

Migration Summary October 16th-30th, 2020

The winds at the beginning of October were mostly south-west, but by the middle of the month, it became quite chilly in the mornings and evenings. On October 17th, I saw a group of Trumpeter Swans at the pond which was PIBO's station first record! It was an opportunity for me to learn about different species of swans because usually they are seen quite a distance from the shore.

After the north winds with lots of rain during the night, some thrushes arrived. As well, a Common Loon, some Red-breasted Mergansers and Horned Grebes on October 19th. The chilly wind and steady rain remained all day. October 21st was another rainy day, but the temperature went up to 15C, which was a contrast to the cold rain the day before! A hundred American Robins and quite a few Cedar Waxwings were observed.

The morning of October 22nd was quite soggy after another rainy night. The wind was switching around, but mostly north and east from midnight till dawn. There were numerous birds – including a group of 40 Eastern Bluebirds and a hundred American Robins - flying around everywhere on the way to the census (Non-standard observation). On the census the forest and the west beach were full of calls and songs of kinglets and sparrows – lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Song Sparrows were seen along with White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. A few Peregrine Falcons flew out after a little bird flying over the lake and showed their impressive hunting skill. Quite a few Hermit Thrushes were observed as well.

On October 24th, the morning temperature dropped to 4 degrees Celcius from 17C on the previous day. Several Northern Harriers flew over the tip, and the season first Black-bellied Plover was observed. From October 25th to 26th, the wind had been mostly north, and thousands of migratory birds were passing through the area. Blackbirds took flight from Fish Point, which created a long line of birds moving south in the air. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were hopping around the vegetation appearing in front of me like rolling waves over the west beach. Numerous sparrows - juncos, White-throated, White-crowned, Song, Field, and American Tree – were everywhere in the dry grasses. Lots of Brown Creepers were recorded along with the hundreds of kinglets. It was nice to finally see those creepers as I had missed seeing many of them this season. Six sparrow species were observed including Lincoln's, Swamp and Field.

On October 27th, I heard an unfamiliar sharp trill call at the entrance of the trail. When I came to the pond, a bird was flying around the treetop, making the call. It was an Evening Grosbeak which I only had seen at Long Point. For the next two days a couple of season new species - White-winged Scoters and Red-shouldered Hawk – was recorded along with hundreds of kinglets. However, many of those kinglets likely had left before October 31st as the temperature dropped to 0C on that morning. I saw a variety of ducks - Hooded Mergansers, American Wigeons, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teals, and Mallards at the pond. It was the busiest morning with several thousands of blackbirds including lots of Rusties flying over. The group of birds that lined up in the sky looked endless.

Delightful autumn colours pleased my eyes, and the morning chilly air gave me a chance to refresh my

mind. I enjoyed listening carefully to all the different sounds – the rustling of birds hopping on fallen leaves, wingbeats of a thousand blackbirds, and at a distance, the Swan’s wind instrument- like call. A hundred Canada Geese crowded the pond that produced an echo from the flapping of bathing waterfowls.

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi.