

ZELLWOOD BIRD COUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2016

A cold and at times a very windy month so windy that I lost three counts because of the very strong westerly winds hopefully March will be warmer and less windy. The winter visitors are leaving and the spring migration has started.

Only low numbers of American White Pelicans were seen there were 12 on the 23rd. The first singing Least Bittern was on the 29th with another at a different location on March 1st. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks peaked at 272 on the 1st and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks peaked at 45 on the 17th. Gadwalls were seen to the 18th and American Wigeon to the 23rd this leaves Blue-winged Teal and some Ring-necked Ducks in the flooded fields. There was a female Redhead on Lake Apopka on the 18th. There were 420 Ring-necked Ducks on the 3rd and 570 on the 29th however on the 22nd 11,500 seen on the lake just 69 there on the 23rd. I expect such numbers in the fall but not in the spring. At the lake there were two Greater Scaup on the 1st and eight on the 23rd however very low numbers of Lesser Scaup seen this year the highest count was that of 23 on the 11th. There were also two Buffleheads on the 1st with one on the 8th. Ruddy Ducks peaked at 8500 on the 3rd there were only 205 left at the end of the month.

Ospreys reached 56 on the 29th this is the highest count for this survey year (August 17 to date). Saw Merlins on three dates and on the 18th a Peregrine Falcon came off the lake carrying a Forster's Tern that it had killed. There was a Virginia Rail by the Lake Level Canal on the 2nd with two by Lake Apopka to the south of the Hooper Farms Road extension on the 23rd. The swamphen was present all month it is now on the north side of the Lust Canal perhaps 50 yards to the east of the bridge. Limpkins are calling from a number of sites there could be over 15 pairs that is a record.

Shorebirds are more or less absent but there were six Black-necked Stilts at Duda on the 2nd. There was only a minor passage of Bonaparte's Gulls with 505 on the 11th. Three first-winter Herring Gulls present all month there were also 20 Caspian Terns on the 8th and 28 Forster's Terns on the 1st. Two Black Skimmers spent the morning of the 1st at the lake. Owls were a bit more vocal this month and there were single Eastern Screech-Owls at the Workshops on the 22nd and 29th.

Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen to the 8th. Tree Swallows gathered over the lake in the early morning before moving to the fields later the highest counts were of 8200 on the 1st and 9250 on the 29th. The first Barn Swallow was seen at a nest site on the 22nd. The Eastern Bluebirds were last seen on the 18th. Perhaps because there were no actual freezes only very small numbers of American Robins seen. The Yellow-rumped Warblers have invaded this month there being 1800 on the 18th, 5750 on the 22nd, 7350 on the 23rd and 9250 on the 29th. That count is up there the highest ever count is that of 10,220 on February 23, 2007. Numbers were significantly lower on March 1st. Louisiana Waterthrushes have been seen from the 11th but no more than two a day. Finally there appears to have been a passage of Painted Buntings this month.

Harry Robinson

Species	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.11	2.17	2.18	2.22	2.23	2.29
Pied-billed Grebe	23	12	22	34	40	18	34	18	13	32
American White Pelican	2		2	1					12	
Double-crested Cormorant	128	15	141	159	114	96	124	156	123	142
Anhinga	47	32	29	27	39	30	26	36	20	30
American Bittern	7		5	5	8	2	1	3	2	1
Least Bittern										1
Great Blue Heron	22	9	14	19	32	22	35	36	49	37
Great Egret	26	8	20	19	18	21	19	38	44	19
Snowy Egret	24	9	39	12	16	12	12	30	107	47
Little Blue Heron	34	10	11	39	17	23	11	11	16	17
Tricolored Heron	11	8	9	11	10	8	6	7	10	4
Cattle Egret	21	12	22	5	4	2	5	8	13	8
Green Heron	16	9	7	9	10	14	5	9	10	11
Black-crowned Night-Heron	10		6	13	5	11	5	10	14	13
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	2		2						1`	
White Ibis	92	11	47	56	11	24	65	128	22	11
Glossy Ibis	14	45	62	49	43	59	71	70	48	60

Species	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.11	2.17	2.18	2.22	2.23	2.29
Wood Stork			1							
Black Vulture	9	3	15	3	9	8	13	16	6	11
Turkey Vulture	19	22	56	56	40	34	43	78	71	54
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	272	20	216	71	222	35	29		140	72
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	2	4		2	1	45		6	37	1
Wood Duck	1									
Gadwall		6	3		4		2			
American Wigeon		3	2		3			2	2	
Mallard	1		1		1		1		1	2
Mottled Duck	6		1	2	5		6	2	1	9
Blue-winged Teal	11	200	31	38	62	22	32	26	36	51
Northern Shoveler			1							
Green-winged Teal		40		30	30		50			6
Redhead							1			
Ring-necked Duck	350	9	420	25	10	2	25	11,500	69	570
Greater Scaup	2								8	
Lesser Scaup	19		16	16	23	3	12			5
Bufflehead	2			1						

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Hooded Merganser			2			3	1		1	
Ruddy Duck	6500	1	8500		470			800	250	205
Osprey	13	1	22	31	21	12	19	44	30	56
Bald Eagle	1		2	4	4	2	5	2	4	3
Northern Harrier	3	1	5	4	2	3	3	3	3	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			1						1
Cooper's Hawk				1						
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	6	7	8	14	18	10	9	10	11
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	1	3	1	1	4		1	1
American Kestrel	4		3	4	2	1	3	3	2	4
Merlin	1				1			1		
Peregrine Falcon							1			
Northern Bobwhite		4								
King Rail	30	2	19	11	20	4	3	4	15	8
Virginia Rail		1							2	
Sora	28	4	21	29	25	23	14	16	7	30
Gray-headed Swamphen									1	1
Common Gallinule	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	800	700	700
American Coot	515	480	300	660	785	380	520	305	330	650

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Limpkin	1		5			5	3	11	1	10
Sandhill Crane			6			2				
Killdeer	2	1	2	7	4	5	6	8	8	12
Black-necked Stilt		6								
Greater Yellowlegs		1								
Lesser Yellowlegs		1								
Least Sandpiper								1		
Wilson's Snipe		1				1	3	1		
American Woodcock		1								
Bonaparte's Gull	115		17	57	505	1	3	15	4	23
Ring-billed Gull	35		56	55	75	3	77	15	47	10
Herring Gull	2		3	3			2	3	3	2
Caspian Tern	1		2	20	4		7	2	3	3
Forster's Tern	28		11	28	2	3	5	6	14	7
Black Skimmer	2									
White-winged Dove			1							
Mourning Dove	2	4			1	4	2	2	13	7
Common Ground-Dove	3			1	4	1	4			1

Species	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.11	2.17	2.18	2.22	2.23	2.29
Barn Owl			1	1			1		1	1
Eastern Screech-Owl								1		1
Great Horned Owl		3	2	1			1	2	1	
Barred Owl	1	2								
Belted Kingfisher	14	6	3	12	12	8	5	3	3	9
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	14	1	8	7	8	9	13	9	16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1			1		
Downy Woodpecker	3	1	1	1	1	1	2			2
Northern Flicker	2	1		1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker		1								1
Eastern Phoebe	36	9	12	13	25	25	10	21	14	23
Ash-throated Flycatcher			1	1						
White-eyed Vireo	9	10	4	1	1	6	3	8	8	14
Blue-headed Vireo	2	1			1		1			2
Blue Jay	10	6	7	6	8	11	8	9	9	14
American Crow		1	1	29	1	1	3			
Fish Crow	5	6	2	3	3	2	23	6	40	4
Purple Martin				2			6			

Species	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.11	2.17	2.18	2.22	2.23	2.29
Tree Swallow	8200		650	1170	1225	600	2400	6800	4900	9250
Barn Swallow								1		2
Carolina Wren	19	25	11	8	11	14	10	9	5	19
House Wren	17	18	8	12	10	22	11	8	3	14
Sedge Wren	2	2		1	3	1	1	2	1	2
Marsh Wren	10	6	5	4	5	7	2	2	5	11
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	5						1		1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	6	2	4	2	5	1	4	1	7
Eastern Bluebird							3			
Hermit Thrush							2			
American Robin	5	4	1		23	4	2	2	15	4
Gray Catbird	7	14	2	16	10	20	6	7	2	9
Northern Mockingbird		1	1	1						2
American Pipit	120									
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	1				1	1		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	94	150	118	570	185	1800	710	5750	7350	9250
Prairie Warbler							1			
Palm Warbler	58	26	22	27	75	125	25	32	127	115
Northern Waterthrush	4	5	1	5	4	5	3	5	5	4

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Louisiana Waterthrush					1	1	2			2
Common Yellowthroat	35	32	11	23	34	42	4	16	7	26
Eastern Towhee	4	13	2	4	4	14	6	15	4	13
Vesper Sparrow					1					
Savannah Sparrow	8	16	9	21	1	4	35	12	21	20
Grasshopper Sparrow					1					
Song Sparrow						2	2			
Lincoln's Sparrow					1					
Swamp Sparrow	34	37	5	12	38	72	17	9	6	23
White-crowned Sparrow						2	2			
Northern Cardinal	35	29	13	29	30	65	23	42	22	50
Blue Grosbeak		1								
Painted Bunting				1		5	4	1		3
Red-winged Blackbird	300	300	300	300	400	300	700	400	400	400
Eastern Meadowlark										1
Common Grackle	15	6	4	19	12	29	13	22	17	21
Boat-tailed Grackle	35	5	15	15	15	12	9	9	13	30
American Goldfinch	2	3		1	3		2	2		2

