for the province was of a bird seen by Wilfred Botham at Point Pelee National Park on 24 and 25 November, 1962 (James 1983). Ontario's third Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area just nine days after our sighting (see elsewhere in this issue). Late October and early November of 1982 proved to be a very productive period for rare flycatchers in southern Ontario as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) and a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) were found at Deep River and Ottawa, respectively, in addition to the two Ash-throated Flycatchers. These observations emphasize the importance of carefully scrutinizing any apparently familiar species seen outside its normal dates of occurrence, keeping in mind the possibility that a similar rare vagrant might be involved.

We would like to express our thanks to Margaret Bain and Ronald G. Tozer for reading and making comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

Literature Cited:

James, R. D. 1983. Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1982. Ontario Birds 1: 7–15.

Murphy, W.L. 1982. The Ash-throated Flycatcher in the east: an overview. American Birds 36: 241–247.

Notes

First Record of Double-Crested Cormorant Nesting on Eastern Lake Erie

In recent years the number of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) nesting on the lower Great Lakes has been increasing. The known colonies, up until this year, have included three islands in eastern Lake Ontario and three islands in western Lake Erie (D.V. Weseloh, pers. comm.). For eastern Lake Erie there have been no confirmed records of breeding even though, in recent years, there have been small numbers of summering Double-crested Cormorants with a maximum of 15 individuals on

P. MINEAU

Young cormorants

Mohawk Island on 23 May 1981 (A. Schaffner and A. Clark, pers. obs.).

On 18 May 1983, A.R. Clark and Arthur Schaffner visited Mohawk island (located approximately 13 kilometers southeast of Dunnville, Regional Municipality of Norfolk-Haldimand) to census the Herring and Ring-billed Gull (*Larus argentatus* and *L. delawarensis*, respectively) populations. As the boat approached, 65 Double-crested Cormorants took flight from the island with a number of the birds circling and landing nearby on the lake. On the island, Clark and Schaffner found and photographed 12 cormorant nests thereby documenting the first breeding record of this species on eastern Lake Erie. The nests, eight of which contained eggs, were located along the southeastern edge of an area of higher ground in the vicinity of Herring Gull nests.

On 15 June 1983, P. Madore, J. Planck, and J. Robinson of the Canadian Wildlife Service visited the island. They found a total of 16 nests (3 w/0 eggs, 1 w/2 eggs, 5 w/3 eggs, 4 w/4 eggs, 2 w/3 young, and 1 w/3 young and 1 egg). Some of the eggs in the nests were pipping. In addition they noted several eggs out of nests, some intact and others broken. The investigators conducted their census quickly in order to minimize the disturbance. They observed several adults back on their nests within two to three minutes after they moved away, with other birds returning before they reached their boat.

A third visit to the island was made on 3 August 1983 by D.V. Weseloh, A.R. Clark, A. Schaffner, and L. Measures in hopes of banding the young cor-

morants. Although 20 Double-crested Cormorants, including one probable young of the year, were noted on and around the island, there were no non-flying young. At this time the nests were heavily overgrown with vegetation and did not appear as if they had been used recently. Weseloh felt that very few birds, if any, had probably fledged. He also felt that such poor success was consistent with a new colony and the number of visits the island had probably received from boaters (and biologists).

Of additional note is that Mohawk Island is a National Wildlife Area and visits between 1 April and 31 July are prohibited without a permit.

The authors would like to thank Gerald McKeating for the permits to visit the island and D.V. Weseloh for his data and comments.

Arthur R. Clark, Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14211.
Paul Madore, Janet Planck, and Jeffrey Robinson, Canadian Wildlife Service, 152 Newbold Court, London, Ontario N6E 1Z7.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) at Prince Edward Point

On Sunday morning, 7 November 1982, during the annual Fall Round-up of the Kingston Field Naturalists at Prince Edward Point, Marg Brown, Ruby Rogers, George Vance and the author studied a Myiarchus flycatcher superficially resembling a Great-Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). It was feeding actively in the field along the lee side of the woodlot immediately southwest of the harbour within the National Wildlife Area. The flycatcher spent virtually all its time within one m of the ground perching atop stout weeds or bushes and flying to the ground. It did not catch insects in flight, but captured them from foliage, a behaviour not typical of Great-Crested Flycatchers. We were able to approach within 10 paces and study for about half an hour the following field marks. The white on the chin and throat extended to the side of the neck becoming grey and merging into brown. The upper breast was also white and the mid-breast a creamy white. The lower belly was creamy white washed with pale lemon yellow, which was strongest in the vent area.

Both mandibles were dark right to the face and each was of equal

length giving the appearance of a relatively small bill. The head was unmarked brown, but darker than, and showing slight contrast with, the back. The feathers on the crown were ruffled slightly as though back combed. The upper side of the tail was brown and lacked any rufous. The underside of the tail displayed a rich rufous, easily seen when the bird perched or took flight. Two white wing bars and white edging along the secondaries gave the bird a smart appearance. A rich rufous patch in the outer secondaries was also evident.

During the observation, the bird was suspected of being an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), but only the new Peterson's eastern field guide (Houghton-Mifflin) was on hand which is limited in its treatment of *Myiarchus* flycatchers. Our strategy then was to make detailed notes on field marks and drawings in order to facilitate later identification with suitable reference material. Such an identification confirmed Ash-throated Flycatcher. The critical features were the small, all dark bill, white chin and throat, and the colour of the tail – brown above, rufous below.

The breeding range of the Ash-throated Flycatcher extends from central Mexico north to Oregon and east to central Texas where it inhabits desert, scrub and pine-oak woodlands. Murphy (Amer. Birds 36:241–247, 1982) summarized its occurrences east of the Mississippi River and notes that in recent years it has been a regular fall visitor. Prior to 1970, Ash-throated Flycatchers were recorded only 12 times in the east, but more than 20 times since then. Most sightings have been between September and December with peak numbers in November and early December. The Prince Edward Point bird constitutes the third record for Ontario and the first for the Kingston region. Judging from the photograph of the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Whitby (see earlier article) which showed a fair amount of pale colouration along the side of the neck, it is unlikely these were the same individual.

Ron D. Weir, 294 Elmwood Street, Kingston, Ontario K7M 2Y8

Sight Record of a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) in Ontario

At 1230h on 3 January 1982, I located an immature Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). The bird was in a small cattail (*Typha* sp.) marsh in the town of Gosport, Northumberland County. The bird was near a Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) and a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). I watched it for about three minutes from a distance of 25 m. The bird then flew north some 30 m to another cattail marsh.

I then called Fred Helleiner and Sheldon McGregor to observe this unusual sparrow. We observed the bird with the aid of 7×50 binoculars from a distance of 20 m for approximately three minutes. Light conditions were good from an overcast but bright sky. The bird was last seen that day by me feeding on the berries of Bittersweet Nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*).

The most startling field mark noticed immediately was a yellow forehead. This yellow was most intense at the base of the upper mandible and faded in intensity moving back to the median line. Outlining the yellow forehead was a dark brown 'eyebrow' which ran along the crown of the head well above the eye. The crown, particularly at the back of the head, seemed to have a reddish-brown tinge. There was a faint eye ring. The bird's bill was a pale pink to bone colour with a faint mustache coming down from the lower mandible. The breast was a dull white with no markings. Two faint wing bars were also noted. The back of the sparrow was a light brown, not a reddish-brown as in the Tree Sparrow. The bird appeared marginally larger than the nearby Tree Sparrow. The only noise heard was a single call note which sounded similar to that of a Tree Sparrow.

The Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen by many other observers from 4–15 January 1982 as it regularly visited a feeder in Gosport (Amer. Birds 36:291, 1982).

A detailed sighting report was submitted to the Ontario Bird Records Committee and was subsequently accepted by the Committee in February of 1983 as the first authenticated sight record for the province (Ont. Birds 1: 13, 1983). The only other known record for the province is an unsubstantiated record for North Bay on 16 April 1974 (Amer. Birds 28: 798, 1974)

The nesting range of the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Canada is the mountains of British Columbia and western Alberta. However they are casual east of the Rockies in Alberta, Sas-

katchewan and northwestern Mackenzie. (Godfrey, W.E. 1966. Birds of Canada, Nat. Mus. Canada, Ottawa)

Extralimital Golden-crowned Sparrows have also occurred in Wisconsin, New York, Texas, Iowa, New Jersey, North Dakota, Louisiana, Connecticut, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Japan. Nova Scotia has had two records since the publication of Godfrey's Birds of Canada (1966). On 9 October, 1967 an adult bird was seen on Sable Island (McLaren, I.A. & C. Bell, 1972. Birds of Sable Island, Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax). Another adult bird was seen from 8–15 May 1977 at Turtle Lake, Queen's County, Nova Scotia (Amer. Birds 31: 976, 1977).

Christopher G. Harris, 11 Letitia St., Barrie, Ontario L4N 1N7

Book Reviews

Breeding Birds of Ontario, Nidiology and Distribution, Volume I: Nonpasserines. 1983. By *George K. Peck and Ross D. James.* Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. xii + 321 pp. $25.00

Breeding Birds of Ontario, Nidiology and Distribution, Volume I: Nonpasserines by George Peck and Ross James, is the first definitive book on the province's breeding birds since Baillie and Harrington wrote their two part work "The Distribution of Breeding Birds in Ontario" in 1936 and 1937. At that time 210 breeding species were recognized. A wealth of information has accumulated over the past 46 years, thanks especially to the Ontario Nest Records Scheme (ONRS), launched in 1956. Drs. Peck and James have used data from some 80,000 nest cards submitted up to 1980. Of these, 17,757 were processed for their first volume. In addition they have surveyed both the pertinent scientific literature as well as the publications of Ontario's various naturalists' clubs. As of 1980, the cut-off date for the present work, some 283 breeding species are listed for Ontario of which nine are considered hypothetical.

This volume describes 143 breeding species from loons to woodpeckers inclusive. The order follows the Fifth A.O.U. Checklist (1957) with associated supplements up to and including 1976. Perhaps the authors weighed the advantages of adopting the Sixth edition (1983) against the disadvantages of the inherent delay that would result. The figures num-