

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – MAY, 2019

The month was great until the high took over then nothing; hopefully the high has now gone. Once again there was an addition to the list (five so far this year). The total now stands at 256 the only exotic being a Cockatiel. For the month I saw 99 species last year there were 100 species so close. I did 31 surveys over 137 hours the totals are now 1,033 surveys and 5,055 hours. There were 50 species on the 6th with just 776 birds as the monthly high count on the 18th.

Now to the birds there was a Great Shearwater on the 15th and immature Brown Boobies were seen on the 13th and 28th. The last Northern Gannet was seen on the 27th. There was a male Magnificent Frigatebird on the 13th with two (an adult male and a juvenile) on the 16th (they were together).

The last Little Blue Heron was seen flying to the north on the 6th and the last Tricolored Heron was seen on the 4th. There was a Green Heron on the 4th. On the 5th and 7th an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen over the river. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were present all month with five on the 29th. There were five Roseate Spoonbills on the 4th with seven on the 6th, one on the 11th and ten on the 15th.

For the ducks there were five Black Scoters on the 2nd with one paddling to the north on the 21st. The last Red-breasted Mergansers were four on the 3rd. There were single Swallow-tailed Kites on the 5th, 11th and 12th. Unexpectedly there was a Mississippi Kite on the 5th. The last Bald Eagle was seen on the 11th. There were single light morph Short-tailed Hawks on the 10th and 29th. Single Merlins were seen on the 3rd, 4th, 7th and 13th. The only Peregrine Falcon was seen on the 12th.

Black-bellied Plovers were seen to the 19th with a late individual on the 29th. There were not many Semipalmated Plovers as 15 seen on the 14th with nine on the 15th and one on the 22nd. There were two Greater and one Lesser Yellowlegs on the 14th. A Willet showing the characteristics of the western race was in residence to the 18th with a late individual (eastern race) on the 27th. A total of ten Spotted Sandpipers were seen through to the 16th with four on the 6th. The last Ruddy Turnstones were seen on the 28th. There was a breeding plumage Red Knot on the 16th and the last Sanderling were seen on the 28th. There were 90 Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 5th with 135 on the 13th, 60 on the 15th and 35 on the 20th. Least Sandpipers were scarce with one on the 6th, three on the 12th and one on the 15th. There was a White-rumped Sandpiper on the 6th with two on the 13th. The last three shorebirds were local rarities there were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 6th, a Stilt Sandpiper on the 7th and a Red-necked Phalarope on the 2nd.

The last “resident” Ring-billed Gull was seen on the 1st with a late bird in first-summer plumage on the 17th. The last Herring Gull was on the 9th. There were two Gull-billed Terns on the 3rd with two Common Terns on the 1st. In all 24 Black Skimmers seen nearly all flew to the north.

Single White-winged Doves were seen on five dates. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 4th. Where is that addition to the list? Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on the 13th, 17th and 20th there were no Pileated Woodpeckers this month. There was a Great Crested Flycatcher on the 4th, probably a late migrant. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 5th with three on the 6th and four on the 7th. A Gray Kingbird flew to the south on the 22nd. Single American Crows were noted on the 4th, 20th and 27th. Tree Swallows were seen to the 7th. There were single Bank Swallows on the 3rd and the 6th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 3rd. Barn Swallows flew to the north to the 24th and to the south from the 27th (that is a month early). There was also a Gray Catbird on the 15th.

There was a Cape May Warbler on the 3rd with a Blackpoll Warbler on the 4th. There were single American Redstarts on the 3rd, 6th and 12th. Now to the new species a Connecticut Warbler! This was seen on the 6th in a nice piece of cover at the south-west corner of the park. This cover held Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler and an Ovenbird in April. Common Yellowthroats peaked at seven on the 4th and the last was on the 14th. There was an Indigo Bunting on the 3rd and on that date there were three Bobolinks. Finally House Finches peaked at ten on the 18th (at least two pairs bred by the park).

I do not hold out much hope for June, but I will be looking.

Harry Robinson