

Migration Summary for the Period April 22nd – 28th

Pelee Island Bird Observatory



Northern Flicker

It was an interesting and enjoyable week at the Point with lots of new spring arrivals and species diversity, but without any significant numbers of birds recorded during the official count period. Whereas migrants were held up mid-month and many species were late, the reverse was true this week, when thirty-seven spring 'firsts' were noted in the count area, including some surprisingly early birds.

Two days of northwest winds at the start of week made for a generally quiet time, although five new arrivals were tallied including **Black-crowned Night Heron** (21st), **Osprey** (22nd) and **Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** (23rd). Mild conditions and light southeast winds on the April 24th ushered in another six 'firsts' along with quite a few **White-throated Sparrows** – 68 were tallied, including 27 banded birds. The first **Pine Warbler** and **Scarlet Tanager** of the year were two other notable species encountered on the day.

There was lots of activity the next morning and many new arrivals – eleven in all – including **White-eyed Vireo**, **Wood Thrush**, **Northern Mockingbird**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, and **Baltimore Oriole**. April 26th was another mild day with south winds and a good variety of species were noted in small numbers including a **Worm-eating Warbler** recorded on the census along with seven other 'firsts' such as

Great Crested Flycatcher, Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush. There were lots of migrants around on the afternoon of the 26th as well, including a male and female **Prothonotary Warbler** and possibly a second **Worm-eating Warbler**.

The final two mornings of the summary period were similar to the preceding days, although it eventually rained on the 28th, the winds returned to the north, and activity tapered off accordingly. There was still quite a lot of diversity in the area, however, including two early records: a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** noted on the census and a **Blackpoll Warbler** recorded at the north end of the island in the afternoon. A **Sedge Wren** was observed in the late-afternoon near the pond at Fish Point on the 28th.

Next week's summary will be posted on May 7th.

Photo: Claire Sanders