

Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

Date: February 10-12 2018

Location: Bear Island, Donnelley WMA, Santee Coastal Reserve and HBSP

Leader: Denise DuPon



Our annual coastal trip was, as always, a fun and very successful trip attended by 8 club members.

We started on a very foggy Saturday morning at Bear Island. We attempted the driving tour but were stopped by closed gates due to the large



amount of rain that had fallen in the area over the previous few days. The fog teased us drifting in, almost clearing, then drifting in again. One of our group spotted a Roseate Spoonbill in flight but alas, she was the only one to get eyes on the bird. We saw 8 species of ducks including a flock of over 600 American Wigeon. We didn't have the time or patience to scour the flock for the previously reported Eurasian Wigeon but our friend Matt Johnson managed to get a picture of the bird shortly after we left.



Our drive to Donnelley WMA included a Nine-banded Armadillo sighting. It was actually moving quickly across the road in the rare attempt to NOT become road-kill. At Savage Backwater we came upon a group of 16 Black-crowned Night Heron roosting in the trees. The lake behind the Lodge was very low and more grassy than wet, we had nearly 30 Yellowlegs with ample opportunity to compare Lesser and Greater.

Our day at Santee Coastal Reserve started well with Red-cockaded Woodpecker making a good showing. We didn't have as much luck with the Bachman's Sparrow, two other birders a few yards away spotted it as it flushed but we didn't get eyes or ears on the bird. The impoundments were filled with flocks of American Coots and a few species of duck, why is it the ducks flush before you can get a scope on them and the Coots couldn't care less? At least we got some good looks at the beautiful Northern Pintail. Hundreds of Tree Swallows soared over the horizon in every direction, what a sight with a bit of a haze and Swallows everywhere!



The rains were threatening on our last morning at Huntington Beach State Park. We decided to forego the walk to the jetty (in hindsight we could have made the trip) and instead birded closer to the safety of our cars. We were able to watch the resident Bald Eagle pair at their nest, added Mute Swan and Black-and-white Warbler to the list and had close up views of both adult and immature Black-crowned Night Heron.

We did make a quick trip out to the ocean and found both Horned Grebe and Bonaparte's Gull playing in the surf. We questioned the behavior... is it just fun or does the surf confuse the fish and make them easy picking? It sure looked like they were having fun!

Our species list is below. If we add in Don and Imtiaz's pre-trip to Savannah NWR (American Bittern, Sora, YT Warbler and NRW Swallow), some immediate post trip birding in Litchfield (Collared Dove, Starling, RT Hawk) and a stop at Harbison Pond in Columbia (Redhead, Canvasback) for some stakeout ducks, our trip total is 102 including 15 duck species and 2 Swan. An obvious miss was Osprey, not one sighting over the weekend.

Mute Swan	Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee
Tundra Swan	Red-shouldered Hawk	Tufted Titmouse
Wood Duck	Clapper Rail	White-breasted
Blue-winged Teal	Sora	Nuthatch
Northern Shoveler	Common Gallinule	Brown-headed
Gadwall	American Coot	Nuthatch
American Wigeon	American Avocet	Carolina Wren
American Black Duck	Killdeer	Golden-crowned
Mallard	Sanderling	Kinglet
Mottled Duck	Dunlin	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Green-winged Teal	Wilson's Snipe	Eastern Bluebird
Canvasback	Greater Yellowlegs	Hermit Thrush
Redhead	Willet	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Gray Catbird
Bufflehead	Bonaparte's Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Hooded Merganser	Ring-billed Gull	European Starling
Ruddy Duck	Caspian Tern	Cedar Waxwing
Pied-billed Grebe	Forster's Tern	Black-and-white Warbler
Horned Grebe	Eurasian Collared Dove	Common Yellowthroat
Wood Stork	Mourning Dove	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Barred Owl	Yellow-rumped
Anhinga	Belted Kingfisher	Warbler
American White Pelican	Red-bellied	Yellow-throated Warbler
Brown Pelican	Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
American Bittern	Yellow-bellied	White-throated
Great Blue Heron	Sapsucker	Sparrow
Great Egret	Downy Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Red-cockaded	Song Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Tricolored Heron	Northern Flicker	Northern Cardinal
Black-crowned Night-	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Meadowlark
Heron	American Kestrel	Red-winged Blackbird
White Ibis	Eastern Phoebe	Boat-tailed Grackle
Glossy Ibis	Blue Jay	House Finch
Roseate Spoonbill	Fish Crow	
Black Vulture	Purple Martin	
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	
Northern Harrier	Northern Rough-winged	
Bald Eagle	Swallow	