

Cove Outing  
March 22, 2009

As part of the celebration of the 5-year anniversary of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail (VBWT), the Russell County Bird Club in cooperation with the Bristol and Buchanan County Bird Clubs conducted a “Getting to Know You Tour” of The Cove in Tazewell County Virginia on Sunday, March 22nd. The Cove is site MMH08 in the Mountain Heritage Section of the VBWT Guide. In addition to being a beautiful birding area, The Cove was the setting for a Lassie movie, “Lassie, Best Friends are Forever” 1994, and Thistle Cove Farm is featured on the video cover.

The participants gathered at the Wardell Park and Ride on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Watchable Wildlife Program provided copies of the VBWT Guide that were presented to participants in the tour by Dave Worley.



Tom and Laverne Hunter led the 18 participants in a caravan through the valley. It was a wonderful day to be outside. The group was able to locate 42 species of birds along with White-tailed Deer, Fox Squirrels, Groundhogs and other wildlife. The highlights of the birds were 3 Golden Eagles, 8+ Red-tailed Hawks, 4 Tree Swallows, Wilson's Snipe, and a Louisiana Waterthrush.



Photos by Lynda & Roger Mayhorn Report by Laverne Hunter/Jerry Thornhill  
Participants

Richard Kretz	Christian Carrier	Don Carrier	A B Mosley	Jean Montgomery
Sue Slack	Dave Worley	Diana Worley	Jerry Thornhill	Jane Thornhill
Roger Mayhorn	Lynda Mayhorn	Travis Ratliff	Kim Ratliff	Fred Martin
Janice Martin		Tom Hunter		Laverne Hunter

## Species List

Great Blue Heron	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Canada Goose
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Golden Eagle	American Kestrel
Killdeer	Wilson's Snipe	Rock Pigeon	Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Flicker	Eastern Phoebe	Blue Jay
American Crow	Common Raven	Tree Swallow	Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren	Eastern Bluebird	American Robin	Northern Mockingbird
European Starling	Louisiana Waterthrush	Eastern Towhee	Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird	Eastern Meadowlark	Common Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch			House Sparrow