

## THE BIRDS OF TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – OCTOBER, 2021

The month was slow until the last week when the winds turned to the west this is the main reason the count was not higher. There were three new species this month making 18 for the year. Last year there were 21 additions (I had expected five or so) so it is possible that the count will be even higher this year. The total now stands at 302. There were 136 species this month (140 last October) these were seen over 31 days and 183 hours. The best days were the 30<sup>th</sup> with 56 species and the 31<sup>st</sup> with 990 birds. Now to the birds.

There was a Common Loon on the 30<sup>th</sup> with a Pied-billed Grebe on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The first Northern Gannet was not seen until the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were 138 Snowy Egrets migrating to the south on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Green Heron on the 5<sup>th</sup> with three on the 11<sup>th</sup>, then singles seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Glossy Ibis were seen on seven dates with 15 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 36 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Roseate Spoonbills flew to the south to the 18<sup>th</sup> in all 159 seen with 48 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 43 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks peaked at 24 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. For the vultures Black peaked at 217 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and Turkey at 330 on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

There were two Snow Geese on the 27<sup>th</sup> with two American Wigeon on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Blue-winged Teal were seen to the 19<sup>th</sup> with 38 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 105 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were two Northern Shoveler on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Green-winged Teal seen regularly with 40 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 45 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were three Red-breasted Mergansers on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Northern Harriers were seen on eight dates 12 in all there were two on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with three on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on nine dates with two on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were single Broad-winged Hawks on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with two on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a dark morph on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a juvenile light morph Swainson's Hawk on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a second year Golden Eagle flying to the north over the island on the 29<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> park record). An American Kestrel was present all month. During the month 28 Merlins seen with three on the 21<sup>st</sup> and four on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A total of 67 Peregrine Falcons seen with 11 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and seven on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Golden-Plover on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with a Semipalmated Plover on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 17<sup>th</sup> with five on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were four American Avocets on the 13<sup>th</sup> with three on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a single Greater Yellowlegs on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Willets present all month with high counts of 181 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 495 on the 19<sup>th</sup> (a new high count). There was a Spotted Sandpiper on the 29<sup>th</sup> with 12 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

There were single Ring-billed Gulls on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with seven on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were single Herring Gulls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with two on the 12<sup>th</sup> and eight on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Common Terns were seen to the 19<sup>th</sup> with 59 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 134 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Forster's Terns were seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> with three on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black Tern on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Black Skimmers were scarce there were four on the 7<sup>th</sup> with one on the 26<sup>th</sup> and five on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 20<sup>th</sup> with three on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Unexpectedly there were two Nanday Parakeets on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There were two male Great Horned Owls on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The female Chuck-will's-widow was last heard on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Whip-poor-will on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with one in the area from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to at least the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were two Belted Kingfishers on the 8<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Pileated Woodpeckers were scarce there were singles on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Having seen the first Eastern Wood-Pewee on September 19<sup>th</sup> there was another on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Phoebe were seen from the 15<sup>th</sup> with three on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a Loggerhead Shrike in the area all month. As with the Wood-Pewee the first White-eyed Vireo was seen on September 29<sup>th</sup> now in October there were singles on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a total of 12 Red-eyed Vireos to the 13<sup>th</sup> with three on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a late individual on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Up to three a day American Crows noted. There was a Tree Swallow on the 5<sup>th</sup> with five on the 9<sup>th</sup>, singles on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with four on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were two Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 13<sup>th</sup> with one on the 18<sup>th</sup> and two again on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 1<sup>st</sup> with three Cave Swallows on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Barn Swallows were only noted on four dates with eight on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

A Tufted Titmouse was in residence from the 10<sup>th</sup> to at least the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Marsh Wren on the 26<sup>th</sup> this is the second record for the park. There were up to four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers a day with five on the 24<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. There were three Veery on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and singles on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were single Gray-cheeked Thrushes on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bicknell's Thrush on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were four Swainson's Thrush on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, two on the 13<sup>th</sup>, three on the 14<sup>th</sup> and one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Hermit Thrush on the 19<sup>th</sup> with four on the 27<sup>th</sup>, then singles heard on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There were single Gray Catbirds on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with two on the 17<sup>th</sup>, then singles seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> these may be the last for the year. Finally for this group there was an American Pipit on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Still the three new birds to come.

There was a Tennessee Warbler on the 2<sup>th</sup> (fourth record) with a Nashville Warbler on the 29<sup>th</sup> (second record). Single Northern Parula were seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with two from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, just one seen on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Cape May Warbler on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There were single Yellow-rumped Warblers on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Now to the first of the additions there was a Blackburnian Warbler on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and one again later on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Palm Warblers present all month with 12 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19 on the 26<sup>th</sup> (a new high count). There was a Blackpoll Warbler on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There were two Black-and-white Warblers on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with one on the 30<sup>th</sup>. American Redstarts were seen on nine dates with three on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The second new bird was a Kentucky Warbler on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Up to two Common Yellowthroats were seen on ten dates.

There were single Chipping Sparrows on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with a Clay-colored Sparrow on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Savannah Sparrow on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a rarity a White-crowned Sparrow on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Single Indigo Buntings were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Painted Bunting on the 25<sup>th</sup> a much rarer species. There was a Dickcissel on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were three Bobolinks on the 5<sup>th</sup> with one on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Now to the last new species an Eastern Meadowlark this was seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Common Grackles were present all month and there were 64 Boat-tailed Grackles on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were two Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 8<sup>th</sup> with one on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Up to four a day House Finches seen during the month.

What will November bring any more new species?

Harry Robinson