

Craggies and Mt Mitchell, NC

June 4, 2021

Trip Report

It was a cool and somewhat foggy start when we met at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway. A Cooper's Hawk called, but we couldn't manage to locate it or the nest that I had found earlier in the spring. Our first stop was just north of the Tanbark Ridge Tunnel where we only heard Blackburnian and Cerulean Warblers. A young Hairy Woodpecker was very obvious as was a foraging Black-and-white Warbler that sang and fed on a large oak in front of us. A male Scarlet Tanager sang and showed itself very well right over our heads and a Yellow-throated Vireo eventually showed itself as it sang its husky song. A Kentucky Warbler was singing way down the slope at the Bull Creek Valley overlook and a male American Redstart sang nearby as multiple cars drove through our group only to move on again when they didn't see the monkey! The Craggies were fairly quiet and we had quick glimpses of Canada Warbler and Veery and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang its rich warbling song overhead. Unfortunately, it flew off before we could locate it in the thick canopy. Lunch was in the campground at Mt Mitchell, where the cool conditions were a delight, as were the Winter Wrens singing in the distance. A walk along the easy Commissary Trail is always enjoyable with Bluets carpeting the sides of the trail and Mountain Ash and Red-berried Elder coming into bloom. Birding was a little quiet to start with, but we finished the walk with great views of Canada and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglet and a soaring Broad-winged Hawk. A couple of Hermit Thrushes were singing their beautiful songs making for an atmospheric experience.

Overall a lovely day here in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Simon Thompson

Birds seen or heard 42 Species

Wild Turkey	Common Raven	Worm-eating Warbler
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Kentucky Warbler (Heard)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Black-and-white Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch (Heard)	Hooded Warbler (Heard)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	American Redstart
Hairy Woodpecker	Winter Wren (Heard)	Cerulean Warbler (Heard)
Alder Flycatcher	Gray Catbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee (Heard)	Wood Thrush (Heard)	Blackburnian Warbler (Heard)
Eastern Phoebe	Veery	Black-throated Green Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Hermit Thrush (Heard)	Canada Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	American Robin	Scarlet Tanager
Red-eyed Vireo	Cedar Waxwing	Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Heard)
Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco	Indigo Bunting
American Crow	American Goldfinch	
	Eastern Towhee	