Field Trip Report – Fish Point Wildlife Arae/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.

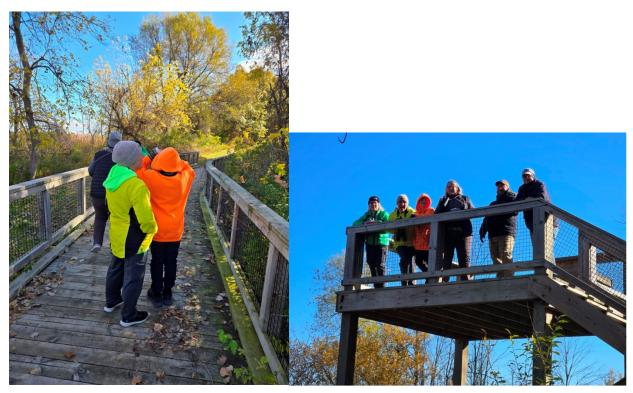


Photo by Don Burlett

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