

Young Birders' Club Great Backyard Bird Count 2019

On February 16th the OAS Young Birders' Club joined thousands of people globally to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The group started the day at the **E.L. Johnson Nature Center** in Bloomfield Hills. Blanche Wicke, OAS member and nature center staff member opened the building for a group of 15 + birders. The E.L. Johnson maintains an active feeding station and the group was thrilled to see some rarities at the feeders. Along with typical feeding station visitors like Northern Cardinals and Downy Woodpeckers, everyone was able to see three unusual sparrows. In typical sparrow behavior, the Fox Sparrow, the Song Sparrow and the White-throated Sparrow all shuffled on the ground under the feeders. A total of 14 species were seen at the feeder. Due to the icy trail conditions most of the time at the nature center was spent indoors, but the group ventured on to the property to see a couple of captive animals at the facility including the White-tailed deer and the Great Horned Owl.

After some feeder watching, the group headed to **Beaudette Park** in Pontiac. An open water area at Beaudette Park is typically inhabited by waterfowl during the winter. The birds at Beaudette Park did not disappoint the group. Several diving ducks and a few dabblers could easily be viewed from the shoreline. When the group arrived, we were treated to the trumpeting of the Trumpeter Swans. Beaudette Park is a popular birding location during the winter. Macomb Audubon also had the same idea for a field trip and a chain of birder vehicles were parked along the road. Twenty-two species and one taxon were seen at Beaudette Park. Jonathan Schechter, Nature Education Writer for Oakland County joined the field trip for his weekly blog, The Wilder Side of Oakland County. The trip was featured the following week. Here is the link to read Jonathan's wonderful account of the day.

<https://oaklandcountyblog.com/2019/02/22/the-great-backyard-bird-count/#more-35871>

Thanks to both Jonathan and Dan Fox for the photos they provided for this document. It was a great day to be outdoors in Oakland County!

E.L. Johnson Checklist- 14 species

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Fox Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow



Beaudette Park Checklist - 22 species (+1 other taxa)

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Wood Duck
Mallard
Mallard (Domestic type)
American Black Duck
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Mourning Dove
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow

