



# White Street Landfill Field Trip, Saturday, January 11, 2020

submitted by Lynn Moseley, Trip Leader with Matt Wangerin and Carolyn Allen



photo by Lee Capps

Twenty PBC members, new and old, braved a rainy forecast to bird this well-known Greensboro site. Thanks to member Carolyn Allen, our club receives special permission to bird the landfill, which is not open to the public for such purposes. Despite an occasional light drizzle and unseasonably warm temperatures, we found 32 species during our 2 ½ hour visit. This landfill, with its old trash mounds covered with soil and seeded with grasses, provides some extensive areas of meadows for birds that seek out those habitats. Small ponds on the property usually produce waterfowl and other wetland species.

On this day we were successful in finding a number of grassland specialties, such as Killdeer, Eastern Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, and four American Kestrels, including a male and female that landed together on an electrical wire.

Only four native species of waterfowl were observed (Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Buffleheads), although a domestic Muscovy Duck was grazing on grass around the pond at the entrance.

A Wilson’s Snipe, a favorite on any field trip, surprised us by bursting out of a soggy ditch near the top of one of the tall grassy mounds. The woods and forest edges produced woodpeckers, songbirds, two species of hawks, and other usual suspects.

Our bird club has birded the landfill in early January for many years, and we’ve encountered bitter cold temperatures, ice, wind, fog, and at least one snowstorm during those trips. As far as I know, we’ve never experienced temperatures in the mid-60’s like we did this year.



female (l) & male (r) Kestrels, by Ann Van Sant



Killdeer, by Lee Capps



Wilson's Snipe, by Lee Capps



Eastern Meadowlark, by Ann Van Sant

## Species List—32

Canada Goose 4	Great Blue Heron 1	Carolina Chickadee 7
Wood Duck 4	Black Vulture 18	Carolina Wren 3
Muscovy Duck (Domestic type) 1	Turkey Vulture 14	European Starling 10
Mallard 5	Cooper's Hawk 1	American Robin 1
Bufflehead 7	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Cedar Waxwing 10
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 32	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2	White-throated Sparrow 1
Mourning Dove 7	Red-bellied Woodpecker 2	Savannah Sparrow 14
Killdeer 4	Northern Flicker 3	Song Sparrow 6
Wilson's Snipe 1	American Kestrel 4	Eastern Meadowlark 28
Ring-billed Gull 30	Blue Jay 5	Northern Cardinal 3
	American Crow 15	
	Fish Crow 32	
	Flyover, calling	