

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday May 19, 2012

Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

Leader: Paul Serridge

Comments:

9 GCBC members birded Conestee. The main objective was to find the Ross's Goose which had been observed since the previous Monday, and as recently as Friday afternoon.

We decided to focus our efforts on the lake bed area, principally around the old observation deck and the long boardwalk on the paved trail.

However, we first took the trail through the Forrester Farm section of the park where a female Dickcissel had been seen the previous day. Unfortunately, she was neither heard nor seen.

After half an hour on the observation deck and no sign of the Ross's Goose, 8 of the group went to the long boardwalk, spotting a singing male Prothonotary Warbler and two Barred Owls, one young, one adult, on the way. Chip Gilbert stayed at the observation deck as the Ross's Goose could show up there.

The Ross's Goose was either hidden in the marsh or had moved on. We never found it. However, we did win a consolation prize when one and then two Mississippi Kites were observed from the paved trail near the boardwalk circling high overhead. Chip also saw them from the observation deck. A few minutes later one of the Kites came much closer and Don Faulkner took photographs. Species # 180 for the LCNP list!

When the main group returned to the observation deck Chip told them that he had seen the Prothonotary Warbler several times.

A quick visit to Spanco Drive at noon did not turn up any new birds.

It was disappointing not to have found the Ross's Goose but the Mississippi Kites were a good substitute.

After lunch at Bonnie Brae, 4 of the group went to Gunter Road to look for the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Both male and female Scissor-tails were seen taking turns flying from the large tree in mid-field to the telephone wires near the barn to hawk for insects before returning to the large tree. We suspect that the pair is nesting in that tree. While at Gunter the group had close looks at a singing Grasshopper Sparrow and saw a Loggerhead Shrike.

Lists from both locations follow. The day's total was 63 species.

Bird lists:

Conestee:

Canada Goose 25

Wood Duck 5

Mallard (Domestic type) 2

Great Blue Heron 16

Mississippi Kite 2 Seen soaring over the West Bay around 10.30 a.m.

Red-shouldered Hawk 5

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Spotted Sandpiper 1 In East Bay
Mourning Dove 4
Barred Owl 2 1 adult, 1 young near white trail along Marrow Bone Creek
Chimney Swift 12
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2
Belted Kingfisher 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker 2
Downy Woodpecker 3
Hairy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 1
Eastern Wood-Pewee 2 Two heard, 1 seen
Acadian Flycatcher 4
Eastern Phoebe 4
Great Crested Flycatcher 1
Eastern Kingbird 2 Pair at West Bay
White-eyed Vireo 4
Red-eyed Vireo 4
Blue Jay 2
American Crow 6
Fish Crow 1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 8
Barn Swallow 12
Carolina Chickadee 8
Tufted Titmouse 9
White-breasted Nuthatch 1
Brown-headed Nuthatch 1
Carolina Wren 12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12
Eastern Bluebird 9
Wood Thrush 2
Northern Mockingbird 3
Brown Thrasher 3
European Starling 8
Prothonotary Warbler 1
Common Yellowthroat 4
Hooded Warbler 1
American Redstart 1 First year male - singing.
Northern Parula 5
Pine Warbler 3
Eastern Towhee 5
Field Sparrow 2
Northern Cardinal 14
Indigo Bunting 4
Red-winged Blackbird 8
Common Grackle 12
Brown-headed Cowbird 1

House Finch 4
American Goldfinch 10

Gunter Road:

Black Vulture 1

Turkey Vulture 1

Buteo sp. 2

Mourning Dove 4

Eastern Kingbird 1

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 2 1 male, 1 female. Suspect nesting in large tree in middle of field.

Loggerhead Shrike 1

American Crow 2

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2

Purple Martin 6

Eastern Bluebird 2

Northern Mockingbird 2

European Starling 50

Chipping Sparrow 2

Field Sparrow 5

Grasshopper Sparrow 2

Eastern Meadowlark 3