

THE BIRDS OF TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK - AUGUST, 2024

Another month completed, there were 31 surveys over 182 hours and 128 species were located (this is the highest August count to date). So far, this year 251 species located with 334 since the beginning of the survey in 2016. For this year there have been eight additions I do not understand it but the number of new species does not seem to drop each year (there were two additions this month). The best days were the 4th with 60 species and there were 1,237 birds on the 10th and 11th.

On the 31st with an east wind at 12 there was 1 Great Shearwater and 2 Audubon's Shearwaters. Brown Pelicans peaked at 54 on the 14th. There were single Least Bitterns on the 2nd, 15th and 22nd. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 12th, 18th and 24th. Green Herons were noted on nine dates with four on the 14th and nine on the 21st the latter is a new high count. There were two Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 2nd. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted on 14 days with four on the 14th and the 15th. White Ibis peaked at 27 on the 18th. Glossy Ibis were seen on six days with 16 on the 13th. An adult, in breeding plumage, White-faced Ibis flew to the south over the island on the 21st this is a new species for the park. There were seven Roseate Spoonbills on the 6th with two on the 19th. Wood Storks were seen from the 8th on a total of 13 days, the high count was only that of four on the 9th. For the vultures there were 53 Black on the 6th and 84 Turkey on the 25th.

There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 19th with 27 on the 29th and 15 on the 30th. There were also eight Northern Shoveler on the 30th a very early date.

There were two Swallow-tailed Kites on the 2nd with singles on the 3rd, 8th and 20th. There were two Mississippi Kites on the 8th with one on the 16th. There was an adult Bald Eagle on the 27th with two on the 30th and one on the 31st. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on the 10th, 27th and 28th. There were also Single Sandhill Cranes on the 14th and the 22nd.

There were single Wilson's Plovers on the 12th, 17th and 28th. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on most days with seven on the 13th. There were two Piping Plovers on the 17th a joint high count. There were eight Black-necked Stilts on the 7th with seven on the 9th, two on the 12th and nine on the 18th. There was an American Avocet on the 22nd. There were two Greater Yellowlegs on the 9th with one on the 20th. Lesser Yellowlegs were seen on seven days with 30 on the 7th. There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 9th, 14th and 18th. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 17 days with counts of three on the 11th and 12th. An Upland Sandpiper worked its way to the south on the 12th the second park record. There was a Whimbrel on the 2nd. There were two Red Knot on the 6th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on 18 days with 27 on the 11th. There were four Western Sandpipers on the 20th with three on the 29th. Least Sandpipers were seen on 12 days with 14 on the 10th. There was a White-rumped Sandpiper on the 20th. On the 12th a Baird's Sandpiper flew to the south it was with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers this is another new species for the park. Pectoral Sandpipers were seen on seven days with seven on

the 21st. There were six Stilt Sandpipers on the 5th with one on the 6th and five on the 12th. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen on six days with 15 on the 21st.

Laughing Gulls peaked at 393 on the 4th. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 10th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 1st, 21st, 24th, 26th and 29th. Royal Terns peaked at 40 on the 7th and again on the 15th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 6th. Common Terns were seen on 19 days with 38 on the 16th. There were single Forster's Terns on the 1st and 28th. Least Terns were present all month if in very low numbers in the last week, the highest count was that of 49 on the 16th. A day after Hurricane Debby travelled up the west coast of Florida an adult Sooty Tern flew to the south down the middle of the barrier island! Black Terns present all month with a high count of 59 on the 16th. Black Skimmers were seen on seven days four on the 3rd, 15th and 27th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 25th. Eastern Screech-Owls were heard on eight nights with two on the 1st a joint high count. Single Great Horned Owls were heard on the 10th, 16th, 26th and 28th. Single Barred Owls were heard on the 11th, 12th and 21st. Single Chuck-will's-widows were heard on five dates to the 20th. Chimney Swifts peaked at six on the 23rd. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 26th. Belted Kingfishers were seen on ten days with three on the 18th. Downy Woodpeckers were only noted on four days there were two on the 8th and 16th. There was a Northern Flicker on the 27th. Pileated Woodpeckers seen on most days with five on the 9th.

There were single Great Crested Flycatchers on the 14th, 23rd and 25th. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on ten days with counts of three on the 12th and the 22nd. There were single Gray Kingbirds on the 3rd, 12th and 21st. Normally up to two a day Loggerhead Shrikes seen but there were five on the 23rd a new high count. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 21st. There was a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 1st. Single Purple Martins were seen on the 8th and 25th with three on the 27th. There were single Tree Swallows on the 9th and the 18th. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen on seven days with three on the 9th. Bank Swallows were seen on eight days with 11 on the 19th. Cliff Swallows were seen on ten days with 140 on the 9th, 447 on the 10th, 158 on the 11th and 120 on the 20th only low numbers this year. Barn Swallows peaked at 500 on the 11th and 545 on the 8th. There were single Carolina Chickadees on the 3rd and 21st. Single Tufted Titmouse seen all month with two on the 15th. There were three Eastern Bluebirds on the 3rd with singles on the 12th and 20th. A Veery was heard on the 23rd. There was also a Brown Thrasher on the 9th and 12th.

There were three Northern Parula on the 7th a joint high count. There was a Yellow Warbler on the 7th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 11th and 21st. There were two Prairie Warblers on the 11th and 18th with one on the 21st. There was an American Redstart on the 2nd. There was a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 24th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 9th.

There was a Summer Tanager on the 14th. The only sighting of a Common Grackle was that of one on the 9th. There were two Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 2nd with singles on the 21st, 25th and 31st. Up to six House Finches seen through the month.

Now September is “meant” to be the real start of the fall passage.

Harry Robinson