

## **TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS, NOVEMBER, 2020**

This was a truly crazy month at best I could hope for some 120 species. Overall the two best months were April 2018 and October this year when 140 species recorded. So what happened this year? At the end of the month a total of 144 yes 144 species had been recorded and three of them were new for the park. For the year a very high 252 species found with 281 ever that did not leave many species un-recorded this year. The best day was the 18<sup>th</sup> when 58 species recorded and 6,163 birds seen. There were 30 surveys over 215 hours.

So to the birds Common Loons were seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> with three on the 27<sup>th</sup> and five on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Pied-billed Grebe on the 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> three Horned Grebes flew to the south. There were even a few shearwaters with a Cory's Shearwater on the 1<sup>st</sup>, three on the 5<sup>th</sup>, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> and one on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Scopoli's Shearwater on the 6<sup>th</sup>. As a rare migrant there was a Manx Shearwater on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel flew to the north through the surf on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a Brown Booby on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Numbers of Northern Gannets variable but there were 757 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 452 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. American White Pelicans were seen on six dates with 22 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 377 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There was also a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with a Green Heron on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were three Glossy Ibis on the 14<sup>th</sup> with two on the 15<sup>th</sup> and five on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on eight dates with five on the 4<sup>th</sup>, three on the 16<sup>th</sup> and three on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks were seen regularly with a peak passage of 24 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 44 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 26 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a one day major passage of Turkey Vultures a total of 1,906 flew to the north on the 13<sup>th</sup> this is a new high count.

There was a snow Goose calling in the dark on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and there was a single Canada Goose on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were five Gadwall on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were eight American Wigeon on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 25 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and two on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 14<sup>th</sup> with two on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were nine Northern Shovelers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with three on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and two on the 13<sup>th</sup>. North Pintail were seen on seven dates with 33 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 55 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Green-winged Teal peaked at 103 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 220 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Canvasbacks are always scarce there were six on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 20 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, four on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 18 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Redheads were seen on eight dates with 110 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ring-necked Ducks were seen on seven dates with 80 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 177 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup were seen from the 12<sup>th</sup> with 36 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 145 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Scaup present all month with 400 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 1,765 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. In contrast Harlequins are a major rarity there were singles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>. Surf Scoters were seen on eight dates with six on the 18<sup>th</sup> and nine on the 20<sup>th</sup>. White-winged Scoter are always rare there were three on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with four on the 9<sup>th</sup> and five on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Only low

numbers of Black Scoter this year the best count was that of 251 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were four Buffleheads on the 20<sup>th</sup> with nine on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Single Hooded Mergansers were seen on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> with two on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen from the 7<sup>th</sup> with 79 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Finally for this group there was the Ruddy Duck there was one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with nine on the 16<sup>th</sup>, then one seen on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

There was a loose flock of nine Bald Eagles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> this is a high count otherwise up to four a day seen. There were single Northern Harriers on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with two on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on six dates with three on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a very late Broad-winged Hawk, a juvenile, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Swainson's Hawk on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Red-tailed Hawks seen regularly with five on the 9<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There was a male American Kestrel present all month. There were two Merlins on the 1<sup>st</sup> with singles on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Peregrine Falcons were seen on eight dates to the 23<sup>rd</sup> with four on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (there were 14 in all).

An American Coot flew to the south on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The highest count for Black-bellied Plovers was only that of 11 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were single American Golden-Plovers on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with two American Avocets on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Surprisingly there was a flock of 17 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 12<sup>th</sup> this is a new high count. Willets peaked at 300 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 84 Red Knot on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 80 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 235 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Sanderling peaked at 102 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a Purple Sandpiper on the 25<sup>th</sup> with a Dunlin on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were two Long-billed Dowitchers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with ten on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a Red-necked Phalarope on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with a Red Phalarope on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

This was Pomarine Jaeger month as a total of 585 flew to the south the high counts were 44 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 431 on the 18<sup>th</sup> a new high count for the park. Parasitic Jaegers were by comparison rare as only 11 recorded; the last was seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Very late was a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bonaparte's Gull on the 24<sup>th</sup> with two on the 25<sup>th</sup> and one again on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was an immature Iceland Gull on the 18<sup>th</sup> always a rarity. During the month 128 Lesser Black-backed Gulls counted with 35 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 22 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 22 again on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were single Black-legged Kittiwakes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 204 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were two Common Terns on the 4<sup>th</sup> with three on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 20 Black Skimmers on the 4<sup>th</sup> with five on the 15<sup>th</sup> and four on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Auks are not seen every year so two records in one month is exceptional. There was a Thick-billed Murre on the 9<sup>th</sup> with a Razorbill on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 28<sup>th</sup> the first for some months. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 26<sup>th</sup> with a Great Horned Owl on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There was also an

Eastern Whip-poor-will on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Black-chinned Hummingbird on the 10<sup>th</sup> a new species for the park. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Up to two Eastern Phoebe were seen regularly. There was as usual an American Crow with four on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Very few hirundines there were 33 Tree Swallows on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a Cave Swallow on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with two on the 15<sup>th</sup> a new high count. The only Barn Swallows were eight on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a House Wren on the 11<sup>th</sup> none stayed to winter this year.

There was a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two Hermit Thrushes on the 1<sup>st</sup>, two again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and one on the 4<sup>th</sup>. American Robins seen from the 14<sup>th</sup> with 45 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. European Starlings peaked at 650 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and there was an American Pipit on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cedar Waxwings seen from the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 40 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 354 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were up to three Palm Warblers daily with four on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A second new species for the park was a Clay-colored Sparrow it was seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a female type Brewer's Blackbird on the 17<sup>th</sup> this is the second bird to be seen at the park. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 560 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were seven House Finches on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 29<sup>th</sup> there was a Pine Siskin the third new species for the park. American Goldfinch seen from the 16<sup>th</sup> with 30 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Now what will December bring?

Harry Robinson