

# BirdWalk Newsletter

**6.15.2016**

**Magnolia Plantation and Gardens**

**Conducted every Sunday morning at 8:30  
by Perry Nugent**

**Written By Jayne J Matney**

**Photos this week by Jo Frkovich**



**\*This week's newsletter is a copulation of 4 weeks of Sunday walks (5.22-6.12) due to my out of town vacation. See last newsletter for the special edition. \***

**I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful spring weather! Yes, that sentence is in past tense. We are now feeling the brunt of summer. According to Perry's wonderful, detailed documentation, I can update you on the happenings out at this beautiful location for the time period that I was gone:**

**Ravenswood always seems to be the hub of bird activity. Numbers remain high**



**in the Ravenswood area and the Audubon Swamp on nice mornings. The Great Blue Heron, Anhinga, and Great Egrets are raising fledglings at this point having nested earliest in the spring. The Black-crowned Night Herons and Snowy Egrets have younger babies in the nest having nested later in the spring. The Wood Ducks had some success this spring and are also showing well in numbers there. It looks as though two out of the three original Great Blue Herons babies from**

**Mom Anhinga feeding fledgling a fish**

the nest at High Dike or “Bubba’s Pond” (near the Indian mound) are survivors and are coming down from the nest to the bank more often now, but are still gravitating back to their nest as their safety zone. The Carolina Wren, the Carolina Chickadee, and the Tufted Titmouse continue to enjoy the plantation, while the Northern Cardinals are most abundant. Many Red-winged Blackbirds have been congregating around the River Dike cattails. One Mississippi Kite was spotted 3 out of the 4 Sundays, 1 first year Bald Eagle has been spotted each week and periodically other Bald Eagles as well. The killdeer that has been seen in the back of the large pond is now accompanied by babies. Also on that back trail, a little Blue Heron who is in feather transition has been hanging out there.



**Little Blue Heron in transition plumage**

The Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated Woodpeckers were consistently spotted as well as the Northern Parula, White-eyed Vireo, Bluebird, Gnatcatcher, and Common Yellow-throat. The American Coot numbers have decreased dramatically because they nest elsewhere around this time, but the Moorhen are in high number.

**Highlights: Yellow-bellied Cuckoo is consistently being observed here each week, as well as the Summer Tanager but in small numbers. Or new additions as of late are the White-breasted Nuthatch seen on 5.22.16 and the Northern Rough-winged Swallow seen on 5.29.16.**

