

## “The Big Sit” October 7, 2017

*Submitted by Lynne Gray, Circle Captain*

For the second year, Piedmont Bird Club hosted the annual “Big Sit” on Saturday, October 7. This year we again drew our 17-foot circle at Greensboro’s Bog Garden. Shift Leaders were on site at 6:00 a.m. and departed at 5:00 p.m. Conditions were warm and humid with only a trace of an occasional breeze. Fog and low-lying clouds hampered viewing at times and undoubtedly kept some birds grounded. Light sprinkles occurred sporadically from 11:00 a.m. onwards. Nevertheless, an enthusiastic band of “pishers” did their best to spot as many species as possible.

Not unexpectedly, the first birds to announce their presence before dawn were the Bog Garden’s Mallards. Interestingly, the anticipated early morning Canada Geese did not put in an appearance until mid-afternoon, when a small flock flew over. When all was said and done, the pishers were only able to identify 32 species. (This was well below last year’s mark of 52!) Best birds were arguably an early Winter Wren and a gorgeously plumaged Cape May Warbler. Notable misses were Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Fish Crow, and Turkey Vulture. The hoped for Barred Owl posed for pictures but did not humor us by using a perch visible from our circle.

Throughout the day there was a steady flow of pishers and interested onlookers. We supplied the latter with brochures and other information about the Piedmont Bird Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Shift Leaders for their efforts: Jim Eldrett, Roberta Newton, Ann Van Sant, Matt Wangerin, and George Wheaton. Others who stopped by to help and kibbitz included: Dennis Burnette, Sue Cole, Josh Hoffman, Henry Link, Kathy Pennington, Jim Strickland, Ann Walter-Fromson, and Stella and Tom Wear.

The list of birds identified from this year’s count circle follows below. The list is organized by the time when each species was first reported. Roberta Newton posted our sightings to ebird.

Thank you once again for your support and I hope you thoroughly enjoyed yourselves. And I again thank George Wheaton for his support and participation and preparation of this report, even though it has my name attached.

2017 Big Sit  
The Bog Garden, Greensboro, NC  
Saturday, October 7, 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Species</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Species</i>
6:00 a.m.	Mallard		8:45 a.m.	Belted Kingfisher
6:50 a.m.	American Crow		8:46 a.m.	White-breasted Nuthatch
6:58 a.m.	Great Blue Heron		9:00 a.m.	Eastern Phoebe
6:58 a.m.	Carolina Wren		9:02 a.m.	Brown Thrasher
6:58 a.m.	Gray Catbird		9:14 a.m.	Red-eyed Vireo
7:07 a.m.	Blue Jay		10:00 a.m.	Common Yellowthroat
7:15 a.m.	Northern Cardinal		10:00 a.m.	Chestnut-sided Warbler
7:15 a.m.	Chimney Swift		10:45 a.m.	Brown-headed Nuthatch
7:15 a.m.	Eastern Wood-Pewee		11:00 a.m.	Song Sparrow
7:15 a.m.	Carolina Chickadee		11:00 a.m.	Northern Flicker
7:30 a.m.	Downy Woodpecker		12:01 p.m.	Winter Wren
8:02 a.m.	Eastern Bluebird		1:15 p.m.	Eastern Towhee
8:05 a.m.	Tufted Titmouse		1:40 p.m.	Canada Goose
8:07 a.m.	Northern Mockingbird		2:15 p.m.	Cape May Warbler
8:16 a.m.	Red-bellied Woodpecker		4:00 p.m.	Tree Swallow
8:25 a.m.	American Robin		4:30 p.m.	Red-shouldered Hawk