

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: July 25-26, 2015

Location: Allendale Kite Fields, Bear Island WMA and Donnelley WMA

Leader: Denise DuPon

Species List: 74



Swallow-tailed Kite by Don Faulkner

Six GCBC members met on Millett Road in Allendale County, SC on a warm July morning in the hopes of seeing Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites feeding over the fields. We were not disappointed! Shortly after our arrival, we were rewarded with a display of a Swallow-tailed and a Mississippi kite chasing each other right over our heads! Although we did not have the numbers of kites that we have had in previous years, the show was well worth the trip, with over 20 Swallow-tailed and almost 15 Mississippi Kites. We chased a Shrike down the power line for a ways; he was not as cooperative as the kites, and found Eastern Meadowlark, White Ibis and Cattle Egret in

the field, as well. From there, we had a quick stop at a pond off Furse Mill Road where we had sightings of Anhinga, Green Heron, Common Gallinule and Wood Duck. The gnats and heat were bad enough to keep the stop short, and we headed off for an air-conditioned lunch.

After lunch in Allendale, we took a loop around some of the agricultural fields south of town. The heat kept bird activity to a minimum, but we managed to add Little Blue Heron, Painted and Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak to the list. The kite field at Barton Road and Revolutionary Trail was quiet, with only a few kites spotted at a distance. Here we lost a couple of our participants and added one before heading to Walterboro. Lewis Burke led us to the Great Swamp Sanctuary in Walterboro, where we walked the boardwalk through a hardwood forest. It was late in the day but we managed to get a glimpse of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and good looks at a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher before heading to dinner in Walterboro and preparations for the next day's adventure.



Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites by Don Faulkner

Sunday we drove to Bear Island finding over 400 Tree Swallows on the power lines along Bennett's Point



Hog Island Impoundment by Len Kopka

Road. I have never seen Mary's House Pond so empty of bird life, and every impoundment was full as we searched for low water and shorebirds. We had a sudden glimpse up ahead at a trunk gate full of activity. We tried to sneak up without flushing all the birds and found abundant Wood Stork, White and Glossy Ibis and good numbers of herons. While we were watching, a WMA employee drove up and we asked where we could find low water, he told us Hog Island was in the process of coming

down and where to park for the best views. We were invited to the party! Hog Island impoundment was full of waders: 21 White Pelicans, more than 50 Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, Glossy and White Ibis, Snowy Egrets too numerous to count, Black-necked Stilts, Tricolor and Little Blue Herons. We had a bit of trouble identifying the terns, but we had Black Tern and Forester's, for sure. The water was still a bit deep for shorebirds, but we were able to find Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted and Solitary Sandpiper and a couple of unnamed peeps. As a fitting end we had a Least Bittern make a quick appearance to send us off to lunch in the shade at the edge of Mary's House Pond.

The afternoon was spent at Donnelley WMA in the hopes of Purple Gallinule and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. We spotted one immature Purple Gallinule at Savage Backwater, but were unable to find any Whistling-Ducks. We ID'd a Northern Parula to bring our warbler count for the weekend up to two. The heat finally did us in, and we headed home with a total count of 74 species. Good birding and great birders had made for a fantastic weekend!



Birders scoping the birds by Len Kopka

Species List:

Wood Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker
American White Pelican	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Anhinga	Downy Woodpecker
Least Bittern	Pileated Woodpecker
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Great Egret	Acadian Flycatcher
Snowy Egret	Great-crested Flycatcher
Little Blue Heron	Eastern Kingbird
Tricolored Heron	Loggerhead Shrike
Cattle Egret	White-eyed Vireo
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Blue Jay
White Ibis	American Crow
Glossy Ibis	Fish Crow
Roseate Spoonbill	Purple Martin
Wood Stork	Tree Swallow
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse
Swallow-tailed Kite	Carolina Wren
Mississippi Kite	Marsh Wren
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Bluebird
Purple Gallinule	Northern Mockingbird
Common Gallinule	Northern Parula
Killdeer	Common Yellowthroat
Black-necked Stilt	Summer Tanager
Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Towhee
Lesser Yellowlegs	Northern Cardinal
Solitary Sandpiper	Blue Grosbeak
Spotted Sandpiper	Indigo Bunting
Laughing Gull	Painted Bunting
Forster's Tern	Red-winged Blackbird
Black Tern	Eastern Meadowlark
Black Skimmer	Boat-tailed Grackle
Mourning Dove	Common Grackle
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	American Goldfinch

References:

Here are links to a couple of Google Maps we used this weekend, provided by Jeff Click.

Allendale:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=z0DI8k9rcYNM.kl0PNkmRN1vo>

Bear Island:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=z0DI8k9rcYNM.kBlgh6s2wlrM>