

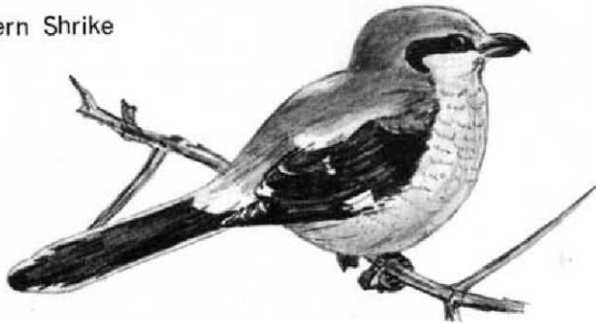
## THE BIRDS OF THE OTTAWA REGION

Ron Pittaway

This list is intended to give only the most general information on the status and seasonal occurrence of the birds of Ottawa. When a bird is seen outside the time listed here, it can usually be assumed that it is early, late, or rare. This list is arranged to follow W. Earl Godfrey's "The Birds of Canada" and contains all birds definitely known to have occurred around Ottawa; that is, within a thirty-mile radius of the War Memorial.

In using this list, one must remember that the Ottawa region is composed of two vastly different ecological zones; the Ottawa Valley (depositional lowland) and the Gatineau (Precambrian Shield). It is therefore to be expected that many birds in the Gatineau area (e.g. warblers) will have quite different breeding range and abundance from those of the Ottawa Valley, and vice versa. This factor was taken into account when the status of these species was determined.

### Northern Shrike



Brian Morin

To increase the usefulness of this list, the following terms must be well understood:

Abundant: seen in great numbers  
 Common: seen in good numbers  
 Fairly Common: implies lesser numbers than "common"  
 Uncommon: seen in small numbers  
 Scarce: a few regular every year  
 Rare: of regular occurrence; usually seen every year  
 Very Rare: seen every few years  
 Casual: a few records; to be looked for  
 Accidental: recorded, not expected to occur again  
 Erratic: irregular, sometimes absent  
 Resident: same as permanent resident

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COMMON LOON: Fairly common migrant; a few breed. Early April to November  
 RED-THROATED LOON: Very rare migrant. October to early December  
 RED-NECKED GREBE: Migrant; rare spring, scarce fall. September to November  
 HORNED GREBE: Fairly common migrant. Mid-April-early May; late Sept.-Dec.  
 PIED-BILLED GREBE: Fairly common breeder. Early April to November  
 HARCOURT'S PETREL: Accidental  
 WILSON'S PETREL: Accidental  
 WHITE PELICAN: Accidental  
 GANNET: Casual fall visitor  
 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Rare spring and fall migrant  
 GREAT BLUE HERON: Fairly common summer visitor; breeds. Late March to Nov.  
 GREEN HERON: Fairly common breeder. May to early October  
 CATTLE EGRET: Casual; to be looked for  
 BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Scarce visitor. Mid-April to early fall  
 LEAST BITTERN: Scarce breeder. Mid-May to September  
 AMERICAN BITTERN: Fairly common breeder. Mid-April to November  
 WHISTLING SWAN: Very rare migrant. April and late fall  
 CANADA GOOSE: Abundant migrant. Late March to May; Sept. to November  
 BRANT: Erratically common migrant. Late May to early June; mid-Sept. to Nov.  
 SNOW GOOSE (includes BLUE GOOSE): Scarce spring and fall migrant  
 MALLARD: Abundant migrant; uncommon breeder. A few winter  
 BLACK DUCK: Abundant resident; breeds  
 GADWALL: Very rare in migration  
 PINTAIL: Common migrant; a few breed. Late March to late November  
 GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Common migrant; scarce breeder. Early April to Nov.  
 BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to October  
 EUROPEAN WIDGEON: Casual; to be looked for  
 AMERICAN WIDGEON: Fairly common migrant; rare breeder. Early Apr. to Nov.  
 SHOVELLER: Uncommon migrant; rare breeder. Mid-April to October  
 WOOD DUCK: Fairly common breeder. Late March to November  
 REDHEAD: Scarce migrant; usually with large groups of Scaups (sp.)  
 RING-NECKED DUCK: Common migrant; scarce summer. Late March to December  
 CANVASBACK: Scarce migrant; usually with Scaups (sp.)  
 GREATER SCAUP: Abundant migrant; April & May; again September to December  
 LESSER SCAUP: Common migrant. April & May; again September to November  
 COMMON GOLDENEYE: Abundant winter visitor. Oct. to May. Rare summer. Has bred  
 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: Very rare winter visitor  
 BUFFLEHEAD: Fairly common migrant. Early Apr. to early May; Oct. to Dec.  
 OLDSQUAW: Scarce spring migrant; uncommon fall. October to December  
 KING EIDER: Casual late fall visitor  
 WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Migrant; uncommon May; fairly common early Oct. to Nov.  
 SURF SCOTER: Migrant; scarce May; fairly common early October to November  
 COMMON SCOTER: Migrant; rare spring, uncommon early October to November  
 RUDDY DUCK: Very rare migrant  
 HOODED MERGANSER: Fairly common migrant. Breeds in Gatineau. Rare winter  
 COMMON MERGANSER: Common migrant. Rare summer. A few dozen winter  
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Migrant; scarce spring; rare summer. Uncommon Oct-Dec.  
 TURKEY VULTURE: Rare visitor; spreading  
 SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Accidental  
 GOSHAWK: Fairly common winter visitor; rare breeder  
 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Uncommon migrant; rare breeder. Very rare in winter  
 COOPER'S HAWK: Uncommon migrant; scarce breeder. Very rare in winter  
 RED-TAILED HAWK: Fairly common migrant; scarce breeder. Very rare in winter  
 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: Scarce migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter  
 BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Fairly common breeder. Mid-April to late September  
 SWAINSON'S HAWK: Accidental  
 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Migrant; sometimes fairly common. March to April; October to December. Scarce winter  
 GOLDEN EAGLE: Casual visitor  
 BALD EAGLE: Rare all months. Has bred(?)  
 MARSH HAWK: Fairly common breeder. March to November. Very rare in winter

OSPREY: Uncommon migrant; a few breed in the Gatineau. Mid-April to Oct  
GYRFALCON: Very rare winter visitor  
PEREGRINE FALCON: Rare migrant. Decreasing in numbers  
PIGEON HAWK: Scarce migrant. Very rare in winter  
SPARROW HAWK: Fairly common breeder. Late March to Oct. A few winter  
SPRUCE GROUSE: Probably extirpated in our area  
RUFFED GROUSE: Common resident; breeds  
RING-NECKED PHEASANT: Uncommon resident; breeds. Most Dow's L., Alta Vista  
GRAY PARTRIDGE: Common resident; breeds  
KING RAIL: Casual visitor  
VIRGINIA RAIL: Fairly common breeder. Late April to October  
SORA: Fairly common breeder. Late April to October  
YELLOW RAIL: Very rare migrant. Perhaps breeds. Hard to locate  
COMMON GALLINULE: Fairly common breeder. Late April to early October  
AMERICAN COOT: Migrant; scarce spring, rare summer, uncommon fall. Sept-Nov.  
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Fairly common migrant. Late May; mid-July to October  
PIPING PLOVER: Accidental  
KILLDEER: Common breeder. Mid-March to mid-November  
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: Rare migrant, usually fall. August to November  
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Migrant; scarce May, uncommon early Aug. to Nov.  
RUDDY TURNSTONE: Scarce migrant. Late May to early June; Aug. to Sept.  
AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Common breeder. Late March to November  
COMMON SNIBE: Common breeder. Late March to November  
WIMBREL: Very rare migrant. Late May and fall  
UPLAND PLOVER: Uncommon breeder. Late April to August  
SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Common breeder. Late April to Sept. Stragglers later  
SOLITARY SANDPIPER: Uncommon migrant. May; July to October  
WILLET: Casual visitor  
GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Fairly common migrant. Late Apr.-May; late July-Nov.  
LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Fairly common migrant. May; late July to October  
KNOT: Rare migrant. Late May; August to September  
PURPLE SANDPIPER: Casual fall visitor  
PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Migrant; scarce May, uncommon late July to December  
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Migrant; very rare May; scarce late July to Nov.  
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Rare migrant. Late July to October  
LEAST SANDPIPER: Common migrant. May; early July to October  
DUNLIN: Fairly common migrant. May; September to November  
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Scarce migrant. May and fall  
STILT SANDPIPER: Very rare migrant. July to October  
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Migrant; uncommon May, abundant mid-July to Oct.  
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Casual fall visitor  
MARBLED GODWIT: Casual fall visitor  
HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Very rare migrant. September to November  
SANDERLING: Migrant; scarce May, uncommon late July to November  
RED PHALAROPE: Casual fall migrant  
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Very rare migrant, spring and fall  
NORTHERN PHALAROPE: Very rare migrant, mainly fall. August to September  
PARASITIC JAEGER: Casual migrant  
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Accidental  
GLAUCOUS GULL: Uncommon migrant. March to May; Oct. to early winter  
ICELAND GULL: Uncommon migrant; mainly October to early winter  
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Scarce migrant  
HERRING GULL: Abundant migrant Mar.-May; few summer; again Sept.-early winter  
RING-BILLED GULL: Abundant migrant, non-breeding summer visitor. Apr.-Dec.  
FRANKLIN'S GULL: A few sight records ("The Birds of Canada")  
BONAPARTE'S GULL: Uncommon migrant. Late April & May; early Aug. to Nov.  
SABINE'S GULL: Accidental  
COMMON TERN: Fairly common breeder. Early May to early October  
CASPIAN TERN: Very rare migrant  
BLACK TERN: Fairly common breeder. Early May to early September  
THICK-BILLED MURRE: Casual late fall & early winter visitor. Large numbers driven inland by storms in Gulf of St. Lawrence

COMMON PUFFIN: Accidental  
ROCK DOVE: Abundant resident; breeds  
MOURNING DOVE: Common breeder. Late March to November. Rare in winter  
PASSENGER PIGEON: Formerly abundant; now extinct  
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Scarce summer visitor; breeds  
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Uncommon breeder. Mid-May to September  
BARN OWL: Casual visitor  
SCREECH OWL: Scarce resident; breeds  
GREAT HORNED OWL: Fairly common resident; breeds  
SNOWY OWL: Winter visitor, sometimes fairly common. October to April  
HAWK OWL: Rare winter visitor. November to April  
BARRED OWL: Uncommon resident; breeds  
GREAT GRAY OWL: Very rare winter visitor. November to April  
LONG-EARED OWL: Scarce breeder. April to November. Very rare in winter  
SHORT-EARED OWL: Usually scarce, sometimes fairly common migrant. Rare winter. Has bred  
BOREAL OWL: Very rare winter visitor. November to March  
SAW-WHET OWL: Scarce resident; breeds  
WHIP-POOR-WILL: Locally fairly common summer resident; breeds. Early May-Sept.  
COMMON NIGHTHAWK: Common breeder. Mid-May to early September  
CHIMNEY SWIFT: Abundant breeder. Late April to September  
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Fairly common breeder. Early May-late Sept.  
BELTED KINGFISHER: Fairly common breeder. Early April to November Rare in early winter  
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: Common breeder. Early April to late October Very rare in winter  
PILEATED WOODPECKER: Uncommon resident; breeds  
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Casual visitor  
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Rare summer visitor; breeds. Absent some years  
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Common breeder (Gatineau). Mid-Apr. to mid-Oct.  
HAIRY WOODPECKER: Resident; breeds. More common in winter  
DOWNY WOODPECKER: Common resident; breeds  
BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODP'R: Uncommon winter visitor, Mid-Sept.-April  
NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODP'R: Formerly very rare winter visitor; recently scarce  
EASTERN KINGBIRD: Common breeder. Early May to early September  
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: Common breeder. Early May to early September  
EASTERN PHOEBE: Common breeder. Late March to late October  
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYC'R: Scarce migrant. Late May; late summer. Rare breeder  
TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER: Fairly common breeder. Late May to mid-September  
LEAST FLYCATCHER: Abundant breeder. Early May to mid-September  
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: Common breeder. Mid-May to late September  
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Scarce migrant & breeder. Late May to early Sept.  
HORNED LARK: Abundant migrant; uncommon breeder. Mid-Feb.-Nov. Scarce winter  
TREE SWALLOW: Abundant breeder. Late Mar.-early Sept. Stragglers later  
BANK SWALLOW: Abundant breeder. Early May to early September  
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Uncommon breeder. Late April to early September. Stragglers later  
BARN SWALLOW: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to early September  
CLIFF SWALLOW: Uncommon breeder. Early May to early September  
PURPLE MARTIN: Common breeder. Mid-April to early September  
CANADA JAY (GRAY JAY): Rare fall & winter visitor. October to March  
BLUE JAY: Common resident; breeds  
COMMON RAVEN: Scarce resident in Gatineau; breeds. Very rare elsewhere  
COMMON CROW: Abundant breeder. Late Feb. to Nov. Uncommon in winter  
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: Abundant resident; breeds  
BOREAL CHICKADEE: Rare fall & winter visitor. October to March  
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Fairly common resident; breeds  
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Resident; scarce breeder; sometimes common migrant. Winters in varying numbers  
BROWN CREEPER: Fairly common migrant; uncommon breeder, and in winter  
HOUSE WREN: Fairly common breeder. early May to early October

WINTER WREN: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder. Mid-April to Nov.

Very rare winter

CAROLINA WREN: Casual visitor

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: Locally common breeder. Early April to early Oct.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: Uncommon breeder. Mainly May to September

MOCKINGBIRD: Rare visitor; may breed

CATBIRD: Common breeder. Early May to mid-October

BROWN THRASHER: Common breeder. Late April to mid-October

AMERICAN ROBIN: Abundant breeder. Mid-March to late Oct. Scarce in winter

WOOD THRUSH: Fairly common breeder. Early May to late September

HERMIT THRUSH: Common migrant; uncommon breeder. Mid-April to early Nov.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Fairly common migrant. May; Sept.-early Oct. A few breed

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: Scarce migrant. May and September

VEERY: Common breeder. Early May to September

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: Uncommon breeder. Late March to October

WHEATEAR: Accidental (Sight record "The Birds of Canada")

TOWNSEND'S SOLITARE: Accidental, sight record by writer and two others

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: Very rare in migration. May

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Common migrant. Apr. mid-Sept.-Nov. Scarce winter

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Common migrant. mid-Apr. to mid-May; mid-Sept. to Nov.

WATER PIPIT: Migrant, scarce spring Apr. & May; common mid-Sept. to mid-Nov.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Erratic winter visitor, sometimes common. Oct. to April

CEDAR WAXWING: Abundant breeder. May-Oct. Usually a few winter. Erratic

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Uncommon winter visitor. October to April

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Uncommon breeder. Late March to October

STARLING: Abundant resident; breeds

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Casual visitor

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Rare breeder. Mid-May to mid-September

SOLITARY VIREO: Fairly common migrant. May; early Sept.-Oct. Scarce breeder

RED-EYED VIREO: Abundant breeder. Mid-May to early October

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Scarce migrant. Mid-May; mid-Aug.-Sept. May breed

WARBLING VIREO: Common breeder. Early May to late September

BLACK-&-WHITE WARBLER: Fairly common breeder. Early May to late September

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Rare in migration. May

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Common migrant. Mid-May; mid-August to late September

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Scarce migrant. May; September to October

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Abundant migrant, uncommon breeder. Early May - early Oct.

PARULA WARBLER: Uncommon migrant. May; mid-Aug. to Sept. May breed

YELLOW WARBLER: Abundant breeder. Early May to mid-Sept.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Common migrant, scarce breeder. Early May to late Sept.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Uncommon migrant. May; mid-August to Sept. Rare breeder

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder.

Early May to early October

MYRTLE WARBLER: Abundant migrant, scarce breeder. Late April to November

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Common migrant, uncommon breeder.

Early May to early October

CERULEAN WARBLER: Very rare in migration

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Common migrant, uncommon breeder. Mid-May to mid-Sept.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Accidental (sight record "The Birds of Canada")

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Abundant breeder. Mid-May to mid-September

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Fairly common migrant. Late May; mid-Aug. to late Sept.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Common migrant. Late May; mid-August to late September

PINE WARBLER: Uncommon breeder. Late April to October

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Casual in migration

PALM WARBLER: Migrant; uncommon May, fairly common Sept.-mid-Oct. Has bred

OVENBIRD: Common breeder. Early May to late September

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Fairly common breeder. Early May to late September

MOURNING WARBLER: Uncommon breeder. Mid-May to mid-September

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Common breeder. Early May to mid-October

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Casual visitor

WILSON'S WARBLER: Fairly common migrant. Mid-May; mid-Aug. to late Sept.

CANADA WARBLER: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder. Mid-May-mid-Sept.

AMERICAN REDSTART: Common breeder. Early May to late September

HOUSE SPARROW: Abundant resident; breeds

BOBOLINK: Common breeder. Early May to early September

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: Abundant breeder. Late Mar.-early Nov. Very rare winter

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Rare summer visitor; possible breeder

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: Abundant breeder. Mid-Mar.-mid-Nov. Winter stragglers

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Common breeder. Early May to mid-September

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Abundant migrant. Late March to mid-May; late September

to November. Very rare in winter

COMMON GRACKLE: Abundant breeder. Mid-March to Nov. Winter stragglers

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: Abundant breeder. Mid-Mar.-Nov. Winter stragglers

SCARLET Tanager: Fairly common breeder. Mid-May to late September

SUMMER Tanager: Accidental

CARDINAL: Scarce resident; may breed. Usually seen in winter

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Common breeder. Early May to late September

INDIGO BUNTING: Common breeder. Late May to late September

DICKCISSEL: Very rare visitor

breeds

EVENING GROSBEAK: Erratic; usually abundant winter visitor. Scarce summer;

PURPLE FINCH: Uncommon breeder. Erratic; sometimes common in winter

PINE GROSBEAK: Erratic; sometimes common winter visitor. Oct. to March

HOARY REDPOLL: Scarce to rare winter visitor. Erratic; usually found with

Common Redpolls

COMMON REDPOLL: Erratic; often abundant winter visitor. October to April

PINE SISKIN: Erratic; often common migrant and winter visitor.

Scarce summer; breeds

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: Abundant breeder. Sometimes common in winter. Erratic

RED CROSSBILL: Erratic winter visitor, sometimes fairly common.

October to April. Scarce breeder

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Erratic winter visitor, sometimes common.

October to April. Breeds(?)

RUFUS-SIDED TOWHEE: Uncommon breeder. Mid-April to mid-October

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to October

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Uncommon local breeder. Early May to early fall

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Erratic; uncommon to rare breeder. Early May - early fall

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: Very rare migrant

VESPER SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to October

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Abundant migrant. Late March to early May; mid-Sept.

to mid-November. Scarce breeder. Scarce in winter

OREGON JUNCO: Very rare migrant and winter visitor

TREE SPARROW: Abundant migrant. Usually common in winter. Oct.-early May

CHIPPING SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Late April to late October

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Scarce migrant & local breeder. May to fall. Increasing

FIELD SPARROW: Fairly common breeder. Mid-April to late October

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Abundant migrant. Early May; late Sept. to October

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Late April to Nov. Rare in winter

FOX SPARROW: Uncommon migrant. April; late September to late October

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Scarce migrant. May; September to October

SWAMP SPARROW: Common breeder. Mid-April to November

SONG SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Mid-March to Nov. Winter stragglers

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Scarce migrant & winter visitor. Found with

Snow Buntings and Horned Larks

SNOW BUNTING: Erratic winter visitor, usually abundant. Mid-Oct. to April

In addition to this list, there are four birds that have not yet been recorded in Ottawa and should be watched for. They are easy to overlook and appear similar to other species:

WESTERN SANDPIPER  
CONNECTICUT WARBLER

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD  
LECONTE'S SPARROW