

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date:	Saturday, February 2, 2014
Location:	Lake Hartwell, SC and Ga. and Townville, SC
Leader:	Jeff Click
List Compilation:	Jeff Click
Notable Highlights:	Canvasback, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, White-crowned Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird
Photos:	Photos courtesy of Imtiaz Haque
Species Total:	71
Duration:	7:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.



Six GCBC members and a guest enjoyed a pleasant day of birding around Lake Hartwell on Sunday. We started at the Hartwell Dam, where the early morning fog prevented us from seeing much. Gradually, a few Common Loons and Horned Grebes appeared, along with the occasional Ring-billed Gull. Eventually, large numbers of grebes and loons emerged from the fog, but we were unable to find our target, the Pacific Loon. With a light wind out of the west, we went to the Georgia side of the lake and checked out Long Point Recreation Area in hopes of finding waterfowl sheltering nearby. This turned out to be a good move, as we found a large collection of birds, including three White-winged Scoters and several Red-breasted Mergansers, both excellent finds that far from the coast. Among the many Common Loons, we spotted a distant loon that was very likely our target Pacific Loon, but the views were too distant for us to come to consensus on the identification.

From Long Point, we continued to Elrod Ferry Recreation Area in an effort to gain a better vantage point on the questionable loon, but it was at least as distant from there, so the certainty of its identity remains a mystery. After Elrod Ferry, we enjoyed lunch by the water at a picnic area just on the Georgia side of the dam, where a large group of Common Loons cruised by. We then stopped back by the SC side of the dam to continue looking for interesting loons and gulls, and found a pair of immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the dam.



Having had our fill of loons, grebes, and gulls, we proceeded to the Townville area, starting at Prater Farm, where we found White-crowned Sparrows and the Loggerhead Shrike that's been around all winter. Near Prater, we added Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, American Pipit, Horned Lark, and an army of Savannah Sparrows. We stopped briefly next at Beaverdam Creek WMA, finding Rusty Blackbirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and White-throated and Swamp Sparrows. As dusk approached, we moved up to Dobbins Farm to wait for the Short-eared Owls to appear, but they were not to be found this



time. A pair of Canvasbacks on one of the ponds was a nice consolation prize.

Species Total: 71

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Northern Shoveler
Canvasback
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
White-winged Scoter
Red-breasted Merganser
Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
American Coot
Killdeer
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Eastern Phoebe
Loggerhead Shrike
Blue Jay



American Crow
Fish Crow
Horned Lark
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Winter Wren
Carolina Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Eastern Meadowlark
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

