

PIBO MIGRATION SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1st - 10th



Worm-eating Warbler

It was another memorable Spring Song Festival on Pelee Island last weekend and hundreds of bird and book enthusiasts were here to revel in the enduring enchantment of Spring migration. The community was graced with the presence of guest speaker Brian Brett - who read from his award winning book *Trauma Farm* - and his partner Sharon, as well as guest birders Robert and Birgit Bateman, along with a surprise visit from Stewart McLean and Vinyl Café producer Jess Milton.

It was an active time for birds from May 1st - 10th with lots of new arrivals and many interesting sightings. Thirty-five spring 'firsts' were recorded during PIBO's official count period including a variety of familiar species such as **Black-bellied Plover** and **Wood Thrush** (1st), **Eastern Kingbird**, **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Ovenbird** (2nd), **Black-billed Cuckoo** and **Northern Mockingbird** (3rd), **Northern Parula**, **American Redstart** and **Cape May Warbler** (4th & 5th), **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Lincoln's Sparrow** (6th), **Sanderling** and **Dunlin** (7th), and **Great-crested Flycatcher** and **Orange-crowned Warbler** on May 9th & 10th.

Five days of south and southwest winds and mild temperatures from May 1st - 5th produced a steady stream of migrants despite some rainy days on the 2nd and 3rd, including the season's first **White-eyed Vireo** and **Hooded Warbler** on May 2nd, a pair of **Willetts**, a **Worm-eating Warbler** (banded), another **Hooded Warbler** (banded) on the 3rd, and a **Golden-winged Warbler** recorded on the census on May 10th. Species diversity picked up noticeably on May 6th when 63 species were tallied during the count period including thirteen warbler *spp.*, along with increased numbers of **Wood** and **Swainson's Thrushes**. More rain and some north winds on the 7th were followed by gale-force winds the next day, which made for a somewhat quieter day, although a station-high 400 swallow *spp.* were observed on census on May 8th feeding out of the wind on Fox Pond and on the east side of the point. The

majority of birds were **Tree** and **Barn Swallows**, although all five swallow species were recorded.

Activity picked up again on the 9th when sixty-six species were documented during the standard count period including 19 warbler species. Nashville, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were numerous along with smaller numbers of **Tennessee**, **Chestnut-sided**, and **Black-and-white Warblers**, among others. Flycatchers and vireos were also more active along with a nice variety of other May migrants including **Veery**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Indigo Bunting**.

A number of unusual species were noted on the island by a small but determined group of visiting birders including a female **Blue Grosbeak** discovered at Sheridan Point on May 8th, a **Dickcissel** recorded flying south off the tip (8th), an adult **Laughing Gull**, also at the tip (9th), a **Kentucky Warbler** at Middle Point Woods, along with at least three **Summer Tanagers**.

PIBO's next summary will be posted on May 22nd.

Photo: Sumiko Onishi