

Report of the Greenville County Fall Migration Count 2015

33 Participants:

Joan Baker*, Shelby Birch, Jeff Click*, Don Cox, Steve Cox*, Donnie Coody*, Denise DuPon*, Ed Engasser, Ruth Engasser, Chip Gilbert, Sara Gilbert, Joyce Hall, Simon Harvey, Peter Hens, Genny Hill, JB Hines*, Rob Hunnings*, Jerry Johnson, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer*, Tim Lee, Yves Limpalair, Cathy McClintock, Eric McFalls, Chris Peak*, Jim Pirrone, Merikay Pirrone, Charlie Rucinski, Barbara Serridge*, Paul Serridge*, Judith Webb*, Art Young, Susan Zickos.

(* indicates section leaders.)

The count was originally scheduled for Saturday, September 26 with Sunday as the rain date. The weather was not conducive to birding on either day - very low cloud, mist, periods of rain, moderate wind, and less than perfect visibility. The decision on whether to bird on Saturday or postpone until Sunday was taken by individual leaders. The weather was marginally better on Sunday.

12 parties covered different areas of Greenville County, 4 on Saturday, 8 on Sunday. In addition several individuals reported birds at backyard feeders or from spots not covered by parties.

100 species were reported, with a total of **41230** individuals.

Those figures are similar to the averages over the past 10 years: 103 and 4448 respectively. Thanks to the commitment of all we had a reasonable count in spite of the weather.

A Vesper Sparrow at Wilson's Farm was a first for a Fall Count, bringing the total species reported since we started keeping records to 156.

At the other end of the birding spectrum a House Sparrow reported from a feeder was the only one of that species reported during the count. Only 1 House Sparrow in Greenville County?

Some expected species were not reported, in part because of the weather. For example, the weather wiped out the hawk watch at Caesar's Head and so there were no Broad-winged Hawks. Similarly, the weather put paid to any nocturnal birding and so no Eastern Screech-Owl was reported. But how to explain a complete absence of Common Grackles in Greenville County over the 2 days of the count? Birding is certainly serendipitous.

Many thanks to all who participated, especially the leaders who submitted detailed reports in a very short time.