

Ontario Region

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While the period was cooler than average and rainfall was higher than normal in many areas of the province, conditions did not seem extreme, and it is likely that most species experienced an average breeding success rate.

The cooler-than-average spring pushed the migration period into June, causing several record-late dates for northbound migrants in the process. This would explain most of the lingerers, but the reasons for numerous individuals of several far northern breeders summering in the south is more difficult to explain.

The outstanding rarity of the period was Ontario's first Baird's Sparrow, though some would argue that the province's first breeding record of Eared Grebe was equally significant. All rarities mentioned in this report are subject to approval by the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

Abbreviations: L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory, Norfolk*); O.B.R.C. (*Ontario Bird Records Committee*); Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P. and vicinity*). Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in italics refer to counties, districts, or regional municipalities.

Loons to Waterfowl

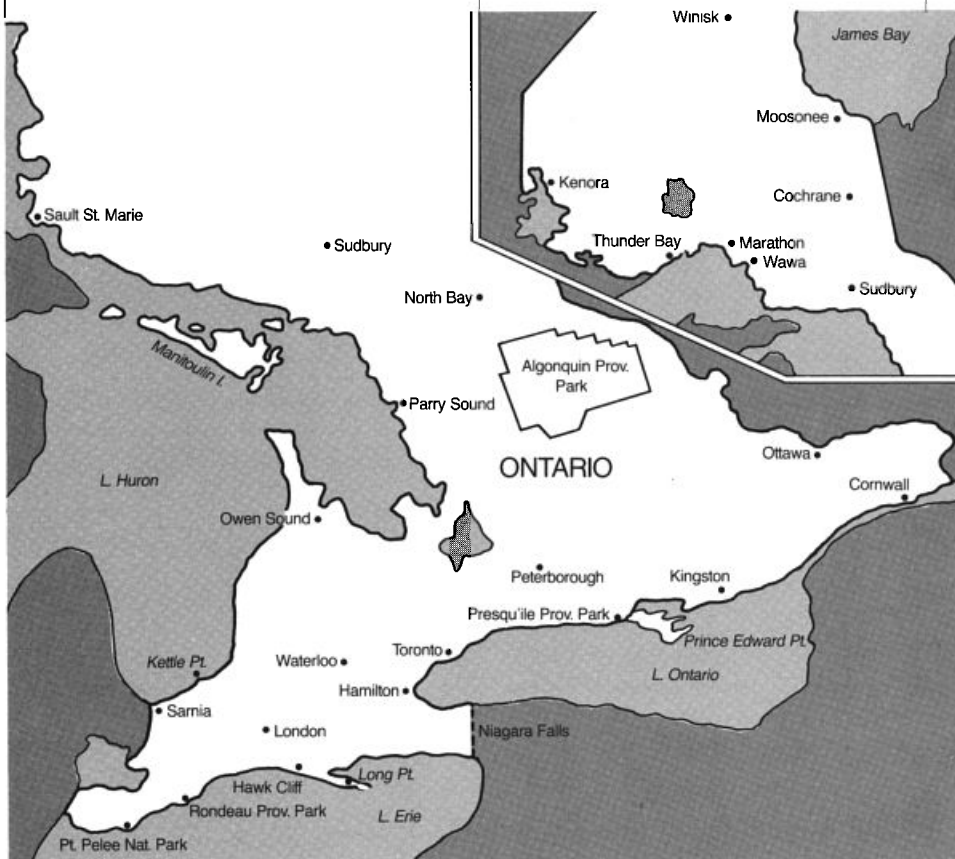
Red-throated Loons summering on L. Ontario included four off the Rouge R. mouth, *Durham*, July 19 (m.ob.), two off the Colonel Sam Smith landfill, *Toronto*, July 26 (RS), and one off East Pt. Park July 27 (AA). Horned Grebes still in the south were at Burlington June 25 (KM) and two off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, June 30 (MB). Red-necked Grebe numbers peaked at 31 along the Burlington waterfront June 25 (KM), while one at Presqu'ile June 4 (J&JT, AB) was record late there. An Eared Grebe at Exeter June 22 (AR) was quite late, while a pair with two young at Emo in June provided Ontario's first breeding record (DE). Lone Am. White Pelicans out-of-range were at Cache Bay June 1 (RTa), Hamilton June 3-4 (RD, v.o.), perhaps the same individual at Toronto June 5 (RS), and, finally, one at Pigeon I., *Lennox Addington*, July 14 (JR, CW). In keeping with their widespread increases, a record 3699 Double-crested Cormorant nests were tallied at Presqu'ile (C.W.S). Two

Least Bitterns at Griffith July 2 (TC) were along the n. edge of the species' range, as were 3 Great Blue Heron nests at Moosonee June 23 (WL, AW). The last of the spring's southern heron overshoots included individual Snowy Egrets at Blenheim May 30-June 5 (KB) and Cambridge June 18 (TC), and a Little Blue Heron at Newcastle June 17 (ML). Lone Cattle Egrets were reported at Rondeau June 15 (JG), Mount Hope June 27 (NR), Cedar Beach July 19 (FU), Oshawa July 22 (DR), and Leamington July 27 (HK). Glossy Ibis included one at Hamilton June 9 (RC) and one remaining at Alfred from the previous period to June 14 (JRo).

Very late Tundra Swans were at Kelley L., *Sudbury*, June 7 (CB) and Long Pt. June 8 (L.P.B.O.). As the reintroduction program takes hold, reports of Trumpeter Swans continue to increase. The summer's sightings included a pair at Barrie I., *Manitoulin*, through June (HB) and a nesting pair at Big Rideau L., *Leeds Grenville* (W.&JBa). Thunder Bay's first Mute Swan in 10 years was seen July 10 (NE). The last of the spring's migrating Brant included an impressive 300 at Murphy's Point P.P., *Lanark*, June 2 (JGr). Late Eur. Wigeon included one at Oshawa June 9 (DP) and another at Toronto June 21-July 2 (NM). Summering Canvasbacks included a female at Grimsby (KM) and a male at Nonquon, *Durham* (m.ob.). A nesting pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Norwich (JMHI) furnished one of s.w. Ontario's few breeding records. A ♂ Tufted Duck at Thunder Bay July 8, 9 & 13 (NE) may have been the same bird seen there in October 1995. A / Hooded Merganser with 11 downy young at Hamilton in June (RD, BC) provided one of that region's few recent breeding records, while a Ruddy Duck at Cache Bay June 1 (RTa) was well north.

Raptors to Gulls

The success of the Bald Eagle reintroduction program in s.w. Ontario is best judged by a record 19 successfully fledged young from 16 nests in 1996. While the progress is slow and not without setbacks, the news is encouraging (L.P.B.O.). The news is also encouraging for accipiters in parts of s. Ontario. Maturing conifer plantations in *Oxford* provided habitat for an estimated 35 pairs of Sharp-shinned Hawks and 18 Cooper's (JMHI). Most unusual in summer in the south, lone Rough-legged Hawks were seen at Cobourg June 11 (CG) and on Manitoulin I., July 27 (HB). Urban Pere-



grine Falcons attracted a good deal of media attention throughout the summer. Environment Canada even set up an Internet web site where interested surfers could monitor the Toronto pair's progress with video updates every 10 minutes. The Toronto pair successfully fledged four young, the London pair brought off two young, while, unfortunately, the Hamilton pair failed.

While sightings of Sandhill Cranes continue to increase in the southwest during migration, breeding has still only been confirmed at North Dumfries Twp., *Waterloo*, where the pair raised one young (m.ob.), and at Long Pt., where, the young chick was found dead (C.W.S.). The only report of a Piping Plover was a late migrant at Beaverton June 2 (MB). Interestingly, the bird was banded. Individual Am. Avocets were seen at Port Maitland July 23 (JP, JM) and Thunder Bay July 28 (NE). Just 15 days after the last northbound Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at Rondeau June 8 (KB), the first one heading S was at Alfred June 23 (BD). Northbound Willets were observed at Presqu'île June 3 & 7 (DM, DS, RH) and June 8 at Mississagi Light, *Manitoulin* (JN), while southbound birds were at Amherst I., *Lennox Addington*, July 24 (WC) and Rock Point P.P., *Haldimand*, July 30 (OR). A Whimbrel at L. Scugog, *Durham*, June 27 (BH) was a very early fall migrant, matching that region's earliest date. A Ruddy Turnstone at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, July 11–13 (AW) was very early. The only W. Sandpiper was at Toronto July 27 (NM). Eighteen White-rumpeds at Beaverton June 8 (MB) provided a very good number for that inland locale. A Purple Sandpiper at Cobourg June 3 (CG) was record late there, while a southbound Dunlin at Hillman Marsh July 14–21 (AW) was considered very early. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Amherst I., June 8 (JE, RDW, VM) provided a very rare spring record, while a Short-billed at Presqu'île June 30 (JI, RP) was a record-early fall migrant there.

Laughing Gulls put in a very good late spring showing with an adult at Ottawa June 5–6 (BD *et al.*), a 2nd-summer bird at Hamilton June 8 (KM *et al.*), possibly the same bird at Toronto the next day (NM), and one as far north as Burpee Twp., *Manitoulin*, July 1 (RT). Franklin's Gulls well e. included lone adults at Ottawa June 3 (BD) and Amherst I., June 8 (JE, RDW). A Black-headed at Pelee, present from the spring, remained until July 10 (AW). Lesser Black-backed included one at Amherst I., June 6 (JE), a first-summer at Blenheim June 24 (KB), and a mid-summer bird at Pickering July

24 accompanied by two Glaucous Gulls (BH). Even more exceptional for the province, in summer, was an imm. Ivory Gull closely studied at Barrie I., *Manitoulin*, June 17 (DB *et al.*).

Terns to Shrikes

Three Arctic Terns at Ottawa June 11 (BD) were the last of the small but annual spring movement there. A count of 462 Forster's at Pelee July 10 was exceptional, as were 725 Blacks there July 30 (AW). Two Black Terns in Algonquin July 25 (TG) were considered rare there. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were well n. at Lively June 23 and Chelmsford June 30 (JL). Coming the other way, a pair of N. Hawk Owls n. of Kingston appeared to be territorial July 14–17 (ID), though breeding that far south would be unprecedented in Canada. Following the previous winter's invasion, Great Gray Owls remaining in the south included four in *Bruce*, three on *Manitoulin* I. (JL), and one as far south as Milford July 13 (GB). What is presumed to be the same Chuckwill's-widow returned to its territory on Long Pt. for the 6th consecutive year (GG). A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers with two young in Lansdowne Twp., *Leeds Grenville*, July 1 (WH) pushed the breeding range farther northeast.

Acadian Flycatchers were reported in above-average numbers in the southwest. Singing males in unusual locations included individuals at Grimsby June 4 (MK), Thorold June 20 (RK, CC), and in *Oxford* July 10 (JMH). An *empidonax* flycatcher carefully described as a Gray Flycatcher was observed at Foxey, *Manitoulin*, June 28 (RT). A report has been filed with the O.B.R.C. If accepted, it would constitute Ontario's 2nd record. Lone W. Kingbirds were observed at Mississagi Light June 1 (JN) and Camden East July 9 (TN). A Gray Jay pair with three young e. of Lakefield in June (DRo) may be the most southerly breeding record in the country. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Six Mile L., *Muskoka*, June 16 (DBu) were at the n. limit of the species range in the province, while a lone male at Mississagi Light June 7 (JN) overshot by a considerable amount. With very little contiguous mature forest for suitable habitat, ≤three singing Veerys and two Wood Thrushes at Pt. Pelee in mid- to late June were noteworthy (RR). Out-of-range N. Mockingbirds were at Algonquin June 4 (CJ) and Dwight July 29 (DT). A lone Bohemian Waxwing at Pinery P.P., June 1 (TL) was very late. Surveys of Loggerhead Shrike totaled 31 pairs and 14 single birds, all in expected locations. While up from 1995 numbers, the species continues to slide

downwards from the 55 pairs and 15 singles recorded in 1992, the first full year of the survey (L.P.B.O.).

Vireos to Finches

Three Philadelphia Vireos at Rondeau June 2 (KB, JB) were record-late migrants, indicative of the cool spring. Record-late northbound warblers included a Nashville at Pelee June 1 (FU), a Cape May at Presqu'île June 1 (SL), two Prairies at Rondeau June 2 (KB, JB), a Connecticut at Pelee June 5 (RR), and a Hooded at Sandbanks P.P., June 5 (JD). A singing ♂ Prairie Warbler at Belanger Bay, *Manitoulin*, June 1 (WG) was n.w. of the species breeding range in the province. The outlook for Prothonotary Warbler in the province continues to look very bleak. Breeding pairs almost certainly number <10, with the only known pairs including two at Long Pt. (JMc), three at Rondeau (JMc, DAS), one at Holiday Beach, *Essex* (JMy), and one at Dundas (JH). Additional singing males, apparently unpaired, were at Copetown July 15 (BM) and Dundas in mid-July (JH). Five singing ♂ Louisiana Waterthrushes in the Big Otter Cr. valley, *Oxford*, June 8 (JMH) were a noteworthy number.

A singing ♂ Summer Tanager seen at Turkey Pt., June 10 (PP, MR) and possibly heard on subsequent days was tantalizing for this species, which has never been confirmed breeding in the province. Likewise the ♂ Blue Grosbeak, which returned to its territory at Cedar Springs for the 2nd consecutive summer (PAW). A count of 26 pairs of Clay-colored Sparrows at Sudbury June 16 (JN) was considered quite high. Ontario's first Baird's Sparrow sang on territory July 2–9 n. of Rainy R. (JL *et al.*). While an improvement over 1995, when no Henslow's Sparrows were noted in breeding season, three singing males, one in *Dufferin* July 14 (SR) and two in *Prince Edward* June 11–July 1 (TS *et al.*), represented a frighteningly low total for this federally endangered species. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Kirkfield June 1 (RB) may have been a very late migrant, though one at Gore Bay June 29 (RT) was intriguing. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Rondeau June 1 (KB, JB) was record late there.

Single singing W. Meadowlarks were at Odessa June 15 (VM), Stromness June 23 (RD), Buckhorn in late June (DSa), Hickson July 4 (DMa), and near Fall's Wicket L., *Manitoulin*, July 7 (DB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds away from the usual locations included a female at Chemong L., *Peterborough*, June 20 (JC) and a pair, with two fledged young, at Tiny Marsh June 30 (RCo), providing *Simcoe's* first

breeding record. Five Brewer's Blackbirds, four males and a female, at Coldwater June 2 (AM, RCo) were suspected of breeding. A total of 21 different ♂ Orchard Orioles in various locales in *Prince Edward* (TS) were a very good number for that county. White-winged Crossbills in the south were noted at Lakefield June 18 (PB) and Ancaster July 2 (RC), while hundreds were noted in the Moosonee area June 22 (AW, WL). Single Pine Siskins included a record-late bird at Pelee June 10 (TH) and one at Ancaster July 2 (RC). An adult with two young at Kilbride June 1 (JCh) would furnish one of the province's most southerly breeding records.

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Appalachian Region

GEORGE A. HALL

It certainly was not a typical summer. There were no periods of extremely hot weather. June was slightly warmer than normal at Pittsburgh, but July was much cooler. Temperatures were near normal in eastern Tennessee. Both months were wetter than normal, but precipitation was not uniformly distributed. Pittsburgh had an excess of 4.5 inches for the period, but in northern West Virginia rainfall was much greater. Elkins, West Virginia, had a total of 12.03 inches in July. Some places have experienced three major flooding events this year (with a fourth to come in September with hurricane *Fran*)

With a few notable exceptions, woodland species were in good numbers at most places. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, bandings of 19 species were one or more Standard Deviations (S.D.) above the 10-year average, 13 were at the average, and only two (Carolina Wren and House Wren) were one S.D. below average (RCL, RM). On the other hand, some of the species of brushy area or open country were in low numbers (Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow). The wet weather apparently did not have much effect on the breeding season, as most places reported high reproductive success for most species.

By the end of the season few warblers had begun to migrate, but the usual July southbound movement of shorebirds was minimal due to the high water levels at most places.

Abbreviations: Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee N.F., GA*); G.S.M.N.F. (*Great Smoky Mountains N.P.*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell Co., WV*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); R.C.B.L. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks, Ohio R.,*

Mason Co., WV); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

Loons to Waterfowl

There were 4 records of straggling Com. Loons: L. Arthur, PA June 8 (JV), Y.C.S.P., PA June 11 (MH), *Armstrong*, PA July 1 (DV), and Sandstone Falls, *Raleigh*, WV July 22 (JP). Three juvenile Pied-billed Grebes at Waynesboro, VA June 4 would provide a first *Augusta* breeding record if raised locally (YL), and downy young grebes were seen at the Grand River W.A., *Trumbull*, OH July 28 (D&JH). There were summer records for Pied-bills from *Wood*, WV June 8 (JE), and all season at Chattanooga TN (KC), while one at *Washington*, TN July 24 was considered an early migrant (RK).

An Am. White Pelican was at Chickamauga Dam, TN July 5, having been present off and on since April (BC). Double-crested Cormorants were reported on the Ohio R. at Pomeroy, OH June 7 (RC), at Sand Cr., *Wood*, WV July 15–16 (JE), and were present on Meander Res., OH, all season (NB).

The only report of Am. Bittern came from Conneaut Marsh, PA July 28 (RFL). A Least Bittern nest in *Meigs*, TN fledged five young, banded July 17. A 2nd nesting was suggested when two unbanded fledglings were seen there (KC). Other reports of Least Bitterns came from P.I.S.P., June 21 and July 17 (GR), and Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA June 9 & 13 and July 5 (DW),

