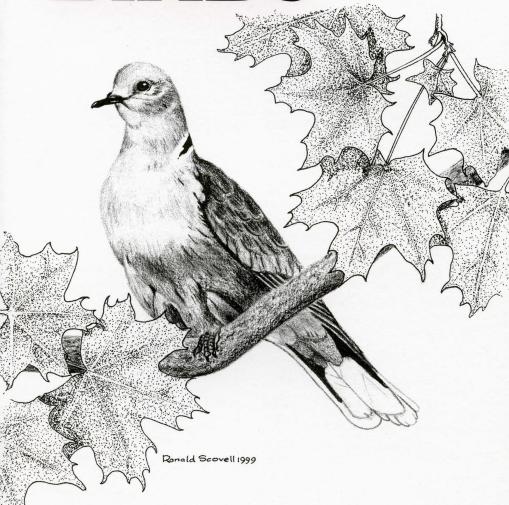
ONTARIO BIRDS



Journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists Volume 17 Number 2 August 1999

Ontario Field Ornithologists

President: Jean Iron, 9 Lichen Place, Toronto, Ontario M3A 1X3

(416) 445-9297

E-mail: jeaniron@globedirect.com

Ontario Field Ornithologists is an organization dedicated to the study of birdlife in Ontario. It was formed to unify the ever-growing numbers of field ornithologists (birders/birdwatchers) across the province, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its members. The Ontario Field Ornithologists officially oversees the activities of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC), publishes a newsletter (OFO News) and a journal (Ontario Birds), operates a bird sightings listsery (ONTBIRDS, moderated by Mike Street), hosts field trips throughout Ontario, and holds an Annual General Meeting in the autumn.

All persons interested in bird study, regardless of their level of expertise, are invited to become members of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Membership rates can be obtained from the address below. All members receive *Ontario Birds* and *OFO News*. Please send membership enquiries to: **Ontario Field Ornithologists**, **Box 455**, **Station R**, **Toronto**, **Ontario M4G 4E1**

E-mail: ofo@interlog.com Website: www.interlog.com/~ofo

Ontario Birds

Editors: Bill Crins, Ron Pittaway, Ron Tozer Editorial Assistance: Nancy Checko, Jean Iron

Art Consultant: Christine Kerrigan

Photo Quiz: Bob Curry

Design/Production: Aben Graphics, Dwight

The aim of *Ontario Birds* is to provide a vehicle for documentation of the birds of Ontario. We encourage the submission of full length articles and short notes on the status, distribution, identification, and behaviour of birds in Ontario, as well as location guides to significant Ontario birdwatching areas, book reviews, and similar material of interest on Ontario birds.

Material submitted for publication should be on computer disk, or type-written (double-spaced). Please follow the style of this issue of *Ontario Birds*. All submissions are subject to review and editing. Submit items for publication to the Editors at the address noted above.

Ontario Birds Volume 17 Number 2 August 1999	Pages 61–104
Table of Contents	
Letters to the Editors Gulls Eating Voles/Crossbills Eating Ash	61
Articles Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1998 Robert Z. Dobos	62
Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos in Ontario: 6. Interspecific Interactions, Maintenance Activities, and Molt Ross D. James	84
Notes An Example of Crow Intelligence George M. Fairfield	94
Book Reviews 1998 Peterborough County Natural History Summary reviewed by <i>Ron Tozer</i>	96
A Birder's Guide to Point Pelee (and Surrounding Region)	97

Cover Illustration: Eurasian Collared-Dove (Streptopelia decaocto) by Ron Scovell

100

102

reviewed by Ron Tozer

John L. Cranmer-Byng (1919-1999)

In Memoriam

Photo Quiz

Ross D. James

Bob Curry

ISSN 0822-3890

Letters to the Editors

Gulls Eating Voles

In response to Gerry Cuccio's letter regarding Ring-billed Gulls eating meadow voles (Ontario Birds 17:1), during the 1960s and 1970s, it was a common sight here to have flocks of Ring-billed Gulls follow the tractor and plow in the fall of the year, snatching earthworms and anything else that might become exposed as the earth was turned. I recall numerous occasions when Ringbilled Gulls would be seen devouring live meadow voles as they scampered along the bare furrows within a few feet of the rear of the plow. These they would swallow whole; other times the gulls took flight with the meadow voles in their beaks and consumed them during flight. The birding was often quite profitable during fall plowing as the occasional Red-tailed Hawk would also join in on the feeding frenzy.

> Terry Sprague Picton, Ontario

Crossbills Eating Ash

Re: Ron Tozer's note on Whitewinged Crossbills eating (Ontario Birds 17: 27-29), we have observed this behaviour as well in Algonquin Park. On 7 March 1999, we were birding the Mew Lake Campground on a cold (-10°C), sunny day. In one of the fire pits, a pair of White-winged Crossbills was pecking in the ashes. We were able to approach them within 2 m, and confirmed they were eating bits of ash. The female lingered longer, presumably eating more ash, before the pair flew off. They seemed quite unperturbed by our presence and left only when it seemed they had their fill of ash and/or charcoal. There were several winter campers at the site, so several fire pits had ash in them. We didn't notice any other "ash eaters", but we only birded the area for about an hour. As many people know, in March there were many crossbills in the Parkway Corridor, likely breeding. It was common to see them eating grit or salt at the side of Highway 60.

> Mike Lauzon Judith Nancekivell Scarborough, Ontario