

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS OCTOBER, 2018

This was a better month there were even two additions to the list. I did 31 surveys over 130 hours. I saw 118 species (there were 129 in October last year) it was still the fifth best month since the survey started. So far this year I have noted 208 species and 247 overall - I am still hoping to reach 250 by the end of the year. Not easy but possible. Now to the birds.

There were single Common Loons on the 28th and 30th and a Pied-billed Grebe was on the sea on the 14th. There were some shearwaters: there was a Cory's Shearwater on the 1st with single Scolopi's on the 1st and 2nd. There were two Greater Shearwaters on the 1st with singles on the 2nd, 3rd and 6th. On a calm day a Manx Shearwater flew to the south on the 23rd. The only Brown Booby was on the 25th and Northern Gannets were seen from the 22nd. Finally for this group there were single Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 2nd and 16th.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 30th with a late Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 14th. There were 24 Roseate Spoonbills on the 12th with 28 on the 20th, nine on the 26th and 14 on the 31st. Perhaps one day I will see one over the sea! The 28th was **GOOSE DAY** a cold front had gone through and they were flying back to the north. I said they first there was a party of four Greater White-fronted Geese (a new species for the park) followed 15 minutes later by a Brant (second record for the park). That was a crazy few minutes. There was a Greater Scaup on the 25th and Lesser Scaup were seen from the 17th. There was a Surf Scoter on the 30th with two on the 31st. Black Scoters were seen from the 23rd. There was also a Red-breasted Merganser on the 29th.

There was a Northern Harrier on the 20th with three on the 27th and two on the 28th. The first Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen on the 20th. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 4th. During the month 15 Merlins and 13 Peregrine Falcons recorded. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 5th with three on the 14th. Marbled Godwits seem to have been around forever but the last (two) were seen on the 25th. There were two Red-necked Phalaropes on the 3rd with one on the 10th. Much more unexpected there was a flock of 14 Red Phalaropes on the 3rd.

There was a party of five Pomarine Jaegers on the 26th and 23 Parasitic Jaegers were seen during the month. There was a passage of Lesser Black-backed Gulls with 16 counted through to the 23rd. There was a single Great Black-backed Gull on the 19th. An adult Black-legged Kittiwake flew to the south on the 19th. Common Terns were seen to the 21st. There was a single Bridled Tern on the 8th with a single Black Tern on the 3rd.

There were single White-winged Doves on the 18th and 29th with a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 19th. The last Chimney Swift was on the 12th on that date there was also a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. There was a Northern Flicker on the 18th a major rarity. There was an Eastern Phoebe on the 28th. American Crows were seen again there were singles on the 18th and 24th with a party of three on the 31st. There was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 17th with a Gray Catbird on the 18th. On the 25th just after a heavy shower there was a swarm of European Starlings on the utility wires I estimated 1,400.

Now to the second addition to the list there was a male Magnolia Warbler in the Sea Grapes on the 12th. Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen from the 27th and Palm Warblers from the 5th. There was surprisingly a Blackpoll Warbler on the 16th. American Redstarts were seen on the 12th and 18th. Finally for the warblers there was a Hooded Warbler on the 12th. There was a Savannah Sparrow on the 16th with two Bobolinks on the 4th. Finally there was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 24th.

There seems to have been a lot more to record this month, hopefully the trend will continue.

Harry Robinson