

Results of the February Bird Club Field Trip to the South Holston Weir Dam, Highway 421 Boat Ramp, and Paddle Creek Pond

February 28, 2026

Ten members of the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter participated in a field trip to the South Holston Weir Dam, Highway 421 Boat Ramp, Paddle Creek Pond and points in between on February 28th. Weather for the trip consisted of sunny skies, light winds, and temperatures between 38-67°F. We met at the Weir Dam at 8:30am and birded until 3:30pm with a lunch stop at the Rowdy Rooster. A total of 60 species were observed. Birds of note included: Long-tailed Duck, Brown Creeper, Tundra Swan, Canvasback, Common Merganser, Herring Gull, Northern Harrier, and Pine Warbler. Here is the list of species identified. Numbers are from eBird and may vary by observer.

Bird Species	Number	Bird Species	Number
Canada Goose	7	Northern Harrier	1
Tundra Swan	7	Bald Eagle*	13
Gadwall	59	Red-shouldered Hawk	1
American Widgeon	16	Red-tailed Hawk	4
Mallard	18	Eastern Screech Owl	1
Green-winged Teal	66	Belted Kingfisher	3
Canvasback	3	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	2
Redhead	59	Pileated Woodpecker	5
Ring-necked Duck	6	Northern Flicker	1
Greater Scaup	12	American Kestrel *	1
Lesser Scaup	1	Eastern Phoebe	2
Long-tailed Duck	1	Blue Jay	5
Bufflehead	71	American Crow	13
Hooded Merganser	1	Common Raven	1
Common Merganser	2	Carolina Chickadee	12
Wild Turkey*	13	Tufted Titmouse	4
Rock Pigeon	22	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Bonaparte's Gull	26	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Ring-billed Gull	85	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Herring Gull	1	Brown Creeper	2
Pied-billed Grebe	8	Winter Wren	2
Double-crested Cormorant	12	Carolina Wren	3
Great Blue Heron	16	European Starling	12
Black Vulture	3	Eastern Bluebird	8
Turkey Vulture	8	American Robin	6
		House Finch	3

Bird Species	Number	Bird Species	Number
American Goldfinch	1	Eastern Meadowlark	5
Dark-eyed Junco	4	Red-winged Blackbird	1
White-throated Sparrow	2	Pine Warbler	2
Song Sparrow	5	Northern Cardinal	7
Eastern Towhee	1		

*denotes birds observed on the way home.

Participants: Dave Gardner, Susan Peters, Judi Sawyer, Scott Turner, Chris Soto, Debi Campbell, Harry Lee Farthing, Roy Knispel, John Dollard and Joe McGuiness.

Thanks to everyone who participated! Special thanks to Roy Knispel who took care of Ebird and provided photographs for the report.

Joe McGuiness

Photo 1. Tundra Swans and Green-winged Teal at Paddle Creek (photo by Roy Knispel)



Photo 2. Long-tailed Duck at 421 Boat Ramp (photo by Roy Knispel)



Photo 3. Canvasback at Paddle Creek Pond (photo by Roy Knispel)



Photo 4. Common Mergansers along Big Springs Road. (Photo by Roy Knispel)



Photo 5. Eastern Screech Owl in box along Big Springs Road. (photo by Roy Knispel)

