

## January 17, 2021 – St. Clair River Trip

Leader: Don Burlett

12 intrepid birders began a morning-long quest to see ducks and other birds along the St. Clair River. It was a cloudy day with temps near 30°F and there was very little wind. We began at the St. Clair Metropark nature center by walking back to see the Great Horned Owl that resides in the park. After observing him and a few other birds in the woods and parking lot, we headed north to the river.

Birding along the river was very quiet. There were very few birds on the river, primarily because of the warm winter and lack of ice. This did not force a concentration of birds much of anywhere. We did stop at a small park near Selfridge Air Force base and saw large flotillas of ducks. Mostly, we observed, Canvasbacks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers along with a few Redheads.

Along the river, it was quiet. We finally reached Port Huron and found a few gulls with a Glaucous Gull amongst the Herring and Ring-billed Gulls near the yacht club. At Lighthouse Park, we did see some additional Long-tailed Ducks and a personal record of 26 White-winged Scoters.



We did not see the Peregrine Falcon at the train trestle bridge or the Blue Water Bridge, but he redeemed himself by doing a flyover at the beach at the park right before we headed home. Nice finish to a quiet day. The group enjoyed some life birds, always

a nice thing for a leader to enjoy. We saw 30 species on this trip. Maybe next year will be better?!

30 species seen

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Mallard  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
White-winged Scoter  
Common Goldeneye  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Great Blue Heron  
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)  
Mourning Dove  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Cooper's Hawk  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Great Horned Owl  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
American Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon  
American Crow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
European Starling  
House Sparrow