

## AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS OCTOBER, 2014.

This survey started on October 14, 2013 so I am beginning to compare the sightings then to what I am seeing now. There are two things that stand out last year there was a “resident” flock of Killdeer not so this year; an occasional bird does put in an appearance. On the plus side last year I saw in both October and November singles of each of the common herons/egrets numbers this year are significantly higher all round. The Little Blue Heron was last year represented by one bird this year; in October the number has ranged from 27 to seven.

In April 2014 I saw a total of 129 species which was by far the best month; October just fell short I ended up with 124 species for the month. November will be lower but by how much?

As this was a busy month I will get straight to the birds. There was an Eastern Whip-poor-will present all month. It took some time but there was an American Bittern on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were six Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 16<sup>th</sup> with 19 on the 18<sup>th</sup> otherwise only singles noted. A Northern Harrier flew to the south on the 14<sup>th</sup> and single Broad-winged Hawks were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a late Short-tailed Hawk on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Merlin on the 9<sup>th</sup> with three on the 21<sup>st</sup>; the only Peregrine Falcon was on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Common Gallinule on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, don't laugh that is only the second record....Very unexpectedly a Barn Owl flew to the south in the dark calling on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with an Acadian Flycatcher on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a Veery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with Gray-cheeked Thrushes on the 4<sup>th</sup> (one), 5<sup>th</sup> (two) and 7<sup>th</sup> (two). Swainson's Thrushes were by far the commonest of these thrushes there were two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, two on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one on the 7<sup>th</sup>, one on the 16<sup>th</sup>, three on the 17<sup>th</sup> and two on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Now to the warblers there was a Blue-winged Warbler on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were single Tennessee Warblers on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Chestnut-sided Warbler on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There were single Magnolia Warblers on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with two on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were single Black-throated Blue Warblers on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, different birds. Single Black-throated Green Warblers were seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, they were at different locations. The only Blackburnian Warbler was seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Pine Warblers peaked at 17 on the 21<sup>st</sup> a new high count. There was a Bay-breasted Warbler on the 16<sup>th</sup> with four on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Finally for the warblers there was a Hooded Warbler on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

There were two Scarlet Tanagers on the 16<sup>th</sup> with one being seen again on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with two on the 17. The only Blue Grosbeak was on

the 2<sup>nd</sup> with single Indigo Buntings on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. To complete this group there was a Painted Bunting on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

This park only covers some 60 acres so the birds detailed here indicate that this is an exceptionally good site. There is a field trip to this park on the third Friday of each month through to and including May, 2015. Please join us, for details see our newsletter, the web site, facebook or meetup.org.

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