

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2011

Mark H. Cranford

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). In addition, it reviews documentation relating to new species, new subspecies and new breeding species for the province. This 30th annual report details the results of the adjudication of 133 records by the OBRC during 2011, of which 109 (82%) were accepted.

A total of 162 observers submitted documentation for review by the 2011 Committee. Written reports were often accompanied by photographs (mostly digital images, but also some prints), as well as field notes and sketches. As noted in recent years, the trend toward submission of photographic evidence only, with little or no supporting written evidence, is an ongoing problem.

This makes it much more difficult for the Committee to compile dates of occurrence and other requested information. In addition, many details and circumstances associated with an observation, such as behaviour, comparisons to nearby birds and vocalizations, cannot be determined from photographic evidence alone. As such, we urge observers to submit written reports with their images submitted to the OBRC. For those submitting photos to the Ontario Field Ornithologists' (OFO) website, please send the same photos, along with written documentation, directly to the OBRC Secretary. That being said, the OBRC reserves the right to use, as evidence, photographs that have been posted on the OFO website. Guidance regarding the documentation of rare birds can be found on the OBRC page of the OFO website (www.ofo.ca).



Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee for 2011. Left to right (back): Don Sutherland, Doug McRae, Ross James, Glenn Coady, Ken Burrell, Alan Wormington, left to right (sitting): Mark Cranford, Brandon Holden, Mike Burrell.

Photo: Mark K. Peck.

The members of the 2011 Committee were Glenn Coady (Chairperson), Mark H. Cranford (non-voting Secretary), Alan Wormington (non-voting Assistant to the Secretary), Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Michael V.A. Burrell, Brandon R. Holden, Ross D. James, R. Douglas McRae and Donald A. Sutherland (Figure 1). Mark K. Peck acted as non-voting Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison for the OBRC

Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) was added to the Ontario list, bringing the total to 487 species. In addition, northern Ontario had its first accepted record of Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*).

Changes to the Ontario Review List

Pyrrhuloxia is added to the Review List for southern Ontario while Black Vulture and Lark Sparrow are removed. Least Tern is added to the Review List for northern Ontario while Eastern Towhee and Lark Sparrow are removed.

Changes to the Recognizable Forms Review List

The Recognizable Forms Review List was reviewed at the spring 2012 OBRC meeting on 1 April. The following criteria were established to guide the process to add or delete forms:

1. There must be at least one accepted OBRC record before listing.
2. Rarity must be demonstrated (less than five occurrences per year).
3. Colour morphs are not to be reviewed.

The following ‘taxa’ are removed from the List

- “Bewick’s” Tundra Swan – criterion 1
- Dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk – criterion 3
- “Western” Red-tailed Hawk – criterion 2
- “Richardson’s” Merlin – criterion 1
- “Coastal” Willet – criterion 1
- “Greenland” Iceland Gull – criterion 1
- “Scandinavian” Lesser Black-backed Gull (nominate *fuscus*) – criterion 1
- “Red-shafted” Northern Flicker – criterion 1
- “Appalachian” Black-throated Blue Warbler – criterion 1
- “White-winged” Dark-eyed Junco – criterion 1
- “Purple” Common Grackle – criterion 1

The following taxon has been added to the List

- “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco

Listing of Records

In the following species accounts, the total number of accepted records to date is indicated by a single number in parentheses. 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 subsequent supplements (42nd to 52nd; see www.aou.org/checklist/north/). Date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, sex, plumage, and location are provided when known. Place names in italics refer to a county,

regional municipality or district in Ontario; they also appear in colour. The plumage terminology used here follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and moult terminology, see Pittaway (2000). Complementing H&P plumage designation, an age designation in parentheses may be used where appropriate. The names of all contributors who provided documentation in the form of a specimen, photograph, video, sound recording or written description of the bird in the field are listed, while those contributors who are known to be the discoverers of the bird are also underlined. Additional discoverers of the bird are also listed (if known), even if they did not submit documentation. The OBRC file number is shown in parentheses at the end of each record.

The Committee attempts to verify documented information prior to the acceptance and publication of a record, but occasionally inaccuracies will occur. Anyone with pertinent information that would correct or strengthen a published record, such as date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, plumages, location, discoverers, etc., is urged to communicate this to the Secretary. In addition, there may be dates quoted in other sources that differ from those listed by the OBRC — these discrepancies are corrected whenever possible.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or questionable 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 written by voting members. 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.

All reports submitted to the OBRC are kept on permanent file at the ROM. Researchers and other interested individuals are welcome to examine any of the filed reports at the ROM, by appointment only. Please contact 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).

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the numerous observers who took the time to submit documentation of their observations of rare birds for consideration by the 2011 Committee. We also thank the following people who assisted the Committee in acquiring additional data and other material evidence that supplemented the information submit-

ted directly by observers and Committee members, or by providing expert opinions on evidence submitted to the Committee: Margaret J.C. Bain, David H. Elder, Nicholas G. Escott, Jean Iron, Stuart A. Mackenzie, James M. Pawlicki, Ronald J. Pittaway, Brian D. Ratcliff, Ron Ridout, Kayo J. Roy, John M. Woodcock, Ross W. Wood and Doug Woods.

OntBirds continues to be a useful source of information pertaining to rare birds that appear in the province; this listserve of the Ontario Field Ornithologists is moderated by Mark H. Cranford. In addition, the photographic pages on the OFO website, maintained in 2011 by Frank and Sandra Horvath, provide an excellent source of documentation for rarities. These sources of information make the Secretary’s job of securing documentation much more efficient. During 2011, Alan Wormington, in his role as Assistant to the Secretary, provided valuable assistance in tracking down documentation for reports. I also wish to thank all members of the 2011 Committee for their support and assistance during the year.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* South Only (22)

- 2011** – two, definitive basic female (adult) or first basic (immature), 21 September, Presqu’île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (R. Douglas McRae; 2011-059)
– photos on file.
- one, definitive basic female (adult) or first basic (immature), 1-4 October, Chub Point, *Northumberland* (Margaret J.C. Bain, Ossie Tee; 2011-060)
– photos on file.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* North Only (23)

- 2011** – one, definitive basic female (adult) or first basic (immature), 22 October, Cameron Falls, *Thunder Bay* (Gregory N. Stroud; 2011-128) – photo on file.
– one, definitive alternate male, 9-10 December, Pukaskwa National Park (Manito Miihana peninsula), *Thunder Bay* (Aaron A. Pervais, Michael T. Butler, also found by Derek S. Bedford; 2011-104) – photo, video on file.

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* South Only (1)

- 2011** – one, definitive alternate male molting into definitive basic during stay (adult), 8 June – 30 November, Darlington, *Durham* (Wayne Holroyd, Jean Iron, Ron Pittaway, Luc S. Fazio, Kevin R. Shackleton, Rob Rushton, Ebrahim Patel, found by Jeff Reid; 2011-095) – photos and video on file.

Completely unexpected but not unprecedented, as one was collected near Whitby on 15 May 1897 (Fleming 1907). A reported irruption last winter south to Rouyn, Quebec (R.J. Pittaway, pers. comm.), may have included this bird as an extreme overshoot 500 km south of the nearest winter report.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (49)

- 2011** – one, first basic/first alternate (immature), 9-11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Rhondda M. James, Jean Iron, found by Robert Z. Dobos; 2011-114) – photos on file.



Figure 2: Willow Ptarmigan Darlington Generating Station, *Durham* from 8 June to 30 November 2011.
Photo: Wayne Holroyd (8 June).



Figure 3: Northern Gannet release at Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton* on 26 October 2011.
 Photo: Gavin C. Platt.

- one, basic, 19 October, Chub Point, *Northumberland* (Margaret J.C.Bain; 2011-043) .
- one, definitive alternate/basic (adult), 31 October – 2 November, Oshawa, *Durham* (Jean Iron, found by Daniel S. Kaczynski; 2011-121) – photos on file.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (32)

- 2011** – one, alternate, 4-8 April, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Bernard L. Monette, Alvan D. Buckley; 2011-005) – photos on file.

Western/Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis/clarkii* (8)

- 2011** – one, 13 March, Tommy Thompson Park, *Toronto* (James R. Boccia, Christopher K. Boccia; 2011-004) – photos on file.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (44)

- 2011** – one, juvenal, 26 October, Dundas, *Hamilton* (found by Daniel Oakes; 2011-108) – photo on file.

The “photo on file” refers to a photo taken by Gavin C. Platt, while the bird was in captivity.



Figure 4: Neotropic Cormorant (on left), Wheatley, *Essex* on 24 April 2011. *Photo: Brandon R. Holden.*

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (3)

- 2011** – one, definite alternate (adult), 24-27 April, Wheatley Harbour, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, Alan Wormington, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Mike V.A. Burrell, Christopher J. Escott; 2011-006) – photos on file.
– one, definite alternate (adult), 17-18 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood, found by Richard Dobbins, Glenn Reed; 2011-110) – photos on file.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* North Only (2)

- 2010** – two, 1 June (2), 9 June (1) Dryden, *Kenora* (Darlene J.M. Salter, also found by Joanne Bridgewater; 2011-078) – photos on file.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* North Only (14)

- 2011** – one, 20 July, Pukaskwa National Park (Pic River mouth), *Thunder Bay* (Martha L. Allen, found by Wayne S. Michano, Derek S. Bedford; 2011-040) – photos on file.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (73)

- 2011** – one, definitive alternate, 27 May, Erie View, *Norfolk* (Scott D. McIntosh, also found by Susan M. McIntosh, Jason S. McIntosh; 2011-025) – photos on file.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (43)

- 2011** – one, definitive alternate, 1 June, Windsor, *Essex* (Karen J. Morgan; 2011-094) – photo on file.



Figure 5: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Windsor, *Essex*, on 1 June 2011. Photo: Karen J. Morgan.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (59)

- 2011** – one, definitive alternate, 27 April, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, Kenneth G.D. Burrell; 2011-013).
- one, definitive alternate, 14 May, Port Lambton, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann; 2011-018) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, 19 May, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Peter M. Kyne, Micha V. Jackson, found by T. Sobat; 2011-019) – photos on file.
- two, definitive alternate, 23 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Blake A. Mann; 2011-020) – photo on file.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chibi* (11)

- 2011** – two, definitive alternate (adults), 28 May, Collingwood, *Simcoe* (Peter Saliba; 2011-048).
- one, first alternate (immature), 4-13 July, Carp, *Ottawa* (Ben F. Di Labio, Bruce M. Di Labio, Paul Lagasi; 2011-109) – photos on file.

Dark Ibis species *Plegadis* sp. (62)

- 2011** – two, 31 March and 14 April, Warings Corner, (31 March) and Big Island (14 April), *Prince Edward* (R. Terry Sprague, found by John DeVries, Arlene DeVries; 2011-033).
- one, 23 July – 10 August, Lakeview Heights, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Robert B. Scranton, Dawn Scranton, Paul R. O’Toole; 2011-038) – photos on file.



Figure 6: Plegadis Ibis at Lakeview Heights (Cornwall), *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* from 23 July to 10 August, 2011. Photo: Dawn Scranton (28 July)

- one, 22 August – 15 September, Whitby (Cranberry Marsh), *Durham* (Barry S. Cherie; 2011-132) – photos on file.
- five, 9 September, Port Rowan, *Norfolk* (Stuart A. Mackenzie; 2011-070).

2010 – one, 22 May, Mississauga (Rattray Marsh), *Peel* (Andreas H.I. Jonsson; 2011-057).

The well-photographed and documented bird from Cornwall illustrates the difficulty of assigning age and species to Dark Ibis. Determination to species level for this group is not always possible (Kaufman 1990).

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* **North Only after 2011 (75)**

- 2011** – one, 29-30 March, Grimsby, *Niagara* (29 March), and Dundas, *Hamilton* (30 March) (Barry S. Cherie; 2011-125) photos on file.
- one, 14 April, Scarborough, *Toronto* (Walter T. Fisher; 2011-010).
 - one, 5 November, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Cindy E.J. Cartwright, also found by Stephen R. Kolbe, Robert C. Pettit, R. James McCoy; 2011-072).

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* **(41)**

- 2011** – one, first basic (immature), 24 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Garry T. Sadler, also found by Linda J. Sadler; 2011-028) – photo on file.
- 2010** – one, juvenal, 8 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (James M. Pawlicki; 2011-065).

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* **(55)**

- 2011** – one, light morph, first basic (immature), 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Peter S. Burke, Alvaro P. Jaramillo, also found by Karl R. Konze; 2011-014) – photo on file.
- one, light morph, first basic (immature), 2 October, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (Avery L. Bartels, also found by Andrew T. Cox, Tom M. Finch; 2011-067).



Figure 7: First basic Mississippi Kite at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, 24 May 2011. *Photo: Garry T. Sadler.*

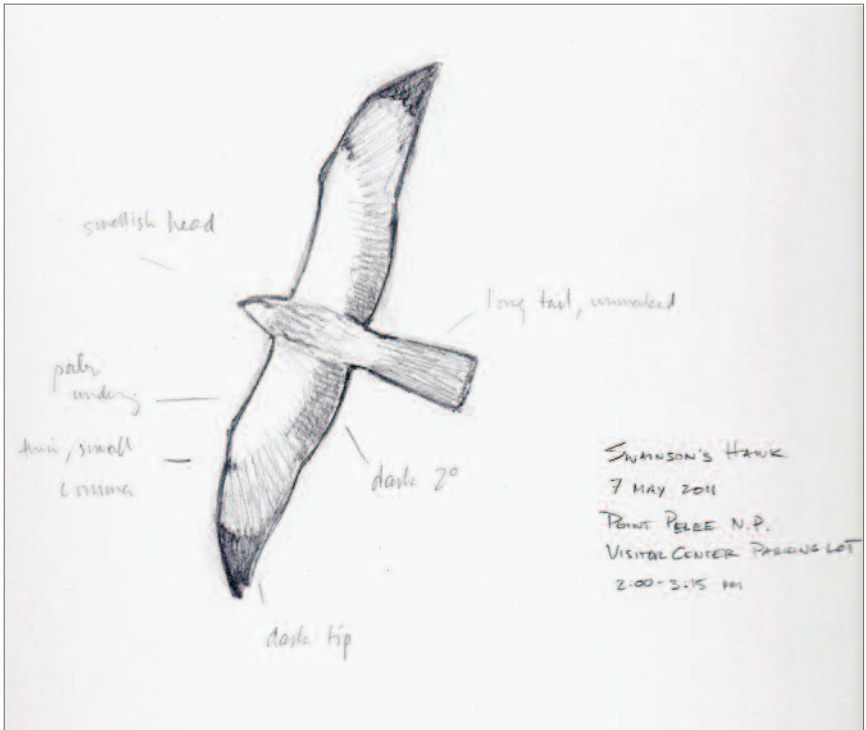


Figure 8: First basic Swainson's Hawk, 7 May 2011 at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*. *Sketch: Peter S. Burke.*



Figure 9: Purple Gallinule, 14-23 May 2011 at Kincardine, *Bruce*. Photo: James A. Turland (23 May).

“Western” Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicus calurus* (2)

2011/12 – one, first basic (immature), 29 December – 4 February, Oshawa, *Durham* (Bethany Linton, Keith Linton; 2011-113) – photos on file.

This was an exceptionally well-documented bird.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (17)

2011 – one, definitive basic, 14-23 May, Kincardine, *Bruce* (Stewart Nutt, James A. Turland, found by Adrian Bick; 2011-001) – photos on file.

– one, juvenal, 9-15 October, Port Weller, *Niagara* (John E. Black, Daniel R. Salisbury, Christopher J. Escott, Kayo J. Roy, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, William W. Watson, Marcie L. Jacklin, Peeter Musta, Willie C. D’Anna, Sandra L. Horvath, also found by Paula Clark, Philip Downey, Carol Horvat, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz; 2011-045) – photos on file.

– one, juvenal, 16 October, Burlington (Hendrie Valley), *Halton* (James Thomson; 2011-046) – photo on file.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (73)

2011 – one, definitive alternate male, (adult), 7 May, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (Gavin C. Platt; 2011-107).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (29)

2010 – one, definitive alternate, (adult) 17 May, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (Garry T. Sadler; 2011-098) – photo on file.



Figure 10: Purple Gallinule at Burlington (Hendrie Valley), *Halton* on 16 October 2011. *Photo: James Thomson.*



Figure 11: Curlew Sandpiper at Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* on 17 May 2011. *Photo: Garry T. Sadler.*



Figure 12: "Common" Mew Gull at Cobourg Harbour, *Northumberland* on 23 March 2011. *Photo: Jean Iron.*



Figure 13: Slaty-backed Gull at Niagara Falls, *Niagara* from 3-13 December 2011. *Photo: James M. Pawlicki (8 December).*

Mew Gull *Larus canus* (25)

- 2011 – one, *brachyrhynchus*, definitive basic, (adult), 13 February, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (R. Douglas McRae, Bruce D. Parker; 2011-061) – photos on file.
- one, *canusheinei*, definitive alternate, (adult), 23 March, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Jean Iron, Chris McConnell, Bruce D. Parker, found by Sarah A.E. Petrasek; 2011-058) – photos on file.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* North Only (9)

- 2011 – one, definitive alternative molting to basic, (adult), 25 August, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Mark W. Jennings, Brandon R. Holden; 2011-089) – photos on file.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* (8)

- 2011 – one, definitive basic, (adult), 3-13 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Jean Iron, Bruce M. Di Labio, Ben F. Di Labio, Jay McGowan, James M. Pawlicki also found by Robert L. Maciver, Hannah G. Maciver; 2011-063) – photos on file.
- 2010 – one, definitive basic, (adult), 24-29 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, Rohan A. van Twest; 2011-023) – photos, video on file.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (4)

- 2011 – one, definitive basic, (adult), 10 May, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (David H. Elder; 2011-090) – photo on file.
- This is the fourth accepted record for the province and the first for northern Ontario.



Figure 14: Least Tern on 10 May 2011 at Atikokan, *Rainy River*. Photo: David H. Elder.

Figure 15: Razorbill at Ottawa, *Ottawa* from 22 October to 1 November 2011.

Photo: Tony F.M. Beck.



**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
South Only (20)**

- 2011** – one, definitive alternate, (adult), 28 May, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Mike V.A. Burrell; 2011-049) – photos on file.

This record fits the expected spring pattern of this species migrating through southern Ontario.

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* North Only (35)

- 2011** – one, juvenal, 9 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Mike V.A. Burrell, also found by Brandon R. Holden, Barbara N. Charlton, Kenneth G.D. Burrell; 2011-111).

Razorbill *Alca torda* (10)

- 2011** – one, juvenal or first basic, (immature), 22 October – 1 November, Ottawa (Deschenes Rapids), *Ottawa* (Mark Gawn, Tony F.M. Beck, Bruce M. Di Labio, Ben F. Di Labio; 2011-091) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal or first basic, (immature), 10 November – 3 December, Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, David M. Bell, Michael M. Morgante, Willie C. D'Anna, William W. Watson, Joe Mitchell; 2011-092) – photos on file.

The Ottawa bird is the third record away from Lake Ontario; one was found on Dore Lake, *Renfrew* (Wormington and Curry 1990) and another bird is a specimen record for Rideau Lakes (1950).

The Niagara bird was initially reported in American waters on 8 November 2011 by Joshua C. Stiller.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (14)

- 2011** – one, basic, (adult), 14-18 May, Devlin, *Rainy River* (Michael S. Dawber; 2011-127) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal or first basic, (immature), 7 September, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Les Piccolo; 2011-129) – photo on file.

The September bird is interesting; to date there has not been confirmed breeding established in the province.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (37)

- 2011** – one, 2 June, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood; 2011-119).
- one, 4-7 September, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler; 2011-101) – photos on file.



Figure 16: Barn Owl at Whitby, *Durham* on 17 December 2011. Photo: Heather Rademacher.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (8)

2011 – one, female, (adult), (found dead, fresh) 17 December, Whitby, *Durham* (Heather Rademacher; 2011-122) – photos on file, specimen (skin) ROM #125667.

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (23)

2011 – one, 14 May, Stratford, *Perth* (Stephen J. Thorpe; 2011-024) .

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (9)

2011 – one, 28-30 May, Chaput Hughes, *Timiskaming* (Daniel E. Miller, Wendy L. Brennan, Michael J. Leahy; 2011-008) – photos on file.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (13)

2011 – one, 3 June, Amherst Island, Lennox and *Addington* (Peter A. Read; 2011-037) – photos on file.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (59)

2011 – one, 8 June, Lorraine, *Niagara* (Blayne E. Farnan, also found by Jean M. Farnan; 2011-056) .

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* (12)

2011 – one, nominate *bellii*, first basic, (immature), 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Jean Iron, Luc S. Fazio, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2011-115) – photos, video on file.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana* (3)

2011 – one, 25 October, Vickers Heights, *Thunder Bay* (Sue Langer; 2011-062).

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (17)

2011 – two, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Eric W. Holden; 2011-022) – photo on file.
– one, 25 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, also found by Michael J. Nelson; 2011-076) – photo on file.
– one, 31 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood, also found by Dylan Lerch, Sylvia Mills, Christopher A. Sukha, Teresa Janer; 2011-100) – photos, audio on file.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliptila caerulea* North Only (17)

2011 – one, male, 14-15 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Christina J. Nielsen; 2011-131) – photos on file.

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (35)

2011 – one, female, first basic, (immature), 19-24 March, Vinemount, *Hamilton* (Cheryl E. Edgecombe, Robert Z. Dobos, David R. Don, Barbara N. Charlton, Barry S. Cherièrè, Donna Sheppard, Frank G. Horvath, Sandra L. Horvath; 2011-021) – photos on file.
– one, male, definitive basic (adult), 8-11 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Eric B. Marcum, Audrey Nowicki, Steven J. Marson, Christina J. Nielsen; 2011-015) – photos on file.



Figure 17: Lewis's Woodpecker at Kirkland Lake, *Timiskaming* from 22-30 May 2011. Photo: Daniel E. Miller.



Figure 18: First basic Bell's Vireo on 13 May 2011 at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*. Photo: Alan Wormington.



Figure 19: First basic, female Mountain Bluebird from 19-24 March 2011 at Vinemount, *Hamilton*.
Photo: Sandra L. Horvath (22 March).



Figure 20: Black-throated Gray Warbler at Hamilton, *Hamilton* from 14 December 2011 to 1 January 2012.
Photo: Mike Veltri (15 December).

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* South Only After 2000 (71)

- 2011 – one, 19 March, Bedford Mills, *Frontenac* (Mark E. Chojnacki; 2011-003).
– one, 24-30 April, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Donald N. Pye, Blake A. Mann, P. Allen Woodliffe, also found by Patricia A. Pye, Helayne Rivard, Marcel Rivard; 2011-012) – photos on file.

Swainson's Warbler *Limnithlypis swainsonii* (9)

- 1982 – one, 6 May, Cambridge (Preston), *Waterloo* (William G. Wilson; 2011-030) .
Well-written, detailed report with sketch.

Kirtland's Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii* (51)

- 2011 – one, male, alternate, 2 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Richard G. Snider, also found by James E. Heslop, Robert W. Stamp, Barry D. Jones; 2011-088) – photos on file.
– one, male, first alternate, (immature), 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Martha L. Miller, Jack H. Alvo, Richard K. Day, Ben F. Di Labio, Bruce M. Di Labio, Alan Wormington, also found by Frances N. Alvo; 2011-086) – photos on file.
– one, male, alternate, 8 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Karl T. Heide, Peter S. Burke, Bruce M. Di Labio, Rhondda M. James, also found by Randal S. Heide; 2011-035) – photos on file.
– one, male, first alternate, (immature), 10 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Mike V.A. Burrell, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Brandon R. Holden, also found by James G. Burrell, Eric W. Holden, Jennifer L. Bock; 2011-044).
– one, male, first alternate, (immature), 11 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (John Lamey, Ron Ridout, Stuart A. Mackenzie; 2011-085) – photos on file.
– one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Bruce M. Di Labio, found by Ross Beatson, Andrea Beatson, Wendy J. Hunter; 2011-130) – photo on file.
The 2 May bird was record early for the province.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* (18)

- 2011/12– one, male, first basic, (immature), 14 December – 3 January, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Cheryl E. Edgecombe, Mike Veltri, Mark H. Cranford, Mike V.A. Burrell, found by Robert Z. Dobos; 2011-120) – photos on file.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* North Only (8)

- 2011 – one, female, definitive alternate, (adult), 4 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Christopher A. Sukha, Patricia L. Burri; 2011-084) – photo on file.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (27)

- 2011/12– one, male, definitive basic, (adult), *arcticus*, 12 November – 7 May, Longlac, *Thunder Bay* (Frederick J. Jennings, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Jude Tulla; 2011-097) – photos on file.

2011 – one, male, first basic, (immature), 15 January – 8 May, Port Burwell, *Elgin* (Leonard P. Manning, Cliff Dickenson, Jean Iron, found by Aaron B. Allensen; 2011-009) – photos on file.

2010 – one, female, first basic, (immature), 28 October – 8 November, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Mike V.A. Burrell, found by Avery L. Bartels; 2011-123) – photo on file.

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* North Only Before 2012 (19)

2011/12 – one, male, first basic, (immature), 30 November – 6 January, Sioux Lookout, *Kenora* (Marlie A. Squires, Douglas J. Squires; 2011-103) – photos on file.

2011 – one, female, first basic, (immature), mid-January – 3 May, Murillo, *Thunder Bay* (Wendy Kehoe; 2011-064) – photo on file.

– one, male, 22 October, Englehart, *Timiskaming* (Mark W. Milton, Serge Gendron, also found by Tom Milton, Pamela Milton; 2011-073) – photo on file.

– one, female, first basic, (immature), 26-27 October, Manitouswadge, *Thunder Bay* (Tammie B. Hache; 2011-080) – photos on file.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* North Only (19)

2011 – one, first basic (immature), 9-10 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Calvin E. Knorr, Hannah D. Woodcock, Mike C. Ward, Patricia L. Burri; 2011-083) – photo on file.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* Before 2012 (96)

2011 – one, 2 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Rosalee A. Hall, David J. Milsom, found by Cody R. Law, Thomas G. Thomas; 2011-116) – photos on file.

– one, first basic (immature), 5-8 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Ross W. Wood, also found by Mick J. Townsend; 2011-118) – photo on file.

– one, 14 May, Swastika, *Timiskaming* (Michael J. Leahy; 2011-002) – photo on file.

– one, 30 May, Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton* (Kevin A. McLaughlin; 2011-087).

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (25)

2011 – one, alternate, 29 April, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (Stuart A. Mackenzie; 2011-069).

– one, alternate, 6 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Scott Hulme, also found by Nathan G. Miller, Brett D. Woodman, M. Elaine Gosnell; 2011-106) – photo on file.

– one, alternate, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Gerard J.D. Phillips, found by Michel Striganuk; 2011-124) – photo on file.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (40)

2011 – one, male, first alternate, (immature), 19 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Kyle E. Holloway; 2011-016) – photo on file.

– one, male, 22 May, Windsor, *Essex* (Murray A. Shields; 2011-017) – photo on file.



Figure 21: Western Tanager at Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* on 19 May 2011.
Photo: Kyle E. Holloway.



Figure 22: First alternate male Blue Grosbeak at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* from 31 May to 1 June 2011.
Photo: Patricia L. Burri.



Figure 23: Orchard Oriole at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* from 31 May to 4 June 2011. Photo: Patricia L. Burri.

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus* (1)

2004/05 – one, female, first basic (immature), 23 December – 1 January, Eagle, *Elgin* (Reinhold J. Pokraka, Christopher J. Escott, Barry S. Cheriére, Peter S. Burke, found by Walter Wojick; 2011-117) – photos on file.

This report reviewed as file 2005-056 was deferred by the 2005 Committee (Crins 2006). Recent state first records in Wisconsin, Montana, Oregon and Utah support a developing pattern of vagrancy that has been accepted by the 2011 Committee. *Pyrrhuloxia* is added to the Ontario list of naturally occurring birds on the basis of this record.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (84)

2011 – one, female, first alternate (immature), 31 May – 1 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Patricia L. Burri, John M. Woodcock, also found by Christopher A. Sukha, Calvin E. Knorr; 2011-081) – photos on file.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (31)

2011 – one, male, definitive alternate, 10-12 May, 9 km WSW of Stafford, *Renfrew* (Donna Chase, Sean Chase; 2011-052) – photos on file.

– one, male, definitive alternate, 10-14 May, Coldwater, *Simcoe* (David J.K. Ellis; 2011-053) – photo on file.

– one, male, definitive alternate, 12-18 July, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler, found by Robert C. Ellis; 2011-039) – photos on file.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (21)

- 2011** – one, male, definitive alternate, (adult), 13-19 July, Fort Frances, *Rainy River* (John E. Van den Broeck, Michael S. Dawber, Jeffrey W. Dyck; 2011-075)
– photos on file.
- 2010** – one, male, first alternate, (immature), 11-13 May, Sioux Lookout, *Kenora* (Marlie A. Squires, also found by Douglas J. Squires; 2011-102)
– photos on file.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* North Only (12)

- 2011** – one, male, first alternate, (immature), 31 May – 4 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Patricia L. Burri, also found by John M. Woodcock, Christopher A. Sukha, Calvin E. Knorr; 2011-082) – photos on file.
- one, male, first alternate, (immature), 2-5 June, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler, also found by Martha L. Allen; 2011-042) – photos on file.
- one, first basic, (immature), 23 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock; 2011-126) – photo on file.



Figure 24: Basic Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*littoralis*) at Stepstone, *Thunder Bay* on 22 November 2011.

Photo: Brian D. Ratcliff.



Figure 25: "Hornemann's" Hoary Redpoll at North Frontenac, *Frontenac* on 25 February 2011. *Photo: Amy Kay.*

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (17)

- 2011 – one, nominate *tephrocotis*, 16 March, Dillon, *Parry Sound* (Eddie L. Outram-Verite; also found by Daniel L. Verite; 2011-007)
– photo on file.
- one, basic, *littoralis*, 22-26 November, Stepstone, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff; found by Eugene S. Kideres, Barbara E. Horth; 2011-079)
– photos on file.

“Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni* (2)

- 2011 – one, nominate *hornemanni*, 8 January, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler; 2011-054) – photos on file.
- one, male, definitive basic, (adult), nominate *hornemanni*, 24 February – 14 March, North Frontenac, *Frontenac* (Amy Kay; 2011-055)
– photos on file.

Deferred Records: Identification Accepted, Wild Status Deferred

- 2011 – Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) one, male, 26-28 December, Whitby, *Durham* (Jim Robinson, Ann Brokelman, Glenn Coady, Paula Coady, Jean Iron, Winnie W.M. Poon, James M. Richards, Kayo J. Roy, Stuart Immonen, Paul Reeves, Anthony B. Vanderheyden; 2011-096) – photos on file.

This species does exhibit a tendency to wander and there are two accepted records for the province (Roy 2001). However, consensus could not be reached regarding wild origin. Three members of the current committee have agreed to research the wild status of Smew and report to the 2012 committee.



Figure 26: Male Smew at Whitby, *Durham* on 26 December 2011. Photo: Jim Robinson.

NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

Not Accepted Records: Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Birds in this category are considered by the Committee to be correctly identified, but their origin is questionable. 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.

- 2011 – Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), one, adult, 17 April, Chatham, *Chatham-Kent* (Ralph Reinhardus, also found by Jan Reinhardus; 2011-050)
– photos on file.

This species is routinely raised in captivity and is occasionally released to the wild. There is no evidence of breeding or long term survival in the wild.

- 1961 – Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), two, adult, 20-21 August, Port Colborne (Yacht Harbour), *Niagara* (Daniel R. Salisbury, Robert F. Andrie, found by Richard Brownstein; 2011-133) – photos on file.

The record was originally accepted as natural occurring wild birds (Wormington 1986). Compelling evidence from multiple sources confirmed that the sighting occurred in 1961 and not 1962. In addition, two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks escaped from a Buffalo area zoo weeks prior to the sighting (Black and Roy 2010). This record also includes corrected information regarding both year of occurrence and dates of observation (see “Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports”).

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 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 factors such as the conditions during the observation, were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

- 2011 – Common Eider, three, 22 May, Whitby, *Durham* (2011-066).
– Western Grebe, one, 16 May, Long Point (Hastings Drive), *Norfolk* (2011-068).
– Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), one, 19 August, Toronto Harbour, *Toronto* (2011-036).
– Little Blue Heron, one, 22 May, Aurora, *York* (2011-026).
– Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), one, 10 July, Pearl, *Thunder Bay* (2011-105).
– Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), one, 8 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (2011-112).
– Curlew Sandpiper, one, 10 October, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2011-074).

- Mew Gull, one, 6 August, Paskwachi Point, *Cochrane* (2011-077).
- Arctic Tern, one, 17 October, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (2011-099).
- Barn Owl, one, 14 November, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (2011-034).
- Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*), one, 15 October, Long Point, *Norfolk* (2011-047).
- Fish Crow, four, 1-4 July, Bob's Lake, *Frontenac* (2011-041).
- Townsend's Solitaire, one, 3 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2011-032).
- "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, one, 23 May, Algonquin Provincial Park (15 km marker on Highway 60), *Nippising* (2011-029).
- Henslow's Sparrow, one, 20 March, Toronto, *Toronto* (2011-011).
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 13 May, Paisley, *Bruce* (2011-027).
- "Hornemann's" Hoary Redpoll, one, 9-22 February, Elgin, *Frontenac* (2011-051).

2010 – Mew Gull, one, 17-20 December, Queenston, *Niagara* (2011-031).

- 2004** – Arctic Tern, four, 30 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (2011-071).
 – Arctic Tern, one, 5 November, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (2011-093).

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2010 Report (Ontario Birds 29: 106-148):

- under Glossy Ibis, change number of accepted records from 53 to 55.
- under White-winged Dove, change number of accepted records from 34 to 35.
- under Hummingbird species *Selasphorus*, change number of accepted records from 12 to 11.

1985 Report (Ontario Birds 4: 3-18):

- under Fulvous Whistling-Duck, change year from 1962 to 1961 and date from 20 Aug to 20-21 Aug.

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Mark H. Cranford

206-2437 Hurontario Street,

Mississauga, Ontario L5A 2G4

E-mail: mark.cranford@rogers.com