

Migration Summary

April 4 to 14, 2025

PIBO's 2025 field season kicked off on April 4. On our first census, dozens of Golden-crowned kinglets and Brown creepers were seen along the trail at Fish Point, and a Winter wren was heard singing. The sound at the pond was also springlike. Tree swallows were flying around, and hundreds of blackbirds and grackles called. But the colour of the vegetation was still wintery, and only some wild leeks and Dutchman's breeches had started covering the ground.

April 6 brought a strong northeast wind with the thermometer at -3 degrees Celsius, although we observed our first Yellow-rumped warbler and a Hermit thrush. The wind shifted to the southwest the next morning, but the temperature stayed low. The census was very quiet except for recording a Pied-billed grebe as new for the season. On the morning of the 8th the temperature dropped to -4 Celsius. We walked along the west beach in a freezing, strong, northeast wind, but it was hard to find any birds.

From April 9 to 12 the weather stayed cooler. Some Wood ducks, Blue-winged and Green-winged teals were seen, but herons and egrets were few at the pond. After all day raining on the 10th, hundreds of Bonaparte's gulls were recorded at the tip on the 11th. There were numerous ducks hanging around along the shore those days, and a Common loon and a couple of Greater scaups were observed as new for the season on April 12th. On the 13th a Lesser Black-backed gull was seen along with several other gulls at the tip, and hundreds of waterfowl (many of them Red-breasted mergansers and Common goldeneyes) were along the shore.

The weather became warmer in the afternoon of the 13th and the temperature went up to 17 Celsius the next afternoon. We observed many Dark-eyed juncos and some other migrants moving through the area. Yellow-shafted flickers, American robins and blackbirds kept showing up at the tip and flew to the south. On the west beach, a couple of Ruby-crowned kinglets were singing and a Chipping sparrow was flying around and feeding at the tip of tree branch.

We set up our mist nets with the support of PIBO's spring assistant bander, Caillie

Monrad, to start banding in the morning of April 15th. We are in no doubt that spring migration will get busier soon!!

(Photo: Eastern Phoebe, Dark-eyed Junco, Bald eagle)



