



TORONTO BIRDS

Volume 3 Number 5
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COVER PHOTO

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*)

Photo © Jean Iron

The spring migration of Short-billed Dowitcher in the GTA extends from 13 May to 17 June. These are the extreme dates currently recorded in the TOC Database, but the records are still incomplete as regards some historic data. The peak of migration falls in the period 15 – 27 May, while the highest spring count was 126 at Nonquon Sewage Lagoons, *Durham R.M.* on 15 May 1990 (Brian Henshaw). Interestingly, most high counts have occurred between 15 – 19 May, quite early in the migration period, but most reports fall within the period 18 -28 May. A large majority of all reports (85%) involved 10 or fewer birds.

In contrast, the Long-billed Dowitcher is a rare spring migrant in the GTA, with just 10 occurrences (19 reports) in the Database since 1978. However, only one of these has been documented and accepted by TBRC, and some of the others may be invalid. The dates of those believed to be valid range from 23 April – 5 May, with one outlying report from 19 – 21 May 1997.

This photograph of a spring *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitcher was taken at Reesor Pond, Markham, *York R.M.*, on 20 May 2009 by Jean Iron. *Roy Smith*

Produced by the Records Committee Toronto Ornithological Club

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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 – APRIL 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.

SNOW GOOSE - 1 (blue) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 4th, 9th, 22nd & 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (WP, RBHS) & 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo).

CANADA GOOSE - 670 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (RBHS, WP).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 (pair) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (THo fide ONTBIRDS) was seen attacking a nesting Canada Goose and then destroying the nest and eggs. 2 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC).

WOOD DUCK - 20 at TI on 2nd, 18 of them seen flying over Hanlans (NMu, ICa, MVL). 6 at HP on 2nd, 6 on 17th & 16 (10 M, 6 F) there on 19th (SMF). 2 at Mobrai Pond, Audley Rd. S of Con 7, *Durham* on 5th (ETB), 4 at Woodlands Park on 8th (ETB) & 4 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS, WP). 2 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 25th (JRC) & 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 30th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

GADWALL - 4 (2 prs) at ON-X.com, Markham, *York* on 12th (RBHS, WP). 20 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, HC) and a nest with 12 eggs was found on that date.

AMERICAN WIGEON - 2 (M & F) at CSSP on 19th & 24th (RBHS, WP).

MALLARD - 12 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, HC).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 5 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* @ 18:10hrs on 11th (RBHS, WP).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 5 at LSS on 10th (AA) & 1 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 11th (RBHS, WP). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (DEP) & 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, HC).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 10 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 11th (RBHS, WP), 2 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 18th (DEP), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide DRBA) & 7 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, HC).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 273 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 11th (RBHS, WP) & 10 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 18th (DEP).

CANVASBACK - 8 at LSS (4 in Cell1, 4 at Triangle Pond) on 10th (AA), 3 (2 M, 1 F) at LSS on 25th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 2 (M & F) on 25th (SMF) & 3 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 4 (2 pairs) at West Beach, TI on 18th (NMu) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS) & on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 12 at LSS on 10th (AA), 5 at Conair - Cuisinart, *York* on 10th (RBHS,WP), 4 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP), 10 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 12th (GC) & 10 at Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 7 at CSSP on 19th & 1 M there on 24th (RBHS,WP). 30 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

KING EIDER - 1 1W reported at CSSP on 16th (G. Stuart fide ONTBIRDS), 19th (CMH,& fide ONTBIRDS), 21st (Kim McGuire fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). No doc. seen for any of these reports, but this was evidently the same bird staying from 6 Feb 2009.

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 3 (1 M, 2 F) at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 13th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at HBP [E] on 15th & on 29th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 1 F on L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

SURF SCOTER - 1 M at CSSP on 19th (Elizabeth McKernan fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 6 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (THo fide DRBA) & 2 at CSSP on 19th (CMH,& fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 F at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 100 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFFLEHEAD - 87 at TI on 2nd, 76 on 13th & 61 there on 16th (NMu,&). 36 at CSSP on 24th (RBHS,WP), 200+ at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 50 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

HOODED MERGANSER - 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th & on 10th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 1 F at CSSP on 24th (RBHS,WP).

COMMON MERGANSER - 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th, 8 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 3 over Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 F at Constance St, near HP on 21st (GDB) was perched on a lamp standard outside his house! Checking out cavities in nearby Black Oaks?

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 50 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

RUDDY DUCK - 3 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 1st (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HBP [E] on 19th (anon fide OUTON) & on 20th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 21st (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 35 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide DRBA).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - 1 calling at Humber Arboretum on 12th (AA).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 6th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF), 1 heard at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 12th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 30th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

WILD TURKEY - 1 M at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 30th (Judi Parker fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-THROATED LOON - Singles at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 21st (GC), CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & at LSS on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON LOON - 1 flying over Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 10th & 20 on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (THo) & 18 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 18th (JRC) seen during 'loon watch' - the highest count this season. 8 at CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

PIED-BILLED GREBE 7 reports from 1st to 24th of 1 or 2 at HP (SMF). 1 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 2nd (KDu fide RJF), 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at CSSP on 19th (CMH,& fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HBP [E] on 19th (anon fide OUTON) & on 20th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Foot of 23rd St, Mimico on 24th (RBHS,WP).

HORNED GREBE - 2 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 40-50 there on 17th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS). 189 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 10th (GC) & 10 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL). 10 at Foot of 23rd St, Mimico on 24th (RBHS,WP) & 4 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS), 20 on 5th (J. McKnight fide DRBA) & 100 there on 17th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS). 290 at CSSP on 5th (AA), 26 on 11th (SCH), 398 on 17th (GDB), 192 on 19th (RBHS,WP) & 44 there on 24th (RBHS,WP). 250 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (MJCB fide DRBA), 344 on 10th, 150 on 12th & 38 there on 18th (GC). 61 at East Point Park @ 07:00hrs on 10th (DVG fide ONTBIRDS), 134 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (THo) & 15-20 at Petticoat Creek C.A., *Durham* on 12th (DW). 60 at LSS on 18th (GC,&) & 2 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 20 at Foot of 23th St, Mimico on 24th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at HBP [E] on 29th (Bernie Monette fide OUTON).

EARED GREBE - 1 (breeding plum.) at CSSP (off Foot of 23rd Street) @ 17:00hrs on 26th [No doc. seen] (GVR fide ONTBIRDS).

WESTERN GREBE - 1 at CSSP @ 08:45hrs on 17th (MVB fide ONTBIRDS), about 200m off the SW peninsula, with hundreds of Red-necked Grebes. It was seen again there on the west side at 10:00hrs on 21st [No doc. seen] (Kim McGuire fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). *Since the last report of the Ashbridge's Bay bird was on 28 Mar 2009, this series of sightings from CSSP may have involved a different individual?*

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 1 at HP on 1st, 11 on 3rd, 7 on 4th & 2 there on 15th (SMF). 100+ flying over at TI on 2nd & 300 on 13th (NMu,ICa). 50 at LSS on 5th, 4 at Scarborough Bluffs on 11th & 2 at CSSP on 15th (SMF).

AMERICAN BITTERN - Singles at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th & 26th (THo fide DRBA) & at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).



Part of the Leslie & 19th Great Blue Heron colony, York, 30 March 2009. © Winnie Poon.

GREAT BLUE HERON - 24 nests estimated at Leslie & 19th Heronry, York on 5th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at Cherrywood Swamp Heronry, *Durham* on 5th (RBHS,WP), 12 nests seen but difficult to count due to distance from road. 6 birds present at 11 nests (not sure how many occupied) at Brougham Heronry, *Durham* on 5th (RBHS,WP). 13 at Courtice Heronry, *Durham* on 12th (THo), "13 of 20 nests had birds on them". 7 flying over Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at Mt. Hope Rd N of Cedar Mills, Peel on 4th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cell 1, LSS on 10th (AA). 1 at HP on 12th, 23rd, 29th & 30th (SMF). 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 21st (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

GREEN HERON - 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 5 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK VULTURE - 1 at 15th SR & 7th Conc, King, *York* @ 13:00hrs on 27th [No doc. seen] (Craig Corcoran fide ONTBIRDS).

TURKEY VULTURE - 3 at Headwaters Park, Richmond Hill, *York* on 5th (Glenn Steplock fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Woodlands Park on 8th (ETB) & 5 at N end L. Scugog, *Durham* on 25th (DRuch fide DRBA).

OSPREY - 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 1st (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Bruce St. Marsh, *York* on 2nd & 3rd (KDu,Steve Walsh, fide RJF) was photographed on the nest platform. 1 seen carrying nesting material at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (D. Docherty fide DRBA), 1 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Bloomington SR & Hwy 404, *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP) was seen standing on the nest. 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 13th (JRC). 2 at Yonge & Stouffville Rd., *York* on 16th (FP) were seen carrying nest material to the nest in the cellphone tower. They were seen again there on 18th with one bringing a clawful of rough grass from field to N, presumably lining for the nest (RBHS,WP). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (THo fide DRBA) & at N end L. Scugog, *Durham* on 25th (DRuch fide DRBA).

BALD EAGLE - 2 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 2nd (KDu fide RJF) were scoped from Young's Harbour Park, Keswick. 1 was seen from a kayak on Credit R. S of Norval, *Halton* on 20th (Ray Chau fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - Singles males were seen at Conc 7 nr. Sideline 21, *Durham* on 5th (ETB), LSS on 10th (AA), Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & at Woodlands Park on 14th (WP,ETB).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 at TI on 2nd & 13th (NMu,&). 1 M at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 4th (GC) & 1 at 22 Antioch Dr, Etobicoke on 4th captured an American Robin (SCH). 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 IMM at Scarborough Bluffs on 11th (SMF), 2 at CSSP on 13th (anon fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 19th (WP). 1 F at Mulock & Yonge St, Newmarket, *York* on 30th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 2 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 6th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF), 1 AD doing display flight at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 12th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Sideline 4, just N of Balsam, *Durham* on 16th (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Singles at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 12th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS) & at N end Yonge St, Holland Landing, *York* on 27th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

MERLIN - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 9th (MJCB fide DRBA). 2 at High St, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (G. Ernest fide DRBA), pair back on territory in the Henry St. & Hwy 2 area, about 300m SE of last year's site. 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 2 at Clarica Centre, Islington on 4th (SCH), F now incubating, but number of eggs unknown; webcam now back online, having been out of action for months. On the 22nd there were 2 adults and 4 eggs in the box (SCH). Singles at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), Heydenshore Pavilion, *Durham* on 17th (B. McWaters fide DRBA), LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 30th (RLau).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th, 3 on 23rd, 1 on 24th (THo fide DRBA) & 2 there on 25th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS).

SORA - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 heard at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (GC).

COMMON MOORHEN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 25th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT - 1 at Centre Island, TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa), 1 at LSS on 25th (SMF) & 2 there on 26th (JBMW,HC).

SANDHILL CRANE - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (JCS fide DRBA) & 2 (calling) at downtown Whitby, *Durham* on 5th (CSAM). 1 heard at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* @ 22:40hrs on 9th (GC) and looked for early on 10th but not seen, so must have departed extremely early! 3 flying over at Teston Rd W of Keele, *York* @ 13:05hrs on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 4 flying NE at TRCA - Walker Woods, *Durham* on 16th (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 1 at Don Valley Brickworks Park on 30th (anon fide OUTON).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 4 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 18th (DEP), 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 18th (DEP), 5 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 142 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS).

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

WILSON'S SNIBE - 2 at Britannia E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 18th (DEP), 3 at Baselands, LSS on 19th (CMH,&, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at CSSP @ 14:00hrs on 24th (RBHS,WP).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Oshawa Creek nr John St., *Durham* on 1st (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 at Leaside Park area (backyard) @ 17:00hrs on 6th (Lynne Terris fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 25th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 26th (JBMW,HC).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 30 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 10th, 150+ on 18th, ~500 on 23rd & 1600 there on 26th (THo).

LITTLE GULL - 2 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 10th & 1 on 12th (GC). 10 reports from Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 1 on 10th, numbers began to build during the month and high counts were of 32 on 23rd, 38 on 24th & highest and last report was of 43 on 26th (THo). 2 AD at Coronation Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 23rd (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

THAYER'S GULL - 1 1W at Reesor Pond, *York* on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

ICELAND GULL - 1 AD at Enford Rd, Richmond Hill, *York* on 11th (NMu), 1 3W at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th & 2 1W there on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (THo fide DRBA), 1 AD at Woodbine Beach on 17th (Bob Kortright fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide DRBA). 1 3W at Arkendo Park, *Halton* on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 AD at Enford Rd, Richmond Hill, *York* on 11th (NMu), 1 at West Beach, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 1 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 flying over Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 1W at Reesor Pond, *York* on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

CASPIAN TERN - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), 1 at CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 10 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th, 1 on 23rd & 3 on 24th (THo fide DRBA).

COMMON TERN - 2 at CSSP on 21st (SMF) & again on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). 10 at LSS on 25th (SMF) & 30 there on 26th (JBMW,HC).

* YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at LSS on 27th was unusually early (Documented) (SMF).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at Baby Point on 8th (JRC,VC).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 3 nests in the Courtice area, *Durham* on 12th (THo), 1 AD seen on nest at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 12th (m. obs fide DRBA) & nesting pair seen there on 18th (RPye fide DRBA).

SNOWY OWL - 1 at Leon's, Burlington, *Halton* on 9th & 10th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hwy 427 & Zenway, *York* @ 09:45hrs on 10th (James Hartshorn fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on a dock in Keswick, *York* on 27th (anon fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (JNi fide DRBA) & 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 13th (NMu,ICa).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), along Sheridan Creek about 150m upstream of bridge closest to the marsh.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 2 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 1 at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 27th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 3 at Snake Island, TI on 18th (NMu).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 5 reports from 4th to 18th of 1 F at HP (SMF). 1 at N end Yonge St, Holland Landing, *York* on 27th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 29th (anon fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at South Trail/Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd (JCS fide DRBA), 2 on 6th & 9th (GC;MJCB) & 1 there on 11th (m. obs fide DRBA). 2 at TI on 2nd, 5 on 13th & 44 there, plus 3 found dead on city side of ferry dock entrance, on 18th (NMu,&). Singles at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA) & at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 12 at Clement's Woods, Ajax, *Durham* on 9th (J. Foster fide DRBA), 56 at LSS on 18th (GC,&) & 20 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). *The counts of 44 and 56 would both be new records for the GTA, if documented.*

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 9 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 10 there on 18th (NMu).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 6 at LSS on 10th (AA) & 50 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (GC), 26 at TI on 13th, 14 on 16th & 21 there on 18th (NMu,&).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 6th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF) & 1 at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 12th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at Snake Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 1 heard at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 1 at LSS on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 9 at TI on 2nd, 10 on 13th, 4 on 16th & 16 there on 18th (NMu,&). 2 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (J. McKnight fide DRBA). 3 at CSSP on 5th (AA), 11 at LSS on 5th (AA) & 2 at HP on 14th (SMF). 8 other reports from different locations from 5th to 19th of single birds.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at LSS on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & on 26th (JBMW,HC). 1 at TI on 26th (Andrew McKinley fide OUTON), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC), 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

* EASTERN KINGBIRD - 1 seen "close and well" at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (LS fide RJP), was an extremely early sighting [No doc. seen]. 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at HBP [E] on 29th (Bernie Monette fide OUTON).



Eastern Phoebe at Woodland Trail Park (part of Rouge Park), *Toronto*, 10 April 2009. © Winnie Poon

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 29th (VC fide JRC) & 30th (JRC).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 26th (IDMF fide OUTON). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA) & on 26th & 28th (GC). 2 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 25th (JRC), 2 at Resources Road Ravine on 26th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 26th & 30th (SMF). 15 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 3 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at TI on 26th (Andrew McKinley fide OUTON), at N end Yonge St, Holland Landing, *York* on 27th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), Kortright C. A. *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & at Don Valley Brickworks Park on 30th (anon fide OUTON).

WARBLING VIREO - 1 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC). 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 27th (JRC) & at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-EYED VIREO - 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON RAVEN - The nest at Woodlands Park seemed to be definitely abandoned and falling apart on 11th (DW). 1 at GM Truck Plant, Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (THo fide DRBA).

PURPLE MARTIN - 2 at Ajax, *Durham* on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA) & 2 at Watersedge Rd, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (DEP).

TREE SWALLOW - 5 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa), 2 at 7th Conc King nr 15th SR, *York* on 4th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF) & 4 at Bethesda SR E of Aurora, *York* on 4th (AKJ fide RJF). 27 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (GC) & 20 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 1 at CSSP on 17th & 2 on 23rd (SMF). 32 flying S at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 22nd (GCarp fide DRBA), 1 at LSS on 25th (SMF) & 25 there on 26th (JBMW,HC).

BANK SWALLOW - 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

CLIFF SWALLOW - 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC).

BARN SWALLOW - 1 at Hwy 407 & Steeles, *Peel* on 5th (AA), 1 at HBP on 9th (SMF), 3 at CSSP on 10th (SMF) & 1 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP). 8 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 3 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (JWi,BKa) & on 18th (CMH fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 24 at TI on 13th (NMu,ICa).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 checking out nest holes at Hendrie Valley, *Halton* during week ending 17th April (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

BROWN CREEPER - 6 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 11th (m. obs fide DRBA).

CAROLINA WREN - Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (GC), at Petticoat Creek C.A., *Durham* on 12th (DW), TI on 13th (NMu,ICa), Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & at Resources Road Ravine on 26th (MK fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at different sites from Rattray's to Lakeside Park, *Peel* on 25th (DEP).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at Dominion St, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 5th (D. Connelly fide DRBA) & 2 heard at 4th SR off Walkers Line, *Halton* on 25th (DEP).

WINTER WREN - 1 at HP on 1st (SMF), 2 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa), 1 at Baselands, LSS on 16th (Elizabeth McKernan fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Canada Life, University Ave on 21st (LFr fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd (JCS fide DRBA), 4 on 9th (MJCB fide DRBA), 5 on 11th (m. obs fide DRBA) & 6 there on 17th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 55 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa), 11 at LSS on 18th (AA) & 10 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 1 at CSSP on 24th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at HP on 28th (SMF).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at CSSP on 10th & 15th (SMF). 5 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (JWi,BKa) & 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 30 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 20+ at Queen's Park on 27th (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 26th & 27th (SMF) & 1 at LSS on 27th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 2 at Scarborough -Pickering Townline, *Durham* on 5th (ETB). 1 at Woodlands Park on 10th (ETB), 3 on 11th (DW) & 2 (pair) there on 14th (WP,ETB).

VEERY - 1 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA) & 2 there on 28th (GC).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC), 1 at Queen's Park on 27th (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON), 1 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC) & 3 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH - 2 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 2nd (JCS fide DRBA) & on 9th (MJCB fide DRBA), 5 on 17th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 9 on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & 10 there on 24th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 at HP on 8th (SMF), 3 at TI on 13th & 19 there on 18th (NMu,&). 2 at CSSP on 19th, 10 on 24th (RBHS,WP) & 5 there on 26th (IDMF fide OUTON). 6 at LSS on 18th (AA) & 40 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 4 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (DEP) & 2 at Queen's Park on 27th (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON).



Wood Thrush, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, *Toronto*, 24 April 2009. © Winnie Poon

WOOD THRUSH - 1 at CSSP on 24th (RBHS, WP) & on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 1 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA), 1 on 27th & 2 there on 28th (GC). 1 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 125 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa), 125 on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 100 there on 18th (NMu).

GRAY CATBIRD - 1 at Orono, *Durham* on 4th was likely an overwintering bird (JMR fide DRBA). 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 1 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 27th (GC).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - In total, there were 65 reports, with 38 from *Toronto*, 14 from *York*, 8 from *Durham*, 4 from *Peel*, and 1 from *Halton*. These numbers mostly reflect the distribution of fieldwork by RBHS/WP, rather than the real distribution of Northern Mockingbirds. The first nest under construction was found north of Buttonville Airport, *York* on 10th

but it was later abandoned for unknown reasons. Nest building was seen at another site in *York R.M.* on 12th (RBHS,WP) and the first eggs were seen at a *Toronto* site on 24th (SCH). Thanks to the following observers for their reports: BB; ETB; GCarp fide ONTBIRDS; JCa; GC; KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS; SMF, SCH; THo fide ONTBIRDS; CMH fide ONTBIRDS; LGK; Kim McGuire fide ONTBIRDS; Elizabeth McKernan fide ONTBIRDS; DEP; FP; RPye fide DRBA; DRuch; LS fide RBHS; DW.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 reported at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 21st, 25th & 27th (TWRB fide DRBA;GC). 2 at CSSP on 24th (RBHS,WP), 20 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 30th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 20 at Scugog Point, Nestleton, *Durham* on 10th (BFA fide DRBA).

CEDAR WAXWING - 30 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - 1 M at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 1 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 2 at Resources Road Ravine on 26th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at HP on 26th & 1 there on 30th (SMF). 10 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 2 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (IDMF fide OUTON). Singles at Queen's Park on 27th (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON), Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC) & at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide DRBA).

YELLOW WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (GC) & on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 at LSS on 20th (SMF), 1 on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 25th (JRC), 2 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (DEP), 1 at Resources Road Ravine on 26th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP from 26th to 29th (SMF).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 1 at LSS on 27th (SMF) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (GC) & 1 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 or 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* from 11th to 21st (m. obs fide DRBA) then 18 on 25th & 50 there on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA), 3 at TI on 18th (NMu), 3 at LSS on 18th (AA) & 300 there on 26th (JBMW, HC). 6 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (Jim Watt fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 25th (DEP) & 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Singles at Shell Park, *Halton* on 25th (DEP), TI on 26th (Andrew Mckinley fide OUTON) & at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA). 20 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 1 there on 27th (SMF). 1 at HP from 26th to 30th (SMF). 7 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (IDMF fide OUTON).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide DRBA) & 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - 1 at CSSP @ 08:00hrs on 30th [No doc. seen] (Marc Lichtenberg fide ONTBIRDS), seen in the line of spruce S of the Powerhouse. 1 reported at Shell Park, *Halton* during week ending 26th April (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen].

PINE WARBLER - 1 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 16th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (DEP) & 2 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 25th (JRC). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 1 on 18th (GC), 2 on 21st & 7 there on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA). 5 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 there on 26th (JBMW,HC).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - 1 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th [No doc. seen] (Jim Watt fide ONTBIRDS).

PALM WARBLER - 1 (Western) at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (GC) & 2 there on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 (Western) at CSSP on 24th (RBHS,WP) & 2 there on 26th (IDMF fide OUTON). 1 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 25th (Jim Watt fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS from 25th (SMF), 5 on 26th (JBMW, HC) & 2 there on 29th (SMF). 1 at HP on 26th & 28th to 30th (SMF).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at LSS on 25th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). Singles at Resources Road Ravine on 26th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (IDMF fide OUTON), HP on 27th (SMF) & at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - 1 (banded) at Peninsula D, LSS @ 11:00hrs on 25th [No doc. seen] (TTPBRS fide GCP, fide ONTBIRDS) but not seen again after being banded.

OVENBIRD - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA), 26th & 28th (GC). Singles at Resources Road Ravine on 26th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & at Kortright C. A., *York* on 28th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 1 at LSS on 25th (SMF) & 2 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). Singles at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS), at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (GC) & TI on 26th (Andrew McKinley fide OUTON).

HOODED WARBLER - 1 M at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 27th (MJCB, MCar, fide GC) & 2 M there on 28th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

SUMMER TANAGER - 1 2Y-M at 10:30hr at Pringle Creek Ravine (nr. Manning Rd, E of Garden St, Whitby), *Durham* on 28th (J. Munroe fide RPye). It was seen again on 29th and last noted on 30th. Photos on file.

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at 39 Harshaw Ave, *York* on 3rd (AA) & at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA). 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 11th (m. obs fide DRBA) & 1 there on 18th, 21st & 24th (TWRB fide DRBA). Singles at TI on 13th (NMu,ICa), at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 19th (LFr fide ONTBIRDS) & at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 26th (JRC). 20 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

CHIPPING SPARROW - Singles at 39 Harshaw Ave., *York* on 9th (AA), Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 12th (m. obs fide DRBA), TI on 18th (NMu) & at HP on 18th & 19th (SMF). 3 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Stevenson Rd, Oshawa, *Durham* on 24th (DRuch fide DRBA).

FIELD SPARROW - 3 at TI on 2nd & 3 on 18th (NMu). 1 at HP on 11th (SMF), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (JWi,BKa) & 2 there on 18th (RPye fide DRBA). Singles at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 24th (D. Wysotski fide DRBA), at Shell Park, *Halton* on 25th (DEP) & at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS). 9 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).



Male **Summer Tanager** at feeder near Pringle Creek Ravine, Whitby, *Durham*, 29 April 2009. © Janice Melendez.

VESPER SPARROW - 2 at 8th Conc. King, S of Pottageville, *York* on 7th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - Singles at Causeway, LSS on 10th (AA), Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (D. Docherty fide DRBA), Ward's Island, TI on 13th (NMu,ICa) & at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 7 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL), by the 25th they were common at N end L. Scugog, *Durham* (DRuch fide DRBA). 1 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - 1 at Island School, TI on 26th (Andrew McKinley fide OUTON).

FOX SPARROW - Early reports of singles were from 39 Harshaw Ave, *York* on 2nd (AA), at Olivers' feeder, Pickering, *Durham* on 4th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), at Univ. of Toronto Campus on 7th (JWi), 14 Centre St, Orono, *Durham* on 8th (JMR fide DRBA) & at HBP [E] on 15th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at TI on 2nd, 3 on 16th & 47 there on 18th (NMu,&). 1 at HP on 2nd, 3 on 4th, 2 on 7th & 8th & 3 there on 18th (SMF). 3 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 5th (RPye fide DRBA). 6 reports from Thicksons Woods, *Durham* beginning with 8 on 9th (MJCB fide DRBA), a high count of 14 on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & last report of 1 on 24th (TWRB fide DRBA). 17 at LSS on 18th (AA), 1 on 25th (SMF) & 2 there on 26th (JBMW,HC). 5 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 19th (LFr fide ONTBIRDS), 1 on 21st

(SMF) & 1 on 26th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 24th (VC fide JRC).

SONG SPARROW - 102 at TI on 2nd, 52 on 13th, 52 on 16th & 107 on 18th (NMu,&).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 28th (VC fide JRC).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (JWi,BKa) & 2 at LSS on 18th (AA). 2 (singing) at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* @ 05:30hrs on 25th (DEP) & 12 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 (wintering) at Canada Life, University Ave. sang weakly @ 08:50hrs on 3rd; the first time heard song after the winter (RBHS). 1 at backyard in Whitby, *Durham* on 17th (G. Ernest fide DRBA), 1 at LSS on 18th (AA) & 200 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 9th (MJCB fide DRBA), at a backyard in Whitby, *Durham* on 17th (G. Ernest fide DRBA), LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & at QEW & Hurontario St., *Peel* on 30th (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 30th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 72 at TI on 18th (NMu), 25 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 19th (LFr fide ONTBIRDS) & 30 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 11 at TI on 13th (NMu,ICa), 17 on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 14 there on 18th (NMu).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA) & 2 there on 26th (GC). 1 M coming to feeders at Chappell House, Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 30th (Judi Parker fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 30th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 125 at TI on 16th (NMu,MVL) plus 25 flying E in am.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 19th (CMH,&, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 (2 pairs) at Dixie Rd & Conc 3, Pickering, *Durham* on 24th (T. Wake fide DRBA) & 10 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 3 at LSS on 18th (AA), 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 22nd (GC) & 1 there on 25th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide DRBA) & 25 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC).

COMMON GRACKLE - 135 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 100 there on 16th (NMu,MVL).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 48 at TI on 2nd (NMu,MVL,ICa), 81 on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 42 there on 16th (NMu,MVL).

ORCHARD ORIOLE - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (THo fide DRBA) & 1 at Don Valley Brickworks Park on 30th (anon fide OUTON).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 30th (Judi Parker fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 30th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 M at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (singing) at Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 12th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at Ward's Island, TI on 13th (NMu,ICa). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 21st (TWRB fide DRBA), 8 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC) & 1 F at Richmond Hill Mill Pond, *York* on 28th (WP).

RED CROSSBILL - 1 M at #4 Grenfell, Markham, *York* @ 18:10hrs on 27th (CMcK,SLo, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON REDPOLL - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th, 12th & 18th (GC).

PINE SISKIN - Few breeding records are known from within the City of Toronto, so a nest with 2 eggs found at Fairway Drive, Scarborough at 13:50hrs on 5th (RLau fide WP) was particularly noteworthy. A good photograph of the nest and eggs was obtained, and notes included 'F sitting and being fed on the nest' (RLau). Breeding was also confirmed at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 24th, where 2 AD were seen with a fledged young, begging for 3 min before being fed (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). Other reports of possible breeding came from the 'Bowl' area of CSSP [2 on territory (?) on 24th (LF fide ONTBIRDS)]; 2 pairs at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 26th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) and Grenfell Rd, Markham, *York* on 27th, where a lone F was seen, and a M had been singing during the previous week (CMcK fide ONTBIRDS). Reports involving probable migrants or foraging flocks were: 10 at Thickson's Woods, *Durham* on 10th (GC); 20 at Brooklin, *Durham* on 11th (B. Steele fide DRBA); 10 at The 'Bowl',

CSSP on 19th (LFr fide ONTBIRDS); 20 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,HC); and 2 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond, York on 28th (WP). At the very end of the month, there seemed to be a large movement through the GTA, with reports of over 12 flocks seen during a 2hr walk in Oshawa, Durham on 30th (S. Pernanen fide DRBA), and 200 at NW Newmarket, York during the week ending 30th April (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), causing an influx to backyard feeders.

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; MVB Mike Burrell; BFA Bruce F. Aikins; MJCB Margaret Bain; ETB Eleanor Beagan; TTPBRS Tommy Thompson Park Bird Res. Station; GDB George Bryant; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; VC Victoria Carley; MCar Margaret Carney; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; JCa John Catto; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; KDu Keith Dunn; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; SMF Steven Favier; LF Luc Fazio; IDMF Iain Fleming; RJF Ron Fleming; LFr Lynne Freeman; SCH Sandra Hawkins; NPHW Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch; THo Tyler Hoar; CMH Carol Horner; AKJ Alan K. Johnston; BKa Barbara Kalthoff; LGK Leslie Kinrys; MK Mark Kubisz; RLau Rick Lauzon; MJL Marcus J. Lise; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; m. obs many observers; CMcK Carol McKnight; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; JNi John Nishikawa; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; FP Frank Pinilla; RJP Ron Pittaway; GCP Gavin C. Platt; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; TWRB Thicksons Woods Record Book; WER Wayne E. Renaud; JMR Jim M. Richards; GVR Garth Riley; DRuch Dave Ruch; LS Leon Schlichter; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; RGT Ron Tozer; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; DWW D.V. Chip Weseloh; JWi Joan Winearls; DW David Worthington.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 832 reports were added to the database for April 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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NOTE

Spring Dowitcher Identification

Comparison of two subspecies of the Short-billed Dowitcher at Reesor Pond in Markham with a Long-billed Dowitcher at Hillman Marsh near Point Pelee

Jean Iron and Ron Pittaway



Photo 1. Two subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher occur in Ontario. This is a typical nominate or eastern *Limnodromus griseus griseus*. It is much rarer than the interior *hendersoni* subspecies in photo 2 in the GTA because it breeds mainly in northern Quebec. Nominate *griseus* differs from *hendersoni* by its heavily spotted breast and the cinnamon colour is restricted mainly to the upper breast and neck. 20 May 2009, Reesor Pond, Markham, York. © Jean Iron.



Photo 2. Compared to the *griseus* in photo 1, this *hendersoni* is more lightly spotted below and the cinnamon colour extends back of the legs. It suggests a Long-billed Dowitcher in photo 3, but that species is heavily spotted on the foreneck and has well-formed bars, rather than the spots of *hendersoni*, on the sides of breast. Caution: both Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers can have barring on the sides and flanks. 20 May 2009, Reesor Pond, Markham, York. © Jean Iron.



Photo 3. The Long-billed Dowitcher is monotypic (no subspecies). The cinnamon extends to the undertail coverts and it is heavily spotted on the neck and barred on the sides. Long-billed is easily separated from the eastern *griseus* Short-billed Dowitcher in photo 1, which has extensive white on the belly. Separation from *hendersoni* is often difficult; see photo 2 and caption. 17 May 2009, Hillman Marsh Conservation Area near Point Pelee. © Jean Iron.

More Information

The best identification descriptions and illustrations comparing Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers are on pages 180 and 181 in the fourth and fifth editions of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. The three subspecies of the Short-billed Dowitchers are well illustrated. Also note the very different appearance of Long-billed Dowitchers in fresh and worn alternate (breeding) plumage.

More photos of Short-billed Dowitchers at Hillman Marsh in May 2007:
<http://www.jeaniron.ca/Shorebirds/2007/sbdowitchers.htm>

More photos of a Long-billed Dowitcher at Minesing Swamp on 3 May 2008:
<http://www.jeaniron.ca/Shorebirds/2008/lbdowitcher.htm>

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