

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – AUGUST, 2018

August 2018 was a month with calm seas and few species - the weather was too good. In all I saw 88 species (101 last year) on 31 days and 136 hours of fieldwork; there were no additions to the list which now stands at 198 for the year and 245 overall. The best day was the 23rd when 1,122 birds of 44 species seen.

There was a juvenile Magnificent Frigatebird on the 31st soaring overhead. There was a Reddish Egret on the 23rd with two Green Herons on the 16th. There was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 13th. Later there was one from the 24th to the 27th and two on the 28th and 29th. Finally for this group there were four Roseate Spoonbills on the 3rd with one on the 22nd. A juvenile Muscovy Duck flew to the south offshore on the 12th with a Mottled Duck on the 24th. Blue-winged Teals were seen from the 12th with 143 on the 31st. There were single Swallow-tailed Kites on the 2nd, 11th and 14th with two on the 22nd. Unexpectedly a Merlin flew to the south on the 27th.

Three American Golden-Plovers flew along the shore on the 12th (a high count). There were 24 Black-necked Stilts on the 3rd with two on the 5th, seven on the 21st and six on the 23rd. American Avocets put in an appearance with four on the 2nd and 14 on the 19th (a high count). There were 30 Greater Yellowlegs on the 3rd (a high count) with 17 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 2nd (another high count); there were 15 on the latter species on the 3rd. A single Solitary Sandpiper flew to the south on the 8th with a Spotted Sandpiper likewise on the 1st. There were single Whimbrels on the 20th and 25th. There was a Marbled Godwit on the shore on the 28th with two on the 29th and four on the 31st (a high count). There were 460 Sanderling on the 3rd (a high count) with 240 on the 13th, 130 on the 24th but only ten on the 31st. There were five Pectoral Sandpipers on the 2nd with two on the 22nd there were also five Stilt Sandpipers on the 2nd with two later on the 22nd. Finally for the shorebirds there were six Short-billed Dowitchers on the 13th with one on the 23rd. Very out of season was an immature Herring Gull on the 1st. Common Terns peaked at 41 on the 24th. One to two Black Terns were seen from the 10th with 22 on the 23rd and 16 on the 24th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 1st with one present from the 21st to the 31st. Common Ground-Doves had a new high count of four on the 1st. Very unexpectedly a Yellow-billed Cuckoo flew to the south along the shore on the 13th. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen regularly through the month. On the 24th two Eastern Kingbirds flew to the south. There was an American Crow on the 12th. Tree Swallows were seen from the 14th normally only singles located. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 20th, 23rd and 25th. There were single Bank Swallows on the 9th, 14th and 19th with six on the 22nd and eight on the 23rd. There

were two Cliff Swallows on the 9th with one on the 23rd. Barn Swallows peaked at 675 on the 22nd. Finally, for the warblers there were single Yellow Warblers on the 23rd and 27th, a Prairie Warbler on the 7th and an American Redstart on the 19th.

Hopefully September will be better.

Harry Robinson