

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS JANUARY, 2024

With the very varied weather this month there has been an exceptionally high number of species seen. In 2021 a total of 121 species located but for January this year there were 135 species. There were surveys on 31 days over 177 hours. The best days were the 1<sup>st</sup> with 63 species and the 12<sup>th</sup> with 8,090 birds. There were also two additions to the list bringing the count up to 328.

There were single Red-throated Loons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Pacific Loon on the 26<sup>th</sup> this is the fifth park record. Common Loons were seen on six dates with two on the 27<sup>th</sup> and three on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Great Shearwater on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Single first-winter Masked Boobies were seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>. Northern Gannets peaked at 233 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 511 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. American White Pelicans were seen on seven dates with 69 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 39 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Brown Pelicans peaked at 247 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 85 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There was an adult/sub-adult Great Cormorant on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Green Heron on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with one on the 11<sup>th</sup> and four on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Wood Storks were seen on 24 days with high counts of 33 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 59 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. For the vultures there were 64 Black on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 172 Turkey on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

There was an American Wigeon on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a Mottled Duck on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a Green-winged Teal on the 5<sup>th</sup> with a Canvasback on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were two Redheads on the 1<sup>st</sup> with five on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 17<sup>th</sup> with two on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup peaked at 890 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 930 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Scaup peaked at 2,450 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (the bulk of the Lesser Scaup were seen on the river whereas the Greater were out at sea). Surf Scoters were seen on 19 days with a high count of 13 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were three White-winged Scoter on the 6<sup>th</sup> with two on the 15<sup>th</sup> and four on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter peaked at 250 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A party of three Long-tailed Ducks flew to the south on the 6<sup>th</sup> (one was an adult male a first). This is also a new high count for the park. There was a Bufflehead on the 4<sup>th</sup> with a Hooded Merganser on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Red-breasted Mergansers were only seen on four days with three on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were also two Ruddy Duck on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Up to four Bald Eagles seen all month. There were two Northern Harriers on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were two Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 14<sup>th</sup> with one on the 29<sup>th</sup> and one on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on four days with two on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a male American Kestrel all month. There were single Merlin on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> both flew to the south. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were two Wild Turkey on the 17<sup>th</sup> a new species for the park. There was also a Limpkin on the 11<sup>th</sup> the other new species for the park. Finally for this group there was a Sandhill Crane on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was an American Oystercatcher on the 15<sup>th</sup> on the same date a Spotted Sandpiper was seen. Red Knot were present all month with a high count of 215 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were three Western Sandpipers on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were three Dunlins on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a Short-billed Dowitcher on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were single Wilson's Snipe on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Pomarine Jaegers on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. In contrast Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 22 days with a high count of 15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Laughing Gulls peaked at 6,780 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Franklin's Gull on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Bonaparte's Gulls were located on 19 days with a high count of eight on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Ring-billed Gulls peaked at 190 on the 8<sup>th</sup> whilst Herring Gulls peaked at 358 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Iceland Gull on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on six days with 17 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Glaucous Gull on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> was the day for the larger gulls. There was also a Black-legged Kittiwake on the 6<sup>th</sup>. There were single Caspian Terns on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 100 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Sandwich Terns had peak counts of 207 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 214 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 230 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Forster's Terns peaked at 115 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 143 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Black Skimmers were seen on 27 days with high counts of 48 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 74 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There were also single Razorbills on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

For the owls there was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 27<sup>th</sup>, a Great Horned Owl on the 25<sup>th</sup> and a Barred Owl on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There were single Eastern Whip-poor-wills on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> (all from the same tree). Up to two Downy Woodpeckers seen on ten days. Up to two Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 11 days. Single Eastern Phoebe were seen on five days but there may be three individuals wintering. There was a Western Kingbird on the 8<sup>th</sup> this is just the second record for the park. Up to two Loggerhead Shrikes seen all month. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 20<sup>th</sup>. American Crows peaked at eight on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. There were 20 Tree Swallows on the 26<sup>th</sup> with 24 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Single Tufted Titmouse were heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. A House Wren was located on six days. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets were located on nine days. There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 31<sup>st</sup>. American Robins peaked for the month at 2,139 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 2,750 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Gray Catbird on the 1<sup>st</sup> with three on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, then two heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Later there were singles on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There were single American Pipits on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. For Cedar Waxwing there were three on the 24<sup>th</sup> with 55 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 25 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. They arrived very late this winter.

There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A Cape May Warbler was seen in the sapsucker tree on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Both species were in the same tree the year before! Exceptionally there was a major passage of Yellow-rumped Warblers with 197 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 114 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 1,320 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, then 50 seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The count of 1,320 is a

new high count for the park. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There was also a Pine Warbler on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Savannah Sparrow on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 380 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 240 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. House Finches peaked at seven on the 31<sup>st</sup>. For American Goldfinch there was one on the 1<sup>st</sup>, two on the 4<sup>th</sup>, four on the 10<sup>th</sup> and two on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Just what will February bring?

Harry Robinson