

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Second Record of Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) for South Carolina

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On the afternoon of 30 November 2016, Michael Oliver, a Greenville County Bird Club member, reported an immature Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) seen from the West Bay observation deck of Lake Conestee Nature Park, in Greenville County, SC, located at 34°46'37.1" N, 82°21'16.4" W.

Around eight o'clock on the morning of the following day, 1 December 2016, the bird was seen and photographed by Anthony Q. Martin in the same location (Figure 1 & 2). A few minutes later Michael Oliver, Michael Robertson, and Paul Serridge observed the bird as it flew along a narrow waterway between the West Bay and the North Slough.

Anthony Q. Martin took several diagnostic photographs which showed the bird had been banded. Subsequent follow up by Chris Hill determined that the bird had been banded just prior to fledging on 16 July 2016 in a private mitigation wetland near Fellsmere, Florida.

A detailed report and photographs were submitted to the South Carolina Bird Records Committee for review. Formal acceptance of this record is currently pending.

The first report of a Snail Kite in South Carolina was of an adult male bird found at Elliott's Landing Crawfish Ponds, near Rimini, in Clarendon County, from 14 May 2007 through 16 June 2007 (Slyce et al. 2009). This was also the first confirmed report of a Snail Kite in the United States outside Florida. Presumably that bird found an adequate food supply at the ponds. Such was apparently not the case at Lake Conestee Nature Park because, despite repeated visits to Lake Conestee Nature Park by many birders, the bird was not reported again after 1 December.

In addition to these South Carolina reports, a dead adult male Snail Kite was found in the in the Crusoe Island community in Columbus County, NC, on 10 April 2009. That bird was determined to be recently dead but emaciated and in poor health (Helms and LeGrand, 2010).

Literature Cited

- Helms, James C. and LeGrand, Harry E., Jr. 2010.
First Record of Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) for North Carolina
The Chat 74: 35-37.
- LeGrand, H. E., Jr., K. E. Camburn, S. Cooper, R. J. Davis, E. V. Dean,
W.K. Forsythe, J. S. Phippen, M. H. Tove, and R. L. Tyndall. 2010.
2009 annual report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee.
The Chat 74: 1-5.
- Slyce, D., G. Beaton, L. Glover, C. Hill, T. Piephoff, W. Post, and S. Wagner.
2009.
2008 annual report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee.
The Chat 73:105-106.



Figure 1. Immature Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville County, SC, 1 December 2016. Photo by Anthony Q. Martin.



Figure 2. Immature Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville County, SC, 1 December 2016. Photo by Anthony Q. Martin.