

Young Birders' Club March Field Trip 2019 @ Lake St. Clair Metropark

The OAS Young Birders' Club visited Lake St. Clair Metropark on March 24. It was a mild morning and about 20 people attended. The Young Birders were primarily young adults on this field trip. A photographer from C & G Newspapers joined the hike to capture images for an article in the Rochester Post (published April 4). Lake St. Clair Metropark has a long history over 20 years of Great Horned Owls nesting in a tub near the nature center. The Nature Center hosts an annual Owl Festival to highlight these birds. This year however, the owls did not use the tub. Despite this change, the group was able to find the resident Great Horned Owl on the hike. It was perched, perfectly camouflaged along a tree trunk. Birders are the best spotters.



The group hiked the trails near the nature center and stopped to view the activity at the nature center feeding station. Red-winged Blackbirds in large numbers were refueling at the feeders. After a short break, the group ventured to Lake St. Clair and the nearby marshes. The Lake was covered with ice just days before, but the now open waters were filled waterfowl moving through the area. Flotillas of scaup bobbed in the water. An impressive variety of waterfowl were observed on the lake and in the adjacent marshy wetlands. The group was entertained by displaying Buffleheads performing bobs and dives on the inlet near the Daysail Boat Launch. A Bald Eagle with fish in its talons flew over the group leaving the nature center. The diversity of birds at Lake St. Clair Metropark makes it one of the best spots for birders in SE Michigan. A total of 39 species and one taxon were seen by the group.

Thanks to the Nature Center staff for their hospitality and assistance. Additionally, thanks to C & G Newspapers and photographer Donna Augusti, for sharing some of the photos from the story in the Rochester Post. To read the complete article in the Rochester Post visit - <https://www.candgnews.com/news/families-flock-to-the-great-outdoors-to-bird-watch-112748>
Other photo credits Donna Augusti and OAS photo gallery.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter/Tundra Swan
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Canvasback
Redhead Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead



Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Mourning Dove
American Coot
Killdeer
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Bald Eagle
Great Horned Owl
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin
European Starling
American Goldfinch
American Tree Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow

