

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: June 9-10, 2012

Location: Roan Mountain and the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Asheville

Leader: Jeff Click

On Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10, seven GCBC members and one guest birded several spots in the mountains northeast of Asheville. We started in Tennessee, at **Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area**, where we found Least Flycatcher, and had fleeting glimpses of a Golden-winged Warbler, to go along with Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, and Field Sparrows. **Roan Mountain State Park** was next, where we picked up Black-and-White Warbler, among other things.

A lunch stop at the picnic area at **Twin Springs Recreational Area** produced Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Ovenbird, along with some more calling Least Flycatchers. After lunch, we proceeded to **Carver's Gap**, where we started with a very cooperative Canada Warbler, a very uncooperative Winter Wren, and some Golden-crowned Kinglets. Most of the group walked to the top of **Round Bald**, where we found Vesper Sparrow and Chestnut-sided Warblers. One group member who stayed behind heard Alder Flycatcher at Carver's Gap. We then moved up onto **Roan Mountain** itself, but birding slowed considerably there and at the greenway in Bakersville, so we continued to the Skyline Village Inn. At the inn, we enjoyed dinner and drinks on the deck before retiring for the night.

Sunday morning we started at the historic apple orchard at Altapass, on the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, where we had House Wrens, three species of swallows, and Scarlet Tanager. At the **Chestoa View** trail we had nice looks at Black-throated Blue and Black-and-white Warblers. We then returned to the inn for a plentiful breakfast before checking out and continuing south along the Parkway, making a few stops along the way to check for birds at overlooks.

At the **Bald Knob Ridge** trail, we found Hermit Thrush, Blackburnian Warblers, Brown Creepers, and a much more agreeable Winter Wren. We then tried to bird a little at Mount Mitchell State Park, but found only the inside of a cloud. Moving to lower elevation, we found some success at Craggy Gardens, with another photogenic Canada Warbler. We finished up the trip with a stop at **Bull Creek** overlook, where we found a singing Cerulean Warbler, and then with a stop at **Webb Cove Road**, where we were able to spot a Kentucky Warbler.

The complete species list is below.

Total Species: 76

Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Common Raven
Wild Turkey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Tree Swallow
Turkey Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Red-tailed Hawk	Alder Flycatcher	Barn Swallow
Rock Pigeon	Least Flycatcher	Carolina Chickadee
Mourning Dove	Eastern Phoebe	Tufted Titmouse
Chimney Swift	White-eyed Vireo	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blue-headed Vireo	White-breasted Nuthatch
Downy Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo	Brown Creeper
Hairy Woodpecker	Blue Jay	Carolina Wren
Northern Flicker	American Crow	

House Wren
Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Golden-winged Warbler

Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Ovenbird
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Canada Warbler
Scarlet Tanager

Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Photos courtesy of Don Faulkner



Black-throated Blue Warbler



Hermit Thrush



Kentucky Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak