

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

Bird Walk Newsletter 9.4.2016

Photos by: Perry Nugent

Can you believe



*this.....turns into
that?!*

The Black-crowned Night Heron is a beautiful bird which goes into a “metamorphosis” from nestling to adult. A perfect example of not being able to understand that you are looking at the same species of bird, just in different stages of early life in our midst.

“When the beauty and warmth of summer is here, then dancing leaves with colors are not too far.”

Debasish Mridha

As Hurricane Hermine leaves us behind and only a few broken branches remain on the ground, the humidity has been sucked out of the air (for now) and people are coming in by the numbers to enjoy our beautiful, elegant plantation. We can feel autumn in the atmosphere! 5 participants were out with Perry this Sunday on a partly cloudy day with a light breeze. 44 species were accounted for. Once again, the Wood Ducks were our most numerous of the species which tells us that the breeding season for them was outstanding.



And this turns into that.....



*Green Heron with his "catch of the day"
Photo by Perry Nugent*

Our Little Blue Heron and our Green Heron are still around with fair numbers mixed in with Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. The White Ibis and a few Glossy Ibis were also seen that day.

One Osprey was seen hunting the area, but was outnumbered by the number of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawk seen and heard on the property (11). An American Kestrel made himself known as well!

This young hawk..... eventually turns into



this beautiful adult hawk. Photos by Perry Nugent and Richard Hernandez

Black Vulture and Turkey Vulture did their own circling over the plantation in their own quest for food. 6 Anhinga made the list, and a high number (60) of Common Moorhen graced our scenery with their bright red and yellow beaks and white tufts of feathers- while they finish raising their babies. Laughing Gulls flew over near the river side of the property and this time the birders saw a Foster's Gull included in the flyover. One Hummingbird was spied along the trail, 4 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, and 4 Pileated Woodpecker sightings were made. 1 Belted Kingfisher also made the list. Something seen that has not been seen lately was

the large amount of American Robin (40) gathering on the property. Another new sighting was the 5 Prairie Warbler at the Ravenswood Pond. Another interesting sighting was the 4 Northern Waterthrush in the Audubon Swamp area. 2 Common Yellowthroat, 20 White-eyed Vireo, 6 Red-eyed Vireo, 20 Carolina Chickadee, 15 Tufted Titmouse, 25 Carolina Wren, 10 Northern Cardinal, 10 Mourning Dove, 3 Great-crested Flycatcher, 6 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 10 Eastern Bluebirds, 6 Northern Mockingbird, and a Blue Jay round off the count. However, we can't forget the Chimney Swifts above the house and the "forever-common" grackles and crows.

If nature and a quiet picturesque morning is what you are needing, come on out to the Sunday morning 8:30am bird walks conducted by Perry Nugent and reported on by Jayne Matney.



Showing the transitional plumage once again- with the Green Heron

Photos by Perry Nugent (left), Jo Frkovich (center), and Perry Nugent (right)

