

## Articles

### Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1994

by  
Ron Pittaway

#### Introduction

Welcome to the 13th annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC). Members of the Committee in 1994 were Bob Curry (chairperson), Ross James, Richard Knapton, Kevin McLaughlin, Ron Pittaway (secretary), Dennis Rupert, Ron Tozer, and Alan Wormington. Ross James also serves as Museum Liaison to the OBRC, a permanent position he holds even when not serving as a voting member.

Approximately 180 records were reviewed in 1994 with over 80 percent accepted; these included a number of older reports and specimens in the Royal Ontario Museum. Two new species, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Eurasian Tree Sparrow, are added to the Ontario list, bringing the provincial total to 460.

OBRC records are archived at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Researchers and interested parties may examine filed reports and Committee decisions at the ROM by appointment. Contact Ross James, Department of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 or call 416-586-5519.

#### Committee Meetings

Most of the Committee's work is

done by circulating reports by mail. However, the 1994 Committee held two meetings in Toronto. The first was a policy meeting held at Locke House on 26 November 1994. The second was held at the Royal Ontario Museum on 4 March 1995 to make the final decisions on the records in this report.

#### Historical Records

In 1993, the OBRC announced a policy for reviewing historical records that did not meet modern standards of documentation (Curry 1993). Two historical records were accepted in last year's report (Bain 1994). About 28 historical reports were circulated in 1994. It soon became clear that most of these reports were not going to be accepted. The policy of reviewing historical records was not working as expected. Historical records often lack details, and it is very difficult to judge an historical record that does not meet modern standards. At the November 1994 policy meeting, the Committee voted to repeal the historical records policy and to withdraw those historical reports that were in circulation. However, older records that appear to meet modern standards of documentation will continue to be reviewed by the OBRC.

### Accepted Records

The format of this report follows that used in previous years. Accepted reports are listed by their English and scientific names following the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (1983) and its supplements to date. Exceptions to AOU names listed in this report are Ross's Goose and Harris's Sparrow which follow Godfrey (1986) and James (1991). In its next check-list, the AOU will adopt the use of the apostrophe "s" for most species whose first names end in "s".

The OBRC Report for 1982 was the Committee's first report (James 1983). This began the "modern era" of documentation of rarities in the province. Our present numbering system is based on records before and after 1 January 1982. Each species is followed by two numbers: the first is the total of records occurring prior to 1982 that have been accepted by the OBRC; the second number is the total number of records occurring from 1982 to 1994 (inclusive) that have been accepted by the OBRC. An asterisk in place of the first number indicates that documentation was not required for the species prior to 1982. Date(s) of occurrence, number, sex, plumage, age, and location(s) are provided when known. Counties, Districts and Regional Municipalities are shown in *italics*. Observers who found a bird and submitted a report have their names underlined. Others who submitted reports are also listed. Finders of a bird who did not file a report are also listed when known.

Every attempt has been made to verify the data in this report. Sources used to check information included *Audubon Field Notes*, *Birders Journal*,

and the newsletters of Long Point Bird Observatory and Thunder Bay Field Naturalists. Please report corrections and omissions to the OBRC. Remarks, analysis and discussion follow many reports.

### Not Accepted Records

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification are listed separately. One record whose identification was accepted was deferred because of uncertain origin. Submitters of all not accepted reports receive a letter from the chairperson explaining the reasons for the decision, including copies of the comments of the voting members. Although in place for several years, this policy was formally adopted at the November 1994 policy meeting. If you have not received comments, please contact the OBRC with a complete address and current phone number where you can be reached day or evening.

### Hummingbird in Haliburton County

The record of a male Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) at Gooderham in Haliburton County in early July 1994 was not accepted by the OBRC. This was a controversial sighting. At the November 1994 meeting, the Committee decided to send the reports and video of the hummingbird to two experts for evaluation: Michel Gosselin of the Canadian Museum of Nature, and Jon Dunn of Ohio. In their written comments to the OBRC, both Michel and Jon said that the evidence in the reports and video was inconclusive. At the March 1995 meeting, the

Committee again reviewed the reports, video and two expert opinions, and voted not to accept the record.

### 1995 Reports

Many reports were received too late to be reviewed by the 1994 Committee. Reports received after 31 December are normally retained for the next year. A file of 15 to 20 reports circulated by mail to seven voting members often takes two to three months before the file and votes are returned to the secretary. To ensure that your sightings are included in the next report, be sure to submit reports as soon as possible to the OBRC. All submitters of reports are sent a postcard by the secretary acknowledging the receipt of their report. Please send reports to the new secretary, Rob Dobos, Secretary OBRC, 178 Cedarbrae Avenue, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 4S3.

### Acknowledgements

The Committee would like to thank the many observers who submitted reports, sketches and photographs in 1994. We are grateful to Jon Dunn of Ohio and Michel Gosselin of the Canadian Museum of Nature who gave their expert opinions on the reports and video of the hummingbird in Haliburton County. Ron Tozer compiled the summary numbers accompanying the records. I am grateful to Jean Iron who helped me prepare reports for circulation and in the preparation of the report that follows. In addition, a number of enthusiastic observers were very helpful in soliciting reports, checking dates and providing additional information. They are Rob Dobos, Bruce Di Labio, Leo Heynes, Tom Hince, Jean Niskanen, Ron Ridout, Kayo Roy, Roy Smith and Marvin Smout. I hope you enjoy reading about the rare birds of 1994.

## Accepted Records

### Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (0/7)

1994 — one, 2 April, Hillman Marsh, Essex (John Lamey).

### Northern Gannet *Sula bassanus* (2/12)

1994 — one juvenile, 6 November, Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto (Alfred Adamo).

There were other sightings of a gannet (probably the same bird) on the same day at the western end of Lake Ontario, but no reports were received by the OBRC.

### American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (2/31)

1993 — one, late June, Morrisburg, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Elizabeth Le Geyt, found by Sydney Smith) - photo on file.

Sightings after 1 January 1994 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

### Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (0/4)

1994 — one adult, 31 May - 3 June, Port Dover and Long Point Bay, Haldimand-Norfolk (Kayo Roy) - photos on file.

— one adult, 2 - 6 July, Shebeshekong Bay, Parry Sound (Garry Donaldson, Gary Barager, Donald MacLeod, Hugh Clawson, Mike Gerhardt) - photos on file.

- one adult, 10 July, Algonquin Provincial Park (Opeongo Lake), *Nipissing* (finders Don Creighton and Larry Boyle).
- one adult, 20 July, Clear Lake, *Leeds and Grenville* (Paul Van Luit) - photo on file.

Although reports are listed separately above, there is a strong possibility that they represent one bird that subsequently wandered into Quebec. This bird was widely observed in many locations in Ontario by birders and nonbirders, its picture appearing in magazines and local newspapers. According to information compiled by Alan Wormington, the bird was first sighted about 10 May 1994 in Hamilton harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, and was last seen 18-24 July 1994 at Newboro Lake, *Leeds and Grenville*. The reports cited above are those on file with the OBRC.

### **Great Egret *Casmerodius albus* North Only (2/5)**

1994 — one, 1 June, Jarvis River, *Thunder Bay* (Lynda Sisco).

### **Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* North Only Until 1991 (1/15)**

1994 — one adult, 29-30 April, Kate's Lake, *Lanark* (Lynda Bennett).

- one adult, 15-21 May, Grassie, *Niagara* (Bob Curry).
- one adult, 21 May, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Felix Jachmann).

### **Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (7/22)**

1994 — one adult, 20-23 April, Long Point Provincial Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Robert Smalley, Gareth Watkins, Robert Fielding).

- one juvenile, 19 July, Cambridge, *Waterloo* (William Wilson).
- one juvenile, 24 July - 1 August, Smithville, *Niagara* (Bob Curry, Alfred Adamo, Kayo Roy, also found by Jim Heslop, John Olmsted) - photo on file.

### **Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (2/16)**

1994 — one, 1 June, Tip of Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul Prior).

### **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (5/20)**

1994 — one adult in breeding plumage, 4-22 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (Keith Burk, finder Steve Charbonneau) - photo on file.

- one adult, 29 May, Kingsville, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).
- one juvenile, 22 September - 23 October, Hillman Marsh (22 September) and Marentette Beach (25 September - 23 October), *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Jim Flynn) - photos on file.

### **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (2/17)**

1991 — one adult, 15 May, Erieau, *Kent* (Keith Burk).

At approximately 18:35h, this bird flew southwest from Erieau over Lake Erie. What was probably the same bird was reported flying in off the lake over Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, at about 19:35h, but no documentation was received for the second sighting.

### **Ibis *Plegadis* sp. (3/16)**

1994 — one, 22 May, Minesing Swamp, *Simcoe* (Rob Copeland).

1993 — three, 24 October, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Robert Finklestein, Bob Hall-Brooks, Allen Chartier).

- two, 28 November, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Bob Hall-Brooks).

1992 — one, 28 August - 1 September, Port Alma, *Kent* (Keith Burk).

### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (0/2)**

1994 — 12, 16 May - late May, Kingsville, *Essex* (Kay Beerthuis, Joyce Ellsworth, Molly Harrigan, George Hutchinson, John Nims, Thelma Nims).

1993 — nine adults, 17 June - 7 July, Rayside-Balfour, *Sudbury* (Fred Marshall, Nancy Barrett, John Lemon, Charles Whitelaw, Alan Wormington, co-finder Deborah Kuehnbaum) - photos on file.

In last year's annual report (Bain 1994), the report of this species was placed in the Deferred Records category because its wild status was uncertain. However, this view has changed in one year. Alan Wormington comments on his voting slip: "During the past few years there have been numerous records (involving flocks of birds) in such places as Quebec, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas and Nevada". Thus the 1993 record is removed from the Deferred category and becomes the first record for the province. The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is now added to the official Ontario Checklist. Photographs of the 1993 birds indicate that they are of the expected northern nominate subspecies *D.a. autumnalis* (Ross James, pers. comm.).

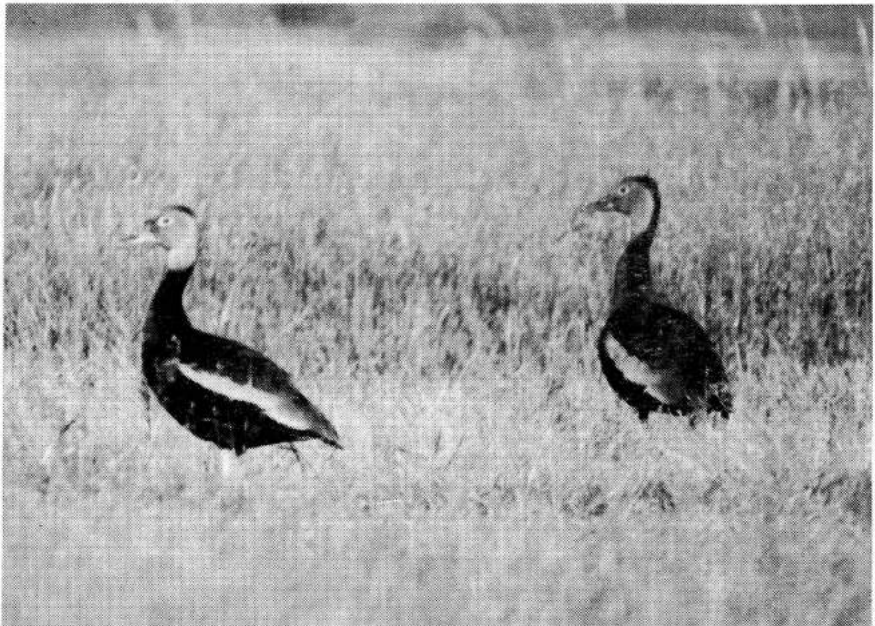


Figure 1: Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Rayside-Balfour, *Sudbury* from 17 June to 7 July 1993. First record for Ontario. Photo by Kayo Roy.

#### **Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* North Only (0/4)**

1994 — one, 4 June, (Lloyd Taman), and 10-17 September, New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (Bruce Di Labio) - photo on file.

1993 — one, 3-9 October, Wawa, *Algoma* (Alan Wormington).

The two reports from New Liskeard appear to be of the same bird.

#### **Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* South Only (2/34)**

1994 — 11 *frontalis* (family groups of four and four and three), 7-10 March, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

— four *frontalis* (family group), 18 March, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (different from the above birds) (Alan Wormington).

- one immature *frontalis*, 19-22 March, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Doug McRae, finder Ron Ridout).
- one adult *flavirostris*, 26-27 March, Turkey Point Beach, Kano, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Bob Curry, finder Ed Czerwinski).
- one, 2 April, Wildwood Lake, *Oxford* (James Holdsworth).
- one, 9 April, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Robert Dawson).

1993 — one, 23 November - 8 December, Arkona, *Lambton* (21-25 November), and Strathroy, *Middlesex* (26 November - 8 December) (Dennis Rupert).

Bill colour is often difficult to determine in this species (Kaufman 1994). Therefore, only well-described birds have been identified to subspecies. The Prairie subspecies (*frontalis*) is by far the commoner race in Ontario. The Greenland race (*flavirostris*) is much rarer but regular in Ontario; this subspecies should be identified with caution.

### Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only (0/5)

- 1994 — one white morph, 7 March - 11 April, Hillman Marsh and Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington) - photos on file.
- one white morph, 30 March - 11 April, Hillman Marsh and Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (different bird from above) (Alan Wormington) - photo on file.
- one first year white morph, 13-24 March, Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Enver Domingo, Ron Ridout).
- one adult white morph, 18 October, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

Ross James comments that these reports "are in keeping with an expanding population".

### Garganey *Anas querquedula* (0/2)

- 1993 — one male, 12-15 May, Fish Point Provincial Park Reserve, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Peggy Sprackland, Jim Flynn, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

The bird was a male in breeding plumage. Richard Knapton comments on origin, "This record meets the kind of requirement necessary for acceptance of a wild vagrant - behaviour, timing, and flocking with appropriate species". This is the second record for Ontario and it occurred only three weeks following the first record.

### Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (0/9)

- 1994 — one male in breeding plumage, 13-16 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (Keith Burk, Allen Woodliffe, finders B. and R. Edwards) - photos on file.

### Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (3/59)

- 1994 — one male, 3 June, Wawa, *Algoma* (C.J. Saunders).
- 1993 — one male, 27-28 March, Wainfleet, *Niagara* (Richard Knapton, found by Blayne Farnan).
- one male, 10 April, Hillman Marsh, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, finders Karl Overman, Jeffrey Goldsmith, James Lesser).
- 1992 — one male, 15 March, Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Bob Curry).
- one male, 15 March, Big Creek National Wildlife Area, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Bob Curry).

Sightings in Southern Ontario after 1 January 1994 no longer require documentation by the OBRC. This is still a review species for Northern Ontario.

### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (0/11)

- 1993 — one female, 15-19 January, Hamilton Harbour, and 25-29 January, Windermere Basin, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Bob Curry).
- one male, 9-29 March, Burlington, *Halton* (Alan Wormington).
- one adult male, 28 March, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Steven Pike).

- one adult male, 5 December 1993 to 5 March 1994, Burlington, *Halton*, and 26 December, Hamilton Bay, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Rob Dobos, Bob Curry, Alan Wormington).
- 1992 — one adult male, 31 December 1992 to 9 April and 22-29 May 1993, Windermere Basin and Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Alan Wormington).

**Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* South Only (2/6)**

- 1994 — one male, 19 and 25 March, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Jerry DeMarco).

**Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* North Only (0/10)**

- 1994 — one, 26 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (George Williams).
- 1993 — one, 12-14 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Robert Worona).
- one, 8 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Mark Dugdale).

All three birds reported above were adult females, or immature males or females in first basic plumage. The source of migrant and wintering Harlequin Ducks in Ontario may be from the recently discovered breeding population in northwestern Quebec, east of Hudson Bay.

**Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (2/14)**

- 1994 — one, 31 May, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Bruce Mackenzie).
- one, 17 August to early September, Pierre Lake Camp 34, *Cochrane* (Jeff Kaiser, Scott Virgo)  
- photo on file.



Figure 2: Male Garganey at Pelee Island, *Essex* from 12 to 15 May 1993.  
Photo by Jim Flynn.

**American Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (1/6)**

1994 — one, 15 April, Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, Grimsby, *Niagara* (Paul Rose, Gordon Bellerby).

This is the earliest spring record accepted by the OBRC. The kite was seen by a large number of observers, too numerous to mention as co-finders.

**Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (8/20)**

1994 — one juvenile light morph, 2 October, Hawk Cliff, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Robert Hubert, D.E. Fowler) - photos on file.

1993 — one juvenile light morph, 7 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Victor Fazio).

— one juvenile light morph, 16 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Michael Kielb, David Stimac, Laurie York, Cecily Fritz).

— one adult, 16 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Michael Kielb, David Stimac, Laurie York, Cecily Fritz).

**Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (0/3)**

1992 — one juvenile (one year old), 18 May, Tavistock, *Oxford* (James Holdsworth).

This is the third accepted record for Ontario.

**Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* (1/1)**

1994 — one, 6 July, Pelee Island, *Essex* (David Kraus, Gerald Waldron, Peter Chapman).

This is the second record for Ontario and the first for southern Ontario. The first occurrence involved a bird collected (specimen now missing) at Thunder Bay, 18 July 1892 (Wormington 1986, James 1991).

**Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* South Only (4/30)**

1993 — one dark morph, 18 November 1993 to 23 January 1994, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Ed Czerwinski, finder Tom Marwood).

1992 — one gray morph, 31 January - 1 March, Woodstock and Beachville, *Oxford* (James Holdsworth, Bob Curry, co-finder Ian Platt).

— one dark morph, 10 November 1992 to 21 March 1993, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Ed Czerwinski) - photo on file.

1983 — one gray morph juvenile, 4 December, Sudbury, *Sudbury* (John Lemon) - photo on file.

The 1992 and 1993 Gyrfalcons at Sault Ste. Marie appear to be the same bird. Sightings in Southern Ontario after 1 January 1994 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

**Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica* (4/3)**

1993 — one first winter, 11 October, Stratford, *Perth* (Jeff Skevington, found dead by John Paul).

This specimen has not been deposited in the Royal Ontario Museum.

**Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (1/30)**

1994 — one, 12 May, Tip of Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul Prior).

1993 — one adult male, 26-28 May, Tip of Long Point and Breakwater, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul Prior).

1992 — one adult, 18 September, Woodstock, *Oxford* (James Holdsworth).

**American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (1/2)**

1994 — one, 17 May, Tip of Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Paul Prior).

This is the third accepted record for Ontario.



**Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (2/5)**

1991 — one female, 1-2 June, Grand Bend, *Huron/Lambton* (1 June), and Parkhill, *Middlesex* (2 June) (Jeff Skevington, co-finder Cathy Koot).

This may be one of three birds seen at the Mitchell Sewage Lagoons 19 May 1991 (Bain 1992).

**American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (7/39)**

1994 — one adult female, 17 April, Long Point Causeway, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Wayne Wright).

— one adult, 19-26 July, Blenheim, *Kent* (Allen Woodliffe, Keith Burk, finder John Walty) - photo on file.

— one, 17 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* (Tom Hince).

— one female, 17 September, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (James Coyne, Alan Wormington).

— two females, 11-19 November, Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* (Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

1991 — one, 20 July, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (John Thompson).

**Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* North Only (2/7)**

1994 — one adult, 4 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Nick Escott, finders Stan Phippen, Barry Atkinson).

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (0/16)**

1994 — one adult female, 8-14 May, Harrow (8-10 May and 12-14 May) and Cottam (11 May), *Essex* (Jim Flynn, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

— one female, 11-20 May, Grand Bend, *Huron* (Jeff Skevington, Terry Crabe, co-finder Gordon Vogg) - photos on file.

— one adult male, 15-17 May, Grand Bend, *Huron* (Jeff Skevington) - photo on file.

**Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* (3/27)**

1993 — two juveniles, 9 October, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis Rupert, co-finder Roger Simms).

See Dennis Rupert's sketch in this report. Sightings in Southern Ontario after 1 January 1994 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

**Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* (3/12)**

1993 — one adult, 9 October, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Dennis Rupert).

See Dennis Rupert's sketch in this report.

**Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (14/69)**

1993 — one adult in breeding plumage, 9 July, Erieau, *Kent* (Keith Burk).

Sightings in Southern Ontario after 1 January 1994 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

**California Gull *Larus californicus* (0/14)**

1994 — one second winter, 3 December, Queenston, *Niagara* (Rob French, Nancy French, Robert Sundell, William D'Anna, Anthony Lang).

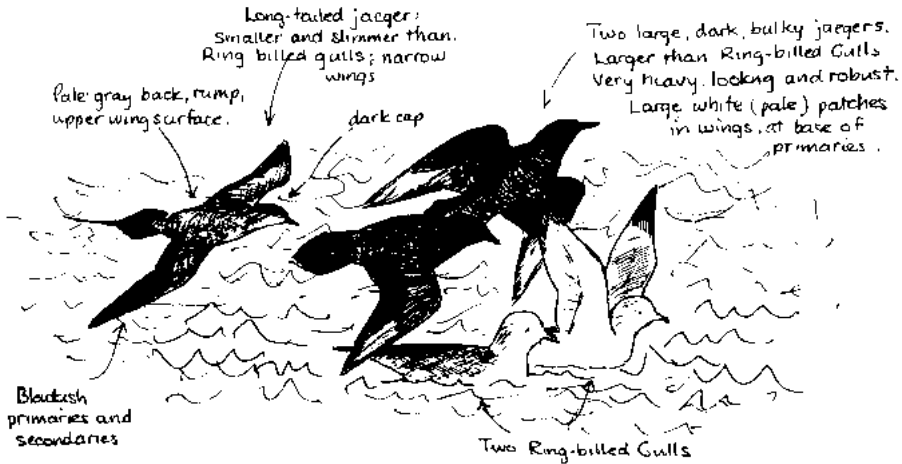
1993 — one adult winter, 3-4 December, Brantford, *Brant* (Bill Lamond).

— one adult winter, 5 December, Queenston, *Niagara* (Richard Knapton).

**Least Tern *Sterna antillarum* (1/1)**

1958 — one adult in breeding plumage, 26 June, Erie Beach, *Niagara* (Richard Brownstein).

This 1958 record, now accepted by the OBRC, becomes the first for Ontario. The Committee previously accepted a sighting at Wheatley Harbour, *Kent*, 9 June 1993 (Bain 1994).



Note: I did not notice any extension of the central retrix. I have shown it in the sketch since both Curt and Jonathan claimed to have seen it. I was concentrating on the cap and two-toned appearance of the wings.

Figure 3. Two juvenile Pomarine Jaegers and an adult Long-tailed Jaeger at Sarnia, Lambton on 9 October 1993. Drawing by Dennis Rupert.

### Dovekie *Alle alle* (0/1)

1993 — one, 26 October, Glen Isle, Mississippi River, Lanark (Chris Traynor) - photos on file.

This specimen is in the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa (#96684). Dovekie records in Ontario have been summarized by Bruce Di Labio (1995).

### Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (2/1)

1994 — one first winter, 13 November, Port Weller, Niagara (William D'Anna, Kayo Roy, Nancy Barrett) - photos on file.

1908 — one adult male, 15 November, Crystal Beach, Niagara (found dead by Everett Wheeler), wing, foot and head in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto (#39908).

1901 — one first winter female, 18 November, Toronto Island, Metropolitan Toronto (collected by Hector Macdonald) skin and sternum in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto (#27.5.2.319).

These are all the records for Ontario. All three records fall within six days in November, a remarkably narrow time period. The 1994 Port Weller bird was likely the same bird reported from Rochester, New York on 31 October to 4 November and later seen flying west past Hamlin Beach Park, New York on 11 November on Lake Ontario (D'Anna 1994). Rochester is about 135 kilometres, and Hamlin Beach Park is about 100 kilometres, east of Port Weller.

### Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (0/3)

1994 — one juvenile, 14-16 October, Moses-Saunders Power Dam, Cornwall, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Bruce Di Labio) - photo on file.

This is the third record for Ontario accepted by the OBRC. The bird was easily captured in a weakened condition, and died on route to the Wild Bird Care Centre in Nepean (Bruce Di Labio, pers. comm.). Specimen is in the Canadian Museum of Nature (#96697).



Figure 4. Ancient Murrelet at Port Weller, *Niagara* on 13 November 1994.  
Photo by *Kayo Roy*.

**Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata* (3/2)**

1994 — one, 16-17 September, Dillon Cove, *Parry Sound* (Jean Niskanen, *Kayo Roy*, Wilf Yusek, co-finder Eric Niskanen) - photos on file.

This is the fifth accepted record by the OBRC. A large group of 40 to 50 lucky observers saw this bird on the morning of 17 September.

**Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (\* /4)**

1994 — one male, mid to 25 May, Walsingham, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Michael King).

**Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (2/8)**

1994 — one adult male, 21-30 July, Lappe, *Thunder Bay* (Nick Escott, Don Graham, finder Ann Christianson) - photos on file.

**Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii* (1/1)**

1981 — one, 11 September, Toronto Islands, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Ross James, finder Dave Broughton) - photos and one tail feather on file.

**Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (1/5)**

1994 — one, 12 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Matt Holder, Don Graham).

**Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (1/1)**

1994 — one first winter male, 3 November - 9 December, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, *Kent* (John Haggeman, Alan Wormington, Jim Flynn) - photos on file.

1949 — one first winter male *mexicanus*, 29 October - 1 November, Toronto, *Metropolitan Toronto* (collected by Cliff Hope, finders Thomas Swift, Dorothy Swift), specimen in the Royal Ontario Museum (#76565).

These are the only two accepted records for Ontario (Haggeman and Wormington 1995).

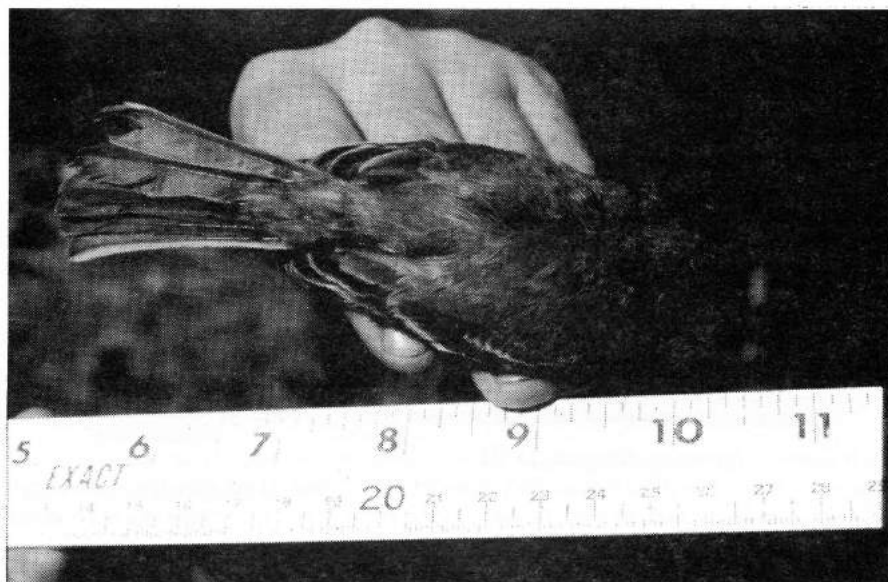


Figure 5. Gray Flycatcher at the Toronto Islands, *Metropolitan Toronto* on 11 September 1981. Note the pale outer webs of the outer tail feathers. Photo by *Ross James*.

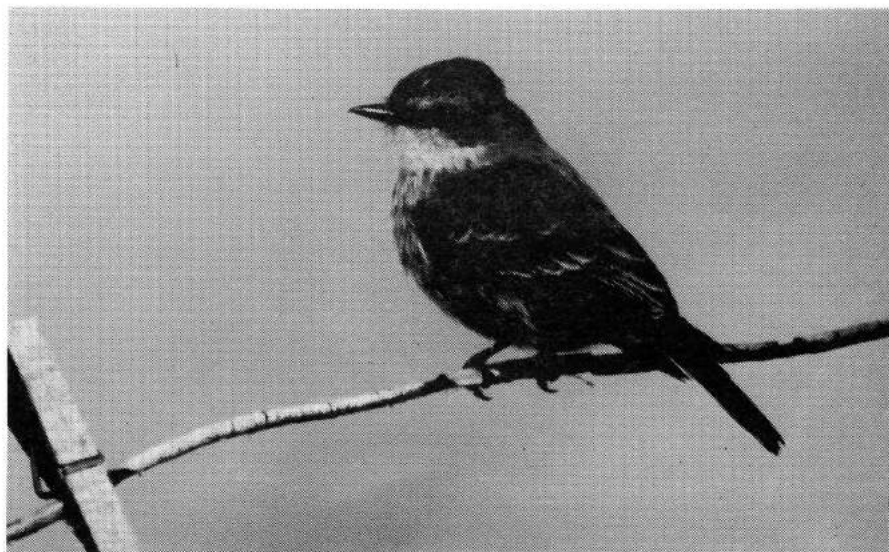


Figure 6. First winter male Vermilion Flycatcher at the St. Clair National Wildlife Area, *Kent* from 3 November to 9 December 1994. Photo by *Jim Flynn*.

**Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (8/49)**

1994 — one, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Rob Dobos, Kevin McLaughlin, co-finders Barbara Charlton, Bruce Kellett, Robert Waldhuber).

— one, 2 June, Breakwater, Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Nancy Elliot, finder Felix Jackmann).

1993 — one, 12-25 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Nick Escott) - photo on file.

— one immature, 11 November, Honey Harbour, *Muskoka* (Doug Tate).

**Gray Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* (1/3)**

1994 — one, 4 October, Hawk Cliff, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Donald Fowler, co-finder Jim Azawa) - photos and one left tail feather on file.

The bird was photographed, banded and released. This is the fourth record for Ontario.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (3/26)**

1994 — one, 19 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington).

— one, 10-20 November, Batchawana Bay, *Algoma* (Ed Czerwinski, Don Wilshere, finders Ruth Fletcher, Mary Pichard) - photo on file.

**Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (1/3)**

1994 — one, 5 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (John Waud, Dennis Lewington, Gwen Lewington).

All four accepted Ontario records have been from Point Pelee, during the period from 21 April to 20 May.

**Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (0/2)**

1993 — one, 1-6 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Matt Baker, Alan Wormington, Jim Flynn) - photos on file.

This is the second record accepted by the OBRC.

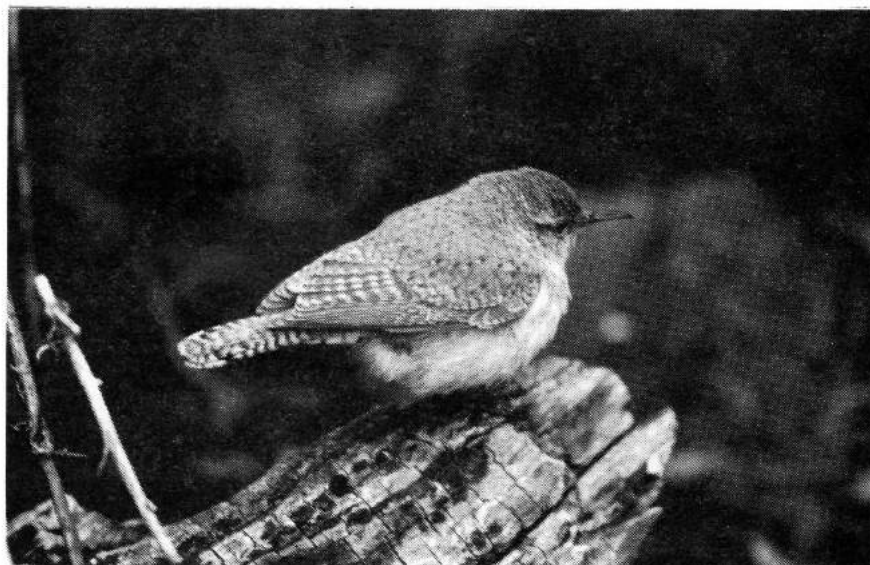


Figure 7. Rock Wren at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* from 1 to 6 May 1993. Photo by *Jim Flynn*.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* North Only (2/6)**

1993 — one, 15 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Mark Dugdale).

**Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (7/13)**

1994 — one, 4 September, Oshawa, *Durham* (Mike McEvoy).

— one, 7 September, Algonquin Provincial Park (West Rose Lake), *Nipissing* (Julie West, Gary Neuman) - video on file.

The first record for Algonquin Park.

**Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (2/10)**

1993 — one adult male, 9 October, Wawa, *Algoma* (Alan Wormington).

**Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (4/22).**

1994 — one, 1 January, Mountain Lake, *Kenora* (Lillian Anderson, Bruce Ranta).

**Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* (5/47)**

1994 — one female, 29 December 1994 to 19 February 1995, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Dave Elder, Don Graham).

1993 — one male, 5-31 January, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (James Dowall, co-finder William Smith).

Sightings in Southern Ontario after 1 January 1994 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

**Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* North Only (0/6)**

1994 — one, 30 April - 2 May, Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* (Nick Escott, co-finder Barry Atkinson) - photos on file.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* x *Vermivora pinus* (\* /6)**

1994 — one male, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Pamela Hickman).

— one male, 3 June - 17 July, Halton County Forest (Turner Tract), *Halton* (Alfred Adamo, Ron Pittaway).

Many observers saw this beautiful hybrid at both Point Pelee and the Turner Tract. The latter bird sang like a Blue-winged Warbler. It was a life bird for the writer, who as readers know is fascinated by recognizable forms.

**Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi* (2/3)**

1994 — one male, 8-9 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (Michael King, Allen Woodliffe).

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

1994 — one, 18-20 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent* (Martin Taylor).

1993 — one first summer male, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Glen Peterson, Ellen Peterson, Jim Flynn, Alan Wormington) - photos on file.

**Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* North Only (1/3)**

1994 — one female, 23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Matt Holder, Andrea Kingsley).

— one male, 16 July, McKenzie Station, *Thunder Bay* (Jack Adderley).

— one first year male, 15 October, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Dave Boyle, finder Julie Cappleman)

**Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* North Only (1/9)**

1994 — one female, 20 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Dave Boyle, David Shepherd) - photo on file.

— one first year male, 22 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Dave Boyle).

— one adult male, 22 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Dave Boyle).

— one female, 23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Dave Boyle, David Shepherd) - photo on file.

**Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* North Only (1/15)**

1994 — one female, 26 December, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (David Ellingwood).

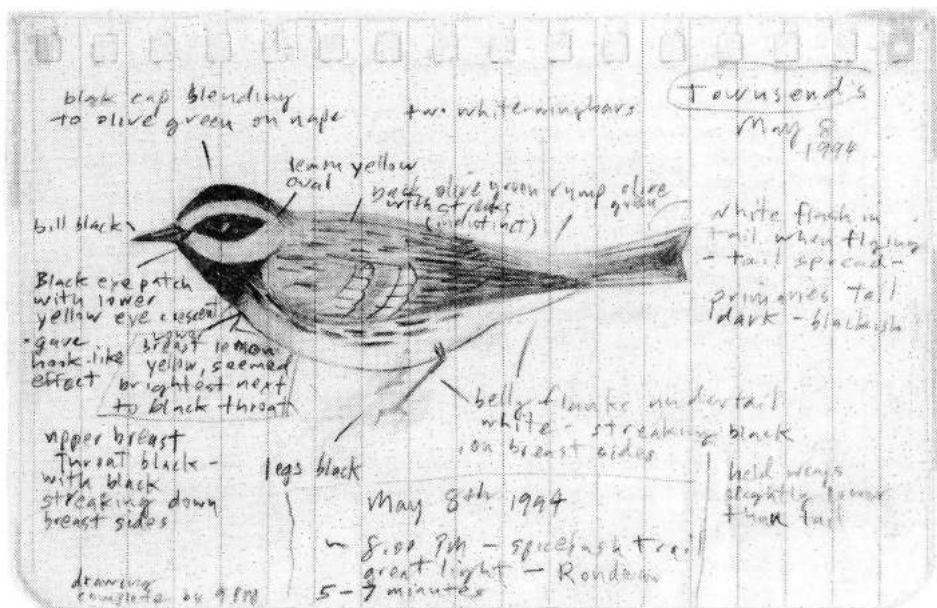


Figure 8: Male Townsend's Warbler at Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent from 8 to 9 May 1994. Drawing by Mike King.



Figure 9: Kirtland's Warbler at Point Pelee National Park, Essex on 9 May 1993. Photo by Jim Flynn.



Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.

Structurally a large warbler with long bill, wings tail & legs

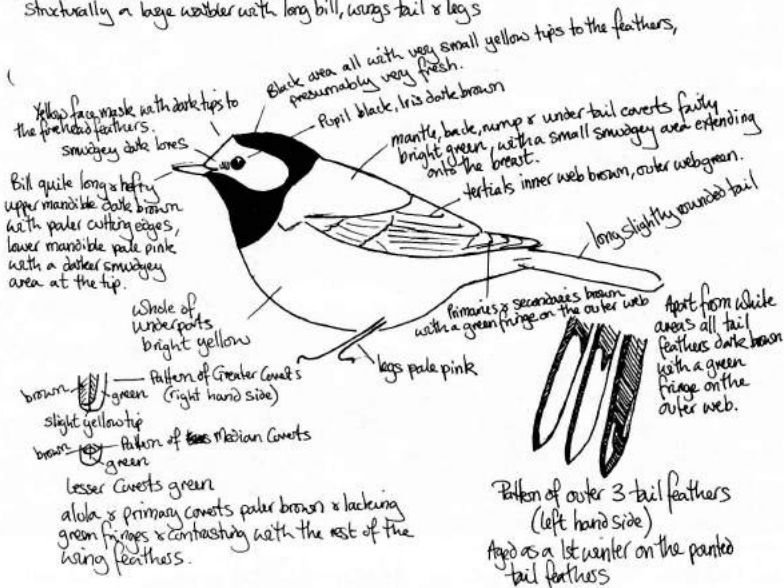


Figure 10: Hooded Warbler at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* on 15 October 1994.  
Drawing by Dave Boyle.

### Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* (7/21)

1994 — one first year male, 18-21 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Ross Murphy, Jean Nichols, Larry Boyce).

1993 — one female, 13-20 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (Alan Wormington, Jim Flynn, finder Gustave Yaki) - photos on file.

— one female, 20-22 May, Point Pelee National Park, Essex (different from above bird) (Jim Flynn) - photos on file.

### Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (1/6)

1992 — one first year male, 27 September, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Peter Burke, finder Mark Dugdale) - photos on file.

### Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (4/32)

1994 — one, 27 April, Long Point Provincial Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Stephen Soule).

— one, 20 May, Pinery Provincial Park, *Lambton* (Jeff Skevington) - photo on file.

### Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula* South Only (3/23)

1994 — one, 10-11 May, Etobicoke, *Metropolitan Toronto* (Dennis Duckworth).

— one first winter, 22 October, Long Point Provincial Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Alfred Adamo).

1993 — one first winter, 27 October, Tip of Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Graeme Gibson, co-finders Paul Prior, Pascale Guillotte, Sylvia Wood).

1987 — one first winter, 19 December 1987 to February 1988, Huntingford, *Oxford* (Jeff Skevington, Bob Curry, Kayo Roy).



**Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* North Only (0/2)**

1994 — one adult male, 20 May, Crooks Township, *Thunder Bay* (Sharon Illingworth).

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* (1/4)**

1994 — one male, 18-20 April, Black River, *Kenora* (Gerhard Gehrman).

This is the fifth accepted record by the OBRC.

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte arctoa* (1/3)**

1994 — one *tephrocotis*, 28 December 1994 to 11 January 1995, Gorham Township, *Thunder Bay* (Nick Escott, finder Gene Kideres) - photos on file.

**Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* (0/2)**

1994 — one adult male, 1 June, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Tom Hince).

This is the second record for Ontario.

**House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* North Only (0/5)**

1994 — four (two males and two females), 14 July (one male to 15 July), *Rainy River*, *Rainy River* (Bob Curry, Alan Wormington).

— one male, 15 July, Fort Frances, *Rainy River* (Bob Curry).

House Finch was dropped from the review list for Northern Ontario, effective 1 January 1995.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (0/1)**

1994 — one, 16-18 February, Eastnor Township, *Bruce* (Russell Ferguson, Timothy Soper, co-finder Katherine Ferguson) - photos on file.

A first for Ontario! Photographs indicate the identification is unequivocal and not a hybrid. However, the subspecies could not be determined from the photographs (Ross James, pers comm.). The species is expanding its range in North America and the Committee had no serious concerns that it might be an escapee.

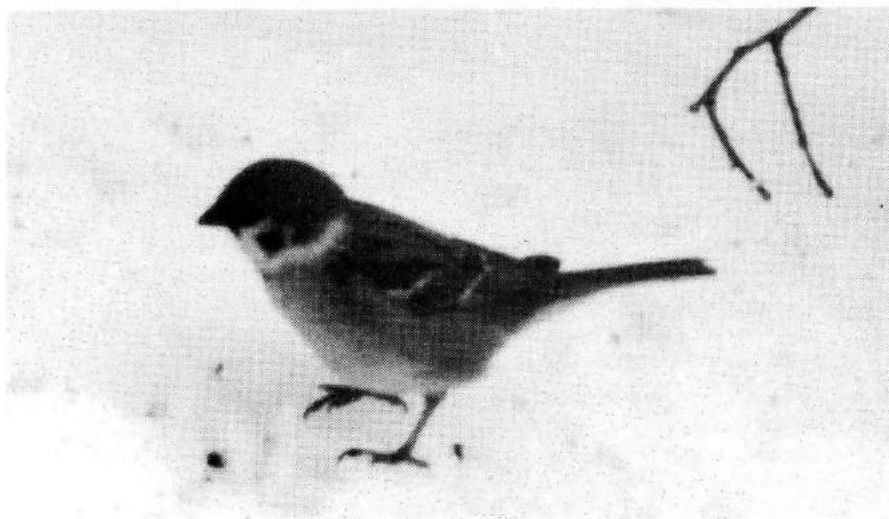


Figure 11: Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Eastnor Township, *Bruce* from 16 to 18 February 1994. First record for Ontario. Photo by *Timothy Soper*.



Figure 12: Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Eastnor Township, *Bruce* from 16 to 18 February 1994. Photo by Timothy Soper.

## Deferred Record

### Identification accepted, wild status deferred

Records in this category are those where wild status is currently debatable, and a decision has therefore been deferred until more information can be assembled.

#### Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

1993 — one, 25 July and 4 September, Pittock Lake, *Oxford* (James Holdsworth).

## Not Accepted Records

### Identification Uncertain

In most reports listed below, the written description was found to be insufficient to establish the identity of the species claimed. Any of these reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting evidence is provided.

1994 — Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 16 October, Big Creek National Wildlife Area, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.

— Black Vulture, three, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.

— Black Vulture, 19 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.

- Swainson's Hawk, 15 April, Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, *Niagara*.
- Black-chinned Hummingbird, early July, Gooderham, *Haliburton* - video on file.
- Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo, 6-7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo, 9 May, Stoney Point, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- 1993 — Little Blue Heron, two, 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Glossy Ibis, four-five, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Swainson's Hawk, 8 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Swainson's Hawk, 17 September, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex*.
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*), seven, 1 May, Long Point Provincial Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
- Vermilion Flycatcher, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Western Kingbird, 4 June, Nils Bay, *Algoma*.
- Bell's Vireo, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), 30 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Kent*.
- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), 22 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Kirtland's Warbler, 12 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Kirtland's Warbler, 16 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, four, 11 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Blue Grosbeak, three, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- 1992 — "Black" Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*), 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Swainson's Hawk, 4 September, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), two, 14 May, Erieau, *Kent*.
- Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*), 20 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- Bell's Vireo, 27 May, Dundas Marsh, Hamilton, *Hamilton-Wentworth*.
- 1991 — Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 12-14 May, 8 Mile Point, Orillia Township, *Simcoe* - photo on file.
- 1982 — Virginia's Warbler, 6 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
- 1972 — Vermilion Flycatcher, 25 July, Brougham Township, *Renfrew*.

## Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

### 1993 Report (*Ontario Birds* 12: 41-58)

- under Unaccepted Records, Ash-throated Flycatcher (1989), change *Peel* to *Metropolitan Toronto*.

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- Curry, R.* 1993. OBRC Announcement. Historical records: a call for submissions. *Ontario Birds* 11: 36-37.
- D'Anna, W.* 1994. Ancient Murrelet in Ontario. *Birders Journal* 3: 263-266.
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