

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – SEPTEMBER, 2020

Another interesting month with one addition to the list – a good one. There were 30 surveys over 156 hours. In all 124 species seen this month the next best September was 2017 when 119 species seen. For the year the list stands at 218 (way ahead of all the other years) with an overall total of 269 species.

Shearwaters were noted on three dates. There were two Cory's Shearwaters on the 16th with a Great Shearwater on the same date. There were two Sooty Shearwaters on the 21st with a Manx Shearwater on the 20th. There was just one Brown Booby this month, there was one on the 23rd. Very unexpectedly with the thermals on the 1st there were a total of 417 Anhingas working their way to the south. This is a new high count.

Another high count occurred on the 18th when 206 Great Blue Herons were seen flying to the south. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 2nd and 18th. There were also single Green Herons on the 1st, 6th and 9th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 8th and 25th with single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the 6th and 17th. Glossy Ibis were seen regularly with 28 on the 2nd. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 14th with 61 on the 19th this is another new high count. There was also a Wood Stork on the 30th.

Two Muscovy Duck flew to the north on the 11th with a Mottled Duck flying to the south on the 6th. Blue-winged Teal flew to the south all month with high counts of 1,105 on the 27th and 2,015 on the 30th the latter was another high count for the park. There were two Northern Shovelers on the 29th with two more on the 30th. Also on the 30th there were two Green-winged Teal.

Up to two Bald Eagles seen all month (there were two adults and an immature). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on the 15th and 17th with two on the 26th. There were on the 3rd two Broad-winged Hawks and a Short-tailed Hawk. There were single Red-tailed Hawks on the 2nd and 29th. There were two American Kestrels on the 14th with one on the 29th. Merlins were seen from the 9th, there were 19 in all. A total of eight seen on the 29th this is a new high count for the park. There were two Peregrine Falcons on the 20th with two on the 21st and four on the 22nd.

Two Sandhill Cranes flew to the north on the 24th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 15th with six on the 21st this is a joint high count. There were five Greater Yellowlegs on the 9th. There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 11th and 17th with a single Spotted Sandpiper on the 1st. A Marbled Godwit was seen on the 20th with 12 Red Knot on the 11th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen to the 9th with 44 on the 6th. Western Sandpipers travel later there were 11 on the 27th with 205 on the 29th another new high count. There were two

Least Sandpipers on the 13th with nine on the 28th. There was a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 4th with 40 on the 6th, then one seen on the 19th. There was a Dunlin on the 29th. Now we come to the latest addition to the list a Ruff flew to the north along the shore on the 25th. There were 20 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 28th. There were 11 Red-necked Phalaropes on the 20th with five on the 21st. There was also a Red Phalarope on the 21st.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 21st with two on the 29th. There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 7th, 9th, 20th and 21st with two on the 26th. Long-tailed Jaegers are normally absent but not so this year there were singles on the 15th and 16th with three on the 21st, then one seen on the 26th. There was a Ring-billed Gull on the 12th and Herring Gulls were seen from the 16th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also seen from the 16th with three on that date, seven on the 21st, 12 on the 22nd and one on the 30th. Great Black-backed Gulls were seen from the 7th with 28 on the 21st. An adult Sabine's Gull flew to the south on the 20th this is always a very rare species. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 3rd with six on the 19th another joint high count. Sandwich Terns peaked at 71 on the 15th. Common Terns were seen all month with 63 on the 14th, 81 on the 15th and 105 on the 27th. There was a Forster's Tern on the 6th with four on the 18th. The last Least Terns were two on the 7th. There were also two Sooty Terns on the 21st. Black Terns present all month with high counts of 102 on the 6th, 430 on the 15th and 172 on the 18th.

There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 3rd. A party of seven Common Nighthawks flew to the south on the 18th. The last Chimney Swifts were a party of 21 on the 14th. There were single Belted Kingfishers on the 3rd, 18th and 30th. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 1st with single Northern Flickers (a rarity) on the 23rd and 30th. There was also a Pileated Woodpecker on the 19th. Eastern King birds were seen on five dates with a high count of nine on the 7th. There were two Gray Kingbirds on the 6th (a new high count) with one on the 24th. Up to three American Crows present all month.

There were single Purple Martins on the 2nd and 7th. Tree Swallows were seen sparingly from the 8th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 1st on that date eight Bank Swallows were also seen. The 1st was a special day as a minimum of 224 Cliff Swallows seen a new high count. There was also a Cave Swallow an unusual date.

There was a Gray Catbird on the 30th with a Brown Thrasher on the 25th. There were single Palm Warblers on the 18th and 30th. There was an American Redstart on the 29th. There were single Common Yellowthroats on the 9th, 10th and 18th. There was a female/immature Summer Tanager on the 18th. There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 27th. Bobolinks were noted on six dates with 110 on the 16th and 20 on the 18th. There was a Brown-headed Cowbird on the 19th. Finally there were two House Finches on the 1st and 7th with six on the 19th.

Harry Robinson

Just to temp you the list went up by two on October 1st.....