

# Colleton River

## Birding Update 1/16/19

Yesterday, the CR Birding group drove to the Savannah Wildlife Refuge for an incredible view of waterfowl. The refuge is a 4 mile drive through old rice fields. The Corp of Engineers let the water levels rise and it was Duck Heaven!.

In total, we identified 41 different species of birds including the impressive Northern Shoveler, the Ring Necked Duck (who has the ring on its beak), Blue Winged Teal, Scaups, Coots and many more. The size of birds ranged from tiny blue grey gnatcatchers and ruby crowned kinglets to the majestic bald eagles.

I tried to record the total number of birds we saw, but gave up because there were hundreds and hundreds of ducks.....too many for this former accountant to count! A group of twelve from Colleton made the trek including two first time birders at Colleton, Suzi Reegler and Diane Haynes. Welcome to the flock and we hope you enjoyed the field trip.

We learned a couple of good lessons from the adventure. First, make sure the drivers have directions to the location. We found out that play "Follow the leader" to the refuge wasn't the most efficient manner. There was more than one car that made wrong turns...Secondly, we learned we should confirm that the park is open. Our first stop was at the Welcome Center in the refuge. Unfortunately, this is run by the federal government. Fortunately, the wildlife refuge drive was open! Third, its fun to debrief after the field trip over a casual lunch. Four of us stopped at Cahil's on the way back for a bounty of food and great conversation. (I have to admit though, that I felt a little guilty eating chicken after a bird count....)

Please mark you calendar for our next trip to the ACE Basin on February 22. This is a longer drive, but the basin is a pristine natural treasure that has been featured in a National Geographic article.

A special thank you goes to Karen Anderson for arranging the trips.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen (Not the tennis guy or the food manager)

