

Results of the Burke's Garden Field Trip

December 13, 2025

Nine members of the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter and Bristol Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society participated in a field trip to Burke's Garden, Virginia on December 13, 2025. Weather for the trip consisted of bright sunshine and thin clouds with temperatures ranging from 24-45°F. Winds were light in the morning but picked up in the afternoon to 5-15mph. We ate lunch at the General Store. Mattie's was closed and the bird feeders taken down. A total of 38 species were observed including Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Red-headed woodpeckers, and Loggerhead Shrike. Here is the list of species identified. Numbers are from the ebird report. These numbers may vary for each observer.

Snow Goose -2	Belted Kingfisher – 3	Eastern Bluebird - 1
Canada Goose -47	Red-headed Woodpecker – 3	American Robin- 1
Gadwall – 8	Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3	House Sparrow- 27
Mallard – 2	Northern Flicker – 1	American Goldfinch – 2
Northern Pintail – 1	Downy Woodpecker -1	Dark-eyed Junco – 11
Wild Turkey – 2	American Kestrel – 6	Song Sparrow – 5
Rock Pigeon – 61	Loggerhead Shrike – 1	Eastern Meadowlark – 11
Mourning Dove – 11	Blue Jay – 11	Northern Cardinal - 3
Great Blue Heron – 1	American Crow – 46	
Turkey Vulture -1	Common Raven – 6	
Golden Eagle – 2	Carolina Chickadee – 2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1	Tufted Titmouse – 3	
Bald Eagle -1	White Breasted Nuthatch – 2	
Red-shouldered Hawk – 2	Carolina Wren – 1	
Red-tailed Hawk – 9	European Starling – 67	

Participants: Roy Knispel, Rob Biller, Larry McDaniel, Harry Norman, Vern Maddux, Jennifer Quillen, Rob Armistead and his sister Audrey, and Joe McGuiness

Special thanks to those who drove and to Roy Knispel for keeping up with Ebird lists for the trip!
Thanks to everyone who participated!

Joe McGuiness

Picture 1. General Photo of Burke's Garden. (Joe McGuiness)



Picture 2. Golden Eagle. (Roy Knispel)



Picture 4. Loggerhead Shrike (Joe McGuiness)



Picture 3. Immature Bald Eagle (Roy Knispel)

