

Piedmont Bird Club's "Big Sit" October 12, 2019

Submitted by Lynne Gray, Circle Captain

A beautiful early fall day and a good and varied supply of birds brought the Piedmont pishers back to our 17-foot circle at Greensboro's Bog Garden for the 2019 Big Sit. The Big Sit is an annual, international, non-competitive birding event hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and sponsored by Swarovski Optical.

Last year's extensive storm damage at the Bog Garden prevented us from participating in 2018, so lovely weather was welcomed and enthusiasm was high. We were happy to be joined by an Ohio visitor, Andrew Hood, whose quick eyes and extensive knowledge helped us identify several of the typically confusing fall birds migrating through. The "usual" birds were present throughout the day allowing ongoing sightings particularly of the Great Blue Heron and hungry Carolina Chickadees. The early shift was treated to their first sighting of a White-throated Sparrow and two Red Foxes who ran through our count circle!



We had a quite respectable total species count of 46, much closer to our first count in 2016 of 52 than the disappointing total in 2017 of 32. For me, some of the favorites were the Scarlet Tanager (our first for the Sit), male and female American Redstarts, and the Black-throated Blue and Black-and-White Warblers who kept us company for the last hour of the day.



Other notables were a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A full list follows this report.

This year we counted from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The only expected birds missing

from the day were the Bog Garden's famous Barred Owls. We neither saw nor heard from them, despite much hoping.

People who helped with the count as shift leaders and/or observers were Dennis Burnette, Ann Walter-Fromson, Jim Strickland, Mike Howard, Diana Bowman, Ann Steighner, Lynn Allison, Lawrence Mann, Ann Mann, Paul Sumner, Matt Wangerin, Jim Eldrett, Stella Wear, and Tom Wear. Thanks to all for your enthusiasm and your participation. Special thanks go to Ann Van Sant and Roberta Newton, who opened and closed our site, took many pictures to include with our report and posted our results to eBird.

A sign of the times were the many Pokémon fans who passed through our 17-foot circle glued to their phones, some without even realizing we were there. It was fun to see all the participants in a Pokémon event based at the Arboretum, just across the street from the Bog Garden. They kept our visitor numbers higher than usual, but it really wouldn't be fair to count them in this report.

The day was well summed up by one of our pishers: "I went out for a two-hour stint and stayed for about three-and-a-half hours." It was that kind of day.



Species List for 2019 Big Sit
October 12, 2019
Bog Garden, Greensboro, North Carolina

American Crow	Northern Waterthrush	White-breasted Nuthatch
Canada Goose	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Scarlet Tanager
Mallard	Cooper's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Cardinal	White-throated Sparrow	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow	American Robin
Gray Catbird	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Red-shouldered Hawk
Carolina Wren	Downy Woodpecker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Tufted Titmouse	American Redstart (M and F)	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Black-throated Blue Warbler	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Eastern Phoebe	Magnolia Warbler	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Fish Crow	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Blue Jay	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Common Yellowthroat
European Starling	Turkey Vulture	Eastern Wood Peewee
Brown Thrasher	Northern Flicker	
Eastern Towhee	Tennessee Warbler	