

MIGRATION SUMMARY – APRIL 3RD – 9TH, 2008

Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO)



PIBO's 6th year of Spring migration monitoring coverage got underway at Fish Point on April 3rd under sunny skies and with light east winds. After waiting a few days for the island ferry to start operating, the station 'crew' from last year is now back and the field site and PIBO cottage are in great shape despite the usual April flooding in the netting area.

The following summary and table describe migration activity documented at Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve – Ontario Parks – by PIBO staff during our official six-hour morning count period. Interesting and unusual species recorded by staff elsewhere on Pelee Island will also be mentioned in future reports.

April 3rd

A cool but pleasant morning with just the 90-minute census completed. A variety of Spring migrants were recorded including ten waterfowl species and small numbers of Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Song Sparrow. Lots of blackbirds in the area including a few Rusty Blackbirds.

April 4th

Lots of rain and just the census completed this-morning. Similar activity to the preceding day, though fewer species were recorded due to the poor weather conditions. A single Field Sparrow on the west beach was a treat

April 5th

Very foggy and not as active as yesterday, but a nice variety of species observed in small numbers including more phoebes, American Robin, American Tree and Fox Sparrow.

April 6th

Quite a lot of activity with 46 species recorded, but generally quiet in the netting area. Eleven waterfowl species on the lake and pond along with some Brown Creepers, Golden-

crowned Kinglets and Winter Wrens in the woods.

April 7th

More songbirds in the area this-morning including the first Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers of the Spring.

April 8th

Another Spring-like day with light south winds and lots of activity for early-April. Golden-crowned Kinglets (93 DT) were numerous along with small numbers of Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens and Hermit Thrushes. An early Purple Martin was observed at the PIBO cottage in the afternoon.

April 9th

PIBO's first week of Spring coverage came to a close with 41 species tallied during the morning count period along with 10 birds banded and one retrap. Light rain and brisk west winds made for a generally quiet morning. The first Common Loon of 2008 was recorded on census.

A total of 65 species was recorded at the Point this week and 65 birds were banded during 221 net-hours for an average catch-rate of .30 birds/net-hour.

PIBO's next summary will be posted on April 18th.

HAPPY SPRING!!!

Birds Documented at Fish Point by PIBO Staff from April 3rd – 9th, 2008

Date	April	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Species								
Common Loon								1
Double-crested Cormorant		27	8	3	21	17	115	14
Great Blue Heron			1		1	2	1	
Turkey Vulture				2			2	
Canada Goose		14	21	4	22	20	5	6
Wood Duck			2	8	6	3	3	7
Blue-winged Teal		2	1	6	10	2		
Mallard		15	8	1	5	5	6	6
Am. Green-winged Teal		3	4					
Ring-necked Duck			1					
American Wigeon					3			
Greater Scaup		6	18		5			

Lesser Scaup				1			
(Scaup spp.)	8		9	13	7		2
Bufflehead	24	12	16	13	18	26	5
Common Goldeneye	8	9	6	24	6	2	1
Common Merganser	3			3			
Red-breasted Merganser	108	55	4	37	128	87	24
Bald Eagle	1			1			
Northern Harrier				1	1		1
Red-tailed Hawk			1	2			
American Kestrel						1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant				2		2	1
Wild Turkey					4	15	
Killdeer	2			2			
American Woodcock					1		
Bonaparte's Gull	4	30	1	8	62	90	3
Ring-billed Gull	6	5		3		5	7
Herring Gull	13	4	1	6	3	17	19
Great Black-backed Gull				1	3		
Mourning Dove	9	6	4	6	5	7	9
Great Horned Owl						1	
Belted Kingfisher		1	1	1	2		1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	6	7	6	6	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					2	6	1
Northern Flicker	1	1	5	4	9	12	4
Eastern Phoebe	1		6	1	6	2	3
Blue Jay				1			
American Crow	5		2	2	6	6	2
Tree Swallow	1			2	9	8	4
Black-capped Chickadee	1			3	3	2	3
White-breasted Nuthatch			1	2		1	
Brown Creeper			2	1	4	24	9
Carolina Wren			2	3	5	5	4
Winter Wren			1	1	3	7	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1		1	5	19	92	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1	4	
American Robin	14	2	15	19	15	16	11
Hermit Thrush			1		4	7	2
European Starling	8	9	6	12	30	17	26
Yellow-rumped Warbler					5	1	7
Northern Cardinal	3	3	6	8	8	9	5
Eastern Towhee						2	
American Tree Sparrow			8			1	2
Field Sparrow		1					
Fox Sparrow			1			1	
Song Sparrow	3	2	13	4	9	2	3

Dark-eyed Junco		1	3	6	16	7	18
Brown-headed Cowbird	12		11	14	21	21	6
Red-winged Blackbird	205	150	187	177	215	190	170
Rusty Blackbird	11		8	10	9	5	5
Common Grackle	98	70	116	145	167	115	149
House Finch			2				
House Sparrow						1	

SPECIES

Day	33	28	38	46	42	46	41
Spring 2008	33	39	49	55	60	64	65
This period	65						
April	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Weather - 1 hr after sunrise

Wind direction/strength ¹	E2	E3	SW2	E1	S2	E1	W4
Visibility (km)	30	10	<.25	20	25	25	20
Cloud cover (0-10)	2	10	10	0	2	9	6
Temperature o C)	4	4	5	7	8	5	11
Precipitation		RAIN	FOG				

¹ Beaufort scale