

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2014
Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park and Gunter Road, Greenville County, SC
Leader: Paul Serridge
List & Narrative: Paul Serridge
Duration: Lake Conestee 7:00 A.M. - 12.20 P.M.
Gunter Road 1:45 P.M. - 2.30 P.M.
Species Total: 62 at LC and 19 at Gunter Road for a total of 66 species



Twelve GCBC members participated in a very productive outing in good weather – cool at the start, warm when we finished.

The East Bay looked rather misty and so we immediately carpooled to the Spanco trailhead and started there. The recently reported Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers were no longer in the South Bay but we were able to get good looks at 3 Least Sandpipers and a Semipalmated Plover.

Two Prothonotary Warblers were heard singing on opposite sides of the trailhead and one of them was seen near the first boardwalk. The morning had begun well, and so it continued.

Further along the trail a pair of Blue-winged Teal was seen lifting off the marsh and we later saw them from the West Bay observation deck as they sat on a fallen log. This was a late date for that species.

Soon after hearing a singing Baltimore Oriole near the Blue Heron boardwalk the bird was seen well by 3 or 4 of the party. It flew overhead and a couple of minutes later a male Orchard Oriole showed up.

A little further along the trail we all had excellent looks at a singing male Blackburnian Warbler, a very brightly colored bird. This was only the second spring migration record for this species at Conestee.

A bird that is more often heard than seen, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, was observed shortly before the end of the walk and brought the morning's list to a very satisfactory 62 species.

A few of us went to the Old Mill Café near Spanco Drive for lunch and then 5 of us birded Gunter Road near Piedmont looking for the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers.

A search for those birds is always a bit hit and miss, and today we missed! However, we had excellent looks at two singing Grasshopper Sparrows, a lifer for one of our members.

Also, we found a Killdeer sitting on a nest just under the barbed wire fence near the utility pole where the flycatchers had nested in the past. We were alerted to the presence of the nest when its mate tried to distract us by calling loudly and doing its broken wing display. It came to within 6 feet of us when it decided we were too close to the nest. Had the bird kept quiet we would never have seen the nest.

Later I learned (via the eBird daily SC Rare Bird Alert) that KCBC member, Linda Montgomery, had seen the male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher later in the afternoon. We had been there at the wrong time, but that's birding!

Despite missing the Scissor-tails it had been a very satisfactory day.

Lake Conestee and Gunter Road

May 17, 2014

Greenville County Bird Club

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Page 1 of 2

Species:**Conestee: 62 species**

Canada Goose	22
Wood Duck	15
Mallard	3
Blue-winged Teal	2
Great Blue Heron	9
Turkey Vulture	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Semipalmated Plover	1
Killdeer	3
Least Sandpiper	3
Mourning Dove	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1
Chimney Swift	16
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4
Downy Woodpecker	3
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1
Acadian Flycatcher	1
Eastern Phoebe	4
Great Crested Flycatcher	3
White-eyed Vireo	6
Red-eyed Vireo	3
Blue Jay	1
American Crow	1
Fish Crow	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	6
Barn Swallow	7
Carolina Chickadee	4
Tufted Titmouse	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	5
Brown-headed Nuthatch	7
House Wren	1
Carolina Wren	12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8
Eastern Bluebird	2
American Robin	2
Gray Catbird	1
Brown Thrasher	3

Northern Mockingbird	3
European Starling	40
Cedar Waxwing	35
Prothonotary Warbler	2
Common Yellowthroat	4
Northern Parula	5
Blackburnian Warbler	1
Pine Warbler	1
Eastern Towhee	3
Chipping Sparrow	1
Field Sparrow	1
Northern Cardinal	8
Blue Grosbeak	2
Indigo Bunting	2
Red-winged Blackbird	12
Common Grackle	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	6
Orchard Oriole	2
Baltimore Oriole	1
House Finch	1
American Goldfinch	2

Gunter Road: 19 species

Canada Goose	2
Black Vulture	1
Turkey Vulture	1
Killdeer	2
Mourning Dove	2
Chimney Swift	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Eastern Kingbird	1
American Crow	4
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3
Barn Swallow	8
Northern Mockingbird	3
European Starling	12
Chipping Sparrow	1
Field Sparrow	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Indigo Bunting	1
Eastern Meadowlark	5