

CUYAHOGA VALLEY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021

(CVTTC)

HISTORY & FACTS of the OCTOBER CENSUS

OCTOBER	12-YEAR TOTALS of SPECIES / INDIVIDUALS							
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
67 / 5,796	63 / 1,324	53 / 1,250	54 / 1,886	59 / 1,857	65 / 1,203	71 / 1,913	52 / 1,536	48 / 8,838
2019	2020	2021						
59 / 1,333	67 / 915	55 / 2,736						

- Most Species seen in October : 71 Species on 10/01/2016.
- Most Individual Birds seen in October : 8,838 Total Birds on 10/06/2018.
- Fewest Species seen in October : 48 Species on 10/06/2018.
- Fewest Individual Birds seen in October : 915 Total Birds on 10/02/2020.
- Species Average in October : 59.4 Total Species.
- Total Individuals Average in October : 2,548.9 Total Birds.
- Lowest Temperature on October Census : 41-degrees F on 10/03/15 & 10/05/19.
- Highest Temperature on October Census : 84-degrees F on 10/06/2018.
- Longest Time Afield on October Census : 10 hours & 20 minutes on 10/01/10 & 10/06/18.
- Shortest Time Afield on October Census : 8 hours & 10 minutes on 10/05/2012.

LAST OCTOBER'S FIELD REPORT

10/02/20	TOTAL SPECIES:	67	START / END TIME:	7:40am - 5:30pm		
	TOTAL BIRDS:	915	TIME AFIELD:	9:50	FT. MI.:	14.00
ROUTE:	Red Lock Trailhead south to Merriman Valley, with stops at Trail Mix in Peninsula and Szalay's Sweet Corn Farm & Market for lunch.					
TEMP.:	48F ~ 58F ~ 55F	OBSERVERS:	John Henry and Douglas W. Vogus.			
CONDITIONS:	Cloudy at the start, turning overcast with light rain from 8:05am to 8:50am; gray clouds clearing out and turning partly sunny; temperatures rising and a clouds/sun mix for the rest of the census, blue skies with large white clouds; winds variable, starting out from the northwest, then southwest, south, then southeast, finishing the day with light breezes, fair and pleasant.					
TRAIL CONDITIONS:	Good.	RIVER CONDITIONS:	Normal and partially clear.			

FIVE YEARS AGO on the TOWPATH TRAIL

On October 01, 2016 we set a census high with four Blackpoll Warblers. During their northward spring migration they can linger well into the first or second week of June before reaching their boreal forest breeding grounds up north. They are more commonly encountered within the Cuyahoga Valley during their return trip towards the Atlantic Coast, before heading to northern South America for the winter. The Blackpoll Warbler has one of the longest migration routes of any North American wood-warbler.

OCTOBER 2021's BIRD SPECIES PROFILE

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)

DESCRIPTION:

The spring male is one of only three "black and white" warblers in North America; the white cheek, framed by a black cap and black moustachial stripe, is distinctive. Spring females are quite variable, but generally olive with dark streaks above and white with a yellowish wash below, with some streaking. Fall birds are generally olive above with dark streaks, yellowish on the throat and breast, and white on the lower belly and undertail coverts. Adult males generally show the most ventral streaking in the fall, and first fall females the least, but most birds cannot be confidently aged or sexed in the field.

LENGTH:

5.25"

WEIGHT:

In fall, coastal New Jersey, 8.5 grams to 22.1 grams, or 1/3 to 3/4 ounce; in summer, Alaska, 11 grams to 15.5 grams.

VOICE:

SONG : Extremely high-pitched (at 8-10 kHz, as high as any warbler's song, along with Blackburnian, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Black-and-white); it is delivered as a repetitive series of several (up to 20 or more) single or double notes. The rate of delivery is highly variable among individuals, from about 5 to about 12 notes per second, but consistent within a single song. Songs often build up in intensity in the middle. **CALL NOTE** : A loud, sharp "chip," somewhat reminiscent of the common note of a Yellow Warbler and indistinguishable from the call note of the Bay-breasted Warbler. Calls rather infrequently. **FLIGHT NOTE** : a loud, sharp, buzzy "zeet," again exactly like note of Bay-breasted Warbler.

HABITS:

A rather sluggish and deliberate warbler, feeding most often by gleaning. In spring and on the breeding grounds, Blackpoll Warblers tend to feed in middle and upper levels and stay within the canopy. Foraging is often much lower in the fall.

HABITAT:

Breeds in cool, wet forests of low conifers, particularly stunted red spruce, black spruce, and balsam fir. This stunted habitat is found along the northern edge of the boreal forest, on mountaintops in the southeastern part of the breeding range (New England, New York), and in windblown maritime regions. Breeding habitat is also found at the edges of bogs and burned areas within taller coniferous forest. Locally, Blackpolls may breed in taller forests along mountain slopes, as in the Adirondacks (where, more typically, they occur up to the highest summits). In the western boreal regions (such as Alberta and Alaska) Blackpolls breed in habitats dominated by deciduous trees as well as black spruces, including willows, alders, and balsam poplars. Winters in light woodlands, forest borders and clearings, mangroves, cloud forests, deciduous forests, and rain forests. Migrants use both deciduous and coniferous wooded habitats in spring; in fall they are quite generalized, often feeding in low brushy areas and weed patches.

NESTING:

NEST : In dwarfed firs, spruces of northern part of coniferous forest, somewhat bulky, well concealed against trunk of spruces or on branches; built of twigs, sprays of spruce, pieces of bark, dried grasses, weeds, bits of moss, lichens, lined with rootlets, hair, feathers of gulls, ducks, ptarmigan, grouse, 2 to 12 feet above ground. **EGGS** : June to July; 3 to 5 eggs, usually 4 to 5, white, cream-buff, or pale green, speckled with brown or lavender.

INCUBATION : At least 11 days; eyes open when 5 days old; both adults feed young, which fly 11 to 12 days after hatching.

RANGE: **BREEDS** : Across the northern boreal forests from northwest Alaska, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories to northern Ontario, northern Quebec, and Newfoundland; breeding range extends south to south-central British Columbia, southwest and central Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, central Manitoba, south-central Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts (Mt. Graylock), and New York (south to Ulster Co.). Bred recently in Wyoming Co. in northeast Pennsylvania. In southernmost portion of breeding range breeds mainly above 3,000 feet, but in a few sites in New York as low as 900 feet.

WINTERS : Almost exclusively in South America, mainly east of the Andes. Found in Colombia, Venezuela (especially in the south), Guyana, Surinam, eastern Ecuador, eastern Peru, and the western Amazon basin of Brazil. Smaller numbers recorded farther south, and overshoots have been found as far as 40-degrees South in Chile and Argentina (the southernmost records of a North American migrant warbler). A very few winter north to Panama, Costa Rica, and Trinidad. Has wintered north to the Lesser Antilles and Bermuda.

SPRING MIGRATION : From South America is mainly over the western Caribbean; most birds appear to overfly the islands (the species is casual in Jamaica, for example, and recorded in small numbers in the Caymans; it is numerous only in the Bahamas). Most birds move into North America through Florida, but the migration front also includes the Gulf Coast west to east Texas (with small numbers on the central and southern Texas coast). Migrants then move north up the East Coast of the U.S. and through the Mississippi and Ohio valleys. Small numbers also move north through the Great Plains, west to eastern Colorado, eastern Wyoming, and eastern Montana. This species is one of the few warblers to move up the Atlantic Coast in spring in large numbers. Spring arrival dates in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states are rarely as early as the third week of April, but most birds arrive in the second week of May and peak from mid- to late May. Straggling spring migrants may occur well into June on the Gulf Coast, and to the end of June in New England and the northern Midwest.

FALL MIGRATION : Is much more easterly than spring migration. These warblers are quite uncommon in the midwestern states south of the Great Lakes, in fall, and rare south of there to the Gulf. They are more common around the Great Lakes and abundant in New England and New York. Banding and tower kill data suggest that at least a proportion of individuals take off from the Atlantic Coast north of Cape Hatteras on a nonstop overwater flight to northern South America; their heading is toward the southeast, but prevailing winds on the latter half of their journey push them southwestward toward the northern South American mainland. Fall migrants arrive in the northern states during the last week of August; fall arrivals in the Great Lakes region are slightly earlier than along the Atlantic Coast. The peak fall movement for most northern states, including Ohio, is in mid- to late September; birds have almost completely departed the Great Lakes region by the second week of October, but numbers are present in the coastal Northeast to mid-October. A few late stragglers occur into November (and exceptionally to December) in New England and Newfoundland.

STATUS: In general quite abundant; often one of the most numerous fall migrant warblers in the Northeast. Populations fluctuate less widely than those of the "spruce budworm" warblers, including the Bay-breasted Warbler. This species is perhaps less susceptible to human effects on breeding habitats because of its far northern breeding range, yet some declines in the number of migrants at well-studied sites has been noted.

Abundance Codes on the graphs below indicate the best time of year to find the Blackpoll Warbler in Northeast Ohio.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
			rr	rrCCCCCC	uuurrrroo
Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	rr	uCCCCCCC	CCCUuurr	oo	

- CCCCCCCC = Common to Abundant. Frequently encountered in this region during this time of year.
- UUUUUUUU = Uncommon. Occurs regularly during this time of year but not frequently detected.
- rrrrrrrrrr = Rare. These birds can occur more or less annually but are easily missed in their scant presence in the region.
- OOOOOOOO = Occasional. Limited history in this region and are not to be expected.
- ***** = Accidental. Few records in the past 60 years. Not expected in this region during this time of year.
- ||||||||||| = Fluctuating Abundance. May occur some years yet absent other years. Irruptive or overwintering birds.

History of the Blackpoll Warbler on the Cuyahoga Valley Towpath Trail Census 2010 ~ present.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
JAN.								
FEB.								
MAR.								
APR.								
MAY		1	1		2	1		
JUN.								
JUL.								
AUG.								
SEP.			3	1		1		
OCT.	1	2	3			1	4*	
NOV.						1		
DEC.								

	2018	2019	2020	2021
JAN.				
FEB.				
MAR.				
APR.				
MAY				
JUN.				
JUL.				
AUG.				
SEP.				1
OCT.			2	2
NOV.				
DEC.				

DID YOU KNOW?: As is to be expected with a species that takes such an extreme over-water fall migration route, vagrant records are many. Has been recorded in Greenland (seven records), Iceland (six), the British Isles (35 records, mostly in September and October), and France (two). Has also been recorded at Clipperton Island, an uninhabited coral atoll in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and once in May on the Galapagos Islands! Have wings - will travel!

- * = HIGHEST COUNT TOTAL ON CENSUS.
- BOLD # = HIGHEST COUNT FOR THAT YEAR.



With its all black cap and white cheek, the male Blackpoll Warbler in spring is an easily identified wood-warbler.

(photo by: Simon Boivin)



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde? The fall plumage of the male Blackpoll Warbler is a stark contrast from its breeding attire.

(photo by native Ohioan: Brian Zwiebel - brianzweibelphotography.com)

OCTOBER'S DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW?: Charles Lucien (Carlo) Jules Laurent Bonaparte was the son of Lucien Bonaparte and Alexandrine de Bleschamp, and nephew of Emperor Napoleon. He was raised in Italy. On June 29, 1822, in Brussels, he married his cousin Zenaide. Soon after the marriage, the couple left for Philadelphia to live with Zenaide's father, Joseph Bonaparte. Before leaving Italy, "Carlo" had already discovered a warbler new to science, the Moustached Warbler, and on the voyage he collected specimens of a new storm-petrel. On arrival in the United States, he presented a paper on this new bird, which he later named after Alexander Wilson.

DID YOU KNOW?: Bonaparte then set about studying the ornithology of the United States and updating Wilson's "American Ornithology," and the revised edition was published between 1825 and 1833. In 1824 Bonaparte tried to get the then unknown John James Audubon accepted by the Academy of Natural Sciences, but this was opposed by the ornithologist George Ord.

DID YOU KNOW?: At the end of 1826, Bonaparte and his family returned to Europe. He visited Germany, where he met Philipp Jakob Cretzschmar, and England, where he met John Edward Gray at the British Museum, and renewed his acquaintance with Audubon. In 1828, the family settled in Rome. In Italy he was the originator of several scientific congresses, and lectured and wrote extensively on American and European ornithology and other branches of natural history. Between 1832 and 1841, Bonaparte's published work on the animals of Italy, "Iconografia della Fauna Italica." He had also published "Specchio Comparativo delle Ornithologie di Roma e di Filadelfia" (Pisa, 1827), presenting a comparison between birds of the latitude of Philadelphia and Italian species.

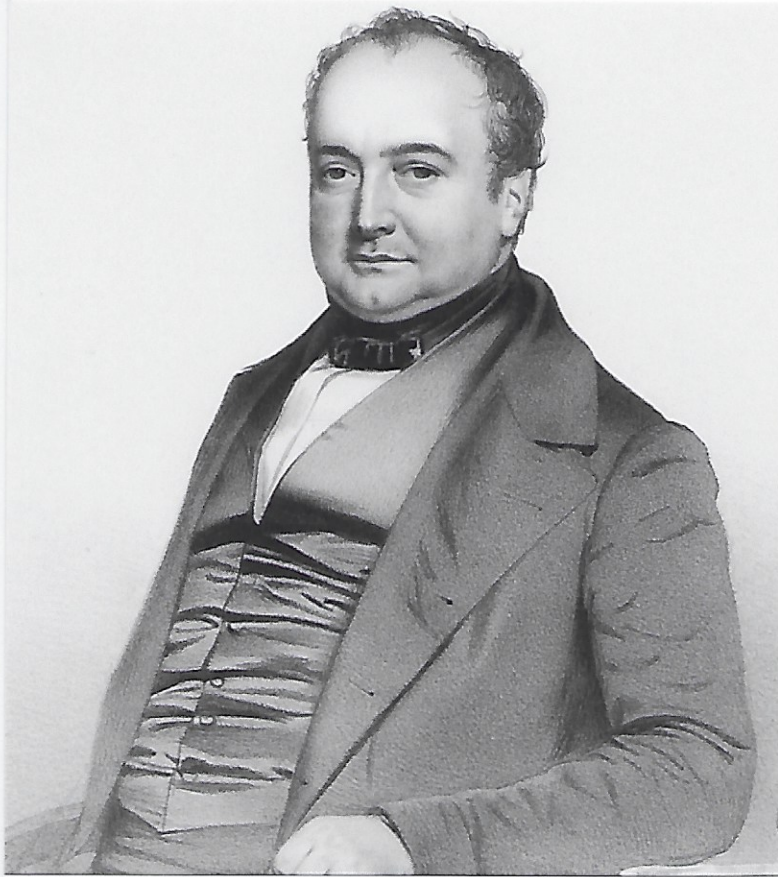
DID YOU KNOW?: In 1849 he was elected to the Roman Assembly and participated in the creation of the Roman Republic. According to Jasper Ridley, when the Assembly convened for the first time: "When the name of Carlo Bonaparte, who was a member for Viterbo, was called, he replied to the roll-call by calling out, 'Long Live the Republic!' (Viva la Repubblica!)" He participated in the defense of Rome against the 40,000 French troops sent by his cousin Louis Napoleon. He left Rome after the Republican army was defeated in July 1849. He landed at Marseilles but was ordered to leave the country by Louis Napoleon. He reaffirmed his political beliefs the following year in naming Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise with the scientific name of (*Cicinnurus respublica*) in honor of the republican idea.

DID YOU KNOW?: He and his wife had twelve children, including Cardinal Lucien Bonaparte? Honored with the title of Second Prince of Canino and Musignano, he was born May 24, 1803, and died at 54 years of age on July 29, 1857.

DID YOU KNOW?: He created the genus "Zenaida," after his wife, for the Mourning Dove and its relatives?

DID YOU KNOW?: He is the namesake of the Bonaparte's Gull ("The Towpath Traveler" Vol. 36 from November 2017), given by George Ord. Bonaparte described and named for science such North American birds as the White-winged Scoter, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, the Cooper's Hawk, and Swainson's Hawk, and also named a number of genera.

See You on the Trail! - Doug



Related to Emperor Bonaparte only by name, Charles Lucien Bonaparte's leanings were more towards the natural world.

(portrait from Wikipedia)

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