

RGNC BIRD NOTES: August 2013

Notes from John "Lefty" Arnold (wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com; 505-514-9398)

Please note that beginning September 2013, all bird walks start at 8:30 a.m. and will not change with the seasons.



Presenting percentages

Something new for August 2013 Bird Walk data

A total of five species of birds were recorded during every one of the nine bird walks that took place in August 2013, and you probably can name them: Canada goose, wood duck, mallard, snowy egret, and black phoebe. But can you name the top 10 most-often-seen birds on all 72 bird walks during the first eight months of 2013? Here they are:

Mallard	95.8%	Red-winged Blackbird	80.6%
Canada Goose	94.4%	Mourning Dove	79.2%
American Coot	90.3%	Downy Woodpecker	72.2%
White-winged Dove	84.7%	Wood Duck	69.4%
White-breasted Nuthatch	83.3%	Black Phoebe	68.1%

By the way, of the 67 species recorded during August 2013 RGNC bird walks, a total of 25 species were seen only once. They are (in taxonomic order):

Gadwall	Cassin's Vireo
Blue-winged Teal	Western Scrub-Jay
Cinnamon Teal	American Crow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Eastern Bluebird
Neotropic Cormorant	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	MacGillvray's Warbler
White-faced Ibis	Yellow Warbler
Rock Pigeon	Yellow-breasted Chat
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Lark Sparrow
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Hepatic Tanager
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Bullock's Oriole
Hairy Woodpecker	
Northern Flicker	
Dusky Flycatcher	

August brings one new species to the January 2011-August 2013 list

On the last day of August 2013, the Rio Grande Nature Center bird walk produced one species of bird that has not been recorded during any these walks since January 2011: A hepatic tanager! The RGNC Checklist of Birds lists this orange-red, dark-billed bird as rare during autumn, so it was not totally unexpected but it sure was a nice surprise. It became the 183rd bird to be recorded during the 32-month span.

Also, during the 72 January-through-August 2013 RGNC bird walks, leaders have welcomed 1,231 people, for an average of 17 people per walk!