

Greenville County Bird Club trip report

Dates: Saturday, April 11 and Sunday April 12, 2015

Location: Huntington Beach SP and Santee Coastal Reserve

Leader: Paul Serridge

Despite the discouraging weather forecast 5 GCBC members made the trip to the SC coast and enjoyed some excellent birding. The weather forecast was completely wrong and after a few raindrops early on Saturday there was no rain for the rest of the weekend.

After first checking out a marsh in Litchfield, we spent Saturday at Huntington Beach SP. We birded the Causeway, the Atalaya Carriageway, the Education Center area including the boardwalk, Sandpiper Pond and the North Beach and Jetty areas. In other words, we covered a good part of the park - but not all of it as that would require more than one day. We met a couple of Maryland birders on the Causeway who were discovering HBSP. We invited them to join us and they stayed with us for the entire day - good birders and good company.

On Sunday we spent the morning at Santee Coastal Reserve, birding the long, beautiful entrance drive, the boardwalk in the Washo section, and the Dug Well Trail near the boat ramp. The highlight was a male Bachman's Sparrow which we saw in exactly the same area that we had found one on the GCBC Coastal trip in February. In fact, we heard two Bachman's Sparrows singing, but saw only one of them. We were less lucky with the targeted Red-cockaded Woodpecker, although Michael Oliver had seen one before the rest of us arrived.

The table below shows a combined weekend total of **103 species**.
A successful trip!

Species	HBSP (and Litchfield)	Santee Coastal Reserve
Wood Duck		1
Gadwall		1
Mottled Duck		5
Blue-winged Teal	8	
Green-winged Teal	1	24
Lesser Scaup		1
Red-breasted Merganser	3	
Common Loon		4
Pied-billed Grebe	7	2
Horned Grebe	12	
Wood Stork		1
Double-crested Cormorant	150	4

Anhinga	4	11
Brown Pelican	6	
Great Blue Heron	5	2
Great Egret	13	5
Snowy Egret	13	
Tricolored Heron	1	1
Green Heron	8	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron		1
Black Vulture		2
Turkey Vulture	1	12
Osprey	2	1
Northern Harrier		1
Bald Eagle	3	3
Red-tailed Hawk		1
Clapper Rail	1	
Common Gallinule	5	
American Coot	17	22
American Oystercatcher	1	
Black-bellied Plover	24	
Wilson's Plover	2	
Semipalmated Plover	200	
Black-necked Stilt		4
Greater Yellowlegs	1	
Willet	15	
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	
Ruddy Turnstone	6	
Sanderling	19	
Dunlin	55	
Least Sandpiper	1	
Western Sandpiper	4	
Short-billed Dowitcher	43	
Laughing Gull	4	7
Ring-billed Gull	2	
Herring Gull	3	
Least Tern	3	
Caspian Tern	5	
Forster's Tern	8	6
Royal Tern	15	
Sandwich Tern	3	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	
Mourning Dove	3	1
Barred Owl		1
Eastern Whip-poor-will		1

Belted Kingfisher	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1
Downy Woodpecker		1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker		1
Pileated Woodpecker		2
Great-crested Flycatcher	1	3
Eastern Kingbird		1
White-eyed Vireo		1
Red-eyed Vireo		3
Blue Jay	1	2
American Crow		2
Fish Crow	12	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	
Tree Swallow	45	100
Barn Swallow	1	1
Carolina Chickadee	2	2
Tufted Titmouse	4	
Brown-headed Nuthatch		2
Marsh Wren	1	
Carolina Wren	1	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	
Eastern Bluebird		2
Gray Catbird	1	
Brown Thrasher	1	
Northern Mockingbird	1	
Cedar Waxwing	100	
Black-and-white Warbler	1	
Prothonotary Warbler	2	3
Common Yellowthroat		1
Northern Parula		5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	
Pine Warbler		4
Yellow-throated Warbler		4
Eastern Towhee		1
Savannah Sparrow		1
Seaside Sparrow	2	
Bachman's Sparrow		2
White-throated Sparrow	2	
Summer Tanager		2
Northern Cardinal	6	
Painted Bunting	2	
Red-winged Blackbird	1	30

Eastern Meadowlark	1	
Boat-tailed Grackle	5	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	
House Finch	1	
House Sparrow	1	
Totals: 103	72	58