

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – JULY, 2018

This park will always surprise me...in 2016 I saw 76 species in July; in 2017 I had 81 species. So what happened this year well it went crazy I had a total of 97 species. This was over 31 days and 152 hours of fieldwork. The highest counts were 42 species on the 26th and 986 birds on the 31st.

There were no strong winds this month but I still managed to see a variety of shearwaters. There were single Cory's Shearwaters on the 5th and 18th. There were two Scopi's Shearwaters on the 5th with two more on the 18th. There were five Greater Shearwaters on the 5th with singles on the 8th and 18th. Unexpectedly there was an Audubon's Shearwater on the 5th on which date one Wilson's Storm-Petrel was also seen. The biggest surprise was a second-summer Northern Gannet on the 1st. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 24th with two on the 25th - a joint high count.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 22nd and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen to the 26th. There were even two ducks during the month there was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck on the 13th and a Black Scoter on the 18th. A total of 50 Swallow-tailed Kites were seen during the month with nine on the 21st. There was also a single Mississippi Kite on the 10th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 14th and to round out this group a Sandhill Crane flew to the north on the 9th.

Shorebird passage started on or about the 17th. There were single American Oystercatchers on the 7th and 26th. A total of 119 Black-necked Stilts flew to the south offshore with 36 on the 26th, 44 on the 29th (high count) and 19 on the 30th. There were seven American Avocets on the 19th with two on the 24th. There were three Greater Yellowlegs on the 17th with four on the 25th. There were six Lesser Yellowlegs on the 17th (a high count), four on the 18th, four on the 25th and six again on the 27th. There were three Spotted Sandpipers on the 18th and 19th with one on the 21st. There were two Whimbrel on the 21st with one on the 28th. Sanderlings were seen from the 9th with 240 on the 31st. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen from the 18th with 68 on the 30th. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 29th. Least Sandpipers were seen from the 17th with 193 on the 29th and 345 on the 30th another high count. There were four Pectoral Sandpipers on the 18th with two on the 24th. Finally for the shorebirds there were seven Stilt Sandpipers on the 27th.

Along with the pelagic seabirds on the 18th a Parasitic Jaeger flew to the south. There was also an immature Herring Gull on the 6th. Single Gull-billed Terns were seen on the 1st, 9th and 18th. There were also single Roseate Terns on the 4th, 5th and 26th.

Common Terns were seen from the 4th with five on the 22nd and 31st. Forster's Terns were seen from the 18th. There was also a Black Tern on the 20th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 10th with two Nanday Parakeets on the 6th. Single Belted Kingfishers were seen on the 15th and 30th. For only the second park record there was a Northern Flicker on the 15th. There were two Great Crested Flycatchers on the 14th whilst the Loggerhead Shrike was to be seen all month. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 9th there was also one on the same date in 2016. For the hirundines the first for the fall were: Tree Swallow on the 26th, Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 17th, Bank Swallow on the 21st and Cliff Swallow on the 26th. There was a Gray Catbird on the 7th and Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen to the 26th when six seen. House Finches were present all month in low numbers.

I await August with interest.

Harry Robinson