Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: January 19, 2008
Location: Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville SC
Leader: Paul Serridge

Comments: The weather forecast calling for drizzle turning to snow and falling temperatures probably explained why only 2 GCBC members and a guest made the trip to Lake Conestee Nature Park. Those who stayed home missed a pretty good morning’s birding. The north end of the lake yielded 3 new species for 2008: a lone Gadwall (only the second reported in the Park), 3 American Wigeons and a pair of Hooded Mergansers. There were also the expected Mallards and Ring-necked Ducks. Canada Geese and a Killdeer were heard overhead.

Just after the start of the white trail going down from the Belmont Fire Department we spotted a Great Horned Owl, bird # 146 for the Park.

On the trails we ran into a few pockets of birds. The highlights were excellent views of a Fox Sparrow (second report for the Park) foraging in the grasses near the main boardwalk at the junction of the red and blue trails, and a Hermit Thrush near the Reedy River Overlook.

Soon after we left the Observation Deck the rain became more persistent and we headed back to the trailhead at a rather brisk pace, stopping only once to watch a very cooperative White-breasted Nuthatch which seemed totally oblivious to the rain and cold.

In all we reported 34 species, which was a pretty good total considering the weather and the fact that we dipped on some of the more usual sightings including Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Mourning Dove, Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Flicker.

Paul
**Bird List:**

Species:

- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Ring-necked Duck
- Hooded Merganser
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Great Blue Heron
- Killdeer
- Rock Pigeon
- Great Horned Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Carolina Wren
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Hermit Thrush
- Northern Mockingbird
- Eastern Towhee
- Field Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Northern Cardinal
- American Goldfinch