

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – APRIL, 2026

April was a very busy month although still no additions to the list. There were 30 surveys over 131 hours. There were 169 species the second highest monthly count ever (there were 172 in October 2024). For the year 225 species noted this is the highest total up to the end of April. The best days were 1,539 birds on the 3rd and 83 species on the 26th. The latter is the highest ever daily count (there were 79 on December 27, 2025. Now to the birds.

There was a Common Loon on the 11th. There was a Great Shearwater on the 9th. There were two Brown Booby on the 7th with singles on the 8th and 28th. Northern Gannets were seen through to the 28th with 115 on the 7th. Brown Pelicans peaked at 472 on the 7th. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 119 on the 11th.

There was a Least Bittern on the 12th. Great Blue Herons peaked at 36 on the 11th. Snowy Egrets also peaked at 49 on the 11th. There was a Reddish Egret on the 18th. There were single Green Herons on the 14th, 17th, 26th and 28th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 6th. There were single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the 14th, 21st and 26th. White Ibis peaked at 49 on the 16th. Glossy Ibis were seen on 15 days with 50 on the 12th. Roseate Spoonbill were seen on 11 days with 19 on the 10th and 35 on the 23rd. Wood Storks were seen on six days with three on the 25th. For the vultures there were 45 Black on the 12th and 48 Turkey on the 2nd.

There were six American Wigeon on the 8th. Mallard peaked at four on the 10th (a high count). There were six Blue-winged Teal on the 7th with three on the 20th. There were two Green-winged Teal on the 9th. There was a single Lesser Scaup to the 23rd with four on the 15th and two on the 17th. There were single Black Scoter on the 7th and 9th. There were also single Hooded Merganser on the 10th and 23rd. Red-breasted Merganser were seen on seven days with 20 on the 8th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen all month with seven on the 18th. There was a Mississippi Kite on the 25th. Up to four Bald Eagles seen daily. There was a Northern Harrier on the 8th with three on the 26th and one on the 30th. There were single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 4th and 11th. There was a Cooper's Hawk on the 6th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 1st. There was a Red-tailed Hawk on the 7th with two on the 8th and one on the 11th. For the American Kestrel there were singles on the 2nd, 8th, 9th, 21st and 28th. Merlins were seen on 18 days with seven on the 21st. There was a Peregrine Falcon on the 7th.

There was a Limpkin on the 13th, this was a second record for the park. For the Sandhill Crane flying to the north there were three on the 9th, eight on the 10th and one on the 25th. The count of eight is a new high count for the park. Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 28 on the 6th and

33 on the 19th. There were single American Golden-Plover on the 7th, 8th and 19th. There were two Wilson's Plover on the 24th a joint high count. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on seven days from the 17th with 11 on the 28th. Single Killdeer were seen on six days. There were two American Oystercatcher on the 3rd with one on the 15th. There was a Black-necked Stilt on the 24th with two on the 30th. There were also two American Avocets on the 27th. There were two Greater Yellowlegs on the 7th with singles on the 12th and 30th. There were six Lesser Yellowlegs on the 8th with nine on the 26th. There were single Solitary Sandpipers on the 19th and 28th. Willet peaked at 100 on the 7th. For the Spotted Sandpiper there was one on the 11th and 12th., then from the 19th they were seen on ten days with four on the 24th. There were single Upland Sandpipers on the 18th and 28th. Whimbrel were seen on 13 days from the 3rd with 23 on the 20th and 57 on the 7th, the latter is a new high count. Ruddy Turnstone peaked at 140 on the 29th this is also a new high count. There was a Red Knot on the 16th with two on the 18th. Sanderling peaked at 90 on the 24th and the 25th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on six days with 60 on the 30th and 190 on the 18th (the first date). There were two Western Sandpipers on the 6th with one on the 21st. There were single Least Sandpipers on the 1st and 25th with three on the 16th and four on the 30th. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 18th. There were two Dunlin on the 26th. For the Stilt Sandpiper there were singles on the 13th and the 20th. There were 35 Short-billed Dowitcher on the 7th with two on the 18th. For the Long-billed Dowitcher there were two on the 18th. For Red-necked Phalarope there was one on the 7th with six on the 8th.

Laughing Gull peaked at 1,150 on the 3rd. Both the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were seen to the 28th. There were three Lesser Black-backed Gull on the 7th with one on the 8th and four on the 20th. For the Great Black-backed Gull there were two on the 7th with one on the 15th. There were two Gull-billed Terns on the 6th with singles on the 11th and 18th, then two seen on the 20th with one again on the 27th. There was a Caspian Tern on the 4th with two on the 5th and one on the 10th. Royal Terns peaked at 80 on the 6th. There were single Roseate Terns on the 7th and the 8th. Common Terns seen from the 6th to the 13th with 17 on the 8th, later there was one on the 20th. There were single Forster's Terns on the 1st, 7th and 8th with three on the 10th. Least Terns present all month with 55 on the 10th. It is possible that two pairs are nesting on my apartment roof. There were 23 Black Terns on the 8th with five on the 10th and one on the 20th. For Black Skimmer there were three on the 1st with three again on the 12th and one on the 20th.

There were single Common Ground-Dove on the 12th, the 16th and the 26th. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 27th. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 14th with a Barred Owl on the 26th. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 27th. For the Chuck-will's-widow there were two on the 11th, one on the 14th, four on the 26th (two females) and two on the 30th (one female). An Eastern Whip-poor-will flew to the north out at sea on the 20th. Chimney Swifts seen from the 6th with 11 on the 27th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 18th.

Belted Kingfishers were seen on 19 days (to the 29th) with three on the 10th. There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 15th. Single Downy Woodpeckers seen on five days. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 19 days with four on the 15th. There was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the 29th. Single Great Crested Flycatchers were seen on nine days from the 4th with two on the 24th. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 26th with two on the 30th.

There were single White-eyed Vireo on the 2nd and the 9th. There was a Yellow-throated Vireo on the 14th. There was a Blue-headed Vireo on the 25th. On that day there was also a Red-eyed Vireo. Up to nine Purple Martins seen daily with ten on the 28th. Tree Swallows seen on six days to the 26th when eight counted. There were single Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 12th, 19th and 23rd. There was a Bank Swallow on the 14th with five on the 15th, seven on the 19th and one on the 23rd. There were single Cliff Swallows on the 6th and 26th with two on the 27th. Barn Swallows peaked at 205 on the 30th. Single Carolina Chickadee were seen on seven days. Up to two Tufted Titmouse seen/heard on 22 days. There were single House Wren on the 1st, 5th and 10th. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 26th. There were two Eastern Bluebirds on the 2nd and 5th with singles on the 14th, 16th and 17th. For the migrant thrushes there was a Veery on the 30th, two Swainson's Thrush also on the 30th with a Hermit Thrush on the 26th. There was an American Robin on the 30th. A Gray Catbird was seen on ten days to the 27th. There was a Brown Thrasher on the 4th with another from the 24th to the 29th. Cedar Waxwings were seen on 15 days to the 30th with 155 on the 11th.

Northern Parula were seen on six days from the 1st with six on the 25th a new high count. There was a Yellow Warbler on the 19th with two on the 26th. There were single Cape May Warblers on the 9th and 25th with three on the 26th and two on the 30th. There were single Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 19th, 24th and 30th. There were single Yellow-rumped Warbler on the 2nd, 19th and 26th. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 12th. A rarity was a Pine Warbler on the 1st. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 19th. Palm Warblers seen to the 19th with one on the 30th. There was a Blackpoll Warbler on the 24th with three on the 26th and four on the 30th. Black-and-white Warblers used to be very uncommon but not this year. There were three on the 19th with four on the 24th, two on the 25th, one on the 29th and two on the 30th. American Redstarts were seen on six days with six on the 19th and five on the 30th. There was a Prothonotary Warbler on the 28th. There were single Northern Waterthrush on the 22nd and the 30th. There were single Common Yellowthroats on five dates with eight on the 26th a new high count.

There was a Song Sparrow on the 1st. There were single Blue Grosbeak on the 10th, 14th and 26th. Indigo Buntings were seen on six days from the 10th to the 27th with three on the 17th. There was a Painted Bunting on the 25th. There was a Dickcissel on the 17th. Bobolink were seen on six days from the 8th with 175 on the 26th and 180 on the 30th. An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird flew to the north by the river on the 25th a major rarity. There were 20 Brown-headed

Cowbirds on the 2nd with singles on three days to the 25th, then three seen on the 26th. For the orioles there was an Orchard on the 25th with a Baltimore on the 10th. Finally, House Finches peaked at ten on the 26th.

Harry Robinson