

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – MARCH, 2021

This year continues to break all records so far this year 170 species seen; to put this into perspective the best count to the END of April was in 2020 when 173 species seen. On the 23rd 66 species seen and this too is a record. In 2019 the high count for March was 127 species so this year 134 species located. The highest bird count for the month was that of 2,462 on the 21st. There were 31 surveys over 189 hours. Now to the birds.

There were single Red-throated Loons on the 7th and 11th. Common Loons were seen on five dates to the 10th with two on the 7th. Surprisingly there were shearwaters. There was a Great Shearwater on the 22nd and a Manx Shearwater on the 7th. There was also a Brown Booby on the 3rd. Northern Gannets were present all month with a high count of 678 on the 21st. There was an American White Pelican on the 5th. Brown Pelicans are migrating to the north with a high count of 447 on the 21st. Double-crested Cormorants have started to move with 62 on the 15th and 73 on the 24th. Late in the month Anhingas were travelling to the north with 88 on the 29th, 25 on the 30th and 20 on the 31st.

Hérons have started to move there were 86 Great Blue Herons on the 3rd with 112 Great Egrets on the same date. There were 39 Snowy Egrets on the 22nd with 26 Little Blue Herons on the 29th and 58 Tricolored Herons also on the 29th. There was a Reddish Egret on the 14th. There were single Green Herons on the 4th and 13th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 4th. There was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 14th with singles again from the 27th to the 30th. White Ibis were seen regularly with to the north 130 on the 13th and 100 on the 28th. Glossy Ibis seen from time to time with 20 on the 1st and 13 on the 17th. There were single Roseate Spoonbills on the 3rd, 22nd and 23rd. Wood Storks present all month with 37 on the 24th.

Much to my surprise a party of four Canada Geese flew to the south along the river on the 31st. Blue-winged Teals were seen from the 13th parties of 20 on three dates. There was a Northern Pintail on the 24th with 20 Green-winged Teal on the 22nd. There were two Ring-necked Duck on the 19th with a Greater Scaup on the 4th. Lesser Scaup were seen through the month with a high count of 37 on the 22nd. There were single Surf Scoters on the 1st and 6th with two on the 24th. There were two White-winged Scoter on the 7th. Black Scoter were seen to the 21st with a high count of 14 on the 1st. Single Red-breasted Mergansers seen on the 3rd and 8th with a minor passage from the 20th; the high count was that of six on the 27th.

There was a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 9th and then they were seen on most days from the 14th; the highest counts were six on the 23rd and three on the 31st. During the month up to four Bald Eagles were seen. There were single Northern Harriers on the 9th and 22nd. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on the 1st, 9th, 25th, 26th and 28th. There was a dark morph

Short-tailed Hawk on the 14th and a light morph on the 31st. Up to two Red-tailed Hawks were seen on 11 dates. A male American Kestrel was present all month with two on the 16th and 24th. Merlins were seen on eight dates from the 3rd with two on the 27th and three on the 29th. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 22nd.

A breeding plumage American Golden-Plover flew to the north along the shore on the 24th. An American Avocet flew to the north along the river on the 23rd. Also on the 23rd there was a Solitary Sandpiper. Willets present all month with high counts of 75 on the 1st and 81 on the 6th. There were 20 Red Knot on the 17th the only count. Sanderlings were seen all month with 226 on the 7th and 180 on the 12th. There was a Least Sandpiper on the 24th (it was with the Golden-Plover). Finally for this group there were 30 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 3rd.

There were single Pomarine Jaegers on the 7th, 10th, 23rd and 24th. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on six dates from the 3rd to the 29th with five on the 3rd and three on the 24th. Laughing Gulls were normally seen in low numbers now but there were 1,600 on the 26th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 11 dates to the 23rd with 27 on the 9th and 17 on the 21st. Herring Gulls were only seen in low numbers, there were 48 on the 28th. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 1st, 19th and 21st. There was a Gull-billed Tern flying to the north along the river on the 30th. Royal Terns were seen daily with a high count of 838 on 7th. Sandwich Terns were also present but the high count was only that of 77 on the 9th. There were eight Common Terns on the 19th with two on the 20th and singles on three dates to the 30th. Forster's Terns were also in low numbers apart from 87 on the 22nd. There were single Least Terns on the 22nd and the 23rd. Black Skimmers were seen on 17 dates with a high count of 23 on the 17th.

There were 140 Rock Pigeons on the 21st with a White-winged Dove on the 15th. There was a Chuck-will's-widow on the 12th. There was a Chimney Swift on the 29th with three on the 31st. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 14th with singles on five dates from the 21st to the 28th. There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 12th. Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen to the 5th with one staying to the 15th. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers seen regularly with three on the 11th a new high count. One to two Pileated Woodpeckers seen regularly with three on the 31st. There were single Eastern Phoebe's on the 1st, 9th and 17th. The first Great Crested Flycatcher was seen on the 30th. There was a Loggerhead Shrike on the 26th with a Blue-headed Vireo on the 19th.

A Florida Scrub-Jay flew to the north on the 18th. There were one to three American Crows in the area all month. Fish Crows starting migrating to the north on the 8th the higher counts were 123 on the 12th, 530 on the 24th and 195 on the 31st. There were three Purple Martins on the 5th with singles on the 23rd, 24th, 26th and 28th. Tree Swallows were seen to the 30th (two on that date) with 220 on the 21st. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 23rd and 26th. There was also a Bank Swallow on the 30th. Barn Swallows were

seen from the 4th with 111 on the 23rd and 72 on the 30th. The only addition to the list this month was a surprise there was a Carolina Chickadee on the 25th, I may have also heard it on the 24th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 15th with a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 16th. There were two Hermit Thrushes on the 22nd with one on the 25th. Up to three Gray Catbirds were seen to the 15th with one staying to the end of the month. Brown Thrashers were seen on five dates from the 2nd to the 25th with three on the 5th. Cedar Waxwings were moving to the north all month with 145 on the 13th and 85 on the 29th.

Single Northern Parulas were seen on five dates from the 11th to the 31st. Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen to the 29th with nine on the 9th. The wintering Yellow-throated Warbler was seen to the 12th with a migrant on the 21st and 23rd. A Prairie Warbler was seen from the 21st to the 31st with two on the 28th a high count. Palm Warblers were seen to the 30th up to six a day noted. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 21st with two on the 26th another high count. There was an Ovenbird on the 21st with a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 25th. Single Common Yellowthroats were seen on the 4th, 30th and 31st.

Brown headed Cowbirds numbers gradually declined there were 360 on the 6th, 105 on the 9th, 22 on the 14th, five on the 26th with two staying to the 28th. There was a male Baltimore Oriole on the 24th. Finally up to four House Finches seen regularly all month.

April is one of the best months of the year so what will it bring this time?

Harry Robinson