

MARCH 03, 2024 - OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MONTHLY CENSUS.

ROUTES: East Side, West Side, and Western Prairies in the morning; Auto Tour in the afternoon.

OBS. EAST: Jim Koppin, Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht. OBS. WEST: Susan Brauning, Katie Clink, Donna Kuhn, David & Kim Myles, James O'Brien, Chris Pierce, Tracy Wiczer.

OBS. WESTERN PRAIRIES: Douglas W. Vogus.

OBS. AUTO TOUR: Bob Bartolotta, Claire Johnson, Jim Koppin, Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus.

TIME: 7:30am - 12:20pm; 1:20pm - 4:30pm TEMP.: 41F ~ 61F ~ 59F

COND.: Cloudy early and unseasonably pleasant; entire cloud shelf was blown north around 9:00am from south winds resulting in blue skies and breezy; mostly sunny in the afternoon; no snow cover and all water open; Lake Erie calm in the morning, but choppy in the afternoon as winds shifted to N/NE.

I. MAMMALS: 6 SPECIES, 34 TOTAL. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Eastern Cottontail - 7
2. Woodchuck - 1 (Fifth March Record on Census)
3. Eastern Fox Squirrel - 19
4. American Beaver - 1 (Third March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 15 other occasions)
5. Common Muskrat - 4
6. White-tailed Deer - 2

II. BIRDS: 65 SPECIES, 9,905 TOTAL. (Recorded since 03/02/1969)

1. Canada Goose - 602
2. Trumpeter Swan - 512 (New Census High - previous was 408 on 01/2020)
3. Tundra Swan - 1,284
4. Wood Duck - 6
5. Northern Shoveler - 68
6. Gadwall - 519
7. American Wigeon - 18
8. American Black Duck - 5
9. Mallard - 311
10. Northern Pintail - 206
11. Green-winged Teal - 51
12. Ring-necked Duck - 211
13. Lesser Scaup - 325
14. Bufflehead - 42
15. Common Goldeneye - 6
16. Hooded Merganser - 14
17. Common Merganser - 325
18. Red-breasted Merganser - 3
19. Ruddy Duck - 6
20. Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 (calling at Grimm Prairie)
21. Mourning Dove - 28
22. Sandhill Crane - 38
23. Killdeer - 46
24. American Woodcock - 3
25. Ring-billed Gull - 1,048
26. Herring Gull - 24
27. American White Pelican - 49 (one late afternoon flock headed east above Krause Rd./Stange Rd. intersection - First March Record on Census)
28. Great Blue Heron - 24
29. Northern Harrier - 7
30. Cooper's Hawk - 2
31. Bald Eagle - 30 (20 adult, 10 immature)
32. Red-tailed Hawk - 5

33. Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 (gray morph)
34. Great Horned Owl - 2
35. Belted Kingfisher - 1
36. Red-headed Woodpecker - 3
37. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 5
38. Downy Woodpecker - 16
39. Northern Flicker - 7
40. Pileated Woodpecker - 1 (east end of South Woods - Second March Record on Census & Tied Census High from 10 other occasions)
41. American Kestrel - 4
42. Northern Shrike - 1
43. Blue Jay - 33
44. American Crow - 26
45. Black-capped Chickadee - 1
46. Tufted Titmouse - 5
47. Horned Lark - 5
48. White-breasted Nuthatch - 4
49. Carolina Wren - 5
50. European Starling - 169
51. Hermit Thrush - 1 (First March Record on Census)
52. American Robin - 69
53. House Sparrow - 23
54. House Finch - 10
55. American Goldfinch - 20
56. Fox Sparrow - 2
57. American Tree Sparrow - 129
58. Dark-eyed Junco - 3
59. White-throated Sparrow - 1
60. Song Sparrow - 54
61. Eastern Meadowlark - 2
62. Red-winged Blackbird - 2,841
63. Rusty Blackbird - 60
64. Common Grackle - 524
65. Northern Cardinal - 37

???. Unidentified Swan Species - 7

???. Unidentified Duck Species - 14

III. REPTILES: 4 SPECIES, 7 TOTAL. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Map Turtle - 1 (First March Record on Census)
2. Midland Painted Turtle - 4 (First March Record on Census)
3. Blanding's Turtle - 1 (First March Record on Census)
4. Eastern Garter Snake - 1 (black morph) (First March Record on Census)

IV. AMPHIBIANS: 1 SPECIES, 1 TOTAL. (Recorded since 04/07/2002)

1. Northern Leopard Frog - 1 (Second March Record on Census)

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.