



High Country Audubon Society

FIELD TRIP REPORT

LOCATION: Holstein Lake, Wilbur Lake and Watauga Lake.

DATE: 03/21/2010 **TIME:** (from) 07:00 am (to) 05:00 pm

WEATHER: The morning started out with sunny skies and temps. in the upper 40's and gradually warming into the 50's. It got windy around lunch time, but good luck was with the group and the rain held off until the drive home which included a beautiful double rainbow.

LEADER(S): Rick Knight, Zachery Poulton, Jesse Pope.

NUMBER IN GROUP: 8

HIGHLIGHTS: *Jesse Met up with Zachery Poulton at 7 and did some birding in surrounding agricultural areas and some national forest areas. Zak and Jesse met up with the rest of the group about 9 at the 421 boat ramp and birded South Holston. Next stop was Paddle Pond, a private pond filled with waterfowl, where American Wigeon, Gadwall, Coots, Buffelhead, and a few other species were spotted. The group then headed over to Music's Campground where they saw White-crowned Sparrows in the scrubby thicket in the RV park. They also had some great birds on the water there as well, including horned grebe and lesser scaup. The weather started turning cooler and the wind started picking up making it difficult to scan the lake. After that, they had lunch a Little Italy Restaurant off of HWY 421 north of the lake. It was a good little local place to eat, not too far from the birding sites. Rick lead us back to the 421 boat ramp where they said out goodbyes, and some of the group headed back to the High Country. After lunch the group headed over to Wilbur Lake where they got to see a deer swimming across the lake!! Watauga Lake was also pretty choppy due to high winds, but luckily the rain held out. One last stop was made along the river below Wilbur dam to look through a good number of buffleheads, canada geese, and mallards before heading back home.*



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RICK KNIGHT'S BIRD LIST:

South Holston Lake area, Sullivan Co., TN

Paddle Creek pond:

Gadwall - 8

Am. Wigeon - 7

Ring-nk. Duck - 1

Wilson's Snipe - 5

Middlebrook Lake:

Blue-wg. Teal - 1

Pied-billed Grebe - 1

Am. Coot - 20

N. Rough-wg. Swallow - 1

Barn Swallow - 1 - this species is the harbinger of spring in NE Tenn.

South Holston L. (Musick's & dam):

Ring-nk. Duck - 1

Lsr. Scaup - 18

Bufflehead - 2

Pied-billed Grebe - 2

Horned Grebe - 1, breeding plumage

Ring-billed Gull - 125+

Herring Gull - 1

Pine Warbler - 2

S. Holston River weir:

Bufflehead - 8

ANITA'S BIRD LIST:

Canada Geese,
Ruffed Grouse,
Eastern Bluebirds,
Ring-billed Gulls,
Killdeer,
American Crows,
Great Blue Heron,
Pileated Woodpecker,
Woodpecker,
Red-tail Hawk,

Red-winged Blackbirds,
Eastern Phoebe,
Carolina Wren,
American Kestrel,
Tree Swallows,
Buffleheads,
Belted Kingfishers,
Eastern Meadowlark,
Sharp shinned Hawk,
Gadwall,



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Ring-necked Duck,
Wilson's Snipe,
Horned Grebe,
Field Sparrow,
Rough-winged Swallow,
Turkey Vulture,
Herring Gull,
Blue-winged Teal,
Northern Mockingbird,
Downy Woodpecker,
American Goldfinch,
European Starling,
Eastern Towhee,
American Robins,
Mourning Doves,
Rock Doves,
Black Vulture,
Carolina Chickadee,
Pie-billed Grebe

American Widgeon,
Wood Ducks,
Lesser Scaup,
White-crowned Sparrow,
Barn Swallow,
Northern Flicker,
American Coot,
Dark-eyed Junco.
Song Sparrow,
Red-bellied Woodpecker,
White-breasted Nuthatch,
White-throated Sparrow,
Blue Jay,
Mallards,
Common Grackle,
Pine Warblers,
Tufted Titmouse,
Northern Cardinal