



Banding Summary

June 1-10, 2022

Dear friends and supporters of PIBO,

Although we finished banding at the end of May, we continued monitoring migration for the first 10 days of June through our daily census of Fish Point. While most migrants have passed through by June, we are often able to observe late migrants of various species.

One of the most exciting things about birding at Fish Point in June is seeing awesome numbers of American White Pelicans! On June 1st we observed 50 American White Pelicans, which was the most we had counted so far this season. In addition to the several Prothonotary Warblers on territory in the maple swamp, another male was establishing territory near the viewing platform at Fox Pond. It was a real treat to see one of the rarest breeding birds in Ontario on a daily basis! Clearly Fish Point is a stronghold for this endangered species.

June 2nd brought a new first of the season species: A Rock Pigeon! Although very common elsewhere, we do not see this species often at Fish Point. Sixteen American White Pelicans were also observed off the tip of Fish Point.

On June 3rd and 4th we continued to see more American White Pelicans. A Great Black-backed Gull joined the flocks of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls resting at the tip. Eleven Great Blue Herons were observed flying singly from island to island. A female Indigo Bunting was carrying nesting material but she refused to reveal the location of her nesting site while we were looking!

Aside from the daily observations of American White Pelicans and Prothonotary Warblers, a couple other noteworthy observations were made on June 5th and 6th. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were entering the tree cavity where we suspect their nest may be. Hopefully they can fend off the nearby European Starlings! A Green Heron was seen hunting from a fallen tree that was protruding slightly from the pond surface.

A Brown Thrasher provided some excitement on a rather quiet census on June 7th. Only 31 species were observed, which was low compared to other days in June. Windy conditions probably reduced bird activity and our ability to detect birds by sound.

While enjoying the lovely morning bird activity at Fox Pond on June 8th, our attention was immediately drawn to a singing Northern Parula. We had not observed this species since May, so it was a treat to get one last look at this northern breeding warbler.

On June 9th 42 species were detected (11 more species than observed on June 7th). Infrequently observed species that contributed to the increased diversity were Orchard Oriole, Belted Kingfisher, and three Semipalmated Sandpipers.

The last day of migration monitoring was June 10th and no unexpected birds were observed. Through a combination of banding and observations, we detected a total of 167 species this season! With little to no migrants passing through, we turn our appreciation and attention to the summer resident birds on the island. Chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, warblers, and blackbirds are some of the bird groups that breed locally, and we look forward to watching their behaviours and documenting their breeding activity!

The summary was written by Evan Sinclair