

Articles

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2005

William J. Crins

Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) evaluates documentation it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Ontario (see www.ofo.ca/obrc). In addition, it reviews documentation relating to new species, new subspecies, and new breeding species for the province. This 24th annual report deals with the results of the adjudication of 120 records reviewed by the OBRC during 2005, of which 77% were accepted. A total of 116 different observers submitted documentation for review by the 2005 committee. Written reports often were accompanied by photographs (prints or digital images), copies of field notes, sketches, and, in one case, a videotape.

The trend toward submission of only photographic evidence, with little or no supporting written evidence, continues. This makes it much more difficult for the committee to compile dates of occurrence, and often there are details and circumstances associated with an observation that cannot be ascertained from photographic evidence alone (e.g., behaviour, comparisons with nearby birds, features hidden from view when the photograph was taken). Therefore, we will

continue to urge observers to submit written reports to accompany the images submitted to OBRC. We request that those submitting photos to the OFO website also take the time to send the same photos, along with written documentation, directly to the OBRC. For further information on the kinds of information that should be included in the written report, refer to the guidance that is provided on the OBRC page on the OFO website (www.ofo.ca/obrc).

The members of the 2005 committee were Margaret J. C. Bain (Chair), William J. Crins (non-voting Secretary), Glenn Coady, Jean Iron, Colin D. Jones, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Ian M. Richards, Kayo J. Roy (non-voting Assistant to the Secretary), 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 2005.

Listing of Records

The format for listing the number of accepted records for each species remains the same as that used in the past couple of years (Crins 2004, 2005). A single number is used to indicate the total number of accepted records of a Review List species.

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 (AOU 1998) and its subsequent published supplements (42nd to 47th; see www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3). 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 who did not submit reports are listed when known.

The committee attempts to verify documented information prior to the acceptance and publication of a record, but it is inevitable that inaccuracies creep in from time to time. 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, Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 (e-mail: markp@rom.on.ca or telephone 416-586-5523).

Changes to the Review List

Two species have been added to the official provincial list in 2005, Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) and McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*), bringing the list to 479 species. Neotropical Cormorant has been added to the review list for southern Ontario and McCown's Longspur has been added to the review list for northern Ontario.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the many observers who took the time to submit documentation of their observations of rare birds for

consideration by the 2005 committee. We also 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, or by providing expert opinions on material evidence submitted to the committee: Colin Bowen, Peter Chapman, Nicholas G. Escott, Christian Friis, Paul E. Lehman, Barbara McMullen, Michael A. Patten, Brian D. Ratcliff, Ron Ridout, and Ronald G. Tozer.

The committee also is indebted to Mark H. Cranford for his continuing efforts in ensuring that ONT-BIRDS (listserv of the Ontario Field Ornithologists) remains a useful source of information on rare birds appearing in Ontario. In addition, the

photographic pages on the OFO website, maintained in 2005 by Carol M. Horner, provide an excellent source of documentation for rarities. These sources of information make the Secretary's job of securing documentation much more efficient. During 2005, Kayo J. Roy continued in the role of Assistant to the Secretary. Kayo's valuable assistance in tracking down documentation for reports has been very helpful to the OBRC. I also wish to thank the members of the 2005 committee for their support and assistance during the year. Finally, I would like to thank Ron Tozer for his extra efforts in editing the annual report this year, while the author had to contend with a demanding work schedule that took him away from his computer at a critical time.



Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee members for 2005. Left to right, Kevin McLaughlin, Jean Iron, Glenn Coady, Margaret Bain, Bill Crins, Alan Wormington. Not in photo: Colin Jones, Mark Peck, Ian Richards, Kayo Roy. Photo by Mark K. Peck.



Figure 2: Western Grebe present at Fifty Point, Hamilton/Niagara, from 5 to 12 November 2004. Photo by Brandon R. Holden.



Figure 3: One of two juvenal, intermediate morph Swainson's Hawks present north of Point Pelee National Park, Essex, from 17 to 21 September 2005. Photo by Barry S. Cherriere.



Figure 4: Juvenal, intermediate morph Long-tailed Jaeger present at Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton*, on 5 September 2004. Photo by *Brandon R. Holden*.



Figure 5: Definitive basic male Rufous Hummingbird, present at Marathon, *Thunder Bay*, from 9 August to 7 November 2004. Photo by *Cheryl R. Vosburgh*.



Figure 6: Male Townsend's Solitaire present at Rothwell Heights, *Ottawa*, from 2 February to 5 April 2005. Photo by *Roger Clark*.



Figure 7: Sage Thrasher observed on 31 May and 10 June 2005 at Cabot Head, *Bruce*. Photo by *Michael E. Carlson*.



Figure 8: First basic, male *Phainopepla*, present at Duttona Beach, *Elgin*, from 27 December 1975 to 21 January 1976. Photo by *Marshall H. Field*.



Figure 9: First basic female *Black-throated Gray Warbler*, present in *Toronto, Toronto*, from 6 to 16 December 2004. Photo by *Ian Stanley*.



Figure 10: Definitive basic *Swainson's Warbler*, present on Long Point (*Courtright Ridge*), *Norfolk*, on 9 May 2005. Photo by *Kenneth G. Burrell*.



Figure 11: *Lark Sparrow* present at Cabot Head, *Bruce*, on 22 and 23 May 2005. Photo by *Virgil Martin*.



Figure 12: Definitive basic, male Hooded Oriole, of the *sennetti* subspecies, present in North Bruce, Bruce, from 12 to 19 May 2005. Photo by Lynne Erley.



Figure 13: Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in basic plumage, present at Chelmsford, Sudbury, from 19 December 2004 to 27 February 2005. Photo by Christopher J. Escott.

Accepted Records

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only (48)

- 2004**
- one, definitive basic, white morph, 25-26 March, Aylmer, *Elgin* (David A. Martin, found by D. Keith Sealy).
 - one, definitive basic, white morph, 11-16 October; Aylmer, *Elgin* (11 and 16 October), and Lake Whittaker Conservation Area (12 October), *Middlesex* (David A. Martin, also found by Linda Wladarski, Ross C. Snider, Terry Ricker).
 - one, definitive basic, white morph, 21-26 November, Reids Mills, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry* (Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis, Vivien Rolland-Commarmot, found by Thomas A. Hanrahan, Mark A. Gawn) – photos on file.
- 2003**
- one, definitive basic, white morph, 1 April, Markham, *York* (Stan Long).

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (15)

- 2004**
- one, alternate, male, 8 December, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (unknown hunter) – photo on file.
- 1995**
- one, female, 22-30 April, Clarkson (Rattray's Marsh), *Peel* (Luc S. Fazio, Kevin A. McLaughlin, found by Donald E. Perks) – video on file.

The 1995 record involved a female Cinnamon Teal paired with a male bird that was apparently a Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*) x Cinnamon Teal hybrid. The 2004 record was of a male bird shot by an unknown hunter, and Dean J. Ware was able to obtain a photograph of the bird.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (31)

- 2004**
- one, alternate, 16 May, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (Virgil Martin, also found by Grant Snyder).
 - one, definitive basic, 1-3 November, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Robert Z. Dobos).
 - one, definitive prebasic molt, 13 November, Pelee Island (Fish Point), *Essex* (Dean J. Ware, also found by Dave Bracken).

As noted last year (Crins 2005), the autumn of 2004 produced several reports of Pacific Loons in their southbound migration; two more records from that period are added here. It should be noted that the correct date for the spring 2004 observation from Cabot Head is 16 May, not 17 May as published in *North American Birds* 58: 361.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (12)

- 2005**
- two, alternate, 29 May, Emo, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, also found by Mary C. Elder).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (18)

- 2004**
- one, first basic, 5-12 November, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Hamilton/Niagara* (Don Graham, Ady Gancz, William W. Watson, Brandon R. Holden, found by Lois Evans) – photos on file.

Western/Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus* sp. (5)

- 2004**
- one, 25 October, London, *Middlesex* (Jason McGuire).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (30)

- 2004** – one, juvenal, 19 October, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (David R. Don, found by Daniel R. Salisbury).

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (1)

- 2005** – one, definitive alternate, 3-6 May, Wheatley Harbour and Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (David J. Milsom, Ronald G. Tozer, Donald E. Perks, Harold E. Stiver, Karl Egressy, Alan Wormington) – photos on file.

This phenomenal occurrence constitutes the first record for both Ontario and Canada. The observation is fully described by Tozer and Milsom (2006).

Frigatebird sp. *Fregata* sp. (2)

- 2005** – one, 1-2 August, Port Elgin/Frenchman Bay, *Bruce* (David Ellingwood).

This bird probably was associated with the passage of Hurricane Dennis, which stalled over Tennessee on 12 July, but with remnants continuing to swirl around southern Indiana for five more days (until 17 July). Descriptions of this bird were inconclusive with respect to which species of frigatebird was involved. There are two records of Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*) in Ontario; 28 September 1988 at Point Edward, *Lambton* (Wormington and Curry 1990) and 28 October 1995 at Stoney Point, *Essex* (Dobos 1997). Both are believed to have been associated with hurricanes, as was the only other Ontario record of a frigatebird (in 1995), which could not be assigned to species (Mississippi Lake, *Lanark*, 15 October, and Snow Road Station, *Frontenac*, 30 October; Dobos 1997). Also in 2005, a Magnificent Frigatebird was photographed in Ohio along Lake Erie on 5 September, and an apparent Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) was photographed in Michigan at the mouth of the Detroit River on 11 September.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (56)

- 2005** – one, definitive alternate, 20 April-4 May; Holiday Harbour (20-25 April), and Wheatley Provincial Park (27 April – 4 May), *Chatham-Kent* (Alan Wormington, Donald Pye, Ronald G. Tozer, Karl Egressy, found by June M. Gordon, James N. Flynn) – photos on file.
 – one, first alternate, 11-12 May, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (David D. Beadle) – photo on file.
 – one, definitive alternate, 22 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, also found by Stephen T. Pike).
 – one, juvenal, 27 July, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (36)

- 2005** – two, definitive alternate, 9 May, Big Creek Marsh, *Norfolk* (Scott Gillingwater, also found by Teresa Piraino).
 – one, first alternate, 13-16 June, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Dean J. Ware, Alan Wormington, Stephen T. Pike) – photo on file.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (43)

- 2005** – one, definitive alternate, 13-20 May; Rondeau Provincial Park (13 May), and Erieau (15-20 May), *Chatham-Kent* (Steve Charbonneau, Blake A. Mann, found by S. Mitchie, K. Roberts, P. Holloway) – photo on file.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (50)

- 2005** – one, basic, 9 October, Sealcliff, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (46)

- 2005** – one, first basic, light morph, 10 April, Grassie, *Niagara* (Barry S. Cherriere, also found by Linda Cherriere) – photos on file.
 – two, juvenal, intermediate morph, 17-23 September, north of Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt, Stephen T. Pike, Alan Wormington, Claude Radley, Barry S. Cherriere) – photos on file.

With regard to the Pelee record, it should be noted that two birds remained at the site from 17 to 21 September, after which only one bird was seen until 23 September.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (6)

- 2004** – one, juvenal or first basic, light morph, 26 September, Bronte, *Halton* (George M. Naylor).

This is the first autumn record for Ontario (*per* Dobos 1996, Roy 2001). It is interesting to note that an adult Ferruginous Hawk was observed in Michigan on 24 September 2004 (A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (56)

- 2005** – one, definitive alternate, 4 May, Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent* (Kevin A. McLaughlin).
2004 – one, first alternate, 27 April, Pelee Island (Fish Point), *Essex* (P. Allen Woodliffe).

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* North Only; South Before 2000 (70)

- 1998** – one, basic, 3-20 December; Blenheim (3-12 December), and Rondeau Provincial Park (20 December), *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Steve Charbonneau).
1997 – two, definitive alternate, male & female, 11-12 May, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Dorothy Smith) – photo on file.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (25)

- 2005** – one, first alternate, 18 July, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Dean J. Ware, Alan Wormington).

Presumably the same bird was observed at Point Mouillee, Michigan, only about 57 km away, on 11-13 July 2005 (A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

California Gull *Larus californicus* (42)

- 2004** – one, definitive basic, 20 November, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Jean Iron, Robert Z. Dobos) – photos on file.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* (6)

2005 – one, definitive basic, 31 August, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (Stuart A. Mackenzie, also found by Michael D. Boyd, Ross Wood).

This bird was associated with the passage of Hurricane Katrina. Numerous Sooty Terns appeared in the eastern states following this hurricane, including 20+ in Tennessee, 2 in Kentucky, 1 in inland Pennsylvania, and 1 in Ohio (A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* South Only (39)

2005 – one, juvenal, intermediate morph, 22 October, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Stephen T. Pike) – photo on file.

– one, juvenal, light morph, 25 October, Point Edward, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann, also found by Adam M. Byrne, Tex Wells, Glenn Belyea).

2004 – one, juvenal, intermediate morph, 5 September, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden) – photos on file.

– one, juvenal, light morph, 8 September, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden).

– one, juvenal, intermediate morph, 8 September, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden).

– one, juvenal, intermediate morph, 23 October, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden) – photos on file.

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (6)

2004 – one, basic, 7 November, Point Edward, *Lambton* (Tim Snieder, David Stimac, also found by Erika Stimac).

All previous records of this species in Ontario have occurred in late fall, between the dates of 7 November and 14 December (Pittaway 1995, Roy 2000).

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (21)

2005 – one, basic, 2 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk* (Kenneth G. Burrell).

– one, basic, 7 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Paul D. Pratt, Stephen T. Pike, Jean Iron) – photos on file.

– one, basic, male, 9-10 June, Long Point (town site), *Norfolk* (Michael Burrell, Kenneth G. Burrell) – photos on file.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (4)

2005 – one, definitive basic, male, 30 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (unknown collector) – specimen (skin and wing) in ROM (#102372).

2004 – one, basic, 4 December, Riverstown, *Wellington* (unknown finder) – photos on file.

The Riverstown specimen involved a road-killed bird that was taken to the Guelph office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to obtain a permit for taxidermy. Photographs of the mounted bird subsequently were widely circulated on the web. The Thunder Bay bird, well beyond its previously documented range in Ontario, was found alive but with an empty stomach and seriously injured, on the catwalk in front of the fifth wheel on a truck that had come from Terrace Bay, which is also in *Thunder Bay*, about 170 km to the east (Nicholas G. Escott, pers. comm.).

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (17)

2004 – one, male, 17 May - 18 June, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe).

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (17)

2004 – one, definitive basic, male, 9 August - 7 November, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Cheryl R. Vosburgh) – photos on file.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* North Only (16)

2004/2005 – two, basic, male & female, three young, December - mid-July, Rainy River mouth, *Rainy River* (Julia Hill, Larry Budreau, also found by Roland Hill) – photos on file.

A male bird appeared at the feeder of Julia and Roland Hill in December 2004. In May 2005, the male was joined by a female, and on 8 July 2005, a nest containing three large young was discovered by Glenn Coady (pers. comm.). This record constitutes the first nesting of this species in northern Ontario. Details will be published by Glenn Coady in the near future.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (49)

2005 – one, 4 June, Bond Head, *Durham* (Margaret J. C. Bain, found by Malcolm Pacey).

2004 – one, 26 June, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, *Chatham-Kent* (Cecilia Verkley).
– one, 27-31 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott) – photo on file.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (39)

2005 – one, definitive basic, male, *P. f. pallida*, 7 November, Algonquin Provincial Park (Hwy. 60 near km 38), *Nipissing* (R. Dan Strickland, Ronald G. Tozer) – photos on file; specimen (skin and wing) in ROM (#102353).

2004 – one, 5 November, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (Michael D. Boyd, also found by Christian Friis).

– one, 5 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, also found by Robert L. Waldhuber, Kevin A. McLaughlin).

– two, 23 November, Fruitland, *Hamilton* (Brandon R. Holden) – photos on file.

2003 – one, definitive basic, female, 8-10 November, Point Petre, *Prince Edward* (Wynne Thomas) – specimen (wing and partial skeleton) in ROM (#98207).

– one, 10 November, Cedar Springs, *Chatham-Kent* (Keith J. Burk).

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (31)

2004 – one, female, 23 October, Pigeon River, *Thunder Bay* (M. Thomas Auer).

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* South Only After 2000 (57)

2005 – one, male, 2 February - 5 April, Ottawa (Rothwell Heights), *Ottawa* (Justin Peter, Tony F. M. Beck, Roger Clark, Wilson Hum) – photos on file.

– one, 28 February - 24 March, Hungry Hollow, *Middlesex* (Karl Egressy, Blake A. Mann, found by J. Peter Chapman) – photos on file.

– one, mid January, Dowling, *Sudbury* (Jen Abeline, Gary Russell) – photos on file.

– one, 21 September, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Christopher J. Dunn) – photos on file.

– one, 6 November, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, *Prince Edward* (Peter J. Good, also found by V. Paul MacKenzie).

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* (12)

2005 – one, basic, 31 May and 10 June, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (Michael E. Carlson, also found by Helen Penfold, Michael Penfold) – photos on file.

The published date of 5 July (*North American Birds* 59: 590) is incorrect.

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens* (1)

1975/1976 – one, first basic, male, 27 December – 21 January, Duttona Beach, *Elgin* (Reinhold J. Pokraka, Marshall H. Field, Alan Wormington, Donald R. Gunn, Ross D. James, also found by Lloyd D. Auckland) – photos on file.

This bird has been included on the provincial list for some time (Goodwin 1976, James 1991), but the OBRC did not review the material evidence until 2005. A brief account of its discovery was published by Pokraka (1976). Goodwin (1976) and James (1991) indicated incorrectly that the bird remained until only 17 January 1976. Extralimital records of this species in eastern North America are few, including one in Rhode Island (AOU 1983), two in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993), and one in Wisconsin (Robert C. Domagalski, pers. comm.).

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata memorabilis/auduboni* (6)

2004/2005 – one, basic, male, 22 December – 13 January, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (Alfred L. Adamo).

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens* (13)

2005 – one, first alternate, female, 18-30 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Stephen T. Pike, Ronald G. Tozer) – photos on file.

2004 – one, first basic, female, 6-16 December, Toronto, *Toronto* (Steven M. Favier, Robert Z. Dobos, David R. Don, Cheryl E. Edgecombe, Ian Stanley, Gene Denzel) – photo on file.

These are the first records of this species in Ontario since 1997 (Dobos 1998).

Kirtland’s Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (35)

2005 – one, male, 11 May, Ruscom Shores Conservation Area, *Essex* (Susan D. Wurker, E. Dale Wurker).

– one, male, 25-26 May, 4 km west of Port Bruce, *Elgin* (Ronald J. Kingswood) – photo on file.

Swainson’s Warbler *Limnolophus swainsonii* (7)

2005 – one, definitive basic, 9 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk* (Kenneth G. Burrell, also found by Matt Hindle, Benoit Genereaux) – photos on file.

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* North Only (3)

2005 – one, first alternate, male, 12 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock) – photo on file.

This bird was banded and photographed at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory. Two other records from northern Ontario exist for this species; 29 May 2003 and 13 October 2003, both also at Thunder Cape (Crins 2004).

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* North Only (7)

2005 – one, basic, 25 April, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock) – photo on file.

The OBRC has published only one other spring occurrence of this species for northern Ontario, on 17 May 1981 on Caribou Island, *Thunder Bay* (Wormington 1986).

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (19)

2005 – one, basic, male, 4-19 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Joanne Knudsen).

– one, first basic, male, 30 October, Algonquin Provincial Park (Hwy. 60 near km 35.6), *Nipissing* (Theodore Smith) – photos on file.

– one, basic, male, 10-15 November, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder, found by Betty Zajac, Jerry Zajac).

2004/2005 – one, basic, male, late November – early April, Ignace, *Kenora* (David Penney) – photos on file.

1979 – one, basic, male, 6 November, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe).

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* North Only (16)

2002 – one, basic, 29 September, Hilliardton, *Timiskaming* (Bruce Murphy) – photo on file.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (72)

2005 – one, 22-23 May, Cabot Head, *Bruce* (Virgil Martin, Holly Bickerton) – photos on file.

2004 – one, 17 April, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Janus Ethelberg, Christian Friis, also found by Kevin Picard).

– one, 20-22 December, Bradshaw, *Lambton* (Larry Cornelis, Blake A. Mann) – photos on file.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (25)

2005 – one, definitive alternate, male, 23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Allan Gilbert) – photo on file.

The last record of this species published by the OBRC pertains to a 1996 occurrence (Dobos 1998).

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* North Only (3)

2005 – one, first alternate, 19 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock) – photo on file.

Two previous records are known from northern Ontario, one on 4 June 1997 at Thunder Cape, and the other on 8-13 November 1966 in Thunder Bay (Dobos 1998). During the spring of 2005, three different Grasshopper Sparrows were caught and banded at Thunder Cape (John M. Woodcock, pers. comm.). In addition to the 19 May bird noted above, the other individuals were recorded on 28 May and 30 May.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula* **South Only Before 1998 (34)**
1997 – one, alternate, 11-12 May, Chatham, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Dorothy Smith).

McCown's Longspur *Calcarius mccownii* **(1)**

2005 – one, female, 21 June, Weagamow Lake, *Kenora* (Peter A. Read, also found by Josh Shook) – photos on file.

This is the first Ontario record of McCown's Longspur. The circumstances of the sighting are described by Read (2006). There are several records of this species from the U.S. side of Lake Superior, falling during the period from late May to early June (A. Wormington, pers. comm.).

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* **(61)**

2004 – one, male, 14 May, Port Elgin, *Bruce* (Cindy E. Cartwright).
 – one, male, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (M. Brennan Mulrooney).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* **(21)**

2005 – one, definitive alternate, male, 29 April – 3 May, Long Point Lake, *Timiskaming* (Gert Trudel, Barry Kinch, Deanna Caldwell, found by Tom Wilson, Della Jo Everett) – photos on file.
 – one, female or first alternate male, 26 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Ross Mackintosh, also found by D. Keith Sealy).

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* **(2)**

2005 – one, definitive basic, male, *I. c. sennetti*, 12-19 May, North Bruce, *Bruce* (Lynne Erley, Willy Waterton, David R. Don, Donald E. Perks) – photos on file.

This is the second record of this southwestern species in Ontario. It was of the eastern subspecies (*sennetti*), normally found from southern Texas to eastern Mexico. The first bird occurred on 19-20 May 1992 at Long Point, *Norfolk*, but its subspecies was not determined (Boardman 1992, Bain 1993).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* **(9)**

2004/2005 – one, basic, *L. t. tephrocotis*, 19 December – 27 February, Chelmsford, *Sudbury* (John Somerset, Carol Somerset, John G. Lemon, Terry Osborne, Anne Anthony, Alan Wormington, John Nishikawa, Christopher J. Escott, Carol M. Horner) – photos on file.

This bird remained at the Somerset feeder in Chelmsford for over two months, and was seen and photographed by numerous observers. It fits the usual pattern of late fall through late winter or early spring occurrence of this species in northern and central Ontario. There is a single record for extreme southern Ontario in mid-summer, an extraordinary time of year for this species to appear anywhere in eastern North America; it occurred at the Tip of Long Point on 8-10 July 1999 (Roy 2000).

Deferred Records

Identification Accepted; Wild Status Deferred

2004/2005 – Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*), one, first basic, female, 23 December – 1 January, Eagle, *Elgin* (Reinhold J. Pokraka, Christopher J. Escott, Barry S. Cherriere, Peter S. Burke, found by Walter Wojick) – photos on file.

The evidence for and against the unassisted occurrence of this bird is equivocal. Patten (2006) has summarized the extralimital records of this species in North America, which include occurrences north to Kansas (9+ accepted records) and one to Montana. Various opinions on possible origins also were obtained. Since there is no consensus, the status of this record is deferred until the balance of the evidence favours one hypothesis over the other.

Not Accepted Records

Origin Uncertain

Birds in this category are considered by the Committee to be correctly identified, but their origin is suspect. These birds may have escaped or may have been released from captivity. However, if new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the Committee.

2005 – Great Tit (*Parus major*), one, female, 11-14 May, Pelee Island (Sheridan Point), *Essex* (Michael Penfold) – photo on file.
 – Great Tit, one, male, 14 May, north of Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Richard V. Z. Salembier III, Barry S. Cherriere, also found by Christine M. Salembier) – photos on file.
 – Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*), one, male, 10 May, Red Lake, *Kenora* (Merle Nisly) – photos on file.

Various species of Eurasian songbirds continue to be reported from Ontario and adjacent states. There is still no evidence that these birds are anything more than escapes or releases (Crins 2005). Nevertheless, it is still worthwhile documenting observations of these species, for two reasons. The documentation helps to confirm the extent of the occurrences and the species involved, and evidence may be forthcoming in the future of a true pattern of vagrancy in some of these species. Documentation may be valuable in testing such patterns.

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, 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 conditions, etc., were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

- 2005**
- Neotropic Cormorant, one, 12 May, Port Alma, *Chatham-Kent*.
 - Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), one, 9 May, west of Marentette Beach, *Essex*.
 - “Richardson’s” Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*), one, 25 April, Pelee Island (Fish Point), *Essex*.
 - Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), one, 13 May, Lypps Beach, *Essex*.
 - California Gull, one, 18 June, Pelee Island (Fish Point), *Essex*.
 - White-winged Dove, one, 21 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Bell’s Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), one, 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), one, 11 June, Peterborough, *Peterborough*.
 - Kirtland’s Warbler, one, 11 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*.
 - Blue Grosbeak, one, 11 May, Kingsville, *Essex*.
- 2004**
- Ross’s Goose, one, 28 March, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton*.
 - Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), one, 2 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Mississippi Kite, one, 30 August, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Ferruginous Hawk, one, 20 May, Eagle River, *Kenora*.
 - Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), one, 18 September, Port Stanley, *Elgin*.
 - Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 8 September, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton*.
 - Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), one, ? – 4 December, Timmins, *Cochrane*.
 - Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), one, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Bullock’s Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), one, 10 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- 2003**
- Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 19 September, Toronto, *Toronto*.
- 2002**
- Eurasian Collared-Dove, one, 29 May and circa 30 June – 1 July, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk*.
 - Eurasian Collared-Dove, two, 2 June, Blackburn Hamlet, *Ottawa*.
- 1997/1998**
- Mountain Bluebird, one, 19 December – 14 February, Pelee Island, *Essex*.
- 1985**
- Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), one, 17 August, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*.

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2004 Report (Ontario Birds 23: 54-75)

- under Tufted Duck, add “also found by Brian R. Ahara” after “Kayo J. Roy, Kenneth M. Newcombe”.
- under Piping Plover, 2004, Oshawa, change dates from “22-23 May” to “22-24 May”.

2003 Report (Ontario Birds 22: 54-74)

- under Tufted Duck, add “Ken Allison, Mark Gawn, Robert A. Bracken, Christina Lewis” after “J. Burke Korol”.
- under Hermit Warbler, Cabot Head, change “alternate” to “first basic”. Last year’s annual report (Ontario Birds 23: 54-75) stated that this should be an addition, rather than a change.

2001 Report (Ontario Birds 20: 54-74)

- under Ross’s Goose, 2001, Riceville, add “Janet Castle” after “Christina Lewis, Robert A. Bracken”.

1997 Report (Ontario Birds 16: 51-80)

- under American Avocet, 1997, Blenheim, change dates from “3 August” to “3-5 August”, add “P. Allen Woodliffe” after “William J. McKitterick”, and add “photo on file” at the end of the record.

1993 Report (Ontario Birds 12: 41-58)

- under Fork-tailed Flycatcher, add “Nancy L. Barrett” after “John Miles, Kayo Roy”.

1989 Report (Ontario Birds 8: 4-33)

- under Sandwich Tern, 24 April, add “Stan Long” before “Robert H. Curry”; add “also found by Daniel R. Salisbury, John Stone” after “Robert H. Curry”.

Literature Cited

- [AOU] American Ornithologists’ Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds, 6th Edition. American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.
- [AOU] American Ornithologists’ Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th Edition. American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.
- Bain, M. 1993. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1992. Ontario Birds 11: 46-63.
- Boardman, R. 1992. Hooded Oriole at Long Point, Ontario: A potential first for Canada. Birders Journal 1: 228-229.
- Crins, W.J. 2004. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2003. Ontario Birds 22: 54-74.
- Crins, W.J. 2005. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2004. Ontario Birds 23: 54-75.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1996. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1995. Ontario Birds 14: 50-71.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1997. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1996. Ontario Birds 15: 47-66.
- Dobos, R.Z. 1998. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1997. Ontario Birds 16: 51-80.
- Goodwin, C.E. 1976. The winter season: Ontario region. American Birds 30: 711-715.
- Humphrey, P.S. and K.C. Parkes. 1959. An approach to the study of molts and plumages. Auk 76: 1-31.
- James, R.D. 1991. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario. Second Edition. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

- Patten, M.A.** 2006. Dispersal and vagrancy in the Pyrrhuloxia. *Western Birds* 37: 37-44.
- Pittaway, R.** 1995. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1994. *Ontario Birds* 13: 46-65.
- Pittaway, R.** 2000. Plumage and molt terminology. *Ontario Birds* 18: 27-43.
- Pokraka, R.** 1976. Phainopepla in Elgin County. *The Cardinal* 85: 3.
- Read, P.A.** 2006. McCown's Longspur: New to Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 24: 88-91.
- Roy, K.J.** 2000. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1999. *Ontario Birds* 18: 53-72.
- Roy, K.J.** 2001. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2000. *Ontario Birds* 19: 45-64.
- Tozer, R.G. and D.J. Milsom.** 2006. Neotropic Cormorant: New to Ontario and Canada. *Ontario Birds* 24: 84-87.
- Veit, R.R. and W.R. Petersen.** 1993. Birds of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.
- Wormington, A.** 1986. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1985. *Ontario Birds* 4: 3-18.
- Wormington, A. and R.H. Curry.** 1990. Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1989. *Ontario Birds* 8: 4-33.

William J. Crins, 170 Middlefield Road, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8G1

OFO Annual Convention and Banquet Ottawa

30 September and 1 October 2006

Now is the time to register for the annual OFO Convention and Banquet in Ottawa on the weekend of 30 September and 1 October. This event is always informative and fun and this year's convention promises to be particularly interesting. Many OFO members have never experienced the great fall birding available in the Ottawa area. Don't miss this opportunity to bird the National Capital area with local experts.

Saturday and Sunday field trips for convention participants will explore such birding hotspots as the Ottawa River, Shirley's Bay, Britannia Conservation Area, Lake Dore and Westmeath Provincial Park, Alfred Sewage Lagoons and Alfred Bog, and Innis Point Bird Observatory. These trips should produce good numbers of shorebirds, water birds and other fall migrants.

The Saturday evening banquet speaker at Capone's Banquet Hall in the Nepean Sportsplex will be Guy Morrison of the Canadian Wildlife Service, who is the foremost expert on shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere. He has spent many breeding seasons in the arctic and many winters in Central and South America studying shorebirds. Guy's illustrated presentation will encompass the arctic breeding grounds, spring and fall migration, staging areas, wintering areas, and conservation.

For complete convention information and a registration form, see the OFO website (www.ofo.ca); or e-mail chris@escott.ca or phone 416-444-8055.