



Birding in mid-October? I was skeptical; I expected that most of the migrating birds had long since fled to their warm vacation destinations. Well surprise, surprise we recorded 36 bird species during our 3 hour stroll through Dundas Valley Conservation area. The nature ramble was led by James Lees from Conservation Hamilton and Amanda Bichel of Bird Studies Canada. James is an awesome birder by sight and by ear. Without his skills we likely wouldn't have recorded much more than 10 bird species. One surprise for me was witnessing at least 3 flocks of Herring Gulls flying in a "V" formation. I thought only geese and ducks did that.

The nature ramble was organized by the Bruce Trail Conservancy's Meghan Croll (middle). The event wasn't only about birding. It was also a citizen science tutorial. Amanda Bichel schooled us in the use of I-phone apps like ebird and Inaturalist.



Left to right: James Lees (Hamilton Conservation), Meghan Croll (Bruce Trail Conservancy) and Amanda Bichel (Bird Studies Canada)

Common Loon  
 Carolina Wren  
 Gold-crowned Kinglets  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglets  
 Easter Bluebirds  
 Cedar Waxwings  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 Canada Geese  
 Red-winged Blackbirds  
 Starlings  
 Field Sparrows  
 Song Sparrows  
 Dark Eyed Juncos

American Robbins  
 Common Grackle  
 Yellow-rumped Warblers  
 American Goldfinch  
 House Finch  
 Herring Gulls  
 Blue Jays  
 Turkey Vultures  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Sharp Shinned Hawk  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Crows  
 Chickadees  
 Hermit Thrush  
 White-Throated Sparrows  
 White Crowned Sparrows  
 Northern cardinals  
 Brown Creeper