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Two bald eagles sighted on the Naples Beach Club G.C. during the Poa Annua Classic.
Photo by Joel Jackson.

GOLF BIRDIES Scoring Birdies on the Naples Beach Club Golf Course

Even though I personally scored 18 birdies and a double eagle during the GC Horn Endowment Tournament at the 2010 Poa Annua Classic, our team's final score was only minus-1 and not in the winners' circle. I guess logging 18 different species in the middle of the day isn't too bad. However, I was told I could not count the two duck hooks I also had during the round.

Assistant Superintendent Kristen Conover told me before the round to look out for bald eagles around the lake on No. 7. Sure enough there were two in a tree near the 6th tee as we started our round on No. 8. Later in the day, as we played No. 6, there was the eagle again perched

on a limb over the tee with a fish in its talons. As I was reaching for my camera, our lovely state bird – the Mockingbird – dive-bombed the eagle and it flew off, dropping the fish. The rest of the sightings for the day follow below.

American Crow
Anhinga
Bald Eagle
Collared Dove
Killdeer
Mockingbird
Mottled duck
Mourning Dove
Muscovy ducks with chicks
Osprey
Purple Martin
Red Bellied Woodpecker
Rose ringed Parakeet
Sea gulls
Snowy egret
Starlings
Swallowtail Kite
White Ibis (adult and juveniles)

The next day, playing in the Poa Scramble the eagle was sighted again, this time on the 5th hole near the lake eating another fish. The eagle action on both Friday and Saturday prompted me to share other raptor encounters on FGCSA member courses. See the raptor photos in the Stewardship section of this issue. Obviously golf courses – even in urban settings – are quite compatible as eagle habitat. See the photos at left I call Raptor Rapture.
By Joel Jackson.

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