

## 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 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 20 American White Pelicans on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with three on the 31<sup>st</sup>. More unexpectedly a Brown Pelican flew to the west on the 7<sup>th</sup>. I heard a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

There were ten Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 18 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. A pair of Swallow-tailed Kites is back on territory with a peak count of six birds on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 14 Northern Harriers flying to the north/north-west during the month with six on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The Short-tailed Hawk was only seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>. The second pair bred at the impoundments with two chicks being seen from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month; they are growing fast.

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

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

Harry Robinson