

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday, December 21, 2013
Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
Leader: Paul Serridge
**List
Compilation:** Paul Serridge
Duration: 8:00 A.M.-Noon
Species: 44

Twelve GCBC members and one guest participated in today's outing, despite the rather gloomy weather forecast. Because of the probability of rain, we decided to stay on the stadium side of the park and not carpool to the Spanco trailhead as we usually do. That turned out to be a good decision!

The lake at the East Bay held about a dozen Gadwall, a couple of American Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes, as well as the usual Canada Geese and Mallards. Though other species of ducks have visited briefly this month, they were not seen today.

On the trail back to the parking area, a Hairy Woodpecker, probably two of them, was a nice sighting. They are residents in the park, but are not often seen.

Due to rain along the trail, five of the party decided to call it quits for the day. The rest of us headed towards the Reedy River Bridge, spotting a lone Palm Warbler in among some Yellow-rumps. A heavy shower caused us to take shelter under a LCNP kiosk. The rain ceased after a few minutes. Only four of us were brave enough to continue birding.

Fortune favors the brave! The weather improved markedly, and we had a productive time at the West Bay and on the trail around one of the backwaters. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers gave us great looks. For one birder, it was only her second sighting of that beautiful species.

Finishing around noon, 44 species were spotted, which is exactly the same count as last month's outing, but well below the 55 species reported on the same outing last year. Our list today did not include a few very common species such as Northern Mockingbird and Mourning Dove, and could potentially have been much higher. Unfortunately, we did not see any Rusty Blackbirds, which are much less common at Conestee this year than in previous years. On last year's December outing, we reported 100 Rusties!

Species List: 44 species

Canada Goose	10	Tufted Titmouse	4
Wood Duck	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Gadwall	12	Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
Mallard	22	Carolina Wren	7
Ring-necked Duck	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4
Great Blue Heron	2	Eastern Bluebird	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Hermit Thrush	2
American Coot	4	American Robin	1
Killdeer	1	Brown Thrasher	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	European Starling	80
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	Palm Warbler	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Eastern Towhee	2
Downy Woodpecker	4	Field Sparrow	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Song Sparrow	4
Northern Flicker	2	White-throated Sparrow	15
Eastern Phoebe	3	Dark-eyed Junco	8
Blue Jay	4	Northern Cardinal	15
American Crow	1	Common Grackle	200
Fish Crow	1	House Finch	12
Carolina Chickadee	7	American Goldfinch	6