

BIRDWALK NEWSLETTER



Photo by Edie Countryman

Walk Conducted By
Perry Nugent

Written By Jayne
Matney

6.26.16

“It was a beautiful summer afternoon, at that delicious period of the year when summer has just burst forth from the growth of spring; when the summer is yet but three days old, and all the various shades of green which nature can put forth are still in their unsoiled purity of freshness.”

Anthony Trollope, *Framley Parsonage*

The Summer Solstice has now come and gone on Monday as the longest day of the year. This is now our first official Sunday Birdwalk of summer.

The heat and humidity have been strong the last few weeks. There was cloud cover this morning and there was a slight breeze, so the heat was not as stifling as usual. 4 participants made their way around the property watching for any signs of movement in the stillness and any sound in the silence. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo could be heard far up in the tree tops. A Cooper's Hawk swooped down and across the exit road and over the small pond near the cottages. While the group quietly waited on the exit road for more visiting feathered friends, a Red-Tailed Hawk managed to maneuver the tree branches with ease and return to its nest in the woods. A Mississippi Kite flew overhead as the birdwatchers made their way to Ravenswood Dike and Pond. The Wood Ducks are flourishing there with babies in the low vegetation. Anhinga are in high number as well and a few are possibly sitting the nest for a second brood. The group has decided to keep watch on these



Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Audubon Swamp Photo by Jim Betz/Peggy Gerou

nests over the next few weeks in order to validate this suspicion. Approximately 50 Great Egret have made the Audubon Swamp home for the meantime. The Little Blue Herons are busy keeping nests for their late season of brooding in the Audubon Swamp while the Green Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron have fewer representation. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was there and gone in a flash! The small passerines that were flicking and darting about were: Mourning Dove, Great-crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Purple Martin, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, and Red-winged Blackbird. Others to note were the Turkey and Black Vultures, One Osprey, 20 Common Moorhen, 3 Wood Stork, Laughing Gulls, Least Tern, American and Fish Crow, Common Grackle, and Boat-tailed Grackle. 2 Chimney Swift and 15 Red-bellied Woodpecker rounded out the numbers for the day of 46 species counted.



Yellow-bellied Pond Slider and Anhinga

Photo by Jo Frkovich



Left: Barred Owl

Right: Canadian Geese

Photos by Perry Nugent



Heavy traffic pile up! American Alligator

By Jo Frkovich

