



# VSO Newsletter

A Publication of the Virginia Society of Ornithology

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## 2015 Eike Award Goes to Andrew Dolby

The James Eike Service Award is given to a person for outstanding service to the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The award is named in honor of James Eike, a member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology 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 recipient is recognized by the presentation of a silver Raven pin. Andrew Dolby received the Eike Award at this year's Annual Meeting.

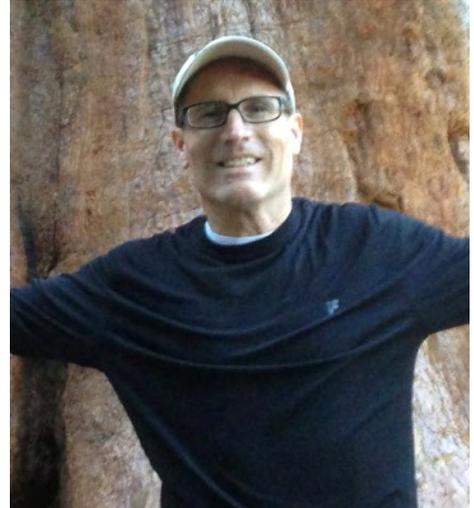
Andrew first became active with VSO in 2001, playing an increasingly active role by serving on its Board of Directors from 2005-2008, as Research (Foray) Committee Chair from 2004 through 2008, as Vice-President from 2009 through 2011, as President from 2011 through 2013, and as Past President from 2013 to the summer of 2015.

Even before Andrew came on the Board as a voting member in 2005, he began making significant contributions to VSO in 2004 when he served as Research Committee Chair and organized the Northern Neck Foray. Over the next four years he coordinated four additional forays:

- Russell and Wise Counties in 2005
- Virginia State Park System in 2006
- Northern Saw-whet Owls in 2007
- And, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, the Riparian Area Breeding Bird Foray in 2008.

His reports of the first four surveys can be found in *The Raven* and were presented at both VSO and Virginia Academy of Sciences Annual Meetings.

Andrew also organized and managed



*Andrew in the field.*

two successful VSO Annual Meetings, Fredericksburg in 2009 and Chesapeake in 2014. Additionally, Andrew has organized the scientific papers sessions of five different VSO Annual Meetings. As President of VSO he also chaired the Society's Annual Meetings in 2012 and 2013, and in 2011, when the President found out at the last minute that she could not attend the meeting, he also chaired that year's Annual Meeting. From July 2013 through June 2015 he served as Past President.

### UPCOMING EVENTS & TRIPS - SAVE THE DATES

**Virginia Beach, December 4-6, 2015** - Coordinator: Lee Adams  
Lee is in the process of making all arrangements. Details will be placed on the website ([www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net)) as they become available.

**Outer Banks, February 5-7, 2016** - Coordinator: Meredith Bell  
Hotel has been booked. Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams and Meredith will lead trips on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

**Annual Meeting, April 29-May 1, 2016** - Hosted by the Roanoke Valley Bird Club at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center. Keynote speaker will be Pete Dunne.

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Fall 2015

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### Correction to Summer Newsletter

The VSO Secretary elected at the Annual Meeting on May 9 is Laura Mae. Laura's term of office began on July 1, 2015.

# President's Message:

Fall 2015



It is hard to believe that Autumn has arrived and we are now well into migration. I have a bit of that feeling myself. If you had asked me 30 years ago as a young undergraduate ornithology student what I would do as President of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, I would have considered you crazy. As your new president I must admit I feel a bit overwhelmed and potentially ready to migrate myself. Having “learned at the knee” of so many great Virginia birders, it is hard to fathom my current position. I can’t tell you how many times Thelma Dalmas has asked me, “What number was it?” after I told her I had a new bird for my list. Or how Jerry Via and Bill Akers helped me out by bringing me a pair of binoculars to Mountain Lake because I had spent so much time preparing the exhibit, and coordinating the festival and birding trail program, I walked off without my own stuff! There are so many good memories, and people to remember and thank for where I am now as a birder and biologist.

But enough of that, because now is a time to look forward. The Virginia Society of Ornithology is a leader for bird conservation efforts in the Commonwealth. As such, we have an important role to play to insure our avian fauna is conserved for generations to come. It is not as easy as it sounds. There are so many challenges ahead and few who hear the songs, know their names and respond! I am honored that you have put your faith in me to lead this incredible organization. We have two great opportunities coming up to advance VSO’s mission. The first is at the Taubman Museum in Roanoke from October to February. They contacted the VSO to help with the educational aspects of their exhibition. They will be promoting bird conservation through the original Audubon prints. I also look forward to being an active partner in conducting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas. The partners (VSO, The Conservation Management Institute/VA Tech, and the VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries) will be hiring a coordinator for the project in the fall and starting surveys in 2016. This project will provide a wealth of knowledge that will show how our breeding birds’ distributions have changed over the past 30 years. We will need everyone’s support for this project if we are to truly make this a project a success. I hope all of you will respond.

We have some big years ahead and I still have some Virginia birds I haven’t yet put on my list! I look forward to seeing many of you soon and continuing to learn from each and every one of you.

- Jeff Trollinger  
President, VSO

## Special Exhibition of Audubon’s Work

*John James Audubon: Swift Birds of Passage* (Oct. 16 – Feb. 14, 2016) on view at the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke Virginia will feature over 50 prints of birds native to (or migratory through) the Southeastern region of the United States. The compilation of works in this exclusive exhibition will both illuminate Audubon’s legacy and enlighten us on his artistic and scientific endeavors that transcended its own time. For more information on the museum and program details, visit: [www.taubmanmuseum.org](http://www.taubmanmuseum.org).

### Editor:

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### Change of Address and requests for electronic delivery:

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Send submissions electronically via e-mail whenever possible. Attach text as Word document or plain text file. Attach images as separate files; please do not imbed in email body. Send the largest file possible. The images will not print well if formatted smaller as for the web.

Submissions may be edited for style or length.

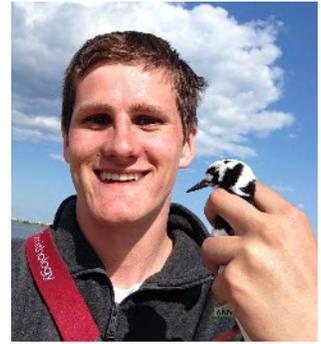
### 2015 - 2016 Submission Schedule

Issue	Copy Due
Winter 2015	Oct 23, 2015
Spring 2016	Jan 22, 2016
Summer 2016	May 20, 2016
Fall 2016	Aug 12, 2016

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

# Up and Coming

*This new column, which will alternate with the Conservation Corner, is a taking off point for discussion on up and coming Virginia birders, trends in birding, imminent topics in ornithology, and much more.*



Hello VSO members and welcome to this new column. My name is Nick Newberry and I am born and raised a Virginia birder. Currently, as a student at the College of William and Mary I help run the school's bird club and conduct ornithological research. In late July I sent out an appeal to the Virginia birding community asking subscribers how they first became interested in birds.

Immediately it was apparent that there are as many ways to initiate one's interest in birds as there are ways to enjoy them. Virginia birders were very generous with their responses and it was a great treat for me to be granted the privilege to read through so many wonderful stories. Thank you very much to all who contributed.

Twenty-one responses yielded a very strong indication as to the root of a majority of people's interest: other people with an interest in birds. These mentors made their way into our lives in the form of family members, teachers, trip leaders and pastors, at all ages and stages of our lives.

For others it wasn't the people, but the raw beauty of a glowing male Scarlet Tanager calling from the soft green spring leaves, or a Ross's Gull chase involving camping under whiteout conditions, that brought about their interest in birds. Yet for others it was as straightforward as finding a forgotten bird book. Others took repeated introductions and years of separation from the hobby to eventually become hooked. Counter to what you might believe, most do not just show up at bird club-sponsored walks and become entranced, *it takes a concerted effort at the individual level from those who already love birds.*

Nationwide, as in Virginia, the birding community is strong and has a strong future, as evidenced by the great number of young birders who submitted responses to my query. Birding clubs, and in particular young birders' clubs (which I will touch on in a future column) are essential to cultivating interests and building community, yet they are rarely the reason one takes the first leap to begin learning.

Time and time again it is a birder known from outside of the realm of the birding community that shares their passion with a neophyte. I, and all 21 respondents, would not be where we are today if not for those who originally reached out to us and lit our proverbial fire.

So, fall is a wonderful time to take out a friend for the first time. There is great variety of birds, the weather is inviting and the birdsong is not intimidating. Get out there, share a book or share an interesting bird article on social media. It all helps to ensure others are able to enjoy the same wonderful hobby we do.

- Nick Newberry

## **Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award Request for Nominations**

In 1973 the Virginia Society of Ornithology established a conservation award to be given to individuals or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding conservation work in the state of Virginia. The award, a framed certificate acknowledging the accomplishments of the recipient, is presented at the annual meeting. In 1989, the award was renamed in honor of Jackson M. Abbott for his lifelong devotion to conservation and his effectiveness on its behalf.

Please send the name of any potential nominee to Patti Reum, Conservation Committee Chair at [pareum@gmail.com](mailto:pareum@gmail.com). Deadline is January 15, 2016.

## **The VSO Bids a Warm Welcome to the Following New Members**

Barry Whitt, Roanoke, VA  
Mike & Lois Schultz, Newport, VA  
Antoinette Pepin, Roanoke, VA  
Eric Wiebke, Hampton, VA  
Carol Chappell, Roanoke, VA  
Deborah Appelquist, Christiansburg, VA

Zak Poulton, Bristol, VA  
Ernie Miller, Hampton, VA  
Melinda Cousins, Williamsburg, VA  
Lisa Rose, Virginia Beach, VA  
Jacqueline Richard, Vienna, VA  
Teri Midkiff, Mechanicsville, VA

## VSO New River Valley Field Trip Report - June 12-14, 2015

We had excellent weather all weekend for the 60 participants in the VSO's field trip to the New River Valley on June 12-14. Many thanks to Bill Akers and Jerry Via, who led the trips and put in many hours in advance checking out the field trip areas to make sure the birds would make an appearance when we arrived. And appear they did, with 101 species tallied for the 3 days! Several of them were unexpected in the various locations.

We appreciated the snacks and water provided for us, as well as the assistance from several members of the New River Valley Bird Club: Anna Altizer, John Ford, Lucinda Jennings, Don Mackler, Bill Opengari, Sally and Doug Pfeiffer, Pat Polentz, and Mary Ratliff.

Twelve of us who had arrived on Thursday ventured out Friday morning to David Bisset Park in Radford for an early start to the week-end. Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole and Orchard serenaded us as we walked along the New River.

Friday afternoon the entire group traveled to the Biological Station at Mountain Lake and areas around the Lodge. As soon as we got out of our cars at the Station parking lot, we were greeted by a male Cerulean Warbler, which came in low and gave us great looks! Bill Akers said he'd never seen one at the Station before, and it was a life bird for several attendees. Another rarity seen there was a Yellow-rumped Warbler. We also had Blackburnian Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, American Redstart and Dark-eyed Junco. We were treated to a special welcome and presentation by staff and volunteers on the Dark-eyed Junco project, which has been going on at the Station for more than 30 years as part of research begun by Indiana University.

At Mountain Lake we heard the beautiful song of a Veery and saw Rose-breasted Grosbeak and these warblers: Canada, Black-throated Blue, Ovenbird, Black and White. Around the feeders by the Lodge were Pine Siskin, dozens

of American Goldfinch and more than a dozen Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

On Saturday we visited Glen Alton, Kelly Flats and the adjoining road in Giles County. We divided into three groups and then came back together in the parking lot for lunch. Upon arrival, we heard the vigorous song of an immature Northern Parula that continued singing throughout the morning. Among the highlights: Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Scarlet Tanager, Cedar Waxwing and Broad-winged Hawk. Some were lucky enough to hear the songs of three different thrushes: Veery, Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush. Surprises included Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock along the road.

Because of the group size, we outlined different options for birding in the afternoon. We must have worked everyone really hard in the morning because several people opted to return to the hotel for a nap instead of seeking out new species.

On Sunday we visited a spot that was new even to the locals: Blacksburg High School, only a mile from the hotel. We had five species that were previously hard to find in the area: Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Harrier and Willow Flycatcher. We then traveled to Heritage Park just a few miles away and scored Baltimore Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Willow Flycatcher, Green Heron, Warbling Vireo and Eastern Kingbird.

Thanks to all who attended and enjoyed this special weekend. The complete list of species for the weekend is shown on the next page.

- Meredith Bell  
Hayes, VA  
VSO Field Trip Co-Chair



Photos by Lee Bell

# VSO New River Valley Field Trip - Species List

Canada Goose	Eastern Wood-Pewee	House Wren	Canada Warbler
Wood Duck	Acadian Flycatcher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Towhee
Mallard	Willow Flycatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Chipping Sparrow
Ruffed Grouse	Least Flycatcher	Veery	Field Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Eastern Phoebe	Hermit Thrush	Savannah Sparrow
Green Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Wood Thrush	Grasshopper Sparrow
Black Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	American Robin	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Gray Catbird	Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Harrier	Yellow-throated Vireo	Northern Mockingbird	Scarlet Tanager
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Blue-headed Vireo	Brown Thrasher	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	Warbling Vireo	European Starling	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Cedar Waxwing	Blue Grosbeak
Broad-winged Hawk	Blue Jay	Ovenbird	Indigo Bunting
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Louisiana Waterthrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Common Raven	Black-and-white Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
American Woodcock	Tree Swallow	Common Yellowthroat	Common Grackle
Rock Pigeon	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Hooded Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mourning Dove	Cliff Swallow	American Redstart	Orchard Oriole
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Barn Swallow	Cerulean Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Chimney Swift	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Parula	House Finch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-capped Chickadee	Blackburnian Warbler	Pine Siskin
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow Warbler	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Chestnut-sided Warbler	House Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Northern Flicker	Brown Creeper	Pine Warbler	
Pileated Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler	

- Meredith Bell  
VSO Field Trip Co-Chair

## Call for Applications

### J. J. Murray Research Award —Deadline 29 January 2016

This annual \$1000 student research grant is one of the ways in which the VSO supports the study of Virginia avifauna.

*Criteria and eligibility:* The Murray Award was established in 1980 to honor the Rev. J. J. Murray, Sr., a charter member of the VSO and the editor of its journal, *The Raven*, from its inception until 1969. The award is designed to promote graduate and undergraduate research, and the research must consist of current or projected field studies on Virginia birds. Proposals will be judged for their scientific merit and the likelihood that the work will make a meaning contribution to our understanding of Virginia avifauna. Upon completion of the research, the recipient will be asked to present the results at a VSO annual meeting, and are encouraged to publish the results in an appropriate journal. The recipient will also be awarded a one-year membership in the VSO.

*Application procedures:* Proposals should be of a reasonable length. If the proposal is longer than 15 pages, it must include a summary of no more than two pages. Submissions will be evaluated by the VSO and must be received by 29 January 2016. If the research is part of a degree program, students should include the name of the institution and department they are enrolled in, the degree they are working towards, and the name of their academic or research advisor. Each proposal should include a letter from the student's academic advisor verifying that the applicant is a student in good standing, and that he/she is receiving the advisor's support for this project. Both proposals and letters of reference should be submitted electronically as Word documents or PDFs, although they can be submitted separately. Applicants will be notified of the results by 8 April 2016.

Please send proposals or requests for information to:

Gene Sattler [gsattler@liberty.edu](mailto:gsattler@liberty.edu)  
Department of Biology & Chemistry  
Liberty University, MSC Box 710155  
1971 University Blvd.  
Lynchburg, VA 24515-0001

# Craney Island Trip Report

Sixty Virginia Society of Ornithology members met at Craney Island headquarters under blue skies and a bright sun on Saturday, August 15, 2015. After the signing in and filling out of liability forms Dave Youker split the birders into three groups be led by Adam D'Onofrio, Bill Akers, Jerry Via, and himself. Craney Island staff, Carmen and Terrie, gave their cell phone numbers in case of emergency and announced that they would be driving around to lend a hand in case of mishap. As these arrangements were made, several folks spotted a Red-headed Woodpecker flying over the parking lot.

The west side, facing the I-664 bridge, had many Double-crested Cormorants & Brown Pelicans perched on rock jetties. American Black Duck families paddled near the shore. There was an assortment of herons & egrets, terns and gulls, and the ever-present Ospreys. Spotted Sandpipers called while perched along the piles of rocks on the north side. Along the shore of the east side, peeps, mostly Semipalmated Sandpipers, rested. From the high side perimeter road many shorebirds, egrets, herons, gulls and terns crowded an impoundment. Groups of Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets stood with Black Terns, Black Skimmers and Laughing Gulls. In the middle ground both Yellowlegs wandered around feeding while Short-billed Dowitchers probed the mud. The small peeps were scattered throughout while bright splotches of white against the far shore proved to be mostly Great Egrets. At one impoundment off of the west side several Wilson's Phalaropes were spotted. A Black-necked Stilt kept up a tirade of yapping that was unceasing. Barry Kinzie and John Pancake were the fortunate few who caught a glimpse of a Least Bittern as they neared the gate preparing to exit.

The large turnout of participants included thirteen people who joined VSO in order to attend the field trip.

- Lee Adams

Canada Goose  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Northern Pintail  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Ruddy Duck  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Brown Pelican  
Least Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Green Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
Glossy Ibis  
Osprey  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk

Black-necked Stilt  
American Avocet  
Black-bellied Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Killdeer  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Willet  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Marbled Godwit  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Least Tern

Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Royal Tern  
Black Skimmer  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Purple Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
House Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Common Yellowthroat

Song Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
American Goldfinch

Photos  
by  
Lee  
Adams



## In Memoriam: Dr. David W. Johnston

David W. Johnston, 88, died peacefully at his home in Fairfax, VA, July 26, 2015. Dr. Johnston was born in Miami in 1926, but grew up in Atlanta, GA where as a teenager he developed skills in identifying birds and taxidermy. Over a 40-year period he taught ornithology and conducted research on birds. In the Washington, DC area he was Ecology Director at the National Science Foundation, worked at the National Academy of Sciences, and served as an editorial consultant to the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Management Institute, and U.S. Forest Service. Following retirement, his interests turned chiefly to historical ornithology. He published or edited seven books, including "Virginia's Endangered Species", "Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds" and about 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals on ornithology, ecology, endangered species, and history of natural history.

Active in the VSO, he taught many of us ornithology at Mt. Lake Biological Station and wrote several books about birding here such as "History of Ornithology in Virginia" and "A Guide to Bird Finding in Virginia."

# THE 2015 BREEDING BIRD FORAY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

The VSO Breeding Bird Foray for 2015 was held in Franklin County June 6 thru 14.

One hundred and eight species of birds were found during the foray. Perhaps the only species that would be considered a bit unexpected for this part of Virginia in June would be the Northern Harrier seen near Philpott Lake.

Nests were found for Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. A Green Heron was also seen gathering sticks for nesting material.

Blue-headed Vireos were found at all elevations, not just at the higher elevations of the Blue Ridge. There were two reports of Summer Tanagers. These findings parallel those of the 1995 Foray in the bordering counties of Henry and Patrick.

One Willow Flycatcher was found, not surprising since there are very few records of that species in the county, including during the time of the Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980's. Nesting Cliff Swallows were found only at a known location on Philpott Lake, but not found during the Atlas years. A nesting pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was found near Smith Mountain Lake, for a first confirmed breeding record in several decades.

We were treated to a wonderful evening get-together at Todd and Nell Fredericksen's home. Robb Herbst a foray participant and also a falconer brought a Barn Owl for us to see. It was smaller than any Barn Owl I had ever seen. Robb told us that it was of a Eurasian subspecies.

The following 27 people participated in the foray: Johnny Angell, Sharon Angell, Fred Atwood, Susan Brown, Wes Brown, Betsy Davies, Kent Davis, Tom Davis, John Ford, Mary Foster, Todd Fredericksen, Bruce Grimes, Robb Herbst, Lucinda Jennings, Alan Kessler, Clyde Kessler, Barry Kinzie, Connie Marsh, Gabriel Mills, Laura Neale, Sally Pfeiffer, Pat Polentz, Alyce Quinn, Mike Smith, Anne Tucker, Bill Tucker and George Wheaton. Teams covered much of the public lands and a few farms. Barry Kinzie and George Wheaton covered Smith Mountain Lake by boat, while Susan and Wes Brown kayaked a portion of Philpott Lake. I greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone who helped.

An article will be written that will further examine the data and be published later in the Raven.

- Clyde Kessler

## CHAPTER UPDATES

VSO has 28 Member Chapters, each of which are listed on VSO's website: <http://www.virginiabirds.net/chaps.html>

### A Summary of the May 3, 2015 Williamsburg Bird Club's Annual Spring Bird Count

What a grand and glorious day May 3, 2015 was for the Williamsburg Bird Club's 38<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Bird Count (SBC). After all the checklists were posted, 76 participants, a new record exceeding 67 in 2014, had reported 150 species, 3 less than the long term 153 mean. Capping the final tally were 8 "write-in" species (species so seldom recorded locally in spring they are not on the count's regular reporting list) and new all-time SBC peak totals for 12 species.

Topping the rarities list AND setting an all-time local high count for any season was a group of seven Anhingas that passed over Jamestown. Those who had been birding along the James and York rivers prior to count day knew going in this had been a banner year for Royal Terns. So it was no surprise when the final tally showed a grand total of 320, shredding the previous record of 256 set on April 29, 2011.

The 2015 count set new high records for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at 54. Also new peak counts for Downy Woodpeckers (64), Tufted Titmouse (308), and 114 Summer Tanagers (114). Also new high counts for Red-headed Woodpeckers (60), Yellow-throated Vireos (29), Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (238), Veerys (19), Prothonotary Warblers (29), Yellow-throated Warblers (124), and Chipping Sparrow (206).

The Hog Island team found a Northern Shoveler, the 4<sup>th</sup> SBC record, and 2 Buffleheads seen near Indian Field Creek were the 6<sup>th</sup> SBC record. Seven American Pipits was the 7<sup>th</sup> SBC record and 5 Pine Siskins

### And a Spring Bird Count Postscript for Ruth Beck, who passed away May 7.

There were some in the room who knew of her. There were some in the room who knew her. There were others in the room who had known and worked closely with her for the better part of 5 decades. For just about everyone there it was the last time we saw her. Ruth Beck was the embodiment of the Gift that kept on Giving.

- Bill Williams

**Don't forget to check out the VSO on Facebook and Twitter (@VABirdlife)!**

## 2016 VSO Membership Renewal

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check here if you wish to receive your newsletter electronically. Print your email address clearly. Note that we do not share members' email addresses with any other organization. We may contact you by email to notify you of upcoming events, field trips, conferences, and organization news. You may opt out of these email notices at any time.*

- \_\_\_ Contributing Membership \$60
- \_\_\_ Sustaining Membership \$35
- \_\_\_ Family Membership \$25
- \_\_\_ Active Membership \$20
- \_\_\_ Life Membership \$500

I would like to make an additional donation to:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ VSO Conservation Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

If you have been an "Active" or "Family" member in the past, please consider renewing at the "Sustaining" level" or the "Contributing" level - or becoming a Life Member!

### VSO Sales Items

\_\_\_ Virginia's Birdlife "Gold Book" Rotterborn-Brinkley 2007 \$20  
\_\_\_ VSO Arm Patch \$4  
\_\_\_ VSO Cloisonne Pin \$5

**Please return this form with your check, payable to the VSO, to:**

**VSO  
PO Box 5994  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-5994**

**You may also join, renew, and purchase items online at [www. Virginiabirds.net](http://www.Virginiabirds.net)**

### VSO Officers

President: Jeff Trollinger  
Past President: Joe Coleman  
Vice President: Lenny Bankester  
Secretary: Laura Mae  
Treasurer: Terri Cuthriell  
Raven Editor, Wes Brown  
Newsletter Editor: Len Alfredson  
Membership Secretary, Shirley Devan

### VSO Board of Directors

#### Terms Expire 2016

Bill Williams, Williamsburg  
Lenny Bankester, Alexandria  
Daniel Bieker, North Garden

#### Terms Expire 2017

Bruce Johnson, Loudoun County  
Michael Lott, Fredericksburg  
Laura Neale, Rockbridge County

#### Terms Expire 2018

Patti Reum, Highland County  
Russell Taylor, Fairfax County  
David Youker, Yorktown

## The Virginia Society of Ornithology

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