

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014
Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
Leaders: Paul Serridge and Denise Dupon
List & Narrative: Paul Serridge
Photographs: Chris Peak (C.P.) and Don Faulkner (D.F.)
Species Total: 57



Twenty (yes, 20!!!) GCBC members and guests had a very productive morning at Conestee. The combined species total from the two separate outings, together with reports from Rob Hunnings who birded solo, and Dave Hargett came to 57 species. 57 during the birding dog days! **This constitutes a one-day record for any month of August.**

Highlights were a Yellow-throated Vireo, a Pied-billed Grebe, and the return of a Red-headed Woodpecker.

Concurrent outings took place at Conestee-one beginning at 7:00 a.m. and another at 8:00 a.m.. Each is reported separately. Please scroll down to get all the details plus some additional birds seen the same day.

Summary for the outing beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Nine GCBC members participated in a very enjoyable outing in good weather. After meeting at the Little League ball fields, we carpoled to Spanco Drive to bird a combination of paved and natural surface trails back to the ball fields.

Immediately upon arriving at Spanco, we spotted a perched Osprey in the South Bay. It was still there when we finished at 11.30. A little excitement ensued when a large strange looking bird flew down on to the river below the dam. It turned out to be some kind of hybrid farmyard goose.

The main highlights of the morning, apart from the Osprey, were a Yellow-throated Vireo near the feeders along the paved trail and a Great Egret in the West Bay. The vireo was a first for any month of August. Chris Peak took diagnostic photos. The Great Egret was hard to spot in the tall vegetation, but could not escape Don Faulkner's camera.

We birded the paved trail, the Henderson Meadow, the West Bay and Sparkleberry Island.

The birding was rather slow after 10:00 a.m., so we decided not to go to the East Bay.

Species list for the outing beginning at 7:00 a.m.:

43 species

Wood Duck	8
Mallard	13
Great Blue Heron	3
Great Egret	1
Osprey	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	1
Mourning Dove	5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1
Chimney Swift	80
<i>Large groups flying over the ball-fields around 6:45 to 7:00 a.m.</i>	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3
Belted Kingfisher	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3
Downy Woodpecker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Eastern Phoebe	8
Eastern Kingbird	2
Yellow-throated Vireo	1
Blue Jay	4
American Crow x Fish Crow x crow sp.	60
<i>Large flock near ball-fields. Heard both American and Fish Crows, but could not determine how many of each.</i>	
Barn Swallow	1
Carolina Chickadee	4
Tufted Titmouse	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
House Wren	1
Carolina Wren	4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11
Eastern Bluebird	5
American Robin	11
Gray Catbird	2
Brown Thrasher	2
Northern Mockingbird	6
European Starling	30
Common Yellowthroat	1
Eastern Towhee	2
Chipping Sparrow	1
Field Sparrow	2
Northern Cardinal	9
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	85
American Goldfinch	6



Great Egret (D.F.)



Yellow-throated Vireo (C.P.)



Osprey (C.P.)



Osprey (D.F.)

Species list for the outing beginning at 8:00 a.m.: 23 species

Ten GCBC members and guests enjoyed a walk along the paved trail from the Spanco Drive overlook. We missed the Osprey, but had plenty of Mockingbirds and Carolina Wrens keeping us interested. Our exciting event was an Accipiter flyover, too fast for an id but still quite impressive. Paul had given us a heads up about the Yellow-throated Vireo, but all we could stir up with a Vireo recording was a group of Tufted Titmice. The Pied-billed Grebe was a first for the month.

Mallard	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Great Blue Heron	1
Accipiter sp (probably Coopers)	1
Mourning Dove	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Phoebe	2
Blue Jay	3
American Crow	3
Fish Crow	1
Carolina Chickadee	2
Tufted Titmouse	10
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1
Carolina Wren	7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2
American Robin	5
Northern Mockingbird	7
European Starling	1
Northern Cardinal	6
Common Grackle	200
House Finch	4
American Goldfinch	6



Eastern Phoebe (C.P.)



American Goldfinch (D.F.)

flyover stream of birds near the feeders

Other birds reported today at Conestee:

GCBC member Rob Hunnings added the following to the day's bird list:

Canada Goose	1
Killdeer	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	1 <i>First report this year since May 22</i>
Acadian Flycatcher	2
Great-crested Flycatcher	2
White-eyed Vireo	2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1
Summer Tanager	1
Indigo Bunting	1

.....and Dave Hargett, LCNP Director and GCBC member, reported a Turkey Vulture.