

# Long Point Bird Observatory / Bird Studies Canada

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www.bsc-eoc.org/longpoint



## RARITY REPORT

In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be accepted for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the Landbirds Program Manager. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

**Species claimed:** Fish Crow

**No. of birds:** 1 **Sex:** Unknown **Age:** Unknown

**Date(s):** April 21, 2009

**Place:** 5 km west of the eastern Tip of Long Point

**Time(s) of Observation:** 10:00 to 10:10

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**Who first saw the bird(s):** Stu Mackenzie

**Who first identified it:** Stu Mackenzie

**Other observers (names and addresses):** Later that day at the Tip of Long Point: Ross Wood et al. c/o LPBO.

**Any who disagree:** No

**Your previous experience with the species:** I have studied the species extensively often with direct comparisons to American Crows along the eastern seaboard, Florida and Texas.

**Your previous experience with any closely similar species:**

**(a) Formerly:** experience with American, Northwestern, and Tamaulipas Crow.

**(b) Same day:** some American Crows observed on the same day.

**Species present for comparison:** Ring-billed Gull

**Which were beside it for comparison:** Ring-billed Gull

**Distance from observer(s):** 50m

**How measured:** estimate

**Optical aids used:** 8.5 X 42 Swarovski EL

**Weather conditions (at time of observation)****Visibility:** 40 km +**Cloud Cover:** 5/10**Lighting:** Bright**Wind direction and speed:****Other relevant conditions:** partly cloudy  
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)**For "Waterbird " records only****Lake conditions:** calm**Wave height:** 0-1m**Height of observer above lake:** 1m**Was observer's position sheltered:** No

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**Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):** Unknown

*Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.*

**Associated movements of other species:** N/A

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**Was the bird trapped:** No**Band # if banded:** N/A**Was it photographed:** No**If yes, by whom (name and address):****Specimen or parts preserved:** No**Present location:**

**Circumstances:**

I was heading west down the beach by ATV around 9:00 on the morning of April 21. By about 10:00 I had made my way about 5 km west of the eastern Tip of Long Point. I noticed a crow foraging along the shoreline in front of me so I stopped the ATV and turned it off before flushing the bird a couple of hundred metres to the west. I sat for a few minutes and watched it work its way through high water line, picking at a Whitefish carcass and other debris. The bird moved as most crows do; with a significant rhythmic gait in time with the movements of its head. For all intensive purposes the bird looked like an American Crow but it appeared to have a more slender build and stumpy legs as it worked it way along the beach. This also could have been a result of only having Ring-billed Gulls to compare it with, from which it was about a head smaller. I watched the crow for about 10 minutes before it hopped into the air letting out two high-pitched nasally 'cahs' followed by three repetitive throaty 'uh-oh' calls which momentarily displaced me to beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. I watched the bird as it flew north-east over the fore dune about 500m east of my position. I then carried on down the point in hopes that the crew at the Tip would see it. I observed the primary projections (fingers) of the individual in flight but I could not be sure at any moment that the significance of the primaries were any more so than a typical American Crow. Overall it was the circumstances, familiar behaviour along the high water line and overwhelmingly the distinctive 'uh-oh' call that made me certain of this identification.

**Description:**

**Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.**

See circumstances.

(Continue on extra sheet if required)

**Did you refer to any guides/other literature:** No

**(a) at the time:** No

**(b) afterwards:** No

**Finally, is this record 100% certain?** Yes

**Signed:**



**E-mail Address:** [s\\_a\\_mackenzie@yahoo.ca](mailto:s_a_mackenzie@yahoo.ca)

**Date:**

December 12, 2009.

**Mailing Address:**

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