

Vaill Point Report
March 30, 2008

Our group had hermit thrushes and gray catbirds leaving, yellow-billed cuckoos arriving, Carolina wrens, northern cardinals, bald eagles, and red-shouldered hawks nesting, and everyone else hunkered down. In spite of fierce winds and overcast skies at Vaill Point, our group had some exciting moments. The two hawks were loudly defending their nest against a barred owl which came down to sit in a nearby oak tree, do his “who-cooks-for-you” call, and then let us practically walk up to him.

A parula warbler in the wind hung on to a stag-headed tree long enough for us to watch him through the scope, a rare occurrence. White-eyed vireos, yellow-throated warblers, parulas, and redwings sang everywhere. The usual shorebirds worked the marshes around the dock while adult and immature eagles looked on.

A slow drive along Shore Drive produced an eastern bluebird, a green-backed heron, and super looks at six female red-breasted mergansers. Finally, we added a loggerhead shrike, mallards, and coots at the Flagler Hospital retention pond for a total of 55 species. Not a bad morning!