

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS APRIL, 2015

I have to admit that April 2015 came in a poor second to April, 2014 but even so there was plenty of interest during the month. The River Otter has been in the marsh all month and the White-tailed Deer were seen from time to time.

American White Pelicans surprised with 435 on the 13th and 295 on the 18th; my guess is they had taken off from Lake Monroe. A total of 30 Glossy Ibis flew to the north on the 4th a new high count. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are back with a high count of 15 on the 4th. There was a brood of seven young Wood Ducks in a pond by the bike trail these together with eight adult seen on that date created a new high count of 15.

The Swallow-tailed Kite pair is back in the same spot as last year. A total of 18 Northern Harriers flew to the north including 11 on the 18th; there were even two on the 30th. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen flying north with a new high count of six on the 18th. Single Merlins were seen on the 17th and 18th with a Peregrine Falcon on the 30th.

There are two broods of Sandhill Cranes a brood of one in the marsh and a brood of two at the impoundments. There were a total of six Solitary Sandpipers seen during the month. The high count (for this year) for Chuck-will's-widows is that of 14 on the 21st. There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 23rd with an Acadian Flycatcher on the 18th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 18th with a Veery on the 21st.

For the warblers there was a Cape May Warbler on the 9th with two on the 21st. The only Black-throated Blue was on the 20th. There were single Blackpoll Warblers on the 23rd and 30th. There were single Worm-eating Warblers on the 21st and 23rd. There was a Northern Waterthrush on the 23rd with two on the 27th and 30th. There was an Indigo Bunting on the 23rd. Finally in this group there were five Bobolinks on the 23rd with 35 on the 30th.

A number of species disappeared during this month the Pied-billed Grebe stayed to the 7th, the Sora to the 7th, Belted Kingfisher to the 14th, House Wren to the 20th and Sedge Wren to the 7th.

There is so much information that I have no space to talk about watching turkeys dust bathing etc.

Harry Robinson