

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – AUGUST, 2021

Here we go again there were 122 species this month which destroys the previous high count of 113. There were 31 surveys over 178 hours. So far this year 235 species seen with 296 ever – just how long will it take to reach 300? The best days were the 3rd with 1,639 birds and the 23rd with 53 species.

There was an Audubon's Shearwater on the 13th. There were immature Brown Boobies on the 16th and 28th the latter flew to the north only to return to the south after a few minutes. There were single Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 1st and the 31st the latter was over the river.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 5th, 17th and the 23rd. There were single Green Herons on the 14th and 23rd. There were also single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 3rd and 6th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen to the 24th with 3 on the 23rd. White Ibis peaked at 124 on the 2nd. Glossy Ibis were seen regularly with 13 on the 3rd and 9 on the 23rd. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 2nd with 3 on the 21st, then one seen on the 25th. Wood Storks were seen on eight dates with 4 on the 13th. There were 2 Mottled Ducks on the 18th. Blue-winged Teals were seen from the 13th with 38 on the 14th, 36 on the 24th and 45 on the 25th. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 31st.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen to the 22nd with 3 on the 1st, 4 on the 9th and 4 on the 15th. To my great surprise an adult male Snail Kite flew to the south over the island on the 1st – a new species for the park. There was an adult Bald Eagle on the 31st. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 17th. Finally for this group there was a Merlin on the 22nd.

An American Golden-Plover flew to the south over the island on the 25th. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on five dates with 3 on the 30th. There was a Piping Plover on the beach on the 6th. There were 28 Black-necked Stilts on the 17th with 4 on the 23rd, 15 on the 25th and 9 on the 31st. American Avocets were seen on four dates there were 8 on the 3rd, 3 on the 14th, 3 on the 20th and 10 on the 26th. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 11th with 2 on the 15th and 1 on the 29th. There were 2 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 4th with a Solitary Sandpiper on that date. There were single Spotted Sandpipers on the 7th and the 11th with 2 on the 12th. Marbled Godwits were seen on six dates with 3 on the 22nd. There was a summer plumage Red Knot on the 12th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen to the 24th with 31 on the 2nd, 33 on the 4th and 70 on the 20th. There were 20 Western Sandpipers on the 15th with 7 on the 31st. Least Sandpipers were noted on 12 dates with 29 on the 6th and 34 on the 23rd. Always a rarity in the fall there was a White-rumped Sandpiper on the 31st. Pectoral Sandpipers were seen on eight dates with 6 on the 16th. There were single Stilt Sandpipers on the 3rd and 6th with 2 on the 8th. The second addition to the list was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper that flew to the south over the

island on the 25th it was with the American Golden-Plover. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen on 11 dates with 20 on the 22nd.

There was a light morph Parasitic Jaeger on the 28th. There were 2 Gull-billed Terns on the 4th with 1 on the 27th. There were 3 Caspian Terns on the 4th with 1 on the 30th, then 2 seen on the 31st. There were single Roseate Terns on the 4th, 5th, 26th and 27th. Common Terns seen all month there were 21 on the 21st and 21 on the 24th. There were 2 adult Arctic Terns on the 27th with a first-winter Forster's Tern on the 26th. Least Terns were present all month with counts of 14 on the 4th, 6th and 28th. Black Terns seen from the 3rd with 40 on the 17th, 46 on the 26th and 45 on the 30th. Very unexpectedly there was a Brown Noddy that flew to the north on the 27th.

There was an immature White-winged Dove on the 16th. The Common Ground-Doves peaked at 8 on the 30th this is a new high count. The Chuck-will's-widow was last heard on the 24th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 8th. Single Belted Kingfishers were seen on the 6th, 18th, 22nd and 24th. A major rarity was a Northern Flicker on the 10th. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were located on five dates. There was a Great Crested Flycatcher on the 10th. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 19th with 3 on the 23rd, 16 on the 30th and 2 on the 31st. With the Easterns on the 30th there was a Gray Kingbird. There were single Loggerhead Shrikes on the 18th and 28th. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 22nd. Up to 2 American Crows seen all month with 5 on the 23rd.

There were 5 Purple Martins on the 3rd with a Tree Swallow on the 23rd. There were 3 Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 3rd with 2 on the 22nd and 2 on the 23rd. Bank Swallows were seen on six dates with 11 on the 23rd. Now we come to the highlight of the month (not the additions to the list). There were 2 Cliff Swallows on the 1st with 5 on the 2nd. On the 3rd the clouds were low which probably caused the very high count of 1,075 on the 3rd and 565 on the 4th. Needless to say the 1,075 is a new high count for the park. There were 10 on the 5th with 2 on the 6th. Later there were 36 on the 23rd. Barn Swallows peaked at 140 on the 3rd, 273 on the 22nd and 526 on the 23rd.

There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 6th. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 6th, 11th and 21st. There were single Yellow Warblers on the 3rd and 12th. There was a Magnolia Warbler on the 29th. There was a female Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 9th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 23rd. There were single Prairie Warblers on the 12th and 22nd. There was an American Redstart on the 17th with 2 on the 22nd, then 1 seen on the 24th. There was a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 2nd. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 3rd and the 4th. There was a female Summer Tanager on the 19th. There was a single Common Grackle on the 13th (they are absent in the early fall each year). Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen occasionally with 6 on the 1st and 3 on the 22nd. House Finches peaked at 9 on the 7th and 30th.

Just what will September bring?

Harry Robinson