

November 2-4, 2018 - Muskegon Weekend Trip

Trip Leaders: Don Burlett. Dan Gertiser

This was a field trip to the Muskegon area over the weekend and it turned out to be a pretty good field trip. Weather was quite acceptable until Sunday morning when the rain came. On Friday, we birded some parks in Ottawa County (near Grand Haven and Holland) and the birds were good. Things started quietly but got better as the day and locations changed. Highlights included a Cackling Goose (Coopersville Goose field), Common Redpoll (Ottawa Sans county park), Red-headed Woodpecker (Ottawa Sands), Ruddy Turnstone (Coopersville Waste Water treatment) and Short-billed Dowitchers (Coopersville Waste Water). On Saturday, we started at the Muskegon Waster Water impoundments and things were okay with tons of Shovelers and Ruddy Ducks. We did get a Lesser Black-backed Gull at the trash mountain along with a partially leucistic Starling making heads turn (thought it was a Snow Bunting at first glance but we got them later). We also came back later in the day and got an Eared Grebe and another Cackling Goose. However, with things slow, we drove to Ludington to net the Rock Wren (at the state park) and Little Gull (at Ludington Waste Water facility). On Sunday, with rain happening/predicted, we hustled back to Washtenaw County for the Spotted Redshank. All-in-all, a great weekend (66 species seen) with lifers for many of the participants and a great collection of “rarities” to feed anyone’s appetite. A bit of driving but nobody was complaining. What more need I say.....great field trip. There were 66 species seen on this trip, listed below.

Cackling Goose*
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Northern Shoveler
Green-winged Teal
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Pied-billed Grebe
Eared Grebe*
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Bald Eagle

Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Spotted Redshank**
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ruddy Turnstone*
Short-billed Dowitcher*
Bonaparte's Gull
Little Gull*
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Merlin*
Peregrine Falcon
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Rock Wren**
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
American Tree Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Redpoll

American Goldfinch
House Sparrow