

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

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

The clocks rolled back last night so everyone enjoyed an extra hour of sleep, including the birds. The weather **November 5, 2017**, was wonderful....60's to low 70's, no wind and low humidity. The changing fall colors added to a beautiful morning. Quite a group assembled. They included Jim Barnett, Fred Kohlman, Dianne Snyder, Kathleen Jabs, Jason Strickland, Marc Nichols, Sam Askin, Pete Peterman, Tom Charlock, John Adair, Stuart Sweetman, Susan Maples, Cindy Shulz, Jane Frigo, Rochelle and Harry Colestock, and the Green family...Brenda, Falcon, Cevan and Tevan. Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant! Woodpeckers were also seen with the exception of the Red-headed. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker could be seen and heard. The Arboretum was not very productive due to a disc golf tournament involving about 200 participants. Two interesting flyovers were Common Loon and Barred Owl. A dead deer gave an unpleasant jolt to the nose, but brought Turkey Vultures down to the ground. Winter Wrens were seen and a Brown Creeper heard but not seen. Dark-eyed Juncos were finally spotted. No interesting waterfowl were in with the exception of several Pied-billed Grebe. A complete list of the **52 species** follows.

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

The entire week was dark, damp and depressing. **October 16, 2017** began the same way with a slight mist and no air movement. A small group turned out to see what migrants could be found. Those braving the weather were Tom Charlock, Pete Peterman, Bill Boeh, Marc Nichols, John Adair, Glen Butler and Jane Frigo. The poor light made identifying the many warblers a real challenge. Still, nine warblers were identified including first of season Yellow-rumps. At Swamp Point a black snake was seen wrapped around a horizontal branch with Yellow-rumps flitting all around, seemingly oblivious! The snake, however, noticed us watching him and followed our movements. The most exciting sighting was of a female Bobolink at the Discovery Center. There was a spirited discussion before the group decided on an identification. Thanks to Pete Peterman for getting excellent pictures. **51 species** were identified. A list follows.

Canada Goose	Pileated Woodpecker	American Redstart
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Parula
Ruddy Duck	White-eyed Vireo	Magnolia Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Bay-breasted Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Herring Gull	Winter Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Blue Grosbeak
Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird	Bobolink
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler	Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	House Finch
Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat	American Goldfinch

The **October 1, 2017** took place at the Newport News Park campground. Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Virginia Boyles, Mike Lowry, Jason Strickland, Pete Peterman, Sam Anan, Jane Frigo, John and Marilyn Adair, Gwen and Walt Harris and Wendy and Ellis Maxey participated. The plan had been to try a 5 mile hike on the bike trail, but that plan got abandoned. The weather was in the 60's and the hope was that the cold front would bring in fall migrants. Instead, the cloudy skies and brisk winds seemed to keep the birds hunkered down. A nice group of Field Sparrows was observed. Warblers of note were Northern Parula and American Redstart. Only a total of **40 species** were identified. The next walk will return to the usual route. A special thank you to John and Marilyn Adair for their contribution of trail mix which is appreciated by all! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	American Redstart
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Field Sparrow
Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Summer Tanager
Rock Pigeon	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Indigo Bunting
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

What a beautiful day! **September 17, 2017** was clear and calm with temperatures in the 70's. Those participating in the morning were Glenn Butler, Don Brunk, James Abbott, Mike Lowry, Lieve Keeney, Stuart Sweetman, Ileana Fenwick, Cindy Schulz, Brian McGill, Becky Rose, Jane Frigo and Shawn and Katrina Dash. **57 species** were identified. Pied-billed Grebe were spotted in a couple areas. Green Heron were still around, probably for the last time this season. Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were seen with the Solitary giving a lengthy, close up look in the mud flats by the second platform. Warblers were definitely migrating through with Black-and-white, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia and Pine seen. For those who made it to the Swamp

Bridge, excellent views of a White-eyed Vireo were enjoyed. Quite a bit of time was spent chasing a Philadelphia Vireo and provided a lively discussion. A note about the next walk, October 1...MEET AT THE CAMPGROUND PARKING LOT FOR A WALK ALONG THE POWER LINES. This is a change from our usual meeting place but is quite enjoyable and provides some diversity. Someone will be stationed at the Ranger parking lot to help direct those who don't get this message. For those who don't know, the campground parking lot is located across on the other side of the reservoir. You can call Jane Frigo's cell at 757-660-3405 if you need help. Here is a list of species for the morning.

Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	House Wren
American Black Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood Pewee	Nashville Warbler
Turkey Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	Philadelphia Vireo	American Redstart
Bald Eagle	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Parula
Northern Harrier	Blue Jay	Magnolia Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Merlin	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Solitary Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Rock Pigeon	Brown-headed Nuthatch	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch

The weather the morning of **September 3, 2017** was actually chilly! Definitely a reminder that the seasons are changing and everyone needs to be prepared. 15 people participated in the morning walk. They included John and Marilyn Adair, Virginia and George Boyles, Pete and Charm Peterman, Samantha Askin, Dianne Snyder, Lieve Keeney, Bryan Barmore, Cindy Schulz, Stuart Sweetman, Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock and Jane Frigo. A special thank you goes out to Virginia Boyles who treated everyone to fresh donuts! The birds were very active and warblers were abundant. Warblers included Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Black-throated Blue, Pine, and a possible Blue-winged. It was difficult to get everyone on every bird but it was sure fun trying. All 7 woodpeckers were counted. The Great Horned Owl was back at the Arboretum and it is hoped he will stay. Very few Mallards were seen and only 1 Canada Goose (not necessarily a bad thing). Summer residents will be leaving soon and will be replaced by our winter residents. A complete list of the **58 species** follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	House Wren
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Double-crested Cormorant	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Black Vulture	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-and-white Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Nashville Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	American Redstart
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Laughing Gull	Tree Swallow	Pine Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Royal Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Rock Pigeon	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Great Horned Owl	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Carolina Wren	possible Blue-winged Warbler
Belted Kingfisher		

Summer is passing quickly and bird watchers are looking forward to fall migration. Those participating in the **August 20, 2017** walk were Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Lori Palagyi, Samantha Askin, Brian McGill, and John and Marilyn Adair. Several regulars at the Sunday walks were out of town chasing the rare coast to coast total eclipse happening on Monday, August 21, 2017. The smaller group still was able to identify **50 species**. Canada Geese had returned. A couple Mallards exhibited an interesting behavior. They were observed actually diving under the water to feed, not just the typical dabbling, tail up behavior. A big thank you to Stuart Sweetman for leading the morning walk. A complete species list follows.

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

The first Sunday walk on **August 6** was beautiful! Skies were clear, humidity was low and temperatures stayed mainly in the 70's. 21 people spent at least some portion of the morning enjoying the birds and visiting. They included first timer Glenn Butler and club members Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Andy Hawkins, Stuart Sweetman, Lieve Keeney, Phyllis Roth, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, Shannon and Mike Reeves (Mike's first time too), Pete and Charm Peterman, Virginia and George Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, and Lee and Susan Morris. **54 species** were

identified. A pair of Belted Kingfishers and a Royal Tern got the morning off to a good start. Osprey were actively working the water. A lone American Black Duck, probably a Mallard/Black Duck hybrid was seen. Sadly, the Great Horned Owl could not be found at the Arboretum. Laughing Gulls were seen with one beginning to show a change to winter plumage and reminding us that fall is just around the corner! Chimney Swifts were seen both in the sky and at the Discovery Center (3 were being rehabilitated and almost ready for release!) Stuart got a glimpse of a Louisiana Waterthrush working through the reeds at the Swamp Bridge. A complete species list follows.

American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling
Black Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Louisiana Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Bald Eagle	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Summer Tanager
Royal Tern	Tree-Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch

Summer was in full swing bringing hot and humid weather for the **July 16, 2017** bird walk. Marilyn and John Adair, Charm and Pete Peterman, Harry and Rochelle Colestock, Lieve Keeney, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Mike Lowry, Dave Youker, Bill Boeh, Brian Magill, Lee Morris, Stuart Sweetman and Jane Frigo spent the morning seeing what was out there. At last the Great Horned Owl was spotted at the Arboretum!!! He has been absent for months and truly made the morning worth the effort. Another interesting sighting was a possible Cliff Swallow at the power lines. Mike Lowry got several pictures showing the forehead and collar. The group also got to witness "allo preening" by a pair of crows at the same location. A single Ring-billed Gull was perched on the pipeline near two Laughing Gulls. Two misses were Red-headed Woodpecker and Eastern Kingbird. Again no Canada Geese were seen. A complete list of the **53 species** follows.

Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Black Vulture	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Purple Martin	Blue Grosbeak
Royal Tern	Cliff Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	

July 2, 2017 was hot and humid. Overcast skies helped but a breeze would have been appreciated. The morning group included Stuart Sweetman, Lieve Keeney, Tom Charlock, Jane Frigo, George and Virginia Boyles, Lee and Susan Morris, John and Marilyn Adair and West Virginia visitors Art and Bernie Calhoun. **58 species** were identified. Green Herons were abundant. A Pied-billed Grebe was a surprise. A Red-headed Woodpecker gave quite a view perched at the top of a power pole at the Discovery Center. Upon leaving the park a group of ducks were spotted near the shore. Although out of season, what clearly looked like an American Black Duck was seen among the Mallards. Speculation was that he may be hybridizing with the Mallards. A highlight of the morning was a Great Horned Owl! On the walk to the Swamp Bridge, Blue Jays and Crows alerted the group to the owl who was perched quite high near the edge to the golf course. Stuart's sharp eye located it and Art and Bernie got credit for bringing some luck with them....the last time a GHO was spotted was when they visited a year ago! Misses for the morning included Canada Goose and Bald Eagle. A complete species list follows.

Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Pied-billed Grebe	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Acadian Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-throated Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Royal Tern	Purple Martin	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Great Horned Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Orchard Oriole
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch

Happy Father's Day! **June 18, 2017** was hot and humid. Mike Lowry, Anthony Nixon, Tom Charlock, Dianne Snyder, Jane Frigo, and Marilyn and John Adair started the morning off early. They met at the Spawning Pond at 5:30 AM to make a dawn walk to the Swamp Bridge. Tom and Jane returned at 7 AM to meet the regular park walk participants who included Lee Morris, Stuart Sweetman, Virginia Boyles, Cindy Schultz, Brian Magil, Shawn Dash and Don Freemon. While still at the Swamp Bridge, Anthony got a great shot of a Scarlet Tanager. **59 species** were identified during the walk which got extended and included a SECOND walk to the Swamp Bridge at the end of the morning by Jane Frigo, Stuart Sweetman and Don Freemon. That second walk yielded a look at a pair of Wood Thrush! Other notables included an Eastern Kingbird trying to eat a Cicada and another carrying away a fecal sac, a Green Heron trying to munch on a crayfish, and a turtle laying eggs. The group also had an interesting time identifying an Indigo Bunting who was singing an original take on his usual song. Surprisingly, no Canada Geese were seen! We all said good-bye to Anthony Nixon who is transferring to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Anthony will be missed but good wishes go with him in this new adventure. A complete species list follows.

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

It was another near perfect day for bird watching on **June 4, 2017**, at Newport News Park. Anthony Nixon, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, James Abbott, Cindy Schulz, Kyle Olson, Lindsay Ferguson, Jane Frigo and Susan and Lee Morris were able to identify **58 species**. It was a cool start but warmed up over the morning. Skies stayed clear and winds calm. The group did not take the White Oak Trail but traveled the usual route. Prothonotary Warblers were seen entering and exiting nest cavities. Sadly, a Brown-headed Cowbird was observed eyeing the same nest. A particularly cooperative Northern Parula was a life bird for one person. Orchard Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Green Heron and Wood Duck were also seen. A few species missed were Bald Eagle, Eastern Towhee, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Belted Kingfisher. Canada Goose was only heard! The group was treated to a tour of the rehab facility at the Discovery Center. What an amazing and demanding undertaking. A complete species list follows.

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

This weekend a BioBlitz was held at Newport News Park. The event began Saturday, May 20 and concluded at noon **May 21, 2017**. The regular second Sunday bird walk was able to contribute to the blitz. Those helping to identify species included Melanie Marois, Nancy Ivy, Larissa Steblen, Kate Bernatitus, Bob Pickett, Tom Charlock, Lieve Keeney, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, Becky Holliday, Anthony Nixon, Dianne Snyder, Genevieve Okuma, Jane Frigo, Wendy and Ellis Maxey and John and Marilyn Adair. The group stayed out until 2 PM and identified **65 species**. Both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush were found off the White Oak Trail. Eastern Wood-Pewee were everywhere as were Great Crested Flycatchers. Excellent views were had of Prothonotary Warblers. At the very end of the walk a Solitary Sandpiper was spotted having a late lunch. Although not a bird sighting, a newborn fawn nestled at the base of a large tree near the tea house provided a great photo opportunity. A king snake was also seen. The species list follows.

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

May 7, 2017 was clear and breezy. Temperatures remained in the 50's all morning causing a bit of a chill. 16 people spent time identifying an impressive **74 species**. Those birders contributing to the count included Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, Dianne Snyder, Jeanette DeBarlolo, Shannon Reeves, Kari Sommers, Lieve Keeney, Jacque VanMontfrans, Elizabeth Wikins, Ron Buchsen, Cindy Schulz, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Jim Barnett, Wayne Jones and Jane Frigo. Ten warblers were identified. They were Black-and white, Prothonotary, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Pine, Yellow-rumped and Yellow-throated. Both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were seen and Laughing and Ring-billed Gull. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at the Arboretum. While walking the White Oat Trail a FOS Acadian Flycatcher was heard and excellent views of the Black-thoated Blue Warbler were enjoyed. A Swainson's Thrush was also spotted. There was some discussion about two very rusty brown Double-crested Cormorants. Interesting to note that although the species count was similar to last year's, the species found were quite different! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	American Robin
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Mockingbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Acadian Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	European Starling
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Black-and-white Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Prothonotary Warbler
Black Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	Red-eyed Vireo	Hooded Warbler
Osprey	Blue Jay	Northern Parula
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Blackpoll Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Fish Crow	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Purple Martin	Pine Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Laughing Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Yellow-throated Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Royal Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Chimney Swift	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Hairy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	

The **April 16, 2017** park walk fell on Easter Sunday! The day was beautiful with temperatures starting in the mid 60's and rising to the 80's. Those participating included Tom Charlock, Dianne Snyder, Anthony Nixon, Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, John Adair, Genevieve Okuma, Jane Frigo, Katrina and Shawn Dash, and newcomers Barbara and Jamie Waring. The group identified **58 species**. Sunrise services filled the Arboretum early in the morning, but cleared out by the time the group made it to that area. Winter resident ducks appeared to have departed but a female Wood Duck was seen along with a lone American Coot. First of season species (FOS) included Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler. The group took the White Oak Trail and circled around to the Swamp Bridge. For the next few walks the group will follow this path in hopes of seeing more of the woodland migrating warblers. Kinglets appeared to have departed. Another miss was a Great Blue Heron! Yellow-rumped Warblers were still present, in breeding plumage and singing. Leaves are popping, making sightings more difficult so everyone should brush up on the bird songs. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Wood Duck	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Eastern Phoebe	American Robin
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Brown Thrasher
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
American Coot	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Killdeer	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Royal Tern	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker		

A special thank you to Stuart Sweetman for leading the walk on **April 2, 2017**. Nineteen people participated. They were Stuart Sweetman, Dianne Snyder, Mark Nichols, Mike Lowry, Lieve Keeney, Susan Hood, Tom Charlock, Anthony Nixon, Sandy de Carlo, Virginia and George Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Mary and Greg Harrington, Ellis and Wendy Maxey, and Kay and Ray Braguglia. The weather was clear and seasonable. **60 species** were identified with several winter residents still around like Gadwall, American Wigeon, Winter Wren, and both Kinglets. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appear to have left. The outstanding sighting of the morning was a Wild Turkey! It was spotted near the paddle boats, flew across the reservoir and walked the edge of the bank long enough for John to get it in the scope. As has been said so many times before, each walk has something special to offer. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Hermit Thrush
Wood Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin
Gadwall	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat
Wild Turkey	Eastern Phoebe	Palm Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Great Egret	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Black Vulture	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Cooper's Hawk	Winter Wren	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Laughing Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Royal Tern	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch

Mother Nature scored a victory on **March 19, 2017**, defeating the Newport News Park walk participants after just one hour. Because of the return to daylight savings time the walk actually

started before sunrise. That wouldn't have been so bad if it were not coupled with wind and rain. Although the actual temperature registered above freezing, wind off the water and persistent drizzle made for miserable conditions. The group, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Anthony Nixon, John Adair and Jane Frigo, did enjoy some good sightings. The morning started off with a pair of Wood Ducks. Winter residents included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Brown Creeper, Ring-necked Duck and Gadwall. The group identified **22 species**.

Note: March Nichols continued the walk alone and relayed the species he identified. This is his list.

Fish Crow
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow

The list of species tallied by the entire group follows.

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Americana Robin
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle		

The weather just can't make up its mind! Last week the area broke a heat record, this Sunday, **March 5, 2017**, it was more like the polar express! Skies were brilliant and clear, but the temperature hovered around freezing and winds made it seem even colder. Still, 11 hardy souls turned out to identify **57 species** for the morning. Those braving the chilly temperatures were Stuart Sweetman, Dianne Snyder, Tom Charlock, Cindy Schulz, Anthony Nixon, Mike Lowry, Jaci St. Pierre, Genevieve Okuma, Jane Frigo and Gwen and Walter Harris. Ducks were pretty scarce with Gadwall still most numerous. At the very end of the morning a beautiful male Green-winged Teal provided some great photo opportunities. Woodpeckers again made a good showing including some good observations of Pileated Woodpeckers and Northern Flicker. Brown Creepers seemed numerous and the group wondered if they were gathering to begin migration. One of the most cooperative birds was a Pine Warbler working in the sun at ground level. His brilliant yellow plumage was a sight to see! A very distant glimpse was had of migrating Tundra Swans. FOS Tree Swallows were seen and a brief glimpse of a returning Osprey was made by Stuart Sweetman. The group agreed to note a possible sighting of a Northern Harrier flyover. Also an otter was fishing in the Spawning Pond and was seen enjoying his breakfast fish catch. All in all a great morning of observation and discussion. A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Tundra Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Green-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Osprey	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Northern Harrier	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Cooper's Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch

February 19, 2017 was more like Spring than Winter. Temperatures reached into the mid 70's by noon and skies were clear and calm. What a perfect day to spend outside! Those enjoying the morning included George and Virginia Boyles, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, John and Marilyn Adair, Jim Barnett, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Cindy Schulz, Mike Lowry, Jacque vanMontfrans, Elizabeth Wilkins, Genevieve Okuma, Sandy DiCarlo and Jane Frigo. In spite of the beautiful weather, the birds/ducks seemed scarce. Woodpeckers seemed the most abundant. A Brown Thrasher was singing his 2-note spring song. Brown-headed Nuthatches were also very vocal. A single American Coot was a nice surprise. Several large groups of blackbirds passed overhead. It wasn't until the very end of the walk that Belted Kingfisher, Brown Creeper and Swamp Sparrow were found. Surprisingly, no Great Blue Heron was spotted. A complete list of **55 species** follows.

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

The weather was cold but relatively clear and winds were light on **February 5, 2017**. Dianne Snyder, Cindy Schulz, Lieve Keeney, Mike Lowry, Genevieve Okuma, Stuart Sweetman, Tom Charlock, Marc Nichols, Anthony Nixon, Jane Frigo and Wendy and Ellis Maxey spent the morning searching for birds. The group was able to identify **52 species**. The morning began with Gadwall, American Wigeon and

Ring-necked Duck. Later in the morning a pair of Northern Shoveler flew in to join a group of seldom seen Green-winged Teal. Hermit Thrush were spotted in several areas and a lone Fox Sparrow made an appearance in the Ranger Station parking lot. Woodpeckers were well represented with the exception of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds were spotted. Several Brown Creepers were seen. The morning ended with a Belted Kingfisher and a Winter Wren! A complete species list follows.

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Northern Shoveler	Northern Flicker	Brown Thrasher
Green-winged Teal	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Fox Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-shouldered Hawk	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove		

The morning of **January 17, 2017** remained overcast until after noon. The temperature remained in the 40's but the air was damp and bone chilling. Those participating in at least some of the morning included Tom Charlock, Cindy Shultz, Stuart Sweetman, Mike Lowry, John Adair, Jane Frigo and first timers Jennifer and Andrew McPeters. The hard work paid off with a **species total of 56!** Outstanding sightings included a VERY cooperative Fox Sparrow at the Ranger Station bridge, feuding Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers at the Spawning Pond, unencumbered views of both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets gleaning the mud flats. The Bufflehead pair was still in the same spot. Other ducks included Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black, Ring-necked, and Hooded Merganser. A Great Blue Heron was not seen until late in the morning...he was missed on the last walk. Multiple adult and immature Bald Eagles were seen. It was a great day. A complete species list follows.

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

Happy New Year! 2017 began on **January 1** with a park walk. The weather was a wet but gradually cleared. Participants were Tom Charlock, Phyllis Roth, Cathy Bond, Shannon Reeves, Kari Sommers, Jane Frigo, Marilyn and John Adair, Wendy and Ellis Maxey, George and Virginia Boyles and first timers Cindy Schulz, Genevieve Okurna and Sapta Y. The group identified **44 species**. Woodpeckers were very active with all 7 species seen. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was again spotted. Several Bald Eagles were seen with one adult pair vocalizing and circling over the reservoir in what was thought to be courting behavior. A lone American Coot was spotted early in the walk. The very end of the walk produced a surprise sighting of a pair of Bufflehead in the Spawning Pond! One miss was Great Blue Heron. A special thank you to the Adairs for a donation of trail mix and hand warmers! A complete species list follows.

Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Double-crested Cormorant
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Coot
Ring-billed Gull
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren

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