

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS - March. 2024

With the very varied weather during the month this proved to be the best March to date. There were 143 species located as against the 139 for last year. So far this year 185 species seen as against the 170 for 2021. There were 31 surveys over 184 hours. There was one addition to the list the total is now 330. The best days were 4,252 birds on the 2nd and 78 species on the 23rd (this is a new high count).

Single Red-throated Loons were seen on the 1st, the 6th and the 8th. There was a Pacific Loon sitting on the sea on the 6th. Common Loons were seen on 17 days with four on the 8th. There was a Horned Grebe on the 29th. A major rarity was a Red-necked Grebe on the 1st. Virtually no Northern Gannets the high count was that of 28 on the 3rd. There were five American White Pelicans on the 1st with four on the 4th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 335 on the 17th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 130 on the 31st. Anhinga peaked at 12 on the 25th.

There were single American Bitterns on the 17th and 31st with a Least Bittern on the 31st. Snowy Egrets peaked at 247 on the 25th a new high count. Tricolored Herons peaked at 34 also on the 25th. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 3rd, 8th, 13th and 20th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 15th and 18th with two on the 21st. Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen from the 16th. White Ibis peaked at 94 on the 18th. Glossy Ibis were seen on eight days with 13 on the 21st. There were three Roseate Spoonbills on the 2nd with five on the 4th. Wood Storks were seen on 16 days with nine on the 1st. For the vultures there were 21 Black on the 23rd and 253 Turkey on the 4th.

There was a Mute Swan flying to the south over the river on the 25th a new species for the park even if it is an exotic. There were two Mallard on the 12th. There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 11th with three on the 13th, two on the 17th and three on the 31st. There was a Northern Pintail on the 21st. There was a Green-winged Teal on the 24th. There was a Ring-necked Duck on the 4th with two on the 7th and one on the 12th. Greater Scaup were seen to the 18th with 15 on the 6th. Lesser Scaup were present all month on the river with 3,480 on the 1st, 1,940 on the 11th, 280 on the 28th and 132 on the 31st. There were five Surf Scoters on the 4th with six on the 5th, two on the 6th, two on the 14th and one on the 27th. There were two White-winged Scoter on the 5th. Black Scoters seen all month with 137 on the 5th. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on 17 days with eight on the 27th. There were two Ruddy Duck on the river on the 3rd.

Swallow-tailed Kites seen on eight days from the 1st with seven on the 31st. Up to three Bald Eagles seen daily with six on the 21st. There were single Northern Harriers on the 1st, 3rd and 18th. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on the 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th and 25th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 19th. Up to two Red-tailed Hawks seen on ten days. Up to two American Kestrels seen all month. For Merlin there were singles on the 6th and 12th then up to two a day seen on ten days to the end of the month. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 30th.

There were single Semipalmated Plovers on the 11th and the 19th with three on the 23rd. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 25th with a single Black-necked Stilt on the 12th. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 15th. Red Knot present all month with 38 on the 8th and 15th. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 14th. There was a Purple Sandpiper on the 19th with two on the 24th. There was also a Wilson's Snipe on the 6th.

There were two Parasitic Jaegers on the 3rd with singles on the 5th and 17th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 1,310 on the 7th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on nine days with 14 on the 29th. There was a

Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 1st with two on the 5th and one on the 6th. There was a first-winter Glaucous Gull on the 1st. There were two Gull-billed Terns on the 24th. There was a Caspian Tern on the 5th with two on the 19th. Royal Terns peaked at 159 on the 24th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 83 also on the 24th. There were five Common Terns on the 11th with three on the 24th. Forster's Terns peaked at 55 on the 12th. Black Skimmers were seen to the 19th with 41 on the 5th.

There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 4th. Great Horned Owls nested across the river two young seen on the 16th. The high count is now that of four on the 16th. There was a Barred Owl on the 13th. Chuck-will's-widows seen from the 17th singles except for two on the 21st. Eastern Whip-poor-wills noted from the 7th with three on the 13th, four on the 15th and five on the 20th the latter is a new high count for the park. There were three Chimney Swifts on the 31st. There were three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 13th (a joint high count) with one on the 17th. There were single Belted Kingfishers on the 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 23rd with two on the 25th.

There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 5th. Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seen on the 7th, 9th, 10th and 15th. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers seen on 12 days whilst single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 20 days. There were single Eastern Phoebe on the 2nd, 8th and 14th. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 30th. Single Loggerhead Shrikes seen to the 16th with singles later on the 21st and 31st. There were single Yellow-throated Vireos on the 5th and 23rd with two on the 24th (a high count), then one seen on the 28th. There were single Blue-headed Vireos on the 10th, 13th, 14th and 16th with two on the 20th (high Count), then singles seen on the 21st, the 22nd and the 27th. Finally for the vireos there was a Red-eyed on the 30th.

American Crows seen daily with a peak of 24 on the 21st this is a new high count for the park. Fish Crows are migrating to the north with a peak count of 545 on the 6th. Purple Martins were seen on eight days no more than two a day. Tree Swallows peaked at 830 on the 14th. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 14th and 21st with two on the 27th. There were two Bank Swallows on the 27th with one on the 30th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 28th. There was a Barn Swallow on the 3rd with later 76 on the 13th and 362 on the 30th.

There were single Carolina Chickadees on the 9th and 24th. Tufted Titmouse were seen all month with two on the 12th and 21st. Single House Wrens seen regularly from the 14th with two on the 21st and the 31st. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 23rd. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets seen on five days with two on the 27th. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 2nd, 5th and 9th. There was a Hermit Thrush on the 30th. There were ten American Robins on the 2nd with one on the 5th and two on the 21st. Two Gray Catbirds seen all month with three on the 18th and the 27th. Brown Thrashers seen from the 8th there are two pairs. Cedar Waxwings peaked at 280 on the 6th and 495 on the 14th.

There were single Northern Parula on the 7th, the 21st and the 22nd. Yellow-rumped Warblers seen to the 29th with a one-day influx of 40 on the 16th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 16th, 20th and 23rd. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 31st. There were single Black-and-white Warblers on the 10th, 11th and 27th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 23rd. There was an Eastern Towhee on the 15th with an Indigo Bunting on the 29th. For the Brown-headed Cowbirds there were 260 on the 6th, 230 on the 11th, 155 on the 13th but only one on the 30th. There were single male Baltimore Orioles on the 23rd and 27th. Up to four House Finches seen daily all month. American Goldfinches were seen on nine days to the 30th with four on the 16th.

Now what will April bring?

Harry Robinson