

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – SEPTEMBER, 2014

Another month has gone by and still it rains every afternoon; still that does leave the mornings clear to count birds. There has been one very significant change the frogs have for the most part stopped calling! I can now hear the Barred Owls calling from the woods and just possibly a Black-crowned Night-Heron flying over in the dark.

It has been an interesting month with a total of 97 species (there were 83 species in August). The overall list has now reached 180 a figure that I had in the spring hoped to reach by the end of this year. Not sure that I should set any more targets but let us up the total to 200 species by the end of the year. 2015 will be much harder there will only be a few additions.

Now to the birds there were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 21st and 27th with a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 2nd. The Little Blue Herons still fly in each morning to feed; they are very quarrelsome birds. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks peaked at 12 on the 15th and Blue-winged Teals (an occasional visitor this month) peaked at six on the 8th. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 23rd; I thought the pair had left. On the 30th a Peregrine Falcon was circling overhead with a flock of some 65 Chimney Swifts.

On the 29th there was an Eastern Whip-poor-will (it flew by me) and on the 30th I heard one call with another in song. Turning to the flycatchers there were single Eastern Wood-Pewee's on four dates with single Acadian Flycatcher on the 20th and a Least Flycatcher on the 22nd. Single Yellow-throated Vireos were seen on the 9th, 25th and 29th and Red-eyed Vireos peaked at 11 on the 27th. There was also a Cliff Swallow on the 23rd and the Barn Swallows peaked at 93 on the 8th.

There have been a few thrushes with single Veery on the 25th and 29th, Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 27th and Swainson's Thrush on the 18th and 23rd. There was a Blue-winged Warbler on the 19th and Tennessee Warblers were seen on three dates. There were single Chestnut-sided Warblers on the 22nd and 25th and up to four Yellow-throated Warblers were seen through the month. There was a Worm-eating Warbler on the 23rd. Northern Waterthrushes peaked at three on the 11th and there was a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 4th. Finally there was a male Hooded Warbler on the 29th.

Please note all these counts are detailed on the excel spreadsheet; this is lodged on the West Volusia Audubon web site (it is updated monthly).

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