

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

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

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Tired birders showed up for the **December 21, 2014** Newport News Park Walk. Most attending the morning walk had participated in an all day walk yesterday as a part of the Newport News Audubon Christmas Count. Temperatures stayed in the 30's but winds were calm. The group, which included Sandy Robertson, Bill Ferris, Barbara and Richard Hudgins, Shawn Dash, Pete Peterman, Tom Charlock, John Adair, Jane Frigo and newcomers Amy Thornberry and Dennis Ciampa, identified **50 species**. Large groups of Hooded Mergansers were impressive. Multiple Mute Swans were also seen. Although a Fox Sparrow was spotted, the sighting was not nearly as good as the one at the last walk. Sadly no owls were spotted again. The group did not make the walk to the Swamp Bridge but ended at the Spawning Pond. A sparrow was spotted that was thought to be a Swamp Sparrow but more probably was a Song Sparrow. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Belted Kingfisher        | Eastern Bluebird       |
| Mute Swan                | Red-headed Woodpecker    | Hermit Thrush          |
| Gadwall                  | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | American Robin         |
| American Wigeon          | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Northern Mockingbird   |
| American Black Duck      | Downy Woodpecker         | Brown Thrasher         |
| Mallard                  | Northern Flicker         | Cedar Waxwing          |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Pileated Woodpecker      | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Hooded Merganser         | Blue Jay                 | Eastern Towhee         |
| Ruddy Duck               | American Crow            | Field Sparrow          |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Carolina Chickadee       | Fox Sparrow            |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Tufted Titmouse          | Song/Swamp Sparrow     |
| Great Blue Heron         | White-breasted Nuthatch  | White-throated Sparrow |
| Black Vulture            | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Turkey Vulture           | Carolina Wren            | Northern Cardinal      |
| Bald Eagle               | Winter Wren              | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Ring-billed Gull         | Golden-crowned Kinglet   | American Goldfinch     |
| Mourning Dove            | Ruby-crowned Kinglet     |                        |

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**December 7, 2014** was cold and very windy. Temperatures stayed in the 40's but skies gradually cleared making the morning at Newport News Park very enjoyable. Those participating in the walk included Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Anthony Nixon, Stuart Sweetman, Pete Peterman, Marc Nichols, Mike Lowry, Betsy Garrett, Bettye Fields, Sandy DiCarlo, Jane Frigo and newcomer Yvonne French. The group identified **52 species** over the morning. Highlights included a very cooperative Fox Sparrow at the Discovery Center and a pair of Bald Eagles engaged in talon grabbing! Young Red-headed Woodpeckers were out, along with Red-bellied, Pileated, Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker but no Downy could be found! Anthony Nixon had photographed and American Bittern at the Swamp Bridge on Friday but the bird could not be found there today. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | American Coot            | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Mute Swan                | Ring-billed Gull         | Eastern Bluebird       |
| Wood Duck                | Rock Pigeon              | Hermit Thrush          |
| Gadwall                  | Mourning Dove            | American Robin         |
| American Black Duck      | Red-headed Woodpecker    | Northern Mockingbird   |
| Mallard                  | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Eastern Towhee         |
| Hooded Merganser         | Northern Flicker         | Field Sparrow          |
| Ruddy Duck               | Pileated Woodpecker      | Fox Sparrow            |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Blue Jay                 | Song Sparrow           |
| Double-crested Cormorant | American Crow            | Swamp Sparrow          |

Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk

Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren

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

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Today's walk was much more comfortable than the previous one. **November 16, 2014** was chilly, temperature 40-low 50's, but winds were calm. Rock Moelsein, Stuart Sweeman, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Jane Frigo, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Shawn and Katrina Dash and newcomers Madeline Vann and Sarah Sumoski spent the morning identifying **57 species**. More ducks had arrived including Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser and Ruddy Duck. Other FOS included Brown Creeper and Winter Wren. Both Laughing and Ring-billed Gull were spotted. Woodpeckers were well represented with only the Hairy missing. Five sparrow were seen--Chipping, Savannah, Song, Swamp and White-throated. Sadly, no owls were spotted. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Hooded Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Laughing Gull

Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Winter Wren  
Golden crowned Kinglet

Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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A nor'easter moved through bringing nasty weather for the **November 2, 2014** Newport News Park Walk. Sleet and drizzle accompanied by 25 mph winds challenged the morning's participants which included Richard Hudgins, Stuart Sweetman, Jason Strickland, Anthony Nixon, newcomer Barb Bucklin, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair, and Ned and Becky Rose. The group called it quits by 10 AM. Large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Dark-eyed Juncos were seen and several Bald Eagles battled the elements. FOS included American Wigeon, American Coot and Brown Creeper. Most other birds and even ducks tried to find shelter. **37 species** were identified. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
American Wigeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
American Coot  
Killdeer

Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren

Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
Brown Thrasher  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brown-headed Cowbird

**October 19, 2014** was cool, windy and partly cloudy. Temperatures barely reached the sixties. The sun had not risen when the walk began and neither had the birds. As the morning progressed things did pick up. Pete Peterman, Stuart Sweetman, Anthony Nixon, Shawn Dash, Mike Lowry, Marc Nichols, Hannah Montalvo, Jane Frigo, and Ned and Becky Rose identified 57 species over the morning. First of season sightings included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Ducks were hard to find with only two Ruddy Ducks and Pied-billed Grebe joining the resident Mallard and Black Duck. Even gulls were absent until three Laughing Gulls were spotted on the pipeline on the way out of the park. A rare Merlin was seen. By far the best sighting was of a very cooperative Barred Owl spotted along the walk to the Swamp Bridge. **57 species** were identified.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Red-headed Woodpecker    | Swainson's Thrush      |
| Mute Swan                | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | American Robin         |
| American Black Duck      | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Gray Catbird           |
| Mallard                  | Downy Woodpecker         | Northern Mockingbird   |
| Ruddy Duck               | Northern Flicker         | Brown Thrasher         |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Eastern Phoebe           | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Blue Jay                 | American Redstart      |
| Great Blue Heron         | American Crow            | Pine Warbler           |
| Black Vulture            | Tree Swallow             | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Turkey Vulture           | Carolina Chickadee       | Eastern Towhee         |
| Osprey                   | Tufted Titmouse          | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Bald Eagle               | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Field Sparrow          |
| Cooper's Hawk            | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Carolina Wren            | White-throated Sparrow |
| Merlin                   | House Wren               | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Laughing Gull            | Winter Wren              | Northern Cardinal      |
| Mourning Dove            | Golden-crowned Kinglet   | Common Grackle         |
| Barred Owl               | Ruby-crowned Kinglet     | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Belted Kingfisher        | Eastern Bluebird         | House Finch            |

Because the Fall Festival is always held at Newport News Park on the first weekend in October, the regular bird walk met on **October 5, 2014**, at the Campground. The morning was beautiful but a bit chilly. Temperature's began in the low 50's and, in spite of the brilliant blue skies, never made it out of the 60's. Those braving the chilly temperatures included Ned and Becky Rose, Shawn and Katrina Dash, Angelina and Phil Bogart, Pete Peterman, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Stuart Sweetman, Adam Bolinger, Jason Strickland, Bill Boeh, Jane Frigo and newcomers Jessica Biersach and Jeff Honig. The group identified **47 species** including two different Thrush--one a possible Gray-cheeked the other a possible Swainson's. Warblers included Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Pine, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green. Three Vireo species were seen: Red-eyed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated. Two late season spots were a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and an Indigo Bunting. A FOS Swamp Sparrow was also seen. A complete species list and photos by Bill Boeh are shown below.

|                          |                         |                              |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mallard                  | Eastern Wood-Pewee      | Brown Thrasher               |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Eastern Phoebe          | Black-and-white Warbler      |
| Turkey Vulture           | White-eyed Vireo        | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Osprey                   | Yellow-throated Vireo   | Northern Parula              |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk       | Red-eyed Vireo          | Magnolia Warbler             |
| Cooper's Hawk            | Blue Jay                | Black-throated Blue Warbler  |
| Red-shouldered Hawk      | Tree Swallow            | Pine Warbler                 |
| Laughing Gull            | Carolina Chickadee      | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Mourning Dove            | Tufted Titmouse         | Eastern Towhee               |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo     | White-breasted Nuthatch | Field Sparrow                |
| Chimney Swift            | Carolina Wren           | Swamp Sparrow                |
| Red-headed Woodpecker    | Eastern Bluebird        | Northern Cardinal            |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | Gray-cheeked Thrush     | Indigo Bunting               |
| Downy Woodpecker         | Swainson's Thrush       | Common Grackle               |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | American Robin          | American Goldfinch           |
| Northern Flicker         | Gray Catbird            |                              |



Eastern Wood Peewee



Juvenile Osprey



Field Sparrow



Hairy Woodpecker

Rain threatened to cancel the **September 21, 2014** walk in Newport News Park but fortunately never materialized. Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Rock Moeslein, Jason Strickland, Bill Ferris, Anthony Nixon, Adam Bolinger, Jane Frigo, Phyllis and Paul Roth, Gwen and Watler Harris, John and Marilyn Adair and newcomers Rich Decker, and Shawn and Katrina Dash identified **55 species** for the morning. Heavy cloud cover made early sightings difficult but as the morning cleared the birds came out too! Green Herons, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Red-eyed Vireos were still around. Mature adult American Redstarts and "yellowstarts" were actively working the trees. Other notable sightings included a Greater Yellowlegs and White-eyed Vireo! Please note that because of the Fall Festival, the next park walk, October 5, will meet at the campground parking lot. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                           |                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Mourning Dove             | Carolina Wren               |
| Mute Swan                | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | House Wren                  |
| Wood Duck                | Belted Kingfisher         | Eastern Bluebird            |
| American Black Duck      | Red-headed Woodpecker     | unidentified Thrush species |
| Mallard                  | Red-bellied Woodpecker    | American Robin              |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Downy Woodpecker          | Gray Catbird                |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Northern Flicker          | Northern Mockingbird        |
| Great Blue Heron         | Pileated Woodpecker       | Brown Thrasher              |
| Great Egret              | Eastern Wood-pewee        | Black-and-white Warbler     |
| Green Heron              | Great Crested Flycatcher  | Common Yellowthroat         |
| Black Vulture            | White-eyed Vireo          | American Redstart           |
| Turkey Vulture           | Red-eyed Vireo            | Pine Warbler                |
| Osprey                   | Blue Jay                  | Chipping Sparrow            |
| Bald Eagle               | American Crow             | Summer Tanager              |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Tree Swallow              | Northern Cardinal           |
| Killdeer                 | Carolina Chickadee        | Common Grackle              |
| Greater Yellowlegs       | Tufted Titmouse           |                             |

Laughing Gull  
Caspian Tern

White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch

House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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Rain threatened to cancel the **September 7, 2014** park walk but never materialized. Becky and Ned Rose, Virginia and George Boyles, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, John and Marilyn Adair, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, Jason Strickland, Anthony Nixon, Rock Moeslein, Joyce Lowry, Marc Nichols, Angie Herring, Jane Frigo and newcomer Michele Clayton were able to identify **49 species** for the morning. A pair of Caspian Terns put on a show fishing. Red-headed Woodpeckers were still busy at the Discovery Center power poles. Summer residents still around included Summer Tanager, Green Heron, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. No Canada Geese were spotted! As for non-bird sightings worthy of mention...a LARGE cottonmouth snake was seen under the Swamp Bridge along with an interesting large school of small catfish lined up in formation. A complete species list follows.

Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Laughing Gull  
Caspian Tern

Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Pine Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Summer Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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**August 17, 2014** was hot and humid. Winds were calm and the birds were quiet. Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, John Adair, Stuart Sweetman, Jason Strickland, Adam Bolinger, Virginia Boyles, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Jamie Strickland, Michelle Shinn, Jane Frigo and Mike and Emili Finn participated in the morning walk and were able to identify **52 species**. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were very interested in the power poles at the Discovery Center. Warbler sightings included Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Pine, Yellow-throated, and a surprise Yellow-breasted Chat. The Chat was spotted at the Swamp Bridge near the golf course. The Great Horned Owl could not be found but on the return walk from the Swamp Bridge a Barred Owl was spotted between the path and the golf course. What a treat! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Mallard  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Laughing Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Barred Owl  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker

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

American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Chipping Sparrow  
Summer Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker

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**August 3, 2014** was calm and humid. Although temperatures stayed in the 70's, it felt uncomfortable. Bryan Barmore, Tom Charlock, Sandy DiCarlo, Marc Nichols, Angie Herring, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, and Mike and Lindsey Lowry identified **56 species** for the morning. For the most part the birds were quiet as would be expected during the "dog days of summer." The five birds "heard only" were Wood Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird and Indigo Bunting. Osprey were everywhere with at least five seen at one time. A young Red-shouldered Hawk gave quite a show at the stable meadow. He appeared to be hunting--dipping into the grass and coming up with something in his talons, then dropping down into the grass again, then up to the fence railing, then down to the ground again and so on. A pair of Belted Kingfishers also were entertaining doing their helicopter hover. Sadly no warblers were seen or heard. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                           |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Chimney Swift             | Tufted Titmouse         |
| Mute Swan                | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Wood Duck                | Belted Kingfisher         | Brown-headed Nuthatch   |
| Mallard                  | Red-bellied Woodpecker    | Carolina Wren           |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Downy Woodpecker          | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   |
| Great Blue Heron         | Hairy Woodpecker          | Eastern Bluebird        |
| Great Egret              | Northern Flicker          | American Robin          |
| Green Heron              | Pileated Woodpecker       | Gray Catbird            |
| Turkey Vulture           | Eastern Wood-Pewee        | Northern Mockingbird    |
| Osprey                   | Acadian Flycatcher        | Brown Thrasher          |
| Cooper's Hawk            | Great Crested Flycatcher  | European Starling       |
| Red-shouldered Hawk      | Eastern Kingbird          | Chipping Sparrow        |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Red-eyed Vireo            | Summer Tanager          |
| Spotted Sandpiper        | Blue Jay                  | Northern Cardinal       |
| Laughing Gull            | American Crow             | Indigo Bunting          |
| Royal Tern               | Fish Crow                 | Common Grackle          |
| Mourning Dove            | Purple Martin             | House Finch             |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo     | Tree Swallow              | American Goldfinch      |
| Great Horned Owl         | Carolina Chickadee        |                         |

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The morning of **July 20, 2014** was pleasant, mid 70's and not too humid. Those coming out to enjoy the morning included Mike Jones, Virginia Boyles, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo, Bill and Anne Boeh and Barbara and Richard Hudgins. **60 species** were identified plus one unidentified accipiter. A Royal Tern was working the reservoir. The Wood Ducks and ducklings were spotted again along with Mute Swans and signets. A Great Horned Owl was spotted, but not the usual adult seen at the Arboretum. Instead a juvenile, perched on a dead tree near the pipeline, was seen. He appeared to still have some of the downy, light colored feathers on his head. The Red-headed Woodpeckers have returned. Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were spotted at the Swamp Bridge. There was also an excellent sighting of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Also, a Red-shouldered Hawk soaring lazily gave the group an opportunity to review field guides for identification. A complete species list follows.

|                     |                           |                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose        | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Tufted Titmouse         |
| Mute Swan           | Belted Kingfisher         | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Wood Duck           | Red-headed Woodpecker     | Brown-headed Nuthatch   |
| American Black Duck | Red-bellied Woodpecker    | Carolina Wren           |
| Mallard             | Downy Woodpecker          | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   |
| Great Blue Heron    | Hairy Woodpecker          | Eastern Bluebird        |
| Great Egret         | Northern Flicker          | American Robin          |
| Green Heron         | Pileated Woodpecker       | Northern Mockingbird    |
| Black Vulture       | Eastern Wood-Pewee        | Brown Thrasher          |
| Turkey Vulture      | Acadian Flycatcher        | Prothonotary Warbler    |
| Osprey              | Great Crested Flycatcher  | Chipping Sparrow        |
| Bald Eagle          | Eastern Kingbird          | Summer Tanager          |

|                      |                         |                      |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Accipiter species    | Red-eyed Vireo          | Northern Cardinal    |
| Red-shouldered Hawk  | Blue Jay                | Blue Grosbeak        |
| Killdeer             | American Crow           | Indigo Bunting       |
| Laughing Gull        | Fish Crow               | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Royal Tern           | Purple Martin           | Common Grackle       |
| Mourning Dove        | Tree Swallow            | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | N. Rough-winged Swallow | Orchard Oriole       |
| Great Horned Owl     | Carolina Chickadee      | House Finch          |
|                      |                         | American Goldfinch   |

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Summer has definitely arrived! It was a beautiful day at the park on **July 6, 2014**, and 21 people participated in at least part of the morning's walk. They included Tom Charlock, John Steinbach, Sandy Robertson, Andy Bolinger, Jason Strickland, Bill Ferris, Anthony Nixon, Stuart Sweetman, Richard Hudgins, Angie Herring, Marc Nichols, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair, Lindsey and Mike Lowry, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, and Angelina and Phil Bogart. **60 species** were identified and one coyote was spotted! Mute Swans with signets were seen. The Great Horned Owl put in an appearance before flying off. Brown Thrashers were busy with young. The most outstanding sighting for the morning was a Yellow-throated Warbler across from the Discovery Center spotted by Angie Herring. What a treat to see it working for breakfast. A complete species list follows.

|                        |                          |                         |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose           | Eastern Wood-Pewee       | Northern Mockingbird    |
| Mute Swan              | Acadian Flycatcher       | Brown Thrasher          |
| Mallard                | Great Crested Flycatcher | European Starling       |
| Great Blue Heron       | Eastern Kingbird         | Louisiana Waterthrush   |
| Great Egret            | Red-eyed Vireo           | Prothonotary Warber     |
| Green Heron            | Blue Jay                 | Common Yellowthroat     |
| Black Vulture          | American Crow            | Pine Warbler            |
| Turkey Vulture         | Fish Crow                | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Osprey                 | Purple Martin            | Chipping Sparrow        |
| Bald Eagle             | N. Rough-winged Swallow  | Summer Tanager          |
| Laughing Gull          | Barn Swallow             | Scarlet Tanager         |
| Royal Tern             | Carolina Chickadee       | Northern Cardinal       |
| Mourning Dove          | Tufted Titmouse          | Indigo Bunting          |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo   | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Blue Grosbeak           |
| Great Horned Owl       | Carolina Wren            | Red-winged Blackbird    |
| Red-headed Woodpecker  | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | Common Grackle          |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Eastern Bluebird         | Brown-headed Cowbird    |
| Downy Woodpecker       | Wood Thrush              | Orchard Oriole          |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | American Robin           | House Finch             |
| Northern Flicker       | Gray Catbird             | American Goldfinch      |

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Happy Father's Day! **June 15, 2014** was beautiful with clear skies and warm temperatures--70's-80's. Gwen and Walter Harris, Mary and Greg Harrington, Sandy Robertson, Mike Lowry, Virginia Boyles, Eileen O'Toole, Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Jason Strickland, Adam Bolinger, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo spent the morning bird watching. They identified **62 species** for the morning. A male Scarlet Tanager was observed at length by the first bridge. The Great Horned Owl was also seen in the Arboretum on his favorite resting spot. At the Discovery Center a group of noisy Brown Thrashers had the groups attention when a Red-tailed Hawk was spotted perched at the edge of the path just above eye level. He was quite calm and ignored the noise around him. The group enjoyed the great view of his plumage and talons. Close-up photo's showed blood around his neck area. The group wondered if it was from dinner or an injury. Some time was spent trying to get a good photo of a very active Louisiana Waterthrush. At the very end of the walk a nest was spotted near ground level in a rotten tree. One egg was visible. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                        |                       |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Red-headed Woodpecker  | Northern Mockingbird  |
| Mute Swan                | Red-bellied Woodpecker | Brown Thrasher        |
| Wood Duck                | Downy Woodpecker       | Cedar Waxwing         |
| Mallard                  | Pileated Wopodpecker   | Ovenbird              |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Eastern Wood-Pewee     | Louisiana Waterthrush |

|                      |                          |                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Great Blue Heron     | Acadian Flycatcher       | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Great Egret          | Great Crested Flycatcher | Northern Parula      |
| Green Heron          | Eastern Kingbird         | Pine Warbler         |
| Black Vulture        | Yellow-throated Vireo    | Chipping Sparrow     |
| Turkey Vulture       | Red-eyed Vireo           | Field Sparrow        |
| Osprey               | Blue Jay                 | Summer Tanager       |
| Bald Eagle           | American Crow            | Scarlet Tanager      |
| Red-shouldered Hawk  | Fish Crow                | Northern Cardinal    |
| Red-tailed Hawk      | Carolina Chickadee       | Indigo Bunting       |
| Killdeer             | Tufted Titmouse          | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Laughing Gull        | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Common Grackle       |
| Royal Tern           | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Mourning Dove        | Carolina Wren            | Orchard Oriole       |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | House Finch          |
| Great Horned Owl     | Eastern Bluebird         | American Goldfinch   |
| Belted Kingfisher    | American Robin           |                      |

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**June 1, 2014** was another beautiful day at Newport News Park. Skies were clear and calm and a comfortable 60-70 degrees. The only regret was that the migration push appeared to be over. Participants included Cheryl and Dave Walberg, Jo Anne and Dale McPherson, Virginia and George Boyles, John Adair, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Sandy Graham, Rich Knorowski, Sandy Robertson, Judy Remsberg, Sandy DiCarlo, Marc Nichols, Angie Herring, Andy Hawkins and Jane Frigo. They identified **62 species**. Highlights for the morning included a lone Ruddy Duck on the reservoir and a Yellow-throated Vireo photographed by Andy Hawkins at the Discovery Center. Rechecking the previous walks Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests revealed the Swamp Bridge nest destroyed but the Spawning Pond Bridge nest intact and parents apparently feeding young. Also at the Spawning Pond Bridge a lone female Wood Duck was seen being followed by a flotilla of at least 16 ducklings! A complete species list follows.

|                           |                          |                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Wood Duck                 | Belted Kingfisher        | Eastern Bluebird     |
| Mallard                   | Red-headed Woodpecker    | American Robin       |
| Ruddy Duck                | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | Gray Catbird         |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Downy Woodpecker         | Northern Mockingbird |
| Great Blue Heron          | Pileated Woodpecker      | Brown Thrasher       |
| Great Egret               | Eastern Wood-Pewee       | Cedar Waxwing        |
| Green Heron               | Acadian Flycatcher       | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Black Vulture             | Great Crested Flycatcher | Northern Parula      |
| Turkey Vulture            | Yellow-throated Vireo    | Pine Warbler         |
| Osprey                    | Red-eyed Vireo           | Chipping Sparrow     |
| Bald Eagle                | Blue Jay                 | Summer Tanager       |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | American Crow            | Northern Cardinal    |
| Killdeer                  | Fish Crow                | Blue Grosbeak        |
| Laughing Gull             | Tree Swallow             | Indigo Bunting       |
| Royal Tern                | N. Rough-winged Swallow  | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Rock Pigeon               | Carolina Chickadee       | Common Grackle       |
| Mourning Dove             | Tufted Titmouse          | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Orchard Oriole       |
| Great Horned Owl          | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | House Finch          |
| Chimney Swift             | Carolina Wren            | American Goldfinch   |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    |                      |

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There was a large turn out for the **May 18, 2014** bird walk at Newport News Park. Those participating included Becky Holliday, Stuart Sweetman, Sally Goessel, Cheryl Jacobson, Rhonda Graves, Ellen Coleman, Sandy Robertson, Mike Lowry, Bill Boeh, Eileen O'Toole, Geoff Giles, Bettye Fields, Pete Peterman, Ben Dukes, Richard Hudgins, Mary Harrington, Jane Frigo, Peter and Kathy Coen, John and Marilyn Adair and Ned and Becky Rose. Skies were partly cloudy and the temperature stayed in the 60's with an occasional chilly breeze. The first part of the walk was rather quiet but the birds seemed to wake up as the morning progressed. The group was thrilled to see the return of the Red-headed



Woodpeckers. Blackpoll Warblers were still singing but will probably move on by the next walk. A male Blue Grosbeak put on a show at the Discovery Center. A nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed just off the Swamp Bridge. What an amazing nest he builds with lichen so abundant in the swamp. The group did not see the Mute Swans but other hikers said they were seen along with several signets. **68 species** were recorded. A complete list follows.

|                           |                          |                             |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canada Goose              | Northern Flicker         | Northern Mockingbird        |
| Wood Duck                 | Pileated Woodpecker      | Brown Thrasher              |
| Mallard                   | Eastern Wood-Pewee       | European Starling           |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Acadian Flycatcher       | Cedar Waxwing               |
| Great Blue Heron          | Great Crested Flycatcher | Prothonotary Warbler        |
| Great Egret               | Eastern Kingbird         | Common Yellowthroat         |
| Green Heron               | Red-eyed Vireo           | American Redstart           |
| Black Vulture             | Blue Jay                 | Northern Parula             |
| Turkey Vulture            | American Crow            | Blackpoll Warbler           |
| Osprey                    | Fish Crow                | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| Bald Eagle                | Purple Martin            | Pine Warbler                |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Tree Swallow             | Chipping Sparrow            |
| Killdeer                  | N. Rough-winged Swallow  | Summer Tanager              |
| Laughing Gull             | Barn Swallow             | Northern Cardinal           |
| Caspian Tern              | Carolina Chickadee       | Blue Grosbeak               |
| Royal Tern                | Tufted Titmouse          | Indigo Bunting              |
| Rock Pigeon               | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Red-winged Blackbird        |
| Mourning Dove             | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Common Grackle              |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Carolina Wren            | Brown-headed Cowbird        |
| Red-headed Woodpecker     | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | Orchard Oriole              |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker    | Eastern Bluebird         | House Finch                 |
| Downy Woodpecker          | Swainson's Thrush        | American Goldfinch          |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | American Robin           |                             |

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What a perfect day for a bird walk! On **May 3, 2014** the skies were clear, winds calm, and the temperature rising from the mid 50's to the upper 70's. Pete and Charm Peterman, Frank and Linda Schaff, Brian and Abigail Day, Bill Ferris, Mike Lowry, Laura Marlowe, Stuart Sweetman, Loye Spencer, Eileen O'Toole, Richard Hudgins, Tony Penza, Jason Strickland, Adam Bolinger and Jane Frigo spent the morning looking for warblers and other migrants. Special jewels included Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green. Other outstanding birds included both tanagers, Royal and Caspian Terns, Yellow and Red-eyed Vireo. Three snake species were also spotted (banded water snake, black racer and cottonmouth). A list of the **74 species** follows.

|                           |                          |                              |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Canada Goose              | Acadian Flycatcher       | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Mallard                   | Great Crested Flycatcher | Hooded Warbler               |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Eastern Kingbird         | Northern Parula              |
| Great Blue Heron          | Yellow-throated Vireo    | Magnolia Warbler             |
| Great Egret               | Red-eyed Vireo           | Chestnut-sided Warbler       |
| Green Heron               | Blue Jay                 | Blackpoll Warbler            |
| Black Vulture             | American Crow            | Black-throated Blue Warbler  |
| Turkey Vulture            | Fish Crow                | Pine Warbler                 |
| Osprey                    | Barn Swallow             | Yellow-rumped Warbler        |
| Bald Eagle                | Carolina Chickadee       | Prairie Warbler              |
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | Tufted Titmouse          | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Killdeer                  | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Eastern Towhee               |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Chipping Sparrow             |
| Laughing Gull             | Carolina Wren            | White-throated Sparrow       |
| Ring-billed Gull          | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | Summer Tanager               |
| Caspian Tern              | Eastern Bluebird         | Scarlet Tanager              |
| Royal Tern                | American Robin           | Northern Cardinal            |
| Mourning Dove             | Gray Catbird             | Indigo Bunting               |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | Northern Mockingbird     | Red-winged Blackbird         |
| Great Horned Owl          | Brown Thrasher           | Common Grackle               |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | European Starling        | Brown-headed Cowbird         |

Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee

Cedar Waxwing  
Ovenbird  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler

Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
American Goldfinch

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Easter Sunday, **April 20, 2014**, began with clear skies, temperature in the 50's and winds 20 mph. Marilyn and John Adair, Sandy Robertson, Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Sandy DiCarlo, Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock, Angie Herring, Cathy Bond and Jane Frigo battled the winds but were rewarded with an marvelous sighting of a Prothonotary Warbler singing his heart out and declaring his territory near the Spawning Pond. A pair of Northern Flickers were spotted cleaning out an old woodpecker hole. The group will keep an eye on the nesting progression. The pipeline provided a great perching spot for four species--Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Royal Tern and Double-crested Cormorant. Near the Swamp Bridge a Mute Swan was spotted scooping nest material around herself. White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were still around and a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen. Also, a lone Gadwall was spotted beyond the Swamp Bridge. Sadly, no owls were seen. A complete list of **60 species** follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Common Goldeneye (3 flyover)  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Killdeer  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Royal Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Cedar Waxwing  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Northern Parula  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch

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Spring was in the air on **April 6, 2014** and Newport News Park was buzzing with activity. A large group, numbering 26, assembled to search for birds. Participants included Gwen and Walter Harris, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, Pete Peterman, Stuart Sweetman, Sandy Robertson, Libby Carmines, Tom Charlock, Jason Strickland, Eileen O'Toole, Richard Hudgins, Geoff Giles, Cathy Bond, Jane Frigo, Tim Blevins, Loye Spencer, Kelly Haulsee, Suzanne Masten, Ed Quaintance, Felicia L. Mason and Ben Dukes. The morning was clear with temperatures rising from the forties to the lower fifties. Several "first of season" birds included Green Heron, Chimney Swift, Barn Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Palm Warbler and a beautiful Yellow-throated Warbler. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was singing in the holly tree in the Ranger Station parking lot. What a beautiful performance! Ducks appeared to have moved out with only two American Wigeon remaining. The Red-necked Grebe was still present. In spite of a large Disc Golf tournament being held throughout the Arboretum, the group was able to spot the resident Great Horned Owl near the Japanese Teahouse. Winter species that may have left were Winter Wren and Brown Creeper. **64 species** were noted.

Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
American Wigeon  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Red-necked Grebe

Chimney Swift  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker

Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Palm Warbler

|                          |                         |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Double-crested Cormorant | Pileated Woodpecker     | Pine Warbler            |
| Great Blue Heron         | Eastern Phoebee         | Yellow-rumped Warbler   |
| Great Egret              | Blue Jay                | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Green Heron              | American Crow           | Prairie Warbler         |
| Black Vulture            | Fish Crow               | Eastern Towhee          |
| Turkey Vulture           | Purple Martin           | Field Sparrow           |
| Osprey                   | Tree Swallow            | Fox Sparrow             |
| Bald Eagle               | N. Rough-winged Swallow | Song Sparrow            |
| Northern Harrier         | Barn Swallow            | White-throated Sparrow  |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Carolina Chickadee      | Dark-eyed Junco'        |
| Killdeer                 | Tufted Titmouse         | Northern Cardinal       |
| Ring-billed Gull         | White-breasted Nuthatch | Red-winged Blackbird    |
| Royal Tern               | Carolina Wren           | Brown-headed Cowbird    |
| Mourning Dove            | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   | House Finch             |
| Great Horned Owl         | Ruby-crowned Kinglet    | American Goldfinch      |

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The return to Daylight Savings Time made for a very dark start to the **March 16, 2014** park walk. The weather was clear but breezy and temperatures stayed in the 40's. Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore, Geoff Giles, Bettye Fields, Marc Nichols, Kohei Mihami, Joyce Lowry, Rock Moeslein, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair and newcomers Willard Waples and Ben Dukes persevered until passing last year's number by 1 to reach **68 species**. Highlights of the morning included a group of Canada Geese sporting leg bands. The bands were silver, some on the right leg and some on the left leg. The only number the group could read was 1148-186. No geese have been banded by Newport News Park rangers. The group wondered where the geese were banded and by what group. Next a pair of Wood Ducks were spotted high in the trees near the playground. After walking the branches they finally flew and landed in the water by the foot bridge next to the Ranger parking lot. John Adair got outstanding pictures of the usually elusive pair. The morning continued to provide surprises with FOS Rough-winged Swallows spotted among the Tree Swallows, a flyover of about 100 Tundra Swans spotted by Marc Nichols, a FOS Osprey and finally a good look at two Red-necked Grebes. The grebes have been thought to be in the area because of the abnormally cold winter and frozen Great Lakes. Marc Nichols also spotted a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers at the Spawning Pond. It was good to know they are still in the area. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Rock Pigeon              | Ruby-crowned Kinglet   |
| Mute Swan                | Mourning Dove            | Eastern Bluebird       |
| Tundra Swan              | Great Horned 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                  | Downy Woodpecker         | Cedar Waxwing          |
| Redhead                  | Hairy Woodpecker         | Pine Warbler           |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Northern Flicker         | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Lesser Scaup             | Pileated Woodpecker      | Eastern Towhee         |
| Common Loon              | Blue Jay                 | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | American Crow            | Field Sparrow          |
| Red-necked Grebe         | Fish Crow                | Song Sparrow           |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Tree Swallow             | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Great Blue Heron         | N. Rough-winged Swallow  | White-throated Sparrow |
| Great Egret              | Carolina Chickadee       | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Black Vulture            | Tufted Titmouse          | Northern Cardinal      |
| Turkey Vulture           | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Osprey                   | Brown Creeper            | Common Grackle         |
| Bald Eagle               | Carolina Wren            | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Killdeer                 | Winter Wren              | American Goldfinch     |
| Ring-billed Gull         | Golden-crowned Kinglet   |                        |

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Spring was in the air at the **March 2, 2014** Newport News Park Walk. The morning began a bit chilly but warmed up nicely. Skies were clear and winds were calm. Fifteen people participated in the morning walk and included Virginia and George Boyles, Charm and Pete Peterman, Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Mike Lowry, Joyce Lowry, Sandy DiCarlo, Angie Herring, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo and newcomers Bill Boeh and Kim Wassink. The group identified **60 species** including FOS Tree Swallow, Pine Warbler, and rare Northern Harrier. The lone Red-breasted Nuthatch heard earlier this year was finally spotted.. The Great Horned Owl was sleeping in the Arboretum and always a delight to see. Still no Red-headed Woodpeckers. Looks like there will be no Tundra swans for this winter, either. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Rock Pigeon              | Winter Wren            |
| Mute Swan                | Mourning Dove            | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Gadwall                  | Great Horned Owl         | Eastern Bluebird       |
| American Wigeon          | Belted Kingfisher        | Hermit Thrush          |
| American Black Duck      | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | American Robin         |
| Mallard                  | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Northern Mockingbird   |
| Northern Pintail         | Downy Woodpecker         | Brown Thrasher         |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Hairy Woodpecker         | European Starling      |
| Hooded Merganser         | Northern Flicker         | Cedar Waxwing          |
| Ruddy Duck               | Blue Jay                 | Pine Warbler           |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | American Crow            | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Fish Crow                | Eastern Towhee         |
| Great Blue Heron         | Tree Swallow             | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Great Egret              | Carolina Chickadee       | Field Sparrow          |
| Black Vulture            | Tufted Titmouse          | Song Sparrow           |
| Turkey Vulture           | Red-breasted Nuthatch    | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Bald Eagle               | White-breasted Nuthatch  | White-throated Sparrow |
| Northern Harrier         | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Brown Creeper            | Northern Cardinal      |
| Ring-billed Gull         | Carolina Wren            | Red-winged Blackbird   |

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**February 16, 2014** was cold (28 degrees rising to the low 40's) but clear and very calm. A small group of enthusiasts participated in the morning walk and included Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Kohei Minami, Jane Frigo and newcomer Della Carrico. The group identified **58 species** for the morning. A lone NORTHERN PINTAIL was seen among a group of Mallards. A single CANVASBACK was also spotted. None of the Redhead from the previous walk could be found. Three Bald Eagles (one adult and two immature) were spotted. The GREAT HORNED OWL was found at the Arboretum--always a thrill for oldtimers and newcomers. Although Ring-necked Ducks were abundant, the white-headed female was not seen. Ice from the previous week's cold spell lingered along the shoreline and made for some unusual sound effects. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Killdeer                 | Carolina Wren          |
| Mute Swan                | Ring-billed Gull         | Winter Wren            |
| Gadwall                  | Rock Pigeon              | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| American Wigeon          | Mourning Dove            | Eastern Bluebird       |
| American Black Duck      | Great Horned Owl         | Hermit Thrush          |
| Mallard                  | Belted Kingfisher        | American Robin         |
| Northern Pintail         | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | Northern Mockingbird   |
| Canvasback               | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | BROWN THASHER          |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Downy Woodpecker         | Cedar Waxwing          |
| Lesser Scaup             | Hairy Woodpecker         | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Hooded Merganser         | Northern Flicker         | Eastern Towhee         |
| Ruddy Duck               | Pileated Woodpecker      | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Blue Jay                 | Song Sparrow           |
| Great Blue Heron         | American Crow            | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Great Egret              | Fish Crow                | White-throated Sparrow |
| Turkey Vulture           | Carolina Chickadee       | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Bald Eagle               | Tufted Titmouse          | Northern Cardinal      |
| Cooper's Hawk            | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Brown Creeper            |                        |

Common Grackle  
American Goldfinch

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The last week's snow and ice storm left Newport News Park muddy, but navigable. Thick ice still bordered much of the shore and fog lingered in the early part of the **February 2, 2014** park walk. Skies later cleared and temperature's remained in the forties. Fifteen people participated in the morning adventure and included Charm and Pete Peterman, Virginia and George Boyles, Dave Youker, Adam Bolinger, Jason Strickland, Richard Hudgins, Sandy Robertson, Judy Jones, Bill Ferris, Rock Moeslein, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo. **64 species** were identified plus one unidentifiable buteo. Owls and Red-headed Woodpeckers were missed again, but ducks were abundant including the lone female Bufflehead from the last walk, a white-headed female Ring-necked Duck and a group of over 20 Redheads. Marc Nichols spotted a flock of American Pipits on the field by the Discovery Center but the birds were gone by the time the rest of the group arrived. Better luck next time. A complete species list follows.

|                          |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | American Coot            | Hermit Thrush          |
| Mute Swan                | Killdeer                 | American Robin         |
| Gadwall                  | Ring-billed Gull         | Northern Mockingbird   |
| American Wigeon          | Mourning Dove            | Brown Thrasher         |
| American Black Duck      | Belted Kingfisher        | European Starling      |
| Mallard                  | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | American Pipit         |
| Redhead                  | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Cedar Waxwing          |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Downy Woodpecker         | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Lesser Scaup             | Hairy Woodpecker         | Eastern Towhee         |
| Bufflehead               | Northern Flicker         | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Hooded Merganser         | Pileated Woodpecker      | Field Sparrow          |
| Ruddy Duck               | Blue Jay                 | Song Sparrow           |
| Pied-billed Greabe       | American Crow            | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Carolina Chickadee       | White-throated Sparrow |
| Great Blue Heron         | Tufted Titmouse          | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Great Egret              | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Northern Cardinal      |
| Black Vulture            | Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Turkey Vulture           | Brown Creeper            | Common Grackle         |
| Bald Eagle               | Carolina Wren            | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk       | Winter Wren              | House Finch            |
| Cooper's Hawk            | Golden-crowned Kinglet   | American Goldfinch     |
| Buteo species            | Eastern Bluebird         |                        |

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**January 14, 2014** was clear and cold (the temperature began just above freezing, later warming to near 50 degrees). John and Marilyn Adair, George and Virginia Boyles, Sandy and Tony DiCarlo, Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Stuart Sweetman, Richard Hudgins, Mike Lowry and Jane Frigo identified **55 species** for the morning. The outstanding duck for the morning was a lone female Bufflehead. Mike Lowry captured a photo of it to add to his 130+ record of the park. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard, but not seen, at the Arboretum. Kinglet's provided several excellent displays as did the Winter Wren. The Marsh Wren was spotted at the Swamp Bridge. Sadly, no owl species were seen and still no Tundra Swans. A complete species list follows.

|                     |                          |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose        | Killdeer                 | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Mute Swan           | Ring-billed Gull         | Ruby-crowned Kinglet   |
| Gadwall             | Mourning Dove            | Eastern Bluebird       |
| American Wigeon     | Belted Kingfisher        | Hermit Thrush          |
| American Black Duck | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | American Robin         |
| Mallard             | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Northern Mockingbird   |
| Ring-necked Duck    | Downy Woodpecker         | Brown Thrasher         |
| Lesser Scaup        | Pileated Woodpecker      | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Bufflehead          | Blue Jay                 | Eastern Towhee         |
| Hooded Merganser    | American Crow            | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Ruddy Duck          | Carolina Chickadee       | Song Sparrow           |
| Pied-billed Grebe   | Tufted Titmouse          | Swamp Sparrow          |

Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Marsh Wren

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

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**January 5, 2014** at Newport News Park began with cloudy skies and the temperature near 40 degrees and rising to the mid fifties. Participants in the first walk of the new year included Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, Andy Hawkins, Richard Hudgins, Jason Strickland, Adam Bolinger, Pete Peterman, Cathy Bond, and George and Virginia Boyles. The group was able to identify **56 species** including 7 duck species and 6 woodpecker species. A Merlin provided the highlight for the morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Gadwall  
American Wigeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Hooded Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Merlin  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush

American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Common Yellowthroat  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch