

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS, JULY 2016

If you like calm seas, clear skies and very hot weather then July was the month for you, if on the other hand you want to see birds.....Having said all that it was not a total disaster.

There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 10th and an adult Reddish Egret was seen on the 1st. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 3rd with two on the 23rd. Two Black-necked Stilts flew to the south on the 23rd in sharp contrast to the passage in June. A Marbled Godwit flew to the south on the 15th and the “peeps” started moving on the 20th.

There were two Gull-billed Terns on the 4th with a Roseate Tern on the 22nd. Common Terns just one to four a day were seen from the 16th. There were single Black Terns on the 6th and 30th. White-winged Doves continued to be seen to the 13th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 8th and 10th. There were also single Red-eyed Vireos on the 9th and Northern Parula on the 8th.

There was an adult Tree Swallow on the 3rd. There were single Bank Swallows on the 27th and 31st. There were two Cliff Swallows on the 31st. There was a trickle of Barn Swallows all month with 57 on the 31st.

Now to some of the higher counts: Snowy Egrets peaked at 37 on the 9th they were on the shore every day. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons peaked at 12 on the 2nd the last date was the 24th. In a different group there were 131 Black Vultures on the 1st. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen on most days with 20 on the 10th; normally one to eight a day seen. Willets have been very plentiful with 260 on the 24th and 240 on the 30th these were on the shore not flying by. Finally with the higher counts there were 25 Mourning Doves on the 16th and four House Finches on the 24th.

I have now seen 167 species this year and 170 overall. There were 76 species this month which was at least a bit better than June's total of 71. Somehow I spent 100 hours this month over 20 days in the heat. On the 8th however it was nice to see baby Loggerhead Sea Turtles making their way down the beach.

I do hope this weather pattern breaks soon.

Harry Robinson