

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – NOVEMBER, 2016

Now this was a better month thanks to the hurricane and the strong easterly winds for the rest of the month only 80 species were seen in October. In April there were 103 species and that had been the best month. November walked all over that high count! For this month I saw 108 species and that may be a total that will be hard to beat. I will of course try. ....For November I did 22 surveys over 120 hours. By far the best day was the 20<sup>th</sup> when 37,181 birds of 53 species seen. The bird count was by far the highest count to date. So what did I see?

There were 19 Common Loons on the 12<sup>th</sup> on that day 12 Horned Grebes seen another high count. On the 27<sup>th</sup> a total of 2,443 Northern Gannets flew to the south so very nearly a high count. On the 24<sup>th</sup> 2,486 Brown Pelicans flew to the north a new high count there was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 23 Roseate Spoonbills flying to the south on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The bird of the month was a BRANT flying to the south on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Not to be outdone a Wood Duck flew to the south on the 8<sup>th</sup> with a flock of Black Scoters. Gadwall peaked at five on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Northern Pintail peaked at 225 on the 12<sup>th</sup> on that day there were 420 Green-winged Teal (both were new high counts). There were three Redheads on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A female type Canvasback flew to the south in the middle of a flock of 30 Green-winged Teal was it out of place. That was a new species for the park. Still with the ducks there were 10,770 Lesser Scaup on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were 13 Surf Scoters on the 13<sup>th</sup> and I saw a total of 44 during the month. A White-winged Scoter flew to the south on the 19<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> 2,940 Black Scoter flew to the south a new high count. There was a Long-tailed Duck on the 9<sup>th</sup> with three Buffleheads on the 13<sup>th</sup> and again on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Common Goldeneye on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Unexpectedly there were 14 Hooded Mergansers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Finally there was a new high count of Red-breasted Mergansers there were 152 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. That is the end of the ducks.

There was a Merlin on the 16<sup>th</sup> and single Peregrine Falcons were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. On the last day of the month I saw a new species for the park a Wilson's Plover it paid a short visit. There were eight Killdeer on the 20<sup>th</sup> a high count. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Red Knots peaked at 295 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were single Western Sandpiper on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Dunlin on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Very few jaegers this year not the right weather systems. The high count for Pomarine Jaeger was that of 67 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 20<sup>th</sup> swarms of Laughing Gulls flew to the north all morning giving a conservative count of 36,000! There were single first winter Franklin's Gulls on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> adult Herring Gulls

dominated. The last Common Tern was seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Black Skimmers peaked at 204 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker put in an appearance on the 19<sup>th</sup> a new species. There were two American Crows on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a new high count for Tree Swallows there were 6,325 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. American Robins were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Waxwings were seen from the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were new high counts of 104 Yellow-rumped Warblers on the 20<sup>th</sup> and three Palm Warblers on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Finally and again unexpectedly there was an immature White-crowned Sparrow on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

So what will December bring?

Harry Robinson