

# Birdwalk Newsletter

By Jayne Matney

“IN ORDER TO SEE BIRDS IT IS NECESSARY.... TO BECOME A PART OF THE SILENCE.” ROBERT LYND

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2.7.2016



Great Blue Heron flying along surface of water

Photos by Jo Frkovich

February weather has been “the big tease” earlier in this week. Even the groundhog thinks it is about time for spring. Because the birds have migrated in for their winter activities and the sun and temperatures have been giving the alligators and turtles their taste of spring to come, we are bursting at the seams with animals in view! We are seeing our versions of the “odd couples” and I thought I would share a few pictures illustrating what I mean.

Top row: Cormorant and Gull, Egret and Alligator, Egret and Great Blue Heron Bottom row: Turtle and Alligator sharing a ramp, Anhinga and Egret, Turtle is “King of the Hill” on ramp with Alligator, Alligator and Great Blue Heron.



So of course, the rain came in by late week and the colder temperatures came back to haunt us. The alligators and turtles didn't like those turn of events but the birds were fine with it! After all, this is what they expected anyway. All is back to "normal" with the world as far as the birds and the "true" birders! So off Perry and his one companion go to discover the morning's birding events in 38 degree, rainy weather. As they were waiting in the wooded parking lot, cardinals and chipping sparrows laid claim to early attention from Perry and his guest. It soon became obvious to these birders that they were going to see many of these two species of bird all along their way. Ravenswood displayed a few American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Anhinga, and 14 Great Blue Heron and their nests. The little blue herons were seen this time at the dike-four of them- as well as 5 Snowy Egret,

1 Wood Stork, and a male Lesser Scaup. Last week, the scaup which was spotted happened to be a female. They were in great company with approximately 50 Common Moorhen and 150 American Coot. Close by, looking over them and keeping them alert was 1 Bald eagle.



Great Blue Herons:

Above- Landing on nest  
with branch in beak

Right: Standing pretty on

a nest Far Right: Little Blue

Heron on a watery bank



A Sora called out from the grasses to make sure it was known to Perry. In that same vicinity along the river, Gull-billed Tern were in large numbers of around 60, and there was 1 Forster's Tern over the newly cleared rice field. The work being done out in the rice field has not deterred the Red-winged Blackbird or the Common Crackle (with approximately 50 and 100 respectively). Along the morning's walk-and-ride, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song and Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-rumped warbler, Pine and Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Carolina Chick-a-dee, Blue Jay, Fish Crow and American Crow, the Eastern Phoebe, and Mourning Dove were all accounted for. Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker represented the

woodpeckers in fine style. To top a cold dreary day off, a Northern Harrier and a few sightings of Red-shouldered Hawks were included.

White Egret were not spotted today but are usually found in several locations on the plantation.



Left: Red-shouldered Hawk overlooking the view



See above on right: White egret in tree and grass foliage along dike.

