Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

**Date:**
Friday, February 28 to Sunday, March 2, 2014

**Locations:**
Donnelly WMA, Bear Island, Santee Coastal Reserve, Santee Delta, and Huntington Beach State Park

**Co-Leaders:**
J.B. Hines and Jeff Click

**List Compilation and Narrative:**
J.B. Hines

**Duration:**
Three-day total

**Species Total:**
140

A group of GCBC members and guests numbering from seven to thirteen visited some of the major birding locations along the SC coast. This trip was unusual in having both good weather for three days and exceptional birds, with an impressive total of 140 species.

We started out Friday morning at Donnelly WMA with hopes of relocating the previously seen male Eurasian Wigeon. Although we did not find it, we found good numbers of waterfowl primarily on the lodge Pond, including American Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal. We moved on to Bear Island where we added American White Pelican, Glossy and White Ibis, Wood Stork, Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup and American Avocet. We also saw a nestling Great-horned Owl on an abandoned Bald Eagle’s nest with an Osprey occupying another Eagle’s nest.

We spent most of Saturday at Santee Coastal Reserve and Santee Delta. At SCR, we found the best bird of the trip, a male Eurasian Wigeon, thanks to Terry Redmile. There were two reported later (Sunday) by other birders. Other good species found there were Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and a very cooperative Bachman’s Sparrow. We continued to have good luck by scoping a Virginia Rail and a Sora in a narrow channel between the reeds in a draw-down impoundment. In addition, two Nelson’s Sparrows were walking along the bank in the same location. We also found Long-billed Dowitchers, a Stilt Sandpiper, Western and Least Sandpipers, and Wilson’s Snipes.

After a quick picnic lunch at SCR we stopped at the Santee Delta trail, where we found Rusty Blackbirds and several King Rails. One of the rails was seen and photographed. We also found our Orange-crowned Warbler there.

The last day of our outing was spent at Huntington Beach State Park where we birded the boardwalk in the marsh at the visitor center then walked to the jetty. At the jetty, we observed Purple Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones, all three scoter species, Common Eider, and Long-tailed Ducks. A Harbor Seal was seen swimming near the north jetty. We also added Bonaparte’s, Ring-billed, Laughing, Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls. Near the base of the jetty in the marsh area, we found two very cooperative Saltmarsh Sparrows. At the base of the jetty, we found good numbers of shorebirds on the mud flats. These included Piping, Wilson’s, Black-bellied, and Semipalmated Plovers. The sandpipers included Least and Western along with Short-billed Dowitchers.

Thanks to Jeff Click for co-leading this trip and to the other members whose keen senses helped with locating many of the species seen.
**Species List:**

- Red-throated Loon
- Common Loon
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Northern Gannet
- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Anhinga
- American Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- White Ibis
- Glossy Ibis
- Wood Stork
- Tundra Swan
- Mute Swan
- Wood Duck
- Green-winged Teal
- Mottled Duck
- Northern Pintail
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Gadwall

**Eurasian Wigeon**
- American Wigeon
- Redhead
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Black Scoter
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Bufflehead
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Wild Turkey

- Clapper Rail (h)
- King Rail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Common Gallinule
- American Coot
- Black-bellied Plover
- Wilson’s Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover
- Killdeer
- American Oystercatcher
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Sanderling
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Purple Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson’s snipe
- Laughing Gull
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Caspian Tern
- Royal Tern
- Forster’s Tern
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Great Horned Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow

- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown-headed Nuthatch
- Carolina Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Bluebird
- American Robin
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher
- Cedar Waxwing
- Starling
- White-eyed Vireo
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Black & White Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Northern Cardinal
- Eastern Towhee

**Bachman’s Sparrow**
- Chipping Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow

**Nelson’s Sparrow**

**Saltmarsh Sparrow**
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Boat-tailed Grackle
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- American Goldfinch
- House Sparrow

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Greenville County Bird Club  
[www.qcbirdclub.org](http://www.qcbirdclub.org)
Photos: Photographic masterpieces generously shared by GCBC member Don Faulkner.

American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, and Coots

White-winged Scoters

male  female

Common Eider, female

Blue-winged Teal, male

N. Shoveler, female

Long-tailed Ducks, first winter

Northern Shovelers, males

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Greenville County Bird Club  www.gcbirdclub.org
American Avocet

Ruddy Turnstone

Virginia Rail

Sora

Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs

Dowitchers

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Bachman’s Sparrow

Red-cockaded woodpecker

Saltmarsh Sparrow

Marsh Wren

Double-crested Cormorants
adult (top) and juvenile (lower)

Wood Storks

Osprey

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