

the only Dark-eyed Junco reported was at St. Vincent N.W.R. 11 Nov (TL).

A nearly wholly yellow (xanthistic) male Northern Cardinal was photographed at Coral Springs, Broward 31 Oct (SR). Late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Honeymoon Island S.P. 24 Nov (KN). Late or wintering Blue Grosbeaks were at Bald Pt. 26 Nov (JaD et al.) and Cedar Key 26 Nov (DH). High counts of Indigo Buntings were 115 at Emerald Marsh 18 Oct (PMA) and 300 at Hague 22 Oct (MM, AKe). A Bobolink at the Sarasota Celery Fields 13 Nov (JeD) was late. Rare but regular, Yellow-headed Blackbirds enlivened Ft. Walton Beach 13 Sep (DW) and Hague 11–12 Nov (MM et al.). Single male Shiny Cowbirds were at Cedar Key 21 Aug (RR et al.) and Lake Apopka 12 Sep–28 Oct (HR), while Bronzed Cowbirds were 2 at Cedar Key 21 Aug (SCo et al.) and 4 at Eagle Lakes Park 13 Nov (*vide* CE). A singing male House Finch at Cape Coral, Lee 4 Nov (JG) furnished a new location.

### UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

A Zebra Finch was at Lake Apopka 7 Sep (HR), and a European Goldfinch, not yet verified in Florida, was at Milton, Santa Rosa in Aug

(MSc). An alternate-plumaged male Pin-tailed Whydah was at Sanibel Lighthouse 11 Sep (VM), and 2 others enlivened Lake Apopka 22 Sep (HR). Finally, a juv. munia of some species was at Frog Pond 28 Aug (JBo).

**Cited contributors** (members of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee in boldface): Brian Ahern (BAh), John Armstrong, **Bruce Anderson** (BAh), Lyn Atherton, Steve Backes, Peggy Baker (PBa), Andy Bankert, Gian Basili, Ted Below, Hilda Bellot, Mark Berney (MBe), Kris Bowman, John Boyd (JBo), Michael Brothers (MBr), Judy Bryan (JBr), Chris Burney, Pat Burns (PBu), Steve Carbol (SCa), Laura Catterton, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Bruce Christensen, Roger Clark, Julie Cocke (JCo), Steve Collins (SCo), Tom Curtis, Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, Jack Dozier (JaD), Jeanne Dubi (JeD), **Bob & Lucy Duncan** (B&LD), Scot Duncan, Tom Dunkerton, Jim Duquesnel (JiD), Charlie Ewell, Paul Fellers, Lenny Fenimore (LF), Jeff Fisher (JeF), Judy Fisher (JuF), David Freeland, Liz Golden, David Goodwin, Paul & Laurie Gray (P&LG), Jon Greenlaw, Jack & Liz Hailman (J&LH), Al & **Bev Hansen** (A&BH), Alex Harper, Mark

Hedden, Dale Henderson, Linda Hensley, John Hintermister, Brian Hope, Paul Hueber, Adam Kent (AKe), Jim King (JKi), Jim Kowalski (JKo), Andy Kratter (AKr), Jerry Krummrich (JKr), Ed Kwater, Elizabeth Lane, Patrick Leary, Rob Lengacher, Thom Lewis, Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi, Peter May (PMA), **Paul Miller** (PMi), Sean McCool, Vince McGrath, Keith McMullen, **Gail Menk**, Brennan Mulrooney, John Murphy (JMu), David Muth, Kris Nelson, Gallus Quigley, Jeff Palmer (JPa), Craig Parenteau, Bob Paxson (BPa), Steve Peacock, Judd Pesold (JPe), David Powell, **Peggy Powell**, **Bill Pranty** (BPr), Steve Radzi, Dexter Richardson (DRi), Bob Richter, Dottie Robbins (DRo), Harry Robinson, Rex Rowan, Fran Rutkovsky, Mike Schiller (MSc), Alan Sheppard, Ray Smart (RaS), Ron Smith (RoS), Tim Spahr, Justyn Stahl, David Steadman (DSt), Monte Stickel (MSt), Doug Suitor (DSu), Paul Sykes, Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, Alex Vinokur, Bob Wallace, Martha Walsh-McGehee, Don Ware, Tom Webber, Carl Weekley, Andy & Julie Wraithmell (A&JW). ●

**Bill Pranty**, 8515 Village Mill Row, Bayonet Point, Florida 34667, (billpranty@hotmail.com)

## Ontario



### Margaret J. C. Bain

The fall was pleasantly mild over most of the province. August was rather hot and humid in the south, with little evidence of any start to migration. The immense strength with which Hurricane *Katrina* hit the Gulf Coast at the end of August had dissipated by the time the storm reached Ontario, and there were unexpectedly few hurricane-

blown strays. September remained warm and pleasant, and clear nights allowed vigorous southbound migration. A brief but intense cold front at the end of the first week of October brought a massive grounding of passerines in many areas and stimulated raptor movement. Milder temperatures returned and persisted through the first three weeks of November. The waters of the Great Lakes remained unusually warm through the fall, delaying the departure of many southbound waterfowl; the arrival of more northern species was likewise late. Bitterly cold winds and snow in the last week of November abruptly announced the arrival of winter even in the south of the province.

One of the most interesting features of the season was the huge chickadee flight, first noticeable in August but gathering momentum to peak in the second half of October. Thousands of birds streamed westward along the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and the Bruce Peninsula—perhaps the largest flight ever recorded. Most of these birds were Black-capped, accompanied by only a few Boreal Chickadees. On treeless Gull Island in Lake Ontario, Merlins were catching and eating

chickadees on the wing, like dragonflies, and an observer found himself, his notebook, and his scope covered in frightened birds seeking shelter from the predators!

The chickadee flight may have been the result of an exceptionally good breeding season, mirrored by some other species, including Rusty Blackbirds, which appeared in gratifyingly high numbers after what has appeared to be a serious population decline in the past few decades; flocks of hundreds were seen at Point Pelee in November on an almost daily basis. The now-expected November Cave Swallow passage was the largest ever recorded in the province but still did not match the many hundreds seen just south of the border.

Hawk migration was sluggish early in the season because of continuing warm weather, but good flights later yielded some high numbers of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and American Kestrels. Two juvenile Swainson's Hawks lingered for several days in the Onion Fields at Point Pelee in September. A male Anhinga, Ontario's third, was an exciting find for hawkwatchers at Holiday Beach in late September. There was an intriguing report of a frigatebird over Lake Huron off the Bruce



There was a small influx of Cattle Egrets into both southern and northwestern Ontario in late fall 2005. This bird near Claremont 3-9 (here 7) November 2005 foraged predictably in cattle pastures. Photograph by Gabriel Lau Kin Jock.

Peninsula in early August. Thunder Cape continued to attract wandering flycatchers, with both a Western Kingbird and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in October.

Abbreviations: C.H.R.S. (Cabot Head Research Station, Bruce); H.B.M.O. (Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, Essex); C.W.S. (Canadian Wildlife Service); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Point Bird Observatory, Norfolk); L.P.W.W.R.F. (Long Point Wetland & Waterfowl Research Fund); O.B.R.C. (Ontario Bird Records Committee); P.E. Pt. (Prince Edward Point, Prince Edward); S.L. Sewage Lagoons; T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O., Thunder Bay); V.W.B. (Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton). Place names in italics refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

### GEESE THROUGH PARTRIDGE

A Greater White-fronted Goose frequented the Ottawa area 19 Oct–11 Nov (GP, m.ob.), one was at Long Pt. 21 Nov (L.P.B.O.), and another n. of Navan, Ottawa 28 Nov (SA). A Barnacle Goose was shot by a hunter at Hawkesbury on the Ottawa R., near the border with Québec during Nov and found to have been banded as a juv. in western Scotland 9 Nov 2004 (*vide* PB), will be the first record for Ontario pending review by the O.B.R.C.; there are very few North American records of this species for which provenance is known. An ad. Ross's Goose was at Merlin, Chatham-Kent 11–20 Nov (IW, DS), and probably the same bird visited Sturgeon Creek, Essex 28 Nov (AJH, RAH et al.). A Cackling Goose was at the Tip of Long Pt. 5 Sep (L.P.B.O.), and several were in the Ottawa area 16 Oct–30 Nov, with up to 7 on the Ottawa R. 29 Oct (m.ob.); Little Cataraqui Creek, Kingston had 2 on 4 Nov (JHE, VPM). Pt. Pelee had 9 Cack-

ling Geese 31 Oct–26 Nov (AW et al.), with another single bird at Sturgeon Creek 1 Nov (AW) and 4 there 15–26 Nov (AW).

Ottawa had a record 83 Redhead 15–16 Oct (m.ob.), and Algonquin P.P., Nipissing had its first ever for fall, a female at Two Rivers Airfield Marsh 5 Nov (RGT). Small numbers of Harlequin Ducks were widely reported, from Toronto, Port Hope, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, and Thunder Bay (m.ob.) Two very early Surf Scoters flew past the Tip at Pt. Pelee 7 Sep (AW, JMT, SM); 500 Surf Scoters off Stoney Creek, Hamilton 4 Nov (BL, DRG) provided a record count for the area. Barrow's Goldeneyes returned to Ottawa 20 Oct, with an ad. male at Remic Rapids (m.ob.) and up to 2 ad. males on the Rideau R. (RG, m.ob.) remaining through the



A Glossy Ibis had to take evasive action when harassed by this young Peregrine Falcon at Duffin's Creek, Ajax, Ontario 7 November 2005. Photograph by Gabriel Lau Kin Jock.

period; 2 males were off Stoney Creek 12–30 Nov (RZD, NS et al.). An ad. male Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye hybrid, probably the same bird as seen in Ottawa most of last winter, was at Remic Rapids 29 Oct–6 Nov (BDL, m.ob.), then on the Rideau R. 27–30 Nov (RAB, CL).

Gray Partridges have declined dramatically in the Ottawa area in recent years, but an ad. female with 15 young was at the St. Albert S.L., Prescott-Russell 1 Aug (RAB, CL et al.), and 11 birds were n. of Navan 26–27 Nov (TFMB, TAH).

### LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

The high count for Red-throated Loons was 36 off Stoney Creek 13 Nov (RZD, CEE). An ad. Pacific Loon was at T.C.B.O. 22–23 Aug (ph. JW); singles were off Pinery P.P., Lambton 31 Oct (AHR) and P.E. Pt. 6 Nov (K.F.N.). Botulism took its toll on Common Loons at Long Pt., with over 400 carcasses collected for

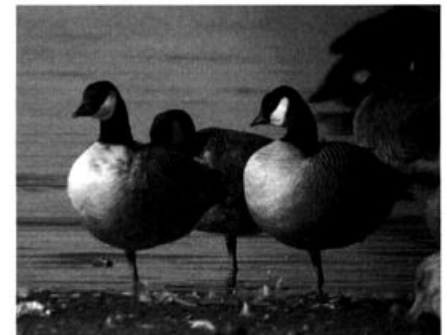
analysis from area beaches by L.P.W.W.R.F. and the C.W.S. An unprecedented 14 Eared Grebes in basic plumage flew e. past the Tip of Pt. Pelee 9 Sep (AW, MJT, JH). Single Eared Grebes were at Exeter S.L., Huron 6–21 Aug (RDT, m.ob.) and Amherstview S.L., Lennox & Addington 2–12 Oct (BER, m.ob.).

Single juv. Northern Gannets were off V.W.B. 22 Oct (EWH et al.), Stoney Creek 7 Nov (BRH, KAM, RLW), and Fifty Pt., Hamilton/Niagara 11 Nov (DRD), with 2 off Stoney Creek 8 Nov (DRG et al.). A juv. Northern Gannet off Pt. Pelee 11 Nov (AW et al.) was only the 2nd for the area; another flew past Port Weller, Niagara 6 Nov (JEB), and one frequented the Peel lakeshore 27–30 Nov (ALA, DEP, JC). Double-crested Cormorant numbers remained high on the Great Lakes, with 6700 still at Pt. Pelee 1 Nov (AW).

A male Anhinga, the 3rd for Ontario, pending review by the O.B.R.C., flew in from L. Erie past hawkwatchers on the H.B.M.O. tower 23 Sep (CR, RCP, FJU et al.), having been first seen 18 Sep at L. Erie Metropark, MI. After the Bruce Pen. suffered over 30 hours of continuous thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, a female Magnificent Frigatebird was seen 1–2 Aug from at least three different locations along the L. Huron shoreline between Sauble Beach and Port Elgin (PM, DE et al.); if accepted by the O.B.R.C., it too will be the 3rd for Ontario.

### HERONS THROUGH CRANE

Pt. Pelee had an ad. Snowy Egret 22 Aug (DKS), and 3 were in the Long Pt. marshes on a L.P.W.W.R.F. aerial survey 11 Oct. Cattle Egrets staged a small influx in widely separated parts of the province. In the s., 5 were at Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, Durham 8 Oct (JW, m.ob.), 2 were seen on the L.P.W.W.R.F. aerial survey 11 Oct, one was in



These Cackling Geese were among seven on the Ottawa River at Andrew Haydon Park, Ottawa, Ontario 29 October 2005. Ottawa had several reports of these small geese from mid-October to the end of the period, more than any other location in the south of the province. Photograph by Tony Beck.

cattle pastures near Claremont, *Durham* 3–9 Nov (FBEP, m.ob.), and another was in the Pt. Pelee area 10–16 Nov (RLW, KAM, GMN, m.ob.), with further one-day observations of at least 6 singles from widely scattered locations. In the nw., there were reports of Cattle Egrets from Ft. Frances, Thunder Bay, Dorion, and Grand Marais, MN (*vide* NGE); a flock of 7 was near Ft. Frances, *Rainy River* 29–31 Oct (JV, m.ob.), and one was sw. of Thunder Bay 1–5 Nov (BMO, m.ob.). A Green Heron near Ice L. 10 Nov (J&NS) was record late for *Manitoulin*. Dundas Marsh, Hamilton held a Glossy Ibis 20 Sep (DM); one at Duffin's Creek, *Durham* 5–7 Nov (JG, HK, m.ob.) was harassed by a juv. Peregrine Falcon 7 Nov (ph. GLKJ).

Pt. Pelee's first-ever fall Black Vulture flew w. at Seacliff 9 Oct (AW) during a record-high, seven-hour count of 7110 Turkey Vultures (AW). On the same date, H.B.M.O. recorded an impressive 20,032 Turkey Vultures (BHB), contributing to a season total of 41,543 and making Turkey Vulture easily the most numerous of the 15 "raptor" species tallied!

A late Osprey was over Burlington, *Halton* 26 Nov (RZD et al.). The Hawk Cliff hawk-watch at Port Stanley, *Elgin* tallied a record 351 Bald Eagles for the season (DJB), with 24 Sep giving a record one-day count of 46 (DKS, SRR); the 73 Bald Eagles at the Atikokan landfill, *Rainy River* 4 Nov (JJ) provided a new high count for the now-annual fall build-up. Two intermediate-morph juv. Swainson's Hawks frequented the Onion Fields at Pt.

Pelee 17–21 Sep (PDP et al.), with one remaining through 23 Sep; a dark-morph juv. Swainson's Hawk was at Kingsville, *Essex* 9 Oct (DJW). Sharp-shinned Hawks were in reassuringly high numbers, as reflected in the season total of 9528 at H.B.M.O., the 2nd highest tally of all the raptor species there. Hawk Cliff had a one-day record count of 895 American Kestrels 15 Sep (DJB).

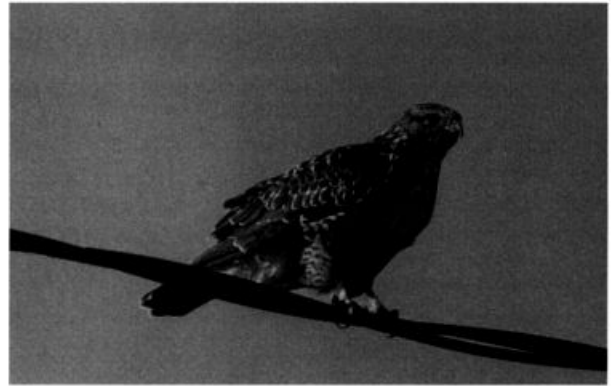
Away from their regular staging areas, Sandhill Cranes were widely reported, with local high counts of 47 near Ottawa 15 Oct–4 Nov (LS,

fairly widely reported, with the first an ad. at Hillman Marsh 31 Jul–13 Aug (DJW et al.); 2

early juvs. were at Hillman Marsh 15 Aug (DJW, AW et al.), up to 2 juvs staged at Presqu'île P.P. 3–11 Sep (BC, GP, m.ob.), and at least 5 other birds were seen in the s., the last at Sturgeon Creek 13–14 Oct (AW et al.) *Katrina* groundings at Presqu'île P.P. 31 Aug included 187 White-rumped Sandpipers and 150 Pectoral Sandpipers (DPS), both record counts for the area. An apparent ad. Pectoral Sandpiper × Baird's Sandpiper, a previously undescribed hybrid, was studied at Hillman Marsh 5–6 Aug (AW, ACP et al.); it will be the subject of a paper in *Ontario Birds*. Amherst I. had a juv. Ruff 3 Sep (JHE, BER), and

another was at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* 23 Sep (WR). Red-necked Phalaropes included 2 very early juvs. at Hillman Marsh 7–27 Aug (AW, DJW, ACP et al.); 2 at the Emo S.L., *Rainy River* 15 Aug were rare for the District (DHE).

Single Pomarine Jaegers flew past the Tip of Pt. Pelee 20 Oct and 9 & 26 Nov; V.W.B. had 6 from 22 Oct–15 Nov (RZD, CEE et al.), with 6 more off Stoney Creek 8–12 Nov (RZD, CEE et al.). Pt. Edward, *Lambton* had 6 Pomarine Jaegers 22 Oct–22 Nov (AHR, BAM, AMB et al.). At the mouth of the Niagara R., a Pomarine was chasing a Parasitic Jaeger 14 Nov (JEB, DRS). An emaciated juv. Pomarine Jaeger on L. Simcoe at Barrie 3 Nov (JI, RJP) was taken into care 10 Nov but died of disseminated aspergillosis. V.W.B. had a total of 59 Parasitic Jaegers 26 Aug–22 Oct (m.ob.), the Tip at Long Pt. saw 6 in the hurricane aftermath 31 Aug (L.P.B.O.), a dark juv was rare for the Ottawa R. 17–19 Sep (BDL, RAB, m.ob.), Pt. Edward had 2 on 16 Oct (AHR) and 8 on 25 Oct (BAM, AMB et al.), and Pt. Pelee a dark juv. 26 Nov (AW, AJH,



Two intermediate-morph juvenile Swainson's Hawks were observed by many birders in the onion fields north of Point Pelee National Park, Ontario 17-21 (here 18) September 2005. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



This first-winter Laughing Gull was found at Sturgeon Creek in the Point Pelee Birding Area 14 October 2005. Photograph by Alan Wormington.

TFMB) and 35 over Dundas Valley, Hamilton 10 Nov (RS).

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A late American Golden-Plover was at La Salle Park, *Halton* 25 Nov (TT). A banded juv. Piping Plover was at Rock Pt. P.P., *Haldimand* 17–21 Aug (ph. VMS, LMS, m.ob.), and an unbanded juv. was at the Tip of Long Pt. 23 Sep (FRS, BMG). An American Avocet visited Tiny Marsh, *Simcoe* 28 Aug (RF); 8 American Avocets fed in Big Creek Marsh, Holiday Beach 4 Sep (WW), while Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* had one at the S.L. 3 Sep (BW), one at the landfill 12–17 Sep (KJB), and 2 at the S.L. 15–27 Oct (BAM et al.). A flock of 53 molting ad. Hudsonian Godwits at Shirley's Bay, Ottawa 31 Aug, was grounded by heavy rains and wind associated with the tail end of hurricane *Katrina* (BDL). There was a juv. Marbled Godwit at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 13 Aug (DJW et al.) and an ad. at Dundas Marsh 17 Sep (BRH, EWH). An extremely early juv. Red Knot was at Hillman Marsh 11–14 Aug (DJW, AW et al.). Western Sandpipers were



This first-winter Franklin's Gull lingered with a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River at Fort Erie, Ontario 10-27 (here 12) November 2005. Photograph by Matthew Francey.

RPH, RAH). A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger flew past the Tobermory–Manitoulin I. ferry 19 Aug (BH), V.W.B. recorded 10 from 25 Aug–22 Oct, 3 of them during the 31 Aug storms (CJE) when L.P.B.O. also saw 8 in one morning (MDB, SAM); Pt. Pelee had 3 over the period 6 Sep–22 Oct (AW et al.); and Pt. Edward recorded one juv. 25 Oct (BAM, AMB et al.).

A juv. Laughing Gull was at Presqu'île P.P. 2 Sep (BC, GP); Pt. Pelee had a juv. 13 Sep (BDL et al.) and a first-winter 6 & 14–23 Oct (AW, KAM et al.); a basic ad. was at the Tip of Long Pt. 2 Oct (L.P.B.O.); a first-winter bird was at Pt. Edward 21 Oct (AMB, MA); and another was at Frenchman's Bay, Durham 30 Nov (GLKJ). A first-year Franklin's Gull was along the Ottawa R. 10–14 & 30 Sep (TAH, m.ob.); Hamilton had an ad. at Binbrook 22 Sep (BRH) and 2 at the Dundas Marsh 9–10 Oct (BSC); the Barrie waterfront held a first-winter bird 3–8 Nov (JI, RJP, m.ob.), and Ft. Erie, Niagara had one 10–27 Nov (WCD, BP, m.ob.), with 2 present 14–19 Nov (JEB, DRS et al.). Little Gull passage was light, though there was a high count of 21 at the Long Pt. Tip 7 Oct (L.P.B.O.). A basic ad. Black-headed Gull flew past Long Pt.'s Tip 20 Sep (L.P.B.O.), one was in Hay Bay, Prince Edward 6 Nov (K.F.N.), and another was at Ft. Erie 19 Nov (*vide* WCD). There were unusually few Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara R. in Nov, perhaps because of the continuing mild weather, though numbers rose briefly mid-month (m.ob.). An ad. California Gull was off the Tip of Long Pt. 1 Oct (L.P.B.O.); Pt. Pelee had an ad. 11 Nov (KAM, RLW, GMN) and a second-winter bird 22 Nov (AW). One at the Adam Beck Generating Station on the Niagara R. 11 Nov (WCD, BP) was perhaps the same bird that has been faithful to this spot for the past 14 winters. Pt. Pelee had an exceptional total of at least 63 individual Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with a record-high count of 14, including 5 juvs., 11 Nov (AW et al.).

A juv. Sabine's Gull flew past Port Bruce, Elgin 31 Aug (DAM). V.W.B. experienced an unprecedented flight of Sabine's Gulls, all juvs, including 13 on 4 Sep (DRD, RZD et al.), 22 on 17 Sep (BRH et al.), and 13 on 23 Sep (RZD et al.). Pt. Pelee recorded 7 juvs. 5–11 Sep (AW, STP, DJW et al.) and Pt. Edward one 17 Nov (BAM). Juv. Black-legged Kittiwakes were in ones and twos in the s., the first at V.W.B. 14 Aug (RZD); single ads. were off Long Pt. 17 & 28 Sep (SAM), and one flew e. past Cobourg, Northumberland 20 Sep (CEG). Still rare in Ottawa, 3 Caspian Terns were at Shirley's Bay 21 Sep (TAH, SG). Peak migration for Common Terns at Long Pt. occurred

25 Sep–5 Oct, with a one-day high of 28,145 birds 26 Sep (L.P.B.O.). The storm-blown Sooty Tern off Long Pt. P.P. 31 Aug was the first for L.P.B.O. (MDB, SAM).

### OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An ad. male Barn Owl was found alive but injured in a logging truck driven from Terrace Bay to Thunder Bay 30 Nov (*vide* NGE); it had to be put down because of its injuries but provided the first record for Thunder Bay and only the 2nd for n. Ontario. Single Northern Hawk Owls were s. of Whitney, Nipissing 28 Oct (ph. DB), near Brockville, Leeds & Grenville 17 Nov (MJ), and e. of Ottawa 26



Hunting in snowy fields near Orleans, east of Ottawa, Ontario on 26 November 2005, this Northern Hawk Owl remained in the area into the winter season.  
Photograph by Tony Beck.

Nov (TFMB). Simcoe provided seven reports of single Great Gray Owls 22 Oct–30 Nov near Orillia and Midland, where large numbers of these owls had wintered and lingered into spring (BB); a Great Gray Owl was near Round Lake Centre, Renfrew 13 Nov (ED).

Rare breeders in the Ottawa area, 2 ad. and 3 juv. Red-headed Woodpeckers remained at Constance Bay 30 Nov (BDL, m.ob.). Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers were n. to Thunder Cape 10 Oct (T.C.B.O.) and Eldorado Beach, Thunder Bay 27 Oct (BMO). Single Western Kingbirds were in the Onion Fields, Pt. Pelee 12–14 Oct (AW et al.) and at T.C.B.O. 13–15 Oct. An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Ottawa International Airport 7 Aug (JD), there was a first-year male at Long Pt. 14 Sep (MDB, DRM), and an ad. was banded at T.C.B.O. 23–27 Oct (JMW).

The first Cave Swallows of the Ontario irruption were seen at the Cranberry Marsh hawkwatch, with 2 birds carefully studied 29 Oct (JI et al.) and one 30 Oct (m.ob.); later, 20 birds in five small groups flew westward 7

Nov (DJL et al.) and one 12 Nov (TH). In Hamilton, Cave Swallows appeared 4 Nov with 2 birds at Fifty Pt. (BRH, EWH); the Stoney Creek lakeshore saw 11 on 4 Nov (BRH), 10 on 6 Nov (WFS et al.), 15 on 7 Nov (BRH), one 12 Nov (CTB), and 2 on 16 Nov (BSC). L.P.B.O. recorded 55 Cave Swallows: 2 at Old Cut 6 Nov (MDB, DRB), 5 there 9 Nov (CF, MDB), one 10 Nov (CF et al.), and 2 on 13 Nov (DRB); on 8 Nov, 18 were near Clear Creek (MDB), 7 at Hahn Marsh (RR, DL), and 12 at the Bird Studies Canada HQ lookout (RR, DL); 2 were in Long Pt. P.P. 9 Nov (CF, SAM), 6 at the Coves 11 Nov (DO, MW), and 2 at Old Cut 13 Nov (DRB). At Pt. Pelee, 32 birds were recorded: one flew s. off the Tip 7 Nov (AW, AJH), with 2 there 7–8 Nov (AW, AJH et al.) and one 9 Nov (AW); Hillman Marsh had one 10 Nov (DJW), there were 3 at the Tip (AW, HTO) and one at E. Beach (AW, RLW, GMN, KAM) 11 Nov; 20 birds were at the Tip 12 Nov, with 14 remaining through 13 Nov and 6 through 14 Nov (AW et al.); and 3 were s. of Wheatley Harbour 13 Nov (DJW). Erieau, Chatham-Kent had 4 Cave Swallows 6 Nov (KJB) and at least 10 on 13 Nov (JTB, KJB); a single was s. of Kettle Pt. 6 Nov (AHR). Farthest e. was one at West L., Prince Edward 9 Nov (ph. VJ). The strangest record came from Algonquin P.P. 7 Nov: an ad. male Cave Swallow found roosting on the pavement of Highway 60 (ph. RDS, RGT) later died in captivity—a first for the park and the northernmost record for Ontario and apparently anywhere. About 180 Cave Swallows were reported in all, mostly from well-birded areas, so the total numbers involved may have been much greater.

### CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS

In s. Ontario, large fall flights of chickadees occur every several years, mainly in Oct, but 2005 yielded unprecedented numbers, with hundreds, even thousands, flying w. along L. Ontario, L. Erie, and L. Huron. Most of these were hatch-year birds. An observer overlooking Cobourg harbor 7 Oct estimated 2000/hour for a possible day total of 10,000 (CEG)! C.H.R.S. tallied over 2000 chickadees 17 Oct (SM). Among all these birds were only a very few Boreal Chickadees: one at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 7 Nov was the first there since 1987 (AW). The 8 Oct cold front grounded 6000 Golden-crowned and 8000 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Pt. Pelee (AW). Single Townsend's Solitaires were at C.H.R.S. 25 Oct (SM), Pinery P.P., Lambton 30 Oct (IP), Pt. Pelee 3 Nov (AW), and P.E. Pt. 6 Nov (PJG, VPM). Thunder Bay Marina hosted a late Veery 17–23 Nov (BMO, m.ob.) and a male Varied Thrush 19–30 Nov (BMO); an-

other male Varied Thrush visited feeders on the outskirts of Thunder Bay 29–30 Nov (DR); in late Nov, there were single Varied Thrushes at feeders in Batchawana Bay, *Algonoma* (GH) and New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (*fide* BDM). Early American Pipits included 4 at Cobourg harbor 30 Aug (MJCB) and one at Port Bruce 31 Aug (DAM); 880 flew off the Tip at Pt. Pelee 9 Nov (AW et al.). Several thousand Bohemian Waxwings covered trees and sidewalks in New Liskeard and Haileybury, *Timiskaming* 8 Nov (AK, AM).

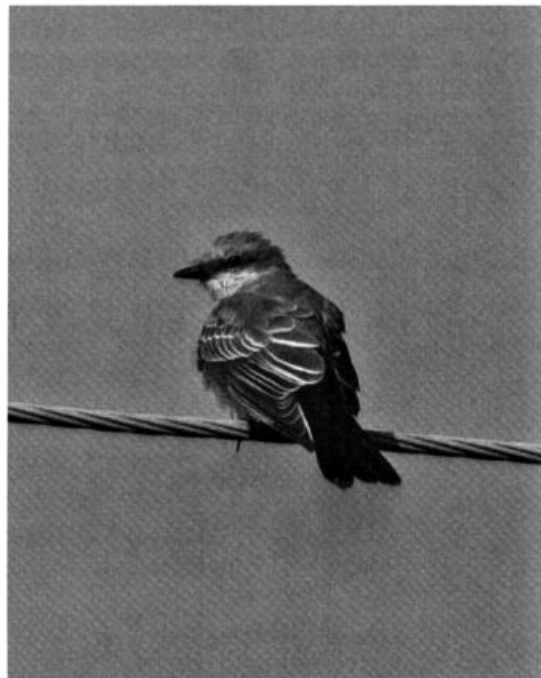
The warm fall encouraged several warbler species to linger, including single Northern Parulas at Thunder Bay Marina 1–6 Nov (MC, m.ob.) and Presqu'île P.P. 12–14 Nov (RIS). A very late Cape May Warbler hung in at Thunder Bay Marina 24–30 Nov (BMT) despite a bitterly cold n. wind. Yellow-rumped Warbler migration was very vigorous, with high counts of 7000 at Pt. Pelee 8 Oct (AW) and 2000 at P.E. Pt. 16 Oct (K.F.N.). Shirley's Bay, Ottawa had an ad. Yellow-throated Warbler 25 Sep (BMr, m.ob.). Over 1100 Blackpoll Warblers were at the Long Pt. Tip 20 Sep (L.P.B.O.). A singing Worm-eating Warbler was unexpected in Oshawa, *Durham* 5 Oct (DAL). A hatch-year Kentucky Warbler was banded at Breakwater, Long Pt. 23 Aug (L.P.B.O.), and one was at Cranberry Marsh 29 Aug (*fide* DJL). It was an exceptional year for Connecticut Warblers at Long Pt., with 24 individuals 28 Aug–6 Oct (L.P.B.O.).

## TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

T.C.B.O. had a male Western Tanager 24 Aug (JMW). A first-year Spotted Towhee 30 Oct was Algonquin P.P.'s first record (ph. TS); an ad. male visited Atikokan feeders 10–15 Nov (B&JZ). An ad. Lark Sparrow was on L.S.S. 29 Oct (NCM). There was a Le Conte's Sparrow at the Tip of Long Pt. 20 Sep (L.P.B.O.) and 2 at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 7 Oct (AW); Two Rivers Airfield, Algonquin P.P. had 2 on 7 Oct (JL) and one 10 Oct (JJD, AL, AR). Fox Sparrows migrated in large numbers, with a high count of 50 at Amherstview S.L. 24 Oct (BER). An imm. Harris's Sparrow was s. to the Tip of Pt. Pelee 11 Nov (RAH). Dark-eyed Juncos moved unusually early, with the first sighting Aug 6 at Presqu'île P.P. (FMH).

A male Black-headed Grosbeak visited feeders on Howe I., *Frontenac Islands* 23–24 Aug (ph. SD, m.ob.). Rosspport, *Thunder Bay* had a male Painted Bunting in mid-Oct (*fide* NGE). In Toronto, single Dickcissels were at the Island Airport 27 Sep (NCM) and High

Park 8 Oct (GC); one was calling in flight at Presqu'île P.P. 5 Oct (RDM). A Western Meadowlark was at the mouth of the Current R., *Thunder Bay* 18–20 Nov (BMO). There was a minor invasion of male Yellow-headed Blackbirds in *Thunder Bay* 25 Sep–5 Oct, with at least 3 at Thunder Cape, one of which was banded (JMW), and one on Thunder Bay city



Western Kingbird, almost annual in southern Ontario in autumn, was found just once in fall 2005, in the onion fields north of Point Pelee National Park 12–14 (here 13) October 2005. Photograph by Rosalee A. Hall.

lakeshore (BMO). Rusty Blackbirds moved in good numbers, with a high count of 700 at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 24 Nov (AW, AJH, RAH); an estimated 14,000 Common Grackles flew southward off the Tip 2 Nov (AW, HTO).

In *Rainy River*, there were good counts of Pine Grosbeaks and Evening Grosbeaks late Oct+ and of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins in late Nov (DHE), but elsewhere finches were generally scarce. Algonquin P.P. saw few finches (RGT), though small flocks of Red Crossbills 29–31 Oct included small-billed forms feeding on Tamarack and resident medium-billed forms feeding on White Pine (MWPR).

**Subregional editors (boldface) and cited observers:** Alfred L. Adamo, Robert F. Andrie, Steve Ansell, Maris Apse, Margaret J. C. Bain, Pierre Bannon, Tony F. M. Beck, Chris Bell, John E. Black, Bob Bowles, Mike D. Boyd, Robert A. Bracken, David Bree, David J. Brown, Doug & Evelyn Brown, Doug R. Brown, Jim T. Burk, Keith J. Burk, Christopher T. Burris, Adam M. Byrne, Ches Caister,

Brenda Carter, Barry S. Cheriére, Glenn Coady, Jim Coey, Mark Conboy, James A. Cram, Willie C. D'Anna, Alexander A. Darling, Sharon David, Bruce Di Labio, Rob Z. Dobos, E. Dombroskie, J. J. Dombroskie David R. Don, James Doré, Cheryl E. Edgecombe, David Ellingwood, Joel H. Ellis, David H. Elder, Christopher J. Escott, Nicholas G. Escott, Ron Fleming, Christian Friis, Denys R. Gardiner Benoit M. Gendreau, Peter J. Good, Susan Goods, Clive E. Goodwin, Robert Gorman, Jim Griffith, Adam J. Hall, Rosalie A. Hall, Bob Hall-Brooks, Thomas A. Hanrahan, Jeremy Hatt, Fred M. Helleiner, Brian Henshaw, Garry Hill Theo Hofmann, Brandon R. Holden, Eric W. Holden, Randy P. Horvath, Robert A. Horvath, Jean Iron, Brian Jackson, Mike Jaques, Viviane Jennings Gabriel Lau Kin Jock, Jim Johnson Joseph W. Johnson, Harry Kerr, Adam Knight, Alison Lake, Bill Lamond, Jerry Lazarczyk, Dale A. Leadbeater, Denis Lepage, Christina Lewis, Douglas J. Lockrey, Stuart A. Mackenzie, V. Paul Mackenzie, Blake A. Mann, Doug Mannen, Dave A. Martin, Pat Martin, Kevin A. McLaughlin, R. Doug McRae, Stéphane Menu, John B. Miles, Anthony Miller, Brian Moore (BMO), Brian Mortimer (BMT), Bruce D. Murphy, Norman C. Murr, George M. Naylor, David Okines, Henrietta T. O'Neill, Ontbirds, Listserve of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, F. Betty E. Pegg, Donald E. Perks,

Robert C. Pettit, Gerard Phillips, Stephen T. Pike, Adam C. Pinch, Ron J. Pittaway, Ian Platt, Betsy Potter, Paul D. Pratt, Rayfield R. Pye, Claude Radley, Wayne Renaud, Alfred H. Rider, Ron Ridout, Maureen Riggs, Bruce E. Ripley, Allison Rose, Su Ross-Redmond, Dennis Roy, Michael W. P. Runtz, Robert M. Sachs, Dan R. Salisbury, Freddy R. Santana Lucy M. Saruyama, D. Keith Sealy, Don P. Shanahan, R. Ian Shanahan, Langis Sirois, Dorothy Smith, John & Nicole Smith, Nancy Smith, Roy B. H. Smith, Theodore Smith, William F. Smith, Robert Stamp, R. Dan Strickland, J. Michael Tate, Tom Thomas, Rick D. Thornton, Douglas C. Tozer, Ronald G. Tozer, Fred J. Urie, John Vandebroek, Cheryl Vosburgh, Robert L. Waldhuber, Jerry Walsh, Dean J. Ware, Will Weber, Ron D. Weir, Martin Weirhaart, Brian Wilkie, John C. Wilson, Linda Wladarski, John M. Woodcock, Irene Woods, Alan Wormington, Betty & Jerry Zajac. 🍷

Margaret J. C. Bain, 219 Albert Street, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 2R6, (mjcbain@sympatico.ca)