

northwestern Ontario. Logging creates similar habitat that the birds are also able to exploit. The effect on Palm Warbler populations could be significant as older stands continue to be cut and forestry activities push farther north in the boreal forest.

Acknowledgements

Part of the field work was completed through a Forest Bird Monitoring Programme study conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Northwestern Ontario Forest Technology Development Unit. I thank Gerry Racey (MNR) and Dan Welsh (CWS) for their support.

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Additions to the Bird List of Wellington County

by
A. D. Brewer

Introduction

Wellington County, which is about 2500km² in size, is situated about 100km northwest of Toronto, almost mid-way between lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, and Georgian Bay. It lies almost entirely within the watershed of the Grand River, with only two small sections outside of the Lake Erie watershed. There are a number of important

wetlands in, or partially in, the county: Luther Marsh and Pike's Lake in the north, Conestoga Lake in the west, Belwood and Guelph lakes in the centre, and Puslinch Lake and Mountsberg in the south. The majority of these are the result of artificial water impoundments. Aside from actual lakes, habitats in Wellington are very varied, with several large urban areas, much

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farmland of various types, and extensive areas of woodland, coniferous and deciduous, on both wet and dry areas.

A useful, if laconic, paper on the birds of Wellington County was published in 1906 by Professor A. B. Klugh (1906). A second study in 1923 covered Wellington and Waterloo counties (Soper 1923). A more detailed treatment was produced in 1977 (Brewer 1977). Klugh's paper listed 199 species (in fact exactly 200; he fastidiously excluded the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), by then a resident of some 20 years' standing, perhaps in the futile hope that if ignored it would go away). By 1977, this had grown to 278 species (but see below). The purpose of the present paper is to document the addition of a further 19 species; this list is, to our knowledge, current as of 31 December 1990.

Not all of the additions are of birds which occurred for the first time between 1977 and the present; in several cases, earlier records have only recently come to light. Before entering into the systematic list, I would like to digress briefly on the subject of Mr. William Holliday. Mr. Holliday was a master brewer, who at the end of the last century ran an operation in Guelph, near the site of the present Holliday Street. He was also a master taxidermist and bird collector, and many of his records are referred to in Klugh (1906). So far as we can judge, Mr. Holliday collected between about 1890 and the beginning of the

Great War. It should be noted that, prior to 1917, there were no laws protecting non-game birds in Canada; however, after that date Mr. Holliday's collection, while acquired perfectly legally, became illegal. We know, from the recollections of Mr. William Steele of Guelph (who knew Mr. Holliday very well) that the old collector was frequently harassed about his specimens. One day, some time in the middle 1930s (one assumes after a particularly bothersome altercation with Authority), Mr. Holliday took his entire collection down to the basement and threw it into the furnace. Since no catalogue was ever published, were it not for the retentive memory of Mr. Steele who, in his youth, was frequently shown the specimens, all knowledge of Mr. Holliday's collection would have been lost. A few examples of Mr. Holliday's work do still survive, for example, an immature Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryula martinica*) for Puslinch Township about 1894 — the second Ontario and fifth Canadian record (Godfrey 1986) — which is presently in the Royal Ontario Museum (no. 67562). Several specimens taken by Mr. Holliday were the first for the county, and one, Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), remains unique.

Species accounts

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) —
One in winter plumage trapped and banded at Mountsberg, 15

September 1983 (M. Wernaart, D. Brewer). One in breeding plumage, right on the county line in Luther Marsh (obligingly swimming into both Wellington and Dufferin counties), 16 June 1990 (M. Cadman *et al.*).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

(*Nyctanassa violacea*) — One in adult plumage, Luther Marsh, 17-19 May 1988 (also seen in Dufferin County) (E. Yerex).

Greater White-fronted Goose

(*Anser albifrons*) — One of the Arctic race (*A. a. frontalis*), mid-December 1985 to 8 March 1986, Guelph (R. Vantwest *et al.*).

Smew (*Mergus albellus*) — An adult male, Mountsberg, 15 April 1982 (M. Wernaart).

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) —

An immature was shot about 1912 near Marden by Bob Blyth and Jack Bedford; the mounted specimen was kept for many years in the Bedford house, but now appears to be lost (*vide* W. Steele). Puslinch Township, one flying southwest on 13 December 1981 (D. Brewer). Aberfoyle, two separate immatures, 5 November 1989 (M. Cadman *et al.*).

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), **Wild Turkey**

(*Meleagris gallopavo*) — Historical evidence was presented (Brewer 1986) that both these species were present in Puslinch Township at the time of European settlement — about

1830 — the grouse apparently being “rather numerous”. They were doubtless extirpated shortly afterwards. Recently there have been several sightings of Wild Turkeys in southern Wellington, presumably originating from Ministry re-introduction programs.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius*

longicaudus) — A partially-decomposed corpse found on the campus of the University of Guelph, 15 September 1981 (E. Crieff, D. Brewer). The specimen is now in the Royal Ontario Museum.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus*

fuscus) — An adult of the grey-backed race, *L. f. graellsii* (breeding in Britain, Faroe, and Iceland), at the Guelph City dump, 11 December 1983 (L. Hubble).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — A

first-year bird at the Guelph dump, 31 December 1985 (R. Vantwest *et al.*). About half a dozen records since, all immature except an adult on the Speed River on 8 October 1990 (J. Poklen). Latest record, 5 April 1986.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax*

virescens). The first record was of a singing male near Aberfoyle on 31 May 1982 (M. Cadman). Since then a further 18 have been banded, 17 at Mountsberg (M. Wernaart *et al.*) and one at Arkell (D. Lambie). Banding dates have varied from 23 May to

6 September, with the majority in late July and early August, mostly hatching-year birds. A male in breeding condition trapped on 31 May 1986, and a female with a brood-patch the following day, along with a number of young birds banded from mid-July onward in several years strongly suggests that this species nests not too far away.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — 7 October 1979, one flying westwards over Eramosa Township near Speedside (J. O. L. Roberts); 8 December 1984, one at Puslinch Lake (B. Wyatt, S. Kozak); 30 March 1986, one near Puslinch (*vide* S. Kozak); 10 September 1989, one south of Damascus (R. Vantwest).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — One banded at Mountsberg, 31 July 1980 (N. Bredin). Singles at: Luther Marsh, 29 October 1988 (M. Cadman, J. Poklen, B. Wyatt); Belwood, 21 December 1988; Puslinch Lake, 27 October 1990 (M. Cadman, J. Poklen, B. Wyatt); Guelph, at a feeder from 5 February to 3 March 1989, and again 18 December 1989 to 23 February 1990 (A. L. A. Middleton).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — Corwhin, one from 26 December 1983 to 11 March 1984 (D. Brewer *et al.*); south of Guelph Lake, one from 24 January to 17 February 1985 (C. Potter *et al.*); Guelph, one from

22 November to 1 December 1990 (E. Ormrod *et al.*).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — One collected at an unknown location, presumably near Guelph, by Mr. W. Holliday. Since this record is not mentioned in Klugh (1906), collection probably took place between this date and the time when Mr. Holliday ceased active collecting, about the beginning of the First World War. One more recent record, a male singing at the Fish Hatchery Swamp, Puslinch Township, 12 May 1981 (L. Hubble).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) — One taken by Mr. Holliday at Cooling's Swale, which was on the eastern edge of Guelph on the present Highway 24. Since this record is not mentioned in Klugh, the same presumptions can probably be made as to the date of collection as for the previous species.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) — Chapman's *The Warblers of North America*, written about 1907, gives a record from Mount Forest on 13 May 1905. Klugh was not aware of the record, either in 1906 or in 1910 when he published a short note on "The present status of the Prairie Warbler in Canada". At that time the disjunct breeding population around Georgian Bay had not been discovered, though Klugh perceptively

speculated that the species did nest at some unknown Ontario location. One recent record, one at Luther Marsh on 7 May 1989 (M. Cadman).

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)

— A male singing south of Teviotdale, 25 May 1985 (P. Weller).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes*

grammacus) — One near Damascus 30 and 31 May 1988 (P. Taylor *et al.*).

Deletions

Two species given by Brewer (1977) should be deleted: **Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*), Luther Marsh, 30 April to 5 May 1976; and **Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*), Mountsberg, 23 May 1971. Both, it transpires, were on the "wrong" side of the line, the records referring to Dufferin and Wentworth counties respectively.

The present bird list of Wellington County, up to 31 December 1990, therefore stands at 295 species.

Note

Although, strictly speaking, it lies without the scope of this paper, it is worth noting that in 1977 there was only one record of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in Wellington, a female seen in 1975. In April 1990, the Guelph Field Naturalists' House Finch survey found almost 900 singing males in the City of Guelph alone, with substantial populations in other

urban areas such as Fergus and Arthur, and smaller numbers around settlement in some rural parts.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all the observers mentioned above, and especially to R. Vantwest and B. Wyatt for collating some recent records. I am also appreciative of the help of W. Steele with regard to Mr. W. Holliday and his collection.

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