

Oakland Owlets' December 2019 Field Trip Report

A small, but enthusiastic group of ten young birders, family and friends visited the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit on Saturday, December 7. The Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) is owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It is located along the Riverfront nearby Belle Isle in the historic Globe Building. The Globe Building is a restored, three story former manufacturer of steam engines for Great Lakes vessels and ships. The converted warehouse offers exhibits that simulates being outdoors. The motto of the OAC is *“Up North, Downtown.”* When you enter the building you immediately feel like you are outside. Visitors can experience several outdoor recreation activities including fishing, kayaking, hunting, snowmobiling and camping while learning about Michigan Wildlife and natural resources management.



Numerous dynamic interactive displays at the OAC engage visitors of all ages. A spectacular 35-foot-tall bur oak tree that starts on the ground floor and stretches to the ceiling of the warehouse. Kids can climb inside the tree to reach the third floor instead of taking the stairs. An indoor waterfall showcases Michigan waterfalls. There is a bear den that kids can enter and poke a bear in hibernation. This is a small sample of the various activities to encounter at the OAC. Once you enter the OAC you are drawn into the adventure of being outdoors. There is so much to see and do in the OAC. A special thank you to the OAC staff for their hospitality.



After exploring the OAC, the group ventured to Belle Isle to search for birds. The waterfowl along the Detroit River and inland waters on Belle Isle were easy to spot. Stopping along the road the group saw sixteen species of birds including a Bald Eagle. A complete checklist is listed below. When the group reached the Belle Isle Nature Center, the tour concluded.



The bird checklist from a loop tour at Belle Isle is as follows:

- Canada Goose
- Mute Swan
- Mallard
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Bufflehead
- Hooded Merganser
- Ring-billed Gull
- Bald Eagle
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Downy Woodpecker
- Blue Jay
- Tufted Titmouse
- European Starling
- American Robin



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