

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS SEPTEMBER, 2018

Another very quiet month but it was great for birds flying high overhead but bad for those of us trying to see them on the ground. In all I saw 92 species this month as against 95 in 2016 and 124 in 2017; for the year I have logged 201 species with 245 species overall. Again I covered every day for a total of 124 hours. For the month I saw 36 species on the 15th and the 19th with 2,785 birds on the 20th.

Now to the birds there was a Cory's Shearwater on the 3rd with single Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 3rd and 28th. There was a Green Heron on the 26th. The Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were last seen on the 21st there had been three on the 13th. The only Roseate Spoonbills were a party of six on the 15th. The ducks have started to move there were 1,530 Blue-winged Teal on the 28th. Northern Shovelers were seen from the 19th with ten on the 29th. There were four Northern Pintail on the 29th with five Green-winged Teal on the 26th.

There was a juvenile Broad-winged Hawk on the 15th with single Merlins on four dates from the 21st. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 15th with two on the 22nd then one seen on the 27th. There were single Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs on the 4th. The flock of Marbled Godwits stayed to the 23rd with a new high count of ten on the 16th. There were two Stilt Sandpipers on the 4th with 305 Dunlin on the 30th (this is the first passage of this common winter visitor). Finally for this group there was a Long-billed Dowitcher on the 8th.

There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 3rd, 22nd, and 25th with four on the 29th. There were single Ring-billed Gull (13th) and Herring Gull (30th). Lesser Black-backed Gulls (seven in all) were seen from the 21st. Probably the best bird of the month was an adult Sabine's Gull on the 4th. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 3rd and the 4th. There were two Roseate Terns on the 2nd with three on the 3rd a new high count. Common Terns peaked at 1,805 on the 20th some 800 more than the previous high count. There were two adult Arctic Terns on the 4th and a late Least Tern was seen on the 25th. There were also 14 Black Terns on the 25th.

Single White-winged Doves were seen on six dates to the 29th. The next two species I did not expect to see migrating to the south out at sea yes out at sea. There were 22 Common Nighthawks on the 3rd with 19 on the 4th. There were also two Chuck-will's-widows on the 24th. Single Belted Kingfishers were seen on the 5th, 14th and 17th. There was a Pileated Woodpecker on the 13th the first for some months. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 13th with single Bank Swallows on the 14th and 15th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 16th. There was a summer Tanager

on the 7th with parties of six Bobolink on the 19th and 24th. Perhaps things will improve....Harry Robinson