

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: June 2, 2007

Location: Blue Ridge Parkway, Western NC

Comments: On Saturday June 2, eleven members of the GCBC birded on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The weather was mostly cloudy and cool, with temps in the 60's all day. We started the day at the hospital fields in Brevard and quickly found a Willow Flycatcher making the definitive "fitz-bew" call. Since we would be birding from the lower elevations at Brevard up to Black Balsam above 5000', we were hoping to find 4 species of flycatchers from the genus Empidonax.

At the Coon Tree picnic area along the Davidson River we heard the "peet-sa" call of an Acadian Flycatcher which we observed sitting on a limb above the river. We also saw a beautifully plumaged Blackburnian Warbler there.

After making several stops at overlooks, where we saw Indigo Buntings and Chestnut-sided Warblers, we went to the Mt. Pisgah trailhead parking area hoping to find a Least Flycatcher. We were immediately rewarded with the "che-bek" call and excellent looks.

After much looking and listening at the Black Balsam parking area, we found a pair of empids which were not vocalizing. I used a tape to replay the call of an Alder Flycatcher and both birds immediately responded, thus confirming their identity.

Our last stop of the day was Devil's Courthouse where we observed 2 juvenile Peregrine Falcons waiting on their parents to bring food. They were still waiting when we left. We added Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush at this site.

Good birding,

J.B. Hines

Bird List:
Green Heron
Canada Goose
Turkey Vulture
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk

Peregrine Falcon
Mourning Dove
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great-crested Flycatcher
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
European Starling
Blue-headed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Northern Parula
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
American Redstart
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting
Eastern Towhee
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
House Finch
American Goldfinch