

DATE GUIDE

To The Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario

Published by the

**Buffalo Ornithological
Society, Inc.**

*as an aid to reporting
unusual observations*

Seventh Edition
Revised 2001

FOREWORD

In 1955, the Buffalo Ornithological Society adopted a formal verification system by which the sight records of its members could achieve a more scientific status. This system included a request that members accompany their reports of unusual sightings with detailed written statements so that these reports could be carefully evaluated by the Statisticians and become a part of the permanent records of the Society. When such a system was contemplated, the question immediately arose as to what constituted an unusual sight record. Some persons recognized rarities of geography - birds from some other part of the continent or the world. There were also rarities of time - late or early migrants, summer stragglers, and birds in other categories which provided as much excitement (and perhaps more scientific value) and which are less easily recognized than the 'true rarities.' Obviously, even the most experienced birder could not remember the vast amount of available data regarding the status of each species within the Buffalo Ornithological Society area. Therefore, as a sort of rule book as to which observations required detailed written reports and which did not, the *Date Guide* was created as a part of the verification system. Publication of Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell's *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region - An Annotated Check-list* in 1965 and its supplement (1970) centralized and added to previous information.

During the years that the verification system has been in operation, several revisions have been made to the *Date Guide*. As evidenced by the content of the written reports submitted by members and friends of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, the pattern of occurrence of many bird species in our area is far from static. These reports not only increase the reliability of sight records, but also can indicate that an adjustment of the dates and status of some

species should be made periodically. Changes have also been necessitated by revisions of English and scientific bird names and taxonomic order by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U) to its *Check-list of North American Birds* (1998).

An ad-hoc committee of the Buffalo Ornithological Society met in 1998 to institute the latest changes in the *Date Guide*. This Seventh Edition is the result of the deliberations of that committee and is based on the Buffalo Ornithological Society permanent record file of bird verification reports up to December 31, 1997, and on A.O.U. revisions. Responsibility for the accuracy of this publication and for the judgments made in its preparation rest entirely with the committee.

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May 1998

Cover art by Betsy Potter

IMPORTANT

How to Use This Guide

The data in the following list are intended for the use of those who wish to contribute to the scientific knowledge of the occurrence of wild birds in the study area of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

All species, subspecies identifiable in the field, and named hybrids known to have occurred in this area are included.

These birds may be considered in three categories:

1. *Species listed with limiting dates.* If one of these species is observed outside the limiting dates assigned to it, a detailed written report of the observation must be submitted, since this record would contribute toward changing the known status of the species in our area. These dates do

NOT indicate that the species can normally be found at all times during this period. Indeed, most of these species are rare even in their optimum habitat near the limiting dates of the period.

2. *Species marked "All Year."* These species generally do not require verifying reports. It must be pointed out, however, that these species are not necessarily found over the whole area at all times.

3. *Species listed without comment.* These require verifying reports of any observations. Many are of only casual or accidental occurrence in our area and are expected to recur seldom, if ever. Some of these species, however, may, in the experience of some observers, be found more often than others to which limiting dates have been assigned. The reasons that these have not been given limiting dates are either that we need more information on their occurrence in this area than has been submitted up to this

time or they are unusually difficult to identify in the field.

It should be added here that an observation of any species not listed in the *Date Guide* should always be reported with written verifying details. Reports of species observed in unusually high or unprecedented numbers should also be accompanied by written verifying details.

Observers are urged to use for these written reports forms which may be obtained from the Buffalo Ornithological Society, c/o Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14211. The contents of this form are reproduced on the last pages of this *Date Guide*, and a report of an unusual sight record should include answers to all of the pertinent items in it.

The observer who locates a bird for which a verifying report is required is also urged to do his best to: (1) show the bird to as many other interested persons, especially competent authorities, as possible; (2) arrange for photographing or videotaping the bird when this is practical; and, (3) arrange to tape record the song and call notes when such a procedure is practical and might contribute to verification.

In most cases, species of birds are unevenly distributed over our study area. Birds common in certain areas are rare or only seasonally common in others. Sometimes, therefore, the Statisticians may ask for verifying reports even though the date of observation may be within those given for the species in this guide.

We think that everyone will enjoy using this revised *Date Guide*. The adjustments of the dates will have the general effect of reducing the number of reports required. Therefore, when a verifying report is called for, the record will be one of such importance that the observer may feel pride in it, and the report should be prepared with the care accorded a document of significant scientific value.

Totals of 382 species, 26 recognizable subspecies, and 2 named hybrids are included on this list. The following species or subspecies have been added to the list in the B.O.S. study area since the Sixth Edition of the *Date*

Guide (1991) (not including recent AOU species splits): Yellow-billed Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Long-tailed Jaeger, *L.c. canus* subspecies of Mew Gull, California Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Ross's Gull, Sooty Tern, Rufous Hummingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Lazuli Bunting. Two additional species, Tufted Duck and Garganey, have occurred in the B.O.S. study area. However, because individuals of these species are often kept in captivity, the origins of birds seen in our study area are uncertain and therefore do not appear on the official list. A population of Chukar formerly established itself in the B.O.S. study area but is now extirpated. The European Goldfinch may have been an individual from one of the populations formerly established in various parts of the United States. These species are still included on the official list of species which have occurred in the study area.

All 189 species and 2 named hybrids known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, up to and including 1997, are marked with an asterisk (*) on the list. Great Egret, Peregrine Falcon, and Great Black-backed Gull have been added to the list of breeders in the B.O.S. Region since the Sixth Edition of the *Date Guide* (1991).

Special Note: Lazuli Bunting was officially recorded in the B.O.S. study area in March 1998 prior to the printing of this *Date Guide* and was included here for completeness.

Special Note on Thayer's Gull: The Statisticians will not evaluate verification reports of Thayer's Gull because of the difficulty in making reasonably certain judgments on them. This is owing to the fact that there is evidence of interbreeding between it and Iceland Gull and considerable specimen evidence from widely separated localities that color and pattern differences between them are completely bridged by individual variation. However, the Statisticians still request that verification reports be submitted for any purported sightings of this form so that future researchers can make use of this information. Documented reports of Thayer's Gull will be listed separately from the "Noteworthy Records" section in *The Prothonotary*.

Red-throated Loon.....	
<i>Except: Oct.19-June 5, Lake Ontario only</i>	
Pacific Loon.....	
Common Loon*.....	All Year.....
Yellow-billed Loon.....	
Pied-billed Grebe*.....	All Year.....
Horned Grebe.....	All Year.....
Red-necked Grebe.....	Oct.10-May 18.....
Eared Grebe.....	
Western Grebe.....	
Black-capped Petrel.....	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel.....	
White-tailed Tropicbird.....	
Northern Gannet.....	
American White Pelican.....	
Brown Pelican.....	
Double-crested Cormorant*.....	All Year.....
American Bittern*.....	Mar.30-Nov.6.....
Least Bittern*.....	May 1-Oct. 3.....
Great Blue Heron*.....	All Year.....
Great Egret*.....	Apr.1-Oct.30.....
Snowy Egret.....	
Little Blue Heron.....	
Tricolored Heron.....	
Cattle Egret.....	
Green Heron*.....	Apr.14-Oct.25.....
Black-crowned Night-Heron*....	All Year.....
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....	

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

White Ibis.....	
Glossy Ibis.....	
White-faced Ibis.....	
Wood Stork.....	
Black Vulture.....	
Turkey Vulture*.....	Feb.20-Nov.14.....
Greater White-fronted Goose	
<i>A. a. frontalis</i>	
<i>A. a. flavirostris</i>	
Snow Goose.....	Oct.1-May 17.....
Ross's Goose.....	
Canada Goose	
<i>B. c. interior</i> *.....	All Year.....
<i>B. c. hutchinsii</i>	
Brant	
<i>B. b. hrota</i>	May 4-June 18, Oct.10-Dec.5
<i>B. b. nigricans</i>	
Barnacle Goose.....	
Mute Swan.....	All Year.....
<i>Adult plumage only</i>	
Trumpeter Swan.....	
Tundra Swan.....	Oct.12-June 4.....
Wood Duck*.....	All Year.....
Gadwall*.....	All Year.....
Eurasian Wigeon.....	
American Wigeon*.....	All Year.....
American Black Duck*.....	All Year.....
Mallard*.....	All Year.....

Blue-winged Teal*	Mar.9-Nov.16.....
Cinnamon Teal.....	
Northern Shoveler*	Mar.5-Dec.18.....
Northern Pintail*	All Year.....
Green-winged Teal	
<i>A. c. crecca</i>	
<i>A. c. carolinensis</i> *	All Year.....
Canvasback.....	Oct.5-May 25.....
Redhead.....	All Year.....
Ring-necked Duck.....	Sept.18-May 25.....
<i>Except: May 26-Sep.17 at Batavia WWTP only</i>	
Greater Scaup.....	Sept.19-June 4.....
Lesser Scaup*	All Year.....
King Eider.....	Nov.1-Apr.25.....
Common Eider.....	
Harlequin Duck.....	Nov.3-Mar.28.....
Surf Scoter.....	Oct.1-May 20.....
White-winged Scoter.....	Aug.29-June 10.....
Black Scoter.....	Oct.1-Jan.17, Mar.28-May 14
Long-tailed Duck.....	Oct.8-May 30.....
Bufflehead.....	Oct.10-May 30.....
Common Goldeneye*	All Year.....
Barrow's Goldeneye.....	
Smew.....	
Hooded Merganser*	All Year.....
Common Merganser*	All Year.....
Red-breasted Merganser.....	All Year.....
Ruddy Duck*	Mar.15-Jan.28.....

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

Osprey*	Mar.27-Oct.31
Swallow-tailed Kite	
Mississippi Kite	
Bald Eagle*	All Year
Northern Harrier*	All Year
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	All Year
Cooper's Hawk*	All Year
Northern Goshawk*	
<i>Except: Apr.1-Aug.15, adult plumage only, Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties only</i>	
Red-shouldered Hawk*	All Year
Broad-winged Hawk*	Apr.13-Oct.13
Swainson's Hawk	
Red-tailed Hawk*	All Year
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct.10-May 20
Golden Eagle	
American Kestrel*	All Year
Merlin	Apr.11-May 7, Sept.6-Oct.19
Gyr Falcon	
Peregrine Falcon*	Apr.10-May 17, Aug.21-Nov.7
Gray Partridge*	
Chukar*	
Ring-necked Pheasant*	All Year
Ruffed Grouse*	All Year
Wild Turkey*	All Year
Northern Bobwhite*	
Yellow Rail	
Black Rail	
King Rail*	

Virginia Rail*	Apr.10-Oct.30
Sora*	Apr.10-Oct.25
Purple Gallinule	
Common Moorhen*	Apr.12-Nov.5
American Coot*	All Year
Sandhill Crane	
Black-bellied Plover	May 5-June13, July 17-Nov.28
American Golden-Plover	Aug.16-Nov.12
Semipalmated Plover	May 3-Nov.5
Piping Plover*	
Killdeer*	All Year
American Oystercatcher	
Black-necked Stilt	
American Avocet	
Greater Yellowlegs	Mar.16-May 31, July 2-Dec.1
Lesser Yellowlegs	Mar.27-Nov.8
Spotted Redshank	
Wood Sandpiper	
Solitary Sandpiper	Apr.21-June 11, July 6-Oct.19
Willet	July 20-Oct.3
Wandering Tattler	
Spotted Sandpiper*	Apr.12-Oct.24
Upland Sandpiper*	Apr.12-Sept.7
Eskimo Curlew	
Whimbrel	May 18-June 1, July 9-Sept.30
Slender-billed Curlew	
Hudsonian Godwit	
Marbled Godwit	

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

Ruddy Turnstone.....	May 9-June 26, July 13-Nov.7
Red Knot.....	May 19-June12, July 24-Oct.24
Sanderling.....	May15-June11, July 11-Nov.26
Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	May 7-June 18, July 3-Oct.31
Western Sandpiper.....	
Least Sandpiper.....	Apr.29-June10, June27-Oct.20
White-rumped Sandpiper.....	May 15-June23, July29-Nov.13
Baird's Sandpiper.....	July 22-Oct.28.....
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	Mar.26-May 31, July 4-Nov.12
Purple Sandpiper.....	Oct.29-May 18.....
Dunlin.....	Apr.11-Jan. 5.....
Curlew Sandpiper.....	
Stilt Sandpiper.....	July 7-Oct.10.....
Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	Aug.26-Sept.23.....
Ruff.....	
Short-billed Dowitcher.....	May 7-May 31, July 1-Oct.8
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	
Common Snipe*.....	Mar.9-Nov.25.....
American Woodcock*.....	Mar.5-Dec.6.....
Wilson's Phalarope*.....	May 5-June 9, July 12-Sept.9
Red-necked Phalarope.....	Aug.25-Oct.10.....
Red Phalarope.....	Sept.27-Dec.9.....
Great Skua.....	
Pomarine Jaeger.....	
Parasitic Jaeger.....	
Long-tailed Jaeger.....	
Laughing Gull.....	
Franklin's Gull.....	Aug.5-Dec.3.....

Little Gull.....	July 19-May 9.....
Black-headed Gull.....	
Bonaparte's Gull.....	All Year.....
Mew Gull	
<i>L. c. canus</i>	
<i>L. c. brachyrhynchus</i>	
Ring-billed Gull*.....	All Year.....
California Gull.....	
Herring Gull*.....	All Year.....
Thayer's Gull.....	
<i>Note: See Foreword</i>	
Iceland Gull.....	Nov.1-May 15.....
Lesser Black-backed Gull.....	Aug.25-Apr.21.....
Slaty-backed Gull.....	
Glaucous Gull.....	Oct.31-May 21.....
Great Black-backed Gull*.....	All Year.....
Sabine's Gull.....	Sept.28-Nov.29.....
Black-legged Kittiwake.....	
<i>Except: Nov.9-Jan.5, immature plumage only</i>	
Ross's Gull.....	
Ivory Gull.....	
Caspian Tern.....	Apr.8-Sept.27.....
Roseate Tern.....	
Common Tern*.....	Apr.7-Dec.7.....
Arctic Tern.....	
Forster's Tern.....	Aug.3-Nov.8.....
Least Tern.....	
Sooty Tern.....	
Black Tern*.....	Apr.28-Nov.13.....

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

Dovekie.....	
Thick-billed Murre.....	
Razorbill.....	
Black Guillemot.....	
Ancient Murrelet.....	
Rock Dove*.....	All Year.....
Mourning Dove*.....	All Year.....
Monk Parakeet.....	
Black-billed Cuckoo*.....	May 3-Oct.16.....
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	May 8-Oct.24.....
Groove-billed Ani.....	
Barn Owl*.....	All Year.....
Eastern Screech-Owl*.....	All Year.....
Great Horned Owl	
<i>B. v. wapacuthu</i>	
<i>B. v. virginianus</i> *.....	All Year.....
Snowy Owl.....	Oct.28-May 1.....
Northern Hawk Owl.....	
Barred Owl*.....	All Year.....
Great Gray Owl.....	
Long-eared Owl*.....	All Year.....
Short-eared Owl*.....	All Year.....
Boreal Owl.....	
Northern Saw-whet Owl*.....	Oct.18-May 22.....
Common Nighthawk*.....	May 5-Oct.17.....
Whip-poor-will*.....	Apr.18-Oct.15.....
Chimney Swift*.....	Apr.17-Oct.19.....
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*....	Apr.29-Oct.12.....

Rufous Hummingbird.....	
Belted Kingfisher*.....	All Year.....
Red-headed Woodpecker*.....	All Year.....
Red-bellied Woodpecker*.....	All Year.....
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*.....	All Year.....
Downy Woodpecker*.....	All Year.....
Hairy Woodpecker*.....	All Year.....
Three-toed Woodpecker.....	
Black-backed Woodpecker.....	
Northern Flicker*.....	All Year.....
Pileated Woodpecker*.....	All Year.....
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	May 10-June 11, Aug. 12-Sept. 15
Eastern Wood-Pewee*.....	May 6-Oct. 14.....
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	May 10-June 8, Aug. 4-Oct. 3
Acadian Flycatcher*.....	May 10-Aug. 15.....
<i>Note: Song must be heard.</i>	
Alder Flycatcher*.....	May 15-Sept. 10.....
Willow Flycatcher*.....	May 15-Sept. 10.....
Least Flycatcher*.....	Apr. 27-Sept. 30.....
Eastern Phoebe*.....	Mar. 16-Nov. 23.....
Great Crested Flycatcher*.....	Apr. 26-Sept. 27.....
Western Kingbird.....	
Eastern Kingbird*.....	Apr. 24-Sept. 23.....
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	
Fork-tailed Flycatcher.....	
Loggerhead Shrike*.....	
Northern Shrike.....	Oct. 16-Apr. 13.....
White-eyed Vireo*.....	May 2-May 24.....

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Yellow-throated Vireo*	Apr.30-Sept.30
Blue-headed Vireo*	Apr.17-Nov.11
Warbling Vireo*	Apr.26-Sept.27
Philadelphia Vireo	May 8-June 4, Aug.20-Oct.11
Red-eyed Vireo*	May 4-Oct.26
Blue Jay*	All Year
Black-billed Magpie	
American Crow*	All Year
Common Raven*	
<i>Except: All Year, Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties only</i>	
Horned Lark	
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	Oct.12-Apr.15
<i>E. a. praticola</i> *	All Year
Purple Martin*	Mar.30-Oct.17
Tree Swallow*	Mar.19-Oct.27
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	Apr.7-Nov.12
Bank Swallow*	Apr.12-Oct.3
Cliff Swallow*	Apr.13-Sept.24
Barn Swallow*	Apr.6-Oct.19
Black-capped Chickadee*	All Year
Boreal Chickadee	
Tufted Titmouse*	All Year
Red-breasted Nuthatch*	All Year
White-breasted Nuthatch*	All Year
Brown Creeper*	All Year
Rock Wren	
Carolina Wren*	All Year
Bewick's Wren	

House Wren*	Apr.19-Oct.20
Winter Wren*	All Year
Sedge Wren*	
Marsh Wren*	Apr.27-Nov.9
Golden-crowned Kinglet*	All Year
Ruby-crowned Kinglet*	Mar.30-May 30, Sept.9-Dec.3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	Apr.14-Sept.30
Northern Wheatear	
Eastern Bluebird*	All Year
Townsend's Solitaire	
Veery*	Apr.28-Sept.30
Gray-cheeked Thrush	May 8-June 7, Sept.4-Oct.19
Bicknell's Thrush	
Swainson's Thrush*	Apr.30-Oct.21
Hermit Thrush*	All Year
Wood Thrush*	Apr.23-Oct.23
American Robin*	All Year
Varied Thrush	
Gray Catbird*	All Year
Northern Mockingbird*	All Year
Sage Thrasher	
Brown Thrasher*	All Year
European Starling*	All Year
American Pipit	Mar.15-May 25, Sept.7-Nov.25
Bohemian Waxwing	
Cedar Waxwing*	All Year
Blue-winged Warbler*	Apr.29-Sept.21
Golden-winged Warbler*	Apr.30-Sept.21

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

“Brewster’s” Warbler*.....	May 6-Sept.1.....
“Lawrence’s” Warbler*.....	
Tennessee Warbler.....	May 3-June 6, Aug.10-Oct.22
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Apr.30-May 25, Sept.9-Nov.6
Nashville Warbler*.....	Apr.25-Oct.25.....
Northern Parula*.....	Apr.30-June 3, Aug.23-Oct.17
Yellow Warbler*.....	Apr.23-Sept.22.....
Chestnut-sided Warbler*.....	Apr.30-Oct.17.....
Magnolia Warbler*.....	Apr.30-Oct.24.....
Cape May Warbler.....	Apr.29-June 1, Aug.14-Oct.20
Black-throated Blue Warbler*...	Apr.28-Oct.24.....
Yellow-rumped Warbler	
<i>D. c. coronata</i> *.....	All Year.....
<i>D. c. auduboni</i>	
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	
Black-throated Green Warbler*.	Apr.22-Nov.2.....
Blackburnian Warbler*.....	Apr.27-Oct.14.....
Yellow-throated Warbler*.....	
Pine Warbler*.....	Apr.13-May 19, Aug.30-Oct.14
Prairie Warbler*.....	Apr.30-May 23.....
<i>Except: May 24-Sept. 1, Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties only</i>	
Palm Warbler	
<i>D. p. palmarum</i>	Apr.21-May 25, Sept.3-Nov.13
<i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	
Bay-breasted Warbler.....	May 6-June 9, Aug.12-Oct.21
Blackpoll Warbler.....	May 4-June 6, Aug.15-Oct.21
Cerulean Warbler*.....	Apr.29-Sept.13.....
Black-and-white Warbler*.....	Apr.21-Oct.28.....
American Redstart*.....	Apr.29-Nov.4.....

Prothonotary Warbler*	.....
<i>Except: May 5-Sept.2, Oak Orchard Swamp only</i>		
Worm-eating Warbler.....	.....
Swainson's Warbler.....	.....
Ovenbird*.....	Apr.29-Oct.15.....	
Northern Waterthrush*.....	Apr.23-Oct.18.....	
Louisiana Waterthrush*.....	Apr.16-Sept.6.....	
Kentucky Warbler.....	.....
Connecticut Warbler.....	Aug.29-Oct.12.....	
Mourning Warbler*.....	May 8-Oct.1.....	
Common Yellowthroat*.....	Apr.30-Dec.6.....	
Hooded Warbler*.....	Apr.27-Oct.3.....	
Wilson's Warbler.....	May 7-June 3, Aug.17-Oct.16	
Canada Warbler*.....	May 2-Oct.12.....	
Yellow-breasted Chat*.....	May 6-Sept.8.....	
Summer Tanager.....	.....
Scarlet Tanager*.....	Apr.30-Oct.21.....	
Western Tanager.....	.....
Green-tailed Towhee.....	.....
Eastern Towhee*.....	All Year.....	
Spotted Towhee.....	.....
American Tree Sparrow.....	Oct.12-May 11.....	
Chipping Sparrow*.....	All Year.....	
Clay-colored Sparrow*.....	.....
Field Sparrow*.....	All Year.....	
Vesper Sparrow*.....	Mar.24-Dec.7.....	
Lark Sparrow.....	.....
Lark Bunting.....	.....

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

Savannah Sparrow*	Mar.23-Oct.30.....
Grasshopper Sparrow*	Apr.19-Oct.1.....
Henslow's Sparrow*	Apr.21-Oct.1.....
Le Conte's Sparrow.....	
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	
<i>A. n. nelsoni</i>	
<i>A. n. alterus</i>	
Fox Sparrow.....	Mar.7-May 15, Sept.24-Dec.2
Song Sparrow*	All Year.....
Lincoln's Sparrow*	Apr.29-May 28, Sept.1-Oct.23..
Swamp Sparrow*	All Year.....
White-throated Sparrow*	Sept.1-June 3.....
<i>Except: June 4-Aug.31, Allegany and Calharaugus Counties only</i>	
Harris's Sparrow.....	
White-crowned Sparrow	
<i>Z. l. leucophrys</i>	Sept.21-May 30.....
<i>Z. l. gambellii</i>	
Dark-eyed Junco	
<i>J. h. hyemalis</i> *	All Year.....
<i>J. h. oreganus</i>	
Lapland Longspur.....	Oct.5-May 1.....
Snow Bunting.....	Oct.15-Apr.14.....
Northern Cardinal*	All Year.....
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	Apr.29-Oct.17.....
Black-headed Grosbeak.....	
Blue Grosbeak.....	
Lazuli Bunting.....	
Indigo Bunting*	May 2-Oct.12.....
Painted Bunting.....	

Dickcissel*	.....
Bobolink*	Apr.28-Oct.7.....
Red-winged Blackbird*	All Year.....
Eastern Meadowlark*	All Year.....
Western Meadowlark*	.....
Yellow-headed Blackbird	.....
Rusty Blackbird	Sept.15-May 21.....
Brewer's Blackbird	.....
Common Grackle*	All Year.....
Brown-headed Cowbird*	All Year.....
Orchard Oriole*	.....
<i>Except: May 2-Aug.20, Niagara & Orleans Counties and Ontario only</i>	
Baltimore Oriole*	Apr.26-Sept.21.....
Pine Grosbeak	Nov.4-Apr.14.....
Purple Finch*	All Year.....
House Finch*	All Year.....
Red Crossbill*	Oct.31-June 9.....
<i>Except: June 10-Oct.30, Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties only</i>	
White-winged Crossbill	Oct.28-May 30.....
Common Redpoll	
<i>A. f. flammea</i>	Oct.25-May 3.....
<i>A. f. rostrata</i>	.....
Hoary Redpoll	.....
Pine Siskin*	Sept.9-June 7.....
American Goldfinch*	All Year.....
European Goldfinch	.....
Evening Grosbeak*	Oct.7-May 28.....
House Sparrow*	All Year.....

All species known to breed or to have bred within the B.O.S. study area, to and including 1997, are marked *.

Format for B.O.S. Verification Form

Name of bird..... Date when seen.....

Buffalo Ornithological Society Verification Form for Unusual Records

This form is meant to be an aid in reporting observations; you may use it flexibly. When completed, mail to the Compiler for the B.O.S.

Observers are encouraged to review a good field guide's description of an unusual bird while it is actually under observation in the field, so that each important field mark may be looked for and checked on the spot.

1. Number of individuals:
2. Locality:
3. Time of observation:
4. Observers (verifying reporter's name first).
Underline the names of any who *independently* identified it as this species:
5. Light conditions:
 - (a) general - sunny; light, medium, or dark clouds, etc.
 - (b) where was the bird? - in the open, in light, medium, or deep shade.
 - (c) where was the sun as you faced the bird? Assume you are standing on the center of the face of a clock and the bird is at 12 o'clock; over what number is the sun?
6. Optical equipment used:
7. Distance at which seen, and how judged (estimated, paced, etc.):
8. What was the bird doing? (flying, resting, feeding, etc.)

9. Position of the bird in relation to observer including height relative to eye level:
10. Habitat -
 General:
 Specific:
11. Length of time studied under above combination of conditions:
12. Thorough and detailed description of exactly what you saw in the field, giving size, shape, and color pattern of the bird and all its parts, including plumage, beak, and legs:

 If you have an original sketch made at the time of observation, please attach it.
13. Similar or confusing species that you are satisfied have been eliminated by your description:
14. Describe your observation of any diagnostic habits:
15. Description of song and calls:
16. Previous experience with this species (about how many times have you observed it?):
17. Signature and address of verifying reporter:
18. Date and time of writing this account: