

## 2013 Fall Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Five counts were held for the Fall 2013 Bird Count in September: Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Aiken counties and Congaree National Park. Seventy-two birders in the field and 19 at feeders recorded 149 species and 12687 individuals. Highlights included a Calliope Hummingbird and an estimated 647 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Greenville. Greenville and Spartanburg each reported single Rufous Hummingbirds as well. Single Mississippi Kites were reported by Spartanburg and Congaree National Park. Aiken had the lone Eastern Whip-poor-will recorded for all counts. Twenty-five species of warblers were reported, including a Connecticut in Greenville.

### **Greenville County: September 21, 90 species, 3335 individuals**

Compiler: J. B. Hines

5258 Chesnee Hwy  
Chesnee, SC 29323

Participants: Dave Baker, Joan Baker, Shelby Birch, Jennifer Bruce, Marion Clark, Jeff Click, Donnie Coody, Brad Dalton, Denise Dupon, Ed Engasser, Don Faulkner, Elizabeth Galloway, Chip Gilbert, J. B. Hines, Rob Hunnings, Jane Kramer, Tim Lee, Margaret McDavid, John Melson, Pam Melton, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Linda Sharp, Dennis Trapp, Judy Webb, Suzi Zickos

The Greenville County, SC 2013 Fall Migration Count was held on Saturday, September 21st. Weather conditions were unfavorable this year with a low of 64F and high of 74F with light rain most of the day. Seven parties/areas were covered by 28 participants. The group species total was 90 with 3335 individuals.

Notable species(rare/unusual, unusually high numbers, etc):

Green-winged Teal (6) at Berry's Mill Pond, Bald Eagle (1), Common Raven (1), Dark-eyed Junco (2), Great Egret (2), Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (647). An average count of 550 (estimated based on nectar consumed) were at Judy and Charles Webb's feeders at Lake Lanier. They also had an early Calliope Hummingbird again and an adult male Rufous Hummingbird. The best bird of the count was the Connecticut Warbler at Wilson's Farm, a rare species in spring but even more unusual in fall migration.

**Spartanburg County: September 8, 89 species, 3758 individuals**

- Compiler: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane  
Spartanburg, SC 29307-2215
- Participants: Carole Anderson, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Vince Conners, Cheryl Cooksey, Dan Codispoti, Linda Deahl, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Jack Jennings, Flip Jones, Jeanette Keepers, Don Knight, Marilyn Knight, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Bob Scott, Kay Wealden, Richard Wealden, Terri Whitaker, Sarah Willis, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg had a reduced number of participants, but still had a good Fall Count with 89 total species, including 10 warbler species. Sparrows and blackbirds were scarce. Two chimneys attracted 1235 migrating Chimney Swifts at dusk. Lake Blalock yielded an adult and a juvenile Bald Eagle, as well as a Mississippi Kite. Our best bird was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a new record for Spartanburg County.

**Cherokee County: September 28, 69 species, 1178 individuals**

- Compiler: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane  
Spartanburg, SC 29307
- Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Fielding Link, Megan Turner

We had a limited number of birders, but did rather well, finding 12 species of warblers. The Loggerhead Shrike is always a good bird in the upstate.

**Aiken County: September 21, 95 species, 3762 individuals**

- Compiler: Anne Waters  
1621 Apple Valley Dr.  
Augusta, GA 30906
- Participants: Dorie Brenneman, Ron Brenneman, Mike Caudell, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Eric Haskell, Carl Huffman, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, George Reeves, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Mark Vukovitch, Anne Waters, Calvin Zippler

**Congaree National Park: September 22, 61 species, 654 individuals**

Compiler: John Grego

Participants: Ron Ahle, John Grego, Kathleen O’Grady, Jeanie Prothro, Sallie Prugh, Alice Steinke

A Fall NAMC Count was held September 22 at Congaree National Park. Owls and thrushes were heard pre-dawn, then participants in a single group covered portions of the Bluff Trail, Boardwalk Loop, and Sims Trail in the morning, and Little Buckhead in the afternoon. McCords Ferry causeway and the Bluff Campground were covered in the early evening by lingering participants. A total of 61 species were seen, including a late Prothonotary Warbler at the park’s parking lot. Some good soaring birds were seen at the former hunt club clearing, including Broad-winged Hawk, a late juvenile Mississippi Kite, and a Wood Stork. Good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were heard near Weston Lake. Warbler variety was low, though a Blue-winged Warbler was seen along Sims Trail. Interesting sights included a flock of over 100 Fish Crows that flew south from the bank of Bates Old River in the late afternoon.

Table 1. Fall 2013 bird counts in South Carolina

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck				33		33
Canada Goose	159	206	6	46		417
Wood Duck	22	13		15		50
Mallard	115	89		3		207
Northern Pintail		1				1
Green-winged Teal	6					6
Northern Bobwhite		4		9		13
Wild Turkey	12	30	24	23		89
Pied-billed Grebe	1					1
Wood Stork				106	1	107
Double-crested Cormorant		3	1			4
Anhinga				15	1	16
Great Blue Heron	10	15	2	11	1	39
Great Egret	2		1	29	1	33
Snowy Egret				1		1
Little Blue Heron				33		33
Cattle Egret				180		180
Green Heron	2	7			1	10
White Ibis				3	3	6
Black Vulture	5	41	11	81	69	207
Turkey Vulture	10	47	14	35	14	120
Osprey			1			1
Mississippi Kite		1			1	2
Bald Eagle	1	2		1		4
Northern Harrier		1				1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2					2
Cooper’s Hawk	1	3	1		1	6
<i>Accipiter</i> , sp				1		1

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	15	1	10	8	42
Broad-winged Hawk					1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	4	6	3	7		20
Killdeer	21	43	12	66		142
Spotted Sandpiper			2	1		3
Solitary Sandpiper	1			5		6
Greater Yellowlegs				3		3
Lesser Yellowlegs				2		2
Least Sandpiper				3		3
Pectoral Sandpiper				4		4
Wilson's Snipe				2		2
Rock Pigeon	14	198	36			248
Eurasian Collared-Dove		2		6		8
Mourning Dove	202	202	73	167	8	652
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	3		6	2	13
Eastern Screech-Owl	6			4	3	13
Great Horned Owl	3	4	1	2		10
Barred Owl	6	4		9	10	29
Common Nighthawk		27				27
Eastern Whip-poor-will				1		1
Chimney Swift	99	1278	13	46	19	1455
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	647	64	4	4	2	721
Calliope Hummingbird	1					1
Rufous Hummingbird	1	1				2
Belted Kingfisher	4	17	1	8	3	33
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	13		44	20	80
Red-bellied Woodpecker	39	26	30	58	21	174
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1			1
Downy Woodpecker	24	13	5	28	9	79
Hairy Woodpecker	8		2		2	12
Red-cockaded Woodpecker				4		4
Northern Flicker	8	8	7	5	1	29
Pileated Woodpecker	19	6	4	29	13	71
American Kestrel				6		6
Eastern Wood-Pee wee		15	4	29	3	51
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		1				1
Acadian Flycatcher	2			2	3	7
Willow Flycatcher		3				3
<i>Empidonax</i> , sp	1		2			3
Eastern Phoebe	27	20	11	7		65
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	1	2	5		9
Eastern Kingbird		2		1		3
Loggerhead Shrike			1	4		5
White-eyed Vireo	8	13	1	77	17	116
Yellow-throated Vireo		1		3	1	5
Blue-headed Vireo	1			1	5	7
Red-eyed Vireo	8	7	4	6		25
Blue Jay	124	114	67	95	3	403
American Crow	134	157	177	161	5	634
Fish Crow	3	3	2	29	108	145
crow sp.				27		27
Common Raven	1					1
Tree Swallow				205		205
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				388	18	406
Barn Swallow				7		7
Carolina Chickadee	60	62	20	64	16	222

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Tufted Titmouse	92	56	45	130	37	360
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	12	5	21	7	70
Brown-headed Nuthatch	8	5	4	26	4	47
House Wren		3				3
Winter Wren		1				1
Carolina Wren	91	88	37	110	43	369
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	3		5	1	15
Golden-crowned Kinglet				1		1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		2				2
Eastern Bluebird	161	101	64	44	2	372
Veery	3				14	17
Gray-cheeked Thrush					35	35
Swainson's Thrush	2				6	8
Hermit Thrush	3		1			4
Wood Thrush	6				2	8
American Robin	60	22	19	38		139
Gray Catbird	18	1	2	1		22
Northern Mockingbird	46	54	32	70		202
Brown Thrasher	17	10	10	21		48
European Starling	62	196	124	413		795
Cedar Waxwing	7					7
Worm-eating Warbler	1					1
Northern Waterthrush	1		1			2
Blue-winged Warbler	1				1	2
Black-and-white Warbler		4		6	3	13
Prothonotary Warbler					1	1
Tennessee Warbler	1		1			2
Connecticut Warbler	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	10	1	2	6	1	20
Hooded Warbler	4			1	2	7
American Redstart	4	9	2	21	8	44
Cape May Warbler				1		1
Northern Parula		2		46	16	64
Magnolia Warbler			2	1		3
Bay-breasted Warbler			2			2
Blackburnian Warbler			1			1
Yellow Warbler		1				1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9	4	1	2		16
Blackpoll Warbler			1			1
Black-throated Blue Warbler					2	2
Palm Warbler	23	2	8	7		40
Pine Warbler	18	13	10	110	10	161
Yellow-throated Warbler			1	2	1	4
Prairie Warbler		9		1		10
Black-throated Green Warbler	2					2
Yellow-breasted Chat		1				1
Eastern Towhee	21	8	4	25		58
Chipping Sparrow	11	12	27	1		51
Field Sparrow	9	4	7			20
Song Sparrow	5	7	2			20
Swamp Sparrow		1				1
Dark-eyed Junco	2					2
Summer Tanager		1		17	6	24
Scarlet Tanager	13	3	4			20
Northern Cardinal	92	162	20	120	24	418
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4					4

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Blue Grosbeak	3	1		11	14	29
Indigo Bunting	112	1	2	11	21	147
Painted Bunting					2	2
Red-winged Blackbird	3	2	2			7
Eastern Meadowlark		4				4
Common Grackle	325	62	2	2	1	392
Brown-headed Cowbird		24	166	200		390
Baltimore Oriole		1				1
Purple Finch		1				1
House Finch	20	42		2		64
American Goldfinch	133	28	22	10	1	194
House Sparrow	42	3				45
Species	90	89	69	95	61	149
Individuals	3335	3758	1178	3762	654	12687
Regular Count						
Hours foot	28.25	28	9	28.75	10	104
Hours car	16	23	3.5	15.75		58.75
Hours boat	1	2.5				3.5
Hours canoe/kayak				3		3
Hours bike		1	2			3
Miles foot	14	19.5	7	14.5	6.5	61.5
Miles car	210.1	406	97	188		901.1
Miles boat	0.5	6				6.5
Miles canoe/kayak				2		2
Miles bike		3	4			7
# Regular parties	7	12	7	7	1	34
# Regular observers	28	17	7	14	6	72
#Species	89	84	64	93	61	
#Individuals	3274	2191	1135	3719	654	10973
Feeder Watch						
Hours Feeder Watch	4	31	3	2		40
#Feeder Watchers	2	14	1	2		19
#Feeder Stations	4	9	1	17		31
#Species	9	34	9	12		64
#Individuals	46	296	42	24		408
Nocturnal						
Hours Nocturnal	3	3	0.25	3	1.33	10.58
Miles Nocturnal	1.6	4	4	13.5	10	33.1
#parties nocturnal	3	4	1	3	1	12
#observers nocturnal	6	6	1	4		17
#Species	3	5	1	4		13
#Individuals	15	1271	1	10		1297
Time start	0600	0700	0700	0430	0530	
Time stop	1930	2000	1700	1900	1800	
Temperature: pre-dawn						
dawn	64.9	65	60	70		
AM	66	66	57	70		
noon	69.1	71	64	78		
PM	73	77	67	80		
	73	83	70	82		

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
sunset	70	79	63	78		
night	64.9	73	60	78		
wind: pre-dawn	s 3.5	nne 3.5	nne 3.5	w 1-2		
dawn	sw 5.8	calm	nne 3.5	w 1-2		
AM	ssw 8.1	nne 4.6	ene 6.9	w 1-5		
noon	s 6.9	calm	nne 10	w 1-5		
PM	s 9.2	sw 8.1	ene 6.9	w 3-5		
sunset	s 5.8	sw 3.5	ene 4.6	w 3-5		
night	n 11.5	sw 3.5	nne 3.5	w 3-5		
% clouds: pre-dawn	80	10	0	20		
dawn	80	100	0	20		
AM	90	80	0	20		
noon	100	10	0	80		
PM	100	10	0	100		
sunset	100	10	0	100		
night	100	10	0	100		
precipitation: pre-dawn	0	0	0	0		
dawn	0	0	0	0		
AM	0	0	0	0		
noon	0.1	0	0	trace		
PM	0.3	0	0	trace		
sunset	0.4	0	0	trace		
night	0.6	0	0	trace		

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