

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).

The last park walk of the year, **December 16, 2012**, began with rain and temperatures in the low 50's. In spite of the dismal weather, Virginia Boyles, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Jane Frigo, James Strickland and newcomer Adam Bollinger donned raincoats and umbrellas to search for some end of the year treats. They were not disappointed. Waiting out the worst of the rain under a picnic shelter, the group was able to spot FOS Tundra Swans, American Wigeon and a Common Loon among the Mallards, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck and Pied-billed Grebe. Red-headed Woodpeckers, both adult and immature, continued to be in abundance. At the pier by the power lines, Mike Lowry was FINALLY able to photograph a Fox Sparrow. Skipping the Arboretum and Stable, the group walked to the Swamp Bridge to see the Eastern Screech Owl and hear the illusive Virginia Rail. Although only **47 species** were identified, the group had a great morning and Mike Lowry added three more species to his list of birds photographed at the park. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Cooper's Hawk	Brown Creeper
Mute Swan	Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren
Tundra Swan	Virginia Rail	Winter Wren
Gadwall	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
American Black Duck	Eastern Screech-Owl	American Robin
Mallard	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Hooded Merganser	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Fox Sparrow
Common Loon	Downy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
Bald Eagle	Red-breasted Nuthatch	

The walk on Sunday, **December 2, 2012**, began with temperatures in the 40/50 degree range with the forecast predicting temperatures to reach the 60's. In spite of the clear, calm conditions, the humidity made it feel bone-chilling. A few hand warmers even had to be pulled out. The discomfort was worth it because **66 species** were identified. including a couple of real treats. Bettye Fields, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Joyce Lowry, Stuart Sweetmen, Judy Rumsfield, Cathy Bond, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Barbara and Richard Hudgins, John and Marilyn Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, Angelina and Phil Bogart, Myles, Spencer and Melinda Quirion, and newcomer Jason Strickland participated in at least part of the morning. Ducks spotted included Greater and Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked and Ruddy, to name a few. Tom Charlock was able to find the Great Horned Owl at the Arboretum. Red-headed Woodpeckers, both adult and immature, were abundant. On the shore near the Discovery Center a small flock of Rusty Blackbirds provided excellent views. The greatest thrill, however, came at end of the morning when Joyce, Marc, Stuart, Jane, Marilyn and John, Myles and Melinda reached the Swamp Bridge. Miles spotting something in a box to the right of the bridge. It was a gray-phase Eastern Screech Owl!!!! Also a first, the group heard, then got a brief view, of a Virginia Rail right near the boardwalk. Can't ask for a better day! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Winter Wren
Mute Swan	Eastern Screech-Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Wood Duck	Great Horned Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
American Black Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush

Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Green-winged Teal	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Greater Scaup	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Lesser Scaup	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Field Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Blue Jay	Fox Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	American Crow	Song Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Swamp Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	White-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Sharp-shinned Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Rusty Blackbird
Virginia Rail	Brown Creeper	Common Grackle
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	Pine Siskin
Ring-billed Gull	House Wren	American Goldfinch

Sunday, **November 18, 2012** at the park was calm and overcast. Temperatures hovered in the 50's. Dave Youker, Mike Lowry, Geoff Giles Cathy Bond, Jane Frigo, George and Virginia Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Phil and Angelina Bogart and newcomers Spencer and Myles Quirion participated in the morning walk. **51 species** were totaled for the morning and included a FOS male Hooded Merganser. Three Killdeer were spotted in the field by the stable area. A House Wren was spotted again at the Discovery Center. Near the small boat dock a Field Sparrow was particularly cooperative. Surprisingly no Yellow-rumps were found--go figure! As always, it was a wonderful morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Killdeer	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Mute Swan	Laughing Gull	Brown Creeper
Wood Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren
Gadwall	Rock Pigeon	House Wren
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ring-necked Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Scaup species	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Hooded Merganser	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Ruddy Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Downy Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Field Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch

The park walk on **November 4, 2012** began under calm, cloudy skies and temperatures in the lower fifties. Daylight Savings Time ended so the morning walk began with adequate light. Tom Charlock, Terri Cuthriel, Geoff Giles, Stuart Sweetman, Rock Moelsin, George Boyles, Judy Rumsfield, Phyllis Roth, Michelle Shinn, Jeremy McLeroy, Jane Frigo, Eileen O'Toole, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, John and Marilyn Adair and Vermont visitor Larry Haugh participated in the morning adventure. All expected winter residents were spotted including Dark-eyed Junco, Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, YB Sapsucker, both Kinglets and White-throated and Swamp Sparrows. Ducks were lacking with Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks and Pied-billed Grebes about all that was seen. A single female Scaup was spotted but no closer ID could be confirmed. No one saw a Canada Goose! Stuart scouted ahead and was able to add Wood Duck, Sharpie and Cooper's Hawk, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Finch and Goldfinch to the group list. No one spotted

an owl or eagle. All totaled, **fifty-five species** were seen at the park. Following the walk some of the group headed over to Phyllis Roth's to see a rare Rufous Hummingbird. The bird was very cooperative and gave those who went excellent views. Hopefully this little jewel will stick around and other birders interested can get over to see it. A complete species list follows.

Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
female Scaup species	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Ruddy Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Red-headed Woodpecker		

What a beautiful fall day **October 21, 2012** was! The reservoir was like glass and reflected the first red and yellow foliage of the season. The temperature was a chilly 55 degrees so light jackets were appreciated. A large group of **26 birders** came to enjoy the morning and included newcomers Walter and Gwen Harris, Stella and Geoff Payne, Jeremy McLeroy along with old-timers Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Bill Ferris, Phyllis Roth, Stuart Sweetman, Geoff Giles, Eileen O'Toole, Rock Moelsin, Joyce Lowry, Elisa Enders, Betsy Garrett, Betty Fields, Judy Andersen, Michelle Shinn, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, and Richard and Barbara Hudgins. For the entire morning the group totaled **57 species**. First of season (FOS) birds included Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Most migrating warblers were gone. but Phyllis Roth spotted a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Red-headed Woodpeckers were abundant, both adult and juvenile providing excellent views. Also, a Hairy Woodpecker showed off a magnificent bill! Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches were seen but no Brown-headed Nuthatches could be located. After a two month absence Northern Mockingbirds were finally seen again. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Ring-necked Duck	Eastern Phoebe	European Starling
Ruddy Duck	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
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Field Sparrow
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Swamp Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Mourning Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		House Finch
Downy Woodpecker		American Goldfinch

Hermit Thrush
American Robin

A major cold front moved through the area overnight bringing chilly, falling temperatures and dark, drizzling skies for the **October 7, 2012**, walk. In spite of the dismal weather, **thirteen birders** braved the elements hoping to see some fall migrants or new winter residents. They were not disappointed. Elisa Enders, Tom Charlock, Nick Flanders, John Adair, Mike Lowry, Stuart Sweetman, Joyce Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Jane Frigo and the entire Cuthriel family, Mike, Terri, Shelby and Bryce, were able to compile a total list of **51 species** for the morning. Bryce even spotted a rather large Cope's Gray Tree Frog that was a real treat! Because of the annual Fall Festival the bird walk took place across the reservoir at the campgrounds. Beginning at the boat dock, a dozen Great Egrets were seen leaving their overnight roost and taking to the sky. Pied-billed Grebes and a Belted Kingfisher were also spotted there. Nick and Elisa heard the "sneaker squeak" of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and all the group got to see a young White-eyed Vireo. All possible woodpecker species were spotted including adult and immature Red-headed and a FOS Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A Red-breasted Nuthatch put on quite a show singing and "dancing." A Solitary Sandpiper made a flyover appearance that was unexpected. By far the most abundant species were the Thrushes-- "red-breasted" better known as American Robins, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Wood. FOS Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen and late season Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting were noted. What a great day! A complete list follows.

Pied-billed Grebe	White-eyed Vireo	European Starling
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Cedar Waxwing
Great Egret	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	American Redstart
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Parula
Solitary Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Palm Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	House Wren	Eastern Towhee
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Field Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Eastern Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Scarlet Tanager
Hairy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker	Wood Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Gray Catbird	Common Grackle
Eastern Phoebe	Brown Thrasher	American Goldfinch

The walk on **September 16, 2012** began with fog over the reservoir and the temperature a little chilly. Rock Moeslein, Louis Johnson, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Eileen O'Toole, Cathy Bond, Richard Hudgins, Stuart Sweetman, Geoff Giles, Dorothy Sharp, Ernie Miller, Mike Cuthriel, Jane Frigo, Brent and Laura Slaughter, Phil and Angelina Bogart, and newcomer Joyce Lowry participated in the morning walk. The group ran into Marc Nicholas who had scouted the White Oak Bridge and trail and had spotted a Solitary Sandpiper and American Woodcock missed by the rest of the group. Stuart Sweetman also made a trip to the Swamp Bridge and was able to add both Barred and Great Horned Owl, Veery and Swainson's Thrush, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle to the group list. Ernie Miller spotted a Magnolia Warbler among the American Redstarts foraging and got some amazing pictures. All totaled the group identified **61 species** including 5 warblers. A lone Green-winged Teal was spotted among a group of Mallards. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks were heard but not seen. For the second month no Northern Mockingbirds were spotted. It was a GREAT morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Veery
Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Green-winged Teal	Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird

Pied-billed Grebe	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Solitary Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Eastern Towhee
American Woodcock	Carolina Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Field Sparrow
Royal Tern	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Great Horned Owl	House Wren	House Finch
Barred Owl	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Chimney Swift		

The **September 2, 2012** walk began with hot and steamy weather. Rain threatened but Marilyn and John Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Bill Ferris, Dave Youker, Tom Charlock, Jon Steinbach, Judy Remsberg and Jane Frigo made it through the morning and spotted **42 bird species**, two beavers and one colorful swimming snake. A Pied-billed Grebe was spotted early in the morning, making the group look forward to the return of the winter ducks. Pileated Woodpeckers were quite active. The group was treated to a good sighting of a pair of Summer Tanagers. Green Herons were also still in the area but no one could find a Northern Mockingbird! All participants were looking forward to cooler fall temperatures and the arrival of winter residents. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Egret	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Yellow-throated Vireo	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Killdeer	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch

August 19, 2012 was overcast and cool. Temperatures began in the low 70's and never reached the 80's. Skies were overcast all morning and showers began by noon. 16 birders turned out for the morning. The group included a Phoenix, AZ visitor, Janee, along with regulars Dave Youker, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Judy Remsberg, Chuck Engles, Michelle Shinn, Jane Frigo, Virginia and George Boyles, Barbara and Richard Hudgins, and Marilyn and John Adair. The group was able to identify **52 species**. Belted Kingfishers gave quite a show. Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in the same area as previously observed. Several American Redstarts were seen high in the trees, giving many observers the dreaded "warbler neck." A Prothonotary Warbler, missed during the last walk, was seen. Misses for the morning included Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher and Great Horned Owl. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Mute Swan	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Prothonotary Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	American Redstart

Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Egret	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Green Heron	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Barn Swallow	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Osprey	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	Orchard Oriole
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker		

The temperature was already 81 degrees when the **August 5, 2012** Newport News Park walk began. Seventeen birders participated in the walk and included George Pagos (visiting from Seattle, WA), Felicity Ericson, Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders, Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Stuart Sweetman, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Marilyn and John Adair, and Virginia and George Boyles. **52 species** were identified--20 "life birds" for George. The regular group enjoyed showing off East Coast species and hearing of those seen only on the West Coast. Overall the birds were quiet during the morning. A beautiful Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk were observed on a thermal. All seven woodpecker species were seen, The Great Horned Owl gave a brief appearance near the Japanese Tea House. Three Indigo Buntings were seen at the Swamp Bridge and a Yellow-throated Vireo could be heard but never seen. A lone Red-winged Blackbird was seen at the Swamp Bridge, also. Misses for the morning included Royal Tern, Tanager, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Northern Mockingbird. A final drive through the Stable Area at the end of the morning yielded a male Eastern Towhee. A beautiful Black Rat Snake was seen climbing the base of tree near the path and disappeared into a hole in the bark. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Eastern Kingbird	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	Yellow-throated Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Blue Jay	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Horned Owl	Fish Crow	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift	Carolina Chickadee	House Finch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher		

The "dog days of summer" have arrived! The morning began with the temperature already 79 degrees and steadily rose to the 90's. Skies were clear and a breeze could only be found near the water. Phyllis Roth, Bill Ferris, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Rock Moeslein and Jane Frigo participated in the **July 15, 2012** walk and were able to identify **48 species**. Every walk has at least one unique experience and today's experience involved a Hairy Woodpecker. At the beginning of the morning's walk, a Hairy Woodpecker was spotted near the base of a tree right off the walking path. The bird was so engrossed in his foraging that our presence was not a distraction. The entire group was able to enjoy a long, unobstructed look at the long beak and red crown. Checking with the Sibley guide, Mike Lowry pointed out that the bird was a juvenile because the red patch was on the forehead,

not the back of the head. We all learned something!! The Great Horned Owl was seen--always a treat--but not the Barred Owl. A beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted soaring, windows visible on his wings. A family of Blue Grosbeak's at the Discovery Center made quite a ruckus but overall it was a quiet morning. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Mute Swan	Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Acadian Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern	American Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Fish Crow	Indigo Bunting
Great Horned Owl	Purple Martin	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch

The past several days brought intense storms to the area and **July 1, 2012** was no exception. At 6 AM the sky was black, torrential rains were falling and the lightning intense! Didn't look promising a walk in the park. However, by 7 AM the skies were clearing and eleven people braved the weather for the walk. Bill Ferris, Eileen O'Toole, Richard Hudgins, John Steinbach, Rock Moeslein, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair and George and Virginia Boyles were able to identify **52 species** for the morning. Damage from the storms was evident with the biggest loss being a huge tree overturned at the Spawning Pond. This was the tree that the Eastern Kingbird frequently nested in and was often seen perching from the upper branches. Temperatures were warm beginning in the low 70's and rising to the middle 90's. A couple brief showers helped cool off the birders and birds. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers along with a juvenile was seen. A Green Heron was spotted but not the huge numbers seen on the last walk. A pair of Great Horned Owls were squawking at the Arboretum. Purple Martins were flocking on the power lines. Several Osprey were seen, but again, no Bald Eagle. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Mute Swan	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Great Egret	Red-eyed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Indigo Bunting
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Horned Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	House Wren	Orchard Oriole
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker		

Happy Father's Day! **June 17, 2012** began with temperatures in the mid 60's, wind's calm and the sky clear. The number of participants was rather low possibly because of the holiday or the fantastic VSO trip taking place in Front Royal, Virginia. Those turning out for the morning included Eileen

O'Toole, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Bryan Barmore, Jane Frigo and Derrick, Bill and Jill Wallis. Derrick wanted to see a Green Heron. By the end of the morning he had had his fill! Well over 10 were spotted among the **53 other species** listed. Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Buntings were seen and comparisons made. The Mute Swans were back. All woodpecker species with the exception of the Hairy were observed. A pair of Royal Terns gave quite a show of their fishing skills in the reservoir. A big highlight of the morning was a juvenile Great Horned Owl in the Arboretum. No doubt he was a GHO but he lacked the adult "horns". Misses for the morning included Bald Eagle, hawks, and hummingbirds. It was still a wonderful way to spend the morning. A complete species list follows

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Osprey	American Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Herring Gull	Tree Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern	Barn Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Indigo Bunting
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch

What a difference a year makes! Last year the first June walk was rained out. This year, **June 3, 2012**, the morning is BEAUTIFUL!! Skies are clear and calm and the temperature hovers in the mid 60's with the promise of warmth to come. Another large group turned out to enjoy the morning. Participants included Phyllis Roth, Stuart Sweetman, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Eileen O'Toole, Bettye Fields, Joyce Deputy, Judy Anderson, Judy Remsberg, Jane Frigo, Angelina and Phil Bogart, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn and John Adair, Richard and Barbara Hudgins and first timers Theresa Moore and James Abbot. Theresa is visiting from Michigan and James is a recent college graduate from North Carolina. James is a bander and worked extensively with Painting Buntings. Needless to say the group was envious. James extended an invitation to visit the Painted Bunting Banding Station in Willmington. As with every walk there were some outstanding moments to the morning. Pairs of both owl species, Barred and Great Horned, were seen with very cooperative views for the group. The regular sequence of stops was changed with a trip to the Swamp Bridge following the Arboretum, ending with the Discovery Center and skipping the Stable area altogether. Green Herons were everywhere! A cardinal nest with new hatchlings was spotted near one of the bridges to the Swamp. At the swamp an Orchard Oriole nest was seen. It will be checked to monitor activity. Also, Prothonotary nest box #25 was being checked out. One surprise for the morning was a single female Hooded Merganser on the reservoir. A pair of Wood Ducks also was observed in the open water. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen entering and exiting a hole in a snag off the point across the first observation bridge. Stuart and James thought they heard a Virginia Rail at the Swamp Bridge. **58 species** (including the possible rail) were listed but several species were missed including Mute Swan, House Wren, Tanager, Towhee, Kingfisher and Bald Eagle. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Hooded Merganser	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Acadian Flycatcher	European Starling
Green Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Parula

Turkey Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Virginia Rail (?)	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Orchard Oriole
Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Chimney Swift	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		

The sun was shining when the **May 20, 2012** Newport News Park Walk began but shortly the weather changed. The morning was plagued with intermittent periods of a heavy mist. That didn't deter the morning's participants that included Elisa Enders, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Eileen O'Toole, Bill Ferris, Phyllis Roth, Stuart Sweetman, Cathy Bond, John Steinbach, Dorothy Sharpe, Jane Frigo, Virginia and George Boyles. As expected, Prothonotary Warblers were abundant as were Great Crested Flycatchers, Tufted Titmice and Carolina Chickadees, many of which appeared to be young fledglings. Osprey filled the skies and one was observed eating a breakfast of fish on a limb near the Ranger Station Bridge. At the Arboretum, Elisa Enders spotted a Magnolia Warbler that was a highlight for the morning. An American Redstart was seen near the same location. Indigo Buntings were seen at the Discovery Center, but the Blue Grosbeak just couldn't be found. At the Swamp Bridge a beautiful male Orchard Oriole was seen. Hopefully he and a mate will nest in the area as in the past. Other misses included Northern Parula, Great Horned Owl (Marc where were you!) and Kingfisher. In spite of that, **64 species** were identified and it was still a GREAT morning. A complete species list follows.

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

A heavy mist hindered the early part of the park walk on **May 6, 2012**. Birds along the reservoir were hard to find through the precipitation but the rather large group of birdwatchers were undaunted. Newcomers Jill and Derrick Wallis, Joshua and Dave Lauthers, Sandy Graham and Rick Knoroloski joined fellow birding regulars Bill Ferris, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Richard Hudgins, Libby Carmines, Betsy Garrett, Bettye Fields, Anja Praesto, Marc Nichols, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore and Jane Frigo and were able to identify **74 species**. First of season arrivals (FOS) included Green Heron, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Wood Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo

Bunting and Orchard Oriole. Yellow-rumped warblers were still hanging around rather unexpectedly but White-throated sparrows were gone. The Downy Woodpecker spotted on previous walks was seen feeding young at the nest hole. Prothonotary Warblers were abundant and provided the group with excellent views. Beautiful male Wood Ducks were seen along with their young. Sparrows were scarce with only Chipping Sparrows seen. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cedar Waxwing
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-throated Warbler
Black Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Palm Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Prothonotary Warbler
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Fish Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Red-tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow	Summer Tanager
Killdeer	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Horned Owl	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	Orchard Oriole
Red-headed Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	

Skies were clear, temperatures began in the low 60's and warmed up steadily, and a gentle breeze made the **April 15, 2012** Newport News Park Walk nearly perfect. Another large group showed up to enjoy the day and included Anja Praestra, Betty Fields, Betsy Garrett, Judy Andersen, Ana Colon, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Laura Huff, Gar Secrist, Glenda Clifton, Dave Youker, Cathy Bond, Melissa Mullins, Jane Frigo, Barbara and Richard Hudgins, John and Marilyn Adair, George and Virginia Boyles, Laura and Brent Slaughter. Osprey were everywhere but the morning was a no-go for a Bald Eagle. Winter duck residents appeared to be gone, along with kinglets and sapsuckers; however Dark-eyed Juncos, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows still remained. New spring arrival's included Great Crested Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Barn Swallow and Prothonotary Warbler. The Barred Owl was seen again, but not the Great Horned Owl. **Total species recorded was 58**--far fewer than last year's 77. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Mute Swan	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Mallard	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Great Egret	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Osprey	Barn Swallow	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco

Royal Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Barred Owl	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

April Fool's Day turned out to be perfect and not at all "foolish." The morning was alive with active birds and eager birders. **23 people**, including a group of Master Naturalists from Newport News, participated for at least part of the morning. Newcomers included Kate Staron, Paula Reichardl, Fred Coy, James Cole, Tom Bailey and Jacob Durren. The old-timers included Bill Ferris, Rock Moeslein, Mike Lowery, Geoff Giles, Phyllis Roth, Felicity Ericson, Tom Charlock, Anja Praesto, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, George and Virginia Boyles, Terri and Cathy Bond. **57 species** were identified along with a brown water snake and a busy muskrat. Most winter ducks seemed to have moved on leaving a lone Ringed-neck hen. Woodpeckers were well represented and a cooperative Downy Woodpecker was observed excavating a tree with what the group hopes to be his future home. Two spring warblers included a Yellow-throated Warbler and a Black-and-white Warbler. Dark-eyed Juncos and White throated Sparrows were still around so winter is not totally over. One of the best sightings was of a Barred Owl family near the Swamp Bridge. George Boyles got an exceptional picture of these beautiful birds and a life bird for him and Virginia. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
Mute Swan	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Great Egret	American Crow	Black-and-white Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
American Coot	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Barred Owl	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	American Goldfinch

The arrival of daylight savings time made the beginning of the day's walk a bit darker on Sunday, **March 18**, but allowed for more conversation among participants. Tom Charlock, Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Bill Ferris, Betty Fields, Betsey Garrett, Richard Hudgins, Dorothy Sharpe, Jane Frigo, John and Marilyn Adair, Virginia and George Boyles and newcomers Anja Praesto, Judy Remsberg and Harriet Benson made the most of the beautiful day. **69 species** were noted for the morning--that didn't end until after noon and a walk to the Swamp Bridge. The walk was worth it--with a sighting of the Great Horned Owl near the golf course and a FOS Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Brown-headed Nuthatch at the Spawning Pond. There were several Bald Eagle sightings including adult and immature. Hermit Thrushes were everywhere. All woodpeckers were accounted for and most winter residents including ducks, Tundra Swans, both kinglets, Brown Creeper and of course, Yellow-rumped warblers. No spring warblers were seen, A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Laughing Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Tundra Swan	Herring Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Wood Duck	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird

Gadwall
 American Wigeon
 Mallard
 Ring-necked Duck
 Hooded Merganser
 Common Loon
 Pied-billed Loon
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Black Vulture
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Coot

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

Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Common Greackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 American Goldfinch

March came in like a lamb but by Sunday, **March 4, 2012**, the lion reared it's ugly head. The day was chilly with temperatures hovering in the mid forties and a steady, light rain. In spite of that, Mike Lowry, Bill Ferris, Nick Flanders, Tom Charlock, Dave Youker, Shirley Divan, Geoff Giles, Dorothy Sharpe, John Adair, Jane Frigo, Virginia and George Boyles all braved the elements for a four hour walk in the drizzle. Everyone was glad to see Nick again. His presence has been missed while he pursues his graduate studies in North Carolina. His expertise led to the addition of several species that may have been normally overlooked with such poor conditions. Ducks were well represented and a lift off of Tundra Swans was beautiful against the gray skies. The most memorable sighting of the morning was a group of nearly thirty Black and Turkey Vultures perched in the trees at the Stable Road area. A closer investigation revealed the reason for their large numbers-- deer carcasses at the edge of the woods. One major miss for the morning was a Great Blue Heron. A total of **51 species** were recorded which included a possible Fox Sparrow. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose
 Mute Swan
 Tundra Swan
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall
 American Wigeon
 Mallard
 Ring-necked Duck
 Hooded Merganser
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Egret
 Black Vulture
 Turkey Vulture
 Bald Eagle
 American Coot
 Ring-billed Gull

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

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 House Finch

Overcast skies and blustery winds greeted park walk participants on **February 19, 2012**. Although the temperature was 45 degrees, it felt much colder! Tom Charlock, John Adair, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, George Boyles and Virginia Boyles braved the elements and were rewarded with **42 species**. The wind kept many of the smaller birds away but ducks were much more abundant! By far the most exciting sighting of the morning was a lone male Redhead at the first

bridge. He preened just feet from the bridge giving everyone a lengthy, upclose look. At the same spot a Great Egret showed off breeding plumage tail feathers. Some unusual misses included Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Mockingbird, and woodpeckers including Red-headed, Hairy, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker. A single Laughing Gull was spotted among the Ring-billed Gulls. The beaver was seen again and several trees showed he had been hard at work. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch
Mute Swan	American Coot	Carolina Wren
Tundra Swan	Laughing Gull	Winter Wren
Gadwall	Ring-billed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Rock Pigeon	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Hermit Thrush
Redhead	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Downy Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Great Egret	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle

The walk on Sunday, **February 5, 2012**, began with temperatures in the mid-forties and a heavy mist coating everything. Although skies never cleared completely, they did dry up enough to make the morning's walk a go. Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris, Geoff Giles, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo spent the chilly morning identifying **50 species**. The shore line was uncharacteristically calm with the exception of a very perturbed beaver that smacked his tail so hard and unexpectedly that everyone jumped! Woodpeckers were well represented with all 7 species seen. The Great Horned Owl was VERY vocal early but remained hidden for the morning. The fields at the Arboretum were covered with Red-winged Blackbirds and American Robins. Scattered among the group were European Starlings and Brown-headed Cowbirds. Tundra Swans were not spotted but Mute Swans were. Ducks were in better numbers and included Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser and Pied-billed Grebe. A complete species list follows.

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

Happy New Year!! Thanks to Tom Charlock for taking charge of the January 1, 2012 park walk. He did a GREAT write-up and certainly made me wish I had been there.

January 15, 2012 was a great day, too. Newcomer Jim Holden joined veterans Mike Lowry, Marilyn and John Adair, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Geoff Giles, Barbara Hudgins, Felicity Ericson and Jane Frigo for a chilly morning. Skies were clear and winds variable but temperatures were cold. The morning got off to a great start with both immature and adult Bald Eagles seen. The Great Horned Owl was heard but failed to be found in the Arboretum. Ducks were in much better numbers with Hooded Merganser's taking the lead with over twenty-five seen. At the stable area a significant group of sparrows were clustered in the heavy grass. Among the many Chipping Sparrows was a possible Clay-colored Sparrow. More study was needed to make a definitive identification. At the Discovery Center a FOS Fox Sparrow gave quite a show!! A total of **48 species** were identified for the morning. A complete list follows.

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

Thanks to **Tom Charlock** for leading the group and submitting the following report!

The slap of a beaver's tail at a quarter past seven coincided with the quick dissipation of rather thin fog over the Park reservoir on **New Year's Day 2012**, allowing Club members to easily spot Tundra Swans, Hooded Mergansers, Belted Kingfishers, Pied-billed Grebes and a Bald Eagle. The mercury was initially in the mid 30s and the sky had been clear for much of the previous night, giving a sharp temperature inversion that trapped a most loud but pleasant concert of birdsong at the bridge near the ranger station. There a Red-headed Woodpecker bravely challenged a Pileated, noisily driving the larger bird back across the pond to its mate. This pair then treated us to a clock-like, percussive assault on a mature pine tree, alternately from right and left. Seven species of woodpecker were seen, with the Hairy Woodpecker caught only on the returning noon walk from the swamp bridge (temperatures in the upper 50s with light wind and thin cirrus). **Forty-five** avian species were identified by the holiday skeleton crew of Tom Charlock, Bill Ferris and Marc Nichols. They also "rediscovered" the full skeleton of a Virginia Deer, first reported by William and Mary students near the park stables a few months earlier. A species list follows.

Canada Goose	Herring Gull	Brown Creeper
Tundra Swan	Rock Pigeon	Carolina Wren
Gadwall	Great Horned Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
American Black Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Hooded Merganser	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing
Pied-Billed Grebe	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Field Sparrow
Black Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow

Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Ring-billed Gull

American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch

Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
American Goldfinch