

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report



Date:	Saturday, February 15, 2014
Location:	Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
Leader:	Paul Serridge, with help from Jane Kramer
List Compilation:	Jennifer Bruce
Narrative:	Paul Serridge
Notable Highlights:	Brown Creeper, Red-shouldered Hawk working on its nest, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wilson's Snipes, Northern Shovelers, and Rusty Blackbirds {and a Coyote!}
Photos:	Photos courtesy of Don Faulkner (DF) and Anthony Martin (AM)
Duration:	8:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
Species Total:	53

16 GCBC members and 1 guest participated in a very enjoyable outing in good weather.

The recent snow had largely gone and the trails were almost clear, if a little wet in places following some overnight rain.

Because of a bicycle race event at Conestee Park we could not park at our usual meeting place but were able to do so near the large stadium without any problem.

We first birded the East Bay where we found a variety of duck species, including a pair of Northern Shovelers which had not been seen for a couple of weeks. But the highlight was a Brown Creeper which came close to the observation deck. Creepers have been scarce in the park this winter.

We split the large group into 2 smaller groups to bird our way back to the cars as the trail along the river is too narrow for such a large party. Jane Kramer led the group along the river and they were delighted to spot a Coyote!



Brown Creeper (DF)

We then carpoled to the trailhead at Spanco Drive. Not far along the paved trail we saw a Red-shouldered Hawk with nesting material in its bill. It appeared to be building a nest in the tree where we had first found a nest several years ago.

A little further along the trail we spotted a flock of Rusty Blackbirds which we conservatively estimated at 30 birds. There were probably many more.

At the feeders we saw a brightly colored Pine Warbler.

A solitary Great Blue Heron was standing guard on one of last year's nests.

On the way to the West Bay we found 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, one adult, one immature, and Don Faulkner spotted a small accipiter flying very fast through the woods. His ID of a Sharp-shinned Hawk was confirmed when the bird was seen flapping and soaring over the marsh.

From the West Bay observation deck we looked for Wilson's Snipe. 8 had been reported the previous day but today we found only 2.

By then it was noon and we decided to not continue the Blue Heron Circle trail (which would probably have been flooded in places anyway) but to head back directly to the stadium area. We finished birding around 12.30 p.m.

It had been a good morning's birding – good birds, good company, good weather!

Thanks to Jane Kramer for helping lead the trip, and to Jen Bruce for helping compile the final list. We did not do quite as well as last year when we reported 58 species, but 53 in February is a very satisfying total.



Red-shouldered Hawk with Nesting Material (AM)



Turkey Vulture (AM)

Species List: 53

Canada Goose	28	White-breasted Nuthatch	3
Wood Duck	14	Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
Gadwall	11	Brown Creeper	2
Mallard	28	Carolina Wren	6
Northern Shoveler	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	5
Ring-necked Duck	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3
Pied-billed Grebe	7	Eastern Bluebird	5
Great Blue Heron	2	Hermit Thrush	2
Turkey Vulture	1	American Robin	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Brown Thrasher	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Northern Mockingbird	4
Red-tailed Hawk	2	European Starling	7
American Coot	4	Pine Warbler	2
Killdeer	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	6
Wilson's Snipe	2	Eastern Towhee	7
Mourning Dove	5	Field Sparrow	12
Belted Kingfisher	2	Song Sparrow	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	Swamp Sparrow	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	White-throated Sparrow	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Dark-eyed Junco	12
Downy Woodpecker	6	Northern Cardinal	12
Northern Flicker	4	Red-winged Blackbird	60
Eastern Phoebe	6	Rusty Blackbird	30
Blue Jay	5	Common Grackle	1
American Crow	4	House Finch	3
Carolina Chickadee	11	American Goldfinch	23
Tufted Titmouse	7		



Ring-necked Ducks (DF)



Yellow-rumped Warbler (AM)