

VSO Newsletter

A publication of The Virginia Society of Ornithology



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Winter 2011–2012

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Visit the VSO on line:

<http://www.virginiabirds.net>

Virginia eBird:

<http://ebird.org/content/va/>

Va-Bird Listserve

[http://mailman.listserve.com/
listmanager/listinfo/va-bird](http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/va-bird)

Facebook

Virginia Society of Ornithology

Dates to Remember

JANUARY 13, 2012
RESERVATIONS DEAD-
LINE—VSO WINTER TRIP

FEBRUARY 3–5, 2011
VSO WINTER TRIP

MAY 18–20, 2012
VSO ANNUAL MEETING

VSO 2012 Annual Meeting

Johnson City, Tennessee • May 18–20, 2012

The 2012 VSO annual meeting will be held as a joint event with the Bristol Bird Club, a chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society, on May 18–20 in Johnson City, Tennessee, just a few miles south of the Tennessee-Virginia stateline. Throughout the weekend there will be birding field trips and the chance to enjoy the beautiful Southern Blue Ridge with hiking, walking, and birding along the Appalachian Trail in a cloudland, that reaches peaks near 6,286 feet of elevation. Additionally, the meeting will have paper presentations and a poster session and speakers on both Friday and Saturday evening. Several vendors have indicated their intention to provide displays, including Buteo Books and ABA Sales. The event will also afford opportunities to meet, socialize and bird with new friends from

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VSO Field Trip Report

Chincoteague ~ September 16–18, 2011

Despite steady rain most of the day on Saturday and strong winds on Sunday, the VSO field trip to Chincoteague yielded 140 species with the help of trip leaders Jerry Via, Bill Akers, Michael Beck and Ruth Beck, Participants crossing the Causeway Friday afternoon had views of hundreds of White Ibis, many of them juveniles, along with large numbers of Great Egret, Snowy Egret and American Oystercatcher. Some people also saw a Peregrine Falcon and a Northern Harrier.

The cold front Friday night pushed in a nice variety of warblers for those who braved the mosquitoes on the Woodland Trail, with a total of 19 species tallied over the weekend. Other highlights on the trail included Gray-cheeked Thrush and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

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Cattle (or Pony) Erets photographed by Larry Meade during the Chincoteague field trip.



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President's Message: Education Committee is on a Roll!

Central to the VSO's mission is ornithology education. Education is key to recruiting new birders and ornithology professionals, generating support for bird conservation, and maintaining the engagement of our current VSO members. We need a steady supply of dedicated young bird enthusiasts to not only ensure the VSO's future, but to serve generally as tomorrow's advocates for sound wildlife protection policy. In addition, we need more participation by Virginians who have found their passion for birds later in life. Many of our citizens understandably put career and family first during young adulthood, but rediscover latent interests when children leave home and retirement age nears. Furnishing them with new tools to develop their skills would allow



Andrew in Ecuador earlier in 2011

this demographic to contribute even more to the VSO than they currently do. To address these needs and cement our identity as the go-to organization for ornithology resources in Virginia, we must increase our educational outreach, which is why I am thrilled about the recent revitalization of our Education Committee, with the membership of Keith Carson, Henry Brooks, Scott Jackson-Ricketts, and Patti Reum and chaired by board member Keith Carson.

The Committee is taking action to provide resources for novice birders and increase awareness about the VSO. For example, they are working on a new page for the VSO's Website containing bird identification tips and reviews of field guides and optical equipment. They are actively seeking content for this page and would really welcome your suggestions. Another topic being considered for the Webpage is information about Virginia's birding destinations to help both novices and Virginia newcomers find the best places to experience our birds.

The committee is also compiling a list of nature and birding festivals and other public events where the VSO could provide education and recruit new members. Again, they are eager for suggestions and ask for your help in identifying appropriate venues for VSO involvement. They are additionally pursuing a scholarship to help our youth attend summer nature camps or participate in other ornithology educational programs. Some local chapters are already offering scholarships for young birders and we can expand that effort to the state level. Finally, I have been working with some of our education and studio art students here at the University of Mary Washington to produce bird-focused Standards of Learning activities for third grade teachers. Animal adaptations are the focus of Virginia's third grade science SOLs, and birds are both instructive and inherently fascinating to children. Perhaps we can plant some early interest in birds through our public education system.

Senegal's legendary conservation biologist, Baba Dioum, said it best: "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." The Education Committee has my sincerest thanks for moving the VSO's educational mission forward. If you have any suggestions for the committee, please contact Keith Carson at brittlarson52@live.com.

Andrew



Conservation Corner

Prothonotary Warbler Nest Boxes in Chesapeake, VA

Thanks to a grant from the VSO's Small Grants Conservation Fund, volunteers were able to acquire critical startup equipment for building and monitoring Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes at Northwest River Park in Chesapeake, VA during the 2011 nesting season.

The Prothonotary Warbler is a watch list species of conservation concern for Partners in Flight, and is listed as a Tier 4 species (moderate conservation need) in the Commonwealth of Virginia's *Wildlife Action Plan*. The species is the only cavity-nesting warbler east of the Mississippi River. It readily takes up residence in nest boxes stationed on poles about 10 feet from the shore in swamps and creeks.



Prothonotary Warbler, June 28, 2011. Photograph by Shirley Devan.

The Prothonotary Warbler nest box project began 24 years ago with a network of approximately 80 nest boxes at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge near Richmond. In the 1990's the project expanded to sites at Deep Bottom Park in Henrico County, the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County and White Bank Park in Colonial Heights. The sites are the focus of research and conservation efforts by faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Commonwealth University as well as by volunteers from the Richmond Audubon Society, Williamsburg Bird Club, and the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalist program.

The first 40 boxes at Northwest River Park were installed in 2008 by Stephen Living, Wildlife Biologist with VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in

consultation with Dr. Bob Reilly supervisor of the Prothonotary Warbler citizen science project. The park's body of freshwater, surrounded by Bald Cypress trees and mixed hardwoods with thick understory was perfect habitat for the Prothonotary Warblers.

The first bird banding took place in 2009 when Living and CVWO volunteers Renee Hudgins and John Young banded 20 adult females and 112 nestlings. Additional habitat was identified at the park and CVWO obtained the necessary permissions from regulatory agencies to install 60 more boxes in spring 2011.

The 2011 project was accomplished using conduit poles, a marine battery, personal flotation devices and cushions, canoe paddles, a GPS unit, and a digital scale for weighing nestlings and adult warblers, all purchased with the VSO grant; a canoe provided by VA Depart-

Continued on page 4

Conservation Corner *Continued from page 3*

ment of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF); an electric trolling motor and battery charger from Richmond Audubon; and over 60 new boxes made by members of the Williamsburg Bird Club and Historic Rivers Chapter of VA Master Naturalists.

The banding effort was conducted by Stephen Living and Shirley Devan with the assistance of volunteers from CVWO, Williamsburg Bird Club, and Historic Rivers Chapter of VA Master Naturalists. Between April 13 and July 5 they visited the park 22 times, sometimes twice a week, to ensure that as many nestlings and adults as possible were counted and banded. The data for the 101 boxes showed: 136 nestlings banded; 17 new females captured and banded; and three new males captured and banded. Additionally fifty-five boxes showed evidence of Prothonotary nest activity (from sprig of moss to two broods). Six boxes had two broods that were banded. Nine females banded at

Northwest River in 2009 and 2010 were recaptured in 2011. Five were banded as adults in 2009; one was banded as a nestling in 2009; and three were banded as adults in 2010. In the 39 boxes that have been at the park since 2008, 38 boxes showed evidence of Prothonotary nesting (from sprig of moss to two broods). The new boxes installed in 2011 showed moderate to no activity, depending on location with less activity in the boxes farther from the original 39. Ten of the 23 boxes close to the original 39 hosted Prothonotary nest activity. Some of the boxes will be candidates for repositioning in 2012, but many will probably remain in position for a second year to give the warblers a chance to find and nest in them.

~Shirley Devan
VSO Board Member



Prothonotary Warbler nestlings, June 23, 2011. Photograph by Shirley Devan.

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Send submissions electronically via e-mail whenever possible. Attach text as Word document or plain text file. Attach images as tifs; scan photos to 300 dpi and line art to 1000 dpi.

You may also mail your submission on a PC formatted diskette. Hard copy may be mailed, but must be received two weeks prior to deadline.

Submissions may be edited for style or length.

2012 Submission Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Copy Due</u>
Spring 2012	Jan 20
Summer 2012	Jun 1
Fall 2012	Aug 10
Winter 2012	Nov 2

Bird reports in this newsletter may not have been approved by VARCOM (The Virginia Avian Records Committee).

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VSO Field Trip Report

Craney Island August 20 and 21, 2011

Participants in the two special field trips to Craney Island in August raved about their experience. Ruth Beck led both morning trips, with assistance from Shirley Devan, Brian Taber, and Bill Williams. Ruth has been monitoring nesting birds at Craney Island for decades and her team had scouted the area earlier in the week, so they knew just where to look. Despite heavy smoke from the Great Dismal Swamp fires, the groups had a fantastic time. There were 24 participants Saturday, with 68 species seen. On Sunday, 23 participants tallied 61 species.

Bill Williams reported highlights of are-you-kidding-me numbers of Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets, eight Marbled Godwits, several close Stilt Sandpipers, two Wilson's Phalaropes, a shabby looking Glaucous Gull, and nice ballet of Black Terns. Waterfowl included Gadwall, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Pied-billed Grebe. Many species of Sandpiper were seen including Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped, Pectoral, Stilt, and Upland.

People have requested that the trip be offered again next year, but Ruth said it's too early to commit, due to the work going on there.

~Shirley Devan
VSO Board Member



Craney Island field trip participants from left to right: Tiffany Corsello, Beverley Leunwenburg, Fenton Day, and Bill Williams. Photograph by Shirley Devan.

VSO Winter Field Trip

Outer Banks of North Carolina

February 3–5, 2012

Make plans to join trip leaders Bill Akers and Jerry Via on the Outer Banks of North Carolina February 3–5. This trip always has great waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds. New and exciting this year is an optional Friday trip to Lake Mattamuskeet.

Lodging

The Comfort Inn at Kill Devil Hills will be the trip headquarters. The special VSO room rate is \$65 for ocean front (available on a first come, first served basis) and \$60 for street side plus tax. Contact information for the hotel is 252 441-6333. Reservations must be made by January 13, 2012 to get the special VSO rate.

Meals

The Comfort Inn offers a complimentary breakfast buffet beginning each morning at 6:30 AM. Participants should bring lunch provisions for the Friday and Saturday trips. For dinner there are many restaurants in the area.

Friday

A program of events and announcements will be available at the front desk on Friday morning. A day-trip to Lake Mattamuskeet will be led by VSO member Lee Adams, who has explored this area with North Carolina birding groups and knows all the “hot spots.” Possible species include Screech Owl, American Bittern, Common Gallinule, Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, and a nice assortment of ducks. Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:15 AM for a 7:30 departure. Expected driving time to the destination is 90 minutes. Bring snacks, beverages, and lunch. The group will stop at Alligator River on the return trip to listen for Short-eared Owls at dusk. An evening orientation and slide program will be presented at 8:00 PM in the conference room near the lobby.

Saturday

All day will be spent visiting the impoundments of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The generally milder climate and the proximity of the Gulf Stream make for an interesting combination of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, ocean birds, and sometimes whales. Participants may be divided into smaller groups, but every group will visit all areas. Participants should bring lunch. There will be a tally at 6:30 PM in the VSO conference room at the hotel.

Sunday Morning

Caravan to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, departing from the hotel at 8:00 AM.

Equipment

Come prepared for variable weather. Important - Participants are asked to ring FRS radios if they have them in order to maintain contact between vehicles and announce bird sightings.

For more information contact Bill Akers at 540 951-7692 or bill.akersj@comcast.net, or Meredith Bell at 804 824-4958 or merandlee@gmail.com.

A Call for Nominations Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award

The Virginia Society of Ornithologists is seeking nominations for the Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award, given for outstanding work in conserving Virginia's birds and/or the state's natural areas.

The VSO Conservation Award was renamed the Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award in 1989 in recognition of Abbott's extensive efforts to conserve Virginia's birds. Abbott founded the Fort Belvoir Christmas Bird Count in 1941 and the 250-acre Jackson Abbott Wetland Refuge on Fort Belvoir is named after him. However, he is best known for his work to protect Bald Eagles in Virginia, especially in the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay. Some previous recipients of the award include Henry Bashore for his leadership and conservation efforts on the Northern Neck (1987), James W. Waggener for his efforts to establish the Occoquan Wildlife Refuge (1999), the Non-game Division of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for their work in promoting conservation and public awareness of birds (2002), the Center for Conservation Biology (2007), and Larry and Thrya Valade (2009).

Nominations, including at least three letters of recommendation and a list of the nominee's accomplishments, should be submitted to Joe Coleman at joecoleman@rstarmail.com no later than February 15, 2012. The Conservation Committee will make its recommendations to the VSO Board at its March meeting. The award will be presented at the 2012 VSO Annual Meeting.

A Call for Nominations James Eike Service Award

In 1983, the Virginia Society of Ornithology Board of Directors approved the James Eike Service Award, named in honor of James Eike, a VSO member from 1933 until his death in 1983. Eike's long and faithful service, his dedication, and his enthusiasm in promoting the work of the VSO gave him a unique status in the organization. The Eike Award is given to recognize a VSO member for outstanding service to the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Eligibility for consideration includes service as an officer, board member, foray director, field trip leader, or other contributions to the organization. The recipient is recognized by the presentation of a silver Raven pin. The first award was given to Claire Eike, in honor of her late husband. A list of previous Eike Award recipients may be found at <http://www.virginiabirds.net/Eike.HTML>.

The Eike Service Award Committee is soliciting nominations for the award. Letters of nomination should give the rationale behind the nomination. In addition two letters of support are required. These materials should be sent to Robert Ake at rake@cox.net by February 1, 2012. The committee will review all nomination packets and make its recommendation to the VSO Board in the spring with the award presented at the 2012 VSO Annual Meeting.

Are you interested in serving on the VSO Board of Directors?

All members of the VSO are eligible to serve on the Board, if nominated and elected. Board members serve a three-year term and are expected to attend regularly scheduled board meetings, take an active part in the decision-making process of the organization, bring new ideas to the meetings, accept special assignments from the VSO President, and act as a representative of the VSO. There are three regularly scheduled board meetings each year held at various locations in the state, usually in March, August, and November.

Each year a nominating committee, consisting of the board members whose terms are expiring and chaired by the past president, considers candidates for board positions, and presents the proposed slate of officers and board members to the Board. After the Board accepts the slate it is announced to the VSO's general membership in the *VSO Newsletter* and elections are held at the business session of the VSO Annual Meeting.

Those interested in being considered should submit their name, contact information and a brief description of their qualifications or reasons they wish to serve to Rexanne Bruno, VSO Past President, at bruno@lynchburg.edu or 1012 Harrods Court, Lynchburg, VA 24503.

News and Notes from the Local Chapters



The purpose of this column is to provide a venue for Local Chapters to share their accomplishments and ideas on a regular basis. Contact information for each local chapter, can be found on VSO's Member Chapters page: <http://www.virginiabirds.net/chaps.html>. Send local chapter items for News and Notes to Joe Coleman, VSO Vice President, at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

The **Hampton Roads Bird Club** and the **Williamsburg Bird Club** have jointly adopted the Virginia Important Bird Area (IBA) known as the Western Shore Marshes, 12,000 acres, which stretch from Poquoson and Hampton up through York, Gloucester, and Mathews Counties. On November 5, members from each Club plus community volunteers and Virginia Audubon IBA staff and volunteers met in Mathews County for a bird survey and beach/roadside cleanup at Bethel Beach and New Point Comfort Natural Area Preserves. The groups will survey some part of the IBA at least once a quarter.

As always, the **Northern Virginia Bird Club** has various local walks planned for this season, but they are also travel-

ing farther afield in the quest for good birding. Weekend trips are planned to Cape May and Chincoteague, as well as a one day trip to the Northern Neck. The club also had the pleasure of hosting Bob Ake at its November meeting, where he discussed his 2010 Big Year. Visit the club at www.nvabc.org.

Members of **Richmond Audubon** coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Virginia Important Bird Area program on a bird survey at James River National Wildlife Refuge and refuge cleanup and maintenance at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge in association with National Public Lands Day.

New and Noteworthy

New members Aug 30–Nov 7, 2011:

The VSO bids a warm welcome to the following:

Susan J. Armentrout, McLean
Curtis Badger, Melfa
Brenda Chase, Fredericksburg
Michael & Juli Clark, Madison Heights
Claudia Cutler, Lexington
Lucinda Foster, Reston
M. M. Hall, Montross
Marilyn Jackson, Lexington
Liz Norman, Raphine
Jana Ruble, Blacksburg
Katherine Slaughter, Charlottesville
Anne Tremper, Stafford
Carol Via, Roanoke
Christina Woodson, Henrico
Sandy Young, Fairfax

Seeking a Central Region Editor for *Virginia Birds*

Virginia Birds is the VSO's quarterly journal of ornithological sightings. The editors are seeking a regional editor for the Central Region, which consists of Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Campbell, Caroline, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene,

Hanover, Louisa, Nelson, Orange, Powhatan, and Spotsylvania Counties and the cities of Charlottesville, Fredericksburg and Lynchburg.

If you are interested in compiling the report for this region please contact the editors at vsoeditors@comcast.net.

Need another reason to receive the VSO newsletter by email? Here are three!

1. Your newsletter arrives in your email inbox weeks ahead of the printed copy. Early arrival gives you first notice of member only events like field trips to Piney Grove and Craney Island
 2. VSO is committed to conservation of our natural resources. We want to reduce the amount of paper we buy and ship around the state.
 3. Emailing newsletters saves VSO funds that can be used for student scholarships, research, and commitment to our partner organizations such as Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory and Virginia Audubon Important Bird Areas.
- If you are able to receive a PDF file in your email, consider signing up for an electronic copy of the VSO's next newsletter. Contact Membership Secretary Thelma Dalmas at: jtdalmas@juno.com to let her know you want your next newsletter in your email inbox. Many thanks for your support.



Chincoteague Field Trip *Continued from page 1*

The north parking lot at the beach was gone, but participants were still able to observe Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Black Skimmer, Black-crowned Night Heron and six species of terns. A few even got a glimpse of a Sora around the Visitor's Center on Friday. The bike ride was rained out Saturday morning after riders had gone half-way around the Wildlife Loop. Specialties seen before the downpour included Black Tern, Black-bellied Plover, Green Heron, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Magnolia Warbler. Participants arrived back at the Refuge Inn

drenched but satisfied about the birds.

The Wash Flats bus trip was so popular that both trips sold out. Highlights were large numbers of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon.

As an extra bonus for the weekend a beautiful adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was observed on the grounds of the Refuge Inn, behind the inn late Saturday and by the overlook on Sunday.

~ Meredith Bell
VSO Field Trips Co-chair

The Cumulative Trip List

Canada Goose	American Golden-Plover	Downy Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
American Black Duck	Semipalmated Plover	Northern Flicker	Blackburnian Warbler
Mallard	Piping Plover	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Yellow Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer	Eastern Phoebe	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Northern Shoveler	American Oystercatcher	Great Crested Flycatcher	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Northern Pintail	Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Palm Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Greater Yellowlegs	Philadelphia Vireo	Pine Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Willet	Red-eyed Vireo	Prairie Warbler
Wild Turkey	Lesser Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	Black-throated Green Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Whimbrel	American Crow	Wilson's Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Marbled Godwit	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Brown Pelican	Ruddy Turnstone	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Red Knot	Barn Swallow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Great Egret	Sanderling	Carolina Chickadee	Seaside Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Scarlet Tanager
Little Blue Heron	Least Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Tricolored Heron	White-rumped Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Cattle Egret	Short-billed Dowitcher	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Green Heron	Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Indigo Bunting
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Ring-billed Gull	House Wren	Bobolink
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Herring Gull	Marsh Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
White Ibis	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Gray-checked Thrush	Common Grackle
Glossy Ibis	Great Black-backed Gull	American Robin	Boat-tailed Grackle
Black Vulture	Caspian Tern	Gray Catbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Turkey Vulture	Black Tern	Northern Mockingbird	Baltimore Oriole
Osprey	Common Tern	Brown Thrasher	House Finch
Bald Eagle	Forster's Tern	European Starling	American Goldfinch
Northern Harrier	Royal Tern	Cedar Waxwing	House Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Sandwich Tern	Ovenbird	
Cooper's Hawk	Black Skimmer	Blue-winged Warbler	
Red-tailed Hawk	Rock Pigeon	Black-and-white Warbler	
American Kestrel	Mourning Dove	Tennessee Warbler	
Merlin	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Kentucky Warbler	
Peregrine Falcon	Black-billed Cuckoo	Common Yellowthroat	
Clapper Rail	Common Nighthawk	American Redstart	
Sora	Chimney Swift	Cape May Warbler	
Black-bellied Plover	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Parula	
	Red-bellied Woodpecker		



VSO 2012 Annual Meeting *Continued from page 1*

Virginia and Tennessee.

Banquet

On Saturday evening there will be a banquet buffet featuring a talk by Dr. Fred Alsop III, well known birder, ornithologist for over 45 years, and Professor of Biology at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Alsop has published over 100 articles and notes on birds in scientific journals and authored more than fifteen bird books and field guides, including the Smithsonian Handbook: *Birds of North America*. The cost for the buffet and program will be \$25.00 per person

Lodging

Rooms at the Holiday Inn are \$85 plus tax (one to four occupants). Reservation can be made by calling 423 282-4611 and mentioning the state-wide birding convention. The block of reserved rooms will be held until three weeks before the meeting. The Holiday Inn has a full restaurant and begins serving breakfast (not included in the price of the room) at 6:30 AM. The Holiday Inn is located at 101 West Springbrook Drive, just off N. Roan St. Traveling either north or south on I-81, take exit to I-26 east. From I-26 take exit 20. Go north on N. Roan and turn left at the stoplight at N. Roan and Springbrook. Other nearby motels in the area include: Ramada Inn, 2606 N Roan St., Phone: 423 282-4011; Best Western of Johnson City, 2406 N Roan St., Phone: 423 282-2161; Doubletree Hotel, 211 Mockingbird Lane, Phone: 423 929-2000; Red Roof Inns, 210 Broyles Drive, Phone: 423 282-6841; and Super 8 Motel, 108 Wesley St., Phone: 423 282-8818.

Field Trips

Field trips will feature high altitude locations—Roan Mountain, Unaka Mountain and Shady Valley—with great opportunities to view warblers and other birds that breed in these locales. Field trips on Saturday and Sunday will assemble and leave from the Holiday Inn at 7:00 AM and end around noon. There are no extra fees to participate in the field trips. Participants should bring snacks and water. Opportunities for trips to Roan Mountain include driving up State 143 (paved road) with stops along the way with spectacular views and opportunities to see Canada and other warblers, Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Least Flycatcher. At Carver's Gap (elevation 5512 ft.) Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and Pine Siskin are possible and, with luck, Red Crossbills. Northern Saw-whet Owl nests at the gap. Additional birding is available with more hiking effort by following the Appalachian Trail from Carver's Gap to higher altitudes. Vesper Sparrows and Common Ravens may be seen. In other Roan Mountain locales Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-billed Cuckoo and other higher altitude breeders may be seen by hiking.

A forest service road goes along the Wilderness Area on Unaka Mountain for about 12 miles. Local birders traverse this route using various vehicles including passenger cars with reasonable clearance. Ruffed Grouse, warblers, including Magnolia, tanagers, buntings and towhees breed in this area and Red Crossbills are a possibility. The area is birded by driving to selected turnouts, stopping and viewing. Some hiking down side trails may be included. The Shady Valley area offers birding in unique higher altitude bogs and in woodland habitat. Some walking is done along trails in the bogs, where Virginia Rails, Soras, sparrows and Marsh Wrens, may be seen. Swainson's Warblers will be on territories in the gorge. By driving and stopping along State Hwy 133, warblers and flycatchers may be found nesting in the woods along the picturesque Beaverdam Creek. For serious hikers, from Shady Valley, contact may be made with the Appalachian Trail. Hiking the Trail brings one into habitat of breeding warblers, including Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Canada and numerous others.

Weekend Schedule of Events

Friday, May 18

All day field trips (for field trip information, contact Rick Knight at 423 483-4204, email: rick@bristolbirdclub.org)

1:30 PM to 8 PM Registration at Holiday Inn

5:30 to 6:00 PM VSO Business Meeting

6:00 to 7:00 PM Social Mixer

7:00 to 7:30 PM Field Trip Announcements, Descriptions and Sign-Ups

7:30 to 8:30 PM Program *Who Keeps Changing My Field Guide?*, Dr. Andrew Jones, Director of Science, William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology, and Head of the Department of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Saturday, May 19

Breakfast on your own

7:00 AM. to noon, Field Trips

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM Registration Continues

12:00 to 1:30 PM Lunch on your own

12:00 to 1:30 PM VSO Local Presidents' Luncheon by invitation

1:30 to 4:00 PM Paper Presentation Session

4:00 to 5:30 PM TOS Board Of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 6:00 PM Poster Session

6:00 to 6:30 PM Social Mixer

6:30 PM—Dinner and Program. *Trekking with the Birder*, Dr. Fred Alsop III, East Tennessee State University



Sunday, May 20:

Breakfast on your own

7:00 AM to noon Field Trips

No field trip compilation meeting. A master list will be posted to TOS and VSO Websites

Registration

The meeting registration fee is \$25.00 per person and the cost for the Banquet Buffet and Saturday Evening Program is \$25.00 per person. Register using the form below. To be assured of a banquet reservation, the envelope containing the registration form and check must be postmarked no later than May 11, 2012.

For More Information

Visit the Bristol Bird Club Website at *www.bristolbirdclub.org*

Regarding registration: Janice Martin, Club Treasurer 423 573-1829, *janice@bristolbirdclub.org*

Other information: Dave Worley 276 971-7244, *dave@bristolbirdclub.org* or Wallace Coffey 423 360-2532 email: *wallace@bristol-birdclub.org*

MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email: _____ Local Chapter(s) _____

VSO _____ TOS _____ (If neither, leave blanks.)

\$ _____ for _____ Registration(s) @ \$25 each

\$ _____ for _____ Dinner(s) and Program Registration(s) @ \$25 each

Total enclosed _____

Mail registration form and check to Bristol Bird Club Treasurer

Bristol Bird Club
c/o Janice Martin, Treas.
111 Dairy Circle
Bristol, TN 37620

Name & Address:

E-mail Address: _____

Membership: New Renewal Gift

Active--\$20 Family--\$25 Sustaining--\$35 Contributing--\$60

Life Membership--\$500

I would like to make an additional donation to:

\$ _____ Cerulean Warbler Project

\$ _____ Small Grants Conservation Fund

\$ _____ *Virginia Birds*

Please enter a gift subscription for:

Name (Dr) (Mr) (Ms) (Mrs) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

A letter will be sent to the recipient notifying them of your gift.



VSO Sales

	Price	Number	Total
VSO Field Checklists, 10	\$3.00	_____	_____
VSO Arm Patch	\$4.00	_____	_____
VSO Cloisonne Pin	\$5.00	_____	_____
<i>Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist</i>	\$20.00	_____	_____
Total Merchandise		_____	_____
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