



Field Trip: Audubon Natural Area, April 18, 2021

submitted by Amy Hanson

On a beautiful spring morning, 24 birders set out to see what was happening at the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Natural Area on Tankersley Drive near Cone Hospital. Due to the wonderfully large group of folks interested in this field trip, we broke into two parties. The first group set off at 9:00 a.m. and the second at 10:30. To maximize our sightings, each group meandered in a 0.8-mile figure-eight loop to hit all of the habitat types—meadow, established forest, and river's edge.



Eastern Kingbird by Jim Gant



photo by Lynn Allison

Every bird walk is unique, and this was no exception. In both groups we saw and heard the usual suspects—Carolina Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, (yellow-shafted) Northern Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, etc. In neither walk did we get great looks at Yellow-rumped Warblers, which had practically been a nuisance bird just the day before during the Audubon Natural Area cleanup day. (OK, they are too beautiful to actually be a nuisance, but for every 5 birds we had seen, 4 were Yellow-rumped Warblers!) Each walk had its own highlights. The 9:00 a.m. group was treated to a flock of about 30 Cedar Waxwings that put on a bit of show, and we also had a very cooperative White-eyed Vireo singing in full view for most to get a good look at. The 10:30 a.m. walk highlights included a first-of-year (for me, at least) Eastern Kingbird that showed its characteristic sallying behavior—flying out from its perch on a tree snag to catch a flying insect and then looping back to its perch. Also, those on the later walk got many good glimpses of a beautiful and buzzy Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

In total, between all of the participants, we saw or heard 33 species, which is a bump up from the usual morning count there this past week. Spring is here, and the birds are coming back and coming through. I can't wait to see what else shows up at the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Natural Area this year. If you live in the area and have an hour or two of free time, it's a nice place to get into nature, five minutes from downtown Greensboro. Thanks to all the friendly, flexible participants for making it a nice, relaxing, birdy morning.



Carolina Chickadee by Jim Gant



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Jim Gant

Species List

2 Mourning Dove
1 Chimney Swift
1 Black Vulture
2 Turkey Vulture
1 Red-shouldered Hawk
1 Red-tailed Hawk
2 Red-bellied Woodpecker
2 Northern Flicker
1 Eastern Kingbird

1 White-eyed Vireo
2 Blue Jay
4 American Crow
2 Carolina Chickadee
1 Tufted Titmouse
2 Barn Swallow
1 Brown-headed Nuthatch
1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
3 House Wren
6 Carolina Wren
2 Northern Mockingbird

2 Eastern Bluebird
30 Cedar Waxwing
1 American Goldfinch
1 Field Sparrow
12 White-throated Sparrow
1 Song Sparrow
2 Eastern Towhee
1 Common Grackle
1 Pine Warbler
2 Yellow-rumped Warbler
6 Northern Cardinal



House Wren by Lori Combs



White-eyed Vireo by Lori Combs