yes, the Committee does accept some Bell's Vireo reports -when the documentation is sufficient to exclude all other similar species! Reports of species far out of range, for example the Red-naped Sapsucker at Sault Ste. Marie, are often circulated to several authorities outside the province for expert opinions which are then reviewed on a second circulation.

Fears that the Committee would be swamped by reports of the Recognizable Forms added to the Review List in 1992 proved to be unfounded. Only six such reports were received: one of "Black" Brant, one of "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal, two of Lawrence's Warbler and two of "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler. We hope that there will be increased interest in documenting the occurrence of rare recognizable forms across the province. For a full list, refer to *Ontario Birds* 9: 49-55.

At the November OBRC Policy meeting, after years of deliberation, the Committee finally agreed upon a definition of a Historical Record, which will now form a separate category in OBRC publications. A Historical Record is defined as an acceptable record occurring before 1981, which has been previously published, but which does not meet current documentation requirements (Curry 1993). Ross James will search all previous OBRC Annual Reports for non-accepted pre-1981 records for possible Historical designation; back issues of *American Birds* and its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes* will be searched for recorded rarities for which brief reports may still be obtainable from the original observers, and any of our readers who may be able to produce a suitable report for a hitherto undocumented sighting of a Review List species seen before 1981 are urged to do so.

Thanks go to all the observers who took the time to record and submit their observations of rare birds from across the province. All these submissions, whether accepted or not, are deposited in the Ornithology Department of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. The votes and remarks of committee members are attached to all the reports, and may be reviewed on request to Ross James at the ROM.

The format of this report follows that used in the OBRC Report for

1991 (Bain 1992). For each record, information on age, sex and plumage is included if it can be reliably ascertained. Place names in italics refer to counties, regional municipalities or districts in Ontario. All contributors who have provided written descriptions or photographs, videotapes or any other form of documentation have been credited. Contributors who discovered a bird and also submitted documentation have their names underlined, and finders of birds, where known, are also acknowledged, even if they have not contributed a report. After the name of each species, there is a summary number in three parts. This follows the system used in *British Birds* (Rogers 1988): the first number is the total of accepted records in Ontario before the first OBRC Report for 1981, the second is the total since 1981 excluding the current year, and the third is the number of records for the current year.

Every effort is made to verify dates, locations and observers' names, but our data are bound to include some inaccuracies, and we welcome corrections or updates to make records more complete. Where dates or other details in original reports differ from those quoted in other sources, for example the *American Birds* Seasonal Summaries, we have used the information which seems most accurate from our own documentation.

Accepted Records

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) South Only (3/10/1)

1992 — one summer adult, 13 June - 19 August, Tiny Marsh, *Simcoe* (Margaret Bain).

1991 — one winter adult, 1 December, Cook's Bay, Lake Simcoe, *York* (Rolph Davis, Theo Hofmann, Jim Macey, Sean Macey).

The bird at Tiny Marsh was presumably the same individual returning for its second summer in this unlikely location.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) North Only (0/1/1)

1992 — two adults, 29 May, and eight adults, 5, 6 June, Rainy River Sewage Lagoons (S.L.), *Rainy River* (Dave Elder, Don Graham; found by Rob Parsons).

A most remarkable number of Eared Grebes for Ontario. Hopes that these birds might stay to breed were unfortunately dashed when the level of the lagoons was lowered drastically shortly after the second observation.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) South Only (2/23/6)

1992 — one adult, 16, 17 April, Hamilton Harbour - *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Rob Z. Dobos)

— two, 15 May, Cook's Bay, Lake Simcoe, *York* (Theo Hofmann)

— six adults, 15 May - 2 June, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Jon McCracken).

— one adult, 21 May, Evansville, *Manitoulin* (Alan Wormington) - photo on file.

— one adult, 28 September, Hawk Cliff, *Elgin* (Barry Cheriére, Bruce Duncan, Marvin Smout).

— one juvenile, 2-15 October, Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* and 17 October, over Whitby, *Durham* (Ron Pittaway; found by Ariel Shamir).

1988 — one, 12 September, Seagrave, *Durham* (Carol Shepherd) - photos on file.

Sightings of this species in the south of the province continue to increase slowly.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius alba*) North Only (2/3/1)

1992 — one, 9-12 August, Finlayson Lake, *Rainy River* (Tom Nash, Dave Elder, Don Graham) - photos on file.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) (1/8/4) (North Only until 1991)

1992 — one, 8 April, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve, *Durham* (Jim Richards)

— two, first summer, 2 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Rob Z. Dobos).

— one adult, 6 May, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul N. Prior).

— one, 17 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Robert R. Taylor).

1991 — one juvenile, 2-11 August, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) (7/17/2)

1992 — one adult, 1 May, Normandale Fish Hatchery, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Rohan van Twest, Richard Knapton).

— one, second summer, 13 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (2/14/1)

1992 — one adult, 4, 5 June, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Richard Mundy).

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) North Only (4/8/0)

1991 — one, 29 October, Whitefish Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Ted Armstrong, Jean Hall-Armstrong; found by Ray Drew) - photos on file.

This was another northerly stray from the Cattle Egret influx into Ontario in the fall of 1991. It was found by a trapper, and brought in to the Ministry of Natural Resources at Thunder Bay in a weak and emaciated state. It was taken to the Chipewewa Zoo for rehabilitation, but it did not survive.



Figure 1: Great Egret at Finlayson Lake, Rainy River from 9-12 August 1992.
Photo by Tom Nash.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) (5/16/1)

1992 — one, 21-23 April, Sarnia, Lambton (John Haselmayer; found by Bob Killey) - photo on file.

A backyard spruce tree is not where one expects to find this species!

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (2/14/2)

1992 — three, 2, 3 May, Leslie Street Spit, Metropolitan Toronto (Martin K. McNicholl).

— one adult, 7 May, Smithville S.L., Niagara (Rob Z. Dobos, Wilf Yusek; found by Jim Dowall)
- photo on file.

Ibis (*Plegadis sp.*) (3/12/0)

1991 — one adult, 20 August, Holiday Beach, Essex (Will Weber).

The pressure is on Ontario birders to produce the first acceptable record of White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*). This has already resulted in much more detailed documentation of most dark ibises in the province, but some individual birds will still be seen in poor light or at too great a distance for specific identification.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) South Only (2/23/1)

1992 — one adult, 25, 26 March, Strathroy, Middlesex (William G. Lindley; found by Ariel McLean).

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) South Only (0/1/0)

1991 — one juvenile, 4-10 November, Port Rowan, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Peter Burke) - photos on file.

This record is the first accepted for southern Ontario as a wild bird. It arrived with and associated with the hundreds of migrant Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) in the Long Point marshes. With the population of Ross' Geese in western Hudson's Bay increasing steadily, more observations in southern Ontario can be expected.

"Black" Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) (*/*/1)

1992 — one adult, 22 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Peter Burke; found by Dave Shepherd) - photos on file.

The first documented record for the province. There are two previous sight records (*vide* R. Curry): two on 31 December 1948 at the east end of Hamilton Bay, seen by George Holland and recorded in George North's notes; one on 2 January 1970 on the upper Niagara River, found by Harold Axtell and seen by R. Curry and many others on the following day.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) (*/1/0)

1991 — one adult male, 30 March - 13 April, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Matt Holder).

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) (0/7/1)

1992 — one adult male, 9-24 May, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Margaret Bain, Brian Henshaw, Ron Pittaway, Rayfield Pye) - photos on file.

This spectacular bird, in full breeding plumage, was enjoyed by many viewers from the Cranberry Marsh boardwalks. Possibly the same individual had been reported near Orillia, *Simcoe* from 26 April - 1 May (*vide* Bob Bowles).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (3/45/9)

1992 — one adult male, 8 March, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Norman Murr).

— one adult male, 27 March, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

— one female, 28 March - 4 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

— one adult male, 29 March, Aylmer W.M.A., *Elgin* (Anthony H. Lee, Ron Ridout).

— one adult male, 5 April, Taquanyah C.A., *Haldimand-Norfolk* (George E. and Shirley Pond).

— one adult male, 16-22 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

— one adult male, 2-4 May, Chippewa Landfill, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).

— one adult male, 10 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Dennis Lewington).

— one adult male, 21, 22 May, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Margaret Bain; found by J. Murray Speirs).

1991 — one adult male, 11-16 April, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

1986 — one adult male, 27 September, Humber Bay, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Martin K. McNicholl).

Perhaps the next species to be dropped from the Review List? The female at Hillman Marsh, however, was only the second documented for the province.

Common Eider (*Somateria molissima*) South Only (0/1/2)

1992 — three females, 26 March, Burlington, *Halton* (Rob Z. Dobos).

— one female, 13 July - 23 August, Darlington P.P., *Durham* (Margaret Bain, Brian Henshaw) - photos on file.

The three females off Burlington were among the huge flock of scoters feasting on zebra mussels there. This will obviously be the prime site to detect this species in southern Ontario if the zebra mussels continue to attract diving ducks in future winters. However, the sheer number of waterfowl present will make this an exercise in lengthy, patient and careful observation.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) (2/9/2)

1992 — one, 4 April, Beamer C.A., *Niagara* (John J. Barker, Kevin McLaughlin, George Naylor, Terry Osborne).

— one, 14 April, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David Shepherd).

1991 — one, 25, 26 April, Point Pelee, *Essex* (James N. Flynn, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

— one, 31 October, Holiday Beach, *Essex* (Ray M. Seng).

Another species which seems to be very slowly spreading into Ontario. The first record for the province was only in 1947, but there were at least eight records in the eighties (James 1991), so the nineties look like continuing this trend.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (5/7/1)

1992 — one, first summer, 13-16 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* and *Wheatley P.P.*, *Kent* (Barry Cheriére, Phil Roberts, Dennis Rupert, Alan Wormington, David and Mary Beth Worthington) - photos on file.

This is the earliest of the 15 Ontario records, all of which have occurred in a narrow 16-day period during May (Wormington 1993).

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (8/12/2)

1992 — one adult, light morph, 25 April, Fanshawe Lake, *Middlesex* (William and Colleen Lindley).

— one adult, dark morph, 22 August, Little Grassy River, *Rainy River* (Dave Elder, Don Graham).

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

1992 — one immature, 13 April, Beamer C.A., *Niagara* (Dave Copeland, Barry Cheriére).

The second provincial record for this western *buteo*.

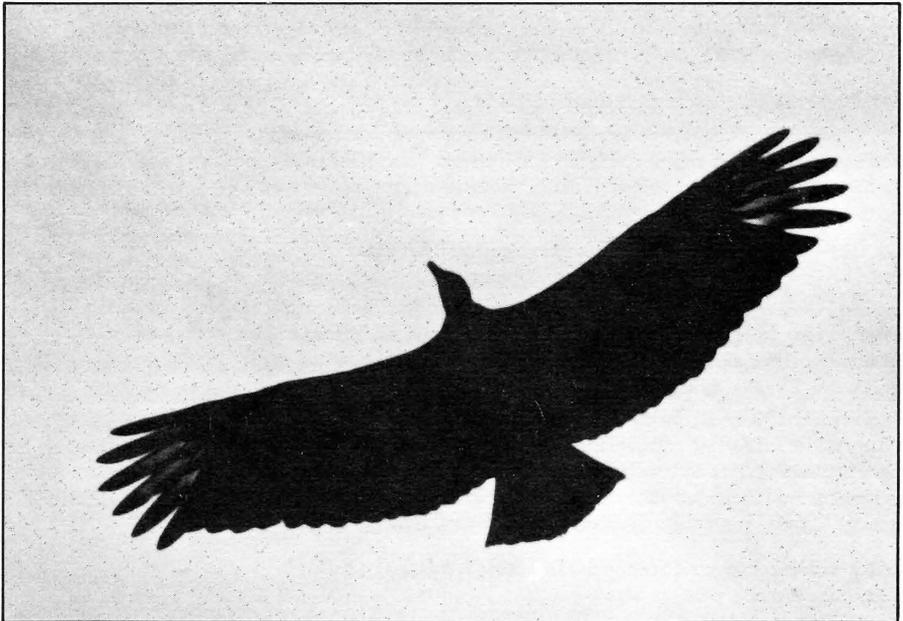


Figure 2: Black Vulture at Point Pelee, *Essex* 25 and 26 April 1991.
Photo by *James N. Flynn*.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) South Only (4/17/3)

1992 — one immature, 29 January, Ferndale, *Bruce* (Paul D. Pratt) - photos on file.

— one, 1-8 March, Big Creek Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Doug McRae).

— one, 24 October, Fifty Road, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Rob Z. Dobos).

1991 — one, 1 December - 15 March 1992 (approx.), Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Tony Walker).

Gyr Falcon is not a Review List species for Northern Ontario. However, "near-northern" communities such as Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Manitoulin, where Gyrfalcons winter regularly, are south of the 47th parallel and are therefore requested to document occurrences - a situation which will be discussed at the next OBRC Policy Meeting. We would welcome the views of readers from all areas of the province as to whether Gyrfalcon should be removed from the Review List for these areas.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) South Only (* /25/2)

1992 — one summer adult, 16 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (James E. McAllister).

— one summer adult male, 5 June - 15 July, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Jon McCracken).

1989 — one, 6 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Glen Barrett) - photos on file.

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

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) (7/27/1)

1992 — two adults, 27 April - 5 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Phil Roberts).

By no means all these spectacular shorebirds are documented each year because their identity seems so obvious, but it remains important to know their rate of occurrence in the province. The Committee therefore encourages reporting of all American Avocets, even by observers who are not necessarily the original finders.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) (1/0/1)

1992 — one summer adult, 25 July, Casselman S.L., *Russell* (Bruce Di Labio, Mark Gawn) - photo on file.

This was only the second record for Ontario, the first having been a bird collected in James Bay in 1979. Unfortunately for the many birders arriving the next day, the bird had flown.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (0/10/1)

1992 — one molting adult, 30, 31 August, Avondale Dairy S.L., *Niagara* (Alan J. Smith, Kayo J. Roy, Rob Wilson, William C. D'Anna) - photos on file.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (3/20/1)

1992 — one, 2 September, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul N. Prior).

1991 — one juvenile, 28 October, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (George Naylor).

— two juveniles, 20 November, Wheatley Harbour, *Kent/Essex* (Alan Wormington, Paul E. Lehman).

This species has the reputation of being difficult to "get past" the Committee, so the number of reports submitted is considerably less than the sightings one hears about. However, with more intense lake-watching occurring and increased awareness of important fieldmarks, observer confidence should improve.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (3/9/1)

1992 — one juvenile, dead, 14 September, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Peter W. Jones; found by Jerry M. Lewis).

This specimen was in such poor condition that it was not preserved.

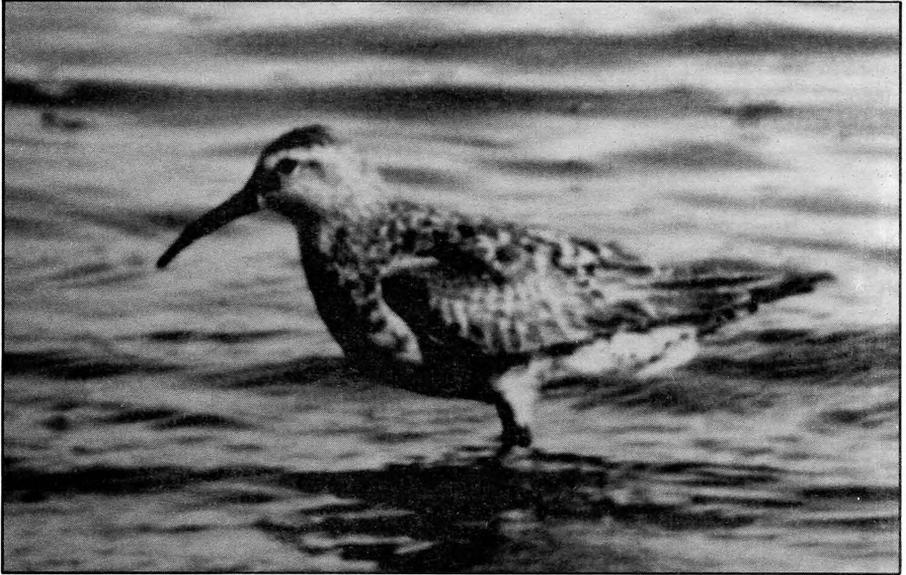


Figure 3: Curlew Sandpiper at the Avondale Dairy Sewage Ponds, Niagara
30 August 1992. Photo by Rob Wilson.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) (14/55/8)

- 1992 — one, first winter, 3 January and 25 January - 6 February, Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* (Mike King, Matt Holder, Phill Holder, Margaret Bain, Brian Henshaw) - photo on file.
- one summer adult, 20 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
 - one summer adult, 29 April Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
 - one adult, 6 May, Wawanosh Wetlands, *Lambton* (M.P. McAlpine).
 - one, second summer, 15-19 May, Beaverton S.L., *Durham* (Ron Pittaway; found by Ron Tozer and Doug Tozer).
 - one summer adult, 23-30 May, Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry Jones).
 - one summer adult, 26 May, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis Rupert).
 - one juvenile, 8 September, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

An impressive series of spring records this year. This gull's fortune does fluctuate in Ontario! There was a major incursion into the province in 1985, so the species was removed from the Review List, only to be reinstated in 1989 after a few lean years.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) (3/7/2)

- 1992 — one summer adult, 8 August, Millhaven, *Lennox and Addington* (Ron D. Weir).
- one winter adult, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, 25 November - 4 December, Niagara River, *Niagara* (Rod Planck, Alan Wormington).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (0/8/3)

- 1992 — one summer adult, 22 March, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ron Ridout).
- one summer adult, 23 March, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
 - one winter adult, 29 November - 14 February 1993, Niagara River, *Niagara* (Rod Planck, Gordon

Bellerby, William C. D'Anna, Tony Leukering, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

1991 — one winter adult, 14 December, Westminster Landfill, *Middlesex* (Dave Martin).

It is hard to say whether this species, first recorded in Ontario in 1981, is in fact becoming more regular here, or whether closer scrutiny of large gull congregations and improved identification skills are resulting in more observations.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (0/1/0)

1991 — one winter adult, 24 November - 29 December, Niagara River, *Niagara* (Rod Planck, Robert W. Brock, Rob and Nancy French, Tony Leukering) - photo on file.

This provincial first was the star of a memorable Niagara gull season. Wind-driven snow filled many a 'scope field as dedicated gull-watchers sought a glimpse of this rarity. Amazingly, a second Slaty-backed Gull, a third-winter bird, was at Eastlake near Cleveland, Ohio on 28 and 29th December (*vide* Larry Rosche).

Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) (0/2/1)

1992 — one adult, 21 February, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis Rupert, John Haselmayer) - photo on file.

This pink-breasted winter adult, the third record for the province, was seen on pack ice near the freighter docks on the St. Clair River for only one afternoon.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) South Only (*/0/1)

1992 — one juvenile, 5 October, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Rob Z. Dobos).

The first accepted fall sighting for this species which usually migrates south from its Arctic breeding grounds across the Atlantic Ocean.



Figure 4: First winter Laughing Gull at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* from 25 January to 6 February 1992. Photo by *Brian Henshaw*.

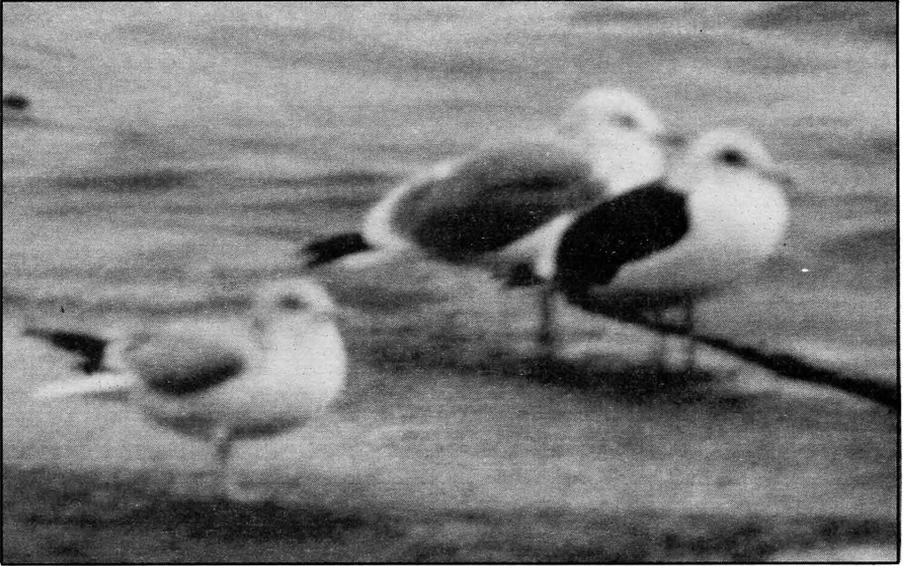


Figure 5: The Slaty-backed Gull (right) on the Niagara River, *Niagara* from 24 November to 29 December 1992. Photo by *Robert W. Brock*.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) (0/1/1)

1992 — one summer adult, 8 May, Sombra and Port Lambton S.L., *Lambton* (Dennis Rupert, John Haselmeyer; found by Willard Smith) - photo on file.

The second Ontario record, this may well have been the same individual which arrived at this location on exactly the same date in 1991 - unfortunately this year its visit was much briefer.

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) (1/1/1)

1991 — one juvenile, 10 December, Detour Lake, *Cochrane* (Charles Hendry; found by Palma Perrier) - photos on file.

There was CBC Television coverage when Air Canada flew this young bird to Halifax for release in the Atlantic. It was found in the middle of the night on the headframe of a gold mine west of Cochrane. The third record for Ontario.

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) (0/0/1)

1992 — one, 7-13 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Don Graham, Dave Elder, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

A spectacular first to Canada - surprising until you see a map of the vagrancy pattern for this small dove (Graham and Wormington 1993).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) (2/6/1)

1992 — one summer adult male, 28 and 29 August, Flamborough, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Anna-Marie Galan, Lyn Hanna-Folkes).

Two excellent independent reports of sightings on consecutive days within 15 km of each other.

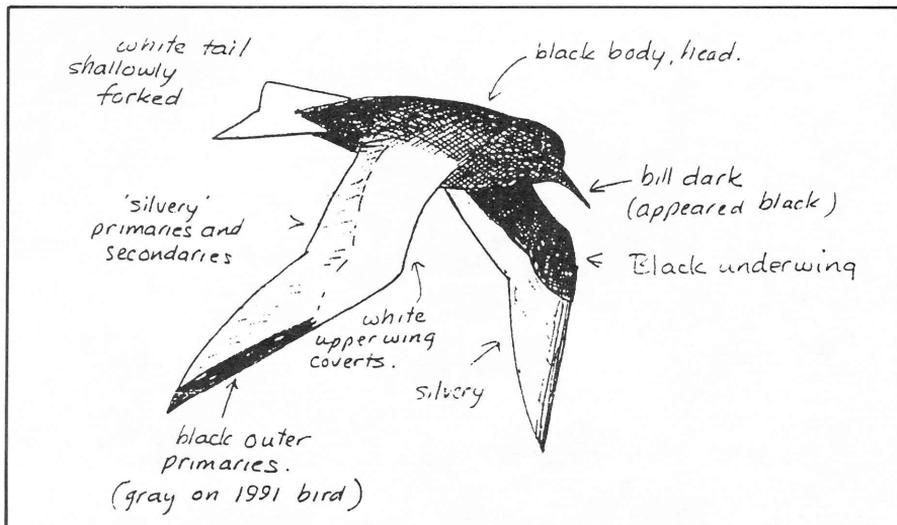


Figure 6: White-winged Tern at Port Lambton Sewage Ponds, Lambton on 8 May 1992. Drawing by Dennis Rupert.

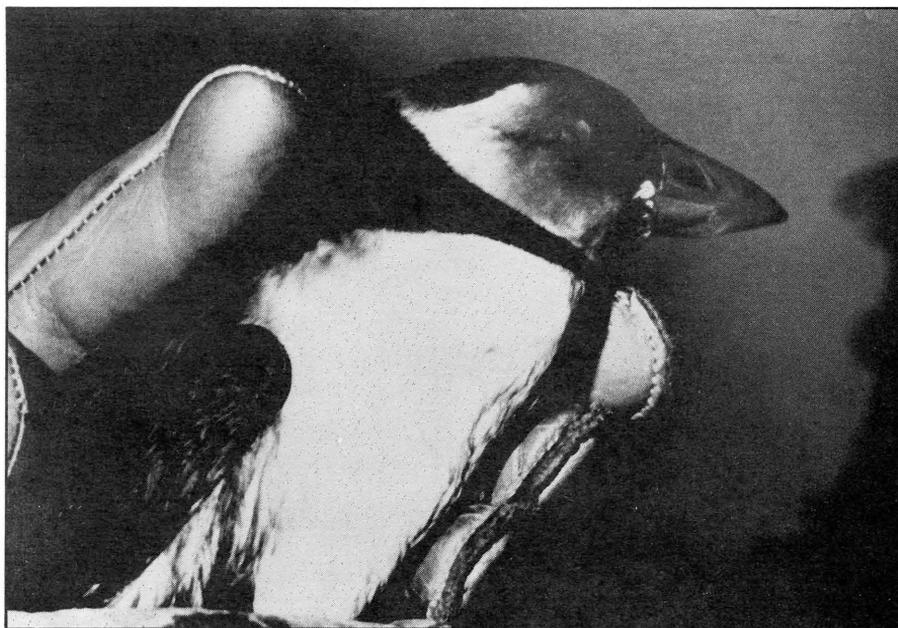


Figure 7: "Headframe", the Atlantic Puffin found at Detour Lake, Cochrane on 10 December 1991. Photo by Charles Hendry.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (8/37/2)

- 1992 — one adult, 24 August, Tobermory Airport, Bruce (Rohan vanTwest) - photo on file.
 — one adult, 4-5 and 7 September, Long Point, Haldimand-Norfolk (Robert G. Finlayson, Jon McCracken; refound on 7th by Rohan vanTwest) - photos on file.
 — one, 7 September, Burlington, Halton (Rob Z. Dobos, Kevin A. McLaughlin).

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

- 1992 — one, 26 May, Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay (Dave Shepherd).

This bird was in flight along the shore at Thunder Cape, and although it appeared to be a Western Kingbird, the diagnostic white outer tail feathers could not be seen.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (3/19/2)

- 1992 — two, 8 June, Point Pelee, Essex (Harold D. Buckley) - photo on file.
 — one, 12 June, Engehart, Timiskaming (Hugh C. Reynolds) - photos on file.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) (0/0/1)

- 1992 — one immature male, 28, 29 October, Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay (Peter Burke, Nicholas G. Escott).

One of the most beautifully illustrated reports ever submitted to the OBRC was the basis for this first documented record for the province (Burke 1993).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (0/8/2)

- 1992 — one adult, 23 April, Rondeau P.P., Kent (M.P. McAlpine).
 — one, 18 May, Long Point, Haldimand-Norfolk (Regan Goodyear).

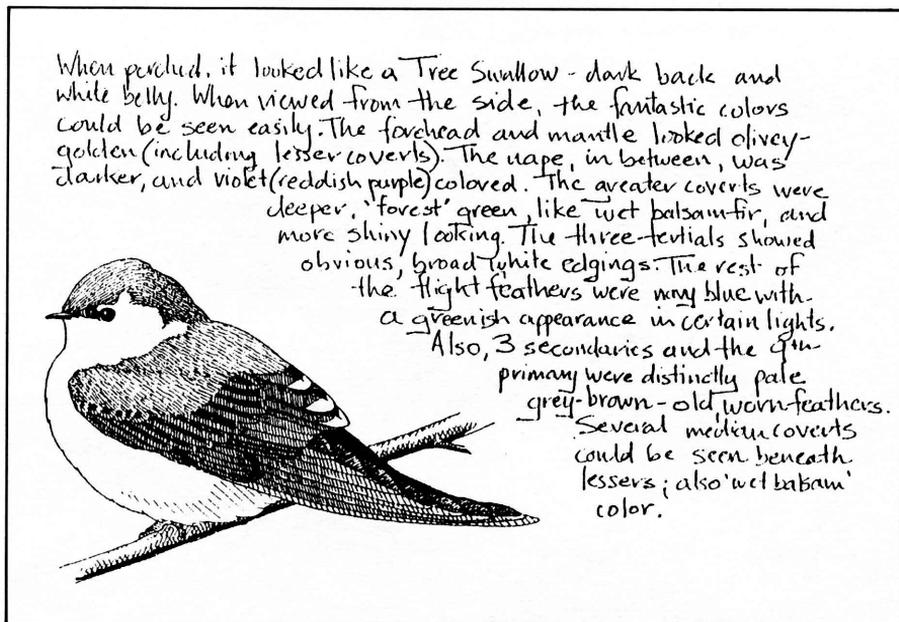


Figure 8: One of the fine illustrations from the report of the Violet-green Swallow at Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay on 28 and 29 October 1992. Drawing by Peter Burke.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (4/15/2)

- 1992 — one, 3 January - 16 March, Wheatley P.P., Kent (Donald G. Cecile, Alan Wormington) - photo on file.
 — one, 31 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Dawn Brenner).
 1991 — one, 10 February, Nephton Ridge, *Peterborough* (Alvaro Jaramillo; found by Claudia Schaefer)
 - photos on file.
 — one, 27 December - 2 January 1992, Rockton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Bruce Duncan).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (5/40/1)

- 1992 — one male, early December - 5 April 1993, Bolsover, *Victoria* (Ron Pittaway; found by Joan and Arthur Smith).
 1991 — one male, 9-17 November, Wheatley, Kent (Ron P. Neily, James N. Flynn) - photo on file.

There are still a lot fewer Varied Thrushes reported to the OBRC than we read about in the *American Birds* Seasonal Summaries - perhaps if we all made the effort, there would be more than five reports a year, and this species would be off the Review List!

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) North Only (0/4/1)

- 1992 — one, 4 May, Sawmill Bay, *Rainy River* (Don Graham, Dave Elder).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (2/4/1)

- 1992 — one, 12, 13 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Terry Osborne, Denys Gardiner, Robert H. Pease).

Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera*) (*/*/2)

- 1992 — one, 10 May, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Magne Osteras).
 — one, 11 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Gary R. Haines).

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata memorabilis* group) (*/*/1)

- 1992 — one summer adult male, 25, 26 April, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret Bain; found by Jim Fairchild).
 1991 — one, 22 October, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Richard Mundy, Kevin Shepherd).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) (17/46/3)

- 1992 — one male, *albilora*, 16, 17 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (James E. McAllister) - photos on file.
 — one, 17 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Andy Johnson).
 — one, 21 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Jerry Walsh).
 1991 — one male, *albilora*, 9 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
 — one, 8 September, Whitby, *Durham* (Alvaro Jaramillo).

(The Committee awaits photographs taken of four birds banded at Long Point during the spring of 1992, as only banding measurements were supplied, with no accompanying descriptions.)

Although we have assumed that all birds of this species with white lores are necessarily of the *albilora* race, a recent report has cast some doubt on this (Jaramillo 1993).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) North Only (1/3/2)

- 1992 — one adult male, 3-9 May, MacKenzie, *Thunder Bay* (Larry Anderson, Nicholas G. Escott)
 - photo on file.
 — one adult male, 20-22 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Dave Elder, Don Graham) - video on file.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (2/6/1)

- 1992 — one summer adult male, 11 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Peter Hamel).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) North Only (1/13/1)

1992 — one female, 3 January - 3 March, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Doug McRae; found by Lori Legge) - photo on file.

This is the first Northern Cardinal to reach Moosonee, and the most northerly record of the species for the province.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) (7/14/4)

1992 — one male, 22 April, Point Pelee, *Essex* (James Lesser).

— one adult male, 12 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Victoria L. Carley).

— one immature male, 17 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Martin Blagdurn).

— one adult male, 17 May, Point Pelee, *Essex* (John Zoch, John E. O'Donnell).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) North Only (0/9/1)

1992 — one, 21 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Colin Jones).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (4/28/1)

1992 — one immature, 30 November, 1 December, Corner Marsh, *Durham* (Margaret Bain, Brian Henshaw; found by J. Murray Speirs) - photo on file.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) (0/0/1)

1992 — one, first winter, 2, 3 October, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Mark Dugdale, Nicholas G. Escott) - photos on file.

Yet another provincial first among the exciting finds by Thunder Bay Bird Observatory staff this year. A most photogenic bird, and one which serves the useful taxonomic function of separating Lark Sparrow and Lark Bunting on the Ontario List, at least until Sibley and Monroe (1990) takes over!



Figure 9: Ontario's first Black-throated Sparrow at Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* on 2 and 3 October 1992. Photo by *Nicholas G. Escott*.



Figure 10: Female Lark Bunting at Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* on 7 September 1992. Photo by *Peter Jones*.

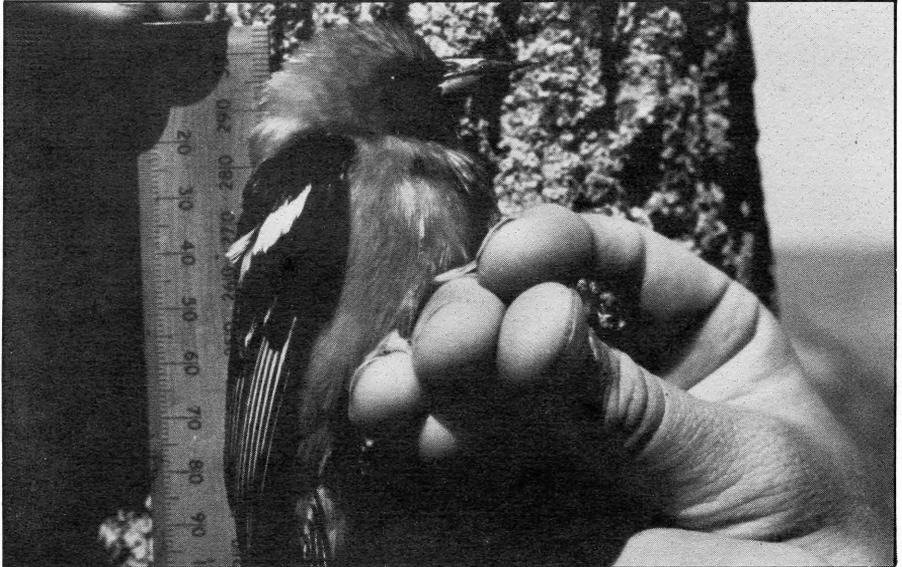


Figure 11: Canada's first Hooded Oriole at Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* on 19 and 20 May 1992. Photo by *Pam Hickman*.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (3/11/1)

1992 — one adult female, 7 September, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Peter Jones, Jon McCracken; found by Shannon Salter) - photos on file.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (0/6/1)

1992 — one adult, 3-6 May, Belwood, *Wellington* (Marion Burnell-Grant) - photo on file.

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) South Only (3/15/2)

1992 — one male, 15 February - 7 May, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Tarja Lahtinen, Roy B.H. Smith) - photos on file.

— one winter adult, 3, 4 October, Point Pelee, *Essex* (Karl Overman, Barry Cherriere, Jim P. Coey, James N. Flynn) - photos on file.

1991 — one first winter female, 11, 12 October, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Richard Mundy, Paul N. Prior; found by Kevin Shepherd) - photo on file.

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) (0/0/1)

1992 — one adult male, 19, 20 May, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul Stanbury, Pam Hickman) - photo on file.

Not only a provincial first, but a first for Canada too. Very thorough documentation was made after this bird was seen and mist-netted at the Breakwater station at Long Point Bird Observatory. It was part of a wave of vireos, warblers and Northern Orioles arriving on the 18th and 19th, and both location and date suggest a wild origin (Boardman 1992).

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) North Only (0/2/0)

1991 — one female, 7 November, Matachewan, *Timiskaming* (Lloyd Taman).

Unaccepted Records

Identification accepted, origin questionable

Records in this category are those considered by the Committee to be almost certainly escaped birds or birds released from captivity. However, as with all submissions to the OBRC, such records may be reviewed again at any time should new information arise suggesting a wild origin.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

1991 — one adult, 14 December, Mindemoya, *Manitoulin* (H. Baines).

This finch's colourful appearance and pleasing song make it a common cagebird. A wild origin is considered extremely unlikely.

Unaccepted Records

Identification uncertain

In most of the records listed below, the written description supplied was found to be insufficient to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed. In very few cases did the Committee consider that the identification was actually an error. Any of these reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting

evidence comes to light.

- 1992 — Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 19 November, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), 22 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Common Eider, 28 March, Burlington, *Halton*.
 — Common Eider, 7 May, Georgian Bay Islands N.P., *Muskoka*.
 — Black Vulture, 6 May, *Essex, Essex*.
 — Black Vulture, 28 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Gyrfalcon, 9 January, Whitby, *Durham*.
 — Pomarine Jaeger, 20 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Pomarine Jaeger, 26 October, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Laughing Gull, 1 June, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Laughing Gull, 20 August, Big Creek Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), 18 July, Holiday Beach, *Essex*.
 — Least Tern, two, 18 October, Waupoos Marina, *Prince Edward*.
 — Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) two, 17 May, Wheatley, *Kent*.
 — White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*), 31 May, Leslie Street Spit, *Metropolitan Toronto*.
 — Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), 25 April, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma*.
 — Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), 12 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23 August, Frenchman's Bay, *Durham*.
 — Bewick's Wren, 15, 16 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Bell's Vireo, 9 May, Pelee Island, *Essex*.
 — Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), 17 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), 22 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Yellow-throated Warbler, 25 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*), 12 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 12 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 12 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Blue Grosbeak, 14 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
 — Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 20 May, Point Pelee, *Essex*.
- 1991 — Little Blue Heron, 3 August, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.
 — Gyrfalcon, 14 December, Providence Bay, *Manitoulin*.
 — Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), 12 September, Longridge Point, James Bay, *Cochrane*.
 — Barn Owl, 21 December, Cayuga, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 — Loggerhead Shrike, 14 December, Kenora, *Kenora*.
- 1988 — Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*), two, 12 March, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto*.
 1986 — Eurasian Wigeon, one female, 27 September, Leslie Street Spit, *Metropolitan Toronto*.

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

1991 Report (*Ontario Birds* 10: 43-63)

- under American White Pelican (1991) add: "two (pair), 16 June - 21 September, Luther Marsh, *Wellington* (Rob Z. Dobos)."
- under Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1991 at Silver Lake) add "Drew Campbell" who also supplied a photograph.
- under "White-rumped" Whimbrel, the observation was in *Metropolitan Toronto* not *Peel*.
- under Pomarine Jaeger (1991 at Van Wagner's Beach) add "Barbara Charlton" as co-finder.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC would like to thank the many observers who took the time to compile and submit reports and photographs in 1992. We are especially grateful to those who provided assistance with obtaining reports that were not their own, or information on dates of occurrence, or gave expert opinions in cases of difficult identification problems; they include Gordon Bellerby, Bob Bowles, Allen Chartier, Rob Dobos, Jon Dunn, Dave Elder, Nick Escott, Brian Henshaw, Jim Heslop, Ross James, Alvaro Jaramillo, Steve LaForest, John Lemon, Jon McCracken, Doug McRae, Ron Ridout, Larry Rosche, Kayo Roy, Dennis Rupert and Alan Wormington.

Many thanks to Ron Ridout for continuing to forward the relevant extracts from the *American Birds* Seasonal Summaries, which greatly help in gathering reports. Once again, Bob Curry was a source of advice and encouragement as a previous author of this Report, and kindly assisted with preparing the summary numbers accompanying the records. I must also thank Ron Pittaway who as Committee chairman has put up with multitudes of phone calls and dealt with many thorny problems with great tact and patience. Thanks to all

the members of the 1992 Committee for reviewing the first draft of this article, and yet again we thank Bob Finlayson for making printer-ready the slides and prints illustrating this Report.

Literature cited

- Bain, M.** 1992. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1991. *Ontario Birds* 10: 43-63.
- Boardman, R.** 1992. Hooded Oriole at Long Point, Ontario. *Birders Journal* 1: 228-229.
- Burke, P.** 1993. Violet-green Swallow: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 11: 6-10.
- Curry, B.** 1993. Historical Records: A Call for Submissions. *Ontario Birds* 11: 36-37.
- Di Labio, B.** 1992. Little Stint: Ontario's Second Record. *Birders Journal* 1: 292-294.
- Graham, D.S. and A. Wormington.** 1993. Inca Dove: New to Ontario and Canada. *Birders Journal* 2: 153-159.
- James, R.D.** 1991. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario, Second Edition. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.
- Jaramillo, A.** 1993. Subspecific identification of Yellow-throated Warblers. *Birders Journal* 2: 160.
- Rogers, M.J.** 1988. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1987. *British Birds* 81: 535-596.
- Sibley, C.G. and B.L. Monroe.** 1990. Distribution and Taxonomy of the Birds of the World. Yale University Press, New Haven and London.
- Wormington, A.** 1993. The status and distribution of Mississippi Kite in Ontario. *Birders Journal* 2: 90-94.

Margaret Bain, 210 Byron Street N., Whitby, Ontario L1N 4N1.