

Randolph County Preserve

April 23, 2016

By Jane Lawrence, Field Trip Leader (with Craig Lawrence)



Prairie Warbler by
Eric Abernethy

On Saturday, April 23, the day dawned bright and sunny after a good soaking rain the day before, and eleven Piedmont birders made the drive down to Randolph County to join us for the 13th annual trip to the Lawrence/Lewis property.

We divided into two groups – loosely labeled “birding by sight” and “birding by ear” – and set out to find birds. It wasn’t long before we were seeing and hearing Northern Parulas, Prairie Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The woods were quiet in places early on, but it was a beautiful day for a walk around the various habitats on the property: mature woodlands, open and burn areas, creeks and ponds.



Hooded Warbler by
Eric Abernethy

Between the two groups, we were treated to great looks at Prairie Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Ovenbird, Summer Tanager, and others. Due to a combination of this trip being a little earlier than usual this year, and uncooperative weather patterns in the preceding week, some species that are normally found on this trip had not yet arrived; therefore, we were unable to find the Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Kentucky Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher.



Summer Tanager by
Eric Abernethy

Still, after a wonderful potluck lunch and some socializing, a flurry of activity brought us a Yellow-throated Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-throated Warbler, all easily seen. We also heard the Louisiana Waterthrush that had eluded us during our walk.

The total number of species heard or seen was 54, and a full list follows.

Canada Goose
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Red-shouldered Hawk
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
White-eyed Vireo

Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Swainson’s Thrush
Wood Thrush



Northern Mockingbird
Tennessee Warbler
Northern Parula
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat

Hooded Warbler
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Brown-headed Cowbird
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch