

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

ROUTES: East Side, Fox Unit (parking lot), West Side, Western Prairies & Henry Marsh in the morning; Wildlife Drive in the afternoon (except where closed for eagle nesting).

OBS. EAST & FOX UNIT: Jim Koppin, Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht. OBS. WEST: Susan Brauning, Donna Kuhn, David Myles, Douglas Nims, Chris Pierce, Tony Szilagye, Tracy Wiczer.

OBS. WEST PRAIRIES & HENRY MARSH: Douglas W. Vogus.

OBS. WILDLIFE DRIVE: Bob Bartolotta, Claire Johnson, Jim Koppin, Douglas Nims, Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus.

TIME: 7:30am - 12:00pm; 1:10pm - 3:20pm TEMP.: 16F ~ 31F ~ 30F COND.: Cold and sunny early, temperatures slowly rising; turning cloudy at 10:30am; winds 5-10mph; Crane Creek mostly open; other impoundments starting to have open water; could not get to Lake Erie in the afternoon due to closures for eagle nesting.

* See addendum at end of document

I. MAMMALS: 8 SPECIES, 24 TOTAL. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Virginia Opossum - 1 (Fourth March Record on Census)
2. Eastern Cottontail - 3
3. Woodchuck - 1
4. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 7
5. White-footed Mouse - 3
6. Coyote - 1 (Second March Record on Census)
7. Common Raccoon - 1
8. White-tailed Deer - 7 (does)

II. BIRDS: 59 SPECIES, 6,769 TOTAL. (Recorded since 03/02/1969)

1. Greater White-fronted Goose - 13 (observed by J. Reyda and Douglas W. Vogus at end of day fly-over at Stange Prairie platform parking lot)
2. Cackling Goose - 11 (three on the ice and seven in the air for D. Kuhn's group and one in a flock of Canada Geese for D. Vogus over Stange Prairie - Fifth Record on Census, First March Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 9 on 11/1989)
3. Canada Goose - 1,628
4. Trumpeter Swan - 202
5. Tundra Swan - 2,008
6. Wood Duck - 1 (female - J. Reyda's East Side group)
7. Northern Shoveler - 15
8. Gadwall - 608
9. American Wigeon - 68
10. American Black Duck - 42
11. Mallard - 247
12. Canvasback - 2
13. Redhead - 9
14. Ring-necked Duck - 54
15. Lesser Scaup - 6
16. Bufflehead - 7
17. Common Goldeneye - 2
18. Hooded Merganser - 38
19. Common Merganser - 119
20. Ruddy Duck - 10

21. Mourning Dove - 50
22. Sandhill Crane - 74
23. Killdeer - 1
24. Ring-billed Gull - 192
25. Herring Gull - 2
26. Great Blue Heron - 7
27. Northern Harrier - 8
28. Cooper's Hawk - 2
29. Bald Eagle - 41 (23 adult, 18 immature)
30. Red-tailed Hawk - 6
31. Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 (gray morph - D. Myles's West Side group)
32. Great Horned Owl - 1 (D. Myles's West Side group)
33. Red-headed Woodpecker - 4
34. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 10
35. Downy Woodpecker - 9
36. Northern Flicker - 3
37. American Kestrel - 2
38. Northern Shrike - 1 (D. Kuhn's group)
39. Blue Jay - 27
40. American Crow - 7
41. Black-capped Chickadee - 5
42. Tufted Titmouse - 2
43. Horned Lark - 28
44. White-breasted Nuthatch - 9
45. Brown Creeper - 2
46. Carolina Wren - 1
47. European Starling - 192
48. American Robin - 9
49. House Sparrow - 29
50. American Goldfinch - 3
51. American Tree Sparrow - 122
52. Dark-eyed Junco - 26
53. White-throated Sparrow - 2
54. Savannah Sparrow - 2 (D. Vogus in Stange Prairie - Third March Record on Census)
55. Song Sparrow - 21
56. Red-winged Blackbird - 572
57. Rusty Blackbird - 8
58. Common Grackle - 32
59. Northern Cardinal - 43
- ???. Unidentified Duck Species - 123 (very distant flocks)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.

Add to the latest Ottawa N.W.R. Monthly Census:

Northern Pintail - 94

So, 60 Species, 6,863 Total Birds.

Also, just east of the refuge in a field at the corner of Rt. 2 were easily 2,400 Northern Pintail mixed in with geese and swans.

Other than the pintails, just a few American Wigeon and Mallard - so, ducks present were 99% all Northern Pintail.