



# TORONTO BIRDS

Volume 4 Number 8  
October 2010





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**IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA** Roy B.H. Smith



## COVER PHOTO

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### **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (*Catharus minimus*)

Photo © James M. Richards

This is the least common *Catharus* thrush found in the GTA. It is a late spring migrant with peak numbers observed between the second and fourth week of May, but is only found in relatively low numbers in spring. Highest single-site spring counts stand at 14 (Peninsula D, Leslie Street Spit, 25 May 2007 and again on 31 May 2007). In fall the migration period is more drawn out, with peak numbers in the second half of September. The all-time high count for GTA stands at 20 (Muggs Island, 18 September 1999), while the previous high count was 19 on 21 September 1985, also from Toronto Islands.

This is a scanned image from a slide taken at Baccalieu Island, Newfoundland on 2 July 1992.

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

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

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## GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2010

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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.

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SNOW GOOSE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (CMRW fide DRBA).

MUTE SWAN - 39 at TI on 1st (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 76 at Toronto Harbour on 5th (AA).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 5 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 3 there on 19th (DW,TOC-FFD). 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (AK,& fide TOC-FFD) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

WOOD DUCK - 15 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (AIJ fide OUTON). 12 at Vroomanton Pond, *Durham*, 4 at Cannington S. L., *Durham* & 25 at Sunderland S.L., *Durham* on 19th (RBHS).

GADWALL - 12 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 31 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (RRP fide DRBA) & 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 4 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (BH,& fide TOC-FFD) & 30 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (RRP fide DRBA) & 6 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp). 2 at LSS on 25th (JRC,VC) & 3 there on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright). 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (RRP fide DRBA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 3 at Schomberg S. L., *York* on 6th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS) & 30 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS). 16 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (RBHS,WP) & 4 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

CANVASBACK - 1 JUV at Hanlan's Point, TI on 27th & 9 in the lagoon there on 29th (NMu,&).

REDHEAD - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (RRP fide DRBA).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at Trout Pond, TI on 26th (AA).

GREATER SCAUP - 1 M at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (AK,& fide TOC-FFD), 60 there on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

LESSER SCAUP - 1 at Cannington S. L., *Durham* on 19th (RBHS) & 10 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

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LONG-TAILED DUCK - 2 F at Boardwalk, TI on 4th (NMu, Peter McParland) & 1 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFFLEHEAD - Singles at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (GCarp fide TOC-FFD), at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (GCarp fide DRBA) & at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).

HOODED MERGANSER - 2 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP & 2 at HBP [E] on 4th (AA). 3 at Sunderland S.L., *Durham* on 19th (RBHS), 7 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 25th (RBHS, WP), 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

COMMON MERGANSER - 55 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (DW, JRC) & 4 at LSS on 26th (JBMW, Bob Kortright).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 17 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide TOC-FFD).

COMMON LOON - 18 flying S at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 15 there on 15th (CMRW, fide GCarp), & 12 there on 22nd (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 41 flying E at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide ONTBIRDS).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 13 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (RRP fide DRBA), 9 on 17th (RRP fide DRBA) & 4 there 18th (JBMW, GCarp). 1 at Trout Pond, TI on 15th, 2 on 18th (NMu) & 2 on 26th (AA). Singles at NW corner Tapscott & Select on 10th (RLau), Lake Wabukayne, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 13th (anon fide OUTON), Beaverton R, Sunderland, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS, WP) & at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA). 1 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* & 4 (1 Ad, 3 FY) at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 18th (RBHS, WP). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (RRP fide DRBA) & 1 there on 29th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 150 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (AIJ fide OUTON), 98 on 10th (CEE fide HBGG) & 71 there on 25th (RBHS, WP). 13 at CSSP on 10th (Lloyd Paul fide ONTBIRDS) and 12 there on 19th (GVR, & TOC-FRU). 2 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (GCarp fide DRBA) & 7 at CSSP on 21st (Joe Shannon fide Hugh McNeil, fide ONTBIRDS).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** - This long remaining bird at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* was reported on numerous dates up to the 24th, which marked the 91st day it had been there (RRP fide ONTBIRDS).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 750 at Toronto Harbour on 16th (NMu).

AMERICAN BITTERN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 12th (CMRW fide DRBA). 1 at Baybrook Cr, Scarborough on 11th (RLau).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 9 at Rouge River Marshes on 26th (anon fide OUTON).

GREAT EGRET - 6 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham, *York* on 2nd (Bob & Debbie McNeice) (Brydon 2010). Seen from the lakeshore GO train, there were 6 reports from Rouge River Marshes beginning with 6 on 8th, high count of 9 on 10th & last report of 6 on 26th (GC). 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (AIJ fide OUTON), 5 on 10th (CEE fide HBGG) & 1 there on 25th (RBHS, WP). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (CMRW fide DRBA) & 1 on 15th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Miller Ave, Markham, *York* on 15th (DW), 3 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (DW) & 6 (incl. 1 with wing-tag 42Q) on 19th (DW, TOC-FFD). 3 at Valley Inn, *Halton* on 24th (Peter Scholtens fide HBGG), 9 on 26th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 27th (George & Elaine Serena fide HBGG). Singles at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 4th (AA), at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (JKA fide DRBA), at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (RBHS, WP) and HBP (E) on 19th (GVR, & TOC-FRU). 2 at Old Mill (Humber River/Bloor) on 26th (SCH).

GREEN HERON - 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (GCarp fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 6 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA).

TURKEY VULTURE - 12 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th, 35 on 15th, 41 on 19th & 81 there on 26th (CMRW fide JDL; GCarp: RRP; fide ONTBIRDS). 111 at Hawk Hill, HP on 19th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & 76 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 26th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

OSPREY - Some higher counts from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* began with 5 on 4th, highs of 20 on 5th & 25 on 9th, last report of 7 on 15th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 23 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 6th was a new 1-day high for this site but the record was shattered when **53** were seen there on 9th (RMGRW fide FBB), **NEW ALL-**



**TIME RECORD COUNT FOR GTA, if documented.** 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (D. Docherty fide DRBA), 9 at HP on 26th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Lambton Woods on 26th (JRC,VC).

BALD EAGLE - 1 AD at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 9 on 9th, 7 on 10th, 8 on 11th, 5 (2 ad, 3 juv) on 14th, 8 (2 ad, 6 juv) on 15th & 3 there on 26th (CMRW fide GCarp & RRP fide ONTBIRDS). 2 AD at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS). **18** (2 ad, 16 imm) there on 10th (RMGRW fide FBB) was a new **record high for the GTA**, but it stood for only one day! 7 there on 13th (RMGRW fide FBB). 9 at Hawk Hill, HP on 10th & 6 on 19th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). **34** (3 AD, 31 sub) at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 11th [Documented] (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) seen between 09:45 and 15:56 EST was a **NEW RECORD COUNT FOR GTA!** 10 (1 AD, 9 sub) there on 17th & 1 SUB on 19th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 (3 Ad, 2 1Y) at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 17th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 other reports of singles from different locations during the month.

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (RRP fide DRBA), 16 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & 26 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Higher counts from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* ranged from 5th to 19th with highs of 318 on 9th, 273 on 14th & 301 on 15th (CMRW fide JDL;GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 7 reports from Rosetta McClain Gardens from 8th to 15th with highs of 351 on 9th, 258 on 13th & 464 on 14th (RMGRW fide FBB). 43 at Hawk Hill, HP on 10th, 251 on 13th, 338 on 15th & 112 on 19th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 208 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 11th, 106 on 17th & 44 on 19th (ISRW fide MDW, fide DRBA).

COOPER'S HAWK - 7 reports of singles during the month, 2 JUV at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Yonge & Steeles area on 25th (NMu). 2 at TI on 10th, 4 on 15th & 2 on 26th (NMu,&).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 2 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 26th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 JUV at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & 84 there on 14th (RMGRW fide FBB). 28 at Hawk Hill, HP on 10th, 98 on 13th, 213 on 14th, 664 on 15th & 125 on 19th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1394 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 11th, 1550 on 17th & 110 on 19th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 96 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 14th, 1712 on 15th & 36 on 19th (CMRW fide RRP; RRP; GCarp; JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 200 at Bowmanville, *Durham* @ 17:00hrs on 10th (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS), 690 at 60 Miles Hill Cr, Richmond Hill, *York* on 11th (FP fide ONTBIRDS) & 2158 (between 09:00 and 13:30h) at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 17th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 10 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 11th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 43 at Hawk Hill, HP on 19th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 21 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th, 125 on 9th, 141 on 14th, 109 on 15th & 22 on 21st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 203 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th & 84 on 14th (RMGRW fide FBB). 37 at Hawk Hill, HP on 14th, 33 on 15th & 47 on 19th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 10 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 8th (RMGRW), 6 on 9th (RJP fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 there on 14th (RMGRW fide FBB). 9 reports of singles during the month, 2 at TI on 10th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (CMRW fide JI, fide ONTBIRDS).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 13 reports of single birds thro' the month from 9 different locations. 2 at Yonge & Eglinton on 3rd (JRC) & 3 at Hawk Hill, HP on 10th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th, 7th & 19th, 2 on 14th & 25th, 4 on 26th, 5 on 15th & 6 there on 9th (CMRW fide RRP; JI; JDL; GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 7 reports from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* thro' the month with 1 seen on 5 occasions, 4 on 21st (JI fide DRBA) & 3 on 26th (RRP fide DRBA). 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD).

SORA - 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 7th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON MOORHEN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS), 7 on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 21st (JI fide ONTBIRDS), 1 on 26th (RRP fide DRBA) & 8 there on 29th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Vroomanton Pond, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP).

AMERICAN COOT - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 2 there on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD).

SANDHILL CRANE - 6 at Black Creek & Weston Rd. on 10th (VC fide JRC).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & on 19th (DW fide TOC-FFD). 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th (NMu).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - 15 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 2 on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 there on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th & 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (AIJ fide OUTON) & 1 on 25th (WP, RBHS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 1 there on 22nd (RRP fide DRBA).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 3 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 6th & 1 on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (RBHS,WP), 6 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 19th (GCP,&,TOC-FFD) & 1 on 22nd (RRP fide DRBA). 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 12 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 4 JUV on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 13 on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 25 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 6th & 7 there on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 21 at Schomberg S. L. , *York* on 6th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS). 12 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 17th (C. Adey fide DRBA), 25 on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 25 there on 22nd (RRP fide DRBA). 2 at Lambton Woods on 25th (JBMW,DEB), 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 8th (Ann Brokleman fide DRBA).

RED KNOT - 2 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 1 JUV there on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS).

SANDERLING - 10 at West Beach, TI on 15th (NMu).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - 10 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST SANDPIPER - 25 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 20 on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 40 on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 14 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 6th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 9 at Schomberg S. L. on 6th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 2 at CSSP on 10th (Lloyd Paul fide ONTBIRDS).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - 2 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 1st (RRP fide DRBA), 5 on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 3 on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). A grey-morph juvenile was photographed there on 2nd (JI). 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 10th (CEE fide HBGG) & 8 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 19th (BH,&,TOC-FFD).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 2 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 4 on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 5 on 10th (RRP fide DRBA) & 11 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (AIJ fide OUTON), 4 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 6th & 2 there on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 17th (C. Adey fide DRBA) & 8 there on 18th (JBMW,GCarp).

DUNLIN - 5 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

STILT SANDPIPER - 6 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 1st (RRP fide DRBA), 4 on 4th (MA fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 6 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 17th (C. Adey fide DRBA), 5 on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 5 on 22nd (RRP fide DRBA).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 5th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & on 7th (MK fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** - 1 JUV first reported at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 17th (C. Adey fide DRBA) & seen again there on 18th, 19th, 20th, & 22nd (m. obs.) [No doc seen, but photos are on Jean Iron's website].

**WILSON'S SNIPES** - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 2 there on 19th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 26th (RRP fide DRBA) & 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 29th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

**SABINE'S GULL** - 1 JUV flying W at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* @ 12:20hrs on 19th (GC fide ONTBIRDS). 3rd ever on TOC FFD. [No doc. seen]

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** - 6 at Cannington S. L., *Durham* on 19th (RBHS) & 240 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** - 1 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide TOC-FFD) & 1 1W at Rouge Beach Park on 26th (anon fide OUTON).

**CASPIAN TERN** - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide TOC-FFD).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (CMRW fide RRP, fide DRBA).

**BARRED OWL** - 2 at Long Sault C.A., *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – 2 at Heart Lake C.A., *Peel* on 27th (BNo) (Brydon 2010).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** - 12 at South Burlington, *Halton* on 2nd (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (CMRW fide DRBA) & 20 at Humber Valley S of Dundas on 18th (JRC). 21 flying over at Bloor West Village on 21st (VC) & 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 23rd & 24th (JRC).

**CHIMNEY SWIFT** - 50 at TI on 6th (NMu,&).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** - 26 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th & 30 on 11th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at TI on 10th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 2 there on 26th (AA).

**BELTED KINGFISHER** - 4 at TI on 15th (NMu).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** - 1 IMM at LSS on 6th (Sarah Box,EO'C, fide OUTON).

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** - Singles at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD), near Claremont, *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD), at Cedar St, Holland Landing, *York* on 19th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & at Lambton Woods on 25th (JBMW,DEB).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** - 2 at TI on 18th, 11 on 26th & 9 there on 29th (NMu,&).

**DOWNY WOODPECKER** - 7 at TI on 1st & 8 on 6th (NMu,&).

**HAIRY WOODPECKER** - 2 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA).

**NORTHERN FLICKER** -5 reports from 4th to 20th from TI with high counts of 32 on 18th & 18 on 20th (NMu,& ).

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** - Singles at Shell Park, *Halton* on 6th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), TI on 6th & 8th (NMu,&), High Park on 11th (JBMW,SMF), LSS on 19th (Bob Kortright, &,TOC-FRU) & at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide TOC-FFD).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** - 5 at TI on 10th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 1 on 26th (AA).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** - 1 (late?) at Osler Tract, *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** - 5 (2 AD, 3 juv) at Ward's Island, TI on 6th (NMu,&), still feeding yng.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** - 11 at TI on 6th (NMu,&) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

**EASTERN PHOEBE** - 2 at TI on 18th, 13 on 20th, 18 on 26th & 7 there on 27th (NMu,&). 5 at Conc 2 S of Hwy 47, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 5th (AA); also 1 *Myiarchus* flycatcher showing characters 'more consistent with Ash-throated or its ilk'. 7 at TI on 6th, 4 on 8th & 4 on 10th (NMu,&).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS), at Ward's Island, TI on 5th (AA) and LSS on 19th (Bob Kortright, TOC-FRU).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - 1 at Algonquin Island, TI on 6th (NMu,&) & 1 AD at HBP [E] on 26th (DL fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - Singles at Shell Park, *Halton* on 6th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Blackstock, *Durham* on 19th (DRuch fide DRBA).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at TI on 8th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland), 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & 4 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 20th (NMu,MVL).

WARBLING VIREO - 13 at TI on 1st (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland) & 15 on 5th (AA).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - 7 at TI on 6th (NMu,&) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

RED-EYED VIREO - 6 reports from TI with a high counts of 8 on 1st, 10th & 20th (NMu,&).

BLUE JAY - 1240 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2936 there on 22nd (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 138 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright), 250 at TI on 26th & 500 on 29th (NMu,&).

COMMON RAVEN - 2 at Manchester, *Durham* on 18th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 2 at Courtice, *Durham* on 19th (GCarp,TOC-FFD). 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 20th (DRuch fide DRBA).

TREE SWALLOW - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (GC fide TOC-FFD).

BARN SWALLOW - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 8 reports from TI thro' the month with highs of 50 on 6th & 45 on 10th, last report was of 34 on 26th (NMu,&). These are high numbers for TI and indicative of the start of an irruption.

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 18th (Mathieu Siol fide OUTON).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 6 reports from 6th to 27th of 3 to 5 birds seen at TI (NMu,&).

BROWN CREEPER - 1 at TI on 15th, 6 on 20th, 5 on 26th & 7 there on 27th (NMu,&). 5 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 18th & 12 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,&). 1 at Bathurst N of Mornng SR, *York* on 21st (BB) (Brydon 2010).

MARSH WREN - Singles at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA) & at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 2 at TI on 18th, 125 on 26th & 50 there on 27th & 29th (NMu,&).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at TI on 6th, 50 on 26th & 27th, 30 there on 29th (NMu,&).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), on 4th & on 14th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at TI on 1st, 11 on 6th, 2 on 8th & 3 there on 15th (NMu,&). 1 at HP on 8th & on 11th (SMF).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 2 at Lake Scugog, *Durham* on 4th (DRuch fide DRBA). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 there on 22nd (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - 4 at TI on 20th (NMu,MVL), 2 on 26th (AA) & 3 there TI on 27th (NMu,MVL).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 14 at TI on 10th (NMu), 12 on 26th (AA) & 4 on 27th (NMu,MVL). 1 at HP on 27th (SMF).

HERMIT THRUSH - 3 at Long Sault C.A., *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD) & 1 at TI on 26th (NMu,MVL).



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - Only 7 reports this month: 2 from Durham (CMRW fide RRP;BH,&) and 5 from Toronto (ETB;DW).

BROWN THRASHER - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (CMRW fide DRBA).

EUROPEAN STARLING - 750 at Schomberg S. L., *York* @ 18:30hrs on 6th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 7 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (AIJ fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 10th (RRP fide DRBA). 2 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 17th (GCarp fide DRBA) & 10 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW, GCarp). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at CSSP on 21st (Joe Shannon fide Hugh McNeil, fide ONTBIRDS) & 40-50 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

CEDAR WAXWING - 125 at TI on 1st & 50 on 26th (NMu,MVL).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 3 at TI on 5th (AA), 14 on 6th & 12 on 10th (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (JI fide DRBA) & 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 1 at TI on 15th, 3 on 20th, 3 on 26th, 1 on 27th & 1 on 29th (NMu,&). 1 at Blackwater Junction Rail Trail, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS), 1 at LSS on 19th (Bob Kortright, &,TOC-FRU), 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 1 at HP on 27th (SMF).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 6 reports from TI beginning with 26 on 6th, high counts of 19 on 10th & 27 on 20th, last report of 11 on 26th (NMu,&). 17 at HP on 19th (GVR,&,TOC-FRU), 5 at Lambton Woods on 25th (JBMW,DEB) & 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

NORTHERN PARULA - 6 reports from 6th to 27th of 1 at HP (SMF). 1 at TI on 6th, 2 on 8th, 4 on 10th, 4 on 15th (NMu) & 1 there on 26th (AA). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (CMRW fide RRP, fide DRBA), Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD) & at Petticoat Creek C.A., *Durham* on 19th (DW fide TOC-FFD).

YELLOW WARBLER - Singles at Hanlan's Point, TI on 5th (AA), Richmond Hill Hospital Woods, *York* on 5th (RBHS), Ward's Island, TI on 15th (NMu) & at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (BH,&, fide TOC-FFD).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 5 reports from TI beginning with 13 on 6th, high count of 26 on 10th & last report of 9 on 20th (NMu,MVL). 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 15 at TI on 6th, 36 on 10th, 21 on 15th & 12 on 18th (NMu,&). 10 at LSS on 19th (Bob Kortright, TOC-FRU) and 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - Singles at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (ADob fide TOC-FFD) & at Hanlan's Point, TI on 29th (NMu,&).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 4 at TI on 1st, 14 on 6th, 7 on 10th & 4 on 20th (NMu,&). 1 at Lambton Woods on 25th (JBMW,DEB) & at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 43 at TI on 15th, 200 on 26th & 50 on 29th (NMu). 118 at LSS on 19th (Bob Kortright, TOC-FRU), 80 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA) & 60 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 5 reports from TI beginning with 13 on 6th, high count of 31 on 10th & last report of 14 on 29th (NMu,&). 18 at HP on 19th (GVR,&,TOC-FRU), 3 at Lambton Woods on 25th (JBMW,DEB) & 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 2 at Artisan Park, Richmond Hill, *York* on 5th (RBHS) & 2 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 19th (GCP,&,TOC-FFD).

PINE WARBLER - 6 reports from TI beginning with 1 on 4th, high count of 12 on 6th & last report was of 2 on 26th (NMu,&). 5 at HP on 19th (GVR,&,TOC-FRU).

PALM WARBLER - 5 at TI on 6th, 7 on 10th, 31 on 20th, 11 on 26th & 5 there on 29th (NMu,&). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (JKa fide DRBA) & 12 there on 18th (JBMW,GCarp).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - 16 at TI on 20th (NMu,MVL) & 2 there on 26th (AA). 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 12 TI on 5th (AA), 5 on 6th, 7 on 8th, 11 on 10th & 4 at TI on 15th (NMu,&). 2 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 19th (DW,TOC-FFD) & 3 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 5 at TI on 6th, 14 on 10th & 4 on 15th (NMu,&). 4 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 18 at TI on 1st, 11 at TI on 6th (NMu,&) & 1 there on 26th (AA). 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

OVENBIRD - 1 at TI on 26th (AA) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland).

MOURNING WARBLER - 1 M at TI on 10th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland), 1 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA) & 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 26th (GCarp fide DRBA).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 4 at TI on 8th, 7 on 18th & 8 on 20th (NMu,&). 4 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA), 1 at Marsh Hill, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS,WP) & 2 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 5 reports from TI beginning with 18 on 1st, other highest count was 16 on 10th & last report was 5 on 18th (NMu,&). 13 at Riverwood Park, *Peel* on 2nd (Reuven Martin, fide OUTON) and 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp).

CANADA WARBLER - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 18th (NMu).

FIELD SPARROW - 9 at Westney Rd Bluebird Trail, *Durham* on 19th (AK,&, fide TOC-FFD) & 1 at TI on 26th (NMu,MVL).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - 1 at Whitby Harbour (W side of Brock, N of bridge), *Durham* on 11th (RRP fide DRBA).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 4 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (AA), 1 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 19th (AK,&, fide TOC-FFD) & 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 26th (MJCB fide DRBA). 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 15th, 2 & 6 there on 27th (NMu,&).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 9 at TI on 15th, 200 on 20th & 250 on 26th (NMu,MVL). 38 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Early reports were of 1 IMM at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at TI on 20th (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (JI fide ONTBIRDS). 26 at TI on 26th & 9 there on 27th (NMu,MVL). 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 29th (GDe).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 1 at HP on 12th (SMF), 1 at Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto on 15th (GCP) & 35 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 20th (NMu,MVL).

SCARLET TANAGER - 3 at TI on 10th, 2 on 18th, 3 on 20th (NMu,&), 1 F on 26th (AA) & 1 on 29th (NMu,&). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (GCarp fide TOC-FFD) & 1 at LSS on 26th (JBMW,Bob Kortright).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp), at Marsh Hill, *Durham* on 19th (RBHS) & at Lambton Woods on 25th (JBMW,DEB).

INDIGO BUNTING - 1 at HP on many dates from 6th to 30th & 2 there on 8th (SMF). 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (RRP fide DRBA) & 2 at Stormwater Ponds W of Shell Pk, *Halton* on 30th (MWJ,BHet).

BOBOLINK - 21 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 3 at Hydro Park, *Durham* on 18th (JBMW,GCarp) & 4 at Miller Ave, Markham, *York* on 18th (RBHS,WP). 2 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 19th (DW,TOC-FFD), 22 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 26th (RRP fide DRBA) & 3 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 26th (GCarp fide DRBA).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 7 at TI on 1st, 3 on 6th & 1 on 8th (NMu,&).

PURPLE FINCH - 19 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 19th (GDe) (Brydon 2010).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 65 at TI on 8th & 30 on 10th (NMu,MVL,Peter McParland).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; AA Alfred Adamo; MA Mark Ansell; MJCB Margaret Bain; ETB Eleanor Beagan; DEB Donald E. Burton; FBB Frank B. Butson (Big Frank); JRC John Carley; VC Victoria Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; GC Glenn Coady; GDe Gene Denzel; TDo Theresa Dobko; ADob Alex Dobson; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; TOC-FFD TOC Fall Field Day; TOC-FRU TOC Fall Round-Up; SMF Steven Favier; IDMF Iain Fleming; HBGG Hamilton Birders Google Group; HPHW High Park Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; BHet Bev Hettrick; CMH Carol Horner; JI Jean Iron; MWJ Mark Jennings; AIJ Andreas I. Jonsson; JKa James Kamstra; AK Andrew Keaveney; MK Mark Kubisz; DL Dave Langford; RLau Rick Lauzon; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; m. obs many observers; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; BNo Bob Noble; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; JMP James M. Pawlicki; FP Frank Pinilla; RJP Ron Pittaway; GCP Gavin C. Platt; WP Winnie Poon; RRP Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; RMGRW Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington.

REFERENCES:

Byrdon, B. 2010. September 2010 Sightings. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter: 8-9, October 2010.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 1184 GTA reports were added to the database for September 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 8<sup>th</sup> of the following month, please. Send photos for possible use in the bird report to: torontobirds@sympatico.ca, following guidelines on 2<sup>nd</sup> page of this journal.

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## TOC Fall Field Day - 19 September 2010

### Traditional Durham Count



Participants at the Fall Field Day tally at Uxbridge, *Durham*, 19 September 2010. Front left to right: Hugh Currie, Mark Brubacher, Alec Dobson, Geoff Carpentier, Dave Worthington, Gavin Platt, Jeremy Hatt, Andrew Keaveney, Roy Smith, Mark Dorrisfield, Brian Henshaw, Kim Baker, Barbara Kalthoff, Joan Winearls. Photo by Winnie Poon.

Common Loon.....	45	Hooded Merganser.....	11
Pied-billed Grebe.....	14	Common Merganser.....	<b>68</b>
Red-necked Grebe.....	4	Red-breasted Merganser.....	18
<b>American White Pelican.....</b>	<b>1</b>	Turkey Vulture.....	75
Double-crested Cormorant.....	678	Osprey.....	3
American Bittern.....	1	Northern Harrier.....	13
Great Blue Heron.....	37	Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	16
Great Egret.....	7	Cooper's Hawk.....	5
Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	6	Red-shouldered Hawk.....	1
Trumpeter Swan.....	12	Broad-winged Hawk.....	17
Mute Swan.....	40	Red-tailed Hawk.....	19
Canada Goose.....	900	American Kestrel.....	12
Wood Duck.....	<b>115</b>	Merlin.....	9
Green-winged Teal.....	96	Peregrine Falcon.....	1
American Black Duck.....	21	Virginia Rail.....	2
Mallard.....	242	Sora.....	2
Northern Pintail.....	19	Common Moorhen.....	9
Blue-winged Teal.....	16	American Coot.....	2
Northern Shoveler.....	38	Black-bellied Plover.....	3
Gadwall.....	98	Semipalmated Plover.....	5
American Wigeon.....	35	Killdeer.....	26
Ring-necked Duck.....	25	Greater Yellowlegs.....	12
Greater Scaup.....	1	Lesser Yellowlegs.....	32
Lesser Scaup.....	9	Solitary Sandpiper.....	2
Long-tailed Duck.....	1	Spotted Sandpiper.....	2
Common Goldeneye.....	1	Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	9
Bufflehead.....	1	Least Sandpiper.....	20



Baird's Sandpiper.....	<b>8</b>
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	16
Stilt Sandpiper.....	6
Short-billed Dowitcher.....	2
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	1
Wilson's Snipe.....	1
Bonaparte's Gull.....	261
Ring-billed Gull.....	873
Herring Gull.....	88
Great Black-backed Gull.....	1
<b>Sabine's Gull.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Caspian Tern.....	1
Rock Pigeon.....	86
Mourning Dove.....	222
Great Horned Owl.....	2
Barred Owl.....	<b>3</b>
Common Nighthawk.....	3
Eastern Whip-poor-will.....	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	15
Belted Kingfisher.....	12
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	3
Downy Woodpecker.....	10
Hairy Woodpecker.....	5
Northern Flicker.....	63
Pileated Woodpecker.....	<b>5</b>
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	<b>2</b>
Eastern Wood-Pewee.....	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	2
Traill's Flycatcher.....	1
Least Flycatcher.....	5
Eastern Phoebe.....	<b>15</b>
Great Crested Flycatcher.....	1
Eastern Kingbird.....	2
Tree Swallow.....	1
Barn Swallow.....	6
Blue Jay.....	5162
American Crow.....	116
Common Raven.....	6
Black-capped Chickadee.....	103
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	23
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	6
Brown Creeper.....	6
House Wren.....	<b>8</b>
Winter Wren.....	4
Marsh Wren.....	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	<b>35</b>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	19
Eastern Bluebird.....	8
Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	3
Swainson's Thrush.....	12
Hermit Thrush.....	<b>3</b>
American Robin.....	54
Gray Catbird.....	<b>33</b>

Northern Mockingbird.....	2
Brown Thrasher.....	3
American Pipit.....	<b>225</b>
Cedar Waxwing.....	198
European Starling.....	1955
Blue-headed Vireo.....	5
Warbling Vireo.....	4
Philadelphia Vireo.....	6
Red-eyed Vireo.....	12
Tennessee Warbler.....	6
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	<b>4</b>
Nashville Warbler.....	22
Northern Parula.....	7
Yellow Warbler.....	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	10
Magnolia Warbler.....	25
Cape May Warbler.....	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	13
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	<b>195</b>
Black-throated Green Warbler.....	22
Blackburnian Warbler.....	2
Palm Warbler.....	27
Bay-breasted Warbler.....	5
Blackpoll Warbler.....	9
Black-and-white Warbler.....	6
American Redstart.....	8
Ovenbird.....	1
Common Yellowthroat.....	28
Wilson's Warbler.....	6
Scarlet Tanager.....	1
Northern Cardinal.....	16
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	13
Eastern Towhee.....	6
Indigo Bunting.....	2
Chipping Sparrow.....	16
Field Sparrow.....	9
Vesper Sparrow.....	3
Savannah Sparrow.....	41
Song Sparrow.....	42
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	4
Swamp Sparrow.....	36
White-throated Sparrow.....	<b>105</b>
White-crowned Sparrow.....	2
Dark-eyed Junco.....	<b>17</b>
Red-winged Blackbird.....	262
Eastern Meadowlark.....	1
Rusty Blackbird.....	9
Common Grackle.....	203
Brown-headed Cowbird.....	13
Purple Finch.....	4
House Finch.....	12
American Goldfinch.....	161
House Sparrow.....	43

Numbers in **bold** are equal or new highs; species bolded are highlights.

**T**his was the 76<sup>th</sup> year of the TOC Fall Field Day which has been undertaken since 1934 (presence/absence) and since 1991 with most species counted. Twenty-three birders recorded 161 species in Durham Region (the exact same two sets of numbers as last year!); it was an excellent day only

two species short of the 1993 record. The highest team total was also an excellent 122 (the record remains 134), all the better as it came from Toronto-based birders.

In these days of environmental gloom and doom it was interesting to see that fully 19 species equalled or exceeded previous highs (18 did last year too!), compared to only two that were low (Spotted

Sandpiper and Red-winged Blackbird). It is a bit hard to fathom that after so many years of reporting, two new species would be added in 2010. These were the long-staying rather forlorn-looking American White Pelican at Oshawa Second Marsh and oddly enough, two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a species which previously had hardly ever (if ever) been reported in Durham in September.

On the day temperatures varied from 5°C to 20°C, winds were light from the north becoming onshore in the afternoon. There was little cloud and no rain, visibility was good.

Other than the pelican, other waterbird highlights included a record-high count of Wood Duck (115), the first Greater Scaup since 1998 and a record-high 68 Common Mergansers. This latter species has taken to summering in Durham Region on Lake Ontario in recent years.

Raptors were rather unspectacular in poor conditions (for them). Merlins still showed well with nine. Birders tried hard to make-up for the loss of Second Marsh as the premium shorebird fall stop-over site. Fourteen species was very low and less than 140 individuals, miserable. The only highlights were a record-high eight Baird's Sandpipers, six Stilt Sandpipers and a single Long-billed Dowitcher, all at Hydro Marsh.

The onshore breeze and a careful observer found a juvenile Sabine's Gull over Lake Ontario off Thickson's Woods, this jig-saw puzzle of a bird was the third ever on the count and a great find.

A Great Horned Owl seemed encouraged by screaming teenaged girls at a garden party and hooted away alongside the screaming. Three Barred Owls were recorded in the dark but Eastern Screech was a no-show. Both nighthawk and Whip-poor-will were found while only Red-headed Woodpecker was missing from that group.

In the flycatchers, two of the supposedly threatened Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen (one at Thickson's) while two Yellow-bellieds and 15 phoebes tied their previous highs. A large flock of American Pipits on the Lake Scugog lowlands smashed the previous record-high count. Gray Catbirds set yet another record high count.

Warblers were represented by a creditable 20 species, two record highs and highlights of four Orange-crowneds and seven Parulas. Pine Warbler was an odd miss. With over 400 individuals, there was clearly a concentration of birds along the lakeshore, although the weather conditions seemed favourable enough to avoid the "grounding" of

migrants.

Eleven sparrow species reflected good sleuthing by birders although Red-winged Blackbirds were very low at 262; this open country bird may be declining, like many other species that use the same habitat.

Thanks to participants for attending the field day and tally at Uxbridge (or calling data in) that enabled the numbers to be tabulated, and thanks as usual to Hugh Currie for the colour commentary and maintaining the database.

### Coverage

As usual, the lakeshore sites were well-covered, from Frenchman's Bay and Hydro Park in the west through Corner Marsh, Carruther's Creek Marsh, Cranberry Marsh, Thickson's Woods (including a lakewatch at Thickson's Bay), Corbett Creek, Oshawa Second Marsh and Westside Marsh. 'Inland' areas were not neglected either, with some coverage of Amos Ponds, the Seaton lands (north Pickering), Conc. 2 Uxbridge, Reach Marsh, Sunderland Rail Trail, Sunderland S.L, Cannington S.L. and Vroomanton Pond. The Westney Road Bluebird Trail, Durham Regional Forest (Main Tract), Nonquon Sewage Lagoons and Lake Scugog Causeway were visited by more than one group, while Long Sault C.A, the Osler Tract and Lake Scugog lowlands north of Burketon, round out the list of major sites/areas visited.

### Other Observations

**Mammals:** Meadow Vole 1; Deer Mouse 1; Meadow Jumping Mouse 1; Porcupine 1; Striped Skunk 3; Virginia Opossum 1; Red Squirrel 10, Gray Squirrel 25, Eastern Chipmunk **100**, Eastern Cottontail 1; American Beaver 3.

**Herps:** Spring Peeper 12, Northern Leopard Frog 20, Green Frog 20; American Toad 1; Midland Painted Turtle 15; Red-eared Slider 2; Common Snapping Turtle 1; Eastern Gartersnake 2.

**Lepidoptera:** Monarch **600** (one tagged), Least Skipper 8, Orange Sulphurs, Cabbage Whites, Clouded Sulphurs, Viceroy 21, Spring Azure 1; Eastern Tailed Blue 2; Mourning Cloak 1; Pearl Crescent 1; Painted Lady 2, Red Admiral 1.

**Odonates:** Many hundreds of Green Darner on the move, also other Aeschna darners; Wandering Glider 2; Half-banded Toper 1; Black Saddlebags 40; White-faced Meadowhawk 1, Yellow-legged Meadowhawk many; bluets.

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## Fall Round-up Count

In 2009, TOC Council expanded the Fall Field Day event to include other Regions in the GTA. For continuity, the Records Committee keeps the count data for the traditional Durham Count and the new expanded count (named Fall Round-up) separately. In the 2010 Fall Round-up, apart from Leslie Street Spit and High Park, observations from other sites such as Humber Bay East, Colonel Sam Smith Park, and High Park Hawk Watch were recorded. Rattray Marsh, however, was not visited. Some participants also went to Richmond Hill, the Seaton lands (north Pickering), Rouge Valley, and the Durham lakeshore area (but reports from undefined sites have not been included in Table 1 below). Under the co-ordination of Sarah Box, the round-up gathering was hosted at the home of Jim and Petra Grass, and Greg Stuart helped tabulate the results. [Eds.]

**Table 1. Species Counts by Site**

SPECIES	Leslie Street Spit	High Park	High Park Hawk Watch	Humber Bay East	Colonel Sam Smith Park
Canada Goose	44	56		28	39
Mute Swan	36			1	2
Trumpeter Swan	1				
Wood Duck		2			
Gadwall	18			2	20
American Wigeon					8
Mallard	34	8		10	38
Blue-winged Teal	3				
Northern Shoveler				1	
Green-winged Teal				1	
Hooded Merganser	1				
Common Loon			2		
Red-necked Grebe					12
Double-crested Cormorant	260	3	5		56
Great Blue Heron	1	2		1	
Great Egret				1	
Turkey Vulture			117		1
Osprey			3		1
Bald Eagle			6		1
Northern Harrier	3		12		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2		79		2
Cooper's Hawk	1		3		
Broad-winged Hawk			113		
Red-tailed Hawk		2	34		
American Kestrel	1		23		5
Merlin	1		1		2
Peregrine Falcon			3		
Killdeer				2	
Spotted Sandpiper	1				
Ring-billed Gull	18	40	30+	12	47
Herring Gull	3				

Rock Pigeon	4	12	9	6	2
Mourning Dove		1	5		1
Common Nighthawk			1		
Chimney Swift			11		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1			1
Belted Kingfisher	4				2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1				
Downy Woodpecker		2	1		
Hairy Woodpecker			2		
Northern Flicker		3	2	4	3
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1				
Great Crested Flycatcher	1				
Eastern Phoebe	1				
Eastern Kingbird	1				
Blue-headed Vireo		1			
Warbling Vireo	1	1			
Philadelphia Vireo		2			
Red-eyed Vireo		2			
Blue Jay	126	201	103		8
American Crow		6	11		
Black-capped Chickadee	2	35	13		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	4	2		
White-breasted Nuthatch		2	1		
Brown Creeper	1	2			1
Winter Wren		1			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	2			
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1				1
Swainson's Thrush	1				
American Robin	2	3	1		
Gray Catbird	2	3			1
European Starling	200+	8			2
Cedar Waxwing	3	3			
Orange-crowned Warbler	1				
Nashville Warbler	3	27			
Northern Parula	1	1			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	2			
Magnolia Warbler	10	4			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	2			
Yellow-rumped Warbler	118	1	1		1
Black-throated Green Warbler	4	18	1		
Blackburnian Warbler	1	2	1		
Pine Warbler	1	5			
Palm Warbler	8	1			3



Bay-breasted Warbler	2	1			
Blackpoll Warbler	2	6			
American Redstart		3			
Common Yellowthroat	1				2
Wilson's Warbler	3				
Eastern Towhee	1				
Chipping Sparrow		2	3		
Song Sparrow					1
White-throated Sparrow	6	25	3		8
Dark-eyed Junco	2				
Northern Cardinal	1	4			
Red-winged Blackbird	2				
Rusty Blackbird					1
Common Grackle			7		
Brown-headed Cowbird	12				
American Goldfinch	5	20	9		4
House Sparrow		1		2	
<b>Total Species Seen</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>
Number of Participants	13	5	1	1	5



## First Breeding Record of Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* in the Greater Toronto Area

**Roy B.H. Smith**

On 22 May 2010 Bruce Brydon was birding the Ravenshoe Flats, south of Keswick in *York R.M.* when he made a remarkable discovery - a pair of Sandhill Cranes with a small downy 'colt' were walking along the dike which runs east from the dead end of Yonge Street. He observed them briefly and then left the area; later the GPS coordinates were recorded as 0619394/4891249 (NAD83).

Returning the following day (23<sup>rd</sup> May) in company with Sean Macey, they first looked for the cranes where he had last seen them on the dike east of Yonge Street, but when their search proved unsuccessful they tried the western end of the dike, and were fortunate to relocate the family fairly close to the Holland River, about 500m west of where they had been the previous day. Bruce was not able to photograph the young at this time, but he did get a good shot of one of the adults, hiding in the rank vegetation, when he returned to check on the birds on 25<sup>th</sup> (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Adult Sandhill Crane at Ravenshoe Flats, *York R.M.* on 25 May 2010, © Bruce Brydon. [Note: This photo first appeared in West Humber Naturalists Club Newsletter, September 2010]

Meanwhile, on the 24<sup>th</sup> May, Kevin Shackleton and John Watson had relocated the birds, and KRS was able to get photo-documentation of the family, including the small young (Figure 2, 3). They were close to where they had been seen on the previous day, frequenting a narrow strip of rough vegetation between the Holland River and the agricultural land to the east. Independently, Irving Himel also photographed the adults on the





**Figure 2.** Sandhill Crane pair with one small young, Ravenshoe Flats, *York R.M.* on 24 May 2010. © Kevin R. Shackleton.



**Figure 3.** Sandhill Crane pair with one small young at Ravenshoe Flats, *York R.M.* on 24 May 2010. Note the Great Blue Heron in the 'foreground', Holland River on left, and driving conditions on the dike. © Kevin R. Shackleton



same date (Figure 4). Bruce Brydon returned on 25<sup>th</sup> to check on the birds, but only saw the two adults, while Marshall Folk also obtained photos on that date (Figure 5). To our knowledge, the family was last seen on 29 May 2010, by Roy Smith, Winnie Poon and photographer Marshall Folk. They were still in the same location on the dike forming the east bank of the Holland River where Kevin Shackleton had obtained his photos, but quickly moved north and hid in the tall riparian vegetation. It was not possible to photo-document the young that day, but a photo of one of the adults, taken by Winnie Poon, appeared in *Toronto Birds* 4(6):90, June 2010.



**Figure 4.** Sandhill Crane in flight, Ravenshoe Flats, York R.M. on 24 May 2010. © Irving Himel.

The Ravenshoe Flats comprise a low-lying area of about 8 km<sup>2</sup> located about 12 km north of Newmarket. It is situated west of Leslie Street, south of Keswick and east of the Holland River, which at this point forms the boundary between York R.M and Simcoe Co. This area of rich farmland is accessed from Ravenshoe Road west off Leslie, by driving about 2 km almost to the Holland River, where one turns south on Yonge Street (just a gravel road here) for another 2 km or so to dead end at an earthen dike. It is possible to drive east or west on the dike in dry weather, but in wet or icy conditions it can be very dubious, even with 4WD. Since nearly all the land is private, birders tend to just scan the fields from the driveable sections of the (few) public roads.

This area can be very bleak and exposed in winter [a photo of the Flats in winter appeared in *Toronto Birds* 2(3):48, March 2008], but it is one of the best sites in the GTA to find a wintering Snowy Owl. In spring, temporarily flooded areas can attract waterfowl and shorebirds, but in recent years there has been little flooding and it has not lasted long. By high summer it can be very birdless, but there are a few occupied Osprey platforms in the northern section. Concentrations of migrant swallows sometimes build up in July and August, and Caspian Terns (from Lake Simcoe?) forage over the fields, where carrots, onions and other crops are grown under irrigation. In former years, Sedge Wrens have been reported from remnant pockets of



habitat fringing the Holland River, but we have no recent records from those sites in the database. However, they still persist in patches of sedge marsh located south and east of the main cattail marsh, especially around unopened Concession 2 of East Gwillimbury, which is basically the northwards extension of Main Street, Newmarket (Bruce Brydon, pers. comm.).

South of the dike at the south end of Yonge Street is a substantial cattail marsh, covering about 2.3 km<sup>2</sup>, now perhaps the largest remnant in York Region of the once extensive Holland Marsh, which has been largely drained for agriculture. At its southern edge the cattails give way to alder swamp, then Trembling Aspen and Balsam Poplar forest, but there are still some small patches of sedge marsh interspersed with willow scrub forming the ecotone. Drainage and reclamation intensified in the 1940s in areas west of the Holland River; accounts of birding there in those days can be found in Saunders (1947). There is a larger remnant of the marsh (about 3.8 km<sup>2</sup>) on the Simcoe side of the boundary, forming the Holland Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area. This area is located north of Bradford, and lies west of the Holland River between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Concessions of Bradford-West Gwillimbury (formerly West Gwillimbury). In the last few years there have been reports of Sandhill Cranes being seen there occasionally (see Table 1). Other reports presumably account for the fact that 10km square 17PJ19 is marked as 'probable' breeding in the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (Sutherland and Crins in Cadman *et al.* 2007). There is even a second-hand report of breeding having occurred there in 2007 (Peter Wukasch, posting to ONTBIRDS, 10 May 2008).

In recent decades, Sandhill Cranes have been rapidly increasing in numbers, both provincially and in terms of records within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The vast majority of GTA reports relate to sightings of migrants in spring and fall (see Tables 3 and 4), but now there are even two winter records in the database (1980/1981 and 2004/2005). As of November 2010, the database (although still incomplete) held 196 GTA reports of Sandhill Crane, of which two are historic records (from 1872 in *Toronto* and 1882 in *Halton*, respectively). The rest occurred from 1955 onward, so there was a period of over 70 years when this species went unrecorded in the GTA. About equal numbers of reports pertain to spring and fall migrants, but nearly all the larger flocks are seen in fall (Table 2). The spring migration period is quite prolonged, with extreme dates ranging from 27 February to 9 June. Using this data, we have compiled Table 1 as an attempt to show the occurrence of birds in northern parts of the GTA, which might have some predictive value for future breeding attempts. In recent years, particularly since about 2003, the number of sightings has increased rapidly, and although formerly documentable in the GTA, the Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC) removed this requirement as of 1 Jan 2006. In addition, high counts have been increasing steadily, with the current high count for GTA standing at 84 (16 Nov 2007 at Woodbridge, *York R.M.*, by Alfred Adamo) – see Table 2. This is also indicative of a general increase which has been noted elsewhere in Ontario, especially in *Algoma and Manitoulin Districts*, and *Sudbury R.M.* e.g. Meissner (2007). These areas along the north shore of Lake Huron currently support the largest numbers staging in Ontario, with over 6000 estimated between Echo Bay and Iron Bridge, *Algoma* in late Sept 2007, including over 1200 in the single largest roost 5km east of Bruce Mines (Mike D. Boyd fide ONTBIRDS). We are now seeing the development of additional staging areas e.g. near Navan, *Ottawa* and around the Minesing Swamp, *Simcoe Co.*

The increase and spread of breeding Sandhill Cranes in southern Ontario south of the Shield has been quite remarkable. At the time of the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (1981-1985), there were only six 10-km squares with breeding season records south of Manitoulin Island and the French River. Of these, three were in the Bruce peninsula, and two in the Rondeau area; only one of the Bruce squares represented a confirmed record (Lumsden in Cadman *et al.* 1987). However, in the early 1990s new breeding records started to accumulate from widely separate sites, for example at Grass Lake, *Waterloo R.M.* in 1992. This was the first breeding record for the Hamilton Study Area; they have since bred or attempted to breed there annually (Curry 2006). Breeding was also first suspected in the Long Point marshes, *Norfolk Co.* in 1992 (Henshaw and Kerr 1992); by 2001 the winter population had built up to about 86 birds: "further indication of that species' ability to withstand Ontario winters" (Currie 2002). However, on 15 December 2007 there were 256

recorded on the Long Point CBC, which set a new high for a Canadian CBC (Ron Ridout *vide* ONTBIRDS). In 1993, a report from *Kawartha-Lakes* indicated that 'a pair at Udney, Victoria in late August and early September had apparently been present all summer' (Henshaw and Kerr 1993). Some examples of first breeding records include the following: confirmed at Rice Lake, *Peterborough Co.* in July 1999 (Elder 1999), at Point Pelee National Park, *Essex Co.* in April 2002 (Sarah E. Rupert *vide* ONTBIRDS), at Snyder, *Niagara R.M.* in July 2002 (Black and Roy 2010), and at Wye Marsh, *Simcoe Co.* in 2005, when a nest with two eggs was found on 19 May (Julie Kee *vide* ONTBIRDS).



**Figure 5.** Adult Sandhill Crane at Ravenshoe Flats, York R.M. on 25 May 2010. © Marshall Folk.

Comparison of the Second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) with the first Atlas (1981-1985) provides the best picture of how the breeding range has extended south and east over that twenty-year period. The probability of observation increased by 17.1% in the 'Lake Simcoe – Rideau region'; while the map shows concentrations of occupied 10-km squares (not all confirmed, however) in the areas of *Bruce Co. / Grey Co.*, northern *Simcoe Co.*, the Carden Plain area (*Simcoe Co. / Kawartha Lakes*), and *Peterborough Co.*, including Rice Lake. In addition, areas such as Lake St Clair, Point Pelee, Rondeau, and Long Point stand out on the map, although the number of 10-km squares involved is still quite small. The authors stated that:

"The range of the Sandhill Crane has expanded substantially since the first atlas, so much so that the species can now be expected almost anywhere in Ontario where suitable extensive open wetland habitat exists. (Sutherland and Crins in Cadman *et al.* 2007)."

In light of the ongoing range expansion, this first breeding record from northern York Region can be seen in a wider context. To our knowledge, the nest was never found (but neither was it specifically searched for). However, it is assumed to have been in the large cattail marsh at the southern end of the Ravenshoe Flats, immediately adjacent to where the family was first seen. Nesting in cattail marshes is known from elsewhere in the range of Sandhill Crane, but those in northern Ontario typically use bog or fen habitats which may be more 'open' (Sandilands 2005). Some of us may have a mental picture of the Sandhill Crane as a creature typical of wilderness areas, perhaps in the far north, at any rate not likely to nest so close to human activity as within the GTA. Indeed, Sandilands (2005) reinforces this view with the statement that '*In Ontario, nesting usually occurs at least a kilometer from human activities or unnatural habitats such as agricultural fields. In Michigan, wetlands used for nesting were an average of 320m from fields, 431m from roads, and 476m from residences ...*'. Perhaps as the population increases, the birds are being forced to utilize more marginal habitat, or maybe their requirements are less stringent than was believed in the past? If so, this bodes well for future nesting attempts in the GTA, particularly in northern parts of *Durham R.M.* where there are several areas of extensive potential nesting habitat. Areas such as the Lake Scugog marshes, Reach Marsh, the Wilfrid Bog, and the Beaverton Valley immediately spring to mind as possibilities; indeed, breeding may already have occurred or been attempted in *Durham R.M.* based on a summer record of two seen in the Beaver Valley near Blackwater, *Durham R.M.* on 1 July 2006 by Dennis Barry, and the two summer records of birds calling from the Lake Scugog marshes in 2008 (see Table 1).

This addition to the list of GTA breeding species was not entirely unexpected, as both Glen Coady and Roy Smith had included the Sandhill Crane on their lists of forecasted additions, ranking it 16<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively, when their predictions were compiled in 2000 (Coady and Smith 2000). However, what is surprising is the speed and extent to which the species has spread both south and eastwards in eastern North America. Already there are nesting records from several New England states, and this year (2010) saw the first ever nesting confirmation from New Brunswick (anon 2010). There are even three vagrant records from Great Britain, the first of which occurred in 1981, the second in 1991, and the third in 2009 (Hudson and the Rarities Committee 2010). Clearly, we are going to hear more about this bird in the years to come.

**Table 1. Selected spring and summer reports of Sandhill Crane from northern parts of *Durham, York* and adjacent *Simcoe Co.*, 2000–2010.**

Date	Number Reported	Notes	Location	Observer/Source
23 Apr 2000	2		Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i>	Keith Dunn fide Theo Hofmann, TOC Database
6 Apr 2004	1		Lake Scugog Causeway, <i>Durham</i>	Tyler Hoar, fide ONTBIRDS
4 Apr 2005	1	Flying over	Beaverton River wetlands, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, TOC Database
2 Jun 2005	2	Flying over	Greenwood C.A., <i>Durham</i>	R. Rogg fide DRBA

13 Apr 2006	4		Holland Marsh P.W.A., <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Peter Wukasch, fide ONTBIRDS
21 Apr 2006	1	Calling	Beaverton River wetlands, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, TOC Database
1 May 2006	1		Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, TOC Database
6 Jun 2006	2		York-Durham Townline & Taunton Rd., <i>Durham</i>	Mike D. Williamson, fide ONTBIRDS
1 Jul 2006	2	Flying over	Beaver R. nr. Blackwater, <i>Durham</i>	Dennis Barry fide DRBA
19 Apr 2007	5	Flying over	Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i> [Note1]	Ronald J. Fleming fide ONTBIRDS
<spring 2007>	[family?]		13 <sup>th</sup> Conc and 20 <sup>th</sup> SR, West Gwillimbury, <i>Simcoe Co.</i> [Note 2]	anon, fide P. Wukasch fide ONTBIRDS
3 Mar 2008	2	Flying NE	20 <sup>th</sup> SR and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Line, Innisfil, <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Garth N. Baker, fide ONTBIRDS
8 Apr 2008	3	Flew N	N end Bathurst St, <i>York</i>	Ronald J. Fleming, fide ONTBIRDS
9 Apr 2008	2		Holland Marsh P.W.A., <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Chris Dunn fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS
12 Apr 2008	2	displaying	13 <sup>th</sup> Conc., West Gwillimbury, <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Peter Wukasch, fide ONTBIRDS
1 May 2008	2	Flying N	Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, TOC Database
10 May 2008	1		13 <sup>th</sup> Conc. and 20 <sup>th</sup> SR, West Gwillimbury, <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Peter Wukasch, fide ONTBIRDS
18 May 2008	6	Flying S	Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, TOC Database
29 Jun 2008	1	Heard calling	Lake Scugog marshes (Simcoe St & Townline), <i>Durham</i>	Dennis Barry, fide DRBA
6 Jul 2008	1	Heard calling	Lake Scugog marshes, <i>Durham</i>	Margaret J.C. Bain, fide DRBA
12 Aug 2008	2 ad		20 <sup>th</sup> SR & 14 <sup>th</sup> Line, W. Gwillimbury, <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Peter Wukasch fide ONTBIRDS
17 Apr 2009	1	Flying over, calling	Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, TOC Database
30 Mar 2010	7		Holland Marsh P.W.A., <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Peter Wukasch, fide ONTBIRDS
4 Apr 2010	2		Reach Marsh, 13 <sup>th</sup> Line Scugog, <i>Durham</i>	A. Balmer, fide DRBA
4 Apr 2010	1 (2)	Later 2 heard calling	Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James, fide TOC Database
12 Apr 2010	1	Heard calling	Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, <i>Durham</i>	Ross D. James fide TOC Database
22 May 2010	2 ad, 1 yng		Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i>	Bruce Brydon, TOC Database
23 May 2010	2 ad, 1 yng		Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i>	Bruce Brydon, Sean Macey, TOC Database
24 May 2010	2 ad	Photographed	Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i>	Irving Himel, fide Frank Pinilla, TOC Database
24 May 2010	2 ad, 1 yng	Photographed	Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i>	Kevin R. Shackleton, John Watson, TOC Database
29 May 2010	2 ad, 1 yng		Ravenshoe Flats, <i>York</i>	Roy B.H. Smith, Winnie Poon, Marshall Folk, TOC Database
1 Aug 2010	2		14 <sup>th</sup> Line & 20 <sup>th</sup> SR, West Gwillimbury, <i>Simcoe Co.</i>	Glenn Steplock, fide ONTBIRDS

Note 1. Flew across the Holland River and landed near the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Concession of West Gwillimbury in Simcoe Co.

Note 2. A secondhand report: 'locals say they saw a family of cranes there so they must nest in the general vicinity.'



**Table 2: Selected High Counts of Migrant Sandhill Cranes in the Greater Toronto Area: 1955-2010.**

Date	Number Reported	Time etc.	Location	Observer/Source
27 Mar 1977	17	Flying over at 11:00h	Black Creek Pioneer Village, <i>Toronto</i>	Jack Cranmer-Byng (Goodwin 1977) [Note 1]
11 Sep 1988	9	Flying over	Kleinburg, <i>York</i>	A. & M. Rusnell (Bennett 1989)
29 Sep 1998	22	Flying S	Yonge & Glenforest, <i>Toronto</i>	Craig S.A. McLaughlin (TOC Database)
17 Sep 2004	13	Flying S	Leslie St Spit, <i>Toronto</i>	anon fide Dan Derbyshire (TOC Database)
3 Sep 2005	11	Flying over	Stevenson & Gibb St, Oshawa, <i>Durham</i>	D. Ruch fide DRBA (TOC Database)
16 Oct 2005	34	Flying over at 17:00h	Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, <i>York</i>	Ronald J. Fleming (TOC Database)
16 Oct 2005	29 [Note 2]	Flying SW at 17:30h	Major Mackenzie & Hwy 400, <i>York</i>	Roy B. H. Smith and Winnie Poon (TOC Database). Photo on file.
23 Nov 2005	42	Flying SW at 11:00h	Church St, Pickering, <i>Durham</i>	B. Waddell fide DRBA (TOC Database)
1 Dec 2005	~25	Flying over at dusk	Hwy 401 & Hwy 27, <i>Peel</i>	Brian Henshaw, fide R.R. Pye (TOC Database)
2 Dec 2005	~25	Flying over	Guelph Line & Fairview, <i>Halton</i>	Matthew Graham, fide ONTBIRDS [Note 3]
2 Dec 2005	29		Cranberry Marsh, <i>Durham</i>	Margaret J.C. Bain, fide DRBA (TOC Database)
2 Dec 2005	29		Rotary Park, Ajax, <i>Durham</i>	P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA [Note 4]
3 Dec 2005	25		Oshawa Second Marsh, <i>Durham</i>	Tyler Hoar, fide DRBA
4 Dec 2006	44	Flying W	Lambton Woods, <i>Toronto</i>	Dave Langford (TOC Database) [Note 5]
16 Nov 2007	84		Pine Valley Dr, Woodbridge, <i>York</i>	Alfred Adamo (TOC Database) [Note 6]
22 Nov 2007	36		Sandiford Rd, Stouffville, <i>York</i>	Jack and Connie Walker, fide ONTBIRDS
18 Nov 2008	30+	Flying over at 11:30h	Queen St & McLaughlin, Brampton, <i>Peel</i>	Maril Semph, fide ONTBIRDS

Note 1. There were no GTA counts higher than 2 prior to 1977.

Note 2. Perhaps some of the same birds were involved as those seen by Ron Fleming at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve half an hour earlier? Documented and accepted by Toronto Bird Rarities Committee [TBRC] (Lang and Smith 2007).

Note 3. Same birds as seen by Brian Henshaw on previous day?

Note 4. Clearly the same birds as seen earlier at Cranberry Marsh.

Note 5. Documented and accepted by TBRC (Smith 2009).

Note 6. Documented, but not yet reviewed by TBRC.

**Table 3: Spring Migration of Sandhill Crane in the Greater Toronto Area: 1955-2010.**

County/Region	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Halton R.M.	-	1	1	1	1	4
Peel R.M.	1	2	2	2	-	7
City of Toronto	-	1	7	3	-	11
York R.M.	-	-	5	-	-	5
Durham R.M.	-	3	26	12	3	44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>71</b>



**Table 4: Fall Migration of Sandhill Crane in the Greater Toronto Area: 1955-2010.\***

County/Region	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Halton R.M.	1	-	-	-	-	1
Peel R.M.	1	-	-	2	-	3
City of Toronto	1	8	5	1	3	18
York R.M.	-	1	3	2	-	6
Durham R.M.	3	3	10	8	4	28
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>56</b>

\*Note1. Totals for fall migration run up to 1 November 2010, so may be slightly higher with the inclusion of November and December 2010 numbers.

Tables 3 and 4 show numbers of 'reports', not numbers of birds. There are many more *reports* of singles and small groups (<5) in spring, but most of the larger flocks occur in fall, so overall the total number of *birds* is much larger in fall.

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Sandhill Crane in flight. Photo taken at  
Red Bay, Bruce County, 26 April 2009.  
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