

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS OCTOBER, 2019

Did I get the two new birds that I wanted.....well I got three! More details later. This was a month of easterly winds which meant that passerines were very scarce (they were all blown inland). I saw 110 species for the month over 31 surveys and 140 hours. For the year I have recorded 205 species with a grand total of 260 species. The best days were the 20<sup>th</sup> with 49 species and the 21<sup>st</sup> with 6,431 birds.

So to the bird there was a Pied-billed Grebe on the sea on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were single Cory's Shearwaters on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, a Scolopi's Shearwater on the 6<sup>th</sup>, two Great Shearwaters on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a Sooty Shearwater on the 8<sup>th</sup> with two on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Finally for the shearwaters there was a Manx Shearwater on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Single Brown Booby were seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and the first Northern Gannet was noted on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were three American White Pelicans on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 25<sup>th</sup> with five on the 26<sup>th</sup> (a joint high count). There were also two on the 29<sup>th</sup> very exceptionally they were seen to land on the rigging of a shrimp boat and stay there. I did not know of this behavior.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 1<sup>st</sup> with a Green Heron on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were 13 Roseate Spoonbills on the 10<sup>th</sup> otherwise the herons were just seen in low numbers. There were 491 Turkey Vultures on the 20<sup>th</sup> quite a high count. Single immature Muscovy Ducks were seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Blue-winged Teal peaked at 485 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Northern Shovelers were seen on four dates with 16 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Pintail on the 20<sup>th</sup> it flew to the north. Green-winged Teal were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> with 60 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a single Ring-necked Duck on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 Lesser Scaup on the 25<sup>th</sup> with 30 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Finally for the ducks there were 25 Black Scoter on the 24<sup>th</sup> with two on the 25<sup>th</sup> and three on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Northern Harrier on the 20<sup>th</sup> with single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. There were two Broad-winged Hawks on the 20<sup>th</sup> (a high count) with one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a late light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. American Kestrels were seen from the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 Merlins from the 9<sup>th</sup> with 43 Peregrine Falcons from the 2<sup>nd</sup> the best day was the 10<sup>th</sup> when 14 counted.

There were eight Semipalmated Plovers on the 9<sup>th</sup> with one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. An American Oystercatcher flew to the south on the 6<sup>th</sup> as did five American Avocets on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Now to the first addition to the list I had just stopped looking at the two Sooty Shearwaters on the 9<sup>th</sup> when I spotted a Hudsonian Godwit flying to the north. For weeks I had been checking the flocks of Willets and then it flies by on its own. Sanderling peaked at 218 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 273 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Least Sandpiper on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 360 Dunlin flew to the south on the 27<sup>th</sup> another high count.

Also on the 27<sup>th</sup> 50 Long-billed Dowitchers flew to the south this was also a high count. There were 14 Red-necked Phalaropes on the 1<sup>st</sup> with 105 on the 6<sup>th</sup> another high count. There was a lone bird on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were 30 Red Phalaropes on the 6<sup>th</sup> a high count.

Jaegers were very scarce there was a Pomarine on the 20<sup>th</sup> with single Parasitic on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Ring-billed Gulls were seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were in all eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls with three on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The first Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. It has been Caspian Tern month there were 24 on the 25<sup>th</sup> (previous high count was that of 21 on October 24, 2017), 164 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 65 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 56 on the 29<sup>th</sup>, ten on the 30<sup>th</sup> and six on the 31<sup>st</sup> all were flying to the south. It may be some time before the high count of 164 is broken. Royal Terns peaked at 635 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Common Terns were seen to the 24<sup>th</sup> and Forster's Terns were seen from the 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black Tern on the 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the most unexpected sightings was that of a Brown Noddy flying to the south not very far out on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Again there were single White-winged Doves on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. At sea a Common Nighthawk flew to the south on the 7<sup>th</sup> with a Chuck-will's-widow likewise on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Single Belted Kingfishers were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Loggerhead Shrike on the 28<sup>th</sup> it was working its way to the north. There were single House Wrens on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Now to the second new species one of only a handful of warblers seen this fall a Black-throated Green Warbler was present on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Palm Warblers were seen from the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Savannah Sparrow on the 31<sup>st</sup> this is always a rarity. Now we come to the third new species one I never expected to see. There was an adult male Brewer's Blackbird on the 12<sup>th</sup>; to my surprise I saw it again on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Finally there were three House Finches on the 11<sup>th</sup>, one on the 12<sup>th</sup> and three again on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Can I hope for another addition in November?

Harry Robinson