Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

**Date:** December 17, 2011

**Location:** Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC

**Leader:** Paul Serridge

**Comments:** 10 GCBC members and 1 guest participated in a good morning’s birding at Conestee. We started by birding the loop at the East Bay (Ring-necks and Pied-billed Grebes on the lake) and then car-pooled to the Spanco Drive trailhead. We birded our way back to the stadium and covered most of the trails.

We reported 50 species, a good count for mid-December, but, unfortunately, the American Bittern was not seen (the last reported sighting was on Dec 14) and we saw only 3 Rusty Blackbirds. Highlights included a sole American Coot on the lake near Spanco, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks catching prey in the shallows, a Hairy Woodpecker near the boardwalk on the white trail, a Gray Catbird (the first ever reported at Conestee in December), and an Orange-crowned Warbler near the long boardwalk below the stadium. There was a River Otter in the shallows near Spanco Drive. Today’s list brought the month’s total to 66, just 2 short of the December record – and there are still 2 weeks left in the month.

**Bird List:**
- Canada Goose  28
- Wood Duck     1
- Mallard       26
- Ring-necked Duck  3
- Pied-billed Grebe  3
- Great Blue Heron  4
- Cooper's Hawk   1
- Red-shouldered Hawk  3
- Red-tailed Hawk  1
- American Coot   1
- Rock Pigeon     2
- Mourning Dove   15
- Barred Owl      1
- Belted Kingfisher 1
- Red-bellied Woodpecker  8
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  4
- Downy Woodpecker  8
Hairy Woodpecker  1
Northern Flicker    6
Pileated Woodpecker 2
Eastern Phoebe     3
Blue Jay          1
American Crow 7
Carolina Chickadee 20
Tufted Titmouse  9
White-breasted Nuthatch  3
Brown-headed Nuthatch 2
Brown Creeper 3
Carolina Wren 13
Golden-crowned Kinglet 2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4
Eastern Bluebird 6
Hermit Thrush     1
American Robin 8
Gray Catbird      1
Northern Mockingbird 3
Brown Thrasher 3
European Starling 24
Orange-crowned Warbler 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 4
Eastern Towhee 6
Field Sparrow 5
Song Sparrow 11
Swamp Sparrow 4
White-throated Sparrow 18
Dark-eyed Junco 15
Northern Cardinal 12
Red-winged Blackbird 3
Rusty Blackbird 3
American Goldfinch 5