

## **TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – OCTOBER, 2023**

This ended up being the best October yet with 142 species. There were 31 surveys over 186 hours there were three additions this month. For the year 253 species seen with 323 ever. The best days were the 7<sup>th</sup> with 1,721 birds and the 8<sup>th</sup> with 54 species.

There was a Common Loon on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The first new species was a Black-capped Petrel on the 4<sup>th</sup>. On that day there were also 3 Cory's Shearwaters. There were single Great Shearwaters on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a Sooty Shearwater on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were single Northern Gannets on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. Brown Pelicans peaked at 104 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 54 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

There were single American Bitterns on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with a Least Bittern on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Snowy Egrets peaked at 80 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were two Green Herons on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noted on ten dates with six on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> (joint high counts). For the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron there were two on the 8<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>. White Ibis peaked at 340 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 540 on the 8<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There was one Glossy Ibis on the 6<sup>th</sup> with 33 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. For Roseate Spoonbills there were three on 2<sup>nd</sup>, two on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 29 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 87 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, ten on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 11 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and one on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The count of 87 is a new high count for the park. There were two Wood Storks on the 5<sup>th</sup> with two on the 15<sup>th</sup> and two again on the 20<sup>th</sup>. For the vultures there were 35 Black on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 364 Turkey on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The second new bird was an immature American Flamingo that flew to the south over the river on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There were three American Wigeon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Blue-winged Teal seen on six dates with 15 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 11 Northern Shoveler on the 7<sup>th</sup> with one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were two Northern Pintail on the 8<sup>th</sup> with one on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Green-winged Teal were seen on five dates with 32 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 41 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were 50 Lesser Scaup on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 40 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1,255 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, then 40 seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 20 later on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were three Buffleheads on the 8<sup>th</sup> with three Red-breasted Mergansers on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Bald Eagles were seen on eight dates with five on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and three on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Northern Harriers were seen on ten dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> with four on the 6<sup>th</sup> and five on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on seven dates with 38 on the 12<sup>th</sup> this is a new high count. There were three Red-shouldered Hawks on the 12<sup>th</sup> (normally only singles seen). There was a Broad-winged Hawk on the 6<sup>th</sup> with four on the 13<sup>th</sup> (a new high count) and one on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a juvenile light morph Swainson's Hawk on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on six dates. An adult Golden Eagle flew to the north on the 6<sup>th</sup>. There were five American

Kestrels on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 28 on the 12<sup>th</sup> (a new high count), then singles seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. An immature male was present from the 24<sup>th</sup> (perhaps the adult male did not make it back this time). Merlins were seen on 11 dates with five on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, six on the 12<sup>th</sup> and three on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Peregrine Falcons were also seen on 11 dates with 61 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, nine on the 5<sup>th</sup> and seven on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The last was on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

There were 75 Black-bellied Plovers on the 25<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Killdeer on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Willets peaked at 42 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Ruddy Turnstone peaked at 38 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were 60 Red Knot on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 20 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 130 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and three on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Sanderling peaked at 69 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were five Western Sandpipers on the 4<sup>th</sup> with ten Dunlin on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There were 60 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 4<sup>th</sup> a new high count. Later there were eight on the 9<sup>th</sup> with 20 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Finally for this group there were single Wilson's Snipe on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Laughing Gulls peaked at 310 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Ring-billed Gulls were seen from the 12<sup>th</sup> and Herring Gulls were seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. Single Caspian Terns were seen on eight dates with two on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 32 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Sandwich Terns peaked at 13 on the same date. There was a Common Tern on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 21 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then two seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>, two again on the 14<sup>th</sup> and one on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were single Forster's Terns on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black Tern on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were four Black Skimmers on the 6<sup>th</sup> with one on the 20<sup>th</sup>, ten on the 28<sup>th</sup> and one on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were two Great Horned Owls on the 6<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. The female Chuck-will's-widow was last heard on the 6<sup>th</sup> (just before the weather turned cooler). There were three Chimney Swifts on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 8<sup>th</sup> with four on the 9<sup>th</sup> (a new high count), two on the 10<sup>th</sup>, one on the 13<sup>th</sup> and one on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was an adult Red-headed Woodpecker on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers seen with three on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Northern Flicker on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates.

There were single Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Phoebe were seen from the 17<sup>th</sup> with three on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were two Eastern Kingbirds on the 10<sup>th</sup> with one on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A Loggerhead Shrike was present all month. There were 90 Tree Swallows on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 360 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a Cave Swallow on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Barn Swallows seen to the 21<sup>st</sup> with eight on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were two Carolina Chickadee on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Single Tufted Titmouse were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>,

25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with two on 21<sup>st</sup> a new high count. House Wrens seen from the 13<sup>th</sup> with three on the 14<sup>th</sup> and five on 21<sup>st</sup> a new high count. There were two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 15<sup>th</sup> with one on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

There were six Veery on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with nine on the 4<sup>th</sup> (a new high count), then four heard on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Single Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard on eight dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Single Bicknell's Thrushes were heard on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>. Swainson's Thrushes were heard on eight dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> with seven on the 4<sup>th</sup> and eight on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There were two Wood Thrush on the 4<sup>th</sup> a joint high count. Single Gray Catbirds were seen on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with two on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Northern Parula on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There were two Yellow Warblers on the 15<sup>th</sup> a joint high count. There were single Magnolia Warblers on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Yellow-rumped Warbler on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Palm Warblers were seen from the 6<sup>th</sup> with 14 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was an American Redstart on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were two Common Yellowthroats on the 7<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There was also an adult male Wilson's Warbler on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Chipping Sparrow on the 31<sup>st</sup> with a Swamp Sparrow on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Indigo Buntings were seen on six dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> with four on the 8<sup>th</sup> and nine on the 17<sup>th</sup> the latter is a new high count. There was a Painted Bunting on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bobolink on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, eight on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and nine on the 4<sup>th</sup>, then eight seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>. An Eastern Meadowlark flew to the north on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Up to five House Finches seen daily. There was a very early Pine Siskin on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There were 16 American Goldfinches on the 17<sup>th</sup> with three on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

That was a special month.

Harry Robinson