

## Guilford County's Inaugural "Big Sit" October 9, 2016

*Submitted by Lynne Gray, Circle Captain*

Sunday's first Big Sit at Greensboro's Bog Garden was marked by a good turn-out of pishers and pishees. Twenty-one members of the Piedmont Bird Club participated along with several other walk-throughs who were interested in what was happening.

The Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by *Bird Watchers Digest* and sponsored by Swarovski Optik. The object is to identify as many birds as possible during a 24-hour period. Observers are limited to a circle 17-feet in diameter.



The event was originally scheduled for Saturday but was cancelled due to strong winds and very heavy rain caused by Hurricane Matthew, which made landfall in eastern North Carolina. Sunday dawned clear and cool with a good breeze throughout most of the day. The Bog Garden was not flooded, as some had feared. Pishers began their vigil in the dark at 6:00 a.m. and concluded their sit at 6:50 p.m. when the hoped-for Barred Owl briefly called three times at dusk. Our Big Sit circle was staffed constantly throughout that period. The birds were very cooperative as well, with a total of 52 species being identified from our small count circle!

Thanks to all who participated and thanks too to our Shift Leaders: George Wheaton, Jane Lawrence, Julien McCarthy (who supplied Krispy Kreme doughnuts and sodas), Jim Eldrett, Roberta Newton, Ann Van Sant, and Matt Wangerin.

Let's plan on doing this again next year. An important question to consider in the meantime is whether we should continue at the Bog Garden or move to another location. If we were to move, precisely what new location should we consider?

See the list of birds counted from this year's Big Sit circle below. The list is organized by the time when each species was first reported. The number following each species is an estimate of the number of individuals of each species seen during our sit.

Thank you once again for your support and I hope you thoroughly enjoyed yourselves, as I did. A great big thanks to George Wheaton for getting the Sit off the ground and keeping us all interested and involved – and for his generosity in writing this report but allowing me to send it.

Big Sit Bird List  
October 9, 2016

<i>Time</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>No.</i>
6:30 a.m.	Mallard	50
6:35 a.m.	Great Blue Heron	2
6:45 a.m.	Canada Goose	10
7:00 a.m.	American Crow	20
7:00 a.m.	Fish Crow	16
7:00 a.m.	Belted Kingfisher	1
7:05 a.m.	Carolina Wren	2
7:05 a.m.	Northern Cardinal	4
7:07 a.m.	Red-tailed Hawk	1
7:08 a.m.	Gray Catbird	4
7:11 a.m.	Red-shouldered Hawk	1
7:15 a.m.	Ring-necked Duck	1
7:15 a.m.	Red-bellied WP	1
7:40 a.m.	Downy WP	1
7:46 a.m.	Carolina Chickadee	4
7:48 a.m.	European Starling	2
7:50 a.m.	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1
7:59 a.m.	Magnolia Warbler	1
8:00 a.m.	Tufted Titmouse	2
8:03 a.m.	Scarlet Tanager	1
8:04 a.m.	Eastern Phoebe	2
8:10 a.m.	Golden-cr. Kinglet	1
8:17 a.m.	Eastern Towhee	1
8:20 a.m.	Bluejay	5
8:30 a.m.	American Redstart	2
8:33 a.m.	Wh. Br. Nuthatch	2

<i>Time</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>No.</i>
8:43 a.m.	Yellow-rumped War.	2
8:44 a.m.	Wh. Thr. Sparrow	2
8:45 a.m.	Tennessee Warbler	1
8:50 a.m.	Turkey Vulture	2
9:01 a.m.	Northern Flicker	1
9:05 a.m.	Rose Br. Grosbeak	2
9:11 a.m.	Philadelphia Vireo*	1
9:18 a.m.	Eas. Wood-peewee	1
9:25 a.m.	Bl. Thr. Green Warbler	1
9:28 a.m.	Red-eyed Vireo	1
9:35 a.m.	Swainson's Thrush	1
9:35 a.m.	Brown Thrasher	1
9:42 a.m.	Mourning Dove	1
9:45 a.m.	Yellow Bel. Sapsucker	1
10:20 a.m.	Yellow-B. Cuckoo	2
10:24 a.m.	Song Sparrow	1
11:15 a.m.	Br. Hd. Nuthatch	1
11:15 a.m.	American Robin	4
1:17 p.m.	Blk.-thr. Blue Warbler	1
2:15 p.m.	Pine Warbler	1
2:30 p.m.	White-eyed Vireo	1
3:55 p.m.	Ruby-thr. Hummingbd.	1
5:05 p.m.	Northern Mockingbd.	1
5:17 p.m.	Common Yellowthr.	1
6:27 p.m.	North. Waterthrush	1
6:50 p.m.	Barred Owl**	1

\*Seen three times

\*\*Called three short notes