

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2022

There was an addition this month bring the total to 304 can we reach 310 by the end of the year? This month there were 28 surveys over 162 hours during this period 109 species were located. For the year 126 species located. The best days were 4,235 birds on the 14th and 53 species on the 26th.

On the 14th a Red-throated Loon was sitting on the sea and a Pacific Loon flew to the north close to the shore. This is the second record for the park. Single Common Loons were seen on four dates. A Horned Grebe flew to the south on the 26th. Very unexpectedly two Great Shearwaters flew to the north together on the 22nd. Northern Gannets peaked at 279 on the 5th. Over the river there were 21 American White Pelicans on the 16th with five on the 17th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 138 on the 13th. As occasionally happens there was a large flock of Anhinga's circling over the river on the 22nd, this time there were 170 birds.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 17th and 26th. There were also single Glossy Ibis on the 10th and 22nd. Wood Storks were present all month with a high count of 11 on the 4th. For the vultures the high counts were 84 Blacks on the 14th and 133 Turkeys on the 4th.

There were two Blue-winged Teal on the 25th with one Green-winged Teal on the 12th. There were 12 Redheads on the 7th with one on the 28th. There were five Greater Scaup on the 4th with two on the 8th and three on the 12. There were four Lesser Scaup over the sea on the 18th with two over the 27th. Over the river there were 150 on the 11th with 520 on the 12th and 110 on the 24th. There were two Surf Scoters on the 8th. There was a White-winged Scoter on the 1st with two on the 2nd. Black Scoter were rare there was one on the 8th, seven on the 13th and four on the 18th. There were single Hooded Mergansers on the 20th and 26. Red-breasted Mergansers were only seen on four dates with three on the 28th.

There were single Swallow-tailed Kites on the 25th and 26th. There was a Northern Harrier on the 9th with three on the 11th, then one seen on the 20th. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on seven dates. There was an American Kestrel on the 26th. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 2nd and 21st. There were two Sandhill Cranes on the 16th. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 11th. Shorebird passage starts in late March.

There were single Pomarine Jaegers on the 3rd and 5th with three on the 14th, then one seen on the 15th. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on nine dates with five on the 5th and three on the 19th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 2,620 on the 14th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 13 dates with five on the 5th. Herring Gulls peaked at 515 on the 26th – they were on the shore. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on 10 dates with eight on the 24th, 6 on the 25th and six again on the

26th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 3rd and 11th. The other terns peaked as follows: Royals at 204 on the 19th, Sandwich at 240 on the 5th and Forster's at 170 on the 11th. Black Skimmers were present all month with higher counts of 35 on the 8th, 46 on the 10th, 33 on the 14th and 33 again on the 27th. A major rarity was a Razorbill that flew to the north on the 8th.

An Eastern Screech-Owl was heard on the 16th and 23rd. There were two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers present but only singles actually noted. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates and single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on eight dates. One to two Eastern Phoebe seen all month. Next comes the new bird for the park there was a female Vermillion Flycatcher on the 2nd. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on five dates. A Blue-headed Vireo was seen on the 4th, 20th, 23rd and 25th. One to three American Crows were present all month. Fish Crows have started migrating to the north there were 76 on the 25th. There was a Purple Martin on the 22nd. There was a Tree Swallow on the 21st with 84 on the 26th. There was a Tufted Titmouse on the 3rd. There were two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 1st and 3rd then singles seen to the end of the month. Only limited numbers of American Robins this year there were 600 on the 2nd with 230 on the 15th.

There were single Gray Catbirds on the 2nd, 3rd, 12th and 20th with two on the 27th. There was a Brown Thrasher on the 26th. European Starlings peaked at 420 on the 8th. There was an American Pipit on the 5th. Cedar Waxwings were seen from the 10th with a high count of 830 on the 15th. There were single Northern Parula on the 3rd, 20th, 24th and 27th. Single Yellow-throated Warblers were seen on the 15th, 18th and 20th. There was an Eastern Towhee on the 16th (March and November are the normal months for this rarity). There was Savannah Sparrow on the 28th. There was a male Brewer's Blackbird on the 6th doubtless the bird of Jan.30th. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 140 on the 6th. House Finches were present all month with seven on the 8th. Finally, there was a flock of 60 American Goldfinch on the 16th.

Hopefully March will be better.

Harry Robinson