

DECEMBER 04, 2022 - OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MONTHLY CENSUS.

ROUTES: East Side, West Side, and West Prairies in the morning; Auto Tour Area & Boss Unit in the afternoon.

TIME: 7:35am - 12:10pm; 1:15pm - 4:25pm TEMP.: 20F ~ 37F ~ 36F COND.: Crisp and cold early, turning sunny and slowly warming; winds SW at 5-10mph, shifting to W at 5-15mph in the afternoon; Lake Erie open; most impoundments were about half skim-ice and half open.

OBS. EAST: Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht. OBS. WEST: Susan Brauning, Katie Clink, Jennifer Kuehn, Donn Kuhn, David & Kim Myles, George Novosel, James O'Brien, Chris Pierce. OBS. WEST PRAIRIES: Douglas W. Vogus.

OBS. BOSS UNIT: George Novosel. OBS. AFTERNOON: Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 6 SPECIES. (Recorded since 04/2002)

1. Virginia Opossum - 1 (Third December Record on Census)
2. Eastern Cottontail - 1 (Fifth December Record on Census)
3. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 24
4. American Beaver - 1 (First December Record on Census & Tied Census High from 12 other occasions)
5. Common Muskrat - 1
6. White-tailed Deer - 3 (1 spike buck, 2 does)

II. BIRDS: 64 SPECIES, 12,338 TOTAL BIRDS. (Recorded since 03/1969)

1. Snow Goose - 4 (blue morph) (in the Crane Creek "estuary")
2. Canada Goose - 727
3. Mute Swan - 8
4. Trumpeter Swan - 148
5. Tundra Swan - 4,079
6. Northern Shoveler - 75
7. Gadwall - 250
8. American Wigeon - 10
9. American Black Duck - 86
10. Mallard - 4,433
11. Northern Pintail - 18
12. Green-winged Teal - 17
13. Ring-necked Duck - 9
14. Bufflehead - 17
15. Hooded Merganser - 81
16. Common Merganser - 123
17. Ruddy Duck - 8
18. Red-necked Grebe - 1 (First December Record on Census - in Lake Erie off of the Ottawa fish gate)
19. Mourning Dove - 47
20. American Coot - 50
21. Sandhill Crane - 94
22. Killdeer - 44
23. Dunlin - 9
24. Ring-billed Gull - 1,093
25. Herring Gull - 18
26. American White Pelican - 15 (Second December Record on Census)
27. Great Blue Heron - 54
28. Bald Eagle - 15 (8 adult, 7 immature)
29. Northern Harrier - 4
30. Red-tailed Hawk - 6
31. Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 (gray morph)
32. Great Horned Owl - 1
33. Red-headed Woodpecker - 16
34. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 15
35. Downy Woodpecker - 25

36. Hairy Woodpecker - 4
37. Northern Flicker - 9
38. American Kestrel - 3
39. Northern Shrike - 1
40. Blue Jay - 48
41. Black-capped Chickadee - 6
42. Tufted Titmouse - 6
43. Horned Lark - 25
44. Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1
45. White-breasted Nuthatch - 7
46. Brown Creeper - 1
47. Winter Wren - 2
48. Carolina Wren - 5
49. European Starling - 125
50. American Robin - 60
51. House Sparrow - 2
52. House Finch - 1
53. American Goldfinch - 33
54. Snow Bunting - 1
55. American Tree Sparrow - 290
56. Dark-eyed Junco - 22
57. White-throated Sparrow - 12
58. Song Sparrow - 12
59. Swamp Sparrow - 5
60. Eastern Meadowlark - 5 (one group in Grimm Prairie)
61. Red-winged Blackbird - 17
62. Rusty Blackbird - 3
63. Common Grackle - 2
64. Northern Cardinal - 26

Unidentified Swan Species - 2 (plus remains of two dead unidentified swans)

Unidentified Shorebird - 1 (along Crane Creek mixed in with Killdeer - too distant for adequate field marks, Pectoral Sandpiper-sized, not saying the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is still around, but...)

III. REPTILES: 1 SPECIES (DEAD). (recorded since 04/2002)

X. Eastern Garter Snake - 1 (dead)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.