



Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 15 May 2025

submitted by Jim Gant

Trip Coordinator(s): Jim Gant

Location: 1024 Fort Bragg Road, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387

Temperature: 50's thru low 90's

Weather: Mostly clear with some clouds in the afternoon

Target Bird(s), if any: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and any migrants

Number of participants: 11

Bird List: Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Turkey Vulture, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Eastern Towhee, Black-and-white Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak; for a total of **33 species**.

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

We had great weather, and the birds were vocal and active. In the morning the group followed the Bower's Bog Trail and the Pine Barrens Trail. The trails were well maintained. We did see one of our target birds, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We saw several and a few were feeding nestlings. They were some of our highlights. As were the Prairie Warbler and the Great Crested Flycatcher. After we completed this route, we took a lunch break. A few of our group had to depart. The others decided to check out another trail. So, after our lunch break, we took the Bower's Bog Trail to the Lighter Stump Trail and followed it at least 2/3's of the way to the Pine Island Trail, before we returned back to the Parking Area. Most of the birds we saw on this route were the same as those we saw earlier. We did add to our morning total with the following, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-and-white Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren, Summer Tanager, and a lifer for a number of us a Common Nighthawk. We heard the Common Nighthawk soaring overhead, Andrea spotted it soaring high above. We were able to get an identifiable photo.

The Piedmont Bird Club has not taken this trip in several years. I think our experience on this trip warrants us to return again. Sadly, we did not get to see one of our target birds the Bachman's Sparrow. In the description of the bird on Merlin it says they are usually quite secretive. As they were for us. But we did see a get variety of others. I thank everyone for

making the trip. Everyone was great in seeing, hearing, and identifying the birds. You all made this an outstanding trip. Thanks again.