Haw River State Park, Iron Ore Belt Access; May 16, 2024

submitted by Stella Wear

Trip Coordinator(s): Stella and Tom Wear

Location: 6068 N Church Street, Greensboro, NC

Temperature: Comfortable range in the 70s

Weather: Started out with a sprinkle of rain but slowly cleared.

Target Bird(s) Spring migrants, resident woodland species

Number of participants: 10

Bird List: 47 species
Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downey Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Purple Martin, Brown-headed Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

Comments: For this walk, we went a different direction than we did for the fall walk. Instead of starting on the Great-blue Heron Trail, we went to the right of the restrooms and through the wooded picnic area into a large open area. This area joined up to a dirt road where we then turned left and followed the road until it joined the Great-blue Heron Trail. We then followed the trail on back through the woods to return to the parking lot. The open habitat areas were very good for viewing the Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Summer Tanagers. Two special treats were to see a pair of Chats and a pair of Summer Tanagers that were obviously nesting pairs. As we traveled back through the woods to the parking area, we heard more than we saw including several Oven birds and Acadian Flycatchers.

Photos for the Haw River SP, Iron Ore Belt Access Trip Report

Indigo Bunting

Summer Tanager, female

Summer Tanager, male

Eastern Towhee

Yellow-breasted Chat

Yellow-breasted Chat

Summer Tanager, male

Azure Butterfly