

It was a bright, gleaming morning, though cold and windy when the All Gull Band met up at the boat launch at Algonkian Regional Park. The birding was pretty good, despite shaking hands while holding binoculars and having frozen fingers while taking notes. A Common Yellowthroat perched close to the trail and sang its heart out; a Rusty Blackbird, with its striking white eye, did likewise; and we had very nice views of a Northern Parula, which paused to sing while foraging in the leaves above our heads. We also found Palm Warblers at every location we scouted. But we spent most of our time watching a merganser giving a piggy back ride to her 5 tiny, polka dot chicks (merglets?). These were the highlights of a pleasant day of birding. We found 73 species altogether.

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