

Cedarville Ponds Wildlife Management Area Bird Survey, January 31st 2026

Recent snowfall, turned to ice capped snow, is still present across the majority of the ground. About 20 degrees and slightly windy. Sunny outside, but the snow is so hard you can walk across it. It is impossible for birds to break the surface to forage for food, and this seems to be reflected in their current congregations (see notes). All of these sightings were near a freshwater pond.

Birds Species Seen

- **Blue Jay.** Heard but not seen.
- **Brown Thrasher.**
- **Eastern Towhee.**
- **Dark Eyed Junco.** Also known as Snowbirds.
- **Flock of Red Winged Blackbirds.**

Notes

It seems as though the icy snow on the ground has the birds moving towards whatever bare-ground foraging areas they can find; unless they can find a plant with available food sources. Both the Brown Thrasher and Eastern Towhee I found on a patch of bare/leaf covered ground aggressively foraging (presumably protected from the snow by a small man-made cliff). This seems to be a common theme with the birds recently, for I have even recently noticed congregations of Dark Eyed Juncos foraging on the dirt exposed by plows on the side of the road- and even an American Woodcock!

In conclusion, the ice/snow seems to be "corralling" the birds to areas of available food; or bare ground that presents an opportunity to find food. Ducks are still in the water where it is not frozen in the area, even going under water and doing their "duck-things" as usual. I did not see any in this survey though, perhaps because this small pond was completely frozen over.