

2016 Fall Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Five Fall Bird Counts were held in 2016. The counts were held September 10 through October 1 in Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Aiken counties and in Congaree National Park. The 109 participants recorded a total of 129 species and 10,673 individuals. The species total was well short of the 146 reported last year and the high of 168 in 2011. The 17 species of warblers reported was also well below the 27 reported last year and the high of 29 reported in 2010. Several of the compilers suggested that hot, dry conditions this fall may have contributed their reduced counts.

Greenville County: September 17; 100 species; 3380 individuals

Compiler: Paul Serridge
4 Audrey Lane
Greenville, SC 29615

Participants: Dave Baker, Joan Baker, Shelby Birch, Andrew Bowers, Jim Buschur, Marion Clark, Steve Compton, Donnie Coody, Denise DuPon, Laura Eison, Matthew Eison, Sherie Gamble, Terry Gamble, Chip Gilbert, Gary Harbour, Pam Helton, Genny Hill, J. B. Hines, Linda Hunter, Jerry Johnson, Jo Anne Keasler, David Kirk, Bill Koon, Len Kopka, Kevin Kubach, Dennis Lee, Tim Lee, Yves Limpalair, Carole Lyle, Chris Peak, Merikay Pirrone, Michael Robertson, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Lily Shelnut, Tim Shelnut, Larry Sturm, Pat Sturm, Dennis Trapp, Judith Webb, Anne Williams, Arthur Williams, Cindy Womble, Louis Womble, Susan Zickos.

Spartanburg County: September 24; 84 species; 3954 individuals

Compiler: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307-2215

Participants: Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, Lewanna Caldwell, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Cheryl Cooksey, Mark Cooksey, Sharon Donovan, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, J. B.

Hines, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Jack Jennings, Jerry Johnson, Don Knight, Mary Knight, Nancy Mandlove, Joe Mitchell, Roberta Mitchell, Nora Moore, Terry Moore, Bill Myers, Mary Ann Myers, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Doug Rayner, Mack Shealy, Elizabeth Storm, Jon Storm, Melissa Storm, Kristin Taylor, Gerald Thrumond, M. B. Ulmer, Kay Wealden, Richard Wealden, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg had a fair Fall Count, considering that several key birders were again unable to participate. Birds were scarce, perhaps reflecting weeks of hot, dry weather. We had 84 total species, including only six warbler species. Sparrows and blackbirds were scarce. Four chimneys attracted 1200 migrating Chimney Swifts at dusk. Best birds were Bald Eagle (second year), Gadwall, Cape May Warbler, and Swainson's Thrush.

Cherokee County: September 10; 62 species; 739 individuals

Compiler: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Claude Cobb, Randy Fowler, J. B. Hines, Jerry Johnson, Karla Lavender, Janet Tsiknias

Ten Cherokee Count birders found 62 species, including only two species of warblers. Birds were scarce, possibly reflecting weeks of hot, dry weather. Our numbers from yard and feeder watches were up. Best bird was a Broad-winged Hawk.

Aiken County: October 1; 83 species; 1528 individuals

Compiler: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Dr.
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Meg Francouer, Wade Gassman, Paul Koehler, Mat Malain, Eric Monaco, Mary Pallon, Lois Stacey, Calvin Zippler

Congaree National Park: September 25; 53 species; 1072 individuals

Compiler: John Grego

Participants: Ron Ahle, John Grego, Kathleen O'Grady, Alice Steinke, Angela Valasori

A Fall Migration Count was held September 25 at Congaree National Park. Weather was 70 degrees in the morning and 90 degrees in the afternoon, and mosquitoes were active in the floodplain. Thrushes were

heard overhead in good numbers from the Visitor Center parking lot pre-dawn, with the nocturnal flight call count dominated by Swainson's Thrush. Birding in the eastern portion of the park was less intensive than usual, which cut down on species diversity in general and migrant counts in particular. 53 species were observed on the day.

Table 1. Fall 2016 Bird Counts in South Carolina

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck				4		4
Canada Goose	173	562	57	32		824
Wood Duck	63	6		32	2	103
Gadwall		2				2
Mallard	101	115	5	3		224
Am. Black Duck	1	2				3
Hooded Merganser		3				3
Red-breasted Merganser		6				6
Northern Bobwhite	2		1			3
Wild Turkey		6	36			42
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1		4		6
Rock Pigeon	14	123	45	12		194
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	2		1		4
Mourning Dove	187	161	62	41	4	455
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	1	1	5	2	11
Common Nighthawk	1	1				2
Eastern Whip-poor-will				1		1
Chimney Swift	134	1276	22	14	14	1460
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	722	42	2	3		769
Rufous Hummingbird	1					1
Killdeer	31	25	21	16		93
Least Sandpiper				56		56
Pectoral Sandpiper				1		1
Spotted Sandpiper	1	1				2
Solitary Sandpiper	2		2			4
Lesser Yellowlegs				18		18
Greater Yellowlegs				4		4
Wilson's Phalarope				1		1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	9	2			12
Anhinga				6		6
Great Blue Heron	8	16	4	5	3	36
Great Egret	10	4		13		27
Little Blue Heron				10		10
Cattle Egret				79		79
Green Heron	2					2
Black Vulture	26	9	8	9	12	64
Turkey Vulture	30	67	25	15	3	140
Osprey	1		2			3
Bald Eagle		1			1	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2		1		4
Cooper's Hawk	1	2		1		4
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	8	5	6	5	36
Broad-winged Hawk			2			2
Red-tailed Hawk	5	5	6	2	2	20
Eastern Screech-Owl	2			4		6
Great Horned Owl	2	4		8	2	16
Barred Owl	3	1	1	9	15	29

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Belted Kingfisher	7	13	3	4		27
Red-headed Woodpecker	7	3	2	16	16	44
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	33	13	34	23	144
Downy Woodpecker	29	30	2	18	10	89
Hairy Woodpecker	5	1	1		1	8
Red-cockaded Woodpecker				2		2
Northern Flicker	3	5	3	13	3	27
Pileated Woodpecker	33	6	4	23	15	81
American Kestrel	2	2	1	4		9
Peregrine Falcon	1			1		2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	15	6	5	8	2	36
Acadian Flycatcher	1	2			3	6
Eastern Phoebe	29	15	9	11	1	65
Great Crested Flycatcher			2			2
Eastern Kingbird	1	1				2
White-eyed Vireo	32	4	8	29	16	89
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	1			2	5
Blue-headed Vireo	5					5
Red-eyed Vireo	11	2			1	14
Blue Jay	116	81	23	77	9	306
American Crow	306	149	47	57	12	571
Fish Crow	16	2	3	5		26
crow sp.					2	2
Common Raven	5					5
Tree Swallow	6			9		15
N. Rough-winged Swallow				165	2	167
Barn Swallow		1		16		17
Carolina Chickadee	100	98	32	41	12	283
Tufted Titmouse	78	85	35	75	30	303
White-breasted Nuthatch	39	19	7	16	10	91
Brown-headed Nuthatch	10	12	1	15	6	44
House Wren	2	12		2		16
Carolina Wren	91	60	26	59	45	278
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6				1	7
Eastern Bluebird	119	47	20	10		196
Veery					88	88
Gray-cheeked Thrush					5	5
Swainson's Thrush	1	3			571	575
Wood Thrush					19	19
American Robin	74	53	23		1	151
Gray Catbird	16	3		3		22
Brown Thrasher	26	21	1	22	1	71
Northern Mockingbird	50	52	8	32		142
European Starling	52	53	58	115		278
Cedar Waxwing	15					15
House Sparrow	2	20	2			24
House Finch	55	70	10	2		137
Purple Finch		2				2
American Goldfinch	133	30	8	2	1	174
Eastern Towhee	17	5	6	21		49
Chipping Sparrow	4	14	10	2		30
Field Sparrow	2	14	8			24
Song Sparrow	3	6				9
Dark-eyed Junco	12					12
Eastern Meadowlark	1		2			3
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Red-winged Blackbird		1	1	1		3

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Brown-headed Cowbird		133	3	2		138
Common Grackle	18	129	8	4		159
Ovenbird	1					1
Worm-eating Warbler		1			1	2
Northern Waterthrush					1	1
Black-and-white Warbler	2				2	4
Tennessee Warbler	9					9
Common Yellowthroat	8			4	5	17
Hooded Warbler	5			1	2	8
American Redstart	22	3	2	4	18	49
Cape May Warbler	1	1				2
Northern Parula	7			11	19	37
Magnolia Warbler	3			4	1	8
Yellow Warbler	1	1				2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6			2		8
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1					1
Palm Warbler	15			12		27
Pine Warbler	9	11	8	49	16	93
Yellow-throated Warbler	2	1		2	1	6
Summer Tanager	4	4	2	3	6	19
Scarlet Tanager	8	1	1		1	11
Northern Cardinal	105	160	17	83	15	380
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	2				3
Blue Grosbeak	3		2	3		8
Indigo Bunting	26	7	3	15	1	52
Painted Bunting				1		1
Species	100	84	62	83	53	129
Individuals	3380	3954	739	1528	1072	10673
Regular Count						
Hours foot		30	10	14.3	10	64.3
Hours car		12	8.5	17.85		38.35
Hours canoe/kayak				3		3
Hours boat		7.5				7.5
Hours bicycle		0.5		3		3.5
Miles foot		17.5	11.5	4.5	4.5	38
Miles car		343	174	111.45		628.45
Miles canoe/kayak				2		2
Miles boat		17				17
Miles bicycle		6		4		10
# Regular parties	16	15	7	6		44
# Regular observers	45	21	8	8	5	87
# Species		80	61	79		
# Individuals		2184	653	1482		
Stationary						
Hours Stationary				2		2
# Parties Stationary				1		1
# Observers Stationary				1		1
# Species				15		15
# Individuals				24		24

	Greenv	Spart	Cherok	Aiken	Congar	Total
Feeder Watch						
Hours Feeder Watch		52	8.5			60.5
# Feeder Watchers		28	3			31
# Feeder Stations		17	3			20
# Species		39	26			
# Individuals		564	85			649
Nocturnal						
Hours Nocturnal		4	0.5	4.25	1.25	10
Miles Nocturnal		12	0	8.5	5	25.5
# Parties Nocturnal		4	1	3		8
# Observers Nocturnal		6	1	3		10
# Species		4	1	7		
# Individuals		1206	1	30		1237
Total						
Party Hours	75.5	102	27.5	44.4	11.25	260.65
Party Miles		383.5	185.5	130.45	9.5	708.95
Time start	0600	0700	0700	0515	0530	
Time stop	1930	2200	2100	1900	1825	
Temperature: pre-dawn						
dawn		70	68	62		
AM	61	69	68	62	70	
noon		77	80	69		
PM	86	81	88	76		
sunset		87	95	86	90	
night		80	80	80		
		77	78	78		
wind: pre-dawn						
dawn	<5			0		
AM	<5			0		
noon	<5			SW3		
PM	<5			SW5		
sunset	<5			WSW7		
night				W5		
				W5		
%clouds: pre-dawn						
dawn		0	0	20		
AM		0	0	20		
noon		0	0	20		
PM		0	0	10		
sunset		0	0	15		
night		0	0	20		
		0	0	20		
precipitation: pre-dawn						
dawn	0	0	0	0		
AM	0	0	0	0		
noon	0	0	0	0		
PM	0	0	0	0		
sunset	0	0	0	0		
night		0	0	0		