

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

Anson County, NC

August 9, 2020

We all met at the Visitor Center at the Pee Dee NWR around 8 AM under sunny skies. Thankfully it was very pleasant at this time of the morning and hadn't started to heat up yet. A walk along the boardwalk gave us excellent views of several Red-headed Woodpeckers calling and flying amongst the dead trees; always a treat to see these spectacular birds. Other good sightings were a couple of Wood Duck that flew off the lake, 2 immature Little Blue Herons sat out on some dead limbs and a Mississippi Kite catching dragonflies overhead. Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were still singing, albeit not as enthusiastically as earlier in the year and young Barn Swallows and Purple Martins were feeding around the picnic area. The woods were pretty quiet and it took quite a bit of effort to find any warblers, but we did manage Pine, Yellow-throated and Northern Parula. By about 11 AM it had started to heat up and stops at Arrowhead Lake and the canoe landing were quiet, although a non-singing Acadian Flycatcher was a surprise. A small party of Cliff Swallows was moving through and a singing Northern Bobwhite were also nice additions to our morning's birding. Lunch was back at the Visitor Center where the shade and picnic tables were much appreciated as the temperature hit 90F. Despite this being August, we finished the day with an excellent list of 54 species for the morning. We will definitely be back.

Simon Thompson

Birds we saw or heard

Canada Goose	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Wood Duck	(Heard)	(Heard)
Northern Bobwhite	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mourning Dove	Eastern Phoebe	Carolina Wren
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Great Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Bluebird
Chimney Swift	Eastern Kingbird	American Goldfinch
Ruby-throated	Acadian Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Hummingbird	White-eyed Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Killdeer	Yellow-throated Vireo	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Blue Heron	(Heard)	Common Grackle
Great Egret	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Little Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Hooded Warbler (Heard)
Black Vulture	American Crow	Northern Parula
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Pine Warbler
Mississippi Kite	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-throated Warbler
Belted Kingfisher (Heard)	Purple Martin	Summer Tanager
Red-headed	Cliff Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Woodpecker	Barn Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Red-bellied Woodpecker	White-breasted	Indigo Bunting
Northern Flicker (Heard)	Nuthatch	
Downy Woodpecker		

Butterflies

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Zebra Swallowtail
Common Buckeye
Sleepy Orange
Cloudless Sulphur

Dragonflies

Common Whitetail
Common Pondhawk
Halloween Pennant
Slaty Skimmer

Mammals

White-tailed Deer
Eastern Gray Squirrel