

HFN WINTER BIRDING TRIP 25 January 2025

by Fulton Lavender

Date: Saturday, January, 25th
Place: Sullivan's Pond and further
Weather: Very cold, with cutting 10 km wind
Leader: Fulton Lavender
Participants: 15



These winter birding trips are special events on the calendar no matter where they are undertaken. They are an exercise in defying logic and weather, boosting hope, sharing like-minded company and expressing joy in the experience. Being united in purpose brings birders together to observe how the birds are doing in this trying situation.

On this minus 11 degree Celsius morning with that 10 kilometre wind blowing our 15 undeterred observers gathered at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth on that Saturday morning for what has become an annual HRM/HFN annual birding event. The group birded all the way from Sullivan's Pond to Eastern Passage's Hartlen Point, making the usual stops, while recording a total of 42 species. This is our highest tally to date and one to better in the years ahead. The main highlights of our venture and the locations of our discoveries being the following:

Sullivan's Pond	American Widgeon (1) Ring-necked Duck (5) Black-headed Gull (1)
Dartmouth Cove	Thick-billed Murre (1) Common Loon (1) Black Guillemot (1) Common Goldeneye (6)
McCormack's Beach	Red Tailed Hawk (1) Sharp-shinned hawk (1) Barrow's Goldeneye (1)
Hartlen Point	Northern Pintail (1) Bald Eagle (3) Northern Harrier (4) Rough-legged Hawk (2) Merlin (1)

The best experience for three years in a row was the raptors versus corvids interaction over Devil's Island, always a battle over who gets to eat what.