



The SISKIN

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Bird Club

Vol. 71, No. 2

April 2026

www.nvabc.org

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- What to Do When eBird Asks for Details
- 2026 Winter Chincoteague Trip report



New Club Website

Check out our beautifully revamped website at nvabc.org! The site now offers a modern, attractive and mobile-friendly experience.

Exciting New Features:

- Quick Access: View upcoming walks and meetings right on the homepage.
- Smart Calendar: View or subscribe to our new Google walk calendar.
- Detailed Locations: Explore walk sites with trail maps, parking, and eBird links
- Deep Archives: Fully searchable site, featuring easily accessible back issues of The Siskin.
- Stay Informed: Enjoy weekly trip report blogs and a new FAQ page.

NVBC GENERAL MEETING—TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 8 PM

The Cape May Raptor Banding Project

Speaker: Paul Napier

Paul Napier will present “The Cape May Raptor Banding Project” which will cover a brief history, some impressive Project statistics, an overview of the intern program, how the Project contributes to science projects, and portraits and facts about the raptors banded. There will be lots of great close-up photographs.

Paul Napier has been banding raptors since 1988. He started out as a birdwatcher, then discovered raptors and never recovered. He has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad in order to learn more about the many exciting birds of prey that share our environment. Paul has been President of the Cape May Raptor Banding Project since the early 2000s when Project founder and noted raptor expert William S. Clark retired.

General Meeting Notes: 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)



Male Cooper's Hawk being banded photographed by Paul Napier

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

- Modern Interface: Features easy navigation with a quick "back to top" arrow and a clickable club logo that brings you right to the home page

The NVBC Board would like to recognize and thank Troy Barbour for his outstanding volunteer contribution in updating the website.

Plus, you can still easily join, donate or renew online!

Presidential Peentings

We are fortunate to have a vibrant birding community in Northern Virginia. Many people are interested in birds. Some are mainly focused on their backyard birds while others on the other end of the spectrum travel the world looking for birds to add to their life lists. In addition to the Northern Virginia Bird Club, there are several excellent conservation and birding organizations in our region including the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, and the Prince William Conservation Alliance. Friends groups associated with various parks and refuges also do good work.

I appreciate that there are so many skilled birders in Northern Virginia. Several of them have generously agreed to lead our club's walks or to serve in other capacities. Another advantage is that having so many birders out there birding enhances the chances of someone finding a rare bird. Rare birds are always a cause for excitement in our community. A good example is the Red-flanked Bluetail found by Phil Kenny at Great Falls Park. Once the news got out on various rare bird alert platforms, birders from all over the region came to see it. Fortunately, the Red-flanked Bluetail has been very cooperative and it has stayed around in the same location for many weeks. By now, hundreds of birders have added the bird to their life lists. With an article about the bird in the Washington Post, the bird is even more famous now.

Many birders also went to see the Snowy Owl at Gravelly Point next to Reagan National Airport. The owl was far away, but not too difficult to spot as it sat on the rocky shore next to the Potomac River. I was also happy

to see a Red-necked Grebe found at Pohick Bay. Fortunately, the grebe put on a fine show for me and other birders as it swam around near us in perfect light. Our birding community is ever vigilant and I look forward to seeing the exciting rarities that turn up in our region in the future.

—Larry Meade



The Red-necked Grebe at Pohick Bay, a rare bird sighting, photographed by Larry Meade.



Red-flanked Bluetail photographed by Steven Bielamowicz in January 2026 at Great Falls Park. First reported in eBird by Phil Kenny on January 1, 2026. Birders flocked to see this rarity. American Birding Association rare bird alert (4 - casual: species not recorded annually but with 6 or more total records) noted that it was the first sighting in Virginia and only the second on the East Coast.

What to do When eBird Asks for Details

If you are among the 1.2 million people who have contributed to the 2.1 billion observations collected through eBird since its launch in 2002, thank you. These observations have increased our understanding of the distribution, movements, and abundance of bird species on local to global scales. The data have been tapped by avian biologists, conservationists and land managers, birdwatchers interested in what they have seen or might encounter, and listers seeking to add to their totals. All such uses depend on the data being valid. To try to ensure that they are, eBird relies on decisions of its volunteer reviewers. Understanding what information we want in order to reach our decisions should help you increase the odds that your records will be confirmed.

Why does eBird want details?

Because of the ever-increasing flood of observations (an average of over 825,000 per day in 2025), eBird and the reviewers rely on filters. These are set up for each eBird "region" (in the United States, usually a county, some equivalent political unit, or group of the same). For each species they provide a maximum count expected for a list

Continued on p. 2

from a single location within the region on a particular date. Dates are considered at the level of weeks within months, although the maximums themselves do not rise and fall on a weekly basis but through a series of seasonal jumps and drops. The maxima are based on abundance data from the region over the past decade or so, while discounting spikes from species' irruption years. But the filters are not (at least not yet) generated automatically from what is being reported, rather they are set manually by reviewers.

When entering your eBird list, if you include a species or report a number that is not expected for the location and date eBird will ask for details. And if you provide no or insufficient details to support your observation, you will likely see an email from eBird requesting more information.

What details are wanted?

That depends, of course ...

For high counts: A few words describing how you arrived at the number will usually suffice. These could range from "counted 1x1" or "birds widely separated" to "by 10s," "by 100s", or even "rough estimate." In some cases it is also worth noting how similar species were eliminated. For a winter report of 500 Rusty Blackbirds, one needs to explain why they weren't Red-winged Blackbirds or Common Grackles. Please do not reduce the count because it was flagged.

For birds out of season: A photograph, recording, or a few words describing the bird (and how you ruled out similar species) should do. The farther outside the species normal date range your observation falls, the more important this evidence becomes. (For those normal date ranges, check the region's bar chart for the species over the past decade or so. In any week with only a dashed line, the species is unusual; any week with no records, it is exceptional.)

For rarities: If the species is only recorded in the region a few times each year, absent some years, or new to the region, the bird warrants more attention. Photographs alone may serve, although in cases such as Empidonax flycatchers, gulls, and "confusing fall warblers" reviewers will appreciate your comments on how the images support the identification. Recordings are also helpful, but remember that Merlin's identifications are suggestions only and often require additional confirmation. If you can't get a photograph or good recording, watch the bird carefully and take notes. With the eBird app, you can enter these immediately. Otherwise, save the details on your phone (as a note or recording) or write them down on paper (you might even add a rough sketch). Only after you have done so should you check a field guide or app, in order not to be swayed by what it indicates you ought to be seeing. (I grant that it is hard to obey that frequently repeated advice and that such sources can remind one of important field marks that should be considered.)

If you do find a rarity, consider spreading the word promptly---so long as the bird's welfare and birders' access to the location allow. Reports or media from other birders may provide the evidence that confirms your record. And

serious birders greatly appreciate timely news of unusual sightings.

In all of these cases, remember that species comments can (and should) be used for more than cinching the identity of the bird. Notes on behavior or habitat add to the value of your observation. For rarities, an exact location (by latitude/longitude coordinates or description) will be appreciated by other birders.

Why am I asked for details when the observation was not flagged?

Usually because eBird filters are set at the level of "regions" while species' occurrences may be restricted to certain habitats or localities within a region. If the filter accepts observations from sites where the bird is known to occur, it will not catch those from where it is unusual. In addition, recent changes in populations, ranges, or migration patterns may have yet to be incorporated in the filters.

What happens to a flagged observation?

A flagged record is regarded as unconfirmed. The record will be confirmed if photographs, recordings, or field notes offer sufficient support for the identification or if it is accepted by the relevant rare birds committee. Reviewers can also confirm an observation on account of it not being exceptional (a slightly early or late migrant, a number not too far above the filter's limit), the species' documented presence at the location, or the observer's experience.

Should you fail to respond to a reviewer's request for additional details, the record will likely remain unconfirmed.

If the observation is "unconfirmed", it will not appear in public summaries of eBird data such as bar charts, species lists for regions and locations, and maps of occurrences. Unless changed by the observer, however, it will remain on their list and in the eBird database: reviewers cannot change any records submitted to eBird. The only changes that can be imposed on your lists are those due to changes in eBird's taxonomy.

As eBird notes, flagged records are not something to be avoided. They mark an unusual or rare encounter, and are a request that you share details of that experience.

—*Sherman Suter*

eBird reviewer for 8 regions in Northern Virginia: Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

For further information:

eBird's most relevant summary: <https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000795278>

2 informative YouTube videos from Maine Audubon's Doug Hitchcox: "How eBird review works" [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2pBq28OPz0>] and "What to do when you find a rare bird" [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8w2dkbOPgs>]

Upcoming Trips and Events

Compiled by Luke Holian

Note:

- Beginning birders are welcome on all trips.
- When reservations are required, please call one of the trip leaders. Phone numbers are below.
- Check the NVBC website for updated information about trips: <https://www.nvabc.org/calendar-list-of-events/>.
- **Next-day rainy day make-up day may be possible if trip leader is available. Cancellation and make up day will be announced via NVBC email exchange and website.**
- To receive email notices, join the NVBC eMail Exchange. For sign-up directions see back page of *The Siskin*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>April</u>						
			8 8:30 AM Frying Pan Farm Park Karen Pao			11 7:30 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Steve Bielamowicz Cynthia Nickerson
			15 8 AM Meadowood Recreation Area - Lower Potomac Field Station Tom Nardone			18 7:30 AM Leopold's Preserve Toby Hardwick Jim Pearson
		21 NVBC Meeting 8 PM	22 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Tom Nardone Dixie Sommers			25 7:30 AM Clifton Institute Cynthia Nickerson Frank Klotz
			29 8:30 AM Huntley Meadows Hike/Bike Trail Dixie Sommers	<u>May</u>		2 7:30 AM Turquoise Trail Pete Huffer Marjorie Copson (Joan Mashburn for questions)
Trip Leaders Steve Bielamowicz gr8gosh@gmail.com Larry Cartwright 703-941-3142 Toby Hardwick 703-201-1517 Luke Holian 703-258-9432 Ben Jessup 703-786-8265 Frank Klotz klotzfg@gmail.com Ed LeGrand 908-268-6627 Joan Mashburn 703-209-8678 Larry Meade 571-275-2523 Carol Mullen 571-313-9926 Tom Nardone 703-946-7738 Cynthia Nickerson 917-825-5327 Karen Pao karen.i.pao@gmail.com Jim Pearson pear4sonjp@gmail.com Dixie Sommers 703-969-7931			6 8:30 AM Long Branch Dixie Sommers Carol Mullen	7 7:30 AM Frying Pan Farm Park Karen Pao	9 7:30 AM Trillium Trail Joan Mashburn	
			13 8:30 AM Dyke Marsh Larry Cartwright Tom Nardone		May 15-17 Chincoteague Spring Weekend <i>Members only/reservations required</i> Sign up began March 11 @6 am Luke Holian Cynthia Nickerson	
						16 7:30 AM Occoquan Bay NWR Karen Pao Larry Meade
			20 8:30 AM Neabscro RP - Boardwalk Jim Pearson Carol Mullen			23 7:30 AM Manassas Battlefield Park - Portici Horse Trailer Parking Lot Toby Hardwick Jim Pearson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>May</u>			27 8 AM Huntley Meadows Park Karen Pao Ben Jessup			30 7:30 AM Silver Lake RP Ed LeGrand Toby Hardwick
<u>June</u>			3 8:30 AM Long Branch Tom Nardone Carol Mullen			6 8 AM Clarks Crossing Park - Bluebird Trail Larry Meade
						13 9 AM Limberlost Trail, Shenandoah NP X-trip Luke Holian Ben Jessup Email Luke Holian for details (holian.luke@gmail.com)

DIRECTIONS

NVBC Meeting (4/21) 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.

Clarks Crossing Park - Bluebird Trail (6/6) 9850 Clarks Crossing Rd, Vienna 22182 From I-495, exit onto Chain Bridge Rd (Rt 123) toward Vienna. Continue on Maple Avenue (still Rt 123) in Vienna, turn onto Beulah Rd. Continue for about 1 mile until left turn onto Clarks Crossing Road. Continue to the end of Clarks Crossing and park at the parking lot overlooking the W&OD Trail.

Clifton Institute (4/25) 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 0.3 mi. to the first lake and park in the parking lot on the

left. Meet your leader at this parking lot. Please do not drive up to the house and park there.

Dyke Marsh (4/22, 5/13) 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.

Frying Pan Farm Park (4/8, 5/7) 2739 West Ox Rd, Herndon 20171 From Fairfax County Parkway (Rte 286), go 0.8 miles northwest on West Ox Rd (Rte. 608), turn right into the Visitor Center Parking lot. Meet the group in the parking area at the north end of the Visitor Center.

Huntley Meadows Hike & Bike Trail (4/29) 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 (5/27) 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.

Leesylvania State Park (5/3) 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 (4/18) 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 (5/6, 6/3) 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.

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Trip Directions (from p. 5)

Manassas Battlefield Park - Portici Horse Trailer Parking Lot (5/23) Manassas 20109 From I-495 take I-66 west 17 mi. to exit 47B for Sudley Road (VA-234 North). Immediately turn right on Battlevue Parkway and continue for 1.5 miles as the parkway loops around and turns into Vandor Lane. Turn left into the horse trailer parking lot. Due to the limited parking area, park lengthwise (front-to-back) in the trailer parking spaces. Meet in the parking lot. Do not park at the Portici Trailhead parking lot on Rock Road.

Meadowood Recreation Area (4/15) 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 (5/20) 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 (4/11, 5/16) 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 at the parking lot.

Silver Lake Park (5/30) 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 (5/9) (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.

Turquoise Trail (5/2) 11450 Glade Drive, Reston 20191 From I-66 take Exit 60 for VA-123 toward Vienna/Fairfax. In Oakton drive 0.7 mi. turn left onto Hunter Mill Rd. Drive 2.4 mi. and turn left onto Lawyers Rd. After 1.1 mi., turn right onto Twin Branches Rd. In 0.3 mi. turn left onto Glade Dr. Drive 1.1 mi. to the Walker Nature Center. Parking is available along both sides of Glade Dr. Cars will be towed if parked in nearby apartment parking lot. Meet by Nature Center parking lot entrance.

Short-eared owl at Sully Woodlands photographed by Cynthia Nickerson



Bird Walks at Local Parks

- **Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, second Saturdays, 8 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot. Online registration. Visit the Loudoun Wildlife web site. www.loudounwildlife.org/events/
- **Dyke Marsh, Sundays, 8 a.m.** Visit the Friends of Dyke Marsh web site, www.fodm.org
- **Great Falls National Park, Sundays, 8 a.m.** Meet in the main parking lot near the Park Visitor Center.
- **Huntley Meadows Park, Mondays, 7 a.m. (Apr-Sep) 8 a.m. (Oct-Mar)** Meet in parking lot.
- **Merrimac Farm, last Sunday, 8 a.m.** Meet at Merrimac Farm Stone House. www.pwconserve.org/events/index.html#birds
- **Riverbend Park, first and third Fridays, 8 a.m., beginning April 3 to October 16.** Meet in the Nature Center parking lot off Jeffery Road. No fee but call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018 to register. Leaders: Kris Lansing and Robin Duska.
- **Sweet Run State Park, fourth Saturdays, 8 a.m.** Meet at Education Center. Online registration. www.loudounwildlife.org/events/

Chincoteague Winter Trip

February 6 - 8, 2026



With sand in our eyes and frostbitten fingers, we clung to our binoculars and tallied an impressive 82 species over the weekend at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and around town.

Carpooling in seven cars and armed with walkie-talkies, we headed to the beach Friday afternoon, where we were rewarded with a full scoter trifecta, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Mergansers, and the usual diversity of winter waterfowl — though shorebirds were notably scarce.

Saturday morning at the Boardwalk Bridge produced two Common Goldeneye, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, and single sightings of Ruddy Duck, Black-bellied Plover, and Willet. Sadly, Clapper Rails remained silent and hidden. While overall bird numbers were low throughout the weekend, the diversity kept things exciting.

At the Town of Chincoteague School Ponds, we enjoyed eight Black-crowned Night-Herons and a stunning, cooperative American Bittern. American Woodcocks stole the show when we spotted them in broad daylight only a few feet away — both along the Wildlife Loop and near the Woodland Trail parking area. Three close Northern Bobwhites were seen on the Woodland Trail.

Saturday evening, we thawed out and shared a wonderful meal at Bill's Prime Seafood & Steaks, swapping highlights and comparing windburn.

On our final morning, we birded Pine Drive behind the hotel and were delighted to finally locate the adorable Brown-headed Nuthatches. We wrapped up the trip at Queen Sound Landing, where brutal winds knocked over a tripod (before the scope was even mounted!). Still, we logged American Oystercatchers and several Horned Grebes to finish strong.

In total, 24 members visited nine birding hotspots. Our planned stop at Ocean City Inlet had to be canceled due to extreme winter weather.

Temperatures hovered in the upper teens, with 26-mph winds and gusts exceeding 50 mph. Wind chills plunged to -3°F at sunrise and dropped to -11°F by day's end.

Whether that makes us brave and dedicated birders — or completely out of our minds — is still up for debate.

—Joan Mashburn

Top photograph:
Trip birders photographed by Toby Hardwick



Long-tailed Duck photographed by Alan Mitchnick



American Woodcock photographed by Alan Mitchnick



Northern Bobwhite photographed by Leena McCluney

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JOIN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIRD CLUB

Northern Virginia Bird Club dues for 2026 are \$15 for Individual and \$25 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 website, <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 email Elizabeth Fenton at emfenton@cox.net.

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: April 21, September (tbd), and November (tbd), 2026.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 28, 2026, 7:30 p.m. To join the Zoom board meeting or to have items put on the agenda, please email lgmeade@gmail.com.

Deadline for next issue of *The Siskin*: The August issue will include activities through October 2026. Please send items for publication by **July 1, 2026** to the editors at nvbcisiskineditor@gmail.com.

CLUB CONTACTS

President: Larry Meade, 571-275-2523

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NVBC email: lgmeade@gmail.com

Chincoteague Birds



Brants in flight photographed by Alan Mitchnick



White Ibis in flight photographed by Luke Holian before the start of the Club trip



American Bittern photographed by Alan Mitchnick

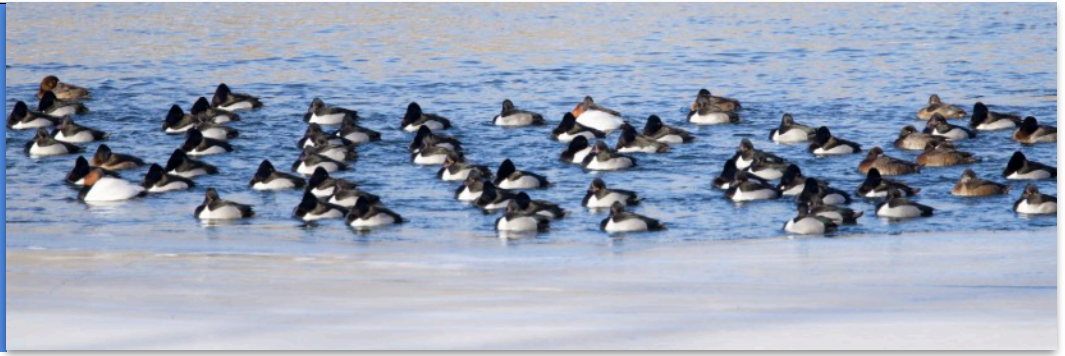


Killdeer photographed by Alan Mitchnick



Jeff Effinger was in the middle of taking several photographs of this American Woodcock when a Red-shouldered Hawk swooped down and carried it off...too quickly for an in-focus photograph but an indelible memory of the Club trip.

2026 Winter and
Deep Freeze and
Birding



Photographs:

Banner of Waterfowl viewed from north Potomac Heritage Trail in Riverbend photographed by Steve Bielamowicz

Left from top:

Great Falls photographed by Steve Bielamowicz

American Crow foraging on top of plowed snow photographed by Seth Honig

Ring-billed Gull at Burke Lake trying to get a morsel and slipping on the frozen lake photographed by Seth Honig

Right from top:

Bluebirds at Mason Neck photographed by Luke Holian during club walk

Hermit Thrush at Huntley Meadows Park photographed by Seth Honig (taken despite snowcrete covering trails)