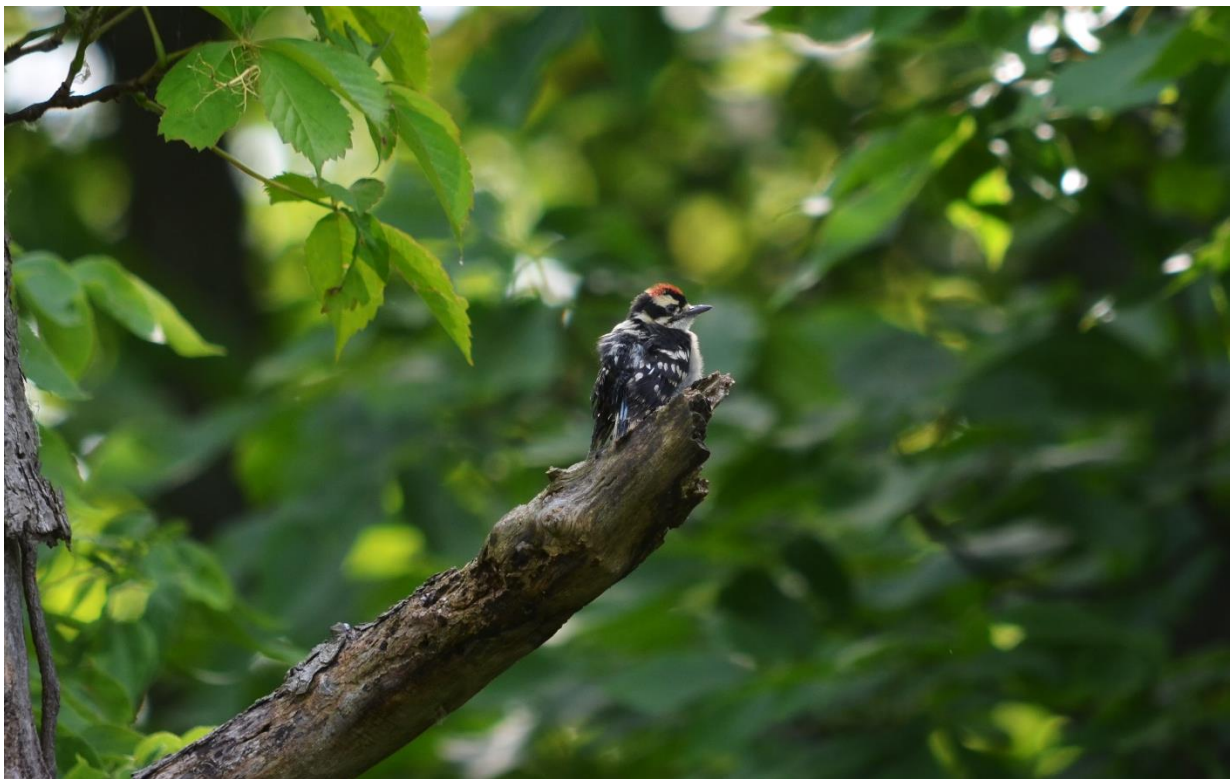


Biweekly Summary, June 1 - June 10, 2024

By Olivia Maillet

Although we finished spring banding at the end of May, we continued to conduct the daily census as part of migration monitoring until June 10. We observed between 28-41 species each day, signaling the very tail end of migration. The weather was variable, with temperatures reaching up to 30°C on June 4 and dipping down to 10°C on June 10.

Each day at Fox Pond, we observed at least one Red-headed woodpecker excavating or defending a cavity from European starlings. Up to four Green herons circled the pond daily, chasing each other or carrying twigs. A Black-crowned Night heron foraged in Fox Pond for a few days, but it eventually disappeared. The maple swamp where Prothonotary warblers typically nest was unusually dry and rather quiet this summer, but we heard and saw a male Prothonotary singing near the Fox Pond viewing platform.



A recently fledged Downy Woodpecker. Photo: Olivia Maillet

The tip of Fish Point was still very active with waterbirds throughout the first week of June. On June 1, we observed two young Great Black-backed gulls and many Bonaparte's gulls on the sandbar, which dwindled in numbers as the month progressed. American White pelicans were present every day, either resting on the shore, swimming in the water, or soaring in groups above Fish Point. The highlight of this period was a final singing Blackpoll warbler on the east shore of Fish Point on June 2 before it continued its migration to breed in the boreal forest.



American White Pelicans on the tip of Fish Point during the daily census on June 4. Photo by Olivia Maillet

As well as conducting the daily census, we began conducting surveys for the *Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas*, a five-year effort that occurs every twenty years to document the abundance and distribution of breeding birds in Ontario. Fledglings started popping up all around the island. In the last 10 days, we saw fledgling Red-winged blackbirds, Common grackles, Downy woodpeckers, Tree swallows, Chipping sparrows, and more. We are looking forward to observing many more fledglings and collecting important information on breeding activity on Pelee Island!



A Mourning Dove sitting on a nest on a tree branch. Photo by Olivia Maillet.