

Important Bird Area – Jay Watch Birdathon logs 102 species

Dawn on Saturday, December 8th found Marianne Korosy, Audubon's IBA - Jay Watch Coordinator in a dense fog at Dunedin Hammock. Not the figurative kind of brain fog... but the heavy fog that stills a forest and its avian inhabitants. Not to be deterred, Marianne quickly looped the Hammock's wooded paths logging Eastern Screech-owl, Ovenbird, Hermit Thrush, and even got a quick look at the tail-end of a Brown Thrasher darting into dense shrubs. At the ballfields next to the Hammock, Marianne admired a majestic pair of adult Bald Eagles perched on a cell tower next to their nest. The ball park also yielded Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Flicker, the latter an uncommon bird in Pinellas County. Meanwhile, at Wall Springs Park, team member Brie Ochoa took an early morning walk and logged Great Horned Owl, Wood Stork, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron – none seen elsewhere that day. Thank you, Brie!



En route to Honeymoon Island, Marianne spied a Loggerhead Shrike and then pulled over on Dunedin Causeway to scan the shorelines and St. Joseph Sound. Horned Grebe, Common Loon, several shorebird and blackbird species checked on the day's list. At Honeymoon Island's boat dock, Captains Harvey and Dana Kerstein were boarding volunteers on their spacious boat bound for Three Rooker Island to do a bird survey and trash cleanup. Sid Crawford reported a Cooper's Hawk from earlier that morning and Tim Kalbach spotted a Green Heron at the boat dock and a Merlin streaking across the causeway bridge just after the boat passed underneath.

Three teams birded the 2.5 mile-long island and packed out an assortment of trash and fishing tackle including some nasty hooks and monofilament only half-buried in the sand. On the island we ticked off

Snowy, Piping, and Wilson's plovers, Caspian and Royal terns, loads of Dunlin, Sanderling, peeps, and several other shorebirds. A fly-by Northern Harrier was spotted by all three teams, a Peregrine Falcon blasted along the island scattering shorebirds awry, and Northern Gannets dipped and turned out in Gulf waters. A flock of Red-breasted Mergansers rounded out the island trip and just as the Kerstein's boat pulled into the Honeymoon boat dock two Magnificent Frigatebirds plied the sky overhead. A BIG thank you to Dana and Harvey Kerstein for their generous boat trip contribution to the Birdathon!



A quick scan of the parking lot median yielded a pair of Common Ground-doves and seconds later a loud "CRASH" which proved to be Marianne's 80 mm spotting scope, broken into two pieces on the parking lot pavement. Ouch... The demise of a well-traveled scope with great sentimental value. Frank Brandt, Laura Marie Koitsch and I took a quick look at the exposed oyster rakes easily viewed from the Nature Center's deck and added Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, and Pied-billed Grebe to the day's list. The three of us then headed off the island in search of waterfowl.

The William Dunn Water Reclamation Facility and a nearby lake were fruitful: Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked ducks, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Mergansers, American Coot, and a lone Roseate Spoonbill. Solo once again, Marianne began to wrap up the day's list with another pass

Black-crowned Night Heron – (!!!) – check. Red-tailed Hawk on mon Yellowthroat and Swamp but not least, bird of the day? 102 species at day's end and a contributed donations and bird-

through Wall Springs Park. check. Pine Warbler – singing a power pole – check. Com-Sparrow – check. And last, Blue-winged Teal – check! warm THANK YOU to all who ing help for this event.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOOD



BIRDING TO ALL!

Audubon Birdathon - Important Bird Area & Jay Watch Program

12/8/2012 Bird Species List

102 Species

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mallard X Mottled hybrid | Ruddy Turnstone |
| Mottled Duck | Sanderling |
| Blue-winged Teal | Western Sandpiper |
| Northern Shoveler | Least Sandpiper |
| Redhead | Dunlin |
| Ring-necked Duck | Short-billed Dowitcher |
| Lesser Scaup | Laughing Gull |
| Hooded Merganser | Ring-billed Gull |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Herring Gull |
| Common Loon | Caspian Tern |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Royal Tern |
| Horned Grebe | Forster's Tern |
| Northern Gannet | Black Skimmer |
| Brown Pelican | Rock Pigeon |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Eurasian Collared-Dove |
| Magnificent Frigatebird | Mourning Dove |
| Anhinga | Common Ground-Dove |
| Great Blue Heron | Black-hooded Parakeet |
| Great Egret | Eastern Screech-Owl |
| Snowy Egret | Great Horned Owl |
| Little Blue Heron | Belted Kingfisher |
| Tricolored Heron | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| Reddish Egret | Downy Woodpecker |
| Green Heron | Northern Flicker |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Pileated Woodpecker |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | Eastern Phoebe |
| White Ibis | Loggerhead Shrike |
| Roseate Spoonbill | Blue Jay |
| Wood Stork | Fish Crow |
| Black Vulture | Carolina Wren |
| Turkey Vulture | House Wren |
| Osprey | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Bald Eagle | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| Northern Harrier | Hermit Thrush |
| Cooper's Hawk | American Robin |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Northern Mockingbird |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Brown Thrasher |
| Merlin | European Starling |
| Peregrine Falcon | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Common Gallinule | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| American Coot | Pine Warbler |
| Sandhill Crane | Palm Warbler |
| Black-bellied Plover | Ovenbird |
| Wilson's Plover | Common Yellowthroat |
| Semipalmated Plover | Swamp Sparrow |
| Piping Plover | Northern Cardinal |
| Snowy Plover | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Killdeer | Boat-tailed Grackle |
| Willet | Common Grackle |
| Whimbrel | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Marbled Godwit | American Goldfinch |