

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS JANUARY, 2022

Another year starts with 31 surveys over 161 hours. In all 108 species located making it the second-best January (last year was best with 124 species). The best days were the 5th with 5,287 birds and the 6th with 57 species. There were nine mornings with a temperature of less than 50.

Single Red-throated Loons were seen on the 6th, 9th and 18th. Common Loons were seen on 14 dates with three on the 11th. Most surprisingly there was a Scopoli's Shearwater on the 28th perhaps this was the bird from December 16? Northern Gannets seen in variable numbers there were 1,344 on the 12th with 1,575 on the 9th. American White Pelicans were seen on seven dates with 7 on the 7th and 13 on the 23rd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 314 on the 22nd and 358 on the 4th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 257 on the 5th normally only very low numbers seen.

Some herons are rare in the winter for the Little Blue Heron there were singles on the 11th, 25th and the 29th. There was one Tricolored Heron on the 20th that was it. More normal was a Reddish Egret on the 24th with a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 15th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on nine dates with nine on the 5th and 13 on the 30th. Wood Storks were seen on 23 dates with 11 on the 24th and 15 on the 29th. Vultures were in low numbers with 135 Blacks on the 3rd and 80 Turkeys on the 1st.

There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 27th. There was a Northern Pintail on the 5th with four on the 29th. Dabbling ducks are not expected in January. There were nine Canvasbacks on the 2nd with two Redheads on the 9th. There were 12 Ring-necked Ducks on the 12th. Scaup passage was for the most part over after the 17th. The high counts were 130 Greater Scaup on the 4th and 685 Lesser Scaup on the 10th. There were three Surf Scoters on the 4th with singles on the 8th and 17th. White-winged are meant to be by the rarest scoter but there were two on the 6th, one on the 8th and two on the 21st. Very low numbers of Black Scoter there were 26 on the 4th. There was a Bufflehead on the 2nd with six on the 4th, then two seen on the 10th. There was a Hooded Merganser on the 13th. Red-breasted Mergansers were also in low numbers there were 27 on the 4th.

There were single Northern Harriers on the 1st and 31st. There was a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 3rd with two on the 31st. There was a Merlin on the 15th. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen non the 11th and 16th.

Pomarine Jaegers were seen on 16 dates with 12 on the 4th. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 14 dates with six on the 2nd and five on the 9th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on six dates with

three on the 11th. There was a first-winter Iceland Gull over the river on the 27th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on six dates with eight on the 9th. There was a first-winter Glaucous Gull on the 17th. Royal Terns peaked at 319 on the 11th and 390 on the 18th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 138 on the 4th and 173 on the 18th. Forster's Terns peaked at 35 on the 18th and 60 on the 31st. Black Skimmers were seen on 26 dates (or not seen on five) with a high count of 150 on the 30th.

There were two White-winged Doves on the 13th. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 8th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 26th. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was "resident" to the 13th with a migrant on the 25th. There was a Northern Flicker on the 19th – a major rarity. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on four dates. Up to two Eastern Phoebe seen all month. There was a Loggerhead Shrike in the area all month. There was a Blue-headed Vireo on the 3rd and 6th. Up to three American Crows seen all month. There was a Tree Swallow on the 31st where are they? There was an adult Barn Swallow that flew to the north on the 14th there are very few January records for the State.

The House Wren was seen or heard to the 28th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 2nd with three on the 6th, then two seen on the 7th. Later there were singles on the 24th and the 31st. There was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 7th. American Robins were scarce at first with one on the 3rd and 18 on the 14th. Later there were 560 on the 23rd with 410 on the 24th and 290 on the 31st. There were single Gray Catbirds on the 1st and 25th. European Starlings peaked at 820 on the 7th. There were 12 Cedar Waxwings on the 26th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 13th, 19th and 21st. There were also single Prairie Warblers on the 6th and 31st. For a fourth record there was a male Brewer's Blackbird on the 30th. Common Grackles peaked at 39 on the 19th. Only very low numbers of Boat-tailed Grackles seen. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 170 on the 8th and 120 on the 31st. House Finches seen on most dates with four on the 19th and nine on the 25th. There were two American Goldfinch on the 5th with eight on the 10th and five on the 19th.

It is time there was a new bird for the park.....

Harry Robinson