



Avian Antics!



Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area

Welcome to Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area!

Your goal with the Avian Antics Quest is to observe and identify the birds you see along our Park Quest trail. This quest is a self-guided hike that is open daily. So please, explore at your own pace. The park is open 7:00 am to sunset.

Our Park Quest trail loop is approximately 3.5 miles and begins at the bulletin board located in the Upper Covered Bridge Parking Lot (located on Tawes Drive, Elkton, MD 21921). No equipment is provided or needed; however, we do suggest bringing binoculars if you have them.

The Avian Antics quest gives you the opportunity to spend time with our feathered friends at the Fair Hill NRMA and explore the variety of habitats they call home. You will get an opportunity to spend time in a forest, field, and wetland habitat while discovering the different behaviors of birds in these distinct ecosystems.

First Things First:

Make sure you are starting from the Upper Covered Bridge Parking (Lot #2) bulletin board. Once there, you will find our Park Quest box which contains instructions and a Fair Hill bird guide. There will be a second box at the end of your quest which you will need to unlock using clues you discover along the quest.

You will see the Park Quest logo on trail posts along your hike route. From the Upper Covered Bridge Lot, follow the Park Quest markers that will lead you along the trail.

The Quest:

We have provided you with a map of the quest route. Along the way you will find three habitat “spots” that will help you accomplish your quest. You will know you are at a habitat spot when you see our Park Quest signs that include images of birds you may see in each habitat. These signs include common bird species aid you in identifying bird species for each habitat.

Wetland: _____

Field: _____

Forest: _____

Bird Identification Tools:

We have also provided you with a booklet listing the bird species found in Fair Hill NRMA; this guide includes the time of year you will most likely see each bird species at our park. We invite you to return throughout the year! We have also provided an optional checklist from the Maryland Ornithological Society; this guide includes bird species found throughout Maryland so that you may continue the fun outside of Fair Hill NRMA.

As you reach each habitat site, we ask that you stop and use your senses to listen and watch for birds. You may spend as much time as you want in each of these areas. Try to correctly identify as many birds as you can and check them off of your list. Feel free to use your phone to help you with identification.

Helpful Bird Identification Phone Applications:

Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab

eBird by Cornell Lab of Ornithology

As you see birds along your quest try to take note. This could be the start of your life bird list!

Completing Your Quest:

You will see one final Park Quest box at the end of your quest. Here you will find details on what YOU can do to help our avian friends.

We hope you enjoy the quest!
Please feel free to call with any questions.

Fair Hill NRMA

Duty Ranger (Daily 7:00am - Sunset):
410-218-1698

