



<b>Name</b>	Detroit River	
<b>Status</b>	Recognized	<b>State</b> Michigan
<b>Priority</b>	Global	<b>Counties</b> Wayne
<b>Proposed Criteria</b>	A4i, D1, D4ii	
<b>Confirmed Criteria</b>	A4i, D1, D4i, D4ii	
<b>Central Coordinates</b>	<b>Area (acres)</b>	<b>Elevation (meters)</b>
42.23417, -83.13694	25,002	<b>Min: Max: Avg:</b>

**SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Detroit River from downtown Detroit to the rivermouth at Lake Erie.

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This IBA is recognized for its outstanding migrant and wintering waterfowl and waterbird concentrations. Early winter surveys have recorded high counts of 79,300 Canvasbacks (i.e. over 10% of the estimated global population), over 1,900 Tundra Swans, 1,000 American Black Ducks, 10,000 Mallards, 3,500 Common Mergansers, 40 Forster's Terns, and 275 Common Tern nests.

**SPECIES DATA AND CRITERIA**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Seasonal/Daily</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Observed</u>	<u>Density (#km/2)</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
<u>American Coot</u>	2006	D	passage	5,900		Individuals	-	D4i
<b>Source :</b> MAS Seasonal Survey data. Seen offshore of Lake Erie metropark, where this phenomenon is annual each fall. Other counts: 3,700 on 30 October 2002, 3,000 on 1 November 2003, and 2,700 on 3 November 2004.								
<u>Canvasback</u>	1999	D	passage	5,586		Individuals	D4ii	-
<b>Source :</b> 7% survey total of 79,300 counted in Lake St Clair and Detroit River/western Lake Erie complex, per Detroit River-Western Lake Erie Basin Indicator Project, <a href="http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/canvasback.html">www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/canvasback.html</a> Other early Nov aerial surveys from 1996-2004 garnered an average of 22,000 Canvasbacks between the two sites (presumably ~1540 within the Detroit River/Lake Erie Complex), with five of the nine counts above 20,000 Canvasbacks total.								
	2004	D	non-breeding	11,500		Individuals	A4i ,D4ii	D4ii
<b>Source :</b> Michigan Audubon Society seasonal survey; counted from the outer dikes of Pointe Mouillee State Game Area: these birds were in the rivermouth of the Detroit River, not within the Game Area.								
	2005	D	non-breeding	11,406		Individuals	-	A4i
<b>Source :</b> Byrne, Adam: Counts from personal long-term dataset that he compiles consistently each season. Observations were made from the dikes of Pointe Mouillee State Game Area: these birds were in the rivermouth of the Detroit River, not within the Game Area. Average Peak Counts from 2003-2007: Winter=3262 with a range of 88-11406 individuals.								
	1998	D	non-breeding	27,000		Individuals	-	-
<b>Source :</b> Michigan Audubon Society seasonal survey; birds were observed from Lake Erie Metropark, but were using the waters of the Detroit River.								
	2003	D	non-breeding	45,000		Individuals	A4i ,D4ii	-
<b>Source :</b> Michigan Audubon Society seasonal survey; birds were observed from Lake Erie Metropark, but were using the waters of the Detroit River.								
	2004	D	non-breeding	28,600		Individuals	A4i ,D4ii	D4ii
<b>Source :</b> Michigan Audubon Society seasonal survey: birds were counted from Lake Erie Metopark, but were using the waters of the Detroit River.								
<u>Common Tern</u>	2005	S	breeding	275		Nests	D1	-

**Source :** 285 nests in 2004, 316 nests in 2003. All counts made by direct count by Bull and Szczechowski, cited as a pers. comm. in Detroit River-Western Lake Erie Basin Indicator Project, [www.http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile\\_site/indicators/common-terns.html](http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html), accessed Nov 2006.

2003	D	breeding	316	Nests	D1	-
<b>Source :</b> Location= 2 bridges connecting Grosse Ile to mainland. Fig. 4 in <a href="http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html#status">www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html#status</a>						
2004	D	breeding	285	Nests	D1	-
<b>Source :</b> Location= Grosse Ile Pkwy bridge and Bridge Rd bridge Fig. 4 in <a href="http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html#status">http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html#status</a>						
2008	D	breeding	135	Nests	-	D1
<b>Source :</b> 90 pairs on Free Bridge, 45 pairs on Grosse Ile Parkway Location= 2 bridges connecting Grosse Ile to mainland Fig. 4 in <a href="http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html#status">www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/indicators/common-terns.html#status</a>						

#### OWNERSHIP

<u>Assessment Date</u>	<u>% of IBA</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
1/1/2008	-	State
	100	International Water
	-	Federal/FWS - National Wildlife Refuge
1/1/2008		Public ownership of the open water IBA, all of which falls within the "acquisition boundary" of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

#### HABITAT

<u>Assessment Date</u>	<u>% of IBA</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
1/1/2008	100	Water/Open Water/River
1/1/2008		Open water of river and Lake Erie, with rich beds of wild celery ( <i>Valisineria americana</i> ).

#### LAND USE

<u>Assessment Date</u>	<u>% of IBA</u>	<u>Land Use</u>
1/1/2008	-	tourism/recreation/Swimming
	-	urban/industrial/transport/Disposal Area
	-	nature conservation and research/Ornithological Research
	-	urban/industrial/transport/Commercial Development
	-	urban/industrial/transport/Bridges
	-	hunting/Waterfowl Hunting
	-	tourism/recreation/Fishing
	-	urban/industrial/transport/Residential/ Suburban
	-	fisheries/aquaculture/Non-recreational Fishing
	-	urban/industrial/transport/Ports
1/1/2008		Extremely varied usage of this site. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is doing a great variety of wildlife conservation work, fish restoration and environmental education. The river is lined with industrial facilities and brownfields, vacant lots, power plants, residences and subdivisions, marinas, and other uses.

#### THREATS

<u>Assessment Date</u>	<u>% of IBA</u>	<u>Threat</u>
1/1/2008	-	Industrialization/Urbanization/Commercial development
	-	Invasive species/Non-native plants
	8	Industrialization/Urbanization/Chemical runoff
	5	Disturbance to birds/Boats
	3	Dredging/For navigation
	-	Industrialization/Urbanization/Transportation or utility corridor
	-	Pollution/Fuel-oil pollution from boats
	-	Pollution/Nutrient pollution
	-	Pollution/Air pollution
	-	Industrialization/Urbanization/Waste disposal
	3	Pollution/Water pollution

- 10 Invasive species/Non-native animals (other than birds)
- Industrialization/Urbanization/Habitat fragmentation
- 8 Industrialization/Urbanization/Wind towers
- Industrialization/Urbanization/Energy generation

#### CONSERVATION ISSUES

- 1/1/2008 Longstanding pollution from industrial air pollution, dumping of chemicals, and runoff have recently decreased, in part due to the efforts of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and its support group, the Friends of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. These threats are still problematic and will require continued attention. Disturbance of the waterfowl flocks during late fall and winter (and nesting Common Terns) are potentially problematic for these species.
- 

National Audubon Society 2013 ®  
Important Bird Areas in the U.S.  
Available @ <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba>