

PIBO MIGRATION SUMMARY August 21st – 31st, 2011



Eastern Screech-Owl

It was a productive and enjoyable ten days at the Point from the 21st to 31st and migration activity picked up steadily throughout the summary period, culminating on August 29th with the first significant fall-out at the station since coverage got underway on the 1st. In all, twenty autumn 'firsts' were recorded over the ten days including Pied-billed Grebe, Baird's Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, ten warbler species, and a nice variety of other others. The netting area was busy towards the end of the month, with 86 birds banded on August 29th and 82 on the following day.

After a relatively quiet morning on the 21st the winds went north and the mercury dropped to 15° C for the first time this month, which produced a small wave of migrants on the 22nd, including a nice mix of shorebirds, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes and warblers. In all, 57 species were noted in the count area including increased numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, and American Redstart, among others. Interestingly, one of the **Prothonotary Warblers** banded at the station on August 12th was recaptured on the 22nd.

Another busy morning on August 23rd included the capture of nine warbler species and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** – the first banded at the station since operations began in 2003. Near-gale conditions on the 24th made for a quiet morning and there was little of note on the day with the exception of a windswept **Red Knot** at the tip. Three more days of light activity from August 25th – 27th gave way to another active morning on the 28th – 58 species were tallied including fourteen warbler species. Magnolias and American Redstarts were numerous, along with the first Black-throated Greens and Bay-breasted Warblers of the fall.

August 29th proved to be the busiest morning this month and PIBO staff and volunteers were treated to a nice variety of birds (64 species) including small groups of five shorebird spp., six flycatcher spp., four thrush spp., and good numbers of fifteen warbler species. Magnolias once again led the way, with 32 birds recorded (20 banded), followed in order of abundance by American Redstart (21), Blackburnian (13), Blackpoll (12), and Black-throated Blue Warblers (11). An Eastern Screech-Owl was captured on the first net round of the day. The next day was almost equally busy – 58 species were noted and 82 birds of eighteen species were captured, including thirteen warbler species. The pace dropped off on the final day of the month, although 84 Purple Martins were observed departing south from the tip and eleven warbler species were counted in modest numbers.

PIBO's next summary will be posted on September 13th.

Photo: Sumiko Onishi