

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK SPRING CENSUS, 2015

By Dwight Chasar and Craig Caldwell

The 2015 edition of the annual Spring Census was held on 16 May. Fifty-four birders in 20 teams participated. The day was cloudy with an early drizzle and little sun; temperatures ranged from 65 to 79 degrees. We found over 5900 individuals, and the species count of 138 tied with that of 2006 for the third highest since the Census began in 1982. (In 2010 and 2011 we had 145 and 144, respectively).

Highlights include the numbers of both cuckoos, which were the highest since the gypsy moth infestation of 2000, and the spring census's first Trumpeter Swan, Canvasback, and Semipalmated Plover. We didn't find a few expected species as well, such as Sora, Red-breasted Nuthatch (last missed in 2002), and Hermit Thrush. As always, a few species' counts were higher or lower than usual; all hawk counts were low, probably due to the weather. Other highs and lows are noted in the table.

2015 CVNP SPRING CENSUS TABLE

NAME	Number	Notes	NAME	Number	Notes	NAME	Number	Notes
Canada Goose	206		American Woodcock	2		Willow Flycatcher	29	
Trumpeter Swan	4	1	Ring-billed Gull	28		Least Flycatcher	1	
Wood Duck	46		Herring Gull	5		Eastern Phoebe	34	
Mallard	63		Rock Pigeon	11		Great Crested Flycatcher	42	
Canvasback	1	2	Mourning Dove	81		Eastern Kingbird	30	
Hooded Merganser	6	3	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	12	6	White-eyed Vireo	5	
Wild Turkey	3		Black-billed Cuckoo	10	7	Yellow-throated Vireo	24	
Pied-billed Grebe	1		Eastern Screech-Owl	1		Blue-headed Vireo	10	
Double-crested Cormorant	6		Barred Owl	1		Warbling Vireo	63	
Great Blue Heron	96		Common Nighthawk	16	8	Philadelphia Vireo	2	
Green Heron	9		Chimney Swift	86		Red-eyed Vireo	178	
Turkey Vulture	39		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	28		Blue Jay	110	
Osprey	2		Belted Kingfisher	9	9	American Crow	111	
Cooper's Hawk	1		Red-headed Woodpecker	18		Tree Swallow	152	
Bald Eagle	4		Red-bellied Woodpecker	79		Northern Rough-winged Swallow	97	
Red-shouldered Hawk	2		Downy Woodpecker	44		Bank Swallow	17	
Broad-winged Hawk	2		Hairy Woodpecker	11		Barn Swallow	55	
Red-tailed Hawk	7		Northern Flicker	32		Black-capped Chickadee	107	
Virginia Rail	2		Pileated Woodpecker	25		Tufted Titmouse	110	
Semipalmated Plover	1	4	Peregrine Falcon	2		White-breasted Nuthatch	35	
Killdeer	25		Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	10	Brown Creeper	2	
Spotted Sandpiper	9		Eastern Wood-Pewee	74		House Wren	30	
Solitary Sandpiper	4		Acadian Flycatcher	58	11	Winter Wren	1	12
Least Sandpiper	12	5	Alder Flycatcher	4		Marsh Wren	3	13

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NAME	Number	Notes	NAME	Number	Notes	NAME	Number	Notes
Carolina Wren	2	14	Pine Warbler	7	11	White-crowned Sparrow	12	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	119		Yellow-rumped Warbler	5		Dark-eyed Junco	1	
Eastern Bluebird	32		Yellow-throated Warbler	6		Scarlet Tanager	56	
Veery	20		Prairie Warbler	3	18	Northern Cardinal	219	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	15	Black-throated Green Warbler	19		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	39	
Swainson's Thrush	28		Canada Warbler	11		Indigo Bunting	116	
Wood Thrush	42		Wilson's Warbler	8		Bobolink	10	
American Robin	201		Yellow-breasted Chat	1		Red-winged Blackbird	499	
Gray Catbird	180		Eastern Towhee	48		Eastern Meadowlark	6	
Brown Thrasher	3		Chipping Sparrow	58		Common Grackle	117	
Northern Mockingbird	1		Field Sparrow	44		Brown-headed Cowbird	97	
European Starling	71		Henslow's Sparrow	1	19	Orchard Oriole	14	
Cedar Waxwing	112		Song Sparrow	108	9	Baltimore Oriole	119	
Ovenbird	21	16	Lincoln's Sparrow	4		House Finch	25	
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	17	Swamp Sparrow	19		American Goldfinch	246	
Blue-winged Warbler	60		White-throated Sparrow	2		House Sparrow	53	
Black-and-white Warbler	2					TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	5925	
Prothonotary Warbler	8							
Tennessee Warbler	37							
Nashville Warbler	3							
Mourning Warbler	1							
Common Yellowthroat	183							
Hooded Warbler	80							
American Redstart	43							
Cerulean Warbler	16							
Northern Parula	9							
Magnolia Warbler	23							
Bay-breasted Warbler	2							
Blackburnian Warbler	3							
Yellow Warbler	189							
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6							
Blackpoll Warbler	6							
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4							
Palm Warbler	1							

NOTES

1. First ever; Kendall Lake; up to five have been there almost a month
2. First ever on spring census
3. One female and five young
4. First ever on spring census; Brookside marsh
5. Very irregularly found on spring census
6. 32 in 2000
7. 16 in 2000
8. Jaité; hasn't been easy to get on spring census, often missed
9. On the low side
10. Sanitation pond, Station Road, Terra Vista; often missed
11. High number
12. Ledges area
13. Brookside Marsh
14. Lowest since 1995 when we started counting individuals; 2014-15 was a ha
15. High number, irregularly found
16. On the low side for recent years
17. Low number, usually four to six
18. Arlington Pond area; high number, very irregularly found
19. Coliseum grassland