

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – NOVEMBER, 2019

Another month with one new species (different individuals were seen on two different dates!). It was the second best November with 119 species, there were 124 species in 2017. So far this year I have noted 215 species with a grand total of 261 species. I carried out 30 surveys over 137 hours. There were 59 species on the 25<sup>th</sup> a very high count with 3,873 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

This is NOT a scoter year but there was plenty of interest. There were single Red-throated Loons on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Common Loons peaked at six on the 19<sup>th</sup> and ten on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Pied-billed Grebe on the sea on the 4<sup>th</sup> with two Horned Grebes on the 18<sup>th</sup> with one on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Scopoli's Shearwater on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a Manx Shearwater on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Brown Booby on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Northern Gannets peaked at 323 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were good numbers of Brown Pelicans with 640 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 1,045 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 878 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 28<sup>th</sup> (too far out to sex/age).

There was a Reddish Egret on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Green Heron on the 25<sup>th</sup>. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron flew to the north along the river on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 21 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks peaked at 16 on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Gadwall on the 9<sup>th</sup> with 11 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, then two seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>. American Wigeon peaked at 18 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were two Mallard on the 4<sup>th</sup> (when will I get an American Black Duck?) with a Mottled Duck on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The last Blue-winged Teal was on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were four Northern Pintail on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Green-winged Teal peaked at 35 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A flock of seven Canvasbacks flew to the south on the 29<sup>th</sup> with eight Redheads likewise on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Ring-necked Ducks peaked at 305 on the 6<sup>th</sup> a new high count with 180 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> with 60 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Only low numbers of Lesser Scaup were seen this year with 660 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 340 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Much to my surprise a female Harlequin Duck flew to the south on the 24<sup>th</sup> it was leading two Red-breasted Mergansers (normally the out of place bird trails in last place). A total of 21 Surf Scoters were seen with ten on the 14<sup>th</sup> and six on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoters only peaked at 220 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 145 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were three Buffleheads on the 8<sup>th</sup> with two on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>; there were also five on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were two Hooded Mergansers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 36 on the 29<sup>th</sup> a new high count (30 of these flew to the north in a single flock). Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 15 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 82 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Very surprisingly a flock of ten Ruddy Ducks flew to the south on the 21<sup>st</sup>. As you can see November is duck month.....

There were two Northern Harriers on the 8<sup>th</sup> with single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a young Broad-winged Hawk on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were two American Kestrels on the 23<sup>rd</sup> normally only singles seen. During the month eight Merlins noted with a single Peregrine Falcon on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

There was an American Coot on the sea on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with six on the 30<sup>th</sup> a new high count; the latter were over the Halifax River. Always a surprise there were six American Avocets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with three on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Willets peaked at 144 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Red Knot peaked at 61 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Sanderling peaked at 300 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were eight Dunlin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with one on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Finally for this group there were single Red-necked Phalaropes on the 13<sup>th</sup> with a Wilson's Snipe on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

There were very few jaegers with just 11 Pomarine and six Parasitic for the month. Laughing Gulls peaked at 2,850 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. During the month just five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen. Royal Terns peaked at 602 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 357 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a Common Tern on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Very few Black Skimmers noted but there were 35 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were 50 Mourning Doves on the 12<sup>th</sup> one of the higher counts. Common Ground-Doves peaked at four on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> with single Downy Woodpeckers on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Phoebe peaked at three on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 19<sup>th</sup> the second this fall but only the third sighting ever. There was an American Crow on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Now to the new species Cave Swallow there was an immature on the 18<sup>th</sup> with an adult on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The last Barn Swallow was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were three House Wrens on the 29<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The first American Robins (two) were seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> with 20 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Pipit on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Single Common Yellowthroats were seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Towhee on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 215 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 645 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 850 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. House Finches peaked at eight on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. Finally there was an American Goldfinch on the 9<sup>th</sup> with 15 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Just what will December bring?

Harry Robinson