

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2007

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Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) evaluates documentation it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Ontario (see www.ofo.ca). In addition, it reviews documentation relating to new species, new subspecies, and new breeding species for the province. This 26th annual report details the results of the adjudication of 161 records by the OBRC during 2007, of which 123 (76%) were accepted.

A total of 157 observers submitted documentation for review by the 2007 Committee. Written reports were often accompanied by photographs (mostly digital images, but also a few prints), as well as field notes and sketches. As noted in recent years, the trend toward submission of only photographic evidence, with little or no supporting written evidence, is an ongoing problem. This makes it much more difficult for the Committee to compile dates of occurrence. In addition, many details and circumstances associated with an observation, such as behaviour, comparisons to nearby birds

and vocalizations, cannot be determined from photographic evidence alone. As such, we urge observers to submit written reports with their images submitted to OBRC. For those submitting photos to the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) website, please send the same photos, along with written documentation, directly to the OBRC Secretary. That being said, the OBRC reserves the right to use, as evidence, photographs that have been posted on the OFO website. Guidance regarding the documentation of rare birds can be found on the OBRC page of the OFO website (www.ofo.ca/obrc/guide_lines.php).

The members of the 2007 Committee were Margaret J. C. Bain (Chair), William J. Crins, Glenn Coady, Robert Z. Dobos, Jean Iron, Colin D. Jones, Mark K. Peck (also serving as Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison), Ian M. Richards (non-voting Secretary), and Alan Wormington (non-voting Assistant to the Secretary) (Figure 1).

One new species, Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), was added to the provincial list, bringing the total to 480 species.



Figure 1. Ontario Bird Records Committee for 2007. Left to right, Mark Peck, Glenn Coady, Jean Iron, Rob Dobos, Margaret Bain, Bill Crins, Ian Richards, Colin Jones. *Photo: Alan Wormington.*

Northern Ontario had its first accepted record of Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) was added as a new breeding species in Ontario. Also added to the breeding list for Ontario was Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) since the introduced population is now considered to be established and self-sustaining, based on evidence published by Moser (2006) and Lumsden (2007, 2008). These two additions bring the number of breeding birds in Ontario to a total of 291 species.

Listing of Records

In the following species accounts, the total number of accepted records is indicated by a single number in parentheses. Accepted records are arranged taxonomically by their English and scientific names following the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and subsequent supplements (42nd to 48th; see www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3). Dates of occurrence,

number of birds, sex, plumage, and location are provided when known. Place names in italics refer to a county, regional municipality or district in Ontario; they also appear in colour. The plumage terminology used here follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and moult terminology, see Pittaway (2000). The names of all contributors of documentation are listed, while those contributors who are known to be the discoverers of the bird are also underlined. Additional discoverers of the bird are also listed (if known), even if they did not submit documentation. The OBRC file number is shown in parentheses at the end of each record.

The Committee attempts to verify documented information prior to the acceptance and publication of a record, but occasionally inaccuracies will occur. Anyone with pertinent information that would correct or strengthen a published record, such as dates of occurrence, number of birds, plumages, location,

discoverers, etc., is urged to communicate this to the Secretary. In addition, there may be dates quoted in other sources that differ from those listed by the OBRC — these discrepancies are corrected whenever possible.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or questionable origin are listed separately. Contributors of all “not accepted” reports receive a letter from the Chairperson explaining the reasons for the decision, along with copies of the comments written by voting members.

These reports, as well as documentation for all accepted records, are kept on permanent file at the ROM. A “not accepted” report can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new evidence, in the form of additional documentation, is submitted to the Committee for review. Researchers and other interested individuals are welcome to examine any of the filed reports at the ROM, by appointment only. Please contact Mark K. Peck, Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen’s Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 (e-mail: markp@rom.on.ca or telephone 416-586-5523).

Changes to the Review List

In addition to Black Swift (new to southern Ontario) and Eurasian Collared-Dove (new to northern Ontario), the only change to the Review List is the addition of “Yellow-lored” Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*

dominica) as a recognized form for which the OBRC requests documentation of all sightings.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the numerous observers who took the time to submit documentation of their observations of rare birds for consideration by the 2007 Committee. We also thank the following people who assisted the Committee in acquiring additional data and other material evidence that supplemented the information submitted directly by observers and Committee members, or by providing expert opinions on evidence submitted to the Committee: Kenneth F. Abraham, Jean Claude Bermond, Jon L. Dunn, Carolle Eady, Lisa Eddy, David H. Elder, Nicholas G. Escott, Manson Fleguel, Michel Gosselin, Kevin C.R. Kerr, Keith Lee, Paul E. Lehman, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Blake A. Mann, Ronald J. Pittaway, Gordon Pringle, Brian D. Ratcliff, Ron Ridout, Kayo J. Roy, Diane Salter, Louise Schmidt, Ted Schmidt, Emily Slavik, Roy B.H. Smith, Donald A. Sutherland, Ronald G. Tozer, Alice Van Zoeren, John M. Woodcock, and Doug Woods.

Ontbirds continues to be a useful source of information pertaining to rare birds that appear in the province; this listserve of the Ontario Field Ornithologists is moderated by Mark H. Cranford. In addition, the photographic pages on the OFO website, maintained in 2007 by Carol M. Horner, provide an excellent source of documentation for rarities. These sources of information make the Secretary’s job of securing documentation much more efficient. During 2007, Alan Wormington, in his role as Assistant to the Secretary, provided valuable assistance in tracking down documentation for reports. I also wish to thank the members of the 2007 Committee for their support and assistance during the year.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only Before 2007 (54)

- 2006 one juvenal or first basic, white morph, 17 October – 6 November, Kingston, *Frontenac* (Peg Hauschildt, found by Bruce E. Ripley; 2007-111) – photos on file.
- one definitive basic, white morph, 12 November, Elmstead, *Essex* ([Robert A. Horvath](#); 2007-071) – photos on file.
- 2005 one definitive basic, white morph, 23 October – 20 November, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, found by Gerard Phillips; 2007-041).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* North Only (10)

- 2006 one definitive basic, June (exact date unknown) to circa 6 November, Oxdrift (June to September) and Dryden (6 October to circa 6 November), *Kenora* (Owen Vaughn; 2007-141) – photos on file.
- 2004 one definitive basic, 16 July, Attawapiskat River mouth, *Kenora* ([Kenneth F. Abraham](#), also found by Carrie Sadowski, Derek Potter, Sarah Hagey; 2007-002).
- 1996 one definitive basic, 6 August, Black Currant River mouth, *Kenora* ([Kenneth F. Abraham](#), also found by Brian Arquilla; 2007-001).

Details on the 1996 and 2004 *Kenora* records were published by Abraham and Ross (2005) in *Ontario Birds*.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* (4)

- 2006 one alternate, male, 5 May, Whitby and Oshawa, *Durham* (David B. Worthington, Glenn Coady, found by W. Dennis Barry; 2007-031).

With waterfowl species such as this, questions often arise regarding their origin. However, the Committee concluded that this record fit the previous pattern of accepted Garganey records in Ontario and northeastern North America: the bird was migrating with Blue-winged Teal in May, and only stayed for a brief period. Also, at present, there are no known feral populations of this species in eastern North America (Paul E. Lehman, pers. comm. to Margaret J.C. Bain). The previously accepted records for Ontario, all of single males, are 18-23 April 1993, Stafford Twp., *Renfrew* (Bain 1994), 12-15 May 1993, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Pittaway 1995), and 6-10 May 1995, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Dobos 1996).

“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca crecca* (3)

- 2006 one alternate, male, 7 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* ([Brandon R. Holden](#), also found by Eric W. Holden; 2007-131) – photos on file.

The Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal was formerly considered to be a separate species, the “Common Teal”, which is casual in eastern North America including Ontario (AOU 1998). The previous accepted records of this subspecies are 30 March to 13 April 1991, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (Bain 1993), and 29 March 1998, Vinemount, *Hamilton* (Dobos 1999). There are numerous undocumented records for the province that are as yet unreviewed by the OBRC (for example, see Curry 2006).

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* North Only (19)

- 2005 two adult females or juvenals/first basics, 15 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#), also found by Maureen Woodcock, Mark Conboy, Allan G. Harris, Brian D. Ratcliff, Judith Read; 2007-032) – photo on file.

Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

2006 female with brood of five, 25-26 July, Peawanuck, *Kenora* (Kenneth F. Abraham, Jean Hall-Armstrong, also found by Don Filliter, Brenda Hill; 2007-092) – photos on file. Details of this first documented breeding record for the province can be found elsewhere in this issue (Abraham *et al.* 2008).

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (38)

2007 one juvenal, 2-4 November, Oshawa, *Durham* (David B. Worthington, Margaret J.C. Bain; 2007-121).
 one juvenal, 4 November, Grand Bend, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann, also found by Maris P. Apse, Heather Anne Campbell, Richard Thornton, Michael J. Nelson; 2007-122).
 one definitive basic, 2 December, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 2007-142).
 2006 one 5 May, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J.C. Bain, also found by Margaret Carney, W. Dennis Barry; 2007-003).
 one definitive alternate, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Mark K. Peck, Brandon R. Holden, also found by Gerry Binsfeld, Glenn Coady; 2007-004) – photos on file.
 one juvenal, 18 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden; 2007-132).

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (14)

2007 one alternate, 18 May, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Laura Darby, Derek Thompson, John Van den Broeck; 2007-101).
 one alternate, 18 May, Emo, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Laura Darby, Derek Thompson, John Van den Broeck; 2007-102).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (23)

2007 one pre-alternate molt, 10 March – 8 April, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (Robert Kortright, Winnie Poon, Iain Fleming, John R. Carley, Rick Lauzon; 2007-114) – photos on file.
 one pre-alternate molt, 5-9 April, Bronte, *Halton* (Jean Iron, John Millman, found by Mark W. Jennings; 2007-151) – photos on file.

Initially it was thought that the Toronto bird was possibly a Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), but continued observation and excellent photographs indicated that it was in fact a Western Grebe. The bird had probably overwintered on Lake Ontario, since the initial observation date of 10 March is considerably earlier than the earliest spring migrant recorded in Ontario – 27 March 1949 at Oshawa, *Durham* (Tozer and Richards 1974).

Western/Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus sp.* (6)

2006 one 5-6 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock, David Jaffe, Eryn Bordes; 2007-042) – photo on file.

Figure 2. Western Grebe at Bronte, Halton, from 5-9 April 2007.
 Photo: Jean Iron.





Figure 3. Little Blue Heron in definitive alternate plumage at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, on 6 June 2007.
Photo: Cherise Charron.



Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (36)

- 2007 one juvenal, 2 December, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 2007-143).
 2006 one juvenal, 17 December, Bronte, *Halton*, to Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (Gavin R. Edmondstone, James S. Anderson; 2007-093).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (12)

2007 one definitive basic, 2 October, Wolfe Island (Marysville), *Frontenac* (Virginia Clark; 2007-094) – photos on file.

This record represents by far the earliest fall record for Ontario – the previous earliest date was a single bird collected on 21 November 1896 at Toronto, *Toronto*; the specimen resides in the ROM, but has not yet been reviewed by the OBRC.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (63)

- 2007 one definitive alternate, 20 April, Toronto (Colonel Samuel Smith Park), *Toronto* (Graham Jones, Jody Melanson; 2007-021) – photos on file.
- one definitive alternate, 13-16 May, St. Catharines, *Niagara* (Suzanne Taylor; 2007-034).
- one definitive alternate, 6 June, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Cherise Charron; 2007-144) – photos on file.
- 2006 one definitive adult, 2 May, Hopkins Bay, *Bruce* (Michael Penfold, found by John Haselmayer; 2007-005) – photo on file.
- one juvenal, late July – 20 August, Casselman, *Prescott and Russell* (Art Kornienko, Jacques M. Bouvier, David Moore; 2007-022) – photos on file.
- 2000 one definitive adult, 7 May, Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* (Ken Allison, also found by Tim Allison; 2007-033).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (40)

- 2007 one definitive alternate, 9 April, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Michele Rodrick, also found by Nicholas Baumberg; 2007-035).
- 2005 one first basic, 11-14 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Tim Baerwald, Brandon R. Holden, found by Mary Booker, Peter Booker; 2007-043) – photos on file.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (50)

- 2007 one definitive alternate, 20 May, Casselman, *Prescott and Russell* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, also found by V. Bernard Ladouceur, Paul Mirsky, Jan Slumkoski, Kim Zbitnew; 2007-076).
- one definitive alternate, 23 May, Winchester, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (David Britton, also found by Jack Romanow; 2007-077).
- one definitive alternate, 10 June, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Cherise Charron; 2007-152) – photos on file.
- one definitive alternate, 13-26 June, Brighton, *Northumberland* (William J. Edmunds, found by Erin McGauley, Karen Tomkins; 2007-116) – photos on file.

Considering the proximity of the Casselman and Winchester sites (approximately 25 kilometres apart), there exists the possibility that both records pertain to the same individual.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (6)

- 2007 one definitive basic, 19-21 October, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (David R. Don, Barry S. Cheriére, John Millman, Rick Lauzon, Sandra C. Hawkins, Robert Hawkins, found by David K. Donn; 2007-123) – photos on file.
- one definitive basic, 20-28 October, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Paul D. Pratt, found by Dean J. Ware; 2007-145) – photos on file.

The Hillman Marsh bird is the latest fall record for Ontario.



Figure 4. Definitive basic White-faced Ibis at Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton*, from 19-21 October 2007. Photo: Barry S. Cheriére.

Ibis species *Plegadis sp.* (43)

- 2007 one definitive alternate, 12-15 May, Collingwood, *Simcoe* (Dagmar McNichol, John McNichol; 2007-073).
 2006 one juvenal or first basic, 6-8 October, Beachburg, *Renfrew* (Ian Macfarlane; 2007-074) – photos on file.
 one 9 October, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, also found by Yousif Attia; 2007-115).

The ibis at Collingwood was documented in an atypical fashion. Mary Little (who did not see the bird) provided a written description that was based on photographs taken by the McNichols, who were the discoverers of the bird. Unfortunately the OBRC has yet to receive these photographs.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (53)

- 2007 one 3 May, Point Pelee National Park and Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Kenneth G. Burrell, Ian M. Richards, David McNorton, Bradley Davis; 2007-146).

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (15)

- 2007 one juvenal, 11 September, Harrow, *Essex* (Claude Radley; 2007-081) – photo on file.
 This record constitutes only the fourth accepted fall record for the province.

“Dark Morph” Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (4)

- 2007 one first basic, 24 April, Grimsby (Beamer Memorial Conservation Area), *Niagara* (Barry S. Cheriére, also found by Glenda J. Slessor, Robert Curry; 2007-023) – photos on file.
 one juvenal in prebasic molt, 26 April, Burlington, *Halton* (Tom Thomas; 2007-082) – photos on file.

These two records constitute the first accepted spring records for the province. Only two previous reports have been accepted by the Committee: 18 August 1992 at Woodstock, *Oxford* (Dobos 1998), and 19 September 2004 at Port Burwell and Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Crins 2006). Three as yet unreviewed reports are 30 April 1978 at Grimsby, *Niagara*, 7 May 1985 at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, (Escott 1986) and 27 April 2002 at Grimsby, *Niagara* (Curry 2006).



Figure 5. First basic “dark morph” Broad-winged Hawk at Grimsby, *Niagara*, on 24 April 2007. Photo: Barry S. Cherriere.



Swainson’s Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (50)

- 2007 one definitive basic, light morph, 4 November, Clappison’s Corners, *Hamilton* (Barbara N. Charlton; 2007-103).
- 2006 one light morph, 20 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Claude Radley; 2007-012).
- one juvinal, light morph, 26 September, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (Ian M. Richards; 2007-006).
- one juvinal, light morph, 5 October, Seacliff, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden; 2007-013)
– photos on file.

The Clappison’s Corner bird represents the latest accepted record for the province. The previous latest date was 29 October 1984, at Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Crins 2004).

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* South Only Before 1994 (38)

- 1971 one juvinal, female, dark morph, 13 November, Wellandport, *Niagara* (2007-147) – photo on file.

This bird was picked up in an emaciated condition by a conservation officer, and brought into captivity; it was photographed on 5 January 1972 by Robert F. Andrle at the home of Kay McKeever, a wildlife rehabilitator in Vineland.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (5)

- 2007 one definitive alternate, 29 May – 1 June, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Adam C. Pinch, Sumiko Onishi, Claire Sanders; 2007-052)
– photos on file.

Figure 6. Juvenile female Gyrfalcon (dark morph) found on 13 November 1971 at Wellandport, *Niagara* (photographed in captivity on 5 January 1972).

Photo: Robert F. Andrle.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (63)

- 2007 pair definitive alternate male and female, nest, four fledged juvenals, 13 May – 28 July, Sauble Beach, *Bruce* (Brendan A. Toews, also found by Kimberly J. Toews; 2007-104) – photos on file.
- one definitive prebasic molt, female, 9 August, Wasaga Beach, *Simcoe* (David J. Milsom; 2007-083) – photos on file.
- 2006 one alternate, 29-30 May, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (R. Doug McRae, found by Donald Shanahan; 2007-007).
- one juvenal or basic, 27-28 July, Ipperwash Beach, *Lambton* (Tim Snieder, found by Maris P. Apse; 2007-008).
- one juvenal or first basic, 1 October – 12 November, Point Pelee National Park (1 October) and Hillman Marsh (15 October – 12 November), *Essex* (Stephen T. Pike, Rosalee A. Hall; 2007-153) – photos on file.

Details of the remarkable nesting record at Sauble Beach have been published in *Ontario Birds* (Toews *et al.* 2008). The Wasaga Beach bird was banded, which revealed that it was raised in 2003 in a captive rearing program at the University of Michigan Biological Station (Alice Van Zoeren, pers. comm.); this female bird nested in 2004 and 2005 at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan, and in 2006 at North Manitou Island, Michigan. The Hillman Marsh bird is the latest fall record accepted by the OBRC, with the previous late record being 3 November 1985, at the Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Wormington 1987).

Black-necked Stilt***Himantopus mexicanus* (16)**

- 2007 one female, 22 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Stephen T. Pike, also found by Michael J. Simms; 2007-154) – photo on file.
- 2004 one 18 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Graeme C. Gibson; 2007-064).

Figure 7. Female Black-necked Stilt at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, on 22 May 2007. Photo: Stephen T. Pike.



Figure 8. Juvenal or first basic Willet at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, on 6 August 2007.

Photo: Nicholas G. Escott.



Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* North Only (15)

2007 one juvenal or first basic, *C.s. inornata*, 6 August, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Brian J. Moore; 2007-148) – photos on file.

California Gull *Larus californicus* (50)

2007 one definitive basic, 6-8 and 15 November, Nepean, *Ottawa* (Tony F.M. Beck; 2007-124).

2006/07 one definitive basic, 11 November – 14 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Brandon R. Holden, Willie D'Anna, Sean Sime, Peter S. Burke, Ian M. Richards, also found by Lauren Rae; 2007-084) – photo on file.

2006 one definitive basic, 6 October, Wheatley Harbour, *Essex/Chatham-Kent* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden; 2007-014) – photos on file.

one definitive basic, 18 November, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Willie D'Anna, also found by Joe DiCostanzo, Betsy Potter, Sean Sime; 2007-085).

By plumage characteristics, the bird at Niagara Falls on November 18, 2006, was considered different from the individual that was present at the same time at Queenston. As in 2005 (see Crins 2006), a definitive basic bird showed up at Queenston from 11 November 2006 to 14 January 2007 – this is probably the same individual that has been returning to this location for several years. Therefore, the total number of reports cited above involves some duplication.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* (4)

2006 one third basic, 2-13 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Kevin J. McGowan, Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna, Shane Blodgett, Christopher J. Escott; 2007-086) – photos on file.

The three previous records were in Niagara Falls, *Niagara*, from 24 November to 29 December 1992 (Bain 1993), Toronto, *Toronto*, from 2-9 January 1999 (Roy 2000), and Wheatley Harbour and Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, from 22-26 January 2006 (Crins 2007).

Figure 9. Slaty-backed Gull in third basic plumage at Niagara Falls, *Niagara*, from 2-13 December 2006. Photo: Jean Iron.



Black-legged Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla North Only (3)

2007 four juvenal, 25 August, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Michael V.A.

Burrell, John Klymko, Devin Turner; 2007-096).

one juvenal, 25 August, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Michael V.A. Burrell, John Klymko, Devin Turner; 2007-097).

one juvenal, 25 August, Moose River mouth, *Cochrane* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Michael V.A. Burrell, John Klymko, Devin Turner; 2007-098).

These are the first northern Ontario records to be accepted by the OBRC. Other undocumented records for northern Ontario, as yet unreviewed by the OBRC, include sightings from Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Wormington 2008). All three sightings involved birds that were apparently flying southwest up the Moose River in separate groups over several hours, indicating they were all different individuals. The source of these birds is not known, as the nearest breeding colonies in the Canadian Arctic are on Lancaster Sound and eastern Baffin Island. Several days of strong northeast winds preceded the sightings, suggesting that the birds may have been from breeding colonies on the Atlantic coast.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South Only (13)

2007 two definitive alternate, 27 May, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, found by V. Bernard Ladouceur; 2007-053).

This record fits the usual pattern of this species in spring in southern Ontario.

Razorbill *Alca torda* (8)

2006/07 one juvenal or first basic, 19 November – 7 January, Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna, Christopher J. Escott, Bruce Wilson, Ian M. Richards, Peter S. Burke, Curtis A. Marantz, Gavin R. Edmondstone, found by Norma Platt, Bob Spahn; 2007-087) – photos on file.

Previous accepted records of this species in Ontario involved birds that stayed for much shorter periods; therefore, this long-staying bird was enjoyed by hundreds of birders from across the province (and New York).

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (10)

2007 one basic, male, 17 July – 1 September, Vinemount, *Hamilton* (Stuart A. Mackenzie, Theo Hofmann; 2007-099) – photos on file.

one 3-9 November, Squaw Bay, *Thunder Bay* (June Huston, also found by Tom Huston; 2007-125) – photos on file.

2006 one 25 May, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd; 2007-118).

The Squaw Bay bird represents the first record for northern Ontario, and the latest record for the province; the previous latest date was 4 September 1993 at Pittock Lake, *Oxford* (Dobos 1999). The Vinemount bird had been present for several months prior to the first documentation according to local residents (R. Dobos, pers. comm.).

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (26)

- 2007 one 15-28 November, Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* (Tammie Hache; 2007-133) – photos on file.
- 2006 one basic, 12-13 May, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, Olivier Barden; 2007-054) – photos on file.
- one 14-24 July (not to 25 July as published in *North American Birds* 60: 523), Nipigon, *Thunder Bay* (Betty Brill, also found by Donald Brill; 2007-015) – photos on file.
- one 15 August - 3 September, Rosspport, *Thunder Bay* (David Speer; 2007-155) – photo on file.
- one 13 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen Woodcock; 2007-046).

The 2006 bird at Nipigon may have been the same bird as sighted at Rosspport and Thunder Cape, approximately 60 and 90 kilometres away, respectively. The Manitouwadge bird was last seen in extremely poor health, having endured a number of nights with temperatures below -10°C .

Chuck-will's-widow***Caprimulgus carolinensis* (20)**

- 2007 one basic, female, 12 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (Christopher J. Escott, Jacques Girard; 2007-036) – photos on file.
- one basic, 13-14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Jean Iron, Stewart DeWalle; 2007-126) – photos on file.



Figure 10. Male Eurasian Collared-Dove at Vinemount, *Hamilton*, from 17 July – 1 September 2007.
Photo: Stuart A. Mackenzie.

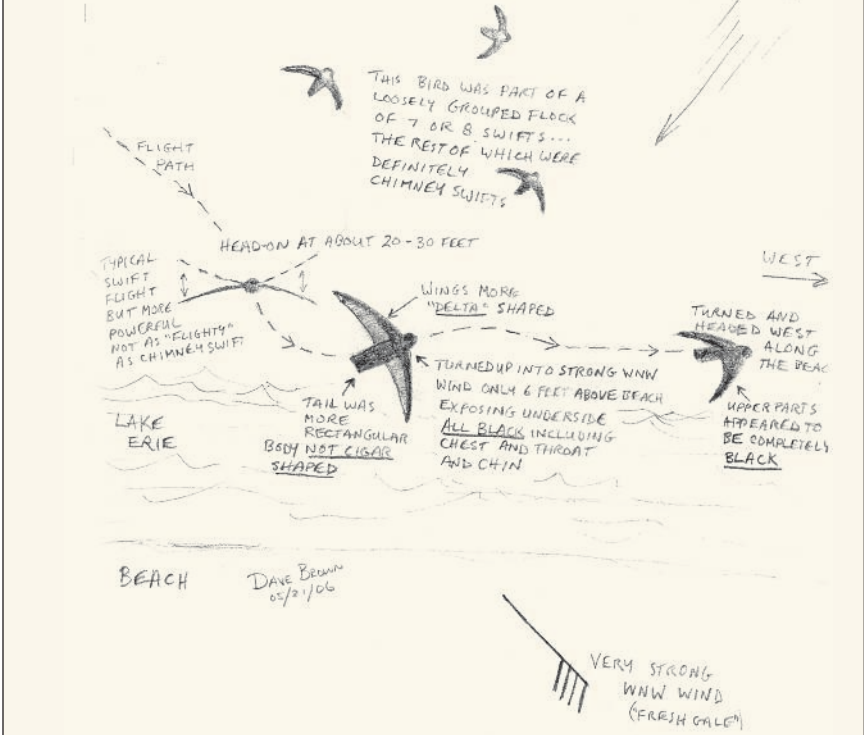


Figure 11. White-winged Dove at Long Point Tip, Norfolk, from 12-13 May 2006.
Photo: Michael D. Boyd.



Figure 12. Basic Chuck-will's-widow at Point Pelee National Park, Essex, from 13-14 May 2007.
Photo: Jean Iron.

Figure 13. Black Swift at Long Point Tip, Norfolk, on 21 May 2006. Sketch: David R. Brown.



Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* (1)

2006 one 21 May, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (David R. Brown, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Henri Robert; 2007-047).

This exceptional record involved a bird travelling with a group of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*), after several days of sustained westerly winds; the detailed report was accompanied by excellent field sketches (see Figure 13). The level of documentation was deemed sufficient to accept this record as a first for the province, even in the absence of a specimen or photograph.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (21)

- 2007 one definitive basic, male, 30 August, White Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Becky Johnson, Carl Johnson; 2007-156) – photo on file.
- one definitive basic, female, 18 November – 1 December, Kingsville, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt, Carl A. Pascoe, Rachel A. Powless, found by Chris Heil, Pam Heil; 2007-157) – photos on file.
- 2005 one female or first basic male, 18 November – 9 December, London, *Middlesex* (Shay Redmond, Cindy E.J. Cartwright, found by Alice Kenzie) – photo on file (2007-161).

The 2005 London record was previously accepted only as an unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbird (see Crins 2007). However, DNA bar code analysis subsequently obtained from the University of Guelph allows this bird to be differentiated from other *Selasphorus* species.

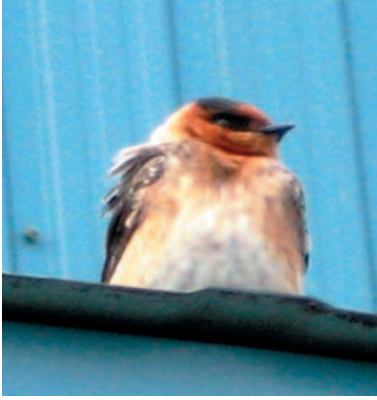


Figure 14. Cave Swallow at Erieau,
Chatham-Kent, on 7 November 2007.
Photo: Blake A. Mann.

Hummingbird species *Selasphorus sp.* (8)

2007 one female or first basic male, 15 July,
Elk Lake, *Timiskaming* (Michael Werner,
found by Lionel Venne; 2007-134).

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* North Only Before 2007 (18)

2006 one first basic, male, 20-21 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also
found by Maureen Woodcock, David J.T. Hussell, Erica Dunn; 2007-025) – photo on file.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (53)

2007 one 9 June, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (E.R. "Ted" Armstrong, found by Heidi Strobl; 2007-149)
– photo on file.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (52)

2007 two 6-7 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, also found by
Marianne B. Reid; 2007-150).
one *pelodoma*, 7 November, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2007-106) – photos on file.
one 7 November, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Adam C. Pinch; 2007-119).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* North Only (16)

2007 one definitive alternate, male, 26 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Ray Gribble; 2007-055)
– photo on file.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (33)

2007 one juvenal or first basic, 13-15 September,
Wolfe Island, *Frontenac* (Jerry Smith, Paul
O'Toole; 2007-127) – photos on file.
one juvenal or first basic, 14-15 October,
Shrewsbury, *Chatham-Kent* (Robert Epstein,
David J. Milsom, Mark K. Peck, Paul D. Pratt,
found by James T. Burk; 2007-128)
– photos on file.
2006 one juvenal or first basic, 6-9 September, Thunder
Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found
by Keith D. Wade; 2007-135) – photo on file.
one juvenal or first basic, 19 October, Nepean,
Ottawa (Christina Lewis, Robert A. Bracken,
Tony F.M. Beck; 2007-018) – photo on file.

The Nepean bird represents the latest accepted fall date for the province, the previous latest date being 15 October 1995, at Oshawa, *Durham* (Dobos 1998). The Shrewsbury bird was found during the Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual Convention at Point Pelee, allowing many birders to enjoy the bird on their way home.



Figure 15. Northern Wheatear at Nepean,
Ottawa, on 19 October 2006.
Sketch: Christina Lewis.



Figure 16. Northern Wheatear at Shrewsbury, Chatham-Kent, from 14-15 October 2007.
Photo: Mark K. Peck.



Figure 17. Townsend's Solitaire at Long Point Tip, Norfolk, on 6 June 2006.
Photo: Michael D. Boyd.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* South Only After 2000 (62)

- 2007 one 11 November, Halfway Lake Provincial Park, *Sudbury* (Randy N. Moratz, also found by Rodney Campbell, Christopher T. Bell, Christopher G. Blomme; 2007-158) – photos on file.
- 2006/07 one 5 November – 27 February (but not seen between these dates), Little Bluff Conservation Area, *Prince Edward* (V. Paul Mackenzie, found by Martin H. Edwards, Joel H. Ellis, Peter J. Good, Kathy Innes, Bud Rowe, Ronald D. Weir; 2007-026) – photos on file.
- 2006 one first basic, 6 June, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Henri Robert, Michael D. Boyd, also found by Simone Immler, Carl Wegenschimmel, Elizabeth Denten; 2007-048) – photos on file.
- 2005/06 one 31 December – 1 April, Reevecraig, *Ottawa* (Susan Lehmann, Rubby Neville; 2007-038) – photos on file.

The Long Point bird represents the latest accepted spring record for the province; the previous latest date was 11 to 15 May 2002 at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Crins 2003).

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata memorabilis/auduboni* (8)

- 2007 one alternate, male, 27 April – 3 May, Presqu’île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Margaret J.C. Bain, Owen Weir, Rod Lee, Chris Hominuk; 2007-056) – photos on file.
- one 7 May, Mountsberg Conservation Area, *Hamilton/Wellington* (Marian L. Thorpe; 2007-057).

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica* North Only (South Before 1994) (75)

- 2007 one *albilora*, 18 May (not 19 May as published in *North American Birds* 61: 436), Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Allan Hale; 2007-039) – photo on file.

This record is the first accepted sighting for northern Ontario since 2000 and also constitutes the first spring record.

“Yellow-lored” Yellow-throated Warbler***Dendroica dominica dominica* (3)**

- 2007 one male, 26-30 April, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (Jean Iron, found by Karl Dix; 2007-136) – photos on file.

This subspecies, the more southern of the two continental subspecies recorded so far in Ontario, has only two previous accepted records for the province: 14 October to 13 November 1982, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (James 1983), and 12 November to 4 December 1993, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma*, (Bain 1994); details of the Moosonee bird were previously published (see McRae and Hutchison 1983). There are two undocumented records that have yet to be adjudicated by the OBRC: 13 August 1971, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Curry 2006), and 8 September to 3 October 1993, Teeswater, *Bruce* (Wormington 2008).



Figure 18. “Yellow-lored” Yellow-throated Warbler at Stoney Creek, *Hamilton*, from 26-30 April 2007.

Photo: Jean Iron.



Figure 19. First alternate female Kirtland's Warbler at Point Pelee National Park, Essex, on 14 May 2007.
Photo: Barry S. Cherriere.


Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (38)

- 2007 one first alternate, female, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Barry S. Cherriere, also found by Robert L. Waldhuber; 2007-129) – photos on file.
 one male, 18 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2007-049).

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* North Only (5)

- 2005 one female, 22 April, Thunder Bay (not Geraldton as published in *North American Birds* 59: 591), *Thunder Bay* (Barry Atkinson; 2007-058) – photo on file.

This record, only the fifth accepted for northern Ontario, constitutes only the second in spring; the other spring record was 23 May 1994 at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Pittaway 1995).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (22)

- 2005 one definitive alternate, male, 21 May, Houghton Centre, *Norfolk* (David J. Agro, also found by Peter Carson, Allan Arthur; 2007-027).

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (77)

- 2007 one male, 12 May, St. Williams, *Norfolk* (Christopher J. Escott; 2007-137) – photos on file.
 2006 one first alternate/basic, 26 April, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, also found by Peter H. Coe, Barbara Bleho, Leslie Latt; 2007-050) – photo on file.
 one 8 May, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (Stéphane Menu; 2007-068) – photos on file.

At Walsingham, *Norfolk*, two singing males were present from 14 May – mid-June 2007. Considering the proximity to St. Williams, it is possible one of these birds is the same as the 12 May individual, but there is no direct evidence to support this viewpoint. Furthermore, the OBRC has yet to receive any documentation for the birds at Walsingham.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (17)

- 2007 one 17 March, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Adam C. Pinch, Blake A. Mann, Robert Dietz; 2007-028) – photos on file.
 one 29-30 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Ian M. Richards, Stephen T. Pike, found by Peter Granka; 2007-040) – photos on file.
 one 3-7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (David J. Milsom; 2007-138) – photos on file.
 one 12 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Eric W. Holden, also found by Brandon R. Holden; 2007-130) – photos on file.
 one male, 26 May, Kirkfield, *Victoria* (Robert Carswell, also found by Don Barnett, Lynne Freeman; 2007-090).

The 17 March record represents the earliest spring migrant for the province.



Figure 20. Lark Sparrow at Long Point Tip, Norfolk, on 26 April 2006. *Photo: Michael D. Boyd.*



Figure 21. Henslow's Sparrow at Point Pelee National Park, Essex, from 29-30 April 2007. *Photo: Stephen T. Pike.*

Figure 22. Male Blue Grosbeak in first alternate plumage at Etobicoke, *Toronto*, from 16-17 May 2007.

Photo: Alyson Hazlett.



Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (66)

- 2007 one definitive alternate, male, 2-4 May, Bay Lake, *Parry Sound* (Kip Daynard; 2007-059)
– photos on file.
- one definitive alternate, male, 11 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Y. Robert Tymstra, also found by Darrell Parsons; 2007-029).
- one first alternate, male, 16-17 May, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Alyson Hazlett; 2007-030)
– photos on file.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (23)

- 2006 one female or first alternate male, 15 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Sylvain Sabourin, found by Alison J. Bentley, Stewart Bentley; 2007-009) – photos on file.
- one definitive alternate, male, 26 May, Sudbury (Lake Nepahwin), *Sudbury* (Stephen Monet, found by Connie Monet; 2007-010) – photos on file.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (16)

- 2007 one first basic, male, 26 October – 2 November, Dryden, *Kenora* (Penny Ratushniak; 2007-159)
– photos on file.
- 2006 one definitive alternate, male, 12 June, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (James E. Heslop; 2007-020)
– photos on file.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (10)

- 2006/07 one 30 December – 20 March, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Thomas J. Nash; 2007-108).

NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Birds in this category are considered by the Committee to be correctly identified, but their origin is questionable. These birds may have escaped or may have been released from captivity. However, if new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the Committee.

- 2007** European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), one, mid-January, Moonbeam, *Cochrane* (Denis A. Trudel; 2007-110) – photos on file.
 European Goldfinch, one, 4 May, Toronto, *Toronto* (Sandra Eadie, also found by Linda Wells; 2007-060).
 European Goldfinch, one, 18 December, Huntsville, *Muskoka* (Justin Peter, Tracey Harper, also found by Chris Boettger; 2007-160) – photo on file.
- 2006/07** Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), one, definitive basic, 9 December – 7 January, Beamsville, *Niagara* (Brandon R. Holden, found by Jennie Foley, Mike Foley; 2007-091) – photo on file.
- 2006** Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), one, 11-13 October, Windsor, *Essex* (Mathilda Thibert, found by Mr. Dito, Robert Thibert; 2007-017) – photo on file.
 European Goldfinch, one, 22 April, Huntsville, *Muskoka* (J. Burke Korol; 2007-140) – photo on file.
 The sightings of Eurasian songbirds, such as European Goldfinch, continue although there is still no evidence to suggest that they are now established in the province.

Identification Uncertain

The documentation received for the following reports generally was found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally. In many cases, Committee members felt that the species being described probably was correctly identified, but that the details provided in the report, perhaps due to factors such as the conditions during the observation, were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

- 2007** Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), one, 17-19 July, London, *Middlesex* – photo on file (2007-072).
 Little Blue Heron, one, 9 July, Stouffville, *York* (2007-061).
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 7 June – mid-June, Sharbot Lake, *Frontenac* (2007-062).
 Glossy Ibis, one, 16 May, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (2007-075).
 Black Vulture, fourteen, 30 September, Rattlesnake Point, *Halton* – photos on file (2007-095).
 White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), 16 June and 23 July, Kingston, *Frontenac* (2007-063).
 Broad-winged Hawk (dark morph), one, 3 May, French River, *Parry Sound* – photos on file (2007-044).
 Broad-winged Hawk (dark morph), one, 3 May, Mattawa, *Nipissing* – photos on file (2007-045).
 Rufous Hummingbird, one, 19 July, Sharbot Lake, *Frontenac* (2007-088).
 Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*), one, 21 May, Selkirk Provincial Park, *Haldimand* (2007-037).

- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), one, 10 July, Westport, *Leeds and Grenville* (2007-078).
- Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), two, mid-June – 25 June, Cambridge, *Waterloo* (2007-065).
- Cave Swallow, one, 23 October, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (2007-105).
- Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), two to three, 8 July, Toronto, *Toronto* (2007-066).
- Northern Wheatear, one, 8-9 November, Hamilton, *Hamilton* – photo on file (2007-107).
- Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), one, 29 August, Whitby, *Durham* (2007-089).
- Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), two, 31 May and 19 June, Hillsport, *Thunder Bay* – photos on file (2007-067).
- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), one, 7 July, Bracebridge, *Muskoka* (2007-079).
- Blue Grosbeak, two, 15 June, Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, *Halton* – photos on file (2007-069).
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 1 July, Uxbridge, *Durham* – photos on file (2007-080).
- Blue Grosbeak, two, 17 July, Rockwood, *Wellington* (2007-070).
- "Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), one, 16 November, Whitby, *Durham* – photo on file (2007-120).
- Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*), one, 28 October, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (2007-109).
- 2006** Ross's Goose, one, 21 December, Pine Beach, *York* – photos on file (2007-112).
- Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), one, 11 August, Bidwell Lake, *Nipissing* – photos on file (2007-113).
- Yellow-billed Loon, one, 14 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (2007-051).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 7 October, Amherstburg, *Essex* (2007-011).
- Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), one, 29 August, Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* (2007-117).
- Lucifer Hummingbird (*Calothorax lucifer*), one, 14 September, Ridgeway, *Niagara* (2007-016).
- Selasphorus* hummingbird, one, 30 October, Belleville, *Hastings* – photo on file (2007-024).
- Northern Wheatear, one, 1 November, Georgetown, *Halton* (2007-019).
- Lark Bunting, one, 10 November, Whitby, *Durham* (2007-139).
- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), one, 23 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* – photos on file (2007-100).

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2006 Report (Ontario Birds 25: 50-68):

- under Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, insert "[Marianne B. Reid](#)" before "Alan Wormington".
- under Sage Thrasher, add "Willie D'Anna" after "Brandon R. Holden".

2003 Report (Ontario Birds 22: 54-74):

- under White-faced Ibis, insert "[Alan Wormington](#)" before "Stephen T. Pike" and delete "found by Edward P. LeBlanc"; change "5 May" to "4-5 May"; and change locations to read "Point Pelee National Park (4 May) and Sturgeon Creek (5 May)."

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