

**Fredericksburg Bird Club**  
**Shenandoah NP - Limberlost Trail Outing**  
**May 12, 2018**  
**By Beverly Arnold**

On Saturday, May 12, 2018 three "intrepid" members (Bev and Jim Arnold and Brenton Mundt) of the Fredericksburg Bird Club met at 7:30 a.m. at the Limberlost Trail in Shenandoah National Park. The weather was cool (71 degrees compared to the 91 degrees at home) and the trees were barely leafed out.

After entering the park around 7 a.m., Bev and Jim were greeted with several groups of deer in the roadway, two bear cubs and a displaying, gobbling, male wild turkey before reaching the Limberlost trailhead!

On the Limberlost trail we were accompanied and serenaded by American Redstarts throughout the entire trail, including a singing 2nd-year male (still yellow) and a female we followed to her nest in a Mulberry tree!



*American Redstart by Brenton Mundt*

What we lacked in total numbers of species we made up for in quality. We saw numerous thrush species who chose to perch in bad light preventing their identification. But we had excellent looks at a Veery carrying nesting materials to her nest on the ground hidden by fallen branches.



*Veery by Brenton Mundt*

Eastern Towhees were also abundant, singing 'drink your teeeee' and scratching at leaf litter. A singing male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was also seen carrying nesting material (a twig).

Also singing was a male Hooded Warbler that gave us terrific looks. But it was outdone by a Blackburnian Warbler (a life bird for Brenton!) that gave us a show towards the end of the trail.



*Hooded Warbler by Brenton Mundt*



*Blackburnian Warbler by Brenton Mundt*

Calling American Crows alerted us to a raptor that morphed into a Broad-winged Hawk that gave us another show by perching nearby and soaring overhead. In addition to the crows, Common Ravens were seen and heard throughout our walk.

Although the Limberlost trail is only a little over a mile long, there was so much activity that we spent three hours there! Our next stop was the Big Meadows picnic area for an early lunch break. While there we saw Dark eyed Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, Eastern Bluebirds and Great-crested Flycatchers. We then birded the Big Meadows where we added Barn Swallow, Grey Catbird, American Robin, European Starling and Brown-headed Cowbird. While there it became quite windy so we decided to end our walk around 12:30 p.m. and return home.

Our total count was 25 species seen and heard, listed below:

Wild Turkey  
American Redstart  
Tufted Titmouse  
Great crested Flycatcher  
Veery  
Common Raven  
Eastern Towhee  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Pileated Woodpecker (heard drumming)  
Downy Woodpecker  
American Goldfinch  
American Crow  
Hooded Warbler  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Blue Jay  
Warbling Vireo (this we are listing as possible as it was seen only by Brenton in less than favorable light)  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Dark eyed Junco  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
European Starling  
Barn Swallow  
American Robin  
Grey Catbird

