A Great Day To See Birds

The final results of Victoria Park’s 7th Annual Bird Count are in : 60 different kinds of birds were seen on St. Patrick’s Day, 2018. Our group started at the Victoria Gardens’ Clubhouse at 7:15AM and finished by 11:30 AM at Lake Victoria in the Commons. At that point we had recorded 51 species. In the afternoon I continued looking for additional species while bicycling around all 4 sections of Victoria Park and saw 9 more. We saw many beautiful and uncommon species while enjoying a picture-perfect, sunny Florida day.

In Victoria Gardens, along the trails in the
Conservation Areas we saw a scrub jay, nesting sandhill cranes, a pileated woodpecker at close range, and flocks of blue-gray gnatcatchers, ruby-crowned kinglets, white-eyed vireos, towhees, and several kinds of warblers, including the stunning prairie warbler. In the cow pasture bordering the Gardens we watched 2 male turkeys strutting and displaying, an eastern bluebird and loggerhead shrike perched on the fence, a killdeer, palm warblers, red-winged blackbird, and American robins in the grass, and both an osprey and swallow-tailed kite soaring over the trees.

We added red-shouldered hawk to our list in the Commons, and in Victoria Hills, a flock of 50 or more anhingas circling above us. In the woods along Birchmont in the Hills we saw scores of birds, including Carolina wrens, cardinals, blue jays, blue-headed vireo, pine, parula, and black & white warblers, and both downy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Later in the afternoon I added kingfisher, red-tailed hawk, kestrel, tree
swallows, goldfinch, cedar waxwing, yellowlegs, the first purple martin of the year (in Victoria Trails), and, also in the Trails, a cattle egret — the 6th member of the heron-egret family for the day. Our day’s total of 60 was 3 more than last year’s, and just about the only missing species that we thought we might see were bald eagle, ruby-throated hummingbird, chipping sparrow, and eastern phoebe. Maybe next year!