

## THE BIRDS OF TOM RENNICK COUNTY PARK- OCTOBER, 2024

2024 is proving to be an extraordinary year every month so far with the exception of May has had the highest ever count for that month. To date the total stands at 277 and there are still two months to go. Last year was the previous high count and that was 275 for the 12 months. Perhaps we will end the year with 285? I often wonder what the totals would have been if Sam had not flown away.

Now to this month a total of 172 species located (the previous high count was that of 152). There were three additions to the list which now stands at 339. There were 31 surveys over 192 hours. The best days were the 12<sup>th</sup> with 866 birds and the 13<sup>th</sup> with 67 species. As a foot note there was a Killer Whale on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Pied-billed Grebe on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 11<sup>th</sup> a **Southern Giant Petrel** sailed to the south, this is I think the third record for the North Atlantic. There was a Cory's Shearwater on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were two Great Shearwaters on the 8<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a Sooty Shearwater on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Manx Shearwater on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were single Audubon Shearwaters on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a Wilson's Storm-Petrel on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were single Leach's Storm-Petrels on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. There were two immature Brown Booby on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Northern Gannets seen from the 19<sup>th</sup> with 16 on the 30<sup>th</sup> (only juveniles seen so far). Brown Pelicans peaked at 239 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 83 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

There were two American Bitterns on the 1<sup>st</sup> with one on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were two on the 13<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Reddish Egret on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cattle Egrets peaked at 250 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 12 Green Herons on the 1<sup>st</sup> this is a new high count for the park. Later there were two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, two on the 8<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted on seven days with three on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the last on the 18<sup>th</sup>. White Ibis peaked at 100 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There were four Glossy Ibis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with eight on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with ten on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one on the 11<sup>th</sup> and one on the 21<sup>st</sup>. For the vultures there were 31 Black on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 134 Turkey on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Snow Goose on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Wigeon on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Blue-winged Teal were seen on seven days to the 29<sup>th</sup> with 50 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were three Northern Shoveler on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were also three Northern Pintail on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Green-winged Teals were seen on seven days with 19 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Scaup seen from the 12<sup>th</sup> with 40 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were four Surf Scoter on the 20<sup>th</sup> with 16 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were four Black Scoter on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were also three Buffleheads on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Up to three Bald Eagles seen daily. There were single Northern Harriers on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Sharp shinned Hawks were seen on eight days from the 12<sup>th</sup> with five on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There

was one Broad-winged Hawk on the 4<sup>th</sup> with three on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a Swainson's Hawk on the 16<sup>th</sup> with two on the 20<sup>th</sup> the latter is a new high count. Single Red-tailed Hawks seen on five days with two on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The male American Kestrel seen from the 8<sup>th</sup> there were two (not sexed) on the 19<sup>th</sup>). Merlins were seen on 14 days with four on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Peregrine Falcons were seen on 16 days with nine on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were two American Golden-Plovers on the 14<sup>th</sup> with three Killdeer on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Willets peaked at 80 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Single Spotted Sandpipers seen on four dates to the 25<sup>th</sup> with two on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A Hudsonian Godwit flew to the north on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There were four Marbled Godwit on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were five Red Knot on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a Purple Sandpiper on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were single Wilson's Snipe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There were also five Red-necked Phalaropes on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 24 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and four on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Parasitic Jaegers seen from the 8<sup>th</sup> with three on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Log-tailed Jaeger on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Franklin's Gull on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Ring-billed Gulls seen from the 2<sup>nd</sup> with nine on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Herring Gulls were seen from the 7<sup>th</sup> with 18 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with one on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Great Black-backed Gull on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black-legged Kittiwake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Caspian Terns were seen on four days with three on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 91 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were single Common Terns on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with eight on the 12<sup>th</sup>, four on the 30<sup>th</sup> and two on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were with Hurricane Milton 33 Bridled Terns on the 10<sup>th</sup> with one on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 148 Sooty Terns on the 10<sup>th</sup> with 12 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and one on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Bridled and Sooty Tern counts for the 10<sup>th</sup> were both new high counts for the park. There was a Black Tern on the 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a Brown Noddy on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Black Skimmers seen on five days no more than two a day.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were two Great Horned Owls on the 1<sup>st</sup> with three on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, then two seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one on the 28<sup>th</sup> and two on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There were single Barred Owls on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Whip-poor-will on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Chimney Swift on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> with three on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the latter is a joint high count. Up to three Belted Kingfishers seen daily. There were single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Single Downy Woodpeckers were noted on eight days. There was a Northern Flicker on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Up to three Pileated Woodpeckers noted on 14 days.

There were single Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Single Eastern Phoebe seen from the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a Western Kingbird on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were three Eastern Kingbirds on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Up to three Loggerhead Shrikes seen regularly with four on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were single White-eyed Vireos on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Blue-headed Vireo on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were

single Red-eyed Vireo on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 14<sup>th</sup>. American Crows peaked at 31 on the 18<sup>th</sup> this is a new high count. Tree Swallows seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 36 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 15<sup>th</sup> with two on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There were three Cave Swallows on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Barn Swallows were seen to the 25<sup>th</sup> with 15 on that date. There were single Carolina Chickadees on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Up to two Tufted Titmouse seen all month with four on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were single House Wrens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with a Marsh Wren on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. There were two Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Up to three Gray-cheeked Thrushes seen on eight days to the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a Veery on the 1<sup>st</sup> with three on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, two on the 8<sup>th</sup> and two on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bicknell's Thrush on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Swainson's Thrush were seen on seven days to the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 20 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 23 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were single Hermit Thrushes on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> with two on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were single Wood Thrush on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> with two on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were single Gray Catbirds on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Pipit on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

There was a **Blue-winged Warbler** on the 10<sup>th</sup> this is a new species for the park. There were two Tennessee Warblers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> this is a new high count. There were two Northern Parula on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was also a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> this is another new species for the park. There were two Black-throated Blue Warblers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> a joint high count for the park. There was a Yellow-rumped Warbler on the 15<sup>th</sup> with two on the 27<sup>th</sup> and one on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were two Yellow-throated Warblers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (a joint high count) with singles on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Palm Warblers were seen from the 5<sup>th</sup> with seven on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bay-breasted Warbler on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. American Redstarts were seen on six days with five on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was an Ovenbird on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Northern Waterthrush on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There was a Summer Tanager on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Chipping Sparrow was also seen on that date. There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was an Indigo Bunting on the 5<sup>th</sup> with three on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, three on the 24<sup>th</sup> and one on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a Dickcissel on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The only Bobolink were two on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 28<sup>th</sup>. One to five House Finches seen daily with six on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Just what will November bring?

Harry Robinson