



The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 67, No. 1

February 2022

www.nvabc.org

Inside

- Calendar of NVBC field trips, February 16 - May 7, 2022
- Club Members' Favorite Local Birding Spots

A reminder to pay your 2022 dues

If not paid, this will be the last issue you receive. *The Siskin* mailing label shows the year through which your dues are current or "CO" for complimentary. **Thanks!**

Chincoteague Spring Weekend Trip

After a year on hiatus, the club will return to Chincoteague for a spring weekend of birding, tentatively scheduled for May 20 through 22, 2022 (Friday to Sunday). The trip is limited to 28 people and usually fills up very fast. NVBC membership is required for this trip and all tour participants will need to declare that they are vaccinated when they sign up for the trip. **Registration will open on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6 am.** To sign up for this trip, email Elton Morel at eltonmorel@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 indicate whether you are interested in the boat trip (which has a fee) on Sunday morning. If the trip is full, your name will be put on a waiting list. As an additional COVID precaution, there will not be a group dinner on Saturday night.

continued on p. 2

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 8 PM

Our Wonderful Wood Warblers

Speaker: Bob Schamerhorn

Bob Schamerhorn is a national award-winning nature photographer. His presentation shows the indisputable beauty and diversity of some of our most spectacular birds. Warblers are amongst our smallest, yet most brilliantly colored avian visitors. Most of these birds are only present in Virginia for brief periods, during their spring and fall migrations. Most of our native Virginia species are represented. Many warblers have entirely different plumage at different times of the year making them difficult to differentiate. Learn about identification of this diverse group of birds by sight, sound, season, and habitat. This multimedia presentation includes photographs, HD video clips and accompanying birdsong. It makes for a great identification course in preparation for spring migration.

Bob Schamerhorn has been fascinated with nature since his childhood in Lynchburg, Virginia. His beautiful web site, iPhotobirds.com, is a compilation of his nature photography and efforts as a nature enthusiast. It provides information about his presentations and products that are available to order.

The February 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 web site (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.



Magnolia Warbler at Magee Marsh, Ohio photographed by Neal Gause in May 2019

Presidential Peenting

For birders, one of the highlights of winter is waterfowl watching. We are fortunate that we usually have a nice assortment of ducks and geese spending the colder months in our region. The male ducks are striking as they cruise our ponds, lakes and rivers in their colorful plumage. Females, though more subdued in appearance, are also handsome in their own way. Fortunately for duck lovers, they are usually fairly easy to find since they are often swimming around out in the open. There's no need to wait for them to hop out of a bush. When watching waterfowl, seeing them up close is the best way to study them in detail and to photograph them. However, it's also fun to set up a spotting scope at a place like Mason Neck State Park and see how many duck species you can spot over a wide area. I sometimes call this activity "advanced duck, duck, goose". It's also rewarding to travel to coastal locations like Chincoteague or Ocean City to look for sea ducks such as scoters, eiders and Harlequin Ducks that we don't normally find in Northern Virginia. Sometimes a rare duck or goose will appear in our area and birders will converge to see it. I have taken trips to see Barnacle, Ross's and Pink-footed Geese which unlike proverbial "wild goose chases" were actually successful. I hope you can get out soon and see some interesting waterfowl. Just remember that if someone yells "Duck!" they may actually be warning you of danger and not announcing that a Northern Pintail or Common Goldeneye is flying overhead!

—Larry Meade



Photographs of male and female Green-winged Teals taken at Huntley Meadows by Larry Meade

Chincoteague Spring Trip *from p. 1*

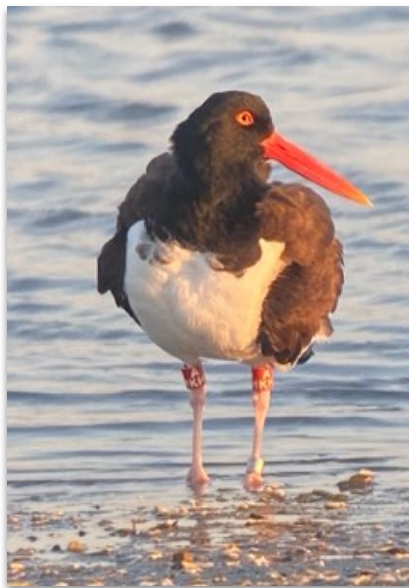
Mid-May is an excellent time to visit the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Spring shorebird migration is in full swing with most birds in breeding plumage. Historically, the club's trips tally about 100 species, including such Eastern Shore specialties as Black-necked Stilts, American Oystercatchers, Piping Plovers, Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Least, Royal, and Common Terns, Black Skimmers, Clapper Rails, Seaside Sparrows, Chuck-will's-widows, Brown-headed Nuthatches and Boat-tailed Grackles.

Plans for the weekend include birding the Chincoteague NWR on Friday afternoon starting at 3:15 pm (optional) or on Saturday starting at 7:30 am. Activities on Saturday morning include birding along Beach Road, Swan Cove and Tom's Cove. We will also visit Chincoteague Island Park Trail looking for land bird migrants as well as visiting Queens Sound Flats, the Chincoteague City mudflats, and possibly Mariner's Point. On Sunday morning, we will board a

pontoon boat and travel along Chincoteague Inlet then to Fishing Point at the end of Tom's Cove and finally Black Point Landing, all the while looking mostly for shorebirds along the mudflats. The cost of the boat trip will be about \$35 per person. The trip concludes at noon on Sunday.

We have obtained a special rate of \$105.00 per night, including tax, 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 April 20 to get this special group rate. Confirmed participants should make their 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, May 20, and a 48-hour cancellation notice is required. Chincoteague NWR is a U.S. fee area.

—Elton Morel



American Oystercatcher with three bands photographed by Joan Mashburn

Club Members' Favorite Local Birding Spots

Members identified the following birding spots that they enjoy: some are local parks that are easily walked and time can be spent learning where the birds can be found and observing their behavior. The photographs accompanying each location were taken by the authors.

Ashby Pond Conservancy Site in Fairfax City at 9817 Ashby Road, Fairfax 22031. It's small and has some great birds.

On May 10, 2010, I photographed a Cape May and Wilson's Warblers and an Eastern Phoebe with a Common Whitetail Dragonfly.



This spring, I observed a successful Northern Flicker nest.



On a hot August day this year I caught a Green Heron taking a bath. It was very humid, and after the bath he stood on a branch for a long time, wings out, trying to dry off. One of the few times I really could see the green in the feathers. In the fall, I've had both Solitary Sandpipers and Rusty Blackbirds. Recent (late December) reliable sightings include Eastern Towhee, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper and lots of Fish Crows.

—**Seth Honig**

(Note: additional photographs in online addendum)

Broad Run Stream Valley Park Diverse habitat and few people make this a favorite Loudoun County spot. South of

Evergreen Mills Rd. between Loudoun County Pkwy and Belmont Ridge Rd. Marked trails are hidden back in the woods and paths that run along Broad Run. Much of fields bordering Evergreen Mills Road are zoned for more houses, so it's a good time to go now. You can access through tunnel at Cypress Glen Square, but I prefer to park in the space at Richland Grove Dr intersection with Evergreen Mills Rd. The Long Pond had Pied-billed Grebe, Spotted Sandpipers, and plenty of Indigo Buntings in July. Fields had American Pipits in November. Pond near old barn had Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup recently. Hawks abundant. A Ross's Goose was seen in early January 2022.

—**Joan Mashburn**

Luria Park is a small neighborhood park at the end of Holmes Run Drive (7624 Holmes Run Dr, Falls Church, VA 22042). It's not far from the INOVA hospital on Gallows Road. The park is multi-use with a playground and a sports field. However, it also has extensive woods and a creek with a bridge across it. I first went there to see a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and have seen many other great birds there on subsequent trips. It's a good place for warblers during migration and I once saw a Black-billed Cuckoo near the entrance to the park. On one of my best days there, I found all seven species of woodpeckers that can be seen in our region.



—**Larry Meade**

Middlesex Drive Pond in South Riding (Loudoun County) has recently become a popular location for local birders. It's a hotspot for both shorebirds and waterfowl depending on the season. The pond is long and there are many places to view it from Middlesex Drive. Turn from Pleasant Valley Rd to Middlesex Drive and park along the road. You can also drive to the other side of the pond to Churchill Glen Drive and walk up a path to see the pond from there. Some excellent birds that I have seen there

continued on p. 7

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/field-trips-this-month>.
- 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>February</u> | | | 16 8:30 AM Dyke March Tom Nardone | 17 NVBC Meeting 8 PM | | 19 8:30 AM Mason Neck SP Ken Hunt Larry Meade |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Trip Leaders</p> <p>Jeremy Beck 703-517-1816</p> <p>Larry Cartwright 703-941-3142</p> <p>Toby Hardwick 703-201-1517</p> <p>Bert Harris 615-440-0666</p> <p>Ken Hunt 319-354-1079</p> <p>Ed Legrand 908-268-6627</p> <p>Larry Meade 571-275-2523</p> <p>Elton Morel 703-907-9951</p> <p>Tom Nardone 703-946-7738</p> <p>Phil Silas 703-987-0817</p> <p>Dixie Sommers 703-969-7931</p> </div> | | | 23 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Tom Nardone | | | 26 8 AM Aquia Landing Beach Park Elton Morel |
| | | | <u>March</u> 2 8:30 AM Long Branch Jeremy Beck Tom Nardone | | | 5 8:30 AM Blandy Farm Elton Morel |
| 6 5:00 PM Woodcock Display at Dusk - Huntley Meadows Hike/Bike Trail Larry Cartwright | | | 9 8:30 AM Burke Lake Park Tom Nardone | | | 12 8 AM Ocoquan Bay NWR Phil Silas Ken Hunt |
| | | | 16 8:30 AM Riverbend RP Tom Nardone Dixie Sommers | | | 19 8:15 AM Widewater State Park Elton Morel |
| | | | 23 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Tom Nardone | | | 26 8 AM JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary (Reservations required) See directions for details) Gerco Hoogeweg Elton Morel |
| | | 29 8:30 AM Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk Phil Silas | | <u>April</u> | | 2 7:30 AM Silver Lake RP Toby Hardwick Larry Meade |
| | | | 6 8:30 AM Long Branch Jeremy Beck Tom Nardone | | | 9 7:30 AM Leopold's Preserve Toby Hardwick Ed Legrand |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---|--|--------|--|
| <u>April</u> | | | 13 8:30 AM Meadowood Recreation Area Tom Nardone | | | 16 7:30 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Larry Meade Ken Hunt |
| | | | 20 8:30 AM Fort C. F. Smith Jeremy Beck Tom Nardone | 21 NVBC Meeting 8 PM | | 23 7:30 AM Clifton Institute Bert Harris Elton Morel |
| | | | 27 8:30 AM Potomac Overlook RP Jeremy Beck | | | 30 7:30AM Leesylvania SP Phil Silas Ken Hunt |
| <u>May</u> | | | 4 8:30 AM Long Branch Elton Morel | | | 7 7:30 AM Trillium Trail Elton Morel |

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (2/17, 4/21) Online meeting using Zoom platform..

Aquia Landing Beach Park (2/26) 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 parking lot.

Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia (3/5) 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. Turn left at traffic light onto Rt 50/17; go 7.8 mi., turn left onto Rt 750 to the Arboretum. Meet in parking lot.

Burke Lake Park (3/9) 7315 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station 22039 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).

Clifton Institute (4/23) 6712 Blantyre Rd, Warrenton 20187 Take I-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 (2/16, 3/23) 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.

Fort C.F. Smith (4/20) 2411 24th St N, Arlington 22207 From I-66 east, take exit 72 (Spout Run Pkwy). At traffic light, turn right on ee 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. From Alexandria: take GW Pkwy north, take left exit onto Spout Run, then right exit onto Lorcom Ln, and follow remaining directions above.

Huntley Meadows Hike & Bike Trail (3/6) From I-495, take Rt 1 south 0.5 mi to Rt 633 (S. King Hwy). Turn right (west), go 2.5 mi. to park entrance and lot on left (just before Telegraph Rd).

Huntley Meadows Park (2/23) 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria 22306 From I-495, take Rt 1 south 3 mi. to Lockheed Blvd. Turn right on Lockheed and go 0.5 mi. to Harrison Ln to park entrance on left. Meet in parking lot.

JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary (3/26) Near Lucketts. Not open to the public. Directions to Lucketts Community Center. From points east and south, take VA Rt 15 north to Lucketts. At the traffic light, turn right onto Rt 662 and immediately right into the community center parking lot. Space is limited to 24 people. **Registration starts at noon, Feb 26, 2022.** To sign up for this trip, please email Gerco Hoogeweg at ghoogeweg@loudounwildlife.org. Meet at the Lucketts Community Center at 7:30 am. Will leave at 7:45 and carpool if possible. Parking at the property is limited to 12 cars.

Directions.

Leesylvania State Park (4/30) 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.

Leopold's Preserve (4/9) 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 (3/2, 4/6, 5/4) 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 (2/19) 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.

Meadowood Recreation Area (4/13) 10406 Gunston Rd, Lorton 22079 From I-495, take I-95 south 7 mi. to Lorton exit. Left on Rt 642. Immediately after passing under railroad tracks (0.25 mi.) turn right on Lorton Market Rd, which soon becomes Gunston Cove Rd. After crossing Rt 1, road becomes Gunston Rd. Go 1.8 miles to Meadowood on right. (BLM, Lower Potomac Station Office). Park on right next to horse barns just before field station building.

Neabsco Regional Park - Boardwalk (3/29) 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 exit 156A for Rt 784 east toward Rippon Landing. Continue 0.7 mi. cross 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.

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge (3/12, 4/16) 13950 Dawson Beach Rd, Woodbridge 22191 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.

Potomac Overlook Regional Park (4/27) 2845 N. Marcey Rd, Arlington 22207 From I-66 east take exit 72 and turn left onto Rt 29 south, and go 0.6 mi. taking a slight right onto Military Rd, continue 0.5 mi. turning left to stay on Military Rd. Turn right after 0.3 mil. onto N. Marcey Rd and proceed 0.4 mi. to parking lot.

Riverbend Park (Visitor Center) (3/16) 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 Park (4/2) 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 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 (5/7) (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.

Widewater State Park (3/19) 101 Widewater State Park Rd, Stafford 22554 From I-95, take exit 148 to Quantico Marine Corps Base and follow signs to Widewater State Park. Left on Russell Rd. Right on Rt 1 South, go 1 mi. Left turn on Telegraph Rd, go 0.5 mi. and turn left on Widewater Rd. Widewater Rd. (Rt 611) turns into Arkendale Rd. (Rt 633) after about four miles. Follow this road for about 2 mi. and cross railroad tracks. Entrance to park Visitor Center entrance is about 2.5 mi. on right. Meet at the Visitor Center. State fee area.

A club member has identified local bus lines that can be used to get to some trip locations. These bus lines have been added to the online trip location directions. We cannot confirm whether schedules allow anyone to make field trip start times.

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/events/index.html#birds

Favorite Local Birding Spots *from p. 3*

Middlesex Drive Pond *(continued)*

include a Ruff, Red-necked Phalaropes and a Eurasian Green-winged Teal. The teal has a horizontal stripe on his side and white stripes on his head. Our usual US Green-winged Teal have vertical stripes on their sides and no stripes on their heads. Right now, in the US, they are considered to be the same species, but in Europe, they are recognized as distinct. I am hoping that the “Powers That Be” in the US will split them at some point and give me a new lifer.



—Larry Meade

Providence Recreation Center, 7525 Marc Drive, Falls Church. Trails start in the southwest corner of the parking lot. From Rt 50, take Jaguar Trail, right onto Marc Drive and park at the rec center parking lot.

In May last year, I watched this Northern Cardinal fly around in the same small area with four caterpillars in his beak for a full fifteen minutes. I could not see a female nearby, and he eventually flew far out of sight. I thought this to be rather odd behavior.



Last winter there was a very reliable and vocal Winter Wren. This spring, I watched a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks mating from the parking lot! That was really something, and quite loud, too. There was an active Eastern Phoebe pair. And I also watched a White-eyed

Vireo collecting spider silk for a nest, singing as he gathered it. Judging by the number of vireos I saw later, it must have been a successful nest.



—Seth Honig

Sully Woodlands features around 100 acres of managed grass meadows with juniper (red cedar) edges, Ellick Run, a stream in the woods, and adjacent woods extending south about 2.5 miles. The easiest time to bird here is during the weeks or months after Fairfax County Park Authority periodically mows paths around the meadows. At those times you can walk comfortably in sneakers.

Grasshopper Sparrows have nested in the main meadow area during 2019 through 2021. Yellow-breasted Chats, Eastern Towhees, Prairie Warblers, and Blue Grosbeaks historically have nested here, and may still use the un-managed area in the northeast corner.

The fields host many sparrows during winter as well as Northern Harriers and American Kestrels. Sully Woodlands also has had rare bird sightings including Say's Phoebe, Northern Shrike and LeConte's Sparrow.

Park outside the entrance, a gravel road on the west side of Pleasant Valley Road, half mile south of Braddock Road. Do not block the gated entrance; parallel park on the shoulders of Pleasant Valley Road.

More information is available at the eBird hot spot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L552673>.

—Steve Johnson

Online Reference sources:

eBird

Birding Virginia: <https://birdingvirginia.org> provides information on various locations designated as eBird hotspots, organized by counties in Virginia and identifying when, where, and how to bird them. The web site continues to be updated and encourages submission of write ups on hotspots. Check out the various locations especially Northern Virginia counties (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, City of Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, Prince William, and Stafford)

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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: February 17, April 21, September (tbd), and November (tbd), 2022.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022, 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 November mail out crew: Elizabeth Fenton and Joanna Taylor.

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The April issue will include activities through June 2022. Please send items for publication by **March 15, 2022** to the editors at nvbc-siskineditor@gmail.com.

CLUB CONTACTS

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Club Members Favorite Local Birding Sites

by Seth Honig

Cape May Warbler photographed last spring at Ashby Pond Conservancy Site



Last winter, there was a very reliable and vocal Winter Wren at one of the Providence Recreation Center trails



On a hot August day, caught a Green Heron taking a bath and then stood on branch with wings out, trying to dry out at the Ashby Pond Conservancy Site



This spring, watched a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks mating from the parking lot.



In the fall, Rusty Blackbirds seen several times at the Ashby Pond Conservancy site



A cooperative Fox Sparrow at one of the Providence Recreation Center trails

