

Burkes Garden
February 14, 2009

On Saturday, February 14, 2009, eleven birders from the Buchanan and Russell County bird clubs had a great trip to Burkes Garden. The rain held off and the temperature was moderate. The most amazing part of the day was 11 sightings of Golden Eagles and 1 adult Bald Eagle. Not only did we see large numbers of birds but several of the Golden Eagles and the Bald Eagle provided great looks. One Golden, in particular, circled directly over us making everyone oooh and ahhhhh. Another perched in a tree atop a grassy hill. Peggy Herbert found yet another perched in a tree at the back of a field. Lynda Mayhorn spotted the adult Bald Eagle, which was also perched in a tree, and was close enough for fantastic looks through the scopes. The other trip participants say a big thank you to these two “eagle-eyed” eagle spotters. We also got some great looks at Red-tailed Hawks.



Photos by Roger Mayhorn

We got looks at 5 species of ducks, 3 woodpecker species including Red-headed. After everyone else had left Don and Christian found a Ruffed Grouse, and Mollie found Dark-eyed Juncos and later a Pileated Woodpecker.



Photo by Roger Mayhorn

At lunch time, in the field directly in front of the Burkes Garden store, we watched a Turkey Vulture eating what looked to be a small skunk. I wouldn't want to cast aspersions on anyone's physical appearance, but Tom Hunter got close enough to take photos. I got close enough to take photos, but when Don Carrier went to take photos the vulture flew. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Burkes Garden—February 14, 2009—Partly Cloudy 41° F

Observers: Don and Christian Carrier, Peggy Herbert, Tom & Laverne Hunter, Mollie McCutchen, Janice Martin, Roger & Lynda Mayhorn, Jerry & Jane Thornhill,



Photos by Linda Mayhorn
Reporting: Roger Mayhorn/Jerry Thornhill

| Trip List (38 Species) | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| American Crow 14 | American Goldfinch 14 |
| American Kestrel 1 | American Robin 5 |
| Bald Eagle 1 | Belted Kingfisher 4 |
| Black Duck 2 | Blue Jay 11 |
| Canada Geese 13 | Carolina Chickadee 3 |
| Common Raven 6 | Dark-eyed Junco 3 |
| Eastern Bluebird 13 | Eastern Meadowlark 16 |
| European Starling 2000+ | Gadwall 2 |
| Golden Eagle 11 | Great Blue Heron 4 |
| Green-winged Teal 10 | House Sparrow 5 |
| Killdeer 4 | Mallard 23 |
| Mourning Dove 24 | Northern Cardinal 1 |
| Northern Mockingbird 1 | Northern Pintail 4 |
| Pileated Woodpecker 1 | Red-bellied Woodpecker 4 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker 2 | Red-tailed Hawk 8 |
| Red-winged Blackbird 1 | Rock Pigeon 17 |
| Ruffed Grouse 1 | Song Sparrow 12 |
| Tufted Titmouse 1 | Turkey Vulture 3 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch 1 | Wilson's Snipe 1 |