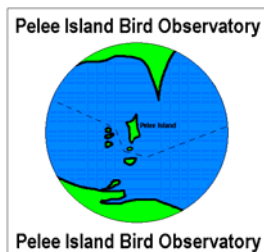


2004 Fall Update



Visit our new website at
www.peleeisland.org



PIBO is a non-profit organization devoted to bird study and conservation and to the protection of Pelee Island's unique natural heritage.

All the latest news and developments at the Pelee Island Bird Observatory!

The Pelee Island Bird Observatory completed its second year of migration monitoring research on Pelee Island in 2004. This long-term study is part of an international effort to collect data on migratory birds to assess population trends for many North American songbirds. Pelee Island is a significant stopover site for many species of interest for monitoring and PIBO's field station, situated at Fish Point, at the south tip of the island, is an ideal location to conduct the work. While migration research was PIBO's main focus in 2004, many other exciting developments took place at the Observatory.

Breeding Birds

PIBO progressed with its mandate to study the breeding birds of Pelee Island. This summer our staff conducted a nesting bird survey on property under the stewardship of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and also surveyed a number of promising sites for additional breeding studies in 2005.

PIBO Acquires Property on Pelee Island!

PIBO is pleased to report the acquisition, by way of a generous donation, of a one-acre property on Pelee Island. Located next to Fish Point Nature Reserve, the property is less than five minutes from PIBO's migration station in the park proper. This wonderful development will help ensure the success of PIBO's long-term goals and pave the way for a host of exciting new developments in the near future.

Education

PIBO's educational programs and community outreach projects grew substantially in 2004. The field station was open to the public every day and approximately one hundred-and-fifty students visited the site including an

enthusiastic class from the Pelee Island Public School. Visitors had the opportunity to observe a variety of songbirds in-the-hand and learned about the biology of birds and some of the physical attributes that enable them to accomplish their lengthy journeys.

PIBO's First Foreign Bird Recovery!

Another news update concerns the foreign recovery of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at the migration station. Foreign recoveries are birds captured at a banding station that have been banded previously at another location. This individual, a young female recaptured at Fish Point on May 3rd, 2003, was originally banded at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre in Laurel, Maryland on October 7th, 2002.

Spring Song Festival

PIBO staff participated in Pelee Island's annual Spring Song Festival in early May. Events included a Baillie Birdathon fundraiser and Big Day bird race, with teams from as far away as Cuba competing for the prestigious Botham Cup!

Pelee Island Stewardship Committee

The Observatory also became involved with the Pelee Island Stewardship Committee in 2004. The committee was formed to address a range of conservation issues on the island and to establish a forum where the concerns and recommendations of the community will be heard.

Rare Birds!

A number of interesting bird sightings at Fish Point in 2004 deserve mention: Sandhill Crane – May 6, Piping Plover – April 24, Black-necked Stilt – May 18, White-eyed Vireo – May 3, Yellow-

throated Vireo – May 21, Northern Mockingbird – May 17, Golden-winged Warbler – May 10, Prairie Warbler – May 7, Worm-eating Warbler – May 6, Prothonotary Warbler – April 19, Louisiana Waterthrush – May 11, Kentucky Warbler – May 5, Connecticut Warbler – May 7, Yellow-breasted Chat – April 23, Summer Tanager – May 2.

Thanks To Our Supporters!

The success of this year's migration monitoring study and the positive new developments at PIBO in 2004 were made possible due to the unflagging enthusiasm and generous support of many organizations and individuals. The Pelee Island Bird Observatory and Pelee Island Heritage Centre are grateful for this critically important help.

Looking Ahead

The Pelee Island Bird Observatory and Pelee Island Heritage Centre are gearing up for another productive year of research on Pelee Island in 2005. The migration monitoring study at Fish Point will enter its third year of operation in early April, and plans are in place for a number of comprehensive breeding bird studies on the island that will get underway in May. Funding for the Spring has been secured, and PIBO's staffing situation in 2005 is in good shape, with last year's Fall intern returning for the entire Spring and Fall field seasons.

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