

**Join us on the First and Third Sunday of each month at 7:00 AM at the parking lot behind the Ranger Station!**

**Thanks to Jane Frigo for providing these reports. For more information, contact Jane (757-873-0721).**

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The clocks rolled back last night so everyone enjoyed an extra hour of sleep, including the birds. The weather **November 5, 2017**, was wonderful....60's to low 70's, no wind and low humidity. The changing fall colors added to a beautiful morning. Quite a group assembled. They included Jim Barnett, Fred Kohlman, Dianne Snyder, Kathleen Jabs, Jason Strickland, Marc Nichols, Sam Askin, Pete Peterman, Tom Charlock, John Adair, Stuart Sweetman, Susan Maples, Cindy Shulz, Jane Frigo, Rochelle and Harry Colestock, and the Green family...Brenda, Falcon, Cevan and Tevan. Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant! Woodpeckers were also seen with the exception of the Red-headed. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker could be seen and heard. The Arboretum was not very productive due to a disc golf tournament involving about 200 participants. Two interesting flyovers were Common Loon and Barred Owl. A dead deer gave an unpleasant jolt to the nose, but brought Turkey Vultures down to the ground. Winter Wrens were seen and a Brown Creeper heard but not seen. Dark-eyed Juncos were finally spotted. No interesting waterfowl were in with the exception of several Pied-billed Grebe. A complete list of the **52 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Common Loon	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper	Dark-eyed Junco
Rock Pigeon	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Barred Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
		American Goldfinch

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The entire week was dark, damp and depressing. **October 16, 2017** began the same way with a slight mist and no air movement. A small group turned out to see what migrants could be found. Those braving the weather were Tom Charlock, Pete Peterman, Bill Boeh, Marc Nichols, John Adair, Glen Butler and Jane Frigo. The poor light made identifying the many warblers a real challenge. Still, nine warblers were identified including first of season Yellow-rumps. At Swamp Point a black snake was seen wrapped around a horizontal branch with Yellow-rumps flitting all around, seemingly oblivious! The snake, however, noticed us watching him and followed our movements. The most exciting sighting was of a female Bobolink at the Discovery Center. There was a spirited discussion before the group decided on an identification. Thanks to Pete Peterman for getting excellent pictures. **51 species** were identified. A list follows.

Canada Goose	Pileated Woodpecker	American Redstart
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Parula
Ruddy Duck	White-eyed Vireo	Magnolia Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Bay-breasted Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Herring Gull	Winter Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Blue Grosbeak
Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird	Bobolink
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler	Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	House Finch
Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat	American Goldfinch

The **October 1, 2017** took place at the Newport News Park campground. Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Virginia Boyles, Mike Lowry, Jason Strickland, Pete Peterman, Sam Anan, Jane Frigo, John and Marilyn Adair, Gwen and Walt Harris and Wendy and Ellis Maxey participated. The plan had been to try a 5 mile hike on the bike trail, but that plan got abandoned. The weather was in the 60's and the hope was that the cold front would bring in fall migrants. Instead, the cloudy skies and brisk winds seemed to keep the birds hunkered down. A nice group of Field Sparrows was observed. Warblers of note were Northern Parula and American Redstart. Only a total of **40 species** were identified. The next walk will return to the usual route. A special thank you to John and Marilyn Adair for their contribution of trail mix which is appreciated by all! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	American Redstart
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Field Sparrow
Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Summer Tanager
Rock Pigeon	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Indigo Bunting
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

What a beautiful day! **September 17, 2017** was clear and calm with temperatures in the 70's. Those participating in the morning were Glenn Butler, Don Brunk, James Abbott, Mike Lowry, Lieve Keeney, Stuart Sweetman, Ileana Fenwick, Cindy Schulz, Brian McGill, Becky Rose, Jane Frigo and Shawn and Katrina Dash. **57 species** were identified. Pied-billed Grebe were spotted in a couple areas. Green Heron were still around, probably for the last time this season. Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were seen with the Solitary giving a lengthy, close up look in the mud flats by the second platform. Warblers were definitely migrating through with Black-and-white, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia and Pine seen. For those who made it to the Swamp

Bridge, excellent views of a White-eyed Vireo were enjoyed. Quite a bit of time was spent chasing a Philadelphia Vireo and provided a lively discussion. A note about the next walk, October 1...MEET AT THE CAMPGROUND PARKING LOT FOR A WALK ALONG THE POWER LINES. This is a change from our usual meeting place but is quite enjoyable and provides some diversity. Someone will be stationed at the Ranger parking lot to help direct those who don't get this message. For those who don't know, the campground parking lot is located across on the other side of the reservoir. You can call Jane Frigo's cell at 757-660-3405 if you need help. Here is a list of species for the morning.

Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	House Wren
American Black Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood Pewee	Nashville Warbler
Turkey Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	Philadelphia Vireo	American Redstart
Bald Eagle	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Parula
Northern Harrier	Blue Jay	Magnolia Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Merlin	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Solitary Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Rock Pigeon	Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch

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The weather the morning of **September 3, 2017** was actually chilly! Definitely a reminder that the seasons are changing and everyone needs to be prepared. 15 people participated in the morning walk. They included John and Marilyn Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, Pete and Charm Peterman, Samantha Askin, Dianne Snyder, Lieve Keeney, Bryan Barmore, Cindy Schulz, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo. A special thank you goes out to Virginia Boyles who treated everyone to fresh donuts! The birds were very active and warblers were abundant. Warblers included Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Black-throated Blue, Pine, and a possible Blue-winged. It was difficult to get everyone on every bird but it was sure fun trying. All 7 woodpeckers were counted. The Great Horned Owl was back at the Arboretum and it is hoped he will stay. Very few Mallards were seen and only 1 Canada Goose (not necessarily a bad thing). Summer residents will be leaving soon and will be replaced by our winter residents. A complete list of the **58 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	House Wren
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Double-crested Cormorant	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-and-white Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Nashville Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	American Redstart
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Laughing Gull	Tree Swallow	Pine Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Royal Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Rock Pigeon	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Great Horned Owl	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Carolina Wren	possible Blue-winged Warbler
Belted Kingfisher		

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Summer is passing quickly and bird watchers are looking forward to fall migration. Those participating in the **August 20, 2017** walk were Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Lori Palagyi, Samantha Askin, Brian McGill, and John and Marilyn Adair. Several regulars at the Sunday walks were out of town chasing the rare coast to coast total eclipse happening on Monday, August 21, 2017. The smaller group still was able to identify **50 species**. Canada Geese had returned. A couple Mallards exhibited an interesting behavior. They were observed actually diving under the water to feed, not just the typical dabbling, tail up behavior. A big thank you to Stuart Sweetman for leading the morning walk. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Great Egret	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Green Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Yellow-throated Warbler
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Wren	

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The first Sunday walk on **August 6** was beautiful! Skies were clear, humidity was low and temperatures stayed mainly in the 70's. 21 people spent at least some portion of the morning enjoying the birds and visiting. They included first timer Glenn Butler and club members Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Andy Hawkins, Stuart Sweetman, Lieve Keeney, Phyllis Roth, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Shannon and Mike Reeves (Mike's first time too), Pete and Charm Peterman, Virginia and George Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, and Lee and Susan Morris. **54 species** were

identified. A pair of Belted Kingfishers and a Royal Tern got the morning off to a good start. Osprey were actively working the water. A lone American Black Duck, probably a Mallard/Black Duck hybrid was seen. Sadly, the Great Horned Owl could not be found at the Arboretum. Laughing Gulls were seen with one beginning to show a change to winter plumage and reminding us that fall is just around the corner! Chimney Swifts were seen both in the sky and at the Discovery Center (3 were being rehabilitated and almost ready for release!) Stuart got a glimpse of a Louisiana Waterthrush working through the reeds at the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling
Black Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Louisiana Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Bald Eagle	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Summer Tanager
Royal Tern	Tree-Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

Summer was in full swing bringing hot and humid weather for the **July 16, 2017** bird walk. Marilyn and John Adair, Charm and Pete Peterman, Harry and Rochelle Colestock, Lieve Keeney, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Dave Youker, Bill Boeh, Brian Magill, Lee Morris, Stuart Sweetman and Jane Frigo spent the morning seeing what was out there. At last the Great Horned Owl was spotted at the Arboretum!!! He has been absent for months and truly made the morning worth the effort. Another interesting sighting was a possible Cliff Swallow at the power lines. Mike Lowry got several pictures showing the forehead and collar. The group also got to witness "allo preening" by a pair of crows at the same location. A single Ring-billed Gull was perched on the pipeline near two Laughing Gulls. Two misses were Red-headed Woodpecker and Eastern Kingbird. Again no Canada Geese were seen. A complete list of the **53 species** follows.

Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Black Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Cliff Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	

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**July 2, 2017** was hot and humid. Overcast skies helped but a breeze would have been appreciated. The morning group included Stuart Sweetman, Lieve Keeney, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, George and Virginia Boyles, Lee and Susan Morris, John and Marilyn Adair and West Virginia visitors Art and Bernie Calhoun. **58 species** were identified. Green Herons were abundant. A Pied-billed Grebe was a surprise. A Red-headed Woodpecker gave quite a view perched at the top of a power pole at the Discovery Center. Upon leaving the park a group of ducks were spotted near the shore. Although out of season, what clearly looked like an American Black Duck was seen among the Mallards. Speculation was that he may be hybridizing with the Mallards. A highlight of the morning was a Great Horned Owl! On the walk to the Swamp Bridge, Blue Jays and Crows alerted the group to the owl who was perched quite high near the edge to the golf course. Stuart's sharp eye located it and Art and Bernie got credit for bringing some luck with them....the last time a GHO was spotted was when they visited a year ago! Misses for the morning included Canada Goose and Bald Eagle. A complete species list follows.

Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Pied-billed Grebe	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Acadian Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-throated Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Royal Tern	Purple Martin	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Orchard Oriole
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch

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Happy Father's Day! **June 18, 2017** was hot and humid. Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Dianne Snyder, Jane Frigo, and Marilyn and John Adair started the morning off early. They met at the Spawning Pond at 5:30 AM to make a dawn walk to the Swamp Bridge. Tom and Jane returned at 7 AM to meet the regular park walk participants who included Lee Morris, Stuart Sweetman, Virginia Boyles, Cindy Schultz, Brian Magil, Shawn Dash and Don Freemon. While still at the Swamp Bridge, Anthony got a great shot of a Scarlet Tanager. **59 species** were identified during the walk which got extended and included a SECOND walk to the Swamp Bridge at the end of the morning by Jane Frigo, Stuart Sweetman and Don Freemon. That second walk yielded a look at a pair of Wood Thrush! Other notables included an Eastern Kingbird trying to eat a Cicada and another carrying away a fecal sac, a Green Heron trying to munch on a crayfish, and a turtle laying eggs. The group also had an interesting time identifying an Indigo Bunting who was singing an original take on his usual song. Surprisingly, no Canada Geese were seen! We all said good-bye to Anthony Nixon who is transferring to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Anthony will be missed but good wishes go with him in this new adventure. A complete species list follows.

Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Acadian Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Eastern Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Bald Eagle	Fish Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Red-tailed Hawk	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Orchard Oriole
Red-headed Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	American Robin	

It was another near perfect day for bird watching on **June 4, 2017**, at Newport News Park. Anthony Nixon, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, James Abbott, Cindy Schulz, Kyle Olson, Lindsay Ferguson, Jane Frigo and Susan and Lee Morris were able to identify **58 species**. It was a cool start but warmed up over the morning. Skies stayed clear and winds calm. The group did not take the White Oak Trail but traveled the usual route. Prothonotary Warblers were seen entering and exiting nest cavities. Sadly, a Brown-headed Cowbird was observed eyeing the same nest. A particularly cooperative Northern Parula was a life bird for one person. Orchard Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Green Heron and Wood Duck were also seen. A few species missed were Bald Eagle, Eastern Towhee, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Belted Kingfisher. Canada Goose was only heard! The group was treated to a tour of the rehab facility at the Discovery Center. What an amazing and demanding undertaking. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Robin
Mallard	Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Phoebe	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	European Starling
Great Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Prothonotary Warbler
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Yellow-throated Warbler
Osprey	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Purple Martin	Summer Tanager
Laughing Gull	Tree Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Orchard Oriole
Hairy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
		American Goldfinch

This weekend a BioBlitz was held at Newport News Park. The event began Saturday, May 20 and concluded at noon **May 21, 2017**. The regular second Sunday bird walk was able to contribute to the blitz. Those helping to identify species included Melanie Marois, Nancy Ivy, Larissa Steblen, Kate Bernatitus, Bob Pickett, Tom Charlock, Lieve Keeney, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Becky Holliday, Anthony Nixon, Dianne Snyder, Genevieve Okuma, Jane Frigo, Wendy and Ellis Maxey and John and Marilyn Adair. The group stayed out until 2 PM and identified **65 species**. Both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush were found off the White Oak Trail. Eastern Wood-Pewee were everywhere as were Great Crested Flycatchers. Excellent views were had of Prothonotary Warblers. At the very end of the walk a Solitary Sandpiper was spotted having a late lunch. Although not a bird sighting, a newborn fawn nestled at the base of a large tree near the tea house provided a great photo opportunity. A king snake was also seen. The species list follows.

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	Americana Robin
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Louisiana Waterthrush
Great Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Waterthrush
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Northern Parula
Osprey	Fish Crow	Pine Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Purple Martin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Summer Tanager
Royal Tern	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Indigo Bunting
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Orchard Oriole
Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker		

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**May 7, 2017** was clear and breezy. Temperatures remained in the 50's all morning causing a bit of a chill. 16 people spent time identifying an impressive **74 species**. Those birders contributing to the count included Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Dianne Snyder, Jeanette DeBarlolo, Shannon Reeves, Kari Sommers, Lieve Keeney, Jacque VanMontfrans, Elizabeth Wikins, Ron Buchsen, Cindy Schulz, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Jim Barnett, Wayne Jones and Jane Frigo. Ten warblers were identified. They were Black-and white, Prothonotary, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Pine, Yellow-rumped and Yellow-throated. Both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were seen and Laughing and Ring-billed Gull. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at the Arboretum. While walking the White Oat Trail a FOS Acadian Flycatcher was heard and excellent views of the Black-thoated Blue Warbler were enjoyed. A Swainson's Thrush was also spotted. There was some discussion about two very rusty brown Double-crested Cormorants. Interesting to note that although the species count was similar to last year's, the species found were quite different! A complete species list follows.



Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	European Starling
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Black-and-white Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Prothonotary Warbler
Black Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Hooded Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Blackpoll Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Purple Martin	Pine Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Laughing Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Yellow-throated Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Royal Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Chimney Swift	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Hairy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	

The **April 16, 2017** park walk fell on Easter Sunday! The day was beautiful with temperatures starting in the mid 60's and rising to the 80's. Those participating included Tom Charlock, Dianne Snyder, Anthony Nixon, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, Genevieve Okuma, Jane Frigo, Katrina and Shawn Dash, and newcomers Barbara and Jamie Waring. The group identified **58 species**. Sunrise services filled the Arboretum early in the morning, but cleared out by the time the group made it to that area. Winter resident ducks appeared to have departed but a female Wood Duck was seen along with a lone American Coot. First of season species (FOS) included Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler. The group took the White Oak Trail and circled around to the Swamp Bridge. For the next few walks the group will follow this path in hopes of seeing more of the woodland migrating warblers. Kinglets appeared to have departed. Another miss was a Great Blue Heron! Yellow-rumped Warblers were still present, in breeding plumage and singing. Leaves are popping, making sightings more difficult so everyone should brush up on the bird songs. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Wood Duck	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Eastern Phoebe	American Robin
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
American Coot	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Killdeer	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

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A special thank you to Stuart Sweetman for leading the walk on **April 2, 2017**. Nineteen people participated. They were Stuart Sweetman, Dianne Snyder, Mark Nichols, Mike Lowry, Lieve Keeney, Susan Hood, Tom Charlock, Anthony Nixon, Sandy de Carlo, Virginia and George Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Mary and Greg Harrington, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, and Kay and Ray Braguglia. The weather was clear and seasonable. **60 species** were identified with several winter residents still around like Gadwall, American Wigeon, Winter Wren, and both Kinglets. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appear to have left. The outstanding sighting of the morning was a Wild Turkey! It was spotted near the paddle boats, flew across the reservoir and walked the edge of the bank long enough for John to get it in the scope. As has been said so many times before, each walk has something special to offer. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Hermit Thrush
Wood Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat
Wild Turkey	Eastern Phoebe	Palm Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Great Egret	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Cooper's Hawk	Winter Wren	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Laughing Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Royal Tern	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch

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Mother Nature scored a victory on **March 19, 2017**, defeating the Newport News Park walk participants after just one hour. Because of the return to daylight savings time the walk actually

started before sunrise. That wouldn't have been so bad if it were not coupled with wind and rain. Although the actual temperature registered above freezing, wind off the water and persistent drizzle made for miserable conditions. The group, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Anthony Nixon, John Adair and Jane Frigo, did enjoy some good sightings. The morning started off with a pair of Wood Ducks. Winter residents included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Brown Creeper, Ring-necked Duck and Gadwall. The group identified **22 species**.

Note: March Nichols continued the walk alone and relayed the species he identified. This is his list.

Fish Crow  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow

The list of species tallied by the entire group follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Americana Robin
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle		

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The weather just can't make up its mind! Last week the area broke a heat record, this Sunday, **March 5, 2017**, it was more like the polar express! Skies were brilliant and clear, but the temperature hovered around freezing and winds made it seem even colder. Still, 11 hardy souls turned out to identify **57 species** for the morning. Those braving the chilly temperatures were Stuart Sweetman, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Cindy Schulz, Anthony Nixon, Mike Lowry, Jaci St. Pierre, Genevieve Okuma, Jane Frigo and Gwen and Walter Harris. Ducks were pretty scarce with Gadwall still most numerous. At the very end of the morning a beautiful male Green-winged Teal provided some great photo opportunities. Woodpeckers again made a good showing including some good observations of Pileated Woodpeckers and Northern Flicker. Brown Creepers seemed numerous and the group wondered if they were gathering to begin migration. One of the most cooperative birds was a Pine Warbler working in the sun at ground level. His brilliant yellow plumage was a sight to see! A very distant glimpse was had of migrating Tundra Swans. FOS Tree Swallows were seen and a brief glimpse of a returning Osprey was made by Stuart Sweetman. The group agreed to note a possible sighting of a Northern Harrier flyover. Also an otter was fishing in the Spawning Pond and was seen enjoying his breakfast fish catch. All in all a great morning of observation and discussion. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Tundra Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Green-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Northern Harrier	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Cooper's Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch

**February 19, 2017** was more like Spring than Winter. Temperatures reached into the mid 70's by noon and skies were clear and calm. What a perfect day to spend outside! Those enjoying the morning included George and Virginia Boyles, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, John and Marilyn Adair, Jim Barnett, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Cindy Schulz, Mike Lowry, Jacque vanMontfrans, Elizabeth Wilkins, Genevieve Okuma, Sandy DiCarlo and Jane Frigo. In spite of the beautiful weather, the birds/ducks seemed scarce. Woodpeckers seemed the most abundant. A Brown Thrasher was singing his 2-note spring song. Brown-headed Nuthatches were also very vocal. A single American Coot was a nice surprise. Several large groups of blackbirds passed overhead. It wasn't until the very end of the walk that Belted Kingfisher, Brown Creeper and Swamp Sparrow were found. Surprisingly, no Great Blue Heron was spotted. A complete list of **55 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Eastern Bluebird
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
American Wigeon	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Ring-necked Duck	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Hooded Merganser	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
American Coot	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Laughing Gull	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

The weather was cold but relatively clear and winds were light on **February 5, 2017**. Dianne Snyder, Cindy Schulz, Lieve Keeney, Mike Lowry, Genevieve Okuma, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo and Wendy and Ellis Maxey spent the morning searching for birds. The group was able to identify **52 species**. The morning began with Gadwall, American Wigeon and

Ring-necked Duck. Later in the morning a pair of Northern Shoveler flew in to join a group of seldom seen Green-winged Teal. Hermit Thrush were spotted in several areas and a lone Fox Sparrow made an appearance in the Ranger Station parking lot. Woodpeckers were well represented with the exception of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds were spotted. Several Brown Creepers were seen. The morning ended with a Belted Kingfisher and a Winter Wren! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Northern Shoveler	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Green-winged Teal	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Fox Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-shouldered Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove		

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The morning of **January 17, 2017** remained overcast until after noon. The temperature remained in the 40's but the air was damp and bone chilling. Those participating in at least some of the morning included Tom Charlock, Cindy Shultz, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, John Adair, Jane Frigo and first timers Jennifer and Andrew McPeters. The hard work paid off with a **species total of 56!** Outstanding sightings included a VERY cooperative Fox Sparrow at the Ranger Station bridge, feuding Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers at the Spawning Pond, unencumbered views of both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets gleaning the mud flats. The Bufflehead pair was still in the same spot. Other ducks included Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black, Ring-necked, and Hooded Merganser. A Great Blue Heron was not seen until late in the morning...he was missed on the last walk. Multiple adult and immature Bald Eagles were seen. It was a great day. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
American Wigeon	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Bufflehead	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	American Crow	Field Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Fox Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
Rock Pigeon	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	

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Happy New Year! 2017 began on **January 1** with a park walk. The weather was a wet but gradually cleared. Participants were Tom Charlock, Phyllis Roth, Cathy Bond, Shannon Reeves, Kari Sommers, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, George and Virginia Boyles and first timers Cindy Schulz, Genevieve Okurna and Sapta Y. The group identified **44 species**. Woodpeckers were very active with all 7 species seen. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was again spotted. Several Bald Eagles were seen with one adult pair vocalizing and circling over the reservoir in what was thought to be courting behavior. A lone American Coot was spotted early in the walk. The very end of the walk produced a surprise sighting of a pair of Bufflehead in the Spawning Pond! One miss was Great Blue Heron. A special thank you to the Adairs for a donation of trail mix and hand warmers! A complete species list follows.

Bufflehead	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hooded Merganser	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Black Vulture	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Turkey Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Brown Thrasher
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
American Coot	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Brown Creeper	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

***Join us on the First and Third Sunday of each month at 7:00 AM at the parking lot behind the Ranger Station!***

**Thanks to Jane Frigo for providing these reports. For more information, contact Jane (757-873-0721).**

## **2010 Walks**

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Winter seems to have begun early! **December 19, 2010** dawned with temperatures below freezing and most water surfaces iced over. Snow blanketed the park and birds were difficult to find. Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, John and Marilyn Adair and Jane Frigo struggled to count **31 species**. By far the best observations were made at the first stop in the Ranger Station parking lot in the pines and shrubbery bordering the frozen reservoir and included White and Brown-headed Nuthatches, a Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Chickadee, Song and Savannah Sparrow and American Goldfinch. A Red-tailed Hawk gave a great show when it flew directly over the group at one point. The only ducks spotted were a small group of Gadwall in the far end of the Spawning Pond and a couple of those were seen walking on the ice. A complete species list follows, meager as it is.

Gadwall	Blue Jay	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler

Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Killdeer  
Ring-billed Gull  
Downy Woodpecker

Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird

Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
American Goldfinch

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**December 5, 2010** was COLD and WINDY!!!! A light dusting of snow from the previous night left the park looking like a winter wonderland. Although beginning temperatures were in the low 30's and rose to the low 40's the wind made the morning frigid. Only the hardy could survive and no one wanted to make the walk to the Swamp Bridge. Richard Hudgins, Virginia and George Boyles, Tom Charlock, Nick Flanders, Stuart Sweetman, Eileen O'Toole and Jane Frigo did brave the elements and were able to identify **45 species**. Ducks were still in small numbers with a group of 14 Gadwall the largest. A pair of female Pileated Woodpeckers gave a long display which was appreciated. Kinglets were also very active. For a second walk, Mourning Doves were absent! Also, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Warblers and Hermit Thrush were not found. A surprise Osprey was seen. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Gadwall  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Hooded Merganser  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Killdeer  
Ring-billed Gull

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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Sunday, **November 21, 2010** began with clear skies and temperatures around 50. Winds were mostly calm. In spite of the near perfect conditions, birds were difficult to find in the early hours but became noticeably more active later in the morning. John and Marilyn Adair, Nick Flanders, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Eileen O'Toole and Jane Frigo were able to count a total of **56 species** for the morning. A few Gadwall and Pied-billed Grebe, several Mallards, a pair of Black Ducks and a pair of Hooded Mergansers were spotted. Later in the morning a flock of Tundra Swans could be heard flying over but did not land. Good views were seen of Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creepers a male Eastern Towhee. There was also a Hermit Thrush that sat for several minutes without moving! Surprisingly, not one Mourning Dove was seen. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Tundra Swan  
Gadwall

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker

Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher

American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Hooded Merganser  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Accipter species  
Killdeer  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Belted Kingfisher

Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird

European Starling  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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**November 7, 2010** began the first day of the return to regular time. Skies were clear but breezy and the temperature was a brisk 43 degrees. Surprisingly only a small group of birders turned out. They included newcomer Stephanie Schmuck and regulars Marilyn and John Adair, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo. The most memorable moment of the day came just moments after beginning the morning walk. An adult Bald Eagle swooped toward the path by the reservoir carrying a HUGE fish. As it flew to a perch just feet in front of the group it lost its grip on the heavy load and circled to a perch by the first bridge. John Adair was able photograph the lost catch before moving on to let the Bald Eagle reclaim his breakfast. The rest of the morning was productive with **51 species** identified. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Coot  
Killdeer  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull

Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin

Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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The **October 17, 2010** bird walk began before dawn. Seven cars were waiting for the gate to be opened at 7 AM! The day was perfect--cool and calm. Phil Bogart, Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, George and Virginia Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Elisa and Mary Enders, Nick Flanders, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo had such a pleasant walk that seven stayed until 1:30 PM and a total of **71 species** was identified. The most exciting spotting was of a White-crowned Sparrow at the Arboretum. The juvenile was foraging with White-throated sparrows



near the road. It was also a good morning for woodpeckers with 7 species spotted. Many winter residents were present. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Hermit Thrush
Mute Swan	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin
Wood Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Black Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	European Starling
Ruddy Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Pipit
Pied-billed Grebe	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Egret	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Black Vulture	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Laughing Gull	House Wren	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	House Finch
Caspian Tern	Golden-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Rock Pigeon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	

Newport News Park hosted the Fall Festival of Folklore this weekend. The weather Saturday was spectacular, but Sunday, **October 3, 2010** dawned with overcast skies, light mist and occasional showers. In spite of weather Marc Nichols, Bill Ferris, Virginia and George Boyles, Richard Hudgins, Marilyn and John Adair, Jim Harrison and Jane Frigo met at the campgrounds to see what had flown in. The less varied habitat resulted in fewer species, but considering the weather the morning was productive. Osprey, Bald Eagle and Kingfisher were seen at the boat landing. Common Yellowthroat, Brown Thrasher, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Eastern Bluebirds and the Red-breasted Nuthatch were seen by the Archery Range. When walking the power lines, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Palm Warbler were spotted. A possible Vesper Sparrow was spotted--but not confirmed. Most participants ended their walk around 10 AM, but Marc and Jim continued their walk, completing the five mile trail and coming out by the Swamp Bridge around noon. With the combined sightings **47 species** were identified. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mute Swan	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler
Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Egret	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Black-and-white Warbler
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	American Redstart
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Field Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Wren	

Chimney Swift  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird

Common Grackle  
American Goldfinch

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Migration was in full swing and many avid bird watchers turned out for the beautiful morning of **September 19, 2010**. Skies were clear and temperatures began in the mid 60's but rose to the mid 80's by noon when the last of the group finally called it quits. Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Eileen O'Toole, Phyllis Roth, Clark White, Richard Hudgins, Bill Ferris, Betsy Garrett, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Lee and Meredith Bell and Jane Frigo all had input over the course of the morning. Warblers of note included Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Northern Parula and American Redstart. Red-breasted Nuthatches were spotted along with two Pied-billed Grebes. By far the most exciting of the **69 species** was a Least Bittern heard by the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

**NOTE! Because of the Fall Festival at Newport News Park, the OCTOBER 3 park walk will meet at the Campground parking lot.**

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Least Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Killdeer  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Barred Owl  
Chimney Swift  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
White-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird

American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Northern Parula  
Magnolia Warbler  
Black-throated Green  
Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Common Yellowthroat  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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What a perfect morning!!! **September 5, 2010** began at a refreshing 65 degrees and warmed to 85. Hurricane Earl brushed the Outer Banks earlier in the week but spared the Peninsula and left the weekend cooler and less humid. A large group of bird watchers showed up to experience the beautiful day. Newcomers Elvie Hoag and Rosetta Billips joined old timers Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders, Richard Hudgins, Mike Lowry, Marc Nichols, Betsy Garrett, Eileen O'Toole, Goeff Giles, George and Virginia Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Stuart and Dick Sweetman and Jane Frigo. From 7 AM until 1:30 PM the group totaled **69 species**. Thanks to the keen skills of some the group, several migrants were spotted including a Cape May Warbler, a Blackburnian Warbler and a Blackpoll Warbler. Other interesting sightings included Spotted and Semipalmated Sandpipers and a very cooperative Yellow-

crowned Night Heron. One non-bird sighting was a very LARGE crayfish that quickly backed down his hole. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin
Mallard	Red-headed Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling
Green Heron	Northern Flicker	Northern Parula
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Cape May Warbler
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blackburnian Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Black-and-white Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Crow	American Redstart
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Prothonotary Warbler
Killdeer	Purple Martin	Ovenbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Laughing Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Chipping Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Forster's Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	House Wren	House Finch
Chimney Swift	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

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Sunday, **August 15, 2010**, began in the 70's with calm conditions and high humidity. Mike Lowry, Marc Nichols, Meredith and Lee Bell, Marilyn and John Adair, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Geoff Giles and Jane Frigo began the morning searching the reservoir. Terns were seen--Common and Forster's. Canada Geese were nowhere to be found! White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches were very vocal. The highlight of the morning was a long look at a Barred Owl near the path just past the second platform on the trail to the Swamp Bridge. The Great Horned Owl was spotted by Marc but the rest of the group had to be satisfied with seeing only several owl pellets. **63 species** were identified. A complete species list follows.

Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Turkey Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Osprey	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Bald Eagle	Eastern Kingbird	American Redstart
Red-shouldered Hawk	Yellow-throated Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Laughing Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	Summer Tanager
Common Tern	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Forster's Tern	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Great Horned Owl	Tree Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Barred Owl	Barn Swallow	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift	Carolina Chickadee	Orchard Oriole

Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher

Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch

House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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At last a break from the heat!! **August 1, 2010** began with calm winds, overcast skies and temperatures in THE LOW 70's. What a refreshing break from the 105 temperatures of the last week. Also, a welcome storm on Thursday provided much needed rain to the area. George and Virginia Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Richard Hudgins, Jim Harrison, Nick Flanders, Stuart and Dick Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Bill Ferris, Susie Engle, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo were eager to enjoy the morning and the birds. The morning started off with a bang when a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near the parking lot. Osprey were in abundance as were Great Crested Flycatchers, Tufted Titmice and Hairy Woodpeckers. Purple Martins lined the power lines. Misses for the morning included Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and House Wren. An interesting find was a huge (over 6 inch) crayfish. A total of **54 species** were identified. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Laughing Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great-crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Purple Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
European Starling  
Pine Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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**July 18, 2010** was another clear, calm and very warm morning. This summer has been one of the hottest on record, but the heat couldn't keep the birders inside. George and Virginia Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Elisa and Mary Enders, Jane Frigo and Marc Nichols checked off **58 species**. The group searched for the Great Horned Owl at the Arboretum with no luck. Marc Nichols arrived a little late, just as the group was leaving that area, and he was able to flush out a pair of owls on the ground with prey! So much of birding is timing. Osprey were in abundance with what had to have been juveniles practicing their aerial skills. Also four Belted Kingfishers were seen chasing one another. An excellent view of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was had just over the Swamp Bridge. A Red-eyed Vireo put on a lengthy show and a beautiful male Scarlet Tanager made an appearance at the same spot he was seen at last walk. A rare Warbling Vireo was heard near the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron

Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Warbling Vireo

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Pine Warbler

Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Laughing Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Great Horned Owl  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker

Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Purple Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren

Prothonotary Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Orchard Oriole  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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**July 4, 2010** was clear and warm! The extreme heat wave was predicted to return so bird watchers were taking advantage of the cooler morning hours. Nick Flanders, Eileen O'Toole, Margaret Ware, Elisa Enders, Virginia and George Boyles, Richard Hudgins, Mike Lowry and Jane Frigo began the morning with optimism. Later they were joined by Brian Barmore and Sharon Burton. Together the group was able to identify **56 species** for the morning. Being the nation's birthday, several Bald Eagles were hoped for. Both adult and immature were seen. Eastern Wood-Pewee's were seen and an active nest located. Mike Lowry got a great picture of the nestlings being fed! No luck finding the owls again this walk, but GREAT views were had of a Scarlet Tanager and a Yellow-throated Vireo. A Red-eyed Vireo was seen singing. Great Crested Flycatchers must have fledged for they were seen in abundance having fun playing tag. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Laughing Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird

American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Pine Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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Father's Day, **June 20, 2010**, was warm, clear and calm. A group of eleven birders chose to spend the morning outdoors in search of feathered beauties. Robin and Bill Samper, Bill Ferris, Marilyn and John Adair, George and Virginia Boiles, Marc Nichols, Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders and Jane Frigo were especially interested in catching a glimpse of the Barred and Great Horned Owls seen on the last park walk. Although they tried they were unsuccessful this morning. In spite of that they were able to see some great beauties including both Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a host of other species, **66 altogether!** A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Mute Swan	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Wood Duck	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Mallard	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Yellow-throated Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Red-eyed Vireo	Louisiana Waterthrush
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Black Vulture	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Osprey	Purple Martin	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	House Wren	Orchard Oriole
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin	House Sparrow

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**June 6, 2010** began with cool temperatures and clear skies but warmed up considerable over the morning. John and Marilyn Adair and Bill Ferris made an early walk to the Swamp Bridge to get views of the Barred Owl missed on the last walk. Eileen O'Toole, Stuart Sweetman, Nick Flanders, Marc Nichols and George and Virginia Boiles joined them later and were able to complete visiting the usual stops and finding a total of **60 species** for the morning. A walk through the Arboretum provided a good look at the Great Horned Owl and young owlet. A complete species list follows.

Canada Gose	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling
Black Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Killdeer	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	House wren	Orchard Oriole
Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch

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A good thunderstorm passed through the area early in the morning of **May 16, 2010**. Newport News Park was wet, but at the time of the regular park walk the showers had stopped. Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Cathy Bond and Jane Frigo were the only birders showing up to search for spring migrants. They were able to identify **55 species** for the mourning. The Barred Owl was seen again

just past the Swamp Bridge. Later in the morning he was heard vocalizing. Eastern Kingbirds were seen and a nest identified near the Spawning Pond. A FOS Louisiana Waterthrush gave a long show at the Ranger Station Bridge. FOS Wood Thrush were heard. Sadly, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest observed the previous walk had been destroyed. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	House Wren
Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Double-crested Cormorant	Piliated Woodpecker	Wood Thrush
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Robin
Great Egret	Eastern Phoebe	Gray Catbird
Green Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Blackpoll Warbler
Osprey	Yellow-throated Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Louisiana Waterthrush
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Laughing Gull	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Mourning Dove	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Barred Owl	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
		American Goldfinch

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**May 2, 2010** began with overcast skies but warm temperatures and rather brisk winds. The sun finally broke out near the end of the morning, but winds remained strong. Eileen O'Toole, Tom Charlock, Jim Harrison, Cathy Bond, Marilyn and John Adair, Lindsay, Ian and Mike Lowry, Seth Wilmore, Diane Mrava, Nicolas and Grace Ferree, and Jane Frigo mixed up the morning by walking to the Swamp Bridge after the first stop at the Ranger Station. Although missing some regular birds such as the Northern Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher, the change allowed great views of a Barred Owl, Yellow-throated Vireo, Common Yellowthroat and Prothonotary Warblers. **Fifty-four species** were identified for the morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Robin
Mallard	Eastern Phoebe	Gray Catbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Crested Flycatcher	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Yellow-throated Vireo	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Black--and-white Warbler
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	American Redstart
Osprey	Fish Crow	Prothonotary Warbler
Bald Eagle	Purple Martin	Common Yellowthroat
Laughing Gull	Tree Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Barred Owl	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Orchard Oriole
Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

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For our walk on Sunday, **April 18, 2010**, we had a great turn-out of people and birds – a total of **68 species!** The **16 participants** were: Meredith and Lee Bell, Stuart Sweetman, John and Marilyn Adair, Libby Carmines, Mike Lowry, Nick Flanders, Louis Johnson, Vivian Moore, Elisa Enders, Marc Nichols, Joe Kohen, Margaret Ware, Julie Breeden and Jane Frigo. Highlights included:

- First-of-season Red-Eyed Vireo and Green Heron at the park
- a wonderful spotting of a Barred Owl by Marc Nichols near the Swamp Bridge, seen by all
- fabulous looks at the remarkable nest of a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher through Mike Lowry's scope
- excellent view of a singing Black-throated Green Warbler late morning
- 3 Bald Eagles (1 adult, 2 immature) in the air at the same time, with a crow chasing the adult vigorously
- 3 species of Swallow, plus Purple Martin & Chimney Swift - all flying over reservoir

Complete list of species is listed below. Many thanks to Mike Lowry for sharing these great photos for us on our website!



**Prothonotary Warbler**



**Barred Owl**

- |                          |                               |                              |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Red-bellied Woodpecker        | Hermit Thrush                |
| Mute Swan                | Downy Woodpecker              | American Robin               |
| Wood Duck                | Hairy Woodpecker              | Northern Mockingbird         |
| Mallard                  | Northern Flicker              | Brown Thrasher               |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Pileated Woodpecker           | European Starling            |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Eastern Phoebe                | Northern Parula              |
| Great Blue Heron         | White-eyed Vireo              | Yellow-rumped Warbler        |
| Great Egret              | Red-eyed Vireo                | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Green Heron              | Blue Jay                      | Pine Warbler                 |
| Turkey Vulture           | American Crow                 | Prairie Warbler              |
| Osprey                   | Fish Crow                     | Palm Warbler                 |
| Bald Eagle               | Purple Martin                 | Prothonotary Warbler         |
| Accipiter sp.            | Tree Swallow                  | Ovenbird                     |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Laughing Gull            | Barn Swallow                  | Eastern Towhee               |
| Ring-billed Gull         | Carolina Chickadee            | Chipping Sparrow             |
| Royal Tern               | Tufted Titmouse               | Swamp Sparrow                |
| Mourning Dove            | White-breasted Nuthatch       | White-throated Sparrow       |
| Barred Owl               | Brown-headed Nuthatch         | Northern Cardinal            |
| Chimney Swift            | Carolina Wren                 | Red-winged Blackbird         |
| Belted Kingfisher        | House Wren                    | Common Grackle               |
| Red-headed Woodpecker    | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher         | Brown-headed Cowbird         |
|                          | Eastern Bluebird              | House Finch                  |
|                          |                               | American Goldfinch           |
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**April 4, 2010**, Easter Sunday, was another perfect day. Spring temperatures were in the 60's rising into the 70's, the winds were calm and the skies clear. Newcomers Molly Edmonds, Joe Kohen and Joann Roos joined regulars Marilyn and John Adair, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Libby Carmines, Julie Breeden, Elisa Enders and Jane Frigo to find **47 species**, one HUGE snapping turtle and a muskrat. FOS Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were welcome spring arrivals. Ring-billed Gulls were absent. There was a flyover of Laughing Gulls sporting their summer black hoods. No new warblers were seen, but hopefully will arrive by the next walk. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Great Egret	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Cooper's Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Laughing Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Royal Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Hermit Thrush	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

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**March 21, 2010** was another perfect birdwatching morning. The time change made it a bit darker at the start time but the weather was clear, cool and calm. Marilyn and John Adair, Bill Ferris, Eileen O'Toole, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Mike Lowry, Phyllis Roth and Jane Frigo tallied **55 birds** for the morning. The cherry blossoms were in full bloom and their colors spectacular. "Love" was in the air as a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers shared their affections. Male Pine Warblers were singing as were the Northern Cardinals and Tufted Titmice. A Winter Wren and a Brown Creeper were still at the park. A Hermit Thrush gave a lengthy vocalization that was a treat. A pair of Black Snakes were seen nestled in a hollowed tree. Sadly the ducks seemed to have moved out. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	Fish Crow	Field Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper	Red-winged Blackbird
Rock Pigeon	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
		American Goldfinch

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**March 7, 2010** was another beautiful day. The sky was clear, temperatures in the 40-50's and winds calm. The birds were active and quite vocal. Although no Tundra Swans were observed in the reservoir, a magnificent flight of 40-50 were seen flying overhead. Several Winter Wrens were spotted. One was particularly busy gleaning bugs from the logs. He gave quite a lengthy showing. Participants speculated that he was getting ready to make a journey north. A male Pine Warbler was brilliant in the morning sun. Although the Great Horned Owl could not be found, several pellets were spotted under a cedar tree. In all, **51 species** were identified by Bryan Barmore, Sharon Burton, Maggie Silverman, Marc Nichols, Steven David, Joe Hudick, Margaret Ware, Dick and Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, Phil Bogart, Eileen O'Toole and Jane Frigo. A species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Tundra Swan	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Great Egret	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet	

At last a good weather day for bird watching. Sunday, **February 21, 2010** was perfect. Temperatures were in the 50's, winds were calm and the sun was shining. We had six newcomers--Laura and Brent Slaughter, Cathy and Bobby Thacker, Samantha Denny and Joe Hudick and 13 old timers--Geoff Giles, Eileen O'Toole, Nick Flanders, Margaret Ware, Stuart Sweetman, Elisa Enders, Marc Nichols, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Hong Trinh, Theu Le and Jane Frigo. It was a large group, but many eyes and ears equal many birds. The group was able to count **59 species** for the morning--which included a walk to the Swamp Bridge. Tufted Titmice and Red-headed Woodpecker's gave great shows. A pair of Mute Swans were observed in what was decided to be "nest building activity." Misses for the day included a much sought after Fox Sparrow, Great Egret, Tundra Swan and Great Horned Owl. Hopefully March will bring in some early warblers. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Field Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal

Red-tailed Hawk  
Killdeer  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher

Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird

Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch

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Fear of black ice on the roads caused the cancellation of the **February 7, 2010**, park walk. Thanks goes out to Mike Lowry for braving the weather and walking into the park to make a species list for the morning, in spite of the weather. Mike was able to list **30 species**. Ring-necked ducks and a single Bufflehead were special sightings. Also, five Field Sparrows were seen at the field by the Discovery Center. Bird's of prey were also out, including Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk.. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Tundra Swan  
Gadwall  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Ring-billed Gull  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Tufted Titmouse

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Brown Thrasher  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle

NOTE! The list below is an addition to the "canceled" park walk list above. Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders and Stuart Sweetman made it up to the park around noon. They were able to make a hike through the park and out to the swamp bridge. Their additions to the morning's list are impressive. The following species were added to the morning's sightings making a total of **52 species** for the day.

Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
Great Blue Heron  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Carolina Chickadee  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren

Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Hermit Thrush  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
American Goldfinch

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**January 15, 2010** was warmer than the last walk, 45 degrees, but spoiled by rain. In spite of the wet day, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, Nick Flanders, Mike Lowry and Jane Frigo managed to get in two hours of birding before being defeated by the weather. The lake was still iced over with only a few spots of free water. Birds and ducks were few in number but the group was able to identify **29 species**. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Tundra Swan  
Gadwall  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Hooded Merganser  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron

Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird

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Happy New Year! The first walk of the new year, **January 3, 2010** was a frigid one. Temperatures were in the low 20's and the wind was blowing hard. Jane Frigo was unable to lead the morning's walk because of participating in the Mathews Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to all those that did show up and brave the weather, especially Stuart Sweetman who relayed the species list for the morning. **27 species** were identified which was a remarkable accomplishment considering the weather.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Tundra Swan  
Mallard  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk

Ring-billed Gull  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch

Golden-crowned Kinglet  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
White-throated Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird