

THE BIRDS OF TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK

MONTHLY REPORTS FOR 2023

By

Harry Robinson



INTRODUCTION

In the earlier years I completed an annual bird report but for 2023 I struggled as the cataracts were making it hard to see the text. So, I have now compiled this annual report using the monthly newsletters. I have made some additions which will hopefully give a better picture. I will hopefully do similar reports for 2024 and 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During this year a number of birders joined me for some of the surveys. In particular I wish to single out Sam Krah, Kim Ramos, Judy Morrison, Sherri Brown, Scott Coupland, Eli Schaperow and Lorri Lilja.

The photograph on the front cover was taken as the sun was setting by Tatyana StLaurent, it is one of my favorite pictures of a Great Horned Owl. Once again Kim Ramos has come to my aid in creating the final document. Thanks to both of you.

JANUARY, 2023

We start another year with 116 species over 31 surveys and 177 hours of fieldwork. The best days were 61 species on the 17th and 5,248 birds on the 6th.

There were single Red-throated Loons on the 5th, 13th and 21st with two on the 14th. A Pacific Loon flew to the south over the river on the 28th. Common Loons were seen on nine dates no more than two a day. There were two Horned Grebes on the 14th with one on the 17th. There was a Cory's Shearwater on the 23rd with single Great Shearwaters on the 1st and 8th; there were also two on the 23rd. There were very low numbers of Northern Gannets the high count was that of 30 on the 8th. American White Pelicans were seen on seven dates over the river the high counts were of 18 on the 8th and 11 on the 27th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 426 on the 21st. There was an adult male Magnificent Frigatebird on the 21st.

There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 8th. There were four Glossy Ibis on the 2nd with one on the 15th. There were single Roseate Spoonbills on the 4th, 9th and 14th. Wood Storks were seen nearly daily with 26 on the 17th and 32 on the 28th. For the vultures there were 61 Black on the 30th with 234 Turkey on the 3rd.

Four Snow Geese (white morph) flew to the south on the 5th. There was a Blue-winged Teal on the 22nd. There were seven Canvasback on the 11th along with four Redheads on the 5th and six on the 13th. There were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 18th with one on the 22nd. Greater Scaup peaked at 50 on the 7th. Lesser Scaup peaked at 650 on the 6th and again on the 21st these were all at the river. There were two Surf Scoter on the 8th with one on the 17th then two seen on the 22nd with one on the 29th. There was a White-winged Scoter on the 4th with two on the 26th. Only low numbers of Black Scoter the high count was that of 53 on the 8th. There were single Buffleheads on the 4th and 19th. There was a Common Goldeneye on the 25th. There were two Hooded Mergansers on the 17th with two more on the 24th both sightings over the river. Red-breasted Mergansers were only seen on five days only 1 – 2 noted.

Bald Eagles were seen on most days with four on the 14th and seven on the 27th. There were single Northern Harriers on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 20th and 24th. There were two Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 7th with singles on the 29th and 30th. An adult Golden Eagle flew to the south on the 6th. A male American Kestrel was present all month with a second male on the 11th, 17th and 20th. There were two Merlins on the 13th with a Peregrine Falcon on the 5th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 20th with two on the 27th and three on the 29th. There were 12 Semipalmated Plovers on the 18th. There was a Killdeer on the 13th with eight on the 15th this is a joint high count. There were 25 Red Knot on the 3rd with two Dunlin on the 27th. There was also a Wilson's Snipe on the 17th.

There were single Pomarine Jaegers on the 6th and 9th, then ten seen on the 13th with six on the 14th and one on the 22nd. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 20 dates with 18 on the 13th and 17 on the 14th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 3,840 on the 13th. An adult Black-headed Gull flew to the south down the river on the 20th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 17 dates with 82 on the 14th. Ring-billed Gulls peaked at 176 on the 15th and Herring Gulls peaked at 315 on the 20th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on six days with two on the 13th, four on the 25th and two on the 31st. Royal Terns peaked at 258 on the 15th. There was a strong passage of Sandwich Terns with 330 on the 24th, 418 on the 26th, 523 on the 27th, 253 on the 28th and 85 on the 30th. The count of 523 is a new high count for the park. Black Skimmers were noted on 20 dates with 14 on the 18th.

On the 17th there were single Eastern Screech-Owls and Eastern Whip-poor-wills. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 28th. There were two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the

2nd with singles on the 8th and 9th. Pileated Woodpeckers (up to two a day) were seen on 13 dates. Up to three Eastern Phoebe seen to the 12th with singles later on the 18th, 30th and 31st. There was a Loggerhead Shrike present through to the 10th with two on the 7th. Later there was one on the 31st. There was a Purple Martin on the 30th. Tree Swallows peaked at 520 on the 31st.

There was a House Wren on the 2nd, 12th, 15th and 20th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 8th, 12th and 17th. American Robins peaked at 2,400 on the 4th. Up to two Gray Catbirds seen to the 20th. There were single American Pipits on the 2nd and the 6th. Cedar Waxwings peaked at 435 on the 4th and 470 on the 19th. There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 2nd. An adult male Cape May Warbler was seen in one isolated tree on the 2nd, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 20th. Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 677 on the 3rd. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen on six dates. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 8th and 12th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 19th also on the 19th there was a Savannah Sparrow. Common Grackles peaked at 34 on the 24th and 33 on the 31st. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 305 on the 6th. House Finches peaked at eight on the 12th. For the American Goldfinch there was one on the 1st, 60 on the 3rd, 25 on the 10th, six on the 17th and five on the 18th.

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, then singles seen 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 on 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.

MARCH, 2023

There were two additions this month which is exceptional (March does not normally produce additions). There were 31 surveys over 180 hours The best day was the 11th with 63 species and 1,672 birds. For the month 139 species located this is the highest March count (there were 134 in 2021 and 2022). So far for this year a total of 165 species located with 316 ever.

There were single Common Loons on the 1st, 8th and 25th. There were very few Northern Gannets but 353 flew to the south on the 22nd (wrong way). There were six American White Pelicans on the 7th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 235 on the 28th. Double-crested Cormorants are migrating to the north best count was that of 172 on the 29th. There was one major flock of Anhinga as 190 seen on the 11th.

There were 35 Great Egrets on the 11th with 39 Snowy Egrets on the 18th. There were 16 Little Blue Herons on the 11th with 27 Tricolored Herons on the same date. There was a Reddish Egret on the 15th with two on the 28th (this is a joint high count). There were single Green Herons on the 10th and the 22nd. There were three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the 17th with singles on the 18th, 23rd and 26th. White Ibis peaked at 125 on the 10th. Glossy Ibis were seen on 11 dates with 69 on the 15th this is a new high count. Wood Storks were seen to the 20th with 12 on the 4th. For the vultures there were 39 Black on the 19th and for the Turkey there were 250 on the 18th.

There was a special event as a flock of 60 Snow Geese flew to the north on the 8th where had they wintered? Of course this is a new high count. There was a Gadwall on the 21st. There were three American Wigeon on the 9th with another three on the 21st. There were two Mottled Duck on the 5th. Blue-winged Teal were seen from the 18th with 19 on the 21st. For the Green-winged Teal there were 12 on the 2nd and 20 on the 9th. There was a female Redhead on the 27th.

There were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 13th with one on the 29th. There were five Greater Scaup on the 1st with 15 on the 11th. There was a Black Scoter on the 12th with two on the 13th. There were two Red-breasted Mergansers on the 15th with one on the 29th.

Ospreys were migrating to the north from the 15th with 12 on the 15th, 21 on the 19th, 12 on the 25th and 13 on the 26th. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen from the 4th. On the 13th with a front closing in (one hour away) a total of 45 flew to the north this is by far the highest count for the park. There were two Northern Harriers on the 10th with singles on the 17th and 22nd. There were also single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 1st, 8th, 12th and 31st. The male Kestrel was seen to the 21st with a second bird present on the 3rd. Singles were also seen later on the 26th and 28th. Single Merlins were seen on 14 dates with two on the 18th. Not a Peregrine in sight.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 7th. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 27th with a Piping Plover on the 4th the latter is always a rarity. There were two American Oystercatchers on the 1st. A flock of 22 Black-necked Stilts flew to the north over the river on the 19th. An American Avocet did likewise on the 22nd. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 21st with three Lesser Yellowlegs on the 14th. There was an early Whimbrel on the 24th. There were three Red Knot on the 29th. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 11th with a Dunlin on the 19th. There was also a Long-billed Dowitcher on the 19th.

There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 3rd and 22nd. An adult Franklin's Gull flew to the south on the 3rd. There was a Bonaparte's Gull on the 9th with two on the 11th, then one seen on the 21st. Now to the first addition: a first-winter California Gull flew to the north on the 29th. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 13th, 27th and 29th. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 15th. There was a Caspian Tern on the 11th. Common Terns were seen from the 8th with five on the 11th and eight on the 29th. There were three Least Terns on the 31st. Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates with five on the 12th.

All three owls in one month is probably a first. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 27th, a Great Horned Owl on the 4th and single Barred Owls on the 20th and 28th. Chuck-will's-widows were heard from the 25th with two on the 25th, seven on the 27th, three on the 28th and two on the 29th. The count of seven is a new high count for the park. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were heard from the 7th when two located this is another new high count for the park. In all singles were located on five dates to the 30th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 23rd.

There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 31st. There were eight Red-bellied Woodpeckers on the 6th a joint high count. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 6th. There were single Northern Flickers on the 12th and the 22nd (normally only 2 – 3 records a year). Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 16 dates with two on the 3rd. Single Eastern Phoebe were

seen on the 5th and 13th. The wintering Loggerhead Shrike was last seen on the 19th. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 13th. There were single Yellow-throated Vireos on the 6th, 11th and 31st. There were single Red-eyed Vireos on the 16th and the 30th. Fish Crows have been migrating to the north all month with 485 on the 10th and 580 on the 11th.

Purple Martins were seen from the 11th they were seen on nine dates with 20 on the 15th. Tree Swallows peaked at 630 on the 18th. There was a Bank Swallow on the 30th. Barn Swallows were only seen in low numbers with 32 on the 30th. There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 9th. The wintering House Wren was last heard on the 28th. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 1st and 7th with two on the 26th/27th. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was last seen on the 20th. There were two Eastern Bluebirds on the 3rd with one on the 6th. There were single Hermit Thrushes on the 12th and 27th. The last American Robins were 12 on the 15th. There were three Gray Catbirds to the 26th with five on the 7th a new high count. The last was one on the 27th. There were single Brown Thrashers on the 5th, 10th, 14th and 22nd with two on the 30th. There was an American Pipit on the 7th. Cedar Waxwings were seen daily with 245 on the 2nd, 305 on the 6th and 250 on the 8th.

There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 5th. There was a Northern Parula on the 2nd with three on the 17th the latter is a new high count for the park. The adult male Cape May Warbler was seen on the 5th and 11th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 2nd and the 12th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 26th. Now to the other addition to the list there was a female Western Tanager on the 8th. There was an Eastern Towhee on the 13th. There was also an Indigo Bunting on the 20th. Brown-headed Cowbird numbers declined there were 370 on the 4th, 190 on the 12th, 50 on the 18th, 15 on the 23rd and one on the 30th. There was a male Baltimore Oriole on the 5th with a female on the 12th and the 13th. House Finches peaked at seven on the 13th/14th. There were 12 American Goldfinch on the 3rd with 40 on the 19th.

Can we reach 320 species by the end of the year?

APRIL, 2023

There were 151 species this month the record is that of 152 in 2021 so close. These two counts are way ahead of all the other monthly totals. There were 30 surveys over 181 hours. For the year so far 205 species located with 317 for the whole survey. The best days were 2,217 birds on the 19th and 73 species on the 30th. This is the highest daily count there were 72 on April 21, 2021. To round this off there was a new species this month.

There were two Common Loons on the 2nd and 9th with singles on the 10th and 17th. There were four Cory's Shearwaters on the 10th with one on the 11th. One of them on the 10th was a Scopoli's Shearwater. There were six Audubon's Shearwaters on the 10th this is a new high count. There were 13 Wilson's Storm-Petrels on the 10th with one on the 11th and four on the 12th. There were two Leach's Storm-Petrels on the 10th with seven on the 11th and 41 on the 12th. There was also a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel on the 12th. Northern Gannets were very scarce with 17 on the 10th, eight on the 11th, eight on the 12th and singles later on the 19th and 23rd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 181 on the 15th. Now to the new species an immature Neotropic Cormorant flew to the north with Double-crested Cormorants over the river on the 27th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 70 on the 10th, 150 on the 23rd and 147 on the 27th. For Anhinga normally just one to two seen a day but there were 88 on the 2nd and 20 on the 4th.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 28th. There were single Green Herons on the 2nd, 4th, 13th, 22nd and 29th with three on the 15th. There were singles Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 5th, 14th, 15th, 26th and 28th. There was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 5th with two from the 14th. There were ten Glossy Ibis on the 2nd with singles on the 14th, 15th and 24th. There were also seven on the 28th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on 15 dates with 39 on the 24th and 34 on the 28th. There were four Wood Storks on the 2nd with singles on the 20th, 25th and 29th. There were also four on the 30th.

For the vultures the high counts were 21 Black on the 12th and the 27th and for the Turkey there were 77 on the 2nd. Blue-winged Teal were seen on seven dates with 17 on the 23rd. There were two Northern Shoveler on the 6th. There were two Black Scoter on the 9th. There were single Red-breasted Mergansers on the 2nd and 18th.

Ospreys were moving on the 2nd as 16 seen. Normally one to three Swallow-tailed Kites seen all month but there were seven on the 2nd. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 20th. There were single Northern Harriers on the 2nd, 14th and 30th. There was a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 6th. There were four Red-shouldered Hawks on the 1st a joint high count. There were single light morph Short-tailed Hawks on the 20th and 29th. There were two American Kestrels on the 2nd with singles on the 19th and 23rd. Merlins were seen on 21 dates a total of 64 flew to the north. There were six on the 15th, nine on the 18th and 12 on the 23rd. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 3rd.

There were three American Golden-Plovers on the 1st a joint high count. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 26th. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on six dates from the 15th to the 30th with a high count of 19 on the 30th. There were single Black-necked Stilts on the 25th and 28th with five on the 29th. There was an American Avocet on the 19th. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 19th. There were single Lesser Yellowlegs on the 19th and 27th with 31 on the 30th. There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 17th and 30th. Willets of the Western race were heard to the end of the month. There were single Spotted Sandpipers on the 19th and the 30th. There were

two Whimbrel on the 9th, 21st and 24th with singles on the 10th and 22nd. There was a Red Knot on the 30th. There were four Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 26th with three on the 29th and 74 on the 30th. There were single Least Sandpipers on the 26th and 29th with 45 on the 30th.

Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls were both seen to the end of the month. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 8th and 16th with two on the 10th and 11th. There was a Great Black-backed Gull on the 10th. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 12th with three on the 30th. There were two Caspian Terns on the 9th. Royal Terns peaked at 83 on the 4th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 10th. Common Terns were seen on six dates from the 3rd to the 24th with three on the 21st. Forster's Terns were seen to the 14th. Least Terns were seen from the 6th with 12 on the 11th. There were two Black Terns on the 23rd with one on the 30th. Black Skimmers were seen on 13 dates with 11 on the 23rd and 13 on the 28th.

There was a Nanday Parakeet on the 11th. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 18th. There were two Eastern Screech-Owls on the 25th (a high count) with one on the 27th. There were two Great Horned Owls on the 4th a joint high count. There was a Barred Owl on the 3rd. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 14th this is always a rarity. There were three Chuck-will's-widow on the 2nd with two to the 16th and one to at least the 29th. There were two Eastern Whip-poor-wills on the 3rd a high count. Chimney Swifts were seen from the 15th with nine on the 22nd and ten on the 24th. There were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 1st, 4th and 30th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 19th.

There were nine Red-bellied Woodpeckers on the 8th a joint high count. Single Downy Woodpeckers were noted on five dates. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were noted on 15 dates with two on the 19th. There was a Great Crested Flycatcher in the area from the 13th to the 21st. There were two Eastern Kingbirds on the 16th with one on the 17th, two on the 18th, one on the 19th and three on the 25th. The wintering Loggerhead Shrike was last seen on the 22nd. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 1st with a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 2nd. Fish Crows continued to migrate to the north there were 240 on the 1st, 216 on the 5th, 48 on the 16th and 16 on the 20th.

Purple Martins were seen on eight days with seven on the 19th. Tree Swallows were seen all month with 22 on the 15th and 20 on the 30th. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 2nd, 15th and 23rd. There were four Bank Swallows on the 15th with one on the 18th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 17th. The higher Barn Swallow counts were: 1,095 on the 18th, 1,730 on the 19th, 1,462 on the 23rd, 1,795 on the 24th and 1,146 on the 26th. There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 6th with a Tufted Titmouse on the 20th. The wintering House Wren was last heard on the 13th.

There was a Veery on the 15th. There was a Swainson's Thrush on the 16th with two on the 28th. There was a Wood Thrush on the 28th a rarity. There was a late American Robin on the

1st. There were two Gray Catbirds to the 13th with one remaining to the 17th. Single Brown Thrashers were seen on eight dates with two on the 22nd. Cedar Waxwings were seen to the 28th with 40 on the 1st, 45 on the 3rd, 40 on the 19th and 25 on the 28th.

One to two Northern Parula were seen to the 17th with singles on the 21st, 26th and 30th. There were three Cape May Warblers on the 30th. There were three Yellow-rumped Warblers on the 2nd with one on the 18th. There was a male Blackburnian Warbler on the 30th (second record for the park). There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 9th and 16th. There were four Prairie Warblers on the 13th a new high count. There were single Palm Warblers on the 2nd, 15th and 22nd. There was a Blackpoll Warbler on the 26th with two on the 30th. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 8th. There were single American Redstarts on the 24th and the 30th. There was a Prothonotary Warbler on the 7th. There were single Common Yellowthroats on the 5th and 28th with two on the 30th.

There were two Summer Tanagers on the 8th with one on the 13th and two again on the 19th. There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 26th. There were single Indigo Buntings on the 15th and 23rd. There was a Painted Bunting on the 21st a rarity. There were two Dickcissels on the 21st. There were three Bobolinks on the 17th with one on the 28th, then 110 seen on the 30th. One to two Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen to the 19th. There were two Orchard Orioles on the 14th a new high count. There were single Baltimore Orioles on the 1st, 8th and 30th. House Finches peaked at eight on the 15th.

Can we have another new species in May?

MAY, 2023

There were two additions this month bringing the count to 319. A total of 140 species were seen during this month a huge increase on the second-best May (127 in 2021). For the year a total of 224 species located. There were 31 surveys over 186 hours. The best days were: 1,686 birds on the 27th and 61 species on the 4th.

There was a Common Loon on the 1st. For the pelagic birds there was a Great Shearwater on the 24th, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel on the 24th and a Brown Booby on the 27th. The only Northern Gannet was one on the 6th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 284 on the 27th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 8th and 12th. There were single Green Herons on the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 18th and 30th. There were also single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 5th, 10th, 14th, 18th and 29th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen all month with five on the beach on

the 31st. Glossy Ibis were seen on 11 dates with 11 on the 1st and nine on the 2nd. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on 13 dates with 11 on the 2nd and 19 on the 24th. For Wood Stork there were ten on the 1st, one on the 3rd, six on the 5th and three on the 9th. For the vultures there were 22 Black on the 1st and 20 Turkey on the 31st.

There were six Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 29th with a Wood Duck on the 3rd. There were two Surf Scoter on the 13th with a Red-breasted Merganser on the 11th. These are the only ducks.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen all month with five on the 1st, four on the 15th and four again on the 31st. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 30th with two on the 31st a joint high count. Two Bald Eagles were seen to the 3rd with an adult staying to the 17th. There was a Northern Harrier on the 2nd. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 12th with a light morph on the 13th. There was a late American Kestrel on the 11th. Merlins were seen to the 11th with three on the 2nd, eight in all were seen. There were two Sandhill Cranes on the 2nd with one on the 10th.

Black-bellied Plovers were seen to the 23rd. There was an American Golden-Plover on the 11th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 3rd. Semipalmated Plovers were seen through to the 31st with a new high count of 119 on the 4th. Next, we come to a very unexpected addition to the list a single Common Ringed Plover was calling from the beach on the 4th it was with a flock of 14 Semipalmated Plovers. There were two Black-necked Stilts on the 30th with seven on the 31st. There were eight Greater Yellowlegs on the 6th with 75 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 4th the latter is a new high count. Willets were only seen to the 9th with 27 on the 4th. One flew to the north later on the 28th. Spotted Sandpipers (singles only) were seen on seven dates to the 27th. There was a Whimbrel on the 4th with three on the 6th, then one seen on the 7th. A major rarity was a Long-billed Curlew on the 6th the third record for the park. Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderling were last seen on the 28th. There was a Red Knot on the 16th. Semipalmated Sandpipers seen through to the 30th with 108 on the 26th and a massive 1,180 on the 27th (more than double the previous high count). There were ten Least Sandpipers on the 3rd with nine on the 4th and one on the 26th. White-rumped Sandpipers showed well this year there were two on the 15th, one on the 25th, one on the 26th and eight on the 27th a new high count. There were 17 Dunlin on the 22nd. There was a Stilt Sandpiper on the 4th. There were five Short-billed Dowitchers on the 2nd with five Long-billed Dowitchers on the 11th. Finally for this group there was a Red-necked Phalarope on the 25th with three on the 26th.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 24th there have been a number of summer sightings. The last Ring-billed Gull was seen on the 18th. There was a Herring Gull on the 23rd. There were four Gull-billed Terns on the 6th with one on the 20th. There was a Caspian Tern on the 14th. Royal Terns peaked at 61 on the 6th. There were three Common Terns on the 4th with three more on the 14th. There were four Arctic Terns on the 24th. The last Forster's Tern was seen on the 6th.

Least Terns peaked at six on the 7th and 15 on the 21st. There was a Black Tern on the 26th. Along with the other pelagics on the 24th there was a Brown Noddy. Black Skimmers were seen on ten dates with five on the 10th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 4th the first for the year. There were two Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the 4th (a joint high count) with one on the 30th. Single Eastern Screech-Owls were heard on the 1st, 6th and 9th. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 1st. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 4th. A female Chuck-will's-widow was present all month with a second female on the 9th, 17th, 20th and 21st. There was a male singing on the 17th. Chimney Swifts peaked at 15 on the 4th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 15th. Pileated Woodpeckers were only located on three dates this month. Great Crested Flycatchers were seen on eight dates with two on the 29th and three on the 28th a joint high count. A total of 19 Eastern Kingbirds seen to the 19th with 12 on the 4th. Flying to the north there were two Gray Kingbirds on the 3rd with two more on the 4th. Later there were singles on the 15th and 20th. A Loggerhead Shrike was present all month with two on the 29th and three on the 28th another joint high count. As a first for the year there was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 21st.

Purple Martins were seen on 13 dates with a high count of 19 on the 3rd. Tree Swallows were seen on eight dates to the 16th with 12 on the 3rd. There was also a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 3rd. There were single Bank Swallows on the 2nd and 5th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 5th with two on the 18th. Barn Swallows peaked at 620 on the 2nd, 684 on the 5th and 839 on the 9th. There was a House Wren on the 1st with a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 21st. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 9th and 19th. A Veery was heard on the 10th. There were single Gray-cheeked Thrushes on the 6th, 15th and 17th. There was a Swainson's Thrush on the 2nd with two on the 8th, then one heard on the 10th. There are probably three pairs of Brown Thrashers in the area this year. There were 25 Cedar Waxwings on the 2nd.

There was a Tennessee Warbler on the 4th. There were single Northern Parula on the 21st and 28th. There was a Cape May Warbler on the 18th. There was a Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 5th. There were two Pine Warblers on the 3rd. There were four Blackpoll Warblers on the 1st with three on the 18th and two on the 28th. There was an American Redstart on the 17th with two on the 28th. Single Common Yellowthroats were seen on the 1st, 12th and 14th.

There was a Scarlet Tanager on the 6th. There were eight Indigo Buntings on the 3rd a new high count. There were also two on the 4th with two more on the 6th. There was a Painted Bunting on the 18th. There were three Bobolinks on the 1st with three on the 3rd. The only Brown-headed Cowbird was one on the 14th. There was an Orchard Oriole on the 8th with a Baltimore Oriole on the 1st. House Finches peaked at 12 on the 11th. The second new bird was an exotic a male Orange Bishop on the 12th.

Whilst May had 140 species June has only managed a high count of 94 in 2022, what will June, 2023 bring?

JUNE, 2023

A quiet month with no additions to the list. There were 30 surveys over 172 hours in all 92 species located. The best year was 2022 with 94 species. For the year 228 species have been seen with 319 for the whole survey. The best days were the 5th with 575 birds and the 19th with 45 species.

There were single Sooty Shearwaters on the 2nd and the 5th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 163 on the 25th. A juvenile Magnificent Frigatebird floated to the north over the Halifax River on the 30th.

There were single Green Herons on the 17th and 27th. Single Black-crowned Night-Herons were located on five dates with two on 18th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were located on most days with four on the 26th and the 28th. White Ibis peaked at 68 on the 13th. Glossy Ibis were seen on six dates with 18 on the 7th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on 12 dates with 17 on the 4th. Wood Storks seen from the 26th with five on the 30th. For the vultures there were 31 Black on the 12th with 34 Turkey on the 25th.

There were four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 13th. There were two Mallard on the 23rd with a Black Scoter on the 11th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were present all month with eight on the 19th and nine on the 26th. There were two Mississippi Kites on the 1st and 19th with one on the 26th. There was an adult Bald Eagle on the 7th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 1st. As a second park record a Crested Caracara flew to the north over the island on the 30th (the first was seen on August 19, 2020).

Single Black-bellied Plovers were seen on the 9th and 29th. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 13th with two on the 26th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 19th. For Black-necked Stilts there were two on the 12th, with eight on the 14th, nine on the 21st and five on the 24th. There was a Willet on the 11th with two on the 28th. There was a Whimbrel on the 2nd. There was a Ruddy Turnstone on the 7th with two Sanderling on the 5th.

There was a Ring-billed Gull on the 18th with two on the 19th. There was a Gull-billed Tern on the 23rd. There was also a Caspian Tern on the 5th. There were single Roseate Terns on the 2nd

and Common Terns on the 5th. Least Terns peaked at 17 on the 5th. Black Skimmers were seen on six dates with five on the 11th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 3rd. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 4th and 5th. There were single Great Horned Owls on the 25th and the 30th. There were also single Common Nighthawks on the 11th and the 30th. The female Chuck-will's-widow was heard most mornings with two females on the 9th and a male on the 24th.

There were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 1st, 18th, 19th and 28th. There was a Northern Flicker on the 20th. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on the 15th, 25th, 27th and 29th. There was a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers near the river with at least a single bird near A1A there were counts of two on 7th, 18th and 22nd. There were single Eastern Kingbirds on the 1st and the 6th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 11th. A Loggerhead Shrike has been present all month on the 22nd a party of three worked their way to the south creating a new high count of four. Up to five American Crows seen daily. Purple Martins were seen on six dates with five on the 11th, 24th, 25th and 26th. There were two Tree Swallows on the 22nd. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 14th with a Bank Swallow on the 26th. Barn Swallows flew to the north to the 28th and to the south from the 7th.

There were single Tufted Titmouse on the 11th and 24th. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 19th and the 30th. There were two pairs of Brown Thrashers with a new high count of five on the 18th. Boat-tailed Grackles peaked at 56 on the 30th. There was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 5th with three Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 24th. House Finches peaked at 21 on the 9th and 15 on the 10th.

JULY, 2023

No additions again just six new species so far this year. A total; of 232 species seen so far this year with 319 overall. There were 31 surveys this month over 186 hours. A total of 104 species located which is the best yet for July, last year there were 99 species. The best days were the 31st with 1,129 birds and 49 species on both the 9th and the 16th.

There was an Audubon's Shearwater on the 31st. Brown Pelicans peaked at 252 on the 1st. There was a Least Bittern on the 12th with single Green Herons on the 6th, 17th and 26th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the same dates. Up to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons recorded daily. White Ibis peaked at 47 on the 30th. Glossy Ibis were seen on 13 days with

17 on the 12th and 21 on the 31st. Wood Storks were seen on eight days with three on the 12th. For the vultures there were 43 Black on the 29th and 136 Turkey on the same day.

There was a Mottled Duck on the 31st. Swallow-tailed Kites seen daily normally one to three with seven on the 25th. Mississippi Kites seen on seven dates with three on the 7th and 16th. There were five on the 13th a new high count. There was an adult Bald Eagle on the 16th. More surprisingly there was a Northern Harrier on the 31st. There were single dark morph Short-tailed Hawks on the 8th and 21st with two on the 13th. There was a Sandhill Crane on the 18th.

There were single Semipalmated Plovers on the 25th and 29th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 23rd. Black-necked Stilts were seen on five dates: one on the 5th, two on the 9th, nine on the 22nd, four on the 24th and six on the 29th. There were six Greater Yellowlegs on the 14th with one on the 17th. There were single Lesser Yellowlegs on the 9th and the 26th. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 31st. Willets peaked at 60 on the 11th; the first Western race was heard on the 16th. There was a Spotted Sandpiper on the 24th. Ruddy Turnstones were seen from the 25th and Sanderling were first noted on the 24th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on five dates: one on the 19th, two on the 26th, four on the 27th, three on the 30th and one on the 31st. Least Sandpipers were seen on eight dates from the 16th with a high count of 27 on the 23rd. There was a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 20th. Stilt Sandpipers were seen on three days: one on the 15th, nine on the 18th and one on the 19th. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen on five dates: one on the 17th, six on the 18th, two on the 19th, one on the 22nd and five on the 31st. There was also a Wilson's Phalarope on the 6th.

Laughing Gulls peaked at 506 on the 31st (there were only two on the 12th). There were two Caspian Terns on the 6th with a Roseate Tern on the 26th. Common Terns were seen from the 11th with 17 on the 23rd. Least Terns were present all month with 41 on the 31st. Black Terns were seen daily from the 17th with 76 on the 29th and 92 on the 31st. There was a Black Skimmer on the 9th with six on the 16th.

White-winged Doves were seen on four dates: one on the 9th, two on the 16th, one on the 27th and one on the 28th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 3rd. There were single Great Horned Owls on the 1st and the 26th. Single Common Nighthawks were heard on five dates: 1st, 6th, 9th, 16th and 30th. Up to two Chuck-will's-widows were heard most nights with three on the 21st (these were all females). Chimney Swifts peaked at 24 on the 30th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 18th with a Belted Kingfisher on the 23rd.

Up to two Downy Woodpeckers were seen on 13 days and single Pileated Woodpeckers seen/heard on 19 days. Single Great Crested Flycatchers were noted on six dates. There were single Gray Kingbirds on the 1st, 29th and 30th. Up to three Loggerhead Shrikes were seen daily. There were two Purple Martins on the 6th with singles on the 18th and 31st. Northern Rough-

winged Swallows were seen on seven dates with four on the 16th and five on the 25th. There was a Cliff Swallow on the 22nd. Barn Swallows peaked at 147 on the 31st. There were single Carolina Chickadees on the 14th and 30th. There was a Tufted Titmouse on the 2nd. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 4th and the 23rd. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 1st and the 6th. Brown Thrashers peaked at three on the 12th.

There were single Northern Parula on the 9th, 12th, 23rd, 26th and 30th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 14th and the 30th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 25th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 21st. A rarity was an Eastern Meadowlark on the 2nd. Each July there is a significant influx of Boat-tailed Grackles there were higher numbers this year with 146 on the 10th and 148 on the 6th a new high count (only singles seen from the 25th). There were two Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 3rd with one on the 5th and three on the 16th. House Finches present all month with 19 on the 26th and 21 on the 2nd.

At least the autumn has started.

AUGUST, 2023

There was an addition this month. 31 surveys were conducted over 185 hours. For the month 118 species noted as against 122 for 2021. So far this year 237 species seen with 320 ever. The best days were 4,213 birds on the 18th and 54 species on the 1st.

No real weather for pelagics this month but on the 3rd had one Cory's Shearwater and one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. Brown Pelicans peaked at 127 on the 13th.

There was a Least Bittern on the 9th with two on the 14th (a new high count), then one heard on the 12th. There was a Reddish Egret on the 6th. Green Herons were recorded on nine dates with three on the 26th and four on the 31st (a joint high count). Single Black-crowned Night-Herons noted on the 2nd, 5th and 11th. One to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen all month with six on the 29th and 14 on the 31st (a new high count). White Ibis peaked at 16 on the 6th and 38 on the 19th. Glossy Ibis were seen on ten dates with 27 on the 2nd. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 19th. Single Wood Storks were seen on the 1st and the 10th with up to three daily from the 15th to the 24th. For the vultures there were 47 Black on the 31st and 122 Turkey on the same date.

A Muscovy Duck flew south over the river on the 29th. For the Blue-winged Teal there were seven on the 15th, two on the 18th, eight on the 19th and two on the 30th. There were single

Swallow-tailed Kites on the 1st and 3rd. There were two Mississippi Kites on the 18th. An adult Bald Eagle was seen on the 30th. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 7th.

Next comes the new species there was a Clapper Rail calling by the river on the 26th. There was an American Golden-Plover on the 17th. There were two Semipalmated Plovers on the 6th with one on the 27th. Black-necked Stilts were seen on six dates with 14 on the 2nd and 15 on the 19th. There was an American Avocet on the 18th. There was also a Greater Yellowlegs on the 2nd. There was one Lesser Yellowlegs on the 17th with two on the 31st. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 18th. Single Spotted Sandpipers were seen on the 1st, 4th, 11th, 12th and 29th. There was a Marbled Godwit on the 28th. There was a Red Knot on the 4th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on five dates from the 1st to the 18th with 20 on the 17th. There were two Western Sandpipers on the 27th. There were two Least Sandpipers on the 1st with singles on the 5th and 8th. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 11th with two more on the 14th. There was a Stilt Sandpiper on the 17th. A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen on the 11th with 18 on the 18th and 16 on the 19th.

There was a Ring-billed Gull on the 5th. There was a Caspian Tern on the 9th. Royal Terns peaked at 37 on the 2nd and 36 on the 24th. Common Terns were seen on 15 dates with 26 on the 30th. Least Terns were seen on 14 dates with eight on the 1st. Black Terns were seen on 16 dates with 42 on the 1st, 96 on the 2nd and 84 on the 31st. Black Skimmers were seen on six dates no more than two a day.

There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 28th. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 19th with two on the 22nd. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 1st. A female Chuck-will's-widow was present all month with two females on the 11th, 12th and 16th. Chimney Swifts peaked at 16 on the 18th. Single Belted Kingfishers were seen on the 16th, 22nd and 24th with two on the 29th. Downy Woodpeckers were seen on 14 dates up to three a day. There was a Northern Flicker on the 8th. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates. There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 31st sixth record for the park. There was also a Great Crested Flycatcher on the 1st. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on six days with 13 on the 25th. There were single Gray Kingbirds on the 1st and the 14th. One to two Loggerhead Shrikes were present all month with three on the 4th.

There was a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 20th. American Crows peaked at nine on the 4th. There were single Purple Martins on the 8th, 16th and 17th with two on the 18th. There were single Tree Swallows on the 8th and 18th. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen on nine dates with 14 on the 16th a new high count. Bank Swallows were noted on eight dates with five on the 7th and 305 on the 8th (a new high count), then 155 seen on the 9th with 80 on the 10th, 76 on the 12th, 28 on the 16th and five on the 26th. Cliff Swallows were seen on nine dates from the 8th. There were 12 on the 8th and 12th with 25 on the 16th, 1,015 on the 17th and 2,335 on the 18th (a

very high new high count). Later only singles seen on the 22nd and 31st. The higher Barn Swallow counts were 800 on the 8th, 1,475 on the 18th and 1,025 on the 26th.

There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 1st. There was a Tufted Titmouse on the 14th with a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 4th. In the dark there was one Veery on the 24th with three on the 31st. On the 31st there was also a Swainson's Thrush. The last Brown Thrasher was seen on the 13th. Single Northern Parula were seen on the 4th and 20th. There was a Yellow Warbler on the 11th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 5th. There were two Prairie Warblers on the 20th with one on the 26th. There were two American Redstarts on the 20th with one on the 26th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 15th.

There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 29th. On the 31st in the dark three Bobolinks heard. House Finches peaked at 21 on the 2nd and 18 on the 8th. Even House Sparrows got in on the act there was a new high count with 57 on the 1st.

SEPTEMBER, 2023

A poor month just 123 species located as against the 139 for 2021. There were 30 surveys involving 180 hours of "field" work. So far this year 241 species located with a total list of 320. The best days were the 15th with 867 birds and the 24th with 46 species.

There were single Cory's Shearwaters on the 4th, 21st and 28th. There was a Great Shearwater on the 2nd with an Audubon's Shearwater on the 22nd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 112 on the 9th.

There were single American Bitterns on the 24th and 28th. There were also single Least Bitterns on the 10th, 12th and 14th. Snowy Egrets peaked at 52 on the 14th. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 16th and 22nd. Green Herons were noted on 20 dates with five on the 18th this is a new high count for the park. Single Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen on the 11th, 22nd and 28th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen to the 29th with five on the 2nd and the 3rd. White Ibis peaked at 415 on the 15th. There were three Glossy Ibis on the 2nd with one on the 11th and 50 on the 23rd. There were nine Roseate Spoonbills on the 15th with three on the 18th. There were two Wood Storks on the 4th with one on the 26th. For the vultures there were 35 Black on the 26th and 79 Turkey on the 14th.

Blue-winged Teal were seen to the 19th with 55 on the 8th. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 4th. There was a Green-winged Teal on the 6th with eight on the 19th. There were 60 Lesser Scaup on the 28th.

There were nine Ospreys flying to the south on the 29th. An immature Snail Kite flew to the north on the 13th (second park record). Bald Eagles seen on seven dates with two on the 3rd. There was a Northern Harrier on the 20th. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 12th, 24th and 28th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 1st with a light morph on the 15th. There was a Red-tailed Hawk on the 18th. There were single American Kestrels on the 19th and 24th. Merlins were seen from the 6th on seven dates with two on the 17th. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 21st and 23rd with two on the 29th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 13th. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 25th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 8th. There were 15 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 17th. There was a Marbled Godwit on the 26th. 16 Red Knots were seen on the 7th with two on the 22nd. There were 15 Western Sandpipers on the 25th. There were also 25 Dunlin on the 9th. There was a Short-billed Dowitcher on the 2nd. There were two Red-necked Phalaropes on the 3rd.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 3rd. There were single immature Long-tailed Jaegers on the 3rd and the 28th. There was a first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 27th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 12th, 14th and 17th with two on the 2nd and 25th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 2nd. Common Terns were seen on 16 dates with 102 on the 26th. There was a Forster's Tern on the 6th. Least Terns were seen to the 16th. There were two Sooty Terns on the 26th. Black Terns were seen to the 8th with 40 on the 1st. There were two Black Skimmers on the 10th and 15th.

There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 26th. Great Horned Owls were heard on seven dates with two on the 12th. The female Chuck-will's-widow was present to at least the 28th. There was an Eastern Whip-poor-will on the 16th. Single Chimney Swifts were seen on four dates to the 23rd. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 17th. Belted Kingfishers were seen on seven dates from the 2nd to the 25th. There was a Northern Flicker on the 13th.

Eastern Kingbirds were seen on 18 dates with 70 on the 11th. There were single Gray Kingbirds on the 1st and the 12th. One to two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen all month. There were two Red-eyed Vireos on the 10th with singles on the 24th and 29th. There were three Purple Martins on the 5th. There were single Tree Swallows on the 24th and the 25th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 5th. There were three Bank Swallows on the 2nd. There were single Cliff Swallows on the 2nd and the 5th with two on the 2nd. Barn Swallows peaked at 534 on the 2nd. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 9th.

There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 8th. There were single Veery on the 9th, 11th, 19th and 25th with two on the 29th. There was a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 19th. Swainson's Thrushes were heard on nine dates with six on the 19th. There were single Wood Thrush on the 13th and

23rd. There was a Gray Catbird on the 7th. There was a Brown Thrasher present from the 6th to the 10th.

There was a Yellow Warbler on the 27th with a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 17th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 27th. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 24th. Single Common Yellowthroats were noted on the 13th and 30th. There was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 29th with single Indigo Buntings on the 14th and the 20th. There was a Dickcissel on the 26th. Bobolinks were heard on 12 dates from the 5th to the 29th with a high count of 22 on the 27th. Finally, there were single Baltimore Orioles on the 23rd and 26th.

OCTOBER, 2023

This ended up being the best October yet with 142 species. There were 31 surveys over 186 hours there were three additions this month. For the year 253 species seen with 323 ever. The best days were the 7th with 1,721 birds and the 8th with 54 species.

There was a Common Loon on the 25th. The first new species was a Black-capped Petrel on the 4th. On that day there were also 3 Cory's Shearwaters. There were single Great Shearwaters on the 3rd, 5th and 8th. There was a Sooty Shearwater on the 3rd. There were single Northern Gannets on the 23rd and the 30th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 104 on the 31st. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 54 on the 24th and 25th.

There were single American Bitterns on the 5th and 15th with a Least Bittern on the 8th. Snowy Egrets peaked at 80 on 3rd. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 22nd and the 24th. There were two Green Herons on the 4th and 8th with singles on the 9th, 16th and 31st. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noted on ten dates with six on the 8th and the 15th (joint high counts). For the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron there were two on the 8th with singles on the 14th and the 18th. White Ibis peaked at 340 on the 14th and 540 on the 8th a new high count. There was one Glossy Ibis on the 6th with 33 on the 9th. For Roseate Spoonbills there were three on 2nd, two on the 5th, 29 on the 24th, 87 on the 25th, ten on the 26th, 11 on the 27th and one on the 29th. The count of 87 is a new high count for the park. There were two Wood Storks on the 5th with two on the 15th and two again on the 20th. For the vultures there were 35 Black on the 19th and 364 Turkey on the 16th. The second new bird was an immature American Flamingo that flew to the south over the river on the 22nd.

There were three American Wigeon on the 22nd. Blue-winged Teal were seen on six dates with 15 on the 1st and the 7th. There were 11 Northern Shoveler on the 7th with one on the 22nd. There were two Northern Pintail on the 8th with one on the 29th. Green-winged Teal were seen

on five dates with 32 on the 10th and 41 on the 22nd. There were 50 Lesser Scaup on the 3rd with 40 on the 4th and 1,255 on the 7th, then 40 seen on the 8th with 20 later on the 31st. There were three Buffleheads on the 8th with three Red-breasted Mergansers on the 31st.

Bald Eagles were seen on eight dates with five on the 2nd and three on the 19th. Northern Harriers were seen on ten dates to the 19th with four on the 6th and five on the 16th. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on seven dates with 38 on the 12th this is a new high count. There were three Red-shouldered Hawks on the 12th (normally only singles seen). There was a Broad-winged Hawk on the 6th with four on the 13th (a new high count) and one on the 15th. There was a juvenile light morph Swainson's Hawk on the 24th. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on six dates. An adult Golden Eagle flew to the north on the 6th. There were five American Kestrels on the 2nd with 28 on the 12th (a new high count), then singles seen on the 13th, 19th and 20th. An immature male was present from the 24th (perhaps the adult male did not make it back this time). Merlins were seen on 11 dates with five on the 2nd, six on the 12th and three on the 16th. Peregrine Falcons were also seen on 11 dates with 61 on the 2nd, nine on the 5th and seven on the 12th. The last was on the 25th.

There were 75 Black-bellied Plovers on the 25th a new high count. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 23rd. There was a Killdeer on the 21st and the 22nd. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 22nd. Willets peaked at 42 on the 5th. Ruddy Turnstone peaked at 38 on the 18th. There were 60 Red Knot on the 2nd with 20 on the 3rd, 130 on the 4th and three on the 10th. Sanderling peaked at 69 on the 20th. There were five Western Sandpipers on the 4th with ten Dunlin on the 16th. There were 60 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 4th a new high count. Later there were eight on the 9th with 20 on the 28th. Finally for this group there were single Wilson's Snipe on the 4th and 19th.

There was a Parasitic Jaeger on the 10th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 310 on the 16th. Ring-billed Gulls were seen from the 12th and Herring Gulls were seen from the 3rd. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 1st and the 29th. Single Caspian Terns were seen on eight dates with two on the 28th. Royal Terns peaked at 32 on the 19th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 13 on the same date. There was a Common Tern on the 4th with 21 on the 8th, then two seen on the 9th, two again on the 14th and one on the 24th. There were single Forster's Terns on the 8th and the 25th. There was a Black Tern on the 9th. There were four Black Skimmers on the 6th with one on the 20th, ten on the 28th and one on the 29th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 20th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 19th. There were two Great Horned Owls on the 6th with singles on the 10th, 22nd and the 30th. The female Chuck-will's-widow was last heard on the 6th (just before the weather turned cooler). There were three Chimney Swifts on the 15th and the 16th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 8th with four on the 9th (a new high count), two on the 10th, one on the 13th and one on the 14th.

There was an adult Red-headed Woodpecker on the 25th. There were single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the 22nd and 23rd. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers were seen with three on the 22nd. There was a Northern Flicker on the 14th. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates.

There were single Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 5th, 6th and 7th. Eastern Phoebe were seen from the 17th with three on the 19th. There were two Eastern Kingbirds on the 10th with one on the 31st. A Loggerhead Shrike was present all month. There were 90 Tree Swallows on the 12th with 360 on the 14th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 12th. There was a Cave Swallow on the 10th. Barn Swallows seen to the 21st with eight on the 12th. There were two Carolina Chickadee on the 14th. Single Tufted Titmouse were seen on the 6th, 15th, 25th, 29th and 30th with two on 21st a new high count. House Wrens seen from the 13th with three on the 14th and five on 21st a new high count. There were two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 15th with one on the 18th.

There were six Veery on the 3rd with nine on the 4th (a new high count), then four heard on the 5th. Single Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard on eight dates from the 3rd with two on 28th and 29th. Single Bicknell's Thrushes were heard on the 7th and the 17th. Swainson's Thrushes were heard on eight dates from the 1st with seven on the 4th and eight on the 5th. There were two Wood Thrush on the 4th a joint high count. Single Gray Catbirds were seen on the 8th, 14th, 22nd and 30th with two on the 29th.

There were single Northern Parula on the 14th, 17th and 19th. There were two Yellow Warblers on the 15th a joint high count. There were single Magnolia Warblers on the 15th and the 22nd. There was a Yellow-rumped Warbler on the 23rd. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 18th. Palm Warblers were seen from the 6th with 14 on the 22nd. There was an American Redstart on the 17th. There were two Common Yellowthroats on the 7th with singles on the 8th, 17th and 18th. There was also an adult male Wilson's Warbler on the 29th.

There was a Chipping Sparrow on the 31st with a Swamp Sparrow on the 18th. Indigo Buntings were seen on six dates from the 1st to the 26th with four on the 8th and nine on the 17th the latter is a new high count. There was a Painted Bunting on the 6th and the 7th. There was a Bobolink on the 1st with two on the 2nd, eight on the 3rd and nine on the 4th, then eight seen on the 5th. An Eastern Meadowlark flew to the north on the 31st. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 2nd. Up to five House Finches were seen daily. There was a very early Pine Siskin on the 21st. There were 16 American Goldfinches on the 17th with three on the 18th.

That was a special month.

NOVEMBER, 2023

Another month the best November to date with 147 species (the previous high count was that of 144 in 2020). There were 30 surveys over 180 hours. For the year to date 269 species located with 325 ever. The best days were 3,940 birds on the 14th and 59 species on the 19th. There were two additions this month.

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 25th. Common Loons were seen on 14 days with six on the 14th. There was a Horned Grebe on the 7th with four on the 14th, 18 on the 17th (a new high count), three on the 20th and one on the 23rd. There was an Eared Grebe on the 18th. A Great Shearwater was seen on the 14th with three on the 17th. There was also a Manx Shearwater on the 17th. There was an immature Brown Booby on the 20th. Northern Gannets peaked at 173 on the 16th and 210 on the 14th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 280 on the 14th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 163 on the 16th and 200 on the 15th. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 17th.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 16th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 2nd and the 11th. White Ibis peaked at 128 on the 1st. There were also 46 Glossy Ibis on the 1st. There were 41 Roseate Spoonbills on the 2nd with ten on the 9th, five on the 14th, five on the 20th and two on the 27th. Wood Storks were seen on ten days with 11 on the 23rd and 14 on the 19th. For the vultures the peak counts were: 49 Black on the 23rd and for the turkey 283 on the 23rd and 291 on the 24th.

Two Greater White-fronted Geese flew to the south on the 28th. There was a Snow Goose on the 1st with four on the 28th. There was also a Canada Goose on the 9th. There were three Wood Ducks on the 4th a new high count. For Gadwall there were three on the 19th with ten on the 20th, four on the 25th and eight on the 26th. A male Eurasian Wigeon flew to the south on the 15th this is a new species for the park. There were three American Wigeons on the 3rd with one on the 15th and two on the 27th. There was an American Black-Duck on the 3rd. There was a Mallard on the 24th. The only sighting of Blue-winged Teal was that of nine on the 2nd. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 13th with two on the 15th. There were 23 Northern Pintail on the 14th with eight on the 15th, 30 on the 16th and two on the 21st. Green-winged Teal were seen on 15 days with peak counts of 60 on the 10th and 125 on the 26th. There were 15 Canvasbacks on the 21st. Redheads were seen on six days with ten on the 10th, 20 on the 20th and 15 on the 30th. There were 20 Ring-necked Ducks on the 2nd with one on the 3rd, 11 on the 5th, 255 on the 14th, one on the 15th and six on the 27th. Greater Scaup were seen from the 11th with peak counts of 80 on the 19th and 85 on the 25th. Lesser Scaup peaked at 340 on the 3rd and 490 on the 14th. There were three Common Eider on the 14th a new high count. There was a female Harlequin Duck on the 14th. Surf Scoter were seen on nine days with three on the 14th. There were five

White-winged Scoter on the 14th with singles on the 16th, 24th and 26th. Black Scoter peaked at 125 on the 12th and 385 on the 14th. A Long-tailed Duck flew to the north on the 28th. Buffleheads were seen on six days with six on the 20th and 13 on the 21st. There were four Common Goldeneye on the 19th a new high count. Hooded Mergansers were seen on six days with four on the 20th and four on the 28th. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen from the 13th with 155 on the 21st and 218 on the 17th. There was also a Ruddy Duck on the 24th.

Up to two Bald Eagles were seen all month with three on the 28th. Northern Harriers were seen on 13 days with four on the 4th and three on the 22nd. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 7th, 10th and 29th. There was an adult Golden Eagle on the 4th it flew to the north along the river. Up to two American Kestrels seen all month. There were two Merlin on the 1st with singles on the 4th and the 29th. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 13th. There were also two Sandhill Cranes on the 21st.

There was a Killdeer on the 7th with an American Oystercatcher on the 1st. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 9th. There were 60 Red Knot on the 17th with six on the 25th. There were two Purple Sandpipers on the 9th with one on the 12th.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 4th with nine on the 16th, 11 on the 17th, four on the 22nd and four on the 24th. There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 4th and 14th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 1,220 on the 14th. There was a Bonaparte's Gull on the 8th. There was a first-winter Iceland Gull on the 14th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on nine days with three on the 14th. There was a single Great Black-backed Gull on the 14th. There were single first-winter Black-legged Kittiwakes on the 14th and the 18th. There were two Caspian Terns on the 13th and the 14th with one on the 27th. Royal Terns peaked at 52 on the 14th and 56 on the 29th. Sandwich Terns peaked at 146 on the 29th. There was a Common Tern on the 14th (just what did not turn up on the 14th?). There was also a Black Skimmer on the 4th.

Rock Pigeons peaked at 41 on the 14th. There were single White-winged Doves on the 11th and the 25th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 5th. There were three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 26th a new high count. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 4th. There were single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the 7th and 26th. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on six days with two on the 26th. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 13 days with two on the 27th. Eastern Phoebe were seen from the 4th with eight on the 8th a new high count. There was an Ash-throated Flycatcher on the 7th the other addition to the list. There was a late Eastern Kingbird on the 9th. Up to two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen all month. American Crows peaked at nine on the 18th. Tree Swallows peaked at 161 on the 19th.

There was a Tufted Titmouse on the 7th. Up to two House Wrens noted daily from the 5th. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 23rd and 27th. There was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet

on the 23rd with two on the 26th. There was a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 1st. There were single Hermit Thrushes on the 5th and 9th with two on the 15th. There were 15 American Robins on the 1st with 30 on the 18th, 425 on the 19th, 645 on the 29th, one on the 22nd and 70 on the 28th. Up to two Gray Catbirds were seen from the 5th with three on the 7th. European Starlings peaked at 1,740 on the 22nd a new high count. There was an American Pipit on the 19th. There were 30 Cedar Waxwings on the 12th with ten on the 19th.

There was a Cape May Warbler on the 26th. Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked at 76 on the 18th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 8th and 26th. Palm Warblers peaked at 11 on the 12th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 18th. There were single Eastern Towhee on the 1st and the 8th. There were two Savannah Sparrows on the 6th. There was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird on the 11th. There were two Bronzed Cowbirds on the 19th another new high count. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 140 on the 16th, 170 on the 22nd and 170 again on the 25th. Up to five House Finches were seen all month. There were six American Goldfinch on the 7th with six on the 13th, four on the 19th, one on the 23rd and nine on the 27th.

So, another month is in the records book.

DECEMBER, 2023

Another year is completed (eight in all). This month there were 31 surveys over 188 hours. In all for the month 126 species seen this equals the record set in 2021. There was one addition to the list bringing the list up to 326. For the year 275 species seen this is a record.

Single Red-throated Loons were seen on the 7th, 20th, 21st and 29th. In contrast Common Loons were seen on 17 days with three on the 20th and three on the 21st. There was a Horned Grebe on the 4th. There were two Manx Shearwaters on the 21st with a first-winter Masked Booby flying to the south on the 25th. Northern Gannets peaked at 386 on the 14th and 867 on the 25th. American White Pelicans were seen on seven days with ten on the 6th, 14 on the 15th and 44 on the 23rd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 267 on the 13th and 458 on the 25th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 162 on the 23rd. There were two Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 17th with one on the 24th (the latter was circling over the river).

There was a Reddish Egret on the 8th. White Ibis peaked at 75 on the 6th. There was a Glossy Ibis on the 6th with six on the 20th. There were six Roseate Spoonbills on the 8th with 15 on the 18th, then three seen on the 19th. Wood Storks peaked at 12 on the 18th and 19 on the 7th. For the vultures the peak counts were: for the Black 102 on the 27th and for the Turkey 403 on the 5th.

There was a Snow Goose on the 10th with two Canada Geese on the 15th. There was a Gadwall on the 11th. There was also a Mallard on the 17th. There were two Mottled Ducks on the 20th. There were six Northern Pintail on the 14th. For the Green-winged Teal there were 20 on the 5th with one on the 7th. There were two Canvasbacks on the 3rd with five on the 10th, seven on the 14th and eight on the 26th. There were 20 Redheads on the 14th with ten on the 21st. There were 25 Ring-necked Ducks on the 5th with four on the 13th. Greater Scaup peaked at 2,520 (over the sea) on the 14th and Lesser Scaup peaked at 1,700 (over the river) on the 23rd. There was a Common Eider on the 14th. Surf Scoters were seen on 16 dates with 18 on the 23rd and 25 on the 15th. For the White-winged Scoter there were five on the 6th, two on the 10th, 23 on the 14th (a new high count), seven on the 15th and seven again on the 21st. Black Scoters peaked at 590 on the 14th. There were seven Buffleheads on the 5th with one on the 9th, two on the 14th with singles on the 18th and 23rd. There were three Hooded Mergansers on the 7th with four on the 13th. Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 119 on the 15th and 148 on the 14th. There was also a Ruddy Duck on the 21st.

Up to three Bald Eagles were seen daily. There were single Northern Harriers on the 3rd, 6th, 13th and 21st. There was a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 6th. On the 18th there was a spectacular event I was able to watch an adult Bald Eagle chase an adult Golden Eagle all over the sky. An American Kestrel was present all month. There were single Merlin on the 8th, 15th and 30th.

There was an American Coot on the 12th. There was a Killdeer on the 10th. On the 10th there was also an American Oystercatcher. There were 44 Red Knot on the 8th with five on the 9th. They were then seen daily from the 17th with 120 on the 20th.

There were four Pomarine Jaegers on the 6th with three on the 15th. Singles were then seen regularly from the 19th with two on the 21st. There were five Parasitic Jaegers on the 6th with one on the 7th. Up to ten a day were seen from the 12th with 29 on the 16th and 37 on the 28th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 2,980 on the 13th and 3,870 on the 28th. There were single Franklin's Gulls on the 13th and the 14th. Ring-billed Gulls peaked at 380 on the 29th. There was an adult California Gull at the river on the 26th. Herring Gulls peaked at 250 on the 31st. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on nine days with seven on the 13th and 13 on the 25th. There were single first-winter Glaucous Gulls on the 25th and the 28th. There were two Black-legged Kittiwakes on the 14th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 1st and the 17th. Royal Terns peaked at 95 on the 23rd. Sandwich Terns peaked at 141 on the 19th and 145 on the 21st. There was a Common Tern on the 23rd. Forster's Terns peaked at 84 on the 19th and 93 on the 23rd. Black Skimmers were seen on 16 days with a peak count of 357 on the 23rd. For the auks there was a Thick-billed Murre on the 20th with single Razorbills on the 25th and the 31st.

There were single Eastern Screech-Owls on the 23rd and 29th with single Great Horned Owls on the 5th and the 26th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 3rd. Single Yellow-bellied

Sapsuckers were seen on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 23rd. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers were seen on ten days. Up to two Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 11 days. There were four Eastern Phoebe on the 1st with five on the 3rd then up to two a day seen to the end of the month. Two Loggerhead Shrikes were present all month with counts of three on the 13th and 20th. There was also a Blue-headed Vireo on the 3rd.

American Crows peaked at 18 on the 13th a new high count. There were eight Tree Swallows on the 2nd with four on the 3rd. There were single House Wrens on the 1st, 2nd and 10th. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 3rd and 23rd. There was a Golden-crowned Kinglet on the 9th a new species for the park. Ruby-crowned Kinglets noted on six dates with three on the 23rd a new high count. American Robins peaked at 1,865 on the 27th and 2,550 on the 29th. There were three Gray Catbirds on the 1st with two from the 3rd to the 9th then one seen on the 23rd. European Starlings peaked at 1,070 on the 20th and 1,160 on the 17th. There were two American Pipits on the 19th.

There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 9th. There were two Cape May Warblers on the 3rd with singles on the 8th, 23rd and 26th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 1st, 5th, 12th, 20th and 23rd. There was also a Prairie Warbler on the 23rd.

Common Grackles peaked at 41 on the 31st. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 210 on the 14th, 260 on the 20th, 360 on the 27th and 520 on the 28th. Up to five House Finches seen daily. There was an American Goldfinch on the 8th with 30 on the 10th, 28 on the 11th and 18 on the 12th.

So, what will 2024 bring? There were a very high 13 additions to the list in 2023, surely there will be only a few new species in 2024.