

THE BIRDS OF TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – APRIL, 2024

Well, this was an exceptional month even if there were no additions to the list. During the month 156 species located this is the highest monthly count for this survey (there were 147 species in November, 2023). There were 30 surveys over 180 hours. For this year 220 species located with 330 back to January 1, 2016. The best days were the 4th with 1,461 birds and the 13th with 75 species. Now to the birds.

There were single Common Loon seen on six dates to the 20th. There was a Sooty Shearwater on the 11th. There was an immature Brown Booby on the 14th. Northern Gannets seen through to the 28th with seven on the 27th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 217 on the 11th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 580 on the 4th. On the 4th Anhinga peaked at 28. There were single American Bitterns on the 2nd and 15th. There was a Least Bittern on the 26th. A Reddish Egret took up residence from the 14th with a party of three flying to the south on the 19th a new high count. There were single Green Herons on the 3rd and the 12th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 2nd, 3rd and 9th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were located on nine days with three on the 2nd and the 22nd. White Ibis peaked at 77 on the 10th. Glossy Ibis were seen on eight days with 14 on the 1st and ten on the 19th. There was one Wood Stork on the 4th with two on the 5th and five on the 6th. For the vultures there were 22 Black on the 27th and 92 Turkey on the 3rd.

A Muscovy Duck flew to the north over the river on the 26th. There were ten American Wigeon on the 10th. There were two Mottled Duck on the 3rd. Blue-winged Teal were seen on nine days to the 26th with eight on the 6th. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 10th. For the Green-winged Teal there were ten on the 2nd, four on the 6th, one on the 13th and two on the 22nd. For the Lesser Scaup there were still 72 on the 1st with 46 on the 5th, 14 on the 13th and two staying to the 30th. There were two Surf Scoter on the 20th. Black Scoter were seen on six days with three on the 2nd, two on the 21st and one to the 26th. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on six days from the 6th to the 22nd with six on the 22nd.

Ospreys peaked at ten on the 3rd. Swallow-tailed Kites had high counts of eight on the 4th, eight on the 7th and six on the 14th. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 28th. Up to four Bald Eagles seen to the 22nd with three to the 28th, two on the 29th and one on the 30th. For the Northern Harrier there were five on the 3rd with singles on the 4th, 7th, 20th and 21st. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on seven days from the 3rd to the 18th with two on the 5th. There were single Short-tailed Hawks on the 3rd, 6th and 22nd. American Kestrels seen to the 6th with three on the 3rd. Merlin were seen on 23 days with six on the 12th and nine on the 23rd. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 7th.

Single Sandhill Cranes were located on the 1st, 4th and 13th. Single American Golden-Plovers flew to the north on the 21st and the 22nd. There were two Wilson's Plover on the 19th with a Piping Plover on the 22nd. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 5th with two on the

13th. They were then seen daily from the 21st with 34 on the 22nd and ten on the 27th. There was a Killdeer on the 4th. There were eight Black-necked Stilts on the 2nd with two on the 6th, two on the 17th and six on the 20th (spring sightings are rare). There were five American Avocets on the 14th with eight on the 15th. There were 60 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 5th with seven on the 6th. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 28th. There were single Spotted Sandpipers on the 5th and 9th. They were seen daily from the 21st with ten on the 24th a new high count. Whimbrel were seen on six days from the 8th to the 22nd with eight on the 14th. There were still 31 Red Knot on the 4th with 14 on the 5th, 13 on the 8th, six on the 9th and one on the 14th. Sanderling peaked at 100 on the 23rd. For the Semipalmated Sandpiper there were 23 on the 22nd, one on the 25th and seven on the 27th. There were three Least Sandpipers on the 14th, three on the 22nd and two on the 23rd. There were 25 Short-billed Dowitchers on the 22nd with a Long-billed Dowitcher on the 9th.

There was a Bonaparte's Gull on the 3rd. Ring-billed Gulls seen to the 30th and Herring Gulls were seen to the 22nd. There were two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 22nd. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 6th and the 22nd with five on the 23rd, then one seen on the 30th. There were three Caspian Terns on the 6th with two on the 21st, one on the 23rd and two on the 27th. There were two Roseate Terns on the 13th. There were four Common Terns on the 7th with singles on the 22nd, 27th and 29th. There was an Arctic Tern on the 27th. Forster's Terns were seen to the 18th. Least Terns were seen from the 5th with 16 on the 12th. There was a Black Tern on the 27th. There was a Black Skimmer on the 10th with four on the 13th, one on the 19th and six on the 22nd.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 20th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 12th. Great Horned Owls seen daily to the 8th then singles heard on the 14th, 24th and 25th. There were two Barred Owls on the 19th (a new high count) with one on the 21st. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 30th. There were four Chuck-will's-widows on the 1st, 12th and 19th with two to the 30th. There were two Eastern Whip-poor-wills on the 1st with singles on the 2nd, 5th, 12th and 20th. Chimney Swifts were seen from the 2nd with 13 on the 26th. There were two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 24th. For Belted Kingfisher there were singles on the 6th and 9th. They were seen daily from the 18th to the 26th with four on the 24th.

There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 16th. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on seven days. There was a Northern Flicker on the 16th. Pileated Woodpeckers were noted on 24 days with two on the 5th, 21st and 25th. There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 10th. Great Crested Flycatchers were seen from the 8th with four on the 21st a new high count. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on seven days from the 4th there were 20 on that date. There were single Gray Kingbirds on the 6th and 13th. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on the 4th and 11th.

There was a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 2nd. There were single Blue-headed Vireos on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 13th. Only low numbers of crows this month there were 100 Fish on the 1st.

Purple Martins were recorded on 19 days with 23 on the 5th. Tree Swallows were seen on six days to the 21st with eight on the 4th. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen on eight days from the 4th to the 26th with seven on the 6th. Bank Swallows were seen on seven days from the 4th to the 21st no more than two a day. There were single Cliff Swallows on the 6th and 14th. Barn Swallows peaked at 434 on the 6th. There were single Carolina Chickadees on the 5th and the 13th. Single Tufted Titmouse seen all month with two on the 9th. Single House Wrens (at three locations) seen to the 23rd. There was a Sedge Wren on the 5th the second park record. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 4th. There was a Veery on the 14th with single Swainson's Thrush on the 12th and the 15th. Two Gray Catbirds stayed to the 9th with one staying to the 21st. There are two pairs of Brown Thrashers in the area. Cedar Waxwings seen on eight days with 60 on the 3rd, 20 on the 5th, 12 on the 13th and 12 on the 21st.

There was a Northern Parula on the 20th with a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 12th. There were single Prairie Warblers on the 8th and 19th. Up to three Palm Warblers seen to the 18th with one later on the 25th. There were single Black-and-white Warblers on the 4th and 26th. There was an American Redstart on the 24th with three on the 26th. There was a Prothonotary Warbler on the 6th. There was a Northern Waterthrush on the 20th. There was a Common Yellowthroat from the 10th to the 27th with four on the 26th. There was a Summer Tanager on the 2nd. There was a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 30th. There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 15th. There was an Indigo Bunting on the 5th with two on the 15th and one on the 22nd. There was a Bobolink on the 1st with 30 on the 17th, 80 on the 21st and five on the 22nd. Up to two Brown-headed Cowbirds seen to the 6th with singles later on the 15th and 22nd. There were single Baltimore Orioles on the 2nd, 5th, 6th and 10th. Up to six House Finches seen daily with nine on the 17th. There were two American Goldfinch on the 5th with four on the 7th and four on the 16th.

What will May bring?

Harry Robinson