

Articles

Breeding Birds of Ontario: Nidology and Distribution

Volume 1: Nonpasserines (Additions and Revisions)

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Appendix C: *Additions to Volume 1 (Peck and James 1983) since Appendix A in Volume 2 (Peck and James 1987), and the 1993 and 1994 revisions in Ontario Birds (Peck and James 1993a, 1993b, 1994).*

In the list below, common and scientific names follow the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (AOU 1998). Changes in the listing sequence of species also conform with the 7th edition of the Check-list, and involve the families Cathartidae, Anatidae, and Phasianidae. Common names in parentheses were those used in previous revisions.

During the past six years, a considerable volume of new infor-

mation has driven the desire to present this appendix. A new breeding species (Eared Grebe), population increases and decreases, new clutch sizes, additional incubation periods, new egg dates, breeding range extensions, and additional provincial nesting regions, all serve to indicate the ever-changing aspects of provincial ornithology.

For this appendix, we have counted the total number of nests and colonies in order to determine the average colony size for each of the 15 nonpasserine colonial species. In the Ontario Nest Records Scheme (ONRS), the number of nests of these colonial species was 1,733,693.

Breeding Bird Species

Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*

An early observation (1944) of young with an adult on James Bay at Cape Henrietta Maria, Kenora, was recently acquired.

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica*

Additional breeding records from 1944 on James Bay, Kenora, have been received of two broods of young with adults, one at Cape Henrietta Maria and the other 40 km (25 miles) to the south. An adult with two chicks was observed 3-5 July 1995 on an interior pond on Akimiski Island, NWT, James Bay, an island geographically but not politically part of Ontario (unpublished data, Ministry of Natural Resources); this breeding record is the most southerly to date.

Common Loon, *Gavia immer*

A 1995 nest record was submitted from Akimiski Island, NWT.

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*

An early nest record from Elgin (1951), and recent nests from Lennox and Addington (1997), Sudbury (1991), and Waterloo (1993) have been received. The regional nesting total is now 35.

An incubation period of ca 22 days was reported from a 1994 Durham nest, and the hatching period was at least four days; incubation commenced before the last egg was laid. A second period of ca 22 days was obtained from a Lennox and Addington nest.

An early egg date of 26 April was submitted from Durham. In Grey, an adult was observed feeding 5 young late in the season on 5 September 1995.

Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*

After an absence of almost 50 years, the species has been reported nesting again in Halton on the Lake Ontario shoreline in 1991, 1994, 1997 (Dobos and Edmondstone 1998), 1998 and again in 1999. An adult was observed on the 1998 nest in Bronte Harbour on 13 April and young were subsequently hatched. An adult was observed on this same nest presumably incubating eggs on 7 September, and was observed with two small young on 20 September (C. Peck, pers. comm.). The first of these nestings would appear to provide our earliest egg date. In 1999, two pairs nested in this location.

An historical record of two 1903 nests in Simcoe was recently determined to be incorrect, and the species has been removed as a breeding bird from that county (Peck 1999).

Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*

The first provincial nesting of this western species occurred in 1996 on a sewage lagoon in Emo, Rainy River District, when an adult was observed, 7 and 14 June, on a nest from which two young later fledged. In 1997, two more nests in the same location each fledged two young.

In Lambton, a courting pair was seen in June 1994, and in 1996 a possible breeding occurred there, since an adult was observed feeding a young bird.

American White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

49 records representing 2 provincial regions. The 93 reported colonies total 77,719 nests, and the average colony size is 836 nests.

Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*

389 records representing 17 provincial regions. The records comprise 14 single nests, 233 colonies and a total of 40,243 nests. The average colony size is 173 nests.

New provincial nesting regions were Sudbury (1996) and Toronto (1993). After decades of low numbers due to lake pollution and human persecution, populations on the Great Lakes are currently increasing, and in 1998, the Canadian Wildlife Service tallied 6,697 nests in Lake Ontario's largest colony at Presqu'île Provincial Park, Northumberland.

American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*

Early nest records from Bruce (1933) and Halton (1933) have been obtained, together with a current record from Haliburton (1994). Forty nesting regions are now represented. An early (1944) breeding record was received of a flightless young at Lake River, Kenora.

Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*

Previous nest records were recently obtained for Manitoulin (1981) and Waterloo (1949), increasing the regional total to 29.

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*

699 records representing 43 provincial regions. Currently, a total of 19,966 nests is made up of 24 single nests and 468 colonies. The average colony size is 43 nests.



Figure 1: Nest of Eared Grebe with incubating adult. This western species first nested in Ontario in 1996 in Rainy River District. Photo by G. K. Peck.



Figure 2: Nest of Double-crested Cormorant with three eggs and a newly-hatched young, 28 June 1975, Big Chicken Island, Lake Erie, Essex County. Photo by G. K. Peck.

Nest records from Grenville (1997), Peel (1994), and Victoria (1992) have been added. The most northerly record for Cochrane District was the report of three nests at Moosonee in 1996 (Ridout 1996).

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*

42 records representing 8 provincial regions. These records list six single nestings, 31 colonies and a total of 465 nests. Average colony size is 15 nests.

An undocumented 1984 sighting of an adult at a nest in Wellington County (Peck 1987) has been added. Haldimand-Norfolk became the sixth provincial nesting region with the finding of a nest in Backus Woods in 1988, and again in 1997, when another nesting was photographically documented. The seventh provincial nesting region was Kent (1997), and the eighth was Northumberland (1999), with a single nest noted on High Bluff Island, Presqu'île Provincial Park.

The Nottawasaga Island colony in Simcoe has ranged from 12 to 27 nests in the years 1993 through 1999, with 18 active nests in 1998 (Peck 1999), and 20 nests all containing young counted in 1999. Ten nests were reported on Chantry Island, Bruce County, in 1999.

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*

No new nests have been reported since the 1986 nest in Hamilton-Wentworth, noted in Appendix A (Peck and James 1987).

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*

34 records representing 5 provincial regions. Nine single nests, 8 colonies and a total of 57 nests have been reported. The average colony size was 6 nests. No new reports of provincial nesting have been received since 1977.



Figure 3: Great Egret pair at Ontario's most northern colony on Nottawasaga Island, Georgian Bay, Simcoe County, 24 June 1991. Photo by G. K. Peck.

Green Heron (Green-backed Heron), *Buorides virescens*

No pertinent new information has been received. Because nesting is most often solitary, colonial nesting counts have not been considered for this species.

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

395 records representing 17 provincial regions. The records list 7 single nestings, 136 colonies and a total of 22,401 nests. Average colony size is 165 nests.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*

Nest records were obtained from Glengarry (1999), Huron (1994), Nipissing (1991), and Victoria (1994), bringing the regional nesting total to 28.

Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*

17 records representing 2 provincial regions. The records list 7 single nests, 6 colonies, and a total of 21,030 nests. Average colony size is 3,505 nests. It should be noted that due to the straggling, spread-out colonies along the Hudson Bay coast of Ontario, accurate and meaningful colony counts have been difficult to ascertain, and the numbers of nests, undoubtedly, were far greater than these listed numbers.

Nest records were received in 1993 and 1996 from Akimiski Island, NWT, in James Bay.

Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*

Nest records from Glengarry (1997), Grenville (1997), Grey (1998), Renfrew (1994), and Victoria (1985) were added to bring the regional total to 33.

Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*

Nests from Grey (1994) and Haldimand-Norfolk (1982) increased the regional total to 10.

[Trumpeter Swan], *Cygnus buccinator*

Nests of free-flying birds have now been reported from Durham (1995, 1997), Kenora (1994, 1995, 1997), Leeds (1996-8), Simcoe (1993-7), Toronto (1996-7), York (1996-7), and a 1999 breeding record from Haldimand-Norfolk was also noted. Formerly believed to breed in Ontario (Lumsden 1984), reintroduced birds are apparently close to re-establishing the species in Ontario (H.G. Lumsden, pers. comm.).

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*

Recently added nest records from Haliburton (1977), Muskoka (1996), Thunder Bay (1995), Victoria (1997), and Waterloo (1959) increased the nesting regions to 31.

A 28 day incubation period was recorded in a 1999 York nest.

Gadwall, *Anas strepera*

A 1981 nest record made Manitoulin the 17th nesting region, and breeding records from Sudbury (Ridout 1994) and Thunder Bay (Weir 1987) were noted.

American Wigeon, *Anas americana*

A 1996 nest record was submitted for Durham (the ninth provincial nesting region), and an early report of seven broods seen in 1944 on the west James Bay coast of Kenora was received.

American Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*

Early nest records for Lambton (1940) and Waterloo (1951) were obtained, and 41 nesting regions are presently represented. An early report of eight broods seen in 1944 on the west coast of James Bay in Cochrane and Kenora was noted.

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*

Glengarry (1997) and Prescott (1996) were two new regions for which nest records were received, and the regional total is now 48. A breeding record involving a female with eight young was submitted for 1996, on Akimiski Island, NWT, in James Bay.

Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*

A 1994 nest record for Rainy River and earlier nests from Peel (1979) and Waterloo (1957) have increased the provincial nesting regions to 34.

Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*

Breeding records in 1994 have been noted from Hamilton in Hamilton-Wentworth, and Mud Lake in Niagara (Ridout 1994). A 1944 sighting of two broods on the west shore of James Bay, Kenora, was noted.

Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*

A female with young in Hamilton-Wentworth (1994) was evidence of breeding (Ridout 1994); and a nest record was submitted in 1995 from Akimiski Island, NWT, in James Bay. An early report from 1944 of 19 broods on the west coast of James Bay, Kenora, was obtained.

A 1992 nest from Winisk in Kenora had an inside diameter of 24 cm (9.4 inches) and an inside depth of 4 cm (1.6 inches).

Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca*

Nesting records were submitted for Niagara (1993), Timiskaming (1995), and York (1985), increasing the regional total to 14. A female with two downy young, 18 July 1997, at Lakefield, Peterborough, was a noted breeding record (Ridout 1997). The Niagara and Timiskaming nests both held clutches of 10 eggs. Observations of three broods on the west shore of James Bay, Kenora, in 1944, were received.

Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*

In addition to the breeding records from Dufferin and Kenora (Peck and James 1987), two other regions where probable breeding occurred are Kent and Lambton, both in 1983 (Weir 1983).

In July 1999, adults with two broods were observed and photographed in Toronto at the Leslie St. Spit, to establish the most recent new breeding record.

Redhead, *Aythya americana*

A 1994 nest record was received from Dufferin County (the eighth nesting region), and a 1998 breeding record from Hamilton-Wentworth was reported (Ridout 1998).

Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*

Nest records for Haliburton (1980) and Nipissing (1988) were submitted, and a probable breeding was reported from Norwich, Oxford (Ridout 1996). The regional nesting total is 11.

Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*

In 1944, eight broods were observed at or just south of Cape Henrietta Maria, Kenora.

King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*

No new breeding evidence has been obtained since 1983.

Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*

10 records representing 1 provincial region, and three islands in James and Hudson Bays, NWT. These records list 3 single nestings, 6 colonies, and a total of 130 nests. The average colony size is 23 nests.

An early breeding record was received of a brood at Cape Henrietta Maria, Kenora, in 1944.

EGGS 40 nests, 1 to 6 eggs; 1E (2N), 2E (3N), 3E (4N), 4E (13N), 5E (8N), 6E (10N).

Average clutch range 4 to 6 eggs (31 nests).

EGG DATES 10 records, 23 June to 16 July (11 dates); 5 records, 26 June to 3 July.



Figure 4: Nest and eggs of Northern Pintail, 19 May 1989, Fishing Islands, Bruce County. Photo by G. K. Peck.

Oldsquaw, *Clangula hyemalis*

In 1944, 12 broods were observed at or just south of Cape Henrietta Maria, Kenora.

No nests have been reported since 1981.

Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*

A 1998 sight record of four young on Lake Timiskaming, Timiskaming District, was submitted and is the first evidence of a probable breeding since 1983.

Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*

A female, observed on 10 July 1994 with 11 young, was a reported breeding record from Gananoque, Leeds (Ridout 1994).

Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Nest records for Grey (1993), Lanark (1993), and Muskoka (1994) increased the provincial nesting regions to 22. A breeding record of an adult with 11 downy young in 1996 in Hamilton-Wentworth was noted (Ridout 1996).

Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*

A 1992 nest record from Grey has been received, and the regional nesting total is now 18.

Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Breeding records were received by the ONRS in 1989 from Essex, and in 1989 and 1990 from Grey. Additionally, probable breeding records were noted in 1989 from Huron (Weir 1989), in 1993 from Oxford (Ridout 1993), and a female with six young was observed in 1988 in Russell (Weir 1988). This species is continuing to expand its breeding range in Ontario.

Three ducklings, six to seven days old, with a female, were observed on 23 May 1997 at Lake St. Clair, and indicated a much earlier egg date than our previous earliest of 24 May.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

Nest records have been received from Bruce (1987), Grenville (1997), Grey (early 1980s), Haldimand-Norfolk (1998), Hamilton-Wentworth (1998), Lanark (1997), Timiskaming (1985), and Wellington (1994), and the regional nesting total has been increased to 33.

Protection of known nests and the use of nesting platforms have been of additional help in the continued provincial breeding success of this widespread raptor. Nest records in the ONRS total 977 as of 1998.

Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Records were received for 1996 nestings from Manitoulin and Northumberland, and the species has now been recorded nesting in 23 provincial regions. In 1999, 7 of 11 active nests produced young along the Rainy River in Rainy River District; and, also in 1999 in southern Ontario, 17 active nests fledged 24 young. One of the latter nests was located on an island in the St. Lawrence River, Leeds County, and was the first nest in that region in more than three decades.

As was indicated in Part B of the revision of Volume 1 (Peck and James 1993b), the Bald Eagle is continuing slowly to recover its former status in southern Ontario. Nest records in the ONRS files now total 695 (1,075 nests).

An incubating adult, 20 February 1999, in Elgin, provided our earliest egg date.

Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*

Essex (1989) and Glengarry (1999) were new nesting regions, raising the regional total to 41.

Another incubation period of ca 32 days was submitted.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*

Grey (1985) and Niagara (1993) were recently submitted nesting regions, which now total 25.

Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*

Kenora (1995), Ottawa-Carleton (1994), and Prince Edward (1995) were the most recently added nesting regions, which now total 32. By 1998, there were 150 nest records in the ONRS.

Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*

Nest records have been submitted from Glengarry (1995), Haliburton (1977), Sudbury (1997), and Wellington (1995). Nesting regions total 33, and by 1998 there were 182 nest records in the ONRS.

Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*

A 1993 nest record for Algoma was only the fourth from northern Ontario. The nesting region total is now 35.

Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*

Nest records were received for Bruce (1982), Glengarry (1996), and Lennox and Addington (1998), increasing the regional nesting total to 36.

Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*

A 1997 nest record for Grenville and a 1998 nest record from Russell have been added. The Red-tailed Hawk nests in 44 provincial regions and is the most commonly reported nesting Ontario raptor, with 1,150 nest records in the ONRS.

Golden Eagle, *Agula chrysaetos*

All 24 known nestings of Golden Eagle up to 1997 are in ONRS files. All nests were in Kenora and were recently updated from files submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, who have requested that their exact locations not be revealed.

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*

Parry Sound (1994) was the latest of the 42 nesting regions recorded. In 1993, the most northerly nest record to date involved a nest found near Hudson Bay at Fort Severn in Kenora.

Merlin, *Falco columbarius*

Haliburton (1994), Renfrew (1997), and Timiskaming (1985) were the most recent new nesting regions. The present total of 105 nests, 14 nesting regions, plus numerous recent sightings suggest that this falcon is increasing in Ontario.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*

Almost 48 new nest records have been received in the ONRS since 1993 (Peck and James 1993b), with 17 nests in 1997, and another 18 reported in 1998 (Ridout 1998). These records are the result of the re-introduction of captive-raised birds to new as well as former nesting sites in the province. Some of these sites were on ledges of tall buildings in urban centres. In 1998, a pair nested successfully on a cliff-ledge in Niagara Gorge. New nesting regions were Algoma (1997), Hamilton-Wentworth (1995), Manitoulin (1995), Middlesex (1996), Niagara (1998), Ottawa-Carleton (1996), Timiskaming (1997), and Toronto (1995). The nesting region total is 21.

In 1999, urban nests continue to be reported from Hamilton, London, Ottawa, and Toronto.

Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*

An early nest record (1953) has been obtained for Waterloo County, as has a 1977 nest record from Peel. The most recent nest record of this species was submitted in 1990 for Durham. The regional nesting total is 17.



Figure 5: Nest and eggs of Broad-winged Hawk, 30 May 1967, Durham County. Photo by G. K. Peck.

Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*

Glengarry (1995) was the 46th regional nesting, and a 1978 nest in Haliburton was the 47th.

A short incubation period of 20 days was submitted.

Spruce Grouse, *Falcapennis canadensis*

34 nests representing 7 provincial regions.

EGGS 32 nests with 1 to 8 eggs; 1E (1N), 2E (1N), 3E (1N), 4E (5N), 5E (10N), 6E (7N), 7E (5N), 8E (2N).

Average clutch range 5 to 6 eggs (17 nests).

EGG DATES 30 nests, 9 May to 25 June (37 dates); 15 nests, 29 May to 10 June.

Willow Ptarmigan, *Lagopus lagopus*

The most southerly breeding record in Ontario was a 1996 sighting of a female with six young on the James Bay coast, 100 km (60 mi) north of Attawapiskat, Kenora.

Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*

Although no new nests have been reported, the species continues to breed on Manitoulin Island as evidenced by its "lek" activities each spring at Gore Bay airfield.

Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*

New nest records have been received from Dufferin (1996), Grey (1997), Hamilton-Wentworth (1994), Northumberland (1997), and Victoria (1997), and nesting regions have increased to 10. Breeding records have also been noted from Brant (1998), Bruce (1987), and Elgin (1993), as released birds continue to propagate in southern Ontario.

A Grey nest contained 16 eggs and a Hamilton-Wentworth nest contained 18 eggs.



Figure 6: Female Merlin at nest with three young. This falcon appears to be increasing in Ontario. Photo by G. K. Peck.

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

In Volume 1, page 157, line 3, the regions in parentheses should read “(Cochrane and Kenora Districts and Simcoe County)”.

No new nests have been reported since the fourth in Ottawa-Carleton in 1982.

King Rail, *Rallus elegans*

The breeding record from Grey (1987) mentioned in the Volume 1 revision (Peck and James 1993b) was considered questionable by the Grey-Bruce Bird Records Committee and has been discarded.

No new nests have been recorded since 1977.

Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola*

A Bruce (1991) nest was the 29th regional nesting and a Nipissing (1999) nest was the 30th.

Sora, *Porzana carolina*

A nest record for Sudbury (1996) has been submitted, and was the 32nd regional nesting.

Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*

An early (1953) nest record from Waterloo and 1997 nest records from Lennox and Addington have been obtained, and the nesting region total is 27.

A late egg date of 26 July has been obtained from a Lennox and Addington nest.

American Coot, *Fulica americana*

An early (1949) nest record has been obtained from Waterloo County, which was the 20th nesting region. It is worthy of note that no current nests of this marsh-dwelling species have been received since 1992.



Figure 7: Sharp-tailed Grouse on lek, 30 April 1997, Gore Bay, Manitoulin District.
Photo by G. K. Peck.

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*

Many current sightings and reports of breeding would appear to indicate a marked population increase of this species in Ontario. In 1996, breeding was documented in Haldimand-Norfolk (Ridout 1996), and in 1998, breeding was reported in Lanark (Ridout 1998). Nest records from Peterborough (1998) and Thunder Bay (1993) have been submitted, bringing the regional nesting total to 6.

The 1988 breeding record for Russell (Peck and James 1993b) was actually in Ottawa-Carleton: the observation of a pair with two young (Weir 1988) occurred at Navan, on the northeast side of the Mer Bleue Bog.

American Golden-Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*

No new nests have been reported since 1984.

Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Two nests were found on Akimiski Island, NWT, in James Bay on 11 and 14 June 1995.

Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*

Single nest records have been submitted in 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, and two in 1998, all from Lake of the Woods, Spohn Twp., Rainy River District, where this species is making its last stand in the province.

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*

A 1996 nest record was submitted from an islet near Akimiski Island, NWT, in James Bay, and is the most southerly nest to date.

Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*

In 1994, a record was received of the second Ontario nest of this species, found on Manitoulin Island in 1992.

Marbled Godwit, *Limosa fedoa*

A breeding record of two adults with four downy young was recorded on 6 June 1994 at the Rainy River sewage lagoons, Rainy River District (Elder 1994).

Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*

Nest records from Glengarry (1996) and Victoria (1996) increased the regional total to 31.

American Woodcock, *Scolopax minor*

The 42nd region from which a nesting has occurred was Lanark (1996), and the 43rd was Glengarry (1998).

A fifth incubation period of 20 days was reported from a York nest in 1999.

Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*

A 1981 breeding record for Bruce has been obtained.

Little Gull, *Larus minutus*

No nests have been reported since 1989.

Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*

Timiskaming became the 5th provincial nesting region with the submission of a 1997 nest record, near Kirkland Lake. This is the most southerly nest record for Ontario.

Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*

482 records representing 33 provincial regions. These records list 24 single nestings, 298 colonies, and a total of 1,363,179 nests. The average colony size is 4,574 nests.

Nipissing became the 33rd provincial nesting region with the submission of a 1996 nesting. Later, an early (1909) nest record for Nipissing was obtained.



Figure 8: Nest and egg of Sandhill Crane. Breeding records and occurrences of this species are increasing in Ontario. Photo by G.K. Peck.

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*

1,105 records representing 37 provincial regions. These records list 111 single nestings, 566 colonies, and a total of 120,227 nests. The average colony size is 212 nests.

A breeding record of three half-grown young was submitted for 1996 on Akimiski Island, NWT, in James Bay.

Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*

Nest records have been received for Hamilton-Wentworth (1995) and for Niagara (1995-6), and nesting regions now total 11.

Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*

111 records representing 13 provincial regions. These records list 13 single nestings, 77 colonies, and a total of 11,981 nests. The average colony size is 155 nests.

Rainy River (1996) was the 13th provincial nesting region. New nesting sites were reported from Half-moon Island in Georgian Bay, Bruce County (1980-91), and from an islet in Spider Bay, Parry Sound District (1990). In 1998, the colony in Hamilton Harbour totalled 433 nests (Ridout 1998).

Another incubation period of at least 21 days was reported from Toronto (M of M) in 1998.

Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*

620 records representing 32 provincial regions. These records list 72 single nestings, 336 colonies, and a total of 52,907 nests. The average colony size is 157 nests.

In 1998, the Hamilton Harbour colonies totalled 261 nests.

Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*

The 19 nest records in the ONRS, all from Kenora District, describe eight single nestings and 11 colonies making up a total of 87 nests. The average colony size is 7 nests.

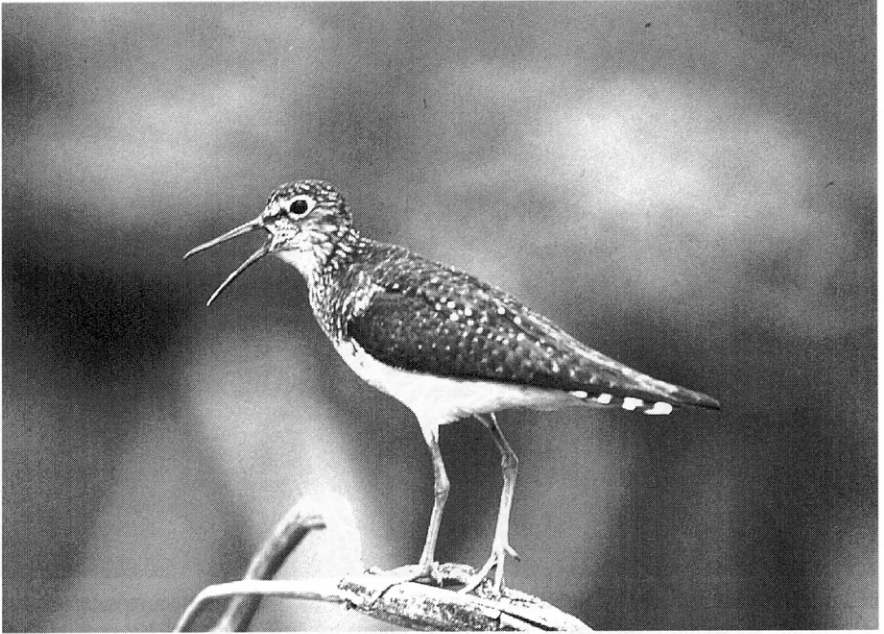


Figure 9: Solitary Sandpiper on breeding territory, 28 June 1986, Vrooman Twp., Sudbury District. Photo by M. K. Peck.

No nests have been reported since 1993 when three nests in a small colony were observed and photographed on a small island south of Akimiski Island, James Bay, NWT.

Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*

51 records representing three provincial regions. These records list 9 single nestings, 22 colonies, and a total of 739 nests. The average colony size is 33 nests.

The most recent nest record was from Kent in 1997.

Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*

1,066 records representing 32 provincial regions. These records list 142 single or isolated nestings, 216 colonies, and a total of 1,912 nests. The average colony size is 8 nests. It should be noted that because the small colonies of this species are usually loose and spread-out, resulting in some nests being missed, the number of single nests may be fewer than listed and the average colony size may be a little greater.

A nest record for Algoma (1996) increased the provincial nesting regions to 32.

A 1994 Durham nest was positioned on top of an abandoned Canada Goose nest, still containing two goose eggs.

Black Guillemot, *Cephus grylle*

On an islet just off the northwest coast of North Twin Island, NWT, in central James Bay, 11 nests (18 eggs) were found on 18 and 22 July 1973 (Manning 1981). This is the only other record of nesting near Ontario since the initial record in 1957 (Peck and James 1983).



Figure 10: Nest and eggs of Caspian Tern, 29 June 1978, South Limestone Island, Georgian Bay, Parry Sound District. Photo by G.K. Peck.

Rock Dove, *Columba livia*

Nest records were received for Brant (1994), Essex (1978), Haliburton (1999), and Muskoka (1995), and 35 provincial regions are now represented by nestings.

The inside diameter of a York nest was 14.8 cm (5.8 inches).

Incubation periods in 9 nests ranged from 17 to 21 days, with 5 nests averaging 18 to 20 days.

Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*

Glengarry (1999), Muskoka (1995), and Sudbury (1994) nests increased the regional total to 43.

A late egg date of 4 October 1997 was submitted from Grey County.

Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*

Omitted from Volume 1 was Bruce County, where two dated nestings occurred. The first of these was in Amabel Twp., 28 April 1876, and the second, also in Amabel Twp., Lot 13, Con. D., 24 May 1878 (Mitchell 1935).

Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

A 14 day incubation period was reported from a York nest in 1999.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*

A 1997 nest made Haldimand-Norfolk the 26th nesting region.

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*

Sault Ste. Marie is mentioned in the distribution of this species in Ontario (Campbell and Campbell 1984), and is far north of its breeding range in southern Ontario. It is doubtful if the species breeds at such a latitude.

No new nests have been reported since 1989.

Eastern Screech-Owl, *Otus asio*

A Haldimand-Norfolk nest in 1998 increased the nesting regions to 26.

An incubation period of ca 24 days was reported in a 1999 York nest containing 4 eggs, and hatching was completed in two days. Two other incubation periods of 25 and 27 days were submitted. In each instance, incubation was arbitrarily assumed to have begun with the laying of the second egg.

Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*

Muskoka (1995) was the 45th provincial nesting region. A 1994 Niagara nest held 3 young and 1 egg and is the only reported clutch of four for Ontario.

Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*

Manitoulin (1997) became the 4th provincial nesting region when the sixth nest reported to date was discovered on 29 March 1997 and photographed (ROM PR 2090), on Barrie Island, part of Manitoulin Island. Three of the 4 hatched young later fledged successfully (Campbell et al. 1998). This nest was the second most southerly found in Ontario.

A breeding record of an adult with 3 young was reported in 1997 from Black Sturgeon Lake, Thunder Bay (Ridout 1997). In 1998, the seventh and eighth provincial nests were found in this same area. The 1998 nests were 3.5 km (2.2 miles) apart in a recent burn and were situated in burned poplars; one nest with four young was on top of a stub at a height of 12 m (39 ft), and the other with five young was in a hollow in the trunk at a height of 9 m (29.5 ft).

Barred Owl, *Strix varia*

28 nests representing 13 provincial regions.

Haliburton (1980), Manitoulin (1987), Muskoka (1997), Nipissing (1999), and Victoria (1996) nest records recently increased the provincial nesting regions to 13. A 1999 Durham RM nest was the second for the region. In 1987, a Manitoulin nest provided an early egg date of 23 March, and a latest egg date of 22 May was reported from a 1982 Haliburton nest.

EGGS 16 nests with 2 to 3 eggs; 2E (8N), 3E (8N).

EGG DATES 11 nests, 23 March to 22 May (16 dates); 6 nests, 18 April to 15 May.

Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa*

A photograph made on Manitoulin in 1997, of a fledged juvenile still with traces of down, has been received at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM PR 2089); it provides documentation of the second most southerly breeding record for this species in Ontario (Whitelaw 1998).

Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*

In 1994, the third Ontario nest was reported from the third provincial region, Thunder Bay.

Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus*

Two nest records have made Parry Sound the 13th provincial nesting region; one of these nests was an early record from 1928, and the other was a nest discovered in 1981. A nest in a bird box in 1998 made Brant the 14th nesting region. A 1998 breeding record from Peterborough was reported (Ridout 1998).

Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*

Two nest records from Toronto both had incubation periods of 19 days.

Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*

Lively, Sudbury (1994) was the site of the 25th provincial nesting region and the most northerly nest location yet recorded for the species in Ontario.

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*

Niagara (1995) was the 33rd provincial nesting region.

In Haliburton, two complete clutches of two eggs each were incubated and young successfully fledged.

Incubation periods of 19 and 20 days were reported also from two Haliburton nests.

Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*

Lambton became the 44th provincial nesting region when a 1940 nest record was submitted.

INCUBATION PERIOD 6 nests; 3 of 22 days, 1 of no more than 23 days, 1 of 26 days, 1 of at least 26 days, and 1 of ca 28 days. The last three periods are longer than usual (Bent 1940, Nice 1954, Hamas 1994).

Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Bruce (1996) was the 37th provincial nesting region.

Incubation periods of 11 days and 12 days were reported from two York nests.

Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*

Brant (1994) was the 10th provincial nesting region. In 1996, 1997, and 1998 probable breeding records were reported from Leeds (Ridout 1996, 1997, 1998).

A 1995 nest from Haldimand-Norfolk was in a cavity in a dead beech at a low height of 7.6 m (25 ft); the cavity was 25.5 cm (10 inches) in depth, and had a diameter of 8.2 cm (3.2 inches).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*

Nest records were submitted for Brant (1985) and Glengarry (1995), and 39 nesting regions are now represented.

New incubation periods: 1 nest, 13 days; 3 nests, 14 days.

Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*

Glengarry (1995), Grey (1993), and Haliburton (1996) nests increased the regional total to 40. INCUBATION PERIOD 12 nests, 12 to 14 days; 6 of 12 days, 5 of 13 days, and 1 of 14 days.

Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*

Nest records for Essex (1994), Glengarry (1999), Lennox and Addington (1995), and Prince Edward (1994), increased the provincial nesting regions to 47.

Two more incubation periods of 12 days, and one of 13 days were recorded.

Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*

Nest records have been obtained from Frontenac (1981) and Haliburton (1984). Eight provincial nesting regions are now represented. There are 28 nest records on file.

Black-backed Woodpecker, *Picoides arcticus*

Lanark (1994) was the 14th provincial nesting region.

An incubation period of ca 14 days was submitted.

Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*

In Volume 1 (Peck and James 1983), under the sub-heading EGGs, the number of nests should read 235 and not 245.

A 1998 nest record for Russell was submitted and the regional total is all but complete at 51. INCUBATION PERIOD 17 nests, 11 to 15 days; 9 nests averaged 12 to 13 days. In at least one nest, incubation commenced before the clutch was complete.

Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*

Haldimand-Norfolk (1997), Haliburton (1996), and Waterloo (1994) nests increased the regional total to 33. Photographic documentation of a 1992 Elgin nesting has been received.

INCUBATION PERIOD 3 nests: 1 of 15 days, 1 of 16 days, and 1 of 20 days. The variation in length may indicate that incubation commenced before the clutch was complete, as often happens (Bull and Jackson 1995).

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Least Bittern with young in nest. Photo by *J.M. Richards*.