



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

Migration Summary September 16th to 30th, 2022 and October 1st-14th, 2022

The temperature had been up and down for this period, weekly and daily. A week of warmer weather got cooler for another week, and the temperature warmed up for the afternoon and dropped quite a bit during the night. The weather stimulated the trees to turn colour, and many migrants came through the area along with many Monarch butterflies.

From September 16th to 19th, there were few birds observed. Several **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Merlins** were seen at the census route, where many songbirds were hiding in the shrubs nearby the water. Although a good variety of species – a total of sixty-seven species including fifteen warbler species, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** - was recorded during the count period on the 16th. On the 17th, lots of **Northern Parula** were seen, and a flock of **Blue Jays** started showing up!

On September 20th, hearing a rhythmical song of **Whip-poor Will** in the dawn forest woke me up while opening the nets. On the census, many Monarch butterflies were flying over high up in the blue sky – counted seventy of them. Several **Scarlet Tanagers** were seen on the census and in the netting area, and many **Yellow-shafted Flickers** were seen along the road on the way back home.

The weather changed on September 22nd, the first day of fall, to coincide with the equinox. It was a rapid change from 25C the day before to the morning temperature of 15C with the strong north-west wind. We heard the sound of tall trees coming down by the wind twice while we were out. During the census, a season first **American Pipit** was recorded at the tip, but there were not many birds observed for both the census and the netting area.

On September 24th, the wind shifted to the south, although the temperature stayed cool. It was quiet for the census, and the netting area, except for some **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, were observed, and some season first species – **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Rusty Blackbirds**, and **Dark-eyed Juncos** – were recorded. It started raining in the evening and stayed on and off during the census on the morning of September 25th. Over five hundred **Blue Jays** flying high up in the sky were observed at the pond, and they were teaming up to avoid their predators. The netting had been quiet for both 24th and the 25th - a total of ten birds was banded (28.9 net-hours) on the 24th and a total of nine birds was banded (20.6 net-hours) on the 25th. Later in the morning, a group of more than 20 **White-throated Sparrows** came out from the low shrubs nearby the nets and quickly flew into other shrubs when I was closing the nets. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** appeared after them.

On September 26th, the hurricane hit the east coast of Canada and left this area with intense winds, and the census and the netting were cancelled due to safety concerns. Since our census route and the banding lab are surrounded by mature forest, we have been experiencing falling trees that damaged our banding lab and blocked the trail to check our nets.

The weather improved on September 27th after the strong wind passed, but only a few species were seen for the next few days. Several hundred **Blue Jays** flying over were continuously seen during the census each morning. Many **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were around **in the netting area**, but fewer warblers were observed daily, although many **Northern Parulas** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** had been seen. On the 28th, twelve birds of eight species were banded. Many monarch butterflies flying high up in the blue sky – counted about a hundred during the census.

From September 29th to 30th, the strong north-east wind brought more **Winter Wrens**, **Brown Creepers**, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and numerous kinglets and **White-throated Sparrows**. However, some **House Wrens** and **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were observed as well. For the netting, a total of thirty-five birds of fourteen species was banded (30 net-hours), including two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** on the 29th and a total of forty-one birds of 14 species was banded (26.3 net-hours), including 12 **White-throated Sparrows**.

Some small groups of **Red-winged Blackbirds** started showing up in the last few days, but we have yet to see a big flock of them on the census.

Migration Summary from October 1st to 14th, 2022

Many birds flying across the road on my drive to Fish Point are signs of many birds arriving. In the dawn of October 1st, quite a few birds were calling in our grassy yard and flying around along the roadside shrubs. The wind blew northeast the previous day and for the next few days. A beautiful autumn colour started to extend from maple to oak and sumac to Virginia creepers along the shoreline.

Numerous **Winter Wrens**, **Brown Creepers**, **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and kinglets were seen in the netting area. For the first couple of hours, the netting area was lively, hearing an agitating group of **Blue Jays** and at least three **Sharp-shinned Hawks**. A total of 65 birds of 17 species were banded (42.8 net-hours), including 22 kinglets and 7 **Brown Creepers**.

On October 2nd, the cold wind stayed strong, but the temperature became mild with the sun for the morning. Eight birds were banded for the first hour during the netting, and some visitors had a chance to see these birds. On the census, hundreds of kinglets called, and numerous birds were moving along the trail. Many were **White-throated Sparrows**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Brown Creepers**, and **Winter Wrens**. A **Least Flycatcher** was spotted, and the timing is getting late for those Empidonax species. I reopened the nets after the census, and soon dozens of kinglets started showing up. Many nets had to be closed under the windy condition with lots of birds. A total of 42 birds of 13 species were banded (15.9 net-hours). A **Purple Finch** and **Bobolink** were observed as new for the season.

From October 3rd to 4th, the weather was good for the migration. There were numerous **Hermit**

Thrushes, White-throated Sparrows, kinglets, **Brown Creepers**, and **Winter Wrens** in the netting area. On the 3rd, 55 birds of 13 species were banded (37.5 net-hours), including 17 **Golden-crowned** and 7 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and 10 **Hermit Thrushes**. On the 4th, 66 birds of 15 species were banded (35.6 net-hours), including 26 **Golden-crowned** and 6 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, 9 **Hermit** and 6 **Swainson's Thrushes**, and 7 **Brown Creepers**. Quite a few **American Robins** and **Eastern Bluebirds** had also been observed for the last few days.

On October 5th the census became quieter than the day before, but numerous birds were hanging around in the netting area. A total of 97 birds of 17 species were banded (33.4 net-hours), including 32 **Golden-crowned** and 29 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and 11 **Brown Creepers**. Between the busy net-round, a bunch of birds started chorusing around a tree near the banding lab. After it happened three times, I looked at the tree closely and spotted a season first **Northern Saw-whet Owl** quietly sitting in the tree. On October 6th, 29 birds of 7 species were banded (30 net-hours), including 20 kinglets.

On October 6th, it became quieter for the census and the netting compared to the day before, although groups of **American Robins** started showing up. The netting was operated before and after the census and banded a total of 29 birds of 7 species (30 net-hours). The pond had been tranquil, occasionally seeing only a few **Common Grackles** and **Rusty Blackbirds** but hardly seeing and hearing any **Red-winged Blackbirds**.

On October 7th, 27 birds of 11 species were banded (22.5 net-hours), including a few **American Redstarts** and a **Scarlet Tanager**. October 8th was another busy morning. There were numerous **White-throated Sparrows** and **Hermit Thrushes**. A total of 88 birds of 19 species were banded (40.5 net-hours), including 23 **White-throated Sparrows**, 12 **Hermit Thrushes** and 19 kinglets. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and a **House Wren** were banded as well. Quite a few birds had a good fat-score, and relatively more adult birds were seen. The wind shifted to a robust south-west wind on October 9th. Many sparrows and juncos were seen in the vegetation along the road, but the census was quieter. A total of 15 birds were banded (18.6 net-hours).

The pond was filled with the sound of noisy starlings and blackbirds on the October 10th census. However, the weather got warmer again on October 11th - it became 19C in the afternoon. Both the census and netting had been quiet without seeing even those blackbirds from the 11th to the 13th. During the short netting hours of those days, only a **Magnolia Warbler**, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and some few birds were banded, and some kinglets and **Hermit Thrushes** were observed. The west winds got much stronger since the 12th, and the strong winds with warmer temperatures caused a severe drought. The silver maple swamp, located north of our netting area, had been completely dried, a significant change from the last season when the water was deep. The ground below the nest boxes for Prothonotary Warbler was now covered by vegetation.

On October 14th, about 400 **Common Grackles** flew around the pond's wet ground- the first big flock of blackbirds showing up at the pond. Also, many American Robins were heard in the netting area early morning and counted about fifty of them flying over during the census. Only three birds were banded, including a recaptured **Magnolia Warbler**, which we originally banded on October 8th.

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi

Yellow-rumped Warbler and Northern Cardinal by Sumiko Onishi

