

CAS Spring Field Trip Report



16th April 2016

pg 1 of 2

Twenty birdwatchers braved windy weather at Veterans Park on Okaloosa Island. Field trip participants included visitors from New York and Georgia. Recent rains had leaders Malcolm, Dee, Bruce, Lenny, and Carole hoping for a variety of migrants. A female Blue Grosbeak at the beginning of the boardwalk immediately welcomed us into the park. The racket of baby Great Blue Herons in their nests did not stop us from finding male Summer Tanagers, one still changing from green to red. Warblers weren't readily apparent, perhaps hiding low from the wind. Several Gray Catbirds, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and Red-eyed and White-eyed vireos seemed to follow us around. Big misses were the Purple Gallinules and Least Bitterns that may attempt to breed in the dense marsh vegetation. Our second loop around the Bridge pond brought forth 4 Sora (our most common rail), but those marsh birds will travel far northward to breed. Our rarest species was one or two Bank Swallows, too hard to photograph unless Roger Cook got on one. His Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Purple Gallinule shots on trip day are breathtaking: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/roger56> We added no new species to the park today, but the list now stands at 210 found (many photographed) in the past 3 years. Not bad for 14 acres of valuable real estate. We're looking forward to adding a few more warblers to the park's list this Spring; the more people visit, the more we find.



Malcolm Mark Swan
See video on Facebook, posted 21 April 2016
<https://www.facebook.com/choctawhatcheeaudubon>



Malcolm Mark Swan