

# PIBO Migration Summary

## April 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013



*Prothonotary Warbler*

It was a busy and productive ten days at the Point from April 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> thanks in part to six days of southerly winds at the end of the month. It remained cool up to the 27<sup>th</sup>, with dawn temperatures averaging around 3° C, but migration remained consistent and a good variety of species were noted in moderate numbers. In all, 22 spring ‘firsts’ were recorded during the summary period, including a number of unusual species.

Northeast winds and a chilly 1° C greeted staff on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>, but there were quite a few birds around, with 52 species recorded during the ‘count’ period, including the first Red-breasted Nuthatches of the spring and a **White-eyed Vireo**. April 22<sup>nd</sup> saw a similar mix of species – swallows were numerous along the west beach, with over 100 birds of four species observed, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were active, with 26 and 13 individuals recorded, respectively.

The wind remained from the north and migrant numbers tapered off on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – a Cooper’s Hawk and Ovenbird were both new for the year – and a blustery and very rainy morning on April 24<sup>th</sup> made for a fairly quiet time, with just 34 species tallied on the census. But things turned around the next day and staff were greeted with a busy morning on the 25<sup>th</sup>. More than 200 swallows were observed feeding over Fox Pond including 85 Barn, 51 Tree, ones-and-twos of Bank and Northern Rough-winged, and the

season's first Cliff Swallow. Fifty-five species were documented, including a banded male **Prothonotary Warbler** and a singing **White-eyed Vireo**.

It was cool (2° C) and clear on the 26<sup>th</sup> and there wasn't much to report apart from the first Veery of the spring, still lots of swallows, and small numbers of three warbler and five sparrow *spp*. The next day was generally quiet as well, with 46 species recorded in small numbers, but a few new arrivals included a Warbling Vireo and Black-and-white Warbler, along with a banded **Louisiana Waterthrush**. It rained most of the day on April 28<sup>th</sup> and just the census and a few hours of netting were conducted. Forty-eight species were tallied including a **Northern Mockingbird**.

It was extremely foggy and migrants were fairly sparse in the morning on April 29<sup>th</sup>, but an afternoon walk along the beach at the PIBO cottage (part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up) produced 50 balloons, a Red-headed Woodpecker, and PIBO's first recorded **Henslow's Sparrow**. The final day of the summary period was similar to the preceding four days – our official daily species count for the last five days of April was remarkably consistent: April 30<sup>th</sup> (45 DT), 29<sup>th</sup> (48), 28<sup>th</sup> (48), 27<sup>th</sup> (46) and 26<sup>th</sup> (44). While there were no large concentrations of birds, a nice range of species was tallied on the 30<sup>th</sup> including spring 'firsts' for Hooded Merganser, Wood Thrush, Yellow Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

*PIBO's next summary will be posted on May 12<sup>th</sup>.*

Photo: Sumiko Onishi