

White Street Landfill

January 5, 2019

Submitted by: Matt Wangerin

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.



Photo Credit: Lee Capps, American Kestrel



Photo Credit: Lee Capps, Red-tailed Hawk

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.

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



Photo Credit: Lee Capps, Eastern Meadowlark