

Highlights from November 7 Bird Walk to Walden Ponds

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Chuck Aid

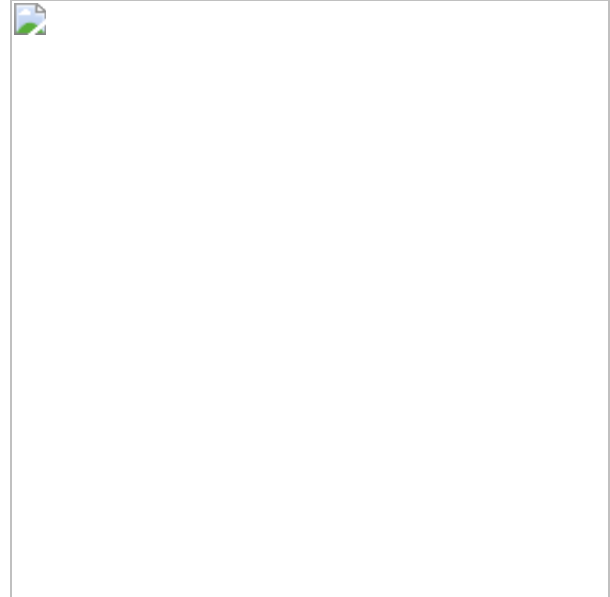
November 10, 2018

First of all, let me clarify that Walden Ponds are not over in North Park. They are out on the east side of Boulder and are named for a county commissioner who spearheaded the conversion of multiple gravel pits into a wonderful wildlife habitat area adjacent to Boulder Creek. By my count there are almost twenty ponds in the area, most with little islands and gravel bars and patches of cattails, some of the latter quite extensive. It is definitely one of the premier birding locations in Boulder County.

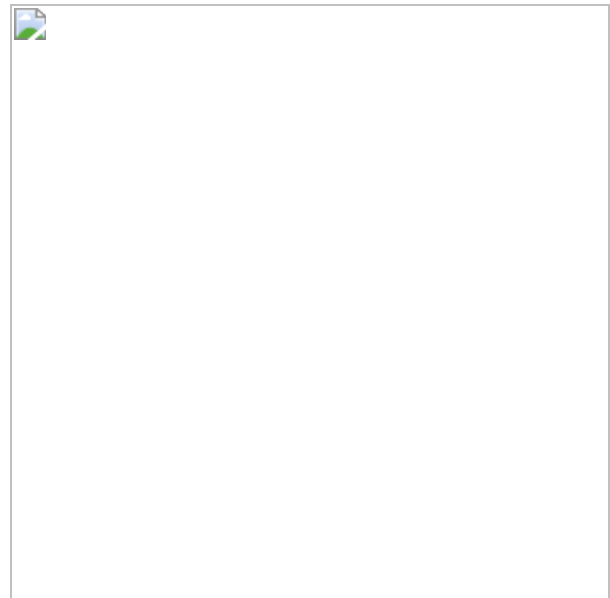
Our group of ten spent three hours there on Wednesday morning. Much of our time was spent on the numerous ducks, and we faired pretty well with the landbirds. A few species that should be around in good numbers now, but which we did not see included Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, and Common Goldeneye. We also struck out on Swamp Sparrow, which occasionally can be seen in this area, and we saw no Juncos. Good birds that we did pick up on included four Bald Eagles, a pair of American Kestrels, a pair of Brown Creepers, and three sparrow species – American Tree, White-crowned, and Song.

One interesting bird we saw was a late Osprey flying overhead. These guys tend to start head south primarily in August and September and are generally totally absent by the end of October. So, to see one in early November was an unexpected treat.

Undoubtedly, the bird of the day was a Pectoral Sandpiper. This is a medium-sized sandpiper, just slightly smaller than a Killdeer, but noticeably bigger than the little sandpipers that we refer to as “peeps.” It is rather robust looking; has a relatively long, thick bill; dense, dark-brown, vertical streaking on the breast that ends abruptly at a white belly;

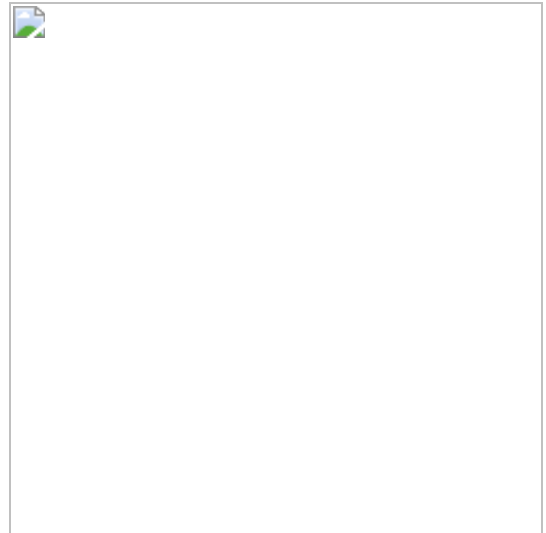


Ring-necked Duck (c) Mick Thompson

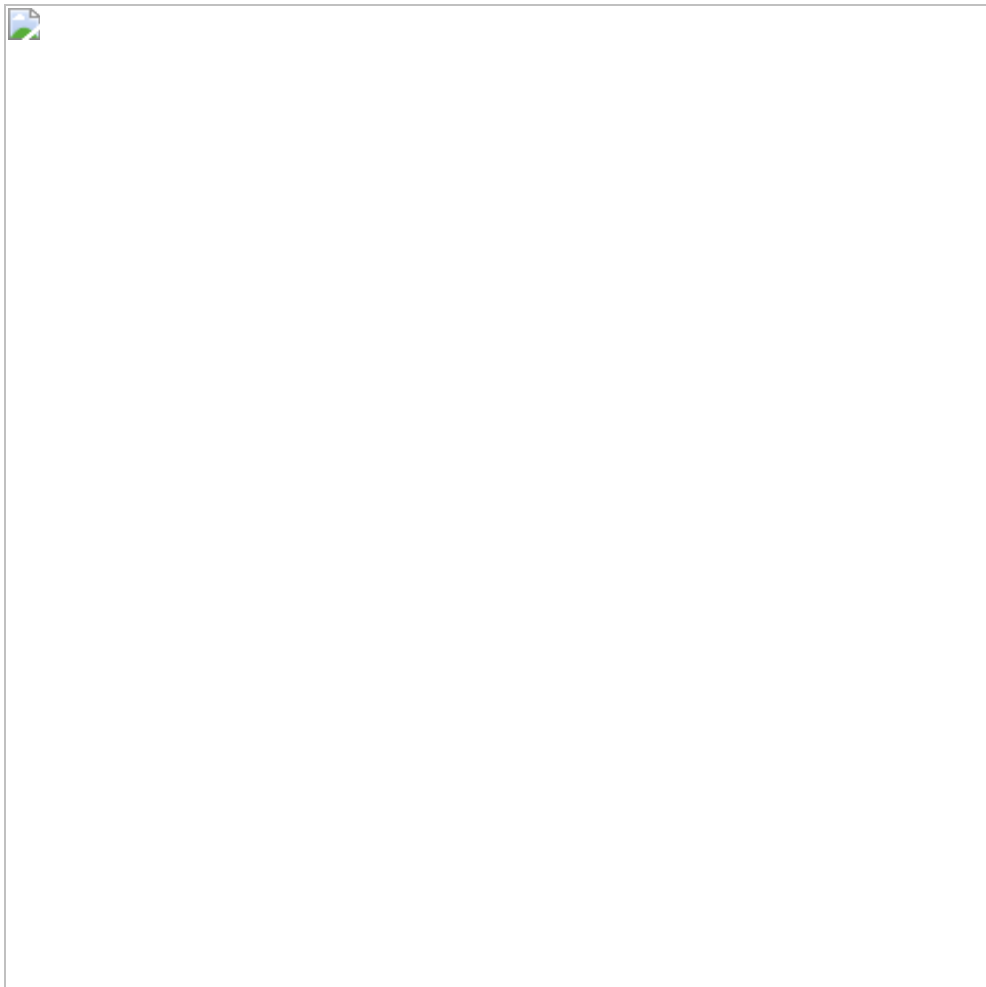


Green-winged Teal (c) Mick Thompson

yellow legs; and a fairly obvious white supercilium (eyebrow). These birds are largely gone from our area by mid-October, so it was quite a treat to see this guy.



Osprey (c) Mick Thompson



Pectoral Sandpiper (c) Dina Baker

The next big birding event for Evergreen Audubon will be the Christmas Bird Count. Please be in touch if you would like to participate or perhaps be a Feeder Counter for us from the comfort of your home – birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org.

Good birding!
Chuck Aid
Bird Monitoring Director

Walden Ponds, Nov 7, 2018
38 species

Canada Goose 184
Gadwall 69
American Wigeon 112
Mallard 21
Green-winged Teal 33
Redhead 2
Ring-necked Duck 75
Bufflehead 8
Hooded Merganser 23
Common Merganser 20
Pied-billed Grebe 3
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 120
American Coot 18
Killdeer 1
Pectoral Sandpiper 1
Ring-billed Gull 35
Great Blue Heron 2
Osprey 1
Bald Eagle 4
Red-tailed Hawk 2
Belted Kingfisher 5
Downy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 10
American Kestrel 2
Blue Jay 5
Black-billed Magpie 6
American Crow 1
Common Raven 1
Black-capped Chickadee 13
White-breasted Nuthatch 3
Brown Creeper 2
American Robin 4
European Starling 35
American Goldfinch 5
American Tree Sparrow 1

White-crowned Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 11
Red-winged Blackbird 18