

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – JUNE, 2015

This is one of the quiet months but even so it had its moments. The most important event was that a pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in the marsh and they have raised one young, now that was a nice surprise. They could be seen well into the morning either at the marsh or at the impoundments. All month there has been a flock of Swallow-tailed Kites on the south side of the impoundments; up to 14 a day seen. It has been a great pleasure to see them swooping and circling having total control of their environment. On most days small groups of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks visited the impoundments as if looking for nesting sites....These three species made it a special month.

Short-tailed Hawks were seen on three dates; there were singles on the 14th and 27th with two on the 21st. Keith Gardner took a great picture of the one on the 27th; the picture is shown below. Both birds were adult light morphs. This is a rarity in Florida there are only some 200 breeding pairs.

A Black-necked Stilt flew to the north on the 12th. There were single White-winged Doves on the 3rd and 10th. There were two Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 24th; a typical date for the return migration for this species. More unusually there was an Eastern Bluebird on the 24th.

By now you should know that I like “new high counts” this month there were new high counts of 97 Cattle Egrets on the 28th, 13 Ospreys on the 13th, 22 Purple Martins on the 12th and 60 Northern Cardinals on the 19th. I do not play tapes so I hardly ever hear an Eastern Screech-Owl but on the 20th I heard two one at either end of the parking lot; that was a high count.

I only recorded 66 species this month as against 72 for June, 2014. As you can see there were no additions to the list; I did try.

There were up to five White-tailed Deer; it surprises me just how confiding they can be. There were two Eastern Cottontails in the parking lot and they did not want to move. It is special when wild creatures are not frightened by you.

Harry Robinson