

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2011

Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

Leader: Paul Serridge

Comments: The outing, originally scheduled for Saturday, Jan 21, was postponed to the following day because of rain. Only 3 club members braved the rather cold conditions (~ 42F but felt much colder). They were rewarded with a reasonable list of birds (see below). Male Wood Ducks seen from the old observation deck were in full breeding plumage. We found all the possible woodpeckers (Red-headed is not around at this time of year) and 4 (yes, 4) Brown Creepers, 3 of them close together off the blue trail near the observation deck. We heard and then saw a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks fly into a tree where they mated. I imagine we will see nest building or restoration soon. 2 Great Blue herons were standing on 2 separate nests in the same tree. One of last year's nests has disappeared and so there are only 3 present at the moment. We did not find the American Bittern but Rob Hunnings saw and photographed it later that day. It had not been reported since Jan 7. Earlier in the month we had seen large flocks of Rusty Blackbirds but lately we have observed very small numbers. Today, for example, we saw only 5. Where have the large flocks gone? The Accipiter was seen very briefly flying low across a marsh but disappeared into some trees and we could not find it to get an ID. In all we reported 46 species.

Bird List:

- Canada Goose 70
- Wood Duck 17
- Mallard 24
- Ring-necked Duck 3
- Pied-billed Grebe 3
- Great Blue Heron 3
- Accipiter sp. 1
- Red-shouldered Hawk 3
- Mourning Dove 14
- Red-bellied Woodpecker 4
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1
- Downy Woodpecker 4
- Hairy Woodpecker 1
- Northern Flicker 10
- Pileated Woodpecker 1

Eastern Phoebe 5
American Crow 11
Fish Crow 2
Carolina Chickadee 20
Tufted Titmouse 9
White-breasted Nuthatch 3
Brown-headed Nuthatch 2
Brown Creeper 4
Carolina Wren 13
Golden-crowned Kinglet 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7
Eastern Bluebird 1
Hermit Thrush 1
Northern Mockingbird 2
Brown Thrasher 2
European Starling 40
Cedar Waxwing 30
Pine Warbler 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
Eastern Towhee 4
Field Sparrow 3
Fox Sparrow 2
Song Sparrow 12
Swamp Sparrow 4
White-throated Sparrow 16
Dark-eyed Junco 11
Northern Cardinal 15
Rusty Blackbird 5
Common Grackle 25
House Finch 2
American Goldfinch 3