



## Nichols Longleaf Pine Preserve, 15 November 2025

*submitted by Jim Gant*

**Trip Coordinator(s):** Jim Gant

**Location:** A rural area, near Star, NC

**Temperature:** 50's – 60's

**Weather:** Mostly sunny

**Target Bird(s), if any:**

**Number of participants:** 7

**Bird List:** Turkey Vulture, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler; for a **total of 23 species.**

**Comments: (such as, notable birds seen, interesting bird or animal behavior, condition of the birding site, participant comments):**

The Nichols Longleaf Pine Preserve belongs to the North Carolina Zoo. It is made up of mostly Longleaf Pines with some hardwood trees as well. This preserve protects the largest remaining known stand of old-growth Piedmont longleaf pine in North Carolina, containing trees that are over 200 years old. We were invited by the NC Zoo to visit and go Bird Watching in this area. Our guide from the NC Zoo, Grace Sigmon, did a superb job in telling us about the area and leading us around. Unlike other areas there are no trails, however, the woods were easy to walk through. There is an overgrown dirt road to the old house. Some of the highlights of our Bird Walk included seeing at least 41 Cedar Waxwings, approximately 24 American Robins along with the other species. As we usually do on most Bird Walks, we also saw several other items of nature, including some Longleaf Pine saplings, a Red-headed Pine Sawfly caterpillar, a Bird Grasshopper, a Larvae of a Gall Wasp, and a Green Anole (although it was actually brown from moving in the leaves). All in all, everyone had a great time on a beautiful day.

# Photos for the Nichols Longleaf Pine Preserve 15 November 2025



Our group



Our group



Cedar Waxwings



Cedar Waxwings



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Longleaf Pine sapling



Red-headed Pine Sawfly caterpillar



Bird Grasshopper



Larvae of a Gall Wasp



Green Anole, although it's brown in the leaves