

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – NOVEMBER, 2018

Overall a warm month but there were two cold spells the weather was rather mixed which made for better birding. There were even two additions to this list now that is always a good thing. I carried out 30 surveys over 137 hours. For the month I saw 110 species with 216 for the year to date. I am now on 249 one more to go and 31 days to find it in. There were 47 species on the 13th and the 30th with a high count of 12,544 birds on the 23rd.

Red-throated Loons were seen on five dates from the 19th and 63 Common Loons were seen during the month. There were two Horned Grebes on the 4th with one on the 12th, then two seen on the 17th. There were single Cory's Shearwaters on the 14th and 23rd with a Greater Shearwater on the 14th. Northern Gannets peaked at 1,085 on the 11th. There were 18 American White Pelicans on the 22nd with a Magnificent Frigatebird on that date. On the 30th a Reddish Egret flew to the north along the river. There were also 25 Roseate Spoonbills on the 5th.

Now to the first of the new birds: Canada Goose there was one on the 9th with two flying to the south low over the shore on the 23rd. There was a Wood Duck on the 23rd. American Wigeon had a new high count of 42 on the 11th and there were 22 Northern Pintail on the 11th. Also on the 11th there were 250 Green-winged Teal and 41 Redheads. Further 490 Redheads were seen on the 23rd. Ring-necked Ducks had a new high count of 30 on the 12th. There were 110 Greater Scaup on the 23rd. Common Eider put in a showing with one on the 11th, two on the 12th (new high count) and one on the 30th. Now to the second new species a drake Harlequin Duck which flew to the south on the 6th. This was a scoter year there were 53 Surf Scoters and 12 White-winged Scoters during the month (a count of four White-winged's on the 11th was a new high count). With so many of the rare scoters there had to be a high count of Black Scoters in all 26,750 flew to the south with a new high count of 4,200 on the 12th. Buffleheads were seen from the 21st seven in all. Two Common Goldeneye flew to the south on the 27th. Hooded Mergansers were seen from the 10th to the 25th 14 in all. Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 122 on the 23rd. Finally for the ducks there were single Ruddy Duck on the 10th and 18th.

There was a Northern Harrier on the 13th with single Merlins on the 2nd and 16th. Peregrine Falcons were seen on the 9th and 14th. There were two American Coot on the 9th (a new high count) with one on the 11th. Single Marbled Godwits were seen from the 4th to the 10th with two on the 11th. During the month 105 Pomarine Jaegers were seen with eight Parasitic Jaegers. There was an adult Franklin's Gull on the 6th with the first Bonaparte's Gull on the 24th. There were new high counts of 24 Lesser

Black-backed and 31 Greater Black-backed Gulls on the 23rd. Perhaps surprisingly there was a Common Tern on the 17th.

White-winged Doves were present all month with a new high count of five on the 5th. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 7th. There were three American Crows on the 2nd with one on the 16th. Tree Swallows peaked at 1,020 on the 19th and the last Barn Swallows were seen on the 5th. There were 90 American Robins on the 13th the only flock so far. There were single Savannah Sparrows on the 13th and 30th. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 280 on the 27th. Finally there were 12 American Goldfinch on the 22nd with 50 on the 26th.

What will December bring the 250th new species?.

Harry Robinson