



TORONTO BIRDS

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by *Harry G. Lumsden*



COVER PHOTO

American Woodcock *Scolopax minor*

Photo © Sam Barone

The American Woodcock is one of our earliest returning spring migrants, with first arrivals often noted before all the winter snow has gone. Typical arrivals in the GTA now occur in the third week of March, and they may possibly be getting earlier. For example, Tozer and Richards (1974) provided 20 Mar 1966 as their earliest spring date, stating that “spring migrants are discovered in suitable breeding habitat during late March, and become common in early April”. Likewise, Speirs (1977) gave early dates for former Ontario County (now part of Durham region) as 13 Mar 1965, 14 Mar 1966, and 18 Mar 1957. However, the TOC database now holds at least five February records: 22 Feb 1984, Toronto Islands (Bob Yukich); 23 Feb 1984, Claireville, *Peel* (Gerard Binsfeld); 25-26 Feb 1984, Bronte, *Halton* (Mark Jennings and Ian Richards) (all in Parker *et al.* 1985); 22 Feb 1998, Leslie St. Spit (Barbara Reid); and 27 Feb 2000, Leslie St. Spit (Alfred Adamo). There is an even earlier date for the Hamilton area – one at Spencer Creek on 20 Feb 1954, by George North (Curry 2006). *Roy Smith*

This American Woodcock was photographed on 15 May 2005 at Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent*.

Literature Cited:

Curry, R. 2006. Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas. Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Hamilton, Ontario. 647p.

Parker, B.D. *et al.* (Eds). 1985. Toronto Region Bird Report 1984. Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto. 68p.

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Tozer, R.G. and J.M. Richards. 1974. Birds of the Oshawa-Lake Scugog Region, Ontario. Alger Press, Oshawa, Ontario. 384p.

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

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

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – FEBRUARY 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.



Six **Greater White-fronted Geese** resting (middle row) at Newcastle Marina, *Durham*, 16 February 2008. Photo © Rayfield Pye.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 6 at west side, Newcastle Marina, *Durham* on 10th (Bill Gilmour fide DRBA) & on 16th [Documented] (RPye fide DRBA). 13 there on 24th (Gerry Ball, fide RPye).

SNOW GOOSE - 1 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 12th (SLaF fide DRBA) & on 14th (CSAM fide DRBA).

CANADA GOOSE - 1000 at Hwy 401 & Lakeridge Rd, Ajax, *Durham*, 1000 at Hwy 401 & Salem Rd, Ajax, *Durham*, 1000 at Hwy 401 & Holt Rd., *Durham* & 500 flying over at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 2nd (NMu,ICa). 5000 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

GOOSE SP. - 1 at Newcastle Marina, *Durham* on 16th (RPye fide DRBA), Greylag x Chinese Goose hybrid

TRUMPETER SWAN - 1 at Newcastle Marina, *Durham* on 3rd (JBMW,RPye), 2 (1 AD w/ tag #075, 1 juv) on 16th (CMH fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (untagged) IMM there on 28th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Bathurst St, Aurora, *York* on 14th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 (untagged) AD at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 80+ at LaSalle Marina, LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS). 4 (2 AD, 2 juv) at HBP [E] on 16th (SCH) & on 23rd (SLaF,Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS), no wing tags seen. 12 (11 AD, 1 juv) at Bluffer's Park on 24th (RBHS,WP), juv had tag # 198; some ADs had tags but not read. 6 (2 AD, 4 juv) at Staines Rd Pond on 24th (RBHS,WP), 1 AD had a tag but not readable.



Male **Mallard** at Humber Bay Park East, *Toronto* on 16 February 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.



Female **Harlequin Duck** at Humber Bay Park East, *Toronto* on 4 February 2008. Photo © Sherry Lau.



Male **Bufflehead** at Humber Bay Park East, *Toronto* on 16 February 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.

AMERICAN WIGEON - 2 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 15th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 (2 M, 1F) there on 16th (SLaF, John Stirrat, Pickering Naturalists).

MALLARD - 250 flying over at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 2nd (NMu, lCa), 360 at Mimico Creek: Bloor to Glenroy on 15th (SCH) & 512 at Lambton Woods on 18th (SCH), along Humber River from James Gardens S to railway bridge.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 1 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 15th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS).

CANVASBACK - 30 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at HBP [E] on 23rd (SLaF, Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 25th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

GREATER SCAUP - 400 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 3rd (RPye).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 2 (M & F) at Foot 23rd St, Etobicoke on 3rd (BPB fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 F at Humber R. Mouth, Sunnyside on 10th (GC,&).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 6 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 2nd (BFe) & 1 M at CSSP on 3rd (BPB fide OUTON). 1 at HBP [E] on 10th (GC,&) & 2 there on 23rd (SLaF, Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS). 13 at HBP [W] on 16th (SCH) & 10 there on 24th (Josh Mansell fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 M at South Shell Park, *Halton* on 16th (SLaF, John Stirrat, Pickering Naturalists).

HOODED MERGANSER - 7 at Old Mill (Humber River/Bloor) on 15th (SCH) & 2 (M & F) at HBP [E] on 23rd (SLaF, Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* from 25th to 27th (JDL fide DRBA).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 35 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 19th (SLaF fide DRBA).

RUDDY DUCK - 2 at HBP [E] on 10th (GC,&) & 1 there on 16th (SCH).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - 1 M at Steeles E of Reesor Rd., *York* on 17th (GDe) & 1 at Sideline 34, Pickering, *Durham* on 18th (SLaF fide DRBA).

WILD TURKEY - 3 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 14th (CSAM fide DRBA), 11 on 18th (RBHS, WP) & 3 M there on 27th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 20 at Newtonville Rd N of Lakeshore, *Durham*, 33 at Conc 7, W of Best Rd., *Durham* & 116 at Darlington/Clarke Townline, *Durham* all on 16th (RPye fide DRBA). 7 at Sideline 28 & Conc 7, *Durham* on 23rd (FP fide DRBA).

HORNED GREBE - 2 at HBP [E] on 16th (SCH) & 4 there on 23rd (SLaF, Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at HBP [W] on 24th (Josh Mansell fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 3rd (JBMW, RPye) & on 16th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Lambton Woods on 18th (SCH) & 1 at Whitby, *Durham* on 24th (JWi, BKa).

TURKEY VULTURE - 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 23rd (DRuch fide DRBA), 1 at Brock St & Hwy 401, *Durham* on 24th (D. Dalke fide DRBA) & 1 at Thickson's Rd S of Victoria St., *Durham* on 24th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Old Whitby, *Durham* on 24th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Mill St & 401, Newcastle, *Durham* on 27th (Dave Shirley fide DRBA).

BALD EAGLE - 2 (1 AD, 1 4Y) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (J. McKnight fide DRBA), 1 AD at Guelph Line, *Halton* on 4th (Glen Steplock fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 AD at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 18th (David Connell fide TOC Website). 7 (incl 3 1W, 1 AD) at LaSalle Marina, LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 (2 AD, 5 imm) there on 23rd (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 24th (R. Stephenson fide DRBA) & 1 AD there on 25th & 27th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 M at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 1 F at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 24th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (JBMW,RPye), 3 at Ronald C. Deeth Park, Whitby, *Durham* (Thickson Point Area) on 13th (NMu,ICa), 2 at Thickson's Rd, *Durham* on 19th (SLaF fide DRBA) & on 23rd (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Singles at Bragg Road, Bowmanville, *Durham* on 3rd (JBMW,RPye), Lambton Woods on 6th (SCH), Ritson Rd & King St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 8th (SLaF fide DRBA) & at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 15th (MDW fide DRBA).

COOPER'S HAWK – 7 reports of singles from 3rd to 25th & 2 at Hwy 9 at Cardinal Golf Course, *York* on 23rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 2 at Thickson's Rd, *Durham* on 23rd (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

MERLIN - Singles at Gibb St. Oshawa, *Durham* on 2nd (DRuch fide DRBA), Ritson Rd & King St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 8th (SLaF fide DRBA), Ritson Rd & 401, Oshawa, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA) & at Trayborn Dr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 28th (NMu).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 2 at Clarica Centre, Islington on 15th (SCH). 2 at Lift Bridge, Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 16th (SLaF,John Stirrat,Pickering Naturalists), on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24th (DJM,& fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT - 1 at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 2nd (BFe), 3 at CSSP on 3rd (BPB fide OUTON), 5 at LaSalle Marina, LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at HBP [E] on 16th (SCH), 2 on 23rd (SLaF, Carolyn King, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 or 7 at HBP [W] on 24th (Josh Mansell fide ONTBIRDS).

ICELAND GULL - 2 at Bluffer's Park on 18th (JI) and 3 (1 1W, 1 3W, 1 AD) there on 24th (WP, RBHS).



Bluffers Park, *Toronto* hosted several **Kumlien's Gulls** of various ages, shown here an uncommon 3rd basic (left) and an adult (right), on 18 February 2008. Photo © Jean Iron.

GLAUCOUS GULL - Singles at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 10th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), Newcastle Marina, *Durham* on 16th (RPye fide DRBA) & at LaSalle Marina, LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 22nd (FP fide ONTBIRDS).

ROCK PIGEON - 562 at Burnhamthorpe/Dundas area on 15th (SCH).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 heard at Erskine Ave, *Toronto* on 24th (JWi,BKa) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

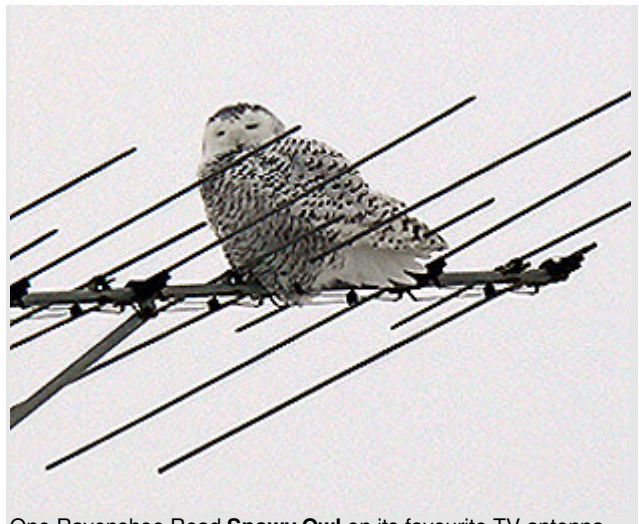
GREAT HORNED OWL - 3 at LSS on 3rd (Matthew Rossi fide OUTON).



Part of the **Ravenshoe Flats**, Holland Marsh, *York*; looking north along old Yonge Street, 16 February 2008. This is one of the most reliable areas for finding a wintering Snowy Owl in the GTA. Photo © Winnie Poon.

SNOWY OWL - 1 F at CSSP @ 11:00hrs on 2nd (WER fide ONTBIRDS), on roof of the Filtration Plant (apparently had been there about a week, fide David Hallett). It was seen again at CSSP on 8th (John Millman, & fide ONTBIRDS) & on the Western Spit of CSSP on 18th (SCH). 3 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 there on 11th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 (F or imm) there on 16th (RBHS,WP) & 1 there on 24th (FP fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (v. white) M at Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 24th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) was his first and only record for this part of the marsh this winter.

BARRED OWL - 1 at Metcalf St, Newcastle, *Durham* on 2nd (NMu, ICa), and 1 at Halls Rd, *Durham* on same date (SLaF fide RPy). 1 at LSS on 3rd (Matthew Rossi fide OUTON), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* @ 07:00hrs on 16th (J. Skene fide RPy). One at Conc 7 and Westney Rd, *Durham* on 9th and 13th (JDL fide RPy), and one at Altona Forest, *Durham* on 17th (Rob Wilson fide RPy). 1 at Royal York & Bloor on 21st (anon fide 'Metro' (free newspaper), which published a photo of it perched on a 'No Parking' sign!). 1 at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 22nd (MJL fide ONTBIRDS), in tree opposite the historic LeGrayly brick house; also seen on 24th (RPy).



One Ravenshoe Road **Snowy Owl** on its favourite TV antenna, *York* 26 January 2008. Photo © Gene Denzel.

GREAT GRAY OWL - 1 at Shoal Point Road, *Durham* @ 17:00hrs on 2nd (NMu,ICa); seen again on 3rd (C. Adey fide RPy).

LONG-EARED OWL - 2 at Ronald C. Deeth Park, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (NMu,ICa), 2 (found dead) at CSSP (Andrew McKinley fide OUTON) & 1 dead one still there on 16th (SCH). 3 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 4th (JLo fide RJF) (Fleming 2008) & 1 at LSS on 24th (RLau).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 at Lambton Woods on 7th (SCH) & 1 at Thompson Memorial Park on 15th (RLau).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at Edge Pegg Property, *Durham* on 13th & 2 there on 18th (JDL fide DRBA). 1 at Lambton Woods on 18th (SCH) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 9 at Lambton Woods on 18th (SCH).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 1 at LSS on 2nd (JLH) & 1 at Lambton Woods on 18th (SCH).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, York on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York on 3rd (Hart Brasche,GCam, fide RJF) & 1 at Beatrice W of Ritson, Oshawa, Durham on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA). 1 at Wilket Creek Park on 16th (JWi,BKa) & 1 F at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, York on 23rd (FP fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHRIKE – 8 reports of singles from different locations from 2nd to 24th.

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Brock Rd & Conc 7, Durham on 23rd (FP fide DRBA).

HORNED LARK - 14 at Newcastle area, Durham on 2nd (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS) & 35 at Bragg Road, Bowmanville, Durham on 3rd (JBMW,RPye). 20 (prairie subspecies) at Halls Rd., Durham on 4th (RJP,JI, fide DRBA), 20 on 11th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 15 there on 12th (SLaF fide DRBA). 15 at Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, York on 24th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 at Darlington P.P. Access Road, Courtice, Durham on 29th (SLaF fide DRBA).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 50 at Lynde Shores C. A., Durham & 25 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 13th (NMu,ICa).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 5 at Mimico Creek S of Van Dusen on 15th (SCH).

BROWN CREEPER - Singles at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, York on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS) & at LaSalle Park, Halton on 16th (Rick Thornton fide ONTBIRDS).

CAROLINA WREN - 2 at Mill St., Bond Head, Durham on 14th, had been there for the last 2 weeks & reported again on 28th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Glenburnie Rd, Port Credit, Peel on 16th (Rob Dinniwel fide Edward Dinniwel, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Windsor Valley Place, Courtice, Durham on 17th (S. Williams fide DRBA).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 7 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 4 (3 M, 1 F) at Toronto Golf Club, Peel on 17th (Natalie Mills fide OUTON) & 3 at Sideline 4 nr. Mt Zion, Durham on 24th (JWi,BKa).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Halls Rd., Durham on 10th (J. McKnight fide DRBA) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 23rd (WER, David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 2 at Westney Rd between Conc 7 & 8, Durham on 3rd (C. Adey fide DRBA), 24 at Beatrice W of Ritson, Oshawa, Durham on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 12 at Park Rd, Keswick, York on 18th (Walter Hyde fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – only 24 reports this month, as befits the ‘dead-of-winter’ period. There were 7 from Toronto, 6 from York, 7 from Durham, 1 from Peel and 3 from Halton; excluding duplication these involved about 21 territories. Thanks to this month’s contributors: AA; anon fide OUTON; GC; GDe, Charlene Denzel; SLaF; SCH; THo; BKa; RLau; Josh Mansell fide ONTBIRDS; WP; RJF,WHNC fide ONTBIRDS; RBHS; JWi; DW.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 12 at Westney Rd, between Con 7 & 8 (Claremont area), Durham on 3rd (C. Adey fide DRBA), 2 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, York on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 250 at Solina Rd, Courtice, Durham on 3rd (JBMW,RPye) & 200 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., York on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS). 50 at Queensway, N of Old Homestead Rd, Keswick, York on 20th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 24th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 100+ at Bruce St, N of Ravenshoe Rd., York on 24th (FP fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, Durham on 26th (GCarp fide DRBA).

CEDAR WAXWING - 30 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, York on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 25 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 24th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 50 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, Durham on 26th (GCarp fide DRBA).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at Port Credit Harbour, Peel on 2nd (BF), in J.J. Plaus Park (behind Snug Harbour restaurant). 1 at Bronte Woods, Halton on 9th (Graham Jones fide ONTBIRDS), along pipeline midway between Shell Park and Rebecca at a backyard feeder. 2 at Humber R. Mouth, Sunnyside on 10th (GC,&), seen at Sheldon Lookout on CCFEW outing. 1 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 22 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 13th (NMu,ICa), 30 at 8th Line & Lower Baseline, Halton on 23rd (RBHS,WP) & 41 at 5545 8th Line, S of Britannia, Halton on 23rd (RBHS,WP).

SONG SPARROW - 2 at LSS on 2nd (JLH), 4 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 12th (SLaF fide DRBA), 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 23rd (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at South Trail, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (JWi, BKa).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 at HP on 5th & 2 on 18th (SMF). 2 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 9th (GDe).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 15th (MDW fide DRBA).

SNOW BUNTING - 20 at Bragg Rd N of Concession St., *Durham* on 3rd (RPye fide DRBA), a large flock at Hwy 9 W of Jane St., *York* on 3rd (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 30 at SR #1 off Walkers Line, *Halton* on 4th (Glen Steplock fide ONTBIRDS) & 200 at horse farm at Hwy 9 & Jane St., *York* @ 17:40hrs on 16th (RBHS,WP). 10 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 11th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 35 on 12th (SLaF fide DRBA), 37 on 14th (CSAM fide DRBA) & 30+ there on 27th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 25 at Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 24th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 30 at Woodchoppers Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 24th (FP fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 15 at 158 Newton Dr., Willowdale on 1st (DW), new record for his backyard (previous high was 14). 17 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* & 14 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

* ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 M at Edge Pegg Property, *Durham* on 18th (JDL fide DRBA) & on 19th [No doc. seen] (JDL fide RPye).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 3 at Sideline 34, Pickering, *Durham* on 18th (SLaF fide DRBA).

PINE GROSBEAK - 9 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 3rd (THo), 15 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 3rd (Hart Brasche,GCam, fide RJF) & 20 at 15th SR & 4th Line, *Halton* on 3rd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 26 at Rossland & Somerville, Oshawa, *Durham* on 10th (THo fide DRBA) & 9 at Aurora, *York* on 25th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS).

HOUSE FINCH - 13 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

RED CROSSBILL - 1 M at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 23rd (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 3 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 3rd & 3 at Rossland & Somerville, Oshawa, *Durham* on 10th (THo fide DRBA).

COMMON REDPOLL - 10-12 at McCowan S of Davis Dr., *York* on 23rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

EVENING GROSBEAK - some heard at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 23rd (AA).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; Gcam Gordon Cameron; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; GDe Gene Denzel; BDil Bruce Di Labio; KDu Keith Dunn; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; SMF Steven Favier; BFe Bruce Ferry; RJF Ron Fleming; JLH Jeremy L. Hatt; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; CMH Carol Horner; JI Jean Iron; BKa Barbara Kalthoff; SLaF Steve LaForest; RLau Rick Lauzon; MJL Marcus J. Lise; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; JLo Joan Love; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; FP Frank Pinilla; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; WER Wayne E. Renaud; DRuch Dave Ruch; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; RGT Ron Tozer; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; MDW Mike Williamson; JWi Joan Winearls; DW David Worthington.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

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Trumpeter Swans in Ontario 1982 – 2006

Harry G. Lumsden

Introduction

After 24 years of effort, the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program has achieved all its objectives. It had a slow start. It was not until Scott Paper Ltd. started to fund the program in 1990 through the recommendation of Don Petit that real progress began. We now have a self-sustaining population of Trumpeters in southern Ontario with about 131 breeding age pairs. The invasion of western Ontario by swans from the United States continues and the eastern Ontario population grows slowly. The program will change course with emphasis on banding and tagging. The Canadian Wildlife Service has issued two banding sub-permits to Beverley Kingdon who will operate on the wintering grounds at La Salle Park and to Julie Kee who will band the swans at Wye Marsh and vicinity. We will continue to measure the growth and well being of the population.

Captive Pair Production 2006

In 2006, only seven captive pairs out of 11 nested. They raised 21 cygnets, which have been tagged and banded at their home ponds where they will be allowed to fly free. We shall not be using the Fair Lake holding pens in future and will not be moving cygnets to new release sites. The last 26 swans from Fair Lake were released at two sites in Prince Edward County in June.

Update on Current Populations

The Western Ontario Population

This population of Trumpeters originated in Minnesota and Wisconsin as indicated by wing-tag and neck collar observations. It is occupying the MNR Districts of Fort Frances, Kenora and Dryden. These swans originated from eggs collected in Alaska and are therefore genetically derived from the Pacific Coast Population.

Darryl McLeod (MNR Fort Francis) led crews on two helicopter surveys funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation and piloted by Greg Hewing. They, and patrolling fire crews, found 73 swans consisting of 54 adults and 19 cygnets and confirmed 9 nest sites, three of which still contained eggs.

Fred Zroback (MNR Kenora) led a crew on a helicopter survey piloted by Norm Jones. They found 74 swans consisting of 8 broods containing 30 cygnets and 44 adults. Two more broods were reported, one from near Grassy Narrows and a second pair near Dryden. These surveys suggest that there is a population in the western region of well over 150 birds.

The Michigan-eastern Lake Superior Population

This population first appeared in 2005 in the Sault St. Marie area of Ontario, which lies adjacent to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Centered on the Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan, Trumpeters are spreading across the Upper Peninsula. In 2005 two broods were reported in July on St. Joseph's Island, Ontario. In addition 47 adult and sub-adult birds were seen in October 2005 and 44 in April 2006 close to the location of the 2005 broods (Donald Meyers pers. comm.). However, a survey flight carried out in June 2006 by Ilsa Schoenijahn (MNR Sault Ste. Marie) did not find any swans on St. Joseph's Island. Marcel Pellegrini (MNR) however, found a pair with 2 cygnets on Wabatongushi Lake east of Franz.

The Southern Ontario Population

This population was the first in Ontario to be established by release of Ontario captive bred swans. It occupies the area from Sudbury and Lake Nipissing south to the northern shores of Lake Erie, and from the Bruce Peninsula and Cambridge east to Rice Lake and Prince Edward County. The origin of this stock was mostly from the Rocky Mountain population interbred since 1993 with a few genetically different Pacific coast

birds. In 2005, a corrected calculation put this population at about 552 birds. At least 68 pairs attempted to breed in 2006 and, in addition, there are at least another 63 breeding age pairs in this population bringing the total to 131 potential breeders.

Most of this stock winters on the shores of Lake Ontario and at Wye Marsh where open water is maintained artificially. The early part of the winter of 2006 – 2007 was so mild that the swans did not move south when they usually do. The Severn River mouth, which normally attracts a few wintering swans, held over 100 into January 2007. Some swans usually remain at water areas that stay open inland, such as at Ramsey Lake near Sudbury, the Magnetewan River, Huntsville, the Grand River near St. George, near Caledonia and a number of sewage lagoons and marinas.

The Eastern Ontario Population

This population was started by escaped and wild bred Trumpeter swans from New York State. The first records of breeding came from Big Rideau Lake. To boost this nucleus of birds, captive bred stock was released at Portland, the Mac Johnson WMA, at Brockville and Cataraqui Creek at Kingston. Breeding in recent years has been recorded at a number of lakes and wetlands between Brockville, the Rideau Lakes and in Lanark County. Birds have been reported as far north as Clayton Lake. The population origin of the New York birds is unknown. They were the progeny of captives that were not rendered flightless as cygnets. The total number of swans in this area is uncertain but probably exceeds 50. The wintering areas seem to be on the Saint Lawrence River at Ivy Lee, New York and near Mallorytown.

Other Swans Recorded in Northern Ontario

There are a few summer records of Trumpeters pioneering far to the north. In 2003, two probably yearling Trumpeters were videotaped on the Swan river (53° N) (Abraham pers. comm.). In 2005, two Trumpeters with yellow wing tags were seen in May on a wetland south of Val Côté (49° 39' N 83° 24' W) (Pollard and Ross pers. comm.). In 2005, the first brood of Trumpeters in the Hudson Bay Lowlands was found by a Breeding Bird Atlas party on Little Sachigo Lake (54° 09' N 92° 11' W). Also in 2005 two possible Trumpeters were seen on Aquatuk Lake (54° 22' N 84° 33' W). (Donaldson pers. comm.) and a single bird on James Bay (Abraham and Ross pers. comm.).

Captive Breeding and Release Program

Releases of Marked Swans

Since 1982, 835 wing-tagged and banded Trumpeters have been released at 56 sites in southern and eastern Ontario. In addition, 277 wild-hatched birds have been caught and tagged as of 1 September 2006. In the last four years, an average of 220 tag numbers have been read and reported by naturalists. At one time, over 90% of the Ontario population were carrying tags and bands. This percentage has been greatly reduced in recent years by the production of wild-bred, unbanded birds. Also the markers do not last for the lifetime of many birds. We found the mean longevity of missing tags to have been 5 years and for bands to be 6.7 years. We are constantly re-trapping birds to replace missing markers and now, courtesy of Louise Laurin (CWS), have steel lock-on bands which should last the lifetime of the bird.

Swan Inventory in Southern Ontario

Trumpeter Swan tag numbers provide the base for estimating the population size. Birders and naturalists report a high proportion of the marked birds in southern Ontario. Between 1 September 2005 and 1 September 2006, 260 swan tag numbers were reported. There are always some tagged birds that are missed. By checking tag numbers recorded one year against the succeeding year and noting which birds were missed and must have been alive, it is possible to estimate a correction for unrecorded birds. This has been 9 to 12% in the last three years. Assuming that naturalists missed about the same proportion in 2006 as in previous years, we can add 20 birds to the 2006 total. Thus we probably have a total of at least 280 marked swans in southern Ontario.

To estimate the number of swans without tags, we can use the ratio of untagged to tagged birds recorded at winter concentrations in the winter of 2005; this was 54% untagged: 46% tagged. Thus we estimate 329 untagged swans which, when added to the tagged birds, gives a total of 609. To this must be added the

number of captives released, 51, and the number of wild cygnets produced, estimated at 116. The estimate for the year is 776 swans.

Mortality Throughout the Program

The causes of death identified from the carcasses submitted were determined by Dr. D. Campbell and his staff at the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at Guelph and by Dr. Graham Crawshaw at Metro Zoo or by Dr. Ripley at the North Simcoe Veterinary Clinic. We are most grateful for their help.

The losses summarized in Table 1 are from 1982 to September 2006. The cause of death of 197 birds that disappeared is unknown. The most important identified cause of loss of Trumpeters in Ontario was lead poisoning. Ninety-one were poisoned of which 23 were treated, survived and were released. Only one swan suffered from lead poisoning twice. Whether poisoned birds learn from their experience and normally do not eat pellets again is not known. The number of lead pellets recovered from the gizzard varied up to a high of 71. Many birds contained 5 to 30 pellets.

To detect trends in mortality and make comparisons the mortality figures have been divided into two time periods, before and after restrictions on the use of lead shot. There appears to have been a significant decline in the number of Trumpeters poisoned by lead from 1982 to 1997 compared to 1998 to 2006 [$\chi^2 = 18.13$ $P < 0.001$].

Table 1: Causes of sickness or death of Trumpeter Swans prior to the restrictions on the use of lead shot in the fall of 1997 and after with the requirement for use of non-toxic shot.

	1992 – 1997	1998 – 2006	Totals
Number of swans in sample	193	642	835
Lead poisoned	32 (16%)	59 (9%)	91 (11%)
Found dead	10 (5%)	42 (7%)	52 (6%)
Trauma *	13 (7%)	38 (6%)	51 (6%)
Disease	8 (4%)	23 (4%)	31 (4%)
	63	162	225

* Hydro lines, accident, highway, railroad.

A number of factors may be responsible. Depending on the nature of the substrate, lead shot sinks deeper in the mud with time. Waterfowl are more vulnerable to the current year's deposition of lead than to previous years of accumulation. In 1993, the use of lead shot was prohibited in Wye Marsh. In 1997, federal hunting regulations across Canada prohibited the hunting of migratory waterfowl with lead shot within 200m of a wetland. Hunters were required to use non-toxic shot. In 1999, this regulation was strengthened prohibiting the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting anywhere.

Depending on compliance with this regulation by waterfowl hunters, we should see a further decline in the frequency of lead poisoning in Trumpeters. Lead fishing weights however, are now responsible for an increasing proportion of lead poisoning losses. The use of lead sinkers up to 50g in weight is prohibited in National Parks and National Wildlife Areas but not yet elsewhere.

Another factor, which may have had an important effect on the quantity of lead shotgun pellets deposited in marshes, is the decrease in the number of waterfowl hunters. When the restoration program began in 1982, there were 144,436 migratory bird hunter permits sold. This has declined to 37% to 53,151 permits sold in 2005. I am grateful to Jack Hughes (CWS) for these statistics.

Occasionally, Trumpeter Swans kill one another. Usually this is the result of a territorial dispute or when an adult male tries to drive his offspring of the previous year out of his territory when starting to nest again. Death usually results when the victim is cornered in a fence and cannot get away. We have two records of a Trumpeter killing adult Mute Swans.

The survival time of swans submitted for diagnosis was calculated from the date of release to the date of death. Most of the lead poisoning deaths took place soon after release and averaged 1 year, 3 months. The range was 1 month to an exceptional 8 years 2 months. There seems to have been little change over the years in the frequency of loss from other causes and they also died soon after release. The average survival time among those found dead was 1 year 2 months, accidental deaths 1 year 4 months and disease 1 year 8 months.

Some hunters violate the regulations and shoot protected Trumpeters. We have evidence that at least 12 swans were shot since restoration began, and x-rays of sick birds taken in for treatment showed an additional 6 swans to have been wounded and recovered.

Treatment of Sick or Injured Swans

Over the years, many sick or injured swans were picked up and sent to the Wild Bird Clinic (now closed) at the Veterinary College at Guelph. Many swans that would otherwise have died were saved by Dr. Michael Taylor and his staff. They made a significant contribution to the program for which we are most grateful. In an unusual case illustrative of their care, a cygnet was discovered on the shore of Lake Ontario at Burlington on 27 January 2005 with a severe injury to his neck. A 15–18 cm section was completely skinned, exposing the spine, trachea and oesophagus (Figure 1). Beverly Kingdon and the Toronto Wildlife Rescue finally caught the bird on 7 February and took him to Dr. Taylor at Guelph. Examination showed that the exposed part of the trachea had frozen as had the oesophagus, which was also punctured. Among other treatments, a feeding tube was installed and antibiotics administered. A wound dressing of honey soaked gauze was used for 8 days. Thereafter, dressings of silver sulfadiazine were applied. For 12 days the dressing was changed every 48 hours. Eventually a section of the trachea, 10 cm long consisting of 16 tracheal rings, was removed and the severed ends stretched and stitched together. The oesophagus was repaired and a feeding tube left in place. The skin was stretched, closed and bandaged. New feather growth was noted 6 days after the surgery. The swan was recovered enough to be released into open pen at Aurora on 25 April 2005 and was finally released at La Salle Park on 20 December 2005. Figure 2 shows the healed wound with the longer feathers from the lower margin of the injury providing contrast with the shorter feathers of the upper neck.



Figure 1: Trumpeter cygnet with serious neck injury. Burlington, 27 January 2005. Photo © Bev Kingdon.



Figure 2: After surgery, recovered Trumpeter Swan shows the junction of the skin from the upper and lower margins of the injury, January 2007. Photo © Stu Beal.

Hatching Success of Captive Trumpeter Swans

In the first 18 years of the restoration program, we found that our breeding stock, which originated from the Rocky Mountain population, hatched only 56% of their eggs. These birds were kept in pairs on co-operators' ponds; they incubated and hatched their own eggs without artificial assistance. In a genetic study in 1997 Marsolais and White (pers. comm.) showed that this stock was very inbred. It seemed that introduction of new blood might help to improve hatchability.

In 1993, we collected 50 Trumpeter eggs in Alaska and Bill Carrick hatched them in his incubator. Forty-seven of these eggs contained live embryos of which 44 (94%) hatched. Thirty-eight (86%) of these were raised to flight stage. We kept 20 for pairing with the captive Rocky Mountain stock. We are grateful for permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska for permission to collect these eggs.

These Alaska birds provided a highly significant improvement in hatchability. Out of 472 eggs laid by pairs with one Alaska parent, 76% hatched compared with 353 eggs laid by Rocky Mountain pairs of which 55% hatched [X^2 MH=39.94 $P<0.0005$]. Survival to flight stage was also significantly better, the pairs with an Alaska partner raised 77% of their cygnets; the Rocky Mountain pairs raised 64% [X^2 MH=42.01 $P<0.0005$]. I am grateful to Dr. Beren Robinson who tested these figures for significance.

Colour Phases Among Swans

There are two colour phases of Trumpeter Swans. Some cygnets hatch with pure white down instead of a pearly grey colour (Figure 3). They are not albinos and have dark eyes. As they grow, they develop yellow legs and eventually a white and pink beak. Instead of moulting their down into a light grey-brown juvenile plumage, these white cygnets grow a white plumage in which they resemble adults (Figure 4). After their first winter, the beak develops black patches that, with time, become pure black. However, these "leucistic" swans retain their yellow legs throughout life. This colour phase is governed by variation in genes carried on the sex chromosome and is sex-linked and recessive in character. A very small percentage of the Trumpeters in Ontario carry the necessary gene combination. This year we have a brood on Big Rideau Lake containing two white cygnets; other broods at Bluffers's Park and Aurora have a single cygnet. There may be more among northern raised wild broods. Bird watchers should be interested in picking out this interesting colour phase and reporting their observations.



Figure 3: The leucistic cygnet is strikingly different from its normal grey siblings. *Photo © Harry Lumsden.*



Figure 4: Leucistic Trumpeter cygnet photographed on 15 February in its 1st winter plumage. *Photo © Harry Lumsden.*

Migration

Migration of Ontario Trumpeter Swans

The swans nesting in western Ontario are completely frozen out in winter and return to their area of origin. Some go to the Ottertail River in Minnesota or the Crex Meadows area of Wisconsin. All go back and forth each year to their traditional wintering and breeding grounds. In southern Ontario, the breeders are frozen out of many of their northern breeding marshes and move in a south-easterly direction until they find open water and adequate food.

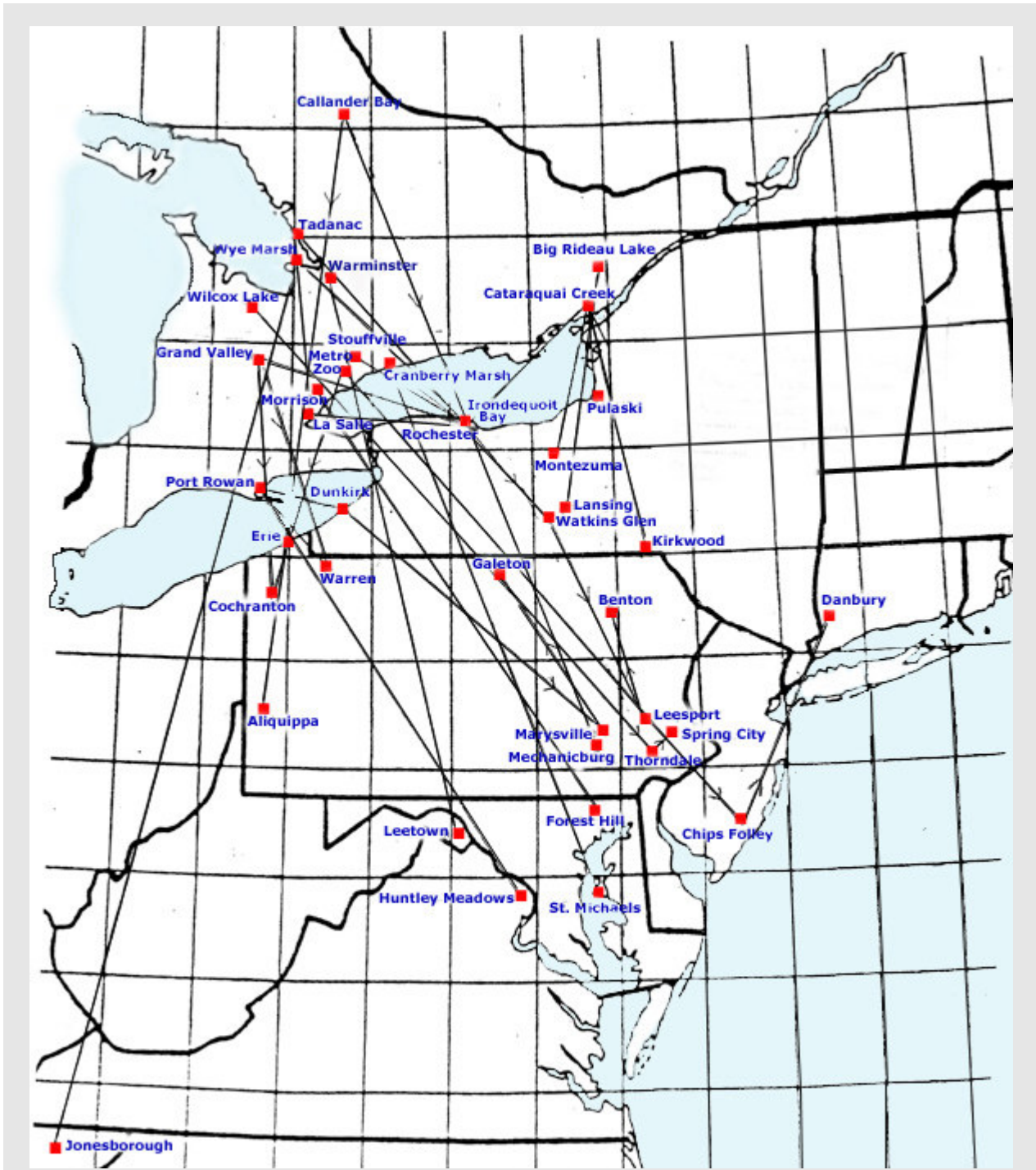


Figure 5: Selected movements of Trumpeter Swans from Ontario release sites to localities in the United States.

A study of the movements of the colour-marked swans in this population has shown that not many of these birds conform to the kind of traditional behaviour of those in the west. The females are generally faithful to their nesting marsh but only a few families seem to have developed a regular movement to the same wintering area each year. Of 138 marked swans four or more years old, 53% do not move far from their release site where there is open water in winter and either natural food or food supplied by the public. There were 43 birds (31%) that breed in the Wye Marsh area and winter at least some of the time at a La Salle Park on Burlington Bay. Only 7% have maintained a steady tradition of wintering at La Salle Park. Some swans are recorded at La Salle only from October or November to March. They then disappear into the north and we do not know where they spend the summer. Some return the next fall with a brood.

The number wintering regularly in the United States is comparatively small. Only 57 marked swans have been reported there between 1983 and September 2006. Most move in a south-easterly direction and 28 (49%) did not survive to return to Ontario. Because over the years 50% to 90% of the Southern Ontario population has been marked with wing tags, the number of unmarked birds that have moved to the United States is certainly very small. Figure 5 shows the movements of a selected number of birds that wintered in the U.S. Two or three marked birds have remained through the summer in the Montezuma area of north-central New York and two are still in the Laurel area of Maryland.

Induced Migration

Complete restoration of Trumpeter Swans in North America should include migration to their ancestral wintering grounds in the southern states. To date, relatively few birds have shown an inclination to winter there. In 1965, Bill Carrick discovered that captive raised Canada Geese, when they learned to fly, would follow vehicles such as trucks and boats. He suggested in 1989 that ultralite aircraft could be used to induce migration to specific wintering grounds and he taught Bill Lishman how to train Canada Geese to follow an ultralite.

In 1996, Bill Carrick experimented with flying Trumpeter Swans behind a fast boat. In 1997 and 1998 we gave 18 and 20 Trumpeters for an experiment to Wayne Bezner-Kerr, a student of Dr. Tom Nudds at the University of Guelph. He flew four Trumpeter cygnets beside an ultralite from Sudbury to the Muscatatuck NWR in Indiana in 1998. The distance is 1085 km (674 miles direct line). Four banded yearlings were seen on the dock from which they were trained in the spring of 1999. Only two of the band numbers however were read and proved to be the swans flown to Indiana. This was the first successful induced migration of Trumpeter Swans. Although banded, the birds were not wing tagged and we have subsequent history of only one. This female was trapped at La Salle Park in Burlington in the fall of 1999 and tagged #113. She went north with a mate to Grundy Lake Provincial Park, 71 km southwest of Sudbury in 2000 and 2001, returning to La Salle Park in the winter. She was killed on the railway line in the provincial park in the summer of 2001.

Breeding Biology

Breeding Age

Failure to nest was confirmed by observations of marked swans and their behaviour in April, May and June. The age of first breeding of Trumpeters in Ontario was very variable. Only 7 nested at two years old. Although samples are small, the peak of initiation for males appears to have been at age 3, but that for females was at age 4 (Table 2). Some delayed their first nest until unusually late in life. The pair that first nested at 10 years of age were siblings – same parents but different years. The oldest to initiate nesting was 12 years old. Female #823 (retagged twice) nested for 11 consecutive years with 943 (retagged three times).

Table 2: Age of nesting for the first time of male and female Trumpeter Swans.

Years of age	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	12	
Males	3 (4%)	27 (39%)	21 (30%)	12 (17%)	2 (3%)	4 (6%)	1 (1%)	0	70
Females	4 (7%)	15 (25%)	17 (29%)	10 (17%)	8 (14%)	3 (5%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	69

Pair Formation

Studies of the behaviour of captive, known-age marked swans were carried out at Aurora in 1993 – 1996. Sub-adult swans started courtship and copulation in February and March at 20 months of age. They were

promiscuous, changing partners at intervals. Some eventually formed stable pair bonds with older birds. Occasionally older male homosexual pairs formed and one pair copulated frequently between November and early December. This association broke up finally when one paired with a female. Pairs usually formed a year before nesting and copulation probably served to consolidate pair bonds. Among captives at Aurora, pairs were seen to form in January (1), February (3), February-March (1), March-April (2), April (1), June (2), July (1), August (1), October (2) and November (1).

Divorce

Divorce is defined as a pair that bred together then separated and one of both bred with a different mate while their ex-mate was still alive. Examples are female #331 who bred with #262 for 5 years from 1998 – 2002. #331 then accepted #426 as a mate and bred with him for 3 years (2004 – 2006). #262 was still alive in 2006 and is not known to have mated again. #331 was successful in raising cygnets in each year that she nested.

Female #437 bred with #395 successfully in 2001 but failed in 2002. #395 lived until 2004 but #437 nested with #587 in 2003 but was not successful. It is not known if they attempted to breed in 2004 or subsequently although they stayed together until 2005.

Separation

The female #100 nested with #206 in 1993 and 1994. Her mate did not complete the 1994 migration to La Salle. In his absence in 1995, #100 mated with #338 and raised 6 cygnets. In 1995 they tried to nest again but #206 returned and fought with #338, disrupted the nesting attempt and it failed. In 1997 and 1998, #100 and #206 bred successfully. In March 1999, #206 flew into hydro wires and was killed. The female #100, paired immediately with #366 in April but did not nest until 2000 when the pair raised 3 cygnets. In 2001, they nested again but #100 was run over by a boat, injured and died under treatment. The male #366, mated again this time with #220 and nested unsuccessfully in 2002 to 2005. In 2006 they raised 5 cygnets.

Bereavement

We have records of at least 8 cases where a bereaved bird paired again but in most cases there was a gap of one year before nesting resumed with the new mate.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Trillium Foundation for their continued support for the restoration program and for provision of food for captive swans. We also thank David and Eleanor Wood for food used to trap swans in the banding program. We are most grateful to Kim Abell through whose advocacy the Garfield Weston Foundation funded our aerial searches for breeding swans in western Ontario and the Sault Ste. Marie area. Many organizations and individuals contributed to our funds. We thank the South Peel Naturalists, Dr. David E. Sergeant, Irving Langill, Gilbert Henderson, Wilmot L. Matthews, David Johnson, Dr. Ian Barker, Dr. Campbell MacArthur, Ron Haraker, Brigetta Gamm, Lynn France, Pat Paletta and Ray Kingdon. To assist our inventory of breeding swans, Stefan Foerster of the Cataraqui Conservation Authority searched the area by air north of Brockville and Julie Kee did flights in the Wye Marsh area. Gill Henderson and Harry Lumsden searched the Cambridge area and Ron and Carol Cooke and Beverly Kingdon covered the Lake Nipissing and Sudbury areas.

We are most grateful to our co-operators who cared for the captive breeding pairs so effectively for so many years: Bob Bell, Peter Calverly, Stefan Foerster, Gill Henderson, Karin Johnston, Irving and May-Jane Langill, Lisa McLeod, Colin Springett, Ross Tucker and Tom Van Hannen. We shall be transferring ownership of these pairs from the restoration program to these co-operators as the new owners. In future, we shall be releasing the production of these pairs from their home ponds if their owners agree.

We thank Dr. Michael Taylor of the Veterinary College at Guelph and Dr. Graham Crawshaw of Metro Zoo for their care of sick and injured swans. For many years of conscientious attention we thank Ron and Michael Bauman who fed the swans at Fair Lake where they were held for later release. We are grateful to the Grand River Conservation Authority for the use of these pens for so many years.

We thank Quinte Conservation and Terry Sprague for providing release sites in Prince Edward County. David Tomlinson and Irving Langill were invaluable in catching swans for tagging and banding. We thank Beverley

and Ray Kingdon for their work at La Salle Park and Julie Kee and Chris Michalak who trapped in the Wye Marsh area and fed and cared for the swans there.

The staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources and particularly the District Office at Aurora helped in many ways.

The Amherst Foundation acted as our bankers and Mrs. Myrna Wagner kept the accounts and paid the bills. Diana and Jennifer Lumsden received and transmitted the email traffic and typed the reports.

A very large number of birders and naturalists recorded wing tag numbers, which gave valuable information on swan movements and allowed us to calculate survival. This has been a major contribution throughout the program. Without the excellent numbered wing tags supplied by Dan Ralph of the Hennepin Technical Educational Institute, none of this would have been possible.

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Editors' Note:

This report was written in early 2007. Harry tells us that he is still actively catching and tagging Trumpeter Swans, as mentioned in this report. On 27 October 2007, the Ontario Bird Records Committee decided that Trumpeter Swans were now to be considered 'established' in Ontario, as of 1 January 2007 (Bain, M.J.C. 2007. OBRC Notes. OFO News 25(3):15, October 2007). Starting in January 2008, observant readers will have noted that we have removed the square brackets [] around Trumpeter Swans when recorded in the list of observations in *Toronto Birds*.



Family of Trumpeter Swans in Staines Road Pond, Toronto 24 February 2008. Photo © Winnie Poon.