

# SOAR Recap March 7 2026

March 7 marked a milestone of sorts. It was the first ever official SOAR walk at the Emmanuel Harman Farm, now part of the Gettysburg National Military Park, and former site of the Gettysburg Country Club. It also marked Sharon's first walk since her ankle injury on 30 October. We learned a great deal about the site, which was home to an important battle on the first day of the Gettysburg Campaign. There is no signage yet, but our information came courtesy of Dan, who spent many days at the Country Club where his father was the groundskeeper.

Not only is there Civil War history, but in later years the golf course was often used by Dwight Eisenhower. When Ike played, Dan's father was his caddy. Adding to the "history," Sharon's friend was bookkeeper for the golf course and one of the first houses we looked at in PA backed to the course. It sold quickly, so thankfully we landed in Waynesboro.

The small parking area along Country Club Lane was just large enough to hold all our cars. Sharon and I were joined by Becky and Lee, MJ and Ed, Lisa, Ian, Dan and first timers Joann and Steve, from New Jersey and Gettysburg. From the parking lot we heard a red-shouldered hawk, some crows, a blue jay, a cardinal and a red-bellied woodpecker.

As we started down the path, we added a mocking bird, saw a flyover of some mallards and geese, and saw a white-breasted nuthatch. Next we heard a raven (more about that later), and a Carolina wren. At feeders behind nearby houses we added a titmouse, chickadees, juncos, and white-throated sparrows. We also spotted a red-shouldered hawk above the course.

As we continued down the still visible cart path, a raven did a flyover. Tightly clutched in its beak was an egg about the size of a hen egg. Hawk, turkey, chicken; we don't know, but it was an unusual sighting. Next we approached the larger of the two ponds. There was a redhead and several ring-necked ducks mixed in with the mallards and geese. There was also a muskrat swimming in the middle of the pond.

After leaving the pond, we heard a towhee and a killdeer, and in a small clump of trees a pair of fox sparrows on the ground. Lisa spotted a red-breasted nuthatch (always a treat), Ian saw a flock of cedar waxwings, and a pair of hooded mergansers flew overhead. Lee also heard his specialty, a field sparrow. From the parking area we saw a pair of yellow-rumped warblers across the road, bringing our total number of species to a respectable 36.

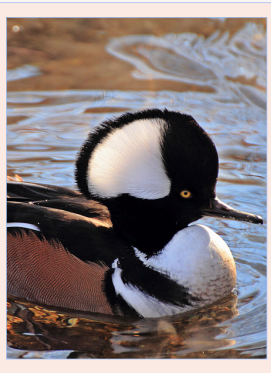
Next SOAR Walk:  
Emmanuel Harman Farm/Gettysburg Country Club—  
Meet at the parking area on Country Club Lane  
(near #320 and near the intersection with Old Mill Road)



# Species List

American crow  
American goldfinch  
American robin  
Blue jay  
C/BC chickadee  
Canada goose  
Carolina wren  
Cedar waxwing  
Common grackle  
Common raven  
Dark-eyed junco  
Downy woodpecker  
Eastern bluebird  
Eastern towhee  
European starling  
Field sparrow  
Hooded merganser  
House finch

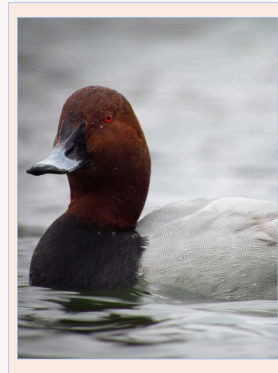
Killdeer  
Mallard  
Mourning dove  
Northern cardinal  
Northern flicker  
Northern mockingbird  
Red-bellied woodpecker  
Red-breasted nuthatch  
Redhead  
Red-shouldered hawk  
Red-tailed hawk  
Red-winged blackbird  
Ring-necked duck  
Song sparrow  
Tufted titmouse  
White-breasted nuthatch  
White-throated sparrow  
Yellow-rumped warbler



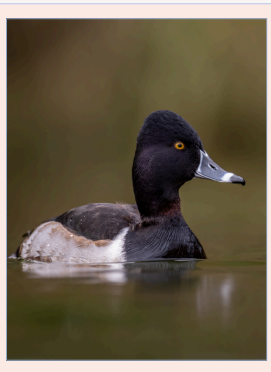
*Hooded merganser*



*Red-breasted nuthatch*



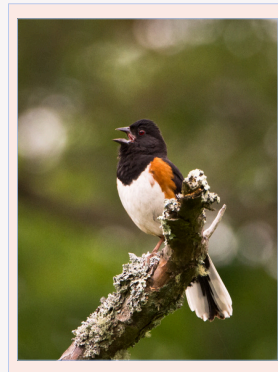
*Redhead*



*Ring-necked duck*



*Common raven*



*Eastern towhee*