

JANUARY 02, 2023 - CUYAHOGA VALLEY MONTHLY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS.

ROUTE: Red Lock Trailhead south to Merriman Valley with a stop at Trail Mix in Peninsula.

TIME: 7:40am - 4:40pm TEMP.: 44F ~ 50F ~ 49F

COND.: Very foggy early, cloudy with very low ceiling and poor visibility; fog lifting somewhat at 8:30am; two rounds of sprinkles to light rain between 9:30am and 11:15am; no wind; no snow cover; very foggy again for last hour of census.

TRAIL COND.: Sloppy, soft, wet, and rutted in some spots; three dead ash trees across trail between Peninsula and

Hunt Farm Visitor Center on Bolanz Rd.; trail somewhat torn up from heavy machinery at Akron Compost Facility and

many limbs, branches, and debris on and along trail from Summit Metro Parks' removal of non-native honeysuckle

bushes from Akron Compost Facility to end of census route in Merriman Valley.

RIVER COND.: Slightly above normal.

FT. MI.: 13.51 OBS.: John Henry and Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 5 SPECIES, 1 DEAD.

1. Virginia Opossum - 1 (First January Record on Census)
2. Eastern Gray Squirrel - 4
3. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 3
4. Red Squirrel - 16
5. White-tailed Deer - 21 (9-pt., 8-pt., 6-pt. & 4-pt. bucks, 15 does, 2 yearlings)

X. Common Raccoon - 1 (dead)

II. BIRDS: 42 SPECIES, 2,051 TOTAL BIRDS.

(NOTE: m = male; f = female; ? = bird was seen but not sexed; * = bird was heard calling but not sexed)

1. Canada Goose - 472
2. American Wigeon - 3 (1m, 2f) (at Ira Beaver Marsh - Third Record on Census, First January Record on Census & Tied Census High from 03/2022)
3. American Black Duck - 22 (12m, 10f)
4. Mallard - 35 (19m, 12f, 4?)
5. Common Merganser - 5 (1m, 4f) (Fifth January Record on Census)
6. Rock Pigeon - 13
7. Mourning Dove - 70
8. Great Blue Heron - 4
9. Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 (adult f) (Second January Record on Census)
10. Bald Eagle - 5 (3 adult, 2 immature)
11. Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
12. Red-tailed Hawk - 3
13. Eastern Screech-Owl - 4 (2 gray morph, 1 red morph, 1 calling) (Fifth January Record on Census & Tied Census High from 11/2022)
14. Belted Kingfisher - 4 (1m, 3*)
15. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 5 (1m, 2?, 2*)
16. Downy Woodpecker - 14 (3m, 8f, 3*)

17. Hairy Woodpecker - 11 (5f,1?,5*)
18. Northern Flicker - 1 (f)
19. Pileated Woodpecker - 3 (1?,2*)
20. Merlin - 1 (f) (Fourth January Record on Census & Tied Census High from 16 other occasions)
21. Peregrine Falcon - 1 (m)
22. Blue Jay - 17
23. American Crow - 1,058 (New Census High - previous was 958 on 12/2014)
24. Black-capped Chickadee - 31
25. Tufted Titmouse - 15
26. Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 (m)
27. Cedar Waxwing - 14
28. White-breasted Nuthatch - 17 (4m,2f,1?,10*)
29. Brown Creeper - 1
30. Carolina Wren - 11
31. European Starling - 66
32. Eastern Bluebird - 3 (1f,2?)
33. House Sparrow - 31
34. House Finch - 7 (2m,3f,1?,1*)
35. American Goldfinch - 5
36. American Tree Sparrow - 35
37. White-throated Sparrow - 4
38. Song Sparrow - 6
39. Swamp Sparrow - 1
40. Red-winged Blackbird - 1 (*)
41. Rusty Blackbird - 1 (f) (Fifth January Record on Census)
42. Northern Cardinal - 45 (20m,15f,10*)

?? Unidentified Passerines - 3

III. AMPHIBIANS: 1 SPECIES.

1. Northern Spring Peeper - 6 (calling) (Second January Record on Census)

IV. FISHES: 4 SPECIES.

1. Central Mudminnow - 34 (in Lock 28, a.k.a. "Deep Lock" - Third January Record on Census)
2. Bluntnose Minnow - 31 (in "Dover Run" and Furnace Run - First January Record on Census)
3. Northern Hog Sucker - 1 (in Furnace Run - First January Record on Census)
4. Largemouth Bass - 1 (in Furnace Run - First January Record on Census)

Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.