

TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK – BIRD COUNTS SEPTEMBER, 2026

Each month after about a week I prepare a list of the species seen in that month a year earlier. As the month moves along, I get many of the species. The list for September 2025 had 71 species and I got it down to 19 remaining. What was unusual this month is that I also saw 25 species that I did not see in 2025. In all I had 144 species there were 152 species in 2024. There were 30 surveys over 128 hours. So far this year there have been 259 species as against 261 in 2024 to the end of September. The best days were 62 species on the 6th and 1,361 birds on the 8th.

There were three Pied-billed Grebe on the 13th a new high count. There was a Cory's Shearwater on the 16th with a Scopoli's Shearwater on the 19th. There were single Great Shearwater on the 16th and the 19th. There was a Brown Booby on the 9th. Brown Pelican peaked at 215 on the 8th.

A party of three American Bittern flew to the south out at sea on the 14th a new high count. There was a Least Bittern on the 6th. There was a Reddish Egret on the 14th. There was a Green Heron on the 4th with four on the 6th and two on the 8th. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 20th. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were present all month with four on the 17th and the 19th. White Ibis peaked at 86 on the 25th. Glossy Ibis were seen on six days with seven on the 16th. There were six Roseate Spoonbill on the 1st with two on the 8th, one on the 10th and 12 on the 18th. There were single Wood Stork on the 7th and 15th with six on the 25th. For the vultures there were 50 Black on the 16th and 81 Turkey on the 3rd.

There were three Egyptian Goose on the 3rd with one on the 19th. There was a Muscovy Duck on the 6th. Blue-winged Teal were seen on 15 days with 250 on the 12th. There were two Northern Shoveler on the 12th. There were 12 Green-winged Teal on the 5th with 30 on the 11th and 20 on the 29th.

A Mississippi Kite was seen to the 21st with two on the 6th. Later there was one on the 29th. Bald Eagles were seen on eight days (all adults) with two on the 13th and three on the 17th. There were single Northern Harrier on the 20th, 26th and 28th with four on the 29th. There were also single Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 15th, 24th and 25th. Cooper's Hawks were seen on six days with two on the 23rd and the 25th. There was a Broad-winged Hawk on the 1st with two on the 25th. There were single Red-tailed Hawk on the 16th and the 25th. There were single American Kestrel on the 19th and 21st. Merlin were seen from the 12th with a total of 16 seen over eight days. There were four on the 30th. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen on the 16th, 22nd, 25th, 26th and 30th.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 26th. Semipalmated Plover were seen on eight days to the 15th with three on the 10th and the 13th. There were three American Oystercatcher on the 8th. There were 25 Black-necked Stilt on the 4th. There was an American Avocet on the 16th. Single Solitary Sandpiper were seen on the 10th and 13th. Willets peaked at 35 on the 1st; the last known eastern race was located on the 2nd. Spotted Sandpipers were seen on 12 days to the 20th with four on the 4th. There were single Marbled Godwit on the 10th, the 11th and the 28th. Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on 11 days to the 12th with 24 on the 5th. There were six Western Sandpipers on the 3rd with 50 on the 11th. There was also a White-rumped Sandpiper on the 11th. There were nine Pectoral Sandpiper on the 11th. There were three Short-billed Dowitcher on the 8th with 20 on the 10th. There was a Long-billed Dowitcher on the 15th. There were two Red-necked Phalarope on the 8th with eight on the 17th.

There was a Pomarine Jaeger on the 24th. There were two Parasitic Jaeger on the 8th, two on the 12th, three on the 16th and one on the 28th. There was an immature Long-tailed Jaeger on the 12th. Laughing Gulls peaked at 181 on the 16th. There were single lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 17th and 29th. There was a juvenile Sabine's Gull on the 8th with two on the 17th the latter a joint high count. Caspian Terns were seen on seven days with four on the 15th. Royal Terns peaked at 130 on the 16th. There were two Roseate Tern on the 12th. Common Terns were seen on 24 days with 408 on the 12th and 690 on the 8th. There were single Forster's Terns on the 2nd and the 26th. Up to two Least Terns were seen on eight days to the 12th. Black Terns were seen on 18 days to the 23rd with 388 on the 10th. Black Skimmers were seen on five days with three on the 1st and 20th.

Common Ground-Dove were seen on 12 days with four on the 6th. There were single Eastern Screech-Owl on the 12th and 28th. There were two Great Horned Owls on the 3rd with singles on the 6th and the 29th. There were single Common Nighthawk on the 6th and the 24th, the latter flew to the south out at sea. There were single female Chuck-will's-widow on the 8th and the 12th. Chimney Swifts were seen all month. There was a front from the 24th to the 27th. The wind was from the north-east. Flying to the north there were 28 on the 24th, 120 on the 25th (new high count), 23 on the 26th and 17 on the 27th. There were single Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 20th and the 26th. Belted Kingfishers were seen on 27 days with counts of five on the 3rd and the 22nd. Downy Woodpeckers were seen on 18 days with five on the 6th another new high count. Pileated Woodpeckers were noted on 22 days with seven on the 14th. There were single Great Crested Flycatcher on the 3rd and the 4th. Eastern Kingbirds were seen on six days with six on the 11th. There was a Gray Kingbird on the 5th with two on the 20th. There was a Loggerhead Shrike from the 5th to the 8th with two on the 14th and 15th. Later there was one on the 20th and the 22nd.

There was a Philadelphia Vireo on the 29th just the 3rd record. There were five Red-eyed Vireo on the 29th. Up to two Purple Martin seen to the 5th. Then with the front there were two

on the 24th, 21 on the 25th, 149 on the 26th (a new high count), four on the 27th and two on the 28th. As with the swifts all few to the north. Tree Swallow seen from the 24th with 25 on that date. There were two Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 24th. There was a Bank Swallow on the 1st. There were single Cliff Swallow on the 5th and 24th. Barn Swallow peaked at 95 on the 10th. Carolina Chickadee seen on six days with three on the 2nd and five on the 27th (a new high count). Tufted Titmouse were noted on seven days with four on the 27th, a joint high count. There was a House Wren on the 30th. There were single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 9th, 15th, 25th and 29th. Eastern Bluebirds were seen on 17 days with eight on the 7th. There were single Veery on the 6th and 28th. A single Brown Thrasher was seen on eight days.

There were single Tennessee Warbler on the 12th and 29th. Up to two Northern Parula seen on six days. Single Yellow Warbler were seen on the 13th and 14th. There was a Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 29th. Single Yellow-throated Warblers were seen on six days. There were single Prairie Warbler on the 6th and 9th with two on the 29th. There was a Blackpoll Warbler on the 27th. American Redstarts were seen on nine days with five on the 27th. There was a Worm-eating Warbler on the 29th (third record). There was an Ovenbird on the 19th. There was a Northern Waterthrush on the 26th with a Common yellowthroat on the 18th.

There were single Summer Tanager on the 1st and 8th with a Scarlet Tanager on the 10th. There was a Savannah Sparrow on the 23rd. There was a Blue Grosbeak on the 11th. There were two Indigo Bunting on the 10th, two on the 24th, one on the 26th and two on the 27th. There were two male Baltimore Orioles on the 26th. House Finch peaked at 11 on the 27th. Finally, a new high count for House Sparrow there were 59 on the 27th.

Harry Robinson