

BirdWalk Newsletter

2.19.2017

Walk Conducted by Perry Nugent

Newsletter Written by Jayne J Matney



Posturing Gadwall

Photo by Chuck Fuhrman

**“She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbor:
“Winter is dead.” A.A. Milne**



Yellow-crowned Night Heron Photo Jo Frkovich

February has been an amazingly mild month this year! The camellias are blooming in large numbers and the azaleas are beginning to add color to the landscape. On 2.19.2017, five participants enjoyed this wonderful weather and scenery, and observed 55 species of birds along the walk. Gadwall once again remained strong in numbers. Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, and Green-winged Teal were also spotted in Ravenswood Pond. Other water birds such as Pied-billed Grebe, Double Crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Common

Moorhen, American Coot were located either in Ravenswood and/or the ponds along the cross dike. Wading birds included the Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron. The White Ibis were located in the Audubon Swamp in a tree along the water's edge.

Highlights of the Day:

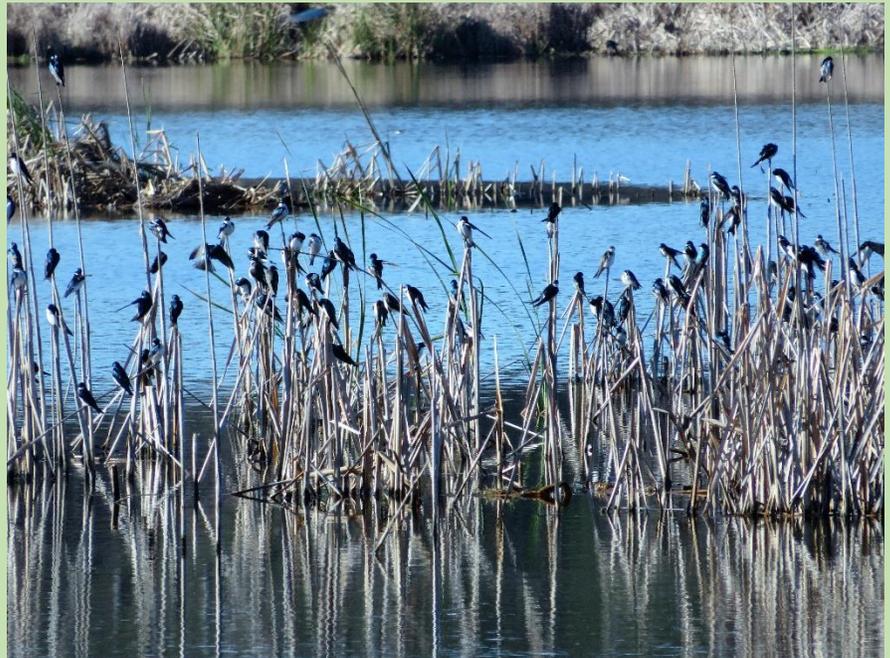
3 Adult Bald Eagles were spotted. Perry felt, according to the behavior, that maybe the third was in interloper hanging out on the perimeter of the established pair. What really sparked the birder's interest was the sighting of 2 young juvenile bald eagles seen among the branches of one of the nearby trees. They were completely dark in plumage.

While sitting at the tables near the café at the end of the walk, a male Cooper's Hawk flew above. Soon after, another one suspected to be a female flew by and both disappeared over

the woods and garden area near the white and black bridge. 6 Red-shouldered Hawk were seen periodically along the walk. Their territorial behavior is being displayed. A pair ran off an intruding hawk coming into their boundary near the maintenance cabin on the exit road. The walkers saw at least 50 Moorhen and 120 American Coots come out of the grasses slowly only to scatter and vanish when a flying eagle's shadow passed along the water's surface.

Pileated Woodpeckers were heard in the wooded areas near the Indian mound. Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers were also sighted along with Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Northern Flickers.

Loads of Tree Swallow are here visiting the plantation! 300 was an estimate.



Hundreds of Tree Swallows

Photo by Jo Frkovich

Hermit Thrush were seen in the brush, while Brown Thrasher were observed high in the trees on the exit road before the cabin row. The White-throated Sparrow were high up in the trees

feasting on elm seeds in this same vicinity. Swamp Sparrow are also include on the list. A large flock of American Robin were skirting through the low brush in the Audubon Swamp. 4 Types of warbler were included in the count- Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, Pine, and our trusty Palm Warbler which Perry has been seeing almost every week in the same tall bush on the cross dike.



Eastern Phoebe

Photo by Cathy Padgett

2 American Goldfinch were heard, 1 Eastern Phoebe was counted, 3 White-eyed Vireo made the list, along with 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and 1 Eastern Bluebird. Laughing Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls were flyovers near the river dike. Rounding off the list were are constant companions of the plantation: Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American and Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and the Common and Boat-tailed Grackles.



A Turkey Vulture's beauty

Photo by Jo Frkovich