



VIRGINIA BIRDS

A quarterly journal of ornithological sightings in the Commonwealth
published by the Virginia Society of Ornithology



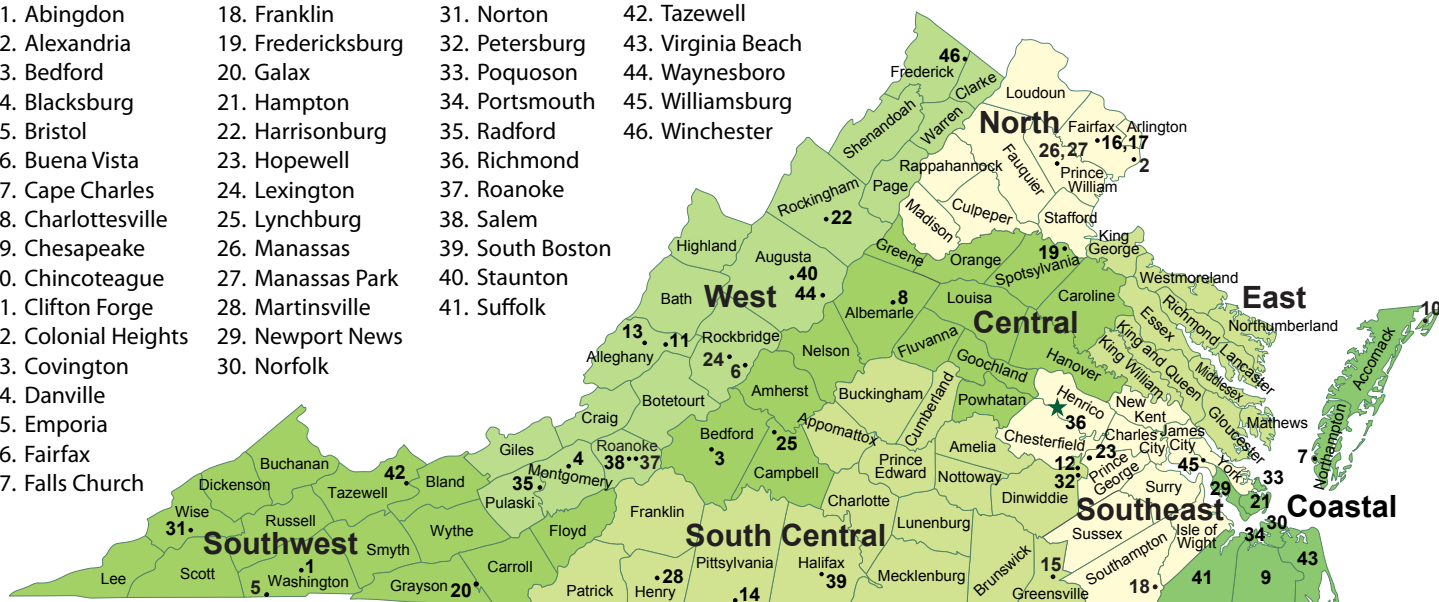
Volume 16 • Number 3

Winter Records • Dec 2019–Feb 2020

Virginia Birds Regions

Cities/towns numbered on map

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Abingdon | 18. Franklin | 31. Norton | 42. Tazewell |
| 2. Alexandria | 19. Fredericksburg | 32. Petersburg | 43. Virginia Beach |
| 3. Bedford | 20. Galax | 33. Poquoson | 44. Waynesboro |
| 4. Blacksburg | 21. Hampton | 34. Portsmouth | 45. Williamsburg |
| 5. Bristol | 22. Harrisonburg | 35. Radford | 46. Winchester |
| 6. Buena Vista | 23. Hopewell | 36. Richmond | |
| 7. Cape Charles | 24. Lexington | 37. Roanoke | |
| 8. Charlottesville | 25. Lynchburg | 38. Salem | |
| 9. Chesapeake | 26. Manassas | 39. South Boston | |
| 10. Chincoteague | 27. Manassas Park | 40. Staunton | |
| 11. Clifton Forge | 28. Martinsville | 41. Suffolk | |
| 12. Colonial Heights | 29. Newport News | | |
| 13. Covington | 30. Norfolk | | |
| 14. Danville | | | |
| 15. Emporia | | | |
| 16. Fairfax | | | |
| 17. Falls Church | | | |



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Send reports and photographs to the Regional Editors. Photographs should be the highest electronic quality possible.

Send with release form, which can be found on the VSO web site:

<http://www.virginiabirds.org/publications/photography-release-forms/>

Articles for consideration can be sent to billwilliams154@gmail.com.

Season

Fall (Aug–Nov)

Winter (Dec–Feb)

Spring (Mar–May)

Summer (Jun–Jul)

Reports due to Regional Editors

15 Dec

15 Mar

15 Jun

15 Aug

Terms and Abbreviations

Species name in **bold** first time mentioned (VARCOM Review Birds **BOLD CAPS**); county names are in *italics*.

Abbreviations

ad. (ads.)	adult(s)
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
Cr.	Creek
et al.	and others
f.	female
<i>fide</i>	vouched by
FOS	First of Season
Ft.	Fort
Gold Book	<i>Virginia's Birdlife, An Annotated Checklist</i> . Virginia Avifauna No. 7, Fourth Edition, 2007.
Hwy.	Highway
Is.	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
junc.	junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile(s)
L.	Lake
Ln.	Lane
MAPS	Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship
m.	male
m. obs.	many/multiple observers
Mt.	Mountain, Mount
NAP	Natural Area Preserve
NP	National Park
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
ph.	photographed by (initials)
Pk.	Park
Pt.	Point
R.	River
Rd.	Road
Res.	Reservoir
RP	Regional Park
Rte.	Route
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
VARCOM	Virginia Avian Records Committee
VDGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
v. r.	voice recording
vid. r.	video recording
VSO	Virginia Society of Ornithology
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
*	specimen collected

On the cover: Virginia's first Scott's Oriole was enjoyed by many at a private residence in *Augusta* 14–29 February. This photo was taken by Marshall Faintich 19 February.

A Model for Access to a Private Residence Rare Bird: Follow the Leaders

By Bill Williams in collaboration with James Fox and Gabriel Mapel

The November occurrence of Virginia's first confirmed Anna's Hummingbird at Lake Frederick, *Frederick* private residences followed by the mid-February arrival of the state's first Scott's Oriole at a private residence in *Augusta* set in motion the development of a rare-bird viewing access model that proved beneficial for the birding community and the respective property owners. In both cases local birders collaborated with the respective home/property owners to synthesize a streamlined access strategy that alleviated property owner involvement and concerns and efficiently managed the diversity of birder communications needs, expectations, interests, schedules and listing protocols.

Most birders know the rare-bird alert drill well. Communicate with the birding community Right Now! by as many contact modalities as possible detailing the bird's precise (if permitted) location; when the initial observation was made to include date, time of day, and notable circumstances; and who, when, and how best to make contact for viewing access protocols. Home/property owners unaccustomed to the foregoing must be fully informed of the potentials of making the bird public and what potentially to expect.

What "Boomers" used to accomplish with person-to-person telephone networking for such an arrival is now instantly telecommunicated across the globe via thumb-bump warp speed, as birders pile into their vehicles while telling the lady in the dashboard the precise address of their destination.

Showtime and Shout Outs

Anna's Hummingbird

At least 96 people saw the Lake Frederick Anna's Hummingbird. Its presence and who to contact for a strategically negotiated observation opportunity was announced on both the VA-bird list-serve and Facebook. Local birders who assumed the responsibilities for viewing access created a spreadsheet to track visitation requests in order to manage the number of people coming on a given day. Once a visit was arranged, visitors were instructed exactly where and what time to meet. When the groups assembled, typically before 7:00 a.m., each was then caravanned to a prearranged viewing site, a temporarily unoccupied home whose owners had granted permission for such use.

Prior to and during the observation, birders were asked to refrain from posting this hummingbird to eBird. However, the second weekend it was seen, someone put it in a list that they planned to "Hide", not realizing the entry generated an immediate rare bird alert. This necessitated another post to Facebook and the list-serve reiterating access contact information, the access protocols and a request to post the bird to eBird using "Lake Frederick Hotspot" as the location.

The homeowners were quite excited the Anna's Hummingbird stayed for the whole winter. After it departed the consensus was this had been a good experience for everyone involved. The homeowners were pleased with birder behavior and that visitors did not show up unannounced. There was some concern about group size and proximity to the feeder on the second day, issues that were tended to for subsequent visitations.

Dave Boltz, James Fox and Bill Parkin deserve huge amounts of credit for how well the Anna's Hummingbird visitations worked. All three devoted considerable amounts of time arranging then managing the small group caravans to the private residence viewing site. After the bird's initial sighting, David and Bill worked within the bird club they started at Lake Frederick to find the second house the bird was visiting.

Scott's Oriole

During the fifteen days (14–29 Feb) the Scott's Oriole's was present in *Augusta* ~90 birders were carpoled to the rural home-site where it had taken up temporary residence. Information regarding the access protocol and who to contact was communicated via social media, including Facebook and the VA-bird list-serve. All visitations were prearranged

to depart at a specific time from a designated meeting place in Staunton. Gabriel Mapel coordinated carpooling for twelve group visits. Michael Godfrey arranged a group visit and Logan Anderson and Mike Boatwright made sure carpooling went well for another two. William Leigh was instrumental in working with Gabriel to build rapport with the homeowner to arrange property access. An eBird Scott's Oriole Hotspot was established and was reinforced with an oft-repeated request to birders to refrain from posting the oriole to eBird until after it was last observed. As with the Lake Frederick Hotspot the mapping pin was positioned so as not to reveal either the bird's true location or any property owner information.

Looking Back

The glue that bound each of these successful rare bird encounters was the dedicated local birders who spent a great deal of time and effort to secure working relationships with the home/property owners, then willingly extended themselves to organize and follow through with group visits. An appreciative birding community cannot thank them and the birds' hosts enough.

Common denominators

Collaborative time commitment by local birders

Development of a mutually agreeable access plan with home/property owners

Consistent, precise announcement protocols social media outlets, state-wide and local list-serve(s)

Identifying a point-of-contact

Development of a visitation strategy and schedule; limiting group size and length of visits

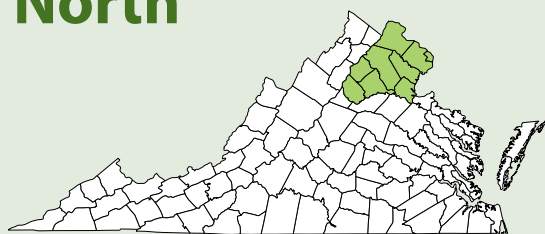
Establishment of an eBird Rarity Hotspot that obscures the precise home/property location and owner information

Repeated request to birders to refrain from posting to eBird until after the rarity has departed



Regional Reports

North



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Arlington, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Prince William, Rappahannock, and Stafford counties; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park

Rainfall was near normal through the winter season. Temperatures were at or above average for the period, particularly in January and February, without an extended frigid spell. Many reports noted low numbers of waterfowl this season. The highlight of the period was the Lazuli Bunting seen at Daingerfield Island, Alexandria.

Abbreviations: Algonkian Nature Preserve (Algonkian Nature Preserve, *Loudoun*); Beaverdam Res. (Beaverdam Res., *Loudoun*); Belle Haven (Belle Haven Pk., *Fairfax*); Dyke Marsh (Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, *Fairfax*); Huntley Meadows (Huntley Meadows Pk., *Fairfax*); Occoquan Bay (Occoquan Bay NWR, *Prince William*); Prince William Landfill (Prince William Landfill, *Prince William*); Sky Meadows SP (Sky Meadows SP, *Fauquier*)

Christmas Bird Counts: DCCBC (Washington DC, 14 Dec); FBCBC (Ft. Belvoir CBC, 29 Dec)

WATERFOWL—HERONS

A **Ross's Goose**, a rare winter visitor in the Region, was observed at Belle Haven 29 Dec–2 Jan (ph. AHo, m. obs.). Reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese**, formerly a rare winter visitor in the Region, included singles at Huntley Meadows 31 Dec (ELew) and 21 Feb (ph. QE); Middlesex Pond, *Loudoun* 12 Jan (EM); and Hartland Center, *Madison* 21 Jan (ph. IT). Reports also included 3 each at Historic Port of Falmouth Pk., *Stafford* 1 Feb (AR) and along Montresor Rd., *Loudoun* 1–8 Feb (ph. AG, BHe). **Cackling Geese** similarly have become more frequent winter visitors in the Region; reports included a high of 3–4 at the Upper Occoquan Service Authority sewage treatment plant, *Fairfax* 7 Dec (KG) and 24–31 Dec (m. obs.). Four **Blue-winged Teal**, rare in winter in

the Region, were seen at Beaverdam Res. 24 Dec (GH), with 2 still there 11 Jan. Rare in winter in the Piedmont, 10 **Redheads** were seen at L. Fairfax, *Fairfax* 12 Jan (FA). Reports of **Long-tailed Ducks**, a rare winter visitor inland, included one at L. Newport, *Fairfax* 3 Dec (KW) and 2 at Occoquan Bay 3 Feb (PB). A **Red-necked Grebe**, also a rare winter visitor inland, was observed at Aquia Landing Pk., *Stafford* 1 Jan (ph. ML), where it was reported through mid-Jan. A **Rufous Hummingbird**, a rare but increasing winter visitor in the Region, was observed in the Flint Hill area, *Rappahannock* 4–19 Dec (PL, ph. TD). Two **Sandhill Cranes** again spent the winter in the area of the Algonkian Nature Preserve; and in fact, 4 were well-ph. flying overhead 15 Dec (MSci). A lone individual was also seen flying over the Beaverdam Res. 6 Jan (SPat). **Laughing Gulls** made a couple of rare inland winter appearances: 8 were seen at Crow's Nest NAP 1 Jan (ML), and 12 were observed at the Prince William Landfill where less rare, 2 Jan (JA, ph. TH). Also a rare but regular winter visitor at the Prince William Landfill, a juv. **Iceland Gull** was observed 20 Dec–5 Jan (ph. LC, m. obs.), and an ad. was present 2–12 Feb (ph. DLeb, m. obs.). Multiple **Great Egrets**, rare in winter in the Region, were reported near the mouth of Pohick Cr., *Fairfax* on the FBCBC.

RAPTORS—MIMIDS

Reports of **Golden Eagles** included singles at a residence in Taylorstown, *Loudoun* 31 Dec (GH); Clifton Institute, *Fauquier* 5 Jan (BHa, GJ, PS); and on Richmond Rd., *Rappahannock* 10 Jan (ph. TD). A typ. ad. "**Northern**" **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis abieticola*), a distinctive subspecies that is not uniformly recognized as separate from the Eastern subspecies, was seen along Glen Ella Rd., *Culpeper* 3 Feb (TD, IT). Rare in winter in the

Piedmont, a **Merlin** was seen at L. Fairfax, *Fairfax* 12 Jan (FA). Reports of **Peregrine Falcons**, a rare winter visitor inland, included an imm. along Stonewood Ln., *Loudoun* 28 Dec (AG); an ad. near the Luck Stone quarry, *Loudoun* 8 Jan (ph. PN) with reports through 18 Feb; an imm. seen along Willis Ford Ln., *Madison* 9 Feb (m. obs., ph. GB); an ad. along Blantyre Rd., *Fauquier* 16 Feb (FA); and 2 flybys at White's Ford RP, *Loudoun* 23 Feb (AG, BHe). A well-ph. individual was seen at Frying Pan Pk., *Fairfax* 6 Jan carrying a Mourning Dove and again there 14 Feb eating an American Robin (both ph. HW). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen near Ebenezer Church Rd., *Loudoun* 4 Jan (JC, MG); only a few have been reported in *Loudoun* in the past decade. A **White-eyed Vireo**, a species with apparently only 4 winter records in the Piedmont, was seen at a residence on the Rapidan R., *Madison* 20 Jan (AN). **Blue-headed Vireos**, a rare winter visitor in the Region, were observed at Bles Pk., *Loudoun* 4 Dec (MSco); Beaverdam Res. 24 Dec (ph. MSco); and Runnymede Pk., *Fairfax* 24 Feb (BB). A pair of early nesting **Common Ravens** was observed in Fairfax City, *Fairfax* feeding loudly begging nestlings 23 Feb (P&JW); the Gold Book gives the early egg date for the Piedmont as 26 Feb. This is the third year (at least) the ravens have nested here, and about a month earlier than last year's nestlings. The **Brown-headed Nuthatch** that had apparently been present with few interruptions since Fall 2017 at Mountain Run L. Pk., *Culpeper* was sporadically seen nearly through the end of the season (KK). Observations of **House Wrens**, a rare winter visitor in the Piedmont, included one at the Fairfax County Landfill, *Fairfax* 29 Dec (JK, SPr), with 1–2 seen there 24–27 Jan (QE); and one at Muddy Hole Farm Pk., *Fairfax* 6 Jan (KG). A **Sedge Wren**, a rare visitor inland, was observed at Occoquan Bay 1 Feb (AR), lingering through 16 Feb. **Marsh Wrens**, fairly rare this far inland in winter, were observed at Aquia Landing Pk., *Stafford* 9 Dec (DC, CF); Belle Haven 22 Dec (GR); and Crow's Nest NAP, *Stafford* 15–31 Jan (CF). Also a rare winter visitor in the Region, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed at Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Pk., *Loudoun* 15 Dec (PN), continuing through 25 Feb (ph. JE), and in Reston, *Fairfax* 22 Feb (anon. eBirder). **Gray Catbirds**, typically rare inland in winter, made numerous appearances: at Sky Meadow SP, *Fauquier* 12–24 Jan (TG) and at several locations in *Loudoun*, including Morven Pk. 12 Jan (ph. HA); Ashburn L. 27 Jan (ph. JE); Ball's Bluff Battlefield RP 27 Jan (SPat); Algonkian Nature Preserve 1 Feb (MSi); and Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve 8 Feb (MSci). Observations of

Brown Thrashers, a fairly rare but regular winter visitor in the Piedmont, were also numerous, including 3 at Bles Pk., *Loudoun* 7 Jan (SPat) with at least one continuing through 16 Feb; 2 at Sky Meadows 24 Jan (DB, WP); and singles at Algonkian Nature Preserve 28 Jan (JE), near Brandy Station, *Culpeper* 3 Feb (TD), and at a residence near Algonkian Nature Preserve 17 Feb (AHe).

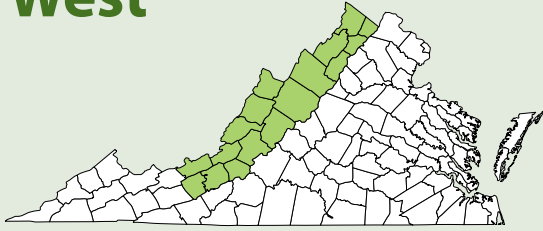
GROSBEAKS–BUNTINGS

A **Grasshopper Sparrow**, a species with only a few winter records in the Piedmont, was observed at Sky Meadows 20 Feb (TD). A **LeConte's Sparrow**, a species with only a handful of records in the Region at any time of year and just one in winter, was found at Occoquan Bay 29 Jan (ph. EE) and continued through at least 16 Feb, seen and ph. by many. **Lincoln's Sparrows**, a rare winter visitor in the Region and very rare past early winter in the Piedmont, were observed at a residence in Hume, *Fauquier* 28 Dec (ELeG); on Old Colchester Rd., *Fairfax* on the FBCBC; at Silo Pond in Brambleton, *Loudoun* 31 Dec (BHi); Silver L. RP, *Prince William* 14 Jan (ph. TH); and Occoquan Bay 1–4 Feb (ph. AR & TK). A **Baltimore Oriole**, fairly rare in the inland Coastal Plain in winter, was seen near Veteran's Pk., *Prince William* on the FBCBC. An **Ovenbird**, apparently only the third winter record in the Piedmont, was clearly ph. at Wetlands Studies and Solutions, *Prince William* 18–20 Dec (ph. JM). Another individual was first found at Huntley Meadows 7 Jan (vid. r. BHo), where it lingered through at least 21 Feb; this species is rare in the n. Coastal Plain in winter. Not one but 3 **Orange-crowned Warblers**, rare inland in winter, were seen in the Alexandria sector of the DCCBC. A **Nashville Warbler**, a rare winter visitor in the Region, was observed at Occoquan Bay 9 Jan (ph. MP). Sightings of **Common Yellowthroats**, typically a fairly rare winter visitor or resident, were numerous throughout the Region and the period. Reports of **Palm Warblers**, a rare early winter visitor in the Piedmont, included 2 at Four Mile Run Pk., Alexandria 8 Dec (ph. EW) and one again 31 Dec (CB); 2 at the Prince William County Landfill 22 Dec (TH, LM); and a single at the Fauquier Education Farm, *Fauquier* 1 Jan (TD). Reports of **Pine Warblers**, a rare winter visitor in the n. Piedmont and Mountain/Valley regions, included 2 at Rust Nature Sanctuary, *Loudoun* 25 Jan (EV, NV) and singles along Kettle Club Rd., *Culpeper* 27 Jan (KK) and Hebron Valley Rd., *Madison* 29 Jan (GD). One and even 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, a species with few winter records in the Region, were seen and ph. by many at Dyke

Marsh from just before the report period through 9 Feb. A lingering **Wilson's Warbler**, a rare winter visitor whose extreme late date in the Coastal Plain is 27 Nov, was seen at Dyke Marsh 19 Dec (KG). A **LAZULI BUNTING** was observed and ph. at Daingerfield Is., Alexandria during the DCCBC and again the next day. A **Painted Bunting** was observed near Sperryville, *Rappahannock* 13 Dec (PL, SPau) and by others as well through 19 Dec; there are only a handful of winter records in the Piedmont. A **Dickcissel**, a rare winter visitor in the Region, was found at Ben Brenman Pk., Alexandria on the DCCBC, seen and ph. by many through 19 Jan. Another individual encountered at Julie J. Metz Wetland Mitigation Bank, *Prince William* 11 Dec (ph. JA) was seen at least twice more through 24 Feb.

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West



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Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Clarke, Craig, Frederick, Giles, Highland, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties; the cities/towns of Blacksburg, Buena Vista, Clifton Forge, Covington, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester

Abbreviations: Blandy (Blandy Experimental Farm, *Clarke*); Broadway (Broadway Wastewater Treatment Facility, *Rockingham*)

Christmas Bird Count: BCBC (Blacksburg, 14 Dec)

WATERFOWL-HERONS

Three **Ross's Geese** were found in *Botetourt* 20 (BE, BK, JP) to 23 Jan (AD, KD). Sixteen to 21 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were observed almost daily in *Rockingham* near Harrisonburg 16 Jan to 17 Feb (m. obs.). Other observations included 4 in Fishersville, *Augusta* 19 Jan (BB); 2 in *Bath* 10 Jan to 25 Feb (m. obs.); 2 in Swoope, *Augusta* 16 Jan (AL); 2 near Stuarts Draft, *Augusta* 25 Jan (AL); one in Dublin, *Pulaski* 1 Jan to 1 Feb (m. obs.); one at the Roanoke STP, Roanoke 29–31 Jan (m. obs.); one in *Botetourt* 1 Feb (BE, BK); and 2 in Luray, *Page* 4–6 Feb (m. obs.), 14 Feb (CKI), 17 Feb (DH) and 28 Feb (DH). One **Trumpeter Swan** was in Waynesboro 11 Dec to 29 Feb (m. obs.). **Tundra Swan** sightings included 30 at Blandy 7 Dec (DB) and 65 in *Page* 19 Dec (GM). Four **Canvasbacks** were seen in *Clarke* 28 Dec (JB) and one at Greenfield L., *Botetourt* 26 Jan (NR). **Redhead** observations were 9 at Fishersville, *Augusta* 20 Jan (DH); 4 in Staunton 26 Jan (VL); 3 at Broadway 26 Jan (VB); 8 in Fairlawn, *Pulaski* 7 Feb (PL); 7 in *Frederick* 20 Feb (DB, WP); and 2 at Greenfield L., *Botetourt* 25 Feb (DG). **Long-tailed Duck** reports included one at L. Frederick, *Frederick* 18 Dec (CL, DL) and 3 at L. Holiday, *Frederick* 13 Jan (BR, GR) with one still there 24 Jan (GR). The **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** featured on the cover of the Fall 2019 Virginia Birds edition (Vol. 16:2) was initially detected at a private residence on L. Frederick, *Frederick* 14 Nov (ph. CM) and was confirmed to be an imm. f. when it was

banded 19 Nov (BP). Thanks to careful creative planning and coordination among local birders, m. obs. were able to list this first-for-the-state species through 22 Feb (ph. CMc). A **Virginia Rail** was found in *Rockbridge* 20 (DR) & 21 Dec (DR, LR). Thirteen **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in *Frederick* 8 Dec (DG); 3 in Blacksburg, *Montgomery* 19 Dec (LA); and 4 at Stuarts Draft, *Augusta* 16 Jan (AL). Nineteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at L. Frederick, *Frederick* 16 Dec (DB); one at Willow L., *Rockbridge* (VL, GM); and one at L. Holiday, *Frederick* 27 Feb (GR). A **Great Egret** was seen almost daily in December at Murray's Pond, *Roanoke* (m. obs.); another was also seen several times in *Botetourt* in January (m. obs.). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** wintered in Waynesboro (m. obs.) and 2 were found there 15 Dec (TG, ST); one was also seen at Fishersville, *Augusta* 25 Feb (EC).

RAPTORS-WARBLEDERS

Six **Black Vultures** with wing tags were observed at Glen Lyn, *Giles* 27 Dec (JPh). These vultures had been banded in West Virginia. Single **Northern Goshawks** were observed in Shenandoah NP, *Page* 8 Dec (m. obs.) and in *Augusta* 5 Jan (VL, GM) and 15 Feb (BB, VL, GM). A **Northern Saw-wet Owl** was found in *Augusta* 1 Feb (PM). Sightings of **Loggerhead Shrikes** were quite infrequent with one at Swoope, *Augusta* 1 Jan (AL); one in *Highland* 11 Jan (JS); and one in *Pulaski* 16 (DA, BE, MH) & 19 Jan (MM). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen at Starkey Wetland, *Roanoke* 29 Jan and 8 Feb (SF, WF), and



Evan Pannuck's 21 Dec photo of the Lake Frederick, *Frederick* Anna's Hummingbird

one at Greenfield, *Botetourt* 26 Jan (WF). **Brown-headed Nuthatch** reports included 7 on the BCBC; 3 in Dublin, *Pulaski* 1 (LA) & 20 Jan (m. obs.) and 1 Feb (VT); 2 at Longwood Pk., Salem 2 Jan (DS); 4 at Whispering Pines Pk., Roanoke 29 Jan (MB, AD, KD); 2 at Rainbow Forest L., *Botetourt* 1 Feb (BE, BK); one in *Montgomery* 5 Feb (JG, CP); and one n. of Fincastle, *Botetourt* 16 Feb (BK). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found at Whitethorne, *Montgomery* 12 Jan (RM). Twenty-two **American Pipits** were at Blandy 23 Dec (GR, DY). **Red Crossbill** sightings included 4 at Rawley Springs, *Rockingham* 30 Jan (LB); 5 at Dismal Cr., *Giles* 12 Feb (RM); 10 at Briery Branch Gap, *Rockingham* 17 Feb (JJ) followed by 8 there 25 Feb (m. obs.). Two **Pine Siskins** were seen in Roanoke 27 Dec (AH) and 27 Jan (SF, WF). Others noted were 2 at Blandy 11 Jan (LAd); one at L. Holiday, *Frederick* 12–13 Jan (GR); one in *Montgomery* 19 Feb (LA); and one at Mountain L., *Giles* 22 Feb (PL). An **American Tree Sparrow** was found in *Page* 20 Dec (GM), and 4 at Blandy 24 Feb (GR). A **Lark Sparrow** was at Blandy 7–9 Dec (m. obs.). Wintering **Baltimore Oriole** records were as follows: one at Blandy 8 Dec (m. obs.); one in Roanoke 10 Jan (JF); one in *Rockbridge* 27 Jan (WR); and one at Greenfield, *Botetourt* 4 Feb (BK, JP). Virginia's first **SCOTT'S ORIOLE** was well documented at a private residence in *Augusta* 14–29 Feb (ph. MF, SF, MG, GM). Viewer access for the m. obs. who saw this bird was exceptionally managed by a dedicated group of fellow-birders (LA, MBo, MG, WL, GM).

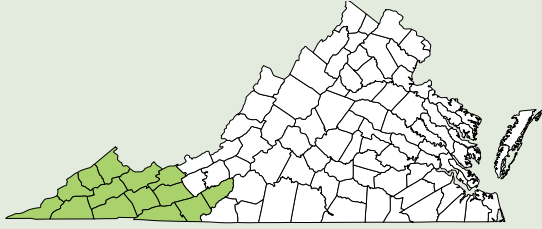


This Scott's Oriole photo taken by Dan Lebbin 22 Feb in *Augusta* captured the viewing ambiance experienced by m. obs.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen in Radford 10 Dec (CK). An **American Redstart** was found in Clifton Forge, *Alleghany* 17 & 30 Dec and 5 Jan (MH). A **Magnolia Warbler** was photographed in *Warren* 24 Dec (RC).

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Southwest



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Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe counties; the cities/towns of Abingdon, Bristol, Galax, Norton, and Tazewell

While precipitation for this winter was a slightly above average, it was almost all rain due to warmer than normal temperatures. The warm weather meant waterfowl in particular were scarcer than normal as many of them stayed further north. Finches also stayed north for the most part, with much fewer Purple Finches and Pine Siskins compared to last winter.

WATERFOWL-COOT

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Rural Retreat L., *Wythe* (ph. AB) 12 Dec was the third eBird record for the county. The only **Tundra Swan** reported was in *Buchanan* near Breaks 22 Dec (ph. DR). Thirty-five **American Wigeons** at Nicewonder's Pond, *Washington* 25 Dec was a good count for the Region. The only **Northern Pintails** for the Region were one at Rural Retreat L., *Wythe* 12 Dec (AB) and a f. at Spring L., *Bristol* 3 Jan (MS). The only **Greater Scaup** reported was at Nicewonder's Pond, *Washington* 29 Dec (CC). The majority of **Ruddy Duck** reports came from Falls Mills L., *Tazewell* where a high count of 16 was recorded on 3 Dec (JP); the only other reports for this species came from Cavitt's Creek Pk., *Tazewell* (CD, ph. MS) and Nicewonder's Pond, *Washington* (CC). A new high count of 23 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Meadowview, *Washington* 10 Jan (DS) was impressive; they were also reported at that location on 27 Dec (AN) and 29 Jan (CD). The only other reports came from *Lee* with reports of 2 on 18 Jan near Jonesville and one 1 Feb near Ewing (LG). Up to 13 **American Coots** were reported at Falls Mills L., *Tazewell* throughout the period, and 9 were at Saltville, *Smyth* throughout the period as well; 2 were at Clear Creek L., *Bristol* 29 Dec–8 Jan (RC, AN).

RAILS-OWLS

The mild winter seems to have allowed the Saltville, *Smyth* **Virginia Rails** to stick around, with 3 reported 29 Jan (CD) and one 3 Feb (ph. CD). **Common Loons** were at Lincolnshire Pk., *Tazewell* 1 Dec and at Laurel

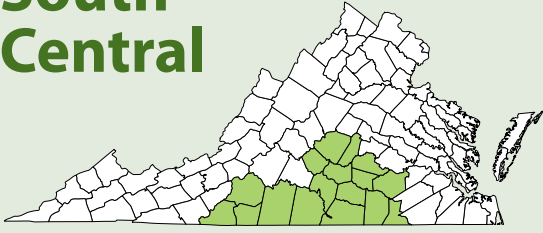
Bed L., *Russell* 17 Feb (CD). As usual, the only reports of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in the Region came from Clear Creek L., *Bristol* 27–29 Dec (RC); a bird or 2 often winter at this location. All **Golden Eagle** reports came from Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* with many reports of up to 2 during the period. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** reported was at Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* 1 Feb (ph. AB). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at Beartown Wilderness, *Tazewell* 22 Dec (DS) and Rocky Hollow Rd., *Grayson* 25 Jan (AB). A **Merlin** was at Southern Gap, *Buchanan* 24 Dec (ph. DR). A **Short-eared Owl** was in *Buchanan* near Breaks 6 Jan (ph. DR).

NUTHATCHES-FINCHES

Brown-headed Nuthatches continued to persist at Washington County Pk., *Washington*; 2 were reported there 12 Jan (GW). There were a few scattered reports of **Purple Finches** but this was a poor winter for this species in the Region. Six **Red Crossbills** were at the Blue Ridge Discovery Center, *Smyth* 28 Dec (LB); a single bird was also at the Beartown Wilderness, *Tazewell* 22 Dec (DS).

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South Central



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Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward counties; the cities/towns of Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Martinsville, Petersburg, and South Boston

The winter was mild; many duck species were found in low numbers and some species (such as Northern Shoveler and Canvasback) were not reported at all, though a few interesting waterfowl were found. Numbers of winter irruptives such as Purple Finches were also quite low. A positive note is that the number of observers contributing to this report was well above normal.

Abbreviations: Kerr (John H. Kerr Reservoir, *Mecklenburg*, lower lake, and *Charlottesville/Halifax*, upper lake); SRR (Sandy River Reservoir, *Prince Edward*)

WATERFOWL

A single blue morph **Snow Goose** at Bear Cr. Lk. SP, *Cumberland* 27 Dec (EB) and a single white morph off VA 57 e. of Chatham, *Pittsylvania* 26 (MF) & 27 (DP) Jan were the only reports; both individuals were seen with flocks of **Canada Geese**, typical in the Region, where Snow Geese are always scarce. A **Cackling Goose** near Crewe, *Nottoway* 14–19 Feb (ph. TS, m.obs.) and one 24 Feb (JB, PG) at Paul C. Edmunds Jr. Memorial Pk., *Halifax* were the only reports; both these birds were also seen with Canada Goose flocks. The only **Tundra Swan** report was a single bird near the dam at Kerr 8 Dec (PG, TS). Six **American Wigeons** at SRR 20 Feb (ES) was the highest count, and the species was only seen there and in the vicinity of lower Kerr. A single **Northern Pintail** at SRR 16 Dec (ES) was the only report, while **Green-winged Teal** were seen only at SRR with one there 16 Dec (ES) and 2 on 20 Feb (ES), and at James R. SP, *Buckingham*, where 9 were found 20 Jan (AE). The only **Redhead** was a single bird on lower Kerr 9 Jan (AD, PG), and **Greater Scaup** were also only found there, with 5 on 22 Dec (PG) the earliest report and 8 on 17 Feb (BE, MJ) the last; the high count was 8 on several occasions. More surprisingly, **Lesser Scaup** were also reported nowhere away from lower Kerr, with 2 on 22 Dec (PG) the earliest found and 3 on 26 Jan (AD, PG) and 1 Feb (PG) the high

count; this is a weak showing for this species. The only scoter reported was a **Black Scoter** above the dam at Kerr 8 Dec (ph. PG). Single **Common Goldeneyes** at Holliday Lk. SP, *Appomattox/Buckingham* 3 Dec (ES) and at SRR 5–27 Dec (ES, TS) were the only ones noted. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen only on lower Kerr, with one above the dam 8 Dec (PG), 2 at Palmer Pt. 22 Dec (PG), and one there 26 Dec (PG).

GREBES–RAPTORS

A briefly seen **Red-necked Grebe** was reported above the dam at Kerr 2 Jan (BB), while 3 observers at the Eagle Pt. WMA, *Mecklenburg*, Kerr, reported a **Western Grebe**, also 2 Jan (JB, GM, TM); neither bird was photographed or reported again. Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen below the dam at Kerr throughout the season (m.obs.); in this Region the species has been found here, but nowhere else, repeatedly in recent winters. Two significant reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were 6 at the *Nottoway* landfill n. of Blackstone 16 Feb (ph. TS) followed by 5 on lower Kerr 22 Feb (ph. AB); both counts are Regionally high, and perhaps more evidence of the increased abundance of the species along the Virginia coast in recent years. A **Red-throated Loon** was first seen 22 Dec at Palmer Pt., lower Kerr (PG) and one continued to be reported there the remainder of the season (m.obs.); there were no reports away from Kerr. An **Osprey** perched by US 58 S of South Hill, *Mecklenburg* 23 Feb (MHa), presumably an early migrant, was the only one reported.

VIREOS–WARBLERS

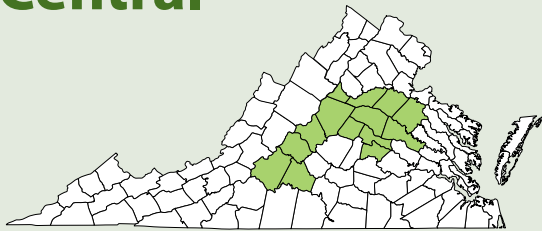
A **White-eyed Vireo** 21 Dec in Farmville, *Prince Edward* (ES, ph. TS) was an unprecedented winter record for the county. Slightly less unusual were 2 **Blue-headed Vireos** at Staunton R. SP, *Halifax* 15 Dec (AD, PG); one was also reported 31 Jan at Veteran's Memorial Pk., Emporia (CS). Both of these vireo species winter in small numbers in s. coastal Virginia

and coastal North Carolina. Six **Tree Swallows** at SRR 14 Feb (MS) were the earliest reported; this is another species that winters along the coast and returns to this Region in late winter. Few reports of **Purple Finches** were received, none of more than 5 individuals, and the only **Pine Siskins** were 2 in South Boston, *Halifax* 22 & 26 Feb (JB). A **Baltimore Oriole** visited a South Boston, *Halifax* yard 1 Dec (ph. PG), then one was seen almost daily 20 Dec through the end of the season (JB) in a different South Boston yard. Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted 19 Dec in Farmville, *Prince Edward* (ES); 22 Jan in Gladstone, *Appomattox* (MHo); and 17 Feb at Palmer Pt., Kerr (BE, MJ), the only report for

each of these counties; such low numbers are discouraging. A **Common Yellowthroat** 15 Dec at Clover boat landing, *Halifax* (ES,TS) provided one of only a handful of winter Regional records. A late **Palm Warbler** was on Rough Rd., *Mecklenburg* 31 Dec (JB, WSB).

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Central



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Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Campbell, Caroline, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Louisa, Nelson, Orange, Powhatan, and Spotsylvania counties; the cities of Bedford, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, and Lynchburg

This winter started strong with some impressive showings of migrant geese around the Region and an incredible number of late neotropical passerines that lingered with unseasonable warmth. Despite the abundance of geese early on, this season was defined by above average temperatures and very little snowfall that led to a poor showing of waterfowl by the end of the period, especially when it came to diving ducks. Some notable passerine reports kept birders busy in what was otherwise a lackluster winter with few northern irruptive species. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross’s Goose, Brant, Rufous Hummingbird, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Black-backed Gull, American White Pelican, Chipping × Clay-colored Sparrow, and numerous unseasonable passerines.

Abbreviations: MCLP (Mill Creek Lake Park, *Amherst*); Sportsplex (Spotsylvania Sportsplex and nearby ponds, *Spotsylvania*)

Christmas Bird Count: CCBC (Charlottesville, 15 Dec)

WATERFOWL–WARBLERS

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Old Mill Pk., Fredericksburg 1 Feb (ph. AR), possibly the same birds that had wandered in *Spotsylvania* earlier in the fall. There were several **Snow Geese** observed early on in the period, with one at Glenmore, *Albemarle* 7 Dec (SK); another at MCLP 7 Dec (BE, DMS); and one continued from the fall period at Sportsplex 6 & 7 Dec and 22 Jan (m. obs.). Increased numbers later into the period included 5 at Fredericksburg Battlefield, Fredericksburg 9 Jan (LM) and 48 flying downriver at Port Royal Boat Ramp, *Caroline* 16 Jan (AD). There were 2 **Ross’s Geese**, both in *Albemarle*, one in the vicinity of Lickinghole Cr. 7 & 8 Dec (AC, ph. m. obs.) and another at Stillfred’s Pond 20 Jan (ph. BB, TB, DC). The long-staying **Brant** continued from the fall period at the Sportsplex, *Spotsylvania* 6 & 7 Dec (m. obs.). **Cackling Geese** were present in record high numbers in the Region this winter, with up to 15 continuing at Sportsplex 7 Dec through 23 Jan (ph. m. obs.); 21 at Hope of Glory Farm, *Fluvanna* 4 Dec (ph. BB); and another 21 at James R. Rd., *Albemarle* 2 Feb (ph. BB), probably representing the same flock. The above average temperatures locally and further north ensured that many lakes stayed largely

ice-free, and underwhelming numbers of ducks moved into the area. The Region was especially lacking in deep water diving ducks, with no reports of **Greater Scaup** and only two each of **Canvasback** and **Redhead**. A recurring **Rufous Hummingbird** briefly returned to Fosters Branch Rd., *Albemarle* 21 Dec (CC), and a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** spent the winter at a private residence in *Spotsylvania*. Five **Sandhill Cranes** flew over MCLP 8 Dec (MJ), possibly off-course southbound migrants. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was notable at L. Anna, *Louisa* 28 Feb (AR), representing one of few records from the Region. By contrast, **Great Black-backed Gull**, a species that usually winters at L. Anna in the hundreds, was completely absent. An **American White Pelican** visited Groome's Pt., *Spotsylvania* 20–23 Feb (ph. DC, CF, m. obs.) A **Green Heron** was quite unseasonable at L. Vista, *Bedford* 14–20 Feb (ph. BE, ML). Usually a hotspot for the species, Green Springs, *Louisa* had only one **Short-eared Owl** on 31 Dec (AR), in keeping with a relatively poor statewide presence this winter. A notably high count for the winter, 6 **Merlins** were observed congregating at Pen Pk., Charlottesville 2 Feb (ph. BB, TB). A **White-eyed Vireo** was notably late at Central Pk. Ponds, Fredericksburg 7 Dec (ph. MA, TD, EO). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was either very late or attempting to overwinter at Ivy Creek Natural Area, *Albemarle* 28 Dec (BZ). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were essentially absent from the Region this winter; one was reported at a feeder in White Hall, *Albemarle* 15 Feb (LM). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** provided a notable winter record at Riveredge Pk., *Amherst* 14 Dec (ph. AE, JS). There were three reports of late or wintering **House Wrens**: 2 on the CCBC and one at Rivanna Trail Belvedere, *Albemarle* 15 Jan (ph. TB, EL, IL). There was no substantial winter finch irruption, with very few **Purple Finch** reports and even fewer **Pine Siskins**. There were three reports of overwintering **Baltimore Orioles** at private feeders, all from *Albemarle*. Probably representing the first state record of this hybrid combination, a **Chipping** × **Clay-colored Sparrow** was documented at Old Trail, *Albemarle* 28 Jan (ph. MF). Very rare in the winter in the Region, a **Vesper Sparrow** was found at Greenfield Farm, *Albemarle* 11 Jan (PM). The first Regional winter record of **Northern Waterthrush** was detected at James River WMA 1 Dec (a.r. ES). A **Nashville Warbler** was notably late at Old Trail, *Albemarle* 2 Dec (ph. DC).

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This photo taken by Marshall Faintich in *Albemarle* 28 Jan is posted in eBird as a hybrid Chipping Sparrow × Clay-colored Sparrow.

Southeast



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Charles City, Chesterfield, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, New Kent, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and York counties; the cities of Franklin, Hopewell, Richmond, and Williamsburg

It was a mild winter in the Region. Temperatures were above average for all three months, averaging 4.1°F above normal overall. Precipitation amounts were slightly above normal and there were no significant snowfalls. Some of the unusual species found in the Region this winter can probably be attributed to the warmer conditions. The same can be said for the scarcity of certain species and low numbers recorded, most notably waterfowl at Hog Island WMA where the refuge manager said that these were the lowest numbers he had ever seen in the many years he’s been there. The warmer weather most certainly assisted in helping some species successfully overwinter. The two major Christmas Bird Counts in the region were both completed on December 15. The 80th annual Hopewell CBC recorded 113 species and the 43rd annual Williamsburg CBC recorded 111 species including numerous high counts which are noted in the text. Many of the high counts of common species may be more attributed to the high observer turnout than to an actual increase in numbers. Rarities this season included White-winged Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Sandhill Crane and Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: Ancarrow’s (Ancarrow’s Landing, Richmond); City Point (Petersburg National Battlefield-City Point Unit, Hopewell); Curles Neck (Curles Neck Farm, Henrico); Dutch Gap/Henricus (Dutch Gap Conservation Area/Henricus Park, Chesterfield); JRP (James River Park, Richmond); Hog (Hog Island WMA, Surry); Shirley (Shirley Plantation, Charles City); Swift Creek (Swift Creek Reservoir, Chesterfield)

Christmas Bird Counts: HoCBC (Hopewell, 15 Dec); WiCBC (Williamsburg, 15 Dec).

WATERFOWL–SHOREBIRDS

Only 2 **Ross’s Geese** were reported this season, both at Curles Neck 3 Feb (ph. ABr). Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were tallied on the HoCBC at Curles Neck (ph. EO, JE). Several **Cackling Geese** were noted in the Region with a high count of 7 on the HoCBC at Curles Neck (EO, JE). Wintering **Blue-winged Teal** are rare in the Region but this season one successfully wintered at Swan L./ Shields L., Richmond (m. obs.) and up to 5 birds wintered at Dutch Gap/Henricus (m.obs.). A m. **Long-tailed Duck**, a rare winter visitor, was found at Swift Creek 2 Feb (ph. AB, EO, JE). The bird was seen again the following day (TS). A new high count of 20 **Pied-billed Grebes** was made on the HoCBC. An estimated 2400 **Horned Grebes** were counted off Ft. Boykin Historic Pk., *Isle of Wight* 20 Dec, an impressive count (TC). A follow-up count on 23 Dec yielded 2300 birds (TC). The only **Red-necked Grebe** reported in the Region was one straddling the *New Kent/James City* line at Diascund Res. 5 Jan (ph. NN, JSt). The bird was seen again 7 Jan (ph. NB, SD). A **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** was discovered at a residential feeder on Renwick Pl. in Glen Allen, *Henrico* 26 Dec (ph. DB). It continued there throughout the season and was enjoyed by many. An ad. m. **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** continued from the fall season in *Queens L., York* through 4 Feb (MF, LSchu, ph. BW). The bird was officially banded 1 Feb (BP). Three **Sandhill Cranes**, 2 ad. and one imm., flew into the fields on Turkey Island Rd., *Henrico* 22 Dec and remained there for approximately 30 min. before they flew back out, an unexpected surprise (ph. ABr, AB). Up to 7 **Least Sandpipers** appeared to winter at Dutch Gap/Henricus, seen sporadically throughout the season. Other Least Sandpiper reports included 4 on the HoCBC; 15 in *Charles City* 26 Dec (ph. ABr); 2 at S. Church Landing, *Isle of Wight* 7 Jan (TC); and one at Mainland Farm/Drummond’s Field, *James City* 31 Dec (BT). A **Spotted Sandpiper**, a rare winter visitor, was seen several times at

Dutch Gap/Henricus between 1 Jan and 16 Feb (ph. JS, m. obs.). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Carlton Farm, *James City* 14 Dec (TBo, DC, CM, ph. BT); 2 were seen there again 14 Feb (ph. BT). Three Lesser Yellowlegs were noted at Cumberland Marsh NAP, *New Kent* 21 Feb (AR, KW); at least one remained there 23 Feb (NB).

GULLS-WRENS

An excellent count of 203 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made from the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry, *James City/Surry* 12 Jan (ph. BT). There's a stronghold of late **Laughing Gulls** in the Hopewell area that can be quite numerous in mid-December with typically a few lingering into early January. However, a Laughing Gull at Jamestown Is., *James City* 18 Dec was considered late in that part of the Region (BW). It was a poor winter for "white-winged" gulls in the Region. One **Iceland Gull** seen once by one individual at the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge, Richmond 11 Jan provided the only report (ph. IL). Three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on the HoCBC was a new high count. On the WiCBC, 314 **Forster's Terns** set a new high count. Uncommon inland in the Region, a **Red-throated Loon** was at Swift Creek 1-8 Dec (ph. AB, ABr, MC, TS). A new high count of seven **American White Pelicans** was made at Hog on the WiCBC (ph. BT, TC, LN, VB). Five were over Hog 11 Jan (CJ) and one was over College Cr., *James City* 8 Feb (ph. CG). Also setting a new high count on the WiCBC was 79 **Brown Pelicans**, undoubtedly aided by the mild weather this season. Three hundred eighty-four **Turkey Vultures**, 13 **Cooper's Hawks**, and 11 **Barred Owls** were all new high counts for the WiCBC. Two **Short-eared Owls** were recorded in the Region this season. One was seen at Curles Neck on the HoCBC (ph. EO, JE) and the other was viewed from a taxiing aircraft at Richmond International Airport, *Henrico* 6 Feb (AB). Two-hundred thirteen **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** was a new high count for the WiCBC. A count of 35 **Eastern Phoebes** was a new high for the HoCBC. **Blue-headed Vireo** reports this winter included 2 at Tormentor L., *Isle of Wight* 9 Dec (TC); one at Exeter Ct., *James City* 20 Dec (ph. BT); one at the Wetlands/Pony Pasture section of the JRP 20 Dec (JS), 26 Jan (ph. AB), and 17 Feb (TD); one at Piney Grove Preserve, *Sussex* 28 Dec (KR) and 17 Feb (NR); one on Lake Dr., Smithfield, *Isle of Wight* 2 Jan (NB, RB, SD, JL, SL); and one at Bryan Pk., Richmond 5 Jan (RBe). Five hundred ninety-seven **American Crows** on the WiCBC was a new high count. A lone **Tree Swallow** over the marsh at Dutch Gap/Henricus 1 Jan was unusual

for that date (TB). Four hundred fifty-eight **Carolina Chickadees** counted on the WiCBC was a new high count. **Sedge Wren** is always a good find in the Region. This season there were three reports with one on the HoCBC at Curles Neck (ph. EO, JE), one at Shirley 21 Dec and 24 Feb (ph. ABr), and 2 at Ragged Is. WMA, *Isle of Wight* 2 Jan (ph. NB, RB, SD, SL, JL). A new high count of 319 **Carolina Wrens** was made on the WiCBC.

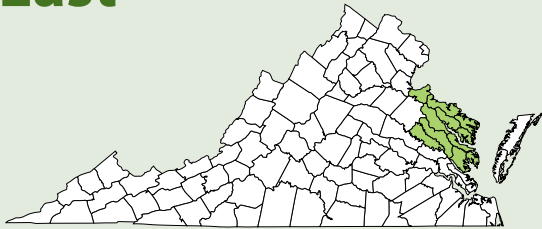
GNATCATCHER-BUNTINGS

Aside from the warmer microclimates around the cities of Richmond and Hopewell, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** are still rare in the Region in winter. One on the WiCBC was noteworthy as was one at Dutch Gap/Henricus 2 Jan (ph. PB) and 16 Feb (MC, LS). Four-hundred fifty-four **Eastern Bluebirds** was a new high count for the WiCBC. Twenty-five **Brown Thrashers** was a new high count on the HoCBC. A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, seen along Deep Bottom Rd., *Henrico* on the HoCBC, was a good find (WT). A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, rare inland in winter, was feeding on suet at a private residence near Monticello Marketplace, *James City* 22 Feb (ph. NB). At least one **Black-and-white Warbler** overwintered at Ancarrow's for the second year in a row (m.obs.). Other Black-and-white Warbler reports included up to 2 at City Point as late as 5 Jan (ph. AB, ABr); one at Church-on-the-Main, *James City* 1 & 2 Jan (ph. JEa); one at Quarterpath Pk., Williamsburg 4 (ph. NN) & 6 Jan (CM); one at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg 14 Feb (ph. CG, m.obs.); and one at Jamestown Is., *James City* 19 Feb (ph. NB). There were two reports of **Nashville Warbler** this winter. The first was off John Rolfe Ln., *James City* 23 Dec (NL). A second bird was beautifully photographed taking a bath at a private residence in Powell Grove, *Chesterfield* 25 Dec (ph. LTi, L&MT). Reports of **Common Yellowthroat**, another hardy warbler, included one at City Point on the HoCBC (AB); one at Ragged Island WMA, *Isle of Wight* 21 Dec (JS); one at Dutch Gap/Henricus 27 Dec (JD); one at the Hopewell City Marina, Hopewell 28 Dec (AB); and one at Hog 4 Feb (AD). A very late f. type **American Redstart** was spotted in Colonial Williamsburg 7 Dec (ph. NN, CM). Remarkably, 2 **Yellow Warblers** were encountered in the Region this winter. The first one was found in Hopewell on the HoCBC. That same bird was encountered three more times at the Hopewell City Marina, Hopewell 21 Dec (ph. ABr), 19 Jan (ph. AB), and 21 Jan (ABr). The second individual was at Great Shiplock Pk., Richmond 29 Jan (ph. ABr). Two late-lingering **Blackpoll Warblers** were at City Point 8 Dec (ph. AB, JSt). There

were at least eleven reports of multiple **Palm Warblers** in the Region this season, too many to list here. A new high count of 55 **Pine Warblers** was made on the WiCBC. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in Kingsmill, *James City* on the WiCBC and was possibly the same individual recorded there on the 2018 WiCBC. Six hundred nineteen **Northern Cardinals** recorded on the WiCBC was a new high count. An imm./f. type **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, rare in winter, spent an hour at a residential feeder on Roundhill Dr., *Chesterfield* 9 Dec (DP). A f. **PAINTED BUNTING** was discovered at the Belle Isle section of JRP in the same exact location where a similarly plumaged bird was in early 2017. The bird was found 6 Jan (ph. PB) and remained in the area until at least 24 Jan (m.obs.).

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East



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Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties

The winter of '19–'20 was marked by mild temperatures and a near total absence of irruptive finches and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Two new species were recorded for the Region's Christmas Bird Counts: Brewer's Blackbird on Walkerton and Peregrine Falcon on the *Northumberland/Lancaster*. Data for this report were sourced from eBird, Virginia Birds listserv, NNASnet (Northern Neck Audubon Society), the Gold Book, the USFWS, and four Christmas Bird Counts. A compilation of the Christmas Bird Counts was generously compiled by Rexanne Bruno. Highlights included several Greater White-fronted Geese, Purple and Least Sandpipers, White-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, and 2 Brewer's Blackbirds.

Abbreviations: Dameron (Dameron Marsh NAP, *Northumberland*); Hutchinson (Rappahannock River Valley NWR—Hutchinson Unit, *Essex*); K.G. Ponds (sand quarry ponds near the Rappahannock R., mostly along Rt. 3, *King George*); Leedstown (*Westmoreland*); New Pt. Comfort (New Pt. Comfort Preserve, *Mathews*); The Pocket (in Pamunkey Indian Reservation along the Pamunkey R., *King William*);

Wilna (Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Wilna Unit, *Richmond*)

Christmas Bird Counts: MACBC (*Mathews*, 5 Jan); MPCBC (Middle Peninsula, 29 Dec); NLCBC (*Northumberland/Lancaster*, 18 Dec); WBCBC (Washington's Birthplace, 15 Dec); WACBC (Walkerton, 3 Jan)

WATERFOWL—HERONS

A long-staying **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen and photographed at Belle Isle SP, *Lancaster* continuing from 8 Dec (ph. MAn, EC) to at least 23 Dec (LA). One bird was also found in Leedstown 26 Jan (ph. FA) and up to 4 were seen in The Pocket and general vicinity from 7 (ph. FA) to 11 Dec (NB). **Cackling Geese** were reported from *Westmoreland*, *King William*, and *King George* with a high of 3 seen along Muse Rd. (*Westmoreland*) 9 Feb (FA) and in Leedstown during the WBCBC (FA, AH, AN). Perhaps due to the unusually mild winter conditions, an exceptional count of 161 **Wood Ducks** was tallied from a private location south of Manquin, *King William* during

the WACBC (TD, EO, ABo, IT), paving the way for a new high count of 172 for the count circle. WBCBC had its highest counts of **Northern Shoveler** at 27, and **Green-winged Teal** with 514, two hundred fifty of which came from the Westmoreland Berry Farm, *Westmoreland* (NN, CC). **Greater Scaup** was recorded for only the second time on the WACBC with a single m. seen at a private location in Walkerton (JCok, MC, NN). Two large rafts of **Buffleheads** off Ware Point Rd., *Gloucester* combined to form a count of 1009 during the MACBC (BB). One hundred fifty-eight **Hooded Mergansers** set a new high count for the WBCBC. A flock of 76 **Wild Turkeys** sighted at a private farm in *King William* (FA) helped set a new high count of 102 for the WACBC. A well-photographed **Purple Sandpiper** was found at New Pt. Comfort by a team taking part in the MACBC (ph. DY, MAd, JA, MB). This was a first count record and only the third eBird record for the Region. The same team found a very late **Least Sandpiper** at the same location (ph. DY, MAd, JA, MB). This represents the second record for the MACBC and the third winter eBird record for the Region. A **Willet**, presumably 'Western', found 16 Jan at Dameron (KD) provided a first winter eBird record for the Northern Neck, although it is likely that Western Willets are regular in small numbers there. One hundred eighty **Brown Pelicans** found at Fleeton Pt., *Northumberland* (EO) during the NLCBC helped set a new high of 234 for that count. A grand total of 352 **Bald Eagles** was recorded across all five CBCs, an astonishing total which saw new high counts for both MACBC (63) and NLCBC (50). Although not unexpected in small numbers in the Middle Peninsula during the winter months, a **Great Egret** in the Northern Neck that spent from at least 6 Jan (SB, m. obs.) through the end of the winter period at K.G. Ponds was notable. Additionally, a single bird was seen on private property near The Pocket during the WACBC.

RAPTORS–WARBLERS

An early **Osprey** was photographed from Shore Ln., *Northumberland* 18 Feb (ph. JC), which was almost a week before this species typically arrives in the Region. Highly unusual for the date, a singing **White-eyed Vireo** was recorded at Dameron during the NLCBC (MC, JCok). The only other vireo reported this winter was a **Blue-headed Vireo** at Wilna 18 Dec (ABr). For the second year in a row, a **Common Raven** was found in the Pampatike sector of the WACBC near Horseshoe, *King William* (EO, TD, ABo, IT). A small flock of 6 **Tree Swallows** was found foraging

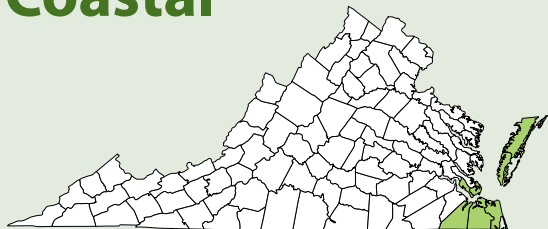
over the beaver marsh at Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail-Indian Town Rd. area, *King George* 25 Feb (RS). These likely represented early migrants rather than wintering birds, but were notable, nonetheless. An astonishingly late **Barn Swallow** was photographed foraging over fields at a private farm off Corbin Hill Rd., *Middlesex* (ph. JC, MC). This represented the only winter record for the state this year and was one of very few December records away from the immediate coast. In stark contrast to last winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were nearly absent from the Region, and in fact only a single well-documented record exists, which came from a private residence in Foster, *Mathews* 7 Dec (MS). Two **Sedge Wrens** were reported, and one photographed, at Bethel 2 Feb (ph. ABr). It is certainly possible, given the habitat, that this species winters here annually, however it has not been recorded every winter. A well-described and late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** made an appearance at The Pocket 7 Dec (FA). New high counts of 107 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and 9 **Gray Catbirds** were recorded for the WACBC. Two **Snow Buntings** were seen as they flew northbound calling at North Haven Beach, *Mathews* 2 Feb (ABr). The mild winter likely facilitated two new high counts for **Chipping Sparrow** for both the NLCBC and the WBCBC with 45 and 55, respectively. Two **Baltimore Orioles** were found at private residences in Deltaville, *Middlesex* and Mobjack, *Mathews* 15 (ph. MD) & 16 Feb (ph. MS, JC), respectively. An exciting new high count of 53 **Rusty Blackbirds** was tallied during the WACBC. Two reports of **BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS** came from the WACBC, providing a first record for this long-lived count. The first report was of 2 ad. m. which were photographed foraging with a small flock of **American Robins** at a private farm southwest of King William, *King William* during the WACBC (ph. AR, DC); the second came from the Aylett sector (BP, LF). Both reports were pending VARCOM review as of the submission of this report. A flock of 54 **Boat-tailed Grackles** at Bethel 2 Feb (ABr) notched a new high count for *Mathews* in eBird. The Pocket produced several **Orange-crowned Warbler** sightings, which may pertain to one or several individuals. The first sighting was 7 Dec (FA) then later during the WACBC; presumably the same bird was sighted a few hundred yards down the road 5 Jan (JF, NN, JS). **Common Yellowthroats**, not an annual wintering species, were recorded twice, with one during the WACBC along Mt. Elba Rd. and 2 at Hutchinson 17 Dec (JC, MC). An excellent winter count of 8 **Palm Warblers** from the Leedstown area 29 Feb (FA) came a few weeks before this

species' typical migratory push through the area. A new high for the WACBC for **Pine Warbler** came this winter with 27 being recorded.

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Concluding another relatively mild, wet winter, February ended ~7°F above normal for the month and 1.65 inches above normal for precipitation, part of which was 1–3 inches on the 21st, the Region's first measurable snowfall in two years. Although waterfowl diversity was seasonally typical, volume among all species was limited. Alcids made a great showing off southern Virginia Beach. The seasons' Best-of-the-Best accolades were awarded to Common Ground-Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Wood Stork, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Gray Kingbird.

Abbreviations: Back Bay (Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach); Cape Charles (town of Cape Charles, *Northampton*); CBBT (Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel s. of *Northampton*); Chinc. (Chincoteague NWR, *Accomack*); Dismal (Dismal Swamp NWR, Chesapeake/Suffolk); False Cape (False Cape SP, Virginia Beach) First Landing (First Landing SP, Virginia Beach); FINWR (Fisherman Is. NWR, *Northampton*); GATR (GATR Tract, Mockhorn Island WMA, *Northampton*); Grandview (Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton); Little Is. (Little Island Park, Virginia Beach); PHP (Pleasure House Point, Virginia Beach); Whitehurst (Whitehurst Tract, Princess Anne WMA, Virginia Beach)

Christmas Bird Counts: BBCBC (Back Bay, 29 Dec); CCCBC (Cape Charles, 30 Dec); CBBTCBC (Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, 26 Dec); ChCBC (Chincoteague, 29 Dec); DSCBC (Dismal Swamp, 18 Dec); LCCBC (Little

Creek, 31 Dec); NaCBC (Nassawadox, 15 Dec); NNCBC (Newport News, 14 Dec); NRCBC (Nansemond River, 2 Jan); WaCBC (Wachapreague, 14 Dec)

WATERFOWL–HUMMINGBIRDS

A **Ross's Goose** was noted at Chin. 1 Jan (GM). At least one of 3 at Indiantown Rd., *Northampton* 4 Jan (LA, AL) remained to 6 Jan (ph. MA). Of 4 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the Oyster/Cheriton Landfill, *Northampton* 26 Dec (ph. DC), 3 made the CCCBC list with 2 lingering to 1 Jan (MP, MiP, ph. LR); 5 to 6 were at Bay Creek, Cape Charles 10–28 Jan (ph. MA). A **Cackling Goose** was at the Oyster/Cheriton Landfill, *Northampton* 28 Dec (MP, MiP). Others reported were: one near Sherwood L., Virginia Beach 29 Dec (DE, ph. LF, KS) and 1 Jan (K&TB, ph. TM); one near Cape Charles for the CCCBC; a notably high count of 12 off Sealand Ln., *Northampton* 6 Jan (MA); and one in Cape Charles 10 (ESB) & 28 Jan (ph. MA). Single **Mute Swans** were at Back Bay 4 (ph. MFM) through 6 Jan (BA, ph. LMo, ph. CH) and at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach 19 Feb (ph. JM). One to 2 m. **Eurasian Wigeons** were at Hoffer Cr. Pk., Portsmouth 20 Dec (JM) to 2 Feb (m. obs.). These were likely those spotted nearby at Craney 30 Jan (one–AM, LS, BT, ph. DY) and 27 Feb (2–LS, BT, BW, DY). Elsewhere, single m. were at Oceana Pond, Virginia Beach 28 Jan (ph. MB) to 15 Feb (NN, AR) and at Chinc. 12 Dec (JL) into March. For an eighth consecutive calendar year a m. **EURASIAN**

GREEN-WINGED TEAL was at Craney, observed this year 23 Jan (AM, LS, BT, DY) and 20 Feb (LS, BT, ph. BW, DY). An imm. m. **King Eider** was at Little Is. 21 Dec (AB, KL). The f. **Common Eider** that was at Grandview in November was present through at least 22 Dec (m. obs.). One was on Hog Is., *Northampton* for the NaCBC and 4 (Dresser's) were recorded during the CBBTCBC (ph. ESB). **Harlequin Duck** posts included a m. at First Landing 6 Dec (ph. JM); a f. at Little Is. 16 Dec (ph. LF) into the spring season (m. obs.); one off the CBBT 3 Jan (ST, TS); 5 off the CBBT North Overlook, *Northampton* 23 Jan (CO); and 3 off the CBBT third island 26 Jan (m. obs.). Sadly, not a single **Northern Bobwhite** was detected on the any of the Region's CBCs. The CBBTCBC had one **Red-necked Grebe**; 3 from Lauderdale Av., Virginia Beach 3 Jan (m. obs.) were the most posted to eBird. Single **Western Grebes** appeared off NAS Oceana-Dam Neck Annex (restricted access), Virginia Beach 8 Dec (K&TB) and Little Is., 20 Dec (LF); 2 were at Grandview 26 (NB) & 28 Dec (ph. WA, DAH). A **COMMON GROUND-DOVE**, the state's first since one was in Cape Charles 1 Dec 2003 (ESB), was at a Suffolk private residence 21 Feb through the end of the report period (*fide* BA).



David Clark's Common Ground-Dove picture taken at a private residence in Suffolk 23 February

A **White-winged Dove** was at Scarlett Dr., Chesapeake 15 (ph. CS) to 19 Dec (KL, WT). A second one reported in Townsend, *Northampton* 25 Dec (ph. MP) had "been visiting feeders sporadically for last week"; it was last observed 17 Feb (MiP). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Camp Pendleton (restricted access), Virginia Beach 8 Dec (ph. K&TB) and one was at Laurel Cove Dr., Virginia Beach 16–23 Dec (ph. LSi). The **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** that was off Blackwater Rd., Virginia Beach in November

continued to 24 Dec (ph. KD, m. obs.); it was banded 7 Dec (BP). The ad. m. **Rufous Hummingbird** at a private residence off Holland Rd., Suffolk continued through the end of the report period (ph. JB). A ***Selasphorus rufous/sasin*** hummingbird was "still coming" to a Virginia Beach feeder (ph. REG) into March.

SHOREBIRDS—OWLS

One to 3 **American Avocets** were at Chinc. 5 Dec (JL) through 15 Feb (m. obs.). The season's high count was 11 off Ft. Monroe, Hampton 9 Dec (ph. EM). A leg-tagged **Piping Plover** was at Back Bay 29 Feb (ph. TT). The NNCBC final tally included a **Spotted Sandpiper** that was at Mariner's Museum Pk., Newport News; another was near Belle Haven, *Accomack* 12 through 29 Feb (ph. PV). A **Pomarine Jaeger** was 2 mi. off Virginia Beach 28 Dec (ph. SM). Two **Parasitic Jaegers** were off Chinc. 1 Dec (JK, SMc). Elsewhere, one was off Little Is. 10 Dec (AB), one was listed for the BBCBC, and one was off Little Is. 12 Jan (WT). **Dovekies** were reported off Little Is./Back Bay 4–14 Feb (AB, SK, KL) with a peak count of 4 on 13 Feb (AB). **Razorbills** populated field notes 14 Dec (ph. TP–Rudee Tours) through 28 Feb (ph. K&TB). High counts off Virginia's se. coast were unrivaled at any location along the entire Atlantic coast with numbers such as these: 950 and 825 off Back Bay 9 & 13 Feb, respectively (AB); 700 off Back Bay 14 Feb (RR); 2495 from Little Is. 17 Feb (EO) then 965 off Sandbridge, 560 from Little Is., and 400 off False Cape over a 3.5 hour period 18 Feb (ESB). Ft. Monroe, Hampton hosted up to fifteen 12 Feb (ph. AR, KB). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** and a **Black-headed Gull** were at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach during the LCCBC; the latter made 2020 year-lists to 2 Jan (m. obs.). A first-cycle **Iceland Gull** was at PHP 5 Jan (ph. AB, LRa); other first-cycle individuals were at Ocean View Beach Pk., Norfolk 11 Jan (NN) into March (m. obs.) and at Little Is. 1 Feb (ph. RBi). A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull**, initially noted near the CBBT first island 30 Dec (GM), captured attention through 2 Feb (ph. m. obs.). A well-documented **Caspian Tern** at NAS Oceana-Dam Neck Annex (restricted access), Virginia Beach 12 Jan (ph. K&TB) was an exceptional winter season record for this species. A **Sooty Shearwater** was logged off island #4 during the CBBTCBC. Five **Manx Shearwater** reports included one and 2 off Virginia Beach 14 & 15 Dec, respectively (ph. TP–Rudee Tours); 11 off Little Is. 4 Feb (AB); 2 off Little Is. 10 Feb (ABr); and one off Back Bay 13 Feb (AB). Three **WOOD STORKS** passed over Back Bay 8 Jan (ph. SK). Three days later one appeared at Carolanne Farm

Pk., Virginia Beach (ph. CB, m. obs.) where it tarried to 14 Jan (ph. m. obs.). **American White Pelicans** were recorded throughout the period with peak totals of 45 at Sandbridge, Virginia Beach 31 Dec (ph. RW) and an estimated 69 (2 merged flocks) at Oyster, *Northampton* 1 Jan (ph. LR). **Cattle Egrets** were noted in se. Virginia Beach each month of the season (m. obs.); the highest reported count was 12 off Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach 6 Dec (ABr). One to 2 **Glossy Ibis** were off Munden Rd., Virginia Beach 7 Dec (TM) through 19 Jan (ph. RBi). An imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** spent the entire season at PHP (ph. m. obs.). A **Golden Eagle** was at Uppershire Farm, *Northampton* 15 Dec for the NaCBC (ph. RK). Two **Barn Owls** were tallied by CCCBC participants. Observations timing suggested there may have been 2 different **Short-eared Owls** at Saxis WMA, *Accomack* 12 Jan (ph. GS, m. obs.).

FLYCATCHERS–DICKCISSEL

An unprecedented 6 **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS** were documented, including one near the North Bay Shore Campground, Virginia Beach 12 Dec (ph. SK); one on the DSCBC (ph. CH); one at Kinder Morgan Elizabeth River Terminals wetland (restricted access), Chesapeake 22–29 Dec (ph. DG, ph. LM); one on Ft. Story (restricted access), Virginia Beach for the LCCBC (ph. KR); one on the Nansemond R. NWR for the NRCBC; and one at the VA Beach/Norfolk Expressway E., Virginia Beach 24 Jan (BH). A **Western Kingbird** was at Naval Air Station Oceana (restricted access), Virginia Beach 22 Jan (ph. KS). A **GRAY KINGBIRD** at Cornland Rd., Chesapeake 1 (ph. LM) through 5 Jan (ph. m. obs.) was the state's first-ever January and second-ever winter record; one was in *Northampton* 2–5 Dec 2015 (m. obs.).



Lauara Mae found and photographed this Gray Kingbird off Cornland Rd., Chesapeake 1 Jan.

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at KSP for the CCCBC (ph. MW) then 1 Jan (ESB); by eBird and Gold Book accounting, this was Virginia's second winter occurrence of this species. Single **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach 6 Dec (ph. RBi); White House Ln., Virginia Beach 9 Dec (TT); in *Northampton* for the CCCBC; in a Suffolk sector of the NRCBC (ph. ABo); and at First Landing 15 Feb (ph. JM). **Pine Siskins** were reported from only five sites, all in the southern section of the Region; the highest total was 6 at a private residence in Chesapeake (BB). **Snow Buntings** proved hard to come by. High counts from three widely separated locations were 14 at Back Bay 6 Dec (MC), 18 at Chinc. 27 Dec (HD), and 6 at Craney 16 Jan (BA, AM, LS, ph. BT). The WaCBC's 8 **American Tree Sparrows** was the most among the Region's ten CBCs. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at the Virginia Beach National Golf Club, Virginia Beach 25 Jan (ph. AB). The peak reported **Vesper Sparrow** count was 6 at Pond Drain Ave., *Northampton* 9 Feb (ph. SKe). A **Lark Sparrow** was in Kempsville, Virginia Beach 31 Dec (ph. UD). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** queued up at Whitehurst 26 Jan (AB) then was noted there intermittently (ph. RBi, RR 23 Feb) into the spring season. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** at the Princess Anne Rd. Harris Teeter retention pond, Virginia Beach 27 Dec (ph. SM) stayed into March. Four **Yellow-breasted Chats** listed during the season included one at Little Is. 4 Dec (ph. SM) to early March (m. obs.); another at Baylake Pines, Virginia Beach 9 Jan (ph. JT); one at Lone Star L., Suffolk 25 Jan (ph. RBi); and one at Whitehurst 23 Feb (ph. RBi). The imm. **Orchard Oriole** that was at Back Bay as the fall season ended remained to at least 3 Dec (ph. CH), establishing the states' first verified winter season record. **Brewer's Blackbirds** once again wintered at Breeze Farm, Virginia Beach where the high count was 12 on 4 Jan (LA, JG). A whopping 6 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk 21 Dec (ph. RBi). No less than 16 **Black-and-white Warblers** were accounted for across the Region (m. obs.), many of which were noted repeatedly at the same locations throughout the season. Single **Nashville Warblers** were at Weyanoke Sanctuary, Norfolk 7 Dec (ph. RBi); the House of Titmouse, Virginia Beach 15 Dec (BH); and the Oyster/Cheriton Landfill, *Northampton* 18 Jan (LR, JS). A **Northern Parula**, more likely one that over-wintered rather than an early migrant, was at Newport News Pk., Newport News 29 Feb (ph. CS, m. obs.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in Kempsville, Virginia Beach 21 Dec through 12 Feb (ph. UD); another was off Tory Rd., Virginia Beach 23 Nov to 16 Feb (ph. MS). Separate **Prairie Warblers** were at Back

Bay 6 (ph. JMg) & 15 Dec (ph. SM) then 18 Feb (ph. AB, ph. CH); off East Water St., Norfolk 9 Jan into Mar (ph. EA); and at L. Wright, Norfolk 12 Jan (ph. DC). Two **Western Tanagers** were reported; a m. at Laurel Manor, Virginia Beach 6 Feb (ph. TM) and a f. in Poquoson 12 (ph. KM) to at least 15 Feb (JS). Quite out-of-season was a f. **Blue Grosbeak** at Kerr Dr., Virginia Beach 21–26 Dec (JMa). At least a dozen **Painted Buntings** chronicled were in the Region's se. with a peak of 7 (5 f./imm. & 2 ad. m.) at a private Virginia Beach residence 4 Feb (ph. PM). A **Dickcissel** was at Marvin Dr., Hampton 22–25 Dec (ph. EM).

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