

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – NOVEMBER, 2015

It always surprises me just how much turns up at this very small site; 60 acres is not big. This month there were two additions to the list and three second sightings. On some days there are “happenings” that startle one on one such day the four resident cranes were quietly feeding and a party of five Wild Turkeys approached. Now they feed with female turkeys all the time but these were males and they rushed the cranes causing all kinds of consternation; the cranes quickly found a new place to feed.

Now to the birds a Common Loon flew to the south on the 21st and there were American Bitterns on the 13th and 20th. A flock of seven adult white morph Snow Geese flew to the east on the 11th a second record. The only Hooded Merganser was seen on the 7th. A Northern Harrier flew to the south on the 13th and a dark morph Swainson’s Hawk hung around on the 26th this was another second record. There was a Common Gallinule on the 7th. For the gulls there were 12 Bonaparte’s on the 26th and 290 Ring-billed on the same date.

There was a new high count of 18 for Eastern Phoebe on the 1st. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was heard but not seen on the 18th and 27th so much of the marsh is out of sight. This was the first “new bird”. There was a Loggerhead Shrike on the 29th just the second record. The last Barn Swallow was seen on the 27th. There were up to four Sedge Wrens all month with four Marsh Wrens on the 1st then three seen for the rest of the month. The second new bird was a Golden-crowned Kinglet this was with a flock of Yellow-rumps working their way from the marsh to the parking lot.

There was an American Pipit on the 6th with on the 7th single Northern Parula and Ovenbirds. Black-and-white Warblers were seen on three dates. Common Yellowthroats had a new high count of 18 on the 1st. There was a Painted Bunting on the 13th with a Baltimore Oriole on the 4th.

On the 29th an adult Bald Eagle flew over causing all the Cattle Egrets and White Ibis to take flight. Suddenly it swooped down and there was one less Cattle Egret. It seemed to find the egret difficult to carry but it had its breakfast.

Harry Robinson