

St. Clair River Field Trip – January 14, 2017

Leader – Dave Frye

14 individuals gathered up at Lake St. Clair Metropark for our annual trek up the St. Clair River. The trip bagged 42 species in total. The group did not have to wait long before it was startled by an amazing sight. A raft of Canvasback ducks about 100 feet wide extended what seemed to be a half mile off of the Clinton River mouth at the Harley Ensign DNR post. The group guessed at a population of approximately 40,000 ducks! The rest of the trip was fruitful, as well, with the notables being Glaucous Gull, Greater Black-Backed Gull, Long-Tailed Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, and each of the three Scoters (White-Winged, Black, and Surf). At Port Huron's Edison Lighthouse Park the group was treated to a tornadic swirl of Redhead ducks, kicked up by a passing freighter. They appeared to have the same group flocking instincts that Starlings display in large groups. We estimated 4000 ducks in that group!"

The entire species list follows:

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
American Black Duck
Mallard
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring Necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Surf Scoter
Black Scoter
White-Winged Scoter
Long-Tailed Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Red-Breasted Merganser
Common Merganser
Bald Eagle
Red-Tailed Hawk
Ring-Billed Gull
Glaucous Gull
Greater Black-Backed Gull
Herring Gull
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Downey Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
American Crow

Black-Capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-Breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
American Robin
European Starling
American Tree Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-Eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow