



# TORONTO BIRDS

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## COVER PHOTO

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**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Photo © Jack Illingworth

Influxes of Cave Swallows into southern Ontario in late fall have become an almost annual event over the last ten years. But 2010 saw larger numbers than ever before, with literally hundreds reported from Long Point, *Norfolk*, during the last days of October. Much smaller, but still significant numbers, were found in the GTA.

This photograph shows a molting juvenile Cave Swallow, found by Andrew Keaveney along the Endikement, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, on 31 October 2010. Thanks to him, Jack Illingworth was able to obtain these excellent photos (another appears in the systematic list), which show newly molted blue-black crown feathers replacing the brown of juvenal plumage.

More details on the Cave Swallow influx are provided on pages 169-171 in the October Greater Toronto Area Bird Report.

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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 the *Toronto Birds* Editors. Observation records should be sent to Roy Smith rsmith@mrs.com. All submissions are subject to review and editing.

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## GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – OCTOBER 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 (blue) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 (white) on 6th (Gail George fide SLo, fide ONTBIRDS) & again 1 (blue) there on 18th (Allan Woods fide ONTBIRDS). 1 flying W at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (Walter Fisher, RMGRW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 39 (5 white, 34 blue) seen there on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB). 1 (white) AD at Plug Hat Rd, Scarborough on 14th (Attila Papp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 (blue) AD at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 17th (RBHS) & 2 (1 white, 1 blue) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (LAF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (blue) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (CMRW, GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 27th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS).

BRANT - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (Alan Woods fide DRBA).

CAKCLING GOOSE (*minima*) - 1 reported at Reesor Pond, *York* on 1st, as a very small bird – size of Mallard (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). However, this taxon has not been accepted as having occurred in Ontario, so if the ID was valid it would likely have been an escape [No doc seen].

CAKCLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 9 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 24 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (CMRW, GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 there on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 7 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 21st (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 flying over at LSS on 31st (NMu, MVL, &).

CANADA GOOSE - 800 at Country Glen Pond, Markham, *York* on 3rd (RBHS) & 370 at Yonge & Green Lane, *York* on 16th (KRS) (Brydon 2010). 654 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th (RBHS) & ~1000 there on 21st (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

MUTE SWAN - 31 at LSS on 16th (NMu, MVL).

WOOD DUCK – 24 at Sunderland S.L. *Durham* on 6th (RDJ), 25 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 14 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (DW fide DRBA) & 1 M at Lake Wabukayne, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 23rd (Janon fide OUTON). 3 at TI on 29th (NMu) & 3 at Triangle Pond, LSS on 31st (Bill Smith, Peter McParland, fide NMu).

GADWALL - 45 at CSSP on 4th (MSF, JLH), 30 at Hydro Islands, Eastport Dr., *Halton* on 4th (MSF, JLH), 39 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS) & 73 at Pumhouse Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (AA). 49 at Mouth of Joshua Creek, *Peel* & 31 at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 31st (RBHS).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 7 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd & 9 on 3rd (RBHS). 290 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Cell #3, LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 15 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

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BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 110 at Hydro Islands, Eastport Dr., *Halton* on 4th (MSF,JLH), 15 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide DRBA) & 13 at Grenadier Pond, HP on 13th (anon fide OUTON). 13 at TI on 29th (NMu) & 4 there on 31st (AA).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 4 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (RBHS,TH).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd & 11 there on 3rd (RBHS). 30 at Cell #3, LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

CANVASBACK - 12 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 2 there on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

REDHEAD - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 15th (RRP fide DRBA). 50 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL), 20 on 23rd (RBHS) & 125 there on 31st (NMu,MVL,&).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Centre Island, TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 6 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (DW fide DRBA).

GREATER SCAUP - 300 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL), 623 on 23rd (RBHS) & 250 there on 31st (NMu,MVL,&).

LESSER SCAUP - 6 at Bay 'B', LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

SURF SCOTER - 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 5 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 24th (RLau) & 2 F at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 30th (AA). 1 F at CSSP on 31st (AEK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB).

BUFFLEHEAD - 1 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th (RBHS,SLo). 67 at Snake Island, TI on 19th (NMu) & 35 at Bay 'B', LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 6 at Algonquin Island, TI on 12th (NMu,MVL), 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RRP fide DRBA), 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th (RBHS) & 3 there on 30th (RBHS,TH). 19 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS), 6 at Pumphouse Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (AA), 56 at LSS on 31st (NMu,MVL,&) & 5 at Conair-Cuisinart Pond, Woodbridge, *York* on 31st (RBHS).

COMMON MERGANSER - 27 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS) & 7 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 30th (RBHS,TH).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 2300 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA). 1200 at LSS on 31st (NMu,MVL,&), 1000 of them flying W over lake in am.

RUDDY DUCK - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 there on 15th (RRP fide DRBA). 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 22nd (DW) & 1 at Cell #3, LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 (drumming) at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 9th (KRS,MvdT) (Brydon 2010).

WILD TURKEY - 8 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 4th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 2 (1 M, 1 F) AD at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (NMu, Peter McParland, fide ONTBIRDS) & 12 at Glen Major, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide DRBA).

RED-THROATED LOON - On the 25th there was 1 reported well to the E of Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* (RWFP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* (LAF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA) & on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS). 2 flying over at Causeway, LSS on 31st (NMu,MVL, Bill Smith, Peter McParland).

**PACIFIC LOON** - 1 (breeding plum.) first reported at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* @ 11:30hrs on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS), seen again east of the pier at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* @ 15:00hrs (Dan Kaczynski fide JCS, fide ONTBIRDS) & @ 16:00hrs at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* (RRP fide OUTON). On the 25th one was seen at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* @ 09:30hrs (Janice Melendez fide JCS, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 seen from this location flying E towards Darlington @ 11:00hrs (RWFP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* @ 14:00hrs (RLau fide JCS, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* @ 10:35hrs on 29th (DW fide JI, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 seen there ~1 hr later (JI fide DRBA). The original plus a 2nd bird, more

grey on back of head and neck, white chin and throat with distinct chinstrap and it still had large white spots on the back. One flew W into the bay; at 12:50 other flew SE; see photos by Jean Iron on her website (<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2010/pacificloonoshawaharbour.htm>). 1 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* @ 08:50hrs on 30th & again @ 13:10hrs (GC fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* @ 13:00hrs on 30th (Sarah Box, RBHS, TH), probably same bird seen by DW/JI on the previous day. Had strongly defined chinstrap; many white 'chequers' on back; hind crown and nape mostly grey. It was quite far off to E, so views were a bit distant, but it appeared to lack the black spots on white throat and breast seen in JI's photos? 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 31st (Dan Burton fide DRBA). *In view of the timing and plumage differences, the Thickson's Bay bird was different from those seen at Oshawa Harbour, so a minimum of 3 and possibly even 4 birds were involved.*



The **Pacific Loon** (views top left and top right) seen by Jean Iron at the Oshawa Harbour, *Durham*, 29 October 2010. Amazingly, an hour later, a second bird (bottom left) also appeared.

© Jean Iron.

COMMON LOON - 15 at Rotary Park, Ajax, *Durham* on 17th (GCarp fide DRBA), 125 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 22nd (William Gilmour fide ONTBIRDS), 34 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 24th (RRP fide OUTON) & 324 there on 29th (THo fide DRBA).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 2 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 1 at CSSP on 4th (MSF, JLH), 3 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (DW fide DRBA), 12 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 15th (RRP fide DRBA) & 5 at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 23rd (DW).

HORNED GREBE - 13 at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at CSSP on 8th (BPB fide OUTON) & 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 25th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 2 at LSS on 23rd (MKP fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Mouth of Joshua Creek, *Peel* on 31st (RBHS).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** - 1 (still there) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (C. McConnell fide DRBA) & on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). On the 9th there was 1 seen flying W at TI @ 12:20hrs (NMu, Peter McParland, fide ONTBIRDS) then seen circling and then heading inland at Peninsula D, LSS @ 13:40hrs (Brett Tryon, TTPBRS, fide ONTBIRDS) & flying E at Rosetta McClain Gardens @ 14:00hrs (Walter Fisher, FBB, fide ONTBIRDS). *All these sightings are assumed to involve the same bird.*

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** - 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 260 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 11th (MWJ, BHet, fide HBGG) & 8 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

**LEAST BITTERN** - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

**GREAT BLUE HERON** - 1 at 5th SR & 11th Conc., King, *York* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010), 3 at Carrick Property, Scarborough on 31st (ETB) & 12 still in vicinity of Holland R. Mouth Heronry, *York* on 31st (PW, Dan Antonio, fide ONTBIRDS).

**GREAT EGRET** - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd (RBHS) & on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 colour-marked fuschia under both wings at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 (wing tag # 14A) there on 16th (RRP fide DRBA). 1 (orange wing tag), probably # 14A reported yesterday, but not confirmed, at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* 10min after sunrise on 17th (DVW fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Port Perry, *Durham* on 30th (DRuch fide DRBA).

**CATTLE EGRET** - 4 were photographed at #61 Parr Dr, Bolton, *Peel* @ 14:20hrs on 24th (DJM fide ONTBIRDS), in a pond in an industrial area, near Solmar Industries. [Photo on OFO website]. 1 at Chickadee Cr., Brampton, *Peel* on 26th (BNo) (Brydon 2010), 1 at Tremaine Rd S of 2nd SR Milton, *Halton* @ 17:45hrs on 26th (Chris Dunn fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 flew in off the Lake against a strong headwind at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* @ 15:00hrs on 29th (BSC, DEP, fide CEE / HBGG). No doc seen for any of these reports, apart from the photo below.



In mid-October, a surprise influx of **Cattle Egrets** occurred across southern Ontario. Sight reports indicated that as many as 29 birds could have been involved; most impressive was a group of 14 birds seen in Ottawa on 26 October. Pictured above are the four found by Dave Milsom at Bolton, *Peel*, on 24 October 2010. © Dave Milsom.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (CMRW,GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 JUV at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 31st (RBHS).

TURKEY VULTURE - 100+ over Woodeden Dr., Lorne Park, *Peel* on 1st & 50+ there on 12th (DEP). Higher counts from Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* began with 440 on 1st, and included 805 on 2nd, 707 on 3rd, 609 on 12th, and 191 on 16th (CMRW fide JDL, fide DRBA). 881 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st, 403 on 12th & 86 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). Larger counts from Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* were 169 on 3rd, 199 on 11th & 62 on 23rd (ISRW fide MDW).

OSPREY - 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 1 on 3rd (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on 7th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 3rd (ISRW fide MDW), 1 at Hwy 9 W of Dufferin St., *York* on 14th (KRS) (Brydon 2010), 1 at Causeway, LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 1 (late) at Soldier's Bay, Queensville SR, *York* on 26th (PW fide ONTBIRDS).

BALD EAGLE - 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 16 on 3rd was a new one-day record for this site, 2 on 12th, 4 on 16th & 1 on 19th & 22nd (RRP fide DRBA; fide JI, fide Alan Woods, CMRW, fide DRBA). 2 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 3rd, 3 SUB at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 8th & 1 on 11th, 23rd & 31st (ISRW fide MDW). Four other reports of singles during the month. 2 AD at Holland R. Mouth Heronry, *York* (PW,Dan Antonio, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* (THo fide ONTBIRDS) on 31st.

NORTHERN HARRIER - 7 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 10 on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 22 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 11th (ISRW fide MDW). 4 at TI on 29th (NMu) & 7 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 170 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 149 on 2nd, 81 on 3rd, 57 on 12th, 67 on 16th & 12 on 31st (CMRW fide RRP; fide JI fide ONTBIRDS). 300 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st & 18 on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 12 at Woodeden Dr. Lorne Park, *Peel* on 1st (DEP), 16 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 9th & 36 on 31st (ISRW fide MDW). 24 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB).

COOPER'S HAWK - 10 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 25 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd & 15 on 3rd (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at HP on 7th (NMu) & 2 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL). Singles at Trinity-Bellwoods Park on 19th (AJJ fide OUTON), Thorncliffe Park Dr. on 24th (ETB) & at 15th SR & Conc 11, King, *York* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 2 on 3rd, 1 on 4th, 2 on 16th, 1 on 20th & 3 on 29th (CMRW fide JDL, fide DRBA). 1 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st & 4 on 31st (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 11th, 16th & 23rd (ISRW fide MDW). 1 (local) at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 28th & 3 there on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB). 1 JUV at TI on 31st (AA).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 6 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st & 5 on 31st (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 3rd, 30 on 23rd & 7 on 31st (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th & 6 on 29th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th & 11 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 2 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 3rd & 9th (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-TAILED HAWK - 40 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st, 41 on 12th, 71 on 22nd & 647 on 31st (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 45 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 80 on 3rd, 67 on 12th & 335 on 31st (CMRW fide RRP; fide JI fide DRBA). 118 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 23rd & 715 on 31st (ISRW fide MDW). 132 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB) & 445 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 AD at Woodeden Dr. Lorne Park, *Peel* on 12th (DEP). 2 (dark) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 16th & 13 there on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Hawk Hill, HP on 22nd & 5 on 31st (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (dark) at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 23rd & 5 on 31st (ISRW fide MDW). 9 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB) was a new one-day record count for this site. 4 at LSS on 31st (NMu,MVL,&).

GOLDEN EAGLE - 1 JUV at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 8th, 9th & 17th, 3 there on 23rd & 31st (ISRW fide MDW). 1 AD at 1141 Woodeden Dr. Lorne Park, *Peel* on 12th (DEP), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th & 31st (RRP fide CMRW, fide DRBA). 1 JUV at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 22nd (William

Gilmour fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB). 2 at Hawk Hill, HP on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Bessborough Park, Oshawa, *Durham* on 29th & 5 there on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 29th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 JUV (photographed) at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MAV fide HBGG). 3 (2 AD, 1 JUV) at Leslie & Commissioners St. @ 16:45hrs on 31st (NMu,MVL) & 3 at LSS @ 16:50hrs on 31st were probably the same birds (AEK fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN KESTREL - 88 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (CMRW fide JDL, fide DRBA) & 18 on 2nd (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS).

MERLIN - 3 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 3rd (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Trinity-Bellwoods Park on 18th (AIJ fide OUTON) & 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 22nd (CMRW fide Alan Woods, fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Woodeden Dr. Lorne Park, *Peel* on 23rd (DEP), at Mainway & Corporate Dr., Burlington, *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG), Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA) & at Holland River East Side, *York* on 31st (PW, Dan Antonio, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at TI on 29th (NMu).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd, 1 on 3rd, 1 on 12th, 2 on 19th & 1 on 21st (CMRW fide RRP; fide JI, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 3rd & 1 on 16th (ISRW fide MDW, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Sun Life Financial Centre on 10th (SCH), 1 at TI on 15th & 29th (NMu,&). 2 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL), 1 on 23rd (MKP fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on 31st (Bill Smith, Peter McParland, fide NMu). 2 at Hawk Hill, HP on 22nd (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA), 4 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 31st (RMGRW fide FBB) & 1 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 nr. Sunderland, *Durham* on 6 th (RDJ).

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 7th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Christie C.A., *Halton* on 29th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN COOT - 10 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 18 on 15th (RRP fide DRBA). & 47 there on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at CSSP on 8th (BPB fide OUTON), 1 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS), 1 at Grenadier Pond, HP on 29th (AA), 40 at Mouth of Holland R., *York* on 31st (PW, Dan Antonio, fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 at Conair-Cuisinart Pond, Woodbridge, *York* on 31st (RBHS).

SANDHILL CRANE - 2 flying over Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS). On the 31st there were 3 seen at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Rosetta McClain Gardens (RMGRW fide FBB) & 9 flying S at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - 1 JUV at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

KILLDEER - 1 at Mouth of Duffin's Creek, *Durham* on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS); 25 at Bolton Industrial area, *Peel* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 5 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd, 1 on 3rd (RBHS) & 4 on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 17th (DW fide DRBA) & on 19th (C. Adey fide DRBA). 2 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG) & 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 30th (AA).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 5 on 17th (DW fide DRBA) & 4 there on 19th (C. Adey fide DRBA). 3 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 19th (C. Adey, Betsy Smith, fide JI).

SANDERLING - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd, 3rd (RBHS), 5th & 6th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 10th & 1 there on 17th (DW fide DRBA). 1 at Rotary Park, Ajax, *Durham* on 17th (GCarp fide DRBA).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 6 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 10th & 4 on 17th (DW fide DRBA). 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 3 on 17th (DW fide DRBA) & 4 on 19th (C. Adey fide DRBA).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 31st (RRP fide DRBA).



DUNLIN - 2 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 1 JUV at Reesor Pond, *York* on 2nd & 3rd (RBHS) & 2 there on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 10th & 5 on 17th (DW fide DRBA). 6 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 13th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 4 on 17th (DW fide DRBA) & 3 on 19th (C. Adey fide DRBA). 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 31st (Ron Reid fide ONTBIRDS).

STILT SANDPIPER - 1 (late?) at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S SNIFE - 7 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 17th (DW fide DRBA) & 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (CMRW fide JI, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour). 1 on sidewalk in front of Winners at Richmond Heights Plaza, *York*, at 06:00hrs on 22nd (NMu).

**RED PHALAROPE** - 1 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* @ 10:00hrs on 30th [No doc. seen] (AA fide ONTBIRDS), seen briefly, 100m E of lighthouse.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** - 1 (far out) at Sioux Lookout Park, Burlington, *Halton* on 30th [No doc. seen] (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

**LAUGHING GULL** - 1 1W at Bay D, LSS @ 14:00hrs on 14th (PNP fide ONTBIRDS), had been found earlier.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 AD at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 18th (GC).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 1W at Lake Ontario off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (GC, TH, RBHS) & 1 at Mouth of Holland R., *York* on 31st (PW, Dan Antonio, fide ONTBIRDS).

**POMARINE JAEGER** - 1 JUV flying W (in am) at West Beach, TI on 29<sup>th</sup> [No doc seen] (NMu).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at LSS on 16th (NMu, MVL).

BARRED OWL - 1 reported at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th, 18th & on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS), had been around for previous 2 weeks. Photographed by Ann Brokelman.

LONG-EARED OWL - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (GC).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 16th (RRP fide DRBA). 1 flying W at Rosetta McClain Gardens @ 11:25hrs on 9th (Walter Fisher, RMGRW, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Hawk Hill, HP on 16th (HPHW fide HSh, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Endikement, LSS on 23rd (RJF, & fide ONTBIRDS) & on 30th (Pat Hodgson fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Tip, LSS on 31st (NMu, MVL, &).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 16th (MAV fide HBGG) & 4 at LSS on 31st (NMu, MVL, &).

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL - A photo of one banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 7th (MSF) was published in TOC Newsletter #208 (Stuart 2010).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (Janice Melendez fide DRBA) & coming to his feeder there on 30th (DBar). 1 at Mcfarlane Ct, Whitby, *Durham* on 21st (G. Ernest fide DRBA) & 1 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG). Up to 4 in the Rattray Marsh area, *Peel* on 29th (DEP).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 25 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 8 there on 10th (NMu, MVL). 1 at HP on 18th (SMF).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Tom Taylor Trail, N Newmarket, *York* on 11th (KRS fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 23rd (DRuch fide DRBA).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 12 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 16 on 9th & 24 there on 10th (NMu, &). 6 other reports from 9th to 25th of single birds from different locations.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 16th (ISRW fide MDW) & on 23rd (DW). 1 at TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Sideline 26, Pickering, *Durham* on 31st (ETB).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - 1 at HP on 28th (SMF).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - Singles at Magwood Park on 1st (VC) & at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st & 17th (GCarp fide DRBA). 4 at TI on 12th, 2 on 15th & 1 there on 19th (NMu,&). 1 at HP on 21st, 24th & 29th (SMF).

RED-EYED VIREO - 2 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA) & 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 10th (DRuch fide DRBA).

BLUE JAY - 500 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st (NMu), 655 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS) & 377 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN CROW - 52 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 17th (NMu).

COMMON RAVEN – 1 at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 16th and heard there again on 28th (RDJ). 3 at Headwaters of Duffins Creek, Pickering, *Durham* on 17th (D. Docherty fide DRBA). 1 at Iroquois Raptor Platform, Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 23rd (DW), 1 of 2 being seen there regularly (fide MDW). 1 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (THo).

HORNED LARK - 5 at LSS on 23rd (RJF,&, fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 at CSSP on 31st (AEK fide ONTBIRDS).

TREE SWALLOW - 2 at Cell #1, LSS @ 14:00hrs on 28th (PNP,Ian Sturdee, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 1 at Mouth of Joshua Creek, *Peel* on 29th (WER fide ONTBIRDS).

### **CAVE SWALLOW -**

Flight photo of a Cave Swallow, skilfully taken at Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch, Toronto, 28 October 2010.  
© Ann Brokelman.



The Cave Swallow influx of 2010 was the largest thus far recorded in the GTA. Events started on 28 October when groups of unidentified swallows were seen passing the Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch. Eventually, at 14:35h, as two went by, Ann Brokelman was able to photograph one, confirming the ID.

Meanwhile, Paul Prior and Ian Sturdee had observed two at Cell #1, Leslie Street Spit, at 14:00h; these flew off to the west after 15 minutes or so. This was to be the pattern for the whole invasion – small groups moving west along the lakeshore, stopping briefly at favoured sites.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> reports started with eight at East Point Park at 08:30h (MAK, fide ONTBIRDS); then four at Bronte Harbour, *Halton*, at 10:29h (CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). This number was quickly raised to 19 there at 10:46h (CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), and a record shot of one was posted to OFO website (BSC). Another was seen past her house in south Burlington, *Halton* at 15:00h (CEE), then three more found at the Mouth of Joshua Creek, *Peel* at 15:15h, where there was also a Northern Rough-winged Swallow for comparison (WER fide

ONTBIRDS). One was still present at Bronte Harbour at 17:50h (MKP fide ONTBIRDS), and five were just west of there at Bronte Bluffs Park, *Halton* at 18:25h (MKP, DAD, fide CEE/ONTBIRDS).

Some of these birds probably roosted in the Bronte harbor area, as first one, then two were seen there at 10:20h and 10:30h, respectively, on 30<sup>th</sup> (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS). Later, at 11:20h, seven were found at the PetroCanada (now

Suncor) Pier, *Halton*. They stayed for 30 minutes, then moved on west along the lakeshore (DEP fide ONTBIRDS). Taking a conservative approach, we consider all this group of sightings from the Bronte area (apart from the Joshua Creek birds) to be part of the original 19. Also on 30<sup>th</sup>, two were added to Glenn Coady's yard list when he saw them flying past Thickson's Bay, *Durham* at 09:10h; these were probably the same two seen again at the mouth of Lynde Creek, Lynde Shores C.A, *Durham* at 11:00h (Dan Kaczynski fide JCS, fide ONTBIRDS). They were later joined by a third bird, and at 12:00h all three were seen flying west past Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* (RRP fide DRBA). Meanwhile, two more were found at the Filtration Plant, Toronto Islands, at 11:30h (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) and since they were still there at 12:45h they were clearly different from the *Halton* birds. Lastly on the 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 were seen along the Endikement, Leslie Street Spit (LSS), in the afternoon (Pat Hodgson fide ONTBIRDS), setting the stage for more sightings on the following day.



A rare opportunity to observe a perched **Cave Swallow** at the Endikement, Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, 31 October 2010. Note the molt contrasts in the crown and scapulars which show that it was a juvenile bird. © Jack Illingworth.

By 31<sup>st</sup>, there were none left in the Bronte area, but various sightings were reported from LSS. First, a small flock was seen there in the early morning by Bob Kortright, who was leading a bird walk (fide Brett Tryon, fide ONTBIRDS); these were probably the same as the six reported at Cell #1 at 09:00h (NMu,MVL). This group was seen again at Cell #1 at 11:30h and watched for about 10 minutes before they flew off to the south (Brett Tryon, John Crawford, Maya Ricker-Wilson, fide ONTBIRDS). Another four were seen at the base of Pipit Point, LSS at 15:00h and two more at the 'Top Lands' area at 15:10h (NMu,MVL). Around the same time, a molting juvenile was found perched and seen well along the Endikement (AEK); it was also photographed by Jack Illingworth (see cover photo). The details visible in this photo

enable the bird to be aged as a juvenile – note the molt contrasts in the crown where blue-black feathers are replacing the brown of juvenile plumage (see photos). An additional bird was seen going past Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch at 14:39h (RMGRW fide FBB). [*Cave Swallow is still an OBRC species; no doc. seen so far for any of these*].

By organizing all the above into logical groupings, we come up with 11 occurrences for October. In addition, there were two more sightings in early November: one at East Point Park at 08:00h on 2<sup>nd</sup> (MAK fide ONTBIRDS) and one at Bond Head Bluffs, *Durham* at 14:30h, also on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Jerry Ball fide RRP). Thus, in total there were 13 GTA occurrences during this influx.

Many more were seen at other sites on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, including Fifty Point, *Niagara*; Long Point (both Old Cut and the Tip), *Norfolk*; Hawk Cliff, *Elgin*; Erieau, *Chatham-Kent*; Point Pelee, *Essex* and Holiday Beach C.A., *Essex*, with the highest numbers reported at Long Point. For example, they recorded 147 at Old Cut and 105 at the Tip on 28 October, and 136 at Old Cut on 30<sup>th</sup>, with smaller numbers in between. They even banded five individuals, all of which were aged as juvenile (LPBO-SB).

The sheer size of the 2010 influx dwarfs all previous incursions into Ontario. It is sobering to think that this pattern of late fall influxes into north-eastern North America (including Ontario) only really started in the 1990s. In fact, *Cave Swallow* was first added to the Ontario List in 1989, but then nine years elapsed until the second one in 1998. The first large invasion occurred in November 1999, and was well-documented (Curry and McLaughlin 2000). Since then, it has occurred almost annually, and given present trends we can expect more of the same in years to come. Thus anyone who still needs this species for their Ontario List should take heart, as it seems likely there will be more opportunities in the future.

[Roy Smith]



Adult **Cliff Swallow**, distinguished from *Cave Swallow* by extensive chestnut face, almost blackish throat, and whitish or creamy forehead. This photo, taken at the Ravenshoe Flats, *York*, on 31 July 2010, shows bird was molting the tertials as well as the lower body feathers. © Winnie Poon.

BARN SWALLOW - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 7th & 1 on 13th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS).

SWALLOW SP. - 12 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 28th (RMGRW fide FBB) & 2 flying W at East Point Park @ 11:00hrs on 29th (MAK fide ONTBIRDS) were too far out for positive ID. 1 at CSSP on 31st (AEK fide ONTBIRDS), flying W about 400-500m out - either Cliff or Cave. 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 37 at HP on 7th (NMu). 75 at TI on 9th, 50 on 10th, 80 on 12th, 50 on 15th, 63 on 19th & 100 on 29th (NMu,&). 100 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL), 28 (prob. more) on 23rd (RBHS) & 56 there on 31st (NMu,MVL,&). 32 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (GC fide ONTBIRDS). GC noted that *'There has been a pronounced flight of hundreds of Black-capped Chickadees since last Friday (22nd) moving through the area, with most birds staying at my feeders for about an hour, before moving on W.'* The Boreals showed no interest in the feeders.

**BOREAL CHICKADEE** - 1 at Erindale Park, *Peel* on 21st (Reuven Martin fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at 42 Cronin Dr, Etobicoke on 24th (AA) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (LAF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (GC fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS). No doc. seen for any of these reports. *There have been two major irruptions recorded in the GTA: in 1951/1952 and in 1972/1973. In between and subsequently, most years yield no records at all; in a few there have been one or two at most. Thus the 5 reports this month (plus one more in November) make this irruption of Boreal Chickadee the largest recorded in the GTA since 1972. Unfortunately, all the sightings were of the one-off variety.*

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 26th (DJM) (Brydon 2010).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 4 at HP on 7th (NMu), 4 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 9th (NMu,Peter McParland, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 19th (GDe) (Brydon 2010).

BROWN CREEPER - 7 at TI on 9th, 7 on 10th & 4 there on 12th (NMu,&).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 heard at Nature Reserve, TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 1 at HP on 7th (NMu).

WINTER WREN - 1 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 5th (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 7 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL). 5 at TI on 12th, 4 on 19th (NMu) & 4 there on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

SEDGE WREN - 1 at Snug Harbour, TI on 29th (NMu).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (CMRW fide GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 50 at HP on 7th (NMu), 50 at LSS on 16th, 9 there on 31st (NMu,MVL) & 30 at Erindale Park, *Peel* on 21st (Reuven Martin fide ONTBIRDS). 100 at TI on 9th & 50 on 10th, 12th & 15th (NMu,&).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 23 at CSSP on 4th (MSF,JLH). 35 at HP on 7th (NMu) & 1 there on several dates from 25th to 30th (SMF). 50 at TI on 9th, 75 on 10th, 75 on 12th, 40 on 15th & only 1 there on 29th (NMu,&). 40 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 1 there on 30th (SMF). 10 at Erindale Park, *Peel* on 21st (Reuven Martin fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Bluffer's Park on 30th (RLau).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - Singles at Woodeden Dr. Lorne Park, *Peel* on 5th (DEP), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (Les Saylor fide DRBA) & at Blackstock, *Durham* on 31st (DRuch fide DRBA).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 4 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 5th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 26 at Hawk Hill, HP on 21st (NMu) & 15 at 15th SR & 11 Conc, King, *York* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010). 20 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG). 179 at TI on 29th (NMu), 40 on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 there on 31st (AA). 2 at Scarborough Townline Swamp on 31st (ETB).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Singles at Glen Major, *Durham* on 3rd (D. Docherty fide DRBA), CSSP on 4th (MSF,JLH), Claremont C. A., *Durham* on 9th (D. Docherty fide DRBA), at the Headwaters of Duffins Creek, *Durham* on 17th (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & at a backyard in Whitby, *Durham* on 23rd (G. Ernest fide DRBA).

HERMIT THRUSH - 31 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 77 on 9th, 168 on 12th, 19 on 15th & 47 on 19th (NMu,&). 6 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 19th (Janice Melendez fide DRBA) & 4 at LSS on 31st (NMu,MVL,&).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 59 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 17th, 161 on 21st, 367 on 22nd & 1700 (most >W) on 29th (NMu).

GRAY CATBIRD - 3 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 1 there on 29th (NMu). 1 at Research Road, Leaside on 3rd (ETB) & 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 24th (GCarp, OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – A good total of 45 reports this month, perhaps because of many fine, relatively warm days throughout the month, which encouraged those birds still on their territories after the molt, to come out and show themselves! In total, there were 27 reports from *Toronto*, 13 from *York*, 3 from *Durham* and 2 from *Halton*, but none from *Peel* this time. Apart from RBHS, 10 other observers provided reports, with special thanks to ETB, SCH, RLau, Jess Mackenzie, FP and DW, who each provided more than one report.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 16th (DRuch fide DRBA).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 60 at Westney Rd nr. Taunton Rd., *Durham* on 1st (DRuch fide DRBA) & 7 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA). 200 at Boag Rd E of Leslie St., *York* on 3rd (BB) (Brydon 2010), 45 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 11th (MWJ, BHet, fide HBGG), 25 at LSS on 23rd (RJF, &, fide ONTBIRDS) & 260 flying W at TI on 29th (NMu).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 8 flying W at Filtration Plant, TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) flew over, and did not stop. However, 8 were seen again at TI on 31st (AA).

CEDAR WAXWING - 12 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 1st (GDe). 375 at TI on 29th (NMu), 100 flying W; rest in trees (Mountain Ash) on Hanlans and Gibraltar Point. 17 at TI on 31st (AA).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - 3 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 1 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 11th (MWJ, BHet, fide HBGG). 1 at HP on 4th, 15th, 16th & 18th (SMF).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - 2 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 7 on 10th, 5 on 12th (NMu, MVL) & 2 there on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at HP on 4th & 1 reported there on most dates up until the 24th (SMF). 2 at Bathurst N of Morning SR, *York* on 5th (BB) (Brydon 2010), 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 9th (KRS, MvdT) (Brydon 2010), 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 10th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 at Bronte area, *Halton* on 11th (MWJ, BHet, fide HBGG). 2 at Humber Arboretum on 13th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at East Point Park on 29th (MAK fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 3 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour). 1 or 2 at HP from 2nd to 8th (SMF). 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 10th (NMu, MVL) & 1 at Mouth of Joshua Creek, *Peel* on 31st (RBHS).

\* NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at HP on 8th (SMF), 1 (imm M) at Causeway, LSS on 23rd [Documented] (RBHS) & 1 HY-M at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th [No doc. seen] (MWJ fide HBGG).

YELLOW WARBLER - 1 (late) at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* on 2nd (MWJ fide HBGG).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 2 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 1st (JFL) (Brydon 2010).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - 1 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour).

\* CAPE MAY WARBLER - 1 HY-F at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 29th [No doc. seen] (MWJ fide HBGG).  
*Doc required after 26 Oct.*

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA). 1 or 2 at HP from 1st to 6th & 1 F there on 11th (SMF).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 35 at Hawk Hill, HP on 1st & 150 at HP on 7th (NMu). 30 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 10th & 25 on 16th (DRuch fide DRBA). 125 at TI on 29th (NMu) & 30 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG). 1 at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* on 31st (MKP, RBHS) & 2 at LSS on 31st (NMu, MVL, &).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 1st (GCarp fide DRBA), 3 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 1 at HP on 6th (SMF).

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** - 1 at PetroCanada Pier, *Halton* @ 12:50hrs on 31st [No doc. seen] (WJC fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), could not be relocated by others later that day.

PINE WARBLER - 2 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & on 10th (NMu, MVL). 1 HY-M at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG).

PALM WARBLER – 5 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) and 5 at HP on 7th (NMu).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & at HP on 4th (SMF).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at Trinity-Bellwoods Park on 18th (AIJ fide OUTON).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - 1 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour) & 2 there on 19th (NMu). 1 at LSS on 16th (NMu, MVL) & 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 24th (GCarp, OFO, fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S WARBLER - 1 at HP on 2nd (SMF).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 2 on 12th (NMu, MVL) & 2 there on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (DW fide DRBA).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - Early reports were of singles at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (CMRW fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), at Blackstock, *Durham* on 10th (DRuch fide DRBA), Bronte area, *Halton* on 11th (MWJ, BHet, fide HBGG) & at HP on 15th (SMF). 3 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS) & 50 there on 31st (NMu, MVL, &). 22 at TI on 29th (NMu).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 9 reports from 17th to 30th of single birds & 8 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG).

FIELD SPARROW - 2 at Dufferin St & Miller SR, *York* on 2nd (RJF) (Brydon 2010), 1 at HP on 22nd (SMF) & 1 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS). 10 at TI on 10th, 7 on 12th & 2 on 15th, 19th (NMu, &) & on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

VESPER SPARROW - 1 at Algonquin Island, TI on 12th (NMu, MVL).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 1 at Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 29th (MWJ fide HBGG) & 2 at TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW** - 1 at HBP [E] @ 15:30hrs on 29th [No doc. seen] (DL fide ONTBIRDS).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** - 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 2nd [No doc. seen] (JBMW, Kevin Seymour).

NELSON'S SPARROW - 1 nr. Leslie St Allotment Gardens @ 10:45hrs on 3rd (MVL), W off Leslie St along a short road leading to aggregate plant, opposite the Allotment Gardens.

FOX SPARROW - 23 reports thro' the month, early reports were 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 10th (DW fide DRBA), 2 at HP on 11th & 12th (SMF) & 7 at TI on 12th (NMu, MVL). High counts were 8 at Heber Down C. A., *Durham* on 19th (Janice Melendez fide DRBA), 6 at Thornccliffe Park Dr. on 24th (ETB), 8 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010) & 25 at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 31st (GRE fide RBHS).

SONG SPARROW - 19 at TI on 12th & 9 on 29th (NMu).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 1 at CSSP on 4th (MSF, JLH), 1 at LSS on 23rd (SMF) & 2 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010). 1 at TI on 8th (SMF), 4 on 9th & 1 on 10th, 12th & 15th (NMu, &).

SWAMP SPARROW - 3 at TI on 10th & 5 on 12th (NMu, MVL). 3 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 30 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 75 on 10th & 150 there on 12th (NMu, MVL). 12 at Research Road, Leaside on 3rd (ETB), 25 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 18th (DJM) (Brydon 2010) & 27 at LSS on 23rd (RBHS).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1000+ at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 38 on 9th, 175 on 10th & 125 there on 12th (NMu, &). 28 at CSSP on 4th (MSF, JLH) & 18 at LSS on 16th (NMu, MVL).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 300 at TI on 2nd (JBMW, Kevin Seymour), 100 on 10th & 150 there on 12th (NMu, MVL). 20 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 10th (DRuch fide DRBA).

**"OREGON" JUNCO** - 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 29th [No doc. seen] (LAF fide ONTBIRDS). Photos posted on Flickr, showing characters of 'Pink-sided' Junco.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 2 at Westney Rd nr. Taunton Rd, *Durham* on 1st (DRuch fide DRBA), 1 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL), 23rd (SMF) & 1 on 31st (Brett Tryon fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 there on 31st (AA).

SNOW BUNTING - 25 at LSS on 23rd (RJF,& fide ONTBIRDS), 100 on 30th (Pat Hodgson fide ONTBIRDS) & 53 there on 31st (NMu,MVL,&). 5 at Darlington P. P., *Durham* on 23rd (J. Robinson fide DRBA), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (RLau), 3 at East Point Park on 29th (MAK fide ONTBIRDS) & 27 at Oshawa Harbour, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA). 4 at Mouth of Lynde Creek, Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 30th (AA), 12 at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS), a large flock at Holland River East Side, *York* on 31st (PW,Dan Antonio, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at CSSP on 31st (AEK fide ONTBIRDS).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBREAK – 1 F at HP on 5th (SMF) & 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 10th (DRuch fide DRBA).

\* BOBOLINK - 1 (v. late) at Island School, TI on 30th [No doc. seen] (GCP fide ONTBIRDS), in a weedy field E of Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 300 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 22nd & 12000 flying W at Hanlans/Gibraltar Point, TI on 29th (NMu).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 1 at LSS on 23rd (Sarah Box,EO'C) & 1 at TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 17 reports thro' the month included high counts of 9 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd & 12 on 31st (CMRW fide RRP, fide ONTBIRDS), 39 at Hawk Hill, HP on 7th, 12 on 21st & 11 on 22nd (NMu), 17 at TI on 12th (NMu,MVL), 26 at LSS on 16th (NMu,MVL) & 8 on 23rd (RJF,& fide ONTBIRDS) & 60+ at Heart Lake C. A., *Peel* on 24th (BNo) (Brydon 2010).

COMMON GRACKLE - 650 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010) & 850 flying W at TI on 29th (NMu).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** - 1 HY at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* @ 17:00hrs on 3rd [No doc. seen] (CEE fide HBGG). 1 M feeding on wild grapes near Eastern Gap at on 19th [No doc. seen] (NMu). [Doc. required on/after 1 Oct].

PURPLE FINCH - 3 F at TI on 9th, 41 on 29th (NMu) & 20 there on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* on 18th, 6 on 24th & 10 there on 25th (DJM) (Brydon 2010). 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (JI fide DRBA); 10 at Hawk Hill, HP on 21st & 15 there on 22nd (NMu).

HOUSE FINCH - 225 flying W at Hanlans/Gibraltar Point, TI on 29th (NMu).

RED CROSSBILL - 9 at TI on 31st (AA).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 1 F at Bessborough Dr, Oshawa, *Durham* on 31st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE SISKIN - 8 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (CMRW fide JI, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 on 20th (CMRW,GCarp, fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 20th (GC) & 50 on 24th (GCarp,OFO, fide ONTBIRDS). 77 at East Point Park on 29th (MAK fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Brooklin, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide DRBA), 10 at TI on 30th (GCP fide ONTBIRDS) & 15 there on 31st (AA). 25 at Peninsula B, LSS on 31st (NMu,MVL,&) & 2 at Holland Landing, *York* on 31st (BB) (Brydon 2010).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - 112 flying W at Hawk Hill, HP on 21st & 68 on 22nd (NMu). 268 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 30th (GC fide ONTBIRDS).

EVENING GROSBREAK - 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 18th (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Blackstock, *Durham* on 23th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 2 at Bessborough Drive, Oshawa, *Durham* on 29th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; ISRW Iroquois Shores Raptor Watch; OFO Ontario Field Ornithologists; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; DBar Dennis Barry; ETB Eleanor Beagan; TFMB Tony F.M. Beck; TTPBRS Tommy Thompson Park Bird Res. Station; BB Bruce Brydon; FBB Frank B. Butson (Big Frank); VC Victoria Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; BSC Barry S. Cheriére; GC Glenn Coady; WJC William J. Crins; GDe Gene Denzel; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; SMF Steven Favier; MSF Mark S. Field; RJF Ron Fleming; LAF Lev A. Frid; MGa Marcel Gahbauer; HBGG Hamilton Birders Google Group; JLH Jeremy L. Hatt; HPHW HP Hawk Watch; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BHet Bev Hettrick; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; JI Jean Iron; RDJ Ross D. James; MWJ Mark Jennings; AIJ Andreas I. Jonsson; AEK Andrew Keaveney; MAK Michael A. King; DL Dave Langford; RLau Rick Lauzon; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; LPBO-SB Long Point Bird Observatory – Sightings Board; JFL Joan F. Love; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; BNo Bob Noble; EO'C Ed



O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; MKP Mark K. Peck; DEP Don E. Perks; FP Frank Pinilla; GCP Gavin C. Platt; RWFP Richard W.F. Pope; PNP Paul Prior; RRP Rayfield Pye; CMRW Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch; RMGRW Rosetta McClain Gardens Raptor Watch; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; WER Wayne E. Renaud; DRuch Dave Ruch; KRS Kevin Shackleton; HSh Howard Shapiro; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; MAV Michael A. Veltri; DVW D.V. Chip Weseloh; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington; PW Peter Wukasch.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

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Data entry by Roy Smith. 1169 GTA reports were added to the database for October 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: winniepoon@sympatico.ca, following guidelines on 2<sup>nd</sup> page of this journal.

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