

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).

Audubon Christmas Counts are in full swing and many people must be participating! Only four came out **December 20, 2015** for the morning park walk. They were Barbara and Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo. Even this small group was able to identify **39 species** for the morning. The weather began with freezing temperatures, warming into the mid 40's, but not much wind which made it more tolerable. The birds seemed scarce. Eastern Bluebirds were even hard to find and were not seen until the end of the morning at the Swamp Bridge! Canada Geese were on the reservoir along with some nice groups of Ring-necked Ducks, Gadwall and Hooded Mergansers. Several American Wigeon were interspersed. Misses included Brown Thrasher, Mourning Dove and Hermit Thrush to name a few. A nice end to the morning was a flock of Cedar Waxwings among the Eastern Bluebirds at the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Blue Jay	European Starling
Ring-necked Duck	American Crow	Cedar Waxwing
Hooded Merganser	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Tufted Titmouse	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Black Vulture	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	Winter Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Golden-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch

It was a beautiful day at the park on **December 6, 2015**. Clear skies, calm winds and cool temperatures (40-50's) made for a great morning to be out. Those participating included Bill Ferris, Mike Lowry, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore, John Adair, Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, Andy Hawkins, Sally Young, Betsy McAllister, Bill Boeh, Ann Nicklin, Shawn Dash, Marc Nichols, Rock Moeslein, Jane Frigo, Pete and Charm Peterman, and Cathy and Terri Bond. A pair of Bald Eagles were spotted early on and treated the group to some vocalizations. Marc Nichols was able to find a Barred Owl in the woods behind the Discovery Center. The Marsh Wren was relocated at the Swamp Bridge. Ducks were still scarce with Gadwall the most abundant. Other species included a flyover Bufflehead, a few Ring-necked Ducks and a couple of American Black Ducks. At the very end of the walk a small group of Hooded Mergansers were located at the Spawning Pond. The **species count** for the morning was **54**.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
American Black Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Bufflehead	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Towhee

Great Blue Heron	Tufted Titmouse	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown Creeper	Swamp Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Carolina Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Winter Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Marsh Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Barred Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch

November 15, 2015 began with an unexpected frost! The reservoir was beautifully blanketed with fog. It took a while for the birds to wake up but the day, as usual, turned into a great morning with **55 species** identified. The most notable sightings for the morning included a pair of Northern Pintail, a Marsh Wren at the Swamp Bridge, and an Orange-crowned Warbler! American Robins and Dark-eyed Juncos were everywhere. First of season (FOS) Brown Creepers were spotted early in the day along with Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A Winter Wren was seen at the first bridge. The group couldn't find the Hooded Mergansers or Ring-necked Duck seen at the last walk but Gadwall were still present. Sadly, owls and the Red-headed Woodpeckers couldn't be found. Those participating in the walk were A. J. Brewington, Lieve Keeney, Dave Nissen, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Richard Hudgins, John Adair, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacques VanMontfran, Shawn Dash, Pete Peterman, Jim Barnett, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, Denis and Charlotte Boudreau and Leigh and George Fenigsohn. A complete list of birds follows.

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

Clouds moved in on **November 1, 2015** and made for a gloomy morning. The good part was that winds were very calm and the temperature was pleasant--in the lower 60's. Off and on drizzle was annoying but no heavy rain materialized before the last group called it quits. Those attending for at least part of the morning included Anne and Bill Boeh, Frank and Linda Schass, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Marilyn and John Adair, Ned and Becky Rose, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacques VanMontfrans, Mike Lowry, Stuart Sweetman, Steven Moore, A. J. Brewington, David Knopp, Barbara Lewis, Sherry Rollins, Richard Hudgins, Pete Peterman, Bailey Jackson, Laura Nusz, Tom Charlock, Jason Strickland, Courtney West, and Jane Frigo. The total **species count was 60**. The morning began with a pair of male Hooded Mergansers! Other notable waterfowl included American Black Duck, Gadwall, Pied-billed Grebe and a lone Ring-necked Duck. Both Red-tailed Hawk and Cooper's Hawk perched patiently to provide excellent looks through scopes. A rare Merlin was seen on the power lines. Another great sighting was a Blue-headed Vireo at the Arboretum. Several photos were taken. At the same area an

interesting non-avian spotting of a groundhog was enjoyed. Dark-eyed Juncos and Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant. A great view of a Palm Warbler was had along with a cooperative Hermit Thrush. A very large group of Rusty Blackbirds was spotted near Swamp Point! Sadly misses included Brown Creeper, Red-headed Woodpecker and any owls. A complete species list follows.

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

October 18, 2015 was COLD and WINDY!. The temperature stayed in the low 50's and winds were brisk at 10-15 mph. At least the skies were clear. Fourteen people braved the cold to see what may have been blown in. They included John Adair, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, , Stuart Sweetman, Sandy DiCarlo, Shawn and Katrina Dash, Jane Frigo and first timers Lee and Susan Morris, Su Cox, Jay Sanchez and Bailey Jackson. First of season (FOS) species included Gadwall, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swamp Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Dark-eyed Junco's had been seen the previous day but couldn't be located on Sunday. Eastern Phoebe's were quite cooperative along with a Winter Wren and numerous Kinglets, giving participants great observations. A late Northern Parula was seen and several Pine Warblers were spotted. A complete list of **51 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Swamp Sparrow
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Sharp-shinned Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Red-tailed Hawk	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ring-billed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Rock Pigeon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch

The first park walk in October (this year **October 3**) is typically held at the Campground because of the Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife. But this year the 42nd festival was canceled because of the threat of Hurricane Joaquin. Fortunately, Joaquin missed the area but a fierce Nor'easter still brought strong winds, rain and tidal flooding. In spite of that, eleven people showed up for the walk! They included Bill Boeh, Anthony Nixon, Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock, Pete Peterman, Jane Frigo, Ned and Becky Rose and first timers Angel, Brent and Lucius Werlein. The group braved the elements until calling it quits about 9 AM. A quick visit to the main areas (Reservoir Loop, Arboretum, Discovery Center and Spawning Pond) produced **37 species** including the Great Horned Owl and five warblers including a first of season Yellow-rumped Warbler. A Green Snake was seen at the Discovery Center. Ned and Becky made a quick run to the Swamp Bridge after the main group left. They ran into a Cottonmouth and added a Common Yellowthroat to the total for the morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Great Horned Owl	American Robin
Mallard	Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Black-and-white Warbler
Osprey	Eastern Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Northern Parula
Laughing Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Chipping Sparrow
Caspian Tern	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern		

The park was quiet on **September 20, 2015**. The temperature was mild--70's--winds were calm and the sky was cloudy. The birds must have been sleeping in. The reservoir had cleared to some degree and the shore bird bonanza of the last walk was over. Those participating in the morning walk totaled 27 and included Lee and Meredith Bell, Ned and Becky Rose, Shawn and Katrina Dash, Bill and Janet Harper, Jason Strickland, Mike Lowry, Joan Stone, Betsy Garrett, Bettye Fields, Elive Keeney, Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock, Jim Barnett, Richard Hudgins, Anthony Nixon, George Keiske, Bill Ferris, Stuart Sweetman, Geoff Giles, John Adair, Jane Frigo and Kentucky visitors Gene Dennis and Judy Coleman. The group identified **47 species**. The best bird by far was a female Scarlet Tanager. She was preening for a long time on an open branch and gave everyone in the group time to observe her through a scope. The Green Heron was still around and a Baltimore Oriole was spotted! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin
Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Pied-billed Grebe	Hairy Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Summer Tanager
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Scarlet Tanager
Osprey	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Cooper's Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Baltimore Oriole
Laughing Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Finch
Rock Pigeon	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	

The Labor Day weekend walk on **September 6, 2015** turned out to be great one!. A cold front moved through leaving lingering cloudy skies, temperatures in the upper 70's and an unexpected abundance of migrating shore birds and several warblers. An remarkable **66 species** were identified by the **28 participants**. The large group included several first timers and a good number of seasoned birders. Participants were Geoff Giles, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore, Hannah Logan, Cathy Nicholson, Cheryl Jacobson, Elive Keeney, Suzanne Masten, Ed Quaintance, Bill Boeh, Bill Ferris, Phyllis Kohlman, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Christopher Smith, Matthew Gobla, Ron Rytter, Jullie Slate, Hannah Montalvo. Jim Barnett, Jane Frigo, Gerry and Joyce Wright, John and Marilyn Adair, and Pete and Charm Peterman. The shore birds included Solitary Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin! The shore birds were walking on the algae that is covering the reservoir. Warblers included Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler. Misses for the morning included Great Egret and owls. A complete species list follows.

[View photos that Bill Boeh took on the walk](#), including American Goldfinch, Summer Tanager and butterflies.

Canada Goose	Chimney Swift	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mute Swan	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Veery
Mallard	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Green Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Osprey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-and-white Warbler
Bald Eagle	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Red-tailed Hawk	White-eyed Vireo	American Redstart
Solitary Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow Warbler
Greater Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Lesser Yellowlegs	American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Sanderling	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Least Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Pectoral Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Dunlin	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Mourning Dove	House Wren	American Goldfinch

August is the month for vacations. A small group of birders, including George and Virginia Boyles, Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, John Adair, Jane Frigo and Marc Nichols were the only participants for the second walk of the month, **August 16**. The weather was nice for this time of year...temperature early in the morning just 65 degrees and rising into the mid 80's by afternoon. Winds were calm and skies clear. The birds seemed to be on vacation too. Only **44 species** were identified. The best birds of the morning were the Sandpipers, Spotted and Solitary. The reservoir was still covered with duck weed and algae. The sandpipers were walking on top of the stuff! Several photo were taken. The Solitary Sandpipers outnumbered the Spotted Sandpipers. The Mute Swan was seen but misses included Northern Mockingbird, Bald Eagle, Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak. Even a Red-winged Blackbird could not be seen or heard. Hopefully, September will be more productive as migration begins. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch
Mute Swan	Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Mallard	Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren

Double-crested Cormorant	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Spotted Sandpiper	Purple Martin	Common Grackle
Solitary Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	House Finch
Laughing Gull	Carolina Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	

The "dog days" of summer have arrived. **August 2, 2015** was humid, hot and still. A good group turned out to bird watch and included Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Anthony Nixon, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Sandy DiCarlo, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacques VanMontfrans, Jane Frigo, Mike and Ian Lowry, Shawn and Katrina Dash, Zac, Katie and Jason Conklin and newcomers Jim Barnett and Barbara Smith. **57 species** were identified by the group and a possible Canada Warbler. The Red-headed Woodpeckers had fledged but were still spotted in the same area as the last walk. At long last, a Belted Kingfisher was seen, but the Great Horned Owl was missed. An excellent sighting of Brown-headed Nuthatches was enjoyed. Prothonotary warblers were seen and photographed but remained silent. Near the end of the walk a sizable group of Chimney Swifts filled the sky. On a "non" bird observation, a gravid cottonmouth snake was seen at the Swamp Bridge. She looked like she was ready to deliver her young at any time. A complete species list follows.

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

Oh, what a hot, wet summer so far! **July 19, 2015** was clear but steamy. Precipitation for the area is six inches above normal. In spite of that, 16 people braved the morning to see what could be found. They included John Adair, Dave Youker, Mike Lowry, Bill Ferris, Pete Peterman, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jack Van Montfrans, Stuart Sweetman, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, Bill and Anne Boeh, and Barbara and Richard Hudgins. **59 species** were identified. The Great Horned Owl had returned to his favorite tree. Seeing him is always a treat and never taken for granted. A Barred Owl was heard on the return from the Swamp Bridge but the group was too hot and tired to backtrack and attempt a spotting. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed hovering and catching insects on the wing! After a sufficient mouthful was captured, they flew to a nest hole and were greeted by a hungry nestling straining to be fed. The group had never witnessed this behavior more typical of a

Belted Kingfisher or Eastern Kingbird. Later a lively discussion was held over a Laughing Gull in what appeared to be "winter aspect" plumage. Mike Lowry had a copy of Vol. 2 of Peter Pyle detailed identification guide. We learned that the bird was not a confused first year gull, but a second year bird. Apparently first year birds can keep their winter plumage through the following summer. Always something new to be learned! There were good looks at Yellow-billed Cuckoo's and several Green Herons. Sad misses for the morning included Prothonotary Warbler, Bald Eagle, Mute Swan and Blue Grosbeak. A complete list follows.

[View photos that Bill Boeh took](#), including Wood Duck, Red-headed Woodpecker, Great Horned Owl and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

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

Skies were clear and the temperature a comfortable 70-80 degrees but humid, for the **July 5, 2015** walk. Recent showers left the reservoir high but the paths only muddy in spots. Twenty people participated in the morning walk--John and Marilyn Adair, Pete and Charm Peterman, Stuart Sweetman, Sandy Graham, Bill Ferris, Marc Nichols, Richard Hudgins, Jason Strickland, Jane Frigo, the Teller family--Casey, Audrey, Ella, Lily and Zol, and newcomers Jackie and Maerin Hill, and Kentucky visitor David Stewart. **62 species** were identified, with the best spotted at the very end. As the die-hards were returning from the Swamp Bridge, an Anhinga was spotted circling. The bird made several low circles over the swamp before continuing its upward spiral into the high clouds. Pictures were taken confirming the long snake-like head and white back feathering. The Great Horned Owl almost escaped detection, but John Adair was able to find it nestled among the pine needles. The Barred Owl was only heard. There were some misses including Bald Eagle and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Anhinga	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula
Black Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	American Crow	Summer Tanager

Sharp-shinned Hawk	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Rock Pigeon	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Common Grackle
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Orchard Oriole
Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	

On **June 21, 2015**, Jane Frigo took some well needed time off so Stuart Sweetman led the Sunday morning walk. The day started out hot with temps. already at 80 by 7am. We new it was just going to get hotter so we kept up a good pace and finished up by noon with a high of 92 degrees. There was a strong breeze all day which helped out with the heat and mosquitoes but it did cause us to miss a few species along the way. We were unable to locate any swallows out over the water but we did have two tern species at our first stop. I feel our biggest treat for the day was the return of the Great Horned Owl to its favorite pine tree behind the tea garden. This time the was a second owl in an adjacent pine. Possibly a nesting pair that have returned to the open area of the arboretum from deep in the woods where they raised their young. We started with 15 participants and ended up with **54 species** for the day. Participants were Stuart Sweetman, John and Marilyn Adair, Bill Farris, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Shawn Dash, Tom Charlock, Rock Moeslein, Anthony Nixon, Casey Martin and the Teller girls Audrey, Ella, Lily and Zol. Species for the day were:

Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Prothonotary Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Bald Eagle	Red-eyed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	American Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Caspian Tern	Fish Crow	Indigo Bunting
Royal Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Rock Pigeon	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Horned Owl	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Orchard Oriole
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

June 7, 2015 was perfect! The previous nights rain left the park sparkling and the reservoir filled to overflowing. The birds were very active and the morning yielded a total of **63 species**. Those participating in the morning included Stuart Sweetman, Bill Boeh, Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Phyllis Roth, Anthony Nixon, John Adair, Jane Frigo and first timers Donna Kastelan, Richard Ryan, and the Teller family--mom Casey and her four daughters Audrey, Lilly, Ella and Zol. A beautiful pair of Blue Grosbeaks were seen at the Discovery Center. Also a Red-tailed Hawk was being unmercifully mobbed. The attack continued for quite some time and the group really felt bad for the poor hawk. Mobbing behavior led to another great sighting...a Barred Owl. On the way to the Swamp Bridge and searching for the Northern Parula, Stuart Sweetman focused in on the noise and found the Barred Owl between the trail and the golf course. It has been a long time since an owl had been seen so it was a real treat! The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo and Indigo Bunting were the rewards for

those making it to the Swamp Bridge. An interesting miss for the morning was Bald Eagle. A complete species list follows.

[View photos that Bill Boeh took](#) on the walk, including male and female Blue Grosbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, and Barred Owl.

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

May 17, 2015 was a great day to bird watch at Newport News Park. The temperature was comfortable, beginning in the upper sixties and rising to the low 80's. **63 species** were identified with several misses of expected species but great looks a few outstanding individuals. Blackpoll's were abundant and actually seen! (They will be gone by the next walk). Wood Duck, Yellow Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatchers, Prothonotary Warblers and Orchard Orioles provided good showings. Misses included Laughing Gull, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee and Indigo Bunting. Good birds heard only included Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush and Veery. A Greater Yellowlegs may have been heard but was not counted. A Brown Thrasher nest was found. Swallows were observed fighting over a swan feather. Non bird sighting included numerous Monarch butterflies and one HUGE Snapping Turtle. Those participating in the morning included Stuart Sweetman, Brenda Crook, Shawn Dash, Pete Peterman, Tom Charlock, Kathy Dansey, Morocco St. Andre, Sandra Winstead, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, George and Virginia Boyles, Zackary and Katie Conklin, John and Marilyn Adair and Anthony and Kathryn Nixon. Complete list of species follows.

Canada Goose	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Mute Swan	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling
Wood Duck	Yellow-throated Vireo	Cedar Waxwing
Mallard	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	American Redstart
Great Egret	Fish Crow	Northern Parula
Green Heron	Purple Martin	Yellow Warbler
Black Vulture	Tree Swallow	Blackpoll Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Barn Swallow	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-throated Warbler
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow

Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Summer Tanager
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Flicker	Veery	Common Grackle
Pileated Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Robin	Orchard Oriole
Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch

Wonderful weather was enjoyed by the birding group assembled on **May 3, 2015**. Winds were calm and the temperature began in the mid 50's and slowly warmed to the 80's. The leaves on the trees were filling out but had not reached their full extension so observations were somewhat easy. A total of **70 species** were identified and included several FOS visitors. At the first bridge the group got a wonderful view of both a male and female Summer Tanager. Later in the morning patience and perserverance allowed the group to see a beautiful male Black-throated Blue Warbler. At the Swamp Bridge Orchard Orioles put on a show with an adult pair and a first year male seen. Most species were seen but the Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Blackpoll and Yellow-billed Cuckoo were only heard. The pair of Wood Ducks in the trees on the last walk were not spotted nesting but were seen in the Spawning Pond at the end of the day. Prothonotary Warblers were abundant and one was observed entering nest box 23. Those participating in the morning included Shawn and Katrina Dash, Jason and Zachary Conklin, newcomer Kathy Gallo and regulars Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Pete Peterman, Jeff Honig, Lana Bennet, Stuart Sweetman and Jane Frigo. A species list follows.

Canada Goose	Pileated Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Mute Swan	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Prothonotary Warbler
Wood Duck	Acadian Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Kingbird	Blackpoll Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Great Egret	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Green Heron	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black Vulture	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	Barn Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Caarolina Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Summer Tanager
Royal Tern	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Bluebird	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	American Robin	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Gray Catbird	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woosecker	Northern Mockingbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Orchard Oriole
Downy Woodpecker	European Starling	House Finch
Hairy Woodpecker	Ovenbird	American Goldfinch
Northern Flicker		

April 19, 2015 was a beautiful day for birding. The temperature stayed in the comfortable 60 degree range and winds were moderate. The only thing distracting was the pollen!!! It was so thick that at times it looked like fog and moved across the ground like a dust storm. In spite of that 25 people turned out to enjoy the morning. They included Bill Ferris, Mike Lowry, Sandy Robertson, Stuart Sweetman, Rory Johnson, John Adair, Shawn Dash, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Marc Nichols, Bill Boeh, Jane Frigo, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Ned and Becky Rose, Gwen and Walter Harris, and newcomers Tracy McIntyre, Helmut Walter, Ellis Burna, Kenneth Carroll and Zachary and Jason

Conklin. A Red-tailed Hawk gave an outstanding show. He was being mobbed by Blue Jays but seemed reluctant to leave the area. An adult Bald Eagle was seen trying to snatch a fish from an Osprey. A pair of Wood Ducks, often hard to seen, were observed at length. In fact, the group got to watch them navigate a tree limb and possibly drop into a nest cavity. Some FOS visitors included Great Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Prothonotary Warbler and Northern Parula. The group also saw 2 raccoons, 4 cotton mouth snakes and a couple black snakes. Bill Boeh captured terrific pictures of some of these creatures, including the pair of **Wood Ducks** below. [You can view all of Bill's photos in this album.](#)



All in all a great day. **66 species** (listed below) were seen.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Eastern Bluebird |
| Mute Swan | Red-headed Woodpecker | Hermit Thrush |
| Wood Duck | Red-bellied Woodpecker | American Robin |
| Gadwall | Downy Woodpecker | Northern Mockingbird |
| Mallard | Northern Flicker | Brown Thrasher |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Pileated Woodpecker | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Eastern Phoebe | Common Yellowthroat |
| Great Blue Heron | Great Crested Flycatcher | Northern Parula |
| Great Egret | Blue Jay | Palm Warbler |
| Green Heron | American Crow | Pine Warbler |
| Black Vulture | Fish Crow | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Turkey Vulture | Purple Martin | Eastern Towhee |
| Osprey | Tree Swallow | Chipping Sparrow |
| Bald Eagle | N. Rough-winged Swallow | Field Sparrow |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Barn Swallow | Swamp Sparrow |
| Cooper's Hawk | Carolina Chickadee | White-throated Sparrow |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Tufted Titmouse | Northern Cardinal |
| Laughing Gull | White-breasted Nuthatch | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Ring-billed Gull | Brown-headed Nuthatch | Common Grackle |
| Caspian Tern | Carolina Wren | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Royal Tern | House Wren | House Finch |
| Mourning Dove | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | American Goldfinch |

At last a beautiful morning for a bird walk! Easter Sunday, **April 5, 2015**, was clear and calm. The temperature was a bit chilly at the start--30's--but warmed nicely as the morning progressed. A light fog covered the water but soon burned off and gave the group some interesting waterfowl to observe and discuss. There was quite a discussion over two Grebes seen. The final decision was a Horned AND a Red-necked Grebe. Outstanding FOS included Green Heron, Purple Martin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Palm Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler. No Yellow-bellied Sapsucker or Brown Creeper were seen, but the Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet remained. At the Arboretum Brown Thrashers appear to have taken over the Northern Mockingbirds favorite tree and were carrying in nest material. 25 people participated in the morning. They included first timers Janet Tucker, Bella Rosso, Lylliane Battle and Tina Chisman, and old-timers Jason Strickland, Sandy Robertson, Bruce Glendening, Bill Ferris, Shawn Dash, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Sandy DiCarlo, Hannah Montalvo, Marc Nichols, Cathy Bond, Bryan Barmore, Sharon Burton, Jane Frigo, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Marilyn and John Adair, and Virginia and George Boyles. The group identified **67 species**. There was some discussion at the end of the morning about a lone swan circling VERY high above the Swamp Bridge area. Could it have been a Tundra??? A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Rock Pigeon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Pied-billed Grebe	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling
Horned Grebe	Northern Flicker	Palm Warbler
Red-necked Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Yellow-throated Warbler
Great Egret	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Green Heron	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	N. Rough-winged Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Sharp-shinned Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Cooper's Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-shouldered Hawk	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Coot	Winter Wren	House Finch
Laughing Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch
Ring-billed Gull		

The regularly scheduled Sunday walk was held on Saturday, **March 14**, because of the One City Marathon being held March 15. Tom Charlock, John Adair, Pete Peterman, Anthony Nixon, Sandy Robertson and Jane Frigo met on Saturday and identified **46 species**. A light rain was falling early so the group did their watching from the shelters. All the ice was gone from the reservoir. Twelve waterfowl were identified and several Tree Swallows circled above the water. A pair of beavers were also hard at work. Brown Thrashers were singing. Multiple Eastern Towhee's were at the Discovery Center. Again no owls were found. There is a nesting Great Horned Owl easily observed at Sandy Bottom Nature Park in Hampton. Several of the group headed that way at the end of the morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Brown Thrasher
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Redhead	American Crow	Fox Sparrow

Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Hooded Merganser
Double-crested Cormorant
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove

Fish Crow
Tree Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch

Mother Nature has been brutal this winter! On **March 1, 2015**, the park was covered with over five inches of snow and the reservoir was totally frozen except a small section near the campground boat landing. Needless to say any ducks that could be found were frantically pedalling there. The previous Wednesday's snow storm brought 5-9 inches to the area and temperatures for the remainder of the week struggled to rise above freezing before falling well into the teens and twenties at night. Today at 7 AM skies were overcast with rain forecast to begin around 9AM. The temperature hovered around 32 degrees but the winds were mercifully calm. A tremendous thank you goes out to park officials for having Constitution Avenue and the main parking lots cleared of snow. Tom Charlock, Anthony Nixon, Ellis Maxey, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Pete Peterman and Jane Frigo plowed through the snow to identify **36 species** before 9 AM when the drizzle arrived and the group called it quits. A complete species list follows.

Mute Swan
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Hooded Merganser
Double-crested Cormorant
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Ring-billed Gull

Mourning Dove
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird

Anyone out today, **February 15, 2015**, had to be crazy! The temperature was 18 degrees and the winds were sustained at over 20 mph. Not letting the elements get the best of them (at least for an hour) Shawn and Katrina Dash, Tom Charlock, John Adair, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo battled their way against the frigid temperatures and howling winds to identify **38 species**. Surprisingly the reservoir was not frozen...yet, but rough waters made viewing difficult. The highlight was a pair of Redhead Ducks. Smaller birds, like the White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and both species of Kinglets, were scrambling to get food. Near the Arboretum several of the larger birds were lining up in the cedar tree and exposed ground to soak up what little warmth the sun provided. It was impressive to see an Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay and numerous American Robins sharing a sunny spot. A final swing by the Spawning Pond produced a Belted Kingfisher, Dark-eyed Junco and a Great Blue Heron. A surprising miss was Mourning Dove. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Hooded Merganser
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron

Ring-billed Gull
Rock Pigeon
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Towhee
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird

Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle

Carolina Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet

At last a decent morning bird walk! **February 1, 2015** was very cold--temperatures in the mid 20's-- but skies were clear and winds were calm. Shawn Dash, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Lana Bennett, Jane Frigo, Charm and Pete Peterman, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, and John and Marilyn Adair identified **59 species** over the morning. The day began with a beautiful Pileated Woodpecker followed by multiple Bald Eagle sightings. Three eagles were perched in one tree while two others stood on the frozen reservoir. Several large concentrations of ducks occupied the few open water spaces and allowed for great viewing through scopes. All possible woodpeckers were seen. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was quite vocal. Several Brown Creepers were spotted along with both species of Kinglets. Quite a discussion was held over whether a photo taken by Anthony Nixon was of a Sharp-shinned or a Cooper's Hawk. The consensus was to agree to disagree and mark it Accipiter Species. An outstanding view of a Rusty Blackbird vocalizing was enjoyed. Sadly no owls and no Fox Sparrow were found. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
American Wigeon	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Fish Crow	Field Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Geat 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
Accipiter species	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Winter Wren	Rusty Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	

The morning of **January 18, 2015**, began with heavily overcast skies that quickly developed into annoying drizzle and finally fully developed showers. In spite of the predicted bad weather ten hardy souls braved part of the morning and were able to identify **36 species**. Those participating included Virginia and George Boyles, Sandy Robertson, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, John Adair, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo and newcomers Lana Bennett and Braxton Allport. A nearly adult Bald Eagle started the morning off. Several duck species were spotted but few passerines were seen on the ground. A search of the Great Horned Owl was unsuccessful and there was speculation that he may have found a different roosting site. The group identified only 32 species before being defeated by the rain. Marc Nichols continued on his own making it to the Swamp Bridge and adding four species to the list--Mute Swan, American Black Duck, Great Egret and Eastern Bluebird--making the total 36. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Turkey Vulture	Carolina Wren
Mute Swan	Bald Eagle	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
American Black Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Ruddy Duck	American Crow	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco

Great Blue Heron
Great Egret

Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch

Northern Cardinal
American Goldfinch

The first HRBC Sunday bird walk of **2015 (January 4)** in Newport News Park was preceded by a gentle warm front that advanced the mercury to about 60 F by 7:00 AM. The front had somehow displaced leader Jane Frigo to a formal count in Matthews County, leaving stalwarts Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Cathy Bond and Tom Charlock to find their own, and initially bird-free, way in a very dense fog. Little more than a few Hooded Mergansers, Ring-billed Gulls and a muskrat could be identified from the shoreline behind the ranger station. Some fields on the disk golf course hosted noisy action by about a hundred Red-winged Blackbirds, most of which were male. A moderate rain shower hit; the wind increased and blew most of the fog away. With a few patches of blue sky then appearing at the Discover Center, the birds finally exploded from hiding; fortunately Bill was there to identify them. Beneath the power line, a big Fox Sparrow cavorted on the grass among a group of Song Sparrows; White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were in the adjacent brush; a Red-headed Woodpecker moved about the trees nearby. We saw an immature Bald Eagle, American Widgeons, Ring-necked Ducks, Gadwalls, Pied-billed Grebes and Mute Swans on the way to the "spawning pond", and enjoyed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the walk back to the lot at around 10:00 AM. **39 species** were observed. (Report by Tom Charlock. Thanks, Tom!)

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Ring-necked Duck
Hooded Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull
Mourning Dove
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird