

2008 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

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The spring count took place 26 April–10 May, and had 126 observers in 55 parties. They spread themselves out over nine counties and logged 511 hours covering 1954.4 miles, including twenty-two miles on bike and seven in golf carts. They tallied 55,758 individuals of 214 different species. Low temperatures ranged from 49 °F to 70 °F, and highs ranged from 74 °F to 86 °F. Weather was across the board and parties saw anything from picture-perfect days to downpours and periods of thunder and lightning. The state was still in a rain deficit, with the worst conditions being in the upstate.

The most numerous species was Semipalmated Sandpiper, with a total of 11,783 individuals found in three counties. Nearly 99% of those were found in Jasper County. Parties found 26 species of warblers. The top three warbler species were Pine Warbler with 389 individuals, Northern Parula with 251 individuals, and Common Yellowthroat with 182 individuals. Counties with the most species were Charleston with 148, Jasper with 141, Aiken with 124, and Greenville with 122.

Thirty-six species were recorded in every county: Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Forty species were found in only one county, with Jasper and Charleston County finding most. Species included: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mute Swan, Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Merlin, King Rail, Sora, American Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, American Pipit, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch.

Thanks again to everyone who participated. If anyone is interested in getting involved next year, please contact the county coordinator; or if you would like to coordinate a county not covered, contact me with any questions you may have.

County Summaries:

Aiken County: 124 species 4792 individuals

Coordinator: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Drive
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Luann Baer, Helen Belencan, Chuck Braun, Ron Brenneman, Lee Dane, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Gary Gray, Judy Gregory, Gene Howard, Christine Huzella, Pete Johnston, Paul Koehler, George Reeves, Gary Smith, Lois Stacey, Mark Vukovich, Alice Walker, Douglas Walker, Anne Waters, Eugene Zielinski, Calvin Zippler

Aiken was the only county to produce a Swallow-tailed Kite.

Charleston County: 148 species, 10,264 individuals

Coordinator: Andy Harrison
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7
Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Edwin L. Blicht III, George D. Cromartie Jr., Bob Drew, Christie Drew, Connie Drew, Denise Ecker, Judy Fairchild, Virginia M. Flatau, Dennis M. Forsythe, Andy Harrison, Julian R. Harrison III, Margaret Harrison, Donald P. Jones, Mary Kennerty, Mary Catherine Martin, Keith L. McCullough, David C. McClean Jr., Kim Frampton McManus, Carl R. Miller, Catherine G. Miller, Steve Moore, Paul Nolan, Karen E. Nugent, Perry E. Nugent, Kenneth Priester, Edgar A. Russell, Felicia J. Sanders, David Francis Smith, Ruthie Sullivan, Craig Watson, John Weinstein, and Lori Sheridan Wilson.

Charleston had exclusives with Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Reddish Egret, King Rail, Sora, American Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Herring Gull, and Sandwich Tern.

Cherokee County: 76 species, 1123 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Claude Cobb, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Maxi Nix, Tina Pearsall

Cherokee had the high count for Cliff Swallow (30) and the inland high count for Spotted Sandpiper (10).

Edgefield County: 78 species, 821 individuals

Coordinator: Dennis M. Forsythe
171 Moultrie Street
Charleston, SC 29409

Participants: Dennis M. Forsythe

Edgefield had high counts for Chuck-will's-widow (25) and high inland counts for Great Blue Heron (27).

Greenwood County: 80 species, 986 individuals

Coordinator: Jason Giovannone
2808 Dalewood Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170

Participants: Jason Giovannone

Greenwood tied with Aiken for high counts for Whip-poor-will (10), and it was one of only two counties to report Blackburnian Warbler.

Greenville County: 122 species, 5627 individuals

Coordinator: J. B. Hines
5258 Chesnee Highway
Chesnee, SC 29323

Participants: Shelby Birch, Dee Blackwood, Harold Carter, Jeff Catlin, Jeff Click, Steve Compton, Donnie Coody, Don Faulkner, Chip Gilbert, Sarah Gilbert, Richard Hayes, Tammy Kay, Justin Keck, Jane Kramer, Tim Lee, Jim Pirrone, Merikay Pirrone, Al Reese, Hilda Reese, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Jade Torlina, Pam Torlina, Charles Webb, Judy Webb, Cindy Womble, Lewis Womble

Greenville had exclusives with Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, American Pipit, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Hampton County: 81 species, 656 individuals

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
PO Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924

Participants: Kathleen O'Grady, Carroll Richard

Hampton was one of only two counties to report Ring-necked Duck.

Jasper County: 141 species, 28,527 individuals

Coordinator: Steve Wagner
313 E. 54th Street
Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Steve Calver, Diana Churchill, Ellie Covington, Tim Miller, Steve Wagner

Jasper had exclusives with Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mute Swan, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Roseate Spoonbill, Merlin, American Avocet, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, and Caspian Tern.

Spartanburg County: 116 species, 2992 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
 126 Greengate Lane
 Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Carole Anderson, Beth Bartel, Susan Bennett, Dan Bryant, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Jeannie Chapman, Elaine Check, Dan Codespoti, Pat Fowler, Roy Fowler, Nancy Gergen, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Herb Kay, Angela Miller, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller, Moss Miller, Sam Miller, Nancy Owens, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Doug Rayner, Alicia Roy, Mack Shealy, Gerald Thurmond, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg had exclusives with Magnolia Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch. The county also had high counts of Northern Bobwhite (11), Rock Pigeon (51), Common Nighthawk (12), Horned Lark (2), House Wren (6), and House Finch (76).

Table 1 Spring 2008 bird counts in South Carolina

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Date:	10 May	4 May	17 May	10 May	9 May	26 Apr	10 May	10 May	10 May	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck								6		6
Canada Goose	68	11	23	6	16	117	7		115	363
Mute Swan								7		7
Wood Duck	50	32		13	2	31	4	6	4	142
Mallard	11			2	3	80	5	51	43	195
Mottled Duck		22						86		108
Blue-winged Teal		10				1		4		15
Ring-necked Duck							1	1		2
Greater Scaup								1		1
Lesser Scaup						2		3		5
Scaup sp.								2		2
Red-breasted Merganser		7								7
Ruddy Duck								16		16
Wild Turkey	35	1	15	1	2	10		5	4	73
Northern Bobwhite	8		8	1			1	1	11	30
Pied-billed Grebe		2								2
Horned Grebe		1								1
Brown Pelican		128						1		129
Double-crested Cormorant	5	196				8	1	128	29	367
Anhinga	10	15		1		1	6	55		88
American Bittern	1					2				3
Least Bittern		4						4		8
Great Blue Heron	10	49	5	27	6	6		9	10	122
Great Egret	12	171		2		2	6	41		234
Snowy Egret		58						337		395
Little Blue Heron	9	28					6	13		56
Tricolored Heron		14						75		89
Reddish Egret		1								1
Cattle Egret	83	21				7	6	14		131
Green Heron	13	48	1				1	7	1	71

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Black-crowned Night-Heron		12						13		25
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	6					4	1		12
White Ibis		39					22	53		114
Glossy Ibis		33						23		56
Roseate Spoonbill								2		2
Wood Stork		3					2	6		11
Black Vulture	70	34	10	8	6	5	18	21	15	187
Turkey Vulture	38	126	6	11	11	45	13	25	20	295
Osprey	1	35	6		2	2		3	1	50
Swallow-tailed Kite	1									1
Mississippi Kite	22	28					2	9		61
Bald Eagle	2						2	1		5
Northern Harrier						1		1		2
Cooper's Hawk			1		2	1			1	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	10	2	1		14	5	3	8	64
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1				3			2	7
Red-tailed Hawk	15	4	3		4	12	1	4	11	54
American Kestrel	1	1			1					3
Merlin								1		1
Peregrine Falcon		3				1				4
Clapper Rail		18						8		26
King Rail		4								4
Sora		1								1
Purple Gallinule							1	20		21
Common Moorhen	1	37					3	47		88
American Coot		2						50		52
Black-bellied Plover		145						6		151
Wilson's Plover		5						4		9
Semipalmated Plover	1	870						403		1274
Killdeer	29	9	27	6	1	40		42	25	179
American Oystercatcher		301								301
Black-necked Stilt		13						229		242
American Avocet								98		98
Spotted Sandpiper	9	105	10			3		19	7	153
Solitary Sandpiper	15					9		7	1	32
Greater Yellowlegs	2	32						27		61
Willet		99						46		145
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	15						144		161
Whimbrel		220								220
Marbled Godwit		1								1
Ruddy Turnstone		41								41
Red Knot		90								90
Sanderling		30								30
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	145						11636		11783
Western Sandpiper		107								107
Least Sandpiper	85	116						216	7	424
White-rumped Sandpiper								12		12
Dunlin		1169						438		1607
Stilt Sandpiper								967		967
Short-billed Dowitcher		205						313		518

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Long-billed Dowitcher								75		75
Dowitcher sp.		2000						226		2226
Wilson's Phalarope								1		1
Bonaparte's Gull		2						5		7
Laughing Gull		470						28		498
Ring-billed Gull		1			6	11		206	2	226
Herring Gull		1								1
Least Tern		72						144		216
Gull-billed Tern		30						11		41
Caspian Tern								1		1
Forster's Tern		23						12	6	41
Royal Tern		14						1		15
Sandwich Tern		3								3
Black Skimmer		16						8		24
Rock Pigeon	25	21	13	8		8	2	5	51	133
Eurasian Collared-Dove	20			2			2		3	27
Mourning Dove	241	41	74	36	26	225	33	58	147	881
Common Ground-Dove		3						6		9
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	21	33		1		1	3	5	2	66
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	12	2	1	1	1				19
Great Horned Owl			2		2	3				7
Barred Owl	9	17		1		4	1			32
Common Nighthawk	11	6	1					3	12	33
Chuck-will's-widow	19	20	1	25	3	2			17	87
Whip-poor-will	10	1	7	3	10	2			7	40
Chimney Swift	66	16	30	15	25	95	9	18	94	368
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	18	4	2		3	14	2	3	10	56
Belted Kingfisher	3	3	2			14			4	26
Red-headed Woodpecker	28	6		1		2	7	3	6	53
Red-bellied Woodpecker	90	37	13	9	12	65	8	18	38	290
Downy Woodpecker	26	9	3		3	24		3	22	90
Hairy Woodpecker	4	4							1	9
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	14	10					1			25
Northern Flicker	5	3			1	6			4	19
Pileated Woodpecker	34	24	4	3	3	27	3	2	7	107
Eastern Wood-Pewee	44	4	5	4	12	3	7		10	89
Acadian Flycatcher	35	5	4	1	9	1	3	2	14	74
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.		1						1	1	3
Eastern Phoebe	11		7	5	14	46			28	111
Great Crested Flycatcher	108	180	8	15	14	40	9	30	30	434
Eastern Kingbird	50	11	11	10	9	28	9	24	35	187
Loggerhead Shrike	8			2			5		2	17
White-eyed Vireo	88	62	5	10	6	41	3	15	13	243
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	2	1		2			3	1	17
Blue-headed Vireo	1					28			3	32
Red-eyed Vireo	60	80	25	12	18	103	7	12	61	378
Blue Jay	105	46	53	11	12	255	15	11	74	582

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
American Crow	119	69	41	13	39	181	8	24	128	622
Fish Crow	54	17		4	1	14	6	13	1	110
Crow sp.							16			16
Common Raven						1				1
Horned Lark	1								2	3
Purple Martin	72	41	11	55	28	61	67	11	53	399
Tree Swallow	8	104				40		10006	10	10168
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7	9	3	1	11	74		4	16	125
Bank Swallow							1	2		3
Cliff Swallow	1		30	10	8				16	65
Barn Swallow	56	108	25	55	31	219	42	42	37	615
Carolina Chickadee	89	71	20	15	18	120	4	14	61	412
Tufted Titmouse	97	61	29	19	42	147	7	16	69	487
Red-breasted Nuthatch						2				2
White-breasted Nuthatch	16		4			18		2	8	48
Brown-headed Nuthatch	37	31	2	2	2	8	2	9	6	99
Carolina Wren	112	88	13	20	18	122	5	41	49	468
House Wren	1					2			6	9
Marsh Wren		2						1		3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet						10				10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	57	37	5	1	59	95	14	31	47	346
Eastern Bluebird	71	32	37	18	18	94	15	6	69	360
Veery						1				1
Swainson's Thrush						4			1	5
Wood Thrush	12	2	5	1	5	30	2	1	11	69
American Robin	49	1	30	4	8	302			84	478
Gray Catbird	10	15	3		2	29	4	5	11	79
Northern Mockingbird	102	42	64	22	32	134	31	41	132	600
Brown Thrasher	26	25	14	8	10	55	13	33	47	231
European Starling	120	19	113	3	15	122	3	2	105	502
American Pipit						10				10
Cedar Waxwing	248			35	12	52		90	41	478
Northern Parula	85	85	1	8	17	14	5	15	21	251
Yellow Warbler		1		2	1	2		1	2	9
Chestnut-sided Warbler						2				2
Magnolia Warbler									1	1
Cape May Warbler						5				5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4					17			1	22
Yellow-rumped Warbler		3				35		1		39
Black-throated Green Warbler	1					63			1	65
Blackburnian Warbler	1				1					2
Yellow-throated Warbler	18	24	1	4	7	6	8	14	19	101
Pine Warbler	130	66	14	30	40	51	11	21	26	389
Prairie Warbler	9	13		3	8	3	1	3	4	44

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Palm Warbler						3				3
Blackpoll Warbler								1	1	2
Black-and-white Warbler	9	5				33				47
American Redstart	26					7		3	5	41
Prothonotary Warbler	37	38	2	2	1	3	7	4	2	96
Worm-eating Warbler		1				10	1			12
Swainson's Warbler	3	1			1			3	1	9
Ovenbird	1		1	1	2	44			3	52
Northern Waterthrush						1		3		4
Louisiana Waterthrush	10		2		1	9			2	24
Kentucky Warbler Common	5	3	1	3					2	14
Yellowthroat	12	29	12	11		51	1	47	19	182
Hooded Warbler	21	40	2		3	73		4	6	149
Yellow-breasted Chat	42	27	7	8	6	17	4	20	15	146
Summer Tanager	69	20	2	15	27	4	9	8	21	175
Scarlet Tanager	2			1	2	33	1		6	45
Eastern Towhee	103	50	23	10	18	133	4	20	48	409
Bachman's Sparrow	22	10		1			1	6		40
Chipping Sparrow	17		11	12	20	56	11	1	35	163
Field Sparrow	5		16	2	3	72			36	134
Savannah Sparrow		1				23		9	2	35
Grasshopper Sparrow			4			10			6	20
Song Sparrow						37			17	54
White-throated Sparrow	2					51			8	61
Dark-eyed Junco						2				2
Northern Cardinal	337	221		35	40	223	19	67	134	1076
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2					7			4	13
Blue Grosbeak	36	27		8	8	11	9	12	14	125
Indigo Bunting	141	36		12	41	33	2	20	77	362
Painted Bunting	12	57					3	17		89
Bobolink	8	8				206		150	27	399
Red-winged Blackbird	140	251	34	12	12	203	28	663	59	1402
Eastern Meadowlark	16	7	28	6	5	106			30	198
Rusty Blackbird									2	2
Common Grackle	142	68	82	50	34	214	20	10	106	726
Boat-tailed Grackle		94						271		365
Brown-headed Cowbird	37	37	14	14	16	34	10	10	23	195
Orchard Oriole	11	11	1	14	2	5	4	18	3	69
Baltimore Oriole						4			1	5
Purple Finch									14	14
House Finch	40	22	13	1	3	48	6		76	209
American Goldfinch	20		6	2	5	229			63	325
House Sparrow	53	7	7	14	26	35	5		19	166
Total Species	124	148	76	78	80	122	81	141	116	214

	Aike	Char	Cher	Edge	Grwo	Grvi	Hamp	Jasp	Spar	Total
Total Individuals	4792	10264	1123	821	956	5627	656	28527	2992	55758
Observers	22	32	5	1	1	27	2	6	30	126
Parties	13	10	5	1	1	11	1	3	10	55
Hours Foot	43.5	34.3	6	2	0.5	141	7.25	9	38.25	281.8
Hours Car	35.25	21.2	4	11.45	10	18	4	17.25	10.5	131.65
Hours Boat	1	3.5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	9.5
Hours Bike	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.5
Hours Golfcart	1.5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.5
Miles Foot	23	16.85	6	3	1	53.3	3	4.5	22	132.65
Miles Car	310.5	136.8	120	205	118	186.7	89.2	134	337	1637.2
Miles Boat	1	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	15
Miles Bike	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	19	22
Miles Golfcart	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Hours Feeder Watch	8.5	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	36	61.5
# Feeder Watchers	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	19	29
# Feeder Stations	20	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	13	36
Hours Owling	3.5	3.25	1	1.5	1	1	0	0	4.5	15.75
Miles Owling	14	25.25	3	40	5	1.3	0	0	52	140.55
# Parties Owling	3	2	3	1	1	2	0	0	4	16
# Observers Owling	3	5	4	1	1	2	0	0	5	21
Start Time	0500	0445		0430	0445		0635	0604		
Finish Time	2025	1530		1800	1630		1750	2009		