

Beacon Heights

Location: Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 305 (GPS 36.0824363,-81.8292189)

Species of Interest

Spring

Broad-winged Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Red-tailed Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Northern Saw-whet Owl (Rare)	Wood Thrush
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Parula
Hairy Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Blackburnian Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Raven	Black-and-white Warbler
Carolina Chickadee	Ovenbird
White-breasted Nuthatch	Canada Warbler
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Hooded Warbler
Winter Wren	Song Sparrow
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Dark-eyed Junco

Summer

Broad-winged Hawk	Wood Thrush
Peregrine Falcon	Cedar Waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Blackburnian Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Raven	Canada Warbler
Carolina Wren	Hooded Warbler
Winter Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Indigo Bunting
Veery	

Fall

Broad-winged Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Red-eyed Vireo	Wood Thrush
Yellow-throated Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Blackburnian Warbler
American Crow	Black-throated Blue Warbler

Common Raven
Carolina Wren
Winter Wren

Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Hooded Warbler

Winter

American Crow
Common Raven
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

Winter Wren
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco

Species List: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1278876>

eBird Bar Chart: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1278876&yr=all&m=>

Habitats

Mixed hardwood forest, rocky bald

Access and Parking open year-round, weather permitting (Parkway closes in snow and ice)

Parking: well-maintained paved lot

Drinking water: no

Restrooms: no

Accessibility: accessible parking lot. Trail not accessible

Site Description

Property ownership: owned & managed by National Park Service as part of the Blue Ridge Parkway

Trails: 1.2 mile round-trip

Trail surface and elevation gain: moderate hike on unpaved trail with 1,400 feet of elevation gain

Likely spots for species of interest: parking lot surprisingly good for warblers; thrushes in the woods; good spot to watch for hawks and ravens at the top

Special Considerations

Hunting: not allowed

Need for boots/waterproof footwear: hiking boots recommended, but not required; relatively easy trail can be slick and muddy after rain

Other: trail connects to Tanawha Trail and Mountains to Sea Trail.

Directions

From Boone / Blowing Rock: take Hwy 105 South. Turn left onto 221 and travel _____ miles to the sign for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Turn left onto the ramp for the Blue Ridge Parkway. **Turn right to travel south** on the Parkway. The Beacon Heights parking lot is just ahead on the left. **OR** take the Blue Ridge Parkway **south to the parking lot.**

From Points South: take highway 105 north. Turn right onto 221 **and travel _____ miles to the sign for the Blue Ridge Parkway.** Turn left onto the ramp for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Turn right **to travel south** on the Parkway. The Beacon Heights parking lot is just ahead on the left. **OR** take the Blue Ridge Parkway **north to the parking lot.**