

Tommy Thompson Park / Leslie Street Spit

Bird Checklist

3rd edition, 2006



TommyThompsonPark

Toronto's Urban Wilderness

To date, 302, plus 11 recently introduced and exotic species, have been recorded at the park. The first checklist, Birds of the Leslie Street Spit, was produced by the Friends of the Spit in 1988.

In 2001, Tommy Thompson Park/Leslie Street Spit was declared an "Important Bird Area" of global significance due to the presence of significant concentrations of the following colonial waterbirds: Ring-billed Gulls, Black-crowned Night-Herons and Common Terns. Another factor was the large concentration of songbirds that migrate through the area during the spring and fall.

A number of restoration activities have been initiated to improve the terrestrial and aquatic habitat of the site. Areas of focus have been the toplands area, the western embayments and the inner cells.

Over 6 per cent of the world's breeding population of Ring-billed Gulls can be found at the Tommy Thompson Park/Leslie Street Spit (approximately 55,000 pairs). Impressive numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons can also be found; 31 per cent (1,265 nests) of Canada's breeding population was recorded at the site in 2000.

Large colonies of Double-crested Cormorants can be observed on Peninsulas A, B and C. Cormorants are competing for nest trees with the Black-crowned Night-Herons and have displaced them from Peninsula A and parts of Peninsula B. The primary Black-crowned Night-Heron colony is now restricted to parts of Peninsulas B and C. Note the difference in nest construction between these two species. A total of 6,125 cormorant nests were counted in 2006, plus 649 night-heron nests.

The Common Tern (the Tommy Thompson Park logo bird), is a beneficiary of the gull control program and habitat improvements, which include the nesting rafts provided by Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) and the Canadian Wildlife Service, in Cell 2 and Embayment D. Approximately 90 pairs of terns nest on each raft annually. In addition to the rafts, permanent tern nesting islands have been constructed in the Cell 1 wetland.

The park is an excellent place to observe owls throughout the winter. Look for Snowy Owls on the rocky parts of the endikement. Other species such as Great Horned, Northern Saw-whet, Boreal, Barred, Short-eared and Long-eared Owls can be found on the more sheltered western peninsulas. Please do not disturb roosting owls. If photographing, do not approach them and do not use a flash.

Sightings of birds which are regionally or provincially rare should be documented and the information submitted to the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC), care of TRCA and/or Friends of the Spit.

Enjoy the park, tread softly, take only memories and return often. And, please remember the park is Toronto's only car-and-dog-free wilderness.

Tommy Thompson Park / Leslie Street Spit

Bird Checklist

Seasons (set according to migration patterns)

S	Spring (March 1 - May 31)
SU	Summer (June 1 - August 15)
F	Fall (August 16 - November 30)
W	Winter (December 1 - February 28)

Abundance Codes

C	Common: Likely to be seen every day; present in large numbers or lesser numbers but found throughout the area.
U	Uncommon: Not expected daily but seen occasionally, always in low numbers (except flocking species, which are sometimes numerous).
R	Rare: Present in very low numbers but observed annually.
A	Accidental: Status based on very few records; often out of geographic range. Require documentation.
*	Species has bred at Tommy Thompson Park/Leslie Street Spit.



TommyThompsonPark

Toronto's Urban Wilderness

Cover photo: Willow Flycatcher nest with one Brown-headed Cowbird egg (bottom centre egg). Cowbirds are brood parasites, laying their eggs in the nests of a wide range of other bird species. Photo taken June 2005 at Tommy Thompson Park.

Species		S	SU	F	W	Dates	
Ducks, Geese and Swans							
A	Greater White-fronted Goose						
	Snow Goose	R					
	Cackling Goose	U		U			
*	Canada Goose	C	C	C	C		
	Brant	R		R			
*	Mute Swan	C	C	C	C		
	Tundra Swan	R		R	R		
	Wood Duck	U		U			
*	Gadwall	C	C	C	C		
A	Eurasian Wigeon						
	American Wigeon	C		C	C		
*	American Black Duck	C	C	C	C		
*	Mallard	C	C	C	C		
*	Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C			
	Northern Shoveler	C		C			
	Northern Pintail	R		R	R		
	Green-winged Teal	C		C	R		
*	Canvasback	C	C	C	U		
*	Redhead	C		C	C		
	Ring-necked Duck	U		U	U		
	Greater Scaup	C		C	C		
	Lesser Scaup	U		U	U		
A	King Eider						
	Harlequin Duck			R	R		
	Surf Scoter	U		U	U		
	White-winged Scoter	C		C	C		
	Black Scoter	R		R	R		
	Long-tailed Duck	C		C	C		
	Bufflehead	C		C	C		
	Common Goldeneye	C		C	C		
A	Barrow's Goldeneye						
	Hooded Merganser	C	C	C	C		
	Common Merganser	C		C	C		
	Red-breasted Merganser	C		C	C		
	Ruddy Duck	U					

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates
Partridges and Grouse					
A* Ring-necked Pheasant					
Loons and Grebes					
Red-throated Loon	R		R		
Common Loon	C		C	R	
Pied-billed Grebe	R		R		
Horned Grebe	U		U		
Red-necked Grebe	C		C	R	
A Eared Grebe					
Gannets and Pelicans					
A Northern Gannet					
A American White Pelican					
Cormorants					
* Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	R	
A Great Cormorant					
Hérons and Bitterns					
American Bittern	R		R		
Least Bittern	R				
* Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	R	
* Great Egret	C	C	C		
A Snowy Egret					
A Tricolored Heron					
A Cattle Egret					
Green Heron	U	U	U		
* Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C		
A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron					
A Glossy Ibis					
Vultures					
Turkey Vulture	U		U		
Hawks, Eagles and Falcons					
Osprey	U		U		
Bald Eagle			R	R	
Northern Harrier	C		C	U	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	C		C		
Cooper's Hawk	C		C	U	
Northern Goshawk	R		R	R	

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates
Red-shouldered Hawk			R		
Broad-winged Hawk			R		
Red-tailed Hawk	U		U R		
Rough-legged Hawk			R U		
A Golden Eagle					
* American Kestrel	C	C	C C		
Merlin	U		U		
A Gyrfalcon					
Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R R		
Rails, Gallinules and Coots					
A Yellow Rail					
* Virginia Rail	R	R	R		
* Sora	R	R	R		
Common Moorhen	R	R	R		
American Coot	U		U U		
Cranes					
A Sandhill Crane					
Plovers					
Black-bellied Plover	C		C		
American Golden-Plover			R		
Semipalmated Plover	C		C		
A Piping Plover					
* Killdeer	C	C	C		
Stilts and Avocets					
A Black-necked Stilt					
A American Avocet					
Sandpipers and Phalaropes					
Greater Yellowlegs	C		C		
Lesser Yellowlegs	C		C		
Solitary Sandpiper	U		U		
Willet	R		R		
* Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Upland Sandpiper	R		R		
Whimbrel	U	R	R		
Hudsonian Godwit	R		R		
A Marbled Godwit					

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates
Ruddy Turnstone	C		C		
Red Knot	R		R		
Sanderling	U		U		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	U	U		
A Western Sandpiper					
Least Sandpiper	C	C	C		
White-rumped Sandpiper	R		R		
Baird's Sandpiper		R	R		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U		
Purple Sandpiper			R	R	
Dunlin	C		C		
Stilt Sandpiper			R		
A Buff-breasted Sandpiper					
Short-billed Dowitcher	U		U		
Long-billed Dowitcher			R		
Wilson's Snipe	U		U		
* American Woodcock	C	C	U		
A* Wilson's Phalarope					
A Red-necked Phalarope					
A Red Phalarope					
Skuas, Gulls, Terns and Skimmers					
A Pomarine Jaeger					
A Parasitic Jaeger					
A Laughing Gull					
A Franklin's Gull					
A Little Gull					
A Black-headed Gull					
Bonaparte's Gull	R		R		
A Heermann's Gull					
* Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C	C	
A* California Gull					
* Herring Gull	C	C	C	C	
Thayer's Gull	R			R	
Iceland Gull	R			R	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	R			R	
Glaucous Gull	R			R	

	Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates	
*	Great Black-backed Gull	C	C	C	C		
A	Black-legged Kittiwake						
*	Caspian Tern	C	C	C			
*	Common Tern	C	C	C			
A	Forster's Tern						
	Black Tern	R	R				
Pigeons and Doves							
*	Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C		
*	Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C		
Cuckoos							
*	Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U			
A	Yellow-billed Cuckoo						
Owls							
	Eastern Screech-Owl			R	R		
	Great Horned Owl	R		U	C		
	Snowy Owl	R			R		
	Barred Owl				R		
A	Great Gray Owl						
	Long-eared Owl	U		U	U		
	Short-eared Owl	R	R	R	R		
A	Boreal Owl						
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	U		C	U		
Goatsuckers							
	Common Nighthawk	U	U	U			
	Whip-poor-will	R		R			
Swifts							
	Chimney Swift	C	C	C			
Hummingbirds							
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C		C			
Kingfishers							
*	Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C			
Woodpeckers							
	Red-headed Woodpecker	R		R			
A	Red-bellied Woodpecker						
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		C			
*	Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C		

	Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates	
	Hairy Woodpecker	U		U	U		
*	Northern Flicker	C	C	C			
A	Pileated Woodpecker						
Tyrant Flycatchers							
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		R			
*	Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C			
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U			
A	Acadian Flycatcher						
	Alder Flycatcher	C		U			
*	Willow Flycatcher	C	C	C			
*	Least Flycatcher	C	C	C			
	Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C			
	Great Crested Flycatcher	U		U			
A	Western Kingbird						
*	Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C			
Shrikes							
A	Loggerhead Shrike						
	Northern Shrike			R	R		
Vireos							
A	White-eyed Vireo						
	Yellow-throated Vireo	R		R			
	Blue-headed Vireo	U		U			
*	Warbling Vireo	C	C	C			
	Philadelphia Vireo	U		U			
	Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C			
Crows and Jays							
	Blue Jay	C		C	R		
*	American Crow	U	U	U	U		
A	Common Raven						
Larks							
*	Horned Lark	C		C	U		
Swallows							
	Purple Martin	U		U			
*	Tree Swallow	C	C	C			
*	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C			
*	Bank Swallow	C	C	C			

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U				
* Barn Swallow	C	C	C				
Chickadees and Titmice							
* Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C			
A Boreal Chickadee							
A Tuffed Titmouse							
Nuthatches							
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U				
White-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	U			
Creepers							
Brown Creeper	C		C				
Wrens							
A Carolina Wren							
* House Wren	U	U	U				
Winter Wren	C		C	R			
A Sedge Wren							
Marsh Wren	R						
Kinglets							
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C	U			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C				
Gnatcatchers							
* Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U				
Thrushes							
Eastern Bluebird	U		U				
Veery	C		C				
Gray-cheeked Thrush	C		C				
Swainson's Thrush	C		C				
Hermit Thrush	C		C				
Wood Thrush	U		U				
* American Robin	C	C	C				
Mockingbirds and Thrashers							
* Gray Catbird	C	C	C				
Northern Mockingbird	R		R	R			
* Brown Thrasher	U	U	U				
Starlings							
* European Starling	C	C	C	C			

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates		
Pipits							
American Pipit	U		U	R			
Waxwings							
A Bohemian Waxwing							
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C				
Warblers							
Blue-winged Warbler	R		R				
Golden-winged Warbler	R		R				
Tennessee Warbler	U		U				
Orange-crowned Warbler	R		R				
Nashville Warbler	C		C				
Northern Parula	U		U				
* Yellow Warbler	C	C	C				
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C				
Magnolia Warbler	C		C				
Cape May Warbler	U		U				
Black-throated Blue Warbler	C		C				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C				
Black-throated Green Warbler	C		C				
Blackburnian Warbler	C		C				
Pine Warbler	R		R				
A Kirtland's Warbler							
A Prairie Warbler							
Palm Warbler	C		C				
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U				
Blackpoll Warbler	C		C				
A Cerulean Warbler							
Black-and-white Warbler	U		U				
American Redstart	C		C				
A Prothonotary Warbler							
Ovenbird	C		C				
Northern Waterthrush	U		U				
A Louisiana Waterthrush							
A Kentucky Warbler							
A Connecticut Warbler							
Mourning Warbler	U		U				

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates		
* Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C				
A Hooded Warbler							
Wilson's Warbler	C		C				
Canada Warbler	U		U				
A Yellow-breasted Chat							
Tanagers							
A Summer Tanager							
Scarlet Tanager	U		U				
Emberizids							
Eastern Towhee	U		U				
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C			
Chipping Sparrow	U	U	U				
Clay-colored Sparrow	R		R				
Field Sparrow	U		U				
Vesper Sparrow	R		R				
A Lark Sparrow							
* Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C				
Grasshopper Sparrow	R		R				
A Henslow's Sparrow							
A Le Conte's Sparrow							
A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow							
Fox Sparrow	U		U				
* Song Sparrow	C	C	C	U			
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U				
Swamp Sparrow	C		C				
White-throated Sparrow	C		C	U			
White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	U			
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C			
Lapland Longspur	U		U	R			
Snow Bunting	U		U	U			
Cardinals and Allies							
* Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		U				
Indigo Bunting	U		U				
A Dickcissel							

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates		
Blackbirds							
Bobolink	U		U				
* Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C				
* Eastern Meadowlark	U	U	U				
A Yellow-headed Blackbird							
Rusty Blackbird	U		U				
A Brewer's Blackbird							
* Common Grackle	C	C	C				
* Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C				
* Orchard Oriole	R	R					
* Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C				
Finches							
A Pine Grosbeak							
Purple Finch	U		U	R			
* House Finch	U	U	U	R			
A Red Crossbill							
A White-winged Crossbill							
Common Redpoll	U		U	U			
Hoary Redpoll	R		R	R			
Pine Siskin	R		R	R			
A Lesser Goldfinch							
* American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C			
Evening Grosbeak	R		R	R			
Old World Sparrows							
* House Sparrow	C	C	C	C			

Species	S	SU	F	W	Dates		
Recent Introductions and Exotics							
Trumpeter Swan	U	U	U				
A Barnacle Goose							
A Mandarin Duck							
A Ruddy Shelduck							
A Common Shelduck							
A* Northern Bobwhite							
A Black-billed Magpie							
A Monk Parakeet							
A Budgerigar							
A European Goldfinch							
A Common Canary							