



Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy

Sit-a-Spell May 2, 2017

Submitted by Julien McCarthy, Trip Leader

At 9:00 a.m. on May 2, a few Piedmont Bird Club members wielded comfortable, portable chairs, binoculars, and a scope down the trail at the Richardson/Taylor Preserve on Plainfield Road in Guilford County near Lake Townsend. This trail leads to a great variety of habitat including hardwood and conifer stands, swamps, beaver dams, open fields, standing dead trees, and creeks. In close proximity, it hosts a broad population of bird species.



Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy

We spent about 45 minutes at three locations allowing the surrounding habitats to “come alive” as we sat comfortably observing the movements of the birds. We whispered to each other as each of us noticed new species so everyone could share the sightings. The magnificent Red-headed Woodpecker was abundant as were three species of swallows. The Eastern Kingbird was a bit of a surprise as was the Orchard Oriole couple, but the cute Common Yellow Throat was everywhere. Several noisy, gorgeous Scarlet Tanagers revealed themselves in the crowns of tall, leafy trees, and the usual Great Blue Herons glided just above the beaver ponds. In the distance was the unmistakably melodious song of the Wood Thrush.



*Eastern Kingbird
Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy*

The hike was no more than 1.5 miles, and the terrain was rather easy with a few uphill sections. Things wound up at about 12:30 p.m., and our species total was 47, which “ain’t bad “ for such a short time. If you have not gone to this preserve, be sure to do so soon for a splendid birding experience!



Red-headed Woodpecker
Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy



Scarlet Tanager
Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy



Tree Swallow
Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy