

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

- Date:** January 12, 2008
- Location:** Dreher Island State Park, near Prosperity, SC
- Leader:** Irvin Pitts, Resource Management Chief, SC State Park Service, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Comments:** Submitted by Paul Serridge
- Photos:** *Photos follow the species list and were provided by Don Faulkner*

9 GCBC members visited parts of Dreher Island State Park on the shores of Lake Murray. We were guided by Irvin Pitts, who worked for over 5 years at Caesar's Head State Park where he started the annual fall migration Hawk Watch. The morning started off rather cold and windy but the temperature gradually increased and by noon we were able to eat our packed lunches in bright sunshine at a picnic table on the shores of the lake.

Just before arriving at the park a few of us got pretty excited to spot a Great-horned Owl perched on the top of a utility pole near a causeway. The excitement turned to mild embarrassment when we saw that the owl was a decoy! Irvin lead us to several different stops on the shore of the lake where we were able to put up the scopes as well as do some land-birding in the adjacent woods and grasslands. On the lake we spotted the expected winter birds including several Common Loons, half a dozen Horned Grebes, and 3 species of Gull (Ring-billed, Herring and Bonaparte's). A Wilson's snipe was spotted soon after we started and proceeded to frustrate us by running or flying to a new place and literally disappearing into the background. Don Faulkner managed to get a good photograph of the Snipe in flight. I don't know how he did it as it was hard to even get binoculars on the bird!

Soon afterwards we spotted a mature Bald Eagle flying over the lake and later saw a second Eagle, but this time an immature bird. Woodland birds were rather scarce but thanks to Irvin's excellent ear we were able to track down and get good looks at several species including Cedar Waxwings, lots of Brown Creepers, both Kinglets and very cooperative Brown-headed and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

In all we reported 46 species. Before the trip started Irvin had heard American Pipits flying over but did not see them. Also 4 unidentified peeps, probably Least Sandpipers at this season, do not show on the trip list (see below). On behalf of the GCBC membership I would like to extend our thanks to Irvin Pitts for the excellent job of leading this enjoyable trip.

Paul

Bird List:

Species:

Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
American Kestrel
Killdeer
Wilson's Snipe
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird

Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pine Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
American Goldfinch

Photos:

Photos provided by Don Faulkner:





