

## Migration Summary from April 15th to April 30th



Net 3 - April 21st - Photo Credit : Caillie Monrad

The last two weeks of April were marked by the arrival in mass of over 10 of our sparrow species in the low hundreds. Blackbirds continued to increase in numbers in the marsh, with at least 25000 roosting in the Florian Diamante Marsh on April 18th and certainly more elsewhere on the island. Raptors followed suit with several “accipiters” (although that definition might change with new genetic research), including an **American Goshawk** on April 17th. The marsh was full of **American Coots** and dabbling ducks waning off by the end of the month. As the flowers started to bloom and more insects came out, the warblers started to trickle and then pour through in the hundreds.

April 15<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup>

Large flocks of **Chipping Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** lined the census trail, with **White-throated Sparrows** becoming the most abundant both on census and in the banding lab. Tens of **White-throated Sparrows** would stream underneath net 6, with a handful getting caught.

April 17<sup>th</sup> marked the arrival of several more **woodpeckers**, **kinglets**, and **Brown Creepers**, all of which were feeding on the trunks and branches of trees. A late **Fox Sparrow** showing up by the tip on April 17<sup>th</sup>, along with a **Brown Thrasher** was a pleasant sight.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, swallow numbers surged across the island and especially in the marsh, mostly **Tree Swallows** with a handful of **Barn Swallows**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, and **Purple Martins** reaching into the low hundreds. Dabbling ducks including; **Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, **Wigeons**, and **Ruddy Duck** filled the marsh along with an **American Bittern** making its classic “pump-er-lunk” song.

April 19<sup>th</sup> marked the start of the first wave of migrant warblers with **Nashville Warbler** and **Northern Waterthrush**, along with several **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. The first rarity of the season, a **Kentucky Warbler**, was spotted by Taylor Kennedy at Lighthouse Point the evening before and luckily stayed the night!



A Common Yellowthroat after being banded - Photo credit: Caillie Monrad

On April 20<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed the courtship display of two **Cooper's Hawks** and a flyover of two **Trumpeter Swans**.

Early into the second week, shorebirds started to make a proper push with the **Solitary Sandpipers** and **Killdeer** being joined by a surprising **Willet** and **American Avocet** both on April 23<sup>rd</sup> - **Dunlins** and **Sanderlings** arrived on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we had our first flock of **American White Pelicans** fly over the banding lab, soon to become a regular sight and a highlight of Pelee Island.

**Palm Warblers** started to outnumber **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, making up the majority of the 280+ warblers seen flying off the point on April 24<sup>th</sup>. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, there was a highlight of a **Little Gull** at the tip with the remaining **Bonaparte's Gulls**. A **White-eyed Vireo** showed up at the forest edge of the tip, which makes perfect habitat for them.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, a **Peregrine Falcon** was perched at the Fox Pond marsh. **Tree Swallows** started to establish their nesting sites. There were a couple of **Red Admiral** along the roadside.

April 29<sup>th</sup> showed a sudden boom in warbler migration, with over a thousand warblers flying off the Tip in the early morning. **Indigo Buntings** were one of the most abundant species in this push. Lighthouse Point and other parts of the island still had trees covered in migrant warblers and others.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the woods were very active with 16 birds of 8 species banded. Several **Blue-headed Vireos** and a **White-eyed Vireo** were singing, and warbler song filled the woods with a beautiful chorus. Sumiko spotted the highlight of the day, which was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** perched above the banding lab. To finish off April we had a little amphibian friend by the banding lab - a **Small-mouthed Salamander**.