



Birds of Merrimac Farm

VMN Project 2014-2015

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Overview



- Background
- Project Objectives
- Some data from Merrimac Birds Database
- Future Plans

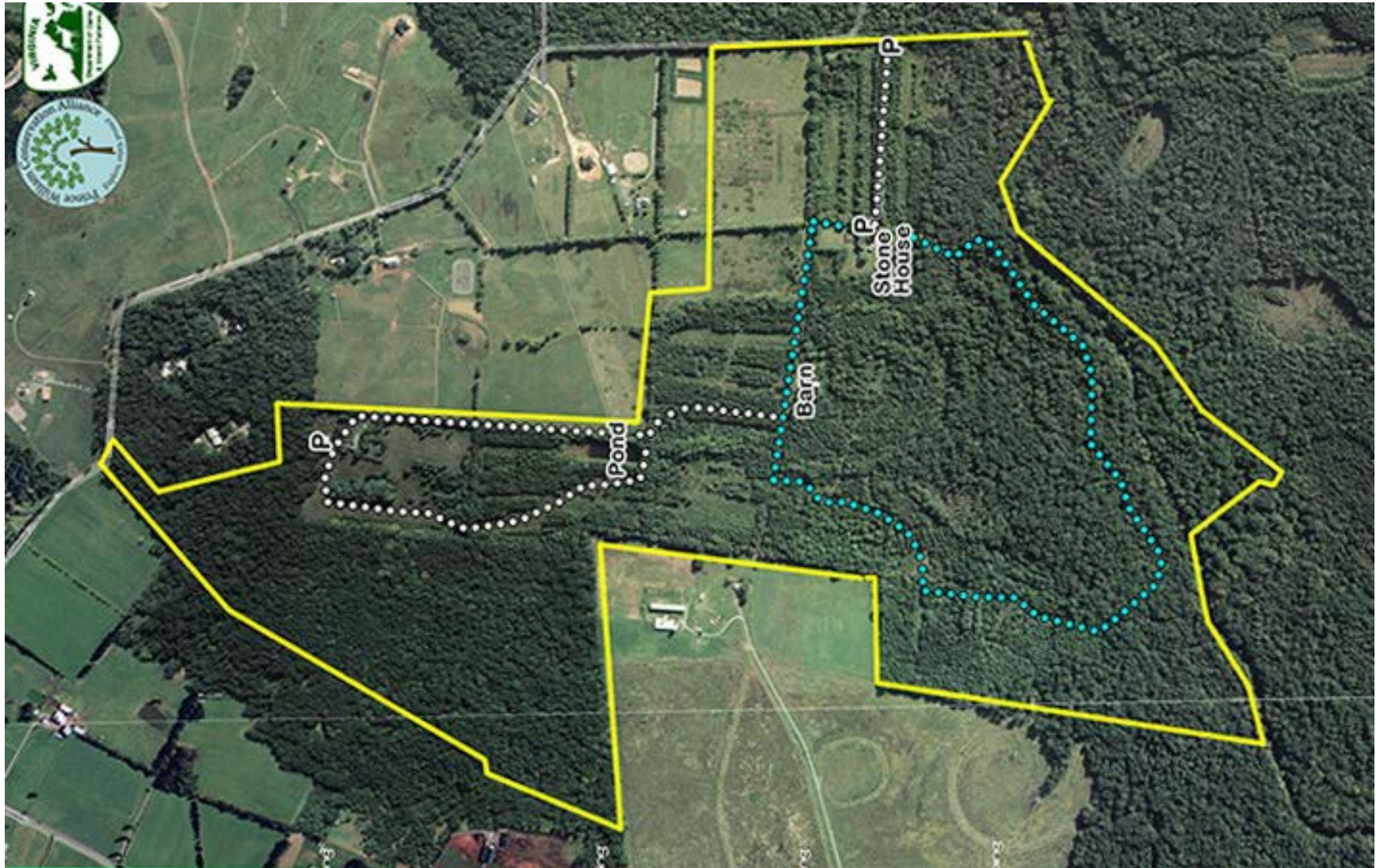


Background

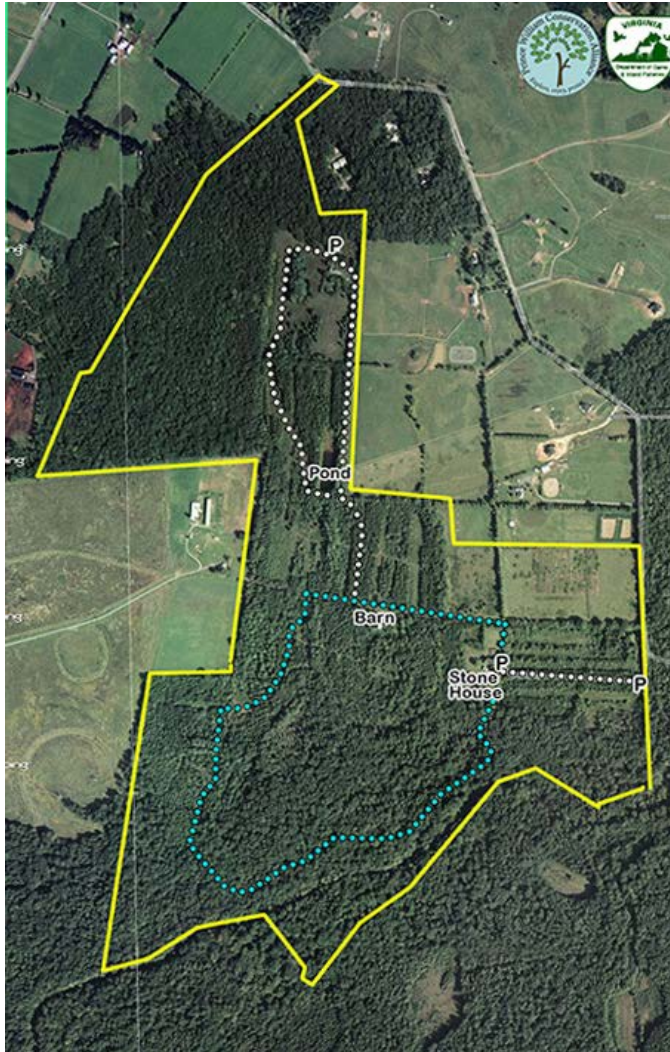




Merrimac Farm Aerial Overview



Merrimac Farm Birding Attributes



Variety of Habitats

Fields

Secondary growth

Habitat borders and interior

Woodland

Wetlands

Pond

Streams

Human structures

Restricted Access



Barn





Pond





Bluebells



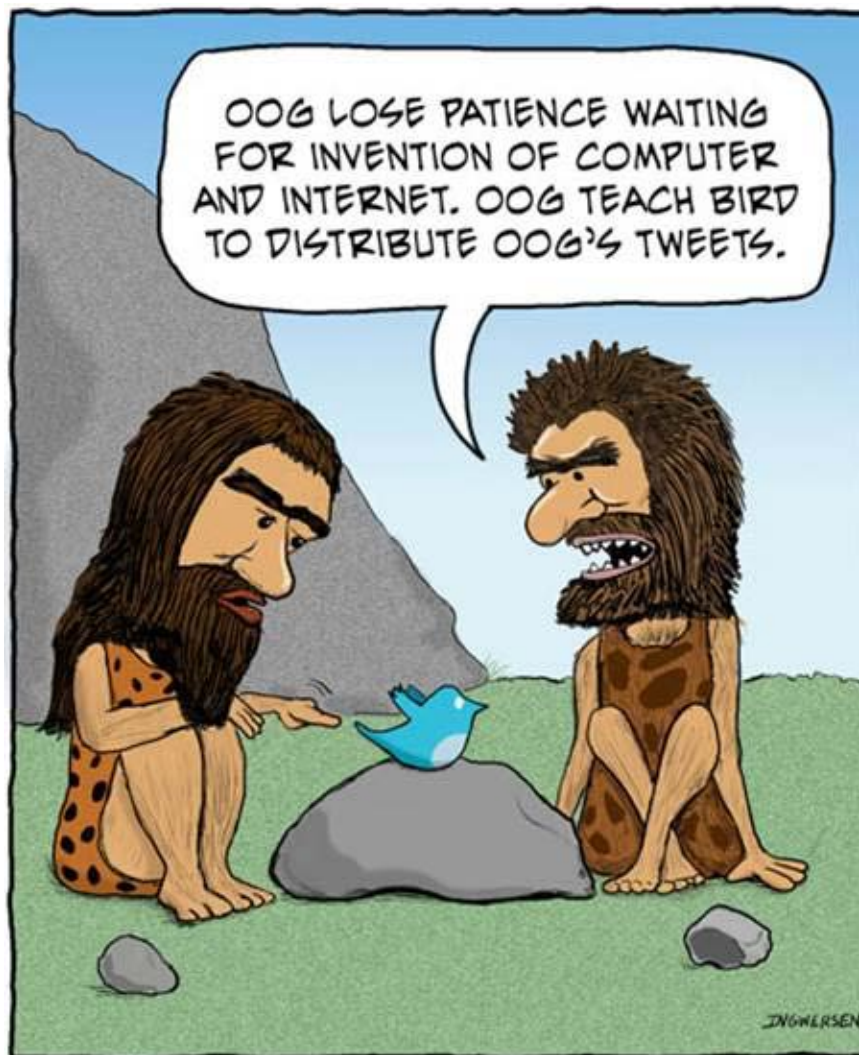
Birdwatching Background



- Early interest in watching birds for their aesthetic value started in late 18th century*
- Term “Birdwatching” appeared in book “Bird Watching” by Edmund Selous in 1901*
- National Audubon Society Estimates 46.7 Million Birdwatchers in the USA

* Source: Wikipedia

Birding during Stone Age



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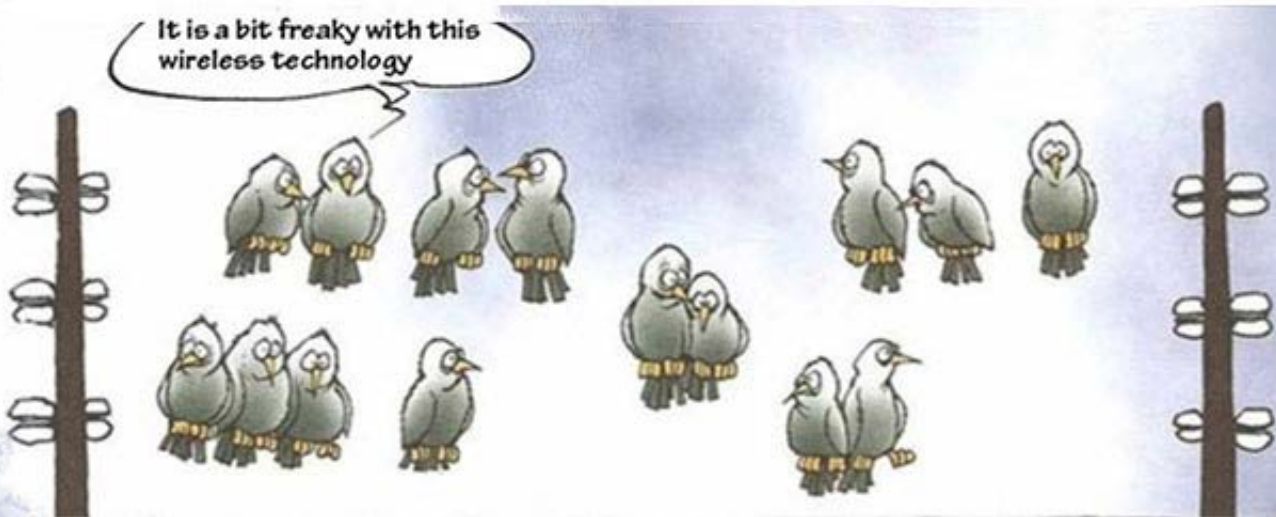


Birds today



Hungarianbirdwatching.com

It is a bit freaky with this wireless technology



BIRD JOKES

Project Objectives



- Bring existing Birds at Merrimac Database (Excel file) up to date
 - Added entries from lists generated 5/17/09 to 10/26/14
- Deepen database by making monthly birding trips and adding to database
- Improve data collection capabilities
- Investigate options for developing a publishable bird checklist

Program Participants



Cynthia and Tom



Braving Difficult Conditions Pond in the Winter





Braving Difficult Conditions Summer





- Birds seen including counts
- First outing: 4/4/07
- Latest outing: 2/25/15
- Total outings: 75



Database Statistics



SPECIES	TOTALS BY BIRD GROUPINGS	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS
3	BITTERNs, EGRETS, HERONS	34
4	GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS	726
3	OWLS (BARN & TYPICAL)	36
7	WOODPECKERS	616
7	FLYCATCHERS	250
5	VIREOS	259
5	SWALLOWS	69
25	WARBLERS	702
12	SPARROWS	1955
7	BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES	1882
142	ALL SPECIES	14271



Species Observed



Future Efforts



- Continue periodic outings
- Define objectives for checklist
 - Overall format style
 - Content details
 - Term definitions



Conclusions



- A significant number of observations have been made over an 8 year period
 - 75 separate outings
 - Bird counts kept
 - Over 14,000 birds seen
 - Over 140 bird species
- All entries have now been entered into database
- Database has been updated to enhance data collection
- Will continue to enhance database both by adding more outings and adding more statistic gathering
- Next step will be to develop a Bird Checklist