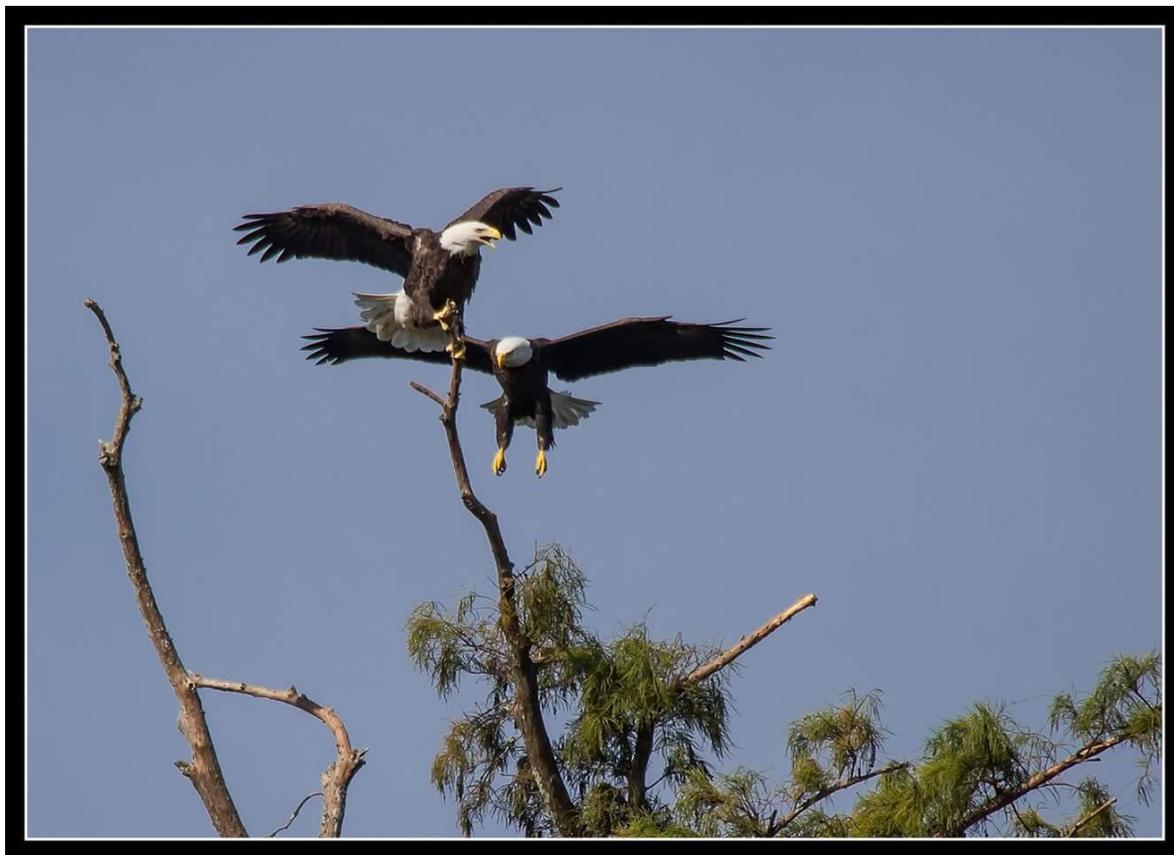


BirdWalk Newsletter

10.16.16

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens



Walk conducted by Perry Nugent

Above Photo by Brent Spigner

Written by Jayne J Matney

“The eagles have landed; the eagles have landed!” The hurricane did not scare these Bald Eagles away and they certainly look as though they are healthy and spry. 2 adults and 1 second year Bald Eagle appeared in full view for watchers and photographers alike. This shot was taken here on the plantation by one of our regular members to the plantation. The humidity has been swept out of the air and everyone is tasting early fall. According to our new arrivals (mostly wintering warblers such as the Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler and the first of the Blue-headed Vireo and Swainson’s Thrush), and increasing individuals in our standing populations (such as the Yellow-rumped Warbler, and the Eastern Phoebe) migration for the winter is approaching. Many of our plants are producing berries at this time which is very attractive to our passerines. The forests and brush are beginning to be very active. Along with these species, others are represented: Carolina Wren, Mourning Dove, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, crow (Fish and American), Tree Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown

Thrasher, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. Perry notes that not many sparrows have come in yet. Once that begins, we will know that fall is here to stay! The Ring-billed Gulls were flyovers, 2 Belted Kingfisher were near the cross dikes, and the American Kestrel was observed while sitting at the picnic tables at the end of the walk. Common Moorhen were gathering in high numbers, yet the American Coot is still holding at only one. Soon we will start seeing those numbers rise. These birds tend to be a favorite food source for the eagles once they migrate into this area.



“Colors of Fall” by Jo Frkovich

A pleasant surprise was the Pectoral Sandpiper

found on the new mudflat at the cross dike near the back of the large old rice field. The dredging done this past winter has enabled these types of wading birds to find mud banks suitable for their liking. The hope is that more will follow. In the Audubon Swamp, a



Black-crowned Night Heron
Photo by Jo Frkovich

Northern Waterthrush was seen. Snowy egret were seen in a few places throughout the plantation, however, a large grouping was in the Ravenswood area. The White Ibis were in clear view, and with binoculars and telescopic lenses “aplenty”, the birdwatchers were in awe of their beautiful



Green Heron by Jo Frkovich

blue eyes! Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Wood Stork, and Anhinga were trusty friends. Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Pied-billed Grebe were on hand to lend to the ambience of the ponds. Red-shouldered Hawk were seen in a few places on the Ravenswood half of the property as well. On the woodpecker side of the bird family, Red-bellied, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers were accounted for today. 4 Northern Flicker were also included in the count. The group of 7 birdwatchers on the walk tallied 51 species spotted. A Fabulous Day!