

SOAR RECAP

OCTOBER 4TH 2025



Sunny skies and warm temperatures greeted us as we arrived at Buttonwood Nature Center for the first October bird walk. Sharon and I were joined by newcomer Betty, Lisa, Ian, Becky and Lee, Sue and Jeff, Jean and Larry, Dan, and Buttonwood Executive Director Tracy. As we assembled, we saw some mallards and the ever-present Canada geese. As we started down the path along Red Run, we heard our first white-throated sparrow of the fall. Our final count (if we were counting) of these new arrivals would be several dozen.

Next up was a flicker and a red-bellied woodpecker. A pair of wood ducks did a flyover, but avoided the pond, likely due to our presence. Someone heard or saw a killdeer, and a noisy pileated woodpecker made its presence known. We saw a few catbirds that have yet to depart for warmer climes and at the top of a tree across the pond a pair of brown-headed cowbirds.

As we diverted from the creek path toward the wetland area, Lee spotted a rose-breasted grosbeak and Ian located a ruby-crowned kinglet. We retraced our steps and passed by the barn toward the relatively new trail that skirts the hill making the ascent a little easier than walking the road. Here we added a goldfinch, an Eastern phoebe and some overhead chimney swifts. Chimney swifts spend most of their lives airborne. They are unable to perch, but upon landing cling to vertical walls of chimneys, hollow trees or caves. From dawn to dusk they are flying.

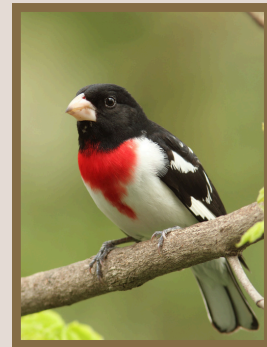
As the path steepened, we had a welcome stop to observe a hawk in a distant tree. The consensus was a red-tail. Overhead was a mixed group of vultures. A little further on, Ian found a golden-crowned kinglet and someone pointed out a yellow-bellied sapsucker. There was also a chipping sparrow and a group of cedar waxwings.

After reaching the “summit,” someone wondered aloud why we hadn’t seen Hiker, the resident Buttonwood cat, and dare I say, mascot. Tracy said he would be around somewhere. The somewhere turned out to be in the house. Lisa walked to the back door and Hiker was there, wishing he wasn’t. When Tracy unlocked the door, after greeting everyone, Hiker dashed up two trees and followed our group as we headed down the road.

After walking back downhill toward the parking area, we were lamenting the lack of warblers. Becky mentioned we hadn’t even seen a yellow-rumped warbler, since they can be seen year-round in this area. In the “ask and you shall receive” category, Lee soon spotted a pair of yellow-rumps in a tree at the corner of the pond. That brought our total for the day to 38.

**NEXT SOAR WALK: OCTOBER 18TH
AT BUTTONWOOD NATURE CENTER**

SPECIES LIST



- American Crow
- American Goldfinch
- American Robin
- Black Vulture
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Canada Goose
- C/BC Wren
- Cedar Waxwing
- Chimney Swift
- Chipping Sparrow
- Common Raven
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Bluebird
- Eastern Phoebe
- European Starling
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Gray Catbird
- House Finch
- Indigo Bunting
- Killdeer
- Mallard
- Mourning Dove
- Northern Cardinal
- Northern Flicker
- Northern Mockingbird
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Song Sparrow
- Tufted Titmouse
- Turkey Vulture
- White-throated Sparrow
- Wood Duck
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Yellow-rumped Warbler