

MARCH 03, 2022 - CUYAHOGA VALLEY MONTHLY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS.

ROUTE: Reverse of normal route: Merriman Valley north to Red Lock Trailhead.

TIME: 6:30am - 3:55pm TEMP.: 22F ~ 30F ~ 29F COND.: Cold and gray with plenty of cloud cover; temperatures rising ever so slightly and turning mostly cloudy; intermittent light flurries from 10:00am until 2:40pm; Ira Beaver Marsh had two small pockets of open water.

TRAIL COND.: Poor; icy and slick at southern end of trail, although the trail was free of snow after a half-inch dusting of snow overnight; still some stretches of packed snow from Peninsula north to Red Lock; trail thawing in some spots and turning soft and muddy; one sugar maple across the trail west of the Peninsula tunnel, a victim of the recent heavy snow, rain, then ice-storm; a portion of the trail base along the Cuyahoga River north of Stumpy Basin has some major shifting and may slide into river.

RIVER COND.: Still high and swift - no visible rockbars or sandbars; creeks feeding into the river still rushing out of the valley hillsides.

FT. MI.: 13.65 OBS.: John Henry (Merriman Valley to Bolanz Rd.) and Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 6 SPECIES, 51 TOTAL MAMMALS.

1. Eastern Chipmunk - 4
2. Eastern Gray Squirrel - 4 (2 black morph)
3. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 2
4. Red Squirrel - 22
5. Common Raccoon - 1 (Third March Record on Census)
6. White-tailed Deer - 18 (14 does,4?)

In the morning - fresh tracks of Coyote and Mink on the fresh snow.

II. BIRDS: 56 SPECIES, (1 SPECIES NEW TO CENSUS), 1,221 TOTAL BIRDS.

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

1. Canada Goose - 256
2. Trumpeter Swan - 2 (at Ira Beaver Marsh - Fourth Record on Census, First March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 04/2016)
3. Tundra Swan - 24 (one flock of 23 headed southwest just north of Ira Beaver Marsh and one single fly-over headed north above the east side of Stanford Swamp - Third March Record on Census)
4. Wood Duck - 3 (2m,1f) (a pair in Cuyahoga River at the Akron Water Pollution Control Station outflow and one male flying over Ira Beaver Marsh)
5. Gadwall - 10 (5m,5f) (3 pair at Ira Beaver Marsh and two pair in Szalay's northernmost and flooded corn field - New Census High - previous was 5 on 03/2021 & Fourth March Record on Census)
6. American Wigeon - 3 (2m,1f) (at Ira Beaver Marsh - New Census High - previous was 2 on 03/2021, Second Record on Census & Second March Record on Census)
7. American Black Duck - 13 (7m,6f)
8. Mallard - 35 (20m,15f)
9. Ring-necked Duck - 3 (m) (at Ira Beaver Marsh)
10. Bufflehead - 3 (m) (one at Ira Beaver Marsh and two in Cuyahoga River at Highland Rd. - Fifth Record on Census, First March Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 2 on 04/2014 & 04/2018)

11. Hooded Merganser - 4 (2m,2f) (in Brandywine Creek - Fifth March Record on Census)
12. Common Merganser - 8 (6m,2f)
13. Rock Pigeon - 3
14. Mourning Dove - 28
15. Killdeer - 7 (two along shore of Cuyahoga River at Lock 25 and five in Szalay's corn field behind the Everett Ranger Station)
16. Herring Gull - 1
17. Great Blue Heron - 2
18. Turkey Vulture - 1
19. Cooper's Hawk - 4 (1m,1 immature m,2f) (Tied Census High from 04/2020)
20. Bald Eagle - 3 (2 adult,1 immature)
21. Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
22. Red-tailed Hawk - 10
23. Belted Kingfisher - 3 (1m,2*)
24. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 27 (10m,7f,3?,7*)
25. Downy Woodpecker - 16 (4m,4f,1?,7*)
26. Hairy Woodpecker - 6 (1m,3f,2*)
27. Northern Flicker - 1 (*)
28. Pileated Woodpecker - 8 (1m,1f,4*,2 drumming)
29. American Kestrel - 1 (m) (perched atop a sycamore tree at the Akron Compost Facility - First March Record on Census)
30. Peregrine Falcon - 2 (1m,1f)
31. Blue Jay - 38
32. American Crow - 70
33. Fish Crow - 2 (at Bolanz Rd. parking lot/Szalay's corn field - New Species on Census - currently at 198 Species since 01/01/2010 - the following day I recorded some video with audio of one while the other one was carrying a stick - for whatever that's worth?)
34. Black-capped Chickadee - 25
35. Tufted Titmouse - 19
36. White-breasted Nuthatch - 21 (6m,2f,3?,10*)
37. Brown Creeper - 1
38. Winter Wren - 1 (Fourth March Record on Census)
39. Carolina Wren - 12
40. Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 (m)
41. Eastern Bluebird - 9 (4m,5f)
42. American Robin - 25
43. European Starling - 15
44. House Sparrow - 16
45. House Finch - 4 (1m,3?)
46. American Goldfinch - 4
47. American Tree Sparrow - 3
48. Dark-eyed Junco - 3 (f)
49. White-throated Sparrow - 19
50. Song Sparrow - 16
51. Eastern Meadowlark - 1 (at Szalay's corn field behind the Everett Ranger Station - First March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 04/2010, 06/2016 & 11/2017)
52. Red-winged Blackbird - 124 (14m,110 mixed flock)
53. Brown-headed Cowbird - 7 (3m,4f)

54. Rusty Blackbird - 220 (mixed flock - all at Szalay's corn field and Bolanz Rd. parking lot - as were the cowbirds, most of the red-wings and grackles)

55. Common Grackle - 27

56. Northern Cardinal - 44 (30,8f,6*)

?? Unidentified Passerines - 6

III. FISHES: 1 SPECIES, 6 TOTAL.

1. Central Mudminnow - 6 (all in Lock 28 - a.k.a. "Deep Lock" - Third March Record on Census)

Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.