



April 4, 2021

OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MONTHLY CENSUS

ROUTES: East and West sides in the morning - except where closed for eagle nesting; Back impoundments in the afternoon - except where closed for eagle nesting.

TIME: 7:50am - 6:25pm (lunch at the end of Stange Rd. as Blackberry Corner was closed for Easter)

TEMP.: 39F ~ 59F

COND.: Cool early, turning warm and mostly sunny; winds light and variable; no snow cover and all water open.

OBS. EAST: Jim Reyda, Al & Betty Schlecht.

OBS. WEST: Linda Benner, Donna Kuhn, Bill Ohlsen, Chris Pierce.

OBS. WEST PRAIRIES: Douglas W. Vogus.

OBS. AFTERNOON: Bob Bartolotta, Linda Benner, Claire Johnson, Donna Kuhn, Jim Reyda, Douglas W. Vogus.

I. MAMMALS: 9 SPECIES, (1 SPECIES NEW TO CENSUS), 23 TOTAL MAMMALS.

1. Virginia Opossum – 1
2. Eastern Cottontail – 1
3. Woodchuck – 6
4. Eastern Fox Squirrel – 4
5. American Beaver - 1 (Tied Census High from 9 other occasions)
6. Common Muskrat – 7
7. Norway Rat - 1 (observed by Bob Bartolotta & Claire Johnson along Ottawa-Lucas Rd. just west of MS 2 - New Mammal Species on Census - currently at 21 Species since 04/2002)
8. Common Raccoon – 1
9. Mink - 1

II. BIRDS: 87 SPECIES, 8,551 TOTAL BIRDS.

1. Canada Goose - 519
2. Mute Swan - 3
3. Trumpeter Swan - 155
4. Tundra Swan - 6
5. Wood Duck - 58
6. Blue-winged Teal - 74
7. Northern Shoveler - 99
8. Gadwall - 247
9. American Wigeon - 33
10. American Black Duck - 7
11. Mallard - 154
12. Northern Pintail - 172



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13. Green-winged Teal - 87
14. Canvasback - 4
15. Redhead - 4
16. Ring-necked Duck - 58
17. Greater Scaup - 46
18. Lesser Scaup - 3,477
19. Bufflehead - 14
20. Hooded Merganser - 17
21. Common Merganser - 23
22. Red-breasted Merganser - 8
23. Ruddy Duck - 2
24. Pied-billed Grebe - 17
25. Mourning Dove - 29
26. American Coot - 39
27. Sandhill Crane - 21
28. American Golden-Plover - 1 (northern middle section of MS 5)
29. Killdeer - 67
30. Pectoral Sandpiper - 58 (most in southern middle of Pool 3)
31. Long-billed Dowitcher - 23 (south of MS 3 & MS 4 split along north end of Crane Creek overflow/mudflats - First April Record on Census)
32. Wilson's Snipe - 58
33. Greater Yellowlegs - 5
34. Lesser Yellowlegs - 21
35. Bonaparte's Gull - 55
36. Ring-billed Gull - 199
37. Herring Gull - 10
38. Double-crested Cormorant - 56
39. American White Pelican - 187 (Second April Record on Census)
40. Great Blue Heron - 79
41. Great Egret - 34
42. Turkey Vulture - 21
43. Osprey - 1 (caught a fish and was quickly trailed by three immature Bald Eagles)
44. Northern Harrier - 7
45. Bald Eagle - 77 (21 adult, 56 immature) (New Census High - previous was 32 on 01/2016)
46. Red-tailed Hawk - 17
47. Great Horned Owl - 4
48. Long-eared Owl - 5
49. Belted Kingfisher - 5
50. Red-bellied Woodpecker - 8
51. Downy Woodpecker - 9
52. Northern Flicker - 25
53. Pileated Woodpecker - 1 (calling from hardwood grove along Crane Creek west of MS 6 - Tied Census High from 05/1999, 09/2015, 01/2021 & 02/2021)
54. Eastern Phoebe - 9
55. Blue Jay - 8



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- 56. American Crow - 2
- 57. Horned Lark - 5
- 58. Tree Swallow - 320
- 59. Purple Martin - 4
- 60. Black-capped Chickadee - 4
- 61. Tufted Titmouse - 2
- 62. White-breasted Nuthatch - 5
- 63. Winter Wren - 2
- 64. Carolina Wren - 1
- 65. Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1
- 66. Eastern Bluebird - 2
- 67. American Robin - 77
- 68. Brown Thrasher - 1
- 69. European Starling - 138
- 70. Cedar Waxwing - 3
- 71. House Sparrow - 8
- 72. House Finch - 2
- 73. American Goldfinch - 8
- 74. Chipping Sparrow - 4
- 75. Field Sparrow - 1
- 76. Fox Sparrow - 18
- 77. American Tree Sparrow - 28
- 78. Dark-eyed Junco - 18
- 79. Savannah Sparrow - 6 (all in Grimm Prairie)
- 80. Song Sparrow - 80
- 81. Swamp Sparrow - 3
- 82. Eastern Meadowlark - 6 (4 in Grimm Prairie & 2 along Krause Rd.)
- 83. Red-winged Blackbird - 991
- 84. Brown-headed Cowbird - 20
- 85. Rusty Blackbird - 161
- 86. Common Grackle - 109
- 87. Northern Cardinal - 38
- 88. ???. Unidentified Duck Species - 60
- 89. X. American Woodcock - 1 (dead - in a yard at a house along Lindsay-Limestone Rd.)

CENSUS BIRD NOTES:

On the back side of Ottawa, pools MS 5 and Pool 3 are drawn down leaving any and all fish vulnerable to predators. The American White Pelicans on the east end were actively feeding, actually gorging, on fish. Those on the northwest end were resting, probably too full to care. Bald Eagles were in numbers we've never seen. Adults and immatures perched in trees along these fishing grounds and hanging at times 9 to 12 birds per tree, like eagle ornaments. One continuous view on the backside, viewing from right to left, tallied 64 birds in just one view! The entire area of the Ottawa N.W.R. complex of feeding eagles as well as nesting eagles could have possibly climbed to 100-plus birds! Quite a sight to behold.



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III. REPTILES: 1 SPECIES, 7 TOTAL REPTILES.

1. Midland Painted Turtle – 7

IV. AMPHIBIANS: 1 SPECIES, TOO MANY TO COUNT.

1. Northern Leopard Frog - many "snoring" throughout the marshes - impossible to tally.

V. BUTTERFLIES: 2 SPECIES, 4 TOTAL BUTTERFLIES.

1. Cabbage Butterfly - 3
2. Mourning Cloak - 1

VI. DRAGONFLIES: 1 SPECIES, 1 TOTAL ODONATA.

1. Common Green Darner - 1 (First April Record on Census)

Thank you to Douglas W. Vogus of Akron, Ohio for compiling this list.