

Hello GC Birders,

The Greenville County 2012 Fall Migration Count was held on Saturday, September 15th and included the monthly GCBC walk at Lake Conestee . Weather conditions were excellent this year with a low of 63F and high of 82F under mostly clear skies and light wind. Eight parties/areas were covered by 27 participants. The group species total was 103 with 6217 individuals. In general this year's fall migration has been very good with excellent numbers of migrants showing up as early as late August and continuing through the end of September. Early reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches is encouraging, hopefully this will be an irruption year for winter migrants.

Previous count results:

2011(9/17) 110sp
2010(9/18) 103sp
2009(9/19) 92sp
2008(9/27) 111sp
2007(9/15) 82sp
2006(9/16) 87sp

The high count honors go to the team of Shelby Birch and Donnie Coody with 64 species from Wilson's Farm and other areas. Second place honors go to the team of Judy and Charles Webb with 60 species from the Lake Lanier area and Landrum. The third place honors go to the Lake Conestee group of 14 led by Paul Serridge with 55 species. As usual for these counts, almost every group added one or more unique species to the total .

Notable species(rare/unusual, unusually high numbers, etc):

Blue-winged Teal(25) at Lake Conestee,
Broad-winged Hawk(661), Peregrine Falcon(1), Osprey(2), Common Raven(2),
and D-e Junco(8) Elizabeth Galloway/Tim Lee at Caesar's Head and vicinity.

Common Raven(2), R-b Nuthatch(5), D-e Junco(1) Rhonda Dodson and Brad Dalton at Ashmore HP

Great Egret(1) , G-c Kinglet(1), R-c Kinglet(4), Donnie & Shelby at Wilson's Farm

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds(530) An average count of 500(estimated based on nectar consumed) were at Judy and Charles Webb's feeders at Lake Lanier. They also had an early Calliope Hummingbird again. The Webb's also reported the American Bittern seen on a pond near Landrum.

A somewhat low total of 14 species of warblers were recorded for this count.

Species not seen: sandpipers, terns, gulls, nightjars

Many thanks to everyone who participated. Great job!!! The excel attachment contains the species list which will be submitted to the state migration count coordinator. Any questions, comments or corrections are welcome. I was not able to list the names of all participants, so let me know if your name was left out.

J.B. Hines