

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS MAY, 2018

Now we are in the summer doldrums with very little happening how long do I have to wait for the shorebirds to come back? This month's report is a list of birds leaving not arriving. In all for the month I conducted 31 surveys over 142 hours. I managed to locate 96 species as against 100 for 2017 and 88 for 2016. For the year I have recorded 183 species which shows well against the 187 species seen in the whole of 2016. The best day was the 7th when 1,782 birds of 57 species noted.

Surprisingly there was an Audubon's Shearwater on the 15th with a Brown Booby on the 6th. On the 7th an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron flew north over the sea it was with two Tricolored Herons! Up to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen daily with four on the 13th. Roseate Spoonbills put in an appearance this month there were 32 in all. Ducks were for the most part absent but there was a male Greater Scaup on the 17th and two Surf Scoters on the 5th. Single Swallow-tailed Kites were seen on the 7th, 12th and 26th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 28th. Merlins continued to be seen with singles on the 2nd, the 7th and the 11th.

There were single American Golden-Plovers on the 3rd and 16th with a Wilson's Plover on the 20th. There were two Whimbrel on the 5th with singles on the 7th and 10th. There was a good passage of Semipalmated Sandpipers with a new high count of 305 on the 14th. There were two White-rumped Sandpipers on the 10th with one on the 11th. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 11th with a Stilt Sandpiper on the 1st. The last two species are rare on the coast.

The last Lesser Black-backed Gull was one on the 4th. In general I have put last dates into the last paragraph. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 5th with two on the 9th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 5th. There were more Arctic Terns as one seen on the 4th with three on the 5th and two on the 27th. Finally for this group there were six Black Terns on the 1st.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 30th with a Common Nighthawk on the 7th. There was a loggerhead Shrike present from the 19th to at least the 29th. Single American Crows were located on the 9th and 26th. Warblers were very rare this season there were single Black-and-white Warblers on the 6th and 7th. There were also single American Redstarts on the 6th and 9th with two on the 17th. Bobolinks were seen to the 11th there were two on the 7th, four on the 9th, three on the 10th and 15 on the 11th.

Now to the last dates the last Northern Gannet was on the 22nd, the last Red-breasted Merganser was on the 24th. Black-bellied Plovers were seen to the 23rd but there were two briefly on the 31st. Semipalmated Plovers were seen to the 24th whilst

the Willets were not seen after the 15th. Ruddy Turnstones were seen to the 23rd. There were 274 Sanderling on the 22nd with a last date of the 27th. Finally for the shorebirds the last date for the Semipalmated Sandpipers was the 22nd. Ring-billed Gulls were seen to the 13th and Herring Gulls were seen to the 22nd. The last Great Black-backed Gull was on the 8th. Finally to two hirundines species Tree Swallows were last seen on the 11th and Bank Swallows were last seen on the 9th.

So what will June bring?

Harry Robinson