

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).

2011 Walks

The end of the year is approaching. Audubon Christmas Counts have begun. The last park walk of the year, **December 18, 2011**, was clear, calm and cold. Temperatures began in the low 30's and rose to the 50's. Virginia Boyles, Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Ernie Miller, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo were able to identify The end of the year is approaching. Audubon Christmas Counts have begun. The last park walk of the year, December 18, 2011, was clear, calm and cold. Temperatures began in the low 30's and rose to the 50's. Virginia Boyles, Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Ernie Miller, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo were able to identify **52 species** without walking all the way to the Swamp Bridge. American Robins were by far the most abundant foraging in the hollies at the Arboretun. Tundra Swans had made their arrival and at last a few ducks including American Wigeon, Ring-neck and Hooded Merganser. Woodpeckers were seen with the exception of the Red-headed. Field Sparrows at the Discovery Center put on a good show. A complete species list follows. without walking all the way to the Swamp Bridge. American Robins were by far the most abundant foraging in the hollies at the Arboretun. Tundra Swans had made their arrival and at last a few ducks including American Wigeon, Ring-neck and Hooded Merganser. Woodpeckers were seen with the exception of the Red-headed. Field Sparrows at the Discovery Center put on a good show. A complete species list follows.

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

"The Bird Lady of Newport News," **Dorothy Mitchell**, passed away on December 2, 2011. Dorothy led the Newport News Park Walks for over 30 years. She will be missed but her legacy will continue through all the lives she touched over the years.

The **December 4, 2011** park walk began with temperatures in the upper 30's and skies clear and calm making for a beautiful day for birdwatching. George and Virginia Boyles, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Michelle Shinn, Geoff Giles, Felicity Ericson, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo were able to identify **54 species**. Several Hermit Thrushes gave the photographers quite a show. Woodpeckers were also out and about with the

exception of the elusive Red-head. Sparrows were numerous and included Chipping, Field, Song, Swamp, White-throated and even an American Tree spotted by Geoff Giles. A complete species list follows.

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

Another perfect fall day on **November 20, 2011!** The temperature began near 50 degrees, skies were clear and winds calm. Stuart Sweetman, Richard Hudgins, Mike Lowry, Phyllis Roth and Jane Frigo took advantage of the morning and identified **55 species**. A lone FOS male Hooded Merganser was spotted. The small group of Pied-billed Grebes and American Coots were still on the reservoir. Woodpeckers were busy with all but the Red-headed spotted. Sparrows were also well represented with Chipping, Field, Song, Swamp and White-throated seen. The group looks forward to the arrival of the Fox Sparrow. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Brown Creeper	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
American Coot	Winter Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Laughing Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch

The weather was perfect for the **November 6, 2011** walk in the park. Winds were calm, temperatures seasonable and skies clear. Fall foliage was at its peak and added to the beauty of the morning. Twenty bird watchers turned out for the walk and included Geoff Giles, Eileen O'Toole, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Michelle Shinn, Dorothy Sharpe, Maggie Silverman, Ernie Miller, Marilyn and John Adair, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Virginia and George Boyles, Jane Frigo and newcomers Jessie Ebers, Jessica Spickler, Robert Isdell, Jeneviveve Jackson and Kenton Buck. Combined efforts of the group yielded a total of **51 species**. Highlights of the morning included a cooperative Hermit Thrush ground feeding at the Arboretum, a Field Sparrow bathing in a puddle at the Stable area, 3 Eastern Meadow Larks in the disc golf field between the Stable area and the Arboretum, a curious Winter Wren at the Swamp Bridge and a flyover of Tundra Swans. Ducks were limited but included Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mallard, and Ring-necked Duck. Pied-billed Grebe and Coots were also spotted. Misses for the morning included the Great Horned Owl, Brown Creeper and Downy Woodpecker. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush
Tundra Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Black Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Eastern Towhee
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Field Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	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
American Coot	Winter Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Laughing Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch

October 16, 2011 was a perfect day for a bird walk at Newport News Park. Skies were clear, winds were calm and temperatures started in the mid-fifties and warmed up nicely. Elisa Enders, Bill Ferris, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Gregory Milsagle, Michelle Shinn, Dorothy Sharpe, Stuart Sweetman, Jane Frigo, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Virginia and George Boyles and first timer Tom Dougherty were able to identify **61 species**. Fall arrivals included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren and Yellow-rumped warbler. A Prairie and Palm Warbler, Northern Parulas and American Redstarts put on quite a show, as did a Bald Eagle fishing for his breakfast. Even our favorite Great Horned Owl showed up! Leaves were beginning to turn and Festival of Light decorations littered the roadside. All were reminders of the change of seasons. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Mute Swan	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
American Black 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	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Tree Swallow	Prairie Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Palm Warbler
Osprey	Tufted Titmouse	American Redstart
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Towhee

Cooper's Hawk
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker

Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird

Chipping Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
House Finch
American Goldfinch

Because of the annual Fall Festival at the park, the **October 3, 2011** walk met at the campground parking lot on the opposite side of the reservoir. Temperatures hovered in the 50's and skies were overcast with occasional moments of welcome sun. Ernie Miller, John and Marilyn Adair, Mike Lowry, Phillis Roth, Geoff Giles, Stuart Sweetman, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, Richard and Barbara Hudgins managed to spot **36 species** inspite of the dreary conditions. Several warblers were spotted and included Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Pine, Black-and-white and Common Yellowthroat. An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was also a good find. The area adjacent to the Archery Range was particularly productive. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Laughing Gull
Rock Pigeon
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
House Wren
American Robin

Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Parula
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Pine Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Field Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting

Tom Charlock, Margaret Ware, Marc Nichols, Cathy Bond and Jane Frigo were the only birders at the park walk on **September 18, 2011**. Other regulars were attending the VSO field trip in Chicoteague during the weekend or were scared off by the light rain falling as a result of a recent cold front. In spite of the chilly temperature hovering in the mid 60's, the poor lighting conditions and the falling rain, the group was able to identify 38 species by 9:30 AM when all but Marc Nichols called it quits. Marc continued the walk from the Spawning Pond to the Swamp Bridge and managed to add 6 more species for a total of **43 species** for the morning. Warblers were definitely migrating through with American Redstarts, Northern Parula, Palm, Black-and-White, Pine and Common Yellowthroat seen. One FOS Pied-billed Grebe was spotted and Green Herons were still around. A surprise Summer Tanager was seen and heard singing. The other outstanding sighting for the morning was a first year Rose-breasted Grosbeak vocalizing from a dead snag at the stable grounds. As usual it was a great morning. A complete species list follows. Please be aware that because of the Heritage Festival at Newport News Park the first of October, **THE NEXT PARK WALK WILL MEET AT THE CAMPGROUND PARKING LOT AT 7 AM OCTOBER 2, 2011.**

Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Mallard
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron

Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
White-eyed Viero

Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Parula
Pine Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler

Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Laughing Gull
 Barred Owl
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher

Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Carolina Wren
 House Wren

American Redstart
 Common Yellowthroat
 Summer Tanager
 Chipping Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 American Goldfinch

Labor Day weekend (**September 4**) was beautiful with pleasant temperatures and light winds. A VERY large crowd turned out to take advantage of the good weather. The group included Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Marilyn and John Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, Phyllis and Paul Roth, Marc Nichols, Gregory Milsagle, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Clark White, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore, Tom Charlock, Geoff Giles, Betsy Garrett, Betty Fields, Jane Frigo, and newcomers Peggy Rommen, Michelle Shinn and Erin O'Neal. The group managed to see **52 bird species**, one beaver and a painted turtle. All six woodpeckers were spotted. Green Herons put on quite a show, too. The group also decided a Broad-winged Hawk made a flyover with its dark leading edge visible on the wings. The Great Horned Owl was not seen. The walk was limited to some extent because of downed trees from last weeks brush with Hurricane Irene. All trails and bridges were closed. Hopefully by the next walk, trails will be reopened. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
 Mute Swan
 Mallard
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Cooper's Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Killdeer
 Laughing Gull
 Mourning Dove
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher

Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Acadian Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown-headed Nuthatch

Carolina Wren
 House Wren
 Eastern Bluebird
 American Robin
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 Pine Warbler
 American Redstart
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Common Grackle
 Orchard Oriole
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch

The **August 24, 2011** park walk began with heavy smoke drifting in from the Great Dismal Swamp fire. Temperatures remained hot and the air humid. By mid morning the smoke had cleared but it was STILL hot and humid. George and Virginia Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Geoff Giles, Bill Ferris, Elisa Enders, Jim Harrison, Jane Frigo, new HRBC member Dorothy Sharpe and Indiana vacationer Janet Kelly were able to identify **46 species** for the morning. Woodpeckers made a good showing with the Red-headed spotted at the Swamp Bridge. A Black-and-white Warbler was a special treat. Green Herons were actively feeding in several spots. Misses included the Northern Mockingbird, Great Horned Owl, Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak. Following the walk several members went to see an active Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest. Nestlings were seen being fed by their mother. Also, "mama" put up quite a show fending off a male American Goldfinch. She nailed him squarely on the head several times! It was a great morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
 Mute Swan
 Wood Duck

Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker

White-breasted Nuthatch
 Carolina Wren
 Eastern Bluebird

Mallard
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Laughing Gull
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Great Crested Flycatcher
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse

American Robin
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Pine Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Summer Tanager
Chipping Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
House Finch
American Goldfinch

The Dog Days of Summer have truly arrived. Today's park walk, **August 7, 2011**, was hot, humid and very, very quiet. There was hardly a breath of wind. Nothing was singing. Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Eileen O'Toole, Virginia and George Boyles, Richard and Barbara Hudgins and Jane Frigo sweat their way through the morning to identify only **37 species**. (All agreed to skip the usual walk to the Swamp Bridge). Notable absentees included Canada Goose, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadee!! A special treat, however, was a lone Cedar Waxwing who posed for a great photo taken by George Boyles. Other cooperative bird's included a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. They must have been slowed down by the oppressive weather, too. Laughing Gulls were already losing their summer plumage so there was the hope that fall and cooler temperatures are not too far off. The group missed Nick Flanders. Nick left for graduate school at North Carolina State. Our best wishes go with him. A complete species list follows.

Mute Swan
Mallard
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Laughing Gull
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Great Crested Flycatcher
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Pine Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
House Finch
American Goldfinch

The lazy days of summer have arrived! **July 17, 2011** was warm, clear and calm. Quite a group of birders turned out including Eileen O'Toole, Elisa Enders, John and Marilyn Adair, George and Virginia Boyles, Tom Charlock, Nick Flanders, Geoff Giles, Marc Nichols, Barbara and Richard Hudgins, Dave Youker, Phyllis Roth, Jane Frigo and newcomer Nelson Ensley. With such a large gathering a total of **59 species** were identified over the course of the morning. Outstanding sightings to note included a Great Horned Owl, male Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosebeak, and American Redstart. Red-headed Woodpeckers were spotted at the Swamp Bridge and included a dark-headed juvenile. Purple Martins appeared to be gathering. Surprisingly difficult to spot were Mallards and Canada Geese! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Mallard
Great Blue Heron

Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee

Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher

Great Egret	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Green Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	American Redstart
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Purple Martin	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Indigo Bunting
Great Horned Owl	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	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	

The weather was overcast and humid but quite a crowd turned out for the **July 3, 2011** park walk. Those participating in at least part of the morning included first timers Susan Tutone and Tyler Paul. Old timers included Tom Charlock, Betsy Garrett, Bettye Fields, Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders, Geoff Giles, Bill Ferris, Jane Frigo, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Marilyn and John Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, and Phil, Angelina and Austin Bogart. Virginia and George brought donuts to share! The sweet treat was appreciated by all. Fred Blythstone stopped by to share some VSO checklists. Those, too, were gratefully appreciated. For the morning the group was able to identify **56 species**. A HUGE bull frog was spotted, along with a Brown Thrasher nest. Always something different to highlight the day. Three species not seen by the group included the Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker and Northern Parula. Those three were seen by another couple the group met on the Swamp Bridge at the end of the walk. The couple had circled the opposite way on the White Oak trail. No one said they saw a Bald Eagle. A complete species list follows.

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

The **June 19, 2011** Newport News Park Walk fell on Father's Day this year. Nick Flanders, Eileen O'Toole, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry and Jane Frigo met a 7 AM but

after some discussion altered the morning routine. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher has been spotted the day before in Bower's Hill, Chesapeake. Nick Flanders had gone to see the very rare visitor and many of the morning participants wanted a chance to see it too. Nick and Eileen agreed to continue at the park while the rest of the group headed to Chesapeake. Nick and Eileen were able to identify **46 species**. A complete list follows. Tom, Marc, Stuart, Mike, and Jane picked up Dot Silsby on the way and headed to Bower's Hill. The Fork-tailed Flycatcher was not seen. The group did get excellent views of a Dickcissel, however. That, too, was a life bird for most of the group. During the morning several other birders--from Northern Virginia, Williamsburg, Richmond and Virginia Beach, showed up hoping for a glimpse of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher. All were disappointed in missing the flycatcher but they were treated to quite a show by the Dickcissel!

Canada Goose	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Mute Swan	Eastern Kingbird	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Red-eyed Vireo	European Starling
Great Egret	Blue Jay	Cedar Waxwing
Osprey	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Red-headed Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Red-bellied Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird	Orchard Oriole
Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin	House Finch
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Gray Catbird	American Goldfinch
Acadian Flycatcher		

The skies were spectacular this morning! A bank of black clouds were approaching from the NW. Thunderstorms were predicted for the afternoon but appeared to be arriving earlier than expected. Tom Charlock, Clark White, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Marilyn and John Adair, Virginia and George Boyles and Jane Frigo turned out on **June 5, 2011** in hopes of beating the approaching storm. Shortly after 7 AM a light drizzle began but the birders were unfazed. By 7:45 AM, however, everyone was running for their cars as the skies opened up with a vengeance. The walk was halted, Mother Nature won. In spite of the defeat, **21 species** were recorded and no one was struck by lightning. Also, the change in the storms arrival allowed by the many Sunday afternoon picnics to be held.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Tufted Titmouse
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Fish Crow	American Goldfinch

A small group of birders participated in the **May 15, 2011** bird walk at Newport News Park. Although thunderstorms during the night moved out and the morning began with clear skies and temperatures in the 70's, clouds quickly moved back in and the entire morning remained overcast. Eileen O'Toole, Marc Nichols, Bill Ferris, Dave Youker, Phyllis Roth, Richard and Barbara Hudgins and Jane Frigo weathered the clouds and were able to count **67 species** for the morning. Great Crested Flycatchers seemed to dominate the morning. A large group of about 20 Wood Ducks was seen with one pair

providing a close-up view. A surprise sighting was three Ruddy Ducks. White-throated Sparrows were gone. A complete species list follows.

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

Sunday, **May 1, 2011** was another spectacular day at the park. Temperatures began in the 50's but warmed up nicely and skies were clear and calm. Eileen O'Toole, Stuart Sweetman, Phyllis Roth, Clark White, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Bill Ferris, Felicity Ericson, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair and Phil, Austin and Angelina Bogart participated with a final total of **70 species** for the morning and into the afternoon. The Great Horned Owls were not spotted, but thanks to Daily Press photographer Rick Miller, the Barred Owl was seen. FOS included Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbird, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart and Prothonotary Warbler to name a few. A brief glimpse of a Baltimore Oriole was had and a more extensive look at an Orchard Oriole. Both Tanagers were seen. The highlight of the morning was watching what is thought to be a Scarlet Tanager making a nest near the Swamp Bridge! Photos were taken and the group will look forward to monitoring its progress. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Eastern Wood-pewee	Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Blackpoll Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Black-and-white Warbler
Black Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	American Redstart
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Red-shouldered Hawk	Tree Swallow	Scarlet Tanager
American Coot	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Carolina Chickadee	White-throated Sparrow

Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove
Barred Owl
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker

Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird

Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch

April 17, 2011 was a remarkable birding day at the park!! The weather was clear but a bit chilly when the wind blew. Those coming out included Barbara and Richard Hudgins, George and Virginia Boyles, Cathy and Teri Bond, Betsy Garrett, Bettye Fields, Gregory Milslagle, Libby Carmines, Nick Flanders, Stuart Sweetman, Eileen O'Toole, Clark White, Bill Ferris, Marc Nichols, Phyllis Roth, Angela Herring, Jane Frigo and New York visitor Ginger Waldron. Possibly the best find of the outing was an early Northern Waterthrush observed well by most group members first thing in the morning foraging along the lakeshore near the Ranger Station. The bird was cooperative enough for scope views to be obtained by some, with a combination of field marks including dense streaking on breast and throat and pale yellowish supercilium of even width leading to the surprising ID of this non-vocal individual. Later in the morning, at least two vocalizing Louisiana Waterthrush were studied for differences in plumage details. Many other spring arrival species were documented during the morning, highlighted by four vireos (Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, White-eyed and Red-eyed), Green Heron, Yellow-throated Warbler, Protonotary Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher and both Caspian and Royal Terns. Lingering species included Hermit Thrush, Ring-necked Duck and Pied-billed Grebe. Other notable sightings were Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker and a surprise visit of five female Red-breasted Mergansers to the Reservoir. **77 species** were totaled. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
American Wigeon
Mallard
Common Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Coot
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl

Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pine Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Chipping Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch

Another wonderful day at Newport News Park! **April 3, 2011** was clear and calm with temperatures starting in the mid forties and warming up throughout the morning. A large group turned out and

included Jim Harrison, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Jim and Diane Guerin (campers from Nebraska), Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Geoff Giles, Tom Charlock, Bryan Barmore and Sharon Burton, Mike Lowry, Nick Flanders, Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Margaret Ware, Felicity Ericson, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo. With such a large group every area was covered! A total of **61 species** were seen. FOS included Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Purple Martin. American Wigeons were spotted along with a lone American Coot. Bryan Barmore spotted a flyover of a couple of Common Mergansers. Several Bald Eagles were seen in various plumage's. Two Great Horned Owls were seen side-by-side but no fledglings were spotted. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Winter Wren
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Eastern Bluebird
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Common Merganser	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Phoebe	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Fish Crow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
Bald Eagle	N. Rough-winged Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
American Coot	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Laughing Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Great Horned Owl		

Sunday, **March 20**, marked the first walk since the return to Daylight Savings Time and the rise of a Super Moon. Participants celebrated with a breakfast of donuts and bananas! The weather was perfect with clear skies and light winds. Temperatures were in the 40's but warmed nicely as the morning progressed. Participants included Cathy Bond, Phyllis Roth, Geoff Giles, Julie Witmer, Tom Charlock, Louis Johnson, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Eileen O'Toole, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Nick Flanders, Angelina, Austin and Phil Bogart and Jane Frigo. With so many eyes and ears searching, a total of **62 species** were identified. Thanks to an early hike to the Swamp Bridge by Marc Nichols, the Barred Owl was found but missed later in the morning. The Great Horned Owl, however, was seen near his reliable spot. The group has still been unable to locate a nest, but will continue to watch for the appearance of fledglings. Tundra Swans were still seen and several Mute Swans were sitting on obvious nests. Winter ducks still seen included Gadwall, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser (although not in the numbers seen during the last walk) and Pied-billed Grebe. Tree Swallows were quite busy over the reservoir near the Spawning Pond. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was still around and a wonderful view of a Red-headed Woodpecker was had near the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Great Horned Owl	Eastern Bluebird
Tundra Swan	Barred Owl	Hermit Thrush
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
American Black Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	European Starling

Mallard
Hooded Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ring-billed Gull

Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Tree Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

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

The weather forecast for **March 6, 2011**, called for showers so only the hardy ventured out. Elisa Enders, Mike Lowry, Nick Flanders, Richard Hudgins, Cathy Bond and Jane Frigo dodged a few brief sprinkles, remained reasonable dry and were able to identify **49 species** for the morning. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers started off the morning. Eleven Tundra Swans were spotted--a great sighting since they were absent on the last walk. Pine Warblers were singing! A raft of sixty female Hooded Mergansers were spotted and accompanied by a single male. What a harem!! The Great Horned Owl was seen again but no nest has been found. Adult and juvenile Bald Eagles were seen and a pair of Osprey. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Tundra Swan
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Ring-necked Duck
Hooded Merganser
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove

Great Horned Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-rumped warbler
Pine Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch

The morning of **February 20, 2011**, began with temperatures in the low 40's, clear skies and calm winds. As the morning progressed, however, winds picked up and a definite chill was felt. Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Chuck Engles, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Rory Johnson, Elizabeth Bircher, Eileen O'Toole, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Nick Flanders, Jane Frigo, Graham and Estelle Ware, Julie and Mike Kennedy, Marilyn and John Adair, and George and Virginia Boyles made up the morning's group. They were able to identify **58 species** for the morning. The Great Horned Owl was spotted as well as adult and juvenile Bald Eagles and a first sighting of a Laughing Gull. All three nuthatches were seen and several varieties of ducks. Woodpeckers were well represented with a Red-headed Woodpecker finally seen after weeks of no shows. Another notable sighting was of a

Rusty Blackbird. Two species not seen were the Winter Wren and the Tundra Swan. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Great Horned Owl	Hermit Thrush
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
American Black Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Warble
Ring-necked Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Northern Flicker	Song Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Swamp Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	White-throated Sparrow
Great Egret	Fish Crow	Dard-eyed Junco
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Rusty Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Laughing Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper	House Finch
Herring Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch

The **February 6, 2011** Newport News Park Walk began with temperatures in the lower 40's and winds calm. All water surfaces were ice free!! Fifteen people met in the Ranger Station parking lot to see how many species could be found. Participants included Dave Youker, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Jim Harrison, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Mike Lowry, Felicity Ericson and her sister Susan, and Jane Frigo. Highlights of the morning included seeing all three nuthatches (Brown-headed, Red-breasted, and White-breasted), Great Horned Owl, and five duck species including Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Ring-necked and a rather large group of Hooded Merganser. Only a couple of Cedar Waxwings were seen instead of the larger flocks that were hoped for. A complete list of the **50 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Tundra Swan	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
American Wigeon	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Ring-necked	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Great Horned Owl	Winter Wren	

What a difference a couple of weeks makes!!! The **January 16, 2011** Newport News Park Walk brought out 23 birders! Lee and Meredith Bell, John and Felicity Ericson, Sherry and Jim Lewis, George and Virginia Boyles, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Marilyn and John Adair, Louis Johnson, Julie Kennedy, Estelle Ware, Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders, Stuart Sweetman, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Tom Charlock, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry and Jane Frigo all wanted to see what the park had to offer. They were not disappointed. For the whole morning **53 species** were identified. Although ice was still extensive, the limited open water provided views of a substantial group of Hooded Mergansers along with Mute and Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon and Gadwall. The Great Horned Owl was also located thanks to the sharp eyes of Elisa Enders. Both Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches were seen and heard. A big highlight was Eastern Meadowlarks at the Discovery Center. Finally Cedar Waxwings were spotted but only in a flyover. Interestingly no Common Grackles or Starlings were observed! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Great Horned Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Tundra Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Ring-necked	Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	White-throated Sparrow
Great Egret	Fish Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Killdeer	Brown Creeper	House Finch
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	

2011 began on a rather wet note. Richard and Barbara Hudgins and Marilyn and John Adair were the only birders brave enough to venture out on **January 2, 2011**. (Many other birders were participating in various Christmas Bird Counts throughout the area.) An animal crisis delayed the ranger from opening the park promptly at 7 AM. By the time the group was able to bird, rain had set in and the morning was aborted. Only one species was noted--an Eastern Bluebird!