

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS JULY, 2020

Another interesting month but only 27 shearwaters were seen this time. There have been 200 species this year with 267 since the start of the survey. For this month 93 species located which is only a little below the 2018 record of 97. I conducted 31 surveys over 156 hours. The best days for species were the 5th and the 31st when 39 species counted. The highest daily bird count was on the 31st when 638 noted.

So to date there have been 114 shearwaters; over the first four years as a whole just 21 counts of 34 birds (this covers June/July only). For the Cory's Shearwater there was one on the 2nd with two on the 5th, two on the 18th, five on the 19th, three on the 26th and one on the 27th. For the Great Shearwater there were singles on the 1st and 5th with four on the 6th, then one seen on the 26th with four on the 27th. I have yet to see a shearwater during the first 19 days of August perhaps this year..... A new species for the year was Audubon's Shearwater with singles on the 18th and 26th. There was also a Brown Booby on the 2nd.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th. There were also single Green Herons on the 7th, 15th and 31st. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 7th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons present all month with four on the 9th and 19th. Glossy Ibis were seen on seven dates with ten on the 1st. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 4th with two on the 5th, then singles seen on the 12th and 23rd. Wood Storks were seen on eight dates with six on the 2nd. Just one duck seen there was a Black Scoter on the 27th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were present all month in all 107 seen but the number of actual individuals is not known; there were 27 on the 5th (a new high count), nine on the 9th, five on the 25th and four on the 30th. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 3rd. An adult Bald Eagle was present all month with a juvenile on the 7th, 13th and 30th. Red-shouldered Hawks and Cooper's Hawks were seen regularly. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 24th. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on the 1st, 4th, 18th and 28th.

July is the beginning of the fall shorebird passage so a variety of species were seen. There was a Black-bellied Plover on the 22nd with single Semipalmated Plovers on the 16th and 31st. There was a Black-necked Stilt on the 4th with eight on the 13th and 19 on the 17th. A flock of six American Avocets flew to the south on the 30th. There were two Greater Yellowlegs on the 12th with a Solitary Sandpiper on the 20th. There were two Spotted Sandpipers on the 31st. Uncommon in the fall were two Whimbrel on the 8th. There were single Marbled Godwits on the 19th and 26th. Ruddy Turnstones peaked at 32 on the 31st and Sanderling did likewise on that date there were 212. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen from the 20th 16 in all were seen. There were two Western Sandpipers on the 17th with 18 on the 22nd. Least Sandpipers were

seen from the 8th with five on the 8th and 12 on the 21st. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 30th. For the Short-billed Dowitcher there were eight on the 9th with one on the 23rd and two on the 31st. There was a breeding plumage Long-billed Dowitcher on the 18th.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 6th summer records are very rare. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 29th and single Common Terns were seen on the 28th and 31st. There was a Forster's Tern on the 30th. Least Terns were present all month with 12 on the 8th and 11 on the 27th. There was a Black Tern on the 16th with six on the 27th and ten on the 30th. Up to five a day Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates.

There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 17th and the park's second Eastern Screech-Owl was located on the 30th. Surprisingly a Chuck-will's-widow took up residence in the area from the 3rd to the 27th with two on the 20th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 20th with a Great Crested Flycatcher on the 6th. An American Crow was present to the 15th and again on the 28th/29th. There was a Purple Martin on the 6th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 1st with two on the 2nd. There was a Bank Swallow on the 28th. The rarity of the month had to be a Cave Swallow on the 12th this is the third record for the park. There was a Brown Thrasher on the 3rd. Single Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen on the 12th, 22ⁿ and 25th with two on the 26th. House Finches were seen on seven dates with a high count of four on the 8th.

August starts off with a hurricane so I hope we all stay safe and if possible see a few pelagic birds.

Harry Robinson