



TORONTO BIRDS

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COVER PHOTO

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Photo © Sam Barone

Nesting Ospreys are an increasingly common sight in the GTA. This species declined extensively during the DDT/DDE era in the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s but began a slow recovery starting in the mid 1980s. The TOC database is certainly incomplete as regards GTA nesting sites, especially for northern parts of *Halton* and *Peel*. Our best data comes from *York R.M.*, where the number of known sites has increased from one in 1993 to 13, although not all territories are occupied each year. A parallel increase has been noted in *Durham*, where provision of nesting platforms has encouraged the birds in some areas. It is interesting to note that neither Tozer and Richards (1974) nor Speirs (1977) knew of a confirmed nesting record for *Durham*; and we still do not have a confirmed nesting record for the *City of Toronto*. Late migrants are also being recorded more frequently, with some even lingering into December, which was almost unheard of 20 years ago.

Sam Barone's photograph of an Osprey nest on a hydro pole along the causeway across Canal Lake, Kirkfield, *Kawartha Lakes*, was taken on 3 July 2007. *Roy Smith*

Literature cited:

Speirs, J.M. 1977. Birds of Ontario County: Turkey Vulture to Northern Phalarope. Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

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

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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, 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.

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – SEPTEMBER 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.

SNOW GOOSE - 2 AD at Maplegrove, 400m N of Nash Rd., *Durham* on 13th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (white) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th, 1 (blue) on 16th & 2 seen flying N there on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (blue) IMM at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

ROSS'S GOOSE - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* @ 18:30hrs on 17th, was seen feeding on a sod farm at NW corner of Reesor Rd & Hwy 7 on 18th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen].

CAACKLING GOOSE - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 23rd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

MUTE SWAN - 38 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (DW).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 (no tags seen) at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (NMacd) & 3 (2 AD, 1 juv) at Mouth of Highland Creek on 7th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS), wing tags: # 082, 127 and 184 (on juv). 2 (one w tag #195) at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 14th (NMCh), 1 (Tag #191) at Corbett Creek, Thicksos Woods, *Durham* on 20th (SCH) & 1 (no tag) at Rouge Beach Park on 20th (SCH). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 2 at Long Pond, TI on 30th (AA).

[EGYPTIAN GOOSE] - 1 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

[RUDDY SHELDUCK] - 1 at LSS on 27th (GC).

WOOD DUCK - 60 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 5 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 13th (RBHS,WP) & 18 at South Duck Pond, HP on 13th (JBMW,SMF). 18 at HP on 13th & 20 on 14th (SMF). 5 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons, *York* on 13th (RBHS,WP) & 7 (incl. 4 M) at Corbett Creek, Thicksos Woods, *Durham* on 29th (NMacd).

GADWALL - 99 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 45 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 38 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 8 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 20th (WP,RBHS).

MALLARD - 920 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* @ 11:10hrs on 20th (RBHS,WP).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 300-400 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 70 there on 13th (RBHS,WP). 74 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 12 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 27 on 10th (NMu,ICa) & 11 there on 13th (RBHS,WP). 35 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 14th (NMCh) & 63 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 9 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 14th (RBHS).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 12 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 5th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 75 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 10th (NMu,ICa) & 102 there on 13th (RBHS,WP). 112 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 14 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP).

CANVASBACK - 7 IMM at Hanlan's Point, TI on 27th (AA).

REDHEAD - 13 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

GREATER SCAUP - 4 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright) & 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA).

SURF SCOTER - 1 M at Hanlan's Point, TI on 27th (AA).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (JI fide DRBA).

BUFFLEHEAD - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 3 at Lake Scugog Causeway (W), *Durham* on 14th (BH,&).

HOODED MERGANSER - 4 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 11th (SLo fide WP), 4 on 20th (RBHS) & 7 there on 27th (RBHS,WP). 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (BH,&) & 14 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

RUDDY DUCK - 4 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (BH,&) & 3 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

[CHUKAR] - 1 at Neilson Rd N of Mclewin Ave, Scarb. on 2nd (GLKJ fide OUTON).

WILD TURKEY - 10 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 28th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON LOON - 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th, 100+ migrants on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 108 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (JI fide DRBA). 19 flying over at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 4th & 19 on 6th (Frank Butson fide OUTON).

HORNED GREBE - 1 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (JI fide DRBA).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 150 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Gibraltar Point, TI on 27th (AA).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 48 flying S at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th & 228 on 28th (NMu).

AMERICAN BITTERN - 1 at Cell #3, LSS on 6th (AA).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 5 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 27th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT EGRET - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (DW), 3 (unbanded) on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 14th (RBHS) & 3 there on 29th (NMacd). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 2nd, 1 there from 4th to 6th (JDL fide DRBA). 18 other reports thro' the month, mainly 1 or 2 & high counts of 4 at Ravenshoe Rd, E of Woodbine, *York* on 1st (Linda Wells) (Brydon 2008), 7 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 10th (SLo fide WP) & 6 at Rotary Park, Ajax, *Durham* on 19th (DW fide DRBA).

GREEN HERON - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (JDL fide CMRW, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Purpleville, *York* on 11th (D&AD) (Brydon 2008), 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 23rd & 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Swan Lake, Markham, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (JDL fide CMRW, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Ravenshoe Rd, E of Woodbine, *York* on 6th (KDu) (Brydon 2008), 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 11th (SLo fide WP) & 4 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 14th (NMCh).

TURKEY VULTURE - 24 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th, 56 on 18th & 97 on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 19 at downtown Oshawa, *Durham* on 18th (DRuch fide DRBA), 10 at Keele Valley Landfill, *York* on 21st (RBHS,WP), 11 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 22nd (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA) & 33 at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 5 on 9th, 7 on 15th & 6 on 16th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 4th, 7 on 10th & 6 on 16th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th, 12 on 15th & 5 on 28th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL).

MISSISSIPPI KITE - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* @ 13:50hrs on 10th [No doc. seen] (AA fide MDW, fide ISRW).

BALD EAGLE - 2 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st, 5 on 10th, 3 on 11th, 6 on 16th, 3 on 19th, 2 on 21st & 2 on 28th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 1 on 4th, 3 on 9th, 2 on 11th, 6 on 15th, 1 on 16th, 8 on 18th, 2 on 19th, 5 on 21st, 14 on 21st & 2 on 28th (CMRW fide DRBA). 3 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th, 6 on 15th & 1 on 28th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 SUB at Seneca College (King), *York* on 14th (RfJ,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 (2 AD, 1 juv) at his backyard in Whitby, *Durham* on 15th & 1 JUV there on 16th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 2Y at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th NMu,ICa,MVL).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 14th (CSAM,CMH, fide ONTBIRDS) & 14 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Reports from Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* included 9 on 1st, and highs of 31 on 10th & 48 on 18th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS), while those from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* included 6 on 4th, highs of 150 on 15th & 331 on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 123 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th, 172 on 15th & 58 on 28th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 6th (RfJ fide ONTBIRDS), 1 IMM at HP on 9th & 1 AD there on 14th (SMF). 1 at TI on 11th & 5 there on 16th (NMu,&). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 at Hawk Hill, HP on 15th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 17 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st & 13 on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – Singles at Snake Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), at Dufferin St, N of 19th SR, *York* on 16th (BB) (Brydon 2008) & in early am at Yonge & Trayborn, Richmond Hill, *York* on 28th (NMu).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - Singles at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (AA fide MDW, fide ISRW), at backyard, Whitby, *Durham* on 15th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) & at Midtown Mall, Oshawa, *Durham* on 15th (DRuch fide DRBA).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 17 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st, 6 on 6th, 168 on 9th, 1361 on 10th, 34 on 11th, 737 on 15th, 3814 on 16th & 1529 on 18th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS). 31 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th & 2445 on 15th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1356 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th, 644 on 16th & 34 on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 494 at his backyard, Whitby, *Durham* on 15th & 535 there on 16th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 77 at Midtown Mall, Oshawa, *Durham* on 15th & 40 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (DRuch fide DRBA).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 25 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th, 13 on 10th, 72 on 15th, 28 on 18th, 183 on 21st & 88 on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 19 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th & 18 on 15th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (CMRW,JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 5th, 21st & 27th (DRuch fide DRBA). Singles at Mouth of Highland Creek on 7th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS), Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), Halls Rd., *Durham* on 14th (CSAM,CMH, fide ONTBIRDS), Seneca College (King), *York* on 14th (RfJ,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS) & at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd, 1 on 15th, 1 on 20th & 2 on 28th (CMRW,JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Clarica Centre, Islington on 11th (SCH), Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 18th (SLo fide

ONTBIRDS), at Hawk Hill, HP on 21st (HPHW,m. obs) & at Gibb St & Whitby Townline, *Durham* on 24th (DRuch fide DRBA). 2 at TI on 27th (AA).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th & 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Reach Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (BH,&).

SORA - 1 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 14th (DW).

COMMON MOORHEN - 10 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 14th (DW) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA).

AMERICAN COOT - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 14th (BH,&).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 2 at Solina Rd Sod Farms (E side, S of Taunton Rd), *Durham* on 6th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA) & 7 there on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 23rd & 25th to 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 30th (G. Vogg fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 11 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Taunton Rd, E of Holt Rd., *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th, 7 on 22nd, 11 on 23rd, 3 on 25th, 10 on 26th & 10 there on 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 21st (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

Juvenile **Semipalmated Plover** at Frenchman's Bay, Pickering, *Durham*; September 2008.
Photo © Rick Lauzon.



KILLDER - 200 at Solina Rd Sod Farms, *Durham* on 6th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA), 63 on 7th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 153 on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 47 there on 14th (RBHS,WP). 21 at Taunton Rd, E of Holt Rd., *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 40 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 12 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 26th (RPye fide DRBA) & 12 at LSS on 27th (GC). 16 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 20th (RBHS) & 50 there on 23rd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 5th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 13th (RBHS,WP). 4 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 6th (RPye fide DRBA) & 3 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 20th (RBHS) & 4 there on 27th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, York on 20th (RBHS), 4 at Nonquon S.L., Durham on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at West Beach, TI on 30th (AA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 24 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 27 there on 10th (NMu,ICa). 13 at Whitby Harbour, Durham on 7th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 11 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 10th (SLo fide WP) & 23 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 27th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), present from 17:15-17:45hrs, then flew off to SW.

RUDDY TURNSTONE - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 7th (RBHS,WP,WSLK).

SANDERLING - 16 at Ward's Island, TI on 7th (RBHS,WP,WSLK), 1 at Whitby Harbour, Durham on 23rd (JDL fide DRBA) & 3 at Darlington Prov. Park, Durham on 30th (G. Vogg fide DRBA).



Two juvenile **Sanderlings** feeding on algae, Ward's Island beach, Toronto Islands, Toronto, 7 September 2008.
Photo © Winnie Poon.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 2 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 on 14th (RJF,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Whitby Harbour, Durham on 7th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 21st (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 4 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, Durham on 5th (JCS fide DRBA) & 10 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 1 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 11th (DWi fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, Durham on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 21st (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 3 at Solina Rd Sod Farms, Durham on 6th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA) & 3 on 14th (RBHS,WP). 5 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 10th (DW fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 13th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 18th SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

STILT SANDPIPER - 2 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 4th (DWi fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 7th (GDe) (Brydon 2008), 5 on 10th (DW fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 14th (RJF,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 5th (JCS fide DRBA) 3 on 6th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 7th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 21st (J. McKnight fide DRBA).

Two **Stilt Sandpipers** at Frenchman's Bay, Pickering, *Durham*; September 2008.
Photo © Rick Lauzon.



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - 1 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S SNIPE - 20 at Solina Rd Sod Farms, *Durham* on 6th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA), 2 on 7th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 there on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 7 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 10th (AA), 1 on 20th (MSch) & 2 there on 23rd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 53 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 10th (NMu,ICa), 120 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (BH,&) & 235 there on 27th (MJCB fide DRBA).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 (1st W) at West Beach, TI on 27th (AA).

BLACK TERN - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (BH,&).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (DRuch fide DRBA).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 heard calling at Ontario St, Toronto @ 22:00hrs on 28th (Max Perren fide ONTBIRDS), between Gerrard St E and Dundas St E, in Cabbagetown.

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 9th & 17th (BB) (Brydon 2008).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 flying over Delaware Ave, Toronto @ 09:00hrs on 29th (HC).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 30-40 at Glen Abbey Golf Course, *Halton* @ 19:00hrs on 1st (I.D. Clark fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 at Dufferin & Teston Rd, *York* on 2nd (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 13th (JBMW,SMF) & 2 flying around most of the afternoon at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (NMu).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 11 at Major Mackenzie & Bayview, *York* on 5th (GEL) (Brydon 2008) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (JDL fide DRBA). 22 at HP on 6th (NMu), 250 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th (NMu), 61 on 14th (CJH) & 250 there on 15th (NMu).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 37 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 10 on 3rd (JDL fide DRBA). 4 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th & 5 on 15th (NMu). 7 at TI on 16th & 3 on 18th (NMu,&). 2 at CSSP on 21st (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 27th (DRuch fide DRBA).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 4 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at TI on 16th, 4 on 18th, 54 on 22nd, 7 on 24th & 67 on 29th (NMu,&). 3 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (DRuch fide DRBA).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 8 at TI on 2nd, 9 on 4th & 6 on 18th (NMu).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 at TI on 18th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN FLICKER – 7 reports from TI beginning with 11 on 4th, high counts of 51 on 18th & 22nd (NMu,&). 20 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 2 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 13th (JBMW,SMF) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 2nd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Valley Inn, *Halton* on 3rd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Snug Harbour, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 5 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 12 there on 18th (NMu,ICa).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 2 at TI on 4th, 1 on 16th, 3 on 18th & 1 on 22nd (NMu,&).

ALDER FLYCATCHER - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 11th (NMu,ICa).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 16th, 22 on 18th, 21 on 22nd (NMu,&), 5 on 27th (AA) & 23 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th & on 9th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (JDL fide DRBA).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 2 at TI on 16th, 10 on 22nd & 6 on 29th (NMu,&).

WARBLING VIREO - 11 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - 2 at TI on 16th, 2 on 18th, 5 on 22nd (NMu,&), 2 on 27th (AA) & 2 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 1 at LSS on 27th (GC).

RED-EYED VIREO – 6 reports from TI beginning with 9 on 4th (NMu,ICa), highs of 17 on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald) & 18 on 27th (AA).

BLUE JAY - 734 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (DRuch fide DRBA) & 930 seen between 08:00-09:30hrs. at downtown Whitby, *Durham* on 22nd (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 462 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 590 at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 200 at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (NMu). 200 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 28th (G. Vogg fide DRBA).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Duffy's Lane, N of Patterson, *Peel* on 10th (NMu,ICa) & 5 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 16th (ISRW,MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED LARK - 30 at Solina Rd & Hwy 2, *Durham* on 14th (RBHS,WP).

PURPLE MARTIN - 6 at Ward's Island, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa).

TREE SWALLOW - 200 at Holland Landing S.L., York @ 16:35hrs on 13th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 2 at HP on 6th & 2 at Hawk Hill, HP on 9th (NMu). 30 at Hydro Park, Durham on 14th (NMCh).

BARN SWALLOW - 10 at Holland Landing S.L., York @ 16:35hrs on 13th (RBHS,WP).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE – 5 reports from TI from 4th to 29th of 27 or more & the high was 38 on 16th (NMu,MVL).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 8 at TI on 16th, 9 on 18th (NMu,&) & 4 there on 27th (AA).

BROWN CREEPER - 11 at TI on 16th, 11 on 22nd (NMu,&), 6 on 27th (AA) & 11 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

CAROLINA WREN – 4 reports from TI from 2nd to 24th of 1-3 birds (NMu,&) & 5 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

HOUSE WREN - 2 at TI on 18th (NMu,ICa).

WINTER WREN – 5 reports from TI beginning with 3 on 18th (NMu,ICa), highs of 18 on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald) & 19 there on 27th (AA).

SEDGE WREN - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 9th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), 52 on 27th (AA) & 50 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 6 at Oshawa Creek Valley, Durham on 22nd (DRuch fide DRBA).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – 4 reports of singles from 4th to 10th. 6 at TI on 16th, 175 on 22nd (NMu,&), 103 on 27th (AA) & 100 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at GM, Stevenson Rd., Durham on 1st (DRuch fide RBHS), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 2nd (JDL fide CMRW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at James Gardens, Lambton Woods on 6th (JBMW,DEB). 1 at HP on 6th (NMu) & 2 there on 13th (JBMW,SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 at Gibb St & Whitby Townline, Durham on 6th (DRuch fide DRBA), 4 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 10th (BB) (Brydon 2008), 10 at Altona Rd & 4th Conc., Durham on 14th (ETB) & 9 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 23rd (BB) (Brydon 2008).

VEERY - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu,ICa), 1 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond, York on 19th (WP), 2 banded at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 20th (EK,DRBA) & 7 at TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 13 at TI on 16th, 26 on 18th, 11 on 22nd & 27 there on 29th (NMu,&).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Long Sault C.A., Durham on 14th (BH,&).

GRAY CATBIRD – 6 reports from TI beginning with 19 on 2nd (NMu) & last report was the highest count of 17 on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – Only a small number of reports this month; the birds molt at this time and tend to keep a low profile. There were 9 reports from Durham, 4 from Toronto, 3 from Halton and 1 from Peel; surprisingly not a single one from York! Thanks to the following 9 observers for these reports (BB, GC, CJH, SCH, THo, WP, DRuch fide DRBA, RBHS and DW).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 5 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 9 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., Durham on 19th & on 21st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 23rd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 48 at LSS on 27th (GC).

CEDAR WAXWING - 11 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa) & 1 plus a nest with 3 young (ready to fledge) at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 5th (DW).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 9 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (NMu,ICa).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - *1 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th [No doc. seen] & on 18th (NMu,ICa). 2 (together) at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald) & 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – 6 reports from TI beginning with 10 on 11th (NMu,ICa), high count of 46 on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald) & last report of 10 on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at HP on 1st, 16th & 20th (SMF). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th & 22nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (Andrew Don fide ONTBIRDS) & at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 14th (NMCh). 4 at TI on 11th & 5 on 18th (NMu,ICa).

YELLOW WARBLER - 1 at HP on 1st (SMF), 2 at TI on 2nd & 4 on 4th (NMu). 1 M at HBP [W] on 13th (AA).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 7 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & on 18th (NMu,ICa).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 32 at TI on 4th, 21 on 16th, 42 on 18th & 21 there on 22nd (NMu,&).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 1 F at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (JDL fide CMRW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at TI on 27th (AA).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – 6 reports from TI beginning with 4 on 4th (NMu,ICa) & last report was highest count of 7 on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 3 (2 M, 1 F) at CSSP on 21st (RBHS,WP).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 33 at TI on 27th (AA) & 50 at TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 12 at North Richvale Greenway, *York* on 7th (AA) & 2 at LSS on 27th (GC). 20 at TI on 16th, 10 on 18th (NMu,&), 12 on 27th (AA) & 14 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 7 at Ward's Island, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa).

PINE WARBLER - 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu,ICa).

PALM WARBLER - 8 at TI on 16th, 4 on 18th, (NMu,&), 14 on 27th (AA) & 109 there on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 8 at HBP [E] on 20th (CJH) & 6 at Teston & Rodinea, *York* on 21st (RBHS,WP).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 7 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa), 2 on 7th (RBHS,WP,WSLK) & 5 there on 16th (NMu,MVL). 11 at HBP [W] on 13th (AA).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 31 at Ward's Island, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa), 17 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 16 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu,ICa).

OVENBIRD - 5 at Ward's Island, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa), 1 at CSSP on 21st (RBHS) & 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

MOURNING WARBLER - 1 at TI on 27th (AA).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 4 at TI on 18th (NMu,ICa).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 6 at TI on 2nd, 4 on 4th, 4 on 11th & 8 there on 16th (NMu,&).

CANADA WARBLER - 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa).

SCARLET TANAGER - 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 7th (RBHS,WP,WSLK), 3 M on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 5 there on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald). 1 at Sideline 34, Pickering, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - 5 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 1 near the beach pool, West Beach, TI on 30th (AA).

SONG SPARROW - 27 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 1 IMM at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 8 at TI on 16th & 150 there on 29th (NMu,&). 21 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2008), 2 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 20th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LSS on 20th (JBMW,Bob Kortright). 28 at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 20th (EK fide DRBA) & 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, York on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 19th (JDL fide DRBA), 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 10 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 3 at TI on 22nd (NMu,Jan McDonald).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 7th & 1 M on 27th (JDL fide DRBA).

INDIGO BUNTING - 3 banded at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 20th (EK fide DRBA).

COMMON GRACKLE - 280+ at Queen's Park @ 08:30hrs on 19th (CJH).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 86 at McKay Rd, Pickering, Durham on 14th and 50 at Wentworth & Stevenson, Oshawa, Durham on same date (RBHS,WP).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at HP on 3rd (SMF) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 2 at Osler Tract, Durham on 14th (BH,&).

PINE SISKIN - 3 at Oshawa Creek N of Rossland Rd, Durham on 5th (THo fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 35 at Duffy's Lane, N of Patterson, Peel on 10th (NMu,ICa), 27 at Hawk Hill, HP on 15th (NMu) & 36 at TI on 16th & 18th (NMu,&).

Cited Observers: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BB Bruce Brydon; DEB Donald E. Burton; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; D&AD David & Amy Darker; GDe Gene Denzel; KDu Keith Dunn; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; JFa Jim Fairchild; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; CJH Celia Harte; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; THo Tyler Hoar; CMH Carol Horner; JI Jean Iron; GLKJ Gabriel Lau Kin Jock; EK Elizabeth Kellogg; WSLK Winnie S.L. Kwan; GEL Graham Leonard; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; NMacd Neil Macdougall; m. obs many observers; NMCh Naish McHugh; CSAM Craig S.A. McLaughlan; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; WP Winnie Poon; RPy Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; MSch Mary Schuster; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; DVW D.V. Chip Weseloh; DWi Donald Wiens; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

References:

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 848 reports were added to the database for September 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.

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Young **Brown-headed Cowbirds** are raised by the parasitized nests' hosts and therefore isolated from their own species at an early age, nevertheless, soon after reaching independence they seek out and join the other cowbirds, often in large flocks. It is not clear by what mechanism the young cowbirds recognize their own species, perhaps through instinctive visual recognition or some vocal signals? This flock of 86 Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen on the TOC Fall Field Day, 14 September 2008 in Pickering, *Durham*. The birds were mostly molting juveniles with only a few adult-like individuals; but two other flocks of 36 and 50 birds, seen the same day, were entirely adults. *Winnie Poon*.



Top left: Two juveniles molting into female plumage.

Middle left: Female bird with fresh plumage.

Bottom: Flock of molting Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Below: Two juveniles molting into male plumage.

Photos © Winnie Poon.





Update on Trumpeter Swans in Ontario - 2007 and 2008

Harry G. Lumsden

In 2005-2006 we estimated that there were at least 776 Trumpeter Swans in southern Ontario (Lumsden 2008). The population continues to grow fast and birds are being seen at many locations at which they have not been seen previously. Our swan year starts and finishes on 1st September.

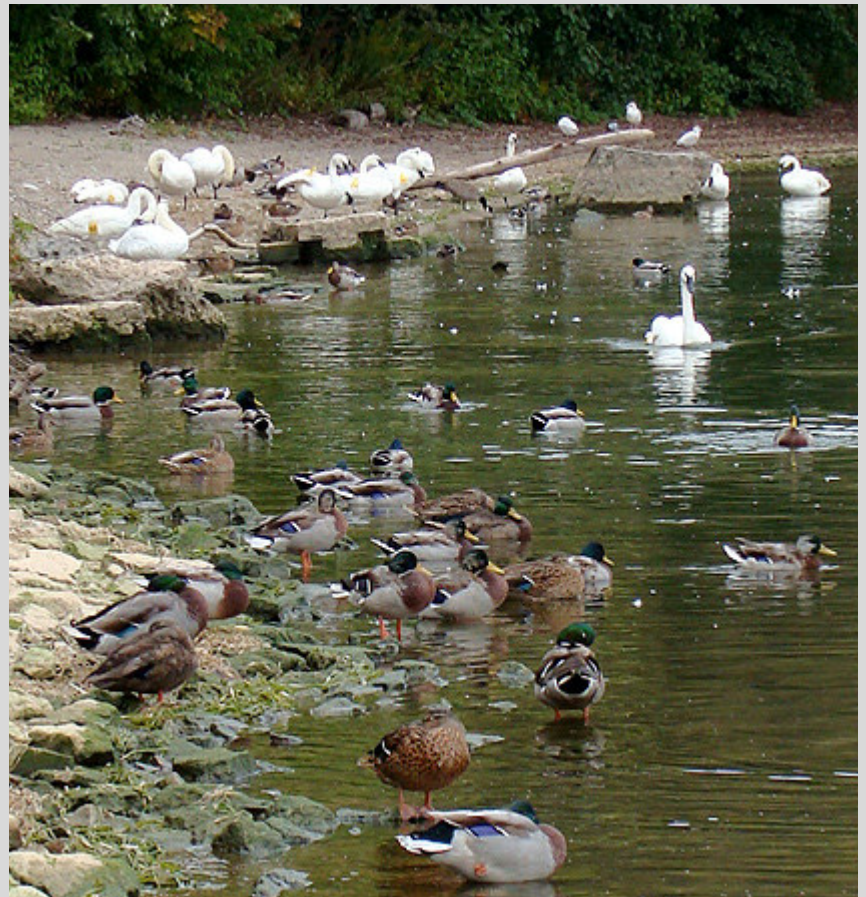
Observers all over southern Ontario report the number on the wing tags of the swans. Observers are also asked about the number of marked/unmarked swans and cygnets in each flock. From such values we can calculate the number of those without tags. Each year the observers report a surprisingly high proportion of the available marked swans. When comparing the tag numbers from 2006-2007 with those of 2007-2008, we find some birds missed in 2007 but recorded in 2008. They must have been alive in 2006-2007. We can make a correction by adding them to the 2006-2007 total.

In past years this correction has been 9 -12% of the birds seen. In 2007 the observers missed only 7% (20 swans). The observers reported 301 tag numbers plus the 20 missed which gives a total of 321 tagged birds. Using the ratio of tagged to untagged swans recorded by observers (56% untagged) we calculate 409 without tags. The total is then 730 swans. This is certainly an underestimate because some swans

lose their tags. The average retention time is 5.7 years and some individuals lose 2 or 3 tags in their lifetime. We re-trap as many as possible for retagging. There were 8 in 2007 and 16 in 2008.

We have no direct way of counting the number of broods produced annually by wild Trumpeters. The observers' records indicate that among the marked and unmarked swans seen, there were 35 broods containing 112 cygnets with a mean brood size of 3.2. These constituted 24% of the swans tallied and add 175 to the total. On 1st September 2007 the Ontario Trumpeter population was estimated at 905 birds.

In 2007 – 2008, it appears that the observers saw fewer marked swans than usual. There was a substantial increase in the number of swans found to be missing in 2007-2008. The number was 106 missing and 6 dead, compared to 57 missing and 5 found dead in 2006-2007.



Trumpeter Swans loafing in La Salle Park, Burlington, Halton, 4 October 2008.
Photo © Winnie Poon

During the year, observers found 327 marked swans. We must wait for the 2008-2009 records to determine how many were not reported but were alive in 2007-2008. This number has averaged 9% over the years and we shall use this per cent, or 36 birds, as a correction. This raises the number of tagged swans to 363. The ratio of marked to unmarked birds noted by our observers in 2007-2008 was 37% to 63%. Untagged swans are calculated to be 619, giving a total of 982 white swans for the year. We cannot estimate the number of cygnets produced in the summer of 2008 until the end of the winter when more data comes from the observers. Judging from the 2006-2007 results, the total for 2007-2008 will be well over 1000 swans.

Banding and colour marking with wing tags is now one of our top priorities in Ontario. Our main banding site is at La Salle Park, *Halton*, where 160 Trumpeters wintered in 2007-2008. Beverly and Ray Kingdon and friends banded 95 swans there and in the vicinity. At La Salle at the end of the winter, they managed to catch all the unmarked birds present. The swans are caught by hand when they come to feed on corn. In addition, swans are banded along the shore of Lake Ontario at Bluffers Park, *Toronto*, Oshawa Harbour, Frenchman's Bay, and Newcastle, *Durham*, and at Wye Marsh, *Simcoe*. The total for 2007 was 108, and 110 for 2008.

A further important priority is to translate all the swan data, currently recorded in 14 ledgers, to computer form, so that more sophisticated analysis of the dynamics of the Ontario population can be done.

Much of the progress in the swan program is due to the dedication of the many observers who report marked swans and pay attention to other birds in the flock. We convey our thanks to them and to all our banders.

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La Salle Park in Burlington, *Halton*, is the main winter banding site for Trumpeter Swans in southern Ontario. Photo taken on 4 October 2008 by *Winnie Poon*.