

Lake Erie Metropark – October 13, 2018

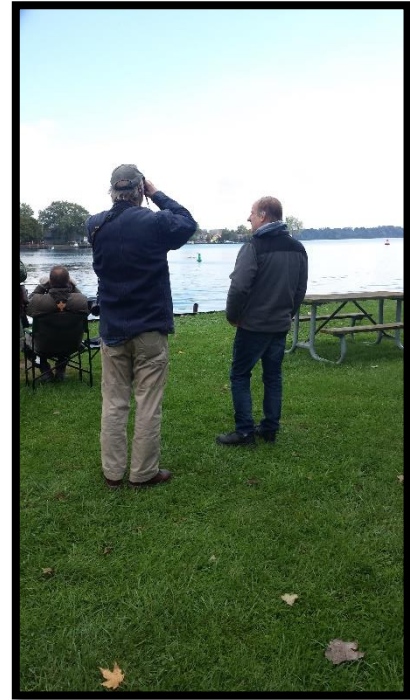
The Young Birder's Club October field trip stop was Lake Erie Metropark. Although there was heavy fog in the morning, the sky cleared, and it was a beautiful day by mid-morning. Only two people arrived at the start of the program. After waiting for any latecomers, we ventured on to the Marshland's Museum. Migrating raptors including American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned hawks seemingly dropped out of the sky once they broke through the low fog. There was an element of surprise to see these aerialists speed across the sky.

The walk traversed several habitats including nearby marshes, woodlands and openings. Migrating Rusty Blackbirds were everywhere. It was a great chance to see and hear them. Some late migrant songbirds lingered. The next stop was the Hawk Watching spot along shoreline of Lake Erie where hawk watch counters were recording the numerous migrating raptors. Being so close to the lake, a few new water birds were added to the list including Trumpeter Swan and Foster's Tern. It is amazing to see the kettles of raptors, assisted by the skilled volunteers adept at identifying raptors at such distances. A small group of people were huddled along the shoreline watching. In total, 37 species were seen. The Detroit Hawk Watch continues through November 30 so there is still time to see some migrating raptors this year. For more information visit this website. <http://detroitriverhawkwatch.org/> The following checklists were submitted to eBird for the day.

Checklist – October 13, 2018

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Mallard (Domestic type)
Pied-billed Grebe
Mourning Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Foster's Tern
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Egret
Turkey Vulture
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Bald Eagle
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker

Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
House Finch
American Goldfinch
White-throated Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Sharp-shinned Hawk

Photo credits – Kathleen Dougherty and OAS photo gallery