



Warbler Road, 6-7 May 2025

submitted by Jim Gant

Trip Coordinator(s): Jim Gant

Location: Peaks of Otter Visitor Center, Va.; Sunset Fields Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Va.; Radar Road, Va; Forrest Service Road 812 – Warbler Road, Va; Forrest Service Road 768, Va; Route 622 (Solitude Road), Arcadia, Va.

Temperature: 50's to high 70's

Weather: Mostly sunny, some clouds

Target Bird(s), if any: Migrants

Number of participants: a total of 11

Bird List: The group had 7 different eBird Checklists. These or the species heard/seen.

Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Broad Winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, for a **total of 69 species**.

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

We had an excellent Warbler Road trip. The weather cooperated and the birds were active and vocal. 7 of the group met at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center on Tuesday 6 May and we went bird watching over a couple of the trails behind the visitor for just under 4 hours. This was a great introduction to this area. Afterwards, some of us had dinner at the Peaks of Otter Lodge and others went to their hotel.

Early Wednesday morning, 7 May we met again at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center and did some additional birding for just under an hour. We then proceeded up the Blue Ridge Parkway

to the Sunset Fields Overlook and did some birding there for just over an hour. While we were there 3 more PBC members joined us for the day. As we departed Sunset Fields Overlook, we traveled up Radar Road. Some of the birds we saw and heard there include Baltimore Oriole, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstarts, Cerulean Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A highlight was seeing a female American Redstart on her nest.

We then traveled down FSR 812 (Warbler Road). Some of the birds that we saw and heard there include Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Pine Warbler, and American Redstart.

We then turned onto FSR 768. Along this route some of the birds we saw and heard there are, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and American Redstart.

After a short rest stop at the North Creek Campground, we then proceeded to Route 622 (Solitude Road). Some of the birds that we saw and heard there include, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting.

An observation, we saw and heard a great number of American Redstarts at every location. They certainly covered a wide area.

I thank everyone for participating. This was a great team event for seeing, hearing and identifying the birds.

Warbler Road Trip Photos, 6-7 May 2025



Tufted Titmouse



White-breasted Nuthatch



American Redstart, female



Eastern Bluebird, with nesting material



Scarlet Tanager



Blue-headed Vireo



Wood Thrush



Black-throated Blue Warbler



American Redstart, on her nest



American Redstart, male