

PIBO migration summary June 1st to 10th 2020 with additions on breeding bird and species at risk observation.

At the beginning of June, many birds already dispersed to their habitat and got ready for the breeding season. Early nesters started laying eggs and became quiet to avoid their predators. On the census, the same birds appeared in the same location every morning, and their behaviour changed from migration to breeding.

South wind and warm temperatures of 20C stayed for the week. A late-arriving young American Redstart was still singing along the trail on June 1st, but there were not any other migratory warblers. A total of 31 species was recorded on June 3rd including four young Bald Eagles along the west beach. They might be the fledgelings from the nest nearby the netting area.

June 4th was busier with the observation of a bunch of cuckoos around. Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos chased each other and flew around while I walked along the west beach. It looked like some migrants showed up during the night. A Least Flycatcher and an Acadian Flycatcher were observed as well.

June 6th was beautiful weather with blue sky, but mosquitoes and stable flies started biting during the census. A Hooded Warbler and a Willow Flycatcher were heard. A total of 40 species was recorded including a Red-headed Woodpecker peeking his/her face out from a cavity on a big dead tree stump at Fox Pond.

It was cooler temperatures for the 7th and 8th, which were mostly quiet mornings. A Red-headed Woodpecker was collecting insects without making a sound. They had become quieter than a few weeks before in which they were continually calling to announce their territory.

On June 9th a total of 35 species was observed, and more baby birds were calling for food while the adults sounded warning calls. Young European Starlings were following their parents at the tip and a pair of Pied-billed Grebes observed was probably taking a breath from feeding their young. June 10th was the last census for the spring. Twenty-nine species were recorded, it was nice to observe two medium-size snapping turtles on the way.

At the beginning of the breeding season, there were some exciting changes from the previous record. A nesting pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers at the pond and Blue Jays hanging around were new. A male Prothonotary Warbler had been singing almost every morning since the middle of May, but a pair of Prothonotary Warblers were finally observed on June 12th! Purple Martins at the nest boxes were doing well so far. The latest observation on Purple Martin nest boxes recorded 29 of the 32 nest boxes contained 3 to 5 eggs. Only one pair had three eggs ten days ago! PIBO will keep observing these nesting species, including searching for Yellow-breasted Chats throughout June!

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The summary was written by Field Supervisor Sumiko Onishi.

Prothonotary Warbler by Sumiko Onishi 2020

