

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1995

by

Robert Z. Dobos

Introduction

This is the 14th annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC). The members of the Committee in 1995 were Margaret Bain, Robert Curry (Chairperson), Robert Dobos (Secretary), Ross James, Kevin McLaughlin, Dennis Rupert, Donald Sutherland and Alan Wormington. Ross James also serves as Museum Liaison to the OBRC.

Approximately 160 records were reviewed during 1995. Of these, 124 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of about 78 percent. Four species were accepted and added to the Ontario bird checklist: White-faced Ibis, Prairie Falcon, Black-tailed Godwit and Varied Bunting. Another species, Spotted Towhee, is retroactively added to the list as a result of taxonomic changes made by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) (see below). The official Ontario list now stands at 465 species. Added to the list for northern Ontario are Brown Pelican, Garganey, Tufted Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker and Painted Bunting. No new provincial breeding species were added in 1995.

OBRC records are archived at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Researchers and other interested persons may examine filed reports and Committee decisions at the ROM by appointment. Please contact Brad Millen, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6, or call 416-586-5519.

Listing of Records

The format of this report follows that used in previous annual reports. Accepted records are listed by their English and scientific names following the AOU Check-list (1983) and its supplements to date, except Ross's Goose and Ross's Gull. Following the names, a binomial numbering system appears. The first number indicates the total number of accepted records (by the OBRC) prior to 1 January 1982 (the formation of the OBRC); the second is the total number of accepted records from 1982 to 1995 (including those listed in this report). An asterisk in place of the first number indicates that documentation was not required for the occurrence of these species prior to 1982.

Date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, sex, plumage, age and location(s) are provided when known. Counties, Districts and Regional Municipalities are shown in italics. All contributors of documentation are listed. Contributors who were known to be the finders of the bird are underlined. Finders who did not submit a report are also listed when known.

Every effort has been made to verify information published regarding a record; however, it is inevitable that some inaccuracies may still exist. We would welcome any corrections or updates to make these records more exact. Where dates or other details listed here differ from those quoted in other published sources (for example,

Birders Journal or *Audubon Field Notes*), we have used the most accurate available information.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or origin are listed separately. Submitters of all "not accepted" reports receive a letter from the Chairperson explaining the reasons for the decision, along with copies of the comments of the voting members. These reports are also kept on permanent file at the ROM. A "not accepted" record can be reconsidered by the OBRC only if new evidence is submitted to the Committee for review.

AOU Changes

As a result of taxonomic and nomenclatural changes published in the "Fortieth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds" (AOU 1995), a number of changes to the bird checklist for Ontario have occurred. Changes to the English names are: American Swallow-tailed Kite becomes Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*); and, Common Black-headed Gull becomes Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Scientific name changes include: Great Egret, to *Ardea alba*; and, American Golden-Plover, to *Pluvialis dominicus*. As the result of a taxonomic revision, the subspecies of Sharp-tailed Sparrow which occur in Ontario are now in the species Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*).

Rufous-sided Towhee has been split into Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), common through much of southern Ontario, and the western Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*). The OBRC has previously accepted records of Spotted Towhee

from northern Ontario. These accepted records are: one female, 10-17 November 1990, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Curry 1991); and, one male, 27 October - 3 November 1984, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Wormington 1986). Thus, Spotted Towhee can be added to the Ontario checklist on this basis. The OBRC would like to continue to receive reports of Spotted Towhee from both southern and northern Ontario for review.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) has been elevated to the rank of species distinct from Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*). There are reported to be sightings and specimens attributed to this species for Ontario (Pittaway 1996); however, these will require review and acceptance by the OBRC before this species can be added to the Ontario list. The Committee expects to review some of these reports during 1996.

Northern Oriole has been split into Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), common through much of the south of Ontario, and Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*). There are reported to be records of Bullock's Oriole for Ontario (James 1991); however, these will also require review and acceptance by the OBRC before being added to the official checklist. We encourage the submission of documentation for any past and future sightings of this species to the OBRC for review.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC would like to thank the many observers who submitted reports, photographs and sketches in 1995. The following people are also thanked either for soliciting and forwarding reports

from others or assisting the Committee in other ways: Pamela Burns, Allen Chartier, Glenn Coady, Ed Czerwinski, Willie D'Anna, Dave Elder, Nick Escott, Dave Fidler, Jean Griffin, Leo Heyens, Tom Hince, Karl Konze, E.R. MacDonald, Jon McCracken, Sheldon McGregor, Ron Pittaway, Paul Pratt, Paul Prior, Jack Reinhoehl, Ron Ridout, Kayo Roy, Doug Sadler, Gerry Shemilt, Roy Smith, and Allen Woodliffe. I would also like to thank the 1995 OBRC members for their assistance and cooperation throughout the past year, and for their helpful comments on previous drafts of this report.

Dedication

This report is dedicated to the memory of Dennis Rupert who, sadly, passed away on 8 August 1996. Dennis had served three terms on the OBRC, from 1984-86, 1989-91 and 1993-95, and was Chairperson in 1986. He was also the Quebec-Ontario Christmas Bird Count Regional Editor for *Audubon Field Notes*. A long time birder, he was the discoverer of many significant rarities in southwestern Ontario over the past several decades (e.g., Lewis's Woodpecker, White Ibis, Magnificent Frigatebird, Ross's Gull). Dennis will be sorely missed by the birding community.

Accepted Records

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (3/13)

1995 - one winter adult, 11 November, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Steve Kelling, also found by Tom Nix, Jeff Wells).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (0/8)

1995 - one, 16 April, Whitby, *Durham* (Rayfield Pye, Margaret J.C. Bain, Alfred L. Adamo).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (2/13)

1994 - one juvenile, 30 December, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (James Heslop).

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (0/1)

1994 - one adult, 16 June, Schumacher, *Cochrane* (Richard Moore, Barbara Riordan, also found by Walter Cheguis).

- one adult, 15-18 July, Devil Lake, *Frontenac* (Peter Griffin) - photo on file.

The Schumacher report establishes the first record for northern Ontario. Coincidentally, two American White Pelicans (*P. erythrorhynchos*) were also present at this site at the same time.

The 1994 OBRC annual report lists four separate occurrences of an adult Brown Pelican in 1994, although the possibility of these reports pertaining to a single bird is discussed (Pittaway 1995). An update to one of those occurrences based on recent evidence reviewed by the Committee, is provided later in this report under the "Updates/ Corrections" section. The two occurrences listed above fit into a pattern with the other occurrences resulting in no overlap of dates for those records. Additional sightings of Brown Pelican in Ontario during the summer of

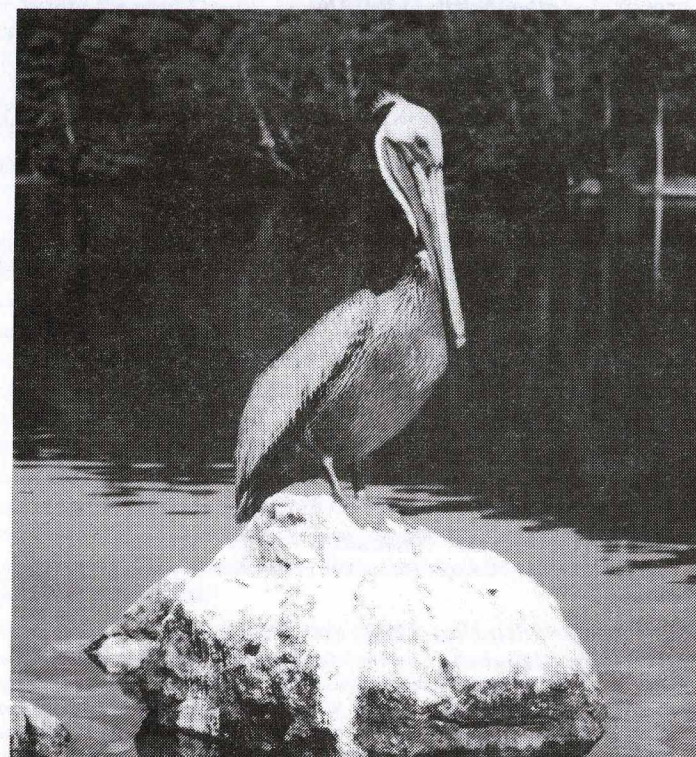


Figure 1: Brown Pelican at Devil Lake, *Frontenac* from 15 to 18 July 1994.

Photo by Peter Griffin.

1994 which have not yet been documented for the OBRC are mentioned by Ridout (1994). Also, an adult bird was present at Point Mouillee State Game Area, Michigan, at the west end of Lake Erie on 5-11 June 1994 (Chu 1995), which again fits nicely into this pattern. Given that this large, conspicuous species is capable of covering large distances in a short time, a single bird is presumed to have been responsible for all of these sightings, and no evidence has come forward to suggest otherwise. Therefore, although the occurrences in 1994 will be listed separately for convenience of reporting, the Committee will consider these to pertain to a single bird, and thus there is only one accepted record of Brown Pelican for Ontario up to this date. The Committee would appreciate any further documentation on additional sightings to help clarify the picture. Known sightings in 1994 for which documentation has not been received include those at Hamilton Harbour (*Hamilton-Wentworth*), Grand Bend (*Lambton/Huron*), Kamaniskeg Lake (*Hastings*) and Sharbot Lake (*Frontenac*). An older photographic record from the Niagara River in 1971 (James 1991) has yet to be considered by the Committee.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* North Only (2/6)

- 1995 - one, 20 August, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Tom Tough) - photos on file.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* North Only Until 1991 (1/20)

- 1995 - one adult, 13 May, Gros Cap, *Algoma* (C. Anthony Walker, also found by James Evans and Ray Garreau).
 - two adults, 14 May, Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ron C. Ridout, also found by Anne Marie Ridout, Robert Bateman).
 - one, 18 May, Port Lambton, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann).
 1994 - one adult, 26 May, Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ron C. Ridout).
 1993 - one adult, 10 May, Scarborough, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Gareth Watkins, also found by Carol Watkins).

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (7/24)

- 1995 - one adult, 13 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (Tony F.M. Beck).
 1994 - one juvenile, 19 July, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Robert H. Hall-Brooks).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (2/17)

- 1995 - one adult, 22 April, Oshawa, *Durham* (Matthew L. Holder, also found by Robert Nisbet, Michelle Meloche).

This is the earliest accepted record for Ontario.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (5/21)

- 1995 - one adult, 11 May, Bruce Lake, *Muskoka* (Dan Burton, found by Russ Harvey, Peggy Harvey) - photo on file.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (2/20)

- 1995 - one, 12 May, Nanticoke, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (H. Michael Street).
 - one adult, 15-17 May and 10-14 June (not observed between these periods), Port Perry, *Durham* (Winnie Yung, Margaret J.C. Bain, David Worthington, Brian Henshaw) - photo on file.
 - one adult, 19 and 28 September (not observed between these dates), Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Barry Cherriere, Kevin A. McLaughlin, also found by Peter Thoen, Robert L. Waldhuber) - photo on file.

Ibis species *Plegadis* sp. (3/20)

- 1995 - two, 13 May, Long Point Provincial Park (Old Cut), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ron C. Ridout, also found by Anne Marie Ridout, Audrey E. Heagey).
 - one, 17 September, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (David D. Beadle).
 - one, 1 October, Rondeau Park (townsite), *Kent* (William J. McKitterick).
 1993 - two, 12 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (William G. Lamond).

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (0/2)

- 1995 - one first summer, 20-21 July, Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (20-21 July), and Bowmanville (21 July), *Durham* (Rayfield Pye, Brian Henshaw, Margaret J.C. Bain, Michael Tate) - photos on file.
 - one adult, 21 September, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (James P. Coey, found by Michael DeLorey).

These are the first and second records for Ontario of this long overdue species. Based on plumage differences, it would appear that these two observations involved different birds. The diagnostic red eye colour was clearly noted in both occurrences.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* South Only (2/39)

- 1995 - 15 *frontalis* (adults + 3-4 immatures), 18 February - 8 March, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin A. McLaughlin).
 - one immature *frontalis*, 26 February - 11 March, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin A. McLaughlin).
 - 36, 15 April, Kentvale, *Algoma* (Edward Czerwinski, C. Anthony Walker) - photos on file.
 1994 - one immature *frontalis*, 19-22 March, Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ron C. Ridout).
 1993 - two adults, 28-29 November, Point Pelee National Park (28 November) and Kingsville (29 November), *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1995 was a banner year for this species in Ontario, with many reported sightings not yet reviewed by the OBRC. The 15 birds at Windermere Basin, Hamilton Harbour, on 18 February 1995 are the earliest spring migrants for the province to date. This flock was joined for a period by another bird, which remained a few days longer after the flock had departed. The flock of 36 birds on 15 April 1995 near Kentvale on St. Joseph Island is the largest group of Greater White-fronted Geese found in southern Ontario so far.

The Prairie subspecies (*frontalis*) is the more expected subspecies in Ontario. The Greenland race (*flavirostris*) should be identified with caution. As noted by Wormington (pers. comm.), immature *frontalis* can cause some confusion in field identifications during spring migration, since its bill colour may appear to be either pinkish or orange at this time of year. Only very well-described birds are assigned to subspecies in this report.

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only (0/9)

- 1995 - one adult white morph, 15-21 March, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Edward Czerwinski, Sam Rosa, James Evans, C. Anthony Walker) - photos on file.
 - one adult white morph, 15 April, Kentvale, *Algoma* (Edward Czerwinski, C. Anthony Walker).
 - one immature white morph, 19-25 November, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert, also found by Sarah Rupert) - photo on file.
 1994 - one adult white morph, 1-3 December, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert, found by Hank Neinhuis) - photo on file.

The bird at Sault Ste. Marie in March 1995 was accompanied by a second white morph goose which was suspected by the Committee to be a hybrid Snow x Ross's goose based on photographic evidence.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* (0/3)

- 1995 - one male, 6-10 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (L. Keith Johnson, Pamela Johnson, Nicholas G. Escott, Douglas J. Graham).

This is the third record for the province, and the first for northern Ontario. All records have involved spring migrants.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (0/10)

- 1995 - one adult male, 2-3 May, Listowel, *Perth* (Don Dowden, Robert E. Copeland).

This bird was accompanied by a female teal which, however, was not observed well enough by the observers to determine species.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (0/15)

- 1995 - one female, 8 January - 16 April, Hamilton Harbour (8 January, 4 February and 7-16 April) and Winona (5-7 March), *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Curry, also found by John L. Olmsted).
- one male, 21-28 January, Sombra, *Lambton* (Dennis F. Rupert) - photo on file.
 - two males, 3-22 April, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (John Hannah, also found by Sue Walton).
 - one male, 7-29 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Geoff Gooding).

The Thunder Bay bird is the first record of this species for northern Ontario.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* South Only (2/8)

- 1995 - one "adult" male, 3-4 June, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Niagara* (Kevin A. McLaughlin).
- 1994 - one first winter male, 1 November, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Z. Dobos).

There has been a dramatic increase in records of this species in recent years, mostly from the west end of Lake Ontario. These birds have been associated with the thousands of other sea ducks commensurate with the zebra mussel explosion in the lower Great Lakes. The population of origin of these birds (i.e., Atlantic coast or Arctic/Hudson Bay) is open to conjecture, as views obtained in the field have precluded individuals being assigned to subspecies.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* North Only (0/15)

- 1995 - two, 20 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Jul K. Wojnowski, also found by A. David Brewer).
- 1994 - one female or immature male, 15 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David P. Boyle).
- one female or immature male, 28 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David P. Boyle, also found by David Shepherd).
 - one female or immature male, 11 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David Shepherd, also found by Nancy Parish).
 - one female or immature male (different bird from above), 11 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David Shepherd, also found by Nancy Parish).

This species is proving to be a regular migrant at Thunder Cape on Lake Superior.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (1/7)

- 1995 - one, 24-27 May and 7 June (not observed between these periods), Walsingham (24-27 May) and Long Point Tip (7 June), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Ron C. Ridout, Steve Ogle, Leo J.R. Boon, found by Rick Bell) - photo on file.

Although about 40 km distant and 10 days apart, the bird photographed at the tip of Long Point was considered to be the same one that had lingered previously at the Wilson Tract area near Walsingham.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (8/22)

- 1995 - one juvenile light morph, 9 September, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Barry Cheriére, also found by Tom Bolohan, Ross Tucker, Su Ross).
- one adult light morph, 23 September, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Norman C. Murr, Hugh G. Currie, also found by Jim Griffith).

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (0/4)

- 1995 - one immature (one year old) light morph, 21 May, Gore Bay, *Manitoulin* (Ronald R. Tasker, also found by Mary Tasker).

This is the fourth accepted record for Ontario, all since 1990. All of these have been spring records, ranging from 17 March - 21 May; three of the four have involved immature birds.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus* (0/1)

- 1995 - one, 19 April, Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, *Niagara* (Roy E.C. Baker, Jerry H. Guild, Michael H. King, Terry Osborne, David Worthington, also found by George A. Meyers, James Fairchild, Jack Ryan).

This represents the first accepted record for Ontario. The bird was well seen by the hawk counters at the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, who observed it fly in and land nearby with a meadowlark in its talons! There was no compelling evidence to suggest that the bird was not of wild origin.

Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* (1/2)

- 1958 - one, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Harold H. Axtell, also found by Rachel C. Axtell).

This is the third record for the province accepted by the OBRC, but predates the other two by almost 30 years. The supporting description by Axtell of the distinctive calls of this bird, which were heard repeatedly, was deemed by the Committee to be adequate documentation for this occurrence. A number of earlier, apparently undocumented sight records are cited by James (1991).

Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica* (4/4)

- 1995 - one juvenile male, 4 October, Scarborough, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Elizabeth Kellogg, collected by Niki Panagakos) - photos on file, specimen (skin) in ROM (#159600).

This unfortunate bird was picked up in a weakened condition in an urban backyard, and brought to a rehabilitator, where it was photographed, and later put down. This record represents the earliest accepted fall date.



Figure 2: Juvenile Purple Gallinule picked up in weakened condition at Scarborough, *Metropolitan Toronto* on 4 October 1995. Photo by Elizabeth Kellogg.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* South Only (1/31)

1994 - one adult, 21-24 April, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Steven M. LaForest, found by Maruis Teeuw, Don Tyerman, Kathy Nicholl).

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (7/41)

1995 - six adults, 19 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Mary Lou Chomyshyn).
- one, 5 August, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Jochen Dierschke).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (0/1)

1995 - one juvenile, 10 September, Port Perry, *Durham* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Anders Brodin, Roy B.H. Smith, Hugh G. Currie, David Worthington, Patrick Stepien-Scanlon, Michael H. King).

This is a first record for Ontario, well documented by multiple observers who noted (amongst other features) the diagnostic white underwing linings. At Port Perry, the bird was seen at both the Nonquon Sewage Lagoons and the Lake Scugog causeway.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* North Only (0/2)

1994 - one, 13 August, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David P. Boyle, also found by J. Brian, Alex Escott, A. Pearson, J. Saunders, David Shepherd).
- one juvenile, 20 August, Sable Island, *Rainy River* (Donald S. Graham, also found by David H. Elder).

These are the first two records accepted for northern Ontario. There are very few other observations known for this region.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (0/17)

1995 - one adult, 5 August, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J.C. Bain, also found by Alf Lisk).



Figure 3: Adult Ross's Gull at Port Weller, *Niagara* on 26 February to 1 March 1995. Photo by Kayo J. Roy.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (0/5)

1995 - one adult, 26 February - 1 March, Port Weller, *Niagara* (David J. Milsom, Kayo J. Roy, Craig S. McLauchlan, also found by Roy E.C. Baker) - photos on file.
1994 - one winter adult, 18 December, Port Weller, *Niagara* (Robert Z. Dobos, Barbara N. Charlton, Kevin A. McLaughlin) - specimen (feathers) in ROM (#159517).

These are the fourth and fifth records for Ontario (all since 1983). The 18 December 1994 bird was found during a Christmas Bird Count. The discoverers watched it go to roost at dusk on the shoreline, where it remained past dark. The next morning, birders searching for it found only its remains where it went to roost, mostly a pile of pink feathers! Tracks in the sand next to it indicated that a Great Horned Owl had made a meal of this Arctic wanderer, to the dismay of many birders. Incredibly, another Ross's Gull was found at precisely the same location only two months later, and was added as a lifer or Ontario bird by many who saw it during its four-day stay. Ross's Gulls also present in the northeast during the winter of 1994-95 were at: Montreal, Quebec, 1-11 December (Aubry and Bannon 1995); Cape Vincent, New York (at the head of the St. Lawrence River), 4 January 1995; and Lake Cayuga, New York, 13 January 1995 (Paxton et al. 1995).

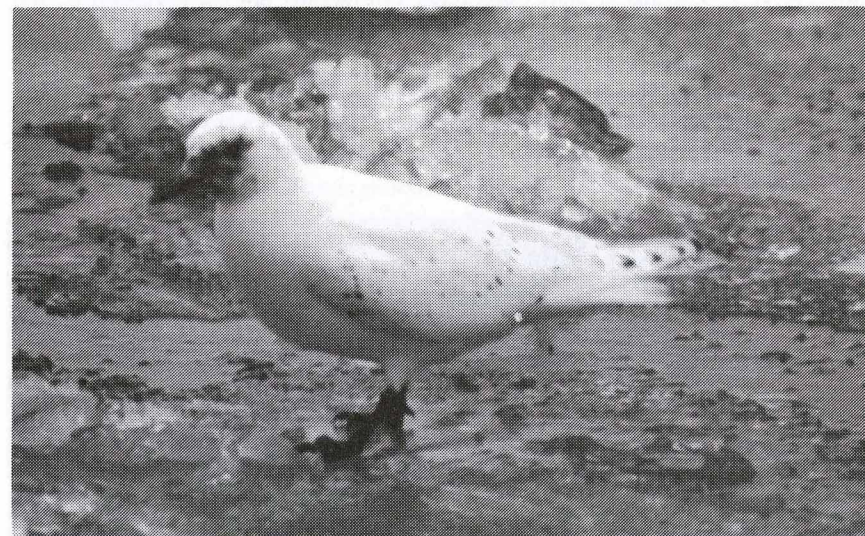


Figure 4: First winter Ivory Gull on the St. Clair River at Courtright, *Lambton* 23-26 December 1995. Photo by James N. Flynn.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (15/6)

1995 - one first winter, 12-19 November, Lake Dore, *Renfrew* (Michael Tate, Kayo J. Roy, found by M. Fleugel, K. Hooles) - photos on file.
- one first winter, 23-26 December, Courtright, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann, James N. Flynn, Ignaz Wanders) - photos on file.

These are the first records for Ontario since 1990. Photos indicate that different birds were involved in these two sightings.

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum* (1/2)

1995 - one first winter, 4-7 November, Sweets Corners, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (John B. Miles, William C. D'Anna, Kayo J. Roy, also found by C. Ann Miles, Mark Cranford, R. Dermer, Joanne Harris) - photo on file.

This is the third accepted record for Ontario. All three have been along the Lake Erie shoreline, which is not surprising considering the number of records on the U.S. side at the west end of the lake (Wormington 1996). This is the first autumn record for the province, and the first involving an immature bird. Interestingly, there were other reports of immature Least Terns during the autumn of 1995 on the lower Great Lakes at Hamlin Beach, New York (west of Rochester) on 25 October, and at Dunkirk Harbour, New York (southwest of Buffalo) on 5 November and early December (Paxton et al. 1996) (not two adults as in Miles (1996)). It is likely that this flurry of late fall 1995 records was the consequence of hurricane Opal which skirted the lower Great Lakes on 5-6 October.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata* (3/3)

1995 - one, 25 April, Kenora, *Kenora* (Eva Baier).

This is the sixth accepted record for Ontario, all occurring during fall migration. James et al. (1976) list at least three other fall records not yet reviewed by the Committee.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (2/3)

1995 - one immature, 16 August, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Jul K. Wojnowski, Nicholas G. Escott, also found by Marek Klich, David Okines, Kathy Palko) - photos on file.

This is the fifth record for Ontario. This bird was trapped and banded by Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (TCBO).



Figure 5: Immature White-winged Dove trapped and banded at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* 16 August 1995. Photo by Nicholas G. Escott.

Burrowing Owl *Speotyto cunicularia* (0/5)

1995 - one, 13 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Ken Bishop, Ellen Bishop) - photo on file.

This bird was found and captured in an urban yard in Thunder Bay. It was in good condition, and was flown to Manitoba where it was released (Escott 1995). This is the fifth accepted record by the OBRC, although several older records (James 1991) have not been reviewed.

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (* /5)

1994 - two (probable territorial pair), 14-21 May (male), 21 May (female), *Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Robert Dawson) - photo on file.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (2/9)

1995 - one female, *circa* mid-September to 30 October, Oakville, *Halton* (T. Sysiuk) - specimen (skin) at ROM (#159603).

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (1/1)

1995 - one, *circa* 15-25 May, Englehart, *Timiskaming* (Valerie Piotrowski) - photos on file.

1972/73 - one, 27 October and 6 February-10 March (not observed between these periods), *Point Pelee National Park* (27 October) and *Windsor* (6 February-10 March), *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert, Alan J. Ryff, James W. Wilson, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

These constitute the second and third records for Ontario. The Point Pelee and Windsor occurrences are considered by the Committee to pertain to the same bird, especially since these were the only known occurrences of this species in eastern North America during the winter of 1972-73. The first Ontario record was one at Langtry's Bridge (near Emo), *Rainy River*, on 27 May 1934 observed by Edgar Sullivan (Snyder 1938). This is generally considered to be a valid record; however, since no description exists of this bird, it cannot be reviewed by the OBRC. Thus there are only two accepted records by the OBRC to date as indicated in the numeric summary above.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (1/6)

1994/95 - one, 24 November-13 January, Cressy Marsh, *Prince Edward* (Steven M. LaForest, Alan Wormington, found by I. Ferguson, M. Ferguson) - photos on file.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (8/56)

1995 - one, 10 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul N. Prior).

- one, 31 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Graeme Gibson, also found by Leo J.R. Boon, Richard Groves, Susan Gustafson, Patricia N. Lent, Steven R. Ogle).

- one, 3 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Jul K. Wojnowski, also found by Brian E. Dalzell, David Okines).

- one, 7 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Jul K. Wojnowski, also found by Brian E. Dalzell, Marek Klich, Kathy Palko).

- one, 7 September, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1994 - one, 28 September, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Keith D. Wade).

- one, 1-2 October, Shebeshekong, *Parry Sound* (Jean M. Niskanen, also found by Ted Coulter).

The bird at Long Point on 10 May 1995 is the earliest spring record for Ontario.

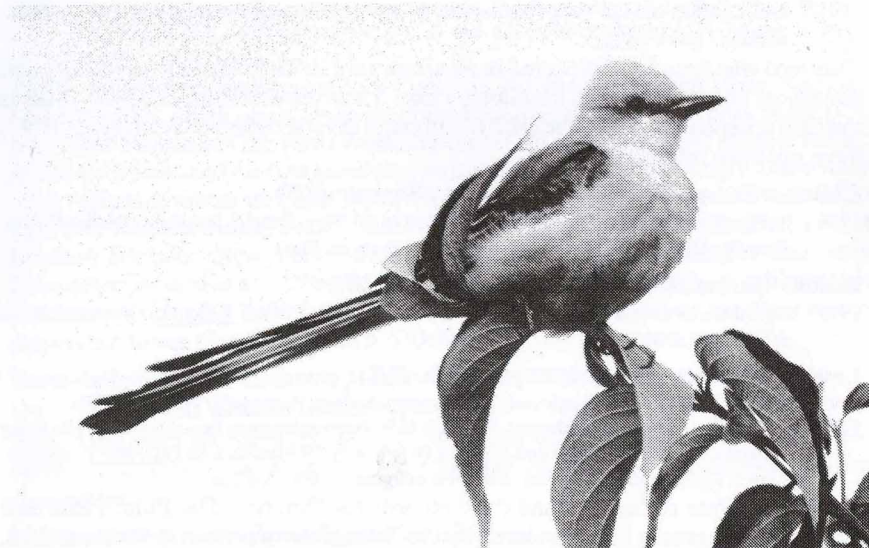


Figure 6: Adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* from 12 September to 15 October 1995. Photo by Alan Wormington.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (3/32)

- 1995 - one, 13 May, Tobermory, *Bruce* (Carole Capling) - photo on file.
- one, 15 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Sheldon McGregor, also found by Julia McGregor).
- one, 26 May, Copetown, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (David G. Wilson, also found by John Jesseau).
- one adult, 7-10 July, Walsingham, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Stephane Bonneville, Jamie Fenneman, Greg Kubica, Stuart Mackenzie, Matthew Mills, Gavin C. Platt, Peter S. Burke Kayo J. Roy, found by Peter Carson) - photo on file.
- one adult, 12 September-15 October, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Thomas P. Hurst, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.
- one, 12 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Kevin Hannah, also found by David Okines, Jul K. Wojnowski).

1995 was an excellent year for this species in Ontario. The July Walsingham bird was found in a rehabilitated prairie habitat recently established on an old tobacco farm, surely a stamp of approval on the quality of this conservation effort from this bird of the open plains!

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (1/4)

- 1995 - one, 5 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Paul McKenzie, Bill Cowart, also found by Hank Benoit, John Bergstrom, Steve Walter, Laurie Yorke).

This is the fifth accepted record for Ontario. All have been at Point Pelee National Park during spring.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (0/11)

- 1994 - one, 14 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea* North Only (2/7)

- 1991 - one immature, 11 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Julie Cappelman) - photo on file.

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (2/11)

- 1994 - one male, 30 October, Pass Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Annette van Niejenhuis, also found by Brian Moore) - photos on file.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (4/23)

- 1994/95 - one, 26 December - 6 April, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Allan G. Harris) - photos on file.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* North Only After 1993 (5/48)

- 1995 - one female, 2 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Donald S. Graham).

Sightings in southern Ontario after 31 December 1993 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* North Only (0/2)

- 1994 - one adult, 29 September, Rosspoint, *Thunder Bay* (Barbara N. Charlton, Robert Z. Dobos).
- This is only the second record for northern Ontario. The first involved an immature at Marathon on 13 October 1986 (Wormington 1987a).

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* (2/6)

- 1994 - one, 18 October, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Niagara* (Robert Z. Dobos).

This represents the first accepted fall record for Ontario. Interestingly, a Bell's Vireo was also at Cape May, New Jersey on 30 October - 3 November 1994 (Boyle et al. 1995), one of the very few fall records for the northeast.

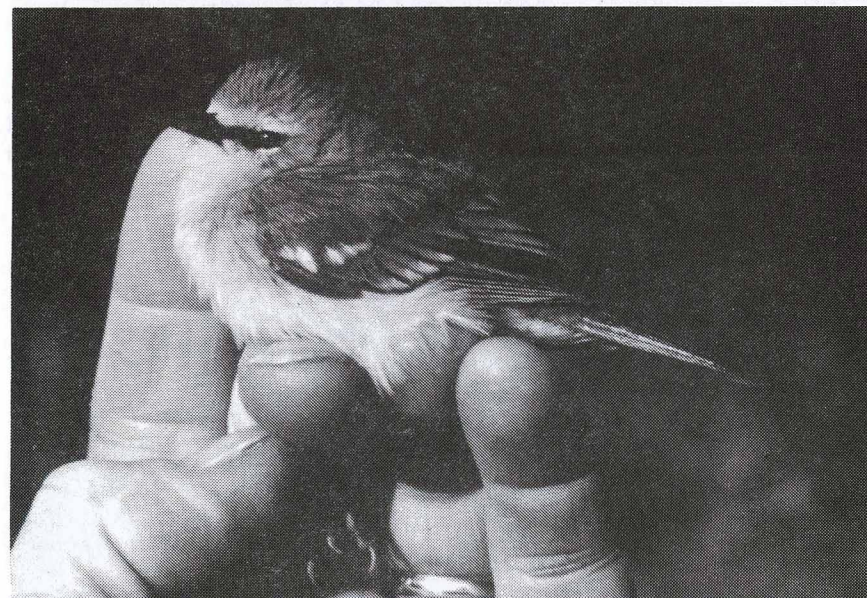


Figure 7: One female Blue-winged Warbler at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* on 29 May 1992. Photo by David Shepherd.

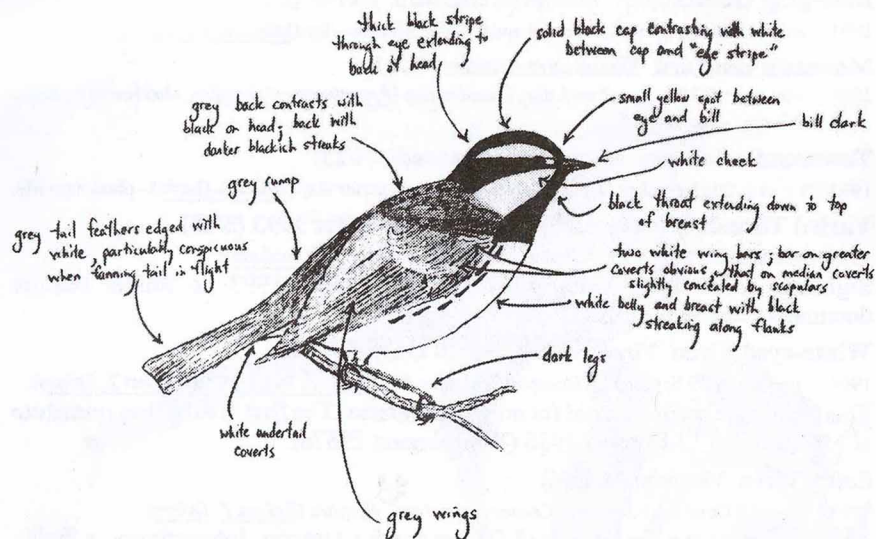


Figure 8: Male Black-throated Gray Warbler at Arkell, Wellington 25-30 April 1995. Drawing by Colin D. Jones.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* North Only (1/1)

1992 - one female, 29 May, Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay (David Shepherd) - photo on file.

This bird, the second accepted record for northern Ontario, was banded by TCBO. The other accepted record was on 8 October 1979 at Marathon, but was preceded by an undocumented sighting at Moosonee on 2 October 1979 (Wormington 1987b).

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler

***Dendroica coronata memorabilis/auduboni* (*/3)**

1995 - one male, 24 April, Rock Chapel, Hamilton-Wentworth (Robert Curry, found by Brian Pomfret).

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens* (4/4)

1995 - one male, 25-30 April, Arkell, Wellington (Colin D. Jones, Robert Curry, also found by Richard Russell, Kim Simpson).

There are now eight records of this species accepted by the OBRC, plus two undocumented records which were previously summarized (Wormington and Curry 1990). This is the earliest spring record for Ontario.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica* North Only After 1993 (17/58)

1989 - one male, 3 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Marvin S. Smout, also found by Anne Smout, Jim Lafler, Mary Lou Lafler).

The OBRC no longer requires documentation for occurrences of this species in southern Ontario after 31 December 1993.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (7/8)

1995 - one female, 21 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Denys R. Gardiner, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Alan Wormington).

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* North Only (0/1)

1993 - one immature female, 26 September, Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay (David Shepherd) - photo on file.

This bird, banded by the TCBO, stands as the only record accepted by the OBRC for northern Ontario. An originally accepted record at Makwa Lake, Sudbury, on 1 June 1982 (James 1984) was re-evaluated and subsequently not accepted by the Committee (Wormington 1985). A record for July 1975, northeast of Wawa (Baxter 1985), has yet to be reviewed.

Swainson's Warbler *Limothlypis swainsonii* (1/4)

1995 - one, 13 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent (Blake A. Mann, Terry Smith, Raymond J. Pershing) - photos on file.

This is the fifth accepted record for Ontario. All of these records have ranged between the dates of May 6-28.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* North Only (2/2)

1993 - one female, 13 September, Point Porphyry, Thunder Bay (David Shepherd) - photo on file.

This bird was banded by the TCBO at Point Porphyry on Porphyry Island, and is the fourth accepted record for northern Ontario.



Figure 9: A second year old male Western Tanager banded at Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay on 17 May 1995. Photo by Jul K. Wojnowski.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (2/11)

- 1995 - one second year (first alternate) female, 15 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Jul K. Wojnowski, also found by David Okines, Marek Klich) - photo on file.
 - one second year (first alternate) male, 17 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Jul K. Wojnowski, also found by David Okines, Marek Klich) - photo on file.
 - one, 15 October, Pickering, *Durham* (Matthew L. Holder, Andrea Kingsley).

The two birds at Thunder Cape were mist-netted and banded by TCBO. There was an incredible "invasion" of this species in the upper mid-west during May of 1995, with 18 birds reported in Minnesota, three in Wisconsin, and two in Michigan (Granlund 1995), and an additional three in southeastern Manitoba (Koes and Taylor 1995).

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* (7/26)

- 1995 - one adult male, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Darlene Friedman). - one male, 20 May, Long Point (Squires Ridge), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Jeffrey Robinson, also found by E. Paul Ashley).
 - one male, 21 May, Snug Harbour, *Parry Sound* (Pat Poppleton, also found by Ann Poppleton, Tom Poppleton).
 - one female, 1 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

1994 - one female, 3 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David Shepherd, found by Julie Cappelman). The bird at Point Pelee on 1 June 1995 is the latest spring migrant for Ontario. The Thunder Cape bird is only the second record for northern Ontario.

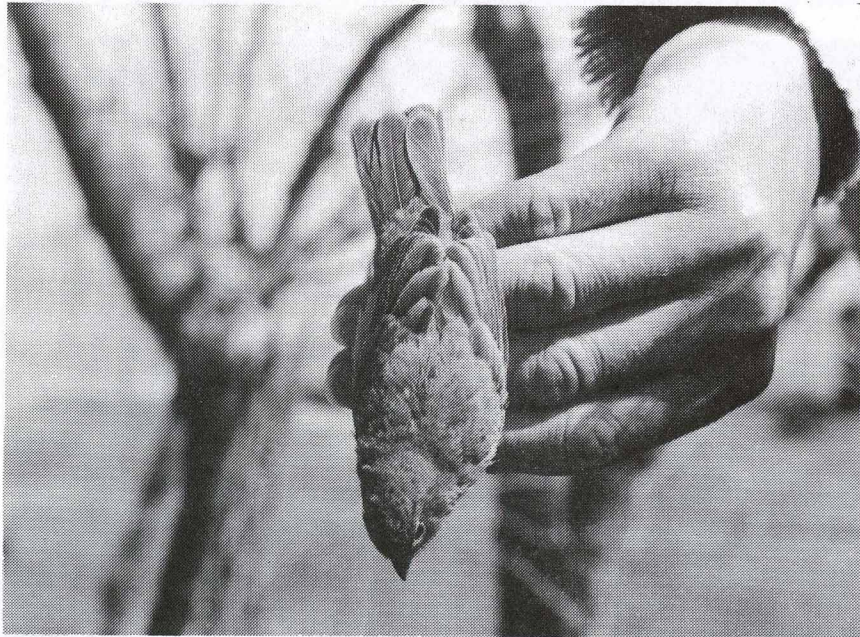


Figure 10: A female or immature male Varied Bunting, the first for Ontario and Canada, banded at Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* on 7 May 1995. The curved culmen is noticeable in this photo by D. Steve Anderson.

Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor* (0/1)

- 1995 - one female or immature male, 7 May, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul N. Prior, D. Steve Anderson, also found by Alejandro L. Llanes, Daysi Rodriguez Batista, Barbara Sanchez Oria, Lorraine Brown, Jen Heal) - photos on file.

This remarkable record, of a bird mist-netted and banded by the Long Point Bird Observatory, is a first for Ontario and likely for Canada. A pattern of vagrancy for this species, as summarized by Prior (1995), provides evidence for a wild origin. This includes a record of an adult male collected at Locke, Michigan, on 18 May 1874 (Barrows 1912).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (2/4)

- 1995 - one adult male, 12-14 May, Keewatin, *Kenora* (Larry Winslow, Judy Winslow) - photo on file. This, the sixth accepted record for the province, is a first for northern Ontario.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (1/6)

- 1995 - one female, 6 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Brian E. Dalzell, also found by David Okines, Jul K. Wojnowski).

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (4/37)

- 1995 - one, 21 April, Long Point Tip, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (W. Allan Ogden).
 - one, 12 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (Scott Lawson, also found by Lloyd Paul).
 - one, 30 August, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (David J.T. Hussell, Jul K. Wojnowski, also found by Christa Beckmann, David Okines).
 - one, 12 September, Long Point (Squires Ridge), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Stephen C. Votier).
 1994 - one, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Paul Fast, G. Brock May) - photo on file.



Figure 11: Female Lark Bunting banded at Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* was present from 15 May to 10 June 1995. Photo by Eric A. Machell.

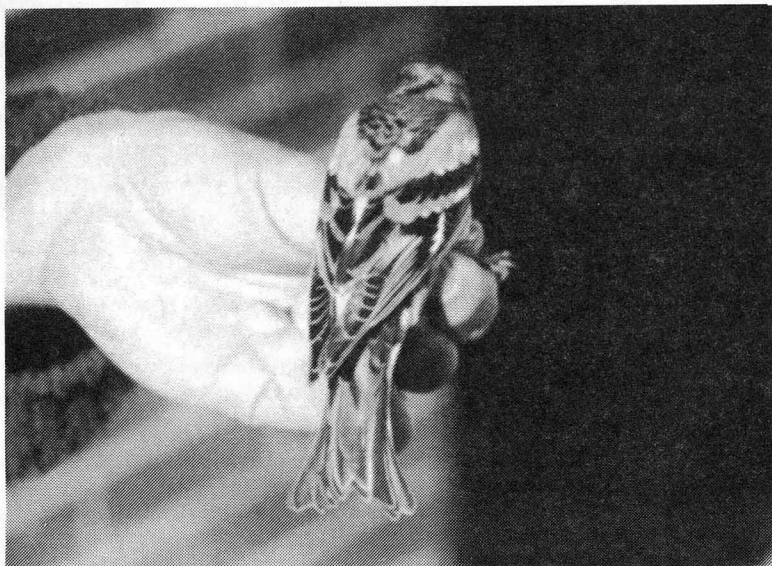


Figure 16: Adult winter male Brambling at Dorland, Oxford on 12 November 1993.
Photo by William G. Lindley.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (3/18)

- 1995 - one adult female, 15 May - 10 June, Prince Edward Point, Prince Edward (Eric A. Machell)
- photos on file.
- one male, 14 June, McGinnis Creek, Rainy River (John Van den Broeck, Roger M. Simms).
1994 - one male, 21 May, Forfar, Leeds and Grenville (Moreen V. Ready, also found by Lloyd Stone, Ross Stone).

The Prince Edward Point bird was mist-netted and banded.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* (1/5)

- 1993 - one adult winter male, 12 November, Dorland, Oxford (James M. Holdsworth, William G. Lindley) - photos on file.

This is the fifth of six records for Ontario. The previously published occurrence at Black River, Kenora, 18-20 April 1994 (Pittaway 1995) is the sixth Ontario record. The Dorland bird was found stunned after flying into a window, taken indoors overnight, then released unharmed the next day.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (1/4)

- 1995 - one male *tephrocotis*, 22 January - early March, Sapawe, Rainy River (David H. Elder, Donald S. Graham) - photo on file.

This is the fifth accepted record for the province, all in northern Ontario, and the second one present during the winter of 1994-95.

Not Accepted Records

Identification Uncertain

In most reports listed below, the documentation provided was found to be insufficient to establish the identity of the species claimed. In very few cases did the Committee consider that the identification was actually an error. Any of these reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting evidence is provided.

- 1995 - Pacific Loon, one, 24 November, Niagara Falls, Niagara.
- Brown Pelican, four, 27 July, Hamilton, Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Greater White-fronted Goose, one, 15 April, Burpee, Manitoulin.
- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), one, 14 October, Valens, Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), one, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Mississippi Kite, one, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*), one, 17 May, Hillman Marsh, Essex.
- Curlew Sandpiper, one, 7 October, Point Clark, Bruce.
- Bicknell's Thrush, one, 6 October, Whitby, Durham.
- Bell's Vireo, one, 10 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, one, 30 April, Whitby, Durham.
- Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*), one, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Kirtland's Warbler, one, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Kirtland's Warbler, one, 26 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Kirtland's Warbler, one, 4 September, Long Point Provincial Park (Old Cut), Haldimand-Norfolk.
- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), one, 10 June, Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent.
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 22 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Blue Grosbeak, two, 28 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Lark Sparrow, one, 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
- Bullock's Oriole, one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
1994 - Great Cormorant, one, 27 May, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland.
- Black Vulture, one, circa 20 May, Millar Creek Conservation Area, Peterborough.
- Swainson's Hawk, one, 3 October, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, Essex.
- Swainson's Hawk, one, 8 December, Port Stanley, Elgin.
- California Gull, one, 7 December, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland.
- Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), one, 17 November - 7 December, Tobermory, Bruce, photos on file.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, one, 23 April, Point Pelee National Park, Essex.
1993 - Black Vulture, one, 8 April, Millbrook, Peterborough.
1992 - Black Vulture, one, 7 October, Sheep Island, Northumberland.
1989 - Prairie Falcon, one, 24 August, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, Essex.
1985 - Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*), one, 11 May, Stoney Point, Essex.
- Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), one, 15 September, Holiday Harbour, Kent.
1973 - Prairie Falcon, one, 6 October, Claremont, Durham.
1962 - Prairie Falcon, one, 30 September, Burlington, Halton.

Not Accepted Records

Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Records in this category are those considered by the Committee to be likely escaped birds or birds released from captivity. However, as with all submissions to the OBRC, such records may be reviewed at any time should new information arise suggesting a wild origin.

Prairie Falcon

1976 - one, 18 December, Long Point Flats, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (David Broughton, also found by A. David Brewer, Rob Copeland).

There was a known escape of a Prairie Falcon at the Toronto airport shortly before this observation, which raised enough doubt as to the origin of this bird.

Updates/Corrections to Previous OBRC Reports

1994 Report (*Ontario Birds* 13: 46-65)

- under Brown Pelican, 20 July 1994, change to: "18-24 July, Newboro (a.k.a. Clear) Lake, Leeds and Grenville (Paul Van Luit, Robert Worona)."
- under Greater White-fronted Goose, 26-27 March 1994, remove: "Kano".
- under Tufted Duck, 26 December 1993, change "Hamilton Bay, Hamilton" to: "Windermere Basin".
- under "Acknowledgements", change: "Leo Heynes" to: "Leo Heyens".

1993 Report (*Ontario Birds* 12: 41-58)

- under Black-throated Gray Warbler, change bracketed numbering to: "(4/3)".

1991 Report (*Ontario Birds* 10: 43-63)

- under Black Vulture (1991), add: "and 15 February...and Hall Glen, Peterborough...(Cathy Forgie, also found by Clifford Ballantine)."

1990 Report (*Ontario Birds* 9: 18-44)

- under Rosy Finch, change bracketed numbering to: "(0/1/1)".
- the following record was omitted from the list of "Unaccepted Records, Identification uncertain": "1990 - Black-headed Grosbeak, one, 3-7 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, photo on file."

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