

## Results of the August Herndon Field Trip

**August 24, 2024**

A total of 17 birders participated in the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society field trip in Washington and Greene Counties, Tennessee on August 24, 2024. The day was mostly sunny with just a few clouds and temperatures ranging from 56-82 degrees. Winds were less than 5 miles per hour. We met at the Food City on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 8am. We birded in the parking lot before heading to Dry Creek Road between Buffalo and Cherokee Mountain. We made a couple of stops along Dry Creek Road and then traveled to AJ Willis Road before reaching Charlie Carson Road in hopes of seeing the kites. Did they put on a show! For 45 minutes, the group watched one Swallow-tailed kite and 11 Mississippi Kites feed, dive, soar and chase one another. It was incredible to watch. The group then traveled to the Black Tern Pond on Mae McKee Road and West View pond in search of shorebirds with little success. We had a wonderful lunch at the Mountain View Restaurant before returning to Food City around 3pm. A total of 47 species were observed including great looks at Mississippi Kites and Swallow-tailed Kite. Other notable species include Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, and Eastern Wood Pewee. Here is the list of species submitted to Ebird. Numbers may vary by observer.

Canada Geese – 7	Northern Flicker – 2	Eastern Bluebird – 9
Wild Turkey – 4	American Kestrel - 1	American Robin – 9
Rock Pigeon – 8	Eastern Wood Pewee – 1	Cedar Waxwing – 17
Mourning Dove -32	Eastern Kingbird – 1	House Finch – 6
Chimney Swift – 1	Red-eyed Vireo – 4	American Goldfinch – 11
Killdeer – 10	Blue Jay – 5	Chipping Sparrow – 1
Great Blue Heron - 4	American Crow – 17	Song Sparrow – 2
Black Vulture – 6	Common Raven – 1	Eastern Towhee – 1
Turkey Vulture – 7	Carolina Chickadee – 1	Eastern Meadowlark - 2
Swallow-tailed Kite – 1	Tufted Titmouse – 1	Hooded Warbler - 2
Mississippi Kite – 11	Tree Swallow – 53	Black-throated Blue Warbler- 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 2	Carolina Wren – 6	Black-throated Green Warbler-1
Red-tailed Hawk -1	European Starling – 42	Northern Cardinal – 7
Belted Kingfisher – 1	Gray Catbird – 1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1
Hairy Woodpecker -2	Brown Thrasher – 1	Indigo Bunting – 1
Pileated Woodpecker – 1	Northern Mockingbird – 7	

Participants: Kim Stroud, Dave Gardner, John Dollard, Judi Sawyer, Roy Knispel, Vern Maddux, Rob Biller, Larry McDaniel, John McFarland, Karen McFarland, Dianne Draper, Don Holt, Eric Middlemas, Robert Armistead, Connie Irick, David Irick, 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 for the photograph. Thanks to Judi Sawyer also added photos to the Ebird list. Thanks to everyone who participated and made it such a fun and enjoyable birding day!

Joe McGuiness

Photo 1. Immature Mississippi Kite (photo by Roy Knispel)



Photo 2. Swallow-tail Kite (photo by Joe McGuiness)

