



The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 61, No. 4

November 2016

www.nvabc.org

Inside

- Calendar of NVBC field trips, November 9, 2016 - February 5, 2017
- Highland County winter trip
- 2017 ASNV Winter Waterfowl Survey
- 2016 Treasurer's Report
- Upcoming Christmas Bird Counts in Northern Virginia
- Youth Birding Scholarship
- Report from Camp Avocet
- Occoquan Bay Bird Banding 2016

Insert - 2017 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 February 3-5 (Friday to Sunday) co-led by Marc Ribaldo and myself. 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. On last year's trip, we saw a total of 105 species including 21 species of waterfowl. Highlight sightings were Snow Geese and Horned Larks along the dunes, and Western Sandpipers amongst the shorebirds at Chincoteague NWR, Clapper Rails and a mixed flock of Seaside, Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows

continued on p.2

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 8 PM

Taiwan: Birds, Culture and More

Speakers Diane Marton and Joanna Taylor

Join club members Diane Marton and Joanna Taylor on their journey this past April around Taiwan and its offshore island Lanyu. They were on a Tropical Birding tour led by guide and photographer Charley Hesse.

Taiwan, an island nation thrust out of the ocean floor along the Pacific "ring of fire," sports stunningly beautiful mountain peaks and seascapes in its small area. Dubbed Formosa or "beautiful island" by the early Portuguese explorers, it claims a high number of endemic plant and animal species, with birds being no exception. The number is continually rising as endemic subspecies are promoted to full species status.

Early bird refreshments start at 7:30 PM and will include some Chinese finger foods. 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.



Swinhoe's Pheasant Photograph by Charley Hesse of Tropical Birding

Presidential Peentings

What is a birder? Do you need to have a long life list and a collection of high priced optics to be considered a real birder? I would argue that if you own a pair of binoculars, have a field guide and know the birds in your neighborhood, you can legitimately call yourself a “birder.” Birders can be of any age and of any experience level. In Virginia, there is now a new, younger generation of enthusiastic birders who are injecting some much needed energy into the hobby. One of the rewarding aspects of being a birder is that there are so many chances to learn new things and have new experiences. Birders, by their nature, are often lifelong learners and birding provides an opportunity to study a subject in depth. As a birder, you can gain knowledge passively by reading about birds or learn actively by going out in the field and experiencing birds for yourself. Many birders have extensive bird book collections, so we are not averse to reading. However, going outside and seeing birds for yourself is the best way to learn. Getting out there also exposes you to new locations to visit and to new people who share the same interest as you. You can literally bird for the rest of your life and continue to collect new birding experiences to enrich your time on earth. Happy birding!

—Larry Meade



Glossy and juvenile White Ibis at Chincoteague
Photograph by Larry Meade

Winter Chincoteague Trip *from p.1* along the entrance road to the refuge, and a Marbled Godwit at the Chincoteague City mudflats and Mariner’s Point. At Kiptopeke State Park, we were astonished to see an American White Pelican fly right over us at the pier. At the CBBT Islands, we found Harlequin Ducks, Long-tailed Ducks, Great Cormorants, Northern Gannets, Purple Sandpipers, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a briefly viewed Razorbill.

Plans for the weekend include birding the Chincoteague area Friday afternoon starting at 3:15 p.m. (optional) and Saturday starting at 7:30 a.m. Activities on Friday and Saturday include birding along Beach Road, Swan Cove and Tom’s Cove and around the Wildlife Loop. Time



Tricolored Heron at Chincoteague
Photographed by Larry Meade

and tides permitting, we will also visit the Queen Sound Flats, the Chincoteague City mudflats and Mariner’s Point.

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

NVBC membership is required for this trip. To sign up for this trip, please call Elton Morel at 703-553-4860 or email him at eltonmorel@verizon.net. The trip is limited to 24 people and usually fills up, so please contact Elton Morel first to ensure that space is available before making hotel reservations. When signing up, please indicate whether you are interested in Sunday morning’s CBBT Island trip and a Saturday evening group dinner. If the trip is full, your name can be put on a waiting list.

We have obtained a special rate of \$76 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 20 to get this special group rate. Participants should make your own reservations by calling 800-553-6117 and be sure to say you are with the Northern Virginia Bird Club. Check-in time is 3 pm on Friday, February 3, with 24-hour notice required for cancellation. Chincoteague NWR is a US fee area.

—Elton Morel

HIGHLAND COUNTY WINTER WEEKEND

Our winter trip to Highland County will be held on the weekend of March 3 - 5 (Friday to Sunday), 2017. The plan is to spend Friday night in Staunton and Saturday night in Highland County. The trip limit is 20 people. A complete description of the trip will be in the February 2017 edition of the Siskin. To sign up, call Gerco Hoogeweg at 540-822-5857 or email at dgerco@hotmail.com. NVBC membership is required.

—Gerco Hoogeweg

Winter Waterfowl Survey

On **Saturday, February 4** and **Sunday, February 5, 2017** 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

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2016

The Club has 366 family and individual memberships, with 500 total members

Income received

Dues for 2016	4,152
Bird Watcher's Digest & pins	70
Donations	358
Total Income	\$4,580

Expenses

Organizational costs (includes fees for PO box, bulk mailing, web site hosting, state registration, VSO dues, etc.)	\$630
Meeting expenses (hall rental, speaker honorariums, etc)	1,006
Printing and postage	2,083
Scholarships	1,000
Total expenses	\$4,719

Net for 2016 - \$139

We entered 2016 projecting a break even budget. The Club received over \$300 more in dues than projected. We also received donations of over \$300 from generous members plus a small amount from Amazon Smile.

On the expense side, we were very close to projected amounts for fees, meeting expenses, printing and postage. Because we had two such outstanding youth scholarship applicants, the Board awarded two Val Kitchens Memorial Scholarships of \$500 each.

The Club had a net loss from 2016 of \$139 to which we applied some of the net gain of \$1,000 from 2015. Net assets at the end of the year were \$7,584.

—Jean Tatalias, Treasurer

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

December

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

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

Contact coordinator and compiler, Odette James at o.b.james@verizon.net.

Saturday, December 17, 2016

- *WASHINGTON D.C.*

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

Sunday, December 18, 2016

- *MANASSAS-BULL RUN*

To participate, contact Bob Shipman at ships333@yahoo.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, email compiler, Sue Garvin at Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, sgarvin@envstudies.org.

Monday, December 26, 2016

- *NOKESVILLE*

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

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

- *CENTRAL LOUDOUN*

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

January

Sunday, January 1, 2017

- *WALKERTON*

Count area is primarily in Middle Peninsula. Contact by December 16. Contact compiler, Fred Atwood at fredatwood@yahoo.com.

Monday, January 2, 2017

- *CALMES NECK*

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

- *FORT BELVOIR*

Contact interim compiler, Phil Silas at 703-590-7286 or epsdcv@aol.com

- *SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN*

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

Youth Birding Scholarship Opportunity

The Northern Virginia Bird Club is sponsoring the Val Kitchens Memorial Young Birder Scholarship for 2017. We are seeking applicants from 13 to 18 years of age to receive a financial grant of up to \$500 to attend a Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) activity, a birding camp, a birding course or educational offering, or a similar activity. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of application to the Board with a short biographical sketch (name, age, current involvement in birding), description of planned activity and expressing why they would value this opportunity. Candidates will be asked to provide a reference from a member of NVBC, VSO, or from a birder familiar to the club.

The deadline is February 1, 2017. Applications can be submitted as an attachment via email to the Club at lgmeade@gmail.com, or mailed to Northern Virginia Bird Club, Attn: Scholarship, P.O. Box 5812, Arlington, VA 22205-0812. Interested parties can call David Farner at 443-643-6141 or Ghazali Raheem at 703-563-3810, send an email to the Club at lgmeade@gmail.com or contact other Officers or Directors listed in the Club Contacts list on the back page of the newsletter. Current program information is available at www.nvabc.org/youth-birding-scholarship-opportunity.

Please spread the word and help support a young birder learn more about the wonders of birding and about this great opportunity.

—Ghazali Raheem

Upcoming Trips and Events

Compiled by Elton Morel

Note:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																										
<p><u>November</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Trip Leaders</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>David Boltz</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-768-7499</td></tr> <tr><td>Larry Cartwright</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-941-3142</td></tr> <tr><td>Elizabeth Fenton</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-533-0851</td></tr> <tr><td>Gerco Hoogeweg</td><td style="text-align: right;">540-822-5857</td></tr> <tr><td>Catherine Kubo</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-352-1238</td></tr> <tr><td>David Ledwith</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-933-9477</td></tr> <tr><td>Larry Meade</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-206-9030</td></tr> <tr><td>Elton Morel</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-553-4860</td></tr> <tr><td>Tom Nardone</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-394-7738</td></tr> <tr><td>Ghazali Raheem</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-563-3810</td></tr> <tr><td>Marc Ribaldo</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-680-1134</td></tr> <tr><td>Phil Silas</td><td style="text-align: right;">703-590-7286</td></tr> <tr><td>Jean Tatalias</td><td style="text-align: right;">571-447-7977</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Trip Leaders		David Boltz	703-768-7499	Larry Cartwright	703-941-3142	Elizabeth Fenton	703-533-0851	Gerco Hoogeweg	540-822-5857	Catherine Kubo	703-352-1238	David Ledwith	703-933-9477	Larry Meade	703-206-9030	Elton Morel	703-553-4860	Tom Nardone	703-394-7738	Ghazali Raheem	703-563-3810	Marc Ribaldo	703-680-1134	Phil Silas	703-590-7286	Jean Tatalias	571-447-7977	<p>9 8:30 AM Eakin Park Elizabeth Fenton Jean Tatalias</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Shenandoah River Campus David Boltz Elton Morel</p>
Trip Leaders																																
David Boltz	703-768-7499																															
Larry Cartwright	703-941-3142																															
Elizabeth Fenton	703-533-0851																															
Gerco Hoogeweg	540-822-5857																															
Catherine Kubo	703-352-1238																															
David Ledwith	703-933-9477																															
Larry Meade	703-206-9030																															
Elton Morel	703-553-4860																															
Tom Nardone	703-394-7738																															
Ghazali Raheem	703-563-3810																															
Marc Ribaldo	703-680-1134																															
Phil Silas	703-590-7286																															
Jean Tatalias	571-447-7977																															
			<p>16 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Tom Nardone</p>	<p>NVBC Meeting 8 PM</p>			<p>19 8 AM Silver Lake RP Marc Ribaldo Phil Silas</p>																									
			<p>26 8 AM Aquia Landing David Ledwith Elton Morel</p>																													
			<p>30 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Larry Cartwright Phil Silas</p>	<p><u>December</u></p>		<p>3 8:30 AM Blandy Farm Larry Meade Elton Morel</p>																										
			<p>7 9:30 AM Long Branch Elizabeth Fenton Ghazali Raheem</p>	<p>10 8 AM Mason Neck SP David Ledwith Marc Ribaldo</p>																												

December 14, 2016 - January 5, 2017— CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA (See p. 3)

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (11/16) 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 (11/26) 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 the parking lot.

Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia (12/3) 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 (1/11) 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 (11/30, 1/25) 6401 George Washington Memorial Pkwy, Alexandria 22307 (Belle Haven Park and Marina) From Alexandria, take

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January			4 9:30 am Long Branch Elizabeth Fenton Tom Nardone			7 8 AM Northern Neck X-trip <i>Members only/</i> Reservations required Larry Meade
			11 8:30 AM Burke Lake Catherine Kubo Jean Tatalias			14 8 AM Riverbend-Visitor Ctr Gerco Hoogeweg David Ledwith
			18 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Tom Nardone			21 8 AM Leesylvania SP David Ledwith Marc Ribaudó
			25 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Tom Nardone			28 8 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Marc Ribaudó Phil Silas
February			1 9:30 AM Long Branch Elizabeth Fenton		3-5 Chincoteague Weekend <i>Members only/Reservations required</i> Elton Morel Marc Ribaudó	

George Washington Pkwy south. Cross I-495; continue 1.2 mi. to Belle Haven Park entrance on the left. Meet at south parking lot.

Eakin Park (11/9) 3401 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax 22031 From I-495, take Rt 50 west one mi. to Prosperity Ave; turn left onto Prosperity and go one mi. to parking lot on left.

Huntley Meadows Park (11/16, 1/18) 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 (1/21) 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.

Long Branch Nature Area (12/7, 1/4, 2/1) 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 (12/10) 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.

Northern Neck X-trip (1/7) 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 (1/28) 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) (1/14) 8700 Potomac Hills St, Great Falls 22066 From I-495, take Rt 193 west 5 mi. to Rt 603 (Riverbend Rd). Right onto Rt 603, go 2 mi. to Jeffery Rd. Right onto Jeffery; go 0.8 mi. to main park entrance sign on right. Turn right and continue 0.5 mi to Visitor Center parking lot. Meet in front of Visitor Center

Shenandoah River Campus at Cool Springs Battlefield (11/12) 1400 Parker Ln, Bluemont 20135 From I-495 at Tysons Corner, take VA-267 (Dulles Toll Road) to Leesburg for 36.8 mi. Take exit 1A from Va-267 West and merge onto US-15 South/VA-7 West/Leesburg Bypass for 3.3 mi. Continue straight to stay on VA-7 West for 17.1 mi. After passing Snicker's Gap but just before the

Report from Camp Avocet

Trip Directions *from page 5*

Shenandoah River Bridge, turn right at Parker Ln (F709) then go 1.4 mi. to the parking lot.

To avoid the Dulles Toll Road, from I-495 at Tysons Corner, take VA-7 West (Leesburg Pike) to Leesburg for 47.2 mi. After passing Snicker's Gap but just before the Shenandoah River Bridge, turn right at Parker Ln (F709) then go 1.4 mi. to the parking lot.

Silver Lake Park (11/19) 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 mi. 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.

Bird Walks at Local Parks

- **Dyke Marsh, Sundays, 8 am** See directions. Visit the Friends of Dyke Marsh web site, www.fodm.org
- **Eakin Park, Mondays, 7:30 am (Dec-Feb)** Meet at Prosperity Ave parking lot. Leader: Carolyn Williams
- **Great Falls National Park, Sundays, 8 am** Meet at the Park Visitor Center parking lot.
- **Huntley Meadows Park, Mondays, 7 am (Mar-Oct) 8 am (Nov-Feb)** Meet in parking lot. Leader: Harry Glasgow



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

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker photographed by Seth Honig in his yard Mantua, Fairfax

I had a wonderful experience at Camp Avocet, and I want to share some of my thoughts with you. First of all, this camp gave me experience with young birders from around the country and the world; from California, Oklahoma, and Michigan and one even from England! Two years ago, my birding club was Huntley Meadows. Then last year I got involved in the Northern Virginia Teen Birding Club with Fred Atwood, which expanded by experience and taught me how to do banding as well. Now, thanks to my experience at Avocet, I am connected to a wide group. We are connected on eBird, and while we chatted more during the summer after camp, we know that the others are out there birding and we can follow each other.



Snowy Egret at Chincoteague photographed by Lucy Soulliere

At Avocet, one thing I really appreciated was spending time on bird identification, such as how to identify terns by their calls, and how a White-rumped Sandpiper's wings cross at the tips. I also learned a lot about photography and the difference a good camera makes, and improved my skills in that region as well. I have since upgraded to a DSLR from a simple point-and-shoot camera. I now have a Canon 20D, which is an older model but great.

I saw many rare and amazing bird species, such as a Roseate Tern, Parasitic Jaegers, and Piping Plovers. All in all, a rich variety, and I understand shore and ocean birds far more than before. I am curious now about birds in places I've spent less time, such as the mountains and lakes. And of course, some day, in more exotic locations. (I'm excited and keep asking my parents when we will go to Costa Rica, for example!)

We went to very beautiful and biodiverse places on our trips, such as Chincoteague and Cape May, many of which I had not had the opportunity to visit before. I enjoyed going to the ABA headquarters, and meeting the people who work there. I met many fellow birders, and made some great new friends as well. Camp Avocet was amazing, and I think I am a better birder because of it.

—Lucy Soulliere
2016 Co-Recipient of the NVBC's Val Kitchens Memorial Young Birder Scholarship



Occoquan Bay Bird Banding 2016

Despite a chilly, wet and windy Spring, the banding season at Occoquan Bay was quite productive. We had 34 scheduled banding days, but were only able to keep all our nets open the full 6 hours on 14 of them. The other days were either partial coverage or were cancelled. It was so wet this year that at one point we had little fish swimming under a couple of the nets and the mud had to be experienced to be believed. In spite of this we managed to band 574 birds which is slightly above average. We only had 49 species which is under average, probably because we missed flights on the days we were not able to operate the nets.



*White-throated Sparrow recaptured after seven years.
Photograph by Mary Scala.*

This year we set new banding records for number of Gray Catbird (93), Veery (11), Acadian Flycatcher (9) and Hooded Warbler (3). We had 112 Common Yellowthroats which was the most of any one species banded this year. Our most common bird banded in the station's history remains the White-throated Sparrow. A Red-wing Blackbird was our 8,000th bird banded in the 16 years we have been operating the station. We were able to band our first Green Heron, now that we have the proper size bands. A Kentucky Warbler was species number 97. Our most notable recaptures were: a Red-Bellied Woodpecker and two White-throated Sparrows in their seventh year; a Carolina Wren and White-throated Sparrow in their sixth year; A Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker and Indigo Bunting in their fifth year. A female Northern Cardinal banded in 2009 as an adult was recaptured this year. She has not been in the nets in the intervening years and she is now in her ninth year.

The Occoquan Bay banding station monitors spring migration at the refuge. Visitors are welcome to visit the station. We open in the last week of March and continue until the end of May. The station is open Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (weather permitting) from 7 am until 11:30 am. We are located near the gazebo on Deephole Point Road, overlooking Marumsco Creek.

—*Joanna Taylor*

Northern Virginia birders happily viewed Mississippi Kites around North Arlington and Fairfax County. Donald Sweig photographed the adult Mississippi Kite preparing to feed a cicada to its large chick around 17th and Utah, in North Arlington. Other kites had been seen over and around Green Spring Gardens Park. It turned out that they had nested in a nearby residential neighborhood in July. In August, Donald Sweig obtained special permission to photograph the juvenile Mississippi Kite almost ready to fledge on the nest in a private yard.



© Donald M. Sweig



© 2016 Donald M. Sweig

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 2017 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, Ghazali Raheem, at rgcomm19@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 16, 2016, February 15, and April 19, 2017.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 7:30 pm, at Diane Marton's home. All club members are welcome at board meetings. For directions or to have items put on the agenda, please call or email Diane Marton.

Thanks to the mailing crew: Many thanks to the August mail out crew: Sally Carson, Elizabeth Fenton, Diane Marton, Jean Tatalias and Joanna Taylor

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The February issue will include activities through January 2017. Please send items for publication by January 1, 2017 to the editors at siskineditor@verizon.net.

CLUB CONTACTS

President: Larry Meade, 703-206-9030

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

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

Secretary: Diane Marton, 703-527-7360

Treasurer: Jean Tatalias, 703-281-6099

Directors: Emily Caven, 703-592-6522; Catherine Kubo, 703-352-1238, Joanna Taylor, 703-243-5989

Directors Emeritus: Len Alfredson, Don Wiesnet

Membership: Elizabeth Fenton, 703-533-0851

Webmaster, www.nvabc.org: Ghazali Raheem, rgcomm19@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