

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2013

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Introduction

This is the 32nd annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. The first annual report (pertaining to 1982) was published in 1983 (James 1983). The OBRC reviews rare bird occurrences in Ontario based on documentation that has been submitted by the birding community, and would cease to function without this effort and support. Species and subspecies that are evaluated are based on the Review Lists for Ontario at <http://www.ofo.ca>. Any new species or first breeding records for Ontario are also reviewed. This report deals with the results of the review of 155 records by the OBRC in 2013, of which 82% were accepted. All reports reviewed by the 2013 committee will be added to the permanent file kept at the Royal Ontario Museum.

The members of the 2013 committee were Mike V.A. Burrell (Chair), Brandon R. Holden (non-voting secretary), Barbara N. Charlton (non-voting assistant to the secretary), Kenneth G.D. Burrell, R. Douglas McRae, Peter S. Burke, Mark Gawn, Ron Ridout and Bruce M. Di Labio (Figure 1). Mark K. Peck acted as Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison for the OBRC.

Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) and Elegant Tern (*Sterna elegans*) have been added to the Ontario list, bringing the total Ontario Checklist to 490 species.

Changes to the Review List

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) and Anna's



Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee for 2013. Left to right (standing): Kenneth G.D. Burrell, R. Douglas McRae, Bruce Di Labio, Mark Gawn, left to right (sitting) Ron Ridout, Barbara N. Charlton, Mike V.A. Burrell, not present: Peter S. Burke, Brandon R. Holden. Photo: Mark K. Peck.

Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) have been added to the North Review List following acceptance of the first records for the region. Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) has been removed from the North Review List with more than twenty occurrences in the previous five year period. Reports prior to 2014 are still requested for review.

The South Review List had the additions of Brown Booby and Elegant Tern following the acceptance of these first records for the province, as well as the addition of Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) and Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) following acceptance of these first records for the region.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) has been added to the South Review List as the species has occurred in the South Review Zone less than twenty times in the previous five year period. Beginning in 2014, reports of Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) in the South Review Zone are no longer requested based on more than twenty records occurring in the previous five years. Reports prior to 2014 are still requested for review.

For the Subspecies Review List, reports of "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus* group) are no longer requested. This review list covers the entire province. "Bewick's" Tundra Swan

(*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) is added to this list following acceptance of the first record for the province.

Beginning in 2014, the North Review Zone has been split into two separate regions: the Lowlands Review Zone and the Central Review Zone. The boundary between the two zones is the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Hudson Bay Lowlands Ecozone boundary. The OBRC believes this change ensures that the review lists better reflect the current status of bird species in northern Ontario. The full versions of the new review lists and a map showing the review list boundaries are available on the OFO website (www.ofo.ca) or by contacting the OBRC secretary directly (mike.burrell.on@gmail.com). The 2014 OBRC report will be the first to utilize the three review zones.

Listing of Records

For accepted records and records for which the identification was accepted but the origin is questionable, the following information is provided where known: year of occurrence, number of birds, the plumage and sex of each individual, dates of occurrence, location, names of contributors and OBRC file number. All contributors who have provided reports are listed; if a contributor is also a finder of the bird(s), their name is underlined. Additional finders of the bird(s) are also listed where known, even if they did not provide any documentation for review. Place names in italics refer to the county, regional municipality or district in Ontario. For accepted records, the total number of accepted records is indicated in parentheses after the species name.

Common and scientific names, as well as taxonomy, follow the seventh edition of the Check-list of North American Birds published by the American Ornithologists' Union (1998), along with its annual supplements published in the *Auk* (up to the 54th supplement inclusive; see <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>).

In the listing of records, plumage terminology follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and moult terminology, see Pittaway (2000).

Comments following the species accounts, for those that specifically pertain to Ontario, are based on records that have been accepted by the OBRC; other reports published in the literature are not discussed here.

All records that were not accepted due either to uncertain identification or questionable origin have been listed separately. Contributors of all "not accepted" records are notified by the Chairperson. Reasons for the decision are explained, using information provided by voting members on their voting slips. Any "not accepted" record can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new or additional documentation is provided.

All documentation provided to the OBRC is permanently archived at the ROM. Researchers and other interested parties are welcome to examine any of this material evidence, by appointment. Please contact Mark Peck in writing at Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6; or alternatively by email at markp@rom.on.ca or by telephone at 416-586-5523.

Acknowledgments

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the numerous observers who took the time to submit documentation of rare birds for consideration by the 2013 committee. We also thank the following people who assisted the committee in the acquisition of additional data and other material evidence that supplemented the information submitted directly by observers and committee members, or by providing expert opinions on material evidence submitted to the committee: James. W. Arterburn, Colin Bradshaw, Peter Burke, Glenn Coady, Steve Hampton, Alvaro Jaramillo, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Bruce Mactavish, Paul A. Martin, Anthony McGeehan, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Bram Piot, Jeff Poklen, Brian D. Ratcliff, Jeff H. Skevington, Declan Troy and Kirk Zufelt.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* North Only (12)

2013 – fifteen, definitive basic, 21 May, Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Mike V.A. Burrell, Alvan D. Buckley; 2013-046) – photo on file.

This is the largest number of Mute Swans recorded in northern Ontario, surpassing the previous high of five, 30 May-10 June 1988, Pukaskwa National Park (Pic River mouth), *Thunder Bay* (Coady and Wormington 1989).

“Bewick’s” Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (1)

2013 – one, definitive basic, 15-16 March, Ridgetown, *Chatham-Kent* (Jeremy M. Bensette, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Jeremy L. Hatt, Mark Cunningham; 2013-012) – photos on file.

This individual becomes the first accepted record for the province of this Eurasian subspecies. Documentation submitted by Alan Wormington (via Kenneth G.D. Burrell) lists two previous reports not yet reviewed by the OBRC.



Figure 2: “Bewick’s” Tundra Swan (left) with “Whistling” Tundra Swan (right), Ridgetown, *Chatham-Kent* on 15 March 2013. Photo: Jeremy Bensette.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (30)

2012 – one, female, 20-23 October, Shirley's Bay, *Ottawa* (Jacques M. Bouvier, Paul LaGagis, found by Bruce M. Di Labio, Ben F. Di Labio, William von Herff; 2013-064) – photos on file.

The OBRC solicited comments from experts familiar with this species as the bird showed a sizable white patch at the base of the bill, raising concerns of a hybrid. The information received all indicated the bird was safely within the range of variation shown by a pure Tufted Duck.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* **South Only** (23)

2013 – one, juvenal/first basic female, *borealis*, 2-13 December, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Hamilton/Niagara* (James A. Turland, Carole Lupton, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Barbara N. Charlton, Garth V. Riley, Mike Veltri, David Pryor, Jeremy L. Hatt, Joanne Redwood, Glenn Coady, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, Sandra Horvath, Frank Horvath, Mark Patry; 2013-085) – photos on file.

This record proves to be the first of the *borealis* subspecies for the province. Kevin A. McLaughlin was the first to identify the bird on 4 December 2013, yet photographs proved it to be present before that date (McLaughlin 2014). The previous subspecies accepted for the province are *sedentaria* and *dresseri* (Bain 1994, Roy 2002) although the majority of records are identified to the species level only.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* **North Only** (27)

2013 – one, definitive alternate male, 29 April-5 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James Barber, found by Brian Moore; 2013-121) – photo on file.
– one, basic female or juvenal, 28 October, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, also found by Alan Wormington; 2013-142).

Smew *Mergellus albellus* (4)

2012 – one, definitive alternate male, 8-11 March, Long Point (Inner Bay), *Norfolk* (Ron Ridout, Joshua D. Vandermeulen; 2012-024).

2011 – one, juvenal, male, 26-28 December, Whitby, *Durham* (Jim Robinson, Ann Brokelman, Glenn Coady, Paula Coady, Winnie W.M. Poon, James M. Richards, Jean Iron, Kayo J. Roy, Stuart Immonen, Paul Reeves, Anthony B. Vanderheyden; 2011-096) – photos on file.

Following an extensive review of North American records provided by Glenn Coady, the OBRC voted to accept these records without question of origin, following the majority of other records committees around North America, treating records of this species as wild vagrants.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* **South Only** (56)

2013 – one, first alternate, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (David M. Bell, Brandon R. Holden, Mark Cunningham; 2013-025) – photos on file.
– one, 23 October, Port Perry, *Durham* (Geoffrey Carpentier; 2013-053).

- one, definitive basic, 27 October-6 November, Oshawa, *Durham* (Wayne Renaud, Mary Robinson, David Pryor, Winnie W.M. Poon, found by Dan Kaczynski; 2013-060) – photos on file.

2012 – one, 18 November, East Lake, *Prince Edward* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, found by Tyler L. Hoar; 2013-091) – photos on file.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (25)

2013 – one, definitive alternate, 2 May, Fort Frances, *Rainy River* (Evan Timusk, Michael S. Dawber; 2013-076) – photo on file.

- four, definitive alternate, 5 May, Emo (Sewage Ponds), *Rainy River* (Michael S. Dawber, also found by David H. Elder, Alan Williams; 2013-077) – photo on file.

- two, definitive alternate, 6-7 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James Barber, also found by Nicholas G. Escott, Sarah Penfold; 2013-133) – photo on file.

- one, definitive alternate, 22-25 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Mike V.A. Burrell, also found by Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Alvan D. Buckley; 2013-066) – photo on file.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (39)

2013 – one, basic, 16-17 January, Point Edward, *Lambton* (G. Thomas Hince; 2013-005) – photos and video on file.

- one, basic, 26 January-11 May, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, *Toronto* (26 January, 3 March - 11 May), Sunnyside Beach, *Toronto* (3-5 February), Humber Bay, *Toronto* (15 February - 2 March), (Heiko H. Heerklotz, Howard Shapiro, John R. Carley, Anthony Vanderheyden, J. Brett Fried, Mike V.A. Burrell; 2013-003) – photos on file.

- one, alternate, 12-13 June, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Pauline Catling; 2013-048) – photos on file.

The *Chatham-Kent* individual becomes the latest spring record accepted by the OBRC for southern Ontario, surpassing an individual recorded at Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* on 23 May 2009 (Cranford 2010).

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (14)

2012 – one, basic, light morph, 24 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Andrew Keaveney; 2013-071).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (1)

2013 – one, definitive basic female, *leucogaster*, 7 October-2 November, Fort Erie, *Niagara* (7-21 October) Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (31 October-1 November) Lowbanks, *Haldimand*; (1-2 November), (James M. Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna, Richard Poort, Leonard P. Manning, Kayo J. Roy, David Pryor, Mike V.A. Burrell, Dominic Sherony, Brandon R. Holden, Kenneth G. D. Burrell; 2013-072) – photos and video on file.



Figure 3: Brown Booby, Lowbanks, *Haldimand* on 2 November 2013. Photo: Kayo J. Roy.

The first record for the province, this individual was a strong candidate for “bird of the year” as it delighted hundreds of birders in both Ontario and New York. A genetic sample was obtained from droppings during the Lowbanks observation. Subsequent analysis of the sample by Jeff H. Skevington confirmed that the bird came from the nominate subspecies. An account appears later in this issue of *Ontario Birds* (Roy 2014).



Figure 4: Northern Gannet, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* on 1 September 2013. Photo: Brandon R. Holden.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (46)

2013 – one, definitive basic, 1 May-7 October, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (1 May, 25 July), Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (1 September), Etobicoke (Colonel Samuel Smith Park), *Toronto* (10 September, 6-7 October), Charwell Point, *Prince Edward* (14 September), Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton* (5 October). (Frederick M. Helleiner, Brandon R. Holden, Garth V. Riley, David Pryor, Mike V.A. Burrell, Jean Iron; 2013-106) – photos on file.

With only three prior records, adult Northern Gannets are rarely seen in Ontario. This individual proved to be remarkably elusive during its long stay; being seen very sporadically at various locations on Lake Ontario from both Ontario and New York. It is possible that this is the same individual observed in 2012 on Lake Ontario, exclusively in New York, with irregular sightings from 1 September - 21 October (eBird 2014).

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (6)

2013 – one, definitive alternate, 2 May, Whitby (Thickson's Point), *Durham* (Glenn Coady, also found by Daniel S. Kaczynski; 2013-153).
– one, 19-20 August, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden; 2013-040)
– photos on file.

The *Durham* record is the first for Ontario away from Lake Erie. The *Hamilton* individual became the third record for Lake Ontario following the bird at *Durham* and New York State's first record at Hamlin Beach on 14 August 2013 (Puschock 2013); the observer at *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden) spent several days specifically searching for this species among the many thousands of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) that frequent the area at that time of year.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (16)

- 2013** – one, 1 July, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Dawn Burke, also found by Zoe C. Burke, Gerhard Brenner; 2013-102).
- one, second basic, 7 July-29 September, (but not present continuously during this period), Leamington, *Essex* (7 July), Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent/Essex* (20-23 August, 25 September and 29 September), Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (29 September) and Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (29 September) (Jeremy L. Hatt, Leonard P. Manning, Mike V.A. Burrell, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, found by Bill Kerr; 2013-103)
 - photos on file.

The *Essex/Chatham-Kent* individual was first found in Cleveland, Ohio, on 24 June 2013, where it was seen regularly until at least 11 December 2013 (Ohio Bird Record Committee, pers. comm.). Interestingly, a juvenal Brown Pelican had a prolonged stay in western Lake Erie in the fall of 2012 (Cranford 2013).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* **North Only** (24)

- 2013** – one, definitive alternate, 1-2 May, Dorion, *Thunder Bay* (Norma Maurice, found by Ethel Nuttall; 2013-126) – photos on file.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* **North Only** (7)

- 2013** – one, 3-7 June, Thunder Bay (Marina Park), *Thunder Bay* (Susan Robinson, Jan Luit; 2013-150) – photos on file.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* **North Only** (4)

- 2013** – one, definitive basic, 27 June-24 July, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, also found by David Welbourn; 2013-099)
- photo on file.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (45)

- 2013** – one, first basic, 30 April, Lindsay, *Kawartha Lakes* (Maureen McEwan, Dan Bone, also found by Lloyd McEwan; 2013-057) – photos on file.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (63)

- 2013** – one, definitive alternate, 11-14 May, Cornwall (Kraft Rd. Sewage Lagoons), *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Jacob K. Bruxer; 2013-031)
- photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 25 October-4 November, Holiday Beach, *Essex* (Karen Potts, Todd R. Pepper, Kory Renaud; 2013-137) – photos on file.
- 2012** – one, basic, 22 October-2 November, Gosport, *Northumberland* (Bruce M. Di Labio, found by Colin Griffiths, Maureen Riggs; 2013-081)
- photos on file.



Figure 5: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Lindsay, *Kawartha Lakes* on 30 April 2013. Photo: Maureen McEwan.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (15)

2013 – one, definitive alternate, 23 April-5 May, Oxdrift, *Kenora* (23-28 April), Dryden, *Kenora* (5 May), (Carolle Eady, found by Ursula Wall; 2013-140) – photo on file.

This constitutes the first record for northern Ontario.

Ibis species *Plegadis* spp. (63)

2013 – one, alternate, 1 May, Fort Frances (Pither's Point Park), *Rainy River* (Evan Timusk; 2013-127).

– one, alternate, 23-26 May, Angus, *Simcoe* (David Szmyr; 2013-097) – photos on file.

– one, basic, 21 September, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen; 2013-054).



Figure 6: Swallow-tailed Kite, Port Alma, *Chatham-Kent* on 4 May 2013.
Photo: Mike V.A. Burrell.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (17)

- 2013 – one, basic, 22 April, Pickering, *Durham* and Scarborough, *Toronto* (Andy McKinnon, Cat Beattie, Maria Hayes; 2013-070) – photo on file.
- one, basic, 29 April and 2-3 May, Chatham, *Chatham-Kent* (Apr 29), and Port Alma, *Chatham-Kent* to Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (4 May). (Alison Stover, Mike V.A. Burrell, David M. Bell, Brandon R. Holden; 2013-068) – photos on file.

The *Chatham-Kent/Essex* bird was located near Port Alma on the Lake Erie shoreline by Mike V.A. Burrell and Erica P. Barkley on 4 May and was subsequently tracked for nearly 30 kilometres along the shoreline, as the bird headed SW towards Point Pelee. Updates on the ONTBIRDS listserv and other media allowed for a large crowd to amass at the Visitor Centre parking lot of Point Pelee National Park that cheered as the bird eventually arrived and travelled southwards overhead. Photographs taken by multiple parties confirmed this was the same individual seen on 29 April inland at Chatham, *Chatham-Kent* by Alison Stover.



Figure 7: Snowy Plover, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* on 1 November 2013. Photo: Brandon R. Holden.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (44)

2013 – one, definitive basic, 4 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann, also found by Stephen R. Charbonneau; 2013-021).

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (61)

2012 – one, juvenal, light morph, 7 September, Waterdown, *Hamilton* (J. Brett Fried; 2013-020).

Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus* (8)

2013 – one, juvenal, 1 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, Jeremy L. Hatt; 2013-051) – photos on file.

The first fall record for the province, this individual was well outside the expected dates of occurrence for the Great Lakes region.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (84)

2013 – one, alternate, 12-13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (William von Herff, Brandon R. Holden, David M. Bell, found by Ross M. Mackintosh; 2013-061) – photos on file.

- one, first alternate male, 15 May-7 June, Darlington Provincial Park, *Durham* (15, 19-25 May), Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (16 May, 2-3, 7 June), Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (17 May); (R. Douglas McRae, found by Tyler L. Hoar; 2013-119) – photos on file.
- one, alternate male, 18 May-16 July, South Limestone Island, *Parry Sound* (John Catto, Tim Stewart, also found by Margaret Catto; 2013-120) – photos on file.
- one, alternate, 19-20 May, Kettle Point, *Lambton* (Sean M. Jenniskens, found by Maris P. Apse; 2013-111).
- one, alternate male, 24 May, Lake-of-the-Woods (Windy Point), *Rainy River* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Mike V.A. Burrell, also found by Alvan D. Buckley; 2013-047) – photo on file.
- one, alternate, 24 May-10 June, Long Point (Peninsula), *Norfolk* (John Brett, Denby Sadler, Adam Timpf; 2013-112) – photos on file.
- one, alternate, 24-25 May, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Barbara N. Charlton, Leonard P. Manning, Josh Nieuwenhuis, found by Robert Z. Dobos; 2013-049) – photo on file.
- one, basic, 24 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Jeremy M. Bensette, found by Stephen T. Pike, Richard P. Carr; 2013-118) – photo on file.

This species continues to rebound in the province, beginning with the rediscovery of nesting birds at Sauble Beach, *Bruce*, as detailed by Toews *et al.* (2008). After 2013, reports of Piping Plover are no longer requested for review by the OBRC in the South Review Zone; however the OBRC continues to solicit documentation for any records before 2014.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (17)

2013 – three, definitive alternate (male, female and unknown), 5-8 May, (three on 5 May only, two thereafter), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (William G. Harris, Jeremy L. Hatt, ; 2013-058) – photos on file.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* **North Only After 1999** (75)

2013 – one, definitive alternate male, 26 April, Fort Frances (Pither's Point), *Rainy River* (John Van den Broeck; 2013-022) – photo on file.

This is the eighth accepted record for northern Ontario.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* **North Only** (19)

2013 – one, alternate, 5 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James Barber, Greg Kendall, also found by Lynda Sisco; 2013-130) – photos on file.

California Gull *Larus californicus* (65)

2013 – one, definitive alternate, 3 February, Queenston, *Niagara* (Gavin C. Platt; 2013-104).

– one, juvenal, 29 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ron Ridout; 2013-143).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* **North Only** (16)

2013 – one, definitive alternate, 21 April, Dryden, *Kenora* (Angela Massey; 2013-034) – photos on file.

– one, juvenal, 1 October, Kapuskasing, *Cochrane* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, also found by Jeremy M. Bensette, Alan Wormington; 2013-055) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 6-9 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff, Calvin Knorr; 2013-074) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 9 November, Haileybury, *Timiskaming* (Michael Werner; 2013-101).

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* (13)

2013 – one, definitive basic, 1 January-3 February, Niagara Falls, Niagara and Queenston, *Niagara* (Willie C. D'Anna, James Pawlicki, Gavin C. Platt, also found by Betsy Potter; 2013-006).

– one, definitive basic, 6-11 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff, Calvin Knorr; 2013-075) – photos on file.

Incredibly, there was a different Slaty-backed Gull found in this same area of the Niagara River on 28 December 2012 (Cranford 2013). Notes on the plumage and bare part colouration helped both the observers and the OBRC in separating these two individuals. The bird from Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* becomes the first accepted record of the species for northern Ontario.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (5)

2013 – one, alternate, 14 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (Don-Jean Léandri-Breton; 2013-008).



Figure 8: Slaty-backed Gull, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* on 8 November 2013. Photo: Calvin Knorr.

Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans* (1)

2013 – one, first basic, 21-22 and 24 November, Fort Erie, *Niagara* (James M. Pawlicki, David Pryor, Leonard P. Manning, Brandon R. Holden, Kayo J. Roy, Glenn Coady, Jean Iron, found by Vicky Rothman; 2013-078) – photos on file.

This is the other strong candidate for “bird of the year”; birders across Ontario and New York experienced déjà vu as they travelled (respectively) to Fort Erie, ON and Buffalo, NY to see this incredible rarity. Barely a month had passed since the Brown Booby had stopped frequenting the area, providing another first record for the province. The bird was present along the Niagara River from 20-24 November, where it spent the vast majority of that time on the Buffalo waterfront. It was briefly observed by multiple observers flying out over the river across the international boundary on both 21 and 22 November and was unequivocally found resting on the Fort Erie, Ontario shoreline on 24 November, but it was not viewed in Ontario on either 20 or 23 November. A full account of this occurrence will be published in a future issue of *Ontario Birds*.

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* (3)

2013 – one, first basic, 3-4 December, Kingston, *Frontenac* (Mark D. Read, Jean Iron, Jeremy L. Hatt, Barbara N. Charlton, Frank Horvath, Sandra Horvath, David Pryor, Glenn Coady, found by Janis Grant; 2013-083) – photos on file.

This is the third record to be accepted by the OBRC. Prior to the 1960s, this species occurred with greater frequency in the province (Curry 2006).



Figure 9: Elegant Tern, Buffalo, New York, on 21 November 2013. This same individual provided the first Ontario record when it crossed the river into Canadian waters. *Photo: James M. Pawlicki.*

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (16)

- 2013** – one, basic, 10 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, David M. Bell; 2013-024).
– two, 27 September, north of Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Ross W. Wood, Barbara N. Charlton; 2013-093).

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (41)

- 2013** – one, basic, 26 January-6 February, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (James T. Burk, P. Allen Woodliffe, Frank Horvath, Sandra Horvath, Blake Mann, Jeremy L. Hatt, Ric McArthur; 2013-007) – photos on file.
– one, basic, 3 October, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Leonard P. Manning, also found by Lisa Teskey; 2013-050).



Figure 10: Anna's Hummingbird, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* on 3 December 2013. Photo: Glenn Stronks

Chuck-will's-widow *Antrostomus carolinensis* (28)

- 2013 – one, basic male, 3 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Alvan D. Buckley, David M. Bell; 2013-023) – audio recording on file.
- one, basic male, 18-20 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (Stéphane Menu, John Geale, Walter Wehtje; 2013-036).
- one, basic male, 3 June, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Jeremy M. Bensette, also found by Dwayne Murphy; 2013-095) – audio recording on file.

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna* (2)

- 2013 – one, definitive basic male, 19 September - 7 December, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Glenn Stronks, Glenn Coady, found by Sophie Wiggins, Gary Wiggins; 2013-139) – photos on file.

This is the first record for northern Ontario and only the second for the province. The first record occurred 25-30 October 2010 in Cottam, *Essex* (Wormington and Cranford 2011).



Figure 11: Prairie Falcon, Little Piskwamish Point, *Cochrane* on 2 August 2013. *Photo: Mark Field.*

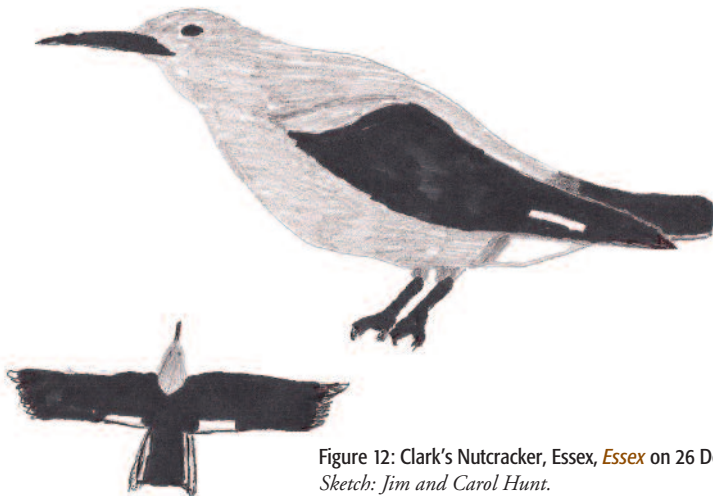


Figure 12: Clark's Nutcracker, Essex, *Essex* on 26 December 2013. *Sketch: Jim and Carol Hunt.*

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus* (3)

2013 – one, juvenal, 2 August, Little Piskwamish Point, *Cochrane* (Burke Korol, Mark Field, also found by Donald A. Sutherland; 2013-125) – photos on file.
An exceptional date and location, furnishing this first record for northern Ontario.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* (3)

2013 – one, first basic, 28 August, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Janice Chard, also found by Ed Jenkins; 2013-132) – photos on file.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (15)

2013 – one, basic, 20 April, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (David Beadle, found by Norman C. Murr, Jay Peterson; 2013-039).

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (10)

2013 – one, alternate, 29-30 May, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (Stuart A. Mackenzie, Ron Ridout; 2013-108).
– one, basic, 27 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Janice Chard, Morgan Brown, found by Avery Bartels; 2013-109) – photos on file.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* (3)

2013 – one, basic male, 28 November, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe; 2013-073) – photos and specimen (skeleton) on file at ROM.
This remarkable record involved a slightly decomposed individual found along the south-east Beach of Rondeau Provincial Park, constituting the first individual to be recorded in Ontario since 1970 (Crins 2003).

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* North Only (4)

2013 – one, first basic, 10 November, Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* (Tammie Hache; 2013-062) – photos on file.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana* (4)

2013 – one, basic, 26 December, Essex, *Essex* (Jim Hunt, also found by Cheryl Hunt; 2013-089).

This remarkable observation provides the first record for southern Ontario.

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (28)

2013 – two, basic, 11 January-2 March, Fort Erie, *Niagara* (Willie D'Anna, J. Brett Fried, found by Tim Seburn; 2013-145) – photos on file.
– one, basic, 19 March, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Jarmo Jalava; 2013-122)
– audio recordings on file.
– one, basic, 27 March, Waterloo, *Waterloo* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell; 2013-015).
– two, basic, 28 April-20 May, Oakville (one, 28 April-12 May) and Burlington (two, 5-20 May), *Halton* (Beth Jefferson, Lyn Hanna-Folkes, Terry Osborne, Joanne Redwood, Leonard P. Manning, Richard Poort, found by Christopher Burris; 2013-105) – photos, video and specimen (skin) on file at the ROM # 126744.

- one, basic, 2-6 May, Price Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (Kurt Hennige, found by Ken Edwards; 2013-147).

2012 – one, basic, 1 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (J. Brett Fried, also found by Erika Hentsch; 2013-004).

The report from 1 January 2012 becomes the first accepted winter record for the province. The record from *Halton* involved two birds that constructed a nest that likely failed on the final date of observation. A crow specimen was collected nearby, and DNA showed it to be one of the two Fish Crows. Upon examination, the bird, a female, did not show any sign of having laid eggs (Mark Peck, pers. comm.) To be conservative the Oakville and Halton occurrences, about 1 km apart, have been treated here as both pertaining to this pair of birds. It is entirely possible, however, that the bird in Oakville represented a third individual.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* (2)

2013 – one, alternate female, 25-26 April, Britannia, *Ottawa* (Jake Walker, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2013-069) – photo on file.

This is the first record for southern Ontario. The first provincial record was at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* on 28-29 October 1992 (Bain 1993)



Figure 13: Violet-green Swallow, Britannia, *Ottawa* on 25 April 2013. Photo: Bruce Di Labio.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (18)

2013 – one, first basic, 25 April, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Richard Dobbins, Janice Chard, also found by Mick Townsend, Bev McLeod, John Glazebrook, Mick Wright; 2013-123) – photos on file.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea* North Only (18)

2013 – one, basic, 24 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock; 2013-129).

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* South Only After 2000 (78)

2013 – one, basic, 9 January-7 March, Kendall, *Durham* (Frank Horvath, Angela Monette, David M. Bell, Mark Field, Michael Williamson, Jeremy L. Hatt, Gavin C. Platt, found by Margaret J.C. Bain, Richard Pope, Paul Riss; 2013-016) – photos on file.

– one, basic, 14 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Edward Jenkins, also found by Julia Gulka; 2013-110).

2012 – one, basic, 11 October, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, found by Matt D'Arguma, Brenda D'Arguma; 2013-094) – photos on file.

To date, there are 59 accepted records of Townsend's Solitaire for southern Ontario.

Swainson's Warbler *Limothlypis swainsonii* (10)

2013 – one, definitive alternate, 2 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Danya LeClair, also found by John Glazebrook, Mick Wright; 2013-124) – photos on file.

Kirtland's Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii* (59)

2013 – one, first alternate male, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Barbara N. Charlton, David M. Bell, Brandon R. Holden; 2013-028) – photos on file.

– one, alternate female, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Eric W. Holden, Brandon R. Holden; 2013-026) – photos on file.

– one, alternate male, 18 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (William J. Crins, also found by Emily Slavik, Brad Steinberg, Karen Hartley; 2013-027) – photo on file.

1915 – one, first basic male, 2 October, Point Pelee National Park (Tip), *Essex* (W.E. Saunders; 2013-002) – specimen (skin) on file at the ROM # 70101.

1900 – one, first alternate male, 16 May, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (J. Hughes Samuel; 2013-001) – specimen (skin) on file at the ROM # 22.4.201160.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* (19)

2013 – one, alternate male, 20 April, Port Glasgow (Marina), *Elgin* (Doug Zavitz, Chris Leys, also found by Sharie Zavitz, Jennifer Zavitz; 2013-152) – photos on file.



Figure 14: Spotted Towhee, Glenn Williams, *Halton* on 18 January 2014. *Photo: Luke Berg.*



Figure 15: "Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* on 15 May 2013.
Photo: John M. Woodcock.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (28)

2013/14 – one, basic male, 13 December-3 March, Glenn Williams, *Halton* (Carol Brunt, Dan Brunt, Jean Farnan, Luke Berg, Joanne Redwood, Leonard P. Manning, David Pryor, Mike Williamson, Joshua D. Vandermeulen; 2013-128) – photos on file.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* North Only (21)

2013 – one, 21 May, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Alvan D. Buckley, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Mike V.A. Burrell; 2013-045) – photo on file.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (29)

2013 – one, first alternate male, 15 May, Clarendon, *Frontenac* (Kurt Hennige, Mike V.A. Burrell, found by Mark Saunders; 2013-079) – photos on file.
– one, definitive alternate male, 28 May-1 June, Pickle Lake, *Kenora* (Timothy McKillop; 2013-038) – photo on file.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* North Only (7)

2013 – one, first basic, 17 August, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Allison Salas, Kelly Commons; 2013-098) – photo on file.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodrammus henslowii* (29)

2013 – one, 30 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, David M. Bell, Brandon R. Holden, also found by Jack Fenton; 2013-043) – photos on file.

“Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis oregonus* group after 2011 (6)

2013 – one, basic male, 29 March, London, *Middlesex* (Lucas Forester, also found by Michelle Fletcher; 2013-033) – photos on file.
– one, basic, 18 April, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Barbara N. Charlton, Andrea Kingsley; 2013-088) – photos on file.
2012 – one, basic, 30 March-7 April, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler, also found by Martha L. Allen; 2013-087) – photo on file.

Reports of “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco are no longer requested for review by the OBRC.

“Gray-headed” Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis caniceps* group (3)

2013 – one, first alternate male, 15-16 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by David Marshall, Emma Porier, Jessica Goddard; 2013-035) – photos on file.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* North Only (18)

2013 – one, 6-10 November, Shuniah, *Thunder Bay* (Reid Olsen; 2013-144) – photos on file.



Figure 16: Blue Grosbeak, Windsor, *Essex* on 20 April 2013. *Photo: Paul D. Pratt.*



Figure 17: Painted Bunting, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* on 29 April 2013. *Photo: Joshua D. Vandermeulen.*

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (43)

2013 – one, first alternate male, 4-6 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Reid Carter, Gloria McNeil; 2013-151) – photos on file.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (92)

- 2013 – one, definitive alternate male, 19-24 April, Windsor (Ojibway Nature Centre), *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt, found by Tom Preney; 2013-042) – photos on file.
- one, alternate female, 20-30 April, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (Howard Shapiro, Paul Reeves, Christopher J. Escott; 2013-100) – photos on file.
 - one, first alternate male, 28 April, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell; 2013-010)
 - one, first alternate male, 11-13 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Mike V.A. Burrell, found by Paul Carter; 2013-067) – photos on file.
 - one, female, 22-23 May, Toronto (High Park), *Toronto* (Robert K. Yukich, found by Jerry DeMarco, Anne Bell; 2013-090) – photo on file.

The individual from Windsor, *Essex* becomes the earliest spring migrant for Ontario, three days earlier than a male that was recorded at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* on 22 April 1992 (Bain 1993).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (34)

2013 – one, 29-30 April, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, David M. Bell, found by Maris P. Apse; 2013-041) – photos on file.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (28)

2013 – two, basic, 2 October, Cobalt, *Timiskaming* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Jeremy M. Benseette, also found by Alan Wormington; 2013-056) – photo on file.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (21)

2013 – one, basic, *tephrocotis*, 24-25 February, Red Lake, *Kenora* (J. Vic Fazekas, Curt Malinsky; 2013-032) – photos on file.

“Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni* (7)

- 2013 – one, basic male, 16-22 February, Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* (David M. Bell, also found by Paul Martin; 2013-018) – photos on file.
- one, basic male, 22-29 March, Shirley’s Bay, *Ottawa* (Mark Gawn, found by Michael W.P. Runtz, Jon Ruddy; 2013-131) – photos on file.
 - one, basic, 19 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Brandon R. Holden; 2013-146) – photos on file.

The Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* record is remarkable in that the observers identified the bird while watching bird feeders online, via remote camera from Kingston, *Frontenac*. Computer screen-captures provided excellent documentation for the OBRC.

Not Accepted Records: Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Birds in this category are considered by the OBRC to be correctly identified, but their origin is questionable. Over time, some instances involve birds that have a high certainty of previous captive origin, whereas some records placed in this category have caused considerable debate among past voting members. If new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the OBRC.

- 2013** – European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) one, 7-9 February, Toronto (James Gardens), *Toronto* ([Ian Sturdee](#), also found by Paul Xamin; 2013-037) – photos on file.

Not Accepted Records: Insufficient Evidence

The documentation received for the following reports generally was found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally, or simply lacking enough detail to properly describe the individual. In many cases, OBRC members strongly felt that the species being described was likely correctly identified by the observer, however, the report received for voting was simply too limited for acceptance. These circumstances sometimes arise from unavoidable situations such as poor viewing conditions, however, some may also occur due to poor communication from the OBRC as to the material required when trying to accept observations. Improving communication and quality of materials provided by the OBRC has been a recent focus of the committee and will continue to be in the near future.

- 2013** – Pacific Loon, one, 18-19 October, Innisfill, *Simcoe* (2013-092)
- Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), one, 16 April, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (2013-149)
 - Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*), one, 2 September, Demorestville, *Prince Edward* (2013-052)
 - Mississippi Kite, one, 25 September, Holiday Beach, *Essex* (2013-135)
 - Swainson's Hawk, one, 15 September, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (2013-107)
 - Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), one, 20 July, Cameron Lake, *Kawartha Lakes* (2013-019)
 - Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*), one, 30 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2013-009)
 - Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*), one, 11 November, Timmins, *Cochrane* (2013-084)
 - Chuck-will's-widow, one, 22 April, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (2013-096)
 - Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*), one, 26 May-3 June, Paisley, *Bruce* (2013-134)
 - Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), one, 29 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2013-138)
 - Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*), one, 9 September, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (2013-063)

- Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), one, 26-27 May, Kakabeka Falls, *Thunder Bay* (2013-141) – photos on file
 - Mountain Bluebird, one, 29 May, Turkey Point, *Norfolk* (2013-013)
 - Kirtland’s Warbler, one, 4 September, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2013-136)
 - Townsend’s Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*), one, 1 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2013-011)
 - “Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis princeps*), one, 15 December, Toronto, *Toronto* (2013-086) – photos on file
 - Baird’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*), one, 31 May, Gore Bay, *Manitoulin* (2013-014) – photos on file
 - Western Tanager, one, 12-22 August, Sandfield, *Manitoulin* (2013-044) – photos on file
 - Western Tanager, one, 16 September, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (2013-148) – photos on file
 - Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), one, 15 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (2013-029)
 - Painted Bunting, one, 7 May, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (2013-059)
- 2012** – Lesser Black-backed Gull, one, 16 October, Schreiber, *Thunder Bay* (2013-065) – photos on file
- 2010** – Great Blue “Great White” Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*), one, 14-31 August, French River, *Sudbury* (2013-082) – photos on file
- 2009** – Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), one, 3 July, Rockton, *Hamilton* (2013-080) – photos on file
- “Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpoll, one, 9 April, Sault Ste. Marine, *Algoma* (2013-017) – photos on file

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2012 Report (*Ontario Birds* 31:58-85)

Under Wilson’s Storm-Petrel, change “(Robert Z. Dobos, Brandon R. Holden, Robert R. Curry; 2013-110)” to “(Robert Z. Dobos, David R. Don, Brandon R. Holden, Robert R. Curry; 2013-110)”

2009 Report (*Ontario Birds* 28:58-86)

Under Black Swift, change “(Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden, Susan K. Holden, Lauren F. Rae 2009-050)” to “(Eric W. Holden, Brandon R. Holden, also found by Susan K. Holden, Lauren F. Rae 2009-050)”

2008 Report (*Ontario Birds* 27:58-79)

Under Mississippi Kite, for the 9 September 2008 record, add a note that “The passage of remnants of Hurricane Gustav through the Great Lakes on 4-5 September is a possible cause of this record, passing through the gulf coast around the peak of Mississippi Kite

migration. A mirror record from 9 September 2008 was accepted by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union from Hawk Ridge, MN, and a second report of a different individual there from 10 September 2008 appears to be un-reviewed (Svingen 2009)"

On page 75, change the photo credit for Figure 17: from "Photo: Kenneth A. McIlwrick" to "Photo: David M. Bell"

2007 Report (Ontario Birds 26:82-107)

Under Swainson's Hawk, change "one, juvenal, light morph, 5 October, Seacliff, *Essex*" to "one, juvenal, intermediate morph, 5 October, Seacliff, *Essex*"

Under Henslow's Sparrow, 12 May, Point Pelee National Park, change "(Eric W. Holden, also found by Brandon R. Holden)" to "(Brandon R. Holden, Eric W. Holden)"

2006 Report (Ontario Birds 25:50-68)

Under Mew Gull delete "*L.c. brachyrhynchus*" as the subspecific identity for this record

2005 Report (Ontario Birds 24:54-74)

Under Frigatebird sp., 1-2 August include Bluewater, *Huron* as an additional location where this bird was recorded and add Jacques Gravel as a contributor.

2003 Report (Ontario Birds 22:54-74)

Under Black-capped Petrel, 27 September, Waverly Beach change "(Brandon R. Holden)" to "(Eric W. Holden, Brandon R. Holden)"

2002 Report (Ontario Birds 21:54-76)

Under Henslow's Sparrow, add "also found by Eric W. Holden, Susan K. Holden" after "Brandon R. Holden"

1993 Report (Ontario Birds 12:41-58)

Under Grebe (*Aechmophorus* sp.) change the date to 10 October.

1990 Report (Ontario Birds 9:18-44)

Under the 1988 Western Kingbird, add "also found by Elisabeth Gammell, Ian M. Richards" after "Alvaro Jaramillo"

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