

MARCH 04, 2024 - CUYAHOGA VALLEY MONTHLY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS.

ROUTE: Merriman Valley north to Red Lock (reverse of usual route), with a stop at the Peninsula Coffee Co.

TIME: 6:55am - 4:50pm TIME AFIELD: 9:55 TEMP.: 43F ~ 72F ~ 70F

COND.: Cool and partly cloudy early, warming throughout the day and turning sunny and unseasonably warm.

TRAIL COND.: Good, with the usual winter ruts and wet low areas.

RIVER COND.: Normal.

FT. MI.: 13.85 OBS.: John Henry and Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 8 SPECIES, 35 TOTAL. (Recorded since 01/01/2010)

1. Virginia Opossum - 1 (First March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 02/2010, 02/2011, 04/2015, 09/2017, 08/2019 & 01/2023)
2. Eastern Cottontail - 1 (First March Record on Census)
3. Eastern Chipmunk - 6
4. Eastern Gray Squirrel - 3 (2 black morph)
5. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 4
6. Red Squirrel - 18
7. Meadow Vole - 1 (Second March Record on Census)
8. Common Raccoon - 1 (Fifth March Record on Census)

II. BIRDS: 52 SPECIES, 1 HYBRID, 946 TOTAL. (Recorded since 01/01/2010)

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

1. Canada Goose - 107
2. Trumpeter Swan - 4 (Second March Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 2 on 04/2016, 03/2022, 09/2023 & 12/2023)
3. Wood Duck - 8 (5m,3f)
4. American Black Duck - 14 (9m,5f)
5. Mallard - 37 (24m,13f)
6. Common Merganser - 6 (1m,5f)
7. Rock Pigeon - 6
8. Mourning Dove - 35
9. Killdeer - 6
10. American Woodcock - 1 (Second March Record on Census)
11. Ring-billed Gull - 3
12. Herring Gull - 1
13. Great Blue Heron - 7
14. Turkey Vulture - 5
15. Bald Eagle - 1 (adult)
16. Red-shouldered Hawk - 6 (New Census High - previous was 4 on 11/2012, 01/2014, 04/2015 & 02/2024)
17. Red-tailed Hawk - 12 (1 immature)
18. Belted Kingfisher - 3 (*)
19. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 19 (5m,4f,4?,6*)
20. Downy Woodpecker - 13 (3m,4f,1?,5*)
21. Hairy Woodpecker - 1 (?)
22. Northern Flicker - 5 (1m,1f,1?,2*)
23. Pileated Woodpecker - 3 (1m,2*)
24. Peregrine Falcon - 2 (1m,1f)
25. Eastern Phoebe - 1 (calling at Yellow Creek - First March Record on Census)
26. Blue Jay - 19
27. American Crow - 75
28. Fish Crow - 9 (one flock headed southeast out of Deep Lock area - Third Record on Census, Second March Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 2 on 03/2022)
29. Black-capped Chickadee - 29
30. Tufted Titmouse - 20
31. Horned Lark - 1 (solo fly-over north of Boston - Third March Record on Census)

32. White-breasted Nuthatch - 19 (6m,2f,3?,8*)
33. Brown Creeper - 1 (singing up ravine south of Lock 31 - a.k.a. "Lonesome Lock")
34. Carolina Wren - 35 (New Census High - previous was 27 on 11/2019)
35. Winter Wren - 1 (singing just south of Peninsula and Rt. 303 bridge)
36. European Starling - 48
37. Eastern Bluebird - 4 (1m,2f,1*)
38. American Robin - 76
39. House Sparrow - 10
40. House Finch - 13 (4m,4f,4?,1*)
41. American Goldfinch - 9
42. American Tree Sparrow - 7
43. Dark-eyed Junco - 4 (2m,2f)
44. White-throated Sparrow - 21
45. Song Sparrow - 57
46. Swamp Sparrow - 1
47. Eastern Towhee - 1 (m)
48. Red-winged Blackbird - 40 (39m,1f)
49. Brown-headed Cowbird - 11 (8m,3f)
50. Rusty Blackbird - 33 (27m,6f)
51. Common Grackle - 48
52. Northern Cardinal - 43 (30m,8f,5*)

H. American Black Duck X Mallard - 1 (m) (Second March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 17 other occasions)
 ???. Unidentified Passerines - 4

III. REPTILES: 3 SPECIES, 565 TOTAL. (Recorded since 01/01/2010)

1. Common Snapping Turtle - 3 (First March Record on Census)
2. Red-eared Turtle - 15 (First March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 05/2018)
3. Midland Painted Turtle - 547 (Third March Record on Census)

IV. AMPHIBIANS: 4 SPECIES, 314 TOTAL. (Recorded since 01/01/2010)

1. Northern Spring Peeper - 12 (heard) (Third March Record on Census)
2. Western Chorus Frog - 1 (heard) (Second March Record on Census)
3. Green Frog - 1 (Second March Record on Census)
4. Wood Frog - 300 (both seen and heard and an estimate - every small pool seemed to be thriving with calling and/or mating frogs - Second March Record on Census)

V. FISHES: 2 SPECIES, 36 TOTAL.

1. Central Mudminnow - 4 (Fifth March Record on Census)
2. Bluntnose Minnow - 32 (First March Record on Census)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus, Akron, Ohio.