

It's NOT Just For the Birds...

It's so easy to advocate for what you love and are passionate about... but how did that passion develop in the first place? So many events shape our viewpoints and paths in life. This month, I am revisiting a memory from a childhood book that fostered a thirst to know more... "Gurney's Guide to Feathered Friends". I barely remember the book, but for its humorous approach to presenting information and a section on names for groups of birds... such as: A Cast of Hawks, a Covey of Quail...

In this issue, several Croatan community creatures, other than just birds, will be included... I've tried to be true to at least one photo with more than one animal, but occasionally I "cheat" with multiple photos or photos of similar species taken outside Croatan...

A Creep of Tortoises

I did find and photograph the two box turtles on pine straw at the same time, so an official "Creep" despite separate photos... The lower left shot is the top view of the upper left tortoise. The third crept into the photo spread...



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A Scurry of Squirrels

These three squirrels made a little pile of cuteness... Yep, there are three... Squirrels are the class clowns, which can make their digging and chewing slightly less intolerable.



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A Bale of Turtles

There are 10 turtles on this log! Can you find them all?



A Siege of Herons

Well, I couldn't manage a group of herons, but how about a bale of three turtles (can you find them?) with one, the Great Egret, and separate photos of the rest of the Siege (Great Blue, Little Green and Black-Crowned Night Herons)?



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A Squadron of Pelicans

Self-explanatory. They are also called a Pod, like with whales, but that would be more appropriate to a "flotilla" of pelicans, I think...



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A Gaze of Raccoons

This was a ridiculous number of babies following a Momma this summer on the left... Gazing (Adult Version), Swimming Lesson and Gazing (Juvenile Version) on the right



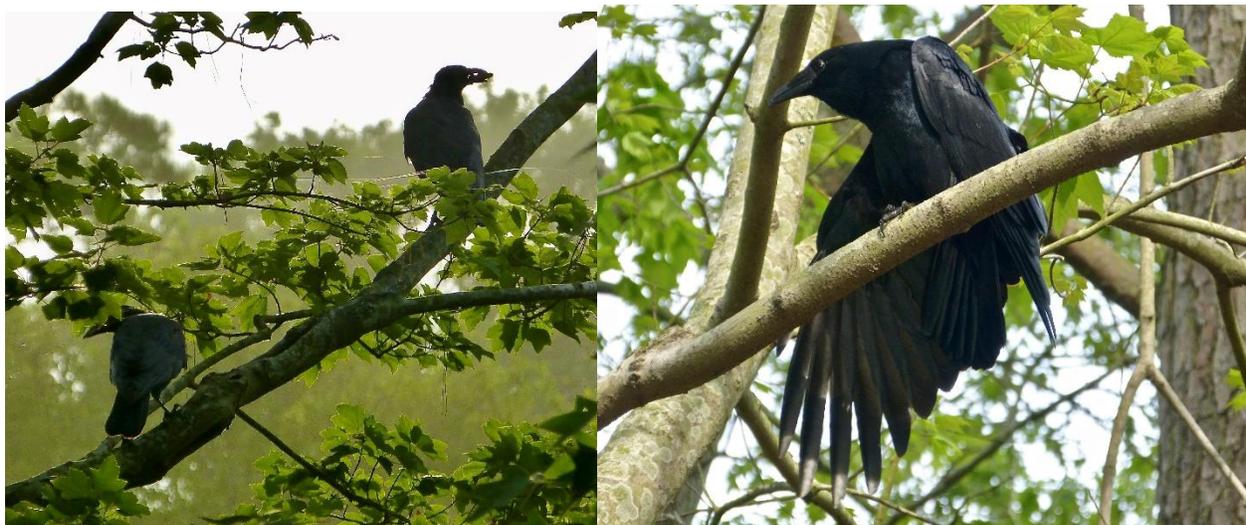
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A Squabble of Seagulls



A Murder of Crows

This was the group that triggered the memory... 7 on the ground and 4 more in the trees. But crows are wily and do not like things pointed at them... even if it is a camera. So just a few members of the Murder...



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A Descent of Woodpeckers

My only pair photos were blurry, so here are three singles: left, Pileated Woodpecker; right top, Downy Woodpecker; right below Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker.



I really enjoyed this trip down memory lane... I hope you also enjoy the few pictures of the neighbors we share in Croatan. Much thanks to "Gurney's Guide to Feathered Friends" for inspiration old and new.

