

Highland County
2025 05 31
Field Trip Report

06/14/25

Email from Wes Teets, 06/10/25

May 31, 2025.
Highland County.

This year's 2025 Highland County trip was perhaps our best-attended to date, with over 20 participants! And this was despite the threat of rain, which we saw very little of early on. But it sure was windy! Our all-day trip started at the border of Augusta and Highland Counties, but much of our birding was actually done near the Virginia-West Virginia border.

We didn't get much of note at the Confederate Breastworks (except for the day's only Yellow-billed Cuckoo) but with more than 15 vehicles and a chance of rain, we quickly decided to carpool straight to Paddy Knob. It was cold here, but we got a number of specialties, including Black-capped Chickadee and three singing Mourning Warblers, plus Blue-headed Vireos, Common Raven, Veery, and plenty of friendly Chestnut-sided Warblers.

We then moved on to Bramble Hill, where the sun and a long lunch break provided welcome relief. We stumbled upon a Black-billed Cuckoo up in the woods, but the best birding was down the road along the state line, where we had two cooperative Willow Flycatchers and two (less cooperative) singing Golden-winged Warblers.

Our last stop was Straight Fork along Laurel Fork Road. On the way there, we saw a few Red-headed Woodpeckers out in the open, plus Bobolink. The target at our destination was Alder Flycatcher but none were detected. We did, however, get some Least Flycatchers and good looks at a Blackburnian Warbler singing on territory.

We ended the day around 4 PM with just over 60 species. Good birding!

(Field Trip Report from Wes Teets, RAS Field Trip Leader)

Photos included below.



Dixon Blackburnian Warbler (male) Highland County 2025 05 31



Dixon Cedar Waxwing Highland County 2025 05 31



Dixon Chestnut-sided Warbler (male) Highland County 2025 05 31



Dixon Orchard Oriole (male) Highland County 2025 05 31



Dixon Red-tailed Hawk Highland County 2025 05 31



Dixon Willow Flycatcher (back) Highland County 2025 05 31



Dixon Willow Flycatcher (front) Highland County 2025 05 31



Grasso Mario RAS trip 01 Highland County 2025 05 31



Grasso Mario RAS trip 02 Highland County 2025 05 31



Grasso Mario RAS trip 03 Highland County 2025 05 31



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Grasso Mario RAS trip 05 Highland County 2025 05 31



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