

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2009

Mark H. Cranford

Introduction

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) evaluates documentation it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Ontario (see www.ofo.ca). In addition, it reviews documentation relating to new species, new subspecies, and new breeding species for the province. This 28th annual report details the results of the adjudication of 152 records by the OBRC during 2009, of which 135 (89%) were accepted.

A total of 152 observers submitted documentation for review by the 2009 Committee. Written reports were often accompanied by photographs (mostly digital images, but also a few prints), as well as field notes and sketches. As noted in recent years, the trend toward submission of photographic evidence only, with little or no supporting written evidence,

is an ongoing problem. This makes it much more difficult for the Committee to compile dates of occurrence and other requested information. In addition, many details and circumstances associated with an observation, such as behaviour, comparisons to nearby birds and vocalizations, cannot be determined from photographic evidence alone. As such, we urge observers to submit written reports with their images submitted to OBRC. For those submitting photos to the Ontario Field Ornithologists' (OFO) website, please send the same photos, along with written documentation, directly to the OBRC Secretary. That being said, the OBRC reserves the right to use, as evidence, photographs that have been posted on the OFO website. Guidance regarding the documentation of rare birds can be found on the OBRC page of the OFO website (www.ofo.ca).

The members of the 2009 Committee were: Glenn Coady (Chairperson), Mark H. Cranford (non-voting Secretary), William J. Crins, Robert Z. Dobos, Ross D. James, Blake A. Mann, Ronald G. Tozer, and Alan Wormington (also serving as Assistant to the Secretary) (Figure 1). Mark K. Peck acted as Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) liaison for the OBRC.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) and Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) were added to the Ontario list, and MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) was deleted, bringing the total to 483 species. In addition, southern Ontario had its first accepted record of Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), while northern Ontario had its first accepted records of Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) and Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).

Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee for 2009. Left to right: Alan Wormington, Blake Mann, Ross James, Glenn Coady, Ron Tozer, Bill Crins, Mark Cranford, Rob Dobos. Photo: Mark K. Peck.

Listing of Records

In the following species accounts the total number of accepted records to date is indicated by a single number in parentheses. Accepted records are arranged taxonomically by their English and scientific names following the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and subsequent supplements (42nd to 50th; see www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3). Date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, sex, plumage, and location are provided when known. Place names in italics refer to a county, regional municipality or district in Ontario; they also appear in colour. The plumage terminology used here follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959). For a detailed explanation of plumage and moult terminology, see Pittaway (2000). The names of all contributors providing documentation are listed, while those contributors who are known to be the discoverers of the bird are also underlined. Additional discoverers of the bird are also listed (if known), even if



they did not submit documentation. The OBRC file number is shown in parentheses at the end of each record.

The Committee attempts to verify documented information prior to the acceptance and publication of a record, but occasionally inaccuracies will occur. Anyone with pertinent information that would correct or strengthen a published record, such as date(s) of occurrence, number of birds, plumages, location, discoverers, etc., is urged to communicate this to the Secretary. In addition, there may be dates quoted in other sources that differ from those listed by the OBRC – these discrepancies are corrected whenever possible.

All records that were not accepted because of uncertain identification or questionable origin are listed separately. Contributors of all “not accepted” reports receive a letter from the Chairperson explaining the reasons for the decision, along with copies of the comments written by voting members. A “not accepted” report can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new evidence, in the form of additional documentation, is submitted to the Committee for review.

All reports submitted to the OBRC are kept on permanent file at the ROM. Researchers and other interested individuals are welcome to examine any of the filed reports at the ROM, by appointment only.

Please contact Mark K. Peck, Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 (e-mail: markp@rom.on.ca or telephone 416-586-5523).

Changes to the Review List

Roseate Spoonbill, Black-tailed Gull and Black-throated Sparrow are added to the review list for southern Ontario and MacGillivray's Warbler is deleted. Snowy Plover, Curlew Sandpiper and Henslow's Sparrow are added to the review list for northern Ontario.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the numerous observers who took the time to submit documentation of their observations of rare birds for consideration by the 2009 Committee. We also thank the following people who assisted the Committee in acquiring additional data and other material evidence that supplemented the information submitted directly by observers and Committee members, or by providing expert opinions on evidence submitted to the Committee: Robert F. Andrie, Margaret J.C. Bain, Mike V.A. Burrell, Allen T. Chartier, David H. Elder, Nicholas G. Escott, Jean Griffin, Jean Iron, Mary Little, Stuart A. Mackenzie, James M. Pawlicki, Ronald J. Pittaway, Brian D. Ratcliff, Kayo J. Roy, Roy B.H. Smith, Kim Toews, Angus Wilson, John M. Woodcock, and Doug Woods.

OntBirds continues to be a useful source of information pertaining to rare birds that appear in the province; this listserv of the Ontario Field Ornithologists is moderated by Mark H. Cranford. In addition, the photographic pages on the OFO website, maintained in 2009 by Frank and Sandra Horvath, provide an excellent source of documentation for rarities. These sources of information make the Secretary's job of securing documentation much more efficient. During 2009, Alan Wormington, in his role as Assistant to the Secretary, provided valuable assistance in tracking down documentation for reports. I also wish to thank all members of the 2009 Committee for their support and assistance during the year.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (29)

2009 – one, definitive alternate, male, 18 November, Wolfe Island (Bayfield Bay), *Frontenac* (Brandon R. Holden, Jonathan S. Pleizier; 2009-122).

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (39)

2007 – one, definitive alternate, 19-21 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge) (19 May) and 10 km west of Long Point Tip (21 May), *Norfolk* (Edvin Hanson, also found by Julie Webber, Hilde Johansen; 2009-150) – photo on file.

Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii* (4)

2009/10 – one, juvenal, 31 December – 2 January, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Donald W. Martin, Paul J. Cypher, Skye Haas; 2009-127) – photos on file.

On all three days this bird was also present on the Michigan side of the international boundary, providing the state with its first record of the species (Allen T. Chartier, pers. comm.).

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* North Only (18)

2009 – one, definitive alternate, 28 May, Emo, *Rainy River* (John E. Van den Broeck; 2009-068). This species has been recorded as nesting periodically at Emo since 1996 (Coady et al. 2002).

Figure 2: Juvenal Yellow-billed Loon Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma*, from 31 December 2009 to 2 January 2010.

Photo: Donald W. Martin.



Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (27)

- 2009 – one, basic, 13 February – 28 March, Scarborough, *Toronto* (Edward W. O'Connor, Winnie Poon, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Jean Iron, Mike V.A. Burrell; 2009-022) – photos on file.
– one, alternate, 17-24 April, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Mike V.A. Burrell, John Nishikawa; 2009-023) – photos on file.
– one, alternate, 23 May, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (Margaret J.C. Bain, also found by David Okines, Andrew Cadman and Eric A. Machell; 2009-024).
- 2007 – one, basic, 1-9 November, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (Matt K. Slaymaker, Stuart A. Mackenzie; 2009-151) – photos on file.

There is no evidence of overlap between the two Toronto birds; however, evidence was insufficient to consider the two records as a single occurrence.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (42)

- 2007 – three, juvenal, 10 November – 15 December, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Hamilton/Niagara*, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton*, Burlington, *Halton*, Oakville, *Halton*, Clarkson, *Peel*, Port Credit, *Peel* (Rick Lauzon, Barry S. Cheriére, found by Robert Z. Dobos; 2009-007) – photos on file.
– two, juvenal, 16-22 November, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Jody Melanson, Margaret J.C. Bain, Art McLeod; 2009-008) – photos on file.
– two, juvenal, 22-24 November, Oshawa, *Durham* (Hans Holbrook; 2009-009).

In addition to those listed above, there were numerous reports of multiple birds from Lake Ontario during the fall of 2007; it is probable that these reports involve some of the same individuals.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* South Only Prior to 1994 (36)

- 1957 – one, 28-29 September, Port Colborne, *Niagara* (Dick Hoffman; 2009-053) – photo on file.
A photograph and brief article on this bird was published at the time in a local newspaper (see Anonymous 1957).
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Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (8)

- 2009 – one, first alternate, 27 June, Point Edward, *Lambton* (Daniel E. Miller, also found by Sara J. Miller; 2009-077).
- 1971 – one, adult, 25 September, Fort Erie to Waverly Beach, *Niagara* (Paul M. Benham, Richard Brownstein, also found by Mary Benham, William Kraetz, Mary Kraetz; 2009-054) – photos on file.
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Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

South Only Prior to 1998 (32)

- 1991 – one, definitive alternate, 1-5 May, Muskrat Lake, *Renfrew* (Manson Fleguel, Christopher R. Michener; 2009-056).
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Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (69)

- 2009 – one, first alternate, 13 May, Kingston, *Frontenac* (Edward L. Fletcher; 2009-121) – photos on file.
- 2008 – one, definitive alternate, 17-19 June, Rainy Lake (Millers Bay), *Rainy River* (John L. Busch; 2009-080) – photo on file.



Figure 3: Little Blue Heron at Kingston, *Frontenac*, on 13 May 2009. *Photo: Edward L. Fletcher.*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* North Only (22)

2009 – one, definitive alternate, 11 May, Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* ([Leslie A. Swanson](#), also found by Vern E. Swanson; 2009-015) – photos on file.

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (4)

2009 – one, juvenal, 3 and 6 October, Whitby, *Durham* (3 October) and Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (6 October) ([Harvey Gold](#), Joseph F. Noordman, Bruce E. Ripley, also found by Dan Kaczynski, Karl Jennewein; 2009-097) – photos on file.

A long-staying individual at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area in western New York was not seen during the period when the current White Ibis appeared in Ontario, indicating the same bird was probably involved. A complete account of this occurrence, including details of the bird's stay in New York, has been published by Poon (2009).

Ibis species *Plegadis* sp. (47)

2009 – one, 8 October, Deerbrook, *Essex* ([Alan Wormington](#); 2009-099).

– one, 11 October, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* ([James T. Burk](#); 2009-101) – photos on file.



Figure 4: Juvenal White Ibis at Whitby Harbour, Durham, on 3 October 2009. Photo: Harvey Gold.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (1)

2009 – one, juvenal/first basic, 13 June, Morton, *Leeds and Grenville* (Jeffrey J. Haffner; 2009-075). This is a provincial first and was part of a widespread incursion of the species northward during the summer of 2009, resulting in occurrences north to Illinois, Indiana, Ontario, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey (see Brinkley 2009).

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (66)

2009 – one, early March – 16 March, Rondeau Park (townsite), *Chatham-Kent* (James T. Burk; 2009-037) – photo on file.
– one, 21 March, Glen Morris, *Brant* (W. George Sims; 2009-004) – photos on file.
– one, 11 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Christopher E. Street, Henrietta T. O'Neill, also found by Stacey J. Carnochan; 2009-031).

- one, 27 April, New Scotland, *York* ([Craig Corcoran](#), also found by Keegan Corcoran; 2009-027).
 - one, 17 May, Ferndale, *Bruce* ([Virgil E. Martin](#), also found by Grant Snyder, Marlin Gingerich; 2009-059) – photos on file.
 - one, 3 August, Hamilton, *Hamilton* and Burlington Beach, *Halton* (Barry S. Cheriére, found by Keith Dieroff; 2009-123) – photos on file.
- 2007 – one, 29-30 April, Long Point (Tip) (29 April) and Long Point Provincial Park (29-30 April), *Norfolk* (Tiarella Hanna, found by Fergus I. Nicholl; 2009-147) – photo on file.
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Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (39)

- 2009 – one, first basic, 22 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Robert Curry](#), [Brandon R. Holden](#), also found by Glenda J. Slessor; 2009-095) – photos on file.
- 2008 – one, juvenal, 10 September, Heber Down Conservation Area, *Durham* ([Alfred L. Adamo](#), also found by Betsy Smith, Jane Smith, Henry Kroes; 2009-011).

The *Durham* bird is the second fall record for the province.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (52)

- 2009 – one, intermediate morph, juvenal, 28 September, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* ([Susan J. Fagan](#); 2009-107) – photos on file.
- one, light morph, juvenal, 13 October, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex* ([Justin Eby-Bosler](#); 2009-124).

Figure 5: First basic Mississippi Kite at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, on 22 May 2009.

Photo: Robert Curry





Figure 6: Juvenal intermediate morph Swainson's Hawk at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay*, on 28 September 2009. *Photo: Susan J. Fagan*



Figure 7: Snowy Plover at Wolf River mouth, *Thunder Bay*, 22-23 May 2009. *Photo: Susan J. Fagan.*

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (14)

2009 – one, juvenal, 14 October, Craigeith Provincial Park, *Grey* (Rob Davies; 2009-137)
– specimen (skin) at ROM: #118167.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (7)

2009 – one, male, 22-23 May, Wolf River (mouth), *Thunder Bay* (Susan J. Fagan; 2009-156)
– photos on file.

This is the first record for northern Ontario.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (72)

2009 – eight, definitive alternate, and seven, juvenal, 17 April – 8 August, Sauble Beach, *Bruce* (Carol Edwards; 2009-081) – photo on file.
– six, definitive alternate, and four, juvenal, 28 April – 31 July, Wasaga Beach, *Simcoe* (Brandon R. Holden; 2009-132) – photo on file.
– one, definitive alternate, male, 27-29 May, Darlington Provincial Park, *Durham*, (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, found by Tyler Hoar; 2009-082) – photos on file.
– two, definitive alternate, and four, juvenal, 12 July – 9 August, Carter Bay, *Manitoulin* (Marcel Beneteau, Nicole Belanger-Smith; 2009-083) – photos on file.

Recent breeding continued at Sauble Beach and Wasaga Beach. It was the first confirmed breeding on Manitoulin Island in recent history.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* (2)

2009 – one, first alternate or definitive alternate, 23 August, Van Wagners Beach to Confederation Park, *Hamilton* (Robert Z. Dobos, Barbara N. Charlton, Cheryl E. Edgcombe; 2009-089) .

It is the second record for the province; the first was in 1959 at Ajax, *Durham* where it was present on 15-17 October or 16-17 October (see Wormington 1987). What was likely the same Long-billed Curlew was later seen further east along the Lake Ontario shoreline on 12 September at Hamlin Beach State Park, *New York*; here the bird was photographed, but the record has not yet been reviewed by the state records committee (Angus Wilson, pers. comm.).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (28)

2009 – one, definitive alternate, male 17 July, Longridge Point, *Cochrane* (R. Douglas McRae, Mark K. Peck, also found by Amelia K. Whitear; 2009-084) .

This is the first documented record for northern Ontario. There is a previous record in the north pertaining to Reesor, *Cochrane*, where a bird was seen in 1953 in either late April or early May; this sighting is considered valid, but unfortunately documentation to support the record is apparently lacking (Wormington 2010).

Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* (1)

2009 – one, definitive basic, 28 September – 14 December; Port Burwell, *Elgin* (28-29 September, 15 November and 14 December); Port Stanley, *Elgin* (25-26 November); and Port Rowan, *Norfolk* (9 December) (Brandon R. Holden, Garth V. Riley, Peter Gilchrist, Josh Vandermeulen, Stuart A. Mackenzie; 2009-110) – photos on file.

This is a first record for the province.



Figure 8: Definitive basic Black-tailed Gull, 28 September 2009, Port Burwell, *Elgin*. Photo: *Brandon R. Holden*.



Figure 9: Third alternate or definitive alternate California Gull, on 9 May 2009, at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*. Photo: *James M. Pawlicki*.

Mew Gull *Larus canus* (21)

2009 – one, definitive basic, 19 November, Dracon, *Wellington* (Brandon R. Holden, also found by Jonathan S. Pleizier; 2009-130).

The documentation presented evidence that suggested this bird was a Kamchatka Gull (*L. c. kamtschatschensis*). However, the committee felt the documentation did not allow a subspecific identity to be assigned to this record with certainty. To date the only subspecies to be accepted in the province is *L. c. brachyrhynchus* of western North America.

California Gull *Larus californicus* (58)

2009/10 – one, third basic, 17 October – 2 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, James M. Pawlicki, found by Jay McGowan; 2009-134) – photos on file.

2009 – one, definitive alternate, *albertaensis*, 11 February, north of Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 2009-005) – photos on file.

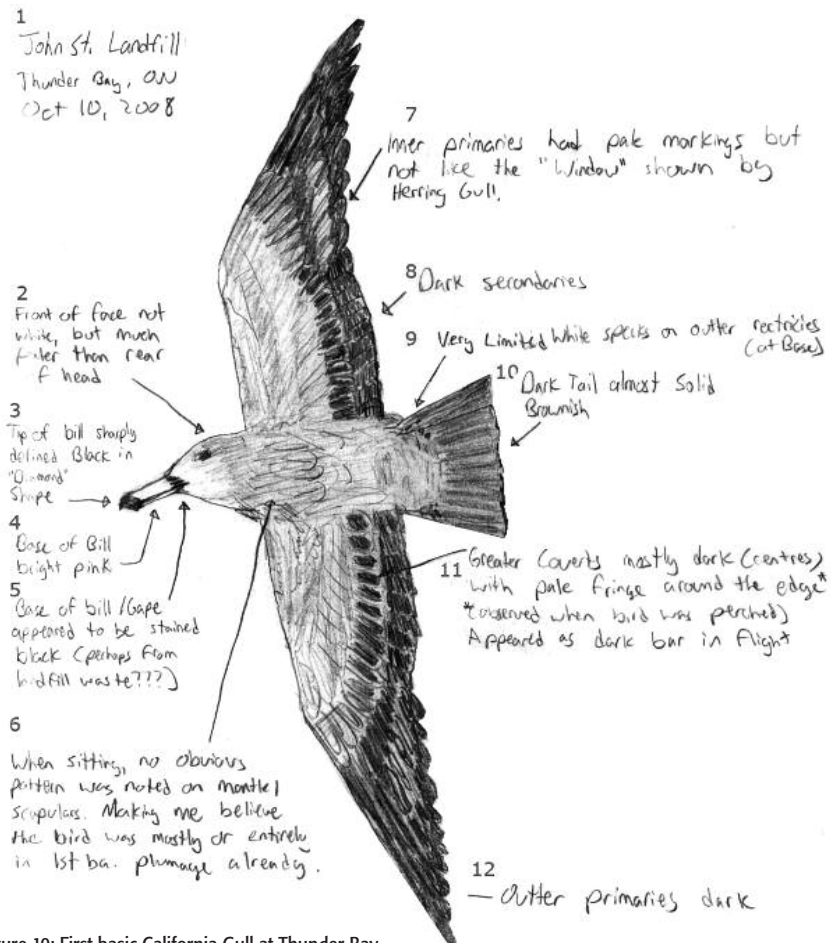


Figure 10: First basic California Gull at Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay, on 10 October 2008. Sketch: Brandon R. Holden.

- one, third alternate or definitive alternate, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([James M. Pawlicki](#)), also found by David A. Gordon and Richard V.Z. Salembier; 2009-131) – photos on file.

2008 – one, first basic, 10 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* ([Brandon R. Holden](#); 2009-079).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* North Only (8)

2009 – one, first basic, 7 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* ([Brandon R. Holden](#); 2009-057)

- photo on file.

– one, juvenal, 7-13 October, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* ([Brandon R. Holden](#); 2009-041)

- photo on file.
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Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* South Only (15)

2009 – one, definitive alternate, 25 May, Peterborough, *Peterborough* ([Colin D. Jones](#)), also found by

Fiona McKay, Pete Sorrill, Aileen Rapson, Lucie Mussakowski, Nick Bourassa-Young; 2009-144)

- photos on file.

This record fits the expected spring pattern of this species migrating through southern Ontario.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (11)

2009 – one, 6 September, Devon Township (Highway 593 at Arrow River East Crossing), *Thunder Bay*

([Edward R. Armstrong](#)), also found by Marion Vaillant and Ted Vaillant; 2009-126)

- photos on file.

This represents the second record for northern Ontario; the first was at Squaw Bay (Pass Lake), *Thunder Bay*, on 3-9 November 2007 (Richards 2008).

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (32)

2009 – one, first basic, 22-23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#)), also found by

Maureen E. Woodcock, Sachiko L. Schott, Alex R. Stark; 2009-017) – photo on file.

- one, 6-16 August, Peterborough, *Peterborough* ([Brian E. Wales](#); 2009-145) – photos on file.
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Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (7)

2009 – one, 30 June, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* ([Brandon R. Holden](#), [Kenneth G. Burrell](#); 2009-111).

- one, first basic, 8-13 November, Fifty Point Conservation Area, *Hamilton/Niagara* (Josh Vandermeulen, David M. Bell, Frank Horvath, Sandra Horvath, found by James Thomson; 2009-112) – photos on file.

2007 – one, 28 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* ([Stuart A. Mackenzie](#), [Matt K. Slaymaker](#); 2009-148).

The Fifty Point bird was placed in rehabilitation at the Owl Foundation in Vineland.

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* (2)

2009 – one, male, 17-18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Brandon R. Holden](#)), also found by

Eric W. Holden, Susan K. Holden, Lauren F. Rae; 2009-050) – photos on file.

This is the second record for Ontario; the first was at the Tip of Long Point, *Norfolk*, on 21 May 2006 (Mackenzie 2008, Richards 2008).

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (8)

2009 – one, first basic, 6 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Henrietta T. O'Neill](#),

Alan Wormington, Kevin A. McLaughlin; 2009-106) – photos on file.



Figure 11: Male Black Swift at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, on 17-18 May 2009.
Photo: Brandon R. Holden.



Figure 12: Ash-throated Flycatcher in first basic plumage at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*, on 6 November 2009. *Photo: Alan Wormington.*

Figure 13: First basic Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Oakville, *Halton*, on 6 November 2009.

Photo: Scott Wight.



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (2)

2009 – one, first basic, 6 November, Oakville, *Halton* ([Anthony Ferrante](#); 2009-138) – photos on file; specimen (skin) in ROM: #117860.

After colliding with a window, the bird was taken to Toronto Wildlife Centre where it subsequently died. During the occurrence period, exceptional weather conditions in late fall brought multiple southwestern species into the province.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (56)

2009 – one, male, 30 April – 3 May, Long Sault Parkway (Heriot Island), *Stormont, Dundas* and *Glengarry* ([Martin Bowman](#), [Michael Jacques](#), found by [Jennifer L. Kibbee](#); 2009-035) – photo on file.

– one, male, 20-22 May, Tehkummah, *Manitoulin* ([Alex J. Anstice](#), also found by [Esther Anstice](#); 2009-064) – photos on file.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* (11)

2009 – one, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Gerard J.D. Phillips](#), [Marcia L. Jacklin](#); 2009-026).

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (13)

2009 – one, 21 April, Long Point (5 km west of Tip), *Norfolk* ([Stuart A. Mackenzie](#); 2009-152).

Excluding a single summer occurrence, all records of Fish Crow in Ontario pertain to spring migrants during the period of 21 April to 20 May inclusive.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (62)

2009 – two, 17 November, Burlington Beach, *Halton* ([Robert Z. Dobos](#); 2009-105).

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (17)

1957 – one, male, 28 April, Morgan's Point, *Niagara* ([Harold H. Axtell](#), also found by [Rachel C. Axtell](#); 2009-051).

– one, 13 May, Erie Beach, *Niagara* ([Richard Brownstein](#), also found by [M. Schultz](#); 2009-052).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (35)

2009 – one, alternate, male, 4 June, Redbridge, *Nipissing* ([Craig T. Hurst](#), also found by [Elaine M. Hurst](#); 2009-115) – photos on file.

– one, 16 September, Maynooth, *Hastings* ([Brian Monroe](#); 2009-129) – photos on file.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* South Only After 2000 (68)

2009 – one, 12 January, Wolfe Island, *Frontenac* ([Jonathan S. Pleizier](#), also found by [Andrew Taylor](#); 2009-016) – photo on file.

2007 – one, first basic, 18-26 October, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* ([Stuart A. Mackenzie](#), [Zachary Kaiser](#); 2009-149) – photos on file.

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens* (2)

2009/10 – one, moulting to first basic, male, 9 November – 9 February, Brampton, *Peel* (Dian Bogie, Jean Iron, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Michael D. Williamson, Mark K. Peck, Bruce Kennedy, Alan Wormington; 2009-140) – photos on file.

This bird likely arrived with the same weather system that brought other southwestern species into the province, namely Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Ash-throated Flycatcher. On the last date this bird was picked up alive and taken to Songbird Only Avian Rehabilitation in Rockwood where it subsequently died. This is the second record for Ontario; the first was at Duttona Beach, *Elgin*, on 27 December 1975 to 21 January 1976 (Crins 2006).

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens* (17)

2009 – one, male, 10 October, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2009-120).
– one, male, 11-12 October, Port Ryerse, *Norfolk* (Ron Ridout, found by Chauncey Wood, Sarah Wood; 2009-153) – photo on file.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi* (8)

2009 – one, male, 8 May, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Cecilia M. Verkley, Blake A. Mann, Gary A. Houghton; found by Barry Griffith, Gail Griffith, Mike Cowlard, Sharon Grawburg; 2009-039) – photo on file.

Figure 14: Male *Phainopepla* moulting into first basic plumage from 9 November 2009 to 9 February 2010 at Brampton, *Peel*. Photo: Dian Bogie (5 December 2009).





Figure 15: Black-throated Gray Warbler at Port Ryerse, *Norfolk*, from 11-12 October 2009.
Photo: Ron Ridout.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (42)

2009 – one, alternate, male, 9 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (Jeff Hegmans, also found by Ashley Hegmans, Marshall Byle; 2009-040) – video on file.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (23)

2009 – one, first basic, male, *arcticus*, 17 January – 21 February, Port Colborne, *Niagara* (William W. Watson, James M. Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna, J. Brett Fried, found by Mary McNeil; 2009-021) – photos on file.

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* North Only (14)

2009/10 – one, basic, male, 11 December – 27 February, Heron Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Michael T. Butler; 2009-139) – photos on file.

2009 – one, basic, male, 17-19 November, Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* (Tammy B. Hache, found by Maggie Schut; 2009-113) – photo on file.

Cassin's Sparrow *Aimophila cassinii* (8)

2007 – one, 30 May, Long Point (Tip), *Norfolk* (David J. Brown, also found by Fergus I. Nicholl; 2009-146) – photo on file.



Figure 16: Townsend's Warbler at Rondeau Provincial Park, Chatham-Kent, on 8 May 2009. Photo: Gary A. Houghton.



Figure 17: Cassin's Sparrow at Long Point (Tip), Norfolk, on 30 May 2007. Photo: David J. Brown.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (90)

- 2009 – one, 25 April, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* ([Kathy Felkar](#), Bruce D. Parker, also found by Mike Burge; 2009-030) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, male, 27 April – 2 May, Caledonia, *Haldimand* (Alexander L. Darling, Jeni Darling, Barry S. Cheriére, found by Rick Ludkin; 2009-029) – photos on file.
- one, 3 May, Arnstein, *Parry Sound* ([Alice Oliver](#); 2009-142) – photos on file.
- one, 4 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* ([Adam C. Pinch](#); 2009-074).
- one, 29 May, Rainy River, *Rainy River* ([John E. Van den Broeck](#); 2009-070) .
- one, first alternate, 31 May – 5 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#), also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Sachiko L. Schott, Alex R. Stark; 2009-001) – photo on file.
- one, 18 August, Killarney Provincial Park (Balsam Lake), *Sudbury* ([Peter S. Burke](#), also found by Colin D. Jones, Evan Burke; 2009-088).
- one, first basic, 18-21 October, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* ([Robert Z. Dobos](#), J. Brett Fried, Barry S. Cheriére, also found by Cheryl E. Edgecombe; 2009-128) – photos on file.
-

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* (2)

- 2009 – one, definitive basic, 29-31 August, Port Burwell, *Elgin* (Alan Wormington, J. Brett Fried, Jean Iron, found by Aaron B. Allensen; 2009-090) – photos on file.

This is the second record for Ontario, but the first for the south.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* (21)

- 2009 – one, alternate, 25 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Blake A. Mann](#), also found by Stephen T. Pike; 2009-032) – photos on file.
- one, alternate male, 13-27 June, Carden Alvar, *Kawartha Lakes* ([Bruce Wilson](#), also found by Jean Wilson, Tyler Hoar; 2009-073) – photos on file.
- one, alternate, male, 27-29 July, Paskwachi Point, *Cochrane* (R. Douglas McRae, Mark K. Peck, Jean Iron, also found by Amelia K. Whitear; 2009-086) – photos on file.

The singing male on territory at Paskwachi Point on James Bay is the first record for northern Ontario.

It is also the most northerly record in North America.

Figure 18: Definitive basic Black-throated Sparrow from 29-31 August 2009 at Port Burwell, *Elgin*.

Photo: Alan Wormington.





Figure 19: Alternate male Henslow's Sparrow from 27-29 July 2009 at Paskwachi Point, *Cochrane*.
 Photo: Mark K. Peck.

"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis mearnsi* (3)

- 2009 – one, first basic, female, 12 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Sachiko L. Schott, Alex R. Stark, James R. Barber; 2009-018) – photo on file.
- 2008 – one, definitive basic, male, 26 April – 8 May, Stepstone, *Thunder Bay* (James Brewer, also found by Lorena Strbavy; 2009-006) – photos on file.

Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus* (3)

- 2009 – one, definitive alternate male, 30 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (John M. Woodcock, also found by Maureen E. Woodcock, Sachiko L. Schott, Alex R. Stark; 2009-002) – photo on file. This is the second accepted record for northern Ontario; a first winter male 29 April 1991 at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park was the first (Bain 1992).

left: Figure 20: First basic female "Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, on 12 May 2009. Photo: John M. Woodcock.



right: Figure 21: Definitive alternate male Chestnut-collared Longspur at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, on 30 May 2009. Photo: John M. Woodcock.



Figure 22: Western Tanager at Pass Lake, *Thunder Bay*, 27 April to 6 May 2008. Photo: Brian D. Ratcliff.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* North Only (15)

- 2009 – one, first alternate, male, 8-9 May, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Thomas J. Nash, David H. Elder; 2009-038) – photos on file.
– one, definitive basic, male, 22 October, Stratton, *Rainy River* (Lisa B. Vos, also found by Justin D. Vos; 2009-133) – photos on file.
– one, definitive basic, female, 7 November, Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Paul J. Dennis; 2009-108) – photos on file.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (35)

- 2009 – one, male, 11-15 May, Harris Hill, *Rainy River* (Cheryl-Ann E. Gauthier; 2009-045) – photo on file.
– one, first alternate, male, 12 May – 4 June, Kenora, *Kenora* (William R. Zroback; 2009-049) – photo on file.
– one, definitive alternate, female, 19-20 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (James R. Barber, found by George A. Williams; 2009-046) – photo on file.
– one, definitive, male, 11-22 November, Val Therese, *Sudbury* (Valerie M. Kirwan, Erwin J. Meissner; 2009-109) – photos on file.
- 2008 – one, first alternate, male, 27 April – 6 May, Pass Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Brian D. Ratcliff, found by Julie Welsh; 2009-042) – photos on file.
– one, male, 20 May, Kapuskasing, *Cochrane* (Nancy Payeur; 2009-061) – photos on file.



Figure 23: Definitive alternate male Blue Grosbeak at Long Point (Courtright Ridge), Norfolk, on 16 May 2008.
Photo: Eleanor Page.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (80)

- 2009 – one, female, 27 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Brandon R. Holden](#), also found by [Lauren F. Rae](#); 2009-033) .
- one, first alternate, male, 6 May, Dealtown, *Chatham-Kent* ([Alan Wormington](#); 2009-036) .
- one, definitive alternate, male, 10 May, Wyoming, *Lambton* ([Della M. Fellows](#); 2009-043) – photos on file.
- one, first alternate, male, 14 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* ([Mark W. Hubinger](#), also found by [Joanne A. Hubinger](#); 2009-047) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, female, 19-20 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#), also found by [Maureen E. Woodcock](#), [Sachiko L. Schott](#), [Alex R. Stark](#), [Rachel E. Bryan](#); 2009-010) – photo on file.
- one, definitive alternate, male, 26 May – 7 June, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* ([William H. Elgie](#); 2009-066) – photo on file.
- 2008 – one, definitive alternate, male, 16 May, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk* ([Eleanor Page](#); 2009-154) – photo on file.

The bird at Sault Ste. Marie until 7 June represents the latest spring migrant to be recorded in Ontario.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* (8)

- 2009 – one, first alternate, male, 31 May – 3 June, Crooks, *Thunder Bay* ([Sharon E. Illingworth](#), [Robert I. Illingworth](#), [Alan Wormington](#); 2009-072) – photos on file.
-

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (25)

- 2009 – one, definitive alternate, male, 28-30 April, Brantford, *Brant* ([Donald A. Field](#); 2009-034) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, male, 17 May, Clarksburg, *Grey* ([Peter Norwood](#); 2009-060) – photos on file.
-

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* North Only (17)

- 2009 – one, male, 12-13 May, Atikokan, *Rainy River* ([Fred Kimberley](#), [Joan Kimberley](#); 2009-014) – photo on file.
-

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* North Only (8)

- 2009 – one, female, 14-15 May, Nipigon, *Thunder Bay* ([Glenalda Clearwater](#); 2009-048) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, male, 20 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#), also found by [Sachiko L. Schott](#), [Maureen E. Woodcock](#), [Alex R. Stark](#); 2009-063) – photo on file.
- one, first alternate, male, 21-25 May, Geraldton, *Thunder Bay* ([Lorraine F. Zawierucha](#); 2009-065) – photo on file.
- one, first alternate, male, 23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#), also found by [Alex R. Stark](#), [Maureen E. Woodcock](#), [Sachiko L. Schott](#); 2009-020) – photo on file.
- one, female, 29 May, Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* ([Alan Wormington](#); 2009-069) – photos on file.

This is an unprecedented number of records in northern Ontario for a single spring migration.



Figure 24: First alternate male Lazuli Bunting at Crooks, *Thunder Bay*, from 31 May to 3 June 2009. *Photo: Alan Wormington.*



Figure 25: Female Orchard Oriole at Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay*, on 29 May 2009. *Photo: Alan Wormington.*



Figure 26: First alternate male Bullock's Oriole at Armstrong, *Thunder Bay*, from 1-10 June 2009.
Photo: Reynold Bartkiewicz.



Figure 27: Basic Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (n nominate *tephrocotis*) at Moonbeam, *Cochrane*, on 20 November 2009. *Photo: Kenneth G. Reed.*

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* (6)

- 2009 – one, first alternate, male, 1-10 June, Armstrong, *Thunder Bay* ([Reynold Bartkiewicz](#); 2009-125)
– photos on file.

The facial and tail patterns of this well photographed bird clearly establish it as a Bullock's Oriole.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (14)

- 2009 – one, male, nominate *tephrocotis*, 4-6 April, Kashabowie Lake, *Thunder Bay* ([Mary Vasko](#); 2009-155) – photo on file.
– one, basic, nominate *tephrocotis*, 20 November, Moonbeam, *Cochrane* ([Kenneth G. Reed](#), also found by [Connie Deblette](#); 2009-114) – photos on file.

NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

Not Accepted Records: Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Birds in this category are considered by the Committee to be correctly identified, but their origin is questionable. These birds may have escaped or may have been released from captivity. However, if new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the Committee.

- 2009/10 – **Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*), one, adult, 19 December – 22 January, Grimsby, *Niagara* ([Frank Horvath](#); [Sandra Horvath](#), [Peeter Musta](#); 2009-141) – photos on file.

This species has been added to the provincial list on the basis of a European banded bird that was shot in Ontario in 2005 (Richards 2009). However, the current individual is of questioned origin (as are many other reports in the province). A Barnacle Goose (possibly the same individual) has been observed in the same general area and time of year for four consecutive winters, but natural occurrence has not been definitively demonstrated.

- 2009 – **Harris's Hawk** (*Parabuteo unicinctus*), one, adult, 25 March, Bass Lake Provincial Park, *Simcoe* ([Tom Wilson](#); 2009-012) – photos on file.
– **Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*), one, male, 4 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* ([John M. Woodcock](#), [James R. Barber](#), also found by [Maureen E. Woodcock](#), [Sachiko L. Schott](#); 2009-019) – photos on file.
– **European Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*), one, 10 March -12 April, West Lorne, *Elgin* ([Patrick Mooney](#), [Carol Mooney](#); 2009-013) – photos on file.
– **European Goldfinch**, one, *caniceps* group, 6 June, Englehart, *Cochrane* ([Serge Gendron](#), also found by [Dianne Gendron](#); 2009-116) – photos on file.
– **European Goldfinch**, one, male, 15 June, Long Point (Courtright Ridge), *Norfolk* ([J. Brett Fried](#), also found by [Brendan A. Toews](#); 2009-058).
– **European Goldfinch**, one, *caniceps* group, 1 July, Rosspoint, *Thunder Bay* ([Harold G. Smith](#); 2009-118) – photo on file.
– **European Goldfinch**, one, *caniceps* group, 18 July, Algonquin Provincial Park (Canoe Lake Access Point), *Nipissing* ([Jan Richmond](#); 2009-135) – photos on file.
– **European Goldfinch**, two, *caniceps* group, 11-18 November, Alvinston, *Lambton* ([Al Robinson](#); 2009-117) – photos on file.

The sightings of Eurasian songbirds, such as European Goldfinch, continue although there is still no evidence to suggest that any are now established in the province

1890 – **MacGillivray's Warbler** (*Oporornis tolmiei*), one, male, 20 May, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (collector unknown; 2009-136) – photos on file; specimen (skin) AMNH: #507393.

This old specimen has long been attributed to Hamilton, even though the museum labels do not indicate a collector for the bird; Baillie (1969) assumed that the specimen had been collected by K.C. Mcllwraith. Recent investigation by several persons, including museum curators, reveals that the specimen labels in fact do not clearly indicate that the bird was collected at Hamilton, let alone in Ontario. The late Laurence C. Binford (in a letter to Alan Wormington dated 10 March 1992) was the first person to point out a number of inconsistencies regarding this specimen. Notably, he discovered a similar specimen supposedly from Connecticut that has since been rejected by that state's records committee. He states in part "I find it very suspicious that both the Ontario bird and the Connecticut bird were catalogued next to each other, neither had a collector, one lacked a specific date, and both were supposedly taken in May 1890. These are the kinds of strange things that one finds with mislabelled specimens." A follow-up investigation was also conducted by Robert Curry for his *Birds of Hamilton* publication, who reached the same conclusions and provided a detailed list of reasons why the species should be removed from the list of Hamilton birds (Curry 2006). In summary, the bird is indeed a MacGillivray's Warbler, but its origin is highly questionable.

Since this specimen formed the basis for retaining MacGillivray's Warbler on the Checklist of Ontario Birds (Wormington and James 1984), and since there have not been any subsequent records accepted for the province, the species is thus deleted from the Ontario list.

Not Accepted Records: Identification Uncertain

The documentation received for the following reports generally was found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally. In many cases, Committee members felt that the species being described probably was correctly identified, but that the details provided in the report, perhaps due to factors such as the conditions during the observation, were insufficient. It should be noted that any of these reports may be re-submitted if additional documentation becomes available.

- 2009** – **Northern Gannet**, two, 13 August, Peterborough, *Peterborough* (2009-087).
– **Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*), one, 17 August, Chemong Lake, *Peterborough* (2009-067).
– **Little Blue Heron**, one, 4-5 May, Wheatley Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (4 May) and Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (5 May) (2009-091).
– **Curlew Sandpiper**, one, 8 October, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (2009-100).
– **California Gull**, one, 14 June, Harris Hill, *Rainy River* (2009-076).
– **Bell's Vireo**, one, 9 May, Pelee Island, *Essex* (2009-025).
– **Blue-and-White Swallow** (*Notiochelidon cyanolueca*), two, 31 May, St. Thomas, *Elgin* (2009-071).
– **Cave Swallow**, one, 25 October, Toronto, *Toronto* (2009-104).
– **Bewick's Wren**, one, early February - 17 February, Milton, *Halton* (2009-003).
– **Northern Wheatear**, one, 28 April, Brampton, *Peel* (2009-028).
– **Kirtland's Warbler**, one, 20 May, Long Point (Old Cut), *Norfolk* (2009-062).
– **Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), two, 5 September, Meaford, *Grey* (2009-096).

- 2008 – **Brown Pelican**, one, 28 June, Rosedale, *Kawartha Lakes* (2009-078).
 – **Mississippi Kite**, one, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2009-094).
 – **Swainson’s Hawk**, one, 20 September, Kaministiquia, *Thunder Bay* (2009-119).
 – **Carolina Chickadee** (*Poecile carolinensis*), one, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2009-093).
- 1995 – **Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*), one, 25 November – 2 December, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (2009-143).

Corrections/Updates to Previous OBRC Reports

2008 Report (*Ontario Birds* 27: 58–79):

- under Greater White-fronted Goose (1994 at Hillman Marsh), change “found by Kevin D. Clark” to “found by Kevin D. Clark” (although this person was the finder of the bird, he did not provide any documentation to the committee; “photos on file” refer to those of the mounted bird taken by Alan Wormington).
- under Harlequin Duck (2008 at Thunder Cape), change “John M. Woodcock” to “John M. Woodcock.”
- under Northern Gannet, change number of accepted records from 38 to 39.
- under Ibis species, change number of accepted records from 44 to 45.
- under Black Vulture (2008 at Point Pelee National Park), change “Donald E. Perks” to “Donald E. Perks.”
- under Mississippi Kite, change number of accepted records from 34 to 37.
- under Mississippi Kite, (2008 at Port Stanley) change “David R. Brown” to “David J. Brown”
- under Piping Plover (2008 at Oliphant), change “Brendan A. Toews” to “Brendan A. Toews.”
- under Piping Plover, change number of accepted records from 67 to 68.
- under Cave Swallow (2008 at Prince Edward Point), change “Bruce E. Ripley” to “Bruce E. Ripley.”
- under Black-throated Gray Warbler (2008 at Rondeau Provincial Park), change “Blake A. Mann” to “Blake A. Mann.”
- under Eastern Towhee, change number of accepted records from 7 to 12.
- under Western Tanager, change number of accepted records from 28 to 29.
- under Blue Grosbeak, change number of accepted records from 68 to 72.

2007 Report (*Ontario Birds* 26: 82–106):

- under Black Swift (2006 at Long Point Tip), change change “David R. Brown” to “David J. Brown”.
- under Henslow’s Sparrow, change number of accepted records from 17 to 18.

2006 Report (*Ontario Birds* 25: 50–68):

- under Cattle Egret, change number of accepted records from 20 to 21.
- under Hummingbird species (2006 at Thunder Bay), change the first sentence of the commentary to “The Thunder Bay bird is the second *Selasphorus* hummingbird to be found in Ontario during spring migration; the first was a Rufous Hummingbird on 7 May 1999 at Sault Ste Marie, Algoma (Roy 2000).”

2002 Report (*Ontario Birds* 21: 54–76):

- under Bewick’s Wren, change number of accepted records from 14 to 13.

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