

A Windy Bird walk in November!

by Christine Bucher

On Saturday, November 12th, we held our last bird walk for the season. Nine of us met at the Wild Bird Center at 7:30 a.m. and carpoled to "Kettle Lakes" just outside the south gate of the Air Force Academy. It started out clear and somewhat breezy, but after about a half hour the wind really started to blow and we had to cut the bird walk short. Our intrepid group covered binoculars and cameras to protect them from the blowing dust and battled our way back to the cars.



Despite the wind, we did see a few birds but nothing unusual. The most unusual thing about the bird walk was the lack of waterfowl on the larger of the two "lakes." Normally we would see some ducks, geese, grebes and a blue heron or two, but due to the wind nothing was moving.

Here is a complete (but short) list of the birds seen:

- Belted Kingfisher
- House Finches
- Chipping Sparrow (one)
- Red-shafted Northern Flicker
- Spotted Towhee
- Dark-eyed Juncoes (but unable to determine "race")
- Hawk (flying high and not further identified)

The Wild Bird Center will begin the monthly bird walks again in April 2012. Please watch future E-zines for details.

(Bird picture was not taken on this bird walk.)