

CUYAHOGA VALLEY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2022

(CVTTC)

HISTORY & FACTS of the OCTOBER CENSUS

OCTOBER	13-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	2022					
59 / 1,333	67 / 915	55 / 2,736	59 / 912					

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 : 912 Total Birds on 10/01/2022.

Species Average in October : 59.4 Total Species.

Total Individuals Average in October : 2,423.0 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

10/01/21	TOTAL SPECIES:	55	TOTAL BIRDS:	2,736		
START / END TIME:		7:25am - 5:30pm	TIME AFIELD:	10:05	FT. MI.:	13.60
ROUTE:	Red Lock Trailhead south to Merriman Valley, with stops at Trail Mix in Peninsula and at Szalay's Sweet Corn Farm & Market for lunch.					
TEMP.:	43F ~ 73F ~ 72F	CONDITIONS:	Chilly and crisp early, warming around 9:30am; sunny and calm with blue skies.			
OBSERVERS:	John Henry and Douglas W. Vogus.					
TRAIL CONDITIONS:	Good.	RIVER CONDITIONS:	Normal and very clear.			

EIGHT YEARS AGO on the TOWPATH TRAIL

On 10/04/2014 we set a high for the Black-throated Green Warbler with six seen along the census route. One of the easier North American wood-warblers to identify, whether male or female, they are common spring and fall migrants in the Cuyahoga Valley as well as breeding residents during the summer in suitable hardwood habitats within the valley. Their light, buzzy song is often the best indicator of their presence, as they can be quite camouflaged in the tree canopy due to their plumage.

OCTOBER 2022's BIRD SPECIES PROFILE

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga virens*)

DESCRIPTION: *Mainly in East. Bright green back with little or no streaking. Face largely yellow, framing a suffused greenish auricular outline. Yellow wash on vent in all plumages.*

SPRING ADULT MALE: *Solid black chin, throat, and upper breast. Bold black streaks on sides, flanks. Indistinct black spotting. White wingbars. May show pale yellow wash on lower breast.*

SPRING ADULT FEMALE: *Similar to spring male, but black throat veiled by whitish feather tips, flank streaking less bold.*

LENGTH: 4.75" **WINGSPAN:** 7" to 8" **WEIGHT:** 8.3 to 11 grams (about 1/3 oz.)

VOICE: **SONG:** *Two distinct types are given in different contexts by a single individual. The first type, with an accented ending, is a deliberate, "zee zee zee-zoo zee!" or "see see see su-zee," the last note highest; this song varies in the number of notes and exact pattern. The other song, also variable but with an accented ending, is "zoo zee zoo zoo zee."* **CALL NOTE:** *Is a soft, flat "tip" or "tsip."* **FLIGHT NOTE:** *A high, sweet "see" without any buzzy tones.*

HABITS: *Eats beetles, flies, moths, foliage-eating caterpillars such as tent caterpillars, also cankerworms, leaf rollers, and berries of poison ivy.*

HABITAT: *Likes open woods and northern coniferous forests with large pines, hemlocks, and spruces, and larches in bogs, also second-growth hardwoods; also rather common in pine barrens in Maine and jack pines in Michigan. Migrants found in variety of woodland/scrub habitats.*

NESTING: **NEST:** *In crotch usually of small or large evergreen or in hardwood tree, on horizontal branch, usually 3 to 40 feet above ground, a neat cup of twigs, grasses, strips of inner bark, mosses, lichens, spider's silk, lined with mammal hairs and birds' feathers.* **EGGS:** *May to July, 4 to 5 eggs, usually 4, gray-white or cream-white, speckled, spotted, or blotched with browns or purple.* **INCUBATION:** *Mostly by female, 12 days; young leave nest 8 to 10 days after hatching; both parents feed and care for the young.*

RANGE: **MIGRATION:** *Arrives in Gulf states in late March, in Midwest by late April, peaking in mid-May. Departs breeding grounds as early as late July, peaking mid- to late September into late October; stragglers widely recorded in North into November.* **WINTER:** *Mature montane forests from northeastern Mexico to Panama; wide variety of habitats in Caribbean. Small numbers winter in southern Florida and southern Texas. Rare in northern Colombia and western Venezuela.* **BREEDS:** *From south-central Northwest Territories, north-central Saskatchewan, north-central Manitoba, east to Newfoundland and southern Nova Scotia, south to central Alberta, southern Manitoba, east-central Minnesota, central Wisconsin, east and southeast Ohio, Pennsylvania, and northern New Jersey south into the Appalachians to northern Alabama and northern Georgia.*

STATUS: *Common; primarily a trans- and circum-Gulf migrant. Numerous and relatively stable, but some local trends indicate extended, slight declines.*

Abundance Codes on the graphs below indicate best time of year to find the Black-throated Green Warbler in N.E. Ohio.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
			ooorrruuu	CCCCuuu	uuuuuuuu
Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
uuuuuuuu	rrrrrruuu	CCCCCCC	CCuuuurr	oooo	

- CCCCCCC** = 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.
- ooooooo** = 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 Black-throated Green 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		1	2	1		2
JUN.								
JUL.								
AUG.								
SEP.	1		2					
OCT.		5			6*		5	
NOV.								
DEC.								

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JAN.					
FEB.					
MAR.					
APR.					
MAY	5	2	4	4	4
JUN.					
JUL.					
AUG.					
SEP.					
OCT.		1	3		2
NOV.					
DEC.					

DID YOU KNOW?:

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is about the only place to find this species of warbler nesting in Summit County? Reports from the Greater Akron Audubon Society's Summer Breeding Bird Census show almost all reports are from wooded areas around Quick Rd., Wetmore Rd., behind Blossom Music Center, both Boston Ledges and Ritchie Ledges, and the Oak Hill Area. Numbers from the last five years follow:

2018 = 7 2021 = 5
 2019 = 4 2022 = 3
 2020 = 7

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



See it in the Spring, and see it in the Fall - but to find it in the Summer, you better know its call. The Black-throated Green Warbler can be difficult in the Summer foliage. (photo by: Ronnie d'Entremont)

OCTOBER'S DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW?: Walter A. Weber was a very talented artist who held the distinction of becoming the first person to design more than one Federal Waterfowl Stamp? In the process, Weber was the winner of the first Federal Duck Stamp Contest held in 1949. Although Fish and Game Collectors know him for the two Federal Waterfowl Stamps, he is probably better remembered by a much larger segment of the population for his illustrations that were featured in *The National Geographic Magazine* for three decades starting in 1939, and for the images of his paintings that appeared on some 250 stamps printed and distributed by the National Wildlife Federation.

DID YOU KNOW?: Walter A. Weber was capable of creating the kind of wildlife art that stirred powerful emotions in the viewer. There was a softness about his work that has been variously described as "breathtaking", "evocative" and "romantic" by art critics at the time.

DID YOU KNOW?: Walter Alois Weber was born in Chicago on May 23, 1906 to Antoinette Kreml Weber and Jacob Weber. By all accounts, his parents were poor immigrants who barely managed to care for their family of eleven children. With regards to his skills as an artist, Weber was what they call "a natural" and showed great promise when he was quite young. By age nine he was taking classes at the Art Institute of Chicago on weekends. It was there that he met and studied under renowned animal artists such as Major Allan Brooks and Carl Rungius. In time, Weber would become known for his realistic drawings of creatures of all kinds and for the authentic backgrounds in which he placed them.

DID YOU KNOW?: After graduating high school, Weber attended the University of Chicago. His interests in plants, animals, and birds and his talent in drawing them led him to combine a major in zoology and botany along with his art studies. In 1927 he graduated with honors, earning him a Bachelor of Science in zoology and botany. During this time of his studies he continued to study art at the Art Institute of Chicago.

DID YOU KNOW?: From 1928 to 1931, Weber worked at the Field Museum of Natural History (now the Chicago Museum of Natural History) as a field collector and artist. After leaving the museum, Weber took a position as a biologist and artist for the upcoming Chicago World's Fair, also known as the "Century of Progress International Exposition." Although the exposition opened on May 17, 1933, Weber was involved in extended preparations for a two-year period leading up to the huge event. After his work at the exposition came to an end, Weber became a freelance commercial artist for a couple of years. During this period his art appeared in many books, including "Birds of Minnesota" by T.S. Roberts, "Traveling with the Birds" by Rudyard Kipling, and "Homes and Habits of Wild Animals" by Karl Schmidt.

DID YOU KNOW?: Starting in 1936, Weber started working as a field artist with the National Park Service. In 1937 he became the National Park Service's chief scientific illustrator in Washington, D.C. It was while working for the National Park Service, in 1939, that Weber's work first appeared in "The National Geographic Magazine." In the October issue, Weber wrote and illustrated a piece titled, "Antlered Majesties of Many Lands." In 1941 he left the National Park Service and was employed as an ornithologist at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, administered by the Smithsonian Institution.

In 1949, Weber accepted the position of chief staff artist and naturalist for The National Geographic Society. He would remain with the Society in this capacity until he retired in 1971. While Weber was employed by the Society, he traveled the world as part of scientific expeditions and painted exotic wildlife. These expeditions caused Weber to be away from home for up to three years at a time. In 1967, The Department of the Interior presented Weber with its highest civilian honor, the Conservation Award. For most naturalists, the Conservation Award would be the apex of their career. For Weber, it would prove to be his penultimate source of pride and recognition.

DID YOU KNOW?: Walter A. Weber's artwork was used for the Apollo 11 patch? Apollo 11 was the first spaceflight that landed on the moon. It was during this historic event, in July of 1969, that Neil Armstrong made his unprecedented "one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" communication. Just about everybody knows this. Probably not as many know the patch that became symbolic of this event was based on artwork by Walter A. Weber. Following in the tradition set by the crew of Gemini V, the Apollo 11 crew was given the task of designing its own mission patch. Astronaut James Lovell suggested using an eagle, the national bird of the United States, as the focal point of the patch. Crewmate Michael Collins then found a picture of an eagle he liked in a book published (in 1965) by The National Geographic Society about birds, "Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America." He traced it using a piece of tissue paper. The artist whose painting illustrated that book? You guessed it - Walter A. Weber. The illustration appeared on page 236. NASA took the image, cropped it, flopped it and rotated it 40 degrees to incorporate the eagle into the patch design. NASA's final artwork for the patch was subsequently used on the reverse of the U.S. Eisenhower \$1.00 coins, starting in 1971.

DID YOU KNOW?:

So there you have it. Not only was Walter A. Weber a fine wildlife artist, he was also the first to win the Federal Waterfowl Stamp Contest (1950-51) and the first artist with multiple duck stamps to his credit (1944-45). He also created the original art that later served as the focal point for the Apollo 11 patch and the reverse of the Eisenhower dollar. Pretty heady stuff, and not bad for one of eleven children from two poor immigrant parents.

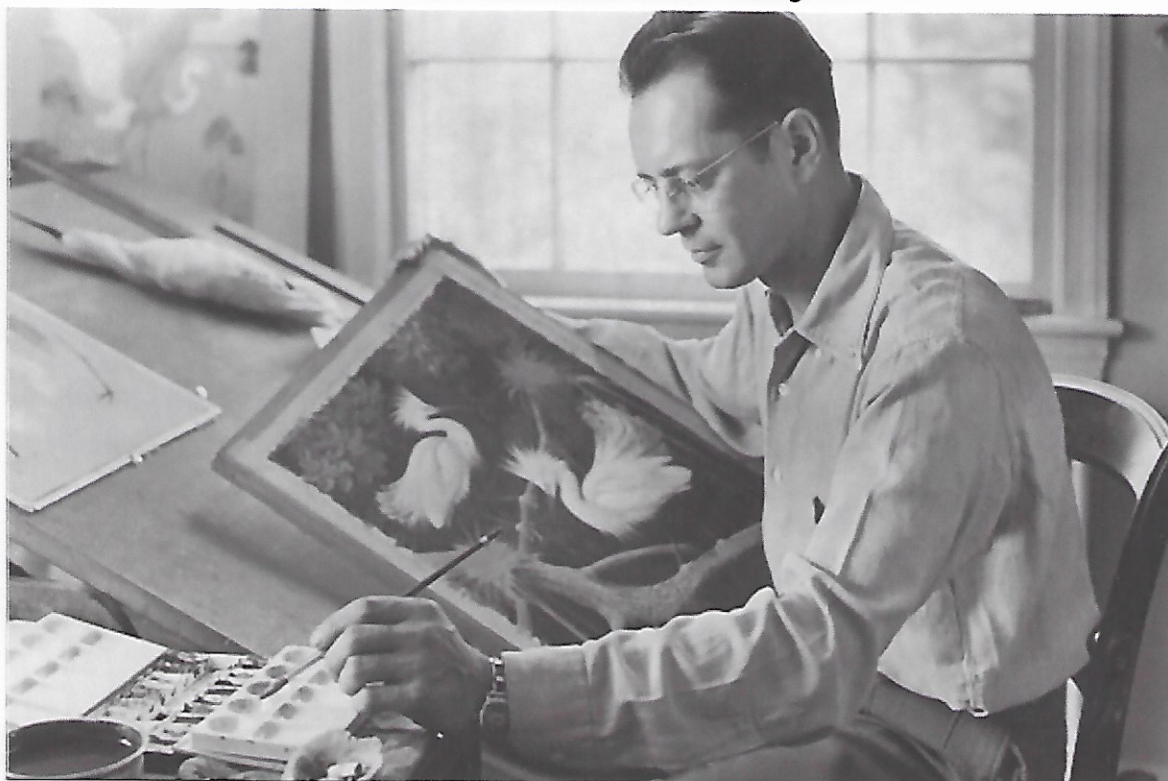
In the late 1960's, Weber gradually painted less frequently until he was, effectively, retired from his career as a professional nature and wildlife artist. Not long after the Apollo 11 mission, in 1971, Weber was elected into a group of his peers - the Washington Biologists' Field Club. The club was founded in 1899 (some accounts say 1900) by botanist Charles Louis Pollard and is composed of persons interested in the biological sciences and in researching the fauna and flora of the District of Columbia area. Weber remained with the club, enjoying his retirement, until he passed away from a stroke on January 10, 1979. He was 72 years old.



Walter A. Weber's first waterfowl stamp for 1944-45 featured a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese about to land.

NOTE: see Page 8 for another of Walter A. Weber's winning waterfowl stamps and the Apollo 11 patch.

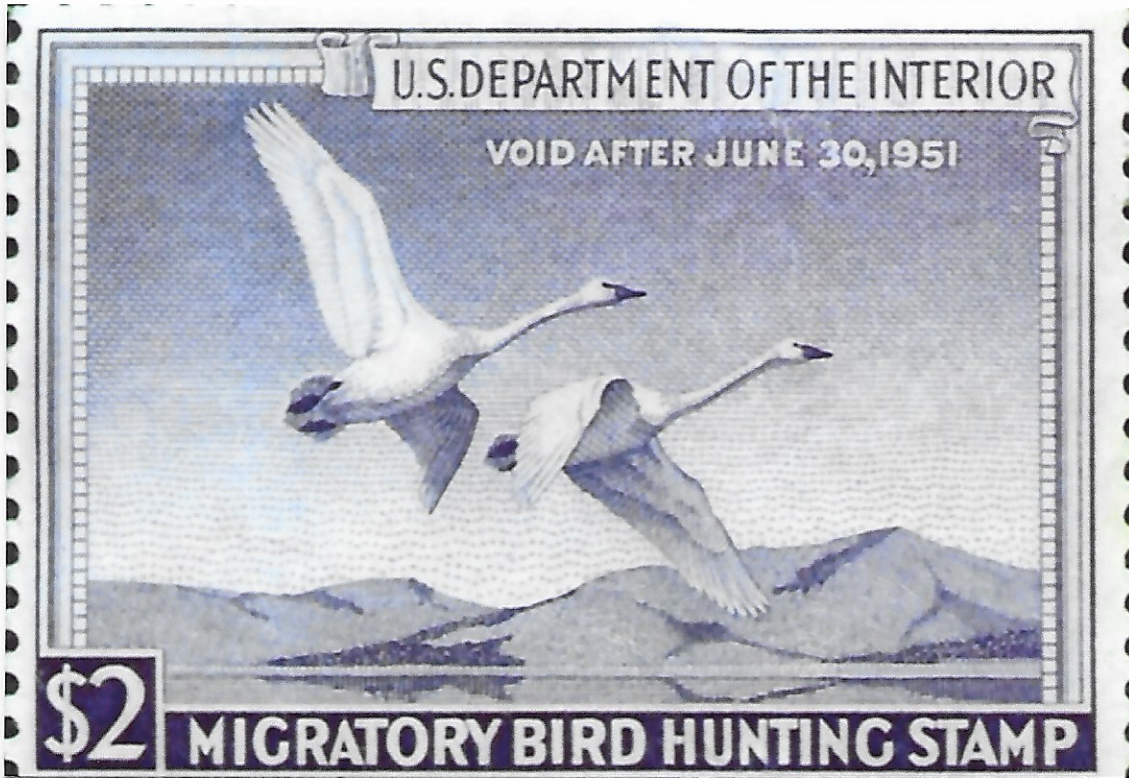
See You on the Trail! - Doug



The great Walter A. Weber in studio at the drawing board working on the final touches of a Snowy Egret painting.
(photo courtesy of: The Walter A. Weber Bird Collection)

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Weber's 1950-51 Federal Waterfowl Stamp of a pair of Trumpeter Swans, the first year the artwork became a contest, a competition that has become highly competitive and downright cutthroat.



NASA artist Allen A. Stevens' rendering of Weber's eagle for the Apollo 11 patch - one giant leap for Walter A. Weber!