

Articles

Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1998

Robert Z. Dobos

Introduction

This is the 17th annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC). The members of the Committee in 1998 were David Brewer, Peter Burke, Robert Curry, Robert Dobos (non-voting Secretary), Nicholas Escott, Douglas McRae, Ronald Pittaway and Ronald Tozer (Chairman). Ross James served as Museum Liaison (non-voting) to the OBRC.

The number of reports received and reviewed by the Committee was substantially lower in 1998 than in recent previous years. This may reflect a relatively poorer year for rarities in Ontario in 1998, as perceived by some observers. However, a substantial number of reports of sightings from late in 1998 were received early in 1999, which will be reviewed by the 1999 Committee. Of the 124 records reviewed in 1998, 71 percent were accepted, which is again lower than in recent years; possible reasons for this decline are not known.

The Ontario bird checklist increased by two, with the acceptance and addition of Eurasian Collared-Dove (south) and Tropical /Couch's Kingbird (north). The offi-

cial Ontario list now stands at 472 species. Bewick's Wren was also a new addition for northern Ontario. The Committee continues to review reports of certain recognizable forms, and has accepted a new subspecies group for Ontario, the "Pink-sided" Junco. No new breeding species for the province were accepted in 1998.

OBRC records are archived at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Researchers and other interested persons may examine filed reports and Committee decisions at the ROM by appointment. Please contact Brad Millen, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6, or call 416-586-5519.

Listing of Records

The format of this report follows that used in last year's annual report (Dobos 1998). Accepted records are listed by their English and scientific names following the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list (1998). Following the names, a binomial numbering system appears. The first number indi-



Figure 1: Ontario Bird Records Committee members for 1998. Left to right, front row: Bob Curry, David Brewer, Nick Escott; back row: Ron Tozer, Doug McRae, Ron Pittaway, Rob Dobos, Peter Burke. Photo by *Kayo J. Roy*.

icates the total number of accepted records (by the OBRC) prior to 1 January 1982 (the formation of the OBRC); the second is the total number of accepted records from 1982 to 1998 (including those listed in this report). An asterisk in place of the first number indicates that documentation was not required for the occurrence of these 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 (see Pittaway 1995a).

All contributors of documentation are listed. Contributors who were known to be the finders of the bird are underlined. Finders who did not submit a report are also listed, when known.

Every effort has been made to verify information published regarding a record; however, it is possible that some inaccuracies may still exist. We would welcome any corrections or updates to any such records. Where dates or other details listed here differ from those quoted in other published sources (for example, *Birders Journal* or *Field Notes*) we have used the most accurate available information.

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 Chairperson 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" record can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new evidence is submitted to the Committee for review.

Acknowledgements

The OBRC would like to thank the many observers who submitted reports, photographs, sketches, videos and specimens of rare birds during 1998. We are grateful to Bruce Mactavish of Newfoundland who provided expert opinion on a "Common Gull" report. The follow-

ing people are also thanked either for obtaining and forwarding reports from others, or assisting the Committee in other ways: Robert Andrle, Margaret Bain, Barbara Charlton, Allen Chartier, Bob Curry, Willie D'Anna, Bruce Di Labio, Nick Escott, John Fischer, Dave Fidler, Jean Griffin, Phill Holder, Jean Iron, Andrew Jano, David Martin, Kevin McLaughlin, Chris Michener, John Miles, Martin Parker, Ron Pittaway, Alf Rider, Ron Ridout, Kayo Roy, Doug Sadler, Roy Smith, Mike Street, Ron Tozer, and Alan Wormington.

I would especially like to thank the other 1998 OBRC members for their assistance and cooperation throughout the past year, and for their helpful comments on previous drafts of this report.

Accepted Records

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* South Only (3/15)

1996 - one, definitive alternate. 29 April, Sauble Beach, *Bruce* (Peter D. Middleton).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (0/11)

1997 - one, basic. 28 October, Bass Lake, *Simcoe* (James R. Macey).

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (3/8)

1995 - one, light morph. 7 December, Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Richard M. Poulin).

1994 - one, light morph. 14-16 December, Limoges, *Prescott and Russell* (Bruce M. Di Labio, found by Michel Mainville) - photos on file.

The Ottawa bird was observed flying inland over the city by the startled observer. The Limoges bird was picked up in a weakened condition on the finder's front lawn. It was taken to a wildlife rehabilitation centre where it was nurtured back to health, and was eventually flown to Nova Scotia where it was released back to the wild.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (2/19)

1996 - one, juvenal, 12 November, Pakenham, *Lanark* (Bruce M. Di Labio, found by Mike Thompson) - photos on file.

This bird was found in a weakened condition and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, where it subsequently died on 15 November.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* South Only, Before 1994 Only (2/32)

1990 - three, 10 June, Balmy Beach, *Grey* (Harvey Henderson) - photos on file.

Sightings after 31 December 1993 no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* North Only, Except also in South from 1991-1997 (1/27)

1991 - one, 8 July, Horse Lake, *Bruce* (Bob Arthurs, also found by Sara Arthurs, Claire Arthurs, Carol Watson).

Sightings in southern Ontario after 31 December 1997 (or before 1 January 1991) no longer require documentation by the OBRC.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (7/30)

1998 - one, second or definitive alternate, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Gavin Edmondstone, also found by Susan Edwards).

- one, first basic/first alternate, 17-18 May, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (David Moffat).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (2/20)

1998 - one, alternate, 15 August, Long Point (Gravelly Bay), *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Lucas Foerster) - photo on file.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (2/27)

1997 - one, 28-31 May, Warton, *Bruce* (Edward Cheskey, found by Alan W. McTavish, Donald Fletcher).

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (2/18)

1998 - one, 5 April, Harrow, *Essex* (Fred I. Urie).

- one, 10 April, Willowdale, *Toronto* (Norman C. Murr).

- one, 9 September, Richmond Hill, *York* (Norman C. Murr).

Three records in 1998 amount to a banner year for this species in Ontario.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* South Only, Before 1998 Only (2/55)

1997/98 - two, definitive basic, 29 November 1997 - 22 February 1998, Queenston, *Niagara*



Figure 2: Light morph Northern Fulmar found at Limoges, Prescott and Russell, on 14 December 1994. Photo by Bruce M. Di Labio.

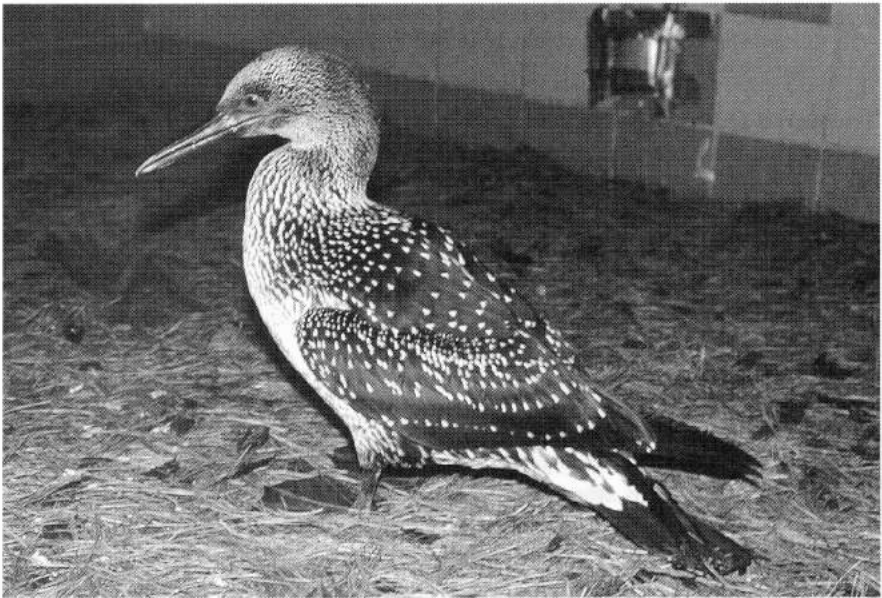


Figure 3: Juvenal Northern Gannet found at Pakenham, Lanark, on 12 November 1996. Photo by Bruce M. Di Labio.

- (Michael Morgante, Cathy A. Sanderson, Gordon Bellerby).
- 1997 - two, 2-3 April, Edenvale, *Simcoe* (James Forrest, found by Alex Mills) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, *frontalis*, 28 September - 19 October, Unionville, *York* (Gerald Frechette, Winnie Yung) - photos on file.
 - one, definitive basic, 16-21 November, Aylmer Wildlife Management Area, *Elgin* (David A. Martin, Marvin S. Smout, also found by Linda Wladarski).
- 1996 - one, definitive basic, 24 March, Peterborough, *Peterborough* (Raymond Geras, also found by Terrie Smith).

Subspecies determination is not stated for most records, except when supported by clear photographs. The OBRC no longer requires documentation for records occurring after 31 December 1997.

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* South Only (0/20)

- 1998 - one, definitive basic, white morph, 16 November, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (Donald Shanahan).
 - one, definitive basic, white morph, 22-23 November, West Lorne, *Elgin* (Harold L. Lancaster, Ann White, also found by Chris Leys, William Prieksaitis, Marjorie Prieksaitis, George Prieksaitis) - photos on file.
- 1997 - one, definitive basic, white morph, 7 November - 22 December, Ajax and Whitby, *Durham* (Margaret J.C. Bain, found by J. Murray Speirs).

Despite the above records, spring occurrences outnumber fall records in southern Ontario by about two to one.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* North Only (0/7)

- 1998 - two, definitive basic, *circa* mid-July, Manitouwadge (Wabikoba Lake), *Thunder Bay* (Brian Robilliard, found by Marlene Turner) - photo on file.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* North Only, After 1993 (3/61)

- 1992 - one, alternate, male, 9 April, Shallow Lake, *Grey* (Peter D. Middleton).
 1981 - one, alternate, male, 25-circa 27 April, Jackson, *Grey* (Joseph W. Johnson).

The OBRC no longer requires documentation for records in southern Ontario after 31 December 1993; however, this is still a Review List species for northern Ontario.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca crecca* (*/2)

- 1998 - one, alternate, male, 29 March, Vinemount, *Hamilton-Wentworth* (Kevin A. McLaughlin).

The Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal, formerly considered a separate species, the "Common Teal", is casual in eastern North America including Ontario (AOU 1998). A population which breeds in the western Aleutian Islands of Alaska, considered by some earlier authorities to be a separate subspecies (*A.c. nimia*), is identical in appearance to *A.c. crecca*, other than being slightly larger, and may thus be impossible to differentiate in the field (Bellrose 1976, Madge and Burn 1988).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (1/22)

1998 - one, definitive alternate, male, 11-19 January, Selkirk Provincial Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (John B. Miles).

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* South Only (2/12)

1997/98 - one, first basic/first alternate, male, 1 December 1997 - 10 January 1998, Barrie (Kempfenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe), *Simcoe* (Winnie Yung, James R. Macey, James Forrest, found by Alex Mills) - photos on file.

Despite the photographic evidence, subspecies identification was not assigned by OBRC.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (5/14)

1998 - one, 15 May, Arner and Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (John Schmelefske, Lorraine Foott, Chantal Belair, also found by Michael Jaber).

- one, 3 June, St. Williams Forestry Station, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (Mary Ellen Hebb).

1997 - one, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Craig S.A. McLaughlan, also found by Barnaby Southgate).

The bird on 3 June provides the latest accepted record for Ontario and first outside the month of May. See Wormington (1993) for a summary of occurrences of this species in Ontario.



Figure 4: First basic/first alternate male Common Eider at Barrie (Kempfenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe), *Simcoe*, from 1 December 1997 - 10 January 1998. Photo by Winnie Yung.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* South Only, Before 1994 (4/33)

- 1992 - one, definitive basic, gray morph, 5 January, Mar. Bruce (Mark Wiercinski).
 - one, white morph, 23 January, Cape Chin, Bruce (Scott Connop) - photo on file.
- 1983 - one, juvenal, dark morph, 5 November, Big Bay, Grey (Bob Gray, found by Bill Loney, Dawn Loney) - photo on file.

Occurrences of this species after 31 December 1993 no longer require documentation by the OBRC. The circumstances surrounding the bird on 5 November 1983 are interesting. It was found attacking a barnyard duck, and was easily captured since it was covered with mud from the struggle. It was kept overnight in a coop, and after having preened itself clean, was released unharmed the following day (Gray 1984).

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* South Only (1/37)

- 1994 - one, alternate, 15 July, Kettle Point, Lambton (Alfred H. Rider) - photo on file.
- 1991 - one, alternate, 31 May, Sauble Beach, Bruce (Dennis Lewington, also found by Gwen Lewington).

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (2/8)

- 1998 - one, alternate, 26 May, Bath, Lennox and Addington (Glenn Barrett, also found by Cynthia Pekarik, Jeremy Rouse, Ross Neureuther).
 - one, alternate, female, 31 May - 1 June, Toronto (Leslie Street Spit), Toronto (Larry A. Morse, Roy B.H. Smith, John Schmelefske) - photos on file.

Although some may speculate that the same individual was involved in these two records, they are considered to be separate records by the OBRC. There is certainly precedence for multiple individuals of Black-necked Stilt occurring in Ontario at the same time: three birds at Mitchell, Perth, on 19 May 1991 (Bain 1992); singles at Stoney Point, Essex, from 28 May - 16 June 1989 and at North Bay, Nipissing, from 12-23 June 1989 (Wormington and Curry 1990); and two at Sable Island, Rainy River, on 7 June 1981 (James 1983).

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (7/53)

- 1998 - five, alternate, 14 May, Hillman Marsh, Essex (John Carley, also found by Victoria Carley, Georgia Carley, Robert Carley).
 - one, juvenal, male, 23 August, Hamilton Harbour (Windermere Basin), Hamilton-Wentworth (Robert Z. Dobos, found by William F. Smith, James Cram, Phill Walker).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (0/18)

- 1994 - one, alternate, August (date unknown), Grand Bend, Lambton (Alfred H. Rider) - photo on file.

The exact dates of occurrence for this record are undetermined. It is interesting to note that a male and female Curlew Sandpiper were present at this site during May 1994 (Pittaway 1995b).

June 1, 1998 Leslie St, Spit
 Partly Cloudy 18°C 9:30 AM
 - pond on left past 1st bridge
 - catching insects off surface of water

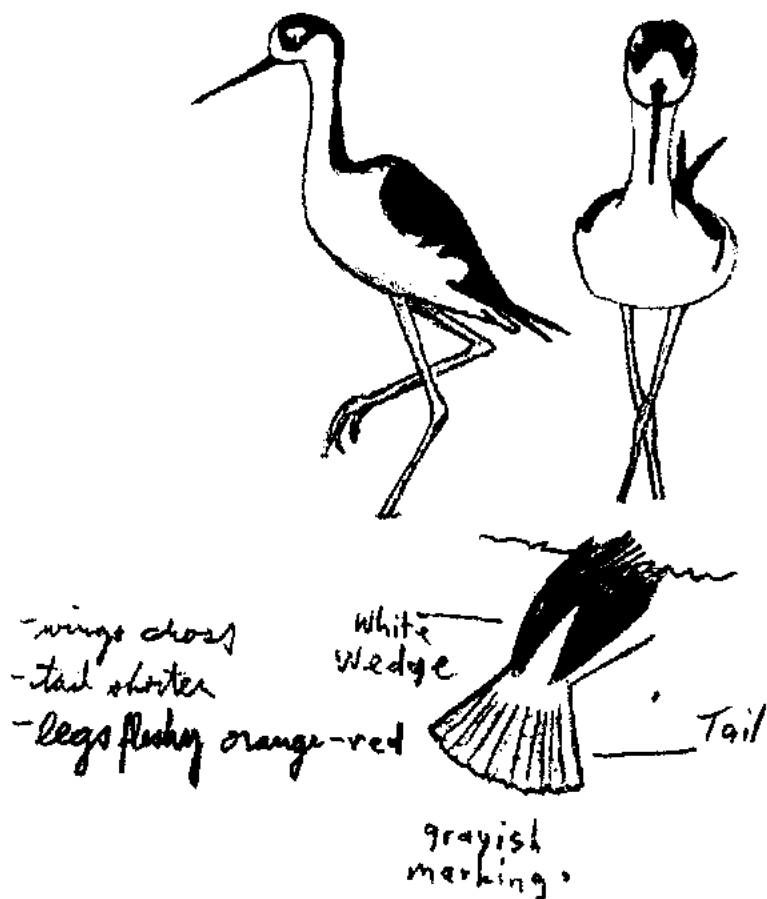


Figure 5: Female Black-necked Stilt at Toronto's Leslie Street Spit, Toronto, from 31 May - 1 June 1998. Sketch by John Schmelefske.

Mew Gull *Larus canus* (3/12)

- 1997 - one, definitive basic, 27 September, Blenheim, *Kent* (James P. Coey, David J. Milsom, also found by Maxine Myslowska).

California Gull *Larus californicus* (0/21)

- 1998 - one, definitive basic, 26-28 January, Toronto (Sunnyside Beach), *Toronto* (Robert K. Yukich).
- 1997/98 - one, definitive basic, 23 November 1997 - 2 February 1998, Queenston, *Niagara* (William C. D'Anna, Gordon Bellerby, also found by Betsy Potter).
- 1997 - one, definitive basic, 30 November, Chippawa, *Niagara* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, also found by Barbara N. Charlton, Robert Z. Dobos, William G. Lamond).

It is considered that at least two individuals were present at the Niagara River during late fall and winter of 1997-98. None of these birds could definitely be ascribed to either of the suggested subspecies described by Jehl (1987), those being a smaller, darker-mantled race (*L.c. californicus*) that breeds in the Great Basin states, and a larger, lighter-mantled race (*L.c. albertaensis*) from the Great Plains of northcentral United States and southcentral Canada.

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* (0/2)

- 1998 - one, definitive basic, 29 November, Burlington Ship Canal, *Hamilton-Wentworth/Halton* (Robert M. Sachs, Sheila Bowslaugh, Carl J. Rothfels, also found by Eleanor Sachs).

This well-described bird unfortunately did not linger long enough to be seen by any other than the discovering party. This is only the second record for Ontario since 1953, the other occurring on 5-6 December 1995 at Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* (Dobos 1997).

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (0/3)

- 1998 - one, 21 May, Pelee Island (Scudder), *Essex* (Robert Tymstra) - video on file.
- one, male, 24 June, Burlington, *Halton* (John G. Keenleyside).
- 1993 - one, 25 July and 4 September, Pittock Lake, *Oxford* (James M. Holdsworth).

These constitute the first three records for Ontario, and apparently for Canada as well. The 1993 record had been previously considered by the OBRC but had been placed in the "deferred" category (identification accepted, wild status deferred) pending additional information on its occurrence. With the acceptance of the two recent 1998 records, the Committee has moved the 1993 record from the "deferred" category to the "accepted" list.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove is a Palearctic species which had first become established within North America in Florida by the mid-1980s via introductions to the Bahamas (Smith 1987), from which it has steadily expanded north and west into the continent. It was accepted by the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee in 1992

(DeBenedictis 1994a). Its spread has apparently been more rapid through the centre of the continent than up the eastern seaboard. By the spring of 1998, it had been recorded as a breeder in Texas, Arkansas and Nebraska, and there were occurrences in Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Montana, as well as the first reports for Minnesota and Wisconsin (Wamer 1998). Thus, the Ontario records certainly fit with this pattern of expansion.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove closely resembles the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. "risoria"*), which is actually a totally domestic bird that does not occur anywhere naturally, although feral populations exist (DeBenedictis 1994b). Eurasians are generally larger birds with darker primaries and gray undertail coverts, with quite different vocalizations. For additional identification information, see Smith (1987) and Blackshaw (1988). Birders should carefully examine any "collared" doves encountered, since it seems only a matter of time before this species will become a regular feature of our Ontario avifauna.

Hummingbird species *Selasphorus* sp. (0/7)

- 1997 - one, male, 4-27 July, Lakefield, Peterborough (Nancy Hanes).
 - one, first basic, male, circa early-November - 24 December (at least), Owen Sound, Grey (William Waterton, found by Vern Anschuetz, Dorothea Anschuetz) - photos on file.

The July 4 date for the bird at Lakefield provides the earliest date amongst the 18 accepted records of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in Ontario. The OBRC takes a conservative approach towards reports of assumed Rufous Hummingbirds (*S. rufus*). With the apparent increase in occurrences of other western hummingbird species in eastern North America in recent years during fall and winter, which has included a number of Allen's Hummingbirds (*S. sasin*) (see Boyle et al. 1998, Hall 1998, West 1998), Ontario reports of *Selasphorus* must clearly exclude Allen's to be accepted as Rufous. Typically, in-hand measurements are needed in order to separate females or immatures of these two species (Heidcamp 1997).

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* North Only (1/1)

- 1998 - three, alternate, males, 29 May - 1 June, Rainy River, Rainy River (David H. Elder, Donald S. Graham).

These birds were heard singing on breeding territory.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (1/4)

- 1998 - one, 22-24 September, Toronto (Mount Pleasant Cemetery), Toronto (A. Geoffrey Carpentier, James Griffith, E. Gail Worth, also found by Wanda Michalowicz).

The Committee has accepted this record as an Ash-throated, although it was recognized that the descriptions did not rule out the possibility of the

bird being a Nutting's Flycatcher (*M. nuttingi*). Nutting's, a Mexican and Central American species, has recently been documented in Arizona (Benesh and Rosenberg 1998), and for future occurrences of extralimital *Myiarchus* flycatchers in Ontario, Nutting's (although a remote possibility) will need to be considered. Readers are referred to Dickinson (1999), Kaufman (1998) and Howell and Webb (1995) for identification criteria for Nutting's Flycatcher.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii* (0/1)

1998 - one, 27 September, Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* (Nicholas G. Escott).

This is the first record of this "species group" for Ontario. Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds are very similar in appearance, and are likely only safely separated in the field by voice (Mlodinow 1998). This bird at Hurkett did not vocalize, thus the Committee decided not to assign the bird to either species. As a result, we have the unusual situation of a new addition to the Ontario checklist based on a species-pair group. The Tropical Kingbird, a tropical species that breeds north to southeastern Arizona, regularly occurs as a rare fall northbound migrant along the Pacific coastal states and British Columbia, but has also occurred in the east to as far as Maine, Quebec and Michigan (Mlodinow 1998). Couch's Kingbird is resident to southern Texas, and extralimital records are mainly from the eastern Gulf Coast states. Several unidentified Tropical/Couch's have also been recorded from as far as Nova Scotia and Maine (Mlodinow 1998). This information suggests that Tropical Kingbird seems more likely to wander; however, probability of occurrence cannot be used to clinch the identification between these two species.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (3/37)

1998 - one, alternate, 2 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Graeme C. Gibson, also found by Daniel G. Derbyshire, Warwick E. Redway, Cole Snell, Nancy Parish) - photo on file.

1991 - one, definitive basic, male, 22 November, Tobermory, *Bruce* (Mark Wiercinski, John Francis, found by George Harpur) - photo on file.

The Tobermory bird on November 22 is the latest accepted fall record for Ontario.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (0/2)

1998 - one, 7-9 December, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Jerry H. Guild, James N. Flynn, also found by Fred J. Urie) - photos on file.

This is the second record for Ontario. The first, also found by Wormington at Point Pelee, was on 21 April 1989 (Wormington and Curry 1990).

Despite the contention that this bird was of the subspecies *pelodoma* from the southwestern United States and Mexico (Wormington 1999), the OBRC has not assigned a subspecies for this record. The same is true for the 1989 Pelee record, which was also stated to belong to the subspecies *pelodoma* (Wormington 1992), but which was also not assigned subspecific determination by the OBRC (Wormington and Curry 1990).

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (0/14)

1998 - one, basic, 2 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Graeme C. Gibson, Daniel G. Derbyshire, also found by Cole Snell, Warwick E. Redway, Nancy Parish) - photo on file.

This is the first record for northern Ontario. The bird was captured and banded by the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea* North Only (2/10)

1998 - one, male, 16-18 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Graeme C. Gibson, also found by Daniel G. Derbyshire).

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (3/21)

1998 - one, basic, male, 5 April and 9 July, McGinnis Creek, *Rainy River* (Roger M. Simms).

- one, basic, female, 21-22 October, Atikokan, *Rainy River* (Donald S. Graham).

1979 - one, basic, 20-22 December, Warton, *Bruce* (Joseph W. Johnson, Martin Parker).

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (4/26)

1994 - one, 5-8 November, Pinery Provincial Park, *Lambton* (Alfred H. Rider) - photo on file.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* Before 1994 Only for South, and Before 1998 Only for North (5/53)

1997 - one, basic, male, 16 November, Stratton, *Rainy River* (Roger M. Simms).

1991 - one, basic, male, 6 December, Shallow Lake, *Grey* (Barbara Fidler).

The OBRC no longer requires documentation for records in the south after 31 December 1993 or for records in the north after 31 December 1997.

Sprague's Pipit *Anthus spragueii* (0/2)

1998 - one, 29 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Graeme C. Gibson, also found by Daniel G. Derbyshire, Warwick E. Redway, Cole Snell) - photo on file.

All three Ontario records have been from the north, the two previous being at Rainy River on 2-12 June 1990 (Curry 1991) and 3-12 July 1980 (James 1991). The latter record has yet to be reviewed by OBRC.

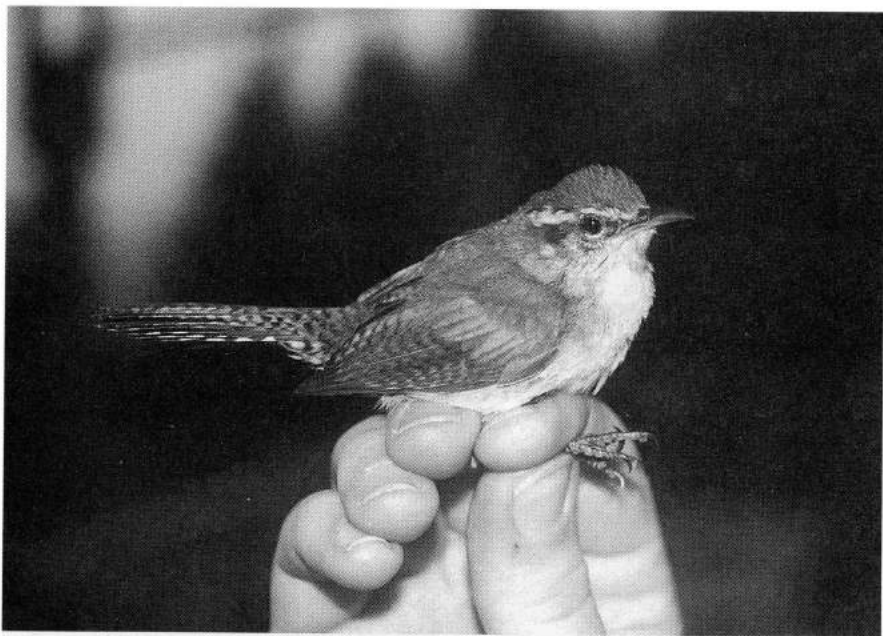


Figure 6: Bewick's Wren captured and banded at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, on 2 May 1998. Photo by *Daniel G. Derbyshire*.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* North Only (1/3)

1998 - one, definitive alternate, male, 13 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Graeme C. Gibson, also found by Daniel G. Derbyshire, Warwick E. Redway) - photo on file.

This bird was captured and banded by the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata memorabilis/ auduboni* (*15)

1998 - one, alternate, male, 23 April, Etobicoke, *Toronto* (Alfred L. Adamo).

1997 - one, basic, 3 October, Toronto Island, *Toronto* (Robert K. Yukich).

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (7/15)

1998 - one, alternate, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Frederick Longabaugh, also found by Nancy Longabaugh).

- one, alternate, 21 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Martin J. Taylor, also found by Dixie Taylor).

1997 - one, definitive alternate, male, 13-14 May, Delaware (Cedarcroft Property), *Middlesex* (Jean H. Griffin, Patricia Cole, Joanne Ewart) - photos on file.



Figure 7: Definitive alternate male Blue-winged Warbler captured and banded at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, on 13 May 1998. Photo by *Graeme C. Gibson*.

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* North Only (0/2)

1998 - one, alternate, male, 27 May, Atikokan (Lower Steep Rock Lake), *Rainy River* (Donald S. Graham).

See Dobos (1996) for a discussion of previous northern Ontario records.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (1/9)

1998 - one, first basic, male, *montanus/arcticus*, 19 January - 14 April, Harmony, *Perth* (Thomas Hayman, found by Isabel Huber, Magnus Huber) - photo on file.

- one, male, 7 May, Etobicoke (Humber Bay Park East), *Toronto* (Naish McHugh).

1976 - one, basic, female, *montanus*, 4-12 December, Rosehill, *Niagara* (Harold H. Axtell, Alan Wormington, Robert G. Finlayson) - photos on file.

The Harmony and Rosehill birds were determined to be subspecies of the "interior complex" based on the large extent of white spotting on the upperparts and white on the underside of the rectrices. See Dickinson (1999) and Rising (1996) for information on subspecific identification of Spotted Towhees.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (5/43)

1998 - one, 20 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (R. Douglas Smith).

“Pink-sided” Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis mearnsi* (0/1)

1997/98 - one, 31 December 1997 - 14 April 1998, Belmont, *Elgin* (David A. Martin) - photo on file.

This is the first record of this subspecies for Ontario documented by photograph. James (1991) stated that there were no specimen records, although there were claimed sight records for the province. Pittaway (1993) cautioned that most reports of this form in the east may be of pale female “Oregon” Juncos (*J.h. oregonus* group).

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* (7/35)

- 1998 - one, basic, male, 14 May, Toronto Island, *Toronto* (Larry A. Morse).
- one, first basic, male, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (William G. Lindley, also found by Colleen Lindley).
- one, basic, male, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Henry H. Green).
- one, basic, male, 30 May, Essonville, *Haliburton* (Naish McHugh).



Figure 8: First basic male Spotted Towhee at Harmony, *Perth*, from 19 January - 14 April 1998. Photo by *Thomas Hayman*.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (2/7)

1998 - one, definitive alternate, male, 15 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Daniel G. Derbyshire, Graeme C. Gibson, also found by Warwick E. Redway, Cole Snell) - photos on file.

This bird, the second for northern Ontario, was captured and banded by Thunder Cape Bird Observatory.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* (3/2)

1997 - one, first alternate, male, 22 May, Port Ryerse, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (James R. Macey, Sean Macey).

Although the OBRC had decided to defer decisions on future records of



Figure 9: Definitive alternate male Painted Bunting captured and banded at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*, on 15 May 1998. Photo by Graeme C. Gibson.

Bullock's Orioles due to uncertainty over identification criteria between Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles (*I. galbula*) (Dobos 1998), the problem involves females and first basic males of these species. The facial and tail patterns of this nicely described bird clearly established it as a Bullock's.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (1/6)

1997 - one, *littoralis*, 3-4 November, Stepstone, Thunder Bay (Cathy Kivi) - photo on file. The largely gray cheek of this bird places it in the "Hepburn's" race (Pyle 1997).

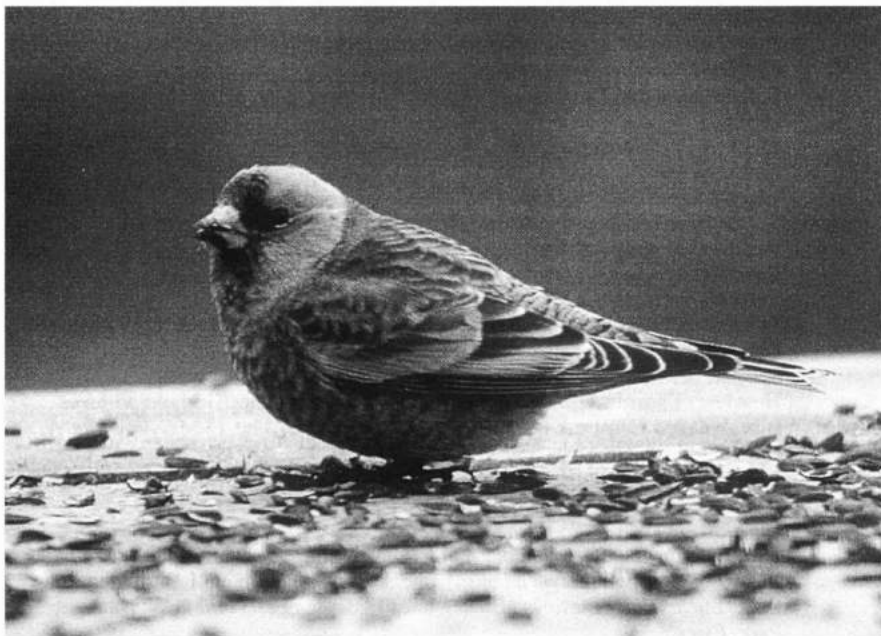


Figure 10: Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch of the subspecies *littoralis* at Stepstone, Thunder Bay, from 3-4 November 1997. Photo by Cathy Kivi.

Not Accepted Records

Identification Uncertain

In most reports listed below, the documentation provided was found to be insufficient to establish the identity of the species claimed. In very few cases did the Committee consider that the identification was actually an

error. Any of these reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting evidence is provided.

- 1998
- Pacific Loon, one, 8 November, Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth*.
 - Little Blue Heron, one, 19-21 May, Port Dover, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 - Little Blue Heron, one, 23 May, Hillman Marsh, *Essex*.
 - Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), one, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Swallow-tailed Kite, one, 22 July, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), one, 6 October, Selkirk Provincial Park, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 - "Common" (Mew) Gull (*Larus canus canus*), one, 4 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), one, 24 February, Grand Bend, *Lambton/Huron* - photos on file.
 - Eurasian Collared-Dove, one, circa September-November, Sarnia, *Lambton* - photos on file.
 - Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), one, 18 May, Etobicoke (Colonel Samuel Smith Park), *Toronto*.
 - Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), two, 11 May - 3 June, St. Joseph Island (Hilton Beach), *Algoma* - photo on file.
 - Rufous Hummingbird, one, 21-22 July, Bass Lake, *Simcoe*.
 - Cave Swallow, one, 11 December, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Bewick's Wren, two, 4 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*), one, 15 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Spotted Towhee, one, 18 April, Perth, *Lanark*.
 - Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), one, 7 June, Kirkfield, *Victoria*.
 - Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Blue Grosbeak, one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Blue Grosbeak, one, 13 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Blue Grosbeak, four, 23 May, Scarborough (Glen Rouge Park), *Toronto*.
- 1997
- Pacific Loon, one, 10 November - 3 December, Pinery Provincial Park, *Lambton*.
 - Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), one, 13 October, Cotnam Island, *Renfrew*.
 - Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), one, 17 September, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), one, 13 October, Holiday Beach Conservation Area, *Essex*.
 - Mew Gull, one, 18 November, Nanticoke, *Haldimand-Norfolk*.
 - Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), two, 24 May, Shirley's Bay, *Ottawa-Carleton*.
- 1995
- Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), one, 5 May, Forest, *Lambton*.
- 1993
- Mississippi Kite, one, 17 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*.
 - Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), one, 2 September, Kettle Point, *Lambton*.
 - Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), one, 8 September, Thedford, *Lambton*.
- 1992
- Gyrfalcon, one, 8 January, Clarke's Corners, *Bruce*.
- 1990
- "Bewick's" Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*), one, circa March, Grand Bend, *Lambton* - photo on file.
 - Eurasian Collared-Dove, one, found dead, circa May, Sarnia, *Lambton* - photos on file.

- 1988 - Great Skua (*Catharacta skua*), one, 30 October, Kettle Point, *Lambton*.
 - Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), one, 11 November - 11 December, Kincardine, *Bruce*.

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.

- 1998 - Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), one, 19 May, West Hill, *Toronto* (Mikal H. Lawton)-
 photos on file.

Birds of this species seen in Ontario are definitely of released or escaped stock. Chukar is native to Eurasia, but introduced populations have become established in western North America; the closest established populations to Ontario are in eastern Montana (AOU 1998).

- 1997 - Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*), one, 20 April, Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* (M. Elizabeth Keilogg, also found by Brian Joyce, Mark Lowe).

The OBRC has great difficulty judging the wild status of out-of-range Black-billed Magpies, primarily in southern Ontario, and members are typically split on either side of the fence. A similar occurrence at this same location on 6 May 1996 was previously accepted (Dobos 1997). However, a record at Dorchester, *Middlesex*, on 8 October 1991 was similarly not accepted based on origin (Bain 1992).

Updates/Corrections to Previous OBRC Reports

1997 Report (Ontario Birds 16: 51-80)

- under Greater White-fronted Goose, 23-26 September and 9 October 1995, after "found by" delete "Peter Rombouts and Elly Rombouts" and add "Peter Chapman".
- under American Avocet, 23 October - 2 November 1994, change "(Alfred H. Rider)" to "(Alfred H. Rider, also found by Peter Chapman)".
- under Rufous Hummingbird, change bracketed numbering to "(2/9)".
- under Hummingbird species, change bracketed numbering to "(0/5)".
- under Harris's Sparrow, 6-28 January 1995, in brackets add "found by Peter Chapman".

1995 Report (Ontario Birds 14: 50-71)

- under Rufous Hummingbird, change bracketed numbering to "(2/8)".

1994 Report (Ontario Birds 13: 46-65)

- under Curlew Sandpiper, one female, 11-20 May, add "Alfred H. Rider" as a contributor.
- under Rufous Hummingbird, change bracketed numbering to "(2/7)".

1991 Report (Ontario Birds 10: 43-63)

- under Rufous Hummingbird, change bracketed numbering to "(2/5/1)".

1990 Report (Ontario Birds 9: 18-44)

- under Rufous Hummingbird, change bracketed numbering to "(2/4/1)".
- under Hummingbird sp., change bracketed numbering to "(0/3/1)".

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