



PBC Trip Report: Old Bynum Bridge, October 16, 2023

submitted by Jim Gant

Trip Coordinator(s): Jim Gant

Location: Old Bynum Bridge and Meadow

Temperature: low 50's – low 60's

Weather: Clear and sunny

Target Bird(s), if any: Fall Migrants

Number of participants: 2

Bird List: Canada Geese, Great Blue Herons, Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfishers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireos, Blue Jays, American Crows, Fish Crows, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinches, Common Grackles, Northern Cardinals; for a total of 29 species.

Comments: (such as, notable birds seen, interesting bird or animal behavior, condition of the birding site, participant comments): Our walk began on a crisp cool morning that was sunny and clear. The birds increased their calls and songs as the sun continued to rise. As we approached the center of the bridge over the main channel of the Haw River we saw our first of 3 Ospreys who had just caught a fish and was headed back up stream. A short time later we saw an Osprey coming down river towards the bridge, and after we got a good look at it we noticed that it had a fish, then we noticed that it was being chased by a Bald Eagle that was clearly after the fish. The eagle flew over us and circled around and eventually the Osprey did drop the fish, but it appeared to us that the Bald Eagle saw the fish fall but it did not go after it. Rather it just circled around the bridge area a few times. While it was circling we then saw a second Bald Eagle and it also circled the area close by the first one. Later we saw a 3rd Bald eagle perched in a tree upstream by the Rt. 15/501 bridge. The initial Osprey went a ways down stream to go fishing again. We later saw 2 additional Ospreys. After going to the other side of the bridge and returning we met a few other Birders, and we were able to see and hear both a Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Most of us had eyes on both birds and I was able to get a photo of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. We also walked down to the Meadow area, where we saw a Great Blue Heron (1 of the 3 we saw) and an Eastern Wood-Pewee. We would have liked to have seen a few other Migrants, but all in all not a bad Day.

Old Bynum Bridge Trip Report Photos



Northern Mockingbird



Great Blue Heron



Osprey w/fish; 1 of 3 seen



Bald Eagle 1 of 3 seen



Northern Cardinal



Belted Kingfisher

Old Bynum Bridge Trip Report Photos



Northern Flicker



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Red-shouldered Hawk



Belted Kingfisher



Eastern Wood-Pewee



Pearl Crescent Butterfly