



# VIRGINIA BIRDS

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



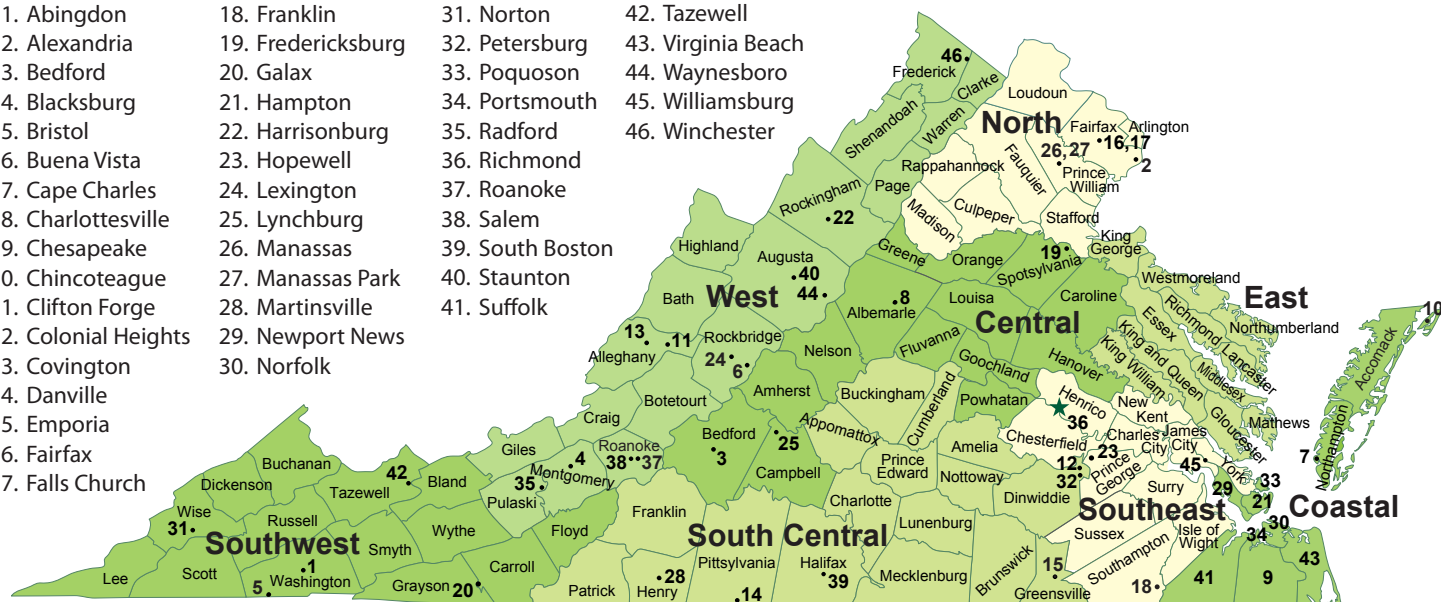
Volume 15 • Number 4

**Spring Records • March–May 2019**

## 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     |                    |                  |                    |



## Virginia Birds

### Editors

Bill Williams  
[billwilliams154@gmail.com](mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com)

Louise Menges  
[louisemenges6@gmail.com](mailto:louisemenges6@gmail.com)

### Regional Editors

Baxter Beamer  
 Adam D'Onofrio  
 James Fox  
 Mary Ann Good  
 Clyde Kessler  
 Michael Lott  
 Nick Newberry  
 Janet Paisley  
 C. Michael Stinson  
 Bill Williams

## VSO Officers

### President

Lenny Bankester, Alexandria

### Past President

Jeff Trollinger, Henrico

### Vice President

Daniel Bieker, North Garden

### Secretary

Phil Kenny, Vienna

### Treasurer

Terri Cuthriell, Smithfield

### Raven Editor

Mike Stinson, Dillwyn

### Virginia Birds Editor

Bill Williams, Williamsburg

### Newsletter Editor

Cindy Baker, Williamsburg

### Membership Secretary

Shirley Devan, Williamsburg

## VSO Board of Directors

### Terms expire 2019

Bill Williams, Williamsburg  
 Lesley Bulluck, Richmond  
 Laura Neale, Rockbridge County

### Terms expire 2020

Rexanne Bruno, Williamsburg  
 Ashley Peele, Blacksburg  
 Leonard Smock, Richmond

### Terms expire 2021

Patti Reum, Highland County  
 Cheryl Jacobson, Williamsburg  
 Open

## Submissions

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](mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com).

### Season

Fall (Aug–Nov)	15 Dec
Winter (Dec–Feb)	15 Mar
Spring (Mar–May)	15 Jun
Summer (Jun–Jul)	15 Aug

### Reports due to Regional Editors

## 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:* Left, a male Tufted Duck photographed by Steve Myers at Back Bay 8 April  
Right, a Neotropical Cormorant at Woodglen L., *Fairfax* photographed 20 May by David Ledworth

## The Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas has a great story to tell:

- **More than 1,200 volunteers, 75,000+ eBird checklists, and observations in over 3,700 atlas blocks throughout Virginia.**
- **More than 200 species have been recorded across the Commonwealth, with 190 so far being confirmed as breeders.**

This volunteer effort the past four years has been truly monumental. Going into the last breeding season, however, there are a number of remote and difficult to reach places that the VSO needs to cover with paid observers.

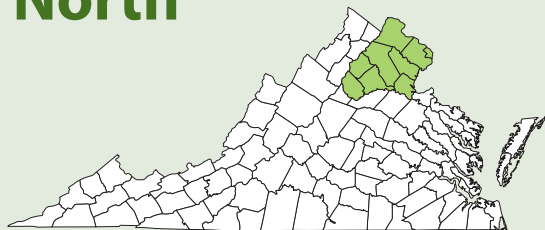
Your donations will help us make a strong finish in the final season next year. You can donate safely and quickly here: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/atlasemail#>

Remember, the Breeding Bird Atlas will produce the most complete picture yet of where Virginia's birds live and breed, which is invaluable for their conservation. Every dollar you give helps secure their future!



# Regional Reports

## North



**Editors: Michael Lott**  
1729 Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
P.O. Box 339  
Stafford, VA 22554  
[michael.lott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.lott@dcr.virginia.gov)

**Mary Ann Good**  
18280 Lincoln Rd.  
Purcellville, VA 20132  
[magood1@verizon.net](mailto:magood1@verizon.net)

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

Temperatures were about 5° F above average in April and May at both Dulles Int'l and Reagan Nat. Airports while rainfall was near average for the period. The highlights this season were a Whimbrel at the Lowes Island ponds, *Loudoun*, 2 Northern Gannets over Long Bridge Pk., *Arlington*, a Neotropic Cormorant at Woodglen L., *Fairfax*, and a flock of Anhingas for the second consecutive spring. The overwintering Northern Shrike continued at Sully Woodlands, *Fairfax*.

**Abbreviations:** Algonkian RP (Algonkian RP, *Loudoun*); Crow's Nest NAP (Crow's Nest NAP, *Stafford*); Dulles Int'l Airport (Dulles International Airport, *Loudoun*); Dyke Marsh (Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, *Fairfax*); Huntley Meadows (Huntley Meadows Pk., *Fairfax*); Int'l Conservation House (International Conservation House, *Fauquier*); Leopold's Preserve (Leopold's Preserve, *Prince William*); Monticello Pk. (Monticello Pk., *Alexandria*); Occoquan Bay NWR (Occoquan Bay NWR, *Prince William*); Silver L. RP (Silver L. RP, *Prince William*); Sully Woodlands (Sully Woodlands, *Fairfax*); UOSA (Upper Occoquan Service Authority, *Fairfax*)

### WATERFOWL—SHOREBIRDS

Reports of **Cackling Geese**, a fairly rare winter visitor that usually leaves by 5 Mar, included one to 2 at UOSA 5–9 Mar (ph. DMi) and one at Dyke Marsh 9 Mar (ph. CG). A **Blue-winged Teal** seen at Cub Run Stream Valley Pk., *Fairfax* 5 Mar (ph. MS) preceded the Regional early date of 15 Mar. Multiple **Gadwalls** were seen at UOSA 6 May (FA); the usual Piedmont late date is 30 Mar, but this species often lingers into May. A single m. **Redhead** was observed on Palmers Ridge Ct., Haymarket, *Prince William* 23 May (ph. DLa), considerably later than the species' 15

Apr Piedmont late date. Multiple **Lesser Scaup** were seen at UOSA 6 May (FA); the Piedmont extreme late date is 23 Apr. There were numerous reports of single **Greater Scaup**, a rare transient in the Piedmont, all within a 20-mi.-diameter area in *Fauquier*: Gap Run Rd. pond 2 Mar (DLe, ph. EIM); Riley Rd. wetlands 3 Mar (GS) and nearby L. Brittle 9 Mar & 20 Apr (SS, GS); and Harrison Rd. 29 Mar (AD) and nearby O'Bannon Rd. 1 Apr (GS); a pair was reported at Int'l Conservation House 5 Apr (PS). Reports of **Long-tailed Ducks**, a rare visitor inland, were many and were all males: one at Occoquan Bay NWR 9 Mar (LM); 3 at C.M. Crockett Pk., *Fauquier* 10 Mar (ph. ErM); and singles at Franklin Farm pond, Herndon, *Fairfax* 23–25 Mar (MBe, ph. HW); L. Ashburn, *Loudoun* 26 Mar (ph. JE); Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, *Fairfax* 26 Mar–5 Apr (ph. SaS); L. Newport, Reston, *Fairfax* 29 Mar–7 Apr (BB); and Silver L. RP 30 Mar–1 Apr (ph. EIM, DLe). Single **Buffleheads** were observed well past the species' Piedmont extreme late date of 27 Apr near Bluemont, *Loudoun* 10 May (JCo); at Int'l Conservation House 15 Mar (PS, LO); and at nearby Airlie South, *Fauquier* 17 May (BS). Two f. **Common Mergansers** were seen near Sperryville, *Rappahannock* 24–26 May (PLa), well beyond the species' 15 May extreme late date for the Piedmont. They have been rare but increasing summer residents in the n. Piedmont, and are extending this southward. **Red-necked Grebes**, a rare transient inland, were observed at several locations: Quantico Marine Corps Base, *Stafford* 2 Mar (SBY, ph. ML); Silver L. RP 4–5 Mar (ph. B&CW); Burke L. Pk., *Fairfax* 16 Mar (PB); L. Brittle, *Fauquier* 16 Mar (DLe); Dulles Int'l Airport lake 23 Mar (ph. JE); and Int'l Conservation House 8 Apr (PS). Reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos**, a rare transient in the Coastal Plain, included singles at Monticello Pk. 30 Apr (BrH, MH) and 11 May (DW);

Huntley Meadows 4 May (BJ); Meadowood Recreation Area, *Fairfax* 8 May (QE, HM); and G.R. Thompson WMA, *Fauquier* 11 May (EIM). A **Common Nighthawk** was heard calling over the fields of Sully Woodlands 27 Mar (KS), well ahead of the Piedmont extreme early date of 10 Apr. Having become rare in populated areas of the Region in recent decades, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** heard calling in the wee hours of 15 Apr (DMa) near the junc. of Russell Rd. and Mt. Ida Ave., deep in suburban Alexandria, was a most unexpected encounter; possibly it was forced down by a severe thunderstorm that came through a few hours earlier. Although highly unlikely (the Gold Book shows no records in the Piedmont past 15 Apr), a **Rufous Hummingbird** was fairly well described at Chateau Papillon, *Fairfax* 11 May (JN). Single **Virginia Rails**, a fairly rare transient in the Piedmont, were encountered at Silver L. RP 13 Apr (LM) and Leopold's Preserve 23 Apr (DF). A **Sora** observed at Huntley Meadows 3–4 Mar (ph. BJ) was much earlier than the 15 Apr early date in the Coastal Plain, where this species is a rare winter resident inland. A fairly rare transient in the Piedmont, single Soras were observed at Silver L. RP 13 Apr (LM); White's Mill Trail, *Fauquier* 21 Apr (GS); and Cedar Run, *Fauquier* 19 May (GS, SS); a bird found at Leopold's Preserve 6 May by the No. Va. Teen Bird Club on their first Big Day from the Mountains to the Potomac was heard when it responded to a passing train (FA)! A **Common Gallinule**, a rare transient in the Piedmont, was seen in a pond near Stillhouse Rd., *Fauquier* 11 May (ph. THo). The pair of **Sandhill Cranes** that spent most of the winter at Algonkian RP was seen 6 Mar (GG), with a single bird also reported from nearby Seneca RP, *Loudoun* 12 Mar (GG). A **WHIMBREL**, rare w. of the Chesapeake Bay and with only 3 records in the Piedmont in the Gold Book, flew into the Lowes Island ponds, *Loudoun* 23 May (ph. DC).

## GULLS AND TERNS—HERONS

Several terns made rare appearances in the Piedmont: a **Caspian Tern** at L. Fairfax, *Fairfax* 8 Apr (DY); a **Black Tern** over the reservoir at the Int'l Conservation House 13 May (ph. PS); and single **Forster's Terns** (rare in the Piedmont other than at large lakes) at Trump Nat'l Golf Club, *Loudoun* 5 Apr (ph. DC) and Int'l Conservation House 19 Apr (PS). A **Royal Tern**, rare inland in the Coastal Plain in spring, was reported foraging over Belmont Bay from the George Mason Conference Center, *Fairfax* 31 Mar (AM). Two **NORTHERN GANNETS**, very rare this far inland, were well-ph. flying over Long Bridge Pk., *Arlington* 19 Apr (THa). A **NEOTROPIC CORMORANT**, a species with few records

on the upper East Coast and only the second recorded in Virginia—the more notable for being inland—was seen at Woodglen L., *Fairfax* 17 May (P&JW), where it was seen and ph. by many through 22 May. Seven **ANHINGAS**, also a rarity in the state, with few records n. of the James R., were reported soaring over Grist Mill Pk., *Fairfax* 18 Apr (JMa). Lending credence to this rare report near the Potomac R. is the recollection of the well-ph. flock of up to 17 that spent the first half of May 2018 35 mi. directly inland near Airlie, *Fauquier*. **American White Pelicans**, a fairly rare visitor this far inland, were seen at two locations, including 8 flying over Accokeek Cr. at Crow's Nest NAP 2 Apr (ML, ph. BG) (again, for the second consecutive spring; in this instance, same time, same location) and 12 at Dyke Marsh/Belle Haven Pk., *Fairfax* 5 May (FA, ph. AN). Four, probably of the latter group, were again seen 6 May, soaring in the sky for 5 minutes before heading w., by JA from her storied “Peregrine Observatory” window of her office building in Bailey's Crossroads, *Fairfax*. Reports of **American Bitterns**, a fairly rare transient in the Piedmont, included one found at Bles Pk., *Loudoun* 24 Mar (EIM) that remained through the end of the period (last seen 2 Jun), often joined by a second one through 4 May (ph. m. obs.). Singles were also found at Leopold's Preserve 29 Mar (THa), observed and ph. by m. obs. through at least 23 Apr, and flying over a Taylorstown residence, *Loudoun* 8 May (GHo). A **Green Heron** showed up ahead of the 10 Apr Piedmont early date at UOSA 31 Mar (DMi). There were two reports of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, rare in the Piedmont: at the Dulles Int'l Airport lake 20 Apr (ph. JE) and an unlikely find at a small pool in Arrowbrook Pk., an urban pocket park in Herndon, *Fairfax*, 24 Apr (RT). A **Little Blue Heron**, a rare spring transient in the Piedmont, was reported at Eldon Farms, *Rappahannock* 3 May (PLa).

## RAPTORS—KINGLETS

An imm. **Golden Eagle**, a rare transient in the Piedmont, was well-described at Waterford Downs pond, *Loudoun* 17 Mar (JST). **Mississippi Kites** were reported returning to many of the species' habitual Regional haunts in late April and May, continuing the trend of recent years. A **Short-eared Owl**, an uncommon transient that is rarely seen in its spring passage, was ph. high in flight heading n. at Dyke Marsh 19 Apr (AM). Rare transients in the Piedmont were a **Merlin** at Silver L. RP 13 Apr (LM) and a late individual flying north over Algonkian RP 8 May (AG) (Piedmont late date is 30 Apr); and a **Peregrine Falcon** observed at the Rectortown Rd. bridge, *Fauquier* 7 Apr (DLe). An **Eastern**

**Kingbird** seen at Huntley Meadows 24 Mar (JW) was a few days ahead of the species' 27 Mar Coastal Plain extreme early date. Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, a rare transient in the Region, especially in spring, were well-described at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, *Loudoun* 8 May (CHo); Silver L. RP 15–18 May (anon, ph. THa); and Shenandoah Path, *Fauquier* 26 May (GS). Reports of **Alder Flycatchers**, a rare spring transient in the Region, included singing birds at Bristoe Station Battlefield Pk., *Prince William* 18 May (RS) and s. of Brambleton, *Loudoun* 25 May (BHi). **Least Flycatchers**, a rare transient in the Region, were observed at Morven Pk., *Loudoun* 18 May (BHe) and Crow's Nest NAP 27 May (DLe). The **NORTHERN SHRIKE** first observed 3 Nov 2018 continued at Sully Woodlands through at least 17 Apr (ph., m. obs.), although there was a lengthy break in sightings during 4–29 Mar. A **Common Raven** was seen at Ft. C.F. Smith Pk., *Arlington* 17 Apr (JB), where the species is still rare. The **Brown-headed Nuthatch** present at Mountain Run L. Pk., *Culpeper* throughout the winter was seen repeatedly through 19 May (KK). An unusually late **Brown Creeper** was well seen at Huntley Meadows 28 May (PB) (Coastal Plain extreme late date 19 May); interestingly, there were several breeding confirmations at Huntley Meadows in the mid-1980s to early 1990s. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported at G.R. Thompson WMA, *Fauquier* 4 May (JY), considerably after the species' 20 Apr late date.

## THRUSHES–DICKCISSEL

A couple of **Veeries** preceded the extreme early date of 21 Apr, including reports at Huntley Meadows 17 Apr (ACu) and Crow's Nest NAP 19 Apr (JG). A **Swainson's Thrush** observed at Huntley Meadows 20 Apr (SBu, JMc) was prior to the species' 28 Apr Coastal Plain extreme early date. An impressive 24 **Purple Finches**, mostly f., were observed at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, *Loudoun* 1 May (ACa, DW). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, a rare transient in the Piedmont, was well-seen at the Dulles Int'l Airport lake 1–2 May (ph. JE). An ad. **Savannah Sparrow** was observed feeding a fledgling along Grassdale Rd., *Fauquier* 31 May (TD); this is further s. than the extreme n. part of the Piedmont where the species is known to be a rare breeder. Two **American Tree Sparrows**, a relatively rare transient in the Coastal Plain, were observed at Huntley Meadows 12 Apr (DF). Fairly rare transients in the Region were single **Lincoln's Sparrows** reported at Sully Woodlands 11 May (ScS) and Occoquan Bay NWR 28 Apr (GHa, MBo). Past the Piedmont extreme

late date of 5 May was a **Rusty Blackbird** seen at No. Va. Community College's Alexandria campus 10 May (CK); a flock of about 40 of this increasingly rare blackbird was seen at Huntley Meadows 30 Mar (LM). A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen and heard at Huntley Meadows 14 Apr (BJ), prior to the species' 19 Apr Coastal Plain extreme early date. A **Golden-winged Warbler**, a rare transient in the Coastal Plain, was observed bathing at Monticello Pk. 1 May (BY, m. obs.) and well-ph. (EL) at this tiny suburban warbler magnet, only the second reported there since 2008.



Elizabeth (Libby) Lyons took this Golden-winged Warbler's photo at Monticello Pk., Alexandria 1 May.

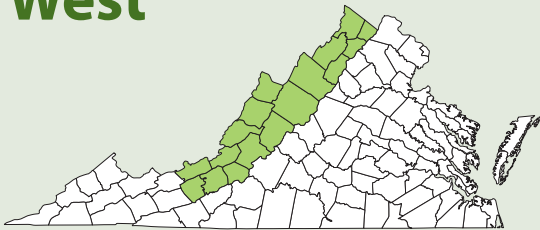
A probable **Brewster's Warbler** was reported in the Hollins Run area, Alexandria 11 May (BJ). Rare in the w. part of the Region were **Prothonotary Warblers** observed at the Int'l Conservation House 13 May (PS) and Cedar Run, *Fauquier* 19 May (ErM). An early **Tennessee Warbler**, a fairly rare spring transient that usually passes through the Region during the slim period of 5–20 May, was observed at Monticello Pk. 29 Apr (BiH). Rare transients in the Region, especially in spring, were single **Mourning Warblers** observed at L. Fairfax, *Fairfax* 24 May (PB) and Dyke Marsh 24 May (EE). An **American Redstart** showed up early at Merrimac Farm WMA, *Prince William* 14 Apr (CL, DLa); the Piedmont extreme early date is 19 Apr. Rare transients in the Coastal Plain and extreme e. Piedmont were single **Cerulean Warblers** at Monticello Pk. 30 Apr (BY) and at a residence in Springfield, *Fairfax* 10 May (v. r. JCI). **Magnolia Warblers** showed up early and late, with singles seen at Algonkian RP 7 Apr (BHe) and Curling Cr. Farm, *Culpeper* 30 May (CHe) (the Piedmont early date is 30 Apr and late date is 20 May). Reports of **Palm Warblers** lingering past the species' 5 May Regional late date included singles at Conklin Pk., *Loudoun* 15 May (MS) and Ben Brenman Pk., Alexandria 16 May (DLe).

Seen just prior to the 16 Apr Coastal Plain extreme early date was a **Scarlet Tanager** at Crow's Nest NAP 14 Apr (MM, RM). Also early was a **Blue Grosbeak** observed at Algonkian NP, Loudoun 18 Apr (ph. PLe); the Piedmont extreme early date is 21 Apr. **Dickcissels**, still a fairly rare but increasing transient and breeder in the Piedmont, returned again this season to Bristoe Station Battlefield Pk., Prince William, with 3 observed 18 May (RS) and other sightings through May.

**Contributors:** anonymous (anon.), Janet Anderson, Fred Atwood, Jeremy Beck, Matt Bender (MBe), Michael Bowen (MBo), P.W. Boyd, Bill Brown, Sara Burch (SBu), Scott Byrd (SBy), Alex Castorena (ACa), Jonathan Clough (JCl), Joe Coleman (JCo), Aaron Cutler (ACu), Dave Czaplak, Todd Day, Art Drauglis, Ed Eder, Jim Emery, Quinn Emmering, David Frazelle, Allison Gallo, Glen Gerada, Christopher Gilbert, Jim Goehring, Blake Gostelow, Tobin

Hardwick (THa), Gerry Hawkins (GHa), Caroline Heald (CHE), Bryan Henson (BHe), Bruce Hill (BHi), Brabble Hoffman (BrH), Mark Hoffman, Cheryl Hogue (CHo), Bill Hohenstein (BiH), Teri Holland (THo), Gerco Hoogeweg (GHo), Ben Jesup, Cory Kampf, Kelly Krechmer, Patty Lane (PLa), Dave Larsen (DLa), David Ledwith (DLe), P. Lewis (PLe), Michael Lott, Candice Lowther, Elizabeth Lyons, Mark Mains, Robert Mains, David Malakaff (DMa), James Mark (JMa), Jacob McCartney (JMc), Heather McKinzey, Larry Meade, Deapesh Misra (DMi), Eric Moore (ErM), Elton Morel (EIM), Alexandra Munters, Adit N, John Nolley, Northern Virginia Bird Club (NVBC), Luis Ortega, Paul Salaman, Mike Scott, Jean Self-Trail (JST), Kristen Sinclair, Greg Slader, Sarah Slader, Scott Stafford (ScS), Sara Steen (SaS), Rachel Sullivan, Byron Swift, Russell Taylor, Joy Walker, Bill & Cheryl Walsh (B&CW), Paul & Joan Woodward (P&JW), D. Woolverton, Howard Wu, John Yeaw, Bill Young, David Young

## West



**Editor:** Clyde Kessler

P.O. Box 3612  
Radford, VA 24141  
[ckessler@vt.edu](mailto:ckessler@vt.edu)

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, Clark); Broadway (Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant, Rockingham); Roanoke STP (Roanoke Sewage Treatment Plant, Roanoke City)

## WATERFOWL–SHOREBIRDS

Twenty-five to 30 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen at a pond at the Dublin Fairgrounds, Pulaski 4–10 Mar (m. obs.). Fifteen were seen at Riverview Pk., Radford (CK) and 2 at Broadway 3 Mar (MG); 3 in Craig 8 Mar (AD); and 5 in Fishersville, Augusta 8 (AL) & 9 Mar (m. obs.). **Snow Goose** observations included one in Luray, Page 3 Mar (JF); one at Kernstown, Frederick 11 Mar (WP); and one at Abrams Cr. Wetlands Preserve, Frederick 14 Mar (WP, GR, NR). A **Cackling Goose** was seen in Frederick 1 Mar (DB); 6 in Fishersville, Augusta also 1 Mar (AL); 3 at Broadway 10 Mar (DL); and one in Shenandoah

16 Mar (DH). A **Surf Scoter** was at L. Holiday, Frederick 18 Apr to 9 May (m. obs.). A **White-winged Scoter** was at Claytor L., Pulaski 3–8 Mar (m. obs.). **Long-tailed Duck** observations listed one at L. Frederick, Frederick 5 Mar to 9 Apr (m. obs.); one at L. Holiday, Frederick 6–7 Mar (GR) with 2 there 10 Mar (GR); one at Riverview Pk., Radford 11 Mar (JD, KD); 10 at Broadway 5 Apr (MG); 4 at Silver L., Rockingham 5 Apr (m. obs.); and 2 at L. Laura, Shenandoah 6 Apr (JF). Recently fledged **Common Mergansers** were found in Giles 14 May (BO) and in Page 27 May (JF). An **EARED GREBE** was photographed at Broadway 28–30 Apr (GM et al.). Observations of **Sora** had one in Blacksburg 29 Mar to 13 Apr (m. obs.); one to 2 at Nazarene Church Road Wetlands, Rockingham 17 Apr to 16 May (m. obs.); 2 at Gala Wetlands, Botetourt 18 & 28 Apr (BE, BK, JP); 13 in Augusta 27 Apr (VL, GMa); and one in Shenandoah 30 Apr (JF). **Virginia**



**Rail** reports included one to 3 in Blacksburg 21 Mar to 2 Apr (m. obs.) then one there 4 May (RM); one at Gala Wetlands, *Botetourt* 2 (DA, BE, MH) & 4 Apr (AD); 2 in *Shenandoah* 30 Apr (JF); and many observations at Stuarts Draft, *Augusta* with a peak of 6 on 5 May (PC). Fifteen **Sandhill Cranes** were seen and photographed at Dublin Fairgrounds, *Pulaski* 4 Mar (MM). Seven **RUDDY TURNSTONES** were found near Harrisonburg 21 May (MG, DL). One to 2 **Dunlin** were seen in *Rockingham* 13–14 May (m. obs.) and 3 in *Clarke* 14–15 May (m. obs.). Higher counts of **Least Sandpipers** were 13 in *Rockingham* 8 May (MG), 17 at the Roanoke STP 13 (KD, JS) & 14 May (KD, BW), and 24 at Broadway 18 May (MG). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found in *Rockingham* 19 May (TG, WL, ST). **Short-billed Dowitcher** sightings, all in *Rockingham*, were one near Singers Glen 1 May (CT), one at Broadway 14 May (DH), and 6 near Bridgewater 16 May (WL). Nine **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at the Roanoke STP 6 May (DA, BE, MH), 14 at Broadway 18 May (MG), and 10 in *Clarke* 25 May (JF). Two fledged young **Spotted Sandpipers** were found with 2 ads. at Swoope, *Augusta* 27 May (AL). There was one report of a **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** in *Rockingham* 13–18 May (m. obs.).

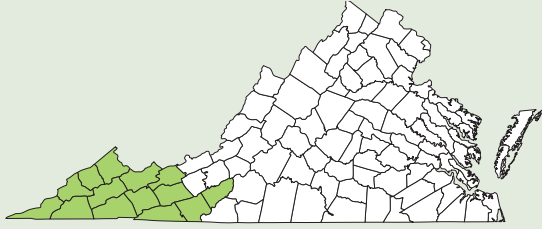
## TERNS–DICKCISSEL

**Caspian Terns** sightings included one in Blacksburg 14 Apr (NA, SS); one at L. Holiday, *Frederick* 26 Apr and 17 May (GR); 3 at Claytor L., *Pulaski* (MM); and one in Radford 28 Apr (CK). Two **Black Terns** were observed at Broadway 14 & 17 May (DH) and one there 19 May (GM). Three **Forster's Terns** were at L. Holiday, *Frederick* 26 Apr (GR) and one at L. Shenandoah, *Rockingham* 26 Apr (GM). A **RED-THROATED LOON** was found at L. Merriweather, *Rockbridge* 7 (BE, JP) through 23 Mar (AD). A **Least Bittern** was found at Blandly 15–20 May (m. obs.) and one was in *Augusta* 21 May (AL). There were 67 occupied **Great Blue Heron** nests in an *Augusta* rookery 14 Apr (AL). Other occupied nests included one by the Maury R., *Rockbridge* 15 Mar (LA) and 4 also in *Rockbridge* 22 Apr (WR et al.). A **SNOWY EGRET** was at Blandly 22 May (m. obs.) and a **Little Blue Heron** was photographed in *Augusta* 14 & 16 Apr (EC, AL). Seven **GLOSSY IBIS** were photographed at Stuarts Draft, *Augusta* 25–26 Apr (EL, IL, ML). A **Mississippi Kite** was observed in *Warren* 26 May (JF). A rehabbed **Northern Goshawk** was released in *Frederick* 6 Mar (BL, JL). A **Long-eared Owl** at Blandly was photographed on these

dates: 6 Mar, 12 Mar, and 9 Apr (DC), and 11 Mar (WP). A **Short-eared Owl** was found in Staunton 2 Mar (MK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in *Highland* 19 May (LM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed in *Montgomery* 12 May (LA). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was found in Staunton 2 Mar (AL) and one in *Rockbridge* 25 May (GB, GoB). **Horned Lark** counts of note included 37 in Blacksburg 2 Mar (DW); 16 in *Rockingham* 2 Mar (m. obs.); and 60 near Dublin, *Pulaski* 16 Mar (AK, CK). Two ads. with 3 juvs. were found at Berryville, *Clarke* 24 May (LM, ES). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed excavating a nest cavity in Poverty Hollow, *Montgomery* 11 May. This nest “was abandoned due to yellow jacket usurpation” 26 May (RM). A **Marsh Wren** was present at Blandly 2 Mar–16 Apr (m. obs.); 2 were there 27 Mar (WP) and one was found in *Augusta* 25 Apr (AL et al.). An **American Tree Sparrow** was at Blandly 2 (DL, GM) through 19 Mar (WP). High counts of **Rusty Blackbirds** were 16 in *Rockingham* 18 Mar (MG); 39 near White Post, *Clarke* 26 Mar (DB, WP); 18 at Blandly 27 Mar (DC) and at Abrams Cr. Wetland Preserve, *Frederick*; 20 on 3 Mar (DC); 27 on 6 Apr (GR); and 28 on 13 Apr (GR). A **Swainson's Warbler** was found in Blacksburg 12–18 May (m. obs.), the second record for the county. **Dickcissel** finds included one in *Augusta* 4 May (CF), 4 in *Rockingham* 11 (MG) & 25 May (DH), and 3 in *Clarke* 19 May (CW).

**Contributors:** Natty Abrahams, Don Aldridge, Logan Anderson, David Boltz, George Brown, Gordon Brown (GoB), David Carr, Elaine Carwile, Paula Channell, Jason Davis, Kent Davis, A. Downing, Bob Epperson, Conor Farrell, James Fox, Matt Gingerich, Tao Groves, Diane Holsinger, Matthew Hosmer, Alan Kessler, Clyde Kessler, Barry Kinzie, Mark Kosiewski, Allen Larnier, Victor Laubach, William Leigh, Diane Lepkowski, Eli Lianez, Ira Lianez, Merrilee Lianez, BJ Little, Jon Little, Gabriel Mapel (GMA), Ryan Mays, Lucile Miller, Linda Millington, Greg Moyers, Mark Mullins, Bill Opengari, John Pancake, William Parkin, Wendy Richards, Gabriel Ricketts, Noah Ricketts, Sam Simon, Emily Southgate, Jason Strickland, Cory Taylor, Shea Tiller, Chris White, Barry Whitt.

# Southwest



**Editor: James Fox**  
75 Aspen Ln  
Front Royal, VA 22630  
[jmsfox@gmail.com](mailto:jmsfox@gmail.com)

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

For the second consecutive year this was a very wet spring with about an inch of rain more than normal in April and May. March was 5° F colder than normal while April and May were 1° F warmer than normal. The finch irruption carried over from last winter into early spring with the clear highlight being 3 Evening Grosbeaks in Tazewell. As usual April and May brought several unexpected vagrants as well as exciting local breeders.

## WATERFOWL-GREBES

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** sightings have dramatically increased in Virginia over the last few years and this Region finally got its first record when a flock of 11 dropped in at a retention pond off I-81 near Abingdon, *Washington* 12 May (AC).



Look carefully to find all 11 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks Adam Campbell photographed near Abingdon, *Washington* 12 May.

The **Ross's Goose** that was seen throughout *Tazewell* this winter was relocated at Britt's Pk. 4–8 Mar (ph. CD). The 3 **Tundra Swans** that spent the entire winter in Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* continued through 19 Mar (m. obs.). Three **Redheads** along Bland Farm Rd., *Bland* 7 Mar (AD) were a good find for that county. **Common Merganser** reports

continued to increase in the Region, with the most notable record being a breeding confirmation of a hen with 2 recently fledged chicks at Veterans Memorial Pk., *Dickenson* 28 May (LA, AR). The only **Ruddy Duck** sighting came from South Holston L., *Washington* County Pk., *Washington* 18 Mar (TS, ES). **Northern Bobwhites** continued to be found at Southern Gap, *Buchanan*; up to 3 were reported from 4–26 May (DO, AR, LA). Elsewhere in the Region the only other sighting was from Genesis Farm, *Washington* 18 May (JP). Two **Horned Grebes** were at Hungry Mother SP, *Smyth* 1 Mar (LK, TH). Two were also at Rural Retreat L., *Wythe* 16 Mar and a single bird was at the same location 9 Apr (AB); another was at Falls Mill L., *Tazewell* 23–24 Mar (CD).

## DOVES-OWLS

The only **Eurasian Collared-Dove** reports came from the species' stronghold in *Lee* where up to 2 were recorded from a yard near Rose Hill 10 Mar–29 May (D&JK). Several **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported this spring; the first was a surprisingly early bird at Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* 30 Apr (ph. DS). Another was there 13 May (DS) and there were also reports from Bartlett-Crowe Field Station, *Washington* 4 May (SH); Camp Henry, *Smyth* 4 May (MS); and a possible breeding pair at the Country Meadows Rd. Wetlands, *Dickenson* 30 May (LA, AR). The only **Chuck-wills-widow** report came from Cumberland Gap NHP, *Lee* 31 May (ZA). Rails of any kind are extremely scarce in this Region so up to 4 **Sora** at Gose Mill Pond in Burkes Garden, *Tazewell* 2–14 May (ph. DS, CD, m. obs.) was an excellent find. An **Upland Sandpiper** at Southern Gap, *Buchanan* 20 Apr (ph. DO) was one of the most unexpected finds of the season. It was the first record for *Buchanan* and a first record for the Region in eBird. There were only a handful of **Great Egret** reports this spring, with records from Hungry Mother SP, *Smyth* 27 Mar (KD, JD); Rural Retreat L., *Wythe* 9 Apr (AB); I-81 near Rural Retreat, *Wythe* 12 Apr (WVH, SB); and in Poplar Gap, *Buchanan* 1 May (JR). The only **Black-**



David Schlabach photographed this ad. Sora at Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* 2 May.



Daryl Owens' 20 Apr photo of an Upland Sandpiper at Southern Gap, *Buchanan*

**crowned Night-Heron** for the Region was at the Bishop Impoundment, *Tazewell* 16 May (CD). **Golden Eagles** lingered into the spring in Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* with the latest report 3 Apr (ph. CD). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** probably breeds in very small numbers at higher elevations in the Region but are rarely detected, so one at Whitetop Mt., *Grayson* 14 May (AB) was an exciting find.

## FLYCATCHERS-WARBLEDERS

As usual the only **Alder Flycatchers** were recorded in the Grayson Highlands area with 2 at Elk Garden, *Grayson* 23 May (CC). **Brown-headed Nuthatches** continued to be seen at Washington County Park, *Washington*, the species' one foothold in the Region, with reports of 5 on 18 (TS, ES) & 30 Mar (AN). For the second year in a row 2 were also reported at Lovell's Cr. Boat Ramp, *Carroll* 10 Mar (TB) indicating that there may be a small population there as well. Perhaps the most notable sighting this spring was of the first **Evening Grosbeaks** in this Region in many years. Up to 3 visited a feeder in Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* from 30 Mar until 4 May (ph. DS, CD).

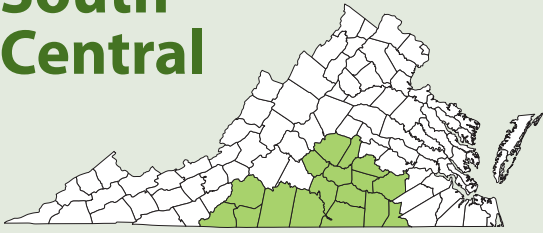


One of the Burke's Garden, *Tazewell* Evening Grosbeaks photographed by David Schlabach 30 Mar

**Purple Finches** were seen throughout the Region in the early spring; the latest report was one at Britts Pk., *Tazewell* 21 May (CD). **Pine Siskins** were recorded into late April with reports from Britts Pk., *Tazewell* 15 Apr (CD); up to 3 near Rugby, *Grayson* 22 & 28 Apr (CS); and 4 on Rocky Hollow Rd., *Grayson* 23 Apr (AB). There were only a handful of **Golden-winged Warblers** seen this spring; single birds were seen at The Cove, *Tazewell* 3 May (CD) and County Rd. 610, *Smyth* 10 May (J&NW); 2 were at Wilburn Rd., *Washington* 27 May (KC). **Swainson's Warblers** were widely reported in the Region this spring, mainly thanks to point counts for the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2 Project. Most reports came from *Buchanan*, *Dickenson*, *Wise*, and *Russell* with records at the edges of the species' expected range including 5 at L. Kookee, *Lee* (JS); one at Fork Ridge Rd., *Tazewell* 21 May (AR); and 2 at the Blue Ridge Discovery Center, *Smyth* (CC). A **Mourning Warbler** was found near Oakwood, *Buchanan* 20 May (LA).

**Contributors:** Zachary Allen, Logan Anderson, Tucker Beamer, Sarah Bonnett, Allen Boynton, Adam Campbell, Cade Campbell, Kerry Coll, Jason Davis, Kent Davis, Clancy Deel, A. Downing, Ron and Marie Furnish, Tonya Hall, Steven Hopp, David and Jill Kaminski, Lily Kingsolver, Roger Mayhorn, Adrianna Nelson, Daryl Owens, Jim Phillips, Joe Poston, Andrew Rapp, Chuck & Veronica Ratliff, Jessica Ruthenberg, David Schlabach, Melanie Smith, Ty Smith, Evan Spears, Jason Strickland, Will Van Hemessen, Jenna & Nicholas Walton.

## South Central



Editor: **C. Michael Stinson**

437 Wildflower Lane

Dillwyn, VA 23936

[myrmecocichla@gmail.com](mailto:myrmecocichla@gmail.com)

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

A few waterfowl of interest appeared as winter gave way to spring, though some regularly occurring species were most notable for their low numbers, while a Western Grebe at Kerr Reservoir attracted several admirers in early March. Spring shorebird migration is typically anemic in the Region, and this year was no different, with a single Semipalmated Plover the highlight. A few noteworthy herons were found, along with a surprising Anhinga flock seen briefly in Appomattox. Many songbirds such as thrushes and American Pipits were infrequently reported, warbler highlights were few, and no Dickcissels (often found in May in recent years) were noted.

**Abbreviation:** Kerr (John H. Kerr Reservoir, *Mecklenburg* [lower lake], *Charlotte*, and *Halifax* [upper lake])

### SWANS–GREBES

A free-flying **Mute Swan** was at Briery Cr. WMA, *Prince Edward* 11 (ph. ES) & 12 (ph. HK) Mar, while a few other reports from the Region were of domestic individuals. A flock of 37 **Tundra Swans** above the dam at Kerr 9 Mar was photographed before they flew away (p. JB, HG, PG), providing the only Regional report. From 1 to 5 **Northern Pintails** were reported around lower Kerr 9 & 10 Mar (m. obs.), but the species was not reported elsewhere, and a single **Long-tailed Duck** on a small pond near Chase City, *Mecklenburg* 11 Mar was the only report of that species (ph. LA). A **WESTERN GREBE** was found 2 Mar “just above the dam” (AD) at Kerr (ph. AD, PG) and remained in the area until 13 Mar (DH).



Paul Glass took this Western Grebe photo at Kerr Reservoir 9 March.

### CUCKOOS–KITES

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** photographed at Occoneechee SP, *Mecklenburg* 17 May (ph. DC) was the only report. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Briery Cr. WMA 4 (ph. TS) & 10 (WR) May, providing one of the few reports for *Prince Edward*. Although a few **Caspian Terns** are expected in the Region each spring, often at the larger lakes, one at Holliday L. SP 14 Apr (ph. ES) provided a second park record and one of only a few records for both *Appomattox* and *Buckingham*. Single **Red-throated Loons** were at Kerr (a continuing bird) 2 Mar (JB), and at Briery Cr. WMA, *Prince Edward* 1 (ph. ES, m. obs.) through 12 (CMS) Mar. A flock of 6 **ANHINGAS** seen soaring over *Appomattox* Co. Community Pk. 18 Apr (ph. DP) was unprecedented for that county. A **SNOWY EGRET** at Holliday L. SP, *Appomattox/Buckingham* 6 May (ES) was the only Regional report. A **Cattle Egret** at Briery Cr. WMA, 25 May (ph. WR) was the first seen in *Prince Edward* for many years, and an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Willis R. Res. #7 27–28 Apr (ph. DS) was a first for *Buckingham*. Two **GLOSSY IBIS** (presumably; photos do not rule out the less likely White-faced) were seen flying over Sandy R. Res., *Prince Edward* the evening of 29 Apr (ph. TS), but did not linger. Away from the species' routine breeding areas in the s. of the Region, a **Mississippi Kite** was reported in Farmville, *Prince Edward* 3 May (JD), a fourth county record.

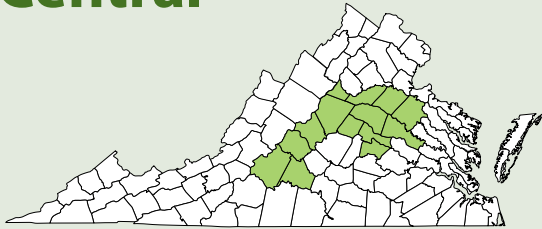
### FINCHES–WARBLERS

Both **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** were reported lingering in significant numbers (many reports, m. obs. for both) after these species' appearance during the winter. Normally scarce migrants Regionally, a group of 4 **Vesper Sparrows** at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, *Nottoway* offered

several birders good views 30 Mar (ph. MA, m. obs.), with at least 3 lingering on 31 Mar (ph. ES), and another was found along River Rd. e. of Farmville in *Cumberland* 8 Apr (m. obs.). Warbler reports were minimal aside from expected species in typical numbers. One highlight was a **Blue-winged Warbler** at *Amelia* WMA 28 Apr (MA, ph. JF), the only report of that species.

**Contributors:** Logan Anderson, Matt Anthony, Jeffrey Blalock, Donald Casavecchia, Julian Dymacek, James Fox, Hannah Glass, Paul Glass, Derek Hudgins, Harrison Kish, Daniel Puckette, Warren Rofe, Ty Smith, Evan Spears, C. Michael Stinson

## Central



**Editors:** Baxter Beamer

2645 Jefferson Park Circle  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
[barobe09@gmail.com](mailto:barobe09@gmail.com)

Janet Paisley

1435 Gentry Lane  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
[janetpaisley@comcast.net](mailto:janetpaisley@comcast.net)

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 spring was highlighted by notable counts and occurrences of rare waterfowl in the early part of the period. The trend of notable waterbirds continued into the middle part of the period, with reports of Caspian and Forster's terns, and an above average detection of American Bitterns. There were several interesting shorebird occurrences, including extremely high numbers of Solitary Sandpipers at the peak of the species' migration. However, some rather expected shorebirds were completely absent from the Region, including Pectoral Sandpiper, possibly due to a lack of good mudflats. Neotropical migrant passerines were highlighted by a couple of occurrences each of Golden-winged and Mourning Warblers, and a lingering Painted Bunting from the winter period.

**Abbreviations:** SML (Smith Mountain L., *Bedford*); MCLP (Mill Creek Lake, *Amherst*); SNP (Shenandoah National Park, multiple counties)

### WATERFOWL-OWLS

A **Snow Goose** made a brief stop at King Family Vineyards, *Albemarle* 2 Mar (ph. JP). Two **Cackling Geese** were picked out at Sportsplex, *Spotsylvania* 2 Mar (ph. AR, CL) perhaps suggesting a large goose movement took place on this date, as both species were associating with large flocks of **Canada Geese**. Notably detected migrating diurnally, a large flock of 250 **Tundra Swans** was photographed over *Powhatan* 8 Mar (ph. KC). A **Gadwall**

was very late 21 May at Old County Rd., *Bedford* (ph. BE, DA). One-hundred ninety-two **Ring-necked Ducks** was a very high spring count at Fox Runn L., *Bedford* 9 Mar (MK, SB). A **White-winged Scoter** continued from the winter period at Snowden Dam, *Amherst* 4 Mar (ph. MH). The lone report for the period, a pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was at Sturgeon Cr. Marina, *Spotsylvania* 2 Mar (ph. CF). Late **Hooded Mergansers** were recorded at two locations; one m. at Riverview Pk, Charlottesville 3 through 18 May (ph. TB), possibly suggesting local breeding. Twenty-two **Common Mergansers** was a high count at Grooms Pt., *Orange* 4 Mar (ph. AR), and a likely breeding pair at was notable at the Tye R., *Nelson* 3 May (ph. ES, TS, DCh), away from the species' usual stronghold near the headwaters of the James R. Rare but usually annual spring visitors, single **Red-necked Grebes** were reported at Rivanna Res., *Albemarle* 16 through 23 Mar (NP, m. obs.) and at L. Monticello, *Fluvanna* 31 Mar (KK) & 4 Apr (ST, ES, TS). Three **Soras** were discovered at Hidden Swamp, *Albemarle* 6 May (ph. BB, TB, PM, DSh). A **Sandhill Crane** made appearances at Lickinghole Cr., *Albemarle* 11 through 13 Apr (ph. AC, MI). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Fairhill Farm, *Greene* 4 May (DC); up to 3 were present at King Family Vineyard, *Albemarle* 5 through 16 May (PM, m. obs.) and 2 more were at Greene Mt. L., *Greene* 6 May (CL). Forty **Solitary Sandpipers** was a high count at Lickinghole Cr., *Albemarle* 7 May (ph. BB). There were several **Caspian Tern** reports: one at L. Nelson, *Nelson* 13

Apr (ph. DB); up to 2 at Groome's Pt., *Orange* 13 Apr & 28 Apr (RF, MF, JF); and 2 at Chris Greene L., *Albemarle* 19 Apr (PM). A **Forster's Tern** was at MCLP 5 Apr (MJ), and 2 more were at Groome's Pt., *Orange* 13 Apr (RF, MF). **Red-throated Loons** are a rare transient, and there were two reports: one at L. Anna SP 2 through 4 Mar (ph. JF) and another at SML 4 Mar (ph. BE). There were three **American Bittern** reports, a good count for this uncommon and secretive species. One showed well at King Family Vineyards, *Albemarle* 13–17 Apr (m. obs.); another was at Bland Wade Ln., *Nelson* 26 Apr (ph. ES, TS); and another was observed flying over Observatory Mt., *Albemarle* 27 Apr (PM, JP). A rare and infrequently encountered spring transient, an imm. **Golden Eagle** was observed migrating over MCLP 3 Mar (BE, MH). A **Mississippi Kite** 4 Apr at Galt's Mill Rd., *Amherst* (BE, MJ) was nearly a month earlier than the Gold Book's Piedmont extreme arrival date. Two more from *Albemarle* were within a more expected timeframe; one at Lickinghole Cr. 28 Apr (PM) and at Holmes Av., Charlottesville 18 May (ph. TB, WC, MN). A **Short-eared Owl** was observed hunting at Jones Mill Rd., *Albemarle* 21 Mar (ph. AC). Given the date and location, this bird was almost certainly a transient.

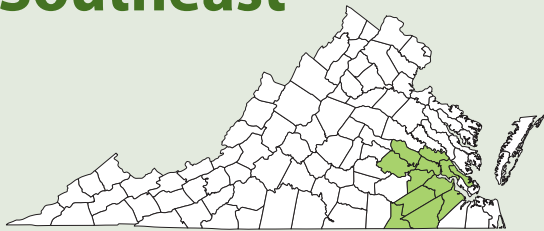
### FLYCATCHERS–DICKCISSEL

The lone **Alder Flycatcher** report was also a high count; 2 were singing at Greenbrier Pk., Charlottesville 18 May (ph. a.r. TB, MN). **Brown-headed Nuthatches** continued the species' steady expansion into the Region, most notably a pair at Martin Kings Rd., *Albemarle* 13 through 31 May (ph. BB, MN, m. obs.), near the northern edge of the species' range in the Region. Other reports included continuing sightings from *Bedford*, *Campbell*, *Fluvanna*, *Goochland*,

*Hanover*, and *Louisa*. A **Winter Wren** singing in SNP, *Greene* 22 Apr likely represented a male on territory, as the species has summered in the locale in previous years. Usually one of the only spring locations for **Marsh Wren**, Hidden Swamp, *Albemarle* delivered one on 3 Apr (PM) and 2 on 6 May (ph. BB, TB, PM, DS). Rare in the Region and especially so in spring, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a good find at Warbler Cr. Farm, *Bedford* 24 Apr (ph. BE, MH, MJ). Seventeen **Vesper Sparrows** was the peak count for the period at McIntire Pk., Charlottesville 29 Mar (ph. TB, DCh, CF, MN). Following a similar trend, both **Golden-winged Warblers** were at Observatory Mtn., *Albemarle*, individuals on 26 & 29 Apr (DSc). The only **Mourning Warbler** reports came from Charlottesville with one at Greenbrier Pk. 17 May (a.r. DCh, ph. BB, TB, TC, CF, MN, TS). The m. **PAINTED BUNTING** continued from the winter period in *Hanover* 14 (ph. TD, MA). A stark contrast to the last two years, **Dickcissels** were markedly scarce with only two reports; one and then 2 m. from a known breeding spot at Mt. Run Farm, *Bedford* 5 (ph. BE, MJ, GR) & 25 May (BE), and a lone imm. at McIntire Pk., Charlottesville 4 May (ph. TB, DCh, CF).

**Contributors:** Don Aldridge, Matt Anthony, Baxter Beamer, Sharon Brennan, Douglas Burkett, Natalie C, Dave C, Drew Chaney (DCh), Tim Chaney, Walker Catlett, Albert Connette, K Cook, Todd Day, Bob Epperson, Conor Farrell, James Fox, Ron Furnish, Marie Furnish, Matthew Hosmer, Mike Iwanik, Michael Kelly, Kim Kozella, Carson Lambert, Pete Myers, Carlton Noll, Martina Nordstrand, Janet Paisley, Nathaniel Pest, Andrew Rapp, Garrett Rhyne, Debbie Schroeder (DSc), David Shoch (DSh), Ezra Staengl, Theo Staengl, Shea Tiller

## Southeast



**Editor:** Adam D'Onofrio

25118 Smith Grove Rd.

North Dinwiddie, VA 23803

[bigadfromlb@comcast.net](mailto:bigadfromlb@comcast.net)

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

Temperatures were slightly below normal in March but rose above normal in April and May with temperatures in May averaging 6.7° F above normal. Precipitation in March and April was slightly below normal but in May, precipitation averaged 2.05 inches above normal. Spring migration in the Region was unremarkable with a smattering of lingering waterfowl and a few early returning passerines but no noteworthy trends one way or the other. Rarities included Gull-billed Tern, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Western Tanager. The big news for this season was the first record of nesting **RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS** in the Big Woods WMA in *Sussex*. The nesting pair was banded and originated from the Piney Grove Preserve population which neighbors Big Woods. Eggs were first confirmed in the nest cavity on 24 April, and on 10 May 2 nestlings were confirmed. The nestlings were banded on 16 May by members of VDGIF, The Nature Conservancy, and the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University, the alliance that brought this species back from the brink of extirpation in the state. This pair now joins a recovered population at Piney Grove and a second population that is being re-established at the Great Dismal Swamp NWR.

**Abbreviations:** Ancarrow's (Ancarrow's Landing, Richmond); Curles Neck (Curles Neck Farm, *Henrico*); Dutch Gap (Dutch Gap Conservation Area, *Chesterfield*); Hog (Hog Island WMA, *Surry*); Shirley (Shirley Plantation, *Charles City*)

### WATERFOWL-ANHINGA

A single **Cackling Goose** was detected in flight at Curles Neck 3 Mar (RAS). A **Gadwall** lingered at Hog until 11 May (m.obs.), furnishing a new local late date. Two **Green-winged Teal** at Hog 11 May (m.obs.) tied the local late date. Lingered **Ruddy Ducks** in the Region included a pair at Hog 26 May (NN) and a lone f. at Riverside Doctor's Hospital pond, Williamsburg 27–31 May (ph NN et al.). A

late **Red-necked Grebe** was seen at College Cr., *James City* 8 Apr (MB, BT). The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** reported this season was one at Chippokes Plantation SP, *Surry* 18 May (JM). Two **King Rails** were audio recorded at Hog 26 May (NN). A single **Black-necked Stilt** was at Hog 28 Apr (BT et al.); 5 were there 14 May (TC). **Stilt Sandpipers** are rare in spring in the Region, so one photographed at Shirley 20 Apr was a nice find (AB). A **Sanderling** was spotted at Hog 3 May (JF). A **Wilson's Snipe** at Hog 26 May provided a new local late date (NN). An early **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at Dutch Gap 16 Mar (RAS). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at a drainage pond near Williamsburg Crossing, *James City* 27 May also provided a new local late date (NN). Much rarer inland than the "western" subspecies, an "eastern" **Willet** was an excellent find at Hog 28 Apr (BT et al.). A nice count of 84 **Least Terns** was made at Hog 3 May (JF). Two **GULL-BILLED TERNS** were photographed at Hog 26 May (NN). This species is very rare that far inland, but this occurrence actually provided the second record within a year; a single bird was seen at Hog a few times last summer. Prior to last year's sighting there hadn't been any Regional records since 1995. A **Black Tern**, an uncommon to rare spring transient, was seen at Jordan Point Marina, *Prince George* 12 May (WT). An increasing number of **Anhingas** seem to be infiltrating the Region year after year. This season's sightings included the return of 2 birds at Carson Wetland, *Prince George* 27 Mar (CM). As many as 8 birds were seen in this area throughout the period (m.obs.). Elsewhere, there was one bird noted at a pond on Beaver Dam Rd., *Sussex* 27 Apr (ph. R&MF); one ad. m. that flew out of the swamp forest near the US-258 boat landing on the Nottoway R., *Southampton* 1 May (NF); a pair at Harwood's Mill Res., *York* 15 May (DY); and 5 at Coventry Trail, Yorktown, *York* 16 May (MS).

## PELICANS–WARBLERS

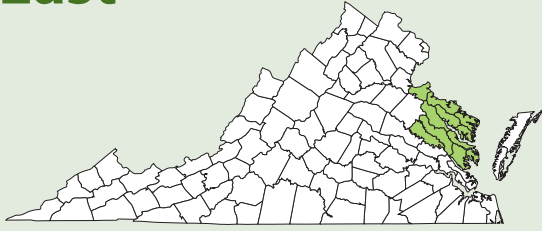
**American White Pelicans** continued at Hog this Spring, with the high count being 48 birds seen in flight over the James R. 12 Mar (NB, SD, BT, BW). The last sighting of the season was of 2 birds on 8 May (TC). Two **Least Bitterns** were noted at Hog 27 May (ph. NB, JL). A **Cattle Egret** was photographed at Henricus Historical Pk., *Chesterfield* 14 Apr (AF). Two Cattle Egrets were at Shirley 30 Apr (WF). An early **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard singing along Rt. 626 in *Sussex* 1 Apr (ABr). Early **Blue-headed Vireo** reports included one at Ancarrow's 14 Mar, a bird that may have wintered at that location (PB); one along Rt. 622, *Sussex* 16 Mar (ABr); and one at the Constance Darden Trail, *Sussex* 17 Mar (KK). A **Philadelphia Vireo**, rare in spring, was at Governor's Land, *James City* 7 May (CO). Regionally rare, a **Sedge Wren** was audio recorded at Hog 28 Apr (BT et al.). Another or the same bird was spotted there 2 May (ph. NN, MA). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** encountered at the Huguenot Flatwater section of James River Pk., Richmond 29 Apr was late (JFr). A **Veery** in L. Mataoka Woods, Williamsburg 18 Apr established a new local early date (AR). A **Pine Siskin** lingered at a feeder

in Settlers' Mill, *James City* from 21–25 May (ph. JE). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** that likely overwintered was seen at Curles Neck 3 Mar in the same location where one was previously observed this past December (RAS). A m. **Boat-tailed Grackle** was at Felgate's Cr., *York* 31 Mar (NN, AR). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at L. Mataoka, Williamsburg 18 Mar provided a new local early date (CC). Twenty-six **Yellow-throated Warblers** were counted in Governor's Land, *James City* 11 Apr, a new local peak count (CO). A m. **Western Tanager** was spotted at the Yorktown Wild Birds Unlimited, *York* eating bark butter from a tree trunk 7 Mar (ph. CS).

**Contributors:** Matt Anthony, Nancy Barnhart, Paul Bedell, Arun Bose, Allen Bryan (ABr), Mitchell Byrd, Courtney Check, Terri Cuthriell, Shirley Devan, Jim Easton, Nick Flanders, James Flynn, William Foster, Alyssa Freeman, Jan Frye (JFr), Ron and Marie Furnish, Kim Kozella, Joyce Lowry, Casey McLaughlin, Jojo Morelli, Nick Newberry, Carol O'Neil, Andrew Rapp, Richmond Audubon Society, Chuck Schussman, Mark Sopko, Brian Taber, Wes Teets, Bill Williams, Dave Youker



## East



**Editor:** Nick Newberry  
11018 Devenish Dr.  
Oakton, Virginia 22124  
[nickenew1@gmail.com](mailto:nickenew1@gmail.com)

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

A total of 216 species was recorded this spring, which was 16 species fewer than last spring and about 12 species lower than the recent average. Highlights of the season were Eurasian Wigeon, Red-necked Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, and Mississippi Kite. Data was sourced from the Virginia Birds listserv, eBird, NNASnet (Northern Neck Audubon Society listserv), and the Gold Book.

**Abbreviations:** Bethel (Bethel Beach NAP, *Mathews*); Hutchinson (Hutchinson unit of Rapp R. NWR, *Essex*); Leedstown (*Westmoreland*); Tayloe (Tayloe unit of Rappahannock R. NWR, *Richmond*); Wilna (Wilna unit of Rappahannock R. NWR, *Richmond*); Washington's Birthplace (George Washington Birthplace National Monument, *Westmoreland*)

### WATERFOWL—SHOREBIRDS

A single **Cackling Goose** was photographed among a flock of approximately 2000 **Canada Geese** at Washington's Birthplace 7 Mar (ph. JG). No **Snow Geese** were recorded this spring; this low-density migrant is typically seen only once every other year during the spring season. A massive flock of an estimated 1420 **Tundra Swans** was well-photographed foraging in wet farm fields off Quarter Farm Ln., *Essex* 4 Mar (ph. ES, TS); this is in line with other peak counts for the Region, but nonetheless not a high mark that is equaled very often. The most-chased bird of the spring was an ad. m. **Eurasian Wigeon** associating with a small group of up to 8 **American Wigeons** from 12 Mar to 3 Apr at Haines Mill Pond, *Gloucester* (JS et al.). This represents only the fourth eBird record for the Region and the first for *Gloucester*. Two **Lesser Scaup** lingered until 4 May near Reedville, *Northumberland* (ph. BF). The same location hosted a late **Bufflehead** 25 May (BF), and a second lingering member of this species was photographed sitting on a log 19 May in Menokin, *Richmond* (ph. CR, DF). **Northern Bobwhites** were reported from all 11 counties

this spring, up from 10 last year, with a high count of 8, down from 12 last year, at Hutchinson 16 May (M&JC). A **Red-necked Grebe** was seen off Coles Pt., *Westmoreland* 30 Mar following a typical winter for this species in the state with only a few scattered individuals, mostly on the coast (BH). The spring's first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived 13 Apr at a private residence at Rosewell, *Gloucester* (HC); this is nearly a week later than the average arrival date for the past 5 years of 8 Apr. A **Sandhill Crane**, the second for the Region in as many springs, was in Leedstown 4 May (ph. FA); this is a second county record in eBird.



**Sandhill Crane** photographed by Fred Atwood at Leedstown, *Westmoreland* 4 May

Compared with last year, it was a quiet spring for shorebird species diversity and high counts, however 2 **Piping Plovers** spotted at Bethel 9 Apr (JS) during the late Mar/early Apr window when this species has been seen over the past few years at this location, was certainly an exciting record. Additionally, a **Black-necked Stilt** was spotted in Leedstown 4 May (ph. FA), constituting a second county record in the eBird database.



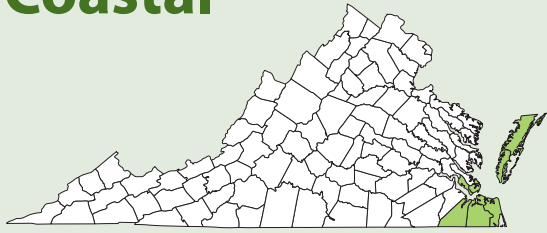
Fred Atwood photographed this Black-necked Stilt at Leedstown, *Westmoreland* 4 May

A rookery of **Great Blue Herons** that formerly occupied trees along Marle Bank Rd., *Essex*, held no birds this year, which is in contrast to 40 in Apr 2015 and 20–22 in 2018 (*vide* FA). The only **Cattle Egret** of the spring was found in Dixie, *Mathews* 9 Apr (LS) during the brief early to mid-Apr period when this species typically makes its presence known in the Region. A trio of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was observed at Wilna 20 Apr (MV). An ad. **Mississippi Kite** was seen soaring over a neighborhood in Colonial Beach, *Westmoreland* 27 May (BH); this represents one of only about a half dozen records for the Northern Neck. The first **Osprey** reports of the spring did not materialize until 10 Mar when this species was reported from five locations across the Region (m. obs.); this date was much later than the typical arrival date of Mar 1. An early **Yellow-throated Vireo** appeared about five days ahead of schedule, 11 Apr, at Zoar SF, *King William* (M&JC). A late **Purple Finch** was heard singing 4 May in Leedstown (FA). A late migrant **Pine Siskin** was recorded 15 May at Colonial Beach, *Westmoreland*, eight days before the extreme late date for this species listed in the Gold Book (BC). A

very early **Yellow-breasted Chat** 6 Apr at Burgh Westra Ln., *Gloucester*, may well have wintered in the area given its appearance about two weeks before migrants typically arrive (RB). A very sparse breeder in the area, 3 **Bobolinks**, 2 singing males and a single female, were noted 27 May in potentially suitable breeding habitat at the Colonial Beach Public Works, *Westmoreland* (BH). Zoar SF, *King William* produced the Regional high count for the spring of 21 **Rusty Blackbirds** 10 Mar (DY), which is about average for the past 5 years. Only 24 warbler species were reported, down about three species from the 5-year average. A four-hour, 3-mile kayak tour through Dragon Swamp at Dragon's Lair 1, *Middlesex* 20 Apr recorded conservative estimates of 70 **Prothonotary Warblers**, 12 **American Redstarts**, and 30 **Northern Parulas**, each an excellent count even given the distance surveyed (KL, WT, LS). A photographed m. **Wilson's Warbler** gave a nice showing at Tayloe 6 May; this species is not recorded annually in the Region (ph. M&JC). No **Dickcissels** were found this spring in contrast with last year, which produced records from five locations; this result is likely in part due to decreased survey effort compared with last year when Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2 point counts were conducted throughout the eastern Northern Neck.

**Contributors:** Fredrick Atwood, Blaine Carnes, Maeve and Joey Coker (M&JC), Harry Colestock, Dave Farris, Beth Fedorko, Jim Goehring, Bruce Hill, Kathy Louthan, Carolyn Rubenfield, Louis Schiavo, Ty Smith, Evan Spears, Jason Strickland, Wes Teets, Michael Vassalotti, Dave Youker

# Coastal



**Editor: Bill Williams**

154 Lakewood Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23185

[billwilliams154@gmail.com](mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com)

Accomack and Northampton counties; Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel; Pelagic area; the cities/towns of Cape Charles, Chesapeake, Chincoteague, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach

March averaged ~3° F below normal, unlike April and May, which warmed to 3° and 5° above normal, respectively. Rainfall was near normal for the period. Many observers regarded the neotropical migrant diversity and abundance as lackluster and slow. That said, media alerts were at times rife with species such as Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Tufted Duck, Bar-tailed Godwit, Magnificent Frigatebird, Little Egret, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, and Bicknell's Thrush.

**Abbreviations:** Back Bay (Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach); Beasley (Beasley Tract, Princess Anne WMA, Virginia Beach); CBBT (Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, s. of *Northampton*); Cape Charles (town of Cape Charles, *Northampton*); Chinc. (Chincoteague NWR, *Accomack*); CCCHNAP (Cape Charles Coastal Habitat NAP, *Northampton*); Craney (Craney Island Dredged Materials Management Area, Portsmouth); Dismal (Dismal Swamp NWR Chesapeake/Suffolk); ESVNWR (Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, *Northampton*); False Cape (False Cape SP, Virginia Beach); HRBT (Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, Hampton/Norfolk); KSP (Kiptopeke SP, *Northampton*); Little Is. (Little Island Pk., Virginia Beach); NNP (Newport News, Pk., Newport News); Whitehurst (Whitehurst Tract, Princess Anne WMA, Virginia Beach)

## WATERFOWL-PELICANS

A fly-over **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK** made the day at Back Bay 27 Apr (ph. JM). One to 2 **Ross's Geese** were at Muddy Creek Rd., Virginia Beach 4 (ph. K&TB) & 5 Mar (AB); and one was at Beasley 10 Mar (ph. RBi). A m. **Eurasian Wigeon** at Long Cr./Great Neck, Virginia Beach 4 (AB, ph. JM) & 5 Mar (ph. CH) was coincidental with as many as 3 at Hoffer Cr. Wildlife Preserve, Portsmouth 2 through 12 Mar; likely one of that trio was the one at nearby Craney 14 Mar (LS, BW). Craney also hosted a rather late m. **Northern Pintail** 23 May (AM, LS, ph. BT, DY), a m. **EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL** through 28 Mar (AM,

LS, ph. BW, DY), and an ad. m. **Redhead** 2 & 9 May (AM, LS, ph. BT, ph. BW). A crown jewel among the season's most outstanding birds was a striking ad. m. **TUFTED DUCK** found at Back Bay 6 Apr (ph. SM) and enjoyed by m. obs. through 8 Apr. This was the second occurrence of this species in the state and Region this calendar year. **Common Eiders** were widely reported throughout the season, with several lingering well past the species' 30 Mar Gold Book late date. The m. and f. that wintered at Ft. Monroe, Hampton last noted there 24 Mar (ph. AD, DH, TTr) overlapped in time with 2 at KSP 1 Mar (ph. JM). Exceptionally late were a f. at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach 2 (ph. K&TB, m. obs.) to 30 Apr (AB); 2 off Assawoman Is., *Accomack* 23 May (ph. JG); and an imm. m. at Ft. Story, Virginia Beach 27 May (LF, ph. KSu). A m. **Harlequin Duck** which spent much of the winter at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach was noted there 2 (ph. K&TB) through 6 Apr (m. obs.). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** presented itself at Back Bay 18 May (ph. RBi, ph. TM). **Common Nighthawk** reports included one at Craney 9 May (AM, LS, BT, BW); 3 there 16 May (LS, BT, BW, DY); 2 in the Northwest section of Virginia Beach 12 May (TT); and one each in separate Virginia Beach locations, Sandbridge and Pembroke, 18 May (AB). Single **Common Gallinules** were at Craney 16 May (ph. BT, LS, BW, DY) and at False Cape 24 May (TT). A **Sandhill Crane** passed over Whitehurst 3 Mar (ph. SM); one was at Muddy Cr. and Shipps Cabin Rds., Virginia Beach 14 Apr (ph. K&TB, m. obs.). Two **Black-necked Stilts** were noted at Back Bay 25 (BA, ph. AB, ESB) & 28 Apr (ph. KSu). One was in the Lynnhaven Wetlands, Virginia Beach 3 (ph. CH, ph. JM, ph. KS) to 10 May (AB) and 20+ were at Queen Sound Landing, *Accomack* 19 May (ph. DR). The species' peak count was 41 at Craney 30 May (AM, BT, BW, DY). Among those that day was a pair that had been tending a 4-egg nest since 2 May (AM, LS, BT, ph. BW), this species' earliest Virginia egg-date ever recorded. The season's peak **American Avocet** count was 154 at Craney

14 Mar (LS, BW, DY); 2 were on Cedar Is., *Accomack* 18 May (JG). **Wilson's Plovers** are rarely encountered on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Thus, one on Plum Tree Is., Poquoson 31 May (ph. JF), apparently a first for that jurisdiction, was significant. A **Piping Plover** at Chinc. 9 Mar (WT) was six days ahead of the species' Gold Book 15 Mar average early date. Exceptionally rare for the season, an **Upland Sandpiper** was flushed from a vacant lot near Cape Charles harbor, *Northampton* 1 May (ESB). The annual **Whimbrel** "departure count" at Boxtree Cr., *Northampton* registered a single-day high of 4698 on 23 May (BTr et al.). The **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** first detected at Chinc. 1 Dec 2018 (SD) was listed by m. obs. through 21 Apr (FM). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Craney 16 May (ph. BW, LS, BT, DY) and 7 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were off the CCCHNAP 21 May (ESB). **Razorbills** continued to be recorded to 1 Apr (AB) with a high count of 182 off Back Bay 11 Mar (TT). Noteworthy totals inside the Chesapeake Bay were 6 off Cape Charles 2 Mar (EC, NL) and as many as 5 at Ft. Monroe, Hampton 14 Mar (SWi, TS). Strong sw winds brought a dozen **Parasitic Jaegers** past Little Is. 20 Apr (AB, ph. RBI). A list of **Iceland Gull** reports included a second-cycle at Ft. Monroe, Hampton 2 (ph. RBi) through 24 Mar (ph. EM); an ad. at 57th St., Virginia Beach to at least 18 Mar (ph. JM); a second-cycle near 85th St., Virginia Beach 16 Mar (DCr et al.); a first-cycle at Ocean View Beach Pk., Norfolk 19 Mar (ph. RBi, ph. NN); and an ad. at Little Is. 1 Apr (AB). Two **Black Tern** reports, both from Chinc., included a single on 18 Apr (JL) and 2 on 17 May (LC, DL, ph. EM). The **Sandwich Tern** 3 Apr extreme early date, established in 2018 (LS), was reset by 2 at Messick, Poquoson 31 Mar (NN, AR). Five **Sooty Shearwaters** were reported 22 May, 3 off Rudee (AB) and 2 off Back Bay (ph. SM); and 9 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were tallied off Virginia Beach at (36.801, -75.774) 30 May (ESB, RBi, TD, JF, NN, JS). A **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** drifted about over Sandbridge, Virginia Beach 20 (ph. JMu, SW) & 21 May (AC). This spring's first reported **Anhingas** were 2 near Woodhouse Corner, Virginia Beach 18 Apr (K&TB). Three days later a pair was found at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach (ph. SK, ph. JSn), where the species was chronicled by m. obs. into the summer season, including a high count of 9 there 28 May (ph. LF, KSu). Elsewhere, one flew over Norfolk Premium Outlets, Norfolk 2 May (MA); 12 were at 85th St., Virginia Beach 9 May (TT); and 4 cruised above the 800 block of Jefferson Ave., Newport News 29 May (ph. RS, ABr). Accounts of **American White Pelican** peregrinations tracked 5 off the CBBT north overlook 7 Mar (AR); 6 at

Chinc. 28 Mar (JW); 6 off Virginia Beach 22 Apr (ph. RK); one over 85th St., Virginia Beach 9 May (TT); 12 over Latimer Siding Rd., *Northampton* 15 May (GR); and 3 over the Bay just s. of *Northampton* 24 May (EC).

## HERONS-BUNTINGS

The state's third **LITTLE EGRET** was documented at Craney 25 Apr (ph. BT, LS, BW, DY), the same day one was recorded at Parker R. NWR, Essex, MA (ph. m. obs.).



An adult Little Egret Brian Taber documented at Craney 25 April

A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at 5th St., Hampton 31 Mar (ph. CK) was well ahead of the species' Gold Book 10 Apr average spring arrival date. A **WHITE-FACED IBIS** confirmed at Chinc. 21 Apr (ph. FMa, JMa) may have been the same one present there 19 May (ph. AD, TTr).



Adam D'Onofrio took this White-faced Ibis photo at Chinc. 19 May.

These observations marked ten of the last eleven years (none in 2018) this species has been found in the Region. A **ROSEATE SPOONBILL** was photographed passing over Back Bay 4 May (ph. JaF, JmF), making this the third consecutive calendar year this species has been in the Region, and also set the earliest date this wader has been recorded in the state. Two **Swallow-tailed Kites** on the ESVNWR 9 May (ESB) preceded one at Back Bay 29 May (ph. RR, JMo). The Region's ever-growing **Mississippi Kite** ledger was enhanced by one at Back Bay 4 May (ph. GSi); one at Red Oak Trail, Chesapeake 7 May (Anonymous); up to 3 at White House Ln., Virginia Beach 9–22 May (AB, GS, TT, ph. BZ); singles at NNP (KH) and PHP (ph. SK) 17 May; one at Bull's Farm (private), *Northampton* 19 May (ESB); one over the Atlantic Pk. section of Virginia Beach 20 May (DC); and 2 in the Kings Grant section of Virginia Beach 24 May (ph. M&RF). Single **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS** were at Craney 25 Apr (LS, ph. BT, ph. BW, DY) and Wardtown Rd., *Northampton* 5 May (ph. MA). Craney also hosted an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 23 May (DY, AM). A **Warbling Vireo** was Lakeside Pk., Chesapeake 29 May (a.r. DG). Teamwork paid dividends for those who carefully documented by sight and sound a **BICKNELL'S THRUSH** at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Virginia Beach 14 May (AB, ph. & v.r. RBi, ESB). A **Hermit Thrush** was at that same location 15 May (ESB). As listed in the Gold Book, 10 May is that species' Coastal Plain extreme late date. An **American Pipit** was at Naval Air Station Oceana (Restricted Access), Virginia Beach 8 May (ph. KSu); the species' average late date is 25 Apr and the extreme late date is 31 May. The Region's last reported **Pine Siskin** (one) was at Country Club Rd., Newport News 27 May (ph. HW). Once again a pale-eyed **Eastern Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni/rileyi*) was detected at Back Bay this spring, on 9 (ph. K&TB) & 15 May (ph. SK). Sparrow species of note were a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at a Winona, Norfolk feeder 29 Apr (ph. BAn); a **Fox Sparrow** in Accomack, *Accomack* 1 Apr (MB); a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Whitehurst to 24 Mar (AB, ph. RBi); and single **White-crowned Sparrows** at Craney 11 Apr (DY) and in Winona, Norfolk 30 Apr (ph. BAn), respectively. Breeze Farm, Virginia Beach hosted **Brewer's Blackbirds** through at least 10 Mar (ph. NB, SDe, JLo, JLw), with a high count of 18 on 8 Mar (RSc, ph.



Bob Anderson's Clay-colored Sparrow in the Winona section of Norfolk 29 April

TSm, ph. ES). The **Nashville Warbler** that over-wintered at Windsor Pt., Norfolk continued to at least 16 Apr (DC); another was in Talbot Pk., Norfolk 25 Apr (BA). A singing **Mourning Warbler** was at the CCCHNAP 18 May (ESB). The average Coastal Plain late date for **Palm Warbler** is 5 May, therefore a "Western" near Cape Charles, *Northampton* 15 May (ESB) was characterized as "extraordinarily late." A f. **Western Tanager** made a brief appearance at Windsor Pt., Norfolk 25 Mar (ph. DC). A m. **Painted Bunting** came to a feeder near the Greenbrier West section of Chesapeake 6 Mar (ph. SH). The overwintering m. in the Avalon section of Chesapeake was last seen 15 Mar (ph. DG). Another m. was at New Jersey Ave., Norfolk 10–29 Mar (ph. PS).

**Contributors:** Bob Ake, Matt Anthony, Bob Anderson (BAn), Andrew Baldelli, Nancy Barnhart, Karen and Tom Beatty, Rob Bielawski (RBi), Edward S. Brinkley, Austin Broadwater (ABr), Mark Brown, Larry Cartwright, Elaine Carwile, David Clark, Dan Cristol (DCr), Allen Cumbia, Todd Day, Shirley Devan (SDe), Sally Dick, Adam D'Onofrio, Jacob Flynn (JaF), James Flynn (JmF), James Fox, Luke Fultz, Marie and Ron Furnish, David Gibson, Joe Girgente, Scott Hager, Karen Hamblett, Cindy Hamilton, Debbie Hudgins, Rebecca Kays, Stephen Keith, Cary Koronas, Joanne Laskowski, Nancy Lawler, David Ledworth, Jan Lockwood (JLo), Joyce Lowry (JLw), Tommy Maloney, Frank Marengi (FMa), Jennifer Marengi (JMa), June McDaniels, Ernie Miller, Alex Minarik, Elton Morel, Jojo Morelli (JMo), Judith Murphy (JMu), Steve Myers, Nick Newberry, Andrew Rapp, Reuben Rohn, Dick Rowe, Garrett Rhyne, Ryan Sanderson, Patricia Scanlon, Lee Schuster, Regina Schwabe (RSc), Gina Sheridan, Garrett Sisk (GSi), Ty Smith (TSm), Jonathan Snyder (JSn), Evan Spears, Kathy Spencer, Jason Strickland, Tom St. Andre, Karl Suttman (KSu), Brian Taber, Tracy Tate, Wes Teets, Tina Trice (TTr), Barry Truitt (BTr), Joy Walker, Scott Walker, Harriet Ware, Bill Williams, Sandra Winstead (SWi), Dave Youker, Bob Zabo