

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



03-22-08 - [Middle Creek WMA](#), PA: I had visited this venue several years ago. I left disappointed because 1) we only did a hike that was less than 4 miles and, more importantly, 2) we missed the migration of the Snow Geese by about a week. Since my last visit Clark Kent had been up there and he put together this very nice moderate 8 mile circuit. This year he opted to lead the trip again and Wesiana Sunshine (Soon to be M.S.Hyker), Stella and I joined him. I think other participants stayed away due to a threat of snow. We did drive through one snow squall but the day turned out to be rather nice.

We drove immediately to the Willow Point observation area to check out the Snow Geese. What a disappointment! There were about twelve Snow Geese and a few more Canadians. Clark spotted some left-over Tundra Swans in one of the coves. Missed them again!

We made the quick drive to the Visitor Center, checked out the exhibits and began our trek. The hike along the Conservation trail was a mix of hiking the edges of open wildlife areas and mature woods. We soon found ourselves climbing up and over a gap in Black Oak Ridge where we followed the Alders Run Drainage down to Middle Creek.

We checked out the ruins of an old house and a spring house which is all that remains of a 1930s C.C.C. camp. We then turned left onto a former railroad grade that now serves as the Middle Creek Trail. We stopped for a brief lunch at a pleasant bend in the creek.

Although it turned out to be a pleasant day it was a bit too cool to sit too long in one place. We soon found ourselves at Kleinfeltersville Road (Say that three times real fast!), crossed Middle Creek on the road bridge, turned left onto Millstone Road and then began a climb up the Horseshoe Tr. Near the top we jumped onto the Millstone Trail to check out the vista and the namesake of the trail. While we were up there we heard a lot of racket down on the lake. Flight after flight of Snow Geese were landing on and around the island. There were literally thousands of them. By the time we descended to the lake their numbers had increased significantly. The low din that we heard from above was now a loud drone. As we watched all of the birds would lift off and fly in a low cyclonic fashion around the island and land again. We watched them do this a few times.

Continuing, we climbed back to the top of Black Oak Ridge and took in the last vista. It was more of a view of the sprawling valley and surrounding ridges to the west. We could see a part of the lake with its temporary white residents. The climb down off of this one was a lot easier than the Millstone trail. Once at the bottom the Spicebush Trail provided a nice, flat cool down walk back to our car. It was a great hike made even better by getting a chance to finally view migrating Snow Geese.