

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – JANUARY, 2019

Another year has started and the list grew by one to 252. During the month I saw 93 species over 31 surveys and 136 hours of fieldwork. The problem was the colder than normal weather there were ten mornings with start temperatures of under 50 degrees the coldest was 38 degrees on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There were 53 species on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8,583 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Red-throated loons on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with two on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Common Loons peaked at seven on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The only Horned Grebes were two on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Northern Gannets were plentiful with 2,028 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1,520 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. American White Pelicans were seen on five dates with 22 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Great Cormorant on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> there was a Reddish Egret with two Roseate Spoonbills on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a Muscovy Duck on the 6<sup>th</sup> with four American Wigeon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were 14 Redheads on the 1<sup>st</sup> with 80 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 125 Greater Scaup on the 1<sup>st</sup> with 227 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two Common Eider flew to the south on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the month 13 Surf Scoter were seen with one White-winged Scoter on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter numbers were lower but there were still 8,810 for the month with passage to the north from the 11<sup>th</sup> the highest count was that of 2,540 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> two Long-tailed Ducks flew to the south along the shore. Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 23 on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

An adult Peregrine Falcon seems to be hanging around as seen on four dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. Unexpectedly a Lesser Yellowlegs flew to the north on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Red Knots were present all month with a high count of 355 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were single Dunlin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (it/they were with the Red Knot). There were 38 Pomarine Jaegers to the 24<sup>th</sup> with a high count of five on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was Parasitic Jaeger month there were 162 for the month with a high count of 16 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Bonaparte's Gulls peaked at 28 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Herring Gulls peaked at 870 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. During the month 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls noted with four on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a single Glaucous Gull (cream not white) on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 111 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Sandwich Terns at 58 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Forster's Terns at 121 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Despite the cold Black Skimmers flew to the north all month there were a total of 1,140 with a high count of 415 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Now to the new species....on the 14<sup>th</sup> I located a Thick-billed Murre on the sea out from the surf it was fishing I did not see it leave. This appears by plumage to be the individual seen at Sebastian Inlet on the 11<sup>th</sup>. To round out this group a Razorbill flew to the south on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

There was a White-winged Dove from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> with three on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were two Common Ground-Doves on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 12<sup>th</sup> with a Pileated Woodpecker on the 29<sup>th</sup>. An Eastern Phoebe was seen on six dates during the month. There were two Loggerhead Shrikes on the 1<sup>st</sup>. American Crows were seen on four dates with four on the 17<sup>th</sup>. American Robins were plentiful with 5,540 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 6,810 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. In contrast Cedar Waxwings were only seen at the beginning of the month with 40 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 205 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, ten on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Brown-headed Cowbirds had high counts of 175 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 180 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A male Baltimore Oriole made a one day visit on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were two House Finches on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 American Goldfinch on the 1<sup>st</sup> with 14 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Finally there was a Humpback Whale on the 13<sup>th</sup>...yes!

Harry Robinson