

## **Field Trip Report – Beaudette Park, Dodge#4 Satet Park, E L Johnson Nature Center –**

**January 11, 2025**

**Leader: Don Burlett**

We had 14 birders brave the cold weather and recent snow to venture forth in search of birds. Temperatures were in the 20's and it was mostly cloudy with a gentle breeze. We began this field trip at Beaudette Park. Surprisingly, most of the water in the "pond" areas of this river were frozen. We had to venture to the very far northwestern end of the park to get open water with ducks. As we walked along the river to this spot, a number of typical winter birds were observed. When we reached the open water, there large number of Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks and some swans. All three varieties of swans were there as well along with a single Common Goldeneye and some Buffleheads.



Photo by Kayla Niner

We then drove to Dodge #4 State Park in search of any other waterfowl. The lake there was largely frozen but for a small section in the middle of the lake. Visibility got iffy when it began to snow. However, a large number of Mute Swans were there along with some Redhead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Bufflehead and possibly the previously report Long-tailed Duck. (This sighting was not reported because only the leader got a brief glimpse of this bird.) We did have a flyover Bald Eagle (immature) and there was a flyover of a large number of Lesser Scaup.

Finally, part of the group drove to Johnson Nature Center to check out the feeders (mostly non-attended) and to walk a little of the area around the nature center. Several American Crows made their

presence known along with a group of American Robins feeding on berries in the bushes. We were surprised when a group of Tundra Swans flew overhead, calling loudly.

All totaled, we saw 26 species on this cold, cloudy day. A few birds were surprises but it was a typical local winter field trip. The cold weather up to this point has frozen most of the lakes and small streams leaving just a few spots to check out.

The list of species seen (separated by location is provided below.

Name	Beaudette	<u>Dodge#4</u> Park	Johnson NC
Mute Swan	X	X	
Trumpeter Swan	X		
Tundra Swan	X		X
Mallard	X	X	
Mallard (Domestic)	X		
Redhead		X	
Lesser Scaup		X	
Ring-necked Duck	X		
Bufflehead	X	X	
Common Goldeneye	X	X	
Common Merganser		X	
Hooded Merganser	X		
Rock Pigeon (feral)		X	
Mourning Dove	X		
Bald Eagle		X	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X		X
Downy Woodpecker	X		X
Blue Jay	X		X
American Crow			X
Black-capped Chickadee	X		X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X
American Robin			X
European Starling	X		
House Sparrow		X	
Red-winged Blackbird		X	
Dark-eyed Junco	X		X
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X