

BIRD OF THE YEAR. Yellow-browed Warbler at Mississauga, Peel. Photo: Dennis Dirigal

Introduction

This is the 40th 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 176 records by the OBRC in 2021, of which 153 (87%) were accepted. All reports

reviewed by the 2021 Committee will be added to the permanent file kept at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and in the OBRC digital archives.

The members of the 2021 Committee were Mark D. Read (chair), Mike V.A. Burrell (non-voting secretary and archivist), Alvan D. Buckley, Kenneth G.D. Burrell, Dan J. MacNeal, Reuven D. Martin, Nicole M. Richardson and Adam P. Timpf. J. Brett Fried acted as non-voting secretary for the first part of the term with assistants Barbara N. Charlton and Erika K. Hentsch, Mark K. Peck acted as the ROM liaison for the OBRC.

Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds

Two new species, Yellow-browed Warbler (Phylloscopus inornatus) and Mac-Gillivray's Warbler (Geothlypis tolmiei) were added to the Ontario list. Yellowbrowed Warbler represents an entirely new family of birds (Phylloscopidae) for the province, bringing the total number of families observed in the province to 67. With the splitting of "Mew Gull" into Common Gull (Larus canus) and Short-billed Gull (Larus brachyrhynchus), the total Ontario species list stands at 506. The 2022 committee is currently reviewing Ontario records of "Mew Gull" and will be providing an update in due course.

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 331.

Beginning in 2022, reports of Mute Swan (Cygnus olor) in the Central Review Zone are no longer requested. Reports prior to 2022 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 387.

The addition of Common Gull, Yellow-browed Warbler and MacGillivray's Warbler brings the total number of species recorded in the South Review Zone to 497. 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 2021 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 62nd supplement (Chesser et al. 2021) 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 are 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 ROM. Researchers and other interested parties are welcome to examine any of this material by contacting the OBRC archivist: obrc@ofo.ca.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the 216 observers who took the time to submit documentation of rare birds for consideration by the 2021 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, who provided expert opinions on material evidence submitted: Peter S. Burke, Glenn Coady, Cameron Cox, David Fairhurst, Martin Geleynse, Steve Hampton, David Irons, Alvaro P. Jaramillo, Kenn Kaufmann, Paul Lehman, Nick Lethaby, Stephen Menzie, Peter Pyle, Roger Riddington, Ron Ridout, Kayo J. Roy, Cathy Sheeter, David Sibley, Brian E. Small, Cole Tiemann and David Vander Pluvm.



Accepted Records

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna autumnalis (19)

- 2021 two, definitive basic, 21 June, Willoughby Township, Niagara (Pamela E. MacDonald, also found by Greg P. MacDonald; 2021-008) - photos, video on file.
 - sixteen, definitive basic, 8-13 July, Port Dover, Norfolk (Todd R. Hagedorn, Sandra L. Horvath, Frank G. Horvath, George W. Prieksaitis, found by Glen Patton; 2021-011) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 9 July, Palmyra, *Chatham-Kent* (Stephen R. Charbonneau, found by Jeff Russell; 2021-084) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 13 July, Belleville, *Hastings* (Lucas H. Berg, Andrea L. Kingsley, found by Joel Frijters; 2021-009) – photos on file.
 - three, definitive basic, 27-28 July, Rodney, Elgin (Sandra D. Leys, Chris C. Leys, Tim R. Arthur, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-007) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 20 August-26 January, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Kayo J. Roy, Lisa A. Bacon, Marcie L. Jacklin, Luc S. Fazio, Dominik Halas, Frank G. Horvath, Sandra L. Horvath, Kiah R. Jasper, found by Sid Wood; 2021-010) - photos on file.

The flock of 16 birds in *Norfolk* is the largest flock observed to date in the province.

Pink-footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus (6)

2021 – one, definitive basic, 27-30 March, Navan, Ottawa (Paul Lagasi, Michelle A. Martin, Brandon P.M. Edwards, Keith Wickens; 2021-083) photos on file.

Barnacle Goose Branta leucopsis (9)

- 2021 one, definitive basic, 17-22 March, Aylmer, *Elgin* (James G. Burrell, Chris C. Leys, Richard P. Skevington, George W. Prieksaitis, found by unknown finder; 2021-006) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 22-25 March, Carp, Ottawa (Paul Lagasi, found by Marc Savard; 2021-058) - photo on file.

See Burrell (2017) for a summary of the status of this species in Ontario and eastern North America.

Mute Swan Cygnus olor Central (pre-2022) and Lowlands only (27)

- 2020 one, definitive basic, 4-15 July, Wawa, Algoma (Rob Rutledge, found by Nicole M. Richardson; 2021-111) – photos on file.
 - three, definitive basic, 29 October, Nighthawk Lake, Cochrane (Adam Liposcak, also found by Graham Jenson; 2021-113).

- 2021 four, definitive basic, 29 May, Gittins Lake, *Kenora* (Ezra J. Campanelli, also found by Kale Wiskemann, Alison Forde; 2021-114) – photos on file.
 - two, definitive basic, 14 June, Jackfish Lake, Thunder Bay (Peggy M.L. Campbell, also found by Mark Campbell; 2021-117) – photos on file.
 - two, definitive basic, 15 June-6 November, Wawa, Algoma (W. Carter Dorscht, Stanley V. Phippen, found by Tyler L. Hoar; 2021-112) photo on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 20 July, Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Peggy M.L. Campbell, also found by Mark Campbell, Lisa Jacques; 2021-116) photos on file.

Garganey Spatula querquedula (5)

2021 - one, definitive basic male, 17 May, Shirleys Bay, Ottawa (Mark A. Gawn; 2021-060).

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal Anas crecca crecca/nimia (12)

2020/21 – one, definitive basic male, 26 December-23 April, Toronto, Toronto (Christopher J. Escott, Isabel J. Apkarian, Luc S. Fazio, found by Ina Rodina; 2021-030) – photos on file.

Common Eider Somateria mollissima South and Central only (27)

2021 – one, formative male, 6 November, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (Howard S. Shapiro; 2021-027) – photos on file.

Harlequin Duck Histrionicus histrionicus Central and Lowlands only (38)

- 2021 one, definitive basic male, 10 April-9 May, Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Mark Campbell, Peggy M.L. Campbell; 2021-047) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic male, 29 October-19 November, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay (Lisa Jacques, Peggy M.L. Campbell; 2021-131) – photos on file.

Willow Ptarmigan Lagopus lagopus South and Central only (5)

- 2021 four, basic, 26 February-7 March, Hwy 652, nine km southwest of Hopper Lake, Cochrane (Jeffery H. Skevington, Vincent Fyson, Barbara N. Charlton, David Maida; 2021-155) - photos, video on file.
 - two, basic, 8 March, Translimit Rd three km northwest of Boischere Creek, Cochrane (Adam Liposcak; 2021-156) – photo on file.
 - one, basic, 25 April, Canaan, Ottawa (Devon Fyson, Vincent Fyson, also found by M. Fyson, E. Hurdle; 2021-157) - photos on file.

The winter of 2020/2021 saw an impressive southward movement of this species elsewhere in the northeast, most notably in Quebec, where hundreds were reported well south of their normal winter range (eBird 2022).



Figure 2. Groove-billed Ani at Brocksden, Perth on 26 October 2021. Photo: Garry T. Sadler

Groove-billed Ani Crotophaga sulcirostris (7)

2021 – one, formative, 24-26 October, Brocksden, Perth (Kyle B. Swanson, Kiah R. Jasper, Lucas J. Foerster, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, Garry T. Sadler, J. Burke Korol, Mike V. A. Burrell, also found by Allison E. Covert, Katherine J. Hahn; 2021-046) – photos, audio on file.

This is just the seventh provincial record, and the first since 1988 (Wormington and Curry 1990). All Ontario records have been in the period 9 October to 1 November, which fits with the pattern across the midwest and northeast, which Mlodinow and Karlson (1999) theorize is attributable to birds going north, rather than south after the breeding season.

Chuck-will's-widow Antrostomus carolinensis (45)

2021 – one, basic male, 15 May-16 July, South Bay, Prince Edward (Paul B. Jones, Mike R. Norton; 2021-024) – audio on file.

This is the ninth consecutive year a singing male has been observed at this location (Holden 2014, Burrell and Charlton 2015 and 2016, Burrell et al. 2017, 2018 and 2019, Riley et al. 2020 and 2021), strongly suggesting it is the same bird returning each year. There were a few eBird reports suggesting the possibility of a second singing bird at this site but no formal documentation was received.



Figure 3. Rufous Hummingbird at Renwick, *Chatham-Kent* on 20 September 2021. Photo: P. Allen Woodliffe

Rufous Hummingbird Selasphorus rufus (35)

- 2021 one, definitive basic male, 17 September-10 November, Renwick, Chatham-Kent (Stephen R. Charbonneau, Paul D. Pratt, P. Allen Woodliffe, Blake A. Mann, Garry T. Sadler, found by Marie Novak, David Cabral; 2021-134) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic female, 9 November-4 December, Watford, Lambton (James M. Holdsworth, Blake A. Mann, Michael P.J. Bouman, Matt C. Parsons, Dale Buchner, found by Kim Leyten; 2021-063) – photos on file.
- 2021/22 one, definitive basic female, 5 November-3 January, Oakville, Halton (Jean Iron, Luc S. Fazio, Leonard P. Manning, Christopher J. Escott, George W. Prieksaitis, found by Ebrahim Patel, Karalee Patel; 2021-062) photos, video on file.

2021 is the year with the second most records ever for this species, trailing only the four observed in 2012 (Cranford 2013).

Common Gallinule Gallinula galeata Central and Lowlands only (5)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate, 5 June, Hearst, Cochrane (Jeffrey H. Skevington, also found by Vincent Fyson; 2021-028) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 24 June, Savanne, *Thunder Bay* (Sheryl Ertolahti; 2021-029).



Figure 4. Purple Gallinule at Tommy Thompson Park, *Toronto* on 17 October 2021. Photo: Paul N. Prior

American Coot Fulica americana Lowlands only (4)

- 2021 one, alternate, 17 May, Attawapiskat, *Kenora* (Keith R. Gregoire; 2021-001) - photo on file.
 - one, basic, 25 September, Otterhead Creek, *Cochrane* (Mark Gagnon, found by Zachary Cheechoo, Marcus Carpenter; 2021-002) - photo on file.

Purple Gallinule Porphyrio martinicus (26)

- 2021 one, formative, 15 October, Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma (W. Carter Dorscht, found by Brooke Rutledge; 2021-119) - photos on file.
 - one, formative, 17-21 October, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Paul N. Prior, Luc S. Fazio, Theresa Dobko, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-120) - photos on file.

Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus (30)

- 2021 two, alternate, 9 May, Holland Landing, York (Peter Hawrylyshyn; 2021-013).
 - three, alternate, 15 May, Hillman Marsh, Essex (Blake A. Mann, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-014) - photos on file.
 - two, alternate, 9 June, Long Point (Hastings Drive), Norfolk (Sean M. Jenniskens, also found by Jenny Andrews; 2021-012) – photos on file.

Of the province's 30 records of this species, 13 are from the past decade alone.



Figure 5. Snowy Plover at Hastings Drive, Norfolk on 7 September 2021. Photo: Henny E. Giles

Snowy Plover Charadrius nivosus (10)

- 2021 one, definitive basic, 7 September, Long Point (Hastings Drive), Norfolk (Henny E. Giles; 2021-150) - photos on file.
 - one, 8 September, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Theresa Dobko; 2021-145) – photos on file.

Western Sandpiper Calidris mauri South (2017-2020) only (20)

2021 – one, juvenal, 3 September, Mission Island, *Thunder Bay* (A. Gregg Kendall; 2021-066) - photos on file.

Razorbill Alca torda (30)

- 2021 five, juvenal or formative, 10-12 October, Constance Bay, Ottawa (Michelle A. Martin, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, found by Richard Waters; 2021-166) - photo on file.
 - four, juvenal or formative, 10-17 October, Shirleys Bay, Ottawa (Aaron Hywarren, Jeffrey H. Skevington, found by unknown finder; 2021-178) - photos on file.

- nine, juvenal or formative, 10-17 October, Bayshore, Ottawa (Brendan Kelly, Jon P. Ruddy, Ken Ball, found by unknown finder; 2021-179) photos on file.
- four, juvenal or formative, 11 October-1 November, Britannia, Ottawa (Michelle A. Martin, Ben F. Di Labio, Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, Richard Waters, found by unknown finder; 2021-177) - photo, video on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 14 October, Voyageur Provincial Park, *Prescott* and Russell (Jacques M. Bouvier; 2021-165) - photo on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 17-29 October, Ottawa (Remic Rapids), Ottawa (Clifford Rostek; 2021-180) - photos on file.
- two, juvenal or formative, 29-30 October, Thickson's Point, Durham (Michael J. Ferguson, Jarmo V. Jalava; 2021-171) - photos, sketch on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 29 October, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Howard S. Sharpio; 2021-172) – photos on file.
- two, juvenal or formative, 29-30 October, Hamilton (Van Wagner's Beach), Hamilton (Mourad Jabra, Jonathan S. Pleizier, Nathan F.P. Hood, found by unknown finder; 2021-173) - photos on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 29 October, Whitby, Durham (A. Geoffrey Carpentier; 2021-176).
- two, juvenal or formative, 30 October, Burlington (Burloak Park), Halton (George W. Prieksaitis, Markus K. Legzdins, Ina Legzdins; 2021-175) - sketch on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 6 November, Amherst Island, Lennox and Addington (Kurt J. Hennige; 2021-163).
- one, juvenal or formative, 8 November, Wolfe Island (Dawson Point), Frontenac (Mark D. Read; 2021-164).



Figure 6. A group of four Razorbills at Shirleys Bay, Ottawa on 11 October 2021. Photo: Jeffrey H. Skevington

- one, juvenal or formative, 10-11 November, Howe Island, Frontenac (Gerard J.D. Phillips; 2021-174) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 11 November, Chub Point, Northumberland (Lucas H. Berg; 2021-168) - photos on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 12-13 November, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Aaron Zhou, Donald S. Graham; 2021-170) – photos on file.
- one, juvenal or formative, 13 November, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland (Martha L. Miller, R. Douglas McRae; 2021-169).
- 2021/22 four, formative, 28 November 2021-30 January 2022, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara (George W. Prieksaitis, Sandra L. Horvath, Chris J. Escott, found by Joel Strong, Willie D'Anna; 2021-167) – photos on file.

To say that the autumn of 2021 was exceptional for Razorbills is an understatement — the scale of the movement of birds into Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River is unprecedented. The Committee struggled with how to separate out the numerous reports and ultimately decided to be cautious, lumping sightings only from similar locations and dates. The true number of birds is unknown but, undoubtedly, it is many more than are listed here. Other areas in the northeast also experienced a similarly large movement of Razorbills in the autumn of 2021 (eBird 2022).

Little Gull Hydrocoloeus minutus Central only (6)

2021 - one, juvenal, 19-20 August, Fushimi Lake, Cochrane (Roxane D. Filion, also found by Gary T. Dowe, Bibiane G. Filion; 2021-054) – photos on file.

California Gull Larus californicus (72)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate, 22-23 April, Brantford, Brant (William G. Lamond, Sarah E. Lamond, Richard D. Poort, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-019) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 20-22 November, Learnington, Essex (Jeremy L. Hatt, Cameron K. Chevalier; 2021-020) – photos on file.

Slaty-backed Gull Larus schistisagus (31)

- 2021 one, definitive basic, 9 January, Peterborough (Little Lake), Peterborough (Iain D. Rayner; 2021-093) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 8 October-17 November, Ottawa, Ottawa (Gerard J.D. Phillips, Paul Lagasi; 2021-092) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 24 October, Mississippi Lake, *Lanark* (Mark J. Patry; 2021-090) – photos on file.

This species continues to show up (or at least be detected) with increasing frequency in the province, with at least three records in each of the past four years.



Figure 7. Juvenile Little Gull with Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) at Fushimi Lake, Cochrane on 20 August 2021. Photo: Roxane D. Filion

Glaucous-winged Gull Larus glaucescens (2)

2021/22 - one, second basic, 27 November-14 January, Barrie, Simcoe, Hamilton, Hamilton, and Brantford, Brant (Justin F.B. Peter, Christopher J. Escott, Jeremy L. Hatt, J. Burke Korol, George W. Prieksaitis, Luc S. Fazio, Sarah E. Lamond, also found by Lucero de Fuente, Peter B. Mills, Lyndsey N. Friesen; 2021-040) – photos on file.

Following hot on the heels of the first provincial record in 2020 (Riley et al. 2021), this bird was enjoyed by many observers over its extended stay in *Simcoe*. Amazingly, it was also documented during brief stays in *Hamilton* and *Brant* in mid-winter. A similarly-plumaged individual, which is thought by some to be the same bird, was found in mid-February in southeastern Pennsylvania (eBird 2022).

Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea South (1991–2014) and Central only (37)

- 2021 three, definitive alternate, 31 May, Bent Island, *Thunder Bay* (Allan F. Gilbert, Aarre A. Ertolahti, also found by Natascha Bruck; 2021-003) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 31 May, Granite Island, Thunder Bay (Allan F. Gilbert, Aarre A. Ertolahti, also found by Natascha Bruck; 2021-022) - photos on file.



Northern Gannet Morus bassanus (57)

- 2021 one, juvenal, 17 October, Bayshore and Shirleys Bay, Ottawa (Michelle A. Martin, also found by Paul A. Martin; 2021-102).
 - one, juvenal, 8-18 November, Grimsby and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Hamilton, Hamilton, and Oakville, Halton (Jeffrey Culp, Christopher J. Escott, Markus K. Legzdins, Ina Legzdins, Jonathan S. Pleizier, George W. Prieksaitis, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Marcie L. Jacklin, Ryan Griffiths; 2021-098) - photos, sketch on file.
 - one, juvenal, 22-29 November, Ipperwash Beach, Kettle Point, Highland Glen, Bonnie Doone Creek mouth, Bright's Grove, and Point Edward, Lambton (James M. Holdsworth, Michael P.J. Bouman, Matt C. Parsons; 2021-101) – photos on file.

- one, juvenal, 24-26 November, Point Pelee National Park, Essex and Rondeau Provincial Park, Chatham-Kent (Stephen R. Charbonneau, Cameron K. Chevalier, Jeremy L. Hatt; 2021-096) – photos on file.

As is often the case with this species in Ontario, there were multiple sightings of what is assumed to have been the same individual at different locations within the same water body. There were some indicators that the Lake Huron (Lambton) and Lake Erie (Essex/Chatham-Kent) birds were in fact the same individual, but the Committee did not feel the evidence was strong enough to warrant grouping them as one record.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (31)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate, 25 March, Toronto, Toronto (Riley B. Walsh, Donald S. Graham; 2021-089) - photos on file.
 - one, second basic, 19 April-15 May, Dow's Lake, Ottawa (Marcel A. Gahbauer, Bruce M. Di Labio, Jason Polak, found by Meghan Storey; 2021-088) – photos, video on file.
 - one, alternate, 26 April, Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham (Michael J. Ferguson; 2021-085).
 - one, definitive alternate, 8 May-2 June, Hillman Marsh, Essex (Jeremy L. Hatt; 2021-086) - photo on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 17-18 July, Hickory Island, Hamilton (Alvan D. Buckley, Maxwell E. Giffen; 2021-087) – photos on file.

The five records in 2021 is the highest number recorded in a single year so far for this increasing species. Eight of the nine previous years have seen multiple records and it has been recorded annually since the second record in 2011.

Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea (90)

- 2021 one, definitive basic, 15-16 April, Miller Creek, *Niagara* (Jean M. Hampson, Marcie L. Jacklin, George W. Prieksaitis, Shannon Hingston, found by Matthew Klassen, Reuben Klassen; 2021-053) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 4-6 June, Kingston, Frontenac (N. Anthony Kaduck, S. Elspeth Lamplugh, found by R. Ken Edwards; 2021-051) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 7 June, Sunset Beach, Essex (Jeremy M. Bensette, also found by Harrison Priebe, Kate J. Derbyshire, Kirk Williams, Cole Williams, Nelia Williams, Danica Williams, Ryan Williams; 2021-050).
 - one, formative, 5-15 September, Kingston, Frontenac (D.V. Chip Weseloh, Kurt J. Hennige, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Brian L. Morin, R. Douglas McRae, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2021-052) – photos on file.

Green Heron Butorides virescens Central and Lowlands only (16)

2021 - one, juvenal, 28 July, Rainy River, Rainy River (Jay P. Solanki, also found by Andrea L. Kauppinen; 2021-044) – photos on file.



Figure 9. Little Blue Heron at Kingston, Frontenac on 4 June 2021. Photo: N. Anthony Kaduck

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Nyctanassa violacea (67)

- 2021 one, definitive basic, 21-26 May, Etobicoke (Colonel Sam Smith Park), Toronto (Luc S. Fazio, George W. Prieksaitis, Christopher J. Escott, found by unknown finder; 2021-161) – photos, video on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 10-11 June, Pelee Island, Essex (Jill Crosthwaite, Gabrielle Evans-Cook, Y. Robert Tymstra; 2021-158) – photos on file.
 - one, juvenal, 22 July, Canning, Oxford (David A. Michielsen, also found by Jennifer A. Brooks; 2021-159) - photos on file.
 - one, juvenal, 25-27 July, Port Weller, *Niagara* (Lisa A. Bacon, Kayo J. Roy, Marcie L. Jacklin; 2021-069) – photos on file.
 - one, juvenal, 31 July-11 September, Etobicoke (Colonel Sam Smith Park), Toronto (Luc S. Fazio, John W. Mills, Zeny Atlas Lloyd, Dominik Halas, Mike Cowlard, Nancy Douglas, found by unknown finder; 2021-160) photos on file.

The five records in 2021 ties 2018 and 1985 for the most in a single year. Further, there have been an unprecedented 18 records over the past five years.



Figure 10. White-faced Ibis at Conestogo, Waterloo on 24 June 2021. Photo: Anthony B. Vanderheyden

White-faced Ibis Plegadis chihi (37)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate, 4-5 May, Michipicoten River, Algoma (Robert G. Elliott, Stanley V. Phippen, W. Carter Dorscht; 2021-071) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 18 May, Pelee Island, Essex (Y. Robert Tymstra, Hannah Mittelstaedt; 2021-073) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 19-20 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), Norfolk (Brendan P. Boyd, also found by Alexandra M. Israel; 2021-075) photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 21 May, Long Point (Old Cut), Norfolk (Sean M. Jenniskens; 2021-074).
 - one, definitive alternate, 22 May, Collingwood, Simcoe (Anthony Glenesk, Makenzie R.A. Soden, found by unknown finder; 2021-077) photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate, 26-27 May, Nairn Centre, *Greater Sudbury* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, also found by Vincent Fyson; 2021-078) photos on file.

- one, definitive alternate, 31 May-3 June, Rondeau Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Stephen R. Charbonneau, Blake A. Mann, P. Allen Woodliffe, found by Craig Anderson; 2021-072) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, 31 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), Norfolk (Ryan A.C. Leys, also found by Leanne A. Grieves; 2021-076) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, 24 June, Conestogo, Waterloo (Anthony B. Vanderheyden; 2021-080) - photos on file.

The nine records in 2021 represent the most records in a single year; the previous high was five records in 2015. The Committee considered lumping the three Norfolk records into a single record but decided there was not enough evidence to do so, especially at a time of year when many other White-faced Ibis were also showing up elsewhere in southern Ontario.

Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus (27)

- 2021 one, basic, 23 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, Chatham-Kent (Joshua R. Bouman, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-151) – photos on file.
 - one, juvenal or formative, 8-21 September, Orwell, Elgin (George W. Prieksaitis, Garry T. Sadler, Luc S. Fazio, found by Sawyer Dawson; 2021-152) - photos on file.

After only two records in the previous ten-year period, there have now been ten records in the past four years.

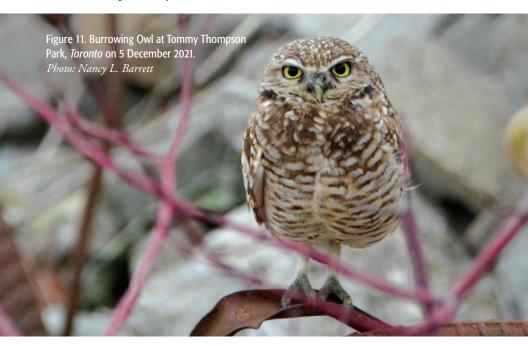
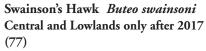


Figure 12. Cassin's Kingbird at Centennial Park. Toronto on 24 November 2021. Photo: Magdalena Pawlak



2021 – one, formative, 29 May-4 June, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay (Peggy M.L. Campbell, Sheldon E. McGregor, Jeffrey H. Skevington, Vince Fyson, also found by Mark Campbell; 2021-132) photos on file.



Burrowing Owl Athene cunicularia (7)

2021/22 – one, basic, 1 December-12 January, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Joshua C. Andrews, Nancy L. Barrett, Theresa Dobko, Andrew Macdonald, Luc S. Fazio, Donald Johnston, found by unknown finder; 2021-036) – photos, video on file.

Prairie Falcon Falco mexicanus (7)

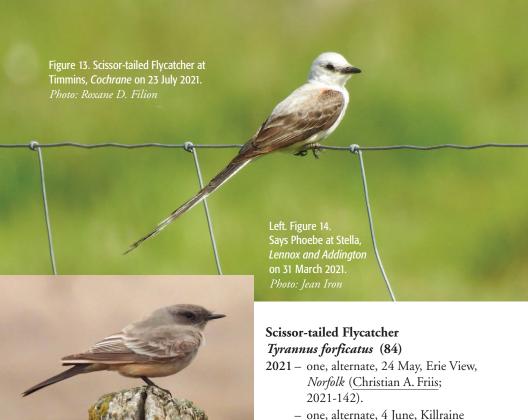
- 2021 one, formative, 17 December, Walkers, *Middlesex* (Michele A. Carnerie; 2021-082) - photos on file.
 - one, formative, 28-29 December, Clarington, *Durham* (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, found by David B. Worthington, Mary-Beth Worthington; 2021-081) - photos on file.

Cassin's Kingbird Tyrannus vociferans (6)

2021 – one, formative, 24 November, Toronto, *Toronto* (Magdalena Pawlak; 2021-037) - photos, audio on file.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* Lowlands only after 2016 (99)

2021 - one, 25 October, Moosonee, Cochrane (Jessica M. Carter, also found by Robin E. Carter; 2021-144) - photos on file.



Handy; 2021-143) – photos on file. - one, definitive alternate, 22-23 July, Timmins, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Filion, found by Lois Caron, John Caron; 2021-141) – photos on file.

Township, Thunder Bay (Rachel S. Epstein, also found by Robert W.R.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus savana (11)

2021 – one, basic, 1 September, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Brittany K. Huston, also found by Darin J. Huston Jr.; 2021-039) – photos on file.

Willow Flycatcher Empidonax traillii Central and Lowlands only (4)

- 2021 one, alternate male, 5 June, Flynne Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, also found by Vincent Fyson; 2021-068) – audio on file.
 - one, alternate male, 10 June-5 July, Hilliardton, *Timiskaming* (Michael J. Werner; 2021-067) - videos on file.

Say's Phoebe Sayornis saya (35)

2021 - one, first alternate, 29 March-6 April, Stella, Lennox and Addington (Michael J. Arthurs, Bruce M. Di Labio, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, John A. Licharson, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-137) – photos on file.

- one, first alternate, 26 April, Scarborough, *Toronto* (Amanda C. Guercio, found by Owen Ridgen; 2021-139) - photo on file.
- one, definitive basic, 16 November-4 December (but not seen 23 November-3 December), Twin Elm, Ottawa (Eric W. Heisey, Brandon P.M. Edwards, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2021-138) - photos on file.

The *Ottawa* bird represents the second winter record for the province, with the only other record being a bird in *Prince Edward* in 1994/95 (Dobos 1995).

Loggerhead Shrike Lanius ludovicianus Central and Lowlands only (16)

2021 – one, definitive alternate, 14 May, Little Pigeon Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Allan G. Harris; 2021-109) – photos on file.

Yellow-browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus (1)

2021 – one, alternate, 24 April, Mississauga, *Peel* (Patricia T. Hare, Christopher J. Escott, Dan J. MacNeal, Dennis Dirigal, George W. Prieksaitis, J. Burke Korol, Luc S. Fazio, Marcie L. Jacklin, James A. Kennerley, Nicole M. Richardson; 2021-070) - photos, video on file.

The bird of the year! Not many would have had this one on a long list of birds likely to show up in the province. Howell et al. (2014) state that it is very rare in fall on the Bering Sea islands in Alaska, and list only one fall record from the western Aleutians in 2002 and a fall record from Wisconsin in 2006. Additional North American records listed in eBird (2022) are limited to fall 2019 records from British Columbia and California and a spring 2007 record from Baja California Sur, Mexico.





Figure 16. Sage Thrasher at Mitchell's Bay, Chatham-Kent on 10 November 2021. Photo: Paul D. Pratt

Rock Wren Salpinctes obsoletus (8)

2021 – one, formative male, early January-13 March, Glen Robertson, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Bruce M. Di Labio, Jeffery H. Skevington, Paul Lagasi, J. Michael Tate, Donald A. Sutherland, found by Carmelle Hagen, William Hagen; 2021-130) - photos, specimen on file.

This bird spent most of its time in a heated shop/barn where it could come and go freely. Unfortunately, it ultimately was killed by one of the resident cats. The specimen was preserved and is housed at the Canadian Museum of Nature (catalogue # CMNAV 108084).

Sage Thrasher Oreoscoptes montanus (21)

- 2021 one, alternate, 31 May, Pinewood, Rainy River (Michael S. Dawber; 2021-136) - photos on file.
 - one, formative, 6-18 November, Mitchell's Bay, Chatham-Kent Blake A. Mann, George W. Prieksaitis, Lucas J. Foerster, P. Allen Woodliffe, Paul D. Pratt; 2021-135) – photos on file.

Mountain Bluebird Sialia currucoides (52)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate male, 12 April, Marathon, *Thunder Bay* (Christine C. Drake, also found by Kyle J. Drake; 2021-110) - photos on file.
- 2021/22 one, formative female, 19 December-23 April, Guelph, Wellington (Markus K. Legzdins, Frank G. Horvath, Sandra L. Horvath, found by Mike Lepage, Julie MacDonald, Debbie Hernandez, Meera Navaratnam, Patrick Tuck, Chris Sprague; 2021-140) – photos on file.

Northern Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe (46)

- 2005 one, definitive alternate male, 8-15 June, Polar Bear Provincial Park (Burntpoint Creek), Kenora (Colin D. Jones, Donald A. Sutherland, Glenn Coady; 2021-121).
- 2021 one, formative, 15-19 September, Leith, Grey (Miriam Oudejans, Kiah R. Jasper, George W. Prieksaitis, also found by Warren Steckle; 2021-123) – photos on file.
 - one, formative, 27-28 September, Maple Ridge, Muskoka (Michael J. Hatton, Dale S.G. Wengar, found by James Rusak; 2021-124) – photos on file.
 - one, formative, 28 September, Kinburn, Ottawa (Jason W. Peterson; 2021-125) - photos on file.
 - one, formative, 15 October, Kingston, Frontenac (Philip J. Harvey; 2021-122) – photo on file.

With four records, 2021 ties 1990 for the most records in a single year.





Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus (32)

- 2021 two, basic, 20-22 April, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay (Peggy M.L. Campbell, Nicholas G. Escott, found by unknown finder; 2021-033) - photos on file.
 - one, basic, 24 April, Port Franks, Lambton (James M. Holdsworth; 2021-035) - sketch on file.

- two, basic, 2 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), Norfolk (Brendan P. Boyd, found by Alexandra M. Israel; 2021-031) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 4-9 May, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay (Brian D. Ratcliff, found by Duncan McKay; 2021-034) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 9-12 May, Sistonens Corners, *Thunder Bay* (Jeffrey N. Robinson, Lindy T. Wagenaar, E.R. "Ted" Armstrong; 2021-106) – photos on file.
- one, basic, 16 May, Longlac, Thunder Bay (Frederick J. Jennings; 2021-107) - photo on file.
- one, basic, 27 May, Knudsens Corner, *Thunder Bay* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, Sheldon E. McGregor, Vince Fyson, found by Lindy T. Wagenaar; 2021-032) - photos on file.

As recently as 2014 there were only four records of this species for the province. It has since become an expected vagrant in spring, particularly on the north shore of Lake Superior. Can breeding be far behind?

Sprague's Pipit Anthus spragueii (6)

2021 – one, alternate male, 15-21 June, Pinewood, Rainy River (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Peter B. Hogenbirk, Mike V.A. Burrell; 2021-095) audio on file.

This record came during a year with exceptional drought conditions in the middle of the continent (NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information 2022). Many other western birds (e.g., huge numbers of Dickcissels, Spiza americana, eBird 2022) also turned up in western Rainy River.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch Leucosticte tephrocotis (31)

- 2021 one, definitive basic, tephrocotis, 17 February, Newburgh, Lennox and Addington (Keith Neumark; 2021-133) – photo on file.
 - one, basic, tephrocotis, 13 December, Superior Junction, Kenora (Ari Wantoro; 2021-108) – photos on file.

Smith's Longspur Calcarius pictus South and Central only (7)

2021 – one, alternate male, 20 April, Pinehurst Park, Brant (J. Brett Fried; 2021-064) - photos on file.

Lark Bunting Calamospiza melanocorys (37)

- 2021 one, first alternate male, 27-28 May, Knudsens Corner, Thunder Bay (Lindy T. Wagenaar, Jeffrey H. Skevington, Sheldon E. McGregor, Vince Fyson; 2021-049) – photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate male, 18 June 2021, Pinewood, Rainy River (Mike V.A. Burrell, also found by Ethan A. Quinton; 2021-048) photo on file.



Figure 19. This Golden-crowned Sparrow arrived in Scarborough, Toronto in formative plumage (above; 23 November 2021. Photo: John W. Mills) but had molted into first alternate "breeding" plumage by the time it departed (right; 20 April 2022. Photo: Jean Hilscher).

Golden-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia atricapilla (19)

2020/21 - one, formative, 6 December-19 February, Bowermans, Prince Edward (Peter R. Fuller; 2021-041) - photos on file.

2021/22 - one, formative, 21 November-20 April, Scarborough, Toronto (Christopher J. Escott, J. Burke Korol, John W. Mills, Zeny A. Lloyd, Luc S. Fazio, George W. Prieksaitis, Jean Hilscher, found by Karl R. Konze; 2021-042) – photos on file.



Figure 20. Spotted Towhee at London, Middlesex in February 2021. Photo: Brad Carey

Spotted Towhee Pipilo maculatus (36)

2020/21 - one, definitive basic male, October 2020-14 March. Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma (Stanley V. Phippen, W. Carter Dorscht, found by Erin Nixon, Steve Holmes; 2021-146) - photos, audio on file.

2021/22 - one, definitive basic female, 12 February-8 May, London, Middlesex (Brad Carey, Garry T. Sadler, George W. Prieksaitis; 2021-147) - photos on file.

Yellow-headed Blackbird Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus Lowlands only (8)

2021 - one, formative, 26 August, Ship Sands Island, Cochrane (Ezra J. Campanelli, also found by Nathan F.P. Hood, Matthew J. Trask; 2021-162) - photos on file.

Bullock's Oriole Icterus bullockii (13)

- 2020 one, first alternate male, 5-6 May 2020, Meaford, Grey (Kevin Heatherington, also found by Wendy Heatherington; 2021-016) - photos on file.
- 2021 one, definitive alternate male, 12-19 April, Red Rock, Algoma (Robert G. Routledge, Stanley V. Phippen, W. Carter Dorscht, found by Jacqueline Rashleigh; 2021-017) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive alternate male, 27 April, Milton, Halton (Clifford N. Dominy; 2021-018) – photos on file.

Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora cyanoptera Central and Lowlands only (5)

2021 – one, formative female, 30 October, Thunder Bay (McKellar Island), Thunder Bay (Joshua L. Levac, Brad I. Balec, also found by John M. Woodcock, Troy J. Balec, Lisa M. Balec, Jeremy J. Balec, Joshua D. Balec, Chelsea L. Balec, Leah R. Balec; 2021-015) – photos on file.





Figure 22. MacGillivray's Warbler at Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto on 5 October 2021. Photo: Connor S. Smith

MacGillivray's Warbler Geothlypis tolmiei (1)

2021 - one, formative, 5 October, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto (Connor S. Smith; 2021-061) – photos on file.

This record officially adds the species back on to the Ontario list; there was a former record of a specimen, but the provenance of the specimen has since been questioned - see the 2009 OBRC annual report (Cranford 2010) for details. There is also an undocumented report of a bird banded by Thunder Cape Bird Observatory from May 2018.

Black-throated Gray Warbler Setophaga nigrescens (26)

2021/22 – one, formative female, 30 November-9 January, Pickering (Frenchman's Bay), *Durham* (Martyn Anniss, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, also found by Sue Sanita; 2021-105) – photos on file.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Central and Lowlands only (35)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate male, 1 May, Neebing, *Thunder Bay* (Adrian Andreacchi; 2021-149) – photo on file.
 - one, definitive alternate female, 16 May, Rossport, *Thunder Bay* (H. Gordon Smith, N. Joan Smith; 2021-148) – photo on file.

Western Tanager Piranga ludoviciana (61)

- 2021 one, definitive alternate male, 7-11 May, Amethyst Harbour, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff, found by Pam MacLean, Jim MacLean; 2021-154) - photo on file.
 - one, definitive alternate male, 16-17 May, Timmins, Cochrane (Roxane D. Filion, found by David M. Houston; 2021-153) - photos on file.

Painted Bunting Passerina ciris (54)

2021 – one, definitive alternate female, 2-6 May, Shirleys Bay, Ottawa (Gordon Johnston, Aaron Hywarren, Bruce M. Di Labio; 2021-118) – 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.

- 2021 Bar-headed Goose (Anser indicus), one, definitive basic, 17 September, Fallowfield, Ottawa (Al Caughey; 2021-004) - photos on file.
 - Barnacle Goose, one, definitive basic, 18-25 August, Port Bruce, Elgin (Damian Gorman, found by Trish Snider; 2021-057) - photos on file.
 - Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), one, basic female, 13 January, Thwaites, Timiskaming (Bruce D. Murphy; 2021-128) - photos on file.
 - Ring-necked Pheasant, one, basic male, 11 May, O'Connor, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff; 2021-126) – photo on file.
 - Ring-necked Pheasant, one, basic male, 28 May, Hilliardton, Timiskaming (Rick Caldwell; 2021-129) - photo on file.
 - Ring-necked Pheasant, one, basic male, 28 September, Slate River Valley, Thunder Bay (Allan G. Harris; 2021-127).
 - European Goldfinch (Carduelis carduelis), one, basic, 15-16 February, Windsor, Essex (Alexis Fluit, also found by Benjamin J. Fluit; 2021-038) photos on file.
 - European Goldfinch, one, alternate, 2-17 July, North York, *Toronto* (Julian Adams, Zachary D'Onofrio; 2021-104) – photos on file.

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.

2021

- Graylag Goose (Anser anser), one, 30 September, Embrun, Prescott and Russell (2021-043).
- Mute Swan, four, early June-9 July, Pic River mouth, Thunder Bay (2021-115).
- Cinnamon Teal (Spatula cyanoptera), one, 18 September, Toronto (Tommy Thompson Park), *Toronto* (2021-025) - photos on file. This was an incredibly thorough and well-researched report. Ultimately the Committee could not rule out a possible Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrid.
- Common Eider, one, 10 May, Oakville, *Halton* (2021-026).
- Whooping Crane (Grus americana), three, 21 March, Bolton, Peel (2021-055).
- California Gull, one, 13 September, Sable Islands Nature Reserve, *Rainy River* (2021-021) – photos on file.
- Slaty-backed Gull, one, 3 January, Toronto (Sunnyside Beach), Toronto (2021-094) – photos on file.
- Arctic Loon (Gavia arctica), one, 26-28 December, Hilton Beach, *Algoma* (2021-056) – photos on file.

- Tricolored Heron (Egretta tricolor), one, 27 May, Wellington, Prince Edward (2021-065).
- Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), one, 19 October, Nighthawk Lake, Cochrane (2021-023).
- Green Heron, one, 3 June, Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay (2021-045).
- White-faced Ibis, one, 18-19 October, Kelly Lake, Greater Sudbury (2021-079) – photos on file.
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), one, 16 April, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Chatham-Kent (2021-005).
- Cassin's Vireo (Vireo cassinii), one, 28 September, Port Franks, Lambton (2021-059) – photos on file. Like the Cinnamon Teal report, above, this was another exceptionally well-documented report. Unfortunately, the Committee felt that they could not confidently rule out the possibility of a dull Blue-headed Vireo.
- European Goldfinch, one, 5 October, Barrhaven, Ottawa (2021-103) photos on file.

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2020 Report (*Ontario Birds* 39:66–95) Under Plumbeous Vireo, add James T. Burk as a contributor.

Under Black-headed Grosbeak, change the last date of the Batchewana, Algoma bird (2020-037) to 12 May 2020.

Under Grasshopper Sparrow, change "Amphispiza bilineata" to "Ammodramus savannarum."

2015 Report (*Ontario Birds* 34:14–177) Under Black-billed Magpie, update the last date to 29 April 2022 (bird is still present, at least to this date).

2014 Report (*Ontario Birds* 33:50–81) Under Painted Bunting, change "Rockland, Ottawa" to "Rockland, Prescott and Russell."

2012 Report (*Ontario Birds* 31:58–5) Under Mew Gull, add an additional record: "one, definitive basic (adult), 1 March, Cobourg, Northumberland (Margaret J.C. Bain, Sherwood I.A. McLernon, found by Roger E. Frost; 2012-022) - photos on file." (this record was omitted in the printed version but appears correctly in digital versions).

1986 Report (*Ontario Birds* 5: 42–63) Under Mew Gull add Daniel R. Salisbury as a finder for record 1986-143 (Port Weller, *Niagara* in 1967) and add Mark A. Gawn, Robert A. Bracken, Brian Penny as finders for record 1986-147 (Cornwall, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry in 1986).

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