

2014 Fall Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Five counts were held for the Fall 2014 Bird Count. The counts were held September 13 through October 4 in Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Aiken counties and Congaree National Park. One hundred ten participants recorded a total of 142 species and 15008 individuals. The total number of individuals counted was up from last year's 12687, but the species total was down from the 149 reported last year. The number of warbler species reported, 24, was down compared to the 29 reported last year.

There were high numbers of certain species reported on a couple of the counts. Congaree National Park had 255 Swainson's Thrushes during a predawn count. Greenville reported 423 Broad-winged Hawks and 562 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Greenville County: September 20, 109 species, 4035 individuals

Compiler: Paul Serridge
4 Audrey Lane
Greenville, SC 29615

Participants: Joan Baker, Shelby Birch, Patrick Brice, Jim Buschur, Donnie Coody, Don Cox, Steve Cox, Vicki Cox, Brad Dalton, Denise DuPon, Ed Engasser, Chip Gilbert, Sara Gilbert, Genny Hill, JB Hines, Rob Hunnings, Jerry Johnson, David Kirk, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer, Tim Lee, Anthony Martin, Eric McFalls, Keith McCullough, Chris Peak, Merikay Pirrone, John Quinn, Paul Serridge, Tim Taylor, Tonita Thompson, Dennis Trapp, Charles Webb, Judith Webb, Susan Zickos

Although everyone reported a "slow day" the total figures of both species and individuals are very reasonable. Thirty-four people - 24 GCBC members and 10 non-members - participated in the count which covered more than 20 different sections of Greenville County. The combined reports listed 109 species (+ 2 other taxa) and 4035 individual birds. The count included the Simpsonville and Fountain Inn areas, not covered in prior years, and in those sections we added 2 species to the combined Fall Count list, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Loggerhead Shrike, bringing it to 155.

Other highlights included a Golden-winged Warbler, photographed at Bunched Arrowhead by Keith McCullough, and over 500 hummingbirds at Judith Webb's property (number estimated from the consumption of 1.25 gallons of liquid at her feeders!)

Spartanburg County: September 27, 100 species, 4661 individuals

Compiler: Lyle Campbell

126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307-2215

Participants: Doug Allen, Carole Anderson, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Alan Chalmers, Cheryl Cooksey, Dan Codispoti, Sharon Donovan, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Carol Fietel, York Fietel, Pat Fowler, Roy Fowler, J. B. Hines, Jerry Johnson, Don Knight, Marilyn Knight, Joe Mitchell, Mary Ann Myers, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Glen Peterson, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Stan Sargent, Bob Scott, Mac Shealy, Kristin Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, Kay Wealden, Richard Wealden, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg had a good Fall Count with 100 total species, including 14 warbler species. Sparrows and blackbirds were scarce. One chimney attracted 870 migrating Chimney Swifts at dusk. Lake Blalock yielded an adult Bald Eagle. Four different parties found Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The 2014 count was three weeks later than our traditional scheduling which may have tapped into a different phase of migration.

Cherokee County: September 13, 69 species, 1391 individuals

Compiler: Lyle Campbell

126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Claude Cobb, J. B. Hines, Jerry Johnson, Karla Lavender, Mark Lwin, Joseph Oyugi, Peggy Yo

Cherokee County birders found 69 species, including 10 species of warblers. The Shrike is always a good bird in the Upstate.

Aiken County: October 4, 87 species, 2187 individuals

Compiler: Anne Waters

1621 Apple Valley Dr.
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Tom Cofer, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Carl Huffman, Willie Malpass, Onjulique Orsten, George Reeves, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Anne Waters, Calvin Zippler

Congaree National Park: September 28, 70 species, 1159 individuals

Compiler: John Grego

Participants: Ron Ahle, Addison Barrack, Hilda Flamholtz, Jon Flamholtz, Bailey Foster, John Grego, Rhonda Grego, Susan Hamilton, Erin Hamner, Siobhan Kibbey, Carol Kososki, Laura Kososki, Josi Laurenço, Kathleen O'Grady, Sallie Prugh

A Fall 2014 Migration Count was held September 28 at Congaree National Park. Large numbers of Swainson's Thrush were heard just before dawn as part of a nocturnal flight call count. Friends of Congaree Swamp sponsored an organized walk on the Low Boardwalk and Sims Trail in the morning, and a small group later visited the east end of the park in the afternoon. Though few warbler species were seen in general, a Blackburnian Warbler was seen and photographed at Little Buckhead. We recorded good counts of other migrants, including 14 American Redstart, 3 Scarlet Tanager, and 5 Magnolia Warbler. Other highlights included a Merlin and Painted Bunting. A total of 70 species and 1159 individuals were seen.

Table 1. Fall 2014 bird counts in South Carolina

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Canada Goose	203	596	147	30		976
Wood Duck	47		2	20		69
Gadwall		4				4
Mallard	95	198				293
Blue-winged Teal		8		99		107
Northern Shoveler				2		2
Northern Bobwhite	1	8	2			11
Wild Turkey	18	9	38	9		74
Pied-billed Grebe	2	5		1		8
Wood Stork				24		24
Double-crested Cormorant					1	1
Anhinga				6	1	7
Great Blue Heron	7	24	3	6	4	44
Great Egret	2	6	2	15	4	29
Little Blue Heron				5	1	6
Cattle Egret				178		178
Green Heron	3	1				4
White Ibis				6	1	7
Black Vulture	14	18	29	72	13	146
Turkey Vulture	73	51	15	46	4	189
Osprey	3	4	1			8
Bald Eagle	5	1	1	2	1	10
Northern Harrier		1				1

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3			3	9
Cooper's Hawk	10	1	1			12
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	12	7	19	5	64
Broad-winged Hawk	423	2				424
Red-tailed Hawk	13	15	5	6	2	41
Killdeer	39	35	16	31		121
Spotted Sandpiper	4		1	4		9
Solitary Sandpiper	1			5		6
Greater Yellowlegs				16		16
Lesser Yellowlegs				4		4
Least Sandpiper				33		33
Pectoral Sandpiper				3		3
Wilson's Snipe				3		3
Rock Pigeon	62	117	172	5	1	357
Eurasian Collared-Dove	9	18		1		28
Mourning Dove	94	182	208	44	13	541
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	2	1	6	13	27
Eastern Screech-Owl	5	5				10
Great Horned Owl	2	4			1	7
Barred Owl	10	7	1	1	15	34
Common Nighthawk		3				3
Chimney Swift	117	1051	29			1197
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	562	29	2	4		597
Belted Kingfisher	10	20	1	4	1	36
Red-headed Woodpecker	21	3	2	4	3	33
Red-bellied Woodpecker	52	42	12	35	23	164
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2				2
Downy Woodpecker	34	14	3	19	14	84
Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	1		3	11
Northern Flicker	6	15	1	14	17	53
Pileated Woodpecker	18	10	7	9	14	58
American Kestrel	1	2	2	8		13
Peregrine Falcon	2			1		3
Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	11	13	7	7	6	44
Acadian Flycatcher	1				9	10
<i>Empidonax</i> , sp		1				1
Eastern Phoebe	27	52	5	11	2	97
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	3				4
Eastern Kingbird		3				3
Loggerhead Shrike	3		2			5
White-eyed Vireo	18	2	5	9	9	43
Yellow-throated Vireo	3		1	4	1	9
Blue-headed Vireo	4	2				6
Red-eyed Vireo	23	1	7		15	46
Blue Jay	144	216	38	50	13	461
American Crow	207	221	123	86	11	648
Fish Crow	33	2		3	2	40
Common Raven	3					3
Tree Swallow				101		101
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				218	22	240
Cliff Swallow				1		1
Barn Swallow				47	2	49
Carolina Chickadee	139	81	33	31	20	304
Tufted Titmouse	103	97	37	42	26	305
White-breasted Nuthatch	39	14	3	11	12	79
Brown-headed Nuthatch	13	12	4	11	6	46

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
House Wren	1	4		5	1	11
Carolina Wren	122	86	36	75	39	358
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	1	8		1	16
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		3		3		6
Eastern Bluebird	117	217	46	20	3	403
Veery	2			1		3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1				10	11
Swainson's Thrush	12				255	267
Hermit Thrush	2	4				6
Wood Thrush	14	4			5	23
American Robin	54	149	27			230
Gray Catbird	26	19	1	6	1	53
Northern Mockingbird	57	91	16	28		192
Brown Thrasher	27	36		15	1	79
European Starling	93	260	165	16		534
Ovenbird	2					2
Worm-eating Warbler	2				1	3
Golden-winged Warbler	1					1
Black-and-white Warbler	6	4	1	3	1	15
Tennessee Warbler	2		1			3
Kentucky Warbler				1		1
Common Yellowthroat	8	4	1	6	3	22
Hooded Warbler	12		1			13
American Redstart	25	5	4	5	20	59
Cape May Warbler	2	1				3
Northern Parula	5	1		16	25	47
Magnolia Warbler	11	5		1	5	22
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					1
Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	1		1	4
Yellow Warbler	1	1		1		3
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8	3	1	4		16
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4				2	6
Palm Warbler	11	13		14		38
Pine Warbler	17	10	11	25	21	84
Yellow-rumped Warbler		4				4
Yellow-throated Warbler		1	1			2
Prairie Warbler		1	2			3
Black-throated Green Warbler	4					4
Yellow-breasted Chat	1					1
Eastern Towhee	22	25	12	15	8	82
Chipping Sparrow	37	46	18	5		106
Field Sparrow	26	31	8			65
Savannah Sparrow		1				1
Grasshopper Sparrow		2				2
Song Sparrow	3	19				22
White-throated Sparrow		16				16
Dark-eyed Junco	15					15
Summer Tanager	1	3		2	5	11
Scarlet Tanager	12	1	1	1	3	18
Northern Cardinal	147	176	19	86	25	453
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7	7				14
Blue Grosbeak	1				3	4
Indigo Bunting	22	24	3	20	25	94
Painted Bunting				5	1	6
Bobolink		1				1

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Red-winged Blackbird			1	96	13	110
Eastern Meadowlark	3	6	7			16
Brewer's Blackbird		4				4
Common Grackle	126	26	5	40	1	198
Brown-headed Cowbird	25	9		31	350	415
House Finch	41	27	4	1		73
American Goldfinch	110	45	13	2	2	172
House Sparrow	6	13		3		22
Species	109	100	69	95	70	142
Individuals	4035	4661	1391	3762	1159	15008
Regular Count						
Hours foot		32.75	9	18.5		60.25
Hours car		12.5	5.5	14.3		32.3
Hours boat		2.5				2.5
Hours canoe/kayak				2		2
Hours bike		1				1
Miles foot	32.95	32.5	8.5	7.5	8.5	89.95
Miles car	231.2	335	183	182.5	16	947.7
Miles boat		12				12
Miles canoe/kayak	1			8		9
Miles bike		3				3
# Regular parties		12	5	5		34
# Regular observers		15	10	11	15	72
#Species		92	68	87		
#Individuals		3159	1373	2147		6679
Feeder Watch						
Hours Feeder Watch		44.5	6	1		51.5
#Feeder Watchers		24	2	1		27
#Feeder Stations		17	2	3		22
#Species		52	9	12		
#Individuals		613	17	40		670
Nocturnal						
Hours Nocturnal	3	2	1	0.75	3	6.75
Miles Nocturnal		4.5	4	4.5		13
#parties nocturnal	5	6	1	1		13
#observers nocturnal		9	1	1		11
#Species		5	1	0		
#Individuals		890	1	0		891
Total						
Party Hours	92.4	90.75	21.5	36.55	12	255.7
Party Miles	265.15	379	196.5	202.5	24.5	1067.65
Time start	0500	0700	0700	0530	0400	
Time stop	1750	2200	2100	1730	1600	
Temperature: pre-dawn						
dawn	63	65		59		
AM	63	63	72	60		
noon	70	68		64		
PM	70	70		67		
	79	78	86	69		

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
sunset		72		67		
night		68		67		
wind: pre-dawn	ene			sw 5		
dawn	ene			sw 5		
AM	ene			w 5-10		
noon	ene			w10-15		
PM	ene			w10-15		
sunset	ene			w10-15		
night	ene			w 10		
%clouds: pre-dawn			100	30		
dawn			100	30		
AM			100	20		
noon			100	20		
PM			100	10		
sunset			100	10		
night			100	10		
precipitation: pre-dawn	0	0	light	0		
dawn	0	0	light	0		
AM	0	0		0		
noon	0	0		0		
PM	0	0		0		
sunset	0	0		0		
night	0	0		0		