

Christmas 2017 Bird Count for Heritage Oaks

by Frances and Peter Rice

Every year, for over one hundred years across North America, the Audubon Society conducts Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). The Sarasota chapter of the Audubon Society coordinates this effort in northern Sarasota County. A Christmas Bird Count was conducted here at Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club on Saturday, December 30, 2017 by Peter & Frances Rice, Ted & Patti Blute, Bob Jones, Gene Ginsberg and Darin Cauley. We identified 47 bird species and 355 individual birds. The most unusual sightings were a Magnolia Warbler and three Nanday (Black Hooded) Parakeet. We see this group of Parakeets almost monthly between HOGCC and Cattleman Road.

The following are the names and numbers of all of the bird species the team identified: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (33), Blue-winged Teal (8), Mottled Duck (2), Pied-billed Grebe (4), Double-crested Cormorant (12), Anhinga (12), Great Blue Heron (16), Great Egret (22), Snowy Egret (9), Little Blue Heron (3), Tricolored Heron (2), Black-crowned Night-Heron (6), White Ibis (66), Glossy Ibis (1), Roseate Spoonbill (1), Black Vulture (3), Turkey Vulture (2), Osprey (4), Bald Eagle (1), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Common Gallinule (15), Limpkin (14), Sandhill Crane (2), Killdeer (2), Laughing Gull (1), White-winged Dove (1), Mourning Dove (8), Belted Kingfisher (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Nanday (Black Hooded) Parakeet (3), Eastern Phoebe (1), Blue Jay (2), American Crow (6), Fish Crow (11), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3), American Robin (1), Gray Catbird (7), Northern Mockingbird (12), Magnolia Warbler (1), Black-and-white Warbler (1), Palm Warbler (21), Yellow-rumped Warbler (2), Northern Cardinal (2), Red-winged Blackbird (3), Common Grackle (1), and Boat-tailed Grackle (23).

For more information and a video about birds see the Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club Internet Site, Member section, Nature & Audubon Certification page.



Photo, left to right: Bob Jones, Peter & Frances Rice, Ted Blute, Gene Ginsberg, Patti Blute, and Darin Cauley