

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS FEBRUARY, 2023

Well, there was a new species this month. In all 28 surveys conducted on 28 days over 156 hours. 113 species were noted (the best year was 2021 when 120 species located). So far this year 132 species recorded with 314 ever. The best days were the 12th with 2,540 birds and the 26th with 59 species.

There were single Red-throated Loons on the 21st and 23rd. Common Loons were seen on seven dates with two on the 8th. There was a Manx Shearwater on the 4th. Northern Gannets are clearly in trouble. There were 447 on the 4th with 211 on the 5th, 43 on the 12th and one on the 18th. No more seen until two seen on the 26th. This should be a common species in February. There were five American White Pelicans on the 5th with six on the 14th, four on the 17th, one on the 18th and one on the 22nd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 279 on the 12th.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 8th. There was a Green Heron on the 23rd. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 9th and the 13th. There were two Glossy Ibis on the 6th. There were also 13 Roseate Spoonbills on the 12th. Wood Storks peaked at 16 on the 10th and ten on the 15th. For the vultures there were 31 Black on the 26th and 125 Turkey on the 17th.

There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 23rd with a Northern Shoveler on the 21st. There were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 26th. Very few Greater Scaup seen there were 12 on the 3rd. Lesser Scaup were mainly over the river with 860 on the 4th and 410 on the 24th. There were two Surf Scoter on the 7th. Black Scoters were only seen on five dates with nine on the 19th. There were two Buffleheads on the 1st. The only Red-breasted Mergansers were singles on the 4th and the 5th.

There were two Northern Harriers on the 5th with singles on the 10th, 20th and 24th with two again on the 25th. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 6th, 7th, 17th, 20th, 23rd, 25th and 28th. The male American Kestrel was present all month (this is a northern bird). There were single Merlins on the 7th, 10th, 11th, 27th and 28th. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 9th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 8th. There was an American Oystercatcher over the river on the 19th. There were five Red Knot on the 12th and the 13th. There was a Wilson's Snipe on the 27th.

There were two Pomarine Jaeger on the 4th with one on the 13th. There were two Parasitic Jaegers on the 3rd and the 4th with singles on the 12th and the 13th. There were four on the 16th with one on the 18th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 11 dates with 18 on the 3rd. There was a first-winter Iceland Gull on the 14th. There was a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 4th with three on the 12th, then one seen on the 15th with two on the 26th. Royal Terns peaked at 100 on

the 9th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 116 on the 14th. There was a Common Tern on the 3rd. Forster's Terns peaked at 44 on the 16th. Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates with seven on the 18th and six on the 28th.

There was a Great Horned Owl on the 2nd. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 8th. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker to the 19th with two on the 22nd none since. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 11 dates with two on the 22nd. Next comes the addition to the list there was a **Western Kingbird** on the 3rd. A Loggerhead Shrike was present all month. There were single Blue-headed Vireos on the 8th, 16th, 17th and 19th. On the 25th there were 17 American Crows (a flock of 14 over the park and the three "residents"). This is a new high count for the park. Fish Crows are moving to the north with 78 on the 21st.

There was a Purple Martin on the 21st with three on the 28th. Tree Swallows peaked at 1,310 on the 1st and 745 on the 21st. There was a Tufted Titmouse on the 26th. There were single House Wrens on the 2nd and 10th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 2nd with two on the 19th. There were single Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the 19th, 25th and 26th. There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 12th with two on the 28th. There were 245 American Robins on the 13th with 211 on the 19th, 40 on the 22nd and two on the 28th only low numbers this year.

For Gray Catbird there was one to the 17th, two on the 19th and 23rd, three on the 24th and 25th with four on the 26th a joint high count; then none seen. There was a Brown Thrasher on the 17th. Cedar Waxwings present all month with 315 on the 5th, 240 on the 10th and 230 on the 28th.

There was a Northern Parula on the 24th. An adult male Cape May Warbler was present from the 2nd to the 16th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 2nd, 7th and 9th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 26th and the 28th. There were three Savannah Sparrows on the 21st this is a new high count. There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 6th. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 195 on the 20th. House Finches peaked at ten on the 10th. There were 23 American Goldfinches on the 4th, 18 on the 5th, 12 on the 9th and one on the 25th.

Harry Robinson