



Piedmont Young Birders visit Browns Summit, January 23, 2021

submitted by Stella Wear

On a cold and blustery morning in January, the Piedmont Young Birders visited the home of Julien McCarthy and Jude Pate in Browns Summit to walk/bird on a trail nearby and participate in a feederwatch from their deck.

The trail covers a good mix of habitats. It makes a loop along the road, through a meadow, through the woods, along part of the Lake Townsend Trail, and back to Julien and Jude's backyard.

Woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Downy) were the popular species along the road. A very loud hammering noise hinted that even a Pileated Woodpecker was nearby, but it was not seen.

Three Golden-crowned Kinglets were hanging out in the woods, which was a real treat for the young birders. Julien pointed out that the cold wind blew the birds down and the lake along the trail was devoid of waterbirds. But in spite of the weather, 23 species were identified.

Julien treated the group to hot chocolate and donuts to warm up the chilled birders when they got back to the deck. Watching the birds at the many feeder stations gave the birders excellent views of a nice variety of species. One young birder said, "Wow, that Brown Creeper is so cute."

As Julien said, "It's a great thing to witness the enthusiasm shown by the young folks. I think they understand the broad value of birding/wildlife observation. Perhaps they will grow into positions in life where their influence will help establish and maintain sustainable policies that support better stewardship of things wild."

The walk was attended by five youths, three parents, and four volunteers from PBC and TGPAS.



Golden-crowned Kinglet by Lou Skrabec



Downy Woodpecker by Jim Gant

Species list

Mourning Dove	Brown Creeper
Red-shouldered Hawk	Carolina Wren
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Downy Woodpecker	House Finch
Blue Jay	Pine Siskin
Carolina Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Eastern Meadowlark
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Pine Warbler
White-breasted Nuthatch	Yellow-rumped Warbler
	Northern Cardinal