

BIRDS OF TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK JUNE, 2022

This was shearwater month a total of 291 counted! There were 30 surveys over 177 hours and 94 species were located. So far this year the totals stand at 212 for the year with 305 ever from 2016. The best days were 47 species on the 9th and 553 birds on the 24th.

To list ALL the shearwaters. For Cory's Shearwaters there were three on the 17th, 21 on the 20th, three on the 21st, 64 on the 25th, 147 on the 26th, 18 on the 27th, seven on the 28th, three on the 29th and three on the 30th. The old "high count was 24 from 2017 so the count of 147 was a bit bigger....There were two Scopoli's Shearwaters on the 17th with one on the 20th I did not try to identify this species/race after that. For Great Shearwaters there were singles on the 1st and 10th with two on the 20th, one on the 21st, three on the 25th, one on the 26th, three on the 27th, one on the 28th, three on the 29th and two on the 30th. There was also a Sooty Shearwater on the 5th. There was a Wilson's Storm-Petrel on the 26th. On that date there was also a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel which I believe to have been a Grant's Storm-Petrel it was still in wing molt. On the 29th an immature White-tailed Tropicbird flew in off the sea and at the beach turned to the north. This is the second record for the park the other bird behaved in the same manner. There was an immature Brown Booby on the 27th. The last Northern Gannets were: two on the 1st with singles on the 3rd, 8th and 9th. Last year it was Storm-Petrels in May and this year it is shearwaters in June.

There were 16 Anhinga on the 23rd. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 1st and the 12th. There were also single Green Herons on the 22nd, 29th and 30th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 12th. Up to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons seen daily they do like the Ghost Crabs a good thing as these crabs attack the baby sea turtles. White Ibis peaked at 108 on the 11th. Glossy Ibis were seen on ten dates with 16 on the 8th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on 17 dates with 52 on the 7th, 65 on the 10th and 28 on the 12th. The count of 65 is a new high count for the park. There was one Wood Stork on the 8th with three on the 10th.

Only low numbers of vultures with 69 Blacks on the 5th and 28 Turkeys on the 23rd. As hoped for Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks put in an appearance there were nine on the 7th, four on the 8th and two on the 11th. There was a Wood Duck on the 10th totally out of season. Scoters can turn up in the summer and this year it was the turn of the rare White-winged Scoter there were three on the 9th with one on the 13th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen all month the fall passage may have started on the 7th. There were seven on the 7th with seven on the 15th, 14 on the 28th and nine on the 29th (only two found on the 30th). There were single Mississippi Kites on the 11th and 23rd. An adult Bald

Eagle flew to the north on the 14th with Great Blue Herons it could hardly keep up. There was also a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 6th.

There was a Black-bellied Plover on the 18th with two Semipalmated Plovers on the 8th. Black-necked Stilts were seen on eight dates with 11 on the 11th, 27 on the 19th and nine on the 29th. There were single Willets on the 5th, 6th and 9th their fall passage started from the 25th with seven on the 27th and six on the 30th. Ruddy Turnstones were seen to the 10th and Sanderling were seen to the 4th.

There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 25th with a Caspian Tern on the 13th. There were two Common Terns on the 1st with one on the 27th. Least Terns peaked at 19 on the 5th. Black Skimmers were seen on seven dates with six on the 2nd and nine on the 5th.

There were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the 7th and 8th with two on the 10th this is a high count. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 13th and the 15th. For a third park record there was a Barred Owl on the 30th. Up to two Chuck-will's-widows heard all month. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 11th and the 30th. There was a Northern Flicker on the 11th. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on the 2nd, 6th and 10th. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 9th with a Gray Kingbird on the 1st. Not sure how many Loggerhead Shrikes were seen as there was one the 15th/16th, one on the 23rd/24th and one on the 29th/30th. Up to three Purple Martins seen from the 6th to the 13th with two on the 24th and four on the 29th. There was an adult Tree Swallow that flew to the north on the 19th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 19th with two on the 21st and one on the 22nd. Barn Swallows were seen to the 24th with six on the 23rd. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 12th with an Eastern Bluebird on the 14th. A single Brown Thrasher was seen on eight dates. There was a Northern Parula on the 2nd with a Prairie Warbler on the 29th. There were single female Summer Tanagers on the 5th and 23rd the same bird? There was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 2nd and House Finches peaked at ten on the 11th.

Perhaps July will bring more shearwaters and some petrels this time.

Harry Robinson