

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS, DECEMBER 2025

Another year comes to an end, ten years in all. There was only one addition to the list which is a sharp change from recent years. For the year 275 species located (there were 287 species last year). The total list now stands at 343 over 10 years as against Lake Apopka with 368 species over 19 years. There were 31 surveys for the month over 130 hours. For the year there were 362 surveys over 1,722 hours. The best days were the 7<sup>th</sup> with 18,976 birds and the 27<sup>th</sup> with 79 species (the latter a new high count). Now to the birds.

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Common Loons seen on 13 days with four on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 23 overall. There were eight Horned Grebes on the 11<sup>th</sup> with an Eared Grebe on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Cory's Shearwater on the 1<sup>st</sup>. For Great Shearwater there were two on the 17<sup>th</sup> and one on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The higher Northern Gannets counts were 537 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 1,455 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. American White Pelicans were seen on eight dates, 62 birds in all. There were counts of 11 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>. Brown Pelicans had higher counts of 372 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 700 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 62 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Great Cormorant on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Tricolored Heron on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Reddish Egret on the 5<sup>th</sup>. White Ibis peaked at 64 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 4<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks were seen on 21 days with a high count of 26 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. For the vultures there were 69 Black on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 366 Turkey on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

There were five Gadwall on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Black Duck on the river on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Shoveler on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were three Northern Pintail on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were six Green-winged Teal on the 7<sup>th</sup> with 12 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and eight on the 15<sup>th</sup>. For Canvasback there were three on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with five on the 4<sup>th</sup>, three on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. For the month 85 Redheads seen with 25 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 Ring-necked Ducks on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 25 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and five on the 25<sup>th</sup>. For Greater Scaup there were 2,720 on the 15<sup>th</sup> with 17,500 on the 7<sup>th</sup> the latter is a new high count. Lesser Scaup started to gather on the river with 1,290 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Surf Scoter were seen on 13 days, 51 birds in all. The high count was that of 17 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. For the White-winged Scoter there was one on the 4<sup>th</sup> with two on the 12<sup>th</sup> and one on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter peaked at 300 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Buffleheads were seen on seven days (21 birds in all) with five on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. A female type Common Merganser flew to the south behind a flock of Red-breasted Mergansers on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on 16 days with 17 on the 8<sup>th</sup> there were 62 birds in all. There were two Ruddy Duck on the river from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There were single Northern Harrier on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were also single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. There were single Cooper's Hawks on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Red-shouldered Hawks peaked at four on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were single Red-tailed Hawks on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was an adult Golden Eagle on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Kestrel in the area all month., There were single Merlin on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Clapper Rail on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were single Sandhill Cranes on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 70 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 12<sup>th</sup> with two on the 21<sup>st</sup> and ten on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were single Killdeer on five days. Willets peaked at 630 on the 8<sup>th</sup> they all flew to the north this is a new high count for the park. Single Spotted Sandpipers were seen on ten days with two on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with three on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Ruddy Turnstone peaked at 98 on the 26<sup>th</sup> this is also a new high count. For Red Knot there were peak counts of 90 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Dunlin were seen on eight days with 14 on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

For Pomarine Jaeger a total of 21 birds seen over 11 days with six on the 9<sup>th</sup>. For the Parasitic Jaeger 25 birds seen over 15 days with four on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Laughing Gulls peaked at 5,300 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bonaparte's Gull on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 105 on the 15<sup>th</sup> (a new high count), five on the 17<sup>th</sup>, three on the 18<sup>th</sup>, two on the 19<sup>th</sup> and one on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Ring-billed Gull peaked at 55 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Herring Gull peaked at 163 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. First-winter Iceland Gulls (possibly just one individual) were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on 18 days, 62 birds in all. The high counts were of ten on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>. Single Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on six days. There was a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Caspian Terns were seen on six days with four on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 170 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Sandwich Terns peaked at 165 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Forster's Terns peaked at 41 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Black Skimmers were seen on six days (64 birds in all) with 14 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Finally, for this group there was a Thick-billed Murre sitting on the sea on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Common Ground-Dove on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> there was a Great Horned Owl and an Eastern Whip-poor-will. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Up to two Belted Kingfishers a day seen with three on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seen on 21 days with three on the 12<sup>th</sup> (a joint high count), Downy Woodpeckers seen on ten days with two on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pileated Woodpeckers peaked at six on the 14<sup>th</sup>. One-to-three Eastern Phoebe seen all month. There was a Great Crested Flycatcher on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A single Loggerhead Shrike was present all month. There was a Blue-headed Vireo on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Tree Swallows peaked at 210 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were single Carolina Chickadee on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. One-to-two Tufted Titmouse seen all month with three on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Single House Wren seen all month with two on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 11<sup>th</sup> with three on the 21<sup>st</sup> and one on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Ruby-crowned Kinglets seen from the 5<sup>th</sup> on 13 days with two on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Eastern Bluebirds were seen on 14 days with three on the 21<sup>st</sup>. American Robins were seen on seven days with 60 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Single Gray Catbirds were seen on six days. There were three Cedar Waxwing on the 19<sup>th</sup> with singles on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a Common Yellowthroat on the 9<sup>th</sup> with a Wilson's Warbler on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 210 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Up to five House Finches seen daily. There was an American Goldfinch on the 21<sup>st</sup> with two on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Harry Robinson