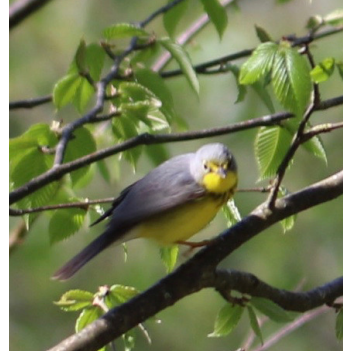


Warbler Road and Whitetop Mountain May 13–15, 2017

*Submitted by George Wheaton
Photos by Ann Van Sant*

Ten members of the Piedmont Bird Club (PBC) journeyed forth to the mountains of southwestern Virginia. Our objective was to find some mid-spring birds, including migrants and nesting species. We were not disappointed. The weather reports had been promising heavy rain, but these forecasts were off the mark. We enjoyed sunny and very pleasant days from Saturday through Monday. On our last morning, it was a little chilly and quite breezy on the summit of Whitetop but not uncomfortable. The many nesting Dark-eyed Juncos and Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed to enjoy it there.



Canada Warbler



Chestnut-sided Warbler

The birding was slower than usual as we birded our way up from Arcadia to the Peaks of Otter on Saturday. Perhaps this was due to our slow pace, our determination to check out every vocalization, and the fact that we didn't start birding until 10:00. Nevertheless, we did see many nice birds. On Sunday, we got an early start and began birding from the Peaks of Otter down to the Arcadia area. This reverse strategy produced many of the birds we were hoping to see. In the afternoon, half of our group returned home and the rest headed for Glade Spring, VA where we spent the night. We got out early on Monday morning and were birding at Whitetop shortly after 8:00. We enjoyed some new birds and outstanding scenery. We left for home shortly after noon and arrived in Greensboro tired but happy.

Our group maintained three lists: birds, wild flowers, and other critters. We ticked 79 species of birds, including 16 species of warblers. The avian highlights included: a displaying Ruffed Grouse along Warbler Road on Sunday morning (unfortunately not seen by everyone in the group); a show-stopping and very cooperative Cerulean Warbler (along Warbler Road, also on Sunday morning); and a stunning and cooperative male Chestnut-sided Warbler at point blank range on the summit of Whitetop. The "flower people" in our group saw and photographed many species of wildflowers, only the showier of which are listed below. In addition, we saw a few other critters as noted below.

BIRDS

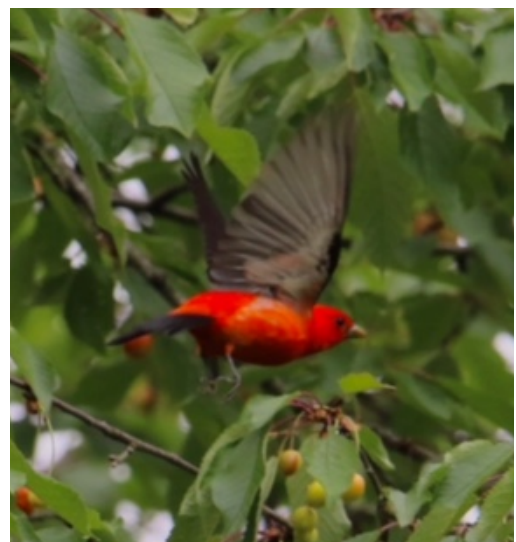
Canada Goose
Wild Turkey
Ruffed Grouse
Great Blue Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Peevee
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Tree Swallow

Carolina Chickadee
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Black-throated Blue
Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green
Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Black & White Warbler

American Redstart
Worm-eating Warbler
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Canada Warbler
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

PLANTS/SHRUBS/TREES

Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflora*)
Wake Robin (*Trillium erectum*)
Indian Physic/Bowman's Root (*Gillenia trifoliata*)
Robin's Plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Beardtongue (*Penstemon sp.*)
Virginia Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)
Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*)
Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*)
Wood Betony/Lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*)
Star Chickweed/Giant Chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*)
Pinxterflower (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)
Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*)
Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)



Scarlet Tanager

OTHER CRITTERS

White-tailed Deer

Gray Squirrel

Chipmunk

Groundhog/Woodchuck

Green Frog

Turtle, sp.

Lou Skrabec and George Wheaton, Co-trip Leaders

Thanks to Ann Walter-Fromson and others who kept track of plants and other critters.