

**SPRING IN THE GREAT
SMOKY MOUNTAINS:**

**BIRDS AND BOTANY IN THE
SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS**

APRIL 25- MAY 2, 2009

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Spring in the Great Smoky Mountains: Birds & Botany in the Southern Appalachians

April 25-May 2, 2009

Led by Steve Hilty

This was the first Great Smoky Mountains trip in which we have encountered fires in the national park and in surrounding areas. One fire along the Laurel Falls trail on the Tennessee side of the park, and another, a much larger one, on the Cherokee Reservation and adjacent Cove Road on the North Carolina side of the park, were roads that I had planned to visit. The fires required a revision of some activities, but resulted in the discovery of two new areas as good or better than the ones we would have visited, most notably the beautiful walk to Hen Wallow Falls and later, a walk along Indian Creek that included two lovely waterfalls, nice spring flowers, and a serendipitous Swainson's Warbler—the first of two we would see.

The spring wildfires resulted, I suspect, from the notably dry conditions in the park this year. The dry conditions did not affect the northward movement of spring warblers and other migrants, except that these birds continue to move rapidly northward as long as fair weather prevails. We noted good numbers of warblers on Sharp's Ridge the first day, and in subsequent days in the park and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This trip, however, isn't about large numbers of species, or chasing rare birds, but rather more about seeing and hearing spring warblers over and over each day with the opportunity to become familiar with their colorful plumages, their behaviors, and their songs. For those living in the western United States, new "Smoky Mountain" experiences also included seeing large numbers of trilliums and flowering dogwood; gnatcatchers building nests; a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in full breeding regalia; listening to the call of a Chuck-will's-widow; the chance to hold and admire a freshly-killed Yellow-billed Cuckoo that was in perfect condition; and yes, even fireflies. Particular highlights for some included close studies of Chestnut-sided and Canada warblers, and Gray Catbirds (curiously understated birds).

We botanized at various elevations, generally backtracking through spring as we ascended to progressively higher elevations. We noted the mounting loss of eastern hemlock to the hemlock adelgid, as well as the skeletal remains of the Fraser fir which has almost completely succumbed to another adelgid moth, this one from Europe. There were fewer human visitors in the park this year—perhaps as much as forty percent fewer—a result surely attributable to the economic crises. Still, life goes on—birds build nests and raise young (remember the American Robins at the hotel); warblers sing, court, and engage in territorial disputes; and flowers fill overlooked recesses with bright color for those that look. In fact, as one person noted on the trip, the Smokies are not so much about large carpets of flowers as about little patches of color and remarkable beauty tucked away in all manner of nooks and crannies. Among our floral highlights were seven species of trilliums; eight species of violets; three orchids (only one in flower); and some great displays of phacelias and spring beauties at various elevations, and of flowering dogwood and silverbell trees.

If you haven't spent a few delightful spring days in the Great Smoky Mountains, we invite you to join us on a future trip. I believe you will agree that that the combination of birds, wildflowers, and gentle scenery is memorable.

KEY:

GSMNP m= Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Kyker = Kyker Bottoms Refuge south of Alcoa, Tennessee

Sharp's Ridge = Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park in north Knoxville, Tennessee

Townsend = city of Townsend, Tennessee

Parkway = Blue Ridge Parkway between Oconoluftee and Waynesville, North Carolina

SH = Steve Hilty

ITINERARY:

Day 2: Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park; Kyker Bottoms Refuge; Chestnut Tops Trail

Day 2: Cade's Cove and Rich Mountain Road

Day 3: Cove Hardwoods Trail and Gabes Mtn. Trail to Hen Wallow Falls

Day 4: Newfound Gap; Clingman's dome; and Blue Ridge Parkway to Waynesville

Day 5: Blue Ridge Parkway and Indian Creek Trail to Indian Creek Falls (and beyond)

Day 6: School House Gap trail and trail via White Oak Sink; Old Timer's Festival; Little River (late p.m.) in Townsend

LIST OF BIRDS:

Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*, daily

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*, national park sewage lagoons (several beautiful males as well as females)

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*, Kyker Bottoms Refuge; national park sewage lagoons; Little River in Townsend

Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*, roadsides and fields in park

Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*, pair flushed at Kyker Bottoms refuge

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, Kyker; Little River (last morning)

Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*, Kyker Bottoms (seen by some)

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, seen in all areas including first day over Kyker

Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*, one soaring at some distance over southern section of foothills parkway; white "windows" in wing visible

Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*, two on Sharp's Ridge including one perching on heavy communication cable close to road

Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*, one over foothills parkway

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferous*, Kyker and around Townsend

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, one at national park sewage lagoons

Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*, two flushed at national park sewage lagoons

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, settled areas

Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*, daily; one on nest in stairwell at hotel but apparently the nest was abandoned because of traffic up and down stairs

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*, Sharp's Ridge (1 dead; 1-2 hd); one seen at Kyker Bottoms Refuge

*Eastern Screech-Owl, *Megascops asio*, hd on Rich Mountain road (Dave's Stables) but we were not able to see it—a disappointment because of considerable investment of time

*Chuck-will's Widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*, heard in same place as Eastern Screech-Owl and also not seen (bird flew quite far away)

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, Townsend (last two days)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*, singles (mostly females) seen briefly on several occasions but never for more than a few seconds

Belted Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon*, Metcalf Bottoms (Little River) in park

Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*, Sharp's Ridge; GSMNP; Townsend

Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*, almost daily
 Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*, seen at least twice in park; others heard
 Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*, one female seen very well (scope) near Cade's Cove visitor center

Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, singles or pairs seen on at least three days; also heard
 Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax vireescens*, seen very well (and heard) on Indian Creek Trail west of Bryson, North Carolina

Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*, 1 seen by SH and JM along parkway
 Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*, daily
 Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*, hd at Sharp's; seen in Townsend
 Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, pair at sewage lagoons in GSMNP
 White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*, one seen beautifully at Kyker
 Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*, hd at Sharps and in Townsend
 Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*, several seen well in GSMNP
 Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, hd and seen everywhere; commonest voice in eastern hardwood forests

Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, daily including migrating groups up to about eight over parkway
 American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, daily
 Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*, Kyker; Townsend etc
 Northern rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, Townsend; park sewage lagoons
 Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, open areas including pair around old barn near hotel at edge of Waynesville

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis*, daily at all lower elevations up to about 4500 ft
 Black-capped Chickadee, *Poecile atricapillus*, only at Newfound Gap (5000 ft) and higher
 Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*, all lower elevations; common voice
 Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*, Newfound Gap (pair briefly)
 White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*, Sharps; parkway; and Little River in Townsend
 Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, daily

Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*, two adorable birds seen on Clingman's Dome road (took some work though!)

Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*, pair along Appalachian trail on Clingmans Dome road
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*, a couple on Sharp's ridge
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*, almost daily; pair building nest (big one) at Kyker; another pair just starting to build on branch over road in trailer park in Townsend
 Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, daily in numbers
 Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*, heard almost daily; seen hopping along side of path on Schoolhouse Gap trail; beautiful flute-like song heard almost daily
 American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, perhaps the number one most often seen bird on trip and certainly abundant in Townsend including a busy pair feeding two (3?) young in a nest low in bush at hotel; how do they find so many worms so quickly?

Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*, pair along parkway; another lively pair along wooded road beside Little River in Townsend

Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*, pair (or 3?) along wooded road beside Little River in Townsend; very nice study of these pretty birds
 Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*, settled areas and towns
 European Starling, *Sturnella vulgaris*, towns and settled areas; also sewage lagoons in Cade's Cove in GSMNP
 Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, surprisingly common; flocks at Sharp's Ridge; Kyker; Townsend; parkway etc
 Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*, one on parkway (high in tree and difficult to see)
 Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*, two migrants on Sharp's ridge

Northern Parula, *Parula americana*, hd on Sharp's Ridge; seen at Metcalf Bottoms; also hd elsewhere and seen briefly along Indian Creek trail

Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*, male along Little River in Townsend

Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*, Clingman's Dome and Parkway (many!)

Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*, two seen at Sharp's Ridge (but alas, seen by very few of participants)

Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*, daily inside park in humid regions

Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*, up to 25 at Sharp's Ridge

Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*, Foothill parkway; daily inside GSMNP where one of commonest breeding warblers

Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*, males seen on Cove Hardwood trail and very well along parkway on afternoon we saw the big fire

Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*, two seen very well in Metcalf Bottoms including one on the ground at minimum binocular close range!

*Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*, hd along Schoolhouse Gap trail but we were never able to see it

Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*, Sharp's Ridge (at least 2)

Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*, hd at Sharp's Ridge; seen at Metcalf Bottoms and on parkway

[American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*, one female along parkway seen only by SH]

Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorum*, one on Rich Mt. Road; pair along trail to Hen Wallow Falls (where apparently nesting); seen very well in both areas

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnithlypis swainsonii*, Indian Creek and Schoolhouse Gap trail (two birds seen this year—which is a record as we've never seen more than one on this trip); excellent close views in both areas)

Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapilla*, heard or seen on most days (common and distinctive voice)

Louisiana Waterthrush, *Sciurus motacilla*, Metcalf Bottoms and entrance to Schoolhouse Gap trail; also heard near Cade's Cove visitor center

Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*, hd at Kyker; seen along Little River in Townsend

Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*, common and seen daily in GSMNP etc

Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*, one male beautifully at Clingman's dome

Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*, seen well at Kyker

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*, males and one female; seen most days; beautiful!

Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, Sharp's Ridge; Waynesville etc

Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*, Sharp's; Kyker; Waynesville

Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*, Kyker (seen fairly well); hd last a.m. in Townsend

Savanna Sparrow, *Ammodramus sandwichensis*, one at 6000 ft on parkway

Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*, daily especially around hotel in Townsend

White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*, two immatures at Sharp's Ridge

Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*, higher elevations in GSMNP (pale-billed Carolina subspecies)

Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, daily

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Sharp's (several including one male beautifully in scope)

Blue Grosbeak, *Passerina caerulea*, Kyker (male singing in southern red oak tree)

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, Kyker; foothills parkway; Cade's Cove

Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, almost daily

Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*, almost daily but seen especially well at Cade's Cove

Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*, mainly towns and settled areas

Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, male on parkway; 2 females by hotel in Townsend

House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, around hotel in Townsend

American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*, Cade's Cove; Metcalf Bottoms; Waynesville; Townsend

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, Townsend (but rather scarce)

Mammals:

Virginia Opossum, 1 in early morning near hotel
bat sp. evening we went owling
Eastern Cottontail, Cade's Cove etc
Eastern Chipmunk, particularly common this year in wooded areas such as Cove hardwood's trail; Rich Mountain Road etc
Gray Squirrel, common and seen daily
Red Squirrel, only at high elevations (i.e. Cove Hardwoods area at 3500 feet and higher)
White-tailed Deer, Cade's Cove (where certainly able to leap fences with a single bound)

LIST OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Black Rat Snake, near Hen Wallow Falls (curled up on log digesting a "lump" in body)
Garter Snake, near Indian Creek parking lot
Broad-headed Skink, one photographed (by Gail and Julie) as it made its way over the asphalt parking lot at the "Old Timers" festival in Townsend
Northern Slimy Salamander, *Plethodon glutinosus*, Schoolhouse Gap trail; the three Salamanders I found in creek along Schoolhouse Gap trail but could not catch were probably this species; moderately large and essentially all black

LIST OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES

[The following list is an approximation of what we saw]

Pine Family, *Pinaceae*,

Fraser Fir, *Abies fraseri*, Clingman's dome (most were dead)
Red Spruce, *Picea rubens*, Clingman's road (Appalachian trail etc)
Eastern Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, widespread at lower els. (many with adelgid infections)
White Pine, *Pinus strobes*, probably commonest pine at lower els.
Virginia (scrub) Pine, *Pinus virginiana*, common around Cade's Cove and Rich Mt.; this pine has shorter needles than the Short-leaf Pine and cones are persistent on trees
Table Mountain Pine, *Pinus pungens*, one on Cade's Cove loop; near Meadowlark pasture (has large fat cones usually in pairs; persistent on tree)

Cedar Family, *Cupressaceae*,

Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, widespread mostly outside park

Grass Family, *Poaceae*,

Switch (Giant) Cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, Kykler Bottoms (lots of it)

Lily Family, *Liliaceae*,

greenbrier spp., *Smilax spp.*, we saw more than one species of greenbrier

Yam Family, *Dioscoreaceae*,

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea villosa*, last p.m. on Schoolhouse gap trail

Walnut Family, *Juglandaceae*,

Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata*, several areas including Sharp's ridge
hickory sp, *Carya*, most still with small undeveloped leaves

Birch or Hazel Family, *Betulaceae*,

Black Birch, *Betula lenta*, At Hen Wallow Falls; scratched twigs with strong wintergreen fragrance

American Hornbeam (also known as Musclewood), *Carpinus caroliniana*, Chestnut tops etc;
Metcalf bottoms and many other areas; very common understory tree

Allspice Family, *Calycanthaceae*

Sweet Shrub, *Calycanthus floridus*, seen a couple places including Sugarlands Visitor's center

Beech Family, *Fagaceae*,

American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, widespread at lower elevs.;

American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, one sapling on the hike to Hen Wallow Falls

Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, Kyker Bottoms (Blue Grosbeak singing from this tree)

Chestnut Oak, *Quercus prinus*, fairly common in many areas

Black Oak, *Quercus velutina*, a few areas but not sure if I pointed this one out

Magnolia Family, *Magnoliaceae*,

Yellow-Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, leaves but no flowers

Fraser Magnolia, *Magnolia acuminata*, we saw many

Saxifrage Family, *Saxifragaceae*,

Wild Hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, widespread

Witch Hazel Family, *Hamamelidaceae* ,

Common Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, Metcalf Bottoms Campground etc

Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, Chestnut tops trail and other areas

Plane Tree Family, *Platanaceae*,

Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, Little River

Rose Family, *Rosaceae*,

Serviceberry (Smooth Shadbush), *Amelanchier laevis*, flowering at higher elevations

Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*, flowering at Kyker Bottoms

Blackberry, *Rubus alumnus* or sp., Kyker bottoms (but only the canes; not flowering yet)

Northern Dewberry, *Rubus flagellaris* (or sp?), Kyker bottoms (low to ground; flowering)

Spiraea, *Spiraea prunifolia*, in a few yards (not in flower)

Pea Family, *Leguminosidae*,

Honey Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, Kyker Bottoms; Cade's Cove loop etc

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, Townsend Visitor Center (by cemetery)

American Wisteria, *Wisteria frutescens*, Sharp's Ridge (lavender); we also saw a white flowering wisteria in the Cherokee Reservation area (Bryson ?)

Cashew Family, *Anacardiaceae*,

Smooth Sumac, *Rhus glabra*, Sharp's Ridge etc

Poison Ivy, *Toxicodendron radicans*, many areas including Rich Mt.

Holly Family, *Aquifoliaceae*,

American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, many areas

Bittersweet Family, *Celastraceae*,

Strawberry Bush, *Euonymus americanus*, several areas including Metcalf Bottoms where it was growing next to the witch-hazel; also Schoolhouse Gap trail

Maple Family, *Aceraceae*,

Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, in Townsend

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, widespread at lower els

Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* var. *rubrum*, all lower els. (only a few actually pointed out)

Striped Maple, *Acer pensylvanicum*, Chestnut tops trail etc; many places

Buckeye Family, *Hippocastanaceae*,

Yellow Buckeye, *Aesculus flava*, Cove Hardwood's trail; Chestnut tops trail; etc

Grape Family, *Vitaceae*,

Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, widespread

Grape spp, *Vitis aestivalis*/ or spp.??, We saw many vines; none with leaves or flowers

Dogwood Family, *Cornaceae*,

Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, incredible profusion of flowering this year with trees everywhere at lower and mid-elevations in flower; spectacular at Gabes Mts. Campground near Cosby

Elm Family, *Ulmaceae*

Common Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, Sharp's Ridge etc

Heath Family, *Ericaceae*,

Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, many areas (none in flower)

Dog-hobble, *Leucothoe fontanesiana*, many areas

Sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboreum*, one miserable little sapling planted in front of Sugarlands visitor center; all or most individuals still had no leaves so difficult to recognize except for rough bark

Catawba Rhododendron, *Rhododendron catawbiense*, smaller leaves; upper elevations (not in flower)

Rosebay Rhododendron, *Rhododendron minus*, Large leaves; lower elevations (not in flower)

Flame Azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*, one or two along drive between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Townsend (orange flowers); mentioned by a few people as we drove past

Linden Family, *Tiliaceae*

White Basswood, *Tilia americana*, Chestnut tops trail (tree has lop-sided leaves easy to recognized)

Storax Family, *Styracaceae*,

Silverbell Tree, *Halesia tetraptera*, many with flowers this year; Chestnut tops trail Metcalf bottoms etc

Tupelo Family, *Nyssaceae*

Black gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, rough bark (Sharp's Ridge; Rich Mt. Road etc)

Ash Family, *Oleaceae*,

White Ash, *Fraxinus americana*, a few areas but I didn't point this one out

Figwort Family, *Scrophulariaceae*,

Empress Tree; Paulownia, *Paulownia tomentosa*, beautiful flowering tree on Sharp's ridge; also seen along roadside in other areas outside park

Cross-Vine, *Bignonia capreolata*, several areas but much flowering on some vines near the trailer-park campground in Townsend

Honeysuckle Family, *Caprifoliaceae*,

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, many on Sharp's Ridge etc

Rusty Black Hawk, *Viburnum rufidulum*, one tree, probably this species, on Cade's Cove loop; small tree with very shiny leaves; flat pannicles of dense small white flowers; rusty reddish petioles

Willow Family, *Salicaceae*

Black Willow, *Salix nigra*, Kyker Bottoms

LIST OF HERBACEOUS PLANTS: another list which shows most of what was seen but I have undoubtedly missed a few species

NIF = Not in flower

F = Flowering

Aster (Sunflower) Family, *Asteraceae*

Robin's-plantain, *Erigeron pulchellus*, roadsides common in park (F)

Golden Ragwort, *Senecio aureus*, widespread along roadsides (F)

Common Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, Settled areas

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, fern-like leaves; small; roadsides in several places; no flowers

Barberry Family, *Berberidaceae*

Blue Cohosh, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Cove Hardwoods

May-apple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, widespread (F); little white flower hidden under leaves; grow in colonies

Bean Family, *Fabaceae*

Crimson Clover, *Trifolium incarnatum*, Kyker Bottoms (where probably planted); introduced from Europe)

White Sweet-Clover, *Melilotus albus* (or sp.?), Roadsides

Yellow Hop Clover, *Trifolium aureum*, Roadsides and lawn

Wood Vetch or Carolina Vetch, *Vicia caroliniana*, Rich Mts. etc. (F)

Narrow-leaved Vetch, *Vicia angustifolia*, near banks of Little River in Townsend; found the last evening; very small pinking flowers solitary or in twos

Birchwort Family, *Aristolochiaceae*

Little Brown Jugs, *Hexastylis arifolia*, Schoolhouse Gap trail etc

Broomrape Family, *Orobanchaceae*

Squawroot, *Conopholia americana*, Chestnut tops trail; trail to Hen Wallow Falls etc

Buttercup Family, *Ranunculaceae*

White Baneberry; Doll's Eyes, *Actaea pachypoda*, seen just about everywhere including Cove Hardwoods trail; one in flower last day on Schoolhouse Gap trail

Sharp-lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica nobilis*, Cove Hardwood

Wood Anemone, *Anemone quinquefolia*, Rich Mountain Rd; Cove Hardwood etc

Hooked Buttercup, *Ranunculus recurvatus*, Everywhere (F)

Early Meadow Rue, *Thalictrum dioicum*, just about everywhere including in grass at Cade's Cove sewage lagoons

Rue Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, Rich Mt.; many other other areas (F)
Dwarf Larkspur, *Delphinium tricorne*, Rich mountain (near a house; escaped ?)
Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, I noticed a small group as we drove from the Hen Wallow Falls
Campground back to highway but because it was late did not stop; unfortunately I never saw
any more; red flowers here

Day-Flower Family, Commelinaceae

Ohio Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, Sharp's Ridge (small blue flowers with 3 sepals and 3
petals like a lily); someone asked me about this single plant growing just off the roadside

Diapensia Family, Diapensiaceae

Galax, *Galax urceolata*, many areas; first noted at Chestnut tops trail; also Rich Mt. Etc

Dogbane Family, Apocynaceae

Vinca or periwinkle, *Vinca minor*, growing near several houses (small blue flowers; mainly used
as a ground cover)

Figworts or Snapdragons, Scrophulariaceae

Common Mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*, parkway roadside

Common Speedwell, *Veronica officinalis*, parking lot in front of Chestnut tops trail; tiny flowers
(common in grassy areas, lawns etc; not pointed out)

Forget-me-not Family, Boraginaceae

Wild Comfrey, *Cynoglossum virginianum*, Cade's Cove (by the Baptist church)

Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, Cade's Cove (roadside near Baptist church)

Fumitory Family, Fumariaceae

Squirrel Corn/Dutchman's Breeches, *Dicentra spp.*, the masses of filmy carrot-like leaves along
Cove hardwoods trail; flowering already completed

Geranium Family, Geraniaceae

Carolina Cranesbill, *Geranium carolinanum*, Sharp's Ridge; roadsides (F)

Wild Geranium, *G. maculatum*, Rich Mountain Rd; other roadsides; common

Ginseng Family, Araliaceae

English Ivy, *Hedera helix*, covering many trees on Sharp's ridge

Grass Family, Poaceae

Virginia Broomsedge, *Andropogon virginicus*, Cade's Cove; Kyker Bottoms

Iris Family, Iridaceae

Dwarf Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*, Many places (F)

Jewel-Weed Family, Balsaminaceae

Orange Jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis* some tiny plants just up in various places; noted
especially on Cove Hardwoods trail

Lily Family, Liliaceae,

Speckled Wood Lily, *Clintonia umbellulata*, many in one area on the White Oak Sink spur trail
off Schoolhouse Gap trail the last morning.

Yellow Mandarin, *Disporum lanuginosum*, Rich Mountain; Cove Hardwood (F)

Indian cucumber, *Medeola virginiana*, Seen along trail to Hen Wallow Falls and again on the side trail off Schoolhouse Gap trail; small plant with single whorl of 5-8 pointed leaves and then a cluster of small white flowers at a higher level; odd-looking plant and neither was yet in flower (only buds)

Yellow Trout-lily, *Erythronium umbilicatum*, mainly Newfound Gap (beyond parking lot)

Yellow Star Grass, *Hypoxis hirsute*, Schoolhouse Gap trail (flowering)

False Solomon's Seal, *Smilacina racemosa*, many lower els.

Daffodil, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, roadsides (escaped); flowering

Great Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*, many lower els.

Stinking Benjamin, *Trillium erectum*, several areas; also comes with white flowers as well and generally all flowers smell bad

Large flowered (White) Trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*, many areas especially Cove Hardwoods trail; yellow stamens and whitish ovary in center of flower

Sweet White Trillium, *Trillium simile*, also many areas, especially Cove hardwoods; like previous species but a little smaller and ovary is black (in center of flower)

Yellow Trillium, *Trillium luteum*, widespread and flowering

Painted Trillium, *Trillium undulatum*, on trail to Hen Wallow Falls

Southern Nodding *Trillium cernuum*, on Indian Creek Trail; white flowers with dull reddish stamens

Catesby's Trillium, *Trillium cuneatum*, resembles previous species but stamens yellow and flowers often rose pink or with rose pink showing on white petals; Schoolhouse Gap (Flowering); beautiful plant

Large-flowered Bellwort, *Uvularia grandiflora*, I saw bellworts in several places but none were in flower; noted first along foothills parkway the first day; also Rich Mountain Rd, etc.

Madder Family, Rubiaceae

bedstraw, *Galium spp*; roadsides in many areas; also Chestnut tops trail; plants tend to stick to each other like velcrow

Quaker's Ladies Bluets, *Houstonia caerulea*; Newfound Gap (F); many other areas

bluet sp., *Houstonia sp.*, lawns at Cade's Cove and Sugarland etc.

Partridge-berry, *Mitchella repens*, almost all areas (red berries); very flat dark green leaves on ground

Mint Family, Lamiaceae

Purple Dead Nettle, *Lamium purpureum*, Sharp's Ridge (in flower)

Lyre-leaved Sage, *Salvia lyrata*, many areas including baptist cemetery in Cade's Cove and along road beside Little River in Townsend (last evening)

Moonseed Family, Menispermaceae

moonseed sp, *Cocculus* or *Menispermum*, these little vines were quite common but mostly small and not yet with flowers; leaves are very round and heart-shaped (distinctive); not identified to genus or species

Mustard Family, Brassicaceae

Winter Cress or Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*, roadsides including Metcalf Bottoms in park (F)

Broadleaf Toothwort, *Dentaria diphylla*, one of the commoner toothworts (leaves have a thin stripe in middle)

Cut-leaved Toothwort, *Dentaria laciniata*, deeply cut leaves into three parts (fairly common also)

Shepard's Purse, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, some of this at Kyker Bottom's in the flat panlike area we walked across at end of walk

Orchid Family, *Orchidaceae*

Pink Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*, Schoolhouse Gap trail (many in flower)
Showy Orchis, *Galearis spectabilis*, Cove Hardwoods trail; etc
Downy Rattlesnake-Plantain, *Goodyera pubescens*, Dove Hardwoods trail and Schoolhouse Gap side trail (leaves only); Large Yellow Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium pubescens*,

Parsley Family, *Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)*

Sweet Cicely, *Osmorhiza claytonii*, Chestnut Tops; widespread (F)
Smooth Meadow Parsnip (umbels of tiny yellow flower), *Thaspium trifolium flavum*, Chestnut tops; Rich Mt. etc; widespread (F)

Pink (Carnation) Family, *Caryophyllaceae*

Fire Pink, *Silene virginica*, Chestnut Tops (F); also roadside along Little River in Townsend
Great Chickweed, *Stellaria pubera*, Chestnut Tops etc; widespread (F)

Phlox Family, *Polemoniaceae*

Blue Phlox, *Phlox stolonifera/divaricata*, Widespread (F)

Plantain Family, *Plantaginaceae*

plantain spp. (several spp), *Plantago spp.*, Roadsides (NIF); also edges of big chain-link fence at Cade's Cove Sewage lagoons

Poppy Family, *Papaveraceae*

Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, Chestnut tops trail (NIF)

Purslane Family, *Portulacaceae*,

Spring-beauty, *Claytonia caroliniana*, Clingman's Dome Rd (carpets along roadsides); Balsam Mt. Road (many in flower); mostly at high elevation; distinctive little white star-shaped flowers with pink stripes
Narrow-leaf Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*, Cade's Cove (thin straplike leaves) near old Baptist church (very similar to the previous species but leaves more narrow)

Rose Family, *Rosacea*,

Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, Balsam Mt. Road (F)
Common Cinquefoil, *Potentilla simplex*, widespread (F)

Saxifrage Family, *Saxifragaceae*

Alumroot, *Heuchera americana/villosa*, Chestnut Tops and many other areas; none flowering
Wild Hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, widespread in lower els (NIF)
Miterwort (Bishop's Cap), *Mitella diphylla*, Chestnut Tops; **common** and widespread
Brook Lettuce, *S. micranthidifolia*, Cove Hardwood; Hen Wallow Falls etc; always grows along little streams, waterfalls, or around very wet areas
Carey's Saxifrage, *S. careyana*, Chestnut Tops (Flowering)
Foamflower, *Tiarella cordifolia*, **common** in many areas; flowering with great displays

Sedge Family

Plantain-leaf Sedge, *Carex plantaginea*, Chestnut Tops

Smartweed Family, *Polygonaceae*,

Lady's Thumb, *Polygonum persicaria* (dark reddishV on leaf), Chestnut Tops (NIF)

Curled Dock, *Rumex crispus*, widespread along roadsides and waste areas; may not have pointed out this plant (NIF)

Stonecrop Family, *Crassulaceae*

Wild Stonecrop, *Sedum ternatum*, widespread (F); first seen at Chestnut tops trail first p.m.

Valerian Family, *Valerianaceae*

Beaked Corn Salad, *Valerianella radiata*, Kyker Bottom; also Little River in Townsend

Violet Family, *Violaceae*

Sweet White Violet, *Viola blanda*, Cove Hardwoods trail (stemless; white flowers; several areas)

Canadian Violet, *Viola canadensis*, widespread (white flowers and leaves on stem)

Halbert-leaved Violet, *Viola hastate*, walking to sewage lagoons in Cade's Cove but mostly just the distinctive leaves

Beaked (Long-spurred) Violet, *Viola rostrata*, Chestnut Tops; Schoolhouse gap etc.

Birds Foot Violet, *Viola pedata*, Rich Mountain (pale blue flowers) leaf like a "bird's foot"

Common Blue Violet, *Viola sororia* or *papilionacea*, widespread; common in lawns etc

"Confederate" Violet, *Viola sororia* var. *priceana*, Newfound gap; whitish with "blue eyes"; also seen in other areas

Smooth Yellow Violet, *Viola pubescens*, Cove Hardwoods (a few in flower)

Waterleaf Family, *Hydrophyllaceae*

Purple Phacelia, *Phacelia bispinnatifida*, Chestnut Tops (F)

Fringed Phacelia, *Phacelia fimbriata*, Cove Hardwood and Newfound Gap etc (F)

Miami Mist, *Phacelia purshii*, looks like previous species but taller and flowers lavender (not white); road beside Little River in Townsend the last p.m.

Wood Sorrel Family, *Oxalidaceae*

wood-sorrel sp, *Oxalis* sp, several areas (NIF) including the old Baptist church in Cade's Cove

Wintergreen Family, *Pyrolaceae*

Spotted Wintergreen or Pipsissewa, *Chimaphila maculata*, Schoolhouse Gap (last morning); NIF

Yam Family, *Dioscoreaceae*

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea quaternata*, Chestnut tops (NIF)

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern, most shady and humid lower els.

Christmas Fern, inside forest at most lower els.; everywhere but because of dry weather most were prostrate on roadbanks and on forest floor