

# Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2018

*Mike V.A. Burrell, Barbara N. Charlton, Kenneth G.D. Burrell,  
Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Amanda C. Guercio, Blake A. Mann,  
Donald A. Sutherland, Paul D. Pratt and William G. Lamond*

## **Introduction**

This is the 37th annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (hereafter 'OBRC' or 'Committee') of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO). The OBRC reviews rare bird reports in Ontario based on documentation that has been submitted by the birding community. Species and subspecies evaluations are based on the Review Lists for Ontario, which can be found on the OFO website ([www.ofo.ca](http://www.ofo.ca)). Any new species, subspecies, or first breeding records for Ontario are also reviewed. This report deals with the review of 169 records by the OBRC in 2018, of which 153 (91%) were accepted and two were sent for re-review by the incoming 2019 Committee. All reports reviewed by the 2018 Committee will be added to the permanent file kept at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

The members of the 2018 Committee were Joshua D. Vandermeulen (chair), Mike V.A. Burrell (non-voting secretary), Kenneth G.D. Burrell (non-voting assistant to the secretary), Barbara N. Charlton (voting member and assistant to the secretary), Amanda C. Guercio, Blake A. Mann, Donald A. Sutherland, Paul D. Pratt and William G. Lamond (Figure 1). Mark K. Peck acted as the ROM liaison for the OBRC.

## **Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds**

An astounding five new species, White-crowned Pigeon (*Patagioenas leucocephala*), Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*), Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) and Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) were added to the Ontario list, bringing the total to 501 species. Five new species is the most in one year since 1993 (see Burrell and Burrell (2016) for a summary of provincial species additions).



Figure 1. Ontario Bird Records Committee for 2018. Left to right (standing): Paul D. Pratt, Blake A. Mann, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Donald A. Sutherland, Kenneth G.D. Burrell. Left to right (sitting): Amanda C. Guercio, Barbara N. Charlton, William G. Lamond. Not present: Mike V.A. Burrell. Photo: Mark K. Peck

### Changes to the Review Lists

Beginning with the 2014 report (Burrell and Charlton 2015), the OBRC split the province into three review zones (South, Central and Lowlands). See Holden (2014) for more details.

No new species were added to the Lowlands Review List, leaving the total number of species recorded in this review zone at 330.

Beginning in 2019, reports of Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) and White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) in the Central Review Zone are no longer requested. Reports prior to 2019 are still requested for review. No new species were added to the Central Review List, leaving the total number of species recorded in this review zone at 383.

Beginning in 2019, reports of Eurasian Collared-Dove and White-winged Dove in the South Review Zone are no longer requested. Reports prior to 2019 are still requested for review. The addition of White-crowned Pigeon, Costa's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Reddish Egret and Great Kiskadee brings the total number of species recorded in this review zone to 491.

No changes were made to the subspecies review list.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) was added to the list of species known to have bred, bringing the total number of breeding species to 292.

## Listing of Records

For accepted records and records for which the identification was accepted but origin is questionable, the following information is provided where known: year and date(s) of occurrence, location, number of birds, plumage and sex of each individual, names of contributors and OBRC file number. For accepted records, the total number of records for the province (including 2018 reports) is indicated in parentheses after the species name. All contributors who have provided reports are listed; if a contributor is also a finder of the bird(s), the contributor's name is underlined. Additional finders of the bird(s) are also listed, where known, even if they did not provide documentation for review. Place names in italics refer to the county, regional municipality or district in Ontario. Common and scientific names, as well as taxonomy, follow the seventh edition of the Check-list of North American Birds published by the American Ornithologists' Union (1998), along with its annual supplements published in *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, up to the 59th supplement (Chesser *et al.* 2018) inclusive. Plumage terminology uses the modified Humphrey and Parkes (1959) system following Howell (2010).

All records that were not accepted due to either insufficient evidence or questionable origin have been listed separately. Contributors of all "not accepted" records are notified in writing by the Committee. Reasons for the decision are explained, using information provided by voting members on their voting slips. Any "not accepted" record can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new or additional documentation is provided.

All documentation provided to the OBRC is permanently archived at the ROM. Researchers and other interested parties are welcome to examine any of this material evidence, by appointment. Please contact Mark Peck in writing at Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6, by email at markp@rom.on.ca or by telephone at 416-586-5523. Over the past several years, volunteers have been working to digitize the OBRC rare species documentation.

## Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the 189 observers who took the time to submit documentation of rare birds for consideration by the 2018 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: Cheryl Anderson, David M. Bell, Rinchen Boardman, Matt Brady, Peter S. Burke, Kyle Cameron, Glenn Coady, Pierre-Andre Crochet, Ian Davies, Bruce M. Di Labio, Jon Feenstra, Rob Fowler, Christian A. Friis, Peter R. Fuller, John Garrett, Kimball Garrett, Steve Hampton, Marshall Iliff, Jean Iron, Alvaro P. Jaramillo, Kevin Karlson, Paul Lehman, Tim B. Lucas, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Guy McCaskie, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Christina J. Nielsen, David Okines, James Pike, Ronald J. Pittaway, Brian D. Ratcliff, Steve Rotenborn, Scott Terrill, David Vander Pluym and Chris Wood.



Figure 2. Barnacle Goose at Schomberg, York on 22 March 2018. *Photo: Joanne M. Redwood*

### Accepted Records

#### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (7)

**2018** – one, definitive basic, 14 June, Guelph, *Wellington* (Genevieve C.E. White; 2018-059) – photos on file.

#### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis* (3)

**2018** – one, 13-25 March, Schomberg, *York* and Dunkerron, *Simcoe* (Amanda C. Guercio, Iain D.M. Fleming, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, Kiah R. Jasper, Mike V.A. Burrell, Dan J. MacNeal, W. Carter Dorscht, Joanne Redwood, found by Donald Gorham; 2018-002) – photos on file.

Burrell (2017) summarized the status of this species in Ontario and eastern North America and this bird fit nicely into the pattern shown by wild vagrants. As such, this relatively long-staying bird was a “tick” for many Ontario birders.

#### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* **Central and Lowlands only** (19)

**2018** – one, definitive basic, 29 June-8 July, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Glenn C. Stronks, William F. Greaves, Brian D. Ratcliff, Lindy Wagenaar; 2018-112) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 19 August-3 November, Mission Island, *Thunder Bay* (Glenn C. Stronks, found by Charles D. Bryan; 2018-113) – photo on file.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* **Central and Lowlands only after 1993 (76)**

**2018** – one, definitive basic male, 5-7 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Bradley I. Balec, William F. Greaves, Brian D. Ratcliff, James R.D. Barber, also found by Troy J. Balec; 2018-033) – photos on file.

**“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca crecca/nimia* **(10)**

**2018** – one, definitive basic male, 22 March-8 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Janice E. Pelan, Jeremy L. Hatt, Michael D. Williamson, found by Jeremy M. Bensetzung, Kate Derbyshire; 2018-034) – photos on file.

**Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima* **South and Central only (26)**

**2018** – one, first basic female, 7-15 November, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Theresa Dobko, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, Dan J. MacNeal, Monika P. Croydon; 2018-017) – photos on file.

**Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* **Central and Lowlands only (33)**

**2018** – one, male, 26-27 April, Kapuskasing, *Cochrane* (Kyle Blaney; 2018-087) – photos on file.

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis* **(53)**

**2018** – one, basic, 7 April, Port Credit, *Peel* (Blake A. Mann, Joanne Redwood; 2018-149) – photos on file.

– one, 13 June, Victoria Point, *Simcoe* (Lawrence Grossman; 2018-150) – photos on file.

– one, basic, 4 November-1 December, Bright's Grove, *Lambton* (Matt C. Parsons, Blake A. Mann, Sean M. Jenniskens, Barbara N. Charlton, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, Janice E. Pelan, Jeremy L. Hatt; 2018-148) – photos on file.

A Western Grebe has appeared in the west end of Lake Ontario each spring since 2006 (with the exception of 2008 and 2014), strongly suggesting a returning bird.

**White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala* **(1)**

**2018** – one, first basic, 14 November, Pembroke, *Renfrew* (Mark E. Dojczman; 2018-079) – photos on file.

An amazing record and a first for the province. The Committee considered the possibility of an escapee but deemed that unlikely given that the species does not appear to be regularly kept in captivity and is capable of long-distance flights to disperse between islands in the Caribbean (Bancroft *et al.* 2001). The distance from the core range of this record is similar to other extralimital records from Texas and Virginia (eBird 2019).



Figure 3. White-crowned Pigeon at Pembroke, *Renfrew* on 14 November 2018. Photo: Mark E. Dojczman

**Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Lowlands only after 2018 (48)**

- 2018** – one, basic, 18 April-5 May, Dutton, *Elgin* (Chris C. Leys, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, found by Nikki Benjamin; 2018-028) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 16-25 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (William von Herff, Kyle Cameron, Samreen Munim, found by unknown finder; 2018-029) – photo on file.
- one, basic, 31 May, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (Robert D. Saunders; 2018-031).
- one, basic, 30 June, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (Michael S. Dawber; 2018-070) – photo on file.
- one, basic, 12 August, Earleton, *Timiskaming* (Serge M. Gendron; 2018-026) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 3-20 September, Brantford, *Brant* (Sarah E. Lamond, David R. Don, also found by William G. Lamond; 2018-022) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 17-20 September, Brantford, *Brant* (Margaret Leonetti; 2018-023) – photos on file.
- six, basic, 19-29 September, Brantford, *Brant* (Kayla and Kimberly Bezkorow, Anthony E. Zammit; 2018-021) – photos, video on file.
- one, basic, 10 October, St. Joseph, *Huron* (Brandon R. Holden; 2018-024) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 20-22 October, Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, *Thunder Bay* (Laura Tabbakh, TCBO, found by unknown finder; 2018-030) – photo on file.
- two, basic, 26 October, St. Joseph, *Huron* (Brandon R. Holden; 2018-025) – photos on file.

**2018/19** – two, basic, 18 December-8 January, Hamilton, *Hamilton*  
(Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Robert H. Curry, Sarah E. Lamond; 2018-027)  
– photos on file.

As has been predicted for some time, this species finally appears to be colonizing the province. The twelve records in 2018 are the most in a single year, following eight in 2017 (Burrell *et al.* 2018), six in 2016 (Burrell *et al.* 2017) and five in 2014 (Burrell and Charlton 2015).

The Committee had a difficult task separating this species from the similar African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*). After consulting experts with experience with the two species it became apparent that the two species (particularly in North America, where a significant number of Eurasian Collared-Doves have descended from captive stock) are only safely separated by voice or genetics. It also appears that within North America, African Collared-Dove is very rare. There very well could be African Collared-Doves (or hybrids) occasionally showing up in Ontario, but the Committee felt the most pragmatic approach was to treat all reports of these two species as Eurasian Collared-Dove, unless there was evidence (voice recording or genetics) to suggest otherwise. If any readers would like to read a copy of the briefing note prepared on this subject by the secretary for the Committee, please contact the secretary.

The Committee no longer requests documentation of this species in the Southern or Central Review Zones.

### **White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Lowlands only after 2018 (72)**

- 2018** – one, basic male, 7 April-15 September, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, Quinten F.R. Wieggersma, Kiah R. Jasper, Jeremy L. Hatt, Blake A. Mann, found by James T. Burk and Stephen R. Charbonneau; 2018-166) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 28 April-3 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Kyle Cameron, Emily Emptage, also found by Samreen Munim and Tobias Lilja; 2018-157) – photo on file.
  - one, basic, 3-6 May, Sandhurst Shores, *Lennox and Addington* (N. Anthony Kaduck, found by David Edwards, John Hall; 2018-156) – photos on file.
  - one, basic, 26 May-1 June, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Michelle A. Martin, found by Charles M. Francis; 2018-158) – photos on file.
  - one, basic, 29 May-5 June, Selim, *Thunder Bay* (Catherine A. Smith, Joe Kutcher; 2018-167) – photos on file.
  - one, basic female, 13 July-31 August, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann, found by Melvin VanKoughnett; 2018-169) – photo on file.
  - one, basic, 28 July, Clute, *Cochrane* (Tricia Bird; 2018-155) – photos on file.
  - one, basic, 8 November, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Troy Balec; 2018-168) – photos on file.

Ontario birders have witnessed a remarkable increase in this species. In Ontario, there were only six records prior to the year 2000. An additional 26 records occurred between the year 2000 and 2009, and with this year's total, Ontario now has 40 records since the current decade began. The Committee no longer requests documentation of this species in the Southern or Central Review Zones.

The Rondeau Provincial Park bird is almost certainly a returning male, present at the same site 25 May-4 July 2015 (Burrell and Charlton 2016), 2 May-15 August 2016 (Burrell *et al.* 2017) and 9 April-26 August 2017 (Burrell *et al.* 2018). In 2018, he was joined by a second individual (presumed female) for much of July and August and it was speculated by local birders that they were attempting to nest. However, no confirmed breeding evidence was found.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* **Lowlands only (3)**

**2018** – one, definitive basic, 14 July-11 August, Longridge Point, *Cochrane* (R. Douglas McRae; 2018-060).

**Chuck-will's-widow** *Antrostomus carolinensis* **(38)**

**2018** – one, basic male, 18 May-1 July, South Bay, *Prince Edward* (David I. Pryor, found by Peter B. Hogenbirk; 2018-019) – audio on file.

This marks the sixth consecutive year a singing male has been observed at this location (Holden 2014, Burrell and Charlton 2015 and 2016, Burrell *et al.* 2017 and 2018), strongly suggesting it is the same bird returning each year.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri* **(2)**

**2017** – one, definitive basic male, 30 June, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Vincent Falardeau; 2018-062) – photos on file.

An amazing record — the observer was right to question the excellent photos. Unfortunately, the photos weren't critically examined until many months after the sighting so it is not known how long the bird was in the area.



Figure 4. Black-chinned Hummingbird at Etobicoke, *Toronto* on 30 June 2017. *Photo: Vincent Falardeau*





Figure 5. Costa's Hummingbird at Niagara Falls, *Niagara* on 18 November 2017.

*Photo: Cindy E.J. Cartwright*

**Costa's Hummingbird** *Calypte costae* (1)

2017 – one, first basic male, 3 October-2 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Cindy E.J. Cartwright, found by unknown finder; 2018-068)

– photos on file.

Another amazing hummingbird record and a first for the province. Unfortunately there was no chance for birders to enjoy this rare vagrant. However, diagnostic evidence was obtained.

**Calliope Hummingbird** *Selasphorus calliope* (1)

2018 – one, first basic male, 18 October-29 November, Goderich, *Huron* (Dan J. MacNeal, Frank G. Horvath, Kayo J. Roy, Janice E. Pelan, found by Linda Straughan-Johnston; 2018-014) – photos on file.

A remarkable record; hundreds of Ontario birders were able to enjoy this provincial first over the course of its stay.



Figure 6. Calliope Hummingbird at Goderich, *Huron* on 20 November 2018. *Photo: Frank G. Horvath*



Figure 7. Purple Gallinule at John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area, Essex on 2 September 2018.  
*Photo: Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma*

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus* (22)

2018 – one, definitive basic, 18 August-28 September, John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area, Essex (Jeremy L. Hatt, Barbara N. Charlton, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, found by Brad Oullette; 2018-126) – photos, video on file.

**Black-necked Stilt** *Recurvirostra americana* (22)

2018 – two, basic, 25 May, Blenheim, Chatham-Kent (Stephen R. Charbonneau, P. Allen Woodliffe; 2018-011) – photos on file.

**American Avocet *Himantopus mexicanus* Central and Lowlands  
only after 1999 (77)**

**2018** – one, definitive alternate, 30 May, Mission Island, *Thunder Bay* (Donna S. MacIntyre, David L. MacIntyre; 2018-051) – photo on file.

**Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Central and Lowlands only  
after 2013 (91)**

**2018** – one, definitive alternate, 22 May, Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Peggy M.L. Campbell, also found by Mark A. Campbell; 2018-082) – photos on file.

**Ruff *Calidris pugnax* South after 2013 only (16)**

**2018** – one, 25-27 April, Antrim, *Ottawa* (Robert J. Cermak, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2018-115) – photos on file.

– one, definitive alternate male, 12-15 May, Minesing Wetlands, *Simcoe* (Logan Baldwin, found by Larry Durkee; 2018-109) – photo on file.

– one, definitive alternate male, 15-16 May, Minesing Wetlands, *Simcoe* (Logan Baldwin; 2018-110) – photos on file.

– one, female, 17-18 May, Minesing Wetlands, *Simcoe* (Isabel J. Apkarian, found by unknown finder; 2018-108) – photos on file.

– one, alternate female, 21 May, Embrun, *Prescott and Russell* (Jamie Spence, Michelle A. Martin; 2018-114) – photos, video on file.

– one, first alternate female, 7 June, Lynde Creek, *Durham* (Michael J. Ferguson, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, Barbara N. Charlton, also found by Charmaine M. Anderson; 2018-107) – photos on file.

– one, alternate female, 9-10 June, Port Perry, *Durham* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier; 2018-116) – photos on file.

The distinctive appearance of males in alternate plumage allow for some interesting insights into individual dispersal. For instance, it is clear that two different males were present in *Simcoe* on the same day, but not seen together. The two females seen in early June in *Durham* may have involved a single individual; however, the Committee was unable to confirm this.

After several years with very few reports (which prompted addition to the South Review List), this species has experienced a renaissance with eleven records in the past two years, compared with two during the first three years (2014-2106) that it was on the South Review List. If the trend continues it may be a short-lived stint on the review list!

**Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* South after 2016 only (8)**

**2018** – one, juvenal, 26-27 August, Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Jon P. Ruddy, N. Anthony Kaduck, Jean Iron, also found by William D. Gilmour, Gillian Mastromatteo, Julie Friend, Brian Puttock; 2018-151) – photos on file.



Figure 8. Piping Plover at Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* on 22 May 2018. *Photo: Peggy M.L. Campbell*



Figure 9. Western Sandpiper at Presqu'île Provincial Park, *Northumberland* on 26 August 2018.  
*Photo: N. Anthony Kaduck*

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* **Central and Lowlands only (27)**

**2018** – one, 5 May, Little Pigeon Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Allan G. Harris; 2018-159)  
– photos on file.

- one, 20 May, Hurkett Cove Conservation Area, *Thunder Bay* (William F. Greaves, also found by Glenn C. Stronks, Jeffrey N. Robinson, Lindy Wagenaar; 2018-160).

**Dovekie** *Alle alle* (6)

**2018** – one, basic, 27 December, Whitby, *Durham* (Glenn Coady, Michael J. McEvoy, Phillip J. Holder, found by Carolyn Van Goch; 2018-018)  
– photos, specimen on file.

This bird was found very freshly deceased and was sent to the Royal Ontario Museum to become a specimen. It is one of only a handful of records for the province and the third for Lake Ontario. All five previous records spanned the dates 23 October-30 November, as such this record is exceptional for its lateness.

**Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* (5)

**2017** – one, basic, 20 November, Vaughan, *York* (Amanda C. Guercio, found by unknown finder; 2018-128) – photo on file.

This bird was picked up in a weakened state on a roadside and delivered to Vaughan animal services before being transferred to the Toronto Wildlife Centre, where it was ultimately euthanized. The four previous records occurred in the period 25 November -5 December and may correspond with birds being frozen out of water bodies to the north.

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* **Central and Lowlands only (5)**

**2018** – one, definitive basic or alternate, 21 August, Longridge Point, *Cochrane* (R. Douglas McRae, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, also found by Nathan F. Hood, Ethan C. Gosnell, Jack Riley; 2018-117) – photo on file.

- one, juvenal, 25 August, Longridge Point, *Cochrane* (James A. Kennerley, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, also found by Nicole Richardson, Nathan F. Hood, Ethan C. Gosnell, Jack Riley; 2018-118) – photos on file.

The 21 August record was of a complete, feathered wing attached to a sternum found on the beach. While most of the corpse is missing it clearly belongs to an adult Sabine's Gull. The finders suspected that the bird had died sometime in 2018.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* **South after 2015 only (6)**

**2018** – one, definitive basic, 17 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Blake A. Mann; 2018-063) – photos on file.

**California Gull** *Larus californicus* (67)

**2018** – one, third basic, 9-12 November, Watford, *Lambton* (Brandon R. Holden, Sean M. Jenniskens, Scott A. Connop; 2018-042) – photos on file.



Figure 10. Wing of a Sabine's Gull found at Longridge Point, Cochrane on 21 August 2018.

*Photo: Quinten F.R. Wieggersma*



Figure 11. Slaty-backed Gull at Brantford, *Brant* on 13 December 2018. Photo: Richard D. Poort

**Slaty-backed Gull** *Larus schistisagus* (20)

- 2011** – one, definitive basic, 14 November, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Michael T. Butler, Martha L. Allen; 2018-047) – photos on file.
- 2018** – one, definitive basic, 24 November-4 December, North Bay, *Nipissing* (Renee J. Levesque, Nicole Richardson, also found by Lori Anderson; 2018-143) – photos on file.
- one, definitive basic, 11-15 December, Brantford, *Brant* (Richard D. Poort, Dan J. MacNeal; 2018-144) – photos on file.
- 2018/19** – one, definitive basic, 11 December-5 January, Brantford, *Brant* (James Lees, Dan J. MacNeal; 2018-145) – photos on file.

The occurrence of two adult Slaty-backed Gulls at the same location (Brantford landfill) in eastern North America is exceptional and the first such occurrence in Ontario. It is part of a steady increase in this vagrant species to this region.

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South and Central only (30)**

- 2018** – one, definitive alternate, 3 June, Ottawa (Britannia), *Ottawa* (Jon P. Ruddy, also found by Brian L. Morin, Vincent Fyson, Alice Tremblay; 2018-007).  
– one, definitive alternate, 5-7 June, Oakville, *Halton* (Robert H. Curry, Sarah E. Lamond, found by Dominik Halas; 2018-006) – photos on file.

**Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (19)**

- 2018** – one, basic, 4 May, Darlington Provincial Park, *Durham* (Michael J. Ferguson, also found by Tyler L. Hoar; 2018-099) – photo on file.

**Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* Central and Lowlands only (4)**

- 2018** – one, basic male, 29 May-6 June, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Glenn C. Stronks; 2018-091) – audio on file.

**Great Egret *Ardea alba* Central and Lowlands only (22)**

- 2018** – one, definitive basic, 25-26 April, Red Lake, *Kenora* (Merle Nisly; 2018-084) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive alternate, 25-28 April, Pringle, *Thunder Bay* (Mary-Jane Baumgartz, Christine C. Drake, Kyle Drake, Lindy Wagenaar; 2018-086) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive alternate, 26-28 April, Kenora, *Kenora* (Eric Matheson, Christopher J.S. Martin, found by unknown finder; 2018-085) – photos on file.

**Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Central and Lowlands only after 1997 (34)**

- 2018** – one, definitive alternate, 2 May, Redditt, *Kenora* (Kyle Myschowoda, also found by Christopher J.S. Martin; 2018-127) – photo on file.

**Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (83)**

- 2018** – one, first basic, 9 August-3 September, Harrington, *Oxford* (Norman Holden, J. Brett Fried, Dan J. MacNeal, Isabel J. Apkarian, Kiah R. Jasper, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, Robert H. Curry; 2018-093) – photos on file.  
– one, first basic, 14-18 September, Preston, *Waterloo* (William G. Wilson, Raymond P. Vander Kooy, also found by Brian R. Johnson, Donald J. Thomas; 2018-094) – photos on file.

It is possible, given the non-overlapping dates and geographic proximity, that these two records involved the same individual.

**Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (42)**

- 2018** – one, definitive basic, 31 May, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (Noam Markus, David I. Pryor, found by Ruth Danella; 2018-147) – photos on file.





Figure 12. Reddish Egret at Oliphant, Bruce on 29 August 2018. Photo: Ethan C. Gosnell

### **Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* (1)

**2018** – one, first basic, 5 August-16 September, Oliphant, Bruce (Brian P. Robin, Sarah E. Taylor, Kiah R. Jasper, Glenn Coady, Christopher J. Escott, Dan J. MacNeal, Kayo J. Roy, Bruce M. Di Labio, Todd R. Hagedorn, Jeremy L. Hatt, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, also found by Sarah E. Taylor; 2018-140) – photos on file.

Another extremely exciting first provincial record that was enjoyed by hundreds of birders. It was first reported to the birding community when found 22 August by Kiah R. Jasper and Alfred Raab. However, after word spread, documentation came to light which extended the bird's stay by seventeen days. This species was certainly on the radar of many Ontario birders but was still an exciting addition to the Ontario list of birds.

### **Yellow-crowned Night-heron** *Nycticorax violacea* (58)

**2018** – one, juvenal, 27-29 July, South Baymouth, Manitoulin (Dominik Halas; 2018-162) – photos on file.

- one, juvenal, 27 July-12 August, Hamilton, Hamilton (Barbara N. Charlton, Richard D. Poort, Robert H. Curry, found by Barry S. Cherriere; 2018-165) – photos on file.



Figure 13. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Hamilton, *Hamilton* on 27 July 2018. Photo: Barbara N. Charlton

- one, juvenal, 1-22 August, Cambridge, *Waterloo* (William D. Van Hemessen, Ellen L. Horak, Todd R. Hagedorn, J. Brett Fried, Sarah E. Lamond, Robert H. Curry, Dan J. MacNeal, also found by Courtney Beneteau, Julie Scott, Kyle Vanin, Daniel Knee; 2018-164) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal, 28 August-5 September, Caledonia, *Haldimand* (Ethan C. Gosnell, Quinten F.R. Wieggersma, found by Karen M. Petrie; 2018-161) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal, 17 September-1 October, Ajax, *Durham* (Patricia Cetinkaya, Michael J. Ferguson, Jean Iron; 2018-163) – photos on file.

The five observations in 2018 ties 1985 for the most in a single year, while there have been an unprecedented nine records over the previous two years. The closest comparison in a two-year stretch was six in 1985-86.

### **White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chibi* (23)

**2018** – one, definitive alternate, 1 June, Rowan Mills, *Norfolk* (Ron Ridout, Barbara N. Charlton, found by Adam P. Timpf, Mary E. Gartshore, Peter Carson; 2018-078) – photos on file.



Figure 14. Swallow-tailed Kite at Jack Lake, *Simcoe* on 27 August 2018. Photo: Isabel J. Apkarian

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* (19)

- 2018 – one, basic, 5 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (David Okines, also found by Erin Feddema, Lee Boudreau, Sam Shepperd, Phillip Mercier, Jessica Bao; 2018-049).
- one, definitive basic, 25-29 August, Jack Lake, *Simcoe* (Matt D. Stuart, Dan J. MacNeal, Isabel J. Apkarian, Scott F. Gibson, Quinten F.R. Wieggersma, also found by Steve Buccilli; 2018-146) – photos on file.

Always a thrill to see, these are the first records since 2013. The *Simcoe* bird is just the fifth fall record and provided an incredible “one-two punch” for birders chasing the Reddish Egret.

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* (64)

- 2018 – one, basic, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Scott Gibson; 2018-095).
- one, basic, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Amanda C. Guercio; 2018-122).

Figure 15. Barn Owl at Dean Lake,  
*Algoma* on 11 November 2017.

Photo: Jim Trottier

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (13)

2017 – one, basic, 11 November, Dean Lake, *Algoma* (Jim Trottier, Carter Dorscht, found by unknown finder; 2018-054) – photo on file.

**Lewis's Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes lewis* (11)

2011 – one, basic, 12-13 May, Cape Croker, *Bruce* (Anthony (Miptoon) Chegahno, found by unknown finder; 2018-092) – photos on file.

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* (27)

1992 – one, basic, 16 May, Pointe des Chênes, *Algoma* (David I. Pryor, also found by Russell C. Pryor; 2018-046).

2018 – one, basic, 30 April-4 May, Rosspoint, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott, Allan F. Gilbert,

Joseph P. Campbell; 2018-120) – photos on file.

– one, basic, 26 September, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Keith J. Burk; 2018-119) – photo on file.

– one, basic, 27 September-1 October, Algonquin Provincial Park (old airfield), *Nipissing* (Ashley P. Baines, Michelle A. Martin, also found by Nichole Baines; 2018-142) – photos on file.

The *Nipissing* bird was first found and identified by Lev A. Frid on 29 September, however, after the sighting was reported, Ashley P. Baines realized she had actually photographed it on 27 September. Amazingly, this is not even a new species for this location as one spent 22-24 September 2010 here (Roy 2001).

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (8)

2018 – one, definitive basic male, 27 April, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Samreen Munim, Tobias Lilja Nordin, also found by Kyle Cameron, Emily Emprage; 2018-129) – photos on file.

This is just the second spring record of this species for the province.





Figure 16. Great Kiskadee at Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* on 18 October 2018.

*Photo: P. Allen Woodliffe*

### **Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (1)**

**2018** – one, basic, 7 September-9 December, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Stephen R. Charbonneau, Blake A. Mann, Janice E. Pelan, Quinten F.R. Wiegiersma, Norman K. Holden, P. Allen Woodliffe, Bruce M. Di Labio, Trisha Snider, Dan J. MacNeal, Kayo J. Roy, found by Laura R. Dragon; 2018-111) – photos, audio on file.

The bird of the year! You cannot ask for much more from a vagrant; this bird put on a great show over an extended period of time such that virtually everyone who tried eventually got to enjoy it. The Great Kiskadee was not only a first for Ontario, but a new species for Canada.

Figure 17. Western Kingbird (yes, standing on ice!)  
at Turkey Point, *Norfolk* on 15 December 2018.

Photo: Barbara N. Charlton



**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans* (5)

- 2018** – one, basic female, 1 June, Renwick,  
*Chatham-Kent* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell,  
Brandon R. Holden; 2018-066)  
– photos on file.

Luckily Brandon R. Holden was ready with his camera to capture distinctive images of this bird as it flew past the observers as they watched for diurnal migrants.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*  
**Central before 1998, South before  
1998 and after 2016 (85)**

- 2018** – one, basic, 11-13 May, St. Mary's  
Island, *Algoma* (W. Carter Dorscht,  
found by Elijah J. Rodgers; 2018-137)  
– photos on file.
- one, basic, 22-23 September, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area,  
*Prince Edward* (Kevin Seymour, Kyle Blaney, Mark J. Patry, Peter R. Fuller,  
Matthew C. Tobey, David J. Milsom, found by Peter B. Hogenbirk; 2018-136)  
– photos on file.
  - one, first basic, 26-27 September, Clear Creek, *Norfolk* (Stuart A. Mackenzie,  
Ron Ridout, Adam P. Timpf; 2018-135) – photos on file.
  - one, basic, 3 November, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Emma R. Buck, found by  
Peter C. Denyer; 2018-072).
  - one, first basic, 15 December, Turkey Point, *Norfolk* (Barbara N. Charlton,  
also found by J. Brett Fried, Nicole Richardson, Erika K. Hentsch, Janice J.  
Chard; 2018-138) – photos on file.

The December record becomes the first winter record for Ontario.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* (80)

- 2018** – one, basic, 27 June, Lake A, *Thunder Bay* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell,  
Mike V.A. Burrell, also found by Nathan G. Miller; 2018-125)  
– photos on file.
- one, basic, 16-19 July, Rosspoint, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith,  
also found by N. Joan Smith; 2018-124) – photos on file.
  - one, basic, 20 October, Barry's Bay, *Renfrew* (Giovanni P. Campanelli,  
also found by Ann G. Campanelli; 2018-123) – photos on file.



Figure 18. Loggerhead Shrike at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* on 3 May 2018. Photo: Brian D. Ratcliff

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* **Central and Lowlands only (14)**

**2018** – one, basic, 1-3 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James R.D. Barber, Brian D. Ratcliff, William F. Greaves, found by Zachary Oleksak; 2018-096) – photos on file.

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii* **(21)**

- 2018** – one, first basic, 10 May, Lighthouse Point Provincial Park, *Essex* (Nathan G. Miller; 2018-055) – photos on file.
- one, basic male, 10 May, Port Weller, *Niagara* (Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Judy A. Robins; 2018-056) – photos on file.
  - one, basic male, 11 June, Kenora, *Kenora* (Christopher J.S. Martin; 2018-081) – audio on file.

The *Kenora* record is the first summer record since the OBRC was established and also the most northerly. It was documented with an excellent audio recording of a singing individual.

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia* **South only (7)**

**2018** – one, basic, 16-23 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Jean Iron, Isabel J. Apkarian, Kyle J. Horner, Garth V. Riley, found by unknown finder; 2018-010) – photos on file.

The Committee has always struggled with how to deal with reports of this species in southern Ontario. There is no doubt on the identification but the possibility of captive origin always exists. However, the Committee felt the timing favoured a wild bird and no evidence suggested otherwise. In fact, this is now the fourth spring record from Point Pelee considered by the Committee.

**Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus* **Central and Lowlands only after 2015 (43)**

**2018** – four (two basic, two juvenal), 20 April-15 September, Mississauga, *Peel* (Luc S. Fazio, Gordon Watts; 2018-041) – photos on file.

This record, described more fully in this issue of *Ontario Birds* (Fazio 2019), documents the first confirmed nesting of the species for the province. This completes the amazing story of Fish Crow in southern Ontario, at least the part that will be told in annual OBRC reports. In a decade, this species has gone from a vagrant averaging one or two records per year to a regular and now breeding component of Ontario avifauna.

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva* **South pre 2010 and post 2015 only (72)**

**2017** – one, basic, 28 October, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Tim R. Arthur, also found by Jeremy M. Bensette; 2018-067).

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus* **Central and Lowlands only (9)**

**2017** – one, basic, 13 October-24 November, Englehart, *Timiskaming* (Serge M. Gendron, found by Mark W. Milton; 2018-016) – photos on file.

**2018** – one, basic male, 27 August-7 October, South Porcupine, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Fillion, Pierre A. Noel; 2018-015) – photos on file.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* **Central and Lowlands only (21)**

**2018** – one, first alternate female, 2 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James R.D. Barber; 2018-013) – photos on file.

**Northern Wheatear** *Polioptila caerulea* **(38)**

**2018** – one, first basic, 13 October, Mountjoy, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Fillion, also found by Melanie M. Palik, Gary T. Dowe; 2018-100) – photos on file.

This record fits perfectly into the pattern that has emerged for this species in the province; 29 of the 38 records occur in the period from 1 September to 19 October.

**Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides* **(47)**

**2018** – one, basic, 18 February, Campbell Maxwell Front, *Frontenac* (Jennifer Greer; 2018-098) – photo on file.

– one, basic female, 23 April, Dorion, *Thunder Bay* (Norma J. Maurice, Glenn C. Stronks, William F. Greaves, also found by Nicholas G. Escott; 2018-097) – photos on file.





Figure 19. Northern Wheatear at Mountjoy, *Cochrane* on 13 October 2018. *Photo: Roxane D. Filion*



Figure 20. Bullock's Oriole at Red Lake, *Kenora* on 20 May 2018. *Photo: Merle Nisly*

**Sprague's Pipit** *Anthus spragueii* (5)

1980 – two, basic male, “early” July–“late” July, Rainy River, *Rainy River*  
(Robert H. Curry, found by John Lamey; 2018-050).

**Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum* **Central and Lowlands only** (8)

2017 – one, definitive basic, 26 May, Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, *Thunder Bay*  
(Rinchen N. Boardman, also found by Eliza Montgomery, Marc Joubert,  
Jasmin Dawson, Bryan Mayhew, Emmelie Paquette; 2018-083)  
– photo on file.

**Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys* (35)

2018 – one, alternate male, 17 May, Halfmoon Point, *Prince Edward* (Tina Sawicki;  
2018-089) – photos on file.

**Henslow's Sparrow** *Centronyx henslowii* (48)

2017 – one, basic, 29 October, Union, *Elgin* (George Prieksaitis, also found by  
Robert Ward; 2018-043).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* **Lowlands only** (6)

2018 – one, definitive basic male, 28 April, Moosonee, *Cochrane*  
(Donald T. Cheechoo, Christina J. Nielsen; 2018-003) – photo, video on file.  
– one, basic female, 17-25 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane*  
(Nancy McCauley-Littlejohn; 2018-004) – photo, video on file.  
– one, definitive basic male, 24-25 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane*  
(Nancy McCauley-Littlejohn; 2018-005) – video on file.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* **Central and Lowlands only** (16)

2017 – one, definitive basic male, 21 May, Thunder Cape Bird Observatory,  
*Thunder Bay* (Rinchen N. Boardman, also found by J. Dawson, B. Mayhew,  
E. Montgomery, E. Paquette, M. Joubert; 2018-102) – photo on file.  
– one, definitive basic male, 28 May, Thunder Cape Bird Observatory,  
*Thunder Bay* (Rinchen N. Boardman, also found by J. Dawson, B. Mayhew,  
E. Montgomery, E. Paquette, M. Joubert; 2018-103) – photo on file.  
2018 – one, definitive basic male, 7-13 May, Sistonens Corners, *Thunder Bay*  
(Jeff N. Robinson, found by Kristen M. Melo; 2018-101) – photos on file.

**Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii* (8)

2018 – one, first basic female, 20-21 May, Red Lake, *Kenora* (Merle Nisly,  
Rita Nisly; 2018-065) – photos on file.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* **Lowlands only** (1)

2018 – one, definitive alternate male, 28 May, Moosonee, *Cochrane*  
(William M. Solomon; 2018-053) – photos on file.

**Virginia's Warbler** *Oreothlypis virginiae* (6)

**2018** – one, second basic female, 1 June, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Kyle Cameron, Isabel J. Apkarian, also found by Emily Emprage, William Von Herff, Dan Akin, Reta Meng; 2018-130) – photos on file.

This is just the third record since 2000 and only the sixth record overall for Ontario.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens* (23)

**2018** – one, first basic male, 3-13 November, Burlington, *Halton* (Richard D. Poort, Dominik Halas, Dan J. MacNeal, Quinten F.R. Wieggersma, found by Brete Griffin, Heather Blakelock; 2018-009) – photos on file.

**Hermit Warbler** *Setophaga occidentalis* (8)

**2018** – one, first basic, 14 November, Huntsville, *Muskoka* (Brenda J. Laking; 2018-088) – photos on file.

This represents the first record since one on 13 May 2003 (Crins 2004) and only the second fall record, the first of which was on 10 September 1978 (Wormington and Curry 1990).

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* **Central and Lowlands only** (28)

**2018** – one, first basic male, 9-12 May, Hallebourg, *Cochrane* (Marc Johnson; 2018-131) – photo on file.

– one, basic female, 13 May, Rosspport, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith, also found by N. Joan Smith; 2018-133) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic male, 11-15 September, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Troy Balec, William F. Greaves; 2018-132) – photo on file.



Figure 21. Virginia's Warbler at Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* on 1 June 2018. *Photo: Isabel J. Apkarian*



Figure 22. Lazuli Bunting at Rossport, *Thunder Bay* on 27 May 2018. *Photo: H. Gordon Smith*

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* (51)

- 2018 – one, first alternate male, 4-7 May, Port Hope, *Northumberland* (Richard W.F. Pope, Margaret J.C. Bain, David I. Pryor, John B. Schmelefske, Michael J. Ferguson, Charmaine M. Anderson, found by Bill Cassells; 2018-153) – photos on file.
- one, alternate male, 22-23 May, Jelly, *Thunder Bay* (Kelley Sutton; 2018-154) – photos on file.
  - one, definitive alternate male, 27 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Isabel J. Apkarian, also found by William Von Herff, Mark A. Conboy, Dan Akin, Anita Morales, Samreen Munim; 2018-152) – photo on file.
  - one, first basic, 28 October-2 November, Rattray Marsh, *Peel* (Reuven D. Martin, Dominik Halas, Iain D.M. Fleming, Mourad Jabra, also found by Samreen Munim; 2018-077) – photos on file.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (6)

- 2018 – one, first basic male, 19 June, Ailsa Craig, *Middlesex* (Peter A. Read, found by Ed Preszcator, Judy Preszcator; 2018-052) – photo on file.

Only the sixth record for the province, this is also the first record for the month of June.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* (109)

- 2018 – one, definitive basic male, 30 April-2 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff, Glenn C. Stronks, James R.D. Barber, found by Betsy J. Henderson; 2018-012) – photos on file.
- one, definitive basic male, 10-12 May, Wanup, *Sudbury* (Daniela Stuewer; 2018-141) – photo on file.



Figure 23. Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Schreiber, *Thunder Bay* on 22 May 2018. Photo: Candace R. Campbell

- one, definitive basic female, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Henrique J. Pacheco, also found by Deborah J. A. Pacheco, James D.J. Carrey; 2018-020) – photos on file.
- one, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Brandon R. Holden; 2018-134) – photos on file.

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* (12)

**2018** – one, first alternate male, 27-28 May, Rosspport, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith, also found by N. Joan Smith; 2018-090) – photos on file.  
 The Smiths of Rosspport can easily lay claim to owning the Lazuli Bunting capital of Ontario; they had another bird there 29-30 May 2014 (Burrell and Charlton 2015)!

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* (47)

**2018** – one, definitive basic male, 1-5 May, Tobermory, *Bruce* (Michael T. Butler, Kiah R. Jasper, found by Amanda Andino; 2018-106) – photos on file.

- one, definitive basic male, 9-11 May, Porcupine, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Filion, found by Andrew H. Warren; 2018-105) – photo on file.
- one, basic female, 2 June, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (Eva G. Visscher; 2018-104) – photos on file.

**Dickcissel** *Spiza americana* **Central and Lowlands only** (34)

**2018** – one, definitive alternate male, 21-29 June, Rainy River, *Rainy River* (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Michael S. Dawber, also found by Nathan G. Miller; 2018-069) – photos on file.

## Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (19)

- 2018** – one, definitive basic, 9-12 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Nathan F. Hood, Ethan C. Gosnell, Sarah E. Lamond, Jacques M. Bouvier, also found by Isabel J. Apkarian; 2018-037) – photos on file.
- one, definitive basic, 10 May, Ignace, *Kenora* (David J. Penney, also found by Catherine A. Penney; 2018-035) – photos on file.
  - one, definitive basic, 14-15 May, Presqu'île Point, *Northumberland* (Margaret J.C. Bain, Daniel Murphy, found by Frederick M. Helleiner; 2018-038) – photos on file.
  - one, definitive basic, 22 May, Schreiber, *Thunder Bay* (Candace R. Campbell; 2018-040) – photos on file.
  - one, definitive basic, 23-28 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (William von Herff, Kyle Cameron; 2018-036) – photo on file.
  - one, definitive basic, 10 September, Rosspoint, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith, also found by N. Joan Smith; 2018-039) – photo on file.

The species has shown a remarkable increase in the province during the last several years with 15 of the 19 records coming since 2014.

With Say's Phoebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Lazuli Bunting and Eurasian Tree Sparrow, it seems hard to imagine that anyone had a better list of rarities in their small town than the Smiths of Rosspoint in 2018!

## Not Accepted Records: Insufficient Evidence

The documentation received for the following reports was generally found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally or simply lacking enough detail to properly describe the individual. In many cases, OBRC members felt that the species being described was likely correctly identified by the observer but the report received for voting was simply too limited for acceptance, based on the established purposes of the OBRC. These circumstances sometimes arise from unavoidable situations such as poor viewing conditions or brevity of observation.

- 1992** – Eurasian Wigeon, one, 7-31 May, Wawa, *Algoma* (2018-032).
- 2004** – Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*), one, 15-18 December, Owen Sound, *Grey* (2018-071) – sketch on file.
- 2010** – Western Tanager, one, male, 15 August, Consecon, *Prince Edward* (2018-075).
- 2012** – Barnacle Goose, one, basic, 19 April, Scugog Point, *Durham* (2018-008).
- 2017** – “Eastern” Willet (*Tringa semipalmata semipalmata*), one, alternate, 13 May, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (2018-139) – photos on file.

There was a compelling argument put forward for this bird, but the Committee felt that without audio recordings or genetic data to support it, confidently identifying an out of range subspecies was not possible.

- Arctic Tern, one, definitive alternate, 17 May, Cooper Marsh Conservation Area, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (2018-061) – photos on file.

- 2018** – Chuck-will's-widow, one, basic male, 4 May, Oakville, *Halton* (2018-001)– photos on file.
- Western Sandpiper, one, 20 May, Mitchell, *Perth* (2018-073).
  - Western Sandpiper, one, juvenal, 24 October, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (2018-074) – photos on file.
  - Barn Owl, one, 15 May, Kingston, *Frontenac* (2018-121).
  - Say's Phoebe, one, basic, 28 May, Grand Bend, *Lambton* (2018-045) – photos on file.
  - Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), one, basic, 6 August, Batteaux, *Simcoe* (2018-057).
  - Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknellii*), one, basic, 1 May, Puce, *Essex* (2018-058) – photos on file.
  - Hermit Warbler, one, 18 October, Long Point Provincial Park, *Norfolk* (2018-044) – photos on file.
- This bird was as well-documented as could have been asked for, given the circumstances (photographed as it flew over). The Committee did not feel that a hybrid Townsend's x Hermit Warbler could be eliminated.
- Western Tanager, one, 14 May, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (2018-076).
  - Blue Grosbeak, one, male, 14 May, Riverside, *Middlesex* (2018-064).

### Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

#### 2017 report (*Ontario Birds* 36:58-88)

**Under Tufted Duck** add Kiah R. Jasper to the list of contributors.

**Under Willow Ptarmigan** add Henry T. Nguyen to the list of contributors.

**Under Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (Clarke, *Durham*) change “4-8 June” to “3-9 June”.

**Under Western Tanager** (Sudbury, *Greater Sudbury*) change “23 April” to “23-24 April”.

**Under Blue Grosbeak**, change “Robert K. Yukich” to “Robert J. Yukich”.

**Under Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (Wawa, *Algoma*) change “16 October-6 April” to “16 October-21 April” and change “173 days” to “188 days”.

#### 2015 report (*Ontario Birds* 34: 50-81)

**Under Black-billed Magpie** change “fall 2013-29 March 2018 (at least)” to “fall 2013-23 March 2019 (at least)”.

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*Mike V.A. Burrell*

88 Douro Eighth Line  
Douro-Dummer, Ontario K9J 6Y1  
E-mail: [mike.burrell.on@gmail.com](mailto:mike.burrell.on@gmail.com)

*Barbara N. Charlton*  
1156 5th Concession Road West  
RR 2 Waterdown, Ontario L8B 1L8

*Kenneth G.D. Burrell*  
190 Strange Street  
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1R6

*Joshua D. Vandermeulen*  
4890 St. Clair Avenue  
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 3T6

*Amanda C. Guercio*  
193 Glenholme Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M6E 3C5

*Blake A. Mann*  
171 Margaret Avenue  
Wallaceburg, Ontario N8A 2A3

*Donald A. Sutherland*  
1237 Weller Street  
Peterborough, Ontario K9K 1H6

*Paul D. Pratt*  
21298 Harbour Road  
RR 1 Wheatley, Ontario N0P 2P0

*William G. Lamond*  
238 George Street  
Brantford, Ontario N3R 1W7