

## ***Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report***

**Date:** Sunday, March 20, 2016

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

**Leader:** Paul Serridge

*The weather forecast for Saturday morning called for heavy rain and so the longer 3rd Saturday outing was postponed to the following day. As it turned out the forecast was totally wrong - there was no rain at all on Saturday and the shorter outing had taken place as planned.*

6 GCBC members participated on a cold and windy Sunday morning. What a change in temperature since yesterday!

At 8 we set off on the East Bay loop trails. We watched a flock of N. Rough-winged Swallows hawking insects over the lake. They had been reported last week along with the first Barn Swallows of the year. Today we found 2 Tree Swallows in the group - a first for the year at Conestee.

We then carpooled to Spanco, stopping at the Conestee Mill to look for more swallows. There we found the month's first House Sparrows, a rare bird at the park.

At the Spanco overlook we found a group of very well-camouflaged Wilson's Snipe but searched in vain for the Pectoral Sandpiper which had been reported on yesterday's outing. Pectorals are rare at Conestee and yesterday represented the earliest sighting of the species by 10 days.

We then birded the trails between Spanco and Conestee Park. Highlights included Winter Wren, Red-headed Woodpeckers (always a favorite), and the year's first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This was another case of earliest arrival date, but by only 1 day. After carpooling back to Spanco we again checked the Wilson's Snipe and this time we found the Pectoral Sandpiper.

Yves took this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2fwy0j7HEE>

Look carefully and you will find the sandpiper foraging behind the snipe. It's easy to understand how we missed it earlier.

We listed 56 species - 1 more than the March outing last year. We thank the House Sparrows for putting in an appearance.

### **Bird list:**

Canada Goose 9

Wood Duck 17

Mallard 9

Pied-billed Grebe 2

Great Blue Heron 11    7 active nests in West bay.

Black Vulture 2

Turkey Vulture 1

Red-shouldered Hawk 2    One on nest near West Bay.

Killdeer 2

Pectoral Sandpiper 1 On mud in South Bay. Seen from trailhead parking area close to group of Wilson's Snipe. Presumably the same bird reported yesterday.  
Wilson's Snipe 10 7 in South Bay; 3 in West Bay.  
Mourning Dove 2  
Belted Kingfisher 1  
Red-headed Woodpecker 2  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 5  
Downy Woodpecker 4  
Northern Flicker 1  
Pileated Woodpecker 1  
Eastern Phoebe 2  
Blue Jay 3  
American Crow 6  
Fish Crow 6  
crow sp. 4  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 15 10 in East Bay, 1 in South Bay, 4 in West Bay  
Tree Swallow 2 In East Bay flying with N. Rough-wings.  
Barn Swallow 7 2 in East Bay; 5 in South Bay.  
Carolina Chickadee 7  
Tufted Titmouse 3  
White-breasted Nuthatch 2  
Brown-headed Nuthatch 4  
Winter Wren 1  
Carolina Wren 7  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1 In West Bay not far from obs. deck.  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 1  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3  
Eastern Bluebird 8  
Hermit Thrush 2  
American Robin 9  
Brown Thrasher 4  
Northern Mockingbird 2  
European Starling 9  
Common Yellowthroat 1 Heard singing loudly in West Bay. Could not locate the singer!  
Pine Warbler 4  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1  
Chipping Sparrow 9  
Field Sparrow 3  
White-throated Sparrow 9  
Song Sparrow 1  
Swamp Sparrow 3  
Eastern Towhee 11  
Northern Cardinal 10  
Red-winged Blackbird 8

Common Grackle 1  
Brown-headed Cowbird 1  
House Finch 8  
American Goldfinch 12  
House Sparrow 2 At old mill (Spanco)