

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK, BIRD COUNTS SEPTEMBER, 2022

A busy month which is a nice thing to be able to say had 136 species over 30 days and 171 hours. For the year have seen 235 species and 310 ever. The best day was the 9th with 1,158 birds of 58 species. In complete contrast to the rest of the year there were four additions this month. At the end of the month Hurricane Ian crossed the area it started on the 28th, all day on the 29th and left on the 30th. In the late afternoon of the 29th with the wind at NNE 40 I spent two hours sea watching and did not see one bird!

Now to the birds there was an Audubon's Shearwater on the 23rd. Anhingas seen on most days with 30 on the 21st. For a second record for the park a Least Bittern flew to the south on the 17th it was trailing a flock of six Snowy Egrets it was struggling to keep up. There were 31 Great Egrets on the 30th with 103 Snowy Egrets on the 7th. There was a Reddish Egret on the 2nd. Green Herons seen or heard on nine dates with two on the 8th, two on the 16th and two on the 21st. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 10th, 11th, 20th and 30th with two on the 16th. Up to two a day Yellow-crowned Night-Herons seen to the 16th with one later on the 20th. White Ibis seen on most dates with 94 on the 25th and 82 on the 30th. Glossy Ibis were seen on ten dates with four on the 5th and the 12th. There were seven Roseate Spoonbills on the 11th with one on the 12th, six on the 16th, seven on the 25th and 73 on the 30th the latter is a new high count. There were two Wood Storks on the 1st with four on the 3rd, four on the 4th, one on the 10th, one on the 15th and two on the 20th.

The vultures peaked at 38 Black on the 15th and 83 Turkey on the same date. There were three Mallard on the 6th. Blue-winged Teal were seen on 14 dates with 135 on the 12th and 50 on the 22nd. Green-winged Teal were seen on six dates with 27 on the 20th and 40 on the 26th.

There was a small passage of Ospreys to the south (normally 3-4 a day seen). There were seven on the 10th, ten on the 12th, 17 on the 16th, 24 on the 16th, ten on the 17th, six on the 19th and later seven on the 24th. One to two Bald Eagles seen regularly from the 4th. There were single Northern Harriers on the 13th and 27th. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 11th and 17th. There was an immature Broad-winged Hawk on the 30th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 4th. American Kestrels were seen on eight dates with two on the 15th and two on the 19th. Merlins were seen on 11 dates from the 6th with four on the 15th, 15 on the 19th (new high count) and seven on the 30th. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen on the 16th, 17th, 24th, 28th and 30th.

There were eight Semipalmated Plovers on the 6th with one on the 8th and three on the 9th. There were single Killdeer on the 11th and 14th. There were seven American Oystercatchers on the 16th with three on the 24th. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 9th with a Spotted

Sandpiper on the 12th. There were five Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 1st with 49 on the 5th and ten on the 9th. There were two Western Sandpipers on the 9th. There were single Least Sandpipers on the 9th and 20th. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 2nd. There were six Short-billed Dowitchers on the 9th. Finally for this group there were five Red-necked Phalaropes on the 28th.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 28th. There was an early Herring Gull on the 28th. There were two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 23rd with two more on the 28th. There was a Great Black-backed Gull on the 28th another early sighting. There was a Sabine's Gull on the 23rd. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 24th. There were two Caspian Terns on the 9th with two on the 20th and one on the 21st. Royal Terns peaked at 113 on the 23rd and 124 on the 28th. Common Terns were seen on 18 dates with 157 on the 7th, 212 on the 20th and 279 on the 23rd. There were six Arctic Terns on the 28th. There were single Forster's Terns on the 8th and 16th. There were two Least Terns on the 1st with two on the 4th and five on the 9th. There were single Bridled and Sooty Terns on the 28th. Black Terns were seen every day up to the 23rd with three later on the 28th the higher counts were 155 on the 5th, 434 on the 9th and 128 on the 19th. There was a Brown Noddy on the 28th. There was a Black Skimmer on the 8th with three on the 11th, one on the 12th, seven on the 18th and one on the 21st.

There were single White-winged Doves on the 1st and 27th. There were 11 Common Ground-Doves on the 18th a new high count. There were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the 14th and 30th. There were two Great Horned Owls on the 1st and the 2nd with singles on the 3rd and 18th. There was a Barred Owl on the 6th a local rarity. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 17th. The female Chuck-will's-widow was probably present to at least the 26th but it was only heard on the 1st, 20th and 26th. Chimney Swifts were seen to the 22nd with 14 on the 4th. Belted Kingfishers seen on 11 dates from the 13th with two on the 17th and 24th. There was an adult Red-headed Woodpecker on the 12th with an immature on the 18th both flew to the south. There was a Northern Flicker on the 22nd. Up to two Pileated Woodpeckers seen on 11 dates.

The next two species are new for the park! There was an Olive-sided Flycatcher on the 8th with an Acadian Flycatcher on the 9th. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on 23 dates 17 on the 9th, 24 on the 16th and 14 on the 19th. A Loggerhead Shrike has been present all month. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 7th and 8th. Now we come to the third addition to the list there was a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 7th. Red-eyed Vireos were seen on 13 dates with five on the 18th, 27th and 30th with seven on the 20th a new high count. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 5th. Up to three a day American Crows seen. Purple Martins were seen on 11 dates to the 16th with six on the 9th. Tree Swallows were seen on six dates with two on the 25th. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 5th, 9th, 10th and 13th. There were two Bank Swallows

on the 5th with one on the 9th. There were four Cliff Swallows on the 2nd with two on the 9th. Barn Swallows peaked at 224 on the 9th and 184 on the 13th.

There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 2nd, 9th and 26th. There were single Tufted Titmouse on the 3rd and the 5th. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen on nine dates with three on the 25th. There were single Veery on the 2nd, 13th, 15th and 23rd. There was a Swainson's Thrush on the 3rd with three on the 13th, one on the 15th, two on the 16th, one on the 23rd and two on the 30th. There a Brown Thrasher all month with two on the 13th. Starlings peaked at 350 on the 23rd it seems early for such a high count.

There were single Northern Parula on the 9th, 20th, 26th and 27th. There was a Yellow Warbler on the 18th. There was a Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 18th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 12th with a Prairie Warbler on the 1st. Palm Warblers seen from the 14th. On the 30th after Hurricane Ian there were 33 a new high count there were many warblers flying over so the count might have actually been much higher. The final addition to the list was an immature Cerulean Warbler on the 20th. American Redstarts were seen on ten dates with three on the 25th and 27th. There was a Prothonotary Warbler on the 18th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 18th with two on the 26th and one on the 30th. There were two Scarlet Tanagers on the 17th a new high count. There was an immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 25th. There were two Indigo Buntings on the 15th. There were 30 Bobolinks on the 10th with one on the 13th. There were single Baltimore Orioles on the 13th, 22nd and 30th. House Finches present all month with 16 on the 14th.

Harry Robinson