

Fredericksburg Birding Club - Trip Report  
Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA Beach, Cape Charles, VA

Saturday-Sunday, January 26-27, 2019

Report by Elton Schwemmer

**Places visited:**

Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton, VA ..... Saturday, 7:45 AM to about 10:00  
Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (south of Sandbridge, VA) .... 11 AM to about 1:00  
Little Island Park (near Back Bay NWR) ..... afternoon  
Rudee Inlet, at the southern end of municipal Virginia Beach .... late afternoon  
Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnel, Island #4 ..... Sunday, 8:00 to 10:00 AM with police escort  
Oyster Harbor, on the southern eastern shore of VA ..... 10:30 AM  
Cape Charles (the town waterfront) ..... around 11:30 AM  
Kiptopeke State Park ..... 12:30 PM

**Participants:**

Sally Knight, Mike Lott, Michael Barrows, Lynn Coburn, Brenda Chase, Elton Schwemmer,  
Scott Byrd, Allen Seitner, Jim Goehring, Maureen Hamm, and Blake Gostelo

**Summary:**

This trip to the Tidewater area may be remembered for very pleasant late-January weather: sunny with highs in the 40's and light breezes on both days. We spotted a few of the target species such as Razorbill, Snow Bunting, and Purple Sandpiper, and were also rewarded with four warbler species and all three scoters. We also saw a few Harbor Seals from our vantage point on Island #4 of the CBBT. The group welcomed a couple who were relatively new to birding, plus me, who rejoined the FBC after a multi-year absence. Most of the group stayed at the Best Western Plus in VA Beach and dined at Tautog's seafood restaurant on Saturday night. I truly enjoyed the comradery of the group and benefitted greatly from the more experienced birders on the trip.

The following list has a total of 76 species for the weekend and is followed by a few photos supplied by members of the club.

Species	Location(s)
Brant	CBBT--North Chesapeake Island (#4) and Oyster
Canada Goose	Grandview Nature Preserve
Gadwall	Grandview Nature Preserve
Mallard	Grandview Nature Preserve
American Black Duck	Grandview Nature Preserve
Surf Scoter	Grandview, CBBT, Kiptopeke, Rudee, Cape Charles
White-winged Scoter	Kiptopeke State Park
Black Scoter	Little Island Park and CBBT
Long-tailed Duck	Back Bay NWR, Rudee, CBBT
Bufflehead	Grandview and other locations
Common Goldeneye	Grandview and Oyster
Hooded Merganser	Oyster
Red-breasted Merganser	Back Bay NWR, Cape Charles, Kiptopeke,
Ruddy Duck	Back Bay NWR

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Horned Grebe	Grandview Nature Preserve
Rock Pigeon	Little Island Park
Mourning Dove	Grandview Nature Preserve
American Oystercatcher	Oyster (of course!)
Killdeer	Little Island Park
Ruddy Turnstone	Grandview Nature Preserve
Sanderling	Grandview, CBBT and other locations
Dunlin	Grandview Nature Preserve
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>	<b>CBBT--North Chesapeake Island (#4)</b>
Willet	Oyster
Lesser Yellowlegs	Grandview Nature Preserve
<b>Razorbill</b>	<b>Back Bay NWR, Rudee, CBBT</b>
Bonaparte's Gull	CBBT--North Chesapeake Island (#4)
Ring-billed Gull	Grandview and other locations
Herring Gull	Rudee Inlet and Kiptopeke S.P.
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	<b>Rudee Inlet</b>
Great Black-backed Gull	Grandview Nature Preserve
<b>Forster's Tern</b>	<b>Back Bay NWR</b>
Red-throated Loon	Grandview Nature Preserve
Common Loon	Grandview and other locations
Northern Gannet	Back Bay NWR
Great Cormorant	CBBT--North Chesapeake Island (#4)
Double-crested Cormorant	Grandview Nature Preserve
Brown Pelican	Grandview Nature Preserve
Great Blue Heron	Grandview Nature Preserve
Great Egret	Grandview Nature Preserve
Black Vulture	Oyster
Turkey Vulture	Back Bay NWR
Red-tailed Hawk	while driving
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	<b>Grandview Nature Preserve</b>
Bald Eagle	Rudee Inlet
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<b>Kiptopeke State Park</b>
American Kestrel	while driving
Belted Kingfisher	Grandview Nature Preserve
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Grandview Nature Preserve
Northern Flicker	Oyster
Carolina Chickadee	Grandview Nature Preserve
<b>Brown-headed Nuthatch</b>	<b>Kiptopeke State Park (heard only)</b>
Carolina Wren	Grandview Nature Preserve
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Grandview Nature Preserve
American Robin	Back Bay NWR

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Gray Catbird	Back Bay NWR
Northern Mockingbird	Grandview Nature Preserve
Fish Crow	Cape Charles
American Crow	while driving
House Finch	while driving
American Goldfinch	Grandview Nature Preserve
<b>Snow Bunting</b>	<b>CBBT--North Chesapeake Island (#4)</b>
White-throated Sparrow	Grandview Nature Preserve
Savannah Sparrow	Back Bay NWR and Kiptopeke S.P.
Song Sparrow	Grandview Nature Preserve
Swamp Sparrow	Grandview Nature Preserve
Eastern Towhee	Back Bay NWR
Red-winged Blackbird	Grandview Nature Preserve
Brown-headed Cowbird	Grandview Nature Preserve
Common Grackle	Grandview Nature Preserve
Boat-tailed Grackle	Little Island Park, Rudee Inlet
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	<b>Back Bay NWR</b>
<b>Palm Warbler</b>	<b>Back Bay NWR</b>
<b>Pine Warbler</b>	<b>Back Bay NWR</b>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Grandview Nature Preserve
Northern Cardinal	Grandview Nature Preserve



White-winged Scoter, by Jim Goehring



Savannah Sparrow, by Jim Goehring

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Brant, CBBT Island #4 by Sally Knight



Purple Sandpiper, CBBT Island #4 by Sally Knight

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Some of the gang at Oyster Harbor on the lower eastern shore, by Elton Schwemmer



Conch shells piled up at Oyster Harbor, by Elton

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Good birding at Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, by Elton