

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: February 4, 2012

Location: Santee National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Susie Heisey

Susie Heisey, a ranger at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, led a group of 30 birders through several areas of the Refuge. We started at the Bluff Unit, where we spotted Sandhill Cranes, several species of ducks, Bald Eagles and other raptors, American Pipits, and various other birds in the fields and impoundments. On the Wright's Bluff Nature Trail, we found Orange-crowned and Black-and-white Warblers as well as Blue-headed Vireo, and some of the group was treated to a daylight look at a Barred Owl.

After lunch at the Visitor Center, we moved on to the Cuddo Unit. At Cuddo West, we found more ducks, an Anhinga, a Northern Harrier, and a group of feral pigs. As we continued around Cuddo East, we saw Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's Terns, Horned Grebes, and some very large alligators.

Later in the afternoon, a smaller group of birders continued back to the Cuddo Unit to spot a group of over 50 White Pelicans that had been reported, and then went to the Pine Island Unit of the Refuge to look for sparrows. We were rewarded with a very cooperative Le Conte's Sparrow, which was relocated the next morning by a group who camped in the area overnight.

Special thanks are due to Susie for leading our group, showing us into areas to which we would not otherwise have had access, and handling a very large group with grace.

Great trip! In all, we finished with 87 species. The full list and some photos from the trip are below.

Canada Goose	Great Egret	Belted Kingfisher
Wood Duck	White Ibis	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Gadwall	Black Vulture	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
American Wigeon	Turkey Vulture	Downy Woodpecker
American Black Duck	Osprey	Northern Flicker
Mallard	Bald Eagle	Pileated Woodpecker
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Harrier	Eastern Phoebe
Northern Shoveler	<i>Accipiter Species</i>	Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Pintail	Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-headed Vireo
Green-winged Teal	Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay
Ring-necked Duck	American Kestrel	American Crow
Hooded Merganser	<i>Falcon Species (non-Kestrel)</i>	Fish Crow
Wild Turkey	American Coot	Carolina Chickadee
Common Loon	Sandhill Crane	Tufted Titmouse
Pied-billed Grebe	Killdeer	Carolina Wren
Horned Grebe	Bonaparte's Gull	House Wren
American White Pelican	Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Forster's Tern	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Anhinga	Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Barred Owl	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

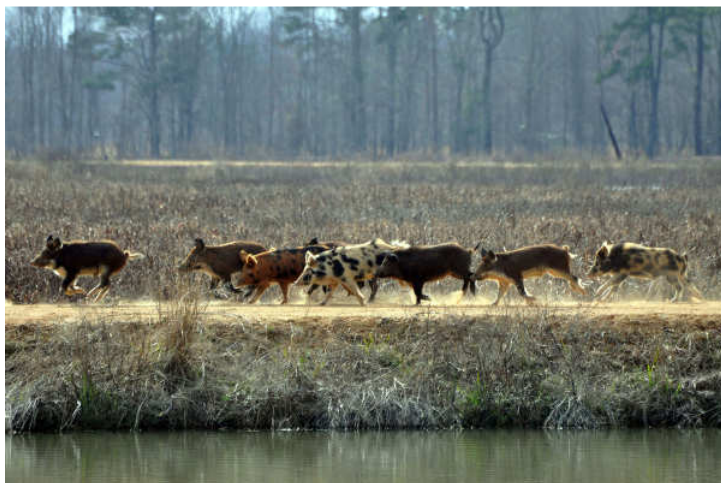
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
House Finch



Barred Owl – Don Faulkner, photo



Feral pigs – Don Faulkner, photo



LeConte's Sparrow – Shelby Birch, photo



Birders – Don Faulkner, photo