

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: July 27 – 28, 2013

Locations: Allendale Kite Fields, Orangeburg Super Sod Farm, Bear Island WMA, and Donnelley WMA

Leader: Jeff Click



Swallow-tailed Kites

All photos in this report courtesy of Don Faulkner

The club had a remarkable outing to a few locations in the coastal plain, not only in quantity of species, but also in quality. Four of us made the drive down, and bumped into some others along the way. We started Saturday birding at Millet Road, northeast of Allendale, where we had unbelievable numbers of Swallow-tailed Kites (over 300), as well as good numbers of Mississippi Kites. See the photos below for some idea of the numbers. We stopped at Furse Pond briefly, where we saw some fledgling Common Gallinules, before having lunch in Allendale. After lunch, we checked out some areas south of Allendale, where we found more kites, Blue Grosbeaks, and an Orchard Oriole, although we dipped on Dickcissel, one of the targets of this area.

For Saturday afternoon, we went to the Super Sod farm at Orangeburg, where we found a number of good shorebirds, including Upland Sandpiper, as well as Common Ground Dove and Horned Larks. We also spotted a soaring Wood Stork, quite an unusual sight this far inland. We grabbed dinner and spent the night in Walterboro.

We started Sunday morning with a large flock of Tree Swallows accumulated on the power lines just outside Bear Island WMA. While observing them, we had a group of Black Terns fly by, one of our seven species (!) of terns for the weekend. As we proceeded into Bear Island, we picked up Loggerhead Shrike, and the first of several Least Bitterns, which seemed to be everywhere. We moved quickly to the impoundments at the end of Pecan Trees Road to find the previously reported Wilson's Phalarope, which was swimming around not too far off. We also found Black-necked Stilts, White Pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, and several species of terns here, including Black, Gull-billed, Forster's, Common, and Caspian, along with a few shorebirds.

At the impoundment at the end of Ti-ti Road, we found another large group of shorebirds, including Semipalmated Plovers, Stilt Sandpipers, both Dowitchers, and several peeps, including one that gave the impression of a White-rumped Sandpiper before disappearing behind the reeds. We were also lucky enough to locate a second Wilson's Phalarope! We also had nice looks at Clapper Rail, Roseate Spoonbill, and Wood Storks here.

That afternoon we headed to Donnelley WMA, where we picked up more nice species. At the Savage Backwater area, we found several Black-bellied Whistling-ducks and spotted a Purple Gallinule. Near the lodge, we managed a look at a Yellow-throated Vireo and a Painted Bunting, which we thought we'd heard in a couple of other spots.

We had a great trip, finishing with 108 species. The full list and some other resources are below.

References

Google map of the Allendale area:

<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zoDI8k9rcYNM.kqqawDCTgQes>

Some useful information can be found in the following Carolina Bird Club site descriptions:

Allendale: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/sites/SC/allendale.html>

Orangeburg: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/sites/SC/orangeburgsodfarms.html>

Bear Island: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/sites/SC/bearisland.html>

Donnelley: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/sites/SC/donnelley.html>

Species List

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Wood Duck

Mallard

Mottled Duck

Northern Bobwhite

Pied-billed Grebe

Wood Stork

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Cormorant

Anhinga

American White Pelican

Least Bittern

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron

Cattle Egret

Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

White Ibis

Glossy Ibis

Roseate Spoonbill

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Osprey

Swallow-tailed Kite

Mississippi Kite

Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Clapper Rail

Purple Gallinule

Common Gallinule

Semipalmated Plover

Killdeer

Black-necked Stilt

Spotted Sandpiper

Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs

Upland Sandpiper

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Western Sandpiper

Least Sandpiper

White-rumped Sandpiper (?)

Pectoral Sandpiper

Stilt Sandpiper

Short-billed Dowitcher

Long-billed Dowitcher

Wilson's Phalarope

Laughing Gull

Least Tern

Gull-billed Tern

Caspian Tern

Black Tern

Common Tern

Forster's Tern

Royal Tern

Black Skimmer

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Common Ground-Dove

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Chimney Swift

Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Acadian Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow

Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Common Yellowthroat

Northern Parula
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Summer Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
House Sparrow

Photos

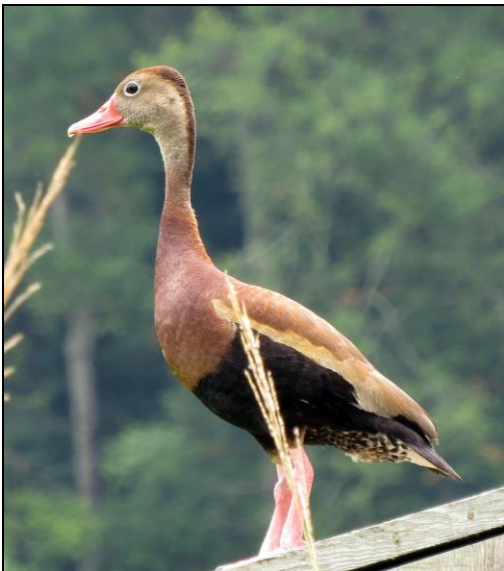
All photos in this report are courtesy of Don Faulkner.



Over 160 Kites, mostly Swallow-Tailed



47 Swallow-tailed Kites



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck



Least Bittern



Wood Storks



American White Pelican