



## **Ridges Mountain; 11 April 2026**

*submitted by Jim Gant*

**Trip Coordinator(s):** Jim Gant; Grace Sigmon our NC Zoo Guide

**Location:** 4001 Ridges Mountain Trail, Asheboro, NC

**Temperature:** 60's – 70's

**Weather:** Partly cloudy

**Target Bird(s), if any:**

**Number of participants:** 12

**Bird List:** Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Brown-headed Cowbird, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal; for a total of 24 species.

**Comments: (such as, notable birds seen, interesting bird or animal behavior, condition of the birding site, participant comments):**

Ridges Mountain Trail is one of the properties owned by the North Carolina Zoo. This was the last field trip to the NC Zoo sites this season. While it has a gradual incline for most of the walk, there are a few steep sections at the top. Also, at the top we see the very large rock formations make us look very small in comparison. It was an excellent day for a Bird Walk. As we began the birds were beginning to get vocal. The Ovenbird was heard from the trailhead. As we progressed, we began hearing more species. In addition to the birds, we also saw a Rat Snake close to the top of the mountain. We also saw a number of butterflies. An exciting time was had, when we heard and saw the Black-and-white Warbler. Seeing this warbler was a first for several of our group. Also, we heard a few Hermit Thrushes and saw one, along the way. But there was a Wood Thrush waiting for us as we returned to the trailhead. All in all, an excellent day for birding.

## Photo for Ridges Mountain Field Trip, 11 April 2026



Group photo



Group photo in front of the large rocks



Hermit Thrush



Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly



Golden Banded Skipper



Rat Snake



Black-and-white Warbler



Black-and-white Warbler