



TORONTO BIRDS

Volume 3 Number 9
November 2009



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



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COVER PHOTO

Juvenile **White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*), Whitby Harbour, *Durham*, 3 October 2009. See pages 204 -210 for a detailed account of this sighting.

Photo © Joe Noordman.

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 – OCTOBER 2009

The following are largely unchecked reports, not authenticated records. County/Region codes used in the *database* are: MT = City of Toronto; HL = Halton R.M.; PL = Peel R.M.; YO = York R.M.; DU = Durham R.M.; LO = Lake Ontario Pelagic, but full names are provided in the Report, except for locations within City of Toronto. Frequently cited place names in Toronto are abbreviated as follows: CSSP = Colonel Sam Smith Park; HP = High Park; HBP = Humber Bay Park (E or W); LSS = Leslie Street Spit; TI = Toronto Islands. Other abbreviations: HRF, DRF, YRF = Halton, Durham and York Regional Forests, respectively. TBO = Toronto Bird Observatory; TTPBRS = Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station.

Species names in **bold, underlined BLOCK CAPITALS** are OBRC rarities. These reports require acceptance by OBRC before they can be considered as part of the local records. They are qualified by [Documentation received] or [No documentation received], as applicable.

Species names in **bold** (but not underlined) are local rarities within the GTA. These reports require documentation and acceptance by the Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC) before they can be considered as valid records. They are qualified by [Documentation received] or [No documentation received], as applicable.

Individual species **marked *** or **specific reports marked *** indicate unusual local observations for which documentation is requested by TBRC and/or TOC Records Committee by virtue of rarity, difficulty of ID, extreme dates (early, late, unseasonal) or high counts.

Species names in [square brackets] indicate reports believed to relate to escaped or released birds, or to introduced birds which have not yet become established.

Names in *ITALICS* indicate subspecies, hybrids, morphs or other 'recognizable forms', which may be identifiable in the field. This does not necessarily imply that the compilers agree with such designations, or accept their validity.

SNOW GOOSE - 4 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 4th & 8th, 11 all blue morph (incl. 2imm) there on 22nd (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 there on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 22nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (1 blue, 1 white) at Coronation St & Taunton Rd, Whitby, *Durham* on 23rd (GCarp fide DRBA), 14 (all blue) flying over Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th & 25 flying over St. Clair Reservoir Park on 26th (Tim Foran fide ONTBIRDS).

ROSS'S GOOSE - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* @ 12:00hrs on 8th [No doc. seen] (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 AD at Bayly St & Shoal Pt Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 15th (JES fide RPye), seen in am while driving to Cranberry Marsh hawkwatch; still there on return in pm so stopped to photograph it. Only later (2 Nov 2009) realized it might be a Ross's Goose. 1 JUV at Lynde Shores C. A. (S end of Lynde Creek Marsh), *Durham* on 17th [No doc. seen] (AA fide ONTBIRDS).



Adult **Ross's Goose** at Bayly Street and Shoal Point Road, Ajax, *Durham*, 15 October 2009. © Jim Skene.

BRANT - 6 (3 AD, 3 imm) at Ajax Waterfront Park, *Durham* on 30th (Lisa Klue fide Gcarp; GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). The 6 were seen again there at 16:15hrs on 31st (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) having not been present at 13:05hrs.



Five of the **Brant** (2 adults, 3 juveniles) that frequented Ajax Waterfront Park, *Durham*, 31 October 2009. © Lev Frid.

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 1 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 18th (HC fide RPye). 1 flying S with CAGE at HP on 13th (NMu). 5 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 19th & 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & again on 25th (NMu,ICa).

CANADA GOOSE - 600 at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 1500 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 25th (NMu,ICa).

MUTE SWAN - 48 at TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel) & 58 there on 8th (NMu,ICa). 72 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP), 62 on 17th (AA) & 48 on 18th (RBHS,WP). 20 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 18th (RBHS,WP).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th, 4 (2 AD, 2 juv; 1 ad w tag #A71) on 15th, 2 (1 w tag #A71) AD on 16th & 5 (2 AD, 3 juv) on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 16 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA), 2 (tags 155 & H10) at Sunnyside on 18th (anon fide OUTON) & 4 at Causeway, LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

WOOD DUCK - 2 at LSS on 3rd (AA), 18 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (WP), 3 at TI on 8th (NMu,ICa) & 14 at HP on 24th (SMF).

GADWALL - 31 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* & 21 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP). 34 at LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 42 there on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 40 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 35 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 25th (NMu,ICa).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 60 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (RPye fide DRBA), 46 on 10th (RBHS,WP) & 55 on 15th (RPye fide DRBA). 164 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA), 16 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (RBHS) & 41 at LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 6 at CSSP on 18th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 on 26th (SCH). 5 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 11 on 25th (NMu,ICa). 100 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (THo fide DRBA).

MALLARD - 258 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 9th (RBHS,WP) & 250 there on 25th (NMu,ICa).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 2 at TI on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour), 30 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (AA).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 12 at HBP [E] on 1st (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 30 at LSS on 3rd (AA) & 3 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (RBHS). 2 F at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP), 4 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009), 6 at Rotary Park, Ajax, *Durham* on 17th (AA) & 4 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 18th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 16 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (RPye fide DRBA), 7 on 10th (RBHS,WP), 17 on 15th & 13 there on 22nd (RPye fide DRBA). 2 (M & F) at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (RBHS) & 3 at Bay D, LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 11 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (RBHS), 67 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 38 at Bay D, LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

CANVASBACK - 7 at TI on 1st (AA), 3 on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour) & on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

REDHEAD - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA). 2 at Snake Island, TI on 14th (NMu, ICa,MVL) & 4 at Trout Pond, TI on 24th (AA). 150 at Cell #3, LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP), 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 4 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

GREATER SCAUP - 300 at Cell #3, LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

LESSER SCAUP - 373 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 18 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (RBHS).

SURF SCOTER - 3 IMM at LSS on 17th (RJF,WHNC) (Fleming 2009) & 3 at Bay 'B', LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 1 at Pier, TI on 24th (AA).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 3 at Pier, TI on 24th (AA).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 Off Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 27th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 100 flying over at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 22nd (GCarp fide DRBA) & 500 at LSS (harbour side) on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

BUFFLEHEAD - 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 3 at TI on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 100 at Cell #3, LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

HOODED MERGANSER - 2 at HBP [W] on 1st (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at LSS on 3rd (AA), 14 on 11th (RBHS) & 29 there on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 7 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 9th, 13 on 10th, 5 on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 4 on 25th (NMu,ICa). 26 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (THo fide DRBA).

COMMON MERGANSER - 1 at Cell #3, LSS on 11th (RBHS) & 29 at LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 6 at LSS on 3rd (AA). 22 at Gibraltar Point, TI on 20th (NMu,MVL) & 500 at West Beach, TI on 27th (NMu). 2500 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUFFED GROUSE - 3 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

WILD TURKEY - 20 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 29th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

RED-THROATED LOON - 2 at Gibraltar Point, TI on 24th (AA).

COMMON LOON - 11 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* @ 16:25hrs on 10th (RBHS,WP) & 16 (including 1 dead) at Gibraltar Point, TI on 24th (AA). 16 at S Shore L. Simcoe, *York* on 25th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 14 at West Beach, TI on 27th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Trout Pond, TI on 1st & 14th (NMu,ICa). 3 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (DW fide DRBA), 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA), 2 at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 14th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 25th (DW). 1 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED GREBE - 2 at Long Branch Park @ 14:45hrs on 4th (RBHS,WP).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 11 at Lakeview Promenade & 14 at Long Branch Park on 4th (RBHS,WP). 1 at CSSP (W side) on 4th (RBHS,WP) & 5 at Gibraltar Point, TI on 24th (AA).

AMERICAN BITTERN - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 8th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st, 28th & 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 28 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (WP).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at HBP [W] on 1st (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 4th (DW fide DRBA), 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (WP) & 2 there on 10th (RBHS,WP). 7 at Valley Inn, *Halton* on 6th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 9th & 10th (RBHS,WP). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th, 5 on 10th & 11th, 1 on 15th & 16th, 4 on 22nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (WP).

WHITE IBIS - 1 JUV at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 3rd (Harvey Gold fide RPy, fide DRBA), found at 11:00hrs and well-photographed. Photos are posted at: www.pixel-shooooter.com/forum/showthread.php?t=23110. It flew off to E at 12:00hrs, according to Dan Kaczynski; he and Karl Jennewein are considered the finders (RPy). It was reported again there 15:30hrs and was well photographed (Joe Noordman fide RPy) and then seen flying off to S at about 15:30hrs.

TURKEY VULTURE - 12 at Sunnylea School, Etobicoke on 1st (SCH), 21 at HP on 4th (SMF), 13 at Humber Arboretum on 4th (RBHS,WP) & 17 at Royal York Rd @ Glenroy on 14th (SCH). 399 at Hawk Hill, High Park on 10th and 753 there on 11th (GTRW website). 529 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th & 321 on 11th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA). 690 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th, 460 on 13th, 69 on 16th & 25 on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - 1 flying over at HP (Bloor St not Hawk Hill) on 5th (NMu), 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th & 1 there on 18th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

BALD EAGLE - 1 JUV at West Beach, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel). 2 (1 1Y, 1 AD) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 1 on 3rd, 2 AD on 10th, 4 (incl. 1 AD) on 11th, 5 (incl 1 AD) on 13th, 3 (1 AD, 2 juv) on 14th, 1 IMM at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th & 2 1Y there on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st, 9 on 10th & 1 on 11th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 11 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Castlederg Rd., *Peel* on 16th (PG) (Brydon 2009).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 43 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th, 181 on 10th & 83 on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 85 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK - 3 at TI on 1st & 3 on 14th (NMu,ICa,&). Singles at East Mall N of Bloor St. on 4th (RBHS,WP), Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 10th (RBHS,WP) & at Brookbanks Ravine on 28th (RJP). 10 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th, 1 on 12th, 2 on 14th, 1 on 24th & 1 on 25th (CMRW fide JDL, fide DRBA). 1 IMM at HP on 24th (SMF), 1 JUV at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 25th (RMGRW fide RJP) & 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 25th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 JUV at Melville Pond, *York* @16:30hrs on 30th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), in a ravine at W end; it caught several voles in 1 hr.! 2 photos posted on Flickr.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 9 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th, 3 on 11th & 15 on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 530 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th, 61 on 15th, 48 on 17th, 47 on 18th & 11 on 26th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 148 at Hawk Hill, High Park on 14th (GTRW website). 13 at St Clair Reservoir Park on 27th (Tim Foran fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 3(dark morph) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th & 1(dark) on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN EAGLE - 1 JUV at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th & 5 (1 sub AD @ 10:35; 3 JUV @ 12:20; 1 sub AD @ 12:40) on 25th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 1Y at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 JUV at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (GC) & 1 JUV at Rosetta McClain Gardens @ 14:10hrs on 25th (RMGRW fide RJP).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 63 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN – Singles at LSS on 3rd (AA), Island Airport, TI on 8th (NMu,ICa) & at Leslie & Gorham St., *York* on 9th (KRS) (Brydon 2009). 3 at TI on 10th (NMu, ICa,MVL).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 4th (ISRW fide DRBA). 1 at on 8th (NMu,ICa), 2 on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour), 2 (wading in water!) on 20th (NMu,MVL & 2 again there on 24th (AA). 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009), 1 at Pickering GO Station, *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide DRBA), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (CMRW fide JDL, fide DRBA) & 2 at St Clair Reservoir Park on 26th (Tim Foran fide ONTBIRDS).



Immature **Northern Goshawk** at Melville Pond, *York*, 30 October 2009, hunting voles. © Lev Frid.

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th, 10th, 11th & 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT - 1 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 7th, 15th & 22nd (RPye fide DRBA). Singles at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA), Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 11th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & at Triangle Pond, LSS on 11th (RBHS). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th (AA;RBHS,WP) & 2 there on 14th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 60 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (THo fide DRBA).

SANDHILL CRANE - 3 flying W at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (ISRW, AA fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 1 JUV at Parr Ave, Bolton, *Peel* on 14th (DJM), 17th & 18th (PG) (Brydon 2009). 2 at LSS on 17th (RJF,WHNC) (Fleming 2009), 3 JUV at Gibraltar Point, TI on 24th (AA) & 11 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 1 JUV at West Beach, TI on 1st (AA) & 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 12th (SLo). 2 JUV at Parr Ave, Bolton, *Peel* on 14th (DJM) (Brydon 2009) & 1 there on 17th (PG) (Brydon 2009).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 3 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 16th (DW fide DRBA).

KILLDEER - 19 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 16th (DW,RPye, fide DRBA).

AMERICAN AVOCET - 9 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* @ 14:00hrs on 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & still there 18:15hrs [No doc. seen] (THo fide DRBA). 8 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on

29th (JCS fide ONTBIRDS) & on 31st (RPy fide ONTBIRDS).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 14th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 2 at Vandorf SR, York on 4th (RJF) (Brydon 2009) & 1 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 8th (RPy fide DRBA). 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 9th (RBHS,WP), 3 on 10th (AA) & 1 there on 18th (RBHS,WP). 2 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., Durham on 10th (AA), 3 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 17th (AA), 3 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, Durham on 17th (AA), 2 there on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 5 at Corner Marsh, Durham on 24th (GCarp fide DRBA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 30 at Hydro Park, Durham & 30 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 4th (DW fide DRBA). 12 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 8th (RPy fide DRBA), 11 on 16th (DW,RPy, fide DRBA) & 1 on 18th (RBHS). 7 at Nonquon S.L., Durham on 10th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 5 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, Durham on 10th (RBHS). 7 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, Durham on 17th (AA), 2 there on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 25th (JDL fide DRBA).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - 1 JUV first reported at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, Durham on 27th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & seen again there from 28th to 30th (m. obs).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 2 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 4th (DW fide DRBA) & on 8th (RPy fide DRBA), 4 there on 16th (DW,RPy, fide DRBA) & 1 on 17th (AA). 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 13th & 14th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, Durham on 28th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 3 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 16th (DW,RPy, fide DRBA) & 17th (AA), 1 there on 29th (RPy fide DRBA).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), according to Stan Long, Ron Stevenson of Pickering Nats has photos. 1 again there on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), different bird from the one on 17th (according to SLo).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 10 at Hydro Park, Durham on 4th (DW fide DRBA) & 11 on 17th (AA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Reesor Pond, York on 12th (SLo) & 2 at Parr Ave, Bolton, Peel on 14th (DJM) (Brydon 2009). 20 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 16th (DW,RPy, fide DRBA) & 10 on 17th (AA).

DUNLIN - 9 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 11th (RPy fide DRBA). 4 at Reesor Pond, York on 12th, 1 on 14th & 2 on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 21 at Frenchman's Bay, Durham on 16th (DW,RPy, fide DRBA), 35 on 17th (AA) & 61 on 29th (RPy fide DRBA). 6 at Lynde Shores C. A., Durham on 16th (DW fide DRBA) & 2 on 17th (AA). 3 at LSS on 17th (RJF,WHNC) (Fleming 2009), 4 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, Durham on 17th (AA), 5 there on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, Durham on 18th (RBHS,WP).

STILT SANDPIPER - 10 at Valley Inn, Halton on 6th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., Durham on 16th (DW fide DRBA) & on 17th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - 1 at Hydro Park, Durham on 4th [No doc. seen] (DW fide DRBA), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham on 17th [No doc. seen] (J. Munroe fide DRBA) & 1 at Corner Marsh, Durham on 24th [No doc. seen] (GCarp fide DRBA).

WILSON'S SNIPER - 7 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, Halton on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 or 2 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 5 dates from 10th to 25th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 1 at Reesor Pond, York on 9th & 2 at Oshawa Harbour, Durham on 10th (RBHS,WP). 20 at Holland Landing S.L., York on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 5 at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-BILLED GULL - 465 at Oshawa Harbour, Durham on 10th (RBHS,WP).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 1W at LSS on 3rd (AA).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 2W at Cranberry Marsh, Durham on 17th (GC,BH,RPy).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 2 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 25th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at Yonge N of Queensville SR, *York* on 15th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

BARRED OWL - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th (GC,&) was seen hunting and catching a garter snake. It was seen again there on 29th (GC) hunting in his yard when he got home in the evening.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – 1 on private industrial land west of Thicksons Rd., *Durham* on 27th (Ken Dance fide Brett Woodman, fide ONTBIRDS). Had a rodent in its claws. Digiscoped.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (ISRW, AA fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 11th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA). 1 at Lambton Golf and Country Club 15:00hrs on 16th (AW), flying around crowns of some large oaks; rather chilly 5C.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - 1 AD-M at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel) & 1 M at Peninsula D, LSS on 11th (Mark Field, RBHS, WP), identified as male by white in outer tail; visible at rest.



This **Whip-poor-will** was found by Mark Field at the Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, 11 October 2009. The second record ever for the Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station.
© Winnie Poon.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - 1 JUV at N end Halls Rd., *Durham* on 10th (A. Woods fide DRBA) & again at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 JUV at Hanlan's Point, TI on 27th (NMu).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at feeder at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill, *York* on 13th (DJ fide GDe) & 1 coming to peanut feeder at Kingston Rd & Lee Ave on 18th (anon fide OUTON). 1 M at HP on 13th, 20th, 24th, 26th & 27th (SMF). 1 at Rattray Marsh on 25th (BPB fide OUTON).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 21 at TI on 1st, 11 on 8th & 8 on 10th (NMu,ICa,&). 1 at Maple Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* from 11th to 13th (GEL) (Brydon 2009).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 9 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 20th (NMu,MVL) & 3 at LSS on 25th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 18 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel).

PILEATED WOODPECKER – Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), Deer Park & Heath St (Yonge & St Clair area) on 19th (D. Muirhead fide OUTON) & at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 29th (JLo) (Brydon 2009).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 2 at HP on 2nd (SMF).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 56 at TI on 1st, 8 on 8th, 74 (most around airport fence) on 10th, 84 (4th highest GTA count in database) on 14th & 19 there on 20th (NMu,MVL). 5 at McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 10th & 9 at LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP).

WESTERN KINGBIRD - 1 AD at S end Island Airport fence, TI @ 11:45hrs on 10th [No doc. seen] (NMu,ICa,MVL).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 1 (v. late) at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 10th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (JDL fide DRBA).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - 1 at LSS on 3rd (AA), near van turnaround; sang several times, also seen briefly.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 2 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (DW fide DRBA), 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 11th (RBHS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Humber Arboretum on 13th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 1 at HP on 19th (SMF).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, *Ajax*, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA).

RED-EYED VIREO - 1 seen at HP on most days from 1st to 8th (SMF). 1 at CSSP on 8th (SMF), 2 at TI on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour), 1 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, *Ajax*, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide DRBA).

BLUE JAY - 250 flying west at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st & 500 (most > W) there on 10th (NMu,ICa,&).

AMERICAN CROW - 100 at HP on 13th (NMu) & 300 at Castlederg Rd., *Peel* on 16th (PG) (Brydon 2009).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 18th (HC fide RPye).

TREE SWALLOW - 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th (AA) & 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA).

CAVE SWALLOW - 1 at Cell #1, LSS @ 08:30hrs on 25th [Documented] (NMu,ICa,MVL). MVL was finder. Flew off after 2 or 3 mins and not relocated.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 34 at TI on 8th, 33 on 14th & 54 on 20th (NMu,&). 58 (most moving W) at LSS on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 4 at TI on 8th & 5 on 10th (NMu,ICa).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 4 at Gibraltar Point, TI on 8th (NMu,ICa) & 8 at TI on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour).

BROWN CREEPER - 10 at TI on 8th, 6 on 10th & 10 on 14th (NMu,ICa).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

WINTER WREN - 5 at TI on 1st, 5 on 8th, 6 on 10th & 7 on 14th (NMu,ICa,&). 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (DW fide DRBA), 2 at Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 9th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 3 at Peninsula D, LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP).

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

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 120 at TI on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour) & 100 there on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 9 at McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP) & 40+ at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 12th (RJF) (Brydon 2009).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – 6 reports from TI beginning with 29 on 1st, a high count of 62 on 14th & last report was of only 2 there on 27th (NMu,&). 2 at HP on 25th & 26th, 1 there from 27th to 30th (SMF). 4 at LSS on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 3 at Vandorf SR E of Woodbine, *York* on 11th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 11th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 5 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 12th (ETB). 8 at TI on 14th & 14 on 27th (NMu,&). 8 at W of Leaside Bridge on 16th (ETB), 18 at Brunswick Park on 16th (Lynn Pady fide ETB) & 2 at

Lakeridge Rd S of Bayly St., *Durham* on 24th (J. Skene fide DRBA). ~40 (3 flocks) at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 25th (RMGRW fide Frank Butson's blog).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 2 at TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel), 2 on TI on 8th (NMu,ICa) & 5 on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour). 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH - 40 at TI on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour) & 192 on 14th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 1 at Beaver Creek N of 16th Ave., *York* on 17th (GDe) & at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 20th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

WOOD THRUSH - 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 13th (GDe).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – only 13 reports this month, with all except one from Toronto! The other was a sighting from the Queensway, N end of Keswick, *York* on 18th (KDu fide BB), which is the most northerly GTA report received so far this year.

BROWN THRASHER - 2 at Humber Arboretum on 4th (RBHS,WP) & 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 11th (WP,RBHS).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 2 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009), 100+ at Parr Ave, Bolton, *Peel* on 18th (PG) (Brydon 2009) & 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

CEDAR WAXWING - 30+ at Maple Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* from 11th to 15th (GEL) (Brydon 2009).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 1 at HP on 1st, 2nd & 4th (SMF).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 1 seen at HP on most days from 1st to 27th & 2 there on 19th (SMF). 7 at TI on 1st, 2 on 10th & 5 there on 14th (NMu,ICa,&). Singles at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (DW fide DRBA), CSSP on 4th (RBHS,WP), LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP) & at Lambton Golf and Country Club on 16th (AW). 2 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 11th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

NASHVILLE WARBLER – 14 reports of 1 to 3 from HP from 1st to 27th (SMF). 28 at TI on 1st, 4 on 8th, 1 on 10th & 3 on 14th (NMu,ICa,&). 4 at Humber Arboretum & 1 at CSSP on 4th (RBHS,WP). 1 at LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at HP on 1st & 2nd (SMF).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 1 at HP on 1st (WP).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 2 at TI on 1st & 1 on 8th & 10th (NMu,ICa,&). 1 at HP on 1st, 5th & 12th & 1 at CSSP on 6th (SMF).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 1 F at TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel) & 2 there on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour). 1 M at HP on 4th, 5th & 12th (SMF). 1 F at CSSP on 6th (SMF) & 1 at Beaver Creek N of 16th Ave., *York* on 17th (GDe).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 38 at TI on 8th & 36 on 10th (NMu,ICa). 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 10th & 81 at LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 at HP on 5th, 7th, 9th & 12th (SMF). 1 at CSSP on 6th (SMF) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 8th (NMu,ICa) & on 24th (AA).

PINE WARBLER - 3 at TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel) & 2 on 10th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

PALM WARBLER - 52 at TI on 1st, 42 on 10th (NMu,ICa,&). 3 at Humber Arboretum & 3 at CSSP on 4th (RBHS,WP). 4 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP), 8 at LSS on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 1 there on 25th (NMu,ICa, MVL). 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 16th & 19th (SMF).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 at HP on 1st (WP;SMF).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at HP on 2nd, 5th & 13th (SMF). 1 at CSSP on 6th (SMF) & at TI on 10th (JBMW,Kevin Seymour).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 1 at HP on 1st, 5th & 19th (SMF). 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA), 1 at CSSP on 6th (SMF), 2 at TI on 10th (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA).

MOURNING WARBLER - 1 at Beaver Creek N of 16th Ave., *York* on 17th (GDe).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

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

* CANADA WARBLER - 1 at Colborne Lodge, HP on 20th (late date) [Documented] (SMF).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th & 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW – First reports were of 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 24th (AA), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 24th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 1 at CSSP on 4th (RBHS, WP), 15 at Duffy's Lane N of Castlederg, *Peel* on 15th (PG) (Brydon 2009) & 2 at HP from 21st to 23rd (SMF). 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 21st (GDe) (Brydon 2009) & 2 at Baselands, LSS on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - 1 at S end Island Airport fence, TI on 1st (NMu, ICa, Gunnar Bessel).

FIELD SPARROW - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st & 1 there on 20th (NMu, &). 1 at LSS on 11th (RBHS, WP) & on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL). 1 at HP on 16th, 2 from 17th to 19th & 1 there on 23rd (SMF). 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 18th (RBHS, WP) & at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 25th (DW).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 3 at West Beach, TI on 1st (AA).

FOX SPARROW - 1 at TI on 10th, 11 on 14th (NMu, ICa, MVL) & 3 on 24th (AA). 1 at HP on 12th (SMF) & at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th, 25th & 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* & at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 16th (DW fide DRBA). 10 reports from Brookbanks Ravine beginning with 1 on 16th, high counts of 24 @ 18:15hrs on 25th, 9 on 26th & 8 on 27th, last reports were of 5 on 30th & 31st (RJP). They were seen feeding on niger seed on ground at 9 Lichen Place. 2 at LSS on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL) & 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 29th (JLo) (Brydon 2009).

SONG SPARROW - 18 at TI on 8th, 42 on 10th & 38 on 14th (NMu, ICa, &). 33 at LSS on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 3 at TI on 1st, 2 on 8th, 6 on 10th & singles on 14th & 27th (NMu, ICa, &). 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

SWAMP SPARROW - 6 at TI on 1st, 6 on 8th, 11 on 10th & 3 on 14th (NMu, ICa, &). 6 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 12th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 75 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA). 300 at TI on 1st, 150 on 8th, 375 on 10th, 200 on 14th & 150 on 27th (NMu, ICa, &). 10 at LSS on 11th (RBHS, WP).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 56 at TI on 1st, 29 on 8th, 90 on 10th & 52 on 14th (NMu, ICa, &). 5 at Humber Arboretum on 4th & 14 at LSS on 11th (RBHS, WP). 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA) & 51 at LSS (most on Pen. D) on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 75 at TI on 10th, 175 on 14th & 200 there on 27th (NMu, ICa, &). 30 at Maple Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* from 11th to 13th (GEL) (Brydon 2009). 75 at LSS on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 at HP on 7th (SMF).

DICKCISSEL - 1 M at South Trail/Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 09:30hrs on 17th [No doc. seen] (AA fide ONTBIRDS). Stopped briefly in a tree W of the South Platform, then continued W and not relocated.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 500 (high overhead) at TI on 10th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 1 at TI on 10th (NMu, ICa, MVL) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA).

White-throated Sparrow,
Lambton Woods, *Toronto*,
18 October 2009.
© Sandra Hawkins.



RUSTY BLACKBIRD – 9 reports from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 3 on 4th, a high 7 on 25th & last report was of 1 on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 4th (DW fide DRBA), 4 at TI on 10th (NMu,ICa,MVL), 9 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 10th (AA), 2 at Oshawa Sewage Plant, *Durham* on 10th (RBHS,WP) & 13 at Liberty St, N of Taunton Rd., Bowmanville, *Durham* on 16th (S. Williams fide DRBA).

PURPLE FINCH - 10 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 14th (BB) (Brydon 2009) & 3 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 29th (JLo) (Brydon 2009).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 56 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 1st (NMu,ICa,Gunnar Bessel), 62 at Hawk Hill, HP on 5th (NMu) & 150 (most > W) at TI on 10th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; AA Alfred Adamo; MJCB Margaret Bain; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BPB Brian P. Bailey; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; MCa Margaret Catto; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; GDe Gene Denzel; KDu Keith Dunn; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; JWF Joachim Floegel; PG Phyllis Graydon; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; THo Tyler Hoar; DJ Dana Jonak; GEL Graham Leonard; SLaf Steve LaForest; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; JLo Joan Love; SLo Stan Long; JMack Jess MacKenzie; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; RMGRW Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; KRS Kevin Shackleton; JES Jim E. Skene; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; MDW Mike Williamson; AW Alan Wormington; DW David Worthington.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 904 reports were added to the database for October 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.

Preferred citation: Worthington, D. 2009. Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: October 2009. Toronto Birds 3(9):193-203.



NOTE

White Ibis – First Record for the Greater Toronto Area

Winnie Poon



Whitby Harbour, Durham, 3 October 2009

Introduction

The fall in 2009 was most exciting in terms of rare bird records in Ontario and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Periods of exceptionally gusty winds near the lakeshores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario first brought a Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* on 30 August, plus a Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* on 29 September to Port Burwell, *Elgin*. The sparrow will be the second Ontario record, while the gull will constitute the first for Ontario, if accepted. Then, on 3 October, a White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* was found at Whitby, *Durham*. This juvenile White Ibis is the first ever recorded within the GTA, though there have been four previous provincial records. It will be the fifth Ontario record if accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee. However, aside from the Black-throated Sparrow, rather few birders were lucky enough to connect with the other two rarities.

The Discovery

On an overcast Saturday, 3 October, Joe Noordman and Harvey Gold, were working on a photographic project in the Whitby area, *Durham*. Approaching noon, they decided to take a break and do some playtime shooting instead. Because Harvey needed to go back home for some CDs, he stopped by the mud flats beside the Whitby Harbour bridge at Brock Street. Two other photographers, Dan Kaczynski and Karl Jennewein, arrived at the same time around 11:00; they spotted the differently looking bird with a long decurved bill. Dan, who is also a birder, quickly checked his field guide and identified it at once as a White Ibis in juvenal plumage. Some of them had seen White Ibises before in the south, still, it was an unusual bird and they took many pictures of the bird, unaware of its real significance. At noon, the ibis flew off eastward.

When Joe saw Harvey's White Ibis photos later at 15:00, he was extremely surprised, because he realized that he had never seen this bird before in Canada. The circumstances are best described by Joe himself: *"My jaw dropped when I saw the photographs. This was a first for me in this country. I suggested we return to the spot to see if the juvenile had come back to feed on the mud flats. When we arrived, the little jewel was sitting in the middle of a flock of Canada Geese. He was harassed by a few gulls but the geese kept him from serious harm. He eventually started a walk around the flats. As luck would have it the ibis walked toward us and when he was within close range, the clouds gave way to a little sun. What tremendous luck. Harvey's images were simply put, stunning. Mine didn't reach that level but I was happy to get what I did"*.

Joe and Harvey watched the White Ibis there for more or less ten minutes. The ibis was feeding on crayfish (Figure 1), which may constitute 60% of the diet in the southern U.S. (Palmer 1962). It even picked up a fishing lure, luckily, it was quickly rejected without causing any injury (Figure 2).



Figure 1. White Ibis with a crayfish in its bill, Whitby Harbour, *Durham*, 3 October 2009. © Joe Noordman.



Figure 2. The White Ibis dredged an artificial lure with a big hook from the mud, sensibly, he spit out the lure and went back to fishing his normal food. Whitby Harbour, *Durham*, 3 October 2009. © Joe Noordman.

At about 15:30 the White Ibis left and flew to the south (Figure 3). It did not return, nor was it found again the next morning by Joe.



Figure 3. White Ibis in flight, Whitby Harbour, *Durham*, 3 October 2009. The only flight photo on record. © Joe Noordman.

For all the disappointed birders, Rayfield Pye's comment probably said it best – "That bird picked a bad day to visit" (pers. comm.). It happened that 3 – 4 October was the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, held at Point Pelee. Most of the local birders who typically frequent Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch at this time of year were at Point Pelee instead; so there were very few birders on site to catch the breaking news. It was not until Sunday afternoon (4 October), when Rayfield Pye checked his email and learnt of the sighting, that the sighting was posted to ONTBIRDS. Some birders stopped by Whitby Harbour intermittently on Monday morning, but the bird was not seen again.

The Circuit



Figure 4. Reported locations of the White Ibis in October 2009. (Map credit : Google).

It turns out, as a result of helpful enquiries by Margaret Bain to David F. Suggs of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS)(www.BOSBirding.org), that this White Ibis was most likely the same bird as had been found a week or so earlier in New York State. A White Ibis, also juvenile, the second record ever in the history of BOS, was photographed in the Woods Marsh/Hunt Club Marsh section of the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area on 20 September 2009 (Figure 4). This bird stayed at Tonawanda WMA from 24 to 27 September, and was still present on the evening of 29th, even though a strong storm had passed over the area the day before. However, it was not found on 30 September nor on 2 October. Careful comparison of the Tonawanda ibis photos and Joe Noordman's photos by David Suggs confirmed that they refer to the same individual (posting to ONTBIRDS by D.F. Suggs, 8 October 2009). Because Whitby Harbour is a well-watched birding spot, the Ibis must have only arrived that morning (3 October). How or why the White Ibis came across Lake Ontario to Whitby, which is about 59.5 km (37 miles) from the Tonawanda area, would make for interesting speculation. In fact, strong winds had occurred in the Toronto area, on 28 and 29 September, registering gusts of maximum speed 67km/hour (SW) and 65km/hour (NW) respectively (Environment Canada).

Moreover, three days later, on 6 October, Bruce E. Ripley saw a juvenile White Ibis flying overhead at the lighthouse at Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward County*. The bird was seen coming in off the lake from the east, and was heading west along the shoreline. Subsequent searches by Bruce at many shoreline spots west to Sandbanks Provincial Park failed to relocate the ibis (fide ONTBIRDS). No doubt, the same individual was involved in this report.

The White Ibis was not seen in Ontario thereafter, but last reported on the evenings of 22 and 24 October, when it was re-found in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, on the dikes, and seen flying to the roosting area. It is possible that two different birds were involved: one which never left Tonawanda, and another accounting for the Ontario sightings, but given its rarity in both upstate New York and Ontario, plus the lack of overlap in dates, it seems more conservative to assume that just one individual was involved.

Previous Records

The White Ibis is a southeastern species in North America, breeding along the Atlantic coast from Virginia south to Florida and westward along the entire Gulf Coast; the range extending inland as far as central-eastern Arkansas. It is considered to be partially migratory in the northern parts of the breeding range. Elsewhere, the birds are highly nomadic and prone to long-distance vagrancy as a result of post-breeding dispersal in the summer and fall (Alderfer 2006). In all cases, weather-driven factors must also have played a part. Southern Ontario has had four previous records of White Ibises, involving 5 birds in all (Table 1). As far as is known, only the one at Turkey Point in 1991 was twitchable. It should be noted that the former telephone hotline (organized by Ron Scovell with Harry Kerr occupying a key role) worked impeccably at that time. That bird was found by John Lamey at about 12:45 and by 14:30 or so most of the people on the hotline had heard of it; many were able to get down to Turkey Point and see it later that afternoon/evening.

Table 1. Records of White Ibis in Ontario 1955 – 2009.

Date	Location	Observer	Notes
13 October 1955	Clayton, <i>Lanark</i>	anon, fide A.E. Bourguignon	Two birds; one was shot and ended up in collection of A.E. Bourguignon of Ottawa (James <i>et al.</i> 1976). ROM #113149, now missing (Baillie 1957; James 1991).
Summer 1965	Long Point, <i>Norfolk</i>	anon	Exact date unknown, bird was collected (James <i>et al.</i> 1976).
27 September 1970	Point Pelee National Park, <i>Essex</i>	G. Van Vliet, P.J. Kleiman <i>et al.</i>	One sighted (Goodwin 1971).
12-14 and 29-30 October 1991	Turkey Point Marsh Complex, <i>Norfolk</i>	John Lamey	One 2Y found at 12:45. Originally seen on sandbar off Turkey Point Beach, later flew SE but returned and seen in flight, then was lost over marshes, but relocated about 16:00 from Marsh Overlook. Birding hotline alerted earlier and many birders had arrived by then. (Lamey 1991; Bain 1992)
3 October 2009	Whitby Harbour, <i>Durham</i>	Dan Kaczynski, Karl Jennewein	One juvenile seen between 11:00 to noon, again about 15:20 – 15:30. Many photos obtained. Photographed by Joe Noordmann and Harvey Gold. Record pending acceptance by OBRC.

Reports from 'Sightings' in *Winging It* (Retter 2009a, 2009b) indicated that there had been an influx of White Ibis at Goose Pond in *Greene*, Indiana, since mid-June, along with a host of other southern rarities like Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, probable Mottled Duck, and Roseate Spoonbill; with as many as sixteen juvenile White Ibis reportedly seen on 30 July (Lee Sterrenburg, Indiana Listserv). Two juvenile White Ibis were also photographed at Muscatatuck NWR, Indiana on 6 July; another White Ibis was found in *Wabash*, Illinois on 12 July. Juvenile White Ibis were still being seen in the Goose Pond region in early September; in fact, one bird was found at Patoka River NWR in southwest Indiana on 4 September. The Ontario White Ibis represents the northernmost point reached as part of this influx.



Whitby Harbour, *Durham*, 3 October 2009

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Acknowledgements

Many of the circumstances leading up to this White Ibis record in the GTA were pieced together from the blogs of nature photographers Joe Noordman and Harvey Gold, who posted amazing photos of this bird to the website: <http://www.pixel-shooter.com/forum/showthread.php?t=23110>. The information was further verified by personal communication. The TOC Records Committee extends special thanks and appreciation to Joe Noordman for his generous permission to use his photographs to document this exceptional rarity. Also, my thanks to Glenn Coady and Roy Smith for their helpful review of this article.

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