



## PIBO Migration Summary

### September 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

It was a busy and enjoyable two weeks at Fish Point from September 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> despite seven days of southerly winds at the start of the summary period. New arrivals were noted throughout the first week and there was even a small fallout on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when 57 species were recorded and 61 birds of fifteen species were banded (1.35 birds/net-hour). The wind shifted to the north on September 9<sup>th</sup> and activity picked up in the second week of coverage, with lots of thrushes and warblers recorded and a good variety of other species observed and banded. As usual for September, *Catharus* thrushes were the mainstay, with 229 individuals banded over fifteen days (19 Veerys, 177 Swainson's, and 33 Gray-cheeked), or 45% of all the birds captured from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Warblers were observed and banded in good numbers as well – 22 species were tallied and 196 individuals of seventeen species were banded.

It was hot and humid on September 1<sup>st</sup> (23°C at dawn) but migrants were fairly active, with 55 species documented including fall 'firsts' for Greater Yellowlegs, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The 2<sup>nd</sup> remained active when 53 species were recorded and 31 birds of thirteen species were captured, including 6 Ovenbirds. West winds and more warm temperatures on the 3<sup>rd</sup> didn't discourage the birds – in all, 57 species were noted including Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, gnatcatchers, robins, catbirds, and fourteen warbler species. Activity tapered off the next morning and almost ground to a halt on September 5<sup>th</sup> when rain and thunderstorms made for a quiet morning and reduced field coverage.

After a fairly active morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> migrants started to dwindle again and it was quiet on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A couple of fall 'firsts' livened things up however, with the season's first Peregrine

Falcon observed cruising up and down the west beach, along with a group of eight **American White Pelicans** at the tip. After twelve years without a sighting, PIBO has recorded up to twenty birds on three or four occasions in the last twelve months. Pelee Islanders have reported up to forty birds around Middle Island when boating in the area this summer, which suggests the same group has been here since at least July.

A steady week of southerlies finally abated and the wind shifted north on the 9<sup>th</sup>, resulting in a good push of migrants over the next four days. New arrivals from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> included Merlin, Philadelphia Vireo, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Lincoln’s Sparrow, among others. In all, 241 birds were banded over four days, with Swainson’s and Gray-cheeked Thrushes leading the way (97 Swainson’s and 23 Gray-cheeks banded), along with good numbers of Magnolia Warblers (28), American Redstarts (18), and a variety of other songbirds. As always, the pace started to slacken again after this latest pulse, and there wasn’t much to report during the last two days of the summary period save a female Hooded Warbler observed on census on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> was impressively quiet – a mere six songbird species were recorded on the 90-minute census. The netting area was slightly more active, with 23 birds of six species captured, and there were some birds on the lake, but, overall, the woods were very still.

All told, 17 fall ‘firsts’ were noted during the summary period, which brings the species count this fall during PIBO’s coverage period this fall to 124. A total of 505 birds of thirty-three species was banded from September 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, which brings the season banding total to 768 birds of forty-one species captured in 1002 net-hours (0.77 birds/net-hour). Of this total, 402 of the banded birds are warblers (52%), and 276 are thrushes (36%).

*PIBO’s next migration update will be posted on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

Photo: Warbling Vireo – Sumiko Onishi

**Birds captured at Fish Point from August 16<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Species	Aug 16th - 31st	Sep 1st - 15th	Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	4	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	2	5
Downy Woodpecker	7	2	9
Yellow-shafted Flicker	0	1	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	0	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	7	9	16
Trail’s Flycatcher	2	0	2
Least Flycatcher	1	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	9	14	23
Philadelphia Vireo	0	2	2
Black-capped Chickadee	5	0	5
House Wren	2	1	3
American Robin	4	2	6
Wood Thrush	1	1	2
Veery	11	19	30

Swainson's Thrush	8	193	201
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	36	37
Northern Parula	0	1	1
Tennessee Warbler	31	3	34
Blue-winged Warbler	2	0	2
Nashville Warbler	4	9	13
Chestnut-sided Warbler	12	15	27
Magnolia Warbler	25	61	86
Cape May Warbler	4	1	5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	18	24
Blackburnian Warbler	6	1	7
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	1	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	4	7
Blackpoll Warbler	1	10	11
Black-and-white Warbler	30	12	42
American Redstart	22	39	61
Prothonotary Warbler	1	0	1
Ovenbird	7	40	47
Northern Waterthrush	8	7	15
Mourning Warbler	2	0	2
Common Yellowthroat	1	3	4
Wilson's Warbler	2	1	3
Canada Warbler	6	4	10
Common Grackle	3	1	4
Baltimore Oriole	6	0	6
Northern Cardinal	4	3	7
<b>41 species</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>768</b>