

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

BirdWalk Newsletter

11.27.2016



A Preening Great Egret

Photo by Cary McDonald

“The wilderness and the idea of wilderness is one of the permanent homes of the human spirit”

Joseph Wood Krutch

This week’s walk was a chilly one in the morning with a light breeze, but also with some hazy smoke from the Appalachian Mountain fires which has found their way here on shifting winds. 53 species of birds were located on this day.

The Highlights of the Morning:

- Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow have found their way to us here on the plantation much to the delight of our birdwatchers.
- 7 American Goldfinch were seen lurking in the trees at the Audubon Swamp
- 8 Dark-eyed Junco were spotted near the pavilion as one of our new winter residences.
- 6 Rusty Blackbirds were identified in the Audubon Swamp.
- A Black-and-white Warbler was seen darting about on the old trail behind the cabins.
- A Wilson's Snipe was a great surprise as they were approaching the Ravenswood dike. It flew up to make itself known then landed and ran into the grasses. Perry is hoping that some of the clearing and rechanneling near this dike is going to encourage more of these types of birds.

As the bird watchers started their trek, approximately 80 American Robin flocked into the trees at the parking lot! Eventually, they flew out toward the Audubon Swamp and were seen there later. Eastern Bluebird were seen along the exit road mostly. They tend to want to use old abandoned woodpecker holes as their "go to" places. Cedar Waxwing were caught berry hunting again. As the birders made their way to Ravenswood Pond, some of the more common passerines made the count such as the Northern Mockingbird, Mourning Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Common Yellowthroat, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.



Lone Heron by Jo Frkovich

Both the Ravenswood Pond and the Large Rice Field Cross Dike were busy. The Ravenswood and Audubon Areas harbored lots of Gadwall, and many Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal. However, one thing that was concerning was the fact that no Wood Ducks were counted.

Pied-billed Grebe were seen at Ravenswood (as well as at the cross dike). 3 Red-shouldered Hawk prefer this side of the property, as well as well Black Vulture and Turkey Vulture.

Scattered about the property were Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Northern Flicker.

Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, American Crow and Fish Crow



Commanding Our Attention!
Photo by Marina Coppedge

were also abundant. The Pileated Woodpecker made the count with one seen and the other two heard along the way. A hand full (6) Ruby-crowned Kinglet were seen in trees here and there, 2 Hermit Thrush were heard, and 1 Brown Thrasher was found in the brush.

Finishing up the morning with a walk along the cross dike and along the edge of the large

pond, Double Crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue and Tri-colored Heron, and White Ibis found their refuge. Tram traffic has not been in that area for a while, so it is suspected that this is where they are preferring to be right now.



White Ibis Photo by Jo Frkovich

Of course, our Bald Eagle (1 adult and 1 second year) were watching majestically over the large pond in their usual tree with anticipation of a meal while the Northern Harrier harassed all those in sight. Who were in sight? Well, approximately 60 Moorhen. No American Coots were counted this day. 5 Ring-billed Gull made a flyover count. 60 Red-



Palm Warbler

Photo by Jennifer Goddard

winged Blackbird were in the count. 1 Palm Warbler also made the count at the cross dike! 15 Tree Swallow were seen high up in the sky as one big group. They were darting about as if to be catching insects high above the house and marsh.

*****Note:** If you want to be a part of our birdwatching and walking, simply show up in the front parking lot at 8:30am, get your ticket from the kiosk, and have fun! Find the group with binoculars and cameras!

Members are \$6.00 Non-members are \$17.00 ***