

## Birding Greensboro Lakes for Waterfowl 1.30.16

### Piedmont Bird Club/T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Joint Trip

*By Dennis Burnette, Field Trip Leader*

We had a great turn out of 18 folks from T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society and Piedmont Bird Club for our joint field trip to the Greensboro lakes and ponds for waterfowl on Saturday, Jan. 30. The trip was led by Dennis Burnette.

It was a beautiful, dry, sunny day to be looking for ducks and geese and other water-loving birds. The morning started out cold, but the air warmed quickly to about 50 degrees by noon. As planned, this was a drive-and-stop field trip with little walking between observation points, so participants were able to warm themselves in their cars between overlooks if they became chilled.

Our itinerary included overlooks on Buffalo Lake (including the western end called Philadelphia Lake), Trooper Pond, Lake Brandt Marina, Plainfield Road marsh, Yanceyville/Doggett Road marsh, and the causeway across Lake Townsend on Yanceyville Street.

Although we didn't see anything unusual, a couple of people saw new birds for their life lists. We found a good selection of ducks including American Black Duck, Mallard,



Bufflehead Photo Credit: Craig Turner

Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. There were plenty of Canada Geese, and in one pond we saw several non-native "farmyard" waterfowl such as Muscovy Duck, Greylag-type geese, Mute Swans, and Asian swan-geese.

Other water-loving bird species included many Ring-billed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Herons, and Belted-Kingfishers. The usual winter land birds were easily seen and heard but are too numerous to list here.

This was a fun trip, great for beginners and more experienced birders alike. We look forward to more joint trips.