

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1985

by
Alan Wormington

This is the fourth annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. A total of 189 records were assessed during 1985, of which 169 (about 89%) have been accepted.

The report officially adds Crested Caracara, Atlantic Puffin and Eurasian Jackdaw to Ontario's Checklist of Birds, bringing the provincial total to 432 species. Other than the addition of the above three species to the respective regions, the only changes to the North/South lists for Ontario (see Wormington and James 1984) are the addition of Cinnamon Teal, Greater Prairie-Chicken and Black-headed Grosbeak to northern Ontario.

The 1985 Committee consisted of A. David Brewer (Chairman), Alan Wormington (Secretary), Kevin A. McLaughlin, R.D. McRae, Ronald J. Pittaway, Michael W.P. Runtz and Dennis F. Rupert. Although we continue to review many older records, current records are increasing. The Committee acknowledges those contributors for documenting these observations, thereby adding to the

knowledge and database of the occurrence of rare species in Ontario. The documents and photographs forming the basis for records published by the OBRC, along with all Committee member votes and comments, are permanently filed at the Royal Ontario Museum. Anyone requiring access to the OBRC files can do so by arranging a visit with the ornithological curators of the museum.

Historical Records

During the 1985 year, the OBRC continued to review historical records as they were found or assembled. With the publication of this report, the OBRC has now reviewed all available documented records of Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Tufted Duck, Black-necked Stilt, Groove-billed Ani and Sage Thrasher in Ontario. In addition, we have now completed reviews of all available northern Ontario documentations for Cattle Egret, Willet and Yellow-breasted Chat. A further 53 Point Pelee-area records are presented (the total is now about 188 records), almost completing the review of all known

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documented records from this single, productive locality.

Changes in the Review List

The following species have been removed from the OBRC Review List for northern Ontario: Gray Partridge (permanent resident when and where it occurs), Ring-necked Pheasant (birds are apparently escapes and/or deliberate releases) and Purple Sandpiper (recent observations on James Bay indicate it is a regularly occurring species). Removed from the Review List for the South is Laughing Gull, as this species now exceeds our criteria of rarity in southern Ontario (*ie.* more than four per year/20 in five years). For both Purple Sandpiper (North) and Laughing Gull (South), records prior to 1986 will continue to be reviewed and published by the OBRC.

Species Accounts

In the following accounts all records pertain to single birds unless otherwise indicated. If

known, information on age/sex/plumage is included. Place names in italics refer to a County, Regional Municipality or District in Ontario. All contributors who have provided a written description, photograph or specimen are credited; underlined names refer to contributors who were also discoverers of the birds. All records are sight records unless the bird is indicated as having been photographed or collected.

I have attempted to determine the entire period when birds were present, obtaining this information from the observers themselves, regional publications, seasonal summaries in *American Birds*, and other sources. If previously published information is found to be incorrect for any particular record (*ie.* for occurrence dates, numbers or location, etc.), then this is outlined along with the correct information.

Recent name changes of the American Ornithologists' Union (35th Supplement in the *Auk* 102: 680-686, 1985) are incorporated.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

- 1974—adult winter, 9 Nov., Burlington, *Halton* (Robert Curry)
1964—first winter, 12 April, Aldershot, *Halton* (J. Murray Speirs)

Details and description of the bird at Aldershot have been published (Speirs 1964).

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

- 1985—22 July, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Larry Oliver Jr.)
—two, 28-31 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (William Edmunds, R.D. McRae)—photos on file.
1978—15-24 Sept., Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Barry Cheriére)—photo on file.
1975—14-ca.24 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (unknown contributor)—photo on file.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

- 1983—first summer, 14 Aug., Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Richard Brouillet)—photo on file.
1980—first summer, 23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Thomas N. Hayman, Paul D. Pratt).
1977—juvenile, 18-25 Aug. (not beginning 21 Aug. as in *Am. Birds* 32:197), Rattray's Marsh, *Peel* (Gordon Bellerby, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.
1975—adult, 3-27 May (not 3-25 May as in *Am. Birds* 29:844), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).
1974—adult, 3-4 April, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Douglas A. Smith).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

- 1970—adult, 8-14 May (not 14 May as in Kelley 1978:13 and Speirs 1985:44), Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Robert C. Simpson)—photo on file.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

- 1985—31 Oct.-8 Nov., (not two birds or 1-8 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 40:104), Mijinemungshing Lake (31st), Red Rock Lake (31st to 8th), Lake Superior Prov. Park, *Algoma* (Peter Stinnissen)
1979—1-2 Nov., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Walter S. Zarowski)—photo on file.
1978—20 Oct., Hornepayne, *Algoma* (unknown collector)—specimen (skeleton) in ROM: #149270.
—29 Oct.-1 Nov., Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman)
1970—30 Oct.-8 Nov. (not 31 Oct.-8 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 25:50), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Keith Denis)

The above records are typical of fall occurrences in northern Ontario; birds inexplicably appear in late October /early November, which is just prior to when winter-like conditions can be expected at this latitude.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*)

- 1985—adult, 22 April, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Paul Merritt, Enid Merritt).
—adult, 7 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (William W. Smith).
—adult, 11 May, St. Williams (not 10-11 May or Long Point as in *Am. Birds* 39:292), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Barry D. Jones).
1971—adult, 16 July-4 Aug., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Robert C. Simpson)—photo on file.
1970—adult, 26-30 April, Rockcliffe Park, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Brian Morin)—photo on file.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

- 1985—adult, 15-22 Nov., St. Clair Nat. Wildlife Area, *Kent* (John E. Pilkington, Carol Kopchuk, Alan Wormington).

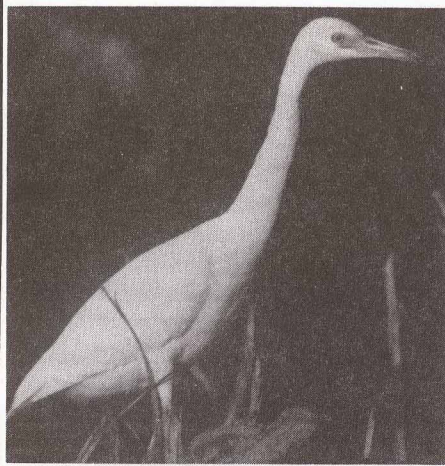
This bird is the latest *Plegadis* ibis ever recorded during autumn in Ontario.

Ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.)

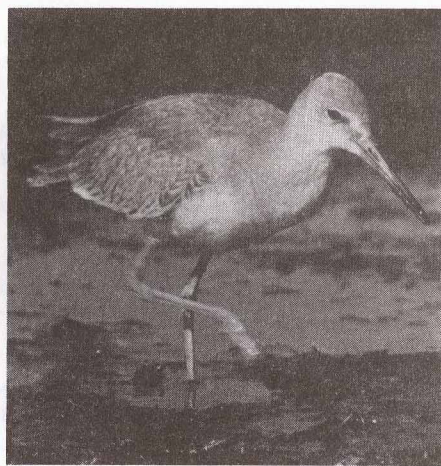
- 1980—6 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Ronald C. Ridout)
1977—imm., 14 Sept., Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (James S. Pringle).
1976—six, 24 Sept., Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Richard G. Snider).

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

- 1980—4-11 May, Rodney, *Elgin* (Robert Curry, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.
1979—two (not one as in Blacquiere & Di Labio 1985), 23-25 Sept. (not 23-25 Oct. as in *Am. Birds* 34:156 and Blacquiere & Di Labio *ibid.*; not 23 Oct. as in Kelley 1983), Erieau, *Kent* (Keith J. Burk, P. Allen Woodliffe).
1976—28 May-5 June (not 4-5 June as in *Am. Birds* 30:949 and Blacquiere & Di Labio *ibid.*), Hamilton Bay, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Alan Wormington)—photo on file.



Juvenile Little Blue Heron, 18-25 Aug. 1977, Rattray's Marsh, Peel. Photo by Alan Wormington.



Juvenile Willet, 27-30 Sept. 1985, Neys Prov. Park, Thunder Bay. Photo by Alan Wormington.

1962—two, 20 Aug. (not 10 Aug. 1961 as in Sheppard 1970:12), Yacht Harbour, Niagara (Daniel R. Salisbury, Robert F. Andrie)—photos on file.
—three, 27 Nov., Frenchman Bay, Durham (Thomas Klein)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #93291.

1960—8 Dec., Big Point Club, Kent (L.E. Roberts)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #95559.

The status of this species in Ontario has been presented by Barlow (1966), and more recently for Canada by Blacquiere & Di Labio (1985). A detailed account of the 1976 Hamilton bird has been published by McLaughlin (1976).

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

1985—19 adults, 8-10 March (not 8-12 March as in Pratt & Pratt 1985), Hillman Marsh, Essex (Alan Wormington).
—eight, 13-20 March, (not 13-18 March as in Gardiner *et al.* 1986), York, Haldimand-Norfolk (Bruce W. Duncan).
—five (family group), 22-23 March, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Alan Wormington).
—7 April, Pickering, Durham (J. Murray Speirs, Derrick Marven).
—nine, April 9, eight to April 13, Waterford, Haldimand-Norfolk (Tim Sabo)—photos on file.

The above birds (plus others yet to be reviewed by the OBRC) were part of an unprecedented influx of this species into southern Ontario and adjacent states during the spring of 1985. All of those identified to the subspecific level were the prairie-migrating *frontalis* race; when this subspecies occurs in southern Ontario it tends to be in flocks, and is most often seen during spring migration. In contrast, the birds of western Greenland—*A. a. flavirostris*—appear in much smaller numbers, but are likely during either spring or fall migration.

The record of 19 birds at Hillman Marsh, on 8-10 March 1985, is both the largest flock and earliest spring migration date ever recorded in southern Ontario.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

1985—male, 11-13 May (not 27 April as in *Am. Birds* 39:292), Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay (Nicholas G. Escott).
—male, 29 May-11 June (not to only 2 June as in Pratt & Pratt 1985), Hillman Marsh, Essex (Alan Wormington).
—male, 1 July, Sable Island, Rainy River (Paul E. Lehman).

The birds at Thunder Bay and Sable Island represent the first records of Cinnamon Teal in northern Ontario.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

1985—male, 7 April, Dundas Marsh, Hamilton-Wentworth (William Lamond).
—male, 14-15 April, Fanshawe Lake, Middlesex (Alan W. McTavish).
—male, 27 April-2 May, Holland Landing, York (Roy B.H. Smith, Anne B. Lambert).
1984—male, 25 March-6 April, Big Creek Nat. Wildlife Area, Haldimand-Norfolk (Roy B.H. Smith).
1979—male, 25 March, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Joseph P. Kleiman, Jeffrey A. Greenhouse).
1974—male, 21-23 April, Valens Cons. Area, Hamilton-Wentworth (Christopher J. Escott).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

1984/1985—adult male, 17 Nov.-7 April, (not to only 10 March as in Gardiner *et al.* 1986), Hamilton Bay, Hamilton-Wentworth (Robert Curry).

As previously stated (*Ontario Birds* 3:6-7), this is believed to be the same bird present at the same location (in first winter plumage) during the previous winter from 26 Dec. to 25 March.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

1981—female, 15 May, Caribou Island, Thunder Bay (J. Robert Nisbet).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

1974—24 Aug., Cayuga, Haldimand-Norfolk (Douglas A. Smith).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

1975—adult, 18 May, Grimsby, Niagara (George A. Meyers).

This bird represents the third of eight records now known for Ontario.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

1985—light phase adult, 20 Oct., Port Stanley, Elgin (Alan W. McTavish).
1984—light phase adult, 26 Sept., Port Rowan, Haldimand-Norfolk (Martin K. McNicholl).
1977—light phase adult, 10 April, Grimsby, Niagara (George A. Meyers).

Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*)

1892—adult female, 18 July, Victoria Island, Thunder Bay (George E. Atkinson)—specimen now missing.

A description and the details of this unique Ontario occurrence were published by Atkinson (1894). Lightkeeper George Cosgrove discovered the dead bird below the Victoria Island light, reportedly the day after "a strong south-west gale struck Lake Superior." Although Mr. Cosgrove had the bird mounted, over the years various ornithologists have failed to locate the deposition of the specimen, if it still exists at all.

Although recent extralimital records of this species have usually been dismissed as pertaining to escapes (see, for example, A.O.U. 1983:122-123), the circumstances, location and historical date of the above bird would seem to argue conclusively against this viewpoint for the Ontario record.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1984—intermediate, 19 Nov., Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).

1981—intermediate, 5 Jan., Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Ian L. Jones)—photo on file.

1980—(not 1960 as in Kelley 1983), dark, 11 Nov., Kettle Point, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider).

1979/1980—intermediate, 27 Dec.-31 Jan., Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Robert A. Bracken)—photo on file.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

1929—adult male, Dec., James, *Thunder Bay* (unknown collector)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #33.9.1.122.

This bird was clearly a vagrant individual and represents the only record for northern Ontario. It occurred during the period when the species irrupted in the mid-western United States, resulting also in the colonization of both Manitoulin Island in Ontario and portions of adjacent Michigan.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)

1981—(not 1891 as in Speirs 1985:230), adult, 8 July, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Judy Major, Gary J.D. Smith)—photo on file.

This bird is one of only two summer records of this species in Ontario.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

1984—6 May, Rock Point Prov. Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Alan J. Smith).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

1979—14 Oct., Smithville, *Niagara* (Gerald Chapple, Gary A. Novosel).

1955—1 Sept., Frederick House Lake, *Cochrane* (Frances Bourne).

These birds are the first and second records for Ontario; the third record for the province was of two birds on 7 June 1981 at Sable Island, Rainy River Dist. (*Ontario Birds* 1:10). The 1955 bird at Frederick House Lake probably occurred as a result of Hurricane "Connie", also producing (in southern Ontario) Black-capped Petrel, Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels, and Sooty Tern.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

1981—adult summer, 15-27 May, Green's Creek, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Ian L. Jones)—photo on file.

1978—juvenile, 13-21 Oct., Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Peter Whelan).

1975—adult winter, 26 Aug., Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)—photo on file.

1969—8-22 Oct., north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (William R. Wyatt, Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

1968—eight adult summer, 4 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Clive E. Goodwin).

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

1985—juvenile, 27-30 Sept., Neys Prov. Park, *Thunder Bay* (Alan Wormington, Alan J. Ryff)—photos on file.

1959—twelve, 1 Oct., Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Eva Beckett).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

1975—juvenile, 19 Nov.-5 Dec. (not 26 Nov.-5 Dec. as in *Am. Birds* 30:61, James *et al.* 1976:23, and Speirs 1985:301; not 29 Nov.-5 Dec. as in Goodwin 1976), Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Curry, Robert H. Westmore, Barry Cherriere)—photos on file.

This record still stands as the only Ontario record and was, at the time, one of only a few for North America away from the Pacific Coast. A complete account of this bird's occurrence has been presented by Curry (1976).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

1985—4 Nov., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae).

—seven, 8 Nov., East Point, *Cochrane* (R.D. McRae)—photo on file.

1981—adult summer, 25 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Recent records on the Ontario shoreline of James Bay indicate that the Purple Sandpiper is a regular overland migrant between James Bay (where it breeds on North Twin Island) and the Atlantic Coast. The Caribou Island record, however, is in a different class entirely, since it was relatively far to the west during spring migration.

This species has now been removed from the OBRC Review List for northern Ontario, but pre-1986 records will continue to be reviewed and published.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

1985—adult summer, 11-20 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (R.D. McRae, Joanne Dean, Ronald J. Pittaway, Raymond P. Holland)—photos and breast feathers on file.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1973—adult, 13 Oct., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1978—adult, 12 Sept. (not 9 Sept. as in Kelley 1983), Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider).

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1985—second summer, 13 May, Wheatley Harbour, *Kent/Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).

—adult summer, 20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt).

—juvenile, 7 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—second winter, 8-9 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

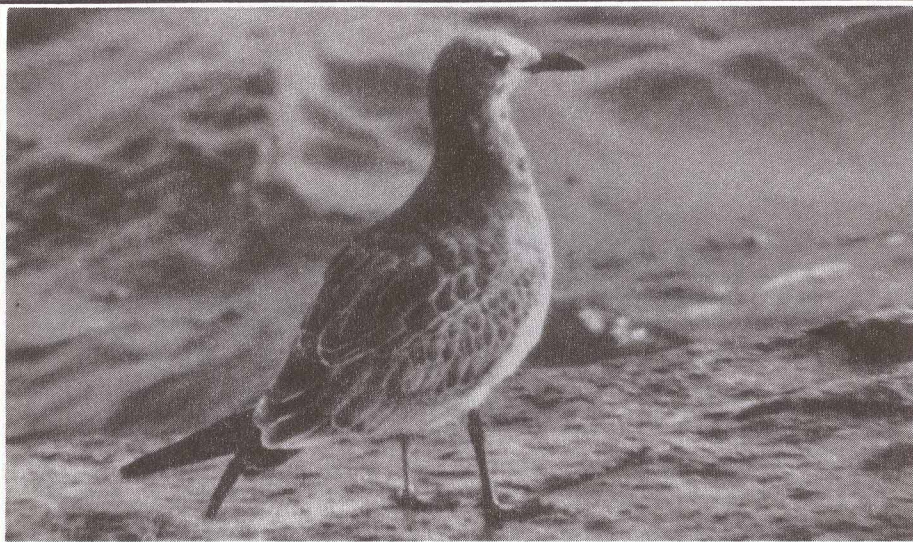
—two juveniles, 10 Aug., (not to 5 Sept. as in *Am. Birds* 40:107), Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe)—photo on file.

—juvenile, 13 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—juvenile, 20 Aug., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

—adult summer, 21 Aug., Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Margaret J. Bain).

—second winter, 24 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Paul E. Lehman).



Juvenile Laughing Gull, 5 Sept. 1985, Southeast Shoal, *Essex*. Photo by Alan Wormington.

- juvenile, 29-31 Aug., Marentette Beach, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Karl Overman)—photo on file.
- juvenile, 5 Sept., Blenheim, *Kent* (Keith J. Burk).
- juvenile, 5 Sept., Southeast Shoal, *Essex* (Alan Wormington)—photos on file.
- juvenile, 15 Sept., Port Dover, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert Curry).
- juvenile, 17 Sept., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Tony Leukering).
- juvenile, 19 Sept., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
- first winter, 24-27 Oct., (not 17 Sept. and 25 Oct. as in *Am. Birds* 40:107), Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Alan W. McTavish).

- 1984—adult summer, 10 July, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Robert A. Behrstock).
- 1979—second summer, 10-11 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mark Gawn).
- juvenile, 24 Aug., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jean Hoffman, Dick Hoffman).
- 1978—adult summer, 20-27 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Charles Chase III).
- 1977—second summer, 2 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert).
- 1974—second winter, 14 Sept.-5 Oct., Wheatley Harbour, *Kent/Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

In the fall of 1985, beginning in early August, an unprecedented number of Laughing Gulls were recorded from the lower Great Lakes, the above OBRC-accepted records being an incomplete listing of all those actually reported in Ontario; “dozens” were also reportedly seen along Lake Erie in Ohio (V.W. Fazio, pers. comm.). All birds were juvenile and second-winter immatures (which is typical of fall records on the Great Lakes) with the exception of the adult bird at Niagara-on-the-Lake. This bird was also one of few reported on Lake Ontario, suggesting it may not have been associated with the major incursion. Many birds were clearly differentiated from others based on circumstances, plumage and individual markings etc., and although we list all records as separate, some duplication amongst the records is likely.

In the future, only pre-1986 records of Laughing Gull in southern Ontario will be reviewed and published by the OBRC; the species has now exceeded our criteria of southern Ontario rarity, having averaged more than four accepted occurrences annually over a five year period (33 records for 1981-85 inclusive).

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

1985—juvenile, 15 Dec., Westmeath, *Renfrew* (Cathie Timm, Douglas Lapointe, Jacques M. Bouvier, Bruce M. Di Labio)—photos on file.

Full details of this first Ontario record are presented elsewhere in this issue of *Ontario Birds*.

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)

1978—27 Oct., Sundridge, *Parry Sound* (Ethel Dale Sivell)—specimen (skin) in ROM: #13203.

1969—12 Oct., Stromness, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert M. Wagner).

1963—18-20 Oct., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

These represent the first three of four records now known for Ontario. Groove-billed Ani is an almost-annual visitor to the Great Lakes region, with all occurrences confined to the autumn; post-breeding dispersal is probably the reason for these remarkable long-distance records.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

1972—adult male, 7-12 Aug. (not only 7 Aug. as in *Am. Birds* 26:854; not 7-9 Aug. as in Kelley 1978:46), Wheatley, *Essex* (Norman Chesterfield, Robert Curry).

Hummingbird sp. (*Selasphorus* sp.)

1984—adult female or imm., 1-4 Oct., Grimsby, *Niagara* (George A. Meyers).

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

1984/1985—male, 14 Nov.-31 March (not 1-30 Dec. as in *Am. Birds* 39:162), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Thomas Dyke, Irene Macdonald, Nicholas G. Escott)—photo on file.

This Red-bellied Woodpecker is only the third to be found in northern Ontario, but is all the more remarkable since it successfully overwintered; the other two occurrences were during fall migration.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

1981—male, 20 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Northern Ontario records are very few and have involved both the above spring “overshoot”, and also apparent territorial birds.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

1964—18 April, Bradley's Marsh, *Kent* (Dennis F. Rupert).

This represents only the second record for Ontario; subsequent records have yet to be reviewed by the OBRC.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

1985—imm., 2 Sept., Narine Island, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry* (Mark Gawn)—photo on file.

—imm., 15 Sept., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (William Edmunds, R.D. McRae)—photos on file.

1984—imm., 9 Sept., Long Point Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Victor W. Fazio).

1983—14 June, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Thomas Dyke).

1980—24 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mike Parmenter).

1979—19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (John Lamey).

1977—23 May, north of Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (G. Tom Hince).

1976—19-23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.

1974—imm., 29 Aug., Mountsberg Cons. Area, *Wellington* (Douglas A. Smith).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1985—20 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Mark Gawn, Peter Read).

1984—16-26 May (not only 16 May as in *Am. Birds* 38:906), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Thomas Dyke, Walter S. Zarowski)—photos on file.

1972—7 Oct., Aldershot, *Halton* (David K. Powell).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)

1984—5 March-7 June (but not observed between these dates), Stewart Hill, *Peterborough* (Jean Stewart, William Stone).

1973—9 Jan.-10 Feb. (not beginning 12 Jan. as in *Am. Birds* 27:610, Kelley 1978:55, and Speirs 1985:552), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan J. Ryff, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.

1972—25 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Brian Morin).

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

1985—13 April, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain).

Although new to Ontario, this species was not totally unexpected in light of recent Jackdaw records elsewhere in northeastern North America. A complete analysis of the factors responsible for these appearances, along with a listing and summary of North American and North Atlantic records, has recently been published by Smith (1985).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

1981—3-4 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Gerald W. Paul).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

1972—10-11 Oct., Tobermory, *Bruce* (Joseph W. Johnson)

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

1981—22 April-10 May (not 26-28 April as in *Am. Birds* 35:819, Kelley 1983, and Speirs 1985:617), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Thomas J. Olkowski, Robert D. Knudsen, J. Robertson Graham)—photos on file.

1976—16 Feb., Ancaster, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Sarah Wood).

—25 March, Cedar Springs, *Kent* (Keith J. Burk).

The Point Pelee bird is the latest spring migrant to be recorded in Ontario.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

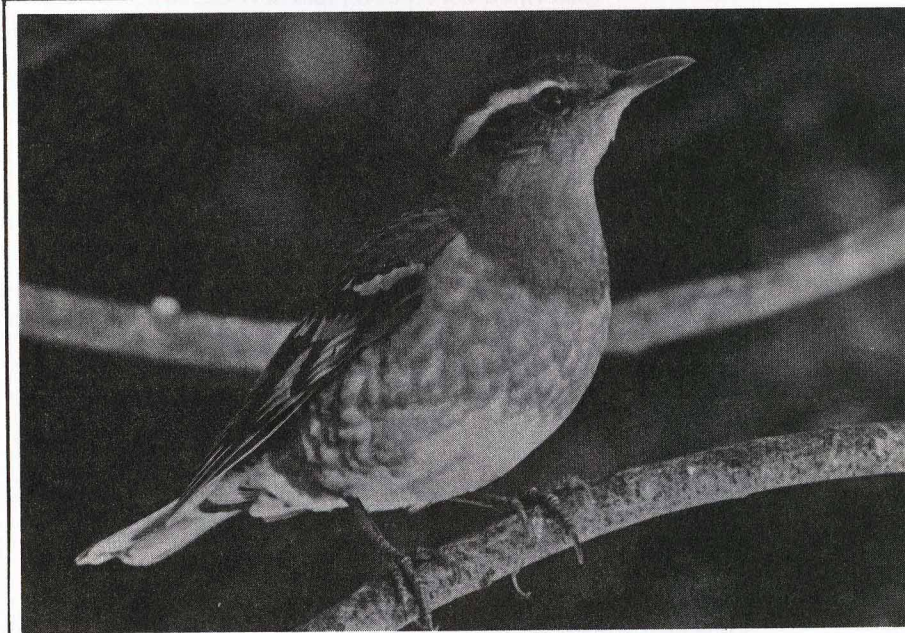
1985—male, 18 Jan.-9 March (not beginning 1 Jan. as in *Am. Birds* 39:163; not only 3 Feb. as in Gardiner *et al.* 1986), Oakville, *Halton* (Sylvia van Walsum, Robert Curry)—photos on file.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 16-26 May 1984, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*. Photo by Walter S. Zarowski.



Townsend's Solitaire, 22 April-10 May 1981, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*. Photo by J. Robertson Graham.



Female Varied Thrush, 16 Dec. 1977-12 April 1978, Nobleton, *York*. Photo (8 Feb.) by Alan Wormington.

—male, 15 April-early May, Port Sydney, *Muskoka* (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Scotland)—photos on file.

1984/1985—male, 30 Dec.-4 April, Pembroke, *Renfrew* (James E. Clarke, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

1983/1984—female, 19 Nov.-7 April (not 19 Nov.-5 Feb. as in *Am. Birds* 38:313), Dorcas Bay, *Bruce* (Martin Parker).

1983—female, 9-29 Dec., Frost Centre, *Haliburton* (Steven A. Williams)—photos on file.

1977/1978—female, 16 Dec.-12 April, Nobleton, *York* (Alan Wormington)—photo on file.

—male, 19 Dec.-9 April, Cumberland, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Lynda McGuire, Peter McGuire)—photos on file.

1977—female, 7-15 Nov. (not 6-14 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 32:199; not 14 Nov.+ as in Speirs 1985:640), Nepean, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Bruce R. Barrett)—photo on file.

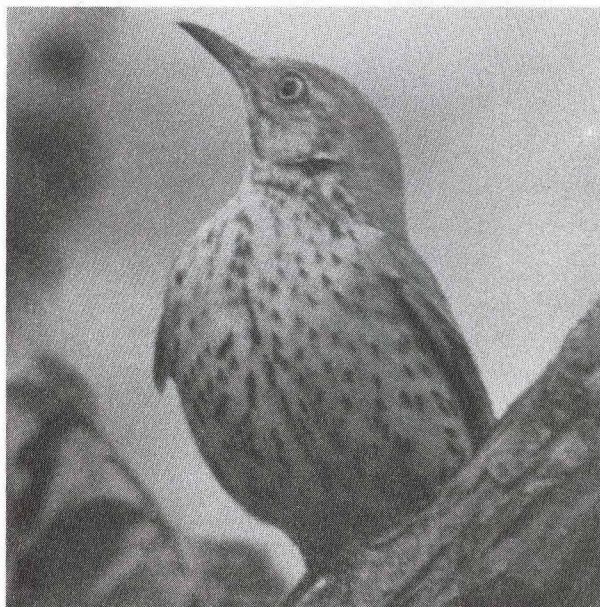
Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

1985—adult, 21 July, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Keith J. Burk, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

1966—20 Oct., Port Robinson, *Niagara* (Daniel R. Salisbury)—specimen (skin) in BSNS: #5095.

1965—12 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Thomas N. Hayman)—photos on file.

These are the first, second and fourth of four records now known for Ontario. The 21 July 1985 record is particularly remarkable as it occurred in summer, a season for which there are no vagrant records in Ontario of any passerine species originating from western North America; perhaps it can be theorized that the bird arrived during spring migration and lingered until its discovery date in July.



Adult Sage Thrasher, 21 July 1985, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent*.
Photo by Alan Wormington.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

1985—male, 22 May, Aldershot, *Halton* (Robert Curry).

1980—male, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Clive E. Goodwin, Alan W. McTavish, Joseph P. Kleiman).

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

1975—3-4 May (not 5 May as in *Am. Birds* 29:847 and Speirs 1985:700; not only 3 May as in Kelley 1978:70), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Jeffrey A. Greenhouse, George Sirk, Alan Wormington, Dennis F. Rupert)—photo on file.

1974—9-11 May (not 10 May as in James *et al.* 1976:43), Pelee Island, *Essex* (David Broughton, R. Dan Strickland)—photos on file.

The above represent the second and third of three Ontario records—the first was collected at Point Pelee on 16 May 1958. Only two other records of this southwestern species are known for eastern North America: one on 24 Sept. 1966 at Island Beach, New Jersey (*Aud. Field Notes* 21:18) and the other on 6 May 1979 at Evanston, Illinois (Mlodinow 1984:165).

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)

1981—male, 18-19 May, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

1972—male, 11-12 May (not 10 May as in *Am. Birds* 26:757, James *et al.* 1976:44, Kelley 1978:72, and Speirs 1985:722; not only 11 May as in Goodwin 1974 and James 1976), Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Brian Morin, Donald M. Ross)—photos on file.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1983—1-14 Nov., Rosseau, *Parry Sound* (Robert Swainson)—photos on file.

1977—19 Nov.-6 Dec., Blackburn Hamlet, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Bruce R. Barrett)—photo on file.

1973—12 May, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Daniel S. Bastaja).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)

1978—territorial male, 2 June-18 July, Petawawa, *Renfrew* (Bruce R. Barrett)—photo on file.

1977—territorial male, 9 June-14 July (not beginning 8 June as in Walkinshaw 1983:23), Petawawa, *Renfrew* (Paul L. Aird, Jacques M. Bouvier)—photos on file.

The above records, which pertain to the same bird, were in the famous Petawawa jack pine barrens, the locality where Kirtland's Warbler was considered "not uncommon" in 1916 (Harrington 1929).

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

1981—17 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1974—14-17 Sept., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

1973—1-16 Dec., Port Hope, *Northumberland* (E.R. McDonald, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

1971/1972—female, 9 Nov.-10 Feb., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

1978—male, 6-7 May (not only 6 May as in *Am. Birds* 32:1001 and Speirs 1985:798), Rosslyn Village, *Thunder Bay* (not *Essex* County as in Speirs *ibid.*) (Arne L. Maki)—photo on file.

This species is an addition to the list of northern Ontario birds.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

1984—female, 27 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

1980—male, 6-8 May, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott)—photo on file.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

1984—male, 27 Oct.-3 Nov. (not 2 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 39:49), Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder).

This bird was one of the western "spotted" towhees.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

1981—17 May, Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (J. Robert Nisbet).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

1985—5 May, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder).

—10 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1978—10-11 May, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott)—photos on file.

1966—12 Oct., Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

1970—male, 19 May, Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* (Doris Freeman).

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

1985—adult, 12 Jan.-15 April, Kanata, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Peggi Armstrong, Alan Wormington)—photos on file.

1974—17 May, Kirkwall, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert H. Westmore).

1972—imm., 8 Jan.-4 May (not to only 17 April as in *Am. Birds* 26:758 and Speirs 1985:873), Bronte, *Halton* (Mark W. Jennings)—photos on file.

1970—8-11 May (not 10 May as in *Aud. Field Notes* 24:598; not 10-11 May as in Kelley 1978:89 and Speirs 1985:873), *Rondeau Prov. Park, Kent* (Robert C. Simpson, Dennis F. Rupert)—photos on file.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

1984—31 Oct.-2 Nov. (not 1-2 Nov. as in *Am. Birds* 39:49), Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Victor W. Fazio).

Only two records exist for southern Ontario; the first was also at Long Point, but was a spring migrant on 20 April 1980 (*Ontario Birds* 3:15).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain

In the majority of records listed below, an insufficient or imprecise description was presented in the reports to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed; in only a few cases was the Committee actually convinced that an *incorrect* identification was made.

1985—Pacific Loon, 14 Oct., Inverhuron Prov. Park, *Bruce*.

—Gyr Falcon, 3 Jan., Enniskillen, *Durham*.

—Ross' Gull, 24 July, Britannia, *Ottawa-Carleton*.

—Ash-throated Flycatcher, 30 April, Mud Lake, *Niagara*.

—Bell's Vireo, 2 June, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1984—Curlew Sandpiper, 15 Oct., *Rondeau Bay Estates, Kent*.

—Dusky Flycatcher, 9-11 Oct. (not 2-11 Oct. as in Parker *et al.* 1985:34), Whitby, *Durham*.

—Baird's Sparrow, one 20 July, four 11 Aug., Sutton River Delta, *Kenora*.

1981—Blue Grosbeak, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1980—Little Blue Heron, 19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

—Western Kingbird, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1979—Black-throated Gray Warbler, 7 Oct., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1978—Lark Bunting, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1977—Laughing Gull, 19 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

—Gyr Falcon, 20 April, Grimsby, *Niagara*.

—Western Tanager, 11 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

—Blue Grosbeak, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1976—Western Grebe, 10 Oct., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

1975—California Gull, 22 March, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*.

—Roseate Tern, 18 April, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.

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