

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.)	???

UNDERSTANDABLE

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



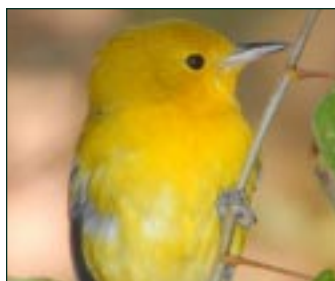
Little Blue Heron, imm.
two-tone bill, green legs/feet



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