



TORONTO BIRDS

Volume 2 Number 5
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COVER PHOTO

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*

Photo © Jean Iron

This skulking denizen of the cattail marshes is probably overlooked at times in the GTA, as its low-pitched call may be unfamiliar, or confused with other rural sounds. Numbers have declined along with the loss of wetland habitat, especially compared to the 1930s, when it could still be found nesting in the Humber Marshes. Today, most reports come from the large lakeshore marshes such as Cranberry and Oshawa Second Marsh in *Durham R.M.*, but it can also occur in quite small ponds and swamps. As of May 2008, the database held 34 reports since 2000 (average 5 per year), some of which pertain to migrants at lakeshore sites. However, many potential sites, particularly in northern parts of Durham and York regions, are rarely visited by birders during the breeding season, and there are clearly opportunities to learn more about its status in those areas.

This Least Bittern was a migrant, photographed by Jean Iron at Colonel Sam Smith Park, *Toronto* on 25 May 2007. *Roy Smith*

Produced and edited by the Records Committee, Toronto Ornithological Club:

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

We welcome potential cover photos, artwork and current photos for use in illustrating the bird report. Please send contributions in jpeg format to Winnie Poon winniepoon@sympatico.ca including date, location, subject, and your preferred caption if any. Please do not email files exceeding 3MB without prior consultation. Please submit notes or articles to Dave Worthington worth@pathcom.com with a copy to Roy Smith rsmith@mrs.com. Bird observation records should be sent to Roy Smith. All submissions are subject to review and editing.

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – APRIL 2008

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 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.



It is quite unusual for a **White-winged Scoter** to come onshore, but this one at the LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 4 April 2008 crawled up onto the rocks right in front of the photographer, and began hissing at the Mute and Trumpeter Swans all around it. Earlier, the scoter had been swimming about and feeding for a few hours, it did not seem to be sick. *Photo © Gabriel Lau Kin Jock.*

SNOW GOOSE - 5 over Graydon Property, Humber Grove, *Peel* on 2nd (PG). (Brydon, 2008).

ACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 1 flying over at 155 Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* @ 09:00hrs on 3rd (GCarp fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

MUTE SWAN - 25 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 there on 19th (RBHS,WP).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 44 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 6th (LGK fide OUTON), many with tags - reported to Harry Lumsden. 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 4 on 19th (NMu,ICa) & 2 (no tags) there on 27th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 IMM at Ward's Island, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL,ICa).

TUNDRA SWAN - 16 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 5th (PW fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 there on 6th (John Watson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Amos Ponds, *Durham* @ 07:15hrs on 9th (MDW fide ONTBIRDS).

WOOD DUCK – First reports were of 1 at Silver Lakes Golf Course, *York* (RJF,KDu, fide ONTBIRDS), 5 at Nature Reserve, TI (NMu) & 7 at Peninsula D, LSS (DDe,TTPBRS) all on 3rd. 16 other reports thro' the month included 4-5 at HP on many dates from 8th to 30th (SMF), 4 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Snug Harbour, TI on 10th (NMu,ICa,&), 4 at Claireville C. A., *Peel* on 11th (John Thompson fide ONTBIRDS), 28 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 11 there on 19th (NMu,ICa).

GADWALL - 27 at TI on 8th (NMu,MVL). 80 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 37 there on 19th (NMu,ICa).

EURASIAN WIGEON - 1 M at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* @ 17:00hrs on 11th [No doc. seen] & again there @ 06:30hrs on 12th [No doc. seen] (THo fide ONTBIRDS). It was not seen in morning on 13th (fide DRBA).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 14 at TI on 3rd (NMu), 8 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (RBHS), 31 there on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS), 17 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 at Peninsula D, LSS on 24th (DDe,TTPBRS).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 10 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

MALLARD - 200+ at Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP) & 500+ at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 6th (John Watson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - 3 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 6th, 1 on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 (3 prs) there on 23rd (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Island School (New), TI on 8th (NMu,MVL), 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th & 17th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 M at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 1 at Miller SR, E of Bathurst, *York* on 6th (Raoul Hendricks fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 8th & 16 there on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 15 at Grenadier Pond, HP on 11th (Josh B. Mansell fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 there on 22nd (HE). 8 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 11 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 18 there on 19th (NMu,ICa). 5 (4 M, 1 F) at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 16th (Kevin Norbury fide ONTBIRDS), 11 at Peninsula D, LSS on 16th (TTPBRS,DDe) & 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 14 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 2nd (PW fide ONTBIRDS), 500+ on 6th (John Watson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & ~150 there on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 18 (one flock) flying N at 39 Lincoln Ave on 3rd & 10 on 6th (BY), 12 at Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP), 6 at Peninsula D, LSS on 5th (DDe,TTPBRS). 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 (1 M, 3 F) there on 19th (RBHS,WP).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – 4 reports of 4-6 on 5th & 6th, 49 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th & 59 on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 100+ at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS).

CANVASBACK - 5 at LSS on 3rd (DDe,TTPBRS), 7 on 6th (MVL) & 16 there on 27th (JBMW,HC). 4 at TI on 8th (NMu,MVL), 2 there on 4 other mid month dates & 3 (2 M, 1 F) at Centre Island, TI on 24th (NMu,&). 1 M at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th & 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

REDHEAD - 12 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 6th (John Watson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 22 at Lighthouse Pond, *TI* on 3rd (NMu), 12 at Britannia & 8th Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP) & 32 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 6th (John Watson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 15 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (RBHS) & 83 there on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 14 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (RBHS), 110 on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 18 there on 19th (RBHS,WP).

GREATER SCAUP - 20 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

LESSER SCAUP - 5 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 30+ at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 80 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 3 (1 AD-M, 2 F) at HBP [E] on 1st (BY), 1 M on 3rd (PW fide ONTBIRDS), 4 (1 M, 3 F) on 26th (Elliott Whitby,BY, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 F there on 30th (RSC fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 10 at *TI* on 3rd (NMu fide ONTBIRDS), 16 there on 16th (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 13 at Peninsula D, LSS on 8th (DDe,TTPBRS). 56 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 21 (migrants) at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 16th (THo,RPye, fide ONTBIRDS).

BUFFLEHEAD – 6 reports from *TI* from 3rd to 25th with high counts of 153 on 3rd (NMu) & 91 on 16th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 85 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 50 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (NMu,ICa).

HOODED MERGANSER - 8 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Humber R, Bolton, *Peel* on 4th (anon fide PG) (Brydon 2008), 36 at *TI* on 3rd & 11 on 8th (NMu, &). 5 at HP on 3rd (SMF), 17 at Sandalwood & Brisdale Pond, Brampton, *Peel* on 13th (RBHS,WP), 4 at Science Centre Pond, Ernest T. Seton Park on 19th (KK fide ONTBIRDS), 5 F at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 19th & 1 F there on 27th (RBHS). 1 F at CSSP on 20th (WP,RBHS), 3 at HP on 26th (SMF), & 2 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

COMMON MERGANSER - 17 at W Holland R, W of Bernhardt Av, *York* on 3rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 16 at Black R mouth, Jackson's Point, *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 6th (John Watson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 33 at *TI* on 3rd (NMu), 80 at Peninsula D, LSS on 6th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 15 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 6th (RBHS).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 65 at Peninsula D, LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 50+ at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

RUDDY DUCK - 17 at LSS on 6th (MVL) & 5 there on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 8th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 19th (RBHS,WP). 28 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th, 34 on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 12 on 19th (NMu,ICa) & 42 there on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS), 5+ on 17th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 there on 19th (RBHS,WP).

RUFFED GROUSE - Singles at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 10th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), Dufferin & Miller SR, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), at YRF - Porritt Tract, *York* on 13th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (K. Jennewein fide DRBA).

WILD TURKEY - 4 at Bathurst & Green Lane, *York* on 10th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 19th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 F at Shell Park, *Halton*, during week ending on 18th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M on 17th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS) & on 19th (RBHS,WP) & 2 (1 M, 1 F) there on 27th (RBHS,WP).

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Peninsula D, LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 on L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON LOON - 5 at Scugog Point, Nestleton, *Durham* on 10th (BFA fide DRBA), when the ice left the eastern part of the lake, and open water was immediately occupied. 3 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 11th & 11 on 16th, (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 12 flying over Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th, 63 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 16th & 69 there on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 6 at CSSP on 12th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 12 at Peninsula D, LSS on 12th, 7 on 16th & 8 on 21st (DDe,TTPBRS). 31 flying over at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 25th, 59 on 27th & 21 on 30th (JRC); in total, 217 were seen flying over this watchpoint between 11-30 Apr 2008.

PIED-BILLED GREBE - 1 at TI on 3rd (NMu) & 1 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 5th (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 6th, 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & on 16th (Kevin Norbury fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 8th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 19th (NMu,ICa). 2 at HP on 12th, 1 on 13th (SMF), 2 at Baselands, LSS on 13th (Jack Alvo fide ONTBIRDS). & 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 14th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & on 25th (SCH).

HORNED GREBE - 9 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 5th (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 10th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 14 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 11th & 29 between 18:30-20:00h. there on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 13 at CSSP on 12th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 25 on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & 7 there on 20th (RBHS,WP).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 5 at Lake Ontario off Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 3 there on 16th (Kevin Norbury fide ONTBIRDS) & 130 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 10th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 107 at CSSP on 12th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 40 on 15th (SMF), 150 on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), 43 on 20th (RBHS,WP) & 20 there on 24th (SMF). 34 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 546 between 18:30-20:00hrs on 16th & 180 there on 17th (THo,RPye, fide DRBA). 56 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 11th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 5 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (pair) at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 13th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 nest building on floating tire put out for them there on 27th (GE). 1 at Science Centre Pond, Ernest T. Seton Park on 19th (KK fide ONTBIRDS) was unusual for this location!

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 53 at TI on 3rd (NMu), 7 reports from HP from 6th to 13th with a high of 14 on 11th & 12th (SMF). 139 seen flying over during loon watch at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 13th (JRC).

ANHINGA - 1 at 232 Belair Dr, Bolton, *Peel* @ 12:00hrs on 21st [No doc. seen] (Liz Milsom fide DJM, fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen 'kettling' with 1 TUVU for about 4mins. She had recently seen many Anhinga in Texas and Florida.

AMERICAN BITTERN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th, 2 on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 heard calling on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 1 there on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (HE).

* LEAST BITTERN - 1 at North Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 19:15hrs on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS). This would represent an extremely early date, if documented.

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS) & at Nature Reserve, TI on 3rd (NMu). 32 back at nests at HL 6th Line Heronry, *Halton* on 5th (DEP) & 20 birds counted on some of the 40 nests that were seen there on 13th (RBHS,WP). 4 on nests at Cherrywood Swamp Heronry, *Durham* on 6th & 3 seen on nests there on 19th (RBHS), presumably undercounted due to restricted visibility. 5 at Leslie & 19th Heronry, *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP), 14 nests visible, unsure how many occupied, some sitting low on nests.

GREAT EGRET - 1 at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 4th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 reported at HP on 9 occasions from 5th to 29th (SMF;BY) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 6th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA). 1 at LSS on 12th, 5 on 18th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 6 there on 27th (JBMW,HC). One flying N along the Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 13th (RDJ). 5 reports of 1-3 at TI from 15th to 24nd (NMu,&). 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 20th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & on 27th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Uxbridge Pond, *Durham* on 27th (BH fide DRBA).

SNOWY EGRET - 1 at Cell #2, LSS @ 08:30hrs on 26th (Steve Pigeon fide JRC) [No doc. seen].

GREEN HERON - 1 at Hwy 9 & Bathurst, *York* on 16th (PW fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Petticoat Creek C.A., *Durham* on 27th (DW fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 3 at Nature Reserve, TI on 10th (NMu,ICa,&).

TURKEY VULTURE - 2 at Overlea Blvd & Millwood @ 12:00hrs on 2nd (ETB) were seen circling the Salvation Army building (looking for window kills?). 19 at Holland Landing S.L., *York* on 3rd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 30 at 4th SR off Appleby Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP) & 20 at Uxbridge area, *Durham* on 26th (D. Connolly fide DRBA).

OSPREY – First reports were of singles at North Shore Blvd, *Halton* on 2nd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 3rd (Chris Dunn fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & at Peninsula D, LSS on 5th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 were back on nesting platforms at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 6th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), also seen again there at the nest on 8th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS) & on 20th (RPye fide DRBA). 4 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 8th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 10th (KDu fide RJF, fide

- ONTBIRDS), 3 (2 displaying) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) 3 on 13th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 there on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). Two were nr. the nest on the communications tower at Bloomington SR & Hwy 404, *York* on 26th (RBHS,WP). 12 other reports of singles thro' the month.
- NORTHERN HARRIER - 4 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 2nd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Conc 2 N of Holborn Rd., *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), plus 11 reports of singles thro' the month.
- COOPER'S HAWK – during the month there were 13 reports of singles, 4 of 2 birds & 3 at TI on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel).
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Gore Rd N of Castlederg, *Peel* on 6th (anon fide PG) (Brydon 2008) & 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 13th (DDe,TTPBRS).
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 AD at 39 Lincoln Ave on 1st (BY) & 1 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 3rd (Chris Dunn fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 at Utica, *Durham* on 20th (JKa fide DRBA).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 26th (DDe,TTPBRS), 2nd spring record for TTPBRS.
- MERLIN - Singles at 39 Lincoln Ave on 1st (BY), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (JDL fide DRBA) & at Peninsula D, LSS on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 at Scugog Point, Nestleton, *Durham* on 15th (BFA fide RPye), pair seen about 400m from where they were in 2007 (that nest got blown out of the tree), and 450m from the original nest tree found in 2005.
- PEREGRINE FALCON - 2 at Square One Executive Centre, *Peel* on 2nd (DEP), pair seen at the nesting box on Robert Speck Parkway. 2 at Bay & Front St. on 3rd (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).
- VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 (1st spring migrant) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & again there on 18th (JKa fide DRBA).
- SORA - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th & again there on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).
- COMMON MOORHEN - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 17th (WER,Dave Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th (NMu,ICa) & 1 there on 27th (RPye fide DRBA).
- AMERICAN COOT - 3 at LSS on 2nd (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 on 6th (MVL) & on 19th (SMF). 2 at HBP (SMF) & 21 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* (LGK fide OUTON) on 6th. 7 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (WER,David Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS), 23 on 19th (NMu,ICa) & 2 there on 27th (RBHS,WP). 8 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 38 on 19th (NMu,ICa). 1 at CSSP on 4 dates from 15th to 28th (SMF) & 4 there on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at 15th SR & Weston Rd., *York* & at N End Bathurst Street, *York* (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) on 8th.
- SANDHILL CRANE - 1 coming in off the lake flew over at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 11:50hrs on 5th (JDL fide ONTBIRDS). 1 flying over at Peninsula D, LSS on 6th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 3 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 8th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), stayed 10 minutes then flew N.
- KILLDEER - 7 at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS), 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 9 at TI on 3rd (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).
- * SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 at a pond at Butternut Farm subdivision, *Durham* on 5th [No doc. seen] (D. Connelly fide DRBA), was exceptionally early & equals earliest ever in TOC Database. 2 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 5 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC) & 2 at CSSP on 28th (SMF).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 2 at Peninsula D, LSS on 17th & 4 there on 25th (DDe,TTPBRS). 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (Jim Dixon fide ONTBIRDS).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 3 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 8th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 9 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 14th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).
- LEAST SANDPIPER - 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

DUNLIN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 26th (Elliott Whitby fide BY, fide ONTBIRDS) & still there on 27th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 27th (RBHS,WP).

WILSON'S SNIPE - 1 at Boat Launch, Port Perry, *Durham* on 7th (C. Apperson fide DRBA), 2 (displaying at dusk) at Kirby Rd E of Cold Creek Rd., *York* on 10th (AA) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL,ICa), 1 there on 17th (NMu,&) & 1 at N end of Conc. 2, *York* on 17th (KRS fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 4 at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS), 2 at Silver Lakes Golf Course, *York* on 3rd & 3 there on 17th (RJF, & fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 5th (J. McKnight fide DRBA), 20 at Harmony Valley C.A., *Durham* on 9th (J. Foster fide DRBA) & 3 at Kirby Rd E of Cold Creek Rd., *York* on 10th (AA). 4 other reports of singles from different location from 3rd to 13th.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - 1 F at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (Jim Dixon fide ONTBIRDS).

LITTLE GULL - 1 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* @ 15:20hrs on 9th (JCS fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th, 1 on 12th, 3 on 13th, 1 on 16th (THo;RPye fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 (1 AD, 1 imm) there on 18th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS). The number gradually increased there with 5 AD on 19th (NMu,ICa), 10 on 20th (L. Freeman fide DRBA), 25 on 21st (21 of them were doing breeding displays) (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 45 on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 13 on 26th & 27th (THo;RPye fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 16th (THo,RPye, fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at Beaton's Reef, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). Beaton's Reef is the remnants of former Beaton's Point - a shallow bar running S from the gravel barrier beach connecting McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve with Darlington P.P.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 6 at Peninsula D, LSS on 3rd & 26 on 21st (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 200 on 13th (RPye fide DRBA), 9 on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 50 there on 19th (NMu,ICa). 85 at Beaton's Reef, McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Res., *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 148 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 16th (THo,RPye, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1580 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

ICELAND GULL - 1 AD (Kumlien's) at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 8th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 18th (DW fide DRBA) & 1 off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 2 at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd (DDe,TTPBRS), 1 AD at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 8th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 IMM at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 2Y at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 30th (JRC).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 2 at Peninsula D, LSS on 10th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 1S at CSSP on 20th (WP,RBHS).

CASPIAN TERN - 4 at Hydro Islands, *Halton* on 2nd (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 9th (JCS fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 there on 27th (RBHS,WP). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th & on 15th (NMu,&). 4+ at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 25 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 14th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HBP on 15th (SMF) & 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 17th (WER,Dave Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at CSSP on 15th (SMF) & 6 there on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

Photo sequence showing courtship display of a pair of **Caspian Terns**; 28 April 2008, Sobey's Pond, *Durham*. Photos © Winnie Poon.





COMMON TERN - 'Common Terns arrived en masse ...' at LSS on 15th (TTPBRS,DDe), but only 2 reported there on 19th (SMF). 1 at Reesor Road Ponds, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Centre Island, TI on 24th (NMu,&) & 6 at Trout Pond, TI on 25th (NMu,Peter McParland).

FORSTER'S TERN - 1 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 16th [No doc. seen] (THo,RPye, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 over beach at south end of Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 19th [No doc. seen] (NMu,ICa). One at LSS on 30th [No doc. seen] (DDe,TTPBRS).

[RINGED TURTLE-DOVE] - 1 at 89 Constance St, Toronto from 25th to 30th (GBry).

[COCKATIEL] - 1 (flying E) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT HORNED OWL - Singles at Ward's Island, TI on 3rd (NMu), Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 4th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS) & at Dufferin & Miller SR, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (1 on nest) at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 6th (RBHS,WP,&), 3 on 20th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA) & 1 JUV was seen there walking around the branches outside the nest on 27th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

LONG-EARED OWL - 2 at LSS on 6th (MVL). 1 at Snake Island, TI on 24th (NMu,&) & on 25th (NMu,Peter McParland).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 flying W at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 14th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA) & 1 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st, 10th, 13th & 17th (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 at Snake Island, TI on 17th (NMu,&) being scolded by a Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 1 at HP on 25th & 29th (SMF). 2 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 26th (JRC) & 3 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 2 at TI on 3rd (NMu) & 3 there on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel). 5 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 (calling) at 6th Line Halton, S of Conc 10, *Halton* on 5th (DEP), 1 at 8th Conc King, N of 16th SR, *York* on 8th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Dufferin S of Miller SR, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 17th (WER,Dave Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 23rd (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 1 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 19th was 1st banding record for TTPBRS, another was banded there on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS). 1 M at Wards Is, TI on 29th (MVL).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS (DDe,TTPBRS) & at 39 Lincoln Ave (BY) on 1st. 10 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 33 at TI on 8th & 13 on 15th (NMu,MVL). 4 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 11th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 5 on 19th (NMu,ICa). 4 at LSS on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS).

* DOWNY WOODPECKER - 12 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 5 reports from TI of 8 or more from 10th to 24th included an amazing high count of 22 on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA), comprising 4 on Wards, 2 on Snake, 1 at Snug, 3 on Centre, 3 in NR, 3 at Gibraltar Pt, 5 at Hanlans, 1 on Algonquin Is. This will be a new record count for GTA, if documented.

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 1 banded at Peninsula D, LSS on 19th (TTPBRS,DDe).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 5 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 7 reports from TI began with 18 on 8th, highs of 59 on 10th, 54 on 17th & last report was of 48 on 24th (NMu,&). 11 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* & 11 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (NMu,ICa). 12 at Peninsula D, LSS on 19th (TTPBRS,DDe).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at 4th SR off Appleby Line, *Halton* on 5th (DEP) & 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 5th, 2 on 6th & 1 on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 10th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Hochreiter Rd., N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 12th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at YRF - Porritt Tract, *York* on 13th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 1 at HP on 29th (AA).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 8 at Peninsula D, LSS on 1th (DDe,TTPBRS), 4 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd & 5 on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 5 at TI on 3rd, 10 on 8th & 7 on 15th (NMu,&). 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at HP on 16th (SMF) & 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (Mark Jensen fide ONTBIRDS).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - 1 at HP on 26th (SMF) & at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 2 at HP on 28th (AA).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 6th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at LSS on 6th (MVL) & 1 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

SHRIKE SP. - 1 at Island Airport, TI on 10th (NMu,ICa,&), on W side of Airport fence - could not get close enough to ID it.

WHITE-EYED VIREO - 1 (found early am) at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 29th (Arlene McCaw fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS) & still there @ 18:00hrs on 30th (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - 1 at HP on 18th (SMF) was extremely early.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 17th (anon fide JDL, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP from 23rd to end of the month (SMF). 1 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 24th (NMu,&) & at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 26th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Utica, *Durham* on 20th (JKa fide DRBA). 2 at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 23rd and 30th (RDJ).

HORNED LARK - 2 at Peninsula D, LSS on 16th (TTPBRS,DDe).

PURPLE MARTIN - 2 at Sutton, *York* on 8th (Tom Mills fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 'Tom has had good success with this declining species nesting in his martin house [in Sutton]. In York Region, the Sutton area has become the only half-decently reliable place for martins' (RJF). 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 12th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at TI on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA) & 8 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (Jim Dixon fide ONTBIRDS).

TREE SWALLOW – 9 reports of 1-3 from 2nd to 7th, 6 at TI on 8th (NMu,MVL, fide ONTBIRDS), 6 at Claireville C. A., *Peel* on 11th (John Thompson fide ONTBIRDS) & 40 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (SLaF fide DRBA).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 1+ at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 11th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS), 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (SLaF fide DRBA) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel). 2 at Peninsula D, LSS on 15th & 25 on 28th (TTPBRS,DDe). 2 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24th (SMF). 12 at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 29th (SCH).

BANK SWALLOW - 1 at CSSP on 12th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 16th & 20 there on 28th (TTPBRS,DDe).

CLIFF SWALLOW - 6 at Centre Island, TI on 24th & 7 there on 25th (NMu,&). 1 at HP on 28th (SMF) & 5 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 29th (DEP).

BARN SWALLOW - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 12th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at CSSP on 12th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 15th (SMF) & 6 there on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 13th, 16th & 18 there on 28th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 at HBP on 15th (SMF) & 10 at TI on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel).



Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Lakeside Park, *Peel*, 29 April 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE – High counts from TI during the month were 57 on 3rd (NMu) & 55 on 10th (NMu,ICa,&).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 2 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 3rd & 1 seen regularly there during the week of the 11th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 5th (B. McWaters fide DRBA), seen at W. Brailsford's feeder (next to Dennis Barry's house). 1 at South Trail, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* @ 08:14hrs on 5th (Tania & Jim Thomson fide RPye). Seen for only 7 minutes.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 3 at The Edwardian (Lawrence E) on 2nd (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at HP on 25th (SMF) & 1 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 8 at TI on 10th (NMu,ICa,&) & 4 at Centre Island, TI on 24th (NMu,&).

BROWN CREEPER - 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st, 4 on 7th (SLaF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 4th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 5 reports of 8-11 from TI from 8th to 17th (NMu,&).

* CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd, 8 on 5th (would be a new RECORD COUNT for GTA if documented) (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 5th (DW). 2 (pair) at Uxbridge, *Durham* on 5th (D. Connelly fide DRBA), 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 5th (RJF,WHNC, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 5th & 13th (Michael Veltri fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Dacre Crescent on 7th (BY). 2 at Mill St., Bond Head, *Durham* on 8th (MJL fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA) & 1 at Lambton Woods on 22nd (BY).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at LSS on 21st, 22nd (TTPBRS,DDe) & on 27th (JBMW,HC). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & at Ward's Island, TI on 25th (NMu,Peter McParland).

WINTER WREN – 6 reports from different location of singles from 1st to 5th. 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 9th (JCS fide ONTBIRDS), 4 banded at LSS on 9th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 4 there on 27th (JBMW,HC). 5 at TI on 10th, 17th & 22nd (NMu,&).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 21 at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd, 55 on 7th & 18 on 15th (DDe,TTPBRS), 24+ at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd & 30+ on 5th (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 47 at TI on 8th (NMu,MVL) & 39 on 10th (NMu,& fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at CSSP on 28th (SMF).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – 13 reports of 6 or less from 5th to 17th, then numbers increased; high counts from the 17th to 24th were 18 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (NMu,ICa), 52 at TI on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA) & 24 at LSS on 22nd (DDe,TTPBRS).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at South Trail, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 17th (Joyce Collier-Brown,Bettina Murphy, fide JDL) & 2 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* on 20th (RPye fide DRBA). 2 at TI on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA) & on 25th (NMu,Peter McParland). 1-2 at HP from 23rd to 29th & 3 there on 30th (SMF). 2 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 1 at Island Airport, TI on 3rd (NMu), 2 (pair) at Uxbridge, *Durham* on 5th & 4 (2 pairs) there on 26th (D. Connelly fide DRBA). 1 M at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 6th, 2 (pair) there on 8th, 19th & 26th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Claireville C. A., *Peel* on 11th (anon fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 at 6th Line S of 10th SR., *Halton* on 13th (WP, RBHS) & 2 (pair) at Seneca College (King), *York* on 19th (RJF,Allan Roitner, fide ONTBIRDS).

HERMIT THRUSH – 6 reports of singles from 1st to 10th then numbers increased. High counts during the rest of the month from different locations were; 12 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA), 12 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS), 17 at TI on 17th & 30 on 22nd (NMu,&), 20 at Peninsula D, LSS on 19th & 18 on 22nd (TTPBRS,DDe).

WOOD THRUSH - 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 27th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

AMERICAN ROBIN – 6 reports from TI from 3rd to 22nd with high counts of 275 (75% flying W) on 8th (NMu,MVL) & 150 on 10th (NMu,ICa,&).

GRAY CATBIRD - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 29th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – A total of 84 reports this month, with 30 from *Toronto*, 35 from *York*, 10 from *Durham*, 9 from *Peel* and none from *Halton*. The lack of reports from *Halton* is clearly related to reduced survey effort by RBHS & WP. The first nest (complete and lined) was seen on 19th at *Whitby, Durham*, and by 27th this nest had 3 eggs, yielding a calculated first egg date of 25th (RBHS, WP). Thanks to this month's 25 contributors of observations: AA; Siegmur Bodach fide ONTBIRDS; BB; JRC; Monica Connolly fide ONTBIRDS; Eleanor Dowson fide TH; SMF; LF; GG fide DW; THo; CJH; SCH; LGK; GEL; SLo fide ONTBIRDS; MVL; JMack; NMu; DEP; WP; RPye; RBHS; Ernest Tate; John Thompson fide ONTBIRDS; DW.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at TI on 10th, 2 on 15th, 3 on 17th & 5 on 22nd (NMu,&). Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 13th (RPye fide DRBA), Lick's Pond, *Whitby, Durham* on 19th (DRuch fide DRBA) & at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. (area) on 20th (JRC). 2 at LSS on 18th, 8 on 20th, 3 on 23rd (TTPBRS,DDe) & 2 on 27th (JBMW,HC).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 7th, 1 on 10th & 2 on 27th (DDe,TTPBRS).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING – As was done for March, the reports are listed in detail to provide a full picture of the irruption.

In *Durham*, there were 4 at West Beach Rd (S end of Liberty St), Bowmanville on 2nd (Anna V fide ONTBIRDS) & 20 at Park Rd S of Gibb St, Oshawa on 2nd (S. Pernanen fide DRBA). On the 5th ~300 were noted at South Blair St, *Whitby* (JFa), 230 at Lakeridge Rd, 2km S of Dagmar (JKa fide DRBA) & 130 beside Shoppers Drug Mart at Westney Rd, N of Hwy 2, Ajax (RPye fide DRBA). Another 45 were at Oshawa City Hall (Center St & Bagot) on 2nd & 3rd (DRuch fide DRBA), with 190 there on 5th, and 85 on 6th (RPye fide DRBA). There were 'only 2 crabapple trees left with fruit on them' & 35 birds there on 8th (J. Skene fide DRBA). 8 at Oshawa Second Marsh on 11th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Oshawa Centre Shopping Mall on 16th (DRuch fide DRBA).

In *York*, 35 were found at 600 Alden Rd, Markham on 2nd, 120 on 3rd (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS) & 38 there on 5th (RBHS,WP), when they were feeding on newly-opened flowers (stamens) of a maple species and also sometimes on a nearby Highbush Cranberry. Another 40 were at Armenian Evangelical Church, Markham on 5th (RBHS,WP), and 30+ feeding on Juniper berries at Hwy 7 & Wootten Way, Markham on 7th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), as well as 60 at Don Park & Dennison Ave on 8th (DW). 50-150 were seen on several dates at Bolton Ave, Newmarket during the week ending 5 Apr (Chris Dunn fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 5 more at 310 St Francis Ave, Woodbridge on 13th (AA).

For *Toronto* itself, 10 were at Overlea Blvd & Millwood on 2nd (ETB), 20 at Sheppard & Willowdale on 4th (DW), 100 at Bluffer's Park on 5th (anon fide OUTON) & 71 at Hillside Gardens, HP on 6th (GC). 71 (flock 68 + 3) at TI on 3rd (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 300 on 8th (NMu,MVL), in 3 groups: 200 on Wards beside Eastern Gap, 75 on Algonquin, and 25 on Snake Island. 25 at Ward's Island, TI on 10th (HE), 1 at Snug Harbour, TI on 15th, 16th & 17th & 9 there on 24th (NMu,&). A flock of 52 at Peninsula D, LSS on 8th was the first record for TTPBRS & 23 were there on 10th (anon,TTPBRS). 3 at 59 Baby Point Rd, Etobicoke on 15th & 2 on 16th (VC, JRC). 1 at Centennial Golf Course on 16th (IDMF fide OUTON). One at 78 North Hills Terr, Don Mills on 19th & 20th was reported as sipping sap oozing out of a birch tree, with about 17 Cedar Waxwings (KK fide ONTBIRDS), while the last report was of 24 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 23rd (HE).

In *Peel*, 2 at Rattray Marsh on 3rd (WER fide ONTBIRDS), were feeding on Climbing Bittersweet; 32 were at Valleywood Blvd, N of Brampton on 5th (ARa fide BB), & 60 (in am) at Queen St & Dixie, Brampton on 7th (Neil Baker fide ONTBIRDS), feeding in 'fruit trees' in front of Bramalea City Centre, with a few Cedar Waxwings mixed in. 2 at Pony Ranch Drive, Claireville C. A. on 11th (John Thompson fide ONTBIRDS), were all that remained of 20 seen there earlier in the week. The last report was of 7 at Meadowvale GO Station @ 16:45hrs on 13th (RBHS, WP), feeding on crabapples with about 50 Cedar Waxwings.

In *Halton*, the largest single count of this irruption involved 500+ at 6th Line S of 10th SR on 5th (DEP). Here, in an old orchard about 200m S of the intersection, where three or four rows of apple trees had been bulldozed and all the apples from last year left to rot, the waxwings were feasting.

CEDAR WAXWING - 12 at West Beach Rd, Bowmanville, *Durham* on 2nd (Anna V. fide ONTBIRDS), 12 at Center St & Bagot, Oshawa, *Durham* on 2nd (DRuch fide DRBA), 10 at 600 Alden Rd, Markham, *York* on 2nd & on 3rd (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS). 30+ at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 36 at Ward's Island, TI on 3rd & 59 there on 8th (NMu,&). 40 at Sheppard & Willowdale on 4th (DW), 65 at Clarke & Hilda, Thornhill, *York* on 5th (TH), 50+ at Seven Oaks & Leland, Etobicoke on 5th (SCH). ~50 at Meadowvale GO Station, *Peel* on 13th (RBHS,WP), feeding on crabapples with 7 Bohemian Waxwings. 17 at 78 North Hills Terr, Don Mills on 18th & 19th (KK fide ONTBIRDS) sipping sap oozing from a birch tree (behaviour seen both days); one Bohemian with them. 30 at Oshawa City Hall, *Durham* on 19th (DRuch fide DRBA).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th & 3 on 27th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 28th & 29th (SMF).

YELLOW WARBLER - 2 at Snug Harbour, TI on 24th (NMu,&), 1 at LSS on 26th (DDe,TTPBRS) & on 27th (JBMW,HC). 1 at GM Headquarters, *Durham* on 27th (RBHS) & 1 at HP on 29th (SMF).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 26th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 12th (JCS fide DRBA) & on 20th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 1 M at HP on 29th & 30th (SMF).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - First report was of 3 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 7th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), then 15 reports of 9 or less up until the 17th when numbers started to increase. High counts during the remainder of the month were 16 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 20th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 35 at LSS on 23rd (DDe,TTPBRS), 39 at TI on 25th (NMu,Peter McParland) & 38 at HP on 28th (AA).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 17th (WER,Dave Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 27th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 2 at HP on 28th (AA), 1 at CSSP on 28th (SMF) & 1 at HP on 28th & 29th (SMF).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 27th (JFa) & at Solina Rd N of Nash, *Durham* on 27th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - 1 at 17 North Hills Terr, Don Mills @ 11:30hrs on 19th [No doc. seen] (KK fide HC, fide ONTBIRDS). Seen without bins, not sure of subspecies & not seen subsequently.

PINE WARBLER – 9 reports of singles from 7th to 26th from 8 different locations, 2 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide NTBIRDS) & 4 at TI on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA), 6 on 19th (NMu,ICa) & 10 there on 20th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

PALM WARBLER – 17 reports of singles from 16th to 30th & 2 at HP on 25th (SMF) & 2 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

* YELLOW PALM WARBLER – one at Beaverton R, Sunderland, *Durham* on 24th (RDJ).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & at Barton Trail, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 26th (D. Connolly fide DRBA).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 29th (CEdge fide ONTBIRDS) [No doc. seen].

OVENBIRD - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & at Lakeside Park, Clarkson, *Peel* on 29th (SCH).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - Singles at Peninsula D, LSS on 26th (DDe,TTPBRS), at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (RPye fide DRBA) & at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 30th (Jim Dixon fide ONTBIRDS).



Louisiana Waterthrush at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 27 April 2008; found by Jim Fairchild. Note the thick bill, flared supercilium and clean white throat of this bird. Photo © Winnie Poon.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - 1 at Tuck Creek nr Lakeshore Rd., Burlington, *Halton* on 15th (anon fide CEdge, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at 27th SR of Halton Hills, *Halton* on 25th (George Doekes fide ONTBIRDS) was heard singing in suitable nesting habitat along a small stream about 75m downstream from the bridge. 1 at North Trail, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 27th (JFa,& WP, RBHS). WP obtained digiscoped photos which confirmed the ID.

EASTERN TOWHEE – 4 reports of 1-3 from Thicksons Woods, *Durham* from 5th to 20th. 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 8th, 1 there on 17th (NMu,&) & 4 on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA). 3 at Peninsula D, LSS on 20th (TTPBRS,DDe).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 22 at TI on 3rd, 19 on 10th & 19th (NMu, &).

CHIPPING SPARROW – Earliest were: 1 at HP on 9th & from 17th to 20th (SMF). 1 at Addison Rd, Richmond Hill, York on 16th (RBHS); 11 at TI on 17th (NMu,&). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (NMu,ICa).

FIELD SPARROW - 2 at TI on 3rd, 5 on 16th, 6 on 17th, 4 on 22nd & 7 there on 24th (NMu,&). 9 other reports from 5th to 18th of single birds.

VESPER SPARROW - 1 at 6th Line N of 5th SR, *Halton* on 13th (RBHS,WP), 2 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL,ICa) & 1 there on 17th (NMu,&).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 15th (NMu,MVL,Gunnar Bessel) & 3 at Hanlan's Point, TI on 16th (NMu,MVL,ICa). 1+ at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 16th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS).

FOX SPARROW - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd (C. Adey fide DRBA), 4 on 7th (SLaF fide DRBA), 6 on 9th (JCS fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 13th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 20th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA). 1 at TI on 3rd, 19 on 8th, 12 on 10th & 1 on 15th & 16th (NMu, &). 4 at HP on 7th, 3 on 8th & 1 on 9th (SMF). 7 at Peninsula D, LSS on 7th & 2 banded there on 8th (DDe,TTPBRS). 7 other reports from different locations of 1-3 from 3rd to 20th.

SONG SPARROW - 12 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 3rd (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 40 at Peninsula D, LSS on 9th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 60+ at CSSP on 17th (LF fide ONTBIRDS). 7 reports from TI during the month of 33 or greater & high counts of 74 on 3rd & 59 on 19th (NMu, &)

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 1 at East Don Parkland on 26th (DW) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 30th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Rattray Marsh, *Peel* on 8th (WER fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 12th & 3 there on 18th (TTPBRS,DDe). 25 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* & 3 at Corbett Creek, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 19th (NMu,ICa).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – 6 reports of 6 or less from 7th to 17th, then numbers starting increasing. 4 reports from LSS with highs of 55 on 23rd & 80 (33 banded) there on 26th (DDe,TTPBRS). 80 at TI on 22nd (NMu,MVL,AA) & 150 there on 25th (NMu,Peter McParland).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 3rd (NMu fide ONTBIRDS).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - 33 at TI on 8th, 53 on 15th & 36 there on 16th (NMu, &).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 3rd (DDe,TTPBRS).

SNOW BUNTING - 12 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 2nd (PW fide ONTBIRDS) & 30 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 10th (KDu fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL –11 at TI on 3rd, 15th & 16th, 16 on 22nd & 12 there on 24th (NMu, &). 4 at LSS on 27th (JBMW,HC).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 at Solina Rd N of Nash, *Durham* on 27th (P. Hogenbirk fide DRBA).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 125 at TI on 3rd, 225 on 8th, 135 on 15th & 140 on 16th (NMu, &). 170 at Peninsula D, LSS on 5th (DDe,TTPBRS).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 5th (DDe,TTPBRS) & 1 at King-Vaughan Line E of Hwy 400, *York* on 8th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -1 M at Oshawa Second Marsh (nr. GM tower), *Durham* on 24th (THo; Jim Dixon; both fide ONTBIRDS). It was reported again there @ 10:00hrs on 25th (CSAM fide ONTBIRDS) when it flew towards Hwy 401 and was not relocated [No doc. seen].

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 2nd & 6 on 13th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (DRuch fide DRBA) & 4 M at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 21st (JRC) was #150 for his yard list.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh (SE corner), *Durham* on 24th [No doc. seen] (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON GRACKLE - 1 at Beaverton Valley, Sunderland, *Durham* on 3rd (RDJ), 100 at TI on 3rd (NMu fide ONTBIRDS) & 100 there on 8th (NMu,MVL).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 50 at TI on 3rd, 75 on 8th, 60 on 15th & 65 on 16th (NMu, &).



Song Sparrow at Lakeside Park, *Peel*, 29 April 2008. Photo © Sandra Hawkins.

ORCHARD ORIOLE - 1 M at entrance to Metro Toronto Zoo @ 08:00hrs on 23rd (PNP fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 AD-M at Floral Maple Leaf area, HP on 27th (SMF).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 29th (DEP) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, Durham on 29th (anon fide TWRB, fide DRBA).

PURPLE FINCH - 2 (1 singing M) at TI on 8th (NMu,MVL), 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 9th (DDe,TTPBRS), 3 at Rattray Marsh, Peel on 17th (WER,Dave Hallett, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Ward's Island, TI on 17th (NMu,&).

COMMON REDPOLL - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 3rd & 3 on 12th (DDe,TTPBRS). 2 at Bathurst & Eglinton on 7th (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS) were the last 2 left at a feeder that had a number since 8 Dec 2007.

EVENING GROSBEAK - 1 at Peninsula D, LSS on 1st (DDe,TTPBRS).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; AA Alfred Adamo; BFA Bruce F. Aikins; MJCB Margaret Bain; ETB Eleanor Beagan; TTPBRS Tommy Thompson Park Bird Res. Station; GBry George Bryant; BB Bruce Brydon; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; VC Victoria Carley; GCarp Geoff Carpentier; RSC Robert S. Carswell; GC Glenn Coady; HC Hugh Currie; DDe Dan Derbyshire; KDu Keith Dunn; SE Sandra Eadie; CEde Cheryl Edgecombe; GE Gavin Edmonstone; HE Herb Elliot; JFa Jim Fairchild; SMF Steven Favier; LF Luc Fazio; IDMF Iain Fleming; RJF Ron Fleming; GG Gord Gallant; AG Alex Gray; PG Phyllis Graydon; CJH Celia Harte; SCH Sandra Hawkins; FH Fred Helleiner; BH Brian Henshaw; THo Tyler Hoar; TH Theo Hofmann; RDJ Ross D. James; JKa James Kamstra; LGK Leslie Kinrys; KK Karl Konze; SLaF Steve LaForest; GEL Graham Leonard; MJL Marcus J. Lise; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; JMack Jess MacKenzie; CSAM Craig S.A. McLauchlan; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; DEP Don E. Perks; RJP Ron Pittaway; WP Winnie Poon; PNP Paul Prior; RPye Rayfield Pye; ARa Alfred Raab; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; TWRB Thicksons Woods Record Book; WER Wayne E. Renaud; DRuch Dave Ruch; KRS Kevin Shackleton; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; MDW Mike Williamson; DW David Worthington; PW Peter Wukasch; BY Bob Yukich.

REFERENCES:

Brydon, Bruce, 2008. March - April 2008 Sightings. WHNC Newsletter :10-12, April 2008

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 1425 reports were added to the database for April 2008.

Please send reports to: Roy Smith 20 Harding Blvd. W, Suite 1002, Richmond Hill, ON L4C9S4. Tel: 905-508-4045
Fax: 905-508-4730 email: rsmith@mrs.com by 8th of the following month, please. Send photos for possible use in the bird report to: winniepooon@sympatico.ca, following guidelines on 2nd page of this journal.

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Note from the Editors

It is now about a year since the launch of *TORONTO BIRDS* as an e-journal, a new instrument in the Records Committee's ongoing effort to maintain and publish the monthly bird records within the GTA – one of its integral functions within the Toronto Ornithological Club. E-journals have gained increasing popularity in recent years, and by recognizing this trend the Records Committee has taken a significant step forward.

We have received positive feedback about *TORONTO BIRDS* from numerous sources, which is gratifying, since this in turn can only enhance the image of Toronto Ornithological Club in wider circles. But most importantly, we hope that TOC members have gained some interesting knowledge and enjoyment from these issues. In the future, after an appropriate delay to ensure that TOC membership is not devalued, the public will also be able to read past issues of *TORONTO BIRDS* on the TOC website. In the meantime, color copies of *TORONTO BIRDS* are available in the ROM Library.

We sincerely extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed articles, photographs, artwork and bird records to *TORONTO BIRDS*. At the same time, we would like to request and encourage more participation by members. Artwork, articles or notes on birds and birding in the GTA are most welcome; please contact and consult with Glenn Coady glenn_coady@hotmail.com for ideas if desired. The TOC Bird Record Database is another useful resource, parts of which can be made available to any member who is seriously working on a note or article. Please consult with Roy Smith rsmith@mrs.com regarding any data or database-related issues. This would include any errors or serious omissions in the bird records section, which might indicate a problem with the underlying data.

Current month photographs of any bird species, birding sites or bird events within the GTA are also needed to illustrate the monthly GTA Bird Reports. Please send photos that you deem interesting in jpeg format; 1 to 2MB in size usually provides enough quality for this purpose. We regret that sometimes due to formatting constraints not all photos can be used. For those aspiring photographers, there is an opportunity to contribute some of your quality photos for the coveted Cover Pages. Please send them to Winnie Poon winniepoon@sympatico.ca; as jpegs of not more than about 3MB for preview, larger files can be sent later upon request.

If you have general comments, questions or suggestions regarding *TORONTO BIRDS*, please feel free to discuss them with any member of the production team. We recognize that there is always scope for improvement.



Photo © Winnie Poon