

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS SEPTEMBER, 2016

In all I did 18 surveys over 92 hours this month I saw 95 species a joint second highest total (there were 95 in March with April having 103). The best days were the 3rd with 51 species and the 10th with 4,414 birds. Such are the bare facts now to the birds.

The first cormorants for the fall were eight on the 24th. Herons were moving south with high counts of Great Blue Heron 54 on the 24th, Snowy Egret 28 on the 4th, Little Blue Heron 73 on the 3rd, Tricolored Heron 23 on the 14th and Cattle Egret 57 on the 25th. There was still a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 30th. For Roseate Spoonbill there were eight on the 3rd, five on the 11th, eight on the 23rd and one on the 30th. Wood Storks peaked at 28 on the 10th and Black Vultures had a new high count of 172 on the 4th.

There was a drake Mallard on the 3rd a new species and Blue-winged Teals peaked at 1,790 on the 10th - a high count. There were five Northern Shoveler on the 10th and Green-winged Teal have been seen in low numbers from the 10th. Ospreys had a new high count of six on the 30th and on that day a Northern Harrier flew to the south. There was a Merlin on the 14th with three on the 18th and one on the 24th. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen from the 14th to the 25th with 26 on the 30th.

Some shorebird highlights there were 29 Black-bellied Plovers on the 2nd, a Solitary Sandpiper on the 14th, Willets peaked at 194 on the 4th but there were only nine on the 30th. There were single Spotted Sandpipers on the 2nd and 4th. There was a Whimbrel on the 1st with single Marbled Godwits on the 1st and the 10th. Ruddy Turnstone had a new high count of 83 on the 4th and there were 165 Sanderling on the 14th. Pectoral Sandpipers peaked at 71 on the 1st and there were 18 Short-billed Dowitchers on the 14th.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 5th with two on the 9th. Juvenile Herring Gulls were seen from the 9th. Most unexpected was an adult British race Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 17th it flew to the north with a juvenile Herring Gull. Adult Great black-backed Gulls were seen on the 10th and 23rd. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 5th and 9th with two on the 17th. A single Roseate Tern was seen on the first. Common Terns were well common there were 271 on the 2nd, 405 on the 3rd, 521 on the 9th and 568 on the 10th, then 480 seen on the 11th with 292 on the 23rd but none seen on the 30th. There were one to four Forster's Terns all month. Least Terns were seen to the 17th. Now to the Black Terns there were 920 on the 2nd with 1,450 on the 9th and 1,620 on the 10th, then 694 seen on the 11th. The last was one on the 23rd.

There were 37 Eastern Kingbirds on the 3rd. There were two Bank Swallows on the 3rd with one on the 14th. There were also two Cliff Swallows on the 3rd. Finally for the warblers there were two Yellow-throated Warblers on the 4th with an American Redstart on the 30th and a Hooded Warbler on the 3rd. That is it.

Harry Robinson