

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: November 16, 2013
Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park
Leader: Paul Serridge
Species List Compiled by: Paul Serridge
Resources: <http://lakeconesteenaturepark.com/>
Duration: 7:30 A.M.-Noon
Number of Species: 44

Seven GCBC members and three guests began the day at the West Bay because the East Bay was shrouded in mist.

Birding was a little slow at the start (Fish Crows, Starlings.....) but picked up after we crossed the Reedy River. Plenty of Mallards (definitely NOT the domestic variety) were discovered in the wetlands leading to the West Bay. Along the Heron Circle Trail, three Red-headed Woodpeckers were found.

At the observation deck the highlight was a couple of American Coots until one of the guests, a novice birder, asked "What is that brown bird?". Well...that "brown bird" was an American Bittern which was very active, at least by Bittern standards, as it foraged in full view. Wonderful!

We then went to the East Bay where a Ruddy Duck had joined the now common Ring-necked Ducks.

We moved on to Spanco Drive hoping to locate a few Rusty Blackbirds and were not disappointed, especially those for whom a Rusty was a life-bird. We found 40+ in the South Bay.

Species List and Numbers:

Canada Goose	47	
Wood Duck	6	
Mallard	39	Different parts of the park.
Ring-necked Duck	14	East Bay. Mix of males and females.
Ruddy Duck	1	East Bay. Female.
Pied-billed Grebe	5	Four 4 in East Bay; one in Crescent Slough.
American Bittern	1	Actively foraging (active for a Bittern!) next to the original beaver dam in the West Bay around 10 a.m.
Great Blue Heron	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	
American Coot	2	West Bay
Killdeer	2	
Mourning Dove	8	
Belted Kingfisher	1	
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	

Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	
Downy Woodpecker	3	
Northern Flicker	1	
Eastern Phoebe	3	
Blue Jay	3	
American Crow	8	
Fish Crow	53	Large flock near stadium (their usual place). May have been a mix of Fish and American Crows but all vocalizations were Fish Crows.
Carolina Chickadee	6	
Tufted Titmouse	3	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1	
Carolina Wren	8	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	
Eastern Bluebird	15	
Hermit Thrush	3	
Brown Thrasher	1	
Northern Mockingbird	2	
European Starling	23	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	
Eastern Towhee	3	
Song Sparrow	8	
Swamp Sparrow	3	
White-throated Sparrow	18	
Northern Cardinal	6	
Red-winged Blackbird	27	
Rusty Blackbird	40	Flying from trees into marsh and onto mud in South Bay. Count is probably conservative figure.
Common Grackle	1000	Huge flock in trees at south end of East Bay. Count is probably a conservative figure.
House Finch	4	
American Goldfinch	2	



American Bittern



White-throated Sparrow



Red-shouldered Hawk



American Bittern



Juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker



Northern Flicker

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http://www.flickr.com/photos/faulkners_fowl_shots/