

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2014

Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

Event: “Third Saturday Outing” at Lake Conestee Nature Park

Leaders: Paul Serridge and Chip Gilbert

Lists & Narrative: Paul Serridge and Chip Gilbert

Photographs: Don Faulkner (Rusty Blackbirds + European Starling, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Phoebe, Mourning Dove, Field Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Ducks, and White-throated Sparrow)

Species Total: 50



Two separate trips were held, both starting at 8:00 a.m.

The longer trip (all morning) started at the ball-fields, birded the East Bay loop before car-pooling to Spanco and birding the trails back to the ball-fields.

The shorter trip (2.5 hours) met at Spanco, then carpoled to the Belmont FD, and birded the trails back to Spanco. Chip commented that it might have been better to have done it in reverse because of the direction of the sun.

It was unseasonably cold with a temperature of only 27 F at 8:00 a.m. It felt colder even though there was little wind. Twelve GCBC members and one guest (from Valdosta, GA) braved the low temperatures and enjoyed a productive morning's birding.

The combined lists (see below) show a total of 50 species. We did not see any of the hoped-for winter ducks. They should arrive soon.

Highlights were definitely the large flocks of Rusty Blackbirds seen by both groups, principally in the South Bay.



A Sharp-shinned Hawk was a nice find by Chip's group near the feeders, but its presence had understandably scared away other birds. Fortunately, it had left by the time Paul's group arrived and five Purple Finches were on the feeders (lifer for at least one participant). Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good!

Species List:

Species	Short walk	Long walk
Canada Goose	14	36
Wood Duck	4	8
Mallard	44	56
Pied-billed Grebe		2
Great Blue Heron		4
Black Vulture	1	1
Turkey Vulture	2	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	
Cooper's Hawk		1
Red-shouldered Hawk		1
Killdeer		1
Mourning Dove	4	2
Belted Kingfisher		2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2
Downy Woodpecker		7
Northern Flicker	2	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	
Eastern Phoebe	2	3
Blue Jay	4	3
American Crow	6	3
Carolina Chickadee	1	8
Tufted Titmouse	2	7
White-breasted Nuthatch		2



Species	Short walk	Long walk
Brown-headed Nuthatch		2
Carolina Wren	2	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		6
Eastern Bluebird	8	2
Hermit Thrush	1	5
American Robin		31
Brown Thrasher	2	5
Northern Mockingbird	2	2
European Starling	4	100
Cedar Waxwing	10	33
Yellow-rumped Warbler		9
Eastern Towhee	1	5
Chipping Sparrow		20
Field Sparrow	1	2
Song Sparrow		6
Swamp Sparrow	3	1
White-throated Sparrow	2	12
Dark-eyed Junco		2
Northern Cardinal	7	7
Red-winged Blackbird	7	5
Rusty Blackbird	120	150
Common Grackle	10	52
House Finch		5
Purple Finch		5
American Goldfinch	4	4
Totals: 50	32	48

