

Roan Mountain NC/TN – Carver's Gap
June 13, 2020

A cool but mostly sunny morning greeted us as we got out of our cars at nearly 6,000 feet elevation along the main spine of the Appalachian Mountains. Although we arrived early there were already lots of cars parked and hikers heading up to the balds of Roan to take in the stunning views and blooming Rhododendron. We decided to take a less traveled route and walked down the road to an open area where we hoped to find a Golden-winged Warbler. No Golden-wing but we did get fantastic looks at a Canada Warbler. Chestnut-sided Warblers, Indigo Buntings, and Field Sparrows were quite active as well and allowed us some excellent views. As we walked back up to the gap we heard the beautiful song of the Hermit Thrush.

We then walked into the dense and dark Spruce/Fir forest to find some other high elevation specialties. Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant and gave our necks a good stretch as we tried to spot them high in the canopy. We had fleeting glimpses of a singing Yellow-rumped Warbler, which have only recently begun to breed in the highest elevations of North Carolina. Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Pine Siskins were among the other birds present. We broke for lunch in the forest and afterwards began to make our way back to the gap. A flurry of activity occurred right before we walked out of the forest. A small flock of Dark-eyed Juncos crossed the path in front of us and almost immediately after we heard a small group of Red Crossbills fly over our heads. A Gray Catbird also perched in a shrub allowing us great views. Once we were back in the open we watched a flycatcher dart back and forth across the road. We quickly ID'd it as an Alder Flycatcher, one of our target species for the day! We then got back into our cars began driving back towards Asheville.

On the way back to town we stopped at Cane River Park and picked up a few new species for the day. The best one had to be 2 singing Northern Bobwhites. We also had nice looks at Yellow Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, and 3 species of swallow. It was an excellent day of birding.

Clifton Avery

58 Species
Carver's Gap, NC/TN and Cane River Park

Wood Duck	Common Raven	House Finch
Ruffed Grouse (Heard)	(Heard)	Red Crossbill (Heard)
Northern Bobwhite	Northern Rough-	Pine Siskin
(Heard)	winged Swallow	American Goldfinch
Rock Pigeon	Tree Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Killdeer	Golden-crowned	Field Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Kinglet	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted	Orchard Oriole
Ruby-throated	Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Hummingbird	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow Warbler
Northern Flicker	Brown Creeper (Heard)	Chestnut-sided
Eastern Kingbird	Winter Wren	Warbler
Alder Flycatcher	Carolina Wren	Yellow-rumped
Least Flycatcher	European Starling	Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Gray Catbird	Canada Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Eastern Bluebird	Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-throated Vireo	Veery	Rose-breasted
(Heard)	Hermit Thrush	Grosbeak
Blue Jay	American Robin	Indigo Bunting
American Crow	Cedar Waxwing	