

**Trip Report**  
**Lake Conestee Nature Preserve, Greenville County SC**  
**February 24, 2021**

It was a beautiful day to be out for a day trip to Lake Conestee Nature Preserve (LCNP) in Greenville. This 400 plus acre park right near downtown Greenville has a wide variety of habitat, attracting a great mix of birds. Greenville is usually warmer than the mountains of Western North Carolina, so it is a nice treat to beat the cold for a day. We started at 9 A.M. and it was already around 55 degrees. A FISH CROW was calling from the parking lot. We soon encountered a cooperative PINE WARBLER on the bridge over the Reedy River. One of the main target birds for the day was RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. We encountered two foraging in the first fifteen minutes of the day! The family group that inhabits the river bottom put on quite a show. We had no less than eight RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS with very close views. It was an amazing experience! Walking on the boardwalk we encountered SONG, SWAMP, and WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS. LCNP is known for its very accessible heron rookery. We had great views of the GREAT-BLUE HERON'S carrying nesting material in to sturdy up their nests. A surprise encounter of the day was a pair of RIVER OTTERS playing in the water. These active mammals are known to frequent LCNP. WILSON'S SNIPE occupied the marsh and we were able to get good views of around twenty individuals. We heard and eventually had looks at BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCHES in the pines and on a feeder. A pair of HOODED MERGANSERS put on quite a show. We had walked around the lake at this point and everyone was ready for a little lunch.

After lunch we walked along the Swamp Rabbit trail section of LCNP and got our first looks at EASTERN TOWHEE for the day. The feeders by the trail yielded good looks at PINE SISKENS, BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS. It was a nice way to end our day. This is a fabulous park to explore in all seasons we will be going back in early May to look for migrants and nesting Prothonotary Warblers. Please join us!

Good Birding,  
Kevin Burke

### **Birdlist 44 Species**

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Eastern Phoebe	House Finch
Mallard	Blue Jay	Pine Siskin
Hooded Merganser	American Crow	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Fish Crow	White-throated Sparrow
American Coot	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Eastern Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Rusty Blackbird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Winter Wren	Pine Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	Northern Cardinal
Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	