

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2018

This was a quiet month perhaps the quietest so far even so there was an addition to the list. Fog was a common problem this month with the fog often lingering over the sea. In all 88 species were seen there were 91 in February, 2017. I carried out surveys on all 28 days for a total of 131 hours. For this year 110 species have been seen with 239 for the survey as a whole. The highest species count was 48 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the most birds were 3,089 on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Now to the birds there was a Horned Grebe on the 6<sup>th</sup> and American White Pelicans peaked at 31 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Single Reddish Egrets were seen on three dates the 6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There were four Glossy Ibis on the 4<sup>th</sup> this is always an uncommon species here. For the ducks there were four Blue-winged Teal on the 19<sup>th</sup> with a Ring-necked Duck on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were two Surf Scoters on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two more on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Finally for this group there was a Hooded Merganser on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Merlin on the 12<sup>th</sup> with a Peregrine Falcon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> there were two more peregrines on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Whilst Willets continued moving to the north the first signs of spring passage were at the end of the month. On the 27<sup>th</sup> two American Oystercatchers flew to the north and a Greater Yellowlegs did likewise on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 14 Pomarine Jaegers were seen up to the 17<sup>th</sup> with six on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were 76 Parasitic Jaegers this month with 39 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and ten on the 17<sup>th</sup> (the last was on the 27<sup>th</sup>). Most unexpectedly a first-winter Long-tailed Jaeger (pale morph) flew to the south on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The only gull of note was a first-winter Iceland Gull that flew to the south on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns moved to the north for most of the month there were 520 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup> a total of 786 Forster's Terns flew to the south. The highest count of Black Skimmers was that of 36 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 6<sup>th</sup> with a Pileated Woodpecker on the 25<sup>th</sup> that remains a local rarity. There were six American Crows on the 1<sup>st</sup> this species rarely crosses over the river. The last American Robin was on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Now to the addition to the list there was a female Eastern Bluebird on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Cedar Waxwings peaked at 375 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> the last were on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> seems to have been a special day as there was a Louisiana Waterthrush, a Savannah Sparrow and a very high 105 American Goldfinches. There was another Savannah Sparrow on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Hopefully March will be much better.

Harry Robinson