



Piedmont Young Birders Visit Horse Pen Creek Mudflats, August 21, 2021

submitted by Stella Wear

On August 21, 2021, the Piedmont Young Birders had their monthly walk at the Palmetto and Nat Green Trails. Jim Gant led the group down an offshoot of the Palmetto Trail for the first viewing of the mudflats. The group was there for only a short time before our target bird flew in: a Roseate Spoonbill. Jim said, "I think the best surprise was when we were watching the first spoonbill and the other two flew in, and the birds' reaction together. I think everyone seemed to have a great time. I know I did, just watching the Young Birders see and identify the birds." The three Roseate Spoonbills appeared to dance as they moved around on the mudflats.



Roseate Spoonbills by Mark Baker



Osprey by Jim Gant

Other highlights were two Belted Kingfishers that were diving into the water, fishing for their breakfast, as well as Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, a Green Heron, and two Ospreys that were also fishing for food.

After about an hour at this location, the group moved around to the Nat Greene Trail to get another view of the mudflats. It was easier to examine the smaller shorebirds from this side.



Great Egret by Jim Gant

Killdeer, Least Sandpipers, and Pectoral Sandpipers were seen from there. The viewings are supported by scopes and cameras as well as binoculars. As was the case with the Little Blue Heron, the three young birders are enjoying using their cameras, which help them confirm their sightings after the walks.

The walk was attended by three young birders, three parents, and six volunteers from PBC and TGPAS. Twenty-four species were identified.

The Piedmont Young Birders is an organization for high school and middle school students, sponsored jointly by the Piedmont Bird Club and the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society. It is an excellent opportunity for members to share their love of birds and the natural world with the next generation. Membership is open to Triad area students in grades 6-12. For more information, visit the PBC website and send an inquiry using the Contact Form.

Species List:	Little Blue Heron	Eastern Kingbird
Canada Goose	Green Heron	American Crow
Mallard	Roseate Spoonbil	Fish Crow
Killdeer	Osprey	Carolina Chickadee
Least Sandpiper	Red-shouldered Hawk	Tufted Titmouse
Pectoral Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren
Great Blue Heron	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin,
Great Egret	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
	Eastern Phoebe	