

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – SEPTEMBER, 2024

This turned out to be an exceptional month with 152 species the second highest monthly count ever (there were 156 species in April this year). In all 30 surveys completed over 182 hours. There were two additions to the list. For the year 261 species recorded way ahead of any other year, in all 336 species located since January, 2016. The best days were 1,222 birds on the 2nd and 72 species on the 22nd. There are two higher species counts 73 species on April 30, 2023 and 78 on March 23, 2024.

There were single Cory's & Scopoli's Shearwaters on the 25th as Hurricane Helene approached. There were ten Great Shearwaters on the 25th with one on the 26th. Finally for this group there were single Audubon Shearwaters on the 25th and 26th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 59 on the 4th. There were single Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 25th and 26th with four on the 28th.

There was an American Bittern on the 19th with two on the 29th a new high count. There were two Least Bitterns on the 7th with one on the 22nd. The count of two is a joint high count. There was a Reddish Egret on the 21st. Now to Cattle Egrets the old high count was that of 210 on September 18, 2021. This month there were 215 on the 20th, 225 on the 8th and a massive 475 on the 30th. Passage was to the south over the river and the sea. Green Herons were heard on 8 days with five on the 13th and three on the 21st. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 2nd and 5th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted on ten days to the 30th with four on the 3rd. White Ibis peaked at 49 on the 7th and 90 on the 21st. Glossy Ibis were seen on six days with 12 on the 18th. For Roseate Spoonbill there were eight on the 5th with nine on the 22nd. There was a Wood Stork on the 2nd. For the vultures there were 27 Black on the 30th and 149 Turkey on the 29th.

There were 13 Blue-winged Teal on the 2nd with 705 on the 22nd, 425 on the 23rd, 680 on the 25th and 60 on the 30th. There were nine Northern Shoveler on the 22nd. There were four Northern Pintail on the 23rd. Green-winged Teal were seen from the 20th with 15 on the 23rd.

As a sign of migration there were nine Osprey on the 10th with eight on the 30th. Up to two Bald Eagles seen daily from the 3rd. There were single Northern Harriers on the 15th, 16th and 29th. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 18th, 27th and 29th. There were eight Red-shouldered Hawks on the 16th a new high count. For Broad-winged Hawks there were eight on the 16th (a new high count) with one on the 21st and two on the 22nd. Red-tailed Hawks were seen on seven days with two on the 16th and 26th. Single American Kestrels were seen on the 8th, 25th and 27th. Merlins were seen on eight days from the 17th with three on the 29th. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 25th, 27th and 28th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 25th. For the Semipalmated Plover there were seven on the 2nd, ten on the 3rd and one on the 14th. There were single Killdeer on the 3rd, 7th and 13th.

There was an American Oystercatcher on the 23rd. There were eight Black-necked Stilts on the 3rd with two on the 4th. There was an American Avocet on the 4th. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 28th. For the Lesser Yellowlegs there was one on the 18th with 80 on the 22nd (a new high count) and five on the 28th. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 17 days to the 30th with three on the 4th. There were two Whimbrel on the 3rd with a Marbled Godwit on the 9th. There were 30 Red Knot on the 28th. For Semipalmated Sandpiper there were nine on the 2nd, 12 on the 3rd and 12 again on the 4th. For the Western Sandpiper there were eight on the 3rd, 46 on the 4th and two on the 6th. There were six Least Sandpipers on the 2nd with nine on the 6th. There were eight Dunlin on the 29th. There was a Stilt Sandpiper on the 7th. With the hurricane there were 4 Red-necked Phalaropes on the 25th with 12 Red Phalaropes on the same day.

There were two Parasitic Jaegers on the 26th with one on the 30th. Very unexpectedly there were seven Long-tailed Jaegers on the 25th a new high count one of them was travelling with a Common Nighthawk! The first Ring-billed Gull was on the 28th. There were two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 6th with three on the 25th and one on the 26th. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 9th. Caspian Terns were seen on ten days with four on the 4th. Royal Terns peaked at 43 on the 6th and Sandwich Terns peaked at 61 on the 25th. There were eight Roseate Terns on the 25th a new high count. Common Terns were seen on 16 days with 48 on the 3rd. There were four Arctic Terns on the 25th. Forster's Terns were seen from the 3rd with five on the 3rd and 25th. Least Terns were seen daily to the 17th with four on that date. On the 25th a total of eight seen. Black Terns seen on ten days to the 18th with 47 on the 3rd. Black Skimmers were seen on seven days with four on the 6th and seven on the 20th.

Now we come to the first of the new spies there was an immature Black-billed Cuckoo on the 14th. Single Eastern Screech-Owls were heard on six days with two on the 5th a joint high count. Great Horned Owls were heard on seven days from the 10th with two on the 23rd. There were single Barred Owls on the 6th and 19th. On the 25th a Common nighthawk flew by offshore with a Long-tailed Jaeger. Single Chuck-will's-widows were heard by the river on the 4th, 14th, 20th and 24th. An Eastern Whip-poor-will flew to the south offshore on the 6th. Chimney Swifts were seen on five days to the 14th with three on the 8th. Single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen on the 15th and 27th with two on the 29th. Belted Kingfishers were seen on 23 days with 12 on the 10th a new high count. Downy Woodpeckers were seen on 17 days with three on the 7th. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 27 days with counts of five on the 18th and the 23rd.

There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 9th with a Great Crested Flycatcher on the 8th. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on seven days with six on the 7th and eight on the 20th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 7th. Up to three Loggerhead Shrikes seen daily. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 22nd. There was also a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 8th. Next came the second new species this was a Philadelphia Vireo which was seen on the 22nd. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 7th with two on the 22nd. American Crows peaked at 20 on the 8th. Purple Martins were seen on six days to the 13th with seven on the 7th. Tree Swallows were also seen on six days with three on the 18th. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 3rd and 6th

with two on the 7th. There were single Bank Swallows on the 7th and 18th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 5th with two on the 6th. Barn Swallows seen all month with 280 on the 7th and 308 on the 19th. There were two Carolina Chickadee on the 22nd with one on the 24th. For Tufted Titmouse there was one on the 9th then seen on five days from the 20th with three on the 22nd. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 8th, 23rd and 25th with two on the 29th. There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 10th. There were single Gray-cheeked Thrushes heard on the 11th and 17th. For the Veery there were singles on the 3rd, 4th and 10th with two on the 18th and 21st, then one heard on the 22nd. Swainson's Thrushes heard on 12 days with three on the 8th and 23rd. There was a Gray Catbird on the 28th. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 11th and 21st.

There were single Northern Parula on the 6th, 15th and 22nd. There were single Yellow Warblers on the 3rd and 25th. There were two Black-throated Blue Warblers on the 22nd a joint high count. There were single Blackburnian Warblers on the 14th and 22nd. There were also single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 7th, 15th and 22nd. There were two Prairie Warblers on the 6th with singles on the 7th and 18th. There were single Black-and-white Warblers on the 7th and the 22nd. There were four American Redstarts on the 22nd. There was a Worm-eating Warbler on the 22nd. There were single Common Yellowthroats on the 9th and 25th with five on the 29th.

There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 22nd. There were single Indigo Buntings on the 1st, 3rd and 9th with two on the 11th and 17th, then one seen on the 22nd. There was a Painted Bunting on the 24th. There were two Bobolinks on the 8th with three on the 10th, two on the 17th, two on the 20th and one on the 22nd. There were two Common Grackle on the 8th with one on the 27th. Brown-headed Cowbirds seen on six days with three on the 16th. Finally, House Finches peaked at eight on the 9th and ten on the 21st,

Can October beat this?

Harry Robinson