

Field Trip Report – Fish Point Wildlife Area/Quanicassee Wildlife Area

November 1, 2025

Leader: Don Burlett

A group of seven crack birders headed out early and headed to Fish Point Wildlife area. After a brief discussion with MDNR personnel at the site, we headed to the observation tower near the refuge area. There were plenty of ducks but early on the light was not great and made identification of the many species difficult. We immediately spotted several Northern Harriers working the fields. We also observed a number of Rusty Blackbirds amongst the Red-winged Blackbirds in nearby trees. As the clouds began to move off, we had slightly better light and we noted hundreds of Mallards, many Northern Pintail, lots of Ruddy Ducks and American Coots. With a smattering of other ducks, it made for a good stop. Flying around the area were many Sandhill Cranes, Canada Geese and even some Dunlin. Of course, the air was chilly to start the day but the sun soon warmed us very nicely.



Photo by Don Burlett

We then drove our cars to the western section of the area and added a Fox Sparrow, many American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Swamp Sparrows and other birds.

On our way to our next stop, we detoured slightly to check out the Vassar Road terminus at Lake Huron. Bonaparte's Gulls, a Herring Gull and a Greater Yellowlegs were quickly found. The highlight of the day was finding an American Golden Plover on the beach at this site. Very nice bird!

We drove to Quanicassee Wildlife Area at the Finn Road terminus. Here, we took a casual walk on a trail through the woods at the edge of the marshy area and found our White-breasted Nuthatch, Titmouse, chickadee and a Brown Creeper.



Photos by Don Burlett

We concluded the field trip at this location but had enjoyed a very nice day and lots of birds. The complete list of species observed is provided below.

List of Species Observed: (53 species)

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Tundra Swan
Northern Shoveler
Mallard

American Black Duck
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Bufflehead
Ruddy Duck
Rock Pigeon (feral)
Mourning Dove
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
American Golden-Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Dunlin
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
American Herring Gull
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Harrier
Bald Eagle
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
American Crow
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Golden-crowned Kinglet
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
European Starling
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
House Sparrow
American Pipit
American Goldfinch
American Tree Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal