

Field Trip Report - Stony Creek Metropark

October 7, 2023

Leader: Kayla Niner

It was hard to believe it'd been 80F only two days before when 12 birders met at the Stony Creek Nature Center to look for birds. Instead, it was a windy day with temps in the upper 40s and low 50s. Most of us had dressed warmer but not quite warm enough, so 12 birders shivered down the Reflection Trail at the Nature Center, looking for any birds that were braving the cold weather. The trails were mostly quiet, but we did pick up a variety of species, including many Tufted Titmice, Mourning Doves, both Ruby and Golden-Crowned Kinglets, and some Wild Turkeys. The Titmice followed us down the path, but little else was seen here. On the way back to the car, an Eastern Bluebird was spotted on the top of a conifer.



(Photo Credit: Ray Bosshard)



(Photo Credit: Kayla Niner)

We traveled back down the road a little and did a short loop on the Osprey trail to see if we could get some early ducks, but they, too, did not cooperate. The group did get to see a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Yellow-Rumped Warbler as well as some more Kinglets. The lake was still hard to see due to the vegetation, but we did spot a Great Egret, a Mallard, and some Mute Swans out on the lake. Since the birding was relatively slow, we also stopped for several interesting mushrooms.

Three members of the group said their goodbyes and the rest of the party went down to Eastwood Beach, where we found a Track Meet. Luckily, they weren't on the beach, so we studied the gulls and looked out into the lake for ducks. However, the wind was wicked and whitecaps crested the waves when they neared shore. We froze long enough to see some Ruddy Ducks and two Scaup (otherwise unidentified).

All in all, we had 30 species for the North Park and 5 for the South Park (Macomb County Side) for a grand total of 34 species (one species, Mallard, was a repeat).

(Photo Credit: Kayla Niner)





(Photo credits: Top left: Ray Bosshard, Bottom left: Ray Bosshard, Right: Kayla Niner)

Stony Creek Metropark--north (Macomb Co.), Macomb, Michigan, US

Oct 7, 2023 8:00 AM - 10:35 AM

Protocol: Traveling, 2.67 mile(s)

30 species (+1 other taxa)

Canada Goose 2

Mute Swan 5

Wood Duck 2

Mallard 1

Wild Turkey 7

Mourning Dove 2

Great Egret 1

Turkey Vulture 3

Bald Eagle 1

Belted Kingfisher 1

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 3

Downy Woodpecker 1

Eastern Phoebe 1
Blue Jay 4
American Crow 1
Black-capped Chickadee 6
Tufted Titmouse 8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3
Golden-crowned Kinglet 4
White-breasted Nuthatch 3
Eastern Bluebird 1
American Robin 8
American Goldfinch 2
White-throated Sparrow 2
Red-winged Blackbird 4
Common Grackle 30
Northern Parula 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
new world warbler sp. 1
Northern Cardinal 2

Stony Creek Metropark--south (Macomb Co.), Macomb, Michigan, US

Oct 7, 2023 10:53 AM - 11:25 AM

Protocol: Traveling, 0.49 mile(s)

5 species (+1 other taxa)

Mallard 3
Greater/Lesser Scaup 2
Ruddy Duck 22
Killdeer 1
Ring-billed Gull 15
Herring Gull 2