

AUGUST 08 & 09, 2021 - CUYAHOGA VALLEY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS.

ROUTE (08/08): Red Lock Trailhead south to Botzum Trailhead. ROUTE (08/09): Botzum Trailhead south to Merriman Valley.

TIME (08/08): 6:00am - 2:30pm TIME (08/09): 4:45pm - 6:15pm TEMP. (08/08): 64F ~ 82F ~ 73F ~ 75F TEMP. (08/09): 90F ~ 86F

COND. (08/08): Foggy at start, warming and turning mostly sunny; turning overcast with rumbles of thunder at 12:05pm starting with light sprinkles. We took refuge under a willow tree at the Ira Beaver Marsh hoping this would blow over - as there was no mention of any rain in the forecast. This eventually turned into a severe downpour with lightning, forcing us to leave our now worthless shelter - as there was no mention of this in the forecast! With no umbrellas or rain gear - as there was no mention of a possible monsoon in the forecast!! - we made our way to the vault toilets at the Ira Trailhead which had an overhead awning, and rode out the storm with 4 bicycle riders and 2 motorcycle riders - who all agreed - there was no mention of this in the forecast!!! Rain ending at 1:35pm and, wet and bedraggled, we made our way south to Botzum Trailhead to call it a day and finish the last leg the following day.

COND. (08/09): Hot, humid, and breezy with light sprinkles just as we ended.

TRAIL COND. (08/08): Good, turning soaked and puddled. TRAIL COND. (08/09): Good.

RIVER COND. (08/08): Low and mostly clear, turning swift and turbid after the rain. RIVER COND. (08/09): Slightly muddy.

FT. MI.: 13.63 OBS.: John Henry and Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 8 SPECIES, 1 DEAD.

1. Little Brown Myotis - 1
2. Eastern Cottontail - 1
3. Eastern Chipmunk - 10
4. Woodchuck - 3 (Fourth August Record on Census)
5. Eastern Gray Squirrel - 1 (black morph) (Fourth August Record on Census)
6. Red Squirrel - 10
7. White-tailed Deer - 4 (1 doe, 2 fawns, 1 unknown)

X. Meadow Vole - 1 (dead - trail casualty)

II. BIRDS: 60 SPECIES, 577 TOTAL BIRDS.

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

1. Canada Goose - 3
2. Wood Duck - 10 (4m, 2 immature m, 4f)
3. Mallard - 2 (f)
4. Common Merganser - 31 (females/immatures?) (one flock pushed downriver by kayakers - Second August Record on Census)
5. Rock Pigeon - 3
6. Mourning Dove - 12
7. Chimney Swift - 35

8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1 (*)
9. Killdeer - 1
10. Spotted Sandpiper - 1
11. Solitary Sandpiper - 1 (at "Deep Lock" rapids - Fifth August Record on Census)
12. Herring Gull - 1 (Second August Record on Census)
13. Double-crested Cormorant - 1 (Second August Record on Census)
14. Great Blue Heron - 5
15. Green Heron - 3
16. Turkey Vulture - 20 (all in one kettle over Merriman Valley)
17. Cooper's Hawk - 1 (m) (Third August Record on Census)
18. Bald Eagle - 1 (immature) (Third August Record on Census)
19. Red-tailed Hawk - 4 (1 immature)
20. Belted Kingfisher - 2 (f)
21. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 4 (*)
22. Downy Woodpecker - 4 (1m,3*)
23. Hairy Woodpecker - 1 (*)
24. Northern Flicker - 2 (*)
25. Peregrine Falcon - 1 (m) (under Ohio Turnpike bridge)
26. Eastern Kingbird - 7
27. Eastern Wood-Pewee - 8
28. Acadian Flycatcher - 1
29. Eastern Phoebe - 1
30. Yellow-throated Vireo - 1
31. Warbling Vireo - 4 (1 juvenile being fed by parent)
32. Red-eyed Vireo - 3
33. Blue Jay - 25
34. American Crow - 12
35. Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 1
36. Purple Martin - 3 (2 immature)
37. Barn Swallow - 3
38. Black-capped Chickadee - 15
39. Tufted Titmouse - 12
40. White-breasted Nuthatch - 7 (1m,1f,1?,4*)
41. House Wren - 2
42. Carolina Wren - 12
43. American Robin - 67 (2 immature)
44. Gray Catbird - 11
45. European Starling - 18
46. Cedar Waxwing - 25
47. House Sparrow - 24
48. House Finch - 5 (1m,2f,2?)
49. American Goldfinch - 26 (15m,2f,2?,7*)
50. Song Sparrow - 14
51. Swamp Sparrow - 3
52. Eastern Towhee - 3 (1m,2*)
53. Baltimore Oriole - 5 (m)
54. Red-winged Blackbird - 6 (5m,1f)
55. Common Grackle - 50

56. Common Yellowthroat - 4 (2m,1 immature m,1f)
57. Hooded Warbler - 2 (1m,1*)
58. American Redstart - 1 (m) (First August Record on Census)
59. Northern Cardinal - 32 (22m,3f,5*,2 immature*)
60. Indigo Bunting - 10 (6m,1f,1 juvenile,2*)

Unidentified Passerines - 4

III. REPTILES: 6 SPECIES.

1. Common Snapping Turtle - 7
2. Stinkpot - 1 (Second August Record & Tied Census High from 06/2017, 05/2018, 08/2018, 07/2019 & 07/2020)
3. Red-eared Turtle - 1 (Fifth August Record on Census)
4. Midland Painted Turtle - 83
5. Eastern Spiny Softshell - 3
6. Eastern Garter Snake - 1 (First August Record on Census)

IV. AMPHIBIANS: 3 SPECIES.

1. Northern Spring Peeper - 2 (heard) (Second August Record on Census)
2. Bullfrog - 2 (1 tadpole)
3. Green Frog - 4 (heard)

V. FISHES: 10 SPECIES, 1 SPECIES NEW TO CENSUS.

1. Central Mudminnow - 58 (all in "Deep Lock" - Third August Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 46 on 04/2019)
2. Creek Chub - 5
3. Western Blacknose Dace - 5 (Second Record on Census, First August Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 2 on 05/2015)
4. Bluntnose Minnow - 27 (Second August Record on Census)
5. Northern Hog Sucker - 2
6. Golden Redhorse - 3 (where Boston Run empties into the Cuyahoga River in Peninsula - New Fish Species on Census - currently at 25 Species since 01/2010)
7. Largemouth Bass - 3
8. Bluegill - 5
9. Pumpkinseed - 1
10. Barred Fantail Darter - 2 (Second Record on Census, First August Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 1 on 07/2010)

VI. CRUSTACEANS: 1 SPECIES.

1. Crayfish - 2 (Third Record on Census - all in August)

VII. BUTTERFLIES: 6 SPECIES.

1. Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - 5
2. Cabbage Butterfly - 13
3. Clouded Sulphur - 3
4. Summer Azure - 2
5. Silver-spotted Skipper - 3
6. Peck's Skipper - 2 (Second Record on Census, First August Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 1 on 06/2021)

VIII. DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES (Recorded since 2018): 6 SPECIES.

1. Slaty Skimmer - 2 (Fourth August Record on Census)
2. Widow Skimmer - 1 (Fourth August Record on Census)
3. Black Saddlebags - 1 (Fourth August Record on Census)
4. Ebony Jewelwing - 4 (Fourth August Record on Census)
5. Blue-fronted Dancer - 5 (Fourth August Record on Census)
6. Blue-tipped Dancer - 4 (Fourth August Record on Census)

IX. WILDFLOWER (of note): 1 SPECIES.

1. Cardinal-flower (currently in bloom)

Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.