

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: December 15, 2007

Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

Comments: Submitted by Paul Serridge, Trip Leader

9 GCBC members and 1 guest participated in the club's monthly outing to Lake Conestee Nature Park this morning. The weather forecast called for temperatures in the low 40s and 80% chance of drizzle all morning, but sometimes the gods smile on brave birders. The rain held off until 12.05, two minutes AFTER we finished birding the trails AND we added a new bird to the park list!

An early visit to the northern end of the lake, where there had been so many ducks on Wednesday, was disappointing as the only waterfowl present was a small group of Mallards. The view wasn't much better from the overlook in Conestee - a few Mallards and a solitary Pied-billed Grebe. Fortunately, from the Observation Deck we saw lots of ducks as flocks of Wood Ducks and Mallards repeatedly flew into and out of the marsh. At one point there were about 70 Mallards in view. One of the mallard groups was accompanied by 2 American Black Ducks, the first report for the Park, bringing the total LCNP list to 141.

Other sightings of note were Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper and a large flock (200 + birds) of Rusty Blackbirds seen in quite heavy rain from the overlook during a second visit around 12.15pm. The Rusties were feeding in the vegetation at the edge of the lake. Notable omissions from this morning's list were Canada goose, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

We enjoyed a good morning's birding with 41 species reported - not bad for mid-December and only a few miles from Downtown Greenville.

Paul

Bird List:

Species:

Wood Duck
American Black Duck
Mallard
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Pine Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle