



TORONTO BIRDS

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COVER PHOTO

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Photo © Sam Barone

The Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) has undergone a dramatic population increase and range expansion in North America in the last half-century (LeSchack et al. 1997). Until the 1950s, the Gadwall was considered a rare transient in Ontario. However, not long after the discovery of the first Ontario nests at Walpole Island and Luther Marsh in 1955 (Baillie 1963), it underwent an explosive increase in southern Ontario beginning in the 1960s (Curry 1994). This increase is shown very dramatically (see Figure 1) by data from the Toronto Ornithological Club's Lake Ontario Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory (MWWI). *Glenn Coady*

This male Gadwall was photographed at Humber Bay Park, *Toronto* on 2 October 2006.

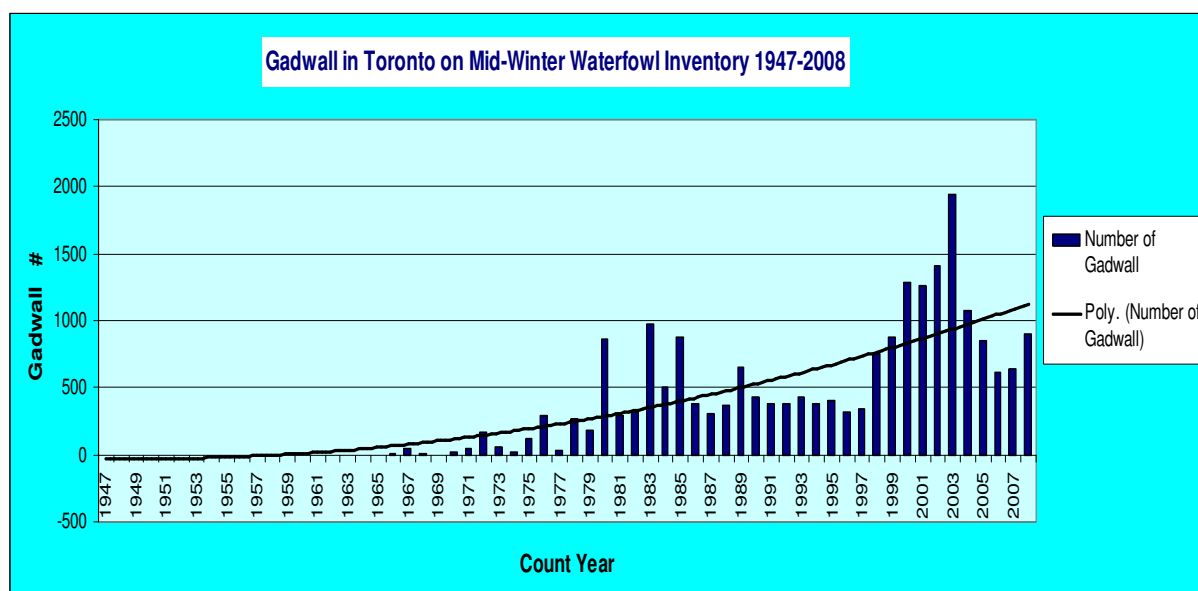


Figure 1. Numbers of Gadwall found on the Toronto sector (Bronte Harbour to Whitby Harbour) of the Lake Ontario Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory 1947-2008 with best polynomial fit of the trend line.

Literature Cited:

- Baillie, J.L.** 1963. The thirteen most recent Ontario nesting birds. *Ontario Field Biologist* 17:15-26.
- Curry, R.** 1994. Expanding Gadwall populations in Ontario. Pp. 221-228 *in* Ornithology in Ontario (M.K. McNicholl and J.L. Cranmer-Byng, Eds.) Special Publication No. 1, Ontario Field Ornithologists. Hawk Owl Publishing, Whitby.
- LeSchack, C.R., S.K. McKnight and G.R. Hepp.** 1997. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 283 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds). Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

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 – JANUARY 2008

The following are largely unchecked reports, not authenticated records. County/Region codes used in the *database* are: MT = City of Toronto; HL = Halton R.M.; PL = Peel R.M.; YO = York R.M.; DU = Durham R.M.; LO = Lake Ontario Pelagic, but full names are provided in the Report, except for locations within City of 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: HRF, 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.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 1 at Bond Head Parkette, *Durham* on 10th (Ross Lamb fide OFO-W), photo on OFO website shows it was unbanded. 1 at Newcastle Marina, *Durham* on 11th [No doc. seen] (Ross Lamb fide John Stirrat, fide ONTBIRDS).

SNOW GOOSE - 1 (white) flying S at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 5th (J. Melanson fide DRBA) & 1 (white) at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA), seen with Canada Geese on playing fields N of the harbour. 1 at Burlington, *Halton* on 21st (Frank Horvath fide OFO-W).

BRANT - 1 at LaSalle Marina, LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 28th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 2 at Bond Head, *Durham* on 17th (GCarp fide DRBA).

MUTE SWAN - 21 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 13th (RBHS,WP).

[BLACK SWAN] - 1 at Bowmanville, *Durham* on 17th (anon fide ONTBIRDS).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 80+ at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 2nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 15 there on 5th (SMF). 4 flying SE at Hwy 404 & Vondorf Rd., *York* on 4th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 14 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 6th (RPye fide DRBA) & 3 at Bluffer's Park on 6th (RBHS,WP,MWWI), one w wing tag #840, one tag not read & one untagged. 4 (2 AD, 2 juv) at HBP [E] on 10th (SCH), one AD had a metal leg band on R leg (could not read #s), they were reported again there on 13th (NMu,ICa) & on 27th (SMF;GC,JBMW). 4 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (BFe), 2 (tags: 126 & 900) at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 13th (RBHS,WP) & 3 (2 AD, 1 juv) at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 26th (NMu,&).

TUNDRA SWAN - 3 at Westney Rd & Conc 8, Ajax, *Durham* on 4th & 1 at Audley Rd @ L. Ontario, *Durham* on 6th (both GCarp fide DRBA).



Trumpeter Swan in Bluffers Park, Toronto, 6 January 2008. Photo © Winnie Poon.



A female Wood Duck waiting for bread crumbs at the Ashbridge's Bay Park, *Toronto*, 6 January 2008; it probably had been around for some time. Photo © Winnie Poon.

WOOD DUCK - 1 F at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 5th (DP), 6th (RBHS,WP,MWWI), on 26th (NMu,&) & on 27th (Bob Kortright fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 20th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS).

GADWALL - 28 at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* & 32 at HBP [E] on 13th (NMu,ICa). 94 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st (BFe).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 22 at HBP (E) on 27th (GC,JBMW).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 4 (2 M, 2 F) at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* @ 14:00hrs on 13th (BFe).

CANVASBACK - 1 M at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 2nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 5th (SMF) & 12 there on 13th (WHNC,RJF) (Fleming 2008).

REDHEAD - 250 at Sunnyside on 24th (JLH) & 150 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 M at Lakefront Promenade Park, *Peel* on 13th (WP,RBHS).

GREATER SCAUP - 250 at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* & 2000 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

LESSER SCAUP - 10 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 6th (RBHS,WP,MWWI) & 2 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

KING EIDER - 1 M at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* on 6th [No doc. seen] (anon fide MWWI, fide CEdge).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 1 M at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 6th (anon fide MWWI, fide CEdge) & on 10th (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS). 1 F at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 6th (JLam,MWWI, fide DEP) & 2 (M & F) there on 19th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 F at HBP [E] on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 1 at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 13th (WP,RBHS). 1 M at Humber R. Mouth, Sunnyside on 26th (Andrew McKinley fide OUTON) & 1 F there on 27th (SMF; GC,JBMW).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 22 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st & 14 there on 12th (BFe). 28 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 68 at Tip, LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 500 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 750 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

BUFFLEHEAD - 75 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 50 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton*, 50 at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* & 500 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa). 25 at Jackson's Point, L. Simcoe, *York* on 13th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 164 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE - 1 F at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 6th [No doc. seen] (JLam,DEP,MWWI). 1 F at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 8th [No doc. seen] (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 (poss. 3) F at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 26th [No doc. seen] (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 2 (M & F) at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 2nd (Pete Scholtens fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 6th (RBHS,WP,MWWI). 4 at Lakefront Promenade Park, *Peel* & 1 M at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 13th (RBHS,WP). Singles at HBP [E] on 13th (NMu,ICa), Sunnyside on 24th (JLH) & at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

HOODED MERGANSER X BUFFLEHEAD - 1 on E side of Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 6th (MKB fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MERGANSER - 28 at HBP [E] on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 50 at Jackson's Point, L. Simcoe, *York* on 13th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at HBP [E] on 13th (NMu,ICa).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - 1 at Sideline 34, S of Conc 3, *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

WILD TURKEY - 12 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA), 41 at Conc 7, 1km E of RR30, *Durham* on 18th (DW fide DRBA) & 74 at 20km S of Port Bolster, *Durham* on 25th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Humber Station Rd. Heronry, *Peel* @ 15:10hrs, seen foraging along rly tracks & 4 others at Humber Station Rd & CPR, *Peel* @ 15:30hrs on 27th (RBHS,WP).

RED-THROATED LOON - 3 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 1st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 6th (MKB,MWWI, fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED GREBE - 1 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&) & 1 at HBP (E) on 27th (SMF; GC,JBMW).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 at CSSP on 13th (BPB fide OUTON).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 14th (GCarp fide DRBA). 1 at Watson St E, Whitby, *Durham* on 15th (SLaF fide DRBA) & on 19th & 20th (R. Stephenson fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 6 seen from the GO Train at Lower Don River near Queen St. @ 08:35hrs on 17th (Glen Steplock fide ONTBIRDS).

TURKEY VULTURE - 1 at McLaughlin & Williams Parkway, Brampton, *Peel* on 19th (Ajay Shekdar fide ONTBIRDS).

BALD EAGLE - 1 AD at Conc 3, 1km W of Bragg Rd., *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Wagner Lake, *Durham* on 1st (P. Bogner fide DRBA), 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 5th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 AD at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 8th (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at S Shore L. Simcoe, *York* on 9th, 11th & 12th (Lorena Campbell fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 JUV off Snake Is, L. Simcoe, *York* on 20th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 AD at Georgetown GO Station, *Halton* on 23rd (Aaron A. Keating fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 F at Waterfront Tr. W of Thicksons, *Durham* on 4th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at W of Thickson's Rd., *Durham* on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA) & 1 M at Hwy 48 & Vivian Rd., *York* on 29th (Jack Walker fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Singles at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 22nd (SLaF fide DRBA), Metro Rd, Keswick, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa), Ozark Park, Oak Ridges, *York* on 27th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), Bolton Ave, Newmarket, *York* on 28th (anon fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Reedaire Ct, Whitby, *Durham* on 30th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK – 11 reports from different locations of singles birds from 4th to 31st.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 at Campbellville Rd., *Halton* on 3rd (Jenn Sinasac fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Long Branch area on 26th (Sharon F. Anderson fide OFO-W), good photo on website, but record not posted elsewhere.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 2 at Waterfront Tr. W of Thicksons, *Durham* on 4th (SLaF,J. Skene, fide DRBA), 1 at McLaughlin & Williams Parkway, Brampton, *Peel* on 19th (Ajay Shekdar fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at King Rd W of Bolton, *Peel* on 27th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at George Bolton Parkway (West), *Peel* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

* GOLDEN EAGLE - 1 2W at Conc 10, Clarke Twp., *Durham* on 4th [No doc. seen] (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS) at entrance to Mossport Raceway.

MERLIN - Singles at Hwy 2 & Bragg Rd., *Durham* on 1st (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS), Countryside Dr & Hwy 410, *Peel* on 5th (RBHS,WP), Conc. 3 at Providence Rd., *Durham* on 12th (NMu,ICa), Mortimer & Donlands, E. *York* on 16th (EO'C fide OUTON) & at 310 St Francis Ave, Woodbridge, *York* on 24th (AA).

GYRFALCON - 1 at Centre Island, TI on 6th [No doc. seen] (GC,&).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 2 at Yonge & Bloor, Toronto on 1st (David Selley fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 3rd (Don Davis fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Clarica Centre, Islington on 12th, one on camera, other beside nesting box; also seen on 23rd (SCH). 1 at Dennison & Kennedy, Markham, *York* on 12th (Rick Thornton fide ONTBIRDS), & 1 at 18 King St. E. on 17th (Glen Steplock fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Burlington Beach Canal (Lift Bridge), *Halton* on 13th (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 24th (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT – Singles at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 4th (Chris Street fide ONTBIRDS), Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 5th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 6th (RPye fide DRBA), HBP on 7th (SMF) & at CSSP on 13th (BPB fide OUTON).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 1 at Jackson's Point, L. Simcoe, York on 13th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-BILLED GULL - 320 at Lakefront Promenade Park, Peel @ 14:20hrs on 13th (WP, RBHS), one had a prominent pink tinge to entire underparts.

HERRING x GLAUCOUS (Nelson's) GULL – 1 2nd or 3rd basic, photographed at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 4th (JI).



An unusual chance to compare a Nelson's Gull (2nd or 3rd basic Herring x Glaucous hybrid) left, with a Kumlien's Iceland Gull (1st basic) right. Ashbridges Bay, Toronto, 4 Jan 2008. Photo © Jean Iron.

THAYER'S GULL - 1 AD at Polson St., Toronto Harbour on 5th (DP) & 2 at Port Credit Harbour, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

ICELAND GULL – Singles at LSS on 1st (NMu), Newcastle Marina, Durham on 6th (DBar fide DRBA), Bond Head, Durham on 17th (GCarp fide DRBA), Port Credit Harbour, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 27th (RPye fide DRBA). One 1B at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 4th (JI) and 4 at Polson St., Toronto Harbour on 5th (DP) were specifically reported as Kumlien's.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 AD at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 27th (Bob Kortright fide ONTBIRDS).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 AD at Sunnyside on 24th (JLH) & 1 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 27th (RPye fide DRBA).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 3 AD at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, Peel on 1st (BFe) & 7 at Port Credit Harbour, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 2 at LSS on 1st (NMu), 2 on 6th (JRC,&) & 3 there on 26th (NMu,&). 2 at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 4th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 W of Thickson's Road, Durham on 10th (RPye fide DRBA), viewed from William Smith Drive.

SNOWY OWL - 1 at Hwy 42 & Conc 4, Durham on 2nd (RLau fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (F or imm) at Countryside Dr W of Coleraine, Peel on 5th (RBHS,WP). 9 reports from W. End Ravenshoe Rd., York beginning with 1 on 5th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 4 other dates until 20th, 3 there on 26th (RJF,Mvdt, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 27th (NMu,ICa) & 1 on 29th (Jack Walker fide ONTBIRDS).

BARRED OWL – A small influx was recorded, with six in Durham, as follows: 1 nr. Concession St E & Bragg Rd, Durham on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS); 1 at Grandview St, Oshawa, Durham on 4th (D. Dalke fide RPye); 1 at Lee Ave, Whitby, Durham on 5th (L. Moyle fide RPye); 1 at Halls Rd, Durham and 1 at Lakeridge Rd, Durham on 5th (both J. Skene fide RPye); and 1 at Shoal Point Road, Durham on 15th (P. Hogenbirk fide RPye). 1 at LSS on 1st (NMu), on 6th (JRC,&) & eating a Cottontail there on 26th (NMu,&). 1 at Dunlap Observatory, York on 5th (GEL) & on 11th (DW). 1 at Douglas Ave & Glen Rd. on 13th (Tania Martin fide SE).

GREAT GRAY OWL – 1 at Shoal Point Road, *Durham* on 12th (Jim McKnight), 17th (HC) and 20th (GCarp) – all fide RPye.

SHORT-EARED OWL - 7 seen at dusk between 17:10-17:40hrs. at Waterfront Trail W of Thicksons, *Durham* on 4th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 6th (JRC,&), 1 at W of Thickson's Rd., *Durham* on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA) & 2 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&), hunting from peninsula X to the Flats, in morning.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at LSS on 1st (NMu) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st (BFe).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 at Humber Valley Trail @ Kirby Rd, *York* on 5th (BFe) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 8th (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – Singles at Cherrywood area, W of Altona Rd, *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA), Edge Pegg Property, *Durham* on 19th (SLaF fide DRBA), Graydon Property, Humber Grove, *Peel* on 24th (PG) & at Donaldson Rd, Holland Landing, *York* on 26th (Judy Kowalski fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 at Dunlap Observatory, *York* on 4th (NMu).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 1 at Dunlap Observatory, *York* on 4th (NMu) & on 10th (GEL). 1 at LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at YRF - West Main Tract, *York* on 5th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 5th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN SHRIKE – 11 reports of singles from 10 different locations mainly in, *York* or, *Durham* throughout the month & 2 at Baselands, LSS on 26th (NMu,&).

COMMON RAVEN - 2 at Conc 2 N of Holborn Rd., *York* on 13th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 24th (PG) & 2 at Lake Dr & Ailene Dr, Keswick, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

HORNED LARK - 100+ at Hwy 2, 0.5km W of Courtice Rd., *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 12 at Conc. 4 E of RR 42, *Durham* on 3rd (MJL fide ONTBIRDS), 25 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 15th (R. Stephenson fide DRBA) & 9 there on 29th (SLaF fide DRBA).

* SWALLOW SP. - 1 at Booth Ave off Eastern Ave. @ 11:00hrs on 10th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS), prob. a Tree Swallow?

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 22 at St Johns SR & Warden, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 5th, 6th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS), 10th (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 13th (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS) (Fleming 2008).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 3 at HP on 14th (SMF).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 6 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

BROWN CREEPER – Singles at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 2nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS), at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA) & at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 26th (NMu,&).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 3rd & 31st (MJL fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 4th (Chris Street fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 5th (SMF). 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (BFe) & 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 13th (DJM fide RJF) (Fleming 2008).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 4th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at German Mills Park, *York* on 13th (DW).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st (BFe), scolding a NSWOW! 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 26th (NMu,&).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st (BFe), scolding a NSWOW!

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 2 at 1km W of Blair Rd & Conc 3, *Durham* on 4th (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Westney Rd & Taunton Rd., *Durham* on 17th (HC fide DRBA) & 2 at Reesor Rd 0.5km N of Hwy 7, *York* on 28th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* @ 11:20hrs on 12th (BFe).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 32 at Dunlap Observatory, *York* on 4th (NMu), 20+ on 11th (DW), 8 on 18th (SLaF, John Foster, fide ONTBIRDS) & 100 there on 27th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS). 17 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (BFe) & 30 at North Lake Rd, Oak Ridges, *York* on 26th (AA). 10 at St Johns SR & Warden, *York* & 30 at Kingsmead Ct, nr. L. Wilcox, *York* on 27th (NMu, ICa). 19 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 29th (SLaF fide DRBA).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – Only 32 reports this month, with 1 from *Halton*, 3 from *Peel*, 3 from *Durham*, 12 from *Toronto* and 13 from *York*. As usual, some were reported more than once; so with duplications removed there were about 24 distinct reports. Thanks to the following (16) contributors: BB; MCa; GDe; SE; BF; H&MF; BFe; JMG; BKa; HK; LGK; GEL: DEP; WP; RBHS; JWi.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at a feeder NE of Newtonville, *Durham* on 3rd (DBar fide DRBA), had been present for 6 weeks.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 28 at Humber Valley Trail about 500m N of Kirby, *York* on 5th (BFe), 50 at Dunlap Observatory, *York* on 12th (Martin Chen fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 10 at Conc 9, W of Enfield, *Durham* on 20th (GCarp fide DRBA) & 50 at Ozark Park, Oak Ridges, *York* on 25th (Glenn Reed fide ONTBIRDS). 10 at #232 North Lake Rd, Oak Ridges, *York* on 26th (AA fide ONTBIRDS), 130 at Solina Rd, S of Bloor St, *Durham* on 27th (SLaF, Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS), 12 at Kingsmead Ct, nr. L. Wilcox, *York* on 27th (NMu, ICa) & 60 (flocks 20, 40) nr. Mosport Race Track, Leskard, *Durham* on 27th (D. Lycett fide DRBA).

CEDAR WAXWING - 28 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st (BFe), 64 at Conc 3 E of Lamb Rd., *Durham* on 3rd (MJL fide ONTBIRDS) & 30 at Binder Twine Park, Kleinburg, *York* on 13th (GDe, Charlene Denzel, fide RJF). 90 at North Lake Rd, Oak Ridges, *York* on 26th (AA) & 50 at Kingsmead Ct, nr. L. Wilcox, *York* on 27th (NMu, ICa).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 6th (JLam, DEP, MWWI), near the Gazebo - same spot as last winter. 3 at Humber R. Mouth, Sunnyside on 27th (SMF).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 38 at Peninsula B, LSS on 26th (NMu, &).

SONG SPARROW - 1 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 4th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 29th (SLaF fide DRBA).

SWAMP SPARROW - 2 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 4th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 at HP on 14th (SMF), 2 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 22nd (GDe), 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 22nd (SLaF fide DRBA) & 1 in Oshawa, *Durham* on 25th (Otto Peter fide DRBA).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 35 at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 3rd (MJL fide ONTBIRDS).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 2 at Hwy 2, 0.5km W of Courtice Rd, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

SNOW BUNTING - 100 at SR 26, S of Conc. 7, *Durham* on 18th (DW fide DRBA), 200 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 18th (SLaF, John Foster, fide ONTBIRDS) & 30 at Yonge St, N of Stouffville Rd., *York* on 25th (Glenn Reed fide ONTBIRDS). 50 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 26th (RJF, MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS) & 500 at Beare Rd S of Steeles on 26th (RBHS, WP).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 12 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 24th (Charlene Denzel).

* ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 M at 67 Satchell Blvd, Scarb. from 1st to 14th (FB) has been coming irregularly to feeder; first seen 21 Dec 2007.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 1 at feeder at #16 Dacre Crescent on 1st (Attila Fust). 225 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* @ 16:15hrs on 13th (BFe), flying across road, landing and feeding. This will be a new record count for the period 1 Jan to 25 March, [if



Brown-headed Cowbird at Dacre Crescent, *Toronto*, 1 January 2008. Photo © Attila Fust.

documented]. 3 at Bayly St. W of Lakeridge Rd, *Durham* on 29th (SLaF fide DRBA).

PINE GROSBEAK – 25 reports throughout the month, highlights included: 45 at Concession St E, E of Bragg Rd, *Durham* on 2nd (RLau fide ONTBIRDS) & 50 on 3rd (MJL fide ONTBIRDS); 7 reports from Dunlap Observatory, *York* from 5th to a high count of 30 on 19th (AA); 16 at #4250 Walkers Line, *Halton* on 6th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS); 31 at Pugsley Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* on 17th (WP); 8 near marker #51, Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 25th was the only [MT] report (Ben Walters fide ONTBIRDS); 28 at St Johns SR & Warden, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa). An interesting cold-weather movement involving 90-100 birds was seen (from a Tim Hortons in north Milton, *Halton*) during a 1hr period on 30th (Lou Marsh fide ONTBIRDS). The birds flew by in groups numbering from 1 to 20, sometimes at car-roof height, heading SW. A strong cold front reached the GTA the previous night, with temperatures down to -9C and very strong N or NW winds.

PURPLE FINCH - 11 at a feeder at Bridgeport St & Mill St., *York* on 10th (NMu).

COMMON REDPOLL – 8 reports throughout the month of 20 or more birds, high counts were 75 at Concession St & Blair Rd., *Durham* on 4th (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS), 100 at Countryside Dr & Hwy 410, *Peel* on 5th (RBHS,WP) & 125 at Bragg Rd N of Concession Rd E, *Durham* on 12th (NMu,ICa).

HOARY REDPOLL - 1 (exilipes) at Liberty Rd N @ Conc 4, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Concession St & Blair Rd, *Durham* on 4th (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 F at Humber R N of Bloor (E side) on 4th (Chris Kimber) fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Countryside Dr & Hwy 410, *Peel* on 5th (WP) & 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 26th (GDe fide ONTBIRDS)

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; OFO-W OFO website; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; DBar Dennis Barry; FB Fred Bodsworth; MKB Mike Boyd; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; MCA Margaret Catto; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; GDe Gene Denzel; KDu Keith Dunn; SE Sandra Eadie; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; BF Bruce Falls; H&MF Harold & Muriel Farrant; SMF Steven Favier; BFe Bruce Ferry; RJF Ron Fleming; PG Phyllis Graydon; JMG Jim Griffith; JLH Jeremy L. Hatt; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; BKa Barbara Kalthoff; HK Harry Kerr; LGK Leslie Kinrys; SLaF Steve LaForest; JLam John Lamey; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; MJL Marcus J. Lise; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; MWWI MW Waterfowl Invtry; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; DP Don Peuramaki; FP Frank Pinilla; WP Winnie Poon; RPy Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; WER Wayne E. Renaud; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; MDW Mike Williamson; JWi Joan Winearls; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCES:

Fleming, R. 2008. *Trip Report - January 13, 2008: Dave Milsom's Magical Mystery Tour*. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter Jan 2008, p.4-5.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 491 reports were added to the database for January 2008.

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).

Preferred citation: Worthington, D. 2008. Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: January 2008. Toronto Birds 2(2): 27 -33.



The 62nd Lake Ontario Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory – 6 January, 2008

Glenn Coady (Compiler)

CONDITIONS

This year, the weather during the Waterfowl Count was fair, providing average viewing conditions with somewhat poor visibility due to morning fog with little wind. The lake was calm, with most shoreline areas open, but many bays and inner harbours were frozen. Temperatures ranged from +2 °C to +6 °C.

REMARKS

This was the **62nd 'Duck Count' for the Toronto Ornithological Club** and 18th year that the entire Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario has been covered. One hundred participants spent 187 party-hours searching for waterfowl.

This year we recorded 249,677 waterfowl from 39 species (the second highest species total ever – behind only the 40 species in 2000) along the entire Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario. This is lower than the average total for the last 10 counts (291,875) but higher than the 29 year average (147,407). Record high numbers were reported for four species: Pied-billed Grebe 4 (surpassing 3 in 2004); Trumpeter Swan 191 (187 in 2005); Mute Swan 1,171 (896 in 2006); and Greater Scaup 81,736 (62,804 in 2005). Higher than usual numbers were reported for Double-crested Cormorant, Gadwall, White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser and Ruddy Duck. Lower than usual numbers were reported for Canada Goose, Mallard, Redhead, Long-tailed Duck and Common Goldeneye. Missed species were Snow Goose (only the third year it has been missed in the last 29 years) and Greater White-fronted Goose.

A record 66 Bald Eagles were also reported (65 from Kingston, 1 from Presqu'île).

An interesting exotic waterfowl find was a Barnacle Goose found on the Niagara sector. This is the second consecutive year that a Barnacle Goose has been found on that sector.

In the Toronto area (Bronte Harbour to Whitby Harbour):

79,871 waterfowl from 31 species were reported. This is the all-time highest total for the 62 counts (surpassing the 78,017 in 2001) and ties the record of 31 species found in 2007. **First ever** in the 62 year history of the Toronto sector of the count was a **Cackling Goose** found on Route 7. Species with the highest counts were Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Mallard, Canada Goose, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Gadwall and White-winged Scoter (listed in order of abundance).

Record high numbers were reported for: Trumpeter Swan 40 (surpassing 31 in 2005), Mute Swan 429 (314 in 2005), Greater Scaup 40,254 (26,743 in 2001) and Lesser Scaup 161 (151 in 2003).

Lower than usual numbers were reported for: Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal (missed!), American Black Duck, and Northern Pintail.

Rarities included: 2 Common Loon, 1 Horned Grebe, 1 Tundra Swan, 1 Cackling Goose, 1 Canvasback, 13 Ring-necked Duck, 3 Harlequin Duck, 1 Surf Scoter, 1 female Barrow's Goldeneye and 2 Ruddy Duck.

Outside of the Toronto area:

There were many excellent sightings.

Niagara had 21 species, including 1 Red-throated Loon, 1 Common Loon, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Horned Grebe, 16 Double-crested Cormorant and 2 Black Scoter.

Hamilton had 33 species including 1 Common Loon, 3 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Horned Grebe, 3 Red-necked Grebe, 56 Double-crested Cormorant, 1 Brant, 12 Green-winged Teal, 42 Northern Shoveler, 191 Canvasback(!), 84 Ring-necked Duck, 6 King Eider and 425 Ruddy Duck (!).

Durham had 18 species including 1 Northern Pintail and 1 American Coot.

Port Hope had 16 species including 1 Gadwall and 1 Cackling Goose in Cobourg Harbour.

Presqu'île had 19 species including a male Barrow's Goldeneye and a female Harlequin Duck.

Quinte had 14 species including 1 Trumpeter Swan and 1 American Coot.

Kingston had 27 species including 1 Common Loon, 2 Horned Grebe, 2 Double-crested Cormorant, 188 Tundra Swan, 4 Northern Pintail, 2 Ring-necked Duck, 36 Hooded Merganser and 44 American Coot.

Thanks to all the clubs and individuals who participated. Next year's count will take place on **January 11, 2009**.



Participants on the Toronto Islands route of the Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory at the Toronto Island Ferry docks, 6 January 2008. Left to right: Jan Doherty, Don Barnett, Audrey Nowicki, Tove Christensen, Allison Paul, Glenn Coady. *Photo © Glenn Coady.*



Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory round-up dinner, Vesuvio's Pizzeria, Toronto, 6 January 2008. Left to right: John Lamey, Don Perks, Jan Doherty, Audrey Nowicki, Mark Cranford (standing), Jean Iron, Ron Pittaway, Winnie Poon (standing), John Carley, Alison Paul, Roy Smith, Ross Harris. *Photo © Glenn Coady.*

ROUTES AND OBSERVERS

KINGSTON:

(Ivy Lea to Prince Edward Point):

Ron Weir plus 27 members of the Kingston Field Naturalists.

QUINTE AREA:

(Weller's Bay to Point Petre):

John Blaney, Terry Sprague.

PRESQU'ILE:

(Barcovan Beach to Wicklow):

Doug McRae.

PORT HOPE:

(Wicklow to Wesleyville):

Roger Frost, Elizabeth Kellogg, Clive Goodwin, Margaret Bain, Richard Pope, John Geale (Willow Beach Field Naturalists).

DURHAM:

(Wesleyville to Whitby):

Rayfield Pye, Dennis Barry, Margaret Carney, Brian Henshaw, Kim Baker (Durham Region Naturalists).

TORONTO:

(Whitby to Oakville): Toronto Ornithological Club

Route 1 Whitby to Rouge River:

Rob Nisbet, Ross Harris, Geoff Carpentier, John Stirrat, Steve Laforest.

Route 2 Rouge River to Coatsworth Cut:

Roy B.H. Smith, Winnie Poon.

Route 3 Eastern Headland to Cherry Street:

John Carley, Carl Hills, Jean Iron, William Hewitt.

Route 4 Toronto Islands:

Glenn Coady, Don Barnett, Audrey Nowicki, Alison Paul, Tove Christensen, Jan Doherty.

Route 5 Parliament Street to Humber River:

Margaret Kelch, Celia Harte, Harvey Medland.

Route 6 Humber River to Watersedge Park:

Don Perks, John Lamey.

Route 7 Watersedge Park to Bronte Harbour:

Mark Cranford, Donna Sheppard, Brian Sheppard, Mike Boyd, Jean Labrecque, Bruce Mackenzie, Sarah Richer, Paul J. Charlebois, Marc Draper.

HAMILTON:

(Bronte to 50 Point + Hamilton Bay): **George Naylor**, Rob Dobos, Dave Don, Cheryl Edgecombe, Denys Gardiner, Sharon Gardiner, Kevin McLaughlin, Tom Ford, Rob Waldhuber, Jim Heslop, Bob Stamp (Hamilton Naturalists Club).

NIAGARA:

(50 Point to Niagara-on-the-Lake): **John Black**, Brian Ahara, Barbara Austen, Manley Baarda, Drew Campbell, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Marcie Jacklin, Brian Joule, Carol O'Shea, Kayo Roy, Tim Seburn, Maggie Smiley, John Stevens, Scott Watson (Peninsula Field Naturalists).

Note: Sector/Route leaders' names are in bold.

Lake Ontario Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory – 2008

Page 1									
SPECIES	Kingston	Quinte	Presqu'ile	Port Hope	Durham	Toronto Area (see Page 2)	Hamilton	Niagara	TOTAL
Greater W-fronted Goose									
Snow Goose									
Brant							1		1
Cackling Goose				1		1			2
Canada Goose	2683	8	67	1646	2193	7475	3533	2734	20339
Mute Swan	19	111	464	13	17	429	118		*1171
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	1		18	40	130		*191
Tundra Swan	188		8			1			197
swan sp.	311					1			312
Wood Duck						1	1		2
Gadwall	768			1	3	907	41		1720
Eurasian Wigeon									
American Wigeon	37					54			91
American Black Duck	1767	42	108	26	28	398	184	17	2570
Mallard	5820	589	40	680	580	7645	4173	509	20036
Mallard x Black Duck						5	3		8
Northern Shoveler						11	42		53
Northern Pintail	4				1	2	7		14
Green-winged Teal	1						12		13
Canvasback			2			1	191		194
Redhead	70		65	3	56	2105	14	4	2317
Ring-necked Duck	2					13	84		99
Greater Scaup	27389	3	1807	304	5241	40254	5726	1012	*81736
Lesser Scaup	122		8	3	1	161	1792	12	2099
scaup sp.								16	16
King Eider							6		6
Harlequin Duck			1			3			4
Surf Scoter	3					1	101	13	118
White-winged Scoter	411	206	47	2	4	849	5835	609	7963
Black Scoter							13	2	15
Long-tailed Duck	12416	2707	2211	311	52	11307	15798	2430	47232
Bufflehead	1268	35	205	140	348	1834	352	1012	5194
Common Goldeneye	4839	220	1673	716	666	4453	5536	2474	20577
Barrow's Goldeneye			1			1			2
Hooded Merganser	36	3		1	1	58	37	1	137
Common Merganser	4647	12	40	15	16	831	9569	2717	17847
Red-breasted Merganser	340	60	195	203	170	1007	556	5381	7912
merganser sp.	3515					7		30	3552
Ruddy Duck	1					2	425		428
duck sp.	5248			20	11	1		43	5323
Red-throated Loon								1	1
Common Loon	1					2	1	1	5
Pied-billed Grebe							3	1	*4
Horned Grebe	2					1	1	1	5
Red-necked Grebe							3		3
Double-cr. Cormorant	2						56	16	74
American Coot	44	1	1		1	10	33	4	94
Total Birds	71955	3998	6944	4085	9407	79871	54377	19040	249677
Total Species	27	14	19	16	18	31	33	21	39
Participants	28	2	1	6	5	32	11	15	100
Party-hours	48.5	8	7.75	12.5	10.5	62	23	15	187.25
Bald Eagle	65		1						*66

* Record high count.

Page 2	Toronto Area (Bronte Harbour to Whitby Harbour)							
SPECIES	Route 1	Route 2	Route 3	Route 4	Route 5	Route 6	Route 7	Subtotal
Greater W-fronted Goose								
Snow Goose								
Brant								
Cackling Goose							1	*1
Canada Goose	3867	98	118	205	162	290	2735	7475
Mute Swan	173	4	17	34	45	100	56	*429
Trumpeter Swan	27	3		1		9		*40
Tundra Swan	1							1
swan sp.	1							1
Wood Duck		1						1
Gadwall	29	6	346	109	60	208	149	907
Eurasian Wigeon								
American Wigeon			14	3	9	14	14	54
American Black Duck	124	17	47	21	4	94	91	398
Mallard	1768	467	636	1107	172	2089	1406	7645
Mallard x Black Duck							5	5
Northern Shoveler					3	8		11
Northern Pintail	1		1					2
Green-winged Teal								
Canvasback			1					1
Redhead			945	715	137	108	200	2105
Ring-necked Duck			8	4		1		13
Greater Scaup	5206	342	855	6562	44	21941	5304	*40254
Lesser Scaup		10	1	28	116	5	1	*161
scaup sp.								
King Eider								
Harlequin Duck					2	1		3
Surf Scoter				1				1
White-winged Scoter	3		63	41		38	704	849
Black Scoter								
Long-tailed Duck	161	2000	1692	2016	826	1381	3231	11307
Bufflehead	605	40	75	205	71	339	499	1834
Common Goldeneye	769	95	237	328	35	1257	1732	4453
Barrow's Goldeneye						1		1
Hooded Merganser	1	2	7	20	12	16		58
Common Merganser	92	9	408	215	56	43	8	831
Red-breasted Merganser	103	46	79	328	44	42	365	1007
merganser sp.	7							7
Ruddy Duck						2		2
duck sp.	1							1
Red-throated Loon								
Common Loon			2					2
Pied-billed Grebe								
Horned Grebe				1				1
Red-necked Grebe								
Double-cr. Cormorant								
American Coot	1			2		6	1	10
Total Birds	12940	3140	5552	11946	1798	27993	16502	*79871
Total Species	17	15	20	21	17	23	17	*31
Participants	5	2	4	6	3	2	10	32
Party-hours	15	7	7.25	7	4.75	7	14	62
Bald Eagle								

* Record high count.

Glenn Coady, 604 – 60 Mountview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 2L4 Email:glenn_coady@hotmail.com



BOOK LAUNCH – Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario 2001- 2005

Publication of the 2nd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas in January 2008 marked the culmination of eight years of effort that started, behind the scenes, back in 1999. Fieldwork ran from 2001–2005, and completion of the book took another two years. This massive project, with five sponsoring organizations (both governments and NGOs), involved over 3000 volunteer atlasers across the province, who put in over 150,000 hours during the five years of fieldwork.

Many TOC members contributed their time and effort, and in the GTA five of seven Regional Coordinators and their Assistants were TOC members. For those who took part in the 1st Atlas (1981–1985), some comparisons are in order. The 2nd Atlas received about 25% more effort in terms of hours spent in the field, benefited from Internet technology, including online data entry that provided rapid feedback, and introduced point counts as a method for mapping abundance and estimating numbers. This meant more work for those who did them, including the teams of specialists who helped fill in this data in many squares across Ontario.

All atlasers can be justifiably proud of their combined achievement. The 2nd Atlas is a massive tome, with 706 pages, weighing in at 3.5 kg (checked on bathroom scale)! It is not something to read from cover to cover at one sitting (though you are welcome to try), but rather to be dipped into as an essential reference for every serious Ontario birder. There is a vast amount of information here, and even more in the Atlas database itself. The maps allow for comparison with the 1st Atlas, and seem to provoke as many questions as they do answers.

Publication of the 2nd Atlas was celebrated with ‘book-launches’ held in Ottawa on 30 January and at the ROM in Toronto on 10 February 2008. For those dyed-in-the-wool atlasers, there are less than thirteen years to wait until the next one gets under way! In the meantime, there are opportunities to keep in shape by assisting with the ongoing Maritimes Atlas and the new B.C. Atlas (starting up this year). *Roy Smith*



Some **TOC atlasers** at the Toronto Ornithological Club Meeting on 11 February 2008: Front row, kneeling (left to right): Jeremy Hatt, Manmoha Panesar, Teresa Santos, Mike Cadman, Glenn Coady; Rear, standing (left to right): Don Barnett, David Milsom, Gavin Platt, Pat Hodgson, Sandra Eadie, John Catto, Fred Bodsworth, Mark Cranford, Barbara Kalthoff, Joan Winearls, Jean Iron, John Carley, Margaret Catto, Mary Ellen Hebb, Doug Woods, J. Bruce Falls, Gene Denzel, Winnie Poon, Hugh Currie, Roy Smith, Charlene Denzel. *Photo taken by Bruce Ferry.*

Royal Ontario Museum, *Toronto* 10 February 2008



Alison Paul and Audrey Nowicki checking off guests at the admissions table. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



Atlas Publishers: (Left) Ontario Field Ornithologists, Bird Studies Canada, Ontario Nature, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Environment Canada/Canadian Wildlife Service. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



Sandra Eadie (right) distributing atlas books. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



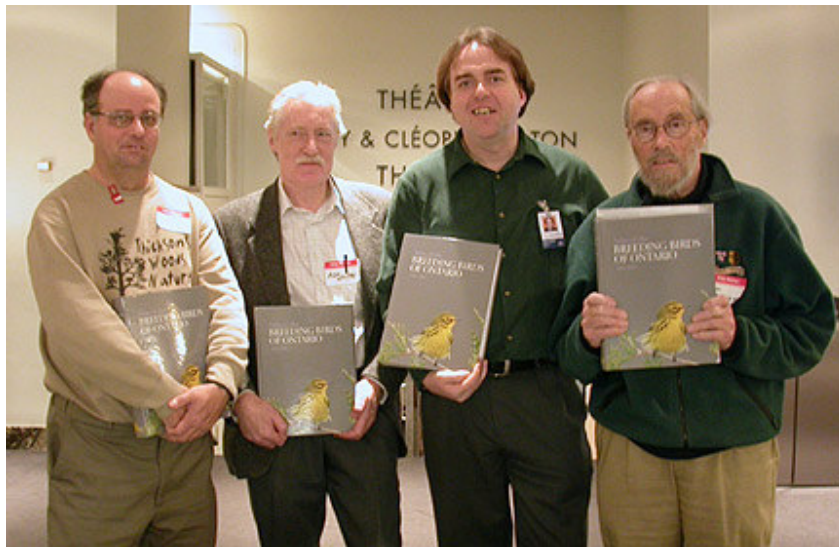
Allyson Parker and Tyler Hoar (volunteers) at sales tables. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



(Left) Jon McCracken, Roy Smith, Winnie Poon. *Photo © Jean Iron.*



Mike Cadman (left), **Editor**, book signing for John and Margaret Catto. *Photo © Jean Iron.*



GTA Atlas **Regional Coordinators** (left to right): Rayfield Pye (Region 46 assistant RC), Roy Smith (Region 12 assistant RC), Glenn Coady (Region 12 RC), Theo Hofmann (Region 45 RC). Absent: William D. McIlveen (Region 10 RC), Geoff Carpentier (Region 46 RC), Bill Edmunds (Region 45 assistant RC). *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



Mark Peck (Master of Ceremonies).
Photo © Jean Iron.



(Left) Rob Dobos, Glenda Slessor, Jean Iron, Bob Curry, Caroline Schultz (Ontario Nature), Andrew Couturier & Denis Lepage (Atlas publication Editors), George Finney (Bird Studies Canada). *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



Left to right: Glenn Coady, Tyler Hoar, Fred Bodsworth, Gerry Binsfeld, Ron Pittaway. *Photo © Jean Iron.*



Luc Fazio (left) and Donna Cansfield (Ontario Minister of Natural Resources). *Photo © Jean Iron.*



Inspecting the finished product (left) Bob Curry, Ross James, Roy Smith. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



More book signing, Harry Lumsden (front); Roy Smith and Cindy Cartwright (partly hidden) at the back. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



Reception in the Glass Room. *Photo © Winnie Poon.*



TOC volunteers (From left): Sandra Eadie, Alison Paul, Audrey Nowicki, Mike Cadman, Jan Doherty, Teresa Santos, Nuala Doherty. Absent: Tyler Hoar, Winnie Poon. *Photo © Jean Iron.*