

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014
Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
Event: “Third Saturday Outing” at Lake Conestee Nature Park
Leaders: Paul Serridge and Denise DuPon
Lists & Narrative: Paul Serridge and Denise DuPon
Species Total: 46 total



Today, two separate trips were held, with both beginning at 8 a.m.; one took place at the ball fields, and the second occurred at the Spanco trailhead. Be sure to scroll down to see the report of the second outing.

Trip One, with leader Paul Serridge:

Nine GCBC members met at the ball-fields for an 8 a.m. start. The East Bay was fogged in and so we started by visiting the West Bay. An oak tree at the western end of the Reedy River bridge was very active – an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, at least two of each of N. Parula, and Tennessee and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The latter were the first reported this season in the park. Their arrival indicates that the migration season is coming to an end. Some warblers, including a possible Blackburnian, could not be positively identified.

From the West Bay observation deck, the group watched an adult Cooper’s Hawk buzz a perched American Kestrel, after which the two birds engaged in an aerial dog-fight before a crow chased the Cooper’s Hawk away.

The group then went to the East Bay, finding two Pied-billed Grebes, which were new for this month.

Unfortunately, the recently reported Ring-necked Duck could not be found.

An Osprey circled over the lake – the latest date for this species at Conestee. We saw it again later in the South Bay when we went there in an unsuccessful attempt to find the American Bittern reported just a day earlier.

We finished birding at noon with a list of 45 species, including five warbler species.

Species List: 45 species

Canada Goose	60	Field Sparrow	2
Wood Duck	5	Northern Cardinal	6
Mallard	22	Rose-breasted	
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Grosbeak	1
Turkey Vulture	1	Red-winged	
Osprey	1	Blackbird	21
Cooper's Hawk	1	Common Grackle	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Brown-headed	
Killdeer	1	Cowbird	3
Mourning Dove	4	House Finch	2
Chimney Swift	4		
Belted Kingfisher	2		
Red-bellied			
Woodpecker	4		
Downy Woodpecker	3		
Hairy Woodpecker	1		
Northern Flicker	3		
Pileated Woodpecker	2		
American Kestrel	1		
Eastern Phoebe	5		
Blue Jay	8		
American Crow	2		
Fish Crow	3		
Carolina Chickadee	4		
Tufted Titmouse	4		
White-breasted			
Nuthatch	2		
Brown-headed			
Nuthatch	2		
Carolina Wren	4		
Eastern Bluebird	20		
American Robin	2		
Brown Thrasher	1		
Northern Mockingbird	2		
European Starling	21		
Tennessee Warbler	1		
Northern Parula	2		
Palm Warbler	6		
Pine Warbler	1		
Yellow-rumped			
Warbler	6		
Eastern Towhee	2		

Trip Two, with leader Denise DuPon

Four GCBC members headed out from the Spanco Drive trailhead for a chilly start that turned into a beautiful day. Our most interesting find was a Red-shouldered Hawk perched behind a church steeple; we had to work hard to put those pieces together! We did have a hot spot at the new overlook near the bird feeders, with good looks at Brown Thrasher, two woodpecker species, and a small group of warblers that were mostly unidentified (the frustrations of birding!).

Species List: 28 species

Canada Goose	16
Mallard	4
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Mourning Dove	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2
Chimney Swift	3
Belted Kingfisher	2
Red-bellied	
Woodpecker	5
Downy Woodpecker	2
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Eastern Phoebe	5
Blue Jay	9
American Crow	8
Fish Crow	2
Carolina Chickadee	5
Tufted Titmouse	7
Brown-headed	
Nuthatch	2
Carolina Wren	7
Eastern Bluebird	7
American Robin	1
Brown Thrasher	5
Northern Mockingbird	4
Pine Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped	
Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	7
Red-winged	
Blackbird	10
Common Grackle	12