

Field Trip Report – Beaudette Park, E. L. Johnson Nature Center & Heritage Park

January 18, 2017

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The 2017 Wednesday field trip and workshop series began at Beaudette Park on a dark, mild January 18th. The five participants did not let the dreary morning dampen their spirits, as we studied swans, ducks and winter passerines. The Trumpeter Swan floated regally among the Mutes for a great comparison, as did Canvasbacks, Redheads and many Ring-necked ducks. We studied the finer points of Mallards, an interesting species we take for granted. Onto E.L. Johnson Nature Center, where an accipiter greeted us by zipping through the parking lot. Unfortunately, the passerines scattered, and the feeders were mostly unattended during our visit. A stroll on the trails turned up a Brown Creeper and a variety of woodpeckers. Heritage Park had few birds on the trails, but the feeders yielded a good variety. We all chalked it up as one of those January birding days in Michigan. We ended up with 25 species. Here is the list for the morning:

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Mallard
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Hooded Merganser
Accipiter sp.
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
American Robin
European Starling
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow