

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK-BIRD COUNTS JULY, 2026

Another month but not the highest count this time. Instead, there was an unexpected addition to the list. For the year 247 species seen with 345 ever. For the month there were 106 species over 31 days and 127 hours. The best days were the 12th with 52 species and the 31st with 1,312 birds.

For the shearwaters there was a Cory's on the 2nd, two Scopoli's on the 2nd, one Great also on the 2nd with an Audubon's on the 23rd. Brown Pelican peaked at 172 on the 25th.

There were single Green Herons on the 1st, 9th, 10th, 18th and 29th with two on the 5th. There were also single Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 4th and 19th. There were single Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the 3rd, 8th, 10th, 12th and 16th. White Ibis peaked at 158 on the 7th. Glossy Ibis were seen on eight days with 35 on the 11th and 30 on the 26th. Roseate Spoonbill were seen on nine days with nine on the 1st. There were single Wood Storks on the 2nd and 22nd. For the vultures there were eight Black on the 7th and 34 Turkey on the 25th. The only ducks were four Wood Duck on the 7th.

Swallow-tailed Kites were seen on 11 days with four on the 4th. Mississippi Kites were seen on 16 days with counts of two on 1st, 6th, 16th and 30th. There were single Cooper's Hawk on the 3rd and 29th. Single Red-tailed Hawk were seen on the 7th and 30th. There was a Sandhill Crane on the 5th.

There was a Black-bellied Plover on the 3rd with four on the 31st. There was a Wilson's Plover on the 30th. For the Semipalmated Plover there was one on the 2nd, nine on the 18th, six on the 22nd, three on the 23rd and one on the 27th. There was a Killdeer on the 12th. There were two Black-necked Stilts on the 11th with five on the 12th. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 9th with 20 on the 22nd. There was a Lesser Yellowlegs on the 10th with ten on the 22nd. There was a Solitary Sandpiper on the 23rd. Willets peaked at 305 on the 31st. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 12 days with five on the 30th. There were single Whimbrel on the 12th and 29th. There was a Marbled Godwit on the 19th (first for the year). Ruddy Turnstone seen from the 7th, up to five a day. Sanderling were seen from the 18th with 175 on the 20th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on 14 days from the 7th with 44 on the 22nd. There was a Western Sandpiper on the beach on the 27th. Least Sandpipers seen on eight days from the 8th with 13 on the 22nd. There were eight Pectoral Sandpipers on the 19th with three on the 24th and one on the 27th. There were also two Stilt Sandpiper on the 9th with one on the 21st and five on the 23rd. There were 20 Short-billed Dowitcher on the 22nd. Finally, for this group there was a Wilson's Phalarope on the 19th.

Laughing Gulls peaked at 490 on the 31st (most were flying south over the river). There were two Caspian Tern on the 3rd with one on the 31st. Royal Tern peaked at 41 on the 31st. Single Sandwich Terns were seen on five days with three on the 31st. Common Terns were seen on eight days from the 7th with three on the 31st. Least Terns peaked at ten on the 14th. Black Terns were seen on ten days from the 8th with eight on the 28th. There were single Black Skimmers on the 1st, 26th and 27th with two on the 8th and the 23rd.

One to two Common Ground-Doves seen on ten days with three on the 5th. Now to the new species. There was a Smooth-billed Ani at the park on the 28th, it took off flying to the west over A1A. There was a Barred Owl on the 4th. There were two Common Nighthawks on the 9th. Female Chuck-will's-widows were heard two on the 1st and singles on the 2nd, 4th, 10th and 19th with a male singing on the 4th. Chimney Swifts peaked at 23 on the 11th. There was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 23rd. Belted Kingfishers seen on 11 days from the 5th with three on the 29th. One to two Downy Woodpecker seen on 11 days. Up to four Pileated Woodpecker seen on 28 days with seven on the 4th and eight on the 16th.

Single Great Crested Flycatcher were seen on the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 11th and 17th. Single Eastern Kingbird were seen on the 2nd and 16th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 16th. Up to two Loggerhead Shrike seen all month with counts of three on the 8th and 28th. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 8th. There was a Florida Scrub-Jay on the 15th. Purple Martins seen daily to the 14th with 15 on the 12th. Later there were two on the 20th, four on the 25th, two on the 26th and one on the 29th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 16th with a Bank Swallow on the 27th. Barn Swallows were seen on ten days with 32 on the 27th.

For the Carolina Chickadee there was one on the 3rd, four on the 6th, five on the 9th (a new high count), one on the 10th and three on the 26th. One to two Tufted Titmouse seen on 12 days with four on the 6th and five on the 9th (another new high count). Eastern Bluebirds seen on six days with eight on the 31st. There were single Brown Thrasher on the 1st, 3rd and 18th. There were two Northern Parula on the 12th with one on the 22nd. There was a Yellow-warbler on the 18th. There was a Prairie Warbler on the 12th, also on the 12th there was a Common Yellowthroat. There was a Summer Tanager on the 13th. House Finches peaked at ten on the 4th.

At least the autumn should be getting busier now.

Harry Robinson