



Piedmont Young Birders Visit Piedmont Environmental Center February 20, 2021

submitted by Robert Craven, Piedmont Young Birder, age 12

all photos by Robert Craven

On February 20, 2021, Piedmont Young Birders (PYB) went birding at the Piedmont Environmental Center (PEC) at 9:00 a.m. At first, we went down to the map, hoping to see a Barred Owl; sadly he wasn't there. From there we went down the stairs and took a right towards the pond. We ended up not going down to the pond; instead, we went towards the lake and saw a Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis* and a Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Then when we got down to the lake, we saw a few Double-crested Cormorants *Phalacrocorax auratus* (a first for the young birders), a Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*, 2 Pied-billed Grebes *Podilymbus podiceps*, 2 Hooded Mergansers *Lophodytes cucullatus* (a male and a female), and some gulls (sp).



Double-crested Cormorants



Double-crested Cormorants

Then on the way back to the Piedmont Environmental Center we saw a Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*, another Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*, an American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, and a Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus*. Along the trail we spotted two woodpeckers, a Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* and a Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*. Back at the Piedmont Environmental Center we stopped and watched the feeders. While there we saw another Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*, a few Tufted Titmice *Baeolophus bicolor*, a few Chickadees *Poecile carolinensis*, a Yellow-Rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*, an American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*, a Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*, some Pine Siskins *Spinus pinus*, a Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*, a Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*, an Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*, a Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*, a Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*, a Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus*, and both a White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* and Brown-Headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*. Before we wrapped up the meeting we saw a hawk (accipiter sp.) fly by.



Pine Siskin



Yellow-rumped Warbler

One of the newest members asked to bring her whole family: mother, father, two younger siblings, and two grandparents. The visiting grandparents were interested in learning about this new hobby that their granddaughter is so excited about. Fourteen participants attended: 3 PYB members, 8 PYB family members, and 3 volunteers from PBC/TGPAS. Overall, 29 species were identified; thus, it was a very successful day.

This report was written by Piedmont Young Birder Robert Craven. Robert also took all the photos. This is Robert's second year in PYB. He volunteered to lead the walk and selected the location. He met with a PEC employee to plan the walk and learn about the target birds he wanted to find. This is the first time that one of the monthly walks was led by one of the PYB members.



Pine Siskins



Downy Woodpecker



Tufted Titmouse



Carolina Chickadee

Species List

Hooded Merganser

Pied-billed Grebe

Gull species

Double-crested Cormorant

Turkey Vulture

Accipiter species

Red-shouldered Hawk

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Red-headed Woodpecker

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Fish Crow

Carolina Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Carolina Wren

Eastern Bluebird

Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch

Dark-eyed Junco

White-throated Sparrow

Pine Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Northern Cardinal