

FEBRUARY 02, 2025 - OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MONTHLY CENSUS.

ROUTES: East Side, Boss Unit (parking lot), Fox Unit (parking lot), West Side and Western Prairies in the morning and Wildlife Drive in the afternoon.

OBS. EAST, BOSS & FOX: Jim Koppin, Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht. OBS. WEST: Susan Brauning, Katie Clink, Donna Kuhn, George Novosel, Chris Pierce, Tony Szilagye, Tracy Wiczer.

OBS. WESTERN PRAIRIES: Douglas W. Vogus. OBS. WILDLIFE DRIVE: Jim Koppin, Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus.

TIME: 7:20am - 12:00pm; 1:00pm - 3:45pm TIME AFIELD: 7:25 TEMP.: 23F ~ 36F

COND.: Cold and gray for most of the morning with light south winds; brief sleet starting at 10:19am quickly changing to steady light snow and then big flakes of snow until noon; brief rain at start of Wildlife Drive, then ending; gray, calm, and warmer during the afternoon; all canals, ditches, and impoundments frozen - except for a small opening in Pool1 on the East Side; Lake Erie frozen from the shoreline out to an open lead just far enough out to make the ducks tough to identify with a spotting scope, then frozen again, then open too far out to identify anything; Metzger Marsh had one small opening near the Ottawa fish gate that held just Canada Geese and three species of swans.

I. MAMMALS: 6 SPECIES, 30 TOTAL MAMMALS. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Eastern Cottontail - 3
2. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 4
3. White-footed Mouse - 3
4. Common Raccoon - 1
5. Striped Skunk - 1 (Fifth Record on Census, First February Record on Census & Tied Census High from 03/2008, 09/2012, 05/2023 & 07/2024)
6. White-tailed Deer - 18 (does)

II. BIRDS: 53 SPECIES, 3,118 TOTAL BIRDS. (Recorded since 03/02/1969)

1. Canada Goose - 537
2. Mute Swan - 3

3. Trumpeter Swan - 85
4. Tundra Swan - 629
5. Gadwall - 2
6. American Wigeon - 3
7. Mallard - 15
8. Canvasback - 10
9. Redhead - 65
10. Greater Scaup - 4 (Third February Record on Census)
11. Lesser Scaup - 6
12. Common Goldeneye - 830
13. Common Merganser - 47
14. Ruddy Duck - 38
15. Mourning Dove - 79
16. Sandhill Crane - 82
17. Ring-billed Gull - 18
18. Herring Gull - 6
19. Great Blue Heron - 56
20. Northern Harrier - 8
21. Sharp-shinned Hawk - 2
22. Cooper's Hawk - 3
23. Bald Eagle - 54 (33 adult,17 immature,4 unknown)
24. Red-tailed Hawk - 8
25. Great Horned Owl - 1
26. Short-eared Owl - 2 (D. W. Vogus - one flushed from Grimm Prairie & one flushed from Stange Prairie)
27. Red-headed Woodpecker - 4
28. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 5
29. Downy Woodpecker - 20
30. Hairy Woodpecker - 3
31. Northern Flicker - 5

32. American Kestrel - 2
33. Northern Shrike - 1 (along Crane Creek mudflats just south of MS 3 in the afternoon)
34. Blue Jay - 31
35. Black-capped Chickadee - 9
36. Tufted Titmouse - 2
37. Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 (J. Reyda's East Side group at Boss Unit parking lot)
38. White-breasted Nuthatch - 6
39. Brown Creeper - 1
40. Carolina Wren - 3
41. Winter Wren - 1
42. Marsh Wren - 1 (observed by D.W. Vogus in southwest corner of MS 7 - tail end "rattle" was heard and then 'pished' bird out of small stand of phragmite island in the cattails - Second February Record on Census - first was 02/03/1980)
43. European Starling - 107
44. American Robin - 7
45. House Sparrow - 5
46. American Goldfinch - 4
47. American Tree Sparrow - 212
48. Dark-eyed Junco - 24
49. White-throated Sparrow - 1
50. Song Sparrow - 13
51. Swamp Sparrow - 7
52. Red-winged Blackbird - 1 (East Side fly-over)
53. Northern Cardinal - 23
- ?? Unidentified Swan Species - 11
- ?? Unidentified Duck Species - 13 (distant fly-bys)
- ?? Unidentified Sparrow Species - 2 (one in Grimm Prairie & one in Stange Prairie)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.