

## TOM RENICK COUNT PARK FEBRUARY, 2016 BIRD COUNTS

The second month of this project is now complete. I spent some 95 hours this month over 19 days sea watching (I also checked the birds across A1A). I saw 81 species as against the 82 for January - so very close. For the year I have seen 95 species with another 20 species from the historical counts making a total of 115.

The spreadsheet has had babies as there are now five sheets. The first just deals with this survey. The second lists all the species I have seen together with the highest daily count for each. The third is just for me it lists from January 1<sup>st</sup> the additions to the list. The fourth is important as it now details the 76 counts that I carried out at Canaveral National Sea Shore in the 1990's (in the second spreadsheet I compare the highest counts from both sites). I am rooting for the left hand columns! The fifth is a notes box to detail things numbers cannot describe.

Now to the birds. There was a Red-throated Loon on the 20<sup>th</sup> with 1038 Northern Gannets on the 15<sup>th</sup>. An adult white morph Snow Goose flew to the south beyond A1A on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were two Redheads on the 4<sup>th</sup> with a White-winged Scoter on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter were present all month but until the 26<sup>th</sup> only small numbers seen. From the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> a total of 1089 flew to the north there were very few adult males so it is possible that this represents a movement of non-breeding birds.

There were single Northern Harriers on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with a Merlin on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Two Lesser Yellowlegs flew to the north on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Willets still moved to the north all month with 41 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Red Knot peaked at 420 on the 14<sup>th</sup> but were scarce at the end of the month. Four Western Sandpipers were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jaegers numbers were much lower this month with just 13 Pomarine and 53 Parasitic for the month, there were 12 Parasitic Jaegers on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Thayer's Gull on the 26<sup>th</sup>, that was unexpected. Black Skimmers peaked for the month at 68 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Finally there was a Loggerhead Shrike on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Three species had new high "counts" this month that are worth mentioning. Herring Gulls reached 1470 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Royal Terns 852 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Forster's Terns 419 on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The best day was the 16<sup>th</sup> when 53 species seen and the highest bird count for the month was that of 5887 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please visit windy days are best.

Harry Robinson