

From: Marlene Babic
Subject: [the-village-birders] Blue Spring State Park and St. Johns River Cruise
Date: March 12, 2020
To: Village Birders
Reply-To: Marlene Babic

We had a crisp morning walking the boardwalk and looking for manatees. We did see a small manatee up the spring, and we also had a chance to watch a recently released manatee swim around pulling a tracker buoy that was attached to his tail. Northern Parulas were calling left and right but were high up and difficult to see until we finally found a few a little closer. The boat trip was great. We travelled farther than normal and everyone got to see an American Bittern, lots of beautiful Purple Gallinules and Limpkins. The alligators were a great sight to see posing on logs and banks; then we saw the great grand daddy of them all. Amazing. We got a great view of a Barred Owl that mysteriously kept flying and posing near the river bank. I never saw anyone on that other boat feeding the owl because that would be illegal. Didn't see a thing. Honest
At the picnic tables a worker told us about a Summer Tanager which turned out to be a Scarlet Tanager. [ed. note: revised to Summer Tanager]
This is a great trip and will be repeated next year, starting a little later in the morning.
Marlene Armstrong

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