



PHOTOS BY JO FRKVOVICH

# Birdwalk Newsletter

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens  
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BY JAYNE MATNEY

Spring is not the only our best time to see birds! Bird behavior and bird sightings happen year round! This is a particularly important time for many birds to begin to select places for nesting, attract each other, and build nests. Therefore, you are going to see herons and egrets hopping from limb to limb, stretching their necks upward to the sky, or flying by with twigs and Spanish moss in their beaks. Oh, and did I mention...by the hundreds? The Audubon Swamp and the Ravenswood Pond Islands are the best places these days to spy on these busy birds. Before we know it, young will be peeking out over nests' edge. Winter time tends to make people stay indoors and not discover the magic that is out there. But if you take the chance and a pair of binoculars (if you have them) you just might see some things out in nature that put a smile on your face and send your worries away. Magnolia is a wonderful palette for your amusement.

Today our usual birds showed up. This includes the water fowl, shore birds and passerines. Counts to note? The Lesser Scaup was sighted near the dike, as well as many Gadwall,



*Left: Merganser and Reflection*

Moorhen, and American Coot. The coot are showing behavior indicative of keeping their eyes on the bald eagles (2 Adult and 2 first year) as they perch high above. Once the eagles begin to spread their wings, the coot flush in a crowd toward the grassy island in the pond. If you are particularly interested in the other raptors, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, and a Cooper's Hawk were also seen. Red-bellied, Downy, and 3 Pileated Woodpeckers were spotted. 300 Fish crow were observed and 100 red-winged blackbirds. 20 American Goldfinches and 8 catbirds were among the populations. Cardinal, white-throated and swamp sparrows, robin, mockingbird, Brown thrasher, White eyed and Blue-headed vireos, and Tufted titmouse were included.

*Above right: Least Tern with fish*



*Middle: Ibis with a Stork  
Bottom: Ibis walking the field*

