

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: October 12, 2013

Location: Green River Gorge Region: Wilderness Cove Campground, Big Bradley Falls, and Little Bradley Falls, Saluda N.C.

Leaders: Jerry Johnson and Jeff Click

Species List Compiled by: Jeff Click

Resources:

Green River Gorge: <http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/attractions-destinations/green-river-gorge>

Big Bradley Falls: http://www.ncwaterfalls.com/big_bradley1.htm

Little Bradley Falls: http://www.ncwaterfalls.com/little_bradley1.htm

Wilderness Cove <http://www.wildernesscovecampground.com/>

Campground:

Jerry Johnson led a group of thirteen birders into the beautiful Green River Gorge, near Saluda, NC. We drove down Green River Cove Road to the Wilderness Cove Campground, finding a group of Turkeys and hearing Field Sparrows along the way. Just past the gate at the campground, we encountered a nice group of migrants and wintering birds, including an American Redstart and both Kinglets. A bit farther down the road, we happened upon a group of trees with a more diverse group that included Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, Magnolia and Tennessee Warblers, and a Scarlet Tanager. As we continued down the road, we found a few Winter Wrens and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler, after which the habitat opened up and we started to find sparrows, such as Song, White-throated, and Swamp, as well as Common Yellowthroats and a couple of Black-throated Green Warblers hanging around the forest edge. An immature Bald Eagle cruised by, and Chip was able to find a Nashville Warbler, which Don photographed.

We then enjoyed a relaxing lunch on the back porch of the Johnsons' beautiful nearby home, where we heard an Eastern Screech-Owl and a Red-shouldered Hawk calling. Afterwards, a few of us explored the trails to Big Bradley Falls and Little Bradley Falls on Holbert Cove Road. Afternoon birding was pretty slow, and we gave up before too long, although the trails were both beautiful.

It was a very enjoyable trip to a new spot for us. The complete species list is below.

Species list (48 total)

Wild Turkey	Blue-headed Vireo	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Tennessee Warbler
Black Vulture	American Crow	Nashville Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Common Raven	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Magnolia Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Black-throated Green Warbler
Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Eastern Towhee
Eastern Screech-Owl	Carolina Wren	Field Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Song Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Swamp Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Northern Flicker	Swainson's Thrush	Scarlet Tanager
Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin	Northern Cardinal
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Gray Catbird	American Goldfinch
Eastern Phoebe	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow



Black-throated Blue Warbler (female)



Black-throated Green Warbler



Eastern Towhee



Nashville Warbler (first fall)

All photos courtesy of Don Faulkner.

To view more of Don's photographs visit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/faulkners_fowl_shots/