

BirdWalk Newsletter

7.3.16

Walk Conducted by: Perry Nugent

Written by: Jayne Matney



Above: Green Heron with captured frog
Left: Green Heron Fledgling checking out his world
Photos by Perry Nugent



banks. Their bodies are like streamlined footballs and their legs are shorter than the other herons, therefore they do not stand up tall like the rest. In addition, they prefer to be quiet and invisible. But if you have the desire and the eye for these secretive birds, they can mesmerize and entertain you with their look and activities. They generally nest later than the Great Blue Heron and the Egrets. So observing them nesting needs to be timed just right.

The Green Heron have always been fascinating. The numbers are lower than most other heron and their visibility is hampered by both their coloration and their behavior. With varying colors over their bodies (greenish blue cap, rust necks, brown and white speckled breast and stomach and green wings and back) these birds can camouflage themselves very well in the low brush along swamp



Photo: Jo Frkovich

The day was warm, partly cloudy in the morning and turned hot and muggy by midday. 44 species were viewed by the 5 participants. Ravenswood, the cross dike, and Audubon Swamp were busy with Anhinga, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and Black-crowned Night Heron, with a few of each of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Tri-color Heron, Wood Stork and Green Heron. Ravenswood was definitely the place to see Wood Duck with "75 strong" on the property. Viewing of the bittern from the



Least Bittern showing off by doing the splits between the grasses! Photo: Perry Nugent

dike has been low this season which is probably due to the work in that field this past winter and spring. 10 Vultures showed up today- 2 Black and 8 Turkey. Approximately 30 Common Moorhen were at the cross dike, 20 Laughing Gull, and 1 Least Tern. Periodically through the morning we saw Mississippi Kite, and 4 Red-shouldered Hawk. 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 4 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Downy woodpecker, and 2 Pileated Woodpecker were pleasant company for the walkers as well. The American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal, and Red-winged Blackbird were in the two digit category in numbers.

Also seen were the Prothonotary Warbler, Mourning Dove, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Summer Tanager were also accounted for. Always a nice surprise were the Northern Parula, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Eastern Wood-Pewee.

