

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

So 2020 is now finished it has somehow been by far the best of the five years of this project, December was no exception. During the year 259 species located with a record 123 for December. The overall list now stands at 284. Surveys conducted on all 31 days over 207 hours. The best days were the 21<sup>st</sup> with 7,108 birds and the 24<sup>th</sup> with 62 species.

Now to the species: single Red-throated Loons were seen on six dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Common Loons were seen on 16 dates with five on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Horned Grebe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with three on the 9<sup>th</sup> then one seen on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a party of four Eared Grebes on the 4<sup>th</sup> this is a new high count. There was a Brown Booby on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Northern Gannets peaked at 995 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. American White Pelicans were seen over the river on 15 dates with 12 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 62 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 29 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Brown Pelicans peaked at 1,910 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The high counts for Double-crested Cormorants were 143 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 157 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a male Magnificent Frigatebird gliding to the south over the river on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 6<sup>th</sup>. White Ibis peaked at 132 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a Glossy Ibis on the 8<sup>th</sup> with two on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on six dates with six on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks were seen on most days with high counts of 39 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 54 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Black Vultures peaked at 265 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> on that date the Turkey Vultures peaked at 321.

There were four blue morph Snow Geese on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with a Canada Goose on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Wood Duck on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with eight Gadwall on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were two American Wigeon on the 26<sup>th</sup> with three Mottled Ducks on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were five Northern Pintail on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Green-winged Teal were seen on three dates to the 24<sup>th</sup> with ten on that date. Canvasbacks were seen on eight dates with a new high count of 65 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Redheads were seen on seven dates with a high count of 550 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ring-necked Ducks were seen on five dates with 50 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup were seen all month with a new high count of 2,170 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lesser Scaup were in lower numbers with 585 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 660 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Common Eider on the 7<sup>th</sup> with a Harlequin Duck also on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Surf Scoters were seen on 17 dates with 11 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and six on the 10<sup>th</sup>. White-winged Scoters were seen on seven dates with nine on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (new high count) and six on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Only low numbers of Black Scoter this year the high count was only that of 890 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Buffleheads were seen on 13 dates with 24 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (new high count) and 13 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a Common Goldeneye on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Hooded Mergansers were seen on four dates with three on the 4<sup>th</sup>, three on the 5<sup>th</sup>, one on the 7<sup>th</sup> and one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Exceptionally there was a female Common Merganser on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 83 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 54 on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Northern Harriers on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with two on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on seven dates. A male American Kestrel was present all month. There were single Merlins on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a Sandhill Crane on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

There were two American Oystercatchers on the 15<sup>th</sup> with one on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There were eight American Avocets on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Out of season were two Lesser Yellowlegs on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Willets peaked at 120 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 110 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Red Knot were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> with a peak count of 80 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were single Western Sandpipers on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Dunlin on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Pomarine Jaegers were seen on 24 dates with a high count of four on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 17 dates with a high count of eight on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Laughing Gulls peaked at 3,080 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Bonaparte's Gulls seen from the 14<sup>th</sup> with a major passage on the 30<sup>th</sup> in all 100 seen a new high count for the park. Herring Gulls peaked at 371 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was an Iceland (Thayer's) Gull on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on eight dates with high counts of nine on the 4<sup>th</sup> and seven on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 30<sup>th</sup> a total of 17 Great Black-backed Gulls flew to the south. Royal Terns peaked at 480 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. For Sandwich Terns the high counts were 45 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 59 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Forster's Terns peaked at 55 on the 27<sup>th</sup>; Black Skimmers were noted on 21 days with a high count of 30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Common Ground-Doves were present all month with six on the 13<sup>th</sup> this is a new high count. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Great Horned Owl from the 11<sup>th</sup> to at least the 24<sup>th</sup> with two on the 15<sup>th</sup> (that is a new high count). There were two Belted Kingfishers on the 20<sup>th</sup> with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on five dates. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. One to two Eastern Phoebe were seen all month with three on the 13<sup>th</sup> this is a joint high count. American Crows were present all month with six on the 21<sup>st</sup> and seven on the 26<sup>th</sup> (another new high count for the park). There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a Hermit Thrush on the 21<sup>st</sup>. American Robins seen from the 1<sup>st</sup> with high counts of 3,860 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 3,620 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. European Starlings had high counts of 560 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with 850 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Pipit on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Cedar Waxwings were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> with high counts of 40 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 25 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Palm Warblers peaked at 11 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and ten on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The count of 11 is a new high count for the park. Single Common Yellowthroats were seen on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a female Summer Tanager on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a Vesper Sparrow on the 17<sup>th</sup> this is a new species for the park. There was another new species for the park a female Bronzed Cowbird on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 105 on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 250 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A third new species was the Purple Finch there were two males on the 12<sup>th</sup> with one at the same location on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were six House Finches on the 5<sup>th</sup> with one on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were eight American Goldfinches on the 7<sup>th</sup> with 15 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, then three seen on the 24<sup>th</sup>

So what WILL 2021 BRING?

Harry Robinson