



TORONTO BIRDS

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TORONTO BIRDS – The journal of record of the birds of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)



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COVER PHOTO

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

Photo © Winnie Poon

The Great Black-backed Gull appears to have declined substantially in the GTA in recent years. The largest single-site count we have in the TOC Database was 423 at the former Keele Valley Landfill, *York R.M.* on 19 December 1998. CBC data for all Ontario confirm that numbers peaked in the 1990s, with a pronounced decline after 2000. The GTA formerly supported sizable wintering numbers, but nowadays groups of fifteen or more are rarely seen at any time. Type E botulism epidemics in eastern Lake Ontario during 2004 - 2006 decimated the Great Lakes breeding population (Moore 2009), but some local observers believe that closure of the Keele Valley Landfill in 2003 and the Britannia Road Landfill, *Peel* some years earlier, may have had a significant impact on the decline in GTA wintering numbers. Perhaps gulls originating from the Atlantic coast now stop short of the GTA and Lake Ontario in general. Very likely, these gulls congregate instead at more favorable grounds such as the St. Lawrence River and Ottawa River. An example of the surprisingly large counts now being recorded on the Ottawa River was the 1650+ Great Black-backed Gulls found off Andrew Haydon Park, *Ottawa* on 4 January 2007 (Bruce Di Labio, ONTBIRDS). *Winnie Poon*

This photograph illustrating 1st basic plumage was taken at the Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, on 8 March 2009.

Literature Cited:

Moore, D. 2009. The Rise and Fall of the Great Black-backed Gull on the Great Lakes. *OFO News* 27(1):3-5, February 2009.

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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 submissions of notes or articles related to birds in the GTA. We also request potential cover photos, artwork and current photos for use in illustrating the bird report. Please send all contributions, or photos in jpeg format including date, location, subject, and caption if any, to our email address below. Bird observation records should be sent to Roy Smith rsmith@mrs.com. All submissions are subject to review and editing.

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – MARCH 2009

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 CSSP on 13th (GLKJ fide ONTBIRDS, fide OFO-W).

SNOW GOOSE - 1 (white) at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th (KRS fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROSS'S GOOSE - 1 (white) at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (GC fide ONTBIRDS) was with a flock of several hundred Canada Geese, which gradually drifted W past Whitby Harbour; and by late afternoon was off Cranberry Marsh. It was seen again on Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 16:00hrs on 16th (GC). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* @ 11:00hrs on 31st (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & seen again there @ 16:25hrs (AEMA, Jerry Ball, fide ONTBIRDS) when it flew in with a large group of Canada Geese. [No doc. seen for either report].

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 9 at Reesor Pond, *York* @ 15:00hrs on 14th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), flew in to join a larger group of Canada geese on the ice, and immediately went to sleep. 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (THo).

CANADA GOOSE - 410 at Bloomington SR E of McCowan, *York* on 21st (RBHS,WP).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 10 (8 AD, 2 imm) at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 3 ADs had wing tags: 873, 917 and H22. 6 (2 AD, 4 imm) at Kipling S of Kirby SR, *York* on 9th (JLo) [Brydon 2009]. 2 seen in flight (tags not read), at Liverpool Road, *Durham* on 14th (RBHS,WP). 2 with wing tags at Seneca College (King), *York* on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

TUNDRA SWAN - 60 at Cell #3, LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON), 31 flying W at Endikement, LSS on 15th (RBHS,WP) & 24 flying E at Tip, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa). 37 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 16th, 30 on 17th & 1 there on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & single bird with about 410 Canada Geese in flooded field at Bloomington Rd E of McCowan, *York* on 21st (RBHS,WP). 12 at Weston Rd & 15th SR, *York* on 22nd (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 49 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 26th (Steve Walsh fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

WOOD DUCK - 1 M on Don R. at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 6th (ETB), 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RPye fide DRBA) & 6 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (M & F) at HP on 21st & 28th, 1 M there on 31st (SMF). 7 (5 M, 2 F) at Snug Harbour, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

GADWALL - 94 at LSS on 8th & 65 on 21st (NMu,ICa).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 4 at Cell #3, LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 1 M at Cell #3, LSS on 15th (RBHS,WP). 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA), 8 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th (RJF fide

- ONTBIRDS) & 20 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (THo fide DRBA), 6 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 at HBP on 26th (SMF).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 4 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 19 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 12 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).
- MALLARD - 100 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 20th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 2 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 29th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (M. Jemsen fide DRBA).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (RBHS). 6 reports from HP from 19th to 31st with a high of 6 on 26th (SMF).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 13th (DW), 29 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RPye fide DRBA) & 157 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (THo fide DRBA). 600 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th, 150 on 20th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 200 there (Hochreiter Rd) on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), but only 1 left there on 29th (RBHS,WP), 2 at Bloomington SR E of McCowan, *York* on 21st (RBHS,WP), 12 flying over the Endikement, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) and 20 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA), 6 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 31 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (THo fide DRBA). 2 at N End of Bathurst Street (Hochreiter Rd), *York* on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 32 there on 29th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- CANVASBACK - 1 M at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (RBHS,WP) & 3 there on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA). 7 at Trout Pond, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL), 6 at Triangle Pond, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 5 at LSS on 28th (SMF).
- REDHEAD - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 8th (DRuch fide DRBA), 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Cell #3, LSS on 15th (RBHS,WP), 58 there on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (THo).
- RING-NECKED DUCK - 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th & 18 on 21st (RPye fide DRBA). 50 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 17th, 60 on 20th & 100 on 21st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 35 at Trout Pond, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL), 6 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (DW) & 10 there on 21st (RBHS). 2 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA) & 6 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- GREATER SCAUP - 650 at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa), 168 on 15th (RBHS,WP) & 300 there on 21st (NMu,ICa). 50 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (THo).
- LESSER SCAUP - 10 at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa)
- KING EIDER** - 1 F at Tip, LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa), probably one of up to 3 seen there in Jan and Feb. 1 at CSSP on 11th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & on 13th (GLKJ fide ONTBIRDS). 1 1W-M at HBP [E] on 15th (LFr).; this probably same as the CSSP bird.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK - 3 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 30th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).
- SURF SCOTER - 2 at Tip, LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Pipit Point, LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 52 at LSS on 8th & 56 there on 21st (NMu,ICa). 1 at Moore Point, *Durham* on 14th (RBHS), 2 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 17th (D. Wysotski fide DRBA) & 1 there on 22nd (MDW,R. Stephenson, fide DRBA). 2 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 22nd (THo).
- LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1000 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa). 250 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st & 170 there on 22nd (THo).
- BUFFLEHEAD - 148 at TI on 19th (NMu,MVL) & 82 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa). 55 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st & 110 there on 22nd (THo).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE - 118 at Cell #3, LSS on 15th (RBHS,WP) & 400 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa). 180 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st & 150 there on 22nd (THo).

HOODED MERGANSER - 1 M at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa) & on 15th (RBHS,WP). 1 M at HP on 9th, 2 M on 10th (SMF) & 1 there on 11th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Bethesda SR, *York* on 9th (AKJ fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 15 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th & 14 there on 21st (RPye fide DRBA). 5 at TI on 19th (NMu,MVL), 8 at Sobey's Pond, *Whitby, Durham* on 22nd (R. Stephenson, D. McCurdy) & 6 there on 28th (RPye fide DRBA). 2 at Hwy 27 & 17th SR King, *York* on 29th (RBHS,WP) & 12 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MERGANSER - 68 at LSS on 8th (RBHS,WP) & 131 there on 21st (NMu,ICa). 16 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 21st (RBHS,WP).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 665 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st & 650 on 22nd (THo).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at HBP [E] on 14th (SCH) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (M. Jensen fide DRBA).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 at Holland Landing Woods, *York* on 5th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

WILD TURKEY - 1 at Bruce St off Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 1st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at North Trail/Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP) & 30 at Conc 2 & Holborn Rd, 3km N of Queensville SR, *York* on 7th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 40 at Taunton Rd W of Clark townline, *Durham* on 14th (THo fide DRBA), 3 M at Keele St S of Hwy 9, *York* on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 (2 M, 2 F) at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 21st (RBHS,WP).

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at Pipit Point, LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 22nd (MDW,R. Stephenson, fide DRBA).

HORNED GREBE - 1 at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 7th (DEP), 1 at CSSP on 11th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS, fide OFO-W) & 5 there on 14th (SCH). 1 at Endikement, LSS on 15th (RBHS) & 1 at Pipit Point, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa). 7 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (THo) & 1 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 at Watersedge Park, Clarkson, *Peel*, 40 at Arkendo Park, *Halton* & 30 at Westdale Rd, Oakville, *Halton* on 7th (DEP). 17 at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa), 1 at Pipit Point, LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON), 2 on 15th (WP,RBHS) & 13 there on 21st (NMu,ICa). 25 at CSSP on 14th (Josh Vandermuelen fide ONTBIRDS), 10 on 27th & 1 there on 31st (SMF). 3 at Moore Point, *Durham* on 14th (WP,RBHS), 13 at end of Halls Rd., *Durham* on 15th & 14 there on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 17th & 2 (pair) there on 18th (Eric Harrison fide ONTBIRDS). 55 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 21st (RBHS,WP) & 25 there on 22nd (THo). 128 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st & 218 there on 22nd (THo).

EARED GREBE - 1 at Pipit Point, LSS on 21st [No doc. seen] (NMu,ICa).

WESTERN GREBE - 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 12th (EO'C fide OUTON), moving slowly in westerly direction about 200m offshore. 1 at Pipit Point, LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park @ 09:15hrs on 14th (Josh Vandermuelen fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park @ 10:00hrs on 21st (JNi fide ONTBIRDS) moving slowly E, quite far out. 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 22nd (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Baselands, LSS @ 10:30hrs on 28th (MSch, Kevin Seymour, fide CMH) was seen off the E side. All these reports are assumed to relate to the same bird, originally found on 13 Feb 2009, and documented then.

WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE - 2 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 21st (THo) were too far out for positive ID.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 6 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 7th (RJF,KRS, fide ONTBIRDS), 12 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 20 there on 28th (SMF). 41 flying over at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL) were heading towards the Spit & 1 at HBP on 31st (SMF).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at Cherrywood Swamp Heronry, *Durham* on 15th (JCS fide DRBA) & 1 flying over at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 19th (RLau). 12 at Leslie & 19th Heronry, *York* on 20th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS) & 24 nests (12 in one emergent oak tree) with 14 birds standing on nests seen there on 21st (RBHS,WP). 19 birds were seen there from Leslie St. on 29th with 14 nests in the big oak tree & several birds bringing in large sticks (RBHS,WP). 6 at Brougham (Brock Rd) Heronry, *Durham* on 21st (R. Stephenson fide DRBA) & 1 standing on the single remaining nest at Humber Station Rd. Heronry, *Peel* on 22nd (RBHS,WP). Many of the dead trees seem to have collapsed or disappeared. 30 at Lower Baseline Heronry, *Halton* on 28th (RBHS,WP), maximum count of 40 nests (# active?). 26 at Halton 6th Line Heronry, *Halton* on 28th (RBHS,WP), maximum count was 48 nests (# occupied?). 4 at Nobleton Lakes Heronry, *York* on 29th (RBHS,WP), 4 nests seen, but only 2

appeared occupied. 22 seen in/around the Holland R. Mouth Heronry, York on 29th (RBHS,WP), where 33 nests were counted (# occupied ?). Reports on other heronries, and/or updated counts would be appreciated (Eds).

- TURKEY VULTURE - 3 at King & Wilson, Oshawa, Durham on 9th (DRuch fide DRBA), 2 at Leslie St, Aurora (NE), York on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at Glen Abbey & Dorval, Oakville, Halton on 25th (Judy Eberspaecher fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 28th (SMF) & 3 at 6th Line W of Ashgrove, Halton on 28th (RBHS,WP).
- BALD EAGLE - 2 at Holland R. Mouth Heronry, York on 22nd (PW fide ONTBIRDS), pair flew in from W and landed on a nest which seemed larger than the others. There were no herons back yet. 2 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., York on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 M at Halls Rd., Durham on 1st (RPye fide DRBA), 2 at N End Bathurst Street, York on 7th (RJF,KRS, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 29th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York on 28th (KRS,MvdT, fide RJF), 1 F at Mouth of Holland River, York on 29th (RBHS,WP), 2 M at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., York on 29th (RBHS,WP) & 1 there on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Singles at Snug Harbour, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL), Glen Oak, Oakville, Halton on 25th (Judy Eberspaecher fide ONTBIRDS) & at Gibraltar Point, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).
- COOPER'S HAWK – 12 reports of singles thro' the month from 11 different locations & 2 at TI on 19th (NMu,MVL).
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Snug Harbour, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL) & on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 at YRF - Porritt Tract, York on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at #2660 Vandorf SR, York on 17th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 at Goldfish Pond, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa), 1 at W end Ravenshoe Rd., York on 23rd (BB [Brydon 2009], & 1 (dark morph) at Coleraine, Peel on 28th (RBHS,WP).
- MERLIN – Singles at John St & Montrave, Oshawa, Durham on 7th (DRuch fide DRBA), Thicksos Woods, Durham on 20th (GC) & again there on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).
- PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Causeway, LSS on 8th (RBHS,WP), 2 (calling) at Clarica Centre, Islington on 10th (SCH) & 1 at King & Wilson, Oshawa, Durham on 13th (DRuch fide DRBA).
- AMERICAN COOT – Singles at HBP on 8th (SMF) & at Centre Island, TI on 19th & 27th (NMu,MVL).
- SANDHILL CRANE – 1 heard calling at Halls Rd., Durham on 22nd (ETB fide DRBA), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham on 23rd (C. Adey fide DRBA), 1 at Whitby waterfront, Durham on 27th (J. Skene fide DRBA) & 1 at LSS on 28th (SMF).
- KILLDEER - Singles at Holt Rd, S of Bloor, Courtice, Durham on 7th (RPye fide DRBA), Bethesda SR, York on 12th (AKJ fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Banigan Drive on 14th (ETB). Several at LSS on 14th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 2 at Endikement, LSS on 15th (RBHS,WP), 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 14th (JWi,BKa) & 2 at Halls Rd., Durham on 15th (GCarp,Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Weston Rd & 15th SR King, York from 28th to 30th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 13th & 2 on 15th (Vivian Bessel fide Jack Walker, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Humber Arboretum on 14th (Bill Simpson fide OUTON), 1 at Silver Lakes Golf Course, York on 16th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksos Point, Durham along the Waterfront Trail on 16th (B. Steel fide DRBA). 2 at Silver Lakes Golf Course, York on 23rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksos Woods, Durham on 26th (GC).
- THAYER'S GULL - 1 AD at Cell #3, LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa).
- ICELAND GULL - 1 1W at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 12th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 4 (2 1W; 1 2W; 1 AD) there on 22nd (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 13th (DW) & on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA), 3 1W on 20th (DW) & 1 there on 21st & 22nd (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham on 20th (THo fide DRBA) & 1 1W at Outer Harbour Marina, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 AD at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (RPye fide DRBA;RBHS,WP) & on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 1st (B. Steel fide DRBA), 21 on 7th (Karl Jennewein fide DRBA), 19 on 13th (DW), 12 there on 14th (RPye fide DRBA), 8 on 15th (RPye,JCS, fide DRBA), 22 on 20th (DW) & 7 there on 21st & 22nd RPye fide DRBA). 1 1W at Gardiner & Parliament St on 8th (AA), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (THo fide GC, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (THo fide DRBA). 2 1W at Rouge Beach Park on 20th (DW) & 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp fide DRBA).



Herring Gull feasting on frozen carp, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, 8 March 2009.
© Winnie Poon.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 6 (4 1W, 1 2W, 1 3W) at LSS on 8th (RBHS, WP) & 4 at Beachpoint Promenade, Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (RBHS,WP).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 6 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 9th (WDM fide GDB), 4 at one spot; 2 together at another spot. 2 at Marie Curtis Park on 9th (GDB).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 2 at Silver Lakes Golf Course, *York* on 23rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) responded after an Eastern Screech-Owl tape was played! 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

"SNYDER'S" GREAT HORNED OWL - 2 at LSS on 8th NMu,ICa), 1 at base of Peninsula B; one on Peninsula D. 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 15th (JSmy) & on 21st (NMu,ICa). Presumably the same birds staying from February.

SNOWY OWL - 1 1W on breakwall at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1st (DW fide DRBA). Singles at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. (500m E of #444), *York*, Woodchopper's Lane, Holland Marsh & at Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* all on 1st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Holt Rd, S of Bloor, Courtice, *Durham* from 1st to 3rd (D. Dalke fide DRBA), 1 at Woodchoppers Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 7th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 F at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 7th (GC,&) & 1 at Thickson's Rd, *Durham* on 14th (J. Foster fide DRBA). 1 F at Pipit Point, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Causeway, LSS on 22nd (IDMF fide OUTON). 1 at Hwy 401 & Hwy 407 on 22nd (anon fide PG) [Brydon 2009]. 3 (1 M, 2 imm F) at Annagem Blvd., E of Edward, *Peel* on 22nd, were roosting on top of flat roofed industrial buildings, so not visible after about 08:30h; had been there for the last 3 weeks (Jim Biggar fide ONTBIRDS). 1 IMM-F at #310 Annagem Blvd, Mississauga, *Peel* on 28th (Tony Johnson fide ONTBIRDS).

BARRED OWL - 1 (calling) at Thornton Bales Cons. Area, *York* on 20th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT GRAY OWL - 1 at Bathurst N of Queensville SR, *York* @ 07:30hrs on 1st (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), relocated, having not been seen for a week! It was seen again there @ 08:00hrs on 2nd (JSchm fide ONTBIRDS) & on 3rd (Ron Stephenson; Skip Shand; both fide ONTBIRDS). However, it was not seen there at 13:00hrs on 5th (Don Davies fide ONTBIRDS) and there were no further reports.

LONG-EARED OWL - 1 at Bowmanville, *Durham* on 1st (Lee Hubbell fide OFO-W) & 1 at Centre Island, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Downsview Park on 1st (DP) & 1 at Km 5 of Hwy 407, Burlington, *Halton* @ 18:20hrs on 14th (Jack Walker fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 calling nr. Silver Lakes Golf Course, *York* on 4th (BB) [Brydon 2009]. 1 at Peninsula C, LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa).

BELTED KINGFISHER - Singles at Ward's Island, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL), Queensville SR nr. Hwy 48, York on 20th (Steven Walsh fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), Kortright C. A., York on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & at LSS on 28th (SMF).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - 1 at Lakeshore Rd & Morgans Rd (E of Bond Head), Durham on 8th (Tony Bigg, & fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 M at HP on 16th, 26th & 29th (SMF). 2 at Dufferin 3km N of Hwy 9, York on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 30th (M. Jensen fide DRBA).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 1 at N end of Conc. 2, York on 7th (RJF,KRS, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 1 at CSSP on 31st (SMF).

PILEATED WOODPECKER – Singles at Queensville SR E of Bathurst, York on 7th (RJF,KRS, fide ONTBIRDS), HP on 9th & 29th (SMF), Thicksons Woods, Durham on 21st (GC) & at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, Durham on 21st (THo,GC). 1 at Seneca College (King), York on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York on 28th (KRS,MvdT, fide RJF).

EASTERN PHOEBE - Singles at Kortright C. A., York (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS;JWi,BFa), Holland Landing S.L., York (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York (KRS,MvdT, fide RJF) all on 28th.

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at N End Bathurst Street, York on 7th (RJF,KRS, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Flats, LSS on 8th & 21st (NMu,ICa), 1 at Phyllis Rawlinson Park, York on 8th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 IMM at Reesor Pond, York on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Seneca College (King), York on 21st (RHNC,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York on 28th (KRS,MvdT, fide RJF) & at State Farm Insurance, Aurora, York on 29th (RBHS,WP).

COMMON RAVEN - 2 (pair) at Rouge Park (North) on 7th were seen several times carrying sticks into an evergreen woodlot along the Woodland Trail (GG fide RPy). They were seen again there on 13th (DW); while on 14th the nest was located but no birds seen (WP,RBHS). On 20th one was heard and then seen 100m S of nest; the 2nd bird was on the nest, presumably incubating (DW). However, by the end of the month the nest had evidently been abandoned (for unknown reasons). A nest on the taller of the two microwave towers was reported at Durham RF - Main Tract, Durham on 15th (THo fide DRBA). 2 were seen there on 21st (RBHS,WP); one chased a passing Red-tailed Hawk; one brought nest lining material and spent time in the nest, shaping the cup. 1 flying E at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 21st (GC) & 1 at YRF - North Tract, York on 26th (Steve McAllister fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED LARK - 13 at Tip, LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 1st (DBar fide DRBA) & on 18th (GC). 1 (singing) at Ward's Island, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL). 1 at Ward's Island, TI & 1 at Nature Reserve, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

WINTER WREN - 1 (singing) at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 5th (DBar fide DRBA) & on 18th (GC).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 2 at Peninsula C, LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, Durham on 29th (GCarp fide DRBA).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 at Glen Major Forest, Durham on 15th (THo fide DRBA), 1 M at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 15th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at 15th SR King, W of Weston Rd., York on 22nd (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at Kortright C. A., York on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, York on 28th (KRS,MvdT, fide RJF).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 (prob. wintering) at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 18th (GC).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 67 at Ashton Manor, Etobicoke on 6th (SCH) & 100 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

VARIED THRUSH - 1 seen only once at Bowmanville, Durham on 18th (Otto Peter fide DRBA) [No doc. seen].



A 'sooty-faced' **Northern Mockingbird** on a cold wintry afternoon, Index Road, Etobicoke, *Toronto*, 22 March 2009.
© Winnie Poon.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - In total there were 29 reports, with 14 from *Toronto* (some duplication); 6 from *York*; 7 from *Durham* and 1 each from *Peel* and *Halton*. Thanks to the following 18 observers who provided reports this month: AA; anon fide OUTON; DBar fide DRBA; ETB; ICa; GDe; EDo fide TH; SCH; THo fide DRBA; LGK; SLo fide ONTBIRDS; NMu; WP; DRuch; Bill Simpson fide OUTON; RBHS, DW; Mary Beth Worthington fide DW.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - Several at Holland Landing Woods, *York* on 5th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Hortop N of Rossland, *Oshawa*, *Durham* on 16th (D. Pazaratz fide DRBA).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 32 at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa).

* **CHIPPING SPARROW** - 1 photographed at feeder at 7 Fairway Dr., *Scarborough* on 16th ; seen there again on 23rd (RLau).

* **FIELD SPARROW** - 1 at Peninsula C, LSS on 22nd [No doc. seen] (IDMF fide OUTON).

FOX SPARROW - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 27th (THo fide DRBA).

SONG SPARROW - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 (started singing) at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 8th (GDe). 66 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 83 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA;RBHS), 1 at Canada Life, University Ave. on 4th (RBHS), 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 9th (GDe) & 2 at High St & Mary St, Whitby, *Durham* on 11th (B. Mcwalters fide DRBA). 1-3 reported at HP on many dates from 4th to end of the month (SMF). 2 at TI on 19th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 10 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 8th (GDe) & 9 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 40 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA), several M at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 7th (RJF,KRS, fide ONTBIRDS) & several at Phyllis Rawlinson Park, *York* on 8th (GDe). 13 at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa) & 75 there on 21st (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 2 at 15th SR King, W of Weston Rd., *York* on 22nd (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON GRACKLE - 1 at Palace Court, Doncrest, *York* on 5th (MAB fide Michael's Bulletin # 383) & 1 at Willow Beach, *York* on 5th (Lorena Campbell fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 8th (GCarp fide DRBA) & 31 at Running Robin Ranch, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (CSAM fide DRBA).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 2 (wintering) at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 1st & 2 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 6th (GCarp fide DRBA). 1 M at LSS on 17th & 1 M at HP on 20th (SMF). 11 at LSS on 21st (NMu,ICa) & 12 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 27th (THo fide DRBA).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 8 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA), 12 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 7th (RPye fide DRBA), 6 at Dryden & Fallingbrook, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (J. Melendez fide DRBA) & 4 M at 37 Cronin Dr, Etobicoke on 14th (AA). 2 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 15th & 3 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 20th (THo fide DRBA). A small flock at Humber Arboretum on 25th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 1 heard at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 F at Parking Lot 'A', Bronte Creek P.P. (W side), *Halton* on 28th & 29th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON REDPOLL - 200 at LSS on 8th (NMu,ICa) at the base of Peninsula C and along road into Peninsula D. 70-75 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 9th (DEP) & 7 at Running Robin Ranch, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (CSAM fide DRBA). A small flock was reported at Peninsula D, LSS on 15th (JSmy).

HOARY REDPOLL - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS (NMu,ICa) & 1 at Riverwood Park, *Peel* (Sam Barone) on 8th, 1 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 9th (DEP).



Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis h. exilipes*) at Riverwood Park, *Peel*, 8 March 2009. © Sam Barone.

PINE SISKIN - 40 at Brooklin, *Durham* on 1st & 30 there on 22nd (B. Steel fide DRBA). 18 at 60 Mountview Ave, Toronto on 4th (GC), 5 (incl. one green morph) at Running Robin Ranch, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (CSAM fide DRBA), 2 (prob. pair, but no breeding evidence) at Woodlands Park on 14th (RBHS,WP) & 3 at Alderwood Parkette, Pickering, *Durham* on 14th (RBHS). On 18th 2 were seen at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS) carrying nest lining material (cattail 'down'); a total of 65 was seen there that day (GC). 20 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 20th (THo fide DRBA), 2 at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 22nd (RBHS) & 2 at Glen Oak, Oakville, *Halton* on 25th (Judy Eberspaecher fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 27th (THo fide DRBA), and several singing at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 12 were still at Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 28th, where an almost complete nest was found at 10' height in outer branches of a Blue Spruce (RLau). *There are rather few confirmed breeding reports from the GTA, at least few involving actual nests – so this is clearly a 'good' year to look for breeding evidence (Eds).*

CITED OBSERVERS: AA Alfred Adamo; DBar Dennis Barry; ETB Eleanor Beagan; MAB Michael A. Biro; ICA Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; GDe Gene Denzel; EDo Eleanor Dowson; KDu Keith Dunn; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; SMF Steven Favier; IDMF Iain Fleming; RJF Ron Fleming; PG Phyllis Graydon; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; LGK Leslie Kinrys; RLau Rick Lauzon; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; SLo Stan Long; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; KRS Kevin Shackleton; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JSmy Jake Smythe; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCES

Brydon, Bruce. 2009. February-March 2009 Sightings. West Humber Nats. Club Newsletter April 2009: 5-6.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 571 reports were added to the database for March 2009.

Please send reports to: Roy Smith 20 Harding Blvd. W, Suite 1002, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 9S4. Tel/Fax: 905-508-4045 email: rsmith@mrs.com by 8th of the following month, please. Send photos for possible use in the bird report to: torontobirds@sympatico.ca, following guidelines on 2nd page of this journal.

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TORONTO BIRD RARITIES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006

Roy B.H. Smith

This is the tenth annual report of the Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC), which is a standing committee of the Toronto Ornithological Club (TOC). The report relates to the Committee's activities during the 2006 calendar year. The Committee reviews materials documenting reports of species identified in the Toronto Ornithological Club's *Greater Toronto Area Bird Checklist and Reporting Guidelines — 2000* as requiring documentation. The Committee forwards reports of species for which the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) requires supporting documentation.

The Committee was made up of Gerry Binsfeld, John Carley, David Milsom, Roy Smith and Anthony Lang (Secretary) in 2006. All of these people were Voting Members. Glenn Coady was the Alternate Member, voting on reports when a report was submitted by one of the Voting Members, or when a Voting Member was not able to vote within a reasonable time period.

The Committee reviewed 40 reports in 2006 (34 from 2006, 2 from 2005, 3 from 2004, and 1 from 2003). In total, 37 of these reports (92%) were accepted into the record of substantiated occurrences. The number of reports reviewed was up from 30 in 2005. In 2006 the Committee received documentation for 34 of 148 (23%) of the 2006 observations recognized by the TOC Records Committee for which documentation was required. This is a small increase from 30 of 158 (18%) reports in 2005. Documentation for 6 of the undocumented prior year reports was received in 2006. The Committee wishes to remind members that documenting reports of rare birds allows those reports to be confidently cited in the future. Of the reports reviewed in 2006, fewer were of observations from years prior to 2006 than was the case in some earlier years. In total, 85% of reports reviewed in 2006 were of 2006 occurrences and 15% were from prior years. In 2005, all reports processed were of 2005 occurrences and none were from prior years.

The higher number of reports handled for 2006 is almost entirely explained by the extraordinary series of late date records in the fall of that year, and additional efforts by the author in seeking out documentation for some of them.

Listing of Records

Records and reports are listed by their English and scientific names as laid out by the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) and its supplements. Each set of observations believed to constitute a single 'occurrence' is grouped together, and given a 'record number' in the format XXXX-YYYY-nnn/mmm, where XXXX is the standard 4-character species code used in the TOC database, YYYY is the calendar year, nnn is the number of the occurrence (allocated sequentially within year), and mmm is the 'documentation number'. Normally this would be one, but if the same bird or occurrence is documented by more than one person, then each documentation is numbered sequentially.

Within a species (or taxon, for recognizable forms), individual occurrences are listed in date sequence. Number of birds, sex, age, plumage, date(s) of occurrence, and location are provided when known. Plumage terminology follows Humphrey and Parkes (1959). In each case the finders are noted, if known, and the person or persons submitting documentation listed separately. Note that in some cases TBRC is listed here, when the initial documentation was incomplete, or maybe the written part of the documentation was entirely lacking (as when only a photo is received). Persons supplying photographs or other material evidence are also listed separately.

Where a report was documented for a species or taxon that does not require documentation of all occurrences, the reason is given. These reports consist of: reports required by the Toronto Christmas Bird Count (including count week) [CBC or CBC-CW], unusually early or late dates [Early date] [Late date], or [Unseasonal] in the case of records falling outside the normally accepted seasons of occurrence. High counts for single locations within the reporting area can be [All time] or [Seasonal], based on the date ranges provided in Coady and Smith (2000). Note that the CBC and CBC-CW abbreviations apply to the Toronto Christmas Bird Count, unless otherwise stated. TBRC also reviews reports of first breeding in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and rare breeding events, but there were none reported for 2006.

GTA List Summary

One of the functions of TBRC as defined in its Constitution is to maintain the official list for the GTA. With the addition of four new species (Manx Shearwater, Garganey, Swainson's Warbler and Chestnut-collared Longspur) as a result of OBRC decisions, the GTA Checklist stood at 399 as of the end of 2006. There were no additions to the list of breeding species in 2006, but one record (Prothonotary Warbler) was added from 2003, so that number increased to 195. Since three out of the four additions occurred within the traditional 50km circle, the numbers for the circle stood at 395 species and 197 breeding species as of the end of 2006. Note that two of the breeding species counted for the circle (Yellow Rail and Olive-sided Flycatcher), have only been confirmed in the small segment that falls within Simcoe County, hence the difference from the GTA total.

Accepted Records

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

2004 – One, adult, 6-21 November 2004, Scarborough Townline Swamp, *Toronto*. Found by Glenn Coady *et al.*, documented by Rick Lauzon (GWFG-2004-001/001) and Glenn Coady (GWFG-2004-001/002).

Brant *Branta bernicla*

2004 – One, 28 August to 5 September 2004, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [Unseasonal]. Found by Craig S.A. McLaughlin, documented by Rick Lauzon (BRAN-2004-001/001).

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

2006 – One, 17 December 2006, Verobeach Road Pond, *Toronto* [CBC-Sector 4B]. Found by Hugh Currie, documented by Hugh Currie (CKGO-2006-001/001).

The documentation requirement for this species was removed by TBRC starting 1 Jan 2006. However, documentation is still required for CBC purposes.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

2006 – 87 on 7 January 2006, LaSalle Marina, *Halton R.M.* [All time high count]. Found by Rick Lauzon, documented by Rick Lauzon (TRUS-2006-001/001).

The previous documented high count was 41 on 11 January 2001 (Lang, Coady and Smith 2003) so this resets the bar considerably, however, with the continuing increase in numbers, this count will soon be superceded.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

2006 – Two, 12-23 September 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [Unseasonal]. Found by Andrew McDonald and Dan Derbyshire, documented by TBRC, photo by Dan Derbyshire (HARD-2006-001/001).

Alan Wormington considered that these birds had over-summered on Lake Ontario. The last report from the spring period occurred on 14 June 2006 off Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham R.M., but there were no reports from July or August. On the other hand, many parts of the lakeshore are poorly watched in summer, and lingering birds could be easily overlooked. There is a precedent for summering by Harlequin Duck – in 2004 a first summer male stayed around Humber Bay Park, Toronto for the entire season and into the fall.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

2006 – Nine, 31 May 2006, Ashbridge's Bay Park, Toronto. Found by Alec Dobson, documented by Alec Dobson and TBRC (AWPE-2006-001/001).

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

2006 – One, 27 June 2006, Rattray Marsh, Peel R.M. Found by Don E. Perks, documented by Rick Lauzon (SNEG-2006-002/001).

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

2005 – 1159 on 8 October 2005, High Park, Toronto. [All-time high count]. High Park Hawk Watch, documented by Don Barnett and TBRC (TUVU-2005-002/001).

The previous high counts for GTA were 960 at Hawk Hill, High Park, Toronto on 9 October 2000 and 980 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham R.M. on the same date. However, the latter was not documented.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

2005 – 12 on 17 September 2005, High Park, Toronto. [All-time high count]. High Park Hawk Watch, documented by Don Barnett (BAEA-2005-001/001).

The previous high count for GTA was 8 (four occasions, all undocumented). There was also a count of 11 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham R.M. on 8 October 2005 (undocumented).

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*

2006 – 44 on 4 December 2006, Lambton Woods, Toronto [All time high count]. Found by Dave Langford, documented by Dave Langford (SACR-2006-001/001).

The previous high count was 29 on 16 Oct 2005 at Major Mackenzie and Hwy 400, York R.M. (Lang and Smith 2007).

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*

2006 – One, adult female, basic, 29 August to 7 September 2006, Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, York R.M. Found by Don Wiens, documented by Winnie Poon, photos by Winnie Poon (AMAV-2006-002/001).

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

2006 – One, 7-9 September 2006, Rattray Marsh, Peel R.M. Found by Don E. Perks, documented by Rick Lauzon and TBRC, photos by Rick Lauzon, Latafat Correa (OFO website) (WILL-2006-001/001).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

2006 – One, 29 April 2006, Leslie Street Spit, Toronto [Early date]. Found by Hugh Currie *et al.*, documented by Hugh Currie (WHIM-2006-002/001).

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

2004 – One, 29 April to 1 May 2004, Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham R.M. Found by Tyler Hoar, documented by Rick Lauzon (MAGO-2004-001/001).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

2006 – One, alternate, 21-24 June 2006, Reesor Pond, *York R.M.* [Unseasonal]. Found by Stan Long, documented by Rick Lauzon for 21st (REKN-2007-001/001) and by Theo Hofmann for 24th (REKN-2006-001/002); photos by Jean Iron.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

2006 – One, juvenal, 17 September 2006, mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham R.M.* Found by Dave Worthington and John Carley, documented by Dave Worthington; photos by Dave Worthington (LBDO-2006-003/001).

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

2006 – One, 17 December 2006, Downsview Dells Park, *Toronto* [CBC Sector 6A]. Found by Michael Bates and Dan Bone, documented by Dan Bone (WISN-2006-001/001).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*

2006 – One, 24 October 2006, Cranberry Marsh (South Platform), *Durham R.M.* [Late date]. Found by Bettina Murphy *et al.*, documented by TBRC, photo by Bettina Murphy (YBCU-2006-001/001).



American Avocet, Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, *York*, 2 September 2006. © Winnie Poon.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

2006 – One, juvenal, 27 August 2006, Clements Road, Pickering, *Durham R.M.* Found by Roy B.H. Smith and Winnie Poon, documented by Roy B.H. Smith (LOSH-2006-001/001).

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

2006 – One, 20 December 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* [CBC-CW]. Found by Bob Yukich, documented by Bob Yukich (CORA-2006-001/001).

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*

2006 – One, male, 19 March to 26 April 2006, Cedarbrook Trail, Brooklin, *Durham R.M.* Found by Robin and Angelina Mason, documented by TBRC; photos by Robin and Angelina Mason, John Millman (OFO website) (VATH-2006-001/001).

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*

2006 - One, 17 December 2006, Mimico Creek N of Lakeshore Blvd, *Toronto* [CBC-Sector 2]. Found by Glenn Coady, documented by Glenn Coady (OCWA-2006-004/001).



The male **Varied Thrush** at Brooklin, *Durham*, 2 April 2006. © John Millman.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*

2006 – One, 22 November to 6 December 2006, High Park (nr. allotment gardens), *Toronto* [Late date]. Found by Steven M. Favier, documented by Steven M. Favier (NAWA-2006-001/001).

Northern Parula *Parula americana*

2006 – One, 21-24 October 2006, High Park, *Toronto* [Late date]. Found by Steven M. Favier, documented by Steven M. Favier (NOPA-2006-001/001).

2006 – One, 3-6 November 2006, South Trail, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [Late date]. Found by Dave Worthington, documented by Dave Worthington (NOPA-2006-002/001).

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*

2006 – One, 6 November 2006, South Shell Park, *Halton R.M.* [Late date]. Found by Rick Lauzon, documented by Rick Lauzon (CSWA-2006-001/001).

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*

2006 – One, male, 3 November 2006, High Park (near Allotment Gardens), *Toronto* [Late date]. Found by Steven M. Favier, documented by Steven M. Favier (BTBW-2006-001/001).

2006 – One, male, 14 November 2006, 176 Hillsvie Drive, Richmond Hill, *York R.M.* [Late date]. Found by Deborah Chute, documented by Theo Hofmann (BTBW-2006-003/001).

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

2006 – One, 26 November 2006, Ashbridge's Bay Park, *Toronto* [Late date]. Found by Glenn Coady, documented by Glenn Coady (BTNW-2006-001/001).

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

2006 – One, female or 1st basic male, 6 November 2006, South Shell Park, *Halton R.M.* [Late date]. Found by Rick Lauzon, documented by Rick Lauzon (AMRE-2006-002/001).

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

2003 – One, alternate male, 13-21 June 2003, 10 km square 17NJ96, near Castlederg, *Peel R.M.* [Confirmed breeding record, carrying food]. Found by Roger Taylor *et al.*, documented by Atlas database and TBRC, video by Bill Edmunds. (PROW-2003-001/001).

*This surprising record was based on observations of an adult male carrying food on 13th and 18th June 2003. It was also seen on 14th (when a short video was obtained), and on 21st, but not seen carrying food on those dates. The video confirms the identification, but no female was seen nor was a nest located. It is unfortunate that better documentation was not obtained at the time, but the record was accepted by the Recovery Team, and has been published in the last Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (Cadman *et al.* 2007). It represents the most northerly confirmed breeding record for Ontario, and the first for the GTA.*

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*

2006 – One, 17 December 2006 and 12-13 January 2007 (not reported between these dates), Vanier College, York University, *Toronto* [Unseasonal, CBC-Sector 22]. Found by Chester Gryski, documented by Chester Gryski (OVEN-2006-001/001).

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*

2006 – 89 on 23 August 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* [All time high count]. Found by Norm Murr, documented by Norm Murr and TBRC (NOWA-2006-001/001).

Eighty of these birds were on Wards Island. This exceptional count was paralleled by numbers recorded on Peninsula D of the Leslie Street Spit – 35 (with 19 banded) on the same date, as recorded by Dan Derbyshire in his blog posting for 19-25 August 2006. The previous high count was of 12 at Speyside, Halton R.M. on 12 May 1962 by Don E. Perks (TOC Database) and equaled by 12 at High Park, Toronto on 28 August 1987, seen by Alvaro Jaramillo (Jaramillo 1990).

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*

2006 – One, 11 November to 6 December 2006, north end of Spring Creek valley, High Park, *Toronto* [Late date]. Found by Steven M. Favier, documented by Steven M. Favier (WIWA-2006-002/001).

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

2006 – One, 17 December 2006, Hydro corridor east of Leslie Street, North York, *Toronto* [Late date, CBC Sector 17B]. Found by Andrew Keaveney, documented by Andrew Keaveney (CHSP-2006-001/001).

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii*

2006 – One, adult, 26 October 2006, High Park, *Toronto*. Found by Steven M. Favier, documented by Steven M. Favier (LCSP-2006-005/001).

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

2006 – One, adult, 10-15 June 2006, High Park, *Toronto* [Unseasonal]. Found by Richard Joos (trapped and banded # 971-66143), documented by Steven M. Favier (WCSP-2006-001/001).

This is the second 'summer' record of this species in the GTA, although it might be better considered as a very late spring migrant. The first was a molting adult at St Robert's School, York R.M. on 31 July 2001, found by Winnie Poon and accepted by TBRC (Lang, Coady and Smith 2003).

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*

2006 – One, male, 2-8 July 2006, 4.4km north of Sandford, *Durham R.M.* Found by Bob Yukich, documented by Winnie Poon, photos by Winnie Poon (DICK-2006-001/001).

Breeding season records of Dickcissel in the GTA (including this one) were reviewed by Coady (2007).



Most observers would have heard this highly audible **Dickcissel** before seeing the bird, north of Sandford, *Durham*, 8 July 2006. © Winnie Poon.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

2006 – One, adult female, 29 April 2006, base of Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*. Found by Hugh Currie, documented by Hugh Currie (YHBL-2006-001/001).

Not Accepted Reports – Identification uncertain

Any report in this category can be reconsidered by TBRC if new evidence, in the form of additional documentation, is submitted for review.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

2006 – Seven (7), 8 October 2006, Reesor Pond, *York R.M.* [Late date] (UPSA-2006-002/001).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

2006 – Five (5), 29 May 2006, Reesor Pond, *York R.M.* (BASA-2006-001/001)

The spring status of Baird's Sandpiper in the GTA was discussed by Coady (2008).

Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina*

2006 - One, 12 November 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [Late date] (CMWA-2006-001/001).

Not Accepted Reports – No documentation received

The Committee has received no documentation for the reports listed below. These reports will be identified in the TOC database as 'Not Accepted' due to the lack of supporting documentation until such time as documentation has been received, reviewed and accepted by the Committee (or by OBRC when an OBRC species is involved).

Greater White-fronted Goose - one, 8 Dec 2006, Newcastle Marina, *Durham R.M.*

Ross's Goose - one, 22 Nov 2006, Scugog Point, Nestleton, *Durham R.M.* [OBRC species in 2006].

Note: OBRC removed the documentation requirement for Ross's Goose (Southern Ontario) as of 1 Jan 2007.

Eurasian Wigeon - one male, 23 Apr to 8 May 2006, Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.*

King Eider - one 17 Dec 2006, off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.*

Barrow's Goldeneye - one male, 8 Jan 2006, Fruitland Rd, Burlington, *Halton R.M.*
- two (2), 17 Dec 2006, Farewell Creek, Oshawa, *Durham R.M.*

Hooded Merganser - 76 on 12 Jan 2006, Humber Bay Park, *Toronto* [High count for period 1 Jan -15 Mar].
- 178 on 4 Nov 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All time high count]
- 187 on 18 Nov 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All time high count]

Red-breasted Merganser - 12,000 on 4 Nov 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All time high count].

Ruddy Duck - 11 on 5 Aug 2006, Humber Bay Park (E), *Toronto* [High count for period I June - 31 Aug].

Eared Grebe - one, alternate, 13 Apr 2006, Snake Is, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- one, alternate, 9-10 Sep 2006, Burloak Park/PetroCanada Pier, *Halton R.M.*

Great Egret – 16 on 29 Aug 2006, Humber Marsh #3, *Toronto* [All-time high count].

Snowy Egret - one, 12 Apr 2006, Middle Island off Eastport Dr, Burlington, *Halton R.M.*

Little Blue Heron - one, 19 May 2006, Wards Is, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* [OBRC species].

Black Vulture - one, 11 Sep 2006, Westside Marsh, Bowmanville, *Durham R.M.* [OBRC species].

Bald Eagle - 14 on 10 Sep 2006, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [All-time high count].

Swainson's Hawk - Golden Eagle - one, 6 Jan 2006, Centreville Creek, *Peel R.M.* [Unseasonal].

Gyr Falcon - one gray morph, 11 Nov 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*.

Yellow Rail - one, 1 Sep 2006, Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, *York R.M.*

American Avocet - two, 5-9 May 2006, Nonquon Sewage Lagoons, *Durham R.M.*

Willet - one, 12 May 2006, Darlington Provincial Park, *Durham R.M.*

Whimbrel - one, 29 April 2006, Reesor Pond, *York R.M.* [Early date].

Marbled Godwit - one, 24 Aug 2006, Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, *York R.M.*

Red Knot - one, 21 Jun 2006, Hydro Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [Unseasonal]

Baird's Sandpiper - one, 24 May 2006, Rattray Marsh, *Peel R.M.* [Doc. required 1 Jan to 30 Jun].
 - three, 11 Jun 2006, Reesor Pond, *York R.M.* [Doc. required 1 Jan to 30 Jun].

Long-billed Dowitcher - one, 4 May 2006, Jim's Pond, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve, *Durham R.M.*
 - one, 13 May 2006, Nonquon Sewage Lagoons, *Durham R.M.*
 - one, 19 Sep 2006, Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, *York R.M.*

Black-legged Kittiwake - one, juvenal, 12 Oct 2006, Liverpool Road, *Durham R.M.*

Caspian Tern - two, 24 Oct 2006, Neare Island, Eastport Drive, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].

Forster's Tern - one, 18-29 Apr 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*,
 - one, 28 Apr 2006, Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.*

Pomarine Jaeger - one, 1 Nov 2006, PetroCanada Pier, *Halton R.M.*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - one, 26 Oct 2006, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [Late date].

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 35 on 2 Oct 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All-time high count].
 - 40 on 13 Oct 2006, Leslie Street spit, *Toronto* [All-time high count].
 - 54 on 2 Oct 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*. [All-time high count].

Olive-sided Flycatcher - five, 21 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*. [Equal all-time high count].

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 11 on 23 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*. [All-time high count]
 - 16 on 28 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*. [All-time high count].

Least Flycatcher - one, 22 Apr 2006, Park Lawn Cemetery, *Toronto*. [Early date].
 - one, 23 Apr 2006, Ashbridge's Bay Park, *Toronto*. [Early date].
 - one, 23 Apr 2006, Thickson's Woods, *Durham R.M.* [Early date].

Eastern Kingbird - one, 26 Oct 2006, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [Late date]
 - one, 2-4 Nov 2006, South Shell Park, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].

Yellow-throated Vireo - one, 10 Oct 2006, Thicksons Woods, *Durham R.M.* [Late date].

Blue-headed Vireo - one, 18 Nov 2006, Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].

Common Raven - four, 5 Sep 2006, St. Johns Side Road & McCowan, *York R.M.* [Equal all-time high count].
 - four, 17 Sep 2006, North of Georgetown, *Halton R.M.* [Equal all-time high count].

Tufted Titmouse - family, number of birds unknown, week ending 24 Aug 2006, Eastern Oakville, *Halton R.M.* [Breeding record].

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 20 on 12 Jan 2006, Palgrave C.A., *Peel R.M.* [High count for period 1 Jan - 31 May].

Brown Creeper - 95 on 19 Apr 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [High count for period 1 Jan – 14 May].
 - 50 on 24 Apr 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [High count for period 1 Jan – 14 May].

Marsh Wren - one, 21 Dec 2006, Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [Late date; doc required 1 Nov - 31 Dec].

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1500 on 5 Oct 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All-time high count]
 - 23 on 1 Nov 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*. [High count for period 1 Nov- 31 Dec].

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 700 on 5 Oct 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All-time high count].

Swainson's Thrush - one, 2 Nov 2006, Palgrave C.A., *Peel R.M.* [Late date].

Varied Thrush - one, 6-8 Jan 2006, West of Campbellville, *Halton R.M.*

Orange-crowned Warbler - one, 16 Sep 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*. [Early date; doc. required for period 1 Jun - 17 Sep].
 - one, 6-11 Dec 2006, Kingsmill Park, *Toronto* [Late date].
 - one, 16–25 Dec 2006, CN Kerr St, Oakville, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].

Nashville Warbler - 35 on 1 Oct 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, [High count for period 1 Oct -15 Nov].

Northern Parula - one, 23 Oct 2006, Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton R.M.* [Late date; doc. required 21 Oct - 31 Dec].

Magnolia Warbler - 110 on 23 Aug 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [High count for period 16 Aug - 30 Sep].
 - 104 on 23 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* [High count for period 16 Aug - 30 Sep].

- Black-throated Blue Warbler** - one, 5 Nov 2006, Lynde Shores, *Durham R.M.* [Late date].
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 18 on 5 Aug 2006, Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [High count for period 1 Jun – 20 Aug].
- nine, 12 Aug 2006, Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [High count for period 1 Jun - 20 Aug].
- Yellow-throated Warbler** - one, 10 Sep 2006, Shell Park, *Halton R.M.*
- one adult, 16 Sep 2006, Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*.
- one, *albilora*, 28 Oct to 6 Nov, South Shell Park, *Halton R.M.*
- Pine Warbler** - three, [1M;1F;1-1st W], 12 - 27 Feb 2006, Deep Dene Dr., Scarborough, *Toronto*. [Unseasonal].
- “Yellow “ Palm Warbler** - one, 24 Apr 2006, Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [Early date].
- one, 28 Apr 2006, Nature Reserve, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- one, 30 Sep 2006, Toronto Island Airport, *Toronto*.
- one, 16 Oct 2006, West Beach, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- Bay-breasted Warbler** - one, 2 - 4 Nov 2006, South Shell Park, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].
- Blackpoll Warbler** - one, 2 Nov 2006, South Shell Park, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].
- Cerulean Warbler** - one, 2 Sep 2006, Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.* [Late date].
- Black-and-white Warbler** - 28 on 23 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* [Equal high count for period 16 Aug – 30 Sep].
- American Redstart** - one, 1 Nov 2006, Shoreacres Park, *Halton R.M.* [Late date].
- Prothonotary Warbler** - one, 28 Aug 2006, Burlington, *Halton R.M.*
- Worm-eating Warbler** - one, 4 May 2006, Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, *Durham R.M.*
- one, 24 May 2006, Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.*
- Swainson’s Warbler** - one, 2nd year male, 4 Jun 2006, Long Sault C.A., *Durham R.M.* [OBRC species].
- Northern Waterthrush** - one, 10 Dec 2006, Old Mill (Humber River/ Bloor), *Toronto*. [Late date].
- Louisiana Waterthrush** - one, 2 April 2006, Shoreacres Park, *Halton R.M.* [Early date, doc. required prior to 15 Apr].
- one, 30 Aug 2006, Wards Is, Toronto Is., *Toronto* [Documentable from 21 Aug-31 Dec].
- one, 3 - 8 Sep 2006, Rattray Marsh, *Peel R.M.* [Documentable from 21 Aug– 31 Dec].
- Kentucky Warbler** - one, male, 21 May 2006, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, *Toronto*.
- Connecticut Warbler** - two, [1 F; 1 juv.], 17 Aug 2006, Ward's Island, Toronto Island, *Toronto*.
- one, adult female, 21 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- two, 23 and 28 Aug 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- one, male, 30 Aug 2006, Ward's Island, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- Mourning Warbler** - 14 on 28 May 2006, Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* [All-time high count].
- Hooded Warbler** - one, 2 Sep 2006, Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham R.M.*
- Canada Warbler** - six, 12 Aug 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*. [High count for period 5 Jun -15 Aug].
- Yellow-breasted Chat** - one, 13 May 2006, Island Airport, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- one, 22 May 2006, The Meadow, Thicksons Woods, *Durham R.M.*
- Chipping Sparrow** - 200 on 19 Oct 2006, Petticoat Creek C.A., *Durham R.M.* [All-time high count].
- Le Conte's Sparrow** - one, 23 May 2006, Island Airport, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- one, 2 Oct 2006, Island Airport, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- one, 10 Oct 2006, West Beach, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*.
- two, 25 – 26 Oct 2006, Reesor Pond, *York R.M.*
- Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - one, 2 Sep 2006, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve, *Durham R.M.*
[Early date, doc. required between 1 Jun - 20 Sep].
- Fox Sparrow** - 22 on 20 Oct 2006, Thicksons Woods, *Durham R.M.* [High count for period 16 Oct - 19 Nov].
- 20 on 26 Oct 2006, Clement's Woods, Ajax, *Durham R.M.* [Equal high count for period 16 Oct -19 Nov].
- Lincoln's Sparrow** - 14 on 30 Sep 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*. [High count for period 6 Sep - 4 Oct].
- 14 on 2 Oct 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*. [High count for period 6 Sep - 4 Oct].

“Oregon” Junco - one, 24 Mar 2006, Simcoe Street & Beatrice, Oshawa, *Durham R.M.*

Dark-eyed Junco - one, 1st year, 12 Aug 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*. [Early date].
- one, 12 Aug 2006, Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*. [Early date].

Chestnut-collared Longspur - two, juvenal, 9 Oct 2006, Toronto Islands, *Toronto* [OBRC species].

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - one, female; 16, 20 and 28 Dec 2006, Spring Creek Cemetery, *Peel R.M.* [Peel-Halton CBC.
Late date, doc. required from 1 Nov - 31 Dec].

Dickcissel - one, 21 Oct 2006, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*.

Baltimore Oriole - one, 28-30 Oct 2006, Enfield, *Durham R.M.* [Late date; doc. required 1 Oct - 31 Dec].

Acknowledgements

The TBRC would like to thank Winnie Poon for helping to prepare and maintain a spreadsheet of documentable reports and assistance in compiling the list of undocumented reports. Rayfield Pye was instrumental in obtaining the photograph of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Hugh Currie followed up on the Varied Thrush report and obtained photographs. Glenn Coady provided useful comments. We thank those observers who made the effort to properly document their significant observations.

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Appendix 1: OBRC Decisions Affecting GTA Records

These are listed here for completeness, since they impact both bird recording in the GTA, and the GTA list.

Accepted Records Relating to OBRC Species

Garganey *Anas querquedula* one, alternate male, 5 May 2006, Whitby and Oshawa, *Durham R.M.* Found by Dennis Barry, documented by David B. Worthington and Glenn Coady [2007-031] (Richards 2008).

This was the fourth accepted record for Ontario, and the first for the GTA. It was first seen in Thickson's Bay, then reported from a location along the Waterfront Trail E of Thickson's Woods, then seen briefly at Pumphouse Marsh and finally relocated at Oshawa Second Marsh (TOC Database). It appeared to go to roost on Jim's Pond, but evidently disappeared overnight, leaving many frustrated observers vainly searching on the following day.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* one, 5 May 2006, Whitby, *Durham R.M.* Found by Margaret J.C. Bain, Margaret Carney and W. Dennis Barry [2007-073] (Richards 2008).

The location was Thickson's Bay (TOC Database).

one, juvenal, 1-4 December 2006; 1-2 Dec at Duffin's Creek and 4 Dec at Moore Point, *Durham R.M.* Found by Ron J. Pittaway and Jean Iron – photos on file [06-061] (Crins 2007).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* one, 6 May 2006, Mississauga, *Peel R.M.* Found by Derek and Jennifer Lyon [06-101] (Crins 2007).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* one, 31 Aug – 1 September 2006, Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton* and Burlington Beach, *Halton R.M.* Found by Barry S. Cheriére, also present were John Stirrat, Cheryl E. Edgecombe and Ben Edgecombe - photos on file [06-112] (Crins 2007).

It was the second record for Ontario and the first for the GTA. An account of this sighting was given by Cheriére (2007).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* one, juvenal, 27 November – 4 December 2005, Port Credit and Clarkson, *Peel R.M.*; Van Wagner's Beach, *Hamilton*. Found by Don E. Perks [06-052] (Crins 2007).

Note that the Peel R.M. sightings occurred on 27 Nov 2005 (Alfred Adamo; Don E. Perks); on 30 Nov 2005 off Rattray Marsh (Jim Coey); on 2 Dec 2005 at Port Credit Harbour (Craig S.A. McLaughlin); at Lakeview G.S. on 3 Dec (Glenn Coady), and at Port Credit Harbour on 4 Dec (Detroit Audubon Society, fide Alan Wormington) (TOC Database).

one, juvenal, 17 Dec 2006, Bronte, *Halton R.M.* to Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton*. Found by Gavin R. Edmundstone; also James S. Anderson (for Hamilton) [2007-093] (Richards 2008).

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* one, basic, 14 June 2006, Dunbarton, *Durham R.M.* Found by Mike D. Williamson [06-072] (Crins 2007). Note that an inaccurate location of Scarborough, *Toronto* has been published (Cranford 2007).

Note also that Dunbarton is the same location as what was originally reported as Finch and White's Road, Pickering, Durham R.M. (TOC Database).

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* one, 12 Nov 2005, Lynde Shores Conservation Area, *Durham R.M.* Found and documented by Theo Hofmann [06-048] (Crins 2007).

Swainson's Warbler *Limnothlypis swainsonii* one, male, 12 May 2006, *Toronto*. Found and documented by Attila Fust [06-109] (Crins 2007).

This constitutes the first accepted record for the GTA. The actual location was Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus* one, first alternate male, 25 May 2006, Markham, York R.M. Found by Stan Long; also documented by Robert H. Curry and Theo Hofmann [06-096] (Crins 2007).

This is the second record accepted by OBRC, and the first for the GTA. The location was Reesor Pond. Unfortunately it stayed for less than a day, and many birders who looked for it later that afternoon and evening went away disappointed.

Not accepted reports reviewed by OBRC (origin uncertain)

This category covers cases where the identification is accepted but the origin of the birds(s) is uncertain e.g. escapes or releases may have been involved.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* one, 20 Nov 2005, Pickering, Durham R.M. Found by Rosemary Harris - photo on file [06-070] (Crins 2007).

- two (2), 21 Oct 2006 Toronto, Toronto. Found by John Carley, Michael Dryden and Lynne Dryden, documented by John Carley [06-100] - photo on file. (Crins 2007).

The TOC Database also has a report of two on Leslie Street Spit (near cell #1), Toronto on 7 Oct 2006, which presumably relates to the same birds.

Not accepted reports reviewed by OBRC (identification uncertain)

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* one, 21 Dec 2006, Pine Beach, York R.M. – photos on file [2007-112] (Richards 2008).

La Sagra's Flycatcher *Myiarchus sagrae* one, 8 Sep 2006, Whitby, Durham R.M. [06-018] (Crins 2007).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* one, 1 Nov 2006, Georgetown, Halton R.M. [2007-019] (Richards 2008)

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens* one, 5 Sep 2005, Burlington, Halton R.M. – photos on file [06-008] (Crins 2007).

Lark Bunting *Calmospiza melanocorys* one, 10 Nov 2006, Whitby, Durham R.M. [2007-139] (Richards 2008).

The TOC Database had no information on the last four of the above prior to their appearance in the OBRC reports.

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