

CUYAHOGA NATIONAL PARK SPRING CENSUS, MAY 19, 2012

By Dwight Chasar

This was the latest May census that we have had and this date, coupled with the unusual spring and the apparently unusual migration, led to mixed results. Fifty-five observers in 20 teams counted 6752 individuals of 124 species. The species count was the lowest since 1998 (118), as many of the migrants had already passed on through the CVNP, but some of the traditionally later-migrating birds were here by the 19th.

I compare data from 1995 to now, as 1995 was when we started keeping numbers of individuals. Our first time misses were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, and American Woodcock. The former two had already headed north from the CVNP while the woodcock had

no reason to be sky dancing that evening because nesting and egg laying were started. I had seen one a few days earlier on the Jaite trail. This was the first time we counted more titmice than chickadees. And this was the first time we had a Lawrence's Warbler (which we found at Oakhill) since 1999.

We had all time highs for Yellow-throated Vireo (there certainly have been more around in the park), Cedar Waxwings (twice the previous high), for Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Willow and Alder flycatchers. The later census date is the reason for the increase in waxwings, Willows, and Alders. Baltimore Oriole numbers were unusually low compared to the last ten years. Most other species numbers were within the normal variation of data.

Species	Count
Canada Goose	358
Wood Duck	46
Mallard	67
Wild Turkey	22
Pied-billed Grebe (1 adult, 5 young)	6
Double-crested Cormorant	5
Great Blue Heron	103
Green Heron	6
Turkey Vulture	84
Bald Eagle	5
Cooper's Hawk	6
Red-shouldered Hawk	15
Broad-winged Hawk	9
Red-tailed Hawk	18
Peregrine Falcon	2
Virginia Rail	5
Sora	3
Killdeer	18
Spotted Sandpiper	15
Solitary Sandpiper	1
Greater Yellowlegs	2
Least Sandpiper	2
Ring-billed Gull	2
Rock Pigeon	2
Mourning Dove	69

Species	Count
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	8
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Barred Owl	4
Chimney Swift	56
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	20
Belted Kingfisher	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	108
Downy Woodpecker	33
Hairy Woodpecker	17
Northern Flicker	32
Pileated Woodpecker	30
Easter Wood-Pewee	83
Acadian Flycatcher	46
Alder Flycatcher	5
Willow Flycatcher	40
Least Flycatcher	4
Eastern Phoebe	38
Great Crested Flycatcher	65
Eastern Kingbird	32
White-eyed Vireo	4
Yellow-throated Vireo	26
Blue-headed Vireo	8
Warbling Vireo	91
Red-eyed Vireo	207

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Species	Count
Blue Jay	112
American Crow	117
Tree Swallow	89
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	72
Bank Swallow	10
Barn Swallow	68
Black-capped Chickadee	119
Tufted Titmouse	138
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	39
Brown Creeper	1
Carolina Wren	11
House Wren	35
Marsh Wren	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	60
Eastern Bluebird	55
Veery	14
Swainson's Thrush	4
Wood Thrush	30
American Robin	375
Gray Catbird	195
Northern Mockingbird	1
Brown Thrasher	7
European Starling	99
Cedar Waxwing	582
Ovenbird	36
Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Northern Waterthrush	1
Lawrence's Warbler	1
Blue-winged Warbler	62
Black-and-white Warbler	2
Prothonotary Warbler	3
Tennessee Warbler	18
Connecticut Warbler	1

Species	Count
Mourning Warbler	2
Common Yellowthroat	201
Hooded Warbler	91
American Redstart	13
Cerulean Warbler	18
Magnolia Warbler	11
Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Blackburnian Warbler	8
Yellow Warbler	245
Chestnut-sided Warbler	18
Blackpoll Warbler	8
Pine Warbler	4
Yellow-throated Warbler	6
Black-throated Green Warbler	26
Canada Warbler	3
Wilson's Warbler	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Eastern Towhee	70
Chipping Sparrow	79
Field Sparrow	53
Henslow's Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	243
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Swamp Sparrow	26
White-throated Sparrow	2
Dark-eyed Junco	3
Scarlet Tanager	86
Northern Cardinal	238
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	49
Indigo Bunting	118
Bobolink	12
Red-winged Blackbird	286
Eastern Meadowlark	2
Common Grackle	75

Dwight Chasar has been Volunteer for CVNP since 1985 and leading public bird walks there for over 20 years. The 2013 spring and fall censuses make the 22nd year he has organized them.

Dwight was a Regional Coordinator for the 2006-11 OBBA II, is a past president of the Kirtland Bird Club, and gives frequent talks on birds, birding, birding history, and birding trips. He and his wife Ann also manage to get out into the field for their own enjoyment as well!