

## AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – AUGUST, 2015

Something strange happened this month I ended up with 91 species for the month as against 83 for August, 2014. I even added two species so let the story begin.

There were up to four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks through the month and two Blue-winged Teal were seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> with six on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Swallow-tailed Kites peaked at 40 on the 5<sup>th</sup>; the last were four on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 1<sup>st</sup> with on the 30<sup>th</sup> single light and dark morphs. With high water levels the only shorebirds flew over there were single Solitary (5<sup>th</sup>) and Spotted (30<sup>th</sup>) Sandpipers.

Very unexpectedly a flock of 24 Laughing Gulls were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>. This was tern month as single Royal (the 8<sup>th</sup>) and Black (the 26<sup>th</sup>) flew to the north; both were new species for the park. Back to more normal species there was a White-winged Dove on the 14<sup>th</sup> with a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen on 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (they are a regular early fall passage migrant). There were Eastern Wood-Pewees on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on passage from the 19<sup>th</sup>, the highest number was 105 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They traveled south in small flocks; unlike the smaller Barn Swallows their flight is level.

Red-eyed Vireos were seen from the 15<sup>th</sup> with a high count of four on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Purple Martins continued to be seen occasionally all month. Totally out of season there was a Tree Swallow on the 12<sup>th</sup>; also on the 12<sup>th</sup> in the same flock I located a single Cliff Swallow. Barn Swallows flew to the south all month with 189 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A Brown-headed Nuthatch was seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> with two European Starlings on the 30<sup>th</sup> (this was only the fourth record for the park!).

It is early days for warblers but Yellow Warblers were seen on four dates. Prairie Warblers peaked at five on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was also a beautiful Prothonotary Warbler on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Northern Waterthrushes were seen from the 8<sup>th</sup> with singles on five dates. In contrast the Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen to the 19<sup>th</sup> with a new high count of three on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Hooded Warblers were seen on three dates the 5<sup>th</sup>, the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>; this has to be the best showing by this species.

Tanagers are rare here so to have a Summer on the 29<sup>th</sup> and a Scarlet on the 28<sup>th</sup> was very unexpected. There were two Bobolink on the 23<sup>rd</sup> hopefully there will be a strong passage in September. Finally there were three House Finches on the 5<sup>th</sup>. As it gets busier there is little room for the side comments.

Harry Robinson

