

## Articles

### Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2002

William J. Crins

#### Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) evaluates documentation that it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Ontario (see [www.ofo.ca/obrc](http://www.ofo.ca/obrc)). This 21st annual report deals with the results of the adjudication of 110 records reviewed by the OBRC during 2002, of which 84% were accepted. A total of 121 observers submitted documentation for review by the 2002 committee. The quality of the reports submitted generally was good, with thorough descriptions and accounts of the circumstances relevant to the observations being provided. Reports were submitted by a wide range of birders, from experts to novices, and often were accompanied by photographs (prints, slides, digital images), copies of field notes, sketches, and, in one case, a videotape.

The members of the 2002 committee were David D. Beadle, Peter S. Burke (chair), William J. Crins (non-voting secretary), David H. Elder, Christopher J. Escott, Nicholas G. Escott, Ronald G. Tozer, and Alan Wormington

(Figure 1). Mark K. Peck continued to serve in the role of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison (non-voting) to the OBRC in 2002.

The official Ontario bird checklist has increased by one species to 475 species, with the addition of White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*). The evidence for the occurrence of another species, Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) had not been reviewed by the Committee until this year, although it had been included on the Ontario checklist by James et al. (1976) and Wormington and James (1984). The present Committee has accepted the evidence for its occurrence in Ontario. A record of a *Plegadis* sp. ibis was accepted as the first record for this genus in northern Ontario. Unfortunately, in spite of the existence of photographs, this bird could not be identified categorically as a Glossy Ibis or a White-faced Ibis.

#### Listing of Records

The format for listing the number of accepted records for each species that was implemented in last year's annual report (Roy 2002) is retained in this year's report. Thus,

a single number is used to indicate the total number of accepted records of a Review List species. The former trinomial and binomial systems no longer will be used. Accepted records are arranged taxonomically by their English and scientific names following the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union 1998) and its 42nd supplement (American Ornithologists' Union 2000). Date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, sex, plumage, and location(s) are provided when known. Counties, districts, and regional municipalities are shown in italics. The plumage terminology used here follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and molt terminology, see Pittaway (2000). The names of all contributors of documentation are listed. Those contributors who are known to be the discoverers of the bird also are underlined. Others present when the bird was found, but who did not submit reports, are listed when known.

The committee makes every effort to verify documented information prior to the acceptance and publication of a record. It is, however, still possible that inaccuracies remain. The committee welcomes written communication to the secretary from anyone with pertinent information that would correct or strengthen any record. There may be occasions where dates or other

listed details in a record differ from those quoted in other published sources.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or origin are listed separately. Contributors of all "not accepted" reports receive a letter from the chairperson explaining the reasons for the decision, along with copies of the comments obtained from the voting members. These reports, as well as documentation for all accepted records, are kept on permanent file at the ROM. A "not accepted" report can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new evidence, in the form of additional documentation, is submitted to the committee for review. Researchers and other interested individuals are welcome to examine any of the filed reports at the ROM, but an appointment is necessary. Please write to Mark K. Peck, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 (e-mail: [markp@rom.on.ca](mailto:markp@rom.on.ca) or telephone 416-586-5523).

No changes have been made to the Review List during 2002.

#### Acknowledgements

The OBRC would like to extend its appreciation to the many observers who took the time to submit documentation of their observations of rare birds in 2002. We thank the following people who assisted the committee in the acquisition of



additional data and other material evidence that supplemented the information submitted directly by observers and committee members: Bruce M. Di Labio, Robert Z. Dobos, Sandra Eadie, Jean H. Iron, Anthony L. Lang, Mark K. Peck, Ronald J. Pittaway, Ron C. Ridout, Kayo J. Roy, Sarah E. Rupert, John Vandenbroek, and Charles J. Whitelaw. Additional outside experts have provided invaluable assistance in the verification of certain records, including Alvaro Jaramillo, David C. Sibley, and Andrea Smith.

The committee also is indebted to Mark Cranford for his continuing efforts in ensuring that ONTBIRDS (listserv of the Ontario Field

Ornithologists) remains a useful source of information on rare birds appearing in Ontario. This electronic source of information, including dates and locations, makes the secretary's job of securing documentation much more efficient!

I am indebted to Kayo Roy for his help in making the transition from his tenure as secretary to mine much easier. His organizational skills and suggestions on getting the job done have been invaluable. I want to thank the 2002 committee for being patient during my learning process in the position of secretary. Finally, I want to thank Alan Wormington, Ron Pittaway, Ron Tozer, and Peter Burke for numerous suggestions to improve this report.



**Figure 1:** Ontario Bird Records Committee members for 2002. Left to right, seated: Nick Escott, Bill Crins, Peter Burke. Standing: Alan Wormington, David Beadle, Ron Tozer, Chris Escott. Not in photo: Dave Elder, Mark Peck. Photo by *Bob Curry*.



**Figure 2:** Dorsal view of definitive basic female Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, found at Bluff Bar, Long Point, *Norfolk* on 13 July 2000. Photo by *Ron Ridout*.



**Figure 3:** Juvenal/first basic Brown Pelican, photographed at Jordan Lake, *Hastings* on 28 September 2002. Photo by *April Tannahill*.





Figure 4: Definitive basic Glossy Ibis, one of two present at the Winona sewage ponds, Grimsby, *Niagara*, from 30 August to 7 September 2002. Photo by *Kenneth M. Newcombe*.



Figure 5: First alternate female Snowy Plover, present at Amherst Island, *Lennox & Addington*, between 25 May and 6 June 2002. Photo by *Rick Brown*.



Figure 6: First basic Piping Plover, present at Port Colborne, *Niagara*, between 9 and 12 October 2002. Photo by *Willie C. D'Anna*.



Figure 7: Definitive basic Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) at Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent*, between 1 and 8 March 2002. Photo by *Alan Wormington*.





**Figure 8:** Basic White-winged Dove, present at St. Clair National Wildlife Area, Chatham-Kent, from 7 to 14 July 2002. Photo by Alan Wormington.



**Figure 9:** Juvenal Common Ground-Dove (*C. p. passerina*) found at Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay on 14 August 2002. Photo by Allan Gilbert.



**Figure 10:** Definitive basic Lewis's Woodpecker, present at Wooler, Northumberland, from 18 January to 7 March 2002. Photo by Harold E. Stiver.



**Figure 11:** This definitive basic Tropical Kingbird, present at Erieau, Chatham-Kent, from 26 October to 30 November 2002, is the first record of this species in Ontario. Photo by Alan Wormington.





Figure 12: Juvenal Cave Swallow (*P. f. pallida*), present at Point Pelee National Park, Essex, from 13 to 16 November 2002. Photo by James N. Flynn.

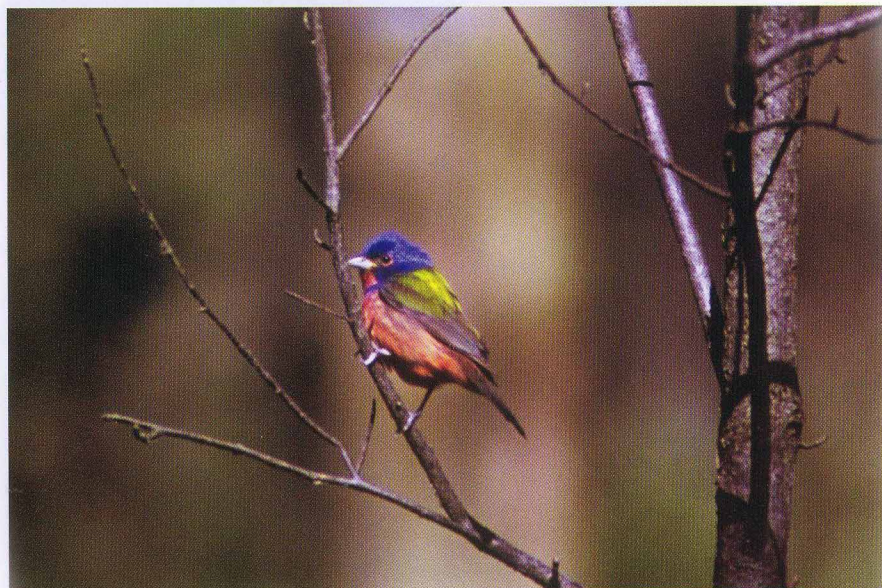


Figure 13: Alternate male Painted Bunting, present in Point Pelee National Park, Essex, from 7 to 15 May 2002. Photo by Barry S. Cherriere.

## Accepted Records

### Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (10)

- 2002 – one, alternate, 5 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Bert Harding).  
 – four, alternate, 1-4 June, two, 5-7 June, Emo, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Chris Martin, Gord Martin, Mary Elder).  
 – one, alternate, 1 June, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Chris Martin, Gord Martin, Mary Elder).

Coady et al. (2002) summarized the breeding records of Eared Grebe in Ontario. The first confirmed nesting of this species in Ontario occurred at the Emo sewage lagoons, *Rainy River*, in 1996. In 1997 and 2001, they nested in the same location. Although the species has not been confirmed as a nester at the Rainy River sewage lagoons, *Rainy River*, it has been present there during at least a portion of the breeding season for three consecutive years, 2001 to 2003 (Coady et al. 2002; R. G. Tozer, pers. comm.).

### Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (17)

- 2002 – two, alternate, 20 April, 12 km north of Rainy River, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder; also found by Mary Elder, Chris Martin).  
 – two, 4-6 October, Burlington, *Halton* and *Hamilton*, *Hamilton* (John L. Olmsted, Christopher J. Escott; also found by Bob Stamp, Jack Hanna).

### Band-rumped Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* (2)

- 2000 – one, definitive basic, female, 13 July, Long Point (Bluff Bar), *Norfolk* (John Ferris, Julie Ferris) – specimen (skin) at ROM (#67110); photos on file.

This bird was found in a weakened state by the Ferris family as they were returning from a day of fishing. There had been considerable debate about the identity of this bird, even with the specimen in hand. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel and Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) can be quite difficult to separate, and various people had leaned toward one or the other of these identities. A conclusive identification finally was obtained when a sample of DNA from the specimen matched other samples of Band-rumped Storm-petrels, but not samples of Leach's Storm-petrels (Andrea Smith, pers. comm.). The only other Ontario record of this species is of a specimen obtained in Ottawa on 28 August 1933 (James 1991, Roy 2001).

### Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (27)

- 2002 – one, juvenal, 17 November – 16 December, Hamilton, *Hamilton* to *Pickering*, *Durham* (David R. Don, Cheryl Edgecombe, Verna J. Higgins, Kenneth M. Newcombe) – photos on file.

### Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (6)

- 2002 – one, juvenal/first basic, 19 May and 4 September; 19 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*; 4 September, Cedar Beach, *Essex* (Peter S. Burke, Brandon R. Holden, J. Michael Tate, Alan Wormington, also found by Colin D. Jones, David A. Martin,



Susan Holden, Eric W. Holden).

- one, juvenal/first basic, 5 June, 2 and ca. 14-19 August, 3-4 October; 5 June, Hamilton Harbour, *Halton*; 2 August, Cobourg, *Northumberland*; ca. 14-19 August, Barcovan Beach, *Hastings*; 3-4 October, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* and Hamilton Harbour, *Halton/Hamilton* (Glenn Offen, Mary Offen, Cheryl Edgecombe, Mark Chojnacki, found by Jill Franklyn, Cynthia Pekarik) – photos and videotape on file.
- one, juvenal/first basic, 23 September – 1 October; 23-26 September, Deux Rivieres, *Renfrew*; 28 September, Steenburg Lake, *Hastings*; 28-29 September, Jordan Lake, *Hastings*; 29 September – 1 October, Belmont Lake, *Peterborough*; 1 October, Crowe Bridge, *Northumberland* (April Tannahill, Tom Morton) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal/first basic, 5 October, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Michael A. Kielb, Sarah E. Rupert).
- one, juvenal/first basic, 5 and 13-14 October; Athol Bay, *Prince Edward*; 13-14 October, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Margaret J. Bain, Carol M. Horner, found by John Blaney, Sharron Blaney) – photo on file.

The year 2002 certainly can be considered the year of the Brown Pelican in southern Ontario. Burke (2002) and Wormington (2002b, 2003b) summarized the known occurrences of this species in Ontario, including preliminary assessments of the five records from 2002. Determination of the number of birds involved was assisted by overlapping observations at different locations, plumage conditions, and other identifiable marks on individual birds.

The first bird, from Point Pelee National Park, is known to have been present in western Lake Erie, mainly in Ohio waters, until at least 23 September. The bird seen between 23 September and 1 October was identifiable by a “hole” in its left foot. This bird, first noted in Michigan on 17 August, undertook an odyssey that was very well tracked by observers. It was last seen in Michigan on Lake Michigamme, on 2 September, then was seen in west-central Quebec between 13-22 September, and finally, moved from Deux Rivieres, *Renfrew* southwestward to Crowe Bridge, *Northumberland*, where it was last recorded (A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

#### **Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (9)**

- 2002 – one, juvenal, 23 November, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Port Weller, *Niagara* (Alan Wormington).

#### **Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (2)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, male, 3 August, Orillia, *Simcoe* (Peter D. N. Middleton, also found by Jan Middleton).

In addition to the Orillia bird, documentation was received (too late for inclusion in this report) for another sighting of an Anhinga that was made in Alliston, *Simcoe*, on 29 August 2002. It is possible that this report may have involved the same bird, since these two locations are relatively close to each other, as the Anhinga flies (approximately 60 km). The Alliston report will be reviewed by the 2003 committee. Tozer (2000) reviewed the status of this species in Ontario. There is some question about the exact location in

which the first bird (collected in 1881) was obtained (the Ontario or Michigan side of the St. Mary's River). He concluded that a second bird, shot near Wellington, *Prince Edward*, in 1904, probably was of wild origin. The OBRC has not yet reviewed these two reports. The thoroughly documented appearance of this species near Delaware, *Middlesex* in 2000 is the only other record of Anhinga in the province that has been accepted by the OBRC (Read 2000, Roy 2001).

#### **Great Egret *Ardea alba* North Only (10)**

- 2002 – seven, definitive basic, 12-17 August, Eton-Rugby, *Kenora* (Carolle Eady, found by Donna Montague) – photo on file.

#### **Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (49)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, 3 May, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (Ronald G. Tozer).  
– one, first alternate, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

#### **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (33)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, 15 June, Minett, *Muskoka* (Clay Campbell, also found by Liz Campagna) – photo on file.  
– one, juvenal, 10-13 August, Port Colborne, *Niagara* (Willie C. D'Anna, also found by Betsy Potter) – photos on file.

#### **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (40)**

- 2002 – seven, definitive alternate, 23-30 April, Melbourne, *Middlesex* (Peter S. Burke, found by Barbara Pokraka and Rheinhold Pokraka).  
– one, definitive alternate, 27-28 April, Port Hope, *Northumberland* (Margaret J. Bain, found by Russell Lake).  
– two; one definitive basic, one juvenal; 30 August-7 September, Grimsby, *Niagara* (Thomas A. Crooks, David R. Don, Cheryl Edgecombe, Gerard McNaughton, Kenneth M. Newcombe) – photos on file.

#### **Ibis species *Plegadis* sp. (35)**

- 2001 – one, juvenal, 18 October, Gowganda, *Timiskaming* (Gertrude Trudel, also found by Paul Trudel) – photos on file.

This report constitutes the first accepted record of a *Plegadis* sp. ibis from northern Ontario. White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) was suspected at the time, and this may be the most likely species to occur in northern Ontario. Unfortunately, autumn juvenile ibises are notoriously difficult to identify to species with certainty, a point reiterated by David C. Sibley (pers. comm.), when reviewing the present report for us.

#### **Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (42)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, 23-26 January, Echo Bay, *Algoma* (Robert D. Knudsen, Jim Evans, Erwin Meissner, found by Euan Aitken) – photos on file.  
– one, 23 May, Cup and Saucer, *Manitoulin* (Bruce C. Ventura, also found by Christine N. Hall).



**Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (12)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, male, 18 April, Snake River Marsh, *Renfrew* (Daryl Coulson, also found by Lauren Trute).

**Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (25)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, male, 10 March, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

**Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (5)**

- 2002 – one, dark morph, 24 April, Grimsby (Beamer Memorial C. A.), *Niagara* (Cheryl Edgecombe, Robert W. Stamp, John L. Olmsted, L. Verne Evans, also found by John Niewiadomski).

This is an extremely rare bird in Ontario, so the occurrence of the even more rare dark morph of this species is particularly noteworthy. Questions of origin have been raised for this species in the past (Roy 2001). However, although it is always difficult to say with any certainty, it seems unlikely that a bird travelling with other migrating raptors would be of suspect origin.

**Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* (3)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, 16-26 July, Fort Albany, *Cochrane* (Ken M. Wesley, found by Ivan Edwards).

There is a developing pattern of vagrancy in this species, with most records occurring during the summer months (see D. Roberson at: [montereybay.com/creagrus/MTYcaracara.html](http://montereybay.com/creagrus/MTYcaracara.html)). This, combined with the recent expansion of its breeding range northward in Texas (Matt White, pers. comm. to BIRDWG01@listserv.arizona.edu), strongly support the conclusion that this was a bird of wild origin, rather than an escape. Two previous records of this species have been reviewed by the OBRC. These were an adult female found dead after a southwesterly gale on Victoria Island, *Thunder Bay* on 18 July 1892; and a bird observed on Pelee Island, *Essex* on 6 July 1994 (Wormington 1986, Pittaway 1995).

The Fort Albany bird was reported to be eating frogs on the ground.

**Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica* (10)**

- 2002 – one, juvenal, late October, Elliot Lake, *Algoma* (Terry Carr [photographed the dead bird]; brought in by unknown person to Dr. M. Belanger, veterinarian) – photo on file.

This bird was kept alive for two days after being brought in to Dr. M. Belanger, a veterinarian in Elliot Lake.

**Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (4)**

- 2002 – one, first alternate, female, 25 May – 6 June, Amherst Island, *Lennox & Addington* (Jean H. Iron, Kim Brown, Rick Brown, Paul D. Pratt, also found by Ken Kingdon, Maris Apse, Dennis Young, Chester Gryski, Camilla Gryski, Al Boivert, Maureen Riggs, Don Lloyd, Daphne Payne) – photos on file.

Previous Ontario records involved single birds at Long Point Flats, *Norfolk*, on 4-9 May 1987 and 9 May 1990, and at Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland*, on 24-31 May 2001 (Roy 2002).

**Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* South Only (47)**

- 2002 – one, alternate, female, 1-4 May, Oshawa (Darlington Provincial Park), *Durham* (David B. Worthington, found by Tyler Hoar).  
 – one, alternate, 21-24 May 2002, Hamilton (Tollgate Ponds), *Hamilton* (Curtis A. Marantz, found by Daniel R. Salisbury).  
 – one, first basic, 9-12 October, Port Colborne, *Niagara* (Kayo J. Roy, John E. Black, Willie C. D'Anna, found by Blayne E. Farnan and Jean M. Farnan) – photos on file.  
 2001 – one, alternate, 30 April, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay* (George A. Williams).  
 – one, alternate, 10-15 June, Long Point, *Norfolk* (Matt Hindle, found by Ian Richards).

**Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* North Only (13)**

- 2001 – one, alternate, *C. s. inornatus*, 5 June, Polar Bear Provincial Park (Burntpoint Creek), *Kenora* (Kenneth F. Abraham).

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (23)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, male, 16 May, Smithville, *Niagara* (David R. Don, Thomas A. Crooks, Cheryl Edgecombe).

**Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* South Only (31)**

- 2002 – one, juvenal, light, 15 September, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Christopher J. Escott, also found by John L. Olmsted, David R. Don, Cheryl Edgecombe, Thomas A. Crooks, William F. Smith, James A. Cram).  
 2001 – one, juvenal, light, 7 October 2001, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Matt Hindle).

**Mew Gull *Larus canus* (17)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, 26 February – 8 March; 26, 28 February, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*; 1-8 March, Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent/Essex* (Alan Wormington, Blake A. Mann, Curtis A. Marantz) – photos on file.

**Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (8)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, 1 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Jim Watt, Gavin Edmondstone, Chris Kimber, Willie C. D'Anna, also found by Ron Scovell, Maris Apse, Mark Cranford).

**Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (27)**

- 2002 – one, juvenal, 16 December, Deep River, *Renfrew* (Ray Metcalfe).

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South Only After 1990 (6)**

- 2001 – one, alternate, 28 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Miguel Demeulemeester).

This species is recorded infrequently south and west of the Ottawa River in southern Ontario.



**White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (12)**

- 2002 – one, 30 June, Erie View, *Essex* (Stuart A. Mackenzie).  
 – one, basic, 7-14 July, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, *Chatham-Kent* (Donald E. Perks, Paul D. Pratt, Blake A. Mann, Alan Wormington) – photos on file.  
 – one, basic, 8 July 2002, Bostwick Island, *Leeds & Grenville* (David C. Bostock).  
 2001 – one, juvenal, 19 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Matt Hindle, also found by Vicki Brown, Henri Robert, Rhonda Donley).

The occurrence of three White-winged Doves in a single year (2002) in Ontario is unprecedented. The observation made on 30 June 2002 has been described by Mackenzie (2003). His paper also includes a listing of all previous records in Ontario.

**Inca Dove *Columbina inca* (2)**

- 2001 – one, definitive basic, 24-28 September, Fort Frances, *Rainy River* (Sherry Beck) – photo on file.

This bird came to the attention of the birding community only after it had disappeared. However, the observer obtained a photograph that supports its identity. The first record of this species in Ontario occurred from 7-13 October 1992 in Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Bain 1993, Graham and Wormington 1993).

**Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* (2)**

- 2002 – one, juvenal, *C. p. passerina*, 14 August, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, Kenny Burrell, Allan Gilbert, also found by Jody R. Allair, Jessie Allair, Maureen Woodcock) – photo on file.

This bird, banded, photographed, and released at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, continues the series of interesting and rare birds that has been found there since its inception. The previous record of this species in Ontario constitutes a specimen obtained at Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* on 29 October 1968 (Dick and James 1969, Wormington 1987).

**Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (14)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, male, 5 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Valerie Blazeski, Patrick Garcia, Remi Buisse) – specimen (skin) at ROM (#90970).

This bird was found by an unidentified park visitor and reported to park staff, who retrieved the injured bird. It appeared to have been hit by a vehicle. Attempts to rehabilitate the bird failed (Anonymous 2002c).

**White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* (1)**

- 2002 – one, 10 June, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Tristan ap Rheinallt).

This stunning record constitutes an addition to the known avifauna of Ontario and Canada. This neotropical species is prone to wandering, and, in North America, it has occurred as a vagrant in Florida, Texas, California, and Michigan. The discoverer of this bird provides a detailed account of his observation in this issue (ap Rheinallt 2003).

**Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (14)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, male, 1 and 10 September; 1 September, Point Petre; 10 September, Wellington, *Prince Edward* (Bill Vloeberghs, Madeline Kimmett, also found by Cheryl Reed).

There was some debate about whether or not this report actually constituted two records. However, the majority opinion was that these two sightings, nine days apart, that occurred approximately 20 km apart, involved the same bird. A similar situation involving a male Rufous Hummingbird that was observed on consecutive days, 15 km apart, occurred in Flamborough, *Hamilton* on 28-29 August 1992 (Bain 1993, A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

**Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (7)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, 18 January-7 March, Wooler, *Northumberland* (Curtis A. Marantz, R. Douglas McRae, Harold E. Stiver) – photo on file.

There has been speculation that this may have been the same bird as that seen nearby, in Carman, *Northumberland*, on 13-18 June 2000. These two locations are approximately 7 km apart. However, the long period between observations makes it prudent to treat this as a distinct record until evidence to the contrary becomes available.

**Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (4)**

- 2002 – one, first basic, male, 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (David R. Don).

Full details of this record, including a description and the circumstances of the observation, have been published by Don (2002). The date of occurrence (7 May) was a day of massive migration over a large area, resulting in other birds of note being found at Point Pelee, including a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) and a Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (Wormington 2002a).

As noted above, this is only the fourth accepted record of Vermilion Flycatcher in Ontario. All four records have involved first basic males.

**Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (1)**

- 2002 – one, definitive basic, 26 October – 30 November, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (Irene Woods, J. Burke Korol, Willie C. D'Anna, Doug Sheepway, Alan Wormington, Curtis A. Marantz, found by Anne Anthony and Jerry Ball) – photos on file.

This bird, which stayed at the Erieau location for over a month, was seen by many observers, and excellent photographic documentation was obtained. A brief account of its stay at Erieau has been published elsewhere (Anonymous 2002d). A previous record of a member of the Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*) complex occurred on 27 September 1998 in Hurkett, *Thunder Bay*, but it could not be assigned specifically to one or the other of these two species (Dobos 1999). Since the Erieau bird did vocalize, it could be identified unequivocally. Mlodinow (1988) provided a useful summary of the North American extralimital records of this complex, including a discussion of the identification problem.



**Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* (2)**

- 1970 – one, 19 September – 9 October, Britannia, *Ottawa* ([Daniel F. Brunton](#), Bruce D. Mactavish).
- 1953 – one, 4-5 June, Algonquin Provincial Park (Achray), *Nipissing* ([Alan G. Gordon](#)) – specimen (skin) at ROM (#81283).

Limited details of the 1953 record from Algonquin Provincial Park have been published previously (Snyder 1954, Baillie 1957). Brunton (1971) provided details of the occurrence at Britannia. These two records of Cassin's Kingbird in Ontario had not been reviewed by the OBRC previously, but the species had been included on the Ontario list by James et al. (1976) and Wormington and James (1984).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (43)**

- 2002 – one, definitive alternate, 15-30 July, Caledon East, *Peel* (Theo Hofmann, found by Nathan Miller) – photo on file.
- one, definitive basic, male, 31 October – 8 November 2002, Fingal, *Elgin* (Christopher J. Escott, Blake A. Mann, Harold E. Stiver, Curtis A. Marantz) – photos on file.

**Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* North Only (9)**

- 2002 – one, alternate, 17 April, Gowganda, *Timiskaming* ([Gertrude Trudel](#); also found by Paul Trudel).

**Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (8)**

- 2002 – one, basic, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Onik Arian](#), Sarah E. Rupert).

**Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (26)**

- 2002 – one, basic, 12 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Alan Wormington](#)).
- one, basic, *P. f. pallida*, 13 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Alan Wormington](#)).
- two; one juvenal, one unaged, *P. f. pallida*; two, 13-14 November, one, 15-16 November 2002, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Alan Wormington](#), James N. Flynn, J. Burke Korol) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 16 November, Port Burwell, *Elgin* ([David A. Martin](#), also found by Linda Wladarski, Ross C. Snider).
- one, basic, 16 November, Port Burwell, *Elgin* ([David A. Martin](#), also found by Linda Wladarski, Ross C. Snider).

This second invasion (involving multiple birds) of Cave Swallow into southern Ontario, although not as spectacular as the first one that occurred in November 1999 (Curry and McLaughlin 2000), still was an impressive event, given the natural distribution of this subspecies (*P. f. pallida*) in the southwestern U.S.A. and adjacent Mexico. Six birds have been documented in this latest invasion. Most occurrences of this species in northeastern North America have been in November (Curry and McLaughlin 2000). The two birds at Port Burwell were observed approximately 75 minutes apart (the first seen at 1015h, the second seen at 1130h). Each bird was travelling in a westward direction along the shore

of Lake Erie, indicating that they were different individuals (Wormington 2002c).

**Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (16)**

- 2001/02 – one, basic, 18 December – 4 March, Massey, *Sudbury* ([Erwin Meissner](#), John G. Lemon) – photo on file.
- 1974 – one, basic, 4-5 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Alan Wormington](#), also found by G. Tom Hince) – photo on file.

The 2001/02 record is only the second winter record of this species in Ontario. The first winter record was also the first record of the species in the province: 12 December 1908, ca. 40 km west of London, *Middlesex* (Saunders 1919).

**Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (30)**

- 2002 – one, basic, male, 14 April, Tetlock Lake, *Thunder Bay* ([Nicholas G. Escott](#)).

**Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* South Only After 2000 (50)**

- 2002 – one, basic, 20-21 April, Deep River, *Renfrew* ([Olissia Stechishen](#), [Bruce Hood](#), also found by Olga Stechishen, Ed Stechishen).
- one, basic, male, 11-15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Richard Pope](#), James N. Flynn, also found by Felicity Pope) – photo on file.

The bird observed at Point Pelee was also heard to sing on occasion (R. G. Tozer, A. Wormington, pers. comm.), a very rare occurrence in Ontario.

**Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* (10)**

- 2002 – one, basic, 15 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#)) – photos on file.

This bird also was banded at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (see Common Ground-Dove, p. 68).

**Audubon's/Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warbler intergrade*****Dendroica coronata* (1)**

- 2002 – one, alternate, male, 5 May, Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J. Bain, found by David B. Worthington).

This bird was singing the song of an "Audubon's" Warbler, and had a bright yellow throat, but exhibited other facial features of a "Myrtle" Warbler, including the white eyebrow and dark cheek patch of the latter. Very few "Audubon's" Warblers have been documented in Ontario, and it appears that no intergrades have been reported previously (James 1991). This report constitutes the first documented intergrade between the two forms in Ontario.

**Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis* (5)**

- 2002 – one, male, 30 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Peter A. Read](#), J. Michael Tate).



**Kirtland's Warbler** *Dendroica kirtlandii* (29)

- 2002 – one, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park (East Beach), *Essex* (D. Keith Sealy).  
 – one, alternate, female, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park (Sleepy Hollow), *Essex* (J. Michael Tate).  
 – one, 19 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Todd R. Pepper).  
 – one, female, 24 May, Dyer's Bay, *Bruce* (Kim McGuire, Ethan J. Meleg, also found by David Johnson) – photo on file.  
 – one, 29 August, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Margaret J. Bain).

Wormington (2002a) published the observations from 14 May at Point Pelee as pertaining to two different birds.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* North Only (11)

- 2002 – one, first alternate, male, 19 May, Kaministiquia, *Thunder Bay* (Susan Vander Wal, also found by Jake Vander Wal, Eric Vander Wal) – photos on file.

This bird was noted to eat bees, a characteristic behaviour for this species (Terres 1980).

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* (20)

- 2002 – one, male, 26 April – 17 May, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Robert D. Knudsen, Joanne Knudsen, found by R. A. Lautenschlager) – photos on file.  
 – one, male, 9-20 May 2002, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Paul B. Jones, Mike Boyce) – photos on file.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* (65)

- 2002 – one, 16 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Peter Coe).  
 2001 – one, alternate, 23 May, Polar Bear Provincial Park (Burntpoint Creek), *Kenora* (Kenneth F. Abraham, also found by Dan Beyers, Melanie Croft, Greg Dahl, Pete Engman, Dan Holm, Robert Stitt).  
 – one, first basic, 15 August, Long Point, *Norfolk* (Matt Hindle).

The 2002 record is one of the earliest ever recorded in Ontario, with two earlier records both appearing on 13 April, in 1987 at Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland*, and in 1993 at Harrington, *Oxford* (Anonymous 2002a).

**Henslow's Sparrow** *Ammodramus henslowii* (8)

- 2002 – one, alternate, 19 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden).  
 – one, alternate, 19-21 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (J. Burke Korol, found by Steven Daniel).

Seven individuals of this species were reported in the Point Pelee Birding Area in 2002 (Wormington 2002a), but unfortunately, documentation was received for only two of these. This species has virtually disappeared as a breeding bird in Ontario, but it continues to make brief appearances during migration. It has been found to be relatively common in some areas of Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and New York (D. A. Sutherland, A. Wormington, pers. comm.), not far away from Ontario, so it is possible that the species may be able to re-establish itself here in the future.

**Smith's Longspur** *Calcarius pictus* South Only (4)

- 2002 – one, basic, male, 2 February-10 March, Hagersville, *Haldimand* (Gavin Edmondstone, Robert H. Curry, Willie C. D'Anna, Curtis A. Marantz, R. Douglas McRae, Harold E. Stiver, also found by John B. Miles) – photos on file.

This well studied and well documented bird has been discussed in detail by Curry et al. (2002); it constitutes the first winter record of this species for Ontario.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Guiraca caerulea* (55)

- 2002 – one, female, 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Michael A. Biro, also found by Elena Biro, Ian Cannell).  
 – one, first alternate, male, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Ross Mackintosh, also found by Sandy Mackintosh, Joe Prochaska).  
 1972 – one, female, 16-21 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Dennis F. Rupert, found by Alan Wormington, Ronald J. Pittaway) – photos on file.

By far, the most frequent site of occurrence of Blue Grosbeak in Ontario is at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*. Recently, Wormington (2003a) summarized the history of occurrence of this species in the park. Forty-seven valid records have been reported (many, but not all, of which have been reviewed by the OBRC). He has documented an increasing trend in the regularity and frequency of occurrences there since 1979. It is interesting to note that the pattern of occurrence in Ontario, with the vast majority of sightings occurring during the spring migration period, differs somewhat from that in the Maritime provinces, where autumn occurrences are more frequent than they are here (Wormington 2003a).

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* (5)

- 2002 – one, alternate, female, 9 June, Bowker, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, also found by Geoff Gooding, Allan Baxter, Jean Baxter, Myra J. McCormick, Norm Krupa, Liz Krupa, Bert Harding).

The occurrence of this bird in northwestern Ontario coincided with at least four, and up to seven, reports of different birds throughout Minnesota in 2002 (Anthony X. Hertz, pers. comm. to Nicholas G. Escott, 19 June 2002; Peder Svingen, pers. comm. to Nicholas G. Escott, 19 June 2002). It should be noted that, at the time of the correspondence, the Minnesota records had not yet been adjudicated by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee.

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* (14)

- 2002 – one, alternate, male, 7-15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Claude Nadeau, J. Michael Tate, Barry S. Cherriere, also found by Ginette Boyer) – photo on file.  
 – one, alternate, male, 10-21 May, Batchawana Bay, *Algoma* (Robert D. Knudsen, found by Bob Moore) – photos on file.

Brief details of the bird at Point Pelee, including a photograph, have been published previously (Anonymous 2002b).



## Not Accepted Records

### Origin Uncertain

Records in this category are considered by the Committee to be correctly identified, but the origin of the bird(s) is suspect. Such birds may have escaped or may have been released from captivity. However, if new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such records may be reconsidered by the Committee.

- 2002 – Whooper Swan, two, 31 July – 8 August, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Ann White, Andrew S. Ross) – photos on file.

## Not Accepted Records

### Identification Uncertain

The documentation received for the following reports generally was found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally. In a great many cases, the Committee members felt that the species being described probably was correctly identified, but that the details provided in the report, perhaps due to the circumstances of the observation, viewing conditions, etc., were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

- 2002 – Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), one, 4 May, Toronto, *Toronto*.  
 – Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), four, 2 August, Holiday Beach, *Essex*.  
 – Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), one, 24 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Ivory Gull, one, 19 August, Wye Marsh, *Simcoe*.  
 – Mountain Bluebird, one, 11 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk*.  
 – Hermit Warbler, one, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Western Tanager, one, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Western Tanager, one, 19 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), one, 4 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Lark Sparrow, one, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Henslow's Sparrow, one, 5 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk*.  
 – Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), one, 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Black-headed Grosbeak, one, 10 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Black-headed Grosbeak, one, 10 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Blue Grosbeak, one, 24 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.  
 – Blue Grosbeak, one, 30 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.

## Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

### 2001 Report (Ontario Birds 20: 54-74)

–under Black Vulture, 25 March, change “William R. Clark” to “William J. Clark”.

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## OFO Annual Convention Point Pelee National Park 20 and 21 September 2003

The OFO Annual Convention at Point Pelee will be an exciting weekend of fall birding, interesting presentations, and fun with old and new friends. On both Saturday and Sunday, experienced OFO birders Bob Curry, Karl Konze, Dave Milsom, Ian Platt, Ron Tozer, Ann White and Alan Wormington will lead groups of convention participants to some of the very productive fall birding spots in Point Pelee National Park and nearby areas. Also, expert Alan Wormington will conduct a butterfly walk at Point Pelee on Saturday afternoon. At the Roma Club in Leamington on Saturday, Ron Scovell's extremely popular "Old and New Book Sale" will take place in the afternoon, to be followed by a sumptuous evening banquet and program, featuring an illustrated talk on "The Art of Bird Photography" by Ethan Meleg, and presentation of the Distinguished Ornithologist Award to Bob Curry.

There is still time to sign up for this great event. See the mailed-out registration form, or the OFO website ([www.ofo.ca](http://www.ofo.ca)), for details.