

# BIRDWALK NEWSLETTER

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

3.6.16

By Jayne J Matney



Blue-winged Teal



American Wigeon



Green-winged Teal

**“Be like a duck. Calm on the surface, but always paddling like the dickens underneath.” Michael Caine**

The ducks have it this week! They are in full throttle, and gathering where the weather is mild- here at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens! Ravenswood Pond and the Audubon Swamp are favorite spots for these feathered friends, and visitors get to watch as they interact and feed on the duckweed growing on the surface of the water. Besides the 3 shown above (photos by Ed Blich), we also sight the Gadwall, Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Canadian Geese.



Blue-winged Teal preening feathers  
Photo by: Robyn and Dana Hogan



Blue-winged Teal male- up close  
Photo By: Ed Blich

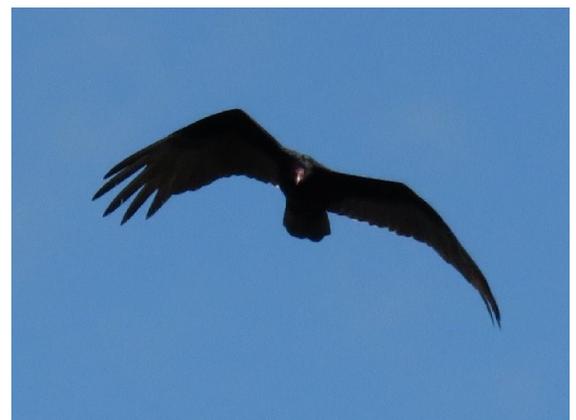
On this cool and beautifully sunny day, the camellias are still blooming and azaleas are starting to bloom as the spring comes upon us early this year! The gardeners have put out gorgeous color in the flower beds and the Japanese Magnolias, Star Magnolias and Yellow Jasmine are ringing in the season as well. This provides a colorful backdrop for all of our birdwatching this morning and for a few weeks

to come! Perry had a group of 7 participants who found 57 species while out for the morning stroll. Ravenswood is teeming with nesting birds such as Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and Snowy Egret. In addition, the Gadwall are in high numbers with Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and American Wigeon mixed in the crowd. The Red-shouldered Hawks seemed to be on all sides of the property! A Cooper's Hawk and a Red-tailed Hawk were also spotted on the walk. 2 Bald Eagles were spotted (one adult and one third year eagle) in the usual area. In Perry Field and along the dike walk, the birdwatchers caught sight of a Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Herons, a wake of vultures, a covert of coots and moorhen, and a colony of gulls. (Do you remember these terms from my prior post?). The forest is flourishing with Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wren, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinals, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common and Boat-tailed Grackle, and American Goldfinch. In their company were Black-and-White, Pine, and Yellow throated Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, White-eyed Vireo, Mourning Dove, Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrow, and American and Fish Crow. Other highlights to the day were the 8 Pileated Woodpeckers, 8 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 4 Northern Flicker.

Female Anhinga on a limb (top right)  
Photo by Jo Frkovich



Black Vulture soaring above (bottom right)  
Photo by Jo Frkovich



Little Blue Heron on nest with babies (below)  
Photo by Dana and Robyn Hogan

