

Outing at the Thornhills'  
Saturday, September 17, 2011

The Russell County Bird Club enjoyed an outing at the Thornhills' place on Saturday, September 17. Although it was overcast and a little chilly early, the skies cleared, the sun came out, and the birds were pretty cooperative. Participants included Roger & Linda Mayhorn, Peggy Herbert, Don & Dawn Carrier, Mike & Jordan Sanders, Bessie Salyers, John Proffitt, Fred & Janice Martin, Dave Worley, and Jerry & Jane Thornhill.

The yard produced some good birds and some interesting activity. One of the highlights of the day occurred early when a pair of ravens locked feet and spiraled downward 50 feet or more until they disappeared behind the tree line. Several people who had just arrived and were visiting on the driveway got to see this spectacular display which produced a lot of comments. The group was also treated to several Cape May Warblers in one of the pine trees. Later, an adult Golden Eagle provided another highlight as it soared and turned with the sun hitting its back to show why it's called "golden."



Visiting on the deck



Golden Eagle Circling

We had a great time visiting, strolling up the hollow, being entertained by young Jordan Sanders, and finding a variety of late summer flowers, critters, and birds.



Jordan looks for birds (Photo by Roger Mayhorn)



Interesting caterpillar



Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk



Should I jump in?

While most of the group was walking up the hollow, the birders who stayed behind had one of the best birds of the day from the deck. Fred Martin spotted a Blue Grosbeak along the creek. This is an uncommon bird for the yard.

The group totaled 39 species for the day including 12 warbler species. The complete list is below.

Day's List

- |                           |                             |                              |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture            | American Crow               | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk        | Common Raven                | Black-and-white Warbler      |
| Cooper's Hawk             | Carolina Chickadee          | American Redstart            |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Tufted Titmouse             | Worm-eating Warbler          |
| Golden Eagle              | White-breasted Nutchatch    | Ovenbird                     |
| Mourning Dove             | Carolina Wren               | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | American Robin              | Hooded Warbler               |
| Downy Woodpecker          | Brown Thrasher              | Scarlet Tanager              |
| Northern Flicker          | Tennessee Warbler           | Eastern Towhee               |
| Eastern Phoebe            | Yellow Warbler              | Northern Cardinal            |
| Philadelphia Vireo        | Cape May Warbler            | Rose-breasted Grosbeak       |
| Red-eyed Vireo            | Black-throated Blue Warbler | Blue Grosbeak                |
| Blue Jay                  | Yellow-rumped Warbler       | American Goldfinch           |