

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: February 24-26, 2012

Location: South Carolina Coast

Leader: Jeff Click

A group of GCBC members and guests varying in size from 4 to 8 had a great trip to several locations along the South Carolina Coast.

On Friday, February 24th, we started at **Donnelley Wildlife Management Area**, where we found a good variety of birds. Highlights were several species of ducks, White Pelicans, Anhingas, Clapper and King Rails (heard), Sora (seen), and the trip's only Black Skimmer. We also had singing Yellow-throated Warblers, and some Rusty Blackbirds. In the afternoon, we moved on to **Bear Island WMA**, where we found the best bird of the trip, a Hudsonian Godwit, on Mary's House Pond. We also had Tundra Swans, more ducks, a Peregrine Falcon, large numbers of American Avocets, and a Loggerhead Shrike. We even found a Black Swan on one of the impoundments! The rain that had been predicted held off until we were ready to leave.

We spent most of Saturday at the **Santee Coastal Reserve Wildlife Management Area**, where we looked in vain several times for Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Despite that miss, we still had good luck with several other species, including Snow Geese, large numbers of ducks, another Peregrine Falcon, a variety of gulls, including some Laughing Gulls that already had black heads, and a decent selection of warblers. Later that afternoon, we birded in the **Santee Delta WMA** until dusk. The best bird there was King Rail, heard by all but spotted only by one. We also had Sedge Wren, a photogenic Anhinga, and a Wood Stork carrying a fish.

Sunday was spent at **Huntington Beach State Park**, which was its usual productive self. After birding the causeway for ducks and shorebirds, we headed out to the beach to walk up to the jetty. On the way, we found Red-throated and Common Loons, Black Scoters, Gannets, and Horned Grebes. Some were able to see a Pomarine Jaeger that was harassing some gulls. At the jetty and inlet, we found the Purple Sandpipers and a large flock of shorebirds that included a Piping Plover and a single American Oystercatcher. HBSP produced the greatest variety of shorebirds (14 species) of anyplace on the trip, as expected. On the walk back through the dunes, Brad Dalton was able to spot and photograph a Le Conte's Sparrow, although the bird refused to cooperate for anyone else. At Sandpiper Pond we were able to finally see a Marsh Wren, which we had heard in several other places over the weekend.

After Huntington, some of the group stopped at the **Georgetown Water Treatment Plant** on the way home, finding nothing exciting, while two birders headed for **Hemingway, SC** to see a Bullock's Oriole that had been frequenting a feeder there. All in all, we had a great trip, and finished with 138 species. The list is below.

Total Species: 138

Snow Goose	Red-shouldered Hawk
Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk
Tundra Swan	American Kestrel
<i>Black Swan</i> (at BIWMA; not counted in total)	Peregrine Falcon
Wood Duck	Clapper Rail
Gadwall	King Rail
American Wigeon	Sora
American Black Duck	Common Moorhen
Mottled Duck	American Coot
Blue-winged Teal	Black-bellied Plover
Northern Shoveler	Semipalmated Plover
Northern Pintail	Piping Plover
Green-winged Teal	Killdeer
Ring-necked Duck	American Oystercatcher
Lesser Scaup	American Avocet
<i>Greater Scaup</i> (possible bird at HBSP; not counted in total)	Greater Yellowlegs
Black Scoter	Willet
Bufflehead	Lesser Yellowlegs
Hooded Merganser	Hudsonian Godwit
Red-breasted Merganser	Ruddy Turnstone
Ruddy Duck	Sanderling
Wild Turkey	Western Sandpiper
Red-throated Loon	Purple Sandpiper
Common Loon	Dunlin
Pied-billed Grebe	Short-billed Dowitcher
Horned Grebe	<i>Long-billed Dowitcher</i> (probable bird at BIWMA; not in total)
Northern Gannet	Wilson's Snipe
American White Pelican	Laughing Gull
Brown Pelican	Bonaparte's Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-billed Gull
Anhinga	Herring Gull
Great Blue Heron	Great Black-backed Gull
Great Egret	Caspian Tern
Snowy Egret	Forster's Tern
Little Blue Heron	Royal Tern
Tricolored Heron	Black Skimmer
White Ibis	Pomarine Jaeger
Glossy Ibis	Rock Pigeon
Wood Stork	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Black Vulture	Mourning Dove
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher
Osprey	Red-headed Woodpecker
Bald Eagle	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Harrier	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Cooper's Hawk	Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Loggerhead Shrike
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird

Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle
Bullock's Oriole (Hemingway, SC; not in total)
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow



Hudsonian Godwit – Jon Rouse, photo



Great Black-backed Gull – Brad Dalton, photo



Anhinga – Jon Rouse, photo



Purple Sandpiper – Jon Rouse, photo



Le Conte's Sparrow – Brad Dalton, photo



Great Black-backed Gull and Ring-billed Gull with fish envy – Brad Dalton, photo