



The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 66, No. 4

November 2021

www.nvabc.org

Inside

- Calendar of NVBC field trips, November 3, 2021 - February 13, 2022
- Bombay Hook Adventure
- Upcoming Christmas Bird Counts in Northern Virginia
- 2022 ASNV Winter Waterfowl Survey
- Roseate Spoonbills
- Birding and Photography: Bird Photography by a Non-Photographer

Insert - 2022 membership renewal

Winter Chincoteague Trip

The Winter Chincoteague Weekend club trip is tentatively scheduled for February 11 to February 13 (Friday to Sunday). This year's trip will have several changes from past years due to the COVID-19 virus. The trip will be limited to just 16 people. This size will be workable even if for safety's sake carpooling is limited. NVBC membership is required for this trip and all tour participants will need to declare that they are vaccinated at the sign-up time of the trip. **Registration will open on November 18, 2021 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 affirm that you are vaccinated for COVID-19 virus and whether you are interested in Sunday morning's CBBT Island trip. If the trip is full, your name can be put on a waiting list. As

Continued on pg. 2

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 8 PM

The Wildlife of Uganda

Speaker: William Young

Uganda is an East African country teeming with birds and other wildlife. Popular local writer and naturalist William Young will talk about what he saw on a trip to Uganda in 2016-17. He is the author of the book *The Fascination of Birds: From the Albatross to the Yellowthroat*, and he is the co-creator (with Ashley Bradford) of the MPNature.com website about the birds and natural history of Monticello Park in Alexandria.

The November virtual meeting will be held using Zoom. The meeting begins at 8 pm, and you can enter after 7:30 pm. Please register in advance by clicking on the registration link found at the upper right at the Northern Virginia Bird Club website (nvabc.org). Upon registering, an email automatically will be sent with a link to join the meeting. There will be ample time for questions from the audience.



Shoebill in Uganda photographed by William Young

Presidential Peentings

People often ask birders, "What's your favorite bird"? For me, it's impossible to narrow down the different birds that I have seen to just a few favorites, much less just one. Why are we especially enthralled by certain birds? Colorful birds like Painted Buntings, Baltimore Orioles and Harlequin Ducks can practically take a birder's breath away when they are seen well in their full glory. Birds that we don't see every day can also pique our interest. Many birders especially love warblers because they fit both categories. These charismatic birds are the highlight of the late spring birding season as they sing from the treetops and flash their yellow, red and blue plumages. While some of these birds will stay in our region to breed, many others are just passing through. Luckily for us, in early fall, they come back through our region for a return engagement as they migrate southward. Since many of them only are here for a short time, finding them is a special privilege.

Mega rare birds that birders are fortunate enough to see are usually high on lists of favorite birds. I will never



Cape May Warbler at Dyke Marsh, photographed on September 26, 2021 by Larry Meade

forget the Northern Lapwing, a rare vagrant from Europe, that I saw in 2005. The bird was hanging out in a farm field in Creagerstown, Maryland and was the source of considerable excitement among local birders, I had not been birding for very long and this was one of the first rarities that I crossed state lines to chase. I knew that the journey was worth it when I found a crowd of birders watching a large electric blue and white plover strutting around in the dirt. The bird was not close to the road, but I was still able to get a distant, but recognizable photo. It was the first and only Northern Lapwing that I have ever seen and it's still one of my favorites.

Even though we may have the most vivid memories of the especially beautiful and the especially rare bird that we have seen, all birds are worthy of our attention. They are all living their lives as the best birds that they can be. They are doing their part to contribute to their ecosystems and perpetuate their species. With the possible exception of an invasive species such as House Sparrow, any one of them could be my favorite bird on any given day.

—Larry Meade

Winter Chincoteague Trip *from p.1*

an additional precaution, there will not be a group dinner on Saturday night.

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 while the CBBT is famous for wintering sea ducks. We typically find 90 to 100 species on this trip. Highlights from previous years have been Northern Gannets, Red-necked Grebes, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Snow Geese, Brants, Common Goldeneyes, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Eiders, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, Great Cormorants and even Razorbills.

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. On Sunday, we will bird Kiptopeke State Park before our trip to CBBT Island #4. We will be limited to a one and a half hour visit on 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, expected to be five dollars per person. The trip concludes at 12:30 pm on Sunday.

We have obtained a special rate of \$79.25 plus taxes per night on fifteen 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 28 to get this special group rate. Participants should make their own reservations by calling 800-553-6117 and be sure to say they are with the Northern Virginia Bird Club. Check-in time is 3 pm on Friday, February 11, with a prior 48-hour notice policy for cancellation. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge has an entrance fee per car.

—Elton Morel

Bombay Hook Adventure

Birders from the Northern Virginia Bird Club assembled at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge on August 14. This is a prime time of year to find migrating shorebirds and a nice variety of other birds. As we left the visitor center parking lot and began to caravan towards the refuge's impoundments, we were treated to the sharp notes and trill of a Sedge Wren singing next to the road. We also enjoyed the whistling calls of several Northern Bobwhites as they serenaded us.

As we came around the corner and lined our cars up along the road at Raymond Pool, we noticed a gaggle of photographers all pointing their cameras at something down below them. It turned out that they were looking at a Virginia Rail and several of her chicks. Fortunately, the birds stayed around long enough for all of us to also get some nice looks at them. It was a good day for baby birds as we later found a Common Gallinule with her chicks.

Continued on pg. 3

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Christmas Bird Count organizers intend to conduct the counts this year as safely as possible in light of the continuing pandemic while still giving birders a chance to get out and enjoy doing the counts and contributing to this long-running tradition. The count coordinators will identify COVID -19 protocols before the specified count date. Some CBC representatives may decide conditions warrant cancelling their circle count. Any cancellation decision should be made by November 15.

Friday December 17, 2021

- *BROOKE, VA (Stafford area, lower Potomac)*

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

Saturday, December 18, 2021

- *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 19, 2021

- *MANASSAS-BULL RUN*

To participate, contact Phil Silas by December 8 at epsdca@aol.com or 703-987-0817.

- *THE PLAINS/AIRLIE*

To participate, contact coordinator, Bridget Bradshaw at bbradshaw@cliftoninstitute.org or 540-341-3651 or email compiler, Bert Harris at bharris@cliftoninstitute.org.

- *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.

Sunday, December 26, 2021

- *NOKESVILLE*

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

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

- *CENTRAL LOUDOUN*

Sign up at www.loudounwildlife.org or contact compiler, Joe Coleman: 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or Bryan Henson at bhenson@loudounwildlife.org.

Sunday, January 2, 2022

- *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.

- *FORT BELVOIR*

To volunteer, contact compiler, Kurt Gaskill at kurtcapt87@verizon.net or 703-768-2172.

- *SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN*

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

Date to be determined

- *WALKERTON*

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

Bombay Hook Adventure from p. 2

Shorebirds were indeed in abundance at the refuge. Semi-palmated Sandpipers were the most numerous as they dotted large swathes of the mudflats. American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, and Semi-palmated Plovers were also present in good numbers. Other Highlights included three Roseate Spoonbills, a Tricolored Heron, and a Least Bittern. Some close encounters with Orchard Orioles and Blue Grosbeaks were crowd favorites. As a group, we tallied over 80 species and even added a few more at Port Mahon Road after lunch. Bombay Hook is always worth the trip!

—Larry Meade



Audubon Society of Northern Virginia Winter Waterfowl Survey

On Saturday, February 5 and Sunday, February 6, 2022, 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, call 703-438-6008, or secure your spot by registering through the Audubon Society for Northern Virginia website. Protocols for COVID will be determined in the future.

*Virginia Rail preening at Bombay Hook NWR
photographed by Larry Meade*

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>			3 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone			6 8 AM Leesylvania SP Ken Hunt Phil Silas
<div><div>Trip Leaders Larry Cartwright 703-941-3142 Toby Hardwick 703-201-1517 Bert Harris 615-440-0666 Ken Hunt 319-354-1079 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 Ed Wallace 504-343-1433</div></div>			10 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Tom Nardone Dixie Sommers			13 8 AM Leopold's Preserve Larry Meade
			17 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Park Tom Nardone Dixie Sommers	18 NVBC Meeting 8 PM		20 8 AM Clifton Institute Bert Harris Elton Morel
						27 8:30 AM Blandy Farm Elton Morel Ed Wallace
			<u>December 1</u> 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone			4 8 AM Ocoquan NWR Ken Hunt Phil Silas
			7 8:30 AM Veterans Memorial Park Phil Silas			11 8:30 AM Mason Neck SP Larry Meade Dixie Sommers
December 14, 2021 - January 5, 2022— CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA (See p. 3)						

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (11/18) Online meeting using Zoom platform.

Aquia Landing Park (1/15) 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 (11/27) 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.

Burke Lake Park (1/12) 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).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>January</u>			5 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone			8 8 AM Northern Neck X-trip Members only/ email leader to register Larry Meade Ed Wallace
			12 8:30 AM Burke Lake Park Tom Nardone			15 8 AM Aquia Landing Park Elton Morel
			19 8:30 AM Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk Phil Silas			22 8:30 AM Riverbend RP Larry Cartwright
			26 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Tom Nardone			29 8 AM Silver Lake RP Toby Hardwick
	<u>February</u>		2 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone			5 8 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Phil Silas Ken Hunt
						11-13 Chincoteague Weekend Members only Sign up via email starting on November 18, 2021 at 6 am Elton Morel

Clifton Institute (11/20) 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.

Dyke Marsh (11/10, 1/26) 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 (11/17) 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.

Leesylvania State Park (11/6) 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 (11/13) 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 (11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2) 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 (12/11) 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.

Trip Directions *from page 5*

Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk (1/19) 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 light and turn right on Blackburn Rd. The park parking lot is then 0.2 mi. away on the left.

Northern Neck X-trip (1/8) 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 (12/4, 2/5) 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.

Riverbend Park (Visitor Center) (1/22) 8700 Potomac Hills St, Great Falls 22066 From I-495, take Rt. 193 west 5 mi. to Rt 603 (Riverbend Rd). Turn right onto Rt 603; go 2 mi. to Jeffery Rd. Turn right onto Jeffery; and go 0.8 mi. to main park entrance sign on right. Turn right and continue 0.5 mi. to Visitor Center parking lot. Meet in front of Visitor Center.

Silver Lake RP (1/29) 16198 Silver Lake Rd, Haymarket 20169 From I-495, take I-66 west 24 mi. 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 mi. to Antioch Rd. Turn right onto Antioch and go 1.3 mi. to Silver Lake Rd. Turn right and proceed to park entrance and continue to parking lot next to the lake. Meet in parking lot.

Veterans Memorial Park (12/7) 14300 Veterans Dr, Woodbridge, 22191 From I-495, take I-95 south 9 mi. to (left) exit 161 (Woodbridge). Go south on Rt 1 about 3.5 mi. to left turn onto Featherstone Rd. Continue on Featherstone about a mile and cross the RR tracks, turn left and proceed about 1 mile to the community center on the left, meet near Veterans Drive in front of the center.

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
- **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#bird

Roseate Spoonbills, normally found in Florida, showed up this summer in unprecedented numbers along the East Coast. These two were at Huntley Meadows. Photographs by Larry Meade.



Birding and Photography: Bird Photography by a Non-Photographer

I am not a photographer. I have friends who are outstanding nature photographers, and what I do does not closely resemble what they do. I carry a camera into the field in case I need to document what I see. Sometimes, someone will see one of my photos and ask what kind of lens I use. I don't have a separate lens. I use a Nikon P510 point-and-shoot camera, which I have owned since 2013. It has a 42x zoom, which allows me to take close-up photos without disturbing birds.

A Dickcissel at Hains Point in December, 2011, induced me to buy my first camera. I was documenting the bird on the first day of Christmas Count week. It was on the ground about 15 feet from me, and I wrote detailed notes about the plumage. I realized I would not have had to do this if I had had a camera to take photos of the bird right in front of me. A few clear photos can be worth more than a thousand words of documentation. For unusual sightings, photos can eliminate a lot of "are you sure" questions.

I have a slight build, and until I can hire a Sherpa to lug my equipment, I will use a camera that is light and easy to carry. My P510 weighs about 20 ounces. I have traded pixels and feather detail for carrying comfort. Another issue regards not having enough hands. Birders now must juggle binoculars, cameras, and mobile phones. Carrying extra photographic equipment compounds the problem.

The "giant eye" of a camera lens can be a significant problem. When trying to photograph a bird, it often flies just as you raise your camera. This is not due merely to bad luck. The reflection from the camera lens (and to a lesser extent from binocular lenses) can startle a bird. My primary goal in the field is to observe birds. If I can take photos after looking at them, so much the better. If I reach for my camera first, the result often is that the bird flies, and I will have neither a good look nor a good photo. I usually look first, then reach for the camera.

I attended a workshop in Australia with the noted wildlife photographer Graeme Chapman (not the Monty Python guy). He said that the most important part of any bird photo is the eye. For me, this does not always apply. I have taught classes about bird identification, and certain photos are useful to me, even though many photographers might discard them. For instance, I took a photo of a

Northern Waterthrush with its head twisted toward its back. One of the differentiating fieldmarks between the two waterthrushes is the amount of spotting on the throat. Even though the bird's eye was not visible, I have used the photo of the waterthrush throat in my classes.



Saddle-billed Storks photographed by William Young in Uganda



Gentoo, Chinstrap and King Penguins at South Georgia Island photographed by William Young

During spring migration, many songbirds at Monticello Park in Alexandria bathe in the stream, which provides excellent opportunities to photograph fieldmarks which you usually cannot see when the birds are in the treetops.

I take a lot of photos when I travel, especially internationally. I enjoy visiting places which have large birds who are relatively stationary. South Georgia Island in the Antarctic and the Galapagos Islands off of Ecuador are two of my favorite places for photography. The birds are accustomed to humans, and you can get close without disturbing them. Uganda also offers wonderful photographic opportunities. The shortcomings in my photos are more likely to be overlooked if the birds are spectacular or highly unusual.

I also use my camera to record video, which I use for the nature videos on my YouTube channel. I have taught classes about bird behavior, and behavior can be shown more effectively with video.

One of my favorite photos is of a Barn Swallow at Huntley Meadows whose open mouth is the shape of a heart. I use the photo in some of the talks I give

about my Fascination of Birds book, which has silhouettes of swallows on the cover.

My camera is one of many valuable tools I use in the field. In addition to documentation, it often shows me things about birds which I cannot see with my naked eyes. For these reasons, I am grateful to the Dickcissel who got me started.

—William Young

Author Note: William Young is a writer who lives in Arlington. He teaches classes about birds for the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. You can see his photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/145890709@N08/albums>.

The nature videos on his YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/williamyoung42>) have had more than three-quarters of a million views.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB
P.O. BOX 5812
ARLINGTON, VA 22205-0812

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Arlington, VA
Permit No. 490



**DATED
MATERIAL**

JOIN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB

Northern Virginia Bird Club dues for 2022 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 18, 2021, February 17 and April 21, 2022.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 2, 2021, 7:30 pm. To join the Zoom board meeting or to have items put on the agenda, please email lgmeade@gmail.com.

Thanks to the mailing crew: Many thanks to the August mail out crew: Elizabeth Fenton and Joanna Taylor.

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The February issue will include activities through April 2022. Please send items for publication by January 1, 2022, to the editors at siskineditor@verizon.net.

CLUB CONTACTS

President: Larry Meade,
571-275-2523

Vice President, Programs: Phil Silas,
703-987-0817

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
Joan Mashburn, 703-209-8678
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

Birding and Photography: *Bird Photography by a Non-Photographer*
by William Young (continued)



*Photographs taken by William Young on
International trips
Upper left, Whooping Motmot, Panama
Upper right, Ocellated Turkey, Belize
Left, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Ecuador
Lower left, Southern Ground-hornbill, Tanzania
Lower right, Blue-footed Booby, Galapagos*



Nesting Mississippi Kites Near Green Spring Park

Photographs © Donald Sweig, 2021



Adult feeding Cicada to Juvenile, August 9, 2021



Perched Juvenile, August 9, 2021



Juvenile in Flight, August 19, 2021

Subadult Second-year bird with some adult head and body plumage change, but retaining much juvenile wing and tail plumage. Both wings also show molt in the primary flight feathers. June 17, 2021



Adult in Flight, August 19, 2021



Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2021

The Club 2021 Financial Report follows. At the end of the year, the Club had 133 family and 267 individual memberships and 533 members. Memberships are up by over 40 from September 2020.

Membership remained strong as did donations to the Val Kitchens Memorial Educational Grant funds. Once again the Club gave a grant to the Community Cloud Forest Conservation organization.

Meeting expenses were low due to the use of virtual meetings. Printing costs were higher than usual because the Board decided to print the Siskin in color to enhance the featured articles on bird photography.

At the close of the year, the Club had \$14,676 in total assets,, including those reserved for future years (\$3,815)and for future Education grants (\$598).

Income received

Dues for 2021	4,365
Bird Watcher's Digest & pin sales	0
Donations - Educational grant fund	600
Gifts received	<u>96</u>
Total Income	\$5,061

Expenses

Organizational costs	\$783
(includes fees for web host PO box, VSO, Paypal, supplies)	
Meeting expenses	199
Printing and postage	2,924
(includes bulk mail permit)	
Educational Grants	500
Donations given	<u>50</u>

Total expenses -\$4,456

Net for 2021 \$605

—Jean Tatalias, Treasurer

Bombay Hook NWR Birds



Photographs by Seth Honig at Bombay Hook NWR:

Top right: Common Gallinule and chick
Middle: Virginia Rail chick
Bottom: Orchard Oriole



Northern Virginia Bird Club

2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

This is your 2022 dues notice. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individual membership and \$15.00 for family membership. Dues should be paid by December 31.

Club dues do not include Virginia Society of Ornithology membership.

Renewals: Please check your November 2021 Siskin mailing label. You do not owe dues if your label shows in the top left corner "22" (dues paid-through 2022) or a later year or "CO" (complimentary).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: YOU CAN JOIN AND PAY DUES ONLINE!!!

NVBC is using PayPal so members can JOIN and RENEW ONLINE. Go to the Club's web site, www.nvabc.org and click on the "join" tab. You can select individual or family memberships for one, two, or three years. As you complete the transactions, you will post your name, address and email information. Please add your email address (if different from your PayPal account email), phone number and names of family participants for family membership to "add special instructions to the seller."

PayPal is a way to send money securely, with the flexibility to pay by a customer's PayPal account, bank account, or credit card. When you pay online you can choose to pay by your PayPal account if you have one, but it is not required. You can pay by credit card as you would for any other online shopping transaction.

If you want to pay by check, complete the form below and mail to the address at the bottom. You may also use this form to submit changes in your name and mailing information or you can call the membership chair, Elizabeth Fenton, at 703-533-0851.

WAY TO HELP THE CLUB

- **Field trip leader:** If you are willing to volunteer to lead club bird trips, check ☐

Northern Virginia Bird Club Membership

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

Please check: ☐ **Renewal** ☐ **New Membership**

Dues:

Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00/1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00/2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00/3 years
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00/1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00/2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$45.00/3 years

Please send this form with your dues payment (*check payable to NVBC*) to:

Northern Virginia Bird Club Membership, PO Box 5812, Arlington, VA 22205-0812