

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2014

Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

Leader: Jeff Click

Photographs: Don Faulkner (D.F.) and Joan Baker (J.B.)

Resource: Map of LCNP:
<http://www.gcbirdclub.org/assets/pdfs/conestee/LCNP%20Trail%20Map%202014.pdf>

Species Total: 60



A group of 17 birders spent a very enjoyable morning at Lake Conestee Nature Park on Saturday for some late winter / early spring birding. We followed the club's normal route, beginning at the East Bay from the baseball stadium parking area off of Mauldin Road. We started the day off with a bang, finding both the Redhead that had been spotted earlier in the week, and an American Bittern, which was cooperative enough to stay out in the open, albeit at a distance. We also had plenty of Wood Ducks, and a Double-crested Cormorant flying over.

From the Spanco overlook, we found a half dozen Wilson's Snipes. When we returned later in the day, the Snipes were joined by a single Greater Yellowlegs, and a lone Rough-winged Swallow zipped past. Near the beginning of the boardwalk, we had a group of 27 Rusty Blackbirds and a singing Common Yellowthroat. We briefly spotted another group of at least 8 rusties at Marrow Bone Creek, where an inquisitive Brown-headed Nuthatch came within feet of us in response to playback.

In the North Slough, we heard a Winter Wren give its brief call notes, and were able to eventually coax it into the open. Near the West Bay, we found a Red-shouldered Hawk on its nest, as well as several Great Blue Herons on theirs. A couple of Accipiters soared high overhead, eventually identified as Cooper's Hawks with the aid of Don's camera, which also captured the Red-shouldered Hawk on its nest (photo to the right).



In all, we finished a very pleasant morning with 59 species. The Hooded Mergansers reported by Barry and Stacy Phillips later in the day make 60 species seen at the park on Saturday

Species List:

Canada Goose	30
Wood Duck	14
Mallard	14
Blue-winged Teal	3
Redhead	1
Pied-billed Grebe	8
Double-crested Cormorant	1
American Bittern	1
Great Blue Heron	8
Black Vulture	1
Turkey Vulture	5
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
American Coot	7
Killdeer	2
Greater Yellowlegs	1
Wilson's Snipe	6
Mourning Dove	4
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Downy Woodpecker	6
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Eastern Phoebe	5
Blue Jay	6
American Crow	2
Fish Crow	10
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1
Carolina Chickadee	18

Tufted Titmouse	15
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
Winter Wren	1
Carolina Wren	11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9
Eastern Bluebird	8
Hermit Thrush	1
American Robin	12
Northern Mockingbird	1
Brown Thrasher	6
European Starling	15
Cedar Waxwing	8
Common Yellowthroat	2
Pine Warbler	8
Yellow-rumped Warbler	60
Eastern Towhee	22
Chipping Sparrow	4
Field Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	12
Swamp Sparrow	7
White-throated Sparrow	20
Northern Cardinal	28
Red-winged Blackbird	16
Rusty Blackbird	35
Common Grackle	4
Brown-headed Cowbird	3
House Finch	1
American Goldfinch	8



**Brown-headed Nuthatch
(D.F.)**



**Eastern Towhee
(D.F.)**



**American Goldfinch
(D.F.)**

Photos: Photographs generously shared by GCBC members Don Faulkner (D.F.) and Joan Baker (J.B.)

Blue-winged Teal (D.F.)

Male

Female



Great-blue Heron with dinner! (J.B.)