

Field Notes and Bird Sightings

Refuge Volunteer and bird identification expert, Don Morrow often leads birding tours at the Refuge. Call (850) 925-6121 for more information. Here is Don's most recent August 6 Refuge report:

St. Marks NWR was wet and overcast with intermittent drizzle this morning. A perfect day for birding. In six hours during and after leading the Saturday field trip, I logged 63 species including number of migrants. The pools were full from the recent rains and there was little habitat for shorebirds, but I still managed to record 12 species. On Monday during a shorebird survey before the pools filled up, I had 15 species and 578 individual shorebirds. Lots of Spotted Sandpipers which seem to be moving through. Some highlights of my morning were:

Double Bridges

- Acadian Flycatcher
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Prothonotary Warbler

Road to Helispot

- Woodpeckers (Red-bellied and Red-cockaded)
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- American Redstart

Tower Pond

- Night Heron (Black & Yellow-crowned)
- Roseate Spoonbill (two; one stays there and the other wanders around the refuge)
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Willet

- Spotted Sandpiper
- Marbled Godwit
- Semipalmated Sandpiper

Flats across from Lighthouse Pond

- Black-bellied Plover (one in breeding plumage)
- Wilson's Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Willet
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Terns (Royal, Forster's and Common)
- Black Skimmer

We had an American Avocet on the back of Stony Bayou I and Yellow Warblers in the Cabbage Palms along Lighthouse Road near the Lighthouse. The weather tomorrow looks much better. You should go birding.

Good Birding, Don Morrow