

The Nature of Occoquan Bay: Early Fall Highlights

A Sampling of Seasonal Plants and Wildlife Occurring on/around the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge

BIRDS:

Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron & Great Egret
Turkey and Black Vultures
Canada Goose
Wood Duck and Mallard
Osprey and Bald Eagle
Hawks (Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and American Kestrel)
Wild Turkey and N. Bobwhite
King Rail and American Coot
Shorebirds (Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary & Spotted Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe, and Killdeer)
Ring-billed and Herring Gulls
Caspian & Forster's Terns
Morning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Chimney Swift
Woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Downy, N. Flicker, Pileated)
Flycatchers (Acadian, Eastern Phoebe, and E. Kingbird)
Blue Jay, Am. & Fish Crows
Tree & Barn Swallows
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird & Am. Robin
Mimics (Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher)
Cedar Waxwing
Warblers (Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Palm, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-breasted Chat)
Eastern Towhee
Sparrows (Chipping, Field, Song, Savannah, and Swamp)
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted & Blue Grosbeaks

Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Baltimore & Orchard Orioles
House Finch and Am. Goldfinch

BUTTERFLIES:

Swallowtail species (e.g., Zebra, Black, Eastern Tiger, Spicebush)
Cabbage White
Sulphurs (Clouded, Orange, and Cloudless)
Sleepy Orange
Eastern Tailed-Blue & Azure sp.
Variegated Fritillary
Pearl Crescent
Question Mark and E. Comma
American Lady & Red Admiral
Common Buckeye
Red-spotted Purple and Viceroy
Hackberry & Tawny Emperors
Common Wood-Nymph
Monarch
Silver-spotted Skipper
Duskywings (Horace's and Wild Indigo)
Other Skippers (Clouded, Least, Common Checkered, Sagem, Fiery, Peck's, Zabulon, Dun)

DRAGONFLIES:

Common Green Darner
Russet-tipped Clubtail
Clamp-tipped & Mocha Emeralds
Skimmers (Widow, Common Whitetail, Slaty)
Ruby & Autumn Meadowhawks
E. Amberwing and Blue Dasher
Common Pondhawk
Wandering Glider
Spot-winged Glider
Black and Carolina Saddlebags
Calico & Halloween Pennants
Dancers (Variable & Powdered)
Bluets (Familiar and Big)

Forktails (Fragile, Eastern, Citrine, etc.)

Also Watch For:

European Hornet, Beetles, Moth species, Grasshoppers, Katydid, and Crickets, Mantis sp., Spider species (Crab, Garden, Fishing, Jumping, Wolf, Long-jawed, Orb and Funnel Weavers), Ticks (Deer, Wood), Crayfish. Painted Turtle, Frogs (Green and Pickerel), Five-lined Skink, Black Rat Snake, Eastern Cottontail, Gray Squirrel, Woodchuck, Muskrat, Beaver, Raccoon, Red Fox, and White-tailed Deer

Conspicuous Blooming Plants:

Asters (various), Blue Curly, Bonesets, Buttonbush, Cardinal Flower, Chicory, Clover species, Green-headed Coneflower, Trumpet Creeper, Oxeye Daisy, Dandelions, Asiatic & Virginia Dayflower, Deptford Pink, Dodder sp., Daisy Fleabane, Goldenrods, Heal-all, Japanese Honeysuckle, New York Ironweed, Spotted Jewelweed, Jimsonweed, Japanese Knot-weed, Large-flowered Leafcup, Lespedeza, Swamp Rose Mallow, Swamp Milkweed, Mistflower, Common and Moth Mullein, Horse Nettle, Partridge Pea, Pearly Ever-lasting, Pickerelweed, Pilewort, Pokeweed, Common Evening Primrose, Queen Anne's Lace, St. Johnswort, Sedge species, Smartweeds, Yellow Sneezeweed, Wood Sorrel species, Spatterdock, Tickseed Sunflower, Sundrops, Thistles, Indian Tobacco, Crown Vetch, Vervain species, Virgin's Bower, Sweet-scented Water Lily, and Wingstem.

Colorful Fall Leaves:

Virginia Creeper, Flowering Dogwood, Sweetgum, Poison Ivy, Sassafras, Sumacs

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia

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