

BIRDS OF TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – MAY, 2024

Another month there was one new species this time. There were 31 surveys over 184 hours and 129 species were located not a high count. For the year 232 species found with a total of 331 since the survey started. The best days were the 1st with 64 species and the 21st with 3,005 birds.

Single Common Loons were seen on the 2nd, 5th and 12th. There were four Northern Gannets on the 5th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 126 on the 12th and Anhinga peaked at 13 on the 15th. There were four Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 19th including a male and two juveniles that circled again and again over the parking lot.

There were two Least Bitterns on the 1st. There was a Reddish Egret on the 4th with one present from the 9th to the 14th. There was a Green Heron on the 4th. Single Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen on the 3rd, the 12th and the 14th. Up to four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons seen through the month. White Ibis peaked at 80 on the 17th. There was a Glossy Ibis on the 5th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on seven dates with ten on the 17th and ten again on the 26th.

For the vultures there were 23 Black on the 16th and 24 Turkey on the 31st. There was a party of six Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 26th. There were two Muscovy Ducks on the 5th with singles on the 7th and 18th. There was a Wood Duck on the 9th. There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 11th. There were two Lesser Scaup on the 2nd and one (a male) may have stayed to the end of the month. There were two Black Scoter on the 13th with one, a female, staying to at least the 22nd. There were two Red-breasted Mergansers on the 4th with one on the 24th.

Swallow-tailed Kites present all month with counts of three-on-three dates and four on the 25th. Bald Eagles were seen to the 15th with one later on the 25th. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on five dates. Single Merlin's (flying to the north) were seen on the 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th.

Single Sandhill Cranes were heard on the 11th, 16th, 26th and 30th. Black-bellied Plovers were seen to the 27th. There were single American Golden-Plovers on the 8th and 9th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 13th. Semipalmated Plovers were seen to the 21st with 35 on the 10th, 24 on the 15th and 15 on the 20th. There was a Piping Plover on the 7th. There were three American Oystercatchers on the 10th. There was a Black-necked Stilt on the 10th. On the 27th a party of seven flew to the south well out at sea (early fall passage?). There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 9th and 21st. Willets were seen to the 11th with one flying to the north on the 29th. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 17 days to the 24th with five on the 9th, four on the 14th and four again on the 16th. There was a Whimbrel on the 12th with six on the 21st later on the 31st one flew to the south. Ruddy Turnstones were seen to the 27th. There was a Red Knot on the 21st. Sanderling were seen to the 28th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on 20 days

with 140 on the 11th, 115 on the 15th and 175 on the 20th. On the 21st a massive count of 2,675 occurred nearly all were flying to the north over the river. This is a new high count for the park. Finally, there were 43 on the 31st. Least Sandpipers were noted on 12 dates with 15 on the 20th. There were five White-rumped Sandpipers on the 1st with four on the 20th and singles on the 21st, 25th and 31st. There was a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 7th with a Dunlin on the 9th. Finally for this group there were four Short-billed Dowitchers on the 20th.

There was a Ring-billed Gull on the 1st. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 11th and the 22nd. There were also single Caspian Terns on the 13th, 28th and 30th. Royal Terns peaked at 62 on the 11th. There were two Roseate Terns on the 14th. A Common Tern was seen on the 11th with two on the 12th and two on the 21st. There were two late Forster's Terns on the 18th. Least Terns are breeding on the roof of my apartment building perhaps ten plus pairs! The high counts were of 24 on the 26th and 27th. Black Skimmers were seen on nine days with seven on the 25th and six on the 28th.

There were single White-winged Doves on the 17th and the 30th. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 11th. Single Eastern Screech-Owls heard on the 7th, 22nd and 24th. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 8th. There were single Barred Owls on the 3rd, 10th, 26th and 30th. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 4th with two on the 5th, then singles heard on the 7th, the 9th and the 19th. Up to four Chuck-will's-widows heard all month to the 30th with the female back in residence. Chimney Swifts seen daily with 12 on the 9th. There were single Belted Kingfishers on the 4th, 10th and 15th. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers seen on 12 days with three on the 5th and the 23rd. Pileated Woodpeckers were recorded on 25 days with three on the 22nd.

There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 9th. A pair of Great Crested Flycatchers has been present all month. Four Eastern Kingbirds flew to the north on the 27th. Next comes the new species for the park an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher flew to the north on the 17th. The only sighting of a Loggerhead Shrike was on the 12th when one located. Purple Martins were noted on 21 days with 20 on the 8th. There were three Tree Swallows on the 1st with two on the 11th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 10th. Single Bank Swallows were seen on the 1st and 9th. Single Cliff Swallows were seen on the 15th and 18th. Barn Swallows seen all month with 147 on the 3rd and 110 on the 10th. A Carolina Chickadee was seen on the 2nd, 18th, 29th and 30th. A pair of Tufted Titmouse raised at least two young as a party of four seen on the 18th a new high count. There was a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 1st with two on the 11th. There was a Veery on the 12th. There were single Swainson's Thrush on the 1st and the 13th. There was a Wood Thrush on the 5th. There are two pairs of Brown Thrashers in the area no young seen yet.

There was a Northern Parula on the 1st with a Cape May Warbler on the 16th. There were single Blackpoll Warblers on the 1st and the 12th with two on the 14th and one again on the 16th. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 1st. American Redstarts were seen on seven days with three on the 1st, four on the 8th and three on the 19th the last was on the 26th. There was a

Northern Waterthrush on the 13th. Single Common Yellowthroats were seen on six days from the 1st to the 19th. There was a Summer Tanager on the 1st. There was also an Indigo Bunting on the 1st. There was a Dickcissel on the 17th. There was a Bobolink on the 2nd with 280 on the 10th this is a new high count for the park. There were also ten on the 11th and five on the 16th. There was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 29th. There was a male Orchard Oriole on the 27th the fifth record for the park. Up to four House Finches were seen daily with seven on the 20th.

June is the quietest month of the year so what will it bring?

Harry Robinson