

TORONTO BIRDS

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COVER PHOTO

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

Photo © James M. Richards

Male White-winged Crossbill in a spruce laden with cones. Photograph taken on 3 January 2009 at Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, *Durham*.

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 – DECEMBER 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.



Wood Ducks are uncommon in the GTA in winter; this crisp male was seen at High Park, *Toronto*, 20 December 2009. © David Beadle.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 1 at Newcastle Marina, *Durham* on 2nd (Tony Bigg,& fide ONTBIRDS), 3rd (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) & on 4th (J. McKnight fide DRBA). 1 AD at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 20th (RGT,OXC, fide ONTBIRDS). [No doc. seen for any of these reports].

SNOW GOOSE - 7 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide OUTON). 9 (8 white, 1 blue) at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 13th (RPyE fide DRBA), 7 on 14th & 6 (5 white, 1 blue) there on 21st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS). 7 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPyE, fide DRBA) & 1 (blue) at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 21st (Elaine Serena fide HBGG).

BRANT - 2 first reported at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* in November, were seen again there on 3rd (CEE fide HBGG), 17th, 22nd, 26th, 29th & 30th (m. obs).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 2nd (JWF fide DRBA) & 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 13th (RPyE fide DRBA).

MUTE SWAN - 110 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 13th (RPyE fide DRBA).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 at CSSP on 1st (SMF) & 4 there on 12th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Outer Harbour Marina, LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 6 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 14th (SLaF fide DRBA), 3 at Whites Rd & Finch, Pickering, *Durham* on 15th (MDW fide DRBA) & 4 at Superior Avenue on 23rd (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

TUNDRA SWAN - 25 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 13th (Yousif Attia fide ONTBIRDS).

[COMMON SHELDUCK] - 1 at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* on 25th (Kyna Intini fide HBGG) & 1 M seen at Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* flying towards Spencer Smith Park on 29th (Phil Armishaw, Steve Gilchrist fide ONTBIRDS). The posted photo of this bird appears to show an adult M. Assumed to have been an escape, but it is interesting that one in 1st year plumage, which may have been a wild vagrant, was seen at St Johns, Newfoundland on 17 Nov 2009, and perhaps the same bird was seen again at Little Nahant, Massachusetts on 6-7 Dec 2009 (Retter 2010).

WOOD DUCK - 1 M at Lake Aquitaine, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 19th (anon,SPXC, fide MHC) & 1 M at Grenadier Pond, HP on 20th (BY,&TXC). 3 (2 M, 1 F) at Pond W of Stouffville, *York* on 25th (Al Johnson fide OUTON) and had been there a month; artesian flow keeps a patch of water open. 1 M at Lake Wabukayne, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 28th (THo fide OUTON).

GADWALL - 56 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 13 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 28 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

MALLARD - 230 at Sunderland S.L., *Durham* on 3rd; 'things were freezing up by then and they were gone a couple of days later' (RDJ). 250 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

MALLARD X AMERICAN WIGEON – one at CSSP on 23rd (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS), showing characters of this hybrid.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 30 at Grenadier Pond, HP from 1st, 2nd & 5th (SMF). 55 at HBP [E] on 12th (AA) & 1 at a pond in Aurora (RH CBC - Sector 8), *York* on 19th (RHXC).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 1 at CSSP on 12th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPyE, fide DRBA), 2 on 21st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 23rd (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 27th (RLau) & 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 28th (Elaine Serena fide HBGG).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 15 at HBP on 1st (SMF), 4 at Bay 'C', LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 20+ M at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 6th (DJM,OFO) & 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 14th (SLaF fide DRBA).

CANVASBACK - 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 20th (GCP,&TXC) & 6 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 21st (Elaine Serena fide HBGG).

REDHEAD - 75 at Cell #3, LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 15 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 13th (RPyE fide DRBA).

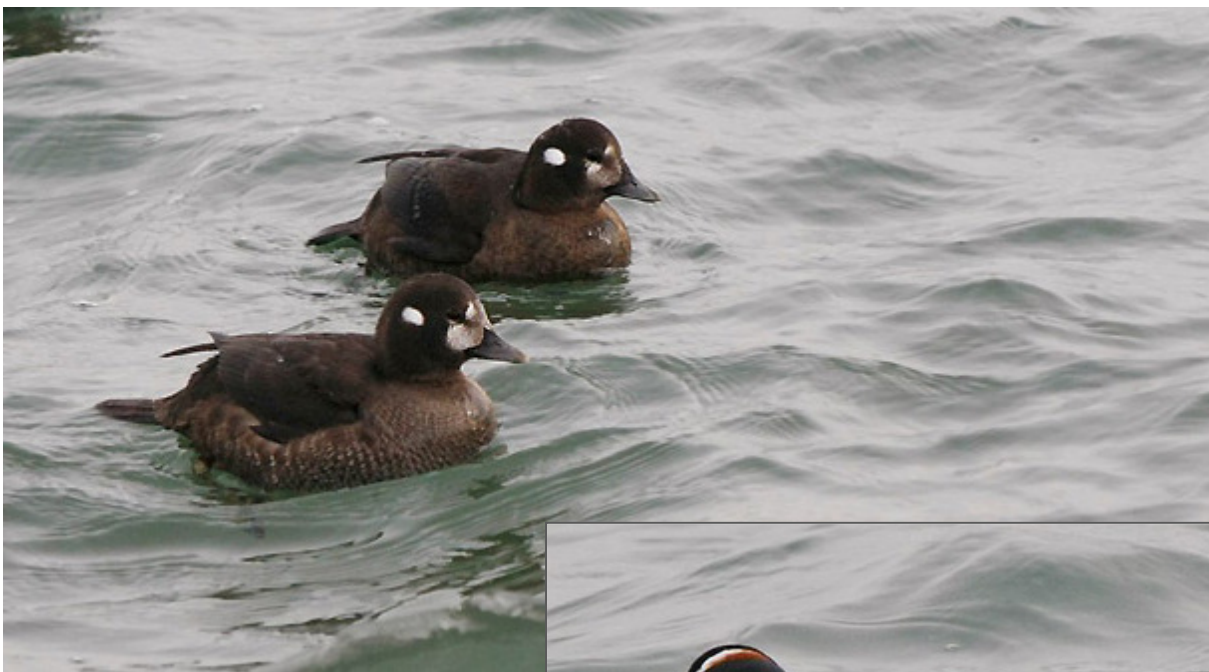
RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 31st (RLau).

GREATER SCAUP - 3000 at HBP [W] on 5th (JBMW,DJM) & 1200 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

LESSER SCAUP - 2 at HBP on 1st (SMF).

KING EIDER - 1 F at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* on 26th [No doc. seen] (Andy Dettling,&, fide ONTBIRDS).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 3 (1 M, 2 F) at St. Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 19th (anon,SPXC, fide MHC). 1 F at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 13th (Yousif Attia fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 (1 M, 3 F) reported there on 4 dates from 22nd to 30th (m.obs).



The attractive group of **Harlequin Ducks** – three females (top and bottom), and one male (right), at Port Credit, *Peel*, on 30 December 2009. © David Beadle.



WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 3 at HBP on 5th (SMF) & 1 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 30th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* on 22nd (BKW fide HBGG).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 2500 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

BUFFLEHEAD - 117 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 50 at Virginia Beach, *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010)

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 400 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE - 1 M at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* on 26th [No doc. seen] (Andy Dettling,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 F at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 27th [No doc. seen] (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 8 at HP on 1st (SMF). 2 at HBP on 1st, 2 on 5th (SMF) & 9 on 12th (AA). 68 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 1 at Way's Bay Rd., *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (SLaF fide DRBA).

HOODED MERGANSER X BUFFLEHEAD - 1 at Lakefront Promenade Park, *Peel* on 28th (Christopher L. Wood, Jessie Barry, fide ONTBIRDS), photos posted on Flickr. What was probably the same bird, or something similar resembling a *Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye*, was also seen 1km W of Lakefront Promenade Park at Hiawatha Park, *Peel* on 29th (AA).

COMMON MERGANSER - 29 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 40 at Jackson's Point Harbour, L. Simcoe, *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 15 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 13th (Yousif Attia fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at HBP [E] on 12th (AA).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT – 1 (prob. escape) at Holland Landing, *York* on 27th (BB, Catherine Brydon) (Brydon 2010) & 2 at Markham & Major Mackenzie, *York* on 27th (WP), in field on NW corner.

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at HBP [E] on 2nd (AA).

COMMON LOON – Singles at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 2nd (JWF fide DRBA), at HBP on 5th (SMF) & at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide THo, fide OUTON).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Bowmanville Harbour Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED GREBE - 3 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide THo, fide OUTON).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 12 at CSSP on 5th (DJM) & 1 there on 6th (DJM,OFO). 1 at HBP on 5th (SMF) & on 6th (DJM,OFO). 1 at T-CBC Sector 16B: Portlands (Hearn Channel) on 20th (CH,&,TXC) & 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide THo, fide OUTON).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at HBP on 2nd (SMF) & on 19th (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (JWF fide DRBA), N of Bayly St., Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 6th (RPyE fide DRBA), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (SLaF fide DRBA), Shoal Point Road, *Durham* on 12th (MDW fide DRBA) & at Woodbine & Lake Dr., *York* on 13th (KDu) (Brydon 2010). 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 15th (Sheila Hurn fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Hendrie Valley, *Halton* on 16th (Paul Smith fide HBGG). On 20th there were 1 at East Don Parkland (REH,&,TXC), 1 at Marita Payne Park, *York* (TXC, RBHS, WP), 2 at LSS (CH,&,TXC), 3 at Ashbridges Bay Sewage Plant (CH,&,TXC) & 1 at HP (SMF). 3 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 21st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 1 IMM at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 2nd (BPP fide OUTON).

BALD EAGLE - 1 JUV at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (RPyE fide DRBA), 1 AD at Great Lakes Blvd, Oakville, *Halton* on 15th (Ian Skimano fide ONTBIRDS), 1 AD at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 16th (RDJ), 1 at Lake Dr N of Old Homestead Rd, *York* on 18th (KDu) (Brydon 2010) & 1 AD at Waterfront Trail, Bowmanville, *Durham* on 18th (Tim Beresford fide OUTON). 1 at Bowmanville, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPyE, fide DRBA), 1 AD at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 25th (GRE fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Sibbald Point P. P., *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 1 AD at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 27th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 27th (KDu) (Brydon 2010).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 2nd (KDu) (Brydon 2010), 7th (Ray Lush fide ONTBIRDS), 12th (KDu) (Brydon 2010) & 3 there on 12th (NMu,ICa). 3 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 on 14th & 1 on 21st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Con 2 N of Holborn Rd., *York* on 13th (BB) (Brydon 2010), Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (Tim Beresford fide OUTON), former Keele Valley Landfill, *York* on 19th (RHXC, RBHS, WP) & at Holland Marsh area, *York* on 21st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (RLau).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Singles at Harding Blvd W, Richmond Hill, *York* on 15th (NMu), Grenadier Pond, HP on 20th (BY,&,TXC) & at Holland Marsh area, *York* on 21st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

COOPER'S HAWK – 15 reports from different locations of single birds from 8th to end of month, with 2 at Uplands Golf Course, Thornhill, *York* on 19th (GEL,&,RHXC).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 14th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK – Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (RPye fide DRBA) & at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 21st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN -1 at Midwest Rd, Scarborough from 1st to 3rd & on 7th (RLau). 6 other reports of single birds from different locations during the month.

GYRFALCON - 1 (gray; >W) at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* @ 11:00hrs on 28th [No doc. seen] (JHS fide ONTBIRDS).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPye, fide DRBA) & 1 at Hwy 407 & Hurontario St., *Peel* on 24th (NMu,ICa). 1 at Lift Bridge, Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 25th (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 30th (Peeter Musta fide ONTBIRDS), one had green metallic band, with white letter 'K' at top. Other was also banded.

AMERICAN COOT - 5 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (JWF fide DRBA). 1 at CSSP on 5th, 2 on 17th (SMF) & 3 there on 19th (AA). 3 at HBP [E] on 29th (Ron Luft fide OUTON).

KILLDEER - 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 12th & 1 at 1 km W of Duffins Creek Mouth, *Durham* on 18th (M. Bense fide DRBA). 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPye, fide DRBA) & 1 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 29th (Ron Luft fide OUTON) & on 30th (AA).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 14th (SLaF fide DRBA). 1 at Rotary Park, Ajax, *Durham* on 14th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 AD at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 29th (AA fide ONTBIRDS) & on 30th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 6 at Pefferlaw, *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 2 (1 AD, 1 SUB) at Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 30th (Peeter Musta fide ONTBIRDS).

MOURNING DOVE - 75 at Lakeshore Rd @ Newtonville Rd, *Durham* on 12th (NMu,ICa).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at Lakeridge Rd & Cty Rd 10 (W of Sunderland), *Durham* on 30th (Beaverton CBC fide RDJ).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 2 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 5th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 heard at PetroCanada woodlot, Orr Rd, *Peel* @ 07:30hrs on 20th & 2 heard there on 27th (Arthur Hurn fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 31st (BB) Brydon 2010).

SNOWY OWL - 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 5th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 2 on 7th (Ray Lush fide ONTBIRDS), 1 on 8th (KDu) (Brydon 2010), 2 on 12th (RJF,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 13th (KDu) (Brydon 2010) & 7 there on 27th (KDu,Chris Dunn) (Brydon 2010). 1 W of Newtonville Rd, S of 401, *Durham* on 6th (Bill Logan fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 E of Carruthers Creek, Ajax, *Durham* on 6th & 7th (Gerry McKenna fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Shoal Point Road, *Durham* on 7th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 12th (MDW fide DRBA).

BARRED OWL - 1 at Sheppard's Bush C.A., Aurora, *York* on 19th (RHXC,TH,&) & 1 at YRF - Pefferlaw Tract, *York* on 30th (Beaverton CBC fide RDJ).

LONG-EARED OWL - 1 at Richmond Hill (in backyard), *York* on 12th (Diana Piche), photo in RHNC Bulletin #486, p.10 (Jan 2010). 1 at Beechwood Cemetery, *York* on 20th (TXC, RBHS, WP), 1 at CSSP on 23rd (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 30th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* @ 17:05hrs on 21st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 at Holland Landing, *York* on 5th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 1 at HBP on 5th (SMF) & 1 F at Marie Curtis Park on 6th (DJM,OFO). 1 at Holland R, N. Newmarket, *York* on 6th & 7th (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Magwood Park on 14th (JRC), 1 at Maple GO Station, *York* on 15th (GEL,RTC) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Bayview Park (Tom Taylor Trail), Newmarket, *York* on 25th (Linda Hollingshead fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at HP on 1st, 17th & 20th (SMF). 1 at CBC: Kleinburg - Sector 5, *Peel* (KXC,JMcLean, MvdT) (Noble 2010) & at Sector 6, *Peel* on 20th (KXC) (Noble 2010). 1 M at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill, *York* on 20th (TXC,RBHS,WP), 1 at Werry Rd, Solina, *Durham* on 28th (N. Miller fide DRBA) & 1 near Town of Beaverton, *Durham* on 30th (Beaverton CBC fide RDJ).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPy, fide DRBA).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 7 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C), on Peninsulas B and D – an unusual # for LSS?



Male Hairy Woodpecker at Metro Zoo, *Toronto*, 28 December 2009.
© Sandra Hawkins.

NORTHERN FLICKER - Singles at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 2nd (JFL) (Brydon 2010) & at LSS on 5th (NMu, ICa,EO'C).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Brookbanks Ravine on 2nd (JI fide RJP) & 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 2nd (JFL) (Brydon 2010). 1 at Orr Rd, Mississauga, *Peel* on 14th (Sheila Hurn fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Lake Dr N of Old Homestead Rd, *York* on 18th (KDu) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 2nd, 12th (KDu) & 13th (BB) (Brydon 2010). Singles at Garden Ave @ Yonge St., Cineplex, Yonge & Hwy 7, *York* on 7th (NMu), Conc 2 N of Holborn Rd., *York* on 13th (BB) (Brydon 2010), Shoal Point Road, *Durham* on 15th (C. Apperson fide DRBA), at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 17th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS) & at 285 Lake St, Bowmanville, *Durham* on 18th (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS). Other singles were reported at Morning SR, *York* on 19th (Linda Hollinshead fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), Island Airport, TI on 20th (GCP,&,TXC), Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 20th (RDJ) & at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Pony Dr, Newmarket, *York* on 2nd (MvdT fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 5th (RDJ) & 1 at Duclos Point PNR, *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010). 2 at Lakeridge Rd, about 1.5km N of Chalk Lake, *Durham* on 15th (RDJ) & 1 at Chalk Lake Rd near Lakeridge Rd. *Durham* on 17th (JRC).
1 at Port Perry, *Durham* on 17th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 2 at Brookfield Rd, Oakville, *Halton* on 19th (anon,SPXC, fide MHC) & 1 in a Norway Spruce at #51 Brookfield Rd, Oakville, *Halton* on 23rd (Dave Don fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 5 at HP on 18th (SMF).

BROWN CREEPER – 5 reports of singles from 4th to 27th & 2 at Marie Curtis Park on 6th (DJM,OFO) & at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 near Lake Wilcox, *York* on 19th (RHXC, Sharon Bradley) & again on 28th (Sharon Bradley fide GDe). Singles at NW of Leslie & Sheppard on 20th (REH, &, TXC), Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 27th (Arthur Hurn fide ONTBIRDS) & at Adamson Estate, *Peel* on 29th (AA).

This **Carolina Wren** was found on the Richmond Hill CBC on 19 December 2009. The species is still rare in York R.M., but surprisingly the records show many more winter sightings than summer ones, although breeding was confirmed in the north of the Region (Virginia Beach) in 2002. This wren was wintering at a home near Lake Wilcox, *York*. The photo was actually taken on 18 January 2010. © Sharon Bradley.



WINTER WREN - 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 2nd (JFL) (Brydon 2010). 2 at HP & 1 at Dacre Crescent on 5th (JBMW,DJM). 1 at Toogood Pond, Unionville, *York* on 19th (RHXC,AK), 1 at The Arsenal Lands, *Peel* on 19th (AA) & 5 at 'Magic Marsh', East Don Parkland on 20th (REH,&,TXC). Singles at Oakville S.T.P., *Halton* on 24th & 30th (AA,GCP fide ONTBIRDS), Burnet St. Park, *Halton* on 27th (AA) & at HP on 30th (JRC).

* MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (THo fide OUTON). By the 6th, the marsh had frozen over (RPye fide DRBA), but the bird was still present on 12th (AA) & on 15th (RLau). [No doc. seen for any of these reports].

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - Singles at The Arsenal Lands, *Peel* on 19th & at Lakefront Promenade Park, *Peel* on 29th (AA).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 18th (M. Bense fide DRBA) & 1 at Sedgewick Park, Oakville, *Peel* on 19th (anon,SPXC, fide MHC). * 6 was an extraordinary find at Richmond Hill Mill Pond, *York* on 19th [No doc. seen] (RHXC,RTC). 1 at Snake Island, TI on 20th (GCP,&,TXC) & 1 at Oakville S.T.P., *Halton* on 24th (Dave Don fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Nature Reserve, TI on 20th (GCP,&,TXC) & 1 at East Don Parkland, N of Forest Grove on 20th (REH,&,TXC).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 6 at Sibbald Point P. P., *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 62 at SR 4, N of 7th Conc., *Durham* on 12th (NMu,ICa), 14 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 14th & 16 there on 17th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – There were 51 reports with location details this month, but details are lacking for several of the CBCs (Peel-Halton, Oshawa, about half the Toronto CBC, and a few from Kleinburg). The Pickering count occurred in January. Complete details were only available for the Richmond Hill CBC, which had a total of 5, somewhat lower than the average for recent years. The Kleinburg numbers (10) were also lower than several

recent years. On the other hand the Toronto CBC set a new record (40), compared to a previous high of 34 in 2006. Counting all reports with details provided (including those from CBCs), there were 32 from *Toronto*, 15 from *York*, 4 from *Peel* and none from *Durham* or *Halton*. Thanks to all regular contributors for their ongoing reports, and please continue to submit them.



Winter Wren at High Park, *Toronto*, 20 December 2009. © David Beadle.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide RPye, fide DRBA).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 80 at Bass Pond, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 29th (anon fide OUTON).

PHAINOPEPLA – This fabulous bird (staying from 9 Nov 2009) remained in the Addington Cres. area, Brampton, *Peel* into Dec and was reported daily from 1st to 9th (Dian Bogie fide ONTBIRDS). On the night of the 8th it survived miserable cold conditions with 7cm of wet snow, but was found the next day at its favourite spot feeding on multiflora rose hips at #20 Ascot. It was NOT SEEN on 10th despite three attempts on a very cold day with a strong NW wind and snow flurries (Dian Bogie fide ONTBIRDS). It was reported again on the 20th (Dian Bogie) which was actually the same day as the Kleinburg CBC, but the location is just outside the circle (by 100-200')! Evidently, it did not die around 10th or 11th as had been widely assumed, but survived (Noble 2010), and was still present into Jan 2010.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at Lambton Woods on 2nd (SMF). 9 at Port Credit Harbour (incl 8 in one tree), *Peel* on 19th (anon,SPXC, fide MHC), 4 seen there @ Snug Harbour Restaurant on 22nd (BKW fide HBGG) & 8 there on 23rd (Dave Don fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - 1 first reported at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 24th (GRE fide ONTBIRDS). It could not be relocated on 25th but was seen taking insects off covered sailboats in the winter storage area off Ontario St. on 26th (GCam,BCam, fide ONTBIRDS). It was often very difficult to find and wasn't reported again until the 29th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & then again on 30th (CEE,Dave Don, fide ONTBIRDS) & 31st (CEE fide ONTBIRDS).

* WILSON'S WARBLER - 1 M at Oakville Sewage Treatment Plant, *Halton* was first reported on 23rd (Dave Don fide ONTBIRDS) and was seen again each day until the 28th (m.obs). 2 photos taken on 27th were posted on Jean Iron's website showing it had a droopy right wing and was missing the entire tail.

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 12th (RPyE fide DRBA).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 18 at LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C) & 11 at Kennedy S of Mt Albert Rd., *York* on 12th (NMu,ICa).

FOX SPARROW - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (AA) & 1 at Grenadier Pond, HP on 20th (BY,&,TXC).

SONG SPARROW - 7 at Peninsula B, LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Peninsula B, LSS on 5th (NMu,ICa,EO'C), 2 at South Trail/Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (AA) & 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 14th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Humber R. Mouth, Sunnyside on 20th (BY,&,TXC) & 2 at 'Magic Marsh', East Don Parkland on 20th (REH,&,TXC).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – Throughout the month there were 9 reports of singles, 7 reports of 2's & 3 at Court Square Gardens (S of Adelaide, E of Toronto St.) on 17th (AA) & 3 at Canada Life, University Ave on 31st (RBHS).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 at CSSP on 6th (DJM,OFO).

SNOW BUNTING - 100 at Simcoe St, Seagrave, *Durham* on 4th (DRuch fide DRBA). 20 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 4th (KDu) (Brydon 2010), 12 on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 100 on 12th (RjF,MvdT, fide ONTBIRDS) & 100+ there on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010). 1 at HBP on 6th (DJM,OFO) & 150 at Yonge St N of Queensville SR, *York* on 12th (NMu,ICa).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 12 (incl. 6M) @ feeder at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 7th (RLau) & 10 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill, *York* on 17th (TH) (Brydon 2010).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 12th (AA) & on 16th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS). 13 at Grenadier Pond, HP on 20th (BY,&,TXC) & 5 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 20th (OXC fide THo, fide OUTON). 1 at Conc 2 W of Cedarbrae (Old Shiloh Rd), *York* on 29th (anon fide AK, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Conc 2 W of Cedarbrae (Old Shiloh Rd), *York* on 31st (BB) (Brydon 2010).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 1 at Conc 2 W of Cedarbrae (Old Shiloh Rd), *York* on 29th (AK fide ONTBIRDS).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 1 at Verobeach Road Pond on 20th (GDe,RDC,TXC).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 26th (GDe) (Brydon 2010).

HOUSE FINCH - 32 at Fairway Heights Cr., *York* on 20th (TXC, RBHS, WP).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; OFO Ontario Field Ornithologists; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; ETB Eleanor Beagan; MAB Michael A. Biro; DBo Dan Bone; BB Bruce Brydon; BCam Barry Cameron; GCam Gordon Cameron; ICA Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; OXC Oshawa Christmas Count; GC Glenn Coady; MHC Mark Cranford; RTC Robert T. (Bob) Cubitt; RDC Robert D. Cumming; GDe Gene Denzel; BDil Bruce Di Labio; RZD Rob Dobos; KDu Keith Dunn; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; SMF Steven Favier; LF Luc Fazio; RjF Ron Fleming; JWF Joachim Floegel; HBGG Hamilton Birders Google Group; PMG Phyllis Graydon; REH Ross Harris; CH Carl Hills; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; CMH Carol Horner; JI Jean Iron; RDJ Ross D. James; DJ Dana Jonak; AK Andrew Keaveney; LGK Leslie G. Kinrys; MK Mark Kubisz; SLaF Steve LaForest; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; JFL Joan F. Love; JMack Jess MacKenzie; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; JMcLean John McLean; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; GKM Gordon K. Morton; 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; RJP Ron Pittaway; GCP Gavin C. Platt; WP Winnie Poon; RPyE Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; KRS Kevin Shackleton; JHS Jeff Skevington; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; RGT Ron Tozer; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; MDW Mike Williamson; BKW Brian K. Wylie; KXC Kleinburg Xmas Count; RHXC Richmond Hill Xmas Count; SPXC South Peel Xmas Count; TXC Toronto Xmas Count; BY Bob Yukich.

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Brydon, B. 2010. November-December 2009 Sightings. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter: 7-8, January 2010.
Noble, B. 2010. Kleinburg Christmas Bird Count 2009. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter: 4-6, January 2010.
Retter, M.L.P. 2010. Sightings: Mid November to early December 2009. Birding 42(1):24-26, Jan 2010.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 916 reports were added to the database for December 2009 (some CBC data still to be entered).

Please send reports to: Roy Smith, 20 Harding Blvd. W, Suite 1002, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 9S4. Tel/Fax: 905-508-4045
email: rsmith@mrs.com by 8th of the following month, please. Send photos for possible use in the bird report to:
torontobirds@sympatico.ca, following guidelines on 2nd page of this journal.

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Errata: November Records in Toronto Birds 3(10):213-221.

Omitted were:

jaeger sp. 1 (probably Parasitic or Pomarine) at Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch, Heber Down C.A., *Durham* on 1 Nov 2009 (AA).

swallow sp. 1 at Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch, Heber Down C.A., *Durham* on 1 Nov 2009 (AA).

The report of 1 Fox Sparrow at Riverwood Park, *Peel* on 1 Nov 2009 (AA) should have referred to 6 (six).