

# BirdWalk Newsletter

**1.15.2017**

Conducted by:  
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Written by:  
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Photo at right by:  
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Time to reveal a bit of “rule breakers” here at Magnolia Plantation for you this week. First of all, the turtles and the alligators are not supposed to be enjoying the weather so much in January. Our extreme temperatures (highs in the 20’s last week then this week with highs in the 70’s) have made

sunning not only possible but

desirable. So, there they were, with out-stretched legs, basking in the sun for our viewing enjoyment.



**The Great Egrets were not innocent by any means. They refused to follow the dock rules.**



**The unruly cormorants are in great numbers taking over the platforms this week, while the alligators laughed about it on their own platform nearby.**

All photos on this page by Jo Frkovich



**Cormorant take over**



**Laughing alligator?**

**Not to be outnumbered or outdone, the over 100 American Coots, along with a few Common Moorhen mixed in, filled our back impoundment pond last week. Not the usual, as a rule. The photo below only shows about half the group.**



American Coots last week

Photos by Ray Swagerty

**If you don't see them on the pond when you go by, they are great at cramming themselves in and hiding from the Eagles in the grasses.**

**Also flying in unusually large numbers these past few weeks were the Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures.**

**This is just one viewpoint from last week. Ten in this one shot.**



**Magnolia seems to be a place that is breaking many of the usual rules, and we are just getting started! The Audubon Swamp, involved in a bit of a “cleaning out” and restoration this year, is already beginning to attract more activity within the wildlife scope. Our newly rechanneled and burned large impoundment is also showing stages of good change in bird wildlife. The future looks bright!**



**Great Blue with Impressive Beak**

**Photo by Jo Frkovich**

**55 species of birds were located this week. As far as ducks go, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal showed up. Pied-billed Grebe, Double Crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Common Moorhen, and American Coot were observed all around the waterways. Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, and a surprise, welcomed sight, the Wilson’s Snipe, made our list as well. Black Vulture and Turkey Vulture splattered the sky from several**

viewpoints. As always, the Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Bald Eagle gave the participants plenty to smile about. Approximately 120 Ring-billed Gulls were counted as flybys. Other favorites were the Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, and the Pileated Woodpecker.



Photo by Jo Frkovich

American Crow and Fish Crow made their mark on the list, as did the Common Grackle and Red-winged Black bird. Our darting, eating, and/or calling passerines included the Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed and Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Carolina Wren were all identified. To finish up the list were the American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse. Don't forget the tree swallows which seem to keep themselves busy and satisfied between the house and the large impoundment.

American Robin

Photo by: Marina Coppedge

