



FIELD TRIP REPORT

LOCATION: Burke's Garden, Va .

DATE: 02/21/2010 **TIME:** (from) 08:00am (to) 03:00pm

WEATHER: The weather was wonderful but the group did encounter a lot of snow and snow drifts from previous storms. .

LEADER(S): Jesse Pope.

NUMBER IN GROUP: 6

HIGHLIGHTS: We did have a great time today! The raptors were not as numerous this trip as they have in the past, but we still had a very good time. The weather was wonderful, but not as wonderful as the company of the other birders who went along! As hard as it is to believe, Burke's Garden has more snow than Boone!! We encountered enormous snow drifts along the road and in the pastures around the valley. Several higher than the hood of the vehicle, some higher than the cab!

We started out near the general store this time, and took the loop in reverse order from how we normally do it. We had some pretty good looks at the birds we did manage to see, especially the golden eagle that flew overhead as we were watching a bird feeder along the road. We also had several really close looks at Red-tailed Hawks, Killdeer, and Wilson's Snipe in a marshy area just off the road. The mill pond at the beginning of the loop road had a couple species of ducks including Green-winged teal, as well as Canada Geese and a Great Blue Heron. That's just to name a few of the highlights today.



High Country Audubon Society

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BIRD LIST:

starling
house sparrow
rock dove
mourning dove
ring-billed gull
bluebird
Canada goose
redtail hawk
American Robin
Eastern titmouse
chicadee
mockingbird
turkey
Northern cardinal
pileated woodpecker
common raven
blue jay
red bellied woodpecker
goldfinch
house finch
white-breasted nuthatch
golden eagle
downie woodpecker
red-breasted nuthatch
Wilson's snipe
killdeer
turkey vulture
Northern flicker
song sparrow
green-winged teal
great blue heron
American crow
mallard
American kestrel

The mammals were waiting for us, too: fox squirrels, several raccoons, three deer, a coyote, a llama, and two skunks (well, we didn't see the skunks, but we knew they'd been there).