

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS JANUARY, 2018

When compared to the fall and winter passage January was a quiet month even so there were two new additions to the bird list. There were a series of fronts during the month leading to some cold days (at least cold by central Florida standards). The winds have tended to be from the north. During the month 97 species were located as against 91 species in 2017 this was over 31 surveys and 146 hours at the park.

Single Red-throated Loons were seen on the 2nd, 4th and 25th. There was a Horned Grebe on the 13th with five on the 20th, then one seen on the 21st. American White Pelicans have been present all month over the Halifax River on the 24th 120 seen this is a new high count for the park. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 10th.

A Roseate Spoonbill flew to the north on the 14th. It was Turkey Vulture month with 435 on the 17th, 905 on the 23rd and 421 on the 24th. The bird of the month had to be an adult Tundra Swan that flew to the south down the Halifax River on the 13th. There was a Mottled Duck on the 19th this was only the second record. There were two Redheads on the 4th with a Long-tailed Duck flying to the south near the shore on the 8th (all the Long-tailed's seen to date have flown along the shore). There were four Buffleheads on the 5th with a Hooded Merganser sitting on the sea on the 8th.

There were two Peregrine Falcons one on the 28th was in the area whilst the other on the 31st flew north well out to sea. The only shorebird of note was a Semipalmated Plover on the 6th. For the month 16 Pomarine and ten Parasitic Jaegers were seen. There was a Glaucous Gull on the 7th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 103 on the 16th. An adult Common Tern flew to the north on the 21st that was most unexpected. Black Skimmers were interesting in that there were cold weather movements to the south then as it warmed up a bit some would return to the north. The heaviest flights to the south were 865 on the 4th, 345 on the 6th, 316 on the 14th and 123 on the 25th. The count of 865 is a new high count for the park.

There were single White-winged Doves on the 19th and 24th. On the 30th for the second park record a first-winter Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flew to the north. There was a Pileated Woodpecker on the 24th. An American Crow was present on the 21st and 22nd. There was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 20th (it was on the utility wires across AiA!). Now we come to the 12th on this day a cold front was approaching and the wind was from the south-west at 12 m.p.h. we were clearly in the warm sector. A total of 3,750 American Robins flew to the south with six American Pipits (new species), 1,460 Cedar Waxwings, 245 Common Grackles, 910 Brown-headed Cowbirds and 62 American Goldfinches. The counts for Cedar Waxwing, Brown-headed Cowbirds and American

Goldfinch were all new high counts. There were also 2,750 American Robins on the 24th with 510 Cedar Waxwings on the 23rd and 30 American Goldfinches on the 31st. Finally there was a male Baltimore Oriole on the 24th.

I suspect that February will be quieter but one never knows.

Harry Robinson