



Piedmont Bird Club



An organization for lovers of wild birds  
in North Carolina's Piedmont

## Summary of Activities 2018-2019



### Swifts Night Out, Parts 1 & 2, September 4 & 18, 2018

*Submitted by Stella and Tom Wear, Trip Leaders*

On September 4 and September 18, birders enjoyed two swoops of swifts. Swifts' Night Out, Part 1 and Part 2, were successful and fun again this year. On both nights, the weather was perfect. Thirty- one members of T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society, Piedmont Bird Club, and guests joined together on September 4 in Greensboro to watch a swoop of more than a thousand Chimney Swifts gather for their roosting display. This time the swifts chose the chimney on the Foundation Place Building, (330 South Greene Street), which is across the street from the Carolina Theatre.

On September 18, 35 participants watched about 100 swifts going to roost. This time the swifts did use the Carolina Theatre. We all wondered if hurricane Florence had influenced the difference in numbers of swifts on these two nights.

Each night many folks gathered on the roof at M'Coul's Public House in downtown Greensboro to watch for the swifts. They were not disappointed with good social times together and the viewing of the Swifts.

These were joint events sponsored by T. Gilbert Pearson and Piedmont Bird Club.



### Fall Picnic, September 22, 2018

*Submitted by Stella Wear, Social Committee Co-chair  
photos by Dennis Burnette*

Twenty-eight PBC members and their guests gathered at the Greensboro Children's Museum on September 22, 2018 for a picnic and activities to celebrate 80 years. The event also kicked off the new season for the club. Balloons and special anniversary cupcakes decorated the food tables, and members filled the tables with yummy dishes. For the history-related activity time, members were asked to interview each other and search for answers to fun facts about the club. Do you know some of these tidbits? If not, ask some members at meetings as we continue to celebrate our anniversary. Here are a few for you to explore:

- The PBC was organized by a group of citizens who wanted to protest a concern to the City Council. What was that concern?
- Who was first organizer and first president of the PBC? Also, recipient of first (1957) yearbook dedication.



- (Undoubtedly the best bargain in Guilford County) What were the dues the first years of the PBC?
- In 1945, the PBC had a yearbook for the first time. What bird was pictured on the cover? Hint: What bird is on our new shirt?

After all the activities, everyone enjoyed an amazing pot luck dinner and applauded our President, Ann Steighner, the recipient of the 2018-2019 yearbook dedication, and Matt Wangerin for his photo of a Brown-headed Nuthatch on the yearbook cover. After dinner, members carpooled to the Carolina Theatre to observe Chimney Swifts going to roost. In spite of only about 50 birds coming to roost, it was an interesting ending to a fun evening.

Social Committee members are Lynn Burnette, Becky Floyd, Janet Goins, Julien McCarthy, Lyn McCoy, and Stella Wear.



## **Beginning Birder Workshop, October 28, 2018**

*Submitted by Lynn Burnette*

*Leader: Dennis Burnette*

We had a great turnout of more than 40 people for the Beginning Birder Workshop on Sunday afternoon, October 28, at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library in Price Park in Greensboro. Among them were several children with their adults and some students from a biology class at UNCG.

The focus of the workshop was an introduction to Triad birds and the hobby of birding. We began with a 45-minute class, followed by bird identification practice around the library. This was a joint activity of the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society (the local chapter of the National Audubon Society) and the Piedmont Bird Club.

The workshop was conducted by Dennis Burnette, a nature educator who is active in both of the sponsoring groups. Several experienced birders from the groups volunteered to serve as birding mentors, including Lynn Allison, Sue Cole, Jim Eldrett, Lynne Gray, Barbara Haralson, Ann Walter-Fromson, Stella Wear, and Tom Wear.

Melanie Buckingham of the KCEF library set up a display of the bird books available at the library, organized the classroom, and acted as projectionist during the classroom presentation. Bird feeders at two feeding stations outside the library were donated by Wild Birds Unlimited and were filled with seeds by Jim Eldrett. All of these efforts that contributed to such a successful workshop were greatly appreciated.

This workshop was the first of three Beginning Birder Workshops scheduled for the 2018-19 program year. The topics of each workshop are different, so a participant could come to one, two, or all three of the workshops and receive different information. All workshops involve an indoor classroom presentation at the KCEF library followed by a walk on open lawn around the library, at the edge of mixed forest, and around a pond if weather permits.



## Howerton Road for Sparrows, October 28, 2018

*Submitted by: Marty Wall, Leader*

Five members of the Piedmont Bird Club met at Howerton Road in Greensboro at 8:00 a.m. to look for sparrows and other birds. We birded Howerton Road for three hours before making a forty-minute stop at nearby Baldwin Road. The weather was seasonably cool with increasing breeze.

We managed to see eight species of sparrows: Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Vesper, Savannah, Song, and Swamp. Other birds included Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Sora. The Sora was a nice surprise, calling occasionally from the edge of the larger pond along Howerton Road.

Several other birders arrived a little later and were able to see the sparrows and hear the Sora. Participants included Marty Wall, Amy Hanson, Roberta Newton, Ann Van Sant, and Matt Wangerin.

### Bird List

Canada Goose  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Sora  
Killdeer  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Northern Harrier  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Flicker  
American Kestrel  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Eastern Towhee  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Common Yellowthroat  
Palm Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Northern Cardinal  
House Sparrow

Additional species heard while waiting for others to arrive: Barred Owl, Northern Bobwhite.







## Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, NC, December 8, 2018

*Submitted by Matt Wangerin  
photos by Nathan Gatto*

Sixteen members of Forsyth Audubon and the Piedmont Bird Club enjoyed a morning bird walk around the diverse habitats of Tanglewood Park. The trip was led by Chuck Thompson of Forsyth Audubon. The forests, swamps, and fields yielded views of 37 species of birds.

### Bird List

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mourning Dove  
Turkey Vulture  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay

American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Winter Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin

Brown Thrasher  
Northern Mockingbird  
Cedar Waxwing  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
Field Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
White-throated Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Eastern Towhee  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Northern Cardinal



## Christmas Bird Count, December 15, 2018

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Link, Bird Count Coordinator*

The 2018 Christmas Bird Count in Greensboro was held on Saturday, December 15. For those doing the count, it will probably be a memorable one, at least in terms of weather. There was still plenty of snow remaining on the ground from the 12-14 inches we had received six days before. The ground itself was muddy and sprouted streams and small ponds

where none had been before, and there were periods of rain until the middle of the day. The temperatures were average, with a low of 39 degrees and a high of 48 degrees, and light wind to 16 mph. .52 inches of rain were recorded. In terms of birds, the day was not so memorable. It appeared that many birds were either hunkered down due to the weather or had left the area entirely. We had a total of 84 species, well below our record high of 97 species reached in 2017, and three additional count week birds. A total of 9,322 individual birds were counted.

Notable sightings included an Orange-Crowned Warbler found by Andrew Thornton. This was only the fourth time this bird has been recorded on our count in its 73-year history. We also had Pine Siskins, which have previously been recorded in only 24 of our counts. The Baltimore Oriole that has been on the count the last few years was also present.

Some fairly common birds were either absent or only present in very reduced numbers. We had no Cedar Waxwings, a bird we've only missed one other time since 1972. We usually have numbers of Yellow-rumped Warbler in the triple digits – this year we had 24. And whereas the gull count is usually in the thousands at the Lake Townsend roost, they either were absent at dusk or completely hidden by the thick fog, so our count is in the hundreds. The list of birds counted is below.

Many thanks to everyone who braved the rain and mud for the count. Participants were: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Diana Bowman, Jim Buchanan, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynn Gray, Chris Groh, Mary Hankins, Megan Hankins, Amy Hanson, Morgan Horner, Mike Howard, Ed Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Clarence Mattocks, Lyn McCoy, Ron Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Marie Poteat, Ann Presnell, Danny Royster, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Ann Steighner, Jim Strickland, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Emily Talbert, Andrew Thornton, Ann VanSant, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, Melissa Whitmire.

#### Bird List

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Tundra Swan	CW*	Red-tailed Hawk	11	American Robin	385
Canada Goose	511	Great Horned Owl	1	Brown Thrasher	25
Gadwall	5	Barred Owl	3	Northern Mockingbird	97
Mallard	262	Belted Kingfisher	14	European Starling	1007
Northern Shoveler	19	Red-headed Woodpecker	7	American Pipit	2
Green-winged Teal	13	Red-bellied Woodpecker	108	House Sparrow	29
Ring-necked Duck	249	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	36	House Finch	143
Bufflehead	86	Downy Woodpecker	67	Purple Finch	9
Hooded Merganser	459	Hairy Woodpecker	6	Pine Siskin	1
Ruddy Duck	26	Northern Flicker	35	American Goldfinch	112
Wild Turkey	14	Pileated Woodpecker	4	Pine Warbler	2
Pied-billed Grebe	25	American Kestrel	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	24
Horned Grebe	32	Eastern Phoebe	7	Oange-crowned Warbler	1
Rock Pigeon	421	Blue Jay	325	Eastern Towhee	90
Mourning Dove	313	American Crow	876	Chipping Sparrow	191

American Coot	2	Fish Crow	90	Field Sparrow	33
Killdeer	34	Common Raven	1	Savannah Sparrow	1
Wilson's Snipe	3	Carolina Chickadee	223	Fox Sparrow	7
Bonaparte's Gull	92	Tufted Titmouse	205	Song Sparrow	150
Ring-billed Gull	281	Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	Swamp Sparrow	8
Common Loon	CW	White-breasted Nuthatch	70	White-throated Sparrow	519
Double-crested Cormorant	46	Brown-headed Nuthatch	28	White-crowned Sparrow	9
Great Blue Heron	37	Brown Creeper	11	Dark-eyed Junco	312
Black Vulture	106	Winter Wren	9	Northern Cardinal	348
Turkey Vulture	8	Carolina Wren	160	Red-winged Blackbird	3
Bald Eagle	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	42	Eastern Meadowlark	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	Common Grackle	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	Eastern Bluebird	334	Brown-headed Cowbird	CW
Red-shouldered Hawk	30	Hermit Thrush	22	Baltimore Oriole	1
				TOTAL BIRDS	9,322

\*CW – Count Week, not included in Total Birds



## White Street Landfill, January 5, 2019

*Submitted by: Matt Wangerin*  
*photos by Lee Capps*

Trip leaders Carolyn Allen and Matt Wangerin led 18 members of the Piedmont Bird Club in a caravan around the expansive grounds and various habitats of the White Street Landfill. After many days of heavy rain, the conditions were sunny and windy.

As we assembled in the small parking lot, a gaggle of geese, a Great Blue Heron, and a pair of female Buffleheads were observed on the nearby pond. Also observed were the resident starlings and pigeons, but an early flyby of a Northern Harrier was a nice start to a “good raptor day.” As the caravan traversed the first hill, the first American Kestrel and first Red-tailed Hawk were also observed, as were both species of vultures. Closer to the top, we encountered a small flock of Eastern Meadowlarks and a Savannah Sparrow. The grass and puddles at the top of the hill proved to be good habitat for Wilson’s Snipe, as three of those interesting shorebirds were flushed and circled around the group, providing good looks.

As we continued to the other areas of the site, the species and numbers of birds were somewhat reduced, no doubt related to the windy conditions. However, we did hear the squeaky call of the Brown-headed Nuthatch and spotted an Eastern Phoebe and a few woodpeckers. Ascending the second hill, the caravan was treated to excellent views of a pair of American Kestrels hover hunting. There was a Killdeer quickly getting away, and at the top of the hill, some of the group spotted a more uncommon, adult male Northern Harrier – a beautiful “Gray Ghost.” The drive to the ponds at the back side of the property yielded more views of hawks and harriers, as well as Eastern Bluebirds, and small groups of Hooded Mergansers, Song Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows. The total number of species observed was 31.



*Red-tailed Hawk*



*American Kestrel*

### **Bird List:**

Canada Goose  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Killdeer  
Wilson's Snipe  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture  
Northern Harrier  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
American Kestrel  
Eastern Phoebe  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Brown-headed Nuthatch

Carolina Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
White-throated Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Northern Cardinal



## **Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's Eastern Shore, February 2-4, 2019**

*Submitted by: George Wheaton, Trip Leader*  
*photos by Matt Wangerin*

This trip, originally scheduled for mid-January, was postponed from the original date because of high winds and cold weather. Those conditions led to cancellation of the featured boat trip to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. The rescheduled February date promised better weather but reduced the trip from four days to three.

On February 2, five members of the Piedmont Bird Club traveled to Virginia Beach for an afternoon of birding at the Pleasure House Point Natural Area, Lynnhaven Inlet, Rudee Inlet, and the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Pleasure House Point revealed many ducks and gulls, a few harriers and eagles, as well as close-up views of Clapper Rails and a lucky Osprey. Rudee Inlet afforded close looks of a Long-Tailed Duck and more distant views of scoters, Razorbills, a pair of American White Pelicans, and a large group of Red-breasted Mergansers.

On the following day, the PBC joined 55 other birders aboard the "Bay Princess," a large head boat, which boasted a heated cabin. The plan was to bird around all four of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel's man-made islands and then to bird out to the mouth of the bay. The cabin was deserted because on-deck temperatures reached 50°F, and there was no wind. The Chesapeake was as flat as a mirror and as calm as any of the more experienced hands could remember.

Good birds were seen throughout the four-hour trip. Among them were such coveted targets as: Harlequin Duck, all three scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Common Eider, Great Cormorant, Razorbill, Purple Sandpiper, Northern Gannet and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The Northern Gannets



*Clapper Rail*

put on a show as they plunge-dove for bits of chum being tossed off the stern of the boat. The Lesser Black-backed Gulls with their bright yellow legs and feet were easy to pick out among the dozens of other gulls that were dozing on the islands and enjoying the unseasonably warm weather. Vying for our attention were 10 or more Harbor Seals hauled out on the rocks and one or two Humpback Whales that lazily dove and surfaced several times close to the boat.



*Bar-tailed Godwit*

After returning to Lynnhaven Inlet and saying goodbye to our shipmates, we drove across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and headed north for the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. We arrived well before dark and were able to bird around the three-mile wildlife drive and to walk along the shoreline of Tom's Cove in pursuit of our most wanted targe—a Bar-tailed Godwit. During this first foray we did not see the godwit but did add many waterfowl to our trip list, including Tundra Swans and Snow Geese. Interestingly, we encountered many Mallards. For some reason, this species is often quite hard to come by in January or early February on the Eastern Shore. We also managed to get up close and personal looks at several of Chincoteague's famous wild ponies.

On Monday morning, after a good dinner and a sound sleep, we resumed our search for those species not yet seen but hoped for. We made two trips to the shore of Tom's Cove to search for the Bar-tailed Godwit. We dipped on our first try and blamed it on the unusually high tide. Just before noon we got lucky. Alerted by another birder that he had just seen our quarry, we hot-footed it down the beach and found the Bar-tailed Godwit hanging out with a couple of Willets, a Ruddy Turnstone, and a few other small shorebirds. This was only the third record for this species in Virginia and a bird that Sibley describes as rare along the Atlantic coast. After high fives all around, we began the long drive home, tired but with that warm glow of having seen a rare bird exceptionally well.

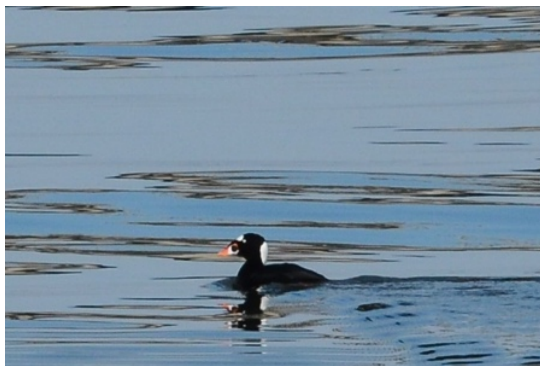
Thanks to Matt who helped lead the trip, and to Anne, Linda, and Paul for their enthusiasm and bright eyes!



*Long-tailed Ducks*



*Snow Goose*



*Surf Scoter*



## Bird List

American Black Duck  
American Crow  
American Oystercatcher  
American Kestrel  
American Robin  
American White Pelican  
American Wigeon  
Bald Eagle  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Belted Kingfisher  
Black Scoter  
Black Vulture  
Black-bellied Plover  
Blue Jay  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
Brant  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Pelican  
Bufflehead  
Canada Goose  
Carolina Chickadee  
Carolina Wren  
Clapper Rail  
Common Eider  
Common Grackle  
Common Loon  
Cooper's Hawk  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Downy Woodpecker

Dunlin  
Eastern Bluebird  
Eastern Towhee  
European Starling  
Fish Crow  
Forster's Tern  
Gadwall  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Cormorant  
Great Egret  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Harlequin Duck  
Herring Gull  
Hooded Merganser  
Horned Grebe  
House Finch  
House Sparrow  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Long-tailed Duck  
Mallard  
Merlin  
Mourning Dove  
Northern Cardinal  
Northern Gannet  
Northern Harrier  
Northern Mockingbird  
Northern Pintail  
Northern Shoveler

Osprey  
Peregrine Falcon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Purple Sandpiper  
Razorbill  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Redhead  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red-throated Loon  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling  
Savannah Sparrow  
Snow Goose  
Snowy Egret  
Song Sparrow  
Surf Scoter  
Swamp Sparrow  
Tundra Swan  
Turkey Vulture  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-winged Scoter  
Willet  
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Total: 84 Species



## North Carolina Inner and Outer Banks Expedition February 7-10, 2019

*Submitted by: Julien McCarthy, Trip Leader*  
*photos by Julien McCarthy*



PBC members Chris and Lisa Frandock, Ann Van Sant, Roberta Newton, Nancy Lee Adamson, Ann Steighner, Jude Pate, Julien McCarthy, and Anne Presnell joined ranks to survey the incredible bird population that inhabits coastal North Carolina during the winter months. While there are the typical indigenous birds in abundance, the over-wintering species are temporary as they come from northern areas to find food and warmer habitat before returning in March to breed and nest again in the North. Early February is the best month to go to the coast to see them because they are in the densest numbers and are gaining their gorgeous breeding plumage.

First, thousands of Tundra Swans greeted us with their constant melodious utterance as they threaded their way through standing rows of corn, feeding on the drooping cobs near the entrance to Pocosin Lakes NWR. At a distance, tens of thousands of Red-winged Blackbirds performed fantastic murmurations as they flushed from the field whenever something frightened them. In a nearby pond, there were mixed flocks of ducks and swans at very close range for easy snapshots by Ann Van Sant. A sneaky Winter Wren posed atop a honeysuckle tangle for quite a time, so we got several photographs of it, too. On the way out at dusk, there were thousands of Mallards feeding in

the corn field, which flushed in a roar as we passed by in the vehicles. (Chris's mighty Toyota Tundra did the trick on the sketchy back roads of this refuge).



*Winter Wren*

On Friday, we left for the exciting Outer Banks to check out the birds at Jeannette's Pier, Bodie Island, Oregon Inlet, and Pea Island NWR. There were many species at Bodie Island where we got our first look at the White Ibis, and Jeanette's Pier provided several of us life birds: Razorbills and Dovekies. Lisa spotted a Great Horned Owl in its stolen Osprey's nest atop Channel Marker 13 at Oregon inlet, and we also turned up a Wilson's Snipe there. The new Bonner Bridge is spectacular, but we hope some of the old bridge will remain for recreational use.

It was then on to North Pond where there were the American Avocets: WOW! The huge American White Pelicans and the cute little Wilson's Plovers were quite a contrast, and even in the bitter cold that day, we stood there gazing at many Dunlins, Sanderlings, and other shorebirds we could not identify. (We were wishing George Wheaton or Henry Link were with us.). A brief return to Jeanette's Pier gave good looks at all three scoters. We darted away for Alligator NWR in hopes of new birds and maybe a bear.

Alligator NWR not only was bearless but did not produce any new species. However, there were great numbers of ducks and swans to peruse. On the way back, we went to a secret spot to see the Bald Eagle aerie where the resident was sitting on the eggs and posed for snapshots. We wound up at Bear with Us, Jude and Julien's cottage at Stumpy Point, for a dinner and easy views of waterfowl from the warmth of the house.

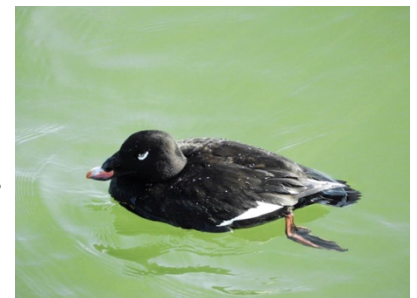
There was one more day to come, and due to wind and cold, we headed inland. Riding up Route 264, we spotted many flooded fields and impoundments full of ducks and swans, but the weirdly missing Snow Goose was still absent. The occasional Bald Eagle and close looks at herons and egrets were great fun.

Arriving at the now dead Lake Mattamuskeet, Nancy intuitively went to a spot where she had found Black-crowned Night Herons, and lo and behold, there were three of them posing for pictures: YIPPEE! The wildlife drive gave us good looks at Blue-winged Teal and the others ducks we usually find.

A gross-looking nutria wobbled its way to the water in front of us. This invasive species has all but eliminated our native muskrat. A regal immature Bald Eagle flew into and perched on a close Bald Cypress tree providing really good photo ops. We headed to headquarters for lunch out of the wind and decided to go to Alligator NWR by way of Columbia.



*Razorbill*



*White-winged Scoter*



*American Avocet*

Hoping for the recently reported Cinnamon Teal we turned onto River Road, but it was not to be. We did see the Lesser Yellowlegs though and other waterfowl there. Pressing on through the refuge, we stopped to watch the magnificent "Gray Ghost" (male Northern Harrier) effortlessly glide over the impoundment in search of prey. An early exit from the refuge to Stumpy Point provided us with a scrumptious meal at the annual oyster fest, from which we all left stuffed to the gills. After social time at Bear with Us, we departed to sleeping quarters, where we crashed for the night.

Departure Sunday was blessed with flyovers by the heretofore missing Snow Geese and a noisy Fish Crow at the Engelhard Hotel. Julien and Jude found a Peregrine Falcon in Alligator NWR to round out the list at a total of 116 species, a record for this trip. North Carolina provides spectacular birding at the coast in winter. If you have not been there to experience it, then you have a treat coming. GO!!



## North Carolina A&T University Farm, March 2, 2019

Submitted by: Matt Wangerin and Lynn Moseley



photo by Lee Capps

After several days of rain and clouds, we were fortunate to have rain-free weather for our field trip to North Carolina A&T University's farm on McConnell Road (Greensboro). Twenty-one people from PBC and T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon enjoyed a 3.5-hour field trip that produced many of the species we especially hoped to see.

Four species of hawks and two American Kestrels are always welcome additions to a list. (Remember that kestrels/falcons are no longer included in the same Order as hawks and eagles, but are more closely related to parrots!).

Eight species of waterfowl were observed on the farm's various ponds. Two of our target species, Wilson's Snipe and American Pipit, both appeared on the section of the farm where test plots of various crops are maintained, across the street from the farm office and livestock pastures.



photo by Lee Capps  
Red-tailed Hawk



photo by Lee Capps  
Northern Shoveler



photo by Ann van Sant  
Eastern Meadowlark

### Bird List (43 species)

Canada Goose 75  
Northern Shoveler 12  
Gadwall 2  
Mallard 4  
Ring-necked Duck 2  
Lesser Scaup 2  
Bufflehead 6  
Ruddy Duck 11  
Rock Pigeon 200  
Mourning Dove 3  
Killdeer 15  
Wilson's Snipe 3  
Ring-billed Gull 38

Double-crested Cormorant 1  
Black Vulture 4  
Turkey Vulture 17  
Red-shouldered Hawk 3  
Red-tailed Hawk 2  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Cooper's  
Hawk 2  
Red-bellied Wood-pecker 2  
Northern Flicker 2  
American Kestrel 2  
Blue Jay 3  
American Crow 11  
Fish Crow 2  
Tree Swallow 1  
Carolina Chickadee 1

Tufted Titmouse 2  
Br.-headed Nuthatch 4 Carolina  
Wren 7  
Eastern Bluebird 14  
American Robin 30  
Northern Mockingbird 3  
European Starling 100 American  
Pipit 9  
Song Sparrow 5  
Swamp Sparrow 3  
Eastern Towhee 3  
Eastern Meadowlark 17  
Red-winged Blackbird 33  
Pine Warbler 2  
Northern Cardinal 8





## Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve, April 13, 2019

*Submitted by: Matt Wangerin, Trip Leader*

Under infrequent light showers, ten members of the Piedmont Bird Club explored the trails of Weymouth Woods. The targets of a spring trip to this great preserve are nesting Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and singing Bachman's Sparrows, as well as the other early migrants and resident birds.

A couple of our own early birds got great looks at the resident Red-cockaded Woodpeckers along the entrance drive, so the assembled group started out right in the parking lot in front of the Visitor's Center. There we were able to spot a pair of hummingbirds at the feeders and hear the first melodious whistle and trill song of the Bachman's Sparrow. However, unable to spot that singing bird, nor the woodpeckers, we started off a trail beneath the iconic longleaf pines.



*photo by Ann Van Sant  
Red-cockaded Woodpecker*



*photo by Matt Wangerin  
Bachman's Sparrow*

It didn't take long to hear another singing male Bachman's Sparrow. The loud, clear song carries well in the rather bare understory, but it is often difficult to locate the small bird. After some searching, everyone was able to see this individual. Success! Soon thereafter we located another couple of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers foraging and bickering with a pair of Downy Woodpeckers.

Ambling beneath the pines we could also hear many Eastern Towhees and Brown-headed Nuthatches. A stunning pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers flashed by, and some Pileated Woodpeckers offered their loud calls. Pine Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were working on nests.

Farther downgrade, the pines give way to a deciduous forest and some swampy habitat. There we found some singing Northern Parulas and Black-and-White Warblers, along with more cardinals and chickadees and the like. Completing the loop, we ended up walking a bit more than anticipated, but added Pine Siskin, which seemed very apropos for the piney locale.

### **Bird List (32 species)**

Mourning Dove 3	Northern Flicker 1	Pine Siskin 1
Chimney Swift 2	Blue Jay 5	American Goldfinch 8
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2	American Crow 4	Bachman's Sparrow 4
Turkey Vulture 4	Fish Crow 1	Chipping Sparrow 14
Red-shouldered Hawk 1	Carolina Chickadee 8	White-throated Sparrow 5
Red-headed Woodpecker 2	Tufted Titmouse 12	Eastern Towhee 12
Red-bellied Woodpecker 7	White-breasted Nuthatch 4	Brown-headed Cowbird 4
Downy Woodpecker 4	Brown-headed Nuthatch 15	Black-and-White Warbler 3
Red-cockaded Woodpecker 3	Carolina Wren 5	Northern Parula 5
Pileated Woodpecker 3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 19	Pine Warbler 24
	Eastern Bluebird 4	Northern Cardinal 11





## Spring Bird Count, April 28, 2019

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Link, Bird Count Coordinator*

The Spring Bird Count for Greensboro was held on Saturday, April 28. In a spring with a lot of rain, we lucked out on the weather. With a low of 45°F and a high of 75°F, light westerly winds and no rain, the day was about as pleasant as you could wish for.

Thirty participants spent a total of 85 party hours counting, with 45 miles hiked on foot and 330 miles driven. Their efforts found 5,920 individual birds of 114 species. There were also 13 species seen during count week that were not found on count day.

In the last 35 years, there have been only two other years when we had 114 or fewer species, and only seven years when we had fewer than 120 species. During that same 35-year period, there were only seven years when we had fewer individual birds than on this year's count. Our average individual count for that period is 7212.

Notable absences included a number of warbler species. Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and Blackpoll Warblers were only found on count week, and others such as Canada and Yellow that are usually seen weren't found at all during the count period. Waterfowl were also missing, as they had largely left the area before the count. Among the few species seen were two Gadwall, which we have had on only one other count since 1967.

On the other hand, there were several Red-breasted Nuthatches on count day, something that has only happened on six other counts in the 35-year period. (And I did check - the years in which Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen weren't the low species count years!)

The low warbler count seems to correlate with observations in other areas of the state through the migration period.

The species list is below. This year's data will be added to the list compiled by George Wheaton containing Spring Count data from 1967 to the present, which is posted on the PBC website.

Many thanks to the counters who gave their time to help continue to gather data for the spring migration:

Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Lynn Allison, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynne Gray, Chris Groh, Mary Hankins, Megan Hankins, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Scott Mortenson, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Melanie Stadler, Emily Talbert, Emily Tyler, Ann VanSant, Marty Wall, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin and Melissa Whitmire.

### Bird List

Wood Duck	9	Acadian Flycatcher	1	Black & White Warbler	9
Hairy Woodpecker	9	Amer. Goldfinch	174	Orchard Oriole	12
Chimney Swift	157	American Crow	267	Blackpoll Warbler	CW
Eastern Screech Owl	CW	American Robin	199	Blue Grosbeak	7
Caspian Tern	4	Barn Swallow	45	Blue-winged Warbler	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Blue Jay	127	Chestnut-sided Warbler	CW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	88	White-thrted Sparrow	103
Rock Pigeon	129	Blue-headed Vireo	3	Northern Parula	28
Barred Owl	6	Brown Thrasher	35	Bobolink	23

Black Vulture	57	Brown-hdcd Nuthatch	38	Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Double-cr. Cormorant	55	Carolina Chickadee	124	Yellow-breasted Chat	8
Osprey	9	Carolina Wren	156	Swamp sparrow	CW
Red-bellied Woodpecker	85	Cedar Waxwing	27	Common Grackle	150
Ring-billed Gull	12	Cliff Swallow	39	Black-thrd Green Warbler	CW
Killdeer	18	Common Raven	2	Palm Warbler	4
Cooper's Hawk	13	Eastern Bluebird	121	Dark-eyed junco	1
Lesser Scaup	CW	Eastern Kingbird	35	Hooded Warbler	8
Gadwall	2	Eastern Phoebe	36	Prothonotary Warbler	2
Canada Goose	324	Eastern Wood-Pee wee	CW	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	European Starling	247	Eastern Meadowlark	19
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	Fish Crow	41	Black-thrtd Blue Warbler	21
Mallard	74	Gr-crested flycatcher	28	Common Yellowthroat	23
Great Horned Owl	1	Gray Catbird	97	Indigo Bunting	26
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Hermit Thrush	5	Northern Cardinal	385
Downy Woodpecker	32	House Finch	114	Brown-headed Cowbird	55
Turkey Vulture	99	House Wren	34	Song sparrow	92
Bonaparte's Gull	5	N. Rough-winged Swallow	70	Prairie Warbler	13
Belted Kingfisher	5	Northern Mockingbird	108	Red-winged Blackbird	56
American Kestrel	3	Northern Waterthrush	CW		
Northern Flicker	23	Ovenbird	15	Baltimore Oriole	6
Spotted Sandpiper	10	Purple Martin	259	Pine Warbler	32
Green Heron	7	Red-brsted Nuthatch	3	Chipping Sparrow	50
Mourning Dove	134	Red-eyed Vireo	100	Magnolia Warbler	CW
Bald Eagle	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	White-crowned Sparrow	CW
Red-shouldered Hawk	32	Swainson's Thrush	CW	Scarlet Tanager	16
Solitary Sandpiper	9	Tree Swallow	112	Yellow-rumped Warbler	108
Great Blue Heron	144	Tufted Titmouse	141	Eastern Towhee	103
Accipiter sp.	1	Veery	1	Summer Tanager	5

Yellow-cr Night Heron	1	White-brsted Nuthatch	31	Field Sparrow	14
Red-Breasted Merganser	CW	White-eyed Vireo	7	American Redstart	3
Red-tailed Hawk	16	Wood Thrush	22	Rose-brsted Grosbeak	4
Pileated Woodpecker	12	Worm-eating Warbler	2	House Sparrow	27
Wild Turkey	9	Yellow-throated Vireo	CW	Cape May Warbler	8
				<b>Total individuals</b>	<b>5921</b>
				<b>Total species count day</b>	<b>114</b>
				<b>Total species count week</b>	<b>13</b>



## Red Oak Brewery Social Event, May 10, 2019

*Submitted by: Dennis Burnette and Diana Bowman*

Approximately 12 PBC members and guests attended a nice social event at Red Oak Brewery in Whitsett (eastern Guilford County just off I-40) on Friday afternoon, May 10, 2019. North Carolina hummingbird expert Susan Campbell discussed the hummingbird garden and other plantings she has been working on at the brewery for the last several years.

The birds were quiet during the afternoon. Susan explained that the hummingbirds are more focused on breeding and nesting this time of year than visiting feeders. Nevertheless, the group spotted or heard 18 species of birds that are common in the late spring, including a pair of Killdeer that were protecting their nest on the ground.

After a tour of the gardens, everyone got to taste some of the brewery products and sit in the shade of the outdoor patio for good conversation and fellowship. Thanks to Matt Wangerin for organizing the social and arranging for Susan to meet us there.



### Bird List

Mourning Dove  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Killdeer  
 Turkey Vulture  
 American Crow  
 Common Raven  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
 Northern Mockingbird

European Starling  
 American Goldfinch  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Orchard Oriole  
 Brown-headed Cowbird  
 Common Grackle  
 American Redstart  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Indigo Bunting  
 House Sparrow