

**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).**

## 2008 Walks

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This Sunday, **December 21, 2008**, began with heavy rains. In spite of that, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo turned out to brave the elements and search for those illusive ducks. Only Tom came prepared to brave the elements. Clad in his Gortex rainsuit, Tom bravely checked the reservoir. He was able to see the Mute Swans, Mallards, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron and quite a few "little brown jobs" before calling it quits. Not the best way to end 2008; however, spirits are not broken, only bruised. We are all looking forward to 2009 and a new year of discovery. Come join us!

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Winter seemed to have arrived at the park. The weather was cold and windy on Sunday, **December 7**. Richard Hudgins, George Roundtree, Mike Lowry, Eileen O'Toole, Marc Nichols, Nick Flanders and Jane Frigo braved the elements in hope of seeing the arrival of winter ducks. The ducks did not want to cooperate. Bald Eagles gave quite a show with 5 beings seen very early in the walk. Woodpeckers, too, were seen, with all but the Hairy showing up. The biggest surprise was that not a single Carolina Wren was seen or heard! **39 species** were tallied. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
American Black Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Hooded Merganser	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Double-Crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch

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What a difference a day makes! Saturday the 15th was warm and rainy; for our walk on Sunday, **November 16, 2008**, it was clear, cold and windy. Leaves covered the paths and made walking slippery. Still, a hardy group of twelve were able to spot **47 species**. Newcomers Pam and Greg Camblin joined Cathy Bond, Marc Nichols, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Nick Flanders, Julie Breeden, Tom Charlock, Eleanor Young, Joe Piotrowski and Jane Frigo were treated to quite a show by a Winter Wren. Brown Creepers were cooperative, too. One male Ruby-crowned Kinglet was quite put out by the whole group and flashed a whole head of red. Another big surprise was a group of three Meadow Larks! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Tern species	Carolina Wren
Mute Swan	Rock Pigeon	Winter Wren
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Ring-necked Duck  
Hooded Merganser  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Accipiter species  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull

Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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For our **November 2, 2008**, walk, the day was beautiful and Fall was beginning to show its colors! The trees reflected in the reservoir were a spectacular sight. Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Denise (their niece from D.C.), Lee and Meredith Bell, Jim Harrison, Tom Charlock, Eileen O'Toole, Julie Breeden, Dave Youker, Mike Lowry and Jane Frigo were able to compile a list of **53 species**. These walks are open to all. Consider joining the group! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
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  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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What a difference a day makes! Fall certainly blew in this morning for our walk on **October 19, 2008**. The skies were clear and the winds were biting. Heavy coats and even gloves were put to use. Richard Hudgins, George Roundtree, Nick Flanders, Diane Mrva, Nicolas Ferree, Grace Ferree, Eleanor Young and Jane Frigo turned out to greet the dawn. Great Horned Owls began the morning with their hoo-hoo's. One owl was seen perching and then treated the group to a flight across the lake! Bald Eagles were also showing off as the morning progressed. At least four were seen in various stages of development. Six ducks species were spotted, although numbers were low. Finally, the leaves were just beginning to show their fall colors. So beautiful! Remember these walks are open to all. Come join us! A complete list of the **57 species** follows and includes species seen by Nick and Jane on an extended walk to the Swamp Bridge.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall

Ring-billed Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Great Horned Owl

Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin

Mallard  
 Green-winged Teal  
 Ring-necked Duck  
 Pied-billed Grebe  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Great Egret  
 Black Vulture  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Osprey  
 Bald Eagle  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 Red-shouldered Hawk  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Laughing Gull

Belted Kingfisher  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Carolina Wren  
 Winter Wren  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet

Northern Mockingbird  
 Brown Thrasher  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Pine Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Eastern Towhee  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Song Sparrow  
 Swamp Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Rusty Blackbird  
 House Finch

The Newport News Fall Festival was held this weekend (Oct. 4-5), with near perfect weather and a tremendous turn-out. The regular park walk on **October 5, 2008** had to be held elsewhere. Nick Flanders, Marc Nichols, Richard Hudgins and Jane Frigo met at the campgrounds as an alternative. Although not nearly as many diverse habitats, **24 species** were identified. The most noteworthy was a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, first of season (FOS). Warblers seen included Northern Parula, Pine, American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat. Absent were sparrows, with only the Eastern Towhee seen. A complete species list follows.

Double-crested Cormorant (flyover)  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Mourning Dove  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (FOS)  
 Northern Flicker  
 Eastern Phoebe

Northern Flicker  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Blue Jay  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Carolina Wren  
 Eastern Bluebird

American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Northern Parula  
 Pine Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Eastern Towhee  
 ]Northern Cardinal  
 Common Grackle

Sunday, **September 21, 2008**, was perfect--clear skies, low humidity, gently breezes and cool temperatures! Barbara and Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Margaret Ware, Julie Breeden, Eileen O'Toole, Mike Lowry, Ben Copeland, Dave Youker, Eleanor Young, Tom Charlock, Joe Piotrowski, and Jane Frigo spent the beautiful morning looking for fall migrants. Marc Nichols' early arrival for the walk was rewarded with a serenade by two Great Horned Owls. After their exchange, he was able to see them fly silently across the reservoir against the early morning glow. The rest of us could hear them hooting across the water. Other notable sightings included numerous American Redstarts and a cooperative Pileated Woodpecker. **Forty-six species** were identified. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
 Mute Swan  
 Mallard  
 Pied-billed Grebe  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Great Egret  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Bald Eagle  
 Laughing Gull  
 Royal Tern  
 Mourning Dove

Red-headed Woodpecker  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse

American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Brown Thrasher  
 Northern Parula  
 Pine Warbler  
 Black-and-white Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Common Grackle

Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Great Horned Owl  
Chimney Swift  
Belted Kingfisher

White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Eastern Bluebird

House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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Sunday, **September 7**, was clear and calm after tropical storm Hanna passed through the Peninsula with little impact. Jim Harrison, Cathy Bond, Julie Breeden, Mike Lowry, George Roundtree and Jane Frigo turned out to see what the storm may have blown in. The morning began with American Redstarts. Flitting from branch to branch with tails flaring, these tiny warblers put on quite a show. A Red-tailed Hawk also gave the group a long, unencumbered frontal view before showing his backside briefly and flying off. Another outstanding sighting was of a Yellow-throated Vireo singing his heart out. All totaled, the group had **44 species** and one group of 3-4 small gull/tern species which could not be identified. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Laughing Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher

Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Brown Thrasher  
Yellow Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
American Redstart  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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Today's walk on **August 17** began with a smaller group of bird watchers than the last walk. The sky was hazy and the wind extremely calm-- very typical of an August day in Tidewater Virginia. Julie Breeden, Eileen O'Toole, Marc Nichols, Jim Harrison, Tom Charlock, Phyllis Roth, Barbara and Richard Hudgins and Jane Frigo were able to identify **50 species** by sight or song. Notables included three Green Herons, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart and Piliated Woodpecker. Eastern Wood-Pewees were abundant. Again, no Bald Eagle was seen and surprisingly no vultures. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Mallard  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Osprey  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Laughing Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Purple Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse

Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Pine Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Indigo Bunting  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird

White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch

House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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The "Dog Days of Summer" are here. The morning's walk on **August 3** began under hazy, humid skies. Eighteen early risers turned out. (Jim Harrison, Margaret Ware, John Steinbach, Mike Lowry, Rosalyn and Robbin Riddick, Miles Watts, Nick Flanders, Richard Hudgins, Julie Breeden, Eileen O'Toole, Diane Mrva, Richard and Nicolas Ferree, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Eleanor Young and Jane Frigo) A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers started off the morning and were followed by a flyover pair of Green Herons. The still air and abundance of bugs provided food for the flycatchers. Ospreys were also easily seen, but no Bald Eagles. Sadly, the wild flower meadow by the Discovery Center has been completely cut down. Although it will grow back, it will be missed by birds, deer and birders. A complete the **47 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Mute Swan	Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Mallard	Northern Flicker	House Wren
Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Egret	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Bluebird
Green Heron	Acadian Flycatcher	American Robin
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Osprey	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Killdeer	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Rock Pigeon	Fish Crow	Common Grackle
Mouring Dove	Purple Martin	Brown-headed Cowbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Barn Swallow	House Finch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Carolina Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Tufted Titmouse	

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Hot, humid skies greeted the **July 20** morning's bird watchers. Julie Breeden, Nick Flanders, Mike Lowry, Richard Hudgins, Sharon Burton, Bryon Barmore and Jane Frigo met in the parking lot and had a welcome surprise. Yellow-billed Cuckoos finally decided to make their presence known. At least three individuals were foraging in the trees surrounding the parking lot. Everyone was able to observe the cuckoo's behavior. During the morning, they continued to be seen and heard, causing the group to actually become somewhat bored with them! The Osprey made an appearance after an absence at the last walk. Discussions concerning identification of tern species and swallow species made for a real learning experience. The morning ended with showers but a **total species list of 50**. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	House Wren
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Bluebird
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	American Robin
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Mockingbird
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Brown Thrasher
Osprey	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Prothonotary Warbler
Common Tern	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Forster's Tern	Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird

Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker

White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren

House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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The **July 6** walk began with light sprinkles that quickly turned to showers. Marc Nichols, Nick Flanders, Eileen O'Toole, Ken Sheide, John Steinbach, Eleanor Young, Jim Harrison, Jane Frigo and newcomers Robin and Rosalyn Riddick and Miles Watts dodged the drops and persevered to compile a group list of **51 species** over four hours. Northern Flickers and Green Heron gave wonderful appearances. A Great Blue Heron landed in the Stable Road corral. Yellow-billed Cuckoos could be heard in the campground but never showed themselves. One unusual omission for the morning was the Osprey. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Laughing Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee

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

American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Pine Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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This morning's walk on **June 15** began with light showers and overcast skies. In spite of the weather, Eileen O'Toole, Tom Charlock, Nick Flanders, Marc Nichols, Richard Hudgins, Mike Lowry, Russ Wood and Jane Frigo turned out to see what birds could be found. Between 7 AM and 9:30 AM the group had a **51 species** list. Three Green Herons were particularly cooperative. A Great Horned Owl made a spectacular flight through the pine trees before being lost from view. And, just before leaving the park, a lone Pied-billed Grebe was seen on the reservoir. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Mourning Dove  
Great Horned Owl  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird

Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Pine Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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**June 1** brought another great group of birders to the park to enjoy a beautiful morning. The rather large group included Diane Mrava, Nicolas Ferree, Nick Flanders, Courtney Thompson, Julie Breeden, Richard and Barbara Hudgins, Jim Harrison, Dave Youker, Marc Nichols, Raquel Rickards, Tricia Lane--visiting from San Francisco, George Rountree, Eileen O'Toole, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo. The day was warm and sunny with just a light breeze. The group began breaking up around 9 AM with about half continuing until noon. Great sightings of an Orchard Oriole and Blue Grosbeak singing were highlights. **Fifty-five species** were listed by the end of the morning. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Wood Thrush
Mallard	Acadian Flycatcher	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird FOS	Northern Parula
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-throated Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Hawk species	American Crow	Prothonotary Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Barn Swallow	Field Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Red-headed Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	House Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Orchard Oriole
Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch
		American Goldfinch

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Sunday, **May 18, 2008**, was beautiful and thirteen eager birders turned out to enjoy the day. Dave Youker, Peter and Lorena Hawkins, Jim Harrison, Fred Blystone, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Julie Breeden, Chuck Engel, Eleanor Young, Eileen O'Toole, Diane Mrava, Nicolas Ferree and Jane Frigo were able to identify **58 species** in a little over three hours. Although some regular species were missing, like Brown Thrasher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Laughing Gull and Double-crested Cormorant, there were special treats like Magnolia Warbler and observations of Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee and Downy Woodpecker nest activity. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Eastern Phoebe	American Robin
Wood Duck	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Blue Jay	Magnolia Warbler
Green Heron	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Blackpoll Warbler
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler
Bald Eagle	N. Rough-winged Swallow	American Redstart
Red-tailed Hawk	Barn Swallow	Prothonotary Warbler
Killdeer	Carolina Chickadee	Ovenbird
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Summer Tanager
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Indigo Bunting
Downy Woodpecker	House Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle

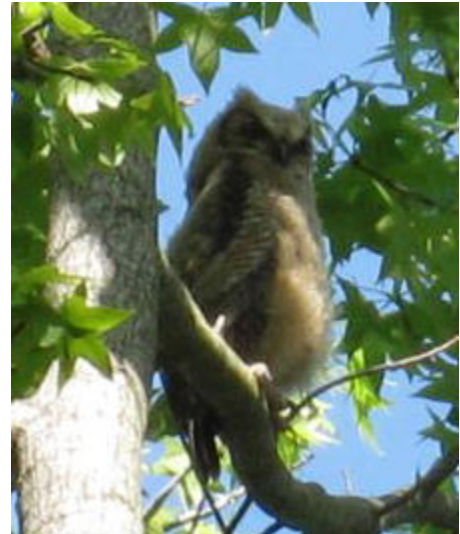
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee

Eastern Bluebird  
Wood Thrush

Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

With migration in full swing, on **May 4, 2008**, Phil Bogert, Phyllis Roth, Raquel Rickard, Marc Nichols, Jim Harrison, Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Libby Carmine, Eleanor Young, Fred Blystone and Jane Frigo combined skills and were able to find **72 species**. The weather was perfect and the first bridge was extremely productive with: Prothonotary Warblers, Summer and Scarlet Tanager, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebirds and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

In the reservoir a raft of twenty+ Wood Ducks were seen. At the Spawning Pond Bridge, the **Great Horned Owllet** was seen and photographed by Fred Blystone (photo at right ). While most participants headed home or to church around ten, Marc, Raquel, Libby and Jane continued on to the Swamp Bridge. They were led by Blue Jays to a Barred Owl! Notable omissions for the morning include Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow and Orioles. No Eastern Kingbird showed either.



Fred also provided these photos of the group.



The first bridge by Ranger Station



Spawning Pond Bridge

A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey

Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Tree Swallow  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee

Northern Parula  
Black-throated Blue  
Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler



Bald Eagle  
Killdeer  
Laughing Gull  
Royal Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker

Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing

Common Yellowthroat  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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The regular third Sunday walk at Newport News Park took place on **April 20, 2008**, in spite of the predicted rain. Eleven participants - Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock, Fred Blystone, Jim Harrison, Eleanor Young, Phyllis Roth, Mel Pettard, Libby Carmine, newcomer Margie, Raquel Rickard and Jane Frigo - dodged a few sprinkles to see a great list of **60 species** of birds, a box turtle and two huge snapping turtles. New species for the year included Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler and Blue Grosbeak. Complete list is shown below the photos.

Thanks to **Fred Blystone** for providing these photos from the morning's walk.



**Jane Frigo in the lead**



**Walking towards the water**



**Prothonotary Warbler**



**Looking for birds**

**Prothonotary singing**



**Snapping Turtle**

Here's the list of all birds seen on today's walk :

Canada Goose-with goslings  
 Wood Duck  
 Mallard  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Great Egret  
 Green Heron  
 Black Vulture  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Osprey  
 Bald Eagle  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 Laughing Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 tern species  
 Mourning Dove  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Red-headed Woodpecker  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Great Crested Flycatcher  
 White-eyed Vireo  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow  
 Fish Crow  
 Tree Swallow  
 N. Rough-winged Swallow  
 Barn Swallow  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Brown-headed Nuthatch  
 Carolina Wren  
 House Wren  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 Eastern Bluebird

American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Northern Mockingbird  
 Brown Thrasher  
 European Starling'  
 Northern Parula  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Pine Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Prothonotary Warbler  
 Eastern Towhee  
 Chipping S[arrpw  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Blue Grosbeak  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Common Grackle  
 Brown-headed Cowbird  
 House Finch  
 American Goldfinch

The regularly scheduled Sunday park walk on **April 6, 2008**, at Newport News City Park began under drizzle and heavy cloud cover. Four hearty souls, Richard Hudgins, Tom Chalock, Fred Blystone and Jane Frigo, braved the 50 degree temperatures to see what spring migrants had arrived. FOS arrivals included Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Rough-winged Swallows. **43 species** were recorded. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose  
 American Wigeon  
 Mallard  
 Pied-billed Grebe  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Osprey

Belted Kingfisher  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow  
 Fish Crow  
 N. Rough-winged Swallow

American Robin  
 European Starling  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Pine Warbler  
 Eastern Towhee  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow

Bald Eagle (Imm.)  
Hawk species--Sharp-shinned or  
Cooper's  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove

Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush

Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch

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On Sunday, **March 16, 2008** the second monthly walk at Newport News City Park began under cloudy skies and temperatures in the 40's. Tom Chalock, Jim Harrison, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Eileen O'Toole and Jane Frigo braved the damp and dreary morning and still managed to identify **48 species** before giving in to the sprinkles. Notable absent species included Brown Creeper, Winter Wren and Red-headed Woodpecker. A total species list follows.

Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Gadwall  
American Wigeon  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Killdeer  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
Pileated Woodpecker  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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We had a wonderful Sunday morning walk at Newport News City Park on **March 2, 2008**. The day was perfect with clear, calm skies and temperatures cool but not frigid. The group was rather large and included Julie Breeden, Richard Hudgins, Richard and Nicolas Ferree, Lee and Meredith Bell, Eileen O'Toole, Dave Youker, Ben Copeland, Nick Flanders, Tom Charlock, Phil Bogert and Jane Frigo. From 7 AM to 10:15 AM the group had identified **60 species**. Notable sightings included at least 13 Brown Creepers and 6 Winter Wrens. The feeling among the group was that these species may be getting ready to move out. Five members of the continued the walk going to the Swamp Bridge and back. They added **2 more species** to the already impressive morning list. The following is a complete species list.

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

Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Tree Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse

Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
Northern Mockingbird  
American Robin  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow

Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Killdeer  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove

Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

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The weather was variably cloudy and cool for the **February 17** walk. There was a slight wind. Fred Blystone, Eileen O'Toole, Julie Breeden, Marc Nichols, Barbara Hudgins, Richard Hudgins, Nancy Gruttman-Tyer, Mel Pettard and his daughter Robin who was visiting from Oregon met me for our regular park walk. We were all hoping to see a repeat visit from the Great Horned Owls of the last walk but no luck. We had great views of both Kinglets and all three Nuthatches. All totaled we saw **44 species**. At the end of the walk we ran into photographer Ken Sheide who had walked beyond the Swamp Bridge and picked up a few other species. The following is our total list.

Canada Goose  
Swan species--KS  
Wood Duck--KS  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck--KS  
Hooded Merganser  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Killdeer  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird'  
Common Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

Following the regular walk, Marc, Julie, Nancy and I decided to make a few side trips. We headed to Rexford Drive and saw the Monk Parakeets. It took a few minutes for them to show but we were not disappointed. We then went to the Denbigh boat ramp. There we watched a pair of Bald Eagles with hopes of seeing the mating courtship. We also saw two Red-tailed Hawks and a Northern Harrier. Our last stop was the Riverview Park. We were hoping to see Meadow Larks but couldn't find them. We saw beautiful Eastern Bluebirds and had a terrific look at an American Kestrel. Just before leaving we witnessed a Sharp-shinned Hawk swoop towards an unsuspecting European Starling. It was touch and go but the Starling lived to see another day.

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The **February 3** Sunday morning Newport News Park walk was very productive. The group stayed until 11 am. Great day with cool and no wind. We had a great turnout too. Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Diane and Nicolas Ferree, Nick Flanders, Ben Copeland, John Porter, Jim Harrison, Mel Pettard, Marc Nichols, Richard Hudgins, Fred Blystone, Jane Frigo and a new person, Ann McDonald.

We totaled **60 species** with a couple of exciting sightings. We had a Fox Sparrow that we saw high in a tree at the first bridge. Having him so high up in the tree was unusual and to hear him sing was also a treat. Then at the Arboretum we found the Great Horned Owl. Several of the photographers had said that they had seen him there but to date our group had not found him, until today. The owl gave us all a great show. In fact, we think there were two and probably a nest close by. It will be worth watching this spring. The pine tree is near the road just before the Japanese tea house and pond.

Finally, we got to see an immature Eagle go after a Great Blue Heron while over the lake near the Spawning Pond.

Here is our total species list:

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Tundra Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	European Starling'
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
American Wigeon	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Black Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Mallard	Eastern Phoebe	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	American Crow	Fox Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Great Egret	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle (I)	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Brown Creeper	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Rock Pigeon	Winter Wren	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Great Horned Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Sparrow