

## AUDUBON PARK – OCTOBER, 2015 BIRD COUNTS

I only saw 118 species this month but that still gets 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the monthly rankings, the best month was April, 2014 when I saw 129 species (there were 124 species in October, 2014; I just ran out of days. On the 31<sup>st</sup> I added a new species to the list read on.

Pied-billed Grebes (normally one) returned from the 14<sup>th</sup>. American Bitterns were seen on three dates with Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. A brood of six Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> but not subsequently. There was a single Gadwall on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were single Northern Harriers on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Sharp-shinned Hawks peaked at seven on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were single Broad-winged Hawks on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> with two on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The light morph Short-tailed Hawk was last seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Will I see a Swainson's Hawk this year? Not a single Merlin seen but there was a Peregrine Falcon on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, unexpectedly there was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 70 Laughing Gulls flew to the south on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Up to two a "day" Eastern Whip-poor-wills heard. There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 7<sup>th</sup> and up to two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen from the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were single Eastern Wood-Pewees on the 7<sup>th</sup> and from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> with an Acadian Flycatcher on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Phoebes were first seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> with a high count of 18 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Blue-headed Vireos were seen from the 17<sup>th</sup>, there were two on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Barn Swallows were seen occasionally through the month the last being three on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Sedge Wrens were seen from the 16<sup>th</sup> with a high count of four on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Marsh Wrens were seen from the 14<sup>th</sup> with a high count of three on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In earlier years only single Marsh Wrens seen on just one day in October, 2013 and 2014.

For the thrushes there were single Veery on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Gray-cheeked on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Swainson's on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Hermit Thrush was first seen on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Why cannot I find a Wood Thrush? There were twice as many Gray Catbirds this year (77 on the 17<sup>th</sup>) as against last year. For the warblers there was a Tennessee on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a Chestnut-sided on the 9<sup>th</sup> and a Black-throated Blue on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were two Magnolia Warblers on the 14<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen from the 17<sup>th</sup> with 119 present on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Single Blackburnian Warblers were seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with a Hooded Warbler on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It has been a good season for this species.

Only singles were seen of the following species: Scarlet Tanager on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Blue Grosbeak on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Indigo Bunting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Painted Bunting on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

So what have I left out? It is the sparrows both Savannah and Swamp arrived as normal but on the 31<sup>st</sup> there were two strays. There was a Song Sparrow by the impoundments but it really needed to find the marsh. In the marsh was the new species for the park, a Lincoln's Sparrow now that I had not expected.

The White-tailed Deer have kept out of sight this month although there was one feeding quietly in the impoundments on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The River Otter has been present all month in the marsh. To show that I do look at things other than birds and mammals Monarch Butterflies have been trickling south all month.

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