

## The Big Sit

October 7, 2023

Saturday, October 7, 2023, began as a rainy day, but fortunately the rain moved along and by the time Ann Van Sant and Roberta Newton were ready to start tallying birds at 7:10 am, only a drop or two hit the big white board. Ann and Roberta were joined by Lori and Scott Combs and the four of them had a quite respectable list of birds by the time other Piedmont Pishers began arriving. A couple of notable early birds were a Wood Duck - perhaps the first ever Big Sit visitor - and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo spotted by Lori and identified by her persistence.



Carolina Chickadees were a constant presence, flitting about and "dee, dee, deeing" to keep us entertained.



We were also happy to see at least one - more likely two or three - Black-throated Blues, one of my favorites.



The famous Barred Owls of the Bog Garden were conspicuous by their absence. Ann Walter-Fromson reported hearing one hoot from her nearby house, but we neither heard nor saw any from our 17' circle.

As is true every year, Circle Captains make the day. This year Lyn McCoy, Netta Cox and Jim Eldrett get props for their presence and Scott and Lori Combs were around almost all day as well. Ann Van Sant and Roberta Newton are the backbones of the day. They start us off early in the morning and close us down when time comes.

Our total species count of 39 was a bit lower than past years, but each Sit is its own reward and we never leave disappointed. The experience of birding by group never gets old and the visiting between sightings is always first rate.

Submitted by Lynne Gray with  
assistance from Ann Van Sant and Roberta Newton