

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS FEBRUARY, 2025

Another month, this time there were 28 surveys over 148 hours. For the month 120 species located with 146 for the year compared to 2024 these counts are low but they are better than any of the other years. The best days were the 8<sup>th</sup> with 7,340 birds and the 9<sup>th</sup> with 65 species. Now to the birds.

There were two Red-throated Loons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with one on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were two Pacific Loons on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The two Red-throated and the two Pacific were seen in a single flock sitting on the sea. Common Loons were seen on six days with two on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. Northern Gannets continued to be seen in very low numbers the high count was that of 209 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. For American White Pelicans there were 36 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and nine on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Brown Pelicans peaked at 88 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 30 on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

There were 23 Great Egrets flying to the north on the 28<sup>th</sup>, migration? There was a Tricolored Heron on the 10<sup>th</sup>. 42 Cattle Egrets flew to the north on the 27<sup>th</sup> migration? There was a Green Heron on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were three Glossy Ibis on the 10<sup>th</sup> with eight on the 12<sup>th</sup> and two on the 16<sup>th</sup>. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks peaked at 37 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. For the vultures there were 26 Black on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 1,150 Turkey on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

An adult white morph Snow Goose flew to the south on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were three Blue-winged Teal on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were also two Green-winged Teal on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a Redhead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with three on the 7<sup>th</sup> and two on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Ring-necked Duck on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 20 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup were seen on six days with 40 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Scaup were "resident" on the river but there appeared to be two influxes. There were 3,150 on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 5,200 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, then 3,650 seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 1,830 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 480 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 1,350 on the 17<sup>th</sup> with 3,000 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 3,500 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, then 2,130 seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> with 1,820 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 1,420 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were four Surf Scoter on the 6<sup>th</sup> with one on the 12<sup>th</sup> and four on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were two White-winged Scoter on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter only seen in low numbers the high count was that of 310 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bufflehead on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were two Red-breasted Mergansers on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Up to three Bald Eagles seen daily with five on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Harrier on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 7<sup>th</sup> with two on the 13<sup>th</sup> and one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on four days with two on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The male American Kestrel was present all month. There were single Merlins on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Killdeer on the 4<sup>th</sup> with four on the 8<sup>th</sup> and one on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were single American Oystercatchers on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There

were two Spotted Sandpipers on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Red Knot have been present all month on the river. There were 180 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 240 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 370 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> then 200 seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 130 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 30 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Wilson's Snipe on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 11 days with four on the 1<sup>st</sup> and five on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Laughing Gulls peaked at 1,480 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2,950 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 13 days with eight on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Herring Gulls peaked at 350 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on six days with eight on the 8<sup>th</sup> and nine on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were two Great Black-backed Gulls on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a Caspian Tern on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 112 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Forster's Terns peaked at 221 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 315 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Black Skimmers seen all month with 58 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 38 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Common Ground-Dove on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Single Eastern Screech-Owls were heard on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There were single Barred Owls on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Where are the Great Horned Owls? There were single Eastern Whip-poor-wills on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There were single Downy Woodpeckers on nine days with two on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 15 days with three on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Single Eastern Phoebe were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. There were two Loggerhead Shrikes on the 5<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Purple Martins on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Tree Swallows peaked at 690 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 1,600 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were two Barn Swallows on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were two Carolina Chickadees on the 4<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Tufted Titmouse were noted on 11 days with three on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were single House Wrens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup>. There were also single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were two Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with singles on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. American Robins peaked at 1,630 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and again on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were single Gray Catbirds on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There were two American Pipits on the 5<sup>th</sup>. For Cedar Waxwing there were 75 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, one on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 25 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 35 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were single Northern Parula on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Louisiana Waterthrush on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were two Eastern Towhee on the 21<sup>st</sup> a new high count. There was a Savannah Sparrow on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Boat-tailed Grackles peaked at 60 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. For Brown-headed Cowbirds there were 280 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 210 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 170 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Up to six House Finches seen daily. There was also an American Goldfinch on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. What will the main spring passage produce?

Harry Robinson