

# SOAR Recap

## November 15 2025



It was an overcast day, and rain was in the forecast, as I was joined by Jean, Lisa, Jeff, Becky and Ian for the second November walk at the Conococheague Institute. We were greeted by Matthew Wedd, who described some of the ever-expanding list of recent and planned activities at the Institute, including possible land acquisition. As for the birds, we got off to a good start as the distant tree that had so much raptor action two weeks prior contained a red-tailed hawk.

Could this portend another high raptor count we wondered? From the parking area we added the usual suspects including pigeons, starlings, white-throated sparrows, and a mockingbird, as well as a small flock of cedar waxwings. As we walked down the path, we quickly added a downy woodpecker, junco, and a yellow-bellied sapsucker. We paused at the goat and sheep enclosure as Matthew fed the eager animals. He told us that they expected new lambs and kids in the spring.

Near the pond, we added a cardinal, some mallards, a Carolina wren, song sparrow and some white-crowned sparrows. There was also a towhee that posed in the open, offering a good look. As we approached the pond, Ian was in the lead and watched a pair of Wilson's snipes take flight. I was a few steps behind, but I did get a glimpse of them in the air. We also saw a brown creeper doing his usual ascent up a tree trunk. When the bird stopped it was perfectly camouflaged against the tree bark. Once it moved everyone got a good look.

As we circled the pond, Becky spotted a golden-crowned kinglet, and as we walked along the far side several blue jays became highly agitated. We thought maybe there was a hawk nearby that they didn't like, but we finally decided maybe it was us they objected to. Further along we added a yellow-rumped warbler and in the field by the cemetery some horned larks. In the woods we added a hairy woodpecker and some brown-headed cowbirds.

As we emerged from the woods, a light rain began. Jeff stated: "I am neither emotionally nor physically ready for this." So, discretion being the better part of valor, we took a short cut across the field rather than staying on the perimeter. Of course, by the time we reached the parking area the rain had stopped. We stayed long enough to see a few grackles fly overhead bringing, our total number of species to 37. Our raptor expectations were shattered as the initial red-tail was the only one we saw, compared to six species on November 1. We blamed the lack of a breeze and hence thermals for their absence.

Next SOAR Walk: December 6 at Antrim Township  
Community Park

# Species List

American crow  
American goldfinch  
American robin  
Blue jay  
Brown creeper  
Brown-headed cowbird  
C/BC chickadee  
Canada goose  
Carolina wren  
Cedar waxwing  
Common grackle  
Dark-eyed junco  
Downy woodpecker  
Eastern bluebird  
Eastern towhee  
European starling  
Golden-crowned kinglet  
Hairy woodpecker  
Horned lark  
House finch  
House sparrow  
Mourning dove  
Northern cardinal  
Northern flicker  
Northern mockingbird  
Purple finch  
Red-bellied woodpecker  
Red-tailed hawk  
Rock pigeon  
Song sparrow  
Tufted titmouse  
White-breasted nuthatch  
White-crowned sparrow  
White-throated sparrow  
Wilson's snipe  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Yellow-rumped warbler



Horned Lark



Brown Creeper



Wilson's Snipe