



Migration Summary August 5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear friends and supporters of [PIBO](#),

**PIBO's summer breeding birds' observation had a very good result despite the minimized staff. Many thanks to the young ornithologist who bicycled all over the island to observe those breeding species during the spring and summer. It was very exciting for us to see young Prothonotary Warblers and White-eyed Vireos although we still hope to see a family of Yellow-breasted Chats someday. Now, it is time to observe migratory birds since they started moving to the south.**

**On August 5th a total of 45 species were recorded on the fall season first census. Purple Martins were heard everywhere along the census route. A big group of them were roosting at the pond and the tip. A couple of Red-headed Woodpeckers (local nesters) were still hanging around the pond. In the forest, many families of House Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Baltimore Orioles showed up. The tip was getting busy as well. Sixty American White Pelicans and eight Spotted Sandpipers were recorded.**

**The swallows were migrating on these days. Quite a few Bank Swallows were observed on August 6th. At the tip, many Purple Martins were high up in the sky, while Barn Swallows were flying low over the**

water. In addition to the Barn, fluttery Bank Swallows made dry scratchy (described in the Sibley Field Guide) calls. We counted 40 species during census on August 7th and a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers, a pair of Prothonotary Warblers, and a female/young American Redstart were seen for the post-breeding dispersal. Caspian Terns and Sanderlings were recorded as season first.

The wind had been to the south and the morning temperature was warmer for the last few days, although the cooler air after the sunset livened up many insect calls for the evening. The breeding birds with their young hanging around our backyard slowly moved away and became quiet. Shorebirds started arriving and many Spotted Sandpipers were seen along the shore. On August 8th a group of Sanderlings and a Least/Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed.

On August 9th the warm and humid morning temperature made mosquitoes more active. They were very feisty while I was cutting back vegetation around the net lines in the netting area after the census. The census was like the previous morning with lots of swallows taking off to the south from the tip. A Chimney Swift was observed as season first and quite a few Killdeers were in the area as well.

The weather became unpleasant with high humidity and 25C after the thunderstorm on August 10th. Although birds on their migration were attracted to the puddles everywhere after the dry weather last week. A total of forty species was counted during the census including a season first Northern Waterthrush singing at the pond. A gathering of American White Pelicans at the tip had been getting bigger day by day which came to be about a hundred of them.

The intense thunderstorm overnight kept the humidity around 100% for the morning of August 11th! A solitary Sandpiper was seen at the roadside puddle on my way to the census (non-standard observation), but I didn't observe much new migratory bird movement during my census.

On August 12th I decided not to go to the census after multiple severe weather systems passed in the region. I have experienced many different harsh weather conditions like thunder, snow, strong wind, and heavy rain during the census, but this was the first time the weather was the reason for not conducting the census after my ten years of experience. The road to Fish Point was closed due to power lines and trees down at multiple locations.

More new fallen trees came across the census route and forced me to walk around to find a better route on August 13th. A group of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds crossing over the lake was observed. A total of 39 species was recorded and Least Sandpiper was observed as new for the season.

**August 14th** A big group of European Starlings were twittering in the trees around the pond. They were inspecting every small tree cavity and Red-headed Woodpeckers were busy trying to chase them away. The weather had changed with the north-east winds since last night and brought some migrants and many stable flies! The east shore was busy with flycatchers. Lots of Least Flycatchers were recorded along with some Yellow-bellied, Trails and Great Crested Flycatchers. I heard warblers flying over calling high up in the canopy. Quite a few Blackburnian and Black-and-white Warblers were observed.

**Fall Banding will start on August 15th! However, it looks like a challenging condition with many mosquitoes, overgrown poison ivies, and muddiness for the beginning of the season. We will see!!**

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi.

Bonaparte's Gulls by Sumiko Onishi