

The late, cold spring continued into June, creating waves of migration in the first week of the month more typical of mid-May. Cool, wet weather continued over most of the province until the third week of June, when a warming trend finally arrived, but this did not last long. There was some seasonally hot weather in early July, but then rainy, cooler conditions took over for the rest of the month. Summer bird counts and observations strongly suggested that early returning spring migrants had been especially affected by the prolonged cold in April and May, with lower than usual populations of Killdeer, Eastern Phoebes, Winter Wrens, some *Dendroica* warblers, and Eastern Meadowlarks. Late migrants, however, seemed to fare better, with almost record-high numbers of flycatchers, later-arriving warblers, Indigo Buntings, and American Goldfinches.

Most Ontario birders were taking part in the third year of the Breeding Bird Atlas and recorded much interesting and unexpected data, not all of which has yet been comprehensively analysed. Several species seem to be undergoing range expansions, including Common Raven, now nesting well south of the Canadian Shield, Northern Mockingbird, nesting in the south of the province in much-increased numbers and advancing into northern Ontario, and several sparrow species found at or beyond the limits of their usual range.

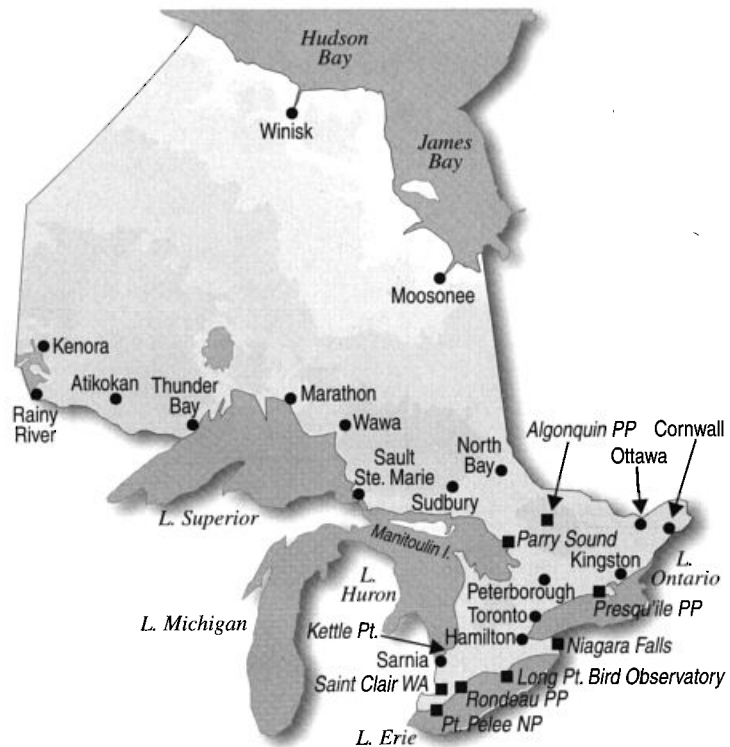
Apart from atlas efforts, the summer was generally quiet for birders. The cool, wet weather resulted in few rarities or southern overshoots, but unusual species included Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, Gray Kingbird, and Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: B.S.C. (Bird Studies Canada); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists). Place names in *italics* refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A summering flock of 13 imm. Red-throated Loons on L. Ontario off Confederation Park, Hamilton 14 Jun (KAM) dwindled to 2 birds by the end of Jul (m. ob.). For reasons unknown, Common Loons had extremely poor breeding success in Quetico P.P., *Rainy River* this year (SP), though hatch rates in nearby Atikokan were about average (DHE). Bronte harbor, *Halton* held 12 ad. Red-necked Grebes, including 2 breeding pairs, through the period (GE), and there was a group of 46 birds off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* 1 Jul (LSF). A breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe frequented the Exeter S.T.P., *Middlesex* 10–20 Jul (RT). American White Pelicans are starting to show up in numbers on L. Superior: there were 20 on Black Bay 1 Jul (AE), 50 at Mission I. 9 Jul (WZ), and 200 at Red Rock, also 9 Jul (DP). Double-crested Cormorants continued to escalate in num-

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bers, with a large new colony discovered in the Humber Marshes, Toronto in Jun (JA). The Snowy Egret at Horseshoe Bay, *Bruce* in late May stayed to at least 1 Jun (MS).

There was an ad. male Snow Goose near Ferndale, *Bruce* 28 Jun (RZD et al.). An imm. Mute Swan was unexpected at Hattie Cove, Pukaskwa N.P., *Thunder Bay* 7 Jul (RF). A Tundra Swan lingered at Brule L. from mid-May to at least 19 Jul (m. ob.), only the 2nd summer record for Algonquin P.P.; one spent all summer at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* (TH), while another in Cobourg harbor, *Northumberland* 13 Jul (CEG) was presumably the same bird at nearby Presqu'ile P.P. 17–27 Jul (m. ob.). A female Canvasback frequented Hamilton harbor 16 Jun–31 Jul (RZD). *Thunder Bay* atlasers recorded two successful nestings of Bufflehead near Muskeg L., easily the farthest s. nest records for the area (NGE, BM, CH).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Bald Eagle population in *Rainy River* remains high, but several nests were lost this summer due to high winds and severe thunderstorms (DHE); the first known nesting of Bald Eagles in Algonquin P.P. was dramatized by apparent attempted siblicide, with one small young found below the nest 16 Jul and another larger young in the nest 20 Jul (*vide* RGT); the smaller bird was rescued and is

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responding to rehabilitation. An American Avocet briefly visited Presqu'ile P.P. 8 Jun (JJT), another was at the Blenheim S.T.P., *Chatham-Kent* 13 Jul (SC, KJB, JTB), and there was a male at the Tollgate Ponds, Hamilton harbor 22 Jul (RZD). A Willet on Sable I. at the se. corner of Lake of the Woods 7 Jun (LH) was only the 2nd for the area, but the paucity of records may be the result of low birder coverage, as nesting occurs not far w. in Manitoba. An Upland Sandpiper was considerably n. of its range when heard and seen two days in early Jun in a grassy clearcut on Dog River Road w. of Raith, *Thunder Bay* (DG). The Tip at Long Point, *Norfolk* had a good count of 17 Red Knots 1 Jun (B.S.C.); a Red Knot on Long Point beach 3 Jun had been color-banded in Tierra del Fuego in Dec 2000 (MB). Two Sanderlings at the Tip of Point Pelee 20 Jun (AW) were record-late spring migrants for that location. A record-early juv. Least Sandpiper at Presqu'ile P.P. 7 Jul (DS) probably reflected the fact that Arc-

tic ice this year went out some three weeks earlier than usual in many areas. A breeding-plumaged ad. Long-billed Dowitcher was on Amherst I. 27 Jul (BDL). There were 2 Red-necked Phalaropes at the Blenheim S.T.P. 7 Jun (BAM).

JAEGERS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

An ad. Pomarine Jaeger flying s. down the Petawawa R. at Whitson L. 9 Jun (CJ, RS) provided only the 3rd record for Algonquin P.P.; an ad. Parasitic Jaeger circled Oshawa Second Marsh briefly 2 Jun (TH). Presqu'île P.P. had an imm. Laughing Gull 5 Jul (IS). Single first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gulls were identified at the Blenheim Landfill 7 & 15 Jun (KJB) and at Wheatley harbor, Kent 4 Jul (AW). Four ad. Caspian Terns flying over Two Rivers Airfield 29 Jun (MVAB, BS, HK) furnished only the 6th observation for Algonquin P.P.; still rare for Ottawa, one was at Ottawa Beach on the Ottawa R. 24 & 27 Jul (BDL, DB). Three breeding-plumaged ad. Arctic Terns flew w. along the Ottawa R. at the Deschênes Rapids 1 Jun, and 2 were seen there the next day (BB, CL, BC, JS). Unexpected for Presqu'île P.P. for the time of year were 4 Forster's Terns 10 & 11 Jun (DS); unusual numbers of Forster's Terns summered in the Point Pelee area, with a maximum count of 190 of mixed ages in fields along North Dike 7 Jul (AW).

A Eurasian Collared-Dove flew over Pelee Marsh 2 Jun (SER), possibly the same bird seen at Point Pelee in mid-May; the same or a different bird was at Staples, Essex 11 Jul (MR). A White-winged Dove visited a rural home near Kakabeka Falls, Thunder Bay 14-19 Jun (BR). Wheatley P.P. had a calling Chuck-will's-widow 14 Jun (KE, ME).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

There were still 17 migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Point Pelee 4 Jun (AW). A migrant Acadian Flycatcher was at Point Pelee 9 Jun (FJU), one was singing near Peflerlaw, York 8 Jun (LN, JN), and another sang throughout the period near King City, York (KS, HB, AL); there were six pairs of Acadian Flycatchers at Skunk's Misery, Middlesex, up one from last year (PAR). The Acadian Flycatcher Recovery team found at least 30 territorial males and 15 nests in the extreme sw. of the province. A Gray Kingbird was an exciting find at the Amherstview S.T.P., Lennox and Addington 26 Jul (OW, TW), but unfortunately the bird stayed only one day. A Northern Shrike, catching and eating a Spotted Sandpiper

chick, was surprisingly far s. at Musselwhite Mine, 200 km n. of the town of Pickle Lake, Kenora 17 Jun (SB). A very late Common Raven nest near Mar, Bruce still held 2 fledged young 24 Jun (JWJ); atlassers continued to record breeding evidence for



This White-winged Dove visited a home north of Lake Superior near Kakabeka Falls, Ontario 14-16 June 2003. Photograph by Brian Rusnick.

Common Ravens much farther s. than expected, including the first nesting for York in the York Region Forest near Newmarket (*vide* THF).

At the extreme n. edge of their usual breeding range, House Wrens were fairly common mid-Jun in a regenerating burn n. of Kabitotikwia L., Thunder Bay (NGE). At Long Point at the end of the first week of Jun, there was a large, late migration of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes at both Old Cut and the Tip (RR); unusual for Halton was a territorial male Hermit Thrush at Blue Springs Creek Valley 20 Jul (AW). Northern Mockingbirds prospered, with pairs found in six new atlas squares n. of Kingston (K.F.N.); in Thunder Bay, single Northern Mockingbirds were reported from Terrace Bay (LM-F) and Longlac (*vide* GE) in late Jun, and Thunder Bay city had a family group of 5 in mid-Jul (JB). A late American Pipit was at the Tip of Long Point 6 Jun (B.S.C.). Several warbler species extended their migration dates. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was late at the Tip of Long Point 4 Jun (B.S.C.), and an out-of-range male sang at Point Pelee 10-22 Jun (HTO et al.); several Black-throated Blue and Pine Warblers found by atlassers in Quetico P.P. were at the n. limit of their range (DHE). A record-late Palm Warbler sang in Point Pelee N.P. late May-9 Jun (GB, DB, DKS, LS, m. ob.); 6 singing in a 10-year-old Jack Pine plantation n. of Atikokan 17 Jun (CM, DHE) were in an unexpected location, usually nesting in bogs much farther north. A male Blackpoll Warbler at Rondeau P.P. 22 Jun was a record-late spring migrant (BAM). The sw. of the province held about 20 pairs of Prothonotary Warblers, again a slight decline from

previous years (B.S.C.), but there was a territorial male at Hillman Marsh, Essex 7-20 Jun (DJW), a historical nesting location; a report of a Prothonotary Warbler nw. of Bolton, Peel 14 Jun and later (PG et al.) awaits further details. There were at least 77 pairs of Hooded Warblers in the Long Point area (B.S.C.); this number was based on known nests, so there were undoubtedly many more in the area. A male Hooded Warbler sang 14 Jun-10 Jul near Cape Croker, Bruce, but there was no sign of a female (JWJ et al.), and a territorial female was e. of Guelph Junction, Halton 28 Jun (AW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A first-year male Summer Tanager was in Brookbanks Ravine, Toronto 1 Jun (RJP), and another was at The Dunes, Point Pelee 14 Jun (JBM et al.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was far n. at Musselwhite Mine 15 Jun (SB), but even farther n., on Hudson Bay, were a singing male at the Ft. Severn town site 8 Jul (SB) and a pair on nearby coastal tundra 10 Jul (SB), with the male singing on territory. A Field Sparrow sang in a large clearcut at the n. end of Black Sturgeon L., Thunder Bay in mid-Jul (DG), and Vesper Sparrows were common in scarified clearcuts on Dog River Road (DG) and s. of Kabitotikwia L. (NGE) at the extreme n. of their breeding range. An ad. Le Conte's Sparrow beside the Petawawa R. 9 Jun (CJ) was the first Jun record for Algonquin P.P. and may have been a territorial male rather than a late migrant. Breeding evidence was obtained for Lincoln's Sparrow in several atlas squares considerably s. of the species' previously known range (m. ob.). An Indigo Bunting was n. to Max Creek, 100 km n. of Thunder Bay city, in mid-Jun (AG). A male Painted Bunting was photographed at a feeder w. of Old Ft. William 1 Jun (GM), for the 2nd Thunder Bay record, but unfortunately did not linger. Two female Dickcissels were at the Blenheim Landfill 13 Jul (JTB, KJB, SC), and a nest with 3 eggs and one young was found there 20 Jul (KJB). A Western Meadowlark was banded at Thunder Cape Bird Observatory 5 Jun (JMW); a male was noted at the Blenheim Landfill 17 Jul (KJB); and 2 ads. with 4 young were there 20 Jul (KJB, SC). Migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at several locations along the n. shore of L. Superior and some, probably nesting, were in a marsh near Dryden, Kenora (CE); in the s., one was seen at the Tip of Long Point 7 Jun (HR et al.), a male visited a feeder at Kettle Point, Lambton 10 Jun (AHR), and another was at Pelee Marsh 27 Jun (STP, KT). There were 2 Evening Grosbeaks in Kingston 13 Jul (JHE), and nesting was confirmed in four atlas squares n. of the city after an absence of two summers (K.F.N.). Several pairs of Evening Grosbeaks visited feeders in

Atikokan through the period, bringing fledged young with them in late Jul, but no amount of determined watching and searching could locate nests (DHE).

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A cool, wet summer followed on the heels of a cool, wet spring across the entire Region. Record summer rainfall was recorded in several local areas, for example, 27 cm in Warren, Ohio in July. This went a long way toward reversing long-term drought conditions that have gripped much of the Region for more than a decade. Among several possible effects of these weather conditions on summer bird reports were more than the usual number of late spring migrants, including numbers of cuckoos heard calling during nocturnal migration well into mid-June (JMc); better-than-usual nesting success for marsh and other wetland birds due to sustained high water levels; increased nesting success of grassland sparrows and icterids thanks to rain-delayed harvesting of hay; and perhaps increased nesting densities and nesting success for many insectivores resulting from generally lush foliage and associated higher invertebrate abundance, especially in forested habitats (but see comment for Yellow-throated Warbler below). Notwithstanding the later onset of summer-like weather across the Region, the nesting season for many birds seemed more protracted than usual, and there actually may have been a higher incidence of multiple brooding in some species, based on dates of capture of recently fledged juveniles of several species at the Powdermill banding station in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Abbreviations: B.B.S. (Breeding Bird Survey); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, *Ottawa/Lucas*, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Above-average numbers of late migrant and summering Common Loons were reported from across both Pennsylvania and Ohio, including 3 as far s. as Quemahoning Res, *Somerset*, PA though 14 Jun (JPa, LP) and at least one s. to Alum

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Creek Res., *Delaware*, OH (*vide* BW). Several families of nesting Pied-billed Grebes were seen at traditional nesting sites in the Pymatuning/Conneaut Marsh region of nw. Pennsylvania (RCL, RFL); in Ohio, high counts included four territories at Grand R. W.A., *Trumbull*, in early Jun (CB) and a high count of 21 birds at Big Island W.A., *Marion* 16 Jul (SS). A late migrant Horned Grebe fell out on Somerset L., *Somerset*, PA 1 Jun (JPa), and

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