



## Migration Summary

August 1-14, 2022

Dear friends and supporters of PIBO,

As August began, the post-breeding birds started dispersing - birds were moving away from their nesting site and began making flocks before migrating to their winter ground. Around the Fox Pond, many of those post-breeding birds had been busy feeding up before their long journey since the end of July. Under the dry weather, the pond seemed to be quite a suitable habitat for many birds with their young. In contrast, our yard got quieter with hearing fewer birds day to day.

On August 1st, two Northern Waterthrushes were observed as the first migrant warbler on the season's first census. A total of 45 species was recorded, including two Green Herons and a juvenile, Black-crowned Night-Heron at the pond. I assumed they were the same birds we were trying to find the breeding evidence of during summer. Two other local breeding birds, a Red-headed Woodpecker and an Eastern Wood-Pewee feeding their young were also seen. August 2nd was similar to the day before. A young, Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen with an adult, and other young nearby and a Prothonotary Warbler was seen nearby the viewing deck.

From August 3rd to 4th, the pond had been the busiest place for observing many species. Several Solitary Sandpipers had been seen at the pond, along with Spotted Sandpipers. On the 4th, Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen at the pond.

After a long period of dry weather, the intense thunderstorms over the August 4th and 5th nights gave a good amount of moisture to all the insects, animals, and plants. On the morning of the 5th, many birds sat in the tree branches under the blue sky to dry their wet feathers. A House Wren feeding their second brood nearby the trail was keeping busy, and the nestling was peeking out from the cavity nest. At the tip, three Common Terns and six Caspian Terns were observed - three of the Caspian Tern were juvenile plumage. A total of 48 species was recorded.

From August 6th to 7th, a relatively active migration was observed. Many Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers had been around the pond and the shore. The season's first Black-and-white Warblers were recorded. At the tip, quite a few Yellow Warblers and swallows flew over, and a couple of Chimney Swifts were spotted among them. Some monarch butterflies going over the water were observed as well.

After the severe thunderstorm and rain at night, many flight calls of Yellow Warbler passed in the dark grey sky above my head on the morning of August 9th. They were numerous along with Baltimore Orioles on the census route. A Blackburnian and a Tennessee Warbler was seen as the season's first. After the census, I walked into the netting area to put up the nets for the fall banding operation, which starts on August 15th. It was much quieter than the tip while I was there.

There were good conditions for the last two days (Aug 10-11) as the beginning of fall migration. Many Blue Gray Gnatcatchers passing through the area were observed along with some Yellow-bellied and Least Flycatchers. A couple of Cape May Warblers were observed as the season's first. At the pond, I had a chance to see three juvenile Little Blue Herons.

On August 12th, migration was continuously active with swallows, woodpeckers, and nuthatches. There were quite a few Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches in the census area. In the canopy, warblers were hopping around with high pitch calling. A Wilson's Warbler was spotted as the season's first. American White Pelicans have been increasing for the last couple of days. About three hundred of them together were seen around the tip. Quite a few dragonflies were seen on the day as well.

August 13th to 14th was quieter than the day before, although the weather was similar in temperature. The next big group of migratory birds will be waiting for the best weather. A small group of warblers were spotted on the census of the 13th. Quite a few Blackburnian, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were in the census and netting area, and the season's first Mourning and Yellow-rumped Warbler was observed. On August 14th, ten Bald Eagles were counted on the census.

Our banding operation was set up for the busy time of the season. To my recollection, there were a swarm of mosquitoes and a muddy trail under the hot and humid weather when we started the banding operation in mid-August last year. There are only a few mosquitoes this year, and the path is OK to walk without rubber boots. It looked like the trees grew thicker canopy and many poison ivies in the netting area during the summer.

We are looking forward to seeing how the 2022 fall migration goes!!

Photo: Juvenile Eastern Wood-Pewee by Sumiko Onishi

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi