

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – MARCH, 2020

For much of the month the weather was too hot and the winds too light however I did manage to record 119 species this was over 31 days and 150 hours. Still no new species were noted for the park. For the year a total of 146 species have been recorded with 263 ever. There were 54 species on the 4th and 5,973 birds on the 12th.

Single Common Loons were seen on five dates. There were single Brown Boobies on the 9th and 22nd. Northern Gannets peaked at 216 on the 9th. There were six American White Pelicans on the 6th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 255 on the 8th and 348 on the 26th. Double-crested Cormorants were migrating to the north all month with 142 on the 17th and 120 on the 24th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 12th and 21st along with single Green Herons on the 21st and 30th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 5th and 24th with two on the 26th. There were single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the 15th, 18th and 31st. Glossy Ibis were seen on three dates with 15 on the 18th. There were five Roseate Spoonbills on the 2nd. Wood Storks were seen daily to the 12th but were rare thereafter.

More or less absent this year were the ducks. There were 15 Blue-winged Teal on the 6th with two on the 19th. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 26th. There was a Ring-necked Duck on the 6th. There was a Surf Scoter in the surf on the 16th. There was a Black Scoter on the 6th with two on the 8th. There were also two Hooded Mergansers on the 7th.

There was a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 4th with two on the 31st. There were single Northern Harriers on the 17th and 23rd. There were two Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 17th with a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 23rd. An American Kestrel was present all month. Single Merlins were seen on six dates to the 22nd. There was also a Peregrine Falcon on the 17th.

There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 16th with a Black-necked Stilt on the 29th. There were two American Avocets on the 19th with two Greater Yellowlegs on the same date. There was a single Whimbrel on the 17th. There was a flock of seven Red Knot on the 8th. There were 18 Western Sandpipers on the 13th and three Pectoral Sandpipers on the 26th.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 8th and a total of six Parasitic Jaegers were seen through to the 9th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 2,670 on the 1st. There were three Bonaparte's Gulls on the 6th with three more on the 8th. During the month 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls noted. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 18th. Royal Terns

peaked at 251 on the 1st. There was a Common Tern on the 7th with two on the 25th. There was a Least Tern on the 10th with two on the 28th, then one seen on the 31st. Finally for this group Black Skimmers peaked at 51 on the 7th.

There were single White-winged Doves on five dates. Common Ground-Doves peaked at four on the 29th. There were single Chuck-will's Widows on the 15th and 29th. There was a Chimney Swift on the 24th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 19th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 31st. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 4th with a real rarity a Northern Flicker on the 24th. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on five dates. The remaining Eastern Phoebe was last seen on the 13th. Up to two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen all month. There has been a pair of American Crows in residence all month with four on the 30th. There were two Purple Martins on the 12th with one on the 22nd. There were 4,550 Tree Swallows on the 12th this was the only major count. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 26th and the first Barn Swallow was seen on the 4th.

The single House Wren was joined by another on the 27th; neither was seen again. There were two Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the 1st. There were single male Eastern Bluebirds on the 20th and 27th (these are only the 3rd and 4th records for the park). American Robins were seen to the 12th. Cedar Waxwings were present all month with high counts of 225 on the 3rd, 320 on the 4th and 400 on the 12th.

There was a Northern Parula on the 4th with a male Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 29th. The Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen to the 13th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 2nd with a Prairie Warbler on the 14th. A single Palm Warbler was present all month. There was an Eastern Towhee on the 13th (March and November are the months for this species). Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen all month with 140 on the 4th and 95 on the 14th. There were two to five House Finches all month with six on the 20th. Finally there were eight American Goldfinches on the 1st with five on the 3rd.

Harry Robinson