

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – MAY, 2021

Here we go again with another crazy month at the last minute there was an addition to the list. In 2020 116 species were seen in May this year 127. The annual total of 220 is equivalent to the totals in October in the earlier years. There have been eight additions this year, one this month; the list now stands at 292. Is it possible to reach 300 by the end of the year? The best day was the 7th with 66 species and 1,342 birds. There were 31 surveys over 204 hours the totals have now reached 1,766 days and 9,960 hours hence the long list.

The weather has been very mixed with one spell providing warblers and another pelagic seabirds the latter is without precedent when it comes to the number of storm-petrels seen. The first bird on the list IS the addition a Yellow-nosed Albatross flew to the south on the 31st (wind ENE 17). There was a Great Shearwater on the 20th. There were single Sooty Shearwaters on the 15th and 21st with three on the 22nd. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on six dates there was one on the 17th, 22 on the 20th, 28 on the 21st (high count), 6 on the 22nd, nine on the 23rd and one on the 31st. Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen on four dates with 17 on the 20th, 307 on the 21st (the highest count for earlier years was two.....), 58 on the 22nd and 13 on the 23rd. Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen on six dates with singles on the 18th and 19th, six on the 20th (high count), five on the 21st, two on the 22nd and two on the 23rd. The totals were 67 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 395 Leach's Storm-Petrels and 17 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels which comes to a total of 479 petrels. There was a Brown Booby on the 31st. Northern Gannets continued to be seen all month there were still six on the 31st. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 29th with two on the 30th.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 12th. There were single Green Herons on the 5th and 28th the latter was flying to the south way out at sea. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 16th. One to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen all month with seven on the 22nd. There were seven Glossy Ibis on the 1st with two on the 3rd, two on the 10th and one on the 30th. There were five Roseate Spoonbills on the 1st with two on the 7th and four on the 14th. There was a single Wood Stork on the 7th.

Very few ducks as expected; there were two American Wigeon on the 16th. There were five Blue-winged Teal on the 1st with five more on the 5th. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 1st. There was a Surf Scoter on the 23rd slightly more Red-breasted Mergansers seen there was one on the 1st, three on the 3rd, six on the 7th and one on the 21st.

There were often two to four Swallow-tailed Kites in the area with five on the 4th. There were two Mississippi Kites on the 6th with one on the 12th. Bald Eagles were seen to the 11th with a late individual on the 25th. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 8th. A total

of 19 Merlins were seen flying to the north to the 16th with four on the 7th. The only Peregrine Falcon was seen on the 1st.

Black-bellied Plovers were seen to the 30th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 15th. Semipalmated Plovers were seen from the 5th to the 20th with 16 on the 15th. There was a Piping Plover on the 20th with an American Oystercatcher on the 24th. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 7th. There were two Lesser Yellowlegs on the 30th. Willets were seen to the 31st. There was a Spotted Sandpiper on the 6th with three on the 8th. There were four Whimbrel on the 13th with two on the 15th and one on the 31st. Ruddy Turnstones were seen to the 29th with 110 on the 2nd. Sanderlings were also seen to the 29th with 170 on the 14th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen from the 1st to the 15th with 98 on the 7th and 99 on the 15th. Least Sandpipers were seen from the 4th to the 22nd with 15 on the 13th. There was a White-rumped Sandpiper on the 7th with four on the 13th and one on the 15th. There were single Pectoral Sandpipers on the 8th and Dunlin on the 11th. There were two Short-billed Dowitchers on the 10th. With the rough weather there was a Red-necked Phalarope on the 19th with four on the 20th and five on the 21st.

The last Ring-billed Gull was one on the 3rd. There was a Herring Gull on the 15th with two on the 20th. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 18th and 21st. There were five Roseate Tern records there were two on the 13th, two on the 15th, six on the 20th (high count), one on the 21st and five on the 22nd. There were two Common Terns on the 1st. Arctic Terns were also seen on five dates there was one on the 15th, 15 on the 20th (high count), one on the 21st, four on the 22nd and one on the 31st. Least Terns seen all month with 21 on the 12th and 30 on the 20th. Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates from the 5th to the 25th with ten on the 11th and eight on the 25th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 27th. There were six Common Ground-Doves on the 6th a new high count. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 2nd with a Great Horned Owl on the 1st. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard through the month. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 5th. There was a pair of Downy Woodpeckers in the area. Singles Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on six dates. There was a Great Crested Flycatcher from the 4th to the 14th with two on the 15th; later there was one on the 26th. There were six Eastern Kingbirds on the 8th with a Gray Kingbird on the 26th. Single Red-eyed Vireos were seen on the 6th and 11th. One to two American Crows seen daily. Purple Martins were seen to the 17th with three on the 7th. There were seven Tree Swallows on the 1st with three on the 6th and ten on the 7th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 5th. There were two Bank Swallows on the 1st with two more on the 7th. There were single Cliff Swallows on the 6th, 8th and 30th. Barn Swallows flew to the north all month (about four flew to the south from the 29th) the highest count was that of 764 on the 7th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 3rd and 5th. There were also single

Gray-cheeked Thrushes on the 7th and 12th. There was a Gray Catbird on the 3rd and the 5th. The only Brown Thrasher was one on the 25th.

Up to two Northern Parulas were seen to the 9th with two on the 29th and one on the 30th. There were four Cape May Warblers on the 5th with one on the 6th. There were single Black-throated Blue Warblers on the 3rd, 4th and 6th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 5th with a Palm Warbler on the 3rd. 26 Blackpoll Warblers were seen from the 5th to the 12th with seven on the 7th and six on the 11th. At the end of the month there was one on the 30th. Black-and-white Warblers were seen from the 3rd to the 16th with two on the 7th. American Redstarts were seen from the 3rd to the 12th with six on the 6th and five on the 11th. Later there were two on the ; in all 35 seen. Common Yellowthroats were also seen from the 3rd to the 12th with high counts of four on the 4th and the 5th.

There were 23 Bobolinks on the 3rd with one on the 7th.. There was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 17th. There were single Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 9th and the 16th. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 14th. House Finches present all month with five on the 3 15th.

The highest count for June is 88 can we beat that total this year?

Harry Robinson