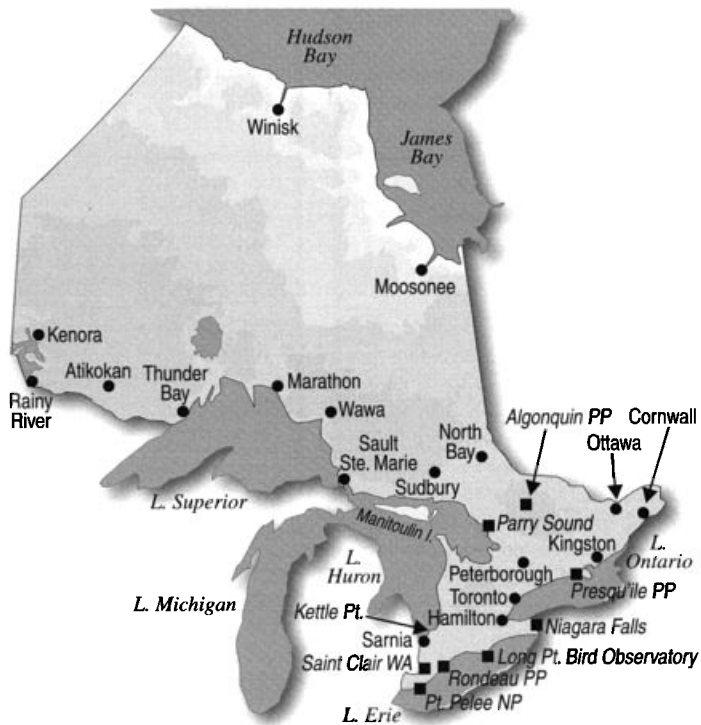


Ontario



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The Ontario summer of 2005 will be long remembered. The central and southern parts of the province suffered through seemingly endless days of high temperatures, high humidity, and, unfortunately, very poor air quality. The combination may not have affected birds, but it did have an effect on birders: birding was a chore. Rainfall was scarce. In the north-western part of the province, however, just the opposite conditions prevailed: June was one of the wettest and coolest on record. It was not until the second week of July that warmer and drier weather arrived. This was the final work season of the five-year Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project. Conducted throughout the province, the Atlas project gave adventuresome birders the opportunity to bird in the far-northern reaches of the province, a vast area that is remote and accessible only by air travel. Upon

completion of record compilation, the project will add much new information on the status of bird species populations and distributions in the huge frontier area west of Hudson Bay and the rest of the province.

Abbreviations: G.T.A. (Greater Toronto Area); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists), O.B.B.A. (Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas), O.B.R.C. (Ontario B.R.C.), O.F.O. (Ontario Field Ornithologists), P.P.B.A. (Point Pelee Birding Area). Place names in *italics* refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Common Loons had a poor breeding season in most of the n. part of the province. The very high water levels of the spring likely flooded many early nests, and many late second attempts were noted (DHE). A similar situation prevailed in Algonquin P.P., where production was well below normal, with incubating birds noted on nests well into Jul (RT). Red-necked Grebes, unusual in summer in the Ottawa area, were noted on the Ottawa R. above and below the Remic Rapids 22 Jun and 15 Jul (possibly the same bird; BS, AR). The now-annual breeding group of Red-necked Grebes in Bronte Harbour had three active nests by late Jun, but only a single chick hatched successfully at

end of Jul (GE). A Red-necked Grebe present at Presqu'île P.P. 19 Jun–16 Jul furnished only the 2nd summer record for the park. American White Pelicans continue to do well at the main Ontario nesting colony at Lake of the Woods. Non-breeding individuals and flocks were reported frequently all summer throughout nw. Ontario, well away from the colony, including 12 noted on French L. in Quetico P.P. 7 Jul (SFP). Much farther away, a single was present 4 Jun–16 Jul at Holiday Beach and was joined by 2 others 17–19 Jun (DW et al.). American White Pelicans were also found near Kingston, with 2 at Wolfe I. 1 Jun (GB) and one at West Brothers I. 3 Jul (DVW).

A Great Egret nest on Barrier I. in Georgian Bay off the e. coast of the Bruce Pen. 28 Jun was a significant find (JJ). Great Egrets are rare in the Ottawa area. Reports of one at the Britannia C.A. 5 Jun (BL, RC, JS), 2 at Shirleys Bay 15–16 Jul (BB, CL, TB, JS), and 3 also at Shirleys Bay 23 Jul (BB, CL) included no imm., which suggests that breeding has yet to occur in the area. In the G.T.A., single Great Egrets were found at High Park 3 Jun and 2 & 10 Jul (SMF); a pair was noted 18 Jun on the Leslie Street Spit, where breeding has occurred in the past (BK). A Snowy Egret at Holiday Beach C.A. 4–6 Jun was a nice find (DW et al), as was a one-year-old imm. Tricolored Heron at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. 13–16 Jun (DW et al.). A Cattle Egret at Stromness 19 Jun (RZD) was joined by another 27 Jun (BC), and a single was found 7 Jun along the North Dike Road P.P.B.A. (MKM et al.). With very few confirmed recent nestings of Green Herons in the G.T.A., a nest with an ad. feeding a young bird at Riverdale Farms was a significant discovery (SG, *vide* GC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Several Snow Geese lingered in the Ottawa area, with 5 ads. on the Ottawa R. near Bate I. 4 Jun (YL) and a single there 8 Jun (DB). Birders participating in the O.B.B.A. project in the far n. of the province discovered two nests of Ross's Goose 15 Jun near Cape Henrietta Maria, the first ever found in Ontario (GC, MP, DSu, CJ, JB). A Tundra Swan was present all of Jun at the Grand Bend S.T.P. (AR). In the nw. of the province, Trumpeter Swans were again noted during the breeding season, with 3 ads. at Atikokan 10 Jun (DHE). A pair at Little Sachigo L. in late Jun furnished one of the most northerly recent records (PH et al.). Several other swans were reported in the Region, and although they were not identified, it is likely they were Trumpeters. As previously noted, the nw. Ontario birds appear to have originated from introductions in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

A pair of Wood Ducks at North Spirit L. in mid-Jun was well n. of the species' normal range (PR). The Amherstview S.T.P. hosted 2 male Eurasian Wigeons 31 May–2 Jun (K.F.N.). A huge flock of 1130 Mallards 5 Jul at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A., largely post-breeding males, provided an exceptional summer count for the area (AW, DW). A female Northern Pintail with 7 young at Cootes Paradise in Hamilton 9 Jul afforded a rare breeding record for the area (ES). Canvasbacks continue to nest on the Leslie Street Spit, G.T.A., where a hen and 9 young were seen in mid-Jun (DD, *fide* GC). Redhead, a rare breeder in the Ottawa area, was noted 5 Jun at Ball's Corners (BL, RC)—a male that was joined a week later by a female (BB, CL)—and 29 Jun at the Alfred S.T.P., a hen with 9 downy young (JBo). A Black Scoter 6 Jun at Cobourg marked the 2nd summer record for the area (W&LW), and a female Bufflehead first noted 6 Jul (RZD) summered in the Windermere Basin at Hamilton.

An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was seen near Rainy River 5 Jul in suitable breeding habitat (GC). The species nests sparingly just to the w. in se. Manitoba. An imm. Northern Goshawk found 21 Jun on Middle I., Essex constituted a bizarre summer occurrence (AW). A Merlin pair fledged 4 young in late Jul in Wiarton (JJ), and two pairs nested successfully in Port Hope (CG, *fide* RF), with another 10 pairs found by at-lassers in the surrounding area. This indicates an encouraging increase in the area population since the 1980s. Several pairs also nested in Ottawa suburbs (m.ob.), a continuing success story for a species that was considered rare in the area until 1997. Peregrine Falcons are doing very well along the n. shore of Lake Superior (BR). Forty-three occupied territories were identified during the summer, and 47 young were banded. Another pair had a nest on a Niagara Escarpment cliff near Purple Valley, and a scolding ad. was attending a large young bird there 25 Jul (JJ). Yet another pair was observed chasing Tree Swallows over Atikokan 15 Jun (CM).

After several years of relative scarcity, Yellow Rails were actually abundant in the Rainy River area. Heavy and continuous spring rains resulted in very wet hay fields and meadows that apparently created perfect rail habitat. Participants in the O.F.O. area tour counted at least 20 calling rails along a single km of road sided by extensive wet meadows 3 Jun (DHE, m.ob.). One persistent birder drove the area roads the entire night of 6–7 Jul and was never out of the sound of clicking Yellow Rails, indicating several hundred birds in the area at minimum (GC). The same observer found a Yellow Rail nest 9 Jul while walk-

ing through a wet meadow. A silent King Rail was noted at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. 14 Jun (DW). Ad. Virginia Rails have been found with young in Algonquin P.P. in the past, but a nest with six eggs found 6 Jun was a first for the park (DT). A calling Virginia Rail in a sedge marsh along the Winisk R. in late Jun was very far n. of typical breeding range (PR). Common Moorhens failed to nest and in fact could not even be found at Grafton, where they nested last year (CG). More encouraging was a nest with seven eggs found 10 Jul at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. with 5 hatched young noted 26–31 Jul (DW), the first nesting in the area for many years. A flock of 7 Sandhill Cranes (including 2 juvs.) over Rock Point P.P. 8 Jul was an indication of local breeding success (RZD).

Piping Plovers were again absent from the se. corner of the Lake of the Woods, the last consistent nesting location in the province (DHE). A pair attempted to nest at Wasaga Beach on Georgian Bay, where the species has not bred since 1938 (no further details). A single Piping Plover lingered on the beach at Presqu'île P.P. 1–8 Jun (m.ob.). Color leg bands indicated the bird had been banded in Michigan. An American Avocet was found 19 Jul at the St. David's S.T.P. (KR, BA), 2 ads. were at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. 14 Jul (AW et al.), and a single was at Big Creek 16 Jul (DW). A Willet at the Grimsby S.T.P. 29–31 Jul was a nice find (BC), and another at Presqu'île P.P. 15 Jul was a unique record for the month (FH). An injured Lesser Yellowlegs at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. 1–23 Jun provided the first summer record for the area (AW, HTO). A record-early southbound Solitary Sandpiper was at Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. 27 Jun–2 Jul (AW et al.) and was followed by a record-high count of 62 at the same location 14 Jul (AW). The Hillman Marsh also hosted a record-early fall Semipalmated Sandpiper 6–7 Jul (DW et al.) and a record-early Western Sandpiper 31 Jul (DW et al.). Farther e., a Western Sandpiper was found at Shirleys Bay near Ottawa 17 Jul (TH, BL). Hillman Marsh was quite productive this season: an excellent count of 210 Least Sandpipers was made 5 Jul (AW et al.); on 18 Jul, the marsh attracted a one-year-old Curlew Sandpiper (4th record for the P.P.B.A.); a female Ruff was there 28–30 Jun (AW, DW); a record-high fall count of 370 Short-billed Dowitchers was tallied there 14 Jul (AW); and a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes made the first-ever nesting attempt for the P.P.B.A., unfortunately an unsuccessful attempt, as the birds were last seen 19 Jun (AW).

GULLS THROUGH CROWS

Two first-summer Laughing Gulls were

seen off the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 6 Jun (AW). A juv. Franklin's Gull in the Onion fields P.P.B.A. 27 Jul was an unusual plumage for Ontario e. of the Lake of the Woods (AW). A California Gull was found near Rainy River 9 Jul associating with a large flock of Franklin's Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls resting in a field (GC), a first record for the area. To the s., a third-summer California Gull was found 19 Jun at Fish Pt. on Pelee I. (DW). A Thayer's Gull at Fifty Point C.A. 5 Jun was quite unexpected (KAM), as was a Glaucous Gull at Cobourg Harbour 1 Jun, a 3rd area record (CG). A total of 19 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (with some duplication possible) was observed in the P.P.B.A. 12 Jun–28 Jul (AW, DW). A second-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull was found 4 Jul at the Des Chenes Rapids on the Ottawa R. (BB, CL). Caspian Terns remain rare in the Ottawa area; thus, singles seen 15 Jun on the Ottawa R. at Remic Rapids (DB), at Andrew Haydon Park 20 & 26 Jul (TH, TB), and at the Des Chenes Rapids 27 Jul (BD) are significant. An Arctic Tern at Presqu'île P.P. 2 Jun (MRo) and 3 below the Des Chenes Rapids on the Ottawa R. 28 Jun (TB) are interesting observations. Two ad. Black Terns over the Big Trout L. marsh in Algonquin P.P. 3 Jun were the first seen in the park since 1989 (DS, GW et al.). The birds were not found during a follow-up visit to the marsh 16 Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos appear to be doing well in the P.P.B.A., with an estimated 75–90 pairs present during the breeding season (AW). An ad. seen and heard 26 Jun at Shirleys Bay was a rare find for the Ottawa area (BL, BM). Black-billed Cuckoos were seen frequently during the summer in Algonquin P.P., where the species is considered very uncommon (RT). Two Short-eared Owls at the Old Airfield in Algonquin P.P. 23 Jun provided the 2nd summer record for the park (RB). Toronto birders were pleasantly surprised to find 2 juv. Northern Saw-whet Owls in virtually the center of the city 19 Jun (RS, GC). There are only two previous breeding records for the species anywhere in the G.T.A.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was a rare find at T.C.B.O. 1 Jun (NE). A pair nested at Constance Bay near Ottawa and raised young for the 3rd consecutive year (m.ob.), and an ad. was noted near Pakenham 24 Jul (LN). Red-bellied Woodpeckers bred near Rainy River, where ads. attended a nest 8 Jul (GC); this constitutes the northernmost breeding record in the province. A remarkable American Three-toed Woodpecker was found at Frontenac P.P. 4 Jun (OW, HB). Five pairs of Eastern Phoebe's nested in the P.P.B.A. during the summer (AW). The species was largely absent from the

area during the 1980s and 1990s. A Western Kingbird was found circling over the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 4 Jun (AW, JER). A pair of Philadelphia Vireos nesting in the Ganaraska Forest furnished the 3rd summer record for the area (CG). A rare post-breeding concentration of 1300 Tree Swallows at roost in the Pelee Marsh P.P.B.A. was observed 8 Jul (AW). Barn Swallows continue to decline in Algonquin P.P. for unknown reasons (RT). In 1995, 10 active nests were found at the park's East Gate; only one was found 8 Jul.

GNATCATCHER THROUGH FINCHES

A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found 3 Jul at the Constance Creek wetland, a rare find for the Ottawa area (JSK). A male Northern Wheatear sang persistently 8–15 Jul at Burnt Pt. on Hudson Bay (GC et al.), but no nest could be found by O.B.B.A. birders working the area. An agitated pair of Veeries in Point Pelee N.P. 17 Jun provided the first nesting for the species in the park (AW). An intriguing report of a Sage Thrasher at Cabot Head on the Bruce Pen. 5 Jul (JJ, MC et al.) will hopefully be reviewed by the O.B.R.C. A singing male Prairie Warbler at Presqu'île P.P. 20 Jun marked just the 2nd summer record for the area (BE). In Point Pelee N.P., a singing male Hooded Warbler was found 28 Jun at the Black Willows Picnic Area (AW, DL); the species has never nested in the park. Also found in the park was a first-year male Summer Tanager 6 Jun (AW).

A Dark-eyed Junco at Canborough 1 Jul was well s. of normal breeding range (L&AT). A Clay-colored Sparrow defended a territory (and possibly mated with a Chipping Sparrow) 20 Jun–8 Jul in Algonquin P.P., where the species is very rare (KC et al.). A remarkable find of a female McCown's Longspur at the Weagomow S.T.P. in n. Ontario 21 Jun (PR) awaits review by the O.B.R.C.; if accepted, it would be a first for the province. A territorial male Dickcissel was found in Bronte Creek P.P. 8 Jun (JL, DS) and was later joined by a female 16 Jun (m. ob.). Nesting was later confirmed (MP). Western Meadowlarks appeared to have made some recovery in the Rainy River area after several years of decline. Singing birds were well reported throughout the area during the summer (DHE).

Corrigenda: In *N.A.B.* 58: 520, the sentence after that on Tufted Titmouse should be corrected to read: A Sedge Wren nest with six eggs found 6 Jun near Hobo L. in Algonquin P.P. constituted the first confirmed breeding record of the species for the park (DT). The reference to Wilson's

Phalaropes includes the statement: "...an early southbound early migrant was found near Peter's Corners 18 Jul (RZD)". This record actually refers to a Whimbrel. Under Cited Observers in that report, "Ron Z. Dobos" should be corrected to read "Rob Z. Dobos".

Cited observers (subregional contributors in boldface): Brian Ahara, Tony Beck, Jerry Binsfield, Jacques Bouvier, Bob Bracken, H. Bridger, David Britton, Ron Brooks, G. Bryant, M. Carlson, Barry Cheriére, K. Clute, Glenn Coady, Ron Curtis, Dan Derbyshire, Bruce DiLibio, Rob Z. Dobos, Gavin Edmonstone, B. Edmunds, David H. Elder, Nick Escott, R. Frost, Steve Gillis, Clive Goodwin, Tom Hanrahan, F. Helleiner, Pat Hodgson, Joe Johnson, Colin Jones, Bob Kortwright, Bernie Ladouceur, Yvan Larche, Joyce LeChasseur, Denis Lepage, Chris Lewis, Chris Martin, Michael K. Matheson, Bev McBride, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Larry Neilly, H. T. O'Neill, Mark Peck, Shirley Peruniak, Brian Ratcliff, Pete Read, Jon E. Rickert, Alf Rider, Ron Ridout, Maureen Riggs, Melissa Rose, Art Ross, Kayo Roy, Erica Scott, Donna Sheppard, Bruce Simpson, Jeff Skevington, Jan Slumkoski, Roy Smith, Dan Strickland, Don Sutherland, Al Thrower, Linda Thrower, Doug Tozer, Ron Tozer, Dean Ware, Ron Weir, O. Weir, W. & L. Wensley, D. V. Weseloh, Glenn White, Alan Wormington.

THE SPRING MIGRATION 2005

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Spring migration in Ontario was considered by many to be unremarkable. Cold weather at the beginning of the spring was interrupted by unseasonably warm weather in April, followed by cooler and wetter weather in May. Migration of many birds was either delayed or was overlooked by birders due to the inclement conditions.

Highlights included a Neotropical Cormorant, a Slaty-backed Gull, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, and a Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: N.P.H. (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch); Pt. Pelee (Point Pelee N.P.

and environs, Essex); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O.). Place names in *italics* refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The 580 Horned Grebes counted at Pt. Pelee 25 Mar made a record high count (AW). Single Eared Grebes were noted at Bronte Harbour, Halton 27 Mar–9 Apr (BY, MWJ), Hillman Marsh, Essex 6–14 Apr (AW et al.), and Neibauer's Marsh, Wellington 16 Apr (KE); a pair of Eared Grebes was at Emo S.T.P., Rainy River 29 May (DHE, MCE). Hillman Marsh, Essex hosted a Regionally record high count of 8 American White Pelicans 12–15 May (DJW et al.). The ad. Neotropical Cormorant at Wheatley Harbour 3–6 May was well watched and photographed by visiting birders (DJM, RGT et al.). Double-crested Cormorants exhibiting white crests, almost certainly indicative of a western taxon, were seen at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 26 Apr (AW) and at Hillman Marsh 3 May (AW).

Little Blue Heron was widely reported: an ad. was at Holiday Harbour, Essex 20–25 Apr and another at Wheatley P.P. 27 Apr–4 May (JMG, JNF et al.), an imm. was at Toronto I. 11–12 May (DB), and another ad. was seen at the Tip of Pt. Pelee N.P. 22 May (STP, AW et al.). A Cattle Egret was at Hurkett, Thunder Bay 15 May (AB, JB), and another was at Hillman Marsh 28 May (BMC, MLC), which also had an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 11–14 May (MBo, PB et al.) and an ad. Glossy Ibis 13–16 May (MN, RPH et al.). The 5130 Turkey Vultures counted at Beamer C.A., Niagara this spring was a new record high count (N.P.W.).

Single Greater White-fronted Geese were at Hillman Marsh 9–11 Mar (MBI, MDF et al.), at Pendleton, Prescott–Russell 6 Apr (BDL), and at Richmond, Ottawa 8 Apr (PW). A Brant se. of Carlsbad Springs, Ottawa 7 Apr was record early for the Region (TB), while a Cackling Goose at Hillman Marsh 29 Apr was record late (RGT, PT, RJC et al.). The first Trumpeter Swan for Atikokan, Rainy River appeared on 12 May (RB) and was likely a wanderer from introductions in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Single Eurasian Wigeons were at Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland 28 Mar–9 Apr (BP, AP) and at Grimsby, Niagara 20–22 May (BC). Two were together at Hillman Marsh 17–18 Mar, with singles seen 19 (AW) & 26 Mar (DJW) and 14 May (DJW et al.). A record-high count of 1140 Green-winged Teal was seen there 24 Mar (AW). At least one King Eider was observed off Toronto this spring, with sightings on 19 Mar (GC) and 4 Apr (DD), while the maximum count off Stoney Creek, Hamilton was 18 on 22 Mar

(JO); a female King Eider was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 16 Apr (AW). A male Harlequin Duck spent the spring off Humber Bay, Toronto (m.ob.), and another was off Bronte, Halton through 16 Apr (m.ob.); 2 were at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 8 (NB, SL) & 18 May (HC et al.). The 600 Surf Scoters at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 6 Apr was a record-high number (AW). The 2 male Barrow's Goldeneyes that wintered at Remic Rapids, Ottawa lingered until 26 Mar (m.ob.); another was at Bronte Harbour, Halton 27 Mar (PB). Thunder Bay hosted a female Ruddy Duck 31 Mar (BM).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Mississippi Kite was at Arner, Essex 24 May (DJW). N.P.H. had a record count of 70 Bald Eagles for the spring. An imm. Swainson's Hawk was photographed at Grassie, Niagara 10 Apr (BC), and a Richardson's Merlin was noted at Pelee I., Essex 25 Apr (DJW, AC). At Pt. Pelee, a juv. Gyrfalcon of the white morph frequented Hillman Marsh 7–13 Mar (AW), the 5th record for the area. A Sandhill Crane at Minto L., Nipissing 27 Mar was record early for Algonquin P.P. (JD).

The total of 3100 Black-bellied Plovers from North Dike to Wheatley Harbour, Essex 21 May was a record high count for Pt. Pelee (RHC, GSL). Up to 4 Piping Plovers were noted in Ontario on s. Great Lakes this spring: a single bird at Pinery P.P., Lambton 29–30 Apr (fide AR), a banded bird at Toronto I. 1–3 May (NM), an unbanded bird at Wheatley Harbour 4 May (KAM), and one at Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland 21–24 & 28 May (MR; DS), which had colored leg bands that indicated it had been banded in Michigan. A total of 12 American Avocets was at Wheatley Harbour 28 Apr (RGT, PT), increasing to 14 on 1 May (JMT). A flock of 15 at Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton on the same date (SG) increased to 25 birds 2 May (BC et al.). Three were at Hillman Marsh 10 May (m.ob.). On 27 Apr, 2 Willets were at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto (BY), 10 were at Cobourg Harbour, Northumberland (CEG), and 13 were at LaSalle Marina, Hamilton (RZD); 13 Willets also joined the American Avocets at Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton 2 May (CE et al.). A total of 41 Willets was recorded at Pt. Pelee late Apr–mid-May. A Baird's Sandpiper at Hillman Marsh 20 May represented only the 3rd Pt. Pelee area record for spring (GTH et al.).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Laughing Gulls were at Pt. Pelee 7 (DE), 12 (AW), & 30 May (MB). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Hillman Marsh 10 May (JHS, RS et al.). A rarely reported migrant in the Atikokan area in Rainy River,

the Bonaparte's Gull found 26 Apr was the first seen there since 1996 (DHE). An ad. Mew Gull was at Malden Centre, Essex 13 May (DJW). The ad. California Gull reported from the Québec side of the Ottawa R. 30–31 Mar at Remic Rapids (GS, CR) was possibly the same bird reported s. of Bell's Corners, Ottawa 15–16 Apr (DSa). An ad. Slaty-backed Gull photographed at Sarnia, Lambton 13–20 Mar was a significant find (AR, CB, TS et al.). Rare in the n., a Great Black-backed Gull was on the ice in Marathon, Thunder Bay 30 Mar (KW).

Pt. Pelee's 2nd White-winged Dove was seen at Sturgeon Creek 7 May (PDP et al.). Short-eared Owls are very rare in Algonquin P.P., Nipissing, so the individual seen at Spruce Bog Boardwalk 1 Apr was significant (DSh, DT). Rare in the n., a Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen at T.C.B.O. in May (fide NGE), one was at Red Rock, Thunder Bay 10 May (JS), and another was elsewhere in Thunder Bay, at Schreiber 21 May (DW, MW).

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES

Considering the well-documented decline of Loggerhead Shrikes in Ontario, the individual at Wicklow, Northumberland 3 Apr (MBa) was a welcome sight at a location where they used to breed in numbers. The Townsend's Solitaire seen at Hungry Hollow, Lambton in Feb was still present through 18 Mar (PC). Rare in Thunder Bay, a Wood Thrush was observed 17 May at Fort William (JC). A Varied Thrush visited a feeder in Dryden, Thunder Bay 1–2 Apr (NC, CE).

An exceptionally early Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed at Snake I., Toronto 16 Apr (NM). Pt. Pelee's 3rd Black-throated Gray Warbler, and the first ever in spring, was a female at the Tip of Pt. Pelee N.P. 18–30 Apr (AW). Single Yellow-throated Warblers were at Pt. Pelee N.P. 6–7 (DP, CS) & 7 May (GTH et al.), and another was seen by many birders at Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland 18 May (DPa, RC), the park's first record and the 5th for the county. Pt. Pelee had 2 Kirtland's Warblers: one 9–14 May (DF) and one 11–14 May (JA). A female Prothonotary Warbler was n. to Rattray Marsh, Peel 16 May (WR); another was seen on the same date in e. Middlesex (RS). A Worm-eating Warbler was at Fifty Point C.A., Hamilton 7–10 May (BS, JH, BJ), and a Louisiana Waterthrush was noted at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto 26 May (WR). T.C.B.O.'s 3rd Kentucky Warbler was banded 13 May and not relocated after release (JW). Rare in Thunder Bay, a female Hooded Warbler appeared at a feeder in Geraldton 22 Apr (BA). While hiking to T.C.B.O. in late Apr prior to opening up

the station for the spring season, J. Woodcock found a Yellow-breasted Chat dead on the trail.

An imm. male Summer Tanager was carefully observed at Moore Park Ravine, Toronto 13 May (MH, DH), and one was at Port Hope, Northumberland 16 May (KH); up to 9 were observed at Pt. Pelee 27 Apr–30 May (m.ob.). A feeder on Dog Lake Rd., Thunder Bay hosted a Lark Sparrow 20–23 Apr (DC); another was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 16 May (GTH et al.). A male Lark Bunting was banded at T.C.B.O. 23 May (AG et al.). Pt. Pelee's wintering Harris's Sparrow was last seen in early Mar (RAH, AJH et al.).

A female Blue Grosbeak was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 25 May (MBR), and the imm. male at Port Hope 26–28 May (RF) was Northumberland's 5th record. Pt. Pelee's 3rd Painted Bunting was seen 26 May (DKS, RM). A Dickcissel was at Mission I., Thunder Bay 23 May (NK, LK), and at least 6 were seen at Pt. Pelee in Apr–May (m.ob.). In Rainy River, Atikokan's first Bobolink since 1996 was noted 22 May (DHE). The House Finch observed on 5 Apr was the first seen in Algonquin P.P., Nipissing since 2002 (JD).

Cited observers (subregional contributors in boldface): B. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, M. J. C. Bain (MBa), M. Baker, A. Baxter, J. Baxter, D. Beadle, T. Beck, M. Blagdurn, M. Booker (MBo), P. Booker, B. Bracken, N. Britt, R. Brown, C. Buck, A. Campbell, H. Caswell, R. J. Cermak, P. Chapman, B. Cherie, B. M. Chomyshyn, M. L. Chomyshyn, D. Christenson, J. Clark, G. Coady, R. Cole, N. Collins, R. H. Curry, D. Derbyshire, B. DiLabio, R. Z. Dobos, J. Dombroskie, C. Eady, C. Edgecombe, K. Egressey, D. H. Elder, M. C. Elder, N. G. Escott, D. Euler, M. D. Fitzpatrick, J. N. Flynn, D. Friedman, R. Frost, S. Germana, A. Gilbert, C. E. Goodwin, J. M. Gordon, A. J. Hall, R. A. Hall, D. Hasley, M. Hasley, J. Heslop, G. T. Hince, M. L. Holder, K. Horner, R. P. Horvath, M. W. Jennings, J. Johnson, B. Jones, Kingston Field Naturalists, L. Krupa, N. Krupa, S. Lee, C. Lewis, R. Mackintosh, K. A. McLaughlin, D. J. Milsom, B. Moore, N. Murr, Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, M. Nurnberg, J. Olmsted, D. Panko, A. Parker, B. Parker, S. T. Pike, P. D. Pratt, D. Prectice, P. A. Read, M. B. Reid, W. Renaud, A. Rider, M. Riggs (MRi), C. Rimmer, M. Rose, D. Sangster (DSa), D. K. Sealy, G. Seutin, D. Shanahan, D. Sheepway (DSh), J. H. Skevington, R. Skevington, G. Slessor (GSL), R. B. H. Smith, R. Snider, T. Snieder, C. Staddon, B. Stamp, J. Swanson, D. Tannahill, J. M. Tate, P. Tozer, R. G. Tozer, K. Wade, D. J. Ware, R. D. Weir, D. Welbourne, M. Welbourne, J. Woodcock, A. Wormington, P. Wright, B. Yukich. 🐾