



TORONTO BIRDS

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COVER PHOTO

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Photo © Winnie Poon (Digiscoped - Nikon Coolpix 4500 and Swarovski ATS 65HD).

This Fieldfare was photographed on 14 August 2007 at Viikki, near Helsinki, Finland. All four photos depict the same individual. Godfrey (1996) listed seven records of Fieldfare for Canada, of which three were Ontario records. The first of these was reported on 8 Jan 1967 at Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa, *Ottawa-Carleton* by H.N. MacKenzie (MacKenzie 1968), the next was trapped and banded at the 'Breakwater' field station on Long Point, *Norfolk Co.* on 24 May 1975 (Hussell and Porter 1977), and the third was a long-stayer seen in *Toronto* between 1 Jan and Mar 1981. Although originally mentioned (*Toronto Star* of 11 January 1981) with only a vague location, birders soon narrowed it down to the Kipling/Eglinton area of Etobicoke (Bennett 1981). "It was seen by thousands of birders and possibly hundreds of others went away frustrated" (Goodwin 1981). The first of these three records has been accepted by OBRC (Wormington 1985), while the other two have apparently not been reviewed by OBRC, but are generally accepted. Perhaps we are overdue for another one?

At first glance the Fieldfare resembles an immature American Robin, but closer looks at the breast pattern and especially the grey rump would definitely identify the bird. From late fall to winter is probably the best time to watch out for a vagrant bird.

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Toronto Birds publishes monthly bird records from the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario. It may also include articles and notes about birds, bird records, counts, surveys and birding in general, with the emphasis on the Greater Toronto Area and Ontario birds. *Toronto Birds* is distributed monthly to the active members of the Toronto Ornithological Club.

We welcome potential cover photos, or photos for use in illustrating the bird report. Please send photos to Winnie Poon winniepoon@sympatico.ca including date, location, subject, technical details and your preferred caption if any. Please do not email files exceeding 3MB without prior consultation. Please submit notes or articles to Dave Worthington worth@pathcom.com with a copy to Roy Smith rsmith@mrs.com. Bird observation records should be sent to Roy Smith.

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2007

The following are largely unchecked reports, not authenticated records. Key to counties: DU = Durham R.M.; HL = Halton R.M.; PL = Peel R.M.; MT = City of Toronto; LO = Lake Ontario Pelagic; YO = York R.M. [County not specified for sites in Toronto]. Frequently cited place names in Toronto are abbreviated as follows: CSSP = Colonel Sam Smith Park; HP = High Park; HBP = Humber Bay Park (E or W); LSS = Leslie Street Spit; TI = Toronto Islands. Other abbreviations: HFR, DRF, YRF = Halton, Durham and York Regional Forests, respectively. TBO = Toronto Bird Observatory; TTPBRS = Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station.

Species names in **bold, underlined BLOCK CAPITALS** are OBRC rarities. These reports require acceptance by OBRC before they can be considered as part of the local records. They are qualified by [Documentation received] or [No documentation received], as applicable.

Species names in **bold** (but not underlined) are local rarities within the GTA. These reports require acceptance by the Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC) before they can be considered as valid records. They are qualified by [Documentation received] or [No documentation received], as applicable.

Individual species **marked * or specific reports marked *** indicate unusual local observations for which documentation is requested by TBRC and/or TOC Records Committee by virtue of rarity, difficulty of ID, extreme dates (early, late, unseasonal) or high counts.

Species names in [square brackets] indicate reports believed to relate to escaped or released birds, or to introduced birds which have not yet become established.

Names in *ITALICS* indicate subspecies, hybrids, morphs or other 'recognizable forms', which may be identifiable in the field. This does not necessarily imply that the compilers agree with such designations, or accept their validity.

Tallying the Birds on the TOC Fall Field Day, 9 September 2007 (Brian Henshaw's backyard, Brooklin)



Top left: Brian Henshaw, Hugh Currie, Andrew Keaveney, Jean Iron, Rayfield Pye, Ron Pittaway, Eleanor Beagan, Roy Smith, Richard Pope, Rob Read, Paul Prior. Bottom left: Dave Worthington, Mary-Beth Worthington, Don Barnett, Naish McHugh, Bruce Ferry. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*

SNOW GOOSE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 12th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

CANADA GOOSE - 263 at Teston & Cranston Park [YO] @ 14:10hrs on 26th (WP).

MUTE SWAN - 28 at LSS on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 45 there on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh). 37 off Olympic Is., TI on 12th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland).

[TRUMPETER SWAN] - 2 (Tag # 810 & 874) at Corner Marsh [DU] on 9th (NMCh) & 2 at LSS on 18th (DDe,TTPBRS).

WOOD DUCK – 5 reports from HP of 10 or more from 2nd to 27th with a high count of 25 on the 9th (SMF). 5 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 35 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 10 at Rouge Beach Park on 30th (ETB).

GADWALL - 160 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 92 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

AMERICAN WIGEON -2 at LSS on 10th, 7 on 21st & 9 there on 26th (DDe,TTPBRS).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 7 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

MALLARD - 127 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 36 at LSS on 7th (DDe,TTPBRS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 3 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (RBHS,WP), 2 at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (NMCh) & 6 at Frenchman's Bay [DU] on 9th (DW). 3 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 8 at LSS on 21st (DDe,TTPBRS) & 13 there on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at LSS on 21st (DDe,TTPBRS) & 3 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 20 at LSS on 3rd & 36 ib 15th (DDe,TTPBRS).

CANVASBACK - 5 at Snake Island, TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA).

REDHEAD - 10 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh) & 2 there on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS).

GREATER SCAUP - Singles at Snake Island, TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS), LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh) & at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA).

LESSER SCAUP - 7 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (RBHS,WP), 3 at Lake Scugog Causeway (W) [DU] on 9th (HC,&) & 21 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1 at LSS on 3rd & 10th (DDe,TTPBRS).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 1 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

HOODED MERGANSER - 4 (1 F, 3 JUV) at Triangle Pond, LSS on 3rd (RBHS,WP), F was ID'd by yellow eye; juvs have brown eye. 30 at LSS on 11th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 26 there on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh). 6 at Ward's Island, TI on 17th (NMu) & 5 at HBP [E] on 23rd (AA).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 3 at L. Ontario off Westside Marsh [DU] on 9th (BH,&) & 7 at LSS on 22nd (DDe,TTPBRS).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 8th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WILD TURKEY - 8 at Bloomington Rd E of 9th Line [YO] on 9th (WP) & 2 at Lynde Shores C. A. [DU] on 9th (NMCh,&).

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 flying over at Oshawa Creek, N of Rossland Rd [DU] on 28th (THo fide DRBA).

COMMON LOON - 8 migrants at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 10th & 20+ on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 2 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

HORNED GREBE - 2 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 100+ at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 17th (DEP).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - 1 flying W along Lake Ontario shore, off Cranberry Marsh [DU] @ 13:30hrs on 29th (CMRW fide RPy, fide RJP). It was relocated at Frenchman's Bay [DU] later in the afternoon & then flew back eastward (Jim Skene fide RPy, fide DRBA). At 18:00hrs it was seen off Lynde Shores C.A. [DU] (anon fide RPy, fide DRBA). On the 30th the bird was seen again on Lake Ontario off the Lynde Marsh, 08:00-09:30h. (anon fide RPy, fide DRBA) and then seen flying W at Cranberry Marsh [DU] @ 09:30hrs (CMRW fide RPy, fide DRBA). At 10:15hrs it was seen 1km N of Hwy 401 above Rouge River circling and drifting N (ADob fide ONTBIRDS). Later the same day, what was most likely the same bird was reported off Princess Point at Cootes Paradise [HW] @ 18:00hrs (BChar, RD, CEdge), having been found earlier by Kevin McLaughlin, Ken & Angie Williams and Jeff Gilbreath, while looking for a Franklin's Gull in the Dundas Marsh. [It stayed there well into October]. Photos have been posted on OFO Website.



A timely captured image of the **American White Pelican** flying off Cranberry Marsh, Durham, 29 Sep 2007 at 13:30. Photo © Carol Horner.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 23 flying over LSS on 1st (AA), 20 at St Johns Sideroad Marsh [YO] on 14th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS) & 1000+ at Cook's Bay (S End) [YO] on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 32 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 5th (NMacd), 22 on 9th (RBHS,WP), 39 on 15th (NMacd) & 40 there on 16th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at St Johns Sideroad Marsh [YO] on 14th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT EGRET – 1 or 2 reported almost daily from 1st to 22nd at HP (SMF). From 4 to 7 reported at Cranberry Marsh [DU] from 2nd to 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Lower Credit Marshes [PL] on 7th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at St Johns Sideroad Marsh [YO] on 14th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS) & on 22nd (TH), 1 at Hydro Park [DU] on 15th (NMacd) & 2 at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 17th (DEP). 1 at Rouge Beach Park on 18th (NMacd), 2 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 21st & 28th (RPy fide DRBA) & 3 at Rotary Park, Ajax [DU] on 30th (JFa fide DRBA).

GREEN HERON - 4 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 2nd & 2 there on 16th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Triangle Pond, LSS on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 2 at LSS on 8th (DDe,TTPBRS). Singles at St Johns Sideroad Marsh [YO] on 14th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 17th (DEP).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 8 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 2nd (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 at Rouge Beach Park on 30th (ETB).

TURKEY VULTURE - 36 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 12th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 31 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 23rd, 208 on 29th & 168 there on 30th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA). 145 at Hawk Hill, HP on 29th (HPHW fide DBa, fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 14 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 1st & 4th, 17 on 5th, 12 on 8th 8 on 10th & 9 there on 12th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Birchwood Park [PL] on 12th (DEP,JLam) & 3 at LSS on 13th (DDe,TTPBRS).

BALD EAGLE – 10 reports from Cranberry Marsh [DU] thro' the month, high counts of 5 on 8th, & 4 on 22nd & 7 on 29th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & **13 there on 29th was a new one-day record** (HPHW fide DBa, fide ONTBIRDS). 6 reports from Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] from 12th to 30th, high counts of 7 on 16th & 6 on 29th (ISRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 1S at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 8th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh). 8 other reports of single birds from 9th to 30th.

NORTHERN HARRIER - 5 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 5th, 11 on 12th, 19 on 15th & 23 on 26th (CMRW fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS), 7 at LSS on 12th & 11 there on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS). 5 at Birchwood Park [PL] on 12th (DEP,JLam) & 14 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – 10 reports from Cranberry Marsh [DU] thro' the month with high counts of 181 on 8th, 355 on 12th & 201 on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 34 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 1st, 30 on 8th & 53 on 30th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 140 at TI on 12th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 132 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA). 332 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & 166 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 71 at LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 51 there on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh). 150+ at Birchwood Park [PL] on 12th (DEP,JLam).

COOPER'S HAWK - 10 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 10th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 11 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & 14 there on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 9 at TI on 12th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland), 3 on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA). 1 at LSS on 1st (AA) & 11 there on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh). 1 AD at HP on 6th, 2 on 12th & 1 on 15th (SMF). 4 other reports of singles during the month.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - Singles at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 9th (GCarp fide DRBA), Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 13th & 29th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA) & at LSS on 30th (DDe,TTPBRS).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 5 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 21st, 3 on 22nd & 9 on 29th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 58 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 1st, 1153 on 12th, 1461 on 13th, 2247 on 16th & 30 there on 29th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 146 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 8th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 2000+ at Birchwood Park [PL] on 12th (DEP,JLam) & 400+ at Aurora [YO] on 16th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS). 2277 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & 98 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1448 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 12th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1669 on 15th (CMRW fide DRBA).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 45 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & 38 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 10 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 1st, 105 on 8th, 88 on 12th & 105 on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 27 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & 52 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN – 6 reports from Cranberry Marsh [DU] from 1st to 10th with a high count of 4 on 5th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS), 5 on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh) & 3 there on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS). 6 at Hawk Hill, HP on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at TI on 22nd (AA).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Cranberry Marsh [DU] reported singles on 5th, 9th, 12th, 13th & 18th & 3 there on 22nd & 29th (CMRW fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hawk Hill, HP on 12th & 3 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Clarica Centre, Islington on 9th & 29th (SHa). 2 at Gibb St & Park Rd, Oshawa [DU] on 15th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 3 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 30th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA). 11 other reports of singles birds from locations along L. Ontario.

COMMON MOORHEN - 20 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 9th (AK,&).

AMERICAN COOT - 30 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 9th (AK,&).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 3 (1 AD, 2 JUV) at West Beach, TI on 9th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON), 3 at LSS on 14th (DDe,TTPBRS), 3 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 30th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Frenchman's Bay [DU] on 30th (JFa fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 1 at LSS on 7th (DDe,TTPBRS), 18 at sod farms nr. Orono (Taunton Rd & Durham Rd 42) [DU] on 9th (anon fide DRBA,TOC - Fall Field Day), 5 at West Beach, TI on 9th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON) & 9 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA). 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Rotary Park, Ajax [DU] on 30th (JFa fide DRBA).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 3 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 JUV there on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at West Beach, TI on 9th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON), 2 at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 17th (DEP) & 12 at Hydro Park [DU] on 21st (DW fide DRBA).

KILLDEER - 10 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & 34 at LSS on 25th (DDe,TTPBRS).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 at Snake Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) was 1st they'd seen in 2 weeks.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (DW) & 2 at South Duck Pond, HP on 15th (JBMW,SMF).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 3 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 22nd (GC) & 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA) & 2 at Amos Ponds [DU] on 30th (ETB).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 20 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 JUV there on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 20 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 14 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

WHIMBREL - 1 at LSS on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

MARbled GODWIT - 1 at Cell #2, LSS on 8th (AA), circled for about 10min, calling, then flew off to S [No doc. seen].

RED KNOT - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

SANDERLING - 2 at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (NMCh,&), 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at Thickson's Point [DU] on 29th (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 20 JUV at Rouge Beach Park on 12th (JI,BF, fide ONTBIRDS).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - 1 JUV at Rouge Beach Park (on Toronto side) on 12th (JI,BF, fide ONTBIRDS) & still there on 13th & 14th (JI fide DRBA). [No doc. seen]

LEAST SANDPIPER - 53 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 there on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 9 at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (NMCh,&), 12 JUV at Rouge Beach Park on 12th (JI,BF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 9 at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 17th (DEP).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay [DU] on 9th (DW). 1 at Bay D, LSS on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh;DDe,TTPBRS) was first for TTPBRS since 2004.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 3 at Frenchman's Bay [DU] & 3 at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (DW). 2 at West Beach, TI on 9th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON), & 1 at Bay D, LSS on 19th (DDe,TTPBRS), the 1st record for TTPBRS. One at Hydro Park [DU] on 21st (DW fide DRBA).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 5 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS), 32 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 9th (AK,&), 11 at Hydro Park [DU] on 21st (DW fide DRBA) & 8 at Rotary Park, Ajax [DU] on 30th (JFa fide DRBA).

STILT SANDPIPER - 2 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 JUV at Rouge Beach Park on 12th (JI,B, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 15th was 1st for TTPBRS, 1 on 16th & 2 there on 18th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 AD at Scarborough Townline Swamp on 22nd (GC) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - 1 at LSS on 17th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at a sod farm on Medd Rd [DU] on 30th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

WILSON'S SNIPE – Singles at Island Airport, TI on 8th (GC), Scarborough Townline Swamp on 22nd (GC) & at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - 1 at Valley Inn [HL] on 18th & 19th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 50 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 6th (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

RING-BILLED GULL - ~500 at Bramalea Rd S of Hwy 407 [PL] @ 19:30hrs on 23rd (AA), settling in to roost on roof of Kuehne & Nagel building. There are several recycling facilities in the area.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 3 at Cook's Bay (S End) [YO] on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

CASPIAN TERN - 5 at St Johns Sideroad Marsh [YO] on 14th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON TERN - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA).

JAEGER SP. - 1 at SE Tip, LSS on 1st (AA).

MOURNING DOVE - 150 at Kipling & King-Vaughan Line [YO] @ 16:30hrs on 22nd (RBHS,WP).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 near the children's fort on Ward's Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa), 1 at LSS on 20th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at Shell Park [HL] on 23rd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 2nd, 6th & 7th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (NMCh,&) & 2 at Snake Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 1 at LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS), 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 8th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 16 at Bond Head [DU] @ 19:00hrs on 8th (S. Williams fide DRBA). 1 at The Meadow, Thicksens Woods [DU] @ 16:40hrs on 9th (m. obs), roosting in a White Birch in SE corner of the Meadow, where it had been all day. Originally mis-reported as a Whip-poor-will, ID was confirmed from digiscoped photos! 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 12th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Birchwood Park [PL] on 12th (DEP, JLam) & 1 at Simcoe & Rosslam, Oshawa [DU] on 21st (DRuch fide DRBA).



Common Nighthawk, Thicksens Woods, Durham, 9 September 2007; note the plain primaries have no bars. Photo © Winnie Poon.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 4 at Birchwood Park [PL] on 12th (DEP,JLam) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 8 at LSS on 6th & 5 on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS). 3 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd (JDL fide DRBA).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 3 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS) was 2nd fall record for TTPBRS. Singles at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 9th (GCarp fide DRBA), at Bloor & Hancock, Courtice [DU] on 19th (JKa fide DRBA) & at Snake Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 banded at LSS on 12th & 13th, 10 there on 27th & 9 on 30th (DDe,TTPBRS). 6 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 17 JUV at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 8 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 13 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 29 on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 29 there on 20th (NMu,ICa). 30 at LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 9 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Baker's Sugarbush, Hwy 7 [YO] on 26th (WP) & 1 F at Shell Park [HL] on 30th (W.J. Karner fide ONTBIRDS).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – Singles at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON) & 29th (AA). 1 at Shell Park [HL] on 23rd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 9 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at LSS on 10th & 3 there on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 5 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 13th, 1 on 16th & 1 on 27th (DDe,TTPBRS).

ALDER FLYCATCHER - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 1st (AA).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - 1 (late) at TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 15 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 27th (DDe,TTPBRS).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 9 at TI on 4th & 21 on 20th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS). 24 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 1 at The Meadow, Thicksons Woods [DU] on 9th (NMCh,&), 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 2 there on 12th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - 2 at Darlington Prov. Park [DU] on 9th (BH,&).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at HP on 9th (SMF), 1 at Seneca College (King) [YO] on 16th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 17th & 4 (banded) there on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – 5 reports from 1st to 11th from LSS with a high count of 3 on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 5 on 20th (NMu,ICa).

RED-EYED VIREO – 12 at LSS on 1st, 17 on 2nd, 30 on 10th & 2 (banded) there on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS). 18 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 21 on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 6 there on 20th (NMu,ICa).

BLUE JAY – 6 reports from LSS from 15th to 26th with high counts of 350 on 22nd (JBMW,Bob Kortright,NMCh) & 1100 on 26th (DDe,TTPBRS). 496 at TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 3500 there on 20th (NMu,ICa). 1922 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd (JDL fide DRBA) & 5545 there between 08:00-1100hr. on 29th (RPye fide DRBA).

COMMON RAVEN - 3 at Chalk Lake Rd @ Skyloft [DU] on 9th (AK,&).

HORNED LARK - 1 at LSS on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS).

BARN SWALLOW - 1 at LSS on 18th (DDe,TTPBRS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 31 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 46 there on 20th (NMu,ICa).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 6 reports of 11 or more from 3rd to 29th from LSS with a high count of 20 on 10th & 29th (DDe,TTPBRS). 14 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 10 on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland), 11 on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 8 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 5 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 4 at LSS on 21st (DDe,TTPBRS).

BROWN CREEPER - 2 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 20 at LSS on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS).

CAROLINA WREN - 3 at TI on 10th, 2 there on 12th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 2 on 20th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 27th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa). 1 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 21st, 2 on 25th & 13 there on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS).

SEDGE WREN - 1 at Cell #1, LSS on 8th (AA). In sedges on edge of the new 'shorebird habitat'.

MARSH WREN - 1 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 9th (BH,&) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at LSS on 20th, 9 on 25th, 220 (incl. 78 banded) on 29th & 105 there on 30th (DDe,TTPBRS). 15 at Gibb St, Oshawa [DU] on 29th (DRuch fide DRBA).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 5 at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th, 1 (banded) on 16th, 2 (banded) on 18th & 14 (banded) on 30th (DDe,TTPBRS).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at HP on 9th & 10th (SMF). 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 10 at Skyloft, Chalk Lake Rd. [DU] on 9th (AK,&).

VEERY – Reports of birds banded at LSS were 6 on 1st, 3 on 2nd & 7 on 4th (DDe,TTPBRS). 3 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - 1 at HP on 8th (SMF), 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 1 injured or sick bird at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA). 2 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 13th, 4 on 20th & 17 on 27th (DDe,TTPBRS).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – Birds banded at Peninsula D, LSS were 5 on 2nd, 6 on 6th, 23 on 10th, 7 on 14th & 9 on 21st (DDe,TTPBRS). 25 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 1 at HP on 26th & 27th (SMF).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 19 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA). 1 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th, 2 (banded) on 20th, 9 there on 23rd & 17 on 24th (DDe,TTPBRS).

WOOD THRUSH - 1 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 17th (DDe,TTPBRS).

GRAY CATBIRD - 11 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - Only 10 reports this month, which is not unexpected, since most of the resident birds are molting at this time and tend to be more secretive. Three reports involved probable migrants on the TI: 2 at Hanlan's Point on 9 Sep (Andreas Jonsson, fide OUTON), 1 on Wards on 20 Sept (NMu,ICa), and 1 at the Island Airport on 29 Sep (AA). The other reports came from 7 scattered locations (SHa;JLam, fide DEP; ETB;GC;BB fide WP, and RBHS/WP).

AMERICAN PIPIT – 6 reports of 70 or more from Cranberry Marsh [DU] from 16th to 27th with a high count of 145 on 23rd (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 15 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 26 at LSS on 19th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 45 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (AA).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - 1 M at HP on 5th (SMF).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 2 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – 4 reports from 20th to 30th of singles at HP (SMF) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 12 (banded) at LSS on 1st, 35 there on 10th, 16 on 16th & 10 on 20th (DDe,TTPBRS).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & at Hydro Park [DU] on 9th (DW). 1 at HP from 9th & 10th, 2 on 11th & 12th & 5 other reports from 15th to 30th of 1 being there (SMF). 2 at Snake Island, TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 1 at TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th, 1 on 21st & 28th (DDe,TTPBRS).

YELLOW WARBLER - 3 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 6th (DDe,TTPBRS), 1 at HP on 6th & 9th (SMF), 1 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 9th (DW) & 1 M at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 12 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 11 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 18 at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd, 28 on 4th, 55 on 10th & 22 there on 20th (DDe,TTPBRS). 36 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 26 on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 21 there on 20th (NMu,ICa).

CAPE MAY WARBLER – 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 8th & on 25th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at TI on 17th & on 20th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 28th (SMF).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 4 (3 M, 1 F) at Thicksons Woods [DU] on 5th (NMacd), 5 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 12 there on 20th (NMu,ICa). 5 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th & 6 there on 13th (DDe,TTPBRS).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 35 at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd, 47 (banded) on 27th & 140 there on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS). 21 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 8 at Peninsula D, LSS on 8th, 16 on 16th & 15 on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS). 11 (mostly HY-F) at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 27th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

PINE WARBLER - 1 at LSS on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS).

PALM WARBLER - 1 banded at LSS on 4th & 22 there on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS). 15 at TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 6 at HBP [E] on 23rd (AA).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - 27 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 46 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS). 20 at LSS on 4th, 32 on 12th & 32 on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 24 at LSS on 20th, 2 on 24th & 1 there on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

OVENBIRD - 6 banded at LSS on 4th & 1 there on 30th (DDe,TTPBRS).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH – 4 reports from 11th to 29th of singles at Peninsula D, LSS (DDe,TTPBRS).

KENTUCKY WARBLER - 1 F at Hanlan's Point, TI @ 15:45hrs on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland). By Airport fence; noted as: 'first winter bird and seen well'. [Brief doc. received].

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - 1 AD-M at Ward's Island, TI on 17th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 5 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 24 at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS).

HOODED WARBLER - 1 IMM at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th, 6th & 7th [No doc. seen] (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 5 (banded) at LSS on 1st, 8 there on 2nd & 16 on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS). 9 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 7 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

CANADA WARBLER - 3 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland), 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 11th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at Seneca College (King) [YO] on 16th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - 1 at LSS on 20th [No doc. seen] (DDe,TTPBRS), 3rd record for TTPBRS.

SCARLET TANAGER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 2nd (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & at Peninsula D, LSS on 6th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 6 on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 2 on 20th (NMu,ICa). 1 at HP on 20th (SMF).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 21st & 23rd (JDL fide DRBA).

HENSLow'S SPARROW - 1 JUV at Humber Shores, HBP on 23rd [No doc. seen] (AA). Flushed from 'tallgrass' habitat. Observed at 5m range as it perched inside a Red-Osier Dogwood.

FOX SPARROW - 1 at Oshawa Creek, downtown Oshawa [DU] on 28th (DRuch fide DRBA).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd was their first fall migrant; 3 banded there on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – 7 reports from LSS beginning with 1 on 5th and gradually rising in number until a high count of 130 on 27th (DDe,TTPBRS). 11 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 4th (SMF) & 12 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd (JDL fide DRBA).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – 4 reports of singles from 9th to 23rd. 32 at Peninsula D, LSS on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 6 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 5 at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th, 2 on 20th & 40 on 29th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at TI on 17th & 5 on 20th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Ajax [DU] (GCarp fide DRBA) & 1 at HP (SMF) on 21st.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (AA).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 13 at TI on 17th (NMu).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 12 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland), 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 15th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Holland R. Trail, Newmarket [YO] on 16th (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

INDIGO BUNTING - 1 at HP on 5th, 11th, 20th, 23rd & 24th (SMF).

DICKCISSEL - 1 flying over Peninsula D, LSS on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS), 3rd record for TTPBRS since 2003 [No doc. seen].

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 695 at Reach Marsh [DU] on 9th (RBHS,WP).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 15 at Rouge Beach Park on 12th & 12 on 14th (JI,BF, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve [YO] on 15th (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 20 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 1 at Snake Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa) & 2 at LSS on 20th (DDe,TTPBRS).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 170 at McNaughton Rd & rly [YO] on 26th (WP).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park [DU] on 9th (BH,&).

PURPLE FINCH - 3 at LSS on 4th, 6 on 11th & 15 on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS). 4 other reports of 1 or 2 from 12th to 28th.

HOUSE FINCH - 1 (albinistic) at 17 Divadale Dr, Leaside on 12th (NMacd). 'Unusual M, with normal rose colour replaced by faint pink that from a distance looked chalky white, especially on cheek and rump'.

PINE SISKIN – Singles at Long Sault C.A. [DU] on 9th (BH,&) & at Ajax [DU] on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 28 at TI on 10th (NMu,Peter McParland), 31 on 12th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 26 on 20th (NMu,ICa).

[EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH] - 1 at Banigan Drive on 15th (ETB).

HOUSE SPARROW - 100 at Ward's Island, TI on 20th (NMu,ICa).

Cited Observers: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; AA Alfred Adamo; DBa Don Barnett; ETB Eleanor Beagan; TTPBRS Tommy Thompson Park Bird Res. Station; BB Bruce Brydon; DEB Donald E. Burton; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; BChar Barb Charlton; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; DDe Dan Derbyshire; RD Rob Dobos; ADob Alex Dobson; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; JFa Jim Fairchild; BF Bruce Falls; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; PJG Peter J. Good; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SHa Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; JI Jean Iron; JKa James Kamstra; AK Andrew Keaveney; JLam John Lamey; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; NMacd Neil Macdougall; NMch Naish McHugh; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; PNP Paul Prior; RPye Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; JSchm John Schmelefske; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 941 reports were added to the database for September 2007.

Please send reports to: Roy Smith 20 Harding Blvd. W, Suite 1002, Richmond Hill, ON L4C9S4 Tel: 905-5084045 Fax: 905-5084730 email: rsmith@mrs.com by 8th of the following month, please. Send photos for possible use in the bird report to: winniepoon@sympatico.ca, following guidelines in TOC Newsletter #175 (March 2007).

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Pamper Your Arms – Use a Finnstick *Winnie Poon*

During a recent visit to Helsinki, Finland, Roy Smith and I noticed that the Finnish birders often carried a short stick along with their birding gear. The stick was usually about 1.5 feet long, it had some form of attachment device at one end that supported the binoculars in a viewing position without having to hold on to them. Instead the person only held on to the stick and rested the arms against his body for stability (Figure 1).

One such stick that we saw actually had a small threaded cap installed at one end, which allowed it to be securely attached to the end of his Zeiss binoculars; the stick just dangled from the bins. Another younger birder made use of an axe handle plus a self-made molded triangular piece that wedged very snugly into the space between the two binocular barrels (Figure 1). A third invention made use of a tripod attachment plate, a metal bar and a very strong elastic band (Figure 2).

We had a chance to try using the axe-stick. It was unbelievably good, the images were absolutely stable and clear. At once I felt the advantage of resting my arms. As a young birder back in Britain Roy had heard of the Finnstick, but had never actually seen anyone there using one. Likewise, during the last twenty years of birding in North America we have never seen a Finnstick. In reality the Finnstick is rarely found or used outside Finland.

An introduction to the Finnstick can be found in *Birding*, under Tools of the Trade (Forsten & Collins 1993). However, the Finnstick never gained popularity here; true to what the authors said, birders were probably shy to use it in North America. It may also be related to a style of birding in Finland, favoured by their many blinds and birding 'Towers'.

It is not difficult to make your own Finnstick. The following are some informative *websites* that give instructions:

- http://www.finnature.fi/index_en.php3?paa=500&sivut=200&sivu=0
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnstick>
- <http://www.cloudynights.com/ubbthreads/showthreaded.php/Cat/0/Number/1797954/page/0/view/collapsed/sb/5/o/all/vc/1>
- <http://www.birdforum.net/reviews/>

Reference

Forsten, A. and Walter S. Collins. 1993. Tools of the Trade: The Finnstick. *Birding* 25(4):264-265.



Figure 1: A Finnstick made from an axe handle.
Photo© Winnie Poon.



Figure 2: Another make of Finnstick.
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