

Randolph County Preserve April 21, 2018

Submitted by Julien McCarthy, Trip Leader

We missed Jane and Craig Lawrence, as 12 of us trekked the dense, green backwoods of their wild preserve in Randolph County - not too far from the Uwharrie Mountains. Mark Lewis, a long-term Randolph County resident whose property abuts the Lawrences' preserve, suggested the trek and opened his unique home to us after PBC planned to cancel the trip following Jane's and Craig's recent move to England. Mark and Eric Abernethy led us around the intriguing territory along some of the same trails PBC members have explored before and along a few new paths.



Photo Credit: Lon Murdick



Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, White-eyed Vireo

As usual, the place was loaded with incredible birds, and some gorgeous flowers were out as well. We would have counted a few more warblers for sure had Jane been there with her mega-hearing skills, but we got a few on our own anyway. Mark took us to his favorite haunts where we saw not only the birds but the other creatures lurking in the sumptuous forest: lizards, polliwogs, salamander nymphs, water scorpions, snakes, etc.

While the tall trees had begun to "leaf out," we managed to identify 45 species listed below. Each species was seen and heard by the majority of the group.



Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Green Anole

At the conclusion of the walk, we assembled at Mark's home for a scrumptious "pot-luck" lunch, which was gobbled up with "the gusto of a hound dog." We enjoyed some social time together too and chatted about our fabulous walk. Then we departed for our own homes.



Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Polliwogs

This is a classic preserve full of opportunities to watch wildlife, especially birds during the spring migration. We thank Mark Lewis for stepping up to help the PBC by hosting this event in 2018.

Participants: Lon & Jean Murdick, Julien McCarthy, Jude Pate, Mark Lewis, Eric Abernethy, Lynne Gray, Roberta Newton, Ann Van Sant, Anne Presnell, Jim Strickland, Ann Steighner, Barbara Haralson.



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy,
Louisiana Waterthrush*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy,
Eastern Phoebe*

Bird List:

Wild Turkey
Turkey Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Mourning Dove
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
White-eyed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse
White-br. Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Black and White Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Northern Parula
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
White-thr. Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Eastern Towhee
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch