

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS AUGUST, 2017

In August 2016 I saw 87 species and this year I saw 101 that says it all. For most of the month the weather remained unchanged but late in the month a low crossed the area creating some interesting conditions even if all the wind was offshore. From September I have the potential of doing counts every day...A total of 45 species were seen on the 12th and the 27th with a high count of 4,813 birds on the 27th. So far this year I have noted 181 species as against 188 for the whole of 2016. The overall list now stands at 210. There were 22 surveys in August covering a total of 97 hours.

There were single Reddish Egrets over the Halifax River on the 1st and 11th. Up to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen all month. There were four Blue-winged Teal on the 20th with 30 on the 23rd, then four seen on the 25th. Unexpectedly a male Northern Shoveler flew to the south on the 25th. There were two Swallow-tailed Kites on the 2nd and 4th that was it.

There were 11 Black-necked Stilts on the 22nd with 31 on the 25th (a high count), then 17 seen on the 26th. A party of four American Avocets flew to the south on the 20th. There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 5th, 15th and 27th. Willets peaked at 243 on the 20th. There was a Red Knot on the 26th and Sanderling peaked at 260 on the 2nd. A single White-rumped Sandpiper was seen on the 5th. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen from the 12th with 11 on the 28th. There was a Long-billed Dowitcher on the 12th with two on the beach on the 26th. On the 26th two Lesser Yellowlegs flew to the south between them was a Wilson's Phalarope a new species for the park.

Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the 26th with totals of seven on the 26th and 27th. Large gulls are not meant to be on passage in August but there were Herring Gulls from the 27th with three on the 29th, two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a juvenile Herring Gull on the 28th. Great Black-backed Gulls were seen from the 12th with flying to the south five on the 27th and three on the 29th. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 1st and 22nd with six on the 27th (a high count). Royal Terns peaked at 210 on the 26th and Sandwich Terns at 489 on the 27th another high count. There were single Roseate Terns on the 15th, 26th and 27th. Common Terns peaked at 1,080 on the 27th a high count. There was an adult Arctic Tern on the 22nd. Least Terns had high counts of 29 on the 12th and 17 on the 27th. Black Terns were seen from the 4th with 1,926 on the 27th. again a new high count.

There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 23rd. On the 26th a Common Nighthawk flew to the south in the middle of a flock of Black Terns! There were 26 Chimney Swifts on the 6th a high count. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 5th.

Belted Kingfishers were seen from the 6th with three on the 27th. There was a Pileated Woodpecker on the 4th. Eastern Kingbirds were seen from the 13th no more than two a day. The Loggerhead Shrike was last seen on the 13th. Cliff Swallows were seen on four dates with two on the 11th and 29th. Barn Swallows peaked at 1,785 on the 29th.

There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 29th the second addition for the month. There was also a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 16th. There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 19th. Finally House Finches were seen to the 20th.

Harry Robinson