

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).

December 18, 2016 was like Spring! Skies were clear and the temperature reached the mid 70's. The previous day was the total opposite--damp, windy, foggy and the temperature only reaching the 50's. That was also the day of the Newport News Audubon Christmas Count. Too bad it wasn't today. Those coming to enjoy the day and the birds included Marc Nichols, Anthony Nixon, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, Ann Nicklin, Pete and Charm Peterman and newcomers Mike and Lauren Palmer. The group identified **51 species**. A large group of Gadwall were seen. Twice a Bald Eagle flushed them into flight which was quite impressive. All eight woodpecker species were counted. Excellent views were had of Pileated, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker. A very cooperative Hermit Thrush was seen. There were misses, however. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was not found at the Arboretum and surprisingly no Brown Thrasher or Yellow-rumped Warbler was noted. A complete species list follows.

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

The holiday season has begun -- park Christmas lights are up and leaves are coming down. **December 4, 2016** was chilly (37-47 degrees), cloudy but thankfully calm. A large group showed up to bird watch and photograph. They included Jeanette Nichols, Claire Newbert, Kari Sommers, Shannon Reeves, Lieve Keeney, Elizabeth Wilkins, Pete Peterman, Bill Boeh, Tom Charlock, Joan Stone, Stuart Sweetman, Anthony Nixon, Sandy DiCarlo, Bill Taylor, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Sue and Jim Webb, Virginia and George Boyles, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, Shawn and Katrina Dash, and Marilyn and John Adair. A special thank you to Wendy and Ellis Maxey for the trail mix donation!

57 species were identified. All 7 woodpecker species were seen including both adult and immature Red-headed. Multiple Northern Flickers were seen ground feeding and perched in tree tops. Although the Great Horned Owl was heard near the park entrance it was not seen at his usual spot in the Arboretum. All three Nuthatches provided good views and vocalizations. Several first of season Fox Sparrows were a treat. Finally several Hooded Mergansers were spotted along with American Black Duck, Gadwall and the ever present Mallard. Adult and immature Bald Eagles were seen. A complete species list follows.

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

November 20, 2016 felt more like winter than fall. Temperatures stayed in the 40's but the 10-15 mph winds made it seem much colder. Only 9 people braved the elements and identified **54 species**. Those people participating were Lieve Keeney, Pete Peterman, Mike Lowry, Jim Barnett, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, and Shawn and Katrina Dash. A major highlight was the return of the Red-breasted Nuthatch! Not a regular winter resident, the group was excited to see this species at the Aboretum. The other major highlight was a group of Rusty Blackbirds foraging along the shore by the White Oak Bridge. The close proximity of these birds to the bridge gave everyone a super view. The immature Red-headed Woodpecker was found at the same area seen during the last walk. Ducks were in short supply however. Hopefully more will arrive by the next walk. A complete species list follows.

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

November 6, 2016 was another great day at the park! Those participating in the morning included Marilyn Adair, Kari Summers, Shannon Reeves, Troy Bonavita, Melissa McElrath, Peggy Tomko, Merry Kennedy, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Linda Boone, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Shawn Dash, Jeanette LeDuc-Nichols, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacque van Montfrans, Jane Frigo, Pete and Charm Peterman, Virginia and George Boyles, Lee and Susan Morris and Wendy and Ellis Maxey. The group of

25 were able to identify **53 species** for the morning. First of season (FOS) ducks included Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Gadwall and Ruddy. Both Kinglets were seen. Anthony Nixon got a marvelous picture of a male Golden-crowned with red exposed. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers started the morning with quite a display. An immature Red-headed Woodpecker also put on quite a show gathering nuts. Sadly, no Pileated Woodpecker was seen or heard. In spite of a disc golf tournament at the Arboretum, a Red-tailed Hawk provided a lengthy, sunlight, unencumbered view in the middle of the activity. Thanks go out to the Petermans, Adairs, Boyles and Morrisises for donating trail mix which was enjoyed by all. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	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	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Pintail	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Chipping Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Blue Jay	Song Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Swamp Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	White-throated Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Red-shouldered Hawk	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	

October 16, 2016 was absolutely beautiful! Fall temperatures (50-70 degrees) and clear, calm skies made for wonderful bird watching. The brush with Hurricane Matthew last week blew in several winter residents. First of season species included Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Migrants included American Redstart and Magnolia Warbler. A rarely seen Merlin livened up the morning. The Canada Goose with a missing foot was seen again and now nicknamed "Stubbs." Watching him make necessary corrections when swimming demonstrated the adaptability of animals. Two snake species were seen--a feisty Northern Black Racer and a petite Northern Ringneck with its typical complete yellow neck band. Those participating in the morning were John and Marilyn Adair, Pete and Charm Peterman, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Marc Nichols, Richard Hudgins, Walt Harris, Jane Frigo and first timers Pete and Mariska Laky, Arleen Simpson, Kari Somner, Emily Malick and Shawn Hoffman. and a total of **53 species** were identified.

Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat
Pied-billed Grebe	Pileated Woodpecker	American Redstart
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue-headed Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Magnolia Warbler
Great Egret	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Carolina Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Winter Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Merlin	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Red-winged Blackbird
Chimney Swift	Hermit Thrush	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	

For the **October 2, 2016** walk, the annual Newport News Fall Festival weekend in the park altered the usual meeting place. Instead of meeting at the Ranger Station, morning walkers met at the Campground parking lot across the reservoir. Although it was cloudy and muggy, 18 participants assembled. They included John and Marilyn Adair, Pete and Charm Peterman, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, Bill and Anne Boeh, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Dave Youker, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Phyllis Roth, Jane Frigo, and first timers Letitia Lussier, Joe Jones and Jim Francis.. The group identified **45 species** plus a possible Marsh Wren. A first of season Golden-crowned Kinglet was spotted! Other warblers seen included Black-and-white, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided and Pine. A good view of a White-eyed Vireo was enjoyed. Surprisingly, Great Blue Heron was almost missed but Phyllis spotted one on her way out. A complete species list follows.

Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird
Black Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Turkey Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Brown Thrasher
Bald Eagle	Blue-headed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Hawk species	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Laughing Gull	American Crow	American Redstart
Rock Pigeon	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Parula
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	White-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Warbler
Chimney Swift	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	House Wren	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Red-headed Woodpecker	possible Marsh Wren	Blue Grosbeak
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
		American Goldfinch

September 18, 2016 was warm and sticky, clear and calm. Ten participants included four first timers--Jeanette LeDuc-Nichols, Jeanette Yoh, Kari-lyn Sommers and Shannon Reeves--and regulars Stuart Sweetman, Andy Hawkins, Mike Lowry, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacque VanMontfrans and Jane Frigo. Terns from the previous walk were absent but several Belted Kingfishers were spotted. Six warblers were seen--Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Magnolia, Pine and Prairie. Three Vireo species were seen--Red-eyed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated. A pair of Summer

Tanagers also brightened up the day. The Arboretum, usually productive, was empty. Then we spotted a Red-tailed Hawk who was probably keeping everyone out of sight. A pair of Solitary Sandpipers were seen hugging the shore by the Spawning Pond Bridge. A complete list of the **50 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	White-eyed Vireo	American Redstart
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Yellow-throated Vireo	Magnolia Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	Prairie Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	

Tropical Storm Hermine brushed the coast yesterday and brought lower temperatures (68-75 degrees), cloudy skies and a little drizzle for the walk on **September 4, 2016**. Those hoping to see what the storm blew in were George and Virginia Boyles, Charm and Pete Peterman, Gwen and Walt Harris, Tom Charlock, Jason Strickland, John Adair, Stuart Sweetman, Bill Boeh, Marc Nichols, Anthony Nixon and Jane Frigo. The group made the 2 mile White Oak Trail walk and identified **60 species** and possibly two additional warblers (Magnolia and Yellow). Caspian, Forster's and Royal Terns were seen. A Solitary Sandpiper was still hanging around but the two Pied-billed Grebes from the last walk were absent. American Redstarts were observed at length at the Arboretum flying from the trees to the ground gathering insects. Most summer residents were still around including Green Heron, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting, to name a few. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Double-crested Cormorant	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling
Osprey	Acadian Flycatcher	Black-and-white Warbler
Bald Eagle	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk	White-eyed Vireo	American Redstart
Solitary Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Magnolia Warbler...possible
Laughing Gull	Blue Jay	Yellow Warbler...possible
Caspian Tern	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Forster's Tern	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Royal Tern	Tree Swallow	Summer Tanager
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	House Finch
	House Wren	American Goldfinch

August brings the last summer celebrations and heralds the coming of fall and migration. On **August 21, 2016**, 14 people came to the park to see what changes had started. They included Lee Morris, Ray Yoh, Virginia Boyles, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Shawn Dash, Mike Lowry, Jane Frigo, Pete and Charm Peterman, Phil and Angelina Bogert and first timer Erin Howe. Belted Kingfishers were busy fishing and frolicking--so good to see them again, but Green Herons couldn't be found. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes was new, but Prothonotary Warblers were another miss and Eastern Kingbirds were absent. Eastern Wood-Pewees continued to be abundant and gave great views of their fly catching skills. A single Caspian Tern spent a lengthy time fishing up and down the water. The group spent some time watching a Great Blue Heron catch and swallow a sizable fish! Altogether **48 species** were identified. A complete list follows.

Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren
Mallard	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Egret	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Turkey Vulture	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Osprey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling
Cooper's Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Common Grackle
Caspian Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	House Finch
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch

August 7, 2016 was pleasant for this time of year. The temperature stayed below 80 with cloudy skies and calm winds. Those participating in the morning walk included Marilyn and John Adair, George and Virginia Boyles, Lee and Susan Morris, Ned and Becky Rose, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Mike Lowry, Bill Ferris, Stuart Sweetman, Jim Barnett, Tom Charlock, Anthony Nixon, Candice Hilliard, Jane Frigo and California visitor Johanna Aubba. **52 species** were identified. The best bird of the morning was a Yellow-throated Warbler! A pair of Green Herons came in a close second. The herons were perched high on a tree in the Arboretum area with necks fully extended toward the sky and one with a raised crest. Prothonotary Warblers continued to be missed. Fortunately a Belted Kingfisher was finally seen after a lengthy absence. A complete species list follows.

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

The weather was more cooperative on **July 17, 2016**. It was hot and humid and winds were calm but at least the sun was shining. Mike Lowry, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, Richard Hudgins, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Pete and Charm Peterman and first timer Candice Hilliard enjoyed the morning and were able to identify **54 species**. The lower reservoir level provided foraging opportunities for a Solitary Sandpiper! Many fledglings of various species were seen. The group enjoyed watching a mother Indigo Bunting trying to satisfy three fledglings right next to the Ranger lot bridge. Eastern Kingbirds were quite vocal as they tried to keep up with their young ones. A single Royal Tern worked the water and numerous Wood Duck families were spotted nestled in the area beyond the Spawning Pond. All 6 woodpeckers were accounted for. Two Prothonotary Warblers were seen. They have been scarce this year. Eastern Wood-Pewees, however, were abundant. One surprise was that not a single Canada Goose was spotted. A complete species list follows.

Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Turkey Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing
Osprey	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Bald Eagle	Eastern Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Purple Martin	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

The summer of 2016 has been a soggy one. Scattered showers have kept the area green but have dampened yet another birding day. Skies were overcast and showers were predicted for **July 3, 2016**. Still, ten hardy souls showed up at 6 AM to make a quick walk to the Swamp Bridge before the regularly scheduled 7 AM walk. They included Mike Lowry, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo, John and Marilyn Adair, Virginia and George Boyles and newcomer Penny Owings.

The group made it to the bridge before the rain began but got thoroughly soaked trying to make it back to the cars parked at the Spawning Pond. Needless to say the list of birds was slim but not without some rewards like several Green Herons, an Indigo Bunting, Wood Ducks and an Orchard Oriole. Most of the group left immediately to return home and dry off but a few people stayed. They were joined by Shawn and Katrina Dash. The group birded from a picnic shelter before finally calling it quits at 8 AM. **26 species** were identified and another 6 AM trip may be scheduled at a later date. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Great Egret	American Crow	Indigo Bunting
Green Heron	Fish Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Spotted Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Orchard Oriole
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Robin	

The official beginning of summer is just days away but **June 19, 2016** was like spring with clear calm skies and temperatures in the 60's--barely rising to the 80's by afternoon. Bill Boeh, Dianne Snyder, Anthony Nixon, Elizabeth Wilkins, Mike Lowry, Marc Nichols and Jane Frigo had a delightful morning and identified **58 species**. Multiple Green Herons were seen but Prothonotary Warblers were hard to find. A Royal Tern was definitely spotted. A Caspian Tern may also have been present but since no consensus could be reached it wasn't counted. The Discovery Center area yielded great views of the Red-headed Woodpecker, American Goldfinch, and Blue Grosbeak to name a few. Three species of snakes were also spotted. For those that might be interested, the group suggested trying to see the Swamp Bridge area at dawn. So, anyone wanting to make a quick run to the bridge BEFORE the next scheduled walk on July 3, 2016, please meet at the Spawning Pond at 6 AM. Those there at 6 AM will make a quick walk to the Swamp Bridge, spend 20-30 minutes on the bridge and then return to the Ranger parking lot for the normal 7 AM schedule. If you have any questions, feel free to call Jane Frigo 757-873-0721 for more information. A complete species list follows.

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

The stormy weather predicted for Sunday, **June 5, 2016** never materialized but the morning was still overcast and muggy. Those coming to the bird walk included Cathy Bond, Shawn Dash, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Anthony Nixon and Jane Frigo. The group struggled to identify **50 different species** but never the less enjoyed the morning. Multiple Green Herons were seen and Canada Geese proudly showed off their offspring. The group enjoyed watching a Red-bellied Woodpecker at his nest cavity just off the path near the Ranger Station. Sadly the Great Horned Owl was not seen and there was no activity at the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest at the Swamp Bridge. The group was happy to see two Red-headed Woodpeckers flitted through the trees near the golf course. An Orchard Oriole gave quite a lengthy performance. Hopefully all participants will remember his song. Surprisingly only one Prothonotary Warbler was seen. A pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoo was another treat for the morning. A complete species list follows.

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

A cold front moved through bringing the temperature on **May 15, 2016** to the 50-60 degree range after the previous days 80's. Still it was a great birding day. **13 people** showed up for the walk. They included Dianne Snyder, Jim Barnett, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Phyllis Roth, Virginia Boyles, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo and newcomers Francoise Veland, and Art, Bernie and Faith Calhoun. The walk began with Wood Ducks! A group of over 10 was spotted. Later a lone female with 10 young were seen. Red-eyed Vireos were easily observed and Blackpoll Warblers were singing loudly. At the Arboretum the group got to see the Great Horned Owl at his favorite perch after a lengthy absence. Another highlight at the Aboretum was a Canada Warbler! Both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were also spotted during the morning. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest observed on the two previous walks was inactive and the assumption was that the birds had fledged. At the Swamp Bridge another Gnatcatcher was spotted constructing a nest. That one will bear watching on the first walk in June. There was also a possible Worm-eating Warbler. Two species missed were Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak. A total of **67 species** were counted. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird
Wood Duck	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Black Vulture	American Crow	Blackpoll Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Purple Martin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Bald Eagle	Tree Swallow	Canada Warbler

Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Spotted Sandpiper
Laughing Gull
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Horned Owl
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Swainson's Thrush

Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
American Goldfinch

May 1, 2016 was cloudy and chilly but 12 people braved the elements to identify a total of **75 species**. Participants included Mike Lowry, Ellis Maxey, Bill Ferris, Stuart Sweetman, Hannah Montalvo, Mary Lynch, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo and Shawn and Katrina Dash and Sydney and Camden Buffamante. 14 warblers were seen along with first of season species Eastern Kingbird, Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak to name a few. Wood Ducks were abundant. A late season Ring-necked Duck was spotted. Both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were seen but no Waterthrush. The group visited the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest and watched hatchlings being fed. No activity was seen at the Tree Swallow nest. A Bay-breasted Warbler may have been seen but was not counted. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Mallard
Ring-necked Duck
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Acadian Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird
White-eyed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Ovenbird

Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Summer Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch

April 17, 2016 was a beautiful day to bird watch at Newport News Park. **20 people** came out to enjoy the morning. They included Virginia and George Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Ned and Becky Rose, Gwen and Walt Harris, Lieve Kenney, Bill Ferris, Elizabeth Wilkens, Jacque VanMontfrans, Stuart Sweetman, Pete Peterman, Anthony Nixon, Cathy Bond, Jane Frigo, and newcomers Lee Morris, JoAnne Bricker and Doug Rogers. The group missed visiting the Arboretum because of a disc golf tournament, but were still able to identify **63 species**. Ring-necked ducks were still in the reservoir along with a Pied-billed Grebe. A pair of Wood Ducks were also seen and always appreciated. Caspian

Terns were observed among the Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were singing and Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were still around. Spring arrivals included Green Heron, Prothonotary Warbler and Great Crested Flycatcher, to name a few. The group took the White Oak Bridge Trail again and revisited the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest. At the same overlook Tree Swallows were seen using the Prothonotary Warbler nest box located in the area. The Louisiana Waterthrush was also seen in the same area as the last walk. Finally, a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen. A Cottonmouth snake as observed at the Swamp Bridge and a reminder to always keep an eye out on the trails. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mute Swan	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Wood Duck	Eastern Phoebe	Louisiana Waterthrush
Mallard	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	White-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	Purple Martin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Green Heron	Tree Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Osprey	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	White-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Northern Cardinal
Caspian Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch

Spring has begun but the weather didn't quite cooperate. Although a beautiful sunny morning, the temperature at 7 AM **April 3, 2016** was in the low 40's and the brisk wind made it feel much colder. Hand warmers were definitely needed. In spite of that 13 birders came out to see the new arrivals. Participants included Marilyn and John Adair, Bill and Anne Boeh, Jason Strickland, Hannah Montalvo, Andy Hawkins, Richard Hudgins, Stuart Sweetman, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Shawn Dash and Jane Frigo. The group was able to identify **60 species**. The group altered the usual walk route and took the White Oak Trail circle. On that path they not only found some shelter from the wind but also made some exciting finds all of which were photographed by Anthony and Bill. They included a Great Egret in beautiful breeding plumage. a pair of Louisiana Waterthrush, a cooperative and vocal Northern Parula and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher building a nest. Yellow-throated Warblers were heard but no visual was made. An Eastern Phoebe was seen singing and Purple Martins were active. Many Double Crested Cormorants were seen flying in formation. One miss was the resident Northern Mockingbird. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mute Swan	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Wood Duck	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Gadwall	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
American Wigeon	Eastern Phoebe	Louisiana Waterthrush
Mallard	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Ring-necked Duck	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Purple Martin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Great Egret	Tree Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Chipping Sparrow

Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker

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

Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

Rain beat down early in the morning of **March 20, 2016** but by 7 AM it tapered off and 8 people turned out to see what birds could be found at Newport News Park. Those hearty individuals included Mike Lowry, John Adair, Shawn Dash Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacques van Montfrans and Jane Frigo. Although the early morning was cold (40's) and damp, the brisk winds held off until later in the morning. **61 species** were identified. Cedar Waxwings were abundant as were Tree Swallows. Several Rough-winged Swallows were also spotted in the group. Brown Thrashers were everywhere. Both Tundra and Mute Swans were seen with many ducks still on the reservoir. It took until the end of the morning to spot any Hooded Mergansers. Two Laughing gulls were seen among the Ring-billed Gulls. A Great Horned Owl was heard across the water early in the walk but no visual sighting was made. A complete species list follows.

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

Great Horned Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
Winter Wren
Golden crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

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

March came in more like a lamb than a lion. **March 7, 2016**, was chilly with temperatures in the 40's and skies overcast but clearing as the morning progressed. The good thing was the winds were calm! **26 people** started out at 7 AM and 8 continued until 1 PM. Those participating were Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Ned and Becky Rose, John and Marilyn Adair, George and Virginia Boyles, Walt and Gwen Harris, Bill Ferris, Lieve Kenney, Jim Barnett, Dianne Snyder, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Hannah Montalvo, Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, Jane Frigo and newcomers John Honchul, Ella Reilly, Veronica Percy and Teresa Walters. Over the course of the morning **63 species** were identified! Highlights were a Greater Yellowlegs seen on the mudflats created by the lowering of the reservoir. Hopefully more shore birds will be seen as this new habitat is discovered. A cooperative Red-tailed Hawk gave a wonderful photo opportunity. 100+ Tree Swallows were observed feeding and also occupying the power lines and vibrating their wings! Two Tundra Swans were studied before taking flight. Ducks were still in good numbers with the Redheads still the favorite. New arrivals

included a Laughing Gull and Osprey. End of the day sightings included a Belted Kingfisher, male Wood Duck and Sharp-shinned Hawk. A complete species list follows.

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

What a pleasant day for the middle of February for our walk on **February 21, 2016**. Conditions were clear, calm and warm (50-60's). 20 people came out and identified **54 species**. Those participating included John and Marilyn Adair, Anne and Bill Boeh, Pete and Charm Peterman, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Tom Charlock, Lieve Kenney, Dave Youker, Anthony Nixon, Bill Ferris, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo and first timers Diane Snyder, Christy Gardener, Sharon Neal, Sandy Petersen and Anne Owens. The morning began with the thrilling sight of Tundra Swans! Ducks were also in good number with multiple Redheads seen. The noisiest birds of the day had to be the Brown-headed Nuthatches. Missed on the last walk they were seen and heard all through the park. Young Bald Eagles were spotted multiple times but no hawks or Black Vultures. Also missed was the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Hairy Woodpecker. It was good to see a pair of Belted Kingfishers. A complete species list follows.

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

February 7, 2016 was not too bad for the middle of winter!. The temperature was chilly (30-40) but winds were calm. Skies stayed overcast but visibility was good. **57 species** were identified during the morning walk. The highlight was a cooperative Fox Sparrow observed at the Discovery Center. Other cooperative birds allowing lengthy observations included a Winter Wren and a Swamp Sparrow along the Swamp Bridge journey, a nice flock of Cedar Waxwings at the Arboretum, and some large groups of American Robins and mixed blackbirds. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen in several areas but only a single Golden-crowned Kinglet could be found and that was at the very end of the walk. Eight duck species and six woodpecker species were seen. Misses included owls and Red-headed Woodpeckers. As usual it was a good day. Those participating in the morning were Lieve Keeney, Bill Ferris, Anthony Nixon, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, Frank and Linda Schaff, Shawn and Katrina Dash and newcomers Jordan and Heather Pralle. A complete species list follows.

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

Three eager birders were at the park on **January 17, 2016**, before the gate was opened! In the end **15 people and one dog** enjoyed the chilly morning. They included John and Marilyn Adair, George and Virginia Boyles, Pete and Charm Peterman, Mary Ellen Lynch, Bill Ferris, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacques van Montfrans, Jane Frigo, Anthony Nixon and his sister's friendly, well behaved dog Hobbs. The temperature began in the low 40's and continued dropping throughout the walk. Skies were overcast and actually produced sleet before changing over to drizzle which eventually led to actual snow! The group lasted until 10 AM. They were able to identify **43 species** in that time. Two Tundra Swan were spotted flying over. Two Redhead ducks and Lesser Scaup were spotted among a good sized group of Ring-necks and Gadwall. American Robins were the most abundant species for the morning. A large flock of Cedar Waxwing numbering over 40 were gathering at the Arboretum. Both adult and immature Bald Eagles were seen. A special thank you to the Adair's for bringing donut holes to share. The treat helped sweeten up the miserable weather. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Tundra Swan	Mourning Dove	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Redhead	Blue Jay	Cedar Waxwing
Ring-necked Duck	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Lesser Scaup	'Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow

Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle

White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

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

Thanks to Tom Charlock for this report!

Newport News Park Sunday bird walk Chief Frigo was away and counting in Matthews County on **January 3, 2016**, but the fair, near-freezing morning drew 13 enthusiasts: John Adair, Jim Barnett, Virginia and George Boyles, Tom Charlock, Richard Hudgins, Cheryl Jacobson (Williamsburg Club), Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Mark Nichols, Anthony Nixon, Pete Peterman, and Jason Strickland. Our first look at the water was free of fog – and pretty spare as regards birds, too. Then Anthony managed to spot a Bald Eagle flying at tree top level across the reservoir. Cheryl saw a warbler and after careful deliberation decided it was an Orange-crowned. Sights and sounds of small songbirds and woodpeckers picked up by the time we'd circled over to the footbridge. Wendy heard a curious thud from the bridge, and it turned out to be real mishap: The hoar frost had caused Richard to spill flat onto the planks. He received a nasty laceration and decided to call it a day. (At lunch in Panera the next afternoon, Richard was in superb humor and seemed very much himself).

A stiff westerly breeze picked up and the main group proceeded to the "arboretum." But Jason, Anthony, Mark and Cheryl remained along the water, where they saw Gadwall, Widgeon American Black duck, Ring-necked duck, Pied-billed Grebe.... Those staying with the water were decidedly the winners, as the arboretum revealed little more than masses of Robins (and some Red-winged Blackbirds) scooting from tree to tree. The main crew finally enjoyed the ducks when they arrived at the Discovery Center. At the walkway near the spawning pond, a Great Blue Heron put on a close, noisy, pterodactyl show. John drew out a Winter Wren from a stump. The temperature was in the 40s when at the swamp bridge, where Pete saw a Marsh Wren in the reeds that was identified by call. We observed a total of **49 species**, but there were no accipiters, buteos, or owls.

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

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
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
House Finch
American Goldfinch

Audubon Christmas Counts are in full swing and many people must be participating! Only four came out **December 20, 2015** for the morning park walk. They were Barbara and Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo. Even this small group was able to identify **39 species** for the morning. The weather began with freezing temperatures, warming into the mid 40's, but not much wind which made it more tolerable. The birds seemed scarce. Eastern Bluebirds were even hard to find and were not seen until the end of the morning at the Swamp Bridge! Canada Geese were on the reservoir along

with some nice groups of Ring-necked Ducks, Gadwall and Hooded Mergansers. Several American Wigeon were interspersed. Misses included Brown Thrasher, Mourning Dove and Hermit Thrush to name a few. A nice end to the morning was a flock of Cedar Waxwings among the Eastern Bluebirds at the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

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

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

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

November 15, 2015 began with an unexpected frost! The reservoir was beautifully blanketed with fog. It took a while for the birds to wake up but the day, as usual, turned into a great morning with **55 species** identified. The most notable sightings for the morning included a pair of Northern Pintail, a Marsh Wren at the Swamp Bridge, and an Orange-crowned Warbler! American Robins and Dark-eyed

Juncos were everywhere. First of season (FOS) Brown Creepers were spotted early in the day along with Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A Winter Wren was seen at the first bridge. The group couldn't find the Hooded Mergansers or Ring-necked Duck seen at the last walk but Gadwall were still present. Sadly, owls and the Red-headed Woodpeckers couldn't be found. Those participating in the walk were A. J. Brewington, Lieve Keeney, Dave Nissen, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Richard Hudgins, John Adair, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jacques VanMontfran, Shawn Dash, Pete Peterman, Jim Barnett, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, Denis and Charlotte Boudreau and Leigh and George Fenigsohn. A complete list of birds follows.

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

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

Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Mute Swan	Yellow-billed Sapsucker	American Robin
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Ring-necked Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Merganser	Blue-headed Vireo	Palm Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow

Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Merlin	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Winter Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Rusty Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch

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

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

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

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Mallard
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Tern
Royal Tern

Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren

Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Black-and-white Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Northern Parula
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Northern Cardinal

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

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Mallard
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Laughing Gull
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird

American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Common Yellowthroat
Pine Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch

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

Pine Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler. Misses for the morning included Great Egret and owls. A complete species list follows.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oh, what a hot, wet summer so far! **July 19, 2015** was clear but steamy. Precipitation for the area is six inches above normal. In spite of that, 16 people braved the morning to see what could be found. They included John Adair, Dave Youker, Mike Lowry, Bill Ferris, Pete Peterman, Elizabeth Wilkins, Jack Van Montfrans, Stuart Sweetman, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, Bill and Anne Boeh, and Barbara and Richard Hudgins. **59 species** were identified. The Great Horned Owl had returned to his favorite tree. Seeing him is always a treat and never taken for granted. A Barred Owl was heard on the return from the Swamp Bridge but the group was too hot and tired to backtrack and attempt a spotting. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed hovering and catching insects on the wing! After a sufficient mouthful was captured, they flew to a nest hole and were greeted by a hungry nestling straining to be fed. The group had never witnessed this behavior more typical of a Belted Kingfisher or Eastern Kingbird. Later a lively discussion was held over a Laughing Gull in what appeared to be "winter aspect" plumage. Mike Lowry had a copy of Vol. 2 of Peter Pyle detailed identification guide. We learned that the bird was not a confused first year gull, but a second year bird. Apparently first year birds can keep their winter plumage through the following summer. Always something new to be learned! There were good looks at Yellow-billed Cuckoo's and several Green Herons. Sad misses for the morning included Prothonotary Warbler, Bald Eagle, Mute Swan and Blue Grosbeak. A complete list follows.

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

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

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

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Anhinga	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula
Black Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Rock Pigeon	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Common Grackle
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Orchard Oriole
Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	

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

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

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

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

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing

Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula
Black Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Barred Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Orchard Oriole
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

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

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

Wonderful weather was enjoyed by the birding group assembled on **May 3, 2015**. Winds were calm and the temperature began in the mid 50's and slowly warmed to the 80's. The leaves on the trees

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

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

April 19, 2015 was a beautiful day for birding. The temperature stayed in the comfortable 60 degree range and winds were moderate. The only thing distracting was the pollen!!! It was so thick that at times it looked like fog and moved across the ground like a dust storm. In spite of that 25 people turned out to enjoy the morning. They included Bill Ferris, Mike Lowry, Sandy Robertson, Stuart Sweetman, Rory Johnson, John Adair, Shawn Dash, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Marc Nichols, Bill Boeh, Jane Frigo, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Ned and Becky Rose, Gwen and Walter Harris, and newcomers Tracy McIntyre, Helmut Walter, Ellis Burna, Kenneth Carroll and Zachary and Jason Conklin. A Red-tailed Hawk gave an outstanding show. He was being mobbed by Blue Jays but seemed reluctant to leave the area. An adult Bald Eagle was seen trying to snatch a fish from an Osprey. A pair of Wood Ducks, often hard to seen, were observed at length. In fact, the group got to watch them navigate a tree limb and possibly drop into a nest cavity. Some FOS visitors included Great Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Prothonotary Warbler and Northern Parula. The group also saw 2 raccoons, 4 cotton mouth snakes and a couple black snakes. Bill Boeh captured terrific pictures of some of these creatures, including the **pair of Wood Ducks below**. [You can view all of Bill's photos in this album.](#)



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

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

At last a beautiful morning for a bird walk! Easter Sunday, **April 5, 2015**, was clear and calm. The temperature was a bit chilly at the start--30's--but warmed nicely as the morning progressed. A light fog covered the water but soon burned off and gave the group some interesting waterfowl to observe and discuss. There was quite a discussion over two Grebes seen. The final decision was a Horned AND a Red-necked Grebe. Outstanding FOS included Green Heron, Purple Martin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Palm Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler. No Yellow-bellied Sapsucker or Brown Creeper were seen, but the Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet remained. At the Arboretum Brown Thrashers appear to have taken over the Northern Mockingbirds favorite tree and were carrying in nest material. 25

people participated in the morning. They included first timers Janet Tucker, Bella Rosso, Lylliane Battle and Tina Chisman, and old-timers Jason Strickland, Sandy Robertson, Bruce Glendening, Bill Ferris, Shawn Dash, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Sandy DiCarlo, Hannah Montalvo, Marc Nichols, Cathy Bond, Bryan Barmore, Sharon Burton, Jane Frigo, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, Marilyn and John Adair, and Virginia and George Boyles. The group identified **67 species**. There was some discussion at the end of the morning about a lone swan circling VERY high above the Swamp Bridge area. Could it have been a Tundra??? A complete species list follows.

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

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

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Brown Thrasher
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Redhead	American Crow	Fox Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Fish Crow	Song Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Tree Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Carolina Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Double-crested Cormorant	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Brown Creeper	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Mourning Dove		

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

Mute Swan	Mourning Dove	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Eastern Towhee
Redhead	Blue Jay	Field Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	American Crow	Fox Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird

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

Canada Goose	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Rock Pigeon	Eastern Bluebird
Wood Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin
American Wigeon	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Blue Jay	Brown Thrasher
Redhead	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Blue Heron	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Golden-crowned Kinglet	

At last a decent morning bird walk! **February 1, 2015** was very cold--temperatures in the mid 20's--but skies were clear and winds were calm. Shawn Dash, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Lana Bennett, Jane Frigo, Charm and Pete Peterman, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, and John and Marilyn Adair identified **59 species** over the morning. The day began with a beautiful Pileated Woodpecker followed by multiple Bald Eagle sightings. Three eagles were perched in one tree while two others stood on the frozen reservoir. Several large concentrations of ducks occupied the few open water spaces and allowed for great viewing through scopes. All possible

woodpeckers were seen. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was quite vocal. Several Brown Creepers were spotted along with both species of Kinglets. Quite a discussion was held over whether a photo taken by Anthony Nixon was of a Sharp-shinned or a Cooper's Hawk. The consensus was to agree to disagree and mark it Accipiter Species. An outstanding view of a Rusty Blackbird vocalizing was enjoyed. Sadly no owls and no Fox Sparrow were found. A complete species list follows.

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

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

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

The first HRBC Sunday bird walk of **2015 (January 4)** in Newport News Park was preceded by a gentle warm front that advanced the mercury to about 60 F by 7:00 AM. The front had somehow displaced leader Jane Frigo to a formal count in Matthews County, leaving stalwarts Bill Ferris, Richard Hudgins, Cathy Bond and Tom Charlock to find their own, and initially bird-free, way in a very dense fog. Little more than a few Hooded Mergansers, Ring-billed Gulls and a muskrat could be identified from the shoreline behind the ranger station. Some fields on the disk golf course hosted noisy action by about a hundred Red-winged Blackbirds, most of which were male. A moderate rain shower hit; the

wind increased and blew most of the fog away. With a few patches of blue sky then appearing at the Discover Center, the birds finally exploded from hiding; fortunately Bill was there to identify them. Beneath the power line, a big Fox Sparrow cavorted on the grass among a group of Song Sparrows; White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were in the adjacent brush; a Red-headed Woodpecker moved about the trees nearby. We saw an immature Bald Eagle, American Widgeons, Ring-necked Ducks, Gadwalls, Pied-billed Grebes and Mute Swans on the way to the "spawning pond", and enjoyed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the walk back to the lot at around 10:00 AM. **39 species** were observed. (Report by Tom Charlock. Thanks, Tom!)

Canada Goose	Herring Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Mute Swan	Mourning Dove	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Fox Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Tufted Titmouse	White-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird