



TORONTO BIRDS

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The Nesting Season 2007
by Roy Smith and Winnie Poon



COVER PHOTO

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

Photo © Mark K. Peck

The Northern Mockingbird is becoming a familiar sight in the Greater Toronto Area, in sharp contrast to the situation 20 years ago, when it was described as a “rare resident and migrant, sometimes breeds” (Jaramillo 1990). Increasing numbers of both breeding and wintering birds are reported each year, and as of 2007 there may be as many as 500 occupied breeding territories in the GTA. However, nearly all of them are still found south of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This Northern Mockingbird was photographed in Florida, U.S.A. on 13 March 2007.

Reference:

Jaramillo, A. (editor). 1990. Toronto Region Bird Report 1987. Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto.

Produced and edited by the Records Committee, Toronto Ornithological Club:

Don Barnett (Greater Toronto Raptor Watch), Glenn Coady (Records Councillor), Winnie Poon (Photo Editor), Roy Smith (Database), Joan Winearls (Archives), Dave Worthington (Compiler).

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 – NOVEMBER 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.

SNOW GOOSE - 5 at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 1st (WP) & 2nd (DW), 2 (white) on 10th (RBHS,WP), 6 (white) on 14th (WP,SLo) & 10 (7 white, 3 blue) there on 17th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & on 18th (RBHS,WP). A photograph of a blue morph from this location on 19th was posted on OFO website (Peter Sproule fide OFO-W). The last report from Reesor Pond was of several on 22nd (SLo fide WP). 2 reported at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on most days from 7th to 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 6 (white) seen from the GO train at Church St, Ajax; S of Hwy 401 [DU] on 26th (THo fide OUTON).

ROSS'S GOOSE – 9 reports of the white morph AD from 1st to 21st (staying from 14 Oct, see previous Bird Report) at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] (m.obs). This pond froze over on the 23rd (SLo fide WP).

BRANT - 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 1 at Burloak Park [HL] on 24th (Dave Don,CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 25th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Toronto Island Ferry Docks from 24th (Howard Jackman fide OUTON) to 26th (Michael Butler fide RBHS;RBHS;GC).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 3 at Victoria St, Whitby [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa), 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 7th & on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Valley Inn [HL] on 10th (ICa,NMu, fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th (THo fide OUTON). 4 at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 14th (SLo fide WP), 2 on 17th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 18th (RBHS,WP).

CANADA GOOSE - 1000 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa), 657 at Richmond Green Park [YO] on 10th (RBHS,WP) & 6000 at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 14th (WP).

MUTE SWAN - 60 at Whitby Harbour [DU] on 4th (RBHS,WP).

[**TRUMPETER SWAN**] - 5 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Bluffer's Park on 25th (RBHS), one had tag but was not readable.

TUNDRA SWAN - 7 flying over at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 14th (GCarp fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 14 at LaSalle Park (Marina) [HL] on 15th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

WOOD DUCK - 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th (THo fide OUTON).

[**MANDARIN DUCK**] - 1 (albino?) at Burlington Golf & Country Club [HL] on 10th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS). "Looks like a tiny Ross's Goose, but with white wingtips!" Probably not a pure albino since eyes not pink?

GADWALL - 50 at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 33 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 81 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 2 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS), 11 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (AA) & 16 at Mouth of Joshua Creek [PL] on 17th (RBHS).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 3 at HBP [W] on 1st (WP) & 2 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – Singles at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 1st (WP) & at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS). 35 at HP on 3rd, 30 on 16th, 17th & 28th (SMF). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th (THo fide OUTON).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 3rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 22 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 14 there on 13th (THo fide OUTON). 5 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 27th (WP).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 35 at HBP [W] on 1st (WP) & 51 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa).

REDHEAD - 25 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 50 there on 17th (NMu,ICa).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 18 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa).

GREATER SCAUP - 750 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 1000 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 1 F at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville [HL] on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 3rd (AA). 2 (1 M, 1 F) at J.C. Saddington Park [PL] on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 AD-M at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 30th (NMu).

SURF SCOTER - 11 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 14th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 1 AD-M off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 3rd (GC,&), 1 at LSS on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS), 54 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 14th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 there on 17th (RBHS,WP).

BLACK SCOTER - 3 at Centre Island, TI on 10th (AA), 1 at LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 4 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 14th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1500 at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 2384 on 11th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1500 there on 17th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFFLEHEAD - 30 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS), 233 at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa), 330 on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 173 there on 17th (NMu,ICa). 52 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 24th (NMu,ICa).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 36 at Cell #3, LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 32 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 275 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa).

HOODED MERGANSER - 5 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS), 9 at HP on 4th, 25 on 17th & 20 on 28th (SMF). 78 at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 169 there on 17th (NMu,ICa). 52 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa), 77 on 13th (THo fide OUTON) & 30 there on 17th (J. McKnight fide DRBA). 8 at Clarkson Park [PL] on 17th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 30th (NMu).

COMMON MERGANSER - 5 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS), 40 at LSS on 2nd (DDe,TTPBRS) & 61 there on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 27 at LSS on 2nd (DDe,TTPBRS), 500 on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 50 at Cell #3, LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa). 2000 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa), 79 at Beaton's Point, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res. [DU] on 4th (RBHS,WP) & 25 at Mouth of Joshua Creek [PL] on 17th (RBHS).

RUDDY DUCK - 8 at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 1st (WP), 7 on 10th & 5 on 18th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 20th (Doug Paton,TFN, fide Bob Kortright).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 10th (RPy fide DRBA), 4 on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & several there on 25th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 24th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

WILD TURKEY - 49 at #26505 Kennedy Rd (W side) [YO] on 3rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), across from a fenced hydro station between Baseline Rd & Metro Rd; 3 of them were up in a wild grape tangle feeding on the grapes. 15 at Conc 6 Uxbridge, S of RR 23 [DU] on 18th (RBHS,WP), 16 at Teston Rd R E of Pine Valley [YO] & 13 at Major Mackenzie W of Hwy 27 [YO] on 21st (WP). 15 at Halls Rd. [DU] on 24th & 18 there on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 60 at E side Queensway, N. Keswick [YO] on 25th (anon fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).



A gathering of **Wild Turkeys** on a rainy day at Teston Road, Purpleville, York; apparently attracted by the soggy lawn; 21 November 2007. Photo © Winnie Poon

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & on 17th (NMu,ICa).

PACIFIC LOON - 1 1W at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] @ 10:30hrs on 2nd [Documented] (DW fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen again @ 09:00hrs on 3rd (MJCB,Richard Pope,JFa) with good views at about 250m offshore, but could not see the chinstrap properly. On the 4th it was seen by looking E into the bay at the foot of Simcoe St, Oshawa [DU] @ 14:15hrs (Dan Burton fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Outer Harbour Marina, LSS @ 16:35hrs on 17th [No doc. seen] (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Mouth of Joshua Creek [PL] on 18th [No doc. seen] (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON LOON - 150 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 2nd (DW fide DRBA), 157 on 4th (NMu,ICa), 15 on 13th & 7 found dead on the beach there on 13th (THo fide OUTON). 189 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 3rd (Alison Paul,GC,&) & 51 at Beaton's Point, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res. [DU] @ 15:30hrs on 4th (RBHS,WP).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at HBP [W] on 1st (WP), 1 at HP on 3rd & on 17th (SMF). 9 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Roches Point Fishing Pier [YO] on 10th (Linda Wells fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED GREBE - 1 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 2nd (DW fide DRBA) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 91 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] on 3rd (Jan Doherty,GC,&), 2 at CSSP on 10th (SCH), 1 at Oshawa Harbour [DU] & 1 at Thickson's Bay [DU] on 25th (DW fide DRBA).

EARED GREBE - 1 at Coronation Park, Oakville [HL] on 4th [No doc. seen] (HFBC fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN GANNET - 1 JUV at Guelph Line [HL] on 17th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 1 (in am) JUV at Burlington Beach Canal [HL] on 18th (CEdge fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Travelodge Hotel [HL] @ 11:00hrs on 18th (FP fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Guelph Line [HL] @ 12:15hrs on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 JUV flying E at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh [PL] @ 14:15hrs on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Oshawa Harbour [DU] on 22nd (Hans Holbrook fide Stu Williams, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 23rd (Stu Williams fide ONTBIRDS). 3 JUV at Oshawa Harbour [DU] @ 08:00hrs on 24th (RPye fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there @ 13:45hrs (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS). 2 there @ 08:30hrs on 25th (DW fide ONTBIRDS), 1 @ 14:30hrs (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 26th (F. Jerome fide DRBA). 1 at Whitby Harbour [DU] @ 14:55hrs on 25th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS), assumed to be the same bird last seen at Oshawa Harbour at 14:30h; he drove around and saw it flying E to W off Whitby Harbour. 1 JUV flying W at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh [DU] @ 11:30hrs on 28th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). [No doc. seen for any of these].

The reports listed above are those from within the GTA. However, there were numerous other reports from Lake Ontario during this period, and considering that Northern Gannets are both readily visible and very mobile, some of them probably involved the same birds. Leaving aside one reported from Ottawa on 15th Nov (ONTBIRDS), and another at Lake Erie Metropark, *Wayne Co.*, Michigan on 24-25 Nov (Southern Michigan Raptor Research, fide Calvin Brennan, fide ONTBIRDS), there were at least 24 reports from Lake Ontario outside the GTA. These included a cluster of sightings between Fifty Point, *Niagara R.M.* and Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton*, from 11-13 Nov which initially involved 2 but later 3 birds (m. obs. fide ONTBIRDS), and another group of sightings at Coburg, *Northumberland Co.*, with one seen on 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 21st (m. obs. fide ONTBIRDS) but two on 22nd (MJCB, fide ONTBIRDS). In the meantime there were more sightings in the Hamilton area with 3 off Gray's Rd, Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* on 20th (RZD,CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). Another cluster of reports came from the Oshawa Harbour area between 22-26 Nov, with 3 together seen by several observers and 4 claimed by one on 24th. These were followed by two more sightings of singles off Whitby, *Durham R.M.* on 28th (as noted above) and one on 1st Dec (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS), but in between a 'tight group of 3' was noted flying E off Kelson Road, Fifty Point, *Niagara R.M.* on 27th (BRH fide ONTBIRDS). Four other sightings came from three locations in *Niagara Co.*, New York, on 18th, 21st Nov and 1st Dec (anon, fide DFS, fide WNYBOS), and another was seen at Derby Hill, *Oswego Co.*, New York on 27th Nov (Syracuse RBA).

As is usual for Northern Gannets on the Great Lakes, all reports referred to juvenile birds, and when analyzed in more detail, particularly looking at the times of reports, we find no overlap between most of them. Hence a conservative assessment would yield a maximum of four birds around Lake Ontario during this period, while a more liberal interpretation might allow as many as eight. This difficult question will rest with the OBRC to determine, but in the meantime if anyone has any other observations, not reported to ONTBIRDS, which would add dates or times to the picture, we would appreciate receiving them for the database. This situation shows the value of recording exact times on observations, which not only allows for records to list in correct date and time sequence, but just might help sort out how many individuals were involved. If enough good photos are forthcoming, this too might help to identify specific individuals.



One of the three diving **Northern Gannets** close to Oshawa Harbour, *Durham*, on 25 November 2007. Photo © Mao Ouyang



As many as three juvenile **Northern Gannets** were engaged in a feeding frenzy far off Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, on 13 November 2007. All photos © Barry Cherie

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 2 at TI on 10th (AA) & 1 at Lakefront Promenade Park [PL] on 17th (RBHS,WP).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 21 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa), 1 at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Bay D, LSS on 17th NMu,ICa), 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 24th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at J.C. Saddington Park [PL] on 24th (NMu,ICa).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 2nd (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Valley Inn [HL] on 4th (HFBC fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 10th (ICa,NMu, fide ONTBIRDS).

TURKEY VULTURE - 5 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 7th, 1 on 14th & 1 on 19th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 1 at LaSalle Park [HL] on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th (THo fide OUTON).

BALD EAGLE - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 10th (CMRW fide DRBA), 1 at LSS on 11th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 2 Y at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 JUV at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 16th & 1 there on 25th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 2 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa), 1 M at Queensway N & Deer Run Dr. [YO] on 17th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 F at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street [YO] on 17th (RJF,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 30th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 6 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 3th, 7 on 7th, 5 on 16th & 8 on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 other reports of singles during the month.

COOPER'S HAWK - 5 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 7th & 3 on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (1 AD, 1 IMM) at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa). 7 other reports of singles from different locations from 10th to end of the month.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 2nd & 7th, 1 there on 5th, 10th & 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 3rd (Michael Biro,&NMu,ICa,EO'C), on 5th (DDe,TTPBRS) & on 25th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON). 1 AD at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax [DU] on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Brookside Park, Oshawa [DU] on 14th (Ken Ridge fide DRBA).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 8 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 2nd (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA), 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 11th & 2 on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 148 at Hawk Hill, HP on 4th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 reports from Cranberry Marsh [DU] from 7th to 18th with highs of 491 on 7th & 209 on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 268 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 7th, 117 on 10th & 117 on 11th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK – 15 reports from Cranberry Marsh [DU] thro' the month with highs of 26 on 7th, 14 on 10th & 12 on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 9 (incl. 2 dark) at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 7th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN EAGLE - 3 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st & 5 on 7th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS). 3 JUV at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 2nd, 4 (2 AD & 2 JUV) on 4th, 6 (4 AD & 2 JUV) on 7th, 7 (1 AD & 6 JUV) on 10th, 2 (1 AD & 1 JUV) on 11th, 4 (3AD & 1JUV) on 17th, 2 (1 AD & JUV) on 18th, 3 (2 AD & JUV) on 24th & 1 there on 25th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 JUV at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 2 AD at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill [YO] @ 14:45hrs on 17th (FP fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th & 2 (2nd or 3rd Y) there 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 1 F at N End Bathurst Street (#21535) [YO] on 3rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at CSSP on 10th (SCH), 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. [YO] on 16th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Royal Road, Keswick [YO] on 18th (NMu,ICa).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 AD at 48 Laverock Ave, Richmond Hill [YO] on 3rd (NMu), 1 JUV at Tip, LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 2 at Clarica Centre, Islington on 13th (SCH) & 1 at Brant St, Burlington [HL] on 15th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 23rd & 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Primrose Hotel, Carlton St. on 24th (Don Shanahan fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Royal York & Glenroy on 29th (SCH).

AMERICAN COOT - 4 at Reesor Road Ponds [YO] on 1st (WP) & 1 still there on 14th, 17th & 18th (WP;FP fide ONTBIRDS;RBHS,WP). 1 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS). 97 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 2nd (DW fide DRBA), 128 on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 105 there on 13th (THo fide OUTON).

SANDHILL CRANE - 84 at Pine Valley, N of Rutherford [YO] @ 11:45hrs on 16th [Documented] (AA fide ONTBIRDS). 'The flock re-grouped, circled, broke apart and re-formed a number of times as they rose higher and moved eastwards. I was able to finally get an accurate count when they consolidated in a V-group, turned around, and started to move westwards'. **NEW ALL-TIME RECORD COUNT FOR GTA.** 5 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). & 36 flying S at Sandiford Rd, Stouffville [YO] @ 16:40hrs on 22nd (Jack & Connie Walker fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (RPy fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 3 at LSS on 3rd (Michael Biro,&;NMu,ICa,EO'C).

KILLDEER - 20 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 1st (WP), 21 on 13th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON), 12 on 16th (SMF) & 4 on 23rd (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

* SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 (v. late) at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th [No doc. seen] (THo fide OUTON). Doc. required after 31 Oct.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 2 at LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Corner Marsh [DU] on 2nd (RPy fide DRBA), 7 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 18th (RPy fide DRBA).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Whitby Harbour [DU] on 20th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), 25th (DW fide DRBA) & on 26th (anon fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 1 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 1st (WP;SMF) & on 3rd (GC,&). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th (THo fide OUTON) & 1 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

DUNLIN - 1 at Whitby Harbour [DU] on 3rd (DW fide DRBA) & on 4th (RBHS,WP). 2 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S SNIPES - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (RPy fide DRBA) & 3 at Nonquon S.L. [DU] on 14th (Bob Hartley fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 3rd (ICa,EO'C, fide NMu).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 17th (J. McKnight fide DRBA) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 24th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

HERRING GULL - 120 at Guelph Line [HL] on 17th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).

ICELAND GULL - 1 2W at E side, Newcastle Marina [DU] on 25th (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 AD at Sioux Lookout Park, Burlington [HL] on 17th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 3Y at Lakeside Park (Leash-Free) [PL] on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - 1 at Oshawa Harbour [DU] @ 13:45hrs on 24th [No doc. seen] (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS).

ROCK PIGEON - 85 at McGillivray & CPR [YO] on 3rd (RBHS,WP).

MOURNING DOVE - 70 at McGillivray & CPR [YO] on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 45 at Pine Valley N of Major Mack. [YO] on 21st (WP).

[BUDGERIGAR] - 1 @ at feeder at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (AA).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at HP on 3rd (SMF) & 1 roosting in a Wood Duck box near the marsh at Kortright C. A. [YO] on 25th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa), 2 on 18th (AJano fide RBHS) & 1 there on 25th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON).

BARRED OWL - 1 at Thicksons Woods [DU] on 2nd (Tim Nelson fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Dunlap Observatory [YO] on 16th (WP) & 1 at LSS on 25th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON).



A **Barred Owl** roosting and preening at the David Dunlap Observatory woods at Richmond Hill, York, 16 November 2007. These woods are under threat of possible destruction. The University of Toronto has declared the Observatory lands as surplus and will sell it to the highest bidder in 2008. *Photos © Winnie Poon*

LONG-EARED OWL - 1 at LSS on 3rd (Michael Biro,&) & 3 there on 17th (NMu,ICa).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (RPye), 2 at LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 5 there on 17th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 AD-M recaptured on LSS on 3rd, had been originally banded there as a juvenile on 27 Oct 2006. [Band #0924-03480] (DDe, TTPBRS). 1 at LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa). A total of 305 were banded at LSS during the fall 2007; these #s include 7 foreign recoveries (DDe,TTPBRS).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th & 15th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 M at HP on 8th, 15th & 16th (SMF). 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 22nd (Gunnar Bessel,LS, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 F at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 3rd (GC,&), 1 F at Cheltenham [PL] on 5th (anon fide OUTON). 1 at Queensway N & Deer Run Dr. [YO] on 17th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 18th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Winston Churchill & Deer Run [HL] on 17th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at Enfield [DU] on 28th (J. James fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 M at HP on 3rd (SMF).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 6 (4 M, 2 F) at HP on 30th (SMF).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER - 1 at Durham RF - Main Tract ('head-of-trails' area) [DU] on 3rd [No doc. seen] (N. Melcher fide DRBA).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 4 reports from 14th to 30th of 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 M at Rattray Marsh [PL] on 3rd (Teresa Santos,GC,&), 1 at Pine Valley & Major Mackenzie [YO] on 21st (WP) & 1 M at David L. Balfour Park on 25th (SMF).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 1 at LSS on 2nd (DDe,TTPBRS).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 19 reports of single birds from 2nd to 30th, 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 3rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Queensway N & Deer Run Dr. [YO] on 17th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at Colborne Lodge, HP on 10th (Jeremy Hatt).

AMERICAN CROW - 50 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] & 75 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at St Johns SR W of Kennedy [YO] on 10th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Hwy 48 & Conc 6, Thorah [DU] on 18th (NMu,ICa).

HORNED LARK - 2 at LSS on 2nd, 9 on 7th & 10 on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS). 7 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. [YO] on 25th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 45 at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 45 at TI on 10th (AA) & 36 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 24th (NMu,ICa).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 3 at HP on 19th (SMF).

BROWN CREEPER – Singles at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 24th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Wesley Brooks C.A. [YO] on 25th (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

CAROLINA WREN – Singles at Shell Park [HL] on 3rd (AA), Valley Inn [HL] on 10th (ICa,NMu, fide ONTBIRDS), Ward's Island, TI on 10th (AA) & at Sheridan Creek Woods [PL] on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

WINTER WREN – Singles at Corner Marsh [DU] on 2nd (RPy fide DRBA), Peninsula D, LSS on 4th (DDe,TTPBRS) & at Sheridan Creek Woods [PL] on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd (DDe,TTPBRS).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 7 at LSS on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 1 at Holland Landing S.L. [YO] on 4th (BB) (*anon* 2007). 1 at Beaton's Point, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res. [DU] on 4th (RBHS,WP), 2 at TI on 10th (AA), 1 at HP on 13th (SMF) & 1 at HBP [E] on 13th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS), 6th (RSC fide ONTBIRDS) & on 22nd (Iain Fleming fide OUTON). 3 LSS (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 1 at HP (SMF) & 1 at Burloak Park [HL] (AA), all on the 3rd.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 12 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st & 53 migrants there (30 landed on the hill) on 7th (NMu). 2 M at LSS on 3rd (Michael Biro,&).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 8th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 10th (RPy fide DRBA) & on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 23rd (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 69 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st (NMu). 1000+ at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street [YO] on 1st (KDu) (*anon* 2007). 100+ at Sheridan Creek Woods [PL] on 18th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – A good showing for what is often a poor month, especially considering the cold conditions during the last week of the period. In total there were 49 reports, from 20 observers, broken down as: [YO] 19; [MT] 18; [PL] 3, and [DU] 9. If duplicate reports are excluded the [DU] total would drop to 4. Thanks to the following for their reports: AA; ICa; GDe fide ONTBIRDS; DRBA; BF; H&MF; GEL; JLo; NMacd; NMCh; NMu; WP; RPy; KRS; RBHS; MvdT; WHNC; DW. Please continue to send in all reports, especially for this winter period.

EUROPEAN STARLING - 5000 at Villiers St. Reedbed on 17th (NMu,ICa), coming in to roost under Gardiner Expressway.

AMERICAN PIPIT - 35 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th, 55 on 10th & 8 on 24th (RPy fide DRBA) & 1 there on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 20 at LSS on 5th, 26 on 9th, 37 on 10th & 69 on 11th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 at Hawk Hill, HP on 7th (NMu), 2 at HBP [E] on 22nd (Iain Fleming fide OUTON), 15 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 23rd (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 24th (NMu,ICa). 1 at J.C. Saddington Park [PL] on 24th (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A. [DU] on 25th (AA).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 25 at 840 Montsell Ave, Willow Beach [YO] on 4th (MJCB,Richard Pope, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hendrie Valley [HL] on 9th (MPA fide ONTBIRDS) & 100 there on 10th (ICa,NMu, fide ONTBIRDS). 150 at Mossington Point [YO] on 10th (Linda Wells fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Valley Inn [HL] on 11th (RJB fide ONTBIRDS), 10 at Glenwoods Ave & Lake Dr., Keswick [YO] on 16th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 25 at George Richardson Park [YO] on 24th (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at HBP [W] on 1st (SMF fide WP), 2 at HBP [E] on 2nd (GDe fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HBP [E] on 13th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON). 3 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS), 3 there on 3rd (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 1 on 9th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at HP on 1st & 3rd (SMF), 2 at CSSP on 10th (SCH) & 1 at Leslie & Davis Dr, Newmarket [YO] on 10th (MvdT fide RBHS). 4 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 23rd (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 on 24th (NMu,ICa).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 2 (late) at PetroCanada Pier [HL] on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 1 F beside Sunfish Cut, Ward's Island, TI on 10th (AA).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - 1 first reported at Ashbridge's Bay Park @ 11:30hrs on 20th (Carol Sellers,TFN, fide Bob Kortright). It was seen again each day feeding on berries in Euonymus bushes at the SW tip of the park, photographed by a number of observers, and was last reported on the 27th (John Stirrat,&, fide ONTBIRDS). [Doc. by RBHS with photos by WP].



A late **Yellow-breasted Chat**, attracted to the abundant Eastern Wahoo fruits at SW tip of Ashbridge's Bay Park, Toronto, 23 November 2007. Photo © Jean Iron

CHIPPING SPARROW - 1 at Bronte Marsh [HL] on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 at Bronte Marsh [HL] on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & at HP on 3rd (SMF).

FOX SPARROW – 12 reports of 1 to 3 from Cranberry Marsh [DU] from 2nd to 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st, 3 on 2nd & 1 on 3rd (DDe,TTPBRS). Singles at Nature Reserve, TI on 10th (AA), Kinsale Rd, N of Kinsale [DU] on 17th (RLau fide ONTBIRDS) & at Marita Payne Park [YO] on 30th (ICa fide ONTBIRDS).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 25th & 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 5 occasions from 10th to 26th (RPye fide DRBA). 4 at TI on 10th (AA), 3 at HP on 28th (SMF) & 2 at Marita Payne Park [YO] on 30th (ICa fide ONTBIRDS). 4 other reports of singles from 17th to 28th.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – Singles at Bronte Marsh [HL] on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), HP on 3rd (SMF), Nature Reserve, TI on 10th (AA) & at S end of Newmarket [YO] on 27th (Steve McAllister fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th & 10th (RPye fide DRBA).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 2 at LSS on 3rd (DDe,TTPBRS) & 16 at Tip, LSS on 17th (NMu,ICa).

SNOW BUNTING – 6 reports from LSS from 1st to 10th with highs of 14 on 9th & 30 on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS). 300 at N End Bathurst Street [YO] on 3rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 13th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 13th (THo fide OUTON), 10 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. [YO] on 16th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 50+ there on 25th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 9 at LSS on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 F at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 10th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 1500 at LSS on 3rd (DDe,TTPBRS), 500 at Huntington @ McGillivray [YO] on 3rd (WP,RBHS), 500 at Hawk Hill, HP on 7th (NMu) & 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 4th, 1 on 13th & 1 on 24th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 18 at LSS on 7th (DDe,TTPBRS), 5 at Kinsale Rd, N of Kinsale [DU] on 17th (RLau fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 22nd (Gunnar Bessel,LS, fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE GROSBEEK – 19 reports from 3rd to 28th with high counts of 12 at Glenwoods Ave & Lake Dr., Keswick [YO] on 16th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 11 at Kinsale Rd, N of Kinsale [DU] on 17th (RLau fide ONTBIRDS), 10 at Uxbridge [DU] on 24th (Margaret Wilson fide DRBA), 27 at Hilsdale Park, Oshawa [DU] on 24th (THo fide DRBA), 10 at Kortright C. A. [YO] on 25th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 17 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa [DU] on 28th (THo fide DRBA).



Pine Grosbeaks gorging on buckthorn berries and mini-crabapples. Throughout November small and large flocks of birds descended onto the fruit trees and fed fearlessly, often oblivious to people. The male (left) was taken at Kinsale, Durham, 17 November; the female (right) was taken at Cobden, Ottawa, 3 November 2007. Photos © Rick Lauzon

PURPLE FINCH - 11 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st (NMu), 18 at Oshawa Second Marsh [DU] on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 2 (M & F) at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 13th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 6 at LaSalle Park [HL] on 11th (Chris Street fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON REDPOLL – 30 reports thro' the month with high counts from different locations of 12-15 at HBP [E] on 13th (Iain Fleming fide OUTON), 40 (3 groups) at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 35 in a weedy field at Ajax [DU] on 15th (RJP,JI, fide ONTBIRDS), 10 at Brookbanks Ravine on 15th (RJP,JI, fide ONTBIRDS), 70 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 16th (DDe,TTPBRS) was highest count for TTPBRS. Among these were 13 larger birds with much darker plumage [photos on their blog], which they called 'Greenland' Redpoll, but Ron Pittaway says the *rostrata* subspecies is better called 'Greater' Common Redpoll. These were generally > 16g in weight, compared to 11-13g for *flammea*. 28 at Pine Valley N of Major Mack. [YO] on 21st (WP), 30 at Burloak Park [HL] on 24th (Dave Don,CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 200+ at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. [YO]

on 25th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 25-30 at S end of Newmarket [YO] on 27th (Steve McAllister fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE SISKIN – 6 reports from Cranberry Marsh [DU] from 2nd to 18th of from 1 to 8 birds (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS; RPy fide DRBA). 2 at downtown Oshawa [DU] on 4th (DRuch fide DRBA), 4 at downtown Whitby (@ feeder) [DU] on 9th (CSAM fide DRBA) & 32 at Cedar Valley Park, Oshawa [DU] on 11th (THo fide DRBA). 10 at LSS on 10th (DDe, TTPBRS) & 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (AA).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 10 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 4th (DDe, TTPBRS) & 30 at Palace Court, Doncrest [YO] on 26th (WP).

[EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH] - 1 at Seagrave [DU] on 20th (C. Apperson fide DRBA).

EVENING GROSBEAK - 2 at Cranberry Marsh [DU] on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at LSS on 10th (DDe, TTPBRS) was 2nd record for TTPBRS. 17 at Oshawa Creek N of Rossland [DU] on 11th (THo fide DRBA).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; TFN Toronto Field Naturalists; AA Alfred Adamo; MPA Maris Apse; MJCB Margaret Bain; RJB Raymond J. Barlow; ETB Eleanor Beagan; TTPBRS Tommy Thompson Park Bird Res. Station; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; RSC Robert S. Carswell; GC Glenn Coady; WD'A Willie D'Anna; GDe Gene Denzel; DDe Dan Derbyshire; RZD Rob Dobos; KDu Keith Dunn; CEde Cheryl Edgecombe; JFa Jim Fairchild; HFBC Hamilton Fall Bird Count; BF Bruce Falls; H&MF Harold & Muriel Farrant; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; BRH Brandon R. Holden; JI Jean Iron; AJano Andrew Jano; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; JLo Joan Love; NMacd Neil Macdougall; BAM Blake A. Mann; NMCH Naish McHugh; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; NMu Norman Murr; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OFO-W OFO website; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; DP Don Peuramaki; FP Frank Pinilla; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; BPo Betsy Potter; RPy Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; WER Wayne E. Renaud; DRuch Dave Ruch; LS Leon Schlichter; JSchm John Schmelefske; KRS Kevin Shackleton; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; DFS David F. Suggs; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; WNYBOS Western New York – Buffalo Ornithological Society; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 779 reports were added to the database for November 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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Northern Mockingbirds in the Greater Toronto Area: The Nesting Season 2007

Roy Smith and Winnie Poon

In previous summaries (Yung and Smith 2002b, 2003; Poon and Smith 2004) we have reviewed breeding season reports of Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with particular emphasis on fieldwork related to the 2nd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005). Winter season records have been reviewed as follows: 2001-2002 (Yung and Smith 2002a), 2002-2003 (Smith and Yung 2003b), 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 (Poon and Smith 2007). No winter season report was published for 2003-2004 or 2004-2005, and no breeding season summary was prepared for 2005 or 2006, but the 2005 numbers were included in Smith and Poon (2006). Given the increasing number of known sites in the GTA, we have not been able to sustain the pace of fieldwork achieved in some previous years.

Nevertheless, the 2007 numbers tell their own story, with 492 *active breeding territories* recorded across the GTA. As defined previously, an *active breeding territory* is one with at least one report meeting the atlas criteria for possible, probable or confirmed breeding, during the period from mid-April to late August (see Appendix 1). Thus a record of a single bird or singing male, seen once but not subsequently, would still count if it was judged to have been in suitable breeding habitat. We intend to discuss habitat more fully in a forthcoming paper, so that will not be covered here; however, some preliminary observations were mentioned in our summary of status and distribution in the GTA (Smith and Poon 2006).

Year	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Durham	Totals
2001	6	15	34	28	7	90
2002	34	60	130	63	15	302
2003	51	90	147	104	26	418
2004	48	93	140	93	16	390
2005	41	96	149	96	10	392
2006	39	102	190	103	17	451
2007	40	103	203	123	23	492

Table 1. Active breeding territories for Northern Mockingbird in the GTA: 2001-2007.

Table 1 shows the numbers of *active breeding territories* found in the GTA in 2007, as compared to previous years back to 2001. As in earlier reports, there may have been slight adjustments to previously published numbers, due to reclassification of sites and territories, data received late, or error corrections. The study was just getting started in 2001, and knowledge of the sites was still rather incomplete in 2002, so the numbers in those years are certainly low. The following years should provide a better picture. A more precise comparison would attempt to take account of variation in effort between the years, but this is difficult to quantify, and it has also varied spatially within the GTA over the study period. Another factor is that visits made early or late in the season may be less likely to detect breeding evidence (or may result in a lower level of evidence) than those made in the peak of the nesting season in June and July. One should also keep in mind that knowledge of the sites, as well as our ability to find nests and young, has increased over time, while reporting by others may have dropped off a little with the ending of Atlas fieldwork in 2005. On the other hand, we have also attempted to even out coverage as much as possible, by varying the timing of visits to particular 10-km squares across the years, and by doing follow-up visits to sites where birds were missed earlier in the season.

Year	Breeding Territories	New Territories	Active Sites	Known Pairs	Nests Found
2001	90	n/a	85	44	12
2002	302	213	278	169	111
2003	418	179	380	243	180
2004	390	109	358	241	181
2005	392	101	364	248	150
2006	451	96	418	260	139
2007	492	76	438	288	114

Table 2. Northern Mockingbird breeding data for the GTA: 2001-2007.

Given these caveats, the numbers show a steadily increasing trend. Table 1 shows that there was an 8.2% increase in *active breeding territories* in 2007 (compared to 2006); this despite less fieldwork. If we look at Table 2 and the number of known pairs in 2007(288), we also see an increase of 9.7% over 2006 (260). The number of known pairs may provide a more solid estimate of what is going on than active breeding territories, since it includes only cases where a pair was actually seen, or inferred from a higher level of breeding evidence (e.g. nest with eggs, nest with young, fledged young, carrying food, etc.). Thus someone looking for strong evidence to support the trend may be more comfortable with the data in the *known pairs* column, whereas another might be satisfied with the *active breeding territories*. However, one thing that the summary tables do not show is exactly when and where these increases occurred. What can be seen from raw data not presented here is that the Toronto territories jumped by about 40 between 2005 and 2006, while those in York R.M. increased from 103 to 123 between 2006 and 2007. These are large changes compared with other regions and years, and are not readily explained by variations in effort. In contrast, there may not have been any real change in the Durham numbers over the seven years period.

The column for 'nests found' is not meaningful for any estimate of pairs or territories except in a most indirect way; it is included solely for interest. This is because it depends on the effort devoted to finding nests (much less in 2007 than some former years). Also, as many as 3 (very rarely 4) nests might occur and be found in the same territory over one season, and 'easy' sites are more likely to have their nests found than a site located deep within a securely fenced industrial compound, and totally inaccessible to investigators! Note that in the latter situation the territory might still be confirmed by observations of carrying food or fledged young, depending on the topography of the site.

Region	TERRITORIES							Active Sites	Known Pairs	Nests Found
	Poss.	Prob.	Conf.	Total	New in 2007	Visited	Not Visited			
Halton	8	11	21	40	8	85	47	39	27	13
Peel	32	23	48	103	22	213	55	95	61	34
Toronto	76	61	66	203	21	325	85	174	109	26
York	31	33	59	123	22	211	52	114	80	37
Durham	12	5	6	23	3	38	27	16	11	4
TOTALS	159	133	200	492	76	872	266	438	288	114

Table 3. Northern Mockingbirds in the GTA: 2007 Nesting Summary.

Table 3 provides a more detailed summary of the 2007 results. Looking first at active breeding territories, and the proportions in the possible, probable, and confirmed columns, we can conclude that less effort was made in confirming territories in Toronto and Durham, than in the other three regions. However, the number of 'new' territories is declining as a percentage of the total, which suggests we are now recording 'turnover' of territories, rather than those previously occupied but unknown to us. In an attempt to get a better

handle on 'effort', we have included columns for *territories visited and not visited*. These numbers include all sites for which a site number has been defined in the database, and which were initially set up because of previous records of mockingbirds, or because they appeared to be 'good habitat' when located on our initial surveys. In practice, rather few fall in the latter category, since it soon became apparent that hundreds of locations could be potential territories, and it was easier *not* to define any site until some evidence of usage had occurred. Since large sites may contain multiple territories, all site data has been converted to territory-basis for use in these columns. It may be worth pointing out that some of these sites/territories only involve winter records, while others may have been used several years ago, but not subsequently. If habitat change has made the site unsuitable, it might be considered defunct. Hence the numbers in the 'Not Visited' column are not simply an indicator of failure to cover all sites properly, since some would have been very low priority for checking during the breeding season. On the other hand, some locations, for whatever reason, seem to 'attract' mockingbirds, so that even if apparently unused for several years, a bird or pair may turn up again. If this occurs, it is likely to involve different individuals of course, but it also means that apparently abandoned sites should not be entirely written off.

The 2007 nesting season followed an unusual winter, with very mild conditions during December 2006 and the first half of January 2007, followed by a rather cold spell in late January and February (Poon and Smith 2007a). March was also rather cold, and the first half of April unusually so, with many rainy and windy days. Initially, we thought that nesting numbers might have been depressed by the cold winter, but it seems this just served to synchronize nesting for those birds starting early. Given the late start to the season, it is not surprising that no cowbird parasitism was detected this season. Parasitism of Northern Mockingbirds by Brown-headed Cowbirds *Molothrus ater* is very rare in Ontario, but if it occurs the evidence suggests that early nests are most likely to be involved (Poon and Smith 2005). This year, Eleanor Beagan reported the first nest with eggs, on 25 April 2007. As the season progressed we noted a preponderance of fine, warm weather, and this must have contributed to good hatching and fledging success. Our impression was that this year more territories were confirmed by finding fledged young than in any previous season. Due to the sheer number of sites to be checked, many received fewer visits than in previous years, but we still found a total of 114 nests, without making a special effort to search for nests.

One highly unusual nest was found in 2007; the first case of a nest situated on a human structure that we have ever seen during this study, despite having examined over 880 nests so far. It was supported by a piece of wire mesh, hanging below a roof-gutter on the corner of a brick-built shed, at about 4m height above ground. Unfortunately it was not accessible to us, being inside the grounds of the Mimico Correctional Centre (10-km square 17PJ12), but it contained three young, and the adults were actively feeding them when found on 5 August. Nearly all nests are built in shrubs, trees or vines, (we have found a couple in brush piles as well), but nests built on human structures are very rare, although not unprecedented (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992). Based on subsequent observations, we think that at least one young fledged successfully.

Every year there is a certain amount of site turnover, with formerly established sites being apparently abandoned, and new ones appearing. Some may be readily explained, for example by the creation of new habitat close to established territories. But one interesting feature this year was the finding of a few new sites pushing north into 10km squares such as 17PJ36, 17PJ47 and 17PJ67. These squares are situated north of Markham, *York R.M.*, around Goodwood, and north of Columbus, respectively. The case in 17PJ47 provides a good example of how a new site can be found by following up on a casual report. Ross D.



Northern Mockingbird nest with 3 young, built under an eaves-trough at the Mimico Correctional Center, Toronto, 5 August 2007. Photo © Winnie Poon

James first saw one flying across Hwy 47, W of Goodwood, *Durham R.M.* on 26 May. During a follow up check of the area we located a nest on 8 July and RDJ was able to check it a few more times before fledging. A similar case occurred in 17PJ67, also in *Durham Region*. One was seen on 9 June during the Durham Summer Bird Count (Otto Peter, *fide* R. Pye) and reported to us. On 8 July we checked the area and found a pair building a nest in an apple tree; a remnant of a former orchard in the yard of an isolated house. Unfortunately, we were unable to re-visit this site to determine the final outcome. However, there are probably a few similar cases each year, and we urge GTA observers to report sightings promptly, especially those on or north of the Oak Ridges Moraine. These new sites, which 'push the envelope' of the established breeding range, may themselves become established, or they may remain as isolated occurrences, perhaps not to be repeated for many years, if at all.

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Appendix 1 – Definitions

A *site* is a defined location or area used for bird recording in the TOC database. Sites do not cross county boundaries. A site typically reflects a management unit, e.g. a park or area defined by custom and practice for bird reporting, and can be as large as the Leslie Street Spit, or as small as 1 hectare (100 x 100m), the area designated by a 6-figure UTM grid reference. Large sites may have *subsites* defined within them. When so defined, subsites do not cross 10-km square boundaries. For our surveys, subsites are used when required to designate individual mockingbird territories.

A *breeding territory* is the area occupied and defended by a single male or pair during some part or all of the breeding season (approximately mid April to late August in the GTA).

An *active breeding territory* is one with at least one observation of a Northern Mockingbird meeting the *atlas criteria* for breeding evidence, made during the breeding season.

Atlas breeding evidence criteria - abbreviated definitions based on the 2nd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) are as follows:

Possible: H (in habitat); S (singing male).

Probable: P (pair); T (territory – registrations at least 7 days apart); D (courtship or display); B (brood patch or cloacal protuberance on trapped bird); N (nestbuilding); V (visiting site of assumed nest).

Confirmed: CF (carrying food for young); FS (carrying fecal sac); AE (adult on or entering inaccessible nest assumed to contain eggs or young); NE (nest with eggs); NY (nest with young); FY (fledged, dependent young).