

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS APRIL, 2021

This has been a strange year to date and April was no exception the highest count (in 2018) was that of 140 but this year 152 species noted. This is by far the highest ever monthly count for the park. Again there were additions to the park list, two this time making for a total of seven additions this year. So far this year 206 species recorded over 30 days and 190 hours of “field” work. The list now stands at 291. The best days were 4,703 birds on the 8th and 72 species on the 21st (this is a new high count).

Now we come to an extended bird list for April 2021. There were single Common Loons on the 1st, 12th and 23rd. Northern Gannets seen all month with 158 on the 3rd and still 52 on the 27th. Brown Pelicans flew to the north all month with 319 on the 19th. Double-crested Cormorants also migrated to the north in low numbers except for the 7th when 203 counted. Anhingas were present all month with 65 on the 12th.

Heron/Egrets migrated to the north all month there were 45 Great Blue Herons on the 17th, 38 Great Egrets on the 21, 53 Snowy Egrets on the 21st and 37 Tricolored Herons on the 16th. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 8th and 16th. Cattle Egrets peaked at 42 on the 10th. There were single Green Herons on the 5th, 16th, 18th and 20th. There were five Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 18th this is a new high count. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons recorded from the 14th with two on the 18th. White Ibis peaked at 48 on the 5th and 43 on the 21st. Glossy Ibis seen regularly with higher counts of 55 on the 19th, 32 on the 21st and 33 on the 24th. For Roseate Spoonbill there were two on the 7th with three on the 17th. From the 21st to the 30th seen daily 54 in all; the high count was that of 18 on the 25th. Wood Storks rare this month there were five on the 14th with singles on the 15th and 22nd.

Surprisingly a Canada Goose flew to the south on the 25th. There were two American Wigeon on the 14th. There was a Mottled Duck on the 28th. For Blue-winged Teal there were 13 on the 3rd, eight on the 21st and four on the 23rd. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 19th. There were six Green-winged Teal on the 19th with five on the 21st and 14 on the 22nd. There was a Surf Scoter on the 15th with a Black Scoter on the 16th. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen to the 20th with a high count of 11 on the 2nd. It is possible that no ducks will be seen in May.

Swallow-tailed Kites seen all month with higher counts of seven on the 9th, nine on the 12th, nine on the 16th and five on the 27th. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 21st with two on the 27th. Up to three Bald Eagles seen all month (there were three on the 30th). There were single Northern Harriers on the 9th and 12th. There was a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 7th. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks were seen regularly. There was a light morph Short-tailed

Hawk on the 23rd. The wintering American Kestrel was last seen on March 29. There was a northerly passage from the 6th to the 23rd 15 birds in all. Merlins migrated to the north all month 83 in all with counts of seven on 12th, 22nd and the 30th with 14 on the 21st the latter is a new high count for the park. There were also single Peregrine Falcons on the 12th and 13th with two on the 15th.

There were two American Golden-Plovers on the 2nd with one on the 25th. There were 12 Semipalmated Plovers on the 8th with six on the 16th and one on the 22nd. There were four Black-necked Stilts on the 18th. Single Greater Yellowlegs were seen on the 9th and 14th with four on the 19th, then three seen on the 21st. There was a Lesser Yellowlegs on the 9th with ten on the 19th. There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 12th and 17th. Willets were seen all month with 66 on the 3rd. There was a Spotted Sandpiper on the 16th with four on the 18th and three on the 21st. There were four Whimbrel on the 3rd with two on the 9th, three on the 17th, five on the 26th and five again on the 27th. There was a single Red Knot on the 3rd. Sanderling present all month with a high count of 240 on the 2nd. There were two Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 18th with 15 on the 21st, 20 on the 26th and ten on the 30th. There were three Least Sandpipers on the 19th with 12 on the 21st. Purple Sandpipers were seen again flying to the north close to the shore. There were singles on the 18th and 19th with three on the 21st the latter is a joint high count for the park. There was a Dunlin on the 4th. There were four Stilt Sandpipers on the 19th with 40 Short-billed Dowitchers on the 1st. The only record of Long-billed Dowitchers was that of seven on the 13th. Unexpectedly there was a Wilson's Snipe on the 8th. With the strong winds of the 2nd and 3rd there were eight Red-necked Phalaropes on the 2nd with two on the 3rd.

There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 1st and 3rd. There were single Bonaparte's Gulls on the 1st and 18th. Ring-billed Gulls were seen to the 27th and Herring Gulls were seen to the 30th. For the month 20 Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen with ten on the 17th. Passage stopped after the 19th with an adult later on the 30th. There was a Great Black-backed Gull on the 3rd with three on the 12th and one on the 17th. Gull-billed Terns were seen on eight dates there were three on the 1st with singles on the 4th and 12th. There were two on the 13th with four on the 16th and again on the 17th, then singles seen on the 18th and 23rd. There were single Caspian Terns on the 3rd, 17th and 30th. Royal Terns present all month with 79 on the 3rd. Sandwich Terns were also present with 14 on the 16th. There were two Common Terns on the 2nd with two again on the 23rd. Forster's Terns were seen to the 17th with six on the 10th. Least Terns were seen daily with 16 on the 17th and 18 on the 20th. Along with the phalaropes on the 2nd there were single Bridled and Black Terns. Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates with 12 on the 16th.

There were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the 15th and 21st. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 7th. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 21st with two on the 25th. There was a

Chuck-will's-widow on the 1st with two on the 6th, then singles noted on the 7th, 8th, 18th, 19th and 30th. Chimney Swifts were seen all month with 51 on the 22nd this is a new high count for the park. There were two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 1st with singles on the 5th, 6th and 28th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 1st with two on the 7th, then singles seen on the 16th and 17th. Finally there were two on the 19th. There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 7th the second record for this spring. Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers seen all month they are believed to be breeding locally. There were single Great Crested Flycatchers on the 4th, 11th and 16th with three on the 25th. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 6th with seven on the 12th, then two seen on the 16th with one on the 25th. Up to three American Crows were seen all month. Fish Crows continued to migrate to the north to the 23rd there were 734 in all with 220 on the 15th. Purple Martins were seen regularly with 21 on the 13th and five on the 22nd. Tree Swallows peaked at 3,480 on the 7th and 3,460 on the 8th the last was on the 22nd. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen on 11 dates to the 25th with three on the 7th. Bank Swallows were seen from the 5th to the 25th with a high count of 15 on the 13th. Cliff Swallows were seen on seven dates from the 6th to the 22nd there were 31 birds in all; the high counts were five on the 13th and two on the 18th. Barn Swallow passage was variable but there were higher counts of 1,720 on the 13th, 2,210 on the 21st and 1,360 on the 22nd. There were still 185 migrating to the north on the 30th.

There were single House Wrens on the 13th and 17th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 4th. There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 1st. There were two Veery on the 16th with two again on the 21st. There were three Swainson's Thrushes on the 21st. There was a Wood Thrush on the 16th this is a new species for the park. Up to three Gray Catbirds seen regularly to the 26th. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 4th, 8th and 19th. Cedar Waxwings were seen through to the 22nd with high counts of 210 on the 1st and 53 on the 13th. Now to the warblers.

There was a Northern Parula on the 5th, 6th and 7th. Later there were two on the 30th. There was a Magnolia Warbler on the 25th. There were single Cape May Warblers on the 25th and 30th. There was a Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 11th with two on the 30th. There were single Yellow-rumped Warblers on the 1st and 16th. There was a Pine Warbler on the 30th. There was a Prairie Warbler from the 4th to the 7th with one later on the 11th with two on the 25th. Palm Warblers were seen to the 30th with higher counts of five on the 1st and the 7th. There were two Blackpoll Warblers on the 25th with eight on the 30th the latter is a new high count for the park. There were single Black-and-white Warblers on the 13th, 15th, 16th and 30th. There was an American Redstart on the 10th with nine on the 30th this is another new high count for the park. There was a Prothonotary Warbler on the 12th. Along with all the other warblers on the 30th there was a Worm-eating Warbler this is a new species for the park. Common Yellowthroats were seen on eight dates with two on the 16th.

There was a Summer Tanager on the 13th with two on the 23rd. There was a Swamp Sparrow on the 21st (there was one in 2020 on the 10th). There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 18th with a Blue Grosbeak on the 16th. There were single Indigo Buntings on the 12th and 14th (one male & one female). The same goes for the Painted Bunting there was a male on the 21st with a female on the 25th. Bobolinks have been scarce there were seven on the 15th with one on the 21st and three on the 28th. Up to three Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen all month. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 23rd. Up to six House Finches seen through the month. That is it folks.

Harry Robinson