

BirdWalk Newsletter 5.8.2016

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

Sunday morning walks conducted by Perry Nugent

Newsletter by Jayne J Matney

Photos by Jo Frkovich

**This heart, my own dear mother, bends,
With love's true instinct, back to thee!**
~Thomas Moore



It is Mother's Day after all, so I couldn't help myself but to exploit the tradition with our pictures and quotes for today. But let's face it. Every day is Mother's Day! We have the distinct privilege that no one else can claim. With all of these pictures I get sent to me, the nesting pictures are definitely some of my favorites and it undoubtedly is because of my mommy heart strings. Enjoy!



There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.
~Chinese Proverb



This year's Mother's Day started out "warm, hazy, breezy and nice." Volunteers were hustling to get tables set up, and box lunches stacked into the Snack Shack, while employees were getting ready for the early visitors to the plantation with tours and information. The birders were ready to set out on their own adventure. There were 6 participants and 52 participating species of birds! Right on cue, there were many mothers that need to be recognized! 15 Wood Duck were observed and ducklings were seen. Also at Ravenswood, 40 anhinga including babies in the nest, 20 Great Blue Heron with babies on the nest, 20 Great Egret with babies as well, and Snowy Egrets dominated the island and adjacent trees. Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, and Green Heron are showing up in bigger numbers than previous weeks and the Black-crowned Night Heron is now manning babies' needs in their nests as well totaling around 30 birds. One lone white ibis was seen probing the mudflats. Next door in the Audubon Swamp, 3 Wood Stork and the Common Yellowthroat were added to the list. Also in the area were Red-shouldered Hawk, one with a baby in the nest! Other interesting sightings were the Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle (1 adult and 1 first year), an Osprey fishing for brunch, and 6 sightings of the Mississippi Kite. Highlights of the walk were seeing the 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 4 Pileated Woodpeckers, and 4 Blue Grosbeak. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, the Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Cedar Waxwing, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbirds, and two types of Grackle were in higher numbers this week! The birders spotted both the White-eyed and the Red-eyed Vireo, the Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, American and Fish Crow, and a Downy Woodpecker. By the dike and old rice field along the river, Least Bittern, 1 Solitary and 2 Spotted Sandpiper were spied, and many Laughing Gulls were in view. Closer to the house, Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows were sighted and also a Summer Tanager.



**You're my
mother,
I would have
no other!**
~Forest
Houtenschil,

c.1979

