

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS JULY 2024

In July 112 species located the best year yet, there were 104 in 2023. There were 31 surveys over 184 hours. For the year 246 species noted with 346 since January 2016. There was one addition this month. The best days were 585 birds on the 21st and 54 species on the 23rd.

On a calm day there was a Cory's Shearwater on the 5th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 61 on the 10th. There was a Least Bittern on the 30th. Single Reddish Egrets were seen on the 14th, 15th, 18th and 21st. Green Herons were noted on 11 days with two on the 21st and the 30th. There were two Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 4th with singles on the 9th and 28th. One to two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons seen on 17 days with three on the 16th. White Ibis peaked at 57 on the 21st. Glossy Ibis were seen on five dates with 34 on the 3rd, 18 on the 4th and 12 on the 8th. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 4th with two on the 9th and singles on the 18th and 30th. Wood Storks were seen on 12 days with ten on the 17th. For the vultures there were 26 Black on the 14th with 68 Turkey on the 27th.

The Lesser Scaup was seen on the 3rd and 8th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen nearly every day to the 21st with one later on the 29th. The high count was only that of four on the 1st. An immature Snail Kite flew to the north on the 24th this is the 4th record for the park. Mississippi Kites were seen on 16 days with five on the 9th, three on the 12th and four on the 27th. There was an adult Bald Eagle on the 24th. There was also a Red-tailed Hawk on the 5th.

There was a Clapper Rail on the 16th a second record for the park. There was a Common Gallinule on the river on the 13th a new species for the extended park area (one mile to the west and one mile to the east). There were single Sandhill Cranes on the 15th and 31st. Black-bellied Plovers were seen from the 3rd with 13 on the 6th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 23rd. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on 12 days from the 3rd with seven on the 16th. There was a Killdeer on the 23rd. There were three Black-necked Stilts on the 22nd with five on the 23rd. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 18th. In contrast Lesser Yellowlegs were seen on four days from the 21st with two on the 27th. There were two Solitary Sandpipers on the 23rd (a new high count) with one on the 24th. Willets were seen from the 3rd with 63 on the 14th. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 12 days from the 15th with four on the 28th. There were two Ruddy Turnstone on the 8th then they were seen on 7 days from the 16th with five on the 28th. There were two Sanderling on the 6th with one on the 20th and three on the 22nd. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen from the 17th with 22 on the 21st and 14 on the 23rd. Least Sandpipers were seen from the 16th with 40 on the 18th and 46 on the 25th. There were single Pectoral Sandpipers on the 10th, 23rd and 25th. There were also singles Stilt Sandpipers on the 18th and 23rd. There was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the 18th a second record for the park. Short-billed Dowitchers seen from the 14th with four on that date. There was a Wilson's Phalarope on the 27th it was with the two Lesser Yellowlegs.

There was a Caspian Tern on the 18th. Royal Terns peaked at 21 on the 6th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 24th. Common Terns seen on ten days from the 17th with three on the 19th. There was a Forster's Tern on the 10th. Least Terns bred on the roof of my apartment I do not know how many pairs a fire truck came at least twice to put fallen chicks back on the roof. In the area there were 162 on the 20th with 170 on the 21st a new high count. There were still 35 on the 31st (none on the roof). There was a Black Tern on the 13th with frequent sightings from the 18th there were five on the 21st, 26th and 29th. There were two Black Skimmers on the 22nd with singles on the 27th and the 30th.

There were three White-winged Doves on the 8th with two on the 12th and singles on the 25th and 27th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 10th. There was a Great Horned Owl on the 29th with a Barred Owl on the 5th. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 6th. Two female Chuck-will's-widows were present all month with the last male heard to sing briefly on the 9th. Chimney Swifts present all month with 41 on the 23rd and 53 on the 20th a new high count. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 27th. There were single Belted Kingfishers on the 8th, 9th, 15th, 19th, 22nd and 26th.

Downy Woodpeckers were seen on 14 dates with three on the 24th. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen/heard daily with five on the 8th, 13th, 23rd and 30th. This would have been a new high count but there were six on the 25th. There were single Great Crested Flycatchers on the 2nd and the 27th. There were three Eastern Kingbirds on the 19th with one on the 31st. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 5th. Up to two Loggerhead Shrikes seen regularly through the month. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 31st. Purple Martins were noted on 20 days with nine on the 1st. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 15th and 23rd. There were two Bank Swallows on the 31st. Barn Swallows were seen from the 10th with six on the 30th.

There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 21st. One to two Tufted Titmouse noted all month. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 3rd. There were three Eastern Bluebirds on the 15th with four on the 23rd a new high count. Two Brown Thrashers seen all month. There was a Northern Parula on the 3rd. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 19th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 11th. There was a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 31st the sixth record for the park. There was a Summer Tanager on the 22nd. Common Grackles were only seen to the 8th. There was a male Shiny Cowbird on the 16th. Brown-headed Cowbirds were rare there were singles on the 2nd, 7th and 28th with four on the 11th. Finally, up to seven House Finches seen daily.

Also seen during the month was a Pygmy Sperm Whale on the 19th (fifth record for the park).

Harry Robinson

