



TORONTO BIRDS

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



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COVER PHOTO

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Photo © Winnie Poon

This photograph of a juvenile Great Blue Heron in the midst of dazzling fall colors was taken at the Country Glen Pond, Markham, York, on 28 September 2008.

Produced by the Records Committee Toronto Ornithological Club

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Toronto Birds publishes monthly bird records from the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario. It may also include articles and notes about birds, bird records, counts, surveys and birding in general, with the emphasis on the Greater Toronto Area and Ontario birds. *Toronto Birds* is distributed monthly to the active members of the Toronto Ornithological Club.

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

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – SEPTEMBER 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.

CAACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 1 at Westney Road, *Durham* on 20th (HC) & 10 at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP), WP has photos of some of them.

CANADA GOOSE - 403 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 12th & 774 at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP), one with red neck collar and gold figures M7Y0.

MUTE SWAN - 25 at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 5th (WP,RBHS). 15 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 6th, 27 on 12th (RBHS,WP) & 64 there on 26th (RPye fide DRBA). 37 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 20th (GC).

[BLACK SWAN] - 1 at Pond @ Yonge St & Jefferson SR, *York* on 18th (FP) [Escape].

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 (tag #: 190, 084) at Hydro Park, *Durham* & 1 (tag #148) at Port Union Park (WP) on 3rd. 2 (tags: E90 and 038) at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at CSSP on 10th (SMF). 1 (tag # 191) at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 12th (RBHS,WP) & 2 there on 26th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 (apparently untagged) at #2800, Conc 2, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

GADWALL – 36 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).

WOOD DUCK - 5 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 3rd (ETB) & 3+ at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 6th (KRS) (Brydon 2009). 10 at HP on 12th & 13th, 15 there on 20th (SMF). 26 at Sunderland S.L., *Durham*, 22 at Cannington S. L., *Durham* & 9 at Vroomanton Pond, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP). 112 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (WP,RBHS) was 2nd highest GTA count in Database

AMERICAN WIGEON - 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 12th & 46 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 4 at Bay D, LSS on 7th (EO'C fide OUTON), 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th (MJCB fide DRBA), 7 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP), and 4 at LSS on 26th (JBMW).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th (SLo,RBHS,WP) & 1 F at Reesor Pond, *York* on 12th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 5 there on 27th (RPye fide DRBA); 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 4 at Cannington S. L., *Durham* on 20th, 92 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th & 15 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

CANVASBACK - 1 at TI on 5th (OFO,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 JUV at Hanlan's Point ferry docks, TI on 19th (AA).

REDHEAD - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 25th (RPy fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 38 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 40 there on 20th (GCP). 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 26th (RPy fide DRBA).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 1 at Moore Point, *Durham* on 20th (BH).

BUFFLEHEAD - 2 at Bowmanville, *Durham* on 20th (BH), at a temporary flooded area (part of construction site).

HOODED MERGANSER - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 20th (GCP), 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright) & 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th (MJCB fide DRBA).

COMMON LOON - 2 at HP on 12th (JBMW,SMF).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th & 20th (RPy fide DRBA). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th (RBHS,WP) & on 7th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Beaverton R, Conc 7, Brock, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP), Vroomanton Pond, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP), Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA) & at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 140 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 4th (JLam fide RBHS), 94 there on 20th (GVR, TOC-FRU), and 50+ there on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Jack Darling Park, *Peel* on 5th (WP) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

AMERICAN BITTERN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (JKa fide DRBA) & 2 there on 20th (GCP). 1 flying over at Hwy 401 @ Park Rd, Oshawa, *Durham* @ 07:00hrs on 6th (RPy fide DRBA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th & 10th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST BITTERN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (JDL fide DRBA).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* at the beginning of the month, then 2 from 8th to 12th, 6 on 13th, with one having a red leg band & anywhere from 2 to 7 there during the rest of the month (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS;GCarp). 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (JKa fide DRBA) & 2 there on 6th (RBHS). 2 at TI on 5th, 1 on 8th, 15th & 19th (NMu). Singles at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (RBHS,WP), Jack Darling Park, *Peel* on 5th (RBHS), at Ajax, *Durham* on 6th (with red leg band) & at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 25th (RPy fide DRBA). 1 at HP on 6th, 2 on 12th & 13th, 1 there on 20th (SMF). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th & 2 there on 12th, 13th & 27th (RBHS,WP). 2 at LSS on 7th (EO'C fide OUTON), 3 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 20th (SMF) & 2 there on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS).

GREEN HERON - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (JDL fide DRBA) and 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 1 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2009)

BLACK VULTURE - 1 AD at TI @ 11:50hrs on 24th [No doc. seen] (NMu,MVL,ICa), flew low overhead, going NNW.

TURKEY VULTURE - 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 10 on 7th, 11 on 10th, 49 on 17th, 42 on 18th, 22 on 27th, 28 on 29th & then 724 seen on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 13 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 5th & 23 on 27th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 19 at Hawk Hill, HP on 24th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & 18 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP).

OSPREY - 8 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 15 on 4th, 5 on 7th & 9th, 6 there on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 5th (NMu), 5 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 13th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP).

BALD EAGLE - 1 AD at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 2nd, 6 (1 AD & 5 SUB) on 5th, 2 (SUB) on 7th, 1 on 12th, 1 (1Y) on 13th, 1 1Y on 14th, 5 (SUB) on 16th, 1 (2Y) on 19th, 2 (AD & SUB) on 25th, 2 (AD & SUB) on 26th & 1 (2Y) on 27th (ISRW, Betsy Smith, fide MDW). A good month for Bald Eagles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* with 1 on 8th, 1 (1Y) on 9th, 1 AD on 11th, 2 (AD & 2Y) on 12th & 2 (3Y & AD0 on 15th. 1 AD on

16th, 2 on 18th, 1 AD on 24th, 3 on 25th, 1 on 26th, 2 on 27th & 2 (1Y & AD) there on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 IMM at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (JKa fide DRBA) & 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 13th (GCarp fide DRBA). 10 at Hawk Hill, HP on 24th & 3 there on 30th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 12 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (CMRW fide DRBA).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 16 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st, 26 on 5th, 11 on 6th & 40 on 16th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 9 reports from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 7 on the 1st, high counts of 59 on 5th, 97 on 15th & 243 on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 154 at Hawk Hill, HP on 13th, 84 on 15th & 83 on 30th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK - 3 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 8th & 12th (SMF), 5 at Hawk Hill, HP on 13th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Lambton Woods on 19th (JBMW,DEB), 5 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th & 6 there on 25th (NMu,MVL). 10 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th & 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 16th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 44 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 5th, 14 on 6th, 16 on 7th, 52 on 12th & 83 on 13th. Then larger numbers were seen with 791 on 14th, 210 on 15th & 224 on 16th, last report was of 79 on 19th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 491 at Hawk Hill, HP on 13th, 480 on 14th, 579 on 15th & 329 on 18th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 59 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th & 293 on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 43 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 13th (GCarp fide DRBA).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 41 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th & 35 there 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN EAGLE - 1 AD at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* @ 14:05hrs on 16th (AA, fide ISRW fide MDW), the earliest fall date ever for this site. 1 JUV there at 14:01hrs on 25th & 1 at 12:05hrs on 26th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 31 at Hawk Hill, HP on 13th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 91 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th, 36 on 14th, 72 on 15th & 39 on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (JKa fide DRBA) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th & 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at TI on 5th (NMu), Reesor Pond, *York* on 7th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 14th (KRS,Linda Shackleton,Linda Wells) (Brydon 2009), Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 19th (JRC,GVR), Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA). 1 at Thicksos Woods, *Durham* on 27th (RBHS,WP) was seen catching dragonflies by making short flights from tip of a tall spruce; then returning to perch to eat them. 1 at Yonge & May Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th & 11th, 2 on 14th & 17th, 1 on 23rd, 4 on 26th & 2 there on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Sun Life Financial Centre on 9th (SCH), 1 at TI on 12th & 2 on 24th (NMu). Singles at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 15th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS), Bloor St & Eagle Rd, Toronto on 19th (SMF) & at Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th & 10th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa) was in patch of goldenrod.

SORA - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 19th (JRC,GVR) & on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MOORHEN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 on 8th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 20th (RPye fide OUTON). 3 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 7th (KRS) (Brydon 2009). 6 (2 AD, 4 juv) at Beaverton R, N of Sunderland, *Durham* & 1 JUV at Cannington S. L., *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP).

AMERICAN COOT - 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th, 3 on 20th & 2 on 27th (RPye fide DRBA).

SANDHILL CRANE - 4 (flying SSW) at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* @ 11:55hrs on 6th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 7 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 2 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), 3 on 6th, 6 on 12th (RBHS,WP) & 5 there on 26th (RPye fide DRBA). 2 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 13th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS).
- KILLDEER - 50+ at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & 16 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 26th (RPye fide DRBA).
- AMERICAN AVOCET** - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), this was the 14th straight day it was observed there. At 12:00hrs on 6th the bird was seen to hit an overhead wire and drop into the water (Alex Adams). It seemed a bit stunned and photo later showed some blood around the bill. However, it later recovered (?) and flew off, but was not reported again.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), 5 at Snider Marsh, Markham, *York* on 5th (SLo fide RBHS) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th (MJCB fide DRBA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 20th (DW) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 6th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 13th & 4 there on 27th (RBHS,WP). 4 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 4 to 7 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* thro' most of the month (RPye fide DRBA). 40+ at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th & 22 there on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).
- RED KNOT - 1 AD at North Is off Eastport Dr., *Halton* from 8th to 11th (CEE fide ONTBIRDS).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 4 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 on 6th & 1 there on 12th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS) & at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER** - 1 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 6th [No doc. seen] (KRS) (Brydon 2009).
- LEAST SANDPIPER – 6 reports from Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* beginning with 23 on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), high count of 37 on 6th (RPye fide DRBA) & last report of 27 on 12th (RBHS,WP).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 7th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - Singles at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 7th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS), at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (JI fide DRBA) & at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 20th (JI,BF).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 6 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 25th & 4 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 26th (RPye fide DRBA).
- DUNLIN - 2 at Hydro Park, *Durham* (BH) & 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* (DW) on 20th. 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 25th (RPye fide DRBA).
- STILT SANDPIPER - 3 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 6th (RBHS,WP), 4 there on 10th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 7th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 14th (KRS,Linda Shackleton,Linda Wells) (Brydon 2009) & 6 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 20th (JI,BF).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - 2 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 7th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 8th (CEE fide ONTBIRDS).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 20th (GCarp).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** - 2 JUV at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (RBHS,WP), initially reported by Gene Denzel as dowitcher sp. [Documented, with photos by WP]. 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 20th [No doc. seen] (GCarp).
- DOWITCHER SP.* - 4 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 20th (GCarp).



Juvenile **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Sobey's Pond, *Durham*, 13 September 2009. Note the bib-like gray neck and breast of the bird (inset), plain tertials, fresh neat upperparts, and broader black tail bars seen on one of the birds. © Winnie Poon.

WILSON'S SNIPE - 12+ at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP fide ONTBIRDS), 5 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 13th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 7th (JLam fide DEP, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th (MJCB fide DRBA).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - 2 JUV at Burlington Beachstrip, *Halton* on 6th (AA) [No doc. seen].

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 460 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th & 490 there on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA). 23 at Cannington S. L., *Durham* on 20th (RBHS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 20th (DW).

CASPIAN TERN - 3 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 20th (GC).

PARASITIC JAEGER - 1 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* @ 11:00hrs on 20th (GC).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 (calling) at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) @ 05:32hrs on 8th (JRC,VC).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at Osler Tract, *Durham* on 20th (BH) & 1 calling at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. @ 02:40hrs on 26th (JRC,VC).

BARRED OWL - 2 at Long Sault C.A., *Durham* on 20th (BH).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 1 on 5th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 5-6 at

Riverdale Farm @ 18:45hrs on 4th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS) & 9 at Major Mackenzie & Dufferin, York @ 19:33hrs on 7th (WP, RBHS), watched 19:30-19:53 but no others seen. 2 at TI on 8th (NMu) & 100+ at HP on 8th (Ardith Ekdahl fide ONTBIRDS), seen between 19:00-19:40hrs.

- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - 24 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 6th, 15 on 12th (RPy fide DRBA), 1 on 25th (JDL fide DRBA) & 2 there on 26th (RPy fide DRBA).
- BELTED KINGFISHER - 4 at TI on 3rd (NMu, MVL).
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - 1 AD at Ward's Island, TI on 8th (NMu), 1 at Darlington P. P., Durham on 14th (G. Vogg fide DRBA), 1 IMM at S of Watson Glen Golf Course, Durham on 20th (GC) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 22nd (Michael Agueci fide ONTBIRDS).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 14th (BB) (Brydon 2009), 2 (M & F) at Lambton Woods on 19th (SMF; JBMW, DEB) & 1 M at HP on 28th (SMF fide ONTBIRDS).
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 12th & 19th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at TI on 15th, 6 on 19th, 13 on 24th & 21 on 25th (NMu, &). 7 at LSS on 26th (JBMW).
- NORTHERN FLICKER - 7 reports of 12 or more from TI from 12th to 25th with highs of 35 on 19th & 24 on 25th (NMu, &). 18 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright; AA).
- PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at 35 Thorncliffe Park Dr. on 12th (ETB), 1 flying W at Baselands, LSS on 12th (Kevin Seymour, Greg Stuart) & 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 14th (BB) (Brydon 2009).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Brookbanks Ravine on 5th (JI).
- EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 4 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th & 4 on 25th (NMu). 1 at Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 2 at TI on 3rd, 1 on 19th & 3 on 24th (NMu, &). 1 at HP on 12th (JBMW, SMF).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - 13 at TI on 5th (NMu).
- EASTERN PHOEBE - 4 at TI on 5th, 18 on 19th, 26 on 24th & 38 on 25th (NMu, &). 9 at Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA).
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 7 at TI on 5th (NMu) & 1 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 20th (GCP).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD - 1 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 2nd (ETB) & 2 at TI on 3rd (NMu, MVL). 1 (very late) at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 3 at TI on 12th & 6 on 19th, 24th & 25th (NMu).
- WARBLING VIREO - 7 at TI on 3rd & 6 on 5th (NMu, MVL).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO - 2 at TI on 5th, 3 on 12th & 5 on 24th (NMu). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 9th & 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Lambton Woods on 19th (JBMW, DEB) & 1 at Ball Rd, Uxbridge, Durham on 20th (RBHS, WP).
- RED-EYED VIREO - 4 at TI on 3rd, 11 on 5th, 6 on 12th & 5 there on 24th (NMu, MVL).
- BLUE JAY - 2130 flying by at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 12th & 355 there on 26th (RPy fide DRBA). 1200 flying W at TI on 15th, 200 on 19th & 2000 on 25th (NMu, &).
- COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., Durham on 6th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) was being mobbed by several American Crows. 2 at Greenwood C.A., Durham from 9th to 11th (CSAM fide OUTON), 1 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 18th (Frank Butson fide OUTON) & 1 at Sideline 12, Pickering, Durham on 20th (ETB).
- TREE SWALLOW - 10 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).
- BARN SWALLOW - 2 at Nonquon S.L., Durham on 26th (MJC B fide DRBA).
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 33 at TI on 3rd & 32 on 5th (NMu, MVL).



Red-eyed Vireo
observed at Ball Road,
Uxbridge, *Durham*,
during the Fall Field
Day on 20 September
2009.

© Winnie Poon

Philadelphica Vireo, also
seen at Ball Road,
Uxbridge, *Durham*, during
the Fall Field Day on 20
September 2009.

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RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 2 (seen regularly through the month) at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill, *York* (DTH) (Brydon 2009). 4 at TI on 15th (NMu).

BROWN CREEPER - 5 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th (NMu,&).

CAROLINA WREN - 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 3rd (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Algonquin Island, TI on 15th (NMu).

WINTER WREN - 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 15th (NMu).

SEDGE WREN - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th (NMu,&) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 19th (JRC,GVR).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th, 24th, 26th, 27th & 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at #2800, Conc 2, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 (early?) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th & 1 on 19th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 9 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th (NMu,&).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 2 at TI on 3rd, 3 on 5th, 21 on 19th, 46 on 24th & 52 there on 25th (NMu,MVL).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 4 at TI on 3rd & 2 on 5th (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 16th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 M at Wagg Rd, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP).

VEERY - 2 at TI on 19th (NMu,&).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 19th (NMu,&), 3 at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 24th (Brett Woodman, Kevin Dance, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 25th (NMu,MVL).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 14 at TI on 5th, 8 on 15th, 41 on 24th & 9 there on 25th (NMu).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Long Sault C.A., *Durham* on 20th (BH).

WOOD THRUSH - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

GRAY CATBIRD - 10 at TI on 17th & 9 on 25th (NMu,MVL). 6 at Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – only 11 reports this month (4 from *Durham*, 7 from *Toronto*).

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 3 at LSS on 7th (EO'C fide OUTON), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th & 16th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 19th (JRC,GVR). 15 at TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 2 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 26th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

CEDAR WAXWING - 100 at TI on 3rd (NMu,MVL) & 1 (orange morph) at Ravenscroft Rd, *Ajax*, *Durham* on 12th (GCarp fide DRBA).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 9 at Ward's Island, TI on 3rd (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, *Ajax*, *Durham* on 12th (GCarp fide DRBA).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & at HP on 25th (SMF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at TI on 24th & 5 on 25th (NMu,&).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th, 26th & 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 11 at TI on 17th, 21 on 19th, 42 on 24th & 19 on 25th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 7th & 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at TI on 12th, 3 on 17th, 4 on 19th, 6 on 24th & 1 there on 25th (NMu). Singles at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 12th (MJCB fide DRBA), Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 16th (BB) (Brydon 2009), Lambton Woods on 19th (JBMW,DEB) & at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (Brett Woodman, Kevin Dance, fide ONTBIRDS). 7 reports from 13th to 29th of singles at HP & 2 there on 25th (SMF fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW WARBLER - Singles at HP on 1st (SMF), Ward's Island, TI on 3rd (NMu,MVL) & at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 7 at TI on 3rd, 7 on 5th & 5 on 12th (NMu).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 26 at TI on 5th & 33 on 24th (NMu). 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th & 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 26th (SMF fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 3 at TI on 5th & 11 on 24th (NMu,&). 2 at Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 18th (BB) (Brydon 2009), 3 (1 M, 2 F) at HP on 24th (SMF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 35 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th & 39 there on 25th (NMu,MVL).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 9 at TI on 12th & 26 on 24th (NMu,&). Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th & 20th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Ball Rd, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 5 at TI on 3rd & 6 on 5th (NMu,&). 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 11th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

PINE WARBLER - 2 at TI on 15th (NMu) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PALM WARBLER - 2 at TI on 12th, 6 on 15th, 24 on 19th, 46 on 24th & 43 on 25th (NMu,&). 30 at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 24th (Brett Woodman, Kevin Dance, fide ONTBIRDS), along Waterfront Trail.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 11 at TI on 12th, 5 on 19th & 4 on 24th (NMu).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 5 at TI on 5th (NMu), 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 16 at TI on 3rd, 28 on 5th & 24 on 12th (NMu). 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).

OVENBIRD - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 25th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 3 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 10th (ETB). 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 12th & 15th (NMu).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th, 1 1Y-M on 24th & 1 AD-M there on 25th (NMu,&).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 6 at TI on 15th & 5 there on 24th (NMu,&).

WILSON'S WARBLER – 7 reports from TI beginning with 8 on 3rd, a high count of 19 on 5th & last report was of 3 there on 24th (NMu,&).

CANADA WARBLER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 27th (JDL fide DRBA). 2 at TI on 3rd, 1 on 15th & 2 there on 17th (NMu,&).

SCARLET TANAGER - 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 12th (GCarp fide DRBA) & 1 at TI on 12th (NMu fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Osler Tract, *Durham* on 20th (BH) & 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 26th (AA).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 5 at Wagg Rd, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP); 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th (AA fide NMu).

FIELD SPARROW - 4 at Cannington Sewage Lagoons, *Durham* on 20th (RBHS,WP), 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 25th (NMu,MVL), 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

VESPER SPARROW - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 34 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th & 19 on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).



Several young fall **Savannah Sparrows** with buffy face, breast and flanks lingered at Reesor Pond, York, on 13 September 2009. After mid-September it would be difficult to separate the young from the adults. © Winnie Poon.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

NELSON'S SPARROW - 1 at CSSP on 19th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS).

SONG SPARROW - 12 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th, 31 on 24th & 24 there on 25th (NMu,&). 9 at Paisley Lane, Uxbridge, Durham on 20th (RBHS,WP).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 15th, 11 on 19th, 16 on 24th & 4 there on 25th (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Paisley Lane, Uxbridge, Durham (RBHS,WP) on 20th.

SWAMP SPARROW - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 19th, 8 on 24th & 17 on 25th (NMu,&).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 100 at TI on 19th, 200 on 24th & 400 on 25th (NMu,&).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 12 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th & 100 there on 25th (NMu,MVL). 6 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, York on 15th (BB) (Brydon 2009), 1 at HP on 19th & 2 there on 25th (SMF). 13 at TI on 19th, 38 on 24th & 56 there on 25th (NMu,&).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBREAK - 1 IMM at Graydon Property, Humber Grove, Peel on 12th (PG) (Brydon 2009) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 19th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Conc 2, S of Hwy 47, Uxbridge, Durham on 20th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Ball Rd, Uxbridge, Durham on 20th (RBHS,WP).

INDIGO BUNTING - 1 at HP on 5th, 18th, 20th & 21st (SMF). 3 at Heber Down C. A., Durham on 12th (AA).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 635 at Scugog Line 14 Bridge, Reach Marsh, *Durham* @ 10:40hrs on 20th (RBHS,WP), flocks of up to 200 all through this area.

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

COMMON GRACKLE - 125 at Lambton Woods on 19th (JBMW,DEB).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 3rd & 2 there on 5th (NMu).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 F at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 2nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE SISKIN - 1 at @ a feeder in Whitevale, *Durham* on 20th (ETB).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 43 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; OFO Ontario Field Ornithologists; AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BB Bruce Brydon; DEB Donald E. Burton; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; VC Victoria Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; RDC Robert D. Cumming; HC Hugh Currie; KDu Keith Dunn; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; TOC-FRU TOC Fall Roundup; BF Bruce Falls; SMF Steven Favier; PG Phyllis Graydon; HCH Hawk Cliff Hawkwatch; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; DTH Doris Hofmann; JI Jean Iron; JKa James Kamstra; JLam John Lamey; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; FP Frank Pinilla; GCP Gavin C. Platt; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; GVR Garth Riley; KRS Kevin Shackleton; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCES:

Brydon, B. 2009. August - September 2009 Bird Sightings. WHNC Newsletter :7-8, October 2009.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 1179 reports were added to the database for September 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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TOC Fall Field Day 20 September 2009



Fall Field Day round-up at the new venue at Uxbridge, *Durham*, 20 September 2009, sponsored by participants (left to right): Kim Baker (hostess), Brian Henshaw, Dave Worthington (hidden), Mary Beth Worthington, Gavin Platt, Jean Iron, Bruce Falls, Hugh Currie, Eleanor Beagan, Winnie Poon, Roy Smith, Barbara Kalthoff (hidden), Joan Winearls, and Geoff Carpentier. © Glenn Coady.

<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>1</u>	Pied-billed Grebe	20
Canada Goose	1764	Double-crested Cormorant	270
Mute Swan	<u>93</u>	American Bittern	<u>3</u>
Trumpeter Swan	<u>13</u>	Great Blue Heron	51
Wood Duck	<u>118</u>	Great Egret	<u>16</u>
Gadwall	47	Green Heron	2
American Wigeon	<u>178</u>	Black-crowned Night-Heron	5
American Black Duck	13	Turkey Vulture	<u>100</u>
Mallard	814	Osprey	2
Blue-winged Teal	18	Northern Harrier	10
Northern Shoveler	30	Sharp-shinned Hawk	12
Northern Pintail	3	Cooper's Hawk	6
Green-winged Teal	193	Broad-winged Hawk	15
Ring-necked Duck	41	Red-tailed Hawk	21
Lesser Scaup	<u>40</u>	American Kestrel	11
White-winged Scoter	1	Merlin	6
Long-tailed Duck	1	Sora	1
Bufflehead	2	Common Moorhen	10
Hooded Merganser	1	Black-bellied Plover	3
Red-breasted Merganser	5	Semipalmated Plover	13
<i>merganser sp.</i>	5	Killdeer	143
Wild Turkey	3	Spotted Sandpiper	2
Common Loon	3	Solitary Sandpiper	2

Greater Yellowlegs	7
Lesser Yellowlegs.....	54
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1
Least Sandpiper	23
Baird's Sandpiper	1
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	16
Dunlin.....	3
Stilt Sandpiper	6
Short-billed Dowitcher	1
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	1
<i>dowitcher sp.</i>	4
Wilson's Snipe.....	2
Bonaparte's Gull	624
Ring-billed Gull.....	1429
Herring Gull.....	60
Great Black-backed Gull	3
Caspian Tern.....	7
Parasitic Jaeger	1
Rock Pigeon.....	221
Mourning Dove	298
Eastern Screech-Owl	2
Great Horned Owl	3
Barred Owl	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	14
Belted Kingfisher.....	13
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	9
Downy Woodpecker.....	16
Hairy Woodpecker.....	6
Northern Flicker	36
Pileated Woodpecker.....	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee.....	2
<i>Trail's Flycatcher</i>	1
Eastern Phoebe	12
Great Crested Flycatcher	1
Warbling Vireo.....	2
Philadelphia Vireo	2
Red-eyed Vireo.....	10
Blue Jay	1921
American Crow	302
Common Raven	2
Horned Lark.....	2
Tree Swallow.....	2
Black-capped Chickadee	350
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	16
White-breasted Nuthatch	16
Brown Creeper.....	1
Carolina Wren	1
House Wren.....	3
Winter Wren.....	4
Marsh Wren.....	3

Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	7
Eastern Bluebird	7
Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	1
Swainson's Thrush	6
Hermit Thrush.....	1
American Robin.....	287
Gray Catbird	27
Northern Mockingbird	4
European Starling	1345
American Pipit	5
Cedar Waxwing	36
Nashville Warbler.....	7
Northern Parula.....	9
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3
Magnolia Warbler.....	10
Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	13
Black-throated Green Warbler.....	8
Pine Warbler	1
Palm Warbler	11
Blackpoll Warbler.....	8
Black-and-white Warbler.....	2
American Redstart	7
Ovenbird	4
Northern Waterthrush	1
Common Yellowthroat	33
Wilson's Warbler	5
Scarlet Tanager	2
Chipping Sparrow.....	25
Field Sparrow	4
Savannah Sparrow	7
Song Sparrow	106
Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Swamp Sparrow.....	46
White-throated Sparrow.....	100
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	3
Northern Cardinal	48
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Indigo Bunting	2
Red-winged Blackbird	1437
Eastern Meadowlark	1
Rusty Blackbird	1
Common Grackle.....	292
Brown-headed Cowbird.....	3
House Finch.....	13
Pine Siskin	1
American Goldfinch	227
House Sparrow	67

Arguably, in ecology one of the most valuable scientific contributions that citizens can make is the provision of long-term data sets. Long-term data can be difficult to garner in academia where studies often revolve around student timetables and also the drive to publish. Moreover, too often our personal perspectives and points of reference reflect our personal lifetime of experience, such that the conditions and norms of our earlier years become the collective standard against which we

measure change. Consistently-collected long-term data can help address the bias in the way that we perceive change over time.

The TOC Fall Field Day has been undertaken in roughly the same area since 1934 (presence/absence) and since 1991 with most species counted. This remarkable (almost unique) data set will be a valuable tool for future researchers and is well worth maintaining for that reason alone.

In 2009, the tradition in Durham Region was continued in parallel with another group of TOC observers which embarked upon an expanded area that is reported elsewhere. Some observers contributed to both data sets. A slightly later date than the last two years (and the latest since 1947) saw approximately 23 observers contributing data to the Durham count. The day was clear and sunny with temperatures starting at 1C° and reaching 22C°, with light southeast winds and good visibility.

There were eighteen record-high counts and one new species for the count – Cackling Goose, a recent taxonomic split from Canada Goose. With this the cumulative species count advanced to 248. Interestingly, twelve of these record-high counts were of larger species, only three were of small species. Larger species tend to be habitat generalists; smaller species tend to occupy narrower ecological niches.

The combined species count was 145, a good effort but well-short of the record 164 of September 12, 1993. The highest team effort (Baker and Henshaw) was a moderate 104; several other teams were also in the 90s.

Hérons and bitterns showed better than in recent years led by a record-high count of the generally increasing and abundant North American species the Great Egret. Twenty waterfowl species may have been a record also; the first black and whites appeared, while some dabblers were still in high numbers prior to the opening of the hunting season.

One hundred Turkey Vultures reflected that species' continued success, perhaps reflective of climate change, adaptation to human-dominated environments and the availability of abundant road-kills of abundant human near-commensal species such as Raccoon and Striped Skunk. Within one human lifetime this vulture has gone from very rare to common; as recently as 1990 the species was missed on the count.

Shorebirds were confined to some marginal habitat at Frenchman's Bay, Lynde Marsh and a few other spots. Key shorebird locations such as Corner Marsh, Cranberry Marsh and Oshawa Second Marsh no longer provide for the hundreds (perhaps thousands) of migrants that they once did, due in a major part to habitat "improvement" projects. It is time that existing attributes, like habitat for migrant shorebirds, be fully considered when habitat improvements are postulated. Sixteen species and about 260 individuals compares unfavourably to a

more usual 20 species and >500 individuals of the recent past.

A Parasitic Jaeger on Lake Ontario was an exciting find and only the second ever on the count. Migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were peaking with over 600 recorded, mostly from the Lake Scugog area.

Three species of owls were recorded included two each of Eastern Screech and Barred; both at breeding locations. One of the now rare Red-headed Woodpecker was seen along Regional Road 23; the first on the count in 15 years. A few pairs still breed sporadically in the Region, but the species has declined sharply over the past two decades.

A record-high count of chickadees may have been more date-related as fall flocks become more organized. However, the strangely cyclical White-breasted Nuthatch may be on one of its peaks with a record high count.

A Carolina Wren at Petticoat Creek was noteworthy; this remains a scarce or rare species in Durham, despite recent successful breeding as far north as Uxbridge. Marsh Wrens lingered while the first Winter Wrens were pushing south. At Glen Major, Eastern Bluebirds were still foraging over open grasslands.

Gray Catbirds, shrub specialists, were apparently doing well as successional habitats at many regularly-birded areas presented optimal habitat (e.g., Corner Marsh, Second Marsh, Darlington Nuclear Generating Station), while American Robins, presumably doing well in a second consecutive wet summer, were at a second consecutive record-high 287.

Warblers were represented by a rather low 16 species, and a low 132 individuals (and this was propped up by 33 Common Yellowthroat). Nine Northern Parulas was a highlight, and the second-highest count after 19 in 2007.

Perhaps surprisingly a single Pine Siskin was all that remained of the breeding season invasion.

Thanks to participants for attending the round-up in Uxbridge that enabled the numbers to be tabulated, and thanks as usual to Hugh Currie for the colour commentary and maintaining the database.

Other Observations

Mammals: Short-tailed Shrew 1; Striped Skunk 2; Red Squirrel 10, Gray Squirrel 24, Eastern Chipmunk 30, Eastern Cottontail 5; Muskrat 1; Red Fox 1; White-tailed Deer 3.

Herps: Spring Peeper 4, Northern Leopard Frog 22, Midland Painted Turtle 26.

Lepidoptera: Monarch 36 (low), Least Skipper 1, Orange Sulphur 9, Clouded Sulphur 121, Viceroy 1, Cabbage White 20, Red Admiral 1.

Odonates: Many hundreds of Green Darner on the move, also other Aeschna darners. Black-tipped Darner 1; several meadowhawk spp.; 12-spotted Skimmer.

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TOC Fall Roundup 20 September 2009

For the 2009 Fall Field Day, the traditional Durham activities were augmented by groups covering four other GTA locations.

Fifteen participants, led by John Carley, birded the Leslie Street Spit, and identified a total of 53 species (Table 1), a relatively low total for a typical fall day at the Spit, perhaps due to the prevailing calm weather conditions preceding and during the day itself. Highlights among the ducks included 70 Green-winged Teal and four Redhead, a species not reported anywhere else during the day. Both Great Egret and Green Heron were seen, and an American Woodcock was a notable sighting for one participant after she had left the rest of the group.

Garth Riley guided 13 observers around High Park and, after lunch, to Rattray Marsh in Mississauga. Sightings at High Park included 30 Wood Ducks, several males of which were back into full breeding plumage after their eclipse plumage stage. Several raptor species were highlighted by an Osprey fly-over. Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered at High Park. Nine species of warbler were identified there, including a Northern Waterthrush perched atypically high over a ravine for one of the sightings of the day. Eight species of warbler were seen at the woodlands near the entrance to Rattray Marsh, yielding a combined total of 15 on the day. Rattray Marsh also provided a strong selection of shorebirds, with 57 individuals seen from 8 different species, including a lone Pectoral Sandpiper. An Eastern Screech-Owl surprised the group by calling during the early afternoon; however, this was not as much of a surprise as the green Budgerigar seen on a low branch adjacent to a path in High Park. This bird was not included within the 83 species tallied for the two combined locations.

Other observations were received from Toronto Islands, but are not included in Table 1 because actual counts were not provided. However, they added the only records of Least Flycatcher and Dark-eyed Junco for the day, amongst 40 species seen, making an overall total of 98 species.

It is hoped that the increased level of participation will be maintained into future years, thus helping to maintain the vitality of the Fall Field Day tradition. Sincere appreciation is expressed to Garth Riley and John Carley for facilitating the expanded format by agreeing to act as route leaders. Many thanks to Victoria and John Carley for hosting the well-attended round-up at the end of the day. And thanks to the Records Committee for making Table 1 from the data provided.

Table 1. Species counts by site – Toronto and Peel

SPECIES	Leslie Street Spit	High Park	Rattray Marsh
Canada Goose	60	107	6
Mute Swan	14	4	
Wood Duck		30	2
Gadwall	167	2	22
American Black Duck	3		
Mallard	71	72	16
Blue-winged Teal	1		
Northern Shoveler	8	2	
Green-winged Teal	70		12
Redhead	4		
Lesser Scaup	9		
Hooded Merganser	3		
Common Merganser			1
Common Loon	2	1	

SPECIES	Leslie Street Spit	High Park	Ratray Marsh
Red-necked Grebe			94
Double-crested Cormorant	12	6	6
Great Blue Heron	2	3	2
Great Egret	1	1	4
Green Heron	1		
Black-crowned Night-Heron			1
Turkey Vulture			2
Osprey		1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	
Cooper's Hawk		1	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	
American Kestrel		1	
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	
Semipalmated Plover			4
Killdeer	2		37
Spotted Sandpiper	2		2
Solitary Sandpiper			3
Lesser Yellowlegs			2
Semipalmated Sandpiper			2
Least Sandpiper			6
Pectoral Sandpiper			1
American Woodcock	1		
Ring-billed Gull	3	18	60
Herring Gull	3	1	2
Caspian Tern	1		
Rock Pigeon	13	106	
Mourning Dove	4	3	
Eastern Screech-Owl			1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		3	
Belted Kingfisher	4		1
Downy Woodpecker	1	8	2
Hairy Woodpecker		3	
Northern Flicker	8	8	
Eastern Wood-Pewee		1	
Eastern Phoebe	2	3	
Blue-headed Vireo		3	1
Warbling Vireo	1	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	1	1	1
Blue Jay	42	117	2
American Crow		2	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	88	8
Red-breasted Nuthatch		2	
White-breasted Nuthatch		12	
Brown Creeper		1	
Carolina Wren			1
Winter Wren	1		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		4	
Swainson's Thrush	1	2	

SPECIES	Leslie Street Spit	High Park	Rattray Marsh
American Robin	1	16	
Gray Catbird	5	1	
European Starling	48	153	
Cedar Waxwing	11	10	2
Orange-crowned Warbler			1
Nashville Warbler	2	3	3
Northern Parula		1	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			2
Magnolia Warbler	1	2	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1		1
Black-throated Green Warbler		2	
Blackburnian Warbler			1
Pine Warbler		2	
Palm Warbler	2		
Bay-breasted Warbler	1		
Blackpoll Warbler		1	
Black-and-white Warbler		2	
American Redstart	2		1
Northern Waterthrush		1	
Common Yellowthroat	3	2	
Wilson's Warbler			1
Chipping Sparrow		9	
Song Sparrow	7		
Lincoln's Sparrow			1
White-throated Sparrow	4	20	4
Northern Cardinal	1	9	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		1	
Indigo Bunting		1	
Red-winged Blackbird			1
Common Grackle		7	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		
House Finch		1	
American Goldfinch	11	20	
House Sparrow		44	
Budgerigar *		1	
Total Species Seen	53	59	45
Number of Participants	15	13	11

* Not included in total.

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