

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – AUGUST, 2019

Another month completed and 103 species were recorded - high count. On the 17th 43 species were seen and 5,042 birds were counted the best day of the month. There was even a new species this month (I may hide it in the text). So far this year I have recorded 192 species with 257 in all for the survey (two are not countable (Egyptian Goose and Cockatiel)). During the month I conducted 31 surveys over 124 hours.

Now to the birds there were on the 30th single Scolopi's and Great Shearwaters were seen (East 9). There was an immature Brown Booby on the 20th. Single Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen on the 17th and 27th. There were two Reddish Egrets on the 12th a high count. For another high count two Black-crowned Night-Herons flew to the south on the 19th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen to the 3rd with singles later on the 10th and 17th. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 16th with four on the 27th.

Blue-winged Teals were seen from the 21st with 135 on the 30th. There were four Northern Shovelers on the 21st. There was a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 3rd with five on the 4th, then two seen on the 5th there were no later sightings. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 4th. At the end of the month there was a Merlin on the 29th.

For the shorebirds there was an American Golden-Plover on the 13th with more surprisingly two Wilson's Plovers on the 26th - a high count. 61 Black-necked Stilts were seen during the month with ten on the 12th. As first records there were singles on the beach on the 4th and the 26th. A single American Avocet flew to the south on the 11th. There were three Greater Yellowlegs on the 13th with singles on the 17th and 22nd. For Lesser Yellowlegs there were singles on the 11th and 15th with four on the 17th, then two were seen on the 18th. Always a rarity there was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 18th. Willets peaked at 380 on the 20th. There were single Whimbrel on the 2nd and 3rd. Marbled Godwits were seen on six dates with two on the 20th and the 30th. There were five Red Knot on the 15th with two on the 22nd. Sanderling peaked at 180 on the 20th. For the Semipalmated Sandpipers the highest counts were 97 on the 16th and 88 on the 17th. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 21st with a flock of 40 on the beach on the 26th. Rare for the fall there was a White-rumped Sandpiper on the 6th. There was a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 9th with two on the 15th, 16th and 19th. There was a Stilt Sandpiper on the 8th. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen on six dates with 88 on the 15th a new high count.

There was a second year Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach on the 19th. Now to the new species for the park it was so far up the list that I decided to delay it

a bit. On the 23rd two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks flew to the south over the river. There were two Gull-billed Terns on the 11th with four on the 30th. There were two Roseate Terns on the 15th with one on the 22nd. Only low numbers of Common Terns were seen this month. Another rarity was an adult Arctic Tern on the 22nd. Black Terns were seen from the 12th with 30 on the 16th.

There were single White-winged Doves on the 24th and 29th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 16th. There were single Belted Kingfishers on the 8th, 13th and 18th all flew to the south over the sea. The only Eastern Kingbird was one on the 16th. There was an American Crow on the 11th (there are sightings in most months). Single Purple Martins were seen on the 5th, 11th and 15th. The occasional Tree Swallow was seen from the 7th. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 4th, 11th and 18th. Bank Swallows were seen from the 6th with a high count of 48 on the 7th. Cliff Swallows showed well there were 11 on the 7th (a high count) and eight on the 17th. There were no major flights of Barn Swallows the best was 4,380 on the 17th. There was a Yellow Warbler on the 3rd. House Finches were seen to the 10th with two on the 17th.

The hurricane is awaited.

Harry Robinson