



## South Carolina: Southern Charm

October 18-24, 2016

### Bird, Mammal & Other Species List

#### Birds (130)

##### Anatidae: Ducks, Geese and Swans (5)

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Seen on the last day in a pond near the Charleston airport

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*—Nice male seen at Audubon Swamp, Magnolia Plantation; flock of 5 flew over at the same location

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*—Male found at Audubon Swamp, sitting so still it appeared to be a decoy allowing great scope looks

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*—Large number seen at Savannah NWR, more found at Audubon Swamp

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*—Female found with teal at Savannah NWR, nice views of ring on bill

##### Phasianidae: Partridges, Pheasants and Allies (1)

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*—Spotted by Marie on a wooded edge near Francis Beidler Audubon Center

##### Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—Seen often in ponds including Savannah NWR, Caw Caw, Audubon Swamp

##### Ciconiidae: Storks (1)

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*—Scope look at one at Pitt Street Bridge; closer look at one on Patriot's Point

##### Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Seen almost daily at fresh & saltwater locations

##### Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*—Fitting that we would have our only sighting near the Audubon Swamp where John James Audubon observed and collected his first Anhinga specimen; four were observed, two while drying their outstretched wings

##### Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*—Seen daily at all salt water locations

##### Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (7)

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—This largest of all herons was seen daily at all locations; very close looks at the Savannah NWR

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*—This plentiful egret was seen daily at all locations

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—Seen at all fresh water ponds & lakes

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*—Both blue & white plumages seen, often together for comparison, at Savannah NWR; also seen at Audubon Swamp and Pitt Street Bridge

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*—Two seen in scope at Folly Beach County Park; one spotted on Patriot's Point

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—Close flyby, spotted by Carlos and seen by all at Savannah NWR

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*—Two juveniles feeding along drive at Savannah NWR; another juvenile seen feeding at close range at the Pitt Street Bridge

##### Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (2)

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*—Seen daily at all locations & in residential areas; first seen roosting in trees at Savannah NWR

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*—Flock of 14 seen at close range flying low over the Savannah NWR marsh

#### **Cathartidae: New World Vultures (2)**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*—Nice views during lunch at the Savannah NWR Visitor's Center; seen often during drives

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—Seen almost daily at all locations

#### **Pandionidae: Osprey (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—Two seen at the Savannah NWR; others at Folly Beach, Ft. Sumter; one perched at Ft. Moultrie

#### **Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (6)**

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*—First seen over the Savannah NWR marsh; others at Folly Beach grasslands, walk to Morris Island lighthouse, & Pitt Street Bridge marsh

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*—Seen being chased by a Cooper's Hawk at Audubon Swamp

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*—Seen over the Audubon Swamp chasing a Sharp-shinned; nice size & tail shape comparison

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—Surprisingly, seen only once at Caw Caw Interpretive Center

**Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*—Heard at Savannah NWR; scope views while perched at Audubon Swamp

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*—Seen soaring at Savannah NWR, Caw Caw, Pitt Street Bridge & Patriot's Point

#### **Rallidae: Rails, Coots, and Allies (5)**

**King Rail** *Rallus elegans*—Heard only at the entrance to the Savannah NWR

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus crepitans*—We heard many at Folly Beach County Park but had wonderful luck to get close looks from 15' at Caw Caw and again looked down on one at the Patriot's Point causeway, **TIED FOR 2<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **FOR BIRD OF THE TRIP**

**Sora** *Porzana carolina*—Heard only at Savannah NWR

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*—Many seen out in the open at Savannah NWR and in the pond at Audubon Swamp Trail

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—Three seen at Savannah NWR

#### **Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (1)**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*—Seen flying over the marsh at Pitt Street Bridge

#### **Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (4)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*—Large number sitting on piers at Folly Beach

**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia*—Four on the beach at Ft. Sumter next to many Semipalmated for nice comparisons

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—Seen next to Wilson's for nice comparison; also at Savannah NWR and at Folly Beach

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*—Seen and heard often at Savannah NWR

#### **Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (13)**

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—One on the pier, and a few on the beach, at Folly; three with shorebirds at Ft. Sumter

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—Seen often at Folly Beach running away from the waves

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*—Two large flocks, one on pier at Folly Beach and one on beach at Ft. Sumter

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*—Very early migrant, spotted first by Carlos Sanchez- **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP**

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—Many seen at the Onslow Unit at Savannah NWR; a few at Folly Beach and 1 at Ft. Sumter

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*—One seen on pier at Folly Beach

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*—On the shore at the Onslow Unit at Savannah NWR; with other shorebirds at Ft. Sumter

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*—Fifteen seen on the pier with other shorebirds at Folly Beach

**Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*—Seen flying at Savannah NWR marsh

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—Seen feeding along the shore at the Onslow Unit, Savannah NWR

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*—Seen with Lesser for nice size comparison at the Onslow Unit, SNWR

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*—Seen feeding and flying on beach at Folly; seen at other beach locations

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*—Over 100 feeding frantically at the Onslow Unit, SNWR

### **Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (8)**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—Seen often and everywhere during the week

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*—Seen with Laughing Gull on Folly Beach for comparison

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*—Two seen perched on the pier for good views of size and pink leg color

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*—Close views while flying from the Folly Beach fishing pier; perched other locations

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*—Seen perched on Folly Beach piers with other terns for size and field mark comparisons

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*—Close views while flying from fishing pier; perched on piers at Folly Beach and beaches

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—Nice scope views of this smaller tern with yellow tip on black bill at Folly Beach

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*—Seen at Folly Beach County Park and from Ft. Sumter cruise in Charleston Harbor

### **Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (3)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—Seen often while driving in populated areas

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*—Seen on wires along the roadsides and in the town of Folly Beach

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—In trees at Savannah NWR; on wires in Folly Beach and other locations

### **Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (1)**

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*—After fleeting glances, one sat perched for all to view on the Patriot's Point Nature Trail

### **Strigidae: Owls (1)**

**Barred Owl** *Strix varia*—Resident at Francis Beidler Audubon boardwalk, one was finally spotted by Anita giving good views

### **Apodidae: Swifts (1)**

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*—Seen in the sky at the entrance to Donnelly Management Area, ACE Basin

### **Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megasceryle alcyon*—Seen often including Savannah NWR, Folly Beach, and many at Caw Caw

### **Picidae: Woodpeckers (8)**

**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—One at Savannah NWR and a few seen at Donnelly WMA

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*—Seen and heard at all locations; good looks at the entrance to Savannah

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*—This fall migrant was seen often including Savannah NWR & Francis Beidler

**Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescens*—Seen and heard at all locations

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Picoides villosus*—Seen on the Caw Caw swamp boardwalk

**Red-Cockaded Woodpecker** *Picoides borealis*—This endangered species family of 4 was found in the Francis Marion Forest

**TIED FOR SECOND AS BIRD OF THE TRIP**

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—Seen and heard daily at all locations

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*—A group favorite, a pair was heard and seen in the Caw Caw swamp and on the Francis Beidler boardwalk

### **Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (1)**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—One seen on a wire along the road on the drive to Francis Marion National Forest

### **Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (2)**

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens*—One spotted in the trees at Donnelly WMA

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*—Seen and heard often at all locations

### **Laniidae: Shrikes (1)**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*—Spotted by Anita at close range in a small tree at the Savannah NWR

### **Vireonidae: Vireos (2)**

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*—Spotted often in mixed feeding flocks including Savannah NWR & Morris Island trail

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*—Seen with mixed feeding flock at Savannah NWR and Francis Beidler boardwalk

### **Corvidae: Crows, Jays, and Magpies (3)**

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*—Seen daily at all locations

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Vocalizing at many locations

**Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus*—Heard vocalizing at Savannah NWR, Folly Beach, and Caw Caw

**Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (3)**

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—Many seen in the air over marshes including Folly Beach, Caw Caw, and Pitt St Bridge

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva*—One spotted flying at Pitt Street Bridge by guide Carlos Sanchez

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—One seen in the air at Ft. Sumter

**Paridae: Tits and Chickadees (2)**

**Carolina Chickadee** *Poecile carolinensis*—Seen daily leading mixed feeding flocks at all locations

**Tufted Titmouse** *Baeolophus bicolor*—Seen daily in mixed flocks

**Sittidae: Nuthatches (3)**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*—A surprise, found in a mixed feeding flock on the Morris Island lighthouse trail

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—Seen at entrance to the Savannah NWR and at Donnelly WMA

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta pusilla*—Small flocks found vocalizing at Donnelly WMA and Francis Marion National Forest

**Troglodytidae: Wrens (3)**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—Found often with mixed feeding flocks including Savannah NWR, Donnelly WMA, and Caw Caw Interpretive Center

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*—First heard by Pat in Savannah NWR marsh, we worked hard for him to show himself

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Proving true to his name, we heard and saw this species at all locations

**Poliophtilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*—Heard first on the Savannah Wildlife Drive, we returned to get good looks and then saw this species at other locations including Donnelly WMA

**Regulidae: Kinglets (2)**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa*—Group finally got good looks at this delightful species on the Francis Beidler Boardwalk showing his golden-orange crown

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—This kinglet was seen daily with mixed feeding flocks

**Turdidae: Thrushes (3)**

**Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*—We first saw this species at Donnelly WMA and later at Ft. Moultrie

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*—We found this thrush eating berries along the boardwalk at Francis Beidler

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*—We found 6 of this species on the Audubon Swamp Trail at Magnolia Plantation

**Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (3)**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*—This species was seen frequently and in large numbers on the Morris Island trail

**Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*—One was seen at the entrance to Savannah NWR and a few on the Morris Island trail

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—This species was seen daily at all locations, especially on Folly Island

**Sturnidae: Starlings (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*—Watching for this species, we finally had a flock near Mt. Pleasant

**Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (10)**

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*—Heard first, and then seen clearly, on the Morris Island Lighthouse trail

**Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—Seen often in mixed feeding flocks

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—Seen often in mixed feeding flocks

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—Seen at Savannah NWR, Donnelly and Caw Caw

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*—A surprise, seen on the Morris Island lighthouse trail

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*—Another warbler that was found in mixed feeding flocks, 2 seen at Audubon Swamp

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*—This warbler, with distinctive behavioral field marks, was found in numbers at the Savannah NWR, Ft. Moultrie, and Patriot's Point

**Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus*—Good looks in pines at Donnelly WMA and the Audubon Swamp Trail

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronate*—The most numerous warbler seen, present at most locations

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*—This colorful Eastern warbler was a great sighting for our Western visitors  
Seen the first morning at Savannah NWR and the last at Patriot's Point

#### **Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (6)**

**Seaside Sparrow** *Ammodramus maritimus*—This hard to see and find Southeast specialty was found in saltmarsh grass at  
at the Pitt Street Bridge causeway

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—Found on the road in the Francis Marion National Forest

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*—First seen at Savannah NWR, others at Caw Caw & Pitt Street Bridge

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*—A number seen near the Patriot's Point Nature Trail

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza Georgiana*—Large numbers and good looks at Savannah NWR and Caw Caw

**Eastern Towhee** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*—Heard at Savannah NWR and Donnelly WMA

#### **Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Grosbeaks (2)**

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Large numbers seen daily at all locations

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*—Two seen at Savannah NWR, and four were seen at Caw Caw together in one tree

#### **Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles (4)**

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Large numbers seen at Savannah NWR and Folly Beach marsh

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—Two seen by Pat and one other birder in the field at Ft. Moultrie

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*—Seen flying at Magnolia Plantation's Audubon Swamp Trail

**Boat-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus major*—Common and vocal at all locations

#### **Fringillidae: Finches (2)**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Seen on the Morris Island trail and the Patriot's Point Nature Trail

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*—Heard in the bushes at the Onslow Unit of the Savannah NWR

#### **Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*—Seen in cities in parking lots

## **Mammals (3)**

**Marsh Rabbit** *Sylvilagus palustris*—We saw this rabbit at Caw Caw but did not see it swim, which it has the ability to do

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*—Seen daily at all locations, very numerous!

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*—Exciting sighting from the Folly Beach fishing pier and the cruise to Ft. Sumter

## **Reptiles (1)**

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*—Numerous sightings at the Savannah NWR, one in the sun at the Audubon  
Swamp Trail, and three babies on the shore at Caw Caw

