



# TORONTO BIRDS

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## COVER PHOTO

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**Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*)

Photo © Sam Barone

This photograph of a Red-breasted Nuthatch was taken on 15 March 2006 at the Algonquin Provincial Park.

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

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

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## GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – JANUARY 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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Winter scene at **Bluffers Park**, Scarborough, *Toronto*, 10 January 2010. As many as 19 Trumpeter Swans were observed inside the bay.  
© Winnie Poon.

SNOW GOOSE - 6 (white) at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 22<sup>nd</sup> (DW fide DRBA) & 23<sup>rd</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA). 9 (8 white, 1 blue) were there on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA) & at 11:00hrs all of them moved out to L. Ontario. 8 (7 white, 1 blue) at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30<sup>th</sup> & 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA).

BRANT - 2 at Spencer Smith Park, *Halton* on 1<sup>st</sup> (Louise Unitt fide HBGG) & 1 there on 2<sup>nd</sup> (RBHS).

MUTE SWAN - 90 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA) & on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 (tags E90 & 038) at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Bruce Kennedy fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 AD (tags: 038; A06; E26; E59; E76; E90) at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 17<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP). 1 at HBP [E] on 2<sup>nd</sup> (EO'C fide OUTON) & 3 at HBP [W] on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC,JBMW). 19 (12 ad, 7 juv) at Bluffer's Park @ 11:45hrs on 10th (RBHS,WP,MWWI), tags: 198; 199; H11; H14; H20 (accompanied by 4 juvs). 17 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA), 22<sup>nd</sup> (DW fide DRBA) & on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA). 8 (3 AD, 5 imm, all untagged) seen there on 31<sup>st</sup> (RBHS,WP).

WOOD DUCK - 1 AD-M at Grenadier Pond, High Park on 1<sup>st</sup> (BY) & still there on 23<sup>rd</sup> (SMF). 3 (2 M, 1 F) at Bethesda SR nr. Lemonville, *York* on 10<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> (Al Johnson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M at Lake Aquitaine, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 26<sup>th</sup> (anon fide OUTON).

[MANDARIN DUCK] - 1 M at Duffin Creek WPCP, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (WP,RBHS), seen in one of the circular treatment tanks, from Moore Point Rd. Clearly an escape.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 23 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 16 at Watson St bridge, Whitby, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RBHS,WP).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 2 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 31<sup>st</sup> (RLau).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPyE, fide DRBA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPyE, fide DRBA) & on 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA). 1 F at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> (AA). 2 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 13<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA) & 1 there on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA).

CANVASBACK - 1 M at Bay 'B', LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

REDHEAD - 4 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPyE, fide DRBA), 3 on 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA), 11 on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA) & 1 there on 26<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA). 350 at Bay 'B', LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 3 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPyE, fide DRBA).

GREATER SCAUP - 350 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* & 350 at Ben Machree Park, *Peel* on 4<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa). 200 at Bay 'B', LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 800 at HBP [W] on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC,JBMW). 150 at Petticoat Creek C.A., *Durham* on 24<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP) & 885 at Moore Point, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RBHS,WP).

LESSER SCAUP - 3 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1th (MJCB,RPyE, fide DRBA), 2 on 16<sup>th</sup> (AA), 2 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 17<sup>th</sup> (RPyE fide DRBA) & 1 there on 26<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA). 1 M at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 4<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa).

KING EIDER - 1 1W-M at Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 31<sup>st</sup> (DJM,WHNC).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 4 (1 M, 3 F) at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 3 (1 M, 2 F) on 4<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa) & 3 (1 M, 2 F) there on 12<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS). 3 (1 M, 2 F) at Rhododendron Gardens, *Peel* on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Bruce Kennedy fide ONTBIRDS), 3 (1 AD-M, 2F) at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 16<sup>th</sup> (SMF) & 3 (1 M, 2 F) there on 17<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP). 3 (1 AD-M, 2F) at CSSP on 23<sup>rd</sup> (SMF).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 6 at LSS on 17<sup>th</sup> (Andreas Johnsson fide OUTON).

LONG-TAILED DUCK - 500 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

COMMON GOLDENEYE - 20 at Jackson's Point, L. Simcoe, *York* on 1<sup>st</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010), 37 at Ben Machree Park, *Peel* on 4<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa) & 275 at LSS (200 in Bay B) on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

HOODED MERGANSER - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPye, fide DRBA), 1 F at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 10<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide HBGG) & 1 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 10<sup>th</sup> (DEP,JLam). 1 at Humber R. Mouth, Sunnyside on 10<sup>th</sup> (DEP,JLam,MWWI), 2 M at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 1 at CSSP on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC,JBMW).

HOODED MERGANSER X COMMON GOLDENEYE (?) - 1 at Lakefront Promenade Park, *Peel* on 16<sup>th</sup> (AW,WGL,MWJ). WGL thinks it was the same bird as reported 29 Jan 2010 at same site. AW not sure (views not good) but could have been.

COMMON MERGANSER - 50 at Sibbald Point P. P., *York* on 1<sup>st</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 159 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

RUDDY DUCK - 1 M at HBP [E] on 2<sup>nd</sup> (EO'C fide OUTON), 2 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 10<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide HBGG) & 1 F at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 15<sup>th</sup> (EO'C fide OUTON).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - 1 at Sideline 34, S of Conc 3, *Durham* on 5<sup>th</sup> (C. Adey fide DRBA) & 2 there on 27<sup>th</sup> (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

RUFFED GROUSE - 2 at Audley Rd, N of Taunton Rd., *Durham* on 14<sup>th</sup> (C. Adey fide DRBA).

WILD TURKEY - 4 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 8<sup>th</sup> (R. Stephenson fide DRBA) & 2 there on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA). 7 at Conc 11, N of 15<sup>th</sup> SR King, *York* on 11<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 14<sup>th</sup> (GEL) (Brydon 2010). 6 at North Rd & Conc 7, *Durham* on 26<sup>th</sup> (R. Stephenson fide DRBA) & 12 at Conc 2 N of Doane Rd., *York* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 7<sup>th</sup> (GWP fide ONTBIRDS) & on 10<sup>th</sup> (Jim Watt fide HBGG).

HORNED GREBE -1 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 1 at Hydro Islands, *Halton* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (KAM fide HBGG). 1 at CSSP on 19<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC,JBMW).

RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 off CCIW, *Halton* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (KAM fide HBGG).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 3 at Peninsula A, LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 1 at Mimico Creek Mouth, HBP on 10<sup>th</sup> (BPB fide OUTON). 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

BALD EAGLE - 1 at Sibbald Point P. P., *York* on 1<sup>st</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010), 2 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 10<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide HBGG) & 1 AD at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11<sup>th</sup> (D. Kaczynski fide DRBA). 4 (2 AD, 2 1W) on ice in the bay at CCIW-Centre for Inland Waters, *Halton* on 17<sup>th</sup> (DJM,JSchm, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 1W there on 31<sup>st</sup> (DJM,WHNC). 6 at Hydro Islands, *Halton* on 29<sup>th</sup> (Glenn Barratt fide ONTBIRDS), on ice near to Neare Is.

NORTHERN HARRIER - 2 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 M there on 8<sup>th</sup> (R. Stephenson fide DRBA). 2 M at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 9<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa), 1 F on 24<sup>th</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 30<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa). Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 14<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA), Huntington / Langstaff, *York* on 17<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP), Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 21<sup>st</sup> (Brenda Masson fide ONTBIRDS) & at Aileen Ave, Holland Marsh, *York* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Brenda Masson fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – Singles at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 15<sup>th</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010), Wallace St, Woodbridge, *York* on 20<sup>th</sup> (Tessa Shelvey) (Brydon 2010), Hwy 401, E of Salem Rd., *Durham* on 27<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA) and at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 31<sup>st</sup> (JRC).

COOPER'S HAWK – 14 reports of singles birds all from different locations throughout the month & 2 at Watson St, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> (AA).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10<sup>th</sup> (BH fide DRBA) & on 15<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 2 at Audley Rd 1km N of Taunton Rd., *Durham* on 9<sup>th</sup> (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

MERLIN - 1 at 185 Midwest Rd, Scarborough on 15<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (RLau). 1 (F or imm) at Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 16<sup>th</sup> (MvdT,RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at 48 Cedar Brae Blvd, Scarborough on 16<sup>th</sup> (RLau). 1 at Gorham & Leslie St, Newmarket, *York* on 22<sup>nd</sup> (KRS) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Bathurst & Sykes St, Newmarket, *York* on 25<sup>th</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 11<sup>th</sup> (D. Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 at Sun Life Financial Centre on 16<sup>th</sup> & 2 there on 19<sup>th</sup> was first sighting of 2 together there in some time (SCH). 1 at Lift Bridge, Burlington Beach Canal, *Halton* on 17<sup>th</sup> (DJM,JSchm, fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 there on 31<sup>st</sup> (DJM,WHNC).

AMERICAN COOT - 3 at CSSP on 3<sup>rd</sup> (BPB fide OUTON), 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> (SMF) & 2 again there on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC,JBMW). 2 at LaSalle Marina, *Halton* on 10<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide HBGG) & 1 at Rouge Beach Park on 10<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP,MWWI).

KILLDEER - 2 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPye, fide DRBA) & 1 at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> (AA).

THAYER'S GULL - 1 at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 15<sup>th</sup> (EO'C fide OUTON).

ICELAND GULL - 1 AD at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 9<sup>th</sup> (GRE fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 (1 AD & 1 IMM) at LSS on 10<sup>th</sup> (JRC). 1 AD at Ashbridge's Bay Park on 10<sup>th</sup> (RBHS; JRC), 5 on 15<sup>th</sup> (EO'C fide OUTON) & 1 1W there on 20<sup>th</sup> (G.B. Langley fide OUTON). 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 18<sup>th</sup> (JCS fide DRBA) & on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPye fide DRBA). 2 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPye fide DRBA), 1 AD on 26<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA) & 2 there on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at HBP [W] on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC, JBMW).



**American Coot** at Rouge Beach Park, *Toronto*, 10 January 2010 (Mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory); showing well its long toes. © Winnie Poon.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 15<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA), on 26<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA) & on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA). 1 1W at Peninsula X, LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL, EO'C).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 2 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 9<sup>th</sup> (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA) & 1 on 18<sup>th</sup> (JCS fide DRBA). 2 (1 AD, 1 1W) at Bluffer's Park on 10<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,MWWI), 1 at HBP [E] on 17<sup>th</sup> (JRC) & 1 at HBP on 31<sup>st</sup> (DJM,WHNC) (Shackleton 2010). 1 AD at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> (AA), 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> (RPye fide DRBA), 1 1W on 26<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA) & 4 there on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* on 18<sup>th</sup> (JCS fide DRBA) & 4 there on 24<sup>th</sup> (RBHS). 8 at HBP [W] on 24<sup>th</sup> (RDC,JBMW).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 (red morph) at Bronte Woods, *Halton* on 6<sup>th</sup> (MWJ fide HBGG).

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 7<sup>th</sup> (JFL) (Brydon 2010), 2 at LSS on 11<sup>th</sup> (Matthew Rossi fide OUTON) & 3 there on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

SNOWY OWL - 2 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 1<sup>st</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010), 6 on 9<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa,MVL), 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 6 on 30<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa) & 2 there on 31<sup>st</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Woodchoppers La & Jane St., Holland Marsh, *York* on 7<sup>th</sup> (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS), 9<sup>th</sup> (RJF) (Brydon 2010) & on 31<sup>st</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Holland Marsh, *York* on 9<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa,MVL), 1 at CSSP on 10<sup>th</sup> (DEP,JLam,MWWI) & 1 at Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 20<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 there on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> (Hendrik Hart fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 on 31<sup>st</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Aileen St, Holland Marsh, *York* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

LONG-EARED OWL - 17 at Bronte Creek Prov. Park, *Halton* on 9<sup>th</sup> (MWJ fide HBGG) on E side, in various spruce and pine stands around the campground. 1 at CSSP on 19<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 4<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 at Bronte Creek Prov. Park, *Halton* on 9<sup>th</sup> (MWJ fide HBGG), 1 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & on 31<sup>st</sup> (RLau). 1 at The Meadow, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye,&,JBMW).

BELTED KINGFISHER - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (MJCB,RPye, fide DRBA) & on 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Ball fide DRBA). 1 M at Mimico Cr. S of Dundas on 16<sup>th</sup> (SCH), 1 at Humber R, Woodbridge, *York* on 19<sup>th</sup> (Tessa Shelvey) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Watson St Bridge, Whitby, *Durham* on 24<sup>th</sup> (R. Stephenson fide DRBA).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - 1 at Werry Rd, Solina, *Durham* on 4<sup>th</sup> (N. Miller fide DRBA). 1 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 12<sup>th</sup> (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS), 16<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP,WSLK) & on 17<sup>th</sup> (anon fide Don Davies, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 seen sporadically in January at Graydon Property, Humber Grove, *Peel* [January 2010] (PMG) (Brydon 2010).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 JUV at 332 Sheldrake Blvd. from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> (GF) & not seen subsequently.

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 4 at Rouge Park (Central) on 30<sup>th</sup> (RLau).

NORTHERN FLICKER - 1 at backyard, W. Whitby, *Durham* on 8<sup>th</sup> (G. Ernest fide DRBA).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 2 at Lambton Woods on 9<sup>th</sup> (JRC), 1 at LaSalle Park, *Halton* on 10<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide HBGG), 1 at Conc 11 N of King Rd, *York* on 16<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP,WSLK) & 1 at Lambton Woods on 31<sup>st</sup> (JRC).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at LSS on 10<sup>th</sup> (JRC) & at 15th SR & 11th Conc, King, *York* & King Rd E of Bolton, *York* on 11<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa). Singles at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 12<sup>th</sup> (BDP fide ONTBIRDS), Graydon Property, Humber Grove, *Peel* on 22<sup>nd</sup> (PMG) (Brydon 2010), Strawberry Lane, Holland Marsh, *York* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RJF) (Brydon 2010), W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & at McCowan Rd E of Aurora, *York* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RJF fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Leslie & Srigley St, Newmarket, *York* on 8<sup>th</sup> (BB,Catherine Brydon) (Brydon 2010), 1 at 15th SR & 11th Conc, King, *York* on 11<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa,fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at William St, Bolton, *Peel* on 15<sup>th</sup> (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 22<sup>nd</sup> (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010). 2 at 'Laking Tract' (Campbellville Rd & 1st Line, Nassagaweya), *Halton* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Dave Don fide HBGG) were seen carrying something - food or nesting material? 2 at Uxbridge Microwave Tower, *Durham* on 26<sup>th</sup> (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 1 at Gorham & Leslie St, Newmarket, *York* on 26<sup>th</sup> (KRS) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Holland Landing Prairie PNR, *York* on 29<sup>th</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 2 at Brookfield Cres. & Brookfield Rd, Oakville, *Halton* on 1<sup>st</sup> (RZD,&, fide HBGG) & 1 at Linwood Cres, Burlington, *Halton* on 28<sup>th</sup> (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

BROWN CREEPER - 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Jackson's Point, L. Simcoe, *York* on 1<sup>st</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010), 1 at North Trail/Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9<sup>th</sup> (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Cherry Beach on 10<sup>th</sup> (JRC). 1 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 14<sup>th</sup> (GKM,PMG) (Brydon 2010) & on 16<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP,WSLK). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 16<sup>th</sup> & 1 there on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Linwood Cres, Burlington, *Halton* on 28<sup>th</sup> (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 (still there coming to feeder) near Lake Wilcox, *York* on 18<sup>th</sup> (Sharon Bradley fide GDe). 1 at Kortright C. A., *York* on 31<sup>st</sup> (Lev Frid fide ONTBIRDS).

\* MARSH WREN - 1 at North Trail/Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 9<sup>th</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 15<sup>th</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at Oakville S.T.P., *Halton* on 19<sup>th</sup> (Tim King fide HBGG).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 14 at Sheppard's Bush C.A., Aurora, *York* on 10<sup>th</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 80 at HP on 15<sup>th</sup> (BY). 12 at Sideline 21 & Hwy 7, Pickering, *Durham* on 26<sup>th</sup> (R. Stephenson fide DRBA) & 11 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond, *York* on 30<sup>th</sup> (RBHS).

**VARIED THRUSH** - 1 M at Cold Creek C. A., *York* was first found on 5<sup>th</sup> and photographed on 7<sup>th</sup> (Geoff Simpson fide WP). It was not reported on ONTBIRDS until the 10<sup>th</sup> but was then reported almost daily throughout the month by many observers. It would come to feed on corn that Mr. Simpson had been putting out to feed the birds.

GRAY CATBIRD - 1 at Valley Inn, *Halton* on 1<sup>st</sup> (RZD,CEE, fide HBGG), in thickets at bottom of Old Valley Inn Rd, just N of the Bailey bridge.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD – Only 24 reports this month, with 13 from *Toronto*, 6 from *Durham*, 2 from *York*, 2 from *Peel* and one from *Halton*. Allowing for duplications, these represent about 20 individuals. Thanks to the twelve observers who contributed reports.

AMERICAN PIPIT - 1 at Thickson's Point, *Durham* on 10<sup>th</sup> (BH fide DRBA) & on 14<sup>th</sup> (D. Kaczynski fide DRBA).

CEDAR WAXWING - 30 at Sideline 22 N of Taunton Rd, *Durham* on 4<sup>th</sup> (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 10 at HP on 15<sup>th</sup> (BY).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 7 at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 8<sup>th</sup> (RWFP,MJCB), 6 at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 10<sup>th</sup> (DEP,JLam), 4 at Snug Harbour Restaurant, Port Credit Harbour, *Peel* on 11<sup>th</sup> (KGB fide HBGG) & 7 at St Lawrence Park, Port Credit, *Peel* on 17<sup>th</sup> (RBHS,WP).



One of 7 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** wintering at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel*, 8 January 2010. © Peter Kyne.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** - 1 seen fleetingly at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 1<sup>st</sup> (RZD,& fide HBGG) & was again seen fleetingly on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Jon Pleizier fide ONTBIRDS). A warbler-sized bird was seen disappearing between the rocks almost three-quarters of way out along pier at 16:00hrs on 5<sup>th</sup> (Sue Edwards fide ONTBIRDS) but was not seen well enough for positive ID, but probably the bird. It appeared again there for a few milliseconds, then disappeared again in rocks on lake side at 16:00hrs on 9<sup>th</sup> (GRE,Sue Edmondstone, fide ONTBIRDS). It was seen for 5 minutes there on 11<sup>th</sup> (KGB fide HBGG) but was not seen on 12<sup>th</sup> (Julia Freedman fide ONTBIRDS), nor reported thereafter.

\* **PINE WARBLER** - 1 M at Travelodge Hotel, *Halton* on 1<sup>st</sup> (RZD,& fide HBGG) & on 3<sup>rd</sup> (BKW fide HBGG).

**EASTERN TOWHEE** - 1 at Escarpment SR, *Peel* from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> had been seen for previous 2 weeks (anon fide PMG) (Brydon 2010),.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** - 30 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 40 there on 17<sup>th</sup> (Andreas Johnsson fide OUTON).

**FOX SPARROW** - 1 at S of Tremaine Rd., Bronte Creek P. P., *Halton* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RZD,Dave Don, fide HBGG).



SONG SPARROW - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 14<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA), 4 at LSS on 16<sup>th</sup> (NMu,MVL,EO'C) & 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 14<sup>th</sup> (SLaF fide DRBA).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 at Halls Rd., *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> & 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA), 1 (@ feeder) at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarb. throughout the month (RLau). 2 at 39 Lincoln Ave on 5<sup>th</sup> & 1 there on 25<sup>th</sup> (BY). 1 at Major Mackenzie & Hwy 27, *York* on 7<sup>th</sup> (JFL) (Brydon 2010), 1 at R. K. McMillan Park, *Peel* on 10<sup>th</sup> (DEP,JLam) & 2 at Willow Beach (@a feeder), *York* on 11<sup>th</sup> (Lorena Campbell fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at HP on 15<sup>th</sup> (SMF), 1 at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (GDe) (Brydon 2010) & 1 at Canada Life, University Ave. on 23<sup>rd</sup> (RBHS).

SNOW BUNTING - 200 at Sideline 34, S of Conc 3, *Durham* on 5<sup>th</sup> (C. Adey fide DRBA), 20 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd., *York* on 8<sup>th</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010) & 300 at Holland Marsh, *York* on 9<sup>th</sup> (NMu,ICa,MVL). 35 at Conc 11 N of Cold Creek C.A., *York* on 11<sup>th</sup> (DJM fide ONTBIRDS), several hundred at Jewel Rd, N of Taunton Rd, NW of Orono, *Durham* on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Brad Cochrane fide ONTBIRDS) & 400 at NW of Lakeridge & Victoria St., *Durham* on 31<sup>st</sup> (RPye fide DRBA).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 10 at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 22<sup>nd</sup> (RLau).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 1 IMM at N End Bathurst Street, *York* on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Robin Lawson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 25 at Sideline 34, Pickering, *Durham* on 27<sup>th</sup> (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 1 near Fairy Lake, Newmarket, *York* on 31<sup>st</sup> (Steve McAllister fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 1 at Old Shiloh Rd, Georgina, *York* on 1<sup>st</sup> (BB) (Brydon 2010).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 1 at J.C. Saddington Park, *Peel* on 11<sup>th</sup> (KGB fide HBGG).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - 1 F at Linwood Cres, Burlington, *Halton* on 28<sup>th</sup> (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE SISKIN - 1 at 218 Humbercrest Blvd. on 2<sup>nd</sup> (JRC).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; AA Alfred Adamo; BPB Brian P. Bailey; MJCB Margaret Bain; BB Bruce Brydon; KGB Ken G. Burrell; ICa Ian Cannell; JRC John Carley; RDC Robert D. Cumming; GDe Gene Denzel; RZD Rob Dobos; CEE Cheryl Edgcombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; GF George Fairfield; SMF Steven Favier; RJF Ron Fleming; HBGG Hamilton Birders Google Group; PMG Phyllis Graydon; SCH Sandra Hawkins; BH Brian Henshaw; MWJ Mark Jennings; LGK Leslie G. Kinrys; MK Mark Kubisz; WSLK Winnie S.L. Kwan; SLaF Steve LaForest; JLam John Lamey; WGL Bill Lamond; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JFL Joan F. Love; JMack Jess MacKenzie; KAM Kevin McLaughlin; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; DJM Dave J. Milsom; GKM Gordon K. Morton; NMu Norman Murr; MWWI MW Waterfowl Invtry; EO'C Ed O'Connor; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; BDP Bruce D. Parker; DEP Don E. Perks; WP Winnie Poon; RWFP Richard W.F. Pope; GWP George W. Prieksaitis; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; DRuch Dave Ruch; JSchm John Schmelefske; KRS Kevin Shackleton; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; WHNC W. Humber Nats Club; AW Alan Wormington; DW David Worthington; BKW Brian K. Wylie; BY Bob Yukich.

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Shackleton, K. 2010. Magical Mystery Tour, January 31, 2010, 'King of the Eiders'. West Humber Naturalists Newsletter: 7-8, February 2010.

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Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

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

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

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## NOTE

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### The Varied Thrush at Cold Creek Conservation Area in 2010



Male **Varied Thrush** at Cold Creek Conservation Area, King, York, 7 January 2010. © Geoff Simpson.

On Tuesday morning, 5 January 2010, when Geoff Simpson glanced out of his window, he was quite surprised to see a male Varied Thrush on the driveway there. The bird had been attracted to whole corn that Geoff had put out on several 'logs on end'; it was subsequently seen in various places in and around the front yard, where it settled down to overwinter; staying to 2 April. Geoff's house is situated less than 100m from the entrance gate on the north border of the 190-hectare Cold Creek Conservation Area in King Township, York. Within the Cold Creek C.A. there is a large pine plantation on the north side, and extensive coniferous forests to the south, with Cold Creek (a tributary of the Humber River) running N-S through the middle. These are

valuable conservation lands serving the needs of local communities like Nobleton and Bolton, as well as residents even further afield.

According to known reports of Varied Thrush in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) since 1962, the Cold Creek C.A. bird was the 35<sup>th</sup> individual reported. Although not all of these have been properly documented, most of the sightings are reliable enough to be acceptable, while several were also photographed. Documentation of the species in southern Ontario was no longer required after 1 January 1994 by the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) (Pittaway 1995), but is still required for GTA records by the Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC).

Of the six Varied Thrush previously recorded in York, it is interesting to note that one involved a bird at northwest Nobleton in December 1990, specifically at 22 Hillside Avenue, which is only 4 km from Geoff Simpson's house. The precise dates for this 1990 record are not available because it was suppressed at the time – "This bird, whose whereabouts have been beclouded by the resident at the address given because he resents arrival of a lot of birders, has been reported as present on several dates through January" (Gerry Bennett, TOC database). In the same winter, a Varied Thrush was also seen for one day only on 14 December 1990 by

Joan Love on her property at Major Mackenzie and Highway 27 (about 8.5 km south southeast of the Nobleton location), however, this bird could have moved to Nobleton later on. If one ignores this possibility, the Cold Creek Varied Thrush would be the seventh record for York. The first York record was also the second Ontario record – a female at Maple on 25 December 1963; it was eventually collected for the ROM, specimen #93842, and determined to be of the race *meruloides* (the inland form) (Baldwin 1964).

Winnie Poon



Varied Thrush being harassed by an American Tree Sparrow for corn on the log, 7 January 2010. © Geoff Simpson.

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