

Birds of Oak Hammock

It is awesome to watch the birds
And to joyfully hear them sing
It is a fascinating show
And it doesn't cost us a thing

In their glossy black finery
The raucous Crows will strut around
Looking for all those tasty worms
And beetles they find in the ground

As a squadron they will pursue
A terrified Red shouldered hawk
While he attempts to shake them off
He will cry out a frantic squawk

It is a rare treat when one spots
A Barred owl who is hard to view
Until you suddenly hear that
Signature call "who cooks for you"

Coincidence about the pond
There was a Little blue heron
A Great egret and two Wood storks
On a dead tree which was barren

Northern Parula and other
Small birds are difficult to see
They have unique signature calls
But remain hidden in the tree

A small brown chatterbox is the
Bountiful Carolina wren
Always flitting around the brush
Like an extremely nervous hen

Some other loud vocalists are
Cardinal, Blue jay, Brown thrasher
The Pileated woodpecker
And the Great crested flycatcher

I was truly amazed to see
A turkey run across the lawn
To accost a Red shouldered hawk
Foraging shortly after dawn

Large flocks of squealing Whistling ducks
Sail overhead before daylight
And a few visit the pond where
They make a most picturesque sight

Occasionally I will see
Large migrating flocks passing through
Like Robins and Cedar waxwings
And isolated migrants too

The Great blue heron, White ibis
And Kingfisher visit the pond
Along with Hooded mergansers
They depart for the great beyond

A wake of vultures found a dead
Armadillo on which to feed
Jostling for a tasty morsel
It was a macabre sight indeed

Swallow-tailed kites are graceful birds
With intricate flight maneuvers
Performing quick turns loops and rolls
To the delight of bird viewers

Most impressive are the formations
Of Sandhill cranes flying overhead
With their loud rattling bugle calls
While displaying that red capped head

Watch for the White-eyed vireo
Summer tanager, Mocking bird
Mourning dove, Mississippi kite
Tufted titmouse and Hummingbird

To identify birds like the
The Carolina chickadee
Download the free ingenious
Cornell app "Merlin bird ID"

These wild birds are not concerned with
Taxes, laws or regulations
I so admire these free spirits
Who fly without reservations

In addition to their music
Some birds paint flashes of color
Throughout the Oak Hammock landscape
Some are bright but most are duller

We are truly blessed to live with
This fascinating wildlife show
There are many more bird species
I am looking forward to know

Gene Ziegler June, 2023

