

PIBO Migration Summary August 11th – 20th



Prothonotary Warblers

Warm temperatures and southerly winds made for a quiet time at the Point from August 11th – 14th, but there was a noticeable upswing in activity mid-month thanks in part to some cooler weather towards the end of the summary period. Dawn temperatures dipped below 20° C on August 15th, which was enough to encourage a few migrants to move south over the following days, including 50 species recorded on the 19th.

Although it was generally slow in the netting area as well, the banding season started off on an exciting note with the capture of two hatch-year **Prothonotary Warblers** on August 12th, side-by-side in the same net. The youngsters were undoubtedly from the nest located within a kilometre of the banding station, which successfully fledged two young this year. Both captured birds were actively moulting. A variety of other species were banded in small numbers including eight other warbler species, Yellow-bellied, Least and Traill's Flycatchers, and a few Swainson's Thrush, among others.

Gull numbers remained high, with over 800 Ring-billed and Herring and 48 Great Black-backs noted on the 20th, along with 2850 Double-crested Cormorants. Shorebirds continued to trickle through the area and small numbers of Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and Spotted Sandpipers were recorded almost daily. A **Hudsonian Godwit** appeared at the tip on August 18th and lingered for a couple of days – a station 'first'.

Swallows were active throughout the summary period – a station-high 102 Cliff Swallows were observed drifting south off the tip on August 12th, along with 50 Barn Swallows and 48 Purple Martins on the 14th, followed by another 70 Cliff Swallows on the 20th.

PIBO's next summary will be posted on September 2nd.

Photo: Sumiko Onishi