



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

Migration Summary from October 15th to 31st, 2022

The west wind had steadily increased for the last few days, and the west shore had been rough—the sound of howling wind kept going all day on October 15th. Quite a few Sharp-shinned Hawks were

recorded on the census, but we cancelled the netting operation due to the intense wind. On the morning of October 16th, raptors started crossing the lake. A total of 24 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, 4 Northern Harriers, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and an American Kestrel were recorded along the west shore on the census. Also, a big flock of blackbirds – Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and European Starlings - started showing up.

From October 17th to 19th, the weather had been harsh – mostly west wind increased to more than 40 km/hour with gusts to 60 km/hour, and it had been on and off cold rain and sleet. The netting was operated only when the weather permitted, and only a few birds were banded. On the 17th census, a few groups of Tree Swallows flying along the east shore were observed; this late group seems to show up at this time every year. On the 18th census, a season first Common Loon flying over and Orange-crowned, Pine, and Nashville Warbler were seen along with kinglets. Numerous sparrows had been seen for those days. Flocks of White-crowned, Song and Chipping Sparrows and quite a few Eastern Towhees were around – non-standard observation. On the 19th census, three American Kestrels perched on a dead tree at the tip and a couple more flying over the lake was seen.

From October 20th to 23rd, the weather wildly fluctuated- snowing on the 20th to summer-like temperature on the 23rd. Many tiny flying insects, Monarch Butterflies, snakes, and toads, had been seen in the warm temperatures. On the 22nd, hundreds of Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles moving through the area had been observed. Nine Northern Harriers – five adult males- were recorded along the west shore. On October 23rd, active migration was observed under the gentle south wind. In the blue sky, layers upon layers of migratory birds - thousands of blackbirds, robins, Blue Jays, many American Pipits, Horned Larks, Purple Finches, American Goldfinches, and nuthatches – were flying across the lake. It was nice to listen to a medley of calls of different species flying over.

October 24th saw similar conditions to the day before. In the early morning, many birds flew over, and some Purple Finches sang in the netting area. Along with numerous robins, quite a few groups of Eastern Bluebirds and some Killdeers were flying over along with thousands of blackbirds. Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant -20 on the census - and Hermit Thrushes, Winter Wrens, White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were moving through the netting area. Still, only six thrushes were banded, along with a couple of kinglets.

On October 25th, eight Trumpeter Swans were recorded on the census. Many kinglets, White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos were hanging around the netting area. We opened all the nets once but had to close some soon after when they started catching tons of falling leaves whenever the wind blew. Only a few birds were banded. On October 26th, it was light rain with a mild temperature (15C) during the census. The census wasn't busy except for observing many kinglets. But there was a sign that some migrants had arrived. A big flock of Eastern Meadowlarks - about forty altogether - were seen on a recently cropped farm field.

The warmer temperature suddenly dropped on the morning of October 27th. From the 27th to the 28th, we saw numerous birds, including hundreds of juncos, and the netting had been busy. Thousands of American Crows flying over were seen on the census. A total of 115 birds (35.6 net-hours) of 12 species were banded, including a Fox Sparrow, a late-season American Redstart, and 56 Golden-

crowned Kinglets on the 27th. On the 28th, after experiencing a stressful time extracting many kinglets, we had to close the nets due to falling leaves. We opened six of the ten nets. However, within an hour, the nets started filling with kinglets, and all the nets were closed temporarily. A total of 117 birds (19.1 net-hours) of 11 species were banded, including 86 Golden-crowned Kinglets and 11 Dark-eyed Juncos. As a non-standard observation, five Evening Grosbeaks came to our feeder at home.

Waterfowl started showing up after October 29th. Some Horned Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers were seen. From October 30th to 31st, thousands of blackbirds were counted during the census. Many robins and bluebirds and juncos were seen in the area. A Northern Rough-legged Hawk (dark morph) flying over the water was seen on the 30th, and a hundred Horned Grebes and a group of scaup species were recorded on the 31st. The season's first owling started on the 29th, and we welcomed visitors for the first three nights. The weather had been warmer than the usual owling season. However, six new Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded for those nights.

Migration Summary from November 1st to 10th, 2022

Since November started, we were supposed to get ready for freezing temperatures. Still, it was 17C in the morning, a spring-like misty morning after the rain during the night. Some kinglets, creepers and nuthatches were around, and many birds flying over were seen on the census. Still, it wasn't easy to identify them due to the bad visibility. Three Ruddy Ducks were observed along with other waterfowl on the east shore.

On November 2nd, thousands of noisy blackbirds filled the pond. Once they took off to the blue sky, they formed an endless line. I counted them a hundred...two hundred...five hundred, a thousand. On the west beach, season first, American Trees Sparrows and a Clay-colored Sparrow were observed.

The weather was warm from November 3rd to 4th - the temperature stayed around 15C. We expected frost this season, but it had been foggy mornings. A Monarch butterfly flying over the lake was seen on the census of the 3rd. Thousands of blackbirds continuously showed up on the west shore that day, but there were few on the 4th.

On November 6th, a season first Bufflehead was recorded, but only a few birds had been seen from November 5th to 7th. On November 8th, the wind became northeast, and there were some migrants. A hundred Golden-crowned Kinglets and thousands of blackbirds were recorded. A few Killdeers had been moving through the area for these days. The highlight was a Golden Eagle flying in a circle above my head at the pond. The wind shifted to the south on the morning of the 9th. The frequent strong winds, warm temperatures, and less precipitation throughout the season affected the pond significantly with low water levels. The bottom was exposed, and some green grass started covering the muddy area. Along with the flock of starlings, about a hundred Rusty Blackbirds were feeding on the mud.

On November 10th, the season's last census recorded a total of 22 species. Instead of walking in the biting cold winds we usually have in November, I relaxed without rushing back to the banding. I enjoyed the mild weather during the last census. It was a busy season for me, going back and forth between the census and the netting. Still, it was a very fulfilling season, banding 1737 birds and recording 158

species. I was happy to finish this PIBO's 19th season successfully.

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi

Eastern Screech-owl and Northern Saw-whet owl by Sumiko Onishi

