

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS RESULTS, 1995  
CROOKED SLOUGH WOODS  
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ROLLINGSTONE TOWNSHIP, MINNESOTA

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## COMMENTS

1995 marked the third year of the Breeding Bird Census of the 12.2 ha. bottomland hardwood forest plot, Crooked Slough Woods. Obviously no significant bird population trends for the plot in particular or bottomland forests in general can be drawn from a project so young. But a few occurrences and changes in the species distribution of the woods may gain importance if they continue in future.

Species diversity has remained similar during the three years of the census: 33 species in 1995; 30 in 1994; 29 in 1993.

One species not detected as either a breeding bird or visitor in previous years appeared on the plot in 1995, the winter wren. Another species that was counted as a breeding bird both in 1993 and 1994 was totally absent in 1995, the Barred Owl.

The Brown-headed cowbird census rose from 8.0 in 1993 and 8.0 in 1994 to 13.0 in 1995.

A species of management concern, the Cerulean Warbler, was counted as a breeding bird on the plot in 1995 and 1994. In 1994 three-four other Cerulean Warblers were counted approximately 0-150 meters north of the Crooked Slough Woods plot during a nest search by Dawn Hinebaugh, biologist, Wisconsin DNR. In 1995 I mapped a plot (50 m by 200 m) north of Crooked Slough Woods and censused the plot twice for cerulean warblers only. Two-three Cerulean Warblers were found on the north plot (6-3, 6-14).

Red-eyed vireos on the plots declined from 13 in 1993 to 9 in 1994 to 7 in 1995.

American redstarts on the plot increased from 6 in 1993 to 9 in 1994 to 13 in 1995.

Five species generally associated with open woods have showed at least small increases in their use of Crooked Slough Woods from 1993 to 1995.

	1995	1994	1993
Brown-headed Cowbird	13.0	8.0	8.0
Gray Catbird	6.0	3.0	4.0
Mourning Dove	2.0+	1.0	0.0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2.0	0.0	1.0

Warbling Vireo

2.0

1.0

1.0

Since local bottomland forests in general appear to be failing to regenerate (losing canopy), and Crooked Slough Woods seems to continually lose canopy due to windfalls of mature cottonwood and silver maple (pers. ob.), continual increases of 'open-woods' birds on the plot may help indicate a gradual change in both the habitat and breeding-bird distribution of Crooked Slough Woods.

1995 CENSUS OF CROOKED SLOUGH WOODS

American Redstart		13.0
Brown-headed Cowbird	13.0	
American Robin		11.0
Northern Oriole	10.0	
Great-crested Flycatcher		7.0
House Wren	7.0	
Red-eyed Vireo		7.0
Gray Catbird		6.0
Song Sparrow		6.0
Eastern Wood Pewee		5.0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		5.0
Northern Cardinal		5.0
Brown Creeper		4.0+
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		4.0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		3.0
Downy Woodpecker		3.0
White-breasted Nuthatch		3.0
Blue Jay		3.0
Mourning Dove		2.0+
Red-bellied Woodpecker		2.0+
Common Yellowthroat		2.0+
Wood Duck		2.0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2.0	
Hairy Woodpecker		2.0
Black-capped Chickadee		2.0
Warbling Vireo		2.0
Winter Wren		1.5
Pileated Woodpecker		1.0
Wood Thrush		1.0
Yellow-throated Vireo		1.0
Cerulean Warbler		1.0
Scarlet Tanager	1.0	
Indigo Bunting		1.0

VISITORS:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Black-billed Cuckoo  
 Northern Flicker  
 Redwing Blackbird  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Common Grackle

DESCRIPTION OF PLOT: A square plot (350 x 350 m) of bottomland hardwoods forest with closed canopy of mature common cottonwood and silver maple covering 90 percent of the plot. Understory includes box elder, black willow, green ash, American hackberry. Stinging nettles primary ground cover. Mean canopy height, 27.1 m, range 19.1 m - 36.3 m. Plot is essentially level. Elevation: 215 m.

WEATHER:

MEAN TEMPS: June 23.0

NORMAL MEAN TEMPS: June 20.2

PRECIPITATION: June 6.8 cm

NORMAL PRECIP: June 9.9 cm

MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVELS: In order of days of visits: 198.17 m; 198.19 m; 198.16 m; 198.18 m; 198.18 m; 198.20 m; 198.18 m; 198.21 m.

NORMAL MEAN RIVER LEVELS: 198.17 m. above sea level.

Temperatures and precipitation came from U.S. Weather Station, Lacrosse, Wisconsin. River levels came from Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River, Dam 5A, Fountain City, Wisconsin.

REMARKS: Brown-headed cowbird census was highest of 3-year history of the plot. Cowbird count was 8.0 in 1993; 8.0 in 1994. 2-3 Cerulean Warblers nested 50-200 m n. of the plot.

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