

Survey of Wildlife at  
Fort Boykin Historic Park  
Isle of Wight County, VA  
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At the request of Mark Furlough Director, Isle of Wight County Parks & Recreation, I visited Fort Boykin Historic Park to survey the wildlife present at the site on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The survey effort concentrated on avian species as they are in general the most easily detected without specialized survey methods. Any other species noted were also recorded. All avian species detected both visually and aurally were recorded.

The habitat at the site consists of a matrix of mature canopy trees, shrub/brush, open turf areas and frontage along the James River.

Conditions at the time of the survey:

Cloudy, 48 degrees Fahrenheit

Species detected:

<b>Birds</b>		<b>#</b>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	7
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	80
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	1
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	2
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	3
Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	1
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	3
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	4
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	2
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	5
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	8
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	8
Carolina Chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	13
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	7
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	1
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	9
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	15
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	2
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	12
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>	2
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	3
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	2
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	1
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	1
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	2
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	25
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	3
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	11
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	3
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	5

<b>Mammals</b>		
Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	7
<b>Reptiles/Amphibians</b>		
Eastern Wormsnake	<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	1

A total of 34 bird species were detected with 247 individuals counted. The time frame of this survey was relatively early in relation to the peak of spring migration and the breeding season. The species list generated should not be viewed as definitive for the site, as a number of other species can be expected at this site dependent on the time of year surveys are performed. The habitat at the site consists of a matrix of mature canopy trees, shrub/brush, open turf areas and frontage along the James River.

In winter this site provides an excellent location to view waterfowl and shorebirds.

The relatively cool temperature also limited detections of reptiles and amphibians, although a single eastern worm snake was found under a board. The brushy habitat and undergrowth can be expected to provide habitat for a number of small reptiles.

Fort Boykin provides a valuable amenity in Isle of Wight County. The mixture of habitat types along with the unique historic context of the site make it highly attractive for wildlife viewing and the site is designated as a site on the Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail (Site# CTW03 on the Tidewater Loop). The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Watchable Wildlife Program will continue to offer our support to Isle of Wight County's efforts to enhance the site.

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