

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS JUNE, 2017

I carried out a total of 21 surveys for the month of June over 107 hours and saw a total of 77 species (I saw 71 species in June, 2016). The highest number of species (41) was on the 4th and the highest number of birds (751) was on the 3rd. There was one new species for the survey bringing the count to 207. Now to the interesting bit the birds!

Shearwaters put in a brief appearance with single Cory's Shearwaters on the 9th and 10th. There was a Scopoli's Shearwater on the 10th at the moment this is still treated here as a race of the Cory's Shearwater. There were also two Greater Shearwaters on the 9th with singles on the 10th and 14th. There was in immature Brown Booby fishing in the surf on the 27th and 28th; on the latter date it settled on the water and appeared to go to sleep! There were two American White Pelicans over the river on the 13th; there are not many summer records. An adult Magnificent Frigatebird flew to the south on the 11th and a juvenile flew to the south over the Halifax River on the 14th.

Hérons, egrets and ibis were present in low numbers all month. An adult Reddish Egret flew to the north on the 14th; later it flew back to the south. Single Green Herons were seen on the 6th and 25th. Up to four a day Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen daily on the beach. During the month a total of 98 Roseate Spoonbills flew to the north with 36 on the 7th and 38 on 10th. One of the biggest surprises was an adult female Black Scoter flying to the south on the 25th. A total of 13 Swallow-tailed Kites seen with four on the 21st. The light morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen again on the 28th.

An American Oystercatcher flew to the south on the 30th. There were two Black-necked Stilts on the 6th with one on the 7th they flew to the south. Both Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling were last seen on the 13th whilst the occasional Willet continued to be seen to the end of the month. There were four Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 4th with ten on the 6th. There was a solitary Ring-billed Gull on the 3rd. For the terns there was a Gull-billed Tern on the 11th and Caspian Terns peaked at four on the 23rd. Sandwich Tern numbers climbed during the month with 31 on the 28th. There were five Common Terns on the 9th with singles on the 10th and 16th. An Arctic Tern in breeding plumage flew to the south on the 11th. Finally for the terns the Least Tern peaked at 49 on the 28th.

There were two White-winged Doves on the 14th with one on the 21st. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 16th. Northern Mockingbirds had a new high count of 11 on the 13th and Brown Thrasher had a new high count of four on the 16th. Next we come

to the new bird for the survey a juvenile Common Myna! I saw this on the 16th. The Common Yellowthroat was last seen on the 2nd. A pair of House Finches raised a brood of two in the park the only known nesting in the park to date. The male was an orange variant. The peak count for the month was that of 13 on the 30th. Finally the House Sparrow had a new high count there were 28 on the 23th.

The fall migration starts in July so it will be interesting to see what that month brings.

Harry Robinson