

PIBO Migration Summary

April 1st – 10th, 2016



Tree Swallows (Sumiko Onishi)

PIBO's 14th migration research season kicked off at Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve on April 1st under cloudy skies, with strong winds from the southwest, and a mild 9° C. April's dawn chorus – robins, redwings, flickers, golden-crowned kinglets, and others – confirmed spring was here after a long, mostly silent, winter on Pelee Island. A nice mix of thirty-four species was recorded on the 90-minute census including lots of waterbirds – pied-billed grebes, coots, shovelers, blue-winged teals, ring-necked ducks, and hooded mergansers, among others – small groups of golden-crowned kinglets and creepers sheltered from the wind on the east shore, and a couple of white-breasted nuthatches. A somewhat balmy start was quickly followed by a cold snap on the 3rd when staff were greeted by minus-three degree temperatures along with snow and strong southwest winds. Lots of waterfowl remained in the area but songbirds tapered off apart from small numbers of phoebes, yellow-rumped warblers, and winter wrens. The 4th was active, with 41 species noted on the morning walk, including 25 northern shovelers, 10 phoebes, and 250 tree swallows.

The wind eased up on April 5th but it remained below freezing. A group of 380 Bonaparte's gulls was noted on the census that day along with the first 'standard' records for yellow-bellied sapsucker and hermit thrush. The first common loon of the season fly over the tip on April 6th. Hundreds of redwings and smaller groups of grackles and cowbirds were noted in the count area, including a number of males back on their summer territories. More rain and a mild 6° C on the 7th produced a couple of singing swamp sparrows and a ruddy duck at Fox Pond. The resident Cooper's hawk was observed the same day along with 46 Buffleheads and eight other waterfowl species. An eastern towhee and some rusty blackbirds on April 8th were both new for 2016, and 90 tree swallows on the morning count were part of a group of thousands recorded on the island that day. A great egret and 3 bald eagles were highlights on the 10th. PIBO's standardized bird banding program will get underway on April 15th. Happy Spring!

PIBO's next migration summary will be posted on April 22nd.

Species recorded on Pelee Island from April 1 - 10, 2016

Common Loon	Downy Woodpecker
Pied-billed Grebe	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Horned Grebe	Yellow-shafted Flicker
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Phoebe
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay
Great Egret	American Crow
Turkey Vulture	Horned Lark
Canada Goose	Tree Swallow
Wood Duck	Black-capped Chickadee
Gadwall	White-breasted Nuthatch
American Wigeon	Brown Creeper
Mallard	Carolina Wren
Blue-winged Teal	Winter Wren
Northern Shoveler	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Green-winged Teal	Eastern Bluebird
Redhead	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Hermit Thrush
Bufflehead	European Starling
Common Goldeneye	Cedar Waxwing
Hooded Merganser	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Northern Cardinal
Red-breasted Merganser	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	American Tree Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Field Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	White-throated Sparrow
American Kestrel	Song Sparrow
American Coot	Swamp Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Eastern Meadowlark
American Woodcock	Brown-headed Cowbird
Bonaparte's Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Rusty Blackbird
Herring Gull	Common Grackle
Great Black-backed Gull	House Finch
Mourning Dove	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	House Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	73 species