

# **Annotated Checklist of Birds of the Ottawa- Gatineau District**

**December 31, 2025**

**Draft**

*July 2015 version written by David Britton  
Updated to 2025 by Gregory Zbitnew*

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## The Ottawa-Gatineau District

The geographical area encompassed by this document is the study area of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, that is, all of the area within a 50 km circle centred on the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. It includes lands in both Ontario and Quebec and is traversed by three major rivers. These rivers are the Ottawa River, running approximately east-west and the Rideau and Gatineau Rivers running approximately north-south. These rivers approximately divide the circle into four quadrants.

Map of the district:



Over a million people reside within this area in the urban centres of Ottawa and Gatineau and various smaller communities. At the same time there remains considerable habitat for birds including both natural (fields, forests, wetlands) and human-modified features (dumps, sewage lagoons, quarry ponds) that are attractive to both breeding species and migrants. The Ottawa River runs through the heart of the District and serves as a key migratory corridor for both land and water birds.

Many contemporary birders, particularly on the Ontario side refer to this area as “the 50 K circle” or “the 50K”. For the purposes of this document, I’ve used the term “Ottawa-Gatineau District”. “Ottawa-Gatineau” because it references both of the provinces that make up this exceptional birding region, and “District” as a nod to the long birding history of the area, as this is the term used in many of the older checklists from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Since about 2010, with the advent of ebird, many birders focus their birding on a county basis. There are ten “counties” completely or partly within the District:

Ottawa (all except for a tiny portion near Kemptville)  
Gatineau (all)  
Lanark  
Prescott-Russell  
Stormont Dundas and Glengary  
Papineau  
Les Collines de l’Outaouais  
La Vallée de la Gatineau  
Renfrew (very little)  
Leeds and Grenville (very little)

This is a minor administrative problem as it is currently not possible to easily search ebird records in the District as whole, but it must be done on a county basis, and records outside the district have to be manually excluded.

## Data Sources

The following data sources were mined for information on noteworthy bird records:

- Transactions of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club (Transactions), Volume 1 (1879)-Volume 7(1886)
- Ottawa Naturalist (ON) Volume 1 (1887)-Volume 32 (1919)
- Canadian Field-Naturalist (CFN): Volume 33 (1919)-date (See Note 1)
- Ontario Birds
- North American Birds (and predecessors)
- Ornithouais
- Ontbirds (2003 to present) – Online list serve, most references are to the weekly transcripts of the Bird Status Line, but some refer to sightings posted directly by observers. Dates are in day.month.year format, so 10.05.2008 means 10 May 2008.
- Discord(?-present)-online group to discuss various topics including reporting rarities
- Whatsapp (?-present)-online group to report and discuss local rarities. There is often overlap with Discord
- Shrike
- *Bird Status Line transcripts* (1998 to 2002) – these transcripts were previously available on the internet in the early 2000’s, at which time I copied them into word documents. I don’t believe they are still accessible.
- Weekly reports for the OFNC study area (the 50K) (2015-2020) published on the OFNC website. Any older than 8 weeks are available in archives.
- Audubon CBC Data ()
- OFNC website: Fall Count and Seedathon. These are historical as neither has taken place since about 2019
- Innis Point Bird Observatory Data
- eBird data for the District – accessed through the “Explore eBird” function on the website.(See Note 2 below)
- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas data
- Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas data
- W. Earl Godfrey’s card file of rare bird records in the Canadian Museum of Nature (abbreviated “WEG card file”)
- Ontario Birds, Volume 40 #2, pages 89-103 with supplemental file which lists the White collection of bird specimens. George and Edward White were quite active in the birding community from the 1870s to the 1920s, and especially in the early years actively collected and to a lesser extent bought bird specimens for their personal collection. Many of their specimens have survived and many are the first regional records, or at least the first ones with definite dates and locations associated with them. These are abbreviated “White Collection”

NOTE 1: Data before the 1960s tends to be spotty and incomplete, and sometimes the exact location of a sighting is not specified. Information from these following five publications is the major source of written older information. There was some sort of annual bird report for the first few decades at least. There were also periodic annotated checklists, and although the first two are mostly lists, the other three are heavily annotated, and probably have the most concentrated information on the early years. The location of these early checklists are as follows:

1. 1881: Ottawa Field Naturalists Club Transactions, Volume 3, pages 29-34 (lists 169 species)
2. 1892: Ottawa Naturalist, volume 5, pages 31-47 (lists 224 species)
3. 1910: Ottawa Naturalist, Volume 24 pages 152-63; 176-187; 198-206; and 222-228 (lists 246 species)
4. 1923: CFN Volume 37 pages 101-05; 125-27; 151-56; Volume 38 pages 101-16; Volume 39 pages 16-17; with supplements in Volume 46 pages 123-27 and 162-6; Volume 50 pages 143-44.
5. 1944: CFN, Volume 58, pages 143-175 (lists 255 species)

NOTE 2: Document #5 refers to data from the Biological Survey (a US organization) with records of early birders with dates of arrival (first seen) and dates of departure (last seen) of species. George R. White kept such records for 45 years. Hoyes Lloyd (the author) said that he had no means of consulting this data. It is not known if it still exists.

NOTE 3: Given that ebird is currently the major source of new information, a few comments will be made. While anyone can enter data on this system, only data that has been reviewed by ebird reviewers is publicly available. This prevents major errors from entering the system, from either clerical errors or misidentification. The more significant the entry, the more scrutiny it receives. Only publicly available data has been used. Photography is being used more and more to justify entries of rare birds, even if just seasonally rare. The OBRSC is currently inactive, as of about 2018. However, the Ontario Field Ornithologists still has a process to document rare birds via reports, but this is only for rarities for Ontario as a whole, not ones that are regionally rare. Until the OBRSC is revived, documentation required for ebird reviewers will have to be sufficient.

## Species Accounts

The document consists of a species account for each of the species documented to have occurred in the Ottawa-Gatineau District.

### *Name*

Species accounts, as well as the English, French and scientific names appear in taxonomic order following the sequence of the 2025 AOS (formerly the AOU) Checklist. In addition, the four letter alpha code is given for each species, based on the codes used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service for bird banding.

### *Status*

Each species has a short header quickly summarising its status in the District including frequency (common, uncommon, rare, etc.), the nature of occurrence (migrant, resident, breeder, transient, etc.) and the seasonality of the occurrence. Effort was made to make this as brief and concise as possible.

### *Text Annotations*

Each species has a short text section. I've tried to keep these as concise as possible, but at the same time to "tell the story" of the occurrence of the species in the District. I've tried to minimize duplication of information in the noteworthy sightings section. Generally, I've tried to include, where applicable, general patterns of occurrence, historical changes in status in the District, breeding status, types of habitats or specific locations where the species can be found, unusual summering or wintering occurrences, occurrences of unusual subspecies, Christmas Bird Count occurrence and anything else that may be of interest.

As a note on this topic, the original author (David Britton) birded actively in the District since the late 1990's and knows it fairly well, but these accounts are meant only to provide a little bit of context to the noteworthy records. The reviser of this document (Gregory Zbitnew) has birded actively in the district since the late 1980s and also knows it well. However, there are dozens of experienced birders in the district and there is a lot of knowledge "out there" not in this document.

Specifically on breeding status, the data from the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) and the second Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas (2010-2014) was analysed for all of the 10 km atlas squares that fall entirely or mostly (>50%) within the boundaries of the Ottawa-Gatineau District. For all breeding species, the % of squares in each region that breeding evidence was recorded in (whether possible, probable or confirmed) is given for each species. Thinking of the future, the third Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2021-2025) just concluded. Data from this massive undertaking will be published in 2027 and will eventually enter this document in future revisions.

### *Noteworthy Records Format*

For each type of noteworthy record (first record, late and early records, unusual summer or winter records and noteworthy high counts), the following format is used:

Date; number of individuals; location; observer; literature reference.

For reasons of format and readability, all records have been kept to a single line where possible, which in some cases has required the use of abbreviations for some words (e.g. "individuals" as "indv.", months, etc.)

### *First Record*

Where available, the first published record of a species in the District is noted. For many of the more common species information was not available on a specific first occurrence and so this section merely indicates which published bird checklist they first appeared on (generally the first checklist in 1881 or the second one in 1892).

## *Spring Arrivals & Departures*

Efforts have been made to list the three earliest known spring arrival dates for all migrant species. Where multiple records occur on the same date in different years, the earlier record(s) are given priority.

In some cases “spring” has been interpreted liberally. For example there is an established pattern for some grebes and diving ducks to occasionally appear in the District in February and these types of records are treated as spring migrants, rather than wintering birds. For species that are non-breeding migrants (e.g. American Pipit, Fox Sparrow), the three latest spring departure dates are also provided.

Most non-breeding species have fairly clear cut spring and fall migrations, but there are exceptions, such as some of the shorebirds. For these species, individuals occurring in late June/early July may be somewhat ambiguous in terms of whether they are northbound or southbound migrants. In order to resolve this, I've arbitrarily adopted the convention used in the 1980's for *Shrike* that fall migration commences on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The text in the species accounts notes the potential for ambiguity in species, such as the yellowlegs, or Least Sandpiper that occur with some regularity in this period.

### *Principal Spring and Fall Migration Dates*

This category attempts to capture the core migration period for the species, indicating the period in which birders searching for this species are most likely to find it. This is largely based on the 1993 Checklist, as well as Bernie's recent update of it. For purposes of this section:

First week of the month: 1-7

Second week of the month: 8-14

Third week of the month: 15-21

Fourth week of the month: 22 to end of month

### *Unusual Summer Records*

This category is fairly subjective. I've tried to reserve it for specific cases of birds that spent the summer in the area that are usually absent during this period (such as Brant, Canvasback, Horned Grebe, Snowy Owl) and birds that might have only appeared for a day or two, but are completely out of their usual pattern of occurrence in this season (e.g. Barrow's Goldeneye, White-winged Scoter).

### *Fall Arrivals Departures*

For species that are non-breeding migrants, efforts have been made to list the three earliest fall arrival dates. For all migrant species the three latest known fall departure dates for each species are listed. For species, such as some of the waterfowl, which may regularly linger into early December, fall departure dates are omitted and these later dates are listed under the “Winter Records”, for the benefit of birders who are interested in winter listing.

### *Winter Records*

For purposes of this document, “winter” is defined as the period from December 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>. For some species that very rarely occur in this period (less than five times), all winter records are listed. For other species that occur more frequently in winter, only the latest records are mentioned. Instances of unusual overwintering are also noted in this section.

### *Noteworthy High Counts*

This section is a bit of a hodgepodge of types of records including:

- Multiple observer, multiple location counts (e.g. Christmas Bird Count or Mid-Fall Bird Count high counts)
- Single observer, multiple location counts (e.g. many *Shrike* records where observers reported the total number of individuals they saw in a day, but they might have been from a number of locations)
- Single observer, single location counts (e.g. any counts from eBird, where most of the new data is taken from)

Although the different types of counts involved may not be directly comparable, the data is presented as for the sake of interest; to provide some benchmarks against which future observations can be compared; and to identify periods when the species in question might be easier to find (either because it is a peak migration period, or the species behaviour at that time of year lends itself to being more easily found).

The number of records presented in the document varies with species. For species that do not typically occur in flocks, only the three highest counts are given. This is the case for most passerines, as many birders do not keep careful counts of how many of these birds they observe. Most of these high counts are either from *Shrike* or eBird. For species that occur regularly in flocks, such as waterfowl or shorebirds, five records are given, to give a better idea of the scope of numbers that are possible. For some species that occur mainly in one season, high counts for other seasons may also be provided. For example many shorebirds are more numerous in fall migration, but in some instances a spring high count is provided, even though it may be well below many counts obtained in this season.

### Rare Species

For rare species, the records are still kept to one line in the main text. For species that have occurred five times or less, all records are listed. For species that have occurred six times or more, the first, earliest, latest and high counts are listed. For rare species, more details on all known occurrences are provided in Appendix A.

## Missing Data

For the early and late dates of species occurrence, the authors have made considerable effort to comb the existing published records. However there are still many specific records that show up as “dots” (indicating an exceptional occurrence) on the 1993 OFNC bird checklist that couldn’t be found. These are noted in highlighted text in each of the species accounts. In addition, many of the records that were found were missing information, particularly location and observer. Finally they may be many records of interest that simply were never published and reside the notebooks and databases of birders in the region. With the rise of eBird, many birders are entering their historical data onto this system, so some of these older records may yet become available. **Any additional information that readers of this document could provide is very welcome.**

## Taxonomic list and Summary Table of species recorded in the 50 K

As of December 31, 2025, 381 species have been (tentatively) identified as having occurred within the 50K, since record keeping started sometime in the mid-1800s. However, this seemingly startling tally includes about 130 species that have been seen less than annually. Of these 130, 1 is extinct and 2 are presumed extirpated. In any given year, about 270 species are seen, which consists of the same group of about 250 species, and about an additional 20 of the scarcer 130 species, but of course not the same ones every year. Some are seen every few years, while others were seen only once 140 years ago. Sometimes rarities show up every year for a period of time, then are not seen for decades. In this dynamic environment, it is no surprise that new birds turn up. In fact, about 39 new species have been added to the list since 2002, and we can reasonable expect 1-2 new ones every year, although of course there is no way to predict which ones they might be. It is remarkable that after decades of heavy birding, new ones are still showing up on an annual basis. In this context it is interesting to note that that the “county” of Montreal has seen about 10 species not (yet) seen in the 50K, and that if we consider all the area within 300 Km of Ottawa, there have been nearly 100 additional species not (yet) seen in the 50K. So maybe it is not that much of a conceptual stretch to think that many of those could just as easily have been seen here, or perhaps *were* here but simply were not seen. So many of these 100 species could be considered “near misses” and thus are possibilities for future discovery.

The VERY LONG table that follows is essentially a summary of the entire annotated checklist. All the information is contained elsewhere in this Annotated Checklist including Appendix A or the seasonal checklist of May 1993. It is very compact and information dense, so please note the explanations and the meaning of the different codes and abbreviations used to avoid confusion. There are 15 columns, with the explanation as follows:

Column	Code	Explanation
1		A number used only to organize the data. “For administrative use only”
2		The English common name with a hot link to ebird data for this species. From here you can find photographs, sound recordings, details of geographical and temporal distribution and so forth.
3	N	Nesting confirmed at least once but not necessarily on a regular basis. A blank means that nesting has not been suspected or confirmed.
	?	Nesting suspected but not confirmed
4-7		This is a general indication of how common or rare the species is in each of the 4 bird seasons (not always the same as the meteorological seasons). This is based on the seasonal checklist of May 1993, updated with information available as of the date on this document. Note that this is a summary only, intended to give a broad overview, and is not intended to capture the nuances of how the status can vary through the course of the season, or in different parts of the district, which is often considerable. The status codes assume that you are looking in the appropriate habitat, but some of the habitats are uncommon or of uneven distribution within the region. Four main examples of variability within a season are:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Some shorebirds are fairly common in early June and late July, but virtually non-existent in early July.</li><li>2. Most songbirds that are common in the peak of fall migration are gone or virtually gone by the end of the fall.</li><li>3. Many birds have a few stragglers migrating into early June but do not nest and are not seen again until fall migration.</li></ol>

		<p>4. Quite a few species of waterfowl have been present in early December when mild conditions prevailed, but very few are left when most water is frozen by mid-January</p> <p>5 different status codes are used, which are described below. It is recognized that these descriptions cannot be precise and there is no universally accepted definition of these terms. Furthermore, there is also an element of subjectivity in assessing how common or rare a bird is, in part due to differing abilities and methods to ID birds.</p> <p>A blank means that this species has never been found during this season.</p>
	<b>C</b>	Common to abundant: easily found in appropriate habitat.
	<b>U</b>	Uncommon to fairly Common: Found with some effort in appropriate habitat.
	<b>R</b>	Rare to Scarce: found with a little to a lot of difficulty, but usually present somewhere in the district during this period.
	<b>VR</b>	Very Rare: Not normally present but sometimes occurs in the period, and will probably occur again after a relatively short interval.
	<b>AC</b>	Accidental to casual: Exceptional records, not expected and may not occur again for a long time. Accidentals would be even less expected than casual.
	<b>(E)</b>	Erratic: Status varies from not present to that indicated. Many finch species have extreme variability.
	<b>EX</b>	Extinct or extirpated
	<b>WI</b>	December-February
	<b>SP</b>	March-May
	<b>SU</b>	June-July
	<b>FA</b>	August-November:
<b>8</b>		Whether the species is in Appendix A, the catalogue of rare bird occurrences. This is just intended to flag the real rarities. Since 2015, there have been a few changes to this list
	<b>Y</b>	In Appendix A, rare bird catalogue
	<b>Y*</b>	In Appendix A until 2015
	<b>Y#</b>	In Appendix A, but only from about 2015
<b>9</b>		The first year the species has been seen in the region. (year) means that the year itself is unknown but the species appears in the checklist issued in this year. Hence it was seen before or on this date but after the previous checklist, if any (1881 was the first year a checklist was issued).
<b>10</b>		# of calendar years the bird has been seen at least once in the district in the 10 years from 2011 to 2020. A blank means that the species is a relatively common one and has been seen every year in this period.
<b>11</b>		The last calendar year the species has been seen at least once in the district. A blank means that the species has been seen every year for many years, so this would be the year the table was updated.
<b>12</b>		High count: the highest number listed in each individual species account
<b>13-16</b>		<p>Date ranges in spring and fall when the species has been seen: These are intended to give the extreme dates of both spring and fall migration, when it is meaningful to do so. In some cases, only the week seen is known. That is, they are listed when there are enough records to establish a pattern of occurrence, or when there are periods where the species never occurs in the district. Where not meaningful, a “-“ symbol is used. These are the reasons it is used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The species has been seen year round, whether a regular resident like Blue Jay, or one that has been seen virtually every week of the year, but is only occasionally present either summer, winter or both (like Northern Shoveler or Trumpeter Swan)</li> <li>2. Winter residents (like Tree Sparrow) that arrive in the fall and depart in the spring have only single earliest and departure dates, not two.</li> <li>3. The species has very few records, or none at all in some seasons, so first and last dates are not that meaningful.</li> </ol>

**Ottawa-Gatineau District (50K from Peace Tower): Taxonomic list of species: Annotated checklist summary**

#	Name (ebird hot link)	Nesting status							# yrs seen 2011-20/ First/Last yr. seen			High Count	Date range in spring		Date range in fall	
		Seasonal abundance status							First yr	# yr s	Last yr		High count	Early	Late	Early
		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?	In Appendix A (rarities)?								
1	<a href="#">Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</a>				AC			Y	2025		2025	5				
2	<a href="#">Fulvous Whistling-Duck</a>			AC		AC		Y	1964	0	1966	5	-	-	-	-

Ottawa-Gatineau District (50K from Peace Tower): Taxonomic list of species: Annotated checklist summary

#	Name (ebird hot link)	Nesting status						# yrs seen 2011-20/ First/Last yr. seen			High Count	Date range in spring		Date range in fall		
		Seasonal abundance status						First yr	# yr s	Last yr		High count	Early	Late	Early	Late
		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
3	<a href="#">Snow Goose</a>		R	C	VR	C		1867			200K	-	-	-	-	
4	<a href="#">Ross's Goose</a>		V R	R		R	Y*	1997			5	16- Mar	11- May	22-Sep	09- Dec	
5	<a href="#">Greater White-fronted Goose</a>		V R	R		R		1970			7	26- Feb	11- May	13-Sep	17- Dec	
6	<a href="#">Tundra Bean-Goose</a>					AC	Y	2020	1	2020	1	-	-	-	-	
7	<a href="#">Pink-footed Goose</a>			AC			Y	2019	1	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
8	<a href="#">Brant</a>		A C	U	VR	U		1887			11,50 0	17- Mar	-	-	18- Dec	
9	<a href="#">Barnacle Goose</a>			AC		AC	Y	1984	2	2025	2	-	-	-	-	
10	<a href="#">Cackling Goose</a>		V R	U	VR	U		1980			56	25- Feb	25- May	13-Sep	19- Dec	
11	<a href="#">Canada Goose</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1881			125K	-	-	-	-	
12	<a href="#">Mute Swan</a>		A C	AC	AC	AC	Y	1988	1	2025	3	-	-	-	-	
13	<a href="#">Trumpeter Swan</a>	N	V R	U	U	U	Y*	1999			23		-	-		
14	<a href="#">Tundra Swan</a>		A C	R	AC	VR		1942	9	2025	42	30- Jan	03- Jul	2 wk. oct	25- Dec	
15	<a href="#">Wood Duck</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			375	-	-	-	-	
16	<a href="#">Garganey</a>			AC				2021		2021	1					
17	<a href="#">Blue-winged Teal</a>	N	A C	U	U	U		1881			950	3 wk mar	-	-	28- Dec	
18	<a href="#">Northern Shoveler</a>	N	A C	U	R	U		1882			425	-	-	-	-	
19	<a href="#">Gadwall</a>	N	A C	U	R	U		1949			223	-	-	-	-	
20	<a href="#">Eurasian Wigeon</a>			AC	AC	R	Y*	1926	9	2025	2	23- Mar	-	#VALU E!	08- Nov	
21	<a href="#">American Wigeon</a>	N	A C	C	R	C		1881			1,364	-	-	-	-	
22	<a href="#">Mallard</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			10,00 0	-	-	-	-	
23	<a href="#">American Black Duck</a>	N	U	C	U	C		1881			2,500	-	-	-	-	
24	<a href="#">Northern Pintail</a>	N	A C	C	U	C		1881			5,000	-	-	-	-	
25	<a href="#">Green-winged Teal</a>	N	A C	C	U	C		1881			1,000	-	-	-	-	
26	<a href="#">Canvasback</a>		V R	R	AC	R		1881	9	2024	180	-	-	-	-	
27	<a href="#">Redhead</a>	?	A C	R	VR	R		1881			83	-	-	-	-	
28	<a href="#">Ring-necked Duck</a>	N	A C	C	R	C		1881			3,792	-	-	-	-	
29	<a href="#">Tufted Duck</a>			AC		AC	Y	2003	2	2022	1	-	-	-	-	
30	<a href="#">Greater Scaup</a>		R	U	AC	U		1881			1,500	-	-	-	-	
31	<a href="#">Lesser Scaup</a>	N	R	C	R	C		1881			3,800	-	-	-	-	
32	<a href="#">King Eider</a>		A C	AC		AC	Y	1889	3	2020	75	-	-	-	-	
33	<a href="#">Harlequin Duck</a>		R	R		R	Y*	1971	8	2025	2	-	18- May	21-Oct	-	
34	<a href="#">Surf Scoter</a>		V R	R	AC	U		1881			225	19- Apr	02- Jun	20-Sep	22- Dec	
35	<a href="#">White-winged Scoter</a>		R	U	AC	U		1881			650	-	-	-	-	
36	<a href="#">Black Scoter</a>		V R	AC	AC	U		1881			2500	20- Mar	29- Jun	09-Sep	26- Dec	

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		Seasonal abundance status						First yr	# yr s	Last yr		Early	Late	Early	Late
		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?								
37	<a href="#">Long-tailed Duck</a>		R	R	AC	U		1881			500	-	-	-	-
38	<a href="#">Bufflehead</a>		R	C	AC	C		1881			470	-	-	-	-
39	<a href="#">Common Goldeneye</a>	N	C	C	R	C		1881			2000	-	-	-	-
40	<a href="#">Barrow's Goldeneye</a>		R	R	AC	R		1954			8	-	02-Jul	27-Sep	-
41	<a href="#">Hooded Merganser</a>	N	R	C	U	C		1881			919	-	-	-	-
42	<a href="#">Common Merganser</a>	N	U	C	U	C		1881			800	-	-	-	-
43	<a href="#">Red-breasted Merganser</a>	?	V R	U	VR	U		1881			200	-	-	-	-
44	<a href="#">Ruddy Duck</a>	N	V R	R	R	R		1881			170	25-Feb	-	-	26-Dec
45	<a href="#">Wild Turkey</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1987			323	-	-	-	-
46	<a href="#">Ruffed Grouse</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			93	-	-	-	-
47	<a href="#">Spruce Grouse</a>	?	EX	EX	EX	EX		1881		1944	2	-	-	-	-
48	<a href="#">Willow Ptarmigan</a>			AC			Y	2021	0	2025	1	-	-	-	-
49	<a href="#">Gray Partridge</a>	N	R	R	VR	VR		1938			657	-	-	-	-
50	<a href="#">Ring-necked Pheasant</a>	N	EX	EX	EX	EX		1929?		1987	56	-	-	-	-
51	<a href="#">Rock Pigeon</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1883			7369	-	-	-	-
52	<a href="#">Passenger Pigeon</a>	?	EX	EX	EX	EX		1855		1888	12	-	-	-	-
53	<a href="#">Eurasian Collared-Dove</a>			AC	AC		Y	2012	2	2021	1	-	-	-	-
54	<a href="#">White-winged Dove</a>			AC	AC		Y	2018	1	2021	1	-	-	-	-
55	<a href="#">Mourning Dove</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1903			984	-	-	-	-
56	<a href="#">Yellow-billed Cuckoo</a>	N		R	R	VR		1881			3	17-May	-	-	12-Nov
57	<a href="#">Black-billed Cuckoo</a>	N		U	U	R		1881			6	07-May	-	-	12-Oct
58	<a href="#">Common Nighthawk</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			300	28-Apr	-	-	11-Oct
59	<a href="#">Chuck-will's-widow</a>			AC			Y	2014	1	2014	1	-	-	-	-
60	<a href="#">Eastern Whip-poor-will</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			26	21-Apr	-	-	16-Oct
61	<a href="#">Chimney Swift</a>	N	A C	U	U	U		1881			1600	1 wk feb	-	-	27-Oct
62	<a href="#">Ruby-throated Hummingbird</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			70	22-Mar	-	-	29-Oct
63	<a href="#">Anna's Hummingbird</a>					AC	Y	2017	1	2017	1	-	-	-	-
64	<a href="#">King Rail</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1896	0	2023	4	-	-	-	-
65	<a href="#">Virginia Rail</a>	N	A C	U	U	U		1890			26	28-Mar	-	-	24-Dec
66	<a href="#">Sora</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			20	4 wk mar	-	-	4 wk oct
67	<a href="#">Common Gallinule</a>	N	A C	U	U	U		1882			66	04-Apr	-	-	18-Dec
68	<a href="#">American Coot</a>	N	A C	R	R	U		1881			200	-	-	-	-
69	<a href="#">Purple Gallinule</a>		A C	AC		AC	Y	1973	0	2003	1	-	-	-	-
70	<a href="#">Yellow Rail</a>	N		R	R	AC		1885	2	2021	20	04-May	-	-	14-Nov
71	<a href="#">Sandhill Crane</a>	N	R	R	R	U		1975			183	-	-	-	-

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		Seasonal abundance status						First yr	# yr s	Last yr		High count	Early	Late	Early	Late
		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
72	<a href="#">American Avocet</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1981	3	2020	1	-	-	-	-	
73	<a href="#">Black-bellied Plover</a>			U	U	U		1881			96	11-May	-	-	21-Nov	
74	<a href="#">American Golden-Plover</a>			VR	R	U		1881			370	22-31 mar	09-Jun	06-Jul	19-Nov	
75	<a href="#">Killdeer</a>	N	A C	C	C	C		1881			620	20-Feb	-	-	25-Dec	
76	<a href="#">Semipalmated Plover</a>			U	U	C		1881			101	04-May	-	-	10 nov]	
77	<a href="#">Piping Plover</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1950	0	2024	5	-	-	-	-	
78	<a href="#">Upland Sandpiper</a>	N		U	U	R		1922			60	19-Apr	-	-	20-Sep	
79	<a href="#">Hudsonian Whimbrel</a>			R	R	R		1885			126	09-May	-	-	4 wk Oct	
80	<a href="#">Hudsonian Godwit</a>			AC	AC	R		1874	9	2024	300	08-May	02-Jun	26-Jul	21-Nov	
81	<a href="#">Marbled Godwit</a>			VR	AC	AC	Y*	1902	5	2023	2	09-May	02-Jul	17-Sep	7-Oct.	
82	<a href="#">Short-billed Dowitcher</a>			U	R	U		1881			100	08-May	-	-	20-Oct	
83	<a href="#">Long-billed Dowitcher</a>			AC	AC	R		1971			6	21-Mar	23-May	26-Jul	30-Oct	
84	<a href="#">American Woodcock</a>	N	A C	C	C	U		1881			40	28-Feb	-	-	30-Nov	
85	<a href="#">Wilson's Snipe</a>	N	A C	C	C	C		1881			130	-	-	-	-	
86	<a href="#">Wilson's Phalarope</a>	N		R	R	R		1955	9	2025	40	3 wk APR	-	-	21-Oct	
87	<a href="#">Red Phalarope</a>					VR	Y#	1886	2	2023	11	-	-	24-Aug	20-Nov	
88	<a href="#">Red-necked Phalarope</a>			R	VR	R		1890		2025	15	15-May	-	-	12-Nov	
89	<a href="#">Spotted Sandpiper</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			120	02-Apr	-	-	28 Nov.	
90	<a href="#">Solitary Sandpiper</a>			U	U	C		1881			30	16-Apr	-	-	29-Oct	
91	<a href="#">Lesser Yellowlegs</a>			C	U	C		1881			500	04-Apr	-	-	11-Nov	
92	<a href="#">Willet</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1942	3	2019	3	-	-	-	-	
93	<a href="#">Spotted Redshank</a>				AC	AC	Y	1990	0	1998	1	-	-	-	-	
94	<a href="#">Greater Yellowlegs</a>		A C	C	U	C		1881			283	24-Mar	-	-	06-Dec	
95	<a href="#">Ruddy Turnstone</a>			R	R	R		1943			102	09-May	16-Jun	20-Jul	14-Nov	
96	<a href="#">Red Knot</a>			VR	VR	VR	Y#	1890	2	2025	127	23-Apr	14-Jun	2 wk jun	16-Oct	
97	<a href="#">Ruff</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y#	1977	2	2021	1	-	-	-	-	
98	<a href="#">Curlew Sandpiper</a>			AC			Y	1996	0	1996	1	-	-	-	-	
99	<a href="#">Stilt Sandpiper</a>			AC	R	U		1944			56	15-May	-	-	22-Oct	
100	<a href="#">Buff-breasted Sandpiper</a>				AC	VR	Y#	1886	4	2025	4	-	-	-	-	
101	<a href="#">Sanderling</a>			R	R	U		1881			130	2 wk may	08-Jun	14-Jul	4 wk nov	
102	<a href="#">Dunlin</a>			U	R	C		1881			1200	16-Apr	-	-	06-Dec	
103	<a href="#">Purple Sandpiper</a>		A C	VR		R		1885	6	2024	20	23-Apr	1 wk jun	06-Sep	12-Jan	
104	<a href="#">Baird's Sandpiper</a>			AC	VR	U		1889			22	31-May	-	-	4 wk oct	

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?								
105	<a href="#">Little Stint</a>				AC		Y	1992	0	1992	1	-	-	-	-
106	<a href="#">White-rumped Sandpiper</a>			R	VR	U		1884			350	09-May	-	-	24-Nov
107	<a href="#">Least Sandpiper</a>			C	C	C		1881			1350	25-Apr	-	-	08-Nov
108	<a href="#">Pectoral Sandpiper</a>			U	R	C		1881			320	28-Mar	-	-	17-Nov
109	<a href="#">Western Sandpiper</a>				AC	VR	Y	1949	2	2025	2	-	-	-	-
110	<a href="#">Semipalmated Sandpiper</a>			C	C	C		1881			1100	04-May	-	-	07-Nov
111	<a href="#">Long-tailed Jaeger</a>				AC	AC	Y	1945	4	2020	3	-	-	-	-
112	<a href="#">Parasitic Jaeger</a>			AC	AC	VR	Y	1909	5	2024	2	02-Jun	16-Jun	12-Jul	27-Oct
113	<a href="#">Pomarine Jaeger</a>					AC	Y	1973	2	2020	1	-	-	-	-
114	<a href="#">Dovekie</a>					AC	Y	1993	0	1993	1	-	-	-	-
115	<a href="#">Atlantic Puffin</a>					AC	Y	1881	0	2022	1	-	-	-	-
116	<a href="#">Razorbill</a>					AC	Y	2011	2	2024	11	-	-	-	-
117	<a href="#">Thick-billed Murre</a>		AC			AC	Y	1893	0	1995	500	-	-	-	-
118	<a href="#">Little Gull</a>		AC	VR	VR	AC	Y	1975	7	2025	9	10-Apr	-	-	09-Dec
119	<a href="#">Black-legged Kittiwake</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	1971	4	2023	4	05-May	01-Jun	05-Aug	20-Dec
120	<a href="#">Ivory Gull</a>		AC				Y	2012	1	2012	1	-	-	-	-
121	<a href="#">Sabine's Gull</a>				AC	VR	Y	1933	5	2025	2	04-Jun	04-Jun	05-Sep	06-Oct
122	<a href="#">Bonaparte's Gull</a>		AC	U	U	U		1881			120	29-Mar	-	-	05-Dec
123	<a href="#">Black-headed Gull</a>		AC			AC	Y	1975	0	1987	1	-	-	-	-
124	<a href="#">Laughing Gull</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	1975	3	2023	1	-	-	-	-
125	<a href="#">Franklin's Gull</a>			VR	VR	AC	Y	1957	5	2025	3	09-May	-	-	28-Nov
126	<a href="#">Short-billed Gull</a>					AC	Y	1980		1991	1	-	-	-	-
127	<a href="#">Ring-billed Gull</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1908			12,000	-	-	-	-
128	<a href="#">American Herring Gull</a>	N	C	C	U	C		1881			14,872	-	-	-	-
129	<a href="#">Great Black-backed Gull</a>		C	C	U	C		1885			2250	-	-	-	-
130	<a href="#">Glaucous Gull</a>		U	U	R	C		1905			83	-	14-Jun	24-Sep	-
131	<a href="#">Lesser Black-backed Gull</a>		U	U	R	U		1971			60	-	-	-	-
132	<a href="#">California Gull</a>					AC	Y	1988		2007	1	-	-	-	-
133	<a href="#">Slaty-backed Gull</a>					AC	Y	2021	0	2024	1	-	-	-	-
134	<a href="#">Iceland Gull</a>		U	U	R	U		1945			66	-	4 wk June	15-Sep	-
135	<a href="#">Caspian Tern</a>	N		R	U	U		1935			35	19-Apr	-	-	10-Dec

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?								
136	<a href="#">Black Tern</a>	N		U	U	R		1888			125	20-Apr	-	-	06-Oct
137	<a href="#">White-winged Tern</a>			AC				2023		2023	1				
138	<a href="#">Forster's Tern</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1974	2	2022	3	-	-	-	-
139	<a href="#">Arctic Tern</a>			R	R	AC		1909			92	14-May	19-Jun	14-Sep	21-Oct
140	<a href="#">Common Tern</a>	N		U	U	U		1885			112	13-Apr	-	-	27-Oct
141	<a href="#">Pied-billed Grebe</a>	N	R	U	R	U		1881			66	12-Mar	-	-	09-Jan
142	<a href="#">Horned Grebe</a>		R	U	AC	U		1881			220	-	-	-	-
143	<a href="#">Red-necked Grebe</a>		R	U	AC	U		1881			226	-	-	-	-
144	<a href="#">Eared Grebe</a>		AC	AC	AC		Y	1990	2	2023	1	-	-	-	-
145	<a href="#">Western Grebe</a>		AC		AC	AC	Y	2011	3	2017	1	-	-	-	-
146	<a href="#">Red-throated Loon</a>		VR	VR	VR	U		1885			3000	13-Apr	3 wk jun	21-Sep	08-Jan
147	<a href="#">Pacific Loon</a>					AC	Y	2019	1	2019	1	-	-	-	-
148	<a href="#">Common Loon</a>	N	R	U	U	U		1881			2000	-	-	-	-
149	<a href="#">Yellow-billed Loon</a>			AC			Y	1980		1980	1	-	-	-	-
150	<a href="#">Wilson's Storm-Petrel</a>					AC	Y	1938		1938	1	-	-	-	-
151	<a href="#">Band-rumped Storm-Petrel</a>					AC	Y	1933		1933	1	-	-	-	-
152	<a href="#">Northern Fulmar</a>		AC			AC	Y	1979	2	2019	1	-	-	-	-
153	<a href="#">Manx Shearwater</a>					AC	Y	2001	0	2001	1	-	-	-	-
154	<a href="#">Sargasso Shearwater</a>					AC	Y	1938		1975	1	-	-	-	-
155	<a href="#">Northern Gannet</a>		AC			AC	Y	1909	2	2021	2	-	-	08-Oct	04-Dec
156	<a href="#">Great Cormorant</a>					AC	Y	2017	1	2017	1	-	-	-	-
157	<a href="#">Double-crested Cormorant</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1890			600	-	-	-	-
158	<a href="#">Neotropic Cormorant</a>			AC			Y	2018	1	2021	1	-	-	-	-
159	<a href="#">Glossy Ibis</a>			AC			Y	1970	2	2024	3	-	-	-	-
160	<a href="#">White-faced Ibis</a>			AC	AC		Y	2011	2	2015	1	-	-	-	-
161	<a href="#">American Bittern</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1881			19	28-Mar			08-Dec
162	<a href="#">Least Bittern</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			9	4 wk apr			4 wk oct
163	<a href="#">Yellow-crowned Night Heron</a>			AC	AC		Y	1970	1	2025	1	-	-	-	-
164	<a href="#">Black-crowned Night Heron</a>	N	R	U	U	U		1881			120	26-Mar			01-Jan
165	<a href="#">Little Blue Heron</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1973	3	2015	1	-	-	-	-
166	<a href="#">Tricolored Heron</a>			AC			Y	2001	1	2020	1	-	-	-	-
167	<a href="#">Snowy Egret</a>			AC	AC		Y	1971	1	2018	1	-	-	-	-

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168	<a href="#">Little Egret</a>				AC		Y	2015	1	2015	1	-	-	-	-
169	<a href="#">Green Heron</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1910			28	17-Apr			01-Dec
170	<a href="#">Western Cattle-Egret</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y*	1962	2	2019	14	16-Apr	-	-	01-Dec
171	<a href="#">Great Egret</a>	N		U	U	U		1972			147	27-Mar			08-Nov
172	<a href="#">Great Blue Heron</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			120	-	-	-	-
173	<a href="#">American White Pelican</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1904	4	2025	4	25-May	-	-	01-Sep
174	<a href="#">Brown Pelican</a>				AC			2025		2025	1				
175	<a href="#">Black Vulture</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	2001	3	2024	1	-	-	-	-
176	<a href="#">Turkey Vulture</a>	N	VR	C	C	C		1952			155	18-Feb	-	-	7-Jan
177	<a href="#">Osprey</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			21	22-Feb	-	-	02-Dec
178	<a href="#">Swallow-tailed Kite</a>		?	?	?	?	Y	(ca) 1873	0	1873-81	1	-	-	-	-
179	<a href="#">Golden Eagle</a>		R	R	VR	R		1883			6	-	13-Jun	09-Aug	-
180	<a href="#">Northern Harrier</a>	N	R	U	U	U		1881			50	-	-	-	-
181	<a href="#">Sharp-shinned Hawk</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			50	-	-	-	-
182	<a href="#">Cooper's Hawk</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881?			23	-	-	-	-
183	<a href="#">Northern Goshawk</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			8	-	-	-	-
184	<a href="#">Bald Eagle</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			14	-	-	-	-
185	<a href="#">Red-shouldered Hawk</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1888			10	-	-	-	-
186	<a href="#">Broad-winged Hawk</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1883			426	20-Mar	-	-	14-Dec
187	<a href="#">Swainson's Hawk</a>					AC	Y	1933	0	1933	1	-	-	-	-
188	<a href="#">Red-tailed Hawk</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			150	-	-	-	-
189	<a href="#">Rough-legged Hawk</a>		U	U	AC	U		1884			150	-	02-Jul	05-Sep	-
190	<a href="#">American Barn Owl</a>	N	AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	1933	0	1980	6	-	-	-	-
191	<a href="#">Eastern Screech-Owl</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1903			7	-	-	-	-
192	<a href="#">Great Horned Owl</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			53	-	-	-	-
193	<a href="#">Snowy Owl</a>		U	U	AC	U		1901			14	-	-	-	-
194	<a href="#">Northern Hawk Owl</a>	N	R	R	AC	R		1881	9	2025	6		02-Jun	27-Oct	
195	<a href="#">Burrowing Owl</a>			AC			Y	1991	0	1991	1	-	-	-	-
196	<a href="#">Barred Owl</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			16	-	-	-	-
197	<a href="#">Great Gray Owl</a>	N	R	R		R		1896	8	2025	46		16-May	01-Oct	
198	<a href="#">Long-eared Owl</a>	N	VR	R	R	R		1890			13	-	-	-	-
199	<a href="#">Short-eared Owl</a>	N	R	R	R	R		1883			24	-	-	-	-

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
200	<a href="#">Boreal Owl</a>		R	R		R		1884	4	2025	2	-	22-Apr	29-Sep	-	
201	<a href="#">Northern Saw-whet Owl</a>	N	R	U	U	U		1881			32	-	-	-	-	
202	<a href="#">Belted Kingfisher</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			24	-	-	-	-	
203	<a href="#">Red-headed Woodpecker</a>	N	A C	R	R	R		1881			12	-	-	-	-	
204	<a href="#">Red-bellied Woodpecker</a>	N	R	R	R	R		1974			3	-	-	-	-	
205	<a href="#">Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			45	-	-	-	-	
206	<a href="#">American Three-toed Woodpecker</a>		V R	VR	AC	VR	Y#	1883	2	2023	29	-	23-Jun	31-Jul	-	
207	<a href="#">Black-backed Woodpecker</a>	?	R	R	VR	R		1881			20	-	14-Jun	28-Aug	-	
208	<a href="#">Downy Woodpecker</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			211	-	-	-	-	
209	<a href="#">Hairy Woodpecker</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			224	-	-	-	-	
210	<a href="#">Pileated Woodpecker</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			48	-	-	-	-	
211	<a href="#">Northern Flicker</a>	N	R	U	U	U		1881			60	-	-	-	-	
212	<a href="#">American Kestrel</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			42	-	-	-	-	
213	<a href="#">Merlin</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1883			10	-	-	-	-	
214	<a href="#">Gyrfalcon</a>		V R	VR		VR		1890	6	2025	2		20-May	1 wk oct	-	
215	<a href="#">Peregrine Falcon</a>	N	U	U	U	U		1881			7	-	-	-	-	
216	<a href="#">Olive-sided Flycatcher</a>	N		R	R	R		1883			14	12-May	-	-	Oct	
217	<a href="#">Eastern Wood-Pewee</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			31	02-May	-	-	15-Oct	
218	<a href="#">Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</a>	N		R	VR	R		???			4	05-May	-	-	28-Oct	
219	<a href="#">Alder Flycatcher</a>	N		C	C	C		1886			70	30-Apr	-	-	29-Sep	
220	<a href="#">Willow Flycatcher</a>	N		C	C	C		1972			10	16-May	-	-	10-Sep	
221	<a href="#">Least Flycatcher</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			55	14-Apr	-	-	18-Oct	
222	<a href="#">Eastern Phoebe</a>	N	A C	U	U	U		1881			23	09-Mar	-	-	17-Jan	
223	<a href="#">Say's Phoebe</a>		A C			AC	Y	2021		2021	1		-	-		
224	<a href="#">Great Crested Flycatcher</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			40	21-Apr	-	-	03-Nov	
225	<a href="#">Tropical Kingbird</a>					AC		2022		2022	1					
226	<a href="#">Cassin's Kingbird</a>					AC	Y	1970	0	1970	1	-	-	-	-	
227	<a href="#">Western Kingbird</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1970	2	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
228	<a href="#">Eastern Kingbird</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			170	06-Apr	-	-	21-Oct	
229	<a href="#">Gray Kingbird</a>					AC	Y	1982	0	1982	1	-	-	-	-	
230	<a href="#">Scissor-tailed Flycatcher</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1980	3	2015	1	-	-	-	-	
231	<a href="#">Fork-tailed Flycatcher</a>					AC	Y	1989	0	1989	1	-	-	-	-	

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		Seasonal abundance status						First yr	# yr s	Last yr		Early	Late	Early	Late
		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?								
23 2	<a href="#">White-eyed Vireo</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1946	4	2025	1	07-Apr	-	-	10-Nov
23 3	<a href="#">Yellow-throated Vireo</a>	N		R	R	R		1884			6	05-May	-	-	18-Oct
23 4	<a href="#">Blue-headed Vireo</a>	N	A C	C	U	C		1884			18	21-Apr	-	-	08-Dec
23 5	<a href="#">Philadelphia Vireo</a>	N		R	R	U		1884			14	28-Apr	-	-	01-Nov
23 6	<a href="#">Eastern Warbling Vireo</a>	N		C	C	C		1884			52	09-Apr	-	-	19-Oct
23 7	<a href="#">Red-eyed Vireo</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			50	08-Apr	-	-	08-Nov
23 8	<a href="#">Loggerhead Shrike</a>	N	A C	R	R	R		1885	5	2025	7	06-Mar	-	-	23-Dec
23 9	<a href="#">Northern Shrike</a>		U	U		U		1881			12	-	1 wk may	2 wk aug	-
24 0	<a href="#">Canada Jay</a>	N	V R	VR	AC	VR	Y#	1881	4	2025	19	-	-	-	-
24 1	<a href="#">Blue Jay</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			673	-	-	-	-
24 2	<a href="#">American Crow</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			31602	-	-	-	-
24 3	<a href="#">Common Raven</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			214	-	-	-	-
24 4	<a href="#">Black-capped Chickadee</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			4165	-	-	-	-
24 5	<a href="#">Boreal Chickadee</a>		V R	VR	AC	VR		1889	9	2025	10	-	-	-	-
24 6	<a href="#">Tufted Titmouse</a>		R	R		R	Y*	1978	7	2025	2	-	02-May	21-Oct	-
24 7	<a href="#">Horned Lark</a>	N	U	C	U	C		1881			609	-	-	-	-
24 8	<a href="#">Bank Swallow</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			2,500	09-Apr	-	-	04-Oct
24 9	<a href="#">Tree Swallow</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			12,000	12-Mar	-	-	18-Nov
25 0	<a href="#">Violet-green Swallow</a>			AC			Y	2013	1	2013	1	-	-	-	-
25 1	<a href="#">Northern Rough-winged Swallow</a>	N		U	U	U		1917			150	1 wk apr	-	-	19-Nov
25 2	<a href="#">Purple Martin</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			5000	30-Mar	-	-	22-Oct
25 3	<a href="#">Barn Swallow</a>	N	A C	C	C	C		1881			3,500	29-Mar	-	-	02-Dec
25 4	<a href="#">Cliff Swallow</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			600	14-Apr	-	-	06-Nov
25 5	<a href="#">Cave Swallow</a>					AC	Y	2012	2	2017	1	-	-	-	-
25 6	<a href="#">Ruby-crowned Kinglet</a>	N	A C	C	VR	C		1881			230	05-Apr	-	-	09-Jan
25 7	<a href="#">Golden-crowned Kinglet</a>	N	U	C	U	C		1881			321	-	-	-	-
25 8	<a href="#">Red-breasted Nuthatch</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			388	-	-	-	-
25 9	<a href="#">White-breasted Nuthatch</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1881			472	-	-	-	-
26 0	<a href="#">Brown Creeper</a>	N	U	C	U	C		1881			51	-	-	-	-
26 1	<a href="#">Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</a>	N		R	R	R		1882	9	2025	5	1 wk Apr	-	-	02-Oct
26 2	<a href="#">Northern House Wren</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			24	21-Apr	-	-	19-Oct
26 3	<a href="#">Winter Wren</a>	N	V R	C	U	C		1881			16	-	-	-	-

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
264	<a href="#">Sedge Wren</a>	N		R	R	R		1898			75	06-May	-	-	11-Sep	
265	<a href="#">Marsh Wren</a>	N	A C	C	C	C		1892			60	24-Apr	-	-	27-Dec	
266	<a href="#">Carolina Wren</a>	N	R	R	R	R		1944			7	-	-	-	-	
267	<a href="#">European Starling</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1922			40,000	-	-	-	-	
268	<a href="#">Gray Catbird</a>	N	V R	C	C	C		1881			45	-	-	-	-	
269	<a href="#">Brown Thrasher</a>	N	V R	C	C	C		1881			30	-	-	-	-	
270	<a href="#">Sage Thrasher</a>				AC		Y	2020	1	2020	1	-	-	-	-	
271	<a href="#">Northern Mockingbird</a>	N	R	R	R	R		1956			5	-	-	-	-	
272	<a href="#">Eastern Bluebird</a>	N	V R	U	U	U		1881			56	-	-	-	-	
273	<a href="#">Mountain Bluebird</a>		A C			AC	Y	2015	1	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
274	<a href="#">Townsend's Solitaire</a>		A C	AC		AC	Y	1968	2	2023	1	-	-	-	-	
275	<a href="#">Varied Thrush</a>		V R	VR		VR	Y	1977	2	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
276	<a href="#">Veery</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			275	16-Apr	-	-	30-Oct	
277	<a href="#">Gray-cheeked Thrush</a>			U	AC	U		1905			100s	1 wk may	07-Jun	23-Aug	20-Oct	
278	<a href="#">Swainson's Thrush</a>	N	A C	C	U	C		1884			8,000	14-Apr	-	-	07-Jan	
279	<a href="#">Hermit Thrush</a>	N	R	C	U	C		1881			50	-	-	-	-	
280	<a href="#">Wood Thrush</a>	N	A C	C	C	C		1881			20	18-Apr	-	-	22-Jan	
281	<a href="#">Fieldfare</a>		A C				Y	1967	0	1967	1	-	-	-	-	
282	<a href="#">American Robin</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1881			3,546	-	-	-	-	
283	<a href="#">Northern Wheatear</a>			AC		AC	Y	1956	1	2021	1	-	-	-	-	
284	<a href="#">Bohemian Waxwing</a>		C (E)	C(E)	AC	C(E)		1881			5,500		18-Jun	18-Aug		
285	<a href="#">Cedar Waxwing</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1881			575	-	-	-	-	
286	<a href="#">House Sparrow</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1870			6,600	-	-	-	-	
287	<a href="#">Eurasian Tree Sparrow</a>		A C					2024		2024	1					
288	<a href="#">American Pipit</a>		V R	C	AC	C		1881			250	15-Mar	08-Jun	2 wk aug	3 wk DEC	
289	<a href="#">Evening Grosbeak</a>	N	C (E)	C(E)	R	C(E)		1897			2621	-	-	-	-	
290	<a href="#">Pine Grosbeak</a>		C (E)	C(E)		C(E)		1881			1446	-	17-May	10-Aug	-	
291	<a href="#">House Finch</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1977			2212	-	-	-	-	
292	<a href="#">Purple Finch</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1881			750	-	-	-	-	
293	<a href="#">Redpoll</a>		C (E)	C(E)	AC	C(E)		1881			50,000	-	30-Jun	17-Aug	-	
294	<a href="#">Red Crossbill</a>	N	C (E)	C(E)	R(E)	C(E)		1881			108	-	-	-	-	
295	<a href="#">White-winged Crossbill</a>	N	C (E)	C(E)	R(E)	C(E)		1881			1390	-	-	-	-	

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
296	<a href="#">Pine Siskin</a>	N	C(E)	C(E)	R(E)	C(E)		1884			2100	-	-	-	-	
297	<a href="#">American Goldfinch</a>	N	U	C	C	C		1881			1604	-	-	-	-	
298	<a href="#">Lapland Longspur</a>		R	U		U		1890			1,000	-	25-May	17-Sep	-	
299	<a href="#">Smith's Longspur</a>			AC			Y	2019	1	2019	1	-	-	-	-	
300	<a href="#">Snow Bunting</a>		C	C	AC	C		1881			6,000	-	11-Jun	2 wk aug	-	
301	<a href="#">Grasshopper Sparrow</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1892			22	24-Apr	-	-	20-Dec	
302	<a href="#">Chipping Sparrow</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			90	-	-	-	-	
303	<a href="#">Clay-colored Sparrow</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1954			18	26-Apr	-	-	25-Dec	
304	<a href="#">Field Sparrow</a>	N	VR	U	U	U		1881			40	-	-	-	-	
305	<a href="#">Lark Sparrow</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	1984	1	2022	1	-	-	-	-	
306	<a href="#">American Tree Sparrow</a>		C	C		C		1881			450	-	23-May	23-Sep	-	
307	<a href="#">Fox Sparrow</a>		VR	U		U		1884			35	-	4 wk may	3 wk sep	-	
308	<a href="#">Dark-eyed Junco</a>	N	U	C	U	C		1881			1025	-	-	-	-	
309	<a href="#">White-crowned Sparrow</a>		VR	C	VR	C		1881			262	-	11-Jul	11-Sep	-	
310	<a href="#">Golden-crowned Sparrow</a>		AC	AC		AC	Y	2010	1	2012	1	-	-	-	-	
311	<a href="#">Harris's Sparrow</a>		AC	AC		AC	Y	1972	0	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
312	<a href="#">White-throated Sparrow</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			550	-	-	-	-	
313	<a href="#">Vesper Sparrow</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1881			40	22-Feb	-	-	2 wk jan	
314	<a href="#">LeConte's Sparrow</a>	N		AC	AC	AC	Y	1969	2	2018	5	03-May	-	-	03-Oct	
315	<a href="#">Nelson's Sparrow</a>		AC	AC	AC	R	Y*	1892			16	03-Jun	13-Jun	17-Oct	04-Dec	
316	<a href="#">Savannah Sparrow</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			250	-	-	-	-	
317	<a href="#">Henslow's Sparrow</a>	N		AC	AC		Y	1950	0	1999	5	03-May	27-Jul	06-Oct	06-Oct	
318	<a href="#">Song Sparrow</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			200	-	-	-	-	
319	<a href="#">Lincoln's Sparrow</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1884			8	2 wk apr	-	-	03-Jan	
320	<a href="#">Swamp Sparrow</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			200	-	-	-	-	
321	<a href="#">Spotted Towhee</a>		AC				Y	1993	0	2002	1	-	-	-	-	
322	<a href="#">Eastern Towhee</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1902			11	-	-	-	-	
323	<a href="#">Yellow-breasted Chat</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1969	0	2002	1	-	-	-	-	
324	<a href="#">Yellow-headed Blackbird</a>		AC	AC		AC	Y	1971	6	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
325	<a href="#">Bobolink</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			1000	07-Apr	-	-	05-Dec	
326	<a href="#">Eastern Meadowlark</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			200	-	-	-	-	
327	<a href="#">Western Meadowlark</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1954	3	2025	1	-	-	-	-	

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
328	<a href="#">Orchard Oriole</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1975	1	2022	2	-	-	-	-	
329	<a href="#">Bullock's Oriole</a>		AC			AC	Y	2015	2	2016	1	-	-	-	-	
330	<a href="#">Baltimore Oriole</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			75	28-Apr	-	-	Mid-feb	
331	<a href="#">Red-winged Blackbird</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			25,000	-	-	-	-	
332	<a href="#">Brown-headed Cowbird</a>	N	R	C	C	U		1881			5,000	-	-	-	-	
333	<a href="#">Rusty Blackbird</a>		R	U	AC	U		1882			5,250	-	-	-	-	
334	<a href="#">Brewer's Blackbird</a>			AC		AC	Y	1970	0	1993	1	-	-	-	-	
335	<a href="#">Common Grackle</a>	N	R	C	C	C		1881			5,245	-	-	-	-	
336	<a href="#">Ovenbird</a>	N	AC	C	C	U		1881			75	17-Apr	-	-	Mid-mar	
337	<a href="#">Worm-eating Warbler</a>			AC		AC	Y	1971	1	2012	1	-	-	-	-	
338	<a href="#">Northern Waterthrush</a>	N		C	C	U		1884			26	22-Apr	-	-	30-Nov	
339	<a href="#">Louisiana Waterthrush</a>	N		AC	AC		Y	1974	1	2023	6	02-May	-	-	14-Jul	
340	<a href="#">Golden-winged Warbler</a>	N		U	U	R		1951			8	08-May	-	-	27-Oct	
341	<a href="#">Blue-winged Warbler</a>	N		AC	AC	AC	Y	1976	6	2025	3	09-May	-	-	22 Oct.	
342	<a href="#">Black-and-white Warbler</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			60	18-Apr	-	-	16-Dec	
343	<a href="#">Prothonotary Warbler</a>			AC		AC	Y	1970	3	2022	1	-	-	-	-	
344	<a href="#">Tennessee Warbler</a>	?	AC	C	R	C		1882			75	09-Apr	-	-	1 wk dec	
345	<a href="#">Orange-crowned Warbler</a>		AC	R		U		1885			8	18-Apr	05-Jun	24-Jul	09-Jan	
346	<a href="#">Nashville Warbler</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			90	15-Apr			20-Dec	
347	<a href="#">Connecticut Warbler</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1973	7	2024	1	28-May	05-Jun	14-Aug	19-Sep	
348	<a href="#">Mourning Warbler</a>	N		U	U	U		1886			16	04-May	-	-	01-Nov	
349	<a href="#">Common Yellowthroat</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			150	23-Apr	-	-	26-Dec	
350	<a href="#">Hooded Warbler</a>			AC	AC		Y	1974	1	2024	1	-	-	-	-	
351	<a href="#">American Redstart</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			99	03-May	-	-	09-Nov	
352	<a href="#">Kirtland's Warbler</a>							2023		2023						
353	<a href="#">Cape May Warbler</a>	N	AC	U	R	U		1883			64	29-Apr	-	-	22-Dec	
354	<a href="#">Cerulean Warbler</a>	N		VR	AC		Y#	1922	6	2025	5	09-May	-	-	10-Sep	
355	<a href="#">Northern Parula</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			30	late mar	-	-	13-Nov	
356	<a href="#">Magnolia Warbler</a>	N		C	U	C		1881			55	27-Apr	-	-	10-Nov	
357	<a href="#">Bay-breasted Warbler</a>	?		U	R	U		1881			100	30-Apr	-	-	18-Nov	
358	<a href="#">Blackburnian Warbler</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			35	28-Apr	-	-	14-Nov	
359	<a href="#">Northern Yellow Warbler</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			145	03-Apr	-	-	04-Nov	

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		NE	WI	SP	SU	FA	Ap. A?									
360	<a href="#">Chestnut-sided Warbler</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			66	20 April	-	-	10- Dec	
361	<a href="#">Blackpoll Warbler</a>			U	U	U		1881			30	02- May	-	-	15- Nov	
362	<a href="#">Black-throated Blue Warbler</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			30	27- Apr	-	-	10- Nov	
363	<a href="#">Palm Warbler</a>	N		C	R	C		1881			32	16- Apr	-	-	05- Nov	
364	<a href="#">Pine Warbler</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1881			35	20- Mar	-	-	20- Jan	
365	<a href="#">Yellow-rumped Warbler</a>	N	R	C	U	C		1881			1,200	-	-	-	-	
366	<a href="#">Yellow-throated Warbler</a>		AC	AC		AC	Y	1957	1	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
367	<a href="#">Prairie Warbler</a>			AC	AC	AC	Y	1944	5	2024	1	-	-	-	-	
368	<a href="#">Black-throated Gray Warbler</a>		AC			AC	Y	2013	3	2019	1	-	-	-	-	
369	<a href="#">Black-throated Green Warbler</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			38	15- Apr	-	-	27- Dec	
370	<a href="#">Canada Warbler</a>	N		U	U	U		1881			21	1 wk may	-	-	2 wk oct	
371	<a href="#">Wilson's Warbler</a>	N		U	AC	U		1883			30	18- Apr	-	-	24- Nov	
372	<a href="#">Summer Tanager</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	1967	4	2025	1	-	-	-	-	
373	<a href="#">Scarlet Tanager</a>	N		C	C	C		1881			35	26- Apr	-	-	09- Nov	
374	<a href="#">Western Tanager</a>		AC	AC		AC	Y	2012	2	2024	1	-	-	-	-	
375	<a href="#">Northern Cardinal</a>	N	C	C	C	C		1923			829	-	-	-	-	
376	<a href="#">Rose-breasted Grosbeak</a>	N	AC	C	C	C		1881			100	18- Apr	-	-	14- Mar	
377	<a href="#">Blue Grosbeak</a>				AC		Y	2017	1	2017	1	-	-	-	-	
378	<a href="#">Lazuli Bunting</a>		AC	AC			Y	2004	1	2019	1	-	-	-	-	
379	<a href="#">Indigo Bunting</a>	N	AC	U	U	U		1881			34	30- Mar	-	-	08- Dec	
380	<a href="#">Painted Bunting</a>			AC			Y	2003	0	2021	1	-	-	-	-	
381	<a href="#">Dickcissel</a>		AC	AC	AC	AC	Y	1895	2	2024	1	-	-	-	-	

## Whistling Ducks

### **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

**Dendrocygne à ventre noir**  
**BBWD**

**Status: Accidental visitor in summer.**

There is a single record from 2025, a flock of 5 birds seen on the pond at Andrew Haydon Park for about an hour, after which they flew to Aylmer Quebec and were never seen again. This species breeds as far north as central Florida and eastern Texas and is accidental in eastern Canada.

1. 8 June 2025; 5 individuals; Andrew Haydon Park, Ottawa, ON, Mobs, ebird, with photographs

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

### **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

**Dendrocygne fauve**  
**FUWD**

**Status: Accidental visitor in spring and fall.**

Three historical records from the 1960's of birds that were observed in three consecutive years on the Ottawa River near Thurso. This species breeds only as far north as Florida and Texas, but has a pattern of wandering northwards and is casual in eastern Canada.

#### **Records**

mid-September 1964; 5 individuals; Ottawa River near Thurso, QC; J.C. Wilson; CFN 81:151-152.

12 May 1965; 1 individual; Ottawa River, near Thurso, QC; William T. Munro; CFN 81:151-152.

August 1966; 1 individual; Ottawa River, near Thurso, QC; J.C. Wilson; CFN 81:151-152.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Geese

### **Snow Goose** (*Chen caerulescens*)

**Oie des neiges**  
**SNGO**

**Status: Locally uncommon to abundant migrant in spring and fall. Very rare in summer.**

Snow Geese occur in both spring and fall migrations in numbers ranging from one or a few birds mixed in with Canada Geese to very large flocks. The main migration corridor is east of the Ottawa-Gatineau District and this is where the largest flocks are observed, the largest being, according to ebird, 800,000 on 29 March 2011 on the St. Lawrence River east of Lancaster, Ontario. Numbers have increased dramatically in the last two decades and now flocks of up to 200,000 have been recorded in the southeastern edge of the District (Winchester, St. Albert, Casselman, Bourget). The window for seeing the immense flocks is very short and depends on the timing of the spring flooding in the east vs the snow cover. In the spring the flocks essentially follow the bare ground north and they can move quite rapidly, and in exceptional years they can start pushing north in late February.

Snow Geese are to be found amongst other migrating waterfowl in wet fields, along the Ottawa River, in quarry ponds and at sewage lagoons. With these immense flocks there are usually a few stragglers into early June. There used to be only occasional records of summering birds, but since 2015 they have been nearly an annual occurrence, generally east of Ottawa, hence this part of the table has not been updated.

**Note: Given the increasing number in late spring and early fall, at those times, it is doubtful that those sightings are now particularly relevant. Hence this data has not been updated.**

In the fall the migration is more leisurely and they will linger sometimes in large numbers as long as the snow cover remains low, which is usually early December but can be late December in exceptional years. Lingerers may stay even into January.

Two subspecies occur regularly in the Ottawa-Gatineau District – the Greater and Lesser Snow Goose. The blue morph occurs only in Lesser Snow Geese and is locally much less common than the white morph. Greater Snow Geese have only white-morph birds. The large flocks that migrate through the eastern part of our region are mostly Greater Snow Geese.

<b>First Record</b>
c. 1867; Chaudière Falls, Ottawa; Ottawa Naturalist 5:35.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
27 February 1998; 3 individuals; Ottawa, flying over; Bird Status Line transcripts.
1 March 1997; 1 individual; w. of Eagleson Drive, flying over; Bird Status Line transcripts.
1 January, 2016, 1 individual, Hallville and Russell, Ontario, ebird
25-28 February 2017; up to 1400 individuals, multiple ebird reports, the largest flock being near Chrysler, Ontario on 27 February. There was a major early thaw that year which brought in many species of waterfowl in weeks ahead of schedule, which then disappeared when seasonal and colder weather conditions returned.
28 February 2018, 3 individuals, Fallowfield Road, Ottawa, ebird
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to fourth week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
15 June 2006; 1 individual; Rideau River at Hunt Club; Ontbirds 19.06.2006.
16 June 1997; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Unusual Summering</b>
21-28 June 1981; 1 individual; Nepean Bay; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Shrike 6(3):7.
24 July to 4 August 1998; 1 individual; Kanata beaver pond; Bird Status Line transcripts.
15 July 2002; 1 individual; Almonte Lagoons; Ontbirds 20.07.2002.
-July 2020, 1 individual, Marais Peras (near Thurso), m. obs, ebird
5 June-25 August 2020, Up to 5 individuals, Winchester lagoons, m. obs, ebird
1993 Checklist has dots through the summer
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
20 August 2005; 1 individual; near Casselman; Ontbirds 23.08.2005.
22 August 2010; 1 individual; Britannia Pier; Marc St. Onge; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to third week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
24 December 2006; 30,000 individuals; Hwy. 417 w. of Casselman; Gregory Zbitnew; Ontbirds 24.12.2006.
29 December 2008; 2 individuals; Eagleson & Akins road area, in fields; Ontbirds 02.01.2009.
1 January 2004; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
27 January 2008; 10 individuals; Richmond area, flying over; Ontbirds 28.01.2008.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
75,000 individuals; 12 April 2015, Cobb's lake creek, ebird
At least 100,000 individuals; 14 April 2013; Cobb's Lake Creek & Carlsbad Springs; Ontbirds 17.04.2013
200,000 individuals. 20 March 2016, Cobb's Lake creek, mobs, ebird
200,000 individuals. 10 April 2019, Cobb's Lake creek, mobs, ebird
200,000 individuals. 4 April 2020, Cobb's Lake creek, Gordon Robertson, ebird

## Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Oie de Ross  
ROGO

### Status: Rare migrant in spring and fall, Casual in winter

First recorded in the Ottawa-Gatineau area in 1997. Like other arctic-breeding geese, its numbers have been growing over the past several decades, but it is still rare and easy to miss in the large flocks of Snow Geese it so often associates with. It has been recorded in the Ottawa-Gatineau district every year since 2003 and the number of annual sightings continues to increase. Observations generally involve single birds amongst flocks of Canada or Snow Geese, but up to five have been observed together. Birds are most often observed in wet or flooded agricultural fields, but there are also sightings from sewage lagoons and other bodies of water such as the Moodie Drive quarry pond. All sightings have been of white morph birds.

<b>First Record</b>
26 April to 5 May 1997; 1 adult; btwn. Masson and Thurso; Donald Dallaire; m.obs.; T&L 32(1):38.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 March 2018, 1 individual, Emerald meadows Storm outlet, mobs, ebird
18 March 2012; 1 adult; Bear Brook nr. Carlsbad Springs, Ontbirds 23.03.2012..
21 March 2012; 1 adult; Carp River floodplain; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 23.03.2012.
24-25 March 2011; up to 4 adults; Carp R. floodplain Patrick Blake, m.obs.; Ontbirds 24,25.03.2011.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First to third week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
8 May 2006; 1 individual; Winchester Lagoons, Roger Clark; Ontbirds 08.05.2006, T&L 41(2):103.
11 May 2009; 1 adult; Moodie Drive Quarry Pond, Tony Beck; Ontbirds 11.05.2009.
11 May 2014; 1 adult; Winchester Lagoons; Mark Gawn; Ontbirds 11.05.2014.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
22 September 2014; 1 individual; Masson-Angers; Ontbirds 25.09.2014.
23 September 2013; 1 adult; Moodie Drive Nortel Campus; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Ontbirds 23.09.2013.
25 September 2014; 2 individuals; St. Albert Lagoons, St. Albert, ON; Hans van der Zweep; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of November.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1 December 2010; 1 individual; Greenbank Road; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 01.12.2010.
1 December, 2016. 1 individual, Milton Road, ebird.
1 and 6 december, 2017, South Nepean area, ebird
9 December 2017, 1 individual, North Dundas, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
4 adults; 25 March 2011; Carp R. floodplain Bruce Di Labio.; Ontbirds 25.03.2011.
4 adults; 14 April 2012; Winchester Lagoons, Ontbirds 20,26.04.2012.
3 individuals; 23 November 2010; Greenbank Road; Bruce Di Labio; 23.11.2010.
3 individuals; 8 October 2012; Russell Lagoons; Ontbirds 11.10.2012.
5 individuals, 21 April 2017, Frank Kenny road, ebird

## Greater White-fronted Goose

(*Anser albifrons*)

Oie rieuse  
GWFG

**Status: Rare migrant in spring and fall. Very rare in early winter.**

First recorded in the Ottawa-Gatineau District in 1970, this species now occurs annually with a few reports on average each spring and fall. Like other arctic-breeding geese, its numbers have been growing over the past several decades, but it is still rare and easy to miss in the large flocks of Canada Geese it so often associates with. Spring passage is mainly from late March to mid-April and fall from mid-October to mid-November. Single birds are the norm, but occasionally small flocks of up to seven have been reported. It is usually found amongst flocks of migrating Canada Geese in wet fields, floodplains, quarry ponds and along the Ottawa River. Late migrants have lingered into December on a number of occasions.

The pink-billed North American subspecies *A. a. frontalis* is the expected one here, but the orange-billed Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris* has been reported at least twice.

<b>First Record</b>
29 November 1970, 5 individuals; Rockland; Ian Newton; AB 25(3):571.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
17 March 2010; 1 individual; Greenbank Road, Connie Denyes, m.obs.; Ontbirds 17.03.2010.
18 March 2012; 1 individual; on the Ottawa River at Constance Bay, ON; Ontbirds 23.03.2012.
19 March 2009; 1 individual; Milton Road, nr. Carlsbad Springs; Bill Bowman, Ontbirds 19.03.2009.
19 March 2011; 1 individual; Moody Drive Quarry Pond, Mark Gawn; Ontbirds 19.03.2011.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to second week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
28 April to 9 May 1985; 1 individual; Highway 148 nr. Masson; AB 39(3):275, EPOQ data.
9 May 1983; 1 individual; Ramsayville Marsh; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(3):11.

11 May 1989; 1 individual; Baie Noire / Thurso, QC; Daniel St-Hilaire, m.obs.; EPOQ data.
11 May 2009; 1 individual; Moody Drive Quarry Pond, Tony Beck; Ontbirds 11.05.2009.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
13-14 September 2007; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Ontbirds 13.09.2007
18-24 September 2008; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Rick Collins, m.obs.; Ontbirds 18.10.2008.
19 September 2009; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Rick Collins; Ontbirds 19.10.2009.
25 September 2014; 2 individuals; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of November (very rare through late November).
<b>Winter Records</b>
1 December 2016, 1 individual, Milton Road, Bruce Di Labio; ebird
2 December 2006; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Ontbirds
2 December 2016; 1 individual; Galetta Side road; Bruce Di Labio; ebird
3 December 2005; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Ontbirds
4-5 Dec. 2010; up to 7 individuals; Carp River floodplain; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Ontbirds 04, 05.12.2010.
4 December 2017; 1 individual, Cope Drive pond, Kanata, anonymous, ebird
18-20 December 2015; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park, mobs, ebird
20 December 2015, 3 individuals, Russell and Morewood, Ontario; mobs, ebird
until 17 December 1981; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; m.obs.; T&L 16(2):82, OBRSC #284, #285.
26 Feb 2017; 2 individuals, Emerald Meadows Pond; anonymous, ebird
28 February 2024; up to 5 individuals; Twin Elm Wetlands and Barnsdale/Moodie Drive, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
up to 7 individuals; 4-5 Dec. 2010; Carp River floodplain; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Ontbirds 04,05.12.2010.
6 individuals; 20-25 March 2011; Carp River floodplain Jeff Skevington, m.obs.; Ontbirds 20,21.03.2011.
5 individuals; 29 November 1970, Rockland; Ian Newton; AB 25(3):571.
3 adults and 2 juveniles; 16-18 November 2013; Carp River floodplain; Ontbirds 21.11.2013.

<b>Unusual subspecies: Greenland Race</b>
23 April 1977; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Richard Poulin; T&L 11(4):110; Shrike 2(2):2.
8 May 1988; 1 adult; Bear Brook, nr. Carlsbad Springs; Bruce Di Labio; AB 42(3):427, T&L 22(4):169.

## Tundra Bean-Goose

(*Anser serrirostrus*)

Oie de la tundra  
TUBG

### Status: Accidental transient in fall

This is a Eurasian species, closely related to the Taiga Bean-Goose. There are very few records anywhere in North America. There is a single record in the District.

#### Records

8-19 November 2020; 1 individual; Originally found in Masson, Gatineau, it was subsequently seen in various places in the southeast including Cumberland (Ottawa) and the Nolan Road Quarry (Prescott-Russell); mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Pink-Footed Goose

Oie à bec court  
PFGO

(*Anser brachyrynchus*)

### Status: Accidental visitor in spring

This is a European species, very rare but regular in northeastern North America, with very few Ontario records. There are two records of this species, both in spring in the Bear Brook flood plain. Carefully scanning the large Geese flocks may produce more records.

#### Records

10-11 April 2019; 1 adult; Frank Kenny Road at Bear Brook, ON; Vincent Fyson, m. obs. ebird  
27-30 March 2021; 1 individual; Milton Road, Ottawa; mobs; ebird

All the records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Brant** (*Branta bernicla*)

**Bernache cravant**  
**BRAN**

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Very rare into early winter. Exceptional in summer.**

Brant typically move through in flocks in mid-May to early June and again in October and November. There are three exceptionally early March-April records from the spring flooding areas east of Ottawa. These may be individuals who wintered amongst Canada Geese north of their usual wintering range who moved north with their cousins. There are also scattered records of single summering birds.

Often the flocks simply overfly the area and are occasionally heard passing over at night. Inclement weather will also occasionally result in flocks putting down on the Ottawa River, but they rarely linger for more than a few hours. Sometimes single birds will join Canada Geese grazing on the lawns of river-front parks and may remain for days or weeks.

<b>First Record</b>
Fall 1887; Ottawa River, 30 miles from the City; Ottawa Naturalist 5:36.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
17-19 March 2010; 1 individual; Cobb's Lake Creek; Ontbirds 22.03.2010.
4 April 2025; 1 individual; Dilworth Road, mobs, ebird
6 April 2006; 1 individual; Frank Kenny Road near Carlsbad Springs; Ontbirds 13.04.2006.
7 April 2005; 1 individual; Milton Road near Carlsbad Springs; Ontbirds 08.04.2005.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
until 13 June 1984; 2 individuals; Britannia Filtration Plant; Art Thompson, m.obs.; Shrike 9(3):4.
9-22 June 2007; 1 individual; Remic Rapids/Riverain Park; Ontbirds 18,26.06.2007.
19 June 1980; 13 individuals; Notre-Dame-de-Salette, flying over; Roger Taylor; Shrike 5(3):4.
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
1 July 2011; 1 individual; Riverain Park; Marc St. Onge; eBird.
2 July 1980; 1 individual; Jim Harris; Shrike 5(3):4.
2-12 July 2012; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; m.obs.; eBird.
19 July 2011; 1 individual; Remic Rapids; Tom Aversa; eBird.
26 July 1989; 2 individuals; Remic Rapids; T&L 24(1):32.
19 July to 3 October 2009; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; m.obs.; Ontbirds various posts, eBird.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
17 September 1999; 120 individuals; Britannia CA, flew over; Bird Status Line transcripts.
27 September 2007; 3 individuals; Ottawa River at Scrivens St.; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 28.09.2007.
30 September 2007; 36 individuals; Andrew Haydon Park; Ontbirds 01.10.2007.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of November.
<b>Winter Records</b>
2 December 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(4):16.
To 5 december 2021, Ottawa Canoe club, mobs, ebird
6-12 December 1970; 1 individual; <i>vide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 25(3):571.
18 December 2006; 1 individual; Ottawa River e. of the Nepean Yacht Club; Ontbirds 26.12.2006.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
11,500 individuals; 26 may 2011; Bruce Di Labio; ebird
10,000 individuals; 26 may 2011; baie fraser; Michael tate; ebird
3,000 individuals; 7 November 1982; Peter Walker; Shrike 7(6):12.
2,200 individuals in five flocks; 19 May 1997, Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
1,700 individuals in 9 flocks; 24 October 2007; Ottawa River btwn Shirley's Bay & Britannia; Ontbirds
1,400 individuals; 16 May 1982; Champlain Bridge; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):10.

# Barnacle Goose

(*Branta leucopsis*)

**Bernache nonnette**

**BAGO**

**Status: Accidental visitor in spring and fall.**

There have been about fourteen records from 1984-2021 almost all in spring, usually in the company of migrating Canada Geese. Until the mid-2000's, it was believed that all Barnacle Geese in eastern North America were likely escapes. However, a bird banded in Europe was shot in Hawkesbury in Fall 2005, suggesting at least some of the records could pertain to wild birds. The views have changed and as of at least 2020, they are not automatically assumed to be escapes.

## "accepted" Records

*Note: there is a 1984 record in the public ebird records, so this might also be accepted.*

3-4 May 2015; 2 individuals; Mohr Road near the Mississippi River near Galetta; Richard Waters, m.obs.; Ontbirds 03,07.05.2015.

12 September 2020, 1 individual, Station d'épuration, Masson, Gatineau, ebird, m. obs.

4 October-28 November 2020; 1 individual; Presumably the same bird was seen in multiple locations in various places mostly in the southeast; mobs; ebird

22-25 March 2021; 1 individual; Carp road and John Shaw Road, Ottawa; mobs; ebird

19 October 2022, 1 individual, Birchgrove Road, Sarsfield, Vincent Fyson, ebird

29 March 2025; 1 individual; Frank Kenny Road @bridge, Ottawa, Beth Park, Amber Pinilla, Rob Pinilla, ebird

18 April 2025; 1 individual; Cambrian Road, Ottawa, Mobs, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

# Cackling Goose

(*Branta hutchinsii*)

**Bernache de Hutchins**

**CACG**

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall.**

In 2004 the American Ornithologists Union split the Canada Goose into two separate species. The group of smaller subspecies are now Cackling Geese while the larger ones remained Canada Geese. Like other arctic-breeding geese, its numbers have been growing over the past several decades. Cackling Geese are found in small numbers amongst migrating Canada Geese, and where multiple birds are seen, they often associate closely with their own kind within larger Canada Goose flocks. Prior to 2004 there had been a handful of reports of the smaller Canada Goose subspecies ("Richardson's Goose") in Ottawa, but numbers of reports increased significantly when official species status resulted in birders actively searching for Cackling Geese.

## First Record

11 October 1986; 1 individual; Ottawa River, "Richardson's Goose"; T&L 21(2):94. *Now a 1980 record*

## Early Spring Arrival

9 March 2013; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Jacques Savard; eBird.

17 March 2010; first individual of the year observed amongst CAGO; Ontbirds 22.03.2010.

18 March 2012; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington, eBird.

## Principal Spring Migration Dates

First to fourth week of April.

## Late Spring Departure

7 May 2013; 1 individual; below Deschênes Rapids; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.

8 May 2013; 1 individual; Rue Boucherville, Hull; Ted Cheskey; eBird.

11 May 2009; 3 individuals; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Tony Beck; Ontbirds 11.05.2009.

25 May 2020, 6 individuals; Lac Deschênes; Jon Ruddy; ebird,

## Early Fall Arrival

13 September 2013; 2 individuals; Britannia CA; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

15 September 2012; 6 individuals; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Ontbirds 21.10.2012.

15 September 2013; 1 individual; Moodie Drive at Jock River; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.

18 September 2014; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Jon Ruddy; eBird.

## Principal Fall Migration Dates

Second week of October to second week of November.

Winter Records
17 December 2006; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
18 December 2011; 2 individuals; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
19 December 2010; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
25-26 February 2018; 1 individual, Emerald Meadows Pond, mobs, ebird
26 February 2018; 1 individual, Donald B Munro, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
28 February 2018, 1 individual, Moodie Drive Quarry, Jon Ruddy, ebird
28 February 2018; 1 individual, Long Island Park, ebird
28 February 2024; 1 individual; Lincoln Heights, Bernie Ladouceur; ebird
28 February 2024; 1 individual; River Road South near Leitrim; Tony T; ebird
Noteworthy High Counts
56 individuals; 14 October 2014; Almonte Lagoons; Ontbirds 16.10.2014.
18 individuals; 23-24 October 2008; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
11 individuals; 26 October 2008; Ottawa Beach, together amongst CAGO; Tony Beck; Ontbirds 26.10.2008.
10 individuals; 13 April 2014; Bear Brook nr. Carlsbad Springs; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; eBird.
37 individuals, 3 November 2020, Dick bell park, ebird
9 individuals; 13 April 2014; Bear Brook at Frank Kenny; Ontbirds 17.04.2014.

## Canada Goose

(*Branta canadensis*)

Bernache du Canada  
CANG

**Status: Abundant migrant. Common breeder. Rare in winter.**

Canada Geese usually begin to return to the District in mid-March (exceptionally late February). It is now a common breeder in wetlands and parklands near water throughout the District (94% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2). The abundance of this species as a breeder has increased significantly in the last several decades (it was found on only 17% of squares on OBBA1 and 12% of squares on QBBA1).

Canada Goose remains fairly common into early December and in years of little snow cover, well into late December, but most disappear once local water bodies freeze over and their feeding grounds are covered with snow. Recorded on most Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs (high count of 4,693 in 1996). It is rare as an overwintering species but one or two are present through the winter in areas of open water almost every year, usually in areas where waterfowl are fed like Billings Bridge and Britannia. The early spring arrival dates have not been updated since 2000, since it is no longer that notable for significant movement to take place in late February or early March.

First Record
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
Early Spring Arrival
1 March 1998; 5 individuals; Nortel Campus; Bird Status Line transcripts.
3 March 2000; first migrants noted on this date; Bird Status Line transcripts
4 March 1976; flock; over the Ottawa River; Shrike 1(2):3.
5 March 1983; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):9.
5 March 1998; 49 individuals; Carp River floodplain; Bird Status Line transcripts.
Principal Dates
Fourth week of March to first week of December.
Noteworthy High Counts
approx. 125,000 individuals; 4 April 1987; Pendleton; T&L 21(4):204.
90,661 individuals; 20-21 October 2012; Mid Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
50,000 individuals; 23 April 1984; T&L 18(4):186.
approx. 30,000 individuals; 26 March 1988; Bourget; T&L 22(4):167.
27,000 individuals 23 April 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(4):19.

## Swans

### Mute Swan

(*Cygnus olor*)

Cygne tuberculé  
MUSW

**Status: Casual visitor from spring through early winter. Introduced to North America from Europe. Records could pertain to wild or escaped birds.**

About thirteen records (one OBRSC accepted) from April through early January. Presumably these birds are wanderers from established populations on Lake Ontario, the closest of which is at Presqu'île Provincial Park. Because Ottawa also has a population of captive Mute Swans on the Rideau River, the origin of birds observed here is often questionable and records of this species in the Ottawa-Gatineau area have rarely been well-documented.

<b>First Record</b>
30 October 1988; 3 adults; pond off Barry Burns Court, Wendy Palmer, Bob Bracken; OBRSC #418.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
10 April 1991; 1 probable immature; near Osgoode, ON; T&L 25(4):127.
<b>Latest Winter Record</b>
10 Dec. 1997 to 25 Jan. 1998; 1 indiv.; on the Ottawa River off of Britannia Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 adults, 26-28 November 2017; mobs, Navan (Giroux Road ponds), ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

Cygne trompette

TRUS

**Status: Casual visitor in spring and fall, has bred. Introduced into southern Ontario.**

Birds occurring in the Ottawa-Gatineau area presumably originate from introduced Ontario populations, the closest of which is in the Rideau Lakes area where they now overwinter. The first record of a tagged bird was in 1999 with sporadic reports through the 2000's. Sightings have increased significantly since 2009 with the first breeding record coming in 2010 on the Mississippi and Jock rivers near Carleton Place. A pair (sometimes with young) has been seen in the same area every subsequent year through 2015, and the number of breeding pairs has been rising steadily. No longer considered a rare bird, its status has risen to uncommon although it is much less common east of the Rideau River. Significant numbers winter as close as Smith's Falls, and this is probably why the earliest arrivals are often in late winter in Carleton Place on the Mississippi R. at the Hwy. 7 bridge. Milder days may result in temporary pushes of birds from the south even in the winter. As of 2024 there are too many individual sightings in the winter to list.

<b>First Record</b>
22 April 1999; 1 individual; Ottawa River off of Logger's Way; nr. Morris I.; Bird Status Line transcripts
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
4-6 January 2023; 2 individuals; Carp River near Carp, Ottawa, mobs, ebird
22 January 2017, 2 individuals, Mississippi R. at Hwy. 7 bridge, Michele Martin, paul Martin, ebird
3 February 2021; Mississippi R. at Hwy. 7 bridge, Michael Tate, ebird
17 February 2012; 2 adults, 3 first winter; Mississippi R. at Hwy. 7 bridge; Ontbirds 24.02.2013.
14-26 February 2023, up to 11 individuals, Mississippi river near Almonte, Lanark, mobs, ebird
December 2023-February 2024, many sightings in Carleton Place and north.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
25-26 November 2011; 2 adults, 4 hatchlings; Mississippi R. at Carleton Place; Ontbirds 30.11.2011.
3 December 2020; 2 individuals, Carleton Place, Bob Kennedy, ebird
1-15 December 2023; 1 individual, Carleton Place, Lanark, Bob Kennedy, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
23 Individuals; 25 march 2024; John Sobol; Rideau River Provincial Park, ebird
14 individuals; 16 November 2021, Marlborough Forest, John Cree, ebird
7 individuals; 3 May 2020, Marlborough forest, Nancy Wilcox, ebird
2 adults, 4 hatchlings; 13-27 June and 25-26 November 2010; Mississippi & Jock Rivers; Ontbirds.
2 adults, 3 first winter; 17 February 2012; Mississippi R. at Hwy. 7 bridge; Ontbirds 24.02.2013.
2 adults, 2 juveniles; 4 November 2013; Mississippi R. at Hwy. 7 bridge; Ontbirds 08.11.2013.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Tundra Swan

Cygne siffleur

## (*Cygnus columbianus*)

## TUNS

**Very rare migrant in spring and fall. Exceptional in summer and early winter.**

Tundra Swan is a very rare migrant but is recorded in the District almost every year. It typically occurs in places where waterfowl gather: flooded fields, along the Ottawa River and at sewage lagoons. Most spring sightings fall in the period from late March to early April, although birds have lingered into May in several occasions and, once, into early July. In the fall, the peak migration period occurs in late October and early November. Birds have occasionally occurred in the winter, with about eight records in December and a single occurrence in January-February. Sightings are usually of one or two birds, but flocks have occasionally occurred.

<b>First Record</b>
10 November 1942; 1 individual; Chelsea; A.E. Bourguignon; CFN 58(5):147.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
7 March to 6 April 1983; 9 individuals; Rideau R. near Kemptville; m.obs.; T&L 17(4):204, Shrike 8(2):9.
14 March 1982; 28 individuals; Carp River at Hwy 417; Steve O'Donnell, m.obs.; Shrike 7(2):11.
18 March 2012; 2 individuals; Milton Road nr. Carlsbad Springs; m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to first week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
20 May 1976; 1 individual; Deschênes; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 1(3):3.
23-24 May 1989; 1 individual; Ottawa R. at Rivermead, Aylmer; Etienne Artigau; T&L 23(4):183, eBird.
24 May to June 12, 1970, four immatures; Lochaber Bay; T&L 4(4):124.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
28 May to 3 July 1978; 1 adult, 1 imm. Ottawa Beach & Champlain Bridge; T&L 12(5):129.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
<b>Second week of October, 1993 checklist</b>
18-21 October 2008; 2 indiv.; Marais aux Grenouillettes; Bob Cermak; m.obs.; Ontbirds 21.10.2008.
22 October 1999; 6 indiv.; Rushmore Rd. nr. Richmond & Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
22 October 2013; 2 individuals; Britannia area, flying over; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Last week of October to first week of November.
<b>Winter Records</b>
2 December 2024; 1 individual; Carleton Place, Bob Kennedy, ebird
3 December 2005; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Larry Neily; Ontbirds 03.12.2005.
until 7 December 1979; 1 individual; west of the City, since October; M. Bostock; Shrike 4(8):2.
9 December 2005; 1 individual; Ottawa River off Grandview Drive; Ontbirds 14.12.2005.
3-12 December 1998; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
4-12 Dec. 1999; 2 indiv.; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds, Britannia Pier & Ottawa Beach; BSL transcripts
25 December 2006; 2 adults, 2 juv.; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Tony Beck; Ontbirds 25.12.2006.
7 January 2023; 1 individual, Moody Drive Quarry and vicinity, Ottawa, Jacob Stasso and anonymous, ebird
30 January-24 February 2022; 1 individual; Mississippi River at St. Paul St., Almonte; mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
42 individuals. 13 March 2024, Gordon Robertson; Milton Road; ebird
38 individuals; 18 November 1989; Mont Bleu, Hull, flying over; T&L 24(2):80.
28 individuals; 14 March 1982; Carp River at Hwy 417; Steve O'Donnell, m.obs.; Shrike 7(2):11.
18 individuals, 24 March 1982; Shirley's Bay, flying over; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 16(4):190; Shrike 7(2):11.
13 individuals; 29 March 1980; Boul. Cité des Jeunes, Hull; Maurice Monette; Ornitaouais 2(3):58.

## Dabbling Ducks

### Wood Duck

(*Aix sponsa*)

Canard branchu

WODU

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

This attractive duck usually migrates back into the District in early April (exceptionally late February). It is a fairly common breeder in wetlands, ponds, lakes, rivers and streams with wooded shorelines (85% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2), which it requires as it nests in cavities in hollow trees. Most Wood Ducks leave the area by the end of October, but there are numerous records of late birds in November.

This species is rare but regular into early December. It has been recorded on 24 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1971-2021 (high count of 11 in 2020). Once local water bodies freeze in December it is very rare, but single birds have overwintered successfully in open water on a number of occasions, particularly on the Rideau River (Billings Bridge, Strathcona Park, Manotick).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
27 Feb.1981; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Jo Ann Murray & Hue Mackenzie; T&L 15(3):124; Shrike database.
14 March 1983; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 17(4):204, Shrike 8(2):10.
16 March 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):4.
19 March 1997; 5 individuals; Lemieux Island; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to last week of October (uncommon to rare through November).
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
375 individuals; 2 October 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):27.
290 individuals; 22 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):17.
214 individuals; 20 July 2018; Bruce Di Labio, ebird
200 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):4.

## Garganey

(*Anas querquedula*)

Sarcelle d'été  
GARG

**Status: accidental spring visitor**

This is a Eurasian species with only a few Canadian records. There is a single sighting in the region.

<b>First Record</b>
17 May 2021; 1 adult male, Shirley's Bay, Mark Gawn, ebird. <a href="#">S88377413</a> Accepted by the Ontario Birds Committee

For more information about rare birds, please see Appendix A

## Blue-winged Teal

(*Anas discors*)

Sarcelle à ailes bleues  
BWTE

**Status: Uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant. Uncommon breeder. Exceptional in early winter.**

Blue-winged Teal usually returns to the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March), when it is an uncommon migrant. It is an uncommon breeder at sewage lagoons and in grassy areas around ponds (62% of squares on OBBA2, 11% on QBBA2). It is a common fall migrant, with good numbers occurring along the Ottawa River at places like Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach. It is one of the earliest ducks to migrate south, with most birds gone by the end of October. There are a few records in November and three winter records from December.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Third week of March, 1993 Checklist.
23 March 2021; 1 individual; Ferguson forest, kemptville; Duncan Poole; ebird
24-25 March 2020; 2 individuals; Emerald Meadows Storm outlet, mobs, ebird
27 March 1985; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):19.

28 March 1980; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shirley's Bay; Shrike 5(2):5.
28 March 2021; 2 individuals; Milton Road; mobs, ebird
28 March 2021; 1 individual; Dilworth Road; Rick Collins; ebird
28 March 1990; 1 individual; Ettyville; Marcie Jacklin; ebird
30 March 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):11.
30 March 1986; 15 individuals; Mark Gawn; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of April to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
12 November 1983; 3 individuals; Mark Gawn; Shrike Database.
12 November 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
17 November 1989; 1 individual; Shirley's bay; Bruce Di Labio; ebird
19 November 1983; 2 individuals; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(6):8, Shrike Database.
22 November 2015; 6 individuals; Shirley's bay, Aaron Hywarren; ebird
28 November 1982; 1 individual, Shirley's Bay; Mark gawn; ebird
<b>Winter Records</b>
4-5 December 1983; 2 individuals; Ottawa Beach; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(6):8.
25 November to 11 December; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(6):12.
28 December 1998; 1 individual; Pakenham, Lanark, Langis Sirois; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
950 individuals; 10 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):17.
600 individuals; 24 August 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):24.
510 individuals; 17 September 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):10.

## Northern Shoveler

(*Anas clypeata*)

Canard souchet  
NSHO

**Status: Uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant. Rare in summer, has bred. Very rare in early winter.**

Northern Shoveler is an uncommon spring migrant, with birds usually arriving in early April (exceptionally mid-March) and continue to pass through into May. This species is a rare in summer, mostly at sewage lagoons and large marshes, where it breeds occasionally (15% of squares on OBBA2, 16% of squares on QBBA2). In fall migration it is fairly common into mid-November, after which numbers begin to decline. There are only about seven winter records, mostly from December, but there was a successful overwintering in Kanata in 2014-15.

<b>First Record</b>
Fall 1882; 1 individual; Rideau River, specimen taken; CFN 37:104.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19 March 2012; 2 individuals; Masson Lagoons; Jacques Savard; eBird.
24 March 1982; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):11, Shrike Database.
24 March 2010; first arrivals of the season; Cobb's Lake Creek; Ontbirds 30.03.2010.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to second week of November.
<b>Winter Status</b>
8 December 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):4.
10 December 1998; 1 individual; Billings Bridge; Bird Status Line transcripts.
14 December 2009; 1 male; Rideau Tennis Club; Ontbirds 17.12.2014
16 December 2001; 3 individuals; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC records.
18 December 2005; 1 individual; Hull sector; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Ontbirds 21.12.2005.
8 January to 8 March 2015; 1 male; Carp River at Appaloosa Park, Kanata; m.obs.; eBird.
6 January to 25 February 2025; 1 female, various spots on or near the Rideau River, and probably the same bird in Aylmer on January 12; mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
425 individuals; 20 October 1989; Shirley's Bay; T&L 24(2):81.
350 individuals; Fall 1991; AB 46(1):80.
180 individuals; 5 October 2014; Masson Lagoons; Jacques Savard; eBird.
156 individuals; 11 October 1983; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):10.
138 individuals; 29 October 1982; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 17(1):7, Shrike 7(5):13.

**Gadwall**  
(*Anas strepera*)

Canard chipeau

GADW

**Status: Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Very rare breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Gadwall is common in the west, but the first regional record was only in 1949. Gadwall is amongst the least common of the puddle ducks in the District. It is a rare migrant in spring, with most birds passing from early April to early May, although there are records as early as the second week of March. It is found in a range of waterfowl habitats: flooded fields, sewage lagoons, quarry ponds and on the Ottawa River. This species is rare in summer, although birds sometimes linger in this season at sewage lagoons. Breeding is rare except at the Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds where they have been nesting for a number of years through to 2022.

In fall, Gadwall is an uncommon migrant, with most birds passing through from mid-September to mid-October. There are scattered records through the remainder of the fall and about 14 winter records, mostly from December, although there are two from January and one successful overwintering – a bird in Manotick in winter 1996-97.

<b>First Record</b>
8-19 November 1949, Dow's Lake, CFN Volume 71 page 31 <i>Note: The previously recorded earliest record (30 October 1885; 1 female, shot from a flock of other ducks; CFN 37:104.) was from Campbell's Bay, according to the specimen in the White collection. The 1944 checklist still listed that 1885 record as the only one.</i>
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
11 March 1985, 1 pair, Hull, Bruce Di Labio, Shrike 10(2):1, Shrike Database.
13 March 2006; 2 pairs; Parc Moussette, Hull; Ontbirds 14.03.2006.
24 March 2010; first report of the year; Cobb's Lake Creek; Ontbirds 30.03.2010.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First week of April to first week of May.
<b>Breeding Records</b>
July 1971; first nesting; Shrike 10(3):14.
28 July 2006; 1 female with 8 very small young; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Ontbirds 31.06.2006.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of September to third week of October.
<b>Winter Records</b>
2-4 December 2011; up to 4 individuals; Petrie Islands; Giovanni Pari, Gillian Mastromatteo; eBird.
3 December 2014; 2 individuals; Marais du Chemin Grimes; Ontbirds 04.12.2014.
3-4 December 2010; 1 indiv. ; Central Experimental Farm; Robin Humphries, Christopher Harris; eBird
5 December 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
1-5 December 2009; up to 15 individuals; Baie Noire; C. Detellier, m.obs.; Ornitaouais 32(3):21, eBird.
15 December 1979; 1 pair; Black's Rapids; Richard Poulin; Shrike 4(8):3.
17 December 1981; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):8.
25 December 1989; 1 individual; Manotick; T&L 24(3):128
30 December 1979; 1 individual; Black's Rapids; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 4(8):3.
<b>Fourth week of January, 1993 Checklist</b>
15 January 2011; 1 individual; Riverain Park; Patrick Blake; eBird.
Winter 1996-97; 1 individual; Manotick; T&L 32(1). Present until at least February 23, 1997 as per BSL.
Winter 2018-19; 1 male; Britannia-Pinecrest Creek; present until at least 16 February; ebird
25 February 2017; 1 individual; Rapides Deschenes; mobs, ebird
18-January-26 February 2023; 1 male; Iber Road Storm ponds, Ottawa; mobs; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
210 individuals; 20 October 1989; Shirley's Bay; T&L 24(2):81.
223 individuals, 8 October 1988, Shirley's bay, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
149 individuals; 20-21 October 2012; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
80 individuals; 29 October 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):13.
65 individuals; 24 October 1983; Britannia CA, Mud Lake; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):10.

**Eurasian Wigeon**  
(*Anas penelope*)

Canard siffleur

EUWI

**Status: Very rare spring and fall transient. Exceptional in summer.**

This species has occurred almost annually for the past decade, with two to three records per year for the last several years. Reports are split about evenly between spring and fall. Sightings are typically of single males, although two have been recorded together on several occasions. Females doubtless occur, but are very difficult to identify in the field and no female has ever been conclusively documented in the District. Birds are most often observed on the Ottawa River at Shirley's Bay or the marshes along the Quebec shoreline east of Gatineau, as well as from flooded agricultural fields east of Ottawa during spring.

<b>First Record</b>
Fall of 1926 (probably October); 1 male in changing plumage; Lochaber, QC; CFN 46(6):124.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
23-24 March 2012; 1 male; Cobb's Lake Creek; Ontbirds 15,29.03.2012
28 March to 9 April 2010; 1 male; Baie Noire; Jacques Savard, m.obs.; Ontbirds 06,14.04.2010.
30 March to 3 April 2009; 1 male; Cobb's Lake Creek; Ontbirds, T&L 43(4):168.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of April to first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
8 May 2011; 1 male; Lochaber, QC; Anouk Hoedeman; Ontbirds 10.05.2011..
19-27 May 2013; 1 male; Moodie Drive Quarry Pond, Howard Youth, m.obs.; Ontbirds 19.05.2013.
28 May 2011; 1 male; Russell Sewage Lagoons, Russell, ON; Giovanni Pari; Ontbirds 28.05.2011.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
25 June to 1 July 2008; 1 male; Moody Dr. Quarry Pond, Langis Sirois, m.obs.; Ontbirds, T&L 42(4):196.
21 May to 8 Aug. 2014; 1 male; Rideau Canal locks at the Ottawa R.; various Ontbirds postings, eBird.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
<b>Fourth week of August, 1993 Checklist</b>
4 September to 15 October 1989; 1 male; Britannia CA, Mud Lake; m.obs.; AB 44(1):82, T&L 24(2):81.
6 September to 12 October 2014; up to 2 males; Baie Noire; Real Bisson, m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
24 October to 3 November 2010; 1 male; e. of Masson, QC; Ontbirds 26.10, 09.11.2010.
8 Oct. to 4 Nov. 2011; up to 2 males; Baie Noire; m.obs.; Ornitaouais 34(2):19, Ontbirds 12.10.2011.
c.11 Oct. to c.8 Nov. 2012; up to 2 males; Baie Noire; m.obs.; various Ontbirds reports 11.10. to 8.11.2012.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3 individuals; 21 October 2017; PN de Plaisance (Baie Noire); Réal Bisson, ebird
up to 2 males; 30 April to 5 May 2003; Petite Baie Clemente; m.obs; Ontbirds 06.05.2003, T&L 37(4):182.
up to 2 males; 17-28 April 2004; Petite Baie Clemente, Ontbirds, 27.04.2004, T&L 38(4):185.
up to 2 males; 8 Oct. to 4 Nov. 2011; Baie Noire; m.obs.; Ornitaouais 34(2):19, Ontbirds 12.10.2011.
up to 2 males; c.11 Oct. to c.8 Nov. 2012; Baie Noire; m.obs.; various Ontbirds reports 11.10. to 8.11.2012.
up to 2 males; 6 September to 12 October 2014; Baie Noire; Real Bisson, m.obs.; eBird.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

Canard d'Amérique  
AMWI

**Status: Fairly common spring migrant, common fall migrant. Uncommon in summer, breeds. Very rare in winter.**

American Wigeon usually returns to the District in mid-April (exceptionally mid-March). It is fairly common in spring migration in sheltered bays on the Ottawa River, in seasonally flooded fields, in quarry ponds and at sewage lagoons. After spring migration, numbers tail off, but a few birds usually summer in the Region, particularly at sewage lagoons, but actual breeding is rare (13% of squares on OBBA2, 3% of squares on QBBA2 and there were no confirmed breeding records on either atlas). American Wigeon is a common fall migrant from August through November.

It is very rare into early winter, exceptional after the first week of December. Recorded on five Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1993-2021 (high count of 7 in 2015). There have been at least two successfully overwintering birds on the Rideau River.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
6 March; 1979; 1 individual; Deschênes; AB 33(5):753.
12 March 2013; 1 individual; Britannia Yacht Club; Richard Waters; eBird.
13 March 2012; 1 individual; Deschênes; Jacques Savard; eBird.
14 March 2012; 6 individuals; Milton Road nr. Carlsbad Springs; Melanie Bouchard; eBird.
17 March 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio, Bob Gorman, Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):4.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to second week of November (uncommon to rare through November).
<b>Winter Status</b>
18 December 1994; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
19 December 1993; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
December 2015, 7 individuals, Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data
until mid-January 1987; 1 individual; Ottawa R. below Deschênes Rapids; T&L 21(3):146, OBRSC #379.
29 January 1983; 1 male; Manotick; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 17(3):112, Shrike 8(1):16.
16 January to 6 February 2011; 1 female; Brewery Creek; Hull; Ontbirds 18.01.2011.
18-22 February 2011; 1 female; Manotick; 22.02.2011.
January-February 1980; 1 individual; Manotick; Shrike 10(3):15, T&L 13(3):86.
11 Jan. to c. 20 Feb. 2002; 1 male; Rideau River at Riverain Park & Billings Bridge; BSL transcripts.
-29 February 2016; 1 individual; Britannia; mobs, ebird
-18 February 2017; 1 individual; Britannia to Pinecrest creek; mobs, ebird
-21 February 2018; 1 individual; Britannia to Pinecrest creek; mobs, ebird
26 February 2018; 1 individual; Emerald Meadows ponds; Derek Dunnet; ebird
-8 February 2019; 1 individual; Britannia to Pinecrest creek; mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,364 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
600 individuals; mid-October 1985; Ottawa River at Deschênes; Shrike 10(4):3, T&L 20(1):27.
500 individual; 1 December 2011; Baie Noire; Ontbirds 07.12.2011.
500 individual; late October 2012; Baie Noire; Ontbirds 18.10.2012.
300 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):19.
250 individuals; 16 October 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):27.
210 individuals; 23 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):17.

**Mallard**  
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

**Canard colvert**  
**MALL**

**Status: Abundant migrant and breeder. Common in winter.**

Formerly almost strictly a western duck, much less common than American Black Duck, it was considered a scarce migrant for many decades. Numbers began to increase in the 1980's, surpassing their close relative in the mid-1990's. Breeds widely, including around artificial water bodies in the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. Readily found in winter in open moving water on the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, particularly where it is fed by the public.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
10,000 individuals; 13-14 November 1981; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):7.
10,000 individuals; 14 November 1981; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):4.
6,500 individuals; 16 November 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(6):29.
4,039 individuals; 24-25 October 1998; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC archived data.
3,202; 1999; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

**American Black Duck**  
(*Anas rubripes*)

**Canard noir**  
**ABDU**

**Status: Fairly common migrant and uncommon breeder. Uncommon in winter.**

Formerly more common than Mallard, but beginning in the 1980's Mallards began to surpass this species in numbers, at least in part due to hybridization between the two. Looking at Ottawa-Gatineau CBC results, Mallards overtook American Black Duck in numbers as of 1995 and have surpassed them to the point that in recent counts Mallards outnumber this species by 10 times or more. It is decreasing as a breeder. Present in small numbers amongst Mallards where they winter in open moving water on the Ottawa and Rideau rivers.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,500 individuals; 9 October 1971; Shirley's Bay; <i>fide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 26(1):55.
2,000 individuals; 23 October 1981; Frank Munro; Shrike 6(5):21.
1,088 individuals; 24-25 October 1998; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
1,500 individuals; two dates in September-October 1982; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(5):30.
1,000 individuals; 1 November 1984; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(6):24.

## Northern Pintail

(*Anas acuta*)

Canard pilet

NOPI

**Status: Common spring and fairly common fall migrant. Rare in summer, has bred. Very rare through winter.**

One of the few ducks that is more common in spring migration than fall, large flocks of Northern Pintails accompany the influx of Canada Geese, Snow Geese and other waterfowl into the flooded fields east of Ottawa during late March and early April, with migrants continuing to trickle through into May. It is rare in the District in summer, but does sometimes breed, particularly at sewage lagoons. It was recorded on 10 squares during OBBA2, including adults with fledged young at Munster, Richmond, Gloucester and Winchester. There were no records during QBBA2, but it has historically bred in the large marshes along the Ottawa River east of Gatineau. It is fairly common in fall migration, with most birds having left by mid-November.

Northern Pintail is rare but regular into early December. Recorded on eight Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1975-2021 (high of three individuals in 1996 and 1998). Very rare through winter, but successful overwintering has occurred on several occasions since the first record, when four males and one female were present through January and February 1980 on the Rideau River at Manotick (Shrike 10(3):15). Most of the subsequent winter records have also been from the Rideau River, mainly at Billings Bridge and Manotick.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
2 March 1997; 1 individual; Billings Bridge; Bird Status Line transcripts.
2 March 2010; 1 male; Billings Bridge; Ontbirds 04.03.2010.
6 March 1983; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(2):9, Shrike Database.
10 March 1982; 3 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):11; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to second week of November.
<b>Recent Late Winter records</b>
Present in February 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5,000 individuals; 26 March 1988; eastern flooding areas; T&L 22(4):167.
3,000 individuals; 8 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):23.
3,000 individuals; 13 April 2005; Cobb's Lake Creek, Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 13.05.2005.
1,300 individuals; 13 April 2013; Bear Brook at Frank Kenney Road; Mark Gawn; eBird.
1,200 individuals; 23 April 1984; Thurso-Black Bay area; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(2):17, T&L 18(4):186.

## Green-winged Teal

(*Anas crecca*)

Sarcelle d'hiver

GWTE

**Status: Common spring and fall migrant. Uncommon in summer, has bred. Very rare through winter.**

In spring, Green-winged Teal has appeared as early as early March, but most birds pass through from mid-April to mid-May. It is fairly common through the summer, especially at quarry ponds and sewage lagoons, but many of these birds are likely non-breeders (38% of squares on OBBA2, 11% of squares on QBBA2). The main fall passage is from mid-August to mid-October, with birds becoming less common through November.

It is rare in early winter, but small numbers usually linger into early December. Recorded nine times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1979-2021 (high of two in 1990 and 1999). Very rare after local water bodies freeze, but there have been at least two successful overwinterings.

There are three reports of the Eurasian subspecies ("Common Teal") from above the Deschênes Rapids on 20 March 2012 (Ontbirds 23.03.2012), Milton Road on 9 April 2017 (ebird), and in 2022 (ebird). This subspecies is rare but regular in eastern North America.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
1 March 1972; Shrike 10(3):15.
7 March 2013; 1 individual; March Valley Road; Richard Waters; eBird.
9 March 2009; 1 individual; Rideau River at Manotick; Ontbirds 10.03.2009.
11 March, 1985, 1 individual, Hull; Bruce Di Labio, Shrike 10(2):1.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of November (uncommon to rare through November)
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
2-21 January 1999; 1 individual; Britannia CA, in the back channel; Bird Status Line transcripts.
1 Feb. to 20 March 2014; 1 male; March Valley Road; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; eBird, Ontbirds 03.20.2014.
14 Jan. to 24 Feb. 2013; 1 male; March Valley Road; Jeff Skevington, m.obs.; eBird.
19-25 February 2006; 1 individual; Rideau River at Manotick; Ontbirds 27.02.2006.
Mid-Jan. to 26 Feb. 2007; 1 male; Rideau R. at Riverain Park; m.obs.; Ontbirds 15.01.2007, eBird.
February occurrences also in 2012, 2017, 2021, 2023 and 2024
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,000 individuals; 8 April 1998; Cobb's Lake Creek; Bird Status Line transcripts.
932 individuals; 16-17 October 2004; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website
500 individuals; 22 October 2005; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 24.10.2005.
450 individuals; 22 August 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):21.
400 individuals; 26 August 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):30.

## Diving Ducks

### **Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*)

Fulgule à dos blanc

CANV

**Status: Rare migrant, exceptional in summer and winter.**

Despite being a locally common migrant on the Lower Great Lakes, this diving duck is rare in the Ottawa Gatineau District. Single birds or small groups can occur on the Ottawa River, mainly in April or October and November with fall records outnumbering spring ones. It occasionally appears at sewage lagoons or other inland water bodies. Currently it is here almost every year, but sometimes only a single brief occurrence. It occurs much less frequently than it did in the 1970's and 1980's, when flocks of over one hundred were occasionally recorded.

Canvasback is exceptional in summer, with one record of a female summering at the Casselman Lagoons in 1985. It is very rare into early and mid-December. Recorded twice on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (single birds in 1968 and 1973). Several birds overwintered successfully in 1976 on the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 March 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):12.
26 March 1986; 2 individuals; Jean Dubois; Shrike Database.
28 March 2009; 1 male; Ottawa River at Deschênes; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.

<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second and third week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
16 May 1987; 1 individual; T&L 21(4):205.
22 May 1977; 2 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Shrike 2(3):3.
23 May 1976; 1 female; Monty Brigham; Shrike 1(3):3.
25 May 1976; 1 male; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(3):3.
3 June 1976, 1 individual; Bob Bracken; T&L 10(5):137, Shrike 1(4):2.
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
20 July to 24 August 1985; 1 fem.; Casselman Lagoons, m.obs.; T&L 19(5):23, Shrike Database.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
2 September 2003; 1 pair; St. Albert Sewage Lagoons
5 September 1994; 1 male; Munster Lagoons; Tony Beck; T&L 29(3):120.
6 September 1975; Shrike 10(3):15.
8 September 2024; 1 individual, Plaisance, ebird
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
22 Dec.1986 to mid-Jan. 1987; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; T&L 21(2):96, 21(3):146.
1-5 January 2022; 1 individual; Deschenes Rapides, mobs, ebird
4 January 2016; 4 individuals, Chemin du Fer a Cheval, Gatineau, mobs, ebird
January-February 1976; 1 individual; Manotick, overwintered; Shrike 1(1):2.
January-February 1976; up to 9 indiv.; Ottawa River above Champlain Br. overwintered; Shrike 1(1):2.
26 February 1971; 1 individual; Rick Poulin; AB 26(3):597. Early arriving spring migrant?
1-2 February 2024; 1 individual; deschenes rapids; mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
180 individuals; 14 November 1979; Shrike 4(8):3.
150 individuals; 2 November 1974; m.obs.; AB 29(1):49.
150 individuals; 6 November 1976; m.obs.; AB 31(2):170.
45 individuals; 25 April 1982; Shirley's Bay; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(2):12.
40 individuals; 13 November 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):23,

## Redhead (*Aythya americana*)

Fuligule à tête rouge  
REDH

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Very rare in summer. Exceptional in winter.**

An uncommon migrant. Pioneering spring migrants have turned up as early as the second week of February, but most spring records are in April and early May. Typically found in singles or pairs on the Ottawa River, eastern spring flooding and sewage lagoons. The Moodie Drive Quarry ponds are also a favoured location. The presence of occasional summering birds makes assigning late spring migration dates difficult, but birds after the last week of May are unusual.

Early fall arrival dates are also difficult to assess due to summering birds, but numbers of sightings trend upwards beginning in the last week of August. The main migration period seems to be from the third week of September until the first week of November. Birds are found in similar locations and numbers as in spring, with the exception that larger flocks numbering into the double digits may very occasionally appear.

A bird at Almonte on 30 July 1972 (AB 26(5):853) is considered the first regional summer record. Since then it has proved to be rare in the summer, but there are a handful of sightings from each month. Most summer records are from the Moodie Drive Quarry Pond or sewage lagoons. A female with five young reported from the Moodie Drive Quarry Pond on 7 August 2000 is the only confirmed breeding record for the District.

The least likely regularly occurring diving duck in winter in Ottawa-Gatineau, with only two records of birds that lingered into the first week of December. A small group of males that was discovered on the Mississippi River in Almonte in late January 2014 may have been either overwintering or very early "spring" arrivals from further south.

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

13 February 1977; 1 individual; creek at Greenbank & old Hwy. 16; Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 2(1):5.
15 February 2014; 2 males; Rideau R. off Lodge Rd., Barrhaven; Mark Patry; eBird.
<b>Fourth week of February, 1993 Checklist</b>
23 March 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):4.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of April to first week of May.
<b>Unusual Breeding Records</b>
7 August 2000; 1 female & 5 young; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Mike Tate, m.obs.; BSL transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of September to first week of November.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1 December 2007; 1 female; Shirley's Bay boat launch; Ontbirds, Neilyworld website winter list.
3 December 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):4.
26 december 2021; 1 male; Pakenham; mobs; ebird
30 Jan. to 8 Feb. 2014; up to 5 males; Mississippi R., Almonte; Ontbirds 02.06.2014 and later postings.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
83 individuals; 15-16 October 2005; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
70 individuals; 8 October 2010; Shirley's Bay; Patrick Blake; eBird.
30 individuals; 15 September 1973; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; AB 28(1):46.
20 individuals; 6 November 1982; Ottawa R. at Deschênes; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(6):13.
20 individuals; 27 September 2006; Ottawa R. at Deschênes; Robin Humphries; eBird.

## Ring-necked Duck

(*Aythya collaris*)

Fuligule à collier  
RNDU

**Status: Common spring and fall migrant. Rare breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Common migrant in spring and fall. In spring, individuals and pairs can appear on open water as early as mid-March, but the peak of migration is generally in April when it can be found on water bodies ranging from the Ottawa River to inland ponds, lakes and sewage lagoons. In fall migration peaks in October and November when it can occur in sizeable flocks, especially on the Ottawa River.

Rare breeder on the Quebec side where it was reported from 27% of squares on QBBA2, mainly at the northern edge of the District. Fledged young were observed the Lac de l'Argile area and pairs were noted in breeding habitat on a number of other squares. Very rare in Ontario where it was reported from 8% of squares on OBBA2, including fledged young in the Cardinal area and pairs in the Dunrobin Shores and Richmond Fen squares. Breeding has also been confirmed in the past in the Ottawa River marshes on the Quebec side, including the first record of breeding in the District, at Lochaber on 29-30 June 1948 (CFN 64:52) and again in 1987 at Thurso (T&L 21(5):256).

Uncommon into early December, but usually small numbers can be found until local water bodies freeze. Recorded 27 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1953-2021 (high of nine individuals in 1966). Exceptional after the end of December, but one overwintered successfully at Remic Rapids in winter 1982-83 and there are a few other records from January and February.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
11 March 2013; 2 individuals; Britannia Yacht Club; Jake Walker; eBird.
12 March 1985; 1 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):4, Shrike Database.
12 March 2010; 2 individuals; Mississippi R. at Carleton Place; Ontbirds 14.03.2010.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First week of April to first week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First week of October to third week of December.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
14 January 2007; 3 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds
29 January 2011; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Jacques Savard; eBird.
January-February 1983; up to 2 individuals; Lemieux Island & Remic Rapids; m.obs.; Shrike 8(1):17.
20-23 February 2008; 1 individual; Lièvre River at Ferme Neuve; G. Normandin; Ornitaouais 30(3):21.
23-26 February 2017; up to 3 individuals, Mississippi R. from Almonte to Carleton Place; mobs; ebird

Noteworthy High Counts
3,792 individuals; 24-25 October 1998; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
3,000 individuals; 6 November 1979; Shrike 4(8):3.
2,800 individuals; 6 November 1982; Ottawa River at Deschênes; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(6):12.
2,500 individuals; mid-October 1985; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 20(1):27, Shrike 10(4):3.
2,000 individuals; 26 October 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):5.

## Tufted Duck

(*Aythya fuligula*)

**Fuligule morillon**  
TUDU

**Status: Accidental in spring and fall.**

This Eurasian species is rare but regular in North America, mainly in coastal areas, but also occasionally inland. It has occurred four times in the Ottawa-Gatineau District, once in spring and twice in fall, all on the Ottawa River at or near Shirley's Bay.

Records
30 April to 7 May 2003; 1 male; Shirley's Bay boat launch; Hervé Tremblay, m.obs.; T&L 37(4):182.
20-24 October 2012; 1 female; Shirley's Bay boat launch; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Ontbirds
14-16 November 2019; 1 first winter; Ottawa River at the Shirley's Bay boat launch and east to Grandview road; Jon Ruddy, m. obs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Greater Scaup

(*Aythya marila*)

**Fuligule milouinan**  
GRSC

**Status: Uncommon migrant. Very rare through summer. Rare in winter.**

An uncommon migrant in both spring and fall, often found in mixed flocks with the more common Lesser Scaup, but sometimes modest flocks of purely Greater Scaup are found. As a matter of note, the 1910 checklist said that Greater Scaup were one of our most common migrants, much more common than Lesser Scaup. It is hard to know if the relative populations have changed or there was misidentification or some combination of factors. Most sightings are from the Ottawa River, but it occasionally occurs at other inland water bodies, including sewage lagoons. In spring, early migrants occasionally appear as early as mid-February, but the peak of migration is during April. In fall migrants occasionally appear as early as late August, but mid-October to mid-November is the peak passage, with some birds occasionally lingering into winter.

Less than annual in summer, but lingering birds are recorded from time to time, mainly in bays and marshes on the Ottawa River and at sewage lagoons. No evidence of breeding.

Rare in the first half of December, most are gone once the Ottawa River freezes. Recorded 17 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1966-2021 (high of six in 2006). Individuals have occasionally lingered into January.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
17 February 2005; 1 male; Remic Rapids; Ontbirds 20.02.05
23 February 1984; 1 male; Remic Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(1):2.
23 February 1985; 1 individual; Remic Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(1):2.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First to fourth week of April.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to second week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
1 January-27 February 2023; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; mobs, ebird
1 January 2013; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Jake Walker; eBird.
4 January 2004; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; <b>Ontbirds</b>

until 4 January 2007; 1 individual; Ottawa River between Champlain Bridge and Shirley's Bay
6-7 January 2023; 1 individual, Deschênes Rapids; mobs, ebird
until mid-January 1987; 1 individual; Ottawa River, btwn Deschênes and Remic rapids; T&L 21(3):146
until c.19 February 2015; 1 female; Ottawa River off Britannia; m.obs.; Ontbirds 19.02.2015.
18-22 January 1980; 1 individual; Rideau River at Hurdman Bridge; Frank Bell; Shrike 5(1):3.
1-3 February 2021; 1 individual; Val des monts; Colette Blanchette & Louise Chénier; ebird
1-14 February 2015; 1 individual; Britannia; mobs, ebird
25 February 2017; 6 individuals; Rapides Deschênes; Carolle Mathieu & Réal Bisson; ebird
28 February 2025, 1 individual, Manotick, Ottawa, Jack Hughes, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,500 males; 5 November 2000; Lac Deschênes, flock flying over; Bird Status Line transcripts.
660 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
258 individuals; 23 April 1983; Jean Dubois; Shrike 8(2):23.
250 individuals; 9 November 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(4):16.
250 individuals; 19 October 2011; Lac Deschênes from Aylmer; Jacques Savard; eBird.
200 individuals; 20 October 2012; Shirley's Bay; Mark Dennis; eBird.

## Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)

Petit Fuligule  
LESC

**Status: Common migrant. Rare through summer. Rare in winter.**

Common migrant in both spring and fall, often the most numerous diving duck on the Ottawa River. Most sightings are from the Ottawa River, but it occasionally occurs at other inland water bodies, including sewage lagoons. In spring, a very early migrant appeared in mid-February, but the peak of migration is from late March into early May. Mid-September to early December principal migration period.

Rare, but fairly regular in summer, mainly in bays and marshes on the Ottawa River and at sewage lagoons. Confirmed breeding twice on the Ottawa River in Nepean Bay, near Lemieux Island in 1971 (Shrike 10(3):16) and 1983 (Shrike 8(4):12).

Fairly common in the first week of December, but declining quickly in frequency thereafter and most are gone once the Ottawa River freezes. Recorded 29 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1969-2021 (high of 15 in 2006). There are scattered records for January and at least four cases where birds successfully overwintered on the Ottawa and Rideau rivers.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
22 February 1985; 1 individual; Ottawa R. at Deschênes; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(1):2.
22 February 2015; 1 individual; Riverside Park, Carleton Place; Ontbirds 26.02.2015.
10 March 1985; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike Database.
13 March 2012; 13 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Jacques Savard; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First week of April to third week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of September to first week of December.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
11 January to 20 February 2002; 1 individual; Rideau R. at Riverain Park; Ontbirds 23.02.2002.
8 January to 25 February 2006; 1 female; Rideau R. at Manotick; Ontbirds 27.02.2006.
December 1983 to March 1984; 1 individual; Ottawa R. below Deschênes Rapids; Shrike 9(1):2.
Winter 1989-90, 1 individual; Shirley's Bay, successfully overwintered; T&L 24(3):128.
25 February 2014; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Ian Wilkes, ebird
25-26 February 2017, 1 individual; Britannia, mobs, ebird
10-19 February 2019; 1 individual; Carleton Place; mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3,800 individuals; 20 October 1978, Lac Deschenes, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
3,500 individuals; 11 October 2011; Shirley's Bay; Hans van der Zweep; eBird.
1,165 individuals; 24-25 October 1998; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
1,200 individuals; 24 October 2007; Rapides Deschenes; Real Bisson. Ebird

860 individuals; 14 April 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):4.
800 individuals; 17 April 1983; Wright Smith; Shrike 8(2):23.
800 individuals; 27 October 2012; Deschênes Rapids; Jacques Savard; eBird.

## King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Eider à tête grise  
KIEI

**Status: Accidental late fall transient, formerly more frequent.**

About 30 records. Currently this species is accidental in the District, with the record in November 2013 being the first in two decades. It has been seen a few times since then. During the mid-1970's and through the 1980's, however, King Eider was rare, but almost annual. The decline in occurrences may be due to a shift in this species' wintering grounds to the west end of Lake Ontario, where the advent of zebra mussels provides a substantial food supply for wintering diving ducks

Most of the sightings have been on the Ottawa River. Most records are of one or two birds, but there are a few records (mostly historical) of larger flocks. All records have been of females or immature males. There are two spring records.

<b>First Record</b>
7 November 1889; 1 individual shot; Ottawa River near Ottawa, ON; G.R. White; CFN 58(5):149.
<b>Spring Records</b>
8 May 1909; 28 individuals; passing up the Ottawa R., ON; E. Bedard; Ottawa Naturalist 25:162.
17 April 1982; 15 females; Shirley's Bay; Stephen Gawn et al., T&L 16(4):190-91. "Eider sp."
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
13 October 1980; 1 individual, Shirley's Bay, Stephen Gawn m.obs.; AB 35(2):176, T&L 15(1):24.
<b>Late Winter Record</b>
17-20 December 1983; 1 female; Ottawa R. at Lemieux Island; Roger Foxall, m.obs.; T&L 18(2):62.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
75 individuals; 2 November 1908; Ottawa River at the Rifle Range; Ottawa Naturalist 25:162.
28 individuals; 8 May 1909; passing up the Ottawa R., ON; E. Bedard; Ottawa Naturalist 25:162.
15 females; 17 April 1982; Shirley's Bay; Stephen Gawn et al., T&L 16(4):190-91. "Eider sp."

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Arlequin plongeur  
HADU

**Casual visitor from fall through spring.**

About 25 records to 2015, this species has become almost annual since 2000. Many of the records concern overwintering birds, but there are a number of cases of individuals apparently migrating through in late fall and early winter. With one exception, all records are from fast-flowing areas of the Ottawa (mostly Deschênes and Remic Rapids) and Rideau (Riverain/Strathcona Park area) rivers. Most records are of females or immature males, but adult males have been observed on several occasions. Most records are of single birds but two birds (either together or at separate locations at the same time) have been recorded several times. There is a single summer record from Wakefield.

<b>First Record</b>
20 Nov. 1971 to 30 Jan. 1972; 1 imm. male; Remic Rapids; Richard Poulin; m.obs.; T&L 7(1):26.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
17 October 2015, 1 individual, Rapides Deschenes, Jean Dubois and Yvon Cyr, ebird
21 October 1976 through the winter; 1 female; in the Remic Rapids; <i>fide</i> Richard Poulin; AB 31(2):153.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
5-16 May 2024; 1 individual; Deschenes Rapids, mobs, ebird
19 Dec. 1999 to 18 May 2000; 1 female; Rideau R, last seen at the Cummings Bridge; <i>fide</i> BSL transcripts.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
12 April-July 13 2025; 1 individual; Wakefield, Gatineau, mobs, ebirdfS
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 females; 9 November 1994; Deschênes Rapids; m.obs.; T&L 29(3):121.
2 adult males; 28-30 October 2005; 2 adult males; Deschênes Rapids; m.obs.; T&L 40(1):64.

up to 2 females; 9 Dec. 2007 to 7 March, 2008; Ottawa River at Champlain Bridge; T&L 42(2):84, 42(4):196.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Macreuse à front blanc  
SUSC

**Status: Uncommon fall migrant, very rare spring migrant.**

Surf Scoter is less than annual in spring when it occurs in small numbers, generally only single birds or pairs are seen. This species is much more regular in the fall, although it is generally the least common of the three scoter species in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. The large majority of birds seen in fall are in female-type plumage. Occasionally appears in larger flocks in the fall, sometimes mixed with other scoters. Almost always found on the Ottawa River, but rarely occurs at sewage lagoons or other inland ponds.

Surf Scoter is very rare in the first week of December and exceptional thereafter. The latest records are from the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC, where single birds have been recorded in four years (to 2021).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19 April 2011; 1 pair; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 26.04.2011.
21 April 1982; 2 individuals, Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):12.
25 April 2012; 2 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Jacques Savard; eBird.
27 April 2007; 1 pair; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 06.05.2007.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
21 May 2008; 1 male; Moodie Drive quarry pond; Ontbirds 27.05.2008.
26 May 1976; 2 individuals; Britannia; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(3):3.
2 June 2009; 2 females; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 09.06.2009.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
20 September 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):6.
22 September 2008; 1 female; Ottawa River near Wendover; Ontbirds 29.10.2008.
23 September 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; m.obs.; Shrike 9(5):3, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to second week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
16 December 1984; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
18 December 2011; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
20 December 1998; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
22 December 1996; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
225 Individuals; 14 October 1975; Lac Deschenes; Bruce Di Labio, ebird
200 individuals; 18 October 1969; Ottawa Beach; Robin Humphries; eBird.
125 individuals; 14 October 1975; Bruce Di Labio; AB 30(1):60. With a flock of BLSC.
34 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
30 individuals; 15 October 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(5):17.

## White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

Macreuse brune  
WWSC

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant. Exceptional in summer.**

This species is uncommon in spring. Although there are records of very early birds arriving in mid- to late February, and scattered records through March and April, the peak time for this species migration along the Ottawa River is during the latter half of May. There are three unusual summer records from late June and July, all involving single birds that did not linger.

It is fairly common in fall migration, being the most common of the three scoter species in the District. Birds have appeared as early as mid-August, but most migrants pass through from mid-October to mid-November. Large flocks have occasionally occurred during peak migration periods in both spring and fall.

Rare into the first week of December, exceptional thereafter. Recorded ten times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since from 1970-2021 (high of two birds in 2006). The latest record is of a bird that lingered on the Ottawa River until mid-January.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
11 February 2014; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; André Cloutier; eBird.
<b>Third week of February, 1993 Checklist</b>
24 February 1980; 1 individual; Deschênes; Bob Bracken; Shrike 5(1):3.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third and fourth week of May
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
5 June 2014; 20 individuals; Britannia Point; Mark Gawn; eBird.
5 June 2014; 8 individuals; Innis Point Bird Observatory; John Cooper; eBird.
6 June 2014; 3 individuals; Britannia Pier; Louise Sobol; eBird.
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
<b>Third week of June, 1993 Checklist.</b>
6 July 1983; 1 individual; Rockland Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):12.
22 July 2012; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Remy Poulin; eBird.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
19 August 2006; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Ontbirds 21.08.2006.
19 August 2014; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 21.08.2014.
3 September 2000; 3 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
12 September 2011; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Ontbirds 13.09.2011.
17 September 2010; 4 males; Britannia Bay; Ontbirds 22.09.2008.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to second week of November
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
30 December 1981; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Dan Brunton; Shrike 6(6):8.
30 December 2006; 6 individuals; Constance Bay; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC; Ontbirds 30.12.2006.
until 1 January 2014; 1 individual; Rideau River at Hurdman Bridge; Gregory Zbitnew; eBird.
until mid-January 1987; 1 individual; Ottawa River, btwn Deschênes and Remic rapids; T&L 21(3):146.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
650 individuals; 8 October 1990; Andrew haydon park, Bruce Di labio, ebird
500 individuals; 14 October 1978; Ottawa River; T&L 13(1):12, AB 33(2):173. In a mixed scoter flock.
450 individuals; 8 October 1990; along the Ottawa River; T&L 25(2):62.
300 individuals; 20 May 2012; Petrie Island; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
250 individuals; 14 May 1972; Bruce Mactavish; AB 26(4):756.

## Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Macreuse noire

BLSC

### Status: Uncommon fall migrant, exceptional in spring.

None of the scoters are common in the Ottawa-Gatineau District in spring, but Black Scoter is by far the rarest in this season, with probably less than a dozen records. In fall it is regular, although uncommon. Most of the birds seen are in female-type plumage, but occasionally very large flocks consisting of all or mostly male birds have been recorded in the last two weeks of October, arriving on cold fronts. Almost always found on the Ottawa River, but rarely occurs at sewage lagoons or other inland ponds.

Very rare into the first week of December, exceptionally to the third week of the month. The least likely scoter to linger into early winter.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

<b>Spring Records</b>
20 March 2024; 1 individual found dead; Mer Bleue, ebird
28 March 1992; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Etienne Artigau; eBird.
22-24 April 2011; 1 pair; Dick Bell Park; Giovanni Pari; eBird, Ontbirds 26.04.2011.
4 May 1909; several flocks moving up the Ottawa River; E. Bédard; Ottawa Naturalist 26:162.
<b>Third week of May, 1993 Checklist.</b>
27 May 2011; 3 individuals; Remic Rapids; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
31 May 1982; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach, Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):11.
6 June 1982; 1 female; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 16(5):230; Shrike 7(3):11
29 June 2023; 1 adult male; Andrew Haydon parl, Rick Collins and Paul martin, ebird
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
9 September 1984; 13 males; Almonte; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 9(5):3.
26 September 1981; 1 individual; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 6(5):21, Shrike database.
27-28 October 1980; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn, Mark Gawn; Shrike 5(4):3.
28 September 1998; 1 individual; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to second week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
9 December 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):25.
16 December 2006; 1 individual; Dick Bell Park;
26 December 2021; 1 individual; Rideau River south of tennis club; Rick Killeen; ebird
<b>Third week of December, 1993 Checklist</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,500 males; 21 October 1987; Lac Deschênes; T&L 22(2):72.
1,800 males; 30 October 1986; Ottawa River at Aylmer; Jean Dubois; T&L 21(2):95, Ornitaouais 9(2):41.
1,100, almost all males; 22 October 2014; Shirley's Bay; Richard Waters; eBird.
1,000 individuals; 25 October 1992; Deschênes Rapids; T&L 27(3):101.
825 individuals, 60% males; 24 October 1982; Shirley's Bay; Tom Hince, Shrike 7(5):13

## Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Harelde kakawi  
LTDU

**Status: Uncommon fall migrant, rare in spring. Exceptional in summer. Very rare in winter.**

A rare migrant in spring. Although birds have been observed as early as mid-February and there are a handful of records from March, most birds move through from mid-April to early May, with occasional stragglers into early June. There is one summer record, of a male that spent most of July 1979 at the Munster sewage lagoons.

It is seen more frequently in fall, when it is uncommon. On rare occasions, large flocks of male birds have appeared. Mostly seen on open water on the Ottawa River with rare occurrences at sewage lagoons and other inland water bodies.

Rare into mid-December on the Ottawa River. Recorded on 27 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1970-2021 (high of 22 in 1996). Very rare later in the winter, but there are scattered records through early January, as well as at least two successful overwinterings on the Ottawa River.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
11 February 2009; 1 female; Petrie Island; Ontbirds 17.02.2009.
18 February 1984; 1 male; Remic Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(1):2.
28 February 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):23.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of April to first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
28 May 2008; 1 male; Embrun Sewage Lagoons; Ontbirds 03.06.2008.
1-2 June 1980; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike 5(3):4.
7 June 1992; 1 male; Deschênes Rapids, Tony Beck; T&L 27(3):98.
9 June 1986; 1 individual; Casselman Sewage Lagoon; T&L 20(5):211
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
1-22 July 1979; 1 male; Munster Sewage Lagoon; T&L 13(5):167.

<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
5 August 2006; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 14.08.2006.
1 September 1978; Shrike 10(3):16.
<b>Third week of September, 1993 Checklist</b>
6 October 1984; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):3,17.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of October to third week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
4 January 2005; 1 individual Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 06.01.2004.
8 January 2000; 1 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
Winter 1989-90, 1 female; Deschênes Rapids, successfully overwintered; T&L 24(3):128
Winter 2013-14; 1 female; Deschênes Rapids; successfully overwintered; eBird.
26-27 February 2011; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Rodolphe Dubois; ebird
Winter 2018-19; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids, successfully overwintered; eBird.
Winter 2020-21; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids, successfully overwintered; eBird.
3-11 January 2025; 1 individual, Remic Rapids, Ottawa; Beck deresse and Anonymous ebird, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
500 males; 30 October 1986; Ottawa River, on a cold front; T&L 21(2):95.
500 individuals; 5 November 1990; Ottawa River, in scattered flocks; T&L 25(2):62.
320 males; 23 October 1986; Ottawa River, on a cold front; T&L 21(2):94
200 males; 1 November 2009; Ottawa River; Ontbirds 06.11.2009.

## Bufflehead

(*Bucephala albeola*)

Petit Garrot  
BUFF

**Status: Common migrant. Exceptional in summer. Rare in winter.**

Bufflehead is a common migrant in both spring and fall. Most readily found on the Ottawa River, but regular on other water bodies as well. Spring migrants have arrived as early as February, but late March is more typical for first arrivals and the peak migration period is from mid-April to early May. This species is exceptional in summer – a female at Ottawa Beach in 1977 and a bird that lingered at the Casselman Lagoons in 1986 may be the only July records.

In the fall, exceptionally early migrants have been detected as early as August, but most pass through from mid-October to mid-November. Bufflehead is uncommon to rare into mid-December on the Ottawa River. Recorded 40 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since 1953 (high of 10 in 2 different years). Formerly very rare later in the winter once most local water bodies freeze, but in recent years a few individuals have wintered every year on the Ottawa River.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
3 February 2006; 1 pair; Remic Rapids; Ontbirds
17 February 2002; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds
17 February 2005; 1 male; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 2007; 1 male; Richmond Conservation Area; Ontbirds
10 June 1983; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 8(3):11.
15 June 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland, Jim Harris; Shrike 10(3):4.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
16 July 1977; 1 female; Ottawa Beach; Shrike 2(4):2.
July 1986; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons, through the month; T&L 20(5):214.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
5 August 2007; 1 individual; Almonte sewage lagoons; Ontbirds
6-11 August 1977; 1 female; Ottawa River off Aylmer; Monty Brigham; Shrike 2(5):2.
21 August 1984; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 9(4):3.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to third week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
27 January to 3 February; 1 male; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(1):3.

1 Jan to 13 Feb. 2008; 1 male; 2 females; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds various postings.
January-February 2014; up to 5 individuals; Ottawa River at Champlain Bridge; m.obs.; eBird.
Winter 1970-71; overwintered at Manotick and Britannia; Shrike 10(3):17.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
470 individuals; 15 April 1987; Lac Deschenes, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
450 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):19.
250 individuals; 30 April 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(2):23.
235 individuals; 30-31 October 1999; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
210 individuals; 14 April 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):17.

## Common Goldeneye

(*Bucephala clangula*)

Garrot à oeil d'or  
COGO

**Status: Abundant migrant. Common winter visitor. Rare in summer, has bred.**

Common Goldeneye is abundant in spring and fall migration, with large flocks readily found on the Ottawa River. Wintering birds are joined by migrants beginning in mid-March with late spring migrants continuing to pass through in small numbers through May. Fall migrants can appear as early as August, but the migration does not begin in earnest until mid-October.

This species is rare in summer with scattered records of non-breeding birds, usually on the Ottawa River or at sewage lagoons. It should be considered a casual breeder in the District, with only a handful of records of confirmed breeding, none of which are recent. However, there are a number of recent records of possible breeding.

Common Goldeneye is common in winter on open water on the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of March to fourth week of April.
<b>Breeding Records</b>
23 June 1894; female with 5 young; Kettle Island; G.R. White; CFN 37:105.
Summer 1915; confirmed breeding; Shrike 10(3):17.
22 July 1922; female with 4 young; Ottawa River near Cumberland; R.E. Delury; CFN 37:105.
Summer 1954; confirmed breeding; Shrike 10(3):17.
Early 1970's; Meech Lake, bird flying over and veering off into the trees, Brian Morin; T&L 10(5):137.
July records are noted in ebird in 10 years: 1981, 1983, 1988, 2001, 2004, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2020
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of October to fourth third week of December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,000 individuals; 6 November 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(6):9.
1,850 individuals; 2 November 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(4):16, Shrike Database.
1,460 individuals; 30-31 October 1999; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
1,200 individuals; 12 November 1984; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike Database.
1,110 individuals; 27 October 1986; Ottawa River; T&L 21(2):95.

## Barrow's Goldeneye

(*Bucephala islandica*)

Garrot d'Islande  
BAGO

**Status: Rare winter visitor. Very rare migrant. Exceptional in summer.**

Barrow's Goldeneye is a rare but regular winter visitor to the District. It has been present almost every year in this season in very small numbers since at least the early 1970's. Birds are likely from the population that breeds in northern Quebec. Found on open water on the Ottawa River (between Deschênes and Rémic rapids) and the Rideau River (Riverain Park). Sometimes only one individual is present, occasionally multiple birds (up to half a dozen). Typically present from late October to mid-April.

Very rarely seen in spring and fall on the Ottawa River away from the typical overwintering areas, but there are several spring records from Shirley's Bay. There is one summer record, of an immature that appeared in early July 1979 at the Munster sewage lagoons.

<b>First Record</b>
31 October 1954; 1 male; Beattie's Point, Lac Deschênes; D.B.O. Savile; CFN 71:32. The Observer noted that he had been scanning Goldeneye flocks for some time, expecting it to show up eventually.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
27 September 1981; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):6.
<b>First week of October, 1993 Checklist</b>
11 October 1978; 1 individual; AB 33(2):172.
<b>Principal Wintering Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to third week of April.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
24 April 2014; 1 male; Rideau River at New Edinburgh park; Tony Gaston, eBird.
28 April 1987; 2 females; Ottawa River near Champlain Bridge; T&L 21(4):205.
until 30 April 1980; 1 immature male, 1 female; Shrike 5(2):5.
3 May 1982; 1 female; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):11.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
1-2 July 1979; 1 immature; Munster Sewage Lagoon; T&L 13(5):167, AB 33(6):859
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
8 individuals; 20 December 1987; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
6 individuals; 18 December 1984; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
6 individuals; 19 December 2004; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
up to 5 individuals; April 1988, Shirley's Bay; T&L 22(4):168.

## Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

Harle couronné  
HOME

**Status: Fairly common spring migrant, common fall migrant. Uncommon breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Fairly common on spring, with the birds appearing as early as late February, however the peak migration period is in April. Breeds in wetlands adjacent to woods where nests are constructed in tree cavities - including small lakes, swamps, slow moving streams and beaver ponds. Fairly common on the Quebec side (68% of squares on QBBA2) but uncommon on the Ontario side where suitable habitat is less available (40% of squares on OBBA2).

This species is more common in fall, when large flocks can occasionally occur. Found in a wide variety of water bodies from ponds and lakes to the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. Uncommon into early December, most birds depart when local water bodies freeze. Recorded on 59 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1937-2021 (high of 11 in 2001). Very rare after late December, but birds have successfully overwintered on the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers on multiple occasions.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
27 February 1981; 8 individuals; Dan Brunton; Shrike Database.
1 March 1983; 1 & 3 individuals; Bruce Di Labio & Jean Dubois; Shrike 8(2):10, Shrike Database.
1 March 1984; 3 individuals; Frank Munro; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to fourth week of November.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
919 individuals; 30-31 October 1999; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
400 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):19.
450 individuals; late October 1976; Shirley's Bay; Shrike 1(7):2.
350 individuals; 25 October 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):21.
350 individuals; 30 October 2008; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 30.10.2008.

## Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

Grand Harle  
COME

**Status: Common migrant, fairly common winter resident, uncommon breeder.**

Although present in the District year-round, this species is most common during its migration periods, mainly in April and November. It is found on the Ottawa River, as well as on larger inland water bodies.

It is an uncommon breeder on the Quebec side (59% of squares on QBBA2) on large lakes and rivers adjacent to woodlands with suitable trees for cavity nests. Common Merganser has bred in the western edge of the District on the Ontario side (Shrike 10(3):17), but no breeding evidence was collected in either OBBA1 or OBBA2. This species is a fairly common winter visitor on open water on the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to fourth week of April
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to first week of December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
800 individuals; 21 April 1985; Jim Harris; Shrike 10(2):19.
800 individuals; 19 November 2011; Jeff Skevington; Ottawa River at Pinhey's Point; eBird.
550 individuals; 10 April 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):24.
350 individuals; 4 April 1980; Shirley's Bay; T&L 14(4):118
335 individuals; 30-31 October 1999; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.

## **Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*)

Harle huppé  
RBME

**Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant. Exceptional in summer and winter. Has bred.**

A rare migrant in spring. Individuals have occasionally appeared as early as February, but most pass through in April, and it becomes progressively rarer through May. This species is rare in summer, but there are scattered records of birds appearing throughout the season, usually on the Ottawa River. G.R. White reported finding a female with ten young in a pond near Templeton on 20 June 1897 (Ottawa Naturalist 24:159), the only known breeding record.

A fairly common fall migrant, with early birds appearing in September, but most passing through in October and November. The vast majority of birds seen in the fall are in female plumage. Found almost exclusively on the Ottawa River, rare on other water bodies. Uncommon into early December. Recorded 48 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1950-2021 (high of 11 in 1968). Exceptional after late December, but there are scattered records throughout January and February. Those from the latter month could be early returning migrants.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to first week of May
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to first week of December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
200 indiv.; 20 October 2011; Ottawa R., Shirley's Bay-Britannia; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 20.10.2011.
78 individuals; 24-25 October 1998; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
63 individuals; 18 May 2021; Parc des Cedres; Jon Ruddy; ebird
30 individuals; 27 May 2011; Britannia Pier, forced down by inclement weather; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
27 individuals; 8 November 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):5.
25 individuals; 12 November 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):24.
21 females; 26 October 2008; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 27.10.2008

## **Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Érismature rousse  
RUDU

## Status: Rare migrant and breeder.

Historically, considered a rare migrant on the Ottawa River, mainly in fall. Today, most frequently observed at sewage lagoons and the Moodie Drive quarry ponds, where it sometimes summers (and may breed). Still observed from time to time on the Ottawa River in migration, mainly in April and October-November. Some years flocks have gathered at Shirley's Bay in late fall.

In 1983 a pair lingered all summer at the Casselman sewage lagoons, raising suspicions of breeding. On 9 August 1986, female with two young was found at the Casselman sewage lagoons by Bruce Di Labio for the first local breeding record (T&L 21(3):128). Since then it became regular in summer on the Ontario side at sewage lagoons and the Moodie Drive quarry ponds, however confirmed nesting has been documented infrequently and it is best considered a rare and local breeder in the District. Since about 2017 it has become even rarer in the summer. Lingers exceptionally into early December, with a late date of 16 December (1978 & 1979).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
from 25 March 2014; 2+ individuals; Gillian Mastromatteo; m.obs.; Moodie Drive quarry ponds; eBird.
29 March 2010; 4 individuals; Moodie Drive quarry pond; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
31 March 2006; 1 male; Ottawa River west of Champlain Bridge; Ontbirds 03.04.2006.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to second week of November.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1-5 December 2021, 1 individual, Deschenes Rapids, mobs, ebird
5-8 December 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
16 December 1978; 1 individual; Audubon CBC data (count week), Shrike 10(3):17.
until 16 December 1979; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Shrike 4(8):3.
26 December 2006; 1 individual; Pakenham CBC; Ontbirds 21.01.2007. <b>Inside 50K?</b>
3-12 December 2015, Moodie Drive ponds, mobs, ebird
25 February 2017, 1 individual, Mississippi R. at Hwy. 7 bridge, mob, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
170 individuals; 2 November 2013; Moodie Drive quarry ponds; Ontbirds 08.22.2013.
134 individuals; 14 November 1975, Shirley's Bay; T&L 10(2):45.
125 individuals; 27 October 2013; Moodie Drive quarry ponds; Anouk Hoedeman; eBird.
124 individuals; 14-15 October 2006; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
97 individuals; 1 September 2010; St. Albert sewage lagoons; Ontbirds 08.09.2010.
80 individuals; 5 October 2006; Casselman sewage lagoons; Ontbirds 09.10.2006.

## Upland Game Birds

### **Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

Dindon sauvage

WITU

### Status: Fairly common resident. Introduced.

A relatively new addition to the Ottawa-Gatineau District's avifauna, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources first introduced Wild Turkeys into the area in Kemptville in the 1990's and Carp in 1996-97. The birds readily established themselves and now constitute a countable, self-sustaining population, with the last introductions in the area taking place in 2001 (Ontbirds 14.03.2002). Populations continue to rise, and they are now found in areas with a mix of open agricultural fields with adjacent woodlots throughout the District, even wandering into nearby suburban areas creating a traffic hazard as well as amusing local residents. Flocks are usually seen in fields, especially in winter when they stand out against the snow.

<b>First Record</b>
First introductions were in the 1990's in the Kemptville area. However, there is an early ebird record from Britannia for 31 March 1987.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>

334 individuals, December 2021, CBC high count
323 individuals; 23-24 October 2010; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
228 individuals; 2 January 2010; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
170 individuals; 5 December 2018; Aeroport Gatineau; real Bisson, ebird
139 individuals; 11 January 2015; Ch. Proulx, Gatineau; Louise Chénier; eBird.
137 individuals; 18 December 2011; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
115 individuals; 15 January 2011; Kinburn Side Road; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## Ruffed Grouse

*(Bonasa umbellus)*

Gélinotte huppée  
RUGR

**Status: Fairly common resident.**

Fairly common resident, widespread in larger tracts of deciduous and mixed forests throughout the District (94% of squares on OBBA2, 84% of squares on QBBA2). Has declined considerably in the vicinity of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau since the 1980's due to development, but is still found readily in more rural areas where there is sufficient forest cover. Most easily detected in spring when drumming males can be heard from a considerable distance.

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Noteworthy High Counts

93 individuals; 16 December 1979; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

65 individuals; 30 December 1989; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

45 individuals; 21-22 October 2000; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.

25 individuals; 23 April 1984; Richard Brouillet and Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):17.

20 individuals; 20 June 1981; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 6(4):21.

## Spruce Grouse

*(Falcipennis canadensis)*

Tétras du Canada  
SPGR

**Status: Extirpated. Historically, a fairly common resident.**

Early checklists from the late 1800's describe this species as a fairly common resident, breeding at Mer Bleue, amongst other locations. In the 1910 checklist (ON, Volume 25, page 179) it was stated that it was:

"Formerly a common if not abundant permanent resident, but now a rare one. The Mer Bleue, a large bog a few miles east of the city, was formerly a favorite haunt. It probably is still found in some of the densest and most impassable spruce thickets in the district. In the winter of 1908-1909 Mr. E. Bedard saw one in a thicket at the river's edge on the Rifle Range (*now the Rockcliffe Airport, ed.*), and Mr. C. H. Young once told me of several he had seen in a woods near Billings' Bridge"

It is somewhat mysterious that, in spite of this former claimed abundance, the sighting on the Rifle range is the only one on record that gives a specific time and place. By 1923 it was believed to occur only in remote areas in the north of the District such as McGregor Lake. By 1944 it was considered almost extirpated - two birds reported on the Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count that year may be the last record. Unfortunately the specific location of that last sighting is unknown. Hunting pressure and habitat loss were presumably responsible for this decline.

Occasional reports of this species from the northern sector of the District in more recent years have never been verified (e.g. 17 April 1984 at Lac Phillipe, Ornitaouais 7(1):7). There are 2 recent ebird reports, one from 2005 at Ruisseau Meech, and another at Mont Cascades in 2014. However, neither of these have any photos or any description of the bird seen.

## Willow Ptarmigan

*(Lagopus Lagopus)*

Lagopède des saules  
WIPT

**Status: Accidental spring transient**

Although normally a tundra resident, this species sometimes is a long distance migrant and has a track record of vagrancy. There are a few records from southern Ontario, including one well-documented sighting from Pickering. There are two sightings, both east of Ottawa.

**First Record**

25 April 2021; 1 individual in winter plumage; Birchgrove Road, Ottawa; Devon, Mo and Liz Fyson; ebird.

19 April 2025; 1 individual; Barnett Drive, Cumberland, Ottawa. Observer unknown but a photo was provided; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

**Gray Partridge**  
(*Perdix perdix*)

**Perdrix grise**  
**GRAP**

**Status: Rare resident in rural areas on the Ontario side. Introduced.**

Rare resident in agricultural areas with adjacent hedgerows or brushy areas to provide shelter. Formerly more common.

This European species was introduced in the late 1930's and early 1940's for hunting purposes. Numbers peaked in the early 1980's. At the time the species was fairly common in the Greenbelt around Ottawa, in the Central Experimental Farm and even at Britannia. Birds were even found at suburban feeders. The reasons for the decline are not certain, but as development increased in the city it has been gradually squeezed out and is now virtually extirpated in the urban and suburban areas of Ottawa. Increased predation from a rising coyote population and competition from the rising Wild Turkey population have also been considered as factors in the decline. It was last recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC in 2007. It is also susceptible to population crashes caused by harsh winters, which likely compounded the decline. In 2025 there were only about 3 single sightings of this species.

On the Ontario side, the number of populations keep dropping and no area seems to have them more than a few years in a row. The farming areas in the extreme east and west are still the most likely places they can be seen, and they are easiest to find during the winter months when they form flocks and are more conspicuous against snow-covered fields.

Never common on the Quebec side, it was present there at least until the 1990's (T&L 29(3):121) but is now likely extirpated.

**First Record**

Earliest documented introduction is at the Connaught Rifle Range in 1938; CFN 58(5):152.

**Noteworthy High Counts**

657 individuals; 21 December 1980; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

490 individuals; 22 December 1968; Ottawa Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.

82 individuals; 17 January 1981; Dan Brunton; Shrike 6(6):23.

56 individuals; 20 December 1982; Dan Brunton; Shrike 7(6):29.

34 individuals; 5 January 2013; Kinburn Side Road; Michelle Martin; eBird.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**  
(*Phasianus colchicus*)

**Faisan de Colchide**  
**RNEP**

**Status: Extirpated. Formerly an uncommon resident. Introduced.**

This European species was introduced for hunting purposes, probably first in the 1920's. It was first reported on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC in 1932. In the 1940's Lloyd suggested that the region was unsuitable for this species due to snow depth in winter, but that a small population was able to survive in rural and suburban areas by visiting market gardens, manure piles and bird feeders, including at the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum (T&L 15(3):145).

Apparently the species began to show declines in the 1960's and 1970's, particularly after hard winters. By the early 1980's it was only being seen regularly in a handful of locations, including in the Riverside Drive and Alta Vista area (Shrike 7(3):11). By the late 1980's it was considered no longer countable in the District (T&L 22(4):169) as the original introduced population had been extirpated. Individuals are occasionally still seen, but are believed to be recent escapes from wild bird breeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Multiple introductions, the first of which were likely in the 1920's; CFN 46:125.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
56 individuals; 24 December 1944; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
34 individuals; 22 December 1968; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
31 individuals; 23 December 1962; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.

## Pigeons and Doves

### **Rock Pigeon** (*Columbia livia*)

**Pigeon biset**  
**ROPI**

**Status: Common resident. Introduced.**

The date of introduction of Rock Pigeon to the District is not recorded in the literature, but it seems likely that they arrived with settlers in the early days of European colonisation of the area. Despite them being widespread, early ornithologists deliberately ignored them and they are not listed in the earlier checklists for the District; Hoyes Lloyd added them in his 1930 checklist addendum, on the basis that they had established a sustainable feral population.

Today they are an ubiquitous and abundant resident in the cities, towns and villages of the area. In rural areas they are widespread, but much more localised, tending to associate with human development, especially barnyards, silos, bridges and overpasses.

<b>First Record</b>
The first record in the literature was in 1883, in Transactions, VOL. 5, page 143, which described a Merlin pursuing a tame pigeon, presumed to be this species. First added to the Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1930, but present previously; CFN 36:146..First recorded on the CBC in 1932
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
7,369 individuals; 21 December 1980; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
4,000 individuals 24 January 1981; Roger Foxall; Shrike 6(6):24.
2,099 individuals; 30-31 October 1999; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.

### **Passenger Pigeon** (*Ectopistes migratorius*)

**Tourte voyageuse**

**Status: Formerly a common migrant and breeder, now extinct.**

One of the most infamous examples of man's ability to drive a species to extinction, Passenger Pigeons were said to have darkened the skies of eastern North America with their huge flocks until relentless hunting pressure drove them to extinction in the early 1900s.

In the Ottawa-Gatineau District, they are believed to have once been a common migrant and breeder, although by the time of the first official checklist in 1881, they had already become rare in the region. Only ten specific occurrences are recorded in the literature from the District, all of which are listed below. All recent records are from the period from 1884 to 1888 and span from mid-April to early September.

<b>First Record</b>
First record: 10 May 1855 (in ebird); source: records from Bill Schorger; see <a href="http://passengerpigeon.org/states/Ontario.html">http://passengerpigeon.org/states/Ontario.html</a> for more details. From Schorger page 1403. Activity: Migration. Comments: Observations on first arrivals on pigeons. Location: Ottawa. Year: 1855. Month: 5. Day: 10

<b>Other Records</b>
6 June 1884; 1 adult male; Cumming's Woods, shot; Ottawa Naturalist 25:179.
28 June 1884; 1 female, 1 young; near McKay's Lake, Rockcliffe; Ottawa Naturalist 25:179.

10 May 1885; 1 male; Col. W. White's garden; Ottawa Naturalist 25:179.
25 August 1885; 1 male; Col. W. White's garden; Ottawa Naturalist 25:179.
15 April 1886; 12 individuals; McKay's Lake, Rockcliffe; Ottawa Naturalist 25:180.
24 May 1886; 1 individual; McKay's Lake, Rockcliffe; Ottawa Naturalist 25:180.
23 August 1887; 1 individual; Col. W. White's garden; Ottawa Naturalist 25:180.
3 September 1887; 1 individual; Kettle Island; G.R. and E.G. White; Ottawa Naturalist 25:180.
1888; 1 individual; last individual recorded in the District, although no details given; CFN 37:151.

## Eurasian Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Tourterelle turque  
ECDO

**Status: Accidental transient in spring.**

This introduced species from Europe has spread rapidly in North America since its original introduction in the Caribbean in the 1970's. It is now resident in the southern parts of the western provinces and a casual wanderer Ontario and Quebec. There are three or four records for the Ottawa-Gatineau District to date, the last having had many observers.

### Records

5 June 2012; 1 individual; County Rd. 29, s. of Pakenham, Ken Allinson; Ontbirds 08.06.2012.
6 May 2018; 1 individual, Almonte Sewage Lagoons; ebird, Mark Gawn
5 May -26 June 2021; 1 individual, possibly the same bird, was seen on 5 May at the Hilda road feeders, on 3 June at the Cambrian Road Bridge (both in Ottawa), and on 26 June at les Rapides Deschênes, Gatineau; mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## White-winged Dove

(*Zenaida asiatica*)

Tourterelle à ailes blanches  
WWDO

**Status: Accidental transient in spring and summer.**

Primarily a southwestern species, there are two records for this species.

### Records

26 May -1 June 2018, 1 individual, at a residence on Dunrobin Ave. in Alta Vista, Ottawa, ON. Charles Francis, ebird, m. obs., ebird
18-19 July 2021; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Ottawa; mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Mourning Dove

(*Zenaida macroura*)

Tourterelle triste  
MODO

**Status: Common resident, somewhat migratory.**

The Mourning Dove is a familiar species of wooded urban areas, roadsides, forest edges and open woods. First recorded in the District in 1903, it soon increased in numbers and by the 1940's was considered a moderately common summer resident and breeder. By the 1970's it was beginning to winter in small numbers (the first Ottawa-Gatineau CBC record was in 1971).

Today it is common from late March to late October and fairly common through the winter, as a few individuals withdraw to the south in cold weather. In winter, this species can form larger flocks in sheltered wooded areas. Still a relative newcomer to winters in the District, birds banded at Innis Point Bird Observatory are often noted to have lost toes to frostbite.

### First Record

20 August 1903; several individuals; near Shirley's Bay; G.R. White; Ottawa Naturalist 25:180.
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<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
984 individuals; 19-20 October 2002; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
953 individuals; 17 December 2000; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
577 individuals; 28 Dec. 2002; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

## Cuckoos

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*)

**Coulicou à bec jaune**  
**YBCU**

**Status: Rare migrant and breeder.**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo is at the very northern edge of its range in the District. It is one of the latest migrating land birds, with birds arriving at the end of May or early June. Like Black-billed Cuckoo, it is quite secretive, and is most often found by its song from late May to early July. Identification from the song should be done with reservation, as both species of cuckoo have been known to sing each other's songs.

Throughout its range it nests in a variety of wooded habitats, including scrubby fields, thickets and roadsides. In the District, it seems to be found more often in mature deciduous forests, especially on the Quebec side (4% of squares on OBBA2, 19% of squares on QBBA2). Gatineau Park is one of the best places to search for it, as it has been seen repeatedly in several locations (Champlain Lookout, Meech Creek Valley, Lac Philippe), as is the Richmond area. Nesting has been confirmed several times, on both sides of the Ottawa River.

Birds are difficult to find after singing ceases and this species is seen infrequently as a fall migrant. Most Yellow-billed Cuckoos probably leave the District by the end of August (exceptionally to late October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau checklist in 1881.
<b>First Nesting record</b>
White's Garden, 185 Wurtemberg, Ottawa, 1890
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
17 May 2010; 1 individual; Gatineau Park, near Champlain Lookout; Ontbirds
20 May 1989; 1 individual; Britannia CA; T&L 23(4):182.
21 May 2007; 1 individual; Carp Hills; Ontbirds 26.05.2007.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to fourth week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
1-2 October 2005; 1 individual; Britannia CA, along Cassels St.; mobs, Ontbirds 03.10.2005.
3 October 2015; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; ebird
6 October; 1991; 1 individual; Deschênes; Etienne Artigau; eBird.;
7 October 2024; 1 individual, Richmond CA; Peter Blancher; ebird
14 October 2018; 1 individual, Richmond CA; Peter Blancher; ebird
22 October 1982; 1 individual; Almonte, Bruce Di Labio; T&L 17(1):7.
17 October 2023; 1 individual, Orleans, T. Erikson; ebird
2 October 2014; 1 individual; Rockcliffe Airport woods, Gregory Zbitnew; ebird
12 October 2023; 1 individual; Rockcliffe Airport woods, mobs; ebird
10 October 2020; 1 individual; Parc Martin Larouche, mobs, ebird
10 October 2020; 1 individual; Baie Simard, mobs, ebird
1 October 2024; 1 individual, Solva Cresc.; Jacob Stasso, ebird
3 october 2023; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon park east; mobs, ebird
4 october 2024; 1 individual; Greenbank road near Fallowfield; Brian Daly, ebird (dead bird)
12 November 2004; 1 individual; Touraine; Étude des populations d'oiseaux du Québec; <u>eBird Checklist</u>
- 12 Nov 2004 - Touraine - 1 species, an injured bird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3 individuals; 17 June 2017; carp hills, Richard waters, ebird
3 individuals; 29 May 1976; Richmond Fen; Bruce Di Labio; Bob Gorman; Shrike 1(3):5.
2 individuals; 22 June 1982; Lac Philippe; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 7(3):14.
2 individuals; 30 June 1984; Innis Point; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(3):7.
2 individuals; 17 June 2003; Peter Blancher; Munster area; eBird.

## Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)

Coulicou à bec noir

BBCU

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder.**

Black-billed Cuckoo is one of the later arriving migrants to the District, with most birds appearing in late May (exceptionally early May). It is a widespread but uncommon breeder in a range of open wooded habitats including scrubby fields, thickets, roadsides and forest edges (94% of squares on OBBA2, 62% of squares on QBBA2). Its abundance year-to-year varies based on the availability of tent caterpillars, one of its chief food items. This species is secretive and is most easily detected by its song, so observations trail off dramatically after early July when singing ceases and it is seen infrequently during fall migration. It appears that most birds leave the District by the end of August (exceptionally to early October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
7 May 1895; CFN 58(5):158.
9 May 1999; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO data.
10 May 2015; 3 individuals at 2 locations; Munster area; m.obs.; eBird.
12 May 1987; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Jim Dixon; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to fourth week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
22 September 1983; 1 individuals; Heather Hamilton, Dave Gill; Shrike 8(5):14.
28 September 2013; 1 individual; Giroux Road quarry ponds; Mark Patry; eBird.
4 October 2024; old Almonte Road; Gordon McArthur; ebird
7 October 2003; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay woods; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 08.10.2003.
12 October 1980; 1 individual; Bill Holland; Shrike 5(5):7.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
6 individuals; 29 June 1982; Jo Anne Murray, Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 7(3):28.
5 individuals; 28 June 1981; Bill Holland; Shrike 6(4):22.
4 individuals; numerous dates in Shrike records, eBird and IPBO data, mostly late May to July.

## Goatsuckers and Swifts

### Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

Engoulevent d'Amérique

CONI

**Status: Uncommon migrant and rare breeder.**

A late migrant, most Common Nighthawks arrive in the District in late May (exceptionally late April). They are active at night feeding on insects and are most often seen in flight at dusk, or detected by the calls and aerial displays after dark. Formerly they were a widespread breeder in the urban core of Ottawa and Gatineau, where they nested on rooftops. Since the early 2000s, they have largely disappeared from these areas, coincident with range-wide population declines.

This species is now a rare breeder in the District (26% of squares on OBBA2, 22% of squares on QBBA2), nesting on open patches of ground on rock barrens, gravel pits, forest clearings or the like. The Carp Ridge is currently one of the more consistent and reliable spots to see and hear this species. In late August and early September, this species forms flocks in migration which can sometimes be observed hawking insects at dusk, especially over water courses. Most Common Nighthawks have left the District by early September (exceptionally mid-October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 April 1974; 1 individual; Billings Avenue, Ottawa, Tom Hince, OBRSC #094.
15 May 1984; 1 individual; Elaine Dickson; Shrike 9(4):22.
15 May 1985; 1 individual; R.E. Bedford; Shrike 10(3):8.

<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 1983, 2 individuals; Remic Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 18(1):10, Shrike Database.
10 October 1983; 1 individual; SW sector; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(5):15.
11 October 1982; 1 individual; heard calling; Tom Hince; Shrike 7(5):17.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
300 individuals; 27 August 2012; migrating, east of Arnprior; Ontbirds 30.08.2012.
250 individuals, 23 August 2012; migrating over Carp; Bruce and Ben Di Labio; Ontbirds 24.08.2012.
200 individuals; 24 August 1984; Shrike 9(4):22.
200 individuals; 16 August 2013; migrating over Carp; Ontbirds 22.08.2013.
135 individuals; 23 August 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):13.

## Chuck-wills-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*)

Engoulement de Caroline  
CWWI

**Status: Accidental in spring.**

This large nightjar is a casual visitor to southern Ontario and Quebec. There is only one record for the Ottawa-Gatineau District, of a bird heard calling at night in mid-May 2014 along Rifle Road near Shirley's Bay.

<b>Record</b>
17 & 19 May 2014; 1 individual; Rifle Road, Shirley's Bay; Jake Walker, m.obs. Ontbirds 17,22.05.2014.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*)

Engoulement bois-pourri  
WPWI

**Status: Fairly common breeder.**

Whip-poor-wills arrive in the District in early May (exceptionally late April). They are a fairly common breeder in openings in forested areas (62% of squares on OBBA1; 41% of squares on OBBA2), where they call from the ground and forage aerially for insects at night. This species is usually detected by its "whip-poor-will" call which it gives at night, sometimes incessantly. Visual observations are rare and are usually of birds flushed from daytime roosting places or occasionally lit by headlights when calling on rural roadways at night. Most leave the District by early September (exceptionally mid-October).

<b>Principal Dates</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
21 April 1982; 1 individual; Jo Ann & Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 7(2):14.
21 April 1985; 1 individual; Rose Marie Amott; Shrike 10(2):6.
c. 24 April 2009; 1 individual; Ontbirds 28.04.2009.
27 April 2017; 1 individual; near Trim and St. Joseph in Orleans; mobs, ebird
28 April 2017; 1 individual; Carp Hills; Aaron Hywarren & Bruce Di Labio; ebird
30 April 1970; 1 individual; Merivale Gardens; anonymous; ebird
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
25 September 1977; 1 individual; T&L 12(1):
<b>First week of October, 1993 Checklist.</b>
4 October 2016; 1 individual; Carp Hills; Bruce Di Labio; ebird
16 October 1909; 1 individual; G.R. White; Ottawa Naturalist 25:185.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
26 individuals; 15 June 2006; Larose Forest, Clarence-Cumberland Road; Ontbirds 19.06.2006.
20 individuals; 24 May 1981; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 6(4):22.
17 individuals, 25 June 2019, Flood road, Gerard Phillips, ebird

16 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):28.

## Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Martinet ramoneur  
CHSW

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder.**

Chimney Swifts arrive in the District in early May (exceptionally mid-April). They can be seen twinkling through the evening skies over the city in Ottawa and Gatineau and in the smaller towns of the District. They are less frequent in rural areas. In spring and late summer particularly, numbers will gather over the rapids on the Ottawa River. This species is an uncommon breeder in the District (38% on OBBA2, 57% on QBBA2), and like many aerial insectivores it is in decline. It nests frequently on human-built structures – especially chimneys, but also roofs, rafters and gables and also in hollow trees. However, like most aerial insectivores this species has decline in recent years.

Most Chimney Swifts have left the District by early September (exceptionally late October). There is one very unusual winter record described in the literature of a Chimney Swift that came down the chimney of the house of J.F. Whiteaves in Ottawa. The bird was caught and examined and remained alive for several days. The same reference indicates that a similar occurrence was known to have occurred in Toronto.

### First Record

Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

17 April 2011; 1 individual; Faraday Street, Ottawa; William von Herff; eBird.

22 April 1897; early arrival date; Ottawa Naturalist 25:185.

22 April 2013; 1 individual; Central Experimental Farm; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

### Principal Dates

First week of May to first week of September.

### Late Fall Departure

25 September 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(5):15.

### First through third week of October, 1993 Checklist

27 October 1983; 2 individuals; Richard Brouillet; Shrike 9(5):7.

### Winter Record

First week of February 1883; 1 individual; J.F. Whiteaves; Ottawa Naturalist 5:41.

### Noteworthy High Counts

1,600 individuals; 20 May 2025, Dominican University College, Nick Ackerly, ebird

1,500 individuals; 18 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):22.

1,000 individuals; 17 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):14.

750 individuals, 28 May 1993, Britannia CA, Bruce DiLabio, ebird

550 individuals; 2 June 2009; Deschênes & Remic rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 02.06.2009.

## Hummingbirds

### Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

Colibri à gorge rubis  
RTHU

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.**

This beautiful little bird is the smallest one found in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds usually arrive around mid-May (exceptionally mid-April, and an extremely unusual late March record). Peak counts for this species are in mid- to late May, during the peak of its spring migration. They are a fairly common breeder (98% of squares on OBBA2 95% of squares on QBBA2) in edges and openings in deciduous and mixed forest, open shrubby areas and residential gardens and urban parklands. Most have departed by the end of September (exceptionally mid-October).

### First Record

Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

22 March 2021, 1 individual; Milton Road, Shannon McCormick, ebird

18 April 1976; 1 individual; S. Macdonald; Shrike 1(2), T&L 10(4):101.
19 April 2012; 1 individual; Pakenham; Ontbirds 19.04.2012.
26 April 1998, 1 individual, Beacon Hill, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
30 April 2024; 1 individual; greenboro east; Rich Daly; ebird
29 April 1981; 1 individual; Loney Dickson; Shrike 6(2):14.
1 May 2011; Ontbirds 03.05.2011.
4 May 2001; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO data.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 2018, Russell, Paul Schoening, ebird
7 October 2011, , Gatineau, Julie Bourke, ebird
10 October 2016,, Arboretum, anonymous, ebird
15 October 1982; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 7(5):17.
16 October 1909; 1 individual; owing to a warm fall; G.R. White; Ottawa Naturalist 25:185.
19 October 2013; 1 sub-adult male; Manotick, ON, appeared briefly at a feeder; Ontbirds 24.10.2013.
25-29 October 2016, 1 individual, Constance Bay, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
70 individuals; 20 May 1999; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
40 individuals; 17 May 1986; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Shrike Database.
32 individuals; 25 May 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(3):8.

## Anna's Hummingbird

(*Calypte anna*)

Colibri d'Anna

ANHU

### Status: Accidental transient in fall

There is a single record of a female coming to a feeder in Carleton place for 2 weeks or longer. There are very few records for Ontario.

#### First Record

Before 8 November to 20 November, 2017; 1 female; near Thomas and Mackenzie Streets, Carleton Place, Lanark. M. obs., ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A

## Gruiformes

### King Rail

(*Rallus elegans*)

Râle élégant

KIRA

### Status: Accidental transient in spring, possible breeder.

There are two records, the first being a very old record from May of 1896, of an individual shot at Billings Bridge and which was seen by G.R. White in a local taxidermy shop. This secretive wetland species is currently a very rare and local breeder in southwestern Ontario, although OBBA2 did collect a couple of records from the Rideau Lakes area to the south of the District.

#### Records

7 May 1896; 1 individual; Billings Bridge, Ottawa, G.R. White, J.H. Fleming, CFN 37:126.

#### Second week of June, 1993 Checklist

24 July-mid October 2023; up to 4 individuals (heard only); marsh south of Stonecrest; Ottawa; mobs, ebird. A number of audio recordings were made but none of the birds were ever seen

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Virginia Rail

Râle de Virginie

*(Rallus limicola)*

VIRA

**Status: Fairly common breeder.**

Virginia Rail is a fairly common breeder in wetlands with emergent vegetation, including cattails, sedges and shrubs, throughout the District (64% of squares on OBBA2, 41% of squares on QBBA2). It is primarily nocturnal and secretive and is most often detected by its calls, which it makes mainly at night, but of all the rails it the one most likely to be seen. Birds appear in their breeding habitats typically in late April or early May (exceptionally late March) and depart in mid-September (exceptionally late November). They are virtually never reported away from their wetland breeding habitats.

<b>First Record</b>
9 July 1890; Rideau River at Kars; Ottawa Naturalist, Volume 4 page 93
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 March 2009; 1 individual; Munster area; Ontbirds 31.03.2009.
28 March 2010; 1 individual; Riddell Drive swamp; Ontbirds 30.03.2010,
9 April 2012; 1 individual; Mer Bleue boardwalk; Ontbirds 12.04.2012.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
17 October 2012; 1 individual; Stoney Swamp; Ontbirds 18.10.2012.
Fourth week of October; 1993 Checklist
Fourth week of November, 1993 checklist.
<b>Winter Record</b>
23-24 December 2021; 1 individual, Nortel marsh; Gordon Johnston, Bruce Dilabio, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
26 individuals; 25 July 1984; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):5.
20 individuals, 25 July 1984; Blair Mclaurin; Daniel St. Hilaire. Ebird
14 individuals, 17 June 2021, Atlas square 18Tvr03, Jeff Skevington, ebird
12 individuals; 11 May 2013; South March Highlands; Ben Ivany; eBird.
8 individuals; 3 July 1983; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(4):24.

**Sora**  
*(Porzana carolina)*

**Marouette de Caroline**  
**SORA**

**Status: Fairly common breeder.**

Sora occurs in wetlands with emergent vegetation throughout the District. It is often found in the same places as Virginia Rail, but has a preference for larger wetlands dominated by sedge or cattails. As such it occurs more widely on the southern part of the District where such habitat is more abundant (57% of squares on OBBA2, 16% of squares on QBBA2). It is nocturnal and secretive, even more so than the Virginia rail, and is most often detected by its calls, which it makes mainly at night. Birds appear in their breeding habitats typically in late April or early May (exceptionally late March) and depart in mid-September (exceptionally late October). They are virtually never reported away from their wetland breeding habitats.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Fourth week of March, 1993 Checklist
Second week of April; 1993 checklist
17 April 2011; 1 individual; Bill Mason Centre; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
10 October 1976; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Richard Killeen; Shrike 1(7):3.
16 October 2011; 1 individual; Mer Bleue Bog boardwalk, Mid-Fall Bird Count;; Ontbirds 18.10.2011.
19 October 2008; 1 individual; Petrie Islands, Mid-Fall Bird Count; Ontbirds 21.10.2008.
Fourth week of October, 1993 checklist
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
20 individuals; 19 May 2008; Marais des Laiches; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.

18 individuals; late July 1984; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):5.
11 individuals, 20 July 2016, Bruce Di labio, ebird
7 individuals; 25 May 1982; Langis Sirois; Shrike 7(3):27.

## Common Gallinule

(*Gallinula chloropus*)

Gallinule poule-d'eau  
COGA

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Exceptional in early winter.**

The Common Gallinule is an uncommon breeder throughout the District, favouring large wetlands with a mix of emergent vegetation (especially cattails) and open water. In the District this includes the marshes along the Ottawa River, sewage lagoons and other larger inland marshes (21% of square on OBBA2, 24% of squares on QBBA2).

This species usually arrives in late April (exceptionally early April) and often departs by mid-September, although there are a number of records of birds lingering in October. Two exceptionally late records are from late November 2006 at Shirley's Bay and late December 2005 at the Sabourin Marsh (the only Ottawa-Gatineau CBC record for this species).

<b>First Record</b>
17 May 1882, Hurdman Bridge area, Ontario Birds Volume 40, page 89+, supplementary document being a list of specimens from the White Collection..
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
4 April 2010; 1 individual; Masson-Thurso marshes; Ontbirds 06.04.2010.
9 April 1983; 1 individual; Ron Bedford; SE misc.; T&L 17(4):205, Shrike 8(2):11
10 April 2010; 5 individuals; Masson; L. Chénier; Ornitaouais 32(4):17.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
17 October 2013; 1 individual; Bruce Pit; Ontbirds 24 October 2013.
20 October 2010; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Robert Scranton, Hans van der Zweep; eBird.
25 October 1983; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(5):12, Shrike Database.
22 October-3 November 2024; 1 individual; Plaisance (Baie Noire); mobs; ebird
24 November 2006; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay, inside the dyke; <a href="#">Ontbirds</a>
<b>Winter Records</b>
18 December 2005; 1 immature; Sabourin Marsh, on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Ornitaouais 28(3):26.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
66 individuals; 3 August 1984; NE sector of the District; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):19.
29 individuals; 1 August 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike Database.
24 individuals; 1 September 2010; St. Albert Sewage Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 02.09.2006.

## American Coot

(*Fulica americana*)

Foulque d'Amérique  
AMCO

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant. Rare breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

American Coots typically arrive in the District in early April (exceptionally late March.) In migration they can be found in a variety of locations on water, including the Ottawa River. For breeding, they favour large wetlands with a mix of emergent vegetation (especially cattails) and open water. In the District this includes the marshes along the Ottawa River, sewage lagoons as well as other larger inland marshes. It is rare as a breeder in the District (17% of squares on OBBA2, 3% of squares on QBBA2) and is absent from many apparently suitable locations.

Fall migration is the easiest period in which to find this species in the District, and it sometimes forms flocks on the Ottawa River in this season. Migrants will often linger into early December and it has been recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC five times from 1969-2021 (single birds in 1969, 1984, 1997, 1998 and 2011). American Coot is exceptional later in winter, but an individual successfully overwintered at Billings Bridge in the winters of 1996-97 and 1997-98. It re-appeared in 1998-99 but only lasted until late January when a cold snap froze the Rideau River.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

Early Spring Arrival
27 March 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Ray Holland; Shrike
28 March 2003; 1 individual; Cobb's Lake Creek; Ontbirds
29 March 1981, 1 individual, early arrival; T&L 15(4):181
Principal Dates
First week of April to second week of November.
Late Winter Records
First to third week of January, 1993 Checklist.
December 1996 to 21 March 1997; 1 individual; Billings Bridge; Bird Status Line transcripts.
6 Dec. 1997 to 5 March 1998; 1 individual; Billings Bridge, Bird Status Line transcripts, T&L 21(1):3
20 December 1998 to 21 January 1999; 1 individual; Billings Bridge; Bird Status Line transcripts.
16-20 December 2025; 1 individual, Stittsville, Ottawa, mobs, ebird
Noteworthy High Counts
200 indiv; 17 Nov. 1998, Shirley's Bay, (also 120 on 1 Dec; 44 on 5 Dec); Bird Status Line transcripts.
46 individuals; 4 November 1985; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(4):18.
23 individuals; 20 October 2013; Shirley's Bay; Jake Walker; eBird.

## Purple Gallinule

(*Porphyrio martinicus*)

Talève violacée  
PUGA

**Status: Accidental in spring, fall and winter.**

Four records (one OBSRC accepted). This southern relative of the Common Gallinule is a casual straggler north into eastern Canada. The first record was a very unusual sighting in December 1973 of a bird found wandering in a department store parking lot. Another bird present the following spring in late April and early May of 1973 and was captured and flown to Florida.

It was almost thirty years before the species was reported again in the District. In fall of 2003 there were two sightings: a juvenile videotaped at Shirley's Bay on 28 September 2003 and, an individual (possibly the same bird) picked up in a weakened state in Westboro and taken to the Wild Bird Care clinic in late November of the same year.

Records
29 December 1973; 1 individual; Ottawa; Monty Brigham; AB 28(3):633.
25 April to 2 May 1974; 1 individual; Ottawa; J. Lay; AB 28(5):897
28 September 2003; 1 juvenile; Shirley's Bay,; John Wamsley, m.obs.; NAB 58(1):69, T&L 38(1):54
30 November 2003; 1 juvenile; Currell Street, Westboro, Ottawa,; T&L 38(2):103.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Yellow Rail

(*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Râle jaune  
YEAR

**Status: Very rare and local breeder at Richmond Fen. Exceptional fall migrant.**

Prior to the 1970's, this exceedingly secretive species was known only from a handful of fall migration records, mostly of specimens taken in September and October in wetlands along the Ottawa River.

On 29 May 1976, Bruce Di Labio discovered a colony of Yellow Rails in the Richmond Fen, a large wetland complex southwest of Richmond that included areas of wet sedge meadow attractive to this species (T&L 10(4):102). Over the subsequent years, totals of up to 20 calling birds were recorded in the Fen. Most records were based on heard calls, but over the years, tramping around through the Fen in rubber boots has occasionally produced glimpses of birds as they flush. Breeding was confirmed on 29 May 1982 when Ian Jones and Granger Ward managed to flush a bird off a nest of six eggs on such a foray (Shrike 7(6):3).

Yellow Rails continued to be found at the Richmond Fen most years through the 1980's and 1990's. The last sighting for many years was of one heard on 21 May 2007 by Jeff Skevington (eBird). It was thought that the birds may still persist at the site (or may occur again in the future) or that changes in water level or the filling in of the sedge fen by successional vegetation has rendered the site unsuitable. Furthermore, the traditional approach of listening from the

railway tracks was not possible anymore due to trespassing concerns. However, in 2019 some adventurous souls entered the Fen from another direction, coming from Marlborough Forest and avoiding trespassing. Rails were found deep in the fen in 2019 and 2020 on a number of occasions, and once in 2021. As a matter of note, this is a long and difficult evening trip and should not be undertaken alone.

The sighting in 2013 was of a fall migrant flushed along the Carp River in early October, a time frame consistent with historical fall migration records. More diligent checking of sedge-dominated areas along the Ottawa River in fall has the potential to turn up more migrants.

<b>First Record</b>
22 October 1885; 1 individual; Rockland, specimen obtained; E.G. White; CFN 37:126.
<b>Early Spring Arrival (Richmond Fen)</b>
4 May 1998; 1 individual; Munster Road near Soldier's Line; Bird Status Line transcripts.
15 May 1982; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):12.
<b>Principal Dates (Richmond Fen)</b>
Third week of May to first week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure (Richmond Fen)</b>
7 August 1982; 1 individual; Richmond Fen; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 16(5):231, Shrike 7(4):11.
<b>Fall Migration Records</b>
1 September 1920; 2 individuals; Rockland; E.G. White; CFN 37:126.
6 September 1920; 1 individual; Rockland; E.G. White; CFN 37:126.
8 October 1922; 1 individual; Lochaber; E.G. White; CFN 37:126.
9 October 2013; 1 individual; flushed along the Carp River near Carp; Ontbirds 17.10.2013.
10 October 1920; 1 individual; Rockland; E.G. White; CFN 37:126.
22 October 1885; 1 individual; Rockland; E.G. White; CFN 37:126.
14 November 1928; 1 indiv.; Cantley, desiccated & impaled on barbwire; Rowley Frith; CFN 65:46.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
20 individuals; 27 June 1977; Richmond Fen; m.obs.; Shrike 2(4):3.
up to 17 individuals; late May to mid-June 1976; Richmond Fen; m.obs.; T&L10(4):102.
10 individuals; 10 June 1994; Richmond Fen, heard singing; Larry Neily; T&L 29(3):119.

## Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Grue du Canada  
SACR

**Status: Uncommon and local breeder, primarily at the Mer Bleue Bog. Rare migrant elsewhere in the District. Exceptional in winter.**

Following the first record of Sandhill Crane in the District in spring of 1975, this species became a casual visitor, with one or two individuals occasionally seen flying over during migration or lingering in fields and pastures.

In the summer of 1985, a pair was seen in farm fields east of the Mer Bleue Bog, sparking speculation that they could be breeding locally (T&L 20(5):213). Again in late summer and fall 1987, Sandhill Cranes were seen repeatedly in the same area (T&L 22(2):69). Finally, on 24 June 1988, two adults and two flightless young were seen along Milton Road, for the first confirmed breeding in the Ottawa-Gatineau District (T&L 23(1):26).

Since that time, Sandhill Cranes have become a regular feature along Milton Road on the east side of the Mer Bleue Bog. Birds are typically seen in the fields here from late March to late April, after which they disappear into the Mer Bleue to breed. In the fall, adults and young of the year return to the fields of Milton Road in October and November. Numbers of staging birds here in fall have increased yearly over the last two decades, with the flock usually reaching peak numbers in mid-November. Away from this location Sandhill Crane remains a relatively rare migrant most often heard flying overhead, but numbers continue to increase and it has started breeding elsewhere.

While individuals in the Milton Road flock occasionally linger into early December if the snow cover remains low, the only overwintering record was of a bird that appeared in the North Gower-Malakoff area in May 1982 and spent almost an entire year in the area, including the winter of 1982-83.

<b>First Record</b>
3 May 1975; 1 individual; 1 mile e. of Masson; Roger Foxall, Stanley Shadick; OBRSC #134.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 March 2012; 3 individuals; Milton Road; Remy Poulin, eBird.

19 March 2010; 2 individuals; Milton Road; Ontbirds 22.03.2010.
21 March 2009; 4 individuals; Milton Road; Ontbirds 24.03.2009.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to third week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
3 December 2012; 8 individuals; Milton Road, Jake Walker; eBird.
6 December 2011; 4 individuals; Milton Road; Hans van der Zweep, m.obs.; eBird.
To 10 December 2015; up to 39 individuals, Milton Road; mobs, ebird
4 May 1982 to 2 April 1983; 1 individual; North Gower-Malakoff area; m.obs.; Shrike 7(3)11, 8(2):11.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
183 individuals; 24 November 2012; Milton Road; Ontbirds 29.11.2012.
149 individuals; 7 November 2011; Milton Road; Patrick Blake; eBird.
108 individuals; c. 16 November 2010; Milton Road; Ontbirds 16.11.2010.

## Shorebirds

### **American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*)

**Avocette d'Amérique**  
**AMAV**

**Status: Accidental transient in spring and fall.**

This attractive shorebird is primarily a prairie breeder and the Ottawa-Gatineau District is to the east of its main migration routes. There are six reports, ranging from April to September and all involving single birds.

<b>Records</b>
15 May 1981; 1 adult; Green's Creek Lagoon; Ian Jones, Roger Foxall; T&L 15(4):181, OBRSC #273.
31 August 1981; 1 individual; near Shirley's Bay; T&L 15(5):233.
28-29 September 2003; 1 individual; Winchester Lagoons; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; T&L 38(1):54.
21-27 June 2015; 1 adult; Ottawa R. at Pinecrest Creek; Nina Stavlund, m.obs.; Ontbirds 21.06.2015.
6-9 June 2016, 1 adult, Casselman Sewage Lagoons, Prescott and Russel, ON, ebird, m. obs
20 April 2020, 1 adult, Station d'épuration, Gatineau (Masson-Angers ) Gatineau, QC, ebird, m. obs.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

### **Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

**Pluvier argenté**  
**BBPL**

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.**

Black-bellied Plover is an uncommon spring migrant, passing through during a relatively short period in late May and early June. The occasional presence of birds in late June and early July blurs the distinction between spring and fall migrants.

In fall it is fairly common and has a much longer migration period, with most birds passing through from late August to mid-October and with a tendency for the larger flocks to be found in October. In both migration periods, it can be found along the Ottawa River (especially on mudflats in fall), at sewage lagoons, in wet fields and at sod farms.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
11 May 1982; 1 individual; Fisher Avenue; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):12.
12 May 1985; 1 individual; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(3):5.
13 May 1985; 6 individuals; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(3):5.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to second week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
10 June 2006; 1 individual; Almonte Lagoons; Ontbirds 11.06.2006.

13 June 1999; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
16 June 1983; 1 individual; Russell; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 17(5):245
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
27 June 1975, 1 individual; T&L 9(4):112. Believed to be an early southbound migrant.
<b>First and second week of July, 1993 Checklist</b>
20 July 1986; 5 individuals; Ottawa Beach; T&L 20(5):210. After a summer rainstorm.
20 July 2008,, Breckenridge, rodolphe dubois, ebird
26 July 1982; 1 individual; Thurso; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 7(4):11
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of August to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
14 November 2004; 3 individuals; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
15 November 1984; 2 individuals; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(6):6.
14-21 November 1998; up to 6 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
96 individuals; 28 October 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(5):4.
68 individuals; 2 October 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):12.
50 individuals; 22 May 2017; RN du maria-trepanie; Donald Dallaire; ebird
47 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
39 individuals; 25 October 2000; field on Castor Rd., w. of Marionville; Bird Status Line transcripts.
35 individuals; 27 May 1976; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(3):4. Spring high count.
30 individuals; 18 October 2004; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## American Golden-Plover

(*Pluvialis dominica*)

Pluvier bronzé  
AMGP

**Status: Casual spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.**

Less common than its relative, the Black-bellied Plover, this species is a casual migrant through the District in the spring, with less than ten records from this season. In fall, it is uncommon, with most passing through from mid-August to mid-October. Although less common than Black-bellied, it can occur in larger flocks, numbering into the hundreds on occasion. In both migrations, it can be found along the Ottawa River (especially on mudflats in fall), at sewage lagoons, in wet fields and at sod farms.

This species has had huge fluctuations of abundance in the past. In Volume 58, page 183 (1944) of the CFN, it was stated: "formerly abundant, now rare fall transient. There was an immense flight about September 1, 1885, and no such flight since". The early checklists from the late 1800's and early 1900's describe it as common and note that "quite a few are offered for sale in markets in fall". However, in Volume 31 (1917), page 29 it was stated "After an absence of almost fifteen years, the Golden Plover has apparently resumed its migratory visits to eastern Ontario" (the author was mostly referring to events near Kingston. The 1923 Checklist described it as rare and the 1944 Checklist indicated that there had been no recent records at the time.

### First Record

Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Spring Records

last week of March 1998, 1 indiv.; 3rd Line and Lockhead Rd. near Kars; Bird Status Line transcripts

3 April 1981, 1 individual, near Arnprior; T&L 15(4):181.

27 April 1995; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; T&L 30(1):24.

5 May 1991; 1 individual; Winchester, ON; T&L 25(4):128.

7 May 1978; 1 individual; T&L 12(4):105.

7-9 May 2017; 1 individual; Moodie Drive ponds; mobs; ebird

11 May 1958; 1 individual; Earl Godfrey; AFN 12(4):350.

14 May 1984; 2 individuals; Richmond; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(3):6.

22-25 May 2020; 3 individuals; Moodie Drive ponds; mobs; ebird

25 May 1977; 1 adult; Central Experimental Farm; Bernie Ladouceur; OBRSC #192(A).

26 May 2012; 1 individual; Aylmer; Rodolphe Dubois; ebird

29 May 2005, 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory, flew over, Mike Boyd; IPBO data.

### First week of June, 1993 Checklist

9 June 2011; 1 individual; Greenbank Road; mobs; eBird.

13 June 1999; 1 individual; Embrun; John Plezier; ebird

<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
6 July 1986; 1 individual; Green's Creek Lagoons; T&L 20(5):214.
19 July 1981; 2 individuals; Jacques Cantin; Shrike 6(4):21, Shrike Database.
20 July 2008; 1 individual; Breckenridge; Rodolphe Dubois; ebird
30 July 1977; 6 individual; Ottawa Airport; Roger Foxall; Shrike 2(4):4.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of August to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
1 November 2007; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
4 November 1908; Ottawa Naturalist 25:178.
11 November 1984, 1 individual; Central Experimental Farm; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):5.
13 November 2012; 1 individual; Giroux Road quarry pond, flying over; Ontbirds 15.11.2012.
19 November 1977; 1 individual; Ian Jones, Paul Jones; Shrike 2(8):3.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
<b>1882? Immense flight</b>
370 individuals; 3 September 1972; seen on the Fall Round-up; T&L 7(2):55.
370 individuals; 18 Oct. 2003, St. Albert Lagoons (320), Cobb's Lake Creek (40); Ontbirds 20.10.2006.
350 individuals, 2 September 1976; Experimental Farm; T&L 11(1):33.
300 individuals; 4 September 1981; Fallowfield Road at Greenbank; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):7.
287 individuals; 4 September 1994; Fallowfield Road at Woodroffe; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 29(3):120.

## Killdeer

(*Charadrius vociferus*)

Pluvier kildir  
KILL

### Status: Formerly a Common migrant and breeder, now less common

Killdeer is the only plover species that breeds in the District. Birds typically arrive in late March appearing first in snow-free farm fields, but can appear as early as late February in warm spells. They were a common nester in the District (98% of squares on OBBA2, 84% of squares on QBBA2), nesting in all types of open habitats, including farm fields, along roadsides and even on parking lots and flat rooftops. However, numbers have declined recently.

In August and early September large numbers sometimes stage in ploughed fields or at local sewage lagoons. Most birds leave the area by late October (exceptionally late November). There are three winter records.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
6 March 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Bill Coburn; Shrike 8(2):12.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to third week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 November 2018, , Shirley's bay, Ed Kendall, ebird
4-5 November 2018,, Giroux Road Quarry Ponds, ebird
10 November 2007; 2 individuals; Giroux Road quarry ponds; Ontbirds 12.11.2007.
14 November 1998; 1 individual, Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts
27 November 1984; 1 individual; Munster; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):5.
<b>Winter Records</b>
20 February 1986; 1 individual; University of Ottawa, flying over; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 10(4):24.
27 February 2000; 1 individual; North Gower; Bird Status Line transcripts.
25 December 2015, 1 individual, Kinburn Side Road, Arnprior Pakenham CBC
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
620 individuals; 2 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):4.
420 individuals; 22 August 1981; Central Experimental Farm; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):7.
350 individuals; 28 August 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):24.
250 individuals; 26 September 1998; Hwy 4 and 25, south of Osgoode; Bird Status Line transcripts.
150 individuals; 15 July 2012; Richmond Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 15.07.2012.

## Semipalmated Plover

(*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

Pluvier semipalmé  
SEPL

**Status: Fairly common spring migrant, common fall migrant.**

This familiar little plover is one of the more common shorebirds in spring migration. Most birds pass through from mid-May to early June. However there are scattered sightings from mid-June to mid-July, blurring the distinction between spring and fall migrants.

In fall, this species is regularly found from mid-August to mid-October. In both migrations it is usually found at sewage lagoons and along the Ottawa River (especially at mudflats in fall). It also occurs rarely at other inland water bodies such as quarry ponds and storm water management ponds.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
4 May 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(3):19, Shrike Database.
6 May 1982; 2 individuals; Richmond ; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):12, Shrike Database.
7 May 1998; a few individuals; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
10 June 2006; 2 individuals; Almonte Lagoons; Ontbirds 11.06.2006.
13 June 1999; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts
<b>Third week of June, 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
27 June 2009; 1 adult; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 03.07.2009.
<b>First week of July, 1993 Checklist</b>
10 July 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):22.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of August to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
30 October 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike 8(6):24.
31 October 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(4):5.
4-5 November 2018; 1 individual; Giroux Road quarry pond; Trudy Lothian, Gregory Zbitnew; ebird
10 November 2007; 1 adult; Giroux Road quarry pond; Ontbirds 12.11.2007.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
101 individuals; 28 May 1990; Casselman Lagoons; T&L 24(3):139.
80 individuals; 23 August 1998; Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach; Bird Status Line transcripts.
70 individuals; 25 May 1985; Frank Munro; Shrike 10(3):5.
54 individuals; 21 August 1986; Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach; T&L 20(5):210, 214
46 individuals; 31 August 2005; Shirley's Bay to Britannia Pier; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 31.08.2005..

## Piping Plover

(*Charadrius melodus*)

Pluvier siffleur  
PIPL

**Status: Casual transient in spring and fall.**

This declining species which breeds in sand dunes on the ocean and large bodies of fresh water has about twelve records in the District (four OBRSC accepted). Reports are split about evenly between spring, all during May, and fall, covering a wide range from early July to late October. All reports have involved single birds except for the 1981 sighting, and, except for one from the Embrun Sewage Lagoons, all have been along the Ottawa River.

<b>First Record</b>
24 May 1950; 1 male; Britannia Beach, collected; A.E. Bourguignon; CFN 78:199.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
7 May 1975; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, ON; Bruce Barrett, m.obs.; Shrike 8(5):12.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
24 May 1950; 1 male; Britannia Beach, collected; A.E. Bourguignon; CFN 78:199.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
1 July 1988; 1 individual, Embrun Lagoons, dropped in briefly; T&L 23(1):27.

<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
27 October 1983; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; T&L 18(1):10.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5 individuals; 4 September 1981, Andrew Haydon park, CWS Shorebird survey, ebird.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

**Maubèche des champs**

**UPSA**

**Status: Rare migrant and breeder.**

Upland Sandpipers typically arrive in the District in late April and early May, setting up their breeding territories in fields and pastures. A fairly common species in the 1980's, Upland Sandpiper is now rare and local in the District (64% of squares on OBBA2, 27% of squares on QBBA2) as many of its grassland breeding sites have been lost to development or converted to cultivated crops.

The highest counts have been obtained in July when adults and young of the year are staging in hay fields and beginning their migration, which occurs mainly in late July and early August. These high counts are mostly from the 1980's when this species was much more common than it is now. During this period small flocks are sometimes detected passing overhead. Observations are rare after mid-August, although late birds have been recorded to mid-September.

<b>First Record</b>
31 May 1922; 1 pair; near Bourget; D.B.O. Savile; CFN 37:127.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19 April 1983; 1 individual; Rick Poulin; Shrike 9(2):12.
20 April 1981; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):13, Shrike Database.
20 April 1982; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):5, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
12 September 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):7.
12 September 1982; 1 individual; Cedarview Road; Monty Brigham; Shrike 7(5):15.
14 September 1971; 1 individual; <i>vide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 26(1):56.
17 September 2000; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
18 September 2009; 1 individual; Breckenridge, Gerard Desjardins, ebird
10-20 September 2015; 1 individual ; Harmony Road, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
60 individuals; 2 July 1982; John D. Gates; Shrike 7(5):31.
55 individuals; 10 July 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):22.
54 individuals; 29 June 1982; John D. Gates; Shrike 7(3):12.

## Hudsonian Whimbrel (*Numenius hudsonicus*)

**Courlis hudsonien**

**HUWH**

**Status: Rare migrant in spring and fall.**

This large shorebird is a strong flyer and long-distance migrant so most birds overfly the District. Thus most observations are associated with bad weather grounding birds during their peak migration periods in late May and early June or late August and early September. It is not annual in the District, but occurs most years.

Peak numbers are observed in the last week of May, when large flocks of fifty or more are possible. Fall records are usually single birds but flocks of up to thirty have also occurred. This species almost never lingers, but there have been a couple of instances where single birds stayed for a few days. The majority of observations are from along the Ottawa River, but there are a few sightings from sewage lagoons and other inland locations where birds have been heard calling overhead in flight. It can occasionally be found in grassy areas such as park lawns, sod farms and at airports.

## Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
September 1885; 3 individuals, Rideau Rifle Range; G.R. White; CFN 37:127.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 May 1992; 1 individual; Limebank Road; T&L 27(3):96.
18 May 1980; 2 individuals; Shirley's Bay, in the rain; T&L 14(4):119.
23 May 1983; 9 individuals; Bob Bracken, m.obs; T&L 17(4):207, Shrike 8(3):12.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Last week of May and first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 1971; 2 individuals; Tom Hince; AB 25(4):737.
11 June 1978; 2 individuals; Stephen Gawn; Roger Foxall; AB 32(6):1154.
13 June 1976, 1 individual; Mark Gawn, Simon Gawn; Shrike 1(4), T&L 10(5):139.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
27 June 1980; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike 5(3):5.
1 July 1977, 1 individual; T&L 11(5):135.
15 July 2006; 1 individual; Carlingwood, heard flying over; Ontbirds 16.07.2006.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Third week of August to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 2009, 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park, Langis Sirois, ebird
4 October 2007; 1 individual; Thurso Marsh; Ornitho 30(2):26.
5 October 1945; 1 individual; Lac Deschênes at Britannia Bay; Hoyes Lloyd; CFN 63:32.
8 October 2017, Andrew Haydon Park; mobs; ebird
<b>Fourth week of October, 1993 Checklist</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
126 individuals; 26 May 1983; Shirley's Bay, in two flocks; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; T&L 17(4):207.
72 individuals; 5 September 2021; Lac Deschenes; Jeff Skevington, Paul Lagasi; ebird
52 individuals; 28 May 1973; Roger Foxall.; AB 27(4):767.
57 individuals, 5 September 2021, Scrivens St; Eric Baldo; ebird
44 individuals; 25 May 1984; Stillwater Park, flying over; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 18(4):187.
44 individuals; 25 August 1985; Aylmer; Rodolphe Dubois; AB 40(1):85.
30 individuals; 30 July 1988; Ottawa River; T&L 23(1):28.
16 individuals, 6 September 1982; Ottawa Beach, flew by during a storm; T&L 17(1):6

## Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

Barge hudsonienne  
HUGO

**Status: Casual migrant in spring, rare migrant in fall.**

In spring the migration route for this species passes well to the west, over the Great Plains region, and so Hudsonian Godwit has only been recorded about seven times in spring migration in the Ottawa-Gatineau District, with almost all the records coming from sewage lagoons.

In fall the migration route from staging areas in James Bay take this species over our area en route to their South American wintering grounds, but they are long-distance migrants and the majority overfly our area unless they are grounded by bad weather. When it does occur, the number of individuals is usually small with singles flocks of less than ten being the norm, but heavy rains in late August and early September have occasionally produced large flocks. Fall sightings come from areas along the Ottawa River like Ottawa Beach, Shirley's Bay and Constance Bay, as well as sewage lagoons, quarry ponds, and wet fields.

## Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
21 September 1874; 1 individual; specimen taken by G.R. White, no location given; CFN 37:127.
<b>Spring Records</b>
8 May 1997; 1 individual; Embrun Sewage Lagoons, T&L 32(1):39, Bird Status Line transcripts.
14-15 May 1982, 2 indiv.; Richmond Lagoons; Anthony Dale, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):13.
19 May 1979; 1 individual; Moodie Dr. and Cambrian Rd., Richard Poulin; Shrike 7(3):13.
23 May 1981; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons, Wright Smith, T&L 15(4):181, Shrike 7(3):13.
26 May to 3 June 1996; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; FN 50(3) :275, T&L 31(2):73.

28 May 1977; 2 birds; Richmond Lagoons, Roger Foxall, Richard Poulin; Shrike 7(3):13.
28-29 May 2009 1 individual; St. Albert Sewage Lagoons; T&L 43(4):170 BSL
29 May to 2 June 2015; 1 individual; St. Albert Lagoons; m.obs.; Ontbirds
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
26 July 1986; 2 individuals; Ottawa Beach, grounded in a storm; T&L 20(5):210, 214
11 August 2012; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach at Scrivens Ave.; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
15 August 1997; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of August to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
1 November 1987; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Burce Di Labio; ebird
3-6 November 2013; 2 individuals; Giroux Road quarry ponds; Ontbirds 08.11.2013
10 November 1988; 1 individual; Munster Lagoons; T&L 23(2):63.
11 November 1990; 1 individual; Munster Lagoons; Larry neily, Langis Sirois; ebird
7-c.21 November 1989; 1 individual; Dome Hill Golf Course, north of Hull; T&L 24(2):81.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
300 individuals; 4 September 1988; Embrun Lagoons; T&L 23(2):57.
260 individuals; 21 August 1986; Ottawa Beach, 4 flocks grounded in a storm; T&L 20(5):210.
200 individuals; 25 August 1985; Ottawa Beach, in 2 flocks; T&L 19(5):240.
80 individuals; 29 October 1988; Constance Bay; T&L 23(2):62
53 adults; 31 Aug. 2005; Shirley's Bay grounded by storm; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 31.08.2005.

## Marbled Godwit

(*Limosa fedoa*)

Barge marbrée  
MAGO

**Status: Casual transient, mainly in spring.**

There are about 17 records up to 2015 (8 OBRSC accepted) of this large shorebird in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. All but one of the records are from spring migration, from mid-May to mid-June (although one bird at the Richmond Lagoons lingered into July in 1975). Birds have been seen at sewage lagoons, in wet fields and along the Ottawa River shoreline. The only fall record is of a bird that spent September-early October on the mudflats at Shirley's Bay in 2009.

<b>First Record</b>
4 June 1902; 1 individual; Britannia; seen by G.R. White at the taxidermists; CFN 58(5):156.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9-10 May 1986; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Eric Snider; m.obs.; AB 40(3):464, OBRSC #360.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
15 June to 2 July 1975; 1 indiv.; Richmond Lagoons; Peter Hamel, m.obs.; T&L 9(4):113, 9(5):148
<b>Fall Record</b>
17 September-7 October 2009; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bob Bracken, m.obs.; T&L 44(2):80, ebird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 individuals, 23 May 1982, Richmond CA, Bruce Di Labio, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A. This species is in the catalogue only up to 2015.

## Short-billed Dowitcher

(*Limnodromus griseus*)

Bécassin roux  
SBDO

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall.**

Short-billed Dowitchers typically pass through the District in small numbers in the latter half of May during spring migration. There are scattered records through June and July – a mix of late northbound birds and early southbound ones. In fall the main migration period is in August and the first half of September. Most birds are found at sewage lagoons or at mudflats along the Ottawa River (especially in fall).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
8 May 1983; 1 individual; Bob Gorman, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):12.
11 May 1985; 1 individual; Mark Gawn, Jim Harris; Shrike 10(3):6.
13 May 1985; 7 individuals; Mark Gawn, Ray Holland; Shrike 10(3):6.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Third and fourth week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 1999; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
9-10 June 1981; 1 indiv.; Green's Creek Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio, Jim Harris; Shrike Database.
<b>Third week of June, 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
29 June 2008; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 07.07.2008.
1 July 1976; Shrike 1(4):3.
3 July 1999; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
4 July 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(4):5.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
First week of August to second week of September.
<b>Latest Fall Departure</b>
9 October 1982; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(5):15.
19/20 October 2002; 12 individuals; Mid-Fall Bird Count, SW sector; OFNC website.
20 October 1985; 1 individual; seen and heard calling; Frank Munro; Shrike 10(4):6.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
100 individuals; 24 May 1989; various locations; T&L 23(4):184.
86 individuals, 17 August 1983; Shirley's Bay; T&L 17(5):247f
62 individuals; 26 July 1981; in three flocks; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):7.
60 individuals; 27 May 1972; Bruce Mactavish; AB 26(4):756.
50 individuals; 25 May 1997; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.

## Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

Bécassin à long bec

LBDO

### Status: Rare fall migrant, exceptional in spring.

Long-billed Dowitcher is best known as a rare mid-fall migrant in the District. Most records are of juvenile birds passing through from late September to mid-October, later than the passage of its close relative the Short-billed Dowitcher. The two species are similar in plumage, but any dowitcher seen in the District in October should be closely scrutinized as Long-billed is actually more likely at this time of year. Sightings have come mainly from sewage lagoons and Ottawa River mudflats, although there are a few records from wet field areas.

Adult birds have been recorded a number of times in late July and early August. If anything, they are more difficult to distinguish from Short-billed Dowitchers than juveniles, so some may be overlooked.

Spring migrants are exceptional, with only about four records for the District, as the spring migration route of this species lies well to the west. Interestingly one of these was a very early migrant first found in late March 2012.

<b>First Record</b>
Fall 1971, AB 26(1):57.
<b>Spring Records</b>
21 March to 7 April 2012; Bear Brook at Frank Kenney Rd.; Bob Cermak, m.obs.; Ontbirds
1-3 May 2014; 1 individual; Ramsay Con 7. near Carleton Place; Ontbirds 01,08.05.2014.
4 May 2002, 3 individuals, Munster Sewage Lagoons, T&L 36(3):125.
23 May 2005; 2 individuals; Innis Point Bird Observatory, heard calling; Mike Boyd; IPBO data.
<b>Fall Records (Adults)</b>
26-27 July 2009, 1 adult; St. Albert Lagoons, T&L 44(2):80.
28-29 July 1986; 1 adult; Shirley's Bay, first record of a fall adult; T&L 20(5):215.
30 July to 5 August 2012; 1 male 1 female moulting adults; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 16.08.2012.
14 August 2011; 1 adult; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 16.08.2011.
18-19 August 2012; 1 adult; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 23.08.2012.
21-23 August 2012; 1 moulting adult, Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 23.08.2012.
<b>Early Fall Arrival (Juveniles)</b>

6 September 1997, 3 individuals, Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
7 September 2009; 1 juvenile; Terry Fox Rd. at Fernbank Rd.; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 07.09.2009.
12 September 1998; 3 individuals, Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Dates (Juveniles)</b>
Fourth week of September to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure (Juveniles)</b>
until 18 October 2014; 1 individual; Masson Lagoons; m.obs.; eBird.
20 October 1998; 4 individuals; Stagecoach Road near Osgood; Bird Status Line transcripts.
30 October 1980; 1 individual; Munster Lagoons; T&L 15(1):24.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
6 individuals; 15-16 September 1990; Winchester Lagoons; T&L 25(2):63.
6 individuals; 1 October 1995; Shirley's Bay; T&L 30(2):75.
6 individuals; 16 October 2011; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)

**Bécasse d'Amérique**  
**AMWO**

### Fairly common migrant and breeder.

American Woodcock is one of the earliest spring migrants, arriving in late March (exceptionally mid-March). It is most easily detected at dusk and dawn in the spring when males call and make their aerial flight displays. It is found throughout the District in wooded areas with openings or old fields with wooded borders (92% of squares on OBBA1, 78% of squares on QBBA2). After calling ceases, birds are somewhat hard to find, usually only detected when they are flushed. Most birds have migrated south by mid-October, with a few records into November and one winter record during an unusual late winter mild spell.

### Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 March 1976; 1 individual; Shrike 1(2):4.
12 March 1977; heard calling as early as this date; Shrike 2(2):4.
13 March 1985; 1 individual, Bruce Di Labio, Shrike 10(2):5.
14 March 1983; 1 individual; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(2):12.
15 March 2010; 1 individual; Green's Creek; Ontbirds 22.03.2010.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to third week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
1 November 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(6):10.
11 November 2013; 1 individual; Ontbirds 14.11.2013.
30 November 1982, 1 individual, Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(6):15, T&L 17(4):204.
<b>Winter Record</b>
28 February 2017, Kettles Road, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
40 individuals; 23 May 1971, Ottawa County, Roger Foxall, ebird
25 individuals, 19 April 1981; Stephen Gawn, Shrike 6(2):13.
20 individuals; 15 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):27.
20 individuals; 11 May 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(3):21.

## Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*)

**Bécassine de Wilson**  
**WISN**

### Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.

Wilson's Snipe is an early migrant, with birds returning to the District in early April (exceptionally mid-March). They are a common breeder in open wetlands and wet old fields (94% of squares on OBBA1, 78% of squares on QBBA2) and are easily detected by the sound of their winnowing displays, heard mostly at night. Following the breeding season, birds

sometimes congregate at mudflats and sewage lagoons to stage for migration. Most birds leave the District in October, with occasional lingering birds in November.

Wilson's Snipe is the only shorebird that has overwintered in the District. It has been recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC eight times from 1970-2021 (high of two in 1970 and 2003) and once on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC (3 January 1988). There are number of later winter records, including several birds that have successfully overwintered, the first of which was in the winter of 1983-84 in Kanata (Shrike 9(2):6). Wintering birds are usually found by sources of open water.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
13 March 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):4.
19 March 2011; 1 individuals; Patrick Blake; Kettle Road; eBird.
21 March 2012; 1 individual; Patrick Blake; Berry Side Road; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
18 November 1998; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Bird Status Line transcripts.
20 November 1976; T&L 11(2):56
Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist.
<b>Late Winter records</b>
9 January 1971; 1 individual; hull, anonymous; ebird
14 January 1990; 1 individual; lakeview terrace, Aylmer, Rodolphe Dubois, Daniel Toussaint; ebird
31 January -17 February 2010; 1 individual; Quyon; mobs, ebird
19 February 1933, 1 individual; found dead in Rockcliffe park, CFN 58: 154
19 February 1985; 1 individual; Beaverbrook, Kanata; Larry Neily
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
130 individuals, 5 October 1979. Munster lagoons, Bruce Di labio, ebird
75 individuals: 20 September 1981; Richmond & Munster lagoons; Shrike 6(5):7.
60 individuals; 12 September 1982; on the Seedathon; Roger Taylor; Shrike 7(5):15.
50 individuals; 20 August 1984; Stephen Gawn; Shrike Database.
50 individuals; 2 September 2013; Twin Elms rugby field; Ontbirds 05.09.2013.

## Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Phalarope de Wilson  
WIPH

### Status: Rare migrant and breeder.

Wilson's Phalarope was considered accidental in the District until the early 1970's when sightings began to increase, probably because birders began to become more aware of the potential of the local sewage lagoons. The first confirmed breeding in the District was at the Almonte Lagoons in the summer of 1975 (T&L 9(5):149) and breeding was confirmed in the 1980s at Winchester, Almonte and Casselman. Since the 1990s, the Embrun Lagoons had probably been the most reliable spot in the District for this species. Its abundance at any particular sewage lagoon varied from year to year and was dependent on the quality of the habitat available. In recent years there has been no breeding evidence at these lagoons and in any case most lagoons are not accessible anymore.

This species typically arrived at the end of April at its sewage lagoon breeding sites and remained until early September (exceptionally late October). It is occasionally found along the Ottawa River, mainly in fall migration and mostly at Shirley's Bay.

<b>First Record</b>
24 May 1955; 1 female; near Beattie's Point, Lac Deschênes; Dr. Peter Millman, m.obs.; CFN 71:155.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Third week of April, 1993 Checklist
22-27 April 1980; 1 pair; Almonte Lagoons; Shrike 5(2):6.
22 April 2013; 1 individual; Russell Lagoons; Paul Schoening; eBird.
24 April 2007; 4 females; Winchester Lagoons; Ontbirds 30.04.2007.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to first week of September.

Late Fall Departure
1 October 1985; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Ray Holland; T&L 20(1):28, Shrike Database.
7 October 1985; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(4):6.
21 October 2009; 1 individual, Casselman Lagoons; Bob Bracken, Chris Lewis; OBRSC
Noteworthy High Counts
40 individuals; 21 May 2004; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 24.05.2004.
24 individuals; 24 May 2002; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 25.05.2002.
22 individuals; 24 May 1998; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
20 individuals; 27 May 1990; Embrun Lagoons; T&L 25(4):128.
20 individuals; 18 May 1997; Embrun Lagoons; T&L 32(1):39.

## Red Phalarope

(*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Phalarope à bec large

REPH

**Status: Very rare fall migrant.**

Red Phalarope is the rarest of the three phalarope species in the Ottawa-Gatineau District, occurring less than annually. It is known only as a fall migrant, with most birds passing through from late August to early October (exceptionally late November). The majority of sightings involve one or two birds, but occasionally flocks of up to 11 have occurred. Birds are found on the Ottawa River, both on mudflats and on open water, as well as at sewage lagoons. There have been 5 sightings from 2015 to 2021.

First Record
21 October 1886; 1 specimen; Cummings Island, Rideau R.; E. White; Ottawa Naturalist 5:37.
Earliest Fall Arrival
24 August 1997; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
25-26 August 1981; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Earl Godfrey; Shrike 6(4):8.
25 August 1982; 1 individual; Constance Bay, Bruce Di Labio; T&L 16(5):231, Shrike 7(4):12.
Principal Fall Dates
Fourth week of August to first week of October.
Latest Fall Departure
7 November 2002; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 37(1):33.
9 November 1972; 1 individual; T&L 7(2):55.
20 November 1948; 1 individual; Dow's Lake, E.L. Mills, CFN 71:155.
Noteworthy High Counts
11 individuals; 21 September 1977; Richmond Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 2(6):4.
10 indiv.; 23 October 1976; Ottawa R. off Britannia Pier; Bruce Di Labio, Tom Hince, Shrike 1(7):3.
6 individuals; 30 August 1975; <i>vide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 30(1):61.
5 individuals; 26 September 2010; Ottawa R.(4) & Winchester Lagoons (1); Ontbirds 29.10.2010.
3 individuals; 16 September 1982; Ottawa Beach & Britannia; Mike Runtz; Shrike 7(5):16.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A. Only the more recent sightings are here.

## Red-necked Phalarope

(*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Phalarope à bec étroit

RNPH

**Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.**

Red-necked Phalarope is a rare migrant in spring, with birds moving through the District from mid-May to early June (exceptionally late June). It is more frequent in fall, though still uncommon, with most birds observed from mid-August to mid-September (exceptionally late October). Red-necked Phalaropes are mainly found at sewage lagoons and at mudflats along the Ottawa River. Occasionally birds are found in open water on the Ottawa River, especially at the Deschênes Rapids.

First Record
22 September 1897, 2 individuals, Strathcona park, Ontario Birds Volume 40, page 89+, supplementary document being a list of specimens from the White Collection.

Note: the previously listed early date of 10 Sept. 1890; was a specimen taken at Burritt's Rapids, which is outside the region.

### Early Spring Arrival

15-18 May 2000; 1 individual; Armstrong Road, s-curve pond; Bird Status Line transcripts.

18 May 1981; 1 individual; Jean Higginson; Almonte Lagoons; Shrike 6(3):13, Shrike Database.

19 May 1982; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):13.

### Principal Spring Dates

Third week of May to first week of June.

### Late Spring Departure

14 June 1980; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 5(3):5.

27 June 1983; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):13.

29 June 1983; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):13.

### Earliest Fall Arrival

19 July 1992; 1 individual; Munster Lagoons, Mark Gawn; T&L 27(3):99.

22 July 2012, 1 individual, Shirley's Bay, Ontbirds 22.07.2012.

29 July 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio, Jim Harris; Green's Creek Lagoons; Shrike 6(4):8.

### Principal Fall Dates

Second week of August to third week of September.

### Latest Fall Departure

7 October 1981; 1 individual; Shrike 6(5):8.

11 October, 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 17.10.2013.

12 October 1901; 1 individual; Kettle Island, specimen taken; G.R. White; CFN 37:126.

20/21 October 2012; 1 indiv.; Mid-Fall Bird Count, SE sector; OFNC website. Russell Lagoons?

12 November 2011; 1 juvenile; Andrew Haydon Park; Rick Collins; eBird. **Credible?**

### Noteworthy High Counts

15 individuals; 26 August 1981; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):8, T&L 10(1):6.

14 individuals; 24 August 1982; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):12.

10 individuals; 16-17 August 1980; Richmond Sewage Lagoons; T&L 14(5):156.

7 individuals; 1 June 2004; Ottawa River e. of the Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 06.06.2004.

6 individuals; 1-2 June 1976; Britannia; Shrike 1(4).

## Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

**Chevalier grivelé**  
**SPSA**

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.**

This small sandpiper is a familiar sight, teetering along the shorelines of a variety of water bodies in the District, including lakes, rivers, ponds, wetlands and sewage lagoons. Spotted Sandpipers usually arrive in the District in late April (exceptionally mid-April). It is a fairly common breeder throughout the District (91% of squares on OBBA2, 41% of squares on QBBA2) in the aforementioned habitats. Peak counts are typically in late July and early August when adults and young of the year are actively foraging along shorelines. Most birds leave the District on their southbound migration in mid-September, but a few linger into October and, exceptionally, into November.

### First Record

5 May 1881, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 3, page 28.

### Early Spring Arrival

2 April 1983; 1 individual; Aylmer; Jean Dubois; Ornitaouais 6(1):9.

16 April 2005, 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 17.04.2005.

17 April 1984; 1 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):6.

17 April 2012; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Robert Scranton; eBird.

### Principal Dates

First week of May to second week of September.

### Late Fall Departure

5-12 November 2015, 1 individual, Andrew haydon Park, mobs

9 November 1980, 1 individual, Gatineau, langis Sirois

11 November 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.

19 November 1984; Black Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):6.

**Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist**

**28 November 2024; 1 individual; Rideau Athletic Centre; Ken Ketley; ebird**

### Noteworthy High Counts

120 individuals; 27 July 1980; Bob Gorman; Shrike 5(3):5.
54 individuals; 16 July 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):14.
52 individuals; 27 July 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):22.
44 individuals; 2 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.

## Solitary Sandpiper

(*Tringa solitaria*)

**Chevalier solitaire**  
**SOSA**

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.**

This smaller relative of the yellowlegs usually arrives in the District in early May (exceptionally mid-April). In spring it is mainly found at sewage lagoons and along the muddy banks of ponds and small rivers. Most have passed through by late May, but there are scattered records through June and into early July (mainly at sewage lagoons) that blur the distinction between northbound and southbound migrants.

The District is to the south of Solitary Sandpiper's main breeding range in the boreal forest. However, birds were recorded in appropriate breeding habitat on both QBBA1 (Poltimore) and QBBA2 (Cantley and Lac de l'Argile squares). Breeding has never been confirmed in the District.

The core of this species fall migration is between mid-July and mid-September (exceptionally late October). Highest counts are from late July and early August, but it is typically much less numerous than Lesser Yellowlegs. In fall it is mostly found at sewage lagoons and on mudflats along the Ottawa River.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 April 1981; 1 individual; T&L 15(4):181.
19 April 1980; 1 individual; Shrike 5(2):6.
22 April 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike (2):13, Shrike Database.
24 April 1992; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First and second weeks of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of July to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
14 October 1984; 2 individuals; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(5):5.
14 October 2006; 1 individual; Frédéric Bédard; Lac Leamy; eBird.
29 October 2013; 1 individual; Dow's Lake at Experimental Farm Arboretum; Robin Humphries; eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
30 individuals; 19 July 1981; Shirley's Bay & Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio.
30 individuals; 26 July 1998; High Falls C.A.; Casselman; Bird Status Line transcripts.
24 individuals; 5 August 1981; Green's Creek Lagoons; Jim Harris; Shrike 6(4):7.
21 individuals; 26 July 1986; Ottawa Beach, fallout from rainstorm; T&L 20(5):210, 214.
18 individuals; 14 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):5. Spring high count.

## Lesser Yellowlegs

(*Tringa flavipes*)

**Petit Chevalier**  
**LEYE**

**Status: Common spring and fall migrant.**

Lesser Yellowlegs typically arrives in the District slightly later than its larger relative, generally first appearing in late April (exceptionally early April). Most birds have passed through by early June, but there are scattered records throughout June and early July which blur the distinction between spring and fall migrants.

In fall, the main passage is from mid-July to mid-October (exceptionally early November), when it is often amongst the most common migrant shorebirds. Highest counts are have been from mid-July to mid-August. In both migrations it is mainly found at sewage lagoons and along the Ottawa River (especially on mudflats in fall), as well as occasionally at quarry ponds, storm water management ponds and other small water bodies with muddy shorelines.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
4 April 1981; 1 individual; JoAnn Murray and Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 6(2):8.
7 April 1981; 1 individual; Green's Creek Lagoons; Roger Foxall; Shrike Database.
8 April 1983; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):12, 23.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First to third week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of July to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
6 November 1983; 1 individual; Richard Brouillet, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):10.
5-10 November 2005; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Ontbirds
11 November 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Birds Status Line transcripts.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
500 individuals; 11 July 1988; T&L 23(1):28.
175 individuals; 30 July 1999; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
175 individuals; 19 August 2006; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds
160 individuals; 19 August 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):26.
124 individuals; 11 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):28. Spring high count.

**Willet**  
(*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

**Chevalier semipalmé**  
**WILL**

**Status: Casual transient, in spring and fall.**

Seventeen records (seven OBRSC accepted). About two thirds for the records are from spring migration, from May and early June, but there are also four fall records from late July through mid-September. Sightings have occurred both along the shores of the Ottawa River and inland at sewage lagoons. The western subspecies *inornatus* is the one that occurs most commonly in Ontario, but at least one of the records has been of the eastern subspecies, *semipalmatus*.

<b>First Record</b>
11 August 1942; 3 individuals; Woodroffe, Ottawa, ON; A.E. Bourguignon; CFN 58(5):155.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
4-5 May 1979; 1 individual, Almonte Lagoons; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; AB 33(5):766; T&L 13(3):124.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
5 June 1989; 1 individual; Embrun Sewage Lagoons, Embrun, ON; observer; T&L 24(1):33.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
29 July 1990; 1 adult, ssp. <i>semipalmatus</i> ; Ottawa Beach; Tony Beck, m.obs.; T&L 25(3):103,
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
18 September 1985; 1 individual; Aylmer, heard calling only; Jean Dubois; Ornitaouais 8(2):51.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

**Spotted Redshank**  
(*Tringa erythropus*)

**Chevalier arlequin**  
**SPRE**

**Status: Accidental transient in early fall.**

This Eurasian vagrant is very rare in North America, so it is surprising that there are two Ottawa-Gatineau records (there are only three other Ontario records and no Quebec records). Both occurrences are from early fall - one from July and one from August, and both were moulting adults.

<b>Records</b>
18-24 July 1990; 1 moulting adult; Casselman Lagoons; Hans van der Zweep, m.obs.; T&L 25(3):103.
21 August 1998, 1 moulting adult; Ottawa Beach, Bob Bracken, m.obs.; OB 19(2):57, OBRSC #504.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Grand Chevalier  
GRYE

**Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant.**

Amongst the earliest of our migrant shorebirds to arrive, this species usually appears in the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March). One of the few shorebirds that is more numerous in spring than fall, most of the highest counts are from late April and early May. Most birds have passed through by mid-May, but there are scattered records throughout late May, June and early July which can blur the distinction between spring and fall migrants.

In fall, the main passage is from late July to late October (exceptionally early December). Mainly found at sewage lagoons and along the Ottawa River (especially on mudflats in fall), as well as occasionally at quarry ponds, storm water management ponds and other small water bodies with muddy shorelines.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
24 March 2012; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 29.03.2012.
29 March 1985; 1 individual, Carlsbad Springs, Bruce Di Labio, Shrike 10(2):1
30 March 2010; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of May
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of July to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23 November 2003, 2 Individuals; Winchester Lagoons; Ontbirds 23.22.2003
26 November 2003; 3 individuals; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 02.12.2003.
29 November 1984; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(6):6.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1 December 2024; 1 individual; Mooney's bay; ebird
2 December 1979; 1 individual; Shrike 4(8):3.
6 December 1998; 1 individual, Constance Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
283 individuals; 7 October 1976; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Barrett; Shrike 1(7):3. Unusual fall high count.
150 individuals; 6 May 1983; Dan Brunton; Shrike 8(3):28.
88 individuals; 28 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):24.
82 individuals; 26 April 1981; Jean Higginson; Shrike 6(2):13.
69 individuals; 29 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):19.
60 individuals; 1 May 1994; Bruce Di Labio; Nepean Dump ponds; T&L 29(3):117.

## Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Tourneepierre à collier  
RUTU

**Status: Rare migrant in spring and fall.**

Ruddy Turnstones are rare in the District, but occur almost every year. They usually appear in late May and early June en route to their high arctic breeding grounds. Numbers are generally small, but it is possible for large flocks of up to a hundred to occur during this period when late spring storms ground them.

It tends to be observed more frequently in its fall migration, in August and September, but large flocks have yet to be recorded in this period. As the name suggests, this species has an affinity for rocky shorelines, and many of the sightings are from rocky areas along the Ottawa River, such as the Deschênes Rapids. It can also occasionally be found at sewage lagoons, mudflats and quarry ponds.

**First Record**

23 May 1943; 1 individual; Dow's Lake; H.F. Lewis; CFN 58:154.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 May 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):5.
11 May 1986; 1 individual; Hull; Jacques Chabot, Ornitaouais 9(1):7.
12 May 1971; 1 individual; Britannia; Rick Poulin; AB 25(4):737.
17 May 2010; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 19.05.2010.
21 May 1985; 4 individuals; Ray Holland; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 1998; 2 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
8 June 1986; 4 individuals; Hull; Daniel St-Hilaire; Ornitaouais 9(1):7.
10 June 2006; 1 individual; Almonte Lagoons; Ontbirds 11.06.2006.
16 June 1983; 1 individual; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(3):12.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
20 July 1981; 1 individual; Kitchissippi log booms; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):7.
31 July 2012; 1 individual; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 02.08.2012.
3-4 August 1980; 1 individual; Langis Sirois, Stephen Gawn; Shrike 5(4):4.
5 August 1981; 1 individual; Bill Clark; Shrike Database.
7 August 1997; 1 individual; Britannia Yacht Club; Bird Status Line Transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of August to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
28 October 1984; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(6):26, Shrike Database.
8 November 1969, , Andrew haydon park, roger Foxall, ebird
9 November 1969, 1 individual; Britannia; T&L 4(1):19.
10 November 1977; 1 individual; m.obs.; Shrike 2(8):3.
14 November 2012; 1 individual; Russell Lagoons; Ontbirds 15.11.2012.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
102 individuals; 4 June 1989; Embrun Lagoons; T&L 24(1):33.
100; 28 May 1973, Kitchissippi; Bruce Di Labio, ebird
66 individuals; 1 June 1986; Ottawa R., Hull; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 20(5):209, Ornitaouais 9(2):50.
50 individuals; 3 June 1985; Innis Point; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 10(3):5.
42 individuals; 7 June 1977; T&L 11(5):135.
21 individuals; 2 September 1980; Shirley's Bay & Britannia; Tom Hince; Shrike 5(4):4. Fall high.

## Red Knot

(*Calidris canutus*)

Bécasseau maubèche  
REKN

**Status: Very rare migrant in spring and fall.**

Red Knot was a rare but regular migrant through the District in the 1970's and 1980's. Then it became even rarer, occurring less than annually, as a result of significant declines in the eastern population that winters on the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S. In the last few years, though (2023-25) it has been seen annually.

Spring migrants mainly pass through in late May and early June, and fall migrants pass through mainly in August and early September (exceptionally to late October). Birds are typically observed migrating along the Ottawa River (especially on mudflats in the fall) and at sewage lagoons. Large flocks have occurred occasionally in both spring and fall when grounded by inclement weather. With recent population declines the 32 seen in 2021 are the most seen since the late 1990's. There have been 6 reports from from 2018 to date.

<b>First Record</b>
4 June 1890; at least 6 specimens taken, (at least one from Brewery Creek, Hull) and in the White and CMN collections; CFN 37:127.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
23 April 1983; 6 individuals; Aylmer; Jean Dubois, m.obs.; Ornitaouais 6(1):9.
<b>Second week of May; 1993 Checklist</b>
18 May 1976; 60 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Barrett, m.obs.; Shrike 1(3):4, AB 30(4):834.
19 May 2004; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>

Fourth week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
8 June 1983; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Bruce Di Labio, Bill Coburn; Shrike 8(3):12,28.
11 June 1972; 1 individual; Britannia; m.obs.; AB 26(5):853.
13 June 2011; 1 individual Casselman Lagoons; 13.06.2011.
14 June 2010; 3 adults; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 18.06.2010.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
<b>Second week of July, 1993 Checklist.</b>
19 July 2010; 6 worn adults; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 19.07.2010.
20 July 1981, 14 individuals, Kitchissippi; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):7.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
First week of August to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
<b>First week of October; 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>Second week of October; 1993 Checklist</b>
<b>5 October 2002; 1 individual; Masson; Andre Cloutier</b>
16 October 1977; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 2(7):3.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
127 individuals 27 May 1975; Shirley's Bay (50) & Richmond Lagoons (72); T&L 9(4):112.
75 individuals; 28 May 1973; <i>fide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 27(4):767.
70 individuals, 17 August 1983; Shirley's Bay; T&L 17(5):247.
60 individuals, 18 May 1976, T&L 10(4):103.
32 individuals; 1 June 2021; baie Simard; Pauline desrosiers, ebird
25 individuals; 25 May 1997; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO data.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A. This species is in the catalogue only after 2015.

**Ruff**  
(*Calidris pugnax*)

**Combattant varié**  
**RUFF**

### Casual transient in spring and fall.

The Ruff is the most regular occurring of the Eurasian shorebirds in eastern North America and there about 25 records for the Ottawa Gatineau District (eight OBRSC accepted). The majority of reports have been in spring migration, from late April through the month of May. Fall migration records are fewer and range from late June to early September.

All reports are of single birds including a few adult males with ruffs, but more often young males or females (reeves) are recorded. About half of the sightings are from sewage lagoons and most of the remainder are from sites along the Ottawa River.

<b>First Record</b>
24 April to 15 May 1977; 1 female; Richmond Lagoons; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 6(3).
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
24 April to 15 May 1977; 1 female; Richmond Lagoons; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 6(3).
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
29 May 1991; 1 female, Embrun Lagoons; AB 45(3):440, T&L 25(4):128.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
28 June, 1989; 1 male w/white ruff; Richmond Lagoons, M.P. Whelan; AB 43(5):1312, T&L 24(1):33.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
6 September 2010; 1 juvenile; Parc Brébeuf; Ontbirds 08.09.2010.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

**Curlew Sandpiper**  
(*Calidris ferruginea*)

**Bécasseau cocorli**  
**CUSA**

## Accidental transient in spring.

This Eurasian shorebird occurs casually in eastern North America. There is only one accepted record for the Ottawa-Gatineau District, of an adult bird seen at the Casselman Sewage Lagoons in late May 1996.

### Record

26-27 May 1996; 1 adult; Casselman Lagoons; Peter Browne, m.obs.; T&L 30(4):155, OBRSC #485.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*)

Bécasseau à échasses

STSA

### Status: Uncommon fall migrant, exceptional in spring.

Like some other shorebirds, the main spring migration route of the Stilt Sandpiper passes through the centre of the continent, well to the west of the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Thus this species is rarely seen here in spring migration. The handful of records from this season fall in the peak of spring shorebird migration from mid-May to mid-June.

In fall it is regular, but uncommon, with most birds passing through from mid-August to mid-September, although migrants can appear as early as late June and as late as late October. Found in typical shorebird haunts: sewage lagoons and mudflats along the Ottawa River in fall. Occasionally it is found along the muddy margins of other inland ponds.

### First Record

13 September 1944; 1 individual; Lac Deschênes at Britannia; A.E. Bourguignon; CFN 59:50.

### Spring Records

17-19 June 1977; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; T&L 11(5):135.

22 May 1980; 2 individuals; Green's Creek Lagoons; T&L 14(4):119.

15-16 May 1981; 1 individual; Green's Creek Sewage Lagoon; T&L 15(4):181.

17 May 1982, 1 individual, Richmond Lagoons; Anthony Dale, Frank Munro; Shrike 7(3):13

18 May 1987; 3 individuals; Shirley's bay; T&L 21(4):207.

mid-June 2001; 1 individual; Embrun Sewage Lagoons; T&L 35(4):201

24 May 2002, 1 individual, Embrun Sewage Lagoons; Ontbirds

5 June 2003. 1 individual, wet fields along March Road, north of Dunrobin; Ontbirds

21 May 2006; 1 individual; Embrun Sewage Lagoons

20-24 May 2018; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; mobs; ebird

26 June 1973; 1 individual; NRC off Montreal Road; Bernie Ladouceur; ebird

### Earliest Fall Arrival

29 June 1987; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; T&L 21(5):257.

6 July 1980; 1 individual; Jim Harris; Shrike 5(3):5.

8 July 1985; 1 individual; Richmond Sewage Lagoons; Ray Holland, T&L 19(5):240, Shrike Database.

### Principal Fall Dates

Third week of August to second week of September.

### Late Fall Departure

4 October 1985; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio

5 October 1985; 3 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Daniel St. Hilaire

2-7 October 2009; up to 3 individuals; Shirley's Bay; mobs; ebird

12 October 1983; 1 individual; Russell Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):13.

14 October 2007; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.

13-18 October 2014; 1 individual; Masson Lagoons; Frédéric Bédard, m.obs.; eBird.

22 October 2002; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay or Ottawa Beach; Ontbirds 28.10.2002.

### Noteworthy High Counts

56 individuals; 28 July 1980; two flocks of 41 and 15; Bruce Di Labio, Steve O'Donnell; AB 34(5):891.

41 individuals, 28 July 1980, Andrew haydon park, Bruce Di Labio, ebird

35 individuals; 26 August 1982; Wright Smith; Shrike 7(4):25.

21 individuals; 31 August 1981; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):7.

17 individuals; 10 September 1983; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):13.

11 individuals; 25 August 1985; Richmond Lagoons; T&L 19(5):240.

## Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*)

Bécasseau roussâtre

BBSA

**Status:** Very rare fall migrant.

An early fall migrant, this upland shorebird species is often observed in agricultural fields and sod farms as well as at sewage lagoons and Ottawa River mudflats like Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach. Single birds are the norm but small groups of up to four have been recorded. During the 1970's and 1980's it occurred nearly annually, with 1-3 reports in years when it was detected. Reports tapered off through the 1990's and none were observed from 2001 to 2009. Since 2010 it has resumed its previous near-annual frequency of occurrence (7 records from 2010-2021).

### Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
24 August 1886; 1 individual; Ottawa River near Templeton; Ottawa Naturalist 5:37.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
10 August 1982; 1 individual; Fallowfield & Richmond; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):12.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of August to second week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
12 October 1983; 1 individual; Russell, ON; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):13.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
27 Aug. 1985; 4 indiv.; Manderly Sod Farms near Osgoode; Joanne Pari, m.obs.; T&L 19(5):240.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

Bécasseau sanderling

SAND

**Status:** Rare migrant in spring, uncommon migrant in fall.

Sanderling is rare in spring in the District and is not reported every year in this season. Like many other shorebirds, the spring migration is focussed on late May and early June and its appearance is often linked to inclement weather.

In fall it is uncommon, with peak migration from mid-August to late September, but with exceptionally late birds occurring until the end of November. This species has an affinity for sandy shorelines, and Ottawa Beach is a favoured locale. Also found elsewhere along the Ottawa River, including Shirley's Bay and the Deschênes Rapids. Occurs rarely at sewage lagoons.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Second week of May; 1993 Checklist.
21 May 1982; 20 individuals; Richmond Lagoons; Anthony Dale; Shrike 7(3):13.
23 May 1982; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):13.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Last week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
3 June 2008; 1 individual; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 09.06.2008.
6 June 1998; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcripts.
8 June 2005; 3 individuals; Parc Brébeuf; Ontbirds 11.06.2005.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
14 July 1985; 6 individuals, Ray Holland; Shrike 10(3):21.
18 July 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):25.
20 July 1981; 1 individual; Kitchissippi; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):8.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of August to fourth week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>

8 November 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):25.
Third week of November, 1993 Checklist
Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
130 individuals; 26 July 1986; incl. flock of 86 at Ottawa Beach, grounded by storm; T&L 20(5):210.
60 individuals; 3 June 1978; Stephen Gawn; AB 32(6):1154.
56 individuals; 6 September 1982; Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):16, T&L 17(1):6.
50 individuals; 1 June 1986; Ottawa R., Hull; T&L 20(5):209, Ornithouais 9(2):50.
45 individuals; 31 May 1987; Ottawa Beach; T&L 21(4):207
29 individuals; 21 July 2004; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird. Fall high count.

## Dunlin

(*Calidris alpina*)

Bécasseau variable  
DUNL

**Status: Fairly common spring migrant, common fall migrant.**

Dunlin is a fairly common migrant in spring, with most birds passing through the District in the latter half of May, although they can appear as early as mid-April. The fall migration is later than most of our shorebirds. Two very early records of southbound adults in July are exceptional. Juveniles can appear as early as late August, but the passage does not peak until late September and October. Birds can continue to pass through in November, with one record of a bird that lingered into the winter period (by one day!), and another on December 6. Dunlin are mainly found at sewage lagoons and on mudflats on the Ottawa River (especially in fall). Occasionally they are found in wet fields and at inland ponds with wet edges.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 April 1983; 1 individual; Twin Elms; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 8(2):12.
19 April 2002; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 24.04.2002.
19 April 2019, , Milton Road, Ed Kendall, ebird
21 April 2012; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Mark Gawn; eBird.
26 April 2015, , Breckenridge, mobs, ebird
20-28 April 2017, 1, Holland's marsh, mobs, ebird
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
9 June 2011; 1 individual; Greenbank Road; Brian Daly, m.obs.; eBird.
12 June 1981; 5 individuals; Green's Creek Lagoons; Frank Munro; Shrike Database.
12 & 20 June 1984; 1 individual; Green's Creek Lagoons; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(3):6.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
2 July 2009; 1 adult; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 03.07.3009.
20 July 1981; 1 adult; Kitchissippi; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):7.
20 August 1976; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(5):3.
21 August 1985; 1 individual; Peter Walker; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
17 November 2013; 1 first winter; Andrew Haydon Park west; Ontbirds 21.11.2013.
21 November 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
26 November 2003; 3 individuals; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 02.12.2003.
Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist.
<b>Winter Records</b>
27 November to 1 December 2004; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; m.obs.; Ontbirds 06.12.2004.
6 December 2025; 1 individual, Ottawa River near Green's Creek, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
275 individuals; 4 October 1983; Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio; ebird
200 individuals; 25 May 1999; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
150 individuals; 24 May 1983; Mark Gawn, Bob Bracken; Shrike
150 individuals; 28 October 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike

100 individuals; 5 November 2004; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

Bécasseau violet

PUSA

**Status: Rare fall migrant, exceptional in spring.**

Purple Sandpiper is a rare fall migrant and one of the latest shorebirds to pass through the District. Most birds are seen from late October through mid-November. This species favours rocky shorelines, so most of the records from the District are from these types of habitats along the Ottawa River, especially Britannia Pier, the Dick Bell Park breakwater and Shirley's Bay dike. It is almost never found away from these locations, although there are a handful of records from sewage lagoons.

Although it probably passes through each fall in small numbers en route to its wintering ground on the Atlantic seaboard, it is not observed every year by birders. Its appearance often coincides with passage of late fall cold fronts.

Spring migrants are very rare: there only about half a dozen records, and except for one, all from a very narrow window in late May.

<b>First Record</b>
29 October 1885; 1 specimen taken; Rideau River; W. Forbes; Ottawa Naturalist 5:37.
<b>Spring Records</b>
23 April- 13 May 2021; 1 individual; Deschenes Rapids, mobs, ebird
28 May 1973; 2 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Mactavish, Mike McKie; OBRSC #057.
28 May 1974; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; m.obs.; OBRSC #104.
18-29 May 1976; up to 8 individuals; Shirley's Bay (1 on 18 May, 4 on 20 May); Britannia (1); T&L 10(4):103.
26 May 2011; 1 individual; Britannia Pier; Bruce Di Labio; 26.05.2011.
24 May 2014; 1 individual; Britannia Pier; Louise Sobol; eBird.
<b>First week of June, 1993 Checklist</b>
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
6 September 1980; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Jean Higginson; Shrike 5(4):4. <b>Credible?</b>
<b>First week of October, 1993 Checklist</b>
11 October 1989; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids, T&L 24(2):82.
21 October 1991; <i>fide</i> Bruce Di Labio; AB 46(1):81.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to second week of November.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
25 November 1979; 1 individual; Pointe Gatineau; Simon Gawn; T&L 14(2):34, Shrike 4(8):4.
25-26 November 2011; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; m.obs.; eBird.
29 November 1970; 1 individual; AB 25(1):51.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1-6 december 2001, Andrew Haydon park-Britannia Pier, mobs, ebird
18 December 2021, 1 individual, Britannia Pier, Leslie H and Evan D, ebird
12 January 1973, Shirley's bay, 1 individual, Bruce Barret, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
20 individuals; 28 may 1977, Shirley's Bay Dyke, Ian M. Jones, ebird
15 individuals; 21 November 2007; Britannia Pier, Bruce Di Labio; eBird
9 individuals; 30 October 2012; Britannia Pier; Ontbirds 01.11.2012.
7 individuals; 7 November 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(4):18.
6 individuals; 8 November 1969; 6 individuals; Britannia Pier, the first record since 1885; T&L 4(1):18.
5 individuals; 6 November 1988; Britannia Pier; T&L 23(2):62.
4 individuals; 20 May 1976; Shirley's Bay, Haycock Island; OBRSC #556. Spring high count.

## Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

Bécasseau de Baird

BASA

**Status: Uncommon fall migrant, exceptional in spring.**

Baird's Sandpiper breeds in the high arctic and its spring migration route is through the centre of the continent, well to the west of our area. As such there are only three reports of this species in the spring in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Only one of these was reviewed by the OBRSC and it was not accepted; the other two reports lack details

In fall, Baird's Sandpiper is regular but uncommon, usually occurring in small numbers amongst flocks of Least and Semipalmated sandpipers. Unusually large movements of this species occurred in late August and early September in both 2004 and 2010. The peak of migration is from mid-August to mid-September, but birds have been reported as early as the second week of July and as late as the fourth week of October. In addition to Ottawa River mudflats and sewage lagoons, this species can also occasionally be found in wet fields or inland ponds with wet edges.

<b>First Record</b>
29 October 1889, Strathcona park, Ontario Birds Volume 40, page 89+, supplementary document being a list of specimens from the White Collection
<b>Spring Records</b>
4 June 1985; 2 individuals; Richmond Sewage Lagoons; Roy John; OBRSC #342. Not accepted
31 May 1987; 2 individuals; Constance Bay; T&L 21(4):207, 22(3):122.
3 June 2009, 1 individual, Embrun Lagoons; Brian Young; Ontbirds 03.06.2009. No details.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
8 July 1985; 1 individual; Jim Harris; Shrike 10(3):6.
11 July 1985; 2 individuals; Peter Walker; Shrike Database.
<b>Third week of July, 1993 Checklist</b>
27 July 2014; 1 adult; Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 31.07.2014.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of August to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
19 October 1985; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(4):6.
18-20 October 2002; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Ontbirds 21.10.2002.
<b>Fourth week of October, 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
53 indiv.; 22 Aug. 2004; Shirley's Bay (22), Moodie Dr. (27).; March Valley Rd (4); Ontbirds 22.08.2004.
23 individuals; 31 August 2010; Shirley's Bay (17) and Ottawa Beach (6); Ontbirds 08.09.2010.
22 individuals, 3 September 2018, Embrun sewage lagoons, mark Gawn, ebird
14 individuals; 28 August 2004; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 30.08.3004.
9 individuals; 25 August 1982; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):12.
8 individuals; 18 August 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):24.

## Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

Bécasseau minute

LIST

### Accidental transient in summer.

There is a single record of a breeding plumage adult bird at the Casselman Sewage Lagoons on 25 July 1992. This was (and still is) only the second Ontario record for this Eurasian vagrant. There are no Quebec records.

#### Record

25 July 1992; 1 breeding plumage adult; Casselman Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; T&L 27(3):98.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Bécasseau à croupion blanc

WRSA

### Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.

White-rumped Sandpiper is a rare spring migrant, with most birds passing through in late May and early June. Like several other shorebird species, there are scattered records from mid-June to mid-July – a mix of late northbound and early southbound birds.

It occurs more frequently in fall, with a somewhat later migration period than other peeps. Although southbound migrants can appear as early as July, the peak of juvenile migration does not occur until late September and early October. Normally this species is found in small numbers mixed in with more common Least and Semipalmated sandpipers, but larger flocks can occur during this mid-fall peak migration period. This species is found mainly on mudflats on the Ottawa River and at sewage lagoons, although occasionally it is recorded from other small inland water bodies including ponds with muddy edges and storm water management ponds.

<b>First Record</b>
27 October 1884, Strathcona park, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 May 1984; 1 individual; Richard Brouillet; Shrike 9(3):6, Shrike Database.
10 May 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio, Shrike Database.
14 May 2005; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 19.05.2005.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to last week of June.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Last week of August to first week of November.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
17 November 1997; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Grandview Road; Bird Status Line transcripts.
19 November 1989; 1 individual; T&L 24(2):81
24 November 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; AB 38(2):197.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
350 individuals; 19 October 1989; spread along the shores of the Ottawa River; T&L 24(2):81.
92 individuals; 4 October 2011; Shirley's Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
72 individuals; 16-17 October 2004; Mid-Fall Bird Count, incl. 42 at St. Albert Lagoons; T&L 39(1):38
61 individuals; 21 October 1972; Bruce Mactavish, Ron Pittaway; AB 27(1):52.
up to 56 individuals; Fall 1986, widespread, including flooded fields and Nepean Dump, T&L 21(2):94.

## Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

Bécasseau minuscule

LESA

**Status: Common migrant in spring and fall.**

Least Sandpiper is amongst the most common migrant shorebirds that pass through the District and can be found fairly easily in both spring and fall. In spring, most Least Sandpipers migrate through from mid-May to early June, but they can appear as early as late April. Most of the highest counts for this species are from the third and fourth weeks of May. Small numbers of individuals can be present from mid-June into early July as spring migration blurs into fall for this species.

Fall migrants are found from early July through to the end of September (exceptionally late October). Ottawa River mudflats and sewage lagoons are the main locations for finding this species, but they can also sometimes be found at other inland water bodies such as storm water management ponds and quarry ponds.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
c. 25 April 2007; Embrun/Winchester Lagoons; Ontbirds 30.04.2007.
28 April 1984; 3 individuals; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(2):6,17.
29 April 1983; 7 individuals; Richmond Lagoons; Shrike 8(2):12,23.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second to fourth week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First week of July to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
20/21 October 2000; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC archived data.
27 October 1981; 1 individual; Richard Killeen; Shrike 6(5):7.
8 November 1998; 3 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,350 individuals; 18 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):21.

1,000 individuals, 21 May 2018, Embrun lagoons, Michelle Martin, ebird
500 individuals; 15 May 2004; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 19.05.2004.
410 individuals; 24 May 1987; T&L 21(4):207.
300 individuals; 14 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):22.
260 individuals; 10 August 2010; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 10.08.2010.

## Pectoral Sandpiper

(*Calidris melanotos*)

Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée  
PESA

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant, common fall migrant.**

Uncommon in spring, Pectoral Sandpiper is one of the earlier migrant shorebirds to pass through the District, with migration for this species peaking in late April and early May, around the same time as Greater Yellowlegs. It is rare later in May and, like many shorebirds, there are scattered records through June and into early July as late spring migrants pass through and early fall migrants arrive.

In fall it has a fairly protracted migration period, with most birds passing through from mid-August to late October (exceptionally late November). This species is usually found at sewage lagoons and on mudflats along the Ottawa River, although it can occasionally be found in wet fields and along small water bodies with muddy edges.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 March 1986; 1 individual; Bourget; Bruce Di Labio; AB 40(3):464.
28 March 2009; 1 individual; Munster, heard calling; Ontbirds 31.03.2009.
3 April 1977; 3 individuals; Carlsbad Springs; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 2(2):4.
4 April 1981; 9 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):8, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Third week of April to first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 2010; 1 individual; Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 09.06.2010.
Second week of June 1980; Shrike 5(3):5.
23 June 1979; 1 individual; fide Roger Foxall; AB 33(6):859.
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
30 June 1982; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(3):13, Shrike Database.
<b>First week of July, 1993 Checklist</b>
11 July 1981; 1 individual; Green's Creek Lagoons; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 6(4):7.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of August to third week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 November 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):10.
12 November 2005; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Ontbirds 13.11.2005.
15 November 1984; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(6):6.
17 November 1985; 1 individual; Hull; Bruce Di Labio, Paul Martin; Ornitaouais 8(2):51.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
320 individuals; 6 October 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):18.
275 individuals, 4 October 1980, Munster lagoons, Bruce Di labio, ebird
152 individuals; 26 April 1981; Jo Ann Murray and Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 6(2):13.
150 individuals; 5 October 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):13.
125 individuals; 4 August 1988; Embrun Sewage Lagoons; T&L 23(2):57
120 individuals; 3 May 1981; Bill Clark; Shrike Database.

## Western Sandpiper

(*Calidris mauri*)

Bécasseau d'Alaska  
WESA

**Casual transient, mainly in fall.**

This western *Calidris* sandpiper is a regular stray to the east and occurs in Ontario and Quebec annually. There are about 40 records of this species from the Ottawa-Gatineau District, however it is challenging to identify and less than half of the reports have been well-documented enough to be accepted by the OBRSC.

There are only five spring reports, ranging from mid-May to mid-June. The majority of the records have occurred in fall migration from mid-July to a very late record in mid-November. There are two peaks in fall migration records: late July and early August (most likely adults) and late-August and early September (most-likely juveniles). Records have come from typical shorebird haunts: along the Ottawa River, especially at Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach, and from sewage lagoons.

<b>First Record</b>
23 October 1949; 1 individual; Britannia, Ottawa, ON; Dr. P.M. Millman, Barry Millman; WEG card file.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18-19 May 2004; 1 adult; Sabourin Marsh; Jean Dubois, Garry McNulty; T&L 38(4):185.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
10 June 1972; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, ON; Bruce MacTavish; AFN 26(5):853
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
16 July 2012; 1 individual; Russell Lagoons, Ontbirds 19.07.2012.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
12 November 1995; 1 adult; Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio, Tony Beck, m.obs., T&L 30(2):74.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 individuals; 3 September 1971; Ottawa; Bruce MacTavish, m.obs.; AFN 26(1):57

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)

Bécasseau semipalmé

SESA

**Status: Common spring and fall migrant.**

Spring migrants pass through mainly in late May to early June, but have occurred as early as the first week of May. The occasional presence of birds throughout the mid June to early July period blurs the distinction between spring and fall migrants.

In fall, peak numbers pass through from late July to early October, with exceptionally late birds into early November. This species can be found regularly at both sewage lagoons and exposed shorelines along the Ottawa River. It is usually outnumbered by its relative, the Least Sandpiper, but unusually large flocks occur occasionally in both spring and fall migration, often associated with the passage of storms.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
4 May 1983; 1 individual; Jamshed & Nehl Ahmed; Shrike 8(3):12.
5 May 1982; 2 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(3):12, Shrike Database.
7 May 1998; 1 individuals; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of July to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
28 October 1984; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 9(6):25.
1 November 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):10.
7 November 1976; 1 individual; Munster Sewage Lagoons; T&L 11(2):56.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,100 individuals; 26 July 1986; grounded in a summer storm, Ottawa Beach; T&L 20(5):210, 214
800 individuals; 30 May 1979; grounded by bad weather; T&L 13(4):125. Spring high count.
525 individuals; 24 August 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):12.
500 individuals; 31 May 1987; Ottawa Beach; T&L 21(4):207
395 individuals; 25 August 1981; Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):8,22.

## Jaegers

### **Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Labbe à longue queue

LTJA

#### **Accidental transient in spring and early fall.**

The smallest and rarest of our three jaeger species, there are 8 records: Three from the first two weeks of June, and the others in the fall. All sightings involved light morph adult birds, and all were along the Ottawa River. Up to three were present on the River on 14-15 June 1978, but the other records have involved only single birds.

<b>First Record</b>
6 June 1945; 1 adult lt. morph fem.; Lac Deschênes, A.E. Bourguignon, Hoyes Lloyd; CFN 49(3):117.
<b>Spring Records</b>
6 June 1945; 1 adult lt. morph fem.; Lac Deschênes, A.E. Bourguignon, Hoyes Lloyd; CFN 49(3):117.
14-15 June 1978; 3 individuals; Ottawa River; Bob Gorman, m.obs.; AB 32(6):1164, T&L 12(5):129.
12 June 1987, 1 adult light morph; Bate Island; Ray Holland; OBRSC #393
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
11-12 August 2007; 1 adult light morph; Lac Deschênes; T&L 42(2):86.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
19-20 September 2015, 1 individual, Harmony Road, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, ebird. m. obs. .
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
14-15 June 1978; 3 individuals; Ottawa River; Bob Gorman, m.obs.; AB 32(6):1164, T&L 12(5):129.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

### **Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

Labbe parasite

PAJA

#### **Status: Very rare fall migrant, exceptional in late spring.**

The most frequently occurring jaeger in the Ottawa-Gatineau District with about 35 records. It likely occurs annually in small numbers, but may pass through unobserved in some years. The majority of the records are from the fall (late August to late October), with only 6 late spring records (almost all from the first two weeks of June), and a single summer record. All of the sightings have come from along the Ottawa River, with the majority coming from Shirley's Bay, the Andrew Haydon Park area and the Deschênes Rapids.

The birds seen in June have all been adults, while fall birds are a mix of adults and juveniles. Light morph and intermediate morph birds occur most frequently, but dark morph has been reported several times.

<b>First Record</b>
4 September 1909; 1 juvenile; Ottawa River at Lievre River, QC; Ottawa Naturalist 25:157.
<b>Spring Records</b>
9 May 2021; 1 light morph adult; les Rapides Deschênes, Gatineau; Rodolphe Dubois; ebird
25 May, 2020; Shirley's Bay boat launch, Ottawa, Ontario; ebird, m. obs.
27 May 2024; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Martha Birchall & Colin Gaskell; ebird
2-3 June 1945; 2 dk. morph adults; Lac Deschênes at Britannia Bay; Hoyes Lloyd, m.obs.; CFN 63:32.
12 June 1977; 1 light morph adult; Shirley's Bay; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; AB 31(6):1133, T&L 11(5):135.
13-16 June 1978; 1 lt. morph adult; Britannia Point; Bob Gorman, m.obs.; T&L 12(5):129, OBRSC #219
14 June 1979; 1 dk. morph adult; Kitchissippi Lookout; Ian & Paul Jones; AB 33(6):859, T&L 13(5):166.
<b>Summer Records</b>
3 July 2023; 1 individual, Rapides Deschênes, Gatineau, Gilles Seutin, ebird
12-13 July 2022; 1 juvenile; Deschenes to Andrew Haydon Park; mobs, ebird
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
10 August 2024; Kitchissippi; Alvin Buckley ; ebird
13 August 2012; 1 juvenile; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 23.08.2012.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>

Second and third week of September.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
27 October 2011; 1 intermediate juvenile; Bate Island; Tony Beck, m.obs.; Ontbirds 27,28.10.2011.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 individuals, 2 September 1981, Andrew haydon park, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
2 dk. morph adults; 2-3 June 1945; Lac Deschênes at Britannia Bay; Hoyes Lloyd, m.obs.; CFN 63:32.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Pomarine Jaeger

(*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Labbe pomarin

POJA

**Status: Casual fall transient.**

The largest of our jaegers and, on average the latest migrating. There are 12 reports occurring from mid-September to mid-November and averaging only about two occurrences per decade. All sightings have involved single birds on the Ottawa River. Both adults and immatures have been reported, as well as light, dark and intermediate colour morphs.

<b>First Record</b>
19-26 October 1973; 1 imm.; Ottawa Beach; Bruce Mactavish, m.obs.; AB 28(1):45, OBRSC #071(A).
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
15 September 2011; 1 intermed. juv.; Ottawa Beach; Bob Bracken, Chris Lewis; Ontbirds 15.09.2011.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
14 November 1984; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach, Bruce Di Labio; AB 39(1):48, T&L 19(2):66.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Alcids

### Dovekie

(*Alle alle*)

Mergule nain

DOVE

**Status: Accidental transient in fall.**

One record (OBRSC accepted), of a bird shot by hunters on Glen Isle in the Mississippi River near Carleton Place on 26 October 1993. This alcid is extremely rare inland – there are only about ten records for Ontario.

<b>Records</b>
26 October 1993; Glen Isle, Mississippi River, fide Ivan Perry, T&L 28(4):141, OB 13(1):31-34.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

### Atlantic Puffin

(*Fratercula arctica*)

Macareaux moine

ATPU

**Status: Accidental in fall.**

There are only three records for this Atlantic alcid in the Ottawa Gatineau District, : one specimen taken on the Ottawa River in late October 1881, one observation of an individual on the River off of Dick Bell Park on 15 October 2002, and one in 2022 which is awaiting a report. Unfortunately the location of the specimen of the 1881 bird is unknown, and the 2002 was a single observer sighting that was not documented with a detailed report.

<b>Records</b>
late October 1881; 1 young bird; Ottawa River, following a severe storm, CFN 37:102. Specimen lost.

15 October 2002; 1 individual; Dick Bell Park; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 15.10.2002.
24 October -November 9 2022, 1 individual, mobs, Deschenes Rapids on the 24 <sup>th</sup> and Andrew Haydon Park on the 9 <sup>th</sup> (Jacob Stasso) (rare bird report not yet reviewed/ accepted)

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Razorbill

(*Alca torda*)

Petit pingouin  
RAZO

**Status: Accidental in fall, one record.**

Like other alcids, the occurrence of this species inland is exceptional and there are only a handful of records for Ontario. There are five records for the Ottawa-Gatineau District, oddly enough all within a short time interval.

Records
22 Oct. to 1 Nov. 2011; 1 indiv.; Deschênes Rapids; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Ontbirds 22.10 to 1.11.2011
31 October-1 November 2017, 1 individual, Constance Bay and Britannia pier, Ottawa, ON, Bruce diLabio, ebird, m. obs.
10 October –2 November 2021; at least 11 individuals; Ottawa river from Constance Bay to the Champlain Bridge; mobs; ebird.
24 October 2022, up to 4 individuals, Deschenes Rapids, mobs, ebird
11-18 November 2024; 1 individual; Ottawa River west to Andrew Haydon park, mobs, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Thick-billed Murre

(*Uria lomvia*)

Guillemot de Brünnich  
TBMU

**Status: Formerly a rare irruptive transient in late fall and early winter, now accidental.**

During the late 1800's and early 1900's flights of this species appeared every few years on the Ottawa River during the period between mid-November and late December, often in large numbers, with hundreds reported on several occasions. Occasionally single birds were recorded inland, such as at Stitsville and Carleton Place. Early observers were puzzled by these flights as the birds were not feeding and were often found dead.

The last such flight occurred in 1952 and there has only been one report since then, of a bird present on the River in the Deschênes Rapids area on 5-6 December 1995.

<b>First Record</b>
19 November 1893; 20 individuals, five specimens taken; Ottawa River; G.R. White; CFN 37:103.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
13-15 November 1901; large flocks on the Ottawa River; G.R. White; CFN 37:103.
<b>Late Winter Departures</b>
29 December 29, 1907; 1 specimen taken; Ottawa River; G.R. White; CFN 37:103.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
500 individuals; 7-8 December 1925; Ottawa River at Gatineau Point; <i>fide</i> Hoyes Lloyd; CFN 48(6):123.
400 to 500 individuals; 19 December 1908; Ottawa River; C.W.G. Eifrig; CFN 37:103.
Several hundred; 1 December 1926; Ottawa River at Kettle Island; E.G. White; CFN 37:103.
"Large flocks" reported in November/December in 1894, 1897, 1901; CFN 37:103.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Gulls

### Little Gull

Mouette pygmée

(*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

LIGU

**Status: Casual transient from spring through fall.**

About 56 records (eight OBRSC accepted). Like Franklin's Gull, this is a species which was reported more frequently in the 1970's and 1980's than it has been in recent years. Although spring reports have come as early as mid-April, most occur in late May and early June. There are scattered records through the summer months, including in 1986, when two birds lingered through the summer on the Ottawa River. Fall reports are fewer in number than spring ones and range from late July to late September, with most records coming in the late August and early September.

Virtually all of the reports come from the Ottawa River, with the Deschênes Rapids, Ottawa Beach and Shirley's Bay being the most frequent venues for sightings. Both adults and immature birds have been observed. Most sightings are of single individuals, but up to nine individuals have been observed together.

<b>First Record</b>
4-11 June 1975; up to 2 indiv.; Deschênes Rapids Steven Gawn, m.obs.; AB 29(5):965, T&L 9(4):113.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
10-12 April 1980; 1 adult; Shirley's Bay; Bob Bracken; T&L 14(4):199.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to first week of June.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of August to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
22 September 2008; 1 immature; Aylmer Marina; Rodolphe Dubois; Ornitaouais 31(2):18.
<b>Winter record</b>
9 December 2015, 1 individual, Moodie Drive ponds, Richard Killeen
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 adults, 7 immatures; 18 May 2014; Deschênes Rapids area; m.obs.; Ontbirds 22.05.2014.
1 adult, 3 second summer, 1 first summer; 19 May 1987; Deschênes Rapids; T&L 21(4):208.
4 immatures; 10 August 1997; Parc Brébeuf; Daniel St-Hilaire, m.obs.; T&L 32(2) :75.
up to 3 second year; 1 June to at least 20 August 1986; Deschênes Rapids; m.obs.; T&L 20(5):209.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

**Black-legged Kittiwake**  
(*Rissa tridactyla*)

**Mouette tridactyle**

**BLKI**

**Status: Casual late fall transient.**

This Atlantic coast gull wanders inland annually and has been reported 27 times in the Ottawa-Gatineau District (seven OBRSC accepted). Records range from early August to late December, but has been most frequently observed in late October and November. The year 2008 was unusual for this species with possibly as many as six birds reported in early August. Both the numbers and the early date were unprecedented.

As with other rare gull species, almost all of the records have come from along the Ottawa River. Both adult and immature birds have been recorded, the latter more frequently. Typically encounters involve single birds, but up to three have occurred together.

<b>First Record</b>
2 October 1971; 1 first winter; Shirley's Bay; Monty Brigham; T&L 7(1):26, OBRSC #10 & 11.
<b>Spring Record</b>
<u>5 May 2023</u> ; 1 individual; Frank Kenny Road; Ottawa, Nicholas Escott, Christopher Escott, ebird
<b>Second week of May, 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>1 June 2020; Britannia Filtration plant, 1 individual, Aaron Hywarren, ebird</b>
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
5 August 2008; 2 individuals; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Gerard Phillips; Ontbirds 05.08.2008.
<b>Late Winter Departures</b>

20 December 1981; 1 adult winter; Pointe Gatineau; Bob Bracken, m.obs.; AB 36(3):275, T&L: 16(2):82.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
4 first winter; 12 November 1983; Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; AB 38(2):197, T&L 18(2):62.
3 first winter; 8 August 2008; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Michael Tate; Ontbirds 08.08.2008.
3 first winter; 1 November 2012; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 01.11.2012.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Ivory Gull

(*Pagophila eburnea*)

**Mouette blanche**  
**IVGU**

**Status: Accidental transient in early winter.**

This rare high arctic breeder has only occurred once in the Ottawa-Gatineau District – a first year bird found feeding on a dead duck on the ice of the Madawaska River head pond just outside of Arnprior. The site is on the western limit of the 50 km circle, but the gull was observed to have flown into the area during its brief stay.

<b>Records</b>
15 Dec. 2012; 1 first winter; Madawaska River head pond; Mike Runtz, m.obs.; Ontbirds 13.12.2012.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Sabine's Gull

(*Xema sabini*)

**Mouette de Sabine**  
**SAGU**

**Status: Casual fall transient.**

Eighteen records (seven OBRSC accepted). Aside from a single June record, sightings of this attractive pelagic gull fall into a relatively tight date range from early September to early October, which is consistent with this species pattern of occurrence inland in eastern North America. Most reports are of single juveniles, although two have been seen together on three occasions and adults have been recorded at least twice. Observations are all on or near the Ottawa River, with the bulk of the observations coming from the Deschênes Rapids and Shirley's Bay .

<b>First Record</b>
25 September 1933; 1 juvenile; Ottawa River, near Thurso, H. Bédard fide E.G. White; CFN 58(5):157.
<b>Spring record</b>
4 June 2018; 1 Individual, Britannia Point, Jon Ruddy, Paul Martin, Michele Martin; ebird
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
5 September 2004; 1 juvenile, Moodie Drive Quarry Pond, Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; T&L 39(1):38.
<b>Latest Fall Departure</b>
6 October 1976; 1 juvenile; Deschênes Rapids; Bob Gorman, m.obs.; AB 31(2):171, T&L 11(1):33.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 juveniles; 22 September 1974; Ottawa R. at Wychwood; Mark Gawn, Jim Harris, OBRSC #119,120.
2 juveniles; 19 September 2011; Deschênes Rapids; Bruce & Ben Di Labio; Ontbirds 19.09.2011.
2 juveniles; 5 September 2013; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 05.09.103.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Bonaparte's Gull

(*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)

**Mouette de Bonaparte**  
**BOGU**

**Status: Fairly common spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.**

The peak migration of Bonaparte's Gulls through the District occurs from mid-May through early June, although this species has appeared as early as late March. Most spring occurrences are from along the Ottawa River, and numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in spring typically reach their maximum in late May and early June at the Deschênes Rapids, where birds gather to feed on emerging insects.

There are scattered records throughout the summer, a mix of late spring and early fall migrants. A juvenile at Shirley's Bay on 16 July 2012 may be the earliest southbound migrant (Ontbirds 19.07.2012). Fall migration picks up in mid-August, until mid-October. Birds are fairly regular along the Ottawa River at this time, but they will also sometimes form flocks at local sewage lagoons, especially later in the period. Late birds are occasionally seen in November, with the latest record to date in early December.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
29 March 2003; 3 individuals at Milton Road; 12 individuals at Johnston Road; Ontbirds
31 March 2008; 1 individual; Parc Brébeuf; Ontbirds.
<b>First week of April, 1993 Checklist</b>
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of August to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
22 November 2006; 30 individuals; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 27.11.2006.
23 November 2003; 2 individuals; Winchester Lagoons, Ontbirds 24.11.2003.
27 November 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn, Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(6):10.
<b>Winter Record</b>
2-3 Dec. 2006; up to 4 indiv.; Embrun Lagoons, David Britton, Langis Sirois; Ontbirds 02,03.12.2006.
3 december 2006, 1 individual, St. Albert lagoons, Larry Neily, ebird
5 december 2009, 1 individual, Embrun, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
120 individuals, 8 may 2016, Innis point, Frederic bedard, ebird
112 individuals; 19-20 Oct. 2002; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count, mostly SE sector; OFNC website.
88 individuals; 4 October 1997; Embrun Lagoons; Bird Status Line transcripts.
74 individuals; 16 May 2010; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 19.05.2010.
50 individuals; 10 November 2007; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 12.11.2007.
50 individuals; 22 May 2012; Deschênes Rapids, Mark Patry; eBird.

## **Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

**Mouette rieuse**

**BHGU**

**Status: Accidental in fall and early winter.**

There are only two confirmed records of this gull species, which is mainly Eurasian in distribution, in the Ottawa-Gatineau District: one from the fall of 1975 at an old dump in the east end of Ottawa, and another that lingered along the Ottawa River in early winter of 1986-87.

<b>Records</b>
30 Sept. to 1 Oct. 1975; 1 indiv.; old dump, Borthwick Ridge Rd., Steve O'Donnell, m.obs.; T&L 10(1):67.
21 Dec. 1986 to 3 Jan. 1987; 1 winter adult; Deschênes Rapids & Trail Road; T&L 21(2):96, 21(3):147

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Laughing Gull** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

**Mouette atricille**

**LAGU**

**Casual transient in spring and fall.**

The 21 reports are about evenly split between spring (late April to mid-June) and fall (late September to mid-November) with the majority of the spring records coming from early to mid-June at the Deschênes Rapids. In addition to Ottawa River, this species has also occurred at landfills, sewage lagoons, quarry ponds and agricultural fields. All of the reports have been of single birds with both adults and immatures having been recorded. There is one very unusual winter record.

<b>First Record</b>
11 November 1975; 1 adult winter; Britannia Pier; Bruce Di Labio, Jim Harris; T&L 10(1):455.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
20 April 2002, 1 adult; Trail Road Landfill, Bob Bracken, m.obs.; NAB 56(3):302, T&L 36(3):125.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
19 June 2012; 1 adult; Deschênes Rapids; Jean Dubois; Ontbirds 21.06.2012.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
27 September 1977; 1 third year; Richmond Lagoons, Mark Gawn, m.obs.; AB 32(2):198, T&L 12(1):7.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 November 1975; 1 adult winter; Britannia Pier; Bruce Di Labio, Jim Harris; T&L 10(1):455.
<b>Winter record</b>
1 January 2023, 1 individual, Moodie Drive ponds, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Franklin's Gull

(*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

Mouette de Franklin  
FRGU

**Status: Casual transient from spring through fall.**

About 48 records (12 OBRSC accepted). During the 1970's and 1980's this species was observed much more frequently than in recent years, occurring on an almost annual basis, with several reports in some years. Since 2000, there have been only about eight reports.

Birds have occurred in every month from May to November, including scattered sightings through the summer. The peak of spring migration seems to be from mid-May to mid-June and the peak of fall migration is during September. Almost all of the observations have been along the Ottawa River. Most of the reports are of single birds but two have occurred together several times and three on one occasion. Both adults and juveniles have occurred.

<b>First Record</b>
5 September 1957; 1 individual; D.B.O. Savile and W.E. Godfrey; AFN 12(1):28. (Assuming that AFN is a predecessor of North American birds magazine. The location is not given but is presumed to be Lac Deschenes given the track record of this species.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 May 1973; 2 individuals; Roger Foxall, m.obs.; AB 27(4):767.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Third week of May to second week of June.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
First to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
28 November 1971; 1 imm.; Britannia Pier & Ottawa Beach; Dan Brunton, John Wooley; OBRSC #015.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 adults, 1 immature; 10-11 June 1995; Deschênes Rapids; Mark Gawn; FN 49(5):904, T&L 30(1):25.
2 individuals; on five dates, all in May or September.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Short-billed Gull

(*Larus brachyrynchus*)

Goéland à bec court  
SBIG

**Accidental transient in fall.**

The records here were formerly listed under Mew Gull. That species has been split into Common Gull and Short-billed Gull...There are only two Ottawa-Gatineau reports of this western gull species: one seen by at the Nepean Dump on 24

October 1980 and another that lingered for about a week at Ottawa Beach in mid-October 1991. Only the latter report is well-documented.

#### Records

24 October 1980; 1 individual; Nepean Dump; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; AB 35(2):177, T&L 15(1):25.

6-14 October 1991; 1 adult winter; Ottawa Beach; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; AB 46(1):83, OBRSC #445.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)

Goéland à bec cerclé

RBGU

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare through winter.**

For most of the year, Ring-billed Gull is the most common gull in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. It is widespread and numerous in urban and rural areas alike. It is the common gull of urban mall and fast food outlet parking lots, as well as along the Ottawa River and over virtually any body of water, at dumps and loafing in ploughed agricultural fields. A large breeding colony of several thousand birds is found on Conroy Island, on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River above the Deschênes Rapids. There are several other smaller colonies along the Ottawa River – breeding was also confirmed at Fitzroy Harbour, Ottawa Centre and Vanier on OBBA2 and at Val Tetreau and Gatineau on QBBA2.

As this species winters on the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, it is often an early returning migrant to the District, with birds sometimes arriving in warm spells in mid-February and it is usually common by early March. Ring-billed Gulls can be found along the Ottawa River until it freezes (usually mid-December to early January). Most years they are absent in January and into February, but there are scattered records throughout this period, usually during warm spells that induce birds to return to the area.

#### First Record

December 1908; 1 individual; E. Bédard; Ottawa Naturalist 25:137.

#### Early Spring Arrival

14 February 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(1):3.

16 February 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):24, Shrike Database.

17 February 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(1):4.

#### Principal Dates

Second week of March to second week of November.

#### Noteworthy High Counts

12,000 individuals; 29 September 2024; Alvin Buckley; Kitchissippi Lookout; ebird

10,000 individuals, 16 April 1983; Bob Bracken; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(3):23.

10,000 individuals, 31 October 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(5):4, 18.

10,000 individuals, 30 July 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):21.

## American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*)

Goéland argenté

(smithsonianus)

AHGU

**Status: Common migrant. Fairly common summer visitor/breeder. Fairly common to rare in winter.**

Note: In 2024 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) was split into the American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*) and the European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

American Herring Gull is common in the District, especially during spring and fall migration. It is found on the larger rivers and lakes, as well as at landfill sites, quarry ponds, and ploughed agricultural fields. It does not breed regularly in the District. On QBBA1 breeding was confirmed south of Low, and on QBBA2 at the Conroy Island Ring-billed Gull colony, where a pair had been seen in summer for several years previous. The first (and perhaps only?) recorded confirmed breeding on the Ontario side was at Nepean Bay, when downy young were observed at a nest site on 27 May 1991 (T&L 25(4):128).

American Herring Gull numbers begin to increase in late February as birds return from wintering areas on the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. From March through May they are relatively easy to find. Numbers dip during June

and July, but there are usually a few summering birds on the Ottawa River or at landfills. Numbers pick up again in August and it is common into late December. Once the Ottawa River freezes, numbers begin to decline, although birds can often still be found at areas of open water such as at Deschênes Rapids and Remic Rapids on the Ottawa River and Billings Bridge and Hurdman Bridge on the Rideau River. American Herring Gull can be rare or absent in late January and early February, until warm spells induce spring migrants began to trickle back.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of March to third week of December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
14,872 individuals; 24-25 November 1998; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
10,000 individuals; 24 November 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(6):26.
8,000 individuals; 8 November 2009; Andrew Haydon Park; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
7,000 individuals; 6 December 1984; Shrike 9(6):6.
7,000 individuals; 4 January 2007; Andrew Haydon Park; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 04.01.2007.

## Great Black-backed Gull

(*Larus marinus*)

Goéland marin  
GBBG

**Status: Fairly common spring and common fall migrant. Rare through summer and**

The Great Black-backed Gull is the largest member of the gull family. In the last forty years it has increased dramatically in the District. In the 1970's it was considered scarce in the area, but by the mid-1980's daily counts of a hundred birds possible and by the 1990's and 2000's, the highest counts were over one thousand.

It is seen regularly from March to May and August to December, mainly along the Ottawa River and at landfills and their environs. This species does not breed in the district but is a regular wanderer from its colonies on the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes. It is generally rare in the District through summer and in the dead of winter (late January to late February) but there are scattered records throughout both of these periods.

<b>First Record</b>
2 May 1885; 1 individual; Kettle Island; G.R. White; CFN 37:103.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to second week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Third week of August to fourth week of December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,250, 22 December 1996, Britannia CA, Bruce Di labio, ebird
1,650 indiv.; 4 Jan. 2007; Andrew Haydon Park, on the River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 04.01.2007.
1,490 individuals; 5 January 1992; Nepean Dump, Deschênes Rapids; m.obs.; T&L 27(3):92.
1,450 individuals; 3 March 1998; Ottawa River roosts; Bird Status Line transcripts.
1,110 individuals; 8 January 1992; Nepean Dump; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 27(3):92
750 individuals; 12 December 1997; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.

## Glaucous Gull

(*Larus hyperboreus*)

Goéland bourgmestre  
GLGU

**Status: Fairly common migrant in spring and fall, rare winter visitor.**

The largest and most common of the white-winged gulls that occurs in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. In spring, peak migration occurs between early March and early April, although late migrants have been recorded through May and even into June. There is one unusual record of a bird that summered at the Nepean Dump in 1985. Fall migration occurs from early October into mid-January. From late January through February this species can be uncommon to absent, depending on the weather. Cold temperatures will push them further south to the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes, but they can return just as quickly during warm spells.

Glaucous Gulls are mainly reported from sites along the Ottawa River and at landfills and their environs (e.g. the Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds). Both adults and juveniles are reported regularly, but juveniles are the more common of the two.

<b>First Record</b>
2 December 1905; 1 specimen taken; Ottawa River; E. Bédard; Ottawa Naturalist 25:157.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
First week of March to first week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
until 4 June 1988; Britannia CA; T&L 23(1):28.
5 June 1979. 1 individual; T&L 13(5):167.
14 June 1987; 1 second summer; Stittsville; Bruce Di Labio; AB 41(5):1431.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
May to late September 1985; 1 individual; Nepean Dump; Shrike 10(3):7, 10(4):7.
<b>Early Fall Arrivals</b>
24 september 2020, 1 individual, Andrew Haydn park, Rob Pinilla, ebird
29 September 2019, 1 individual, Trail Road landfill, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
7 October 1984; 1 individual; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(5):5, Shrike Database.
9 October 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
9 October 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of November to second week of January.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
83 individuals, 24 December 1987, Kitchissippi lookout, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
75 individuals; 24 January 2008; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds
72 individuals; 21 December 1997; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count, mostly Deschênes Rapids
70 individuals, 31 December 1982; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 17(2):59, Shrike 7(6):15.
70 individuals; 22 December 1984; Ray Holland; Shrike 9(6):6.
68 individuals; 2 December 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):10.

## Lesser Black-backed Gull

(*Larus fuscus*)

Goéland brun  
LBBG

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Very rare in winter and summer.**

The first record of Lesser Black-backed Gull in the Ottawa-District in 1971 was only the second record of this European species in Canada. Since that time it has been steadily increasing in frequency in the area and has been annual since the early 1980's.

Spring numbers seem to peak from late March to late April, after which there are occasional records of lingering birds through the summer months until fall migration picks up in late August, continuing into early December, with peak numbers in October. Individuals have sometimes lingered as late as early February before cold weather drives them further south, but the earliest spring return for this species is in late February, leaving the second and third weeks of February as the only weeks of the year in which this species has yet to be recorded in the District.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls are found at landfill sites, quarry ponds, loafing in ploughed agricultural fields and along the Ottawa River. Most birds that are reported are adults but some immatures are probably overlooked as some birders are not familiar with their field marks.

<b>First Record</b>
13-28 November 1971; 1 adult; Britannia Pier; Earl Godfrey, m.obs.; AB 26(1):57, OBRSC #013.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to fourth week of April.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
First week of August to first week of December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
60 individuals; 27 September 2025, Dalmac Road, Jon P. Ruddy, ebird
48 Individuals; 17 September 2023 ; Bernie Ladouceur; Britannia CA; ebird
41 individuals; 10 September 2021; Deschênes Rapids; Gatineau; Gilles Seutin, ebird
27 indiv, all ages; 2 October 2007; Trail Road & Moodie Dr.; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 02.10.2007.
21 individuals; 21 September 2006; Deschênes Rapids; T&L 41(2):109.
16 individuals; 21 October 2009; Trail Rd. & Moodie Dr. area; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 21.10.2009.
15 indiv.; 27 October 2005; Shirley's Bay to Deschênes Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 27.10.2005.

8 indiv.; 17 April 2007; Andrew Haydon Park, on the ice; Ontbirds 23.04.2007. Spring high count.

## California Gull

(*Larus californicus*)

Goéland de Californie

CAGU

### Accidental transient in spring and fall.

Three records, all OBRSC accepted. There is one record from early spring and two from mid- to late fall of this western gull species, consistent with the peaks of gull migration in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. The observations have been along the Ottawa River, and at landfills and quarry ponds.

#### Records

13-15 October and 12 November 1988, 1 adult winter; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; T&L 23(2):57.

28 March to 15 April 2005; 1 adult breeding; Parc Brébeuf; Gilles Seutin, m.obs.; T&L 39(4):18.

6 to 15 Nov. 2007; 1 adult winter; Moodie Dr., Shirley's Bay, Tony Beck, Bruce Di Labio T&L 42(2):86.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Slaty-backed Gull

(*Larus schistisagus*)

Goéland à manteaux ardoisé

SLGU

This Asian species has been seen a few times in Ontario, and there are two records for the district, the first a long-staying bird seen mostly at the Trail Road Landfill.

#### Records

8 October-17 November 2021; 1 adult; Trail Road landfill; mobs; ebird.

10 November 2024, 1 individual, Cobbs Lake Creek Flood Plain, Prescott & Russell, ON, mobs, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Iceland Gull

(*Larus glaucoides*)

Goéland arctique

ICGU

### Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant and winter visitor,

Iceland Gulls are best known in the Ottawa-Gatineau District as an uncommon fall migrant and winter visitor. Birds typically arrive in fall in late October (exceptionally mid-September) and then are present regularly into January. They are rare to absent from late January to early March when cold weather can force them further south to the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. They are rare in spring migration, with most birds passing through from mid-March to mid-April (exceptionally to late June). Iceland Gulls are usually found along the Ottawa River and at landfill sites. Most birds that are reported are immatures, but adults do occur and are probably somewhat overlooked.

The subspecies of Iceland Gull that usually occurs in the District is ssp. *kumlieni*, which breeds in the eastern Canadian arctic. Another rarer subspecies, ssp. *thayeri*, was formerly classified as a separate species, Thayer's Gull.

#### First Record

24 November 1945; 1 individual; White's Bridge; Rideau R.; E.V. Goodwill; CFN 61:140.

#### Principal Spring Dates

Second week of March to second week of April.

#### Late Spring Departure

25 May 1983; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(3):28.

25 May 2002; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill; Ontbirds 30.05.2002.

11 June 1997, 1 individual, Deschênes Rapids, T&L 32(2):75.

Until fourth week of June, 1993 Checklist

#### Early Fall Arrivals

15 September 1976; 1 individual; Green's Creek; Roger Taylor; Shrike 1(6):4.

30 September 2006; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 02.10.2006.
10 October 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):5, Shrike Database.
11 October 1982; 1 adult, 1 second winter; Shirley's Bay; Tom Hince; Shrike 7(5):16.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to <b>second week of December</b> .
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
66 individuals 2 december 1997, deschenes lookout, Bruce Di labio, ebird
65 individuals; 30 December 1982; Nepean Dump; Tom Hince, Tom Plath; Shrike 7(6):15.
64 individuals; 12 December 1997; Deschênes Rapids roost; Bird Status Line transcripts.
48 indiv.; 21 Dec. 1997; Deschênes Rapids; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; BSL transcripts.
45 individuals; 24 Jan. 2008; Moody Drive Quarry Ponds & Trail Rd. Dump; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
21 individuals; 31 March 1997; Ottawa River roosts; Bird Status Line transcripts. Spring high count.

## “Thayer’s Gull” (*Larus glaucoides thayeri*)

**Status: Rare fall migrant, very rare spring migrant.**

“Thayer’s Gull” has a complicated taxonomic history. At the time of the first record in the 1950’s, it was considered to be a subspecies of Herring Gull. By the 1960’s it was being treated as a distinct species. Today the preponderance of morphological, behavioural and genetic evidence supports Thayer’s Gull actually being a subspecies of Iceland Gull. See *Taxonomic History of Thayer’s Gull* by Ron Pittaway (Ontario Birds 17(1):1-13) for more details. Now being considered a subspecies, it is not searched for as regularly as in the past. This extensive discussion is a legacy of the time it was considered a full species.

This subspecies of Iceland Gull, “Thayer’s Gull”, is primarily known in the Ottawa-Gatineau District as a rare fall migrant. It usually arrives in late October (exceptionally early September) and can be present through to mid-December (exceptionally late January). It has been recorded six times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1970 to 2021 (all single birds). It is much rarer in spring migration, averaging perhaps only four or five records per decade in this season. There is one unusual summer record of a bird seen several times in July 1988 at and around Ottawa Beach. Thayer’s Gulls are found mainly at landfill sites and along the Ottawa River. Most birds observed are immatures, but adults are recorded occasionally.

<b>First Record</b>
9 October 1951; 1 adult; Dow’s Lake, on log booms; D.B.O. Savile; CFN 71:32.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
29 February 2008; 1 first winter; Trail Road Landfill; Ontbirds 03.03.2008.
13 March 2010; 1 first winter; Cambrian Road, in fields; Ontbirds 14.03.2010.
25 March 2007; 1 first winter; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 25.03.2007.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Third week of March to first week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
26 May 1979, 1 second year; T&L 13(4):125.
26 May 1991; Nepean Dump; T&L 25(4):128.
28 May 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):13.
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
3-7, 17 July 1988; Ottawa Beach and environs; T&L 23(1):28.
<b>Early Fall Arrivals</b>
7 September 1976; 1 individual; <i>vide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 31(2):171.
7 September 2013; 1 individual; Russell Dump; Ontbirds 12.09.2013.
1 October 1984; 1 adult; Nepean Dump; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):7.
3 October 1974; Ron Pittaway, m.obs.; AB 29(1):151.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to second week of December.
<b>Late Winter Departures</b>
9 Jan. 1983; 1 first winter; Cook Rd. Dump, Aylmer; Daniel St.-Hilaire, m.obs.; Ornitaouais. 5(3):97
16 January 2010; 1 first winter; Remic Rapids; Ontbirds 21.01.2010.
24 January 2008; 1 adult; Moodie Drive Quarry Pond; Ontbirds 28.01.2008.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5 individuals; 20 November 1982; Bill Coburn; Shrike 7(6):30.
4 individuals (var. ages); 24 November 1982; Nepean Dump; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 7(6):17.
2 individuals; 3 December 1983; Nepean Dump; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):

## Terns

### **Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Sterne caspienne

CATE

**Status: Uncommon visitor from spring through fall.**

This large tern is an uncommon visitor to the District from its breeding colonies on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, although currently it does not nest here. Although this species has been recorded as early as mid-April and as late as early October, most sightings fall into the period between mid-May and late August, with birds observed fairly regularly through the summer months.

Previous to 2010, most sightings were of one or two birds. Since then, larger gatherings of this species have occurred regularly in August at Shirley's Bay and Deschênes Rapids, reflecting this species overall increase in frequency in the District in the last several years.

<b>First Record</b>
9 May 1935; 1 individual; Rideau Canal at Ottawa South; H.F. Lewis; CFN 50:92-93.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19 April 1985; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):5.
20 April 2012; 2 individuals; Petrie Island; David Gascoigne; eBird.
20 April 2014; 1 individual; Petrie Island; Ontbirds 24.04.2014
21 April 1984; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(2):6.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
1 October 1990; 2 individuals; along the Ottawa River; T&L 25(2):63.
1-6 October 1977, 2 indiv.; Wychwood & elsewhere on the River; m.obs.; AB 32(2):81, T&L 12(1):7.
10 December 2012; 3 individuals; Parc Brébeuf; Jacques Savard; eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
35 individuals; 21 August 2019, Bruce Di Labio Deschenes rapids, ebird
34 individuals; 7 August 2015; Rapides Deschenes; Rodolphe Dubois; ebird
23 individuals; 19 August 2013; Deschênes Rapids; Mark Patry; eBird.
17 individuals; 9 August 2010; Shirley's Bay; m.obs.; Ontbirds 13.08.2010.
17 individuals; 20 August 2014; Deschênes Rapids; Alain Tremblay, m.obs.; eBird.
5 individuals; 24 June 2009; Quyon ferry, on a sandbar; Ontbirds 03.07.2008.
3 individuals; 21 September 2005; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 23.09.2005.

### **Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*)

Guifette noire

BLTE

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder.**

This attractive little tern usually arrives in the District in mid-May (exceptionally late April). It is an uncommon and local colonial breeder in large marshes. On the Quebec side colonies occur or have occurred in several of the marshes along the Ottawa River east of Gatineau (Baie McLaurin, Masson-Angers, Thurso and Lochaber). On the Ontario side it breeds in scattered locations in the appropriate habitat – on OBBA2 it was confirmed breeding in the Prospect, Richmond Fen, Kemptville, Dunrobin Shores and Orleans East squares. Peak counts are in late July when young of the year have fledged.

It is an early migrant, with most birds leaving the District by late August (exceptionally late September). This species has declined in numbers in the District in the last decades, with no recent high counts approaching those achieved in the 1980s.

<b>First Record</b>
28 May 1888; 6 specimens; Rideau River; E.G. White; CFN 37:104.

<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
20 April 2013; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
21 April 1984; 1 individual; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(2):7.
26 April 1982; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):13.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to third week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
5 September 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):16.
6 September 1980; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike 5(4):6.
<b>Second and third weeks of September 1993 Checklist</b>
27 September 1982; 1 individual; Britannia; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):14.
2-4 October 2016, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
3 October 2016, 1 individual, PN de plaisance, Baie Noire, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
6 October 2016, 1 individual, Dick Bell park, Jamie Spence, ebird,
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
125 individuals; 29 July 1977; Britannia, T&L 11(5):135.
110 individuals; 20 July 1981; Shirley's Bay & Britannia; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):9.
110 individuals; 19 July 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(4):25.
100 individuals; 18 May 2009; marais aux grenouillettes; Daniel Toussaint; ebird
75 individuals; 21 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):14.
60 individuals; 16 July 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):22.

## White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

Guifette leucoptère  
WWTE

There is a single record of this Eurasian species, rare anywhere in North America.

21 May, 2023; 1 Individual; Marais des Laiches, Gatineau; Jocelyn Grenon and anonymous; ebird. The ebird report included distant but identifiable photos. The same species was photographed in Smith's Falls on 22 May, 2023 and this was presumably the same bird.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A

## Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)

Sterne de Forster  
FOTE

**Status: Casual transient in spring and fall.**

This tern has a primarily western prairie distribution, although it does breed in south-western Ontario. It has strayed to Ottawa about 28 times with records split about equally between spring and fall. Spring records have ranged from mid-April to mid-June, with the largest number of sightings in late May. In the fall, it has occurred between early August and mid-November, with a peak in records in the latter half of September.

The large majority of sightings are single birds, but up to three have occurred together. Both adult and juvenile birds have been recorded. Almost all of the sightings have been on the Ottawa River with Shirley's Bay and Deschênes Rapids being the most frequent locations.

<b>First Record</b>
20-29 September 1974; 1 immature; Shirley's Bay, Richard Poulin, m.obs; AB 29(1):51, OBRSC #121.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
17 April 1980; 1 adult; Shirley's Bay, Bob Bracken, m.obs.; T&L 14(4):119, OBRSC #254.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
13-15 June 1982; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids, Ottawa, ON, Bruce Di Labio; T&L 16(5):231.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
5 August 2014; 1 adult; Ottawa Beach, photographed; Ontbirds 14.08.2014.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 November 1991; 1 individual; Ottawa; AB 46(1):82.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 adults, 1 immature; 27 May 1985; Britannia CA; Dan Brunton, K.L. McIntosh; OBRSC #341.
2 immatures; 21 Oct. 1984; Mississippi River mouth, Mike Runtz, m.obs; AB 39(1):48, OBRSC #332.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Sterne arctique  
ARTE

**Status: Rare spring migrant, exceptional in fall.**

The Ottawa-Gatineau District is the only place in southern Ontario and Quebec where Arctic Terns can regularly be seen in migration. These birds pass through along the Ottawa River in late May and early June en route to their arctic breeding grounds. This was noticed in 1909 and again in the 1952, but sightings only became regular in the 1970s. Their appearance is often associated with inclement weather. Deschênes Rapids and Shirley's Bay are the most frequent sites of observations for this species, but it has been recorded elsewhere on the River as well. There are very few records away from the River, but it has been reported from the Embrun Lagoons (twice), the Russell Lagoons and the Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds.

There have been about four fall reports, but only one that was well documented and accepted by the OBRSC prior to 2016.

<b>First Record</b>
30 May 1909, 1 individual, Ottawa River, Ottawa Naturalist, volume 24, page 158,
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
14 May 2007; 5 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds
16 May 1983; 3 individuals; Frank Munro; Morris Island; Shrike 8(3):13.
16 May 2010; 2 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Last week of May and first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
14 June 1997; 2 individuals; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
15 June 1978; AB 32(6):1155.
19 June 1989; Deschênes Rapids; Jean-Pierre & Etienne Artigau; eBird.
<b>Fall Record</b>
14 September 1983; 4 adults, 1 juvenile; Shirley's Bay; Tom Hince; OBRSC #309.
27 September 2010, 1 individual, Deschenes, Rod Dubois, ebird
1-2 October 2024; 1 individual; Britannia Point, mobs, ebird
18 October 2011; 1 individual, Parc Brebeuf, Jacques Savard, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
92 individuals, 30 may 1993, Britannia yacht Club, Bruce Di labio, ebird
46 individuals; 25 May 2014; Deschênes Rapids; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
40 individuals; 11 June 1972; Deschênes Rapids; Ron Pittaway, m.obs.; CFN 87:51.
35 individuals; 18 May 1980; Shirley's Bay; Shrike 5(2):7.
32 individuals; 26 May 1998; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO data.
26 indiv.; 27 May 1983; along the Ottawa River; Jo Ann Murray & Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 8(3):13.
25 individuals; 2 June 2003; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO data.

## Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Sterne pierregarin  
COTE

**Status: Fairly common visitor, occasionally breeds.**

Common Terns typically arrive in the District around mid-May (exceptionally late April). Most sightings are along the Ottawa River, but they can occasionally be found over other inland water bodies as well. It is fairly common throughout the summer and into mid-September (exceptionally late October). Numbers tend to peak on the River in late July and early August.

They have occasionally bred along the Ottawa River such as: at Fitzroy Harbour during OBBA1; at Nepean Bay in 1996; at Dunrobin Shores during OBBA2; and at Breckenridge during OBBA2, but there are no regular breeding colonies.

### First Record

29 June 1885; 1 specimen; St. Louis Dam (Dow's Lake) ; Ottawa Naturalist 5:34.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
13-15 April 2013; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
19 April 2013; 7 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Robin Humphries; eBird.
26-27 April 2008; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 28.04.2008.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
18 October 1982; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bill Coburn, Tom Hanrahan; T&L 17(1):7, Shrike 7(5):17.
20-21 October 2001; Mid Fall Bird Count, NW sector; OFNC website.
21-27 October 2006; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Ontbirds 01.11.2006.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
112, 10 August 2018, Shirley's bay, Bruce Di labio, ebird
80 individuals; 14 July 2007; Constance Lake; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
60 individuals; 11 August 2012; Rapides Deschenes; Frederic bedard, ebird
30 individuals; 29 July 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):22.
30 individuals; two dates in July-August 1982; Mark Gawn, Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 7(4):25.
30 individuals; 23 July 2005; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 29.07.2005.
25 individuals; 1 August 2008; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Ontbirds 04.08.2008.

## Grebes

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

(*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Grèbe à bec bigarré

PBGR

**Status: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Early migrants can appear on any open water body, including the Ottawa River as early as mid-March, but often they first appear in their breeding habitats in April. It is an uncommon breeder in ponds, swamps and marshes throughout the District (43% of squares on OBBA2, 35% of squares on QBBA2). Often secretive and most easily detected by its call.

In August and early September large groups of adults and young of the year can sometimes be found staging in breeding habitats. Most are gone by the end of October but occasionally birds linger into early December. Recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC eight times from 1978-2021 (all single birds). Exceptional later into winter, with a couple of records of birds that survived into early January.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
12-15 March 2025; 1 individual; Bate Island and vicinity, Ottawa, mobd, ebird
12-23 March 2014; 1 individual; Mississippi River at Appleton; Ontbirds 13.03.2014 and subsequent.
15 March 1986; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike Database.
18 March 2007; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Aylmer; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
19 March 2009; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Deschênes; Ontbirds 24.03.2007.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to second week of October.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
15-23 December 1984; 1 individual; Rideau River at Billings Bridge' Ray Holland; m.obs.; Shrike 9(6):3.
18 Dec. 1982 to 1 Jan. 1983; 1 indiv.; Ottawa River at Lemieux Island; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(1):15.
until 8 January 2015; 1 individual; Rideau River at Riverain Park; eBird.
9 January 2015; 1 individual; Rideau R. at Kelley Landing; Langis Sirois; eBird. Possibly same as above.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
66 individuals; 17-18 October 2009; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
46 individuals; 27 August 2006; Moodie Drive quarry pond; Ontbirds
40 individuals; 4 September 1983; Thurso; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(5):9.
30 individuals; 22 September 2012; Shirley's Bay; Mark Gawn; eBird.
29 individuals; 3 August 1984; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):19.

### **Horned Grebe**

Grèbe esclavon

*(Podiceps auritus)*

HOGR

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Very rare into early winter. Exceptional in summer.**

This species winters on the Great Lakes so spring arrivals have come as early as February and there are also a few March records. Most migrants pass through on the Ottawa River from mid-April to early May, with late migrants to early June. Migrants are almost always observed on the Ottawa River, with only a handful of records from other locations (e.g. the Moodie Drive quarry ponds, sewage lagoons).

Individuals have summered twice: at the Casselman Lagoons in 1985 and at the Embrun Lagoons in 2008. In both cases, the birds arrived in breeding plumage and moulted into winter plumage during their stay. There are two other summer records of birds that did not linger.

In fall, early migrants have appeared in mid-August, but migration peaks through the month of October. Lingering fall migrants are very rare into the first week of December. Recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC only twice in 1973-2021) (2 birds in 1973 and one in 2015). Exceptional to the last week of December. A bird in the last week of January may have been either a late lingerer, or a very early migrant.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
<b>First week of February, 1993 Checklist</b>
9 February 2013; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; eBird.
12 February 1977; 1 individual; Blackburn Hamlet; T&L 11(3):100; Shrike 10(2):12.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of April to first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
27 May 1984; 1 individual; on the Spring Count; Shrike 9(3).
7 June 1980; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 5(3):4.
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
29 June 1885; 1 female; Mr. Menzies, specimen collected; CFN 27:102.
10 July 1985 24 August 1985; 1 breeding plumage; Casselman Lagoons; T&L 19(5) :238
24 May to 31 August 2008; 1 breeding plumage; Embrun Lagoons; various Ontbirds postings.
3 July 2012, 1 breeding plumage, Casselman Lagoons; Ontbirds 05.07.2012.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
14 August 2005; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Ontbirds 15.08.2005.
3 September 2000; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First week of October to first week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
16 December 1973; 2 individuals; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
16 December 2006; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 16.12.2006.
<b>Fourth week of December, 1993 Checklist</b>
25 January 2014; 1 individual; below Deschênes Rapids; Jake Walker; eBird. Early migrant?
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
220 individuals; 23 April 2023; Britannia Point, anonymous, ebird
170 individuals; 2 May 2014; Ottawa R. below Deschênes Rapids; Ted Cheskey; eBird.
150 individuals; 26 April 1990; Ottawa River; T&L 24(3):138.
140 individuals; 18 October 1977; Ottawa River, incl. one flock of 73; Bob Bracken; Shrike 2(7):2.
104 individuals, 29 April 1975; Shirley's Bay, T&L 9(4):1

**Red-necked Grebe**  
*(Podiceps grisegena)*

Grèbe jougris  
RNGR

**Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Exceptional in summer and winter. Has bred.**

Red-necked Grebes migrate through the District in early spring, with the peak passage occurring in late April and early May. Exceptionally early birds have occurred on a number of occasions in February and March, usually associated with warm spells and likely originating from nearby wintering areas on the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes. Migrants are almost always observed on the Ottawa River, with only a handful of records from other locations (e.g. the Moodie Drive quarry ponds).

Exceptional in summer, with only three records, one of which was a confirmed breeding in July 2010, at the Moodie Drive quarry ponds, the only breeding record for the District.

In fall, early migrants have appeared in August, but migration peaks through the month of October. Lingering fall migrants are rare into the first week of December. Recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC 14 times from 1971-2015 (high of five in 2006). Birds have occasionally lingered into to mid-January, less than two weeks from the earliest spring migrants.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
2 & 3 February 1977; single individuals, picked up but later died; Rick Poulin; Shrike 2(1):5.
8-16 February 2014; up to 2 individuals; Ottawa R. below Deschênes Rapids; m.obs.; eBird.
12 February 1930; 1 individual; in the vicinity of Kemptville, brought alive to CMN; CFN 58(5):145.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Last week of April and first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
27 May 1997; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
1 June 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):23, Shrike Database.
10 June 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):9.
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
1 July 1978, 1 spring plumaged bird, on the Ottawa River; T&L 12(5):129.
22 June to 15 July 2005; 1 individual; Remic Rapids area; Ontbirds 27.06. & 19.08.2005.
17-24 July 2010; 1 female with up to 2 young; Moodie Drive quarry ponds; Ontbirds 19,30.07.2010.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
8 August 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
11 August 1999; 1 breeding plumage; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
17 August 2014; 2 individuals; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 21.08.2014.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to first week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
<b>First week of January, 1993 Checklist.</b>
8 January 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(1):15.
18 January 1985; 1 individual; T&L 20(3):86.
6-20 January 2012; 1 individual; Ottawa R. below Deschênes Rapids; m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
226 individuals; 23 April 1987; Ottawa River; T&L 21(4):203.
200 individuals; 26 April 1990; Ottawa River; T&L 24(3):138.
87 individuals; 2 May 2015; Shirley's Bay; Richard Waters; eBird.
83 individuals; 2 May 2014; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 08.05.2014.
70 individuals; 9 May 1984; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(3):3.

## Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Grèbe à cou noir  
EAGR

### Casual transient in summer and fall.

Seven records (Two OBRSC accepted), averaging about once per decade. Four of the records come from the eastern sewage lagoons, ranging from early July to late September, with most of the birds lingering for several days to several weeks.

<b>Records</b>
12 August to 10 September 1990; 1 adult; Embrun Lagoons; Jim Harris, m.obs.; T&L 25(2):61.
25-26 September 1997; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons, Bruce Di Labio; FN 52(1):55, T&L 32(2):77.

1-7 September 2001; 1 juvenile; Casselman Lagoons, Bob Bracken, m.obs.; NAB 56(1):48.
1-21 July 2011; 1 adult; Embrun and Casselman Lagoons; m.obs.; various Ontbirds postings.
1 June 2018 and -7 August 2018; 1 adult in breeding plumage; middle of the Ottawa River at from Britannia Pier and seen from both sides of the river; Nick von Maltzahn, m. obs. Presumably the same bird was seen again on 7 August 2018 at Shirley's bay by Bruce Dilabio
23 April 2023, 1 individual; Deschênes, Gatineau; mobs, ebird
9-14 October 2023; 1 individual; Almonte Sewage lagoons; Lanark; mobs, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Grèbe élégant  
WEGR

### Accidental transient in summer and fall.

Two well-documented records of birds (or the same returning bird) observed on the Ottawa River below the Deschênes Rapids in the fall of 2011 and 2012. A third was in 2017. Although a western species, it is rare but annual in Ontario and Quebec. Three previous records from the 1970's are not considered well-documented enough to be accepted by the OBRSC, although was included on the 1993 Checklist..

<b>Records</b>
23-29 Oct. 2011; 1 indiv.; below Deschênes Rapids, Mark Gawn, m.obs.; various Ontbirds postings.
16-24 Oct. 2012; 1 indiv.; below Deschênes Rapids, Jean Dubois, m.obs.; various Ontbirds postings.
4 June 2017; 1 individual; Ottawa river from Britannia yacht club; Nick von Maltzahn, m. obs., ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Loons

### Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

Plongeon catmarin  
RTLO

### Status: Very rare spring migrant, rare fall migrant.

A very rare migrant along the Ottawa River during the spring, occurring less than annually in this season. Spring sightings have all been of single birds and both breeding and winter/juvenile plumage have been reported. Most are recorded in May, but birds have been seen as early as the beginning of April and lingered as late as mid-June. Red-throated Loon does occur annually in fall, but requires some persistent checking of the Ottawa River to find it. Single birds or small flocks are the usual situation, but adverse weather conditions have produced fallouts of dozens or even hundreds of birds on the Ottawa River during peak migration in the first half of November.

Occasionally late fall migrants will linger into early winter. This species has been recorded five times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1970-2021 (high of 2 in 2012) and there are a handful of later records of birds that remained into early January.

### Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
12 November 1885; 1 young female; Ottawa River, T.R. Coursolles; Ottawa Naturalist 5:33.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
3 April 2015; 1 adult winter; above Deschênes Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 03.04.2015.
5 April 1974; 1 ad. winter; Champlain Bridge-Remic Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 03.04.2015.
13 April 2002; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Dick Bell Park; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of June
<b>Latest Spring</b>
26 May 1976; 1 individual; Deschênes; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(3):2.
26 May 1991; 1 immature; Quyon; Tony Beck; T&L 25(4):127, Ornitaouais 13(2):41.
7 June 1983; 1 individual; Britannia; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):9.

Late May to 14 June 1978; 1 individual; Ottawa River; T&L 12(4):104.
Third week of June, 1993 Checklist dot.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
21 September 1979; 1 individual; Ottawa River; Shrike 10(2):12.
24 September 1975; 1 adult still retaining a substantial amount of breeding plumage, T&L 10(1):6
24 September 2008; 1 individual; Britannia, flew over; Ontbirds 29.09.2008.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Third week of October to third week of November
<b>Latest Winter</b>
27-28 December 2003; 1 individual; below the Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line.
First week of January, 1993 Checklist dot.
until 8 January 2012; 1 individual; Lac Deschênes from Aylmer; m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3000 individuals, 12 November 1984, Shirley's bay, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
300 individuals; 10 November 1985; Ottawa River at Stillwater Breakwater; T&L 20(2):53.
247 individuals; 16 November 2022; Shirley's Bay, Dan Simpson, ebird
178 individuals; 13 November 2006; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 13.11.2006
150 individuals; 12 November 1984; Ottawa River; Shrike 9(6):25.
104 individuals 4 November 2006; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 14.11.2006.
48 individuals in two flocks; 6 November 2009; Andrew Haydon Park; Ontbirds 06.22.2009.

## Pacific Loon

(*Gavia pacifica*)

Plongeon du Pacifique

PALO

**Status: Casual transient in the fall**

Breeding in the north and wintering on the west coast, it is a regular vagrant to the western part of Ontario, but there is only a single record for the district.

### First Record

19 October 2019; 1 individual; Shirley's bay-Grandview Road, Ottawa, ON; ebird, m. obs.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Common Loon

(*Gavia immer*)

Plongeon huard

COLO

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Fairly common breeder, mainly on the Canadian Shield. Exceptional through winter.**

### Migration

Spring migrants can arrive as early as the beginning of April, where they are often seen on the Ottawa River before moving on to breeding areas. In fall birds begin to show up on the River again in September, with large flocks occasionally occurring, usually associated with the passing of a cold front.

### Breeding

Fairly common breeder in large lakes on the Canadian Shield in the northern part of the District (68% of squares on QBBA2). Rare as a breeder on the Ontario side of the District, although breeding evidence was collected from 13 squares in OBBA2, including confirmed breeding in the Appleton area.

### Winter

Lingering fall migrants are rare but regular into early December. Recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC 14 times from 1970 to 2021 (high of four in 2001). Exceptional later into winter, although a bird successfully overwintered at Bate Island in 1980 and there are at least two other early January records from the Ottawa River.

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

Third and fourth weeks of March, 1993 Checklist?

1 April 2012; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Morris Island; Jeff Skevington, eBird.
4 April 2009; 1 individual; Lac Deschênes off of Aylmer; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
9 April 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):5.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of November.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
1 January 2025; 1 individual, Rockcliffe Airport Woods, Ottawa, Gregory Zbitnew and Paul Mirsky, ebird
4 January 2004; 1 individual; below the Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 06.01.2004.
31 December 2012 to 6 January 2013; Ottawa River below Deschênes Rapids, m.obs.; eBird.
January 12 to March 1980; 1 individual; Ottawa River at Bate Island, overwintered; Shrike 5(1):2.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
over 2,000 indiv.; 12 Nov. 1984; flew over Lac Deschênes incl. one flock of 1,400 birds; T&L 19(2):64-65.
124 individuals; 13 November 2006; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 13.11.2006.
70 individuals; 14 November 2006; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 14.11.2006.
60 individuals; 12 November 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):7.
60 individuals; 15 November 2006; Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 16.11.2006.

## Yellow-billed Loon

(*Gavia adamsii*)

Plongeon à bec blanc  
YBLO

### Status: Accidental in spring.

This western species is extremely rare in Ontario and Quebec. There is only one well-documented record from the District, of an immature-plumaged bird that was seen on 19 May 1980 off the Shirley's Bay boat launch.

#### Records

19 May 1980; 1 immature; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio, Bob Bracken; Ian Jones; T&L 14(4): 118.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Fulmar, Shearwaters, Petrels

### Wilson's Storm-Petrel

(*Oceanites oceanicus*)

Océanite de Wilson  
WISP

### Accidental transient in fall.

There is only one record, of a bird collected on the Quebec side of Lac Deschênes on 23 September 1938. This occurrence followed the passage of "a great Atlantic storm".

#### Records

23 September 1938; 1 female; Lac Deschênes, on the Quebec side; G.M. Brigham; CFN 67(3):140.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

### Band-rumped Storm-Petrel

(*Oceanodroma castro*)

Océanite de Castro  
BSTP

### Accidental transient in early fall.

There is only one record, of a bird found by two boys in a weakened state on the Rideau River near Brighton Beach (across from the current location of the Ottawa Hospital Riverside Campus) on 28 August 1933. This occurrence followed a major Atlantic storm which swept the eastern seaboard. This pelagic species is normally found off the southern Atlantic seaboard of the U.S.

#### Records

28 August 1933; 1 female; Rideau R. near Brighton Beach; B. Sunderland, J. Austin; CFN 48:20-21.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Northern Fulmar** (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

**Fulmar boreal**  
**NOFU**

### **Accidental transient in late fall and early winter.**

There are six records (three OBRSC accepted) ranging from mid-November to mid-December. This timing is consistent with other sightings from southern Ontario and Quebec. These birds are believed to originate on James Bay and are driven south by developing ice conditions. Surprisingly, for a pelagic bird, many of the accepted sightings are inland from the Ottawa River.

#### **Records**

18 November 1979; 1 light morph; Ottawa River near Rockliffe Park, Stephen Gawn; T&L 14(2):34.
12 November 1984; 1 light. morph; near Woodlawn, ON; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; T&L 19(2):67
14-16 December 1994; 1 light morph; Limoges, ON, found on a lawn; FN 49(2):143, OB 17(2):64.
7 December 1995; 1 light morph; Highway 417 at Carling Avenue, Richard Poulin; T&L 30(3):115.
10 December 2015; 1 light morph; Ottawa River at Andrew Haydon park and later as far east as Parc brebeuf, Ottawa, ON; John Ruddy, M. obs; ebird
15 December 2019; 1 individual; Deschenes below the rapids; Rodolphe Dubois, m. obs.; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*)

**Puffin des Anglais**  
**MASH**

### **Accidental transient in early fall**

There is only one record, of a bird found dead and floating in the water along the Shirley's Bay dyke on 26 August 2001. The specimen is now in the Canadian Museum of Nature. This was the first record of Manx Shearwater for Ontario, and was quite unexpected as this pelagic species is uncommon and local in Atlantic Canada.

#### **Records**

26 August, 2001; 1 female; Shirley's Bay, Bruce Squirrel; OB 20(2):64.
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For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Sargasso Shearwater Shearwater** (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

**Puffin des Sargasse**  
**SASH**

### **Accidental transient in fall.**

There is only one record: a bird found dead on the front lawn of a residential home near Almonte, on 8 September 1975. One of the most unexpected additions to the Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist, this bird is usually found in pelagic waters off the southern Atlantic seaboard. This was the first and still only record for Ontario and one of few records for Canada. Unlike many records of pelagic birds in Ontario, this occurrence was not preceded by any unusual weather conditions.

#### **Records**

8 September 1975; 1 female; 3 miles north of Almonte; J. Stuart McGiffin; CFN 90:494.
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For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Gannet, Cormorants**

## Northern Gannet

(*Morus bassanus*)

Fou de Bassan

NOGA

### Casual transient in fall and early winter.

About 23 records (six OBRSC accepted) ranging from early October to early December. Most records are of birds in flight along the Ottawa River, or seen flying over at inland locations not far from the River. All well-documented records are of juveniles, which is consistent with records elsewhere in Ontario. The majority of records are of single birds, but two have been seen together on two occasions. While this species is definitely less than annual in the Ottawa-Gatineau region, some years have multiple records (e.g. up to 5 birds in 1983, up to 4 birds in 2002).

<b>First Record</b>
14 October 1909; 1 juvenile female; Shirley's Bay; J.H. Slack; Ottawa Naturalist 25:158, CFN 37:104.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
8 October 2001; 1 juvenile; flying over Deschênes Rapids; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; NAB 56(1):48.
<b>Late Winter Record</b>
4 December 1965; 1 juvenile; near the Ottawa River at South March, picked up; AFN 20(3):416.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 juveniles; 30 November 1983; near Quyon, shot; <i>fide</i> Bruce Di Labio; AB 38(2):179, T&L 18(2):63.
2 juveniles; 3 December 1983; Ottawa River at Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; T&L 18(2):63.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Great Cormorant

(*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Grand Cormoran  
GRCO

A bird of the Atlantic coast, there have been a number of sightings on the Great Lakes, but only one confirmed sighting in the district, a single bird at the Moodie Drive ponds.

<b>First Record</b>
<u>27 November 2017</u> ; Moodie Drive Quarry; ebird checklist <a href="#">S75813359</a> Data from iNaturalist: <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/8992854">https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/8992854</a> . Observer 'jaliya'.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Double-crested Cormorant

(*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

Cormoran à aigrettes  
DCCO

### Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.

Birds have arrived as early as mid-March, but mid-April is more typical for first arrivals. In fall, large accumulations can occur at preferred locations on the Ottawa River (e.g. Shirley's Bay, Deschênes Rapids). Most depart by the end of October, but occasionally birds linger into early winter. Mainly a bird of the Ottawa River, occasionally seen at other larger water bodies.

Historically this species was considered a fairly common migrant or transient, especially in fall, but numbers of summering birds began to increase in the 1980's. Fairly common in summer since the 1990's, but breeding was not confirmed until the summer of 2006, when a nest was found on a small island near Lemieux Island, below the Remic Rapids (T&L 41(2):108). Subsequently, a small colony has also been established on Conroy Island above the Deschênes Rapids. Numbers have been building up for years and they are now seen on inland ponds all over the region in the summer, although nesting has only been confirmed on the Ottawa River.

Lingering fall migrants are rare on the Ottawa River into early December. Recorded six times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1990 to 2021 (all single birds). Birds have lingered into January multiple times but so far only once in February.

<b>First Record</b>
c. 1 October 1890; 1 juvenile; Shirley's Bay, shot; C.G Rogers; Ottawa Naturalist 5:34.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
12 March 2011; 1 individual; Remic Rapids; Ontbirds 15.03.2011.
17 March 2011; 1 individual; Barrhaven area; Peter Blancher; eBird.
18 March 2011; Ottawa River nr. Ch. Boucherville, Gatineau; Ted Cheskey; eBird.
26 March 1986; 5 individuals; T&L 21(4):203.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
21 December 1999; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
December 1996 to 11 January 1997; 1 individual; Billings Bridge; Bird Status Line transcripts.
Late December 2006 to 21 January 2007; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids area; Ontbirds 30.01.2007.
4 February 2019, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
600 individuals; 2 Sept. 2006; Ottawa R., Shirley's Bay to Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 04.09.2006.
400 individuals; 20 August 2013; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 22.08.2013.
355 individuals; 13 September 1997; Deschênes Rapids; Bird Status Line transcripts.
350 individuals; 4 September 2014; Deschênes Rapids; Dom & Sara Genna; eBird.
300 individuals; 31 August 2015; Deschênes Rapids; William von Herff; eBird.
259 individuals; 14-15 October 2006; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
250 individuals; 29 August 2005; Deschênes Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 30.08.2005.
250 individuals; 7 August 2013; Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 15.08.2013.
150 individuals; 1 October 2000; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.

## Neotropic Cormorant

(*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Cormoran vigua

NECO

### Status: Accidental transient in spring

This southern species is expanding into the southeastern United States, and there have been an increasing number of sightings in southern Ontario. There are 2 sightings in the district, both single birds in early spring.

#### Records

27 April 2018, 1 individual, Deschenes Rapids, Gatineau, QC, ebird record with pictures  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S45003695>, Greg Rand, m. obs.

19 April -15 May 2021; 1 individual; Seen from Dow's lake, les Rapides Deschênes and Lemieux Island, often spending the day at Dow's lake and Roosting on one of the Ottawa River Islands in the evening; mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Wading Birds

### Glossy Ibis

(*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Ibis falcinelle

GLIB

### Casual transient in spring.

About 17 records (two OBRSC accepted). This distinctive waterbird has been recorded between late April and late May, and a single fall record. Records come from wet fields, sewage lagoons and along the Ottawa River. Most of the the records have been of single birds. One record from July 1978 was not accepted by the OBRSC.

#### First Record

23-25 May 1970; 1 individual; Duck Club pond near Shirley's Bay; m.obs.; T&L 4(4):123, Shrike 7(3):10.

#### Early Spring Arrival

19 April 2015; 2 individuals; Marais des Laiches; m.obs.; Ontbirds 23.04.2013.

#### Late Spring Departure

30 May 1982; 1 indiv.; Green's Creek Lagoons; Bob Gorman, Roger Foxall, m.obs.; T&L 16(4):190-191.
<b>Fall Record</b>
13-18 September; 1 individual; Carleton Place Storm Ponds, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3 individuals; 22-23 April 2001; Johnson Rd., Cobb's Lake Creek, e. of Bourget; m.obs.; T&L 35(4):198.
2 individuals; 19 April 2015; Marais des Laiches; m.obs.; Ontbirds 23.04.2013.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## White-faced Ibis

(*Plegadis falcinellus*)

**Ibis falcinelle**  
**WFIB**

### Accidental transient in spring and summer.

Although still very rare, this western counterpart of the Glossy Ibis has been recorded in Ontario with increasing frequency over the last decade. There are two records for the Ottawa-Gatineau District: an individual that lingered for several days along the banks of the Carp River just outside the village of Carp in July of 2011 and an individual seen by a small number of observers at the Giroux Road quarry ponds on 2 June 2015.

<b>Record</b>
4-13 July 2011; 1 individual; Carp River floodplain, Ben Di Labio, m.obs.; Ontbirds 04 to 12.07.2011.
2 June 2015; 1 individual; Giroux Road quarry ponds; Gregory Zbitnew, m.obs.; Ontbirds 02.06.2015.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## American Bittern

(*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

**Butor d'Amérique**  
**AMBI**

### Status: Fairly common breeder.

Birds typically arrive in mid-April and depart by mid-October. Almost never seen away from its wetland breeding areas. Even extremely early or late birds are generally found in these locations.

It is a fairly common breeder throughout the District in wetlands with emergent vegetation, especially cattails (74% squares on OBBA2, 76% squares on QBBA2). Secretive and usually detected by its call which it gives mainly at dusk and dawn and at night. Occasionally birds are seen flying short distances or standing motionless on the edge of emergent vegetation. Richmond Fen, Constance Creek, Mer Bleue Bog and the Ottawa River marshes east of Gatineau are reliable spots for this species. Occasional at sewage lagoons.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Fourth week of March, first week of April, 1993 Checklist
28 March 2004; 1 individual; near Corkery; Ontbirds 02.04.2004.
9 April 2005; 1 individual; Munster Road at Soldier's Line; Ontbirds 12.04.2005.
10 April 1986; 1 individual; Templeton; Jacques Chabot, m.obs.; Ornitho 9(1):4.
10 April 1987; 1 individual; Ramsayville; T&L 21(4):203.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
24 October 1998; 1 individual; Baie Noire; Bird Status Line transcripts.
2 November 1896; CFN 58(5):146.
6 November 2012; 1 individual; Ottawa River marsh e. of Orleans; Ontbirds 08.11.2012.
11 November 1979; 1 individual; Shrike 4(8):2.
<b>Winter Record</b>
c.5-8 December 2013; 1 individual; Brewery Creek, Hull, injured wing; Ontbirds 05.12.2013, eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
19 individuals; 3 August 1984; air survey, Templeton to Thurso; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):3.

15 individuals; 24 May 2010; Marais des Laiches; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
14 individuals; 15 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):22.
12 individuals; 30 April 2009; Richmond Fen; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## Least Bittern (*Botaurus exilis*)

Petit Blongios  
LEBI

**Status: Rare and local breeder.**

Note: The Latin name was changed in the AOS 2024 update. Birds typically arrive in on their breeding territories in mid-May (exceptionally late April). Least Bittern is a rare and local breeder in wetlands with emergent vegetation, especially cattails (17% of squares on OBBA2, 19% of squares on QBBA2). It may well be more common than is realized as it is very secretive and usually detected by its very weak call which it gives mainly at dusk and dawn and at night. Shirley's Bay, Richmond Fen, Goodwood Marsh, Constance Creek, and the Ottawa River marshes east of Gatineau have been among the more productive spots for finding this species over the years. With the most extensive habitat, the Quebec marshes have produced the highest counts, typically from July and early August when young of the year supplement numbers and birds can occasionally be seen flying short distances between patches of emergent vegetation. Most birds apparently leave by mid-August (exceptionally to late October), but even late lingering birds tend to be found in breeding habitat.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Fourth week of April, 1993 checklist
5 May 1982; 2 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(3):10, Shrike Database.
8 May 1982; 1 individual; Monty Brigham; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to fourth week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
19 September 1977; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; T&L 12(1):6
23 September 2013; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park, pond; Ontbirds 26.09.2013.
29 September 1935; 1 individual; Lochaber, specimen taken; R.F. Howard; CFN 58(5):147.
30 September 1982; 1 individual; Ramsayville Marsh; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(5):13
Fourth week of October, 1993 Checklist.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
9 individuals; 3 August 1984; air survey, Templeton to Thurso; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):3.
9 individuals; 3 June 2006; baie McLaurin, benoit Jobin, ebird
5 individuals; 26 July 1982; Thurso; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 7(4):9.
5 individuals; 26 July 1985; Masson; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 10(3):3.

## Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

Bihoreau violacé  
YCNH

**Accidental transient, mainly in spring.**

Six records (two OBRSC accepted plus two photo documented). This is among the rarest of the southern herons in the District, with records coming less than once per decade on average. Most records have been single adults, on or near the Ottawa River in spring, from mid-April to late May. There is only one fall record, from early August.

<b>Records</b>
26-30 April 1970; 1 adult; Rockliffe Park, roosting in a pine tree; Brian Morin, m.obs.; T&L 4(4):123.
26 May 1976; 1 adult, Shirley's Bay, in a ditch of the road to the dyke; Mike Shaw; OBRSC #174.
25 May 1999; 1 adult; Mud Lake, Britannia CA; Jean-Pierre Chef; NAB 53(3):275, OB 18(2):59.
9 April 2007; 1 adult; Dow's Lake at the Arboretum, Michele Rodrick; T&L 41(4):222.
5 August 2008; 1 adult; Conroy Island at Deschênes Rapids, Rodolphe Dubois; T&L 43(2):82.
23 May to June 4 2015; 1 adult; Delaney Drive area between Carp & Almonte; m.obs; eBird.
7 July 2025; 1 immature; Findley Creek, Ottawa; Robert Rose, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Black-crowned Night Heron

(*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Bihoreau gris

BCNH

**Status: Uncommon spring and summer visitor. Rare and local breeder. Fairly common in early fall. Very rare in winter.**

Although, as its name suggests, this species is nocturnal, it can often be seen during the day, usually in the shallows or perched in trees along the shorelines of wetlands or ponds. It typically returns in mid-April (exceptionally late March) and is uncommon in these habitats through the spring and summer. Mud Lake at Britannia is the best spot in the District in all seasons to find this species, but it can sometimes be found in other wetlands (e.g. Ottawa River marshes, Moodie Drive quarry ponds, Bruce Pit, storm water management ponds) as well.

Although the early District checklists from the late 1880's suggested it bred in the area, breeding was not confirmed until 2004, on an island in the Ottawa River near Lemieux Island. Since 2006, a small colony has also been present on Conroy Island above the Deschênes Rapids.

Usually it is easiest to find in August and September, when numbers of dispersing adults and juveniles increase in the area. Birds typically leave the area in early October (exceptionally early January).

First Record
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
Early Spring Arrival
26 March 2012; 1 individual; Mud Lake, Britannia CA; Ontbirds 29.03.2012.
28 March 1976; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn, Mark Gawn; Shrike 1(2):3.
30 March 2019-; 1 individual; Kanata; mobs, ebird
2 April 2009; 9 individuals; Mud Lake, Britannia CA; Ontbirds 07.04.2009.
3 April 2007; 4 individuals; Ottawa River at Rockliffe, flying up the river; Ontbirds 09.04.2007.
Principal Dates
Second week of April to first week of October.
Late Fall Departure
21/22 October 2000; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count, SW Sector; OFNC archived data.
27 October 2002; 2 juveniles; Mud Lake; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 02.11.2002.
7 November 1982; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 7(6):12.
6-21 November 2021; 1 individual; Britannia; mobs; ebird
13 November 2020; 1 juvenile; City Park storm outlet; Gregory Zbitnew; ebird
12 November 2012; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Richard Waters; eBird.
Winter Records
9 December 2014; 1 juvenile; Pakenham, flying over; Ontbirds 11.12.2014.
1 December 2020, 2 individuals, Emerald meadows ponds, Gillian Mastromateo, ebird
10 December 2023; 1 individual, Britannia, Always an adventure team, ebird
14 December 2014; 1 juvenile; Aylmer; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Ontbirds 18.12.2014.
2 December 2017-1 January 2018, 1 individual, Cope drive ponds, mobs, ebird
10 December 2021 -3 January 2022; 1 juvenile; Grimes Road ponds, Aylmer; mobs, ebird
Noteworthy High Counts
120 Individuals; 10 July 2023 ; Manmohan Panesar; Lemieux island; ebird
63 individuals; 26 April 2022, Rapides Deschenes, Gilles Seutin, ebird
51 juveniles; 19 August 2014; Conroy Island and Deschênes Rapids; Ontbirds 21.08.2014.
43 individuals, 17 august 2020, Britannia CA. Michelle Martin, ebird
40 individuals; 25 July 2012; Bruce Pit; Mark Patry; eBird.
34 juveniles; 15 July 2012; Conroy Island, Deschênes Rapids; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 15.07.2012
32 juveniles; 24 August 2014; Conroy Island, Deschênes Rapids; Derek Dunnett; eBird.
18 individuals; 6 August 1981; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 6(4):21.
8 individuals; 27 September 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):9.

## Little Blue Heron

(*Egretta caerulea*)

Aigrette bleue

LBHE

**Casual transient, from spring through fall.**

About 17 records (eight OBRSC accepted) ranging from mid-April to mid-October, with most spring records falling in May and most fall records falling in August. All of the sightings have been of single birds with adults occurring in spring and both adults and immatures having been reported in fall. Two sightings of an adult at Cranberry Creek and Highway 416, separated by six weeks in the summer of 2012, suggest that the bird could have summered in this large, but relatively inaccessible wetland. This species has been observed in a variety of wet locations often along the Ottawa River, but also at a variety of inland wetlands and water bodies.

<b>First Record</b>
21-25 April 1973; 1 adult; Merivale Gardens, Ottawa; Robin Humphries, m.obs.; T&L 7(4):96-97.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 April 2015; 1 adult; Dow's Lake, flying over; John Pratt; <i>fide</i> Bob Cermak, Ontbirds 16.04.2015.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
20 October 2008; 1 immature; Petite Baie Clemente; Bob Cermak, m.obs.; T&L 43(2):82.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

**Aigrette tricolore**  
TRHE

### Accidental in spring.

There are two records of this southern heron for the Ottawa-Gatineau District: an adult bird that lingered for two days in a shallow bay along the shore of the Ottawa River at the Innis Point Bird Observatory on 11-12 May 2001, and a second briefly on 17 April at Bilberry Creek.

<b>Records</b>
11-12 May 2001; 1 adult; Innis Point Bird Observatory, Marcel Gabhauer, m.obs.; T&L 35(4):21.
<u>17 April, 2020</u> ; 1 individual; Bilberry Creek at Ottawa River; Found and reported on FaceBook by Jeanette Ivy Strudwick. Later seen and documented by Tricia Erickson

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

**Aigrette neigeuse**  
SNEG

### Casual spring transient.

About 13 records (three OBRSC accepted) in the Ottawa-Gatineau District, all from spring migration, from late April to early June. Records have all been of single birds and have come from a variety of wet areas including along the Ottawa River, Rideau Canal, sewage lagoons, creeks and ponds.

<b>First Record</b>
18-23 May 1975; 1 adult; Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di Labio, m.obs; T&L 9(4):113.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19-26 April 2005; 1 adult; Dow's Lake; John Pratt, T&L 39(4):187.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
2 June 1976; 1 individual; Britannia Point, flying across the River; Tom Hince; T&L 10(5):136.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

**Aigrette garzette**  
LIEG

## Accidental spring transient.

A single record – this was the first record for Ontario of this Eurasian species, although it has occurred in Quebec and the Maritime provinces on multiple occasions. The birds was first discovered at Carp, ON on the Carp River floodplain on 2-3 June 2015. It disappeared for several days and then was re-found in Kanata, ON (7-8 June), along the Rideau River near Manotick (17, 20 June) and then along the Ottawa River, most regularly at the east end of Andrew Haydon Park, but also at Conroy Island and the mouth of Pinecrest Creek (24 June to 10 July).

### Records

2 June to 10 July 2015; 1 adult; Carp, Kanata, Manotick, Ottawa River; Ben Di Labio, m.obs., eBird.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Héron vert

GRHE

### Status: Fairly common breeder.

Green Herons usually arrive in the district in mid-May (exceptionally, mid-April). Usually seen in wetland habitats, even during migration periods. Occasionally seen flying over other types of habitats. Breeds in wetlands, around small ponds or streams. Fairly common on the Ontario side (79% of squares on OBBA2), uncommon on the Quebec side (49% of squares, mainly along the Ottawa River).

Most leave the area in mid-September (exceptionally, late October). There is one very unusual record from the southern part of Gatineau Park in early December 2004.

### First Record

Prior to 1910; banks of the Rideau River, specimen taken; W.E. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 25:163.

### Early Spring Arrival

17 April 1973; 6 individuals; W. Bell; AB 27(4):766.

22 April 2005; 1 individual; Richmond Conservation Area; Ontbirds 25.04.2005.

22 April 2004; 1 individual; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

### Principal Dates

Third week of May to second week of September.

### Late Fall Departure

8-18 October 2014; 1 individual; Rue Lamoureux swamp, Deschênes; m.obs.; eBird.

11-19 October 2013; 1 individual; Bilberry Drive, Orleans; Greg Zbitnew; eBird.

20 October 2013; 1 individual; Sarsaparilla Trail; Gillian Mastromatteo; eBird.

27 October 1979; Shrike 10(2):13.

9 November 2024; 1 individual; Burnt Lands Provincial Park; Laura V.; ebird

### Winter Record

1 December 2004; 1 individual; Gatineau Park, behind Relais Plein Air; H. Tremblay; Ornith. 27(2):24.

### Noteworthy High Counts

28 individuals; 6 August 1981; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 6(4):21.

17 individuals; 10 August 1982; Ramsayville; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(4):9.

16 individuals; 25 July 1984; Baie McLaurin, Daniel St, Hilaire; ebird

15 individuals; 15 July 1982; Thurso; Daniel St.-Hilaire; Shrike 7(4):9.

## Western Cattle-Egret (*Ardea ibis*)

Héron garde-boeufs

CAEG?

### Casual transient in spring and fall, one early winter record.

Note: The AOU 2024 renamed this species, both the English name and the Latin name. About 38 records (six OBRSC accepted). Spring records range from mid-April to early June, with a peak in late May and early June. In the fall, this species has been recorded as early as September but most observations are in the late October to early November period. There is one early winter record of an individual at the old Cook Road Dump in Aylmer on 1 December 1984. In

general, the locations of observations are split between sightings along the Ottawa River and sightings inland in farm fields, often associated with livestock. The majority of records are of single birds, and occasionally two or three have been seen together, but a remarkable flock of 14 were found in farm field near Richmond on 26 October 2010.

<b>First Record</b>
2 May 1962; Twin Elm, Bill Holland; Shrike 10(2):13.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 April 1982; 1 individual; near Bayshore Shopping Centre; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(2):10.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
7 June 1980; 1 individual; Mud Lake, Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio; AB 35(6):890; T&L 14(5):157.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
1-3 September 1990; 1 individual; Milton Road, near Carlsbad Springs; T&L 25(2):62.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
1 December 1984; 1 individual; Cook Road dump, Aylmer; Rodolphe Dubois; T&L 19(2):66.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
14 individuals; 26 October 2010; near Richmond, in a field; Phil Wright, m.obs.; Ontbirds 26.10.2010.
3 individuals; 5 November 2000; Nepean Equestrian Centre; M. Charlebois; T&L 35(2):79
2 individuals; 25 April 1976; near Shirley's Bay; T&L 10(4):102
up to 2 ad.; 31 May to 3 June 1984; Bankfield Road; B, Di Labio, m.obs.; T&L 18(4):187, 18(5):233-238.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Grande Aigrette

GREG

**Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall transient. Rare breeder.**

The first record of this species came in 1972, following which it became casual in the regions. During the 1980's and 1990's it was recorded almost every year, but was still considered a rare bird. Most sightings occur along the Ottawa River, but it is also possible inland, both flying over and in smaller water bodies. There are few sightings east of the breeding colonies on Conroy Island, but numbers seem to be increasing in the marshy areas to the east.

Beginning in the early 2000's it began to become a more regular feature of the District's avifauna, with annual congregations of birds occurring in August and September at Shirley's Bay, with numbers increasing each year, especially beginning in 2010.

In 2012, a few birds have nested on Conroy Island above the Deschênes Rapids, the first confirmed breeding location in the District. The numbers have been rising each year.

<b>First Record</b>
20-21 August 1972; 1 indiv.; Graham Bay (20 Aug) and Shirley's Bay (21 Aug), m.obs.; T&L 7(2):54,
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
27 March 2009, 1 individual, Rapides Deschenes, Rodolphe Dubois, ebird
31 March 2021, 1 individual, Rapides Deschenes, mobs, ebird
29 March 2020, 1 individual, Carp River SE of carp, Bruce diLabio, ebird
30-31 March 2021, 1 individual, greenbank road & jock River, mobs
c. 6 April 1998; 1 individual; Poole Creek area, Stittsville; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Last week of April to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
18 October 2014; 1 individual; Eagleson Stormwater Management Ponds; Gillian Mastromatteo; eBird.
until 19 October 2014; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; eBird.
26 October 2010; 1 individual; Moodie Drive quarry ponds; Ontbirds 23.10.2014.
1-3 November 2017; 1 individual, Dick-bell park to Britannia, mobs, ebird
31 October- 8 November 2022; 1 individual, Petrie Island, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
147 individuals, 3 August 2022; Conroy Island, Gatineau, Eric patry, ebird
128 individuals, 21 august 2019. Deschenes rapids, bruce Di labio, ebird
33 individuals; 5 Sept. 2010; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 06.09.2010. Coming in to roost.

28 individuals; 24 September 2011; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 27.09.2011.
26 individuals; 5 September 2013; Deschênes Rapids; Julie Bourque; eBird.
21 indiv.; 16 Aug. 2010; Shirley's Bay (14) and Ottawa R. (7); Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 16.08.2010.

## Great Blue Heron

(*Ardea herodias*)

Grand Héron  
GBHE

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

An early migrant, birds can appear as early as mid-March, but early April is more usual. There are at least eight February records which could be either late lingering birds or very early migrants. Unlike other herons, this species is regularly seen flying high overhead in migration.

It breeds in large colonies in treed wetlands or in woods near water. Large stick nests are built high in dead trees. Found more frequently in the northern part of the District where breeding habitat is more available – common on the Quebec side (95% of squares on QBBA2) and fairly common on the Ontario side (68% of squares on OBBA2).

Most birds are gone by the end of October, but it is rare into early December. Recorded 26 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1960 to 2021 (high of three in 2010). Very rare later than this, although there are a number of January records (and the February records noted above).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
10 March 2009; 1 individual; Ontbirds 17.03.2009.
11 March 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):10.
17 March 2012; 1 indiv. each: Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington / Barrhaven area; Peter Blancher; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to third week of October.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
Until 14 January 1984; 2 individuals; Carleton Place, at a sewage outlet, captured; T&L 18(3):122
29 January 1987; 1 individual; Regional Road 25 near Osgoode; T&L 21(3):146.
January-4 February 2024; 1 individual; Sawmill Creek; mobs, ebird
January-1 February 2019; 1 individual; Maritime Way, Kanata, mobs; ebird
5 February 2007; 1 individual; Rivière Blanche along Highway 366 near Perkins; Ontbirds 11.02.2007.
until 14 February 2011; 1 individual; McEwan Creek at Russell Road; Ontbirds 22.02.2011.
14 February 2021; 1 individual; Lac des Fées; Pascal Samson; ebird
21 February 1996; 1 individual; Robertson Road, Mike Tate; ebird
25 February 2017; 1 individual; Innes and Frank Kenny; Tom Devcseri; ebird
28 February 2019; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Tim Pullen; ebird
Third week of February; 1993 Checklist
There were at least 5 different sightings in January-February 2025
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
120 individuals, 24 July 1983, Shirley's bay Dyke, Bruce Di Labio
100 individuals; 10 July 2008; Burritt's Rapids; Stew Hamill; eBird. At a breeding colony.
87 individuals; 27 July 1981; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):4.
60 individuals; 8 September 1983; Thurso; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(5):9.
36 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):19.
25 individuals; 3 September 2010; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 03.10.2010.

## Pelicans

### American White Pelican

(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

Pélican d'Amérique  
AWPE

**Status: Casual transient in late spring and early fall.**

About 13 records (3 OBRSC accepted) split between spring (late May and early June) and fall (late August and early September). The District is east of this species breeding range, but it is well known to wander widely in migration. Most sightings are from along the Ottawa River and involve single birds, but four were seen together in two cases.

<b>First Record</b>
25 May 1904; 1 individual; Manotick, specimen in the CMN; John Flann Jr.; CFN 37:104..
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
21 May 2021; 4 individuals; Deschênes flying east; Rod Dubois, ebird .
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 August to 1 September 2008; 1 adult non-breeding; Moodie Drive Quarry Pond, Ottawa, ON, m.obs.; NAB 63(1):71, Ontbirds various posts
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
21 May 2023; 4 individuals; Ottawa River near Parliament; Robert Atkinson; ebird
21 May 2021; 4 individuals; Deschênes flying east; Rod Dubois, ebird
5-7 June 2021; up to 3 individuals; les Rapides Deschênes, mobs; ebird

## Brown Pelican

(*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Pélican Brun  
BRPE

### Status: accidental in summer

There is a single record from the Ottawa River at Quyon, seen flying over Carleton Place the next day. This is an oceanic species but with regular sightings in the east.

1. 7-8 July 2025, 1 individuals, (7<sup>th</sup>) Ottawa River at Quyon, Papineau & Ottawa, Aaron Hywarren, Tony Tran, Jeff Skevington and (8<sup>th</sup>) Carleton Place (Hwy 7 Storm Pond), Lanark, Bob Kennedy, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Vultures, Hawks

### Black Vulture

(*Coragyps atratus*)

Urubu noir  
BLVU

### Accidental transient in spring.

Although records of this southern stray have been increasing in eastern Canada in recent years, there are still only 13 reports for the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Until 2020, the records ranged from late March to late April and have all involved single birds, usually in flight overhead. In 2020-2021 a bird spend several months (until January 15) near a farm north of Wakefield. Three of the five records occurred in spring of 2001 and may pertain to the same individual. Some of the records from 2020 may be the same bird.

<b>First Record</b>
25 March 2001; 1 individual; Herzberg Road, Tom Hanrahan, Bill Clark; T&L 35(3):129..
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
4 March 2024, 1 individual; Greenland Road Hawkwatch; mobs, ebird
25 March 2001; 1 individual; Herzberg Road, Tom Hanrahan, Bill Clark; T&L 35(3):129.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
<b>Winter Records</b>
Early November 2020 – 15 January 2021; 1 adult; Chemin de la Riviere, Wakefield; mobs; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have been of single birds

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Turkey Vulture

Urubu à tête rouge

## (*Cathartes aura*)

TUVU

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

First recorded in the District in 1952, this species was considered a rarity until the 1970's. At that point it began to occur more regularly, especially in the southwestern part of the District (Almonte), but to see five in a day was still considered unprecedented at the time. Numbers have increased steadily since then, and the sight of Turkey Vultures soaring high against a backdrop of blue sky is now commonplace throughout the District.

Amongst the earliest returning migrants, this species returns in late March most years (exceptionally in February). Most easily found soaring over open habitats on sunny days, they can also occasionally be found roosting communally in wooded areas. A common breeder throughout the District (85% of squares on OBBA2; 97% of squares on QBBA2), it nests on rock outcroppings, in hollow trees or in stumps, and in abandoned buildings.

Most birds leave the District by mid-October (exceptionally to early November). Two winter records from December and January are exceptional.

<b>First Record</b>
1 June 1952; 1 individual; near Uplands Airport; D.B.O. Savile; CFN 71:32.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 February 2010; 1 individual; Green's Creek; Ontbirds 22.02.2010.
20 February 2008; 1 individual; Autoroute 50 at Tulip Valley, Gatineau; Ontbirds.
25 February 2013; 1 individual; Bank Street, Ottawa; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
27 February 2000; 1 individual; Riddell Road trail; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
24 October 1983; 1 individual; Dunrobin; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):11.
26 October 2014; 1 individual; Lac la Pêche area; Ontbirds 30.10.2014.
27 & 28 October 2010; 1 individual on each date; Ontbirds 02.11.2010.
7 November 1999; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Bird Status Line transcripts.
9 November 2014; 1 individual; Breckenridge; Gillian Shields; eBird.
23 November 2013; 1 individual; Rockcliffe Parkway at Mackay Lake; Alex Wood; eBird.
<b>Winter Records</b>
23 November to 15 December 2014; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill, found dead; Ontbirds 18.12.2014.
5 December 2022; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill, Janet McCulloch, ebird
29 December 2022; 1 individual; Eagelson Road at Faulkner, Gillian Mastromatteo, ebird
6 January 2011; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
7 January 1997; 1 indiv.; Farmer's Lane Rd., Gloucester, Bird Status Line transcripts, T&L 32(1):37.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
155 individuals; 19-20 October 2013; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
40 individuals; 16 September 2003; Shirley's Bay, in trees along the dyke; Ontbirds
32 individuals; 1 September 2014; Trail Road Landfill; Kevin Hannah; eBird.
21 individuals; 2 August 2009; Deschênes; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
19 individuals; 17 July 1985; Peter Walker; Shrike 10(3):4.

## **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Balbusard pêcheur

OSPR

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

This fish-eating raptor is typically found along and near large bodies of water such as the Ottawa and the larger lakes on the Canadian Shield on the Quebec side. Ospreys usually arrive in the District in mid-April (exceptionally mid-March, with one late February record). In the 1980's it was considered a rare breeder, but that local breeding population has increased significantly in the last two decades and it is now an uncommon breeder (47% of squares on OBBA2, 43% of squares on QBBA2). Where present, its nests are usually fairly conspicuous, being large stick nests built in large trees or hydro pylons near water. In fall, migrants are often seen along the Ottawa River. It is one of the first raptors to migrate south in the fall: most birds are gone by early October. There have been, however, several November sightings and two exceptional records of birds that lingered into early December.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
22 February 1984, 1 individual, Shirley's bay, mark gawn, ebird
10 March 2009; 1 individual; no location given; Ontbirds 17.03.2009.
25 march 2021, 1 individual, Dunrobin, mobs, ebird
25 march 2015 , 1 individual, Rapides Deschenes, Jaques Savard, ebird
26 march 2016, 1 individual March Road, Michael Tate, ebird
27 march 2016, 1 individual Place D' Orleans, Nicolas Conroy, ebird
31 March 2012; 2 individuals; Constance Creek at Thomas Dolan Pkwy; Ontbirds 05.04.2012.
3 April 1997; 1 individual; Mer Bleue; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
4 November 2018,, Baie McLaurin, mobs, ebird
9-13 November; 1 individual; Ottawa river east to Rockliffe Park, mobs, ebird
11 November 1983; 1 individual; Manotick; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):9.
15 November 1997; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcripts.
15 November 2007, 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; T&L 42(2):85.
<b>Winter Records</b>
2 December 1977; 1 individual; Carp; Ian Davidson; Shrike 2(8):3.
<b>Sometime in the 2000's in Manotick?</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
21 individuals; 7 May 1983; Thurso area, including 15 at one time; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):11,28.
8 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):14.
7 individuals; 28 April 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(2):5

## Swallow-tailed Kite

(*Elanoides forficatus*)

Milan à queue fourchue  
STKI

### Accidental transient.

The only record of the occurrence of this elegant raptor in the Ottawa-Gatineau District comes from the observations of Lieutenant-Colonel White and George R. White who watched one closely through a glass while it perched on a flagstaff at the Rideau Rifle Range (now Strathcona Park). The exact date was not recorded, but was prior to 1881 and later than 1873 when the rifle range was established.

#### Record

1873-1881; 1 individual; Rideau Rifle Range; Lt. Col. White and George R. White; CFN 37:151.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Golden Eagle

(*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Aigle royal  
GOEA

### Status: Rare migrant and winter visitor. Exceptional in summer.

A rare visitor to the District, mainly from October through April. During spring and fall migration periods, many of the sightings are of birds flying overhead. In spring migration, they are most frequently seen in March and April. In fall migration they are often seen moving on cold fronts from mid-October to mid-December.

There is only one record from the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (one bird in 1988). During the winter they can sometimes be found wintering with Bald Eagles along the escarpment in the Lusville-Eardley area. The first overwintering bird for the District was in this area from January to March 1984 (Shrike 8(1):16, 8(2):10). Outside the October to April period, there are scattered records in every month, but these are exceptional.

#### First Record

3 October 1883; 1 individual; near Casselman; J.S. Castleman; Ottawa Naturalist 5:39.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
9 August 1985; 1 individual; Gatineau Hills; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(4):4,12.
Third week of August, 1993 checklist
Fourth week of August, 1993 checklist
23 August 2018, 1 individual, Petrie Island, Amy Lawes, ebird
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
4 June 2006; 1 immature; west of Dunrobin; Ontbirds 11.06.2006.
6 June 1999; 1 immature; Conley Road; Bird Status Line transcripts.
13 June 2012; 1 adult; Eardley-Masham Road; Ontbirds 14.06.2012.
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
20 July 1979; Shrike 10(2):18.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
6 individuals, 31 October 2017, Constance bay, Bruce Di labio, ebird
2 adults, 2 juveniles; 24 October 2008; Eardley-Masham Road; Don Wigle; Ontbirds 24.10.2008.
4 indiv.; 1 Nov. 2009; Constance Bay, Andrew Haydon, Moodie Dr.; m.obs. Ontbirds 01.11.2009.
4 individuals; 3 November 2012; Andrew Haydon Park; John Cooper; eBird.

## Northern Harrier

(*Circus cyaneus*)

Busard Saint-Martin  
NOHA

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Northern Harriers typically begin returning to the District in mid-March and are found in their preferred breeding habitat of open fields and they can typically be seen quartering low in search of prey or perched on the ground or on fence posts. Also found in open marshes. They are a fairly common breeder throughout the District in the appropriate habitat (83% of squares on OBBA2; 62% of squares on QBBA2).

Most birds leave the area by the end of October, but a few linger later most years, occasionally into early winter. Recorded ten times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1984 to 2021 (high of four in 2003) and four times on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC since 1992 (high of three in 2001). There are a handful of January and February records as well, with birds in the latter part of the period likely being early returning spring migrants. There is one successful overwintering, from the 1979-80, a winter which had abnormally low snowfall.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to fourth week of October
<b>Late Winter Records (or possibly early migrants?)</b>
Winter 1979-1980; first successful overwintering; Shrike 5(1):4.
15 February 2009; 1 individual; Dunrobin Ridge; Steve Glynn; eBird.
19 February 1983; 1 individual; Bill Clark; Shrike 8(1):16.
20 February 2013; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
21 February 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):2.
24 February 1969, 1 bird, Pine Road, T&L 3(3):73.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
50 individuals; 26 March 1988; eastern flooding area; T&L 22(4):167
35 individuals; 8 April 1985; Shrike 10(2):19.
19 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):14.

## Sharp-shinned Hawk

(*Accipiter striatus*)

Épervier brun  
SSHA

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Uncommon breeder. Uncommon in winter.**

All though some birds winter, numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks begin to increase in April when migrants return to the District. This is perhaps the easiest time to find them as migrants can be seen flying and soaring overhead and birds

call more frequently as they begin the nesting process. Once nesting begins, this species becomes secretive and hard to locate. It nests in extensive tracts of woods, with a preference for conifers and is widespread, but uncommon in the District (70% of squares on OBBA2, 43% of squares on QBBA2).

Fall migration occurs through late August and September. Some birds overwinter in the District. This species has been recorded on every Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since the mid-1980's (average of six individuals; high of 16 in 2002).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of August to fourth week of September.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
50 individuals; 22 April 1979; Shrike 10(2):17.
16 individuals; 15 December 2002; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
13 individuals; 28 April 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(2):17
15 individuals; 13 September 1981; Mark Gawn, on the Seedathon; Shrike 6(5):6,21.
10 individuals; 19-20 October 2002; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.

## Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Épervier de Cooper  
COHA

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Uncommon in winter.**

Like the other two accipiter species, woodlands are the favoured habitat of Cooper's Hawk, but unlike the others it seems to have adapted to human-altered landscapes. It has increased in numbers considerably in the last two decades and now breeds regularly within urban areas, nesting in denser stands of trees in parks and other green spaces and it is regularly seen hunting in urban residential areas. It is also found in wooded areas in the rural areas of the District (60% of squares on OBBA2, 43% of squares on QBBA2).

Cooper's Hawk can be found year-round in the District, but is somewhat migratory, with some birds moving south for in fall (November) and returning in the spring (April). Recorded on every Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since the late 1980's (average of seven individuals; high of 16 in 2005 and 2006).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the second Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1892.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
23 individuals; 18 December 2023; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; OFNC Website.
16 individuals; 18 December 2005; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
16 individuals; 17 December 2006; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
11 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
6 individuals; 25 April 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):19.
5 individuals; 10 April 2014; Greenland Road; Jon Ruddy; eBird.

## Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Autour des palombes  
NOGO

**Status: Uncommon year round resident, some migrate.**

The largest of the North American accipters, the Northern Goshawk is an uncommon year-round resident and breeder in heavily forested areas of the District (32% of squares on OBBA2, 14% of squares on QBBA2). While widespread in rural areas of the District, it is secretive and hard to detect for much of the year, particularly when nesting. Some birds migrate in and out of the area and so chances of detecting it are higher during these spring and fall movements. Recorded on about 80% of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs since the 1960's (high of eight in 1973 and 1976) and on 75% of the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs (high of six in 1991).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

Noteworthy High Counts
8 individuals; 16 December 1973; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
8 individuals; 19 December 1976; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
6 individuals; 28 December 1991; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data
4 individuals; 16 June 1985; Peter Walker; Shrike Database.
3 individuals; 13 March 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(2):23.

## Bald Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Pygargue à tête blanche  
BAEA

**Status: Uncommon migrant. Rare in summer and winter. Rare breeder.**

For much of the time that birds have been studied in the District, Bald Eagle was considered a rare transient, especially in the mid-1900's when populations crashed range-wide as a result of the use of the pesticide DDT. In the last two decades, populations have recovered considerably and now it is an uncommon migrant in spring (mid-March to early May) and fall (late August to mid-November).

In recent years, it has been rare, but regular, through the summer months, mainly along the Ottawa River. There is one historical breeding record of a nest at Lake Wilson near Wakefield in May 1881 (CFN 37:152). In 2011, the first modern nesting occurred at Shirley's Bay (Ontbirds) and subsequently a nest with young was recorded at Lac la Pêche on QBBA2. As this species continues to recover, it has become a more frequent breeder in the District.

Bald Eagle is somewhat rare through the winter, but birds can usually be found wintering along the Gatineau Escarpment in the Luskville-Eardley area and occasionally elsewhere in the District especially near areas of open water. Recorded on 26 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1973 to 2021 (high of 13 in 2021) and 17 Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs since 1983 (high of 9 in 2001).

First Record
21 March 1881; 1 individual; Rideau Rifle Range; Ottawa Naturalist 5:39.
Noteworthy High Counts
14 indiv.; 16 Jan. 2007; Ottawa R. btwn. Shirley's Bay & Champlain Bridge; Ontbirds 21.01.2007.
4 adults & 9 immatures; 18 February 2007; Eardley-Masham Road area; Ontbirds 27.02.2007.
12 individuals; 18 February 2017; Val des Monts; Nina Stavlund, Tony Beck; ebird
11 juveniles; 11 April 2010; Thurso marshes, flying over; Ontbirds 14.04.2010.
10 individuals; 19 January 2008; Eardley-Masham Road area; Ontbirds 21.01.2008.
10 individuals; 20 December 2009; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

## Red-shouldered Hawk

(*Buteo lineatus*)

Buse à épaulettes  
RSHA

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Red-shouldered Hawks typically begin to return to the District in late March. They are easiest to locate in April when migrants are passing through and local breeding birds are calling on their territories, but once incubation begins in May, they are quite secretive and hard to locate. It nests in larger stands of mature hardwood forest, often near wetlands and is an uncommon and local breeder throughout the District (32% of squares on OBBA2, 62% of squares on QBBA2).

This species is observed infrequently in fall migration. The few that are observed seem to pass through mainly from early September to mid-October (exceptionally into November).

Very rare in winter, but birds have overwintered a number of times, including in Aylmer where presumably the same bird returned several years in a row.

First Record
24 September 1888; near quarries on Montreal Road; G.R. White, Ottawa Naturalist 5:38.
Early Spring Arrival
11 March 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):19.
13 March 2005; 1 individual; Rifle Road; Ontbirds
13 March 2006; 1 individual; Richmond Road near Britannia; Ontbirds

<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
7 November 2003; 1 individual; over Ottawa River Parkway at Lincoln Fields; Ontbirds
18 November 2008; 1 immature; Steel Line Road; Ontbirds
18 November 2014; 1 individual; Lac Leamy; Réal Bisson; eBird.
<b>Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>Winter Records</b>
2 December 1970; Shrike 10(2):18.
19 December 2024; 1 individual; Almonte; Bob Kennedy; ebird
21 December 2024; 1 individual; near Arnprior; mobs; ebird
12 December 2014; 1 individual; Gatineau Park; Ontbirds 18.12.2014.
29 December 2021; 1 individual, Trim Road & navan; Vincent Fyson; ebird
2 January 2007; 1 immature, well documented; Larose Forest; Ontbirds
11 January 2024; 1 individual; Parc du lac Beauchamp; mobs; ebird
25 January 1983; 1 individual; near Carp; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 8(1):16.
31 January 1976; 1 individual; Pine Road area behind the Airport; T&L 10(3):59.
25-31 January 2003; 1 individual; Britannia CA in the pines; Ontbirds
January-February 1998; Kinburn Side Road; successful overwintering; Bird Status Line transcripts.
Winter 2007-2008 & 2008-2009; Old Carp Road; Ontbirds, various postings.
Winter 2007-2008 to 2010-2011; Pr. Lakeview area Aylmer; Ontbirds various postings.
24 January 2008 1 individual, Kanata, Jeff Skevington, ebird
15 January 2009, 1 individual, Kanata, Jeff Skevington, ebird
22 February 2018, 1 individual, Monty drive, Jeff Skevington, ebird
25 January-23 February 2020, , Trail Road landfill, mobs, ebird
3 January 2021,, Kerwin Road trail, Benjamin DiLabio, ebird
3 January – 26 February 2021,, Gatineau multiple locations, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
10 individuals; 5 September 1982; NE part of the District; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):14.
6 individuals; 8 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
5 individuals; 25 June 2010; Corkery area; Stew Hamill; eBird. Adult at nest with young.

## Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)

**Petite Buse**  
**BWHA**

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.**

This species usually begins returning to the District around mid-April (exceptionally late March), one of the latest migrating raptors in the area. Large numbers of migrants are occasionally seen on south winds during the core migration period from mid-April to early May. It is a fairly common breeder in continuous mature hardwoods and mixed forests (53% of squares on OBBA2, 84% of squares on QBBA2). Once nesting begins later in May birds become very inconspicuous.

Most Broad-winged Hawks migrate out of the District in September, with stragglers through October and, exceptionally, into mid-November. There is a single winter record.

<b>First Record</b>
3 May 1884, Rockcliffe Park/ McKay's lake. Ontario birds Volume 40 pages 89+, being the supplementary data listing the White collection.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
20 March 1986; 1 individual; Aylmer; Jean Dubois; Ornitaouais 8(3):93.
24 March 1976; 1 individual; Shrike 1(2):4.
1 April 1981; 1 individual; Dan Brunton; Shrike 6(2):7.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
29 October 1980; 1 individual; Monty Brigham; Shrike 5(5):5.
31 October 1980; 1 individual; Monty Brigham; Shrike 5(5):5.
11 November 2001, 1 individual, Mont King, Jean-Pierre Artigau, ebird
13 November 1984, 1 individual, Old Hwy 17 near Shirley's Bay, Roger Taylor; Shrike 10(2):9

<b>Winter record</b>
14 December 2010, 1 individual, Aylmer, Rodolphe Dubois
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
426 Individuals; 10 September 2024, Shirley's bay Boat launch; Mark Patry; ebird
274 individuals; 25 April 2023; Quigley Hill Road, Ottawa, Rob Pinilla, ebird
250 individuals; 9 September 1981; Ian Jones; Shrike 6(5):21.
100 individuals; 3 May 1975; Shirley's Bay, T&L 9(4):112.
150 individuals; 6 April 1980, Dunrobin, passed over in an hour; T&L 14(4):119.
69 individuals; 28 April 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(2):5.
38 individuals; 7 September 2014; Shirley's Bay; Jeff Skevington, m.obs.; eBird.

## Swainson's Hawk

(*Buteo swainsoni*)

**Buse de Swainson**  
**SWHA**

### Accidental transient in fall.

The only well-documented Ottawa-Gatineau District record of this western prairie raptor is of a light morph juvenile bird collected at Bellview in the west end of Ottawa on 3 October 1933. The exact location is currently unknown but it is believed to be in or near the former March Township. Another report from the 1980's was not accepted by the OBRSC. This species is annual in southern Ontario and there are more than 20 records for Quebec, so it can be expected to occur again in the District.

<b>First Record</b>
3 October 1933; 1 lt. morph juv.; Bellview, Ottawa; L. Storient; CFN 58(5):151.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Red-tailed Hawk

(*Buteo jamaicensis*)

**Buse à queue rousse**  
**RTHA**

### Status: Common migrant and breeder. Fairly common in winter.

Probably the most frequently observed raptor in the Ottawa-Gatineau District owing to its habits of perching in obvious places such as treetops, telephone poles or antennas in open habitats and soaring frequently. It is a common breeder, nesting at the edge of woods adjacent to open field areas that are used for hunting (92% of squares on OBBA2, 73% of squares on QBBA2).

Partially migratory, some birds move south in November. Although wintering numbers vary from year to year, it usually remains fairly common and easy to find in open habitats. Recorded on every Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since 1979 (high of 21 in 2000) and almost every Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC (high of 40 in 2006).

From the late 1990's until at least winter 2006-2007, a dark morph of the western subspecies *calurus* wintered at the Gatineau Airport. From the mid-1990's until the early 2000's a partial albino Red-tailed Hawk was periodically seen during winters on Rifle Road.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
150 individuals; 18-19 October 2003; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
40 individuals; 30 December 2006; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
35 individuals; 21 October 1987; Britannia, migrating over the Deschênes Rapids; T&L 22(2):72
33 individuals; 23 March 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):19.
24 individuals; 30 April 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(2):10.

## Rough-legged Hawk

(*Buteo lagopus*)

**Buse pattue**  
**RLHA**

## Status: Fairly common winter visitor. Common migrant.

Rough-legged Hawks arrive to winter in the Ottawa-Gatineau area in mid-October (exceptionally early September). They are typically found in open agricultural fields, where they can be seen perched in the upper branches of trees or hunting over the fields. Usually they are fairly common in winter, but their abundance varies from year to year. It has been recorded on almost all of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs since the early 1970's (high of 28 in 1973) and on about two thirds of the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs (high of 28 in 2001).

Most birds return north by mid-April, but there scattered records of lingering birds through May and even into early June. They are usually more numerous during migration, and some of the higher counts for this species in the area are from this period in March and April.

<b>First Record</b>
8 November 1883, Cyrville, Ontario birds Volume 40 pages 89+, being the supplementary data listing the White collection.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
5 September 1982; 1 individual; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 7(5):14.
12 September 1976; 1 individual; Dolman Ridge Road; Roger Taylor; Shrike 1(6):3.
13 September 1981; 1 individual; Heather Hamilton and Dave Gill; Shrike 6(5):6.
16 September 1984; 1 individual; Peter Walker; Shrike 9(5):17.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
2 June 1985, 1 individual, Breckenridge, Michel Gosselin, ebird
3 June 1996, 1 individual, Gatineau Airport, Andre Cloutier, ebird
3 June 2013, 1 individual, Ottawa Int airport, Jake Walker, ebird
5 June 1982; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):11.
7 June 1984; 1 individual; Mer Bleue Bog; Simon and Stephen Gawn; T&L 18(5):234.
7 June 1992; 1 individual; Torbolton Ridge Road; Larry Neily; T&L 27(3):98.
2 July 2018, 1 individual, McIntosh Park Almonte, 1 individual, Michel Gauthier, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
150 individuals; 26 March 1988; eastern flooding area; T&L 22(4):167.
28 individuals; 16 December 1973; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
28 individuals; 29 December 2001; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
25 individuals; 8 October 1977; Ian and Paul Jones; Ottawa Airport area; Shrike 2(7):3.
24 individuals; 19 April 2008; Gatineau Airport; Jacques Savard; eBird.

## Owls

### American Barn Owl (*Tyto furcata*)

Effraie d'Amérique

BNOW?

### Status: Casual visitor, two breeding records.

Note: The Common and Latin names have changed in 2024. Although it has a worldwide distribution, south-eastern Canada is north of this species usual range and it has been declining at the northern edge of its North American range. There are only seven records for the Ottawa-Gatineau District, ranging from the summer months through to December, and there have been none since 1980. There are two breeding records, one from Hawthorne, ON in 1937 and one from Winchester, ON in 1980.

<b>First Record</b>
late October 1933; 1 individual; near the City of Ottawa, captured alive; Giffard Johnson; CFN 58(5):158.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
Summer 1937; 2 young birds, not long out of the nest; Hawthorne; Fred Urquhart; CFN 58(5):158
<b>Latest Winter Record</b>
18 December 1954; 1 female; Masson; Rory MacLachlan; OBRSC #660. Specimen in the CMN.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 adults, 4 young; Summer 1980; nested in an old chimney Winchester; Winchester Press, 04.09.1980.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*)

Petit-duc maculé  
EASO

**Status: Rare resident.**

Eastern-Screech Owl is at the northern edge of its range in the District, where it is a rare breeder in woodlots and groves, often near water, with large, dead trees that provide nesting cavities (45% of squares on OBBA2, 16% of squares on QBBA2). It can sometimes be found in patches of appropriate habitat within urban areas but is largely absent from the heavily wooded areas on the Canadian Shield in the northern part of the District. Eastern Screech-Owl will also sometimes nest in nest boxes, such as ones put out for Wood Ducks.

This species is nocturnal, but can sometimes be seen sunning itself in the entrance of nest cavities. Best found by listening for its calls at night during spring, or by careful examination of potential nesting cavities in appropriate breeding habitat. Sites occupied in the past have included Billings Bridge woods (lost to development in the mid-1980s), Britannia Conservation area woods; Cedarview Road near Cambrian Road; and the woods at the end of Chemin Vanier in Deschênes.

### First Record

15 November 1903, Approximate date (November 1903). Specimen from the White collection.

### Noteworthy High Counts

7 individuals, 17 May 2021, Alta Vista, Wilson Hum, ebird

6 individual; 5 July 1997; Chrysler, adult and young; Bird Status Line transcripts.

5 individuals; 29 September 1983; Nepean Dump area, possibly a family group; T&L 18(1):10.

4 individuals; 11 April 1984; SW part of the District; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):7, 18.

## Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

Grand-duc d'Amérique  
GHOW

**Status: Uncommon resident.**

Great Horned Owl is a widespread resident breeder in deciduous, mixed and coniferous forests throughout the District (70% of squares on OBBA2, 38% of squares on QBBA2). It is often found nesting in woods adjacent to open areas for hunting and can sometimes be found nesting in wooded parks in urban areas, such as at Britannia Conservation Area. One of the earliest breeding species, Great Horned Owl can be heard calling and found at nest sites as early as late February or early March. Although still found relatively easily, it has declined noticeably in abundance since the 1980's.

### First Record

Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Noteworthy High Counts

53 individuals; 3 January 1988; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

47 individuals; 19 December 1971; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

40 individuals; 23 April 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Richard Brouillet; Shrike 9(2):7.

27 individuals; 7 March 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):6.

18 individuals; 2 April 1982; Frank Bell, John Sankey; Shrike 7(2):24.

## Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*)

Harfang des neiges  
SNOW

**Status: Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.**

Snowy Owl is usually the easiest to find of the four northern owls that winter in the Ottawa-Gatineau area. Birds typically arrive in mid-November (exceptionally early October) and can be found in open agricultural fields. Snowy Owls hunt during the day but are most often observed in the morning and late afternoon or on overcast days. They can often be found sitting on high perches in open country, including on hydro poles, antennas, fence poles or buildings. Rural areas

around Richmond, the outer Experimental Farm along Fallowfield Road, south of the Ottawa International Airport; and rural roads east of Navan are some of the areas that have been productive for this species. Snowy Owls can also sometimes be found on piers, rocky shorelines and ice along the Ottawa River, especially in late fall or early winter.

Abundance is variable from year-to-year. In a typical year, one to five birds will be present. Occasionally, larger irruptions have brought up to fifteen birds to the area, such as in the winter of 1982-83 (T&L 17(3):113). The largest modern irruption to date was in the winter of 2013-14 during which it was estimated that over 150 individuals were present or passed through Eastern Ontario. There was one in the winter of 1901-02 which had hundreds.

Most Snowy Owls have returned north by mid-April, but there are occasional lingering birds into May, especially following irruption winters. In spring of 2014 there were a number of birds present into mid-May and at least two into June. In the summer of 1987 a Snowy Owl lingered near North Gower well into the summer.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
18 October 2015, 1 individual; Morewood, Jim McCormick, ebird
25 October 2008; 1 individual; Armstrong Road; Ontbirds
26 October 2008; 1 juvenile; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; David Britton; eBird.
29 October 1987; 1 individual; Ottawa area; AB 42(1):68.
<b>Principal Winter Dates</b>
Third week of November to second week of April
<b>Latest Spring Departure</b>
1 June 2006; 1 individual; Peter Robinson Side Road near Corkery; Ontbirds
3 June 2014; 1 individual; Mtée. Dalton, Gatineau; Jacques Savard; eBird.
7 June 2021, 1 individual, Appleton, Bob Kennedy, ebird
12 June 2014, 1 individual Marais lamoureux, D & M.F. Rivard, ebird
until 15 June 2014; 1 individual; Ch. Industriel near Gatineau Airport and area; m.obs.; eBird.
18 June 2018, 1 individual, Trim Road, Catherine Hessian, ebird
<b>Unusual Summer Records</b>
Until at least mid-July 1987; 1 individual; near North Gower; m.obs.; T&L 21(5):258.
7 August-22 September 2018, 1 individual, Brian Coburn Blvd and vicinity, mobs , ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
14 indiv.; early Feb. 2014; along the Ottawa River; Bruce Di Labio; Bruce's blog 13.02.2014.
13 individuals, 2 February 2014, Aylmer, langis Sirois, ebird
10 individuals; 23 December 1967; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
10 individuals; 15 December 2013; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
8 individuals; 8 February 1981; Mark Gawn; Shrike 6(6):24.
8 individuals; 15 February 2014; Deschênes Rapids area; Jake Walker; eBird.

## Northern Hawk-Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

**Chouette épervière**  
**NHOW**

**Status: Rare irruptive winter visitor. Has bred once.**

Northern Hawk Owl is a rare but regular winter visitor to the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Records before late November are rare, and this species usually takes up residence in open areas bordered by woods, often lingering for weeks in the same area. They are active during the day and are most often seen hunting from tall perches such as treetops, hydro pylons or telephone poles.

Numbers vary from winter to winter, but there are one or two present each winter on average. Larger irruptions occur occasionally – for example in the winter of 1981-82, there were an estimated 13 birds present in the District and in 1991-92 there were about eight present. Northern Hawk Owls return north fairly early, with few records after the end of February (exceptionally to early April).

The Ottawa-Gatineau District is well south of this species' usual breeding range in the northern boreal forest, but there is one breeding record, of a nest found in a woodlot off of Ridge Road near the Mer Bleue Bog in spring of 1963, after a significant irruption in winter 1962-63. Two similar cases of nesting south of the usual breeding range occurred in Eastern Ontario in 2001 at Clayton in Lanark County and at Alfred in Prescott-Russell. Both sites are close to, but outside of, the boundaries of the Ottawa-Gatineau District.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
27 October 1972; 1 individual; Ottawa area; Mr. & Mrs. H. Munro; AFN 27(1):53.
30 October 2000; 1 individual; Highway 148 near Breckenridge; Bird Status Line transcripts.
31 October 2000; 1 individual; Riddell Drive; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Winter Dates</b>
Third week of November to first week of March.
<b>Latest Spring Departure</b>
until 12 March 1982; 1 individual; Marchurst; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):14.
until 3 April 2013; 1 individual; NE Richmond Fen area; Peter Blancher; eBird.
until 2 June 1963; 2 adults, 4 young; nested near Mer Bleue Bog; m.obs.; CFN 84:377-383.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 adults, 4 young; 25 May 1963; nested near Mer Bleue Bog; Donald Smith.; CFN 84:377-383.
5 individuals; 14 & 15 February 1982; SW sector; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(1):7.
4 individuals; 31 January 1982; SW sector; Roger Taylor; m.obs.; Shrike 7(1):7.

## Burrowing Owl

(*Athene cunicularia*)

**Chouette des terriers**  
**BUOW**

### Status: Accidental visitor

This is primarily a bird of the western grasslands as well as southern Florida, with a few sightings in the east. There is one record for the region.

19-24 April 1991, 1 individual, farm field west of Arnprior, Eric Ridgen, Mike Runtz, m.obs.; OB 10(2):54., also ebird. While the identification of this bird is not in dispute, whether it falls inside or outside the 50K Circle has been a matter of debate. This entry is based on the current (2021) position that the bird was within the 50 K count circle.

For more information on the occurrence of rare species, see Appendix A

## Barred Owl

(*Strix varia*)

**Chouette rayée**  
**BDOW**

### Status: Fairly common resident.

Barred Owl is widespread and fairly common resident in large tracts of mixed and deciduous forest throughout the District (43% of squares on OBBA2, 68% of squares on QBBA2). It has increased in abundance in the last two decades, overtaking Great Horned Owl as the most frequently observed owl in the District. Birds are easiest to locate in the spring when they are calling on breeding territories, but they call sporadically in other seasons as well. In the winter this species sometimes emerges from the woods and can be seen perched or hunting at dusk in open areas and along roadsides.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
16 individuals; 5 September 1982; NE sector; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Shrike 7(5):17.
12 individuals; 22 August 1982; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 7(4):13.
9 individuals; 2 January 2011; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC; Audubon CBC data.

## Great Gray Owl

(*Strix nebulosa*)

**Chouette lapone**  
**GGOW**

### Status: Very rare irruptive winter visitor.

One of the most sought-after northern specialties in the District, Great Gray Owl is still a very rare visitor and is not reported every year. Birds usually arrive when winter is already well underway, rarely before late December (exceptionally early October). They are typically found in areas where woods border open fields – the former providing roosting areas and perches, and the latter providing habitat where they can hunt the small mammals that form their diet.

Despite its generally very rare status, every so often, irruptions of large numbers of Great Gray Owls have occurred. The most spectacular of these occurred in the winter of 2004-05, when an estimated 110 birds occurred in eastern Ontario in the period between December and April and single observer high counts of over 30 individuals were obtained. Other irruption years have included the winters of: 1983-84 (estimated 30 individuals); 1991-92 (estimated 15 individuals); 1995-96 (largest irruption since 1983-84, [details?](#)); 2005-06 (estimated 12 individuals, the echo of the previous year's huge irruption); and 2008-09 (estimate 12 individuals).

Great Grays are usually gone by the end of March, but there are a handful of records from April and one from mid-May. These later records often occur at the end of irruption events. [Breeding? Fitzroy Harbour?, Constance Bay?](#)

<b>First Record</b>
3 April 1896; 1 specimen; Ottawa area, in the White collection; CFN 37:153.
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
1 October 1917; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Patch and Johnson; CFN 37:153.
<a href="#">First week of November, 1993 Checklist.</a>
<a href="#">Second week of November, 1993 Checklist.</a>
<b>Principal Winter Dates</b>
Fourth week of December to fourth week of March.
<b>Latest Spring Departure</b>
26 April 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):8.
27 April 1997; 1 individual; Pinhey Forest; Bird Status Line transcripts.
16 May 1992; 2 indiv.; Lac Philippe area; <i>fide</i> Rick McQuaig; T&L 27(3):98, Ornithouais 14(2):39.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
46 individuals, unknown date and place (sensitive species), ebird
33 individuals; 29 January 2005; SW sector; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 09.29.2005.
29 individuals; 9 January 2005; SW sector; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 09.01.2005.
23 individuals; 18 December 1983; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
24 indiv.; 19 Jan. 2005; Huntmar, March Valley, Kilmaurs roads; B. Di Labio; Ontbirds 19.01.2005.
11 individuals; 8 January 1984; mostly in Aylmer; Dan Brunton; Shrike 9(1):4.

## Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

Hibou moyen-duc  
LEOW

**Status: Uncommon migrant. Rare breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Long-eared Owls is a secretive and difficult to find species. In the District, most records come from mid-March to late April. At this time of year northbound migrants are moving through and can sometimes be found roosting in coniferous trees during the day and birds are calling at night. Clyde Woods was a favoured area for this species in the 1980's and 1990s but development in the area has reduced its attractiveness to this species.

Currently this species is considered a rare breeder in mixed and coniferous woods in the District (13% of squares on OBBA2, 19% of squares on QBBA2). During the 1980's it was apparently much more common on the Ontario side of the District, as it was recorded on 57% of squares on OBBA1. Larose Forest, Richmond Fen, Dunrobin and north of Quyon are areas where calling birds have been detected on multiple occasions.

Fall migration seems to occur from mid-October to mid-November. Most birds likely move south out of the region in winter, but there have been intermittent sightings through this period. Long-eared Owl has been recorded ten times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1973 to 2021 (high of two individuals in 1979 and 2001) and seven times on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC since 1981-82 (high of three individuals in 1981-82).

<b>First Record</b>
7 July 1890; 1 specimen; near the Experimental Farm; F.A. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 5:39.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of March to fourth week of April.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to first week of November.

<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
13 individuals; 25 March 1981; OFNC Owl Survey; Shrike 6(2):8,14.
5 individual; 14 April 1992; Clyde Woods; T&L 27(3):97.
4 individuals; 10 April 1994; Clyde Woods (3),C. Exp. Farm (1); Mark Gawn; T&L 29(3):117.

## Short-eared Owl

(*Asio flammeus*)

Hibou des marais  
SEOW

**Status: Rare migrant. Very rare in summer and winter. Has bred.**

Short-eared Owl is a rare migrant through the District. It is most often seen at dusk hunting over open fields and marshes or perching on fenceposts. In spring the peak period is late March to mid-April and in fall from mid-October to mid-November. Summer records are intermittent at best, but it has occasionally bred in the District on multiple, including two nests south of the Ottawa Airport in 1980 (T&L 14(4):119); in summer 1987 there were seven pairs at four different sites (AB 41(5):1431) and during OBBA2 breeding was confirmed east of Orleans. It is very rare through the winter, but birds have been occasionally recorded through the period.

Armstrong Road south of the Ottawa Airport has been the most reliable site for this species over the years. Other sites where it has been recorded more than once include: Wall Road south of Orleans; the Kinburn-Woodlawn area; Breckenridge; and in the eastern flooding areas around Carlsbad Springs and Bourget in early spring.

<b>First Record</b>
6 October 1883; 2 specimens; Ottawa area; G.R. White; Ottawa Naturalist 5:39.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to second week of April.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of October to second week of November.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
24 individuals; 3 November 1979; Armstrong Road; Bruce DiLabio, ebird.
13 individuals; 28 March 1981; Armstrong Rd., Breckenridge; OFNC Owl Survey; Shrike 6(2):8,14.
9 individuals; January-February 1983; south of the Ottawa Airport, overwintered; T&L 17(3):112.

## Boreal Owl

(*Aegolius funereus*)

Nyctale de Tengmalm  
BOOW

**Status: Very rare winter visitor.**

One of Ottawa-Gatineau's most sought after winter specialties, this northern owl occasionally moves south in winter into our area. It is not reported annually – perhaps only four winters in ten on average, but when there are irruptions, several may be found in a winter. During the winter of 2004-05 a record five birds were detected. Most birds occur in the period between December and March, but they have been recorded as early as late September and as late as mid-April.

Boreal Owls are typically found roosting in conifers in wooded areas, including in green space within the city (e.g. Clyde Woods, Fletcher Wildlife Garden) and occasionally are found in backyards, hunting for small mammals feeding underneath birdfeeders. Although it does not breed in the District, calling birds have been heard on a few occasions in March and April.

<b>First Record</b>
1 January 1884; 1 specimen; G.R. White; Ottawa Naturalist 5:40.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
29 September 1987; 1 individual; Sarsaparilla Trail; Chris Traynor; AB 42(1):68, T&L 22(2):72.
29 September 2008; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory, banded; IPBO Checklist.
15 November 1987; west of Stittsville; T&L 22(2):73.
<b>Principal Winter Dates</b>
First week of December to fourth week of March
<b>Latest Spring</b>
16 April 2014; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird. Heard singing.
19 April 2009; 1 individual; Eardley-Masham Road; Jacques Savard; eBird. Heard singing.
22 April 2011; 1 individual; Limebank Rd. at Rideau Rd.; Brian Daly; eBird. Heard singing.

<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5 March 2013, 2 individuals Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Christine Trudeau, ebird

## Northern Saw-whet Owl

*(Aegolius acadicus)*

Petite Nyctale  
NSWO

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Uncommon breeder. Rare in winter.**

The smallest of the owls species found in the District, Northern Saw-whet Owls are most easily found in March and April when migrants are passing through and can be found roosting in conifer stands, and birds are calling at night on territory. It is an uncommon breeder in the District in mixed and coniferous forests (70% of squares on OBBA2, 34% of squares on QBBA2).

In fall, the migration period is from late September to early November, with the peak period in the first two weeks of October, based on banding results for Innis Point Bird Observatory. Most birds likely move south in winter, but a few remain and Northern Saw-whet Owl is rare through this period. Recorded eighteen times from 1974 to 2021 on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (high of two in 1986).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second week of March to first week of April.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to first week of November.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
32 individuals; 14 March 1981; OFNC Owl Survey; Shrike 6(2):8,14.
24 individuals; 29 September 2007; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO data. Banding high count.
18 individuals; 18 March 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):6.
10 individuals; 13 March 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(2):13.
7 individuals; 5 April 1992; Clyde Woods; T&L 27(3):97.

## Kingfisher, Woodpeckers

### Belted Kingfisher

*(Ceryle alcyon)*

Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique  
BEKI

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Belted Kingfisher is a familiar bird in the District, being found around bodies of water, including lakes, rivers and ponds and nest in burrows in sandy banks and occasionally in sand pits. They are less common than they seem, as they are often conspicuous perched in trees near water or seen flying overhead where their frequent calling often draws attention to them. Kingfishers usually arrive in the District in early April (exceptionally in mid-March). They are widespread as both a migrant and breeder (98% of squares on OBBA2, 89% of squares on QBBA2). Most birds leave the District by mid-October with stragglers through November.

Belted Kingfishers occasionally occur during the winter period around areas of open water. It has been recorded 21 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1964 to 2021 (high count of two in seven years). Birds have lingered into January on multiple occasions and it has overwintered successfully at least twice. Scattered sightings in February and early March may be overwintering birds that were simply not detected previously, or may be very early migrants, as this species occurs regularly in winter on the Lower Great Lakes and northeastern United States.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
10 March 2013; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Ontbirds 14.03.2013.
11 March 2002; 1 individual; Chapman CA on Highway 16; Ontbirds 15.03.2002.
16 March 1977; 1 individual; Blair Road; Roger Taylor; Shrike 2(2):5.
29 March 1981; 1 individual Frank Bell; Shrike 6(2):14.

30 March 1987; 1 individual; T&L 21(4):209.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to second week of October.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
9 February 2013; 1 individual; March Valley Road; Ontbirds 14.02.2013.
11 February 2011; 1 individual; Joy's Side Road; Ontbirds 15.02.2011.
15 February 1997; 1 individual; Parc Brébeuf; Bird Status Line transcripts.
16 February 2008; 1 individual; Flewellyn Road; Jeff Skevington eBird.
25 February 2002; 1 individual; Lac Leamy; L. Lapière, W. Darou; Ornitaouais 24(2);15.
27 February 2011; 1 individual; Ch. Neely, Brennan, QC; Ontbirds 01.03.2011.
Winter 1982-83; 1 individual; Carleton Place; m.obs.; Shrike 8(2):13. Successfully overwintered.
Winter 1984-85; 1 individual; Billings Bridge; m.obs.; Shrike 10(2):6. Successfully overwintered.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
20 individuals; 4 September 1983; Thurso; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(5):15,28.
20 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):20.
18 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):31.

## Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Pic à tête rouge  
RHWO

**Status: Very rare migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

One of the most dramatic-looking birds that occurs in the District, the Red-headed Woodpecker is striking, with its red, black and white plumage. Although probably never common in the District, this species has declined substantially in the last few decades and is now very rare with only one or two active nests per year.

This species is a migrant and individuals typically arrive in early May (exceptionally early April). They breed in open wooded areas with dead standing trees. In recent years the most reliable nest site has been at Constance Bay, in an area that burned in the early 2000s and where Red-headed Woodpeckers have nested successfully since 2002. A nest site at Pakenham was also used fairly consistently through the 2000s. Other historical nest sites include at Breckenridge; Conley Road, along the Jock River, Limebank Road and Gatineau Park.

Red-headed Woodpeckers have usually departed from the District by mid-September, but have occasionally lingered much later and several birds have successfully overwintered, including a number of winters at the Constance Bay nest site.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
8 April 2010; 1 adult; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 08.04.2010.
17 April 1998; 1 individual; Brown Road; Chelsea; Bird Status Line transcripts.
2 May 1970; 1 individual; Carlingwood; T&L 4(4):125
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
13 September 1984; 2 individuals; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(5):6, Shrike Database.
26 September 1 adult, 1 immature; Armstrong Road; Shrike 7(5):18.
until 7 November 1983; 1 individual; Revelstoke Drive, Ottawa; m.obs.; Shrike 8(6):12, Shrike dbase.
<b>Winter Records</b>
c. 20 December 1976; 1 individual; Carleton University; Karl Diedreich, m.obs.; T&L 11(2):57
January-February 1980; 1 adult; Greenbank Road area, through the period; Shrike 5(1):5.
January-February 1980; 1 sub-adult; Shirley's Bay, in corn stubble; Shrike 5(1):5.
14 December 1989 to February 1990; 1 individual; Manotick; T&L 24(3):130.
23 January 1992; 1 individual; near Metcalfe; Jim Bezanson; T&L 27(3):92.
February 1993, Camp Fortune, Gatineau Park; T&L 28(4):139.
Winter 2004-05; 1 adult; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; m.obs.; Ontbirds, various dates.
Winter 2005-06; 2 adults; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; m.obs.; Ontbirds, various dates.
Winter 2020-21; 2 adults, Constance BAY, Mobs, ebird
1 December-at least 29 March 2022, 2 adults, Constance Bay, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>

12 individuals, 6 August 2021, Constance bay, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
8 individuals; 18 August 2006; Constance Bay; Bruce & Ben Di Labio; Ontbirds 19.08.2006.
6 individuals; 3 September 2008; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 03.09.2008.
2 adults, 3 immatures; 9 & 15 August 1992; Nepean; T&L 27(3):99.

## Red-bellied Woodpecker

(*Melanerpes carolinus*)

Pic à ventre roux

RBWO

**Status: Rare visitor, mainly in winter. Has bred.**

The Ottawa-Gatineau District is just beyond the northern edge of the usual breeding range of the Red-bellied Woodpecker. It is annually seen in small numbers, with the majority of records occurring between November and April and mostly concerning birds that overwinter at birdfeeders. Over the years there have been scattered sightings from the period from May through October. Breeding was first confirmed in a residential area in Pakenham in spring 2011 and young were observed in the nest hole in June. Numbers in nesting season have been rising, and as of 2024 there have been many sightings during the nesting season.

<b>First Record</b>
First record was prior to 1974. Second record – 1 September 1974, Constance Bay; OBRSC #110.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of November to first week of April.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3 individuals, 27 October 2018, Shirley's bay, Manson Fleguel, , ebird
2 adults, at least 2 young; June 2011; Pakenham; Ray Holland; OBRSC #738. First breeding record.

## Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

(*Sphyrapicus varius*)

Pic maculé

YBSA

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers generally return to the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March). They are a common breeder in large tracts of deciduous and mixed woods (98% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2) where they are most easily detected by their characteristic drumming that decreases in tempo from start to finish. Migrants may be found in smaller woodlots and parklands. Most birds have left the District by the end of September, but late stragglers have been noted through October and November. This is the least likely woodpecker to be seen in winter, including one that overwintered in 1972-73. However, numbers in the winter have been rising significantly since about 2019.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19 March 1990; first migrants back; T&L 24(3):140.
31 March 1998; 2 individuals; Clyde Woods; Bird Status Line transcripts.
31 March 2006; 1 individual; Ontbirds 03.03.2006.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
25 October 1981; 1 individual; Richard Killeen; Shrike 6(5):9.
9 November 2021; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Matthew Mcanally, ebird
24 November 2021, 1 individual, Baxter CA; anonymous; ebird
26 November 1983; 1 individual; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 8(6):12.
29 November 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):12.
<b>Winter Records</b>
27 November 2023-late March 2024; 1 individual.; Fletcher Wildlife Garden and environs, mobs, ebird
11-18 December 2007; 1 individual.; Fletcher Wildlife Garden and environs; T&L 42(2):87.
15-18 December 2013; 1 individual; Thorold Road, Rockcliffe; Ontbirds 19.12.2013.
19 December 2021; 1 individual, Gatineau, Gilles Seutin, ebird
Fall 1972 to early February 1973; 1 individual; A. Tyler; AB 27(3):610.

c.23 January 2014; 1 first winter; Rideau Canal s. of Pretoria Bridge; Ontbirds 23.01.20.
early February 1976; 1 individual; Stittsville; T&L 11(3):101.
7 December 2017; 1 individual; Pakenham, Phillip Wright, ebird
27 December 2021; 1 individual; North Grenville-Settlers Grant; Vanessa Skelton; ebird
3 January 2018, 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife garden, James Darling
16 December 2018, 1 individual; Hog's Back, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
29 January 2019, 1 individual; Russell, Paul Schoening
5 January 2020, 1 individual; Beryl Gaffney Park, Kevin Hannah, ebird
10 February 2020, 1 individual; Chapman Mills CA, Giovanni Pari, ebird
12 February 2021, 1 individual; Metcalfe, Laura Dawson, ebird
7-19 January 2022; 1 individual; Beacon Hill, Gregory Zbitnew, Carol German, ebird
20 January 2022; 1 individual; Mandor Cresc.; Erik Pohanka, ebird
16 January 2022; 1 individual, Marionville, Stormont, Dundas and Glengary; Always an adventure team, ebird
December 2024; 4 different sightings in the region, including the one at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden noted above; ebird
There were 4 sightings in Januar-February 2025, and a single one in December.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
45 individuals; 13 April 1971, Ottawa County, Roger Foxall, ebird
15 individuals; 19 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):28.
12 individuals; two dates in spring 1981; Roger Taylor and Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):22.
12 individuals; 21 April 2013; Petrie Island; Anouk Hoedeman; eBird.

## American Three-toed Woodpecker

(*Picoides dorsalis*)

Pic à dos rayé

ATTW

**Status: Very rare visitor, mainly in winter. Irruptive.**

One of the most sought after winter birding specialties of the District, the American Three-toed Woodpecker is generally very rare and is occurs less than annually. It is irruptive and so in some years numbers of individuals may appear. Peak period for sightings is from November to April but it has occurred as early as mid-September and as late as June and July. Birds are usually associated with coniferous woods and burned areas.

From the mid-1970s to the early 1980s there were very large winter irruptions of this species into the District as a result of the large numbers of dead elm trees killed by Dutch Elm Disease. During this period the species could be locally common and there were several very high counts on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (high of 29 in 1976). More recently it is much rarer, with one report every two winters being about the average until recently. There was an irruption winter in 2006-07 when several birds were reported from Kerwin Road, Aylmer and Quyon. There was another small irruption in 2014-15, and the last report anywhere was from 2016 until the irruption winter of 2022-23. There are 7 records starting in 2014.

<b>First Record</b>
5 November 1883, 185 Wurtemberg, Specimen from the white collection.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
<b>Third week of September, 1993 Checklist.</b>
28-29 September 1890; 1 individual; F.A. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 5:40.
early October 1975; first birds of a small irruption; AB 30(1):38.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of November to first week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
22 May 1977; 1 individual; Roger Foxall, Rick Poulin; AB 31(5):995.
22 May 1984; 1 pair; Sarsaparilla Trail; Jamshed and Nehl Ahmed; Shrike 8(3):14.
30 May 1973; 1 individual; Roger Foxall; P. Woods; AB 27(4):767.
until June 1975; Hull; lingered into June following an irruption winter; AB 29(4):830
23 June 1989, Mer Bleue Bog, Marcie jacklin, ebird
<b>Unusual Summer Record</b>
20-24 July 2009; 1 female; Club de golf de Larrimac, Chelsea; <b>reference?</b>
31 July 2016, 1 individual; Lac Taylor, Les collines de l'outouais, ebird, Gerardo Serra
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
29 individuals; 19 December 1976; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

25 individuals; 15 December 1974; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
22 individuals; 21 December 1980; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
3 individuals; 17 January 1980; Stephen O'Donnell; Shrike 6(6):24.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

Pic à dos noir  
BBWO

**Status: Rare visitor, mainly in winter. Irruptive.**

This northern woodpecker is a fairly regular stray south into the District during the winter. It is reported almost every year, mainly from November to April, although birds have appeared as early as late August and been seen as late as mid-June. Often associated with coniferous woods or burned areas.

Like American Three-toed Woodpecker, this species is irruptive and in some winters numbers of birds have appeared. It was fairly regular during the "Dutch Elm Disease period" from the mid-1970's to early 1980's when large totals on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC were recorded (high of 20 in 1980). More recently, an average winter will see one Black-backed Woodpecker.

Breeding has never been confirmed in the District, but an apparently territorial bird was seen near Inlet, QC in June 1905 and a bird was observed in appropriate breeding habitat in the Richmond Fen square during OBBA2.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
28 August 1922; 1 individual; Experimental Farm; R.E. De Lury; CFN 37:154.
5 September 1982; 1 indiv.; St-Pierre-de-Wakefield area; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Shrike 7(5):17.
11 September 2004; 1 individual; Gatineau Park; Mark Davidson; eBird.
16 September 2017, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
17 September 1978, Wychwood, mark Gawn ebird
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of November to first week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
May 1989, through the month; 1 individual; burned area north of Quyon; T&L 23(4):184.
4 June 2013, Stony Swamp, Juliet McMurren, ebird
5 June 1988; 1 individual; Constance Bay; T&L 23(1):28.
14 June 1905; 1 indiv.; Inlet, calling and active; C.W.G. Eifrig; Ottawa Naturalist 25:184. Breeder?
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
20 individuals; 21 December 1980; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
19 individuals; 15 December 1974; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
17 individuals; 19 December 1982; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
up to 11; Winter 1988-89; in a burn north of Quyon; T&L 23(3):137

## Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)

Pic mineur  
DOWO

**Status: Common resident.**

Downy Woodpecker is a common resident in wooded areas of all sizes and compositions throughout the District (100% of squares on both OBBA2 and QBBA2), including in urban residential areas where it is often seen at feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
211 individuals; 21 December 1980; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
90 individuals; 18-19 October 2003; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
89 individuals; 1 January 1984; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

65 individuals; 27 December 1982; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(6):30.
35 individuals; 31 December 1983; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(6):25.

## Hairy Woodpecker

*(Picoides villosus)*

**Pic chevelu**  
**HAWO**

**Status: Common resident.**

Hairy Woodpecker is a common resident in wooded areas of all sizes and compositions throughout the District (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2), including in urban residential areas where it is often seen at feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
224 individuals; 21 December 1975; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
134 individuals; 1 January 1984; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
98 individuals; 18-19 October 2003; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
60 individuals; 27 December 1982; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(6):30.
23 individuals; 1 January 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(1)15.

## Pileated Woodpecker

*(Dryocopus pileatus)*

**Grand Pic**  
**PIWO**

**Status: Fairly common resident.**

The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest of the woodpeckers found in the District. It is a permanent resident (94% of squares on OBBA2, 92% of squares on QBBA2), mainly in large tracts of forests of all types, but it is sometimes found in parks and treed residential neighbourhoods in the cities and towns. Often detected by its loud, strident call. Never rare, but since about 1990 it has become more noticeable in the urban areas.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
48 individuals; 14 December 2008; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
29 individuals; 28 December 2002; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
29 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
9 individuals; 21 October 2007; Logger's Way; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
6 individuals; 28 April 2000; Deschênes; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.

## Northern Flicker

*(Colaptes auratus)*

**Pic flamboyant**  
**NOFL**

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Northern Flicker is a familiar and common bird throughout the District. It tends to be quite noisy and will occasionally migrate in groups, making it quite conspicuous. Migrants typically arrive in early April (exceptionally early March). It breeds widely throughout the District (100% of squares on both OBBA2 and QBBA2) in woodlands of all sizes and types, including in urban parks and treed residential areas.

Most birds have left the District by mid-October, but stragglers can remain into winter. Recorded 23 times since 1970 on the Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist (high of five in 1984). There are scattered records through the winter months, including several birds that successfully overwintered. Recently (as of 2023) more seem to be staying into the winter months.

Intergrades between the eastern "yellow-shafted" form of this species and the western "red-shafted" has been recorded twice in the District:

<b>First Record</b>
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Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
6 March 1983; 1 individual; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 8(2):13.
6 March 2004; 1 individual; Prom. Crescent, Aylmer; Ontbirds
15 March 1990; first migrants back; T&L 24(3):140.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of April to second week of October.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
60 individuals; two dates in early 1985; Bruce Di Labio, Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):20.
50 individuals; 23 April 1984; Bruce Di Labio, Richard Brouillet; Shrike 9(2):18.
46 individuals; 17 April 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):24.

<b>Unusual subspecies: Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted Intergrade</b>
early June 1943; 1 individual; Mariposa Avenue, Ottawa; R.G.S. Bidwell; CFN 61:21.
28 May 1983; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.

## Falcons

### **American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*)

**Crécerelle d'Amérique**  
**MAKE**

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Rare in winter.**

This attractive small falcon is an uncommon breeder throughout the District. Migrant birds usually begin to arrive in mid- to late March. This is a bird of open country and it is typically found in areas of open farm fields with dead trees that the birds nest in. It is much less common in the District than it was in the 1970's and 1980's, but it is still widespread as a breeder (92% of squares on OBBA2; 81% of squares on QBBA2).

Most birds leave the area in mid-October, but some linger and a few will overwinter. Prior to the 2000's it was found on almost every Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (high of 22 in 1990), but has been missed in most years recently as development around the cities forces it out. Found on most Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs (high of 17 in 1987).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
42 individuals; 29 April 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):23.
36 individuals; 9 August 1984; Bill Clark; Shrike 9(4):19.
35 individuals; 8 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):19.
35 individuals; 18 April 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):24.
30 individuals; 26 March 1988; eastern flooding area; T&L 22(4):167

### **Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*)

**Faucon émerillon**  
**MERL**

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Rare in winter**

This small falcon is an uncommon breeder throughout the District. Migrant birds usually begin to arrive in mid- to late March. Merlins nest in woodlands, often adjacent to open areas for hunting. In the 1980's they were considered rare migrant or transient and there were no confirmed breeding records. Over the last two decades populations have increased substantially in the District and, although still uncommon, they are fairly widespread (53% of squares on OBBA2; 51% of squares on QBBA2) and now nest in both urban residential and rural areas.

Most birds leave the area in mid-October, but some linger and a few will overwinter, especially within urban areas. It has been recorded on 39 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1931 to 2021, including every count since 1994 (high of seven in 2006).

<b>First Record</b>
7 April 1883, Transactions-Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, Vol. 5, page 143

Noteworthy High Counts
10 individuals; 16-17 October 2004; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
10 individuals; 17-18 October 2009; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
7 individuals; 17 December 2005; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
6 individuals; 15 July 2012; west end of Ottawa; Richard Waters; eBird. Adults and nestlings.
5 individuals; 18 June 2006; Carlington Heights; Ontbirds. Adults and nestlings.

## Gyr Falcon

(*Falco rusticolus*)

Faucon gerfaut  
GYRF

**Status: Very rare winter visitor.**

This impressive arctic-breeding falcon is one of the most sought after winter birds in the District. Since the late 1970's it has been almost annual in winter in the District, occurring primarily from November to March (exceptionally in October and May). It is a bird of open country and is often found in open fields, as well as along the Ottawa River and, from time to time, within urban areas. Even when present in an area for an extended period of time, Gyr Falcons can be difficult to locate as they wander widely to hunt. It has been recorded on seven Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs (high of three in 1983) and twice on the Dunrobin-Gatineau CBC (single birds in 1993 and 1994).

They are solitary birds by nature, so all individual sightings have been of single birds, but in some winters multiple individuals may be found in the District. For example, during the winter of 1979-80 up to six were believed to have been present and in winter 1993-94, at least four were thought to be in the area. The majority of the birds that occur in the District are grey morph, but both dark and white morph birds have also been reported.

First Record
A specimen was taken prior to 1890 <i>vide</i> E.G. White; Ottawa Naturalist 5:39.
Earliest Fall
First week of October, 1993 checklist
27 October 1973, <a href="#">reference?</a>
4 November 2001; 1 white morph; Moodie Drive quarry ponds; Michael Tate; eBird.
Principal Dates
First week of November to third week of March.
Latest Spring
21 April 1984; 1 individual; Bob Bracken
1 May 1984; 1 individual; over the west end of Ottawa; Paul Martin; <a href="#">Shrike</a>
20 May 1965; 1 individual; <a href="#">Shrike</a> 10(2):18.
Noteworthy High Counts
2 individuals, unknown date and location, (sensitive species), ebird

## Peregrine Falcon

(*Falco peregrinus*)

Faucon pèlerin  
PEFA

**Status: Uncommon migrant and resident.**

This is another species that suffered large populations declines through the mid- to late 1900's due to pesticides. It was the subject of a reintroduction program in the District beginning in 1976. From 1976 to 1985, 55 birds were released ([Shrike](#) 10(2):18). Beginning in the late 1990's a pair has nested in downtown Ottawa and more recently a nest site at Billings Bridge has been established. On the Quebec side of the District, QBBA2 found nests with young in both the Hull-Gatineau and Breckenridge squares, the latter on the Eardley Escarpment.

At least some of these local nesting birds are resident and stay through the winter. They can be most reliably found around their nest sites or on other favoured urban perches, such as the Coates Building at Tunney's Pasture. Recorded 35 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since 1972, including every year since 1999 (high of five in 2012).

Non-resident migrant birds pass through in both spring (late March to early May) and fall (mid-August to late October) and are most frequently found along the Ottawa River, at the Moodie Drive quarry ponds or at sewage lagoons.

First Record
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

Noteworthy High Counts
7 individuals; 15-16 October 2011; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
6 individuals; 20-21 October 2012; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
5 individuals; 16 December 2012; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
5 individuals; 23 June 2014; Billings Bridge; Rick Collins; eBird. Adults and nestlings.

## Flycatchers

### Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)

Moucherolle à côtés olive

OSFL

**Status: Rare migrant. Very rare and local breeder.**

Olive-sided Flycatcher is one of our latest migrating songbirds, this species is rarely seen before late May (exceptionally mid-May) and most migrants depart before the end of August (exceptionally late September). It is rare and in a typical year, only two or three migrants are likely to be reported, split about equally between spring and fall. It tends to flycatch from elevated perches such as the top of dead trees and is often detected by its distinctive “quick-three-beers” song.

In the 1970's and 1980's this species, which favours coniferous bogs for nesting, was a rare breeder on the Ontario side of the District and an uncommon breeder in the forested northern part of the region in Quebec. It has undergone significant population declines over the past twenty years, particularly at the south edge of its range. It was found in 6% of squares on OBBA2 and in 22% of squares on QBBA2, down significantly from the first atlases.

First Record
24 May 1883; 1 individual; Ottawa Naturalist 5:31.
Early Spring Arrival
12 May 1985; 1 individual; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(3):8.
14 May 2003; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
15 May 1983; 1 individual; Janette Dean; Shrike 8(6):25
Principal Spring Migration Dates
Last week of May and first week of June.
Principal Fall Migration Dates
Third week of August to first week of September.
Late Fall Departure
12 September 2006; 1 individual; Lac Philippe, Gatineau Park; Bird Status Line.
13 September 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):24.
15 September 1980; 1 individual; Dan Brunton; Shrike 5(4):7.
24 September 1982; 1 individual; Clyde Woods; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 7(5):19.
27 September-1 October 2018; 1 individual; Britannia; mobs; ebird
Noteworthy High Counts
14 individuals; 23 May 1976; Spring Census; Shrike 1(3):5.
5 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):19.
4 individuals; 26 May 1976; Britannia; Shrike 1(3):6.
3 individuals; 19 July 1981; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 6(6):24.
3 individuals; 22 August 1984; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(6):27.

### Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

Pioui de l'Est

EAWP

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

Eastern Wood-Pewees usually arrive back in the District in mid-May (exceptionally early May). Some records of the 1800s show arrival dates of early April, but these are assumed to be mistaken identifications. They are a common migrant and breeding bird found in mature deciduous woods throughout the District (98% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2). Even in migration it tends to be found in woods and is often detected by its distinctive “pee-wee” song which is given from high in the canopy and which birds will continue to give even in the fall. Most birds have left the District by mid-September (exceptionally mid-October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
2 May 1982; 1 individual; Iola Price; Shrike 7(3):15.
5 May 1983; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 8(3):15.
9 May 2006; 1 individual; Rockliffe Park; Ontbirds 11.05.2006.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
10 October 1983; 3 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(5):16
10 October 2004; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
13 October 1982; 1 individual; Peter Walker; Shrike 7(5):18.
14/15 October 2006; OFNC Fall Count, SW sector; OFNC website.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
31 individuals; 29 July 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):21.
30 individuals; 30 June 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):24.
25 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(6):27.

## Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

(*Empidonax flaviventris*)

Moucherolle à ventre jaune  
YBFL

**Status: Uncommon migrant. Very rare and irregular breeder**

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is an uncommon migrant, usually seen at the migrant traps along the Ottawa River, although its similarity to the other more common empids such as Least and Alder Flycatcher may result in it being overlooked. In spring birds mostly pass through in late May and early June.

The Ottawa-Gatineau District is at the southern margin of the breeding range of this species which prefers coniferous woods and peatlands. On the Ontario side, there are historical records of breeding from the Mer Bleue Bog and in the 1970's and 1980's it sometimes bred near the Richmond Fen, but there are no recent Ontario nesting records. On the Quebec side, it occurs very rarely and irregularly as a breeder, mainly in the northern reaches of the District. There are four or five records from each of the Quebec Breeding Bird Atlases, mainly of possible breeding.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is an early fall migrant, with most birds passing through from mid-August to early September (exceptionally early October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the second Ottawa Gatineau checklist in 1892.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
5 May 1981; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Jean Higginson; Shrike 6(3):9.
<b>Second week of May, 1993 Checklist</b>
18 May 1985; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 10(3):21.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of August to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
17 September 1983; 1 individual; Tom Hince; Shrike 8(5):28.
1 October 2020, 1 individual, Britannia, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
2 October 1982; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(5):19.
6 October 1985; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory, banded; Shrike 10(4):8.
23 October 2020, 1 individual, Fletcher wildlife Garden, mobs, ebird
28 October 2021, 1 individual, Britannia, Bernie Ladouceur, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
4 individuals, 27 August 2022, Greenbelt Trail 10, Aidan Hamilton, ebird
3 individuals; several dates in spring and fall; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.

## Alder Flycatcher

(*Empidonax alnorum*)

Moucherolle des aulnes  
ALFL

## Status: Common migrant and breeder.

Alder Flycatcher typically returns to the District in late May (exceptionally late April). It is a common breeder in wet and dry shrubby habitats throughout the area (96% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). As with other empids, identification based on physical characteristics is difficult, so most birds are found singing in breeding habitat. Once singing ceases in August, they become difficult to find and are recorded infrequently as fall migrants. Most birds migrate out of the District by late August (exceptionally late September).

### Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
25 May 1886, Ontario birds Volume 40 pages 89+, being the supplementary data listing the White collection.; Cummings Woods
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
30 April 2009; 1 individual; Richmond Fen; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
10 May 1981; 1 individual; R.E. Bedford; Shrike 6(3):9.
10 May 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):9
10 May 2015; 1 individual; Munster Road at Soldier's Line; m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to third week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 September 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike
17 September 1982; 1 individual; Dan Brunton; Shrike 7(5):19
29 September 2007; 2 individuals; Lac Leamy; Jacques Savard; eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
70 individuals; 26 July 1984; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(4):20.
35 individuals; 31 May 1983; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):29.
20 individuals; 12 June 1982; Langis Sirois; Shrike 7(3):25.

## Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

Moucherolle des saules

WIFL

## Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder

Formerly considered to be the same species as Alder Flycatcher, this species was only recognized as distinct in the early 1970's. It can usually be distinguished from its close relative only on the basis of vocalisations. Its migration period is similar to Alder Flycatcher, with most birds arriving in late May.

It has a more southerly distribution, reaching the northern edge of its range in the Ottawa-Gatineau District, where it is an uncommon and local breeder in open shrubby areas including wetlands and overgrown fields (64% of squares on OBBA2, 24% of squares on QBBA2). Fairly reliable locations include the Richmond Fen, the Bill Mason Centre, Huntmar Drive at the Carp River and along the Ottawa River between Gatineau and Thurso.

Like Alder Flycatcher it is rarely detected as a migrant, with fall records quite rare. Most birds likely leave the area by late August (exceptionally mid-September).

### Noteworthy Records

<b>First Record</b>
19 June 1972; no details given; AB 26(5):864.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 May 2011; 1 individual; Rockliffe Parkway Trail; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
17 May 1985; 1 individual; Frank Bell; Shrike 10(3):9.
21 May 2009; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Patrick Blake; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to third week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
5 September 2004; 1 individual; Britannia CA on the Seedathon; Bob Bracken et al.; OFNC Website.
10 September 1984; 1 individual, calling; Peter Walker; Shrike 9(5):7.
10 September 2013; 1 individual; Richmond Conservation Area; Giovanni Pari; eBird.

Noteworthy High Counts
10 individuals, 4 June 2017, Bill mason centre, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
8 individuals; 23 May 1982; Monty Brigham; Shrike 7(6):31.
7 individuals; 31 July 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 19(3):22.
6 individuals; 8 June 1980; behind the Ottawa Airport; Roger Foxall; Shrike 5(3):6.
6 individuals; 12 June 1984; National Capital Commission; Shrike 9(4):20.
5 individuals; 5 August 2013; Corkstown Swamp; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.

## Least Flycatcher

(*Empidonax minimus*)

Moucherolle tchebec  
LEFL

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

The most common of the *Empidonax* flycatchers in the District, it typically arrives in mid-May (exceptionally mid-April). This species is a common breeder in deciduous and mixed forests as well as in more open habitats with small groves of trees (98% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2). It is recorded more frequently in fall migration than the other empids, with most birds gone from the District by mid-September (exceptionally mid-October).

First Record
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
Early Spring Arrival
14 April 1985; 1 individual, Ridge Road, John Sankey, Shrike 10(2):1.
28 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia Woods; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 28.04.2009.
28 April 2013; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
Principal Dates
Second week of May to first week of September.
Late Fall Departure
27 September, 1983; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
1 October 2020, 1 individual, Rockcliffe Airport woods, Richard Killeen, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
7 October 1982; 1 individual, Elaine Dickson; Shrike 7(5):19.
18 October 2002; 1 individual; near Britannia CA; Ontbirds 21.10.2002.
Noteworthy High Counts
55 individuals; 22 May 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(6):25.
31 individuals, 8 May 2018, Richmond, Peter Blancher, ebird
30 individuals; 20 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):27.
30 individuals; 13 May 1985; Jim Harris; Shrike 10(3):22.

## Eastern Phoebe

(*Sayornis phoebe*)

Moucherolle phébi  
EAPH

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

The first flycatcher to arrive in spring and usually the last to leave. Eastern Phoebes have often returned to the District by the last week of March (exceptionally early March). This species is a fairly common and widespread breeder in a range of open woodland habitats throughout the District (100% of squares on OBBA2 and QBBA2) often building its nests on and around human habitations. Unlike other flycatchers it tends to be fairly conspicuous at migrant traps during both spring and fall migration. Eastern Phoebes have usually departed from the area by mid-October, but there are several November records, five early winter records from December, and one very unusual January record..

### Noteworthy Records

First Record
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
Early Spring Arrival
9 March 1983; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(2):13.
14 March 2012; 1 individual; Lynx Hollow Road, Pakenham; Carl-Adam Wegenschimmel; eBird.
18 March 2012; 2 individuals; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington, eBird.
Principal Dates
Last week of March to third week of October

Late Fall Departure
2 November 2010; 1 individual; Portage Bridge, Ottawa; David Morin; eBird
2 November 2013; 1 individual; Central Experimental Farm Arboretum; Robin Humphries, eBird.
2-4 November 2020, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, mobs, ebird
6 November 2021, Britannia, Bernie ladoucer, ebird
8 November 2018; 1 individual,, Giroux road Ponds, ebird
5-8 November 2020, 1 individual, Hurdman bridge area, mobs, ebird
8 & 13 November 1984; 1 individual; near Carleton Place; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 9(6):7
Winter Records
2 November-7 December 2024; 1 individual; Central Experimental farm; ebird
9-17 January 2025; 1 individual; Caletou University; Peter Scheier and Igor Kabic ; ebird. This is presumably the same bird seen at the Central Experimental farm the previous December.
18 Dec. 1998; 1 indiv.; Shirley's Bay, with a flock of American Robins, Bird Status Line transcripts.
15 December 2025, 1 individual, Gatineau near the portage bridge, Gatineau, mobs, ebird
18-19 December, 2015, 1 individual, Earl Armstrong Road, Giovanni Pari, Gregory Zbitnew
21 December 1969; 1 individual; Ottawa Gatineau CBC; AFN 24(3):499.
Noteworthy High Counts
23 individuals, 18 September 2022, Britannia CA, Chris Allen, ebird
18 individuals, 12 July 2019, Rideau River PP. Benjamin Di labio, ebird
16 individuals; 1 May 1984; Jean Dubois; Shrike 8(6):25.
15 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(3);23.
14 individuals; 19 June 1998; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

## Say's Phoebe

(*Sayornis saya*)

Moucherolle à ventre roux  
SAPH

### Status: Accidental transient in fall

This western species regularly is seen in the east. There is a single confirmed record, a long-staying and well documented bird.

#### First Record

16 November -4 December 2021; 1 individual, Trail Road landfill; ; mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Great Crested Flycatcher

(*Myiarchus crinitus*)

Tyran huppé  
GCFL

### Status: Common migrant and breeder.

This colourful and very vocal flycatcher usually arrives back in the District in early May (exceptionally late April). It is a common breeder in open deciduous woodlands throughout the region where it nests in cavities (100% of squares on OBBA2 and QBBA2). Once singing ceases in late July it becomes more difficult to find and fall migration records are uncommon. Most Great Crested Flycatchers have departed by early September, but there are records into October. A bird that persisted into November in 1981 was identified as a Great Crested Flycatcher, although an article on the occurrence discusses the possibility that it could have been an Ash-throated Flycatcher (a casual stray to Ontario and Quebec that has not yet been recorded in the District).

#### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881

#### Early Spring Arrival

24 March 1976; 1 individual; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 1(2):5. **Credible?**

21 April 2008; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

21 April 2014, 1 individual; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

22 April 2013; 1 individual; Carp Hills; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

23 April 1992; 1 individual; Clyde Woods; Bob Bracken; T&L 27(3):97.

#### Principal Dates

First week of May to first week of September

Late Fall Departure
28 September 2007; 1 individual; Manotick, in a back yard; Ontbirds 01.10.2007.
30 September 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(5):15.
2 October 1983, 1 individual; Rapides Deschenes, Daniel Toussaint
2 October 2016, 1 individual; Petrie Island, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
5 October 2020, 1 individual ;North Russell, Jim McCormick, ebird
7 October 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; eBird.
11 October 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Robert Desrameaux; eBird.
31 October to 3 November 1981; 1 individual; Penhill Avenue, Ottawa; R.E. Bedford; Shrike 10(2):17.*
Noteworthy High Counts
40 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(6):30.
34 individuals; 5 June 2005; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.
30 individual; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4);20.

\*This reference discusses the possibility that the bird was an Ash-throated Flycatcher

## Tropical/Couch's Kingbird

(*Tyrannus sp.*)

Tyran mélanchoïque/  
Tyran de Couch

TRKI / COKI

**Status: Accidental in summer.**

A *Tyrannus sp.* kingbird, either a Tropical Kingbird or a Couch's Kingbird, was photographed by a kayaker on Upper Duck Island in the Ottawa River off of Rockliffe in late June 2015. Although searched for the next day, the bird was not relocated. Three photographs were obtained, but a conclusive determination of the species was never made. The two species are best distinguished by call note, so a definitive identification from photos may not be possible.

### First Record

27 June 2015; 1 individual; Upper Duck Island; David White; *vide* Chris Traynor.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Cassin's Kingbird

(*Tyrannus vociferans*)

Tyran de Cassin

CAKI

**Status: Accidental transient in fall.**

One record (OBRSC accepted) of a bird that lingered for more than two weeks at Britannia in the fall of 1970. This flycatcher breeds in the south-western U.S. and Mexico and is accidental in Canada (there is only one other record, from Algonquin Park in 1953).

### Records

19 September to 9 October 1970; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Dan. Brunton, m.obs; T&L 5(4):118-119.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Western Kingbird

(*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Tyran de l'Ouest

WEKI

**Status: Accidental transient in spring and fall.**

Six records (two OBRSC accepted) – two from spring, one from summer and three from fall. Although this species is a rare but regular stray in eastern North America, there are few well-documented records for the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Three additional reports were not accepted by the OBRSC.

### Records

24-26 May 1970; 1 individual; near Osgoode; T&L 4(4):125.

22 May 1999; 1 adult; Breckenridge; Jean Dubois, m.obs.; NAB 53(3):256; OBRSC #517.
30 Oct. to 12 Nov. 2001; 1 indiv; Britannia CA/Deschênes; Marcel Gabhauer, m.obs.; NAB 56(1):26,49.
6 October 2012; 1 individual; Deschênes, along the bicycle path west of the end of Rue Lamoreux; Jean Dubois; <i>fide</i> Bob Cermak, Ontbirds 11.10.12.
27 September-4 October 2015; Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Ottawa, ON, ebird, m. obs
11-12 June 2021; 1 individual, Britannia; mobs; ebird
4 May 2025; 1 individual, Britannia ridge; ronmdon, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

**Tyrannus tritri**  
**EAKI**

### Fairly common migrant and breeder.

Eastern Kingbirds usually return to the District in early May (exceptionally early April). They are a common sight in open fields with shrubs for nesting (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2), often perching prominently on fence lines, hydro lines, trees and shrubs and aggressively pursuing other birds that stray into their territories. Most birds have left the District by early September (exceptionally late October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
6 April 1997; 1 individual; Dolman Ridge Road; Bird Status Line.
28 April 1984; 2 individuals; Bob Bracken, Tom Hince; Shrike 9(2):8.
28 April 2011; 1 individual; Ottawa Airport, High Road; Patrick Blake; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to first week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
20 September 2013; 1 individual; Russell Lagoons; Paul Schoening; eBird.
27 September 1975; 3 individuals; Lusville; T&L 10(1):7.
5 October 2024; 1 individual; Rockcliffe Airport; Ian Davidson; ebird
21 October 2007; 1 individual; Almonte area; OFNC Fall Count; OFNC website.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
170 individuals; 6 August 1977; Roger Foxall; Shrike 2(5):4.
150 individuals; 30 July 1983; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(6):25.
80 individuals; 26 August 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(6):31.
75 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(6):27.
60 Individuals; 18 may 2024; Bruce DiLabio; Lac Deschenes South Side; ebird
25 individuals; 3 August 2006; Mark Davidson; eBird

## Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

**Tyrannus gris**  
**GRKI**

### Status: Accidental transient in fall.

One record (OBRSC accepted) of an individual at Britannia in late October 1982. Gray Kingbird breeds in the Caribbean along the southern Atlantic and eastern Gulf coasts of the U.S. It is a vagrant in Canada and had only been recorded a handful of times in Ontario and once in Quebec.

<b>Records</b>
31 October 1982; 1 individual; Britannia CA; John Woolley, m.obs.; T&L 17(1):7,OBRSC #300.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

**Tyrannus à longue queue**  
**STFL**

## Status: Casual transient, spring through fall.

Five records (four OBRSC accepted) from May, June, July, October and November. Although its breeding range only extends into the south-central U.S., this striking flycatcher wanders north to eastern Canada almost annually. These strays tend to be found in open brushy habitats where they perch prominently on hydro lines, shrubs and fence lines.

Records
27 October 1980; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill, Bob Bracken, m.obs.; T&L 15(1):25, OBRSC #268.
25-26 July 2001; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Jan Slumkoski, m.obs.; NAB 55(4):432, OBRSC #533.
6 June 2012; 1 breeding plumage male; Carp area; Georgian Doe, m.obs.; Ontbirds 06.06.2012.
1 November 2014; 1 juvenile; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Frédéric Bédard, m.obs.; eBird.
28 May 2015; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Remy Poulin; Ontbirds 28.05.2014.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

Tyrann des savanes  
FTFL

## Status: Accidental visitor in fall.

One record (OBRSC accepted) of a bird in the Dunrobin area in October 1989. This is a southern flycatcher, breeding no further north than Mexico. Like its relative, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, this species has a tendency to wander north in the fall, although much less frequently.

Records
21 October 1989; 1 individual; Dunrobin area; R.J. Thomas Maxwell, m.obs.; AB, T&L, OBRSC #433.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Vireos

## White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

Viréo aux yeux blancs  
WEVI

## Status: Casual transient in spring and fall.

Seventeen records (three OBRSC accepted), averaging about two records per decade. This species meets the limits of its breeding range in extreme south-western Ontario but wanders further north occasionally. Spring records are mainly from May, with one unusual historical record in early April. Fall records are from September to November. Both adults and immatures have been reported. Birds are usually found in scrubby open areas and riparian thickets.

<b>First Record</b>
14-15 May 1946; 1 individual; Central Experimental Farm; A.L. Rand, m.obs.; CFN 71:33.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
7 April 1947; 1 individual; Westboro, found dead near the observer's home; R. Valois; CFN 63:34.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
29 May 2012; 1 individual; Gatineau Park, seen and heard; Robert Desrameaux; eBird.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
8-10 October 1978; 1 adult; Britannia CA; Jim Harris, m.obs.; T&L 13(1):13, OBRSC #224(A).
<b>Latest Fall/Winter Record</b>
10 November 2019, 1 individual, Domaine de la Ferme Moore, Gatineau, QC, ebird, Clark Sollows
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Yellow-throated Vireo

(*Vireo flavifrons*)

Viréo à gorge jaune

YTVI

**Status: Rare migrant and breeder.**

Yellow-throated Vireo is at the northern edge of its range in the District and is rare both as a migrant and as a breeding bird. Three to four reports per year is average. Spring migrants can occur in wooded areas anywhere, including at the Ottawa River migrant traps, and are often detected by song.

This species is a rare and local breeder in mature deciduous forests, mainly on the Quebec side. During OBBA1, it was found in three squares: territorial males were recorded near Manion Corners and Carp and fledged young were observed near Carlsbad Springs. During OBBA2, it was found in two squares: territorial males were recorded near Kanata and Richmond. On the Quebec side, Yellow-throated Vireo is recorded nearly annually from Gatineau Park, especially the Champlain Lookout and Lac Phillippe-Lac Taylor-Lac Lusk area, but it occur sporadically in other heavily forested areas as well. During QBBA1, it was reported from eight squares, mainly in Gatineau Park and the northern part of the District. An adult carrying food was observed near Low. During QBBA2, it was reported from only three squares.

Fall migrants tend to be found mainly at Ottawa River migrant traps, such as Britannia Conservation Area, from mid-August into early September (exceptionally mid-October).

<b>First Record</b>
15 May 1884, Beechwood Cemetery, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
5 May 2013; 2 individuals; Aylmer beaver pond west of Ch. Vanier; Greg Graham; eBird.
6 May 2012; 1 individual; Constance Creek; Jeff Skevington; Ontbirds 06.05.2012.
9 May 1990; 1 individual; Aylmer, above the Champlain Bridge; J. Artigau; Ornitaouais 12(3):84
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23 September 2008; 1 individual; Sabourin Marsh, Gatineau; C. Caseault; m.obs.; Ornit. 30(2):27
24 September 1975; 1 individual; T&L 10(1):7.
24 September 2011; 1 individual; Pakenham; Ontbirds 27.09.2011.
10 October 1993; 1 individual; Gatineau; J. Irwin; Ornitaouais 16(1):7
18 October 1977; 1 individual; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 2 (7):5.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
6 individuals, 7 June 2021, Richmond, Peter Blancher, ebird
6 individuals; 3 June 2023; Jeff Skevington; Atlas Square 18Tvr03; ebird
2 adults, 2 young ;16 June 1979; Taylor Lake, Gatineau Pk; Daniel St-Hilaire, m.obs. Ornit. 2(1):11.

## Blue-headed Vireo

(*Vireo solitarius*)

Viréo à tête bleue

BHVI

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Uncommon breeder, mainly in the north part of the District. Exceptional in winter.**

Usually the first vireo to arrive and the last to leave, this species is fairly common on migration in late April and early May in spring and in mid-August to early October in fall when it can be seen at local migrant traps along the Ottawa River. It breeds in mixed forest with significant coniferous content (30% of squares on OBBA2 and 65% of squares on QBBA2), and thus breed more regularly at the northern edge of the District in places like Lac la Blanche, the Low-Poltimore Road and the Eardley-Masham Road. This species appears to be increasing as a breeder. A few late migrants have been noted in November and there is one early December record.

<b>First Record</b>
6 September 1884. Transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280. Presumed at the Whites' residence, 185 Wurtemberg, as the bird was shot by White.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
21 April 2014; 1 individual; Stoney Swamp, Sarsaparilla Trail; Heather Pickard; eBird.

23 April 1985; 1 individual; Bob Bracken, Jim Harris; Shrike 10(2):8.
23 April 2007; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Last week of April to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 November 2019, 1 individual, Pinecrest Creek, mobs, ebird
2 November 2020, 1 individual, Deschenes, Pierre Catudal, ebird
5 November 2020, 1 individual, kitchissippi lookout, Jeffrey McLaren, ebird
5 November 2008; 1 individual; Clyde Woods; Ontbirds 10.10.2008.
7 November 1989; 1 individual; T&L 24(2):82.
24 November 1998; 1 individual; Cantley; Bird Status Line.
<b>Winter Records</b>
8 December 2009; Rothwell Heights, Ottawa, ON; Justin Peter; Ontbirds 08.12.2009.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
18 individuals; 11 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3);10.
12 individuals; 7 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):17.
10 individuals, 3 October 2019, petrie island, Norbert hache, ebird
8 individuals; 10 October 2004; Shirley's Bay' Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## Philadelphia Vireo

(*Vireo philadelphicus*)

Viréo de Philadelphie  
PHVI

**Status: Uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant. Rare breeder.**

With a song very similar to its more common relative, the Red-eyed Vireo, this species may be overlooked. It is uncommon on spring migration with most birds arriving in the District in late May (exceptionally late April).

It reaches the southern edge of its breeding range in the District and is at best a rare breeder here, nesting in deciduous forest, especially in Trembling Aspens on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. Breeding evidence was collected from 12 squares in the QBBA1 and 8 squares in QBBA2, but each atlas had only one record of confirmed breeding. Outside of the Atlas periods, it has been confirmed nesting at the Champlain Lookout in Gatineau Park.

It is somewhat easier to find in fall migration when numbers of birds are augmented by young of the year. Most Philadelphia Vireos pass through from mid-August to early September. An exceptionally late birds was found at Ottawa Beach in early November 1977.

<b>First Record</b>
4 September 1884, Transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280. Presumed at 185 Wurtemberg as the bird was shot by White.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 April 1990; 1 individual; Britannia CA, during a late April heat wave; T&L 24(3):141
c. 6 May 2000; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcripts.
9 May 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):18.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of August to first week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 1982; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(5):19.
4 October 1981; 1 individual; Steven Gawn; Shrike 6(5):11.
6 October 1985; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory, banded; Shrike 10(4):8.
<b>Second week of October, 1993 Checklist</b>
1 November 1977; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Monty Brigham; Shrike 2(8):5.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
14 individuals; 18 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):29.
12 individuals, 16 September 2018, foret chantegrive, Laurent bedard, ebird
8 individual; 19 July 1981; Bill Holland; Shrike 6(4):23.
5 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4);20.

## Eastern Warbling Vireo

(*Vireo gilvus*)

Viréo mélodieux

WAVI

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

(Note: the old name for this species was Warbling Vireo, but has now been split into two). Eastern Warbling Vireos usually arrive back in the area in early May (exceptionally early April). This vireo is common and widespread throughout the District (100% of squares on OBBA2, 92% of squares on QBBA2), breeding in deciduous woods and thickets, especially where they border other habitats such as along roadways, watercourses and in parks. It is often detected first by its breezy warbled song, which birds will continue to give into fall migration. Most Eastern Warbling Vireos leave the region by mid-September (exceptionally late October).

### First Record

22 May 1884, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280. Presumed to be within the old city limits.

### Early Spring Arrival

9 April 1983; 2 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(3):29, Shrike Database.

27 April 2008; 3 individuals; Britannia CA; Jay Peterson; Ontbirds 27.04.2008.

28 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Robin Humphries; eBird.

### Principal Dates

First week of May to third week of September

### Late Fall Departure

29 September 1982; 1 individual; Peter Walker; Shrike 7(5):21.

30 September 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(6):26

2 October 1980; 1 individual; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 5(5):9.

5 October 1980; 2 individuals; Frank Munro; Shrike 5(5):9.

7 October 2007; 1 individual; Aylmer; David Morin; eBird.

### Second week of October, 1993 Checklist

19 October 1977; 1 individual; Hue Mackenzie; Jo Anne Murray; Shrike 2(7):5.

### Noteworthy High Counts

52 individuals; 11 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):23.

40 individuals; 4 June 2002, 4 June 2002, Pierre fradette, ebird

35 individuals; 23 May 1983; Steven Gawn; Shrike' Shrike 7(3):29.

30 individuals; 11 May, 2001; Britannia CA; Quentin Brown; eBird.

## Red-eyed Vireo

(*Vireo olivaceus*)

Viréo aux yeux rouges

REVI

**Status: Common migrant and breeder**

One of the most common and widespread songbirds in the Ottawa-Gatineau District, and one of the most persistent singers, Red-eyed Vireos typically return to the area in mid-May (exceptionally early April). It is a common breeder in deciduous forests throughout the region, and will even nest in suburban habitats (100% of squares on OBBA2 and QBBA2) and birds will continue to sing throughout the summer. Migrants are common and can be found in any wooded areas. Most Red-eyed Vireos have headed south by mid-September (exceptionally early November).

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

8-30 April 1985; 1 individual, Appleton, Arnie Simpson, Shrike 10(2):1, T&L 19(4):202.

30 April 1994; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.

4 May 1981; 1 individual; Ron Bedford; Shrike 6(3):15.

### Principal Dates

Third week of May to third week of September.

### Late Fall Departure

19 October 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):21

28 October 2012; 1 individual; Indian Creek Rd., near Limoges; Richard Waters; eBird

8 November 2010; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Robin Humphries; eBird.

### Noteworthy High Counts

50 individuals, 16 June 2018, Foret Boucher, Carl Savignac, ebird
40 individuals, 29 August 2016, Britannia, William von herff, ebird
32 individuals; 30 May 2013; Britannia CA; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
30 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):29.
25 individual; 26 July 1984; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(4):20.

## Shrikes

### Loggerhead Shrike

(*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Pie-grièche migratrice

LOSH

**Status: Formerly an uncommon migrant and breeder, exceptional in winter, now casual.**

Historically, Loggerhead Shrike was an uncommon breeder in open fields with hawthorns, in which it nests. By the 1970's declines in its population as a breeding bird were already being noticed. Historic breeding areas include south of the Airport, South March, near Carp, Arnprior, Munster, Dwyer Hill, Crysler and the Pontiac area in Quebec. When it was a regular breeder, birds typically arrived in early April (exceptionally early March) and departed by mid-August (although there were late birds recorded in October, November and even once in December). The most recent sighting was in Burnt lands Provincial Park.

Numbers continued to drop through the 1980's and it disappeared as a breeding bird in the Ottawa-Gatineau District in the mid-1990's. This is consistent with declines across the northern edge of this species breeding range. Since that time the occasional transient bird has been recorded on rare occasions, usually during April or May.

More recently, in the mid-2000's a reintroduction program was started in the Pontiac area on the Quebec side, and sightings of released banded birds have been reported from this area, although not recently. At least once one of these was apparently paired with an unbanded wild bird.

<b>First Record</b>
28 June 1885, young birds taken, Quebec side of the Ottawa River near the city, CFN vol 58 p. 166
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
6-12 March 1983; 1 individual; Steel Line Road; Daniel St-Hilaire; T&L 17(4):204, Shrike 8(2):14.
22 March 1985; 1 individual; Herzberg Road; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):8.
23 March 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):10.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to second week of August
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23 September 1984; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):17
<b>Fourth week of October. 1993 Checklist.</b>
26 October 1997; 1 individual; Mer Bleue; Bird Status Line.
14 November 1982; 1 individual; near Osgoode; Heather Hamilton and Dave Gill; Shrike 7(6):19.
<b>Winter Records</b>
23 December 1962; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
7 individuals, 15 July 1990, Old Almonte Road, Bruce Di labio, ebird
5 individuals; 5 June 1981; R.E. Bedford; Shrike 6(6):25.
4 individuals; 27 June 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):29.
4 individuals; 19 July 1984; Langis Sirois; Shrike 9(4):20.

### Northern Shrike

(*Lanius excubitor*)

Pie-grièche grise

NSHR

**Status: Uncommon winter visitor.**

This northern breeding, predatory songbird is an uncommon visitor to the Ottawa-Gatineau District in winter. Its abundance varies year to year, but it is never common. Most birds arrive to winter in mid-October (exceptionally mid-

August) and depart for the north in mid-April (exceptionally early May). It is typically found in open fields where it perches high in trees and shrubs, scanning for prey.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
Second week of August, 1993 Checklist
First week of October, 1993 Checklist
8 October 2011; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay dyke; David Britton; pers. comm.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of October to second week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
20 April 2007; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 23.04.2007.
22 April 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):9.
First week of May; 1993 Checklist
4 May 2014, 1 individual, Wakefield, Carl Savignac, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
12 individuals; Steve O'Donnell; AB 28(3):634.
11 individuals; 1 January 1978; m.obs in one party.; T&L 12(3):83.
9 individuals ;16 January 2014; west of Ottawa, Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 19.01.2014.

## Corvids

### Canada Jay

(*Perisoreus canadensis*)

Mésangeai du Canada

GRAJ

**Status: Very rare winter visitor. Exceptional in summer. Formerly occurred more frequently.**

Predominantly a very rare winter visitor to the District, which is at the southern fringes of its range. Generally found in coniferous woods and around birdfeeders. In the 1970's and 1980's it was annual during the winter months, with multiple birds recorded in most years. It has become much rarer in recent years and is now not recorded annually. Most birds occur in the period from November to March, with exceptional sightings as early as September and as late as June.

There is at least one nest record, from the Mer Bleue Bog area in April 1974, following a large winter irruption of this species. Historical records indicate that this species was much more common in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The 1892 Checklist described Canada Jay as "...resident, common, known to breed" and notes that "...this species rarely visits the immediate neighbourhood of the City, though is common in the hills north of it" (Ottawa Naturalist 5:pg). The 1910 Checklist describes this species as "...moderately common resident in the north parts of the District" and that it was a "...daily visitor to farm houses along the Gatineau and Lievre, especially during butchering." (Ottawa Naturalist 34:pg).

The scientific literature suggests that as it stores food in the winter for early spring nesting, milder winters mean that this food is not as well preserved, hence its breeding area is moving north.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
12 September 1998; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcripts.
28 September 1972; first birds of a significant irruption arrived; AB 27(1):53.
30 September 2010; 1 individual; Rue Duhamel, Gatineau; Ontbirds 15.10.2010.
9 October 2010; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 15.10.2010.
10 October 2010; 2 individuals; Eardley-Masham Road, Gatineau Park; Ontbirds
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of November to second week of March.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
18 March 1984; 1 individual; Pink Road Feeders; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):8, Shrike Database.
25 April 2011; 1 individual; Cantley; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
2 May 1974; 1 female, 1 juvenile; Mer Bleue Bog; Henri Ouellet, m.obs.; CFN 90:8.

24 May 1981; 1 individual; Pointe Gatineau; Roger Taylor; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 6(3):9.
<b>Summer and breeding records</b>
16 April 1974; 1 female on nest with 1 young; Mer Bleue Bog; Henri Ouellet, m.obs.; CFN 90:8.
Summer 1987; 1 juvenal; Eardley-Masham Road; T&L 23(3):136.
May have been a regular breeder at the n. edge of the District in early 1900's; Ott. Nat. 24:187.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
19 individuals; 17 December 1972; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
17 individuals; 19 December 1976; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
7 individuals; 22 December 1968; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
up to 6 individuals; Fall 1975; Wychwood, T&L 10(1):7.
6 individuals; January-February 1977; Lac Fortune, Gatineau Park; T&L 11(3):101.
5 individuals; 15 February 1969; north of Aylmer, at feeders; T&L 3(3):74.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A

## Blue Jay

(*Cyanocitta cristata*)

Geai bleu

BLJA

**Status: Common resident, somewhat migratory.**

A common and familiar resident of the District, found in open woodlands, urban parks and treed residential neighbourhoods (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). It is noisy and gregarious and is usually quite easy to find. While Blue Jays are present year-round in the District, the species is partially migratory and there are some movements, sometimes in numbers, of birds in and out of the area in spring and fall.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
663 individuals; 16 December 1984; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
601 individuals; 16-17 October 2004; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
566 individuals; 2 January 1995; Dunrobin Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
450 individuals; 8 May 2023; Britannia CA; Mike Tate; ebird
400 individuals; 13 September 2009; Deschênes; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
200 individuals; 27 December 1981; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(6):31.

## American Crow

(*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Corneille d'Amérique

AMCR

**Status: Abundant resident.**

American Crow is a ubiquitous and abundant resident of the District, and can be found in most habitats, including urban centres (100% of squares on OBBA2 and QBBA2). As recently as the 1960s-70s it was uncommon in the winter. However, in recent years a large winter roost has occurred in areas south and east of the city centre, generating high counts of up to 30,000 individuals.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
31,602 individuals; 18 December 2023, Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count, OFN website
30,407 individuals; 23-24 October 2010; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
25,756 individuals; December 2020; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
21,000 individuals; 14 December 2008; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
9,000 individuals; 2 March 2009; Ottawa General hospital area; Christopher Harris; eBird.
1,500 individuals; 29 January 1981; Stephen O'Donnell; Shrike 6(1):7.

## Common Raven

(*Corvus corax*)

Grand Corbeau

CORA

**Status: Fairly common resident.**

The Common Raven is a fairly common permanent resident in the District (87% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). This species has always been present in heavily wooded northern parts of the District but, surprisingly, the first confirmed breeding record was not until the summer of 1960 when a nest site was discovered on the Eardley Escarpment at Chemin de la Montagne.

By the early 1900s the species seems to have become increasingly rare near the urban areas, but that trend reversed and it has been steadily increasing in the area over the past decades, and there were dramatic increases between the first and second editions of both breeding bird atlases (found on five squares on OBBA1 vs. 46 squares on OBBA2 and 21 squares on QBBA1 vs. 36 squares on QBBA2). It now occurs regularly on the Ontario side of the District and is occurring with increasing frequency within the cities.

<b>First Records</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
Spring 1960; first nesting record; Ch. de la Montagne; Rowley Frith, m.obs.; CFN 75:168-169.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
214 individuals; 20-21 October 2012; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
167 individuals 29 December 2001; Dunrobin-Breckenridge high count; Audubon CBC data.
164 individuals; 19=8 December 2020; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
124 individuals; 19 December 2009; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
70 individuals; 11 September 1983; Lac St.-Germain; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):16.
44 individuals; 19 January 2013; Kinburn area; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

**Chickadees and their Allies**

**Black-capped Chickadee**  
*(Poecile atricapillus)*

**Mésange à tête noir**  
**BCCH**

**Status: Abundant resident.**

One of the most familiar birds in District, the Black-capped Chickadee is an abundant permanent resident and breeder in wooded areas of all types (100% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2), including urban parks and treed residential areas where they are frequent visitors to bird feeders. While they are present all year, they are somewhat migratory and waves of migrants can sometimes be detected passing through in spring and fall.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
4,165 individuals; 18 December 2005; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC website.
1,867 individuals; 18-19 October 2008; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
1,705 individuals; 3 January 1998; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
800 individuals; two dates, December 1983; Tom Hanrahan; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(6):26.
600 individuals; 27 December 1982; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(6):31.

**Boreal Chickadee**  
*(Poecile hudsonicus)*

**Mésange à tête brune**  
**BOCH**

**Status: Very rare winter visitor, formerly occurred more frequently.**

This northern chickadee was formerly more common but is now a very rare winter visitor to the District, occurring principally between late October and late March, although birds have occurred as early as September and as late as June. In May and June 2002 nine Boreal Chickadees were banded at Innis Point and several others were observed, moving with large waves of migrating Black-capped Chickadees.

Winter visitors are typically found in coniferous woods and this species only rarely comes to bird feeders. As late as the early 2000s, this species was still almost annual in the winter months, but since then numbers of sightings have declined dramatically.

<b>First Record</b>
3 February 1889, Dow's swamp. Ottawa Naturalist, volume 3, page 70-73. They were said to be moderately common there that winter.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
22 July 2006; Shirley's bay, 1 individual, David Britton, ebird
5 September 1982; 1 individual; St-Pierre-de-Wakefield area; Bruce Di Labio et al, T&L 17(1):6, Shrike 7(5):20.
10 September 1972; 1 individual; m.obs.; AB 27(1):54. First bird in a large invasion winter.
20 September 1980; 2 individuals; Cantley; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 5(4):8.
28 September 1980; 1 individual; Sarsaparilla Trail; Jim Harris; Shrike 5(4):8.
2 October 1983; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):16.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to fourth week of March
<b>Latest Spring</b>
3 May 1984; 1 individual; banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Shrike 9(3):9.
10 May 1982; 1 individual; Carleton University; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):16.
May 2002; approximately 8 individuals banded through the month; IPBO Checklist.
23 May 1973; 1 individual; <i>vide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 27(4):768.
Early June 1994; 1 individual; banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
6 June 2002; 1 individual; banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory, IPBO Checklist.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
Fall 1972; major incursion began in late September, birds in flocks of ten or more, T&L 7(2):55.
January-February 1979, common in the n. of the District, often outnumbering BCCH; T&L 13(3):67
6 individuals; 16 October 1983; Deschênes; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(5):16.

## Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*)

Mésange bicolore  
TUTI

**Status: Casual visitor, mainly in winter.**

Seventeen records (six OBRSC accepted) until 2015. This attractive little member of the chickadee family is now occurring with increasing frequency: there were only three records each in the 1980's and 1990's, but there were 11 records between 2000 and 2014 and is now nearly annual. It is primarily a winter visitor to the District, with dates ranging from late October to early May. There is one summer record. Most birds are found at feeders where they can remain for long periods. At least six of the records pertain to birds that successfully overwintered. It appears to be slowly expanding north, and has nested as close as Cornwall.

<b>First Record</b>
early Nov. 1978 to Feb.1979 ; 1 indiv.; Alta Vista; Ron Bedford m.obs.; T&L 14(2):35, 14(3):87, OBRSC #559.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
21-22 October 2014; 1 individual; near Marionville, at feeders; Nina Stavlund; m.obs.; Ontbirds 23.10.2014.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
2 May 1999; 2 individuals; Highway 6 west of Malakoff Road, Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Summer Record</b>
21 July 2023; 1 individual; 26 Apache Cresc; Jan Huus, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2 May 1999; 2 individuals; Highway 6 west of Malakoff Road, Bird Status Line transcripts.
10 December 2021; 2 individuals; Reveler Conservation area ; Jim McCormick; ebird
Early December-12 March 2023; 2 individuals, Fairmile Road near Kemptville; mobs, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Larks

### Horned Lark

Alouette hausse-col

## (*Eremophila alpestris*)

HOLA

**Status: Common migrant. Uncommon breeder. Uncommon winter visitor.**

Horned Lark can be found year round in open agricultural areas of the District. It is one of the earliest “spring” migrants into the region: while small numbers of birds are present during the early winter period, these are augmented by migrants from the south that begin to arrive as early as mid-February and continue to move through until May. During the summer, this species is an uncommon breeder in cultivated agricultural fields, mainly on the Ontario side of the District, where this habitat is more prevalent (74% of squares on OBBA2, 2% of squares on QBBA2). The peak of fall migration seems to be in November, but a few remain every year to overwinter.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of February to second week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First to fourth week of November.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
609 individuals; 24-25 October 1998; Mid-Fall Bird County high count; OFNC archived data.
450 individuals; 24 March 1985; Richmond area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):6.
400 individuals; 7 November 2006; Shea Road, Richmond area; Tony Beck; Ontbirds 07.11.2006.
399 individuals; 29 December 2001; Dunrobin-Breckenridge high count; Audubon CBC data.
300 individuals; 17 November 2014; Barnsdale Road, Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

## Swallows

### **Bank Swallow** (*Riparia riparia*)

Hirondelle de ravage

BANS

**Status: Fairly common migrant and uncommon breeder, declining.**

Bank Swallows migrate back to the District in late April (exceptionally early April). They are a fairly common breeder (66% of squares on OBBA2, 38% of squares on QBBA2) that nests in colonies in the sandy banks of rivers and lakes as well as in sand pits and quarries. Like many other swallow species, its numbers have declined significantly in the last two decades. Most Bank Swallows have left the District by mid-September (exceptionally early October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 April 1981, 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):9.
12 April 1980; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 5(2):7.
14 April 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):13, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
25 September 1983; 2 individuals; Blake Maybank; Shrike Database.
26 September 1983; 1 individual; Frank Bell; Shrike 8(5):16.
4 October 1975; 1 individual, late date, T&L 10(1):7
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,500 individuals, 1 June 1986, Lac Deschenes from Britannia to Shirley's bay, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
2,000 individuals; 31 July 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
1,800 individuals; 3 July 1985; Peter Walker; Shrike 10(3):22.
500 individuals; 23 May 1982; John Sankey; Shrike 7(3):28.

### **Tree Swallow** (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Hirondelle bicolor

TRES

**Status: Common migrant and breeder, but declining.**

Tree Swallows are the earliest returning of the swallows to the District, with birds usually arriving back by early April (exceptionally early March). They breed in open areas nesting in either cavities in trees or human-constructed nest boxes. Although they remain a common and widespread breeder in the District (100% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2), like many of the swallow species, their numbers have declined noticeably over the last two decades. Most Tree Swallows have migrated south by mid-September (exceptionally mid-November).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
<b>First week of March, 1993 Checklist.</b>
12 March 1985, 1 individual, Appleton, Arnie Simpson, Shrike 10(2):6.
21 March 2012; 1 individual; Stoney Swamp, Sarsaparilla Trail; Patrick Blake; eBird.
22 March 2003; 1 individual; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.
22 March 2012; 1 individual; Carp Hills; Jeff Skevington; eBird
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
24 October 1982; 1 individual; Anthony Dale; Shrike 7(5):19.
<b>First week of November, 1993 Checklist.</b>
18 November 1972; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio, D. Hough; AB 27(1):5.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
12,000 individuals; 24 August 1986, Parkway from parkdale to Deschenes lookout, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
10,000 individuals; 24 August 1986; Aylmer; Jean Dubois; Ornitaouais 9(2):45.
5,500 individuals; 17 April 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(2):25.
5,000 individuals; 8 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):29.
5,000 individuals; 18 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.

**Violet-Green Swallow**  
(*Tachycineta thalassina*)

**Hirondelle à face blanche**  
**VGSW**

**Status: Accidental in spring.**

One record (OBRSC accepted) of a bird found in the Mud Lake / Filtration Plant / Deschênes Rapids area at Britannia for two days where it was seen and photographed by a number of observers. One of very few records of this western species for Ontario.

<b>Records</b>
25-26 April 2013; 1 adult; Britannia CA, Jake Walker, m.obs.; Ontbirds 25,26.04.2013.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**  
(*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

**Hirondelle à ailes hérissées**  
**NRWS**

**Status: Uncommon migrant and rare and local breeder.**

Northern Rough-winged Swallows usually return to the District in mid-April (exceptionally early April). The least common and most local of our swallows (68% of squares on OBBA2, 30% of squares on QBBA2), they nest singly or amongst Bank Swallows in sandy banks along lakes and rivers. Dow's Lake and the Carp River at Huntmar Drive are two fairly reliable locations for this species. Most Northern Rough-winged Swallows have left the District by mid-September, but occasional stragglers have lingered as late as late December.

<b>First Record</b>
28 June 1917; 2 pairs; Rideau River a few miles south of the City, nesting; C.L. Patch; CFN 38:2.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>

<b>First week of April, 1993 Checklist.</b>
13 April 1976; Shrike 2(2):5.
13 April 2010; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
14 April 1981, 1 individual; Champlain Bridge; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):9.
14 April 2011; 2 individuals; Britannia CA; Gillian Mastromatteo; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to second week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
14 October 1979; 30 individuals; Aylmer; Bruce Di Labio; AB 34(2):143
17 October 1982; 100 individuals; feeding along the Rideau River; Peter Walker; Shrike 7(5):19
20 October to c. 7 November 1976, small flock; Champlain Bridge; Shrike 1(7):4, 1(8):4.
until 12 November 1972; up to 50 individuals; m.obs.; AB 27(1):53.
19 November 1972; 5 individuals; Hue Mackenzie; AB 27(1):53.
<b>Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist.</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
150 individuals; 20 July 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):22.
100 individuals; 17 October 1982; feeding along the Rideau River; Peter Walker; Shrike 7(5):19
85 individuals; 21 July 1984; Russell Lagoons; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):7.

## Purple Martin

(*Progne subis*)

Hirondelle noire  
PUMA

**Status: Uncommon and declining migrant and breeder, formerly common.**

The largest of the swallows found in the District, Purple Martins usually arrive in mid-April (exceptionally late March). Prior to European colonisation, they nested in , but in modern times most birds nest colonially in human-constructed martin houses, located in open areas, often along lakes and rivers.

Formerly a common breeder, this species has declined rapidly in the District over the last twenty years and many previous colonies are no longer in existence. The colony located at the Nepean Yacht Club in Dick Bell Park may be the last remaining large colony in the District. In the 1980's large concentrations of swallows occurred along the Ottawa River in August as they staged for migration, but with population declines, these no longer occur. Most Purple Martins have left the region by early September (exceptionally late October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
30 March 1987; 1 individual; T&L 21(4):209.
4 April 1981; 1 individual; Graham Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):9.
6 April 1983; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(3):29, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
28 September 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):28.
3 October 1976; 1 individual; Monty Bringham; Shrike 1(7):4.
7 October 1975; 2 individuals, T&L 10(1):7.
22 October 1972; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio, G. Harris; AB 27(1):53.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5,000 individuals; late August 1985; massing along the Ottawa River; T&L 20(5):215.
3,500 individuals; 6 August 1977; Bob Gorman; Shrike 2(5):5.
3,000 individuals; 18 August 1984; Remic Rapids area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):7
500 individuals; 28 August 1983; Crystal Bay, Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):16.

## Barn Swallow

(*Hirundo rustica*)

Hirondelle rustique  
BARS

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder, declining.**

Barn Swallows usually return to our region in mid-April (exceptionally late March). They are a fairly common breeder in open areas and they often build their cup-shaped mud nests on human structures such as under bridges and inside sheds and barns. While they remain fairly easy to find, like other swallow species, their numbers have declined over the past two decades. Most Barn Swallows migrate out of the District by the end of September, but there stragglers through October and November and even one very late bird in December.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
29 March 2003; 1 individual; Milton Road; Ontbirds 30.03.2003.
30 March 1981; 1 individual; Pakenham; Dan Brunton; Shrike 6(2):9.
3 April 2015; 1 individual; Deschênes Rapids; Mark Gawn; Ontbirds 03.03.2015.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to fourth week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
Last week of October 2000, 1 individual; T&L 35(2):84
28 October 1973; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Ron Pittaway; AB 28(1):47
28 October 1984; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; m.obs.; Shrike 9(5):7, 9(6):27.
26 October-3 November 2023, 1 individual, Green's Creek Filtration plant; Gregory Zbitnew, Jeffrey McLaren; ebird
First and second week of November, 1993 Checklist dots.
<b>Winter Records</b>
2 December 1970; 1 individual; <i>fide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 25(3):573.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3,500 individuals; 31 July 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
1,600 individuals; 4 August 1983; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(4):27.
1,000 individuals; 22 August 1982; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(4):25.

## Cliff Swallow

(*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Hirondelle à front blanc

CLSW

**Status: Fairly common migrant and uncommon breeder.**

Cliff Swallows typically return to the District in late April (exceptionally mid-April). They are an uncommon and somewhat local breeder (58% of squares on OBBA2, 51% of squares on QBBA2). As their name suggests, they evolved building their dome-shaped mud nests on the sides of cliffs. More recently they have adapted to nesting on human-built structures, including under bridges and on the walls of buildings, often tucked up under the eaves of the roof. Most Cliff Swallows have left the Ottawa-Gatineau District by mid-September, but there are several October records and one very late record from early November (this bird appeared at the same time as a Cave Swallow).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
14 April 1981, 2 individuals; Champlain Bridge; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(2):9.
15 April 1982; 1 individual; Cantley; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 7(2):14, Shrike Database.
16 April 1983; 4 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):13, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to second week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):10.
2 October 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):16.
5 October 1975; 1 individual, T&L 10(1):7.
13 October 1973; 1 individual; Tom Hince; AB 28(1):47.
3-6 November 2012; 1 individual; Bate Island; Ian Davidson, m.obs.; Ontbirds 03.11.21012, eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
600 individuals; 24 August 1986; Parkway from Parkdale to Deschenes lookout; Bruce Di Labio, ebird
180 individuals, 15 May 1987, Britannia, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
175 individuals; 31 July 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):23.
158 individuals; 23 May 1984; Cantley; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 9(4):20.

140 individuals; 19 August 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):27.

## **Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

**Hirondelle à front brun**  
**CASW**

**Status: Accidental in fall.**

There are three records, two from November 2012. It is likely the first two birds were displaced by the passage of Hurricane Sandy through southern Ontario several days before. This species breeds no further north than southern Texas, but since the early 2000's small numbers have wandered north almost annually to the Lower Great Lakes in mid- to late fall.

### **Records**

3 & 6 November 2012; 1 individual; Champlain Bridge, Ian Davidson, m.obs.; Ontbirds 03, 08.11.2012.

23-24 November 2012; 1 individual; Constance Bay, Jeff Skevington, m.obs; Ontbirds 23,24.11.2012.

5-6 November, 2017, Almonte lagoons, Lanark, ON, ebird, M. obs.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## **Kinglets, Nuthatches, Creeper, Gnatcatcher**

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus calendula*)

**Roitelet à couronne rubis**  
**RCKI**

**Status: Common migrant. Very rare breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Like its relative the Golden-crowned, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is most common in the District as a migrant when it can be found in wooded areas throughout the region. Its migration occurs slightly later than Golden-crowned in the spring and slightly earlier in the fall. While it is visually small and inconspicuous, it is easily found in spring by its loud song.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a very rare breeder in mixed and coniferous woods in the District. During the first atlases, breeding was confirmed in both Ontario (Kinburn) and Quebec (Poltimore, Lac la Blanche) and it was recorded on a number of other squares in both provinces. While it was found on 13% of squares on OBBA2 and 24% of squares on QBBA2, almost all reported only possible breeding evidence.

While most birds have left the District by the end of October, there are scattered records in November, and about 12 winter records, the latest of which occurred in the second week of January.

### **First Record**

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### **Early Spring Arrival**

5 April 1981; 4 individuals; Bill Holland; Shrike 6(2):9.

6 April 1997; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Bird Status Line.

7 April 1985; 3 individuals; Ray Holland, Frank Munro; Shrike 10(2):7, Shrike Database.

### **Principal Spring Migration Dates**

Third week of April to third week of May.

### **Principal Fall Migration Dates**

Second week of September to third week of October.

### **Late Fall Departure**

14 November 1998; 1 individual; Bill Mason Centre; Bird Status Line.

15 November 1997; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line.

20 November 1982; 1 individual; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 7(6):19.

### **Winter Records**

4 December 2024; 1 individual; Rapides Deschenes; mobs, ebird

November 2024-1 January 2025; 1 individual, Britannia, mobs; ebird

26 November -9 December 2024; 1 individual; Green's Creek Filtration plant; mobs; ebird

4 December 1982; 2 individuals; Pinhey Woods; Jo Ann and Hugh Mackenzie; Shrike 7(6):19.

December 1949; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.

5-9 December 2019, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, mobs, ebird
9 December 2017, Shirley's bay, Ed kendall, ebird
7-10 December 2017, 1 individual, Baie Simard, mobs, ebird
14 December 2003; 1 individual; near the Ottawa General Hospital on the CBC; Ontbirds 15.12.2003.
16 December 1984; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC Data
19 December 1982; 2 individuals; Pinhey Woods on the CBC; John Wooley; Shrike 7(6):19.
28 December 2009; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden, ash woods; Ontbirds 06.01.2010.
First week of January 1982; 1 individual; T&L 16(3):133.
2 January 1995, Constance bay, Mark Gawn, ebird
Mid-December 2018 -8 January 2019, 1 individual, Ottawa South, mobs, ebird
2-6 December 2025; 1 individual, Parkway near Green's Creek, Tony Tran and Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
230 individuals; 7 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):29.
100 individuals, 8 October 1979, Britannia, Bruce Di labio, ebird
70 individuals; 16 October 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(5):32.
60 individuals; 10 October 2004; Shirley's Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

Roitelet à couronne dorée  
GCKI

**Status: Common migrant, uncommon breeder. Uncommon and irruptive in winter.**

Golden-crowned Kinglets are most numerous in the District during their migration periods: from late March to early June in spring and from late September to late October in fall. During these periods they are common in wooded areas throughout the region, although they can be inconspicuous and best sought by listening for the song or call note. This species breeds in coniferous forests, so is an uncommon breeder in the District (34% of squares on OBBA2, 41% of squares on QBBA2) in places like Lac la Blanche, the Low-Poltimore Road and the Larose Forest. A few birds stay to winter in sheltered areas of dense coniferous forest.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to first week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of September to fourth week of October.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
321 individuals; 22-22 October 2000; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
100 individuals; 4 October 1980, Jack Pine Trail, Stephen O'Donnell; T&L 15(1):23.
80 individuals; 16 April 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):24.
65 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio, early for a high count; Shrike 7(5):20.
57 individuals; 20 December 1992; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

## Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)

Sittelle à poitrine rousse  
RBNU

**Status: Common resident in the north part of the district, uncommon in the south. Irruptive in winter.**

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a permanent resident of the District which is found in mainly coniferous woods. It is widespread in both Ontario and Quebec (81% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2), but is generally easier to find in the northern parts of the District where their preferred habitat is more common. In July and August, wandering family groups can sometimes be found in residential areas in the cities. Although present all year in the District, it is somewhat irruptive in winter, so numbers can vary from year to year.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
388 individuals; 19 December 1976; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.

305 individuals 21-22 October 2000; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
213 individuals; 30 December 2000; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC; Audubon CBC data.
34 individuals; 22 December 1984; Low-Poltimore area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):7.
31 individuals; 10 February 1985; Bob Bracken & Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(1):20.

## White-breasted Nuthatch

(*Sitta carolinensis*)

Sittelle à poitrine blanche  
WBNU

**Status: Common resident.**

White-breasted Nuthatch is common resident in deciduous woodlands throughout the District (100% of squares on OBBA2, 89% of squares on QBBA2), including urban parks and treed residential neighbourhoods where they often visit feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
472 individuals; 14 December 2014; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
186 individuals; 17-18 October 2009; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
177 individuals; 29 December 2001; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
105 individuals; 27 December 1982; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(6):31.
25 individuals; 18 July 1981; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 6(4):22.

## Brown Creeper

(*Certhia americana*)

Grimpereau brun  
BRCR

**Status: Common migrant. Fairly common breeder. Uncommon in winter.**

Brown Creepers begin to migrate back into the District in late May and are a common, if somewhat inconspicuous migrant from late March to early May. Since birds are also singing at this time, this is probably the easiest time of year to locate them. This species is a fairly common breeder in larger tracts of woodlands throughout the District (62% of squares on OBBA2, 70% of squares on QBBA2). Migrants are also found mainly in wooded areas. Numbers pick up again through October as southbound migrants pass through the area. While many birds leave the area by November, a few remain to overwinter every year.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to first week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to fourth week of October.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
51 individuals; 16 December 1979; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
47 individuals; 26-27 October 1996; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.
28 individuals; 28 December 2002; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
30 individuals; 16 September 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):10.
28 individuals; 7 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):29.

## Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

(*Polioptila caerulea*)

Gobemoucheron gris-bleu  
BGGN

**Status: Rare migrant in spring, very rare migrant in fall. Very rare breeder.**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher occurs most frequently in the District as a spring migrant, with one or two birds on average being found each spring, mostly in May (exceptionally April). Birds tend to favour deciduous woods and open scrubby areas and Britannia CA is a frequent location for sightings.

This species, which prefers deciduous woods for nesting, is at the northern extremity of its breeding range in the District and there are only handful of nesting records. Sites where breeding has been confirmed include Carlsbad Springs (the first confirmed breeding in 1982), Huntmar Road, Carp Ridge, Lac Leamy and the Rue Lamoureux swamp in Aylmer.

It is a very rare fall migrant and is not detected annually in this season. Most birds pass through in August (exceptionally to early October).

<b>First Record</b>
26 May 1882; 1 individual; MacKay's Woods, Rockliffe; T&L 15(4):210.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
13 March 1983; 2 individuals; Larose Forest; Jean-Charles Poirier; Shrike 8(2):14. <b>Credible?</b>
<b>First and second week of April, 1993 Checklist dots</b>
19 April 2013; 1 individual; Haanel Road, Bell's Corners; Ontbirds 25.04.2013.
20 April 1976; 1 individual; Britannia Woods; Mark Gawn, m.obs; Shrike 1(2):6.
22 April 1985; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Rose Marie Amott; Shrike 10(2):7.
23 April 2006; 1 individual; hydro cut between Bowesville & Limebank roads; Ontbirds 24.04.2006.
25 April 1985; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):7.
25 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA, sw. corner of Mud Lake; Ontbirds
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First to fourth week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First to fourth week of August.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
7 September 1976; 2 individuals; Britannia CA; Shrike 1(6):61
7 September 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Richard Waters, m.obs.; eBird.
11 September 1976; 1 individual; Jockvale Road; Shrike 1(6):61.
15-18 September 2002; 1 individual; Britannia CA, ne. corner of filtration plant; Ontbirds
2 October 1977; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 2(7):5.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5 individuals, 13 July 1986, parc du Lac Leamy, Daniel St. Hiliare, ebird
1 adult and 3 fledged young; 23 July 1983; Carlsbad Springs area; Roger Foxall; Shrike 8(4):17.
3 individuals (prob. 2 adults, 1 young); 24 July 1984; Lac Leamy; Daniel St-Hilaire; Ornitauais 8(1):11.
3 individuals; 15 June 1985; Jim Harris; Shrike Database.

## Wrens

### Carolina Wren

(*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)

Troglodyte de Caroline

CARW

**Status: Rare resident year round. Very rare breeder.**

The Ottawa-Gatineau District is just north of the regular breeding range of this species and it is a rare resident in the region. Birds are most frequently recorded in winter, when they tend to come to feeders in residential areas. Males that linger into spring will sometimes sing on territory. There are periodic records through spring, summer and fall, and individuals have occasionally lingered (e.g. at Britannia CA) for months. Breeding has been confirmed in the District, but it is very rare. There appears to be a very slow expansion north.

<b>First Records</b>
September-October 1944; 1 individual; Rockliffe; Hoyes Lloyd, in his garden; CFN 59:50.
<b>First breeding record?</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
7 individuals; 16 December 2001; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count. Audubon CBC data.
2 adults & 4 juveniles; Summer 2006; Stillwater Drive, Ottawa; T&L 41(2):107.
2 adults & 3 juveniles; 13 August 2011; Manotick; Bob Cermak <i>vide</i> Brian Daly; eBird.
4 individuals 16 December 2012; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC. Audubon CBC data.

### Northern House Wren

(*Troglodytes aedon*)

Troglodyte familier

NHWR

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.**

Note: As a result of Taxonomic changes published by the AOS in 2024, the former House Wren was split in multiple species, and this species is the only one that occurs here. Northern House Wrens return to the Ottawa-Gatineau District in early May (exceptionally late April). They are fairly common breeders in habitats that have a good mixture of open and wooded areas, including orchards, groves, shrubby fields and granite barrens (98% of squares on OBBA2, 62% of squares on QBBA2). Most Northern House Wrens have left the area by early September (exceptionally mid-October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
21 April 2002; 2 individuals; Masson; Ontbirds 22.04.2002.
21 April 2003; 1 individual; Aylmer; Ontbirds 24.04.2003.
24 April 1982; 1 individual; Richard Poulin; Shrike 7(2):15.
24 April 2018, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
4 October 1998; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay woods; Bird Status Line transcripts.
9 October 1982; 1 individual; Heather Hamilton & Dave Gill, Peter Walker; Shrike 7(5):20.
10 October 1977; 1 individual; I. Davidson; Shrike 2(7):4.
10 October 1983; 1 individual; Stephen & Simon Gawn; Shrike 8(5):29.
19/20 October 2013; 2 individuals; Mid-Fall Bird Count; SW sector, OFNC website.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
24 individuals; 8 May 2022; Greenbelt Trail 10, Ottawa; Sue and Gary Milks, ebird
22 individuals; 30 July 1992; banded nestlings; Innis Point Bird Observatory, IPBO Checklist.
12 individuals; 18 June 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):29.
11 individuals; 12 June 2013; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

**Winter Wren**  
(*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

**Troglodyte mignon**  
**WIWR**

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

The diminutive Winter Wren is the earliest arriving migrant wren, with individuals usually returning to the area in early April (exceptionally mid-March). This species is a fairly common breeder in extensive tracts of mixed and coniferous forests where there are brush piles for it to skulk in. It occurs more widely on the Quebec side of the District, where such habitat is more common (57% of squares on OBBA2, 89% of squares on QBBA 2).

While most Winter Wrens leave the area in October, it does have a propensity to occasionally linger into winter and around 2015 it was recorded about one winter in three on average. As of 2024, this seems to be rising. Most records are from December (including 15 years on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC and 2 years on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC) but birds have been recorded in January and February as well.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
7 March 2020, 1 individual; Balena park, Ian Davidson, ebird
19 March 2012; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Ontbirds 23.03.2012.
28 March 1981; 1 individual; Cumberland; John Sankey; Shrike 6(2):9.
30 March 1986; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; AB 40(3):463.
31 March 1998; 2 individuals; Clyde Woods; Bird Status Line.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
8 November 2003; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 11.11.2003.
17 November 2012; 1 individual; Stony Swamp, Lime Kiln Trail, Patrick Blake, eBird.
17 November 2013; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Gregory Zbitnew; eBird.
30 November 1981; 1 individual; Aylmer; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(6):12.

Late Winter Records
1 January 2006; 1 individual; Deschênes, by the bridge west of Ch. Vanier; Bird Status Line.
c. 9 January 2014; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 09.01.2014
Third and fourth weeks of January; 1993 Checklist dots
24 January 2023; 1 individual; Lac leamy, Gatineau, Al Caughey, Janet McCulloch, ebird
29 January to 4 February 2012; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 02.02.2012.
1 February 2023; 1 individual, 2412-2500 Fifth Line Road, Ottawa, Jeff Skevington; ebird
25 February 2007; 1 individual Deschênes, by the bridge west of Ch. Vanier; Ontbirds 25.02.2007.
Winter 2019-2020 to March 14. Britannia, mobs, ebird
Winter 2019-2020 to 2 March, Marais Lamoureux, mobs, ebird
Winter 2023-2024: 4 different sightings in January and 3 different ones in February; ebird
Winter 2024-2025: 7 different sightings in December; ebird
Noteworthy High Counts
16 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):32.
15 individuals, 16 May 2019, Gatineau parc, Frederic bedard, ebird
11 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
10 individuals, 14 April 2014, Rockcliffe parkway trail ;Giovanni pari, ebird
8 individuals; 10 July 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):27.

## Sedge Wren

(*Cistothorus platensis*)

Troglodyte à bec court  
SEWR

**Status: Rare and local breeder.**

Sedge Wren is the rarest of our regular breeding wrens. Birds typically arrive at breeding sites in late May (exceptionally early May). Sedge fens and wet grassy fields are favoured and this species forms loose colonies of multiple breeding birds. Often these colonies are ephemeral – occurring one year in a given spot and then disappearing. Sites that have held colonies more consistently include Richmond Fen, Corkstown Swamp, Torbolton Ridge Road and some of the Ottawa River marshes on the Quebec side. Sedge Wren was found in 21% of squares on OBBA2 and 8% of squares on QBBA2. After singing ceases, this species is very difficult to find and there are few fall migration records, with the latest in mid-September.

First Record
17 June 1898; 1 individual; F.A. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 15:225.
Early Spring Arrival
6 May 2009; 2 individuals; Richmond Fen; Patrick Blake; Ontbirds 07.05.2009.
15 May 1985; 1 individual; Richmond Fen; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):9.
15 May 1998; 1 individual; Torbolton Ridge Road; Bird Status Line.
Principal Dates
Third week of May to fourth week of August.
Late Fall Departure
1 September 2003; 4 individuals; Corkstown Swamp; Ontbirds 02.02.2003.
2 September 1984; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(5):7.
7 September 2003; 1 individual; Corkstown Swamp; Ontbirds 10.09.2003.
11 September 1983; 1 individual; near Ramsayville; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(5):16.
Noteworthy High Counts
75 individuals; 19 June 1972; Bruce Mactavish; AB 26(5):854.
40 individuals, 1 June 1976, Richmond fen, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
30 individuals; 27 May 1984; Richmond Fen; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(3):9, Shrike Database.
30 individuals; Spring-Summer 1985; Richmond Fen; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(3):9.
28 individuals; 7 August 1982; Richmond Fen; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):15.

## Marsh Wren

(*Cistothorus palustris*)

Troglodyte des marais  
MAWR

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.**

Marsh Wrens usually return to the District in mid-May (exceptionally late April). They are a fairly common, if somewhat local, breeder in large cattail marshes (51% of squares on OBBA2, 22% of squares on QBBA2). This species is somewhat colonial and large tracts of good habitat will often have multiple pairs. Regular sites for Marsh Wren include Constance Creek, Richmond Fen, and the Ottawa River marshes on both sides of the river. Most Marsh Wrens leave the District by mid-September (exceptionally late November), and there are 3 winter records.

<b>First Record</b>
9 July 1890, Kars, W. E and F. A. Saunders, Ottawa Naturalist, Volume 4 page 93.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
24 April 1977; 1 individual; Constance Creek; m.obs.; Shrike 2(2):6.
24 April 2018, Britannia, mobs, ebird
25 April 2019, parc du lac Beauchamp, Kevin Quirion-Poirier, ebird
28 April 1985; 2 individuals; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):20.
30 April 2009; 1 individual; Richmond Fen area; Patrick Blake, Jeff Skevington; eBird.
2 May 2010; 1 individual; Marais des Laiches; David Morin; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
10 October 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(5):29.
16 October 2011; 1 individual; Champlain St. Marsh near Petrie Island; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
17 October 2009; 8 individuals; incl. Champlain St. Marsh near Petrie Island; Ontbirds 21.10.2009.
19 October 2008; 2 individuals; Petrie Island; Ontbirds 21.10.2008.
21 October 2007; 1 individual; Ottawa/Hull Mid-Fall Bird Count, SE sector; OFNC website.
5 November 2017, 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons, Bruce DiLabio, ebird
6-8 November 2020, 1 Individual Champlain St. Marsh, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
3-15 November 2015, 1 individual Champlain St. Marsh, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
30 November 2021, 1 individual, Almonte Lagoons, Ken Allison, ebird
<b>Winter Records</b>
18 December 1984; 1 individual; Baie McLaurin, Gatineau; R. Schryer; Ornithouais 17(2):46.
27 December 2021; 1 individual; Nortel Marsh; Bruce Di Labio; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
60 individuals, 25 May 2006, Baie McLaurin, benoit Jobin, ebird
45 individuals; 25 July 1984; Thurso Marsh; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 9(4):8.
20 individuals; 26 July 1982; Thurso Marsh; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 7(4):15.
18 individuals; 3 July 1995; Richmond Lagoons; Peter Blancher' eBird.

## Mimids

### **Gray Catbird**

(*Dumetella carolinensis*)

Moqueur chat

GRCA

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Noisy and conspicuous, the Gray Catbird is the most common of the mimids found in the Ottawa-Gatineau District. Typically it arrives back in early May (exceptionally to late March). It is a common denizen of dense shrubby thickets (100% of squares on OBBA2, 81% of squares on QBBA2), and is often found around water and along forest edges. Most Gray Catbirds have migrated south by early October, but there are scattered records through October and November.

Exceptional in winter, but it has been occurring more frequently in this season recently, and there are now about six records for this season. Most are from December, but there are January and February records as well. Winter birds are often seen at bird feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
21 March 2007; 1 individual; at a feeder in Manotick; Ontbirds 25.03.2007.

29 March 1977; 1 individual; Janette Dean; Shrike 2(2):6.
7 April 1976; 1 individual; Aylmer; Robert Bergeron; Shrike 1(2):6.
8 April 1985; 1 individual, Ridge Road, John Sankey, Shrike 10(2):1
14 April 1985; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike Database.
16 April 2002; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 22.04.2002.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
<b>First week of November, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
8 November 1984; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 9(6):8.
4-10 November 2006; 1 individual; Quigley Hill Rd; Cumberland, at a feeder; Ontbirds 13.11.2006.
9 November 2021, 1 individual, Cisco Campus, Kanata, Mathew McAnally, ebird
11 November 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Marcel Gabhauer; eBird.
November 2023: 4 different individuals were observed in 4 different spots, in each week of the month, ebird
<b>Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
<b>Winter Records</b>
until 7 December 2014; 1 individual; Old Quarry Trail; Ontbirds 11.12.2014.
16 December 2007; 1 individual; Hurdman Woods, at a feeder, on the CBC, Ontbirds 17.12.2007.
19 December 2021; 1 individual, Hurdman Woods, on the CBC
14-29 December 2021; 1 individual, Westboro, Michelle Martin, ebird
18 December 2006; 1 individual; Ottawa R. Parkway at Parkdale, on the CBC; Ontbirds 17.12.2006.
until 26 December 2014; 1 indiv.; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Michael Tate, m.obs.; eBird, Ontbirds..
Third week of December 2014; sightings from Kanata & Pakenham; Ontbirds 25.12.2014.
c.10 Dec. 2007 to Jan. 12, 2008; 1 individual; Constance Bay, at a feeder; Ontbirds 10.12.2007 etc.
27 January 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA, at the SW corner of Mud Lake; Ontbirds 28.01.2008.
23 February 2012; 1 individual; Aylmer, at a feeder; Jacques Savard; eBird.
Winter 2019-2020, 1 individual ;Marais Lamoureaux, to early March, mobs, ebird
December 2023: 4 different individuals were observed in 4 different spots, probably helped by the very mild and relatively snowfree month, ebird
27 December 2024; 1 individual; Almonte Lagoons; Ken Allison; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
45 individuals, 9 September 2001, Greenbelt trail 10, Chris Allen, ebird
44 individuals; 27 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):23.
40 individuals; 20 May 1982; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 7(3):28.
41 individuals; 25 May 2012; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

## Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)

Moqueur roux  
BRTH

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Brown Thrashers usually return to the District in late April. They are a fairly common breeder in open areas with scattered trees and shrubs (98% of squares on OBBA1, 81% of squares on OBBA2). Most birds have departed south by the end of September but there are scattered records through October and November.

Very rare in winter, recorded about one winter in four, including 7 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC and twice on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC. Unusually, there were three different birds in the winter of 2025. Most of these are birds that linger at feeders. Several have successfully overwintered.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
3 March 2020, Carleton Place, Michel Gauthier, ebird
3 April 1984; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 9(2):9, may have been a wintering bird.
5 April 2011; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay feeders; William von Herff; eBird.
14 April 2005; 1 individual; near Russell; Ontbirds 24.04.2005.
16 April 2005; 1 individual; Thomas Dolan Parkway on the Carp Hills; Ontbirds 17.04.2005.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>

21/22 October 2000; 1 individual; Ottawa/Gatineau Mid-Fall Bird Count SW sector, OFNC website.
24 October 2010; 1 individual; Britannia Conservation Area; Robin Humphries; eBird.
6 November 2006; 1 individual; Britannia Conservation Area; Robin Humphries; eBird.
8 November 2003; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay feeders; Ontbirds 11.11.2003.
11-22 November 2017, Britannia, mobs, ebird
<b>Winter records</b>
24 december 2001-8 February 2002, 1 individual; Shirley's bay, mobs, ebird
3 December 2021; 1 individual; Champagne St; Willow English; ebird
4 december 2015-5 January 2016, 1 individual ;Ferme Moore, mobs, ebird
21 November 2014–5 december 2015, 1 individual; Luskville, mobs, ebird
22-28 December 2023, 1 individual; Meech valley, Les collines de l'outouais Denis Verrault, Margaret Kenny; ebird
20 December 2023; 1 individual, Hilson Ave, Ottawa, Chris van Norman, ebird
1 January 2002, 1 individual; March valley road, 1 individual ;Langis Sirois, ebird
16 January 2010, 1 individual ;Hull, Real Bisson, ebird
31 January 2016, 1 individual Gatineau, mobs, ebird
28 January 1979, 1 individual, Chelsea, Mark Gawn, ebird
15-24 February 2020, 1 individual ;Chemin de la riviere blanche, mobs, ebird
13 February 2025; 1 individual; Carlingwood, Ottawa, Chris Hesterman, ebird
15-31 January 2025; 1 individual, Bel-Air Fields, mobs, ebird
10-21 February 2025; 1 individual, Arlington Woods, John King, ebird
17 January-9 February 2025; 1 individual, near Hurdman Woods, Rick Killeen, ebird
11 February 2025; 1 individual, McKellar Park. Jo-Anne Kuszniel, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
30 individuals, 11 May 1985. Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(3):23.
22 individuals; 26 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):27.
18 individuals; 18 June 1983; Bruce Di Labio, Shrike 8(6):26.

## Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

**Moquer des armoises**  
**SATH**

### Status: accidental spring migrant

This western species has had only a few sightings from Ontario. There is only one record for the region, a single sighting, fortunately well-photographed. It is probably not a coincidence that Burnt Lands Provincial Park is the area that most resembles its native sagebrush habitat.

#### First Record

18 June 2020, 1 individual, Burnt Lands Provincial Park, Ottawa, ON, ebird  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S70575657> with photos, Jan Huus.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

**Moqueur polyglotte**  
**NOMO**

### Status: Rare migrant and breeder. Rare in winter.

Northern Mockingbird is rare year round in the District. Statistically, May is the month with the largest number of sightings, but birders are more active in this season and the birds are more vocal. It is a rare breeder in open areas and pastures with scattered shrubs and small trees. In an average year one or two breeding sites are discovered in the District. These tend to be used and then abandoned and there are no long-term "reliable" sites to find this species. It was found in 21% of squares during OBBA2 and in 5% of squares during QBBA2.

It is rare during winter and not reported every year during this season. Tends to be found in thickets and hedges in residential areas especially where there are trees and shrubs with berries for them to subsist on. It has been recorded 21 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC from 1964 to 2021 (high of 4 in 1974 and 1979).

#### First Records

16-17 May 1956; 1 individual; Westwood, Ottawa; Michael Spencer; CFN 71:81.

<b>First breeding record? Sometime in the 1960's?</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5 individuals, 23 June 1990, Alert road at Thad Johnson, Larry neily, ebird
2 adults and 3 young; Summer 1979; Pinecrest Cemetery; T&L 13(5):166.
4 individuals; 15 December 1974; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count (tie); Audubon CBC data.
4 individuals; 16 December 1979; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count (tie); Audubon CBC data.
3 individuals; 15 June 1981; Pinecrest Cemetery; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(3):10,14.

## Starling

### **European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

**Étourneau sansonnet**  
**EUST**

**Status: Abundant resident. Introduced.**

The North American population of this Eurasian species originated from about 100 birds that were released in Central Park in New York City in 1890 and 1891. They have since spread through much of the continent, first reaching the District in 1922, where they quickly established themselves. They are now widespread and abundant year-round resident and breeder in towns and cities, as well as in open habitats in rural areas (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). In late summer, large flocks of juvenile birds can often be seen in fields and on hydro lines in rural areas. It is interesting to note that these flocks, while large, are nowhere near the peak numbers of the 1980s.

<b>First Records</b>
2 April 1922; 1 individual; E.G. & G.R. White, came to roost in their garden; CFN 37:155.
17 May 1925; first nesting, north of Hull, birds visiting a nesting tree; Hoyes Lloyd; CFN 46:162.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
up to 40,000 individuals; September-October 1983; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(5):16.
up to 25,000 individuals; September-October 1982; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(5):20.
up to 20,000 indiv.; September-October 1981; Ramsayville Marsh; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(5):16.
13,090 individuals; 20-21 October 2007; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
7,197 individuals; 15 December 2002; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count.

## Bluebirds, Thrushes

### **Eastern Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*)

**Merlebleu de l'Est**  
**EABL**

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Eastern Bluebirds are early migrants, usually returning to the District in early April (exceptionally mid-March). It is an uncommon breeder in open habitats with some trees or shrubs (77% squares on OBBA2, 73% squares on QBBA2). It is cavity nesting species that has benefitted significantly from the establishment of nest box programs in the last several decades. Most birds have left the District by the end of September, with stragglers in October and November. There are a number of winter records, especially in the last few years, often of multiple individuals some of which probably over-wintered.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
12 March 1985; 2 individuals; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(1):7.
15 March 2006; 1 individual; Fifth Line and Berry Side Road; Ontbirds 19.05.2006.
17 March 1983; 2 individuals; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 8(2):14, Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
3 November 1985; 1 individual; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike Database.
5 November 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):8.

11 November 1998; 2 individuals; Berry Side Road; Bird Status Line.
23 November 2011; 1 individual; Old Montreal Road, Camelot Golf Course; Ontbirds 30.11.2011.
<b>Winter Records (incomplete)</b>
7 December 2014; 6 individuals; Chemin des Boulders; Ontbirds 11.12.2014.
December 1924; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC, count week; Audubon CBC data.
19 December 2010; 1 individual; Rue Helene-Boullé, Aylmer; Ottawa Gatineau CBC.
2 January 2012; 1 individual; Rue du Golf; Gatineau; Ontbirds 06.01.2012.
5 Dec. 1998 to 4 Jan. 1999; up to 6 individuals; Berry Side Road area; Bird Status Line transcripts.
11 December 2016-23 February 2017, up to 6 individuals, Luskville, mobs, ebird
4 January-1 February 2021, up to 3 individuals, Pinhey's Point, mobs, ebird
4 January 2020, Dunrobin, 6 individuals, mobs, ebird
22 December to 25 Feb 2021, up to 6 individuals, Pont Champlain and vicinity, ebird
8-25 January 2023; up to 3 individuals, Berry Side Road and vicinity, Ottawa, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
56 individuals; 8 September 1985; near Dunrobin on the Seedathon; T&L 20(1):27.
25 individuals; 4 October 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
27 individuals, 13 October 2008, Aylmer, anonymous, ebird
20 individuals; 9 September 1981; Ian & Paul Jones; Shrike 6(6):25.

## Mountain Bluebird

(*Sialia currucoides*)

Merlebleu azuré

MOBL

**Status: Accidental fall migrant and winter visitor**

This is a western species that is an occasional visitor to Ontario. There are two records; the first was presumably a single bird in 2 different times and places.

### First Record

29 -30 November, and 12-28 December 2015, 1 individual, Initially seen on Cambrian Road, presumably the same bird was relocated on Goodstown road until 28 December, Ottawa, On, ebird, M. obs

20-23 April 2025; 1 individual, Panmure Road, Ottawa, mobs, ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Townsend's Solitaire

(*Myadestes townsendi*)

Solitaire de Townsend

TOSO

**Status: Casual visitor, mainly in winter.**

Twelve records (six OBRSC accepted) averaging about two per decade ranging from early-November to mid April. This thrush of the western mountains has a well-established tendency to wander widely in winter and occurs almost annually in eastern Canada. Most of our records pertain to birds that have overwintered in residential areas, where they often appear to subsist on berries on ornamental plantings.

### First Record

22 November 1968; 1 individual; Aylmer; Ron Pittaway; AFN 23:461, WEG card file.

### Earliest Fall Record

8-14 November 1987; 1 individual; Irving Place, Ottawa, Tracey Dean, m.obs.; T&L 22(2):73, OBRSC #400.

### Latest Spring Record

until 14 April 1990; 1 indiv.; Central Experimental Farm Arboretum, Paul Matthews, m.obs.; T&L 24(3):130..

### Noteworthy High Counts

All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Veery

(*Catharus fuscescens*)

Grive fauve

VEER

## Status: Common migrant and breeder

Veery usually returns to the District in mid-May (exceptionally mid-April), setting up its breeding territories in mature deciduous woods with dense understory. It is a common breeder throughout the District (94% of squares on OBBA2, 92% of squares on QBBA2), and is most easily found by its melodious, flute-like song. Most Veeries leave the District by mid-September (exceptionally mid-October). Occasionally they can be detected by their nocturnal call notes, migrating at night during the fall.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 April 2005; 1 individual; Manotick, in a backyard; Ontbirds 17.05.2005.
18 April 2002; 1 individual; Trans Canada Trail north of Timm Drive; Ontbirds 22.04.2002.
23 April 1985; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 10(2):7.
27 April 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA, in the woods; Jay Peterson; Ontbirds 27.04.2008.
30 April 1982, 1 individual; Cantley, QC; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 7(2):15.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23 September 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Robin Humphries; eBird.
28 September 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Christopher Harris; eBird.
1 October 1971, 1 individual ;Rockcliffe, Roger Foxall, ebird
8 October 2012, 1 individual ;lac Phillippe, ebird, mobs
8 October 2018, 1 individual ;Britannia, anonymous, ebird
9 October 1977; 1 individual; Mark Gawn, Stephen Gawn; Shrike 2(7):4.
20 October 2002; 1 individual; Fall Bird Count; SE Sector; Ontbirds 21.10.2002, OFNC website.
18-30 October 2015, 1 individual ;Shirley's bay, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
275 indiv. 3 September 2000; nocturnal migrants, on Seedathon; Bird Status Line transcripts.
100 individuals; 24 August 2014; nocturnal migrants, on Seedathon; Ontbirds 28.08.2014.
54 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
50 individuals; May-June 1985, 2 dates; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 7(3):28.

## Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*)

Grive à joues grises  
GCTH

## Status: Uncommon migrant.

The least common of the brown thrushes, this species nests in the far northern reaches of the boreal forest and is only a migrant through the District. It occurs at low densities and is fairly secretive, which results in it being observed infrequently. In spring it passes through mainly in late May, (exceptionally early May / mid-June). In fall, peak migration is in mid- to late September (exceptionally late August / mid-October). Nocturnal migrants can often be detected by call note, especially in late September.

<b>First Record</b>
16 May 1905; 1 individual; woods beyond Beechwood; C.W.G. Eifrig; Ottawa Naturalist 15:227.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
<b>First week of May, 1993 Checklist</b>
8 May 1979, 1 individual; T&L 13(4):125.
9 May 1976; Shrike 1(3):6.
11 May 1980; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Shrike 5(2):7.
12 May 1977; Shrike 2(3):7.
13 May 2011; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
14 May 1982; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 7(3):17.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of May
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
1 June 1984; 1 individual; Innis Point; Shrike Database.

2 June 1992; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
6-7 June, 1 individual, Munster area, mobs, ebird
7 June 1984; 1 individual; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(3):10.
<b>Second week of June, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
23 August 2012; 1 individual; Petrie Island; Heather Pickard; eBird.
29 August 2012; 2 individuals; Barrhaven, nocturnal migrants; Brian Daly; eBird.
29 August 2013; 4 individuals; Constance Bay, nocturnal migrants; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 October 1983; 1 individual; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(5):17.
11 October 2009; 1 individual; Deschênes; David Morin; eBird.
11 October 2013; 1 individual; Rockliffe Airport area; Kim Zbitnew; eBird.
12 October 1974; 1 individual; Tom Hince; AB 29(1):52.
14 October 1977; 1 individual; Cen. Experimental Farm Arboretum; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 2(7):4.
20 October 2002; 1 individual; Ottawa/Hull Mid-Fall Bird Count, SE sector; OFNC website.
26 October 2020; 1 individual; Richmond, Peter Blancher, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
Hundreds of individuals; 25 September 2003; Britannia area, nocturnal migrants; Ontbirds 01.10.2003.
At least 50 individuals; 27 September 2008; nocturnal migrants; Ontbirds 29.09.2008.
30 individuals; 3 September 2000; nocturnal migrants; Bird Status Line transcripts.

## Swainson's Thrush

an(*Catharus ustulatus*)

Grive à dos olive  
SWTH

**Status: Common migrant, uncommon breeder, exceptional in winter.**

Swainson's Thrushes typically arrive back in the District in mid-May (exceptionally mid-April). They are an uncommon breeder in coniferous woods, mainly in the northern parts of the District where this habitat is more common (13% of squares on OBBA2, 38% of square on QBBA2). Most birds leave the area by the end of September and this is the species of brown thrush that is detected most frequently in fall migration by its nocturnal call notes, with some high counts in the thousands of birds. Lingering birds have occurred through October and November and there are five winter records, as late early January.

<b>First Record</b>
24 May 1884, Beechwood Cemetary, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
14 April 1998; 1 individual; Bridlewood, Ottawa; Bird Status Line transcripts
21 April 1976; 1 individual; Wychwood; G.M. Brigham; Shrike 1(2):6.
26-27 April 1983; 1 individual; Cantley; Annie & Jim Ginns; Shrike 8(2):14.
30 April 2006; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 03.05.2006.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
22 October 2011; 1 individual; Rothwell Heights; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
26 October 1997; 1 individual; Cen. Exp. Farm Arboretum; Fall Bird Count; Bird Status Line.
29 October 1983; 1 individual; Ron Bedford; Shrike 8(6):23.
1 November 2024; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; mobs; ebird
3 November 2022; 1 individual; Meech Lake, Kim Schonning; ebird
4 November 2023; 1 individual, Carlingwood, Ottawa, Trevor MacLaurin, ebird
8 November 2014; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Ontbirds 13.11.2014.
9 November 2023; 1 individual, Wellesmere Crt, Ottawa, Sai Wai Ip, ebird
11 November 2017; 1 individual, Britannia; Bruce Di Labio, Nicholas Von Maltzahn, ebird
20 November 2022; 1 individual; Rideau tennis Club; David Howe, Rosanne dawson; ebird
21 November 2014; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Ontbirds 27.11.2014.
26 November 2014; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Robin Humphries; eBird.
<b>Winter Records</b>
7 December 2014; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Bev McBride, Dave Moore; pers. comm.

12 December 1982, 1 individual; Templeton, near Gatineau; Bob Bracken, m.obs.; Shrike 7(6):18.
13-15 December 1981; 1 individual; Hull; Daniel St-Hilaire; Ornitaouais 4(3):88.
13 December 1984; 1 individual; Almonte; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):8.
16 December 1984; 1 individual; Rockcliffe, on the CBC; B. Ladouceur & R. Holland; Shrike 9(6):8.
15 december 2015, 1 individual, Lac leamy, mobs, ebird
31 december 2015-1 January 2016, 1 individual; Ruisseau de la braserie, mobs, ebird
5-7 January 2022; Lac Leamy, 1 individual, mobs, ebird
2 December 2025; 1 individual; Remic Rapids, Aidan Hamilton, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
8,000 individuals; 11-12 September 1984; nocturnal migrants; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs; T&L 19(1):9.
2,000 individuals; 27 September 2008; nocturnal migrants; Ontbirds 29.09.2008.
650 individuals; 3 September 2000; estimated; heard calling overhead at night; T&L 35(2):84.

## Hermit Thrush

(*Catharus guttatus*)

Grive solitaire

HETH

**Status: Common migrant, fairly common breeder. Very rare in winter.**

The earliest of the brown thrushes to return to the District in spring, Hermit Thrushes are usually back by mid-April (exceptionally late March). They are a fairly common breeder in mixed and coniferous forests throughout the District (72% on OBBA2, 89% on QBBA2). Most birds leave the area by the end of October, but there are scattered records through November.

Very rare in winter, but increasingly recorded in this season in recent years. Recorded on 22 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1960 to 2021 (high count of 10 individuals in 2014). In most recent winters there has been at least one sighting into December and there are a number of cases of birds successfully overwintering.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
26 March 2012; 2 individuals; Lac Philippe, Gatineau Park; Ontbirds 29.03.2012.
c. 4 April 2005; 1 individual; Ontbirds 08.04.2005.
6 April 1985; 1 individual; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(2):7.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
16 November 2012; 1 individual; Applewood Acres, Ottawa; John Cooper; eBird.
20 November 1983; 1 individual; Clyde Woods; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(6):13.
Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
Birds have overwintered successfully a number of times, particularly in recent winters.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
50 individuals; 10 October 2004; Shirley's Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
20 individuals; 1 May 1983; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):29; Shrike Database.
18 individuals; 29 April 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):24.

## Wood Thrush

(*Hylocichla mustelina*)

Grive des bois

WOTH

**Status: Fairly common migrant and uncommon breeder.**

Wood Thrushes usually return to the District by mid-May (exceptionally mid-April). They are an uncommon but widespread breeder in deciduous and mixed forest (98% of squares on OBBA2, 73% of squares on QBBA2) where they are often detected by their beautiful flute-like song. Most Wood Thrushes have left the area by early September (exceptionally mid-October). There are three winter records.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the second Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 April 1976, 1 individual, Shrike 1(2):6.

24 April 1976; 1 individual; Shrike 1(2):6.
24 April 1981; 1 individual; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 6(2):13.
25 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 28.04.2009.
27 April 1985; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 10(2):7.
30 April 1986; 1 individual; Chelsea; Bird Status Line
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
4 October 1980; 1 individual; Langis Sirois; Shrike 5(5):9.
5 October 1981; 1 individual; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 6(5):11.
<b>Second week of October, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
16 October 2011; 1 individual; Chemin McCrank, La Pêche area; David Morin; eBird.
18/19 October 2003; 2 individuals; Ottawa/Hull Mid-Fall Bird Count, SW Sector; OFNC website.
20/21 October 2007; 1 individual; Ottawa/Hull Mid-Fall Bird Count, NE Sector; OFNC website.
13 November 2019; 1 individual, domaine de la ferme moore, Gatineau, Laetitia desbordes, ebird
23 November 2021, 1 individual, chemin Cowden, les collines de l'outouais, carl Savignac, ebird
<b>Winter records</b>
7 December 2023-19 January 2024; 1 individual, Tunney's pasture, Ottawa. Mobs, ebird
21 december 2015, 1 individual, Arboretum, mobs, ebird
20-22 January 2021, 1 individual, Dale avenue, Ken Ketley, Bruce Dilabio, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
20 individuals; 23 May 1982; Roger Taylor; Shrike 7(3):28.
20 individuals; 20 May 1983; Bob Bracken & Bob Gorman; Shrike 8(3):29.
20 individuals; 13 May 1995; Peter Blancher; Richmond area; eBird.

## Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

**Grive litorne**  
**FIEL**

**Status: Accidental in winter.**

One record (OBRSC accepted) of a bird found at Rockcliffe Park in January of 1967. This Eurasian Thrush is an occasional vagrant to eastern North America. It is casual in Quebec and the Maritimes, but this is one of only two records for Ontario.

### Records

8 January 1967; 1 individual; Rockcliffe Park, Hue Mackenzie; CFN 82:51; OBRSC #707.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

**Merle d'Amérique**  
**AMRO**

**Status: Abundant migrant and breeder. Uncommon in winter.**

One of the most familiar birds to most people, the American Robin is an abundant breeder and migrant, and famous for eating worms. Some migrants will return as soon as early March on warm fronts and by late March they are widespread throughout the region, breeding in woodlands of all kinds, as well as urban parks and residential areas. They remain very easy to find into November, when most birds have departed south. Large flocks can sometimes be observed passing over in both spring and fall migration.

Seeing Robins probably never was a true sign of spring, as they were known in winter as far back as the 1880s, but they were not expected. They are now uncommon in winter, on average. However the status varies from year to year based on availability of food. Recorded on 88% of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs since 1920, including on every count since 1968 (high count of 441 in 2011). Now there are always at least small numbers all winter, but in some years with good berry crops, larger flocks will linger through the winter, notably in areas like the Experimental Farm and suburbs where there are significant numbers of trees with over-wintering fruit.

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of March to first week of November (uncommon in mid- to late November).
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3,546 individuals; 16-17 October 2004; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC website.
800 individuals; 11 October 1992; Britannia CA, Christopher Escott, ebird
500 individuals; 14 October 2012; Parc Brébeuf to Champlain Bridge; Ted Cheskey; eBird.
450 individuals; 17 April 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):25.
441 individuals 18 December 2011; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
380 individuals; 24 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):20.

## Varied Thrush

(*Ixoreus naevius*)

Grive à collier  
VATH

**Status: Casual visitor, mainly in winter.**

About 25 records (eight OBRSC accepted) averaging about five or six per decade. This western thrush has a tendency to wander widely, and it is recorded annually in Ontario and Quebec, mainly in winter. Most of our records are of birds that lingered or over-wintered at feeders, but there are also sightings of presumably migrating birds in spring (April and May) and fall (October). Both males and females have been reported with about equal frequency.

<b>First Record</b>
7-15 November 1977; 1 female; Moodie Drive feeders; Bill Clark, m.obs.; AB 32(2):189, T&L 12(2):57.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
18 October 2009; 1 first winter; Britannia CA; Richard Waters; T&L 44(2):82, OBRSC #713.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
9 May 1996; 1 individual; Hull, QC, Jean Dubois; EPOQ database.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Wheatear

### Northern Wheatear

(*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Traquet motteux  
NOWH

**Status: Casual transient, mainly in fall.**

Ten records (six OBRSC accepted) averaging about two per decade. Most of the records are of juvenile birds in the fall (mainly October) with only two spring records. Observations are typically in open habitats including fields and open rocky shorelines along the Ottawa River.

<b>First Record</b>
19 April 1956; 1 individual; near Manotick, ON; Anna Brown, <i>fide</i> W.E. Godfrey; WEG card file.
<b>Spring Records</b>
19 April 1956; 1 individual; near Manotick, ON; Anna Brown, <i>fide</i> W.E. Godfrey; WEG card file.
12 May 1986; 1 male; Colonnade Road; Roy John, m.obs.; AB 40(3):465, T&L OBRSC #361.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
31 Aug. to 1 Sept. 1997; 1 imm.; Armstrong Rd., Eve Ticknor, m.obs.; T&L 32(2):75, OBRSC #487.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
19 October 2006; 1 immature; Dick Bell Park; Tony Beck, m.obs.; T&L 41(2):102, OBRSC #612.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Waxwings

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

(*Bombycilla garrulus*)

Jaseur boréal

BOWA

**Status: Fairly common irruptive winter visitor (nearly absent to abundant).**

One of the Ottawa-Gatineau District's sought-after winter specialties, Bohemian Waxwings typically arrive from the boreal forest to winter in early November (exceptionally early October). They are irruptive and numbers vary from year-to-year, related to availability of berries which they feed on. Flocks of these attractive birds can be found anywhere that there are fruit-bearing trees and shrubs; urban areas with ornamental plantings and along the many areas where there is plentiful buckthorn are places to seek them. They have usually returned north by mid-April (exceptionally to mid-June).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
18 August 1985; 1 individual; Gatineau; Denis Houle; Ornitaouais 8(2):55.
2 October 1983; 3 individuals; Britannia Pier; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):16.
6 October 1983; 1 individual; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(5):16.
8 October 2012; 1 individual; Baie Noire; Jacques Savard; eBird.
c.13 October 2008; first seasonal report; Ontbirds 15.10.2008.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of November to second week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
5 May 2011; 30 individuals; Deschênes Rapids area; Frédéric Bédard; eBird.
11 May 1983; 2 individuals; Clyde Woods; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):17.
until 16 May 2015; 1 individual; Britannia CA; m.obs.; eBird.
22 May 1999; 64 individuals; Huntmar Road; Bird Status Line transcripts.
18 June 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(3):10.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5,500 individuals; 13 April 2015, Kitchissippi lookout, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
5,000 individuals; 10 April 2011; Blvd. Gamelin, Gatineau; Ontbirds 12.04.2011.
4,953 individuals; 22 December 1985; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
3,000 individuals; 8 April 2011; Parc des Portageurs, Hull; Frédéric Bédard; eBird.
2,500 individuals; 12 April 2015; Bruce Di Labio; near Kitchissippi Lookout; Ontbirds 12.04.2015.
2,000 indiv.; 20 March 2008; Ottawa, multiple locations; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 20.03.2008.
1,315 individuals; 3 January 2009; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,100 individuals; 29 January 1983; Lucerne Blvd., Aylmer; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(1):6.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

(*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Jaseur d'Amérique

CEDW

**Status: Abundant migrant and breeder. Fairly common irruptive winter visitor (absent to fairly common).**

While Cedar Waxwings are possible year-round in the District, they are most abundant from late May to late September when they are an abundant migrant and breeder in open woodlands, shrubby fields, urban parkland and treed residential areas (100% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). They are one of our latest nesters.

Outside of this period there are highly variable in their occurrence. They are irruptive in winter and in years where there are good berry crops they can remain through the season in flocks. Occasionally found in small numbers in winter in flocks of Bohemian Waxwings. Recorded on about 70% of Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs since 1960 (high of 403 individuals in 1984).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of May to fourth week of September.

Noteworthy High Counts
575 individuals; 17 March 1985; Mark Gawn & Bob Gorman; Shrike 10(2):20.
500; 12 May 2014, Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio, ebird
403 individuals; 16 December 1984; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
275 individuals; 2 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
250 individuals; 9 August 1982; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 7(4):15.
247 individuals; 30-31 October 1999; Mid-Fall Bird Count high count; OFNC archived data.

## Old World Sparrows

### House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Moineau domestique

HOSP

**Status: Common resident in urban areas. Uncommon in rural areas. Introduced.**

House Sparrows in eastern North America originated from a release of about 100 birds in Brooklyn, New York in 1851-52. By 1870, they had reached the Ottawa-Gatineau District, and quickly became established as regular part of the avifauna. In the 1880s-1890s they were considered an aggressive pest. Numbers have declined considerably from their peak some decades ago, but they are still a common breeder in the cities and towns in the District, nesting in cavities in buildings and municipal infrastructure. In rural areas, they are uncommon and tend to associate closely with human development, especially barns, sheds and silos.

First Record
Introduced in 1870; CFN 58(5):145.
Noteworthy High Counts
6,600 individuals; 22 December 1968; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,293 individuals; 2 January 1983; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,000 individuals; 24 August 1982; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 7(4):26.
1,000 individuals; two dates in January-February 1983; Tom Hince; Shrike 8(1):26.
600 individuals; 24 January 1981; Stephen O'Donnell; Shrike 6(1):7.

### Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Moineau friquet

ETSP

There is a single record of this species. Introduced to North America, like its cousin the House Sparrow, but unlike its cousin it is not so adapted to humans and has been mostly confined to the area around St. Louis, Missouri. However, it is apparently very slowly expanding into other US states. There are a few other Ontario records.

First Record
19 January- 4 February 2024, coming to a feeder at 3267 Bouvier Road, Prescott and Russell, mobs, ebird

## Pipits

### American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)

Pipit d'Amérique

AMPI

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant and common fall migrant. Exceptional in winter.**

American Pipits breed in the above the treeline, but migrate regularly through the Ottawa-Gatineau District. In spring, this species tends to be an uncommon migrant, with most birds passing through from late April to early May, although migrants have been detected as early as mid-March and can continue to pass through as late as early June. This species is most easily detected by call note as they fly over. It tends to be found in open habitats where birds forage on the ground, including ploughed agricultural fields, sewage lagoons and along the Ottawa River shoreline

American Pipit is more common in fall migration. Although it can occur as early as mid-August, most birds pass through from early September to mid-November. There are only four winter records.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
15 March 2009; 2 individuals; Barnsdale Road; Gillian Mastromatteo; Ontbirds 15.03.2009.
25 March 2007; 1 individual; Milton Road; Ontbirds 25.03.2007.
27 March 1976; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bob Gorman; Shrike 1(6):6.
28 March 2013; 1 individual; Lalonde Road near Bourget; Ontbirds 28.03.2013.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to third week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
27 May 1984; 1 individual; on the Spring Count; Shrike 9(3):10.9(4):21.
28 May 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):25,29.
<b>First week of June, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
8 June 2008; 1 individual; March Valley Road at Klondike Road; Ontbirds 09.06.2008.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
<b>Second week of August, 1993 Checklist dot.</b>
17 August 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):12.
24 August 1983; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):8, Shrike Database.
26 August 1985; 1 individual; Peter Walker; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First week of September to second week of November.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
22 November 2014; 1 individual; Panmure Road at 12 <sup>th</sup> Concession; Ontbirds 27.11.2014.
25 November 1984; 1 individual; Stillwater Park; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(6):8.
26 November 2005; 1 individual; Casselman area; Ontbirds 27.11.2005.
28-30 November 2010; late migrants moving through on these dates, Ontbirds 07.12.2010.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1 December 2010; late migrants moving through until this date, Ontbirds 07.12.2010,
2 december 2010, 3 individuals, greenbank road, Michael tate, ebird
5 December 2024; 1 individual; Central Experimental farm; Lee Ann Starzynski ; ebird
Third week of December 1954; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Bruce Di Labio CBC records.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
250 individuals; 9 October 1982; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(5):32.
200; 26 October 2017, Milton road, Michelle martin, ebird
200 individuals, 15 October 2011, Gatineau, Gerard Desjardins, ebird
200 individuals; 23 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio and Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(3):17.
130 individuals; 29 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):20.

## Finches

### **Evening Grosbeak**

*(Coccothraustes vespertinus)*

**Gros-bec errant**

**EVGR**

**Status: Irruptive (absent to uncommon) mainly in winter, but possible at any time of year. Sometimes breeds in the District.**

Evening Grosbeak is possible at any time of year in the District, but is perhaps most well known as an irruptive winter visitor. Originally a western species, it did not appear in the east until the latter half of the nineteenth century, possibly as a result of plantings of trees with over-wintering seed/ fruit. Population levels in eastern Canada today are much lower than they were in the 1970s and 1980s, when this species was widespread and common, especially at birdfeeders. One hypothesis is that these large numbers were associated with Spruce Budworm infestations in the north. Most winters in recent years it has been an uncommon and local visitor. The winters of 2003-04, 2007-08, 2018-19 and 2020-21 have been the best recent years for finding this species. A few birds remain to breed in the District, generally in mixed and coniferous forests (49% of squares on OBBA2, 19% of squares on QBBA2).

### **First Record**

30 March 1897, Rideau Hall, Ottawa Naturalist, volume 11, page 72
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,621 individuals; 17 December 1972; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,931 individuals; 3 January 1988; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,000 individuals, 24 April 1988, Hull, Daniel St. Hilaire, ebird
1,000 individuals; 27 December 1982; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(6):32.
900 individuals; 17 February 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
400 individuals; 29 January 1983; Michael Runtz; Shrike 8(1):26, Shrike Database.

## Pine Grosbeak

(*Pinicola enucleator*)

Durbec des sapins

PIGR

**Status: Uncommon irruptive winter visitor (absent to fairly common).**

Pine Grosbeaks are a winter visitor, typically occurring in the District from mid-December to mid-March (although there are record as early as mid-August and as late as mid-May). It is one of the rarer winter finches: over the last few decades there have been several winters where it is absent or very scarce. However, in a typical winter, there will be small flocks scattered through the District. The last large irruptions occurred in 1981-82 and 1985-86, when over a thousand were recorded on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC. A modest irruption was in 2018-19, and a smaller one in 2025-26.

It feeds on conifer seeds and berries and can be found in rural wooded areas, especially coniferous ones, as well as cities and towns where it will come to birdfeeders and ornamental fruit trees. This species breeds in the northern boreal forest and has not been recorded nesting in the District.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
10 August 1998; 3 males; Britannia CA; Quentin Brown; Bird Status Line transcripts, eBird.
2 September 1984; 2 individuals; northern part of the District; Roger Taylor; Shrike 9(5):10.
4 September 1983; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 8(5):19.
9 September 1977; 1 individual; Beechwood Cemetery; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 2(6):7.
18/19 October 2003; 2 individuals; Mid-Fall Bird Count, SW sector; OFNC website.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of December to second week of March
<b>Latest Spring</b>
23 April 1983; 2 individuals; Jean-Charles Poirier; Shrike 8(2):15.
26 April 1982; 1 individual; Richard Poulin; Shrike 7(2):17,25.
30 April 1972; 4 individuals; AB 26(4):757.
17 May 1986; 2 individuals; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike Database.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,500 individuals, only 2 were in the red plumage; October 27, 1903, McKay's woods, CFN 58:172
1,446 individuals; 22 December 1985; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
277 individuals; 3 January 2009; Dunrobin Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
200 indiv.; 21 January 2009; Dunrobin-Kinburn-Carp area; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 21.01.2009.
100 individuals; 18 January 2002; Richmond area, Peter Blancher; eBird.
79 individuals; 29 December 1981; Ian & Paul Jones; Shrike 6(6):26.

## House Finch

(*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

Roselin familier

HOFI

**Status: Common resident in urban and suburban areas.**

House Finch's original range was in the western half of the continent. In 1939, a small number of caged birds were released from a Long Island, NY pet store and from there it colonised the eastern U.S. and south-eastern Canada. The first bird was observed in the District was at Fitzroy Harbour in July 1977. By 1984 it was confirmed breeding in the District. It is currently a common resident in treed urban and suburban neighbourhoods in Ottawa and Gatineau. It is somewhat less common in the outlying communities and is rarely seen in rural areas (89% of squares on OBBA2, 38% of squares on QBBA2).

<b>First Records</b>
3 July 1977; 1 male; Fitzroy PP; Bruce Di Labio, Linda Murray; Shrike 2(4):6, OBRSC #199.
August 1978; male and female on the Ridge at Britannia, first record for the city; T&L 12(5):130.
25 October 1982; 1 individual; Wakefield, first record for the Outaouais; Ornitaouais 5(2):75.
30 June 1984 – first confirmed breeding. Later that summer at least four other breeding pairs were found and birds were observed in Casselman and Richmond; T&L 18(5):237.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,212 individuals; 17 December 1995; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,775 individuals; 22 December 2002; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
1,346 individuals; 18 December 1994; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data

## Purple Finch

(*Carpodacus purpureus*)

Roselin pourpré  
PUFI

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Uncommon breeder. Irruptive winter visitor (absent to fairly common).**

Purple Finch can occur year-round in the District. It is fairly common in the area during its migration periods: late March to early May and early August to late October. It is an uncommon, although fairly widespread, breeder in moist coniferous or mixed forests, often near wetlands (87% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2).

It is irruptive during winter and its frequency in this season is variable: it is absent during some winters, but occasionally occurs in numbers in this season – the winters of 1984-85, 1998-99 and 2006-07 were noteworthy for above average numbers of Purple Finches in locations such as Lac la Blanche, the Low-Poltimore Road and the Larose Forest.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to third week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First week of August to fourth week of October.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
750 individuals; 16 March 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
519 individuals; 19 December 1976; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
250 individuals; 27 January 1985; Poltimore area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(1):5.
240 individuals; 10 February 1985; Poltimore area; Mark Gawn, Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(1):5.

## Redpoll

(*Acanthis flammea*)

Sizerin flammé  
REDP

**Status: Common irruptive winter visitor (rare to abundant). Exceptional in summer.**

Note: in 2024, Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) were combined as a single species, Redpoll. Redpoll is an irruptive winter visitor to the region, with birds usually arriving in late October (exceptionally mid-August) and returning north in late April (exceptionally late June). Like other winter finches their abundance varies from year-to-year, but at least a few are present each winter and it is often common. They are found in urban and rural areas alike and are often attracted to birdfeeders, where they prefer nyjer seed.

Two subspecies are found in the region: *A. f. flammea*, which is the common, regularly occurring form. *A. f. rostrata*, is a slightly larger and darker form that breeds in the eastern Canadian Arctic and Greenland. It is rare but regular in the District, and can be found in small numbers amongst *flammea*, particularly in years where there are large numbers of Common Redpolls in the area.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
17 August 1985; 1 individual; Patricia Narraway, mist-netted in her garden; Shrike10(4):12.

<b>First week of October, 1993 Checklist.</b>
12 October 1997; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Bird Status Line transcripts.
16 October 1983; 23 individuals; Roger Taylor; Shrike 8(5):19.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of October to fourth week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
up to 10 May 1982; 10 individuals; Stittsville, at feeders; June Smith; Shrike 7(3):19.
up to 10 May 2011; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
12 May 2000; 1 individual; Carlington, at a feeder; Bird Status Line transcripts.
18 May 1976; 12 individuals; Britannia; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(3):8.
18 May 2013; 2 individuals; Billings Bridge, at a feeder; Ontbirds 23.05.2013.
To June 6, 1883; more than one, in cedars at the west end of Maria Street, Prof. Macoun, OFN Vol 5 p146
late April to 30 June 1984; 1 individual; Shrike Database. <a href="#">More info on this sighting?</a>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
50,000 individuals; 1 April 1982; John Sankey; Shrike 7(2):25.
3,264 individuals; 20 December 1981; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
2,769 individuals; 2 January 1995; Breckenridge-Dunrobin CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,600 individuals; 23 March 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
587 individuals; 20 December 1981; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 6(6):26.

## Red Crossbill

*(Loxia curvirostra)*

Bec-croisé des sapins

RECR

**Status: Irruptive (absent to uncommon), mainly in winter, but possible at any time of year. Has bred in the District.**

Red Crossbill is the least common of the two crossbill species in the District. Although it has been reported year-round, it is reported most frequently in the winter. Its abundance is highly variable: it is absent or nearly absent many years, and even when it is present it tends to be uncommon. The most recent winter where it was found with some regularity was 2006-2007. It is likely a rare and irregular breeder in the District, but may do so occasionally after winters where numbers are present. For example, after winter 2006-07, two adults with a juvenile were found on the Eardley-Masham Road on 3 June 2007 (Ontbirds 11.06.2007).

Red Crossbill has a complex taxonomy, with the species being divided into at least 10 “call types” which are only identifiable on sonograms. The types which occur in Ontario feed mainly on red and white pines, and this species is usually associated with coniferous forest, although birds can be potentially heard calling in flight overhead anywhere in the District. In recent years, the Larose Forest and the Eardley-Masham Road area are two spots where Red Crossbill has occurred with some regularity.

<b>First Records</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
108 individuals; 19 December 1975; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
100 individuals; 14 May 1980; National Research Centre; Shrike 5(2):9.
100 individuals; 9 February 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
60 individuals; 27 April 2008; Larose Forest; Ontbirds 28.04.2008.
45 individuals; Fall 1973, numerous with flocks of up to 45 birds observed; AB 28(1):48.
35 individuals; 27 June 1981; Lac Philippe; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(3):11.

## White-winged Crossbill

*(Loxia leucoptera)*

Bec-croisé bifascié

WWCR

**Status: Irruptive (absent to common), mainly in winter, but possible at any time of year. Has bred in the District.**

White-winged Crossbill is the more frequently occurring of the two species of crossbill in the region. Although it can occur year-round, it occurs most regularly as an irruptive winter visitor. While it is absent in some winters, there are at least a

few around most years, and in good winters it can be common in the appropriate habitat. Its bill is specialised to feed on spruce cones, and so it is generally found in wooded areas where spruces are common; it rarely comes to feeders.

In heavy irruption years, it has nested in the District breeding as early in the season as March, it was recorded on 8% of squares on OBBA2 and 15% of squares on QBBA2, although breeding was not confirmed on either atlas.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,390 individuals; 10 February 1985; Poltimore area; Mark Gawn, Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(1):5.
1,200 individuals; 27 January 1985; Poltimore area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(11):5.
500 individuals; 14 December 2008; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
up to 400 individuals; early January 2009; widespread in flocks; Ontbirds
340 individuals; 22 December 1984; Poltimore area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):9.

## **Pine Siskin** (*Acanthis pinus*)

**Tarin des pins**

**PISI**

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Irruptive (absent to common) in winter. Has bred in the District.**

Pine Siskins can occur year-round in the District, but are probably most regular as a migrant in spring (mainly April) and fall (mainly September and October). During this period they can sometimes be found at feeders, or in wooded areas, but are most often detected by call note, passing overhead in flight. They are similar to Purple Finch in their winter occurrence: they can be completely absent some winters, and relatively common in others. Recent winters with good numbers include 2004-05, 2006-07, and early 2016. Like other winter finches, they prefer areas of coniferous woods, but are also attracted to feeders.

They are not a regular breeding species, but have sometimes remained to nest following irruption winters. At these times they can even be found nesting in conifers in residential areas within the cities.

<b>First Record</b>
11 April 1884, Cummings Woods. Ontario Birds, Volume 40 #2, pages 89-103 with supplemental file: The White collection of bird specimens
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
2,100 individuals; 23 March 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
1,720 individuals; 10 February 1985; Poltimore area; Mark Gawn, Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(1):5.
1,133 individuals; 21 December 1986; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
949 individuals; 30 December 2000; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
750 individuals; 27 January 1985; Poltimore area; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(1):5.

## **American Goldfinch** (*Acanthis tristis*)

**Chardonneret jaune**

**AMGO**

**Status: Abundant migrant and breeder, fairly common in winter.**

This familiar songbird occurs year-round in the District. It is an abundant breeder in weedy or grassy fields, open woodlands, parks and treed residential areas throughout the District (100% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). It often does not nest until July or August, much later than most songbirds. Some birds leave the District during the winter, but it usually remains fairly common, especially at feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,604 individuals; 18 December 2023; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; OFNC Website.
1,591 individuals; 16 December 1984; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
1,146 individuals; 3 January 1993; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC high count; Audubon CBC data.
300 individuals; 12 November 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(6):28.

150 individuals; 30 January 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(1):26.

150 individuals; 17 March 1985; Mark Gawn and Bob Gorman; Shrike 10(2):21.

## **Emberzine Sparrows and their Allies**

### **Lapland Longspur** (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

**Bruant lapon**

**LALO**

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring and fall, rare winter visitor.**

Lapland Longspurs mainly occur in the District between October and April. They are easiest to find during the fall migration (mid-October to mid-November) and spring migration (mid-March to mid-April); during the core of the winter, they tend to be rare. They frequent the same open agricultural areas as Snow Buntings and Horned Larks and can often be found in small numbers mixed in with flocks of these species, especially where they gather to feed at manure spreads. They occasionally occur in larger pure flocks.

In migration they are easiest to detect by their rattling call note as they pass overhead in open areas, at sewage lagoons or along the Ottawa River. The large majority of birds seen in the District are in winter plumage but rarely late flocks of breeding plumage birds have been observed in May.

#### **First Record**

Spring 1890 (until 25 May); with SNBU & HOLA; W.E. & F.A. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 5:43.

#### **Earliest Fall**

17 September 1949; 5 individuals; Beattie Bay, Lac Deschênes; A.E. Bourguigon; CFN 64:87.

26 September 1982; 1 individual; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 7(5):23.

26 September 2010; 1 individual; Bankfield Road; Ontbirds 29.20.2010.

30 September 1984; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Winchester; Shrike 9(5):10.

#### **Principal Dates**

Second week of October to second week of April

#### **Latest Spring**

8 May 1982; 3 individuals; Richmond Lagoons, Bruce Di Labio; T&L 16(4):191, Shrike 7(3):20.

9-15 May 1991; 1,000+ present on May 9, there were still 100 left on 15 May; T&L 25(4):129.

16 May 2004; 250+ individuals; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 19.05.2004.

11-17 May 2017, up to 20 individuals, Dunrobin, mobs, ebird

17 May 1987; 90 individuals, in breeding plumage, Aylmer; Jean Dubois; Ornitaouais 9(3):109.

25 May 1890; W.E. & F.A. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 5:43.

25 May 2009; 1 individual; Chapman Mills, Barrhaven; Ontbirds 25.05.2009.

#### **Noteworthy High Counts**

1,000+ individuals; 9 May 1991 (declining to 100 individuals on 15 May); T&L 25(4):129.

300, 25 January 1970, external experimental far, anonymous, ebird

250+ individuals; 16 May 2004; St. Albert Lagoons; Ontbirds 19.05.2004.

216 individuals; 4 December 2011; Moodie Drive Quarry Ponds; Kevin Hannah; eBird.

100 individuals; Mid-March 1971; Nepean Dump; Robin Humphries; AB 25(3):574.

90 individuals; January-February 1977; Navan; T&L 11(3):101.

### **Smith's Longspur** (*Calcarius pictus*)

**Plectrophane de Smith**

**SMLO**

**Status: Accidental spring transient**

This tundra nesting bird is rarely seen outside of northwestern Ontario. There was a single sighting, heard and seen flying away.

#### **First Record**

21 April, 2019, 1 individual, 2455–2579 Thomas A Dolan Pky, Ottawa, ON, heard and seen flying away, ebird, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S55214667>, Jeff Skevington, Angela Skevington, Richard Skevington.

For more information on rare species, see Appendix A

## Snow Bunting

(*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Bruant des neiges

SNBU

**Status: Fairly common winter visitor.**

Snow Buntings usually arrive to winter in the District in late October (exceptionally late September). There is one very unusual record from early June and another from **mid-August**. This species frequents open agricultural areas, where flocks feed in fields and along roadsides. They often associate with Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs, especially where manure is spread on fields. Most Snow Buntings leave the District by early April (exceptionally to early May). There is a single unusual summer record.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Earliest Fall</b>
<b>Second week of August, 1993 checklist.</b>
29 September 1977; 20 individuals; sand pit behind Shirley's Bay; Shrike 2(6):7.
6 October 2009; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 07.10.2009.
7 October 2003; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 08.10.2003.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of October to first week of April.
<b>Latest Spring</b>
2 May 1998; 1 individual in full breeding plumage; Lemieux Island; Bird Status Line transcripts.
2 May 1976; 1 individual; Westboro Beach; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 1(3):8.
4 May 1981; 2 individuals; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(3):20.
4 May 2017, 2 individuals, crysler, James Barber, ebird
5 May 1977; 1 individual; Green's Creek; Roger Foxall; Shrike 2(3):9.
6 May 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(3):27, Shrike Database.
6 May 2016, 3 individuals, Giroux Road, anonymous, ebird
8 May 1977; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Paul Matthews, Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 2(3):9.
8 May 1983; 3 individuals; Bob Gorman; Shrike 8(3):20, Shrike Database.
1 and 11 June 2021, 2 individuals, Dunrobin, Sue Robertson, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
6,000 individuals; 26 March 1988; Bear Brook/Cobb's Lake areas; T&L 22(4):167.
5,000 individuals; 31 January 2007; O'Toole Road; Ontbirds 05.02.2007.
Up to 4,000 individuals; January 1977; Experimental Farm; T&L 11(3):101.
2580 individuals, 11 January 2021; Fallowfield, Elena Kreuzberg, ebird
2,500 individuals; 15 January 1983; Jean Dubois; Shrike 8(2):24.
1,500 individuals; 10 November 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):28.
1,500 individuals; 30 December 2009; Woodlawn area; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

## Grasshopper Sparrow

(*Ammodramus savannarum*)

Bruant sauterelle

GRSP

**Uncommon and local breeder. Rarely seen in migration. Exceptional in winter.**

Grasshopper Sparrows usually return to the District in mid-May (exceptionally late April). They are the least common and most local of the grassland sparrows in the District (26% of squares on OBBA2), favouring open grassy areas with little shrub cover. In Ontario it is most reliably found in the vicinity of the Ottawa International Airport as well as Burnt Lands Provincial Park, but difficulty of access to the airport location and the high noise level during the week make Burnt Lands the easiest spot. It went unrecorded during QBBA2, but there has historically been a small breeding population in the Pontiac Region west of Quyon. Most Grasshopper Sparrows have migrated south by early September (exceptionally mid-October). They are rarely observed in migration – even later birds tend to be found in breeding habitat. There is one very unusual winter record of a bird found in Gatineau on the 1993 CBC.

<b>First Record</b>
24 June 1898; 1 individual; Hull; F.A. Saunders; Ottawa Naturalist 15:201.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>

24 April 1986; 1 individual; Frank Bell; Shrike Database.
25 April 1982; 3 individuals; Wright Smith; Shrike 7(2):17
26 April 2008; 1 individual; Leitrim & Bowesville roads; David Britton; pers. comm.
29 April 1985; 2 individuals; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):8.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
4 September 2003; 1 individual; Ottawa Airport area; Ontbirds 07.09.2003.
12 September 2009; 1 individual; Ottawa Airport area; Ontbirds 17.10.2009.
28 September 1984; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike 9(5):10.
17 October 2004; 1 individual; Giroux Road, Mid-Fall Bird Count; Ontbirds 18.10.2004.
<b>Winter Record</b>
19-20 Dec. 1993; 1 indiv., Tecumseh Golf Course, Gatineau; D. St.-Hilaire, m.obs.; Ornitaouais 16(2):40.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
22 individuals; 19 May 2024; Burnt lands Provincial Park; Jacob Stasso
At least 20 individuals; June 1997; Ottawa Airport area; T&L 32(2).
14 individuals, 28 May 1978, airport at Leitrim, Bruce Di Labio, ebird
14 individuals; 5 July 1981; Ottawa Airport area; Bill Holland; Shrike 6(4):14.
8 individuals; 29 May 1982; Richard Killeen; Shrike 7(3):29.

## Chipping Sparrow

(*Spizella passerina*)

Bruant familier  
CHSP

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Chipping Sparrows typically begin to return to the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March). They are a common breeder in mixed and coniferous woods of all sizes and types, including in treed residential areas in cities and towns (100% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). Most Chipping Sparrows have departed to the south in by late September, with stragglers through October and November.

Very rare in winter, averaging about three to four winter records per decade, generally of birds attempting to overwinter at feeders. It has been recorded seven times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC through to 2021. Most of the winter records are in December and early January, but there are several cases of birds overwintering successfully at feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
20 March 2012; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
20 March 2012; 1 individual; Kanata; Ian Stiell; eBird.
31 March 2004; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 02.04.2004.
4 April 1983; 1 individual; Bill Clark; Shrike 8(2):16.
6 April 1998; 1 individual; Bear Brook area; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
9 November 2012; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher, at his feeders; eBird.
9 November 2014; 2 individuals; Carp area; Germ Germain; eBird.
14 November 2010; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay feeders; Remy Poulin; eBird.
24 November 2012; 1 individual; Ottawa; Richard Waters, at his feeder; eBird.
27 November 2024; 1 individual; Watts Creek; ebird
November 2023; 12 individuals in different locations per ebird
<b>Winter Status</b>
Winter 1969-1970; 1 individual; successfully overwintered; T&L 4(3):90.
early February 2015; 1 individuals; Uplands Air Force Base; Ontbirds 05.02.2015
December 1983 to February 1984; 1 individual; Hull; Roland Furoco; T&L 18(3):124.
December 1984 to late February 1985; 1 individual; Alta Vista; T&L 20(3):89.
Late December 2006 to 7 February 2007; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Ontbirds 11.02.2007.
22 February 2012; 1 individual; Queensway & Aviation Parkway; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
23 February 2013; 1 individual; Crystal Beach, Ottawa, at feeders; Howard Youth; eBird.
4-20 February 2017, 1 individual, Carleton Place, Michael Jacques, ebird

12-16 February 2020, 1 individual, Carleton Place, Michael Jacques, ebird
7-22 February 2020, 1 individual, Shirley Avenue, Brendan Kelly, ebird
6 February 2020, 1 individual, Jean Talon St, mobs, ebird
December 2023; 4 different individuals per ebird records.
December 2025; 4 different individuals per ebird records
15 January-March 2025; 1 individual, Richmond, Peter Blancher, Michael Tate, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
90 individuals; 17 June 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.
79 individuals; 24 May 1981; Roger Taylor; Shrike 6(4):23.
66 individuals, 17 August 2014, parc brebeuf, real bisson, ebird
60 individuals; 7 May 1983; Jean Dubois; Shrike 8(3):30.

## Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

Bruant des plaines  
CCSP

**Status: Uncommon breeder, rarely observed in migration. Exceptional in winter.**

Clay-colored Sparrow returns to the District in mid-May (exceptionally late April). It is rarely seen in migration, usually first appearing on its breeding grounds. This species is an uncommon and local breeder in open fields with scattered shrubs or small trees, mainly on the Ontario side (34% of squares on OBBA2, 5% of squares on QBBA2). In Ontario it is most reliably found in the vicinity of the Ottawa International Airport as well as Burnt Lands Provincial Park, but difficulty of access to the airport location and the high noise level during the week make Burnt Lands the easiest spot. Most birds leave the District in early September (exceptionally late September). There are also two exceptional winter records from December.

<b>First Record</b>
20 May 1954; 1 individual; Dow's Swamp, Ottawa; CFN 71:155.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
26 April 1981; 1 individual; Munster sewage lagoons; Dan Brunton; Shrike 6(2):11.
27 April 1986; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike Database.
2 May 2013; 1 individual; Ottawa Airport area, Leitrim Road; Robert Desrameaux; eBird.
5 May 1983; 1 individual; Timm Drive; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 8(3):19.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
11 September 1983; 1 individual; near Leitrim Road; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):19.
11 September 1998; 1 individual; Cantley, QC; Bird Status Line transcripts.
12 September 2009; 1 individual; Ottawa Airport area; Ontbirds 17.10.2009.
24 September 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA, on the Ridge; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 24.09.2009.
28 September 2013; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Mark Gawn; eBird.
24 October 2015, 1 individual, Shirley's bay, Ed Kendall, ebird
<b>Winter Records</b>
20-25 December 1979; Ottawa; Earl Godfrey, at his feeders; Shrike 4(8):6.
4-5 December 2013; 1 individual; North Gower; Giovanni Pari, m.obs.; Ontbirds 05.12.2013.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
18 individuals, 18 May 2024; Burnt Lands PP, Christopher G. Harris, ebird
15 individuals, 16 May 2015, Burnt Lands PP, Richard waters, ebird
15 individuals; 20 May 2014; Ottawa Airport area, Bowesville Road; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; eBird.
10 individuals; 31 May 1983; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):30.
9 individuals; 20 May 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(3):24.

## Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

Bruant des champs  
FISP

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Fields Sparrow usually arrives in the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March). It is a fairly common breeder in open successional habitats including old fields, road sides and granite barrens. Much more widespread on the Ontario side of the District (74% of squares on OBBA2, 22% of squares on QBBA2). Field Sparrows usually leave the District by mid-September (exceptionally late October). There are about five winter records, including a bird that successfully overwintered at Deschênes in 1986.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
23 March 2013; 2 individual; Hilda Road feeders, Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 28.03.2013.
30 March 2012; 1 individual; Carp Hills at Thomas Dolan Parkway; Patrick Blake; eBird.
31 March to 4 April 1972; 1 individual; Manotick; Roger Foxall; AB 26(4):757.
2 April 2012; 3 individuals; Carp Hills at Thomas Dolan Parkway; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
7 April 1985; 1 individual; Langis Sirois, Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(2):8.
8 April 1985; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
20/21 October 2001; 2 individuals; SW Sector, Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
26/27 October 1996; 2 individuals; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC archived website.
28 October 1984; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(5):10.
29 October 1978; 1 individual; T&L 13(1):13
3 November 2019, 1 individual, almonte lagoons, Kim Clarke
3 November 2020, 1 individual, Fletcher Wildlife Gardens, Paul Lagassi; ebird
<b>Winter Records</b>
26 December 2002; 1 individual; Goodwin's Bay, just east of Arnprior; Ontbirds
27 December 1965; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC Historical Data.
19 December 1971; 2 individuals; Audubon CBC Historical Data.
2-20 January 2003; 1 individual; Hilda Road feeders; Ontbirds
22 December 1985 to 23 March 1986; 1 individual; Deschênes; Shrike 10(4):11, Ornitaouais 8(3):96.
21 January 1997, 1 individual, magladry road, langis sirois, ebird
4-19 January 2019, 1 individual, trail road, mobs, ebird
25 december 2019, 1 individual; Grant's side road, 1 individual, bruce dilabio, ebird
25 december, 1 individual, revelever feeder, paul shoening, ebird
20 december 2020, 1 individual, sussex drive, Michael henry, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
40 individuals; 23 August 1977; in a field in Aylmer; Monty Brigham; Shrike 2(5):6.
36 individuals, 28 August 2018, Burnt lands PP, Bruce Di labio, ebird
30 individuals; 30 July 2013; Carp Hills; Mark Patry; eBird.
14 individuals; 6 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):21.
12 individuals; 6 May 2012; Ottawa Airport area, High Road; Remy Poulin; eBird

## Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Bruant à joues marron

LASP

### Status: Accidental visitor

Seven records (two OBRSC accepted). Two records occurred in the 1980's during the summer months. Although separated by three years, they were both in the Dunrobin area. The small number of records for this western species is somewhat surprising since it is annual in southern Ontario and nearly annual in southern Quebec. Then there were two more in 2020, with the last one staying for months at a feeder in Ashton.

<b>Records</b>
13 June 1984; 1 adult; Sixth Line near Thomas Dolan Parkway, Jim Wickware, m.obs; OBRSC #325.
16 July 1987; 1 adult; River Rd. near Thomas Dolan Pkwy; Ray Holland, m.obs.; OBRSC #394.
31 October 2020, 1 individual, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, ON, ebird, m. obs.
Late December 2020-21 April 2021; 1 individual; Ashton Station; mobs, ebird
2-3 May 2022; 1 individual; Twin Elm Wetlands. Mobs, ebird
<b>Winter record</b>
30 December 2020-21 April 2021; Ashton; mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A

## American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*)

Bruant hudsonien  
ATSP

**Status: Common migrant and fairly common winter resident.**

American Tree Sparrows usually begin to arrive in the District in mid-October (exceptionally late September). It is common through until early December and then fairly common through the winter, where it is usually found in brushy areas and is often attracted to feeders. Numbers pick up again in late March when migrants are heading north again. Most birds have left by late April (exceptionally late May).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
23 September 1981; 2 individuals; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 6(5):13.
26 September 1981; 2 individuals; John Sankey; Shrike Database.
26 September 1982; 2 individuals; Jo Anne Murray & Hue Mackenzie; Shrike 7(5):22.
26 September 1998; 1 individual; High Falls CA; Casselman; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of October to third week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
13 May 1993; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
15 May 2002; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
17 May 1984; 1 individual; Innis Point; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(3):12.
20 May 2002; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
23 May 1976; 3 individuals; Cantley; Jim Ginns; Shrike 1(3):8.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
450 individuals; 14 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
220 individuals; 17 April 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):19.
210 individuals; 16 April 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):24.

## Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)

Bruant fauve  
FOSP

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Exceptional in winter.**

In spring, most Fox Sparrows pass through the District in the middle two weeks of April, but have occurred as early as mid-March and as late as late May. The southbound migration is in mid- to late October, with early records in late September and late records through November. There are at least eight winter records, including an individuals that successfully overwintered near Almonte in 1996-97 and in Beacon Hill in 2005-06.

<b>First Record</b>
2 May 1884, 185 Wurtemberg, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280. Presumed here as the bird was shot by White..
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
10 March 2000; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
21 March 2012; 1 individual; in a backyard in downtown Ottawa; Peter Hall; Ontbirds 22.03.2012
22 March 2013; 2 individuals; Ramar Lane, Metcalfe; Kim Toews, Brendan Toews; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second and third week of April.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
12 May 1977; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 2(3):9.
12 May 2004; 1 individual; Tunney's Pasture area; Ontbirds 17.05.2004.s
20 May 1973; <i>vide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 27(4):769.
Fourth week of May, 1993 checklist

<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
<b>Third week of September, 1993 Checklist</b>
22 September 2005; 2 individuals; Carleton Place area; Mike Jacques; eBird.
24 September 1983; 1 individual; Airport; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(5):19.
26 September 1998; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second to fourth week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
15 November 2008; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Mike Jacques; eBird.
18 November 1984; 1 individual; Aylmer; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 9(6):9.
18 November 2012; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Mike Jacques; eBird.
20 November 2014; 1 individual; Richmond, lingered to this date, Peter Blancher, eBird.
<b>Winter Records</b>
Early December 1977; Wychwood, at a feeder; T&L 12(2):58.
7-10 December 2005; 1 individual; Carleton University; Ontbirds 14.12.2005.
16 December 1984; 1 individual; Aylmer, Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):9.
29 December 2011; 1 individual; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC; Audubon CBC Data.
2 January 1995; 1 individual; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC; Audubon CBC Data.
1-8 January 2002; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Ontbirds 01,13.01.2002.
24 January 2006; 1 individual; Chelsea; Ontbirds 31.01.2006.
18 Dec. 2005 to 10 March 2006; 1 individual; Beacon Hill North, Ontbirds 19.12.2005 & 14.03.2006.
until 30 March 1997; 1 individual; 5 km sw. of Almonte; John Fowler, Bruce Di Labio; OBRSC #499.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
35, 23 April 2019, Stony Swamp, Elena Kreuzberg, ebird
24 individuals; 11 October 1976; Rick Poulin; Shrike 1(7):6.
20 individuals; 20 April 2006; Ridge Road; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 20.04.2006.
17 individuals; 22 April 2010; Bill Mason Centre; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
16 individuals; 20 October 2001; Innis Point Bird Observatory; David Britton; pers. comm.

## Dark-eyed Junco

(*Junco hyemalis*)

*Junco ardoisé*  
DEJU

**Status: Abundant migrant in spring and fall. Rare breeder in the northern part of the District. Fairly common in winter.**

Dark-eyed Junco occurs year round in the District, but is most easily found during spring and fall migration, when it is abundant. The peak of spring passage is from early April to early May, and fall migration peaks from mid-September to early November. This species is a rare breeder in coniferous and mixed forest, mainly in the northern part of the District (26% of squares on OBBA2, 38% of squares on QBBA2). Dark-eyed Junco is fairly common in winter, especially around birdfeeders. Numbers tend to drop as winter proceeds, until spring migrants begin arriving.

Slate-coloured Junco is the common subspecies in the District. The western Oregon Junco subspecies is a casual visitor, mainly in winter but there are about sixteen records.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First week of April to first week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of September to first week of November.
<b>Winter Status</b>
Fairly common during winter, especially around feeders.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1025 individuals; 15 October 1983; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(6):27.
500 individuals; 17 April 1981; Roger Foxall; Shrike 6(6):26.
375 individuals, 8 October 1985, Berry sideroad/ 5 <sup>th</sup> line, Bruce Di labio, ebird
350 individuals; 28 April 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):28.

### Unusual subspecies: Oregon Junco

27 December 1965; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.

11 October 1969, two seen, another at a feeder late fall 1969, T&L 4(1):19
Spring 1969, 1 individual; Vincent Massey Park, (T&L 3(4):132.
24 April 1970; 1 individual; Confederation Heights School; T&L 4(4):126.
26 April 1977; 1 individual; Britannia Filtration Plant, Mark Gawn; Shrike 2(2):7.
16 December 1984; 1 indiv.; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC Data. May be same as below.
January-February 1985; Aylmer; T&L 19(3):128.
30 November 1985; 1 female; Aylmer; Rodolphe Dubois; Ornitaouais 8(2):58.
4 May 1987; 1 individual; Templeton; Elisabeth Cloutier; Ornitaouais 9(3):110.
Winter 1988-89; 1 individual; overwintered at an east end feeder; T&L 23(3):135.
30 October 1998; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Bird Status Line transcripts.
12 Nov. 2007 to 6 Jan. 2008; 1 indiv.; Fletcher Wildlife Gardens; Ontbirds 19.11.2007, 07.01.2008.
14 December 2008; 1 individual; Hull, Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Ontbirds 15.12.2008.
20 December 2009; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC Data.
6-7 March 2013; 1 female; Stradwick Avenue, Barrhaven; Jon Ruddy; Ontbirds 08.03.2013.
There were also records in 2015, 2016, and 2018

## White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

**Bruant à couronne blanche**  
**WCSP**

**Status: Fairly common migrant.**

White-crowned Sparrow is a fairly common migrant through the District en route to its breeding grounds in the northern boreal forest. In the spring, peak migration is in mid-May, but it has been recorded as early as mid-April and as late as mid-June. There are two records from June and July that may pertain to birds that summered south of the breeding grounds. In fall migration, most birds pass through in the period between late September and mid-October, with records as early as mid-September, and stragglers through November and into early winter.

This species is very rare in winter, and is recorded about four winters per decade on average. It has been recorded 15 times through to 2021 on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (high count of four in 1970); and once on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC (one in 2006). Some birds have persisted into January and February, generally at feeders.

The western subspecies, Gambell's White-crowned Sparrow has been reported twice in the District, but may be overlooked.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed on the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
14 April 2014; 1 individual; Gatineau Park; Carl Savignac; eBird.
19 April 1997; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
20 April 2009; 1 individual; Nepean; Jan Rosender; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Second and third weeks of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 1983; 3 individuals; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Banding Data.
12 June 1977; 1 individual; Richmond; Simon Gawn; T&L 11(5):135, Shrike 2(4):7.
10-21 June 1983; 1 individual; John Sankey; summering bird?; Shrike 10(3):12.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
11 July 1982; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; summering bird? Shrike 7(6):32, Shrike Database.
11 September 1983; 1 individual; Ron Bedford; Shrike 8(5):19.
16 September 2013; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Howard Youth; eBird.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
5-9 November 2007; 1 individual; Ottawa General Hospital area; Christopher Harris; eBird.
17 November 1982; 1 individual; Clyde Woods; Bob Bracken; Shrike 7(6):20.
25 November 2004; 1 individual; Osgoode; Bev Kay; eBird.
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
There are multiple records of successfully overwintering birds
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
262 individuals, 8 October 1985, Berry sideroad/ 5 <sup>th</sup> line; Bruce Di labio, ebird

200 individuals; 28 September 1981; Richard Killeen; Shrike 6(5):24.
68 individuals; 6 October 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):21.
40 individuals; 14 October 1982; Shrike 7(5):33.

<b>Unusual subspecies: Gambell's White-crowned Sparrow</b>
4 & 14 May 2000; 1 individual, banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
7 October 2013; 1 first year; Britannia CA; John Ruddy; Ontbirds 07.10.2013.

**Bruant à couronne dorée**

## Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

**GCSP**

**Status: Accidental fall transient and winter visitor.**

There are two records, (both OBRSC accepted) of this western mountain species, one from fall and one from winter. Both birds frequented feeders in residential areas.

<b>Records</b>
10-15 October 2010; 1 juvenile; Beacon Hill; Giovanni Pari, m.obs.; OBRSC #727.
early February to mid-March 2012; 1 individual; Beechwood Cemetery area; Ontbirds 20.04.2012.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

**Bruant à face noire**

**HASP**

**Status: Casual visitor, mainly in winter.**

Eight records (two OBRSC accepted) averaging one or two records per decade, but with no records since 1999. Six of the records are of birds coming to feeders in late fall and winter. In four cases they were observed to successfully overwinter. There is one fall migration record which is poorly documented.

<b>First Record</b>
26 November to early December 1972; 1 adult; Debby Prest, m.obs. T&L 7(2):55.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
28 September 1975; 1 moulting adult; Wakefield; Robert Watt; T&L 10(1):7, OBRSC #348.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
Dec. 1995 to 7 May 1996; 1 individual; Ottawa; Bob Gorman, m.obs.; T&L 30(3):117, 30(4):155.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

**Bruant à gorge blanche**

**WTSP**

**Status: Abundant migrant and common breeder. Rare in winter.**

White-throated Sparrows typically return to the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March). They are an abundant migrant, and can often be found in flocks, feeding on the ground in forested areas. It is a common breeder in mixed and deciduous forests, especially in areas with shrub understory and openings in the canopy (98% of square on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2). Most birds leave the region by the end of October, but it continues to be uncommon to rare through November.

White-throated Sparrow is rare in winter, but a few birds linger at least into December every year. It has been recorded on about 90% of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since 1960 (high count of 20 in 2001); and on about a third of the Dunrobin-

Breckenridge CBCs (high count of three in 2012). Wintering birds, usually at feeders, occur with decreasing frequency through January and February, but successful overwintering occurs with some regularity.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
23 March 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):8.
25 March 2010; Britannia CA, first small wave of migrants; Ontbirds 30.03.2010.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to fourth week of October (uncommon to rare through November).
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
550 individuals, 8 October 1985, berry sideroad/ 5 <sup>th</sup> line; Bruce Di labio, ebird
500 individuals; 10 October 2004; Shirley's Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
360 individuals; 7 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):30.
250 individuals 26 September 1981; Ian & Paul Jones; Shrike 6(5):24.

## Vesper Sparrow

(*Pooecetes gramineus*)

Bruant vespéral  
VESP

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Vesper Sparrows usually return to the District in mid-April (exceptionally late March). They are an uncommon breeder in open habitats such as meadows, pastures and croplands, often with small trees or shrubs present. They are probably more common than realized due to their preference for habitat that is not typically birded so much, like soybean or cornfields with open ground. Like the other grassland sparrows, they are more widespread in the Ontario side of the District (68% of squares on OBBA2, 11% of squares on QBBA2). Vesper Sparrows typically leave the area in early October, but there are stragglers through the month and into October. There are about five winter records, the latest of which was in mid-February.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
30 March 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):17.
5 April 1981; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike 6(2):11.
6 April 1985; 1 individual; Cantley; Anne & Jim Ginns; Shrike 10(2):8..
7 April 1985; 2 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23 October 2005; 1 individual; Trail Road; David Britton; pers. comm.
27 October 1983; 1 individual; Russell; Frank Bell; Shrike 8(5):19.
13 November 1984; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 9(6):9.
29 November 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
<b>Winter Records</b>
1 December 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
7 December 2003; 1 individual; Akins Road at Eagleson Road; Ontbirds 10.12.2003.
16 December 2017; 1 individual; Cope Drive; mobs; ebird
26 December 1984; 1 individual; Galetta, on the Arnprior CBC; Shrike 9(6):9.
30 December 2001; 1 individual; Trail Road Landfill, with ATSP & DEJU; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Second week of January; 1993 checklist</b>
22 February 2020; 1 individual; Drouin Road; Nina Stavlund; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
40 individuals; 4 September 1983; SW part of 50K; Gordon Pringle & Frank Bell; Shrike 8(5):19.
20 individuals; 2 August 1981; Roger Taylor; Shrike 6(4):23.
20 individuals; 25 April 1982; Ron Bedford; Shrike 7(2):25.
16 individuals; 13 June 2009; Cedarview Road; Patrick Blake; eBird.

## Le Conte's Sparrow

(*Ammodramus leconteii*)

Bruant de LeConte  
LCSP

**Status: Casual transient in spring and fall. Has bred.**

Fourteen records (4 OBRSC accepted), averaging two to three per decade and with slightly more sightings occurring in spring (May and early June) than fall (early September to early October). There is one confirmed breeding record from Halville in 1987 and another instance where two males singing in May 1974 near Metcalfe were suspected of breeding, but it was never confirmed.

<b>First Record</b>
3 May 1969; 1 individual; in a swamp off of Moodie Drive, m.obs.; T&L 3(4):132.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
3 May 1969; 1 individual; in a swamp off of Moodie Drive, m.obs.; T&L 3(4):132.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
10 June 2002; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Peter Blancher; eBird.
<b>Exceptional Breeding</b>
7 June to 19 July 1987; 2 adults, 3 fledged young; Halville; Marc-André Villard, m.obs.; CFN 103:89-90.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
3 September 1972; 1 adult; Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, ON; Richard Poulin; OBRSC #029.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
3 October 2012; 1 individual; Constance Bay at Constance Cr.; Jeff Skevington; Ontbirds 4.10.2012.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds, except the breeding records noted above.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

**Nelson's Sparrow**  
(*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

**Bruant de Nelson**  
**NESP**

**Status: Very rare migrant, mainly in fall.**

Prior to 2011, there were about 23 records (four OBRSC accepted), averaging about four or five per decade. The vast majority of these records were from late September to mid-October in shoreline vegetation along the Ottawa River. In 2011 it was discovered that this species could be found in the fall in surprising numbers at the mouth of Constance Creek at Constance Bay. This pattern of occurrence repeated itself in 2012 and 2013 (although not in 2014, when there was high water in the Ottawa River). Based on observations since 2020, it appears that this species may well be locally uncommon in much of the phragmites habitat on the Ottawa River in fall. There are only 5 spring records, most of them singing birds. The lack of suitable habitat and their singing habits (finishing much earlier in the morning) may account for this.

<b>First Record</b>
1882; 1 individual; no location given, shot and identified by Dr. Coues; Ottawa Naturalist 5:44.
<b>Spring Records</b>
11 & 13 June 1987; up to 2 individuals; Richmond Fen; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; T&L 21(5):258.
12 June 1993; 1 individual; Richmond Fen; Bernie Ladouceur; AB 47(5):1106, T&L 28(4):140.
3 June 2020; 1 individual; Stony Swamp; Christian Artuso and Alex Stone; ebird
5 June 2021; 1 individual; Watt's Creek; Brandon Edwards; ebird
13-14 June 2021; 1 individual; Baie Mclaurin; mobs; ebird
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
18 September 2013; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
17 October 2011; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington, Ontbirds 18.10.2011
<b>Winter Record</b>
4 December 2017; 1 individual; Kanata; Philip Wright; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
16 individuals; 3 October 2012; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
11 individuals; 9 October 2011; Constance Bay; Bob Bracken, m.obs; Ontbirds 09.10.2011.
11 individuals; 10 October 2013; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington, Richard Skevington; eBird.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Henslow's Sparrow

(*Ammodramus henslowii*)

Bruant de Henslow

HESP

**Status: Formerly a rare and local breeder, accidental since 1980.**

First discovered in the District in 1950's, local breeding colonies of Henslow's Sparrows were reported occasionally in the 1960's and 1970's, with the last colony reported in 1980 along Ridge Road near the Mer Bleue Bog. In many cases colonies were first detected in mid- to late May and, if breeding occurred, birds lingered into July or early August. There is one late record of a fall migrant in early October. There is only one subsequent record since then – a lone male that appeared at the Ridge Road location for a few days in June 1999. This change in status is consistent with range-wide declines in this species since the 1980s.

<b>First Record</b>
18-27 July 1950; 4 males; near Carlsbad Springs; Dr. Norman Guiou & Rowley Frith; CFN 65:46.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
3 May to 16 June 1978; 4 males; Ramsayville / Anderson Road, T&L 12(4):105, 12(5):128.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
6 October 1977; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; T&L 12(1):8, OBRSC #208.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
Spring 1969; loose colony with up to five singing males; Shirley's Bay; T&L 3(4):132.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A

## Savannah Sparrow

(*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Bruant des prés

SAVS

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Savannah Sparrows typically return to the area in mid-April (exceptionally early March). They are a common breeder in fields and pastures, where they can often be found singing from fence lines or small trees and shrubs (100% of squares on OBBA2, 84% of squares on QBBA2). Most Savannahs have left the area by mid-October, with scattered late records into November. There are about five winter records, including two birds that successfully overwintered in 1970-71.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
5 March 1975; 1 individual; A. Sheppard; AB 29(3):687.
23 March 1973; 1 individual; <i>fide</i> Roger Foxall; AB 27(3):611.
23 March 1985; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 10(2):8.
3 April 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike 8(2):16.
4 April 1981; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 6(2):11.
5 April 1997; 1 individual; Bourget; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
29 October 2008; 1 individual; Dick Bell Park; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 30.10.2008
30 October 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):19.
1 November 1981; 2 individuals; Frank Munro; Shrike 6(6):14.
7 November 2007; 1 individual; Manotick, coming to a feeder; Ontbirds 12.11.2007.
18 November 1984; 1 individual; Nepean Yacht Club; Mark Gawn, Bob Gorman; OBRSC #335.
22 November 1984; 1 individual; Stillwater Park; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(6):9.
<b>Winter Records</b>
29 December 1984; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Bruce Di Labio & Arnie Simpson; Shrike 9(6):9.
2 January 1967; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
3 January 2000; 1 individual; Torbolton Ridge Road, Dunrobin CBC; Audubon CBC data.
26 December 2001 to late January 2002; 1 individual; Nepean, at feeders; Bird Status Line transcripts.
To late February 1971; 2 individuals; Ottawa, first successful overwintering; M. Curtis; AB 25(3):574.

15-19 February 2016, 1 individual, Winchester, mobs.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
250 individuals; 23 May 1982; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 7(3):29.
150 individuals; 11 May 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(3):24.
115 individuals; 25 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):21.

## Song Sparrow

(*Melospiza melodia*)

Bruant chanteur  
SOSP

**Status: Abundant migrant and breeder. Rare in winter.**

One of the earliest songbirds to return to the District, Song Sparrows begin to return in late March in most years (exceptionally early March). They are an abundant breeder throughout the region in a variety of habitats, but are most common in wet shrubby areas (100% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). This species can be found fairly easily until early November when numbers decline as birds head south.

Song Sparrow is rare in winter, but a few birds linger at least into December every year. It has been recorded on every Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since at least 1960 (high count of 25 in 1979); and on most Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs (high count of six in 1996). Wintering birds, usually at feeders, occur with decreasing frequency through January and February, but successful overwintering has occurred more than once.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
5 March 1983; 2 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(2) 16, Shrike Database.
5 March 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2) 16, Shrike Database.
10 March 2000; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of March to first week of November.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
200 individuals; 15 April 1982; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 7(2):25.
200 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):21
150 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.

## Lincoln's Sparrow

(*Melospiza lincolnii*)

Bruant de Lincoln  
LISP

**Uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Very rare and local breeder, mainly at Mer Bleue Bog.**

Lincoln's Sparrow is an uncommon and inconspicuous migrant through the District. During spring it passes through mainly in mid-May, with records as early as mid-April and as late as early June. The only regular breeding location in the District is the Mer Bleue Bog, but it is occasionally found elsewhere in the District during breeding season (OBBA1: a male on territory near Manion Corners; OBBA2: a pair near Rockland, a singing male near Manotick; QBBA1: confirmed breeding near Eardley and north of Thurso; QBBA2: possible breeding near Thurso and Perkins). It prefers shrubby, willow-dominated habitats, usually associated with bogs. During fall migration, most records come from the period between mid-September and mid-October, with birds seen as early as mid-August. There is two winter records.

<b>First Record</b>
16 May 1884; 1 individual; specimen taken by G.R. White; CFN 38:11.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Second and third week of April, 1993 Checklist.
18 April 2014; 1 individual; Mer Bleue Bog; Emily Bird; eBird.
21 April 2014; 1 singing male; Mer Bleue Bog; Aaron Hywarren; eBird.
23 April 1982; 1 individual; Cumberland; John Sankey; OBRSC #290.
27 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line
<b>Principal Spring Dates (migrants)</b>
Second and third weeks of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
28 May 2000; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; banded; IPBO banding data.

28-29 May 2005; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; banded; IPBO banding data.
31 May 1981; 1 individual; Jean Higginson; Shrike 6(3):15.
1 June 1997; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory, banded; IPBO banding data.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
11-30 August 1984; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson, at his feeders; Shrike 10(4):11.
2 September 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
2 September 1998; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcripts.
3 September 1997; 1 individual; Ridge Road, on the Seedathon; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Principal Fall Dates (migrants)</b>
Second week of September to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23/24 October 2010; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count, SW Sector; OFNC website.
24 October 1982; 2 individuals; Bill Coburn; Shrike 7(5):23.
24/25 October 1998; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC archived data.
30 October 2014; 1 individual; Deschênes; Jacques Savard; eBird.
31 October 2010; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Ontbirds 02.11.2010.
3 November 2014, 1 individual, Marais aux grenouillettes, Daniel St. Hillarie
3 November 2019, 1 individual, Parc du lac leamy, Donald dallaire
<b>Winter record</b>
January 2-3 2019, 1 individual, trail road landfill, mobs, ebird
6-8 December 2025; 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
8 individuals; 18 May 2018, Mer Bleue Bog, anonymous; ebird
6 individuals; 19 September 2011; Richmond Lagoons; Peter Blancher; eBird.
6 individuals; 15 September 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):24.
At least 5 individuals; 8 July 2005; Mer Bleue; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 08.07.2005.

## Swamp Sparrow

(*Melospiza georgiana*)

Bruant des marais

SWSP

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Swamp Sparrows usually return to the area in late April (exceptionally mid-March). This species is a common breeder throughout the region in a range of wetlands from cattail marshes to wet shrubby fields (92% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2). In fall migration, most birds have departed by late October, with a few stragglers through November.

This species is very rare in winter, recorded about four winters per decade on average. It has been recorded fifteen times since 1968 on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (high count of 3 in 1978); and twice on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC (high count of 2 in 1992). Some birds have persisted into February.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
19 March 1983; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(2):24.
21 March 2012; 2 individuals; Jack Pine Trail; Patrick Blake; eBird.
28 March 2012; 1 individual; Russell Lagoons; Hans van der Zweep; eBird.
29 March 2013; 1 individual; Bill Mason Centre; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to third week of October
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
January-February 1980; 1 individual (?); Robert Bergeron, Mark Gawn; T&L 14(3):87, Shrike 5(1):6.
22 December 1968 to 2 January 1969, 1 individual; Britannia, found on the CBC; T&L 3(3):74.
3 January 1988; 1 individual; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC
3 January 1993; 2 individuals; Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC
To 5 January 2002; 1 individual; ditch behind the NRC on Montreal Road, Ontbirds 08.01.2002.
7-8 January 2010; 1 individual; Hull; Ontbirds 13.01.2010.
20 January 2021, 1 individual, chemin de fer (Gatineau), daniel st, hilaire, ebird
22-24 January 2021, 1 individual, marais sabourin, mobs, ebird
25 January-12 February 2025; 1 individual, Stony Swamp, mobs, ebird

Noteworthy High Counts
200 individuals; 21 April 1985; Mark Gawn; Shrike 10(2):21.
100 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.
70 individuals; 9 July 2012; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

## Spotted Towhee

(*Pipilo maculatus*)

Tohi tacheté  
SPTO

### Accidental visitor, mainly in winter.

There are three records (two OBRSC accepted) of this western counterpart of the Eastern Towhee in the District, ranging from November through April. Two of the occurrences involved birds that overwintered at feeders.

Records
c. Jan. to 2 Feb. 1993; 1 male; MacLaren's Landing; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; OBRSC #554.
25-28 November 1993; 1 individual; Cantley, QC; S. Pilon; AB 48(1):86.
c. Dec. 2001 to 13 April 2002; 1 individual; Gatineau; Claudette Gratton, m.obs.; OBRSC #657

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Eastern Towhee

(*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

Tohi à flancs roux  
EATO

### Status: Rare migrant and breeder, except locally on the Carp Hills where it is a fairly common breeder. Formerly more widespread. Very rare in winter.

Eastern Towhee is a rare migrant and breeder in the District. In spring birds arrive in mid- to late April (exceptionally early April). It breeds in open, shrubby habitats; the Carp Hills is the only site in the District where it is reliably found every year, beyond this it is a rare breeder, especially on the Quebec side (30% of squares on OBBA2, 8% of squares on QBBA2). In the 1970s and 1980s this species was more widespread than currently. Most birds leave the District by mid-September but stragglers have been seen through October and November.

This species is very rare in winter, averaging about two to three winter records per decade, generally of birds attempting to overwinter at feeders. It has been recorded five times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC. Most of the winter records are in December and early January, but successful overwintering has occurred.

First Record
1902 (date not specified); Buckingham QC, one specimen taken; Mr. Warwick; Ottawa Naturalist 24:203.
Early Spring Arrival
21 March 2016, 1 individual, Cantley, Nicholas Bertrand, ebird
1 April 2012; 1 individual; Carp Hills at Thomas Dolan Pkwy.; Ontbirds 05.04.2012.
12 April 2-14; 1 individual; Kemptville; Josh Van Wieren; eBird.
14 April 1985; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):8.
14 April 2000; 1 individual; Forêt Boucher; Aylmer; Bird Status Line transcripts.
Principal Dates
Third week of April to second week of September.
Late Fall Departure
9 November 2009; 1 male; Goldridge Park, Kanata Lakes; Ontbirds 13.09.2009.
11 November 1989; 1 individual; Gatineau; Etienne Artigau; eBird.
13 November 2006; 1 individual; Kerwin Road trail; Ontbirds 13.10.2006.
14 November 2011; 1 individual; Carleton Place, at a feeder; Ontbirds 15.11.2011.
16 November 1973; 1 individual; Bruce Mactavish; AB 28(1):48.
27-28 November 1981; 1 female; Roger Taylor, at his feeder; Shrike 6(6):14.
Late Winter Records
11 December 2022-6 January 2023; 1 individual, Voyageur Drive, Ottawa, Doug Spry, Tom Devecseri, ebird
24 January 1981; 1 individual; Frank Bell; Shrike 6(1):7.

5 February 2006; 1 individual; Russell, ON, at a feeder; Ontbirds 05.02.2006.
Until 20 February 2012; 1 individual; Forced Road, Russell; at a feeder; Ontbirds 22.02.2012.
Winter 1975-76, 1 individual; first successful overwintering; <i>vide</i> Rick Poulin; AB 30(3):714.
4 december 2020-14 March 2021, 1 individual at a feeder, Old almonte road, mobs, ebird
16 December 2024; 1 individual; Development road; Giovanni pari; ebird
30 December 2024-March 2025; 1 individual; Aylmer; mobs; ebird
22 December 2023-late March 2024; 1 individual, Sarsaparilla Trail, mobs, ebird
27 February 2025; 1 individual, old Almonte Road, Gordon Mearthur, ebird
11-14 December 2025; 1 individual, Champlain park woods, Marnie and Sandy Campbell, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
11 individuals; 27 June 1984; Carp Hills; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(3):12.
7 individuals; 11 June 1977; Dwyer Hill; Shrike 2(4):7.
5 individuals; 7 July 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):24.
5 individuals; 1 June 2008; Carp Hills; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.

## Yellow-breasted Chat

### Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

Paruline polyglotte

YBCH

#### Casual transient, spring through fall.

There are about 15 records (four OBRSC accepted) for this species, formerly classified with the wood warbler, whose breeding range barely makes it into southwestern Ontario. It has occurred on average about three times per decade with records are spread throughout the year from May to November. It is usually associated with dense shrubby thickets around forest edges, where it skulks and can be difficult to see. Often detected by voice.

<b>First Record</b>
Pre-1969.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
9 May 1979; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio, Bob Bracken; AB 33(5):767, T&L 13(4):125.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
6-27 Nov. 1985; 1 adult; Irving Place, Ottawa, Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; AB 40(1):108, OBRSC #352.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Icterids

### Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Carouge à tête jaune

YHBL

#### Status: Casual visitor year-round.

About 25 records (eight OBRSC accepted), averaging four or five records per decade. Reports mainly fall in the period between early April and early September with May being the month with the highest total number of observations. There are also three winter records, including one bird that overwintered at a feeder. Sightings have come from a range of locations and habitats, including wetlands, agricultural areas, sewage lagoons and feeders in residential areas. Where sex has been reported, the majority of sightings have involved males.

<b>First Record</b>
1 September 1971; 1 adult male; Fallowfield, Ottawa; Steve O'Donnell; T&L 7(1):27, OBRSC #004.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Goglu des prés

BOBO

**Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Bobolinks generally return to the District in early to mid-May (exceptionally early April). They are a fairly common breeder in open meadows, pastures and hayfields (100% of squares on OBBA2, 89% of squares on QBBA2). Like many grassland birds their numbers are, unfortunately, declining. They are an early southbound migrant: in late summer Bobolinks form flocks in open agricultural areas and can often be heard in flight migrating overhead from late July to early September. There are scattered records of late migrants through to late October. A female found in early December 1971 near Dunrobin is exceptional and is one of very few winter records of this species in Ontario.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
7 April 1981; 1 individual; Old Chelsea; F. Cotton; AB 35(5):804.
16 April 1985; 5 individuals, Jack Pine Trail; Shrike 10(2):1, T&L 19(4):202.
<b>Fourth week of April, 1993 Checklist.</b>
24 April 2004; 1 individual; Moodie Drive and Trail Road; Ontbirds 26.04.2004.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
21 September 2010; 1 individual; Embrun Lagoons; Hans van der Zweep; eBird.
5 October 1983; 1 individual; Russell; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):18.
8 October 1981; 5 individuals; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 6(5):12.
31 October 1985; 8 individuals; Ray Holland; Shrike Database.
<b>Winter Records</b>
5 December 1971; 1 female; one mile west of Dunrobin; Bruce MacTavish, m.obs.; OBRSC #016.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
up to 1,000 individuals; August to mid-September 1985; Shrike 10(4):12.
480 individuals; 27 July 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):24.
460 individuals; 19 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):21.

## Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

Sturnelle des prés

EAME

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter.**

Eastern Meadowlarks return to the area in early April (exceptionally late February). They are a common breeder in meadows, pastures and hayfields (100% of squares on OBBA2, 76% of squares on QBBA2). Like many grassland birds their numbers are, unfortunately, declining. Most Eastern Meadowlarks leave the District in mid-October, with scattered records through November.

Very rare in winter. In the 1980's it was recorded almost every winter, but more recently it has occurred less frequently in this season. It has been recorded on three Ottawa-Gatineau CBC (single birds in 1931, 1961 and 1981); and on five Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs since 1981 (high count of two in three years). Most records are from December, rarely into January.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 February and 3 March 2003; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Ontbirds 12.03.2003.
6 March 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike 8(2):15.
11 March 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):9.
13 March 1982; 1 individual; Rose Marie Amott; Shrike 7(2):17.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of April to third week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>

3 November 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.
3 November 2007; 1 individual; March Valley Road; Ontbirds 05.11.2007.
19 November 1983; 1 individual; Shrike 8(6):13. Also three other earlier dates in Nov. in 1983.
<b>Fourth week of November, 1993 Checklist</b>
<b>Late Winter Records</b>
26 December 2024; 1 individual; Pakenham area; Nata Culhane; ebird
January-February 1980; three flocks recorded in the period (3,3,8); very little snow; Shrike 5(1):6.
20 January 1983; 1 individual; near Ormond; Tom Hince; Shrike 8(1):20.
30 January 1983; 1 individual; beyond Luskville; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 8(1):20.
<b>Throughout February, 1993 Checklist – perhaps in 1980? See above.</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
200 individuals; 28 July 1985; Peter Walker; Shrike 10(3):24.
150 individuals; 29 April 1984; Bill Coburn & Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 9(2):19.
100 individuals; 19 June 1983; Roger Taylor; Shrike 8(3):30.

## Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

**Sturnelle de l'Ouest**  
**WEME**

### Casual visitor from spring through fall.

About sixteen records (only one OBRSC accepted), but occurring erratically: there were multiple records in the 1970's and 1990's, but none in the 1980's and 2000's. Reports range from late April to late September with a single winter record, but the bulk of them are in the late May to July time frame. In several cases, the records involve males singing on territory in agricultural fields throughout the summer, however breeding has never been confirmed.

<b>First Record</b>
30 April 1954; 1 male; Central Experimental Farm Arboretum; <i>vide</i> D.B.O. Savile; CFN 71:33.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
16 April 1974; 1 male; Ottawa, specimen obtained; S. Dennison; OBRSC #664.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
28 September 1969; 1 individual; near Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, ON, in full song; T&L 4(1):19.
<b>Winter Record</b>
<u>December 2025-at least 2 March 2026</u> , 1 individual, Panmure Road south of Upper Dwyer Hill, Ottawa, mobs, ebird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)

**Oriole des vergers**  
**OROR**

### Status: Casual transient, mainly in spring.

16 records (six OBRSC accepted), but occurring somewhat erratically – there were seven records in the 1980's and five in the 2000's but only one each in the 1970's and 1990's. Most of the records are from the month of May, with an additional two in June, one in July and one in September. Where sex has been noted in the records about a third have been adult males, a third have been second-year males and a third have been females.

<b>First Record</b>
18 May 1975; 1 adult; Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, ON; Roger Foxall, Stanley Shaddick, Richard Poulin; AB 29(4):847, T&L 9(4):113, OBRSC #139(A).
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
7 May 2000; 1 male; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
6 September 1987; probable female; near Green's Creek, Paul R. Martin; T&L 22(2):70, OBRSC #395.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>

20 May 1989; 1 adult male and 1 second year male; Britannia CA; T&L 23(4):189.
8 May 2000; 1 male and 1 female; Harrowgate Place, Ottawa; Bird Status Line transcripts.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Bullock's Oriole

(*Icterus Bullockii*)

**Oriole de Bullock**  
**BUOR**

**Status: Accidental transient in fall and winter**

There is a single record of this western species, a long-staying bird in Pakenham from late November-early January

<b>First Record</b>
29 November 2015-4 January 2016, 1 individual, Pakenham, Lanark, ON, ebird, m. obs

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Baltimore Oriole

(*Icterus galbula*)

**Oriole de Baltimore**  
**BAOR**

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Baltimore Orioles usually return to the District in early May (exceptionally in late April). It is a common breeder in open deciduous wooded habitats throughout the District (100% of squares on OBBA2, 92% of squares on QBBA2). This species is seen frequently at migrant traps during fall migration, with most birds leaving the area in early September. There are scattered records through October and November. This species is exceptional in winter, but there are about nine records, with the latest lingering to mid-February. Most of these are of birds that wintered at birdfeeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 April 2009; 1 male; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 28.04.2009.
29 April 1994; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
29 April 2011, 1 individual, Britannia, David Britton, ebird
30 April 2004; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
30 April 2021, 1 individual, Bell area park, Michael Grassie, ebird
1 May 2006; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
21 October 2007; 1 individual; Kinburn area; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
23 October 1998; 1 individual; Riverside Hospital; Bird Status Line transcripts.
30 October 1977; 1 individual; Hazeldean; Bruce Barrett; T&L 12(1):8, Shrike 2(7):5.
November 1977; 2 individuals; Barrhaven and Whitehaven, dates not given; Shrike 2(8):5.
14 November 2010; 1 male; Jack Pine Trail feeders; Bruce Di Labio's Blog 10.12.2010.
29 November 1977; 1 individual; JPN; AB 32(2):1 (presumably one of the birds mentioned above)
<b>Winter Status</b>
2 December 2008; 1 male; Hutchinson Ave., Ottawa, at feeders; Christopher Harris; eBird.
3 December 1988; 1 individual observed at feeder; T&L 23(3):135.
6 December 2010; 1 male; Barrhaven, at feeders; fide Bruce Di Labio's Blog 10.12.2010.
9-11 December 1982; 1 female; Carleton Place, Arnie Simpson, m.obs.; AB 37(3):298, Shrike 7(6):19.
up to 19 December 1978; 1 individual; AB 33(3):278, T&L 13(2):57.
18-24 December 1999; Crescent Street; Aylmer, at feeders; Bird Status Line transcripts.
late December 1987; 1 individual; Winchester Springs; T&L 22(3).
23 November 2024-11 January 2025; 1 individual; heron-Walkley area; mobs; ebird
20 January 2021, 1 individual, Rue du duche, Gatineau, Gerald emery, ebird
December 1979 to mid-February 1980; 1 female; Carleton Place, at feeders; Shrike 4(8):6, 5(1):6.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
75 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.

50 individuals; 23 May 1982; Richard Killeen; Shrike 7(3):29.

50 individuals; 22 May 1983; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 8(3):30.

Note – in Shrike 4(8):6 is said that the 1979-1980 bird was the third winter record, so at least one is missing.

## Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

Carouge à épaulettes  
RWBL

**Status: Abundant migrant and breeder. Rare in winter.**

One of our most familiar songbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds are one of the first returning passerines in the spring, usually arriving in early March (exceptionally mid-February). It is an abundant breeder in wetlands, along river banks and along roadsides in open country (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). In late summer and fall they can form large flocks (often with other blackbird species) that usually roost in wetlands. Most Red-winged Blackbirds leave the area in mid-November.

This species is rare in winter, but a few birds linger at least into December every year. It has been recorded on about half of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC's since the first record in 1928 (high count of 122 in 2001); and on eight Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs since 1982 (high count of four in 1998). Wintering birds, usually at feeders, occur with decreasing frequency through January and February, but successful overwintering has occurred more than once. Migrants can return as early as mid-February on early warm fronts.

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

12 February 2013; 5 indiv.; Manotick / 2 indiv.; Aylmer; Ontbirds 14.02.2013.

14 February 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio, early migrant; Shrike 9(1):6, Shrike Database.

22 February 1976, early arriving flocks, T&L 10(3):61.

24 February 2002; returning and establishing territories; Ontbirds 28.02.2002.

25 February 1985; early arriving birds recorded; Shrike 10(1):4.

### Principal Dates

First week of March to second week of November.

### Noteworthy High Counts

up to 25,000; September 1983; Ramsayville Marsh; Frank Munro; Shrike 8(5):29.

15,000 individuals; late September to October 1982; Ramsayville Marsh; Frank Munro; Shrike 7(5):21.

15,000 individuals; 12 August 1984; Bill Coburn Shrike 9(4):21.

## Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)

Vacher à tête brun  
BHCO

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Rare in winter.**

Brown-headed Cowbirds typically return to the District in late March (exceptionally early March). It is a common breeder, favouring open habitats (100% of squares on OBBA2, 65% of squares on QBBA2), but is a nest-parasite and lays its eggs in the nests of a range of songbird species. Most birds leave the area in mid-October, with scattered later records.

Brown-headed Cowbird is rare in winter, but a few birds linger at least into December almost every year. It has been recorded on about a third of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since 1960 (high count of 56 in 2001); and on seven Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs since 1981 (high count of 11 in 1992-93). Wintering birds, usually at feeders, occur with decreasing frequency through January and February, but successful overwintering has occurred more than once. More likely to occur in small flocks in winter than other blackbirds.

### First Record

Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.

### Early Spring Arrival

1 March 1998; first birds returning; Bird Status Line transcripts.

3 March 2000; first birds returning; Bird Status Line transcripts.

4 March 1985; 2 individuals; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(2):10.

### Principal Dates

Fourth week of March to third week of October
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5,000 individuals; 23 October 1977; Mark Gawn; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 2(7):5.
2,400 individuals; 24 September 1982; Dan Brunton; Shrike 7(5):32.
1,500 individuals; 20 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; 9(5):20.
800 individuals; 9 April 1983; Jean Dubois; Shrike 8(2):24.

## Rusty Blackbird

(*Euphagus carolinus*)

Quiscale rouilleux  
RUBL

**Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant (formerly fairly common). Very rare winter visitor.**

Rusty Blackbird is an uncommon migrant through the District in spring and fall. In spring, most birds pass through between mid-April and early May, with records as early as mid-March and as late as early June. In fall, the main migration is between mid-September and late October, with early records to mid-August and scattered records through November. Migrants are often found in wetland areas. This species is much less common that it was in past decades, as it has undergone range-wide population declines.

Rusty Blackbird is very rare in winter. In the 1970's and 1980's it was recorded almost every winter, but more recently it has occurred less frequently in this season. It has been recorded on 16 Ottawa-Gatineau CBCs from 1965 to 2021 (high count of seven birds in 1977); and on three Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs (single birds in 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1996-97). Most records are from December and early January, but this species overwintered successfully for several years in the early 1980's at the Duck Club feeders on March Valley Road.

<b>First Record</b>
8 April 1882, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 4, page 86-87. The sighting is presumed to be within the old city limits. .
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 March 2000; 1 individual; Deschênes; Bird Status Line transcripts.
9 March 2012; 5 individuals; Gatineau; Diane Briscoe; eBird.
9 March 2012; 8 individuals; Carp Road, Stittsville, ON; Ontbirds 15.03.2012
12 March 2006; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds
17 March 2012; 3 individuals; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Second week of April to first week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
29 May 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(3):11.
29 May 1983; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike 8(3):18.
31 May 2002; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
3 June 1982; 1 individual; Malakoff Road; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):19.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
17 August 1982; 1 individual; Baxter CA; Heather Hamilton & Dave Gill; Shrike 7(4):17.
4 September 2006; 1 individual; St Albert Lagoons, on the Seedathon; Ontbirds
5 September 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):21.
7 September 2006; a few individuals; Shirley's Bay, migrating overhead; Ontbirds
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>
Second week of September to fourth week of October.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5,250 individuals; 20 April 2009; Richmond Fen; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
up to 2,000 individuals; 6-7 May 2014; Mer Bleue boardwalk, roosting; Ontbirds 08.05.2014.
1,000 individuals; 29 September 1985; Thurso; B. Langevin & M. Lalancette; AB 40(1):86.
420 individuals; 30 April 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(2):21.

## Brewer's Blackbird

(*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

Quiscale de Brewer  
BRBL

**Accidental visitor, mainly in early spring.**

Five records (three OBRSC accepted). Four of the records are from the 1970's and the only accepted record is from the 1990's. Four records are in early spring (March and April) and one is from fall (October). A number of other reports were not well documented and were not accepted by the OBRSC. Similarities with Rusty Blackbird and female Common Grackles makes positive identification challenging.

Records
19 April 1970; 2 individuals; Beckett's Creek, near Rockland, ON; well observed; T&L 4(4):125.
26 April 1970; 1 individual; Britannia, Ottawa, ON, observed for several hours; T&L 4(4):125.
30 March 1976; 1 adult male; North Gower area; Jo Ann Murray; OBRSC #169.
21 October 1979; 1 male; Moodie Dr. at Fallowfield Rd.; Dan Brunton; T&L 14(1):17, OBRSC #249.
10 April 1993; 1 ad. male; Carlsbad Springs area, Mark & Simon Gawn; T&L 28(4):140, OBRSC #489.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

Quiscale bronzé  
COGR

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Rare in winter.**

Common Grackle is a common migrant and breeder in the District. Birds usually arrive in the District in mid-March (exceptionally early March). It breeds in a range of open wooded habitats ranging from wetlands to parks and treed residential neighbourhoods (100% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). Most Common Grackles leave the area in late October, with scattered records through November.

This species is rare in winter, but a few birds linger at least into December almost every year. It has been recorded on about 60% of the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC since 1930 (high count of 12 in 1972 and 1973); and on eight Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBCs since 1981-82 (high count of two in 1981-1982). Wintering birds, usually at feeders, occur with decreasing frequency through January and February, but successful overwintering has occurred more than once.

First Record
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
Early Spring Arrival
1 March 1998; first birds returning; Bird Status Line transcripts.
5 March 1983; 2 individuals; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(2):15.
7 March 1981; first birds returning; Bill Clark; Shrike 6(2):10.
Principal Dates
Third week of March to fourth week of October (uncommon to rare through November)
Noteworthy High Counts
5,245 individuals; 18 October 2025; Pioneer Plains park, Aidan Hamilton, ebird
5,000 individuals; 27 July 1985; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(3):24.
4,000 individuals; 11 September 1984; Frank Munro; Shrike 9(5):20.
3,000 individuals; 25 September 1981; Wright Smith; Shrike 7(5):32.
3,000 individuals; 3 September 2010; Richmond area; Peter Blancher; eBird.

## Wood-Warblers

### Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)

Paruline couronnée  
OVEN

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Ovenbirds usually migrate back into the Ottawa-Gatineau District in early May (exceptionally mid-April). They are a common breeder in larger tracts of deciduous and mixed forests throughout the District, where their loud song can be heard through the summer (100% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2).

Most Ovenbirds have left the area by late September, with late migrants detected into mid-October. There are at least five winter records for this species, including a bird that successfully overwintered in Aylmer in 1992-93. Most of these records concerned birds lingering at birdfeeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
17 April 1981; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 6(2):10.
<b>Fourth week of April, 1993 Checklist dot.</b>
26 April 2001; 1 individual; Richmond, Peter Blancher; eBird.
28 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 28.04.2009.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to third week of September.
<b>Fall Records</b>
5 October 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):20.
c. 6 October 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 07.10.2009.
c. 7 October 2005; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 09.10.2005.
20/21 October 2007; 1 individual; SW Sector, Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
<b>Winter Records</b>
<b>1993 Checklist has dots in the last two weeks of November - is there another winter record?</b>
1 december 2013; 1 individual; Hull, L'ecole de L'ile; Daniel St. Hilaire, ebird
1-9 December 2006; 1 individual; the Glebe, taken to Wild Bird Care Centre; NeilyWorld website.
3 December 1987; 1 individual; Gloucester; Ray Holland, m.obs.; OBRSC #403.
16 December 1990; 1 individual; west Ottawa feeder; T&L 25(3):105.
7-20 December 1998; 1 individual; #1755 Killborn east of Alta Vista; Bird Status Line transcript.
29 November 2020-21 January 2021, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
20 December 1992 to mid-March 1993; 1 individual; Aylmer, QC; T&L 28(3), 28(4):139.
14 November 2022; 1 individual; Apache Crescent; Jan Huus, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
75 individuals; 24 May 1981; Frank Bell; Shrike 6(4):23.
50 individuals; 23 May 1982; Richard Killeen; Shrike 7(3):29.
41 individuals, 17 May 1998, Gatineau park, Daniel Toussaint, ebird
40 individuals; 22 May 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(3):30.

## Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*)

Paruline vermivore  
WEWA

### Status: Accidental transient in spring

Three records (two OBRSC accepted) all from mid-May at migrant traps in the City of Ottawa. The most recent record in the District was in 1987. This southern warbler strays into Ontario every year in spring migration, but most records are from the Lower Great Lakes area.

<b>Records</b>
18 May 1975; 1 adult; Beechwood Cemetery; Roger Foxall, m.obs.; AB 29(4):847, T&L 9(4):113.
11 May 1980; 1 adult; Clyde Woods; Jo Ann Murray, Hue Mackenzie; AB 34(5):772, T&L 14(4):119.
15 May 1987; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Garry Clay, Bruce Di Labio; T&L 21(4):211, OBRSC #387

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)

Paruline des ruisseaux  
NOWA

### Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.

Northern Waterthrush usually returns to the District in early May (exceptionally late April). This species is a fairly common breeder in wooded swamps, bogs and in thickets and tangles around ponds, lakes, streams and rivers (77% of

squares on OBBA2, 65% of squares on QBBA2). Amongst the warblers, it is a fairly early migrant in fall, with most birds leaving in early September, although there are scattered records in October and one late November record.

<b>First Record</b>
24 July 1884, Chats Falls, transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 6, page 272-280.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
22 April 2007; 1 individual; Marais aux Grenouillettes; <a href="#">reference?</a>
24 April 197; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn, Mark Gawn; Shrike 1(2):6.
25 April 2012; 2 individuals; Lynx Hollow Rd., Pakenham; Carl-Adam Wegenschimmel; eBird.
26 April 2004; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
27 April 2008, 1 individual; Britannia CA; Jay Peterson; Ontbirds 27.04.2008.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Records</b>
24 September 1981; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike 6(5):23.
<a href="#">First week of October, 1993 Checklist dot</a>
13 October 1973; 1 individual; Bruce Mactavish; AB 28(1):48.
30 November 1986; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Colin Gaskell; OBRSC #375.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
26 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(4):20.
25 individuals; 23 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):29.
24, individuals, 30 April 2009, Richmond fen, Jeff Skevington, ebird
20 individuals; 24 May 1981; Frank Bell; Shrike 6(6):25.

## Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*)

Paruline hochequeue  
LOWA

### Casual visitor in spring and summer, one breeding record.

Seventeen records (two OBRSC accepted) all from May to July, averaging three to four records per decade. Oddly, despite this species breeding not far south of Ottawa, all of the records in the district are from Quebec and eight of them have been from the Kingsmere area of Gatineau Park. In recent years the Waterfall Trail, where a creek passes through mature hardwoods before plunging off the Eardley Escarpment, has been the most reliable site for this species. Breeding was confirmed here in 2006, the first record for the province of Quebec.

<b>First Record</b>
24 May 1974; 1 male; Gatineau County, QC; H.T. Hiemstra, Richard Poulin; AB 28:783.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
2 May 2006 ; 1 male; Waterfall Trail, Gatineau Park, QC, m.obs.; NAB 60(3):346.
<b>Exceptional Breeding</b>
2 May to 26 June 2006; 2 ad., 4 juv.; Waterfall Trail, Gatineau Park; E. Suarez, m.obs.; T&L 41(2):103.
<b>Latest Summer Record</b>
14 July 1984; 1 singing male; Kingsmere area, Gatineau Park, Daniel St-Hilaire; AB 38(6):1001.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
8 June 2006; 2 adults and 4 juveniles; Waterfall Trail, Gatineau Park, QC, m.obs.; NAB 60(4):50.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

Paruline à ailes dorées  
GWWA

### Status: Uncommon and local breeder. Rarely seen in spring migration, casual in fall migration.

Golden-winged Warblers return to the District in mid- to late May. Unlike many other warbler species, they are rarely seen at migrant traps, instead first appearing in breeding areas. They prefer semi-open habitats with scattered trees and shrub growth, such as shrubby old fields and granite barrens. This species is on decline for a number of reasons, including hybridization with Blue-Winged Warbler.

On the Ontario side, the most reliable locations have been in the Carp Hills along Thomas Dolan Parkway and along the rail line east of Huntmar Drive. During OBBA2 breeding evidence was collected from the Carp, Kanata and Almonte squares. On QBBA2, it was reported from the Wakefield, Old Chelsea and Hull-Gatineau squares. The Quebec results were down significantly from QBBA1, when breeding evidence was collected from eight squares.

This species is very rarely seen in fall migrations, with perhaps only about a dozen records for the District, mostly from mid-August to mid-October.

Brewster's Warbler, the hybrid between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler has been recorded several times in the District, since the first record 6-9 June 1984 at Cantley (AB 38(6):1001), including one record of a Brewster's Warbler female feeding fledged young along the Thomas Dolan Parkway.

<b>First Record</b>
19 May 1951; 1 individual; Central Experimental Farm; T.F.T. Moreland; CFN 65:187.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
8 May 1982; 1 individual; Klondike Road near North Gower; Monty Brigham; Shrike 7(3):18.
8 May 1999; 1 individual; Carp Hills at Thomas Dolan Parkway; Bird Status Line.
8 May 2005; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Robin Humphries; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of July.
<b>Fall Migration Records</b>
1 August 2018, 1 individual, Britannia, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
4 August 1990; 1 individual; Britannia CA, on the Ridge; T&L 25(2):64.
5 August 2021, 1 individual, Almonte Lagoons, Dan McDiarmid, ebird
7-8 August 1977; 1 individual; Wychwood; Monty Brigham; Shrike 2(5):6.
8 August 2020, 1 individual; Bruce pit, Derek Dunnett, ebird
11 August 2019, 1 individual; Dunrobin; bruce Dilabio, ebird
12 August 1985; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Shrike 10(4):11.
14 August 2015,, 1 individual ;parc du lac Beauchamp, anonymous, ebird
15 August 1969; 1 individual; Merivale Gardens; Robin Humphries; eBird.
15-19 August 2016, 1 individual, Shirley's Bay, mobs, ebird
20 August 1981; 1 individual; Richard Killeen; Shrike Database.
21-22 August 2004; 1 male; Shirley's Bay; Ontbirds 29.08.2004.
22 August 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA, on the Ridge; Jon Ruddy & Richard Waters; eBird.
25 August 2020, 1 individual , Shirley's bay, mobs, ebird
5 September 1981; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Henri Ouellet; Shrike 6(5):12.
5 September 1982; 1 individual; Lac Notre Dame; Roger Taylor; Shrike 7(5):21.
14 September 2014; 1 individual; Sarsaparilla Trail, Stoney Swamp; Gillian Mastromatteo; eBird.
16 September 1990; 1 individual; part of a big wave of warbler migration; T&L 25(2):64.
22 September 1998; 1 male; Britannia Conservation Area; Bird Status Line transcript.
27 October 1974, 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Kenneth Beck; AB 29(1):52, OBSC #127.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
8 individuals; 5 June 1976; Lac Phillipe; T&L 10(5):139.
6 individuals; 29 May 1983; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):29.
5 individuals, 17 July 2004, Carp Hills, David Britton
4 individuals; 22 June 1982; Lac Phillipe; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 7(3):18.

## Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*)

Paruline à ailes bleues  
BWWA

**Status: Casual visitor, mainly in spring.**

About 36 records (three OBRSC accepted), averaging about four per decade. The vast majority are from mid-May to early June, mainly from migrant traps or areas where the closely-related Golden-winged Warbler breeds such as the Carp Hills. There are three fall migration records, two from August.

<b>First Record</b>
30 May 1976; 1 individual; Aylmer, QC; Robert Bergeron; Shrike 1(3):7, OBRSC #179.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>

9-30 May 2024; 1 individual; Ramsay Conc. 5A Mississippi Mills, Lanark; mobs, ebird
12 May 2002; 1 male; Huntmar Road along the railroad tracks, T&L 36(3):127, Ontbirds 12.05.2002.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
15 May to 13 June 1999; 1 male; Huntmar Road; Ray Holland, m.obs.; OBRSC #511, #519.
<b>Fall Records</b>
19 August 1984; 1 individual; Champlain Lookout, Gatineau Park, QC; Peter Walker; Shrike 9(4):10.
22-23 August 2011; 1 female; Tunney's Pasture area, Paul Matthews, m.obs.; Ontbirds 23.08.2011.
8-10 September 2015, 1 individual, Britannia, Ottawa, ON, ebird, Gary Milks, Sue Milks, Michael Tate,
22 October 2024; 1 individual; Lindhurst Cresc.; David Haney; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
3 individuals, 23 May 2024, Burnt Lands PP, Margaret Kenny, ebird.

<b>Hybrid nesting</b>
18 June 2016; 1 female Blue-Winged, 1 male Golden-winged, 2 young; South march Highlands Conservation forest; Jeff Skevington; ebird, nest with young photographed

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)

Paruline noir et blanc  
BAWW

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Black-and-white Warblers return to the Ottawa-Gatineau District in early May (exceptionally mid-April). They are commonly seen at migrant traps and are common breeders throughout the District in deciduous and mixed forests (98% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). Most Black-and-white Warblers have headed south by the end of September, but there are scattered records through October and November, and one report from mid-December.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 April 1976; 1 individual; Manordale; R. Millen; Shrike 1(2):6.
21 April 1976; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 1(2):6.
22 April 2013; 1 individual; Rue Boucherville, Gatineau; Ted Cheskey; eBird.
26 April 1982; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(2):25.
26 April 2008; 1 individual; Farrelton, QC; Ontbirds 28.04.2008.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Records</b>
18/19 October 2003; 1 individual; NE Sector, Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
19 October 1980; 1 individual; Clyde Woods; Shrike 5(5):10.
30 October 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn and Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(5):18.
1 November 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; William von Herff; eBird.
6 November 2014; 1 individual; Nortel Campus; Allan Dennis; eBird.
28 November 2004; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 28.11.2004.
<b>Winter Records</b>
16 December 1998; 1 indiv.; Colonel By Dr. near Carleton University; Bird Status Line transcripts.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
60 individuals; 31 August 1983; Innis Point; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(4):20.
35 individuals; 12 May 1985; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(3):23.
25 individuals; 22 May 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(3):29.

## Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)

Paruline orange  
PROW

**Status: Casual transient in spring and fall.**

Eleven records (five OBRSC accepted), averaging about one or two records per decade. Split about evenly between spring (late May and early June) and fall (September and October). Most records are from migrant traps within the City of Ottawa, including three from Britannia CA.

<b>First Record</b>
1 October 1971; 1 adult male; Royal Avenue, Ottawa, ON, Hue & Elva Mackenzie; T&L 7(1):27
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
20-21 May 1997; 1 male; Britannia CA, Ottawa, ON; Bernie Ladouceur, m.obs.; T&L 32(1):39.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
1 June 2013; 1 male; Innis Point Bird Observatory, banded; Ontbirds 06.06.2013.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
4 September 1977; 1 first year; Britannia CA; Stephen Gawn, m.obs.; T&L 12(1):6,8.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
19-23 October 1983; 1 immature male; Manotick; Ray Holland, m.obs.; T&L 18(1):23.
9 November 2020; 1 individual; Deerhurst Court, Ottawa; Carol Vellan Cameron; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Tennessee Warbler

(*Oreothlypis peregrina*)

Paruline obscure  
TEWA

**Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Rare and irregular breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

The peak of the Tennessee Warbler migration passes through the Ottawa-Gatineau District in the latter half of May, although migrants have appeared as early as the beginning of May and as late as mid-June. Southbound migration in this species can occur as early as late June, which can cause confusion with breeding birds. This species has bred in the District – a nest with eggs was recorded in the Cantley area during QBBA1, but the early southbound movement and tendency of males to sing on migration makes assessing breeding evidence difficult for this species. In fall migration, most birds pass through in the period from mid-August to mid-September. There are scattered records through October and November with the latest record in early December.

<b>First Record</b>
9 April 1882; on the bank of the Rideau River, G.R. White; 1 individual; Ottawa Naturalist 5:31-47
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 April 1882; on the bank of the Rideau River, G.R. White; 1 individual; Ottawa Naturalist 5:31-47
2 May 1984; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 9(3):11,19.
6 May 1981; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 6(3):3.
7 May 1981; 2 individuals; Jean Higginson; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third and fourth week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
6 June 1983; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Shrike Database.
7 June 2009; 1 individual; Deschênes; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
<b>Second week of June, 1993 Checklist block</b>
17 June 1985; Peter Walker; Shrike 10(3); 23.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
26 June 1985; 1 pair in breeding condition; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
27 June 1982; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Shrike 7(3):18.
28 June 19883; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Janette Dean; Shrike 8(3):17.
7 July 1981; 1 individual; Frank Bell; Shrike 6(4):23.
10 July 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):18.
10 July 1985; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Shrike 10(3):23.
17 July 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Second week of August to second week of September
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
29 October 2012; 1 individual; Britannia Conservation Area; Jake Walker; eBird.

<b>First week of November, 1993 Checklist</b>
1 November 2022; 1 individual; Hunt Club area, Jamie Spence, ebird
10 November 1973; 1 individual; A. Tyler; AB 28(1):48.
15 November 1969; 1 individual; sheltered in a cedar hedge, T&L 4(1):19.
29 November 2004; 1 individual; M. Aubé; NAB 59(1):40.
<b>Winter Records</b>
<b>First week of December, 1993 Checklist</b>
2 December 2015; 1 individual; Kanata; Sage W.; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
75 individuals; 24 May 1981; Monty Brigham; Shrike 6(4):23.
60 individuals; 22 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
50 individuals, 21 May 2011, Gatineau Park, Frederic Bedards, ebird
45 individuals; 20 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):29.

## Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*)

Paruline verdâtre  
OCWA

**Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.**

Orange-crowned Warbler is a rare migrant through the District in spring, with records falling between late April and early June, but mostly occurring in mid- to late May. It is seen more frequently in fall migration, when it is uncommon. There is an exceptionally early record of a bird banded at Innis Point in late July, with subsequent early records not coming until late August. The peak migration is from late September to mid-October, with late birds trickling through until mid-November. There are two winter records.

<b>First Record</b>
17 September 1885; 1 individual; east end of Ottawa; E. White; Ottawa Naturalist 5:45.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 April 1976; 1 individual; Holley Lake; J. Morin, H. Munro; Shrike 1(2):6.
<b>Fourth week of April, 1993 Checklist.</b>
1 May 1983; 1 individual; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):30.
1 May 2004; 1 male; Innis Point Bird Observatory; David Britton; pers. comm.
3 May 1982; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 7(3):18.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second to fourth week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
25 May 1983; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Shrike Database.
25 May 2003; 1 individual; Huntmar Road; Ontbirds 25.05.2003.
26 May 1983; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
29 May 1983; 1 individual; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(3):30, Shrike Database.
5 June 1981; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike 6(3):3.
5 June 2019, rockcliffe airport woods, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
24 July 1984; 1 individual; Hull; Rodolphe Dubois; Ornithouais 7(1):13.
24 July 1993; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
19 August 1982; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 7(4):16.
22 August 1984; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike 9(4):21.
22-24 August 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 28.08.2014.
23 August 1982; 1 individual; Bill Clark; Shrike 7(4):16.
27 August 1983; 1 individual; St-Pierre-de-Wakefield; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):18.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of September to second week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
24 October 2012; 1 individual; Innes and Belcourt Roads, Ottawa; Tom Devecseri, eBird.
31 October 1981; 1 individual; Richard Killeen; Shrike 6(5):12.
2 November 2010; 1 individual; Britannia Conservation Area; Robin Humphries; eBird.
5 November 2015, 1 individual ;Britannia, Don Wigle, ebird
6 November 1990; 1 individual, banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
11 November 2021, 1 individual; pleasant park, Ottawa, Bob baker, ebird
12 November 2023; 1 individual, Experimental Farm Arboretum, Ottawa, mobs, ebird

19 November 1972, 1 individual; Bruce Mactavish; AB 27(1):55.
19 November 2020, 1 individual, Sandy hill, Ottawa, Nicholas von maltzahn, ebird
25 November 2018, 1 individual, Chemin champlain , les collines de l'outouais, Helena Garcia, ebird
30 November 2019, 1 individual ;Monaghan forest, anonymous, ebird
<b>Winter Records</b>
9 January 2022; 1 individual; Gatineau, Jean-Marc Emery, ebird
27 November-8 December 2025; 1 individual, Fletcher Wildlife Gardens, Ottawa, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
8 individuals; 6 October 1986; Clyde Woods; T&L 21(2):97.
5 individuals; 8 October 2020; Rockcliffe Airport Woods; Rick Collins; ebird
4 individuals; 5 October 1986; Britannia (3)and Clyde Woods (1); T&L 21(2):97
4 individuals; 22 May 2013; Lytle Park; Jon Ruddy; Ontbirds 20.05.2013.
3 individuals; 11 October 1984; Richard Brouillet; Shrike 9(5):20.
3 individuals; 12 May 1985; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(3):11.

## Nashville Warbler

(*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*)

Paruline à joues grises

NAWA

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Nashville Warbler is a common migrant, with birds usually arriving in early May (exceptionally mid-April). This species is a common breeder throughout the District in mixed forest and shrubby edge habitats (89% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2). Most birds have left the District by the end of September, but there are scattered records through October and November. A bird seen on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC in 1992 is the only winter record.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
15 April 1980; very early arrival date; T&L 14(4):119.
21 April 1980; 1 individual; Shrike 5(2):8.
21 April 2001; 1 individual; Deschênes, QC; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
26 April 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(2):16.
27 April 2008; 1 individual; Luskville, QC; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 November 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(6):13.
9 November 1979, 1 individual , Shirley's bay, Mark Gawn, ebird
1-18 November 2017, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
11-17 November 2020, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs. Ebird
19 November 1972, 1 individual; Hue Mackenzie; AB 27(1):5.
27 November 2010; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; Ontbirds 20.11.2010.
29 November 2010; 1 individual; Deschênes; Jamie Spence, Ontbirds 20.11.2010.
<b>Winter Records</b>
20 December 1992; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; AB 47(2):255.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
90 individuals; 25 May1983; Innis Point Bird; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 8(3):30.
58 individuals; 12 May. 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):22.
50 individuals; 24 May 1981; Monty Brigham; Shrike 6(6):25.

## Connecticut Warbler

(*Oporornis agilis*)

Paruline à gorge grise

CONW

**Very rare migrant, mainly in fall.**

About 31 records (four OBRSC accepted), averaging about 5 per decade. Almost all of the records are from the fall with the bulk of them in late August and early September. There are three spring records of singing birds, both from late

May. The District is due south of this species' breeding range and it is likely an annual migrant in small numbers but is often missed due to its habit of skulking in thick undergrowth, and individual birds are rarely seen a second time.

<b>First Record</b>
1 September 1973; 1 female/juv.; Merivale Gardens; Bruce Mactavish, m.obs.; AB 28(1):47.
<b>Spring Records</b>
28 May 1978; 1 individual; Richmond Fen, near Richmond, ON, heard; T&L 12(4):105.
30 May 1988; 1 singing male; near Kinburn, ON; T&L 22(4):170.
5 June 2017; 1 individual; Mer Bleue; Vincent Fyson, Alex stone; ebird
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
14 August 2008; 1 individual; Lamoureux Creek, Aylmer, QC; Jean Dubois; Ornitaouais 31(2):18.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
19 September 2013; 1 juv.; east end of Ch. de la Sapinière, Breckenridge, QC; Ontbirds 16.09.2014.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*)

Paruline triste  
MOWA

**Status: Fairly common breeder. Observed infrequently in migration.**

Mourning Warblers are usually among the later migrant warblers to return to the District, generally arriving in late May (exceptionally early May). They are a fairly common breeder throughout the District in shrubby secondary growth, usually around forest edges and wetlands (81% of squares on OBBA2, 76% of squares on QBBA2). Birds are most easily seen on their breeding grounds, and are observed less frequently than many other warbler species at local migrant traps during migration. Most birds have left the District by early September, with scattered records to the end of the month. A bird seen near Ottawa Beach in early November 1977 was exceptionally late.

<b>First Record</b>
29 May 1886, Ottawa Naturalist, volume 1, page 98-104; presumed within or near city limits
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
First week of May, 1993 Checklist dot.
c. 4 May 2008; 1 individual; Ontbirds 05.05.2008.
4 May 2012; 1 individual; Ramar Lane, Metcalfe, ON; Kim & Brendan Toews; eBird.
9 May 1981; 1 individual; Jean Higginson; Shrike 6(3):15.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Records</b>
16 September 1982; 1 individual; Heather Hamilton & Dave Gill; Shrike 7(5):21.
18 September 1977; 2 individuals; D.A Smith, L.C. Smith; Shrike 2(6):7.
18 September 1999; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bird Status Line transcript.
25 September 1983; 1 individual; Blake Maybank; Shrike 8(5):18.
1 November 1977; NCC bike path at Ottawa Beach, well-observed, very late; T&L 12(2):57.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
16 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):29.
16 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):21.
12 individuals; 29 June 1983; Frank Bell; Shrike 8(3):30.

## Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

Paruline masque  
COYE

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Common Yellowthroat usually returns to the District in early to mid-May (exceptionally late April). This species is a common and conspicuous breeder throughout the District in wet shrubby thickets (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). Most Common Yellowthroats leave the area by the end of September, but there are scattered

records through October and into November. There are five winter records, all from December, with the latest birds lingering to the end of the month.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
23 April 1976; 1 individual; Britannia; Bruce Barrett; Shrike 1(2):6.
28 April 2011; 1 individual; Constance Creek at Thomas Dolan Pkwy.; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
29 April 1985; 1 individual; Ray Holland; Shrike 10(2):8.
30 April 1984; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(2):10.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Records</b>
1 November 1984; 1 individual; Richard Brouillet; Shrike Database.
2 November 2022; 1 individual; Pine Grove trail, ebird
3 November 1984; 1 individual; Innis Point, Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike Database.
5 November 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA on the Ridge, Ontbirds 10.11.2008.
11 November 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA near the Filtration Plant; Christopher Harris; eBird.
18 November 1998; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach at the corral; Bird Status Line transcript.
26 November 2022; 1 individual; Petrie Island, ebird
30 November 1980; 1 individual; Britannia CA, Mud Lake; Shrike 5(5):10.
30 November 1984; 1 individual; Lac Leamy; Shrike 9(6):8.
<b>Winter Records</b>
15 December 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA by the Filtration Plant; Ontbirds 17.12.2009.
16 December 1979; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Shrike 4(8):2.
19 December 1999; 1 individual; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Audubon CBC data.
17-23 December 2009; 1 individual; Strathcona Park; Patrick Blake, m.obs.; Ontbirds 24.12.2009.
16-26 December 2001; 1 individual; Rideau River behind the Tennis Club; Bird Status Line transcript.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
150 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.
63 individuals, 3 July 2021, Dolman Ridge Road, Mathew Mcanally
55 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):29.
50 individuals; 24 May 1981; Jim Harris; Shrike 6(4):23.

## Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*)

Paruline à capuchon  
HOWA

**Status: Accidental visitor in spring and fall.**

Eleven records (three OBRSC accepted), but occurring quite irregularly: there were five records during the 1970's, one in the 1980's, one in the 1990's and three in the 2010's. More than two thirds of the records are of spring males. Two of the three fall records involved female or juvenile birds.

<b>First Record</b>
13 May 1974; 1 adult male; Rockcliffe Park; Roger Foxall; OBRSC #096(A).
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
27 Apr. to 1 May 2014; 1 male; Terry Carisse Park, Richmond, ON; Chris Traynor; m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
29 May 1976; 1 adult male; Breckenridge; Robert Bergeron, m.obs.; AB 30(4):817, T&L 10(4):103.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
30 July 1975; 1 female; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio, Jim Harris; AB 29(5):966, T&L 9(5):149.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
18 September 1984; 1 adult male; Champlain Lookout, Gatineau Park; Peter Walker; T&L 19(1):10.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## American Redstart

Paruline flamboyante

## (*Setophaga ruticilla*)

AMRE

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

American Redstarts have usually returned to the Ottawa-Gatineau District by mid-May (exceptionally early May). This species is a common breeder throughout the area in deciduous woods, including in larger parklands within cities and towns (92% of squares on OBBA2, 100% of squares on QBBA2). Most American Redstarts have left the District by late September (exceptionally to early November).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
3 May 1983; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike 8(3):17.
4 May 2013; 1 male; Britannia CA; William von Herff; eBird.
7 May 1986; 1 individual; Ron Bedford; Shrike Database.
7 May 2011; 1 male; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Brian Daly, m.obs.; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Records</b>
15 October 1977; 1 individual; Mark Gawn; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 2(7):5.
17/18 October 2009; 1 individual; SW sector; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
22 October 2014; 1 juvenile; Lac Leamy; Donald Dallaire; eBird.
27 October 2008; 1 individual; behind the Museum of Nature, Pink Road; Ontbirds 03.11.2008.
4-6 November 2001, 1 individual, Rapides Deschenes, mobs, ebird
9 November 2010; 1 individual; Park Brébeuf; Ontbirds 16.10.2010.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
99 individuals; 24 May 1981; Roger Taylor; Shrike 6(4):23.
70 individuals; 27 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.
60 Individuals; 26 June 2023; Gareth Tompson; Britannia CA; ebird
52 individuals; 19 May 2015, Vincent Massey Park, Jon Ruddy
50 individuals; 23 May 1982; Richard Killeen; Shrike 7(3):29.

## **Kirtland's Warbler** (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

**Paruline de Kirtland**

**KIWA**

**Status: Accidental transient**

This is a very scarce breeding species in specialized habitat in the northeast. There is a single record.

10 June 2023; 1 singing male; Burnt Lands Provincial Park; Ottawa; mobs; ebird

## **Cape May Warbler** (*Setophaga tigrina*)

**Paruline tigrée**

**CMWA**

**Status: Uncommon migrant. Rare and local breeder.**

Cape May Warblers usually return to the Ottawa-Gatineau District in mid-May (exceptionally late April), with most migrants passing through the area during the second and third weeks of May.

The District is at the southern edge of this species breeding range and it is rare and local as a breeder in coniferous forests, particularly in spruces. It is one species which takes advantage of spruce budworm outbreaks which can cause a temporary significant rise in the breeding population. During OBBA2 it was confirmed in the Larose Forest, a site that has become a regular breeding area in recent years, with breeding evidence collected from five other squares. However, it appears as of 2025 that it no longer breeds in Larose Forest. During QBBA2 it was confirmed breeding at Lac la Pêche, with breeding evidence from four other squares.

Migrants are seen at local migrant traps heading south mainly from mid-August to mid-September, with scattered later records to the end of October and even a few lingering into early winter.

<b>First Record</b>
24 May 1883; 2 individuals; near the Rideau River, Ottawa, ON; G.R. White; Ottawa Naturalist 5:45.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
29 April 1985; 1 individual; Frank Bell; Shrike 10(2):8.
3/4 May 2008; 1 individual; Ontbirds 05.05.2008.
6 May 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):29.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Second and third week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of August to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
16 October 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike Database.
19 October 1983; 1 individual; Roger Taylor, Tom Hanrahan; Shrike Database.
26 October 1983; 1 individual; Frank Munro; Shrike Database.
30 October 1983; 1 individual; Appleton, Bruce Di Labio; T&L 18(1):11, Shrike 8(5)18.
1 November 2022, 1 individual, Green's Creek, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
4 November 2021, 1 individual, Lac Meech, Kim Schonning, ebird
4 November 2021, 1 individual, kitchissippi lookout, Clifford Rostek, ebird
13 November 2023; 1 Individual, Pine Grove trail, Ottawa, Catherine McRae, ebird
6-8 November 2020, 1 individual, Strathcona Park Jeffrey McLaren, ebird
19 November 2019, 1 individual, rapides deschenes, mobs, ebird
<b>Winter records</b>
20 November to 11 december 2014, 1 individual, Gatineau, mobs, ebird
11 december 2014, 1 individual; Gatineau, mobs, ebird
20-22 december 2015, 1 individual, Green's creek filtration plant, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
64 individuals, 30 August 2018, Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio, ebird
30 individuals; 3 September 2013; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 05.09.2013.
18 individuals; 24 September 1981; Frank Munro; Shrike 6(5):23.
14 individuals; 12 May 1981; Jim Harris; Shrike 6(3):15.
10 individuals; 25 May 1985; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 10(3):23.

## Cerulean Warbler

(*Setophaga cerulea*)

Paruline azurée  
CERW

**Status: Very rare migrant and very rare local breeder.**

Cerulean Warbler reaches the northern edge of its breeding range in the District. It is very rare as a spring migrant, with birds occurring less than annually at local migrant traps from mid- to late May. It is probably a rare but annual breeder in mature deciduous forest in Gatineau Park and elsewhere on the Quebec side of the District. The Champlain Lookout area has been the most reliable spot for this species and breeding has been confirmed here, although it does not occur at this site every year. Fall migrants are very rarely detected, with only about four records, from late August and early September.

<b>First Record</b>
14 May 1922; 2 or 3 individuals; 22 miles south of Ottawa; R.E. Delury; CFN 36:120, 38:13, 55:169. The observer suppressed the precise location.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
9 May 2006; 1 individual; Gatineau Park, Champlain Lookout; C. Savignac; Ornit. 28(4):25.
11 May 1970; 1 individual; Vincent Massey Park; T&L 4(4):25.
11 May 1980; 1 individual; Britannia CA; T&L 14(4):119, Shrike 5(2):8.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to third week of June
<b>Fall Records</b>
22 August 2004; 1 individual; Deschênes, QC; Jean Dubois; EPOQ database.
27 August 2006; 1 female/juv.; Shirley's Bay woods; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 27.08.2006.
7 September 1984; 1 female/juv.; Rockcliffe Park; Peter Walker; Shrike 9(5):9; OBRSC #330.
10 September 2022; 1 individual; Rapides Deschenes, Gatineau; Mark gawn; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
5 individuals; 20 June 1993; Gatineau Park, Champlain Lookout; Bruce Di Labio; Ornit. 15(3):75.

3 individuals; 30 May 1991; Gatineau Park, Meech Lake; Kimball Garrett; eBird.
3 individuals, 17 May 2002; Gatineau Park, Champlain Lookout; Jean Dubois; Ornit.24(3):21.

## Northern Parula

(*Setophaga americana*)

Paruline à collier

NOPA

**Status: Uncommon migrant in spring, fairly common migrant in fall. Fairly common, but local, breeder in the northeastern part of the District.**

Northern Parula migrates through the District throughout the month of May (exceptionally late April). It nests in mature mixed and coniferous forests in the northern reaches of the District, where its frequency as a breeder has increased substantially in the last two decades: on QBBA1 it was found in only 12% of squares, while on QBBA2 it was found on 59% of squares. In fall migration, Northern Parula passes through the migrant traps in the District from late August to early October, with scattered records of birds as late as early November.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
Last week of March 1998; 1 male, singing and seen, Chelsea, QC, Bird Status Line transcript.
25 April 2015, 1 individual, ch. Antoine Boucher, Gatineau, Jacques Savard, ebird
28 April 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 28.04.2009.
29 April 2005; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay boat launch; Ontbirds 01.05.2005.
30 April 2011; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Mike Jacques, eBird.
30 April 2022; 1 individual, Britannia CA, mobs, ebird
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
First to third week of May.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of August to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
17 October 2013; 1 female; Britannia CA; Jeff Skevington, eBird.
20 October 2013; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 24.10.2010.f
<b>Fourth week of October, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
30 October 2014; 1 individual; Deschênes; Dom & Sarah Genna; eBird.
3 November 2020, 1 individual, Hiawatha park, Eric baldo, ebird
4 November 1989; 1 individual; T&L 24(2):82.
4 November 2018, 1 individual; Carleton place, Michel Gauthier, ebird
4 November 2020, 1 individual, pont champlain, mobs, ebird
6 November 1984; 1 individual; Bill Clark; "in his apple tree"; Shrike 9(6):8.
8 November 2019, 1 individual, Summit view drive, Howard Morrison, ebird
4-13 November 2020, 1 individual, Hurdman bridge-rideau tennis club, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
30 individuals, 21 may 2019, Twin Elm Road, Ronald Vandebeek, ebird
21 individuals; 20 September 1981; Mark Gawn; Shrike 6(6):25.
15 individuals, 13 June 2016, RN du marais Trepanier, Daniel Perrier, ebird
12 individuals; Britannia CA; 12 September 2010; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 12.09.10.
10 individuals; 15 May1983; Bob Gorman; Shrike 8(3):30.

## Magnolia Warbler

(*Setophaga magnolia*)

Paruline à tête cendrée

MAWA

**Status: Common migrant in spring and fall. Fairly common breeder in the northern parts of the District, uncommon breeder in the southern portion.**

Magnolia Warblers typically arrive back in the District in mid-May (exceptionally late April). This species is a fairly common breeder in larger tracts of coniferous and mixed woods on the Quebec side of the District, but is less common in Ontario where this habitat type is less prevalent (70% of squares on OBBA2, 80% of squares on QBBA2). Most Magnolia Warblers have headed south by the end of September (exceptionally early November).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
27 April 2009; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; <b>reference?</b>
28 April 1985; 1 individual; miscellaneous observer report; Shrike 10(2):8.
3 May 2001; 1 individual; Aylmer, QC; Anonymous eBirder; eBird.
5 May 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; William von Herf; eBird.
6 May 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Mike Jacques; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
6 October 2014; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Gregory Zbitnew. eBird.
8 October 2013; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Hans van der Zweep, Robert Scranton; eBird.
10 October 1982; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(5):21.
10 October 2014; 1 individual; <b>location</b> ; William von Herf; eBird.
15 October 1977; 1 individual; Mark Gawn, Stephen Gawn; Shrike 2(7):5.
15/16 October 2011; 1 individual; SE sector, Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
24 October 1976; 1 individual; Britannia Woods; Bruce Di Labio, Tom Hince; Shrike 1(7):5.
8-10 November 2020, 1 individual, green's creek filtration plant, Gregory Zbitnew, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
55 individuals; 3 September 2000; Chris Lewis; m.obs.; Bird Status Line transcript.
50 individuals, 14 September 1980, Britannia CA, Bruce Di Labio, eBird
40 individuals; 4 September 1983; Mark Gawn; Shrike 8(5):29.
30 individuals; 31 August 1984; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(4):21.

## Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*)

Paruline à poitrine baie

BBWA

**Uncommon migrant in spring, fairly common migrant in fall. Very rare and irregular breeder at the northern edge of the District.**

Bay-breasted Warbler is an uncommon migrant in spring the District, with birds mainly passing through from mid-May to early June, although they have occurred as early as late April. It is likely a very rare and irregular breeder in coniferous forest at the northern edge of the District. It was detected in breeding season in four squares on QBBA1 and five squares on QBBA2, but all records were only of possible breeding. This species is more numerous in fall migration, with the peak passage occurring from mid-August to mid-September. There are scattered records of late birds until late October and even November.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
30 April 2005; 1 male; Dow's Lake; Ontbirds 08.05.2005.
5 May 1983; 2 individuals; Jamshed & Nehl Ahmed; Shrike 8(3):18, T&L 17(4):206.
6 May 1981; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 6(3):15.
6 May 1983; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike Database.
<b>Principal Spring Dates</b>
Second week of May to first week of June.
<b>Latest Spring Departure</b>
8 June 1987; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
13 June 1976, 1 individual; Mark Gawn, Simon Gawn; Shrike 1(4), T&L 10(5):139.
27 June 1988; 2 individuals; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
28 June 1997; 1 singing male; Bill Mason Centre; Bird Status Line transcript.
<b>Earliest Fall Arrival</b>
10 July 1989; 1 breeding plumage male; Huron Lodge, Gatineau Park; T&L 24(1):34.
11 July 1985; 1 individual; Roger Taylor; Shrike 10(3):12.
12 July 1992; 1 female; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
15 July 1995; 1 female; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
24 July 1993; 1 male; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
25 July 1983; 1 individual; Innis Point, Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 9(4):10.
<b>Principal Fall Dates</b>

Second week of August to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 1983; 2 individuals; Bill Coburn; Shrike 8(5):18.
4 October 1977; 1 individual; Bruce Barrett; Shrike 2(7):5.
5 October 1986; 1 individual; Aylmer; Paul Tousignant; Ornitaouais 9(2):48.
7 October 2013; 1 individual; end of Scrivens Street; Ontbirds 10.10.2013.
<b>Second week of October, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
23-24 October 1976; 1 individual; Britannia Woods; Bruce Di Labio, Tom Hince; Shrike 1(7):5.
4-7 November 2020, 1 individual; Rideau tennis club, mobs, ebird
18 November 2022; 1 individual; Strathcona Park, anonymous, ebird
30 November 2025; 1 individual; Rideau Tennis Club, Rick Kileen, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
100 individuals; 31 August 1981; Ian and Paul Jones; Shrike 6(4):23.
45 individuals; 2 September 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(6):28.
30 individuals; 24 August 1982; Bernie Ladouceur; Shrike 7(4):26.

## Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)

Paruline à gorge orange  
BLBW

**Status: Fairly common migrant. Common breeder in the northern part of the District and more local in the south.**

Blackburnian Warbler typically returns to the District by mid-May (exceptionally late April). This species is a fairly common breeder in mixed and coniferous forests, with an affinity for Eastern Hemlock. As such it is more commonly found nesting on the Quebec side of the District, where this habitat is more widespread (26% of squares on OBBA2, 76% of squares on QBBA2). Most birds have left the District by late September (exceptionally mid-October and one in mid-November).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
28 April 1990; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
30 April 1976; 1 individual; Aylmer; Robert Bergeron; AB 30(4):817.
1 May 1998; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcript.
1 May 2010; 2 individuals; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
3 May 2006; 1 individual; west end of Ottawa; Ontbirds 07.05.2006.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
2 October 1983; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike Database.
6 October 1983; 1 individual; Blake Maybank; Shrike Database.
10 October 1982; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 7(5):21.
16 October 1983; 1 individual; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 8(5):18.
14 November 2021, 1 individual, rockcliffe airport, David Howe, Rosanne Dawson , ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
35 individuals; 15 may 1974; Lac Deschenes from Britannia to Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di labio, ebird
30 individuals; 21 may 2019, Twin Elm, Ronald Vandebek, ebird
20 individuals; 15 May 1983; Dan Brunton; Shrike 8(3):30.
20 individuals, 16 may 1999, Gatineau park, Frederic bedard, ebird
15 individuals; 20 May 1984; Mark Gawn; Shrike 9(4):21.
12 individuals; 6 September 1981; Bill Coburn; Shrike 6(5):23.

## Northern Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga aestiva*)

Paruline jaune  
YWAR

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

Yellow Warblers usually return to the District in early May (exceptionally late April). They are a common breeder in shrubby thickets, often around water (100% of squares on OBBA2, 97% of squares on QBBA2). One of the first wood warblers to head south in the fall, most birds leave the District by early September (exceptionally early October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
3 April 1998; 1 individual; heard singing only; Grandview Drive; Bird Status Line transcript. <b>Credible?</b>
20 April 1998; 1 individual; Aylmer; Bird Status Line transcript.
23 April 1982; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 7(2):16.
24 April 2010; 1 individual; David Britton; Innis Point Bird Observatory, pers. comm.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
22 September 2013; 2 individuals; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
24 September 2014; 1 individual; Michael Tate; eBird.
26 September 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):23.
26 September 2014; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Jon Ruddy, m.obs.; eBird.
4 October 1975, 1 individual, Britannia, bruce Dilabio, ebird
6 October 1984; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 9(5):20.
19-20 October 2018, 1 individual, Britannia, mobs, ebird
24 October-1 November 2022; 1 individual, Green's Creek, mobs, ebird
4 November 2016; 1 individual, Lusville, Amy Lawes
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
145 individuals; 4 August 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):27.
135 individuals; 11 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):23.
100 individuals; two dates in May 1984; Bob Bracken and Bob Gorman; Shrike 8(3):30.

## Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*)

Paruline à flancs marron  
CSWA

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

Chestnut-sided Warblers usually return to the District in mid-May (exceptionally early May). They are a common breeder in deciduous secondary growth, including around forest edges and in regenerating old fields and forest clearings (92% of squares on OBBA2, 95% of squares on QBBA2). Most Chestnut-sided Warblers depart the area in mid-September (exceptionally to late-October). There is one unusual winter record.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
20 April 2024; 1 male; Lucy Patterson and Christine Drake, Britannia, ebird
6 May 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Mike Jacques; eBird
7 May 1981; 1 individual; Dan Brunton; Shrike 6(3):15.
7 May 2013; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Richard Waters, Peter Blancher, eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
3 October 1981; 1 individual; Stephen Gawn; Shrike 6(5):23.
6 October 1984; 1 individual; Daniel St-Hilaire; Shrike 9(5):20.
14 October 1996; 1 individual; Richmond, ON; Peter Blancher; eBird.
25 October 2010; 1 individual; Strathcona Park, along the Rideau River; Ontbirds 26.10.2010.
<b>Winter record</b>
10 December 2016, 1 individual ;Britannia, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
66 individuals; 24 May 1981; Roger Taylor; Shrike 6(6):25.
52 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(6):28.
45 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike7(6):31.

## Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*)

Paruline rayée

BLPW

**Status: Common spring migrant and fairly common fall migrant.**

Blackpoll Warblers migrate through the District en route to and from their breeding grounds in the northern boreal forest. They are a later migrant, with most birds passing through in late May and early June, although this species has occurred as early as the first week of May. There are scattered records through June and July which are thought to pertain to late spring / early fall migrants or non-breeding birds. Most south-bound Blackpolls pass through the District from mid-August to late September. There are a few records through October and one exceptionally late bird that lingered at Dick Bell Park until mid-November.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
2 May 2010; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 05.05.2010.
11 May 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Curtis Bosson; eBird.
12 May 1985; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):23.
12 May 1987; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Jim Dixon; eBird.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
9 June 2013; 1 male; Marlborough Forest; Christopher Harris; eBird.
10 June 1995; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Data.
11 June 1988; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
23 June 1977; 1 adult male; Britannia Woods; Bernie Ladouceur; OBRSC #198.
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
11 July 1976; 1 individual; Jim and Anne Ginns; T&L 10(5):139, Shrike 1(4):5.
30 July 1984; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist
15 August 1982; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(4):26.
19 August 1981; 1 individual; Bill Clark; Shrike 6(4):23.
<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of August to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
14/15 October 2006; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count, SE Sector; OFNC Website.
15/16 October 2011; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count, NW Sector; OFNC Website.
30/31 October 1999; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC Website archived data.
7-15 November 2009; 1 individual; Andrew Haydon Park; Jeff Skevington, m.obs.; Ontbirds
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
30 individuals; 2 September 1984; Bob Bracken; Shrike 9(5):20.
30 individuals; 11 September 2010; Britannia CA; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
20 individuals; 6 September 1981; Ron Bedford; Shrike 6(5):23.

## Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*)

Paruline bleue

BTBW

**Status: Fairly common migrant in spring and fall. Fairly common breeder in the northern parts of the District, uncommon in the southern portion.**

Black-throated Blue Warbler returns to the Ottawa-Gatineau District in mid-May (exceptionally late April). It is a fairly common breeder in large tracts of mixed forest throughout the District, but is more widespread on the Quebec side (42% of squares on OBBA2, 81% of squares on QBBA2). Most birds have departed for the south by mid-September (exceptionally mid-October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
27 April 2011; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Robin Humphries; eBird.

29 April 2011; 2 males; Gatineau; Ted Cheskey; eBird.
2 May 2015; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 02.025.2015.
3 May 1983; 1 individual; Mark Gawn, m.obs.; Shrike 8(3);17, Shrike Database.
4 May 2002; 1 individual; Michelle Martin; Britannia CA; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
8 October 1982; 1 individual; Heather Hamilton and Dave Gill; Shrike Database.
10 October 2011; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Giovanni Pari; eBird.
13 October 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 15.10.2008.
17 October 1982; 1 individual; Bill Coburn; Shrike 7(6):31.
18 October 1977; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike 2(7):5.
8 November 2023, 1 individual, Greenbelt Trail West, Ottawa, Anita Vandenbygaart, ebird
5-10 November 2020, Fairmont avenue, Cameron Duncan, ebird
6 November 2025, 1 individual; Stony Swamp, Luke Caley, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
35 individuals; 14 May 1989; Lac Deschenes from Britannia to Shirley's Bay, Bruce Di labio, ebird
30 individuals; 17 May 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):29.
16 individuals; 17 May 2019; Bel-air fields, Jan Przybylo, ebird
14 individuals; 8 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):30.
14 individuals; 21 May 2008; Britannia CA; Jay Peterson; Ontbirds 21.05.2008.

**Palm Warbler**  
(*Setophaga palmarum*)

**Paruline à couronne rousse**  
**WPWA**

**Status: Western ssp. is a fairly common spring and fall migrant. Yellow ssp. is a rare and local breeder at Mer Bleue and a very rare migrant elsewhere.**

Two subspecies of Palm Warbler occur in the District. The first, and by far the more common is the migrant “Western” subspecies which passes through in migration to and from its breeding grounds in the northern boreal forest. In spring migration Western Palm Warblers have occurred as early as mid-April but the peak migration is from late April to mid-May. In fall they pass through from early September to early October, with records as late as early November. Scattered records through June and July attributed to this subspecies are likely late spring / early fall migrants or non-breeding birds.

The “Yellow” subspecies reaches the western edge of its range in the District. This species is a local breeder in the Mer Bleue Bog where it is often detected from the boardwalk. It can be found at this location from late April to late August and breeding has been confirmed. “Yellow” Palm Warblers are rarely reported in migration elsewhere in the District, but are probably overlooked. Innis Point Bird Observatory banding records from 1982 to 2003 indicate that 3% of Palm Warblers banded there were identified as Yellow Palm Warbler.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
16 April 2013; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Richard Waters, Jake Walker, eBird.
17 April 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 20.04.2008.
18 April 2010; 1 individual; Innis Point; David Britton; Ontbirds 27.04.2010.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Fourth week of April to third week of May.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
19 June 2012; 1 individual; Pontiac Station; Brian Daly; eBird.
21 June 2009; 1 individual; 10 <sup>th</sup> Line, Orleans; Brandon Holden; eBird.
21 June 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Raju Kasambe; eBird.
24 June 1977; 1 individual; Gatineau Park; G. Thompson; Shrike 2(4):6.
30 June 2012; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Robert and John Desrameaux; eBird
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
6 July 2008; 1 individual; Stoney Swamp, Jack Pine Trail; Christopher Harris; eBird.
12 August 2010; 1 individual; Richmond Lagoons; Peter Blancher; eBird.
12 August 2012; 1 individual; Giroux Road Ponds; Mark Patry; eBird.

<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
First week of September to first week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
23 October 2005; 1 individual; Trail Road; Ontbirds 23.10.2005.
25 October 1981; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(5):23.
1 November 2018; 1 individual; Rockcliffe Airport Woods; Gregory Zbitnew; ebird
3 November 2011; 5 individuals; Deschenes; Hans van der Zweep ;ebird
4 November 2018; 1 individual; Britannia Beach; mobs; ebird
5 November 1972; 1 individual; Ron Pittaway, m.obs.; AB 27(1):55.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
32 individuals; 8 September 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(5):5:20.
32 individuals; 5 May 2012; Britannia CA; Martha Julien; eBird.
20 individuals; 29 April 2009; Britannia CA; Jeff Skevington; eBird.

<b>Unusual subspecies: Yellow Palm Warbler</b>
<b>First Record</b>
3 June 1904; 1 individual; Mer Bleue Bog; C.W.G. Eifrig; Ottawa Naturalist 15:224.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
21 April 2002; 1 singing male; Mer Bleue Bog; Ontbirds
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
5 October 2007; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds
<b>Noteworthy High Count</b>
27 August 2005; 12 individuals; Mer Bleue Bog; Mike Russell; eBird.

## Pine Warbler

(*Setophaga pinus*)

Paruline des pins

PIWA

### Status: Fairly common migrant and breeder.

Along with Yellow-rumped, Pine is one of the first warblers to return to the District in spring, usually in mid- to late April (exceptionally early April). As its name suggests, it nests in mature stands of pine (60% of squares on OBBA2, 70% of squares on QBBA2). It has increased significantly in numbers in the past two decades, likely because pine plantations that were planted in the 1960s and 1970s are now maturing to the point that they provide suitable breeding habitats for this species. Pine Warbler is rarely seen at migrant traps during fall migration, although it can linger in breeding areas such as Constance Bay and Britannia CA into October.

There are four winter records, mostly of birds that lingered at suet feeders, two of which survived into January.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
20 March 2021, 1 individual, monaghan forest, Catherine Lawrence, ebird
30 march 2019, 1 individual; mer bleue, Gavin Sandemann, ebird
2 April 2006, 1 individual; Gatineau Park, Daniel St-Hilaire; NAB 60(3):346.
10 April 2010; 1 individual; Jack Pine Trail; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 14.04.2010.
11 April 1985; 1 individual; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 10(3):23.
11 April 2010; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 14.04.2010.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
18/19 October 2003; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
20 October 2013; 1 individual; Larose Forest, Mid-Fall Bird Count; B. Ladouceur; eBird, OFNC website.
9 November 2014; 1 individual; Pakenham; Ontbirds 13.22.2014.
12 November 2024; 1 individual; Petrie Island; Gerhard Bruins; ebird
17 November 2024; 1 individual; Alta Vista; Bob Baker; ebird
14-19 November 2024; 1 individual; Carleton University; Igor Kabic; ebird
24 & 30 November 2014; 1 individual; Pakenham, heard singing; Ontbirds 27.11 & 4.12.2014.
27 November 2010; 1 individual; William McEwen Road south of Ottawa; lingered into winter; Ontbirds
<b>Winter Records</b>
4 December 1971; 1 individual; Roger Foxall, Richard Poulin; AB 26(3):600.

8 Dec 1982 to 9 Jan 1983; 1 individual; Carleton University; T&L 17(2):59, 17(3):113, Shrike 7(6):19.
15-20 December 2024; 1 individual; Killborn@Blossom; Ivar Kops; ebird
16 December 1983 to 20 January 1984; 1 individual; at Dan Brunton's feeders; Shrike 8(6):13, 9(1):6.
27 Nov 2010 to 16 Jan 2011; 1 male; William McEwen Rd. south of Ottawa; Ontbirds 03.12.2010, etc.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
16 individuals; 25 September 2019; Constance Bay, Jeff Skevington; ebird
14 individuals; 30 April 2011; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
12 individuals, 8 May 2019, Gatineau park, Frederic bedard, ebird
11 individuals; 20 June 1981; Tom Hanrahan; Shrike 6(4):23.
10 individuals; 12 May 1985; Bob Bracken; Shrike 10(3):23.

## Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)

Paruline à croupion jaune

YRWA

**Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant. Common breeder in the northern part of the District, uncommon in the south.**

Yellow-rumped Warbler, is one of the earliest wood warblers to arrive in the District, with birds generally arriving in mid-April (exceptionally in late March). In both spring and fall migration periods, it is the most abundant warbler species. It breeds in mixed and coniferous forests and is a fairly common breeder on the Quebec side, but is less common on the Ontario side which has less extensive forest cover (77% of squares on OBBA2, 89% of squares on QBBA2). Fall migrants begin to appear at migrant traps in mid-August and continue to pass until late October.

The most likely warbler species in winter, it is recorded during the winter period about eight years out of ten on average. Recorded 16 times on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC through to 2021 and once on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC. Most lingering birds disappear by January, but a few have successfully overwintered, remaining in to February and March

Two subspecies have been recorded: the eastern "Myrtle Warbler" (*D. c. coronata*) is the commonly occurring form. The western "Audubon's Warbler" (*D. c. auduboni*) has been recorded about three times.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
29 March 1980; 1 individual; along the Rideau River; Shrike 5(2):8.
1 April 1983; 1 individual; Dunrobin; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):15.
3 April 1999; 1 individual; Britannia area; Bird Status Line transcripts.
3 April 2012; 2 individuals; near the Museum of Nature; Ontbirds 12.04.2012.
5 April 2010; 1 individual; Ontbirds 06.04.2010.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of April to last week of October.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
18 November 1982; 1 individual; Janette Dean; Shrike Database.
24 November 2002; 3 individuals; Britannia CA, lingered into Dec.; Ontbirds 24.11.2002.
25 November 1982; 1 individual; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike Database.
26 November 2006; 1 individual; Carp, ON, lingered into Dec.; Bruce Di Labio; Ontbirds 26.11.2006.
<b>Winter Status</b>
28 December 2022-14 January 2023; 1 individual, Crystal Beach, Ottawa, mobs, ebird
up to 1 March 2002; 1 individual; Oakridge Blvd., Ottawa; Ontbirds 28.02.2002.
29 February 2008; 1 individual; Osgoode, ON; Ontbirds
5 March 1983; 1 individual; Pinecrest Cemetery; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(2):15.
12 March 1983; 1 individual; Carleton Place; Arnie Simpson; Shrike 8(2):15.
30 January-31 March 2020; 1 individual, Rideau River between Hurdman and Strathcona park, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
1,200 individuals; 8 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(3):30.
460 individuals; 12 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(40):21.
450 individuals; 3 May 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(3):29.

**Unusual subspecies: Audubon's Warbler (*S.c. auduboni*)**

First record? Shrike 1(3):7 says the May 1976 record is the second Ottawa area record.

12 May 1976; 1 individual; Aylmer, QC; Robert Bergeron; AB 30(4):817, T&L 10(4):103.
13 November 1980; 1 individual; AB 35(2):178. Initials "BB", but not in list Bob Bracken?
20 December 1987; 1 individual; on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; T&L 22(2):73.

<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>	<b>Paruline à gorge jaune</b>
( <i>Setophaga dominica</i> )	YTWA

**Status: Casual transient in spring and from fall into early winter.**

Twelve records (eight OBRSC accepted) of this southern warbler species that regularly strays into eastern Canada. Formerly averaged about three records per decade, but there have been only two since 1999. About half of the records are from October to December and pertain to birds that lingered at feeders. The remainder are split between spring and fall migrants.

<b>First Record</b>
4 November 1957; 1 individual, Rideau River at Manotick, ON, L.M Terrill, m.obs.; CFN 72:171.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
29 April 1973; 1 adult; Britannia woods, Tom Hince, m.obs.; AB 28(5):899, OBRSC #051.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
29 May 2011; 1 individual; Aylmer, QC; Gilles Seutin; Ontbirds 07.06.2011.
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
21 September 1982; 1 immature; Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa; Roger Taylor; OBRSC #298.
<b>Latest Fall/Winter Record</b>
21 Nov. to 9 Dec. 1989; 1 imm. male; Manotick, ON, Morley Nesbit, m.obs T&L 24(2):79, 24(3):30.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

<b>Prairie Warbler</b>	<b>Paruline des prés</b>
( <i>Setophaga discolor</i> )	PRAW

**Status: Casual transient in spring and fall.**

There are about 26 records (6 OBRSC accepted) of this attractive warbler, which reaches the northern edge of its breeding range in southern Ontario. Prairie Warbler occurred nearly annually in the 1970's and 1980's, but has become much less frequent more recently, with two to three per decade being the more current norm. About three quarters of the records are from spring, mostly from May. Most of the fall records are from August.

<b>First Record</b>
17 May 1944; 1 individual; Lac Deschênes at Britannia; A.E. Bourguignon, A.L. Rand; CFN 59:50.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
27-28 April 2024; 1 individual; Fletcher Wildlife Garden; mobs; ebird
1 May 1983; 1 individual; the Cedars, Aylmer, QC; Simon Barette; T&L 17(4):206, Shrike 8(3):18.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
8 June 1996; 1 adult male; Deschênes; J.P. Artigau; Jean Dubois, m.obs.; FN 50(5):926
<b>Earliest Fall Record</b>
30 July 1977; 1 female; behind the Airport, Ottawa, ON Roger Foxall; Shrike 2(4):6.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
2 September 1974; 1 male; Shirley's Bay, Ottawa, ON; Bob Gorman; OBRSC #111.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single individuals.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

<b>Black-throated Gray Warbler</b>	<b>Paruline grise</b>
( <i>Setophaga nigrescens</i> )	BTYW

**Status: Accidental in early winter.**

Three records to date, including one which lingered in Britannia for over a month. This western species may be expected to occur again as it has become almost annual in Ontario and Quebec, mostly in early winter.

Records
3-9 December 2013; 1 adult male; Chemin Vanier, Aylmer; m.obs.; Ontbirds 03.12.2013, eBird.
2 November-11 December 2017, 1 individual, Britannia, Ottawa, Ontario, ebird, m. obs.
27 September 2019, 1 individual, Dovercourt Ave., Ottawa, ON. Ebird, Richard Waters.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*)

Paruline à gorge noire  
BTNW

**Status: Common migrant and breeder. Exceptional in winter.**

Black-throated Green Warbler usually returns to the area in early May (exceptionally mid-April) and is a common migrant, frequently seen at migrant traps. It is a common breeder in larger tracts of forest of all types throughout the District (77% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2). Most birds have left the District by the end of September, with stragglers through October and as late as mid-November. There are also two winter records of very late birds in December.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
15 April 2000; 1 individual; Bill Mason Centre; Bird Status Line transcript.
19 April 2014; 1 individual; Petrie Island; Tom Deversci; eBird.
24 April 2010; 1 individual; Constance Bay; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
26 April 2003; 1 individual; Mississippi Lake; Mike Jacques; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
First week of May to fourth week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
14 October 1983; 1 individual; Innis Point; Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 8(5):29.
20 October 2007; 1 individual; SW sector; OFNC Mid-Fall Bird Count; OBRSC website.
<b>Fourth week of October, 1993 Checklist dot.</b>
3-8 November 2020; 1 individual; Rideau Tennis Club, mobs, ebird
17 November 2017; 1 individual; Britannia, mobs, ebird
13 November 2010; 1 individual; Westboro Beach; Ontbirds 16.11.2010.
30 November 2025; 1 individual; Britannia, Mathew Mcanally, ebird
<b>Winter Records</b>
16-25 December 1984; 1 individual; Deschênes; Bruce Di Labio, m.obs.; Shrike 9(6):8.
15-27 December 2006; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Heather Pickard; Ontbirds 15,27.12.2006, eBird.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
38 individuals; 14 September 1980; Britannia CA; Bruce Dilabio, ebird
35 individuals; 11 September 201; Britannia CA; Jeff Skevington; eBird.
31 individuals; 5 September 1982; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 7(5):32.
30 individuals, 23 may 2005, Gatineau park, Frederic Bedard, ebird
25 individuals; 20 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):21.

## Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*)

Paruline du Canada  
CAWA

**Status: Uncommon migrant and breeder.**

This attractive warbler typically arrives in the District in mid-May (exceptionally early May). It is an uncommon breeder in shrubby wet areas in mixed and coniferous forests, often around water, and is more widespread on the Quebec side of

the District (30% of squares on OBBA2, 70% of squares on QBBA2). Most Canada Warblers have migrated out of the District by early September (exceptionally early October).

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
<b>First week of May, 1993 checklist</b>
8 May 2015; 1 individual; Rockliffe Airport woodlot and fields; Gregory Zbitnew; eBird.
9 May 1981; 1 individual; John Sankey; Shrike 6(3):15.
9 May 2000; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcript.
9 May 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Kathy Bissett; eBird.
10 May 2014; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Brent Eades; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of September.
<b>Late Fall Records</b>
21 September 1982; 1 individual; Peter Walker; Shrike 7(5):32.
c.27 September 2008; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 27.09.2008.
5 October 1974, individuals; AB 29(1):52.
<b>Second week of October, 1993 Checklist dot.</b>
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
21 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):21.
10 individuals; 29 May 1983; Bob Bracken; Shrike 8(3):30.
9 individuals, 9 June 2017, Pine Grove trail; Gregory Zbitnew; ebird
8 individuals; 17 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):24.

## Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)

Paruline à calotte noire  
WIWA

**Status: Uncommon spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.**

Wilson's Warbler breeds in the boreal forest and migrates through the District in spring and fall. This species typically passes through on the north-bound migration from mid-May to early June, but it has been recorded as early as mid-April. There are scattered records throughout June and July, likely of late/early migrants or non-breeding birds. Although there are no recent records, according to the Ottawa-Naturalist Volume 5 page 46, they were found breeding at the Mer Bleue. Nesting has never been confirmed in the District. Peak fall migration occurs from mid-August to mid-September, with stragglers occasionally reported in October. 2 exceptionally late records of males in late November have photographic documentation.

<b>First Record</b>
13 May 1883, the transactions of the Ottawa field-naturalists club, vol 5, page 144-45. The sighting is presumed to be within the old city limits.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 April 1974; 1 male; just east of Arnprior; Mike Runtz; OBRSC #91.
<b>First week of May, 1993 Checklist dot</b>
9 May 2000; 1 individual; Bill Mason Centre; Bird Status Line transcript.
10 May 2000; 2 individuals, banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO Checklist.
<b>Principal Spring Migration Dates</b>
Third week of May to first week of June.
<b>Late Spring Departure</b>
11 June 1985; 1 individual; Innis Point; Ottawa Banding Group; IPBO Checklist.
21 June 1985; 1 individual' Peter Walker; Shrike 10(3):24.
24 June 2006; 1 male; Ramsay Lake, Gatineau Park; Chris Lewis, m.obs.; OBRSC #628.
<b>3 July 1890; found breeding at the Mer Bleue, W. E. and F. A. Saunders; Ottawa-Naturalist Vol. 5 page 46</b>
<b>Early Fall Arrival</b>
9 July 1988; 1 individual, banded; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
13 July 2019, 1 individual, Rockcliffe airport woods, David Howe, Rosanne Dawson, ebird
23 July 1983; 1 individual; Anne and Jim Ginns; Shrike 8(4):18.
30 July 1981; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bruce Di Labio; p. 46 Shrike 6(4):12.
30 July 1983; 1 individual; Arnie Simpson; Shrike Database.

<b>Principal Fall Migration Dates</b>
Third week of August to third week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
15/16 October 2005; 1 individual; SE sector, Mid-Fall Bird Count; OFNC website.
19 October 2003; 1 male: Sawmill Creek at Rideau River; Dave Sangster, m.obs.; OBRSC #584.
29 October 1995; 1 female; near Rideau Tennis Club; Chris Lewis, m.obs.; OBRSC #467.
30 October 2013; 1 individual; Manotick Island; Ontbirds 08.11.2013.
3-24 November 2020, 1 individual, Rideau Tennis Club, mobs, ebird
22 November 2008; 1 male; Rue St-Malo, Aylmer; Larry Newman; OBRSC #687, photographed.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
30 individuals; 6 September 1981; Bill Coburn; Shrike 6(5):23.
10 individuals; 26 May 1983; Mark Gawn & Ottawa Banding Group; Shrike 8(3):30.
3 September 2000; 10 individuals; Britannia CA; Bob Bracken, m.obs.; T&L 35(2):84.

## Tanagers, Cardinals and their Allies

### Summer Tanager

(*Piranga rubra*)

*Piranga vermillion*

SUTA

**Status: Casual transient from spring through fall.**

Twelve records (three OBRSC accepted), occurring on average about once per decade. Records are mainly in spring (May) and fall (August to November), with one summer and one winter record. Most records are from wooded areas. This southern species has not been confirmed to breed in Canada, but there is evidence to suggest that it might breed in southern Ontario. It is an annual stray to the eastern provinces.

<b>First Record</b>
24-25 May 1967; 1 adult male; west end of Ottawa; Dan Brunton, m.obs; CFN 81:274.
<b>Earliest Spring Record</b>
30 April 2020, 1 individual, Cantley, QC; ebird, <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S68141325">https://ebird.org/checklist/S68141325</a> with a photo, Renaud Venne Landry.
<b>Latest Spring Record</b>
24-25 May 1967; 1 adult male; west end of Ottawa; Dan Brunton, m.obs; CFN 81:274.
<b>Latest Fall Record</b>
14-19 November 2016, 1 individual, Bruce Pit, Ottawa, ON, ebird, m.. obs
<b>Winter record</b>
Late December 2015-early February 2016, 1 individual, New Edinburgh, Ottawa, ebird, m. obs.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All sightings have involved single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

### Scarlet Tanager

(*Piranga olivacea*)

*Piranga écarlate*

SCTA

**Fairly common migrant and breeder.**

The beautiful Scarlet Tanager is a fairly common migrant, with birds returning to the area in mid-May (exceptionally late April). This species is a fairly common breeder in large tracts of deciduous woods (79% of squares on OBBA2, 86% of squares on QBBA2). In fall it is readily found at migrant traps; most birds have migrated south by mid-September (exceptionally early October), and there is a single November record..

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
26 April 2021; 1 adult male, Cannonball trail (Huntmar), Terry Huzarzki, ebird
First week of May, 1993 Checklist dot

7 May 2012; 1 individual; Shirley's Bay; Robin Humphries; eBird.
7 May 2012; 1 individual; Britannia CA; m.obs.; eBird.
9 May 1982; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; Janette Dean; Shrike 7(3):19.
9 May 2000; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bird Status Line transcript.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Third week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
5 October 1974; 1 individual; Tom Hince, Mark Gawn; AB 29(1):52.
5 October 2014; 1 individual; Domaine de la Ferme Moore, Hull; Frédéric Bédard; eBird.
6 October 2013; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Bernie Ladouceur; eBird.
6 October 2014; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
9 November 2019; 1 individual; Brantwood Park; Kim Schonning; ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
35 individuals; 22 May 1981; Britannia CA, Bruce Di labio, ebird
30 individuals; 24 May 1981; Roger Taylor; Shrike 6(4):23.
30 individuals; 30 August 1978; Britannia CA; Mark gawn; ebird
24 individuals; 23 May 1982; Mark Gawn; Shrike 7(3):29.
19 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):21.

## Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

Piranga à tête rouge  
WETA

### Accidental transient in spring.

There are seven records of this western species, one well documented record not reviewed by the OBRSC, one OBRSC-accepted record and four other records (the earliest dating back to the 1970's) that lack sufficient documentation to be accepted by the Committee. These reports are almost all from spring (May). There was one record from fall (August). Most unusual was a long-staying immature male in the winter of 2023-24.

#### First Record

3-5 May 2012; 1 male; near Lascelles, QC; Michèle Labelle, m.obs.; QC rare bird website.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Cardinal rouge  
NOCA

### Status: Common resident and breeder in urban parks and suburban neighbourhoods. Uncommon to rare outside cities and towns.

While there are Northern Cardinal records from 1888 and 1911, it was felt that these early sightings could have represented escaped cage birds. By the 1920's, the species was well-established in Toronto and so the third record in November 1923 record was considered by early Ottawa bird authority Hoyes Lloyd to be the first legitimate record of Northern Cardinal for the District. The next records occurred in the 1940's, following which the species became a rare but regular stray to the area. Sightings continued to increase, and the first breeding record was in 1974. Today Northern Cardinal is a common resident in wooded urban parks and suburban neighbourhoods. It is uncommon to rare outside of cities and towns in the District, but it still appears to be spreading.

#### First Record

28 November 1923; 1 individual; Argyle Avenue, Ottawa; Lois Kingston; CFN 46:164.

#### First Breeding Record

20 July 1974; 2 adults, 3 young; Hillcrest Avenue, Ottawa; T&L 9(1):10-11. Adults had overwintered.

#### Noteworthy High Counts

829 individuals; 18 December 2023; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; OFNC Website.

615 individuals; 14 December 2014; Ottawa-Gatineau CBC high count; Audubon CBC Data.

48 individuals; 15 December 2015; CBC, Gloucester sector; Giovanni Pari. Ebird

39 individuals; 20 December 2009; Lakeview, Aylmer; Frédéric Bédard; eBird.

25 individuals; 25 April 2014; Britannia CA; Louise Sobol; eBird.

## Rose-breasted Grosbeak

(*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

Cardinal à poitrine rose

RBGR

**Status: Common migrant and breeder.**

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks typically arrive in the District in early to mid-May (exceptionally mid-April). This species is a common and widespread breeder in deciduous and mixed forests (100% of squares on OBBA1; 95% of squares on QBBA2). In fall this species is seen regularly at migrant traps, with most individuals having left the District by mid-September (exceptionally mid-November). There are eight winter records, mainly from December, but one successfully overwintered in Alta Vista in 1983. Most were birds that lingered at feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
<b>Early Spring Arrival</b>
18 April 2012; 1 male; Ramar Lane, Metcalfe; Kim & Brendan Toews; eBird.
19-20 April 2010; 1 male; Manotick; Ontbirds; 27.04.2010.
27 April 2011; 1 female; Hutchison Avenue, Ottawa; Christopher Harris; eBird.
28 April 2014; 1 individual; Ontbirds 01.05.2014.
30 April 2009; 1 individual; Richmond; Peter Blancher; eBird.
<b>Principal Dates</b>
Second week of May to second week of September.
<b>Late Fall Departure</b>
20/21 October 2012; 1 individual; Mid-Fall Bird Count, NE sector; OFNC website.
21 October 1978; late migrant; T&L 13(1):13.
24 October 1976; 1 individual; Bob Gorman; Shrike 1(7):5.
13 November 2013; 1 adult male; Hillsdale Park, Rockliffe; Ontbirds 14.11.2013.
up to 16 November 2012; 1 adult male; Fitzroy Harbour; eBird, Ontbirds 22.11.2012.
13-18 November 2006; 1 female; Richmond; Peter Blancher, at his feeders; eBird.
<b>Winter Records</b>
4 December 1971; 1 individual; Manotick at a feeder; Roger Foxall; Richard Poulin; AB 26(3):600.
14-24 December 2014; 1 individual; Hull, on the Ottawa-Gatineau CBC; Ontbirds 18.12.2014.
20 December 2005; 1 individual; Manotick, at a feeder; Ontbirds 26.12.2005.
5 January 1980; 1 male; St.-Pierre-de-Wakefield; J. Lamarche; Ornithaouais 2(3):62.
10 Dec. 1982 to 14 Mar. 1983; imm. male; Alta Vista, at a feeder; m.obs.; T&L 17(3):113 & 17(4):204.
26-28 December 2024; 1 individual; Galetta; mobs; ebird
1 January 2017, 1 individual, Almonte, Bruce Dilabio, ebird
2 January 2015, 1 individual ;Rue Riddell, langis sirois, ebird
19 december 2018-2 February 2019, 1 female, Dewbery trail feeder, mobs, ebird
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
100 individuals; 5 September 1977; Ellaine Dickson; Shrike 2(5):7.
77 individuals; 24 May 1981; Roger Taylor; Shrike 6(4):23.
70 individuals; 23 May 1982; Roger Taylor; Shrike 7(3):29.
55 individuals; 11 May 1985; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 10(3):24.

## Blue Grosbeak

(*Passerina caerulea*)

Guiraca bleu

BLGR

**Status: Accidental transient in spring.**

There is a single record of this southeastern species in the district.

<b>Record</b>
4-5 June 2017, 1 adult male at a feeder on the 4 <sup>th</sup> and singing on the 5 <sup>th</sup> ; Monaghan Lane, Ottawa, ON; ebird, Barry Jenkinson, Gregory Zbitnew, Bernie Ladouceur, Robert Cermak.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Lazuli Bunting

(*Passerina amoena*)

Passerin azure

LAZB

### Status: Accidental transient in spring.

There are three records (2 OBRSC accepted) of this beautiful western species, two of which occurred in May and were documented by photographs. The third record was an unusual winter record and was also well-documented.

Records
29-31 May 2004; 1 adult male; Bell's Corners, ON; m.obs.; T&L 38(4):185, OBRSC #590.
15 May 2010; 1 adult male; Inkerman CR 3, near South Mountain, Jacqueline Tobin; OBRSC #717.
29 January-3 March 2019, 1 individual, Pinecrest area, Ottawa, ON, ebird, m. obs

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Indigo Bunting

(*Passerina cyanea*)

Passerin indigo

INBU

### Status: Fairly common breeder.

This striking songbird typically returns to the District in mid-May. There is an exceptionally early record from Bell's Corners in late March to early April in 2012, probably of a bird that overwintered farther north than its usual wintering range. This species is a fairly common breeder in open, brushy habitats throughout the District (89% of squares on OBBA2, 97 % of squares on QBBA2). Individuals are rarely noted in migration: in spring they usually appear first in breeding areas and in fall they are rarely noted in passage. There are few records after early September, although stragglers have been note as late as early November, and there is one unusual winter record.

First Record
Listed in the first Ottawa-Gatineau Checklist in 1881.
Early Spring Arrival
30 March to 15 April 2012; 1 moulting male; Bell's Corners; Bob Green; Ontbirds 20.04.2012.
7 May 2008; 1 individual; Chelsea; Ontbirds 12.05.2008.
8 May 2001; 1 individual; Innis Point Bird Observatory; IPBO banding data.
8 May 2009; 1 individual; Britannia CA; Ontbirds 11.05.2009.
Principal Dates
Third week of May to first week of September.
Late Fall Departure
26 October 1983; 1 individual; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(5):19.
29 October 2009; 1 female; Britannia; T&L 24(2):82.
31 October 1982; 1 individual; Ottawa Beach; W. Earl Godfrey; Shrike 7(5):22
31 Oct. to 1 Nov. 2009; 1 female; Crystal Beach; Mark Gawn, at his feeders; Ontbirds 06.11.2009.
Winter Record
8 December 2023; 1 female, Shirley's Bay Feeders, Ottawa, Tony Beck, Dan Simpson, ebird
Noteworthy High Counts
34 individuals; 27 May 1984; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 9(4):20.
21 individuals; 10 July 1983; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 8(4):28.
17 individuals; 27 June 1981; Bruce Di Labio; Shrike 6(4):23.

## Painted Bunting

(*Passerina ciris*)

Passerin nonpareil

PABU

### Status: Accidental transient in spring.

There are three records of this species, one OBRSC accepted. The first accepted report was of a male of this southern songbird that appeared at feeders in Ashton in May 2003. No one but the homeowners saw the bird, but it was documented on video. The third was at Shirley's Bay and was extremely well documented with many observers.

<b>Records</b>
12 May 2003; 1 male; Amberwood Road, Ashton; James & Patti Akers; T&L 37(4):183, OBRSC #641.
2-6 May 2021; 1 female; Hilda Road Feeders, Ottawa; mobs; ebird

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.

## Dickcissel

(*Spiza americana*)

Dickcissel d'Amérique  
DICK

### Casual transient from spring through early winter.

Twelve records (three OBRSC accepted), averaging about one per decade. Records show no distinct seasonal pattern and have occurred in March, June, August, November and December. Most of our records are of birds visiting yards and bird feeders.

<b>First Record</b>
June 1895; 1 male; C. Exp. Farm; F.A. Saunders, W.E. Saunders, m.obs.; Ottawa Naturalist: 15:203.
<b>Earliest Spring Recor</b>
6 March 1999; 1 male; Carp; Ray Holland; NAB 53(3):277, T&L, OBRSC #510
<b>Latest Winter Record</b>
27 December 1974; 1 male; Island Park Drive; M.A. & G.A. Buckingham AB 29(3):687, OBRSC #129.
<b>Noteworthy High Counts</b>
All records have been of single birds.

For more information on occurrences of rare species, see Appendix A.