

## The Nature of Occoquan Bay: Late Fall Highlights

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

### **BIRDS:**

Pied-billed Grebe  
Great Blue Heron  
Turkey and Black Vultures  
Canada Goose  
Ducks (Wood, American Black, Mallard, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy)  
Mergansers (Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted)  
Bald Eagle & Northern Harrier  
Other Hawks (Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcon)  
King Rail  
American Coot  
Shorebirds (Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, and Killdeer)  
Gulls (Laughing, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Herring, and Greater Black-backed)  
Caspian and Forster's Terns  
Morning Dove  
Great Horned & Barred Owls  
Belted Kingfisher  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Other Woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker, and Pileated)  
Eastern Phoebe  
Blue Jay  
American and Fish Crows  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina and Winter Wrens  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird

Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Warblers (Yellow-rumped, Pine, Palm, and Common Yellowthroat)  
Eastern Towhee  
American Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

### **BUTTERFLIES:**

Cabbage White  
Sulphurs (Clouded, Orange, and Cloudless)  
Sleepy Orange  
Eastern Tailed-Blue  
Variegated Fritillary  
Pearl Crescent  
Common Buckeye  
Viceroy  
Common Wood-Nymph  
Monarch  
Skippers (Clouded, Sachem, and Dun)

### **DRAGONFLIES:**

Common Green Darner  
Common Whitetail  
Autumn Meadowhawk

Common Pondhawk  
Wandering Glider  
Black Saddlebags  
Familiar and Big Bluets

### **Also Watch For:**

Moths (including caterpillars like Woolly Bears), Species of Robberflies, Bees, and Wasps, Beetles, Grasshoppers, Katydid, and Crickets, Spiders (e.g., Wolf, Long-jawed, Orb, Funnel and Sheetweb Weavers), Mantis species, Box, Mud and Painted Turtles, Frogs (Bull, Green and Spring Peepers). Black Rat Snake, Moles and Shrews, E. Cottontail, Gray Squirrel, Woodchuck, Muskrat, Beaver, Raccoon, Red Fox, and White-tailed Deer

### **Conspicuous Blooming Plants:**

Jerusalem Artichoke, various Aster species (e.g., New York), Bonesets, Chicory, Common and Fall Dandelions, Deptford Pink, Pearly Everlasting, Sweet Everlasting, Daisy Fleabane, Purple Gerardia, Goldenrod species, Groundsel Tree, Heal-all, Japanese Honeysuckle, Spotted Knapweed, Mistflower, Common Mullein, Pokeweed, Pickerelweed, Common Evening Primrose, Smartweeds, Sneezeweed, Creeping and Yellow Wood Sorrel, Tickseed Sunflower, Thistles, Crown Vetch, Indian Tobacco, Creeping and Yellow Wood Sorrel

### **Colorful Fall Leaves:**

American Beech, Blackberry, Virginia Creeper, Red Maple, Persimmon, Poison Ivy, Pokeweed, Red and White Oaks, Sassafras, Sumacs, Sweetgum, Sycamore, Black Tupelo (Blackgum)

**The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia**

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