

The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 64, No. 2

April 2019

www.nvabc.org

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

Election of NVBC Officers for 2019-2021

*to be held at
April 17, 2019 General Meeting*

Officers and directors will be elected to serve two-year terms beginning July 1, 2019. The following people have agreed to be candidates:

President: Larry Meade
Vice President, Programs: David Farner
Vice President, Field Activities: Elton Morel
Secretary: Diane Marton
Treasurer: Jean Tatalias
Directors: Jeremy Beck, Phil Silas, Joanna Taylor

Nominations also will be accepted from the floor.

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 8 PM

Madagascar's Biodiversity: Vangas and Couas and Lemurs, Oh My!

*Speaker: Libby Lyons
(rescheduled from cancelled February meeting)*

Join Libby Lyons as she describes how she joined her daughter, a lemur researcher, for two and a half weeks exploring the biodiversity of Madagascar in July 2018. Libby will share her photos to illustrate how the biodiversity differs across the island's dry western tropical deciduous forests, mid- and low-altitude eastern rainforests, and the southern spiny bush forests, with attention not only to birds, but also to plants, lemurs, tenrecs, chameleons, and those masters of camouflage, the leaf-tailed geckos. She will describe endemic groups of birds – couas, asities, mesites, tetrakas, and ground rollers – and her favorite, the vangas, a diverse family that challenges Darwin's finches in the spectacular diversity of their body size, bill shape and food preferences. She will also touch on the ecology of various lemurs as well as on current efforts to conserve Malagasy biodiversity.



Coquerel's Coua photographed in Ankarafantsika National Park by Libby Lyons

Libby Lyons is a long-time Arlington resident who works on international science cooperation for the National Science Foundation. She takes her binoculars wherever she travels for work. Although her training was in plant science, she now considers herself a bird enthusiast and a lapsed botanist.

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).

MEETING PLACE:

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

Presidential Peentings

For many birders, getting together with others who share our interests is one of the great attractions of the hobby. Perhaps the ultimate way to bird together is to participate in a birdathon where a team of birders try to identify as many bird species as possible within a twenty-four hour timeframe. Usually, this effort is a way to raise money for a bird club or conservation organization. There are generally several teams competing against each other and prizes often are awarded to the team that spots the most birds.

For several years, I have been competing on a birdathon team called the Raven Loonatics. We raise money for the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and usually do pretty well. More importantly, we enjoy the comradery and competition that the birdathon provides. Over the years, we have honed and refined our route which must stay within the confines of Loudoun County. One key to success is to visit as many types of habitats as possible in order to encounter the greatest diversity of bird species. We know spots for waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers, marsh birds, etc.

You can get involved by joining an existing birdathon team or by forming your own team. Be aware that it is a tradition to come up with a team name that is also a bird

pun. The more painful the pun, the better! Another way to support a birdathon by making a monetary pledge to a team that will be out in the field finding those birds. These pledges can be a flat sum or on a per bird basis. Birdathons are a great way to enhance your birding skills while raising much needed funds for worthy organizations. A Birdathon day can be long and arduous at times, but it's well worth the effort.

—Larry Meade



American Redstart photographed by Larry Meade

Val Kitchens Education Grant for 2019

Once again in 2019 the NVBC Board is proud to award the annual Val Kitchen's Education Grant to Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC) in Guatemala to support their "Kids and Birds" program. The \$500 grant will provide the funding for a class of sixth-graders from a Q'eqchi' Maya primary school in the cloud forest to take part in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "BirdSleuth" international curriculum for four days at CCFC, including room and board.

CCFC's "Kids and Birds" environmental education program not only teaches students about birds. It also introduces stream ecology and agroecology. Students participate in reforestation of cloud forest and planting of agroforestry parcels. Students also get to use bio-acoustic equipment to record nature sounds in the cloud forest. In 2018 I was able to participate in this program while visiting CCFC and kept thinking I wish I had learned about birds like this when I was in sixth-grade!

CCFC was also awarded the grant in 2018. You may remember Rob Cahill, Director of CCFC from our September 2018 meeting when he spoke about the Birds, Birding and Conservation in Guatemala. Rob and his wife Tara visited with me briefly in February and also stopped in to visit the NVBC Board during the February meeting to express their gratitude for NVBC's continued support.

All donations to the Club in fiscal year 2018-2019 goes to the Education Grant and Scholarship program. As of March 20, 2019, \$570 has been contributed.

—David Farner



Peter Ross, NVBC member, photographed the commemorative plaque that honors Val Kitchens for her work in creating the Fort C. F. Smith water feature. Peter worked with Arlington County and shared the cost with the Club to provide this memorial. Photographs below: the Bird Creek in March taken by Elton Morel and a Cape May Warbler in the water taken by Jeremy Beck in May 2018.



NVBC Announcement: There will not be a club-sponsored Spring Highland County trip.



Chincoteague Winter Trip: *Weekend of Weather Extremes*

The annual Chincoteague trip was a weekend of weather extremes – starting with a snow storm on Friday afternoon and ending with balmy temperatures and placid waters at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel (CBBT) Complex on Sunday. The Northern Virginia Bird Club visited the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the CBBT on the weekend of February 1 to 3. The trip was led by Larry Cartwright and me. We collectively tallied 94 species for the weekend.

On Friday afternoon, some participants navigated through a snow storm en route to Chincoteague. Having looked at the radar many times through the course of the afternoon, I had convinced myself that the worst of it was over and mostly to our north. After orientation, we headed out to the Wildlife Loop on the refuge and started sorting through the many ducks, the best find being Green-winged Teals, the only time we saw them during the weekend. It started snowing again and by the time we made it all the way around the loop, it got heavy. We tried our best to show the group three sleeping Redheads amongst the many waterfowl in Swan Cove, but the snow was falling so hard we gave up an hour early.

Saturday was nice and sunny, but still a bit chilly. We started the morning by going back to Swan Cove and re-finding the three Redheads and a pair of Mute Swans giving everybody good looks at what are rather uncommon waterfowl for the Chincoteague NWR. Other notables were large flocks of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans. On the ocean side, we enjoyed unusually large numbers of Northern Gannets diving offshore and brief but frustrating looks at two frequently diving Red-necked Grebes that not everybody got to see. Despite our efforts to sift through the shorebirds on the Tom's Cove side, we did not find the hoped for rarity – the Bar-tailed Godwit. A visit to Marv

Rubin's home in the late morning netted us many views of abundant and adorable Red-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches visiting the feeders plus nice looks at Pine Warblers and a Brown Thrasher.

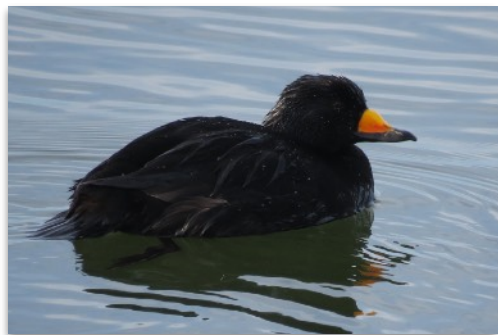


Our Saturday afternoon activities included a visit to the Queen Sound boat launch where we had excellent looks at American Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, a juvenile Black-crowned Night-heron and a spectacular flyover of a large flock of Brants. A return to the refuge for one more try at finding the Bar-tailed Godwit did not bring success, but we did add a Tricolored Heron hunting in a ditch, a good study

of an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and ending with a Red Fox trotting past us and a sleeping flock of Snow Geese on the beach.

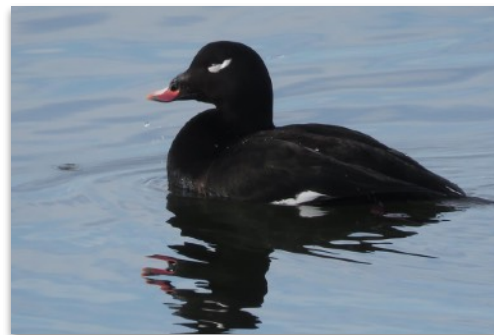
Sunday morning was a glorious, balmy day. At Kiptopeke State Park, we had amazingly close views just off the pier of all three species of scoters including a male Black Scoter and a show-stopping male White-winged Scoter. We also spotted a Common Loon swallowing a large fish. When we arrived at CBBT Island #4, the sea was like glass -- almost too calm. We immediately set about spotting the Great Cormorants perched on the bridge abutments quickly followed by a small flock of Purple Sandpipers on the rocks below and then many gleaming Northern Gannets sailing by. Just as we were about to finish our visit, a Razorbill flew in and landed about halfway out between island #3 and #4 and proceeded to swim quickly to our right, diving all the while. Fortunately, the sea was so calm that we could keep track of its progress and we all got wonderful looks at this curious looking alcid.

--Elton Morel



Header photograph of NVBC birders at Chincoteague NWR by Toby Hardwick.

Common Loon (above), Black Scoter (left) and White-winged Scoter (right) at Kiptopeke State Park fishing pier photographed by Elton Morel



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 below.
- 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/updated-field-trips/>.
- To receive email notices, join the NVBC eMail Exchange. For sign-up directions see back page of *The Siskin*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>April</u>						
Trip Leaders Jeremy Beck 703-517-1816 Larry Cartwright 703-941-3142 Toby Hardwick 703-201-1517 Bert Harris 615-440-0666 Ken Hunt 319-354-1079 David Ledwith 703-933-9477 Larry Meade 703-206-9030 Elton Morel 703-907-9951 Tom Nardone 703-946-7738 Phil Silas 703-987-0817 Dixie Sommers 703-969-7931 Jean Tatalias 571-447-7977			10 8:30 AM Claude Moore Park, Vestal's Gap Visitor Center Jean Tatalias			13 7:30 AM Silver Lake SP Toby Hardwick Larry Meade
			17 8:30 AM Fort C.F. Smith Jeremy Beck NVBC Meeting 8 PM			20 8 AM Aquia Landing BP Elton Morel David Ledwith
				25 8:30 AM Laurel Hill Equestrian Center Phil Silas		27 7:30 AM Huntley Meadows Hike/Bike Trail Larry Cartwright
						4 7:30 AM Leesylvania SP Elton Morel
						11 7:30 AM Trillium Trail Elton Morel David Ledwith
<u>May</u>						
Bird Walks at Local Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, second Saturdays, 8 am. Meet at the parking lot. Visit the Loudoun Wildlife web site, www.loudounwildlife.org/events/ • Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, fourth Saturday, 8 am Meet at Education Center. www.loudounwildlife.org/events/ • Dyke Marsh, Sundays, 8 am See directions. Visit the Friends of Dyke Marsh web site, www.fodm.org • Eakin Park, Mondays, 7:30 am Meet at Prosperity Ave parking lot. Leader: Carolyn Williams • Great Falls National Park, Sundays, 8 am Meet in front of snack/concession stand at the Park Visitor Center. • Huntley Meadows Park, Mondays, 7 am (Apr-Oct) 8 am (Nov-Mar) Meet in parking lot. Leader: Harry Glasgow • Merrimac Farm, last Sunday, 8 am Meet at Merrimac Farm Stone House. www.pwconserve.org/eventsindex.html#birds 			May 1 8:30 AM Long Branch Elton Morel			
			8 8:30 AM Walker Nature Center Tom Nardone			
				16 8:30 AM Laurel Hill Equestrian Center Phil Silas		May 17 - 19 Chincoteague Spring Weekend <i>Members only/reservations required</i> <i>Sign up begins March 27, @6 am</i> Elton Morel Larry Cartwright
						18 7:30 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Larry Meade Ken Hunt
			22 8:30 AM Fort C. F. Smith Jeremy Beck			25 7:30 AM Conway Robinson State Forest Toby Hardwick
<u>June</u>						
			29 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Dixie Sommers			1 7:30 AM Clifton Institute Bert Harris Elton Morel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2			5 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone			8 7:30 AM Bristoe Station Battlefield Park Toby Hardwick Elton Morel
						15 9 AM Limberlost Trail Shenandoah NP X-trip <i>Email leader for details</i> Elton Morel (eltonlmorel@verizon.net)
			19 10 AM Huntley Meadows Butterflies and Dragonflies Larry Meade			22 8 AM Bluebird Trail Larry Meade Jean Tatalias
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> VA Breeding Bird Atlas Block Busting Trip Contact Kurt Gaskill 703-768-2172 kurtcapt87@verizon.net </div>			29 7 AM VA Breeding Bird Atlas Block Busting field trip location TBD <i>Contact Kurt Gaskill</i> <i>for details</i>
July 7 VA Breeding Bird Atlas Block Busting field trip <i>Contact Kurt Gaskill for details</i>						

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (4/17) 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.

Aquia Landing Beach Park (4/20) 2846 Brooke Rd, Stafford 22554 From southbound I-95 towards Stafford, take exit 140 to Stafford, then left (east) on Courthouse Rd (Rt 630), go 3.5 mi. and turn right on Andrew Chapel Rd (Rt 629), go 0.9 mi. and under the railroad bridge to a slight left onto Brooke Rd (Rt 608) go 4.4 mi. to the park entrance, continue past park

entrance gate to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet in the parking lot.

Bluebird Trail (6/22) From I-495, exit onto Chain Bridge Rd (Rt 123) toward Vienna. Continue on Maple Avenue (still Rt 123) in Vienna, turn onto Beulah Rd. Continue for about 1 mile until left turn onto Clark's Crossing Road. Continue to the end of Clark's Crossing and park at the parking lot overlooking the W&OD Trail.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park (6/8) 10708 Bristow Rd, Bristow, VA 20136. From I-95: Take Rt 234 north (exit 152B), travel 7.5 mi. and make a left onto Independent Hill Dr. Then make immediate right onto Rt 619 (Bristow Rd). Travel 7 mi. and turn left onto Iron Brigade Unit Ave. The parking lot is located on the left at the traffic circle. From I-66: Take Rt 234 south (Exit 44). Travel 4.5 miles and turn right onto Rt 28 (Nokesville Rd). Travel 1.5 mi. and turn left onto Rt 619 (Bristow Rd).

Travel 0.25 mi., turn right onto Iron Brigade Unit Ave and continue to parking lot. Meet in parking lot.

Clifton Institute (6/1) 6712 Blantyre Rd, Warrenton 20187 Take 1-66 West to exit 40, to merge onto US-15 south towards Haymarket (0.4 mi), then turn right onto VA-55 West. Drive 5 mi. and turn left onto Blantyre Rd. Proceed 5.6 mi. and then turn right on to a dirt road. Drive northwest for about 0.5 mi. between two lakes and park in the parking lot below the main house. Meet outside the house.

Claude Moore Park, Vestal's Gap Visitor Center (4/10) 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Rd, Sterling 20164 From I-495, take VA-7 Leesburg Pike west for about 12.3 mi. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Va-637, Potomac View Rd and continue 1 mi. Turn left onto VA-1794, Cascades Parkway, go 0.2 mi. and turn left onto Old Vestal' Gap Rd. Drive to the Visitor Center parking on the left. Wear mud boots if there have been recent rains. (Do not

Trip Directions *from page 5*

enter the park via Loudoun Park Lane. That entrance leads to the ball fields and community center and will require a walk to the Vestal's Gap Visitor Center.)

Conway Robinson State Forest (5/25) 12816 Lee Hwy, Gainesville 20155 From I-495, take I-66 west 27.6 mi. to exit 43B, US-29 North in Gainesville. Continue on US-29 for .4 mi, turn left into access road to parking area. There is a small parking area adjacent Route 29-S which can accommodate approximately 10 cars. Additional parking is permitted along the entrance/exit road unless it restricts through traffic

Fort C. F. Smith (4/17, 5/22) 2411 24th St N, Arlington 22207 From I-66 east, take exit 72 (Spout Run Pkwy). At traffic light, turn right on Lee Hwy. At successive traffic lights, turn left onto Spout Run Pkwy, then left onto Lorcom Ln, then right onto Fillmore St. Go one block on Fillmore, turn right onto N. 24th St (watch for speed humps), and continue to park on left. Meet in parking lot at east end of park.

Huntley Meadows Hike and Bike Trail (4/27) From I-495, take Rt 1 south 0.5 mi to Rt 633 (S. King Hwy). Turn right (west), go 2.5 miles to park entrance and lot on left (just before Telegraph Rd).

Huntley Meadows Park (5/29, 6/19) 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria 22306 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.

Laurel Hill Equestrian Center (4/24, 5/16) Lorton From I-495, take I-95 south about 13 mi. to exit 163 (Lorton Rd). Continue 1.4 mi. west on Rt 642/ Lorton Rd, then turn left on Rt 611/ Furnace Rd then an immediate right onto Dairy Rd. Proceed to and meet in the parking lot.

Leesylvania State Park (5/4) 2001 Daniel K Ludwig Dr, Woodbridge 22191 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 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 (5/1, 6/5) 625 S Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington 22204 Take Rt 50, east from Fairfax or west from Rosslyn to Carlin Springs exit. Go 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.

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge (5/18) 13950 Dawson Beach Rd, Woodbridge 22192 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.

Silver Lake Park (4/13) 16198 Silver Lake Rd, Haymarket 20169 From I-495, take I-66 west 24 miles to exit 40 (Rt 15). Turn south onto Rt 15 (toward Haymarket) and go 0.3 miles to Rt 55. Turn right onto Rt 55 and go 0.9 miles to Antioch Rd. Turn right onto Antioch and go 1.3 miles to Silver Lake Rd. Turn right and proceed to park entrance and continue to parking lot next to the lake. Meet in parking lot.

Trillium Trail-G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area (5/11) (Fauquier Co) From I-495, take I-66 west 51 mi. to Linden exit (Rt 79). Go left (south) from exit ramp on Rt 79 approx. 1000 ft. to Rt 55. Turn left (east) onto Rt 55; go 1.2 mi. to Rt 638 (Freezeland Rd). Turn left (north) onto Rt 638. Follow Rt 638, as it bears right, 5.3 mi. to Trillium Trail Parking Area on right—look for sign on kiosk. (Parking Area is just before radio towers.) **Note:** participant must have an **access permit** issued by VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, www.dgif.virginia.gov, 1-866-721-6911.

Walker Nature Center (5/8) 11450 Glade Dr, Reston 20191. From I-66 west, take exit 60 to Rt 123 toward Vienna, continue 0.7 mi., turn left onto Rt 674, Hunter Mill Rd, go 2.8 mi and turn left onto Rt 673 Lawyers Rd. Turn right onto Twin Branches Rd for 0.3 mi. and turn left onto Glade Dr. Continue 1.1 mi. to Nature Center parking lot on right.

Bird Banding at Occoquan Bay NWR

The bird banding station at Occoquan Bay NWR will open to visitors starting March 27. The station will be open Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7 am to 11:30 am. The season lasts until the end of May. The station is located on Deephole Point Road overlooking Marumsco Creek.

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Block Busting Field Trips

Block Busting field trips are planned for June 29 and July 7 to contribute to Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas. The locations will be determined in May (and will be communicated via the NVBC web site, email exchange and Facebook page). On a trip day, our group will meet at a pre-arranged site at the priority block location and Atlas the whole block by splitting into two or three groups, starting at 7 am. Our efforts should net at least 10 new confirmations for each of the blocks. Participants may consider joining NVBC field trips in April and May as these will also present some of the ways we identify breeders and potential breeders for the Atlas. Join in and help this state-wide effort that is now in its fourth year (out of five)! Thank you! POC is Kurt Gaskill, kurtcapt87@verizon.net and 703-768-2172.



10% Birder Discount to NVBC members at Birdwatchers Seed and Supply Company.

Mention you are in the club at checkout.
Address: 396 Maple Avenue East (corner of Beulah Rd) in Vienna
703-242-4365



Pelagic Birding Adventures

Birds can be found in almost every habitat on Earth. Birders trek to wetlands, forests and beaches in search of them, but not everyone thinks of the open ocean, also known as the pelagic zone, as a prime birding habitat. However, as anyone who has ever taken a boat to the Gulf Stream or other pelagic birding hotspot knows, there are often many birds out there and most of them are species that can rarely, if ever, be found close to shore. If you want to experience the thrill of sighting these seabirds, a pelagic birding trip is the way to do it. In the Mid-Atlantic region there are frequent trips out of North Carolina and sometimes there are trips originating from Virginia or Delaware.

A boat journeying out to find pelagic birds will leave before sunrise. After a safety briefing from the captain, birders settle in for the trip out to the deep ocean. Some inshore birds can be spotted and identified in the dark, but they are just the warmup act. Eventually the sun comes up and the boat makes its way further and further out to sea. The boat will have spotters who are highly experienced pelagic birders. They are there to help trip participants find and identify any birds that are encountered. They will use a clock system to tell everyone where a particular bird has been spotted. Birders may have to react quickly to get on the bird in time. Some of the birds found in the warmer months include Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Corey's Shearwaters, Black-capped Petrels, and Bridled Terns. Many birders who participate in a pelagic birding trip are hoping to find a rarity or even a megararity. Because the ocean is so vast, all sorts of unusual

birds can show up out there. An exciting find is quite possible. I once saw a Cape Verde Shearwater near the Gulf Stream which turned out to be a first North American record for that species.

Of course, there are other opportunities for pelagic birding besides warm weather trips in the Atlantic Ocean. In the west there are pelagic trips that explore the Pacific Ocean habitats. I took a trip out of Westport, Washington and found many birds that I had not seen before. The Black-footed and Laysan Albatross that I saw and photographed were the most memorable birds for me. You might also choose to do a pelagic birding trip in the winter. These trips are not for the faint of heart, but do you want to see a Great Skua or not? Fortunately, you can duck into the heated cabin if you get too cold, but you run the risk of missing something. As with any boat trip, you must take precautions against seasickness using your preferred remedy. In the winter, this is especially important since the seas are generally rougher in cold weather.

While seabirds are the main attraction, pelagic birders also look forward to other interesting encounters. A sighting of a whale or dolphins is always a cause for excitement. I once saw a Northern Right Whale, one of the rarest whales in the world, in Virginia waters. Sea turtles are also out there. I will never forget my brief sighting of a Leatherback Sea Turtle, the largest turtle in the world. It looked like it was the size of a small Volkswagen as it flipped over a wave showing itself well and then disappeared into the depths.

If you are interested in participating in a pelagic adventure yourself, I would recommend going out with Captain Brian Patteson. In my opinion, he is the gold standard of pelagic birding in the east. His website is at seabirding.com. Brian has been doing pelagic trips for many years out of Hatteras, North Carolina. He also occasionally ventures up our way to do trips out of Virginia Beach. I hope you can get out there someday if you haven't already, because a pelagic adventure can be an unforgettable experience.

—Larry Meade



Photographs by Larry Meade:

*Great Shearwater taking off
(top left)
Black-capped Petrel (top
right)
Black-footed Albatross in
flight (left)*

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JOIN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB

Northern Virginia Bird Club dues for 2019 are \$10 for Individual and \$15 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 or renew 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 lgmeade@gmail.com or leave a message for Elizabeth Fenton at 703-533-0851.

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, Jeremy Beck, at jghyll+nvabc@gmail.com.

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 lgmeade@gmail.com. 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 Date: April 17, September (tbd), and November (tbd), 2019.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 6, 2019, 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 at dsdm42@gmail.com.

Thanks to the mailing crew: Many thanks to the February mail out crew: Diane Marton, Jean Tatalias and Joanna Taylor.

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The August issue will include activities through October 2019.

Please send items for publication by **July 1, 2019** to the editors at siskineditor@verizon.net.

CLUB CONTACTS

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Phil Silas, 703-987-0817

Joanna Taylor, 703-243-5989

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Charlotte Friend, Don Wiesnet

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