

November 21, 2018 – Robert Long Park, Walled Lake and Heritage Park

Leader: Mike Mencotti

Ten hardy birders helped wrap up this year's Wednesday Workshop/Field Trip Series on a festive note as we "tailgated" sipping coffee and munching doughnuts. Both were welcomed as the wind chill barely broke the 20s. The birding day, too, had a distinctively winter flavor with few ducks at Robert Long, our starting point. The morning began promising with a flock of 30+ Sandhill Cranes, and the back pond yielded a Lesser Black-backed Gull, first sighted by Jeff Stacey. Hopes high, we headed to Walled Lake. The waterfowl was scarce there too, with a Horned Grebe the highlight. Heritage Park gave us indoor warmth and lots of birds at the feeders. We then hiked the trails and found siskins, bluebirds, and -- fittingly on the day before Thanksgiving -- a small flock of turkeys. They made a perfect swan song to this fall's series. A total of 36 species were tallied:

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Mallard
American Black Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Wild Turkey
Horned Grebe
Mourning Dove
Sandhill Crane
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Great Blue Heron
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

Dark-eyed Junco
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow