



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - mature bald eagles have chocolate-brown body, white head, white tail, yellow beak and feet; soar and flap, perch in trees



Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryl alcyon*) – slate blue; ragged, pointed crest, heavy bill; 11 to 14 inches tall, dives head first; rattling call. Females have rufous breast band.



Common Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – a dabbling duck; male has green iridescent head and bright, purplish-blue wing speculum; female mottled brown



Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – dark, 33-inch-long diving bird, thin neck and raised bill; often perches near water drying out-stretched wings

Insects



Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus*) – bright yellow wings with black stripes, 3-5 inch wingspan, two long tails



Eyed-elater or Eyed Click Beetle (*Alaus oculatus*) – 23-45 mm long, dark gray beetle with speckles, large eye pattern on each side of dorsal region of thorax



Common Whitetail Dragonfly (*Plathemis lydia*) – 1.7 inches long; male has broad brown wing bars and white tail; female has brown wing splotches and brown tail

Other Animals



Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) – 3-4 feet long, 30 to 75 pounds; dark brown, long incisors, short legs, webbed feet, flat, scaly tail; chew or girdle trees to make dams and lodges



Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) – 3-4 feet long, non-venomous, basks on rocks, logs or plants close to the river bank; may be brown, reddish or grey; dark cross-banding on neck and stripes on the body



Eastern Rat Snake (*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*) – black, up to 80 inches long; black and white belly; excellent climber, often seen curled in trees



Common Five-lined Skink (*Plestiodon fasciatus*) – 3-5 inch long lizard; 5 narrow, light stripes on a dark body; young have blue lines on the tail



Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) – 20-inches long; ridged, gray-brown shell; 9-35 pounds; powerful, beak-like jaws snap and catch prey



American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) – 8 inches long; green head; olive-brown blotchy back; known for deep “jug-o-rum” call



National Park Service
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Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

What Can I See in the Summer? A Few Examples

Upland Plants and Vines



Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) – orange-yellow, funnel-shaped flowers; can grow to 5 feet



Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*) – long green climbing stem with sharp green thorns; shiny bright green leaves; flowers in small white-green clusters; deep blue berries

Photographs are by Ed Eder, Glenda Booth, Bob Veltkamp, Paula Sullivan and Laura Sebastianelli.

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Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) - five oval-toothed leaflets; turn orange-red in autumn; climbs. Flowers are small, greenish; fruits are dark blue at branch tips



Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) - shiny green leaves in groups of 3 that climb and turn red in autumn; leaf is oval, pointed and slightly toothed. All parts are toxic to humans all year.

Wetland Plants



Narrow-leaf Cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) - 3-4 feet tall, velvety brown "hotdog" flowers; grow in thick clumps; dominate the northern wetland



Spatterdock or Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar advena*) - aquatic water lily with floating leaves and yellow, 1-2-inch "golf ball" flowers



Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) - triangular green leaves and spikes of violet flowers



Buttonbush (*Cephaelanthus occidentalis*) - a 30-inch tall shrub with white, ball-shaped flowers



Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) - 5-petal flowers, creamy white with a deep red eye and central column of yellow stamens

Trees and Shrubs



Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) - up to 20 feet tall; deciduous; branches have velvety hairs; erect yellow-green flowers in summer, dark red fruit in fall



Eastern Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) - up to 100 feet tall; irregular, white and brown peeling bark; fruits are brown balls



Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) - up to 120 feet tall, star-shaped, toothed leaves; fruits are brown, burr-like; gray to brown furrowed bark



Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) - 16-66 feet tall, evergreen, conical shape; blue, waxy berry-like cones; reddish-brown bark peels off in strips

Birds



Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) - gregarious birds; males, black with distinctive red and yellow shoulder patches; females, dark brown



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - brown and white 24-inch raptor, brown stripe through the eye; swoop and perch along shorelines, hover over water and plunge feet first for fish



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - long-legged, long-necked wading birds, 50 inches tall; wingspan up to 70 inches; slate gray feathers; two black plumes on the head; often stand motionless



Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - 30-40 inches tall, long-legged, long-necked wading bird, white feathers and dagger-like, yellow-orange bill and black legs; often stand immobile



Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) - 5-inch, chestnut-colored, active bird, white eye stripe and cocked tail; loud, melodious song