

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – SEPTEMBER, 2023

A poor month just 123 species located as against the 139 for 2021. There were 30 surveys involving 180 hours of “field” work. So far this year 241 species located with a total list of 320. The best days were the 15th with 867 birds and the 24th with 46 species.

There were single Cory’s Shearwaters on the 4th, 21st and 28th. There was a Great Shearwater on the 2nd with an Audubon’s Shearwater on the 22nd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 112 on the 9th.

There were single American Bitterns on the 24th and 28th. There were also single Least Bitterns on the 10th, 12th and 14th. Snowy Egrets peaked at 52 on the 14th. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 16th and 22nd. Green Herons were noted on 20 dates with five on the 18th this is a new high count for the park. Single Black-crowned Night-Herons seen on the 11th, 22nd and 28th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons seen to the 29th with five on the 2nd and the 3rd. White Ibis peaked at 415 on the 15th. There were three Glossy Ibis on the 2nd with one on the 11th and 50 on the 23rd. There were nine Roseate Spoonbills on the 15th with three on the 18th. There were two Wood Storks on the 4th with one on the 26th. For the vultures there were 35 Black on the 26th and 79 Turkey on the 14th.

Blue-winged Teal were seen to the 19th with 55 on the 8th. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 4th. There was a Green-winged Teal on the 6th with eight on the 19th. There were 60 Lesser Scaup on the 28th.

There were nine Ospreys flying to the south on the 29th. An immature Snail Kite flew to the north on the 13th (second park record). Bald Eagles seen on seven dates with two on the 3rd. There was a Northern Harrier on the 20th. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 12th, 24th and 28th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 1st with a light morph on the 15th. There was a Red-tailed Hawk on the 18th. There were single American Kestrels on the 19th and 24th. Merlins seen from the 6th on seven dates with two on the 17th. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 21st and 23rd with two on the 29th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 13th. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 25th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 8th. There were 15 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 17th. There was a Marbled Godwit on the 26th. 16 Red Knots were seen on the 7th with two on the 22nd. There were 15 Western Sandpipers on the 25th. There were also 25 Dunlin on the 9th. There was a Short-billed Dowitcher on the 2nd. There were two Red-necked Phalaropes on the 3rd.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 3rd. There were single immature Long-tailed Jaegers on the 3rd and the 28th. There was a first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 27th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 12th, 14th and 17th with two on the 2nd and 25th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 2nd. Common Terns were seen on 16 dates with 102 on the 26th. There was a Forster's Tern on the 6th. Least Terns were seen to the 16th. There were two Sooty Terns on the 26th. Black Terns seen to the 8th with 40 on the 1st. There were two Black Skimmers on the 10th and 15th.

There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 26th. Great Horned Owls heard on seven dates with two on the 12th. The female Chuck-will's-widow was present to at least the 28th. There was an Eastern Whip-poor-will on the 16th. Single Chimney Swifts were seen on four dates to the 23rd. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 17th. Belted Kingfishers seen on seven dates from the 2nd to the 25th. There was a Northern Flicker on the 13th.

Eastern Kingbirds were seen on 18 dates with 70 on the 11th. There were single Gray Kingbirds on the 1st and the 12th. One to two Loggerhead Shrikes seen all month. There were two Red-eyed Vireos on the 10th with singles on the 24th and 29th. There were three Purple Martins on the 5th. There were single Tree Swallows on the 24th and the 25th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 5th. There were three Bank Swallows on the 2nd. There were single Cliff Swallows on the 2nd and the 5th with two on the 2nd. Barn Swallows peaked at 534 on the 2nd. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 9th.

There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 8th. There were single Veery on the 9th, 11th, 19th and 25th with two on the 29th. There was a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 19th. Swainson's Thrushes were heard on nine dates with six on the 19th. There were single Wood Thrush on the 13th and 23rd. There was a Gray Catbird on the 7th. There was a Brown Thrasher present from the 6th to the 10th.

There was a Yellow Warbler on the 27th with a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 17th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 27th. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 24th. Single Common Yellowthroats were noted on the 13th and 30th. There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 29th with single Indigo Buntings on the 14th and the 20th. There was a Dickcissel on the 26th. Bobolinks were heard on 12 dates from the 5th to the 29th with a high count of 22 on the 27th. Finally, there were single Baltimore Orioles on the 23rd and 26th.

I hope October is better.

Harry Robinson