

Migration Summary August 16-31, 2020

On August 16th, as soon as I started walking into the gloomy forest under the overcast sky, I heard some warblers chipping in the canopy above my head. I was excited as that was a sign that migrants had arrived! A **Northern Waterthrush** and a **Black-and-white Warbler** were new for the season. Also, it looked like another moving day for **Purple Martins** - they kept showing up above my head at the tip at Fish Point.

From the evening of the 16th to the 18th, some north winds brought more warblers and flycatchers. The pond was busy with many birds flying around. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was observed as new for the season on August 17th. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** along with many other flycatchers on August 18th. At the beginning of the trail, a few **American Woodcocks** spotted were likely feeding since the weather had been dry. Whenever I walked by them, I always missed the chance to take a picture because they have such good camouflage!

The wind had been north during August 19th and shifted to the south on the morning of the 20th. Census was busy for these mornings. Lots of **Baltimore Orioles** and **Warbling Vireos** were moving through the area. A total of 48 species was recorded including numerous **Blackburnian Warblers** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on August 20th. The wind kept blowing mostly from the south for the next week. On August 21st a **Cape May** and a **Prothonotary Warbler** were observed at the east side and was new for the season. There were still lots of flycatchers around.

The last week of August was summery weather, and the heatwave stayed for several days, but a variety of warblers could continuously be seen. On August 22nd **Tennessee** and **Mourning Warblers** were observed as new for the season. A total of 57 species was recorded including a young **Prothonotary Warbler** who showed up at the beginning of the trail. The dry heat concentrated many birds around a small puddle at the south end of the trail. On August 25th the temperature went up to 23C in the morning. Sixteen **Sanderlings** were seen on the west beach where some seaweed washed ashore. A hundred **Common Grackles** and groups of **Blue Jays** and **Orioles** were lively at the pond.

On August 27th after having a busy census with many warblers, I started The Great Canadian Birdathon; which usually happens in the spring, but was allowed in the fall to avoid the risk of COVID-19 - although the day was hot and the dry south winds were blowing all day. After my sweat-soaked birding experience (a first for me), I recorded 84 species, including **Common Nighthawks** and a **Wilson's Snipe** as non-standard observation! Many **Eastern Kingbirds** had been migrating on those days as well. Please see more detail on [PIBO's Facebook page](#) if you are interested in the list.

The forest was dark under the stormy sky on August 28th, and the wind got stronger during August 29th. Lots of **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and a few **Ovenbirds** were observed. North-west winds during the night dropped the morning temperature to 15C on August 30th. It was a busy census with 61

species including 16 warbler species - season first **Blackpolls** was recorded. Many **Belted Kingfishers** (5 of them around the pond), **Philadelphia Vireos** and a hundred **American White Pelicans** were recorded as well. For this period, a good variety of warblers had been seen each morning, including **Yellow, Mourning, Canada, Wilson's,** and **Prothonotary**. On August 31st many warblers and **Cedar Waxwings** flying over the canopy and swallows flying around high up in the blue sky were seen. **Barn** and some **Bank**, quite a few **Purple Martins** and **Chimney Swifts** (recorded 8 of them as season first) were observed. A total of 47 species was recorded including numerous **American Redstarts** and **Red-eyed Vireos** in the shrubs along the shore.

Since our netting operations had been suspended this year, it is more challenging to find some species. But I will use my eyes and ears and record as many species as I can!

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi.

American White Pelicans at Fish Point and Cape May warbler by Sumiko Onishi.



