

## Results of the Walnut Mountain Field Trip

**May 11, 2024**

A total of 9 birders from the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society participated in a field trip to the Hampton and Walnut Mountain Area of Carter County, Tennessee on May 11, 2024. The day was mostly sunny with clouds increasing throughout the day and temperatures ranging from 45-64 degrees. Winds were mostly less than 10 miles per hour. We met at the Hampton Post at 7:30am. We birded in the parking lot of the post office and then made stops on Watauga Lake at the Rat Branch Boat Ramp and Watauga Point Recreation Area. We then went up and over Walnut Mountain on Little Stony Road and Walnut Mountain Road making stops along the way. We passed through Dennis Cove and returned to Hampton on Dennis Cove Road around 1pm. We then finished the trip with lunch at Wayne and Nancy's Family Restaurant before calling it a day. A total of 65 species (including 15 warbler species) were observed including great looks at Swainson's Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Fish crows, and Spotted Sandpiper. The fish crows may be nesting at Watauga Point. Other notable species include Tennessee Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and a Barred Owl. Here is the list of species identified.

Canada Geese – 25	Blue Jay - 2	Eastern Towhee - 8
Mallard – 6	American Crow – 5	Brown-headed Cowbird – 5
Wild Turkey – 1	Fish Crow – 4	Common Grackle - 6
Rock Pigeon – 2	Carolina Chickadee – 4	Ovenbird – 12
Mourning Dove -4	Tufted Titmouse – 2	Worm-eating Warbler – 1
Chimney Swift – 3	Tree Swallow – 1	Louisiana Waterthrush – 1
Spotted Sandpiper – 2	Barn Swallow – 1	Black-and-White Warbler – 5
Great Blue Heron - 2	White-breasted Nuthatch – 1	Swainson's Warbler – 1
Turkey Vulture – 1	Brown Creeper – 1	Tennessee Warbler – 1
Broad-winged Hawk - 1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1	Hooded Warbler = 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1	Carolina Wren - 4	American Redstart -1
Barred Owl – 1	European Starling – 4	Northern Parula – 2
Belted Kingfisher – 1	Gray Catbird – 1	Blackburnian Warbler – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 5	Brown Thrasher – 2	Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1
Pileated Woodpecker – 2	Eastern Bluebird – 3	Black-throated Blue Warbler- 21
Northern Flicker – 1	American Robin – 25	Yellow-rumped Warbler – 2
Eastern Wood Pewee – 2	Cedar Waxwing – 4	Yellow-throated Warbler – 4
Acadian Flycatcher – 9	House Sparrow – 2	Black-throated Green Warbler- 10
Eastern Phoebe – 3	American Goldfinch – 5	Scarlet Tanager – 1
Eastern Kingbird – 2	Chipping Sparrow – 3	Northern Cardinal - 4
Blue-headed Vireo – 7	Dark-eyed Junco - 3	Indigo Bunting – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 25	Song Sparrow – 10	

Participants: Brookie and Jean Potter, Kim Stroud, Dave Gardner, John Dollard, Chris Conners, Jennifer Kennedy, Roy Knispel and Joe McGuiness

Thank you to all of the drivers. Special thanks to Roy Knispel for keeping up with Ebird lists for the trip, and Dave Gardner for the photograph. Thanks to everyone who participated and made it such a fun and enjoyable birding day!

Joe McGuiness

Photo 1. Canada Goose and Goslings at Rat Branch Boat Ramp (photo by Dave Gardner)

