

BIRDWALK NEWSLETTER

February 21, 2016

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

Photos by Jo Frkovich and Perry Nugent

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“I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.”

John Muir

If you don't live in Charleston, maybe somewhere that is cold and you are getting cabin fever, come visit us! The weather for us has been very unusual. A few days here and there that are typical February weather, but all-in-all pleasant. The azaleas are beginning to think it is spring so we are getting some early blooming. We will probably get more cold weather before it is over though, and spring with all of its colors will be here eventually. But in the meantime, unusual begets unusual. Take these examples from the week:



Top Left: Clusters of alligators and turtles soaking up sunshine! In February?
Top right: A pelican? Away from beach life?

Bottom Left: Vultures lining up. Reason?
Bottom Right: Pair of bald eagles on a platform?



*Notice the alligator is using the turtle as a pillow. Also, the brown pelican has an injury on his foot.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUNDAY BIRD WALK:

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens always provides interesting viewing. Just as these unusual sightings during the week symbolize our interesting weather, the Perry Group's bird walk provided more unexpected results. Being fairly warm and breezy, the 6 bird watchers charted 54 species. Besides the usual species that make their home here and make it easy to locate, the group spied the Yellow-



Above: Yellow-crowned Night Heron

crowned Night Heron in the Audubon Wood hiding out on the shoreline in grasses and brush. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was also spotted flying over the rice fields behind the house.

Another new one for this year was the Dark-eyed Junco. Six of these nice looking birds were identified near the cabins and exit road. While out at Perry Field, a Sora was heard calling out from the cattails.



Above: Dark-eyed Junco



Some other birds that seem to get plenty of attention and enthusiasm when seen here were the Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, 10 Yellow-bellied sapsucker and 5 Northern Flicker, 3 Ruby Crowned Kinglet, 1 four year Bald Eagle and 1 other Adult Bald Eagle, and 8 Red-shouldered Hawk and a nest near Ravenswood Pond for one of the pair.

Left: Red-Shouldered Hawk patiently watching the "watchers" Below: Red-Winged Blackbird caught in middle of displaying behavior

THE OTHERS: White-eyed Vireo and the Blue-headed Vireo in the Audubon Swamp, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Pine Warbler, Song and Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and Mourning Dove.

Ravenswood with all of its duck and wading bird varieties, and of course the aninga, cormorants, coots, and moorhen of the plantation grounds as well. Both varieties of vultures (black and turkey) and 2 varieties of gull (laughing and ring-billed).

