

January 23, 2010 – Winter Ducks Field Trip Report (11 participants)

The weather was cool (slightly below freezing) with cloudy skies and modest breeze from the east. The trip started at Metro Beach Metropark and move quickly to Algonac as Lake St. Clair was completely frozen. Once we reached Algonac, the St. Clair River was partially open (mostly on the Canadian side) but we were able to observe ducks and geese on the river. The trip concluded after lunch on the north side of Port Huron at Lakeside Park. The list below represents the main sightings of the field trip.

Mute Swan – a dozen or so
Canada Goose – several dozen
Mallard – good numbers (especially at Port Huron)
Canvasback – large rafts (hundreds)
Redhead – large rafts (hundreds)
Greater Scaup – large rafts (hundreds) on Lake Huron
Long-tailed Duck – several dozen scattered along the river
Common Goldeneye – large rafts (hundreds)
Bufflehead – several dozen
Common Merganser – several dozen
Red-breasted Merganser – several dozen
Red-tailed Hawk – several
American Kestrel – one just before Algonac
Peregrine Falcon – one flying just before Algonac
Ring-billed Gulls – lots
Herring Gull – several
Glaucous Gull – one on Lake Huron
Great Black-backed Gull – several at different spots

Trip Leader – Don Burlett