

# Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1987

by  
Glenn Coady

This is the sixth annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO). A total of 77 records was reviewed by the OBRC during 1987, of which 53 (about 69 per cent) were found to be acceptable.

This report officially adds two new species to Ontario's Checklist of Birds — Snowy Plover and Western Wood-Pewee — bringing the provincial total to 436 species. There were no changes to the Ontario breeding bird list as a result of the records reviewed in 1987. Added to the list of birds which have been recorded in northern Ontario are Western Wood-Pewee and Sage Thrasher.

The 1987 OBRC members were Ronald J. Pittaway (Chairman), Glenn Coady (Secretary), Robert Curry, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Mark Gawn, Michael W.P. Runtz, Ian L. Jones and D. James Mountjoy.

**Changes to the Review List**  
Commencing in 1988 the dividing line between northern and southern Ontario has been changed. The

previous line, approximately the 4°C mean annual temperature isotherm, is imprecise, can change with time, and is not available on most maps. The committee has adopted 47° N latitude as the new dividing line. This line is precise, constant, available on most maps, passes through relatively uninhabited country close to the old line, and no records will require any changes as a result of its adoption.

## Species Accounts

In the following accounts, information on age/sex/plumage for each record is included, if known. This information is based on the system outlined by Sharrock (1985). 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 have been credited. Contributors names have been underlined if they were a discoverer of the bird(s). All records pertain to sight records unless it is indicated that a photograph or specimen was received.

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## Accepted Records

### Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*)

1986 — one juvenile, 22–30 Nov., Cornwall, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Mark Gawn, J. Van Reit) — photos on file.

### American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

1986 — one adult, 27–30 Sept., Long Point Causeway, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Terrie J. Woodrow).

### Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

1987 — one adult, 6 May, Stoney Point, *Essex* (John R. Carley) — photo on file.  
— one adult, 6–7 May, Cloud Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).  
— one juvenile, 18 Oct., Ajax, *Durham* (Mark Gawn, Glenn Coady).

### Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

1986 — one adult, 4 May, Squirrel Island, *Lambton*; 5 May, Stoney Point, *Essex* (Scott Connop, Ed P. LeBlanc) — photo on file.

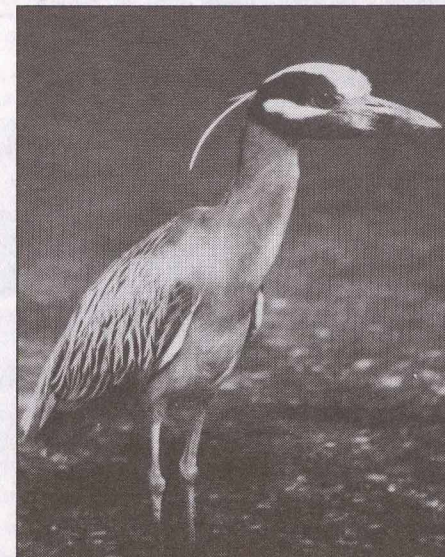
These two sightings, at opposite ends of Lake St. Clair on successive days, are assumed to be referable to the same individual, although there is no way to positively determine this.

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

1987 — one adult, 10 May, Rondeau Prov. Park, *Kent* (Andrew Slater).  
— one adult, 16 May, Grand Bend, *Lambton* (Jean Stewart).  
1985 — one adult, 7 June–10 July, Cedar Mills, *Peel* (Gordon B. Cameron, Luc Fazio, Jonathon Grant) — photos on file.

### Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1987 — two adults, 27–29 Apr., one to 2 May, Erieau, *Kent* (William Houghton).  
1984 — one adult, 17–24 Oct., Guelph, *Wellington* (Jeffrey E. Poklen, Alvaro Jaramillo).  
1971 — two adults, 24–30 May, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Alan Wormington).



Yellow-crowned Night-heron, 7 June–10 July 1985, Cedar Mills, *Peel*. Photo by Jonathon Grant.



Greater White-fronted Goose, adult *frontalis*, 2–23 April 1978, Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto. Photo by Alan Wormington.

### Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

- 1987 — one adult, 22 March, Cranberry Marsh, Durham (Verna J. Higgins, Anne MacDonald, Anne Farraway).  
 1978 — one *frontalis* adult, 2–23 Apr., Toronto Island, Metropolitan Toronto (Verna J. Higgins, Anne MacDonald, Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

### Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

- 1987 — one rufous phase female, 28–30 March, Smithville, Niagara (Robert Curry, Kayo Roy) — photos on file.  
 — one male, 11 April, Presqu'île Prov. Park, Northumberland (Kathleen MacNamara, Ralph Speak).  
 — one male, 26 April, Blenheim, Kent (George D. Bryant, Robert Curry).  
 — two males, 21–26 May, one 16–27 May, Presqu'île Prov. Park, Northumberland (Peter Burke).  
 — one male, 6 Sept., Presqu'île Prov. Park, Northumberland (Ronald J. Pittaway).  
 — one adult male, 27 Sept., Presqu'île Prov. Park, Northumberland (R. D. McRae).

The Smithville individual, impeccably documented, represents the first female of this species accepted for the province. A mounted specimen of a female (rufous phase) of this species, reportedly collected 3 Nov. 1934 at Wendover, Prescott and Russell, has been determined to have been collected on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

### Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

- 1977 — one immature female, mid-October, collected between 19 and 22 Oct., Eskwanonwatin Lake, Thunder Bay (F. G. Cooch) — specimen (skin) in NMC: #65899.

### American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

- 1987 — one, 8 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (William Gilmour, Michael McEvoy, Alan Wormington, Kevin A. McLaughlin).  
 — one, 14 May, Walsingham, Haldimand-Norfolk; 16 May, Long Point Prov. Park, Haldimand-Norfolk; 16 May, Port Rowan, Haldimand-Norfolk (Mike Furber, Ian Richards, Don Baldwin).

### Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

- 1987 — one first summer, 25 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, Essex (Peter Whelan).  
 — one adult, 26 May, Long Point Prov. Park and Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (David Beadle, David Curson).

### Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

- 1985 — one first summer, 21 April, Grimsby, Niagara (Eric Single).

### Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

- 1986 — one intermediate phase, 24 Sept., Long Point Tip, Haldimand-Norfolk (John Curson, Katherine Thomas).  
 — one intermediate phase, 2 Nov., Long Point Flats, Haldimand-Norfolk (Beverly Collier, George E. Wallace).



Snowy Plover, adult male, 4–9 May 1987, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.  
Photo by Ed Johns.

**Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)**

- 1987 — one adult male, 4–9 May (but not observed 6–8 May), Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Jon Curson, Alan Wormington, Dennis F. Rupert, Edmund D. Johns) — photos on file.

This represents the first accepted record of this species for the province. For a detailed account of this record see Collier and Curson (1988).

**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)**

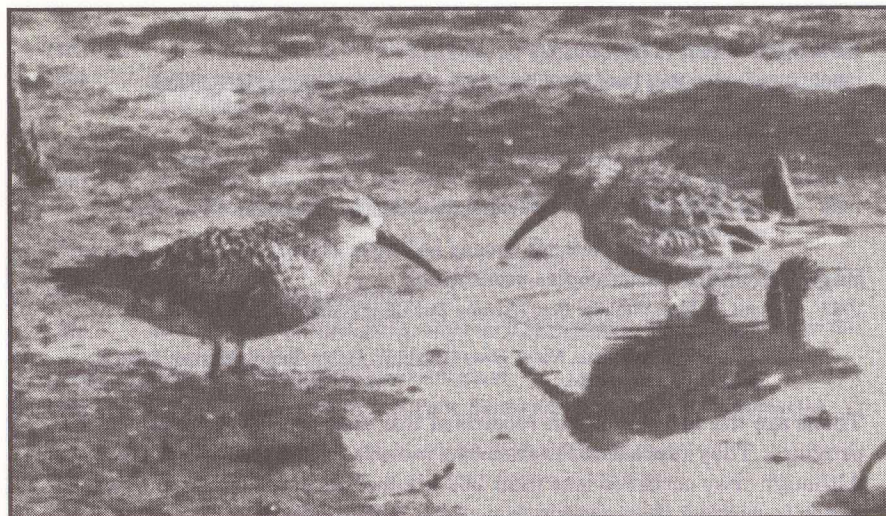
- 1987 — one adult, summer plumage, 20 April, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Beth Jefferson) — photo on file.  
— five adults, summer plumage, 14 May, Hillman's Marsh, *Essex* (Michael E. Seymour).  
— one adult, summer plumage, 8 June, Windy Point, *Rainy River* (Dave H. Elder) — photo on file.  
1986 — one adult, summer plumage, 19–25 May, Warkworth, *Northumberland* (A. Geoff Carpentier) — photos on file.  
— two, 24 Sept., Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David Beadle).

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

- 1987 — one male, summer plumage, 16 and 18–20 May, Harrow, *Essex*; 16–17 May, Kingsville, *Essex* (Alan J. Smith, Alan Wormington).  
— one female, summer plumage, 29 May, Harrow, *Essex* (Alan Wormington) — photos on file.

**Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)**

- 1979 — one, 18 Dec. (not 19 Dec. as in McRae 1982: 38), Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (R. D. McRae).  
1978 — one, 12–27 Oct., Dorion, *Thunder Bay* (Arnie L. Maki, Alan Wormington) — photos on file.



Curlew Sandpiper (left), female, 29 May 1987, Harrow, *Essex*.  
Photo by Alan Wormington.

**Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)**

- 1984 — one adult male, 18–20 June, North Point, *Cochrane* (Mark Fournier, Christopher J. Rimmer) — specimen (skin) in NMC: #84372.

This specimen represents the first accepted record of this species for the province.

**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)**

- 1978 — one, 19–20 Nov., Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Bruce W. Duncan, Marshall H. Field) — photo on file.

**Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)**

- 1985 — one, 20 Oct., Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Tom C. Hutchinson).

This represents the second accepted record of this species for the province. An account of the first record is given by Bain (1986). Smith (1985) and Baicich (1986) summarize the North American records of this species and the factors responsible for its occurrence.



Band-tailed Pigeon, 12–27 October 1978, Dorion, *Thunder Bay*.  
Photo by Alan Wormington.

**Bewick's Wren (*Thyromanes bewickii*)**

1986 — one, 8–9 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (George E. Wallace).

**Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)**

1987 — one, 6 March–2 April, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, Thomas Dyke).

1986 — one, 6 Nov., Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Stephen Wingfield, G. Tom Hince) — photos on file.

**Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)**

1987 — one, 28 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Barry Atkinson, Allan G. Harris) — photo on file.

— one, 3 June, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David W. Fidler, Tom R. Murray, Dave H. Elder) — photos on file.

These are the fifth and sixth records of this species now accepted for the province. They represent the first two records for northern Ontario. Although they occurred less than 200 kilometres apart, there is no evidence to suggest they pertain to a single individual.

**Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

1987 — two, 12–13 May, Port Rowan, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Martin K. McNicholl).

This represents the first accepted record for the province involving more than one bird.

**Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)**

1986 — one *albiflora*, 10 Nov.–1 Dec., Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Mark Gawn).



Cassin's Sparrow, 7–8 May 1987, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*. Photo by Alan Wormington.

**Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)**

1987 — one immature male, 23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (Duane H. Bradford, David Helm, Joseph E. Faggan, Peter Whelan, T. R. Zberanowsky).

**Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*)**

1987 — one, 7–8 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex* (James H. Fairchild, Robert W. Storms, James Flynn, Alan Wormington, Derek Spindlow) — photos on file.

This represents the fourth accepted record for the province.

**Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)**

1984 — one adult, 11 July, North Point, *Cochrane* (Christopher J. Rimmer) — photo on file.

**Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)**

1987 — one, 6–7 April, Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland* (A. Geoff Carpentier) — photos on file.

1984 — one, 13 June, Dunrobin, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Bruce M. DiLabio).

## Unaccepted Records

### *Identification uncertain*

In the majority of the records listed below, the description presented in the reports was deemed insufficient to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed; in very few cases was the committee actually convinced an incorrect identification was made.

- 1987 — Western Grebe, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Little Blue Herons (two), 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 16 Aug., Presqu'île Prov. Park, *Northumberland*.
- Eurasian Wigeon, 14 Aug., Little Current, *Manitoulin*.
- Gyrfalcon, 14 Feb., Queenston, *Niagara*.
- Roseate Tern, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo, 10 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Western Tanager, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 9 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 10 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 13 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 14 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 15 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 16 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 17 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 17 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeaks (two), 23 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeaks (two), 24 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1986 — Greater White-fronted Goose, 4 Aug., Port Perry, *Durham*.
- Swainson's Hawk, 2 Nov., Squaw Bay, *Thunder Bay*.
- Western Kingbird, 13 May, Point Pelee Nat. Park, *Essex*.
- 1984 — Willow Flycatcher, 31 May, Rainy River, *Rainy River*.
- 1970 — Ferruginous Hawk, 12 Apr., Websterville, *Simcoe*.

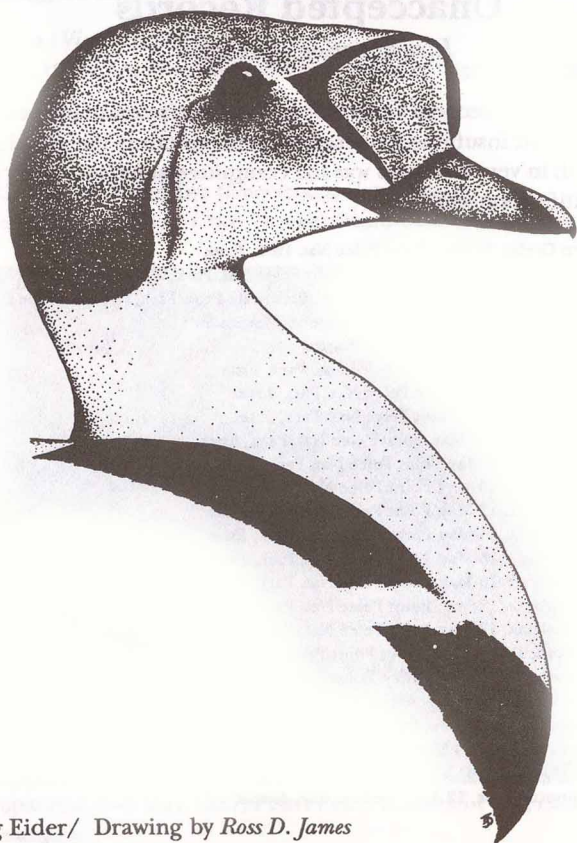
### Acknowledgements

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The members of the OBRC would like to thank Ross James for hosting our annual meeting at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

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Male King Eider/ Drawing by *Ross D. James*