



# Field Trip: Dan River Game Land, September 20, 2020

submitted by Matt Wangerin



White-eyed Vireo by Ann Van Sant

Rockingham County resident Marty Wall led 16 other members of the Piedmont Bird Club at the Dan River Game Land, one of his favorite local birding spots. The morning walk started at the tract along Woodpecker Road, an old farm road now surrounded by secondary growth scrub. While various woodpeckers were observed, the road might more appropriately be named White-eyed Vireo Road, as that species was in great abundance during this walk.

The targets of this early fall field trip were southward migrating passerines. Fourteen species of warblers were observed, including favorites like Black-and-white Warbler and American Redstart, as well as less common Blackburnian Warbler and Tennessee Warbler. The group also witnessed wrens, sparrows, vultures, and a cooperative Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A couple of irruptive Red-breasted Nuthatches tooted and showed well.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Ann Van Sant

Upon returning to the cars, we caravanned to the Riverside Circle tract. We were able to relocate a Lincoln's Sparrow, which Marty had originally found at about 7:00 a.m., scouting before the group assembled. The rare, handsome sparrow popped out of the bushes briefly, showing the fine black streaks on a buff-colored breast. A shorter walk along the woods and fields north of the parking lot revealed many of the same bird species seen earlier. We were able to add a lone Red-headed Woodpecker, some hawks, and a couple of Common Ravens in the distance.



Blackburnian Warbler by Jim Gant

### Species List

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mourning Dove          | Gray Catbird            |
| Chimney Swift          | Brown Thrasher          |
| Black Vulture          | American Robin          |
| Turkey Vulture         | Cedar Waxwing           |
| Red-shouldered Hawk    | American Goldfinch      |
| Red-tailed Hawk        | Field Sparrow           |
| Red-headed Woodpecker  | Savannah Sparrow        |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Lincoln's Sparrow       |
| Downy Woodpecker       | Eastern Towhee          |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | Ovenbird                |
| Northern Flicker       | Tennessee Warbler       |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee     | Black-and-white Warbler |
| Eastern Phoebe         | Common Yellowthroat     |
| White-eyed Vireo       | Hooded Warbler          |
| Red-eyed Vireo         | American Redstart       |
| Blue Jay               | Cape May Warbler        |
| American Crow          | Northern Parula         |
| Common Raven           | Magnolia Warbler        |
| Carolina Chickadee     | Blackburnian Warbler    |
| Tufted Titmouse        | Chestnut-sided Warbler  |
| Tree Swallow           | Palm Warbler            |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet   | Pine Warbler            |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch  | Prairie Warbler         |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  | Scarlet Tanager         |
| House Wren             | Northern Cardinal       |
| Carolina Wren          | Rose-breasted Grosbeak  |
|                        | Blue Grosbeak           |
|                        | Indigo Bunting          |



Lincoln's Sparrow by Ann Van Sant