

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS MAY, 2017

This turned out to be a very good month with four new species. Last year I saw 88 species in May and this year I saw 100 which says it all. For the year I have now seen 168 species and the overall list stands at 206. I carried out the survey on 22 days for a total of 129 hours. The 7<sup>th</sup> was the best day with 56 species and 5,249 birds. Now to the birds.....

There were single Brown Boobies on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The last Northern Gannet was on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were single Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The first a male flew south down the Halifax River. The second a juvenile crossed over the park and headed for the river (perhaps I have been looking for seabirds in the wrong direction). Herons migrated to the north all month if in very low numbers. There were three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons all month –they do like the Ghost Crabs. A total of 56 Roseate Spoonbills flew to the north with 21 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 18 on the 31<sup>st</sup> all were over the river.

There was a Black Scoter on the 13<sup>th</sup> with eight Red-breasted Mergansers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and two on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Those were the only ducks. Single Swallow-tailed Kites were seen on five dates with a Northern Harrier on the 13<sup>th</sup>. An adult light morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> on the 12<sup>th</sup> it was over the barrier island. There was a Merlin on the 6<sup>th</sup> with two on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Wilson's Plover on the beach on the 17<sup>th</sup>. A total of 70 Semipalmated Plovers were seen to the 23<sup>rd</sup> with 25 (a high count) on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were four Black-necked Stilts over the Halifax River on the 7<sup>th</sup> with a Greater Yellowlegs likewise on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A total of eight Spotted Sandpipers seen to the 12<sup>th</sup> with five (a high count) on the 12<sup>th</sup>; just six Whimbrel were seen to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Sanderling peaked at 170 on the 12<sup>th</sup> there were just five on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen through to the 29<sup>th</sup> with higher counts of 90 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 41 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Western Sandpipers were limited to two on the 7<sup>th</sup> and one on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were three White-rumped Sandpipers on the 7<sup>th</sup> with one on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 Pectoral Sandpipers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two Dunlin on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ring-billed Gulls were seen to the 9<sup>th</sup> but there was one on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The last Herring Gull was on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> there were also single Roseate Terns on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Common Terns were seen to the 20<sup>th</sup> there was a single Arctic Tern on that date. Least Terns peaked at 76 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and there was a single Black Tern on the 17<sup>th</sup> (it was flying to the south!).

There were two White-winged Doves on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Chimney Swifts peaked at 16 on the 7<sup>th</sup> a high count. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a somewhat larger

Pileated Woodpecker was seen on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Kingbirds flew to the north to the 14<sup>th</sup> with eight on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. During the month up to eight Purple Martins were seen. Tree Swallows were seen to the 10<sup>th</sup> and there was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 52 Bank Swallows on the 7<sup>th</sup> another high count; the last was on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were two Cliff Swallows on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with one on the 5<sup>th</sup> and six on the 7<sup>th</sup> – a new high count. Barn Swallows peaked at 4,540 on the 7<sup>th</sup> that was not a high count.

Now to the warblers and the new species the first of these was a Tennessee Warbler on the 5<sup>th</sup> with a Cape May Warbler on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The third new species was a male Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There were single Blackpoll Warblers on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with seven on the 13<sup>th</sup> (a high count), then three seen on the 14<sup>th</sup>. American Redstarts were seen from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> with three on the 13<sup>th</sup> a high count. Finally for the warblers Common Yellowthroats were seen to the 28<sup>th</sup> with seven (a high count) on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

There was a female Summer Tanager on the 5<sup>th</sup> that was the fourth new species. Bobolinks were noted from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> with 42 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Finally House Finches were seen all month a pair bred in the park raising two young the young were first seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

I expect the June report to be much shorter.

Harry Robinson