

# 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 drawn-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.

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

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## 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

**Photos:** Photographic masterpieces generously shared by GCBC member Don Faulkner.



**American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, and Coots**



*male*

**White-winged Scoters**

*female*



**Blue-winged Teal, *male***



**Common Eider, *female***



**N. Shoveler, *female***



**Long-tailed Ducks, *first winter***



**Northern Shovelers, *males***

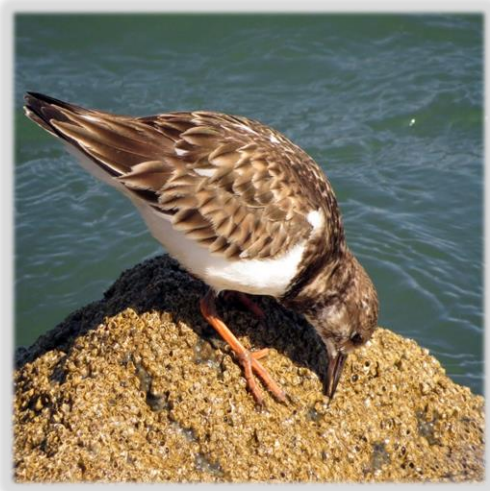
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**American Avocet**



**Ruddy Turnstone**

**Virginia Rail**



**Sora**



**Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs**



**Dowitchers**

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**Saltmarsh Sparrow**



**Bachman's Sparrow**



**Marsh Wren**



**Red-cockaded woodpecker**



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



**Wood Storks**



**Osprey**

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