

TOM RENNICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – SEPTEMBER, 2019

The year is nearly over or so it seems, September is now done and gone. This month I did 30 surveys over 144 hours (a record for this month). For the year I have seen 197 species and 257 ever. To date I have added six species this year (none this month) as against the five that I had hoped to add for the whole year. This month I saw 108 species the second best year. The best days were 4,286 birds on the 5th and 42 species on the 7th.

That is the dull bit now to the birds. There were two Pied-billed Grebes on the sea on the 25th a new high count. For a change there were a few shearwaters. There were single Cory's on the 15th and 21st with a Scolopi's on the 20th. There were two Greats on the 1st and 20th with one on the 21st. There were also two on the 22nd with one on the 24th. To round out the shearwaters there were single Sooty on the 14th and Audubon's on the 20th. There was an adult Brown Noddy on the 30th. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 4th with a party of five on the 11th (Sam Krah) this is a new high count. Finally there was one on the 28th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 8th and 18th. There were four Roseate Spoonbills on the 6th with six on the 24th. Blue-winged Teals were present all month with 505 on the 16th and 1,130 on the 22nd. There was also a Northern Shoveler on the 28th. Green-winged Teals were seen from the 21st with 20 on the 27th. There was a Northern Harrier on the 6th. On that date there was also a light morph Short-tailed Hawk. There were single Merlins on the 7th, 16th and 28th. The only Peregrine Falcon was seen on the 26th.

A party of eight American Avocets flew to the south on the 14th. There were two Greater Yellowlegs on the 6th with two more on the 28th. There were 14 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 4th with six on the 5th. The only Spotted Sandpiper was one on the 5th. There were single Whimbrels and Marbled Godwits on the 3rd. The last Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted on the 5th. There were 40 Western Sandpipers on the 8th with 12 on the 10th and 18 on the 14th. Least Sandpipers were seen to the 6th. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 1st with one on the 16th. There were two Dunlin on the 5th with 35 on the 29th. There were also two Long-billed Dowitchers on the 8th with ten on the 28th. For Red-necked Phalaropes there were eight on the 14th, ten on the 15th and 25 on the 21st this is a high count. Finally for this group there was a Red Phalarope on the 1st.

There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 11th, 21st and 28th. Herring Gulls were seen from the 13th. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 2nd and 29th. Of special interest were two adult Sabine's Gulls on the 14th (NE 18). Common

Terns were seen all month with 141 on the 19th and 98 on the 26th. There was an adult Arctic Tern on the 15th. Forster's Terns were seen from the 2nd. Least Terns were in contrast were seen to the 29th. With the hurricane there were two Bridled and eight Sooty Terns on the 4th with a single Sooty on the 13th. Black Terns were scarce this year with a high count of 34 on the 4th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 10th with a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 5th. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 30th. Chimney Swifts were only seen to the 7th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 11th. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 24th with a single Pileated Woodpecker on the 3rd. During the hurricane 273 Eastern Kingbirds flew to the south on the 4th a new high count. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 6th. As usual there was an American Crow on the 27th. There was a Purple Martin on the 9th with a Tree Swallow on the 4th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 5th. There was a Bank Swallow on the 3rd with two on the 4th and one on the 5th. There was also a Cliff Swallow on the 4th. Barn Swallows were only seen in low numbers except for 3,770 on the 5th. Again during the hurricane there were 20 Bobolinks on the 4th. There was a male Baltimore Oriole on the 7th. Finally the only House Finches were two on the 7th.

Please can I have a least one new species for the park in October?

Harry Robinson