



# VSO Newsletter

A Publication of the Virginia Society of Ornithology

Website: [www.virginiabirds.org](http://www.virginiabirds.org) eBird: [ebird.org/content/va/](http://ebird.org/content/va/) Facebook: [Virginia Society of Ornithology](https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaSocietyofOrnithology)  
Listserve: [mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/va-bird](mailto:mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/va-bird)

## RICHMOND AUDUBON SOCIETY HOSTS 2017 ANNUAL VSO MEETING

The Richmond Audubon Society is excited to serve as the host chapter for the Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting. We've scheduled the meeting for the first weekend of May, from May 5-7, 2017. Our home base for the weekend will be the Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center located at 1000 Virginia Center Parkway, Glen

Allen, Virginia. It is a beautiful property located north of the city, and the groundskeepers there tell us that they regularly have nesting Brown Thrashers and Carolina Wrens. You can visit their website here for more information about the facility: <http://www.wyndhamvirginiacrossings.com/> And while the hotel's grounds are lovely, we are very excited to show off all the wonderful birding locations we have in and around the city of Richmond.

We are planning to host a number of field trips to some of our favorite spots. By the first weekend in May, there's a very good chance that the James River Park system will be teeming with many of the migratory species that make their way through our area every spring. You can expect the field trips to touch on a number of our hot spots in the James River Park System in Richmond, which spans some 550 acres right in the heart of the city of Richmond. You can learn more about it by going here: <http://jamesriverpark.org/>

Urban birding won't be our only option, either. We have field trip leaders eager to show off the many wonderful spots in the central Virginia area that our members regularly enjoy. We'll have a full list of trips as we get closer to the Annual Meeting. We will also have a line up of excellent speakers and presenters for the weekend. We are also

planning a silent auction. If you have an item that you'd like to donate, please contact me at [president@richmondaudubon.org](mailto:president@richmondaudubon.org). If you are interested in having a vendor table, or know of someone who might be interested, please also contact me at that address.

**In the meantime, if you are looking to make your plans for the Annual Meeting, the Wyndham has agreed to a nightly rate of \$124 for a single (including breakfast), or \$134 for a double (including breakfast for two). To make a reservation, call the hotel at (804) 727-1400 or 1-888-444-6553 and identify yourself as a member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology group to get the reduced rate.**

On behalf of the members of the Richmond Audubon Society, we are looking forward to hosting you in May 2017 and showing off all the wonderful reasons why Richmond is for bird lovers!

Eileen Geller  
President, Richmond  
Audubon Society  
[president@richmondaudubon.org](mailto:president@richmondaudubon.org)

### Vol. 62 • No. 4

Winter 2016 - 2017

### Contents:

<i>2017 Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	2
<i>Abbott Award Solicitation</i>	3
<i>Chapter Activities</i>	3
<i>Conservation Special</i>	4
<i>Dominican Republic Foray</i>	5
<i>New Members</i>	5
<i>Outer Banks Trip Details</i>	6
<i>Byrd Award Solicitation</i>	7
<i>Red-cocked Woodpecker</i>	7



Black Rail - See Page 4

# President's Message:

As I write this at the beginning of November, I know winter has arrived in the Piedmont. The Kinglets are calling from the trees, a flock of Red-breasted Nuthatches was complaining incessantly about an empty feeder, and I flushed a flock of Juncos from the side of the road walking the dogs yesterday. These species and the earlier arrivals of White-throated Sparrows and a Hermit Thrush complete the normal winter residents in my yard.

It seems very hard to wrap my head around when we haven't had frost yet and it was 82 degrees on the porch yesterday. But I also know, they have had snow already across northern Pennsylvania and New England, so what is happening in my neighborhood doesn't always tell the whole story.



That leads me to two issues I want to bring to your attention. The VSO is embarking on an effort to assist with bird conservation work in the Caribbean and Central America. In December a group from the VSO will visit the Dominican Republic and the Board will be discussing several options for supporting additional similar conservation and research efforts at our November meeting.

From my other hat at the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Department supports not only Southern Wings, a conservation program for birds on their wintering grounds in Latin American and the Caribbean, but also supports work to create habitat in Canada for breeding waterfowl. As the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act teaches us, bird conservation cannot be done only in our backyards; it must be done across the hemisphere. This also leads me to remind everyone that Virginia is a big state with a huge diversity of habitats. For the Breeding Bird Atlas to succeed, we can't just monitor the blocks close by, we have to survey the blocks in the remote regions as well. So to paraphrase, it doesn't just take a village, it takes everyone, working everywhere, to do meaningful bird conservation!!

As we move forward as an organization, the VSO will be considering ways to support more bird conservation work with our ample resources. This does not mean we will blindly throw money at projects, but it does mean the Board will be considering ways to expand our mission in new ways. I hope you will support these efforts through your own time and donations. With so many challenges facing our environment, we need everyone working together to make progress.

- Jeff Trollinger - President, VSO

## UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

**Outer Banks, February 3-5** - Coordinator: Meredith Bell. Leaders: Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams and Meredith and Lee Bell. Details are on page 6 and the VSO website (<http://www.virginiabirds.org>).

**Annual Meeting, May 5- 7** - Richmond Audubon Society will host the 2017 Annual Meeting of the VSO and planning has begun. See page 1 for description and lodging details. Watch the website for more details.

**Editor:**

Len Alfredson  
1300 Crystal Drive #509  
Arlington, VA 22202  
[vseditor@verizon.net](mailto:vseditor@verizon.net)

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

Virginia Society of Ornithology  
PO Box 5994,  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
[vsomembership@cox.net](mailto:vsomembership@cox.net)

*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.*

**2017 Submission Schedule**

Issue	Copy Due
Spring 2017	Jan 27, 2017
Summer 2017	May 19, 2017
Fall 2017	Aug 11, 2017
Winter 2017	Oct 29, 2017

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

# Conservation Corner

A prestigious award given by the Virginia Society of Ornithology is the Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award. We are now requesting nominations of worthy recipients for the 2016 award. 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 effective work on its behalf. We did not give an award in 2015 and I know that there are many worthy folks out there who have worked hard in the field of conservation. So 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, 2017**

## Virginia Society of Ornithology - Chapter Activities

The **Cape Henry chapter** works very closely with St. Patrick's Catholic School in Norfolk. In October 2016 the installation of an Osprey platform on school grounds moved forward, funded by CHAS. CHAS also continues to lead at least two bird walks each year around the school property for students from the 3rd to 6th grades. The school property has a bird friendly garden area as well as an adjacent inlet from the Lafayette River. Through past CHAS efforts the students have a bird feeding station setup outside the school library and are equipped with a scope and pairs of binoculars for viewing birds and other wildlife.

The **Roanoke Valley Bird Club** just held its 18th Annual "Seeds for a Song" fundraiser. It was a beautiful fall day, starting out near freezing but getting up to almost 70 degrees by late morning. We sold over \$6000 worth of seed, making a profit of around \$785. The Board will soon discuss what to do with that money, but it is normally used for some kind of community outreach. In years past we have purchased field guides for schools, provided needed supplies to Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center, and sent kids to Nature Camp.

This year **Rockbridge Bird Club** volunteers continued to guide third-graders who monitor nest boxes as part of the Birds for Thirds program developed in partnership with Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden. The program has been expanded with grants from the VSO and Virginia Bluebird Society and with volunteer help from the Alleghany Master Naturalists. Club members also lead monthly walks at Boxerwood and are now compiling their counts to publish a customized seasonal checklist for Nature Center visitors.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> year, the **Williamsburg Bird Club** sponsored area youth to attend Nature Camp in Vesuvius, VA. The three recipients for 2016 were: **Bridget Wilson**, grade 8; **Audrey Root**, grade 10; and **Jesse Nelson**, grade 12. At the October 19 meeting, Bird Club members were pleased to meet and greet these fine campers. Each received a full scholarship due to their excellent applications as well as to the generosity of the Williamsburg Bird Club membership. Each winner spent about 10 minutes describing his or her experiences at Nature Camp this past summer. It was so rewarding to listen to these three fine youngsters and to share their excitement in studying nature, and especially gratifying to have Bird Club founder Bill Williams in the audience as our speaker that evening, so the three could meet him in person.



*Rockbridge Birds for Thirds Program*



*Williamsburg Nature Camp Scholarship Winners*

## HOW WE CAN HELP THE BLACK RAIL

One of the most difficult birds to see is the Black Rail, the tiniest and most secretive member of the rail family. This sparrow-sized rail runs mouse-like through dense marshy wetlands and is rarely seen flying -- hence it is rarely seen at all. Most documented encounters by birders and biologists are auditory, that is, hearing its distinctive *ki-ki-krr* call, often uttered at night. Unfortunately, this unique call is now heard in far fewer places, far less frequently, and in many places no longer at all.

According to a just completed summary by Bryan Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) in Williamsburg, the eastern subspecies has been declining dramatically over its range, especially in Virginia, to where it is now a candidate for federal listing as an Endangered Species. This subspecies (*L. j. jamaicensis*), has historically bred coastally from south Texas to Massachusetts and inland to the Appalachian Mountains. This breeding range has been dramatically contracting recently in the northeast to where it may now be extirpated in New England and New York.

In Virginia breeding has been documented only on the Eastern Shore (Northampton County), although birds have been recorded in multiple other locations across the state during the breeding season. However, breeding locations have been shrinking perilously here as well. According to two dedicated surveys by the CCB along the coastal plain of Virginia, the remaining Virginia stronghold for this species, the Black Rail has declined here by 85% between 2007 and 2014 to where the residual population is estimated at 10 pairs or less. Could it even be extirpated in Virginia?

What is responsible for this dramatic and alarming population decline for this enigmatic little bird? The answer is human activity, both direct and indirect.

Over the last century many coastal marshes have been filled in or drained in order to convert them from rail to human habitats. Even when tidal marshes are not directly obliterated and development occurs at the edges, the Black Rail can be negatively impacted. This rail inhabits the higher regions of the marsh that are not routinely submerged by advancing tides, which consequently positions them closer to human activity. This juxtaposition often introduces new predators like cats and rats. Also soil may now become contaminated by PCBs, pesticides, rodenticides and heavy metals that make their way into the small invertebrates, marsh plants and seeds that constitute the diet of the Black Rail, which can in turn affect productivity and mortality.

Other issues that are threatening the Black Rail include the marked alteration of our coastal marshes by the introduced Australian subspecies of *Phragmites*, those tall reeds waving reddish-brown broom-like seed heads and growing rapidly in dense, expansive clusters all along our Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Stands of invasive *Phragmites* typically become monocultures, outcompeting or killing the native mixed vegetation and creating an environment hostile to many marsh birds including the Black Rail.

Sea-levels are rising at an alarming rate with recent satellite data showing elevations of 0.13 inches per year. This is one of several data sets scientists have used to project that our oceans will rise between 2.5 and 6.5 feet by the year 2100. As this eventuates it will be the salt marshes that are first displaced inland. However, we have placed innumerable barriers like sea walls, roads, parking lots and housing that will thwart this upslope marsh "migration." Consequently, the higher regions of the coastal marshes upon which Black Rails depend are likely to be reduced or eliminated. In fact, our entire remaining coastal marsh ecosystems may be at risk!

What can we do about this? As individuals, it may seem futile to even think that we could contribute any assistance towards the conservation of this single special species. However, I think there are things we can do that at a minimum would limit continued decline and may even contribute to a recovery of the Black Rail and companion species within its ecosystem.

For example:

- 1) We can participate as best as we can in reducing our "carbon footprint." The prevailing science all points to carbon combustion as a major anthropogenic source of climate change, with its associated sea level rise, weather pattern distortions and storm frequencies.
  - a. We can support strategies and policies that move away from carbon fuels to ecologically responsible renewable sources.

**BLACK RAIL** *continued on page 5*

## **BLACK RAIL** *continued from page 4*

- b. Even personal behavioral and living choices can effect the amount of fossil fuel we consume. We all know the proper choices here, although many require significant and difficult changes in our everyday living.
- 2) We can get involved with and financially support local, regional, national and international organizations that are active in conservation.
- 3) We can learn about the research that is planned and in place to further study the plight and future of the Black Rail.
  - a. We can fund research as an organization and as concerned individuals. There is so much we still do not know about this species and what it needs to survive and thrive.
  - b. We can even participate in this research through a number of citizen science portals such as Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and the current Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project.

I only recently learned about how seriously in trouble the Black Rail is and wanted to share my concern. Unfortunately, it is only one of many of our imperiled birds. We need to learn and do more for all of them.

### *References:*

*Eastern Black Rail Conservation & Management Working Group report. The Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University Williamsburg, VA. <http://www.ccbbirds.org/what-we-do/research/species-of-concern/blackrail/>*

*Watts, B. D. 2016. Status and distribution of the eastern black rail along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of North America. The Center for Conservation Biology Technical Report Series, CCBTR-16-09. College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University, Williamsburg, VA.*

*America's Climate Choices: Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change, Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, Division on Earth and Life Studies, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES (2010). "7 Sea Level Rise and the Coastal Environment". Advancing the Science of Climate Change. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press. pp. 243–250.*

*Wilson, M. D., F. M. Smith, and B. D. Watts. 2015. Re-Survey and Population Status Update of the Black Rail in Virginia. The Center for Conservation Biology Technical Report Series: CCBTR-15-04. College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University, Williamsburg, VA.*

## **VSO Dominican Republic Foray Update**

By the time you read this, the team will already be back in Virginia, but we wanted to give you a brief update on the trip. The VSO was fortunate to enlist five experienced birders to accompany VSO Vice President Lenny Bankester: Bob Ake, Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Dave Youker, and Bill Williams. Arriving around December 10<sup>th</sup>, the group will hold one day of orientation to refine the data collection methods and spend the next three days in the field recording all species seen, with an emphasis on neo-tropical migratory birds that also occur in Virginia. Earth Sangha has been an excellent partner in arranging the in-country logistics and aiding with site selection. Expect a full report in the next issue!

*- Lenny Bankester*

## **The VSO warmly welcomes our newest members**

Mark Rough, Charlottesville, VA  
Katherine Payne, Silver Spring, MD  
Jonathan Gendzier, Charlottesville, VA  
Francine Nietubicz, Cape May Point, NJ  
Wyatt Williams, Alexandria, VA  
Robert Wood, Charlottesville, VA

Judith Haynes, Gloucester, VA  
Allen Bryan, Richmond, VA  
Michael Hillman, Wallops Island, VA  
Tom Charlock, Newport News, VA  
Bobby Beamer, Keswick, VA

**2017 Approaches! Please remember to renew your VSO membership.**

**You can renew online at [www.virginiabirds.org](http://www.virginiabirds.org)**

# Winter Outer Banks Field Trip, February 3 - 5, 2017

Make plans to join us for the VSO's Winter field trip at the Outer Banks of North Carolina February 5-7, 2017! The weekend's leaders include Bill Akers and Jerry Via, as well as VSO field trip co-chairs Lee Adams and Meredith Bell. We always have great waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds.

## TRIP REGISTRATION

**To help us plan for the weekend, please register in advance.** Provide the names of participants in your party with a telephone number and email address so we can contact you if needed. Register with Meredith Bell, trip coordinator, at [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com) or 804-824-4958.

The weekend itinerary will be sent via email to all registrants a few days before the trip, and it will also be available at the front desk of the hotel Thursday evening.

**Important!** Please bring FRS (two-way) radios if you have them because this helps us stay in contact in our caravans when calling out bird sightings.

## HEADQUARTERS

The Comfort Inn South Oceanfront in Nags Head will be the trip headquarters again this year. There's a huge deck off the second floor, which offers great beach-viewing opportunities. The special VSO room rate is \$70 for oceanfront and \$62 for bay-view plus tax. Ocean front rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. The 7<sup>th</sup> floor bayside rooms offer a panoramic view of the bay but do not have balconies. This hotel is also just two blocks from Jennette's Pier, a 1,000-foot long, 24-foot wide pier that will

allow you to get amazingly close to the ocean birds! Contact information for the hotel is: 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road, Nags Head, NC 27959; Phone: 252-441-6315.

**Reservations must be made by January 2, 2017 to get the special VSO rate.**

## MEALS

A complimentary breakfast buffet breakfast is included with your stay, beginning each morning at 6:00 AM. Participants should bring lunch provisions for Friday. For dinner there are many fine restaurants in the area.

## FRIDAY

Lee Adams and Meredith Bell will lead the day-trip to Lake Mattamuskeet. Last year we spotted American Bittern, Blue-headed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and a huge assortment of ducks. Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:15 AM for 7:30 departure. Expected driving time to our destination is 90 minutes. Bring snacks, beverage, and lunch. Also, bring camp or lawn chair to enjoy a break while eating lunch. Those interested will stop at Alligator River on the return trip to listen and watch for Short-eared Owls at dusk.

Friday evening we'll have a slide presentation and weekend overview at 8:00 PM in the Neptune Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the end of the hall. Complimentary coffee and tea will be available.

## SATURDAY

The morning 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. We will divide into smaller groups for a safer caravan experience, but every group will visit all areas.

We'll return to the hotel for lunch (on your own), giving you time to explore Jennette's Pier, the beach and other nearby areas. At 3:00 PM we'll all meet at Bodie Lighthouse to view waterfowl from the platform. Those interested can stay after dusk to listen for owls and American Woodcocks. There will be a tally at 6:30 PM in the Neptune Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the end of the hall. Complimentary coffee and tea will be available.

## SUNDAY

We'll explore Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Drive on your own and meet at 8:30AM at the parking area at the main entrance on Milltail Road. We'll caravan down the road so you can easily catch up with us if we've already started.

Come prepared for variable weather, lots of birds and a great time! If you have any questions, contact field trip coordinator Meredith Bell at 804-824-4958 or [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com).

**VERY Important!** All VSO field trips will have a registration fee of \$20 for NON-members only. This fee will be applied to an individual membership that will be active until the end of 2017. If 2 or more people from the same family register, the registration fee will be \$25, which covers a family membership. Groups of students accompanied by their instructor are exempt from this fee. Non-members can join in advance at <http://www.virginiabirds.org/membership-and-donate/> or pay the registration fee on the first evening of the event.

# Establishing Red-cockaded Woodpecker Breeding Population

I have been volunteering with a group of biologists to help re-establish Virginia's second breeding population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW) in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Four adjacent quadrants in the southeast corner of the Refuge are being used. Each quadrant is a square mile and possesses the requisite mature pines. Screened roosting/nesting boxes were installed high inside several trees in each of the four quadrants.

In October 2015 and again this October, biologists in the Carolinas studied their RCW populations to identify eight hatch year adults, four males and four females. Eight birds were identified in 2015, and then eight more in 2016. Like 2015, this year's RCWs were captured after sunset, driven to the Dismal Swamp Refuge, installed in each their own tree cavity, with a male and a female located in trees near each other. The eight birds were temporarily screened-in until dawn. Before daybreak, the biologists and volunteers trekked back out to the four quadrants and positioned themselves at the base of the 8 trees. Only when both members of a RCW pair woke up and vocalized did we remove their two screens and release them. Last October and this October, I watched the male and female RCW in my assigned quadrant promptly fly out of their tree cavities, continue their chatter and meet up on a nearby tree (*Barry White music played in the background - Just kidding!*). We are all eager for these

two sets of famous feathered eight to mate!

RCWs are known to fly up to 400 miles, so it is conceivable that any of this year's eight could fly north 70 miles to Piney Grove...or fly south back to the Carolinas. Despite its name, though, the Great Dismal Swamp is a wonderfully hospitable place of refuge for many inverte-



brates, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds - especially birds.

RCWs are keystone species, playing the vital role of primary cavity nesters.

At least 27 other species (insects,

birds, snakes, lizards, squirrels and frogs) have been documented using cavities abandoned by RCWs. Abandonment occurs for a variety of reasons, including cavity entrances becoming enlarged - sometimes by Pileated Woodpeckers.

The three-year (2015-2017) translocation project is a collaboration of Dismal Swamp Refuge staff; biologists from the Carolinas; Bryan Watts and team from William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology; our country's RCW Recovery Coordinator from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; several biologists from Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; and volunteers including three Tidewater Master Naturalists. It is dirty, buggy and sleep-deprived work, but it provides for networking with some of this region's most dedicated conservationists. And, we are forever part of avian history!

-Laura Mae, former VSO Secretary

Related articles:

- [Ornithological Ninjas Infiltrate The Woods on Behalf of Endangered Woodpeckers](#), William & Mary, October 2015
- [William & Mary Helps Relocate Endangered Woodpeckers to the Great Dismal Swamp](#), The Daily Press, November 2015
- [Endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers Returned to Great Dismal Swamp After 40-year Absence](#), WTKR, October 2015

## Request for Mitchell A. Byrd Award Nominees

The Mitchell A. Byrd Award is given for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of ornithology. Dr. Byrd, Chancellor Professor Emeritus of Biology at the College of William and Mary, is internationally recognized for his exemplary scientific research career. Recipients shall demonstrate an exceptional record of contribution to the scientific knowledge of Virginia's birds through evidence including, but not limited to, publications such as papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals and books or book chapters derived from the candidates' original scientific research, conference presentations, recommendation letters from scientific peers, and other forms of peer recognition (*e.g.* an award from a national scholarly society). Any member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology may nominate a candidate for the Byrd Award. The Byrd Award Committee selects a recipient for the award from among the candidates.

Nominations, including at least two letters of support and a list of the nominee's accomplishments, should be submitted to Andrew Dolby at [adolby@umw.edu](mailto:adolby@umw.edu) no later than March 19, 2017. The award will be presented at the 2017 VSO Annual Meeting.

**VSO Officers**

President: Jeff Trollinger  
Past President: Joe Coleman  
Vice President: Lenny Bankester  
Secretary: Christine Stinson  
Treasurer: Terri Cuthriell  
Raven Editor, Andrew Dolby  
Newsletter Editor: Len Alfredson  
Membership Secretary, Shirley Devan

**VSO Board of Directors**

**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

**Terms Expire 2019**

Bill Williams, Williamsburg  
Lesley Bulluck, Richmond  
Daniel Bieker, North Garden

The Virginia Society of  
**Ornithology**

PO Box 5994,  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
  
ADDRESS SERVICE

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US Postage Paid  
Lynchburg, VA  
Permit No. 161

**2017 VSO Membership Renewal**

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

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

*Please check here if you wish to receive your VSO NEWSLETTER and VIRGINIA BIRDS by email via Constant Contact. Print your email address clearly ..... You may opt out of these Constant Contact email notices at any time*

- Contributing Membership \$60
- Sustaining Membership \$35
- Family Membership \$25
- Active Membership \$20
- Student Membership \$10
- Life Membership \$500

I would like to make an additional donation to:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ VSO Conservation Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ American Kestrel Nest Box Project
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Breeding Bird Atlas 2 Project
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ VSO General Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Murray Award Fund

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: An Annotated Checklist \$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.org](http://www.Virginiabirds.org)**