

## Guidebook for the Hugh Currie Linear Broadwing Blitz

Because the High Park Raptor Watch had such a poor showing of Broadwings we decided on what we thought was a brilliant new idea. If the hawks were moving from Northeast to Southwest somewhere North of High Park a line of watchers posted from High park North to, say, Barrie, ought to catch the migrants if we watched either on the right day or, more likely, during the right week. When I first announced this I thought I had a novel idea but then I got an email from Hugh Currie to look him up at the next TOC meeting. When I did, he handed me a yellowed map. It had positions staked out from Lakeshore to Holland Marsh and was apparently executed, with tremendous success, by the cream of Toronto's birding crop. (no puns after this, I promise.) Anyway - the date? 1952! So here we go again - this one's for Hugh! (sorry)

You will find location descriptions plus co-ordinates for locations I tried to space evenly from Lakeshore blvd., Toronto, all the way up Jane St. to Hwy9 with a switch over to Yonge Street and a route all the way up to Port Severn. Most of Jane Street is ok to excellent for watching the skies. If you happen to land on a co-ordinate that doesn't seem right for Broadwing observation, you will probably find it is near a Tim Horton's and that there is a good Hawkwatching spot somewhere nearby. Coffee, snacks, washroom, Broadwings - in that order.

It will keep you going all day.

Last year we posted a dozen or so volunteers spaced out (well, you know what I mean) all up the South part of that route as far as Hwy.9. They only saw 20 or so Broadwings and the weather was terrible but everyone had a good time. They all said they would come back again this year so, always easily encouraged, I decided to extend the watch North just a bit.

Holland Marsh, although a most interesting place, is totally devoid of any conveniences so if you plan to set up your observation site there you will likely be richly rewarded with Broadwings but take a bottle of water, a few snacks and a cellphone with a map in it. I'm an old hand at trailbusting but I must have gone around Holland marsh 6 times without finding the exit I wanted. I was practically crying, good thing I was alone. So for Heavens sake stick to the main roads.

From Holland Marsh to Barrie I tried to give you intersections spaced out fair and evenly. If the spot at your co-ordinate does not appear advantageous: 1. look to the East and West for open country and ridgelines that Broadies might follow, and 2. a Tim Hortons.

After fussing around in Barrie at the West end of Kempenfeldt Bay (hope I got my directions right) the road turns roughly North and passes through farm country. The observation sites may not be exactly the same distance apart and you may be wise to mark the passage of Tim Hortonses in case you have to go back.

Once you get on to Hwy.400 the stops are all exits from the Highway and were chosen for that reason because the exits are far apart. Port Severn is where I stopped because I realized I was in Broadwing breeding country as opposed to the migration flightpath.

If you want to use any of this map I would be pleased, as I think it must run under the Broadwing migration path somewhere, no matter where they choose to fly. And heck, I spent a lot of time making this, got lost almost forever in Holland Marsh, ate a lot of pulled pork and breakfast sandwiches and stuff and drank a lot of coffee which can't be good.

But if you're up at the cottage, or you live somewhere off the line, and don't want to come out for the Blitz you can still contribute in a meaningful way and have some fun. The way things have been going, any observation will be welcome. Plus if everybody comes out on the same day, lines up South to North and we miss the flights because of the weather or whatever, your off-

the -map observations are going to become really valuable. Just keep looking up in the clouds late morning to early afternoon as many days as you can from middle to late September and email me if you see any Broaddies. Or better still, send your observations to ONTBIRDS as well. Include the place, time, wind direction, co-ordinates if you can, number of birds roughly, their direction of travel, and whether they were in a kettle or otherwise.

Don't give up easily, please - you're doing great Citizen Science.

I think we should all get out and occupy all or part of the 30 or so observation points you see on your list. Or if you travel with company, one person drives while the others scan the skies. That way you can watch on the move and cover more ground. But I'm not lending anyone my Mini Convertible. If we're going to pick just one day and make it an all-out effort it should be Saturday, Sept. 17, with a make-up Sunday, Sept. 18 if we get skunked or it rains.

I'm a dreamer, aren't I? And I hope you are too.

Happy Hawking,

Tim

### The Stops

1. Casimir Gzowski Park - N42.63788 W79.45530. Southernmost point where you are likely to see Broadwings and a pleasant place to spend the day. Conveniences all nearby.
2. Hawk Hill, High Park - N43.64594 W79.46542. Nucleus of High Park Raptorwatch. Expert Hawk watchers there each day from Sep. 1 til end of Nov. Restaurant, washrooms, excellent company.
3. Bloor and Jane St.- N43.64933 W79.48445. Easy to reach by TTC. You will be expected to stay out of the Dark Horse until your watching stint is through. Have one for me.
4. Jane and Dundas - N43.66570 W79.49117. You'll see all the Broadwings everybody else brags about.
5. Jane and Wilson - N43.72099 W79.50874 Not the prettiest part of town but the Broaddies don't mind.
6. Jane and Steeles (Beechwood Cemetery) N43.78330 W79.52196 Where you might end up if you get mugged at 5.
7. Jane and Hwy 7 N 43.79770 W 79.52046
8. Jane and Major MacKenzie N 43.83746 W 79.53707
9. Jane and King/ Vaughan Rd. N 43.89848 W 79.54003
10. Jane and Lloydtown/Aurora Rd.(18th s.r.) N 44.00198 W 79.57741
11. Jane and Hwy 9 N 44.03137 W 79.58286

This is as far as we got last year. The only birds seen all day were at Holland Marsh  
We now take a small jog West over to road Rupke Rd. and turn right (North) which will shortly

become River Rd. You get confused in there because a lot of roads go in with one name and come out with another. Next stop:

12. River Rd and #8 - Springdale Church parking lot and what a great place to watch for Broadwings. No conveniences available unless you want religion. N 44.04286 W 79.61252

13. Canal Rd. and Simcoe Rd. N 44.08321 W 79.58265 Turn left onto Simcoe Rd. and it in various guises, mostly Yonge St., will take you all the way to Barrie.

14. Simcoe Rd. and Holland St. N 44.11608 W 79.56649 Tim Hortons rt. on holland 1 block

15. Mt. Pleasant Cemetary N 44.14265 W 79.56709 Cemeteries are good because nobody minds if you're there. Sometimes too many trees for a good view.

16. Jct. Hwy4 and 89 N 44.21387 W 79.58346 gas stn.

17. Jct. 4 and 21 - Innisfil Recreational Complex N 44.30025 W 79.60514

18. Lockhart Rd. Stroud. N 44.33262 W 79.61205 Just past Tim Horton's

19. Yonge St. and Huronia Rd. N 44.37006 W 79.66196. Huronia would have been a good Rte. North but for lack of amenities.

You can get lost in Barrie just as easy as Holland Marsh. So do this: Yonge St. turns into Burton Ave. Turn Right onto Essa Rd., Left onto Bradford St., Right onto Simcoe, Right onto Dunlop which turns into Blake which eventually becomes Penetanguishene Road (Hwy.93)

20. Penetanguishene Rd. and Georgian Dr. N 44.40720 W 79.65678 Tim Hortons 2 streets left on Georgian. Must be a good Hawk viewing spot somewhere close.

21. Chappell Farms N 44.43525 W 79.64524 Good viewing spot.

22. Penetanguishene and Sideroad 20/21 N 44.46598 W 79.65648 Look around for a spot.

23. Jct. Hwy 22 - Craighurst N 44.52047 W 79.70541

24. Go over 400 to Cassell Dr. N 44.55130 W 79.72850

Go back and get on Hwy.400 North. The rest of the stops were picked simply because they are turnoffs and there aren't very many.

25. Hwy.400 and Mt. St. Louis Rd. - Moonstone N 44.62560 W 79.66404 Try and get up on that ridge somehow. Its a very birdy-looking spot.

26. 400 and Moonstone Rd. N 44.65980 W 79.65163

27. 400 and Hwy 23 N 44.70487 W 79.65249 Turnoff for Coldwater maybe there's even a You Know What. Or better still, Mom and Pop.

28. 400 and 12/16 N 44.74560 W 79.68335 I never got this far so take a look around Waubaushene. (Just for fun try saying Waubaushene and sneezing at the same time.)

You are now on the legendary TransCanada Highway. Its 575.3 Km, 6 hours 50 minutes

to Sault Ste. Marie.

29. Port Severn Road. N 44.80062 W 79.69137 Go have a look around Port Severn.

30. 400 and Nicholson's Rd. N 44.85733 W 79.71863 Can't blame you if you never come back but its Go home Bay.

31. 400 and Crooked Bay Rd. N 44.91871 W 79.74746 And I think we've gone far enough. Next time bring your canoe for the most wonderful and accessible 3 day paddle trip I've ever been on <http://www.myccr.com/canoeroutes/gibson-macdonald-route>

Happy Hawking,

Tim