

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS JUNE, 2026

Another month, June is always the slowest month of the year but we did manage to record 99 species. This is the second highest June count as there were 103 in 2024. For this year there were 30 surveys over 127 hours. So far there have been 243 species this year. The best days were the 4th with 630 birds and the 21st with 52 species.

On the 4th there were single Sooty Shearwater and Northern Gannet. The high count for the Brown Pelican was that of 172 on the 3rd. There were 63 Anhinga on the 24th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 1st, 6th and 15th. There were also single Green Herons on the 5th, 9th and 13th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 2nd. Up to two Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seen daily with five on the 26th. White Ibis peaked at 188 on the 23rd. Glossy Ibis were seen on 14 days with 45 on the 26th. Roseate Spoonbills were seen on ten days with counts of six on the 10th and 22nd. There were five Wood Storks on the 21st with singles on the 22nd and the 23rd., then five seen on the 24th with three on the 25th. For the vultures there were 21 Black on the 2nd with 32 Turkey on the 8th.

There were 11 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the 1st with 18 on the 5th the latter is a new high count. This species nests in the fall hence the summer sightings. For Wood Duck there were three on the 9th with two on the 23rd and six on the 29th the latter is another new high count. Totally out of season was a Black Scoter that flew to the north on the 20th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen all month with 12 on the 8th. Mississippi Kites were seen on eight days with seven on the 11th and eight on the 14th (a new high count). There were two Bald Eagles on the 15th with one on the 28th. Single Cooper's Hawks were seen on the 1st, 15th, 18th, 20th and 29th. There was a light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 15th. There were single Red-tailed Hawk on the 3rd and 15th.

There was a Wild Turkey on the 28th this is the second park record. There were single Sandhill Cranes on the 1st and the 24th. There was a Black-bellied Plover on the 14th. There were five Semipalmated Plover on the 1st with seven on the 3rd and five on the 4th. There were single Killdeer on the 7th, 21st and 28th. There was an American Oystercatcher on the 2nd with two on the 15th. There were two Black-necked Stilts on the 17th with 16 on the 21st, three on the 22nd and four on the 25th. These early records possibly relate to failed breeders. There were single Willets on the 5th and 21st. There was a Spotted Sandpiper on the 11th. There were two Ruddy Turnstone on the 1st with one on the 9th and 11 on the 18th. There were three Sanderling on the 10th. There was also a Semipalmated Sandpiper on the 9th. Finally, for this group there was a Short-billed Dowitcher on the 7th.

Laughing Gulls peaked at 330 on the 4th. There was a Ring-billed Gull on the 8th. There were single Caspian Terns on the 16th, 21st and 22nd. Royal Terns peaked at 19 on the 3rd. Sandwich Terns were seen on four days with four on the 16th. There was a Common Tern on the 3rd with two on the 4th and one on the 15th. There were three Arctic Terns on the 4th (see Sooty Shearwater and Northern Gannet). There was a Forster's Tern on the 11th. Least Terns peaked at 17 on the 26th. There were two Black Terns flying to the south on the 25th. There were two Black Skimmers on the 1st with two on the 8th, four on the 12th, two on the 15th and one on the 29th.

There were single White-winged Dove on the 11th and 21st. Common Ground-Doves were seen on nine days with three on the 12th. The two female Chuck-will's-widows were heard to the 2nd with one to the 27th. There were also two males calling on the 2nd and the 22nd. Chimney Swifts peaked at 15 on the 1st. There was also a Belted Kingfisher on the 1st. There was a Red-headed Woodpecker on the 28th. There were 11 Red-bellied Woodpeckers on the 13th and 14th with 13 on the 29th, the latter is a new high count. Downy Woodpeckers were seen on 12 days one to two a day. There were two Northern Flickers on the 11th a new high count. Pileated Woodpeckers seen all month with ten on the 7th a new high count. The excess of new high counts this month probably indicates a good breeding season.

There appear to be two pairs of Great Crested Flycatchers this year. There were single Eastern Kingbirds on the 11th and 27th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 24th. There were single Loggerhead Shrike on the 4th, 5th and 28th with two on the 30th. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 17th. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 27th. There were 15 Purple Martin on the 13th with 17 on the 19th, only three left by the 30th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 13th. Barn Swallows were seen on 13 days with a peak count of 14 on the 2nd.

There were single Carolina Chickadee on the 2nd, 5th, 8th and 11th. There were one to two Tufted Titmouse all month with three on the 21st. Up to two Eastern Bluebird seen all month with two adults and a juvenile on the 12th and 13th a first breeding record. There was a Gray Catbird on the 28th (there are three other June records). Single Brown Thrashers were seen on eight days. A Common Yellowthroat came in off the sea on the 27th. There was a Summer Tanager on the 14th. Single Brown-headed Cowbirds seen on six days with 19 on the 21st. Finally, House Finches peaked at 21 on the 7th.

Harry Robinson