

NC A&T University Farm

March 3, 2018

Submitted by Emily Tyler, Trip Leader, and Matt Wangerin

On Saturday, March 3, 13 Piedmont Bird Club members gathered at the entrance to A&T Farm on a cool, crisp, and breezy winter morning. The temperature was just above freezing when we consolidated into four vehicles to caravan around the farm. By the time we returned to disband a few hours later, the temperature had reached a more comfortable mid-40s.



Photo Credit: Ann van Sant, Ring-billed Gulls

As usual, we were able to see many European Starlings, American Robins, Ring-billed Gulls and Rock Pigeons from the parking lot. Our first caravan stop was a pond on the south side of McConnell Road. Traditionally, Wilson's Snipe have been seen here, but no luck today.

Just as we were making our way through the gate to leave the main farm property to explore the fields and ponds on the other side of McConnell Road, eagle-eyed Elizabeth Link spotted a Common Raven unusually low and close to the cars. At another area of the farm ponds, Northern Shovelers, which are usually present for this trip, did not disappoint, present in plentiful numbers. Also seen there were Canada Geese, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were active in the small trees.



Photo Credit: Ann van Sant, Northern Shovelers

We then proceeded to an area with larger, grassy fields. It was there that Henry Link heard the high-pitched call of American Pipits, one of our target species for this trip. Soon after, we were all able to see another small flock of pipits flying over the field. Eastern Meadowlarks also occupied the grass fields and an American Kestrel soared by. At the far end of those fields, Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Nuthatches were calling from the stand of pines between two more ponds, where a few Gadwalls were seen. As Matt Wangerin and Henry checked a small creek, three Wilson's Snipe lifted up and circled above the group of us, clearly showing their long bills. Nice!



Photo Credit: Ann van Sant, Wilson's Snipe

Our last stop was at the Hog Farm where we were pleased to see several Eastern Bluebirds. Henry was the first to spot a Swamp Sparrow flitting back and forth among the cattails, and Matt's sharp eyes spotted a Sharp-shinned Hawk overhead.

The number of species seen on this trip was 35, above average for this annual trip.



Photo Credit: Ann van Sant, Eastern Bluebird



Photo Credit: Ann van Sant, Sharp-shinned Hawk

Participant List: Carolyn Allen, Connie Holt and John Shea, Elizabeth and Henry Link, Lynn and Phil Moseley, Jean Murdick, Anne Presnell, Jim Strickland, Emily Tyler, and Matt Wangerin.

Bird List:

Canada Goose
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
Mallard
Bufflehead
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Killdeer
Wilson's Snipe
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
American Kestrel
American Crow
Common Raven
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird

European Starling
American Pipit
Yellow-rumped Warbler
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Towhee
Northern Cardinal
Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle