

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

Bird Walk Newsletter

Frigid, wet morning kept bird watching guests away, but not Perry!

Special points of interest:

- Ravenswood is an Atlantic Flyway Rest Stop for Many Types of Ducks
- Ravenswood is also a destination for many Great Blue Herons, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret for breeding and nesting
- Least Flycatcher was a big surprise and will need to be added to our field sheet

Some of you may think that morning temperatures in the 30s 40s and wind, and to top it off, rain, would hinder the bird walk. THINK AGAIN! Bird watching is serious stuff, especially when you want to compare from one week to the next (which we invariably do) and look for patterns! So it did not surprise me in the least that Perry, professionally bundled up warm and dry, was walking around out on the grounds when I drove up this morning! He not only walked around a bit, but he also drove around the grounds to see what he could observe in this uncooperative weather. He came in very pleased to report his findings.

Ravenswood is prime real estate for Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, and Green-winged Teal. The trees are bursting with activity of the Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Egrets, and Great Blue Heron. 12 Great Blue Heron nests were observed up in the branches of the tallest trees. The egrets tend to nest in low branches that hang over the surface of the water. **At the river dike and old, large rice field**, he saw Moorhen (45) and American Coot (150), Snowy Egret, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-winged Blackbird (40), Common Grackle (50), and Ring-billed Gulls (25). 4 Bald Eagle were spotted– 3 adult and 1 second year



Despite the Weather Conditions!

A Least Flycatcher was spotted around the parking lot area! It has been a while since we have logged this bird. In addition to the usual, in the same area was a Yellow-throated Warbler and a Pine Warbler. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen picking at some tallow berries along the trail. A Hermit Thrush was observed near the wildlife observation tower. 2 Eastern Bluebirds were spotted near the dike. In the wooded areas, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Carolina Chick-a-dee, Tufted Titmouse and others were represented.



Top: Great Blue Heron making a meal of a siren. Photo by Ken Ward. Bottom: Great Egret Splash Landing Below: Red Shouldered Hawk and Left: Anhinga drying feathers as Alligator and Turtle bask in sunlight Photos by Jo Frkovich



Inside this issue:

- Least Flycatcher **1**
- Orange-crowned **1**
- Yellow-throat Warbler **1**
- Northern Cardinal **15**
- Bald Eagle **4**
- Hermit Thrush **1**
- Ruby Crowned Kinglet **2**