



TORONTO BIRDS

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Records Committee – Toronto Ornithological Club



COVER PHOTO

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)

Photo © Joe Noordman

During autumn migration Broad-winged Hawks are usually seen high in the sky, in leisurely drifting kettles. They are rarely seen close to the ground or perched, like the one photographed here. Surprisingly, this Broad-winged Hawk landed near the south platform at the Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch, on 11 September 2009. What a treat for all the hawk watchers there!

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 – MARCH 2010

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.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 1 flying NE at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), in a flock of 112 Canada Geese [No doc. seen].

SNOW GOOSE - 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 7th (RPye, J. McKnight, fide DRBA) & 7 (1 blue, 6 white) at Lake Ontario offshore, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 11:00hrs on 9th (Alan Woods, JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Green Lane W of Yonge, Newmarket, *York* on 8th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 2 at Patterson SR, *Peel* on 10th (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010). 1 (blue) AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 25th & 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th (Skip Shand) (Brydon 2010) and one there on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

CANADA GOOSE - 700 migrants (in 15 flocks) flying N at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* between 08:50-09:25hrs. on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

MUTE SWAN - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo) (Brydon 2010).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 3 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1st (JKa fide DRBA) & 3 (2 w/ tags: 917, 126) there on 7th (RBHS, WP). 2 at HBP & 8 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 7th (GVR, JBMW). 2 at Hunsden SR, *Peel* on 13th (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010). 1 (tag #146) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), on 17th (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (tag #126) there on 26th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 5 (2 AD, 3 imm) at Rotary Park, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (anon fide OUTON). 1 with wing tag #101, 1 AD wing tag #192, this pair nested in the Corner Marsh in 2009; had 5 young of which 3 survived to young- adulthood. 2 (1 w tag #LD4) at Elgin Pond, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide OUTON).

TUNDRA SWAN - 2 at Caledon East, *Peel* on 1st (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010). 3 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 14th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 16th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 3 on 20th (RJF, BCam, fide ONTBIRDS). 7 flying over at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 18th (DEP) & 2 at Palgrave, *Peel* on 23rd (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010).

WOOD DUCK - 1 M at Lake Wabukayne, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 7th (anon fide OUTON), 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 20th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 1 there on 26th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 6 (4M, 2F) at HP on 23rd, 4 (3M, 1F) on 27th & 2 (1M, 1F) there on 29th (SMF). 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide OUTON), 4 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 at Silver Lakes Golf Course, *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

GADWALL - 39 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide DRBA), 11 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA) & 55 at LSS on 20th (NMu).

EURASIAN WIGEON - 1 seen from East Platform, at SE corner of Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 12:00hrs on 28th [No doc. seen] (Dan Kaczynski fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). It was also reported there at 16:00hrs (Lev Frid, Kyle Holloway, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 8 at HBP [E] on 8th (LGK fide OUTON), 4 at Bay D, LSS on 17th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 11 there on 20th (NMu). 3 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (KRS) (Brydon 2010), 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 27th & 28th (THo fide DRBA) & 4 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 38 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide DRBA).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (THo fide DRBA) & 4 (3M, 1F) at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 8 reports from HP beginning with 1 M on 10th (SMF), 3 or 4 there during the middle of the month & last report of 6 (3M, 3F) on 30th (SMF). 8 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA) & 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide OUTON).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th, 2 on 14th, 13 on 16th & 15 there on 28th (THo fide DRBA). 1 at Triangle Pond, LSS on 13th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 15 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 14th (THo fide DRBA). 13 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 15th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 16 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 18th (KRS) (Brydon 2010). 1 M at Reesor Pond, *York* on 15th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) where there was open water three weeks ahead of last year!

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 1 M at Cell #1, LSS on 17th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 13 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

CANVASBACK - 50 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 12th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at LSS on 17th (EO'C fide OUTON) & 26 on 20th (NMu). 12 at LSS (10 in C1; 2 (pr) at Triangle Pond) on 27th (JRC, VC).

REDHEAD - 1 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 27th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 5 reports from 11th to 17th of 2 birds, then larger numbers appeared with 20 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* & 44 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (DW fide DRBA). 6 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 44 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 46 there on 28th (RPye fide OUTON) & 15 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

GREATER SCAUP - 500 at LSS on 6th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

LESSER SCAUP - 7 at Ward's Island, TI on 9th (NMu, MVL) & 100+ at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 27th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 6 reports from 2nd to 28th of 3 (1 M, 2 F) at J.C. Saddington Park area, *Peel* (m.obs). 3 (1M, 2F) at HBP [E] on 7th (GVR, JBMW), 8th (LGK fide OUTON) & on 27th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). There was no date overlap between these sites so likely the same birds were involved.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 6 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 7th (GVR, JBMW) & 12 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 19th (BPB fide OUTON).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 1000 at LSS on 6th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

BUFFLEHEAD - 47 at LSS on 6th & 61 on 27th (NMu, MVL). 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 43 at TI on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 122 at LSS on 6th, 45 on 20th & 26 on 27th (NMu, &). 52 at TI on 9th (NMu, MVL), 10 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

HOODED MERGANSER - 2 at Cell #3, LSS on 6th (NMu, ICa, MVL), 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (THo fide DRBA) & 1 M at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 11th (Sadie Morris fide OUTON). 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 (1 M, 1F) at Elgin Pond, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide OUTON) & 4 there on 27th (anon fide OUTON). 3 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 27th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

COMMON MERGANSER - 9 at Lambton Woods on 1st (Ron Luft fide OUTON), 17 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 15 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2010). 108 at LSS on 20th & 51 there on 27th (NMu). 6 at Holland Landing, *York* on 26th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 500 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 27th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 M at HBP on 8th (SMF).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 29th (PW fide ONTBIRDS).

WILD TURKEY - 37 at Hwy 407 & Walkers Line, *Halton* on 1st (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Warden Ave, well S of Davis Dr, *York* on 7th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 2nd (GCarp,Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at CSSP on 7th (GVR,JBMW) & 1 there from 25th to 30th (m.obs). 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (THo fide DRBA) & 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide DRBA).

HORNED GREBE - 2 at CSSP on 10th (SMF), 6 on 11th (anon fide OUTON), 2 on 16th (SMF), 1 on 25th (SMF) & 12 there on 27th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Port Credit Harbour area, *Peel* on 20th (MK,&, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 on 25th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide DRBA), 2 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 28th (anon fide DRBA) & 2 at Arkendo Park, *Halton* on 29th (Jim Watt fide HBGG).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 8 reports from CSSP beginning with 4 on 7th (GVR,JBMW) & high counts of 80 on 25th (SMF), 200 on 27th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS) & 80 on 30th (SMF). 13 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 20th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 12 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 9 there on 24th (anon fide DRBA). 12 at SE Tip, LSS on 20th (NMu). 40 at Port Credit Harbour area, *Peel* on 20th (MK,&, fide ONTBIRDS), 50 on 21st (MHC fide ONTBIRDS) & 38 there on 25th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 82 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 27th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG) & 525 at Arkendo Park, *Halton* @ 18:00hrs on 29th (Jim Watt fide HBGG).

WESTERN GREBE - 1 first reported at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* @ 19:30hrs on 18th (CEE fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen again up until the 21st but not reported after that date. It was often well offshore or near the old barge at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* (m.obs).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 3 at LSS on 20th & 37 on 27th (NMu). 2 at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL), 1 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 27th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG), 2 over Pine Point Park on 28th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 31st (SMF).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 12th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Leslie & 19th Heronry, *York* on 18th (Glenn Steplock fide DVW, fide ONTBIRDS), 9 there on 19th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS), 3 nests w pairs; 3 nests with single birds & 2 birds hanging around (not attached to any nest yet). 50 at Leslie & 19th Heronry, *York* on 30th (GEL) (Brydon 2010). 2 at Humber Station Rd., *Peel* on 22nd (BCam) (Brydon 2010), 5 occupied nests at Albion Hills Cons. Area, *Peel* on 22nd (PMG) (Brydon 2010) & 6 at Brougham Heronry, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide OUTON). 2 at HBP on 25th (SMF).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 1 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 27th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG).

TURKEY VULTURE - One at Townline & Adelaide, Oshawa, *Durham* on 8th (O. Peter fide DRBA). There were 4 other reports of single birds from the 18th to 22nd & 3 reported at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 20th (BB fide ONTBIRDS) (Brydon 2010), 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 26th (JRC,VC) & at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 30th (RLau).

OSPREY - 1 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* @ 08:00hrs on 6th (KRS fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) was his personal earliest record for *York* R.M.

BALD EAGLE - On the 15th there were singles at Silver Lakes Golf Course, *York* (anon fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at N end Yonge St Holland Landing, *York* (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (pair) at Holland R. Mouth Heronry, *York* from 29th to 31st (PW fide ONTBIRDS). On the 31st 'One perched on a large nest while the other was circling over the mouth of the nearby West Holland River' (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 JUV flying NE at Hwy 7 & *York*/*Durham* townline, *York* on 29th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS) & IMM at Kerncliff Park, Burlington, *Halton* on 31st (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 M at Harmony Rd S of Winchester, *Durham* on 2nd (SLaF fide DRBA), 1 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 15th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 M at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 1 at Yonge & Hwy 7, *York* on 3rd (NMu) & 1 at Leslie & Gorham St., *York* on 15th (KRS fide ONTBIRDS) (Brydon 2010).

COOPER'S HAWK - 16 reports from different locations of singles throughout the month.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Kerncliff Park, Burlington, *Halton* on 31st (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 NW of Nobleton, *York* on 18th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Leslie & Eastern Ave. on 27th (NMu,MVL).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - Singles at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 6th (BB) (Brydon 2010), at Baselands, LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 7th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN EAGLE - 1 SUB flying E at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL), gulls on the beach rose up and were agitated 5 minutes before the eagle flew past.

MERLIN - Singles at Winston Churchill & Windwood Dr, *Peel* on 12th (anon fide OUTON), Leslie & Gorham St, Newmarket, *York* on 12th (KRS) (Brydon 2010) & at Baselands, LSS on 20th (NMu).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Lift Bridge, Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 1st (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 (pair) there on 5th (Lev Frid,Kyle Holloway, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 7th (GVR,JBMW). 1 IMM at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* from 14th to 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS); also seen again there on 19th (DW fide DRBA) & 28th (THo fide DRBA). 1 plus 1st egg recorded at Sheraton Centre on 24th; the F is called Rhea Mae & Canadian Peregrine Foundation has a camera on the nest (anon fide OUTON).

AMERICAN COOT - 4 reports from 7th to 25th of 1 at CSSP on 7th (SMF). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide OUTON).

SANDHILL CRANE - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

KILLDEER - 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 11th, 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th & 16th (THo fide DRBA). 4 at Queen & Bramalea Rd., *Peel* on 15th (Doug Whelpdale) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

* LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Silver City Pond, Newmarket, *York* on 30th [No doc. seen] (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS). [Doc. required up to 31 Mar]

WILSON'S SNIPE - 1 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 28th (BB fide RFJ, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 12 at Samuel Wilmot Nature Centre, *Durham* on 17th (J. Foster fide DRBA). 1 at Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* @ 19:50hrs on 21st (FP fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide DRBA) & 3 at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham* on 26th (anon fide OUTON). 2 at N End Old Yonge Street, *York* on 27th (KRS,Linda Shackleton) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (anon fide DRBA).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 1 (early) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 16th & 7 there on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

LITTLE GULL - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 27th & 4 on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-BILLED GULL - 5000 at LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 10000 there on 27th (NMu,MVL)

THAYER'S GULL - 1 AD at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 5th (DW).

ICELAND GULL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1st (JKa fide DRBA), 1 AD on 5th (DW), 1 on 6th & 3 there on 13th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 AD at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (DW) & 8 there on 7th (RPye fide DRBA). 2 (1 AD, 1 1W) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 7th (RBHS,WP) & 1 1W on 15th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 10th & 16th (THo fide DRBA). 1 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide DRBA), 1 AD at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 13th (AA) & 1 1W at Cherry Beach on 27th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 AD at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 5th (DW) & on 6th (RPye,&, fide DRBA). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 16th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1st (JKa fide DRBA), 5 (2 AD, 3 SUB) on 5th (DW), 1 on 6th & 1 on 13th (RPye,&, fide DRBA). 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (DW) & 6 on 7th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 2W at

Bronte area, *Halton* on 27th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG) & 1 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 27th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough @ 18:30hrs on 15th (RLau) was looking out from a nestbox. 1 heard at Grenadier Pond, HP on 18th (JWi,BKa) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 18th (DEP).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 2 at LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 7th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 20th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & on 28th (anon fide DRBA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide DRBA) & 1 at N End Old Yonge Street, *York* on 27th (KRS,Linda Shackleton) (Brydon 2010).

"SNYDER'S" GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at LSS on 6th [No doc. seen] (NMu,ICa,MVL).

SNOWY OWL - Again this month from the 3rd to the 17th there were 9 reports from the Holland Marsh area, *York* of 1 or 2 birds (m.obs). 3 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 6th (KRS fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 7th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Keele St, N of King St., *York* on 8th (Sean Geddes fide ONTBIRDS).

LONG-EARED OWL - 4 at LSS on 20th (NMu).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Kleinburg Golf Club, *York* on 24th (JFL fide ONTBIRDS) (Brydon 2010).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 2 at LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 1 there on 27th (JRC,VC).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 M at Elgin Pond, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 8th (anon fide OUTON), 1 at Mouth of Highland Creek on 14th (RLau) & 1 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 20th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG). 1 at HBP on 25th (SMF) & 2 at Algonquin Island, TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at Lambton Woods on 1st (Ron Luft fide OUTON), 1 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 11th (Geoff Simpson) (Brydon 2010) & 1 M at Parklawn & Beechwood, Beaverton, *Durham* on 26th (Greg Jaski fide ONTBIRDS).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - 6 at TI on 9th & 15 on 25th (NMu,MVL).

NORTHERN FLICKER - Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide DRBA), Resources Road Ravine on 28th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & at HP on 29th (SMF).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 8 reports of singles thro' the month from Lambton Woods, Rattray Marsh, *Peel*, Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York*, Townline & Adelaide, Oshawa, *Durham*, Heart Lake C. A., *Peel*, Beatrice & Ritson Rd, Oshawa, *Durham* & at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham*.

EASTERN PHOEBE - Singles at Wentworth, E of Thicksen's Rd., *Durham* on 20th (RPye fide DRBA), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 28th (anon fide DRBA).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 10 reports of single birds throughout the month, mainly from *Durham* & *York*. An IMM & an AD were seen at different locations LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 7th (RPye,J. McKnight, fide DRBA) & on 9th (C. Adey,A. Woods, fide DRBA). 1 at Major Mackenzie W of Hwy 48, *York* on 8th (RTC,GEL) (Brydon 2010), 2 at Thicksens Woods, *Durham* on 10th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 1 at Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 21st (FP fide ONTBIRDS).

HORNED LARK - 3 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 6th (RPye,&, fide DRBA) & 4 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 7th (RPye,J. McKnight, fide DRBA).

TREE SWALLOW - 3 at Lake Scugog, *Durham* on 24th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 25th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 1 there on 28th (Lev Frid,Kyle Holloway, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Holland Marsh, *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) was his personal earliest record.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 36 at TI on 9th (NMu,MVL) & 31 there on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 7 at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

BROWN CREEPER - Singles at Pottageville Wetland Complex, *York* on 11th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), Thorncliffe Park Dr., *Toronto* on 11th (ETB) & at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 15th (Geoff Simpson) (Brydon 2010). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 27th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & 5 there on 28th (anon fide DRBA). 3 at Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 27th (BB) (Brydon 2010).

CAROLINA WREN - Singles at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (Walter Fisher fide OUTON), Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 15th (DEP) & at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 24th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at TI (Wards and Algonquin) on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

WINTER WREN - 1 at HP on 5th & 10th (SMF). 1 at Dacre Crescent on 19th (SMF) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 28th (anon fide DRBA).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (anon fide DRBA), 2 at Albion Hills Cons. Area, *Peel* on 25th (PMG) (Brydon 2010), 12 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 27th (BB fide RFJ, fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 at Resources Road Ravine on 28th (MK fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 2 at 7th Conc & 15th SR, King, *York* on 18th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) (Brydon 2010). 1 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 20th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG) & 2 at 7th Conc & King-Vaughan Line, *York* on 21st (anon fide OUTON) were carrying nest material to a birdbox. 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 24th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 6th (DEP), not present all winter, so must have moved in from somewhere else in Ontario(?). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 20 at Kinsale Rd S of Conc 7, *Durham* on 5th (DW), 100 at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL) & 50 at LSS on 27th (NMu,MVL).

VARIED THRUSH - 1 (still there) at Cold Creek C. A. , *York* on 1st & 15th (Geoff Simpson fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - Only 24 reports this month, with 8 from *Durham*; 2 from *York*; 12 from *Toronto*; and 2 from *Peel*. At this time of year those birds which had left their breeding territories for the winter are now moving back to them. Thus we get some reports from 'unusual' sites, as the birds move around, re-occupying territories or trying to establish new ones. Many thanks to the approximately 17 observers who submitted reports this month.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 12 at 14 Birch St, Palgrave, *Peel* on 2nd (GCarp,Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS).

CEDAR WAXWING - 20 at Kinsale Rd S of Conc 7, *Durham* on 5th (DW).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 to 4 were reported on numerous dates at Port Credit Harbour area, *Peel* where up to 7 (initially 9 in Dec 2009) had overwintered. 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 6th (Joe Noordman fide DRBA)

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 28th (Walter Fisher fide OUTON).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 25 at Peninsula B, LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 1 (v. early) at Bronte Creek Prov. Park, *Halton* on 28th (MWJ,BHet, fide HBGG).

FOX SPARROW - 1 at HP on 11th (SMF), 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 20th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide OUTON).

SONG SPARROW - 2 (singing) at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 7th (RPye,J. McKnight, fide DRBA). 22 at LSS on 20th & 46 there on 27th (NMu,&). 46 at TI on 25th (NMu,ICa,MVL).

SWAMP SPARROW - Singles at LSS on 6th (NMu,ICa,MVL), Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (DW fide DRBA) & at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 21st (RPye fide DRBA).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 (@ feeder) at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough from 1st to 12th (RLau) & 5 other reports of singles from 2nd to 21st. 2 (prob. wintered) at Algonquin Island, TI on 9th (NMu,MVL), 2 at Dacre Crescent on 19th (SMF & 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 28th (RPye fide OUTON).

SNOW BUNTING - 300+ at #14684 Hwy 50, S of Palgrave, *Peel* on 2nd (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS), 50 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 6th (KRS fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 7th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS). 40+ at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 20th (RJF, GCam, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 11 at TI on 9th (NMu, MVL) & 13 on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - Early reports were of 1 at Aurora, *York* on 7th (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), a few at Hwy 9, Pottageville Wetland Complex, *York* on 11th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 3 M at Lake Aquitaine, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 12th (anon fide OUTON), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide DRBA) & 1 at McLaughlin N of Bovaird Dr., *Peel* on 17th (Doug Whelpdale) (Brydon 2010). 86 at LSS on 20th & 100 there on 27th (NMu, &). 90 at TI on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).



A Red-winged Blackbird stakes his territory at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, *Toronto*, 31 March 2010. © Sandra Hawkins.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - Singles at Claremont, *Durham* on 17th (JKa fide DRBA), at Baselands, LSS on 21st (AA) & at Hwy 48 E of Sutton, *York* on 25th (Greg Jaski fide ONTBIRDS). 2 NE of Nobleton, *York* on 27th (Craig Corcoran fide RFJ, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 31st (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON GRACKLE - First spring reports were of singles at TI on 9th (NMu, MVL), Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 10th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & at Yonge & Major Mackenzie, *York* on 12th (RBHS fide ONTBIRDS). 20 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 110 at TI on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 13 at TI on 9th (NMu, MVL) & 26 there on 25th (NMu, ICa, MVL). 1 at LSS on 18th (SMF) & 7 there on 20th (NMu). 1 M at HP on 18th & 1 F there on 20th (SMF).

PURPLE FINCH - 1 at Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 26th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; ETB Eleanor Beagan; BB Bruce Brydon; BCam Barry Cameron; GCam Gordon Cameron; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; VC Victoria Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; MHC Mark Cranford; RTC Robert T. (Bob) Cubitt; RDC Robert D. Cumming; RHC Bob Curry; GDe Gene Denzel; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; BF Bruce Falls; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; HBGG Hamilton Birders Google Group; PMG Phyllis Graydon; BHet Bev Hettrick; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; RFJ Reginald F. James; MWJ Mark Jennings; BKa Barbara Kalthoff; JKa James Kamstra; LGK Leslie G. Kinrys; MK Mark Kubisz; SLaF Steve LaForest; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; JFL Joan F. Love; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; FP Frank Pinilla; WP Winnie Poon; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; GVR Garth Riley; DRuch Dave Ruch; KRS Kevin Shackleton; DShil David Shilman; GJS Glenda J. Slessor; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; DVW D.V. Chip Weseloh; MDW Mike Williamson; JWi Joan Winearls; DW David Worthington; PW Peter Wukasch.

REFERENCES:

Brydon, B. 2010. February – March 2010 Sightings. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter: 6-7, April 2010.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 480 reports were added to the database for March 2010.

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

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GREATER TORONTO AREA RAPTOR WATCH 2009 SUMMARY

Records Committee, Toronto Ornithological Club



Immature **Northern Goshawk** at Halls Road, Whitby, *Durham*, 20 January 2010. © Joe Noordman.

Introduction

Following in the footsteps of the first of these 'Raptor Watch reports' (see *Toronto Birds* 3(7):153-170, 2009), the TOC Records Committee is pleased to present a second combined report, covering the 2009 fall season. Data from three of the four GTA stations is archived with the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), and accessible via their website, as well as on the TOC website. However, we feel it is useful for both raptor enthusiasts and others to have the local data available for reference in one place. A printable report is also beneficial for feedback and liaison with many 'incipient' birders who first make contact with the wider birding community via the hawkwatches, as well as the growing numbers of photographers who gravitate to some of the watch sites. We thank those site coordinators who provided materials and helped ensure their data were as complete and accurate as possible. Most could use more support, and we encourage anyone with the appropriate skills and time available to make contact with one of the site coordinators and help out next season. *TOC Records Committee, May 2010.*

CRANBERRY MARSH RAPTOR WATCH – 2009

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

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

Table 1. 2009 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (CMRW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	14	1047	2882	21	3964
Osprey	64	67	5	1	137
Bald Eagle	11	19	22	3	55
Northern Harrier	13	32	48	18	111
Sharp-shinned Hawk	27	727	680	60	1494
Cooper's Hawk	9	30	53	28	120
Northern Goshawk	0	2	12	10	24
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	3	37	7	47
Broad-winged Hawk	13	402	0	0	415
Red-tailed Hawk	16	117	834	377	1344
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	5	14	19
Golden Eagle	0	0	1	2	3
American Kestrel	12	325	140	6	483
Merlin	3	19	12	0	34
Peregrine Falcon	0	23	18	7	48
Unidentified Accipiter	0	8	3	1	12
Unidentified Buteo	4	19	2	5	30
Unidentified Falcon	0	1	1	1	3
Unidentified Eagle	0	0	1	0	1
Unidentified Raptor	1	17	16	3	37
Total Birds	187	2858	4772	564	8381
Total Days Counted	10	30	31	30	101
Total Observation Hours	40.5	145.0	122.5	96.5	404.5
Days with N/NW winds, rising barometric pressure and good thermals	4	7	7	3	21
Raptors on above days	114	2035	4122	358	6629
% of Total Birds	61%	71%	86%	63%	79%

In 2009, of the 101 days from 22 August to 30 November, coordinator Doug Lockrey's team of many observers, counters, visitors and photographers stationed themselves on all but one day (a rainout), viewing

for 405 hours. 6629 (79%) of the 8381 recorded raptors came through on 21 of the 101 days, each of these days being marked by all three of the aforementioned weather conditions (Table 1).

Note the very low Broad-winged Hawk count – this species has generally completed its southwesterly migration by the end of the third week of September; up to this time there were only three days along the lakefront with “proper conditions”. To the north, at the Iroquois Shoreline RW, four times as many Broad-wingeds had come through.

Table 2. August 2009 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
22		1																			1	3.0
23		18			6	1			3	8			2	1			4				43	5.0
24		8		4	4	2			1				1							1	21	3.0
25																					0	3.0
26	2	9	6	2	5	4			7	4			5								44	6.5
27	2	7	4	4	3	1			1				3	1							26	3.5
28	4	4	1	1	2					1			1								14	4.5
29	1	7		1	2																11	3.0
30	4	7		1	5				1	2				1							21	6.0
31	1	3				1				1											6	3.0
Total	14	64	11	13	27	9	0	0	13	16	0	0	12	3	0	0	4	0	0	1	187	40.5

Table 3. September 2009 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	5	8		4	7	2			1				1	1	1						30	4.0
2	5	3		4	7								1							1	21	4.5
3	4	3		4	14	2							1		1			1			30	6.0
4	3	1			1								1	1							7	3.0
5	3	4		1	59	1							1	1	1	2				1	74	6.0
6	2	2			5								2								11	3.0
7	10	5			15				1												31	5.0
8	2		1		4				1				3			1	1				13	5.0
9	5	5	1	1	36				1	3			9	2							63	5.0
10	11	4			6	1			2	3			3			1	1				32	4.0
11	4		1		3								1	1	1						11	4.0
12	7	4	2		29				2	1			11				2			2	60	6.0
13	2	9		2	58	1			59	8			91	1						4	235	7.5
14	3	6			21	1	1			2			36	1	2		1			4	78	7.5
15	26	1	2	1	97				293	7			72	1			2				502	5.0
16	14	2	1		5	2			11	9			3	1	1		2			2	53	5.0
17	49			1	4				5	2			2	1	2	1				1	68	5.0
18	42	4	2	2	29	2			16	19			19	3	1	3	10				152	9.0
19	10	1		6	14				3	3			2	1							40	6.0
20	7	1			11				3				6								28	4.0
21	8	1			2		1			3			1		2						18	3.5
22	1				1								1	1							4	2.0
23	6					2				1				2	1						12	5.0
24	19		1	2	7	1		1		4			8							1	44	4.0
25	14	1	3		3	2			3	1			2								29	3.0
26	2	1	1	1	4									1	4					1	15	4.0
27	22		2		10	2				2			1		3						42	6.0
28	9				3	1				4			1		1						19	2.0
29	28			1	29				1	10			7								76	4.0
30	724	1	2	2	243	10		2		35			39		2						1060	7.0
Total	1047	67	19	32	727	30	2	3	402	117	0	0	325	19	23	8	19	1	0	17	2858	145

Table 4. October 2009 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	4		2	6	3	1		1		1			2								20	4.0
2	7				4			1												1	13	3.0
3		1	1		1																3	2.0
4	32	2			8	3		1						3							49	5.0
5	201		1		25					2			1	1	2						233	4.0
6	1				22	1	2						7		1			1			35	3.0
7	10				5	1				6			2	2	1						27	6.0
8	4			3	43	1				1			5		1					4	62	3.0
9																					0	0.5
10	468		2	11	181	9		6		11			15			1	2			6	712	5.0
11	690		4	3	83	6	2	3		26			63		1	1					882	7.5
12				4	12	1	1						3							1	22	3.0
13	460		5	2	127	7		6		29			22	1	1	1				3	664	7.0
14	798	1	3	8	118	12	2	15		530		1	10	1	2						1501	6.5
15	32		1	2	15	1	1	1		61			1							1	116	4.0
16	69			2	5					28			1		2						107	4.0
17	28		1	1	8	1		2		48	3		4		1				1		98	6.0
18	24	1		1	10	3	2	1		49					1						92	6.0
19	12									2				1							15	5.0
20					1					6			1								8	3.0
21				1						1				1	1						4	4.0
22					1					4					1						6	3.0
23																					0	0.5
24				4			1			6											11	4.0
25	2				2	1	1			4			1	2	1						14	4.0
26	25					1				11			2		1						40	5.0
27	12				1	1				1											15	4.0
28			1			1				1	1										4	3.5
29	3		1		4	1				3											12	4.0
30						1				1											2	1.0
31					1					2	1				1						5	2.0
Total	2882	5	22	48	680	53	12	37	0	834	5	1	140	12	18	3	2	1	1	16	4772	122.5

Table 5. November 2009 Totals (CMRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	1				7	3	1			21	1		2		3					1	40	5.0
2					2	2	3	1		8	1						4				21	4.0
3	10			4	21	5	2	2		110	3	1	1		2						161	5.0
4	7			1	5		1			5	2										21	4.0
5																					0	0.5
6		1	3	1	2	6	1	3		150	6	1			1	1	1	1			178	4.0
7					1	1							1							1	4	5.0
8	1									2											3	5.0
9				2		1															3	3.0
10				2	3	1				2											8	4.0
11	2			1	8					10										1	22	6.0
12					1					3											4	2.0
13										3			1								4	3.0
14						1				2											3	3.0
15						1				1											2	5.0
16				1	6	4				14											25	5.0
17					1					1											2	2.0
18										3											3	2.0
19																					0	0.0

20				2						6										8	3.0	
21							1			1			1							3	3.0	
22																				0	3.0	
23										1										1	3.0	
24															1					1	1.0	
25					1	1				1										3	1.0	
26				1						1										2	1.0	
27				1						1										2	3.0	
28				1	2	1	1			14										19	5.0	
29																				0	2.0	
30				1		1		1		17	1									21	4.0	
Total	21	1	3	18	60	28	10	7	0	377	14	2	6	0	7	1	5	1	0	3	564	96.5

OBSERVERS, COUNTERS — Charlie Adey, King Baker, Jerry Ball, Geoff Carpentier, Joyce Collier-Brown, Rosemary Harris, Tyler Hoar, Carol Horner, Jean Iron, Karl Jennewein, Dan Kaczynski, Ross Lamb, Doug Lockrey, Alf Lisk, Paul McGee, Jim McKnight, Craig McLauchlan, Brandon McWalters, Janice Melendez, Jim Munroe, Frank Oland, Ron Pittaway, Rayfield Pye, Dave Shilman, Jim Skene, Ron Stephenson, John Stirrat, Greg Stuart, Stu Williams, Alan Woods, Dave Worthington, and many others also contributed.

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Hawk watchers at the South Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 13 September 2009. © Winnie Poon.

IROQUOIS SHORELINE RAPTOR WATCH – 2009

This year has seen a drastic decline in migrating raptors at our site. Where, oh where did the Broad-winged Hawks go? My guess is they took a more inland flight over the Oak Ridges Moraine and then dropped down southwest, as indicated by the totals recorded at Hawk Cliff, *Elgin County* (65,848) and Holiday Beach, *Essex County* (63,968). These numbers are the seasonal totals for all raptors at these two stations (<http://hawkcount.org>). Very few raptors held steady for the season, most were in a major decline. Our average for 2007 and 2008 was 11,851 migrants, this year (2009), we were hard pressed to tally 4347.

Due to changing circumstances our hours of observation have declined dramatically. Last year we had over 235 hours of on-site observation, this year the total reached only 139 hours. The 100 hours of lost observation time may account for a portion of the decrease, but all three GTA sites had very low Broad-winged Hawk totals! I am hoping this was just an anomaly and that things will return to our expected yearly totals; or has the encroachment of malls and sub-divisions changed the pattern of migration? Only time will tell. It may have been a disappointment this year, but that's why we do what we do - assess and see if a trend is beginning to take shape!

Once again, it has been my pleasure to observe the *Great Escape*!



Coordinator Mike Williamson (right), and Roy Smith at the Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch site (Heber Down hydro corridor), *Durham*, 12 September 2009. © Winnie Poon.

Table 1. 2009 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (ISRW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	2	185	1271	0	1458
Osprey	7	25	1	0	33
Bald Eagle	1	27	11	0	39
Northern Harrier	2	29	8	5	44
Sharp-shinned Hawk	30	254	241	21	546
Cooper's Hawk	0	20	22	9	51
Northern Goshawk	0	1	2	0	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	23	19	42
Broad-winged Hawk	2	1645	1	0	1648
Red-tailed Hawk	1	21	129	181	332
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	7	7
Golden Eagle	0	3	8	1	12
American Kestrel	3	29	41	3	76
Merlin	0	13	3	0	16
Peregrine Falcon	0	3	4	1	8
Unidentified Accipiter	0	0	3	0	3
Unidentified Buteo	0	0	8	0	8
Unidentified Falcon	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified Eagle	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified Raptor	1	11	9	0	21
Total Birds	49	2266	1785	247	4347
Total Days Counted	3	18	12	10	43
Total Observation Hours	11.5	76.3	30.0	21.0	139

Table 2. August 2009 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
28	2	3			10				1												16	5.0
30		3		1	11								1								16	3.0
31		1	1	1	9				1	1			2							1	17	3.5
Total	2	7	1	2	30				2	1			3							1	49	11.5

Table 3. September 2009 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1		2		1	16	3			4				1	1							28	4.0
2	3	1	1		5																10	2.0
5	13	5	6	4	29	2			39				2							1	101	5.0
6		4	2	2	11				14				2								35	4.0
7	8	1	2	3	7	3			16				2								42	4.5
8			2	1	13				5					1							22	4.0
12	1	1	1	2	22	1			52	1			4	1						2	88	6.5
13		5	1		16				83				1								106	5.0
14		1	1	3	19				791	2			6							2	825	4.0
15	2	1			16				210				4	1	1					2	237	6.0
16	9	1	5	6	40	3	1		267	11		1	1	4						2	351	6.5
17	6			1	6				66	2			1								82	4.0
18	1	1		1	5	1			4					1							14	3.0
19	5	1	1	4	12	2			79				2	1							107	4.3
20					9				12				3								24	3.5
25	100	1	2	1	6	2			2	5		1								2	122	3.0
26	14		2		16	1			1			1		3	2						40	4.0
27	23		1		6	2															32	3.0
Total	185	25	27	29	254	20	1	0	1645	21	0	3	29	13	3	0	0	0	0	11	2266	76.3

Table 4. October 2009 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1	17		1		5	1															24	2.0
4	39			1	6	1				2					1		1				51	1.5
6	28				13	2				1			2	1						1	48	2.0
8	91				30	2				1			4	1							129	2.5
10	529	1	9	4	85	10		8	1	34		1	21	1	2		4			4	714	4.5
11	321		1		44		1	7		14			10				3			1	402	3.5
13	16				8					10			2							2	38	1.0
15	219				14			1		25											259	2.0
17	11				7			1		4			1								24	2.5
18				1	11	1		2		5						1					21	2.5
19				2	13	4		3		22		2	1		1	1					49	3.0
25					5	1	1	1		11		5				1				1	26	3.0
Total	1271	1	11	8	241	22	2	23	1	129	0	8	41	3	4	3	8	0	0	9	1785	30.0

Table 5. November 2009 Totals (ISRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1				4	5			19		134	2		3								167	3.5
7					2	2				15											19	1.5
8						1				7											8	1.5
14					3					4											7	2.0
15				1	3	1				4											9	2.0
21					3	1				4	1	1									10	2.5
22					1	2				3	1				1						8	2.0
27					1					3	1										5	2.0
28										1											1	1.5
30					3	2				6	2										13	2.5
Total	0	0	0	5	21	9	0	19	0	181	7	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	247	21.0

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The ISRW style of counting hawks,
demonstrated by Henry Kroes; Heber
Down, *Durham*, 15 September 2009.
© Winnie Poon.



Hiking visitors at the Iroquois Shoreline Raptor Watch platform, with Betsy Smith (second on left) and Mike Williamson seated at the back; *Durham*, 15 September 2009. © Winnie Poon.

ROSETTA McCLAIN GARDENS RAPTOR WATCH - 2009

This season was a peculiar one for weather, which affected all raptor watches in Ontario. Totals at most other GTA hawkwatch sites were down considerably because of very poor totals of Broad-winged Hawks. Winds at the time they migrated were not right and this resulted in few being observed relative to historic levels. Fortunately for us at Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch, Broad-winged Hawks comprise a very small percentage of the total raptors we usually see, so our final tally of 4515 was not as negatively affected. Indeed, our final total for this season was considerably more than last year's total of 4172 (Table 1). We recorded a record number of Peregrine Falcon sightings this year, reaching 73. Our previous best was 72, seen in 2007. Numbers of several other species of raptors were up from last season as well, and ranked 2nd or 3rd of the six years counted at Rosetta McClain Gardens. We recorded 18 days with over 100 raptors. That is about average for any season. Our biggest day this year was 744 on September 30th. The only rarity that we had this season was the sighting of a Common Raven on 3 occasions – 15th and 30th September, and 13th October. It was likely the same bird each time.

We were privileged to enjoy fantastic views of so many raptors this year and enjoyed sharing them with everyone who was there. I would like to thank Walter Fisher for his help in tabulating the results and his daily assistance counting. The following tables have been derived from his originals.



Walter Fisher (right) and observers at Rosetta McClain Gardens, Toronto, 30 November 2009. © Frank Butson.

Table 1. Comparative Yearly Totals (RMGRW)

Year	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total Hawks	Hours Counted
2009	1209	82	33	122	1716	96	21	21	57	675	2	5	354	49	73	4515	418
2008	1369	100	32	84	1208	74	13	9	156	621	9	11	406	43	37	4172	414
2007	1061	94	33	389	2691	92	10	18	177	715	6	12	430	44	72	5844	440
2006	436	92	46	488	2561	127	24	29	225	828	11	11	679	60	58	5675	431
2005	372	59	25	129	1618	95	19	5	14	336	6	5	294	25	40	3042	N/A
2004*	57	64	18	47	565	69	3	8	22	173	0	1	192	8	31	1258	N/A

Record seasonal high counts are in red.

* Not a full season of observation. 34 of the best days were spent elsewhere.

Table 2. 2009 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (RMGRW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	14	460	726	9	1209
Osprey	32	42	8	0	82
Bald Eagle	8	12	11	2	33
Northern Harrier	14	52	50	6	122
Sharp-shinned Hawk	80	663	934	39	1716
Cooper's Hawk	5	30	40	21	96
Northern Goshawk	1	5	11	4	21
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	12	9	21
Broad-winged Hawk	16	34	7	0	57
Red-tailed Hawk	36	48	250	341	675
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	1	1	2
Golden Eagle	0	0	5	0	5
American Kestrel	27	231	94	2	354
Merlin	7	15	26	1	49
Peregrine Falcon	10	19	39	5	73
Total Birds	250	1611	2214	440	4515
Total Days Counted	31	30	31	31	123
Total Observation Hours	97	125	146	50	418

Table 3. August 2009 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total	Hours
1-15	2	1		2	5	2			1	1			2	3	2	21	45
16-22					1					4				1	1	7	8
23	1	7		2	4	1			3	16			6		2	42	5
24-25		3	1	3	1					1					3	12	6
26	10	7	5	3	11	1			12	8			12	1	1	71	7
27		3		4	4					2			3			16	5
28		4	1		3	1				2			2			13	5
29			1										1		1	3	5
30		6			38					2				1		47	6
31	1	1			13		1						1	1		18	5
Total	14	32	8	14	80	5	1	0	16	36	0	0	27	7	10	250	97

Table 4. September 2009 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total	Hours
1		2			5								1	1		9	4
2		1		1	4								1	1		8	4
3		2			27	1							2			32	6
4	5	3	1	5	15	1							4	1	1	36	6
5		1			7	1			1				1			11	5
6	5	2			1					4			7	1	1	21	5
7	1	2			7								2		1	13	5
8	1				9	1							12	1	2	26	6
9		6		2	35	4				3			6	2	1	59	7
10		1			3								3	1		8	4
11																0	0
12	1	3	1		14								5	1		25	5
13	6	3	2	1	61				4	4			60		4	145	7
14	1	1	2	2	31	2			4	5			23	1	2	74	6
15	7			1	16	1				2			8	1		36	6
16		1		2	8								1	1		13	5
17	1	1			3								1			6	5
18	22	5	3	3	46				22	2			19	2	1	125	7

19					2	2				1			1			6	5
20																0	0
21																0	0
22-24	3	4		5	15	3	1			3			9		1	44	7
25	3	1		1	3	1				1			1			11	5
26																0	0
27																0	0
28																0	0
29	21	2	2	13	88	2							29		2	159	7
30	383	1	1	16	263	11	4		3	23			35	1	3	744	8
Total	460	42	12	52	663	30	5	0	34	48	0	0	231	15	19	1611	125

Table 5. October 2009 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total	Hours
1			1	1	22	1	2		2	1			2			32	6
2		1			8	2							1		3	15	6
3		3			15	1							1		5	25	6
4				1	34								4		6	45	6
5	9	1		3	81	3			3	2			3		6	111	7
6				1	26	2							1	5		35	6
7	1	3		1	4	1	1						9	2	7	29	5
8			1	6	85	2			1				5	8		108	7
9																0	0
10	200		1	3	62	4	1			14			19	4	7	315	7
11	204		1	4	130	3		1	1	53			32	2	1	432	7
12				2	12	3	1						3		1	22	5
13	101		3	13	383	7		4		28	1	1	12	2		555	7
14	206			2	56	2	2	7		103		2	1	2		383	7
15			2	1	2	1	1			8				1		16	6
16					1	1				8						10	5
17	3				2		1			12		1				19	6
18-24				4	3	3				2					1	13	22
25	2		1	7	8	2	2			14		1	1			38	5
26-31			1	1		2				5					2	11	20
Total	726	8	11	50	934	40	11	12	7	250	1	5	94	26	39	2214	146

Table 6. November 2009 Totals (RMGRW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Total	Hours
1	1				5	2	2	1		28						39	6
2	8		1	5	21	5				98			1	1		140	6
3																0	0
4																0	0
5					2					1					3	6	4
6			1			3	1	1		119	1					126	8
7																0	0
8																0	0
9																0	0
10					8	8	1	4		80			1		2	104	7
11																0	0
12																0	0
13																0	0
14																0	0
15																0	0
16					2	3		2		9						16	5
17																0	0
18																0	0

19																	0	0
20																	0	0
21																	0	0
22																	0	0
23																	0	0
24																	0	0
25																	0	0
26																	0	0
27										5							5	4
28				1													1	4
29																	0	0
30					1			1		1							3	6
Total	9	0	2	6	39	21	4	9	0	341	1	0	2	1	5		440	50

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Bald Eagle over the Rosetta McClain Gardens, *Toronto*. An impressive total of 33 Bald Eagles was tallied for the season. Photo taken on 13 October 2009. © Tu Dong.

HIGH PARK HAWK WATCH – 2009

The 2009 count data of the High Park Hawk Watch are presented in the following Tables. Please refer to the GTA Raptor Watch website www.greatertorontohawkwatch.com for the Coordinator's Report, along with additional data analysis, and the original count data; but note that on the website (last referenced on 8 May 2010) there are discrepancies between the 2009 'grand' totals presented in the Five Year Averages Table and the Season Totals Table. This could be due to a later revision of the monthly count numbers? [Eds.]

Table 1. 2009 Seasonal Totals by Species and Months (HPHW)

Species	August	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	0	547	2249	7	2803
Osprey	3	23	0	1	27
Bald Eagle	1	41	7	2	51
Northern Harrier	0	21	33	4	58
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	564	502	19	1088
Cooper's Hawk	1	28	24	11	64
Northern Goshawk	0	0	2	6	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	31	21	52
Broad-winged Hawk	2	1913	64	0	1979
Red-tailed Hawk	1	124	310	696	1131
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	2	2
Golden Eagle	0	0	4	3	7
American Kestrel	0	160	49	8	217
Merlin	0	18	9	4	31
Peregrine Falcon	0	20	7	1	28
Unidentified Accipiter	0	8	1	2	11
Unidentified Buteo	0	3	19	1	23
Unidentified Falcon	0	0	2	2	4
Unidentified Eagle	0	2	3	0	5
Unidentified Raptor	0	17	7	1	25
Total Birds	11	3489	3323	791	7614
Total Days Counted	3	24	17	13	57
Total Observation Hours	11.5	128.3	83.3	53.1	276.2

Table 2. August 2009 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
27																					0	2.5
28		3			1																4	4.5
31			1		2	1			2	1											7	4.5
Total	0	3	1	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11.5

Table 3. September 2009 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1					13	3			2	5					3					3	29	3.0
2													2								2	5.0
4	2		1	1	24	1			4	2			2								37	4.5
5					1	1			1	1						1					5	6.0
6					1																1	3.5
7			1		14	3			1	6			2	1	1	1					30	6.0
8					3	2							1	2		1					9	4.0
9	1		3		4	1							1		1						11	4.0
10	3	1			6	1										1			1		13	4.5
11					2																2	3.3

12	1		1	1	16	4				8			10		1						42	5.8
13	16	9	1	4	154	5			491	15			31	2	4					2	734	7.3
14	1	2		4	31	1			490	4			15	2	2					1	553	7.5
15	11	1	3	2	84	1			579	14			46	2		1					744	7.0
16	1	1	9		3				10	4			1		1						30	6.3
17	3	2			9	1				2			1			1					19	5.5
18	42	2	3		54				329	5			21	3	1	1	1			5	467	8.5
19	13	1	4	2	25					8			1		1					1	56	6.0
20													1								1	5.3
24	19	4	10	1	19				3	6			15	2	3		2			4	88	5.8
25	1		2		5				3				1		1	1					14	5.0
26				1						1			1	1							4	3.0
29	27				13	1				1			4								46	4.5
30	406		3	5	83	3				42			4	3	1				1	1	552	7.0
Total	547	23	41	21	564	28	0	0	1913	124	0	0	160	18	20	8	3	0	2	17	3489	128.3

Table 4. October 2009 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
1				8						2			1								11	4.0
4	151				21	2	1						1								176	6.3
5	69			1	57	1			2	13			4	1	1		1			1	151	6.0
7	1			5						1			2								9	4.0
9					1																1	5.0
10	399		1	2	28	3				7			2	1	3		8		1		455	5.5
11	753		4	3	89			4		77			25	1	1		1	2	1	2	963	7.5
12													1							1	2	2.5
13	325		1	4	220	6		11	55				10	4	1		1		1	1	640	7.0
14	502			2	59	9	1	15		148			2				7				745	7.0
16	30			1	2					15					1						49	5.0
17	2		1		1			1	7												12	4.5
18	3				4					10			1			1	1				20	5.5
19																					0	2.5
20										1				1							2	2.0
21					1																1	3.0
25	14			7	19	3				36		4		1					2		86	6.0
Total	2249	0	7	33	502	24	2	31	64	310	0	4	49	9	7	1	19	2	3	7	3323	83.3

Table 5. November 2009 Totals (HPHW)

Day	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	Total	Hours
2					1			3		15	1		1				1				22	5.5
3	6			2	6	1	1	7		388		2	1	2							416	6.8
5	1						1	1		7											10	3.0
6		1	2	1	9	10	3	7		232	1	1	1		1	1		1		1	272	6.0
7																					0	1.5
8								1		4											5	3.5
9																					0	4.0
10							1	1		23				1							26	4.8
11					2					7			2					1			12	3.5
13								1		1			1								3	3.0
15																					0	1.5
16					1					7			1	1		1					11	4.5
30				1						12			1								14	5.5
Total	7	1	2	4	19	11	6	21	0	696	2	3	8	4	1	2	1	2	0	1	791	53.1

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A wet **Red-tailed Hawk** drying off on the ground after a thunderstorm, *Peel*, 26 July 2009. © Winnie Poon.

Key to abbreviations used by hawk-watchers:

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

Acknowledgements

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