Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

**Date:**
October 26 – 28, 2007

**Location:**
Savannah GA area / Lowcountry SC

**Comments:**
Submitted by JB Hines, Trip Leader

Six members of the GCBC enjoyed the October 26-28, 2007 outing to the Savannah area. Part of the group arrived on Friday and birded at Hunting Island SP in the rain. Although conditions were bad, they found 3 species (Painted Bunting, R-b Gull & Royal Tern) not seen again on the trip.

Fortunately the weather cleared by Saturday morning and we had a beautiful day of birding at Donnelly, Bear Island (observation deck & Mary's House Pond) and Fish Haul Creek Park at Hilton Head Island. At Donnelly we found two families of B-b Whistling-Ducks. One pair had ~8 newly hatched chicks and the other pair had 7 juvenile ducklings probably capable of flight. I would strongly recommend a visit to the Fish Haul Creek Park for anyone visiting HHI. The mudflats behind the beach are very extensive at low tide and had a lot of shorebirds, waders, gulls & terns. You could easily spend a half day birding this location.

A cold front passed through on Saturday night followed by a cool and windy Sunday morning, which made for less than ideal birding conditions at Savannah NWR. We were able to find Purple Gallinules, Marsh & Winter Wrens & a late Am. Redstart along the tour road. It appears that the refuge is being managed a little more actively than in recent years. Some excavation work is underway and overgrown dike trails are being cleared. As recently as 5 or 6 years ago this was a much better place to bird because more of the impoundments were filled and the brush was burned regularly. Hopefully it will have more impoundments filled for waterfowl in the future.

Some of our group stopped at the Bluff Unit of the Santee NWR on the way home. The water level is extremely low in Lake Marion and Canty Bay is practically dry. We did not find much there and I would suggest waiting until water levels rise before visiting this location.
We found 101 species for the weekend, which is well below the 120 that we got on the same weekend in 2006. We also did this trip at the end of October 2003 and found 108 species then. I believe two factors contributed to the lower count, the weather and not having access to the GA DOT spoil site which we visited on both previous trips. I hope we can get back on the spoil site next year.

Good birding,
JB

**Bird List:**

Species:

Pied-billed Grebe  
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  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Green-winged Teal  
Mottled Duck  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Ring-necked Duck  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Clapper Rail
Purple Gallinule
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover
Killdeer
American Oystercatcher
Greater Yellowlegs
Willet
Marbled Godwit
Sanderling
Western Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Royal Tern
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Tree Swallow
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Winter Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
American Redstart  
Common Yellowthroat  
Northern Cardinal  
Indigo Bunting  
Painted Bunting  
Eastern Towhee  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow