

The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 59, No. 4

November 2014

www.nvabc.org

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Insert - 2015 membership renewal notice

To see the newsletter photographs in color, go to www.nvabc.org and click on the *Siskin* icon

Winter Chincoteague Trip

The Winter Chincoteague club trip is scheduled for February 6-8 (Friday to Sunday) co-led by Marc Ribaud and me. February is an excellent time to visit Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Islands (CBBT). The Refuge is loaded with wintering waterfowl and shorebirds while the CBBT is famous for sea ducks. On last year's trip, we saw a total of 98 species including 22 species of waterfowl and 11 species of shorebirds. Highlight sightings were Red-necked Grebes at several locations in what turned out to be a remarkable invasion year for this species, many Long-tailed Ducks and all three scoter species at the CBBT Islands.

Plans for the weekend include birding the Chincoteague area Friday afternoon starting at 3:15 pm (optional) and Saturday starting at 7:30 am. Activities on Friday and Saturday include birding along Beach Road, Swan Cove and Tom's Cove and around the Wildlife Loop. Time and tides permitting, we will

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 8PM

The Cape May Raptor Banding Project

Speaker Paul Napier

Join us for Paul Napier's presentation on "The Cape May Raptor Banding Project" that will cover a brief history, some impressive Project statistics, how the Project contributes to science projects, and portraits and facts about the raptors banded. There will be lots of great close-up photographs.

Paul Napier has been banding raptors since 1988. He started out as a bird watcher, then discovered raptors and never recovered. He has traveled extensively in the US and abroad in order to learn more about the many exciting birds of prey that share our environment. Paul has been President of the Cape May Raptor Banding Project since the early 2000s when Project founder and noted raptor expert William S. Clark retired.



Photograph by Paul Napier

Early bird refreshments start at 7:30 PM. Any contributions of food or beverage will be most gratefully received.

There will be a drawing for door prizes.

Northern Virginia Bird Club pins will be available for members who would like to buy them (\$5 each).

NEW MEETING PLACE: St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, 22207. Directions are on page 5.

also visit the Queen Sound Flats and the Chincoteague City mudflats.

We will also arrange a trip to the CBBT Islands on Sunday, weather permitting. The CBBT trip requires security forms in advance and an extra fee (about \$10 per person) and has a limit of 15 people per group. The trip concludes at noon on Sunday.

NVBC membership is required for this trip. To sign up for this trip, call or email Elton Morel 703-553-4860 or eltonlmorel@verizon.net. The trip is limited to 24 people and usually fills up, so please contact Elton Morel first to ensure that space is available before making hotel reservations. When signing up, please indicate whether you are interested in Sunday morning's

CBBT Island trip and a Saturday evening group dinner. If the trip is full, your name can be put on a waiting list.

We have obtained a special rate of \$73 per night on twenty rooms for Friday and Saturday nights at the Best Western Chincoteague Island Hotel on Maddox Boulevard. Hotel reservations must be made by January 23 to get this special group rate. Participants should make your own reservations by calling 800-553-6117 and be sure to say you are with the Northern Virginia Bird Club. Check-in time is 3 pm on Friday, February 6, with 24-hour notice required for cancellation. Chincoteague NWR is a US fee area.

—Elton Morel

Presidential Peentings

The weather is changing and with it, so do the birds that we find. Familiar birds that we have seen all spring and summer are leaving while other birds are passing through in migration or arriving to winter here. One thing I love about winter is that you never know what might show up. We may never have another winter like we did last year when birders found so many unusual birds in our area. The various ducks, grebes and Snowy Owls put on quite a show. One thing we lacked, however, was winter finches. This winter could be different, though. The winter finch forecast predicts that more Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Common Redpolls and Red-breasted Nuthatches will make their way south this year than did last year. Keep an eye out for them. To add to the excitement, sometimes in the winter we might get an unexpected visitor from the West such as a Bullock's Oriole, an Ash-throated Flycatcher, or a wintering hummingbird. It is definitely worth your while to bundle up and join a winter field trip or even better, participate in a Christmas Bird Count. Birding adventures await!

—Larry Meade



*Kirtland's Warbler with caterpillar
photographed by Larry Meade on his Michigan trip*

MICHIGAN BIRDING

This past June I traveled to Michigan in search of the Kirtland's Warbler, one of the rarest birds in North America. The most reliable place to find this bird is in the young jack pine forests in the central part of the state. Kirtland's Warblers can only breed in this specific habitat and the loss of jack pines of the proper size was a huge factor in nearly driving Kirtland's Warblers to extinction. It is estimated that in the 1970s there were less than five hundred individual birds left. Another major cause of the decline of these warblers has been nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. At one point the rate of cowbird parasitism in Kirtland's Warbler nests was an astounding 71 percent.

The conservation effort to save this beautiful bird has been a great success story. Land has been set aside for the birds to breed in and proscribed burns have been utilized to clear away old jack pines to make room for young trees suitable for the warblers. Fire also allows the jack pine cones to open and spread their seeds. Through the use of traps, the Brown-headed Cowbird problem has also been dealt with. Thousands of birds are caught every year and sent to cowbird heaven causing

parasitism rates to fall to five percent. Now it is estimated that there are around five thousand Kirtland's Warblers.

In late June, I showed up at the visitor center at Hartwick Pines State Park in Grayling, Michigan. This is from where the tour to see the Kirtland's Warblers would originate. Evening Grosbeaks on the feeders just outside the windows told me that I was not in Virginia anymore. After a short video presentation about the warblers, we carpooled out to see them. We had no trouble finding them. In fact we heard one singing as soon as we took a few steps from the cars. We ended up getting nice looks at several Kirtland's Warblers including a female.

Flushed with success at seeing a much sought after life bird, I headed up to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to explore the boreal forest. I stayed for two nights at a lodge at Trout Lake. One of my goals was to hear and maybe see a Connecticut Warbler since they are known to breed in that area. I had no luck with finding this bird, but I did find another life bird. I was driving down a forest road when I saw a Spruce Grouse standing in the road. This is a bird I had missed on my trip to Maine. I also noticed that there were several baby grice (grouslings?) running around. I hopped out of my car in hopes of getting a photo of the mother, but I was afraid she would take off before I got a chance. The bird just stood there and posed for me at close range. I appreciate her cooperation!

Other highlights of the trip included eleven other warbler species, a singing Purple Finch, Sandhill Cranes and some new butterfly and dragonfly species for my lists. On the way back to catch my flight home from Lansing, I stopped at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. I definitely enjoyed my visit there. In addition to a modern nature center with a friendly staff, there are various tracts of land with different habitats to explore. I tallied 40 bird species including Blue-winged Warblers, Wild Turkeys and Baltimore Orioles.

If you are planning to bird Michigan yourself, I recommend that you get *A Birder's Guide to Michigan* by Chartier and Ziarno. I found it very helpful.

—Larry Meade

*Spruce Grouse at Upper Peninsula.
Photograph by Larry Meade*



HIGHLAND COUNTY WINTER WEEKEND

Our winter trip to Highland County will be held on the weekend of February 27 to March 1 (Friday to Sunday). We will spend Friday night in Staunton and Saturday night in Highland County. The trip limit is 16 people. A complete description of the trip will be in the February 2015 edition of the Siskin. To sign up, call leader Elton Morel at (703) 553-4860 or email at eltonmorel@verizon.net. NVBC membership is required.

—Elton Morel

Audubon Society of Northern Virginia Winter Waterfowl Survey

On **Saturday, January 24** and **Sunday, January 25**, birders of all skill levels will join up to count waterfowl in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties, including the Potomac and Occoquan watersheds. Novice birders will be paired with expert bird enthusiasts. Larry Cartwright continues as the volunteer compiler for this year's count. For more information and to join the team, email info@audubonva.org or call 703-438-6008.

eBirders: Practices and Changes

If you enter your bird sightings in eBird, you may have noticed a new category called Historical. eBird characterizes this category this way:

Birding was your primary purpose, but you cannot estimate start time, duration, and distance. Birders often have complete checklists of birds from their local area or trips abroad. These can be entered as Traveling or Stationary counts if reasonable estimates of start time, duration, and distance can be entered. This Historical protocol indicates that effort is uncertain, but birding was your primary purpose.

Jim Stasz of the Maryland and DC Birding group, offers these additional eBird tips, based on how the data is interpreted and used:

- Don't use zero in the count, to avoid having it interpreted as a "positive" hit by a computer mapping program just looking for anything in a box.
- A non-zero number or an X is fine.
- Use X if you didn't count an abundant species; don't use 1.
- Do your best to count the abundant birds, but don't misrepresent a count by using 1 when there were many.
- Don't use "complete" if you intentionally ignored common species

—Jean Tatalias

Chasing the rarities: In September, several club members traveled to Cape May to chase this Whiskered Tern (below) at Cape May; only the third North American record of this bird. Photograph by Jake Cuomo



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Sunday, December 14, 2014

MANASSAS-BULL RUN

To participate, contact Audubon Society of Northern Virginia at info@audubonva.org or 703-438-6008.

SENECA MD/VA

Count has five Virginia sectors, ranging from Great Falls Park to the eastern corner of Loudoun County. To participate, email compiler Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net.

THE PLAINS/AIRLIE

To participate, email compilers, Todd Day at blkvulture@aol.com or Perri Borowiecki at pborowiecki@comcast.net.

Saturday, December 20, 2014

WASHINGTON D.C.

Includes area of Virginia inside the Beltway along with Dyke Marsh. To participate, email compiler, Larry Cartwright: prowarbler@verizon.net or contact the Audubon Naturalist Society through Carol Hayes at carol.hayes@anshome.org or call 301-652-9188 extension 10.

Saturday, December 27, 2014

CENTRAL LOUDOUN

Sign up at www.loudounwildlife.org or contact compiler, Joe Coleman: 540-554-2542 or joecoleman@rstartmail.com.

Sunday, December 28, 2014

NOKESVILLE

For more information or to register, contact Kim Hosen at 703-499-4954 or khosen@pwconserve.org.

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

Lucketts Sector is in northern Loudoun County. To participate contact sector leader, Joanna Taylor: 703-243-5989 or jandrtaylor@verizon.net.

Sunday, January 4, 2015

CALMES NECK

Parts of western Loudoun and eastern Clarke counties. The cutoff date to join up to participate is December 21. Contact compiler, Margaret Wester: at margaretwester@hotmail.com

FORT BELVOIR

Contact compiler, Kurt Gaskill at kurtcapt87@verizon.net or 703-768-2172.

WALKERTON

Count area is primarily in Middle Peninsula. Contact by December 21. Contact compiler, Fred Atwood: fredatwood@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Trips and Events

Compiled by Elton Morel

Note:

- Beginning birders are welcome on all trips.
- When reservations are required, please call one of the trip leaders. Phone numbers are on page 6.
- If in doubt about a trip because of weather, please call one of the leaders.
- Check the NVBC website for updated information about trips: <http://www.nvabc.org/trips.htm>.
- To receive email notices, join the NVBC eMail Exchange. For sign-up directions see back page of the newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>November</u>			12 8:30 AM Eakin Park Charlotte Friend Allie Guidry			15 9 AM Blandy Farm Elton Morel Joanna Taylor
			19 NVBC Meeting 8 PM	20 8:30 AM Burke Lake Allie Guidry Catherine Kubo		22 8 AM Huntley Meadows Larry Cartwright Dixie Sommers
						29 8 AM Algonkian RP David Ledwith Elton Morel
<u>December</u>			3 9:30 AM Long Branch Charlotte Friend Jean Tatalias			6 8 AM Mason Neck SP David Ledwith Phil Silas
			10 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Larry Cartwright Rich Rieger			
December 14, 2014 - January 5, 2015 — CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA (See p. 3)						

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (11/19) St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Ln, Arlington, 22207, at the intersection of Lorcom Ln and Military Rd. From the intersection of Spout Run Pkwy and Lorcom Ln, go about a half mile on Lorcom to the second traffic light. Turn left onto Military and enter the first driveway on the right. There is some parking near the Church's back entrance and a bigger lot up the driveway. There is on-street parking. Enter at the back door facing Military Rd which leads to the Undercroft where the meeting is held.

Algonkian Regional Park (11/29) From I-495, take Rt 7 west 11 miles (mi.) to Cascades Pkwy north and drive 3 mi. to the park entrance. Proceed on Fairway Dr turning left onto Volcano Island Dr, then turn right into parking lot. Meet at the

parking lot beside restrooms and Park Shelter 1.

Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia (11/15) Take I-66 west to Rt 17 north (Exit 23, Delaplane/Paris). Follow Rt 17 north to junction with Rt 50 west. Turn left at traffic light onto Rt 50/17; the Arboretum is approximately 7 mi. on the left.

Burke Lake Park (11/20, 1/15) From I-495, take exit 54 west (Braddock Rd). Stay in right lane of exit if you are coming from the north. On Braddock Rd, go 1.5 mi. and turn left onto Burke Lake Rd. Go 4.7 mi. and turn left onto Rt 123 (Ox Rd). Turn left at second traffic light (big park signs), and turn left immediately after the entrance booth. Park in the first lot on the right (by the mini-golf course).

Dyke Marsh (12/10, 1/28) From Alexandria, take George Washington Pkwy south. Cross I-495; continue 1.2

mi. to Belle Haven Park entrance on the left. Meet at south parking lot.

Eakin Park (11/12) From I-495, take Rt 50 west one mi. to Prosperity Ave; turn left onto Prosperity and go one mi. to parking lot on left.

Huntley Meadows Park (11/22, 1/21) From I-495, take Rt 1 south 3 mi. to Lockheed Blvd. Right on Lockheed; go 0.5 mi. to Harrison Ln, park entrance on left. Meet in parking lot.

Leesylvania State Park (1/24) From I-495, take I-95 south about 14 mi. to exit 156 (Dale City/Rippon Landing/Rt 784). Following the posted highway signs for Leesylvania State Park, exit east on Rt 784. Proceed eastward 1.1 mi. to Rt 1. Turn right (south) on Rt 1 and go 0.9 mi. to Neabsco Rd. Immediately past the Wawa service station, turn left (east) on Neabsco Rd and proceed 2 mi. to park entrance on right. After passing through the park entrance gate, go 2.2 mi. to end

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>January</u>			7 9:30 AM Long Branch Elizabeth Fenton			10 8 AM Northern Neck X-trip <i>Members only/</i> <i>Reservations required</i> Larry Meade
				15 8:30 AM Burke Lake Allie Guidry Catherine Kubo		17 8 AM Riverbend-Visitor Ctr Bryan Peters Dixie Sommers
		21 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Dave Boltz Dixie Sommers				24 8:30 AM Leesylvania SP Marc Ribaud Dixie Sommers
		28 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Dave Boltz Dixie Sommers				31 8 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Phil Silas Marc Ribaud
<u>February</u>			4 9:30 AM Long Branch Larry Cartwright		6-8 Chincoteague Weekend <i>Members only/Reservations required</i> Elton Morel Marc Ribaud	

of paved road and park in "Picnic Area" parking lot, immediately before turn-around circle at fishing pier. State fee area.

Long Branch Nature Area (12/3, 1/7, 2/4) Take Rt 50, east from Fairfax or west from Rosslyn to Carlin Springs exit. South on Carlin Springs 0.5 mi. to Nature Center on left, just south of N. Va Community Hospital on left. Meet at Nature Center parking lot.

Mason Neck State Park (12/6) From I-495, take I-95 south 7 mi. to Lorton exit. Left on Rt 642 to Rt 1. Right on Rt 1 to Rt 242 (Gunston Rd). Left on Rt 242, go 4 mi. to Mason Neck Management Area. Turn right, follow paved road to end at Visitor Center. State fee area.

Northern Neck X-trip (1/10) Meet at the Silver Diner, 6592 Springfield Mall. From the Beltway, take I-95 south to exit 169A (Springfield/Franconia) (Rt 644E). From exit ramp, turn right onto Franconia Rd E. Stay in the right lane. Go about 0.3 mi. on Franconia Rd E, past Loisdale Rd, and turn right into Springfield Mall. Go about 325 ft; turn left and go about 150 ft; then turn left again and go another 200 ft to the Silver Diner on the left.

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge (1/31) From I-495, take I-95 south 9 mi. to (left) exit 161 (Woodbridge). Go south on Rt 1 about 2 mi. to left turn onto Dawson Beach Rd. Continue on Dawson Beach 0.7 mi. to

entrance gate. Meet in parking lot. US fee area.

Riverbend Park (Visitor Center) (1/17) From I-495, take Rt 193 west 5 mi. to Rt 603 (Riverbend Rd). Right onto Rt 603, go 2 mi. to Jeffery Rd. Right onto Jeffery; go 0.8 mi. to mail park entrance sign on right. Turn right and continue 0.5 mi to Visitor Center parking lot. Meet in front of Visitor Center



Trip Leaders

Dave Boltz	703-768-7499
Larry Cartwright	703-941-3142
Elizabeth Fenton	703-533-0851
Charlotte Friend	703-532-0207
Allie Guidry	703-912-1490
Catherine Kubo	703-352-1238
David Ledwith	703-933-9477
Larry Meade	703-206-9030
Elton Morel	703-553-4860
Bryan Peters	413-320-8866
Marc Ribaud	703-680-1134
Rich Rieger	703-969-0451
Phil Silas	703-590-7286
Dixie Sommers	703-969-7931
Jean Tatalias	571-447-7977
Joanna Taylor	703-243-5989

Downy at Riverbend Park. Photograph by Pat Gause

Bird Walks at Local Parks

- **Dyke Marsh Sundays, 8 am** See directions. Visit the Friends of Dyke Marsh web site, www.fodm.org
- **Eakin Park Mondays, 7 am (March-Nov), 7:30 am (Dec-Feb)** Meet at parking lot. Leader: Carolyn Williams

- **Great Falls National Park Sundays 8 am** Meet at the Park Visitor Center parking lot.
- **Huntley Meadows Park Mondays 7 am (Mar-Oct) 8 am (Nov-Feb)** Meet in parking lot. Leader: Harry Glasgow

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2014

The Club has 360 family and individual memberships, with over 500 members

Income received

Dues for 2014	\$3,308
Bird Watcher's Digest & pins	180
Donations	<u>155</u>
Total Income	\$3,643

Expenses

Organizational costs (includes fees for PO box, bulk mailing, web site hosting, state registration, VSO dues, etc.)	\$503
Meeting expenses (hall rental, speaker honorariums, etc)	867
Siskin printing and postage	2,238
Youth scholarship	<u>500</u>
Total expenses	\$4,108

Net for 2014 \$-465

The Board voted to continue the youth scholarship for 2014 and to use money from the club reserves to cover the annual deficit. At the end of the fiscal year, the club reserves were \$7,523.

Jean Tatalias, Treasurer

Book Notes

- A 744-page update of *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America* has just been released. It is up to the standard of the 2005 edition, with the latest word on taxonomic sequence and naming conventions issued by the American Ornithological Union as of 2013. With 4,000 plus illustrations, and 180 color photos, updated range and migration maps and more. Edited by Jonathan Alderfer.
- Birds' daytime behavior is far from random writes naturalist and Native American tracker trained birder Jon Young in his *What the Robin Knows* (2012). Learn how to understand their daytime activity cycles by looking at birds like an anthropologist might. Find a quiet spot to sit for a few hours, establish a baseline of activity. Listen for songs, calls, chips, adolescent begging and alarms, each indicates a different activity. Young says he learned the most from a robin in his backyard, and none of it is random.
- Feathers didn't evolve from scales says conservation biologist Thor Hansen in his *Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle* (2012). He suggests that their first function was insulation. He's looking for clues to their evolution from the way they grow, and speculates about the origins of flight in this discussion of the many purposes of feathers and the functions they fulfill for birds.
- Peter Doherty, Nobel Prize-winning immunologist, says birds act as sentinels warning about threats to human health and the environment. His *Their Fate Is Our Fate* (2012) highlights the need for more citizen scientists to monitor and follow their migration patterns. Global warming is impacting birds, and the insect kingdom, and new diseases and viruses are appearing as a result. Bird watchers have an important part to play, he thinks.
- Background for birding trips to the Eastern Shore comes from Charles Seabrook's *The World of the Salt Marsh* (2012). East Coast salt marshes are breeding grounds for eighty percent of seafood species, and help with storm protection, erosion and filtration of pollutants. Salt-resistant spartina grasses are nourished by micro-nutrients and provide habitat for this natural nursery system. Coastal golf courses, parking lots and dormitory suburbs are playing havoc with these crucial functions of the ecosystem.

—Carol and Chris White

In flight: Clapper Rail at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Photograph by Dixie Sommers



Landscape (above) and NVBC birders (below) photographed by Neal Gause during the August NVBC trip to Bombay Hook NWR.



CAMP COLORADO: *The Camp That Took My Breath Away*

Six days...One state...Amazing leaders...Twenty-one young bird nerds



Above are the ingredients for an amazing experience! Put these together and add myself. The result is a mind-blowing time and an additional 60 life birds! After my trip to Camp Avocet last year, I was not sure that I could find a camp that lived up to its high. I was completely wrong!

Although I made a solemn vow before boarding the plane that I would not take any pictures until landing in Colorado, that vow was quickly broken. Since I had a flight that boarded at 6 am, I got some great pictures of the clouds at sunrise. Although I slept most of the way to Colorado, I could already tell that the week ahead was going to be awesome.

It didn't take long for me to see my first lifer of the trip, a Western Kingbird in the airport parking lot. On the way to Estes Park, our base of operations, Western Kingbirds quickly became old news for me but many other species flocked to take their place. On that first day alone I saw twenty-two new life birds

One of the many new things I learned at camp was very simple. Colorado is breathtaking. Literally. This was really driven home to me when we saw the first Northern Goshawk of the trip. We were walking to the dorm after lunch when we saw the goshawk fly past and land in a small field nearby. The most direct route was up a short, 10-15 foot long hill and across about 100 feet of ground. I charged up the hill with everyone else and ran to a place where there was a good view of the goshawk. By the time I made it there, I was so winded I had to wait to catch my breath before taking pictures! On the bright side, not being able to go very far very fast made me slow down a little, and I think that I was able to appreciate Colorado more than if I had been zipping around at top speed trying to see everything.

Speaking of zipping around at top speed, there were hummingbirds all over the place! One day we went to this place called Fawn Brook Inn. There were at least ten hummingbird feeders and anywhere between fifty and one hundred hummingbirds at any one time. Most were Broad-Tailed Hummingbirds, but there were a few Rufous and even one Calliope! The hummingbirds were extremely aggressive and several times campers almost got speared as the hummingbirds chased each other right past us, and between us. They didn't seem to care we were standing there!

In addition to increasing my bird life list, my reptile and mammal life lists were also added to. We saw two rattlesnakes, a bull snake, a garter snake, and... A HORNY TOAD! It looked amazingly grumpy, which just served to make it look even funnier!

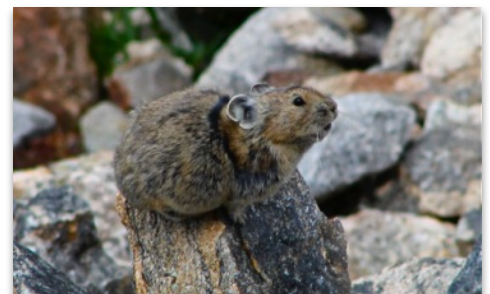
For my mammal life list, the new additions were: jack rabbit, elk, yellow-bellied marmot, and the pika, which, I must add here, is one of the most, if not the most, adorable creatures ever. Pikas are a cousin of the rabbit. They are about the size of a small cottontail and look somewhat like a cross between a rabbit and hamster, with larger ears than a hamster, and smaller back legs than a rabbit. However they beat hamsters by a mile in terms of adorableness because of the sound that they make. We called it meeping, because that is what it sounded like. They are also incredibly fluffy!

Enough about pikas (if it is possible to ever have enough of pikas). During Camp Colorado I learned so many new things which have helped me become a better birder, have assisted me with my Young Birder of the Year Contest field notebook, and have given me new ideas for things to examine as I continue thinking about my future. I would like to thank the Northern Virginia Bird Club for making it possible for me to attend Camp Colorado and I hope that you continue to support young birders in the future.

—Elizabeth Bevins

Recipient of the NVBC's Val Kitchens Memorial Young Birder Scholarship

*Photos at Camp Colorado by Elizabeth Bevins (top to bottom)
Northern Goshawk, Broad-Tailed and Calliope Hummingbirds,
the angry Horny Toad, and the "meeping" Pika*



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JOIN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB

Northern Virginia Bird Club dues for 2015 are \$8 for Individual and \$12 for Family Membership. Members receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Siskin*. Checks for dues should be sent to Northern Virginia Bird Club, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 5812, Arlington, VA 22205-0812. Or join online at the club's web site.

If you miss an issue of *The Siskin* or need to report an address or ZIP Code change, please send an email message to nvabc@verizon.net or leave a message for Charlotte Friend at 703-532-0207.

Please note: NVBC does not exchange, give away, or sell its membership lists.

NVBC ON THE WEB

Current information and special notices about NVBC meetings, field trips, and other activities, along with a printable membership form, are posted on the club's website, www.nvabc.org.

If you have information or pictures you would like to see on the website, please email the webmaster, Len Alfredson, at nvabc@verizon.net.

NVBC eMail Exchange

By participating in the club's email exchange, you can get email notices of late updates to *The Siskin* and the field trip schedule. To join the exchange, send an email to nvabc@verizon.net. Put "EXCHANGE" in the subject field and

your full name in the message area. You will receive a response from nvbc-exchange@googlegroups.com. The list is for NVBC members' use only.

General Meeting Dates: November 19, 2014 and February 18, 2015.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2014, 7:30 pm, at Diane Marton's home. All club members are welcome at board meetings. For directions or to have items put on the agenda, please call or email Diane Marton.

Thanks to the mailing crew: Many thanks to the August mail out crew: Sally Carson, Elizabeth Fenton, Charlotte Friend, Jane Crawe and Joanna Taylor.

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The February issue will include activities through January 2015. Please send items

for publication by **January 1, 2015** to the editors at siskineditor@verizon.net.

CLUB CONTACTS

President: Larry Meade, 703-206-9030

Vice President, Programs: Joanna Taylor, 703-243-5989

Vice President, Field Activities: Elton Morel, 703-553,4860

Secretary: Diane Marton, 703-527-7360

Treasurer: Jean Tatalias, 703-281-6099

Immediate Past President: Paul Mocko, 703-243-4987

Directors: Steve Bruck, 703-425-8584; Emily Caven, 703-592-6522; Catherine Kubo, 703-352-1238

Directors Emeritus: Len Alfredson, Don Wiesnet

Membership: Charlotte Friend, 703-532-0207

Webmaster, www.nvabc.org: Len Alfredson, 703-416-2718

Editors, *The Siskin*: Pat and Neal Gause, 703-476-3903

Administrator, NVBC Facebook Group: Allie Guidry (please contact through Facebook page)

NVBC email: nvabc@verizon.net



*Spotted Sandpiper at Mason Neck.
Photo by Larry Meade*