



TORONTO BIRDS

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COVER PHOTO

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

Photo by C.E. Molony, TOC Archives

Like any good photograph, our cover image, taken from the TOC Archives, tells an interesting story. Back in the 1930's an area of wet fields called York Downs (the present day area bounded by Wilson and Sheppard, from Bathurst west to Dufferin Street), formed a rich birding area, now almost completely swallowed up by urbanization. But at that time it supported good numbers of wintering Short-eared Owls, while breeding species included American Bittern and Pied-billed Grebe, and even territorial Le Conte's Sparrows could be found. In 1937, a Henslow's Sparrow nest was discovered by D.S. Miller in an 'ungrazed wet pasture field'. It was said to be the 2nd nest for the 'Toronto area'. Had it been thirty years earlier, this nest would have probably been collected, but by the 1930's, field guides, binoculars and cameras were replacing the shotgun as a keen birder's primary field equipment. Given the technology of that time it is understandable that the young had to be removed from the nest and lined up on a towel, presumably to provide enough light for the image! Today it is most unlikely that any of us will ever get to see a Henslow's Sparrow nest anywhere in Ontario, let alone within the GTA!

This photograph of an adult Henslow's Sparrow feeding five nestlings was taken on 15 June 1937, by Charles E. Molony. It was found in the album of Otto E. Devitt (1904-1992). The TOC Archives contain many other interesting items awaiting rediscovery. *Roy Smith*

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.

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – OCTOBER 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.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 17th (JFa fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen]. 1 at Wolf Lake, Terra Cotta C.A., *Halton* on 26th (Kevin & Debbie Warburton fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen]. This is the large pond W of the main parking lot.

SNOW GOOSE - 2 (blue) JUV at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 10th (JI), photos on her website (staying from 27th Sep). 3 (1 AD, 2 juv) at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP), all blue morph. 1 (blue) AD at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 13th (JI;SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 (white) AD at 717 Lake Dr, S shore L. Simcoe, *York* on 19th (Linda Wells fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 (white) on Hwy 7 at 0.5km W of Brock St, Brooklin, *Durham* on 23rd (B. McWaters fide DRBA), 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (white) at E side Ashland Rd, S of Hwy 7, *Durham* on 24th (AA).



Juvenile blue morph **Snow Geese**, Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York*, 10 October 2008.
Photo © Jean Iron.

ROSS'S GOOSE - 1 AD at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 13th (JI;SLo fide ONTBIRDS) It was photographed and pictures are on Jean's website. Presumably the same bird at York-Durham Line and Bethesda SR, *Durham* @ 17:45hrs on 14th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), where seen feeding in a field on E side of townline (hence in *Durham*), S of train tracks and water tower.

BRANT - 1 at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* from 22nd to 25th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). It was photographed there on the 24th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS).

CAKCLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA). 2 at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* & 10 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th (WP, RBHS). 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 9th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 10th (JI) & 9 there on 11th (RBHS, WP). 11 at Hwy 7 & Reesor Rd, *York* & 2 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 16th (NMu, ICa). 1 at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 27th & 28th (anon fide CEEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 near the lake in Centennial Park on 31st (Cecilia Verkeley fide ONTBIRDS).

CANADA GOOSE - 500 at TI on 1st (NMu). 800+ at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th & 2900 on 19th (WP, RBHS). 620 at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 4th, 850 on 11th & 570 on 19th (RBHS, WP). 1500 at Hwy 7 & Reesor Rd., *York* & 1000 flying over at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu, ICa). 320 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 26th (RBHS, WP).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 15 (all white birds) at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* @ 14:20hrs on 4th (RBHS, WP), wing tags: 033, 035, 129, 140, 144, 183, 502, 549, 885, 905, 915, 968, E08, E32 (1 without tag). 10 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA), 1 at Kelly Lake, *York* on 17th (Henry Barnett) (Brydon 2008), and 2 (1 w tag #E27) at Cunningham Drive Pond, *York* on 24th (WP).

WOOD DUCK - 29 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 12+ on 13th (DW), 20 on 19th (DW fide DRBA) & 12 there on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* on 11th (RBHS, WP) & 7 on Don R. at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 30th (ETB fide ONTBIRDS).

GADWALL - 64 at HBP [E] on 11th (GC), 108 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (NMu, &), 50 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu, ICa) & 427 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 98 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 114 on 26th (THo fide DRBA). 98 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA).

MALLARD - 250 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 16th (NMu, ICa), 350 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu, ICa) & 275 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 2 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 24 at LSS on 11th & 23 there on 18th (NMu, &). 54 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA), 30 at HP on 19th (SMF) & 13 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS, WP).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 4 M at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (NMu, &) & 34 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA). 1 at Trout Pond, TI on 17th (NMu, ICa, MVL), 1 M at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 19th (RBHS) & 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 20 at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS, WP) & 50 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (NMu, &). 50 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu, ICa), 47 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS, WP) & 8 at Cunningham Drive Pond, *York* on 31st (WP).

CANVASBACK - 7 at TI on 17th (NMu, ICa, MVL) & 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (Charles Adey fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

REDHEAD - 38 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th & 50 there on 18th (NMu, &).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS, WP) & 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th (RBHS).

GREATER SCAUP - 46 at Bayshore Parkette, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS, WP) & 5 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 125 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th & 250 there on 18th (NMu, &). 328 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA).

SURF SCOTER - 6 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (JI fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 30 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu, ICa) & 3 there on 19th (RBHS, WP).

BUFFLEHEAD - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 11 at LSS on 18th (NMu, MVL).

HOODED MERGANSER - 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 4 on 16th (NMu,ICa), 12 on 19th (Michael Biro fide Michael's Bull. #368) & 19 there on 27th (NMu,ICa). 4 at HBP [E] on 11th (GC), 4 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA), 16 at LSS on 18th (NMu,MVL) & 27 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MERGANSER - 3 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham, *York* on 19th (Michael Biro fide Michaels Bulletin #368).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 17 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP). 10000-12000 (exclusively F-plumaged) at Thicksen's Bay, *Durham* @ 16:30hrs on 29th (DBar fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 9th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HBP [W] on 25th (GC,MKP).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 heard at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 5th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Glasgow Rd, Bolton, *Peel* on 22nd (anon fide PG) (Brydon 2008).

WILD TURKEY - 8 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 2nd & 6th (JLo) (Brydon 2008) 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

[NORTHERN BOBWHITE] - 1 at Caledon East, *Peel* on 10th & at Finnerty SR, *Peel* on 12th & 24th (anon fide PG) (Brydon 2008). Same bird as on 10 Oct? All considered escapes.

COMMON LOON - 143 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 99 there on 16th (anon fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 42 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA) & 22 at CSSP on 25th (GC,MKP).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 5 on 13th (DW), 8 on 19th (DW fide DRBA) & 2 there on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at HP on 5th (SMF), Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA) & on Don R. at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 31st (ETB).

HORNED GREBE - 3 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 2 at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* @ 11:30hrs on 4th (RBHS).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 89 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* @ 14:10hrs on 4th (RBHS,WP), 9 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at HBP on 25th (GC,MKP).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (AA), 8 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Corbett Creek, Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 31st (NMacd).

GREAT EGRET - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 1 on 13th, 3 on 19th (DW) & 2 there on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Rouge River Marshes on 12th (DW), 4 on 13th & 1 on 24th (JFa fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 6 JUV at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 25th (GC,MKP,Alison Paul).

TURKEY VULTURE – High counts at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* from 1st to 22nd were 455 on 2nd, 518 on 3rd & 766 on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). High counts at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* were 291 on 3rd, 273 on 6th & 345 on 16th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 157 at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd & 746 on 17th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 355 at Whitby, *Durham* on 6th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 2 (late) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BALD EAGLE - Singles at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 2nd (DRuch fide DRBA), Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th (Mu,MVL,ICa). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 5 on 3rd, 4 on 4th, 3 on 8th, 2 on 16th & 17th, 3 on 18th & 22nd, 1 JUV there on 29th (JDL fide DRBA). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 4th, 12th, 13th, 2 on 17th & 1 on 18th & 25th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – 7 reports of 18 or greater thro' the month with high counts of 73 on 3rd, 53 on 4th & 48 on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 42 at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & 33 at Whitby, *Durham* on 6th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 64 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 4th, 54 on 5th, 46 on 6th, 37 on 10th & 59 on 16th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK - 8 at TI on 3rd, 2 on 4th, 2 on 10th, 2 on 17th & 3 on 23rd (NMu,&). 10 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 6th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Triangle Pond, LSS on 11th (NMu,&), 12 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Yonge & Cummer, Willowdale on 29th (RBHS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th, 2 on 29th & 1 IMM on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Peninsula C, LSS on 18th (NMu,MVL).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th & 3 on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 17 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 18th & 16 on 19th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 36 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 6th & 67 on 29th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 200 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th, 108 on 22nd & 291 on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 60 at Hawk Hill, HP on 17th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th, 1 on 17th, 1 on 21st, 3 on 22nd & 12 on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (dark) at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 17th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN EAGLE -Singles at Newmarket, *York* on 9th (Nancy Bikaunieks fide KRS) (Brydon 2008), at Lorne Park, *Peel* on 16th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), Hanlan's Point, TI on 17th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & at Happy Valley Forests, *York* on 20th (David Love fide Henry Barnett) (Brydon 2008). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 5th, 3 on 18th, 2 on 22nd, 6 on 23rd, 9 on 24th, 5 on 25th, 3 on 28th & 8 there on 29th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA). 1 AD at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd, 1 SUB on 23rd, 3 IMM on 28th & 3 on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 AD along Hwy 401 nr. Bowmanville, *Durham* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 50 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 56 on 3rd, 39 on 5th, 40 on 6th & 41 on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 2nd & 7th (DRuch fide DRBA). 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 4th, 1 on 10th (NMu,MVL) & 1 there on 16th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Flats, LSS on 11th (NMu,&), 1 (local resident) at Montrave St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 16th and at John St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (DRuch fide DRBA).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 2 at TI on 3rd & 1 there on 23rd (NMu,MVL). 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Whitby, *Durham* on 6th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th, 9th & 26th (CMRW fide DRBA). 1 at Hawk Hill, HP on 17th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at LSS on 18th (KRS,WHNC) (Shackleton 2008). 2 at Clarica Centre, Islington on 27th (SCH), one atop camera, other on nest ledge in front of nesting box.

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 2nd (MVL).

COMMON MOORHEN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA).

AMERICAN COOT - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 1 on 5th & 9th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 19th (RBHS,WP), 6 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 15 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (DW fide DRBA) & 33 there on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 15 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (DW fide DRBA).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP) & 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 there on 9th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 11th (RBHS,WP). 7 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on 19th (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – 7 reports at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* from 5th to 24th of 1 or 2 birds (m.obs).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 24th (JFa fide DRBA).

KILLDEER - 28 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 11th (GC) & 7 there on 25th (GC,MKP). 17 at Baselands, LSS on 11th (AA fide NMu).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 JUV at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 5th & 9th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Trout Pond, TI on 3rd (NMu,MVL).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – 6 reports from the Country Glen Pond, Markham Bypass E of 9th Line, *York* or Reesor Road Ponds, *York* from 4th to 19th of 1 or 2 birds (RBHS,WP). 2 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 6 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (JFa fide DRBA).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (JFa fide DRBA).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 24th (JFa fide DRBA).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 2 at Valley Inn, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 4 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (JFa fide DRBA), 2 at Rouge River Marshes on 13th (JFa fide DRBA) & 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP).

DUNLIN - 4 at Valley Inn, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 10th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 11th (RBHS,WP). 10 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S SNIPE - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 5 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 160 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 14th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 13 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP).

ICELAND GULL - 1 at 1km E of Westney Rd @ lake, *Durham* on 28th (RJP,JI, fide JDL).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 AD at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS, WP) & 1 1W at Cunningham Drive Pond, *York* on 24th (WP).

PARASITIC JAEGER - 1 IMM at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (JFa fide DRBA).

LONG-EARED OWL - 1 at Pumphouse Rd & Graham SR, King, *York* on 4th (RJF) (Brydon 2008).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 3rd & on 10th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at LSS on 18th (NMu, MVL) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).



Northern Saw-Whet Owl at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 29 October 2008. Photo © Jean Iron.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 2 at Solina Rd N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 5th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA) & 1 at Spring Road, HP on 18th (GC) was his latest personal record.



Downy Woodpecker at Reesor Pond, *York*, 6 October 2008.
Photo © Winnie Poon.

* RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 1 F at 80 Harris St, *Oshawa, Durham* from 26th to 31st (Leslie Sayer fide DRBA), present since 20th & believed to be a record late date for *Durham* Region. 'It emptied the feeders on cold days earlier this week'. Documentation required after 16 Oct.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - 1 JUV at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (AA).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 5 at TI on 3rd & 12 on 6th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 13 at TI on 3rd & 23 on 4th (NMu,MVL).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 M at Bethley Dr, Scarborough (E of Beechgrove Dr) during week ending 31st, was visiting a row of trees at back for over a week (Alison Paul).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 1st (NMu), 1 at Solina Rd, N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 4th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA) & 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 4th (NMu,MVL).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 11 at TI on 1st, 12 on 3rd, 21 on 4th & 46 on 6th (NMu,&).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - 1 IMM sitting on a fencepost in afternoon at Hwy 7, 600m E of Brock/407, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide DRBA). It was apparently seen again there @ 09:33hrs on 6th (BevMcLauchlan fide CSAM, fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen].

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 18th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Utica, *Durham* on 19th (JKa fide DRBA), 1 JUV at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - 1 1W at Whitby Psychiatric Hospital, *Durham* on 5th (BH fide DRBA). & 1 photographed at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (RPy fide DRBA). 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 16th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), on 17th & on 23rd (NMu,ICa). 1 AD at LSS on 19th (HC).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 11th & 18th (NMu,&). 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 23rd (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Mississauga & Rebecca, Bronte, *Halton* on 26th (anon fide CEde, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-EYED VIREO – Singles at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu), HP on 5th (SMF) & at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (RPy fide DRBA).

BLUE JAY - 1000 at TI on 1st, 3000+ on 3rd & 4500 on 4th (NMu).

AMERICAN CROW - 75 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu,ICa) & 59 at Granary Rd, Kleinburg, *York* on 31st (WP).

COMMON RAVEN - 2 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 13th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hwy 48 S of Davis Dr., *York* on 17th (KDu) (Brydon 2008) & 1 at 48 Laverock Dr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 20th (NMu).

TREE SWALLOW - 4 flying W at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (NMu,ICa).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 4 at TI on 1st & 7 on 4th (NMu,&).

BROWN CREEPER - 7 at Ward's Island, TI on 15th (NMacd) & 8 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 23rd (NMu,ICa).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 (singing) at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 4th (RBHS,WP) & 2 (calling back & forth to each other) at Dyson Rd, Pickering, *Durham* on 12th (DW). 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 17th & 23rd (NMu,ICa,MVL). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (JFa fide DRBA).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 2nd (anon fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 5th (SMF), 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 1 at Burlington Beachstrip, *Halton* on 30th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

WINTER WREN - 5 at TI on 1st, 4 on 4th, 7 on 17th & 4 on 23rd (NMu,&). 9 at LSS on 18th (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Mississauga & Rebecca, Bronte, *Halton* on 26th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 100 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th, 75 on 17th & 23rd (NMu,ICa). 50 at LSS on 11th & 18th (NMu,&).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 6 reports from TI beginning with 50 on 1st, high count of 225 on 6th & last report of 34 there on 23rd (NMu,&). 75 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&) & 3 at HP on 25th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th (NMu,MVL,ICa), 1 at Stevenson & CNR, *Durham* on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA), 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th & 12 there on 26th (RPye fide DRBA). 22 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th & 42 there on 29th, with 11 of them spending 1hr beside the hill. (NMu). 25 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 30th (ETB fide ONTBIRDS).

VEERY - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - 1 at TI on 3rd, 4 on 4th & 1 on 6th (NMu,MVL).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st, 1 on 3rd & 3 on 6th (NMu). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 18th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH - 275 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th, 32 on 10th & 111 on 17th (NMu,&). 11 at Ward's Island, TI on 15th (NMacd) & 1 at Burlington Beachstrip, *Halton* on 30th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 114 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 22nd, 317 on 28th & 66 on 29th (NMu). 60 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 24th (WP) & 75 at Lakeshore Rd, Port Granby, *Durham* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

GRAY CATBIRD - 10 at TI on 1st & 9 on 4th (NMu).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - Only 25 reports this month, with 5 from *York*, 7 from *Durham* and 14 from *Toronto*. Thanks to the following contributors: (IC; GC; GDe; BF; SCH; THo fide DRBA; RLau; JLo fide BB; NMacd; NMu; WP; RBHS; DRuch fide RBHS; ISRW; DW; MDW).

BROWN THRASHER - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 100 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* @ 14:20hrs on 4th (RBHS,WP), 50 on 9th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 11th (RBHS,WP). 20 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&), 14 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,&) & 9 there on 24th (AA).

CEDAR WAXWING - 80 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (NMu).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 5 reports from Hanlan's Point, TI beginning with 2 on 3rd, a high count of 5 on 6th &

last report of 1 on 17th (NMu,MVL). Singles at Cherry Hills Rd, Concord, *York* on 25th (ICa fide Michael Biro, fide Michael's Bull. #369) & at Mississauga & Rebecca, Bronte, *Halton* on 26th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – 5 reports from TI beginning with 4 on 1st, a high of 8 on 6th & last report of 2 on 17th (NMu,&). 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA) & 1 at HP on 5th (SMF).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 11th (NMu,&).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 6th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 at LSS on 18th (KRS,WHNC) (Shackleton 2008).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 3rd & 4th (NMu,MVL).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 2 at TI on 1st, 3 on 3rd, 1 on 4th & 1 on 6th (NMu,&). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 1 M at HP on 5th (SMF), 1 M at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 3 (2 M, 1 F) at Peninsula B, LSS on 11th (NMu,&) & 1 at GM, Stevenson Rd., *Durham* on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – 35 at TI on 1st, 275 on 3rd, 50 on 4th & 500 on 6th & 10th (NMu,&). 100 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 4th, 2 on 6th (NMu,MVL) & 1 on 16th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 5th & 12th (SMF).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 3rd (DRuch fide DRBA).

PALM WARBLER - 7 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st, 128 on 3rd, 78 on 4th, 67 on 6th, 96 on 10th & only 2 there on 17th (NMu,&). 18 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 at Bayshore Parkette, *Halton* @ 13:55hrs on 4th (RBHS).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 1 M at Hanlan's Point, TI on 3rd (NMu,MVL) & 1 at HP on 5th (SMF).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 2 at LSS on 11th, & 3 on 18th (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (JDL fide DRBA) & 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 16th & 17th (GDe). 6 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 17th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 1 F at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (AA).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW – First fall reports were of singles at Hanlan's Point, TI on 10th (NMu,MVL), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 18th (BB) (Brydon 2008).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 20 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th & 6 on 23rd (NMu,MVL,ICa). 2 at Ritson & Hillcroft, Oshawa, *Durham* on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - 1 at Courtice, *Durham* on 3rd (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA). 5 (together) at Hanlan's Point, TI on 4th & 3 there on 6th (NMu,&). 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 18th (NMu,MVL).



Eastern Towhee in a backyard at Idleswift Drive, Thornhill, *York*, 16 October 2008. Photo © Gene Denzel

FIELD SPARROW - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 4th, 11 on 6th, 14 on 10th & 10 on 23rd (NMu,&). 3 at Flats, LSS on 11th (NMu,&).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th [No doc. seen] (NMu,MVL,ICa).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA). One reported in vegetation along the E bank of Reesor Road Ponds, *York* at 09:00h on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), could not be relocated by several other birders searching for it later that day. 6 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th, 2 on 10th & 1 on 17th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 1 at Flats, LSS on 11th (NMu,&) & 1 at LSS (NW of the red bridge) on 25th (Robert Ferguson fide ONTBIRDS).

FOX SPARROW - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th & 9 on 17th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 11th (NMu,&) & 2 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 18th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 5 reports from 16th to 29th of 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 17th & 18th (JFa fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 17 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (AA), 1 at Crother's Woods on 30th (ETB fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at @ a feeder in S. Burlington, *Halton* on 31st (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS).

SONG SPARROW - 42 at TI on 1st, 67 on 6th, 23 on 10th, 33 on 17th & 42 on 23rd (NMu,&). 125 at LSS on 11th & 26 on 18th (NMu,&).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 3 at TI on 1st & 1 at LSS on 18th (NMu). 26 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th, 2 on 10th & 2 on 17th (NMu,&).

SWAMP SPARROW - 8 at TI on 1st & 11 at LSS on 11th (NMu). 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 3rd, 6 on 4th, 18 on 6th & 6 on 10th (NMu,&).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 250 at TI on 1st & 1250 on 6th (NMu). 200 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&) & 20 at Palace Court, Doncrest, *York* on 25th (Michael Biro fide Michael's Bulletin #369).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – 6 reports from Hanlan's Point, TI beginning with 24 on 1st, a high count of 400 on 6th & last report of 11 on 23rd (NMu,&). 150 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 200 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th, 50 on 17th & 75 on 23rd (NMu,&). 65 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&) & 60 at Woodlands Park on 11th (WP, RBHS).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 4 at LSS (Causeway) on 18th (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 28th (RJP,JI, fide JDL).

SNOW BUNTING - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (AA) & 12 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 30 at W End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* during week ending 31st (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Palace Court, Doncrest, *York* on 25th (Michael Biro fide Michael's Bulletin #369).

INDIGO BUNTING - 1 at HP on 12th (SMF).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 57 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (AA), 2800 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (NMu).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 6th & 6 there on 23rd (NMu,ICa). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 29 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 3rd & 12 on 23rd (NMu,&). 10 at LSS on 11th (NMu,&), 90+ at Dufferin S of Miller SR, *York* on 11th (KRS) (Brydon 2008) & 10 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

* COMMON GRACKLE - 12000 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (NMu). [Documented]. THIS WILL BE A NEW RECORD HIGH COUNT FOR GTA, IF ACCEPTED.

PURPLE FINCH - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (JDL fide DRBA), 1 on 19th (RBHS,WP), 8 on 22nd & 4 on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at LSS on 18th (NMu,MVL) & 58 at Hawk Hill, HP on 28th (NMu).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 30 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 29th (DBar fide ONTBIRDS) & 65 at Hawk Hill, HP on 29th (NMu). On the 30th there were 5 at John St & Park Rd, Oshawa, *Durham* (DRuch fide DRBA), 49 (flocks 30, 19) at Treelawn Blvd, Kleinburg, *York* (AK fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Halls Rd., *Durham* (Dan Kaczynski fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 (flying rapidly SW) at Brookbanks Ravine (RJP,JI, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON REDPOLL - 25 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 29th (NMu).

PINE SISKIN – 6 reports from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 1 on 7th & high counts of 31 on 15th & 90 on 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 12 at Gibb St, Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (DRuch fide DRBA), 34 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 17th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 50 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 18th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 10 at Beatrice St & Mary, Oshawa, *Durham* on 27th (DRuch fide DRBA), 25 at Hawk Hill, HP on 29th (NMu) & 50 at Bellamy Ravine, Scarborough on 31st (NMacd).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 100 (most > W) at TI on 1st, 100 on 3rd, 175 on 10th & 26 at Hawk Hill, HP on 21st (NMu).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; DBar Dennis Barry; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; GDe Gene Denzel; KDu Keith Dunn; CEdge Cheryl Edgecombe; GE Gavin Edmonstone; JFa Jim Fairchild; BF Bruce Falls; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; PG Phyllis Graydon; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; THo Tyler Hoar; JI Jean Iron; JKa James Kamstra; AK Andrew Keaveney; RLau Rick Lauzon; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; JLo Joan Love; NMacd Neil Macdougall; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; MKP Mark K. Peck; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; KRS Kevin Shackleton; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCES:

Brydon, Bruce. 2008. September 2008 - October 2008 Sightings. WHNC Newsletter Nov 2008:7-8.
Shackleton, Kevin. 2008. One Fine Day on the Leslie Street Spit. WHNC Newsletter Nov 2008:5-6.

Errata - September 2008 report

A report of Ross's Goose at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17 Sep 2008 is now considered erroneous and should be removed from the records.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 736 reports were added to the database for October 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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The TOC – Royal Ontario Museum Connection

Joan Winearls



James L. Baillie with the Great Auk specimen that he was instrumental in acquiring for the ROM in 1964. Photo by L.R.Warren, November 1965. Courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum.

From its earliest days, the Toronto Ornithological Club (TOC) has had strong connections with the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The legendary James L. Baillie was a founding member of TOC (1934) while Lester L. Snyder, whose career at the ROM spanned 46 years, was also a TOC member for many years. Today (2008), the tradition is continued with both Mark Peck (Collections Manager, Ornithology) and current club President Kevin Seymour, being staff appointees at the ROM.

With the recent influx of new members into TOC, some may not be aware that the ROM Library and Archives hold a considerable number of archival collec-

tions relating to ornithology. In addition, the TOC's own archives are housed there. These Special Collections provide a unique and fascinating window into the ornithological activities of some former TOC members, and others. They comprise a valuable resource for anyone conducting research into the ornithological history of the GTA or investigating historic bird records. Of the some 70 collections listed about one-third are those of former TOC members and/or hold materials for the Toronto area. Probably the largest collection is that of James H. Fleming, the noted ornithologist and collector who left his archives as well as his book and specimen collections to ROM. Other smaller collections of TOC members besides those of Baillie and Snyder include those of Ott Devitt, Clifford Hope, Eric Nasmith, Charles Richards, Richard Saunders and Terry Shortt. Most collections include bird records of one type or another.

Historically, TOC has always been interested in bird records, and the TOC Archives contain the original Record Books, in which observations reported at Club meetings were recorded in longhand by the Secretary. These Record Books span the period 1934 to 1986. The following table provides an introduction to the Special Collections. More detailed descriptions of the holdings as well as the collections themselves can be viewed in ROM Library and Archives. Consult their website for hours of opening and means of access (<http://www.rom.on.ca/collections/library/hours.php>).

Acknowledgements

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ROM Library & Archives
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (SC) with reference to Ornithology

(TOC members in bold & material on **Toronto**; # boxes given for large collections; lge=bankers box)

Name of collection (dates of persons)/ Type of material & locations	TOC member	SC Number (# boxes, if + 1)
<i>American Ornithologists' Union</i> Meetings; membership; correspondence, etc.		SC 74
Anderson, Robert T. (1878-1903) Fish and bird journal, 1903 (Go Home Bay)		SC 14
Atkinson, George E. (d. 1913) List of birds, 1910?		SC 66
Baillie, James L. (1904-70) Correspondence; manuscript	TOC	SC 79 (2)
Barratt, Frederick (d. 1939) Bird journal, 1937-9 (var. incl. Toronto)	TOC	SC 17
Beacham, Derek (d. 1973) Bird Journal, Field Notes, 1928-56	TOC	SC 90
Beaupre, Edwin (1873-1930) Bird journal, 1895-1930 (mainly Kingston)		SC 18
Boggs, O. Desmond. (d. 1963) Bird journal, 1904-62 (mainly Ecuador, Peru, Ontario, Canada)		SC 19 (2)
<i>Brodie Club</i> Minutes; Proceedings, etc.		SC 20 (7)
Brodie, William (1831-1909) Correspondence; Photos, etc.		SC 20A (3)
Brown, Hubert (1870-1951) Bird journal, 1886-97; corresp. (some Toronto)		SC 21
Couper, William (d. ca. 1890) Egg collection catalogue, 1897		SC 23
Crosby, John A. Bird sighting records, 1940	TOC	SC 24
Cunerty, Thomas Bird sighting records, 1935		SC 25
Deacon, Edward (d. 1946) Bird observations, 1929-43	TOC	SC 26
Devitt, Otto E. (1904-92) Ornith. notes, bird records, etc. (var. Simcoe co. & Toronto)	TOC	SC 85 (2)
Dippie, George F. (1873-1935) Bird observations, 1893-9 (Toronto , W. Canada)		SC 27
<i>Early Naturalists</i> Correspondence, photos, etc. (brief files alphab. by person)		SC 76 (2)
Elliott, Robert (1858-1902) Bird observations, 1887-1902 (London area)		SC 28
Elliott, Mrs Emily Collection Collection of Natural History Plates		SC 124

Farley, Frank L. (1870-1949)		SC 150
Bird notes, St. Thomas & var. Ont., 1887-95		
<i>Federation of Ontario Naturalists</i>		SC 61
Minutes; Photos, etc.		
Fleming, James H. (1872-1940)	TOC	SC 29 (35)
Bird notebooks; corresp; photos, etc. (Toronto , Ontario, foreign)		
<i>Great Lakes Ornithological Club</i>		SC 30 (3)
Bird notes; corresp., etc.		
Hahn, Paul (1875-1962)		SC 63 (3)
Bird notes; corresp (Passenger P., Extinct birds)		
Harrington, Paul (1898-1966)	TOC	SC 31
Bird notes, 1914-63 (Toronto & var. Ontario)		
Herzberg, Louise		SC 94 (6)
Notes for book on Wm. Brodie (1996)		
Hincks, William (1794-1871)		SC 32
Bird catalogue of U of Toronto museum, 1865		
Hope, Clifford E. (1910-53)	TOC	SC 33
Bird observations, 1926-52 (Toronto & var. Ontario)		
Hose, C. (1863-1929)		SC 35
<u>Birds of Borneo</u> , 1884-1907		
Hunter, Edmund R. (1909-?)		SC 37
Bird sightings, 1915-41 (mainly L. Simcoe)		
Jackson, J.L.		SC 38
Bird notes, 1887-93		
Kerr, J.W.		SC 39 (5)
Fish & game journals, 1864-88		
Kerr, Frederick		SC 39 (5)
Fish & game journals, 1888-98		
Laing, Hamilton (1883-1982)		SC 78
Correspondence, photo		
Lloyd, Hoyes (1888-1978)		SC 93 (8)
Journals, Diaries, misc. mss & corresp., 1902-73		
Martin, W.H.		SC 42
Bird observations, 1943-50 (Toronto area)		
McIlwraith, Thomas (1824-1903)		SC 151
Catalogue of his mounted bird collection, 1891, etc.		
McIntyre, Harold		SC 41 (2)
Bird observations, 1911-12 (var. Ontario)		
Millman, Joseph (1911-66)		SC 106
Bird records, Ontario, 1960s		
<i>Miscellaneous Ornith & Botanical prints</i>		SC 104
Incl. J. Gould & other prints from Fleming Collection		
Munro, James A. (1884-1958)		SC 43
Bird observations, 1892-1919 (Toronto area & Canada)		
Nash, Charles W. (1848-1926)		SC 44 (2)
Natural history diaries, corresp. 1889-1912 (var. Ontario)		
Nasmith, Eric A. (1916-85)	TOC	SC 121 (1 lge)
Bird records, 1953-84 (Toronto area & var. Ontario)		
<i>Natural History Society of Toronto</i>		SC 45
Minutes, etc.		

<i>Naturalists' Association, Societies, Congresses</i>		SC 77 (2)
Various		
North, George W. (1910-83)		SC 158
Noteworthy bird records, Hamilton area, 1950s; corresp.		
<i>Ontario Nest Records Scheme</i>		SC 91 (2)
W.E. Saunders, G.F. Boyer nest records		
Peake, Cyril B. (1891-1966)		SC 88
Egg Records; Bird Observations, 1930-66		
<i>Portraits of Significant People</i>		SC 128
Includes ornithologists-e.g. W. Couper, A. Brooks		
Richards, Charles H. (1907-83)	TOC	SC 81 (6)
Bird banding, 1907-83 (Toronto)		
Sadler, Douglas C. (1916-2008)		SC 157 (2 lge)
Bird Records, clippings, ca. 1957-2004		
Samuel, John Hughes (d. 1911)		SC 152
Ornithological Journals, 1894-1901		
Saunders, Richard M. (1904-98)	TOC	SC 86 (2)
14 bird journals, 1934-66		
Saunders, William E. (1861-1943)		SC 47 (5)
Bird notes, 1880-1953; corresp., etc. (mainly s.w. Ontario)		
Schaefer, Willard H. & Glen		SC 134
Bird Notes, Waterloo Co. 1945-77, etc.		
Scott, D.M.		SC 48
Bird journal, 1937-41		
Shortt, Terry M. (1911-86)	TOC	SC 49 (4)
Bird journal, 1931-38, etc. (var. unsorted)		
Snyder, Lester L. (1894-1968)	TOC	SC 50 (3)
"Ontario Ornithology" ms. (typed), 12 vols.		
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Compiled by Joan Winearls, TOC Archivist, revised October 2008.