



VSO Newsletter

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Spring 2024



*Anhinga seen on 2024 OBX field trip.
Photo by Seth Honig.*

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Change of Address (USPS or email)

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Send submissions by email. Attach MS Word document or plain text, with high resolution photos. Submissions may be edited for style and/or length.

Contact VSO President Diane Lepkowski at:
info@virginiabirds.org

2024 VSO Annual Meeting Thursday May 2, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Keynote speaker: Dr. Ashley Peele
Early Findings of the 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas

Join us for a wonderful sneak-peek at some of the Atlas data's early findings, including some surprises!

Many of us know Dr. Ashley Peele from her tireless leadership of the Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas field work ("data collection," as she would say!) Ashley was a fabulous director and a great cheerleader, coordinating and encouraging the field efforts of the many of us who participated in the project.

Dr. Peele is now the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Community Science and Engagement Coordinator for the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), where her work focuses on applying community science methods to a range of avian conservation questions and data gaps in the Appalachian region.

An avian ecologist, she spent 18 years studying avian ecology and conservation in the U.S. and Caribbean. She completed a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane University and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, studying population dynamics of migratory songbirds during the nonbreeding season. Following graduate school, she became a research scientist at Virginia Tech's Conservation Management Institute, where she coordinated the second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas' data collection and analyses from 2015-2023.

We'll begin with a brief business meeting that will include presentation of awards, elections of Officers and Board members, who will serve terms beginning July 1.

**Meeting registration (required) to be announced later.
Watch your email!**



Annual meeting speaker Dr. Ashley Peele

President's Message

Happy Spring, Fellow Members!

We have so many exciting happenings to share that it's hard to know where to start! Much of our news will of course greet you on this *VSO Newsletter's* pages. Behind the scenes, we have SO much in progress, and are looking forward to the year ahead and beyond.

I know you will enjoy reading Meredith Bell's field trip update and the news of the VSO kicking off regional field trips! If you have ideas for trips in your area, please contact Meredith – you might think she can do it all herself, but I know she will welcome your thoughts and any leadership/ planning help you can offer!

Bramble Hill, the Highland County sanctuary established by Margaret and Wayne O'Bryan for Golden-winged Warblers (and more) and later donated to the VSO, is in great shape. This is thanks to the devoted and industrious Bramble Hill Committee members, who manage both the habitat and the house.

Along with VSO-member rentals, Bramble Hill hosts graduate student researchers and has an operational MOTUS tower to track tagged birds, bats, and more. Both the student work and the MOTUS tower project are overseen by Dr. Lesley Bulluck, to whom we are immensely grateful! Many thanks to those of you who have donated to, helped with, and supported, the VSO's efforts at Bramble Hill.

As most of you know, the Virginia Avian Records Committee (VARCOM) reviews rare bird reports to decide if documentation is adequate to accept

records for the official State list. About ten years ago, the "DOVES" website was developed to serve as a records database and to allow on-line submission of reports for review. Later, an expedited VARCOM review process was set up for confirmed eBird records, which greatly simplified the submission process. Unfortunately, while reports can still be sent to VARCOM via email, the DOVES website is no longer functional.

The VSO plans to re-establish a functional records website, but first a team of VARCOM and VSO Board members will review VARCOM's processes. This will include considering ways to better integrate eBird reports with VARCOM's review.

We also recognize the need to encourage birders to make sure their rarity sightings are on VARCOM's radar, as eBird confirmation and VARCOM acceptance result from different levels of scrutiny. The VSO and VARCOM recognize the importance of keeping an official State list, and we welcome your input and suggestions!

In closing, first – thanks so much for your involvement and continuing support! Don't miss this issue's announcement of the upcoming **annual meeting, on May 2**, 7:00 PM via Zoom, and please plan to join us! I will look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you endless good birding adventures ahead!

Diane Lepkowski

VSO President

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Upcoming VSO Weekend Field Trips

Southwest Virginia, June 7-9



View at Grayson Highlands State Park. Photo by Lee Bell.

The VSO summer field trip will be in the beautiful southwestern part of Virginia, where we'll explore two very special state parks, Grayson Highlands and Hungry Mother, along with other hot spots. Field trips will be offered all day Friday, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning. The Comfort Inn Atkins-Marion is the host hotel. Call 276-783-9715 and be sure to state you're with the VSO to get the special rate.

Details and registration form are [here](#).

Chincoteague, September 6-8



Swan Cove, Chincoteague NWR. Photo by Dixie Sommers.

Mark your calendar to join us for one of VSO's most popular field trips!

We'll offer boat trips on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Host hotel is the Refuge Inn, and you can book your room now. Call 757-336-5511 and be sure to state you're with the VSO to get the special rate. Details will be in the summer *VSO Newsletter*.

NEW! VSO Regional Half-Day Field Trip

Join VSO and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a morning field trip in Northern Virginia's Loudoun County on May 11 at 8:00 am! The trip will be led by Patrick Lewis and Phil Kenny and will last for approximately four hours. **Algonkian Regional Park** is the top birding hotspot in Loudoun County and, during peak migration, can yield well over 60 species in a morning, including over a dozen warblers. **Important: This trip is limited to 35 people, so register soon!**

Fees and Registration

There is no charge for this trip, but registration is REQUIRED. [Click here to register.](#)

Trip Meeting Place and Trail Details

We will meet at the Volcano Island Waterpark parking lot within Algonkian Regional Park (see directions below). We encourage you to arrive before the start time at 8:00 am. Trip leaders will

be at the meeting location by 7:30. The trip will be entirely on foot; please wear walking shoes (if it has rained in the few days prior to the walk, assume trails will be muddy) and be prepared to walk up to 4 miles in total. We plan to cover the Waterpark Area and most or all of the Woodlands Trail.

Directions and Parking

Regardless of what direction you are traveling to Algonkian Park from, you will need to take Algonkian Parkway (State Road 1582) northbound to Cascades Parkway. Take Cascades Parkway north and you will enter Algonkian Park after 500 meters; Cascades Parkway becomes Fairway Drive. Continue driving until you come to the first left-hand turn; turn left, then make a right into the



*Potomac River viewed from Algonkian Regional Park.
Photo NOVA Parks.*

parking lot, where we will meet. Please park here as well. There are no entrance fees or parking permits for Algonkian Park. The parking/meeting place can be viewed on [Google Maps](#).

Editor’s Note: To learn more about the regional field trip location, see Patrick Lewis’s article “Birding Algonkian Park” in the [Spring 2023 VSO Newsletter](#).

Virginia Big Day-May 4, 2024

By Xavier Gitre

Heads up avid birders! On **Saturday, May 4, 2024**, you will have the opportunity to bird all day and raise money for the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project at the same time!

I’m Xavier Gitre, a young birder from Southwest Virginia. Last spring, I coordinated a birding big day in the New River Valley to fundraise for conservation and build community. It was a success! Recently, I entered an American Birding Association (ABA) young birder program, one of the components of the program being a “conservation/community” project. For my project, I decided to bring the NRV Big Day to the entire Commonwealth. I’ve since assembled a committee to plan the event, including several young birders

from across the state. We’re currently meeting regularly, and plan to open registration for the event on **April 1st**. The outline is as follows.

Virginia birders can register a team of friends to compete in one of several categories, including a youth category and regional categories. Birding clubs may also register as a team and compete in their own “club” categories. Teams will have from midnight to midnight to see as many species as possible, but this can be tailored to any birding style, from a few hours of yard birding to a statewide big day. Teams may collect pledges (e.g., \$2 per species) from organizations/companies or individuals. The proceeds and all registration fees will go directly to the VSO’s 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Fund.

Let’s see how many species we can get, and how many dollars we can raise for the 2nd Virginia Breeding Birds Atlas!

Virginia Big Day Rules, adapted from those of the New Jersey Audubon’s World Series of Birding, and registration directions will be communicated to all Virginia Society of Ornithology members and affiliated organizations in the next few weeks.

Please direct any inquiries to viriniabigdaybirds@gmail.com.



Virginia Big Day coordinator Xavier Gitre.

VSO 2024 Outer Banks Field Trip Report

By Meredith Bell, VSO Field Trips Co-Coordinator

Mother Nature provided us with beautiful weather and abundant birds for the VSO field trip to the Outer Banks February 2-4, 2024. We had sunny skies every day, which is rare for this always-popular trip. Our 102 enthusiastic participants tallied an astonishing 154 species!

Even before the weekend, there was a lot of positive energy on the overview call Monday night with an outstanding presentation by one of the trip leaders, Jerry Via. He gave us excellent tips for identifying species we might encounter.



Birders at Alligator River NWR. Photo by Shirley Devan.

Many thanks to ALL the trip leaders, who worked hard to make sure everyone saw as many species as possible: Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams, Pete Peterman, Lee Bell, and Meredith Bell.

It's impossible to capture the overall excitement participants expressed during our time together as a result of the highlights that each location held. Some examples...



Snow Bunting! Photo by Seth Honig.

- ✦ Lake Mattamuskeet: Anhinga, American Woodcock, Black-and-white Warbler, Sedge Wren, and Eastern Screech Owl
- ✦ Jennette's Pier: Common Eider (2), Surf Scoter (2), and Harlequin Duck (4) - all right below the pier
- ✦ South of Pea Island Visitor's Center: a literal island of 10,000+ Redhead! Also, Black-necked Stilt, Marbled Godwit, and American White Pelican
- ✦ South of the bridge: flock of 25 to 30 Snow Buntings near the Old Coastguard Station
- ✦ Bodie Lighthouse: Prairie and Orange-crowned Warbler, Virginia and Clapper Rails, Marsh and Winter Wrens
- ✦ Alligator River NWR at the intersection of Longcurve Rd and Borrow Pit Rd: "Triple Crown" - several each of Orange-crowned Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Golden-crowned Kinglet feeding together in a sunny area
- ✦ Alligator River NWR: Ash-throated Flycatcher in multiple locations, Wilson's Snipe, White-eyed Vireo and Blue-headed Vireo. A few lucky birders also saw one or more Red Wolves!

We've already booked the Comfort Inn South Nags Head for the **2025** trip, so mark your calendar now for **January 31-February 2** and plan to join us.

The complete list of 154 species from the Outer Banks weekend will be posted on the VSO website.

Murray Awards and Field Ornithology Scholarship

The VSO is pleased to announce the winners of the J. J. Murray Research Award and the Field Ornithology scholarship.

The **Murray Award** was established in 1980 to honor the Rev. J. J. Murray, Sr., a charter member of the VSO and the editor of its journal, *The Raven*, from its inception until 1969. The award is designed to promote graduate and undergraduate research consisting of current or projected field studies on Virginia birds.

Upon completion of the research, the recipient will be asked to present the results at a virtual research symposium arranged by the VSO and are encouraged to publish the results in an appropriate journal. The recipient will also be awarded a one-year VSO membership.

The **2024 Murray Award** winners are:

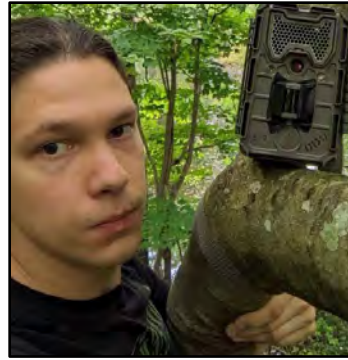


Bridget Re, PhD student at Virginia Tech working with Elizabeth Hunter, Assistant Professor, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. *Project title:* Does nest failure increase the probability of within-season dispersal of breeding female Saltmarsh Sparrows.

(\$1,000)



Abby Bressette, undergraduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University working with Lesley Bulluck, Professor, Center for Environmental Studies. *Project title:* Effect of nonnative shrubs on food availability and foraging behaviors of two declining warblers in Appalachian Virginia. (\$1,000)



Oleksii Dubovyk, PhD student at Old Dominion University working with Eric Walters, Professor, Biological Sciences. *Project title:* Effects of urbanization on foraging decisions in potential avian nest predators. (\$500)

The **Field Ornithology Scholarship** annually supports a student or recent graduate to participate in a formal training or workshop to gain field ornithology skills, such as mist-netting or banding.



The 2024 Field Ornithology Scholarship goes to **Kristy Lapenta**, master's degree student at Virginia Tech working with Sarah Karpanty, Professor, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. *Project title:* Fostering collaborative partnerships with the

Eastern Shore Community College.

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Update

Species accounts are underway! Authors Megan Massa and Ron Rohrbaugh began work in January. After a brief orientation, they are producing drafts. They will write about 200 accounts by mid-summer for review by Managing Editor Austin Kane and external expert reviewers.

The Atlas Final Products Committee is beginning work on procurement of web design and development services.

Fundraising continues to move toward our \$300,000 goal, with \$221,000 received or pledged as of March 20. **Thank you!**

So far, 118 species have been sponsored. Many remain, so [you can sponsor a species too!](#)

VSO Awards First Community Engagement Grant

By Chris Bolgiano, VSO Board

VSO has awarded its first Community Engagement Grant to Mr. Diego Rosario of Portsmouth, in collaboration with the Elizabeth River Project (ERP), for a series of three birding programs in Paradise Creek Nature Park.

The ERP is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to restore the polluted Elizabeth River “through equitable collaboration with diverse communities, businesses, and governments” and through embracing “diversity, inclusion, equity, and environmental justice as fundamental values of our river restoration work.”

Paradise Creek Nature Park (PCNP), operated by the ERP, is a 40-acre waterfront park and the third largest park in the City of Portsmouth. It is nestled in an industrial area in the Cradock District of diverse, low-income neighborhoods.

The park offers not only access to nature in a highly urbanized area, but also a successful demonstration of restoring a healthy waterway and shoreline. According to the Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, one of many partners working with the ERP, the park is “an excellent example of wetland restoration and is just one component of the larger, on-going creek restoration that began in 2001.”

The Park includes two miles of multi-use trails, some of which traverse a rare, old-growth coastal oak woodland and a restored saltwater marsh, with interpretive signs. It is an [eBird hotspot](#) with more than 160 species identified. You can find more about the Park [here](#).

Mr. Rosario is the after-school leader at PCNP for nature-based programs for teens and youths from a local homeless shelter. He is also the Education Specialist at First Landing State Park, leading programs and field trips almost daily. Birding has been his passion for many years.

Mr. Rosario will advertise the three planned programs in the local Community Magazine, and in the newsletter and social media accounts of ERP. All who are interested will be welcome, but a special invitation will be extended to the Horizon Hampton Roads High School, a nonprofit corporation established to provide academic and



Paradise Creek Nature Park. Photo by Yolima Carr, Conservation Landscape Curator, Paradise Creek Nature Park

social opportunities for children from limited income families.

Each program will begin with an engaging and fun exercise designed to teach aspects of bird biology such as beak shape and types of feathers, followed by a birding walk led by Mr. Rosario and several staff from the ERP.

Mr. Rosario plans to spend most of the \$1,000 grant on binoculars for participants in the birding programs, to ensure that they can continue to enjoy the birding skills they’ve learned. The remainder will be spent on transportation and supplies for the lessons. This grant has the potential to enhance lives in a dense urban area by making nature accessible through the beauty and fascination of birds.

For more information about the VSO Community Engagement Grants, see the [VSO Scholarship and Grants](#).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in Virginia

By Phil Kenny



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. Photo by Phil Kenny.

I had the good fortune to see the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at the top of Mount Pleasant in Amherst County, Virginia, on Saturday February 17, 2024.

The bird was first reported by Joshua Arrington on Thursday, February 8, with excellent photos posted to eBird. Over the following days many birders made the 3-mile hike to the top of the mountain and found Virginia's first record of this species. The finch was seen regularly over the following days by many birders, but my work schedule and the three and half-hour distance kept me from chasing this rarity.

The following weekend I finally had a chance to go look for the finch. My wife and I drove from our home in Vienna to Charlottesville on Saturday

morning. I dropped off my wife at our daughter's place and picked up her boyfriend, Tyler. The finch had not been seen for the previous two days, so our expectations of finding it were low, but we thought it would nevertheless be a great hike on a beautiful winter day.

As we pulled into the parking lot of the trail, I received a text from my friend, Russ Taylor. He and his wife and been looking for the finch all morning and finally found it on the west side of the summit at 12:30. Tyler and I hiked up the steep trail and found the finch right where Russ and Sally had spotted it. The finch was feeding on the ground and made it easy for us to both get some great photos.

It is a life bird for me and hopefully a spark-bird for Tyler!

Lights Out for Birds

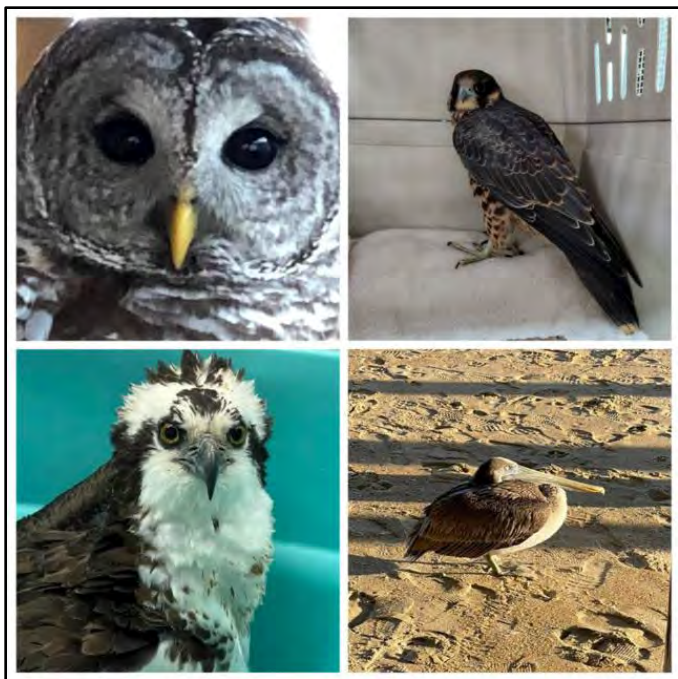
Patricia Scanlon, Chair, Birdsafe/Lights Out Hampton Roads Committee
Cape Henry Audubon Society, Norfolk, Virginia

Imagine what the earth looked like from above a mere 150 years ago. Cities were illuminated with a limited number of streetlights. The Eiffel Tower, built in 1886, was the world's first tall building. The earth was dark at night as billions of migratory birds passed overhead navigating by the moon, stars and the earth's magnetic field on their epic journey north to their breeding grounds.

Now jump forward to 2024. As spring migration begins, the birds flying over our cities and towns encounter skyscrapers, massive oil, gas and chemical complexes, miles of wind turbines, wires, oil platforms and cell towers. A bird's eye view of the earth today is so dramatically different at night, that birds have trouble navigating the obstacles and the web of artificial light that has saturated the earth.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology estimates that up to one billion birds die every year from collisions with structures. [reference needed]

Approximately a third of those deaths are caused by light pollution alone. Sky glow disorients birds and exposes them to hazards they would have otherwise avoided on their arduous journey.



Injured birds in rehabilitation. Photos courtesy of Lisa Barlow, Tidewater Rehabilitation and Environmental Education, Virginia Beach.

Confused by bright lights, birds are lured away from their flight path towards the source. Once trapped within the glow, they fly in circles, calling out, until they become exhausted and crash into buildings and windows with the lights left on.

Some survive, many don't. The injured birds fall onto our streets only to find themselves in a maze of glass and cement canyons. At sunrise, trying to escape, they fly into windows, skywalks, and glass buildings that reflect the surrounding trees and sky. Buildings with glass corners or atriums decorated with plants and trees prove especially deadly. Many of the birds that do manage to escape are weakened by the experience. They missed the opportunity to refuel in a safe environment, leaving them more vulnerable to predators and starvation.

Last fall, on a foggy night in Chicago, 1,000 songbirds slammed into the all-glass McCormick Convention Center because the lights were left on at night. Similar tragic events have played out in cities throughout the US including Charlotte, Galveston, New York, and Philadelphia. The sad fact is, that all of these mass bird strikes could have been prevented had the lights been turned off.

In 1991, Toronto became the world's first city to address urban bird collisions with their Fatal Light Awareness Program, FLAP. Today, Lights Out initiatives have been adopted by more than 50 cities and state-wide programs. The momentum keeps growing due to its proven success. At a time when we have lost 30% of all birds in the US since 1970, taking action to prevent bird mortality is crucial.

The science is clear. Turning off lights at night, interior and exterior, in tall as well as low buildings, can significantly reduce bird mortality. It's such a simple action to flip the switch. Save birds, save money.

Eastern Virginia, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay, is a major stopover for migrants to refuel. We recognize our importance in the chain of cities that are situated in the Atlantic Flyway. That is why the Cape Henry Audubon Society has joined in the national effort to protect migrating birds and our resident bird population.

Our BirdSafe/Lights Out Hampton Roads program addresses light pollution as well as measures that we can all take to make windows less reflective for bird safety.

We ask building managers, local government, and residents to adhere to a lights out schedule during migration, March 15 – May 31 and August 15 – November 15, between the hours of 11:00 pm and sunrise. More specifically we ask that:

- ✦ Interior lights be turned off especially on higher stories
- ✦ Use motion sensors

- ✦ Extinguish pot and flood lights and exterior decorative lighting
- ✦ Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible
- ✦ Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late or pull window coverings
- ✦ Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward

To learn more, visit our website at birdsafehr.org

Editor's Note: The VSO Board has voted to support the Hampton Roads Lights Out efforts.

Join the Virginia Birding Classic!

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) invites you to participate in the inaugural statewide birding competition — [The Virginia Birding Classic!](#)

Teams of 3 to 6 members choose a consecutive 24-hour period between April 15th and May 15th to go birding on federal, state, county, and municipal public lands anywhere in the Commonwealth to identify as many bird species as possible.

Winners will get to choose from a list of unique wildlife experiences with agency staff AND choose a library to receive a donation of three DWR “Birding Backpacks” to check out to members of the community! All participants will receive a “swag bag” courtesy of DWR and our Virginia

Birding Classic partners: the Virginia Department of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

Teams can identify excellent wildlife viewing opportunities by using [Explore the Wild](#)—DWR’s new web-based application that connects the public with recreation opportunities based on where they are, what they want to do outside, and how far they are willing to travel! Use Explore the Wild to find incredible birding spots included in the [Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail!](#)

Anyone interested in participating is asked to form their teams and sign-up before registration closes on April 1st! Participants register through the [Go Outdoors Virginia](#) app or website. All proceeds

will benefit the [Virginia Wildlife Grant](#)

[Program](#) which awards annual grants to non-profit programs focused on connecting youth to the outdoors. Youth under 16 years old can register for free!

Want to participate in both the Virginia Big Day (see p. 4) and the Virginia Birding Classic? Be on the lookout for additional guidance from the event organizers that will outline how you can submit your checklist toward both events!



Your VSO Dues for 2024 are now DUE!

Thanks to many who have renewed for 2024. Many still need to renew.

You can renew using the form on the back of this newsletter – clip it out and mail it with your check. Even easier, you can renew quickly and easily on the [VSO web site](#).

VSO General Fund Membership dues alone do not allow the VSO to accomplish all we need to do. We hope you will renew soon and perhaps donate a bit more.

With a current membership, you can continue to participate in VSO field trips – like the trip to Southwest Virginia in early June – and continue to

receive VSO publications and announcements of special events, updates on the funding and progress of the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas, Bramble Hill, and the 2024 Annual Meeting. The VSO has lots going on and many long-term commitments.

If you are able, please make tax deductible donation to one of the VSO’s special funds: 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas, Bramble Hill Conservation Fund, Scholarships and Student Grants, and the VSO Conservation Fund.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the VSO! Contact membership Secretary Shirley Devan if you’re unsure of your 2024 status: vsomembership@cox.net

*Want to join a VSO Field Trip? Be sure your membership is paid up!
VSO birders at Chincoteague. Photo by Meredith Bell.*



New VSO members – December 20, 2023 – March 1, 2024

Levi Aho, Springfield, VA	Una Davenhill, Virginia Beach	Richard Penland, Onley
Lisa Anderson, Charlottesville	Bette Dzamba, Charlottesville	Jane Prendergast, Englewood, NJ
Terry Atkinson, Montpelier	Todd Fifield, Norfolk	Christopher Rademacher, Front Royal
Sandra Bailey, Richmond	Mary E Hansen, Bowie, MD	Morgan Ryder, Virginia Beach
Samantha Baldwin, Norfolk	Heather Jeweler, Lovettsville	James Smail, Yorktown
Al Beech, Arlington	Tracy Kaminer, Schuyler	Darleen Stigall, Powhatan
Donna Benson, Williamsburg	Thomas Magarian, Luray	Aaron Swart, Richmond
Judy Cahill, North Garden	Mary Mainous, Christiansburg	Cory Swift, Charlottesville
Ronald Capstack, Bridgewater	Lee Mayfield, Burke	Cindy Taylor, King and Queen CH
Melinda Coleman, King and Queen CH	Joan Millward, Colonial Beach	Susan Willis, Durham, NC
Robert Coles, Richmond	Trista Nealon, Arlington	



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2024 VSO Membership Renewal

Name & Address: _____

Email address: _____

Check here to receive VSO emails about upcoming events such as field trips, annual meetings, and organization news. Print your email address clearly. By checking this line, you give the VSO permission to communicate with you by email.

Check here to receive VSO publications in soft copy electronically by email. By checking this line, you give the VSO permission to send publications you have requested by email.

Check here to receive VSO publications in hard copy by US Postal Service. You can check this line and still receive emails about upcoming events and organization news by checking the first line above.

New _____ Renewing _____ Gift _____

_____ Contributing Membership \$75 _____ Active Membership \$20

_____ Sustaining Membership \$50 _____ Student Membership \$10

_____ Family Membership \$35 _____ Life Membership (individual) \$500

I would like to make a donation to:

\$ _____ 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Fund \$ _____ VSO Conservation Fund

\$ _____ Bramble Hill Conservation Fund \$ _____ VSO General Fund

\$ _____ Scholarships and Student Grants

VSO Merchandise

Virginia's Birdlife "Gold Book" (Rottenborn, Brinkley 2007) \$25.00

VSO Arm Patch \$4.00 **VSO Cloisonné Pin \$5.00**

VSO Field Checklist FREE! Download at: <https://www.virginiabirds.org/resources-education>

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO THE VSO, TO: VSO, PO BOX 5994, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188-5216

You may join, renew, and purchase items online at: <https://www.virginiabirds.org/join-renew>

If you have questions about your membership, contact Membership Secretary Shirley Devan at: vsomembership@cox.net

Your support means so much to the success of the VSO. Thank you!

The Virginia Society of Ornithology is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All membership fees, donations, and contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.