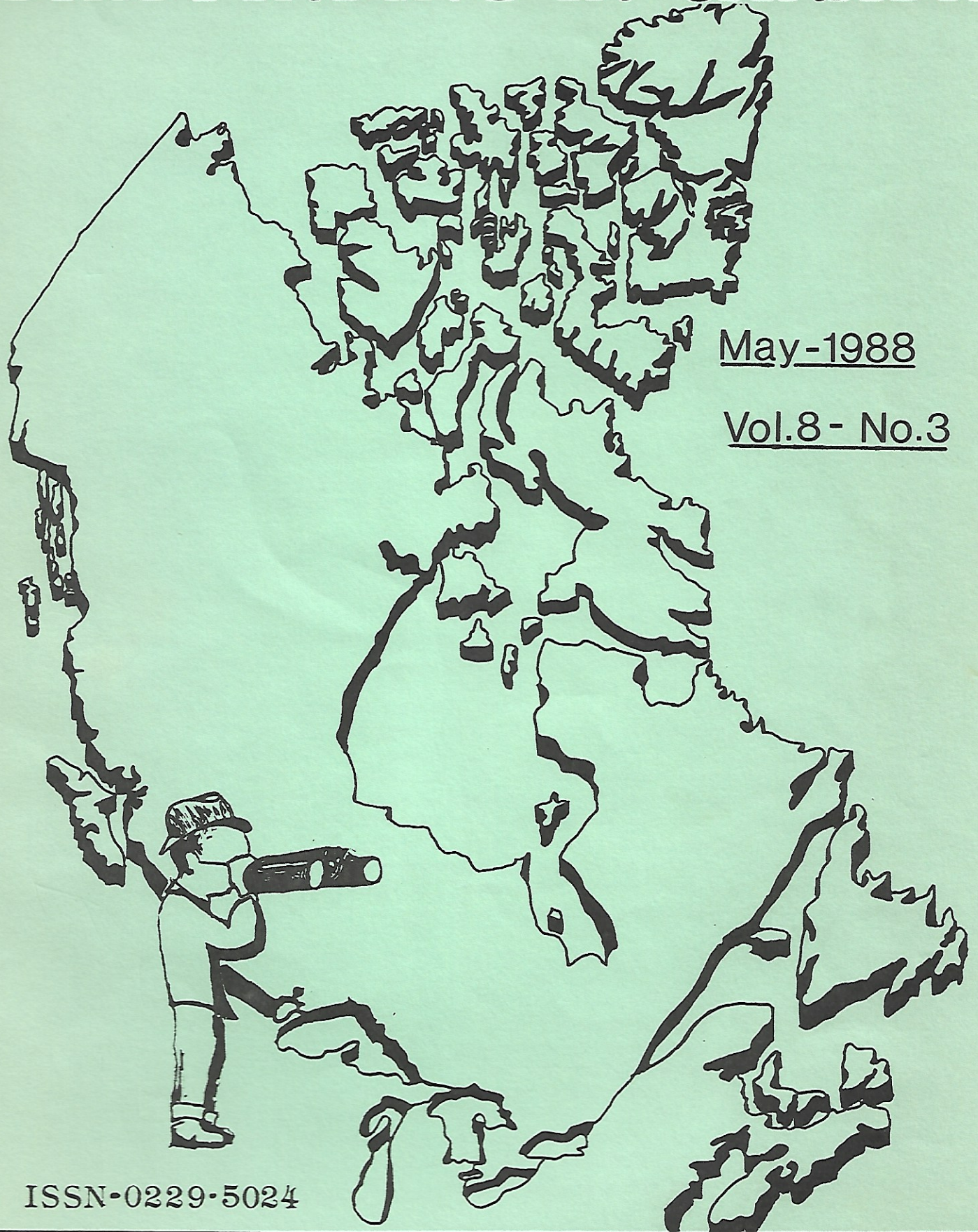


# BIRDFINDING IN CANADA

May-1988

Vol.8 - No.3



ISSN-0229-5024

# Record Keeping

In this issue, plus our two previous numbers, we've included articles on two popular phases of Record Keeping - The Big Year and The Big Day.

A further dimension of this department of birdfinding is the Location List. Applications of this pastime are infinite. The location can vary from all of Canada to your backyard. The time period can be a day, a summer vacation period, a year or a lifetime.

Point Pelee, a birding spot of international renown as one of the world's migration Meccas, is a much-selected site among birders who hope to see a lot of birds in whatever limited time is available.

A few decades ago, May visitors to Pelee talked about running up a total of 200 species in that month, within the Park and its immediate surroundings. Scores in the 190's were being achieved. Then, in the early '60s (we don't have the exact year) the late Bob Trowern spent the month of May, headquartered in a rented cottage inside the Park (in fact, right beside where the Interpretive Centre now stands) and observed a total of 209 species. As far as we know, this was both a record high number as well as the first time 200 had been reached.

A few birders broke the 200 mark in the following years. Then, in 1982, Alan Wormington set the new (and still valid, we believe) high total of 222 species, all in May. "I just didn't have any unexpected blanks on my card," we remember Alan telling us.

If other readers have exceeded 200 species in one month at Pelee, we'd be pleased to hear about it.

Let's now switch to the subject of "One Year at Point Pelee."

Here, again, we turn to Al Wormington who, in 1987, observed 270 species of birds in the Point Pelee birding area.

(Editor's Note: We have been visiting Point Pelee every May since 1953 and our first visit pre-dates that era. In fact, we are just getting ready to make our 36th consecutive annual May Pelee visit. Additionally, we've been there in late summer, fall and midwinter - and, in our lifetime, we have yet to total 270 species. Further, of all the thousands of Point Pelee birding pilgrims over the years, we know of only six, in addition to Alan, who have life lists for that area over 270. This gives some perspective to the one-year achievement we're talking about.)

Here are some of Alan's comments.

"My original intention, during 1987, were not really related to a "Big Year" per se. To better learn the status of species was my reason for spending an inordinate amount of time birding locally. The high total came as a spinoff from the original objective.

There are several factors to consider when comparing locations. The Point Pelee area is only a 15-mile diameter (C.B.C.) circle, whereas many other places (such as Toronto, Ottawa & Hamilton) recognize a 50 to 60 mile diameter, equating to land areas massive in comparison.

Another point to remember is that there are more birders, on a year-round average, in those places, to find birds. Also, when found, stray birds seem to stay longer than at Pelee. One could argue that this is not the case during May at Point Pelee - perhaps correctly so. Oddly though, 8 of the 10 species I missed (seen by others) were in May.

The total species reported, by all observers in 1987, at Pelee, was 280. The 270 total is 96% of this.

Here are some of the highlights.

Red-throated Loon: One on November 22nd.

Eared Grebe: Observed four times (one spring/three fall) during the year.

Harlequin Duck: One female, Jan.25th, fourth local record.

American Swallow-tailed Kite: One on May 8th, second local record.  
 Golden Eagle: 3 on November 5th, over Wheatley Harbour.  
 Sandhill Crane: One Jan.1st to 8th.  
 Piping Plover: One May 1st and 2nd - the only one heard of in southern Ontario in 1987.  
 Purple Sandpiper: One on November 1st - ninth local record.  
 Laughing Gull: One juvenile on August 22nd.  
 Mew Gull: one first-winter immature, March 9th to 11th, second local record.  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull: At least 8 individuals, one summering.  
 Black-legged Kittiwake: Observed three times (one April/two fall).  
 Sabine's Gull: One on October 22nd was following a tractor plow!  
 Snowy Owl: Unprecedented incursion with 14 birds on Nov.29th. Up to 1987, the highest one-day count in the area was two.  
 Western Kingbird: Observed twice (one spring/one fall).  
 Boreal Chickadee: One April 24th to 29th.  
 Tufted Titmouse: last addition for the year, at a feeder, December 23rd.  
 Louisiana Waterthrush: Missed this species in spring, then found a "bonus" bird on July 31st.  
 Cassin's Sparrow: One on May 7th to 8th.  
 Le Conte's Sparrow: One on May 7th.  
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow: One on May 24th.  
 Western Meadowlark: One on April 1st.  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird: One female on Dec.6th and 21st.  
 Brewer's Blackbird: Two females on October 21st.  
 Red Crossbill: Many in early November.

And there were some "lowlights."

I missed ten species recorded by others. Some misses were results of: sleeping in one morning after rising early 10 days in a row (Blue Grosbeak); taking a nap in the afternoon instead of birding (Mississippi Kite); not being home to receive a telephone call (Dickcissel); being in northern Ontario at the time(Lark Sparrow).

The other 6 species missed were: Snowy Egret, Northern Bobwhite, American Avocet, Parasitic Jaeger, Chuck-will's-Widow and Yellow-throated Warbler."

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Alan's 270 total included 25 species of ducks, 29 of shorebirds and 35 species of warblers.

This is an appropriate place to take a look at Point Pelee life lists. Here are the latest figures we have on file.

Alan Wormington	321	Geoff Carpentier	250
Norm Chesterfield	309	Bill Crins	248
Wilf Botham	295	Hugh Currie	247
Bob Curry	282	Herb Elliott	247
Kevin McLaughlin	275	John Miles	247
Bill Smith	273	Allen Woodliffe	246
John Keenleyside	271	Lorraine Foott	245
Scott Connop	268	Hue MacKenzie	245
Luke Fazio	268	Bill Clark	244
Gerry Bennett	268	Mike Austin	244
Don Perks	262	Pete Read	237
Ron Pittaway	261	Gerry Binsfeld	235
Ron Scovell	260	Michael McEvoy	224
Jo Ann MacKenzie	254	Terrie Woodrow	223
Roger Burrows	250	6 others over	200

\*\*\*\*\*

Life lists shown below relate to data, on hand at March 10th, '88, filed within the past 8 months, by active subscribers.

NORTH AMERICA

Bob Lewis, Basking Ridge, N.J.	720	Jack Williams, White Rock, B.C.	562
Mike Austin, Friendswood, Texas	716	Richard Klauke, St.Paul, Alta.	559
Ben Feltner, Seattle, Wash.	707	Peter Hamel, Toronto, Ont.	558
John Keenleyside, Mississauga, Ont.	706	Dale Jensen, Vancouver, B.C.	556
Luke Fazio, Mississauga, Ont.	685	Jean Niskanen, Oakville, Ont.	549
Bill Zufelt, Orillia, Ont.	683	Kevin McLaughlin, Hamilton, Ont.	547
Roger Foxall, Halifax, N.S.	669	Terrie Woodrow, Port Ryerse, Ont.	546
Jo Ann MacKenzie, Surrey, B.C.	669	Guy Gendron, Rimouski, Que.	545
Hue MacKenzie, Surrey, B.C.	663	Audrey Viken, West Vancouver, B.C.	543
Paul Mackenzie, Kingston, Ont.	655	Blake Maybank, White's Lake, N.S.	541
Bob Curry, Ancaster, Ont.	651	Stan Shadick, Saskatoon, Sask.	539
George Scott, Oshawa, Ont.	644	Martin Edwards, Kingston, Ont.	538
Reuben Ware, Victoria, B.C.	637	Mary Collins, Vernon, B.C.	536
Hugh Currie, Toronto, Ont.	632	Scott Connop, Camlachie, Ont.	536
Steve Charlton, Pierrefonds, Que.	628	Chris Escott, Willowdale, Ont.	535
Ron Scovell, Rexdale, Ont.	623	Bob Storms, Calgary, Alta.	532
Don Perks, Mississauga, Ont.	619	Daniel St.Hilaire, Hull, Que.	531
David Stirling, Victoria, B.C.	616	Evelyn Jensen, Vancouver, B.C.	530
Edge Pegg, Claremont, Ont.	614	Peggy Lehmann, West Hill, Ont.	530
Mabel McIntosh, Pointe Claire, Que.	613	Tony Mason, Toronto, Ont.	530
Colin Butt, Surrey, B.C.	611	George Cheeseman, Edmonton, Alta.	527
Alex Gray, Mississauga, Ont.	608	David Milsom, Bolton, Ont.	526
Wayne Weber, Burnaby, B.C.	607	John Miles, New Hamburg, Ont.	525
Bruce Cruickshank, Toronto, Ont.	602	Carolyn Bonner, Meaford, Ont.	522
Stefan Zaremba, Burnaby, B.C.	600	Gordon Grieeff, Dugald, Man.	519
Larry Neily, Ottawa, Ont.	598	Richard Cannings, Vancouver, B.C.	517
Wayne Neily, Winnipeg, Man.	587	Allen Woodliffe, Chatham, Ont.	517
Peter Gilchrist, Toronto, Ont.	581	Jim Coey, Mississauga, Ont.	511
Eric Tull, London, Ont.	578	Barry Attridge, London, Ont.	507
Gerry Bennett, Woodbridge, Ont.	578	Margaret Bain, Whitby, Ont.	506
George Wallace, Port Rowan, Ont.	570	Fred Bodsworth, Toronto, Ont.	504
Rolph Davis, King City, Ont.	568	Helen Inch, London, Ont.	501
Roger Taylor, Ottawa, Ont.	565	David Christie, Albert, N.B.	501
Bill Crins, Vancouver, B.C.	562	Harv Lane, Los Angeles, Calif.	501

\*\*\*\*\*

"NOT-YOUR-ORDINARY"

Here are some Life List numbers that may fall short of "Household Statistics."

North of the Arctic Circle	Dick Cannings	105
Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.	Peter Hamel	171
Kamloops, B.C. Latilong.	Rick Howie	249
Cambridge Bay, N.W.T.	Stan Shadick	37
Delta Marsh, Manitoba.	Robert Parsons	183
Northern Ontario	Alan Wormington	291
Rondeau Provincial Park, Ont.	Allen Woodliffe	304
Thickson's Woods, Durham Region, Ont.	Edge Pegg	200
Ile Perrot, Que.	Pete Mitchell	179
Nun's Island, Montreal.	Ian Roseby	180
Brome Lake, Eastern Twps, Que.	Ilay Ferrier	156
Acadian Peninsula, N.B.	Hilaire Chiasson	188
Mary's Point, N.B.	Mary Majka	235
Codroy Valley, Nfld.	Blake Maybank	189
Hong Kong Mai Po Marsh	George Cheeseman	3

\*\*\*\*\* - 30 - \*\*\*\*\*

Here is the "Canadian Traveling Birder" department - ATPAT - an aggregate of life lists for "All Territories and Provinces Added Together."

ATPAT

Eric Tull, London, Ont.	2720	Rick Howie, Kamloops, B.C.	1468
Wayne Neily, Winnipeg, Man.	2558	Edge Pegg, Claremont, Ont.	1462
Roger Foxall, Halifax, N.S.	2142	Stan Shadick, Saskatoon, Sask.	1421
Alex Gray, Mississauga, Ont.	2080	Paul Mackenzie, Kingston, Ont.	1412
Bruce Mactavish, St. John's, Nfld.	2049	Bill Crins, Vancouver, B.C.	1382
Peter Hamel, Toronto, Ont.	2013	Bill Clark, Ottawa, Ont.	1380
Hue MacKenzie, Surrey, B.C.	1975	Gordon Grief, Dugald, Man.	1305
Jo Ann MacKenzie, Surrey, B.C.	1961	Jack Williams, White Rock, B.C.	1303
Roger Burrows, St. John's, Nfld.	1936	Chris Adam, Kingston, Ont.	1253
Blake Maybank, White's Lake, N.S.	1902	Dick Cannings, Vancouver, B.C.	1218
Larry Neily, Ottawa, Ont.	1815	Bill Zufelt, Orillia, Ont.	1167
Gerry Bennett, Woodbridge, Ont.	1750	Peter Gilchrist, Toronto, Ont.	1144
Angus MacLean, Alma, N.B.	1718	Ian Roseby, Verdun, Que.	1142
Helen Inch, London, Ont.	1716	Rolph Davis, King City, Ont.	1127
Spencer Inch, London, Ont.	1687	Brooke Clibbon, London, Ont.	1102
Luke Fazio, Mississauga, Ont.	1581	John Zoch, Cornwall, Ont.	1085
Roger Taylor, Ottawa, Ont.	1572	Terrie Woodrow, Port Ryerse, Ont.	1080
David Stirling, Victoria, B.C.	1571	Theo Hofmann, Thornhill, Ont.	1075
Wayne Weber, Burnaby, B.C.	1520	Richard Klauke, St. Paul, Alta.	1075
Bob McDonald, Halifax, N.S.	1507	Lorraine Foott, Kingsville, Ont.	1057
		Ken Thorpe, Montreal, Que.	1044

\*\*\*\*\*

Forms for updating personal records are included with this issue.

Prompt filing is appreciated.

Figures published in our July issue will be based on data filed by May 25th.

\*\*\*\*\*

Erratum: Issue of September, 1987 - Vol. 7 No.5 - Page 16 - at bottom of middle column - add - Barn Swallow - 481.

\*\*\*\*\*

BIRDFINDING IN CANADA is published six times a year by G. Bennett, R.R.# 2, 10780 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. L4L 1A6.

Business address is: BIRDFINDING IN CANADA, Box 519, Kleinburg, Ontario, Canada. L0J 1C0.

All articles are written by G. Bennett unless stated otherwise.

Copyright. All rights reserved. ISSN-0229-5024. Second Class Mail Registration #5563.

Subscription rates as of May 1, 1988: \$14.00 per year in Canada; \$14.00 U.S. to addresses in U.S.A.; \$16.00 U.S. to all other addresses.

\*\*\*\*\*