

Trip Report
Mecklenburg County – Cowan's Ford, Reedy Creek & Clark's Creek Nature Preserves
February 8, 2021

A frosty start to the day found us standing on the viewing platform at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge. It had been a lacklustre winter for waterfowl and the small lakes in front of us were quiet which seemed to prove that point. With some patience we did see a pair of Wood Duck slip in and out of the vegetation and a male Common Yellowthroat called, making some brief appearances in the nearby vegetation. Very conveniently there was a Bullock's Oriole coming to a feeder very close to Cowan's Ford. It appeared very nicely for us amidst the blizzard of Pine Siskins that seemed to dominate the feeding station. A quick trip back to Cowan's Ford produced 3 Ring-necked Ducks, Brown Creeper and an elusive Pied-billed Grebe. A lunch stop at Reedy Creek Nature Preserve did not produce the stake-out Rufous Hummingbird, but we did get all 3 nuthatches and several Purple Finches at the feeders. A somewhat muddy walk at the new Clark's Creek Nature Preserve was interesting, as this was obviously an old dairy farm. A small flock of Eastern Meadowlarks was in the upper field and both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks had paired up and were calling loudly. A visit to a private property at the end of the day was successful for an over-wintering Rufous Hummingbird, as well as 2 Baltimore Orioles- our second oriole for the day! We finished with over 50 species for the day, plus a few excellent surprises. Thanks to the home-owners for opening up their properties to visiting birders.

Simon Thompson

Birds: 56 Species Encountered

Canada Goose	Blue Jay	House Finch
Wood Duck	American Crow	Purple Finch
Ring-necked Duck	Carolina Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
Rufous Hummingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Field Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	White-breasted	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Brown-headed	White-throated
Turkey Vulture	Nuthatch	Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Golden-crowned	Song Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Kinglet	Swamp Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Eastern Towhee
Yellow-bellied	Brown Creeper	Bullock's Oriole
Sapsucker	Winter Wren (Heard)	Baltimore Oriole
Red-bellied	Carolina Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Common Grackle
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Pine Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Yellow-rumped
Northern Flicker	American Robin	Warbler
Eastern Phoebe	Cedar Waxwing	Northern Cardinal