

Winter Waterfowl and Land Birds at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

January 27, 2018

Submitted by Dennis Burnette



Photo Credit: Dennis Burnette

On Saturday, January 27, 2018, the Piedmont Bird Club and T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society held a joint field trip to Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to look for waterfowl and winter land birds. Nine of us enjoyed the day and ended the trip with 48 species of birds, including 9 duck species.

Pee Dee NWR is the closest such refuge to the Triad, only about an hour and 45-minute drive south along the Pee Dee

River in Anson and Richmond Counties near Wadesboro. The refuge, which is about 8,000 acres in size, is managed as a waterfowl sanctuary.



Photo Credit: Ed Haynes, Wood Ducks

Of the 16 species of ducks and geese that occur there, our group saw Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Duck.

The waterfowl impoundments are closed to the public from November 25 through March 14. However, we had made prior arrangements with the refuge manager, J.D. Bricken, for him to lead us to the edge of the impoundments for a short time to observe the waterfowl. We are very appreciative to him for accompanying and guiding us, and for explaining how the refuge is managed for waterfowl.



*Photo Credit: Ann Van Sant,
Swamp Sparrow*

The weather was cool but pleasant, so at midday we were able to take a break and have an outdoor picnic lunch. We then walked through a marsh on a boardwalk at Sullivan's Pond near the new headquarters. We saw several Red-headed Woodpeckers. In addition, we saw a Brown Creeper, a first of the year sighting for most of us. We finished the trip by driving slowly along a loop wildlife drive before leaving for home.

Bird List

American Black Duck

American Crow

American Goldfinch

American Kestrel

American Robin

American Wigeon

Bald Eagle

Belted Kingfisher

Black Vulture

Blue Jay

Brown Creeper

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Canada Goose

Carolina Chickadee

Carolina Wren

Chipping Sparrow

Downy Woodpecker
duck sp.

Eastern Bluebird

Eastern Phoebe

Eastern Towhee

Gadwall

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Great Blue Heron

Green-winged Teal

Killdeer

Mallard

Northern Cardinal

Northern Flicker

Northern Harrier

Northern Mockingbird

Northern Pintail

Northern Shoveler

Pied-billed Grebe

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-winged Blackbird

Ring-necked Duck

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow

Tufted Titmouse

Turkey Vulture

White-breasted Nuthatch

White-thr. Sparrow

Wood Duck

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Yellow-rumped Warbler