Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: February 19, 20, and 21, 2016 (small group outings began on 2/17)

Location: Coastal SC – multiple locations

Leaders: J.B. Hines and Jerry Johnson

List Compilation and Narrative: J.B. Hines

Duration: Three-day outing, plus two earlier small-group trips

Species Total: 120

The GCBC SC Coastal Trip for Feb. 19-21, 2016 produced 120 species and beautiful weather each day. Jerry Johnson and J.B. Hines started the trip on Thur. the 18th in order to explore the Ernest F. Hollings NWR and Botany Bay where we found the White-winged Scoters and Common Ground Doves. Paul Serridge and Don Faulkner also started a day early at Savannah NWR.

On Fri. Feb 19th, our group started the day at Donnelly WMA where we found ~150 Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers, along with both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, and Western Sandpipers. We also heard a King Rail and saw many waders and waterfowl species. At Bear Island WMA, the highlights were ~300 American Avocets in several different impoundments, White Pelicans, Tundra Swans, and a Barn Owl.

On Saturday, we birded at Santee Coastal WMA, Santee Delta WMA, the Yawkey Boat Landing, Georgetown Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the wetlands behind the Quality Inn motel. We found Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bonaparte’s Gulls, Laughing Gulls, Bald Eagles, Anhinga, and an early Purple Martin.

On Sunday, we birded Huntington Beach SP, where we added 10 new species to our trip list: Greater Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Red-throated and Common Loon, Sora, Semi-palmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Herring Gull, and White-throated Sparrow.
Combined Species List:

Canada Goose
Tundra Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mottled Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
White-winged Scoter (seen at Botany Bay on the 18th)
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Red-throated Loon
Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Wood Stork
Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
American White Pelican
Brown Pelican
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper’s Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
King Rail (heard only)
Sora
Common Gallinule
American Coot
American Avocet
Willet
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling
Dunlin
Western Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson’s Snipe
Bonaparte’s Gull
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian or Royal Tern (undecided)
Forster’s Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Common Ground Dove (at Botany Bay)
Barn Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Merlin
Eastern Phoebe
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Black-and-White Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch