

## **Field Trip Report – St. Clair River**

**January 18, 2025**

**Leader: Don Burlett**

A scant group of 3 “serious” birders ventured forth on this cold and wet day. The day started at Harley Ensign boat ramp in rain. There were some ducks and a flock of Tundra Swans out in the water. There were also hundreds of ducks farther out but these couldn’t be definitively identified.

We then headed north along Anchor Bay to the St. Clair River and proceeded to drive along the river up to Port Huron. The river was wide open and the groups of ducks were distributed along the entire length of this trip. Long-tailed Ducks were numerous and dominated the middle of the river. Flocks of Canvasbacks and Redhead were common and mostly close to shore. We did catch a Northern Harrier migrating to Canada early in the trip. A wide variety of ducks were observed but when we got to Pt. Huron, they thinned out a bit. We did spot an Iceland Gull sitting on a rail at the Edison Park below the bridge. At Lighthouse Park and Lakeside Park, we had numbers of ducks out in the water but by then, the rain had switched to snow and visibility was lower. No Scoters, eiders and very few gulls at that point.

All totaled, we had 24 species and the list for two stretches of the trip are provided below.

### **Harley Ensign**

Tundra Swan

Mallard

Canvasback

Lesser Scaup

Bufflehead

Common Goldeneye

Common Merganser

Ruddy Duck

Ring-billed Gull

Redhead

Greater Scaup

Long-tailed Duck

Bufflehead

Common Goldeneye

Common Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)

Sandhill Crane

American Herring Gull

Iceland Gull

Northern Harrier

Red-tailed Hawk

Blue Jay

European Starling

House Sparrow

### **Algonac to Pt Huron**

Canada Goose

Mute Swan

Trumpeter/Tundra Swan

Mallard

Canvasback