

St. Clair River Trip February 8, 2020

Leaders: Mike Mencotti, Dan Gertiser

On February 8th, eighteen intrepid birders attended our field trip on a cold winter day. We started out at the Lake Saint Clair Metro Park where we were greeted by a singing Carolina Wren. Its cheery song was a wonderful accompaniment to the views of White-Crowned Sparrows, Red-Wing Blackbirds, Cooper's Hawk, and the usual feeder birds. We then made the short drive to Harley Ensign Boat launch. We dipped on Snowy Owls but had a Greater Black-Backed Gull as a consolation.

We then went on a loop north to Brandenburg Park. Lake St. Clair was frozen close to shore. The Canvasbacks were a good scope view out on the lake. While scanning the ducks, we were soon alerted to a beautiful Glaucous Gull. He provided everyone close-in looks as he flew over the beach.

On the road again we headed to Chrysler Beach where a Snow Goose had been reported. Upon our arrival, there he was. He was asleep and not over 100 feet from parking lot. Somedays you get lucky.

We then continued our drive north to Port Huron where Cackling Geese and Harlequin Ducks had been reported. We dipped on the Cackling Geese at Desmond Landing but had wonderful looks at flyby Long-Tailed Ducks and a roosting Peregrine Falcon. We then continued north to Edison Park where we were able to see the Harlequin Ducks and many more Long-Tailed Ducks. With our trip complete the happy birders headed home. Thirty-Five species were seen on this trip.

Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Mallard
American Black Duck
Canvasback
Redhead
Harlequin Duck
Long-tailed Duck
Common Goldeneye
Common Merganser
Mourning Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Glaucous Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Cooper's Hawk
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker
Peregrine Falcon
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
European Starling
House Sparrow
House Finch
American Goldfinch
American Tree Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal



Photo by Jeff Stacy



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