

AUGUST 06, 2023 - OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MONTHLY CENSUS.

ROUTES: East Side, West Side, Fox Unit & Western Prairies in the morning; Auto Tour Area in the afternoon; return visit to the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck location late afternoon.

OBS. EAST: Bob Bartolotta, Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht, Sheryl Young.

OBS. FOX UNIT: Bob Bartolotta, Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht, Sheryl Young.

OBS. WEST: Steve Borgis, Susan Brauning, Jennifer Kuehn, Donna Kuhn, George Novosel, Chris Pierce. OBS. WEST PRAIRIES: Douglas W. Vogus.

OBS. AUTO TOUR: Bob Bartolotta, Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus, Sheryl Young.

TIME: 7:40am - 12:25pm; 1:25pm - 4:55pm TEMP.: 70F ~ 81F ~ 78F ~ 80F

COND.: Light rain ending at 8:15am; mostly cloudy and breezy; winds E at 5-10mph; turning mostly sunny and hot; winds shifting from E/NE to SE, then W, then briefly N, and then NE by late afternoon; slight cold-front cooled things down briefly; then back to hot, and then humid; Lake Erie went from calm in the morning to rolling like a bathtub by late afternoon; not choppy, just rolling; all mudflats vanished - if there were any to begin with. Shorebird habitat - zero.

I. MAMMALS: 5 SPECIES.

1. Eastern Cottontail - 19
2. Woodchuck - 9
3. White-footed Mouse - 1 (First August Record on Census)
4. Common Muskrat - 1
5. White-tailed Deer - 5 (6-pt. buck, 2 doe, 2 fawn)

II. BIRDS: 78 SPECIES, 3,753 TOTAL BIRDS)

1. Canada Goose - 208
2. Trumpeter Swan - 115 (4 young)
3. Wood Duck - 128
4. Mallard - 694 (one large flock from west to east over Grimm Prairie was of 586 birds)
5. Pied-billed Grebe - 4
6. Mourning Dove - 33
7. Chimney Swift - 1
8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 21
9. Sora - 1
10. Common Gallinule - 5
11. Sandhill Crane - 4
12. Killdeer - 46
13. Semipalmated Plover - 4 (3 fly-over at Grimm Prairie & 1 fly-over at Henry Marsh)
14. Least Sandpiper - 1 (took flight with eight Killdeer at corner of Krause & Stange Rds.)
15. Spotted Sandpiper - 6 (all along Lake Erie breakwall west of Crane Creek)
16. Greater Yellowlegs - 1 (West Side - Novosel Group)
17. Lesser Yellowlegs - 10 (West Side Novosel Group)
18. Ring-billed Gull - 47
19. Herring Gull - 3
20. Caspian Tern - 8
21. Common Tern - 4
22. Double-crested Cormorant - 59

23. Great Blue Heron - 47
24. Great Egret - 200
25. Snowy Egret - 1
26. Green Heron - 4
27. Black-crowned Night-Heron - 2
28. Turkey Vulture - 4
29. Osprey - 2
30. Cooper's Hawk - 1
31. Bald Eagle - 16 (5 adult,11 immature)
32. Broad-winged Hawk - 1 (fly-over at Stange Rd. Observation Deck - Second August Record on Census)
33. Red-tailed Hawk - 3
34. Belted Kingfisher - 9
35. Red-headed Woodpecker - 2
36. Downy Woodpecker - 8
37. Northern Flicker - 19
38. American Kestrel - 1 (along Krause Rd.)
39. Great Crested Flycatcher - 1
40. Eastern Kingbird - 45
41. Eastern Wood-Pewee - 1
42. Willow Flycatcher - 4
43. Eastern Phoebe - 4
44. Blue Jay - 12
45. Black-capped Chickadee - 1\
46. Bank Swallow - 29
47. Tree Swallow - 359
48. Purple Martin - 199
49. Barn Swallow - 55
50. Cedar Waxwing - 9
51. White-breasted Nuthatch - 1
52. House Wren - 23
53. Sedge Wren - 1 (near Krause Rd.)
54. Marsh Wren - 8
55. Carolina Wren - 2
56. Gray Catbird - 24
57. Brown Thrasher - 4
58. European Starling - 275
59. Eastern Bluebird - 2
60. American Robin - 21
61. House Sparrow - 21
62. House Finch - 14
63. American Goldfinch - 30
64. Chipping Sparrow - 2
65. Field Sparrow - 6
66. Savannah Sparrow - 1
67. Song Sparrow - 50
68. Swamp Sparrow - 11
69. Eastern Meadowlark - 3 (all along Krause Rd. at Henry Marsh)

70. Baltimore Oriole - 4
71. Red-winged Blackbird - 658
72. Brown-headed Cowbird - 6
73. Common Grackle - 28
74. Common Yellowthroat - 19
75. Yellow Warbler - 24
76. Northern Cardinal - 24
77. Indigo Bunting - 36
78. Dickcissel - 9

III. REPTILES: 3 SPECIES.

1. Midland Painted Turtle - 16
2. Blanding's Turtle - 1 (Second August Record on Census)
3. Northern Water Snake - 1 (being consumed by a Great Blue Heron)

X. Eastern Garter Snake - 1 (Auto Tour casualty)

IV. AMPHIBIANS: 2 SPECIES.

1. Bullfrog - 6
2. Green Frog - 2

V. FISHES: 1 SPECIES.

1. Blackstripe Topminnow - 5 (Fourth August Record on Census)

VI. BUTTERFLIES: 18 SPECIES, 1 NEW TO CENSUS.

1. Eastern Black Swallowtail - 3
2. Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - 12 (New Census High - previous was 7 on 08/2022 & 06/2023)
3. Spicebush Swallowtail - 1 (Fourth August Record on Census)
4. Cabbage Butterfly - 40
5. Clouded Sulphur - 14
6. Orange Sulphur - 3
7. Little Yellow - 1 (in Grimm Prairie - Second Record on Census, Second August Record & Tied Census High from 08/2022)
8. Eastern Tailed-Blue - 3 (Fourth August Record on Census)
9. Summer Azure - 5
10. Red Admiral - 1
11. Common Buckeye - 1
12. Viceroy - 10
13. Appalachian Brown - 1 (New Butterfly Species on Census - currently at 43 Species since 04/2002)
14. Monarch - 59

15. Silver-spotted Skipper - 2 (Fourth August Record on Census)
16. Least Skipper - 5
17. Fiery Skipper - 1 (Third August Record on Census)
18. Zabulon Skipper - 3 (Third Record on Census, First August Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 2 on 09/2020)

VII. MOTHS: 2 SPECIES, 1 NEW TO CENSUS.

1. Forage Looper Moth - 14 (Second Record on Census & New Census High - previous was 5 on 07/2023)
2. Milkweed Tiger Moth - 39 (*caterpillars only*) (New Moth Species on Census - currently at 9 Species since 04/2002)

VIII. DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES: 9 SPECIES. (Recorded since 05/2018)

1. Common Green Darner
2. Halloween Pennant
3. Eastern Pondhawk
4. Widow Skimmer (Fourth August Record on Census)
5. Blue Dasher
6. Wandering Glider (Fourth Record on Census & Third August Record on Census)
7. Eastern Amberwing (Third August Record on Census)
8. Black Saddlebags
9. Eastern Forktail

Compiler: Douglas W. Vogus - Akron, Ohio.