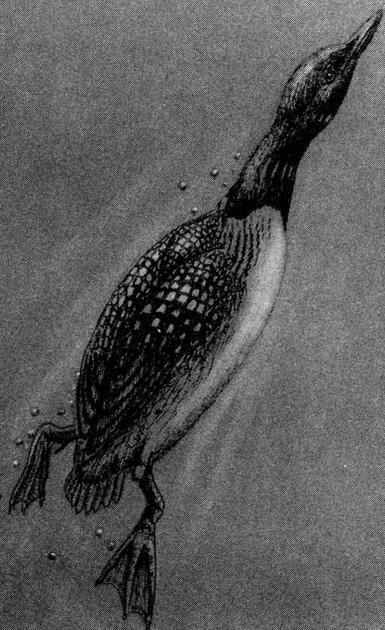
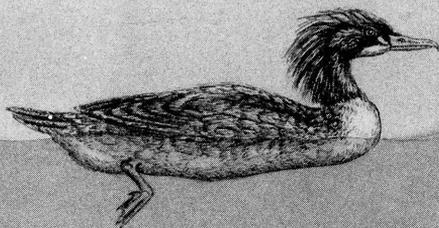


ONTARIO BIRDS



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Reports of rare birds, (those for which the OBRC requires documentation — see supplement to *Ontario Birds* 9 (2)), should be sent to:

Secretary
Ontario Bird Records Committee
c/o Ontario Field Ornithologists
Box 62014
Burlington Mall Postal Outlet
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 4K2

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Editorial Policy

Ontario Birds is the journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Its aim is to provide a vehicle for the documentation of the birds of Ontario. We encourage the submission of full length articles or short notes on the status of bird species in Ontario, significant provincial or county distributional records, tips on bird identification, behavioural observations of birds in Ontario, location guides to

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Material should be double-spaced and typewritten if possible. All submissions are subject to review and editing. Camera-ready galley proofs will be sent to authors only if specifically requested on submission.

significant birdwatching areas in Ontario, book reviews, and similar material of interest on Ontario birds. We do not accept submissions dealing with "listing". Distributional records of species for which the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) requires documentation must be accepted by them before they can be published in *Ontario Birds*.

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Letter to the Editors

Snow bathing in Common Ravens

Further to Al Sandiland's "Snow Bathing Proves Fatal for American Goldfinch" in *Ontario Birds* 10(2), 1992 (I add the following observations):

In his notes on the occasional habit of snow bathing, Sandilands mentions the Common Raven as one species that practices this habit. During the winter of 1991-92 at my home near Evansville on western Manitoulin Island, I have observed ravens so engaged several times; however, always in conjunction with water bathing.

Near our farm house, there are open springs where water springing from the earth is always sufficiently warm to keep these holes open all winter, regardless of how low the thermometer drops. Such holes prove popular with many birds, year-round. During winter, ravens bathe here quite regularly.

Last winter, on several occasions around noon, in late winter when it was calm, bright, and very cold, ravens left their bath in the water to complete it in the snow banks along the stream. With wings held ajar, they immersed the breast in snow, dipped both their head and shoulders up and down, and generally thrashed about much as they do when water bathing.

What prompted such behaviour? One thinks of thermal adjustments, snow used as water blotters, effects upon parasites, rituals (courtship and otherwise), and more. Ordinarily, most birds, including ravens, move directly from the water to trees nearby for preening. What was different on these days?

I trust these observations will add to the knowledge on snow bathing among birds.

Doreen Bailey
Evansville, Ontario

Publication Notice

Bird Trends: A Report on Results of National and Regional Ornithological Surveys in Canada. Number 1, Summer 1991. Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3. No charge.

This report describes a number of bird population monitoring and surveying programs across Canada, and includes addresses to contact for birders interested in participating. One section presents data on population trends in Canadian songbirds, with analysis by Erica Dunn (Long Point Bird Observatory).

(**Bird Trends** is distributed free to interested amateur ornithologists, upon request.)