

## Migration Summary August 15-31, 2022



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

We started the banding operations and census during the latter half of August. I recalled how busy we were with the banding at this time last season. Checking the nets while marching in the deep mud made us sweat profusely, and the swarms of mosquitoes made it difficult to do the extraction. Things have completely changed for this season! The ground is dry with fewer mosquitoes (so far!). The canopy and the understory appeared thicker than last season, including many tall poison ivies! Some tree leaves already started turning colour with the temperature fluctuations.

On August 15th, hundreds of warblers moving through were observed high up in the canopy. **Blackburnian** were the majority, and quite a few **Cape May**, **Bay-breasted**, and **Black-and-white Warblers** were observed. Along with them, three **Canada Warblers** - new for the season – were recorded during the census and banded two more. Another season first banded was a **Hermit Thrush** which usually shows up late in the season among other thrush species. So far, thirteen warbler species have been recorded since the beginning of this fall season.

The volume of warblers had been continuously high from August 16th to 20th, but mostly they remained in the canopy. A total of 55 species were recorded during the standard count period, and eight

birds were banded (28.1 net-hour) on the 16th. The season first, **Swainson's Thrush** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were banded and showed heavy moult with growing the flight feathers which we don't often see. On the 17th, some **Magnolia** and **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were observed, and 15 birds (25.3 net-hour) were banded, including a **Wilson's Warbler**. On the 18th, a **Pine Warbler** and a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were observed as new for the season on the census, and 16 birds were banded (41.3 net-hour).

Since August 19th, the winds had shifted to the south, and the temperature warmed up for the afternoon, but it dropped quite a bit for the evening and the morning. On the 19th's census, a **Marbled Godwit** was seen at the tip, and ten birds were banded (for the full 45 net-hours). On August 20th, the netting area was quiet, but many **Purple Martins** and **Barn Swallows** were migrating.

After the first big group of warblers showed up on August 15th, we recorded a good variety of warbler species each morning during the week, although the netting had been quiet. On August 21st, there was a thunderstorm with heavy rain starting before dawn, and it came and went all day. A flock of warblers was seen at the tip, but pouring rain with lightning started, and the census finished early. On August 22nd, many **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen on my way to Fish Point and during the census. **Magnolia**, **American Redstart**, **Black-and-white** and **Ovenbirds** were numerous for the last few days, and some thrushes also started showing up. The netting became busy in the morning of the 23rd - banded 68 birds of 19 species, including 12 warbler species - and quite a few **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were around.

On August 24th, we banded 33 birds of 14 species - 27 warblers of 10 different species, four thrushes, and others (full 45 net-hours). At 8 am, quite a few thrushes started calling around the banding lab.

From August 25th to 26th, there were many **Green Herons** at the pond, and their sharp piercing calls echoed - six of them were recorded on the 25th. Each day a few **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed, and several **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were making noisy sounds while chasing each other. On the 26th, the netting area had been quiet, but there were hundreds of warblers moving through the east shoreline around the tip. Also, a hundred **Purple Martins** and **Barn Swallows** flew around at the tip. Groups of **Common Grackles** and **European Starlings** coming through the area were seen as well.

Sixty-six species, including 12 warbler species, were recorded during the standard count period on August 27th. Only 19 birds were banded after the census (34.5 net-hour). On August 28th, another significant swallow migration was observed - hundreds of **Purple Martins**, some **Barn** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** (non-standard observation) kept flying to the south was seen at the tip. A couple of **Chimney Swifts** were along with them. The flock of warblers which had been observed for the last few days must have left overnight. There were not many warblers seen during the census. **Red Knot** and **Ruddy Turnstones** (non-standard observation) were observed on the shore, and an **Osprey** and a **Peregrine Falcon** (non-standard observation) were seen.

On August 29th, another group of birds arrived in rainy weather. **American Redstarts** were numerous, and some more **Black-throated Blue** and **Nashville** were seen. Thirteen warblers, including **Yellow** and **Yellow-rumped**, were recorded.

On August 30th, some **Blue-winged Teals** were seen along with about fifty **Wood Ducks** at the pond. The most remarkable sighting for the morning was thousands of **Double-crested Cormorants** and more than three hundred **American White Pelicans** on the south shore. The flock of white pelicans and dark cormorants moving around in the dark grey stormy sky was a nice view at the tip. After the census, the nets were opened for a couple of hours, and only eight birds were banded, although there were quite a few thrushes in the netting area.

On August 31st, fifty-five birds of 20 species were banded. Some nets were temporarily closed due to many warblers in the nets. In addition, a flock of **Common Grackles** started jumping in the nets. Later in the morning, warblers began coming down, and 14 **American Redstarts** were banded along with 11 other warbler species.

The number of warbler species and the volume of each of those species were remarkable for the period. In the netting area, early morning calls of warblers, thrushes, and nuthatches were slowly building up day by day toward the end of the month. This condition gave me the idea that the banding will become busy soon as the weather gets suitable. Hundreds of thrushes will come soon in September!!  
Green Heron and Red Knot by Sumiko Onishi

The summary was written by Sumiko Onishi



