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The fenced-in woodland has had little work done with it so far in terms of encouraging native species. Most of the woods are dense and weedy in the understory. Nevertheless, the mere presence of the woods and the park's location jutting out into Lake Michigan makes the spot attractive for migrating birds. In addition to the woods, according to the Birders Guide to the Chicago Region by Lynne Carpenter and Joel Greenberg, a nearby stand of hawthorn trees by the wall of the filtration plant tend to attract thrushes and sparrows in migration and during winter.

Navy Pier in general, though not included in this guide to natural habitats, is a great place to look for arctic ducks out in Lake Michigan in the winter. Careful observers may spot loons, oldsquaw, and other waterfowl that frequent the lake during the cold months. Navy Pier's management has done a good job of providing interpretive signs regarding birds that may been seen at and around the pier.

The setting for Olive Park's small is dramatic, as the city's skyscrapers are its nearest backdrop as you look to the west and south.

