



TORONTO BIRDS

Volume 2 Number 7
September 2008





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 123 – 124 Cover Photo: Red-headed Woodpecker

Page 125 – 130 Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: July 2008

Page 131 – 136 Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: August 2008

Page 137 – 140 Note: First nesting record of Red-necked Grebe in the City of Toronto – *Sandra Hawkins*



COVER PHOTO

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Photo © Jean Iron

The Red-headed Woodpecker has been designated as Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and of Special Concern by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), while across the province the probability of observation declined 64% between the 1st and 2nd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlases (Woodliffe in Cadman *et al.* 2007). Long-time local birders will know from personal experience that it has become scarcer in the GTA in recent decades. Since 2000, no more than 2 or 3 breeding attempts per year have been reported in the GTA (of course there may be under-reporting), while sighting reports from the TOC database indicate that the number of distinct occurrences has ranged from a low of 4 in 2008 (thus far), to highs of 14 in 2004 and 2006. However, it is possible that reporting may actually increase as it becomes scarcer, thus clouding the picture, and there may have been more reporting during the atlas years in 2001 – 2005.

Jean Iron's photo, taken at Point Pelee National Park on 9 May 2007, has captured the striking colour and pattern of this beautiful woodpecker. *Roy Smith*

Literature Cited:

Woodliffe, P.A., 2007. Red-headed Woodpecker, pp.320-321 in Cadman, M.D., D.A. Sutherland, G.G.Beck, D.Lepage, and A.R. Couturier, eds. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005. Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, Toronto.

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

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

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

We welcome potential cover photos, artwork and current photos for use in illustrating the bird report. Please send contributions in jpeg format to Winnie Poon winniepoon@sympatico.ca including date, location, subject, 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. All submissions are subject to review and editing.

Copyright reserved – No reproduction of material published herein, in whole or in part, shall be done without prior approval of the author(s).



GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – JULY 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 documentation and 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.

TRUMPETER SWAN - 5 (2 AD, 3 FY) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 6th & 2 there on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA), only the 2 young left.

WOOD DUCK - 8 (2 F, 6 FY) at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa) & 8 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 29th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 24 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPy fide DRBA) included a family of 5 (1 F, 4 FY).

GADWALL - 53 at LSS on 13th (RBHS).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 1 (eclipse) M at Bay D, LSS on 13th (RBHS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 5 (F plus 4 FY) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPy fide DRBA).

CANVASBACK - 3 (1 F, 2 FY) at Triangle Pond, LSS on 13th (RBHS), small downy young, estimated only 1-3 days old.

REDHEAD - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPy fide DRBA).

GREATER SCAUP - 1 M at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 6th (MJCB fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 1 M at Cell #2, LSS on 13th (RBHS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 12 at LSS on 13th (RBHS), 3 in Bay D; 2 in Triangle Pond; 7 in Cell 2. 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA), and 6 at Cell 3, LSS on 27th (AA).

RUDDY DUCK - 2 M at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 20th (RBHS,WP).

WILD TURKEY - 8 at Hwy 47 SW of Uxbridge, *Durham* on 20th (WP,RBHS).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPy fide DRBA).

RED-NECKED GREBE – A pair was found in Colonel Sam Smith Park on 11th, attending a nest with 3 eggs (SCH). This constitutes the first confirmed nesting for *Toronto* (see note elsewhere in this issue). At Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 19th there was a nest with 3 eggs and 1 newly hatched young in am; by evening there were 2 eggs and 2 young in nest. On the 21st this nest was found abandoned with 2 of the original 4 eggs remaining and no chicks were

found in the marsh, creek or harbour. The 2 nests on floating tires are now both abandoned, with no young fledged (GE fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST BITTERN - 1 at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 4th (Glen Titanic fide ONTBIRDS), 3 on 5th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS), 1 on 13th & 1 on 27th (GE fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

GREAT EGRET - 3 (unbanded) at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 1st, 1 on 15th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on 20th (RBHS,WP). 1 at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 7th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Bay 'C', LSS on 13th (RBHS) & 2 at LSS on 19th (EO'C fide OUTON). 2 at Conc 4, N of Durham Rd 8, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 24th (D. Nickle fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 4 at Liverpool Road, *Durham* on 6th (T & S. Wake fide DRBA), 5 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 flying S at Elgin Mills & Bayview, *York* on 29th (NMu).

OSPREY - 2 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* & 2 nests (1 with 1 young; one with 3 young) at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa). 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 2 (nest w 2 young) at Bloomington SR & Hwy 404, *York* on 20th (RBHS,WP), seen in nest on microwave tower. 1 flying over at Whitby, *Durham* on 25th (CSAM fide DRBA), 5 (4 AD, 1 juv) at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 flying over Church St & Bayly, *Ajax*, *Durham* on 31st (RPye fide DRBA).

BALD EAGLE - 1 IMM at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 JUV at Glenroy Ave & Glenview Blvd. on 22nd & 23rd (SCH). 2 JUV at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, *Ajax*, *Durham* on 29th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 at Hwy 115 @ Hwy 35., *Durham* on 29th (NMu,ICa).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 1 JUV at Univ. of Toronto Campus (Kings College Circle) @ 09:15hrs on 1st (Kathryn Mills fide ONTBIRDS) seen foraging on ground for earthworms!.

MERLIN - 5 (2 AD, 3 FY) at High St, Whitby, *Durham* on 17th; 3 young had left the nest and were flying from tree to tree in the area. The people who lived on the street have enjoyed them (RPye). On the 24th & 25th there were 4 (1 AD-F, 3 juv) still being seen there (RPye). *This is the 2nd confirmed breeding location for the GTA, following the Scugog Point, Durham site where breeding was first confirmed in 2005 (Aikins 2005).* 1 F at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 21st (GE fide ONTBIRDS).



The three fledged young **Merlins** on a spruce near the nest at High Street, Whitby, *Durham*, 25 July 2008. Photo © Rayfield Pye.



The playful fledged **Merlins** practising their flying and landing skills at High Street, Whitby, *Durham*, 25 July 2008.
Photo © Rayfield Pye.

PEREGRINE FALCON - 3 at King & Bay, Toronto on 18th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS) were seen soaring near Commerce Court N. 4 (2 AD, 2 FY) at Lift Bridge, Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 28th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 FY flying around; the other 2 FY have not been seen recently.

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th & 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA). 6 (1 AD, 5 FY) at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 27th (DW fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MOORHEN - 2 families at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA).

SANDHILL CRANE - 1 heard calling from direction of marshes at Lake Scugog, *Durham* on 6th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 12 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 18th (RJf fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 5 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa) & on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 3 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 1st, 19 on 15th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). & 2 there on 20th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 27th (DW fide ONTBIRDS). Three flying over the Flats, LSS on 27th (AA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 5 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 6th & 22 on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA). 11 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 15th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 16 there on 20th (RBHS,WP). 40 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 18th (RJf fide ONTBIRDS), 38 AD on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & ~20 there on 27th (DW fide ONTBIRDS).

SANDERLING - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* @ 11:00hrs on 19th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 2 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 18th & 1 on 19th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 1st & 2 on 15th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Nonquon S.L., Durham on 6th & 6 on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA). 2 at Flats, LSS on 13th (RBHS) & 3 at LSS on 19th (EO'C fide OUTON). 60 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 18th (NMu,ICa), 55 AD on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & ~20 (incl. 1 juv) there on 27th (DW fide ONTBIRDS). 9 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 31st (RPye fide DRBA).

DUNLIN - 1 at LSS on 19th (EO'C fide OUTON).

STILT SANDPIPER - 3 AD at Holland Landing S.L., York on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - 1 at Guelph Line Stormwater Lagoon, Halton on 9th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (*hendersoni*) at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 15th, 4 on 19th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), & 6 AD there on 20th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS), 2 had large amounts of retained basic feathering so probably in 1st summer (1st basic) plumage. 2 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 18th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS;NMu,ICa) & 2 AD there on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 19th (EO'C fide OUTON).

WILSON'S SNIPE - 1 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham on 27th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 9 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 18th (NMu,ICa), 1 AD on 19th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & 14 there on 27th (DW fide ONTBIRDS). 7 at Nonquon S.L., Durham on 19th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Bronte Harbour, Halton on 21st (GE fide ONTBIRDS).

CASPIAN TERN - 3 at Endikement, LSS on 13th (RBHS), no nesting this year. 22 at SE Tip, LSS on 27th (AA).

BLACK TERN - 5 at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham on 13th (RPye fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Kortright C. A., York on 5th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 2 (calling) at Nonquon S.L., Durham on 6th (MJCB fide DRBA), 1 at Jokers Hill Stables, York on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & at HP on 31st (SMF).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at John St, Oshawa, Durham on 7th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 seen carrying food at Thornton Rd & Oshawa Creek, Durham on 20th (RBHS,WP).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 5 (2 AD, 3 FY) at Bronte Marsh, Halton on 5th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 1 at Exhibition Place parking lot on 14th and 1 at 39 Harshaw Ave, Toronto on 18th (AA); 2 at CSSP on 22nd & 23rd (SCH).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 1 at Canadian Tire, Oshawa, Durham on 28th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 at Kortright C. A., York on 29th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 2 at Kortright C. A. (Pine Valley Dr), York on 29th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

ALDER FLYCATCHER - 1 at Canadian Tire, Oshawa, Durham on 31st (DRuch fide DRBA).



Black-billed Cuckoo drying out after recent rain, Durham, 20 July 2008.
Photo © Winnie Poon.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 2 at Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 5th (GC).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 1 at HP on 3rd, 6th & 10th (SMF). 1 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa) & 4 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 27th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

CAROLINA WREN - 2 (pair) at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 16th (DBar fide DRBA).

WINTER WREN - 2 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA).

MARSH WREN - 3 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* & 4 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – 1 at Lambton Park Prairie on 1st (AA), then 7 reports from 6th to 31st of 1 to 3 at HP (SMF). 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 29th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 5 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 5th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – In total there were 242 reports, broken down as: Toronto (43); Peel (74); York (62); Durham (55) and Halton (2). Field work by RBHS/WP accounted for most of those in *Toronto*, *Peel* and *York*, while Dave Ruch contributed many of the *Durham* reports. Others who reported this species were: AA; BB; Dave Brewer; GC; GDe; Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS; SCH; and NMu. As noted last month, much less fieldwork was done this season, compared to some previous years.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at Scott's Marsh, Whitby, *Durham* on 1st (DRuch fide RPye).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA).

PINE WARBLER - 1 at HP on 1st & 3rd (SMF). 1 at Mast Trail, Glen Rouge Park on 4th (SMF).

MOURNING WARBLER - 6 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st & 7 on 5th (RPye fide DRBA). 3 at Riverside Trail, Glen Rouge Park on 4th & 4 there on 15th (SMF). 1 F at Kortright C. A., *York* on 5th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 (2 M, 1 F) at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 29th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 singing M on 12th at SE end of High Tech Bridge, behind Home Depot, *York* was not in typical habitat and unexpected in this location (NMu).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 13 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa).

SONG SPARROW - 25 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (NMu,ICa).

* WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 AD at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th [No doc. seen] (NMu,ICa). *If documented, this would be only the 2nd 'summer' record ever, for GTA.*

INDIGO BUNTING - 3 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA), 5 at HP on 22nd (SMF) & 4 at Ganaraska Forest Centre, *Durham* on 29th (NMu,ICa).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 35 flying over Harding W of Yonge, Richmond Hill, *York* on 23rd (NMu).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK - 1 singing M at Patterson SR, W of Hwy 50, *Peel* @ 07:30hrs on 4th (RSC fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen and heard there again on the 5th at 9:15hrs (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & at 20:30hrs (GC). [Previously documented with photos by WP – see June report]

ORCHARD ORIOLE - 1 singing M at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 1st (DRuch fide RPye) & 1 along waterfront trail there on 16th (DBar fide DRBA). 1 at Canadian Tire, Oshawa, *Durham* on 4th (DRuch fide DRBA), 1 AD-M at Floral Maple Leaf area, HP on 5th (SMF) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

RED CROSSBILL - 25 flying N at Hall St, Richmond Hill, *York* @ 08:35hrs on 24th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS). 20 flying over at Brookbanks Ravine @ 10:45hrs on 24th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 3 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 27th & 15 there on 29th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), feeding on cones of some young spruces along Pine Valley Drive. 12 at Ganaraska Forest Centre, *Durham* on 29th (NMu,ICa).

Cited Observers: AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; DBar Dennis Barry; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; RSC Robert S. Carswell; GC Glenn Coady; GDe Gene Denzel; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; GE Gavin Edmonstone; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; SCH Sandra Hawkins; FH Fred Helleiner; SLo Stan Long; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; NMu Norman Murr; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; DW David Worthington.

References:

Aikins, B.F. 2005. First Documented Nest Record of Merlin in the Greater Toronto Area. TOC Newsletter 157:1-3 September 2005.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 445 reports were added to the database for July 2008.

Please send reports to: Roy Smith 20 Harding Blvd. W, Suite 1002, Richmond Hill, ON L4C9S4. Tel: 905-508-4045 Fax: 905-508-4730 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 on 2nd page of this journal.

Preferred citation: Worthington, D. 2008. Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: July 2008. Toronto Birds 2(7):125 - 130.



Summer birding at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, York, August 2007. Photo © Winnie Poon.



GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – AUGUST 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 documentation and 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.

MUTE SWAN - 38 at TI on 14th (NMu).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 4 (2 AD, 2 FY) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 AD at CSSP on 3rd (RBHS,WP), one with tag # 126, other untagged.

[RUDDY SHELDUCK] - 1 at HBP [E] on 21st (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS).

WOOD DUCK - 8 (2M, 2F, 4 juv) at South Duck Pond, HP on 4th (RBHS) & 10 there on 7th (SMF). 27 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RPye fide DRBA).

GADWALL - 13 (4 F, 9 FY) at South Duck Pond, HP on 4th (RBHS).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 2 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 2nd (AA) & 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 30+ at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (JDL,& fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (OFO fide DRBA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 10+ at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

REDHEAD - 9 (5 M, 4 F) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 13th (Jack Walker fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RPye fide DRBA).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1 F at Boardwalk, TI on 30th (NMu).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 1 F at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 7 IMM at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd, 7 on 17th & 8 on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 17 (all juvs) at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 M at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON LOON - 2 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu,ICa,Peter McParland).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (DW).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 2 at CSSP on 5th (BPB fide OUTON), 85 at Lake Ontario off Rattay Marsh, *Peel* on 10th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 25th (NMacd,Gunnar Bessel).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - 1 was first reported by an unknown observer, flying over the Beach Canal at 18:20hrs on 7th. At 19:00 hrs it was photographed at Eastport Dr, Burlington, *Halton* (Ken Newcombe fide ONTBIRDS). It remained in the area and was often seen on 3rd Island N of CCIW up until the 16th (m.obs). [No doc. seen].

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 363 at East Point Park on 16th (DWW fide ONTBIRDS). They were seen between 06:00-08:00hrs and probably were coming from LSS, hence flying >21km to forage. DWW thinks there are over 20,000 at LSS now.

LEAST BITTERN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (OFO fide DRBA). 2 JUV at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 25th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS), photo shows extensive traces of down on nape and back.

GREAT EGRET - 1 at HP on 1st (SMF) & 1 (red band 47W) at Upper Middle Road Pond, *Halton* on 2nd (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS). This bird had been banded June 20th as a flightless young on Nottawasaga Is, *Simcoe*, it was reported again at Upper Middle Road Pond, *Halton* on 7th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 2nd (RBHS,WP), 1 at Hwy 2 & Lynde Creek, *Durham* on 12th (D. Drane fide DRBA) & 7 on breakwall at Sunnyside on 13th (Bill Halliday fide OUTON). 1 with red band on left leg at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th, 29th & 30th (JDL,& fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Humber Marshes Area on 25th (AA), 1 at Rattay Marsh, *Peel* on 25th (NMacd,Gunnar Bessel), 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 26th (NMu,&) & 2 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (DW).

GREEN HERON - 1 at Triangle Pond, LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 3 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 13 on 9th & 6 on 16th (RPye fide DRBA).

TURKEY VULTURE - 6 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 22nd (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 5 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 9th, 4 there on 16th & 23rd (RPye fide DRBA). 2 fledged young now flying around at Port Perry Baseball Fields, *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (young in nest) at Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 2nd (AA), nested on hydro tower. 1 at HBP [E] on 4th (RBHS), 1 at Stevenson & Hwy 2, Oshawa, *Durham* on 7th (DRuch fide DRBA), 2 at Samuel Wilmot Nature Centre, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 17th (OFO fide DRBA). 1 at Rattay Marsh, *Peel* on 10th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Glen Abbey Golf Course, *Halton* on 12th (Ian Clark fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (OFO fide DRBA). 10 reports from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 2 there on 16th & high counts of 14 on both 25th & 30th (JDL,& fide ONTBIRDS).

BALD EAGLE - 3 1Y at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* @ 12:24hrs on 31st (MDW fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 2 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd, 11 on 25th, 5 on 27th, 10 on 30th & 5 on 31st (JDL, CMRW fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th & 10 on 31st (MDW fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 IMM at HP on 1st (SMF) & 2 (1 JUV) at CSSP on 3rd (RBHS,WP), the nest used this year was seen N of the powerhouse. 1 JUV at CSSP on 5th (BPB fide OUTON), 1 AD-F at South Duck Pond, HP on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 30th (NMu).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 at Kingcross Estates, King City, *York* on 8th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th & 2 there on 25th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th & 8 on 31st (MDW fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Herald Rd & Warden, *York* on 31st (Jack Walker fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at TD Centre, King & Bay @ 12:00hrs on 13th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Yonge & Finch @ 19:00hrs on 15th (RBHS,WP) was seen flying around top of insurance building on W side of Yonge. 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MOORHEN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (OFO fide DRBA).

SANDHILL CRANE - 1 flying S at Ritson Rd & King St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 23rd (J. Foster fide DRBA). 9 flying over at White Pines & Lakeshore, *Halton* during week ending on 8th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 2 at Medd Rd Sod Farm, Reach St., *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

KILLDEER - 50 at Medd Rd Sod Farm, Reach St., *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA). 40 at Troon Ave, Maple, *York* at a temporary pool off McNaughton Rd. on 31st (WP,RBHS).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd (H. Peacock fide DRBA) & 2 at Maple Grove Rd, Hampton, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA) in a flooded field S of Taunton Rd. 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 22nd (DW fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 2nd & 16th (RBHS,WP). 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd, 7 on 17th & 4 there on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Maple Grove Rd, S of Taunton Rd, Hampton, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 3 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 2nd & 9 on 16th (RBHS,WP). 24 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd, 17 on 17th & 11 there on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA), 12 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 22nd (DW fide ONTBIRDS) & 15 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (JDL fide DRBA).

WHIMBREL - 1 JUV first found in am at East Point Park on 14th (Barry Harrison fide JCS, fide ONTBIRDS) was relocated there @ 15:30hrs (JCS,JFa, fide ONTBIRDS).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 3 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS) & 10 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 22nd (DW fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 17th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Medd Rd Sod Farm, Reach St., *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (OFO fide DRBA).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 9th (AA).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - 1 JUV at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* @ 16:00hrs on 10th (Peeter Musta fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen]

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 163 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd, 410 on 17th & 456 there on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 200+ at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 11th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 75+ there on 22nd (DW fide ONTBIRDS).

CASPIAN TERN - 2 at CSSP on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 52 flying E at East Point Park on 16th (DVM fide ONTBIRDS). 12 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 flying S at Dufferin & Major Mackenzie, *York* @ 19:40hrs on 31st (RBHS,WP) were seen while doing a watch for Common Nighthawks!

BLACK TERN - 2 (1 AD, 1 juv) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd, 17 on 17th & 17 on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Singles at TI on 14th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS), Baselands, LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS), Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu,&) & at Kennedy S of St Johns SR, *York* on 31st (Jack Walker fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 11 (at dusk) at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 11th (DRuch fide DRBA). ~24 at HP on 14th (Rob Gilroy fide OUTON), 2 heard calling at dusk at 39 Harshaw Ave, Toronto on 16th (AA) & 2 at Fleetwood & Adelaide, Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (Otto Peter fide DRBA). 4 at 16 Mile Creek, Sunningdale, *Halton* on 21st (Rod Murray fide ONTBIRDS), 13 at Bayview & Davisville from 19:45 to 20:15hrs on 24th (CMH,MSch, fide ONTBIRDS) & 61 at Humber Marshes Area on 25th (AA). 50 at Runnymede 2 blocks N of Bloor seen between 18:30 to 19:40hrs on 29th (Margaret Kelch fide ONTBIRDS). 628 at South Duck Pond, HP on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS), seen between 17:45-20:30h, most moving NE -> SW. Peak passage @ 19:18hr, when 81 birds in view at one time. 139 at Dufferin & Major Mackenzie, *York* on 31st (RBHS,WP), seen moving S or SW between 18:55-20:10hrs, in small groups. Some were very high and/or distant - at limit of visibility.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 13 at Garden St & Hwy 2, Whitby, *Durham* on 3rd (DRuch fide DRBA) & 35 at Baselands, LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd & 14 on 24th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 200-300 at South Duck Pond, HP on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS), seen between 17:45 -20:30hr.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 5 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (DJM) (Brydon 2008). 71 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (JDL,CMRW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 11 there on 31st (RPye fide DRBA).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 6 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 18th (BB) (Brydon 2008).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 11 at TI on 26th (NMu,&) & 6 on 30th (NMu).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (DJM) (Brydon 2008).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 11 at Ward's Island, TI on 30th (NMu).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 9th (DRuch fide DRBA).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Samuel Wilmut Nature Centre, *Durham* on 17th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at TI on 26th & 3 there on 30th (NMu,&).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 1 at TI on 14th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 30th (NMu).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 1 at CSSP on 3rd (RBHS). 4 at TI on 14th, 4 on 26th, 2 on 28th & 3 on 30th (NMu).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - 3 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 3 at TI on 14th, 10 on 26th & 12 on 30th (NMu). 11 (8 on peninsula X) at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 4 (1 AD, 3 juv) at Etienne Brule Park on 3rd (AA). 6 at TI on 14th, 8 on 26th & on 28th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 27 at TI on 14th, 74 on 16th & 23 on 18th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area, *Peel* on 24th (DJM,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

WARBLING VIREO - 15 at TI on 14th, 11 on 26th & 19 there on 30th (NMu,&).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th, 1 at TI on 26th & 6 there on 28th (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-EYED VIREO - 13 (some singing) at TI on 26th (NMu,&).

PURPLE MARTIN - 9 at Snake Island, TI on 26th (NMu,&).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 25 at Ward's Island, TI on 30th (NMu).

CLIFF SWALLOW - 24 at LSS on 16th, 16 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th & 15 at TI on 30th (NMu).

BARN SWALLOW - 150 flying west at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 19 at TI on 30th (NMu).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 10 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 19th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (DJM) (Brydon 2008).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 26th (NMu,&).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (JDL,& fide ONTBIRDS) & on 27th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 2 at HP on 2nd, 1 on 3rd, 2 on 6th, 2 on 29th & 1 on 30th (SMF). 4 at TI on 14th, 11 on 18th, 6 on 26th, 3 on 28th & 6 on 30th (NMu). 2 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 seen at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on most days from 20th to 30th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 at Conc. 3 & Pollard Rd, Clarington, *Durham* on 23rd (J. Foster fide DRBA).

VEERY - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 3 at TI on 14th & 1 at Gibraltar Point, TI on 26th (NMu,&).

WOOD THRUSH - 2 at HP on 6th (SMF).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 55+ mainly juv at Baselands, LSS on 9th (AA) & 75 at TI on 14th (NMu).

GRAY CATBIRD - 8 at TI on 14th, 12 on 26th & 11 there on 30th (NMu,&).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - In total there were 40 reports, as follows: *Toronto* 16; *Durham* 11; *York* 6; *Peel* 6; *Halton* 1. Thanks to the six observers, other than RBHS and WP, who reported data this month. These observers were: anon fide OUTON; ICa; JDL fide ONTBIRDS; CSAM fide ONTBIRDS; OFO; DRuch. A very late nest with three young aged 10 days was seen on 30th at a site in Peel (RBHS, WP). Unfortunately, they were gone by 1st of Sept, and predation was suspected. This constitutes the latest date yet recorded for an active nest with young in the GTA.

CEDAR WAXWING - 82 at TI on 14th, 75 on 16th, 100 on 18th & 50 on 26th (NMu).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 28th (NMu,&).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 30th (NMu) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPye fide DRBA).

YELLOW WARBLER - 27 at TI on 14th, 8 on 26th, 9 on 28th & 10 on 30th (NMu). 13 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 5 at TI on 26th, 10 on 28th & 6 on 30th (NMu,&).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 1 at TI on 14th, 3 on 18th, 18 on 26th, 16 on 28th & 11 on 30th (NMu).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 4 at TI on 30th (NMu).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 9 at TI on 26th & 5 on 28th (NMu,&). 1 M at HP on 31st (SMF).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th & 5 at TI on 26th (NMu,&).

PINE WARBLER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 28th (NMu,&).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at TI on 14th, 3 on 18th & 8 on 28th (NMu).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 1 at TI on 14th, 1 on 18th, 22 on 26th & 13 on 28th (NMu).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 1 at Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 10th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

MOURNING WARBLER - 1 (singing) at Snake Island, TI on 26th (NMu,&) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 1 at HP on 17th (SMF), 13 at Snake Island, TI on 26th & 8 at TI on 28th (NMu,&).

CANADA WARBLER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th & 5 at Snake Island, TI on 26th (NMu,&).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (JDL fide DRBA), 30th & 31st (RPye fide DRBA).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 1Y at Ward's Island, TI on 26th (NMu,&).

SONG SPARROW - 16 at TI on 14th (NMu) & 30 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th & 30th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 10 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (DJM) (Brydon 2008).

BOBOLINK - 8 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 12 there on 23rd (RPye fide DRBA).

MEADOWLARK SP. - 13 (1 flock) at South Duck Pond, HP on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 41 (undercounted!) at TI on 14th, 23 on 16th, 22 on 18th, 22 on 26th & 13 on 30th (NMu). 23 at LSS on 16th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 10 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (DJM) (Brydon 2008).

PURPLE FINCH - 2 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (DJM) (Brydon 2008)

RED CROSSBILL - 2 flying over at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (RPye fide DRBA).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 25 at 2km N of #5 Campbellville, *Halton* on 8th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2008).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 27 at TI on 28th & 38 on 30th (NMu,&).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; OFO Ontario Field Ornithologists; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; MJCB Margaret Bain; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; VC Victoria Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; JFa Jim Fairchild; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; CMH Carol Horner; MK Mark Kubisz; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; NMacd Neil Macdougall; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; MSch Mary Schuster; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; DVW D.V. Chip Weseloh; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

References:

Brydon, Bruce. 2008. Bird Sightings: April 2008- August 23, 2008. WHNC Newsletter September 2008, p.11-12.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 455 reports were added to the database for August 2008.

Please send reports to: Roy Smith 20 Harding Blvd. W, Suite 1002, Richmond Hill, ON L4C9S4. Tel: 905-508-4045
Fax: 905-508-4730 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 on 2nd page of this journal.

Preferred citation: Worthington, D. 2008. Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: August 2008. Toronto Birds 2(7):131 - 136.



NOTE

First nesting record of Red-necked Grebe in the City of Toronto

Sandra Hawkins

It is not uncommon at any season to observe Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) in Colonel Samuel Smith Park. A nesting pair, however, is another matter.

The park is located at the foot of Kipling Avenue in southern Etobicoke, a part of west end Toronto. It lies adjacent to Lake Ontario and is an urban birder's paradise. The park encompasses a variety of habitats including open meadow, a sheltered marina, several small ponds and, of course, the lake shore itself. At its north end, the park is fringed with large evergreen and deciduous trees.

The evening of July 11 proved to be most eventful. While photographing a single Red-necked Grebe that was diving just off the southern shore of the marina, we noticed another as it lumbered out of the water and onto a large nest composed of both fresh and decaying reeds. The nest contained three bluish-white eggs. An additional egg floated in the water nearby. The bird methodically checked and turned each egg prior to settling down to brood.



Red-necked Grebe on nest at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto, 11 July 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.

The nest was extremely vulnerable, located in very shallow water approximately three metres offshore and very near a well-worn hiking path. Colonel Samuel Smith Park is popular with dog walkers, most of whom disobey the rarely enforced local by-law related to keeping animals leashed at all times. Although most park users were totally oblivious to the birds' presence, the grebes were highly sensitive to disturbance of any sort. They vacated the nest area and fled farther out into the marina at the least provocation leaving the eggs unbrooded. It was disheartening to witness louts who seemed more interested in disturbing the birds than with protecting them. In addition, since this park suffers from an extraordinary amount of vandalism, we decided not to report the nest location at that time.

While well concealed by the adjacent willows, we were privileged to observe some of the Red-necked Grebe's domestic life. Nest maintenance proved to be of paramount importance. The brooding bird was constantly rearranging nesting material and welcomed fresh additions of vegetation that were gathered and delivered to the nest by the non-brooding mate. The pair appeared to be very attentive to each other and maintained visual contact at all times.



Pair of Red-necked Grebes sharing fresh nesting material; Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto, 11 July 2008.

We were able to observe them until July 23, but had to leave for vacation the next day. Fortunately, a local resident and meticulous record-keeper (Dave Hallett) who also first noticed the nest on July 11, was able to provide follow-up data. He noted that the birds remained constantly skittish. After observing the nest for several more days, he was surprised to find the eggs completely gone. There appeared to be "no signs of predation" as the nest was intact and there were "no remaining egg shells". The nest eventually "came apart" and no evidence of its presence remains. No hatchlings were ever observed.

These observations provide the first documented report of breeding by this species in the City of Toronto and the easternmost confirmed nest for Ontario. During the last Atlas period (2001-2005), breeding evidence was recorded from six 10-km squares around the western end of Lake Ontario (Harris in Cadman *et al.* 2007), with the easternmost location being an unsuccessful nest found just east of the Lakeview Generating Station, *Peel R.M.* on 6 June 2004 (Glenn Coady, pers. comm.). Colonel Sam Smith Park is about 3 km east of the former Lakeview Generating Station site and about 28 km east of Bronte Harbour, where most recent nestings have occurred.

Interestingly, there were 10 reported nests in the 1940s along the western shore of Lake Ontario, mostly in *Halton* (Speirs *et al.* 1944), but including one at Lorne Park, *Peel* in 1946 (Gunn 1951). Then followed a hiatus of about 45 years before another nesting attempt occurred, off Shoreacres Park in Burlington, *Halton R.M.* in 1991. That attempt was unsuccessful (only nest building activities were observed), as was another in

1994 at the mouth of Appleby Creek in Burlington, *Halton R.M.*, when eggs were laid but the nest was subsequently abandoned (Dobos and Edmondstone 1998).

Since 1997, nesting has been a virtually annual event at Bronte Harbour, *Halton*, with up to six nests or nesting attempts in some years. Although many have been unsuccessful, fledged young have been observed on multiple occasions, including 1997.

Given this background, a small eastward expansion into the habitat now developing at Colonel Sam Smith Park is perhaps not unexpected. It seems likely that further nesting attempts could occur here in the future. Habitat improvement, such as the provision of floating tires for nesting platforms, as used at Bronte Harbour, could encourage this, and might be an appropriate project for TOC to undertake or promote?



Incubating Red-necked Grebe, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto, 22 July 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.



Red-necked Grebe nest with three eggs, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto, 14 July 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.



Habitat in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto, 28 September 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the editors of *Toronto Birds* for providing much of the background information on previous breeding records contained in the last four paragraphs of this note and drawing attention to the references therein.

Literature Cited

- Dobos, R.Z. and G. Edmondstone.** 1998. Recent Nestings of Red-necked Grebe on Lake Ontario. *Ontario Birds*. 16(1):32-37.
- Gunn, W.W.H.** 1951. The changing status of the Red-necked Grebe in southern Ontario. *Canadian Field- Naturalist* 65:143-145.
- Harris A.G.** 2007. Red-necked Grebe. pp 146-147 in Cadman, M.D., D.A. Sutherland, G.G. Beck, D. Lepage, and A.R. Couturier, eds. *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005*. Birds Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, Toronto, xxii + 706 pp.
- Speirs, J.M., G.W. North and J.A.Crosby.** 1944. Holboell's Grebe nesting in southern Ontario. *Wilson Bulletin* 56:206-208.

Sandra Hawkins schawkins@look.ca