

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date:	Saturday, January 18, 2014
Location:	Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
Leader:	Paul Serridge
List Compilation:	Paul Serridge
Notable Highlights:	Bald Eagle, Kestrel, Palm Warbler, and ~80 Rusty Blackbirds
Photos:	Photos courtesy of Don Faulkner (DF) and Phil Hartpoolian (PH) To view more of Don's photographs visit, http://www.flickr.com/photos/faulkners_fowl_shots/ To view more of Phil photos, visit, http://www.flickr.com/groups/lcnp_birds/pool/
Species Total:	46
Duration:	8:00 A.M.-noon

5 GCBC members and 3 guests braved the cold weather. It was about 26F when we started at 8 a.m. and not a whole lot warmer when we finished 4 hours later.

We birded the East and West Bays before moving all the cars to the Spanco parking area and birding the paved trail as far as the bird feeders.

In the East Bay we found Gadwall, Ring-necked Ducks, one American Coot and Pied-billed Grebes along with the usual Mallards and Canada Geese.

Between the East and West Bays we found a Palm Warbler foraging in trees with a couple of Yellow-rumps. This was only the second Palm Warbler reported at the park in any month of January – the first was about a week ago!

In the West Bay we found a beautiful adult Red-headed Woodpecker.

Photo courtesy of Don Faulkner.

When we arrived at Spanco Drive one of our group spotted a large raptor soaring high over the dam. It was a Bald Eagle! We have had only one report of a Bald Eagle at Conestee since the park opened in late 2006. We just doubled the score!

Along the paved trail we found a flock of 80+ rather vocal Rusty Blackbirds and were treated to good close-up views of several birds.



Just as we finished birding around noon we spotted an American Kestrel perched on top of a tree at the Spanco parking area. Kestrels are rare in the Conestee area. *Photo courtesy of Don Faulkner.*



Interestingly, our species count was exactly the same as on the Jan 2013 outing. And on both outings we reported an accipiter which flew past too quickly for us to make a positive ID – although I feel fairly confident that today’s accipiter was a Cooper’s Hawk.

What had started as a cold, slow-birding day ended up being a really successful outing.

Species List:

Canada Goose	51	Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
Gadwall	6	Carolina Wren	8
Mallard	39	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Ring-necked Duck	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6
Pied-billed Grebe	8	Eastern Bluebird	3
Accipiter sp.	1	Hermit Thrush	3
Bald Eagle	1	American Robin	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Brown Thrasher	1
American Coot	1	Northern Mockingbird	2
Killdeer	2	European Starling	8
Mourning Dove	5	Palm Warbler	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	Pine Warbler	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	Eastern Towhee	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Chipping Sparrow	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	Field Sparrow	1
Northern Flicker	2	Song Sparrow	11
American Kestrel	1	Swamp Sparrow	5
Eastern Phoebe	4	White-throated Sparrow	8
Blue Jay	2	Dark-eyed Junco	3
Carolina Chickadee	9	Northern Cardinal	9
Tufted Titmouse	5	Rusty Blackbird	80
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	House Finch	2



Carolina Wren-PH



Red-shouldered Hawk-DF



Hermit Thrush-DF

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-PH

