

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS, FEBRUARY, 2026

A very unusual month. On the 1<sup>st</sup> the temperature was 25 degrees with 30 degrees on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Later there were a total of nine days with a temperature of under 50. That is not normal Florida weather. Then there were 11 days when I was only able to count from my apartment doorway as my right foot was playing up. Hopefully things are more or less back to normal.

I carried out the survey on 28 days but only for a total of 99 hours. For the month 118 species located with 150 for the year. The best days were the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> when 61 species located and the 23<sup>rd</sup> when 25,605 birds counted. Now to the birds.

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Common Loons were seen on eight days with four on the 4<sup>th</sup>. In all 14 were seen through to the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eared Grebe on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Northern Gannets peaked at 346 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were two American White Pelicans on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Brown Pelicans peaked at 70 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 54 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 27<sup>th</sup>. White Ibis peaked at 30 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. For Glossy Ibis there was one on the 5<sup>th</sup>, five on the 13<sup>th</sup>, eight on the 20<sup>th</sup> and two on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There were single Roseate Spoonbills on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> with two on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks were seen on 17 days with 11 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, there were 68 birds in all. For the vultures there were 30 Black on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 161 Turkey on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

There were two Muscovy Duck on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There were two Mottled Duck on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Northern Pintail on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup were seen on five days with 30 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 2,500 Lesser Scaup on the river on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 1,830 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 700 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 705 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were single Surf Scoter on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with six on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a White-winged Scoter on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter were seen on eight days with 30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and ten on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bufflehead on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

There were single Northern Harriers on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were two Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 4<sup>th</sup> with one on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were single Cooper's Hawks on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There were also single Red-tailed Hawks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. A single American Kestrel was seen on 13 days. There were single Merlin on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 9<sup>th</sup> with two on the 25<sup>th</sup>, then one seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were four Killdeer on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Lesser Yellowlegs on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Red Knot were seen on 11 days with 130 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 220 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, there were still six on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Western Sandpiper on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two on the 7<sup>th</sup>, three on the 8<sup>th</sup> and three again

on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were single Dunlin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Long-billed Dowitcher on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There were two Pomarine Jaegers on the 1<sup>st</sup> with singles on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 11 days with three on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The last was one on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Laughing Gull's peaked at 2,020 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Franklin's Gull on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on six days with two on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> with three on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Glaucous Gull on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on five days with two on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a Caspian Tern on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 117 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Forster's Terns peaked at 157 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Black Skimmers were seen on 16 days with 267 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 235 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 114 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. In all 883 seen during the month.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with two on the 9<sup>th</sup>, then one seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 14 days with counts of three on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. For the Eastern Phoebe there were two on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with singles on four days to the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were two Loggerhead Shrike on the 21<sup>st</sup> with one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Single Purple Martins were seen on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> with two on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Tree Swallows seen from the 10<sup>th</sup> with 1,580 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 1,780 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 210 on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Up to two Tufted Titmouse were seen on six days. There were single House Wrens on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 12<sup>th</sup>. A single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen on nine days. Eastern Bluebirds were seen on eight days to the 22<sup>nd</sup> no more than two a day. Now to the American Robin there were 1,650 on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 5,150 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 2,370 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 3,360 on the 20<sup>th</sup> with 6,040 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24,300 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then 16,600 seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> with 5,800 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 325 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The count of 24,300 is a new high count for the park (there were 23,270 on January 26, 2021). There were single Gray Catbirds on five days with two on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were two American Pipits on the 14<sup>th</sup> with three on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cedar Waxwings were seen on nine days with 800 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Nashville Warbler on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were single Northern Parula on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a Cape May Warbler on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Black-and-white Warbler on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a Clay-colored Sparrow on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was also a Savannah Sparrow on the 17<sup>th</sup> with four on the 25<sup>th</sup> a new high count. A Snow Bunting flew to the north on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Meadowlark on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Common Grackles peaked at 38 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Boat-tailed Grackles peaked at 39 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. For the Brown-headed Cowbirds the high counts were 300 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 395 on the

23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a male Baltimore Oriole on the 27<sup>th</sup>. House Finches peaked at seven on the 27<sup>th</sup>. American Goldfinch were seen on six days with 215 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 160 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 125 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The count of 215 is a new high count for the park.

At least the spring has started.

Harry Robinson