

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS, APRIL 2025

Just 146 species this month as against 156 for last year. There were also 33 species seen last year which I did not find this year, I did however find 15 species that I did not see in 2024. To date 197 species located this year. There were 30 surveys over 174 hours. The best day was the 13th with 63 species and 1,498 birds.

There was a Common Loon on the 13th. There was a Great Shearwater on the 29th. There was a Brown Booby on the 3rd. For Northern Gannet there were three on the 4th with singles on four dates to the 25th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 182 on the 8th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 76 on the 10th.

There were single Least Bitterns on the 1st and the 30th. There was a Reddish Egret on the 15th. Cattle Egrets peaked at 79 on the 12th. There was a Green Heron on the 11th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 15th. There were single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the 1st and the 27th. There were also four Glossy Ibis on the 10th. For the vultures there were 12 Black on the 12th and 28 Turkey also on the 12th.

There was an American Black Duck on the river on the 13th the first spring record. There were two Blue-winged Teal on the 8th and 9th with 17 on the 12th. There were two Green-winged Teal on the 9th. There were two Ring-necked Duck on the 2nd with one on the 8th. There was a Greater Scaup on the 3rd. For the Lesser Scaup there were 90 on the 21st, 75 on the 3rd, 31 on the 4th and seven on the 7th. There were eight on the 8th with 16 on the 9th, 31 on the 10th and 34 on the 14th, then eight seen on the 21st with seven on the 24th, three to the 28th and one on the 30th. There were four Surf Scoter on the 4th. For Black Scoter there was one on the 4th, four on the 7th and one on the 20th. There were single Red-breasted Mergansers on the 1st, 6th, 16th, 23rd and 27th. There was also a Ruddy Duck on the 13th.

Swallow-tailed Kites seen on 11 days from the 1st with two on the 17th, 19th and 29th. There were single Mississippi Kites on the 22nd and 29th. There was a Northern Harrier on the 15th. Also, on the 15th there was a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Single Red-tailed Hawks were seen on the 2nd, 4th, 15th and 20th. The male American Kestrel was seen to the 14th with two migrants on the 15th. Single Merlins were seen on 15 days to the 27th. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 20th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 14th with a Sora on the 18th (second record). Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 32 on the 9th. There were single American Golden-Plovers on the 2nd and 29th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 27th. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on eight days with eight on the 16th and ten on the 27th. There was a Piping Plover on the 29th. Single

Killdeer were seen on the 6th, 20th and 23rd with three on the 27th. There were two Greater Yellowlegs on the 29th. Willets peaked at 69 on the 12th. The migrants were silent this spring so I have not been able to sort out the two races. There were single Spotted Sandpipers on the 15th and 26th. There was a flock of eight Upland Sandpipers on the sand spit on the 10th (second record and a new high count). There were single Whimbrel on the 12th, 13th and 14th with two on the 16th. There was a Red Knot on the 2nd with 40 on the 8th, 12 on the 13th and two on the 17th. There were 45 Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 16th with three on the 26th, six on the 27th, one on the 28th and seven on the 29th. There were 14 Western Sandpipers on the 1st, Single Least Sandpipers were seen on the 23rd, 27th and 28th. There was a Dunlin on the 3rd. There were eight Short-billed Dowitchers on the 10th with three Long-billed Dowitchers on the 8th. Finally, for this group there was a Wilson's Snipe on the 4th.

There was a Bonaparte's Gull on the 10th. The last Ring-billed Gull was seen on the 29th. The last Herring Gull was seen on the 26th. There were five Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 1st with one on the 16th. There was a Great Black-backed Gull on the 1st. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 10th and the 29th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 8th, 21st and the 30th. Royal Terns peaked at 34 on the 10th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 8th. Common Terns were seen on six dates to the 30th with six on the 25th. For Forster's Terns the last were two on the 13th. Least Terns present all month with a colony of some 50 birds on the apartment roof at the end of the month! There was a Black Tern on the 29th. Black Skimmers were seen on six days with eight on the 1st and nine on the 3rd.

Common Ground-Doves were seen on six days from the 16th no more than two a day. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 26th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 7th with two on the 28th a joint high count. There were single Great Horned Owls on the 23rd and 28th. There was a Barred Owl on the 1st with two on the 27th another joint high count. Single Common Nighthawks were heard on the 25th and 27th. There were eight Chuck-will's-widows on the 1st with six on the 13th, four on the 23rd and four again on the 26th. The females do not seem to be in residence this summer. There were single Chimney Swifts on the 13th, 18th, 20th and 23rd no sign of any breeding pairs yet. Belted Kingfishers were seen on ten days no more than two a day.

Single Downy Woodpeckers seen on six days with two on the 27th. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen/heard on 25 days with four on the 23rd. There were single Great Crested Flycatchers on the 13th and the 15th with two on the 18th, then one seen from the 19th to the 27th and again on the 30th. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 13th. There was a Loggerhead Shrike on the 4th and the 5th. There were single Red-eyed Vireo's on the 8th and 20th. The last Tree Swallow was on the 15th. There were two Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the 11th with one on the 12th and two on the 14th. There were single Bank Swallows on the 11th and 12th with seven on the 13th and one again on the 14th. There were five Cliff Swallows on the 13th. Barn Swallows

peaked at 1,060 on the 13th. Single Carolina Chickadees were seen on the 3rd, 4th and 10th. Up to two Tufted Titmouse noted daily with three on the 18th. There were single House Wrens on the 6th and 16th.

There was an Eastern Bluebird on the 4th. There was a Veery on the 7th with a Swainson's Thrush on the 26th. There was an American Robin on the 8th. Up to two Gray Catbirds seen on six dates. Single Brown Thrashers were seen on the 3rd/4th, 18th/19th and 26th/28th. There were five Cedar Waxwings on the 6th. There was a Blue-winged Warbler on the 3rd (second record). There was a Yellow Warbler on the 27th. The last Yellow-rumped Warbler was on the 3rd. The last Palm Warbler was on the 16th. There was a Blackpoll Warbler on the 29th. There were single American Redstarts on the 8th and 25th. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 16th.

There was a Swamp Sparrow on the 12th with a White-crowned Sparrow on the 5th. There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 24th. There was an Indigo Bunting on the 11th with a Bobolink on the 15th. The last Brown-headed Cowbird was on the 11th. Finally, there are three pairs of House Finches in the area with seven birds on the 6th. Two males are red and one orange.

It is time that there was an addition to the list?

Harry Robinson