

PIBO migration summary November 1st to 10th

Many birds were continuously coming though for this period. Mostly, **Red-winged** and **Rusty Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles**, **Eastern Bluebirds**, and **American Goldfinches**. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were numerous, and quite a few **Red-tailed Hawks** were around.

There were dark grey clouds on the north side when I drove to Fish Point on November 1st. It was a changeable and impatient weather system. Soon after I started the census, it began to hail and then rain but cleared with blue sky by the end of my walk. Many leaves were whirling in the gust, and birds were quickly leaving as the inclement weather hurried them on. The strong west winds remained for the next three mornings (from November 2nd to 4th). A couple of **Killdeers** and a **Greater Yellowlegs** flew over at the pond, and I observed numerous **Common Goldeneyes** on the shore. On November 4th, the winds shifted to the south-west, warming up (10C) and I spied three **Black-bellied Plovers** on the beach.

Thousands of blackbirds coming through had been seen from November 5th to 7th. November 8th was another busy morning with observing hundreds of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** with one **Nashville Warbler** spotted amongst them. Along with the blackbirds, there were a variety of other species – quite a few robins, bluebirds, waxwings, and goldfinches. At the tip, several **Belted Kingfishers** and a group of **Horned Larks** appeared in the blue sky. I saw many **American Pipits**, some flying over and some walking along the shore as well as a hundred **Chipping Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** feeding in the dry grasses along the beach. Hearing so many different flight calls above often distracted me from focusing on finding birds hopping around lower to the ground. In the distance, there were more than a hundred waterfowls on the water.

The wind had been south for the last several days, but the skyway of migratory birds flew in the wind like rush hour. Two **Tree Swallows** with folded wings were seen flying in the wind. Also, numerous **Red-breasted Mergansers** showed up along the shore on November 9th. November 10th concluded the final census. Thousands of blackbirds could still be seen, and hundreds of **American Goldfinches** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** flew over. It made me wonder how many blackbirds existed. Quite a few **Red-bellied** and **Downy Woodpeckers** had been seen for the last couple of days, and a hundred **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were hopping around along the trail this morning.

The most exciting sighting for me was eleven **Eastern Meadowlarks** together in the sky at the tip yesterday, which was unique from what we had seen during our migration monitoring. We generally focus on an individual of different species for bird watching, but bird watching for migration monitoring focuses on the dynamic ecology of birds. Pelee Island is a unique place to observe such bird ecology and people who live on the island witness hundreds of different species coming through every year.

Many thanks to my co-worker Suzanne and my partner Graeme who encouraged me to write the summaries for the season and spent extra time editing my writing. Also, thanks to you for being a good reader of my recaps! I hope the outlines gave you some idea of what was going on for the migration season. Thank you for supporting PIBO and have a good winter! See you in the spring!!