



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

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E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

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Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

Birding's Call Beckons New Hobbyists in the New Year

The New Year is the perfect time to take up a new hobby like birding. Fairfax County lies along the Atlantic Flyway, the East Coast's version of a super highway for migrating birds. Millions of hawks, songbirds, and various species of waterfowl travel through our area each spring and fall, and many birds spend the winter here. With a little practice, novice bird-watchers can identify local and migrating birds by sight and sound. The Fairfax County Park Authority is offering three programs in January for avian enthusiasts of all ages.

Seven species of woodpeckers can be found at Huntley Meadows Park, home to 1,500 acres of forest and a rare freshwater marsh. During **Birding for Beginners** from 8 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 11, 2015, participants will learn about woodpecker biology and behavior and look for them in the trees and at feeders. The cost is \$6 per person and registration is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm or by calling 703-222-4664.

Huntley Meadows is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria, Va. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly is also a hot spot for viewing birds in winter. On Sunday, January 11, the park's **Bird Watching Club** meets from 2 to 3 p.m. The club is for kids ages 4 to 12 who want to develop their birding skills. The cost is \$5 per child and registration is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence/calendar.htm or by calling 703-222-4664.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly, Va. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

On the final day of the month, Saturday, January 31, a naturalist from Ellanor C. Lawrence Park will lead the **Winter Birds at Mason Neck** program from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. You don't need to be a bird expert to search for bald eagles, tundra swans, hooded mergansers, ruddy ducks and loons that winter along the Potomac River. Participants will hike the Great Marsh Trail and enjoy a bird discussion and picnic at Mason Neck State Park afterward. The cost is \$15 per person or \$35 per family. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence/calendar.htm or call 703-222-4664. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.