

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS MAY, 2026

Another crazy month as during the month 150 species located (the previous best year was 2023 with 140 species). This was over 31 surveys and 135 hours. The yearly total now stands at 241 which is higher than the highest total to the end of June. The best day was the 3rd with 70 species and 1,540 birds.

There was a Cory's Shearwater on the 18th. There was a Northern Gannet on the 2nd with two on the 3rd. Brown Pelicans peaked at 146 on the 23rd.

There was a Least Bittern on the 12th. Great Blue Herons peaked at 37 on the 11th. A Great White Heron flew to the north (inshore) on the 29th. There were single Reddish Egrets on the 3rd, 5th, 12th, 24th and 27th. There were single Green Herons on the 8th, 9th, 13th and 14th with two on the 11th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 9th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen on 16 days from the 8th with three on the 31st. White Ibis peaked at 32 on the 26th. Glossy Ibis were seen on 11 days with nine on the 18th. Roseate Spoonbill were also seen on 11 days with 19 on the 12th. For the vultures there were 25 Black on the 3rd and 21 Turkey on the 28th.

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks flew to the north over the river on the 29th. There was a Muscovy Duck on the 14th. There were two Wood Duck on the 24th. There were single Mottled Duck on the 12th and 21st with two on the 14th. There was a Lesser Scaup on the 6th and the 7th. There was a Red-breasted Merganser on the 9th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen on 19 days with counts of four on the 1st and 3rd. Mississippi Kites were seen on 13 days with three on the 3rd. Up to two Bald Eagles were seen to the 13th. There were single Northern Harriers on the 1st and 2nd. There were single Cooper's Hawk on the 8th, 12th and 14th. There was a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 5th. There was a Red-tailed Hawk on the 6th. There were single American Kestrel on the 17th and 24th. Single Merlins were seen on seven dates to the 19th with three on the 3rd and two on the 4th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 7th. Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 34 on the 16th, the last was one on the 28th. There were single American Golden-Plover on the 12th and 15th. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 2nd. Semipalmated Plovers were seen on 20 days to the 31st with 65 on the 4th and 150 on the 15th the latter is a new high count. On the 31st a flock of 18 flew to the north. Single Killdeer were noted on the 6th, 10th and 21st with three on the 17th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 3rd. For Black-necked Stilt there were two on the 28th. There were two American Avocet on the 18th. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 4th with 12 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 3rd. There was also a Solitary Sandpiper on the 3rd. Willet were seen on seven dates (up to two a day) the last being seen on the 19th. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 17

days to the 19th with one on the 28th. The high count was that of 12 on the 14th a new high count. There were single Whimbrel on the 1st and 3rd with 15 on the 14th, then two seen on the 15th with one on the 26th. A Long-billed Curlew flew to the north on the 14th just the third park record. Ruddy Turnstone peaked at 120 on the 3rd the last were three on the 30th. There was a Red Knot (summer plumage) on the 17th. Sanderling peaked at 200 on the 4th the last were seen on the 28th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen to the 30th with 855 on the 3rd and 505 on the 15th. Least Sandpipers were seen on six dates from the 3rd to the 14th with 18 on the 11th. For White-rumped Sandpiper there were four on the 3rd, one on the 4th, five on the 14th and one on the 15th. There was a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 2nd. There was a Dunlin on the 15th with a Stilt Sandpiper on the 4th. There was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the 15th.

Laughing Gulls peaked at 264 on the 6th. For Ring-billed Gull there were singles on the 1st and 3rd. For Herring Gull there was one on the 5th. There were single Gull-billed Terns on the 3rd, 4th, 12th and 18th. Caspian Terns were seen on nine days with 11 on the 16th. Royal Terns peaked at 75 on the 3rd. There were single Sandwich Tern on the 6th and 12th with two on the 26th. There was a Roseate Tern on the 3rd with five Common Terns on the 4th. There was also an Arctic Tern on the 4th. Least Terns were seen on 20 days to the 31st with ten on the 7th. There was a Black Tern on the 4th. Black Skimmers were seen on 15 days to the 31st with 13 on the 2nd. Probably the craziest record of the year was a first-winter Razorbill that flew to the north on the 31st.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 1st. Up to two Common Ground-Doves were seen on seven days. There were two Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 1st. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 14th. There were single Great Horned Owls on the 8th, 12th and 14th. There was a Barred Owl on the 7th. A Common Nighthawk was seen on the 13th. Up to three Chuck-will's-widows heard all month with six on the 8th. The two females were in their respective locations all month. Chimney Swifts peaked at 14 on the 5th and 16 on the 23rd. Belted Kingfisher were seen on seven days to the 24th with two on the 8th and the 16th. Up to two Downy Woodpeckers were seen on six days. Single Northern Flicker were seen on the 7th and 25th. Pileated Woodpeckers were noted on 21 days with four on the 29th.

Up to two Great Crested Flycatchers seen on 19 days. There was an Eastern Kingbird on the 5th with three on the 19th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 23rd. Also, on the 23rd there were two Loggerhead Shrikes. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 8th. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 24th. Purple Martins peaked at 12 on the 1st and 16 on the 24th. There were two Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 2nd with two on the 15th. There was a Bank Swallow on the 4th. Barn Swallows peaked at 66 on the 15th. Single Carolina Chickadee were seen on seven days with two on the 3rd. Tufted Titmouse present all month with counts of four on the 3rd and 17th. There were two Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 10th. There were single Eastern Bluebirds on the 3rd, 21st, 26th and 28th. There were single Gray-cheeked Thrush on the

4th and 7th with two on the 8th. There were single Swainson's Thrushes on the 1st and the 4th with two on the 7th. There was a Wood Thrush on the 5th. There were two American Robin on the 3rd with a Gray Catbird on the 2nd. Single Brown Thrashers were seen on six days. There were ten Cedar Waxwing on the 1st with 20 on the 3rd.

There were single Tennessee Warblers on the 2nd and 8th. Northern Parula were seen on five days to the 11th with five on the 8th. There were single Yellow Warblers on the 8th and 11th. There was a Chestnut-sided Warbler on the 8th. There was a Cape May Warbler on the 2nd with two on the 8th. There were single Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 1st and 11th with four on the 8th (a new high count). There were single Palm Warblers on the 1st and 5th. For the Blackpoll Warbler there were 18 on the 1st (new high count) with seven on the 2nd, 11 on the 8th and two on the 12th. For the Black-and-white Warbler there were five on the 1st (new high count), two on the 8th and one on the 12th. For the American Redstart there were eight on the 1st, five on the 2nd, one on the 3rd, 122 on the 8th, 13 on the 11th, three on the 12th and two on the 13th. The count of 122 is a huge new high count. There was an Ovenbird on the 7th and the 8th. For the Common Yellowthroat there were singles on the 1st and the 3rd with 13 on the 8th (new high count), four on the 11th and one on the 13th.

There was a Summer Tanager on the 15th with a Scarlet Tanager on the 2nd. There were three Indigo Bunting on the 2nd with two on the 9th and one on the 14th. For Bobolink there were 105 on the 1st, eight on the 2nd, six on the 3rd, 25 on the 4th, 35 on the 8th, two on the 10th and two on the 11th. For the House Finches the high count was that of 19 on the 27th. Finally, there was an American Goldfinch on the 17th.

June should be the quietest month of the year, but this year?

Harry Robinson