

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2018

This was a quiet month perhaps the quietest so far even so there was an addition to the list. Fog was a common problem this month with the fog often lingering over the sea. In all 88 species were seen there were 91 in February, 2017. I carried out surveys on all 28 days for a total of 131 hours. For this year 110 species have been seen with 239 for the survey as a whole. The highest species count was 48 on the 2nd and the most birds were 3,089 on the 7th.

Now to the birds there was a Horned Grebe on the 6th and American White Pelicans peaked at 31 on the 16th. Single Reddish Egrets were seen on three dates the 6th, 17th and 26th. There were four Glossy Ibis on the 4th this is always an uncommon species here. For the ducks there were four Blue-winged Teal on the 19th with a Ring-necked Duck on the 12th. There were two Surf Scoters on the 3rd with two more on the 19th. Finally for this group there was a Hooded Merganser on the 17th.

There was a Merlin on the 12th with a Peregrine Falcon on the 2nd there were two more peregrines on the 13th. Whilst Willets continued moving to the north the first signs of spring passage were at the end of the month. On the 27th two American Oystercatchers flew to the north and a Greater Yellowlegs did likewise on the 28th.

A total of 14 Pomarine Jaegers were seen up to the 17th with six on the 12th. There were 76 Parasitic Jaegers this month with 39 on the 12th and ten on the 17th (the last was on the 27th). Most unexpectedly a first-winter Long-tailed Jaeger (pale morph) flew to the south on the 14th. The only gull of note was a first-winter Iceland Gull that flew to the south on the 26th. Royal Terns moved to the north for most of the month there were 520 on the 27th. On the 12th a total of 786 Forster's Terns flew to the south. The highest count of Black Skimmers was that of 36 on the 1st.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 6th with a Pileated Woodpecker on the 25th that remains a local rarity. There were six American Crows on the 1st this species rarely crosses over the river. The last American Robin was on the 21st. Now to the addition to the list there was a female Eastern Bluebird on the 9th. Cedar Waxwings peaked at 375 on the 2nd the last were on the 18th. The 5th seems to have been a special day as there was a Louisiana Waterthrush, a Savannah Sparrow and a very high 105 American Goldfinches. There was another Savannah Sparrow on the 21st.

Hopefully March will be much better.

Harry Robinson