

TRIP REPORT

RED BUG SLOUGH – February 16, 2016

After a vicious middle of the night storm, we were rewarded with a muddy, but warm and sunny morning for our walk at Red Bug Slough. The storm may have created mud, but a great number and variety of birds were present. Eleven Hooded Mergansers swam close by in the new pond on the left side of the path. Wood Storks, Mottled Ducks, and Snowy Egrets were with them. Two Brown Thrashers, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, two Black and White Warblers, one Yellow-Throated Warbler, and a Blue-Headed Vireo joined Downy Woodpeckers, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Forster's Terns, Pine Warblers, and Tufted Titmouse for a grand performance. But the star of the show was a rare Connecticut Warbler, who was in a mixed flock of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers, and the vireo. This bird is rarely seen in Sarasota and usually during late spring migration. Perhaps the storm blew him in. Regardless, at least six people (of our large group of nearly 40 birders) had great looks at this beautiful bird. This park offers good habitat and easy birding, and we had a great time.

Lynn Jakubowicz, Martha Straub, and lots of other great birders

TRIP BIRD LIST:

Mottled Duck

Hooded Merganser

Wood Stork

Double-crested Cormorant

Anhinga

Brown Pelican

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron

Green Heron

White Ibis

Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Laughing Gull
Forster's Tern
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Nanday Parakeet
Eastern Phoebe
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay
Fish Crow
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Connecticut Warbler

Palm Warbler

Pine Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird