

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – MAY, 2023

There were two additions this month bringing the count to 319. A total of 140 species were seen this month a huge increase on the second-best May (127 in 2021). For the year a total of 224 species located. There were 31 surveys over 186 hours. The best days were: 1,686 birds on the 27th and 61 species on the 4th.

There was a Common Loon on the 1st. For the pelagic birds there was a Great Shearwater on the 24th, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel on the 24th and a Brown Booby on the 27th. The only Northern Gannet was one on the 6th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 284 on the 27th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 8th and 12th. There were single Green Herons on the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 18th and 30th. There were also single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 5th, 10th, 14th, 18th and 29th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen all month with five on the beach on the 31st. Glossy Ibis were seen on 11 dates with 11 on the 1st and nine on the 2nd. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on 13 dates with 11 on the 2nd and 19 on the 24th. For Wood Stork there were ten on the 1st, one on the 3rd, six on the 5th and three on the 9th. For the vultures there were 22 Black on the 1st and 20 Turkey on the 31st.

There were six Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 29th with a Wood Duck on the 3rd. There were two Surf Scoter on the 13th with a Red-breasted Merganser on the 11th. These are the only ducks.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen all month with five on the 1st, four on the 15th and four again on the 31st. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 30th with two on the 31st a joint high count. Two Bald Eagles were seen to the 3rd with an adult staying to the 17th. There was a Northern Harrier on the 2nd. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 12th with a light morph on the 13th. There was a late American Kestrel on the 11th. Merlins were seen to the 11th with three on the 2nd, eight in all were seen. There were two Sandhill Cranes on the 2nd with one on the 10th.

Black-bellied Plovers were seen to the 23rd. There was an American Golden-Plover on the 11th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 3rd. Semipalmated Plovers seen through to the 31st with a new high count of 119 on the 4th. Next, we come to a very unexpected addition to the list a single Common Ringed Plover was calling from the beach on the 4th it was with a flock of 14 Semipalmated Plovers. There were two Black-necked Stilts on the 30th with seven on the 31st. There were eight Greater Yellowlegs on the 6th with 75 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 4th the latter is a new high count. Willets were only seen to the 9th with 27 on the 4th. One flew to the north later on the 28th. Spotted Sandpipers (singles only) were seen on seven dates to the 27th. There was a

Whimbrel on the 4th with three on the 6th, then one seen on the 7th. A major rarity was a Long-billed Curlew on the 6th the third record for the park. Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderling were last seen on the 28th. There was a Red Knot on the 16th. Semipalmated Sandpipers seen through to the 30th with 108 on the 26th and a massive 1,180 on the 27th (more than double the previous high count). There were ten Least Sandpipers on the 3rd with nine on the 4th and one on the 26th. White-rumped Sandpipers showed well this year there were two on the 15th, one on the 25th, one on the 26th and eight on the 27th a new high count. There were 17 Dunlin on the 22nd. There was a Stilt Sandpiper on the 4th. There were five Short-billed Dowitchers on the 2nd with five Long-billed Dowitchers on the 11th. Finally for this group there was a Red-necked Phalarope on the 25th with three on the 26th.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 24th there have been a number of summer sightings. The last Ring-billed Gull was seen on the 18th. There was a Herring Gull on the 23rd. There were four Gull-billed Terns on the 6th with one on the 20th. There was a Caspian Tern on the 14th. Royal Terns peaked at 61 on the 6th. There were three Common Terns on the 4th with three more on the 14th. There were four Arctic Terns on the 24th. The last Forster's Tern was seen on the 6th. Least Terns peaked at six on the 7th and 15 on the 21st. There was a Black Tern on the 26th. Along with the other pelagics on the 24th there was a Brown Noddy. Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates with five on the 10th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 4th the first for the year. There were two Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the 4th (a joint high count) with one on the 30th. Single Eastern Screech-Owls were heard on the 1st, 6th and 9th. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 1st. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 4th. A female Chuck-will's-widow was present all month with a second female on the 9th, 17th, 20th and 21st. There was a male singing on the 17th. Chimney Swifts peaked at 15 on the 4th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 15th. Pileated Woodpeckers were only located on three dates this month. Great Crested Flycatchers were seen on eight dates with two on the 29th and three on the 28th a joint high count. A total of 19 Eastern Kingbirds seen to the 19th with 12 on the 4th. Flying to the north there were two Gray Kingbirds on the 3rd with two more on the 4th. Later there were singles on the 15th and 20th. A Loggerhead Shrike was present all month with two on the 29th and three on the 28th another joint high count. As a first for the year there was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 21st.

Purple Martins were seen on 13 dates with a high count of 19 on the 3rd. Tree Swallows were seen on eight dates to the 16th with 12 on the 3rd. There was also a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 3rd. There were single Bank Swallows on the 2nd and 5th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 5th with two on the 18th. Barn Swallows peaked at 620 on the 2nd, 684 on the 5th and 839 on the 9th. There was a House Wren on the 1st with a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 21st. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 9th and 19th. A Veery was heard on the 10th. There

were single Gray-cheeked Thrushes on the 6th, 15th and 17th. There was a Swainson's Thrush on the 2nd with two on the 8th, then one heard on the 10th. There are probably three pairs of Brown Thrashers in the area this year. There were 25 Cedar Waxwings on the 2nd.

There was a Tennessee Warbler on the 4th. There were single Northern Parula on the 21st and 28th. There was a Cape May Warbler on the 18th. There was a Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 5th. There were two Pine Warblers on the 3rd. There were four Blackpoll Warblers on the 1st with three on the 18th and two on the 28th. There was an American Redstart on the 17th with two on the 28th. Single Common Yellowthroats were seen on the 1st, 12th and 14th.

There was a Scarlet Tanager on the 6th. There were eight Indigo Buntings on the 3rd a new high count. There were also two on the 4th with two more on the 6th. There was a Painted Bunting on the 18th. There were three Bobolinks on the 1st with three on the 3rd. The only Brown-headed Cowbird was one on the 14th. There was an Orchard Oriole on the 8th with a Baltimore Oriole on the 1st. House Finches peaked at 12 on the 11th. The second new bird was an exotic a male Orange Bishop on the 12th.

Whilst May had 140 species June has only managed a count of 94 what will June, 2023 bring?

Harry Robinson