

# Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1982

by  
Ross D. James

In January of 1982 a meeting was held at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists headquarters to consider a restructuring of the provincial records committee. From that meeting a new Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) emerged, with a plan of operation similar to those in various other parts of the world. The members of the previous Ontario Ornithological Records Committee (OORC) were representatives of specific functions such as *American Birds*, the *Ontario Field Biologist* or the Royal Ontario Museum, rather than being drawn from the field ornithologists at large, many of whom are as well or more qualified to serve on a records committee.

The membership of the initial OBRC was selected from those assembled in January 1982 and they were charged with drawing up a constitution for the committee, of designating a subcommittee to form the Ontario Field Ornithologists group (OFO), and of adjudicating the reports received during the year. The present OBRC consists of six members plus a secretary. Two members will retire each year and be replaced from among the members of OFO.

The secretary is elected annually. Further details of the operating guidelines of the OBRC will be presented at a later date or are available from the secretary.

The present OBRC membership includes R. Curry (Chairman), R. James (secretary), A.D. Brewer, T. Hince, P.D. Pratt, D.A. Sutherland, and A. Wormington. All reports of unusual species should be sent to the secretary.

The committee wishes to thank all those who have submitted reports during the previous year. Without the support of these people we would not be able to continue to document species which rarely occur in Ontario. The committee would like to apologize to those whose records may have been considered, but who did not receive notification of the committee decision, or to those who took the trouble to submit reports that were not formally reviewed by the committee. During the initial year of operation the OBRC has been beset by numerous problems and a larger volume of work than expected. We have had to limit the species that we can consider to those which occur on the review list. Details of which

species will be accepted for review by the OBRC are indicated on the inserts with this issue of *Ontario Birds*. Reports of other rarities are encouraged and will be kept on file at the ROM, but will not form part of our reports.

The following report lists all the accounts of species on the review lists, submitted to the OBRC during the 1982 calendar year. We have accepted 75 per cent of the accounts listed. We believe that in future, with improved reporting, a higher percentage could be accepted. We are not attempting to judge the credibility of an observer, but whether or not the submitted report was sufficiently detailed to convince the committee that the bird described actually was the species named in the report. In many instances we felt that the observer had seen the bird reported but we were not convinced that the report eliminated any other species.

In the following accounts, the file number assigned to each report is

given and all these reports are on file in the ROM where they are available for examination by interested persons. Following each file number the initials of the person or persons who submitted it are given in the order in which they appear on the report(s). If a report was written on behalf of someone else, the initials of the author are given, followed by 'per' and the initials of the observer. The ROM photorecord number assigned to submitted photographs is abbreviated to PR. The inclusion of photographs with a report greatly enhances the submission and we encourage it. Photographs can be copied and the originals returned following committee deliberations if you wish. The initials of the photographer follow each PR number. At present two or more acceptable reports (of the same or different individuals) are necessary for a species to be added to the Ontario Checklist unless a specimen or photograph is available.

### Accepted Records

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*).

**1967** — 4 May, Grimsby, Niagara R.M. (82-106 RC).

Since this is the second accepted report for Ontario, this species has now been added to the Ontario list. The first report was at Ottawa, 19 May 1980.

**NORTHERN FULMAR** (*Fulmarus glacialis*).

**1981** — five, 27 Oct., Netitishi Point, James Bay, Cochrane Dist. (82-2 AW); fourteen, 6 Nov., Netitishi Point (82-2 AW); one, 19 Nov., Netitishi Point (82-2 AW).

There have been very few previous Ontario records for this species but nobody has previously reported from the southern James Bay area at this time of year. These observations followed successive gales with strong north winds.

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** (*Oceanodroma furcata*).

**1981** — 8 Oct., Attawapiskat, Kenora Dist. (82-5 AW).

This represents the first record from the north and only the third in Ontario.

**NORTHERN GANNET** (*Sula bassanus*).

**1981** — immature, 29 Oct., Netititishi

Point, James Bay (82-1 AW, RDM).

This represents the first record from northern Ontario.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*).

**1982** — three adults, 6 to 12 July, Kettle Point, Lambton Co. (AR) (PR 1308 AR).

**GREAT CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

**1982** — adult, 22 May, Amherst Island, Lennox and Addington Co. (82-65 MHE, RDW).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** (*Egretta caerulea*).

**1982** — immature, 22 Aug. to 2 Sept., Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent Co. (82-112 PAW) (PR 1354-1355 PAW).

**TRICOLORED HERON** (*Egretta tricolor*).

**1982** — 24 June, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex Co. (82-53 AW); 1 July, Whitby, Durham R.M. (81-113 MB).

Considered accidental in the province until recently, this species now occurs annually.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*).

**1982** — 23 Oct., Dorion, Thunder Bay Dist. (82-90 AW per WB, ET).

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*).

**1982** — 5 to 9 May, near Mount Healy, Haldimand-Norfolk R.M. (82-58 BWD); 13 July, Oshawa, Durham R.M. (82-114 MM).

This species was reported much more frequently in the early 1970s than in recent years.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*).

**1982** — 9 to 10 April, Whitby (82-54 DVW).



*Black Vulture*, 17 August 1981, Point Pelee National Park

PHOTO/ DONALD A. WILKES

**EURASIAN WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*).

**1982** — 28 Apr., Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-97 AW), 4 to 8 May, Whitby (82-56 GB).

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*).

**1979** — 20 Sept. near Kingsville, Essex Co. (82-45 RG).

**1981** — 17 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-14 AW) (PR 1345 DW).

**1982** — 29 July, Hwy 402, eastern Lambton Co. (82-68 ALP).

Summer appearances in Ontario have become regular in recent years.

**AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*).

**1982** — 14 to 24 June, Buckhorn, Peterborough Co. (82-111 AGC) (PR 1353 AGC).

This superb bird was seen by many

on 19 June as it perched in a tree next to the liquor store in Buckhorn.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*).

**1982** — 20 to 21 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-104 MF, FvM, NT).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*).

**1981** — adult, light phase, 15 Sept., Holiday Beach, Essex Co. (82-15 EC).

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*).

**1981** — white phase, 28 Dec., Hamilton, Hamilton-Wentworth R.M. (82-32 KM).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*).

**1981** — two, 7 June, Sable Island, Lake-of-the-Woods, Rainy River Dist. (82-8 EJT, MBT).

This is the third record for Ontario.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*).

**1981** — summer adult, 7 to 8 May, Lakefield, Peterborough Co. (82-7 AGC) (PR 1342 TB).

There is only one previously accepted record of this species at St. Davids, Niagara R.M., 25 July 1976 (Axtell, et al. 1977). This species has now been added to the provincial list on the basis of these reports.

**SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW** (*Numenius tenuirostris*).

About **1925** — autumn, Crescent Beach, Niagara R.M. (82-75) (BSNS 2092).

A detailed account of the history of this bird is presented by Beardslee and Mitchell (1965: 212-213). This

specimen in the Buffalo Museum constitutes the only record for Ontario. As a result of the OBRC acceptance of this record, the species has been added to the Ontario list.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*Calidris ferruginea*).

**1982** — summer adult, 14 to 17 May, Essex, Essex Co. (82-110 RC) (PR 1298-1299 DRG, PDP).

Seen by numerous Point Pelee visitors on this May weekend.

**POMARINE JAEGER** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

**1982** — 9 Nov., near Mallorytown Landing, Leeds Co. (82-84 DAS).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*).

**1981** — adult, 6 Aug., Long Point, Haldimand-Norfolk R.M. (82-17 CL, KK, TJ); adult, 10 Aug., Long Point (82-25 CL, AJ, TJ, DA).

**1982** — adult, 6 July, Whitby (82-115 JF).

The Long Point records may have been of the same bird but were considered as separate occurrences.

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Larus atricilla*).

**1981** — first year immature, 7 June, Kettle Point (82-20 AR); second winter plumage, 25 Oct., Cobourg, Northumberland Co. (82-19 ERM) (PR 1304-1305 ERM).

**1982** — adult, 21 May 1982, Point Pelee Nat. Park, (82-103 JAB).

**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*).

**1981** — adult female, 14 to 29 May, Toronto, (82-86 HB).

**1982** — adult female, 19 May to 2 June, Toronto, (82-86 HB, RC) (PR 1346-1349 JEM, AW).



PHOTO/ ALAN WORMINGTON

*Curlew Sandpiper*, 17 May 1982, Essex, Essex Co.

These constitute the first records of the species in the province. The same bird may have been involved on each occasion. It was sitting upon a clutch of two eggs in 1981 and on a single egg in 1982.

**IVORY GULL** (*Pagophila eburnea*).  
**1981** — adult, 13 Nov., Netitishi Point, James Bay (82-3 RDM).

**BLACK SKIMMER** (*Rynchops niger*).  
**1981** — adult, 11 to 15 Sept., Erieau, Kent Co. (82-23 GB) (PR 1286 MCEM).

This is the third provincial record since 1977. Two birds also appeared in Michigan shortly before this date.

**RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*).  
**1982** — 27 Nov., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara R.M. (82-105 BWD, KM).

**BAND-TAILED PIGEON** (*Columba fasciata*).

**1981** — adult, 20 Aug., Long Point (82-21 JS, PH, JT).

**BURROWING OWL** (*Athene cunicularia*).

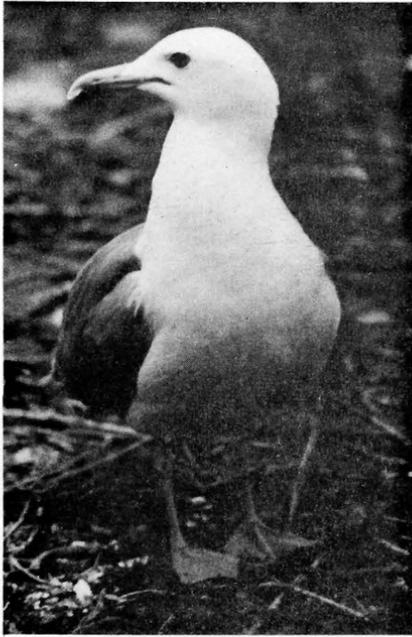
**1982** — 7 to 8 May, near Kleinberg, York R.M. (82-59 GB).

The Owl Rehabilitation Foundation revealed that there were two escapes the previous year but that there was essentially no chance that this bird was one of those.

**COMMON POORWILL** (*Phalacrocorax nuttallii*).

**1982** — adult female, 4 June, North Point, James Bay, Cochrane Dist. (CR) (Specimen in NMC).

This is the first record of this species in Ontario and it has now been added to the provincial list.



PHOTO/ ALAN WORMINGTON

California Gull, 29 May 1982,  
Toronto

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER**  
(*Myiarchus cinerascens*).

**1962** — 24 to 25 Nov., Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-89 WBo).

**1982** — 27 to 29 Oct., Whitby (82-85 JM, RDM) (PR 1356-1360 RDM); 7 Nov., Prince Edward Point, Prince Edward Co. (82-81 RDW).

These are the first accepted records for the province; the species has been added to the Ontario list as a result of committee acceptance of them. These late fall occurrences fit the pattern of records elsewhere in north-eastern North America.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus verticalis*).

**1982** — 21 May, Whitby (82-77 DC); 24 June, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-98 TSP); 2 Oct., north of Toronto (82-76 AW).

**GRAY KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*).

**1970** — immature, 29 Oct., Hay Bay, Lennox and Addington Co. (82-95 MCE, BH).

The two reports (of the same bird) considered for the above record are the first accepted for this species in Ontario and result in the addition of the species to the provincial list.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**  
(*Tyrannus forficata*).

**1982** — adult, 7 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-100 BJ, JRH, RHC, SNGH, MG, DR).

**CLARK'S NUTCRACKER** (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

**1981** — 9 May, Caribou Island, Lake Superior, Thunder Bay Dist. (82-46 RN).

This is the second accepted report of this species in Ontario. The first was 18 April 1973, near Dryden, Kenora District.

**FISH CROW** (*Corvus ossifragus*).

**1978** — 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-83 RR, TH, AW).

**1982** — 21 Apr., Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-81 DAS).

These are the first accepted records of this species in Ontario. The species has now been added to the Ontario list on the basis of these reports.

**BEWICK'S WREN** (*Thryomanes bewickii*).

**1982** — adult, 25 to 29 April, Long Point (82-92 DS) (PR 1352 DS).

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR**  
(*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

**1981** — immature, late Sept., Trenton, Northumberland Co. (specimen in coll. of ADB).

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*).

**1981** — 28 to 30 Dec., between Paris and Woodstock, Oxford Co. (82-93 GP).

**1982** — 6 to 8 Feb., Dundas, Hamilton-Wentworth R.M. (82-107 RC).

BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii*).

**1982** — 6 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-67 CEG).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera x pinus*).

**1981** — 20 May, Caribou Island, Lake Superior (82-47 RN).

HERMIT WARBLER (*Dendroica occidentalis*).

**1981** — adult male, 2 to 7 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-10 TH, GAC, LF, RR, CEG) (PR 1344 JF1).

This is the first accepted record for Ontario and adds this species to the provincial list.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*).

**1982** — male, 24 Apr., Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-102 TJO, AW); 17 May, Long Point (82-78 DP); 20 May, Prince Edward Point (82-64 RDW); 14 Oct. to 13 Nov., Moosonee, Cochrane Dist. (82-88 RDM).

This species, formerly considered accidental in Ontario, is being reported with increasing frequency. The Moosonee record is the first for northern Ontario and involved the nominate race *D. d. dominica*.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica kirtlandii*).

**1982** — male, 14 May, Rondeau Prov. Park (82-71 NT, FvM).

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*).

**1982** — male, 1 May, Amherstburg, Essex Co. (82-44 AW per N & MR); male, 3 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-99 PW).

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*).

**1981** — 10 Oct., Fort Albany, Cochrane Dist. (82-87 AW) (PR 1350-1351 AW).

CASSIN'S SPARROW (*Aimophila cassinii*).

**1981** — 28 Sept., Marathon, Thunder Bay Dist. (82-4 AW).

This represents the first record for northern Ontario and the second for Ontario.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*).

**1982** — immature, 3 to 20 Jan., Gosport, Northumberland Co. (82-6 CGH, AGC) (PR 1330-1341 AGC, AJ).

This is the first record of this species in Ontario and the acceptance places the species on the provincial list.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis psaltria*).

**1982** — adult female, 10 Aug., Toronto (82-73 DMF).

This is the first accepted report of this species in Ontario and one of only a few in eastern North America. Another acceptable report is needed to add this species to the Ontario list.

#### Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain

**1974** — GRAY KINGBIRD, 25 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-96).



*American Swallow-tailed Kite*,  
18 June 1982, Buckhorn,  
Peterborough Co.

**1976** — RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT  
(*Calidris ruficollis*), 11 July, Toronto  
(82-74).

The reports documenting this bird were accepted previously by the OORC (James 1982). However, in reviewing these reports the OBRC has judged them unacceptable. Since this was the only sighting of this species in Ontario, the species has been removed from the Ontario list.

**1981**

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT  
HERON, 11 Nov., Hamilton (82-13),  
COMMON EIDER, 13 Dec., Kettle  
Point (82-30),  
BLACK VULTURE, 17 June, near  
Simcoe, Haldimand-Norfolk R.M.  
(82-29),  
REDSHANK, 2 May, Toronto  
(82-9),  
ARCTIC TERN, 14 May, Point Pelee  
Nat. Park (82-18),  
GRAY KINGBIRD, 25 Aug., Peter-  
borough, Peterborough Co. (82-27),  
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, 20  
May, Caribou Island, Lake Superior  
(82-48),

BAIRD'S SPARROW, 9 May,  
Caribou Island, Lake Superior (82-49).

**1982**

ARCTIC LOON, 20 Oct., Kettle  
Point (82-12),  
GREAT CORMORANT, 11 Sept.,  
Presqu'ile Bay, Northumberland Co.  
(82-82),  
LITTLE BLUE HERON, 22 May,  
Point Pelee Nat. Park (82-101),  
AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED  
KITE, 18 Jan., Oil Springs, Lambton  
Co. (82-28),  
SWAINSON'S HAWK, 17 May,  
Kingston, Frontenac Co. (82-63),  
SWAINSON'S HAWK, 15 Sept.,  
Trent River Village, Northumberland  
Co. (82-94),  
LAUGHING GULL, 20 June,  
Rondeau Prov. Park (82-72),  
CALIFORNIA GULL, 12 April,  
Erieau, Kent Co. (82-69),  
HERMIT WARBLER, 2 May, Long  
Point (82-80),  
GRACE'S WARBLER, 19 Aug.,  
Quarry Bay, Manitoulin Dist.  
(82-70),  
MAGNOLIA x CANADA  
WARBLER, 15 May, Rondeau Prov.  
Park (82-62),  
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK,  
9 May, Long Point (82-79).

**Unaccepted Records, Origin  
uncertain (identification accepted).**

**1979**

BARNACLE GOOSE, Oct., Garden  
Hill, Northumberland Co. (82-11).

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### Summary

As a result of decisions reached during the year by the OBRC, the following changes were made in the Checklist of Ontario birds:

— Yellow-billed Loon, Spotted Red-

shank, Slender-billed Curlew, California Gull, Common Poorwill, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Fish Crow, Hermit Warbler and Golden-crowned Sparrow have been added to the Checklist.

- Rufous-necked Stint has been deleted from the Checklist.
- Since there is only a single previous report of a Least Tern in Ontario, this species has been dropped from the Checklist, pending the acceptance of another record.

In addition, the following should be noted:

- We have accepted a report of Lesser Goldfinch but because we have only a single record, the species will not be added to the Checklist until an additional report has been accepted.

### Acknowledgements

This report is presented on behalf of, and with the assistance of the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

### Literature Cited

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