

PIBO MIGRATION SUMMARY

August 1st – 10th, 2012



PIBO's 10th fall coverage season was launched on August 1st under clear skies, with light northwest winds and warm, humid temperatures. Although the first few weeks of August are a typically quiet time, there was some active migration during the coverage period and a few signs of things to come.

Along with a steady passage of swallows (six species recorded) and a few shorebirds – Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Least Sandpiper – some migrant songbirds that nest north of the island made an early appearance including Swainson's Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush, among others.

Large numbers of gulls were noted at the tip during the summary period, with 1100 birds tallied on August 4th – mostly Ring-bills along

with good numbers of Bonaparte's, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gull. Cormorants began to multiply, with 1700 counted on the 6th, and 200 Common Terns were observed on August 7th.

Hundreds of swallows were recorded from the 1st – 10th departing south off the tip during the morning census, including 150 Barn Swallows on August 5th, along with smaller numbers of Purple Martin, Bank, and Cliff Swallow.

In all, PIBO staff and volunteers documented 71 species on the island from August 1st – 10th and 58 species during our official count period at Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve. PIBO's bird banding operation will get underway on August 11th.

The next migration summary will be posted on August 22nd.

Photo: Sumiko Onishi