

DECEMBER 01, 2024 - OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MONTHLY CENSUS.

ROUTES: East Side & Fox Unit parking lot, West Side, and Western Prairies & Henry Marsh in the morning;

Wildlife Drive in the afternoon.

TIME: 7:30am - 12:00pm; 12:55pm - 3:50pm TIME AFIELD: 7:25 TEMP.: 21F ~ 31F

COND.: Cold and cloudy; windchill at 8F; winds light and from the west; intermittent flurries throughout the morning but no snow cover; impoundments, ditches, and canals frozen; one open area in the Crane Creek floodplain and one smaller open area in MS5 on the Wildlife Drive; Lake Erie open and lower than normal; most ditches low.

OBS. EAST & FOX UNIT: Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht. OBS. WEST: Katie Clink, Jennifer Kuehn, Donna Kuhn, Lindsay McPherson, David & Kim Myles, George Novosel, Chris Pierce, Tracy Wiczner.

WESTERN PRAIRIES & HENRY MARSH: Douglas W. Vogus. WILDLIFE DRIVE: Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus

I. MAMMALS: 3 SPECIES, 19 TOTAL. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Virginia Opossum - 1 (Fourth December Record on Census)
2. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 12
3. White-tailed Deer - 6 (does)

II. BIRDS: 63 SPECIES, 13,142 TOTAL. (Recorded since 03/02/1969)

1. Canada Goose - 1,375
2. Trumpeter Swan - 215
3. Tundra Swan - 3,413
4. Wood Duck - 1 (East Side - J. Reyda's Group)
5. Northern Shoveler - 37
6. Gadwall - 144
7. American Wigeon - 4
8. American Black Duck - 101
9. Mallard - 3,118
10. Northern Pintail - 13

11. Green-winged Teal - 26
12. Ring-necked Duck - 12
13. Bufflehead - 5
14. Hooded Merganser - 141
15. Common Merganser - 5
16. Ruddy Duck - 14
17. Pied-billed Grebe - 5
18. Horned Grebe - 1 (in Lake Erie off the Ottawa breakwall - J. Reyda & D. Vogus)
19. Mourning Dove - 8
20. Sandhill Crane - 82
21. Wilson's Snipe - 2
22. Bonaparte's Gull - 30
23. Ring-billed Gull - 342
24. Herring Gull - 1
25. Double-crested Cormorant - 1
26. American White Pelican - 150 (Fourth December Record on Census & first time this species has been recorded in all 12 months of calendar year)
27. Great Blue Heron - 64
28. Northern Harrier - 11
29. Sharp-shinned Hawk - 3 (Fifth December Record on Census)
30. Cooper's Hawk - 1
31. Bald Eagle - 58 (27 adult, 31 immature)
32. Red-tailed Hawk - 7
33. Great Horned Owl - 1 (D. & K. Myles' Group)
34. Short-eared Owl - 1 (observed by G. Novosel around 7:25am hunting over Henry Marsh along Krause Rd.)
35. Red-headed Woodpecker - 4 (D. & K. Myles' Group)
36. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 13
37. Downy Woodpecker - 19
38. Hairy Woodpecker - 3

39. Northern Flicker - 6
40. American Kestrel - 2
41. Northern Shrike - 1 (G. Novosel's Group)
42. Blue Jay - 26
43. Black-capped Chickadee - 10
44. Tufted Titmouse - 1
45. White-breasted Nuthatch - 10
46. Carolina Wren - 2
47. Winter Wren - 1
48. European Starling - 662
49. Hermit Thrush - 1 (D. Vogus in the woods north of Henry Marsh - Third December Record on Census)
50. American Robin - 2
51. House Sparrow - 14
52. American Goldfinch - 38
53. Fox Sparrow - 1 (G. Novosel's Group)
54. American Tree Sparrow - 279
55. Dark-eyed Junco - 10
56. White-throated Sparrow - 26
57. Song Sparrow - 10
58. Swamp Sparrow - 2
59. Eastern Meadowlark - 1 (D. Vogus - flushed from Henry Marsh)
60. Red-winged Blackbird - 2,277 (most as early morning fly-overs at Grimm Prairie)
61. Rusty Blackbird - 70 (D. Vogus - one flock over Grimm Prairie)
62. Common Grackle - 1 (solo fly-over at Grimm Prairie)
63. Northern Cardinal - 11
- ?? Unidentified Duck Species - 247 (distant fly-overs)

Final 2024 Bird Totals: 204 Species, 105,160 Total Birds.

III. MOTHS/CATERPILLARS: 1 SPECIES, 2 TOTAL. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Isabella Tiger Moth - 2 (overwintering caterpillars) (Grimm Prairie - Fourth Record on Census, First December Record on Census & Tied Census High from 07/2024 & 11/2024)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.