

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK FEBRUARY, 2024 BIRD COUNTS

For this month there were 29 surveys over 174 hours a total of 128 species located. For the year a total of 159 species recorded. There was one addition to the list.

There were single Red-throated Loons on the 13th, the 15th, the 17th and the 18th. Common Loons were seen on 19 days with a high count of four on the 17th. There were single Horned Grebes on the 4th and 25th. There was an Eared Grebe on the 13th. There was a Great Shearwater on the 9th. Northern Gannets peaked at a very low 38 on the 4th (numbers are down some 90%). American White Pelicans were seen on eight days with 42 on the 1st and 31 on the 10th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 167 on the 6th. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 19th.

There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 16th. White Ibis peaked at 33 on the 3rd. Glossy Ibis were seen from the 23rd with 12 on the 26th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on six days with six on the 3rd and five on the 24th. Wood Storks peaked at 42 on the 2nd. For the vultures there were 32 Black on the 23rd and 260 Turkey also on the 23rd.

There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 3rd. There were two Green-winged Teal on the 8th with two more on the 9th. There was a Redhead on the 20th. There were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 6th with three on the 18th and one on the 20th. Greater Scaup peaked at 545 on the 7th and 1,080 on the 8th. Lesser Scaup peaked at 2,630 they were on the river on the 26th. Surf Scoters were seen on 11 days with 14 on the 7th. There was a White-winged Scoter on the 7th with two on the 13th. Black Scoter peaked at 105 on the 7th and 128 on the 19th. There was a Bufflehead on the 7th. There was a Common Goldeneye on the 3rd. There was a Hooded Merganser on the 10th. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on 15 days with seven on the 10th. There was a Ruddy Duck on the 16th with two on the 21st.

There was a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 23rd. A female/immature Snail Kite flew to the north over the river on the 8th (second record for the park). There were single Northern Harriers on the 4th and the 11th with two on the 21st. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 2nd, 16th and 22nd. Up to two Red-tailed Hawk seen all month. There was an adult Golden Eagle on the 23rd. There was an American Kestrel in the area all month. There were single Merlin on the 1st, 8th, 9th, 15th and 24th.

Next comes the new species for the park on the 2nd there was a Sora by the river. There were single American Coots on the 5th and the 15th. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 13th. There were 12 Killdeer on the 19th this is a new high count for the park. For the Red Knot there were 50 on the 1st, 45 on the 13th and 40 on the 28th. There were also two Dunlin on the 14th with eight on the 27th.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 9th. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on nine days with four on the 6th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 1,740 on the 12th. An adult Black-headed Gull flew to the north on the 6th. Bonaparte's Gulls peaked at 18 on the 6th. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 5th and the 11th with five on the 12th. There was a very early Gull-billed Tern on the 19th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 6th and the 8th. Royal Terns peaked at 76 on the 29th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 69 on the 9th. There was a first-winter Common Tern on the 7th. Forster's Terns peaked at 102 on the 14th. Black Skimmers peaked at 415 on the 6th, 98 on the 15th and 117 on the 26th. There was a Thick-billed Murre on the sea on the 1st.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 10th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 19th. There were single Great Horned Owls on the 3rd and 28th. There were single Barred Owls on the 5th and

the 10th. There were two Belted Kingfishers on the 8th with one on the 20th. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th with it or another on the 25th and 27th. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers seen on ten days. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 12 days. Single Eastern Phoebe were seen on six days. Up to two Loggerhead Shrikes seen all month. There were single Blue-headed Vireos on the 2nd and 15th.

The first Purple Martin was on the 10th but they were seen frequently from the 21st with four on the 24th. Tree Swallows peaked at 285 on the 23rd. Single Carolina Chickadees were seen on the 2nd, 3rd and 7th with it or another on the 24th and 25th. A Tufted Titmouse was located on 11 days. There was a House Wren on the 3rd. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen on the 14th, 25th and 27th. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen on eight days. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 2nd, 3rd and 13th with two on the 16th, then one seen on the 25th. American Robins peaked at 1,380 on the 8th and 2,390 on the 21st. There was a Gray Catbird present all month with two on the 13th and 14th. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 9th, 13th, 15th and 26th. European Starlings peaked at 240 on the 6th. Cedar Waxwings were very scarce with 30 on the 6th, 20 on the 15th and 25 on the 18th.

There was a male Northern Parula on the 28th. The Cape May Warbler was last seen on the 3rd. Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 25 on the 11th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 2nd. There was also a Prairie Warbler on the 10th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 18th and 20th. There was a male Eastern Towhee on the 29th. There were single Chipping on the 12th and Clay-colored Sparrows on the 20th. Brown headed Cowbirds peaked at 360 on the 4th and 230 on the 21st. House Finches peaked at eight on the 9th. American Goldfinch were seen on five days with 18 on the 23rd.

Now what will March bring?

Harry Robinson