

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS NOVEMBER, 2017

Another great month with 124 species the second best month there were 129 species in October, 2017. I conducted 30 surveys over 160 hours there were 54 species on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 22,303 birds were seen on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The list for the park now stands at 232. On top of this during November there were seven additions to the list. Will there be any in December?

Now to the birds there was a Red-throated Loon on the 13<sup>th</sup> also on the 13<sup>th</sup> there were five Common Loons the highest count for this month. There was a Pied-billed Grebe sitting on the sea on the 10<sup>th</sup> the third such sighting. There were two Horned Grebes on the 12<sup>th</sup> with six on the 13<sup>th</sup>, then one seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were also six on the 28<sup>th</sup>. To my surprise there was another Northern Fulmar on the 11<sup>th</sup> (there were strong north-easterly winds from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>). There were 12 Cory's Shearwaters through to the 14<sup>th</sup> with a late individual on the 20<sup>th</sup>, one of them on the 13<sup>th</sup> was identified as a Scolopi's Shearwater. Another unexpected visitor was a Sooty Shearwater that flew by close to the shore on the 11<sup>th</sup>. With the strong winds there were two Leach's Storm-Petrels on the 11<sup>th</sup> with one on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Brown Boobies were around at the beginning of the month there were two adults and two juveniles they were seen from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> with four on the 2<sup>nd</sup> a new high count. Northern Gannets are now in there were 1,211 on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

American White Pelicans were present from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> with a new high count of 56 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were three sightings of Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> two Reddish Egrets flew to the north only singles have been seen previously. The only sighting of Roseate Spoonbills involved four on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Turkey Vultures peaked at a very high count of 1,125 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a Wood Duck on the 12<sup>th</sup> there were also 850 Green-winged Teal on the 11<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There were two Canvasbacks on the 12<sup>th</sup> with six on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Redheads peaked at 47 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Greater Scaup at 695 also on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a very high count of 7,980 Lesser Scaup on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Now to the first of the new species a female Common Eider flew to the south on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Surf Scoter on the 8<sup>th</sup> with four on the 11<sup>th</sup> (Black Scoters are all but absent). There were 18 Buffleheads on the 11<sup>th</sup> (a new high count) with singles on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There were also three on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were two Common Goldeneye as singles were seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. There were single Hooded Mergansers on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> with two on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Most unexpected was the second new species an adult female Common Merganser that flew to the south near the shore on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 449 on the 20<sup>th</sup> the previous high count was only that of 220 on December 7, 2016. The third new species was the Ruddy Duck there was one on the 9<sup>th</sup> with two on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Northern Harriers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>. Most unusual was the fourth new species a juvenile light morph Swainson's Hawk which was seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> I cannot imagine where this bird was hanging out. The only Peregrine Falcon was seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The next new species was the American Coot three singles were seen swimming offshore on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>. Single Piping Plovers were on the beach on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. There were single Purple Sandpipers on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Red Phalaropes on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A total of 240 Pomarine Jaegers were seen during the month with 88 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. For the Parasitic Jaeger there were 60 for the month with 32 also on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Franklin's Gull on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a good showing of Black-legged Kittiwakes with two adults on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Away from the ocean there was a White-winged Dove on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The next new species was a Northern Flicker on the 16<sup>th</sup> this species had to turn up sometime. There were single American Crows on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The last Barn Swallow was seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the first American Robin was noted on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a massive count of Yellow-rumped Warblers on the 8<sup>th</sup> a total of 1,140 were seen. Whilst some of the new species this month were unexpected the next one was in a league of its own. On the 14<sup>th</sup> a female Snow Bunting flew to the north. There was a new high count of 325 Common Grackles on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and to round things off there was a Baltimore Oriole on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Harry Robinson