

2009 Fall Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Fall migration counts were held in five counties in 2009. All counts reported cloud cover most of the day, and a few had light rain on and off. Still, 146 species and 13,699 individuals were recorded overall for the count.

A flock of 68 Brewer's Blackbirds was seen in Spartanburg County. All of the hawk species were seen, along with Bald Eagle, Osprey and American Kestrel. 20 Northern Bobwhite were seen and were included on the lists of three counties. There was a total of 23 species of warblers reported as well. An astounding 496 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted, with 411 in Greenville County alone!

Only two Pied-billed Grebes were counted and only one gull, a Ring-billed Gull. Only eight species of shorebirds were reported this year.

County Summaries:

Aiken County: 114 species, 5714 individuals

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

Participants: Matt Bost, Jesse Carlton, Dan Connelly, Brandon Cromer, Lee Dane, Larry Eldridge, Gary Gray, Paul Koehler, George Reeves, Chris Shaw, Lois Stacey, Mark Vukovich, Alice Walker, Doug Walker, Anne Waters, Eugene Zielinski, Calvin Zippler.

Spartanburg County: 81 species, 2544 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Carole Anderson, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Vince Connors, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Alan Gray, Nancy Gergen, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Herb Kay, Doug Rayner, Mac Shealy, Gerald Thurmond, Lewanna Ulmer, M. B. Ulmer, Kay Whilden

Cherokee County: 44 species, 318 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Claude Cobb, Carolyn Hanes, Karla Lavender, Maxi Nix, Tina Pearsall, Rebecca Poole

The Cherokee County count yielded low numbers, as six counters in two field parties and five yard and feeder-watchers managed 44 species and 318

individuals. Schedule conflicts prevented us from surveying the Cowpens National Battlefield, a standard locality good for a fair diversity of birds. The Bald Eagle seen on the Broad River was the best bird. (Lyle Campbell)

Lexington County: 60 species, 1269 individuals

Coordinator Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail Rd.
Lexington, SC

Participants: Andrea Cecelski, Barbara Darden, Margaret Bergin, Greg Fitzpatrick, Molly Bonnell

Greenville County: 93 species, 3854 individuals

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

Participants: Paul Serridge, Barbara Serridge, Jane Kramer, Donnie Coody, Shelby Birch, Jerry Johnson, David Kirk, Judy Webb, Charles Webb, Hilda Reese, Al Reese, Jonathan Swink, Chip Gilbert, Sarah Gilbert

Table 1. Fall 2009 bird counts in South Carolina

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Greenv	Total
Canada Goose	34	51	100	59	222	466
Wood Duck	11	1	0	13	44	69
Mallard	9	46	0	1	152	208
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	3	3
Northern Bobwhite	8	0	11	0	1	20
Wild Turkey	13	0	17	0	24	54
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0	0	0	1	2
Double-crested Cormorant	1	0	0	6	0	7
Anhinga	8	1	0	0	0	9
Great Blue Heron	6	10	2	3	12	33
Great Egret	34	3	0	3	3	43
Snowy Egret	8	0	0	0	0	8
Little Blue Heron	24	0	0	0	0	24
Cattle Egret	168	0	5	0	0	173
Green Heron	0	2	0	0	3	5
White Ibis	10	0	0	0	0	10
Wood Stork	32	0	0	0	0	32
Black Vulture	108	38	6	7	2	161
Turkey Vulture	56	67	4	11	39	177
Osprey	0	0	1	1	1	3
Bald Eagle (ad)	0	0	1	2	1	4
Bald Eagle (imm)	0	1	0	1	0	2
Northern Harrier	0	0	1	3	0	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	2	0	0	1	3
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	1	2	3
Accipiter, sp.	0	0	0	0	5	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	9	1	4	16	40
Broad-winged Hawk	0	1	0	0	2	3
Red-tailed Hawk	12	11	2	4	6	35
American Kestrel	5	0	1	1	3	10
Common Moorhen	8	0	0	0	0	8
American Coot	0	0	0	0	1	1

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Greenv	Total
Killdeer	72	4	2	5	12	95
Spotted Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	1
Solitary Sandpiper	7	0	0	0	0	7
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	0	0	0	0	3
Western Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Sandpiper	63	0	0	0	0	63
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	0	0	0	0	2
Wilson's Snipe	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rock Pigeon	54	279	13	122	25	493
Eurasian Collared-Dove	9	2	0	3	0	14
Mourning Dove	254	0	27	150	458	889
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	0	0	0	0	5
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	0	1	0	3	8
Great Horned Owl	4	1	0	0	2	7
Barred Owl	15	3	0	0	0	18
Common Nighthawk	6	1	0	0	1	8
Chimney Swift	86	490	6	11	409	1002
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	62	7	4	411	496
Belted Kingfisher	3	13	1	2	8	27
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	11	0	5	3	32
Red-bellied Woodpecker	64	26	2	36	38	166
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	28	15	0	2	17	62
Hairy Woodpecker	2	3	0	0	2	7
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Flicker	6	0	1	6	4	17
Pileated Woodpecker	33	3	1	4	10	51
Eastern Wood-Pewee	26	3	0	6	3	38
Acadian Flycatcher	13	0	0	3	0	16
Least Flycatcher	0	0	0	1	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	8	27	1	2	42	80
Great Crested Flycatcher	0	1	1	0	0	2
Eastern Kingbird	2	0	0	0	2	4
Loggerhead Shrike	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-eyed Vireo	55	4	0	12	8	79
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	0	0	3	0	6
Red-eyed Vireo	15	0	0	3	0	18
Blue Jay	113	135	1	65	152	466
American Crow	240	154	9	64	211	678
Fish Crow	63	0	0	0	20	83
Tree Swallow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	633	0	0	0	0	633
Bank Swallow	10	2	6	0	0	18
Cliff Swallow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Barn Swallow	62	0	0	0	0	62
Carolina Chickadee	141	46	0	44	49	280
Tufted Titmouse	120	57	5	28	41	251
White-breasted Nuthatch	22	12	6	0	17	57
Brown-headed Nuthatch	30	6	0	13	8	57
Carolina Wren	148	41	4	46	53	292
House Wren	1	3	0	0	1	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	0	0	0	0	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23	3	0	0	5	31
Eastern Bluebird	52	73	6	25	239	395
Veery	0	0	0	2	3	5

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Greenv	Total
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	1	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	0	0	0	0	3	3
Hermit Thrush	3	0	0	0	0	3
Wood Thrush	6	2	0	0	0	8
American Robin	1	100	4	24	86	215
Gray Catbird	4	9	0	1	22	36
Northern Mockingbird	86	58	8	104	82	338
Brown Thrasher	29	18	0	10	28	85
European Starling	286	209	12	12	166	685
Cedar Waxwing	0	8	0	0	83	91
Blue-winged Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2
Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1
Northern Parula	42	0	0	1	3	46
Chestnut-sided Warbler	16	0	0	0	4	20
Magnolia Warbler	7	2	0	0	6	15
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	6	0	0	0	7
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	0	0	0	2	2
Blackburnian Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	5	2	0	0	0	7
Pine Warbler	89	11	1	19	3	123
Prairie Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Palm Warbler	1	2	0	0	0	3
Black-and-white Warbler	4	0	0	0	2	6
American Redstart	22	6	0	4	1	33
Prothonotary Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Waterthrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Louisiana Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	8	6	0	0	2	16
Hooded Warbler	2	0	0	1	1	4
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	2	0	0	2	6
Eastern Towhee	23	16	0	0	13	52
Chipping Sparrow	6	0	2	11	43	62
Field Sparrow	0	1	0	0	10	11
Song Sparrow	0	9	2	0	12	23
White-throated Sparrow	0	6	0	0	1	7
Sparrow, sp.		4	0	0	0	4
Summer Tanager	24	8	0	0	0	32
Scarlet Tanager	5	3	0	0	1	9
Northern Cardinal	203	110	17	0	85	415
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	1	0	0	4	5
Blue Grosbeak	30	0	0	0	5	35
Indigo Bunting	44	3	0	0	24	71
Painted Bunting	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-winged Blackbird	64	0	0	0	0	64
Eastern Meadowlark	0	1	0	0	15	16
Brewer's Blackbird	0	68	0	0	0	68
Common Grackle	21	66	10	5	47	149
Brown-headed Cowbird	1532	1	4	250	12	1799
Orchard Oriole	3	0	0	0	2	5
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	1	2	4
Purple Finch	0	2	0	0	0	2
House Finch	16	29	2	22	51	120
American Goldfinch	2	40	2	6	224	274
House Sparrow	14	9	2	9	0	34

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Greenv	Total
Total species	114	81	44	60	93	146
Total individuals	5714	2544	318	1269	3854	13,699
Observers	17	11	3	5	15	36
Parties	10	9	2	4		25
Hours foot	31.5	17	0.5	5	23.15	77.15
Hours car	24.75	14.5	2	10	14.5	65.75
Miles foot	13.25	15.5	0.5	6	7	42.25
Miles car	238	207	53	101	249	848
Hours feeder watch	4.5	25.5	11			41
# Feeder watchers	2	12	6			20
# Feeder stations	5	8	5			18
Hours nocturnal	2	1	1		0.75	4.75
Miles nocturnal	14	4	1		0.5	19.5
# Parties nocturnal	2	1	1		1	5
# Observers nocturnal	2	2	1		2	7
Start time	0500					
Finish time	1830					

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March–June 1960

Publication of Volume 24 of *The Chat* was irregular, for reasons that were not recorded. Although four issues were published as usual, numbers 1 and 2 were published in a combined issue labeled “March–June”, then separate numbers 3-A and 3-B were published, and then finally number 4.

In the 1959 Christmas Count, 177 species were seen in the two states. A blackbird roost of 800,000 in Greensboro helped boost the individual count to a record high of 1.4 million. The compiler of the Charlotte count, B. R. Chamberlain, noted “Suitable birding areas rapidly disappearing”.

In an article “I Saw the World’s Rarest Bird!”, Jack P. Hailman described visiting the breeding colony of Bermuda Petrels with David Wingate, just nine years after the re-discovery of the species, previously thought extinct.

Fulvous Tree Ducks (now Fulvous Whistling-Ducks) were reported at Savannah River NWR (belatedly; a 1956 record) and at Orton Wildlife Refuge near Wilmington NC. The SC record was the second for the state. A Laughing Gull banded as a nestling at Oregon Inlet in 1959 was recovered in January 1960 in Cuba. Probably due to Hurricane Gracie, 21 American Golden-Plovers and a Red Phalarope were seen in North Wilkesboro, NC, in October 1959. It was thought to be the first record of American Golden-Plover in the western part of the state since 1886. A murre, tentatively identified as Thick-billed, was reported from Swan Quarter NWR. There were only three previous records for the state, none more recent than 1937. Greg Massey reported a Horned Lark at Wilmington, NC, apparently the first record for the area. A Black-billed Magpie was seen by several

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