



### *Additional Information*

Several birding books are available for purchase at the Gloucester Visitor Information Center, 6509 Main Street, Gloucester. A complete guide to birding and wildlife trails in the coastal area of Virginia is available for purchase from the VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA 804-367-1000.

### *Site 1 – Ware House Boat Landing*

**SEASONS:** Migrations, Winter

**SITE ACCESS:** Free, daily. This site is primarily available to those wishing to view wildlife from a boat; however, land access is possible.

**DESCRIPTION:** Ware House boat landing provides boat access to the Ware River, not far from its confluence with the Chesapeake Bay. During warm weather and holiday weekends, when boat traffic is brisk and noisy, give this place a pass. However, during more tranquil periods, quiet paddling can produce close looks at herons, egrets, and migratory shorebirds.

### *Site 2 – Beaverdam Park, Main Entrance*

**SEASONS:** All

**ACCESS:** Free, daily during posted seasonal hours.

**DESCRIPTION:** Beaverdam Park provides access to 635-acre Beaverdam Lake. The Park's two entrances are decidedly different in character. This southern approach is developed for boaters and has docks, bathrooms, and a park office. The lake view is attractive with many flooded snags that provide perches for osprey, herons, swallows, belted kingfisher, and other birds. Winter birding yields a rich assortment of woodpeckers and waterfowl. Summer residents include several species of warblers and woodland songbirds.



Dragonflies and damselflies are common and butterflies are numerous. Watch for mammals such as river otter, and beaver...the park's namesake. Wood chip-surfaced trails enter the surrounding forest and provide limited access to the shoreline away from the boat docks. Trails around the lake margin allow you to get close to several beaver lodges and dams. The diversity of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and seasonal flowers makes this an attractive park for photographers.



**Site 3 –  
Beaverdam  
Park, Rt. 606  
Entrance**

**SEASONS:** All  
**ACCESS:** Free, daily  
during posted  
seasonal park hours.

**DESCRIPTION:** Less developed than the southern park access, this entrance provides sheltered picnic tables and bathrooms. The short fishing pier is a good place from which to scan for water birds, as well as look down on fish in the shallows and dragonflies. Expect the same array of birds as was discussed for the southern entrance, but in a quieter setting. The dense thickets surrounding the parking area are home to white-eyed vireos that sing incessantly throughout the summer. As you face the lake, look for trails to the right (which may be overgrown with berry vines) that provide access to other parts of the lakeshore. Just before reaching the park entrance, note the attractive, although not very accessible, marshes on both sides of the road. If you can park, scan here for marsh birds.

**Site 4 – Cappahosic Beach Boat Landing**

**SEASONS:** Winter  
**ACCESS:** Free, daily

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a very small and somewhat out of the way site surrounded by houses, some of historic importance. The launch provides boat access to the York River where, during summer, quiet paddling is likely to produce close encounters with common estuarine birds such as herons, terns, spotted sandpipers, great black-backed gulls, and bald eagles. In winter, the site is more likely to be visited by a variety of puddle and diving ducks.

**Site 5 – Rosewell Ruins**

**SEASONS:** All  
**ACCESS:** Fee, daily.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Rosewell Ruins, and their surrounding gardens and woodlands, attract many species of birds and butterflies. During summer, wild turkeys strut through the gardens, wood

thrushes carol in the deep woods, and the trees around the ruins are alive with an assortment of woodland birds. Bald eagles and several species of hawks also frequent the site.

**Site 6 – Naxera/Bryan, Bay Site**

**SEASONS:** All  
**ACCESS:** Free, daily

**DESCRIPTION:** This small, state-owned watercraft launch site is just upriver from the mouth of the Severn River. Boaters will find good viewing of common summer water birds that frequent the river and diving ducks, loons, and perhaps horned grebe should enliven the winter scene.

**Site 7 – Severn River Landing**

**SEASONS:** All  
**ACCESS:** Free, daily

**DESCRIPTION:** There are numerous roads that dead-end along the Virginia shore, almost all of which provide foot and boat access to various habitats. This site is composed of a large cordgrass marsh south of the mouth of the Severn River that faces into Chesapeake Bay. It attracts numerous birds that associate with both the shoreline vegetation and the open channel. The simple boat landing allows canoe and kayak access.

**Site 8 – Gloucester Point Beach**

**SEASONS:** All  
**ACCESS:** Free, daily

**DESCRIPTION:** The beach, located below the north end of the Coleman Memorial Bridge, provides year-round views of water birds. The greatest bird diversity here occurs during fall migration and winter, but this is a site that can be checked at any time for potentially good finds. During warmer months, the weedy area between the parking lot and the water attracts butterflies and a few dragonflies that make for interesting viewing.



**Birding  
& Wildlife  
Trail**

Gloucester Loop

Provided by  
Parks, Recreation & Tourism Dept.  
6467 Main Street  
Gloucester VA 23061  
(804-693-0014  
[www.gloucesterva.info/tourism](http://www.gloucesterva.info/tourism)

*This flyer was compiled from information  
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