

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

This proved to be the best month of the survey it was also the first month of my retirement! Just to be different I am starting off with a photograph can you identify the species? Later on I will tell you about it.



So to the birds there were single Greater Shearwaters on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with an unexpected Manx Shearwater on the 24<sup>th</sup>; the latter being a new species for the park. An immature Brown Booby flew to the south on the 29<sup>th</sup>. With new high counts there were 60 Tricolored Herons on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 55 Glossy Ibis on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen to the 21<sup>st</sup>. There were single Roseate Spoonbills on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> a flock of four Great Blue Herons flew to the south the second bird in the flock was a Mottled Duck! That is another addition to the list. Blue-winged Teals peaked at 905 on the 6<sup>th</sup> with two Northern Shovelers on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The first Green-winged Teal were seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The next addition was a juvenile Broad-winged

Hawk that drifted to the north on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Not to be out done a light morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>. American Kestrels were seen from the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Peregrine Falcons were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> (there were five on the 27<sup>th</sup>). Merlins were seen from the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> a Peregrine tried to catch a Merlin!

There was an American Oystercatcher on the 21<sup>st</sup> and seven American Avocets flew to the south on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 13<sup>th</sup> with a Spotted Sandpiper on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The only Whimbrel flew to the south on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were two Marbled Godwits on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with one on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> with four on the 18<sup>th</sup>. For the gulls there were two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 30<sup>t</sup>. There were high counts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of 490 Sandwich Terns and 1,030 Common Terns. Least Terns were last seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Black Terns peaked at 773 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last were seen on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Surprisingly there was a White-winged Dove on the 29<sup>th</sup> - perhaps this was a western bird. On the 12<sup>th</sup> at dusk 11 Common Nighthawks flew to the south. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Another surprise was a flock of five American Crows on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were three Cliff Swallows on the 11<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There were also single Gray Catbirds on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

For the warblers there was a Tennessee Warbler on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 26<sup>th</sup>, a Pine Warbler on the 30<sup>th</sup> (new species), a Palm Warbler on the 19<sup>th</sup> (very early) and an American Redstart on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Finally there were 12 Bobolinks on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two on the 20<sup>th</sup> and one on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Now that all makes for a very good month.

There is just one problem there was a minor event called Hurricane Irma. On the 10<sup>th</sup> I was in the park for four hours until the police closed it. On the 11<sup>th</sup> there was a curfew until midday so I took my telescope up to my apartment (next to A1A) and carried out a sea watch for four hours looking towards the Halifax River which I followed with another four hours from the park. This event continued but more of that later.

There were single Greater Shearwaters on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with two Wilson's Petrels on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were also single Brown Boobies on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. I saw two Red-necked Phalarope on the 9<sup>th</sup> with a Red Phalarope (new species) on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Another new species was Long-tailed Jaeger three flew to the south on the 10<sup>th</sup> with another three on the 30<sup>th</sup>, same birds? An adult Sabine's Gull flew to the south on the 10<sup>th</sup> yes another new species. There were two Roseate Terns on the 8<sup>th</sup> with one on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There were single Arctic Terns on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Bridled Tern (new species) on the 10<sup>th</sup> with three on the 11<sup>th</sup> (two were from the flat!). Later with

calm seas there was one on the 15<sup>th</sup> with four on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The photograph provided earlier was of a juvenile Bridled Tern seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> that sat for a time on the railings of the walkway from the condo to the south. Sooty Terns came next (new species), there was one on the 9<sup>th</sup> with 24 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 31 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and one on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Again during the calm weather one glided to the north using the condo's to give it lift on the 16<sup>th</sup>! Finally there were the Brown Noddies (new species) there were three on the 10<sup>th</sup> with two on the 11<sup>th</sup>. To my surprise one also flew to the south close to the shore on the 30<sup>th</sup> a Laughing Gull was harrying it a bit it must have thought it was a jaeger. That really is it for the month.

The best day for species was the 11<sup>th</sup> when 44 located the best day for numbers was the 3<sup>rd</sup> when 2,391 counted. So far this year I have found 193 species as against 188 for the whole of 2016. In September I saw 119 species by far the best month this was over 30 days and 142 hours. The list now stands at 218 species.

Whist I can manage to put this text together such as it is adding pictures is beyond me. Judy Morrison came to my rescue and added the Bridled Tern picture, thanks Judy.

Harry Robinson