

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

- Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015
- Location:** Cedar Falls, Gunter Road, and Holliday Circle Rd., Greenville County
- Leader:** Brad Dalton
- Lists & Narrative:** Brad Dalton
- Photographs:** Valerie Hollinger-Ky. Warbler, Joan Baker-Prothonotary Warbler, and all others, Chris Peak
- Species Total:** 59, including 11 species of warblers!



An estimated 13 people came out for the outing to Holliday Circle/Cedar Falls Park/Gunter Rd. Birds were very active and vocal, and we got great looks at several warblers as well as many other birds. We tallied 59 species, including 11 species of warblers.

At Holliday Circle, we got good looks at Black-and-white Warbler and a Louisiana Waterthrush, as well as somewhat distant views of Prairie Warbler and a singing Blue Grosbeak.

One of the highlights at Cedar Falls Park was a singing Kentucky Warbler that came right in beside the whole group, and then right after it left a Prothonotary came in from the other side. We were actually able to see the Prothonotary go into a cavity so it will be worth keeping an eye on this location for the next month to see if there is any nesting activity. Farther down the trail, Andy spotted two birds soaring very high over our heads. They closely resembled Anhingas, but looking closely, they were a little too stocky and their tails were a bit short, and they turned out to be a pair of Double-crested Cormorants! Andy really found something interesting here because seeing soaring cormorants is a very uncommon observation. Many online comparisons with Anhingas say cormorants do not soar, with one reference going so far as to say cormorants CAN'T soar.

Another interesting moment was when Jeff Click and I both heard what sounded identical to a Mourning Warbler! I stopped mid-sentence to listen and look but it was not heard again. We attempted to call it in, but there was no response and we saw no bird. We were very skeptical of our observation... but that's what we heard... Mourning Warbler... that couldn't be it, but that had to be it! We knew the chance of finding a Mourning Warbler in South Carolina was exceedingly small, but Jeff checked ebird after the trip, and with the closest current report of one being at Hotel Buena Vista just north of San Jose, Costa Rica, the likelihood of our bird being a Mourning Warbler was even more minuscule. So (mostly for those who were on the trip) we decided what we heard was more likely a Kentucky Warbler with an aberrant song, or a Kentucky song with a different sound at the perfect pitch and time right after it. That said... if by some miracle someone finds a Mourning Warbler at the park, I change my story and this is documentation that we found it first!

At Gunter Rd, the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers had not returned quite this early, but we did get nice looks at both Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows perched on the trees of the nursery across the street.

Combined Species List:

Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Northern Parula
Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-throated Warbler
Osprey	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Prairie Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	Eastern Towhee
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Field Sparrow
Killdeer	Eastern Bluebird	Savannah Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	American Robin	Grasshopper Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Brown Thrasher	White-throated Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Northern Mockingbird	Northern Cardinal
Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	Blue Grosbeak
Downy Woodpecker	Louisiana Waterthrush	Red-winged Blackbird
White-eyed Vireo	Blue-winged Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-throated Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler	Common Grackle
Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Blue Jay	Kentucky Warbler	House Finch
American Crow	Hooded Warbler	Pine Siskin
Fish Crow		American Goldfinch

Holliday Circle, Belton, Greenville, US-SC

Apr 11, 2015 8:10 AM - 9:40 AM

Protocol: Traveling 1.5 mile(s) Sunny and warm.

36 species

Black Vulture	2	Brown Thrasher	1
Turkey Vulture	1	Northern Mockingbird	4
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	3
Ring-billed Gull	6	Black-and-white Warbler	3
Mourning Dove	2	Northern Parula	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Pine Warbler	4
White-eyed Vireo	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Prairie Warbler	5
Red-eyed Vireo	4	Eastern Towhee	4
Blue Jay	6	Chipping Sparrow	3
American Crow	4	Field Sparrow	5
Carolina Chickadee	5	White-throated Sparrow	4
Tufted Titmouse	6	Northern Cardinal	9
Carolina Wren	5	Blue Grosbeak	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11	Red-winged Blackbird	30
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Common Grackle	3
Eastern Bluebird	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	6
American Robin	2	American Goldfinch	6

Cedar Falls County Park, Greenville, US-SC

Apr 11, 2015 9:50 AM - 12:50 PM

Protocol: Traveling 1.5 mile(s) Comments: Sunny and warm.



46 species (+1 other taxa)

Great Blue Heron	1	Brown Thrasher	2	
Black Vulture	3	Northern Mockingbird	1	
Turkey Vulture	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	
Osprey	1	Blue-winged Warbler	1	Heard by Jeff Click
Cooper's Hawk	1	Black-and-white Warbler	3	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Prothonotary Warbler	1	
Mourning Dove	2	Hooded Warbler	3	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	Northern Parula	5	
Downy Woodpecker	2	Pine Warbler	3	
White-eyed Vireo	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	Yellow-throated Warbler	4	
Red-eyed Vireo	4	Eastern Towhee	3	
Blue Jay	7	Chipping Sparrow	4	
American Crow	4	Field Sparrow	2	
Fish Crow	1	White-throated Sparrow	4	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	Northern Cardinal	9	
Carolina Chickadee	7	Red-winged Blackbird	2	
Tufted Titmouse	6	Common Grackle	3	
Carolina Wren	7	Brown-headed Cowbird	5	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	13	Pine Siskin	2	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	American Goldfinch	25	
Eastern Bluebird	2			
American Robin	2			

Kentucky Warbler 3 Saw and heard one and heard others. Unfortunately much of the great riparian thickets have been cleared away in exchange for a view of the river, but enough is there for the Kentuckies to still find a home.



warbler sp. 1 Jeff and I both heard a bird, which independently cause a great deal of alarm while the group was down by the river. What I heard was exactly the same as the first song offered in the Peterson Eastern Bird Song for Mourning Warbler. I stopped mid-sentence and paused to listen but did not state what I heard. Jeff then says "whoa!.... did you hear that?" After stating he thought he heard a Mourning Warbler, I told him I heard the same. We played a song several times but never got a response and never saw the bird. After getting back and checking observations, it seems Mourning Warblers are not on the move in the states yet making our bird even more unlikely. We concluded what we heard was either an aberrant Kentucky Warbler or a Kentucky with another sound of perfect pitch and timing falling right at the end.

Double-crested Cormorant 2 Pair seen SOARING very high overhead. Very similar to Anhinga, but necks were thicker, tails were shorter, and they seemed slightly stockier than would be expected of Anhinga. Jeff Click and maybe others got very distant photographs.

Gunter Rd. Piedmont, SC, Greenville, US-SC

Apr 11, 2015 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

Protocol: Traveling 0.2 mile(s) Sunny and warm.

25 species

Black Vulture	3
Turkey Vulture	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2
Killdeer	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
White-eyed Vireo	1
Blue Jay	4
American Crow	3
Barn Swallow	5
Carolina Chickadee	2
Tufted Titmouse	1
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
Carolina Wren	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Northern Mockingbird	2
Eastern Towhee	1
Chipping Sparrow	3
Field Sparrow	2
Savannah Sparrow	11
Grasshopper Sparrow	4
White-throated Sparrow	1
Northern Cardinal	2
Eastern Meadowlark	3
House Finch	1
American Goldfinch	2

