

AUDUBON PARK FIELD TRIP: SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

A total of nine people joined me to search for birds in this 60 acre park; in all it took us four hours to cover the area carefully. This was a cloudy but dry day which made for a delightful morning in the field. After checking the parking lot area we walked through the wood to the marsh there we hit gold. In a small tree by the boardwalk there were two warblers one was a Prairie Warbler and the other a Blue-winged Warbler; the latter being a new species for the park (number 177). Unfortunately the latter did not hang around and we could not find it again. In the same area there were three Red-eyed Vireos.

At the impoundments we were able to watch the Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Heron, Snowy and Great Egrets, Great Blue Heron and a bevy of White Ibis feeding (their favorite food being the frogs). A party of ten Blue Jays scolded an unseen bird although in all probability it was a Barred Owl. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck flew over to every ones delight and the family party of Sandhill Cranes slipped in. A Common-Ground-Dove flew by whilst they bred by the parking lot they are uncommon at the impoundments.

We returned to the marsh, more or the same Red-eyed Vireos but this time there were two Northern Parula and a Carolina Chickadee. This time we walked up the other side of the marsh this produced a Black-and-white Warbler. So to the bike trail to the west we found single American Redstarts and a Yellow-throated Warbler. Returning to the marsh we saw and heard a Northern Waterthrush.

In years past we did the fall migration count at this time of year and we all remember how hard it was to find migrant warblers. We therefore did very well seeing that there have been no weather systems to cause the warblers to stop off on their way south. In all we saw or heard 37 species. I had been in the park from 5.30 am to 7.30 am so I had an additional eight species. This made for a total of 45 species for the day. The spreadsheet for the park will be on our web site at the end of the month and you can see the species list there.

I would like to thank the City of Deltona for seeing to it that no remedial work took place during our visit, which is a big deal. I know we may not be so fortunate in the future.

Harry Robinson,

Co-President, West Volusia Audubon