

BIRDWALK NEWSLETTER



11.6.16

Walk conducted by Perry Nugent

Written by Jayne J Matney

Above Photos by Jo Frkovich

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”
Albert Camus

We are welcoming autumn with open arms. There is a sense of satisfaction when we watch the cycles of nature from one season to another. The plantation has endless views to offer that look different each month! Our Camellia sasanquas are blooming beautifully right now. Come visit and get a unique taste of our fall.

This past bird walk had 2 participants on a cool, breezy, partly cloudy day. 45 species were accounted for by sight or by sound. 90 or so Blue-winged Teal, along with our 8 newcomers the Green-winged Teal, kept Ravenswood Pond active. Pied-billed Grebe joined in the

viewing as well as Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and White Ibis. 40 to 60 Black and Turkey Vultures were viewed circling high between Highway 61 and Ravenswood as that side of the property was explored. Also on that side of the property, Red-shouldered Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk were accounted for. As discussed in earlier newsletters they tend to be located on the exit road side of the property closest to the wooded parking lots. The walk through the forest revealed 3 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, and 3 Northern Flicker. Yellow-Sapsucker, which often sound similar to the catbird, were identified by sight after sound. Additional individuals were seen scattered about the property. Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Fish and American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Eastern



Tufted Titmouse

by C. Fuhrman

Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and the Common and Boat-tailed Grackles were among the usual species found.

Approximately 50 Yellow-rumped Warblers are seasonally occupying our forests, 1 Palm Warbler

darted about in the cattails near the cross dike, and a Common Yellow-throat behaved suspiciously by alternating positions in the cattails: first high, then back down low into the cattails a few times as if not able to make up its mind. The two migrating sparrows at this

point are the Song Sparrow and the Swamp Sparrow- both seen on the cross dike. A Barred Owl was a quiet, dark spirit through the trees near the Indian mound. A Cooper's Hawk was also sighted. As viewing began at the large old rice field, 50 or so Moorhen did not disappoint. Wood Duck were also included on that pond. Tri-colored Heron were noticed in the cattails being secretive about their existence. A glance up gave the reason for this. High above were Bald Eagles, 2 adults and 2 second year young ones, either in flight or resting in their favorite tree across from the boat dock. They may be wondering, as we all are, "When are those American Coot coming in?" Of course, Great Blue Heron are always close by- providing amazing photos and live entertainment.



Our amazing national symbol – Bald Eagle

photo by Ray Swagerty