



Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, 10 May 2025

submitted by: *Jim Gant*

Trip Coordinator(s): Lynn Moseley (Jim Gant)

Location: Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, 625 Virginia Cates Road, Hillsborough, NC. 27278

Temperature: 60's to low 70's

Weather: partly cloudy

Target Bird(s), if any: Migrants

Number of participants: 5

Bird List: Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Killdeer, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-and-White Warbler, Pine Warbler, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal; for a total of **31 species**.

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

It was a beautiful day for a Bird Walk. The Piedmont Bird Club had not been to this location for several years. The Occoneechee Mountain is the highest point from Hillsborough to the coast at 867 feet. The area has several trails. The Occoneechee Mountain Loop Trail is the longest, 2.2 miles and is listed as moderately challenging. It will take you to the top and the Overlook. We specifically stayed on trails at the lower level. We walked on short sections of the Loop Trail to connect to the Chestnut Oak Trail, the Brown Elfin Knob Trail, and the Loop Trail back to the Trail Head. This was a good trail selection for our group. We were able to see a good variety of birds. However, we did speak to some birders who walked the Loop Trail, and they were able to see some additional warblers at the higher levels. We had some new members with us, Ric Jernigan and his Mom. This was their first trip with the PBC. We welcomed them and we hope to see them on more of our trips.

Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, 10 May 2025 Photos



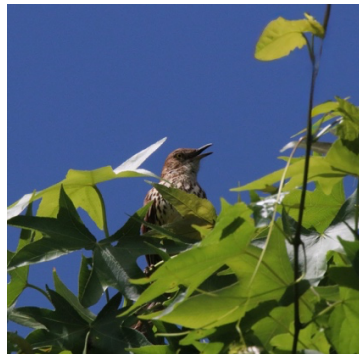
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



Eastern Bluebird



Great Blue Heron



Brown Thrasher



Brown-headed Cowbirds



American Goldfinch