



## Company Mill Preserve, November 19, 2022

submitted by Jim Gant

**Trip Coordinator(s):** Jim Gant

**Location:** Company Mill Preserve, near Climax, NC

**Temperature:** high 20's thru the 40's

**Weather:** Mostly Sunny

**Target Bird(s), if any:** Water Birds, and the birds that migrate to our area and spend the winter with us

**Number of participants:** 7; Jim Gant, Linda Hayes, Areatha Davidson, Mike Stephens, Mireya Ramos, Ann Lindberg, and Eric Johnston

**Bird List:** Great Blue Heron, Black Vultures, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawks, Belted King Fisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flickers, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jays, American Crows, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Rusty Blackbirds, yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinals, for a total of 31.

**Comments: (such as, notable birds seen, interesting bird or animal behavior, condition of the birding site, participant comments):** I believe "Mother Nature" rewarded us with some nice birds and nature to see. We had a Great Blue Heron put on a show where it initially caught a big fish for breakfast. We watched in amazement as when he tried to swallow it, he dropped it and frantically searched for it, he fortunately got it back and swallowed it. We also had a surprise visit by an Otter who was also fishing in the same area as the Great Blue Heron. The Heron was not happy about that but there wasn't much it could do. However, as the Otter went fishing under water it inadvertently pushed some fish towards the Great Blue Heron and we watched it catch at least 2 more fish while the Otter did not catch any. The Otter then moved further upstream. Even though lots of our most colorful warblers and other songbirds have gone south, I believe we did pretty well on Saturday to see what we did. Some of highlights include: a Swamp Sparrow, a Red-headed Woodpecker (juvenile), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, A Yellow-rumped Warbler, and the 5 Rusty Blackbirds. While the Rusty Blackbirds are not rare in our area, they are rare to see, mostly because of where they tend to be in wetlands and marches. See photos:



*Great Blue Heron*



*Swamp Sparrow*



*Ruby-crowned Kinglet*



*Rusty Blackbirds*