

Migration Summary from May 1st to May 15th

It was early May, flowers were blooming and migration was at it's peak. There was large uptick in warbler diversity with new mid and late season migrants arriving in dozens to hundreds almost every day. Migrating sparrows were still coming through, although their movement was starting to slow, with only **White-throated Sparrows** showing up in respectable numbers. Shorebird movement made a solid start and continued to provide large numbers of a variety of peeps, yellowlegs, plovers, and other delights.

Frequent strong easterlies meant that the west shore was often brimming with birds compared to the quiet east. The island was alive with song, with several hundred songbirds regularly stopping to forage across the island.

May started off with a bang! On May 1st, over two hundred warblers and other passerines were counted during census. Similar numbers were reported flying off the Tip for the rest of the morning. Diversity increased significantly in warblers but **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still the overwhelming majority, with over 150 on census. With more birds showing up in the netting area, banding picked up significantly, with 32 birds banded.

We had a wonderful rainbow visitor! **A Painted Bunting** (although their range only extends to the southern United States, they are infrequent vagrants to Ontario in the spring).

Even in the rain and sometimes especially so, you can find wonders when one is out birding. On May 3rd, four of us did census in the rain and were very excited when Gill Holmes spotted a camouflaged **Eastern Whip-poor-will** sleeping on a log. On May 4th with the rain from yesterday continuing, 10 **Willets** showed up in the flooded field by the FDNR.

May 6th was the first day when it was significantly busier in the netting area, even compared to the Point; banding was busy, 36 individuals of 15 species banded, and dozens more in the surrounding trees and on the ground. There was a significant increase in the variety of warblers, including four **Blue-winged Warblers**, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** and a **Hooded Warbler**, with 16 species of warbler in total. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** suddenly arrived and seemed to immediately start making themselves at home, checking out a dead tree by Fox Pond, which they later seemed to be using as a nesting spot.

There was a push of shorebirds arriving on in the afternoon on May 7th, with 125 **Dunlin** and another 100 peeps at the Tip of Fish Point and offshore. Along with them were a **White-rumped Sandpiper** and 6 **Short-billed Dowitchers**. Steady movement of regular migrants also brought with them a **Prairie Warbler** spotted at the tip by Alessandra Kite.

May 9th marked the first day of Spring Song, and luckily, it was an amazing day of migration for the start of the bird race, with a great variety of birds everywhere on the island. **Blackburnian Warblers** were surprisingly one of the most abundant in the afternoon. The island was absolutely full of birds with at least 14 different warbler species, several thrushes, with the majority being **Swainson's**, **White-throated Sparrows** and **White-crowned Sparrows**.

May 11th marked the arrival of the first **Prothonotary Warbler** at the nest boxes at Fish Point and to much excitement, it remained for the breeding season. One of the busiest days at the banding lab of the season, with 75 birds banded - the majority being 18 **White-throated Sparrows**, proved that they are still coming through.

With the majority of hawk migration having petered off, we were surprised when we saw a **Red-shouldered Hawk** fly over the banding lab on May 12th.

The end of the week had late migrants coming through, including **Blackpoll Warblers**, **Tennessee Warblers**, **Red-eyed Vireos**, and **flycatchers** who quickly became abundant while most of the early migrants all but left (**Yellow-rumped Warbler**, non-breeding **sparrows**, and **woodpeckers** dwindled). As a delightful end to these two weeks, we banded a **Hooded Warbler** on May 15th.

Summary written by Caillie Monrad