

eclipsed all previous Florida counts. Ten White-crowned Sparrows were at Frog Pond 6 Nov (DSi), and 15 were counted at L.A.N.S.R.A. 21 Nov (HR). Dark-eyed Juncos were s. to Ft. De Soto 8–9 Nov (LA) and Everglades N.P. 26 Nov (MB). Very rare in Florida, single Lapland Longspurs were at Everglades N.P. 17–18 Oct (RH) and Emerald Marsh, Lake 13 Nov (ph. PMA). L.A.N.S.R.A. held 69 Blue Grosbeaks 12 Sep and 78 Indigo Buntings 17 Oct, along with 208,000 Red-winged Blackbirds 9 Aug, one Yellow-headed Blackbird 23 Nov, and 23,000 Common Grackles 1 Aug (HR). Another Yellow-headed was at Cutler Ridge, Miami 23 Oct (RT). Bronzed Cowbirds were at St. Marks 14 Aug (TC) and Miami 25 Aug (SS). Purple Finches irrupted, with one at Alligator Pt. 25 Nov (JM), birds at four locations in Apalachicola N.F. 26 Nov (TH), 4 at Bald Pt. 26–27 Nov (JDo), and one at Gainesville 29 Nov+ (RR). The most southerly House Finches were at Everglades City, Collier 30 Oct (RA) and Archbold Biological Station, Highlands 5 Nov (DSi). Pine Siskins too were on the move, with eight reports, including one at Cape Florida 30 Oct (MD, RD) and 2 at Plantation Key, Monroe 26 Nov (MW). An American Goldfinch at Gainesville 17 Aug (RP) was exceptionally early.

EXOTICS

A banded Abdim's Stork was observed at Orlando 3 Oct (CPa). Perhaps the beginning of widespread colonization, a Purple Swamphen was documented at Emerald Marsh 10 Sep (PMA, ph.). Exotics newly verified were Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill (*Tockus flavirostris*) at Sanibel I. in Sep (ph. GV), Silvery-cheeked Hornbill at Miami 13 Oct (ph. AB), and Yellow-collared Lovebirds at Bradfordville, Leon in Aug (2; ph. DBE) and Kendall, Miami-Dade 8 Aug (one; ph. KM). A Gouldian Finch (*Chloebea gouldiae*) at Gainesville 24 Aug (PSI) provided the first report.

Cited contributors: Bruce Ackerman, Howard Adams, Ralph Arwood, Lyn Atherton, Antonio Balladares, Gian Basili, Fred Bassett, Hilda Bellot, Ted Below, Mark Berney, Don Bethancourt (DBE), Wes Biggs, Jeff Bouton (JeB), Dave Bowman (DBO), Judy Bryan (JuB), Pat Burns, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Julie Cocke (JCo), Steve Collins (SC), Tom Curtis, Michelle Davis, P.J. Deitschel, Robin Diaz, Fred Dietrich, Terry Doyle (TeD), Terry Doyle (TeD), Jack Dozier (JDo), Jim DuBois (JDu), Becky Enneis, Charlie Ewell, Grayal Farr, Paul Fellers, Joanna Fitzgerald, David Freeland, Murray Gardler,

Lauren Gilson (LGi), Dave Goodwin, L. Graham (LGr), Jack Hailman (JaH), Liz Hailman, Roger Hammer, Erik Haney, Al and Bev Hansen (A&BH), Jeffrey Hayes (JHa), Mark Hedden, Tom Hince, John Hintermister (JHi), Jackie Holstein (JHo), Peter Homann (PHO), Paul Hueber (PHU), Bill Hull, Gloria Hunter, Marcy Jones, Sheila Klink, Joyce King, Andy Kratter, Ed Kwater, Patrick Leary, Mike Liberton, Karen Mabb, Ingvar Magnusson, Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LMA), Peter May (PMA), Linda McCandless (LMC), Sean McCool, Gail Menk, Paul Miller (PMi), Brennan Mulrooney, John Murphy, Kris Nelson, Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Carol Paine (CPa), Ruth Palenik, Cheri Pierce (CPi), Bill Pranty, John Puschock, Diane Reed, Bob Richter (BRi), Bryant Roberts (BRo), Harry Robinson, Tom Rodriguez, Rex Rowan, Fran Rutkovsky, Kevin Sarsfield, Earl Scales, Susan Schneider, David Simpson (DSi), Pat Slattery (PSL), Ray Smart (RaS), Ron Smith (RoS), Bob Snow (BSn), Lee Snyder, David Steadman (DSi), Bob Stoll (BSi), Paul Sykes (PSy), Tom Tomlinson, Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, James Tucker, Juan Villamil, Alex Vinokur, Greg Vogel, Billi Wagner, Major Waltman, Walt Winton, Andy Wraithmell. 🌐

Margaret J. C. Bain

219 Albert Street

Cobourg, Ontario K9A 2R6

(mjcain@sympatico.ca)

After a disappointingly cool, wet summer, the fall was consistently warm and pleasant over almost the entire province. Many clear nights saw heavy migration under ideal flying conditions, but there were no significant cold fronts in August and September and very few in October. The first light snow appeared in more northerly areas in early November, but warm ground ensured that it soon melted. In the southwest of the province, the first hard frost did not occur until early November, with frost-prone Jewelweed still green and in bloom to the end of October. Water levels in the Great Lakes remained very high until late in the season, reducing shoreline feeding areas for southbound shorebirds.

As usual, some migrants appeared rather earlier than expected, some later, leading to speculation on the complex factors in the Arctic and across the continent behind these movements. Numerous waterfowl species were recorded exceptionally early, perhaps related to a very early breeding season in western North America, including the west-

Ontario



ern Arctic. Gulls, on the other hand, were late moving south, most noticeable in the delayed appearance of the usual flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. Passerine migration was also slow, especially for warblers and sparrows, most likely because of late nesting in the damp, cold northern summer.



This cooperative Western Grebe stayed close to shore on Lake Ontario off Fifty Point Conservation Area for several days in early (here 7) November 2004, permitting many observers the chance to study it. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

Low numbers of juvenile shorebirds in August and September also indicated a poor nesting season in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, which were exceptionally cold in late May and June. There were very few young birds among migrating Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River and the lower Great Lakes, again likely due to reduced invertebrate prey in the muskeg breeding ponds and lakes of the low Arctic in the summer.

An influx of Pacific Loons, almost all adults, occurred on the lower Great Lakes, and an errant Western Grebe at the western end of Lake Ontario was enjoyed by many. A juvenile Ferruginous Hawk was a highlight of a somewhat lackluster hawk migration. The spectacular southbound wave of Great Gray Owls was already underway by early October north of Lake Superior. Thunder Bay seemed to attract stray flycatchers, with a Western Kingbird, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in September and October. There was a mini-flight of Cave Swallows in November, restricted to the extreme southwest of the province. A long-staying Golden-crowned Sparrow drew birders from far and wide to Cranberry Marsh, Whitby in November, and a male Painted Bunting was a star at campground feeders in Normandale, Norfolk in early August.

Abbreviations: B.P.B.O. (Bruce Peninsula B.O.); K.EN. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., Norfolk); L.S.S. (Leslie Street Spit, Toronto); P.E. Pt. (Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward); S.L. (sewage lagoons); T.B.O. (Toronto B.O.); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O.); V.W.B. (Van Wagners

Beach, Hamilton). Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

The high count of migrating Red-throated Loons was 50 off Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* 27 Nov (RZD et al.). An incursion of Pacific Loons on the lower Great Lakes was heralded by a molting ad. off Wicklow Beach, *Northumberland* 22 Oct (MJCB), followed by reports from several locations including single ads. at Fifty Point C.A., *Hamilton/Niagara* 31 Oct–5 Nov (BRH, m.ob.), Confederation Park, *Hamilton* 1 Nov (RZD), and Port Credit harbor 3 Nov (WR). Point Pelee had its 2nd through 4th records, with single ads. flying past the Tip 31 Oct (AW, RPH et al.), 10 Nov (AW), and 30 Nov (AW), while Pelee I. recorded its first ever 13 Nov (DJW, DB, JCI); P.E. Pt. had 2 on 7 Nov (K.F.N.), and a juv. in Humber Bay Park 8–13 Nov (WP, m.ob.) was the first ever documented for Toronto. Erieanu, *Kent* had 475 Pied-billed Grebes 30 Sep (JTB). A Western Grebe was off Fifty Point C.A. 5–12 Nov (LE, m.ob.). An ad. Eared Grebe in breeding plumage at Exeter S.L. since mid-Jul was molting when last seen 27 Sep (RDT); another flew past the Tip of Point Pelee 8 Sep (AW).

A juv. Northern Gannet was off V.W.B. 19 Oct (DRS, DRD). An American White Peli-



In early August 2004 (here 7 August), this Cattle Egret never strayed far from cattle in a roadside field near Rock Point Provincial Park in southwestern Ontario. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

can was at Turkey Pt., *Norfolk* 8 Aug (GBk, KK), a juv. was on the Oakville waterfront 14–15 Aug (*fide* HGC), and Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* had one ad. 16–22 Aug (MD, m.ob.), 2 ads. 30 Aug–17 Sep, and 3 on 1–2 Sep (JL, m.ob.). A Brown Pelican flew past Moons Bay, *L. Simcoe* 1 Aug (JG et al.) but

was not seen again. Double-crested Cormorants were badly affected by a botulism outbreak on L. Ontario in late Sep, and loons, grebes, and many ducks also died on the lower Great Lakes.

Dundas Marsh held 25 Great Egrets 17 Sep (JL), and one remained in Burlington early Oct+ (m.ob.). Six Great Egrets at Shirleys Bay 23 Aug–11 Oct were the highest ever count for Ottawa, and one still there 17 Oct provided a record-late date (m.ob.). Single Cattle Egrets were at Dunnville, *Haldimand* in early Aug (m.ob.) and at Muddy Creek, *Essex* 16 Oct–1 Nov (DJW, m.ob.), with 2 at the Tip of Long Point 16 Oct (L.P.B.O.) and one at Scotch Corners, *Lanark* 31 Oct (GD, MJa). There was a Glossy Ibis on Wolfe I., *Frontenac* 20 Oct (ET); a *Plegadis* ibis, possibly but not conclusively a White-faced Ibis, was at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 10–11 Oct (IMR). The Black Vulture seen intermittently in *Prince Edward* was noted again at Sandbanks P.P. 22 Oct (YJB). Turkey Vulture numbers continued their climb, with hawkwatch season totals of 14,752 at Holiday Beach, *Essex* and 10,156 at Hawk Cliff, *Elgin*.

GEESE THROUGH RAPTORS

An ad. Greater White-fronted Goose was among a large flock of Canada Geese at Scarborough Townline Swamp 6–20 Nov (GC, m.ob.). Rare for Algonquin P.P. were 194 Snow Geese over Grand L. 1 Nov (DCT); two-thirds were blue morph, one-third white. In Thunder Bay, single Ross's Geese were at the Correctional Farm ponds 20 Sep (BM) and at Silver Islet 2–3 Oct (AH). In *Essex*, an ad. Ross's Goose at Wheatley harbour 26 Sep (DJW, m.ob.) moved to Sturgeon Creek by 30 Sep and later reached the Jack Miner Sanctuary, *Kingsville*, where it was caught and its wings clipped. A juv. Ross's Goose grazed beside a baseball diamond in *Sarnia* 10 Oct (TSn), and single ad. Ross's Geese were at Aylmer W.M.A., *Elgin* 11 Oct (DAM, LWI) and near Reid's Mills, *Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry* 21–26 Nov (TH et al.). Cackling Geese, scarce but annual fall migrants through much of Ontario, were more closely studied than usual because of their newly acquired species status. Singles and small groups were found among flocks of Canada Geese at several locations, including up to 23 at Coyote Pond, *York* 5 Oct+ (SL, m.ob.); all the birds described and photographed were the expected *B. h. hutchinsii*. There was a good Brant flight, with a high count of 993 at P.E. Pt. 15 Oct (*fide* RTS). A male Common Teal was found among Green-winged Teal on the Niagara R. 29 Nov (DRG, BLM). A female Canvasback had 4 fledged young on Toronto's L.S.S. 14 Aug (CSAM); an ad. male Canvasback was on the Magnetawan R., *Parry Sound* 18 Nov (GLa),

a very unusual location. Single female King Eiders were at Presqu'ile P.P., Northumberland 2 Nov (FMH) and P.E. Pt. 7 Nov (K.F.N.); the Hamilton area produced at least 9 birds 7–28 Nov at Stoney Creek, Fifty Point C.A., and V.W.B. (m.ob.), while Sarnia had 2 at Pt. Edward 11 Nov (BAM), with one at Kettle Pt. and 3 at Pt. Edward 14 Nov (AHR). Two Surf Scoters flying past the Tip 1 Sep (JLD, TSc et al.) were record early for Point Pelee, and a male Black Scoter off Burlington 4 Sep (KAM) was also very early. Large numbers of Long-tailed Ducks succumbed to botulism along L. Ontario through Sep and Oct, perhaps related to the warm fall weather. Ottawa's first Barrow's Goldeneye of the fall was a male at Remic Rapids on the Ottawa R. 31 Oct (RAB, CL), with 2 there 7 Nov (RAB, CL, m.ob.) and another male on the nearby Rideau R. 16 Nov (RC). An impressive 87,000 Red-breasted Mergansers flew past the Tip of Point Pelee in five hours 10 Nov (AW). A new species for Atikokan, Rainy River was a Ruddy Duck, shot by a hunter 9 Oct (BJ).

The Atikokan landfill attracted the now expected 50+ Bald Eagles (DHE). Most hawkwatch sites reported a fairly uneventful season. The Broad-winged Hawk flight bypassed most Ontario sites, with the season's highest total of 27,843 at Holiday Beach dwarfed by the 185,382 at Michigan's Lake Erie Metropark. The most exciting raptor was a well-described juv. Ferruginous Hawk hunting over fields in Bronte, Halton 27 Sep (GMN). Several hawkwatches had good numbers of Golden Eagles, including the small Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch, Durham, where a record 13 passed by 23 Oct (RRP), with the observer remarking "This is the first time I've seen a kettle of raptors made up of Golden Eagles." Hawk Cliff recorded 23 Golden Eagles 27 Oct and 28 on 3 Nov in a season total of 98. A dark-morph Gyrfalcon terrorized the beach fowl at Presqu'ile P.P. 3 Nov (CEG, FMH).

CRANES THROUGH MURRES

Considerable excitement was caused by 5 ad. Whooping Cranes in flight past the Holiday Beach hawkwatch 7 Nov (BHB); these birds were most likely from the newly established breeding population in Wisconsin, blown briefly by strong w. winds into Ontario on their way to winter in Florida. A

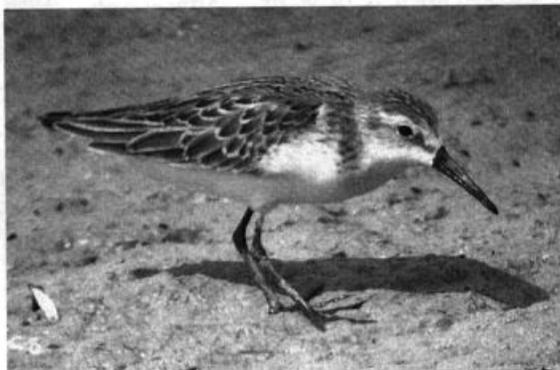
Black-necked Stilt frequented the Ridgeway S.L., Kent 10–30 Nov+ (CA, m.ob.). Two juv. American Avocets were at Tollgate Ponds, Hamilton 10 Aug (K&AW), and one was at V.W.B. 2 Oct (DRD et al.). Three Willets were

at the Tip of Point Pelee 26 Aug (JaP, JoP). Amherst I., L. Ontario had 5 Hudsonian Godwits 20–25 Oct (VPM, BER, RMS). Single Western Sandpipers were at Kingston 15–17 Aug, Amherst I. 4 Sep and 11 Oct (K.F.N.), and Presqu'ile P.P. 27 Aug–6 Sep, with 3 seen there 4 Sep (BC, GP). White-rumped Sandpipers were in good numbers, with 106 ads. at Presqu'ile P.P. 9 Sep (BDL, RDM) and a record total of 70 in the Ottawa area 16–17 Oct (RAB, CL, VRC). Baird's Sandpipers appeared to have had better breeding success



At the western end of Lake Ontario, jaeger-watchers at Van Wagners Beach had an unexpected bonus on 2 October 2004 when this American Avocet joined with gulls loafing at the water's edge. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

than many other shorebird species, with 83 juvs. at Presqu'ile 23 Aug (DPS); 53 in Ottawa 22 Sep (RAB, CL, BLD) was an unprecedented number for the area. There were 10 Purple Sandpipers at Presqu'ile P.P. 28–30 Nov (DPS, GLi, FMH). An alternate-plumaged



Up to three juvenile Western Sandpipers were among hundreds of shorebirds on the beaches of Presqu'ile Provincial Park in late August and early (here 5) September 2004. Note the broad base, length, and droop of the bill; viewed in color, the photograph shows the bird's bright rufous scapulars as well. Photograph by Bill Edmunds.

ad. Curlew Sandpiper was an excellent find at Rock Point P.P., Haldimand 16 Aug (TT, DSK). A good movement of Buff-breasted Sandpipers included 12 at the Point Pelee Onion Fields 26 Sep (AW).

Single juv. Pomarine Jaegers were at V.W.B. 28 Sep and 11 & 24 Oct (RZD et al.), with an ad. present 19 Oct (MWJ et al.); singles were also at L.S.S. 20 Oct (T.B.O.) and Fifty Point C.A. 7 Nov (FP, TO). A total of 74 Parasitic Jaegers was recorded at V.W.B. 1 Sep–12 Nov (m.ob.). Long-tailed Jaegers at V.W.B. included single juvs. 24 Aug (MA, JAC) and 2 Sep (RZD, JEH), an ad. and a juv. 5 Sep (KAM et al.), 3 juvs. 8 Sep (BRH et al.), 2 juvs. 18 Sep (KAM), and single juvs. 11 Oct (RZD et al.), 14 Oct (DRS), and 23 Oct (EWH et al.).

A juv. Laughing Gull was at Presqu'ile P.P. 21 Sep (DPS, RGT), a second-summer was at Blenheim landfill 14 Oct (KJB), an ad. was at Blenheim S.L. 24 Oct (KJB, JTB), and a first-winter was at Hillman Marsh 30–31 Oct (RPH, RAH). There was an ad. Black-headed Gull at Amherstview S.L. 7 Nov (K.F.N.) and another at Ridgeway S.L. 11–13 Nov (m.ob.). Gulls were late in reaching the Niagara R., but on 7 Nov there was a sudden influx of Bonaparte's Gulls, with over 10,000 moving through the area quite rapidly (GB). An ad. California Gull, presumably the same bird that has wintered here before, returned to its spot on the rocks opposite the Adam

Beck Generating Station 31 Oct (CTB), to be admired by many through the end of the period. An ad. *albertaensis* California Gull visited Wheatley harbor 15–17 Oct (DJW et al.) for the 2nd Point Pelee record, and an ad. at V.W.B. 20 Nov (JI et al.) was also the 2nd local record. V.W.B. had one juv. Sabine's Gull 5 Sep (BRH et al.), 2 on 8 Sep (BRH et al.), and one 27–28 Sep (RZD et al.); a juv. frequented the Horseshoe Falls, Niagara R. 7–20 Nov (BP, m.ob.), and another was among a feeding frenzy of gulls and mergansers in Athol Bay, Prince Edward 23 Nov, the 3rd record for the county (RTS). At least 14 juv. Black-legged Kittiwakes in ones and twos visited V.W.B. and vicinity 1 Sep–24 Nov, with the only ad. accompanying a juv. 13 Sep (DRS); Sarnia had 2 at Kettle Pt. 28 Sep (AHR) and one at Pt. Edward 2 Nov (AHR), a juv. flew past the Tip at Point Pelee 6 Oct (AW, BDM, KAM et al.), Presqu'ile P.P. had singles 7 Oct and 16–17 Nov (RDM), one was among the gulls in Athol Bay 23–24 Nov (RTS, DPS), and another was at Niagara-on-the-Lake and along the Niagara R. 25–28 Nov (GB, m.ob.). An Ancient Murrelet carefully studied near Pt. Edward Lighthouse, Sarnia 7 Nov (TSn, D&ES) will, if accepted, be the 6th for the province.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove frequented Shell Park, Oakville 15–22 Sep (CE, m.ob.), and another was reported near Kakabeka Falls, Thunder Bay 1 Nov (BRu). A major incursion of n. owls became obvious by early Oct, with reports from Hearst, *Cochrane* of Northern Hawk Owls and “hundreds” of Great Gray Owls passing through the area (MJo). By early Nov, many Great Grays had reached Dryden, Thunder Bay, and Terrace Bay, some reported by hunters in clearcuts and along bush roads but others in more urban areas, including the waterfront in downtown Thunder Bay (NGE). By mid-Nov, this wave reached Sault Ste. Marie (B&JK), and a few were being seen in Algonquin P.P. (RGT), but voles were still not abundant at this latitude, and the Great Grays continued to move southward, with the first report from the n. shore of L. Ontario at Port Hope, *Northumberland* 26 Nov (E&MR). Single Boreal Owls were on L.S.S. 31 Oct (HGC) and Amherst I. 22 Nov (BER). Northern Saw-whet Owls moved through s. Ontario in good numbers, with P.E. Pt. Bird Observatory banding 103 and 107 on the nights of 12 & 13 Oct in a best-ever season total of 849 (DO).

A male Rufous Hummingbird visited feeders at Marathon 9 Aug–7 Nov (PC, CV), and a female *Selasphorus* hummingbird, eventually identified as a Rufous, was a crowd-pleaser at feeders in Niagara Falls 2 Sep–30 Nov+ (JH, m.ob.). An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker frequented an Ottawa feeder through the end of Nov+ (BDL). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were widely reported, the most northerly near Kakabeka Falls 21 Oct (RA). A pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers was an unexpected find at Sandbanks P.P. 23–26 Oct (AA, m.ob.).

A kingbird with confusing features suggesting Cassin’s/Western was at Lake-on-the-Mountain, *Prince Edward* 9–21 Nov (*vide* RTS) but was not seen by any birders, and photographs proved inconclusive. The Thunder Bay waterfront held a Western Kingbird 9 Sep (BM). A record 930 Eastern Kingbirds descended into a sunset roost at Hillman Marsh 27 Aug (AW). A worn ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hawked over lakeshore fields at Wesleyville, *Northumberland* 6 Aug (JMG, m.ob.) but was not found again. An ad. Scissor-tailed fed on insects and occasional berries in downtown Thun-

der Bay 27–31 Oct (m.ob.), and an elusive Fork-tailed Flycatcher caught flies inside cow barns on a farm near Thunder Bay 2 Oct–19 Nov (GBr, m.ob.).

A White-eyed Vireo was banded at Thunder Cape 21 Oct (T.C.B.O.). A record-late Cliff Swallow on Wolfe I. 21 Nov (EB, RMS) was carefully studied to rule out Cave Swallow. A small influx of Cave Swallows was confined in the sw. of the province: 2 were at the Tip of Long Point 4 Nov (SMc et al.); on 5 Nov, singles were seen at Old Cut, Long Point (CF et al.), Erieau (JTB), and Point Pelee N.P. (RLW, AW, KAM); one was at the Tip of Long Point 9 Nov (SMc et al.); and 2 were at Stoney Creek 23 Nov (BRH). An “orange-rumped swallow” flew over fields at Point Pelee 6 Nov (TRP).

Tufted Titmice had a good breeding season in the sw., with 10 banded at Selkirk P.P., *Haldimand* (JBM). *Presqu’ile*’s first ever fall Tufted Titmouse arrived 9 Oct and settled in at feeders for the season (BE, m.ob.);

one was at Kingston 28 Oct–12 Nov (RMS et al.), and another was near Kemptville *Storront-Dundas-Glengarry* early Nov+ (m.ob.). Thunder Cape had a Townsend’s Solitaire 19–21 Oct (T.C.B.O.), and one was at near-by Squaw Bay 31 Oct (A&IJ); B.P.B.O. banded its first Townsend’s Solitaire at Cabot

(BDM), while one at Point Pelee N.P. 3 Nov (SER) was very late. A *Bicknell’s Thrush* was banded at P.E. Pt. 27 Sep and re-trapped the next day (DO). A male Varied Thrush was at Point Pelee 28 Nov+ (ACP, m.ob.)

WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES

A lone Bohemian Waxwing at Point Pelee 28 Nov+ (ACP, m.ob.) was the first record since 1995, all the more surprising since there was no major movement to the s. of the province. A Golden-winged Warbler banded at Cabot Head 23 Aug was the first fall record for B.P.B.O., another was in Thunder Bay 25 Sep (NGE), and a record-late bird was among a constant stream of Yellow-rumped Warblers at the Tip of Long Point 19 Oct (L.P.B.O.). The Black-throated Blue Warbler hopping around a Cobourg parking lot 15 Nov (CEG) was record late for *Northumberland*. A very bright Yellow Palm Warbler was banded at Selkirk P.P. 24 Oct (JBM). A Black-and-white Warbler in Britannia Woods 28 Nov was record late for Ottawa (JCa). The Connecticut Warbler along Opeongo Rd. 31 Aug was very unexpected for Algonquin P.P. (HGC); singles were banded at P.E. Pt. 8 Sep (DO) and at Port Hope 14 Sep (RF et al.). An HY male Yellow-breasted Chat was banded on L.S.S. 6 Oct (T.B.O.), and another was singing there 27 Oct (DD).

An imm. male Summer Tanager at Cabot Head 5–12 Oct was banded on the first date, then recaptured three times (B.P.B.O.); a female visited Ottawa feeders 10–14 Nov, for the area’s 3rd record (SS, m.ob.), and another frequented a feeder in Woodstock 27–30 Nov+ (MM, m.ob.). A Clay-colored Sparrow

was at a Toronto feeder 21 Oct, with 2 there 13 Nov (TRS); one visited the banding station feeder in Selkirk P.P. 29–30 Oct (JBM). The Tip of Long Point attracted a Lark Sparrow 25 Oct and a Henslow’s Sparrow 21 Oct (L.P.B.O.); Point Pelee had a Henslow’s 11 Sep (JCW) and a Le Conte’s Sparrow 20 Oct (AW, MBR). Three Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in the Old Airfield Marsh, Algonquin P.P. 30 Sep (DCT, RGT). There were 25 Fox Sparrows in

Brookbanks Ravine, Toronto 25 Oct (JI, RJP). The 650 White-crowned Sparrows in the Onion Fields at Point Pelee provided a record count for fall migration (AW). Hundreds of birders from near and far enjoyed the cooperative imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow at the Cranberry Marsh hawk-watch feeders 6–30 Nov+ (JF, m.ob.).



This Great Gray Owl at Hearst, northern Ontario 16 October 2004 paused from its pursuit of voles to glare at admirers. “As if to make a statement to ward off intruders, this wise owl chose a strategic perch,” quipped the photographer. Photograph by Marc Johnson.



This handsome Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow was one of several seen at Cootes Paradise, Dundas, one of the most reliable spots in southern Ontario for this uncommonly seen migrant. Photograph by Harold Stiver.

Head 23 Oct. Night flights of thrushes over Kingston 19/20 Sep and 22/23 Sep provided estimates of 1500 and 3000 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, respectively (RDW). The morning of 20 Sep saw 14 Gray-cheekeds at P.E. Pt. (DO) and 13 banded at L.S.S. (T.B.O.); 27 were banded at Selkirk P.P. 25 Sep (JBM), and 22 were found at Point Pelee 7 Oct

A technicolor SY male **Painted Bunting** at feeders in a Normandale campground 5–9 Aug (LWh, m.ob.) delighted many. Single Dickcissels were at Port Hope 2 Sep (BW), Point Pelee 11 Sep (MTH, JCW) and 7 Oct (DJW), Cabot Head 6 & 29 Oct (B.P.B.O.), and on the Hamilton lakefront 26 Oct (JL). Blenheim landfill had a Western Meadowlark 4 Aug (KJB). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were near Nakina, **Thunder Bay** 8 Sep (AH, BRa), at Port Hope 29 Sep (BW), in the Point Pelee Onion Fields 4 Nov (KAM), and over Burlington 7 Nov (BRH, EWH). There was a Brewer's Blackbird on Wolfe I. 17 Oct (JHE, RDW).

Most winter finches did not appear in large numbers in the s. of the province. There were only two sightings of Red Crossbills in Algonquin P.P. during the period, with only 2 birds on each occasion (*vide* RGT). White-winged Crossbills were regular in small numbers in Algonquin from late Oct (RGT); a single bird at Point Pelee 8 Aug (GTH) was rather an anomaly. A heavy flight of Pine Siskins passed through Kingston in mid-Sep (K.FN.) but did not linger; another wave in early Nov brought at least 250 to feeders in Walsingham, *Norfolk* 2–4 Nov (DSa).

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Alfred Adamo, Ralf Aldrich, **Robert F. Anderle**, Craig Anderson, Maris Apse, **Margaret J. C. Bain**, E. Batalla, Gregor Beck (GBk), Gordon Bellerby, Dave Bracken, **Robert A. Bracken**, Yvette J. Bree, Gerald Breukelman (GBr), **Doug & Evelyn Brown**, Jim T. Burk, Keith J. Burk, Christopher T. Burris, Brenda Carter, Janet Castle (JCa), Pat Chadwick, Joe Clark (JCl), Roger Clark, Glenn Coady, James A. Cram, Hugh G. Currie, Martin Daly, Dan Derbyshire, Bruce Di Labio, Rob Z. Dobos, Georgina Doe, David R. Don, Jon L. Dunn, Cheryl Edgecombe, Bill Edmunds, Joel H. Ellis, Lois Evans, **David H. Elder**, Nick G. Escott, John Floegel, C. Friis, Roger Frost, Denys R. Gardiner, Clive E. Goodwin, Jack Green, Janice Haines, Bob Hall-Brooks, Tom Hanrahan, Al Harris, Matt T. Heindel, Fred M. Helleiner, Jim E. Heslop, G. Tom Hince, Theo Hofmann, Brandon R. Holden, Eric W. Holden, Randy P. Horvath, Robert A. Horvath, Jean Iron, Brian Jackson, Mike Jaques (MJa), Mark W. Jennings, Marc Johnson (MJo), Alex & Irene Juvshik, K. Kavanagh, Bob & Joanne Knudsen, Bernie Ladouceur (BLd), Bill Lamond (BLm), Gerry Lannan (GLa), James Lees, Christina Lewis,

Gary Little (GLi), Stan Long, S. Mackenzie (SMc), V. Paul Mackenzie, Bruce D. Mac-tavish, Marion Malhiot, **Blake A. Mann**, **Dave A. Martin**, John McGuirk, Craig S. A. McLaughlan, Kevin A. McLaughlin, R. Doug McRae, **Stéphane Menu**, **John B. Miles**, Brian Moore, George M. Naylor, **David Okines**, Terry Osborne, Todd R. Pepper, Jay Peters (JaP), Joy Peters (JoP), Gerald Phillips, Adam C. Pinch, Frank Pinilla, Ron J. Pitt-away, Winnie Poon, Betsy Potter, **Rayfield R. Pye**, Brian Ratchiff (BRa), Peter A. Read, Marianne B. Reid, Wayne Renaud, Ian M. Richards, **Maureen Riggs**, Bruce E. Ripley, **Alfred H. Rider**, **Ron Ridout**, Vivien Roland-Commarmot, Eric & Marilyn Rose, Sarah E. Rupert, B. Rusnick (BRu), Robert M. Sachs, Dan R. Salisbury, Diane Salter (DSa), Tom Schultz (TSc), T. Ronald Scovell, Don P. Shanahan, Dave Sked (DSk), **Roy B. H. Smith**, Tim Sneider (TSn), **R. Terry Sprague**, Dave & Erica Stimac, Sheila Sweeting, E. Taugher, Tom Thomas, Rick D. Thornton, Douglas C. Tozer, **Ronald G. Tozer**, Cheryl Vosburgh, Robert L. Waldhuber, Ben Walters, **Dean J. Ware**, L. Whiting (LWh), Ken & Angie Williams, John C. Wilson, Linda Wladarski (LWl), Alan Wormington. ☉

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III

18722 Newell Street, Floor 2

Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

(dromaius@bright.net)

Nick Pulcinella

613 Howard Road

West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

(nickpulcinella@comcast.net)

It was a very wet season Regionwide, as three tropical storms—*Frances*, *Ivan*, and *Jeanne*—were felt in September in all three states. Apart from grounding shorebirds inland in Pennsylvania, however, few storm waifs were found. To birders afield, it was another average migration, with no large fallouts or groundings. Yet at Powdermill, record numbers for 10 species were netted. The latter third of the season saw unseasonably warm temperatures driven ahead of five consecutive systems coming from northern Texas. While mild conditions allow some species to linger, a number of dramatically late records may owe more to this “spring” weather pattern and its southwest-