

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

Pine Siskin nest (*Carduelis pinus*)

Photo © Rick Lauzon

Very few Pine Siskin nests have been found in the GTA, and good opportunities to find a nest of this species probably occur less than once per decade. However, the early part of 2009 saw a substantial influx of Pine Siskins in the GTA. This nest with two eggs was found at 105 Cedar Brae Blvd., Scarborough, *Toronto*, 5 April 2009 by Rick Lauzon. Detailed observations concerning this nest are included in the article on pages 118 – 130.

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 – MAY 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.

BRANT - 1 at CSSP on 13th (Lynn Pady fide ETB, fide ONTBIRDS). 34 flying W past Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo fide DRBA) & 88 (flocks 21, 67) flying over Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 16th (GC fide DRBA). 3 at Foot of Courtice Rd., *Durham* on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA).

TRUMPETER SWAN – 2 (tags 126 & 191) at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP). 1 (tag # E27) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 13th & 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), has been there for over a week now with a Mute Swan. One flying over Hanlan's Point, TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,Peter Beesley),

WOOD DUCK - 5 (3 M, 2 F) at HP on 4th & 7 there on 6th (SCH).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – 1 M at West beach, TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,Peter Beesley).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

CANVASBACK - 5 at Hanlan's Pt, TI on 5th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at TI on 8th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS), 8 TI on 11th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS), 7 there on 15th and 18th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel) & 5 there on 25th (NMu,ICa,Peter Beesley). 1 F at LSS on 24th (SMF).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA).

GREATER SCAUP - 5 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 27th & 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

KING EIDER - 1 at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 24th (BH fide DRBA).

SURF SCOTER - 2 at CSSP on 22nd (Jack Alvo fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 2 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF), 36 (flocks 32, 4) at CSSP on 22nd (Jack Alvo fide ONTBIRDS) & 114 flying NE at CSSP @ 19:00hrs on 25th (AA). 8 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 27th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 at Burloak Park, *Halton* on 28th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFFLEHEAD - 4 at Reesor Pond, *York* and 2 at Sobey's Pond, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP) and 2 (M & F) at Snake Is, TI on 25th (NMu,ICA,Peter Beesley).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - On 23rd there was 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham*, 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* (GCarp,&, fide ONTBIRDS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 2 at Snug Harbour, TI on 4th (NMu,ICa,MVL) and 1 at TI on 6th, 8th, 23rd, and 25th (NMu, &). 2 there on 18th (JBMW,LF).

COMMON MERGANSER - 9 (8 M, 1F) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (SMF).

RUDDY DUCK - 2 (pair) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp,&, fide ONTBIRDS).

WILD TURKEY - 1 flew N to S across Taunton Rd W of Brock Rd, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP). 1 F at Little Norway Park @ 06:45hrs on 13th (Paloma Plant fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen walking up Lakeshore Blvd W towards Stadium Rd. and was shoosed away from the road!

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 10th (THo fide DRBA), 1 at Foot of Courtice Rd., *Durham* on 21st & 2 there on 23rd (GCarp fide DRBA). 18 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 23rd (RPye fide DRBA).

COMMON LOON - 8 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 6 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 23rd (RPye fide DRBA) & 8 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at HP on 12th (SMF).

HORNED GREBE - 1 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 4 (2 pairs) at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 3rd (GRE fide ONTBIRDS), nesting for 13th consecutive year. Two floating tires have been put out; eastern nest has 3 eggs, western one no eggs so far. 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp,&, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 nest building at CSSP on 23rd (JBMW,SMF).

EARED GREBE – One in breeding plum. at CSSP (foot of 23rd St) @ 17:30hrs on 2nd (RBHS,WP); probably same as reported there on 26 Apr (GVR). [Documented].

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* @ 06:15hrs on 25th [No doc. seen] (DEP,MCr, fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at HP on 1st, 4th, 10th & 26th (SMF;SCH). 1 at Bogart Rd, Newmarket, *York* on 2nd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at CSSP on 22nd (Jack Alvo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Conlin Rd, 200m E of Thicksons, *Durham* on 23rd (Jinm Yaki fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 24th (SMF), 1 at Lake Scugog, *Durham* on 29th (BFA fide DRBA), 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 30th (SCH) & 2 at Russell Farm Park, *York* on 31st (Glen Steplock fide ONTBIRDS).

SNOWY EGRET - 1 at CSSP @ 07:45hrs on 6th [No doc. seen] (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

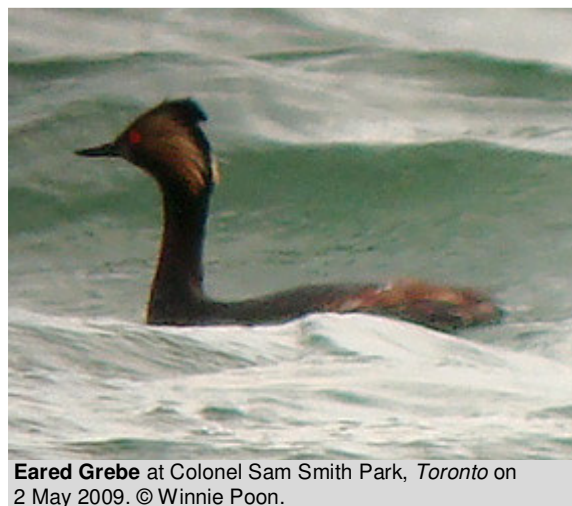
CATTLE EGRET - 1 (breeding plum.) at Hydro Is. off Eastport Dr., *Halton* @ 09:45hrs on 18th [No doc. seen] (Stephen Cheesman fide ONTBIRDS); may have roosted overnight and departed early am. Not seen 30 minutes later.

GREEN HERON - Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 8th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Resources Road Ravine on 10th (MK fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 2 (pair) at Seneca College (King), *York* on 1st (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 (pair) at nest site at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd (MJCB fide DRBA).

BALD EAGLE - 2 at Holland R. Mouth Heronry, *York* on 1st (PW fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 SUB at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 3rd (GRE fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (anon fide TWRB); 1 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa,MVL).



Eared Grebe at Colonel Sam Smith Park, *Toronto* on 2 May 2009. © Winnie Poon.

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 at HP on 2nd & 22nd (SMF). 1 AD at CSSP on 3rd; seen on a nest there on 23rd (SMF). 1 building a nest at Toronto Necropolis on 4th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at TI on 6th, 11th and 25th – nesting on Snake Is. (NMu, &) and 1 there on 30th (NMu).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 at Happy Valley Forests, York on 8th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, Durham on 3rd (Les Sayler fide DRBA) & 1 at Heber Down C. A., Durham on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

MERLIN - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 10th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Lasalle Crt & King St., Durham on 20th (RPye fide DRBA).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 2 at LSS on 1st (Bernie Monette fide OUTON), 1 at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 3rd & 10th (anon fide TWRB), 1 1S-M at Wards Is, TI on 4th (NMu, ICa, MVL), & 1 at Britannia & 8th Line, Halton on 7th (Karl Egressy fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (3 young in nest) at Sun Life Financial Centre (formerly Clarica Center) on 15th, the 3 chicks (1 female, 2 males) were banded on 26th (SCH). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, Durham on 17th (J. Skene fide DRBA). 1 at Hanlan's Pt, TI on 25th (NMu, ICa, Peter Beesley).

SANDHILL CRANE - 2 flying over Thicksons Woods, Durham on 9th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 flying NW over Ward's Island, TI @ 18:30hrs on 16th (AA fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 1 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, Durham on 2nd (B. Smith fide DRBA) & 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 15th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, Durham on 14th (THo, Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 10 on 28th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 there on 31st (B. Smith fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 1 AD on N side at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, Halton on 22nd (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).



Banded **Piping Plover** at Darlington Provincial Park, Durham on 27 May 2009. Bands are -Upper left: orange band; Lower left: bicolour lime green/orange; Upper right: USFWS band; Lower right: lime green. © Jean Iron.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd & 30th (MJCB fide DRBA). 3 at Britannia Rd & 4th Line, *Halton* on 11th & 15 on 22nd (DEP fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 13th & 6 on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 32 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo, Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS), 39 on 16th & 4 on 27th & 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HBP [W] on 14th (AA), 4 at West Beach, TI on 19th (NMu, Gunnar Bessel, MVL) & 1 at CSSP on 23rd (JBMW, SMF).

PIPING PLOVER - 1 (banded) at Darlington P. P., *Durham* on 27th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 28th (CSAM; THo; GCarp; all fide ONTBIRDS); last reported at 10:00hrs on 29th (GLKJ fide OUTON).

KILLDEER - 16 at TI on 18th (JBMW, LF).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 11 at West Beach, TI on 12th (NMu, MVL), 22 there on 15th (NMu, MVL, Gunnar Bessel), 22 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 16 at West Beach, TI on 19th (NMu, Gunnar Bessel, MVL).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at West Beach, TI on 9th (AA) & on 19th (NMu, Gunnar Bessel, MVL).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 9 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd & 3 on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA). 10 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 4th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), a few at Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* on 5th (Ken Newcombe fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

WILLET - 1 at Western Spit, CSSP on 7th [No doc. seen] (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & on 8th [No doc. seen] (AK fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 11 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd & 8 on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA). 20 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 4th & 1 there on 22nd (DEP fide ONTBIRDS). 100 at Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* @ 20:15hrs on 4th (MCR fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 5th (Ken Newcombe fide ONTBIRDS).

WHIMBREL - 1 at West Beach, TI on 18th (JBMW, LF) & 5 there on 19th (NMu, Gunnar Bessel, MVL). None were seen at CSSP on 19th (WER fide Robin Lawson, fide ONTBIRDS) & the first spring migrants there were 27 on the 20th at 10:30hrs (David Hallett fide MCR, fide ONTBIRDS). 400 on 22nd (WER, DBa, fide ONTBIRDS) with largest flock 110 @ 19:15hrs, 67 (4 flocks) in early to mid morning on 23rd (WER, &, fide ONTBIRDS), 1814 on 24th (TOC, WER, fide ONTBIRDS), based on a watch done between 05:00 and 20:00hrs. There were 2 large flocks totalling ~500 @ 11:00hrs; none in afternoon, then 3 more flocks between 18:37 and 19:45hrs. 300 on 25th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), included a flock of 110 on the beach at 06:00hrs, 38 in morning on 28th (WER, &, fide ONTBIRDS); also on 28th there were 621 (in 5 flocks - 140, 180, 45, 250 and 6) flying over Grand Harbour, HBP @ 14:45hrs. Then at 14:55hrs 221 (4 flocks) were seen flying N at Lakeshore Rd, N of CSSP (WER fide ONTBIRDS), WER considers the total for the day as 880, including the Grand Harbour birds. None were seen at CSSP on 29th during 8 hr watch (WER fide ONTBIRDS), total for spring so far = 3699, according to WER. Other reports were: 75 at Foot of Courtice Rd., *Durham* on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA), 341 flying past at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 22nd (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 2 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 24th (C. Adey fide DRBA), 140-175 at LSS @ 12:00hrs on 24th (JRC, OFO, fide ONTBIRDS) and 50 flying W at Clarkson GO Station, *Peel* on 25th (MCR fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 27th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 29th (DW) & 9 there on 31st (B. Smith fide DRBA). 1 in a wet field at Conc 7 & Ashburn Rd, Whitby, *Durham* on 31st (J. Munroe fide DRBA).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - 1 at Halls Rd N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp fide RPy, fide ONTBIRDS) was found during his birdathon. It was still there @ 17:15hrs (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) & was reported again @ 17:00hrs on 24th (AEMA, Maureen Smith, fide ONTBIRDS) & from 09:30-10:30hrs on 25th (GLKJ, Sherry Lau, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY TURNSTONE – Singles at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th, 17th, 27th & 30th (THo; & fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 23rd (GCarp, &, fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 31st (B. Smith fide DRBA). 4 at Hydro Islands, off Eastport Dr, *Halton* on 17th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (Robin Lawson fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at West Beach, TI on 19th (NMu, Gunnar Bessel, MVL) & 1 at Tip, LSS on 20th (Elizabeth McKernan fide ONTBIRDS).

RED KNOT - 14 at CSSP @ 19:15hrs on 22nd (WER, DBa, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp, &, fide ONTBIRDS).

SANDERLING – 1 at West Beach, TI on 12th (NMu, MVL) and 1 (winter plum.) at West Beach, TI on 19th (NMu, Gunnar Bessel, MVL). 6 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* @ 07:00hrs on 31st (RPy fide DRBA).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th, 10 on 27th, 30 on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 40 there on 30th (G. Vogg fide DRBA). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 22nd (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Sunnyside on 28th (AA fide ONTBIRDS) & 10 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - 1 at CSSP on 28th [No doc. seen] (WER,DBa, fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd, 60 on 13th, 18 on 17th & 1 on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Britannia Rd & 4th Line, *Halton* on 11th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 13th (AA) & 22 at West Beach, TI on 19th (NMu,Gunnar Bessel,MVL). 19 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo,Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS), 29 on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 100 on 17th (J. Skene fide DRBA), 24 on 27th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 28 on 28th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS). 34 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th & 20 on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 28th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & on 30th (G.Vogg fide DRBA).

* BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 1 AD at Sunnyside @ 19:15hrs on 28th [Documented] (AA fide ONTBIRDS), opposite Ellis Ave; wide section of beach where shoreline artificially reinforced with small rocks.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Singles at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 2nd (B. Smith fide DRBA), Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* on 11th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS).

DUNLIN - 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 4th, 5 on 11th & 175 there on 22nd (DEP fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo,Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS), 32 on 16th, 33 on 27th & 37 on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 9 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th & 15 on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th & 5 on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA). 34 at West Beach, TI on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel), 20 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF), 19 at West Beach, TI on 19th (NMu,Gunnar Bessel,MVL) & 60 on pier at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 21st & 22nd (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 100's flying W at CSSP on 22nd (WER,DBa, fide ONTBIRDS) & several thousand there on 24th (TOC,WER, fide ONTBIRDS) with a peak of 800 in 4mins @ 19:00hrs.

RUFF - 1 (red-coloured) M first found at Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* @ 18:45hrs on 4th [No doc. seen] (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & reported again there on 5th, 6th (m. obs) & 7th at 10:45hrs when it flew N and was not seen again. [No doc. seen] (Len D. fide ONTBIRDS).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - 1 (*hendersoni*) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th & 24 there on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 there on 23rd (GCarp,& fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 22nd (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 2 AD at CSSP on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at West Beach, TI on 9th (AA). 10 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th, 49 IMM & 35 there on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). Only 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

LITTLE GULL - 1 AD at CSSP on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* & 5 at Jack Darling Park, *Peel* on 9th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Foot of Courtice Rd., *Durham* on 21st (GCarp fide DRBA), 1 IMM at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 27th & 2 IMM on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

HERRING GULL - 120 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

ICELAND GULL - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo,Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo,Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th (THo,Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

CASPIAN TERN – 8 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP). 20 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 2nd & 22 on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BLACK TERN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th & 15th (SMF). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), and 35 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th & 15 on 30th (MJCB fide DRBA).

COMMON TERN - 1 at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 3rd (GRE fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 13th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 35 around the tern raft at Trout Pond, TI on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel), & 21 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

ARCTIC TERN - 1 at Burloak Park, *Halton* on 23rd [No doc. seen] (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 7 (2 groups) flying E at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* @ 09:30hrs on 28th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & seen again @ 11:35hrs (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen]

FORSTER'S TERN - 1 at CSSP @ 10:30hrs on 28th [No doc. seen] (WER,DBa, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th, 1 at Halls Rd. on 21st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 22nd (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 2 at LSS on 24th (JRC,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cool Hollow, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 28th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - Some at 160 The Donway W, Toronto on 8th (ETB fide ONTBIRDS), last year they were first noted on 6 May 2008. 100+ at TI on 18th & 200 there on 30th (NMu,&, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – First reports were of 1 at TI (SCH), 2 at Running Robin Ranch, *Durham* (CSAM fide DRBA) on 3rd. 2 at backyard in Oshawa, *Durham* on 4th (Les Sayler fide DRBA), 1 at HP on 4th (SCH) & on 5th (SMF). 7 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 9th (TWRB fide DRBA), 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 3 at TI on 18th (NMu,AA,MVL), & 2 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 19th (Mathieu Siol fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 1st (Gunnar Bessel fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 2 M at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), one at N end of park & one near Colborne Lodge, 1 there on 7th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & on 19th (SMF). 1 M at Lambton Woods on 9th (SMF;JBMW,DEB) & 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 (late) at TI on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - Singles at Kortright C. A., *York* on 11th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 17th (Andrew Don fide ONTBIRDS), Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 17th & 20th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 19th (Mathieu Siol fide ONTBIRDS) & at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (GC fide DRBA) & on 29th (m. obs fide DRBA).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 1 at HP on 13th (SMF), 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF) and 12 there on 30th (NMu,MVL).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 1 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF), 1 at LSS on 20th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 24th (JRC,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 29th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (SLaF fide DRBA) and 3 at Wards Is, TI on 30th (NMu,MVL).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – One at Wards Is, TI on 29th [Photographed] (DBe) & 1 at Wards Is, TI on 30th (NMu,MVL) [No doc. seen for either].

ALDER FLYCATCHER - 1 (ID by song) at Hanlan's Point, TI on 15th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Wards Is, TI on 30th (NMu,MVL) & lots at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at TI on 18th (JBMW, LF) and 6 there on 30th (NMu,MVL).

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th & 13th (AA). 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (AA).



29 May 2009 turned out to be a 'five – *Empidonax*' day at the Toronto Islands, *Toronto*, for David Beadle, who had good views of all the eastern North American *Empidonax* Flycatchers: Least, Acadian, Willow, Alder and Yellow-bellied. Some of these birds were also photographed – **Alder Flycatcher** (above), Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (see next page), and Acadian Flycatcher (not shown). © David Beadle.



Willow Flycatcher (left) and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (right) at the Toronto Islands, *Toronto*, 29 May 2009. © David Beadle.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (TWRB fide DRBA), CSSP on 3rd (SMF) & at Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 8th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at TI on 8th, 12 on 12th (NMu,MVL), 13 there on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel) & 6 there on 18th (JBMW,LF).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at HP on 2nd, 8th & 9th (SMF). 1 at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 8th (FP), 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th & 5 on 9th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 at CSSP on 8th (SMF), 11 at TI on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL) and 12 there on 18th (NMu,&).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 2 at HP on 7th & 1 on 9th (SMF). 1 at Lambton Woods on 9th (SMF). Max. 14 at TI on 23rd and 25th (NMu,&)

WHITE-EYED VIREO - Singles at Hanlan's Point, TI on 4th (ICa,NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS), Centennial & Guelph Line area, Burlington, *Halton* on 7th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Kortright C. A., *York* on 9th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - 1 at Pine Point Park on 3rd (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Wards Is, TI on 8th (NMu,AA, MVL), 1 at Whitby Psychiatric Hospital, *Durham* on 11th (K. Jennewein fide DRBA) & at HP on 14th (SMF). 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 16th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th, 22nd (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA) & on 24th (GC fide DRBA).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 5 at TI on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL) & 2 there on 18th (JBMW,LF).

WARBLING VIREO - 1 at Resources Road Ravine on 3rd (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP from 3rd to 5th (SMF). 1 at LSS on 4th & 1 at CSSP on 5th (SMF). 14 at TI on 6th, 20 on 8th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS), 15 on 9th (AA), 36 on 18th (NMu,&), 48 at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,Peter Beesley), and 27 there on 30th (NMu, MVL).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – 4 at Hanlan's Pt, TI on 12th (NMu,MVL). Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 15th (SMF), South Humber Park on 16th (AA) & at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 19th (Kevin Seymour fide Greg Stuart, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-EYED VIREO - 1 at HP on 11th, 12th & 15th (SMF). 12 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF) and 9 there on 30th (NMu,MVL).

FISH CROW - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI @ 10:00hrs on 5th [No doc. seen] (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) was seen flying E chased by an American Crow (near Island Airport).

PURPLE MARTIN - 1 at TI on 8th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 18th (JBMW,LF).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 6 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF) and 14 there on 25th (NMu,ICa,Peter Beesley).

CLIFF SWALLOW - 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 11th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 15th (LF,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 30+ at Pier, TI on 18th (JBMW,LF). Max. 42 at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,Peter Beesley).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (anon fide TWRB).

CAROLINA WREN - 2 at TI on 5th, 1 there on 8th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & on 18th (JBMW,LF).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 6 at TI on 8th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at yard in Newmarket, *York* on 9th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). Max. 8 at TI on 13th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel).

WINTER WREN - 1 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY).

SEDGE WREN - 1 (singing) at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 15th (LF,& fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* @ 21:45hrs on 30th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) was singing at dusk in field at back of the property.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at CSSP on 3rd (SMF), 1 at TI on 6th (NMu,Diane Hasley) & 2 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – 11 reports from HP beginning with 6 on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 1-3 seen on other dates from 3rd to 20th (SMF). 3 at Resources Road Ravine on 3rd & 1 on 10th (MK fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at TI on 3rd (SCH), 5 on 5th, 17 on 6th (incl. 2 nests under construction), 18 on 8th, 8 on 12th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF), 11 there on 23rd and 25th (NMu,&) and 4 there on 30th (NMu,MVL). 2 at Lambton Woods on 9th (JBMW,DEB) & 2 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 15th (LF,& fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 16th, 20th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), on 23rd & 2 on 24th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 11th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 13th (AA).

VEERY - 1 at CSSP on 3rd (SMF) & on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 4th (SMF), 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 6 at TI on 18th (NMu,&) & 5 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH – 2 at TI on 12th (NMu,MVL) & 3 there on 18th (JBMW,LF). 1 at CSSP on 20th, 25th & 26th (SMF). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (SLaF fide DRBA) & on 29th (m. obs fide DRBA).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 1 at TI on 8th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS) & 33 there (of which 28 on Wards) on 18th (NMu,&). 1 at CSSP on 27th (MCR fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Baselands, LSS on 29th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL).

HERMIT THRUSH – 10 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP). Singles at TI on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL), at HP on 10th (SMF), CSSP on 10th (SMF) & at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

WOOD THRUSH - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS) & on 3rd (anon fide TWRB). 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 3 at South Humber Park on 16th (AA) & 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

GRAY CATBIRD - 1 at LSS on 4th (SMF), 16 at TI on 8th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 21 there on 18th (NMu,&).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - There were 48 reports this month, with 22 from *Toronto*, 13 from *York*, 2 from *Peel*, 10 from *Durham* and none from *Halton*. One particularly interesting observation concerned a bird at CSSP on 24th,

which incorporated the calls of migrant Whimbrel into its repertoire (LGK). In view of the very short 'window of opportunity' to learn this call, one wonders whether it learned it this season, or perhaps 'remembered' it from some prior year, when stimulated by the passing flocks. Many thanks to the 16 observers for their reports: AA; BB; Stephen Campbell; JCa,MCa; HE; LF; SMF; SCH; TH; LGK; Jan McDonald; NMu; WP; RBHS; DW.

BROWN THRASHER - 7 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 15th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 1 at Britannia Rd & 4th Line, *Halton* on 11th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 2 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 9th (THo fide DRBA).

CEDAR WAXWING – 83 at TI on 13th (NMu,&) & 100+ there on 18th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER – Singles at Seneca College (King), *York* on 1st (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 4th (GCarp fide DRBA) & at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 6th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th, 18th & 20th (TWRB fide DRBA). Other singles were seen at Resources Road Ravine on 10th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), Gibraltar Point, TI on 13th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel), Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide DRBA), Shell Park, *Halton* on 16th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 6th, 16th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & on 17th (Andrew Don fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th, 9th (TWRB fide DRBA) on 24th (GC fide DRBA). 1 at Baselands, LSS on 16th (anon fide RDC, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 19th (Kevin Seymour fide Greg Stuart, fide ONTBIRDS).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (TWRB fide DRBA), 1 at CSSP on 7th (SMF), 2 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF) & on 19th (NMu,Gunnar Bessel,MVL). 2 at Riverdale Farm on 24th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 1 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 1st (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 12th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 16th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at CSSP on 16th (SMF), LSS on 18th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS), Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide DRBA) & at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 1 at CSSP (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) on 1st. 8 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA) & 21 there on 12th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at CSSP on 3rd & 16th (SMF). 2 at TI on 6th, 6 on 18th (NMu,&) and 1 on 19th (NMu,Gunnar Bessel,MVL). 4 (singing) at Shell Park, *Halton* on 7th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (TWRB fide DRBA) & 4 there on 17th (RPye fide DRBA). 9 other reports of singles from various locations from 10th to 16th.

YELLOW WARBLER - Singles at CSSP on 3rd & 5th, HP on 4th & at LSS on 4th (SMF). Maxima of 68 at TI on 18th (NMu,&), 59 there on 23rd (NMu) & 37 there on 30th (NMu,MVL).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 2 at HP on 5th (SMF) & 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA). 8 at TI on 13th (NMu, MVL,Gunnar Bessel) and 11 there on 18th (NMU,&).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 10 at TI on 13th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel), 32 at TI on 18th (NMu,&) & 1 at CSSP on 27th (MCR fide ONTBIRDS).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 2 (M & F) at Shell Park, *Halton* on 4th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Toronto Necropolis on 4th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 8th (SMF). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th & 10th (TWRB fide DRBA) & 2 there on 17th (RPye fide DRBA). 3 at TI on 12th (NMu,MVL) & 10 (4 M, 6 F) there on 18th (JBMW,LF).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & on 3rd (RBHS,WP). 1 M at HP on 4th, 8th, 30th & 2 (M & F) there on 28th (SMF). 1 M at LSS on 4th & at CSSP on 6th & 8th (SMF). 1 at TI on 9th (AA), 8 there on 12th (NMu,MVL), & 8 on 18th (JBMW,LF). 4 at Resources Road Ravine on 10th (MK fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 100 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 1st (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 30 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 70 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa,MVL), 75 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA) & 32 at TI on 18th (NMu,&).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 10 at TI on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL) & 6 there on 18th (JBMW,LF).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st, 3rd & 10th (TWRB fide DRBA), 1 at Riverdale Farm on 24th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 12th (NMu,MVL) & 1 M at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE WARBLER - 1 at CSSP on 1st (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON). 4 at HP on 2nd (JBMW, BY), 2 were on territory (there have been singing males at several locations in the park during breeding season in recent years).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - 1 M at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 4th (BFe fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (singing) at Ramsden Park was first found @ 10:00hrs on 12th (Anthony Glenesk fide ONTBIRDS), still there @ 18:00hrs (AA fide ONTBIRDS) & last reported @ 13:00hrs on 13th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 F at Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 13th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 (1 M, 1 F) at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 19th (WER fide Robin Lawson, fide ONTBIRDS).

PALM WARBLER - 5 at CSSP on 1st (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON), 20+ at Seneca College (King), *York* on 1st (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY). 2 at Toronto Necropolis on 4th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS), 14 at TI on 4th (NMu,ICa,MVL), 12 there on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL), 4 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA) & 12 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 11th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 15th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Baselands, LSS on 18th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – Singles at Toronto Necropolis on 4th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS), South Humber Park on 16th (AA) & at HP on 10th & then on most dates from 17th to 25th (SMF). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 at Baselands, LSS on 18th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF). 5 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 22nd (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 8 on 28th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 6 there on 29th (m. obs fide DRBA). 2 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 23rd (RPye fide DRBA), 2 M at LSS on 24th (SMF), 15 at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL) & 3 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

CERULEAN WARBLER - 2 (M & F) at Kortright C. A., *York* on 11th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 13th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at CSSP on 1st (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON) 2 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 1st (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP), up to 6 at TI from 4th to 18th (NMu,&), 8 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF) & 1 at HP on 25th (SMF).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 1 M at CSSP on 8th (SMF) & 12 at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 9th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 1 at Holborn Rd N of Sharon, *York* on 10th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 10 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (anon fide TWRB) [No doc. seen]. It was present all day on S side of woodlot. 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 9th (THo fide DRBA) [No doc. seen].

OVENBIRD - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 5 at Wards Is, TI on 13th (NMU,MVL,Gunnar Bessel), & 4 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 1 at North Duck Pond, HP on 7th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Baselands, LSS on 18th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at CSSP on 22nd (Jack Alvo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

KENTUCKY WARBLER - 1 M at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 9th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). [No doc. seen].

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – 1 at Gibraltar Point & 1 M at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA). 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 16th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 17th (Andrew Don fide ONTBIRDS), Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 23rd (RPye fide ONTBIRDS), Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA) & at Heart Lake Conservation Area, *Peel* on 28th (PNP fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 29th (Robert McIver fide ONTBIRDS;DW fide DRBA), 1 F at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 29th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (singing) at West Deane Park on 30th (anon,MCr, fide ONTBIRDS).

MOURNING WARBLER - 3 (1 M, 2 F) at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 9th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Shell Park, *Halton* on 16th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 17th & 20th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), Baselands, LSS on 18th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS) & Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 2 M at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF), several at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 27th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 29th (m. obs fide DRBA), 2 M at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 1 at Halton RF - Turner Tract, *Halton* on 3rd (AA), 1 M at CSSP on 8th (SMF) & 8 at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 9th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 1 M at HP on 10th (SMF) & 19 at TI on 18th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS).

HOODED WARBLER - 2 (M & F) at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 1st (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 1 F at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 3rd (BPB fide ONTBIRDS), 1 (singing) M there on 5th (AK fide ONTBIRDS), 6th (SMF;LF fide ONTBIRDS) & on 7th (Bruce Wilkinson fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Happy Valley Forests, *York* on 8th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 9th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (singing) M at West Deane Park on 18th (anon fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 1 at TI on 13th, 4 at TI on 23rd and 25th (NMu,&). 1 at CSSP on 16th, 18th (SMF), on 23rd (JBMW,SMF) & 27th (MCR fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Baselands, LSS on 18th (TDo fide ONTBIRDS), 20th & 29th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL).

CANADA WARBLER - 1 at TI on 13th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 on 18th (JBMW,LF). 1 at HP on 15th, 16th & 18th (SMF). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide DRBA), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA), 5 there on 28th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 2 on 29th (m. obs fide DRBA). 1 at CSSP on 20th (SMF) & 23rd (JBMW,SMF). 1 at LSS on 24th (JRC,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 29th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 17th [No doc. seen] (Andrew Don fide ONTBIRDS).

SCARLET TANAGER - 1 M at CSSP on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 7th (Bruce Wilkinson fide ONTBIRDS). 3 (2 M, 1 F) at TI on 8th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS). 2 on 9th (AA) & 6 on 18th (JBMW,LF). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th, 3 on 10th, 5 on 18th, 4 on 22nd (TWRB fide DRBA) & 1 (orange variant) there on 24th (GC fide DRBA). 3 (2 M, 1 F) at HP on 14th & 16th (SMF) & 3 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 15th (THo fide DRBA). 2 at Baselands, LSS on 20th & 1 on 29th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 3 at TI on 18th (NMu,&).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 20 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 8 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th, 9 at TI on 6th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) and 18 there on 12th (NMu,MVL).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA), TI on 12th & 18th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS) & at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 near Mohawk Raceway, *Halton* during week ending 29 May (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 at Ramsden Park on 12th (AA fide ONTBIRDS).

VESPER SPARROW - 1 at TI on 12th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 22 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 14th [No doc. seen] (THo,Gord Vogg, fide ONTBIRDS), in flooded willows/sedges at W end of the beach.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Singles at CSSP on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & on 7th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA) & at Baselands, LSS on 11th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at TI on 13th and 18th (NMu *et al.*). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (TWRB fide DRBA).

SWAMP SPARROW - 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 4 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 30 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY), 100 there on 6th (NMu,Diane Hasley), and 150 there on 8th (NMu,AA,MVL).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY) & 2 at South Blair St, Whitby, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP). 26 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 12th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS) and 1 at Wards Is, TI on 30th (NMu,MVL).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 2 at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 4 M at Humber Arboretum on 1st (Bernie Monette fide OUTON) & 1 M at Dacre Crescent on 2nd (SMF). 2 at TI on 3rd (SCH), 19 at TI on 6th, 18 on 8th & 16 there on 12th (NMu, & fide ONTBIRDS). 3 (2 M, 1 F) at LSS on 4th (SMF), 9 (6M, 3F) at CSSP on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 7th (Bruce Wilkinson fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (M & F) at HP on 6th & 7th (SMF). 5 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP) & 6 there on 10th (TWRB fide DRBA).

BLUE GROSBREAK - 1 M singing and eating apple blossoms at West Humber R, S of 15th SR (between 7th and 8th Conc.), *York* on 22nd [No doc. seen] (Craig Corcoran fide ONTBIRDS).

INDIGO BUNTING - 4 at CSSP on 7th (Bruce Wilkinson fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 on 10th (SMF) & 11th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th & 3 there on 18th SMF. 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (AA), 5 at Wards I, TI on 13th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel), & 4 at TI on 18th (JBMW,LF). 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 11th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (SMF). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 11th, 4 on 17th (RPye fide DRBA) & 5 there on 18th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 5 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 15th (THo fide DRBA), 3 at South Humber Park on 16th (AA) & 6 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

BOBOLINK - 1 M at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th & 12 at TI on 8th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th, 12 there on 8th & 8 (7 M, 1 F) there on 13th (AA). 2 at Baselands, LSS on 10th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 M at HBP [E] on 10th (MCA,JCa, fide ONTBIRDS).



Second year male **Baltimore Oriole** beginning to acquire its black hood on the head, seen at Hanlan's Point, Toronto Islands, *Toronto*, 3 May 2009. © Sandra Hawkins.

ORCHARD ORIOLE - 3 (2 AD-M, 1 2Y M) at Floral Maple Leaf area, HP on 2nd (SMF;JBMW,BY), 2 AD-M on 3rd (SMF), 2 on 4th (SCH), 1 AD-M on 5th & 6th (SMF) & 2 M there on 7th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). There was 2 (1 M, 1 F) AD at the Floral Maple Leaf area, HP on 21st & 1 AD-M on 30th (SMF). 1 AD-M at Chimney Parking South, CSSP on 5th, 2 (1 AD-M, 1 imm-M) on 8th (SMF) & 1 SY-M there on 22nd (Jack Alvo fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Lambton Woods on 9th (JBMW,DEB), at Lake Wilcox, *York* on 9th (Kristen Martyn fide ONTBIRDS), Thicksons Woods,

Durham on 10th (TWRB fide DRBA), Bowmanville Creek Trail, *Durham* on 12th (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS), Baselands, LSS on 16th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 18th (FP). 2 at TI on 11th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 1A-M there on 13th (AA), several at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), with 7 there on 21st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 (pair) at West Deane Park on 17th (GVR fide ONTBIRDS).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (JRC) & 2 at CSSP (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON) on 1st. 1–3 at HP from 2nd to 9th (SMF). 1 at TI on 3rd (SCH), 14 on 6th, 31 on 8th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS), 30 on 9th (AA) & 26 on 12th, 62 there on 13th and 23rd, and peak count there of 66 on 25th (NMu, MVL, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th (TWRB fide DRBA) & 2 at Lambton Woods on 9th (SMF). 51 at TI on 30th (NMu,MVL).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 M at HP on 2nd (JBMW,BY).

RED CROSSBILL - 1 M photographed at feeder at #4 Grenfell, Markham, *York* @ 13:25hrs on 2nd and seen again there on 4th (CMcK fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE SISKIN - 12 at backyard in Whitby, *Durham* on 1st (G. Ernest fide DRBA), 27 at Brooklin, *Durham* on 2nd (B. Steel fide DRBA) & 15 at HP on 2nd (JBMW ,BY). 3 (2 AD, 1 FY) at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd (RBHS,WP), AD was seen being feeding FY as it fluttered wings and begged for food. 15 at 294 Bessborough Dr, Leaside on 3rd, 9 on 4th & 4 (2 AD, 2 FY) there on 10th & 11th (MCa), one juv being fed by an adult. Two (pair with nest) at 105 Cedar Brae Blvd., Scarborough on 4th (RLau); another pair was also starting a nest nearby on Fairway Dr. 5 or 6 AD, 1 FY @ nyger feeder at Bathurst & Eglinton area on 5th (Skip Shand fide WP), the FY was begging under the feeder. 2 at CSSP on 6th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 8th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Logan & Danforth on 25th (LFr).



The only **Red Crossbill** reported from the GTA in this period came to a feeder at #4 Grenfell, Markham, *York*, on 2 and 4 May 2009. This bird first showed up on 27 April 2009. Photo taken on 2 May © Carol McKnight.

CITED OBSERVERS: & ET AL.; OFO Ontario Field Ornithologists; AA Alfred Adamo; BFA Bruce F. Aikins; AEMA Anne Anthony; BPB Brian P. Bailey; MJCB Margaret Bain; DBa Don Barnett; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BB Bruce Brydon; DEB Donald E. Burton; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; JCa John Catto; MCa Margaret Catto; GC Glenn Coady; MCr Mark Cranford; RDC Robert D. Cumming; TDo Theresa Dobko; KDu Keith Dunn; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; HE Herb Elliot; SMF Steven Favier; LF Luc Fazio; BFe Bruce Ferry; RJF Ron Fleming; LFr Lynne Freeman; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; THo Tyler Hoar; DTH Doris Hofmann; TH Theo Hofmann; GLKJ Gabriel Lau Kin Jock; AK Andrew Keaveney; LGK Leslie Kinrys; MK Mark Kubisz; SLaF Steve LaForest; RLau Rick Lauzon; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; SLo Stan Long; m. obs many observers; CMcK Carol McKnight; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; TOC Toronto Ornithological Club; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; FP Frank Pinilla; WP Winnie Poon; PNP Paul Prior; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; TWRB Thicksons Woods Record Book; WER Wayne E. Renaud; GVR Garth Riley; DW David Worthington; PW Peter Wukasch; BY Bob Yukich.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 1436 reports were added to the database for May 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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The Status of the Pine Siskin as a breeding bird in the Greater Toronto Area

Roy Smith, Rick Lauzon and Winnie Poon



Pine Siskin fledgling begging at the Meadow, Thickson's Woods, Durham, on 3 May 2009. © Winnie Poon.

The Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* breeds in coniferous forests across the boreal zone of Canada and the northern United States, and in mountainous areas of the continental west, south through the mountains of Mexico to Guatemala (Dawson 1997). In Ontario, Pine Siskins breed throughout the extensive coniferous forests of the Canadian Shield and more sparsely across the patchy coniferous habitat of the Lake Simcoe-Rideau region. Further south, in the Carolinian region, breeding evidence is minimal, becoming essentially absent in the agricultural areas of the southwest (Pittaway in Cadman *et al.* 2007). In general, breeding localities are unpredictable and erratic; the birds may breed commonly in a locality one year but be totally absent the next (Godfrey 1986).

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA), being situated at the northern limit of the Carolinian region, does not normally support Pine Siskins year-round. In fact, there are only 14 records in the TOC Database from

the months of June, July and August (and three of these probably relate to the same bird). Some birds occur annually during the spring and fall migration periods, but these usually do not stay long. Numbers seen or reported on migration vary considerably, with very few in some years and large numbers in others. These erratic fluctuations have been linked by most authors to variations in tree seed crops. During irruption years, large numbers may stay for all or part of the winter, and it is usually following these irruption winters that occasional, opportunistic nesting has occurred in the GTA (see Table 1).

Pine Siskins are great wanderers and banding recoveries show that there is a pattern of movements south and south-west from Ontario in typical years (Brewer *et al.* 2000). However, birds banded in northwestern Ontario tend to move SE towards the Atlantic coast. Some movements show more of an east-west pattern and there is a suggestion that this trend is more prevalent in irruption years. One famous recovery, quoted by Speirs (1985) and also listed in Brewer *et al.* (2000), involved a bird that was banded near Toronto on 24 March 1963 and recovered at Ceres near San Francisco, California on 14 February 1964 (3537km W). Was this a western breeder returning 'home'?

During large irruptions, Pine Siskins can range south in eastern North America as far as Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas, but in 'average' years they may not be found much further south than the tier of states which includes Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania (Dawson 1997; Retter 2009). Banding records also show that some individual Pine Siskins may not occur in the same breeding area from one season to the next (Yunick 1983), indicating that they are true wanderers, with the potential to nest anywhere when food resources permit. One may speculate how the growth of winter bird feeding in southern Canada and the northern US over recent decades could have impacted these patterns. Anecdotal evidence suggests that large numbers can be 'held' in areas with well-stocked feeders, the birds being particularly attracted to niger (nyger) seed. For example, a posting on ONTBIRDS indicated hundreds of birds present in a yard in Sault Ste. Marie,

Algoma during the last week of January 2009, at which time they were consuming 50lb of nyger seed and 50 lb of black oil sunflower seed every 10 days! (Kirk Zufelt, *vide* ONTBIRDS). Around the same time, Michael Biro reported his peak count of 440 (from 17 nyger feeders) at Palace Court, Richmond Hill, York R.M. on 2 Feb 2009. This was the highest single-site GTA count from the 2008-2009 influx (see Table 3).

Status in the GTA prior to 2008-2009

The pattern of records in the GTA has been a subject of interest to previous authors. Fleming (1907) described the 'Pine Finch' as "*an irregular winter resident, sometimes abundant October 2 to March 23*". Clearly, he either did not know of, or did not accept, the two pre-1900 breeding records listed by Baillie and Harrington (1937). By the 1940s, late spring dates of 5 May (Richard M. Saunders) and 7 June (James L. Baillie) had been recorded (Saunders 1947). Speirs (1973) listed years with large winter numbers in the former Ontario County (now Durham R.M.) as follows: "*There were big flights into Ontario County in 1958-59, 1969-70 and 1971-72. During other winters I have seen none at all (e.g. in 1967-68 and 1970-71). In other winters just one or two may show up. During the big flights they frequently become feeding station 'addicts' where they become very tame and remarkably belligerent towards other finches, often driving off larger birds with raised wings displaying their yellow wing flashes*". Meanwhile, Tozer and Richards (1974) indicated that large numbers were present in the Oshawa-Lake Scugog region (now part of Durham R.M.) in the following winters: 1955-56; 1958-59; 1960-61; 1969-70, and 1971-72. They described its status as "*An irregular winter visitant (late October to early April). This is another of the winter finches which appear here on an irregular basis, being rare or absent some years and common in others. They usually frequent mixed and coniferous woods, feeding on the seeds of conifers, birch and alder. Occasionally they will appear at feeding stations, in varying numbers*". The irruption of 1960-61 was also mentioned by Lowther and Walker (1967), who banded 371 birds between 4 - 9 May 1961 at Algonquin Provincial Park, Nipissing. Although not mentioned by the authors quoted above, the winter of 1950-1951 also featured a large crossbill irruption, along with high numbers of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches (Baillie 1951). In fact, a diagram in Speirs (1973), in which he attempted to plot numbers for each winter, shows this quite well, although it is not discussed in the text.

Taken overall, there is some suggestion of an approximately 2-year periodicity in the winter influxes, but occasional 'poor' years break up the pattern. The really large influxes occur less frequently than once per decade, with 1984-1985 and 2008-2009 being the most recent ones. However in Northumberland County, due east of the GTA, the largest numbers (both records and numbers of birds) were reported from 1992 and 1987, with 1985 taking fourth place (Northumberland County Bird Database, online). This suggests either significant under-reporting in the GTA in those two years, both of which yielded breeding evidence (Table 1), or that the situation was rather different 100km east of Toronto. Given that 1984-1985 is poorly represented in the TOC database compared to 2009, it is difficult to make comparisons based on numbers of reports. In retrospect, it seems that a great opportunity to find nests in the GTA was probably missed in 1985. That year saw a very large irruption of Pine Siskins and both crossbill species in the GTA, and the first breeding records for Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* were obtained in both Durham R.M. and York R.M. It was also the last season of fieldwork for the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (1981-1985), when one might have expected birders to be more focused on breeding birds. But the database has relatively few reports from that period, with just 17 reports from 1985. However, one atlasser (Tim Dyson) was very active in 10km squares 17PU37 and 17PU38 (NAD27), both situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine east of Aurora in York R.M., and he confirmed breeding by finding adults feeding fledged young on 20 May 1985 (see Table 1). Breeding was also reported in New York State in that year, as documented by Messineo (1985). It is noteworthy that these very large winter influxes coincided with large irruptions of crossbills, particularly White-winged Crossbills *Loxia leucoptera*, suggesting the influence of large-scale conifer seed crop failure over an extensive area.

Fall Migration in the GTA

Fall migrants typically show up in the GTA in early October. Speirs (1973) listed one in Pickering Twp, *Durham R.M.* on 27 September 1951 as his earliest fall date, while Tozer and Richards (1974) provided an earlier date: one at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham R.M.* on 14 September 1957, by Naomi LeVay. They also noted that “*In some big ‘siskin winters’, the species may not become really numerous until March*”. The potential exists for even earlier fall dates, since Curry (2006) listed three earlier dates for the Hamilton area, namely 17 August 1980, 4 September 1972, and 6 September 1991. As it turned out, the fall of 2008 provided a new record early date for the GTA, 5 September 2008, when 3 were seen at Oshawa Creek north of Rossland Road, *Durham R.M.* (Tyler Hoar fide DRBA). These birds were about a month ahead of ‘normal’; in retrospect, unrecognized forerunners of what was to come. In typical years, the fall migrants move on quickly through the GTA, but in irruption years the numbers are of course larger and birds may stay longer at sites providing suitable food. This was evident in the fall of 2008, when there was a build-up of birds along Hall’s Road, Whitby, *Durham R.M.* during the period 1-8 November. These birds were accompanied by White-winged Crossbills, which also moved on after a short stay, presumably when the White Spruce cones were exhausted.

Apart from the early fall date mentioned above, we have 33 reports in the TOC Database from the fall of 2008, ranging from 7 October to 17 November 2008. Then there was a gap until the TOC Christmas Bird Count on 14 December. The highest fall count was 350 at Cranberry Marsh on 1 November (Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch, fide J.D. Lockrey, fide ONTBIRDS), and the next highest count was 175 at the Leslie Street Spit on 2 November (Table 3). On that date there were also reports of 10 at Finnerty SR, *Peel*, 15 at Durham Regional Forest - Main Tract, and 55 at Greenwood C.A. (both *Durham R.M.*), indicating widespread movement through the GTA. For comparison, the highest fall count reported in southern Ontario that we are aware of was 960 at the tip of Long Point, *Norfolk Co.* on 24 October (Long Point Bird Observatory – Sightings Board).

Winter and early spring in the GTA 2008-2009

Only very small numbers were reported in December (maximum 23 on Sector 5 of the Peel-Halton CBC, *Peel* on 14th), but numbers started to increase in early January, e.g. 100 at Halls Road, *Durham* on 3rd, and 200+ at a backyard in Whitby, *Durham* on 11th (see Table 3). Many feeders across the GTA saw a build-up in numbers during January 2009 and around the end of the month a few ‘green morph’ birds were noted among the feeder flocks (Poon 2009). It seems that peak numbers were reached at the very end of January, or early February (Table 3), but most feeders reporting siskins had smaller numbers (less than 50) and these persisted through the month and into March. By early to mid March the first reports of breeding behaviour were being recorded (Table 2) and most reports involved only small numbers (less than 20). There may have been a small and rapid ‘return movement’ through southern Ontario at the end of April, but in the GTA the only significant report of this involved “an influx into backyard feeders” in north-west Newmarket, where about 200 were noted (Mike van den Tillart, fide Ron Fleming).

Reports of breeding by Pine Siskins in the GTA in early 2009

In view of the fact that the fall migration period of 2008 had seen some good numbers of Pine Siskins moving through the GTA, and numerous feeder operators were reporting this species during the winter, the indications were good for possible breeding in the GTA. But as it turned out, 2009 was outstanding in regard to the number of breeding reports (Table 2). In total, there were 6 reports of confirmed breeding in the GTA in 2009, and 3 reports of probable breeding, compared with 15 reports of confirmed breeding from all previous recorded history. As always, allowance should be made for incomplete historic data in the database.

Table 1. Breeding, Nesting, and ‘Summer’ Records of Pine Siskin in the GTA: 1895 – 2008.

Date	Location	Observers/Notes
March 1895	Ramsey Estate, Heath St., <i>Toronto</i>	“...a nest with two eggs was taken and sent to T.McIlwraith by W.Carrell” (Baillie & Harrington 1937)) * First nesting record for Toronto
Pre 1899	Halton County	“Nests, and two sets of eggs found in spruces by J.P.Turner, according to journals of J.H.Samuel, 1899 “ * (Baillie & Harrington 1937)
13 April 1915	Don Valley, <i>Toronto</i>	Nest with 2 young and 1 egg about to hatch, near top of 25 ft cedar * (Hoyes Lloyd) (ONRS #001608) Second nesting record for Toronto
3 April 1927	Holland River Swamp, King Twp., <i>York</i>	Newly completed, but empty nest at 15 ft height in a tamarack; ROM #1359 (Paul Harrington) (Snyder 1930)
1 May 1929	‘East York township’, <i>Toronto</i>	R.J.Rutter found a pair nest building about 1 May 1929 (Baillie & Harrington 1937)
21 July 1930	Hampton, <i>Durham</i>	Nest with 1 egg at 6 ft height in a willow; ROM #1364 * (A.E. Allin) (ONRS #001583)
14 April 1951	Palgrave, <i>Peel</i>	Nest with 2 eggs, adult heard, in large white cedar at 12 ft height, in row of cedar and hemlock along roadside. Nest and eggs collected by C.E. Hope; ROM #7355 * (J.L. Baillie) (ONRS #001594)
15 April 1951	Thistletown, <i>Toronto</i>	Nest with 2 eggs; ROM #7353 * (A. Dawe) (ONRS #001611) Third nesting record for Toronto
6 May 1951	Cataract, <i>Peel</i>	Nest with 4 eggs in white spruce; ROM #7354 * (C.E. Hope) (ONRS #001595)
24 May 1969	Lot 9, Conc.9, Scugog Twp. <i>Durham</i>	1 adult in full song (Tozer & Richards 1974)
30 June 1969	Station Road, Pickering, <i>Durham</i>	1 bird observed (Speirs 1973)
24 June 1981	Lot 1, Conc.2, Pickering, <i>Durham</i>	1 lingering at feeder (Pickering Naturalist 6(4):306, Winter 1981/82)
10 March 1985	York Regional Forest – West Main Tract, <i>York</i>	20+ seen; some singing and courtship feeding (Roy Smith, Anne Lambert)
30 March 1985	York Regional Forest – N. Tract, <i>York</i>	2 pairs; copulation observed (Tim Dyson, Atlas USRF)
10 April 1985	10km square 17PU37 (NAD27), <i>York</i>	1 seen carrying nest material at UTM 333791, but no nest located (Tim Dyson, Atlas USRF)
20 May 1985	Conc 7 N of St.Johns SR, 10km Square 17PU37, <i>York</i>	2 adults feeding 3 fledged young perched along a spruce branch at UTM 341790 (Tim Dyson, Atlas USRF) *
24 June 1985	Heathfield Lane, Scarborough, <i>Toronto</i>	Pair and 4 immatures observed (R.C.Long) (Parker & Coady 1986) *
2 July 1985	Ajax, <i>Durham</i>	4 adults and 1 recently fledged young at a feeder (R.Nisbet) (Parker & Coady 1986)*
22 July 1985	Lawrence Ave. E & Victoria Park Ave., <i>Toronto</i>	1 seen (A. Jaramillo) (Parker & Coady 1986)
8 March 1987	Mount Pleasant Cemetery, <i>Toronto</i>	1 gathering nest material (Harry Kerr) (Jaramillo 1990)
30 April 1987	27 Junewood Cres., Willowdale, <i>Toronto</i>	Adult on nest (A. Jaramillo) (Jaramillo 1990) * Fourth nesting record for Toronto
4 May 1987	High Park, <i>Toronto</i>	1 adult and 1 fledged young (A. Jaramillo) (Jaramillo 1990) *
1 July 1989	Near Hwy 48 & Hwy 12, <i>Durham</i>	1 seen in spruce wetland (Robert Nisbet) (Bain & Henshaw 1990)
12 June 1990	Cedar Ave., Burlington, <i>Halton</i>	1 seen (Rick Snider) (Jennings 1990)
24 May 1992	Purpleville, <i>York</i>	1 lingering at feeder, to 14 June (Gerry Bennett)
24 May 1992	King Twp., <i>York</i>	1 at feeder (Rolph Davis)
5 June 1992	2 km southwest of Kleinburg, <i>York</i>	1 at feeder (Joan Love)
1 May 1993	Purpleville, <i>York</i>	1-4 birds at feeder daily, once performing courtship feeding, last seen 24 June (Gerry Bennett)
15 May 1993	Kortright C. A., <i>York</i>	2 birds (anon)

Table 1 cont'd.

18 March 1996	276 Glenforest Road, <i>Toronto</i>	1 female with nest material; courtship behavior noted on 11 & 13 April, last seen 18 June (C. MacLaughlin)
June 1996	Kilbride, <i>Halton</i>	1 adult & 2 fledged young at a feeder (Jack Christilaw) (Curry 2006) *
18 February 2001	Duffy's Lane, Palgrave C. A., <i>Peel</i>	2 different pairs, nest building (Alfred Raab; Glenn Coady)
30 April 2004	Dacre Crescent, <i>Toronto</i>	3 fledged young with 1 adult; previously seen carrying nest material on 28 March 2004 (Glenn Coady) *
Week ending 16 July 2004	Leaskdale area, <i>Durham</i>	2 birds observed (Geoff Carpentier)
8 April 2006	Old Brampton Rd., Oshawa, <i>Durham</i>	Nest with 4 eggs (Mike McEvoy). Photo by Jim Richards. Hatch date 17 April. Nest depredated probably on 21 April, used nest collected for ROM *

* Confirmed breeding records.

In general, the 'best' or most complete reference has been provided, when a record appears in more than one source publication. For 1989 onwards, the source for records without a literature reference should be considered to be the TOC Database.

Table 2. Breeding, Nesting and 'Summer' Records of Pine Siskin in the GTA in 2009.

Date	Location	Observers/Notes
1 March 2009	Bathurst at Queensville S.R., <i>York</i>	Display flight s noted (Ron Fleming fide ONTBIRDS)
18 March 2009	Thicksons Woods, <i>Durham</i>	Carrying nest material – cattail down (Geoff Carpentier fide ONTBIRDS)
28 March 2009	Kortright C. A., <i>York</i>	Several birds singing (Lev Frid)
28 March 2009	105 Cedar Brae Blvd., Scarborough, <i>Toronto</i>	Nest building, 2 eggs on 3 Apr, 2 young fledged probably on 29 April (Rick Lauzon). * Fifth nesting record for Toronto
28 March 2009	Maple, <i>York</i>	Nest being monitored, no details provided (Lev Frid) *
10 April 2009	High Park, <i>Toronto</i>	Nest 3 eggs (2 damaged) found on ground; taken to ROM (Celia J.Harte) * Sixth nesting record for Toronto
23 April 2009	155 Ravenscroft Rd., Ajax, <i>Durham</i>	1 fledged young eventually fed by an adult, after 5 solicitations over at least 3 minutes (Geoff Carpentier fide ONTBIRDS) *
27 April 2009	4 Grenfell Rd., Markham, <i>York</i>	1 singing male & 1 female (Carol McKnight)
3 May 2009	The Meadow, Thickson's Woods, <i>Durham</i>	1 adult feeding 1 fledged young (Winnie Poon, Roy Smith) * Photo by Winnie Poon
5 May 2009	Bathurst & Eglinton area, N of Cedarvale Ravine, <i>Toronto</i>	1 fledged young begging under nyger feeder (Skip Shand) *
10 May 2009	294 Bessborough Dr., Leaside, <i>Toronto</i>	1 fledged young fed by adult (Margaret Catto) *
13 June 2009	Idleswift Dr., Thornhill, <i>York</i>	2 still present (Gene Denzel)
26 June 2009	Havenbrook Park, near Leslie and Hwy 401, <i>Toronto</i>	1 flying over (Gavin Platt)

* Confirmed breeding records.

Table 3. Selected High Counts of Pine Siskin in the GTA: 1936 – 2009

Date	# Recorded	Location	Observers
27 March 1937	150	Sunnybrook, <i>Toronto</i>	D.M Scott (TOC Record Book #1)
8 March 1938	300	Nancy Lake Farm, King Twp, <i>York</i>	R.D. Ussher (TOC Record Book #1)
7 April 1938	300	Ashburn, <i>Durham</i>	R.A. Smith (TOC Record Book #1)
9 October 1938	[200]	Ashbridges Bay and High Park, <i>Toronto</i>	J.L. Baillie (TOC Record Book #1)
1 December 1949	150+	Port Credit, <i>Peel</i>	Donald E. Perks
3 March 1951	c. 400	Purpleville Woods, <i>York</i>	Donald E. Perks
8 January 1956	500	Purpleville Woods, <i>York</i>	Donald E. Perks
6 February 1961	200+	Woodbridge, <i>York</i>	Donald E. Perks
16 February 1985	150	N of Claremont C.A., <i>Durham</i>	Glenn Coady and Bill Edmunds (Parker & Coady 1986)
3 March 1985	100+	Durham Regional Forest-Main Tract, <i>Durham</i>	Roy Smith, Anne Lambert
10 March 1985	c.100	Holland Landing Woods, <i>York</i>	Roy Smith, Anne Lambert
11 March 1985	450	Uxbridge Forest, <i>Durham</i>	A.Jaramillo & Karl Konze (Parker & Coady 1986)
13 March 1985	600	Scarborough College, <i>Toronto</i>	Dave Ruch (Parker & Coady 1986)
17 March 1985	1500	Ritson Road, Oshawa, <i>Durham</i>	Dave Ruch, fide Margaret Bain
25 January 1992	100	Claremont C.A., <i>Durham</i>	Mike King (Bain & Henshaw 1993)
2 February 1992	176	Shoal Point Road, <i>Durham</i>	D. Langford (Bain & Henshaw 1993)
17 October 1999	135	Cranberry Marsh, <i>Durham</i>	Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch
23 October 1999	160	Cranberry Marsh, <i>Durham</i>	Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch, fide Rayfield Pye
20 October 2001	100+	Keswick, <i>York</i>	Keith Dunn, fide ONTBIRDS
21 October 2001	100	Mill Street, Bond Head, <i>Durham</i>	Marcus J. Lise, fide ONTBIRDS
30 January 2006	120+	Orono, <i>Durham</i>	D. Lycett, fide DRBA
19 October 2007	100+	Montsell Ave., Willow Beach, <i>York</i>	Lorena Campbell fide Ron Fleming
1 November 2008	350	Cranberry Marsh, <i>Durham</i>	Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch, fide Doug Lockrey, fide DRBA
2 November 2008	175	Leslie Street Spit, <i>Toronto</i>	Norm Murr, Ian Cannell & Margaret Liubavicius
11 January 2009	200+	Whitby, <i>Durham</i>	Craig S.A. McLaughlin
15 January 2009	130	Belair Drive, Bolton, <i>Peel</i>	David J. Milsom
Week ending 25 January 2009	c.100	Major MacKenzie Dr. & Hwy 27, <i>York</i>	Joan Love, fide Ron Fleming, fide ONTBIRDS
2 February 2009	440	Palace Court, Richmond Hill, <i>York</i>	Michael A. Biro (Michael 's Bulletin #382)
Week ending 30 April 2009	200	NW Newmarket, <i>York</i>	Mike van den Tillart, fide Ron Fleming, fide ONTBIRDS

This Table includes all single-site reports exceeding 100 birds, but the database is probably very incomplete prior to 1989.

Pine Siskin nests are evidently difficult to find; for the whole of Ontario only 44 had ever been documented and reported to the Ontario Nest Record Scheme (ONRS) as of 2007 (Peck and Peck 2008). And none were found in the GTA during either of the two Bird Atlas projects, despite increased fieldwork focused on breeding birds. Hence, the available records show that finding an active Pine Siskin nest in the GTA is a rare event, requiring skill, luck and a large irruption to set the stage for success. These conditions came together in the early part of 2009, and Rick Lauzon was fortunate to find and document a successful nest. His nest monitoring notes and photographs are presented in the following section.

Observations at a Pine Siskin Nest in 2009

Location: 105 Cedar Brae Blvd., Scarborough, *Toronto*. GPS – 0642144 / 4845800 (NAD83)

Observer: Rick Lauzon

ONRS # 176187.

28 March 2009: Warm, sunny.

Heard and saw several small groups of Pine Siskins zipping around over the length of the street (Fairway Drive, Scarborough). Saw two siskins converging on the same Blue Spruce (one carrying material) on front lawn of 105 Cedar Brae Blvd. near the end of Fairway Drive. Located the dense clump of foliage where they were building a nest (Figure 1). One bird was carrying a fine, whitish material (thought it was a beak full of dry grass), assumed that the nest was still under construction, but nearing completion.



Figure 1. Pine Siskin nest location (circled red) on a Blue Spruce branch at 105 Cedar Brae Blvd., Scarborough, *Toronto*, 5 April 2009. Nest height was 5.7m, spruce about 10m tall. © Rick Lauzon.

Generally, Pine Siskins place the nest at the distal segment of the branch, concealed in heavy foliage, making detection difficult. Placing the nest in heavy foliage offers shielding from severe weather, protection of nestlings, and conservation of heat.

Pairing appears to occur in pre-breeding flocks. In early spring, the male displays with the “butterfly flight”. The female alone builds the nest while closely guarded by male, both calling frequently. Often nests in loose colonies, pairs may visit one another’s nests except during egg-laying and incubation. Social behaviour of so-called courtship feeding between same sex individuals and heterosexual pairs can occur, and was seen throughout the year in a captive study. (Dawson 1997).

4 April: Cool, winds reported gusting up to 80 kph.

- 14:13 – Bird on nest. It fussed a lot, got up to poke around in middle of nest as if adjusting something. Nest-branch whipsawed violently up, down, and sideways through a span of about 0.6m. Suspect bird not just ‘sitting’ on nest, but likely had its claws anchored deeply into nest material to keep from being thrown out of nest.
- 14:24 – Bird started cheeping, looking around expectantly.
- 14:25 – Stood up, repositioned the eggs (assumed).
- 14:27 – Bird flew off. Estimated nest height with long pole. Nest was 5.7m from ground. Tree about 10m high. Bird returned in five minutes.
- 14:32 to 15:00 – Bird sitting continuously. I left.
- 18:52 – Bird still sitting. Still windy, temperature +2°.

5 April: Calm, about +6°.

- 08:47 – Bird still sitting.
- 08:58 – Mate fed bird on nest for about 5 seconds, birds were side by side, and mouth to mouth.
- 09:20 – Fed again on nest, but flew off just seconds later. Brood patch seen on incubating bird, confirmed it was the female (Figure 2).
- 09:27 – Both birds back, one resumed sitting and the other fed it again.
- 09:32 – Bird off nest.
- 09:38 – Bird returned to sit. I left.
- 11:05 – Temperature +10°, bird sitting steadily, often saw and heard other siskins in immediately vicinity.
- 12:35 – Bird had just left the nest, I quickly placed a ladder against the tree, climbed to just above nest, lifted a dense branch that completely covered the nest, exposing the nest and very conveniently took three digital photos in just eight seconds. Female back on nest within five minutes. Two eggs in nest (Figure 3). **Egg date – April 3, clutch – 2 eggs.** Checked at 13:19, 14:50 and 17:37, bird still on.



Figure 2. Female Pine Siskin revealing its brood-patch on entering nest, 5 April 2009. © Rick Lauzon. Timing of brood patch development evidently varies with individuals, from as early as late February to as late as August, while some birds in spring migration do not develop any at all (Dawson 1997).



Figure 3. Pine Siskin nest with 2 eggs at 12:38hrs on 5 April 2009. Note there was quite a lot of gray fibre in the nest, probably a material chosen for insulation and support. © Rick Lauzon.

Pine Siskins may lay eggs several days after nest completion. Clutch 1 – 6 eggs, most commonly 3 or 4. Incubation probably begins with first egg. Usually single-brooded, possibly have first brood as soon as suitable habitat found in spring, then move north to the regular breeding range for a second brood, but not confirmed (Dawson 1997).

April 7: --3°, steady wet snow on April 6.

17:00 – Female incubating. Observed many crows in neighbourhood, but rarely saw any near nest.

Also many cats, squirrels and raccoons, but did not expect them to be near an isolated ornamental tree. Most observations were made with a scope from a van parked on the street, occasional closer observations were from about 30–35 feet away. Viewing was very good but nest remained completely in shadow almost the whole time.

April 9:

16:30 – Sitting, still two eggs, nest seemed bulkier, spent lot of time rearranging nest materials, if not actually adding to it. (**Figure 4**).



Figure 4. Female Pine Siskin incubating eggs on 9 April 2009. © Rick Lauzon. The species' cold hardiness is an important factor that allows early nesting, even at low temperatures with snow cover. Studies have shown that Pine Siskins are capable of sustaining metabolic rates nearly 5 times the basal metabolic rate under cold conditions as severe as -60° to -70°. Extreme tight sitting of the female, plus a well-insulated nest also ensure successful incubation in cold climates. Male feeds female during incubation, which usually lasts about 13 days (Dawson 1997).

April 16:

12:00 – One egg freshly hatched, 2nd egg presume will hatch by tomorrow (**Figure 5**). Brown-headed Cowbirds seen daily, really didn't get much chance with female sitting tight 95% of time.

Hatch date = April 16.



Figure 5. A freshly hatched nestling with an unhatched egg seen on 16 April. Incubation time for this nest was 14 days. Note this photo was taken by mounting a digital camera (on a 'movie' setting) onto an extendable painting pole, and just waved quickly above the nest without disturbing the bird, resulting in a poorer quality of the photo.
© Rick Lauzon.

April 27:

Both adults feeding two chicks. First adult would leave and second adult would fly in about ten seconds later. Each feeding took less than 15 seconds. Assume fed by regurgitation as didn't see any food being carried in. Chicks remained well down in nest between feedings. By now a complete ring of feces deposited on outer rim of nest and beyond, subsequent inspection of used nest on 30 April showed no fouling of nest interior,

April 28:

19:23 – Two nestlings in nest, fed by adult (**Figure 6, 7**).

April 29:

12:00 – Two chicks up and fluttering their wings, still looking underdeveloped for fledging.

April 30:

11:30 – Nest empty, young fledged (**Figure 8**), nest not disturbed; unable to locate fledglings in nearby trees; there were still six adult siskins in the immediate area, two were gathering nest material.

Fledge date = April 30.



Figure 6 (Left) Two nestlings aged 13 days seen on 28 April and **Figure 7 (Right)** Adult feeding nestling on 28 April. This nest fledged on the 15th day. © Rick Lauzon.

The nestling period is commonly 15 days, ranging from 13-17 days. Feeding is by regurgitation. The female stays on the nest to brood nestlings during first 7 or 8 days after hatching, then joins male to forage and feed young. Parents continue to feed young about 3 more weeks after fledgling (Dawson 1997).



Figure 8. Used Pine Siskin nest on 30 April. Note the bottom of nest was filled with feather scale, and there was a ring of accumulated feces on the rim of the nest. © Rick Lauzon.

For first 5-8 days the female keeps the nest clean by eating the chicks' feces, after which the young appear to help by defecating over rim of nest (Dawson 1997).

Analysis of the Used Nest

Outer diameter – 110 x 100mm
Inner diameter – 55 x 50mm

Outer depth – 35mm
Inner depth – 30mm

The nest was built on a horizontal branch (diameter 0.9cm) near the outside of a Blue Spruce, with four smaller branches projecting slightly upward for support. The base of the nest consisted of about 20 spruce twigs, each 5-10cm long, placed loosely in a circular pattern. The main body of the nest was constructed with inner bark of cedar, occasional bits of rootlets and string woven in. The lining had progressive finer pieces of plant materials, and also plastic bristles (perhaps from a broom?), a few long black hairs, and a few strands of blue plastic from a tarpaulin. White Pine needles were used to shape and line the inner cup. Very little grass was found in the nest, also no mosses, lichens, fur or feathers. The toughest component used was a lot of gray fibre from the landscaping fabric that is laid between the soil and bark chips; the nesting pair struggled tirelessly to pull pieces of the fabric off from a nearby garden. Quite a bit of this fibre was used, making the nest cup a very strongly cohesive unit. The nest was not intentionally secured in any way to the branch below, but was simply layered on top of it.

Components:

Base – spruce twigs (35%).

Outer cup of nest – inner bark strips of cedar, with some other plant stems (40%).

Inner cup & lining – White Pine needles, rootlets, weed stems, plant down, landscaping fabric fibres (20%).

Other additions – hair, string, plastic bristles, blue plastic tarpaulin fibre, a white synthetic insulating material (maybe stuffing from winter jacket) (5%).

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