Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2019

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Introduction

This is the 38th annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (hereinafter '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). Any new species, subspecies or first breeding records for Ontario are also reviewed. This report deals with the review of 148 records by the OBRC in 2019, of which 132 (89%) were accepted. All reports reviewed by the 2019 Committee will be added to the permanent file kept at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

The members of the 2019 Committee were Amanda C. Guercio (chair), Daniel J. Riley (non-voting secretary), Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Mike V.A. Burrell (non-voting archivist), Barbara N. Charlton (voting member and assistant to the secretary), William G. Lamond, Blake A. Mann, Reuven D. Martin and Donald A. Sutherland. Mark K. Peck acted as the ROM liaison for the OBRC.

Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds

No new species were added to the Ontario list, ending a four-year streak during which an incredible 12 new species were added to the provincial list. The Ontario checklist remains at 501 species.

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.

Ferruginous Hawk (Buteo regalis) is added to the Lowlands Review List following acceptance of this first record for the region, bringing the total number of species recorded in this review zone to 331.

Beginning in 2020, reports of Willet (Tringa semipalmata) in the Central Review Zone are no longer requested. Reports prior to 2020 are still requested for review. Purple Gallinule(Porphyrio martinicus) and Prairie Falcon (Falco mexicanus) are added to the Central Review List following acceptance of these first records for the region, bringing the total number of species recorded in this review zone to 385.

The Committee voted to remove Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) from the South Review Zone retroactively to 2015. Reports after 1990 and prior to 2015 are still requested for review.

No changes were made to the subspecies review list.

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 2019 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), their 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 Checklist 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 60th supplement (Chesser et al. 2019) 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 digitally archived with hard copies archived at the Royal Ontario Museum. Researchers and other interested parties are welcome to examine this material by contacting the OBRC Secretary at obresecretary@gmail.com.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the 157 observers who took the time to submit documentation of rare birds for consideration by the 2019 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: David M. Bell, Peter S. Burke, Robert J. Cermak, Glenn Coady, W. Carter Dorscht, David H. Elder, Christian A. Friis, Jean Iron, Alvaro P. Jaramillo, Stuart A. Mackenzie, Ronald J. Pittaway, Mark D. Read, Paul Schoening, J. Michael Tate, Nadine Vouriot and Ivor Williams.



Figure 1. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Wheatley, Essex on 21 June 2019. Photo: Joshua R. Bouman

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna autumnalis (11)

- 2019 two, definitive basic, 20 April, Port Crewe, Chatham-Kent (Barbara N. Charlton, Lucas J. Foerster, Jeremy L. Hatt, also found by Erika K. Hentsch, Nicole M. Richardson; 2019-022) - photos on file.
 - two, definitive basic, 13 June, Sykeston, Lambton (Robin Cunningham, Matt C. Parsons; 2019-006) - photos on file.
 - nine, definitive basic, 18 June-27 September, Wheatley, Elmdale, Kingsville and Leamington, Essex (Charmaine M. Anderson, Asher N. Warkentin, J. Burke Korol, Jeremy L. Hatt, Joshua R. Bouman, found by Dean J. Ware; 2019-021) - photos on file.
 - two, definitive basic, 31 August-2 September, Ingleside, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Daniel A. Birkenbergs; 2019-005) - sketch on file.

These four records were part of a remarkable northern movement of this species in eastern North America, which saw reports in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Quebec and Nova Scotia (eBird 2020). The last such event occurred in 2010 when three records, comprising 24 individuals, were documented in Ontario (Wormington and Cranford 2011). The Blackbellied Whistling-Ducks observed at multiple locations in Essex are the longest-staying individuals of this species in Ontario with at least one remaining for 102 days.



Figure 2. Cinnamon Teal at Sombra, Lambton on 22 April 2019. Photo: Joanne Redwood

Pink-footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus (4)

2019 – one, definitive basic, 10-11 April, Navan, Ottawa (Michelle A. Martin, J. Michael Tate, Jeffrey H. Skevington, Bruce M. Di Labio, found by Vincent Fyson; 2019-107) - photos on file.

This bird represents the fourth record for Ontario since this species was first documented in 2015 (Burrell and Charlton 2016).

Tundra Swan (Bewick's) Cygnus columbianus bewickii (6)

2019 - one, definitive basic, 15-16 March, Aylmer, Elgin (Mourad Jabra, Barbara N. Charlton; 2019-145) - photos on file.

Cinnamon Teal Spatula cyanoptera (19)

- **2019** one, definitive alternate male, 21-22 April, Sombra, *Lambton* (Blake A. Mann, Joanne Redwood, Jeremy L. Hatt, found by Joshua R. Bouman; 2019-012) - photos on file.
 - two, definitive alternate male and female, 20 May, Bronte, Halton (Robert H. Curry, found by Mark W. Jennings; 2019-085) – photos on file.

These records represent just the third and fourth sightings of this species in Ontario since 2012. The two Cinnamon Teal observed at Bronte are a first for Halton and mark the fourth time a male and female pair have been documented in Ontario.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* Central and Lowlands only after 1993 (77)

2019 – one, definitive alternate male, 13-16 June, Moonbeam, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Filion, also found by André F. Filion; 2019-019) – photos on file.

Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula (32)

2019 – one, basic female, 14-16 November, Shirleys Bay, Ottawa (J. Michael Tate, Jeffrey H. Skevington, found by Jon P. Ruddy; 2019-112) – photos on file.

Harlequin Duck Histrionicus histrionicus Central and Lowlands only (35)

- **2018** three, basic, 21 September, Wawa, *Algoma* (Mark W. Jennings; 2019-025) – photos on file.
- 2019 one, formative female, 30 August, Moosonee, Cochrane (Keith R. Gregoire; 2019-093) – photo on file.

Western Grebe Aechmophorus occidentalis (56)

- **2019** two, alternate, 3-8 April, Port Credit, *Peel* (Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, found by Marvin C. Medelko, Luc S. Fazio; 2019-050) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 22 April, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Keith J. Burk, Cherise Charron; 2019-049) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 27-29 May, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Patrick Berens, Kris Ito, found by Wayne E. Renaud; 2019-142) - 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. This represents the first year that two individuals were observed at the same location in Peel.

Western/Clark's Grebe Aechmophorus occidentalis/clarkii (10)

2019 – one, basic, 29 January, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (Donald S. Graham; 2019-129) - photos on file.

Common Ground Dove Columbina passerina (5)

2019 - one, basic, 24 October, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Donald S. Graham, Andrew E. Keaveney, Christopher J. Escott; 2019-013).

Just the fifth observation of this species in Ontario, this record also represents the second record of Common Ground Dove in the South Review Zone. A one-day wonder, this individual was observed by a handful of intrepid birders who made the evening hike out to Cell 2 at Tommy Thompson Park.

Lesser Nighthawk Chordeiles acutipennis (2)

2019 – one, formative, 8 May, Long Point (Townsite), *Norfolk* (Andrew R. Couturier; 2019-139) - photos and specimen on file.

The second record of this species in Ontario, this bird was found dead along Highway 59 in Norfolk, likely a result of a collision with a vehicle. The specimen was collected by the finder and has been deposited at the Royal Ontario Museum, a study skin and spread wing have been prepared.

Chuck-will's-widow Antrostomus carolinensis (41)

- 2019 one, definitive basic, 10-16 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Mike V.A. Burrell, Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, J. Burke Korol, Bruce M. Di Labio, also found by Kenneth G.D. Burrell; 2019-011) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic male, 16 May-17 June, South Bay, Prince Edward (Tom M. Wheatley; 2019-084).
 - one, basic male, 16 May, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, Prince Edward (Michael D. Cadman; 2019-134).

This marks the seventh consecutive year a singing male has been observed at the South Bay location (Holden 2014, Burrell and Charlton 2015 and 2016, Burrell et al. 2017, 2018 and 2019), strongly suggesting that the same individual is returning each year. Interestingly, a Chuck-will's-widow was observed nearby at the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area on 16 May suggesting the occurrence of two individuals in *Prince Edward* in 2019.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* (23)

2019 – one, first basic, 21 November, Neskantaga, *Kenora* (Laurel Gordon, Jenn Salo, unknown finder; 2019-136) – photos on file.

This bird represents the first record of the species for the Central Review Zone. The Purple Gallinule in question was found in distress by a member of the Neskantaga First Nation and was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator. Despite the efforts of the staff at the rehabilitation clinic the bird unfortunately died as a result of its weakened condition.

American Coot Fulica americana Lowlands only (2)

2019 – sixteen, juvenile (14) and definitive basic male (1) and female (1), 15 July-31 August, Longridge Point, Cochrane (Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, Alysha Riquier, found by Ross W. Wood and Gray A.E. Carlin; 2019-001) photos on file.

Black-necked Stilt Recurvirostra americana (23)

2019 – two, definitive basic male and female, 16 May, Rondeau (Townsite), Chatham-Kent (Blake A. Mann, Dana M. Latour, Todd R. Hagedorn, George W. Prieksaitis, Kiah R. Jasper, J. Burke Korol, unknown finder; 2019-009) – photos on file.

Common Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula (2)

2019 - one, definitive alternate male, 13 August, Algonquin Provincial Park (Radiant Lake), Nipissing (Lev A. Frid, Sarah E. Lamond, also found by Dawn Sherman, Hayden J. Bildy, Basil Conlin, Anna Winge-Breen, Lilly McDaniel; 2019-014) - photos on file.

An incredible second record for Ontario, this sighting comes just three years after the first provincial record was documented at Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto in 2016 (Burrell et al. 2017, Prior 2018). The location of the sighting is remarkable as it is the interior of Algonquin Provincial Park which is by no means considered a shorebird or vagrant hotspot. This exceptional record goes to show that rare birds are where you find them!



Figure 3. Common Ringed Plover at Algonquin Park (Radiant Lake), Nipissing on 13 August 2019. Photo: Lev A. Frid

Ruff Calidris pugnax South after 2013 only (18)

- **2019** one, alternate male, 23-24 April, Monticello, *Dufferin* (Dan J. MacNeal; 2019-038) - photos on file.
 - one, juvenile, 15-17 September, Willow Bay, Niagara (Kayo J. Roy, found by Jean M. Farnan, Blayne M. Farnan; 2019-039) - photos on file.

After several years with very few reports of Ruff in Ontario (prompting its addition to the South Review List), this species has experienced an impressive resurgence with thirteen records in the past three years, compared with two during the first three years (2014-2016) that it was on the South Review List.

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea (33)

2019 - one, juvenile, 15-17 September, Belwood, Wellington (Michael D. Cadman, Charmaine M. Anderson, Dan J. MacNeal, Christopher J. Escott, Barbara N. Charlton, J. Burke Korol, also found by Miriam Oudejans, Warren Steckle; 2019-023) – photos on file.

Western Sandpiper Calidris mauri South after 2016 only (14)

- 2019 one, definitive alternate, 2 June, Dutton Marsh, Elgin (George W. Prieksaitis; 2019-115) – photos on file.
 - one, juvenile, 28 August-4 September, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland (Paul Mackenzie, Brian L. Morin, found by Jim Thompson; 2019-058) – photos on file.
 - one, juvenile, 28 August-3 September, Toronto (Sunnyside Beach), Toronto (Patrick S. Scanlon, Barbara N. Charlton; 2019-061) – photos on file.
 - one, juvenile, 30 August-3 September, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Iain D.M. Fleming, Ezra J. Campanelli, Paul N. Prior, found by Noam Markus; 2019-133) - photos on file.
 - one, juvenile, 2 September, Mitchell, *Perth* (Darren J. Dewitt; 2019-057) photos on file.
 - one, juvenile, 3-4 September, Hamilton (Tollgate Pond), Hamilton (Richard D. Poort, found by Robert Z. Dobos; 2019-060) – photos on file.

Western Sandpiper was placed on the South Review List beginning in 2017; in the subsequent three years there have been 11 records in the review zone. The impressive six records in 2019 mark the highest tally in any year on OBRC record. The majority of 2019 sightings fit the usual pattern of fall vagrancy exhibited by Western Sandpipers in Ontario. It will be interesting to see if this species continues to be observed with regularity in the next few years.

Willet Tringa semipalmata Central before 2020 and Lowlands only (28)

2019 – one, alternate, 23 May, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay* (Glenn C. Stronks; 2019-067) - photos on file.

Ivory Gull Pagophila eburnea (33)

2019 - one, first basic, 11 November, Bracebridge, Muskoka (David L. Goodyear, Dale Wenger, Michael J. Hatton; 2019-027) - photos on file.

Ivory Gull is always a crowd-pleasing vagrant, not just in Ontario, but anywhere outside its Arctic range. The 2019 sighting marks the seventh record since 2002 (Holden and Weseloh 2017); it is also notably the first record for Muskoka.

Black-headed Gull Chroicocephalus ridibundus South after 2015 only (7)

2019/20 – one, definitive basic, 30 November-20 February, Niagara Falls (Whirlpool Gorge, Niagara (Amanda C. Guercio, Jean Iron, Barbara N. Charlton, Kiah R. Jasper, Ryan Griffiths; 2019-131) – photos on file.

This individual marks the seventh observation of Black-headed Gull since its addition to the OBRC South Review List (Burrell and Charlton 2016).



Figure 4. Curlew Sandpiper at Belwood, Wellington on 16 September 2019. Photo: Barbara N. Charlton



Figure 5. Ivory Gull at Bracebridge, Muskoka on 11 November 2019. Photo: Michael J. Hatton

Little Gull Hydrocoloeus minutus Central only (4)

2019 – two, definitive alternate, 20-22 May, New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (Michael J. Werner; 2019-102) - photos on file.

Laughing Gull Leucophaeus atricilla Central and Lowlands only (86)

2019 - one, definitive basic, 18-24 October, Porcupine Lake, Cochrane (Roxane D. Filion, found by Darlene Racicot; 2019-020) – photos on file.

Mew Gull Larus canus (30)

2019 - one, definitive basic, L. c. brachyrhynchus, 14 March, Essex, Essex (Jeremy L. Hatt; 2019-031) – photos on file.

California Gull Larus californicus (68)

2019 - one, second basic, 23 October, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland (Andrea Kingsley, Evelyn Marie Wannamaker; 2019-080) - photos on file.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus Central pre-2017 only and Lowlands (23)

- **2019** one, definitive alternate, 27 May, Moose Factory, *Cochrane* (Keith R. Gregoire; 2019-098) - photo on file.
 - one, juvenile, 2 September, Paskwachi Point, Cochrane (R. Douglas McRae, Katelyn Luff; 2019-099) - photos on file.

Slaty-backed Gull Larus schistisagus (24)

- 2019 one, definitive basic, 15-18 January, Barretville, Essex (Jeremy L. Hatt; 2019-043) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 19 November-10 December, Brantford, Brant (Charmaine M. Anderson, Garth V. Riley, Jean Iron, Sarah E. Lamond, Christopher J. Escott, found by Jerry Horak, William G. Lamond; 2019-126) photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 8-14 December, Thorold, Niagara (Ryan Griffiths; 2019-045) – photos on file.
 - two, definitive basic and second basic, 13-19 December, White Oak, Middlesex (Brandon R. Holden, Quinten F.R. Wiegersma; 2019-044) - photos and video on file.

The steady increase of this Asian vagrant to the Great Lakes region continued in 2019 with a record four occurrences, comprising five individuals. The observation of two Slaty-backed Gulls at the same location in *Middlesex* is notable and marks the second record of two individuals together in Ontario.

It has been speculated that the increased occurrence of Slaty-backed Gulls in eastern North America, as well as Europe, may be correlated to climate change resulting in a reduction of Arctic sea ice during the summer months; this potentially opens routes that connect the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans for longer stretches each year (Mitchell 2017).



Figure 6. Black-headed Gull at Niagara Falls (Whirlpool Gorge), Niagara on 30 November 2019. Photo: Ryan Griffiths



Figure 7. Slaty-backed Gull (wings raised) at Brantford, Brant on 5 December 2019. Photo: Garth V. Riley



Figure 8. Least Tern at Port Franks, Lambton on 25 October 2019. Photo Garry T. Sadler



Figure 9. Arctic Tern at Miller Creek Mouth, Niagara on 27 October 2019. Photo: Ryan Griffiths

Least Tern Sternula antillarum (7)

2019 – one, first basic, 25-27 October, Port Franks, *Lambton* and Grand Bend, Huron (James M. Holdsworth, Deryl D. Nethercott, Luc S. Fazio, Garry T. Sadler; 2019-097) - photos on file.

The seventh record for the province, this Least Tern stayed for three days providing many Ontario birders the opportunity to see it. This bird represents the first record for Lake Huron (eBird 2020).

Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea South 1991-2014 and Central only (35)

- 2011 four, definitive alternate, 26-27 May, Algonquin Provincial Park (Lake Traverse), Nipissing (Jeffrey H. Skevington; 2019-118).
- 2019 one, definitive alternate, 16 May, Long Point Provincial Park, Norfolk (Ron Ridout; 2019-069).
 - one, definitive alternate, 23 May, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Ruth Danella; 2019-138) - photos on file.
 - two, definitive alternate, 31 May-1 June, Ottawa (Britannia), Ottawa (J. Michael Tate, found by Michelle A. Martin; 2019-071).
 - one, formative, 27 October, Miller Creek Mouth, Niagara (Ryan Griffiths; 2019-002) - photos on file.

Arctic Tern has been on the South Review List since 1990. While rare and occurring irregularly in most of southern Ontario, it occurs regularly along the Ottawa River corridor in late May, as reported by Godfrey (1973). In the past five years, 14 records of Arctic Tern in the South Review Zone have been accepted by the OBRC with an additional 24 unreviewed reports to eBird (eBird 2020). As a result, the OBRC voted unanimously to remove Arctic Tern from the South Review List, retroactive to 2015. The OBRC continues to request reports of Arctic Tern for the South Review Zone prior to 2015, as well as for the Central Review Zone.

Northern Fulmar Fulmarus glacialis (17)

2019 – one, basic, 15 December, Britannia, Ottawa (Rodolphe Dubois, also found by Greg Rand, Jocelyn Dubois; 2019-125) – photos on file.

Northern Gannet Morus bassanus (53)

2019 - one, definitive basic, 23 October, Point Edward, Lambton (Stephen J. Thorpe; 2019-036).

Neotropic Cormorant Phalacrocorax brasilianus (22)

- **2019** one, definitive alternate, 17-25 May, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (James T. Burk, P. Allen Woodliffe; 2019-104) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 30 May, Jordan Harbour, Niagara (Nancy E. McPherson, Garth V. Riley; 2019-106).
 - one, definitive alternate, 13 September, Hillman Marsh, Essex (Jeremy M. Bensette, unknown finder; 2019-105) - photo on file.



Figure 10. Brown Pelican at Newcastle, Durham on 22 May 2019. Photo: Charmaine M. Anderson

Brown Pelican Pelecanus occidentalis (18)

2019 - one, first alternate, 21-30 May, Sandbanks Provincial Park, Prince Edward (21 May), Newcastle, Durham (22 May), Toronto (Ashbridge's Bay), Toronto (22 May), Jordan Harbour, Niagara (23 and 30 May) (Alain Parada Isada, Charmaine M. Anderson, Patrick S. Scanlon, Tania P. Osca, Kayo J. Roy, Garth V. Riley, Nancy E. McPherson; 2019-121) - photos on file.

Great Egret Ardea alba Central and Lowlands only (23)

2019 – one, definitive alternate, 13-16 May, Thunder Bay (Pool 6), *Thunder Bay* (Lindy T. Wagenaar, William F. Greaves, found by E.R. "Ted" Armstrong; 2019-091) - photos on file.

Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea (86)

- **2010** one, definitive alternate, 16 May, Sparta, *Elgin* (David A. Martin, also found by Linda J. Wladarski; 2019-029).
- 2019 one, definitive alternate, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (William J. Crins, Donald A. Sutherland; 2019-100).
 - one, definitive alternate, 13-15 May, Voyageur Provincial Park, Prescott and Russell (Jacques M. Bouvier, Vincent Fyson; 2019-101) – photos on file.

Black-crowned Night-Heron Nycticorax nycticorax Central and Lowlands only (7)

2019 – one, definitive alternate, 5 May, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay* (Ashley N. Moore; 2019-075) – photos on file.

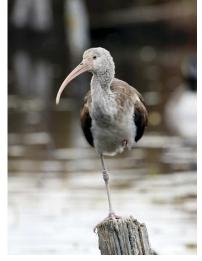
Figure 11. White Ibis at the George Langman Sanctuary outside Bass Lake Provincial Park in Oro-Medonte, Simcoe on 18 October 2019. Photo: Sharon A. O'Connor

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Nycticorax violacea (59)

2019 - one, first basic, 27 August, Hamilton (Cootes Paradise), Hamilton (Lyn Hanna-Folkes; 2019-068).

White Ibis Eudocimus albus (9)

2019 - one, juvenile, 18 October, Bass Lake Provincial Park, Simcoe (Sharon A. O'Connor; 2019-064) - photos on file.



A first record for Simcoe, this juvenile White Ibis was photographed at the George Langman Sanctuary just outside Bass Lake Provincial Park in Oro-Medonte. Despite the efforts of many birders, it could not be relocated following the initial observation.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (26)

- 2018 two, alternate, 23 May, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland (Julie R. Belliveau; 2019-066) – photos on file.
- 2019 one, definitive alternate, 23-24 April, The Meadows, Essex (Jeremy L. Hatt, Jeremy M. Bensette, Donny Moore, Kory J. Renaud, found by Chip Ogglesby; 2019-149) - photos on file.
 - one, formative, 4-5 November, West Lynde, *Durham* (Patricia Cetinkaya, Michael J. Ferguson, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, J. Burke Korol; 2019-065) - photos on file.

Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura Lowlands only (2)

2019 – one, definitive basic, 14 July, Piskwamish Camp, *Cochrane* (Robert J. Crawford; 2019-046).

This record represents just the second record of this species from the Lowlands Review Zone.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (21)

2018 – one, 29 August, Windsor, *Essex* (Jim Hunt; 2019-144) - photos on file.

2019 – one, definitive basic, 10 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex Dwayne Murphy, Garth V. Riley, Nancy E. McPherson, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2019-048) – photos on file.

A sighting of this spectacular raptor in Ontario is always a momentous occasion and the 2019 observation of this species was no exception. Observed by many birders enjoying spring migration at Point Pelee National Park, this record marks the sixth overall and fifth spring record for the park.

Figure 12. Swallow-tailed Kite at Point Pelee National Park, Essex on 10 May 2019. Photo: Bruce M. Di Labio

Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis (65)

2019 - one, second pre-basic molt, 21-22 July, Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma (Elizabeth M. Fantam; 2019-041) - photos on file.

Surprisingly, the only record of Mississippi Kite for 2019 is also the first summer record for this species. It is also notable as the first record for *Algoma* and is the most northerly occurrence of Mississippi Kite in Ontario to date.

Ferruginous Hawk Buteo regalis (8)

2019 - one, basic, 17 July, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (George D. Bryant, Robert H. Curry; 2019-016).

This is the first record for Ontario since 2004, as well as the first observation outside of the South Review Zone. While most records of the species in the province are from the spring, this is the first for the summer months.

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (12)

2019 – one, basic, 3 June, Buffalo-Ankerite, *Cochrane* (Rose M. Thiel; 2019-028) - photos on file.

Prairie Falcon Falco mexicanus (5)

2019 – one, formative, 26 July, Cochenour, *Kenora* (Joe Sinkowski; 2019-135) – photos on file.

The fifth overall record of Prairie Falcon for Ontario, this sighting also marks the first for Kenora as well as the Central Review Zone. The summer observation date is consistent with the past three records of this species in Ontario, all of which occurred in late-July and August (Dobos 1997, Holden 2014, Burrell et al. 2017).

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird Tyrannus couchii/melancholicus (3)

2019 - one, first basic, 12 June, Squire's Ridge, Norfolk (Aidan Place, Hannah Stockford; 2019-128) - photos on file.

A well-documented record, the Committee felt that Couch's Kingbird could not be ruled out with the photos taken during the sighting. Nonetheless, this excellent observation marks the third such record for Ontario and is the first Tropical/Couch's Kingbird for *Norfolk*.

Western Kingbird Tyrannus verticalis (94)

- 2017 one, basic, 2 September, Johammageeshig Lake, Algoma (Kathy Kaczynski, Tom Kaczynski; 2019-051) – photos on file.
- **2018** one, basic, 2 September, Laird, *Algoma* (Robert D. Knudsen; 2019-052) - photo on file.
- **2019** one, first alternate, 28 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Frederic Tremblay; 2019-130) – photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 20 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, Chatham-Kent (Blake A. Mann; 2019-055) - photos on file.



Figure 13. Prairie Falcon at Cochenour, Kenora on 26 July 2019. Photo: Joe Sinkowski



Figure 14. Western Kingbird at Dundas, Hamilton on 3 November 2019. Photo: Robert H. Curry

- one, first alternate, 3 June, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Robert J. Spaul, Gray A.E. Carlin; 2019-114) – photos on file.
- one, first alternate, 24 June, Miller Lake, Bruce (Zane A. Shantz, Kiah R. Jasper; 2019-054) - photos on file.
- one, alternate, 14 July, Parker Landing, Bruce (Matt C. Parsons; 2019-053) - photos on file.
- one, formative, 4 October, Erie View, Norfolk (Richard P. Skevington; 2019-113) - photos on file.
- one, formative, 3-26 November, Dundas, *Hamilton* (George W. Prieksaitis, Dominik Halas, Sarah E. Lamond, found by Doug Welch; 2019-132) - photos on file.

Western Kingbird was placed back on the South Review List beginning in 2017 due to not meeting the allotted threshold in the previous five years (Burrell et al. 2017). In the 2017 to 2019 period, Western Kingbird has been recorded in the South Review Zone an impressive 18 times.

Say's Phoebe Sayornis saya (29)

- **2019** one, formative, 30 August, Lakeport, *Northumberland* (Iain D. Rayner; 2019-042) – photos on file.
 - one, formative, 29 September-1 October, Rossport, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith, N. Joan Smith, William F. Greaves, found by Joe Campbell; 2019-137) – photos on file.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (9)

2019 – one, formative female, 22 September, Long Point (Tip), Norfolk (Emma R. Buck, also found by Sam H. Meigs, Callum P. Gibson, Elijah J. Rodgers; 2019-034) – photo on file.

This Vermilion Flycatcher is the first September record of the species in the province. It is the just the second record for *Norfolk* with the first, a male, sighted at the Tip of Long Point in 2018 (Burrell et al. 2019).

Bell's Vireo Vireo bellii (22)

2019 - one, formative, 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Mike J. McEvoy; 2019-111) – photos on file.

Black-billed Magpie Pica hudsonia South only (8)

2019 – one, definitive basic, 10 March, Grahamsville, *Peel* (Yu Futamura, found by Akito Futamura; 2019-070) – photos and video on file.

The Committee has always struggled with reports of this species in southern Ontario. The identification was not in doubt but the possibility of captive origin always exists. In this case the Committee felt the timing favoured a wild bird and no evidence suggested otherwise.



Figure 15. Bell's Vireo at Point Pelee National Park, Essex on 6 May 2019. Photo: Mike J. McEvoy

Violet-green Swallow Tachycineta thalassina (6)

2019 - one, basic female, 23 May, Chippewa Lagoons, Thunder Bay (Neil Contardo; 2019-047) - photos on file.

This observation is just the third photographic record of this species in Ontario. It also represents the second Thunder Bay record in the past three years, with the other sighting the widely observed and well-documented female that attempted to nest with a male Tree Swallow (Armstrong and Johnston 2018).

Rock Wren Salpinctes obsoletus (7)

2019 - one, basic, 8 September, Talus Lake, Thunder Bay (Ryne D. Rutherford; 2019-037) - photos on file.

This bird is the seventh record of Rock Wren for Ontario and the second record for Thunder Bay.

Figure 16. Rock Wren at Talus Lake, Thunder Bay on 8 September 2019. Photo: Ryne D. Rutherford



Carolina Wren Thryothorus ludovicianus Central and Lowlands only (11)

- **2019** one, definitive basic, 27-29 July, South Porcupine, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Filion; 2019-081).
 - one, basic, 9 December, Evelyn, *Cochrane* (Linda Audette; 2019-082) – photo on file.

Bewick's Wren Thryomanes bewickii (20)

1994 - one, basic, 13-20 May, Elmdale, Essex (Jean Iron, Ron Pittaway, found by Peter Whelan; 2019-003).

Mountain Bluebird Sialia currucoides (48)

2019 – one, formative female, 7-18 Nov, MacLennan, *Algoma* (Jane Smith, W. Carter Dorscht, Barbara A. Good; 2019-124) - photos on file.

Fieldfare Turdus pilaris (3)

1981 – one, definitive basic male, 1 January-19 March, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Robert H. Curry, Glenn Coady, unknown finder; 2019-024) photos on file.

The third and most recent record of Fieldfare in Ontario, this record was a well-documented and widely observed bird (eBird 2020). The bird was found by a resident of the Islington and Eglinton neighbourhood on 1 January 1981 and reported to Barry Kent McKay, who relocated the bird on 6 January. On 11 January, in his weekly column for the Toronto Star, McKay published the general location of the Fieldfare, but not the exact address, as per the wishes of the homeowner, who found the bird. Initially an elusive bird, it was seen for the following two months, last being reported on 19 March.

Even more significant, this third record for Ontario is also only the sixth record for North America (eBird 2020). According to Glenn Coady's submission to the Committee, "local birder John E. 'Red' Mason estimated that it had been seen by over 3,000 birders from across North America during its two-and-a-half month stay."

Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus (24)

- **2018** one, definitive basic, 17 May, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* (Glenn Coady; 2019-090).
- **2019** two, definitive basic, 11-12 May, Johnsons Landing, *Thunder Bay* (Aarre A. Ertolahti; 2019-122) - photo on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 12 May, Dorion, Thunder Bay (Norma J. Maurice; 2019-089) - photo on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 26-28 May, Chelmsford, Sudbury (Bruce I. Gates, Monica G.A. Gates; 2019-015) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 29 May, Government Landing, Rainy River (Bob Saunders; 2019-088) – photos on file.

Observations of this species have increased steadily in Ontario since the first documented record in 1994 (Pittaway 1995). Of the 24 provincial records, 20 have occurred in the last 10 years with 11 in the past two years alone.



Figure 17. Eurasian Tree Sparrows at Johnsons Landing, *Thunder Bay* on 11 May 2019. Photo: Aarre A. Ertolahti



Figure 18. Black-throated Sparrow at Darlington, Durham on 4 October 2019. Photo: Mourad Jabra

Black-throated Sparrow Amphispiza bilineata (4)

- **2019** one, formative, 4 October, Darlington, *Durham* (Tim M. Logan, Luc S. Fazio, Daniel J. Riley, Mourad Jabra; 2019-119) - photos on file.
 - one, formative, 3-6 November, Bronte, Halton (Joanne Redwood, George W. Prieksaitis, Ezra J. Campanelli, Richard D. Poort, J. Brett Fried, J. Burke Korol, Luc S. Fazio, Dominik Halas, found by Mark W. Jennings; 2019-120) – photos on file.

Voted Bird of the Year by the OBRC, the two observations of Black-throated Sparrow in 2019 marked the third and fourth provincial records for this species. The Darlington bird was a "well-viewed one-day wonder," while the Halton bird was more accommodating staying for four days; a life bird for many Ontario birders.

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) Junco hyemalis caniceps (5)

2019 – one, basic, 22 May, St. Joseph Island, *Algoma* (Tym Garside; 2019-018) - photos on file.

Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided) Junco hyemalis mearnsi (6)

2019 – one, basic, 24 October, Layton, *Durham* (F. Douglas Apperson; 2019-108) - photos on file.

Golden-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia atricapilla (16)

2019 – one, definitive alternate, 18-22 April, Tobermory, *Bruce* (Andrew White; 2019-017) - photos on file.

Henslow's Sparrow Centronyx henslowii (51)

- 2019 one, alternate, 6 May, Pelee Island, Essex (Matt C. Parsons, also found by Darrell P. Parsons; 2019-026) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic male, 1 June-10 August, Spring Arbour, Norfolk Adam P. Timpf, Yousif S. Attia, David I. Pryor, Dan J. MacNeal, J. Brett Fried; 2019-094) – photos and video on file.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (31)

2019/20 - one, definitive basic male, 19 November-27 March, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, *Prince Edward* (Paul B. Jones, Tom M. Wheatley, George W. Prieksaitis; 2019-127) - photos on file.

Traditionally a lingering vagrant, the Spotted Towhee at Point Traverse was no exception and was seen by many birders during its 130+ day stay. Due to the closure of the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area (NWA) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the departure date of this bird is unknown and it may have remained at the NWA longer than could be officially documented.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* Central and Lowlands only (9)

2019 – one, basic male, 5-6 June, Dunning, *Cochrane* (Bruno Drolet; 2019-116).

An exceptional northern record for this species, this singing male was present for two days. An audio recording was made and is available on eBird (2020).



Figure 19. Black-throated Sparrow at Bronte, Halton on 4 November 2019. Photo: Ezra J. Campanelli



Figure 20. Spotted Towhee at Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, Prince Edward on 2 January 2020. Photo: Paul B. Jones

Bullock's Oriole Icterus bullockii (9)

2019 – one, definitive alternate male, 24 May, Helen Junction, *Algoma* (Maureen Hutchinson-Parker, found by John G. Parker; 2019-008) – photos on file.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* Central and Lowlands only (3)

2019 – one, basic male, 21 August, Longridge Point, *Cochrane* (Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, R. Douglas McRae, Alysha Riquier, Katelyn Luff, Micha Jackson; 2019-032) – photos on file.

This is the second record of Prothonotary Warbler in the Lowlands Review Zone. It is also the most northerly observation of the species in Ontario.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) Setophaga coronata auduboni (24)

2018/19 - one, definitive basic male, 2 December-20 January, Bayview Village, Toronto (Karla M. Wallace; 2019-072) - photos on file.

Black-throated Gray Warbler Setophaga nigrescens (24)

2019 - one, formative, 13 November, Rock Point Provincial Park, Haldimand (Adam P. Timpf; 2019-076).

Hermit Warbler Setophaga occidentalis (9)

2019 – one, definitive alternate male, 27-28 April, Thickson's Woods, *Durham* (W. Carter Dorscht, Mike D. Williamson, Daniel J. Riley, Mike Waldhuber, Richard D. Poort, Todd R. Hagedorn, George W. Prieksaitis, Bruce M. Di Labio, John B. Schmelefske found by Jax Nasimok; 2019-095) - photos on file.

A close second for Bird of the Year, this spectacular Hermit Warbler was present for two days and was a "lifer" or an Ontario-first for many birders. Hermit Warbler has been observed in Ontario on four other occasions since 2000, with the most recent record in 2018. This year's sighting was particularly notable as it was probably the most "chaseable" individual ever.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Central and Lowlands only (32)

- **2019** one, first alternate female, 14-20 May, Vickers Heights, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff, found by Heidi M. Strobl, Paul Higgins; 2019-109) photos on file.
 - one, first alternate male, 26 May, Navilus, Thunder Bay (Adele Blomquist; 2019-141) - photos on file.
 - one, first alternate male, 2-4 June, Rossport, Thunder Bay (Douglas P. Tate, unknown finder; 2019-148) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate male, 2 November-10 December, Mount McQuaig, Thunder Bay (Brian D. Ratcliff, Nathan G. Miller, found by John Halet, Neddie Halet; 2019-110) – photos on file.

Summer Tanager has been recorded with increasing regularity in the Central Review Zone in recent years. In the last five years, there have been 13 records in this zone, with 12 of these occurring in *Thunder Bay*.



Figure 21. Bullock's Oriole at Helen Junction, Algoma on 24 May 2019. Photo: Maureen Hutchinson-Parker



Figure 22. Hermit Warbler at Thickson's Woods, Durham on 28 April 2019. Photo: John B. Schmelefske



Figure 23. Black-headed Grosbeak at Harty, Cochrane on 18 October 2018. Photo: Brian G. Couture

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* Lowlands only (2)

2019 – one, definitive alternate male, 13 July, Longridge Point, *Cochrane* (Gray A.E. Carlin, also found by Angelika Aleksieva; 2019-033) - photo on file.

This record is notable as the observation location is more than 300 km north of the breeding range limit for Scarlet Tanager, it is just the second record of the species for the Lowlands Review Zone.

Western Tanager Piranga ludoviciana (57)

- 2019 one, first alternate female, 22-26 May 2019, Echo River, Algoma (W. Carter Dorscht; 2019-062) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic male, 14-15 July, Duluth Junction, Rainy River (Shirley A. Skirten; 2019-063) – photos on file.

The Rainy River bird is just the second summer occurrence of this species in Ontario and is the first record for the month of July.

Black-headed Grosbeak Pheucticus melanocephalus (7)

2018 - one, basic female, 18 October-1 November, Harty, Cochrane (Brian G. Couture; 2019-007) - photos on file.

The seventh record of Black-headed Grosbeak in Ontario, this sighting also marks the first for Cochrane.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (111)

- 2019 one, definitive basic male, 23-25 April, Renfrew, Renfrew (Anne Sundborg; 2019-079) – photos on file.
 - one, basic female, 19 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Joshua D. Vandermeulen; 2019-078) – photos on file.

Lazuli Bunting Passerina amoena (13)

2019 – one, basic male, 29 January-3 March, Kenson Park, Ottawa (J. Michael Tate, Bruce M. Di Labio, Michelle A. Martin, Luc S. Fazio, unknown finder; 2019-096) - photos on file.

This is the first winter-season record of Lazuli Bunting in Ontario; it is also the second record for the Ottawa-Gatineau 50 km circle.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (49)

- 2019 one, definitive alternate male, 14-15 May, Brookfield, Algoma (W. Carter Dorscht, Elijah J. Rodgers, found by Laura Heywood; 2019-035) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate male, 15 May, Meaford, *Grey* (Peter Edwards; 2019-140) - photos on file.

Dickcissel Spiza americana Central and Lowlands only (36)

- 2019 one, alternate female, 8 June, Harris Hill, Rainy River (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, also found by James G. Burrell; 2019-086) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate male, 9 June, Rainy River, Rainy River (Kenneth G.D. Burrell, also found by James G. Burrell; 2019-087) – photos on file.

NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Birds in this category are considered by the OBRC to be correctly identified; however, their origin is questionable. Over time, some instances of birds in this category involve birds that have a high certainty of previous captive origin, whereas some records placed in this category have caused considerable debate among past voting members. If new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the OBRC

2002 – Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), one, definitive basic, 17 March, Downers Corners, Peterborough (Rick W. Stankiewicz; 2019-073) – photos on file.

This record was well-documented and the observation date is a good match for this species' pattern of vagrancy in Ontario, as described in the report on the status of Barnacle Goose in Ontario (Burrell 2017). Despite these factors it was determined that the location and habitat where the Barnacle Goose was observed do not typically host migrant flocks of geese. Additionally, the small flock of Canada Geese with which this Barnacle Goose was associating are typically resident geese as opposed to arctic migrants. Based on these factors it was determined that provenance of this individual was in doubt.



NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS Insufficient Evidence

The documentation received for the following reports was generally found not 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.

- **2017** Blue Grosbeak, one, basic female, 12 May, Consecon, Prince Edward (2019-077).
- **2018** Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), one, 28 April, Courtright Ridge, Norfolk (2019-143).

- Carolina Chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), one, 1 July, Wheatley, Essex (2019-083).
- 2019 Chuck-will's-widow, one, 18 April, Darlington, *Durham* (2019-010) - photos on file.
 - Black Swift (Cypseloides niger), one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (2019-004).
 - Western Sandpiper, one, 25 May, Dutton, Elgin (2019-059) - photos on file.
 - Western Sandpiper, one, 4 September, Forest, *Lambton* (2019-056) - photos on file.
 - Little Blue Heron, one, 13 October, Priory Park, Wellington (2019-030).
 - Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, (Tip), Norfolk (2019-117) photo on file.

- Mississippi Kite, one, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (2019-103).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Tyrannus forficatus), one, 18 July, Portland, Leeds and Grenville (2019-040) - photos on file.

This record prompted much discussion among the Committee members due to the extent of the yellow on the underside of the bird as well as its relatively heavy bill. It was determined that due to these factors as well as the tail length, that this individual likely represents a hybrid of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and one of the "yellow-bellied kingbirds" in the same genus. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Western Kingbird is considered to be most likely as these hybrids occur with relative regularity and have been documented as vagrants (Tyler and Parkes 1992, Worm et al. 2019). Without genetic samples it is impossible to say with certainty the parentage of this bird, regardless it represents an exciting observation.

- Bell's Vireo, one, 21 August, Chestnut Hills, Toronto (2019-074).
- McCown's Longspur (Rhynchophanes mccownii), one, 17 December, Sandbanks Provincial Park, Prince Edward (2019-123) - sketch on file.
- Great-tailed Grackle (Quiscalus mexicanus), one, 6 December, Port Rowan, Norfolk (2019-092) - photo on file.
- Lazuli Bunting, one, female, 16-17 May, Norman, Elgin (2019-147) - photo on file.

Corrections/Updates to Previous **OBRC Reports**

2015 Report (*Ontario Birds* 34:147-177) Under Black-billed Magpie (2015-144) the last date for the record should be updated to "3 June 2020 (at least)."

2014 Report (*Ontario Birds* 33:50-81) **Under Eurasian Collared-Dove** (2014-083) the last date for the record should be updated to "28 August 2015."

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