

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: July 15, 2017

Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park

Leaders: Paul Serridge and Denise DuPon



See below for a summary of both the regular and shorter walks.

Regular (Longer) Walk

Started at 7 AM

Finished a few minutes after 11 AM

Distance: about 3 miles (not including back-tracking)

9 GCBC members participated in the longer walk.

We followed the Raccoon Run trail as far as the edge of the landfill, then the gravel trail to the top of the landfill.

We returned via the other leg of the Raccoon Run trail, then birded the Sparkleberry Connector and the Flat Tail trail to its northern end (passing through the bamboo grove).

We did a U-turn and went to the North Slough and the West Bay.

The trees along the gravel trail in the landfill were very birdy and we found the hoped-for Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks at the top of the landfill.

After that the birding was rather slow but the final count was pretty good for mid-July.

47 species

Canada Goose 5

Wood Duck 10 Flyovers seen from the gravel trail through the landfill/

Great Blue Heron 3 Including 1 on each of 2 nests. All the other nests were empty.

Great Egret 2 Flying high over the West Bay.

Red-shouldered Hawk 2

Red-tailed Hawk 1 Landfill area.

Mourning Dove 8

Barred Owl 1

Chimney Swift 4

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 5

Red-bellied Woodpecker 4

Downy Woodpecker 2

Eastern Wood-Pewee 2 Landfill area.

Acadian Flycatcher 1

Eastern Phoebe 4 Landfill area.

Great Crested Flycatcher 2 Landfill area.
Eastern Kingbird 2 Landfill area.
White-eyed Vireo 6
Blue Jay 2
American Crow 4
Fish Crow 4
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1
Purple Martin 7 West Bay.
Barn Swallow 4 Landfill area.
Carolina Chickadee 5
Tufted Titmouse 4
White-breasted Nuthatch 2
Brown-headed Nuthatch 1
Carolina Wren 5
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12
Eastern Bluebird 3
American Robin 5
Brown Thrasher 4
Northern Mockingbird 2
European Starling 12
Common Yellowthroat 3
Grasshopper Sparrow 3 On the rocks at the top of the landfill. 2 adults, 1 juvenile.
Chipping Sparrow 3 Conestee Park.
Eastern Towhee 1
Northern Cardinal 14
Blue Grosbeak 1 Landfill area.
Indigo Bunting 6 Landfill area and Reedy River Bridge
Red-winged Blackbird 10
Eastern Meadowlark 2 Landfill area.
Common Grackle 35 Flyovers.
Brown-headed Cowbird 5
American Goldfinch 10 Landfill area.

Shorter Walk

We had quite 4 club members (two of them new) and two guests participate in a good morning's outing with a couple of surprising sightings.

It started at the Spanco Drive parking lot with a mother Wood Duck and her 5 babies, not something we expected in mid July, and a Great Egret feeding in the grasses. At the West Bay overlook we had an up close, 5 minute, encounter with a Great Blue Heron, fishing for crayfish off the boardwalk within 20 feet of where we stood!

There were still two or three young Herons in the rookery letting Mom and Dad do the hard work of gathering lunch while they squawked in the trees.

Many thanks to Joan Baker for keeping the species list and adding so many great photos. Be sure to click on the ebird link at the bottom to see all the pictures.

Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, South Carolina, US

Jul 15, 2017 7:36 AM - 10:58 AM

Protocol: Traveling

0.9 mile(s)

Comments: Sunny, 80-85 F

25 species

Canada Goose 2

Wood Duck 6 Female with 5 ducklings in south bay

Great Blue Heron 8 3 juv in one nest, with adult coming in to feed. 1 juv on boardwalk very close to us, catching craw fish.

Great Egret 1 South bay

Mourning Dove 4

Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2 One was calling behind Spanco parking lot, another in tall trees near bird feeders on SRT, then it flew over

Chimney Swift 3

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2

Downy Woodpecker 1

Eastern Phoebe 2

Great Crested Flycatcher 1

Blue Jay 2

Purple Martin 4

Barn Swallow 12 On utility wires at Conestee Mill

Tufted Titmouse 2

Brown-headed Nuthatch 1

Carolina Wren 5

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2

Eastern Bluebird 3

Brown Thrasher 2

Common Yellowthroat 2

Eastern Towhee 1

Northern Cardinal 5

Indigo Bunting 2

Red-winged Blackbird 2

View this checklist online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S38159236>