



Field Trip: Greensboro Lakes for Waterfowl, January 16, 2021

submitted by Dennis Burnette



birding Lake Townsend by Dan Dery

On Saturday, January 16, more than a dozen folks participated in our Greensboro Lakes for Waterfowl field trip.

This was a joint outing for Piedmont Bird Club and T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon members and friends. All participants observed CDC coronavirus safety guidelines by driving their own vehicles caravan-style rather than carpooling, as well as wearing masks, and social distancing when they were out of their cars.

This was a ride-and-stop trip. Our line of cars traveled between observation points on several lakes and ponds where we stopped often to scan the water and nearby vegetation, then moved on to the next site. We had chosen stops in advance that could accommodate our line of cars. This wasn't an ideal field trip situation, but we didn't lose anyone between stops and everyone seemed to accept the inconvenience in the interests of health and safety.

Birds were rather scarce on this sunny but cold and windy day, although we did see common winter waterfowl such as Ruddy Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Ring-necked Ducks, as well as Canada Geese and Mallards.

We saw about seven Great Blue Herons, and there were hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls. The best sighting of the day wasn't a duck at all; the group spotted three Bald Eagles, two together at Lake Brandt Marina and an immature at Trosper Pond.

The low number of birds didn't seem to bother anyone. As several people commented, it was just nice to be able to get outside for a change.



Ruddy Duck by Debora Montgomery



Immature Bald Eagle by Dan Dery