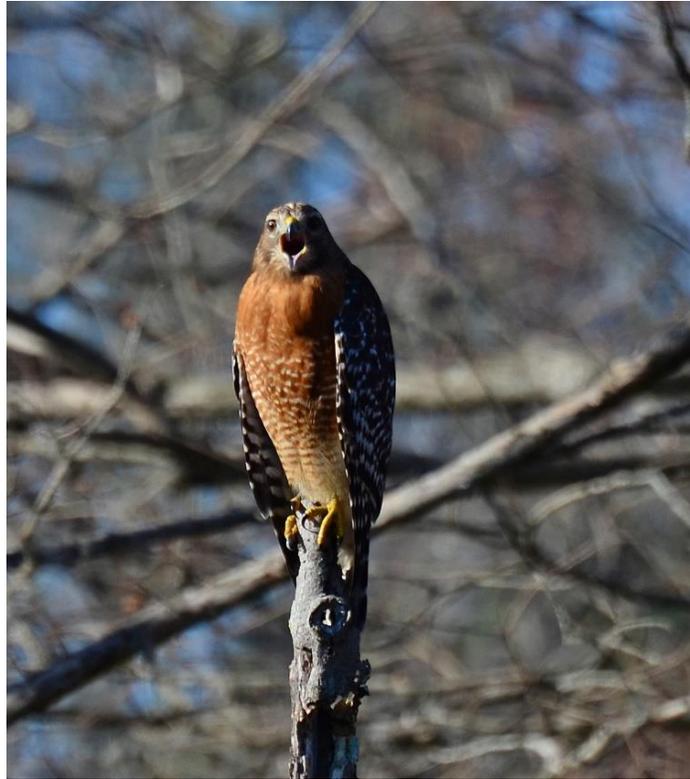


Magnolia
Plantation and
Gardens

BirdWalk Newsletter
12.25.2016

Walk lead by
Perry Nugent
Newsletter written by
Jayne J. Matney



Red-shouldered Hawk **Photo by Ray Swagerty**

The Red-shouldered Hawk photographed above was the one mentioned in the previous newsletter- yes, the one that was “poised to pose” or “posed with poise” that day. Whichever way you want to look at it! Either way, I think all can agree that this bird is gorgeous! Ray adds that “this hawk was really NOT screaming at us, but rather was screaming in all directions”. He waited until it turned and screamed in their direction to capture this image. Thank you Ray for quite a marvelous shot!

This past Sunday, the two participants on the Christmas Day walk were our loyal trekkers, Perry Nugent and Ray Swagerty. As Ray explains, “Fifty-five species is never a bad day but if not for several ‘expecteds’ which were not seen, it could have easily been sixty.” So what was discovered this past Sunday....The high numbers belonged to the Gadwall, American Coot, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackle with over 100 individuals representing each. Ravenswood was a hub of activity with the Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, and Great Blue Heron mixed into the setting with the Gadwall. Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and White Ibis are included in the shorebird count. In addition to the many American Coot found out near the cross dike,



Great Blue Heron in fall foliage Photo by Tradd Harter

Bufflehead and Common Moorhen were also spotted. As in past weeks, the Northern Harrier was certainly there to harass them. One adult Bald Eagle and one first year Bald Eagle added to the excitement. 4 Red-shouldered Hawk were seen intermittently throughout the property. Black and Turkey Vultures were on parole. Ringed-billed and Herring Gulls were also seen. 4 Pileated Woodpeckers were seen or heard, which are always a treat during the walks. Also in the Woodpecker family were the Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers.



Photo by Jo Frkovich

Let's not forget the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker or the Northern Flicker. Five Ruby-crowned Kinglet, five Hermit Thrush, and four American Goldfinch were accounted for, while Cedar Waxwing, Brown Thrasher, and Tree Swallow also made the list. Only one type of warbler was represented, the Yellow-rumped, but they came in numbers-150 estimated. However, the sparrows were represented with 5 types: Chipping, Field, Song, Swamp, and White-throated.

Three Rusty Blackbirds were noted as well. The regulars that did show themselves this week included the Mourning Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebirds, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, and Northern Cardinal.

**“There is delight in the hardy life of the open.”
Theodore Roosevelt**



Photo by Jo Frkovich