

AUDUBON PARK BIRD COUNTS – DECEMBER, 2015

With the temperatures in the 80's on most days this was going to be a quiet month, it was. There was a Green Heron on the 20th with five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 11th. Short-tailed Hawks normally move south for the winter but they may have stayed put this year as there was a light morph on the 13th and a dark morph on the 16th. There was an American Coot on the 11th that is only the second record. An Eastern Whip-poor-will was present all month. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 25th with single Black-and-white Warblers on the 25th and 30th. Those were the more interesting species.

On the 25th I saw 1,930 Turkey Vultures a new high count the previous high count was that of 1,462 on March 2, 2015.. On the 23rd there were 5,260 Tree Swallows now that was very nearly a high count there had been 6,860 on February 1, 2015. Finally there were 348 American Goldfinches moving to the south on the 23rd this destroyed the previous high count of 113 on January 22, 2015.

This survey started on October 15, 2013 but the greater effort started in January 2014. I have now decided to close down this project with the last count being on December 30th and the last bird for that day being the Black-and-white Warbler! In due course I will produce a "book" on the two year's of work but it will have to wait until I have four books on Lake Apopka printed.

The field trips may continue contact Eli Schaperow for information. I will be going back to my youth sea watching. In England I was sea watching from I think age 12 so in a way I am going home. I will be at Tom Renick Park in Ormond-by-the-Sea on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings starting on January 1st. You are welcome to join me on any of these days; a telescope would be useful as it can be frustrating if the good birds are too far out to sea.

Now if anyone of you wants to start a serious bird survey Audubon Park is waiting for you.

Harry Robinson