

# Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

**Date:** Saturday December 15, 2012

**Location:** Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

**Leader:** Paul Serridge

## **Comments:**

8 GCBC members enjoyed an excellent morning's birding at Conestee. We started by doing the East Bay loop and found Ring-necked Ducks and 1 Ruddy Duck, as well as 4 Hooded Mergansers. The mergs were a first for this month. Fox Sparrows were in their usual spot on the trail. They have been heard singing recently.

We then carpoled to the Spanco trail-head. There was a female teal on the lake in among a few Ring-necks. Green-winged Teal usually show up in December but when this bird flew a short distance across the lake it was seen to be a Blue-winged Teal – a first for any month of December. Blue-winged Teal have not been reported in past winters until early January.

Near the short boardwalk below the Spanco trail-head we found a House Wren, another first for any month of December.

A little further along the paved trail we found a large flock of Rusty Blackbirds foraging on the mud at the edge of Crescent Slough. We estimated 100+ birds. Rusties are VERY difficult to count as they move from trees to the mud and back again. There were 5 N. Shovelers on the slough.

On the blue trail we easily found the Red-headed Woodpeckers which are almost in full adult plumage, and saw 2 small groups of Purple Finches. The latter have been more numerous this year than in any previous year.

Because there was so much bird activity we finished the trails around 12.30, a bit later than usual.

In all we reported 55 species. We raised this month's species list to 71, a new December record.

With a little luck we could have hit 60 as we missed out on Common Grackle, Red-tailed Hawk, House Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker.....

Next time perhaps.

## **Bird list:**

Canada Goose 4

Wood Duck 1

Mallard 50

Blue-winged Teal 1

Northern Shoveler 5

Ring-necked Duck 11

Hooded Merganser 4

Ruddy Duck 1

Pied-billed Grebe 7

Great Blue Heron 5

Turkey Vulture 1

Red-shouldered Hawk 4

American Coot 4

Rock Pigeon 1  
Mourning Dove 19  
Belted Kingfisher 1  
Red-headed Woodpecker 3  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 3  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3  
Downy Woodpecker 8  
Northern Flicker 4  
Eastern Phoebe 4  
Blue Jay 13  
American Crow 1  
Fish Crow 1  
Carolina Chickadee 11  
Tufted Titmouse 8  
White-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Brown-headed Nuthatch 3  
Brown Creeper 1  
House Wren 1  
Carolina Wren 8  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 4  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8  
Eastern Bluebird 5  
Hermit Thrush 4  
American Robin 25  
Northern Mockingbird 5  
Brown Thrasher 2  
European Starling 40  
Cedar Waxwing 20  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 36  
Eastern Towhee 7  
Field Sparrow 2  
Fox Sparrow 3  
Song Sparrow 7  
Swamp Sparrow 4  
White-throated Sparrow 30  
Dark-eyed Junco 18  
Northern Cardinal 14  
Red-winged Blackbird 2  
Rusty Blackbird 100  
Purple Finch 11  
House Finch 11  
American Goldfinch 3