

Articles

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2000

Kayo J. Roy

Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) reviews documentation of any record of an OBRC Review List species. This 19th Annual Report covers the adjudication of 126 records received by the OBRC during the year 2000, of which 82% were accepted. A total of 183 observers submitted documentation for review by the 2000 Committee. These reports were sent in by a wide range of birders, both expert and novice, who for the most part submitted well written and thorough accounts, often including field notes and sketches. Photographs or video tapes were also included with a substantial number of submitted reports.

The members of the 2000 Committee were: Margaret Bain, Peter Burke, Robert Curry (Chair), Robert Dobos, Kevin McLaughlin, Ron Pittaway, Kayo Roy (non-voting Secretary) and Alan Wormington. Mark Peck served as the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison (non-voting) to the OBRC in 2000.

The official Ontario Bird Checklist remains at 473. However, one new subspecies, "Western"

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis calurus*, was accepted for the province. No new breeding species were added in 2000.

All the records received by the OBRC are archived at the ROM in Toronto. Researchers and other interested individuals are welcome to examine any of the filed reports at the ROM, by appointment only. Please write Mark Peck, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6, e-mail: markp@rom.on.ca or telephone 416-586-5523.

Listing of Records

The format of this report follows that used in last year's annual report (Roy 2000). Accepted records are arranged taxonomically by their English and scientific names following the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (AOU 1998). Following the species names, a binomial numbering system appears. The first number indicates the total number of accepted records (by the OBRC) prior to 1 January 1982 (the forma-

tion date of the OBRC); and the second is the total number of accepted records from 1982 to 2000 (including those listed in this report). An asterisk in place of the first number indicates that documentation was not required for the occurrence of that species prior to 1982. Date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, sex, plumage, and location(s) are provided when known. Counties, districts, and regional municipalities are shown in italics. The plumage terminology used here follows the Humphrey and Parkes (1959) system as approved at the 11 September 1999 OBRC Policy Meeting. See Pittaway (2000) for a detailed explanation of plumage and molt terminology. The names of all contributors of documentation are listed. Those contributors who were known to be the finders of the bird are underlined. Others present when the bird was found, but who did not submit a report, are listed when known.

The Committee makes every effort to verify documented information prior to accepting and publishing a record. It is, however, still possible that some inaccuracies occur. We welcome written communication to the Secretary from anyone with pertinent information that would correct or strengthen any record. There may be occasions where dates or other listed details in a record differ from those quoted in other published sources. We have used the most accurate information that was available to us.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or origin are listed separately. Contributors of all "not accepted" reports receive a letter from the Chair explaining the reasons for the decision, along with copies of the comments of the voting members. These reports are also kept on permanent file at the ROM. A "not accepted" report can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new evidence is submitted to the Committee for review.

Changes to the Review List

At the OBRC Annual Meeting in March 2001, the Committee removed Townsend's Solitaire from the Ontario Review List for northern Ontario only, effective 1 January 2001. Delisting species from the northern Ontario Review List is done on a species by species basis. With the numbers of Townsend's Solitaire continuing to increase as they have over the past five years, the Committee felt it was time for this species to be delisted. Townsend's Solitaire remains on the Review List for southern Ontario.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC would like to extend their appreciation to the many observers who took the time to submit documentation, photographs, sketches, and videos of their observations of rare birds in 2000. We thank the following people who assisted in many ways to provide

the Committee with additional data, photographs, videos and other material evidence: Bob Andrie, Sam Barone, John Black, Rachel Brew, Barry Cherie, Art Clark, Willie D'Anna, Bruce Di Labio, Nick Escott, Jim Flynn, Michel Gosselin, Phill Holder, Jean Iron, Jon McCracken, Peter Read, Mark Peck, Alf Rider, Ron Ridout, Sarah Rupert, Dan Salisbury, Don Shanahan, Roy Smith, Ron Tozer, Ron Weir, and Alan Wormington. The OBRC is very grateful to Jon Dunn, Steve Howell, Bruce Mactavish, Klaus Malling Olsen, and David Sibley for their expert opinions on a record they reviewed in 2000.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Mike Street for access to ONTBIRDS (the listserv sponsored by the Ontario Field Ornithologists) on matters dealing with the OBRC. This form of communication for channeling data, especially dates and places, has been invaluable in maintaining accurate records, and many rare bird reports were submitted to the OBRC because of direct appeals through ONTBIRDS.

To the 2000 OBRC members, I thank you for your assistance and cooperation. Your continuing support is very much appreciated. To Rob Dobos, an extra thank you is extended for his valued advice.



Figure 1: Female Northern Fulmar at Aurora, York, on 5 January 2000. This bird was found injured and incapable of flight, and was euthanized on 6 January 2000. Photo by *Patricia Lang*.



Figure 2: Definitive alternate/basic male Anhinga at Delaware, *Middlesex*, from 16 July to 16 September 2000. Photo by *Kayo J. Roy*.



Figure 3: Alternate male Cinnamon Teal at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, on 3 June 2000. Photo by *Nicholas G. Escott*.



Figure 4: Female Smew on Niagara River at Miller's Creek, *Niagara*, on 22 February 1960. Photo by *Donald R. Gunn*.



Figure 5: Juvenal Long-tailed Jaeger at Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, on 28 October 1991. Photo by *Kayo J. Roy*.

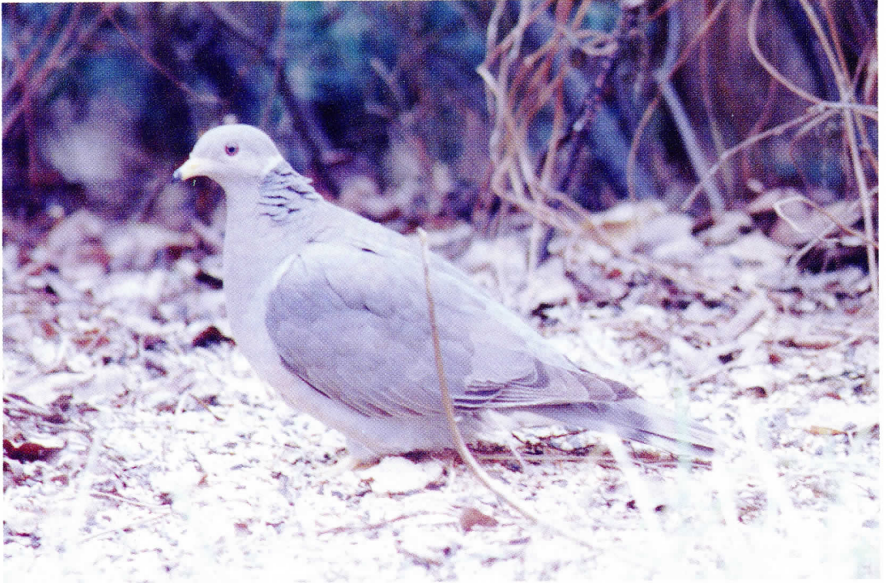


Figure 6: Basic Band-tailed Pigeon at Kingfisher Lake, *Thunder Bay*, from 26 May to 1 June 2000. Photo by *Nicholas G. Escott*.



Figure 7: Male Rufous Hummingbird at Nipigon, *Thunder Bay*, from 31 July to 2 August 2000. Sketch by *Lola Grimes*.

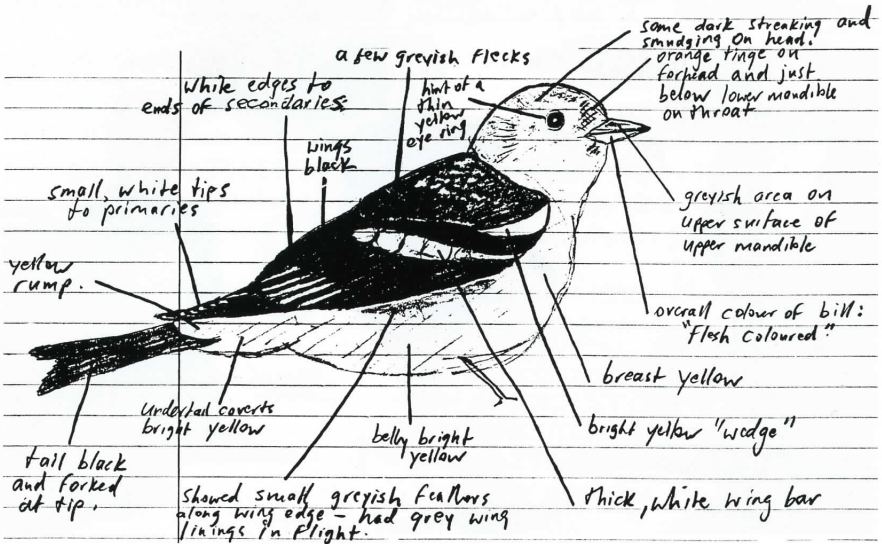


Figure 8: Basic male Western Tanager at Whitney, Nipissing, from 2 to 13 March 2000. Sketch by Doug Tozer.



Figure 9: Alternate Lark Sparrow at Point Pelee National Park, Essex, on 17 May 2000. Photo by James N. Flynn.



Figure 10: Ontario Bird Records Committee members for 2000. Front row, left to right: Kayo Roy, Ron Pittaway, Bob Curry. Back row: Mark Peck, Alan Wormington, Kevin McLaughlin, Peter Burke, Margaret Bain. Absent: Rob Dobos. Photo by *David Beadle*.

Accepted Records

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* (3/16)

1999 - one, definitive basic, 19 December, Wolfe Island, *Frontenac*, (Ronald D. Weir, George Vance).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (0/14)

2000 - one, 23 August, Rainy Lake (Red Pine Island), *Rainy River*, (Allan G. Harris, also found by Sue Bryan, Robert Foster)

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (3/9)

1999 - one, female, 5 January, Aurora, *York*, (Gary Lawrence, C. Silla Darvasi, Andrea S. Coombs, Patricia Lang) – photos on file, specimen (skin) at ROM (#65648).

This injured bird was found at a roadside in an industrial area in Aurora and was taken to the Wildcare Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Woodbridge, Ontario. While the bird showed no signs of trauma externally, a radiograph determined that the bird had a fracture of the left clavicle, rendering it incapable of flight. Given both the time required for fracture repair, and the logistics of returning this bird to its natural habitat, it was decided that euthanization by intracardiac injection was best for the bird.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (2/1)

1955 - one, 14 August, Long Beach, *Niagara*, (Glenn A. Meyers, George A. Meyers, Eric Bastin) - specimen (skin) at ROM (#73077).

1897 or 1898 - one, spring, Gull Lake, *Muskoka*, (collector unknown) - specimen (skin) at ROM (#34288).

The 1955 specimen was likely the result of Hurricane Connie as it swept through Ontario. The 1897/1898 specimen had a tag attached indicating that the identification of the species was made by Percy A. Taverner. See also Baillie (1955), Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), and Speirs (1985).

Leach's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (3/0)

1955 - one, 16 August, Kingston (Loughborough Lake), *Frontenac*, (Mrs. H. Patry) - specimen (skin) at ROM (#73086)

1939 - one, 19 July, Cornwall (St. Lawrence River), *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*, (A. Burrelle) - specimen (skin) at ROM (#33400).

The 2000 Committee examined the specimens for these two occurrences at the ROM. The 1955 specimen was located immediately after Hurricane Connie passed through Ontario. For further reference, see Toner (1940), Baillie (1955), Quilliam (1973), and Speirs (1985).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* (1/0)

1933 - one, female, 28 August, Ottawa (Rideau River), *Ottawa-Carleton*, (found by Bunny Sunderland) - specimen (skin) at CMN (#CMN AV 25668).

This specimen is deposited with the Canadian Museum of Nature in Aylmer, Quebec. See also Taverner (1934), and Speirs (1985).

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (0/1)

2000 - one, definitive alternate/basic, male, 16 July - 16 September, Delaware, *Middlesex*, (Louise McAsh, Robert Curry, Peter Read, Burke Korol, Kayo J. Roy, James N. Flynn, Alfred H. Rider) - photos on file.

Clearly, the bird of the year in Ontario, this is the first fully documented record of this species for Ontario and Canada. This remarkable rarity remained a full two months in a small marsh just west of London, and was seen by a very large number of birders. A full account of this occurrence can be found in Bain (2000) and Read (2000). The 2001 Committee will review two very old Anhinga records for Ontario, for which there appears to be some very limited and controversial documentation (Tozer 2000).

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (7/37)

2000 - one, definitive alternate, 3 May, London (Westminster Ponds), *Middlesex*, (Andrew Ross).

- one, definitive alternate, 14 May, Essex, *Essex*, (David R. Don, also found by Gerrard McNaughton, Thomas Crooks, Wolfgang Luft).

- one, juvenal, 26 August - 14 September, Rondeau Park (Townsite), *Chatham-Kent*, (Blake A. Mann, Burke Korol, Alfred H. Rider) - photo on file.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (2/24)

- 2000 - one, definitive alternate, 2-24 May, Presqu'île Provincial Park (Owen Point), *Northumberland*, (Donald Shanahan, also found by Ian Shanahan).
 - one, 14 June, Brockville (McNair Island), *Leeds and Grenville*, (Cynthia Pekarik, D. V. Chip Weseloh).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* North Only (4/11)

- 2000 - seven, basic, 2 November, Red Rock, *Thunder Bay*, (George A. Williams, also found by Joseph Williams, Keith Johnson) - photo on file.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* North Only (1/5)

- 2000 - one, 7 May, Fort Frances, *Rainy River*, (Roger M. Simms).

There are very few records of this species for northern Ontario, and evidence of possible breeding in the Rainy River area needs to be explored.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (2/30)

- 2000 - one, basic, 13-16 September, Alfred (Sewage Lagoon), *Prescott and Russell*, (Jacques M. Bouvier, Roger Clark).
 1996 - one, definitive alternate, 24-25 May, Alfred (Sewage Lagoon), *Prescott and Russell*, (Jacques M. Bouvier, Christopher Michener).

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (2/31)

- 2000 - one, 31 March, Pickering, *Durham*, (Michael Williamson).
 - one, 31 March, Grimsby (Beamer Memorial Conservation Area), *Niagara*, (Donald E. Perks, Robert Curry, Verne Evans).
 - one, 15-21 May, Sturgeon Creek (15-17 May), and Point Pelee National Park (17-21 May), *Essex*, (David J. Milsom, Alan Wormington, also found by Kevin A. McLaughlin, David Wilson).
 - one, 26 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*, (P. Allen Woodliffe).
 - one, 14 and 17 July, Spry, *Bruce*, (Robert Curry, found by Denys Gardiner, Sharon Gardiner, Dennis Lewington, Gwen Lewington).
 - one, 30 July, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, (Ross Mackintosh, Randy P. Horvath, also found by Paul Desjardins, Sandy Mackintosh).
 - one, basic, 24 August, Mount Hope, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, (Robert H. Westmore, also found by Dorothy Westmore).
 - one, basic, 9 October, Vittoria, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (Hugh McArthur).

This species, formerly considered accidental in Ontario, is being reported with increasing frequency. The eight records this year equals all of the reports of this species observed for the entire 1980s (James 1991).

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only (0/29)

- 2000 - one, definitive basic, 24 September - 2 October, Huntsville, *Muskoka*, (Colin D. Jones, Doug Tozer, Allan Sinclair, Burke Korol, found by Mark Peck) - photos on file.
 - one, juvenal, 9-11 October, Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton*, (Christina Lewis, Robert A. Bracken, also found by Michael Tate).
 - one, definitive basic, 27 November - 6 December, Kingsville (Jack Miners Bird Sanctuary), *Essex*, (Dean J. Ware, Stephen T. Pike) - photos on file.

- one, definitive basic, 17 December, Whitby (Harbour), *Durham*, (Ron Tozer, also found by Doug Tozer, Margaret J. C. Bain).

Here is another example of a species being observed more frequently in Ontario.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (0/11)

- 2000 - one, alternate, male, 27 May - 23 June, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, (Nicholas G. Escott, also found by Rob Foster, Sue Bryan, Michael Bryan, Allan G. Harris) - photo on file.

A female teal was associated with this male bird, but was not seen well enough to make an identification.

Smew *Mergellus albellus* (2/0)

- 1973 - one, female, 9-10 December, Normandale (Fish Hatchery), *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (John L. Olmsted, Alan Wormington, also found by Barry D. Jones, Jack Hanna, Douglas Hanna) - photo on file.
- 1960 - one, female, 21 February - 30 March, Niagara River (between Fort Erie and Chippawa), Miller's Creek (21-22 February, 13 March, and 28-30 March), Frenchman's Creek (23 and 28 February) Ussher's Creek (27 February), *Niagara*, (Harold D. Mitchell, Mary Louise Emerson, Donald R. Gunn, found by James L. Baillie) - photo on file.

Photographs and written documentation for these two records provided the 2000 Committee sufficient data to rule out any concerns of origin. Prior to being found in Ontario, the 1960 bird was the same female seen in the Buffalo Harbour, New York, the previous week. In the February 1960 issue of *The Prothonotary*, Harold H. Axtell (1960), in a cover story, refers to this bird as "more than just a rarity and, in fact, constitutes one of the highest points in the entire history of ornithology in the Niagara Frontier Area". For further information, see Roche (1960a, 1960b), Baillie (1964), Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), and Speirs (1985)

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (1/11)

- 2000 - one, 6 and 10 May, Hillman Marsh (6 May), Point Pelee National Park (6 and 10 May), *Essex*, (Dennis Fast, Steven M. Coogan, Pauline M. Hockey, Vicki McKay).
- one, 16 May, Walsingham, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (John N. Hollyer, John Kalman, Joyce E. Hollyer).

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (5/20)

- 2000 - one, adult, 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Paul Jones, Ronald Fleming).
- one, definitive basic, 15 May, Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (Donna Sheppard, Mark Cranford).

"Western" Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis calurus* (0/1)

- 2000 - one, definitive basic, 23 December, Fisherville, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (Willie D'Anna, also found by Dean DiTommaso).

This is the first record of this subspecies accepted for Ontario by the OBRC. This very complete report includes a good description of the circumstances, and eliminates confusion with a dark morph "Eastern" Red-tailed Hawk.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (0/5)

1999 - one, juvenal, 3-25 April, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, *Prince Edward*, (Ronald D. Weir, Joel H. Ellis, Craig S. A. McLaughlan, Christopher J. Escott).

This bird at Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area was not accepted in the 1999 Report due to questions about its origin. While these questions remain, the Committee has decided to follow the approach of some other Great Lakes area records committees. Thus, the record is accepted with the caveat that wild origin cannot be determined with certainty. This applies also to the previously accepted Ontario records of this species.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica* (4/5)

2000 - one, juvenal, 22 September, Toronto, *Toronto*, (Robert Cumming, Jean Iron, Jerry DeMarco) - photos on file.

This juvenile bird was rescued from the middle of a street in north Toronto where it was likely hit by a car. The bird was taken to a small area of cattails in High Park, where it was observed to be in poor condition when released. The bird was not relocated the next day.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* South Only (1/40)

2000 - one, alternate, 22-23 May, Southampton (Miramichi Bay), *Bruce*, (Cindy Cartwright, found by David Fidler, Barbara Fidler).
 - one, alternate, male, 2 June - 15 July, Long Point (Tip), *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (Stuart MacKenzie, Kenny Burrell).

A keen young birder, a volunteer for Bird Studies Canada at Long Point, heard an unfamiliar sound, a high-pitched, mournful *booop!* He knew instantly what it was, and that it was important. He looked for the bird and soon found it on the shoreline, calling for a mate. He watched as the little male Piping Plover lifted off to perform its courtship flight. This was not just a migratory bird, this was a would-be breeding bird on a sandspit that had not seen breeding Piping Plovers since 1978. The bird remained for nearly two months, hoping to attract a mate, and then one morning, realizing this was not going to happen, the lonely male circled the tip of Long Point and disappeared south over Lake Erie (Michael Bradstreet, pers. comm.).

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* North Only (7/61)

2000 - one, basic, male, 5 November, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay*, (Nicholas G. Escott).
 - one, basic, female, 9-18 November, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay*, Nicholas G. Escott, found by Wally Zarowski) - photo on file.

- 1999 - one, basic, female, 17-23 October, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay*, (Nicholas G. Escott, Jody R. Allair) - photo on file.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* (2/2)

- 1998 - one, alternate in prebasic molt, 21 August, Nepean (Ottawa Beach), *Ottawa-Carleton*, (Robert A. Bracken, Gordon Pringle, Timothy Allison, Kenneth Allison).
 1976 - one, alternate in prebasic molt, 25 July, St. David's, *Niagara*, (Harold H. Axtell, John E. Black, Paul M. Benham, Robert Curry).

The 1976 observation was an extremely well documented report. "Awesome" and "excruciatingly detailed" were adjectives used by some members of the 2000 Committee to describe the reports on the 1976 bird, particularly the typed eight page submission from Harold H. Axtell. For further information, see Axtell et al. (1977).

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* North Only (2/10)

- 2000 - one, alternate, 17 May, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay*, (Nicholas G. Escott, Philip J. Cripps) - photo on file.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (1/2)

- 1999 - one, juvenal, 17 October, Thunder Bay (Mission Island), *Thunder Bay*, (Geoffrey Gooding, also found by Sheila Gooding).

This observation represents the first record of this species for northern Ontario, and is only the third for the province.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (1/19)

- 1965 - one, definitive basic, 21 August and 6 September, Burnaby (Morgan's Point), *Niagara*, 11 September, Byng (Grant Point), *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (Robert Curry, Adrian Dorst, also found by Angela Thomas) - specimen (skin) in Buffalo Museum of Science (# BSNS 5072).

In addition to this well documented report, more details can be found in Beardslee and Mitchell (1965).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* South Only (3/23)

- 1999 - two, juvenal, 27 August, Grimsby, *Niagara*, (Kevin A. McLaughlin).
 - one, juvenal, 19 September, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Alan Wormington).
 1991 - one, juvenal, 28 October, Hamilton (Van Wagners Beach), *Hamilton-Wentworth*, (Kayo J. Roy, found by Brian K. Wylie) - photos on file.

The photographs of the 1991 bird were studied by Kevin A. McLaughlin. After considerable research, he submitted a detailed and explicit analysis of why he felt the bird was a Long-tailed Jaeger rather than a Parasitic Jaeger as initially identified. The Committee also chose to seek outside expert opinion, and these experts unanimously concurred with McLaughlin that the photographed bird was indeed a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger.

California Gull *Larus californicus* (0/27)

2000 - one, definitive basic, 12 November - 10 December, Niagara Falls, *Niagara*, (Jean Iron, Michael M. Morgante, Willie D'Anna, also found by Kevin A. McLaughlin).

California Gull has been observed along the Niagara River in Niagara Falls every year since 1992. It is likely that one or more individuals have been returning over the past few winters.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (15/8)

2000 - one, first basic, 23 January, Toronto (Leslie Street Spit and Humber Bay Park), *Toronto*, Bronte (Harbour), *Halton*, (Judy Edwards, Tyler Hoar, David Mudd, Glenn Coady).

Extremely well documented descriptions of this rare visitor from the north were reviewed by the 2000 Committee. Incredibly, at year end, three first winter Ivory Gulls were reported, one in December 2000 from Toronto, and two in January 2001 from Hamilton and Amherst Island. The 2001 Committee intends to review them as a group to clearly ascertain if three individual birds were involved.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South Only After 1990 (*/3)

2000 - one, definitive alternate, 27-28 May, Hamilton Harbour (LaSalle Marina), *Hamilton-Wentworth*, (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Barry Cherie) - photo on file.

Razorbill *Alca torda* (2/5)

1971 - one, first basic, 9 January, Oakville (Harbour), *Halton*, (Robert Curry, also found by Barry D. Jones).

1967 - one, first basic, 4 May, Stoney Creek (Community Beach), *Hamilton-Wentworth*, (Robert Curry).

These two well documented old reports, that were submitted to the OBRC this year, clearly eliminate other alcid species.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata* (3/5)

2000 - one, basic, 26 May - 1 June, Moosonee, *Cochrane*, (Kenneth Abraham, found by John Walker, Andrew Jano, Ken Ross) - photo on file.

- one, basic, 6-27 November, Kingfisher Lake, *Thunder Bay*, (Nicholas G. Escott, found by Jody R. Allair) - photo on file.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (*/1)

2000 - one, basic, female, (found dead), 15 February, Kitchener, *Waterloo*, (Kate MacIntyre, Jennifer Jacobson) - photo on file.

This endangered species was hit by a truck and killed on Highway 401 near Kitchener.

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (1/11)

2000 - one, male, 11 May, Wheatley Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*, (Ron Tozer, also

found by Pat Tozer, Laura Tozer).

- one, male, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Michael Tate).
- 1964 - one, male, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Robert Curry, also found by David L. Bissell, Edward R. McDonald).

The 1964 record represents the first modern record and the second ever for the province. The first was also at Point Pelee, on 21 May 1906 (Stirrett 1973).

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (2/11)

- 2000 - one, male, 31 July - 2 August, Nipigon, *Thunder Bay*, (Lola Grimes, Timothy Grimes).

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (1/4)

- 2000 - one, basic, 17-19 May, Hilliardton, *Timiskaming*, (April Newell, Roger Newell) - photo on file
- one, basic, 13-18 June, Carman, *Northumberland*, (Beverley Stewart, David J. Milsom, Ann White, Donald Shanahan, also found by Bruce Stewart).

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (1/8)

- 2000 - one, first basic, 22-24 September, Algonquin Provincial Park (Lake of Two Rivers Airfield), *Nipissing*, (Doug Tozer, Michael W. P. Runtz, Burke Korol, Martin Roncetti, also found by Andrea Stewart) - photos on file.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (1/2)

- 2000 - one, first basic, male, 31 October, Malden Centre (Holiday Beach Conservation Area), *Essex*, (S. Wesley Kinnin) - photo on file.

This remarkable observation is only the third record of this species for Ontario.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (1/5)

- 1999 - one, 24 November, Port Stanley (Hawk Cliff), *Elgin*, (Glenn Barrett, also found by Pam Martin, Robert Hubert, Gary Hubert).

Readers will recall that this bird reported at Port Stanley was included in the 1999 Report as Ash-throated/Nutting's Flycatcher. However, after consultation with several other records committees in eastern North America, we have decided to accept this as Ash-throated Flycatcher with the caveat that Nutting's Flycatcher has not been eliminated. This statement applies to all previously accepted Ash-throated Flycatcher records, and will be added to all future records of Ash-throated unless identification criteria positively eliminate one or the other species.

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (1/6)

- 2000 - one, basic, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (David R. Don, also found by Wolfgang Luft, Gerrard McNaughton, Thomas Crooks, Michael McEvoy, David J. Milsom).

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (0/21)

1999 - two, 3 November, Leamington (Sturgeon Creek), *Essex*, (G. Thomas Hince).

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (1/2)

1964 - one, male, 6-7 December, Port Weller, *Niagara*, (Carl Mrozek, Daniel Salisbury, also found by Richard Brownstein, Joanna Burger, Robert F. Andrie, Arthur R. Clark) - specimen (skin) at ROM (# 94722).

The 2000 Committee examined the specimen of this record at the ROM, and reviewed two written reports. For more information, see Baillie (1964) and Beardslee and Mitchell (1965).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea* North Only (2/12)

2000 - one, 17 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, (Bruce Rodrigues).

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (3/26)

2000 - one, basic, female, 22-29 February, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward*, (Joel H. Ellis, Bud Rowe) - photos on file.
 - one, basic, female, 7-9 April, Fort Frances, *Rainy River*, (Roger M. Simms).

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (4/36)

2000 - one, basic, 5-7 January, Wiarton, *Bruce*, (Cindy Cartwright, Judith King, also found by Barbara Martin).
 - one, basic, 3 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, (Lionel Leston).
 - one basic, 10 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, (Matthew J. Mills, also found by Tina Newbury, Lionel Leston).
 - one, basic, 21 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, (Matthew J. Mills, also found by Allan G. Harris, Lionel Leston, Tina Newbury, Glenn Desy, Sarah Wyshynski).
 - one, basic, 29 October, Port Stanley (Hawk Cliff), *Elgin*, (Kevin A. McLaughlin, also found by Shay Redmond).

This was a banner year for this species. The 2000 Committee voted to delete Townsend's Solitaire from the Review List for northern Ontario, effective 1 January 2001. All observations in southern Ontario will continue to require written reports.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi* (2/4)

2000 - one, alternate, male, 20-23 April, Whitby (Thickson's Woods), *Durham*, (Jay Vander Gaast).

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica* North Only After 1993 (17/59)

2000 - one, 28 October - 4 December, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, (John McKee, Mary Vancook) - photo on file.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (7/17)

2000 - one, first alternate, male, 21 May, Tobermory (Cape Hurd), *Bruce*, (Ted Cheskey, also found by Bakiss Laurent) - photos on file.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (2/17)

- 2000 - one, basic, male, 2-13 March, Whitney, *Nipissing*, (Doug Tozer, found by Jack Borrowman, Karen Borrowman).
 - one, alternate, male, 7 May, Ridgeway (Point Abino), *Niagara*, (Edmund D. Stevens, also found by Peter M. Stevens, Carol A. Stevens).

Bachman's Sparrow *Aimophila aestivalis* (2/0)

- 1964 - one, alternate, male, 7-10 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Robert Curry, also found by David L. Bissell).
 - one, alternate, male, 8-9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Robert Curry, also found by David L. Bissell).

Although there are other sight reports and possibly a specimen, at this time, these two birds are the only ones for which documentation has been submitted for review by the OBRC. Plumage and song description were convincingly reported. It is unfortunate that the reports of these birds at Post Field were not followed up over the summer, as it is possible that they may have remained on territory and perhaps even nested.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (6/52)

- 2000 - one, alternate, 2 May, Cheapside (Sandusk Creek), *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (Barry D. Jones).
 - one, alternate, 6-7 May, Kenabeek (Mountain Chutes Camp), *Timiskaming*, (Barry Kinch, Kelsey Kinch) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 13 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, (Nicholas G. Escott).
 - one, alternate, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (James N. Flynn, found by B. Marsh) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 22-24 May, Petawawa, *Renfrew*, (Manson Fleguel, found by Viola Nitschke).
 - one, alternate, 22-25 May, Minnitaki, *Kenora*, (Carolle Eady) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, male, 2-4 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Alan Wormington, James N. Flynn) - photos on file.
 - one, alternate, 17 June, Kent Bridge, *Chatham-Kent*, (Larry Drew).

This was an exceptional year for this species, with eight reports received by the OBRC. It is interesting to note that all of these observations were seen in a six week period from early May to mid-June.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (*/7)

- 2000 - two, alternate, males, (one) 21 May - 10 June, (two) 10 June, Bronte Creek Provincial Park, *Halton*, (Gavin Edmondstone, Burke Korol).
 - one, alternate, male, 10 June, Milton, *Halton*, (Burke Korol, found by Mark Wiercinski).

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* (8/42)

- 2000 - one, first alternate, male, 7 May, Windsor, *Essex*, (Randy P. Horvath).
 - one, female, 12 May, Point Pelee National Park (onion field), *Essex*, (Dallas Johnson, also found by Amy Johnson).
 - one, alternate, male, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, (Jocelyn Tremblay,

- also found by Pierre Bouthellier, Cheryl Massey, Jacques Turcotte)
 1996 - one, definitive alternate, male, 3-4 May, Miners Bay, *Haliburton*, (Gail Leach-Wunker, Randy Wunker) - photos on file.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (2/9)

- 2000 - one, definitive alternate, male, 10 May, Dryden, *Kenora*, (William F. Beatty, Janet M. Dall Beatty) - photos on file.

Not Accepted Records

Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Records in this category are those considered by the Committee to be likely escaped birds or birds released from captivity. However, as with all submissions to the OBRC, such records may be reviewed at any time should new information arise suggesting a wild origin.

- 1979 - Leach's Storm-Petrel, one, 5 November, Thorold (Welland Canal), *Niagara*, - specimen (skin) at BMS (# BSNS 7542).

This sick and dying bird was handed off an ocean freighter in the Welland Canal to the care of a local bander and rehabilitator. Unfortunately, the bird survived for only three days.

- 2000 - Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), one, 7 March, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, Susan Brock, also found by Paul Brock).
 1999 - Black-billed Magpie, two, at nest, 2-25 April, Underwood, *Bruce*, (Patricia Wilkin, Martin Parker, also found by Joyce Wedow, Lindsay Wilken) - video on file.

The identity of these three birds was clearly not in doubt, but their origin was felt to be questionable, especially since a few birds reported elsewhere during the same years in southern Ontario were seen to have coloured leg bands (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.). The 2000 Committee continues the cautious approach taken by previous Committees on records of this species in southern Ontario.

Not Accepted Records

Identification Uncertain

The documentation submitted for the following reports was for the most part found to be inadequate to unequivocally identify the species claimed. There were very few reports that the Committee felt were clearly erroneous.

Any of these reports may be re-submitted, should additional documentation become available.

- 2000
- Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), one, 7 November, Marten River (Marten River Provincial Park), *Nipissing*.
 - Yellow-billed Loon, one, 26 November, Cabot Head, *Bruce*.
 - Little Blue Heron, one, 12 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.
 - Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), one, 25 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.
 - "Cackling" Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*), 20 December, Pelee Island, *Essex*.
 - Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), one, 12 October, Malden Centre (Holiday Beach Conservation Area), *Essex*.
 - Swainson's Hawk, one, 13 September, Long Point (Old Cut Banding Station), *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 - Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*), one, 25 June, Ancaster (Mineral Springs), *Hamilton-Wentworth*.
 - Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*), one, 16 May, Wheatley Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*.
 - White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), two, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Barn Owl, one, (dead), 15 June, Chatham, *Chatham-Kent*.
 - Rufous Hummingbird, one, 31 July-2 August, Nipigon, *Thunder Bay*.
 - Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), one, 30 January, Kirkfield, *Victoria*.
 - Mountain Bluebird, one, 21-27 May, Hilton, *Northumberland*, - photo on file.

An enlarged copy of the photograph accompanying this report was carefully examined by the Committee, and this analysis revealed characteristics of hybridism. Accordingly, the Committee was not able to clearly accept the report as a pure Mountain Bluebird.

- Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), one, 30 October, Fort Frances, *Rainy River*.
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 22 May, Kingston, *Frontenac*.
- Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), one, 1 June, Oshawa (Second Marsh), *Durham*.
- Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), one, 9-11 May, Peterborough, *Peterborough*.

Corrections/Updates To Previous OBRC Reports

1999 Report (Ontario Birds 18: 53-72)

- under Ibis species, 28 November, 1999, change "also found by Linda J. Nuttall)" to "also found by Linda J. Nuttall, Jul K. Wojnowski)".
- under Black Vulture, change bracketed numbering to "(2/28)".
- under Common Eider, 1-24 December 1999, change "also found by John L. Olmsted)" to "also found by John L. Olmsted, Glenda J. Slessor)".
- under Mississippi Kite, 13 June 1999, add "also found by Ross A. Layberry)".
- under Common Moorhen, 26 May 1998, change "1998" to "1999".
- under Curlew Sandpiper, 6 June 1999, change "Ronald D. Weir" to "Ronald D. Weir".
- under California Gull, 6-19 December 1998, change "(Betsy Potter, Michael M. Morgante, Jean Iron, Winnie Yung, also found by Willie D'Anna, William Lee, Walton Sabin)" to "(Willie D'Anna, Michael M. Morgante, Jean Iron, Winnie

- Yung, also found by Betsy Potter, William Lee, Walton Sabin)".
- under Ross's Gull, 17-18 May 1999, add "photos on file".
 - under Mountain Bluebird, 25 April - 20 June 1999, change "David H. Elder" to "David H. Elder".
 - under Townsend's Solitaire, 24 December 1997 - 1 February 1998, change "Ethan J. Meleg" to "Ethan J. Meleg".
 - under Spotted Towhee, 1 December 1999 - 19 January 2000, change the dates to "1 December 1999 - 8 February 2000".
 - under Lark Sparrow, 20-22 April 1974, change "*Cochrane*" to "*Algoma*".

1996 Report (Ontario Birds 15: 47-66)

- under Say's Phoebe, 10 September 1995, change the date to "10-11 September 1995".

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