

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – MARCH, 2015

A River Otter was present for most of the month and two or more White-tailed Deer were seen regularly. City personnel found two Cottonmouths I have avoided them so far...Perhaps the strangest sight of the month was seeing a flock of 18 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks chase repeatedly a Swallow-tailed Kite!

I only managed to locate 103 species this month as against 114 for March, 2014 still there were some interesting species. This was the first month with no additions to the list. Now to the birds a Common Loon flew to the east on the 26th. There were 20 American White Pelicans on the 3rd with three on the 31st. More unexpectedly a Brown Pelican flew to the west on the 7th. I heard a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 10th.

There were ten Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 2nd with 18 on the 24th, 15 on the 30th and 31st. A pair of Swallow-tailed Kites is back on territory with a peak count of six birds on the 24th. There were a total of 14 Northern Harriers flying to the north/north-west during the month with six on the 28th. The Short-tailed Hawk was only seen on the 5th and 12th so there may not be a locally breeding pair this year. Two pairs of Sandhill Cranes bred this year; the first pair bred in the marsh but the surviving chick was not seen after the 5th. The second pair bred at the impoundments with two chicks being seen from the 14th to the end of the month; they are growing fast.

Chuck-will's-widow were singing from the 5th; up to ten a day heard. There were five Eastern Whip-poor-wills on the 10th (a high count) with singles on 12th and 26th. The first Great Crested Flycatcher was on the 26th with a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 28th and 30th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 26th and an American Redstart on the 31st. There were also single Louisiana Waterthrushes on the 7th, 10th and 30th. Finally there were single Indigo Buntings on the 2nd and 7th,

There were a number of new high counts: there were 91 Anhinga on the 19th, 14 Tricolored Herons on the 21st, 21 Glossy Ibis on the 12th, 1462 Turkey Vultures on the 2nd and 11 Ospreys on the 3rd. There were also some last sightings: the Sora was seen to the 2nd, the Common Gallinule to the 21st, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers to the 26th and American Robin to the 7th. There was still one Eastern Phoebe on the 31st.

Harry Robinson