



Wood Stork in Flight Passing Glistening Trees

By Jo Frkovich

BirdWalk Newsletter

4. 17. 16 By Jayne J Matney

These weekly walks are hosted by Perry Nugent, a veteran birder and scientist. Most of our photos come from his steadfast regulars and partners in observation such as Ray Swagerty, Ed Blich, Ann Truesdale, and Jim Brownlee, or from our fabulous members that send them in to me. Anyone that has a camera and gets good shots *here on the plantation* are welcome to send them to me and hopefully, I can publish them for you and give you credit! office@magnoliaplantation.com.



Photo by Robert Wallace

“When all the world appears to be in tumult, and nature itself is feeling the assault of climate change, the seasons retain their essential rhythm. Yes, fall gives us a premonition of winter, but then, winter, will be forced to relent, once again, to the new beginnings of soft greens, longer light, and the sweet air of spring.”
Madeleine M. Kunin



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Edie Countryman



Blue-winged Teal by Jim Betz and Peggy Gerou

Both of these species have been seen during the last few weeks but not on the sighted list for this Sunday.

Cold, windy, but sunny was the description for this Sunday's weather with 3 participants on the walk capturing sights and sounds of the acreage and noting 51 species. Cedar Waxwings of about 100 were still trying their best to finish the berries available in the vegetation between the Conservatory and the Carriage House. As soon as they get their fill, they will be heading out of this region to nest elsewhere. Walking toward Ravenswood Pond, 2 storks flew over. Reaching Ravenswood, 16 Wood Duck with lots of babies with them showed up, while only one Pied-billed Grebe, and 2 Green-winged Teal appeared to the onlookers. Also in the Ravenswood area, the birders noticed large clumps of nesting Anhinga, Great Blue Heron (both showing babies within the nests), Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and Black-crowned Heron (nesting but without the babies at this time). The Red-shouldered Hawk seem to also prefer the Ravenswood area for nesting this year. We believe we have 4-6 nesting pairs and at least 4 of the nests have been located. The Green Heron are coming in with 6 observed this week! Making their first appearance for this spring, was the Osprey with a flyover near the Audubon Swamp. Along the canal heading toward the swamp on the exit road, a pair of Canadian Geese has found their favorite spot. Their neighbors at the Audubon swamp include the Eagles (2 adults, 1 1st year, 1 2nd year) as flyovers and the Prothonotary Warbler. Throughout the wooded areas, the woodpeckers have not been seen as much this time and is probably because they are beginning to spend more time at the nest. However, the Red-bellied and the Pileated were seen or heard. In addition to our regulars, the Ruby-throated Kinglet, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Brown Thrasher were seen here and there, the Eastern Bluebirds are nesting as they should in our boxes provided, and the Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Pine Warbler were entertaining each other and the birders as they sang high up in the trees. As usual, the large rice field housed Moorhen, American Coot, Grackle, and Red-winged Blackbirds as well as the occasional Great Blue Heron fishing for a meal. Large Clouds of Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow were morphing in flight above the rice field. As the team made their way passed the house, Chimney Swifts were darting about in the sky which makes us wonder: Have they found a chimney to inhabit here???