March was a surprisingly good month it ended up being the third best month for number of species seen (only April and November had a higher number of species in 2016). For this month I saw 101 species as against 95 for this month in 2016. I carried out 22 surveys over 115 hours. On the 21st I saw 54 species and on the 3rd I saw 3,244 birds. For the year as a whole I have seen 124 species and the overall list stands at 193 species. Now to the interesting bit, the birds!

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 3rd with a sub-adult Brown Booby on the 31st. The only American White Pelicans were 15 on the 10th. Herons migrated to the north all month most passing offshore. There were 103 Great Blue Herons on the 22nd and all the other high counts were on that date. There being 30 Great Egrets, 55 Snowy Egrets, 74 Little Blue Herons and 20 Tricolored Herons. For Roseate Spoonbill there was one on the 4th with 30 on the 8th and three on the 31st. There were five Gadwall on the 13th with a Northern Shoveler on the 10th and a White-winged Scoter on the 13th.

There were single Swallow-tailed Kites on the 7th and 28th with single Northern Harriers on the 7th and 19th. The wintering male American Kestrel was last seen on the 25th. There were single Merlins on the 15th and 19th with two on the 22nd, then singles seen on the 26th and 29th. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 10th and 19th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 22nd with a Black-necked Stilt (flying to the south) on the 31st. Sanderling peaked at 183 on the 5th and 290 on the 15th. There were also six Short-billed Dowitchers on the 19th. The jaegers only just made it into March there were single Pomarine on the 3rd and Parasitic on the 4th. Royal Terns have been moving north all month and most were in first winter plumage. There was a new high count of 2,284 on the 3rd. Sandwich Terns peaked at 145 on the 10th. There was a Common Tern on the 25th with two on the 31st.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 26th and a flock of 11 Nanday Parakeets flew to the north up A1A on the 4th. An Eastern Phoebe flew in off the sea on the 31st – it just made it. Fish Crows have been migrating to the north there was a new high count of 384 on the 8th. There were 41 Purple Martins on the 19th a high count with two Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 19th and a Bank Swallow on the 31st. Finally in this group two more new high counts there were 850 Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 18th and 45 House Finches on the 28th.

This just leaves one very unexpected bird. On the 31st I picked out this bird flying towards the shore at 11.43 am. For a moment I thought Merlin but the flight was wrong. So was it a Peregrine Falcon? Again the flight was not right. As it got closer it was an all over
brown color and it had a longish tail so what was it? The size and head shape gave it away it was a Chuck-will’s-widow! That is the 193\textsuperscript{rd} species for the park.

Harry Robinson