



The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 64, No. 4

November 2019

www.nvabc.org

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Insert - 2020 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 Weekend club trip is scheduled for January 31-February 2 (Friday to Sunday) co-led by Larry Cartwright and me. The trip is limited to 24 people and usually fills up very quickly. NVBC membership is required for this trip. **Registration will open on November 13 at 6 am.** To sign up for this trip, please email Elton Morel at eltonlmorel@verizon.net. Please do not make your hotel reservations until your trip registration has been confirmed. 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.

February is an excellent time to visit Chincoteague National Wildlife

Continued on p.2

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 8 PM

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation and Research in the Bahamas and Michigan

Speaker: Nathan W. Cooper

Join Nathan W. Cooper as he talks about the natural and conservation history of the Kirtland's Warbler. He will share his latest research on the species. Topics will include tracking Kirtland's Warblers across their annual cycle and reducing the conservation reliance of Kirtland's Warblers through adaptive management of the cowbird control program. Kirtland's Warbler is an endangered migratory songbird that breeds almost exclusively in Michigan. They winter primarily in the Bahamas. Despite a successful cowbird control program that began in 1971, the Kirtland's Warbler population count dropped to just 187 males in the wild in 1974. The Endangered Species Act led to state and federal agencies creating new Jack Pine habitat resulting in substantial recovery of the warbler population. More than 2,300 Kirtland's Warbler males were counted in the last population census.

Nathan is interested in the behavioral ecology and conservation of migratory birds. He first joined the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center as a Ph.D. student under Pete Marra in 2008 and earned his doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from Tulane University in 2014. He continued at the Center as a postdoctoral fellow focusing on the Kirtland's Warbler.



Kirtland's Warbler photographs by Nathan Cooper

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 4.

Presidential Peentings

As birders, we engage in citizen science by participating in bird counts and surveys. We also often submit bird observations to databases such as eBird and iNaturalist. These activities are of immense use to scientists and our fellow birders in gaining an understanding of bird frequency and distribution. Since many of us are out in the field so often, we also have the opportunity to observe and report other things that we find out there. One way birders can be helpful to not just the birding community, but to the entire state of Virginia, is to keep an eye out for signs of a destructive invasive pest from China called the Spotted Lanternfly.

These insects will eat at least forty of our native plants including a variety of trees and are a significant danger to crops. They are especially destructive to grapes and hops, which is bad news for wine and beer lovers! Spotted Lanternflies have wreaked havoc in areas of Pennsylvania

and are on the move. They are frequent hitchhikers and may show up anywhere that trucks or trains go. These pests are in Virginia, but as of now, they appear to be confined to Frederick County in and around Winchester. Steps are being taken to contain them, but they may still spread.



Spotted Lanternfly photograph by Eric Day, Virginia Tech; Life cycle photos on page 7

their beautiful exterior. They are a significant threat and birders can help stop them.

—Larry Meade

Winter Chincoteague Trip *from p.1*

Refuge (NWR) and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Islands (CBBT). The Refuge is loaded with wintering waterfowl while the CBBT is famous for wintering sea ducks. On last year's trip, we collectively tallied 94 species. Our highlight sightings at Chincoteague were three Redheads in Swan Cove, Northern Gannets and Red-necked Grebes offshore, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Snow Geese while we were at the beach. In Queen Sound, we found Common Goldeneyes, Long-tailed Ducks, flocks of Brant, and a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron. At Kiptopeke State Park, we enjoyed up close looks at all three species of scoters just off the pier. At the CBBT Islands, we

found Long-tailed Ducks, Great Cormorants, Northern Gannets, Purple Sandpipers, and finished the trip with very obliging looks at a Razorbill.

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, Tom's Cove and around the Wildlife Loop. Time and tides permitting, we will also visit the Queen Sound Flats, the Chincoteague City mudflats and Mariner's Point. Sunday we will bird Kiptopeke State Park before our trip to the CBBT Islands. We will be limited to a one-hour visit to island #4 due to the construction of a new tunnel. The

CBBT trip requires security forms in advance and an extra fee for the security escort. The trip concludes at noon on Sunday.

We have obtained a special rate of \$78 per night on twenty rooms for Friday and Saturday nights at the Best Western Chincoteague Island Hotel on Maddox Boulevard. A two-night stay is usually required. Hotel reservations must be made by January 17 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, January 31, with 4 pm day-of-arrival notice for cancellation policy since it is winter time. Chincoteague NWR is a US fee area.

—Elton Morel



Audubon Society of Northern Virginia Winter Waterfowl Survey

On Saturday, February 8 and Sunday, February 9, 2020, 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.

Limpkin - Rare Bird Alert

Birders flocked to Fountainhead Regional Park in Fairfax County to view the Limpkin. The Virginia Society of Ornithology Official State List identifies the Limpkin as "Accidental: less than six accepted physical or written records in the past 50 years." Birders able to boat or kayak were able to get closer views. The photographs on the left were taken by Dixie Sommers while kayaking on September 1, 2019. You can view her photographs and a video of the Limpkin working on and then eating a mussel at the web site: <https://ddpix.smugmug.com/Favorite-Places-in-Northern/Rest-of-Northern-Virginia/>.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Saturday, December 14, 2019

• WASHINGTON D.C.

Includes area of Virginia inside the Beltway and parts of Fairfax County south of Alexandria to include 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.

Sunday, December 15, 2019

• MANASSAS-BULL RUN

To participate, contact Phil Silas at epsdcva@aol.com; or register online at www.audubonva.org/christmas-bird-count/.

• 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, contact coordinator, Alison Zak at azak@cliftoninstitute.org or 540-341-3651 or email compiler, Bert Harris at bharris@cliftoninstitute.org.

Monday, December 16, 2019

• BROOKE, VA (Stafford area, lower Potomac)

Contact coordinators and compiler, Laurel Bybell at lbybell@gmail.com or David Govoni at david.govoni@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 22, 2019

• NOKESVILLE

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

Saturday, December 28, 2019

• CENTRAL LOUDOUN

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

Sunday, December 29, 2019

• FORT BELVOIR

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

• SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

Lucketts Sector is in northern Loudoun County. To participate contact sector leader, Gerco Hoogeweg at drgerco@hotmail.com.

Friday, January 3, 2020

• WALKERTON

Count area is primarily in Middle Peninsula. Contact by December 13. Contact compiler, Fred Atwood at fredatwood@yahoo.com.

Saturday, January 4, 2020

• CALMES NECK

Parts of western Loudoun and eastern Clarke counties. The cutoff date to join up to participate is December 18. Contact compiler, Margaret Wester at margaretwester@hotmail.com.

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2019

The Club 2019 Financial Report follows. At the end of the year, the Club had 381 family and individual memberships and 517 membrs. Membership remained steady from 2018. Meeting expenses were less than anticipated due to the cancellation of our February meeting. Printing costs were down from 2018.

Nine generous members made significant donations to total more than \$600 for the Education Grants Fund, of which \$500 was awarded in 2019 via the Val Kitchens Education Grant. THANK YOU, GENEROUS

DONORS! In 2020, donations will continue to be assigned to the Grants Fund.

At the end of August 2019, the Club had total assets of \$11,252, which included \$935 for dues received for years beyond 2020.

Income received

Dues for 2019	4,353
Bird Watcher's Digest & pin sales	134
Donations, including Amazon Smile	676
Total Income	\$5,163

Expenses

Organizational costs	\$529
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(includes fees for web host PO box, VA, Paypal, etc)	
Meeting expenses	868
(includes hall rental, speaker honorariums, prizes, refreshments)	
Printing and postage	1,953
(includes bulk mail permit)	

Val Kitchens Youth Educational Grant	<u>500</u>
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Total expenses	\$3,850
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Net for 2019	\$1,313
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—Jean Tatalias, Treasurer

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/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>			6 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone			9 8 AM Leesylvania SP Ken Hunt Elton Morel
<div><div>Trip Leaders Larry Cartwright 703-941-3142 Toby Hardwick 703-201-1517 Ken Hunt 319-354-1079 David Ledwith 703-933-9477 Larry Meade 571-275-2523 Elton Morel 703-907-9951 Tom Nardone 703-946-7738 Phil Silas 703-987-0817 Dixie Sommers 703-969-7931</div></div>			13 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Tom Nardone			16 8 AM Aquia Landing Park Elton Morel David Ledwith
			20 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Dixie Sommers Tom Nardone			23 8:30 AM Blandy Farm Dixie Sommers Toby Hardwick
			NVBC Meeting 8 PM			
						30 8 AM Leopold's Preserve Toby Hardwick Larry Meade
<u>December</u>			4 8:30 AM Long Branch Dixie Sommers Tom Nardone			7 8 AM Mason Neck SP Ken Hunt David Ledwith
			10 8:30 AM Laurel Hill Equestrian Ctr Phil Silas			
December 14, 2019 - January 5, 2020— CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA (See p. 3)						

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (11/20) 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 (11/16) 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.

Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia (11/23) 400 Blandy Farm Ln, Boyce, 22620 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; go 7.8 mi., turn left onto Rt 750 to the Arboretum.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>January</u>			8 8:30 AM Long Branch Dixie Sommers Tom Nardone			11 8 AM Northern Neck X-trip <i>Members only/</i> <i>Reservations required</i> email leader Larry Meade Dixie Sommers
	14 8:30 AM Burke Lake Phil Silas					18 8 AM Leesylvania SP Phil Silas Ken Hunt
		22 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Tom Nardone				25 8 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Ken Hunt Phil Silas
	28 8:30 AM Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk Phil Silas				<u>January 31 —February 2</u> Chincoteague Weekend <i>Members only/Reservations required</i> Elton Morel Larry Cartwright	
<u>February</u>			5 8:30 AM Long Branch Dixie Sommers			

Burke Lake Park (1/14) 7315 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station 22039 From I-495, take exit 54 west (Braddock Rd). If coming from the North, stay in right lane of exit. Go 1.5 mi. on Braddock Rd then 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 (11/20, 1/22) 6401 George Washington Memorial Pkwy, Alexandria 22307 (Belle Haven Park and Marina) 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.

Huntley Meadows Park (11/13) 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 (12/10) 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 (11/9, 1/18) 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 turnaround circle at fishing pier. State fee area.

Leopold's Preserve (11/30) 16283 Thoroughfare Rd, Haymarket 20169 From I-66 west, take exit 40 to Rt 15

toward Haymarket/Leesburg. Turn left onto Rt 15 south. Turn right onto Rt 55 and go 1.7 mi. to Thoroughfare Rd. Turn left onto Thoroughfare and go 0.3 mi. There are parking lots on both sides of the road. Meet in the right hand (west) parking lot. The left hand (east) parking lot can be used for overflow parking.

Long Branch Nature Area (11/6, 12/4, 1/8, 2/5) 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.

Mason Neck State Park (12/7) 7301 High Point Rd, Lorton 22079 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.

Hurricanes and Birds

As we prepare articles for this Siskin issue, Hurricane Dorian has passed but the recovery effort in the Bahamas is just beginning. Our speaker for the November meeting told David Farner that the Kirtland's warblers were still in Michigan when Dorian hit and the two islands that were hit hardest have almost no wintering Kirtland's on them. That got me thinking about how birds have fared after other hurricane events.

The August 2019 issue of *Birding*, has an article by Joanne Castagna about oystercatcher recovery after Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey. The largest beach nourishment effort ever undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a project along 21 miles of the New Jersey coast and was begun in 1994. Hurricane Sandy in late 2012 removed five million cubic yards of sand from the shore. Since then, 7.7 million cubic yards of sand have been restored.

Wildlife monitors first observed American Oystercatchers foraging on a restored beach in 2016. In 2017 there were three nesting pairs which produced one fledgling. Oystercatchers returned to nest in 2018. These birds are part of the shorebirds protection plan along with Piping Plovers, Common Terns, and Least Terns. While the overall goal of the project was to reduce coastal storm risk, it has also provided habitat for threatened wildlife like the American Oystercatchers.

In the April, 2018 issue of *Birding*, Jason Crotty wrote about the impact of the 2017 hurricanes on the birds of Puerto Rico. In his website summary, he writes:

Broadly speaking, most birds appear to survive the initial "direct" effects (e.g., high winds, rain, landslides, and flooding) of hurricanes, but are significantly impacted by the "indirect" effects (e.g., loss of food supplies and roosting sites).

Immediately after hurricanes, surviving birds appear to wander in an effort to find any remaining food supplies and habitat. Birds that rely on a closed canopy, mature trees, or nectar, fruits, or seeds may be particularly out of luck. For example, hummingbirds must find patches where there are still flowers. Species with small ranges (e.g., single island endemics) or tiny populations (e.g., endangered species) are especially vulnerable.

But as the months pass, forests and other habitats regenerate and many birds return. Over the longer term, forests mature, closing hurricane-created gaps in the canopy, at least until the inevitable next hurricane.

He then summarized the results in Puerto Rico using the 2017 and 2018 Christmas Bird Counts for data on the various species. See the web article at <http://www.10000birds.com/puerto-ricos-birds-after-hurricane-maria.htm>

The *American Bird Conservancy* website also has a summary of some Hurricane Irma and Maria affects in the Caribbean in "Post-Hurricane Report: How Are the Birds?" by Clare Nielsen, from September 27, 2017. <https://abcbirds.org/hurricanesandbirds>

These reports are at least tentatively hopeful about birds and their habitat after major hurricanes. We hope for good news about

recovery for both people and birds in the devastated areas of the Bahamas.

For more articles, check out *Forbes* magazine, Where do Birds go in a Hurricane, September 8, 2017 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/09/08/where-do-birds-go-in-a-hurricane/#19db6324254a>

National Audubon Society website, How do Hurricanes Affect Birds, by Daisy Yuhas, October 24, 2011 <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-do-hurricanes-affect-birds>

—Jean Tatalias

Bird Walks at Local Parks

- **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 the main parking lot, closest to the Park Visitor Center.
- **Huntley Meadows Park, Mondays, 7 am (Apr-Sep) 8 am (Oct-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

Trip Directions from page 5

Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk (1/28) 15125 Blackburn Rd, Woodbridge 22191 From I-495, take I-95 south about 14 mi. to exit 156 (Dale City/Rippon Landing/Rt. 784). Take it 156A for Rt 784 east toward Rippon Landing. Continue 0.7 mi. across Rt 1 where Dale Blvd becomes Rippon Blvd and continue down the hill another 0.4 mi. to a stop sign and turn right on Blackburn

Rd. The park parking lot is then 0.2 mi. away on the left.

Northern Neck X-trip (1/11) 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 (1/25) 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.

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge Bird Banding 2019

The Spring banding at Occoquan Bay in 2019 turned out a lot better than expected. We were hampered by difficulties in the form of bad weather and a shortage of federally licensed personnel. The nets cannot be opened if it is too cold, too wet, flooding, or windy. In the first two cases the birds might become chilled and if it is windy, the nets are blown too taut. Flooding speaks for itself. Also, the station cannot operate unless a permit holder is there to supervise. Due to travel plans, family medical issues, work etc., this was not always possible, so we lost a few days in April. Despite all this we managed to band 427 birds which is a bit low, but not far off our average. We reached a milestone this year banding our 10,000th bird – a Common Yellowthroat. No new species this year, so our total remains at 102.

We had 35 returns (birds that were banded in previous years). Some of the more interesting included a Titmouse banded in 2013, a White-throated Sparrow banded in 2012, an Indigo Bunting banded in 2013 and a Red-bellied Woodpecker banded in 2013. We were able to age the woodpecker as a 3d year bird when we banded him, so he is now 10 years old and has been caught in the same net every other year. Birds of note banded this year included a Pileated Woodpecker, our second ever Sharp-shinned Hawk, our first Scarlet Tanager since 2002, and a European Starling which is a rare bird at the station. We also caught a Mourning Warbler. When this was shown to a visiting 5-year-old, he asked suspiciously “Is that a real bird?”

Our banding season starts the last week of March and runs till Memorial Day. We are open to visitors Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7:00 am till 11:00 am weather permitting. We are located near the gazebo on Deephole Point Road overlooking Marumsco Creek.

—Joanna Taylor

New Trip Site: Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk

Neabsco Regional Park is a new field trip site for the club! The park opened June 1, 2019, and encompasses the Rippon Lodge property up the hill from where we'll meet at 15125 Blackburn Road in Woodbridge. The park also includes the Julie J. Metz Wetlands Preserve. The beautiful new boardwalk is 3/4 mile long and is part of the Potomac Heritage Trail. It meanders over the wetlands at the mouth of Neabsco Creek. It should be good for waterfowl, passerines, and a few raptors. Join us on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, or experience it on your own. Help us assess whether this location should be included in our future roster of field trips. There is no admission charge and is open during daylight hours.

—Phil Silas



Neabsco Regional Park Boardwalk from the illustration in Prince William County 2019 Fall Leisure magazine, Prince William County Department of Parks & Recreation



Spotted Lanternfly

For image source and for additional information on the Spotted Lanternfly in Virginia go to <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/spotted-lanternfly.html> or ext.vt.edu/spotted-lanternfly:

Clockwise from top left: Adult showing hind wings, adult with folded wings, early black and white nymphs, full grown nymphs showing red, and egg masses.

If you spot the lanternfly and take a photograph, submit pictures at <https://ask.extension.org/groups/1981/ask>.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB
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JOIN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB

Northern Virginia Bird Club dues for 2020 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, <http://www.nvabc.org/join/>.

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 Dates: November 20, 2019, February 19, and April 15, 2020.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 5, 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 August mail out crew: Elizabeth Fenton, Robbi Ross, Dixie Sommers, Jean Tatalias and Joanna Taylor

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The February issue will include activities through April 2020.

Please send items for publication by January 1, 2020 to the editors at siskineditor@verizon.net.

CLUB CONTACTS

President: Larry Meade, 571-275-2523

Vice President, Programs: David Farner, 443-643-6141

Vice President, Field Activities: Elton Morel, 703-907-9951

Secretary: Diane Marton, 703-527-7360

Treasurer: Jean Tatalias, 703-281-6099

Directors: Jeremy Beck, 703-517-1816
Phil Silas, 703-987-0817,
Joanna Taylor, 703-243-5989

Directors Emeritus: Len Alfredson,
Charlotte Friend, Don Wiesnet

Membership: Elizabeth Fenton, 703-533-0851

Webmaster, www.nvabc.org: Jeremy Beck, jghyll+nvabc@gmail.com

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

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

NVBC email: lgmeade@gmail.com