



TORONTO BIRDS

Volume 4 Number 5
May 2010





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Records Committee – Toronto Ornithological Club



COVER PHOTO

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Photo © Sandra Hawkins

Photo taken at Colonel Sam Smith Park, *Toronto*, 21 April 2009.

Produced by the Records Committee Toronto Ornithological Club

Editors:

Glenn Coady glenn_coady@hotmail.com

Winnie Poon winniepoon@sympatico.ca

Roy Smith rsmith@mrs.com

Compiler: Dave Worthington

Database: Roy Smith

Photos & Production: Winnie Poon

Records Councillor: Tyler Hoar

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.

Email <torontobirds@sympatico.ca>

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GREATER TORONTO AREA BIRD REPORT – APRIL 2010

The following are largely unchecked reports, not authenticated records. County/Region codes used in the *database* are: MT = City of Toronto; HL = Halton R.M.; PL = Peel R.M.; YO = York R.M.; DU = Durham R.M.; LO = Lake Ontario Pelagic, but full names are provided in the Report, except for locations within City of Toronto. Frequently cited place names in Toronto are abbreviated as follows: CSSP = Colonel Sam Smith Park; HP = High Park; HBP = Humber Bay Park (E or W); LSS = Leslie Street Spit; TI = Toronto Islands. Other abbreviations: HRF, DRF, YRF = Halton, Durham and York Regional Forests, respectively. TBO = Toronto Bird Observatory; TTPBRS = Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station.

Species names in **bold, underlined BLOCK CAPITALS** are OBRC rarities. These reports require acceptance by OBRC before they can be considered as part of the local records. They are qualified by [Documentation received] or [No documentation received], as applicable.

Species names in **bold** (but not underlined) are local rarities within the GTA. These reports require documentation and acceptance by the Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC) before they can be considered as valid records. They are qualified by [Documentation received] or [No documentation received], as applicable.

Individual species **marked * or specific reports marked *** indicate unusual local observations for which documentation is requested by TBRC and/or TOC Records Committee by virtue of rarity, difficulty of ID, extreme dates (early, late, unseasonal) or high counts.

Species names in [square brackets] indicate reports believed to relate to escaped or released birds, or to introduced birds which have not yet become established.

Names in *ITALICS* indicate subspecies, hybrids, morphs or other 'recognizable forms', which may be identifiable in the field. This does not necessarily imply that the compilers agree with such designations, or accept their validity.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 1 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 29th [No doc. seen] (Paul Wigglesworth fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). It was apparently photographed (fide RJF).

SNOW GOOSE - 1 (intermed. morph) AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 4th (AA), 1 (blue) AD on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 (1 white, 2 blue) AD on 6th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 (blue) there on 10th (RBHS) & 3 (1 AD blue morph; 1 AD intermed morph (white belly) and 1 1Y blue morph) on 13th (JI fide ONTBIRDS), photos on her website.



The larger **intermediate morph Snow Goose** (left) and a white morph Lesser Snow Goose (right), seen at Reesor Pond, *York*, 10 April 2010. According to Ken Abraham, the intermediate morph goose "...may be an intermediate morph Greater Snow Goose or at the large end of Lesser Snow Goose variation" (www.jeaniron.ca). © Jean Iron.

CACKLING (RICHARDSON'S) GOOSE - 6 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS).

TRUMPETER SWAN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 7th (THo fide OUTON). 2 (1 w tag #C01) at Anderson Rd Pond, Brooklin (N of Taunton Rd, S of Hwy 7), *Durham* on 21st (anon fide OUTON). 3 IMM (no wing tags) at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 24th (RBHS).

TUNDRA SWAN - 2 at Bogart Pond, SE Newmarket, *York* on 12th (KRS fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

WOOD DUCK - 5 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 4 on 2nd to 5th (RPye fide DRBA). 6 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (D. Docherty fide DRBA) & on 4th (RPye fide DRBA). 9 (7M, 2F) at HP on 7th (SMF), 10 on 21st (AA) & 17 (13M, 4F) there on 28th (SCH). 2 M at Don Valley (Beechwood & O'Connor area) on 23rd (Yogi Stewart fide OUTON).

GADWALL - 36 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st, 13 on 5th & 23 on 7th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

EURASIAN WIGEON - 1 M at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* @ 12:00hrs on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). [No doc. seen]. It was not found on 1st May (fide HC).

AMERICAN WIGEON - 16 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (DW fide DRBA) & 5 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 26 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Early reports were of 2 M at LSS on 2nd (SMF), 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 (M & F) at Sheldon Creek Trail off Great Lakes Blvd., *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 (M & F) at Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 12th (JDL,& fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at Bronte Marsh, *Halton* on 12th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at Reesor Pond, *York* on 18th (RBHS) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 25th (JWi,BKa).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - 7 reports from Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* with 3 on 1st, high counts of 30 on 13th & 38 on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Ravenshoe Rd. Floodlands, *York* on 23rd (anon fide MvdT, fide RJF).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - 6 reports from Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* beginning with a high of 25 on 1st, next highest count was of 10 on 5th & last report of 3 on 13th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Ashburn Rd 500m S of Hwy 7, *Durham* & 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 4th (AA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON), 56 on 3rd (RPye fide DRBA). 36 on 5th, 64 on 7th & 109 there on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 8 at Ashburn Rd 500m S of Hwy 7, *Durham* on 4th (AA), 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th (RBHS) & 12 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 23rd (anon fide MvdT, fide RJF).

CANVASBACK - 1 F at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Cell #1, LSS on 24th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON) & 5 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC). 11 at Trout Pond, TI on 29th (NMu,MVL).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 9 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON), 4 on 3rd (RPye fide OUTON) & 2 there on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 34 at Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (AA), 23 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), 7 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th (RBHS) & 12 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

LESSER SCAUP - 5 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 7 on 7th (THo fide OUTON). 2 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 3 (1 M, 2 F) at HBP [E] on 6th (MVL) & 3 (1 M, 2 F) at HBP on 12th (SMF).

BLACK SCOTER - 1 on L. Ontario W of Duffins Creek, *Durham* on 28th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

BUFFLEHEAD - 32 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON). 14 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th, 17 on 18th & 14 there on 24th (RBHS).

HOODED MERGANSER - 3 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON), 5 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide OUTON) & 3 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th (RBHS). 2 (pair) at Vandorf SR, W of Stouffville, *York* on 18th (Al Johnson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 18th (GRE fide HBGG) & 1 at TI on 29th (NMu,MVL).

COMMON MERGANSER - 13 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 10th & 3 F there on 18th (RBHS).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - 61 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON).

RUDDY DUCK - 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (D. Docherty fide DRBA), 16 on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), 12 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 M on 25th (JWi,BKa). 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 4th (AA) & 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (RPye fide DRBA).

RUFFED GROUSE - 1 at Taunton Rd & Church St, *Ajax, Durham* on 4th (GCarp fide DRBA).

WILD TURKEY - 7 at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 3rd (Geoff Simpson fide WP). 1 M at 87 Marilake Blvd, Scarborough @ 19:30hrs on 9th (MA fide ONTBIRDS) was seen in yards backing onto Hwy 401 between Midland & Brimley - last seen 20:45hrs. 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 18th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Beare Rd S of CP railway on 24th (RBHS).

RED-THROATED LOON - 1 on L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

COMMON LOON - 2 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 7th (Walter Fisher fide OUTON), 2 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA), 5 at L. Ontario off Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 flying W past Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (AA).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Singles at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON), Elgin Pond, Uxbridge, *Durham* on 2nd & 3rd (anon fide OUTON), Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 3rd (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 13th (SMF). Others reports of singles from CSSP on 11th (Nancy Barrett fide ONTBIRDS) & on 21st (SMF), Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), Great Lakes Dr Pond, *Halton* on 11th & 12th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), Reesor-Old Finch Pond on 12th (JDL,&, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 24th (RBHS).

HORNED GREBE - 2 at CSSP on 5th & 3 on 11th (Nancy Barratt fide ONTBIRDS). 7 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA)

RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide OUTON). 12 at CSSP on 4th (RBHS), 50 on 5th, 150+ on 11th (Nancy Barrett fide ONTBIRDS) & 4(2 pairs) there on 28th(SCH). 130 at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th(anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Tip, LSS on 24th(Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON).

WESTERN GREBE - 1 at CSSP on 18th (MVL). Also reported there @ 12:00hrs (IDMF fide ONTBIRDS) when it was seen in a group of Red-necked Grebes just SW of the dock in the marina bay but was later disturbed by a kayaker and flew off (fide AK/ONTBIRDS).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - 3 at HP on 1st, 3 on 4th & 1 on 10th (SMF). 4 at HBP on 1st & 5 at CSSP on 11th (SMF). 50 at LSS on 2nd, 10 on 10th & 50 there on 11th (SMF).

AMERICAN BITTERN - 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA).

GREAT BLUE HERON - 4 flying over at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 2nd (FBB fide OUTON). 16 at Leslie & 19th Heronry, *York* on 10th (RBHS), 23 nests visible, not sure how many in use. 13 nests in the large oak had an AD sitting or standing on them. 1 AD by a half-built nest; 2 other AD at other nests deeper in the woods. On the 11th there were again 16 there either on or beside nests (RBHS,WP). 1 at Nobleton Lakes Heronry, *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP), 3 nests seen, one bird on one nest, not sure if others occupied. 3 at Cherrywood Swamp Heronry, *Durham* on 24th (RBHS), colony still active but cannot get proper count from road.

GREAT EGRET - 1 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (D. Docherty fide DRBA), 2 flying W at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 10th (MDW fide DRBA), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 14th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at HP on 17th (SMF). Singles at Reesor Pond, *York* on 17th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), Valley Inn, *Halton* on 21st (Ken Newcombe fide HBGG), at Hwy 48 E of Park Rd, Sutton, *York* on 22nd (Greg Jaski fide ONTBIRDS) & at Rouge River Marshes on 28th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

GREEN HERON - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (RPye fide DRBA) & on 3rd (D. Martin fide DRBA).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - 3 at South Duck Pond, HP on 21st (AA).

BLACK VULTURE - 1 at Valley Inn, *Halton* @ 19:20hrs on 21st (Rob Waldhuber fide CEE, fide HBGG).

OSPREY - 1 at Westside Marsh, *Durham* visiting a nesting platform on 3rd (Jim Yaki fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Cranberry

Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Gormley, *York* on 11th (RBHS,WP) & 1 flying N at Bay Ridges Kinsmen Park, *Durham* on 24th (RBHS).

BALD EAGLE - 2 at Holland R. Mouth Heronry, *York* on 3rd & 5th (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), reported to be staking out a nest. 1 was seen there from 13th Conc W. Gwillimbury chasing an Osprey on 10th (PW fide ONTBIRDS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Singles at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 18th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), Home Smith Park on 18th (AA) & at TI on 29th (NMu,MVL).

COOPER'S HAWK - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 M (adult on nest) at Riverwood Park, Erindale, *Peel* on 3rd (anon fide OUTON) & seen again there on 30th when it flew out of the nest (anon fide OUTON). 1 AD at HP on 7th & 2 there on 12th (SMF). 2 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG), 1 at TI on 11th (AA) & 2 there on 29th (NMu,MVL). 1 M at Old Mill (Humber River/Bloor) on 21st (George Cantile fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - 1 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

MERLIN - 1 at Pine Point Park on 11th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 first reported at Newton Dr, Willowdale on 20th was seen regularly there throughout the rest of the month (DW).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1 at Yonge & Finch @ 20:00hrs on 5th, flying around the office towers (RBHS). 2 at Etobicoke Collegiate on 9th (SCH), flew over, vocalizing; flew back towards Bloor & Islington. 1 at St Lawrence Cement Plant [now called Holcim Cement], *Peel* on 10th (SCH). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 18th (THo fide DRBA); when it started hunting the Little Gulls left.

VIRGINIA RAIL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 7th, 21st & 23rd (THo fide OUTON). 2 at South Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (Joe Noordman fide RPye).

SORA - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 photographed at South Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (Joe Noordman fide RPye).



Sora from South Platform, Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 23 April 2010. © Joe Noordman.

AMERICAN COOT - 2 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 2th (DW fide DRBA) & 3 there on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 at Cook's Bay (S End), *York* on 3rd (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 7 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th & 1 there on 11th (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at CSSP on 5th & 11th (SMF).

SANDHILL CRANE - 2 at Scugog Line 13 Bridge, Reach Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (A. Balmer fide DRBA), 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (C. Adey fide DRBA) & 4 flying N at Palgrave C. A., *Peel* on 12th (PNP fide ONTBIRDS).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - 1 (early) at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 24th (AA). 3 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 22nd & 1 on 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 at Rutherford & Weston Rd. Pond, *York* on 25th (RBHS) & 1 at CSSP on 30th (SMF).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - 1 at East Point Park on 30th (MAK fide ONTBIRDS).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 14th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 on 18th (RBHS). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st, 2 on 23rd & 6 there on 30th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 22nd (Robin Lawson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (DW fide DRBA) & 2 at LSS on 24th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON). 2 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 22nd & 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA), 16 there on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS).



Sora at South Platform of Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 23 April 2010.
© Joe Noordman.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - 6 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 22nd, 2 on 25th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 23 there on 30th (MJCB fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - 12 at Ravenshoe Flats, *York* on 3rd (BB fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & on 5th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 4 there on 23rd (anon fide MvdT, fide RJF). 4 at Ashburn Rd 500m S of Hwy 7, *Durham* on 4th (AA). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (JCS fide DRBA), 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st & 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Carruthers Creek Marsh, *Durham* on 23rd (DW fide DRBA).

DUNLIN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th, 7th, 21st & 23rd (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 4 at Ravenshoe Road Floodlands, *York* on 22nd (Robin Lawson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

WILSON'S SNIFE - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (THo,RPye, fide DRBA).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 3rd (AA) & 5 at LSS on 24th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 21st (WER fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, *Durham* on 26th (anon fide OUTON).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 20 on 3rd (G. Stewart fide OUTON), 85 on 7th, 356 on 13th, 310 on 14th, 932 on 21st, 1336 on 23rd & 410 there on 30th (THo fide DRBA). 35 at Arkendo Park, *Halton* on 13th (Jim Watt fide HBGG), 535 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA) & 443 at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

LITTLE GULL - 12 reports from Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* beginning with 1 on 1st, number gradually increased and by the middle of the month 21 were reported there on the 13th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). High counts were 35 on 21st, 47 on 23rd & the last report was of 36 on 30th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

HERRING GULL - 2 (pair) at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS), possibly interested in nesting on one of the tern islands.

ICELAND GULL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 7th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 2nd (DW fide DRBA), 1 AD at Reesor Pond, *York* on 5th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thickson's Bay, *Durham* on 9th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 at Bonniebrae Pt. Oshawa, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 1B there on 24th (AA). Singles at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* on 18th (GRE fide HBGG) & 1 at LSS on 24th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON) & on 25th (JBMW,HC).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (THo fide OUTON).

GLAUCOUS GULL - 1 AD at Arkendo Park, *Halton* on 13th (Jim Watt fide HBGG) & 2 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - 4 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide OUTON).

CASPIAN TERN - 1 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 7th (Walter Fisher fide OUTON) & at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG). 2 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 11th (SLo fide ONTBIRDS), 12th (JDL,& fide ONTBIRDS) & on 18th (RBHS). 2 at LSS on 11th (SMF) & 4 at Rutherford & Weston Rd. Pond, *York* on 19th (Paloma Plant fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 13th & 14th, 7 there on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 22nd (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 2 at Sobey's Pond, Whitby, *Durham* on 23rd (DW fide DRBA).

COMMON TERN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st & on 30th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at CSSP on 21st (SMF), 15 at LSS on 23rd (SMF) & 20 there on 25th (JBMW,HC).

FORSTER'S TERN - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st [No doc. seen] (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG) & 1 at 7 Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 10th (RLau), roosting in nestbox.

GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 seen at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd & on 24th (RPye fide DRBA).

"LABRADOR" GREAT HORNED OWL - 1 at Park Lawn Cemetery on 3rd [No doc. seen] (AA).

SNOWY OWL - 1 at Ravenshoe Flats, *York* on 9th (Robin Lawson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

LONG-EARED OWL - 1 at LSS on 10th (MVL).

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 3rd (D. Martin fide DRBA).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 26th (TWRB fide DRBA), calling in the evening.

* CHIMNEY SWIFT - 1 (v. early) at Kingston Rd E of McCowan on 5th [No doc. seen] (Walter Fisher fide OUTON); he sent a report to <chimneyswifts.org>. 1 (v. early) at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th [No doc. seen] (THo fide DRBA). [Doc. required up to and incl. 15 Apr]. 1 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC), at HP on 29th (SMF) & at Sackville St, Toronto on 30th (RDC fide ONTBIRDS). Some heard at Keele St S of Lawrence (Nancy Barrett fide ONTBIRDS) & at 160 The Donway W. (ETB fide ONTBIRDS) on 30th. 5 at Parliament & Carlton St. on 30th (Rob Quidgley fide ONTBIRDS).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - 1 at Townline & Adelaide, Oshawa, *Durham* on 1st (O. Peter fide DRBA), 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd & 3 on 3rd (RPye fide DRBA). 1 at Hadrian Dr, Rexdale on 2nd & 3rd (MK fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG) & 13 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER - 1 M photographed at Albion Hills Cons. Area, *Peel* @ 14:00hrs on 2nd (Matt Joste fide MHC), near Blue & Red trails. Photos on file [Documented].



Black-backed Woodpecker at Albion Hills Conservation Area, *Peel*, 2 April 2010.
© Matt Joste.

NORTHERN FLICKER - 5 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd & 3rd (RPye fide DRBA). 6 at Baselands, LSS on 3rd (AA), 10 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG) & 16 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA).

PILEATED WOODPECKER - 1 at Mulock Rd, Newmarket, *York* on 2nd (Siegmar Bodach fide ONTBIRDS), 1 M at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th (DBar fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 18th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 F at CSSP on 21st (MVL).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 30th (CEE fide HBGG).

EASTERN PHOEBE - 2 at HP on 1st, 8th & 9th (SMF). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd (RPye fide OUTON), 2 at Pine Point Park on 3rd (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on 4th (JWi,BKa). 1 at CSSP on 5th (Nancy Barratt fide ONTBIRDS) & on 18th (IDMF fide OUTON). 4 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 29th (Jim Skene fide DRBA).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - 1 at CSSP on 21st & 30th (SMF). 1 at HP on 22nd, 25th & on 30th (SMF). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (AA), on 25th (JWi,BKa) & on 30th (TWRB fide DRBA). 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 29th (NMu,MVL) & 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 30th (CEE fide HBGG).

COMMON RAVEN - 1 at Hwy 407 W of Tremaine Rd, *Halton* on 3rd (Kip Daynard fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 there on 8th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Taunton Rd & Westney Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 4th (Terrie Smith fide DRBA) & 1 at Ravenscroft Rd, Ajax, *Durham* on 30th (GCarp fide DRBA).

PURPLE MARTIN - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & at CSSP on 18th (SMF).

TREE SWALLOW - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 1st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 5 there on 2nd (RPye fide DRBA). 6 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st & 35 there on 5th (THo fide ONTBIRDS). 3 at Solina Road Marsh, *Durham* on 2nd (AA) & 300 at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - 12 at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS). Singles at Pine Point Park on 11th (MK fide ONTBIRDS) & at CSSP on 11th & 21st (SMF).

BANK SWALLOW - 2 at Green Lane Bridge, Newmarket, *York* on 12th (Robin Lawson fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS).

CLIFF SWALLOW - 11 at Pier, *TI* on 29th (NMu,MVL).

BARN SWALLOW - 12 at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at LSS on 10th (SMF) & on 24th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON). 4 at Corner Marsh, *Durham* on 11th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 1 at HBP on 12th (SMF).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 21 at *TI* on 29th (NMu,MVL).

TUFTED TITMOUSE - 1 (singing) at Harborn Rd, Mississauga, *Peel* on 20th, 21st & 29th (Jacques Giraud fide ONTBIRDS).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 1 (flycatching) at Park Lawn Cemetery on 3rd (AA).

BROWN CREEPER - 8 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd & 20+ there on 10th (RPye fide OUTON). 6 at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 6 at Clements Woods, *Durham* on 9th (J. Foster fide DRBA). 6 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBG) & 9 at Ward's Island, *TI* on 11th (AA).

CAROLINA WREN - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 23rd (DW fide DRBA).

HOUSE WREN - 1 at Burlington, *Halton* on 21st (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 30th (TWRB fide DRBA).

WINTER WREN - 1 at LSS on 2nd, 1 at CSSP on 5th (SMF) & 7 at Ward's Island, *TI* on 11th (AA). 9 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd, 10 on 3rd (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 8th (DBar fide ONTBIRDS).

MARSH WREN - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th (RPye fide OUTON).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 50+ at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 2nd & 10th (RPye fide OUTON). 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th (THo fide OUTON), 20 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBG) & 33 at Ward's Island, *TI* on 11th (AA).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at Baselands, LSS on 3rd (AA). 1 at HP on most days from 6th to 11th (SMF). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (RPye fide OUTON), 2 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBG), 1 at CSSP on 11th & 14th (SMF). 7 at Ward's Island, *TI* on 11th (AA), 1 at HBP on 12th (SMF) & 15 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 25th (JWi,BKa).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - 1 at HP on 18th & 19th, 25th & 27th to 29th (SMF). 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 21st (WER fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at Morningside Park on 30th (RLau).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 2 (pair) at Woodlands Park on 13th (Allan Woods fide ONTBIRDS), 2 at Keele St, Kettleby, *York* on 18th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at The Meadow, Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

* SWAINSON'S THRUSH - 1 at HP on 20th [No doc. seen] (Ed Wugalthier fide ONTBIRDS). [Doc required up to and including 20 Apr].

HERMIT THRUSH - 1 at CSSP on 3rd & 5th (SMF). 1 at HP on 4th, 2 on 6th & 1 on 8th (SMF). 6 reports from Thicksons Woods, *Durham* beginning with 6 on 9th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & high counts of 25 on 21st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & 15 on 30th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 at Hague Park, Scarb. on 10th (RLau), 4 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBG), 10 at *TI* on 11th (AA) & 19 there on 29th (NMu,MVL). 3 at Jeanette Dr, Oakville, *Halton* on 12th (Bill Morden fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 18th (IDMF fide OUTON).

WOOD THRUSH - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 heard at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 24th (AA,DBar).

AMERICAN ROBIN - 100 at *TI* on 29th (NMu,MVL).

VARIED THRUSH - 1 M at Cold Creek C. A., *York* on 2nd (Geoff Simpson fide WP). This was the last date it was seen and was photographed, having stayed from 5 Jan 2010.

GRAY CATBIRD - 1 (v. early) at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 7th (Walter Fisher fide OUTON).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - In total there were 107 reports, representing about 85 individual sites after taking account of duplication and multiple reports from the same site. The distribution of reports was: *City of Toronto* 58; *York* 34; *Durham* 13; *Peel* 1, and *Halton* - zero. Some 22 observers contributed reports and special thanks are due to Bruce Brydon, Jeremy L. Hatt, Sandra Hawkins, and Jan McDonald for multiple observations. The fine, warm almost windless conditions on 4 April proved excellent for finding singing birds - RBHS and WP got 18 that day (mostly in 10-km squares 17PJ12, 17PJ13, 17PJ22, and 17PJ23), without even spending a full day surveying. The first nest for 2010 was found by RBHS on 18 April at a site in Markham, *York* (10-km square 17PJ35). It held 3 eggs, so the first egg date must have been 16th (possibly earlier). This is not an all-time record, but close! [14 April is earliest known egg date for GTA]. By the end of the month, 4 more nests with eggs had been found (3 in *York*, 1 in *Durham*; all by RBHS), plus about 4 more (complete, under construction, or not accessible to determine contents, including one found by Jan McDonald). Despite the good number of reports, the general impression thus far (based on squares with adequate coverage e.g. 17PJ25 and 17PJ35) is that the number of occupied territories seems low compared to the 2001-2005 period. Of course, some will 'fill in' during May, so first impressions may yet be misleading. It should also be obvious from the region totals that virtually no fieldwork was done by RBHS in *Peel* this month, and none at all in *Halton*.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at QEW & Ford Drive, *Halton* on 4th (MHC fide HBGG), Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG), Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA) & at Idleswift Dr, Thornhill, *York* on 16th (GDe fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & on 23rd (DW fide DRBA). 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 25th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 26th (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 29th (NMu,MVL).

AMERICAN PIPIT - 1 at Nonquon S.L., *Durham* on 22nd (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - Singles at TI on 29th (NMu,MVL), HP on 29th & 30th (SMF), Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 29th & 30th (TWRB fide DRBA), CSSP on 30th (SMF) & at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 30th (CEE fide HBGG).

NORTHERN PARULA - 1 at East Point Park (MAK fide ONTBIRDS) & 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* (TWRB fide DRBA) on 30th.

YELLOW WARBLER - On 30th there were singles seen at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* (TWRB fide DRBA), CSSP (SMF) & at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* (CEE fide HBGG).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - 1 at CSSP on 3rd & 7th (SMF). 1 at HP on 7th & 2 there on 10th (SMF). 5 reports from Thicksons Woods, *Durham* beginning with 2 on 8th (DBar fide ONTBIRDS) & high of 10 on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & 15 on 21st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 1 M at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 9th (Walter Fisher fide OUTON), 2 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 11th & 2 at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA). 4 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 18th (IDMF fide OUTON), 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 22nd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC) & 19 at TI on 29th (NMu,MVL).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - 1 (v. early) at HP @ 09:30hrs on 7th was seen N of the Allotment Gardens [Documented] (SMF). 1 M at Burloak Woods, *Halton* on 10th (Chris Street, Tom Thomas, fide HBGG) was photographed and hence documented. 1 at Lynde Shores C. A., *Durham* on 11th [No doc. seen] (RPye fide DRBA). 1 (singing) M at HP on 11th (Kevin Charles Fraser, Emily McKinnon, fide ONTBIRDS), on 12th & on 30th (SMF) was most likely same bird as documented for 7th Apr 2010. Widespread arrival on the 30th with singles at CSSP (SMF), at Shell Park, *Halton* (CEE fide HBGG), Sherwood Forest Park, *Halton* (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & Glen Major Forest, *Durham* (THo fide DRBA).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - 1 M at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 30th (Jim Skene, JDL, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at Morningside Park on 30th (RLau) & 1 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

PINE WARBLER - 6 reports from Thicksons Woods, *Durham* beginning with 1 on 8th (DBar fide DRBA), a high count of 8 on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & last report was of 3 on 30th (TWRB fide DRBA). 1 M at Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at HP on 10th & from 14th to 17th (SMF). 2 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA), 1 at HBP on 12th (SMF), 1 at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA) & 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 18th (RJF fide ONTBIRDS). 2 at The 'Bowl', CSSP on 18th (IDMF fide OUTON), 2 at Cawthra-Mulock FON Reserve, *York* on 22nd (RJF fide ONTBIRDS) & 2 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

PALM WARBLER - 1 at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA), 1 at Baselands, LSS on 24th (Andreas Jonsson fide OUTON) & 2 there on 25th (Bernie Monette fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 24th (SMF), 2 at Seneca College (King), *York* on 25th (Allan Roitner fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 3 at Ward's Island, TI on 29th (NMu,MVL). On the 30th there was 1 at CSSP (SMF), 1 at Rosetta McClain Gardens (FBB fide

OUTON), 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* (TWRB fide DRBA) & 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

'YELLOW' PALM WARBLER - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 11th [No doc. seen] (RPye fide DRBA).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Singles at Darlington Prov. Park, *Durham* on 21st (THo fide ONTBIRDS), at Lake Aquitaine, Meadowvale, *Peel* on 30th (anon fide OUTON), at Shell Park, *Halton* on 30th (CEE fide HBGG) & at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 30th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA). 2 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 30th (TWRB fide DRBA).

AMERICAN REDSTART - 1 at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 30th (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA).

OVENBIRD - 1 at CSSP (SMF) & 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* (CEE fide HBGG) on 30th.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 21st (Dan Kaczynski fide DRBA) & at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 30th (CEE fide HBGG).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - 2 (singing M) at Halton Hills, N of Georgetown, *Halton* on 26th (Gerry Doekes fide ONTBIRDS), each was near the intersection of 27th SR & 8th Line. 2 at Crawford Lake C.A., *Halton* on 27th (Lev Frid, Kyle Holloway, fide ONTBIRDS), one bird seen and heard, then 2nd bird sang and first apparently chased it off, photos on Flickr. 1 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

EASTERN TOWHEE - 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 3rd, 18th & 30th (RPye fide DRBA). Singles at Pringle Creek, Whitby Harbour, *Durham* on 7th (Gloria Garvie fide ONTBIRDS), Clements Woods, *Durham* on 9th (J. Foster fide DRBA) & at Whitby Yacht Club, *Durham* on 17th (RPye fide DRBA).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - 7 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 7th (THo fide OUTON) & 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA).

CHIPPING SPARROW - 1 at Utica, *Durham* on 4th (JKa fide DRBA). 2 at HP on 7th, 4 on 8th, 2 on 14th & 1 on 16th & 17th (SMF). Singles at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 8th (DBar fide ONTBIRDS), Fairway Dr., Scarborough on 8th (RLau), Bronte Bluffs Park, Oakville, *Halton* on 9th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS) & at CSSP on 18th (SMF).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - 1 (@ feeder) at Sumach Dr, Burlington, *Halton* on 29th & 30th (anon fide CEE, fide ONTBIRDS).

FIELD SPARROW - 1 at Resources Road Ravine on 3rd (MK fide ONTBIRDS). 1 at Thicksons Woods, *Durham* on 10th (THo,RPye, fide DRBA), 2 on 18th (RPye fide DRBA) & 1 there on 25th (JWi,BKa). 1 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA), 1 at Uplands Golf Course, Thornhill, *York* on 16th (GDe fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 8 at Glen Major Forest, *Durham* on 30th (THo fide DRBA).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 1 at Reesor Pond, *York* on 6th (GCarp, Terrie Smith, fide ONTBIRDS), 1 at NE of Nobleton, *York* on 10th (Craig Corcoran fide RJF, fide ONTBIRDS) & 23 at TI on 29th (NMu, MVL).

FOX SPARROW - 8 reports from Thicksons Woods, *Durham* beginning with 6 on 1st (D. Kaczynski fide DRBA), high counts of 11 on 2nd & 8 on 3rd, last report was of 1 on 23rd (DW fide DRBA). 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 1st (THo fide ONTBIRDS), 3 at Rosetta McClain Gardens on 2nd (FBB fide OUTON), 1 at CSSP on 3rd & on 5th (SMF). 2 at Baselands, LSS on 3rd (AA), 1 at Utica, *Durham* on 4th (JKa fide DRBA), 4 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* on 4th & 3 there on 11th (RPye fide DRBA). 2 at Shell Park, *Halton* on 10th (GDB fide HBGG), 4 at Ward's Island, TI on 11th (AA) & 1 at HP on 20th (SMF).

SONG SPARROW - 25 at LSS on 25th (JBMW, HC).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - 1 at CSSP on 30th (SMF).

SWAMP SPARROW - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* on 5th & 10 on 7th (THo fide OUTON).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - 16 at Southwood Park, *Durham* & 20 at Clements Woods, *Durham* (J. Foster fide DRBA) on 9th. 10 at LSS on 25th (JBMW, HC).

HARRIS'S SPARROW - 1 at Samuel Wilmot Nature Centre, *Durham* on 14th [No doc. seen] (OssieTee fide MHC, fide RPye).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 at Thicksos Woods, *Durham* on 18th (RPye fide DRBA), 2 at TI on 29th (NMu, MVL) & 6 at East Point Park on 30th (MAK fide ONTBIRDS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL - 12 at TI on 29th (NMu,MVL).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK - 1 at East Point Park (MAK fide ONTBIRDS) & at 1 at Shell Park, *Halton* (CEE fide HBGG) on 30th.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - 3 at Conc 3 & Dixie Rd, Pickering, *Durham* on 17th (S. Wake fide DRBA).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - 40 at LSS on 25th (JBMW,HC).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - 1 at Shoreacres Park, *Halton* on 30th (CEE fide HBGG).

PINE GROSBREAK - 1 at Whitby, *Durham* on 21st (G. Ernest fide DRBA) made a brief visit to backyard.

PURPLE FINCH - 1 at Thicksos Woods, *Durham* on 8th & 24th (DBar). 1 M at Bathurst & Eglinton on 9th (Skip Shand fide ONTBIRDS).

PINE SISKIN - 1 at Pine Point Park on 3rd (MK fide ONTBIRDS).

CITED OBSERVERS: & et al.; AA Alfred Adamo; MA Mark Ansell; MJCB Margaret Bain; DBar Dennis Barry; ETB Eleanor Beagan; GDB George Bryant; BB Bruce Brydon; FBB Frank B. Butson (Big Frank); GCarp Geoff Carpentier; MCA Margaret Catto; MHC Mark Cranford; RDC Robert D. Cumming; HC Hugh Currie; RHC Bob Curry; GDe Gene Denzel; CEE Cheryl Edgecombe; GRE Gavin R. Edmondstone; SMF Steven Favier; IDMF Iain Fleming; RJF Ron Fleming; HBGG Hamilton Birders Google Group; JLH Jeremy L. Hatt; SCH Sandra Hawkins; THo Tyler Hoar; JI Jean Iron; BKa Barbara Kalthoff; JKa James Kamstra; MAK Michael A. King; MK Mark Kubisz; RLau Rick Lauzon; GEL Graham Leonard; MVL Margaret Liubavicius; JDL J. Doug Lockrey; SLo Stan Long; m. obs many observers; JBMW Jim Baillie Memorial Walk; NMu Norman Murr; anon Unknown Observer; ONTBIRDS OFO Email Hotline; OUTON OutdoorOntario.net; FP Frank Pinilla; WP Winnie Poon; PNP Paul Prior; RPye Rayfield Pye; DRBA Durham Rare Bird Alert; TWRB Thicksos Woods Record Book; WER Wayne E. Renaud; KRS Kevin Shackleton; RBHS Roy B. H. Smith; JCS John C. Stirrat; MvdT Mike Van Den Tillaart; MDW Mike Williamson; JWi Joan Winearls; DW David Worthington; PW Peter Wukasch.

Compiled by Dave Worthington for the TOC Records Committee.

Photo editing by Winnie Poon.

Data entry by Roy Smith. 643 GTA reports were added to the database for April 2010.

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

Preferred citation: Worthington, D. 2009. Greater Toronto Area Bird Report: April 2010. Toronto Birds 4:63-73.



NOTES ON BIRD RECORDS, REPORTING AND THE TOC DATABASE

Records Committee, Toronto Ornithological Club

Introduction

It has been several years since the Records Committee provided some guidance on submitting records, and in the meantime a number of new members have joined TOC. Many TOC members do not regularly submit records, nonetheless the Records Committee felt that it was time to review and outline the procedures for the benefit of new and established members alike. Hence we are publishing these guidelines, which are largely based on material currently included with each 'new member package', to encourage all members to submit their significant observations, and especially to properly document any rarities they may be fortunate enough to find.

Background

As a TOC Member, you should be aware that the accurate recording and reporting of the birds of the Toronto area has been an ongoing theme and core activity for TOC since its formation in 1934. The TOC has had a Records Committee since its earliest days – indeed the first Chairman of the Records Committee was Jim Baillie himself. A copy of his Committee's report for 1934 can be found in the TOC Archives, located in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Library! Needless to say, the role and scope of the Records Committee has changed and evolved over time, but the core function of logging and publishing bird records continues. The TOC Constitution specifies the primary role of the Records Councillor as follows:

*"The **Records Councillor** with the assistance of the Records Committee shall gather the significant reports of Club members and shall arrange to have them published."*

Other functions include responsibility for the Toronto Christmas Bird Count, reporting seasonal rarities to appropriate journals (currently North American Birds); maintaining records of Club outings, roundups, waterfowl counts etc. where feasible, and receiving reports from the Greater Toronto Raptor Watch, which operates as a subcommittee of the Records Committee. Prior to 2009, the Archivist also reported to TOC Council via the Records Councillor.

Starting in 1934 and continuing to 1986, the Records Committee maintained the TOC's observation records, as reported at meetings by members and guests, in six handwritten Log Books, covering the periods 1934-1943, 1943-1957, 1958-1967, 1967-1975, 1975-1981, and 1982-1986. Today, these logbooks can be found in the TOC Archives, and they make fascinating reading. However, by the 1980s it appears that the logbook tradition was gradually fading. An attempt was made to start producing annual Bird Reports, but in the end only four such reports were produced: for 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1989 respectively. All are now out-of-print, but copies can be found in the Archives. It seems that the people involved became burned out with the work involved in collecting and collating large quantities of observation records, especially when this had to be done manually. Then in 1989/90, as the last of these reports was being worked on, the TOC started to produce a monthly Newsletter, with George Fairfield as its first editor. This enabled significant records to be published month-by-month, providing members with more current information, hence the need for an 'Annual Report' was greatly diminished. At the same time, a database application designed specifically for logging bird observation records was developed by then new TOC member Roy Smith, and made available to TOC; it has been used to maintain the Club database ever since. This application immediately reduced the manual work involved in compiling a monthly report by about 90%, and was key to being able to produce these detailed reports on an ongoing basis. From 1990 to 2006, they appeared in the *TOC Newsletter*, but since 2007 the

Records Committee has produced its own publication *Toronto Birds*, an e-journal which in addition to the monthly bird report, includes photographs and bird-related notes and articles, with the emphasis on birds and birding in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

The Recording Area

The TOC's recording area is defined in Coady and Smith (2000), but in simple terms it encompasses the Greater Toronto Area, namely the *City of Toronto* itself, plus the Regional Municipalities of *Halton, Peel, York, and Durham*. The recording area also includes the 'pelagic' waters of Lake Ontario, south to the international boundary and a median line projected from the mouth of the Burlington Beach Canal out to the international boundary in Lake Ontario. In the north, the GTA encompasses about half of Lake Simcoe, including Georgina and Thorah Islands in *York and Durham Regions*, respectively. The land area of the GTA thus covers about 7124 km², but reporting of records is far from uniform across this area. In fact, about 70% of all reported Toronto records come from just 3 sites, namely Toronto Islands, Leslie Street Spit and High Park, and it can be confidently stated that over 90% of records in the TOC database come from locations on or close to the Lake Ontario shore. This probably tells us more about the behaviour of birders in the GTA than about bird distribution, but it does mean that other parts of the GTA are severely under-recorded. Hence, you are strongly encouraged to explore northern parts of the reporting region, especially the Regional Forests, the Niagara Escarpment in *Halton*, and the Lake Simcoe shores in *York and Durham*.

Formerly, the reporting region was a circle of 50km radius, centered on the Royal Ontario Museum at University Avenue and Bloor Street, *Toronto*. Some long-time TOC members still adhere to the circle for listing purposes, especially for winter listing, but one disadvantage of the circle is that it is often hard to know exactly where the boundary falls. The political/administrative boundaries of the Regional Municipalities are much easier to locate 'on-the-ground'. They can also be readily located on the provincial road map. One interesting feature of the 'Toronto Birding Circle' is that at its extreme northern edge it includes a small part of Simcoe County, in the Holland Marsh area; however some good birding sites such as Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, Nonquon Sewage Lagoons and Oshawa Second Marsh fall outside the circle.

The TOC Database

Although the TOC database is primarily focussed on the GTA, in practice many other records have accumulated from all over Ontario, even some from neighbouring states and provinces. These are typically added when they have some connection to one or more GTA records, for example part of a pattern of rarity occurrences, or cases where an individual rarity has moved into or out of the GTA. Others may have been added for comparative purposes e.g. peak counts, extreme dates etc. It should also be understood that although the database is fairly complete for the period 1989-present, it is still a work in progress. There is a large amount of historic data yet to be entered. It is a long-term goal of the Records Committee to continue with this 'backfilling' of historic data as time and circumstances permit. Currently the database holds over 192,000 records (May 2010).

The TOC database is a valuable resource, which grows progressively more useful as the years go by. However, it is a lot of work to maintain and keep up with the volume of records, especially now that 85% or so come from ONTBIRDS and other online sources. That said, the Records Committee would like to encourage all members to report their significant sightings on a regular basis. Reports can be submitted by email, fax or regular mail (check a recent issue of *Toronto Birds* for details). Members should be familiar with the Reporting Guidelines (Coady and Smith 2000), which indicate those records worthy of reporting in the GTA context, and those which require documentation. The general principle is this: we cannot handle all records since we would

get overwhelmed with masses of commonplace reports. So what we would like to see are reports of more unusual species, plus those qualifying in terms of number, dates etc. Flexibility and discretion is allowed for 'inland' sites, where lower thresholds may be acceptable than at sites along the waterfront. Please report promptly, so that the full picture is available. For example, if you know you will be away at month end, send in whatever you have before you leave. If you generate a significant volume of records, please submit them in two or three batches during the month, to help spread out the workload. All reports for a specific month are due by 8th of the following month *at latest*, but you should always aim to submit them immediately after month-end, which is most helpful to us. Prompt reports are especially significant at the end of February, May, July and November respectively, as these mark the cut off dates for quarterly reports to *North American Birds*. The Records Committee is currently responsible for reporting *Toronto, Peel* and *York* regions to *North American Birds*; while *Halton* and *Durham* are done by others.

If records are worth entering and storing in the database, then they should represent high quality data. Please try and avoid things like 200+. Do proper counts, or don't bother. Although the database can handle this type of data, it is rather tedious to enter. At a minimum, a record should have: species, # of birds (or estimate); date (or date range), time (if a rarity or sub-rarity) – this is so that they will list in correct date-time sequence; precise location, and one or more observers. Location data is very important, because one day everything will be geo-referenced for accurate plotting. Most reports come from well-known 'sites' which have been defined in the database (well over 1000 so far), and hence inherit 10km square and UTM data. But if you report something from an obscure one-off location, it will end up with ? for the UTM, unless the person doing data entry can allocate it precisely. Use your GPS for one-off locations (NAD 83), if you have one, or give the location in terms which allow it to be accurately located from a map. For example, 200m W of intersection of aaa Road and bbb Blvd. is instantly meaningful, whereas something like #56090 Yonge Street may be very precise, but could be in Rainy River for all we know. However, both pieces of information can be very useful for pinpointing an unfamiliar site. For records which fall on or close to a county boundary, please specify the county if there is any ambiguity.

Since data is entered in batches by month and county (region), it is very helpful to separate out records by county. Use a separate reporting sheet for each county (or draw a heavy line between data for different counties or regions) and list the records in date/location sequence, if at all possible, just as they occurred in the field. Do not try to put them in species sequence. The reason being that more data will 'default' this way, meaning less typing. Of course, if your report is being generated by software, then you may not have control over this. For large sites such as Toronto Islands, Leslie St Spit, Humber Bay Park etc, multiple sub-sites have been defined, which allow data to be located more precisely. These should always be used for rarer/more unusual species, or when all records relate to one sub-site within the main site. For example, most waterbird records from High Park will relate to Grenadier Pond, or possibly the South Duck Pond, and this should be specified if all were from one location. Likewise all hawk migration counts from High Park will relate to Hawk Hill, unless otherwise stated. In general, use the sub-sites for all cases of rarer or more unusual species. In some cases, which you should know about if you bird the affected locations, sub-sites are used to allocate data between different 10km squares, where a particular 'site' overlaps a square boundary. See Appendix 1 for some examples of sub-sites etc.

If you are acting as leader for a Jim Baillie Memorial Walk (JBMW), you have a special responsibility to do proper counts, and set an example to the less experienced birders on the walk. Reports from these walks **are** entered in the database, so they should be sent in as soon as possible after the event. If the walk relates to one site only, then your reported numbers relate to that one site, but in cases where the event becomes a birding trip along the lakeshore, please try and use separate columns for the main sites visited. At a minimum, all the more unusual species should be listed with their locations on the report form, so that they can be correctly allocated. Because most common species, recorded in small numbers, do not meet the

Reporting Guidelines, the data from the JBMWs may be the *only* records of those species going into the database these days. So please minimize usage of plus signs or checkmarks in the JBMW lists.

How to Submit Your Records

Although it is a long-term goal of the Records Committee to move towards online data entry, this option is a very long way off at the moment. Therefore, we have to follow the current methodology. If you have just a few records, an email is fine. Send them in right away, to spread out the workload. If you regularly submit reports, it may be easier to use a simple Excel spreadsheet (see below), which can be sent as an email attachment. If you do not have email access, regular mail is fine. But because all data has to be entered in the database before the monthly report can be generated, the deadlines are critical. Records received late are always added to the database, but it may not be possible to incorporate a late report in the *Toronto Birds* summary.

If you are reporting an observation on behalf of a third party, use the keyword ‘*fide*’. This indicates two things: (a) that you (the reporter) are not the actual observer, and (b) that you believe the report to be valid. It is your responsibility as the reporter to obtain correct details (date, location etc.).

If you regularly bird with friends then arrange for one person to be the ‘group reporter’ and provide the names of the others. Since not everyone will see every bird, you will need to ensure that data is correctly recorded for any of the rarer or more unusual records.

Lastly, please do NOT duplicate anything you have already reported to ONTBIRDS, as this causes a lot of extra work.

Example:

April 2010 - GTA Bird Report from John Doe

| Date | Species | # seen | Location | Region | Observers / Notes |
|--------|------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 2 Apr | Red-necked Grebe | 2 | LSS (Tip) | MT | |
| | Canvasback | 2 | LSS (Triangle Pond) | MT | |
| 15 Apr | Osprey | 2 (pr) | Boag Rd Tower, E of Leslie | YO | Also seen by xxxxxx |
| | | | GPS= 0623738 / 4892690 (on road) | | Back @ nest on communication tower |
| 25 Apr | Blue-winged Teal | 17 | N end Bathurst St | YO | |
| | Northern Pintail | 2 | | YO | <i>fide</i> John Smith |
| 27 Apr | Blue Grosbeak | 1 2Y-M | York Reg Forest – Porritt Tract | YO | @ 07:35h |
| | | | | | Copy of OBRC doc attached |

Note – it is ok to use the County/Region abbreviations as used in the database: namely MT= City of Toronto; HL = Halton R.M.; PL = Peel R.M.; YO = York R.M.; DU = Durham R.M.; LO = Lake Ontario pelagic. You are unlikely to use the ‘LO’ code unless you are out in a boat >3km from shore (GPS would be useful!). It is also ok to use the standard site abbreviations for the predominant Toronto sites, namely: TI = Toronto Islands, LSS = Leslie Street Spit; HP = High Park; HBP (E) or (W) = Humber Bay Park (East or West); CSSP = Colonel Sam Smith Park.

Records Which Should Be Documented

The Toronto Bird Rarities Committee (TBRC) operates at arm's length from the TOC, under its own Constitution. Apart from maintaining the official check list for the GTA (and the Toronto circle), its role is to review *documented* reports of local rarities and sub-rarities from within the TOC Recording Area. It also reviews high counts which would set a new record (all-time or seasonal), unusually early, late or unseasonal date records, and reports of first breeding in the GTA. It does not review any report which is covered by the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) at the provincial level.

The Reporting Guidelines are your guide in this respect, subject to the changes announced in the 2004 Report of the TBRC (Lang and Smith 2006), which apply from 1 January 2006 onwards. [These changes removed the documentation requirement for all reports of Cackling Goose, Sandhill Crane, Thayer's Gull, Tufted Titmouse and Hoary Redpoll, and for spring reports of Hooded Warbler]. There are basically 7 categories of documentable records: (a) OBRC rarities (please send us a copy of the OBRC documentation for the TBRC files); (b) species which are considered regionally rare in the GTA, such that all occurrences should be documented e.g. Yellow-throated Warbler; (c) species which require documentation in certain periods, but not others e.g. all breeding season and fall reports of Hooded Warbler; (d) reports which require documentation for Christmas Bird Count (CBC) purposes only; (e) reports which represent unusual dates (early, late, or unseasonal), (f) reports of high counts (seasonal or all-time), and (g) first breeding records for the GTA.

Preparing Good Documentation

When doing any type of documentation, please use the standard form and please take the time to complete it as fully as possible. Consider that you are writing a historic document, for a future researcher reading it in 10, 20, 50 or 100 years' time. Most likely they will not know you or your reputation or the conditions of that day, week or year. Therefore, do not assume anything. Write very clearly and neatly, using a black or blue pen, or complete a soft copy of the form on your computer. Whether submitted electronically or on paper, this form will be photocopied and/or scanned, and in any event the paper original will live in the archives for many years. Each form should be a standalone document, referring to one species/one occurrence (others can be cross-referenced in the 'circumstances' section if required). If you don't know the 10-km square, UTM or map # it is ok to leave these, and they will be filled in for you. In the experience section, give more detail rather than less. It is not enough to say you have been birding for 30 years, although that is useful. It is prior experience with the species or group that is more significant. In the weather section, take the time to check this and photocopy the synoptic map from a newspaper one or two days before, if it is likely to have had any influence at all on the species, numbers or date being reported upon. Back issues of papers such as 'Toronto Star' are readily available in the Toronto Reference Library at Yonge & Bloor. Local weather data can be extracted from the Environment Canada website: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca. If relevant, a Nexrad image could be captured and embedded in your documentation. Likewise, it is easy to embed a Google map in your document (www.maps.google.com/maps), and mark the exact location of a particular sighting using any basic graphics program.

The 'circumstances' section is very important – it is here that you 'set the scene' for the analyst. For example, were you following up a report on ONTBIRDS, starting your winter list on 1 December, or maybe just covering your local patch the same way you do every Saturday morning? All of this is potentially relevant, or could be, as to how the bird was discovered. Writing a good description is an art which can be cultivated, and improved with practice. For more information about the documentation of rarities see Hince (1984), Dittmann and Lasley (1992), or the online material by Alan Wormington and Peter Burke found on the OFO

website. Documentation is still needed, even if multiple good photos are available. There may be features not visible in photographs, such as behaviour and voice; while comparative aspects can only be described in terms of the observer's accumulated experience with the species. So while the description might be fairly short for a very distinctive species with a simple colour pattern such as American Avocet, you may well need additional pages if you had prolonged views of a rare sparrow or shorebird, or the bird was captured and full measurements taken. Having said that, a picture is worth a thousand words, and with today's ubiquitous digital technology, it should be possible to get some sort of photo-documentation in most cases. If digital photos are being submitted, please add a note as to what modifications, if any, have been made. Some 'cleaning up' of poor or excessively dark originals (adjusting brightness and contrast), or edge-sharpening may be ok, but beyond that one is starting on a slippery slope which will make the work of any rarities committee that much more difficult. If you feel that you have to adjust an image beyond those basic modifications, then you should submit the untouched original as well.

Clearly, the description will form the core of the documentation, unless the photos are unequivocal. Use the 'Circumstances' section to give an account of the sighting, and the 'Description' to put down every detail that was actually seen at the time. Preferably, this should be done before consulting reference books, online resources etc. The discussion of ID and how similar species were eliminated is always important, and could get quite detailed if, for example, high quality digiscoped photos were obtained, thus enabling a discussion of subspecies, molt and other fine points.

If you are documenting a high count, then it may not be necessary to describe the birds in detail (unless they represent a species which would otherwise need description), but details and discussion of *how the count was done* are important and necessary. Any counts by sub-areas would be basic to this, when dealing with one of the larger sites such as Toronto Islands or Leslie St. Spit. Some discussion of the count (were they counted by 5s, 10s, 100s or what?) and visibility, whether the birds were static or moving, and number of count repetitions, should always be included. Photo-documentation would be nice to have, if appropriate, even if only part of the concentration can be shown. Remember that high counts only apply to a specific site. If reporting a migration count from a hawk watch or bird observatory, always attach copies of the daily or hourly log sheets, and check that the totals do add up to the number claimed! If the high count is also unusual in terms of date, it should include some description and indication that the birds were correctly identified, otherwise future analysts will always wonder about this point (as might the current rarities committee!). Clearly, it is the finder's responsibility to document an unusual occurrence, or the 'designated counter', in the case of a high count from one of the hawkwatches. But sometimes the finder is negligent in this respect, or they may be a non-TOC member, or visiting from far away and do not know the local procedures etc. In this case, anyone who saw the bird should be able to step in and provide the documentation.

Please remember that there is a lot of work 'behind the scenes' in processing documentation forms, which can only start on receipt of the form. For every case where the bird (s) stays more than a day or so, a database report will be run, listing all the reports, and attached to the documentation. For unusual dates or high counts another database report will be run and attached, listing previous high counts and/or early/late dates etc. Typically, the original email reports to ONTBIRDS or other listservs will also be copied and attached. This is so that the TBRC has the full picture available when evaluating a report. A tracking # has to be assigned to each documentation and this can only be done 'cleanly' when all reports for that species have been received and entered. If there were any photos attached, the labeling has to be checked and copies printed to go with the documentation. Two copies of the entire documentation are then made (i.e. original plus 1 copy), plus 5 copies of the voting form. Only then can the original documentation plus voting forms be forwarded to the TBRC Secretary, and the process of circulation to TBRC commence. Meanwhile, the copy is retained for backup in case the original is lost during circulation. Eventually the original is incorporated in a 'working set' of documentations deposited in the TOC Archives (ROM Library), while the second copy is held with the TOC database for backup purposes.

Going forward, the TBRC intends to move to entirely digital documentation. Hard-copy documentations will be converted to PDF format and archived on CD or other media. This means that any materials not submitted in digital format will have to be scanned. So please help the process by using the standard form whenever possible, and always submitting any new documentation electronically in either Microsoft Word or plain text format.

Please feel free to ask any member of the Records Committee or Toronto Bird Rarities Committee about any aspect of bird reporting in the GTA, the documentation of local rarities, the role, scope and function of these Committees, the database and site definition etc, or requests for data from the database for your own private research. We welcome your interest and thank you for your cooperation.

TOC Records Committee, May 2010

REFERENCES AND INFORMATION SOURCES

- Dittmann, D.L. and G.W. Lasley.** 1992. How to Document Rare Birds. *Birding* 24(3):145-159.
- Coady, G. and Roy B. H. Smith.** 2000. Greater Toronto Area Bird Checklist and Reporting Guidelines – 2000. Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto. 84p.
- Hince, G.T.** 1984. Rare Bird Documentation: A Guideline. *Ontario Birds* 2(2):75-79.
- Lang, A.L. and Roy B.H. Smith.** 2006. Toronto Bird Rarities Committee Report for 2004. TOC Newsletter 166:1-6, June 2006.
- Wormington, A. W.** 2006. Why it is important to write rare bird reports. [online] <http://www.ofo.ca/obrc/guidelines.php>

APPENDIX 1 – Examples of sites and defined sub-sites for some important birding locations in *Toronto*.

Sites are identified in the database by site numbers, constructed with the format 'XX9999', where XX represents a 2 character county-code, and the 4-digit number supports up to 9999 sites per county/region. The numbers may change over time and so should not be used for any purpose external to the database. They are just shown here for interest and completeness. Also, many sites are currently being renumbered as part of general database maintenance. Sites have been defined to represent most of the significant birding locations within the GTA, and do not to cross county boundaries. New sites can be added when the number of reports warrants, or when substantial physical changes occur. A good example from recent times would be the (former) Coyote Pond in Markham, *York* which existed for a few years, but has since been completely filled in and disappeared! The site still exists in the database (because data is attached to it), but it is marked as *defunct*. Sites typically represent a 'management unit' e.g. a park, forest tract, sewage lagoon etc. or a location recognized by custom and practice as a 'site'. They can be as large as the Leslie Street Spit, or as small as the area referenced by a 6-figure UTM grid reference i.e. 100 x 100m or 1 hectare.

Large sites can have sub-sites defined within them, using a 3-character code. This allows for many possibilities. For example, Grenadier Pond and Hawk Hill are defined sub-sites, among others, within High Park. Again, the volume of reports, and physical characteristics, determine whether such definition is worthwhile. Another specific use for sub-sites is when a site crosses a 10-km square boundary. By separating the components, even if somewhat featureless, it allows any record allocated by sub-site to list under its correct 10-km square, whereas data allocated at the site level would get ? for the 10-km square, and hence ? for the UTM. Note an example of this under *Toronto Islands*, for Trout Pond and Trout Pond West. For most sites except the smallest, the UTM is a merely a representative point, but it is very useful for plotting purposes, while the link to atlassing is obvious. Please note that all 10-km square and UTM data is still maintained in NAD27. It has not yet been upgraded to NAD83.

When should you use sub-sites in your reports? Only when it makes sense to do so. Obviously, if you go to the Islands and cover the whole area, counting 352 White-throated Sparrows, we just want that number as a whole. We do not need a breakdown for a common species like this. But if they were all on Wards or Hanlans,

that would be interesting and worth recording. If you found a Carolina Wren singing, then the sub-site is worth recording, as it is 'rare enough' to be interesting. Sub-sites can also be used to identify specific territories within a site, if that is meaningful in a given context.

| Site # | Site Name | Square | UTM | Map | Sts | Flag |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| MT0001 | Toronto Islands | 17PU33 | 300300 | 30 | M/11 | A |
| A | Algonquin Island | 17PU33 | 325315 | 30 | M/11 | |
| B | Boardwalk | 17PU33 | 322310 | 30 | M/11 | |
| C | Centre Island | 17PU33 | 317307 | 30 | M/11 | |
| FI | Forestry Island | 17PU33 | 308305 | 30 | M/11 | |
| FP | Filtration Plant | 17PU33 | 304302 | 30 | M/11 | |
| G | Gibraltar Point | 17PU22 | 298298 | 30 | M/11 | |
| H | Hanlan's Point | 17PU23 | 298315 | 30 | M/11 | |
| IA | Island Airport | 17PU23 | 295315 | 30 | M/11 | |
| ISN | Island School (New) | 17PU33 | 307303 | 30 | M/11 | |
| ISO | Island School | 17PU32 | 304299 | 30 | M/11 | |
| M | Mugg's Island | 17PU33 | 303312 | 30 | M/11 | |
| NR | Nature Reserve | 17PU33 | 305305 | 30 | M/11 | |
| P | Pier | 17PU33 | 314303 | 30 | M/11 | |
| SH | Snug Harbour | 17PU33 | 317310 | 30 | M/11 | |
| SI | Snake Island | 17PU33 | 320313 | 30 | M/11 | |
| TP | Trout Pond | 17PU33 | 301301 | 30 | M/11 | |
| TPW | Trout Pond (West) | 17PU23 | 299301 | 30 | M/11 | |
| W | Ward's Island | 17PU33 | 325315 | 30 | M/11 | |
| WB | West Beach | 17PU23 | 296305 | 30 | M/11 | |

Notes: Subsite 'G' - Gibraltar Pt. - includes * in 17PU22.
 " 'ISO' - Island School - includes woods to W

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| MT0002 | Leslie Street Spit | 17PU33 | 350320 | 30 | M/11 | A |
| == | Eastern Headland | | | | | @ |
| == | Tommy Thompson Park | | | | | @ |
| A | Bay 'A' | 17PU33 | 338308 | 30 | M/11 | |
| B | Bay 'B' | 17PU33 | 340313 | 30 | M/11 | |
| BI | Blokpoel Islands | 17PU33 | 349323 | 30 | M/11 | |
| C | Bay 'C' | 17PU33 | 345317 | 30 | M/11 | |
| C1 | Cell #1 | 17PU33 | 351319 | 30 | M/11 | |
| C2 | Cell #2 | 17PU33 | 350315 | 30 | M/11 | |
| C3 | Cell #3 | 17PU33 | 347313 | 30 | M/11 | |
| CY | Causeway | 17PU33 | 354330 | 30 | M/11 | |
| D | Bay D | 17PU33 | 349322 | 30 | M/11 | |
| E | Endikement | 17PU33 | 352312 | 30 | M/11 | |
| F | Flats | 17PU33 | 345308 | 30 | M/11 | |
| GP | Goldfish Pond | 17PU33 | 340307 | 30 | M/11 | |
| H | Baselands | 17PU33 | 353340 | 30 | M/11 | |
| OHM | Outer Harbour Marina | 17PU33 | 350320 | 30 | M/11 | |
| PA | Peninsula A | 17PU33 | 336308 | 30 | M/11 | |
| PB | Peninsula B | 17PU33 | 337312 | 30 | M/11 | |
| PC | Peninsula C | 17PU33 | 342315 | 30 | M/11 | |
| PD | Peninsula D | 17PU33 | 347321 | 30 | M/11 | |
| PP | Pipit Point (SE Tip) | 17PU33 | 343305 | 30 | M/11 | |
| PX | Peninsula X | 17PU33 | 353325 | 30 | M/11 | |
| T | Tip | 17PU33 | 336302 | 30 | M/11 | |
| TBS | TTP Banding Station | 17PU33 | 347321 | 30 | M/11 | |
| TR | Triangle Pond | 17PU33 | 343311 | 30 | M/11 | |

Notes: The outermost peninsula is 'A', the innermost 'D' [PA-PD].
 Their respective bays are [A-D] -D is the Shorebird Bay.
 Cells 1-3 are numbered outwards, #3 has the swing bridge.

| MT0003 High Park | | 17PU23 | 239335 | 30 | M/11 | A |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| CL | Colborne Lodge | 17PU23 | 243328 | 30 | M/11 | |
| FML | Floral Maple Leaf area | 17PU23 | 239330 | 30 | M/11 | |
| GP | Grenadier Pond | 17PU23 | 237329 | 30 | M/11 | |
| HG | Hillside Gardens | 17PU23 | 238331 | 30 | M/11 | |
| HH | Hawk Hill | 17PU23 | 237335 | 30 | M/11 | |
| AG | Allotment Gardens | 17PU23 | 241334 | 30 | M/11 | |
| NDP | North Duck Pond | 17PU23 | 244331 | 30 | M/11 | |
| SDP | South Duck Pond | 17PU23 | 245328 | 30 | M/11 | |
| SR | Spring Road | 17PU23 | 243334 | 30 | M/11 | |
| WW | Wendigo Way Ravine | 17PU23 | 234338 | 30 | M/11 | |

Notes:

= in the sub-site column indicates an alternate site name (used for database lookup).
Likewise the '@' symbol in the status column indicates that it is not the primary name.