

## Greenville County Bird Club Trip Report

- Dates:** December 20, 2008
- Locations:** Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC
- Leader:** Paul Serridge
- Comments:** **\*Trip photos follow species listing**

10 GCBC members and 2 guests birded Lake Conestee Nature Park this morning. For most of the morning we birded along the trail which is under construction along the side of the lake and wetlands. The new trail, which has some impressive boardwalks, stretches from the overlook near the dam to the paved trail near the Henderson pasture. We listed 50 species including Purple Finch (6 individuals, 4 females, 2 males), Pine Siskins (feeding in mixed flocks with Goldfinches and House Finches), Rusty Blackbirds (a flock of at least 60 birds), and lots of Cedar Waxwings. A home half way along the new trail has some feeders and they were attracting a wide variety of birds including several Brown-headed Nuthatches. After birding the trails we went to the Forrester Farm section of the park, near the old Municipal Stadium, to look for Ring-necked Ducks and Fox Sparrows, both of which I had observed there 2 days prior to the outing. We found both! The Fox Sparrow was a lifer for one of our members! That certainly compensated for the rain which started just as we arrived at the edge of the lake! We also added Brown Thrasher to our trip list and then, just as we were leaving the park, a solitary Ring-billed Gull flew over, only the second gull reported at LCNP. That brought the total species list to 54, is a very satisfactory total for a morning's birding in suburban Greenville in mid-December! In fact, it is the highest reported total in any December, and the highest this year since the GCBC outing back in May. LCNP just gets better and better!

- Bird List:** Species:
- Canada Goose 41
  - Wood Duck 1
  - Mallard 5
  - Ring-necked Duck 6
  - Great Blue Heron 2

Turkey Vulture 2  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Cooper's Hawk 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk 2  
Red-tailed Hawk 2  
Ring-billed Gull 1  
Rock Pigeon 6  
Mourning Dove 20  
Belted Kingfisher 2  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 4  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1  
Downy Woodpecker 6  
Northern Flicker 1  
Pileated Woodpecker 1  
Eastern Phoebe 5  
Blue Jay 5  
American Crow 8  
Carolina Chickadee 15  
Tufted Titmouse 10  
White-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Brown-headed Nuthatch 5  
Brown Creeper 1  
Carolina Wren 6  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 1  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6  
Eastern Bluebird 12  
Hermit Thrush 1  
American Robin 60  
Northern Mockingbird 4  
Brown Thrasher 1  
European Starling 5  
Cedar Waxwing 100+  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 2  
Eastern Towhee 8  
Chipping Sparrow 7  
Field Sparrow 2  
Fox Sparrow 1 (??)  
Song Sparrow 30+  
Swamp Sparrow 2  
White-throated Sparrow 25+  
Northern Cardinal 8  
Red-winged Blackbird 10  
Rusty Blackbird 60+  
Common Grackle 50  
Purple Finch 6  
House Finch 30+  
Pine Siskin 6

American Goldfinch 15  
House Sparrow 1



White-breasted nuthatch



Birders No 1



Birders no. 2



Cedar waxwings



Mallards



Deer skull? It was our best guess...



Red-tailed hawk



Ring-billed gull



Chipping sparrow no. 1



Chipping sparrow no. 2



Chipping sparrow no. 3