

MIGRATION SUMMARY FROM MAY 1st – 7th, 2008

Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO)



Warm southerly winds provided the backdrop for a noticeable jump in migration activity at Fish Point during the first week of May. Nineteen warbler species were recorded during the official count period along with a nice variety of other songbirds including twenty-six 'firsts' for 2008. New arrivals included

Common Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Orchard Oriole. A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded on May 5th along with a Hooded Warbler on the 6th.

May 1st

The netting area was inactive this-morning and there was not much to report on census apart from a few new arrivals including Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Lincoln's Sparrow and Baltimore Oriole.

May 2nd

Light south winds and warm dawn temperatures (17° C) made for an enjoyable morning of coverage with 63 species tallied in the count area. Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers were active along with small numbers of seven other warbler species. Not many sparrows recorded but there were ones-and-twos of Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and a few lingering Rusty Blackbirds.

May 3rd

Lots of rain and only a few migrants observed on census or in the netting area. Two Solitary Sandpipers at Peregrine Pond were the only notable sightings on the day. Despite the poor weather, an inquisitive group of Canadian and American members of the Institute of Journalists and Natural Resources spent part of the morning at the field station along with Point Pelee National Park Superintendent, Marian Stranac, and an associate from the Ohio State Park system.

May 4th

It was fairly active at the Point this-morning even though the majority of migrants in the netting area remained in the canopy, which made for a quiet morning of banding. New Spring arrivals included an early Black-billed Cuckoo, Northern Parula and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Fifty-eight species were noted including nine warbler spp.

May 5th

A similar day to the 4th with fifty-six species tallied along with five new arrivals including a banded Yellow-breasted Chat.

May 6th

An enjoyable morning of activity with lots of variety on the day (67 species). Spring-firsts included Blue-winged, Magnolia and Hooded Warbler. A group of secondary school students from London, Ontario, visited the mist-net area mid-morning and then set-up nest boxes and worked in the vegetable garden at the PIBO cottage in the afternoon. Thanks for all your hard work!

May 7th

Nashville and Yellow Warblers were quite active this-morning along with eleven other warbler spp. Tennessee and Blackburnian Warbler were new for 2008. Other notable migrants included small numbers of Eastern Kingbird, four swallow species, Lincoln's Sparrow and Orchard Oriole.

A total of 103 species was recorded at the Point this week during the official count period compared to 77 last week. Twenty-six Spring-firsts were documented, which brings the season-to-date species total to 142. Just 72 birds were banded and one recaptured during 378 net-hours for an average catch-rate of .20 birds/net-hour.

Yellow-breasted Chat photo – Sumiko Onishi

PIBO's next summary will be posted on May 16th.

Birds Documented at Fish Point by PIBO Staff from May 1st – 7th, 2008

Date	May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Species								
Common Loon			1				1	
Double-crested Cormorant		211	84	185	706	439	800	506
Great Blue Heron		2	8	2		2	2	2
Great Egret				1		1		

Turkey Vulture			1		2		3
Canada Goose		2	1	7	4		
Wood Duck	4	2			1	4	2
Mallard	2	2	2	1		2	
Lesser Scaup	2		3				
Red-breasted Merganser	39	53	37	9	43	23	22
Bald Eagle		1					
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1			
Ring-necked Pheasant						1	
Wild Turkey		9			2		
Killdeer		6			3		
Greater Yellowlegs						2	
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	2	2		1	2
Spotted Sandpiper		2			2		2
Bonaparte's Gull	32	50		110	140	300	250
Ring-billed Gull	13	9	3	9	13	16	13
Herring Gull	24	9	13	8	18	15	19
Great Black-backed Gull		2	1		3	3	5
Caspian Tern	1		1				
Common Tern					1	11	
Forster's Tern				2		1	
Mourning Dove	6	3	5	6	4	1	
Black-billed Cuckoo				1			
Belted Kingfisher				1			
Red-headed Woodpecker				1	1	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	1	2	2	3	4	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	5	1	3			4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					2	2	1
Northern Flicker	1	4		3			5
Least Flycatcher					2	2	
Eastern Kingbird		1				3	3
Red-eyed Vireo				1		2	
Warbling Vireo		1			1		
White-eyed Vireo		1		1			
Blue-headed Vireo		2		1	1	2	1
Blue Jay	4	7	4	5	13	15	16
American Crow	5	7		4	3	6	7
Horned Lark						1	
Purple Martin	1						
N. Rough-winged Swallow					1	1	1
Bank Swallow	1	3					1
Tree Swallow	22	12	10	16	14	13	6
Barn Swallow	6	1		2		2	1
Black-capped Chickadee	5	13	3	8	4	3	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch				1		1	2
Brown Creeper	1	1					

Carolina Wren	6	5	3	6	4	5	4
House Wren	2	4	1	3	2	6	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	15		5	2	1	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	1		3	2	2	2
Eastern Bluebird				2			
American Robin	11	16	7	7	6	9	5
Wood Thrush		1		2	2	2	
Veery		1		1			
Swainson's Thrush				1	1	1	
Hermit Thrush					1		
Gray Catbird	1	3		1	2	4	6
European Starling	6	20	23	4	20	4	11
American Pipit	5	5		1	1		1
Cedar Waxwing				2			
Northern Parula				1			1
Orange-crowned Warbler		1					
Tennessee Warbler							1
Blue-winged Warbler						1	1
Nashville Warbler		4		2	1	5	10
Yellow Warbler	4	6	1	5	8	13	12
Magnolia Warbler						1	2
Cape May Warbler					1		3
Black-throated Blue Warbler				1			
Blackburnian Warbler							1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	14	3	20	11	13	10
Black-thr. Green Warbler		1		2	1		
"Western" Palm Warbler	6	14		2		2	
Black-and-white Warbler		3		2	1	2	1
Ovenbird						1	1
Northern Waterthrush		1				1	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	3	2	1	4	6	1
Hooded Warbler						1	
Yellow-breasted Chat					1		
Scarlet Tanager		1					
Northern Cardinal	8	6	4	5	6	10	6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1		2	2	6	2
Indigo Bunting						3	7
Eastern Towhee	1						
Field Sparrow						1	
Chipping Sparrow		4					
White-throated Sparrow	9	15		5	2	5	2
White-crowned Sparrow						4	
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					1	1
Swamp Sparrow		1		1	1	1	
Bobolink						2	
Brown-headed Cowbird	12	12	4	5	9	8	4

Red-winged Blackbird	110	186	185	110	120	100	105
Rusty Blackbird	3	1	1			1	
Common Grackle	85	101	41	70	70	85	74
Baltimore Oriole	1	6	4	5	5	14	15
Orchard Oriole							1
Purple Finch		1		1	1	1	
American Goldfinch	5	5	2	6	4	7	41
SPECIES							
Day	46	63	33	58	56	67	57
Spring 2008	119	124	124	129	134	139	142
This period	103			Previous period			77
May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Weather - 1 hr after sunrise							
Wind direction/strength ¹	E2	S2	SW2	W2	SW2	E1	WSW2
Visibility (km)	25	20	15	30	30	25	30
Cloud cover (0-10)	8	10	9	1	3	0	8
Temperature o C)	9	17	16	8	11	7	14
Precipitation			RAIN				
¹ Beaufort scale							