

JANUARY 02, 2024 - CUYAHOGA VALLEY MONTHLY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS.

ROUTE: Red Lock Trailhead south to Merriman Valley with a stop at the Peninsula Coffee House.

TIME: 7:45am - 4:35pm TEMP.: 28F ~ 37F ~ 35F

COND.: Cloudy and gray from start until 12:20pm, then partly sunny with white clouds and blue skies until 2:45pm, then back to mostly cloudy; winds S at 5-7mph, shifting to SW; no snow cover; all water open.

TRAIL COND.: Poor; sloppy conditions as trail started to thaw; lots of standing water and mud in all low areas from rain during the previous week.

RIVER COND.: Slightly above normal from aforementioned rain.

FT. MI.: 13.10 OBS.: Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 6 SPECIES, 38 TOTAL.

1. Eastern Cottontail - 1 (First January Record on Census)
2. Eastern Gray Squirrel - 4 (1 black morph)
3. Red Squirrel - 20
4. American Beaver - 1 (Second January Record on Census)
5. Common Raccoon - 2 (Second January Record on Census)
6. White-tailed Deer - 10 (bucks: 4-ptr.,4-ptr., half an 8-ptr. - left antler sheared off -,8-ptr,6 does)

II. BIRDS: 43 SPECIES, 1,866 TOTAL.

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

1. Canada Goose - 51
2. American Black Duck - 19 (11m,8f)
3. Mallard - 33 (19m,14f)
4. Rock Pigeon - 1
5. Mourning Dove - 4
6. Ring-billed Gull - 258
7. Herring Gull - 6
8. Great Blue Heron - 3
9. Cooper's Hawk - 1 (m)
10. Bald Eagle - 6 (4 adult,2 immature)
11. Red-tailed Hawk - 8 (1 immature) (immature bird attempted to catch a Red Squirrel but failed)
12. Eastern Screech-Owl - 2 (1 gray morph,1 heard)
13. Belted Kingfisher - 4 (2m,2*)
14. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 26 (9m,8f,9*)
15. Downy Woodpecker - 17 (3m,8f,6*)
16. Hairy Woodpecker - 7 (4f,1?,2*)
17. Northern Flicker - 1 (m)
18. Pileated Woodpecker - 4 (1f,1?,2*)
19. Northern Shrike - 1 (at Lock 33 at Stanford Swamp - Third Record on Census, First January Record on Census & Tied Census High from 02/2014 & 03/2015)
20. Blue Jay - 23
21. American Crow - 717
22. Black-capped Chickadee - 20
23. Tufted Titmouse - 5
24. Golden-crowned Kinglet - 5 (1m,2f,2?)
25. White-breasted Nuthatch - 21 (5m,5f,2?,9*)
26. Brown Creeper - 2
27. Carolina Wren - 16
28. Winter Wren - 2 (Fifth January Record on Census)
29. European Starling - 79
30. Eastern Bluebird - 3 (1m,1f,1*)
31. American Robin - 232
32. House Sparrow - 17
33. House Finch - 8 (3m,3f,1?,1*)

34. American Goldfinch - 20
35. American Tree Sparrow - 8
36. Dark-eyed Junco - 3 (2m,1f)
37. White-throated Sparrow - 29
38. Song Sparrow - 8
39. Swamp Sparrow - 3
40. Red-winged Blackbird - 113 (31m,72f,10?)
41. Rusty Blackbird - 9 (6m,3f) (Fifth January Record on Census)
42. Common Grackle - 1 (Fifth January Record on Census)
43. Northern Cardinal - 30 (12m,8f,10*)

- ???. Unidentified Sparrow Species - 1
???. Unidentified Blackbird Species - 33 (one flock fly-over at end of census)
???. Unidentified Passerines - 5

III. FISHES: 2 SPECIES, 27 TOTAL.

1. Central Mudminnow - 21 (Fourth January Record on Census)
2. Bluntnose Minnow - 6 (Second January Record on Census)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.