

Trip Report
County Birding: Lincoln County
February 10, 2021

Lincoln County is one of the most underbirded counties in North Carolina with barely 200 species recorded. As part of our new “County Birding” series we are exploring several of the “quieter” counties, along with the more popular birding destinations.

For our Lincoln County trip we met at Betty G Ross Community Park, which is a multi-use facility with some large tracts of riparian woodland. We spent about an hour here and managed a healthy list of the more commonly-expected winter species, such as both Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow. Our next stop was Beatty’s Ford Park, one of the very few access point on Lake Norman where we could look over the lake. Despite the boat traffic we found Horned Grebe and Common Loon, as well as both expected gulls. A nice surprise was an over-wintering Orange-crowned Warbler in a remnant patch of woodland along the shore, along with Brown Creeper and Winter Wren.

Forney Creek Greenway was our third stop in the county and has the potential to be an excellent birding spot. Unfortunately a patch of land adjacent to the Greenway was being destroyed and leveled to be an industrial site – the constant assault on the natural world never stops! Despite this fact, the small lake had over 75 Ring-necked Ducks and several Redhead – great ducks for the county. After hiking the mile and a half in and back, we decided to call it a day and head over to Grand View Farm in nearby Cleveland County to see the ducks. We were not disappointed as one of the small lakes had 7 species of waterfowl, including over 10 Redhead. The immature Red-headed Woodpecker showed for a while and several Wilson’s Snipe flushed from the marshy spot next to the lake.

We didn’t add anything new to the Lincoln County list, but our daily total of 54 was not bad for a mid-winter day. Thanks to all who joined the trip and to Bill for showing us his farm.

Simon Thompson

Lincoln County Birds 54 Species Encountered

Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Redhead	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Eastern Phoebe	House Sparrow
Bufflehead	Blue Jay	House Finch
Pied-billed Grebe	American Crow	American Goldfinch
Horned Grebe	Carolina Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Golden-crowned	White-throated
Bonaparte's Gull	Kinglet	Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Song Sparrow
Common Loon	White-breasted	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Turkey Vulture	Brown-headed	Orange-crowned
Bald Eagle	Nuthatch	Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Brown Creeper	Pine Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Winter Wren	Yellow-rumped
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Warbler
Red-bellied	European Starling	Northern Cardinal
Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	

Cleveland County Birds 36 Species Encountered

Canada Goose	Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Chickadee
Wood Duck	Double-crested Cormorant	Tufted Titmouse
Gadwall	Great Blue Heron	Carolina Wren
Mallard	Black Vulture	European Starling
Redhead	Turkey Vulture	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Bald Eagle	Eastern Bluebird
Lesser Scaup	Red-headed Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Bufflehead	Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Finch
Hooded Merganser	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Mourning Dove	Loggerhead Shrike	Eastern Meadowlark
Killdeer	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Wilson's Snipe	American Crow	Northern Cardinal