

## Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

- Dates:** January 16, 2010
- Locations:** Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
- Leader:** Paul Serridge
- Comments:** Submitted by Paul Serridge

9 GCBC members and one guest birded Lake Conestee Nature Park. We left cars at the new entrance to the park at the old municipal stadium on Mauldin Rd before going to the trailhead at the overlook on Spanco Drive. In that way we were able to bird the majority of the park trails without going back on the same trails.

Chip and Sara Gilbert checked out the north lake at 7.30 and found 8 Ring-necked Ducks. The lakeside trail from the overlook once again turned out to be the best trail in the park for birds and we spent almost 2 hours birding the first mile or so. The start of that trail yielded a large flock of Rusty Blackbirds, which we conservatively estimated at 100+ birds. It is very hard to estimate numbers of Rusties and I suspect that there were far more than 100.

About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile along the lakeside trail, where the trail passes under a line of telephone wires, we found an Orange-crowned Warbler, the best bird of the day. It was in the same area where an Orange-crowned W. had been reported on 3 different occasions last November.

The observation deck off the blue trail now has a raised boardwalk to gain access to the deck even after heavy rain and there is a new large observation deck at the north lake. Around 11.30 at the north lake there was no sign of any Ring-necked Ducks, probably because there were 5 kayaks on the lake. Just as we arrived back at the cars we spotted an American Kestrel perched on a pole in the old G-Braves stadium – a very good bird for this area.

By noon we had a list of 45 species, which was increased to 46 when Chip and Sara reported a Pied-billed Grebe on the lake when they returned to the overlook (see details below). A good morning's birding – good birds, good company, good weather!

**Bird List:**

Canada Goose 6  
Mallard 10  
Ring-necked Duck 8  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Great Blue Heron 4  
Red-shouldered Hawk 3  
American Kestrel 1  
Killdeer 1  
Rock Pigeon 4  
Mourning Dove 3  
Red-headed Woodpecker 2  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 7  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3  
Downy Woodpecker 7  
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 3  
Eastern Phoebe 4  
Blue Jay 8  
American Crow 4  
Carolina Chickadee 7  
Tufted Titmouse 2  
White-breasted Nuthatch 2  
Brown-headed Nuthatch 3  
Brown Creeper 1  
Carolina Wren 15  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 3  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4  
Eastern Bluebird 7  
Hermit Thrush 3  
American Robin 5  
Northern Mockingbird 5  
Brown Thrasher 1  
European Starling 3  
Orange-crowned Warbler 1  
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 15  
Eastern Towhee 12  
Field Sparrow 2  
Song Sparrow 10  
White-throated Sparrow 15  
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 1  
Northern Cardinal 12  
Red-winged Blackbird 30  
Rusty Blackbird 100 +  
Common Grackle ~ 60  
House Finch 2  
American Goldfinch 9