

Red Slough Bird Surveys 2020

Red Slough Bird Survey – December 29, 2020

It was cool, windy and overcast in the morning turning warm (60's) and partly cloudy but still windy in the afternoon. 60 species were found. The windy overcast conditions of the morning caused Passerines to be scarce but the afternoon was better for them. The highlight of the day was finding a Mottled Duck in with a small flock of Mallards. The Golden Eagle put in an appearance, soaring above Bittern Lake in the sunlight of the afternoon. Also of note were numerous King Rails calling in various places. A count of 8 is possibly my highest count on them and remarkable for winter time. Here is my list for today:

Canada Geese – 70

Wood Duck – 7

Gadwall – 1105

American Wigeon - 9

Mallard – 543

Mottled Duck - 1

Northern Shoveler - 520

Northern Pintail – 301

Green-winged Teal – 610

Canvasback - 6

Ring-necked Duck – 1305

Bufflehead - 4

Hooded Merganser – 2

Ruddy Duck - 32

Pied-billed Grebe – 18

Double-crested Cormorant - 118

Great-blue Heron – 12

Great Egret – 4

Black Vulture - 19

Turkey Vulture – 41

Bald Eagle – 3 (2 imm. & 1 adult)

Northern Harrier – 4

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1

Red-shouldered Hawk - 6

Red-tailed Hawk – 5

Golden Eagle – 1 adult

King Rail - 8

Virginia Rail - 2

American Coot – 620

Killdeer – 1

Greater Yellowlegs - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1 leucistic

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Hairy Woodpecker - 2

Northern Flicker – 10

Pileated Woodpecker - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 9
Blue Jay - 6
American Crow – 6
Fish Crow – 2
Carolina Chickadee – 7
Tufted Titmouse – 2
Carolina Wren – 7
Winter Wren - 1
Sedge Wren – 3
Marsh Wren - 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 6
Eastern Bluebird – 4
Northern Mockingbird - 1
Brown Thrasher – 4
Yellow-rumped Warbler –11
Common Yellowthroat - 2
Eastern Towhee – 2
Fox Sparrow - 16
Song Sparrow – 12
Swamp Sparrow – 7
Northern Cardinal – 9
Red-winged Blackbird – 2
Meadowlark species – 2

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – December 21, 2020

It was clear and a little windy on the survey today. Temps started off below freezing but reached around 70 degrees in the afternoon. 77 species were found. Otter Lake provided a show today that one normally only sees on large reservoirs. A flock of around 100 Double-crested Cormorants were group feeding on shad. Circling close above them hoping to steal a fish were 5 Ring-billed Gulls and 2 immature Bald Eagles. Also of note today was one of the Common Gallinules seen last week still lingering or possibly planning on wintering here. I went to the site where I found a White-eyed Vireo last week but instead found a Blue-headed Vireo which is almost as good a find. Cedar Waxwings and Eastern Bluebirds were feeding on sugarberry (hackberry) berries along Blackland Road. Looks like the White Ibis are finally gone. Here is my list for today:

Canada Geese – 85
Wood Duck – 2

Gadwall – 770
Mallard - 217
Northern Shoveler - 345
Northern Pintail – 216
Green-winged Teal – 427
Canvasback - 5
Redhead - 1
Ring-necked Duck – 1080
Bufflehead - 3
Hooded Merganser – 2
Ruddy Duck - 14
Pied-billed Grebe – 10
Double-crested Cormorant - 132
Great-blue Heron – 7
Great Egret – 5
Black Vulture - 4
Turkey Vulture – 98
Bald Eagle – 2 imm.
Northern Harrier – 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2
Red-tailed Hawk – 5
King Rail - 1
Virginia Rail - 2
Common Gallinule - 1 adult
American Coot – 565
Killdeer - 12
Ring-billed Gull - 5
Rock Pigeon - 8
Mourning Dove – 26
Eastern Screech-Owl - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 3
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker - 1
Northern Flicker – 12
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 11
Blue-headed Vireo – 1 adult
Blue Jay - 7
American Crow – 13
Fish Crow – 8
Carolina Chickadee – 12
Tufted Titmouse – 2
Brown Creeper - 2
Carolina Wren – 5
House Wren - 2
Winter Wren - 2

Sedge Wren – 4
Marsh Wren - 3
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 6
Eastern Bluebird – 14
Hermit Thrush – 3
American Robin - 11
Northern Mockingbird - 2
Brown Thrasher – 4
Cedar Waxwing - 10
Orange-crowned Warbler - 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 5
Pine Warbler – 3
Common Yellowthroat - 3
Eastern Towhee – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 14
Fox Sparrow - 1
Song Sparrow – 10
Swamp Sparrow – 6
White-throated Sparrow – 4
White-crowned Sparrow - 1
Dark-eyed Junco - 1
Northern Cardinal – 12
Red-winged Blackbird – 46
Meadowlark species – 40
Purple Finch - 3
American Goldfinch – 3

Good birding!
David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – December 17, 2020

It was mostly clear with a light wind on the survey today. Temps started off at 23 degrees with a heavy frost and some thin ice on water areas, and rose to the low 50's in the afternoon. 72 species were found. The highlight of the day was an adult White-eyed Vireo which is our first winter record for the species. At least two White Ibis continue to linger. I ran into the partially Leucistic sapsucker at a new location where it was feeding in a buttonbush at the edge of a wetland. It was probably 200-300 yards from where we initially found it on Monday. Here is my list for today:

Canada Geese - 17
Wood Duck – 9
Gadwall – 513

American Wigeon - 5
Mallard - 611
Northern Shoveler - 311
Northern Pintail – 64

Green-winged Teal – 155
Canvasback - 7
Ring-necked Duck – 2000
Bufflehead - 3
Hooded Merganser – 4
Ruddy Duck - 41
Pied-billed Grebe – 21

Double-crested Cormorant - 1
Great-blue Heron – 8
Great Egret – 7
White Ibis – 2 juv.

Black Vulture - 6
Turkey Vulture – 40
Bald Eagle – 1 adult
Northern Harrier – 1

Cooper's Hawk - 1
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 9
King Rail - 2
Virginia Rail - 8
American Coot – 565
Greater Yellowlegs - 2
Mourning Dove – 2

Belted Kingfisher - 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 3 (including a partially Leucistic individual.)
Downy Woodpecker – 1

Hairy Woodpecker - 3
Northern Flicker – 7
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 8

White-eyed Vireo – 1 adult
Blue Jay - 3
American Crow – 14
Fish Crow – 21
Carolina Chickadee – 8
Tufted Titmouse – 4

Brown Creeper - 1
Carolina Wren – 4
Winter Wren - 1

Sedge Wren – 2
Marsh Wren - 9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 5
Eastern Bluebird – 7

Hermit Thrush – 4

Northern Mockingbird - 3
Brown Thrasher – 3

American Pipit - 1
Cedar Waxwing - 9
Orange-crowned Warbler - 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 3
Pine Warbler – 1
Common Yellowthroat - 3
Eastern Towhee – 2

Field Sparrow – 1

Savannah Sparrow – 19

Fox Sparrow - 1
Song Sparrow – 13
Swamp Sparrow – 14
White-throated Sparrow – 4

White-crowned Sparrow - 6
Northern Cardinal – 24
Red-winged Blackbird – 10
Meadowlark species – 35
American Goldfinch – 3

Good birding!
David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – December 8, 2020

It was a clear, sunny day today starting off cold then turning warm. A light wind was present most of the day. 65 species were found. We still have White Ibis' and Neotropic Cormorants lingering. Today was a good day for Passerines but duck numbers were down. Rails were vocal this morning. Whenever a duck hunter would shoot there were two King Rails that would call out. Also, just the sound of my truck engine driving down the levees set off 3 Virginia Rails to calling. Here is my list for today:

Canada Geese - 33
Wood Duck – 2
Gadwall – 184

Mallard - 137
Northern Shoveler - 285
Northern Pintail – 7
Green-winged Teal – 735
Canvasback - 4
Ring-necked Duck – 1500
Bufflehead - 3
Hooded Merganser – 2
Ruddy Duck - 24
Pied-billed Grebe – 20
Neotropic Cormorant – 6
Great-blue Heron – 10
Great Egret – 6
White Ibis – 6 juv.
Turkey Vulture – 28
Bald Eagle – 1 imm.
Northern Harrier – 4
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2
Red-tailed Hawk – 7
King Rail - 2
Virginia Rail - 3
American Coot – 608
Killdeer – 2
Greater Yellowlegs - 3
Wilson's Snipe – 1
Mourning Dove – 20
Rock Pigeon - 6
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Northern Flicker – 15
Pileated Woodpecker - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 10
Blue Jay - 1
American Crow – 14
Fish Crow – 28
Carolina Chickadee – 12
Tufted Titmouse – 8
Carolina Wren – 5
House Wren – 1
Winter Wren - 3
Sedge Wren – 1
Marsh Wren - 3
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 5
Eastern Bluebird – 11
Brown Thrasher – 2
Cedar Waxwing - 3
Orange-crowned Warbler - 3

Yellow-rumped Warbler – 10
Pine Warbler – 5
Common Yellowthroat - 4
Eastern Towhee – 2
Chipping Sparrow - 1
Song Sparrow – 20
Swamp Sparrow – 12
White-throated Sparrow – 7
Dark-eyed Junco - 1
Northern Cardinal – 22
Red-winged Blackbird – 34
Common Grackle - 2
Meadowlark species – 21
American Goldfinch – 18

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – November 30, 2020

It was clear, cold, and windy on the bird survey today. 66 species were found. The cold wind made Passerines difficult to locate as they hung tight in the cover. Also, heat waves were bad on the reservoirs when I was counting ducks. Not my favorite conditions to survey in but I did manage to find a few good species. Most notable today was an adult Golden Eagle which put on a 10 minute show for me at Lotus Lake soaring around the lake and flushing waterfowl. At one point he flew within 80 ft. of me and just above eye level. He was really spectacular. Last night's cold front apparently pushed our ibis' further south as they were nowhere to be found today. I found another Common Gallinule at a different location than the 2 found last Friday. But I did not relocate the two from last Friday but I'm sure they were probably still around, just probably holding tight in cover to avoid the cold wind. And there were two Neotropic Cormorants hanging out in the dead snags on Otter Lake. Here is my list for today:

Wood Duck – 4
Gadwall – 440
American Wigeon – 1
Mallard - 449
Northern Shoveler - 481
Northern Pintail – 51
Green-winged Teal – 700
Canvasback - 2

Ring-necked Duck – 2100
Hooded Merganser – 3
Ruddy Duck - 11
Pied-billed Grebe – 18
Neotropic Cormorant – 2
Double-crested Cormorant – 7
Great-blue Heron – 8
Great Egret – 9
Small Egret species – 2
Black Vulture - 5
Turkey Vulture – 33
Northern Harrier – 4
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 8
Golden Eagle – 1 adult
Virginia Rail - 3
Common Gallinule – 1
American Coot – 700
Killdeer – 7
Greater Yellowlegs - 10
Wilson's Snipe – 2
Ring-billed Gull - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 9
Pileated Woodpecker - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 16
Blue Jay - 1
American Crow – 10
Fish Crow – 2
Carolina Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Brown Creeper - 1
Carolina Wren – 7
Bewick's Wren – 1 (Eastern race)
Sedge Wren - 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 4
Eastern Bluebird – 10
Northern Mockingbird - 1
Brown Thrasher – 2
Orange-crowned Warbler - 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 9
Pine Warbler - 1
Eastern Towhee – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 12

Fox Sparrow – 3
Song Sparrow – 9
Lincoln's Sparrow - 1
Swamp Sparrow – 2
White-throated Sparrow – 12
Dark-eyed Junco - 17
Northern Cardinal – 22
Red-winged Blackbird – 11
Meadowlark species – 38
American Goldfinch – 10

Odonates:

Variegated Meadowhawk

Herps:

American Alligator

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – November 3, 2020

It was mostly clear, starting off cold then turning warm, with a little wind on the bird survey today. 83 species were found. Highlight of the day was an Eastern Bewick's Wren. This subspecies is nearly extinct with a few hanging on in the Ozarks. Purple Finches seemed to be everywhere today and there was even a few Pine Siskins. Both these species were seen feeding on Giant Ragweed seeds together. Also of interest today was a Fox Sparrow of one of the western races. It had a solid dark gray back with a red tail and I think there was some red in the wings too. The two nestling Neotropic Cormorants are getting big and our starting to flap there wings. They will be fledging soon. Here is my list for today:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck – 33

Wood Duck – 23
Gadwall – 140
American Wigeon – 14
Mallard - 85
Northern Shoveler - 25
Northern Pintail – 403
Green-winged Teal – 33
Ring-necked Duck – 631
Hooded Merganser – 2
Ruddy Duck - 7

Pied-billed Grebe – 37
American White Pelican - 20
Neotropic Cormorant – 4 (also one nest with 2 older young.)
Double-crested Cormorant – 35
Great-blue Heron – 4
Great Egret – 17
Little-blue Heron – 8
Cattle Egret – 26
Black-crowned Night-Heron – 1 juvenile
White Ibis – 51 (all juveniles)
Plegadis species – 1
Black Vulture – 13
Turkey Vulture – 28
Northern Harrier – 5
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Merlin - 1
King Rail – 2
Virginia Rail - 3
Common Gallinule – 9
American Coot – 512
Killdeer – 6
Greater Yellowlegs - 3
Wilson's Snipe – 1
Mourning Dove – 2
Barred Owl - 1
Belted Kingfisher - 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 4
Northern Flicker – 26
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 15
Blue Jay - 11
American Crow – 57
Fish Crow – 9
Carolina Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse - 1
Carolina Wren – 5
Bewick's Wren (Eastern race) - 1
House Wren – 2
Winter Wren - 1
Sedge Wren - 4
Marsh Wren – 4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 5

Eastern Bluebird – 11
American Robin – 46
Gray Catbird – 1
Northern Mockingbird - 2
Brown Thrasher – 7
Cedar Waxwing - 6
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 42
Common Yellowthroat – 2
Eastern Towhee – 4
Field Sparrow – 5
Savannah Sparrow – 1
Fox Sparrow – 6 (including one western race.)
Song Sparrow – 16
Lincoln's Sparrow - 1
Swamp Sparrow – 22
White-throated Sparrow – 9
White-crowned Sparrow – 4
Dark-eyed Junco - 7
Northern Cardinal – 10
Red-winged Blackbird – 331
Eastern Meadowlark – 2
Common Grackle – 4
Purple Finch – 23
Pine Siskin – 7
American Goldfinch – 26

Odonates:

Eastern Pondhawk

Herps:

American Alligator

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – October 27, 2020

It was heavy overcast, cool, windy, and misting rain on the bird survey today. 66 species were found. Land birds were scarce but waterfowl was in abundance. It looks like the Purple Gallinules have all left but I wouldn't be surprised if there are still one or two out there still. There are still 2 nestling Neotropic Cormorants being fed in the heronry. King Rails were pretty vocal this morning early. Here is my list for today:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck – 94
Wood Duck – 99

Gadwall – 549
American Wigeon – 7
Mallard - 161
Blue-winged Teal – 20
Northern Shoveler - 90
Northern Pintail – 155
Green-winged Teal – 100
Canvasback - 8
Ring-necked Duck – 655
Bufflehead – 3
Hooded Merganser – 1 male
Ruddy Duck - 26
Pied-billed Grebe - 36
Neotropic Cormorant – 6 (also one nest with 2 young.)
Double-crested Cormorant – 25
Great-blue Heron – 6
Great Egret – 17
Snowy Egret - 3
Little-blue Heron – 2
Cattle Egret – 60
White Ibis – 28
Plegadis species – 9
Black Vulture – 3
Turkey Vulture – 15
Bald Eagle – 1 adult
Northern Harrier – 6
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
American Kestrel - 1
King Rail – 4
Virginia Rail - 5
Common Gallinule – 19
American Coot – 2140
Killdeer – 1
Peep (small) species - 7
Wilson's Snipe – 1
Ring-billed Gull – 9
Belted Kingfisher - 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 4
Northern Flicker – 10
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 8
American Crow – 126
Fish Crow – 1
Tree Swallow - 3
Carolina Chickadee – 1
Carolina Wren – 6

House Wren - 2
Sedge Wren - 3
Marsh Wren – 11
Eastern Bluebird – 7
American Robin - 1
Brown Thrasher – 4
Orange-crowned Warbler - 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 5
Common Yellowthroat – 2
Vesper Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 4
Lincoln's Sparrow - 3
Swamp Sparrow – 29
White-throated Sparrow - 5
Northern Cardinal – 16
Red-winged Blackbird – 32

Herps:

Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – October 22, 2020

It was partly cloudy & cool, turning hot and windy, on the bird survey today. 62 species were found. Highlight of the day was a small flock of Pine Siskins that dropped out of the sky and landed in a willow tree next to me. A fair number of summer breeders are still lingering. Numbers of roosting waders in the Pintail Lake roost is getting smaller and smaller every week. Duck numbers are increasing. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* – 19**

Wood Duck – 49
Gadwall – 285
American Wigeon – 6
Mallard - 19
Blue-winged Teal – 59
Northern Shoveler - 26
Northern Pintail – 5
Green-winged Teal - 14
Ring-necked Duck – 173
Ruddy Duck - 3
Pied-billed Grebe - 9
***Neotropic Cormorant* – 11 (also one nest with 2 young.)**

Double-crested Cormorant – 3
Great-blue Heron – 2
Great Egret – 7
Snowy Egret - 3
Little-blue Heron –15
Cattle Egret – 500
White Ibis – 110
Plegadis species – 11
Black Vulture – 6
Turkey Vulture – 86
Northern Harrier – 2
Red-shouldered Hawk – 3
Red-tailed Hawk – 3
King Rail – 1
Virginia Rail - 2
Purple Gallinule – 4
Common Gallinule – 19
American Coot – 573
Killdeer – 5
Wilson’s Snipe – 2
Mourning Dove – 3
Barred Owl - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 6
Eastern Phoebe – 5
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 20
Fish Crow - 2
Carolina Chickadee – 4
Carolina Wren – 4
House Wren - 1
Sedge Wren - 3
Marsh Wren – 3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 2
Eastern Bluebird - 4
Gray Catbird – 1
Brown Thrasher – 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 4
Common Yellowthroat – 2
Eastern Towhee – 4
Savannah Sparrow - 1
Swamp Sparrow – 22
Northern Cardinal – 7
Red-winged Blackbird – 57
Meadowlark species – 1

***Pine Siskin* - 8**

Odonates:

Common Green Darner
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher

Hyacinth Glider

Black Saddlebags

Herps:

Little Brown Skink
Spring Peeper - calling
Green Treefrog - calling
Southern Leopard Frog - calling

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – October 15, 2020

It was overcast and cool, turning windy with misting rain, on the bird survey today. 73 species were found. I was joined on part of the survey by Curtis Stewart from Enid. Highlight of the day was a late male Least Bittern seen on Pintail Lake near the photo blind. There was one photographed at Red Slough last year a week later than this one at the same location. Flocks of White-fronted Geese were migrating over all day and several species of sparrows have returned for the winter. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* – 126**

Greater White-fronted Goose - 156

Wood Duck – 55

Gadwall – 45

American Wigeon – 12

Mallard - 1

Blue-winged Teal – 11

Northern Pintail – 1

Green-winged Teal - 5

Ring-necked Duck – 25

Pied-billed Grebe - 2

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 16** (The late nest had visible young today with both parents in attendance.)

Double-crested Cormorant – 3

***Least Bittern* - 1**

Great-blue Heron – 6

Great Egret – 21

Snowy Egret - 1
Little-blue Heron –34
Cattle Egret – 1000
White Ibis – 102
Plegadis species – 2
Black Vulture – 7
Turkey Vulture – 144
Northern Harrier – 4
Cooper’s Hawk - 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 5
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Merlin - 1
King Rail – 3
Virginia Rail - 4
Purple Gallinule – 5
Common Gallinule – 13
American Coot – 131
Killdeer – 2
Greater Yellowlegs – 1
Long-billed Dowitcher - 32
Wilson’s Snipe – 4
Forster’s Tern – 1
Mourning Dove - 2
Belted Kingfisher - 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 8
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 8
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1
Blue Jay - 12
American Crow – 130
Fish Crow - 1
Tree Swallow – 13
Barn Swallow - 1
Carolina Chickadee – 3
Carolina Wren – 6
Winter Wren – 2
Sedge Wren - 2
Marsh Wren – 6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1
Eastern Bluebird - 6
Gray Catbird – 1
Northern Mockingbird - 1
Brown Thrasher – 6
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 3

Common Yellowthroat – 1
Song Sparrow – 1
Lincoln's Sparrow - 1
Swamp Sparrow – 8
White-throated Sparrow - 1
Northern Cardinal – 17
Indigo Bunting – 3
Red-winged Blackbird – 9
Meadowlark species - 6

Odonates:

Rambur's Forktail
Eastern Pondhawk

Herps:

Southern Leopard Frog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – October 7, 2020

Dale Wolcott and his wife (AZ), Rob Sanders (OK), and I surveyed birds today at Red Slough and found 59 species. It was mostly sunny, calm, and warm. I started in the dark and caught the morning flight out of the heron heronry/roost on Pintail Lake. Only one active nest left in the heronry; a Neotropic Cormorant sitting on a nest. She has been on this nest about a month now and surely she has small young by now. A few migrants were around. Sparrows are starting to show up. Fair numbers of gallinules are still lingering. A few species of ducks have shown up. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 73**

Wood Duck – 35
Gadwall – 9
American Wigeon - 2
Blue-winged Teal – 37
Northern Shoveler – 15
Northern Pintail – 18
Green-winged Teal - 1
Ring-necked Duck – 50
Pied-billed Grebe - 8

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 9 (including one sitting on nest.)**

Double-crested Cormorant - 4
Great-blue Heron – 5
Great Egret – 27

Snowy Egret - 1
Little-blue Heron –70
Cattle Egret – 2500
White Ibis – 160
Plegadis species – 2
Black Vulture – 11
Turkey Vulture – 20
Northern Harrier - 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 8
King Rail - 2
Purple Gallinule – 26
Common Gallinule – 25
American Coot – 500
Killdeer – 8
Greater Yellowlegs – 1
Wilson's Snipe – 1
Belted Kingfisher - 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 6
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 5
Blue Jay - 11
American Crow – 15
Fish Crow - 1
Swallow species - 2
Carolina Chickadee – 2
Carolina Wren – 5
House Wren - 1
Marsh Wren – 3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 2
Gray Catbird – 6
Northern Mockingbird - 1
Brown Thrasher – 5
Nashville Warbler – 2
Common Yellowthroat - 4
Eastern Towhee – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 1
Swamp Sparrow - 6
Northern Cardinal – 11
Indigo Bunting – 12
Red-winged Blackbird - 3

Odonates:

Familiar Bluet
Common Green Darner
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider
Western Cottonmouth
Orange-striped Ribbon Snake
Little Brown Skink
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – September 23, 2020

It was overcast, cool, and misting rain (early) on the survey today. 57 species were found. I did not arrive early to view the morning flight from the roost/heronry (because it was raining) so my wader number count is way down. I arrived about an hour later than normal and concentrated on Passerines along the county road. I hit several feeding flocks and found some migrants. The highlight of the day was a mostly adult plumaged Cave Swallow on Stork Lake sitting in a snag over the water with some other swallows. The heronry was almost empty when I arrived there. It appears there is only one active nest left in the whole heronry and it was a Neotropic Cormorant's nest with an adult bird sitting on presumably eggs, but possibly small young. Neotropic Cormorants were the first species to start nesting here back in March and they are the last to finish up. A number of Neotropic Cormorant young nearby (two family groups) were in the process of fledging and learning how to fly. They repeatedly would take flight one at a time and circle out over the lake and return to their perch apparently practicing. Gallinule numbers are way down as this species has been migrating out of here for several weeks now. I did find 2 broods of young Purple Gallinules, one brood of half-grown young and one brood of $\frac{3}{4}$ grown young so there will be some around for a little while. Here is my list for today:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck - 3

Wood Duck – 18
Blue-winged Teal – 18
Ring-necked Duck – 1
Pied-billed Grebe - 10

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 13**

Double-crested Cormorant - 4

***Anhinga* – 3**

Great-blue Heron – 5

Great Egret – 7

Snowy Egret - 2

Little-blue Heron –13

Cattle Egret – 155

Green Heron – 1

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 2

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 2

***White Ibis* – 9**

***Plegadis* species – 10**

Black Vulture - 35

Turkey Vulture – 14

Bald Eagle – 2 adults

Cooper’s Hawk - 1

Red-shouldered Hawk – 4

***Purple Gallinule* – 21**

***Common Gallinule* – 35**

American Coot – 6

Mourning Dove – 5

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 3

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Hairy Woodpecker – 2

Least Flycatcher - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 8

White-eyed Vireo – 8

Blue Jay - 25

American Crow – 21

Tree Swallow – 100

***Cave Swallow* – 1 (in mostly adult plumage.)**

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 3

Barn Swallow - 4

Carolina Chickadee – 3

Tufted Titmouse – 1

Carolina Wren – 8

Marsh Wren - 2

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1

Eastern Bluebird - 8

Gray Catbird – 18

Northern Mockingbird - 2

Brown Thrasher – 3
Nashville Warbler – 1
Northern Parula – 1
Summer Tanager – 3
Eastern Towhee - 1
Northern Cardinal – 30
Blue Grosbeak - 1
Indigo Bunting – 64

Odonates:

Swamp Spreadwing
Common Green Darner
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Mississippi Mud Turtle
Western Cottonmouth
Southern Leopard Frog – lots calling.

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – September 17, 2020

It was mainly overcast and mild, with on and off light rain on the bird survey today. 61 species were found. I started at 6:30 a.m. in the dark on the observation platform overlooking Lotus and Pintail Lakes. About 6:45 the waders started leaving the heronry/roost on Pintail Lake. No storks or spoonbills this morning but the bright pink sunrise and at the same time a rainbow in the west, helped make up for it. A Common Nighthawk flew past which is a species I very rarely see at Red Slough. A King Rail called nearby. Then the low sun peaked through the clouds and cast the most incredible lighting over the lakes. The kind of light photographers dream of. But my camera was in the truck and I was in the middle of and overwhelmed with counting thousands of birds leaving the heronry/roost. There were a few migrant shorebirds and Passerines around today. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are starting to stage on the area like they have been doing for the past few years, in preparation to leaving next month for warmer

climates for the winter. I found our first Fall migration record of Swainson's Thrush for Red Slough today also. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 60**

Wood Duck – 294

Blue-winged Teal – 54

Ring-necked Duck – 1

Pied-billed Grebe - 2

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 13**

***Anhinga* – 3**

Great-blue Heron – 6

Great Egret – 59

Snowy Egret - 17

Little-blue Heron –165

Cattle Egret – 10,000

Green Heron – 1

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 2

***White Ibis* – 110**

***Plegadis* species - 3**

Turkey Vulture - 1

Red-shouldered Hawk – 1

***King Rail* - 1**

***Purple Gallinule* – 50**

***Common Gallinule* – 96**

American Coot – 4

Killdeer – 8

Solitary Sandpiper – 3

Greater Yellowlegs – 1

Least Sandpiper – 8

Pectoral Sandpiper – 3

Wilson's Snipe – 1

Great-horned Owl – 1

Common Nighthawk – 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2

Belted Kingfisher - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Downy Woodpecker – 4

Hairy Woodpecker – 3

Pileated Woodpecker – 1

Empidonax species - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 2

Great-crested Flycatcher - 1

White-eyed Vireo – 7

Blue Jay - 2

American Crow – 5
Fish Crow – 2
Tree Swallow – 38
Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 8
Barn Swallow - 2
Carolina Chickadee – 9
Tufted Titmouse – 9
Carolina Wren – 10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Swainson's Thrush - 1
Gray Catbird – 1
Brown Thrasher – 1
Pine Warbler – 1
Black-and-white Warbler - 2
Common Yellowthroat – 1
Summer Tanager - 3
Northern Cardinal – 7
Indigo Bunting – 22
Dickcissel - 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 9

Odonates:

Common Green Darner
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher

Herps:

American Alligator
Green Treefrog
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – September 10, 2020

It was overcast and calm with some rain in the morning, turning partly cloudy and windy in the afternoon on the bird survey today. 55 species were found. The most notable bird today was a juvenile Cave Swallow in with a flock of Tree Swallows on Stork Lake. Black-bellied Whistling Duck numbers are rising as the birds start staging on the area in preparation for leaving in October. A few migrant passerines and shorebirds were passing through but I expected more from this recent cold front. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 31**

Wood Duck – 106

Blue-winged Teal – 61

Northern Shoveler – 3

Ring-necked Duck – 1

Pied-billed Grebe - 8

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 9** (5 active nests; 2 birds sitting on eggs.)

***Anhinga* – 23**

Great-blue Heron – 3

Great Egret – 9

Snowy Egret - 2

Little-blue Heron – 30

Cattle Egret – 10,000

Green Heron – 7

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 4

***White Ibis* – 29** (One pair still feeding young in the heronry.)

Black Vulture – 1

Turkey Vulture - 10

Red-shouldered Hawk – 3

***Purple Gallinule* – 63**

***Common Gallinule* – 124**

American Coot – 6

***American Golden Plover* - 1**

Killdeer – 2

“Peep” species – 5 (flyovers against overcast sky.)

Long-billed Dowitcher – 1

Forster’s Tern – 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 3

Belted Kingfisher - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Least Flycatcher - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 1

White-eyed Vireo – 7

American Crow – 3

Fish Crow – 2

***Cave Swallow* – 1**

Tree Swallow – 35

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 3

Bank Swallow - 1

Barn Swallow - 3

Carolina Chickadee – 6
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 14
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Gray Catbird – 2
Yellow Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 3
Yellow-breasted Chat – 1
Summer Tanager - 1
Northern Cardinal – 12
Indigo Bunting – 10
Painted Bunting – 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 98
Common Grackle - 1

Odonates:

Rambur's Forktail
Lily pad Forktail
Common Green Darner
Royal River Cruiser
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Common Whitetail
Hyacinth Glider – 2 (adult males)
Striped Saddlebags – 1 (adult male)
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Orange-striped Ribbon Snake
Broad-headed Skink
Little Brown Skink
Southern Leopard Frog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – September 2, 2020

It was overcast, calm, mild, and rainy on the survey today. 47 species were found. I only caught the tail end of the morning flight from the heronry/roost on Pintail Lake. It rained on me for most of the survey

except for about 2 hours which made it difficult to find birds. The only birds singing were White-eyed Vireos and Carolina Wrens. A few migrants were around including a small flock of Northern Shovelers and a small group of Baltimore Orioles which included an adult male. On Black Land Road toward the west end are large groups of Indigo Buntings feeding in the Giant Ragweed patches and pigweed along the road and mixed in with them were a few juvenile Painted Buntings and some Dickcissels. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 6**

Wood Duck – 96

Blue-winged Teal – 70

Northern Shoveler - 7

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 8 (still 4 active nests.)**

***Anhinga* – 59**

Great-blue Heron – 4

Great Egret – 2

Little-blue Heron – 10

Cattle Egret – 15,000

Green Heron – 3

***White Ibis* – 6**

Black Vulture – 5

Mississippi Kite – 1

Red-shouldered Hawk – 2

***King Rail* - 1**

***Purple Gallinule* – 55 (also some broods of small young.)**

***Common Gallinule* – 107 (also some broods of small young.)**

American Coot – 2

Killdeer - 3

Mourning Dove - 2

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 3

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Hairy Woodpecker – 1

Northern Flicker - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 1

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1

White-eyed Vireo – 10

Blue Jay - 3

American Crow – 3

Cliff Swallow - 20

Barn Swallow - 1

Carolina Chickadee – 5

Tufted Titmouse – 1

Carolina Wren – 8

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2

Northern Mockingbird – 2

Common Yellowthroat – 1

Yellow-breasted Chat – 2

Summer Tanager - 3

Northern Cardinal – 15
Indigo Bunting – 50
Painted Bunting – 5
Dickcissel - 2
Red-winged Blackbird – 17
Baltimore Oriole - 3

Odonates:

Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider

Herps:

American Alligator
Eastern Gray Treefrog
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Bronze Frog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – August 27, 2020

It was overcast with intermittent rain and moderate wind on the bird survey today. 48 species were found. I did my survey today in hopes that the hurricane might pass close enough to bring us some birds from the Gulf. The edge of the hurricane hit us but no hurricane birds were found. The wind and the rain affected my count so my numbers were down. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 7**

Wood Duck – 71
Pied-billed Grebe – 2

Neotropic Cormorant – 20 (still 4 active nests.)

Anhinga – 86 (lots of fledglings.)

Great-blue Heron – 4

Great Egret – 13

Snowy Egret – 1

Little-blue Heron – 116

Cattle Egret – 20,000

Green Heron – 5

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 2

White Ibis – 30 (a number of fledglings.)

Roseate Spoonbill – 3

Wood Stork - 5

Black Vulture – 8

Turkey Vulture – 13
Mississippi Kite – 1
Cooper’s Hawk - 1
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2
Purple Gallinule – 49 (also several broods of small young.)
Common Gallinule – 93 (also numerous broods of young.)
American Coot – 5
“Peep” species – 12 (Distant flock in flight.)
Mourning Dove - 3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Alder Flycatcher – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Eastern Kingbird - 5
White-eyed Vireo – 2
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 2
Tree Swallow – 3
Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 8
Cliff Swallow - 4
Barn Swallow - 7
Carolina Chickadee – 1
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 3
Northern Cardinal – 5
Indigo Bunting – 54
Painted Bunting – 1
Dickcissel - 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 87
Common Grackle – 1
Orchard Oriole – 1

Odonates:

Common Green Darner
Swamp Darner
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Great-blue Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider
Striped Saddlebags - 2
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Bronze Frog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – August 18, 2020

It was mostly clear, warm, and a bit windy on the bird survey today. 54 species were found. The heronry is starting to wind down with a lot of post breeding dispersal happening with most species except for the Cattle Egrets. Got to enjoy watching, for about the third time this year, a white tornado over Pintail lake consisting of several hundred Cattle Egrets which were in the act of aerial mobbing an alligator in the lake below them. I have seen this dozens of times over the years and it just amazes me. I've never be able to find any reference of this behavior anywhere on the internet so I guess I need to write it up some time. The egrets literally fly in a tight circle just above the water forming a funnel-like shape similar to and looking like a white tornado. Also of note today were 5 Roseate Spoonbills leaving the heronry/roost early this morning. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 18**

Wood Duck – 110

Blue-winged Teal - 14

Pied-billed Grebe – 7

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 21** (Several active nests.)

***Anhinga* – 43** (lots of fledglings.)

Great-blue Heron – 6

Great Egret – 7

Snowy Egret – 6

Little-blue Heron – 242

Cattle Egret – 30,000

Green Heron – 7

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 2

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 1

***White Ibis* – 53** (a number of fledglings.)

***Roseate Spoonbill* - 5**

Black Vulture – 27

Turkey Vulture – 15

Mississippi Kite – 1

Cooper's Hawk - 1

Red-shouldered Hawk - 2

***Purple Gallinule* – 75** (several broods of smaller young.)

***Common Gallinule* – 109** (numerous broods of young.)

American Coot – 3

Killdeer – 1

Greater Yellowlegs – 1

Pectoral Sandpiper - 8

Mourning Dove - 1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 7
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Alder Flycatcher – 7 (feeding on roughleaf dogwood berries)
Willow Flycatcher – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 2
Eastern Kingbird - 5
White-eyed Vireo – 5
Red-eyed Vireo - 1
American Crow – 4
Cliff Swallow - 4
Barn Swallow - 1
Carolina Chickadee – 3
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1
Gray Catbird - 1
Summer Tanager – 1
Eastern Towhee - 1
Northern Cardinal – 6
Indigo Bunting – 13
Painted Bunting – 1
Dickcissel - 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 48
Common Grackle – 445

Odonates:

Regal Darner - 1
Common Green Darner
Royal River Cruiser
Prince Baskettail
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Hyacinth Glider - 1
Spot-winged Glider
Wandering Glider
Striped Saddlebags - 2
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator

Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Southern Leopard Frog
Bronze Frog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – August 11, 2020

It was partly cloudy and hot with a light breeze on the bird survey today. 57 species were found. A few migrants are moving through now including several Empid species and Blue-winged Teal. The heronry/wader roost is still going strong with lots of active nests still. This morning when I started in the dark, the heronry stood out in the darkness looking like snow covered trees. The gallinules still have plenty of broods of small young with the juveniles from their first brood helping feed the new chicks. I found a juvenile towhee with a striped breast and fairly short tail. I figure he was probably a fledgling last week. Was a great day for rare and vagrant dragonflies with the south wind; see my list below the bird list:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 20**

Wood Duck – 88

Blue-winged Teal - 16

Pied-billed Grebe – 5 (also several broods of young.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 29 (Several sitting on nests.)

Anhinga – 52 (still plenty of active nests.)

Least Bittern - 1

Great-blue Heron – 3

Great Egret – 32

Snowy Egret – 30

Little-blue Heron – 200

Cattle Egret – 30,000

Green Heron – 10

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 4

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 2

White Ibis – 134

Black Vulture – 27

Turkey Vulture – 7

Mississippi Kite – 1

Red-shouldered Hawk - 2

King Rail - 2

Purple Gallinule – 83 (several broods of small young.)

Common Gallinule – 86 (numerous broods of young.)

American Coot – 4

Killdeer - 1

Mourning Dove - 2

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 6
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Alder Flycatcher – 2 (feeding on roughleaf dogwood berries)
Willow Flycatcher – 1
Least Flycatcher – 1 (feeding on roughleaf dogwood berries.)
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Great-crested Flycatcher - 1
Eastern Kingbird - 4
White-eyed Vireo – 6
Red-eyed Vireo - 2
American Crow – 4
Fish Crow - 2
Tree Swallow – 1
Cliff Swallow - 20
Barn Swallow - 5
Carolina Chickadee – 4
Tufted Titmouse – 3
Carolina Wren – 7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 3
European Starling - 15
Common Yellowthroat – 3
Yellow-breasted Chat - 1
Summer Tanager – 2
Eastern Towhee - 3
Northern Cardinal – 15
Indigo Bunting – 8
Red-winged Blackbird – 1550
Common Grackle – 10

Odonates:

Regal Darner - 2
Common Green Darner
Royal River Cruiser
Prince Baskettail
Two-striped Forceptail - 1
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Great-blue Skimmer
Common Whitetail
Blue Dasher
Hyacinth Glider - 1
Spot-winged Glider
Wandering Glider

Striped Saddlebags - 2

Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator

Red-eared Slider

Blanchard's Cricket Frog

Bronze Frog

Good birding!

David Arbour

De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – August 4, 2020

David Gerard and I surveyed birds today at Red Slough and found 54 species. It was mostly clear and warm. Very few birds still singing. Spent most of the time surveying water birds on reservoirs. The morning flight from the heronry started around 6 a.m. with a Great Egret leaving first. Although Cattle Egret numbers seem to be the same there was a drop in numbers of most of the other heron and egret species and also White Ibis and Anhinga numbers. As they finish nesting they are apparently dispersing. They do this every year. The most unusual find today was a Red-headed Woodpecker which are very rare at Red Slough in Summer. Here is our list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 18**

Wood Duck – 56

Blue-winged Teal - 1

Pied-billed Grebe – 11 (two sitting on nests.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 35 (Still several sitting on nests.)

Anhinga – 63

Least Bittern - 4

Great-blue Heron – 9

Great Egret – 57

Snowy Egret – 50

Little-blue Heron – 245

Cattle Egret – 25,000

Green Heron – 9

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 4 (also found nest with 4 older nestlings.)

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 1

White Ibis – 68 (Two young have fledged.)

Black Vulture – 30

Turkey Vulture – 17

Mississippi Kite - 4

King Rail - 3

Purple Gallinule – 52

Common Gallinule – 85

American Coot – 4
Mourning Dove - 7
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Eastern Wood-Pewee - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Eastern Kingbird - 3
White-eyed Vireo – 10
Bell's Vireo - 1
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 5
Fish Crow - 6
Tree Swallow – 1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 1
Cliff Swallow - 1
Barn Swallow - 8
Carolina Chickadee – 1
Tufted Titmouse – 4
Carolina Wren – 7
Eastern Bluebird – 2
Gray Catbird - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 1
Summer Tanager - 1
Northern Cardinal – 6
Indigo Bunting – 21
Painted Bunting – 3
Dickcissel - 14
Red-winged Blackbird – 1100
Common Grackle – 4

Odonates:

Swamp Darner
Royal River Cruiser
Prince Baskettail
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Great-blue Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Spot-winged Glider
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Yellow-bellied Watersnake
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Bronze Frog
Southern Leopard Frog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – July 29, 2020

It was overcast (with a light rain early) and mild, with a light wind on the bird survey today. 50 species were found. Passerines have mostly stopped singing now and so are hard to detect so I spent most of my time on the reservoirs working the water birds. Over the years it was a common sight to see Common Gallinules double brooding and their older young helping feed the younger ones. I never saw two age classes of young with the Purple Gallinules so always assumed they produced one brood a year. But today I found 3 different family groups of Purples with newly hatched chicks and older full-sized juveniles together and the juveniles were helping feed the small chicks. So I wonder why this year was good for them double brooding compared to other years. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 8**

Wood Duck – 40

Gadwall - 2

Pied-billed Grebe – 10 (one with chicks and one on a nest.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 23 (Still several sitting on nests.)

Anhinga – 136 (Lots of young have fledged now but still plenty of active nests still.)

Great-blue Heron – 4

Great Egret – 120

Snowy Egret – 50 (Saw one bird feeding young in the nest. The young, when they weren't being fed, were fighting with each other something terrible.)

Little-blue Heron – 305

Cattle Egret – 25,000

Green Heron – 11

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 1

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 1

White Ibis – 430 (Also, saw numerous nests with young.)

Black Vulture – 8

Turkey Vulture – 7

Mississippi Kite - 2

King Rail - 2

Purple Gallinule – 60

Common Gallinule – 95

American Coot – 3

Spotted Sandpiper – 2

Upland Sandpiper – 2 (Calling from the sky in migration.)

Forster's Tern – 6

Black Tern - 11
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 3
Barred Owl - 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Pileated Woodpecker - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 4
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 2
White-eyed Vireo – 3
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 3
Tree Swallow - 11
Barn Swallow - 7
Carolina Chickadee – 3
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Common Yellowthroat – 3
Eastern Towhee – 2
Northern Cardinal – 5
Indigo Bunting – 11
Painted Bunting – 2
Dickcissel - 3
Red-winged Blackbird – 2800
Common Grackle – 1

Odonates:

Royal River Cruiser
Prince Baskettail
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Great-blue Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider
Striped Saddlebags - 4
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – July 23, 2020

Chris Lynch and I surveyed birds at Red Slough today and found 58 species. It was mostly cloudy and warm with some fog early. We searched hard for the Limpkin but with no luck. Most notable find was an American Bittern in unit 27B. Here is our list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 10**

Wood Duck – 27

Pied-billed Grebe – 8

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 21**

***Anhinga* – 82**

***American Bittern* - 1**

Great-blue Heron – 18

Great Egret – 35

Snowy Egret – 28

Little-blue Heron – 82

Cattle Egret – 20,000

Green Heron – 12

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 4

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 1

***White Ibis* – 388**

Black Vulture – 34

Turkey Vulture – 33

Mississippi Kite - 4

Red-shouldered Hawk – 1

***King Rail* - 2**

***Purple Gallinule* – 38**

***Common Gallinule* – 57**

American Coot – 5

Mourning Dove – 8

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 6

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 3

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Hairy Woodpecker – 1

Acadian Flycatcher - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 1

Eastern Kingbird – 1

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 3

White-eyed Vireo – 14

Yellow-throated Vireo – 2

Red-eyed Vireo – 1

Blue Jay - 1

American Crow – 6

Fish Crow – 1

Barn Swallow - 7

Carolina Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 1
Gray Catbird – 2
Northern Mockingbird – 2
Louisiana Waterthrush - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 12
Yellow-breasted Chat – 1
Summer Tanager – 1
Eastern Towhee – 1
Northern Cardinal – 15
Indigo Bunting – 20
Painted Bunting – 3
Dickcissel - 17
Red-winged Blackbird – 254
Common Grackle – 3
Brown-headed Cowbird - 1

Odonates:

Swamp Darner
Regal Darner
Common Green Darner
Royal River Cruiser
Prince Baskettail
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Great-blue Skimmer
Common Whitetail
Blue Dasher
Eastern Amberwing
Wandering Glider

Herps:

American Alligator
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – July 14, 2020

Chris Lynch and I surveyed birds today at Red Slough and found 54 species. The weather was mostly clear and hot, with a breeze. We spent most of the survey around the reservoirs and concentrated on water birds mostly and looking for the Limpkin which we never found. No storks or spoonbills either but I did have one stork yesterday. The only unusual thing we saw today was a Wood Duck that came flying by in front of me with a Mourning Dove flying close beside it and slightly behind. Suddenly the Wood Duck landed on the lake in front of me in the water lilies and the dove landed in the water right beside the duck. But suddenly after a few seconds in the water it realized it was out of its element and it quickly flushed and became airborne and flew off. I would love to know what was going on in that doves mind, whether it thought it was a duck or maybe it was using the duck for protection from a threatening Cooper's Hawk or something. We also saw Cattle Egrets forming an egret tornado above an alligator that was on the surface of the lake. I have seen this numerous times over the years and these egret tornados can have quite a few birds circling tight above the gator in what looks like a white tornado. Quite a sight. Here is our list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 5**

Wood Duck – 38

Mallard - 2

Pied-billed Grebe – 8

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 35** (probable high count.)

***Anhinga* – 156**

Great-blue Heron – 23

Great Egret – 98

Snowy Egret – 106

Little-blue Heron – 214

Cattle Egret – 20,000

Green Heron – 18

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 3

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 2

***White Ibis* – 612**

Black Vulture – 113

Turkey Vulture – 21

Mississippi Kite - 7

Red-shouldered Hawk – 1

***King Rail* - 2**

***Purple Gallinule* – 34** adults (also lots of broods.)

***Common Gallinule* – 42** adults and full-sized juveniles (also lots of broods.)

American Coot – 5

Solitary Sandpiper – 1

Mourning Dove – 4

Rock Pigeon - 1

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 3

Great-horned Owl - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Eastern Phoebe – 1

Great-crested Flycatcher - 1

White-eyed Vireo – 4

Bell's Vireo – 2

American Crow – 3

Fish Crow – 1
Purple Martin - 2
Tree Swallow – 7
Cliff Swallow - 5
Barn Swallow - 9
Carolina Chickadee – 1
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1
Eastern Bluebird – 3
Prothonotary Warbler – 2
Common Yellowthroat – 5
Yellow-breasted Chat – 8
Northern Cardinal – 10
Blue Grosbeak - 1
Indigo Bunting – 11
Painted Bunting – 4
Dickcissel - 13
Red-winged Blackbird – 63
Common Grackle – 12

Odonates:

Swamp Darner
Jade Clubtail
Royal River Cruiser
Prince Baskettail
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Broad-banded Watersnake
Green Treefrog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – July 9, 2020 (Limpkin!)

It was mostly cloudy, warm, and windy in the morning; turning partly cloudy, calm, and hot in the afternoon on the bird survey today. I started the survey at 5:45 a.m. to catch the morning flight out of the heronry on Pintail Lake. Highlights were a Limpkin (see my separate post about the Limpkin), Roseate Spoonbill, and Wood Storks. There are lots of young fledging out of their nests in the heronry and really increasing the overall numbers. I think I got my highest count ever on Anhingas. I found 4 White Ibis nests today also. I spent most of my survey surveying water birds and did very little surveying of Passerines. Lots of broods of gallinules were seen. It's a really great time to visit and bird Red Slough if you can stand the heat and humidity. Just come early for best results and comfort. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 4**

Wood Duck – 15

Mallard - 1

Pied-billed Grebe – 3

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 19**

***Anhinga* – 164**

Great-blue Heron – 4

Great Egret – 125

Snowy Egret – 200

Little-blue Heron – 212

Cattle Egret – 15000

Green Heron – 12

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 7

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 5

***White Ibis* – 839**

***Plegadis* species - 4**

***Roseate Spoonbill* – 1**

***Wood Stork* - 2**

Black Vulture – 3

Red-shouldered Hawk – 1

***Limpkin* - 1**

***King Rail* - 2**

***Purple Gallinule* – 29**

***Common Gallinule* – 39**

American Coot – 3

Killdeer – 1

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Eastern Phoebe – 1

Eastern Kingbird - 1

White-eyed Vireo – 11

Bell's Vireo – 1

Red-eyed Vireo – 1

American Crow – 1

Fish Crow – 2

Tree Swallow – 10

Barn Swallow - 8

Carolina Chickadee – 2

Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1
Eastern Bluebird – 2
Gray Catbird - 1
European Starling - 4
Prothonotary Warbler – 3
Common Yellowthroat – 7
Yellow-breasted Chat – 5
Eastern Towhee - 4
Northern Cardinal – 6
Indigo Bunting – 6
Painted Bunting - 5
Red-winged Blackbird – 64
Common Grackle – 9
Orchard Oriole – 1

Odonates:

Citrine Forktail
Common Green Darner
Prince Baskettail
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Common Whitetail
Blue Dasher

Herps:

American Alligator
Diamondback Watersnake
Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad
Green Treefrog
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour
De Queen, AR

Red Slough Bird Survey – June 23, 2020

It was overcast and mild on the survey yesterday. A 30 minute storm came through and dropped a little over an inch of rain. The sun popped out for about 30 minutes in the afternoon but then it clouded back

up. Was a great day for birds as they were very active. 70 species were found. I got excellent looks at a King Rail sitting up in the tops of the rushes, about 4 feet above the water, in plain sight, calling. I have never seen one do this. And I never played callback at all. The heronry is still very active and baby gallinules are everywhere. I parked my truck where I could watch the heronry while I ate my lunch. While eating I had not only the constant stream of birds flying in and out of the heronry over my head feeding young and carrying nest material, but I had the King Rail calling right behind me and a mother Purple Gallinule with a brood of downy young at close range in front of me. Then a group of Hyacinth Gliders (vagrant dragonflies from the tropics) dropped in and started feeding around me. And I thought, "Does it get any better than this?" And then I realized that yes it does sometimes. Red Slough is a magic place. Here is my list for yesterday:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 2**

Wood Duck – 28

Mallard - 2

Pied-billed Grebe – 7 (also 3 broods of young.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 30 (this is probably our record high count for this species.)

Double-crested Cormorant - 1

Anhinga – 81

American Bittern – 1 juvenile

Least Bittern - 1

Great-blue Heron – 30

Great Egret – 104

Snowy Egret – 39

Little-blue Heron – 57

Cattle Egret – 6000

Green Heron – 10

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 6

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 5

White Ibis – 855 (two pairs were nest building.)

Turkey Vulture – 2

Mississippi Kite – 4

Red-shouldered Hawk – 3

King Rail - 1

Purple Gallinule – 44 adults (also 3 broods)

Common Gallinule – 40 adults (lots of broods.)

American Coot – 6

Killdeer – 3

"Peep" species – 2 (flyovers)

Black Tern – 1 (basic plumage)

Mourning Dove – 10

Rock Pigeon - 8

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 6

Belted Kingfisher - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Hairy Woodpecker - 2

Eastern Phoebe – 4

Great-crested Flycatcher – 1

Eastern Kingbird - 2
White-eyed Vireo – 8
Bell's Vireo – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 2
Blue Jay - 1
American Crow – 3
Fish Crow – 4
Purple Martin - 1
Tree Swallow – 19
Cliff Swallow - 4
Barn Swallow - 22
Carolina Chickadee – 2
Tufted Titmouse – 2
Carolina Wren – 16
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 6
Gray Catbird - 1
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling - 12
Pine Warbler – 1
Prairie Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 11
Kentucky Warbler - 2
Common Yellowthroat – 9
Yellow-breasted Chat – 6
Northern Cardinal – 16
Indigo Bunting – 18
Painted Bunting - 3
Dickcissel - 14
Red-winged Blackbird – 28
Common Grackle – 19
Brown-headed Cowbird – 4
Orchard Oriole – 2

Odonates:

Blue-fronted Dancer
Regal Darner
Prince Baskettail
Royal River Cruiser
Two-striped Forceptail
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Eastern Amberwing
Hyacinth Glider – 4

Wandering Glider
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Graham's Crayfish Snake
Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad
Green Treefrog
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Bronze Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – June 16, 2020

It was partly cloudy, and warm, with a light wind on the survey today. 59 species were found. The heronry on Pintail Lake is still going strong. A couple of the cormorant nests have fledged young out now and several Anhinga nests are on the verge of doing the same. More Neotropic Cormorants have moved onto the area and several new nests have been started. Lots of broods out now including a brood of Purple Gallinules. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 7**

Wood Duck – 24

Pied-billed Grebe – 5 (also 1 brood of young.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 25 (still several active nests.)

Anhinga – 82 (Many on nests in heronry.)

Least Bittern - 2

Great-blue Heron – 20

Great Egret – 58 (several active nests with young in heronry.)

Snowy Egret – 6 (2 nests found.)

Little-blue Heron – 127 (lots sitting on nests in heronry.)

Cattle Egret – 6000

Green Heron – 15

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 2

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 1

White Ibis – 2,140 (I saw ~4000 yesterday feeding in unit 15.)

Black Vulture - 37

Turkey Vulture – 7

Mississippi Kite – 2

Red-shouldered Hawk - 1

Purple Gallinule – 35 adults (also 1 brood)

Common Gallinule – 43 adults (also 10 broods of young.)

American Coot – 4

Mourning Dove – 8

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 6

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Hairy Woodpecker - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 2

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1
White-eyed Vireo – 9
Bell's Vireo – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 2
American Crow – 5
Fish Crow – 2
Tree Swallow – 35
Barn Swallow - 7
Carolina Chickadee – 4
Tufted Titmouse – 2
Carolina Wren – 9
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1
Eastern Bluebird – 4
Gray Catbird - 1
Northern Mockingbird – 1
Yellow-throated Warbler – 1
Pine Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 6
Kentucky Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 17
Yellow-breasted Chat – 11
Eastern Towhee – 6
Northern Cardinal – 10
Blue Grosbeak - 1
Indigo Bunting – 12
Painted Bunting - 4
Dickcissel - 13
Red-winged Blackbird – 37
Common Grackle – 73
Brown-headed Cowbird – 4
Orchard Oriole – 7

Odonates:

Fragile Forktail
Citrine Forktail
Prince Baskettail
Royal River Cruiser
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Slater Skimmer
Blue Dasher

Herps:

American Alligator

Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Bronze Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – June 9, 2020

It was cloudy turning partly cloudy, hot, and very windy today on the bird survey. 62 species were found. The high constant wind made it really difficult to find passerines and really affected the gallinules causing most of them to stay in thick cover out of sight. Here is my list:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 3**

Wood Duck – 10

Hooded Merganser - 3

Pied-billed Grebe – 9 (also 1 brood of young.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 11 (still several active nests.)

Double-crested Cormorant - 1

Anhinga – 92 (Many on nests in heronry.)

Great-blue Heron – 2

Great Egret – 58 (several sitting on nests in heronry.)

Snowy Egret – 6

Little-blue Heron – 77 (lots sitting on nests in heronry.)

Cattle Egret – 6000 (most attending nests in heronry.)

Green Heron – 6

White Ibis – 750 (Saw a pair nest building in heronry.)

Black Vulture - 27

Turkey Vulture – 19

Mississippi Kite – 2

Cooper's Hawk - 1

Purple Gallinule – 24 adults

Common Gallinule – 24 adults (also 4 broods of young.)

American Coot – 2

Killdeer - 4

Mourning Dove – 2

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 4

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Eastern Wood-Pewee - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 3

Great-crested Flycatcher - 1

Eastern Kingbird – 1

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 2

White-eyed Vireo – 9

Bell's Vireo – 2

Yellow-throated Vireo - 1

Red-eyed Vireo – 1

American Crow – 7

Fish Crow – 1

Purple Martin - 1

Tree Swallow – 12
Cliff Swallow - 2
Barn Swallow - 14
Carolina Chickadee – 2
Tufted Titmouse – 1
Carolina Wren – 7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 9
Northern Mockingbird – 2
Yellow-throated Warbler – 2
Pine Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 2
Kentucky Warbler - 2
Common Yellowthroat – 8
Yellow-breasted Chat – 9
Eastern Towhee – 1
Northern Cardinal – 18
Blue Grosbeak - 1
Indigo Bunting – 17
Painted Bunting - 4
Dickcissel - 13
Red-winged Blackbird – 22
Common Grackle – 18
Brown-headed Cowbird – 4

Odonates:

Swamp Darner
Prince Baskettail
Bayou Clubtail
Halloween Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

Red-eared Slider
Diamondback Watersnake
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Bronze Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – June 2, 2020

It was mostly overcast, mild, and fairly calm on the bird survey today. 66 species were found. No migrants seen today. The heronry is growing every day as more birds show up and start building nests. There was an almost constant flight of herons and egrets carrying sticks into the heronry. Black-crowned Night-Herons have moved into the heronry now and will probably nest soon. White Ibis are flying in and out of the heronry but I haven't spotted a nest yet. Had another good count on Purple Gallinules but was seven short of last weeks count. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 9**

Wood Duck – 11

Gadwall – 2 (a pair)

Pied-billed Grebe – 7 (One sitting on a nest; also 2 broods of young. One brood riding on the mother's back.)

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 9** (several active nests still including the one with 5 young.)

***Anhinga* – 100** (Many on nests in heronry.)

***Least Bittern* – 1 male**

Great-blue Heron – 3

Great Egret – 26 (several sitting on nests in heronry.)

Snowy Egret – 8

Little-blue Heron – 45 (lots sitting on nests in heronry.)

Cattle Egret – 6000 (most attending nests in heronry.)

Green Heron – 8

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 4

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 3

***White Ibis* – 44**

Black Vulture - 1

Turkey Vulture – 2

Mississippi Kite - 1

Red-shouldered Hawk - 1

***Purple Gallinule* – 75 adults**

***Common Gallinule* – 52 adults** (also 6 broods of young.)

American Coot – 2

Killdeer - 2

Mourning Dove – 11

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 12

Chimney Swift - 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker - 1

Acadian Flycatcher - 2

Eastern Phoebe – 8

Great-crested Flycatcher - 4

Eastern Kingbird – 1

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1

White-eyed Vireo – 8

Red-eyed Vireo – 6

American Crow – 4

Fish Crow – 2

Purple Martin - 4

Tree Swallow – 14
Barn Swallow - 12
Carolina Chickadee – 3
Tufted Titmouse – 2
Carolina Wren – 11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 5
Eastern Bluebird – 2
Gray Catbird – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 3
Northern Parula - 1
Yellow-throated Warbler – 1
Pine Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 8
Common Yellowthroat – 13
Hooded Warbler - 1
Yellow-breasted Chat – 14
Summer Tanager – 1
Eastern Towhee – 2
Northern Cardinal – 20
Indigo Bunting – 28
Painted Bunting - 7
Dickcissel - 10
Red-winged Blackbird – 26
Common Grackle – 16
Brown-headed Cowbird – 11
Orchard Oriole – 1

Odonates:

Fragile Forktail
Lilypad Forktail
Citrine Forktail
Elegant Spreadwing
Swamp Darner
Prince Baskettail
Stillwater Clubtail
Eastern Pondhawk
Slaty Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Eastern Amberwing
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog

Bronze Frog
Southern Leopard Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – May 26, 2020

It was partly cloudy and warm with a light wind on the survey today. 67 species were found. The biggest highlight of the day was getting a record high count on Purple Gallinules. Also, the first Common Gallinule broods of the year were seen. The heronry is going strong with lots of nesting birds. A couple species of migrating flycatchers were still moving through. Had a couple of Purple Gallinules fighting like roosters (with their feet.) in a territorial dispute. They were quickly joined by the mate of one of the birds which resulted in the other's mate getting involved and for a few seconds all four birds were in a ball fighting like roosters then they split up into two separate fights. A fifth bird came over and almost got into the fight also but then backed off. One pair finally won and the other pair had to back off. Lots to see at Red Slough now. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 2**

Wood Duck – 3 (also one brood of small young.)

Blue-winged Teal - 4

Pied-billed Grebe – 9 (Three sitting on nests.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 13 (Found at least 7 nests today. One nest had 5 young in it. The usual is 3.)

Anhinga – 70 (Many on nests in heronry.)

***Least Bittern* - 5**

Great-blue Heron – 5

Great Egret – 12 (several sitting on nests in heronry.)

Snowy Egret – 26 (one pair building a nest in heronry.)

Little-blue Heron – 80 (lots sitting on nests in heronry.)

Tricolored Heron – 1 adult

Cattle Egret – 5000 (most attending nests in heronry.)

Green Heron - 6

White Ibis – 268 (some are starting to hang out in heronry. They didn't start nesting till June last year.)

Black Vulture - 9

Turkey Vulture – 4

Red-shouldered Hawk - 2

Purple Gallinule – 82 adults (Record high count for Red Slough; I'm sure there were many that I didn't see that were sitting on nests.)

Common Gallinule – 59 adults (also 4 broods of tiny young.)

American Coot – 2

***Least Terns* - 5**

Mourning Dove – 6

Rock Pigeon - 2

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 8

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Downy Woodpecker - 1

Pileated Woodpecker – 2

Eastern Wood-Pewee - 1

Acadian Flycatcher - 1

Alder Flycatcher – 1

Least Flycatcher - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 3
Great-crested Flycatcher - 2
Eastern Kingbird – 2
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 3
White-eyed Vireo – 9
Bell's Vireo - 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 4
Blue Jay - 1
American Crow – 4
Fish Crow – 3
Purple Martin - 3
Tree Swallow – 16
Barn Swallow - 16
Carolina Chickadee – 3
Tufted Titmouse – 5
Carolina Wren – 8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 8
Eastern Bluebird – 5
Yellow-throated Warbler – 2
Pine Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 11
Kentucky Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 12
Yellow-breasted Chat – 9
Summer Tanager – 3
Eastern Towhee – 1
Northern Cardinal – 14
Indigo Bunting – 20
Painted Bunting - 4
Dickcissel - 14
Red-winged Blackbird – 21
Common Grackle – 15
Brown-headed Cowbird – 5
Orchard Oriole – 1

Odonates:

Swamp Darner
Prince Baskettail
Eastern Pondhawk
Great-blue Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Eastern Amberwing
Spot-winged Glider
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – May 20, 2020

It was partly cloudy and warm with a moderate wind on the bird survey today. 68 species were found. Carolyn Barry and John McClure (TX) joined me for part of the survey. Here is my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 3**

Wood Duck – 13
Green-winged Teal – 1 male
Hooded Merganser – 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 7 (one sitting on a nest.)

Neotropic Cormorant – 13 (There are 5 current nests. One nest has 3 young that are very close to fledging.)

Anhinga – 80

Least Bittern - 1

Great-blue Heron – 9

Great Egret – 25

Snowy Egret - 30

Little-blue Heron – 32

Tricolored Heron – 2 adults

Cattle Egret - 5000

Green Heron - 5

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 5

White Ibis – 230

Plegadis species – 1

Black Vulture - 40

Turkey Vulture – 14

Mississippi Kite - 1

Purple Gallinule - 41

Common Gallinule - 37

American Coot – 9

Spotted Sandpiper – 1

Forster's Tern - 8

Black Tern - 2

Mourning Dove – 3

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 7

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 5

Pileated Woodpecker – 1

Acadian Flycatcher - 3

Alder Flycatcher – 1

Eastern Phoebe – 5

Great-crested Flycatcher - 2

Eastern Kingbird – 6

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1
White-eyed Vireo – 9
Red-eyed Vireo – 1
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 4
Fish Crow – 2
Tree Swallow – 20
Barn Swallow - 11
Carolina Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 5
Carolina Wren – 12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 6
Eastern Bluebird – 3
Wood Thrush - 1
Gray Catbird – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 2
Yellow-throated Warbler – 1
Pine Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 5
Common Yellowthroat – 8
Yellow-breasted Chat – 3
Summer Tanager – 2
Eastern Towhee – 2
Northern Cardinal – 16
Blue Grosbeak - 1
Indigo Bunting – 15
Painted Bunting - 6
Dickcissel - 4
Red-winged Blackbird – 10
Common Grackle – 16
Brown-headed Cowbird – 8
Orchard Oriole – 2

Odonates:

Fragile Forktail
Common Green Darner
Swamp Darner
Prince Baskettail
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider
Broad-banded Watersnake

Western Ratsnake
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Bronze Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – May 13, 2020

Jimmy Woodard, Nadine Varner, and I surveyed birds today at Red Slough and found 82 species. The day started off overcast and cool, turning partly cloudy, warm, and windy. Migration is winding down but we found a few good migrants today. Here is our list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 2**

Wood Duck – 4
Blue-winged Teal – 15
Hooded Merganser – 3
Pied-billed Grebe – 5

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 9**

***Anhinga* – 71**

***Least Bittern* - 1**

Great-blue Heron – 2
Great Egret – 56
Snowy Egret - 21
Little-blue Heron – 37
***Tricolored Heron* – 1 adult**
Cattle Egret - 5000
Green Heron - 7
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 11

***White Ibis* – 180**

***White-faced Ibis* - 3**

***Plegadis* species – 12**

Black Vulture - 26
Turkey Vulture – 8
Mississippi Kite - 3
Red-tailed Hawk – 1

***King Rail* - 1**

***Purple Gallinule* - 32**

***Common Gallinule* - 48**

American Coot – 16
Killdeer - 1
Spotted Sandpiper – 1
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 3
Least Sandpiper – 1
White-rumped Sandpiper – 3
Black Tern - 9
Mourning Dove – 4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 7

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Hairy Woodpecker - 2
Alder Flycatcher – 10
Least Flycatcher - 2
Eastern Phoebe – 3
Great-crested Flycatcher - 2
Eastern Kingbird – 40
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 2
White-eyed Vireo – 11
Bell's Vireo – 4
Red-eyed Vireo - 2
American Crow – 6
Fish Crow – 2
Tree Swallow – 5
Barn Swallow - 5
Carolina Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 2
Carolina Wren – 16
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 6
Eastern Bluebird – 3
Gray Catbird – 5
Northern Mockingbird - 2
Cedar Waxwing – 10
Yellow Warbler – 6
Magnolia Warbler – 2 (1 male & 1 female)
Black-throated Green Warbler – 1 male
Blackburnian Warbler – 2 males
Black-and-white Warbler – 1
American Redstart – 1 female
Prothonotary Warbler – 16
Kentucky Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 22
Wilson's Warbler – 1 male
Yellow-breasted Chat – 11
Summer Tanager – 1
Eastern Towhee – 5
Lincoln's Sparrow – 1
Northern Cardinal – 18
Indigo Bunting – 11
Painted Bunting - 9
Dickcissel - 16
Red-winged Blackbird – 24
Common Grackle – 10
Brown-headed Cowbird – 11
Orchard Oriole – 9

Odonates:

Swamp Spreadwing
Swamp Darner
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Common Whitetail

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Southern Leopard Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – May 5, 2020

Chris Lynch, Mark Peterson, and I surveyed birds at Red Slough today and found 108 species. We had storms this morning just before we started so we spent most of the overcast morning chasing fallout passerines and shorebirds. We didn't make it into the reservoirs till after noon when it was mostly sunny, hot, and windy. So our counts on gallinules was lower than normal. Over all, fallout numbers were low but the diversity of species was fairly good. My lists always show the species that I actually saw or heard myself. The other guys with me today got to see a flock of Bobolinks fly over that unfortunately, I missed. When leaving Red Slough after the survey, I got a mile down the road, and outside my count area, and saw 5 Yellow-headed Blackbirds which would have been a nice addition to the day's list. Here is our list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 1**

Canada Goose - 3
Wood Duck – 3
Blue-winged Teal – 13
Northern Shoveler – 1
Hooded Merganser – 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 5

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 10**

***Anhinga* – 71**

***Least Bittern* - 2**

Great-blue Heron – 4
Great Egret – 19
Snowy Egret - 6
Little-blue Heron – 33

***Tricolored Heron* – 1 adult**

Cattle Egret - 5000
Green Heron - 4
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 11

***White Ibis* – 40**

***Plegadis* species – 23 (seen in flight at a distance only.)**

Black Vulture - 71
Turkey Vulture – 16
Mississippi Kite - 3
Red-shouldered Hawk – 2
Red-tailed Hawk - 1
Purple Gallinule - 17
Common Gallinule - 35
American Coot – 9
Spotted Sandpiper – 6
Solitary Sandpiper - 1
Greater Yellowlegs – 2
Willet - 2
Lesser Yellowlegs – 39
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 4
Least Sandpiper – 3
White-rumped Sandpiper – 34
Pectoral Sandpiper – 38
Long-billed Dowitcher - 2
Wilson's Phalarope – 16
Forster's Tern – 2
Black Tern - 3
Mourning Dove – 8
Rock Pigeon – 1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 2
Barred Owl – 1
Chimney Swift – 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Hairy Woodpecker - 1
Pileated Woodpecker – 1
Eastern Wood-Pewee – 2
Alder Flycatcher – 2
Willow Flycatcher – 1
Least Flycatcher - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 7
Great-crested Flycatcher - 2
Eastern Kingbird – 10
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1
White-eyed Vireo – 11
Bell's Vireo – 4
Yellow-throated Vireo - 1
Red-eyed Vireo - 5
Blue Jay - 4
American Crow – 5
Fish Crow – 2
Tree Swallow – 10
Cliff Swallow - 12

Barn Swallow - 8
Carolina Chickadee – 6
Tufted Titmouse – 7
Carolina Wren – 7
Marsh Wren - 1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 11
Eastern Bluebird – 3
Gray Catbird – 5
Cedar Waxwing – 29
Tennessee Warbler – 4
Nashville Warbler – 1
Northern Parula – 1
Yellow Warbler – 1
Chestnut-sided Warbler - 1
Black-throated Green Warbler - 1
Yellow-throated Warbler - 1
Pine Warbler – 4
Blackpoll Warbler - 1
Black-and-white Warbler - 2
Prothonotary Warbler – 7
Northern Waterthrush - 1
Kentucky Warbler - 3
Common Yellowthroat – 13
Wilson’s Warbler - 2
Yellow-breasted Chat – 7
Summer Tanager – 3
Eastern Towhee – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 2
Lincoln’s Sparrow – 1
White-crowned Sparrow - 3
Northern Cardinal – 19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 2
Indigo Bunting – 31
Painted Bunting - 10
Dickcissel - 25
Red-winged Blackbird – 20
Common Grackle – 16
Brown-headed Cowbird – 6
Orchard Oriole – 13
Baltimore Oriole - 10

Odonates:

Southern Spreadwing
Elegant Spreadwing
Fragile Forktail
Swamp Darner
Bayou Clubtail

Great-blue Skimmer
Spangled Skimmer
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Variegated Meadowhawk

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Green Treefrog
Southern Leopard Frog
Bronzed Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – April 28, 2020

It was overcast, cool, and windy, turning partly cloudy, warm, and windy on the bird survey today. 103 species were found. Not much in the way of migrant warblers today. Most notable highlights included a male Mottled Duck in unit 44, first one we have had in probably eight years, a 2nd year Roseate Spoonbill in the heronry on Pintail Lake, and 3 adult Tricolored Herons flying together. The heronry is really growing with thousands of nests being built now. Purple Gallinules are running around everywhere on the lily pads having territorial disputes. Here's my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 6**

Canada Goose - 2
Wood Duck – 12

***Mottled Duck* – 1 male**

Blue-winged Teal – 21
Northern Shoveler – 7
Hooded Merganser – 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 6

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 8**

Double-crested Cormorant – 8

***Anhinga* – 60**

American Bittern - 1
Great-blue Heron – 6
Great Egret – 47
Snowy Egret - 26
Little-blue Heron – 42

***Tricolored Heron* – 3 adults**

Cattle Egret - 3000
Green Heron - 4
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 4

White Ibis – 73
White-faced Ibis – 46
Plegadis species – 11
Roseate Spoonbill – 1
Black Vulture - 150
Turkey Vulture – 23
Mississippi Kite - 4
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
King Rail – 1
Virginia Rail - 1
Sora – 2
Purple Gallinule - 35
Common Gallinule - 42
American Coot – 8
Killdeer - 1
Spotted Sandpiper – 1
Solitary Sandpiper - 5
Greater Yellowlegs – 2
Lesser Yellowlegs – 2
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 6
Least Sandpiper – 1
White-rumped Sandpiper – 6
Pectoral Sandpiper – 16
Stilt Sandpiper – 1
Wilson’s Phalarope – 18
Forster’s Tern - 2
Mourning Dove – 4
Rock Pigeon – 1
Hairy Woodpecker - 2
Pileated Woodpecker – 2
Eastern Wood-Pewee – 1
Alder Flycatcher - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 3
Great-crested Flycatcher - 1
Eastern Kingbird – 4
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 3
White-eyed Vireo – 15
Bell’s Vireo - 3
Warbling Vireo - 2
Red-eyed Vireo - 2
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 8
Fish Crow – 6
Purple Martin - 1

Tree Swallow – 35
Barn Swallow - 6
Carolina Chickadee – 1
Tufted Titmouse – 6
Carolina Wren – 10
Sedge Wren – 1
Marsh Wren - 4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 7
Eastern Bluebird – 5
Gray Catbird – 5
Brown Thrasher - 1
Cedar Waxwing – 5
Yellow-throated Warbler - 1
Pine Warbler – 1
Prairie Warbler - 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 10
Swainson's Warbler - 1
Kentucky Warbler - 2
Common Yellowthroat – 19
Yellow-breasted Chat – 14
Summer Tanager – 8
Eastern Towhee – 5
Clay-colored Sparrow - 1
Savannah Sparrow – 4
Lincoln's Sparrow – 9
Swamp Sparrow - 2
White-throated Sparrow – 2
White-crowned Sparrow - 3
Northern Cardinal – 23
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 2
Blue Grosbeak – 1
Indigo Bunting – 25
Painted Bunting - 6
Dickcissel - 26
Red-winged Blackbird – 44
Eastern Meadowlark - 2
Common Grackle – 21
Brown-headed Cowbird – 13
Orchard Oriole – 5

Odonates:

Southern Spreadwing
Swamp Spreadwing

Elegant Spreadwing
Fragile Forktail
Orange Bluet
Skimming Bluet
Common Green Darner
Stillwater Clubtail
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Blue Corporal
Black Saddlebags

Herps:

American Alligator
Orange-striped Ribbon Snake
Red-eared Slider
Green Treefrog
Eastern Gray Treefrog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – April 22, 2020

It was overcast, cool, and windy on the bird survey today, turning to periods of rain in the afternoon. 108 species were found. When I arrived early this morning, storms had recently passed through, and there was a big movement of warblers flying north just above the treetops. Unfortunately hardly any landed and what few did were terribly backlit by the overcast sky. So didn't do too hot on warblers today. Shorebirds and waders were fairly good in units 44 and 48 including 3 species of ibis. The heronry on Pintail lake is covered in birds now as several species of herons and egrets are starting to nest. Great Egrets and a Snowy Egret were seen displaying their plumes. Here's my list for today:

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck* - 5**

Canada Goose - 1
Wood Duck – 8
Blue-winged Teal – 44
Northern Shoveler – 2
Hooded Merganser – 2
Pied-billed Grebe – 8

***Neotropic Cormorant* – 8**

Double-crested Cormorant – 1

***Anhinga* – 55**

American Bittern - 1
Great-blue Heron – 5
Great Egret – 51
Snowy Egret - 16
Little-blue Heron – 37

Tricolored Heron – 1 adult

Cattle Egret - 450

Green Heron - 6

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 1

White Ibis – 182

White-faced Ibis – 42

Glossy Ibis - 1

Plegadis species – 30 (mostly juv./winter plumaged type birds).

Black Vulture - 88

Turkey Vulture – 8

Red-shouldered Hawk – 1

Swainson's Hawk - 1

Red-tailed Hawk – 1

King Rail – 1

Sora – 1

Purple Gallinule - 24

Common Gallinule - 30

American Coot – 25

American Golden-Plover – 2

Semipalmated Plover – 1

Killdeer - 4

Spotted Sandpiper – 1

Greater Yellowlegs – 48

Lesser Yellowlegs – 3

Semipalmated Sandpiper - 1

Least Sandpiper – 4

White-rumped Sandpiper – 4

Pectoral Sandpiper - 20

Long-billed Dowitcher – 5

Mourning Dove – 5

Rock Pigeon - 1

Eurasian Collared-Dove – 1

Chimney Swift – 4

Red-headed Woodpecker - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Pileated Woodpecker – 1

Eastern Wood-Pewee - 1

Eastern Phoebe – 3

Great-crested Flycatcher - 2

Eastern Kingbird – 5

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 4

White-eyed Vireo – 19

Blue-headed Vireo - 1

Warbling Vireo - 1

Red-eyed Vireo - 4

Blue Jay - 3

American Crow – 6

Fish Crow – 5

Purple Martin - 3
Tree Swallow – 75
Bank Swallow - 4
Cliff Swallow - 3
Barn Swallow - 10
Carolina Chickadee – 7
Tufted Titmouse – 4
Carolina Wren – 8
House Wren – 1
Sedge Wren – 1
Marsh Wren - 3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 4
Gray Catbird – 4
Northern Mockingbird – 3
Cedar Waxwing – 54
Blue-winged Warbler - 1
Nashville Warbler – 3
Yellow Warbler - 1
Yellow-throated Warbler - 1
Pine Warbler – 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 5
Kentucky Warbler - 3
Common Yellowthroat – 18
Yellow-breasted Chat – 6
Summer Tanager – 6
Eastern Towhee – 4
Chipping Sparrow – 1
Lark Sparrow – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 4
Song Sparrow - 1
Lincoln's Sparrow – 9
Swamp Sparrow - 5
White-throated Sparrow – 5
White-crowned Sparrow - 8
Northern Cardinal – 14
Blue Grosbeak – 2
Indigo Bunting – 8
Dickcissel - 3
Red-winged Blackbird – 92
Eastern Meadowlark - 3
Common Grackle – 18
Brown-headed Cowbird – 11
Orchard Oriole – 8
Baltimore Oriole – 1

Odes (they weren't really flying):

Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Fragile Forktail

Herps:

American Alligator
Green Treefrog
Eastern Gray Treefrog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – April 14, 2020

It was overcast and cold turning partly cloudy, cool, and windy on the bird survey today. 83 species were found. Passerines were not very cooperative today but the shore and water birds were good. The hot spot today was the mudflats in unit 44 where numerous shorebirds and waders put on a show. The highlight was a large flock of dark Ibis in which I was able to find 2 Glossy Ibis in breeding plumage. The rest of the flock were probably all White-faced but several individuals would not cooperate so had to list them as Plegadis species. The heronry is slowly growing with lots more Anhingas moving in to nest and numerous Great Egrets hanging out. Here is my list for today:

Canada Goose - 7
Wood Duck – 6
Mallard - 2
Blue-winged Teal – 81
Northern Shoveler – 12
Ring-necked Duck – 2
Hooded Merganser – 3
Common Goldeneye - 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 17
Neotropic Cormorant – 10 (4 sitting on nests).
Double-crested Cormorant – 2
Anhinga – 35 (numerous individuals on nests).
Great-blue Heron – 6
Great Egret – 23
Snowy Egret - 38
Little-blue Heron – 16
Tricolored Heron – 1 adult
Green Heron - 1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 1
White Ibis – 1
White-faced Ibis – 50
Glossy Ibis - 2
Plegadis species - 11
Black Vulture - 46
Turkey Vulture – 20
Broad-winged Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk - 2

***Common Gallinule* - 30**

American Coot – 206
Spotted Sandpiper – 1
Solitary Sandpiper - 2
Greater Yellowlegs – 148
Lesser Yellowlegs – 19
Least Sandpiper – 2
Long-billed Dowitcher – 6
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1
Belted Kingfisher - 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Pileated Woodpecker - 1
Eastern Phoebe – 3
Eastern Kingbird – 1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 2
White-eyed Vireo – 11
Warbling Vireo - 1
Red-eyed Vireo - 6
Blue Jay - 1
American Crow – 6
Fish Crow – 2
Purple Martin - 1
Tree Swallow – 72
Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 2
Cliff Swallow - 84
Barn Swallow - 9
Carolina Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 4
Carolina Wren – 8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 10
Eastern Bluebird – 1
Brown Thrasher – 2
European Starling – 2
Northern Parula - 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 3
Yellow-throated Warbler - 1
Pine Warbler – 1
Black-and-white Warbler – 1
Prothonotary Warbler – 6
Kentucky Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat – 4
Hooded Warbler - 1
Yellow-breasted Chat – 1
Summer Tanager – 1
Eastern Towhee – 1
Lincoln's Sparrow – 1

Swamp Sparrow - 1
White-throated Sparrow – 4
Northern Cardinal – 7
Blue Grosbeak – 1
Indigo Bunting - 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 25
Common Grackle – 18
Brown-headed Cowbird – 12

Odonates:

Fragile Forktail
Baskettail species
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Blue Corporal
Variegated Meadowhawk

Herps:

American Alligator
Orange-striped Ribbon Snake
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Southern Leopard Frog
Bullfrog

Red Slough Bird Survey – April 7, 2020

My bird surveys I have done for the past 20 years at Red Slough have been contract work that I do for the forest service. When last years contract ended at the end of November the forest service lacked funding to renew my contract for another year. Well the funding finally came through and I was contracted for another year. After a four month break I did a survey today and found 72 species. The weather started off overcast with a little rain and turned partly cloudy, windy and hot in the afternoon. The heronry on Pintail Lake has Neotropic Cormorants and Anhingas already starting to sit on nests and numerous Great Egrets are roosting in there during the day. An immature Bald Eagle was present harassing the coots and Common Gallinules were calling all over the lake. Tree Swallows were busy building their nests in the nest boxes we put out for them. Here is my list for today:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck - 2

Canada Goose - 3
Wood Duck – 4
Mallard - 1
Blue-winged Teal – 78
Northern Shoveler – 7
Lesser Scaup – 1
Ruddy Duck - 4
Pied-billed Grebe – 22

Neotropic Cormorant – 9 (4 sitting on nests)

Double-crested Cormorant – 89

Anhinga – 29 (6 sitting on nests)

Great-blue Heron – 7

Great Egret – 28

Little-blue Heron – 5

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 1

Black Vulture - 17

Turkey Vulture – 18

Bald Eagle – 1 imm.

Northern Harrier - 1

Red-shouldered Hawk – 2

Virginia Rail - 1

Common Gallinule - 22

American Coot – 199

Killdeer - 1

Greater Yellowlegs – 46

Lesser Yellowlegs – 1

Franklin's Gull - 2

Mourning Dove – 7

Eurasian Collared-Dove - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3

Downy Woodpecker - 2

Hairy Woodpecker – 1

Pileated Woodpecker - 2

Eastern Phoebe – 2

White-eyed Vireo – 16

Yellow-throated Vireo – 1

Red-eyed Vireo - 1

Blue Jay - 4

American Crow – 5

Fish Crow – 9

Purple Martin - 1

Tree Swallow – 31

Barn Swallow - 10

Carolina Chickadee – 4

Tufted Titmouse – 10

Carolina Wren – 6

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 3

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 10

Eastern Bluebird – 3

Brown Thrasher - 1

Orange-crowned Warbler - 1

Yellow-rumped Warbler – 2

Black-throated Green Warbler - 1

Yellow-throated Warbler - 2

Pine Warbler – 4

Black-and-white Warbler – 1

Prothonotary Warbler – 5
Common Yellowthroat – 9
Eastern Towhee – 2
Field Sparrow - 1
Savannah Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow - 1
Lincoln's Sparrow – 2
Swamp Sparrow - 2
White-throated Sparrow – 7
Northern Cardinal – 19
Red-winged Blackbird – 9
Eastern Meadowlark - 1
Common Grackle – 3
Brown-headed Cowbird – 11
House Sparrow - 1

Odonates:

Fragile Forktail
Orange Bluet
Common Green Darner
Swamp Darner
Baskettail species
Cocoa Clubtail
Eastern Pondhawk
Blue Dasher
Blue Corporal
Common Whitetail
“red” Saddlebags sp.

Herps:

American Alligator
Red-eared Slider
Orange-striped Ribbon Snake
Yellow-bellied Water Snake
Broad-banded Water Snake
Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Eastern Gray Treefrog
Green Treefrog
Southern Leopard Frog
Bullfrog

Good birding!

David Arbour

De Queen, AR