



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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Records Committee – Toronto Ornithological Club



COVER PHOTO

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

Photo © Roy Smith

This photograph shows the head of an immature male Merlin, captured for banding at the Tip of Long Point, *Norfolk Co.* on 2 October 1980. The date immediately places it prior to the digital era; and indeed it has been re-scanned from a Kodachrome 64 slide.

Merlins have been slowly expanding their range southwards in Ontario, as can be readily seen by comparing the first and second Breeding Bird Atlases. The first documented breeding record in the GTA occurred in 2005, at Scugog Point on Lake Scugog, *Durham R.M.* (Aikins 2005). Subsequently, they have nested, or attempted nesting at that site each year, while in 2008 breeding was also confirmed in Whitby, *Durham R.M.* and at Aurora, *York R.M.* Locations with recent 'summer' records, some involving pairs but as yet no confirmation of breeding, include Darlington Provincial Park, Oshawa, and Uxbridge, *Durham R.M.*; Richmond Hill and Markham, *York R.M.*; and Oakville, *Halton R.M.* Additional nesting records for this species should now be considered as *possible anywhere* in the GTA. *Roy Smith*

REFERENCE

Aikins, B.F. 2005. First Documented Nest Record of Merlin in the Greater Toronto Area. *TOC Newsletter* 157:1-3, September 2005.

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.

Email <torontobirds@sympatico.ca>

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – JUNE 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.

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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 CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* from 8th to 12th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 3 (1 AD, 2 FY) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA) & on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA). 1 (tag #886) at Grenadier Pond, HP on 14th (K. Paw fide OUTON) & 4 (2 AD, 2 FY) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA).

WOOD DUCK - 4 (2 M, 2 F) at HP on 1st (SMF), 15 (1 F, 14 FY) on 14th (K. Paw fide OUTON), 13 (3 F, 10 FY) on 27th & 14 (4 F, 10 FY) there on 29th (SMF). 11 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA).

GADWALL - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA), 2 at Beaver Greenway, *York* on 21st (RBHS) & 4 (1 F, 3 FY) at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 12 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA) & 9 there on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (AA). 2 (pair) at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 13th (GDe) & on 28th (RBHS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & at CSSP on 13th (SMF).

HOODED MERGANSER - 1 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* & 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA).

COMMON MERGANSER - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (RPye fide DRBA).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA), 13th (JCS fide DRBA) & on 25th (SLaF fide DRBA). 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA) & 4 there on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 7th (Jim Watt, SPNC, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 13th (NMu, ICa).

COMMON LOON - 1 flying over at Baselands, LSS @ 06:00hrs on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Darlington Prov.

Park, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA), 1 flying over at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 13th (GRE fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (AA).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 9 (2 AD, 7 FY) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (AA; JCS fide DRBA) & 2 there on 27th (RPyf fide DRBA). 1 at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 13th (GDe) & 2 AD there on 28th (RBHS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 2 active nests at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 8th (RJB fide ONTBIRDS). The 2 nests each had 2 young in them on 13th & on 14th, the western nest had 3 young & the eastern nest had 4 young. One hatched that day but went in the water before drying off. Had to be rescued and put back in the nest! (GRE fide ONTBIRDS). On 15th there were 2 pairs with nests; 3 chicks at each, 4th one from E nest seems to have disappeared. A neighbouring F came to the E nest and after about a 10 minute fight with the pair, laid an egg in it. This egg was then removed by the M, which took it 5m away and dropped it in the lagoon! (RJB fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at CSSP on 13th (SMF).

LEAST BITTERN - 1 at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 6th (GRE fide ONTBIRDS) was looked for but not found on 13th. 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (JCS fide DRBA) & on 14th (RPyf fide DRBA).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 19th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at HP on 8th & 11th (SMF). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (RPyf fide DRBA), 1 flying over at DVP, N of Lawrence Ave. on 18th (FP) & 1 (in Humber R.) at Lambton Woods on 21st (SCH). 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 19th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 20th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 23rd (Don Davis fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there 18:42hrs on 28th (RBHS,WP).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 9 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPyf fide DRBA).

BLACK VULTURE - 1 at Holt Rd & 401, Clarington, *Durham* on 14th [No doc. seen] (S. Williams fide DRBA) was seen circling while observer was driving W.

TURKEY VULTURE - 7 at Courtice, *Durham* on 15th (CSAM fide DRBA), 15 at Holt Road area, *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 2 at Cedar Trail, Rouge Park (Central) on 19th (SMF).

OSPREY - 1 at Holt Road area, *Durham* & at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA). 1 flying over at Trailside Walk, Brampton, *Peel* on 21st (RBHS).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 at HP on 12th & 2 (1 AD, 1 IMM) there on 29th (SMF). 2 (pair) at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 25th & the F was seen bringing nest material - presumably to repair damage caused by the growing young (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Rutherford GO Station, *York* on 27th (RBHS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 2 (pair) at TRCA - Walker Woods, *Durham* in early June (J.F. Harper fide OUTON); the observer was attacked near the Oak Ridges Trail.

MERLIN - 1 flying NW at Hwy 401 & Westney Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 29th (RPyf fide DRBA).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at HBP [E] on 7th (HE).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA), 7 on 14th & 11 on 27th (RPyf fide DRBA). 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

SORA - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA), 13th (JCS fide DRBA) & on 27th (RPyf fide DRBA). 3 at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 13th (GDe) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

COMMON MOORHEN - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (AA), 1 on 25th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 2 on 27th (RPyf fide DRBA). 1 at Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (MJCB fide DRBA).

AMERICAN COOT - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (AA), 9 on 14th & 10 on 27th (RPyf fide DRBA).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER - 17 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 6th (G. Vogg fide DRBA).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 2 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 28th (RBHS,WP).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 1 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 25th was 1st fall migrant (JI, RJP, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHIMBREL - 15 flying W at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 3rd (CSAM fide DRBA) & 4 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 4th (B. Smith fide DRBA).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

SANDERLING - 3 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 6th (G. Vogg fide DRBA).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 60 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 6 on 6th (G. Vogg fide DRBA) & 7 there on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & on 7th (G. Vogg fide DRBA).

DUNLIN - 7 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 6th (G. Vogg fide DRBA). 2 at CSSP on 13th (SMF).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 (nest with 4 hatched eggs) at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPyf fide DRBA).

CASPIAN TERN - 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA).

BLACK TERN - 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 13th (AA) & 9 there on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at HP on 6th (SMF) & 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Phyllis Rawlinson Park, *York* on 5th (Muriel Farrant, FWb, fide GDe) & 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL – 2 juv photographed at Clendennan Ave , *Toronto* on 26th (Glenn Gulak fide WP).



Two juvenile **Eastern Screech-Owls** found in a White Birch at Clendennan Avenue near High Park, *Toronto*, on 26 (left) and 28 (right) June 2009. © Glenn Gulak.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 4th (DBar fide DRBA), Ajax GO Station, *Durham* on 4th (GCarp fide DRBA), Sunnylea School, Etobicoke on 18th (SCH) & at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp fide DRBA).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 (1 M, 2 FY) at HP on 9th (SMF).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 13th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Halton RF - Turner Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 1 F at Orchard Trail, Rouge Park (Central) on 15th (SMF). 2 (1 M, 1 FY) at Mast Trail, Rouge Park (Central) on 16th (SMF) & 2 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPyf fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER - 1 (singing) at Newtonbrook Creek, (Bayview Village area) @ 06:40hrs on 24th [No doc. seen] (KK fide ONTBIRDS). It was found after walking about 700m S from Forest Grove Drive and was singing on W side of creek. It was not seen or heard there on 26th or after.

ALDER FLYCATCHER - 1 at Rouge Park (Central) on 5th (SMF) on Orchard Trail.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 2 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 nest at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarb. on 14th (RLau). Nest with 4 eggs in nestbox in backyard, decorated with snakeskins. Photo on file.



Great Crested Flycatcher nest at 7 Fairway Drive, Scarborough, *Toronto*, 14 June 2009. The five nestlings failed to fledge. Feedings to the nestlings had ceased after about 10 days, maybe due to a notable lack of bugs in early summer? © Rick Lauzon.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

COMMON RAVEN – 2 flying N at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 2nd (RDJ). 3 flying over 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 21st (FP fide ONTBIRDS) were probably a family group and were making strange calls.

CLIFF SWALLOW - 10 at Valley Vista Dr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

MARSH WREN - 11 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th & 27th (RPye fide DRBA).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at HP on 4th & 18th (SMF). 1 at Riverside Trail, Rouge Park, on 6th (SMF) & at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

VEERY - 4 at HRF-Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 3 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 1 at HP on 3rd & 9th (SMF). 1 at Reach Marsh (Conc. 8, Scugog), *Durham* on 13th (AA).

WOOD THRUSH - 5 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa) & 4 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – There were 105 reports this month, with 62 from *York*, 28 from *Toronto*, 9 from *Peel*, 4 from *Durham* and 2 from *Halton*. Most field surveys by RBHS and WP were concentrated in the following 10km squares: 17PJ04, 17PJ15, 17PJ25, 17PJ26, 17PJ35 and 17PJ36. Thanks to the following 13 additional observers: BB; Stephen Campbell; ICa; GDe; SMF; LFr: SLaF fide DRBA; SCH; Jan MacDonald; NMu; FP; DShil; DW.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - 1 at TRCA - Walker Woods, *Durham* on 6th & again on 13th (J.F. Harper fide OUTON). Many were reported at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 7th (Jim Watt, SPNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 M there on 13th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 7th (G. Vogg fide DRBA) & 2 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - 3 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 7th (Jim Watt, SPNC, fide ONTBIRDS).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 7th (Jim Watt, SPNC, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 M there on 13th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 21st (BB) (Brydon 2009).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 1 at Logan & Danforth on 4th (LFr).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 1 M singing at TRCA - Walker Woods, *Durham* on 6th (J.F. Harper fide OUTON) & 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 1 M at HP on 4th (SMF).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 at HP on 2nd (SMF).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Singles at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), HP on 5th & 8th (SMF) & at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE WARBLER - 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* & 1 along 10th SR, HRF - Turner Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - 1 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 7th [No doc. seen] (Jim Watt, SPNC, fide ONTBIRDS), near the 5th or 6th hydro tower. Apparently, it had been there about 3 weeks (fide Hugh Currie). It was seen again there on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS), 13th (NMu,ICa), 20th (Brendan O'Sullivan fide ONTBIRDS) & 21st (Terry Osborne fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at HP on 10th (SMF).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at Reach Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (AA) & 3 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 2Y-M at Osgoode Hall on 4^{5th} (LFr). 2 at Riverside Trail, Glen Rouge Park on 6th & 16th (SMF) & 3 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 3 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

MOURNING WARBLER - 3 at Riverside Trail, Glen Rouge Park on 6th & 16th (SMF). 4 at HRF-Currie Tract, *Halton* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 M there on 13th (NMu,ICa). 5 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye).

HOODED WARBLER - 1 (possibly 2!) at Osgoode Hall, Toronto on 3rd & 4th (LFr).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 1 at HP on 1st (SMF).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - 1 M at Darlington NGS, *Durham* on 19th (RFro fide MJCB, fide DRBA). [No doc. seen].

SCARLET TANAGER - 1 M at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 there on 13th (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 11 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa).

* AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 1 (late) at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), this may be a record late date - fide Rayfield Pye [No doc. seen].

FIELD SPARROW - 5 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 13th (NMu,ICa).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 4 (2 pairs) at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 30th (GDe).

INDIGO BUNTING - 3 (2 M, 1 F) at HP on 3rd & (3 M, 1 F) there on 12th (SMF). 8 at HRF - Currie Tract, *Halton* on 13th (NMu,ICa), 4 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 there on 25th (SLaF fide DRBA).

BOBOLINK - 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 9th (SLaF fide DRBA).

ORCHARD ORIOLE - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 2nd (RDC fide ONTBIRDS), 1 AD-M at Rouge Park (Central) on 5th (SMF) & 1 at S end Stevenson Rd, Oshawa, *Durham* on 11th (S. Pernanen fide DRBA). 2 (pair at nest) at Pearse House Pond, Rouge Park (North) on 13th (GDe), 1 AD-M at Floral Maple Leaf area, HP on 14th (SMF) & 2 at Darlington NGS, *Durham* on 24th (MJCB fide DRBA).

PURPLE FINCH - 2 singing M at Ballantrae Golf Club, *York* on 24th (FP).

PINE SISKIN - 2 (still around) at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 13th (GDe). 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 17th (JLo) (Brydon 2009); and 1 flying over at Havenbrook Park (Leslie & Sheppard area) on 26th (GCP).

CITED OBSERVERS: AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; RJB Raymond J. Barlow; DBar Dennis Barry; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; RDC Robert D. Cumming; GDe Gene Denzel; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; HE Herb Elliot; SMF Steven Favier; LFr Lynne Freeman; RFro Roger Frost; SCH Sandra Hawkins; JI Jean Iron; RDJ Ross James; KK Karl Konze; SLaF Steve LaForest; RLau Rick Lauzon; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; FP Frank Pinilla; RJP Ron Pittaway; GCP Gavin C. Platt; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DShil David Shilman; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; SPNC South Peel Nats Club; JCS John C. Stirrat; FWWh Freddie Whillans; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCE: Brydon, B. 2009. June - August 2009 Sightings. West Humber N.C. Newsletter, September 2009, p.9-10.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 363 reports were added to the database for June 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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Red-necked Grebe and young at Bronte Harbour, *Halton*, 6 July 2009. © Sandra Hawkins.

MUTE SWAN - 19 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 (1 AD, 1 FY) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 5th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & on 18th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 4 (2 AD, 2 FY) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

WOOD DUCK - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA), 7 (1 F, 6 FY) at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 6th (SCH) & 11 (1 F, 10 FY) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

GADWALL – Several families at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd & 7 (1 F, 6 FY) at Lick's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 26th (RPye fide DRBA).

HOODED MERGANSER - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (RBHS,WP), 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at HBP [E] on 25th (AA).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 5th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 29 (8 AD, 21 yng) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA). This will be a new record high count for the GTA, if documented. 5 (2 AD, 3 FY) reported there on 26th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 10 (5 AD, 5 FY) at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 6th (SCH) with the 5th AD was diving and collecting nest material. 2 nests at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 18th (GRE fide ONTBIRDS), West nest had 2 chicks remaining; 2 fresh eggs being incubated & East nest had 2 chicks, no eggs. 6 at CSSP on 7th, a pair at nest (which appeared to have eggs); also 4 other birds in the area. 7 (1 AD on nest & others in area) on 9th but on the 12th the nest had mostly gone - washed out in yesterday's storm (?) - although 1 AD was still around the area (BPB fide OUTON). 6 (3 pairs) were reported there on 22nd (BPB fide OUTON) with one pair building a nest on some log booms off the marina & 4 seen there on 28th (SMF). This is the second consecutive year that nesting has been attempted at CSSP (see Hawkins 2008). 60 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 25th (GDB), summering non-breeders, or failed breeders?

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -1 at North Is, off Eastport Dr., *Halton* @ 09:00hrs on 19th [No doc. seen] (CEE fide RZD, fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen again there @ 14:30hrs on 20th (JCS,C. Adey, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 21st (HC, Andrew Don, fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST BITTERN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).



Seven of the 13 **Great Egrets** day-roosting at Reesor Pond, Markham, *York*, 19 July 2009 – a new record high count for the GTA.
© Winnie Poon.

GREAT EGRET – Many reports from Reesor Pond, *York* beginning with 12 on 2nd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), one colour-banded on L leg above the joint. 8 @ 11:25hrs on 5th (RBHS,WP), one had a red darvic band with white figures above the joint: 47W. Not read in the field but from digiscoped photos later! [This bird had been banded at Nottawasaga Island, *Simcoe* on 20 June 2008 and resighted at the Oakville Waste Water Management Pond on 2 Aug 2008 and again at a pond W of Burloak Drive in Burlington (both *Halton*) on 7 Aug 2008 (fide William Watson)]. 6 there @ 15:45hrs on 6th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS), 10 on 8th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS) & 9 @ 17:00hrs on 12th (RBHS,WP). 13 were reported there @ 08:00hrs on 18th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) which was a **new record count for GTA** & that number was seen again @ 17:45hrs on 19th (RBHS,WP,SLo) [Documented]. 6 there @ 06:00hrs on 21st (DVW fide ONTBIRDS), of which one was banded, but the combination could not be read. Recent observations show that they do not roost at Reesor Pond, but arrive from the west about 05:50-06:00hrs. In evening they depart to the west between 19:00-20:00hrs. So far, a roosting area has not been located. The last report for the month was of 11 there @ 11:15hrs on 25th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on many dates from 4th to 19th (SMF). 1 at Wilfrid Bog (Durham Rd 12 & Sideline 17, W of Cannington), *Durham* on 12th (JKa fide DRBA) & 1 (no bands seen) at Guelph Line Stormwater Lagoon, *Halton* on 28/29th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

GREEN HERON - 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA).

TURKEY VULTURE - Singles at former Keele Valley Landfill, *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP) & at Cedar Trail, Rouge Park on 7th (SMF).

OSPREY – A nest with 2 young at Yonge & Stouffville Rd., *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP), 1 standing up looked almost ready to fledge & other always crouched down. 1 (nest with young) at Cardico Drive, Gormley, *York* on 4th (RBHS,WP), AD arrived at nest with small fish; fed the single young. 2 (nest with young) at Kennedy & Bloomington, *York* on 5th (RBHS,WP), active nest about halfway up the tower, 2 AD seen, 1 young seen in nest. 2 (nest with young) at Bloomington SR & Hwy 404, *York* on 5th (RBHS,WP), 1 AD on tower on arrival; 1 large young seen in nest. 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 25th & 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPye fide DRBA).

BALD EAGLE - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA), 1 IMM at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 6th (THo fide OUTON) & 1 IMM flying E at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 28th (Frank Butson fide OUTON).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 IMM at HP on 14th (SMF). 2 F at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 16th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 2 fledged young, both F; this is 3rd year this nest has been active. 1 M at Bartly Smith Greenway @ 407, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 F at Mill St & Lucas, Richmond Hill, *York* on 20th (NMu).

MERLIN - 1 AD flying over at Richmond Hill Central Library, *York* on 16th (NMu).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 AD at Lift Bridge, Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 2nd (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), came in carrying a Budgie as prey! 3 at Sun Life Financial Centre, Islington on 2nd (SCH), the 3 fledged successfully during the past 2 weeks. 1 at Symcor, Robert Speck Parkway, *Peel* @ 14:55hrs on 18th (RBHS).

COMMON MOORHEN - 9 (2 AD, 7 yng) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA) & 8 (2 AD, 6 yng) there on 26th (D. Docherty fide DRBA). 2 family groups at Beaverton River Wetlands, *Durham* on 24th (RDJ) & 6 (1 F, 5 yng) at Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN COOT - Several families at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA) & 6 (2 AD, 4 FY) there on 26th (D. Docherty fide DRBA).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 7 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (RBHS,WP).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Wilfrid Bog, *Durham* on 12th (JKa fide DRBA), 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 13th (KRS) (Brydon 2009).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (RBHS,WP), 3 on 8th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 12th & 3 on 19th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Wilfrid Bog, *Durham* on 12th (JKa fide DRBA) & 8 at Hall's Rd N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 26th (RPye fide DRBA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 4 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (RBHS,WP), 3 on 8th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 on 12th (RBHS,WP). 5 at Wilfrid Bog, *Durham* on 12th (JKa fide DRBA), 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB

fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 24th (RPy fide DRBA) & 20 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 26th (RBHS,WP).

WHIMBREL - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* @ 11:15hrs on 25th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 2 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 12th (RBHS,WP) & 3 there on 18th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS); 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 18th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 24th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at a flooded field on Hall's Rd N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 26th (RPy fide DRBA).

WILSON'S SNIPES - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 2 at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 31st (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

CASPIAN TERN - 2 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* & at Samuel Wilmot Nature Centre, *Durham* on 25th (RPy fide DRBA). 2 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RPy fide DRBA).

BLACK TERN - 9 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 5th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & 3 there on 18th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - Several at CSSP @ 20:10hrs on 7th (BPB fide OUTON).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 2 entering chimney at St Paul's Church, Windermere Av @ 20:56hrs on 1st (AA) & 3 at Research Road, Leaside @ 13:22hrs on 19th (RBHS), near an old brick chimney. 2 at 29 Jane St, Toronto @ 20:55hrs on 19th (AA), entering a chimney at some apartments & 3 at Cherry St & Front St E. @ 13:20hrs on 27th (RBHS).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 singing M at TRCA - Walker Woods, *Durham* on 12th (RBHS).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 12 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 5th (RBHS,WP).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 1 at Mast Trail, Glen Rouge Park on 9th (SMF) & 1 at Parkwood Estates, Oshawa, *Durham* on 27th (Jim Mountjoy fide DRBA).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Axminster Dr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 19th (NMu). His first ever in Richmond Hill!

WINTER WREN - 1 at Cedar Trail, Rouge Park (Central) on 8th (SMF).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 2nd (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 or 2 reported at HP on 5 dates from 10th to 30th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 at Conc. 7, Glen Major, *Durham* on 5th & 4 at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham* on 12th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – In total, there were 147 reports, with 71 from *York*, 37 from *Toronto*, 31 from *Peel*, 8 from *Durham* and none from *Halton*. This uneven distribution reflects fieldwork by RBHS and WP, rather than the true distribution of Northern Mockingbirds in the GTA. Thanks to all the other observers who sent in their records, namely: BB; ETB, GDe; SCH; Dave Jolly fide ONTBIRDS; Jan McDonald; NMu; ONTBIRDS, OUTON, and DW.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - 1 at TRCA - Walker Woods (Westney Rd, Conc. 6), *Durham* on 9th (JCS fide DRBA).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 1 at HP on 4th (SMF).

PINE WARBLER - 1 at HP on 6 occasions from 4th to 16th, 2 (1 AD, 1 FY) on 18th & 3 (1 AD, 2 FY) there on 27th (SMF). There have been singing males recorded in the spring and early summer in HP since at least 2004, but this seems to be the first report of confirmed breeding there. 3 (2 AD, 1 FY) at Mast Trail, Glen Rouge Park on 9th (SMF). 1 at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham* on 12th (RBHS,WP).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - 1 at TRCA - Walker Woods (E side of Westney Rd Conc 6), *Durham* on 9th (JCS fide DRBA). 2 (agitated pair) found S of Post 16 at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham* @ 13:00hrs on 12th (RBHS,WP). One or both were seen carrying food to two different spots in tall herbaceous vegetation, so there were probably fledged young present.

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 11 at Bartly Smith Greenway @ 407, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa).

INDIGO BUNTING - 4 at HP on 18th (SMF).

ORCHARD ORIOLE – 1F with 2 recently fledged young at Hillside Gardens, HP on 16th (BY). 1 at Waterfront Trail, W of Thickson's Rd, *Durham* on 17th (J. Melendez fide DRBA). 1 juv at 39 Lincoln Ave on 29th (BY).

PINE SISKIN - Some @ feeder in south Burlington, *Halton* during week ending July 3rd (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 22 at Bartly Smith Greenway @ 407, *York* on 27th (NMu,ICa).



Nesting **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham*, 12 July 2009. © Winnie Poon.



Fledged **Orchard Oriole** with peculiar 'dirty' forehead, had it been feasting on mulberries? 39 Lincoln Avenue, *Toronto*, 29 July 2009. © Bob Yukich.

CITED OBSERVERS: AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; MJCB Margaret Bain; GDB George Bryant; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; HC Hugh Currie; GDe Gene Denzel; RZD Rob Dobos; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; SMF Steven Favier; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; RDJ Ross D. James; JKa James Kamstra; LGK Leslie Kinrys; SLo Stan Long; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OF Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; KRS Kevin Shackleton; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; D VW D.V. Chip Weseloh; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington; BY Bob Yukich.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 319 reports were added to the database for July 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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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – AUGUST 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.



Bonaparte's Gull in juvenal plumage, Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, York, 16 August 2009. © Winnie Poon.

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 (1 AD, 1 FY) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st (MJCB fide DRBA).

WOOD DUCK - 12 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 4 on 6th (THo fide DRBA) & 5 there on 23rd (RBHS,WP). 2 at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA), 3 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 at YRF - Zephyr Tract, *York* on 16th (RBHS,WP). 14 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 8th & 6 there on 16th (RBHS,WP).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA).

MALLARD - 320 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 22nd (RBHS,WP) & 150 at Schomberg S. L., *York* on 29th (RBHS,WP).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st (MJCB fide DRBA) & 6 (1 F, 5 FY) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA). 124 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 8th & 106 there on 16th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 15th & 8 on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA). 1 F at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 16th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 F at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons, *York* on 29th (RBHS,WP).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st (MJCB fide DRBA), 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 2nd (RBHS,WP) & 2 at Schomberg S. L., *York* on 30th (OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS). 33 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 8th & 24 there on 16th (RBHS,WP).

CANVASBACK - 2 (1 F, 1 half-grown FY) at Hanlan's Point, *TI* on 24th (NMu,MVL); the young was constantly diving while the F watched. The half-grown chick was seen again there on the 25th, constantly diving (NMu,MVL,ICa).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 1 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 2nd (WP,RBHS) & on 11th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFFLEHEAD - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA).

HOODED MERGANSER - 1 AD-F at CSSP on 1st (RBHS,WP), ID'd as AD by very worn tail feathers (all tail old except one of central pair new?). 3 (1 F, 2 FY) at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPyE fide DRBA).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st, 15th & 29th (MJCB fide DRBA).

WILD TURKEY - 9 (F with 8 young) at Dixie Rd & Conc 3, Pickering, *Durham* on 3rd (T. & S. Wake fide DRBA). 1 flew across Hwy 12 near Blackwater, *Durham* on 3rd (JNi fide DRBA) & 11 (1 F with 10 young) at Pickering, *Durham* on 10th (S and T. Wake fide DRBA).

COMMON LOON - 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPyE fide DRBA).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 3rd (RJP) & 6 (1 AD, 5 yng) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 5th (B. Smith fide DRBA). 1 JUV at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 8th (RBHS,WP), still had head stripes; but no sign of any ADs so may not have actually bred here this year? 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPyE fide DRBA).

HORNED GREBE - 1 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 11th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 12th (Ken & Angie Williams fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 6 at Viewing Platform, CSSP on 1st (RBHS,WP), pair with nest about 12m offshore at site of burned platform - 1 AD sitting; contents unknown; 2nd pair (no nest) in SE corner of lagoon; 3rd pair in NW corner of lagoon (W of marina) with incipient nest on some floating logs. On the 3rd 2 (nest w 2 eggs) were seen there from the Viewing Platform (anon fide OUTON). 68 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* @ 10:15hrs on 2nd (WP,RBHS) & 40 there on 11th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS).

EARED GREBE - 1 AD at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 11th [No doc. seen] (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - 1 (still there) at Hydro Islands, Eastport Dr., *Halton* on 6th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* from 25th to 30th (Staff from CLOCA,& fide DRBA; + m. obs). 1 flying W at Port Credit GO Station, *Peel* @ 11:52hrs on 31st (BFe fide ONTBIRDS), was assumed to be the Oshawa bird.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 4440 at CSSP @ 16:00hrs on 1st (RBHS,WP), large strung-out flocks moving E over about a 20min period.

LEAST BITTERN - 1 seen at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPyE fide DRBA), on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT EGRET - Singles at Pond on Rexdale Blvd. on 1st (WP), Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 2nd (RBHS,WP) & on 12th (Ken & Angie Williams fide ONTBIRDS) & at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA). 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 on 3rd (RBHS,WP) with one having a red band with white figures 4?? (prob. same band read as 47W back on 5 Jul 2009). 4 were there on 9th, 2 on 22nd & 6 on 23rd (RBHS,WP). 1 at HP on 2nd, 2 on 7th, 2 on

12th, 5 on 19th & 1 there on 21st & 29th (SMF). 1 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 9th (RBHS,WP) had a red darvic band with white figures on L leg: 42Q. 1 at Lambton Woods on 19th (BY) & 1 (w/ band) at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 22nd (Dan Kaczynski fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at TI on 19th, 24th & 27th (NMu,&). 3 flying over Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 28th (GC) & 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide DRBA).

GREEN HERON - 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 31st (NMu,&).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 1 at Marita Payne Park, *York* on 8th (ICa) & 12 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA).

BLACK VULTURE - 1 flying NE along Burlington lakeshore on 3rd [No doc. seen] (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 seen flying E at Snake Island, TI @ 11:45hrs on 24th [No doc. seen] (NMu,MVL).

TURKEY VULTURE - 2 at Levendale Rd @ Yonge St., *York* on 6th (NMu). 1 at #470 Midwest Rd, Scarb. on 21st (RLau), This has been a regular species in Scarborough (and Markham, Pickering) for the last 2 summers; 3 years ago they would have been quite rare in summer. 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL).

OSPREY - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st & 1 JUV there on 15th (MJCB fide DRBA). Singles at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (THo fide DRBA), Rossland & Cochrane, Whitby, *Durham* on 9th (MDW fide DRBA), Iroquois Shores Park, Whitby, *Durham* on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS), Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 16th (RBHS,WP) & at Humber Treatment Plant on 26th (AA). 2 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd, 18 on 23rd, 8 on 24th, 9 on 26th, 7 on 27th, 4 on 28th, 7 on 29th & 6 on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 28th & on 30th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

BALD EAGLE - 1 JUV at Rossland & Cochrane, Whitby, *Durham* on 9th (MDW fide DRBA), 1 JUV at Burloak & Rebecca, Oakville, *Halton* on 11th (Ian Clark fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 JUV at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 16th (RPye fide DRBA). 6 (5-1Y, 1-3Y) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide JDL), 4 on 27th & 1 there on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 1Y at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 31st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 3 (local) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA) & 4 there on 24th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd, 4 on 24th, 5 on 26th & 4 on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 10 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 28th, 11 on 30th & 10 on 31st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 15 at TI on 31st (NMu,&).

COOPER'S HAWK – Singles at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 16th (RBHS), TI on 24th & 27th (NMu,&), HP on 27th & 29th (SMF). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd, 2 on 24th & 4 on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at West Beach, TI on 15th (AA) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 15th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 3 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 7th (THo fide DRBA). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd, 1 on 24th & 7 on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 8 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd & 4 on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 7th (THo fide DRBA), 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd & 5 on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 1 at 185 Midwest Rd, Scarb. on 3rd, 6th & 26th (RLau). Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd, 27th & 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 (prob. family?) at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL) were all together in the same dead tree; 1 was seen flying over there on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 1 at Gorham E of Leslie St, Newmarket, *York* on 28th (KRS) (Brydon 2009), 1 at Schomberg S. L., *York* on 30th (OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at TI on 31st (NMu,&).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 banded F at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 AD-M at Addison St, Richmond Hill, *York* on 7th (WP) & 1 at Warden Water Tower, Warden & Eglinton on 13th (anon fide OUTON). 1 M at TI on 19th & 24th (NMu,&). 1 IMM at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 29th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MOORHEN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA), 2 (1 AD, 1 FY) at Blackwater, *Durham* on 3rd (JNi fide DRBA) & 1 JUV at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 16th (RBHS,WP). 5 families at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA), groups of: 7 young, 6 young, 6 young, 5 young, and 1(?) young. 1 seen at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* from 29th to 31st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT - 2 families at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (RPye fide DRBA), groups of: 7 young & 2 young.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 3 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 26th & 6 (molting) there on 29th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 12 (molting) at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 3rd & 23rd (RBHS,WP). 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 5th (B. Smith fide DRBA), 2 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Endikement, LSS on 29th (AA).

KILLDEER - 178 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 30th (RPye fide ONTBIRDS) & 150 there on 31st (MJCB fide DRBA).

AMERICAN AVOCET - 1 was first seen flying W past Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 11:58hrs on 22nd (RPye fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) and it was relocated at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* @ 12:55hrs on that afternoon (Dan Kaczynski fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). Probably the same bird was at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* @ 13:45hrs on 23rd (RBHS,WP,JCS) and was judged a F on bill curvature - probably a molting adult. It was reported at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* @ 09:00hrs on 24th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS), seen flying W past Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 10:09hrs (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & relocated at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* @ 10:50hrs (Charlie Adey fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). Later that evening it was back at Pringle Creek, *Durham* where it was photographed and observed until at least 20:15hrs (Peter Sproule fide ONTBIRDS; RPye; JI). It remained at this location and was reported on 26th, 27th, 29th & 30th (m. obs), and stayed into Sept.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st (MJCB fide DRBA) & 7 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 1st (DW fide ONTBIRDS).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 3 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 1st (DW fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 8th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 3rd (RJP), 7 at Halls Rd N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 5th (B. Smith fide DRBA), 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (Ken & Angie Williams fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at LSS on 29th (AA).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 16th (RBHS,WP). 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th, 3 on 22nd & 1 on 23rd (RBHS,WP). 1 at LSS on 29th (AA) & 2 at Schomberg S.L., *York* on 30th (OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 3 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 1st (DW fide ONTBIRDS) & on 8th (RBHS,WP). 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 2nd (RBHS,WP), 12 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 5th (B. Smith fide DRBA) & 8 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA). 3 at West Beach, TI on 15th (AA), 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 15th & 6 on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA). 4 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 16th, 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 22nd & 5 there on 23rd (RBHS,WP). 4 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* & 4 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 23rd (RBHS).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - 4 at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 14th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

SANDERLING - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 15th (RPye fide OUTON).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 4 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 29th & 1 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 31st (MJCB fide DRBA).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 1st (DW fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 2nd (RBHS,WP), 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 23rd (RBHS,WP) & 1 JUV at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 23rd (RBHS). 15 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA), 1 at Schomberg S. L., *York* on 30th (OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 31st (MJCB fide DRBA).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 1 AD at West Beach, TI on 15th (AA) & 1 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* on 31st (MJCB fide DRBA).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (Ken & Angie Williams fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 16th (RBHS).

DUNLIN - 1 at Endikement, LSS on 29th (AA).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - 1 at Solina Rd Sod Farm, *Durham* @ 15:00hrs on 29th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS) & still there at 18:30hrs.

WILSON'S SNIPE - 2 at Halls Rd N of Hwy 2, *Durham* on 5th (B. Smith fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (GCarp fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 283 (incl. one juv) at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 1st, 189 on 15th & 450 there on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA). 82 (incl. 2 juv) at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 1st (DW fide ONTBIRDS), 220 (incl. 5 juvs) on 8th & 124 (incl. 11 juvs) there on 16th (RBHS,WP). 1 JUV at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 3rd (RBHS,WP).

LAUGHING GULL - 1 JUV at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 12th [No doc. seen] (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) was seen on the helipad.

CASPIAN TERN - 30 (incl. a few juv) at Whitby Harbour breakwall, *Durham* on 7th (THo fide DRBA). 4 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th & 3 there on 22nd (RBHS,WP).

BLACK TERN - 35 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 15th & 5 there on 29th (MJCB fide DRBA).

COMMON TERN - 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide DRBA).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at HP on 12th (SMF) & 1 at Snug Harbour, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 3 (fledged young) seen at HP on four dates from 23rd to 30th (SMF). 1 (calling) at Yonge St N of Queensville SR, *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 3 at Bond St & Stevenson, Oshawa, *Durham* on 12th (L. Sayer fide DRBA) & 10 flying N at 39 Harshaw Ave, Toronto @ 19:30hrs on 12th (AA). ~35 at Humber Marsh #7 on 26th (AA), seen 19:20-20:00hrs., and 48 at Colborne Lodge, HP on 26th (AA), seen between 20:05-20:25hrs. As with those seen on 26th, most appeared to be staging, not migrating (AA). 4 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (BB) (Brydon 2009). 2 at Major Mackenzie & Dufferin, *York* @ 19:35hrs on 29th (RBHS,WP), were the only ones seen during a 25min watch: 19:30-19:55hrs.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 4 at W end Hymus Rd. on 9th (RBHS,WP), 9 at Maple Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* on 17th (GEL) (Brydon 2009), 100 flying W at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL) & 52 flying W at Causeway, LSS on 29th (AA).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 1 F at 39 Lincoln Ave on 5th (BY) & 24 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at TI on 25th & 7 there on 27th (NMu,&).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 3 at TI on 24th & 25th, 5 there on 31st (NMu,&).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 11 at TI on 24th & 17 on 25th (NMu,MVL).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 (family group) at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Brookbanks Ravine on 11th (JI;JCS; fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at TI on 24th, 1 on 25th, 6 on 27th & 3 there on 31st (NMu,&). 1 at Palgrave C.A., *Peel* on 30th (OFO, DJM) (Brydon 2009).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 5 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA). 3 at TI on 24th, 6 on 25th & 7 there on 27th (NMu,&).

ALDER FLYCATCHER - 1 (singing) at Blackwater, *Durham* on 3rd (JNi fide DRBA) & 1 at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - 2 at TI on 24th, 4 on 25th & 6 there on 27th (NMu,MVL).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 2 at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA) & 1 at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 9th (RPy fide DRBA). 12 at TI on 19th, 19 on 24th, 22 on 25th, 56 on 27th, which was not a record count, but the highest fall count in database & 11 there on 31st (NMu,&).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 6 at TI on 19th, 5 on 24th, 12 on 25th, 14 on 27th & 5 on 31st (NMu,&).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 8 at Island Airport fence, TI on 15th (AA) & 8 at TI on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

WARBLING VIREO - 10 at TI on 19th, 26 on 24th & 21 on 27th (NMu,&).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - 1 at Iroquois Shores Park, Whitby, *Durham* on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-EYED VIREO - 8 at TI on 25th, 14 on 27th & 8 on 31st (NMu,&).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (RPy fide DRBA) & 1 at Holland Landing, *York* on 30th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

HORNED LARK - 2 JUV at West Beach, TI on 15th (AA).

PURPLE MARTIN - 20 flying over at Gibraltar Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL).

TREE SWALLOW - 600 flying W at TI on 24th & 350 flying W there on 25th (NMu,&).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 13 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 9th (RBHS,WP). 100 flying W at TI on 24th & 75 flying W there on 25th (NMu,&).

BANK SWALLOW - 250 flying W at TI on 24th & 500 flying W there on 25th (NMu,&).

CLIFF SWALLOW - 80 flying W at TI on 24th & 34 flying W there on 25th (NMu,&). 1 at Schomberg S. L., *York* on 30th (OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS).

BARN SWALLOW - 750 flying W at TI on 24th & 600 flying W there on 25th (NMu,&).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE – 5 reports from TI beginning with 28 on 19th & a high count of 36 on 31st (NMu,&).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 2 (poss. 3) coming to feeder at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill, *York* from 1st to 14th & 2 seen again on 20th (TH). 1 at a feeder at 17 Divadale Dr, Toronto on 9th, 12th, 13th, 23rd & 24th (NMacd). 1 or 2 at HP from 19th to 25th (SMF). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL) & 4 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 2nd & 25th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 25th & 27th, 2 there on 31st (NMu,&).

HOUSE WREN - 8 at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL).

SEDGE WREN - 1 (heavy molt) at TI on 15th (AA) was seen at SW corner of Airport Fence.

MARSH WREN - 1 heard at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 2nd (RBHS,WP); 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th & 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 13 reports throughout the month from HP of 1 to 4 birds (SMF). 5 (family group) at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA), 4 at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 9th (RPy fide DRBA) & 1 at Iroquois Shores Park, Whitby, *Durham* on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at TI on 19th, 17 on 25th, 6 on 27th & 8 there on 31st (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th, 26th & 27th, 2 there on 31st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

VEERY - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 2 at TI on 19th (NMu,MVL).

WOOD THRUSH - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 31st (NMu,&).

GRAY CATBIRD - 9 at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – In total, there were 34 reports, reflecting reduced fieldwork. 18 reports came from *Toronto*, 12 from *York*, 4 from *Durham* and none from *Peel or Halton*. All reports came from RBHS and WP, except for one from AA, one from ETB, 3 from NMu, one from Jerry Ball fide JCS, and one from DW.

CEDAR WAXWING - 75 at TI on 19th, 60 on 24th, 69 on 27th & 50 on 31st (NMu,&).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - 1 M at Ward's Island, TI on 31st (NMu,&).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 4 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 24 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN PARULA - 5 at Ward's Island, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

YELLOW WARBLER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 31st (NMu,&).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 7 at Ward's Island, TI on 25th & 6 there on 31st (NMu, &). 47 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa) was not a record, but 3rd highest count in database.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 1 at West Beach, TI on 15th (AA), 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS) & 32 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 1 AD-F at Ward's Island, TI on 19th (NMu,MVL).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 1 F at Ward's Island, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at HP on 28th (SMF).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 M at Ward's Island, TI on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 at Keswick, *York* on 3rd (KDu) (Brydon 2009), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th & 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 26 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 4 at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL), 10 on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 30 there on 27th (NMu,ICa) was not a record, but 3rd highest GTA count in database.

PINE WARBLER - 1 at TI on 25th & 27th (NMu,ICa).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - 18 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 on TI on 24th (NMu,MVL) & 2 on 27th (NMu,ICa).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Singles at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 9th (RPy fide DRBA), HP on 12th (SMF), West Beach, TI on 15th (AA) & at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS). 16 at TI on 27th & 8 on 31st (NMu,&).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 11 at TI on 24th, 17 on 25th, 48 on 27th & 11 at Ward's Island, TI on 31st (NMu,&).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 1 at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 4 at Ward's Island, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL). 36 at TI on 27th (NMu,ICa) was the 2nd highest GTA count in the database. It is interesting that high numbers ('literally hundreds') were reported from the top of the Pinal Mountains in Arizona on 31 Aug 2009, in a posting by Jim Burns to BIRDWG05 (fide NMu), but likely that different populations were involved. 12 at TI on 31st (NMu,&).

CANADA WARBLER - Singles at Humber Marsh #7 on 8th (AA), Marita Payne Park, *York* on 8th (ICa), Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (Ken & Angie Williams fide ONTBIRDS), Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 15th (RPy fide OUTON) & at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 16th (JCS,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 12th & 2 on 13th (SMF). 7 at TI on 25th, 5 on 27th & 9 on 31st (NMu,&).

SCARLET TANAGER - 1 at Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 30th (OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at TI on 31st (NMu,&).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 1 (early) at
Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 30th
(OFO,DJM, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 15 at TI on 24th
(NMu,MVL) & 16 there on 27th
(NMu,ICa).

INDIGO BUNTING - 1 F at Ward's Island,
TI on 27th (NMu,ICa).

BOBOLINK - 8 at Westside Marsh,
Durham on 8th (RPy fide DRBA).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 46 at TI on 19th,
43 on 24th (NMu,MVL) & 31 there
on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 at West Beach, TI on
15th (AA) & 1 M at Ward's Island,
TI on 24th (NMu,MVL).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 5 reports from
19th to 31st from TI with a high
count of 62 on 25th (Mu,MVL,ICa).



Male **Indigo Bunting** at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, York, 16 August 2009.
© Winnie Poon.

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; OFO Ontario Field Ornithologists; AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; MHC Mark Cranford; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; SMF Steven Favier; BFe Bruce Ferry; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; JI Jean Iron; JLa John Lamey; RLau Rick Lauzon; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; NMacd Neil Macdougall; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; 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; WP Winnie Poon; RPy Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; MDW Mike Williamson; MDWit Dianne Witzell; DW David Worthington; BY Bob Yukich.

REFERENCES:

Brydon, B. 2009. June – August 2009 Sightings. West Humber Naturalists Club Newsletter, September 2009, p. 9-10.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 648 reports were added to the database for August 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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Errata – previous GTA Bird Reports etc.

Toronto Bird Rarities Committee Report – 2006 (*in Toronto Birds* 3(4):71-83, April 2009)

Unfortunately, two errors crept into the list of “Not Accepted Reports – No Documentation received” on p. 78

1. Little Blue Heron – the date for the undocumented report was 17 May 2006 (not 19 May 2006).
2. Swainson’s Hawk – missing data should have read:
 - one, 25 Oct 2006, High Park, *Toronto* [OBRC species].

April 2009 (*in Toronto Birds* 3(5):86-97, May 2009)

Unfortunately, some significant records (early dates) were omitted because a few emails were never received by RBHS. The most significant additional reports are listed here, for completeness. There were many exceptionally early date records in late April 2009, but few were record-early, due to the long history of reporting in the GTA.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - the bird reported on 27 Apr 2009 was not only exceptionally early, it was in fact a record-early spring date for the GTA.

Least Flycatcher - 1 at TI on 25 Apr 2009 (NMu,AA). [No doc seen]. About 6th earliest in database.

Great Crested Flycatcher - 1 at TI on 25 Apr 2009 (NMu,AA) [1st spring migrant]. 3rd earliest for GTA in database.

Veery - 1 at TI on 25 Apr 2009 (NMu,AA). [No doc. seen]. 3rd earliest for GTA in database.

Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at TI on 27 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL). 2nd earliest for GTA in database.

‘Yellow’ Palm Warbler - 1 at Wards Island, TI on 24 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL,ICa). 1 at Snake Island, Toronto Islands on 27 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL). [No doc. seen for either].

Black-and-White Warbler - 5 at Toronto Islands on 27 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL).

Ovenbird - 1 at Toronto Islands on 24 Apr 2009 (NMu,AA). About 4th earliest for GTA in database.

Northern Waterthrush - 1 at Wards Is, TI on 27 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1 at Wards Island, TI on 27 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL).

Orchard Oriole - 1 2Y-M at Wards Island, TI on 27 Apr 2009 (NMu,MVL). 4th earliest for GTA in database.

OBSERVERS: AA Alfred Adamo; ICa Ian Cannell; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; NMu Norm Murr;

May 2009 (*in Toronto Birds* 3(6):103-117, August 2009)

Connecticut Warbler - the report of 2 birds on Toronto Islands on 9 May 2009 (AA), should have referred to one M only, at Hanlan’s Point. This was an extremely early date, equaling the earliest spring date ever recorded in the GTA, and requires documentation.

Thanks to Alfred Adamo and Norm Murr for pointing out these errors or omissions, and Alan Wormington for his attention to detail and perennial interest in early date records.



GREATER TORONTO AREA RAPTOR WATCH 2008 SUMMARY

*Records Committee
Toronto Ornithological Club*

Although the fall migration of raptors (particularly Broad-winged Hawks) through the GTA has been known for a long time, there is surprisingly little mention of it in the ornithological history of this area. Richard M. Saunders clearly knew of the migration, when in relation to the fall of 1945 he wrote in *Flashing Wings*:

“FALL HAWK FLIGHTS: Along with an unusual number and variety of shorebirds, and a curious lack of warblers, one of the striking characteristics of this fall's bird migration has been the occurrence of several noteworthy hawk flights.

No doubt such flights occur each fall but for the most part they pass over the region without being seen by many people, probably sometimes not being noted by anyone if they happen to occur on week days” (Saunders 1947).

He went on to describe the flight of 16 September 1945, which happened to coincide with the TOC's Fall Field Day that year, noting that the flight started around 08:00 and continued to 16:00h. Over 1400 Broad-winged Hawks were counted that day, mainly at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham*, but other species were noted as well, including a single adult Bald Eagle.



Northern Harrier
CMRW, 4 November 2008
© Jim Skene

Later in the same year, he also wrote that: “Seven roughlegs on the 13th October was a very satisfactory observation. We all felt that we had done very well, for the roughleg is rarely a common sight, and in this region a year may easily go by when not a one is seen.” (Saunders 1947).

The first evidence we can find for ‘organized’ hawkwatching in the GTA dates back to the early/mid 1950s, when some members of the South Peel Naturalists’ Club used to gather at Lucy MacDougall’s property at 1592 Centre Street, Port Credit, *Peel*, to watch for the Broad-winged Hawk flight in mid-September. Evidently, this was done over several years, as can be deduced from John Dales’ article entitled ‘The Lazy Broadwings’ (Dales 1961). A high count of 10,285 occurred there on 12 September 1955; at that time the MacDougalls’ garden was known as ‘the’ hawkwatching spot west of Toronto! A few years later, the highest ever count of Broad-winged Hawks for the GTA (26,611) was recorded at this site on 16 September 1961 (West 1961).

In Durham Region, although the main migration dates were well-known by the early 1970s, we find little mention of the fall migration as a phenomenon, except in relation to the Broad-winged Hawk. For example, Tozer and Richards (1974) wrote: “The fall migration [Broad-winged Hawk] occurs from late August through late September, and frequently involves spectacular numbers of birds circling and soaring at great heights”. They went on to mention a couple of high counts (low by Peel standards!), and an imprecise record of “thousands” migrating all day at Oshawa on 12 September 1968.

A decade later, the TOC Bird Reports of 1984, 1985 and 1987 still made no mention of organized hawkwatching. Yet it is known that in the late 1980s a small-scale hawk banding operation was run for a few years, using a private site on the Scarborough Bluffs, *Toronto*. Only a handful of raptor enthusiasts from the Toronto Bird Observatory were involved with this.

However, the situation was just about to change, and in the Durham Bird Report for 1989 we find the first mention of organized raptor watching in the GTA, since the South Peel initiative. “*During September and October the boardwalks at Cranberry Marsh became a regular lookout spot for keen raptor watchers*” (Bain and Henshaw 1990). We find Robert Shillabeer’s name mentioned frequently in the species accounts for that year, and he and Roy Baker must take some credit for the initiation of raptor watching at that site.

By 1990, the effort at Cranberry was being referred to as “Cranberry Raptor Watch” and warranted a 2-page summary, including a table with peak dates, in the Durham Bird Report for 1990 (Bain and Henshaw 1991). But it was still not clear that this was the best site in Durham, for in 1993 there is mention of at least seven other sites being tried, albeit some only by single observers on single dates. It was also suggested that ‘Grenadier Hill’ in High Park should become a permanent raptor watch location in 1994 (Barker 1993).

Given this background, we can see that raptor watching in the GTA has grown extensively in both sophistication and popularity since 1990. The name of John J. Barker is most closely associated with this period, since he attempted to organize the competing sites, and standardize data collection following the HMANA model. He produced a succession of reports on the “Greater Toronto Area Raptor Watch” during the 1990s, and really laid the groundwork for the kind of activity we see today. Eventually, the Greater Toronto Raptor Watch merged with the TOC in 1998, reporting to the TOC Executive via the Records Councillor. At that time, it seems that TOC’s main concern was to avoid any additional expenditure, and GTRW basically carried on as before, with very little, if any, formal reporting. However, it did have its own website and continued to use this as its primary means of reporting, and to provide feedback and outreach.

Now ten years later, the situation has changed again. With *Toronto Birds* being published as an e-journal, and unrestricted by the space and cost considerations that had formerly impacted the Newsletter, the TOC Records Committee felt that the time was long overdue for properly recording the activities of GTRW, as was being done for other ongoing club projects. It was possible to envisage an annual summary report, provided each station was willing and able to contribute their sections. So, today these accounts follow, under the authorship of the coordinator for each watch-site, respectively. The TOC Records Committee and the editors of *Toronto Birds* appreciate their cooperation and effort in making this summary report possible and hope that all members, raptor enthusiasts or otherwise, will find something of interest in these accounts.

CRANBERRY MARSH RAPTOR WATCH – 2008

In the late 1980s, Cranberry Marsh in southwest Whitby, was chosen as a hawk watch site because of a wide visual expanse to the east, 'catching' many hawks as they fly from Thickson's Point. Also, the location enables viewers to observe, identify and photograph many species of waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines. Managed by the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, Cranberry Marsh is a large wetland in the southwest corner of the Lynde Shores Conservation Area. Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch (CMRW) monitoring is done from a 10' x 18' viewing platform, accessed from Hall's Road. Its co-ordinates are 43°50'24.9"N and 78°57'57.7"W. CMRW exists because of a friendly rapport among a strong nucleus of volunteer observers and many visitors. All present data, guidelines to help visitors with identification, and field guides are stored in a cupboard attached to the platform railing.

In the fall of each year, many raptors, migrating from northern Quebec, Labrador and northeastern Ontario, reach the north shore of Lake Ontario. If there are (1) medium to strong north/northwest winds, and if (2) the barometric pressure is rising, and if (3) there are good thermals (200+ ft./min.), the hawks will make their way westward along the lakefront. There are days when a lake-effect wind may influence these conditions. But, if the above conditions are not met, most of the migrating hawks will take an inland route, possibly passing over the Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch, 10km to the north.

In 2008, of the 106 days from 14 August to 30 November, a team of dedicated observers and counters 'waited patiently' for raptors on all but three days (complete rainouts), viewing for 423 hours. This year, 8,228 (88%) of the 9,346 raptors came through on *28 of the 106 days, each of these days being characterized with all of the aforementioned weather conditions* (Table1).



Coordinator Doug Lockrey (right) and Rayfield Pye at the **Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch**, *Durham*, 30 October 2008.
© Bob Brown.

Table 1. 2008 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (CMRW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	5	260	2939	1	3205
Osprey	56	90	3	0	149
Bald Eagle	0	43	24	0	67
Northern Harrier	5	43	46	7	101
Sharp-shinned Hawk	42	966	452	43	1503
Cooper's Hawk	6	52	50	15	123
Northern Goshawk	0	0	5	6	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	2	8	14	24
Broad-winged Hawk	3	2039	0	0	2042
Red-tailed Hawk	7	34	832	346	1219
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	26	29	55
Golden Eagle	0	0	8	1	9
American Kestrel	11	477	211	2	701
Merlin	1	18	8	2	29
Peregrine Falcon	1	9	8	3	21
Unidentified Accipiter	3	0	14	2	19
Unidentified Buteo	1	1	6	14	22
Unidentified Falcon	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified Eagle	1	1	1	0	3
Unidentified Raptor	2	26	12	3	43
Total Birds	144	4061	4653	488	9346
Total Days Counted	17	30	31	28	106
Total Observation Hours	52	125	146	100	423
Days with N/NW winds, rising barometric pressure and good thermals	5	7	11	5	28
Raptors on above days	90	3671	4152	315	8228
% of Total Birds	62%	90%	89%	64%	88%

Table 2. August 2008 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
14		3																			3	1.0
15		3				1															4	3.0
16		2																			2	2.0
17		1			1	1			1						1						5	2.0
18		2																			2	2.0
19																					0	0.0
20		1		1	1	1															4	2.0
21		3																			3	3.0
22		2		1	1	1															5	3.0
23		2			3								1								6	4.0
24					1																1	2.0
25		14		2	11				2	5			5			2	1			2	44	6.0
26		4		1	5					2			1								13	3.0
27		2			5	1															8	5.0
28	3																				3	3.0
29	1	2																			3	2.0
30	1	14			10								4	1		1					31	5.0
31		1			4	1													1		7	4.0
Total	5	56	0	5	42	6	0	0	3	7	0	0	11	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	144	52

Table 3. September 2008 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1		5			2	1															8	4.0
2	2		1	1									3								7	4.0
3		1			4									2	1						8	4.0
4		3	1	1	16	1							4							2	28	3.0
5		2			1								1								4	4.0
6		3			2				1												6	5.0
7					1								1	1							3	2.0
8		6			7	1							3							1	18	4.0
9	24	6	5	3	80	3			4	1			48	2						2	178	6.5
10	8	7		3	70			1		1			13	4						3	110	6.0
11	1	4	2		18					1			1							1	28	3.0
12		1											1								2	2.0
13					1																1	3.0
14					2																2	3.0
15	21	7	6	5	150	4		1	1356	2			72	2	1					1	1628	7.0
16	10	6	1	3	92	3			644	1			13				1			2	776	5.0
17	9	3			9	1							6	1							29	6.0
18	56	9	8	7	42	2				11			28	2					1	1	167	6.0
19		1	2	1	17	1							4							1	27	4.0
20	1	2		1	9	1							2		1						17	4.0
21	97	16	14	14	331	17			34	12			183	1	2					9	730	6.5
22	13	4			21	1				2			3	3							47	4.0
23				1	8															1	10	4.0
24					1	1														1	3	4.0
25					16	1															17	4.0
26			1		1	1				2					2						7	3.5
27					2																2	2.0
28	18	3	2	3	63	13				1			88		2					1	194	6.5
29		1											3								4	4.0
30																					0	1.0
Total	260	90	43	43	966	52	0	2	2039	34	0	0	477	18	9	0	1	0	1	26	4061	125

Table 4. October 2008 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	48	1		2	35	4				3			23						1	1	118	7.0
2	452		1	8	38	6				11			50	2		2					570	7.0
3	518		5	3	73	6		1		24			56				1				687	6.0
4	208		4	1	53	8				6			32		1	2				1	316	6.0
5	276			1	42	1				8			7								335	5.0
6	149		3	1	10	1				4			1	2	1					1	173	4.0
7	2				8					1			1							2	14	4.0
8	4														1						5	3.5
9	17				2								1		1		1				22	5.0
10	3				14	1				3			2								23	3.0
11					1									1							2	3.0
12					1					5											6	3.0
13				1																	1	3.5
14	47			1	3	1				8	1										61	6.0
15										1	1		2		1						5	3.0
16	308		2	2	76	12				13			31	2		1					447	7.0
17	766	2	2	6	48	3	1	3		200	1			1						2	1035	7.0
18	43		3		16	1				30						1	2			3	99	6.0
19					1	1				4										1	7	4.0

Table 4 continued																						
20																					0	4.0
21	3									4	1										8	4.0
22	85		3	3	6	3		2		108	3	1			1	2					217	7.0
23	2									4		1									7	5.0
24					1						1				1						3	4.0
25																					0	1.0
26															1	2					3	3.0
27										11	1										12	2.0
28	4			3	5	1		1		74	5	3	4			1	1				102	7.0
29	4		1	12	18	1	3	1		291	12	3	1			2	1				350	7.0
30				2			1			17						1				1	22	5.4
31					1					2											3	4.0
Total	2939	3	24	46	452	50	5	8	0	832	26	8	211	8	8	14	6	0	1	12	4653	146

Table 5. November 2008 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	1			2	16	4	1	12		174	2						7				219	5.0
2					2	1	1	2		53	3	1				1	6			3	73	5.0
3										3	1										4	3.0
4					1	1				1				1							4	4.0
5				1																	1	4.0
6																					0	2.0
7				1	1					2					1						5	3.0
8																					0	4.0
9					1	1				2				1							5	3.0
10					2	1				2			1								6	3.0
11					4					1											5	3.0
12					1	1					2										4	3.0
13																					0	0.0
14											1										1	3.0
15																					0	0.0
16					1					11	5										17	5.0
17				1	2					12	3										18	3.0
18					6	1				52					1						60	4.0
19					2	1				3	1				1						8	4.0
20										6	2										8	4.0
21										2											2	2.0
22					2	1				8	1						1				13	5.0
23							1			2											3	5.0
24					1					1	1					1					4	5.0
25																					0	3.0
26						1	1			2											4	3.0
27				1	1	1	1			2											6	3.0
28																					0	1.0
29				1			1			2	3										7	5.0
30						1				5	4		1								11	3.0
Total	1	0	0	7	43	15	6	14	0	346	29	1	2	2	3	2	14	0	0	3	488	100

OBSERVERS, COUNTERS—Charlie Adey, Jerry Ball, Geoff Carpentier, Joyce Collier-Brown, Jim Fairchild, Donna Foster, Rosemary Harris, Tyler Hoar, Carol Horner, Jean Iron, Karl Jennewein, Dan Kaczynski, Ross Lamb, Doug Lockrey, Paul McGee, Jim McKnight, Craig McLauchlan, Janice Melendez, Jim Munroe, Bruce Parker, Ron Pittaway, Rayfield Pye, Norm Schipper, Jim Skene, Charles Smith, Brian Steele, Ron Stephenson, John Stirrat, Greg Stuart, Stu Williams, and many others also contributed.

Doug Lockrey (Coordinator)

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Migrating **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at the Cranberry Marsh - South Platform, *Durham*, 7 September 2008. Plenty of Jewelweed *Impatiens capensis* flowers around the platform evidently providing a big attraction for the hummers. © Jim Skene.

IROQUOIS SHORELINE RAPTOR WATCH – 2008

I would like to begin by giving a brief description of our site and how it acquired its name. We are located in North Whitby, a little south of Brooklin. The co-ordinates for our 10' x10' platform are 43° 56' 6.3"N and 78° 58' 8.7"W. When the last ice-age receded it caused an ice dam at the mouth of what we now call the St. Lawrence River, causing the runoff to form a giant lake known as Lake Iroquois. Our platform sits up on a bluff which was the former shore line, hence the name 'Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch'. The site is located in the Heber Down Conservation Area, managed by Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority.

Hawk watching at this site started in 1998. Over the past three years our site has averaged just over 12,000 migrating raptors per season. Most but not all birds are recorded on NE, E, SE, W and SW winds. Strong winds from the NW and N send the birds farther south over Cranberry Marsh. Just as other sites have noted, some species seem to be in decline. Most notably at our site, Red-shouldered Hawk numbers have dropped off dramatically, but our Broad-winged Hawk flights have increased. This, I suspect, is due to the fact that the winds have been favorable when the flight begins in mid-September.

This season we had much more weekday coverage, which kept our numbers up to our seasonal average. In total we logged 238 hours and we were on site for 58 days. Our average birds per hour for the season was 50.2.

I would like to thank all who helped make this another great season; including Alfred Adamo who identified a first for our site - a Mississippi Kite on 10 September (subject to OBRC acceptance), but especially to Betsy Smith our weekday eyes. This was also the year of the eagles for this site as we recorded seasonal high totals for both Bald Eagle (39) and Golden Eagle (67). Thanks once again to all who came out and helped make it another great year.



The **Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch**, *Durham*, uses a small platform overlooking fields to the north and east. Observers there on 20 October 2008 are (left to right) Roy Smith, Mike Williamson (coordinator), Carol Horner, and Kevin Seymour. © Winnie Poon.

Table 1. 2008 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (ISRW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	7	132	1760	12	1911
Osprey	3	30	0	0	33
Mississippi Kite	0	1*	0	0	1*
Bald Eagle	3	28	7	1	39
Northern Harrier	0	12	29	11	52
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16	284	477	42	819
Cooper's Hawk	0	16	37	9	62
Northern Goshawk	0	0	1	5	6
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	2	56	24	82
Broad-winged Hawk	15	7698	1	0	7714
Red-tailed Hawk	3	22	523	277	825
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	6	26	32
Golden Eagle	0	0	40	27	67
American Kestrel	1	62	93	0	156
Merlin	0	3	1	0	4
Peregrine Falcon	0	2	2	0	4
Gyr Falcon	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified Raptor	0	6	22	7	35
Total Birds	48	8297	3055	441	11841
Total Days Counted	2	18	23	15	58
Total Observation Hours	8.5	78.5	98.0	53.0	238.0

* Pending acceptance by OBRC, not included in Totals.

Table 2. August 2008 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
30	7				3				4				1								15	4.0
31		3	3		13				11	3											33	4.5
Total	7	3	3	0	16	0	0	0	15	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	8.5

Table 3. September 2008 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1		2	2	1	9				17				1								32	4.5
4		5			8				7												20	4.0
6		2			5				6												13	1.5
8	1	1			10								1								13	3.0
9		1			12	2			168	4			5								192	5.0
10	13	7	5		31	1		1	1361	4			2	1							1426	7.0
11	2		3		12				35	2											54	5.0
15	3				14				737	2			2	1							759	4.0
16	6	6	6	2	30			1	3814				5				4				3874	7.0
17	3				13	1			1				3								21	4.0
18	24		5	1	48	5			1529	2			17				1				1632	6.0
19	9		3		10				3	2			2		1						30	5.0
20	12	1			14	1			4	3			3								38	3.5
21	14	2	2	4	39	2			16				14	1			1				95	5.0
22	11			1	9	1							4								26	3.0
23	8	1			7	1															17	3.0
26	16	2		3	7	2				2			1		1						34	4.0
28	10		2		6					1			2								21	4.0
Total	132	30	28	12	284	16	0	2	7698	22	0	0	62	3	2	0	6	0	0	0	8297	78.5

Table 4. October 2008 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	3			1	6								1								11	3.0
3	291				21	3		1		6			7								329	6.5
4	95		1		64	3				4			24	1							192	4.5
5	123			1	54	1				5		1	13								198	4.5
6	273				46	10				36			18								383	2.0
9	5				3	1				1											10	3.5
10	196			2	37	6			1	5			11								258	4.0
11	57			3	36	1		1		24			3				2				127	6.0
12	77		1	2	14					8							1				103	5.0
13	40		1	2	24	1		2					4								74	4.0
15	38			1	14	1		1													55	2.5
16	345			1	59	1				19											425	5.0
17	27		2	1	14			1		34	1										80	5.0
18	69		1	3	34	1		17		86		3	6		1	4				1	226	5.0
19	60			3	13	3		16		44			3							1	143	6.0
22	42			1	7					21		2					1				74	4.0
23	11			1	6	1		10		53		6	2							3	93	5.5
24										2		9									11	5.0
25			1		5	1				33	1	5	1								47	2.5
28				1	3					10	3	3					3				23	2.5
29	1			1	4					67	1	6								5	85	4.0
30	6			2	5			1		35		3								1	53	4.5
31	1			3	8	3	1	6		30		2			1						55	3.5
Total	1760	0	7	29	477	37	1	56	1	523	6	40	93	1	2	4	7	0	0	11	3055	98.0

Table 5. November 2008 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	12		1	3	18		1	19		137	4	13								5	213	6.5
2				1	2	2	1	2		25	1										34	6.0
7					3					11		2									16	4.0
8				1	3			2		6	1	1								1	15	4.0
9										9	4	2									15	3.0
11						1				1										1	3	3.0
12				1	1	1		1		12		3									19	4.0
14				1	3	1				5											10	3.0
16				2		1				11	5	2									21	2.5
18					2					18	3	1									24	4.0
21					3	1	1			16	3	2									26	3.0
22							1			5	1										7	2.5
23					3	1				12	1	1									18	2.5
29					1					3	1										5	3.0
30				2	3	1	1			6	2										15	2.0
Total	12	0	1	11	42	9	5	24	0	277	26	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	441	53.0

Mike D. Williamson (Coordinator)

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ROSETTA McCLAIN GARDENS RAPTOR WATCH - 2008

Rosetta McClain Gardens is a beautifully kept park on top the western end of the Scarborough Bluffs, about 60m above the northern shore of Lake Ontario. The GPS of the hawk watching spot is 0640585/4839623 (NAD83). There is a great view over the lake, allowing us to see to the US side, and even the mist from Niagara Falls on a clear day. Amazing views from above can be had of all 15 species of raptors regularly seen in southern Ontario. Naturally, birds are observed at all levels and distances, although in general a lot of birds are very close.

This is the 5th season of the Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch (RMGRW). In Year 1 (2004), coverage was rather spotty, as I was attending High Park Raptor Watch almost daily. But in 2005, things were slow at High Park, so I counted a lot more days at Rosetta McClain Gardens. The years 2006 through 2008 have had reasonably full coverage from 1 August to 30 November. I have learned when birds would start to fly and under which conditions I can stay home. I started counting at Rosetta McClain for personal enjoyment. Since I live only a 10 minute walk from Rosetta McClain instead of a one hour transit trek to High Park, I went there on days that I thought would be slow at High Park. With over 1200 sightings in 2004, I wanted to see how good the count would be if I spent more time at Rosetta McClain. In 2005, I saw over 3000 raptors, while still spending some of the best days at High Park.

Table 1. Comparative Yearly Totals

Count Year	Year	Number of Raptors
Year 1	2004	1258
Year 2	2005	3042
Year 3	2006	5675
Year 4	2007	5844
Year 5	2008	4172

Beginning with the second year, I invited various hawk watching friends to join me. Each year I spread the word to regular park goers and created some local interest. In 2006, I spent all season at Rosetta McClain Gardens. I began putting up flyers in local libraries, community centres and even a few old folks' homes (retirement homes). This resulted in increased visitor numbers and community interest. The cast of regulars increased as well. I really enjoyed showing people the raptors and teaching them as much as they wished to learn.

During 2007 and 2008 I invited more folks, and picked up more local followers. Prominent birders such as Ron Pittaway, Jean Iron, and Bruce Falls and groups from the Toronto Field Naturalists and Peel Birding Class joined me at various times during the watch. A great group of new birders/raptor watchers, has formed and now regularly goes on outings together outside of fall raptor migration time. This season I was written up in a local newspaper, which increased the number of visitors too. I now have several handouts at the ready, including silhouettes, silhouettes with hints for ID, a chart of where the raptors migrate to and postcards (Peregrine, Bald Eagle and Barn Owl) from The Canadian Peregrine Foundation which I give out to the more interested folks. A couple of school groups have joined us as well. A large number of seniors regularly use this amazing little park, and several now have shown more interest. They've come alive watching with us and bringing their questions about birds they have seen at home. It's most rewarding for me when people discover and take new joy in bird watching. Myself and all those gathered around answer questions and pass on information to anyone who asked. The park supervisor thinks it is great that another use for the park that is passive is going on...the more well-used and important his park is the more secure those jobs are. The park staff is very supportive, directing people to us, passing out flyers, allowing me to post flyers and store

materials. Mercifully I have full use of their lunch room, to get nice hot coffee come late October and November.

In 2008, total hours counted was 401 on 59 days. Coverage this season was down from last season as a result of poor conditions. As RMGRW is not an official (HMANA) site, I did not deem counting 4 birds on a freezing day in November the best use of my time. In November it takes almost perfect conditions to get a decent flight at Rosetta McClain. My conclusion is that the birds remaining to migrate in November do not depend greatly on following the lakeshore VERY closely.

Not unlike many sites, a marked decrease in the number of Northern Harriers was noted. I suspect this was due to a poor nesting season as a result of record rains. Other totals were down because at peak times of the season, winds were totally wrong for migration at the lake. There was no big push of Sharp-shinned Hawks as in other seasons. Broad-winged Hawks are not really a feature of Rosetta McClain Gardens. They stay somewhat north of the lakeshore, and the largest total in any of the five seasons was only 225 birds. Also, my view to the north is limited. NOTE: I do not count unidentified birds at all, birds are within binocular range (other than days when a scope is present) when counted, and no more than a dozen birds a year go by unidentified. To date, 180 species of birds have been identified from Rosetta McClain Gardens. Each fall at least one rarity or oddity has passed by. Such birds as Common Raven, Tundra Swans, Snow Goose, Hudsonian Godwit, Northern Gannet, American White Pelican and Sandhill Cranes have been seen.

Table 2. 2008 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (RMGRW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	1	57	1307	4	1369
Osprey	12	75	13	0	100
Bald Eagle	2	20	8	2	32
Northern Harrier	5	44	30	5	84
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16	761	420	11	1208
Cooper's Hawk	6	34	33	1	74
Northern Goshawk	0	0	8	5	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	8	1	9
Broad-winged Hawk	7	149	0	0	156
Red-tailed Hawk	14	18	312	277	621
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	3	6	9
Golden Eagle	0	0	11	0	11
American Kestrel	11	263	129	3	406
Merlin	2	22	19	0	43
Peregrine Falcon	2	23	11	1	37
Total Birds	78	1466	2312	316	4172
Total days Counted	10	30	16	9	65

Table 3. August 2008 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total
1		1		1	1					1			1			5
6										3			1			4
11		2				2				1			1			6
12		1								1			2			4
15	1			1	2								2			6
16			1	2											1	4
17		1		1						1					1	4
19		2	1		1	1				1			1			7
25		3			10	2			7	6			3	1		32
30		2			2	1								1		6
Total	1	12	2	5	16	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	11	2	2	78

Table 4. September 2008 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total
1	6				6	1				1			4		2	20
2		1			15	1							6			23
3					10								1			11
4					5	1							2			8
5	2				1								5			8
6	1	2		2	6								5	1		17
7		2			3											5
8				2	12				1	1			6			22
9		5	2	4	94	4			13				14			136
10		8	2		15	2							4	1		32
11	5	2		1	9					1			5	2		25
12	Hurricane Ike, rain															0
13																0
14																0
15	6	15	6	7	194	6			129	3			36	3	2	407
16	2	4	1	7	32	2			5	1			19	2		75
17		4			71	1							17	2	1	96
18	1	8		2	110	4			1	2			26	1	1	156
19	2	1			7					1			3	2	5	21
20				2	8									1		11
21		5	2	3	56	1				1			39	1	1	109
22		1		1	13	1				3			4	3		26
23	No Count															0
24																0
25																0
26	7	2		1	13	4							5	1	1	34
27		2			1	2							3		1	9
28	25	5	5	6	68	4				4			50	2	3	172
29		5	2	1	10								1		2	21
30		3		5	2								8		4	22
Total	57	75	20	44	761	34	0	0	149	18	0	0	263	22	23	1466

Table 5. October 2008 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total
1	22	3	1	5	60	4				3			41	2	4	145
2	191	4		3	68	4		1					9	1	2	283
3	199	3		4	66	5				2			33	2	2	316
4	29	2	2		26	3	1	2		2			8	1	1	77
5		1	2		34	1				1			11			50
6	58			1	9	1							3	2		74
9	1			1	5		1			1			1	2		12
14	21			2	10	1				8			3	1		46
16	96		1	2	100	1		1		11		2	15	6		235
17	683		2	2	11	3		1		141			1		1	845
18					1					3			1	2		7
22	2				3	5		2		50	1	1			1	65
28	4			7	13	2	3	1		28	2	6	3			69
29	1			3	14	2	1			53		1				75
30						1	2			4						7
31										5		1				6
Total	1307	13	8	30	420	33	8	8	0	312	3	11	129	19	11	2312

Table 6. November 2008 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total
1							2			7			1			10
7				1	3					4						8
11	1				2		1			1			2			7
16					2					34						36
17				1						10						11
18			1	1	2					171	1					176
20	2		1	2	1					30	5					41
21	1						1	1		12						15
22					1	1	1			8					1	12
Total	4	0	2	5	11	1	5	1	0	277	6	0	3	0	1	316

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Rough-legged Hawk at Nanticoke, *Haldimand*, 20 January 2009. © Sam Barone.

HIGH PARK HAWK WATCH – 2008

On an international scale, very few hawk watching sites are as accessible as the High Park Hawk Watch (HPHW). Located within a major city, in the middle of a large park (165 ha), the HPHW takes place on Hawk Hill - a small knoll found behind the restaurant, at an elevation of 38 meters above Lake Ontario, about 1.25 kilometers to the south. The co-ordinates of Hawk Hill are 43°37'3.8"N 79°28'56.5"W (GPS 17623746 and 4833730 [NAD83]). The success of the hawk watch over the last eighteen years has been a direct result of the enthusiasm, identification skills and time contributed by the many observers and visitors to Hawk Hill.

At the close of the 2008 season, in the absence of any statistical analysis of these totals and comparisons, it would appear that four species - Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle and Cooper's Hawk, have continued to increase over the fourteen years covered by the study. The balance of the species appear to show some decline, but any change in annual numbers would need to be subjected to statistical analysis on a regular basis. For the third year in a row, the mid-September Broad-winged Hawk migration was far below historic averages, and it appears that the birds may be migrating on a route north of the City of Toronto. Monitoring sites south to Corpus Christi, Texas and Veracruz, Mexico certainly observed at least their historic annual averages. The observed declines in numbers of Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk and American Kestrel seem obvious and correspond to declines observed at other regional hawk watches. The index of total birds per day is down from historic averages.

The High Park Hawk Watch website will continue to be the primary source of information regarding historical records of raptor observations in High Park, Toronto.



High Park Hawk Watch on Hawk Hill, High Park, *Toronto*, 22 September 2008. © Winnie Poon.

Table 1. 2008 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (HPHW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	2	199	1672	4	1877
Osprey	4	47	5	1	57
Bald Eagle		28	13	1	42
Northern Harrier		17	9	2	28
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	744	336	13	1103
Cooper's Hawk		38	18	10	66
Northern Goshawk			2	6	8
Red-shouldered Hawk			14	16	30
Broad-winged Hawk		2643			2643
Red-tailed Hawk	9	53	767	438	1267
Rough-legged Hawk		1	5	6	12
Golden Eagle			20	9	29
American Kestrel	1	161	24	2	188
Merlin	1	8	1		10
Peregrine Falcon		13	10	1	24
Unidentified Accipiter		18	11	4	33
Unidentified Buteo		4	20	9	33
Unidentified Falcon			4		4
Unidentified Eagle			1		1
Unidentified Raptor		28	24	9	61
Total Birds	27	4002	2956	531	7516
Total Days Counted	4	25	20	9	58
Total Observation Hours	18.0	120.1	105.0	33.5	276.6

Table 2. August 2008 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
25	2	2			5					8			1	1							19	6.0
26																					0	2.0
30		1			4					1											6	4.0
31		1			1																2	6.0
Total	2	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	18.0

Table 3. September 2008 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1													2								2	5.0
2																					0	3.0
3																					0	4.0
4		1	1		15	5			1	1			4			3					31	6.0
5																					0	1.0
6					1								1								2	2.5
7																					0	2.0
8					1																1	4.0
9	2	6	3	1	123	3			31				19	2		1	1				192	6.5
10	1	3			4															1	9	6.0
11	6	1				2				2						2	1			2	16	6.0
15	12	12	6	2	172	13			2445	15			18	1		1				3	2700	9.0
16		2	2	1	46	1			135				17	4							208	7.0
17	1				23	2							4	1	2						33	7.0
18	33	4	2	5	44	1			10	3			7			10	1			13	133	5.3
19																					0	3.0
20			1		4								2								7	3.5

Table 3 continued																						
21	31	5	8	4	160	5			20	19			55		4		1				312	6.5
22	2	1			22	2									1						28	4.0
23		1			1																2	4.0
24						1															1	2.5
25					2																2	3.8
28	33	5	1	4	58					4			20		2	1				3	131	7.0
29	10	4	2		6					3			7		1					2	35	6.0
30	68	2	2		62	3			1	6	1		5		3					4	157	5.5
Total	199	47	28	17	744	38	0	0	2643	53	1	0	161	8	13	18	4	0	0	28	4002	120.1

Table 4. October 2008 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	74	1			13					1			5		1	2					97	4.5
2	157	1	1		42	2				2			9	1						3	218	7.0
4	88		1	1	18	1				3					1						113	6.5
5	6		3		32					3			1							1	46	5.5
6	258	2			13	3		1		43			3		3		2	2		4	334	6.0
7	1				2					1											4	5.0
9										1											1	4.0
10																					0	2.0
11		1			10					4		1				4	1				21	5.0
12	5		1		24	4				2					1	1				4	42	5.5
13					6	2							1			1					10	5.0
14					2					1											3	2.0
16	213				115	2		1		12			2			1	3			6	355	6.5
17	746		4		10			5		60		3			1	1	10	2		1	843	6.0
18	24		1		3					54						1				3	86	5.0
19	42		1	6						25							3				77	5.0
21	1		1							8										1	11	4.0
22	43				14	1		2		102	2	6	1				1			1	173	7.0
23	6			2	20	2	1	3		232	1	5	2		2						276	7.5
29	8				12	1	1	2		213	2	5			1				1		246	6.0
Total	1672	5	13	9	336	18	2	14	0	767	5	20	24	1	10	11	20	4	1	24	2956	105.0

Table 5. November 2008 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	3		1	2	6	1	1	6		142	2	5			1		2				172	6.0
2								1		29							2				32	4.0
4																					0	2.5
6																					0	2.0
16						1				35						1					37	3.0
17		1			4	1	1	6		70	2	2	1			1	4			2	95	5.0
18					3	5	4	2		109	2	1				2				5	133	5.0
21	1					2		1		45							1			1	51	4.0
22										8		1	1							1	11	2.0
Total	4	1	1	2	13	10	6	16	0	438	6	9	2	0	1	4	9	0	0	9	531	33.5

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Key to abbreviations used by hawk-watchers:

TV	Turkey Vulture	CH	Cooper's Hawk	RL	Rough-legged Hawk	UA	Unidentified Accipiter
OS	Osprey	NG	Northern Goshawk	GE	Golden Eagle	UB	Unidentified Buteo
BE	Bald Eagle	RS	Red-shouldered Hawk	AK	American Kestrel	UF	Unidentified Falcon
NH	Northern Harrier	BW	Broad-winged Hawk	ML	Merlin	UE	Unidentified Eagle
SS	Sharp-shinned Hawk	RT	Red-tailed Hawk	PG	Peregrine Falcon	UR	Unidentified Raptor

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