

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: March 5, 2016

Location: Devils Fork State Park and Lake Jocassee, SC

Leaders: Jeff Click and Brooks Wade



Eleven birders ventured up to Devils Fork State Park on Saturday, March 5, for a cool day of birding. We started off the morning birding around the visitor center, where we found Dark-eyed Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, Eastern Bluebirds, and some of the other usual subjects. We then hiked around the Oconee Bell Trail, where the birding was rather slow. We did find a few nice things, including a Brown Creeper, some Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a fleeting glimpse of a Hermit Thrush.

Activity picked up a great deal after we met club member and owner of Jocassee Lake Tours, Brooks Wade. Now with an even dozen birders, we set out onto the lake and almost immediately began getting very close looks at Common Loons and Horned Grebes. As we cruised around the lake, we encountered loons in several different molt stages, and found two large groups actively feeding, making for a couple of nice shows. We also ended up with three species of gulls on the lake, and also got to enjoy some of the beautiful waterfalls and other scenery Lake Jocassee has to offer.

Thanks are due to Brooks, who did a great job (as always) showing us around the lake and teaching us about loons.

Species List (36 Total)

Canada Goose	American Crow
Bufflehead	Carolina Chickadee
Hooded Merganser	Tufted Titmouse
Common Loon	White-breasted Nuthatch
Pied-billed Grebe	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Horned Grebe	Brown Creeper
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Wren
Great Blue Heron	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black Vulture	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Bluebird
Bonaparte's Gull	Hermit Thrush
Ring-billed Gull	American Robin
Herring Gull	Pine Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Chipping Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Flicker	Northern Cardinal
Pileated Woodpecker	House Finch
Blue Jay	American Goldfinch



Common Loons
Photos by Chip Gilbert



Lake Jocassee
Photo by David Booth