

BirdWalk Newsletter 8.28.2016

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

Walk Conducted by Perry Nugent

Newsletter Written by Jayne J Matney

We have something special to celebrate this week! One of our members won another photo award that was used in our past newsletter! Jo Frkovich had won a top award last year for a different photo. Now she celebrates winning the “People’s Choice Award” at the Virginia Highlands Festival this month. My favorite quote for this photo is: “Oh, woah! This log is moving!” See her award winning photo below- Jo, we are proud of you and look forward to seeing more of your work from Magnolia Plantation! Congratulations!



This picture may also make you think of a fable about a crocodile offering “safe passage” across a river for another animal; Or maybe from J.G. Holland, “God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into the nest.”

4 participants were on the walk this Sunday on a warm, partly cloudy morning with only 30 species accounted for. Perry said it was a “quite ordinary day today- nothing fancy” but a



“nothing fancy” ordinary day here is still a heavenly sight! That is why we keep coming back! Many individuals were sighted however, scattered about the plantation. For example, the Green Heron, the White-eyed Vireo, the Northern Red Cardinal, and even the 3 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were sighted in different locations throughout the plantation. One was seen in the Audubon Swamp; One was seen in the woods and one was seen in the garden area. The 3 Pileated Woodpeckers were in the Audubon Swamp as well as one of the Red-shouldered Hawk. The Carolina Wren were also seen scattered throughout the property with “new batches of babies”.

One Northern Waterthrush was seen at Ravenswood and the other in the Audubon Swamp. 1 Belted Kingfisher, 6 Red-bellied Woodpecker, a Great-crested Flycatcher, a Red-eyed Vireo, 10 American Crow, 8 Carolina Chickadee, 3 Tufted Titmouse, 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2 Eastern Bluebirds, 3 Northern Mockingbird, and 2 Blue Jay helped complete the list. 10 Red-winged Blackbird, 25 Common Grackle, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, and Least bittern decorated the cross dike swamp area. The Common Moorhen were seen to have some babies near the cross dike, while 40 Laughing Gull and 1 adult Glossy Ibis with 4 babies flew over along the river. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron have taken up residence in the Indian Mound pond and the large old rice field. Only 1 Black-crowned Night Heron was seen this time around. The Wood Ducks are still our highest in numbers with approximately 125 individuals seen on Ravenswood Pond and the Cross Dike. A second Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted flying over the café as if the bid the group “goodbye”.



All Photos by Jo Frkovich

Above left: Little Blue Heron Youngster

Above right: Great Blue Heron amongst the moss drapery

Direct left: Two American Alligators breathing out the heat of the day

