

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2021

The park keeps adding species and there appear to be another 27 species that could be added to the end of June which would put the list at 315. This is NOT going to happen but I am listing the 27 species so you can see just how many we get (ten at the most).

Black-capped Petrel	Wood Thrush
Red-billed Tropicbird	Worm-eating Warbler
Red-footed Booby	Golden-winged Warbler
Heermann’s Gull	Blue-winged Warbler
California Gull	Kentucky Warbler
Black-billed Cuckoo	Cerulean Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Bay-breasted Warbler
Acadian Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Western Kingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Canada Warbler
White-eyed Vireo	Yellow-breasted Chat
Yellow-throated Vireo	Eastern Meadowlark
Black-whiskered Vireo	Monk Parakeet
Carolina Chickadee	
So that you can add any additional species if you are keeping a check on me.....	

Now to normal business I did sometimes with others carry out 28 surveys over 169 hours. We saw a total of 120 species (the previous high count was 106 species in 2020). The count for the year now stands at 140 there were two additions bringing the total count to 288. The best days were 6,582 birds on the 8th and 62 species on the 14th.

There were single Red-throated Loons on the 2nd and 17th (six sightings for the year). Common Loons were seen on 12 dates with three on the 21st. There was a Horned Grebe on the 7th. Now to the first of the two additions a Red-necked Grebe flew to the north on the 26th. On the 14th a Brown Booby flew to the north along the shore only to return to the south some 30 minutes later! Northern Gannets were seen all month with high counts of 267 on the 5th and 311 on the 23rd. American White Pelicans were seen on seven dates with higher counts of nine on the 14th and 13 on the 21st. Brown Pelicans peaked at 114 on the 14th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 3rd and a Green Heron on the 13th. Glossy Ibis were noted on seven dates (only over the river this time) with higher counts of ten on the 6th and 12 on the 28th. There was a Roseate Spoonbill on the 19th. Wood Storks were seen on 15 dates with a high count of 12 on the 3rd.

There were five Canvasbacks on the 19th with five Redheads on the 14th. Greater Scaup were seen on 15 dates with a high count of 22 on the 1st. Lesser Scaup were seen on eight dates with a high count of 59 on the 21st. There was a Common Eider on the 2nd it flew to the south. Surf Scoters were seen on six dates with a high count of eight on the 1st. There was a White-winged Scoter on the 18th. Black Scoters were seen on 16 dates with a high count of 26 on the 26th. Back to the rarities a Long-tailed Duck flew to the north on the 17th. There were three Buffleheads on the 21st. There was a Hooded Merganser (over the river) on the 28th. Red-breasted Mergansers were only seen in low numbers with high counts of seven on the 11th and 28th.

Bald Eagles were seen on most days with a high count of six on the 1st. There were single Northern Harriers on the 1st and 18th. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on nine dates. Red-shouldered Hawks were seen regularly with a new high count of four on the 18th. There was an early Short-tailed Hawk (light morph) on the 11th. Red-tailed Hawks were seen on 12 dates with a high count of four on the 16th. There were single Merlins on the 12th and 20th. The only Peregrine Falcon was on the 27th (there were three January sightings).

Two Sandhill Cranes flew to the south on the 20th this is always a rarity. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 27th. There were two Lesser Yellowlegs on the 16th. Willets were present all month with higher counts of 59 on the 5th and 95 on the 21st. Red Knots were rare there were 45 on the 4th with six on the 5th and 20 on the 7th. Sanderlings peaked at 115 on the 28th. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 24th with 15 on the 26th. There was a Least Sandpiper on the 24th with a Dunlin on the 16th.

The only Pomarine Jaeger was seen on the 2nd whilst the Parasitic Jaeger was seen on 12 dates with counts of six on the 2nd, five on the 14th and five again on the 16th. The highest daily count of Laughing Gulls was that of 2,815 on the 7th (the actual high count is that of 47,300 on

December 16, 2018). The next major rarity was a first-winter Black-headed Gull that flew to the north along the shore on the 8th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 17 dates with a high count of 29 on the 17th. Herring Gulls had a low peak count of 196 on the 16th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on four dates with five on the 15th. There was a first-winter Glaucous Gull on the 16th. Single Caspian Terns were seen on four dates. Royal Terns peaked at 307 on the 8th. There was a first-winter Common Tern on the 23rd – it flew to the north. Forster's Terns peaked at 156 on the 2nd. Black Skimmers were seen on 25 days with high counts of 66 on the 7th, 65 on the 17th and 78 on the 24th.

There was a Great Horned Owl on the 14th and an Eastern Whip-poorwill flew in off the sea on the 19th. Up to two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen regularly from the 6th. There were five Red-bellied Woodpeckers on the 24th a new high count. There were single Downy Woodpeckers on the 6th and from the 23rd to the 27th. There were three Pileated Woodpeckers on the 7th with singles on the 10th and 24th, then three seen again on the 25th. There was an Eastern Phoebe from the 5th to the 15th with two on the 25th, then singles seen on the 26th and 27th. Now it is the turn of the second addition to the park list there was a Blue-headed Vireo on the 12th. There were eight Blue Jays on the 12th and 27th both new high counts for the park. American Crows seen on most days with five on the 4th. There was a flock of 114 Fish Crows migrating to the north on the 26th. There was a Purple Martin on the 5th with two on the 23rd. Tree Swallows were normally seen in low numbers but there were 3,570 on the 19th.

There was a Tufted Titmouse on the 23rd (sixth record for the park). Carolina Wrens had a new high count of eight on the 12th. There was a House Wren on the 9th. Up to two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seen regularly from the 7th (there were two on the 9th and the 12th). There was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet from the 4th to the 19th. There were three Eastern Bluebirds on the 6th (new high count) with one on the 16th. Numbers of American Robins fell during the month there were 5,500 on the 8th with 4,870 on the 17th, 2,640 on the 20th, 105 on the 21st, seven on the 23rd and one on the 27th. There was a Gray Catbird on the 7th with two on the 10th and four from the 11th to 14th. There were three on the 25th. The counts of four are the highest counts for the park. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 13th and 23rd. Cedar Waxwings were seen on nine dates there were 85 on the 8th, 80 on the 19th and 50 on the 20th. There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 10th, 18th and 26th. There was a female Northern Parula on the 12th, 15th and 24th. Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 19 on the 9th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler all month. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 22nd with a Common Yellowthroat on the 25th. There was an Eastern Towhee on the 23rd with a Chipping Sparrow on the 6th. Northern Cardinals had a new high count of 13 on the 12th. There were 220 Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 3rd with 145 on the 13th only ten seen on the 28th. There were 1 to 2 House Finches from the 4th to the 11th with one on the 18th. American Goldfinches were seen on seven dates from the 7th to the 24th with high counts of 22 on the 7th and 12 on the 17th.

Just what will March bring? The highest March count was in 2019 when 127 species seen will that record be broken? Keep an eye on the table to see if any of the “missing” birds are found.

Harry Robinson