

Christmas 2015 Bird Count For Heritage Oaks

By Peter Rice

Heritage Oaks resident, Bob Jones, conducted the 2015 Christmas Bird Count for the Heritage Oaks community on Saturday, January 2, 2016. He was assisted by: Ted & Patti Blute, Debbie Reed, Helen Murphy, and Shirley Harrison. The team's volunteer service was performed in the absence of our community's usual bird counters, Peter and Frances Rice, who were away on a cruise around South America. The team spent six hours birding our community, driving a total of ten miles. The weather was cool and overcast with rain for much of the day.

They identified 55 bird species and 551 individual birds. The most unusual sighting was 132 American Robins. This was atypical, since none have been spotted during most of our past bird counts.

The following are the names and numbers of all of the bird species the team identified: Pied-billed Grebe (7), American White Pelican (3), Double-crested Cormorant (27), Anhinga (13), Great Blue Heron (9), Great Egret (5), Tricolored Heron (5), Little Blue Heron (7), Snowy Egret (4), Green Heron (2), Black-crowned Night-Heron (4), White Ibis (39), Glossy Ibis (13), Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (31), Mallard (3), Mottled Duck (4), Blue-winged Teal (1), Hooded Merganser (2), Black Vulture (4), Turkey Vulture (2), Osprey (3), Northern Harrier (1), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Sandhill Crane (7), Limpkin (2), Common Gallinule (17), American Coot (3), Killdeer (7), Laughing Gull (2), Caspian Tern (2), Forster's Tern (2), Mourning Dove (6), White-winged Dove (22), Belted Kingfisher (4), Red-bellied Woodpecker (3), Pileated Woodpecker (1), Eastern Phoebe (5), Carolina Wren (2), Gray Catbird (4), Northern Mockingbird (9), Brown Thrasher (1), American Robin (132), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (12), Loggerhead Shrike (3), Blue Jay (1), American Crow (13), Fish Crow (4), Yellow-rumped Warbler (8), Prairie Warbler (1), Palm Warbler (14), Black-and-white Warbler (1), Common Yellowthroat (2), Northern Cardinal (14), Boat-tailed Grackle (24), and Common Grackle (32).