

Grandview Nature Preserve
2025 08 23
Field Trip Report

Email from Ewa Greene, 08/23/25

August 23, 2025.

Grandview Nature Preserve.

It was an exciting day of birding at Grandview Nature Preserve in Hampton, Virginia. A group of eight gathered at the entrance to the Preserve and birded along the marsh trail and the beach. The tide must have been affected by the recent hurricane as we have never seen the waves reach so high into the beach. Our feet were soon wet, but it did not dampen our spirits. After spotting a few Semipalmated Sandpipers and a single Spotted Sandpiper at the entrance to the beach, we started the walk along the shore. We were rewarded by sightings of dozens of Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, and a few Willets and Sanderlings. We were lucky to watch up close and photograph four handsome and very cooperative Short-billed Dowitchers. We had a mission, though, to find a Western Sandpiper, a small shore bird that is a rather infrequent visitor to our beaches. We scanned through dozens and dozens of little birds, getting excited now and then just to realize that we were looking at Semipalmated or Least Sandpipers. And finally after four hours or so, we did it! We found a small sandpiper with a long slightly drooping bill and rusty patches on the shoulders and face. So exciting! We totaled 11 shorebird species, three gull species, six tern species, and five species of egrets and herons. We saw three Seaside Sparrows, but no migrating Nelson's or Saltmarsh sparrows yet. We will be back in October and hope you can join us, too. We ended the trip feeling happy and accomplished with a total of 53 species. Another great experience birding the Richmond Audubon Society.

(Field Trip Report from Ewa Greene, RAS Field Trip Leader)

Photos included below.



Greene RAS group 01 Grandview NP 2025 08 23



Greene RAS group 02 Grandview NP 2025 08 23



Greene Short-billed Dowitcher 01 Grandview NP 2025 08 23



Greene Short-billed Dowitchers 02 Grandview NP 2025 08 23



Greene Western Sandpiper Grandview NP 2025 08 23



Dixon Beautiful Day Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Really High Tide Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Least Sandpiper (on one leg) Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Least Sandpiper Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Royal Tern Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Ruddy Turnstone Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Sandwich Tern Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Semipalmated Plover Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Short-billed Dowitcher (left facing) Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Short-billed Dowitcher (on one leg) Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Short-billed Dowitcher (right facing) Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Short-billed Dowitcher (trio foraging) Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Short-billed Dowitcher (with Ruddy Turnstone) Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23



Dixon Western Sandpiper Grandview Nature Preserve 2025 08 23