

day with little wind and we were able to approach the bird at a slow speed. It became obvious that the bird, far from consigning itself to a watery grave, was actively feeding on clouds of tiny flying insects hanging in the still air. The bird was fluttering constantly, sometimes very low but sometimes as much as five metres above the water, and for several brief moments it rested on the rigging of the sailboat, where it was clearly seen to be a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*).

No other passerines were

observed on the lake that day, but on more than one occasion previously I have observed a Ruby-crowned Kinglet reaching the north shore of Lake Ontario in an almost exhausted state, having obviously flown directly across the lake in migration. I would assume that this southbound bird had delayed its journey to profit by an easy food supply or had encountered the insects en route. Its jerky, active, fluttering flight continued unabated as we lost sight of it some ten to fifteen minutes later.

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Book Review

Toronto Region Bird Chart. 1983. By *Bruce D. Parker*. Toronto Field Naturalists, 83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto M5M 2T4. ii & 30 pp. \$2.00 & \$0.50 postage.

The *Toronto Region Bird Chart* represents a compilation of a large amount of data on the occurrence of birds within 48 kilometres of the Royal Ontario Museum in downtown Toronto. I have found similar charts to be very useful for indicating what birds to expect when visiting new areas, and I expect that this chart will serve the same function for visitors to the Toronto region. Unfortunately, the introductory section preceding the actual chart, is very brief. There is a very limited section dealing with the location and some general features of the Toronto region. However, a visitor unfamiliar with

the region would gain virtually nothing from this section. At the very least, a map showing the location of the region, along with some of the major features in it, should have been included here. The other introductory sections, dealing with notekeeping and birding ethics, are useful for both visitors and residents of the region. It is important that we document our records properly, and we must continually remind ourselves about respecting the property rights of others. The section on notekeeping should have acknowledged the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, from which the breeding

evidence categories were taken, and more emphasis should have been placed on documenting unusual birds thoroughly, rather than simply stating "... a brief note describing the bird and what it is doing."

The bulk of this publication is composed of the bird chart. It attempts to summarize all of the bird records for the Toronto region with bar graphs. The lines and symbols on the graph provide an indication of status in every month of the year. In addition to the bar graphs, assessments of breeding status, changes in status over the last 25 years, and winter status (based on the Toronto Regional Christmas Bird Counts) are provided. This chart is generally very well done. In a few cases, however, the symbols are not clear. For example, the symbols indicating that a Great Cormorant had occurred in the region from early December to late March are not clearly visible throughout that period. The thickness of the bars varies in some cases, because they were hand-drawn with a pen (see, for example, the bar for Canada Goose). This can be misleading with regard to status, since bar thickness is related to seasonal abundance. If the production of this graph had been done more carefully, perhaps using *Letraset*

lines of constant thickness, this problem could have been avoided. The bordering and other chart lines are not always aligned properly, giving the impression of messiness in some parts of the chart.

One can always quibble with the status of certain species in charts such as these. I don't want to belabour the point, but surely some shorebirds are abundant during the peak of migration. The only shorebird listed as abundant at any time is Killdeer!

Following the chart are lists of accidentals and their dates of occurrence, extirpated species, and extinct species. These are interesting and fascinating additions to this publication. I might point out, however, that there is convincing evidence of the continued existence of Eskimo Curlew in very low numbers (it isn't extinct yet!).

In this review, I have noted a few content and production deficiencies and omissions which tend to reduce the potential usefulness of the publication. Nevertheless, the chart does provide a very useful summary of a lot of data, and it should give bird-watchers some idea of what to expect at any time of the year in the Toronto region.

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Corrections

In Ontario Birds Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 72, the breeding distribution of Henslow's Sparrow in the Ottawa area was inadvertently omitted in Figure 1.