

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS MARCH, 2025

Another month not one of the best as winter did not want to let up. There were 31 surveys over 174 hours. For the month 131 species located with a total of 163 species for the year. The best days were the 9th with 59 species and the 10th with 4,952 birds.

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 8th with a Common Loon on the 24th. Did the Common Loons not come this far south this year? There was a Pied-billed Grebe on the river on the 25th this may be the only sighting this year. There was an Eared Grebe on the sea on the 26th this may also be the only sighting this year.

There was an immature Brown Booby on the 8th. Northern Gannets were seen to the 28th with 26 on the 10th. There were five American White Pelicans on the 14th with 12 on the 21st. Brown Pelicans peaked at 183 on the 11th and 415 on the 25th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 90 on the 29th.

There were single American Bitterns on the 1st and the 7th. There were also single Reddish Egrets on the 19th and the 24th. There were single Green Herons on the 2nd and 27th. There were single Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 13th, 14th and 25th. Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were heard on the 12th, 14th, 25th and 27th. There were six Glossy Ibis on the 12th with one on the 13th and 33 on the 20th. Wood Storks were seen on ten days with 40 on the 22nd. For the vultures there were 23 Black on the 3rd with 500 Turkey on the 9th.

A male Muscovy Duck flew to the north along the shore on the 23rd. There was a feral Mallard on the 26th with two on the 27th and one again on the 31st. For Blue-winged Teal there was one on the 3rd, three on the 15th, five on the 21st, eight on the 23rd and three on the 26th. There were 20 Green-winged Teal on the 24th. There was a Ring-necked Duck on the 7th with two on the 24th and three on the 25th. Greater Scaup were seen on six days with eight on the 3rd and ten on the 12th (both flocks were with the Lesser Scaup on the river). For Lesser Scaup there were 1,270 on the 1st with 1,330 on the 3rd, then 920 seen on the 4th with 260 on the 7th and 175 on the 11th. There were 200 on the 12th with 250 on the 15th, then 60 seen on the 17th. There were 82 on the 18th with 135 on the 19th, 145 on the 21st and 360 on the 24th and the 26th. There were 310 on the 28th with 100 on the 29th and 35 on the 30th. Finally, there were 98 on the 31st. There was a Common Eider on the river on the 31st a rarity. There were five Surf Scoter on the 8th. Black Scoter were seen on 11 days to the 28th with 11 on the 9th. There were two Buffleheads on the 9th. There was a Hooded Merganser on the 2nd. Finally for this group there was one Red-breasted Merganser on the 8th with three on the 28th.

As a sign of migration there were 13 Ospreys on the 21st. There was a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 9th with two on the 19th and two again on the 20th. There were single Northern Harriers

on the 4th and the 22nd. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 3rd and 18th. There was a Red-tailed Hawk on the 4th. A male American Kestrel was present all month with two on the 9th and 25th. Single Merlins were seen on the 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 22nd and 26th.

There were single Sandhill Cranes on the 1st and 13th. There were single American Golden-Plovers on the 9th and 18th they are always a rarity. There were two Semipalmated Plovers on the 12th. There was a Killdeer on the 9th. There were single American Oystercatchers on the 1st, 7th and the 15th with two on the 20th, then singles seen on the 23rd and 29th (all sightings were at the river). There were 17 Black-necked Stilts on the 9th with a Spotted Sandpiper on the 7th. There were 45 Red Knot on the 1st with 12 on the 2nd and two on the 3rd. There were 130 on the 6th with 30 on the 9th. A party of four stayed to the 17th. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 14th with a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 28th. There was also a Dunlin on the 27th and the 28th.

There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 10th, 14th and 24th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 4,150 on the 10th. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on seven days with five on the 21st. Herring Gulls peaked at 760 on the 26th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on five days with higher counts of nine on the 10th and 84 on the 26th the latter is a new high count. There was a first-winter Glaucous Gull on the 26th. There were two Great Black-backed Gulls on the 10th with one on the 26th. There were two Caspian Terns on the 8th. Royal Terns peaked at 56 on the 8th and Sandwich Terns peaked at 27 on the 11th. Common Terns were seen on seven days from the 3rd to the 30th with 17 on the 27th. There were single Least Terns on the 27th and 30th. Black Skimmers were seen on 15 days to the 25th with high counts of 21 on the 2nd and 11th.

There were single Common Ground-Doves on the 9th, 12th, 26th and 30th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 12th. There were single Great Horned Owls on the 7th and 13th. There was also a Barred Owl, on the 20th. Chuck-will's-widows were heard from the 14th with three on the 24th, 25th and 31st. There were also nine on the 26th a new high count. For the Eastern Whip-poor-will there were two on the 1st with four on the 8th, then singles heard on the 12th, 13th, 20th and 25th.

There were single Belted Kingfishers on the 14th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th and 29th. There were single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the 2nd, 9th, 11th and 18th. Downy Woodpeckers were noted on 12 days with three on the 1st. Pileated Woodpeckers were noted on 20 days with counts of two on the 8th, 19th and 20th. An Eastern Phoebe was seen to the 10th. There were single Loggerhead Shrikes on the 2nd, 20th and 22nd. There was a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 24th with a Blue-headed Vireo on the 29th. For the crows there were 16 American on the 19th and 222 Fish on the 20th. Purple Martins were seen on ten days with five on the 31st. There were 490 Tree Swallows on the 1st with 185 on the 9th and 190 on the 12th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 12th. Barn Swallows seen all month with 62 on the 26th.

Single Carolina Chickadees were seen on eight days with two on the 3rd. Single Tufted Titmouse were seen on 12 days with three on the 9th and 19th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 12th. There was also a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 9th. Single American Robins were seen on the 1st, 8th, 16th and 18th. There were single Gray Catbirds on the 9th, 12th, 19th and 22nd with two on the 30th. One to two Brown Thrashers were present all month. For Cedar Waxwings there were 25 on the 4th with 60 on the 15th, 95 on the 18th and 135 on the 19th, then 110 seen on the 26th with 40 on the 27th, 35 on the 28th and ten on the 30th. All flew to the north. There were single Northern Parula on the 19th, 26th, 30th and 31st. Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen to the 29th. There were single Yellow-throated Warblers on the 8th, 19th and 20th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 11th. Also, on the 11th there was a Common Yellowthroat. For the Brown-headed Cowbirds there were 180 on the 1st with 110 on the 4th, 55 on the 6th, 20 on the 10th and ten on the 12th. There were 18 on the 13th with 26 on the 14th and 43 on the 15th, then 35 seen on the 22nd and the 25th with six on the 31st. Up to six House Finches seen daily. Finally, there were two American Goldfinch on the 29th.

April has to be better,

Harry Robinson