

SOAR RECAP APRIL 4 2026

It was warm and getting warmer as we gathered at Buttonwood Nature Center for our first April bird walk. Sharon and I were joined by Jean, Ian, Dan, Carol, Becky and Lee, MJ and Ed, and Jeff and Sue. Starting in the parking area and then walking to the new bridge, we filled the first page of my notebook with 21 species. These included the usual suspects of mallards, many geese, vocal red-bellied woodpeckers, a flicker, and a chipping sparrow. Over the stream there was a great-blue heron and on the opposite side of the lane a ruby-crowned kinglet, a newly arrived blue-gray gnatcatcher, and a yellow-bellied sapsucker. Ian also observed a phoebe going under the bridge, undoubtedly looking for a nesting spot.

As we started down the path along the stream, Dan saw a hairy woodpecker. Ian found a brown creeper up the hill from our position, and someone heard a meadow lark and a killdeer. A kingfisher flew over the stream in full volume and there were several bluebirds nearby. At ground level in the grass and brush near the water, several of us got a good glimpse of a swamp sparrow. Way above, an osprey did a flyover, and a bit later a pileated woodpecker did a closer flyby.

As we approached the small streamside pavilion and looked toward the far end of the path, a pair of deer stood watching us. They moved on and eight others crossed the path following them. Dan was in the lead and as he neared the end of the path he spotted and was able to observe, for a moment, a gray fox.

As we retraced our steps and headed up the trail toward the top of the hill, Carol heard a raven, and several people heard and saw a field sparrow. We added a junco, which will soon be departing our area along with the white-throated sparrows.

As we neared the top of the hill, the breeze must have been picking up because we added both vulture species. Ian spotted a purple finch and also heard a towhee on the downhill side of our position. That brought our total species count to 46, which is very respectful given our lack of many raptor sightings.

**NEXT SOAR WALK: APRIL 18 AT
BUTTONWOOD NATURE CENTER**



SPECIES LIST

American goldfinch
American robin
Belted kingfisher
Black vulture
Blue jay
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Brown creeper
Brown-headed cowbird
C/BC chickadee
Canada goose
Carolina wren
Chipping sparrow
Common grackle
Common raven
Dark-eyed junco
Downy woodpecker
Eastern bluebird
Eastern phoebe
Eastern towhee
European starling
Field sparrow
Fish crow
Great-blue heron
Hairy woodpecker
House finch
Killdeer
Mallard
Meadow lark
Mourning dove
Northern cardinal
Northern flicker
Northern mockingbird
Osprey
Pileated woodpecker
Purple finch
Red-bellied woodpecker
Red-winged blackbird
Ruby-crowned kinglet
Song sparrow
Swamp sparrow
Tufted titmouse
Turkey vulture
White-breasted nuthatch
White-throated sparrow
Yellow-bellied sapsucker
Yellow-rumped warbler