



TORONTO BIRDS

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COVER PHOTO

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Photo © Sam Barone

Ring-necked Pheasants are believed to have been introduced in the Toronto area in the 1920's. Initially, they did well, breeding and spreading throughout the region, with high counts of thirty-four (in one apple tree!) at Scattergood's Farm, Oshawa, *Durham*, on 13 January 1957; and fifty at Ajax Flats, *Durham*, on 6 January 1966. Those were the days when some birders in Thornhill and Richmond Hill, *York*, could easily see ten or more Ring-necked Pheasants from their kitchen windows.

But in recent decades, numbers have dropped alarmingly, especially within the boundaries of Toronto itself. The upper Humber Valley is probably the last stronghold for this species, but with pressures of urbanization and ground predators impacting the remaining habitat, very few have been reported in recent years. For example, numbers on the Toronto CBC have dropped from nineteen in 1986 to nine in 1992, and only two on the 2007 count, with none subsequently. The Richmond Hill CBC numbers tell a similar story. Based on records in the database, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* seems to be their last significant stronghold in the GTA, although occasional birds are still reported from some hydro and railway corridors in urban fringe situations.

Sam Barone's image of a male Ring-necked Pheasant was scanned from a slide taken at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, in February 2006. *Roy Smith*

Produced by the Records Committee Toronto Ornithological Club

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

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

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – NOVEMBER 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.



Mute Swan at the Toronto Harbour, Toronto, 1 November 2009. © Sandra Hawkins.

SNOW GOOSE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th, 7th & 11th; 12 (11 white, 1 blue) there on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 8th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 9th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 14th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 12 (11 white, 1 blue) there on 23rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROSS'S GOOSE - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 9th (JDL; Dan Kaczynski, fide ONTBIRDS) on 14th (D. Kaczynski fide DRBA) & on 19th (K. Jennewein fide DRBA). [No doc. seen].

BRANT - 1 at Moore Point, *Durham* on 1st (ETB), 1 at SE Tip, LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 200+ flying over at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* @ 10:00hrs on 3rd (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at CSSP on 3rd (Dave Hallet fide AK, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 on 6th (I. McGovern fide ONTBIRDS) & up to 5 seen there on 7th (SE fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Burlington Beachstrip, *Halton* on 2nd (CEE fide HBGG), 1 at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* on 18th (CEE fide HBGG) and 2 there on 25th & 26th (Louise Unitt fide HBGG).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA) & also on 15th & 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 there on 11th (JDL fide DRBA). 18 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th (SLo fide RBHS) & 3 on 7th (RBHS,WP). 17 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 8th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 9th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 13 there on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 5 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 1st (DW). 1 IMM (no wing tag) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st and 7th (RBHS,WP). 2 at TI on 8th (AA), 2 at Northeast Lake, Caledon, *Peel* on 14th (GCam) (Brydon 2009), 1 (tag #110) at LSS on 21st (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 2 there on 28th (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

TUNDRA SWAN - 7 AD at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 flying S at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (NMu). 25 at S end Cook's Bay, *York* on 8th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

WOOD DUCK - 27 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA), 2 M on Don R. at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 27th (ETB) & 1 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

GADWALL - 260 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* (THo fide DRBA) & 57 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* (RBHS,WP) on 1st. 82 at LSS on 7th, 34 on 21st & 41 on 28th (NMu,&).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 67 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA), 55 at Bay 'B', LSS on 1st & 42 there on 7th (NMu,&). 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 1 at HBP [W] on 28th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & 19 at LSS on 28th (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 9 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 78 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA) & 23 at LSS on 28th (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

MALLARD - 451 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 200 at LSS on 7th & 259 there on 28th (NMu,&).

MALLARD X AMERICAN WIGEON - 1 M showing characters of this hybrid at CSSP on 13th (Richard P. Carr fide AW).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 19 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA), 25 at HP on 4th (SMF) & 5 at CSSP on 7th (AA).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* & 14 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS). 26 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (THo). 5 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 14th, 1 on 21st & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 12 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 5th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at CSSP on 7th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 17 at Bay D, LSS on 7th (NMu,ICa,MVL), 15 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 7th (RBHS,WP) & 8 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

CANVASBACK - 1 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

REDHEAD - 300 at Cell #3, LSS on 7th, 200 on 21st & 300 there on 28th (NMu,&). 5 at HBP [W] on 28th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 M at Corner Marsh, *Durham* (DW), 14 at Cell #3, LSS (NMu,&) & 1 F at Reesor Pond, *York* (RBHS,WP) all on 1st.

GREATER SCAUP - 600 at LSS on 1st, 1500 on 7th & 21st, 2500 there on 28th (NMu,&).

LESSER SCAUP - 17 at LSS on 21st & 7 there on 28th (NMu,&).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 1 AD-M at HBP [W] on 14th (BPB fide ONTBIRDS), 17th (SMF) & on 21st (AA).

SURF SCOTER - 3 at Bay 'B', LSS on 1st & on 7th (NMu,&).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 7 flying W at LSS on 28th (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA) & 1 at LSS on 22nd (HC).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 2300 at LSS on 1st, 2000 on 7th & 5000 there on 21st (NMu,&).

BUFFLEHEAD - 168 at LSS on 1st, 221 on 7th, 132 on 21st & 212 there on 28th (NMu,&). 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st & 8 there on 7th (RBHS,WP,SLo). 3 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 7th (RBHS,WP) & 34 at Trout Pond, TI on 8th (AA).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 225 at LSS on 1st, 300 on 7th (NMu,&), 100 on 15th (SMF), 500 on 21st & 600 there on 28th (NMu,&).

HOODED MERGANSER - 63 at LSS on 1st, 122 on 7th (NMu,&) 30 on 14th & 15th (SMF), 45 on 21st & 131 there on 28th (NMu,&), which was a good count but not a record. 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st & 7th (RBHS,WP). 33 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP) & 78 there on 8th (THo). 7 at CSSP on 7th (SE fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Trout Pond, TI on 8th (AA), 5 at HBP on 17th & 2 there on 28th (SMF). 1 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 14th & 2 on 21st (RPye fide DRBA). 6 at HP on 26th (SMF) & 7 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MERGANSER - 45 at LSS on 1st & 49 on 7th (NMu,&). 17 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP) & 60 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (THo).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 500 at LSS on 1st (NMu,&).

RUDDY DUCK - 16 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA), 2 at Cell #3, LSS on 7th (Steve Pigeon fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 7th (RBHS,WP,SLo).

RUFFED GROUSE – 1 at Castlederg Rd, *Peel* on 15th (GCam) (Brydon 2009).

WILD TURKEY – 20 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 16th and 25th (BB) (Brydon 2009).

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at Orchard Beach, *York* on 8th (BB) (Brydon 2009) and 1 at LSS on 21st (GCP fide HC).

COMMON LOON - 5 at Moore Point, *Durham* (ETB), 5 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 49 at LSS (NMu,&) all on the 1st. 35 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* & 10 found dead on 4km of beach, Oshawa area, *Durham* on 8th (THo). 1 at E side L. Scugog, *Durham* on 12th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 14 flying over Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* (RBHS) & 4 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* (DW) on 1st. 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & at HBP [W] on 28th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 1 at Swan Lake, Markham, *York* on 1st (WP) & 30 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP). 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (RLau).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 22 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP), 44 on 8th (THo) & 7 there on 22nd (AA). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 7th (RBHS,WP), 2 at HBP [E] on 14th (BPB fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (ETB) & 1 at HBP on 17th (SMF).

GREAT EGRET - 1 at Seagrave, *Durham* on 18th (A. Johnston fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 3 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 14th (BPB fide ONTBIRDS).

TURKEY VULTURE - 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RLau) & 1 at HBP on 28th (SMF).

OSPREY - 1 (late) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 6th (SMF).

BALD EAGLE - 1 AD at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 3rd & 1 IMM there on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 3 3Y at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 IMM at HP on 6th (SMF).

NORTHERN HARRIER – Singles at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS), at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 24th (KDu,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 21 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 12th (JFL) (Brydon 2009).

COOPER'S HAWK – Singles at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA), also at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 14th (GDe), at Maple Ave, Richmond Hill on 14th (GEL) and Edward Ave, King Twp, *York* on 21st (RJF); these 3 all in Brydon (2009). Singles at 35 Thorncliffe Park Dr. on 26th (ETB) & at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 3 on 2nd, 2 on 3rd & 1 on 4th, 6th & 28th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 3rd (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Happy Valley Forests, *York* on 9th (Henry Barnett) (Brydon 2009).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 19 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd & 1 there on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide DRBA).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 134 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 59 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 3rd (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 110 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd, 150 on 6th & 17 on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 388 at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 3 on 3rd, 2 (light) on 4th & 6 on 6th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st & 1 on 21st, 22nd & 27th (MDW fide DRBA). 1 at Mono Rd, Caledon, *Peel* on 11th (GCam) (Brydon 2009) and 1 (light) at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 24th (KDu,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN EAGLE - 2 at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 1Y at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 10:40hrs on 3rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 IMM at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* @ 11:20hrs on 3rd (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 AD at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at downtown Whitby, *Durham* on 6th (B. McWalters fide DRBA). 1 IMM at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 10th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 21st (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

MERLIN - 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 1st (FP fide RBHS). 1 at 185 Midwest Dr, Scarb. on 9th, 10th & 25th (RLau), has been seen approx. weekly here since 3 Aug 2009, each time on same post, eating a small bird! 1 at Addington Cres., Brampton, *Peel* on 12th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & on 27th (Dian Bogie fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 24th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 28th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 2 on 3rd (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on 7th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 AD at Yonge St & Trayborn, Rich.Hill, *York* on 3rd (NMu). 1 AD at Peninsula B, LSS, vocally harassing a Great Horned Owl & at Peninsula X, LSS (NMu,ICa,MVL) on 7th. 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 8th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 at Sun Life Financial Centre on 9th (SCH), 1 at Hwy 410 and Mayfield Rd, *Peel* on 10th (GCam) (Brydon 2009), & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (Dan Kaczynski fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ashbridges Bay Sewage Plant on 21st (AA) & at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 22nd (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (JDL fide DRBA) & 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT - 6 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 5 on 15th (DW), 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (WP, RBHS) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

SANDHILL CRANE - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (B. Smith fide DRBA).

KILLDEER - 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 1st (FP fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Albion Trail, *Peel* on 19th (GCam) (Brydon 2009), & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (AA).

AMERICAN AVOCET - 8 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (FP; THo; fide ONTBIRDS; RBHS, WP) & again there on 3rd (B. Smith fide DRBA).



The **Merlin** at 183 Midwest Drive, Scarborough, *Toronto*, 10 November 2009. Apparently, dinner was good to the last feet! © Rick Lauzon.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS, WP).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Sunderland S.L., *Durham* on 1st (RDJ).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - 1 reported and photographed at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* at several different times throughout the day on the 1st (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS; DW; RBHS, WP; &). It was still there and photographed on the 2nd (anon fide OUTON).

SANDERLING - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (B. Smith fide DRBA).

DUNLIN - 48 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 1st (DW). 34 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide DRBA), 15 on 3rd (B. Smith fide DRBA) & 12 there on 8th (THo).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 23 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 7th (RBHS, WP) and 60 there on 21st (BB) (Brydon 2009). 100 at Sunderland S.L., *Durham* on 8th (RDJ).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 AD at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (THo).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 2 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* & 2 1W at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS, WP). 1 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 14th (BPB fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at Laidlaw & Gibb St, Cannington, *Durham* was first reported on 13th, then again on 17th but was found injured on the road on the 27th and was taken to Toronto Wildlife Centre; then to ORRRF in Vineland (Ray Lush fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 24th (SMF).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 2 at LSS on 7th & on 28th (Nmu, &). 1 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 11th (Pat Hodgson fide OUTON) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 15th (Aaron Keating fide ONTBIRDS).

SNOWY OWL - 1 at Britannia Rd E of 4th Line, *Halton* on 7th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 15th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 AD-M at Hwy 400 @ Major Mackenzie, *York* on 15th (Doug Smith fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at subdivision E of Lynde Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (A. Brokelman fide DRBA).

BARRED OWL - 1 at Edge Pegg Property, *Durham* on 26th (Betty Pegg fide HC). 1 at a wooded area on Queensville SR, *York* on 26th (Seigmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Cell #3, LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 1 at SE Tip, LSS on 21st (NMu,MVL,ICa).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at 4399 Kerry Dr, Burlington, *Halton* @ 19:30hrs on 4th (Frank Harrison fide ONTBIRDS), flew into kitchen window, recovered and flew off.

* COMMON NIGHTHAWK - 1 (v. late) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd [No doc. seen] (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). Doc. required after 1 Nov.

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 at Peninsula C, LSS on 1st (NMu,&), 1 at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (NMu) & 1 at East Don Parkland on 4th (DW). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 18th & 26th (SMF) & 1 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 27th (ETB).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 1st (JFL) (Brydon 2009); 1 at Keswick, *York* on 7th (KDu) (Brydon 2009), and 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove, *Peel* from 15-18th (PMG) (Brydon 2009). 2 (M & F) at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 9th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at HP on 9th, 20th, 21st & 26th (SMF).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 5 at LSS on 1st & 3 on 28th (NMu,&). 1 (@ suet feeder) at 35 Thorncliffe Park Dr. on 26th (ETB).

NORTHERN FLICKER – 1 at Cameron Property, Albion, *Peel* on 1st (GCam) (Brydon 2009) and 1 at Albion Trail, *Peel* on 19th (GCam) (Brydon 2009). 1 at Peninsula X, LSS on 28th (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 F at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at 35 Thorncliffe Park Dr. on 10th & 26th (ETB). One at Dixie N of Mayfield Rd, *Peel* on 10th (GCam) and 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove, *Peel* on 16th (PMG) (both Brydon 2009). 1 F at Brookbanks Ravine on 23rd (RJP) & 1 at Mobray Pond, Kinsale, *Durham* on 29th (ETB).

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - 1 in Oakville, *Halton* on 6th (anon fide Toronto Wildlife Centre, fide GC). Picked up after it hit a window, taken to Toronto Wildlife Centre, but died on 8 Nov 2009; specimen to ROM (fide MKP). FIRST RECORD FOR THE GTA (2nd for Ontario), subject to OBRC acceptance.

NORTHERN SHRIKE – 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 1st (Don Docherty fide DRBA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th, 7th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 15th (RLau) & 2 there on 28th (RPye fide DRBA). Singles at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (DW fide DRBA), Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 11th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), German Mills Park, *York* on 22nd (Heather Buckhalter fide Henry Buckhalter, fide ONTBIRDS), at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 24th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at North Rd, N of Whitevale, *Durham* on 29th (ETB).

COMMON RAVEN - 2 at Green lane & Holland R., *York* on 1st (JWa) and 1 at Palgrave C.A., *Peel* on 14th (GCam) (both Brydon 2009). 1 at Hwy 47 nr. Uxbridge, *Durham* on 9th (ETB) & 2 at Meadowvale Rd near Metro Zoo on 21st (DSe fide ONTBIRDS), feeding on a roadkill. One heard SE of Sunderland, *Durham* on 29th (RDJ).

CAVE SWALLOW - 4 at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* @ 09:30hrs on 14th (George W. Prieksatis fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* @ 13:55hrs on 17th (RZD fide ONTBIRDS), seen for 5mins only on sheltered side of the buildings. 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* @ 08:40hrs on 21st (GC fide ONTBIRDS), flew E along the shore, then turned inland over Corbett Creek Marsh.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 18 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA). 24 at LSS on 7th & 19 on 28th (NMu,MVL).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 3 at HP on 30th (SMF).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 3 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA).

BROWN CREEPER – 1 at Keswick, *York* on 15th (KDu) (Brydon 2009); 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (JDL fide DRBA), 1 at Albion Trail, *Peel* on 19th (GCam) (Brydon 2009), & 1 at North Toronto Sewage Plant on 27th (ETB).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 8th (AA).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA) & at HP on 20th & 30th (SMF).

MARSH WREN – 8 reports from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 2 on the 1st (RPye fide DRBA), a high count of 3 on 10th & the last report was of 1 on the 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 5 at LSS on 1st (SMF) & 8 there on 7th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 2 at LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 1 there on 7th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 7 at Hawk Hill, HP on 3rd (NMu) & 2 at 407 & North Rd, N of Whitevale, *Durham* on 15th (ETB).

HERMIT THRUSH - 2 at Peninsula C, LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 1 at HP on 1st & 8th (SMF).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 59 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA).

GRAY CATBIRD - 1 at LSS on 7th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – Only 24 reports this month, with 4 from *Peel*, 5 from *Durham*, 3 from *York* and 12 from *Toronto*. Allowing for multiple reports from the same sites, these represent only about 17 individual birds. Thanks to 12 regular contributors and 3 others (reporting via ONTBIRDS or DRBA).

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 6 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS), 8 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (RPye fide DRBA) & 3 at SE Tip, LSS on 21st (NMu,MVL,ICa).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - Some at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 9th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS); 1 at Nashville, *York* on 12th (AK).

PHAINOPEPLA - 1 1B-M was first discovered & well-photographed @ 10:45hrs on 9th on Aberdeen Crescent in the Addington Cres. area, Brampton, *Peel* by Dian Bogie (fide GC, fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen in a barberry bush on Aberdeen Cres. @ 14:45hrs on 10th and was subsequently reported on ONTBIRDS (GC, fide ONTBIRDS). This spectacular find was reported daily throughout the month and into December and birders came from far and wide. It was often observed feeding on multiflora rose hips, especially at the back of #22 Ascot Ave. Dian Bogie posted daily reports on ONTBIRDS and had set up a table with pictures and a sightings book to welcome birders and help them find the bird. FIRST RECORD FOR THE GTA (2nd for Ontario), subject to OBRC acceptance.



Phainopepla in a multiflora rose bush at 22 Ascot Avenue, Brampton, *Peel*, 29 November 2009. © Dian Bogie.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – 1 seen well at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 11th (RDJ).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at Cameron property, Albion, *Peel* on 1st (GCam) (Brydon 2009); 13 at LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 2 there on 7th (SMF). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (AA) & 4 at Ajax Waterfront Park, *Durham* on 1st (RBHS,WP). 1 at HP on 2nd (SMF) & 2 on 6th (NMu). 3 at TI on 8th (AA) & 1 at HBP on 8th (SMF).

* BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 (late) at Lynde Shores C. A. [(mouth of Lynde Creek) DU] on 4th [No doc. seen] (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). [Doc. reqd. after 1 Nov].

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 46 at LSS on 1st, 13 on 21st & 24 there on 28th (NMu,&).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 1 at HP on 4th (SMF).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 at HP on 2nd (SMF).

VESPER SPARROW - 2 at Moore Point, *Durham* on 1st (ETB).

FOX SPARROW - 30 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (ETB) & 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 2 on 2nd & 4th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 15th & 28th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA), 3 at LSS on 7th (ICa,MVL, fide NMu) & 1 at Brookbanks Ravine on 8th (RJP) and 2 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 15th (GDe) (Brydon 2009).

SONG SPARROW - 5 at Peninsula B, LSS on 21st (NMu,MVL,ICa).

SWAMP SPARROW - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA) & 1 at Canada Life, University Ave on 6th (RBHS). One at Maple Ave, Richmond Hill, *York* on 15th (GEL) (Brydon 2009), 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 30th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 2 at LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 2 IMM at Glenroy Ave, Etobicoke on 2nd (SCH) and 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 10th (GDe) (Brydon 2009).

SNOW BUNTING - 7 at SE Tip, LSS on 1st (NMu,&) & 3 at Ajax Waterfront Park, *Durham* on 1st (Ron Stephenson fide DRBA). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (RPye fide DRBA) & 100 there on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 40 at W end of Ravenshoe Rd, *York* on 15th (BB) (Brydon 2009) and 4 on a school soccer field in SW Newmarket, *York* on 25th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 105 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (AA).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 8 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 1 there on 15th (RPye fide DRBA). 17 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 1st (AA).

COMMON GRACKLE - 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 1st (AA).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion, *Peel* on 6th (GCam) (Brydon 2009), and 18 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (ETB).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 M photographed at feeder at Markham, *York* on 23rd (Bill Hosking fide MHC, fide GDe), had been seen daily during preceding week. Dates given as 16-23rd by Brydon (2009).

PURPLE FINCH - 4 at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 9th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS).

HOUSE FINCH – 100 at Unwin Ave on 22nd (DP).

PINE SISKIN - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 8th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 28th (AA).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 24 at LSS on 21st (NMu,MVL,ICa).

EVENING GROSBEAK – 2 at Happy Valley Forests, *York* on 6th (Henry Barnett) (Brydon 2009).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; DBe David Beadle; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BB Bruce Brydon; GCam Gordon Cameron; ICa Ian Cannell; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; MHC Mark Cranford; HC Hugh Currie; GDe Gene Denzel; RZD Rob Dobos; KDu Keith Dunn; SE Sandra Eadie; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; HBG Hamilton Birders Google Group; PMG Phyllis Graydon; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; BRH Brandon R. Holden; RDJ Ross D. James; AK Andrew Keaveney; MKi Michael King; KK Karl Konze; MK Mark Kubisz; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; DLew Dennis Lewington; MJL Marcus J. Lise; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; JFL Joan Love; JMack Jess MacKenzie; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; NMCP Nancy McPherson; NMu Norman Murr; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DP Don Peuramaki; FP Frank Pinilla; RJP Ron Pittaway; GCP Gavin C. Platt; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; GVR Garth Riley; DRuch Dave Ruch; DSe David Selly; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JWa John Watson; MDW Mike Williamson; AW Alan Wormington; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCES:

Brydon, B. 2009. October – November 2009 Sightings. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter: 7-8, December 2009.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 607 reports were added to the database for November 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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A foraging **White-breasted Nuthatch** at the Toronto Islands, *Toronto*, 14 November 2009. © David Beadle.



NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

This copy of *Toronto Birds* marks the last issue of Volume 3. We would like to thank all contributors who have helped make *Toronto Birds* successful in 2009, whether by submitting their observations on a regular basis, or contributing notes, articles and photographs. We feel that just as today we look to authors such as Fleming, Baillie, Saunders, Tozer, Richards, Speirs and many others to place the changing status and distribution of the birds of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in a historical context, so in future, others will look to *Toronto Birds* as a permanent record of the early 21st century. However, we seem to be receiving progressively fewer reports directly from observers, with the majority now coming from increasing numbers of online sources. While the immediacy of online posting is often very helpful to other birders and generally to be welcomed, some of these sources may include questionable data. At the same time, websites, especially private ones, are essentially ephemeral, and the Records Committee has to be concerned with long term data storage and retrieval issues, including the ability to handle digital photos, video and audio data. Databases and formats may come and go, but for the long term, the published word has an excellent track record.

So we believe that *Toronto Birds* has an important role to play in collecting together and collating reports from disparate and sometimes scattered sources. But it can only fulfill its true function if it is supported by the membership at large. As usual, we would welcome more contributions and photographs, as well as more observations from the under-reported parts of the GTA away from the immediate lakeshore. The northern parts of *Halton*, *Peel*, *York* and *Durham*, the Niagara Escarpment in *Halton* and the Lake Simcoe shoreline of *York* and *Durham*, as well as many of the Regional Forests are typically under-reported, so there is plenty of scope for most GTA birders to expand their horizons. As usual, we invite members who have any comments or concerns about *Toronto Birds*, or bird reporting in general, to discuss them with the editors, or any member of the Records Committee.

The Editors
Toronto Birds