

You saw *what* in Corkscrew?

The article to the right appeared in the supermarket tabloid *World Weekly News* a few years ago. It described the plight of a Homestead fisherman in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary as he tried frantically to paddle his airboat away from more than two dozen 60-foot alligators, each with “fiery eyes” and rows of teeth like “cavalry sabers.”

Supermarket tabloid hacks and editors acknowledge their reports are complete fabrications.

Visitors and sometimes volunteers have reported sightings they actually believed they saw from the boardwalk. Below are some visitor and volunteer misobservations. Some are common while others are just plain bizarre.

There’s nothing wrong with helping a visitor (or volunteer) by saying, “It might also be a _____,” or simply “I’m not sure what it is, but I’ll find out.”



STRANGE	IDENTIFIED AS	PROBABLY WAS
	Banana Quit	Yellow-throated Warbler
	Flamingo	Roseate Spoonbill
	Aspen	Red Maple
	Painted Bunny	Painted Bunting
	Black Phoebe	leucistic Catbird
	Platypus	??? (maybe spoonbill)
	Great Blue Herring	Great Blue Heron
	Goldfinch (in Aug.)	???
	IDENTIFIED AS	PROBABLY WAS
Boat-tailed Grackle	male Common Grackle	
Hairy Woodpecker	Downy Woodpecker	
Yellow Warbler	male Pine Warbler	
Prothonotary Warbler	male Pine Warbler	
Yellow-throated Vireo	male Pine Warbler	
American Bittern	Green Heron	
Marijuana	Scarlet Hibiscus	
chameleon	brown or green anole	
Cuckoo (in Dec.)	Great-crested Flycatcher	
Water Hyacinth	Frog's Bit	
flock of Limpkins	immature White Ibis	
lone Cedar Waxwing ..	female Cardinal	
Crocodile	Alligator	
Song Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow	
Peninsula Cooter	Red-bellied Turtle	
Northern Flicker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	



The fabled Corkscrew Great Blue Herring, above.



The rare and elusive Painted Bunting emerges at dusk from a thicket to forage near a Painted Bunting, left.

Identification



Downy Woodpecker
bill shorter than head width



Hairy Woodpecker
bill longer than head width



Common Grackle
white eye



Boat-tailed Grackle
dark eye



Louisiana Waterthrush
clear throat, tail sways



Northern Waterthrush
stripes into throat, tail bobs



Chipping Sparrow
white over eye, underneath



Swamp Sparrow
gray over eye, underneath



Black-crowned Night Heron
imm: lower bill yellow



Yellow-crowned Night Heron
imm: lower bill black



Little Blue Heron, imm.
two-tone bill, green legs/feet



Snowy Egret
black bill & legs, yellow feet



Pine Warbler
gray on head, eye ring



Prothonotary Warbler
clear yellow head



Yellow Warbler
red streaking on breast



Yellow-throated Vireo
dark band from bill to eye



Peninsula Cooter
fine stripes over eye



Red-bellied Turtle
no stripes over eye



Water Moccasin
brown blotches on chin



Banded Water Snake
fine black lines on chin