

Mason Farm Biological Reserve

September 10, 2016

Submitted by Amy Hanson, Participant

On September 10, a small group of adventure-birders met at the Mason Farm Biological Preserve near the Chapel Hill area. Rick Bardolph, our trip leader, had very considerately put a large visible sign on the top of his car welcoming the Piedmont Birders. We set out for a lovely two-hour stroll through this protected area that borders the North Carolina Botanical Garden and is used for biological research as well as habitat conservation.

While there used to be a farm here, it is now comprised of a variety of habitats including open meadows, scrub, and bottomland hardwood forest. The day was quieter than expected, but we hadn't started at the crack of dawn, either (which would have prevented me from going, I have to admit). The benefit of it being a bit quiet, though, was that we didn't have to wade through any cardinals or robins or titmice to get to the good stuff. We had nice looks at birds you don't get to see every day, such as a Summer Tanager, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, who came to visit while we were resting on a bench in the shade. It is a lovely area, well worth the 60-minute drive, and has the added bonus of being near some awesome lunch spots before the ride home. I look forward to another visit there.

Bird List

Yellow-throated Vireo
Summer Tanager
Turkey Vulture
American Crow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Acadian Flycatcher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Carolina Wren

Butterflies Identified

Red-spotted Purple
Cloudless Sulphur
Common Buckeye
Orange Sulphur
Hackberry Butterfly
Pearl Crescent
Summer Azure