

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – MAY, 2015

This month with the tailings from the spring passage proved to be very interesting, there was even a new species which brings the list up to 202. In all I saw 91 species as against 92 for last year – so close. For the year the total is 157 as against 160 that I saw during the first five months of 2014; in 2014 there was a heavy spring passage of warblers and thrushes this was missing this year.

A party of four Brown Pelicans flew to the south on the 13th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons put in an appearance at the end of the month, there was one on the 27th with two on the 29th and 30th. White Ibis have been flying over in ever increasing numbers there were 875 on the 29th – a new high count. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 2nd. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were present all month; up to eight a day seen.

Alongside the pair of Swallow-tailed Kites that are nesting in the park a small roost has formed. The high count was that of 19 on the 24th. There were three Northern Harriers flying to the north to the 10th so for the spring as a whole a total of 36 flew to the north a very very high number. A light morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen on the 20th. There were four Merlins up to the 10th.

Solitary Sandpipers were seen on four dates to the 15th with three on the 2nd and the 3rd. Single Spotted Sandpipers were seen on the 1st and the 30th. Now we come to the addition to the list this was a White-rumped Sandpiper that flew around the ponds on the 17th but found nowhere to land. On the 24th two Caspian Terns flew to the east just the second record for the park.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 16th. Up to ten Chuck-will's-widows located through the month. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 3rd with a Bank Swallow on the 1st. There was a Veery on the 2nd. For the warblers there was a Tennessee on the 10th, single Cape May and Black-throated Blues on the 2nd. American Redstarts were seen to the 13th. On the 1st there were single Ovenbirds and Northern Waterthrushes.

There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 8th with a Blue Grosbeak on the 22nd. Finally there were two House Finches on the 29th.

I was watching two male turkeys by the fence at the back of the ponds when a White-tailed Deer sauntered up. It wanted to just walk by but a turkey said no by head butting the deer twice. The deer was startled but not alarmed it just made a detour and continued unhurriedly on its way.

Harry Robinson.