

The Raven

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The Virginia Society of Ornithology, Inc. exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.
2. Other forays or field trips lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.
3. A journal, *The Raven*, published twice yearly, containing articles relevant to Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.
4. A newsletter, published quarterly, containing current news items of interest to members and information about upcoming events and pertinent conservation issues.
5. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In additions, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips and other projects.

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Editor
Paul R. Cabe



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NESTING OF THE SEDGE WREN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY: FIRST REPORTED NEST WITH CONTENTS FOR VIRGINIA

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INTRODUCTION

In North America, the breeding range of the Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) extends from New Brunswick west across southern Canada to east-central Alberta, and south through the United States to central Arkansas and northern parts of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia (AOU 1998). There are also isolated breeding season records for other southern states, including the Carolinas, Georgia, and Mississippi (McNair 1983). The species is found in winter from the tidewater portions of New England south through the Gulf States into Mexico (AOU 1998).

In Virginia, the Sedge Wren is an uncommon to common transient and winter resident along the Atlantic Coast. In the lower Chesapeake Bay region, it is a rare and local summer resident in the brackish marshes of Virginia Beach and Accomack County (i.e., Kain 1987, Day III 1991). In the Piedmont, the bird is a rare and irregular transient, with summer occurrences reported from Albemarle and Prince William counties (Stevens 1952, Kain 1987). Sedge Wrens are rare transients in the mountains and valleys (Kain 1987), but there are three late spring and summer records of singing males from Bath, Bland, and Rockbridge counties (Murray 1935, Stevens 1976, Scott 1977). The only proof of actual breeding in Virginia has been W. F. Rountrey's sighting of a "young bird" in July 1951 at Sandbridge Beach in Virginia Beach (Murray 1952). Unspecified, probable breeding evidence was obtained in 1984 from Sax in Accomack County (Kain 1987). There are two recorded instances of possible breeding as well. Stevens (1952) reported the discovery of three dummy (male-built) nests on 3 August 1949 in a wet meadow near Scottsville in Albemarle County, and Kain (1987) reported a pair carrying nest material at Nokesville in Prince William County between 8 and 16 August 1981.

During the spring and summer of 2003, I observed a small colony of Sedge Wrens in Montgomery County, Virginia. I located one active nest and saw two fledged young, providing the first evidence of breeding for the mountains and valleys region of the state.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

On 17 May 2003, I heard the distinctive song of a male Sedge Wren while walking through a damp meadow about 1.5 km southwest of Blacksburg, at an elevation of 610 m. With a pair of 7 x 35 binoculars I scanned the meadow to locate the singing individual, and soon found it perched on a dead plant stem 15 m from

where I was standing. I noted the black and white streaking on its crown and back, its buffy underparts, and an indistinct supercilium over its eye. The wren was small in size and had its short tail cocked forward in typical wren fashion. Its song, which further distinguished it from the similarly plumaged Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), was a staccato chattering: 'chip, chip, chip, chipper-rrrrr.' I watched the male for about three minutes before it dropped down into the grass and disappeared. As I walked east through the meadow, I found a second singing male, and I was able to approach him as close as 3 m. About 8 m from this male, I flushed from tall grass what I assumed to be a female wren. The bird flew ahead of me and landed in a small multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) about 3 m away. For the next 10 minutes, I watched the singing male and then walked to the multiflora rose. When I reached the rose bush, the silent female flew up from the grass growing densely around it and traveled about 6 m before descending again. A few minutes later, I saw the singing male dive into the grass after her. At this time I continued on, not wanting to disturb a potential courtship display by continued flushing. Walking farther east through the meadow, I heard a third singing male and observed him too at very close range. The three males that I observed on this date were spaced about 24 to 30 m apart and sang almost incessantly despite the drizzling rain.

The 20-hectare, rectangular meadow in which the wrens were found, was vegetated primarily in grasses, but sedges, rushes, composites, and other herbaceous plants grew abundantly along a small stream flowing through it. The most important herbaceous species were as follows: rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*) reedtop (*Agrostis gigantea*), velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), meadow fescue (*Festuca elatior*), great bulrush (*Scirpus validus*), bulrush (*S. atrovirens*), sedges (*Carex vulpinoidea*, *C. festucacea*, *C. granularis*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), white clover (*T. repens*), jewelweed (*Impatiens* spp.), Queen-Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), spearmint (*Mentha spicata*), black nightshade (*Solanum americanum*), horse nettle (*S. carolinense*), New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), boneset (*Eupatorium purpureum*), several unidentified composites, several asters (*Aster* spp.), pitch-forks (*Bidens* spp.), yellow sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), and chicory (*Cichorium intybus*). In certain areas along the stream, broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*) were abundant. The most abundant woody plants growing in the meadow were scattered hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.) and privets (*Ligustrum vulgare*) approximately 3 m tall, along with several multiflora roses and blackberries (*Rubus* spp.). A few medium-sized willows (*Salix* sp.) and black cherries (*Prunus serotina*) also grew alongside the stream.

For some distance on either side of the meadow, there were crop fields planted in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), corn (*Zea* sp.), and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). Oak (*Quercus* spp.)-hickory (*Carya* spp.) woodlots and hay fields bordered other sections. A fence divided the region of the meadow corridor occupied by the wrens. One half of the meadow, which will hereinafter be referred to as "pasture 1," was grazed lightly by several horses during the summer. Although dairy cattle had been released into the other half of the meadow in years past, they were kept out in 2003. This,

along with an unusually wet spring, allowed many grasses in the meadow to attain extraordinary heights of almost 1 m. This half of the meadow will be called "pasture 2." Heavy rains eventually matted down many of the grasses in both sections, but some composites reached heights of 1.5 m by early September, when orb-weaving spiders (Araneidae) became numerous in patches of these plants.

The wrens stayed in the more open, grassy areas well away from the trees. Through late spring and early summer, associating bird species in the meadow were: Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), and American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*). Species that were occasionally noted in or passing through the meadow included: Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). I observed no direct interactions between any of these species and the Sedge Wrens. A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) nested in a hawthorn in the meadow in spring 2002 and in a multiflora rose in spring 2004, but the birds did not nest there in 2003.

At 11:10 EDT, on 25 May, I entered pasture 2 near the point at which I had observed a singing male and assumed female on 17 May. Shortly after I arrived, a wren flew up from the grass 2 m away and dived back down silently. I stood motionless for the next few minutes until I heard a vibrant 'bbbzzrt' in the grass where it had landed. Two minutes later, a male started singing nearby. Eventually the female reappeared, carrying nest material in her bill. The material included soft, downy plant matter and small blades of dry grass. She visited at least four clumps of grass only briefly and appeared to always leave one clump empty-billed, though I was unable to pinpoint a definite nest location. She continued this process for several minutes. On one occasion, the female flew to her singing mate with nest material and the two dropped out of sight into the grass, the male still singing. About 30 seconds later, both came back up and the female continued to collect nest material while the male sang in the vicinity. I concluded that this was a nest site, but since the female was obviously still building and perhaps already laying, to prevent site desertion I decided not to search for the nest. Later in the afternoon, I observed three other singing males in the meadow. The first male that I found on 17 May was still singing in pasture 1. The other two males were singing in pasture 2, at points east of the nesting pair. One individual carried a blade of grass or sedge into a clump of sedges while singing, but I was subsequently unable to find a nest. I watched each of these birds for some time, but I observed no evidence to indicate they were mated.

During a brief visit to pasture 1 on 29 May, I found four singing males and two possible females. Doubtless the male singing closest to pasture 2 was the one seen with a female there on 25 May, as I heard no males across the fence. After flushing one of the other three males in pasture 1, a silent individual (presumably

female) flushed and landed in the grass a short distance away. About 20 seconds later, the "female" flew up and the singing male followed it closely. The two birds landed in the grass together and I could hear them uttering soft 'chip' notes. Afterwards I was unable to flush either of the birds. Farther downstream, another male was found with a seemingly agitated individual that may have been a female. The agitated bird was chipping loudly and stayed very close to the male. Possibly it too was a male, but when the two wrens were together there was no apparent conflict. I watched the "pair" for some time, but witnessed no nesting activity.

On 4 June, I observed three singing males in pasture 1 and one female in pasture 2. A few minutes after arriving at the nest-building site (13:30 EDT), I saw the female fly up from the grass 6 m away, and then drop back down a few meters off. Soon she was back up, carrying a small tuft of what appeared to be plant down. She continued to fly from one grass clump to another, adding to her load. Meanwhile, the closest singing male from pasture 1 moved in closer and landed in grass a few feet from the female. Over the next few minutes, the female made several trips to and from the point from which she had first flown, twice accompanied by the male. I could see her carry the downy material on only the first trip back. After returning to the dropping point following four of her excursions, the female would stay there for about ten minutes. Finally, at 14:08, after seeing her land at the dropping point for the sixth time, I walked slowly towards it. With the sun at my back, I stared carefully into the grass. Within seconds, a small, round ball of grass materialized about 0.9 m ahead. I placed one foot in front me and leaned in close. At that very instant, the female wren jumped silently from the nest with incredible speed and disappeared mouse-like through the grass. At first I could not find the entrance to the nest, but feeling over its exterior I located the orifice. When I inserted a finger I felt a number of eggs inside. I then looked into the nest and was able to count a set of seven pure white eggs resting in the cup. After counting them twice, I made a quick departure and chose a new observation point some 15 m away. At 14:20, I saw the female fly up and flutter down into the grass at the nest site. The male was still singing nearby. Convinced that the female had resumed incubation, I proceeded up the drainage.

Interestingly, the adding of nest material during incubation has not heretofore been reported for this species, but Brewster (1937: 107) observed an incubating female "flying from place to place in the grass...carrying in her bill something white or whitish about half the size of one of her own eggs." The globular nest was well hidden among tall meadow fescue and built about 10 cm off the ground; supporting grasses were woven securely into the structure. Externally it consisted of the dried and green blades and culms of various grasses. The interior was lined with soft, grayish plant down, fine grasses, hair, and several small feathers. The nest's dimensions were as follows: outside diameter 9 cm; inside diameter 5 cm; outside depth 8 cm; inside depth 4 cm. The entrance measured approximately 2.5 cm in diameter and faced southeast. Vegetation in the immediate vicinity consisted primarily of tall meadow fescue and orchard grass, with a few clumps of timothy, velvet grass, and redtop intermixed. Several meadow garlics (*Allium canadense*), bull

thistles (*Cirsium pumilum*), common dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*), and horse nettles were also close. There were no large forbs or woody plants in a 15-m radius around the nest. The site was on a gentle slope and the entrance to the nest faced roughly downhill toward the marshy stream.

When I visited the nest on 9 June, I was accompanied by Dr. Curtis S. Adkisson and Warren T. Mays. From a point 9 m away, we observed the female make several trips to the nest with food between 16:50 and 17:00 EDT. The female generally collected food items within 8 m of the nest. On her return trips with food, she always flew to it directly, staying for several minutes afterwards—supposedly to brood. That young were in the nest was confirmed when we saw her carry off a fecal sac. The female's feeding rhythm was interrupted momentarily when Dr. Adkisson and I inspected the nest. This time when I inserted a finger I felt very small young inside. They were warm and seemed to be covered sparsely with soft natal down, suggesting that they were but a few days old. While Dr. Adkisson was photographing the nest, the female returned and gave agitated 'chip' notes as close as 1 m from us. We then retreated and watched as she continued to feed and brood the young. As far as we could tell, only the female fed them. The closest male we observed was singing about 30 m downstream in pasture 1, where three other males were also singing.

I returned to the nest site on the morning of 17 June. Four singing males were in pasture 1 below the nest area. When I reached the nest, I found it empty but in good condition. The surrounding grass had been severely matted down by heavy rain during the night, and the nest was resting on the ground. Otherwise, however, it was in the same position as before. There was no evidence of disturbance by a mammalian or avian predator, but snake predation could not be ruled out. Lacking time to search for the female or fledged young, I returned the next day (18 June) to make a more thorough search. Three males were still singing incessantly from perches in pasture 1 and a fourth was heard in pasture 2 some distance from the nest site. Eventually I flushed what was probably the same female 6 meters from the vacated nest. I flushed her four times over the next half hour, but I never saw any young. Nevertheless, if the young had fledged recently, they were likely keeping well out of sight and running about through the grass like mice (Mousely 1934, Walkinshaw 1935). The female may not have fed them due to my presence. I also noticed that she was not hiding herself as well as she had on my previous visits to the territory, and she never left the site during the time I watched. Mousely (1934) and Walkinshaw (1935) recorded the nestling period for this species as lasting 12 to 14 days. Crawford (1977) recorded fledging when young were 11 to 16 days old. If the young in this nest were already several days old on 9 June, they could easily have fledged before 17 June. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that they probably fledged successfully.

When I visited the meadow on 6 September, most of pasture 1 had been mowed for hay. Pasture 2 had not been mowed, but I observed no wrens in it. The vegetation in the small marshy portion of pasture 1 that had not been cut consisted predominately of grasses and tall composites. I walked back and forth

through the patch, and succeeded in flushing a total of four Sedge Wrens, at least two of which were dependent juveniles. The two birds that I took to be adults were flushed several meters from the stream; the immatures were observed at the water's edge. The latter were very tame and I was able to approach them closely when they perched together. Their tails were rather short, their sides were buffy, and they had no distinct streaking around their eyes. In addition, their bills were somewhat shorter than those of the adults and did not appear to be fully decurved. Their lower mandibles were still yellow around their gapes. Apart from being less secretive, the young behaved very much like the adults, and the calls of both were practically identical.

My next visit to the meadow was 18 October. On this date I observed one immature in the un-cut patch of vegetation, but no wrens were seen in other parts of the meadow. Despite subsequent searches in the area throughout the fall and winter, no Sedge Wrens could be found.

DISCUSSION

Prior to my observations in 2003, the Sedge Wren was considered a rare transient in Montgomery County (Murray 1974), there being only twelve known records of its occurrence. The earliest and latest of the three spring records were 26 April 1999 and 13 May 1940 (Handley 1941, K.K. Cooper unpub. data). The earliest and latest fall observations were 29 August 1944 and 24 October 1901 and 1989 (E.A. Smyth, Jr. unpub. ms., J.W. Murray unpub. data, T.D. Wieboldt unpub. data). While the Sedge Wren is rarely observed even during migration, like many marsh birds it is secretive and inconspicuous, and probably more common than the few records suggest. Although its occurrence during the breeding season in Montgomery County and other nearby areas is probably exceptional, territorial male Sedge Wrens may be easily overlooked, especially if observers are unfamiliar with their insect-like songs. Thus, local Sedge Wren breeding populations in Virginia may be more common outside the tidewater region than is generally supposed. Moreover, throughout most of its range the species is known for its lack of breeding-site fidelity between years and its high mobility during the breeding season (i.e., Meanely 1952, Kroodsma and Verner 1978, Burns 1982). Such behavior is apparently an opportunistic strategy related to the bird's preference for marshes and moist, early successional habitats. This could explain why Sedge Wrens nested in the Montgomery County meadow in 2003, when the existing vegetation was unusually dense and moist from a very wet spring, but were absent when I surveyed the same area in 2002 and 2004. Suitable habitats in all regions of Virginia should be checked more carefully over a period of several consecutive seasons. Additional breeding records will hopefully be secured in coming years, especially from coastal areas where Sedge Wrens undoubtedly breed with more regularity.

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FIRST RECORD OF AN AMERICAN KESTREL USING ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING TO CAPTURE INSECTS

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Falcons (*Falconidae*) are considered diurnal predators but there are records of European *Falco* sp. feeding well into nighttime hours (Tryjanowski and Lorek 1998, Negro et al. 2000, Rejt 2001). The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) is considered a diurnal predator but have been observed taking bats well into dusk (Cruz 1976). I report here the first instance of American Kestrels using artificial lighting to extend prey capture periods into night. The American Kestrel is the smallest and most common falcon in North America (Smallwood and Bird 2002) and they typically occur in every county in Virginia. The American Kestrel's diet usually consists of insects and small mammals.

At approximately 2115 EST 7 August 2004, I observed a small raptor flying across the width of the Diamond baseball field in Richmond, VA (37°34'22"N / 77°27'48"W). On this date, sunset occurred at 2011 EST. Moonrise did not occur until 0007 EST the following day. Civil twilight (dusk) was well over by more than 30 min. at the time of the first sighting. Thus, no natural lighting conditions were present to aid in the extension of diurnal feeding. The bird's flight path took it in a line from the first base side (southeast) of the stadium across the Diamond and eventually over the ceiling (height 42 m) of the third base side (northwest). I immediately identified the bird as a female American Kestrel. Sex was determined based on the overall brown coloration of the bird especially the lack of blue on the wings. The bird's diminutive size coupled with its pointed wings suggested this species. The only other raptors approximate in size to American Kestrels are accipiters but these birds could be eliminated as the species in question because of wing shape. Accipiters typically have short rounded wings whereas this bird possessed longer thinly pointed wings. Also, the wing beats of the bird were weak and shallow and interspersed with gliding.

The next observed flight occurred within five minutes of the first sighting. The kestrel followed the same direction toward the northwest side of the stadium as previously taken. Instead of flying over the stadium, the bird approached the beam emanating from the artificial lights. I then noticed a large insect within the beam of the light. As the kestrel approached the insect it flew up and seized the insect in its talons. Approximately 10 min. later this behavior was repeated as I observed another insect become trapped within the light. These insects appeared to be from

the suborder Megaloptera (dobsonflies) based on their large size, fluttering flight, and the presence of four large membranous wings. In all observations the kestrel ignored small insects attracted to the lights and only appeared in flight to capture the Megalopterans. Once the insects were captured, the kestrels returned toward the first base side of the stadium. I could not determine if they perched around the lighting structure (height 42 m) or continued their flight due to the area being backlit. Only one kestrel at a time appeared in flight around the stadium although more than one bird could have been seen.

Extensive research has been conducted on American Kestrels but there is little mention of their nocturnal habits. Even though nocturnal activity has been previously described in other falcon and kestrel species I am reporting here the first instance of an American Kestrel using artificial lighting to capture insects.

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RUFOUS AND *SELASPHORUS* HUMMINGBIRDS RETURNING TO FEEDERS IN VIRGINIA

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There was a dramatic increase in the number of reports of *Selasphorus* Hummingbirds in Virginia, from 1995 to 2002 (Taber, 2002). Some birds were seen for only one day, while others wintered in one location for months. Remarkably, two of the Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) captured and banded in November 2001 and January 2002 were re-captured at the same feeders the following December.

One of two immature female Rufous Hummingbirds that frequented a feeder in James City County, near Williamsburg, from 18 December 2001 to 9 April 2002, was captured and banded by the team of Mary Gustafson and Bruce Peterjohn on 21 January 2002 and then again on 1 December 2002. I was fortunate to be present on both occasions. The bird had returned on 22 October 2002 and it remained there until 10 April 2003. The second bird that spent the winter of 2001/2002 there was also banded. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird, with a band, was then seen at the same feeder from 29 September 2003 to early April 2004. The bird was not captured, but seems likely to be the one that spent the previous two winter seasons. Amazingly, a banded *Selasphorus* hummingbird appeared again there, on 24 September 2004. It remained until 18 December 2004 and was not captured. Where might the hummingbird have traveled to when not in James City County?

An immature female Rufous Hummingbird captured and banded by Gustafson and Peterjohn in Chesterfield County on 29 November 2001 was re-captured near Red Lodge, Montana on 1 August 2002 and then re-captured again at the same Chesterfield location on 1 December 2002 (fide Mary Gustafson). The bird had returned to Chesterfield on 11 November 2002 and remained there until 1 January 2003.

In York County, near Williamsburg, a feeder hosted two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds from "fall" 2003 to 10 February 2004. One of the birds then disappeared, but the other continued until "early April" 2004. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds then appeared in "fall" 2004. The host family felt that as many as four birds were present in 2004 and 2005. Dan Cristol and I observed one *Selasphorus* hummingbird there on 22 December 2004. At least one was still present there as of 23 March 2005 and none was there after "early April." 2005 (Cristol, pers. comm.).

In Rockingham County, a feeder hosted a Rufous Hummingbird (confirmed through photographs) in 2002 from 20 October to 22 November and then a *Selasphorus* was seen there in 2003 on 7 October, staying until 15 February 2004. Later in 2004, a *Selasphorus* hummingbird was seen for the third consecutive year, for a few days beginning 17 September (fide J. Spahr).

In Harrisonburg, in 2002, a *Selasphorus* hummingbird was seen from 15 October to 24 November and then the same feeder hosted a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in 2003, from 24 October to 14 November.

In Lynchburg, a *Selasphorus* hummingbird began coming to a feeder about 24 November 2003 and it stayed until about 1 April 2004; then on 22 November 2004, a *Selasphorus* hummingbird was seen there, which stayed until mid-January 2005 (fide T. Dalmas). The hosts said that the two birds used the same perches in the yard.

In Loudon County, an adult female Rufous Hummingbird was present from 10 October 2001 to 17 January 2002 and was banded by Gustafson. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird was then seen there from 11 November 2003 to 14 November 2003 (fide D. Kelly).

Migration and wintering for Rufous Hummingbirds, outside of the normal range has been variously described: "Some winter regularly in Gulf coast states. Strays occur widely in east" (Kauffman 1996); "Rare but increasing (or increasingly detected?) vagrant or migrant (mainly July to November, with some lingering into winter, depending on the severity of cold weather) E to NE North America, exceptionally to the maritime provinces" (Howell 2002). Regarding movements outside of the normal range for hummingbirds, Sibley states, "The widespread use of hummingbird feeders to attract birds no doubt accounts, at least in part, for the increasing number of extralimital hummingbird records. The continuing loss of habitat in Mexico and Central America is a major threat...losses may also affect migratory species such as the Rufous Hummingbird by reducing wintering habitat" (Sibley 2001).

Rufous Hummingbirds were confirmed through capture as returning to the same feeders nearly a year later in James City County and Chesterfield County. At the James City County location, a banded *Selasphorus* hummingbird was also seen for each of the next two years, but was not recaptured. In at least seven instances, the same feeder in Virginia has hosted *Selasphorus* hummingbirds for more than one year. These reappearances for such a rare species in Virginia may be astounding coincidences, though it seems more likely that the birds intentionally returned to the same feeders and were not "lost," but rather repeated an untraditional, or formerly unrecognized, route. Those that stayed throughout the winter typically left about the time Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were returning to Virginia in early April.

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THE 30TH ANNUAL BEACH-NESTING AND COLONIAL WATERBIRDS SURVEY OF THE VIRGINIA BARRIER ISLANDS-2004

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INTRODUCTION

Field counts of the colonial and beach-nesting waterbirds of the Virginia barrier islands conducted 20-23 June 2004 completed the third decade of consecutive annual surveys for these taxa. With the exception of Parramore Island, which was not visited, the survey encompassed all of the Virginia Atlantic coastal barrier islands from Assawoman Island, Accomack County on the north through Fishermans Island, Northampton County on the south. Initiated in 1975 as a means to establish baseline information for the Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve Study (Williams 1976), the data from these surveys have become integral in the development of management plans for some of the Eastern Shore's most pristine and fragile Atlantic coast breeding bird habitats. The consistency of the survey team personnel has enhanced the effectiveness of the field technique protocols previously described (Williams et al. 1990). Table 1 presents the 2004 island-by-island data of the total number of adult birds counted for the 27 birds species we monitor, and includes a mean for each species through the 2004 survey.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

The lasting effects of Hurricane Isabel's 19 September 2003 force were dramatically apparent on several barrier islands comprising the southern third of the chain. The creation of a large tidal lagoon near the southern terminus of Ship Shoal Island significantly altered the physiography of that island. Sand deposition along that island's eastern perimeter completely covered previously exposed former marsh mud banks that had protruded into the ocean surf. Wreck Island's northern tip was broached by a substantial inlet, exiling a small remnant of the main island to the sea. A once formidable 2-meter high shell berm that ran along the beach front for much of the middle of that island was leveled, leaving a wide overwash beach of shell cobble and sand. On more northern islands, the hurricane widened the sand/shell overwash on the northern 2/3 of Cedar Island, sustaining and expanding a habitat type critical for nesting Piping (*Charadrius melodus*) and Wilson's (*C. wilsonia*) Plovers and Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*). The western side of Chimney Pole Marsh, previously defined by a narrow shell berm was leveled, leaving it exposed to open *Spartina* marsh.

Though late April and early May 2004 were unseasonably warm and dry, only a full moon tidal event in mid-May caused any disturbance of nesting birds prior to the survey. Inundation from those high tides washed away the marsh nesting efforts of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*, B. Truitt pers. comm.).

The survey team was encouraged by the number of young beach- and colonial nesting birds encountered throughout the survey. A large mixed beach-nesting species colony on Wreck Island was thriving with young Gull-billed (*S. nilotica*) and Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) and Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*), a scene we had not witnessed on any islands in more than 15 years. Throughout the system, fledgling and downy Least Terns were found at colony sites.

The number of nesting Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on Fishermans Island, the Virginia barrier islands single colony site for this species, plummeted for a second consecutive year to 476, a 75% decline from the 2002 all-time high count of 1892 (Williams et al. 2003) and 50% of the survey mean of 947. A combination of raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and Herring/Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus argentatus*/*L. marinus*) predation during the early nesting stages the previous breeding season are believed to be largely responsible for this diminution.

Fourteen Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) nests, all with young, were found on Chimney Pole Marsh, marking the sixth consecutive year this species has nested at this their only Virginia Atlantic barrier islands nesting site. This nest count exceeds the previous nest count high of 12 in 2000 (Williams et al. 2001).

Three heronries, one each on Cobb and Wreck islands, and Chimney Pole Marsh, contained 1637 birds of 8 species, the highest count since 1996 when 2105 herons/egrets/ibis of 11 species in 5 heronries was recorded (Williams et al. 1997). Species posting notable increases this year were Great Egret (*Ardea alba*, mean 383), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*, mean 468) and Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*, mean 152).

The count for the latter species reversed a precipitous decline to only 4 birds in each of the last 2 surveys (Williams et al. 2003, 2004), coinciding with their decline over the last decade within the larger seaside/Chesapeake Bay system (Watts 2004). No nesting Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*, mean 23) or Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax violacea*, mean 40) were encountered during the survey. There were no changes of note in the numbers for White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*, mean 22) or Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*, mean 435). The former were breeding in the heronries on Wreck and Cobb islands, their only Virginia colony sites. The latter was represented at all 3 heronries.

The Wilson's Plover count of 43 birds (mean 49) remained relatively unchanged from previous surveys. All birds recorded were found on Assawoman (16), Metompkin (20), and Cedar (7) islands.

Piping Plovers had the longitudinal survey's 3rd highest count with 156 adults, 31% above the survey mean of 119. A total of 56 young was observed. 87% of the adult Piping Plovers were on Assawoman (22), Metompkin (69), and Cedar (44) islands. Among the southern barrier islands Piping Plovers were encountered on Wreck (3), Ship Shoal (5), Myrtle (9), and Smith (4).

American Oystercatchers (*Heamatopus palliatus*) posted a 30% increase over 2003 (Williams et al. 2004) from 546 to 710, indicating a potential positive trend towards the species' 30-year mean of 809. 51% of the oystercatchers were on Metompkin Island and Cedar islands, with 22% (159) and 29% (208) respectively. A total of 34 American Oystercatcher young was recorded.

Laughing Gulls posted an all-time low count for the survey with 1541 birds, all on Wreck Island. With a 30-year survey mean of 9356, this year's count was consistent with a continued gradual decline for the seaside breeding population (Truitt and Schwab 2001, Watts 2004), and was directly related to the mid-May marsh inundation mentioned above.

This survey's total of 2180 Herring Gulls was 30% below the 30-year survey mean of 3116, and echoed a broader system-wide decline for this species (Watts and Byrd 1998, Truitt and Schwab 2001, Watts 2004). Contrastingly, Great Black-backed Gulls (mean 265) posted a 38% increase over 2003 (Williams et al. 2004) from 466 to 643, paralleling a positive trend for this species throughout the larger coastal population (Watts 2004).

Gull-billed Terns increased 300% from 52 in 2003 (Williams et al. 2004) to 165. This increase, however, is far below this species 30-year survey mean of 554. For the eighth consecutive year no breeding Caspian Terns (mean 3) *S. caspia* were found. Royal Terns nested in 2 large colonies, one on Wreck Island (2560 birds) and one on Fishermans Island (2260). The total of 4820 birds was 5% higher than the 30-year survey mean of 4567, consistent with recent seaside population gains reported by Truitt and Schwab (2001).

Fifty Sandwich Terns (*S. sandvicensis*, mean 28) were tallied during the survey, 44 on Wreck Island and 6 on Fishermans Island. This was the highest count since 54 were recorded in 1998, all from Fishermans Island (Williams et al. 2000), and far below the maximum count of 140 on Ship Shoal Island in 1983 (Williams et al.

1990). As notable as our 2004 count was, it pales in the context of the 222 Sandwich Tern chicks banded on Wreck Island one month after our survey (D. Field, pers comm.) These banding results indicate that at least 222 pairs were breeding at the site, far surpassing the state record 140 adults in 1983 (Williams et al 1990).

The number of Common Terns recorded during this survey (643) was ~10% increase over the 581 in 2002 (Williams et al. 2003) and the 588 of 2003 (Williams et al. 2004). 80% (514) of these birds were on Wreck and Cedar islands. Compared to their 30-year survey mean of 2698 there is definitive evidence this species has declined significantly as an Atlantic barrier islands breeder. This trend is reflective of a 70% decline in the coastal population between 1993 and 2003 described by Watts (2004). The single Forster's Tern colony of 40 birds was located on Fishermans Island.

Least Terns were 14% above their 30-year survey mean of 684 to 777, the first time this species has been at such levels since 1994 (Williams et al. 1995) when 739 were recorded.

Although the number (1458) of Black Skimmers was down 8% (1589) from 2003 (Williams et al. 2004), the barrier islands' population appears to have stabilized after the declines reported through the 1990's (Williams et al. 1990, Truitt and Schwab 2001, Watts and Byrd 1998, Watts 2004). The 30-year survey mean of 3920 for Black Skimmers is testimony for their prior abundance within this Coast Reserve study area.

The team's vigilance for species outside the scope of our survey work yielded the following observations. Three Wilson's Storm Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) were sighted 21 June, 1 in Machipongo Inlet, and 2 between Cobb and Little Cobb islands.

Three waterfowl species were noted with 6 Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*) 22 June on Cedar Island, and 5 Black Scoters (*Melanitta nigra*) on Smith Island 21 June. A lone female Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) was on Cedar Island 22 June.

There was quite a variety of shorebird species found including 34 Black-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*), 17 on Ship Shoal Island, and 17 on Myrtle Island 21 June. The same day there were 7 Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) located, 3 on Myrtle Island, and 4 on Ship Shoal Island. Most surprising and unprecedented for the survey was a single Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) seen on the north end of Assawoman Island 22 June. Three Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) nests were discovered-1 with 3 eggs 21 June on Ship Shoal Island and one 1-egg nest and one 3-egg nest on Cedar Island 22 June. Four Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) were observed on Cedar Island 22 June and 3 Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) were recorded on Ship Shoal Island 21 June. Sixteen Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*) were noted 21 June, 1 on Ship Shoal Island and 15 on Myrtle Island.

Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) were notable with 1 adult 20 June on Fishermans Island, and 1 adult 22 June on the west side of Metompkin Island.

Two Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) were flushed from an interdune overwash on Smith Island 21 June. At least 1 Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolenensis*) was heard nightly, 21 and 22 June, on Hog Island.

Another unexpected find was a foraging Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) 20 June on Fishermans Island.

Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) have been noted almost annually since these surveys commenced. This year we encountered 4, 1 on Cobb Island 21 June and 1 on Cedar Island and 2 Assawoman Island 22 June.

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Virginia Barrier Islands Beach-nesting and Colonial Waterbirds Survey-20-23 June 2004

	Asa	Metom	Cedar	Das Shl	Parra	Sandy	Chm Pol	Hog	Rogue	Cobb L.	Cobb	Wreck	Shp Shl	Gdwn	Mink	Myrtle	Smith	Fisher	Total
BRPE																		476	476
DCCO							28												28
GBHE																			0
GREG							198			28		300							526
SNEG							72			18		150							240
LBHE										20		60							80
TRHE							67			30		130							227
CAEG							14					6							20
GRHE																			0
BCNH							8			96		235							339
YCNH																			0
WHIB										60		14							74
GLIB							36			25		70							131
NOHA																			1
WIPL	16	20	7																43
PIPL	22	69	44																156
AMOY	20	159	208	2		70	19	22		14	8	3	5			9	4	40	710
LAGU												1541				20	26		1541
HEGU						345	146			183	354	676						476	2180
GBBG						28	77			25	78	318						117	643
GBTE	4	34								6		121							165
CATE																			0
ROTE												2560						2260	4820
SATE												44						6	50
COTE		63	124	48		16				2		390							643
FOTE																		40	40
LETE	12	247	179							34		60	198			21	26		777
BLSK		116	585	154		8				4		591							1458

Table 1. Census counts of bird species on Virginia barrier islands. Islands listed in the table include Assawoman Island, Metomkin Island, Cedar Island, Dawson Shoals, Parramore Island, Sandy Island, Chimney Pole Marsh, Hog Island, Rogue Island, Cobb Island, Little Cobb Island, Wreck Island, Ship Shoal Island, Godwin Island, Mink Island, Myrtle Island, Smith Island, Fishermans Island. Species abbreviations follow standard USGS Bird Banding Laboratory codes.

VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: 2004-2005 SEASON

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SUMMARY

In 2004-05 the Virginia Christmas Bird counts were far different from the 2003-04 counts. In 2003, the region was still struggling out from under the devastation of Hurricane Isabel, and not only were human communities drastically altered, but great expanses of avian habitat were swept away, leaving the area bereft of wild bird food and cover. Things are slowly recovering, however, and birds are gradually filtering back into the area this year as evidenced by the three million birds found on 47 counts, as opposed to less than one million tallied on the same counts last year.

As in years past, nine counts were submitted to *The Raven*, but were not entered into the National Audubon database. They are: Charlottesville, Warren, Darlington Heights, Lynchburg, Danville, Big Flat Mountain, Peaks of Otter, Roanoke, and Giles County. Another count, Bristol, was submitted to both Audubon and to *The Raven*. Bristol is unusual in that its circle center lies within the boundaries of Virginia, but is listed by Audubon under the Tennessee counts, as it has been from its earliest beginnings. Again this year, bad weather and impassable roads cancelled the Dismal National Wildlife Refuge count.

There were some changes in the ranks of Virginia compilers this year. After 16 years of faithfully serving as compiler for the Calmes Neck count, Frances Endicott turned the reins over to Margaret Wester. The Hopewell count also experienced a changing of the guard as Darrell Peterson took up compiler duties from Sherrie Siers. Bob Abrams became the Manassas-Bull Run compiler, replacing John Dent. Congratulations are extended to Paul Sykes as he celebrates his 50th year as compiler and organizer of both the Back Bay and Little Creek counts, no small accomplishment that!

Other current compilers who have served 25 continuous years or more are Barry Kinzie (Fincastle, 31 years), Sara Cromer (Tazewell, 33 years), Robert Paxton (Lexington, 36 years), Rob Simpson (Northern Shenandoah Valley, 35 years), Mary Pulley (Mathews County, 36 years), Harry Armistead (Cape Charles, 37 years), and last, but certainly not least, Charles "Mo" Stevens (Big Flat Mountain, 47 years; Warren, 54 years; and Charlottesville, 56 years). We salute these birders who have tirelessly overseen the organization of these counts and maintained records for decades, helping to make the Christmas counts part of one the largest and oldest bird databases in Virginia.

We pay our respects to Walter Post Smith who passed away this year. Along with banding birds both at Kiptopeke and at his home in Hampton for many decades, he also served as compiler for the Newport News count from 1954 through 1984. Walter was famous for his ability to add long columns of figures in his head as participants rattled off their count totals for the day. Though we tried hard to outdo him with our calculators, we never succeeded. His mental acuity was much faster and more accurate than our cumbersome electronic devices.

The total number of species counted this year stands at 211, the same as last year. There are, however, several rarities which must be reviewed and accepted by the Virginia Avian Records Committee (VARCOM) before they can be officially added to the total. In light of that, the total number may drop if any of those write-ups are not accepted.

The following reports will be submitted to VARCOM and are marked with an asterisk after the name in the count summaries. They are: Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) at Back Bay; Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) at Cape Charles and Chincoteague, Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Wilson's Warbler and Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) at Cape Charles. That shrike, by the way, was the first Coastal Plain Christmas count record. Other reviewable sightings are a Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) at Fincastle; Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) at Fort Belvoir and The Plains; Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), and Clark/Western Grebe at Little Creek, and a Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) (blue morph) at Wachapreague. Check the VARCOM link on the VSO website www.virginiabirds.net for the outcome of these evaluations. The newly designated Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) was reported on five separate accounts and will also be reviewed.

There were quite a few first-time occurrences on counts all around the state: Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) and Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) at Fort Belvoir; Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) at Blackford; Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) at Giles County; Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) at Central Loudoun; Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) at Manassas-Bull Run; Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Nansemond River; Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) and Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) at Northern Shenandoah Valley; both Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) at Rockingham County; a Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) at Tazewell; Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) for both Glade Spring and Shenandoah NP-Luray; and a Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) at Williamsburg, an unusual inland winter record.

Although they are quite common all around the state, five Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) were new for the Chesapeake Bay count. Much rarer were the LeConte's (*Ammodramus leconteii*) and Lincoln's (*Melospiza lincolni*) Sparrows at Washington's Birthplace. The first Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) appeared at Big Flat Mountain. One would not expect it to occur at such high elevations (900-3300 ft.) in the winter. The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) spotted on the Lexington count was only the second sighting of that species in the 79-year history of that count. And though Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) are commonly found on most Virginia counts, the two at Breaks Interstate Park were

the first for that count since 1985. Glade Spring chalked up its first Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) and high count of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) on that count were also a nice find. A Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) was a first for Nansemond River.

Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) occur on a regular basis in the lower reaches of Chesapeake Bay in the winter, as far north as Washington's Birthplace in Westmoreland County, but are seldom found beyond that point, so the second count record for Brooke was somewhat of a surprise. Lexington observers recorded the third sighting of a Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) for that count, while a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) found there was only the second record for Lexington. American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) showed up at Newport News, the only time they have been found there since 1961, and two Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) appeared at Wachapreague for that count's third record.

Overall, state all-time high totals were few this year. Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) continue their upward climb. The 4,025 counted on 46 of the state's 47 counts topped the previous high of 3,703 in 2002. This species has been steadily climbing in numbers on Christmas counts since 1989. Gordonsville counters conservatively estimated a combined total of over 750 Black and Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), but felt there were many more that they could not accurately count. Fourteen Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) were found on five counts, exceeding the previous state high of 13 set in 1999. Up through the mid 1980s, Ospreys occurred sporadically on counts, but since 1986, the species has been found in numbers from one to 13 every year. Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) numbers shot up to 508 over the previous record of 387 in 2000. Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) topped their previous high of 10,994 set in 2002, by more than 3000 birds for a total of 14,155, and 29,513 Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) edged out their previous high of 29,176 set in 1989.

The aggregate total of 11,392 Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*) around the state were the second highest ever, with Brooke, Chincoteague, and Walkerton all reporting record highs. Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) continue to spread over the state and both Mathews and Williamsburg birders found record numbers. Seventy-six Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) at Back Bay more than doubled that count's previous high.

Walkerton was the leader with the number of all-time high counts again this year with a total of 27. Washington's Birthplace was second with 21. Even though these counts have not been in existence a long time—11 and 12 years, respectively—these record numbers are impressive. On the other side of the coin compiler Todd Day at The Plains noted very low counts for seven species.

There are other low counts that should be mentioned. Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) numbers continue to sag with only 401 found state-wide this year. In past decades numbers almost always ranged between 700 to more than 1000 birds. The 94 Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) represented the fewest found in the state since 84 were recorded in 1948 on four of the 17 counts held that year. Two Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) were the lowest since one was recorded in

1964. In truth, however, this species has never been numerous on Christmas counts except for the first part of the 1970s when between 50 and 100 or more were often found. The same holds true for Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Only one was found this year, whereas, it too, was counted by the dozens in the 1970s. Another bird showing declining numbers is the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), especially on the Augusta County and Waynesboro counts. Yet Lynchburg has seen a decided increase of this species on counts in the last few years and the Fish Crow has shown up sporadically on the Banister River and Danville counts, a section of the state where previously they were almost devoid in the winter.

Finally, there is an unusual story of a species found on the Newport News this year for the first time in 20 years. In 1957 count participants found two Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) at orange feeders in a back yard along one of the main thoroughfares of the city. Each year the lady who owned the home added more feeders and more orioles came. In 1963 observers counted 34 birds in that yard on count day, a national record. This was such an unusual number that the Audubon Christmas Count editor called compiler Walter Post Smith to "correct" what he felt had to be mistake in data entry. Walter assured the editor that, indeed, birders had found that many and he explained the backyard bonanza. Orioles appeared in that yard every count for the next 21 years. The home owner died in 1984, the feeders disappeared, and no orioles were ever found again until one bird was observed this year. This is a great example of how human behavior can sometimes affect bird behavior.

The count summaries are arranged in alphabetical order and species names in bold face indicate that the sighting is unusual. Record high or near-record high numbers are also bold-faced. Abbreviations used in the summaries are: a = adult; ft = feet; i = immature; u = unknown; mph = miles per hour; and ph = photograph.

COUNT SYNOPSIS

AUGUSTA COUNTY. Circle Center: Jct. 780 & 781 in Augusta County. 38°12'N 78°59'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature range: 19° to 50° F. Wind variable, 0-5 mph. Skies clear. Still water frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 20 in 9 parties. Feeder watchers: 2 for 2.5 hours. Total party-hours (excludes feeder hours): 54.5 (15 on foot, 39.5 by car). Total party-miles: 461 (10 on foot, 451 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) CW; Canada Goose 739; Gadwall 39; American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 2; Mallard 172; Northern Shoveler 4; American Green-winged Teal 3; Ring-necked Duck 1; Ruddy Duck 2; Northern Bobwhite 1; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 11; Black Vulture 114; Turkey Vulture 782; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 8; Red-tailed Hawk 97; American Kestrel 37; American Coot 6; Killdeer 35; Rock Pigeon 657; Mourning Dove 666; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker 57; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 6; Downy Woodpecker 37; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 19; Pileated Woodpecker 8;

Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 214; American Crow 575; Fish Crow 11; Common Raven 3; Carolina Chickadee 140; Tufted Titmouse 110; White-breasted Nuthatch 42; Brown Creeper CW; Carolina Wren 65; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; Eastern Bluebird 125; Hermit Thrush 3; American Robin 105; Northern Mockingbird 152; European Starling 1,649; Cedar Waxwing 34; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 26; Eastern Towhee 1.

Field Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 94; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 337; White-crowned Sparrow 225; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 277; Northern Cardinal 294; Eastern Meadowlark 75; Purple Finch 4; House Finch 115; American Goldfinch 182; House Sparrow 329.

Total species: 63; **Total individuals:** 8,768.

Compiler: John Spahr (spahrj@cfw.com).

Organizations/Sponsors: Augusta Bird Club.

BACK BAY. Circle Center: 1.5 miles east of Back Bay. 36°39'N 76°00'W.

Field data: Count date: 29 Dec 2004. Times in field: 4:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Temperature range: 28° to 42° F. Wind northwest, 10-20 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 19 in 7 to 12 parties. Nocturnal birding: 3 hours and 21 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 82 (72 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 237 (39 on foot, 198 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 3,250; Snow Goose (blue form) 2; Canada Goose 360; Tundra Swan 530; Gadwall 830; American Wigeon 65; American Black Duck 630; Mallard 710; Blue-winged Teal 1; Northern Shoveler 45; Northern Pintail 168; American Green-winged Teal 205; Redhead 1; Greater Scaup 1; Lesser Scaup 6; Surf Scoter 60; Black Scoter 75; Bufflehead 14; Common Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 46; Red-breasted Merganser 45; Northern Bobwhite 10; Red-throated Loon 188; Common Loon 117; Pied-billed Grebe 7; Horned Grebe 2; Northern Gannet 2,045; Brown Pelican 212; Double-crested Cormorant 81; American Bittern 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 39; Great Egret 3; Black Vulture 38; Turkey Vulture 93; Bald Eagle 5 (3a, 2i); Northern Harrier 16; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 19; American Kestrel 15; Merlin 4; King Rail 4; Virginia Rail 6; Black-bellied Plover 7; Semipalmated Plover 3; Killdeer 53; Greater Yellowlegs 11; Lesser Yellowlegs 1; Sanderling 130; Western Sandpiper 3.

Least Sandpiper 3; Dunlin 70; Wilson's Snipe 11; Bonaparte's Gull 33; **Mew Gull*** 1; Ring-billed Gull 1,000; Herring Gull 305; Lesser Black-backed Gull 76; Great Black-backed Gull 111; Forster's Tern 168; Rock Pigeon 67; Mourning Dove 271; Eastern Screech-Owl 4; Great Horned Owl 4; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker 51; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Downy Woodpecker 31; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 61; Pileated Woodpecker 12; Eastern Phoebe 15; **White-eyed Vireo** 1; Blue Jay 47; American Crow 90; Fish Crow 16; Horned Lark 5; Tree Swallow 7; Carolina Chickadee 124; Tufted Titmouse 27; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 22; Brown-headed Nuthatch 30; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 105; House Wren 9; Winter Wren 6; Sedge Wren 6;

Golden-crowned Kinglet 25; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 20; Eastern Bluebird 95; Hermit Thrush 15; American Robin 2,520; Gray Catbird 15; Northern Mockingbird 50; Brown Thrasher 14; European Starling 790; American Pipit 7; Cedar Waxwing 63.

Orange-crowned Warbler 3; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 1,003; Pine Warbler 15; Palm Warbler 15; Black-and-white Warbler 2; Common Yellowthroat 3; Eastern Towhee 31; Chipping Sparrow 32; Field Sparrow 12; Savannah Sparrow 112; Le Conte's Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 23; Song Sparrow 152; Swamp Sparrow 99; White-throated Sparrow 351; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 178; Northern Cardinal 99; Red-winged Blackbird 1,460; Eastern Meadowlark 14; Rusty Blackbird 13; Common Grackle 82; Boat-tailed Grackle 72; Brown-headed Cowbird 57; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 56; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 74; House Sparrow 44.

Total species: 128; **Total individuals:** 20,616.

Compiler: Paul Sykes (paul_sykes@usgs.gov).

Compiler's note: This is Syke's 50th year as compiler of the Back Bay NWR CBC, having started as compiler at the tender age of 16, taking over the helm from Floy C. Burford.

BANISTER RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS. Circle Center: At Banister River Wildlife Management Areas in Halifax County. 36°43'N 78°48'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 22° to 38° F. Wind north, 7-10 mph. AM cloudy, PM partly cloudy. Still water open, moving water partly frozen. Field observers: 6 in 6 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 11 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 33.5 (12.5 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 158 (7 on foot, 151 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 202; Wood Duck 10; Gadwall CW; American Black Duck CW; Mallard 13; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 14; Ruddy Duck 1; Wild Turkey 21; Northern Bobwhite 1; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 12; Black Vulture 42; Turkey Vulture 74; Bald Eagle 2 (1a, 1i); Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 21; American Kestrel 3; **Merlin** 1; Killdeer 11; Bonaparte's Gull CW; Ring-billed Gull 162; Herring Gull 3; Rock Pigeon 109; Mourning Dove 111; Eastern Screech-Owl 5; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-headed Woodpecker 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 23; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Eastern Phoebe 7; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 84; American Crow 119; Carolina Chickadee 34; Tufted Titmouse 36; Red-breasted Nuthatch 18; White-breasted Nuthatch 18; Brown-headed Nuthatch 9; Carolina Wren 35; Winter Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 41; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; Eastern Bluebird 53; Hermit Thrush 8; American Robin 67.

Northern Mockingbird 21; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 137; American Pipit 32; Cedar Waxwing CW; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 41; Pine Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 22; Chipping Sparrow 115; Field Sparrow 8; Savannah Sparrow CW; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 58; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated

Sparrow 194; White-crowned Sparrow 4; sparrow, sp. 2; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 548; Northern Cardinal 106; Red-winged Blackbird 244; Eastern Meadowlark 27; Purple Finch 7; House Finch 25; American Goldfinch 56; House Sparrow 13.

Total species: 72; **Total individuals:** 3,126.

Compiler: Jeffrey C. Blalock (jcbabirder@gcronline.com).

Compiler's comments: Because the water level at Staunton River State Park was up, there were no mudflats, thus, no unusual shorebirds. Also, the high water kept duck and gull numbers down.

BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN. Circle Center: On Pasture Fence Mountain in Albemarle County. 38°11'N 78°43'W.

Field data: Count date: 29 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6:25 a.m. to 6:25 p.m. Temperature range: 39° to 51° F. Wind west, 3-5 mph. in a.m., 8-12 mph in p.m. AM clear, PM mostly cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 2 in 2 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 4 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 19.5 on foot. Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 27 on foot.

Species: Ruffed Grouse 1; Black Vulture 2; Turkey Vulture 8; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 9; American Crow 15; Common Raven 11; Carolina Chickadee 17; Tufted Titmouse 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 14; Winter Wren 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; Hermit Thrush 2; Eastern Towhee 7; **Chipping Sparrow 1**; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 205; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 140; Northern Cardinal 37; American Goldfinch 2.

Total species: 33; **Total individuals:** 541.

Compiler: Charles E. Stevens, 615 Preston Place, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Participants: Charles Stevens and Tom Wieboldt.

BLACKFORD. Circle Center: Confluence of the Clinch and Little rivers in Russell County. 37°00' N 81°55'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Temperature range: 21° to 33° F. Wind 0-2 mph. Skies clear. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 9 in 4 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 30 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 13 (3 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 289 (4 on foot, 285 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 47; American Black Duck 5; Mallard 108; Wild Turkey 3; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 13; Black Vulture 24; Turkey Vulture 1; Bald Eagle 3 (a); Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 36; Golden Eagle 5 (3a, 2i); American Kestrel 12; Killdeer 7; Wilson's Snipe 4; Rock Pigeon 4; Mourning Dove 387; Eastern Screech-Owl 5; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 4; Red-headed Woodpecker 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 16; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 13; Pileated Woodpecker

1; Eastern Phoebe 2; Loggerhead Shrike 2; Blue Jay 62; American Crow 1,657; Common Raven 14; **Horned Lark 2**; Carolina Chickadee 28; Black-capped Chickadee 2; Tufted Titmouse 56; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 26; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; Eastern Bluebird 28; Hermit Thrush 1; American Robin 15; Northern Mockingbird 51; European Starling 1,595; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 11; Field Sparrow 4; Savannah Sparrow 1.

Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 93; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 67; White-crowned Sparrow 90; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 76; Northern Cardinal 113; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Eastern Meadowlark 22; Rusty Blackbird 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 12; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 49; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 84; House Sparrow 11.

Total species: 66; **Total individuals:** 4,942.

Compiler: Robert Riggs (sheba@mounet.com).

BLACKSBURG. Circle Center: Jct. Merrimac Rd. (657) and Prices Fork Rd. (685) in Montgomery County. 37°12'N 80°28'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 1 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Temperature range: 17° to 47° F. Wind southwest, 3-6 mph. Skies clear. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 44 in 21 to 22 parties. Feeder watchers: 4 for 14.5 hours. Nocturnal birding: 12 hours and 35 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 135.5 (91.25 on foot, 44.25 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 491 (91 on foot, 400 by car).

Species: **Snow Goose (white form) 1; Snow Goose (blue form) 3;** Canada Goose 575; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 6; American Wigeon 15; American Black Duck 10; Mallard 348; Northern Pintail 1; Redhead 1; Lesser Scaup 12; Bufflehead 70; Hooded Merganser 64; Wild Turkey 66; Common Loon CW; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant CW; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 31; Black-crowned Night-Heron 2; Black Vulture 292; Turkey Vulture 46; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk 6; *Accipiter*, sp. 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 47; *Buteo*, sp. 3; Golden Eagle 1 (i); American Kestrel 12; Killdeer 44; Wilson's Snipe 3; **Bonaparte's Gull 2;** Ring-billed Gull 468; **Herring Gull 4;** Rock Pigeon 227; Mourning Dove 771; Barn Owl 1; Eastern Screech-Owl 5; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 20; Red-headed Woodpecker 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 84; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 33; Downy Woodpecker 146; Hairy Woodpecker 30; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 40; Pileated Woodpecker 35; small woodpecker, sp. 2; Eastern Phoebe 18; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 301; American Crow 1,347; Common Raven 4; Horned Lark 46.

Carolina Chickadee 255; chickadee, sp. 44; Tufted Titmouse 350; Red-breasted Nuthatch 14; White-breasted Nuthatch 167; Brown Creeper 14; Carolina Wren 290; Winter Wren 22; Golden-crowned Kinglet 131; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9; kinglet, sp. 1; Eastern Bluebird 260; Hermit Thrush 5; American Robin 128; Gray Catbird 1; Northern Mockingbird 156; Brown Thrasher 3; European Starling 2,056; Cedar Waxwing 22; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 9; Eastern Towhee 45;

American Tree Sparrow 1; Chipping Sparrow CW; Field Sparrow 43; Savannah Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 331; Swamp Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 706; White-crowned Sparrow 202; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 349; Lapland Longspur 1; Northern Cardinal 426; Red-winged Blackbird 22; Eastern Meadowlark 34; Rusty Blackbird 6; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 47; blackbird, sp. 5; Purple Finch 10; House Finch 164; Pine Siskin 19; American Goldfinch 266; House Sparrow 227.

Total species: 90; **Total individuals:** 12,135.

Compilers: Patricia Polentz (polentz@roanokemail.com) and Bruce Grimes.

Organizations/Sponsors: New River Valley Bird Club.

BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK. Circle Center: 4.5 miles northeast of Haysi in Buchanan County. 37°15'N 82°13'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 18° to 43° F. Wind 0-3 mph. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 10 in 5 to 6 parties. Feeder watchers: 3 for 4 hours. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 0 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 18 (8 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 141.5 (10.5 on foot, 131 by car).

Species: Wood Duck 3; Mallard 8; **Ring-necked Duck 1**; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 3; **Black Vulture 3**; Turkey Vulture 61; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; American Kestrel 1; **Merlin CW**; Rock Pigeon 256; Mourning Dove **81**; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 10; Eastern Phoebe 8; Blue Jay 40; American Crow 87; Common Raven 1; Carolina Chickadee 54; Tufted Titmouse 50; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 43; Carolina Wren 25; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; Eastern Bluebird 13; Hermit Thrush 3; American Robin **80**; **Northern Mockingbird 2**; Brown Thrasher 2; European Starling **456**; **Cedar Waxwing 2**; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 2; Chipping Sparrow CW; Field Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 34; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 198; White-crowned Sparrow 1.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 60; Northern Cardinal 91; Red-winged Blackbird 25; Eastern Meadowlark 6; Common Grackle 11; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 14; House Finch 2; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 150; House Sparrow 5.

Total species: 61; **Total individuals:** 1,963.

Compiler: Terry Owens (bip@mounet.com).

BRISTOL. Circle Center: Jct. 647 and 654, east of Bristol, Tennessee in Washington County, VA. 36°35'N 82°06'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Temperature range: 21° to 37° F. Wind 0-5 mph. Skies cloudy. Water partly frozen. Field observers: 25 in 6 parties. Nocturnal birding: 6 hours and 50 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 57 (29

on foot, 28 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 361 (14 on foot, 347 by car).

Species: Cackling Goose 1; Canada Goose 837; Gadwall 16; American Wigeon 29; American Black Duck 6; Mallard 572; Northern Pintail 2; American Green-winged Teal 4; Canvasback 1; Redhead CW; Ring-necked Duck 132; Greater Scaup 1; Lesser Scaup 1; White-winged Scoter CW; Bufflehead 165; Common Goldeneye 3; Hooded Merganser 308; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Ruddy Duck 1; Wild Turkey CW; Common Loon 3; Pied-billed Grebe 44; Eared Grebe 8; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 32; Black-crowned Night-Heron 3; Black Vulture 20; Turkey Vulture 60; **Osprey** 1; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 27; American Kestrel 27; Merlin CW; American Coot 56; Killdeer 35; Wilson's Snipe 6; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 1,341; Herring Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 634; Mourning Dove 631; Eastern Screech-Owl 25; Great Horned Owl 16; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 14; Red-headed Woodpecker 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 35; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 34; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 16; Eastern Phoebe 13.

Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 289; American Crow 728; Common Raven 14; Carolina Chickadee 132; Tufted Titmouse 124; Red-breasted Nuthatch 14; White-breasted Nuthatch 55; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 154; Winter Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 75; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6; Eastern Bluebird 123; Hermit Thrush 10; American Robin 34; Northern Mockingbird 190; Brown Thrasher 4; European Starling 3,137; American Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 6; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 14; Pine Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 32; Chipping Sparrow 15; Field Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 265; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 275; White-crowned Sparrow 89; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 186; Northern Cardinal 282; Red-winged Blackbird 23; Eastern Meadowlark 29; Rusty Blackbird 10; Common Grackle CW; Purple Finch 7; House Finch 79; American Goldfinch 162; House Sparrow 22.

Total species: 91; **Total individuals:** 11,836.

Compiler: Richard Lewis (mountainbirds@email.com).

Compiler's comments: The 91 species recorded was a record high for this count which has been held every year since 1956.

Participants: Rob Biller, Janet Brown, Ron Carrico, Wallace Coffey, Carol Cross, Rack Cross, Sam Cross, Diane Draper, Bill Grigsby, Bert Hale, Loraine Hale, Ron Harrington, Don Holt, Andy Jones, Rick Knight, Phillip Lewis, Larry McDaniel, Robert Moyle, John Moyle, Ellen Parker, Charlie Parker, Bob Quillen, Randy Smith, and Dave Worley.

BROOKE. Circle Center: At Center Road 3 miles east-southeast of Brooke in Stafford County. 38°22'N 77°20'W.

Field data: Count date: 14 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temperature range: 27° to 41° F. Wind northwest, 0-25 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 22 in 9 to 11 parties. Nocturnal birding: 1 hour and

1mile. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 82.25 (45.75 on foot, 36.5 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 296 (40 on foot, 256 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 1,500; Mute Swan 31; Tundra Swan 141; Gadwall 315; American Wigeon 125; American Black Duck 55; Mallard 380; Northern Shoveler 18; Canvasback 1,000; Ring-necked Duck 242; Lesser Scaup 2,000; Bufflehead 262; Common Goldeneye 4; Hooded Merganser 31; Common Merganser 8; Ruddy Duck 540; Pied-billed Grebe 38; Horned Grebe 65; Double-crested Cormorant 114; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 66; Black Vulture 12; Turkey Vulture 125; Bald Eagle 48 (27a, 21i); Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 14; Red-tailed Hawk 20; American Kestrel 3; **King Rail 1**; American Coot 860; Killdeer 5; Laughing Gull 700; **Bonaparte's Gull 5**; Ring-billed Gull 7,000; Herring Gull 243; Great Black-backed Gull 57; **Forster's Tern 1**; Rock Pigeon 10; Mourning Dove 238; Belted Kingfisher 15; Red-headed Woodpecker 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 52; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 30; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 43; Pileated Woodpecker 13; Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 89.

American Crow 370; Fish Crow 7; Carolina Chickadee 108; Tufted Titmouse 88; White-breasted Nuthatch 53; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 61; House Wren 2; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3; Eastern Bluebird 136; Hermit Thrush 11; American Robin 250; Gray Catbird 1; Northern Mockingbird 50; European Starling 1,400; Cedar Waxwing 12; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 24; Eastern Towhee 5; American Tree Sparrow 1; Chipping Sparrow 5; Field Sparrow 11; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 111; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 134; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 639; Northern Cardinal 133; Red-winged Blackbird 101; Eastern Meadowlark 20; Rusty Blackbird 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 41; House Finch 50; American Goldfinch 130; House Sparrow 84.

Total species: 87; **Total individuals:** 20,620.

Compiler: David Stewart (o.b.james@worldnet.att.net).

CALMES NECK. Circle Center: Castleman's Ferry Bridge, State Route 7 and the Shenandoah River in Clarke County. 39°07'N 77°54'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 38° to 50° F. Wind variable, 0-12 mph. Skies cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 45 in 12 to 17 parties. Feeder watchers: 4 for 15 hours. Nocturnal birding: 8.5 hours and 44 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 151 (61.25 on foot, 89.75 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 662 (46 on foot, 616 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 3,617; **Richardson's Canada Goose 1**; Tundra Swan 1; Wood Duck 2; American Wigeon 28; American Black Duck 70; Mallard 330; American Green-winged Teal 13; Ring-necked Duck 70; Lesser Scaup 2; Bufflehead 6; Hooded Merganser 18; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 10; Ruddy Duck 3; Wild Turkey 21; Pied-billed Grebe 2; **Double-crested Cormorant 1**; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 20; Black Vulture 168; Turkey Vulture

416; Bald Eagle 8 (3a, 5i); Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 6; Red-shouldered Hawk 23; Red-tailed Hawk 87; American Kestrel 23; American Coot 8; Killdeer 1; Wilson's Snipe 11; Ring-billed Gull 2; Rock Pigeon 797; Mourning Dove 794; Barn Owl 2; Eastern Screech-Owl 8; Great Horned Owl 5; Barred Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 21; Red-headed Woodpecker 17; Red-bellied Woodpecker 183; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 36; Downy Woodpecker 161; Hairy Woodpecker 32; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 56; Pileated Woodpecker 48; Eastern Phoebe 6; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 305; American Crow 616; crow, sp. 8; Common Raven 8.

Carolina Chickadee 497; Black-capped Chickadee 2; Tufted Titmouse 317; White-breasted Nuthatch 211; Brown Creeper 22; Carolina Wren 136; Winter Wren 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 53; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7; Eastern Bluebird 452; Hermit Thrush 6; American Robin 21; Northern Mockingbird 158; European Starling 2,960; Cedar Waxwing 89; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 9; Eastern Towhee 5; American Tree Sparrow 7; Field Sparrow 51; Savannah Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 305; Swamp Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 762; White-crowned Sparrow 78; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 973; Northern Cardinal 892; Red-winged Blackbird 36; Eastern Meadowlark 4; Common Grackle 237; Brown-headed Cowbird 60; blackbird, sp. 61; Purple Finch 13; House Finch 108; American Goldfinch 413; House Sparrow 443.

Total species: 84; **Total individuals:** 17,503.

Compiler: Margaret Wester (margaretwester@hotmail.com)

Organizations & Sponsors: Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (NSVAS).

CAPE CHARLES. Circle Center: 1.5 miles southeast of Capeville Post Office in Northampton County. 37°12'N 75°56'W.

Field data: Count date: 30 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temperature range: 44° to 56° F. Wind northeast, 10-15 mph. AM clear, PM partly cloudy. Snow cover 0.1 inch. Water open. Field observers: 48 in 9 to 23 parties. Nocturnal birding: 3 hours and 9.5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 190 (135 on foot, 51 by car 4 by motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 553 (109 on foot, 412 by car, 32 by motorized boat).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 11,000; Snow Goose (blue form) 65; **Ross's Goose** 3; Brant 2,999; Canada Goose 3,664; Hutchin's Goose 1; Mute Swan 1; Tundra Swan 59; Wood Duck 33; Gadwall 590; Eurasian Wigeon CW; American Wigeon 495; American Black Duck 1,067; Mallard 615; Northern Shoveler 66; Northern Pintail 192; American Green-winged Teal 233; Redhead 18; Ring-necked Duck 277; Lesser Scaup 3; King Eider 1; Common Eider 6; Surf Scoter 4,681; White-winged Scoter 16; Black Scoter 903; scoter, sp. 1,300; Long-tailed Duck 69; Bufflehead 1,246; Common Goldeneye 13; Hooded Merganser 467; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 461; Ruddy Duck 14; duck, sp. 506; Wild Turkey 13; Northern Bobwhite 13; Red-throated Loon 4,231; Common Loon 262; Pied-billed Grebe 41; Horned Grebe 56; Red-necked Grebe CW; Northern Gannet 115; **American White**

Pelican 1; Brown Pelican 54; Double-crested Cormorant 64; Great Cormorant 77; American Bittern 2; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 85; Great Egret 3; Snowy Egret CW; Tricolored Heron 2; Black-crowned Night-Heron 11; White Ibis 66; Black Vulture 160; Turkey Vulture 185; Bald Eagle 26.

Northern Harrier 41; Sharp-shinned Hawk 19; Cooper's Hawk 10; Northern Goshawk CW; Red-shouldered Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 58; American Kestrel 36; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 5; Clapper Rail 44; Virginia Rail 2; Common Moorhen 1; American Coot 65; Black-bellied Plover 790; Semipalmated Plover 12; Killdeer 38; American Oystercatcher 157; Greater Yellowlegs 100; Lesser Yellowlegs 22; yellowlegs, sp. 13; Willet 254; **Spotted Sandpiper 1**; Whimbrel 2; Marbled Godwit 32; Ruddy Turnstone 121; Red Knot 14; Sanderling 364; Western Sandpiper 81; Least Sandpiper 1; Purple Sandpiper 1; Dunlin 17,354; Short-billed Dowitcher 52; dowitcher, sp. 4; Wilson's Snipe 3; American Woodcock 99; **jaeger, sp. 1**; Bonaparte's Gull 147; Ring-billed Gull 3,559; Herring Gull 3,049; **Iceland Gull 1**; Lesser Black-backed Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 783; gull, sp. 100; Forster's Tern 14; Rock Pigeon 426; Eurasian Collared-Dove 1; Mourning Dove 323; Eastern Screech-Owl 6; Great Horned Owl 10; **Snowy Owl* 1** (ph); owl, sp. 1; **Ruby-throated Hummingbird* 1**; Belted Kingfisher 19; Red-bellied Woodpecker 85; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 19.

Downy Woodpecker 37; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 119; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Eastern Phoebe 18; **Northern Shrike* 1**; Blue Jay 68; American Crow 234; Fish Crow 21; Horned Lark 10; Tree Swallow 2; Carolina Chickadee 122; Tufted Titmouse 59; Red-breasted Nuthatch 44; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 17; Carolina Wren 318; House Wren 36; Winter Wren 31; Sedge Wren 15; Marsh Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 49; Eastern Bluebird 185; Hermit Thrush 68; American Robin 1,631; Gray Catbird 36; Northern Mockingbird 124; Brown Thrasher 6; European Starling 5,712; American Pipit 35; Cedar Waxwing 547; Orange-crowned Warbler 5; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 1,812; Pine Warbler 29; Palm Warbler 8; Common Yellowthroat 1; **Wilson's Warbler* CW**; Eastern Towhee 88; Chipping Sparrow 108; Field Sparrow 44; Vesper Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 160; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 11; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 3; Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 7; sharp-tailed sparrow, sp. 4; Seaside Sparrow 22; Fox Sparrow 94; Song Sparrow 922; Swamp Sparrow 212; White-throated Sparrow 1,046.

White-crowned Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 200; Lapland Longspur 1; Northern Cardinal 306; Red-winged Blackbird 800,000; Eastern Meadowlark 114; **Yellow-headed Blackbird CW**; Rusty Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 1,500,000; Boat-tailed Grackle 115; Brown-headed Cowbird 4,341; blackbird, sp. 19,810; Baltimore Oriole 2; Purple Finch 13; House Finch 91; Red Crossbill 6; Pine Siskin 11; American Goldfinch 517; House Sparrow 52.

Total species: 167; **Total individuals:** 2,404,647.

Compiler: Henry Armistead (harryarmistead@hotmail.com).

Compiler's note: On this, the 40th year of the count, the total of 167 species observed is the most since 1987. The cumulative list now stands at 251 species.

This count is dedicated to the fond memory of Walter Post Smith, who died in December. Walter was one of the founders of the Kiptopeke Banding Station, and a true Virginia gentleman.

Organizations/Sponsors: Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO).

CENTRAL LOUDOUN. Circle Center: Near jct. of rts. 704 and 769 in Loudoun County. 39°06'N 77°38'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Temperature range: 17° to 30° F. Wind 0-14 mph. Skies cloudy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 59 in 16 to 23 parties. Feeder watchers: 3 for 3 hours. Nocturnal birding: 17.25 hours and 110 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 142.25 (96 on foot, 46.25 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 563 (84 on foot, 479 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 2; Canada Goose 6,157; Tundra Swan 1; Gadwall 8; American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 53; Mallard 338; Ring-necked Duck 49; Bufflehead 17; Hooded Merganser 35; Common Merganser 127; Wild Turkey 5; Northern Bobwhite 1; **Common Loon 3**; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 16; Black Vulture 128; Turkey Vulture 430; Bald Eagle 6 (4a, 2i); Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Cooper's Hawk 7; *Accipiter*, sp. 2; Red-shouldered Hawk 53; Red-tailed Hawk 123; American Kestrel 17; Killdeer 29; Wilson's Snipe 2; Ring-billed Gull 88; Herring Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 302; Mourning Dove **931**; Barn Owl 2; Eastern Screech-Owl 13; Great Horned Owl 8; Barred Owl 17; **Long-eared Owl 2**; **Northern Saw-whet Owl 1**; Belted Kingfisher 19; Red-headed Woodpecker 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 221; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 77; Downy Woodpecker 223; Hairy Woodpecker 31; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 134; Pileated Woodpecker **90**; Eastern Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 405; American Crow 503; Fish Crow 27; crow, sp. 99.

Common Raven **15**; Carolina Chickadee 304; Tufted Titmouse 194; White-breasted Nuthatch 162; Brown Creeper 33; Carolina Wren 125; Winter Wren 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 35; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10; Eastern Bluebird 137; Hermit Thrush 6; American Robin 231; Northern Mockingbird 184; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 2,637; American Pipit 10; Cedar Waxwing 45; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 40; Eastern Towhee 19; American Tree Sparrow 13; Chipping Sparrow 1; Field Sparrow 123; Savannah Sparrow 5; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 389; Swamp Sparrow 22; White-throated Sparrow 1,588; White-crowned Sparrow 96; sparrow, sp. 20; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco **2,375**; Northern Cardinal **1,247**; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Common Grackle 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 41; blackbird, sp. 78; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 109; American Goldfinch 297; House Sparrow 206.

Total species: 88; **Total individuals:** 21,657.

Compiler: Joseph Coleman (jandkcoleman@erols.com).

Organizations/Sponsors: Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.

CHANCELLORSVILLE. Circle Center: Chancellorsville Battlefield, 10 miles west of Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania County. 38°16'N 77°40'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 5 am to 7 pm. Temperature range: 39° to 46° F. Wind northeast, 0-5 mph. Skies cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 15 in 7 parties. Nocturnal birding: 6.5 hours and 27.5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 61 (38 on foot, 23 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 337.75 (27.25 on foot, 310.5 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 943; Mute Swan 15; Wood Duck 2; Mallard 74; Ring-necked Duck 7; Lesser Scaup 58; Bufflehead 91; Hooded Merganser 8; Common Merganser 85; Ruddy Duck 36; Pied-billed Grebe 13; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 4; Black Vulture 13; Turkey Vulture 66; Bald Eagle 6 (5a, 1i); Red-shouldered Hawk 8; Red-tailed Hawk 5; large hawk, sp. 2; American Kestrel 1; American Coot 103; American Woodcock 9; Ring-billed Gull 382; Rock Pigeon 24; Mourning Dove 151; Eastern Screech-Owl 5; Barred Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 68; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 8; Downy Woodpecker 52; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 16; Pileated Woodpecker 11; Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 272; American Crow 198; Carolina Chickadee 131; Tufted Titmouse 113; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 68; Brown Creeper 37; Carolina Wren 64; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 168; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; Eastern Bluebird 83; Hermit Thrush 5; American Robin 131; Northern Mockingbird 30; European Starling 658.

Cedar Waxwing 57; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 2; Pine Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 11; Field Sparrow 25; Song Sparrow 57; White-throated Sparrow 98; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 261; Northern Cardinal 100; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Eastern Meadowlark 17; Common Grackle 1; House Finch 36; American Goldfinch 165; House Sparrow 57.

Total species: 65; **Total individuals:** 5,141.

Compiler: Joella Killian (jkillian@umw.edu).

CHARLOTTESVILLE. Circle Center: Near Ivy in Albemarle County. 38°04'N 78°34'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 5:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temperature range: 46° to 54° F. Wind calm. Skies cloudy. Water open. Nocturnal birding: 3.5 hours and 10 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 145.5 (113.5 on foot, 28 by car, 4 by non-motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 339.5 (111.5 on foot, 225 by car, 3 by non-motorized boat).

Species: Canada Goose 2,277; Mute Swan 6; Wood Duck 2; American Black Duck 7; Mallard 101; Ring-necked Duck 4; Lesser Scaup 5; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 3; Wild Turkey 21; Pied-billed Grebe 6; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 9; Black Vulture 199; Turkey Vulture 582; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Cooper's Hawk 5; Red-shouldered Hawk 18; Red-tailed Hawk 29; American Kestrel 4; **Merlin** 1; Killdeer 1; Ring-billed Gull 48; Rock Pigeon 473; Mourning Dove 276; Eastern Screech-Owl 4; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 26; Red-bellied Woodpecker 129; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 40; Downy Woodpecker 103;

Hairy Woodpecker 14; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 75; Pileated Woodpecker 60; Eastern Phoebe 7; Blue Jay 376; American Crow 519; Fish Crow 18; Common Raven 2; Carolina Chickadee 311; Tufted Titmouse 205; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 136; Brown Creeper 13; Carolina Wren 295; Winter Wren 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 152; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 60; Eastern Bluebird 163.

Hermit Thrush 16; American Robin 149; Northern Mockingbird 140; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 503; Cedar Waxwing 49; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 42; Eastern Towhee 25; Chipping Sparrow 12; Field Sparrow 121; Savannah Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 339; Swamp Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 1,398; White-crowned Sparrow 40; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1,305; Northern Cardinal 555; Eastern Meadowlark 3; Purple Finch 41; House Finch 98; American Goldfinch 280; House Sparrow 147.

Total species: 73; **Total individuals:** 12,104.

Compiler: Charles Stevens, 615 Preston Place, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Participants: Mark Adams, Amoret Barbee, Cricket Barlow, Nick Barlow, Dan Bieker, Jim Childress, Peter Clark, Terri Culver, Bruce Davenport; Kit Davenport, Boo Dulaney, Sonya Eichelkraut, William Eichelkraut, Francis Fife, Barbara Fiske, Ned Foss, Jennifer Gaden, Lois Gebhardt, Gretchen Gehrett, Allen Hale, D. Henderson, Priscilla Kingston, Ron Kingston, Ken Lawless, Mike McMahan, Peter Mehring, Lynn Merhib, Hewson Michie, Bill Minor, Maureen Minor, Jim Nix, Timothy O'Kane, Barbara Payne, Teresa Shaner, Charles Stevens, Leigh Surdukowski, Brenda Tekin, David West, David White, and John Zimmerman.

CHESAPEAKE BAY. Circle Center: The northern three islands of the bridge-tunnel complex and adjacent waters out to one mile. 37°05'N 76°08'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Temperature range: 30° to 37° F. Wind northwest, 18-44 mph. Skies cloudy, heavy snow. Snow cover 0-7 inches. Water open. Field observers: 4 in 1 to 2 parties. Total party-hours: 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles: 4.5 (0.5 on foot, 4 by car).

Species: Tundra Swan 2; Lesser Scaup 6; Harlequin Duck 3; Surf Scoter 1,250; White-winged Scoter 7; Black Scoter 1,330; scoter, sp. 500; Long-tailed Duck 47; Bufflehead 6; Common Goldeneye 1; Red-breasted Merganser 66; Red-throated Loon 40; Common Loon 10; Horned Grebe 3; Northern Gannet 350; Double-crested Cormorant 6; Great Cormorant 26; Peregrine Falcon CW; Killdeer 42; American Oystercatcher 3; Ruddy Turnstone 30; Sanderling 2; Purple Sandpiper 32; Pomarine Jaeger 1; Bonaparte's Gull 245; Ring-billed Gull 460; Herring Gull 810; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 115; Forster's Tern 3; **Red-winged Blackbird 510; Common Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 410.**

Total species: 31; **Total individuals:** 6,322.

Compiler: Edward S. Brinkley (phoebetria@aol.com).

Compiler's note: A massive low pressure system moved into Virginia at 5 a.m. from the Carolinas, bringing up to a foot of snow that fell all day. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel authority decided it best to end the CBC at 2 p.m., a few hours earlier than normal, so that counters could reach home safely. Snow

and ice were accumulating on the span, bridges, and islands by midday. Flurries reduced visibility to under a kilometer for most of the day.

CHINCOTEAGUE. Circle Center: Two miles north of center of Chinoteague in Accomack County. 37°58'N 75°22'W.

Field data: Count date: 29 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temperature range: 32° to 45° F. Wind northeast, 4-12 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 25 in 15 parties. Nocturnal birding: 5 hours and 30 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 92 (59 on foot, 32 by car, 1 by motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 258 (47 on foot, 209 by car, 2 by motorized boat).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 6,335; Snow Goose (blue form) 5; Brant 1,183; Canada Goose 2,482; Tundra Swan 460; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 374; American Wigeon 512; American Black Duck 2,053; black duck / mallard, sp. 5; Mallard 1,276; Northern Shoveler 378; Northern Pintail 568; American Green-winged Teal 25; Ring-necked Duck 7; Greater Scaup 1; Surf Scoter 41; White-winged Scoter CW; Black Scoter 115; scoter, sp. 67; Long-tailed Duck 9; Bufflehead 4,449; Hooded Merganser 109; Common Merganser 17; Red-breasted Merganser 193; Ruddy Duck 208; Northern Bobwhite 2; Red-throated Loon 21; Common Loon 77; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 83; Northern Gannet 3; Brown Pelican 4; Double-crested Cormorant 5; American Bittern 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 120; Great Egret 61; Snowy Egret 2; Little Blue Heron CW; Tricolored Heron 3; Black-crowned Night-Heron 5; Black Vulture 36; Turkey Vulture 227; Bald Eagle 18 (12a, 5i, 1u); Northern Harrier 26; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 11; American Kestrel 8; Peregrine Falcon 2; Clapper Rail 5; Virginia Rail 1; American Coot 40; Black-bellied Plover 83.

Semipalmated Plover 1; Killdeer 1; American Oystercatcher 56; Greater Yellowlegs 26; Lesser Yellowlegs 4; Willet 183; Marbled Godwit 43; Ruddy Turnstone 2; Sanderling 222; Western Sandpiper 3; Least Sandpiper 2; Dunlin 921; Long-billed Dowitcher 1; Wilson's Snipe 6; American Woodcock 4; Bonaparte's Gull 6; Ring-billed Gull 1,954; Herring Gull 1,001; Great Black-backed Gull 343; gull, sp. 3,938; Forster's Tern 14; Rock Pigeon 276; Mourning Dove 215; Eastern Screech-Owl 19; Great Horned Owl 7; **Snowy Owl*** 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 36; Red-bellied Woodpecker 31; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3; Downy Woodpecker 30; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 84; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Eastern Phoebe 8; Blue Jay 67; American Crow 296; Fish Crow 4; crow, sp. 20; Horned Lark 11; Tree Swallow 152; Carolina Chickadee 74; Tufted Titmouse 31; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown-headed Nuthatch 11; Brown Creeper 10; Carolina Wren 122; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 15; Sedge Wren 3; Marsh Wren 3.

Golden-crowned Kinglet 24; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 11; Eastern Bluebird 68; Hermit Thrush 60; American Robin 1,422; Gray Catbird 19; Northern Mockingbird 55; Brown Thrasher 29; European Starling 1,579; American Pipit 4; Cedar Waxwing 10; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 2,192; Palm Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 54;

Chipping Sparrow 3; Field Sparrow 29; Vesper Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 348; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4; **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 13**; sharp-tailed sparrow, sp. 2; Fox Sparrow 27; Song Sparrow 379; Swamp Sparrow 190; White-throated Sparrow 709; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 249; Lapland Longspur CW; Snow Bunting 22; Northern Cardinal 153; Red-winged Blackbird 2,759; Eastern Meadowlark 142; Rusty Blackbird 138; Common Grackle 1,098; Boat-tailed Grackle 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 96; Purple Finch 4; House Finch 72; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 75; House Sparrow 134.

Total species: 138; **Total individuals:** 44,220.

Compiler: Richard Roberts (bandbird@intercom.net).

Compiler's note: Lack of experienced birders meant that at least two sectors were not covered adequately. Boating through extensive marshes was not accomplished.

DARLINGTON HEIGHTS. Circle Center: Jct. of 665 and 660 in Darlington Heights in Price Edward County. 37°12'N 78°36'W.

Field data: Count date: 9 Jan 2005. Times in field: 5 a.m. to 5:15 pm. Temperature range: 29° to 52° F. Wind calm in a.m., west and gusting, 4-7 mph in pm. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 19 in 5 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 23 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 36.5 (16 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 297 (10 on foot, 287 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 240; Mallard 10; Ring-necked Duck 57; Hooded Merganser 3; Wild Turkey 6; Northern Bobwhite 3; Pied-billed Grebe 5; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 6; Black Vulture 153; Turkey Vulture 177; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 5; Red-shouldered Hawk 13; Red-tailed Hawk 50; American Kestrel 10; Killdeer 3; Rock Pigeon 42; Mourning Dove 643; Eastern Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker 28; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 28; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 21; Pileated Woodpecker 14; Eastern Phoebe 12; Blue Jay 49; American Crow 506; Horned Lark 8; Carolina Chickadee 97; Tufted Titmouse 42; White-breasted Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 50; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 45; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 13; Eastern Bluebird 212; Hermit Thrush 4; American Robin 112; Northern Mockingbird 77; European Starling 361; American Pipit 35; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 8; Pine Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 7.

Chipping Sparrow 3; Field Sparrow 59; Savannah Sparrow 16; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 86; Swamp Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 216; White-crowned Sparrow 14; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1,054; Northern Cardinal 180; Red-winged Blackbird 146; Eastern Meadowlark 167; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 110; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 4; American Goldfinch 122; House Sparrow 22.

Total species: 68; **Total individuals:** 5,437.

Compiler: Carolyn Wells (cwells@kinex.net).

Participants: Sandra Breil, John Dalmás, Thelma Dalmás, Damien Fehrér,

Deanna Fehrer, Alix Fink, Mark Fink, Jimmy Gates, Ann Ingram, Judy McCann, Kathy Menold, Peter Menold, Tom Price, Brent Slaughter, Laura Slaughter, David Spears, Randy Thrasher, Sue Thrasher, and Carolyn Wells.

FINCASTLE. Circle Center: North of Fincastle near Jct. 220 and 679 in Botetourt County. 37°31'N 79°52'W.

Field data: Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 am to 4 pm. Temperature range: 28° to 48° F. Wind north, 4-10 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 15 in 8 parties. Feeder watchers: 1 for 1 hour. Total party-hours (excludes feeder hours): 48 (22 on foot, 26 by car). Total party-miles: 233 (16 on foot, 217 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 1; Barnacle Goose 1*; Canada Goose 182; Gadwall 4; American Wigeon 6; American Black Duck 1; Mallard 155; American Green-winged Teal 3; Ring-necked Duck 8; Bufflehead 2; Hooded Merganser 7; Wild Turkey 17; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 6; Black Vulture 87; Turkey Vulture 190; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 6; Red-shouldered Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 35; American Kestrel 14; American Coot 1; Killdeer 2; Wilson's Snipe 1; Rock Pigeon 427; Mourning Dove 281; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 20; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 21; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Eastern Phoebe 8; Blue Jay 178; American Crow 469; Common Raven 1; Carolina Chickadee 63; Black-capped Chickadee 2; Tufted Titmouse 68; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 65; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9.

Eastern Bluebird 98; Hermit Thrush 2; American Robin 5; Northern Mockingbird 81; European Starling 1,030; Cedar Waxwing 5; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 7; Eastern Towhee 6; Field Sparrow 37; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 64; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 156; White-crowned Sparrow 107; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 118; Northern Cardinal 160; Eastern Meadowlark 14; House Finch 15; American Goldfinch 44; House Sparrow 32.

Total species: 71; **Total individuals:** 4,435.

Compiler: Barry Kinzie (summerskd@juno.com).

FORT BELVOIR. Circle Center: Pohick Episcopal Church, Fort Belvoir, in eastern Fairfax County. 38°41'N 77°12'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 4 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Temperature range: 38° to 48° F. Wind 0-5 mph. AM cloudy, PM partly clear. Water open. Field observers: 177 in 61 parties. Feeder watchers: 7 for 9.5 hours. Nocturnal birding: 34.25 hours and 103 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 374.75 (332.5 on foot, 40.75 by car, 1.5 by non-motorized boat.). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 526 (233 on foot, 290 by car, 3 by non-motorized boat).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 1; Canada Goose 14,425; Mute Swan 4; Tundra Swan 615; Wood Duck 31; Gadwall 231; American Wigeon 53; American

Black Duck 2,494; Mallard 3,693; Northern Shoveler 62; Northern Pintail **411**; American Green-winged Teal 159; Canvasback 828; Redhead 33; Ring-necked Duck 695; Greater Scaup 14; Lesser Scaup 16,435; scaup, sp. 15; Bufflehead 984; Common Goldeneye 5; Hooded Merganser 312; Common Merganser 798; Red-breasted Merganser 69; Ruddy Duck 829; Wild Turkey 15; Northern Bobwhite 12; Common Loon 2; Pied-billed Grebe 9; Double-crested Cormorant **129**; **American Bittern 1**; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 230; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1; Black Vulture 82; Turkey Vulture 120; Bald Eagle 79 (62a, 17i); Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 13; Cooper's Hawk **27**; *Accipiter*, sp. 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 65; Red-tailed Hawk 63; **Rough-legged Hawk 1**; American Kestrel 5; Merlin 1; King Rail 3; **Virginia Rail 2**; American Coot 126; Killdeer 78; Greater Yellowlegs **33**; Lesser Yellowlegs 2; Wilson's Snipe 23; American Woodcock 5.

Laughing Gull 9; Bonaparte's Gull 7; Ring-billed Gull 8,364; Herring Gull 820; **Thayer's Gull* 1**; Lesser Black-backed Gull CW; Great Black-backed Gull 274; gull, sp. 1,266; Rock Pigeon **2,420**; Mourning Dove **1,882**; Eastern Screech-Owl 14; Great Horned Owl 27; Barred Owl 25; **Rufous Hummingbird 1**; Belted Kingfisher 57; Red-headed Woodpecker 28; Red-bellied Woodpecker 584; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 57; Downy Woodpecker **474**; Hairy Woodpecker 104; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 358; Pileated Woodpecker **155**; Eastern Phoebe 5; Blue Jay **1,094**; American Crow 1,779; Fish Crow 616; crow, sp. 1,163; **Common Raven 2**; Carolina Chickadee 1,197; Tufted Titmouse 834; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; White-breasted Nuthatch **422**; Brown Creeper 55; Carolina Wren 834; House Wren 2; Winter Wren 41; Golden-crowned Kinglet 232; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 27; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher CW; Eastern Bluebird 264; Hermit Thrush 73; American Robin 1,566; Gray Catbird 5; Northern Mockingbird 281; Brown Thrasher **12**; European Starling 3,217; Cedar Waxwing 177; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 117; Palm Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 1; Eastern Towhee 93; American Tree Sparrow 14; Chipping Sparrow 12; Field Sparrow **173**.

Savannah Sparrow 22; Fox Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 1,382; Swamp Sparrow 126; White-throated Sparrow **2,609**; White-crowned Sparrow 16; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco **3,165**; Northern Cardinal **1,430**; Red-winged Blackbird **3,221**; Eastern Meadowlark 19; Rusty Blackbird 12; Common Grackle 173; Brown-headed Cowbird 63; blackbird, sp. 27; Purple Finch 12; House Finch 240; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch **979**; House Sparrow 921.

Total species: 118; **Total individuals:** 90,018.

Compiler: Kurt Gaskill (gaskill@estd.nrl.navy.mil).

Compiler's notes: This year there was a significant reduction in Bald Eagles, especially immatures. The total tally, 79, is down 41% from last year, and is the lowest since January 1995 when 52 were counted. Bald Eagles have been monotonically increasing in numbers, except for the 200+ year in 1999. Other significant results were the low numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers, kinglets, Fox Sparrows and Common Grackles. House Finch numbers were at the lowest level since 1984. Eastern Bluebirds have finally started bouncing back from the disastrous prior three years. Pileated Woodpecker numbers set a new high, possibly a national

record; and Red-headed Woodpeckers showed evidence of a recovery from low numbers of just a few years ago.

Organizations/Sponsors: One Good Tern.

GILES COUNTY. Circle: Pembroke in Giles County. 37°19'N 80°38'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 15° to 28° F. Wind calm. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 8 in 4 parties. Feeder watchers: 1 for 2 hours. Nocturnal birding: 3.75 hours and 5.5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 20.25 (12.25 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 73.5 (10.5 on foot, 63 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 228; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 2; Mallard 28; Hooded Merganser 12; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 10; Black Vulture 15; Turkey Vulture 16; Bald Eagle 1; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 15; American Kestrel 10; American Coot 1; Killdeer 4; Ring-billed Gull 6; Rock Pigeon 60; Mourning Dove 25; Eastern Screech-Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 18; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Eastern Phoebe 2; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 76; American Crow 149; Common Raven 2; Carolina Chickadee 30; Black-capped Chickadee 16; chickadee, sp. 2; Tufted Titmouse 60; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; White-breasted Nuthatch 42; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 29; Winter Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; Eastern Bluebird 63; Hermit Thrush 2; American Robin 29; Northern Mockingbird 17; European Starling 87; Cedar Waxwing 13; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 12; Eastern Towhee 3; Field Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 36.

White-throated Sparrow 96; White-crowned Sparrow 28; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 204; Northern Cardinal 82; Eastern Meadowlark 6; Common Grackle 307; Brown-headed Cowbird 52; Purple Finch 17; House Finch 42; Red Crossbill 7; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 49; House Sparrow 14.

Total species: 63; **Total individuals:** 2,117.

Compiler: Peggy Spiegel (gramby@swva.net).

Participants: David Brady, Tom Brobson, Chris Frye, Jennings Heilig, Bill Opengari, Grady Spiegel, Peggy Spiegel, and Greg Magee (feeder watcher).

GORDONSVILLE. Circle Center: Jct. of rts. 15 and 33 north of the town of Gordonsville in Orange County. 38°09'N 78°12'W.

Field data: Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 29° to 34° F. Wind south, 1-5 mph. Skies cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 8 in 6 parties. Feeder watchers: 3 for 3 hours. Nocturnal birding: 2.5 hours and 28 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 40.75 (22.75 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 248 (14 on foot, 234 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 2,173; American Black Duck 1; Mallard 18; American Green-winged Teal 1; Bufflehead 2; Hooded Merganser 68; Great Blue Heron (blue

form) 7; Black Vulture 272; Turkey Vulture 483; Bald Eagle 3 (u); Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 28; *Buteo*, sp. 1; American Kestrel 7; Killdeer 4; Ring-billed Gull 2; Rock Pigeon 33; Mourning Dove 137; Barn Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 7; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 11; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 22; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11; Downy Woodpecker 23; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 50; American Crow 305; Fish Crow 7; Carolina Chickadee 22; Tufted Titmouse 27; White-breasted Nuthatch 23; Carolina Wren 34; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9; Eastern Bluebird 52; American Robin 96; Northern Mockingbird 32; European Starling 427; Cedar Waxwing 16; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 3; American Tree Sparrow 16.

Chipping Sparrow 3; Field Sparrow 21; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 85; Swamp Sparrow 22; White-throated Sparrow 281; White-crowned Sparrow 24; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 278; Northern Cardinal 92; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Eastern Meadowlark 53; Common Grackle 521; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 8; American Goldfinch 37; House Sparrow 8.

Total species: 65; **Total individuals:** 5,939.

Compiler: Donald Ober (dober@ns.gemlink.com).

GLADE SPRING. Circle Center: Jct. 750 and 609 in Glade Spring. 36°47'N 81°47'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temperature range: 33° to 61° F. Wind variable, 0-13 mph. AM partly clear, PM cloudy, light rain. Water open. Field observers: 16 in 6 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2.5 hours and 26 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 60.25 (25.5 on foot, 34.75 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 387 (18 on foot, 369 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 125; Gadwall 8; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 25; Mallard 266; Northern Pintail 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Wild Turkey 3; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 21; **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 2; Black Vulture 109; Turkey Vulture 111; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 32; American Kestrel 24; American Coot 6; Killdeer 18; Wilson's Snipe 5; Rock Pigeon 586; Mourning Dove 542; Barn Owl 5; Eastern Screech-Owl 12; Great Horned Owl 4; **Northern Saw-whet Owl** 1; Belted Kingfisher 14; Red-bellied Woodpecker 29; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 37; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 21; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Eastern Phoebe 4; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 146; American Crow 456; Common Raven 5; Horned Lark 50; Carolina Chickadee 117; Tufted Titmouse 87; White-breasted Nuthatch 53; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 123; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4; Eastern Bluebird 81; Northern Mockingbird 67.

European Starling 4,933; American Pipit 76; Eastern Towhee 12; Chipping Sparrow 5; Field Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 50; Song Sparrow 303; White-throated Sparrow 238; White-crowned Sparrow 285; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored)

Junco 39; Northern Cardinal 242; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Eastern Meadowlark 9; Common Grackle 543; Brown-headed Cowbird 50; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 36; American Goldfinch 111; House Sparrow 170.

Total species: 69; **Total individuals:** 10,406.

Compiler: Ron Harrington (roneharin@aol.com).

HOPEWELL: Circle Center: Curles Neck in Henrico County. 37°23'N 77°17'W.

Field data: Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 28° to 40° F. Wind calm. AM cloudy, PM cloudy, light rain. Water open. Field observers: 37 in 14 parties. Nocturnal birding: 3 hours and 12 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 100.75 (46.5 on foot, 53.25 by car, 1 by motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 566 (38 on foot, 527 by car, 1 by motorized boat).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 550; Snow Goose (blue form) 1,200; **Ross's Goose 1; Cackling Goose 1;** Canada Goose 14,643; Wood Duck 70; Gadwall 290; American Wigeon 27; American Black Duck 97; Mallard 223; Blue-winged Teal 2; Northern Shoveler 4; Northern Pintail 2; American Green-winged Teal 8; Ring-necked Duck 270; Lesser Scaup 24; Bufflehead 113; Hooded Merganser 86; Common Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 31; Ruddy Duck 22; Wild Turkey 29; Pied-billed Grebe 11; Horned Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 290; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 92; Black Vulture 61; Turkey Vulture 126; Bald Eagle 61 (48a, 13i); Northern Harrier 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 9; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 17; Red-tailed Hawk 34; American Kestrel 12; Peregrine Falcon 1; American Coot 31; Killdeer 133; Wilson's Snipe 30; American Woodcock 1; Laughing Gull 2,003; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 10,138; Herring Gull 82; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Forster's Tern 3; Rock Pigeon 102; Mourning Dove 664; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 17; Red-headed Woodpecker 10.

Red-bellied Woodpecker 106; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 43; Downy Woodpecker 50; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 128; Pileated Woodpecker 25; Eastern Phoebe 12; Blue Jay 327; American Crow 251; Fish Crow 15; crow, sp. 8; Horned Lark 12; Carolina Chickadee 206; Tufted Titmouse 143; White-breasted Nuthatch 36; Brown Creeper 10; Carolina Wren 183; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 34; **Marsh Wren 1;** Golden-crowned Kinglet 42; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 58; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1; Eastern Bluebird 146; Hermit Thrush 35; American Robin 1,108; Northern Mockingbird 72; Brown Thrasher 10; European Starling 1,881; American Pipit 76; Cedar Waxwing 925; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 463; Pine Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 60; Chipping Sparrow 30; Field Sparrow 47; Savannah Sparrow 227; Fox Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 512; Swamp Sparrow 55; White-throated Sparrow 1,289; White-crowned Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1,331; Northern Cardinal 314; Red-winged Blackbird 712; Eastern Meadowlark 63; Rusty Blackbird 6; Common Grackle 19; Brown-headed Cowbird 9; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 11; House Finch 27; American Goldfinch 139; House Sparrow 6.

Total species: 103; **Total individuals:** 42,969.

Compiler: Darrell Peterson (dpeterso@hsc.vcu.edu).

LAKE ANNA. Circle Center: Center of bridge over Lake Anna on rt. 208. 38°05'N 77° 49'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 4:45 am to 5:30 pm. Temperature range: 29° to 62° F. Wind variable, 5-15 mph. AM cloudy, PM partly cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 18 in 6 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 20 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 56 (6 on foot, 50 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 395 (15 on foot, 380 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 437; American Black Duck 1; Mallard 84; Lesser Scaup 1; Bufflehead 107; Hooded Merganser 4; **Red-breasted Merganser** 1; Wild Turkey 3; Common Loon **21**; Pied-billed Grebe 25; Horned Grebe 17; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 11; Black Vulture 33; Turkey Vulture 39; Bald Eagle 5 (3a, 2i); Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 11; Red-tailed Hawk 14; American Kestrel 11; American Coot 11; Killdeer 3; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 5,245; Herring Gull **1,659**; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** **1**; Great Black-backed Gull **232**; Rock Pigeon 71; Mourning Dove 211; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 16; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 24; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 17; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 23; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Eastern Phoebe 2; Blue Jay 256; American Crow 378; crow, sp. 4; Carolina Chickadee 87; chickadee, sp. 3; Tufted Titmouse 51; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 22; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 33; Winter Wren 2.

Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 14; Eastern Bluebird 145; Hermit Thrush 2; American Robin 186; Northern Mockingbird 37; **Brown Thrasher** 1; European Starling 661; American Pipit 1; Cedar Waxwing 11; **Common Yellowthroat** 1; Eastern Towhee 2; Chipping Sparrow 1; Field Sparrow 26; Song Sparrow 126; Swamp Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 92; White-crowned Sparrow 14; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 486; Snow Bunting 4; Northern Cardinal 114; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Eastern Meadowlark 15; Common Grackle 1; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 51; American Goldfinch 127; House Sparrow 16.

Total species: 77; **Total individuals:** 11,398.

Compiler: Michael Boatwright (mboat@att.net).

LEXINGTON. Circle Center: Big Spring Pond in Rockbridge County. 37°51'N 79°29'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Temperature range: 2° to 45° F. Wind southwest, 5-10 mph. AM cloudy, PM partly cloudy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 22 in 1 to 12 parties. Feeder watchers: 4 for 4 hours. Nocturnal birding: 3 hours and 32 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 56 (28 on foot, 28 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 224 (24 on foot, 200 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 318; **Tundra Swan** 1; American Black Duck 47; Mallard 281; Ring-necked Duck 23; Hooded Merganser **21**; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 11; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 14; Black Vulture 122; Turkey Vulture 159;

Bald Eagle 3 (a); Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 46; **Golden Eagle 1** (i); American Kestrel 18; Killdeer 2; Wilson's Snipe 2; Ring-billed Gull 3; Rock Pigeon 395; Mourning Dove 375; Barn Owl CW; Eastern Screech-Owl 13; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 11; Red-bellied Woodpecker 36; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 20; Downy Woodpecker 49; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 19; Pileated Woodpecker 19; Eastern Phoebe 7; Blue Jay 185; American Crow 581; Common Raven 7; Carolina Chickadee 59; Black-capped Chickadee 12; chickadee, sp. 51; Tufted Titmouse 133; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 47; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 95; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 126; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10; Eastern Bluebird 108; Hermit Thrush 12.

American Robin 42; Northern Mockingbird 88; European Starling 754; Cedar Waxwing 15; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 13; Eastern Towhee 8; American Tree Sparrow 4; Field Sparrow 171; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 157; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 485; White-crowned Sparrow 37; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 523; Northern Cardinal 331; Eastern Meadowlark 44; Brown-headed Cowbird 140; Purple Finch 77; House Finch 46; American Goldfinch 173; House Sparrow 11.

Total species: 71; **Total individuals:** 6,592.

Compilers: Bob Paxton (rop1@columbia.edu). George Tolley, and Dick Rowe.

Compiler's note: Except for 1936, this count has been continuous since 1928.

LITTLE CREEK. Circle Center: 3.8 miles northeast of Kempsville in Virginia Beach. 36°51'N 76°06'W.

Field data: Count date: 31 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 33° to 63° F. Wind southeast, 0-10 mph. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 20 in 9 to 13 parties. Feeder watchers: 1 for 4 hours. Nocturnal birding: 2 hours and 5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 80 (59 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 219 (34 on foot, 185 by car).

Species: Brant 37; Canada Goose 688; Tundra Swan 4; Wood Duck 9; Gadwall 304; American Wigeon 26; American Black Duck 28; Mallard 292; Northern Shoveler 95; Northern Pintail 12; American Green-winged Teal 64; Ring-necked Duck 26; Greater Scaup 2; Lesser Scaup 7; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 530; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 168; Long-tailed Duck 130; Bufflehead 343; Common Goldeneye 2; Hooded Merganser 552; Red-breasted Merganser 175; Ruddy Duck 23; Red-throated Loon 18; **Pacific Loon* 1**; Common Loon 46; Pied-billed Grebe 26; Horned Grebe 13; **Clark's Grebe* CW**; Northern Gannet 79; Brown Pelican 107; Double-crested Cormorant 1,460; Great Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 69; Great Egret 49; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1; Black Vulture 88; Turkey Vulture 15; Osprey 4; Bald Eagle 2 (a); Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 10; American Kestrel 7; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Clapper Rail 56; American Coot 26.

Black-bellied Plover 3; Killdeer 2; American Oystercatcher 35; Greater Yellowlegs 5; Ruddy Turnstone 22; Sanderling 100; Purple Sandpiper 29; Dunlin 113; Bonaparte's Gull 184; Ring-billed Gull 5,040; Herring Gull 378; Lesser Black-backed Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 298; Forster's Tern 209; Black Skimmer 6; Rock Pigeon 1,035; Mourning Dove 590; Eastern Screech-Owl 14; Great Horned Owl 7; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 22; Red-bellied Woodpecker 49; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4; Downy Woodpecker 48; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 44; Pileated Woodpecker 20; Eastern Phoebe 1; Blue-headed Vireo 1; Blue Jay 101; American Crow 855; Fish Crow 46; Horned Lark 3; Carolina Chickadee 131; Tufted Titmouse 67; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch 28; Brown Creeper 8; Carolina Wren 97; House Wren 3; Winter Wren 14; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 42; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 24; Eastern Bluebird 20; Hermit Thrush 14; American Robin 1006; Gray Catbird 5; Northern Mockingbird 51.

Brown Thrasher 11; European Starling 1,215; Cedar Waxwing 27; Orange-crowned Warbler 3; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 295; Pine Warbler 17; Palm Warbler 4; Common Yellowthroat 1; Eastern Towhee 28; Field Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 15; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Seaside Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 73; Swamp Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 107; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 275; Snow Bunting 3; Northern Cardinal 74; Red-winged Blackbird 367; Eastern Meadowlark 3; Rusty Blackbird 9; Common Grackle 227; Boat-tailed Grackle 108; Brown-headed Cowbird 133; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 59; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 77; House Sparrow 82.

Total species: 130; **Total individuals:** 19,660.

Compiler: Paul Sykes (paul_sykes@usgs.gov).

Compiler's Note: This is my 50th year as compiler of this CBC.

Organizations/Sponsors: Cape Henry Audubon Society.

LYNCHBURG. Circle Center: Lynchburg College in Lynchburg. 37°24'N 79°11'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6 am to 5 pm. Temperature range: 26° to 48° F. Wind south, 3 mph. Skies clear. Water mostly open. Field observers: 38 in 14 to 16 parties. Feeder watchers: 4 for 6 hours. Nocturnal birding: 9 hours and 58 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 93 (46 on foot, 47 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 467 (37 on foot, 430 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 837; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 6; American Black Duck 54; Mallard 227; American Green-winged Teal 1; Ring-necked Duck 30; Bufflehead 5; Common Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 54; Wild Turkey 34; Pied-billed Grebe 9; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 15; Black Vulture 123; Turkey Vulture 310; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 10; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 45; American Kestrel 7; American Coot 17; Killdeer 33; Ring-billed Gull 110; Rock Pigeon 209; Mourning Dove 240; Eastern Screech-Owl 15; Great Horned Owl 4; Barred Owl 1; *Selasphorus*, sp. 1; Belted Kingfisher 20; Red-

headed Woodpecker 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 49; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13; Downy Woodpecker 68; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 24; Pileated Woodpecker 28; Eastern Phoebe 12; Blue Jay 209; American Crow 341; Fish Crow 22; Common Raven 9; Carolina Chickadee 205; Tufted Titmouse 171; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 75; Brown Creeper 5; Carolina Wren 173; Winter Wren 14.

Golden-crowned Kinglet 83; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 42; Eastern Bluebird 187; Hermit Thrush 17; American Robin 36; Gray Catbird 1; Northern Mockingbird 149; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 2,232; Cedar Waxwing 38; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 11; Pine Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 19; Chipping Sparrow 1; Field Sparrow 44; Savannah Sparrow 9; Fox Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 154; Swamp Sparrow 20; White-throated Sparrow 622; White-crowned Sparrow 13; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 600; Northern Cardinal 481; Red-winged Blackbird 12; Eastern Meadowlark 4; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 20; Purple Finch 7; House Finch 74; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 178; House Sparrow 76.

Total species: 82; **Total individuals:** 9,006.

Compiler: John and Thelma Dalmas (jtdalmas@juno.com).

Compiler's notes: Again, the highlight of this year's count was the Hummingbird which appeared at the home of Sarah Moore on Greenway Court, very likely the same individual that spent the winter there last year. Gene Sattler reported a Common Goldeneye and a Gray Catbird, each found on only ten of the previous 63 counts. There were new high counts for Fish Crow and Canada Goose, formerly rare species which have become more common. The Yellow-rumped Warbler had the lowest count since being missed in 1973.

Participants: Bill Alexson, Gayle Alexson, Mike Boatwright, REXANNE Bruno, John Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, Virginia Delaney, Kathie Driscoll, Ernest Edwards, Jim Elder, Sandra Elder, Betty Epperson, Robert Epperson, Bob Eubank, Robert Ferrell, Charles Hansrote, Melva Hansrote, Mike Hayslett, Cinda Hurt, Mark Johnson, Phyllis Jones, Bill Keith, Dick Miller, Ruth Ann Miller, Melvin Mitchell, Gene Moore, Sara Moore, Laura Morrison, Phyllis Murphy, Wyatt Murphy, Gene Sattler, Glennys Sheppard, Susan Stanton, Randy Thrasher, Sue Thrasher, Kay Van Allen, Margaret Wenning, Judy Wiegand, Susan Wingfield, and Jo Wood.

MANASSAS-BULL RUN. Circle Center: Centreville in western Fairfax County. 38°50'N 77°26'W.

Field data: Count date: 26 Dec 2004. Times in field: 3 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temperature range: 20° to 46° F. Wind west, 0-19 mph. Skies clear. Still water partly open, moving water open. Field observers: 65 in 21 parties. Total party-hours: 97 (67 on foot, 30 by car). Total party-miles: 185 (60 on foot, 125 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 1; Canada Goose 4,450; Gadwall 6; American Black Duck 9; Mallard 426; Northern Shoveler 2; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 50; Common Merganser 94; Ruddy Duck 1; Wild Turkey 1; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 28; **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 1; Black Vulture 63; Turkey Vulture 143; Bald Eagle 8; Northern Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Cooper's

Hawk 7; Red-shouldered Hawk 52; Red-tailed Hawk 45; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Killdeer 20; Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 1,290; Herring Gull 3; gull, sp. 94; Rock Pigeon 466; Mourning Dove 598; Eastern Screech-Owl 3; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 14; Red-headed Woodpecker 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 110; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 20; Downy Woodpecker 167; Hairy Woodpecker 36; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 97; Pileated Woodpecker 37; Blue Jay 240; American Crow 274; Fish Crow 103; crow, sp. 546; Common Raven 4; Horned Lark 62; Carolina Chickadee 330; Tufted Titmouse 210; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 100.

Brown Creeper 14; Carolina Wren 189; Winter Wren 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet 55; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Eastern Bluebird 101; Hermit Thrush 9; American Robin 360; Gray Catbird 1; Northern Mockingbird 104; European Starling 2,279; American Pipit 16; Cedar Waxwing 3; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 55; **Palm Warbler 1**; Eastern Towhee 5; American Tree Sparrow 4; Chipping Sparrow 3; Field Sparrow 94; Savannah Sparrow 23; Fox Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 380; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 507; White-crowned Sparrow 6; sparrow, sp. 52; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 2,277; Northern Cardinal 597; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Rusty Blackbird 2; House Finch 30; American Goldfinch 160; House Sparrow 159.

Total species: 82; **Total individuals:** 17,762.

Compiler: Robert Abrams (icepeep@aol.com).

MATHEWS COUNTY. Circle Center: 0.5 mile east of Beaverlett Post Office in Mathews County. 37°25'N 76°18'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 4:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temperature range: 45° to 56° F. Wind northeast, 5-8 mph. Skies cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 52 in 15 to 16 parties. Nocturnal birding: 3.5 hours and 12 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 136 (72 on foot, 64 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 482 (46 on foot, 436 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 5; Brant 3; Canada Goose 1,541; Mute Swan 12; Tundra Swan 455; Wood Duck 2; American Black Duck 8; Mallard 261; Redhead 60; Greater Scaup 26; Lesser Scaup 33; scaup, sp. 29; Surf Scoter 1,569; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 237; Long-tailed Duck 59; Bufflehead 1,436; Common Goldeneye 125; Hooded Merganser 66; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 400; Ruddy Duck 1,768; Wild Turkey 27; Northern Bobwhite 15; Red-throated Loon 17; Common Loon 145; Horned Grebe 22; Northern Gannet 7; Brown Pelican 7; Double-crested Cormorant 9; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 47; Great Egret 1; **Black-crowned Night-Heron 1**; Black Vulture 47; Turkey Vulture 60; Bald Eagle 11 (7a, 4i); Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 17; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 1; Clapper Rail 4; Black-bellied Plover 3; Killdeer 66; Greater Yellowlegs 2; Lesser Yellowlegs 2; Ruddy Turnstone 4; Sanderling 178; Dunlin 554.

Wilson's Snipe 1; American Woodcock 6; Bonaparte's Gull 116; Ring-billed Gull 1,637; Herring Gull 306; Great Black-backed Gull 38; gull, sp. 21; Forster's Tern 195; Rock Pigeon 6; Mourning Dove 450; Eastern Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 14; Belted Kingfisher 46; Red-bellied Woodpecker 66; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 19;

Downy Woodpecker 37; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 78; Pileated Woodpecker 19; Eastern Phoebe 2; Blue Jay 140; American Crow 282; Fish Crow 1; crow, sp. 55; Carolina Chickadee 183; Tufted Titmouse 119; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch 27; Brown Creeper 10; Carolina Wren 160; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 18; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 19; kinglet, sp. 1; Eastern Bluebird 663; Hermit Thrush 24; American Robin 2,351; Gray Catbird 9; Northern Mockingbird 144; Brown Thrasher 12; European Starling 982; Cedar Waxwing 171; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 1,427; Pine Warbler 6; Eastern Towhee 31; Chipping Sparrow 81; Field Sparrow 35; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 164.

Swamp Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 298; sparrow, sp. 20; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1,351; Northern Cardinal 398; Red-winged Blackbird 951; Eastern Meadowlark 57; Common Grackle 824; Boat-tailed Grackle 43; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; House Finch 168; Pine Siskin 40; American Goldfinch 305; House Sparrow 20.

Total species: 112; **Total individuals:** 24,065.

Compilers: Mary Pulley & John Bazuin (bazuin.john@epa.gov).

Compiler's note: During count day, land birds showed a notable rebound, compared to their showing on the previous count, presumably as a result of the area's partial recovery after Hurricane Isabel. Bird activity stayed strong until late afternoon, when there was a noticeable lull.

MOUNT ROGERS-WHITE TOP MOUNTAIN. Circle Center: Jct. rts. 600 and 603. 36°39' N 81° 35' W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 45° to 60° F. Wind calm. AM cloudy. PM clear. Water open. Field observers: 5 in 1 to 5 parties. Total party-hours: 35.5 (5.5 on foot, 30 by car). Total party-miles: 187 (7 on foot, 180 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 2; Mallard 57; Ruffed Grouse 2; Wild Turkey 17; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 2; Black Vulture 9; Turkey Vulture 14; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; American Kestrel 5; **Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 7;** Rock Pigeon 42; Mourning Dove 116; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 16; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Eastern Phoebe 2; Blue Jay 24; American Crow 431; Common Raven 6; Carolina Chickadee 51; Tufted Titmouse 40; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; White-breasted Nuthatch 15; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 19; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 13; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2;** Eastern Bluebird 43; American Robin 1; Northern Mockingbird 7; European Starling 387; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 4; Field Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 83; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 18; White-crowned Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 104; Northern Cardinal 27; House Finch 43; American Goldfinch 18; House Sparrow 12.

Total species: 50; **Total individuals:** 1,699.

Compiler: Allen Boynton (allenboynton@earthlink.net).

Organizations/Sponsors: Blue Ridge Birders.

NANSEMOND RIVER. Circle Center: Jct. rts. 17 and 626 in Pughsville, Suffolk. 36°52'N 76°26'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 46° to 56° F. Wind northeast. 0-10 mph. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 8 in 7 parties. Nocturnal birding: 2.5 hours and 14 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 69 (43.5 on foot, 21.5 by car, 4 by non-motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 291 (26 on foot, 261 by car, 4 by non-motorized boat).

Species: Canada Goose 930; Tundra Swan 15; Wood Duck 1; Gadwall 894; American Wigeon 251; American Black Duck 48; Mallard 209; Northern Shoveler 311; Northern Pintail 35; American Green-winged Teal 4; Canvasback 1,625; Redhead 1; Ring-necked Duck 514; Greater Scaup 4; Lesser Scaup 182; scaup, sp. 1; Surf Scoter 327; Bufflehead 571; Common Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser **136**; Red-breasted Merganser 240; Ruddy Duck 1,198; duck, sp. 3; Wild Turkey 1; Northern Bobwhite 17; Red-throated Loon 8; Common Loon 6; Pied-billed Grebe 16; Horned Grebe 51; Brown Pelican 9; Double-crested Cormorant 2,154; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 37; Great Egret 5; Black Vulture **139**; Turkey Vulture 42; Osprey 5; Bald Eagle 6 (2a, 4i); Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 25; American Kestrel 6; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 4; Clapper Rail 17; American Coot 88; Killdeer 28; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Ruddy Turnstone 4; Sanderling 55.

Western Sandpiper 2; Least Sandpiper 17; Dunlin 75; Wilson's Snipe 1; American Woodcock **10**; Bonaparte's Gull 6; Ring-billed Gull 29,541; Herring Gull 14,412; Lesser Black-backed Gull 16; **Glaucous Gull 1**; Great Black-backed Gull 325; Forster's Tern 2; Rock Pigeon 196; Mourning Dove 346; Great Horned Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 20; Red-bellied Woodpecker 31; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 6; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 48; Pileated Woodpecker 15; Eastern Phoebe 6; Blue Jay 48; American Crow 145; Fish Crow 52; Horned Lark 4; Carolina Chickadee 147; Tufted Titmouse 39; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 142; House Wren 5; Winter Wren 13; Sedge Wren 1; Marsh Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet **90**; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 47; Eastern Bluebird 71; Hermit Thrush 11; American Robin 791; Gray Catbird 3; Northern Mockingbird 60; Brown Thrasher 10; European Starling 945; American Pipit 74; Cedar Waxwing 249; Orange-crowned Warbler 3.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 741; **Black-throated Green Warbler 1**; Pine Warbler 22; Palm Warbler 2; Common Yellowthroat 1; Eastern Towhee 18; Chipping Sparrow 43; Field Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 103; Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 3; sharp-tailed sparrow, sp. Seaside Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 259; Swamp Sparrow 50; White-crowned Sparrow 389; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 400; Snow Bunting 6; Northern Cardinal 140; Red-winged Blackbird 10,583; Eastern Meadowlark 38; Rusty Blackbird 9; Common Grackle 12,903; Boat-tailed Grackle 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 491; blackbird, sp. 3,000; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 71; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 81; House Sparrow 67.

Total species: 129; **Total individuals:** 87,788.

Compiler: Les Willis (leswillis@clwillis.com).

NEWPORT NEWS. Circle Center: Northern corner of Magruder & Cmdr. Shepard boulevards in Hampton. 37°05'N 76°25'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature range: 39° to 50° F. Skies partly cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 39 in 13 parties; Nocturnal birding: 1.5 hours and 7 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 105 (56.25 on foot, 48.75 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 432 (32 on foot, 400 by car).

Species: Brant 180; Canada Goose **861**; Wood Duck 3; Gadwall **154**; American Wigeon 113; American Black Duck 60; Mallard 903; Northern Shoveler 16; Canvasback 108; Redhead 10; Ring-necked Duck 139; Lesser Scaup 6; Surf Scoter 151; White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter 115; Long-tailed Duck 77; Bufflehead 627; Common Goldeneye 20; Hooded Merganser 123; Red-breasted Merganser 352; Ruddy Duck 528; Wild Turkey **48**; Red-throated Loon 42; Common Loon 34; Pied-billed Grebe 27; Horned Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 2; Brown Pelican 55; Double-crested Cormorant 545; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 86; Great Egret **67**; Black-crowned Night-Heron 5; Black Vulture 21; Turkey Vulture 27; **Osprey** 2; Bald Eagle 6 (4a, 2i); Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 6; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 20; American Kestrel 9; Clapper Rail 15; American Coot 21; Black-bellied Plover 29; Killdeer 65; **American Oystercatcher** 2; Greater Yellowlegs 12; Ruddy Turnstone 5; Sanderling 156.

Western Sandpiper 2; Dunlin 344; Wilson's Snipe 4; Laughing Gull 6; Bonaparte's Gull 181; Ring-billed Gull 2,231; Herring Gull 215; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1; Great Black-backed Gull 163; gull, sp. 55; **Royal Tern** 2; Forster's Tern 55; Rock Pigeon **1,732**; Mourning Dove **1,821**; Great Horned Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 26; Red-bellied Woodpecker 38; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 26; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 39; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Blue Jay 91; American Crow 168; Fish Crow 8; crow, sp. 7; Carolina Chickadee 219; Tufted Titmouse 129; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 13; Brown-headed Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 111; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 34; Eastern Bluebird 30; Hermit Thrush 3; American Robin 220; Gray Catbird 1; Northern Mockingbird 126; Brown Thrasher 12; European Starling 5,163; Cedar Waxwing 21; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 402; Pine Warbler 4; Palm Warbler 1; **Black-and-white Warbler** 1; Eastern Towhee 23; Chipping Sparrow 27; Field Sparrow 4.

Savannah Sparrow 24; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 135; Swamp Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 247; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 282; Northern Cardinal 164; Red-winged Blackbird 248; Eastern Meadowlark 6; Common Grackle 341; Boat-tailed Grackle 346; Brown-headed Cowbird 16; **Baltimore Oriole** 1; House Finch 151; American Goldfinch 166; House Sparrow 146.

Total species: 116; **Total individuals:** 21,959.

Compiler: Hayes Williams (joycewms@inna.net).

Organizations/Sponsors: Hampton Roads Bird Club.

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY. Circle Center: Jct. Crooked Run and Rt. 606 in Frederick County. 39°03'N 78°10'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Temperature range: 29° to 47° F. Wind southeast, 0-4 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 58 in 23 parties. Feeder watchers: 1. Nocturnal birding: 21 hours and 65 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 191 (53 on foot, 121 by car, 17 by non-motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 1,112 (59 on foot, 1,028 by car, 25 by non-motorized boat).

Species: **Cackling Goose 2;** Canada Goose **5,803;** Mute Swan 1; Tundra Swan 1; Wood Duck 13; Gadwall 14; American Wigeon 16; American Black Duck 22; Mallard 790; **Blue-winged Teal 1 (ph);** American Green-winged Teal 33; Ring-necked Duck 6; Greater Scaup 1; Lesser Scaup CW; Bufflehead 8; Common Goldeneye **31;** Hooded Merganser 32; Common Merganser 10; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Wild Turkey 29; Common Loon 1; Pied-billed Grebe 10; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 50; Black Vulture 224; Turkey Vulture 430; Bald Eagle 5 (a); Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 15; Cooper's Hawk 15; **Northern Goshawk 1;** Red-shouldered Hawk **29;** Red-tailed Hawk 169; Golden Eagle 1 (i); American Kestrel 31; Killdeer 21; Wilson's Snipe 15; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 1,354; Mourning Dove 1,324; Eastern Screech-Owl 31; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 47; Red-headed Woodpecker 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker 99; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 30; Downy Woodpecker 151; Hairy Woodpecker 19; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 33.

Pileated Woodpecker 44; Eastern Phoebe 5; Loggerhead Shrike 2; Blue Jay 354; American Crow 2,611; Fish Crow 4; Common Raven 12; Horned Lark 7; Carolina Chickadee 479; Black-capped Chickadee 12; Tufted Titmouse 231; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 181; Brown Creeper 17; Carolina Wren 154; Winter Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 54; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; Eastern Bluebird 195; Hermit Thrush 12; American Robin 221; Northern Mockingbird 263; European Starling 6,715; Cedar Waxwing 36; **Orange-crowned Warbler 1;** Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 3; American Tree Sparrow 22; Field Sparrow 50; Savannah Sparrow 20; Fox Sparrow CW; Song Sparrow 220; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 787; White-crowned Sparrow 143; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1,136; Northern Cardinal 730; Red-winged Blackbird 760; Eastern Meadowlark 4; Rusty Blackbird 204; **Brewer's Blackbird 1;** Common Grackle 148; Brown-headed Cowbird 83; Purple Finch 30; House Finch 213; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 410; House Sparrow 214.

Total species: 96; **Total individuals:** 27,762.

Compiler: Rob and Ann Simpson (snphotos@adelphia.net).

Organizations/Sponsors: Lord Fairfax Community College, Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon.

Compiler's notes: Several participants commented on the poor fruit production, especially red cedar. This might help account for the very low numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and American Robins. Northern Bobwhites have become very scarce in our area—we failed to record any this year. The

29 Red-shouldered Hawks (our highest ever) is indicative of the rapidly increasing breeding and wintering status of this species in the Shenandoah Valley.

PEAKS OF OTTER. Circle Center: Peaks of Otter Visitor Center in Bedford County. 37°27'N 79°36'W.

Field data: Count date: 21 Dec 2004. Times in field: 8 am to 4 pm. Temperature range: 15° to 35° F. Wind variable. Skies partly cloudy. Ground frozen. Still water partly open, moving water open. Total party-hours: 32 (16 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles: 44 (12 on foot, 32 by car).

Species: Hooded Merganser 1; Wild Turkey 55; Black Vulture 2; Turkey Vulture 13; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Mourning Dove 11; Eastern Screech-Owl 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 14; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 10; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 14; Eastern Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 11; American Crow 42; Common Raven 10; Carolina Chickadee 49; Black-capped Chickadee 1; Tufted Titmouse 45; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 31; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 36; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 46; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12; Eastern Bluebird 10; Hermit Thrush 5; Northern Mockingbird 3; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 4; Eastern Towhee 3; Song Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 65; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 388; Northern Cardinal 78; Purple Finch 7; American Goldfinch 14.

Total species: 40; **Total individuals:** 1,060.

Compiler: Barry Kinzie (woodpeckerridge@mindspring.com).

Participants: Mary Lou Agee, Charles Hansrote, Melva Hansrote, Joyce Holt, Eunice Hudgins, John Hudgins, Bill Hunley, Barry Kinzie, Katrina Knight, Ann Tucker, and Liz Williams.

Compiler's note: A female Hooded Merganser was right in front of the windows at the Peaks of Otter Lodge. There was about three acres of open water and we all observed it as we ate lunch. Black-capped Chickadees were very low all around our area this winter and we had only one on this count. Field Sparrows and American Robins, usually found on this count, were absent this year.

ROANOKE. Circle Center: Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd. In Roanoke. 37°18'N 79°56'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6:45 am to 2:30 pm. Temperature range: 26° to 45° F. Wind calm. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 17 in 10 parties. Feeder watchers: 3 for 6 hours. Nocturnal birding: 1 hour and 5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 48.25 (32.5 on foot, 15.75 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 162 (31 on foot, 131 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 220; Gadwall 38; American Wigeon 9; American Black Duck 2; Mallard 342; Northern Shoveler 1; American Green-winged Teal 23; Ring-necked Duck 7; Lesser Scaup 4; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 29; Wild Turkey 35; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 8; Black Vulture 10;

Turkey Vulture 52; **Bald Eagle 2**; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-shouldered Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 18; American Kestrel 2; Killdeer 20; Wilson's Snipe 2; Ring-billed Gull 147; Rock Pigeon 862; Mourning Dove 325; Barn Owl 3; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker 35; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 17; Downy Woodpecker 44; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 10; Eastern Phoebe 5; Blue Jay 129; American Crow 129; **Fish Crow 2**; Common Raven 1; Carolina Chickadee 114; Tufted Titmouse 69; White-breasted Nuthatch 51; Brown Creeper 6; Carolina Wren 134; Winter Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 53; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; Eastern Bluebird 69; Hermit Thrush 5; American Robin 25.

Northern Mockingbird 76; European Starling 858; Cedar Waxwing 5; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 14; Chipping Sparrow 2; Field Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 92; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 212; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 118; Northern Cardinal 219; Brown-headed Cowbird 21; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 118; American Goldfinch 104; House Sparrow 39.

Total species: 69; **Total individuals:** 5,003.

Compiler: Mike Donahue (hdonahu1@earthlink.net).

Participants: Mary Lou Agee, Gary Brunk, Tad Finnell, David Holt, Joyce Holt, Eunice Hudgins, John Hudgins, Bill Hunley, Katie James, Barry Kinzie, Katrina Knight, Connie Marsh, Mike Purdy, Alyce Quinn, Tim Quinn, Anne Tucker, and Bill Tucker.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. Circle Center: Ottobine in Rockingham County. 38°26'N 79°02'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature range: 20° to 47° F. Wind west, 0-10 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Still water partly open, moving water open. Field observers: 23 in 2 to 9 parties. Feeder watchers: 2 for 4 hours. Nocturnal birding: 0.5 hour and 0 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 51.75 (11.5 on foot, 40.25 by car). Total party-miles: 429 (11 on foot, 418 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 179; American Wigeon 1; Mallard **774**; Northern Pintail 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; grebe, sp. 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 11; Black Vulture 30; Turkey Vulture 526; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 9; *Accipiter*, sp. 2; Red-tailed Hawk 36; American Kestrel 22; **Merlin 2**; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Killdeer 66; Wilson's Snipe 1; Rock Pigeon 1,053; Mourning Dove 639; Eastern Screech-Owl CW; Great Horned Owl 5; Belted Kingfisher 10; Red-headed Woodpecker 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker **43**; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Downy Woodpecker 46; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Eastern Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 103; American Crow 513; Fish Crow 18; crow, sp. 6; Common Raven 3; Horned Lark 62; Carolina Chickadee 97; Tufted Titmouse 74; White-breasted Nuthatch 49; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 30; House Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; Eastern Bluebird 89; Hermit Thrush 1; American Robin 62; Northern Mockingbird 89; European Starling 3,271; American Pipit 90; Field Sparrow 2.

Savannah Sparrow 12; Fox Sparrow CW; Song Sparrow 59; White-throated Sparrow 215; White-crowned Sparrow 179; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 213; Northern Cardinal 164; Red-winged Blackbird 35; Eastern Meadowlark 27; Common Grackle 10,003; Brown-headed Cowbird 42; Purple Finch 7; House Finch 87; Common Redpoll CW; American Goldfinch 135; House Sparrow 349.

Total species: 64; **Total individuals:** 19,598.

Compiler: Chuck Auckerman (aucker@aol.com).

Organizations and sponsors: Rockingham Bird Club.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK-LURAY. Circle Center: Hershberger Hill near Stanley in Page County. 38°35'N 78°28'W.

Field data: Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 28° to 52° F. Wind northwest, 5-25 mph. Skies cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 30 in 10 to 15 parties. Feeder watchers: 9 for 13.5 hours. Nocturnal birding: 9.25 hours and 21.5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 93.5 (48.75 on foot, 44.75 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 499.5 (51 on foot, 448.5 by car).

Species: Cackling Goose 3; Canada Goose 794; Tundra Swan CW; Wood Duck 3; American Black Duck 25; Mallard 298; Northern Shoveler 3; Northern Pintail 16; American Green-winged Teal 2; Hooded Merganser 3; Ruddy Duck 10; Ruffed Grouse CW; Wild Turkey 4; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 15; Black-crowned Night-Heron 6 (ph); Black Vulture 246; Turkey Vulture 94; Bald Eagle 4 (3a, 1i); Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Cooper's Hawk 10; Red-shouldered Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 72; American Kestrel 34; **Merlin 1**; American Coot 1; Killdeer 54; Wilson's Snipe 11; Ring-billed Gull 201; Rock Pigeon 760; Mourning Dove 1,718; Barn Owl 1; Eastern Screech-Owl 14; Great Horned Owl 6; Barred Owl 2; **Short-eared Owl 1**; **Northern Saw-whet Owl 1**; Belted Kingfisher 19; **Red-headed Woodpecker 1**; Red-bellied Woodpecker 80; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 6; Downy Woodpecker 117; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 27; Pileated Woodpecker 35; Eastern Phoebe 7; Blue Jay 213; American Crow 964; Fish Crow 56; Common Raven 48; Horned Lark 214.

Carolina Chickadee 241; Black-capped Chickadee 5; Tufted Titmouse 168; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 121; Brown Creeper 13; Carolina Wren 110; Winter Wren 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 84; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 28; Eastern Bluebird 129; Hermit Thrush 5; American Robin 28; Northern Mockingbird 91; European Starling 12,531; American Pipit 130; Cedar Waxwing 28; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 8; Eastern Towhee 2; American Tree Sparrow 10; Field Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 145; White-throated Sparrow 519; White-crowned Sparrow 76; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 752; **Lapland Longspur 2**; Northern Cardinal 374; Red-winged Blackbird 1,030; Eastern Meadowlark 69; **Brewer's Blackbird 3**; Common Grackle 16; Brown-headed Cowbird 159; Purple Finch 20; House Finch 24; American Goldfinch 186; House Sparrow 99.

Total species: 87; **Total individuals:** 23,464.

Compiler: Mara Meisel (mara_meisel@nps.gov.).

TAZEWELL. Circle Center: Fourway in Tazewell County. 37°08'N 81°30'W.

Field data: Count date: 29 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 18° to 44° F. Wind southwest, 4-12 mph. Skies partly cloudy. Water partly frozen. Field observers: 11 in 7 parties. Feeder watchers: 1 for 5 hours. Total party-hours (excludes feeder hours): 50 (5 on foot, 45 by car). Total party-miles: 165 (16 on foot, 149 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 331; American Black Duck 20; Mallard 232; Northern Pintail 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 43; Pied-billed Grebe 13; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 8; Black Vulture 36; Turkey Vulture 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; **Northern Goshawk 1**; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 16; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 12; Killdeer 3; Mourning Dove 131; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 11; Red-headed Woodpecker 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 42; American Crow 527; Common Raven 11; Carolina Chickadee 36; Tufted Titmouse 57; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 22; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Eastern Bluebird 16; American Robin 3; Northern Mockingbird 5; Brown Thrasher 3; European Starling 2,464; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 8; Field Sparrow 21; Song Sparrow 71; White-throated Sparrow 48; White-crowned Sparrow 26; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 54; Northern Cardinal 77.

Red-winged Blackbird 2; Eastern Meadowlark 13; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 30; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 39; American Goldfinch 38; House Sparrow 181.

Total species: 58; **Total individuals:** 4,733.

Compiler: Sarah Cromer, (scromer@netscope.net).

THE PLAINS. Circle Center: 7 miles northwest of Warrenton on the west side of Watery Mountain along Carter Creek in Fauquier County. 38°48'N 77°52'W.

Field data:

Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 1 am to 5:30 pm. Temperature range: 19° to 40° F. Wind variable, 0-5 mph. Skies cloudy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 50 in 15 to 18 parties. Nocturnal birding: 11 hours and 121 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 143 (58 on foot, 85 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 715 (34 on foot, 681 by car).

Species: Greater White-fronted Goose 1; Canada Goose 9,055; Mute Swan 1; Tundra Swan 26; Gadwall 186; Eurasian Wigeon CW; American Wigeon 77; American Black Duck 35; Mallard 266; Northern Pintail 10; American Green-winged Teal 10; Ring-necked Duck 1,015; Lesser Scaup 1; Bufflehead 114; Hooded Merganser 79; Common Merganser 75; Ruddy Duck 19; Wild Turkey 3; Pied-billed Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 29; Black Vulture 302; Turkey Vulture 295; Bald Eagle 16 (6a, 6i, 4u); Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Cooper's Hawk 4; *Accipiter*, sp. 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 75; Red-tailed Hawk 99; American Kestrel 17; Merlin 1; American Coot 1; Killdeer 35; Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 1,237; Herring Gull 303; **Thayer's Gull 1**; Lesser Black-backed Gull 3; Great

Black-backed Gull 30; Rock Pigeon 368; Mourning Dove 486; Barn Owl 1; Eastern Screech-Owl 24; Great Horned Owl 18; Barred Owl 7; Belted Kingfisher 12; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 189; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 40; Downy Woodpecker 148; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 148; Pileated Woodpecker 35; Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 776; American Crow 674; Fish Crow 41; crow, sp. 55; Common Raven 8; Horned Lark 1; Carolina Chickadee 337; Tufted Titmouse 179; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 158; Brown Creeper 11; Carolina Wren 239; Winter Wren 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 68; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 18; Eastern Bluebird 168; Hermit Thrush 15; American Robin 308; Northern Mockingbird 266; European Starling 5,210; Cedar Waxwing 89; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 60; Pine Warbler 1; Eastern Towhee 19; American Tree Sparrow 8; Field Sparrow 143; Savannah Sparrow 29; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 660; Swamp Sparrow 41; White-throated Sparrow 1,356; White-crowned Sparrow 374; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 2,406; Northern Cardinal 836.

Red-winged Blackbird 1,126; Eastern Meadowlark 10; Common Grackle 21,025; Brown-headed Cowbird 14; Purple Finch 13; House Finch 106; American Goldfinch 448; House Sparrow 111.

Total species: 93; **Total individuals:** 52,372.

Compiler: Todd Day (blkvulture@aol.com).

WACHAPREAGUE. Circle Center: Jct. 789 and 715 in Accomack County. 37°40'N 75°42'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 30° to 52° F. Wind northeast, 5-20 mph. AM partly cloudy, PM clear. Water open. Field observers: 20 in 12 parties. Feeder watchers: 1 for 1 hour. Total party-hours (excludes feeder hours): 97 (33 on foot, 59 by car, 5 by motorized boat). Total party-miles: 530 (37 on foot, 483 by car, 10 by motorized boat).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 42,700; **Ross's Goose (blue morph)*** 1; Brant 845; Canada Goose 1,962; Tundra Swan 8; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 33; American Wigeon 4; American Black Duck 200; Mallard 367; Northern Pintail 5; American Green-winged Teal 84; Ring-necked Duck 46; Surf Scoter 125; White-winged Scoter 34; Black Scoter 32; Long-tailed Duck 15; Bufflehead 453; Hooded Merganser 167; Common Merganser 9; Red-breasted Merganser 106; Ruddy Duck 14; Northern Bobwhite 3; Red-throated Loon 240; Common Loon 57; Pied-billed Grebe 7; Horned Grebe 3; Northern Gannet 10; Double-crested Cormorant 56; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 55; Great Egret 3; Little Blue Heron 1; Tricolored Heron 3; Black-crowned Night-Heron 31; Black Vulture 61; Turkey Vulture 353; Bald Eagle 25 (8a, 17i); Northern Harrier 18; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 24; American Kestrel 31; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Clapper Rail 1; Black-bellied Plover 71; Semipalmated Plover 9; Killdeer 26; American Oystercatcher 135; Greater Yellowlegs 84.

Willet 71; **Whimbrel** 2; Marbled Godwit 1; Ruddy Turnstone 17; Sanderling 11; Western Sandpiper 44; Dunlin 4,000; Short-billed Dowitcher 4; Wilson's Snipe 2; American Woodcock CW; Bonaparte's Gull 22; Ring-billed Gull 971; Herring

Gull 2,771; Great Black-backed Gull 52; gull, sp. 35; Forster's Tern 234; Rock Pigeon 83; Mourning Dove 366; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 23; Red-bellied Woodpecker 28; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker CW; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 59; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Eastern Phoebe 4; flycatcher, sp. 1; Blue Jay 40; American Crow 455; Fish Crow 1; Horned Lark 1; Carolina Chickadee 60; Tufted Titmouse 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 48; House Wren 2; Winter Wren 1; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; Eastern Bluebird 270; Hermit Thrush 7; American Robin 854; Gray Catbird 8; Northern Mockingbird 61; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 1,521; Cedar Waxwing 90; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 498; Palm Warbler 2.

Eastern Towhee 1; American Tree Sparrow 2; Chipping Sparrow 29; Field Sparrow 12; Savannah Sparrow 12; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 7; Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 3; Seaside Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 90; Swamp Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 270; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 295; Northern Cardinal 115; Red-winged Blackbird 1,340; Eastern Meadowlark 8; Common Grackle 196; Boat-tailed Grackle 130; Brown-headed Cowbird 713; blackbird, sp. 1,035; House Finch 86; American Goldfinch 133; House Sparrow 52.

Total species: 121; **Total individuals:** 65,858.

Compilers: Irvin and Marilyn Ailes (imailes@intercom.net).

WALKERTON. Circle Center: 1.5 miles southwest of Walkerton bridge, just west of Whitebank. 37°46'N 77°02'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 5:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Temperature range: 44° to 59° F. Wind variable, 0-8 mph. AM cloudy, PM foggy. Water open. Field observers: 22 in 8 to 10 parties. Nocturnal birding: 6 hours and 46 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 87.75 (45.5 on foot, 36.25 by car, 6 by motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 401 (36 on foot, 346 by car, 19 by motorized boat).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 1; Canada Goose 7,690; Tundra Swan 58; Wood Duck 9; Gadwall 28; American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 29; Mallard 73; Blue-winged Teal 2; Northern Shoveler 8; Northern Pintail 158; American Green-winged Teal 39; Ring-necked Duck 268; Lesser Scaup 19; Bufflehead 98; Common Goldeneye 4; Hooded Merganser 26; Common Merganser 29; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Ruddy Duck 20; Wild Turkey 32; Northern Bobwhite 6; Pied-billed Grebe 9; Double-crested Cormorant 13; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 28; Black Vulture 205; Turkey Vulture 182; Bald Eagle 47 (38a, 9i); Northern Harrier 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 31; Red-tailed Hawk 37; American Kestrel 9; Merlin 1; American Coot 21; Killdeer 173; Greater Yellowlegs 50; Least Sandpiper 38; Dunlin 200; Short-billed Dowitcher 1; Wilson's Snipe 137; American Woodcock 14; Ring-billed Gull 939; Herring Gull 1; **Great Black-backed Gull 1**; gull, sp. 8; Mourning Dove 911; Eastern Screech-Owl 8; Great Horned Owl 7; Barred Owl 4.

Belted Kingfisher 43; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 82; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 30; Downy Woodpecker 62; Hairy Woodpecker 34; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 131; Pileated Woodpecker 41; Eastern Phoebe 24; Blue Jay 104; American Crow 797; Horned Lark 104; Carolina Chickadee 94; Tufted Titmouse 100; White-breasted Nuthatch 58; Brown Creeper 20; Carolina Wren 100; House Wren 2; Winter Wren 27; Golden-crowned Kinglet 98; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 32; Eastern Bluebird 203; Hermit Thrush 23; American Robin 636; Northern Mockingbird 56; Brown Thrasher 7; European Starling 990; American Pipit 1; Cedar Waxwing 28; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 39; Pine Warbler 5; Common Yellowthroat 1; Eastern Towhee 27; Chipping Sparrow 13; Field Sparrow 18; Savannah Sparrow 72; Fox Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 472; Swamp Sparrow 93; White-throated Sparrow 1,283; White-crowned Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 896; Northern Cardinal 493; Red-winged Blackbird 10,036; Eastern Meadowlark 23; Rusty Blackbird 13; Common Grackle 3,633; Brown-headed Cowbird 15; blackbird, sp. 815; Purple Finch 12; House Finch 78; American Goldfinch 269; House Sparrow 78.

Total species: 103; **Total individuals:** 34,022.

Compiler: Fred Atwood (fredatwood@yahoo.com).

WARREN. Circle Center: At Keene in Albemarle County, 37°51'N 78°33'W.

Field data: Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 6:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temperature range: 22° to 47° F. Wind calm in a.m., southwest to northwest, 3-12 mph. in p.m. Skies cloudy. Water open. Field observers: 24 in 14 parties. Nocturnal birding: 1.25 hours and 6 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 102.5 (81 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 278.5 (73.5 on foot, 205 by car).

Species: Snow Goose (white form) 1; Canada Goose 1,453; Mute Swan 13; American Black Duck 7; Mallard 21; Hooded Merganser 11; Wild Turkey 42; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 10; Black Vulture 36; Turkey Vulture 311; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 57; American Kestrel 6; Merlin 1; Killdeer 14; Ring-billed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 63; Mourning Dove 753; Eastern Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 8; Red-headed Woodpecker 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 81; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 30; Downy Woodpecker 57; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 59; Pileated Woodpecker 28; Eastern Phoebe 9; Blue Jay 193; American Crow 831; Common Raven 7; Carolina Chickadee 197; Tufted Titmouse 124; White-breasted Nuthatch 66; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 181; Winter Wren 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet 56; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 26; Eastern Bluebird 127; Hermit Thrush 8; American Robin 307; Northern Mockingbird 88; Brown Thrasher 1.

European Starling 542; Cedar Waxwing 81; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 22; Eastern Towhee 23; American Tree Sparrow 6; Chipping Sparrow 26; Field Sparrow 104; Savannah Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 310; Swamp Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 1,398; White-crowned Sparrow 71; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1,116; Northern Cardinal 476; Red-winged Blackbird 133;

Eastern Meadowlark 8; Rusty Blackbird 5; Common Grackle 40,020; Brown-headed Cowbird 140; House Finch 10; American Goldfinch 295; House Sparrow 34.

Total species: 73; **Total individuals:** 50,190.

Compiler: Charles Stevens, 615 Preston Place, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Participants: Amoret Barbee, Dan Bieker, Peter Brask, Jim Childress, Bruce Davenport, Peter Dutnell, Sonya Eichelkraut, William Eichelkraut, Frances Fife, Allen Hale, Ruth Klippstein, Tom Klippstein, Ken Lawless, Leslie Mehring, Peter Mehring, Hewson Michie, Bill Minor, Maureen Minor, Jim Nix, Charles Stevens, Lew Tanner, Dave West, David White, and John Zimmerman.

WASHINGTONS BIRTHPLACE. Circle Center: Horners in Westmoreland County. 38°07'N 76°57'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temperature range: 24° to 52° F. Wind west, 0-10 mph. AM clear, PM partly clear. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 17 in 7 to 9 parties. Nocturnal birding: 3 hours and 8 miles. Total party-hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 65 (37 on foot, 23 by car, 5 by motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 281 (21 on foot, 225 by car, 35 by motorized boat).

Species: Canada Goose 13,465; Mute Swan 1; Tundra Swan 34; Wood Duck 9; Gadwall 182; American Wigeon 14; American Black Duck 311; Mallard 826; American Green-winged Teal 4; Canvasback 290; Ring-necked Duck 26; Greater Scaup 10; Lesser Scaup 4,656; Surf Scoter 26; Black Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 22; Bufflehead 97; Common Goldeneye 157; Hooded Merganser 102; Common Merganser 96; Red-breasted Merganser 48; Ruddy Duck 307; Wild Turkey 29; Northern Bobwhite 10; Red-throated Loon 11; Common Loon 7; Pied-billed Grebe 7; Horned Grebe 5; Double-crested Cormorant 15; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 48; Black Vulture 93; Turkey Vulture 211; Bald Eagle 156 (112a, 44i); Northern Harrier 17; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-shouldered Hawk 10; Red-tailed Hawk 33; American Kestrel 8; Merlin 1; Killdeer 12; Wilson's Snipe 1; Laughing Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 1,265; Herring Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Mourning Dove 404; Barn Owl 1; Eastern Screech-Owl 12; Great Horned Owl 11.

Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 25; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 55; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 18; Downy Woodpecker 31; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 61; Pileated Woodpecker 21; Eastern Phoebe 10; Blue Jay 81; American Crow 271; Horned Lark 105; Carolina Chickadee 87; Tufted Titmouse 59; White-breasted Nuthatch 20; Brown Creeper 5; Carolina Wren 118; Winter Wren 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 11; Eastern Bluebird 82; Hermit Thrush 19; American Robin 554; Northern Mockingbird 50; Brown Thrasher 10; European Starling 701; American Pipit 72; Cedar Waxwing 168; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 162; Common Yellowthroat 1; Eastern Towhee 21; Chipping Sparrow 19; Field Sparrow 104; Savannah Sparrow 169; **Le Conte's Sparrow 1** (ph); Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 399; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1**; Swamp Sparrow 61; White-throated Sparrow 673; White-crowned Sparrow 24; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 529; Northern Cardinal 293; Red-

winged Blackbird 2,758; Eastern Meadowlark 163; Rusty Blackbird 5; Common Grackle 2,055; Brown-headed Cowbird 304; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 35; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 189; House Sparrow 35.

Total species: 104; **Total individuals:** 33,762.

Compiler: William Portlock (portlock@bealenet.com).

WAYNESBORO. Circle Center: Sherando at Jct. 610 and 664 in Augusta County. 37°59'N 78°57'W.

Field data: Count date: 2 Jan 2005. Times in field: 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temperature range: 44° to 58° F. Wind variable, 0-10 mph. AM partly cloudy, PM partly cloudy, light rain. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Field observers: 24 in 10 parties. Feeder watchers: 2 for 1.5 hours. Nocturnal birding: 0.5 hour and 2 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 52 (21.5 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 390 (15 on foot, 375 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 1,183; American Black Duck 4; Mallard 239; Northern Pintail 3; American Green-winged Teal 29; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 1; Wild Turkey 2; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 8; Black Vulture 69; Turkey Vulture 217; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 48; American Kestrel 19; American Coot 3; American Woodcock CW; Ring-billed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 194; Mourning Dove 654; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 7; Red-headed Woodpecker 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 57; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 10; Downy Woodpecker 41; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 36; Pileated Woodpecker 20; Eastern Phoebe 3; Blue Jay 190; American Crow 408; Fish Crow 7; Common Raven 3; Horned Lark CW; Carolina Chickadee 153; Tufted Titmouse 137; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 58; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 63; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 55; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; Eastern Bluebird 89; Hermit Thrush 3; American Robin 149; Northern Mockingbird 88; European Starling 2,921; Cedar Waxwing 12.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 15; Eastern Towhee 5; Chipping Sparrow 2; Field Sparrow 24; Savannah Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 61; Lincoln's Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 300; White-crowned Sparrow 165; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 395; Northern Cardinal 218; Red-winged Blackbird 60; Eastern Meadowlark 42; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 164; American Goldfinch 439; House Sparrow 104.

Total species: 69; **Total individuals:** 9,223.

Compiler: Crista Cabe, (ccabe@mbc.edu).

Organizations/Sponsors: Augusta Bird Club.

WILLIAMSBURG. Circle Center: Colonial Williamsburg Information Center in Williamsburg. 37°17'N 76°42'W.

Field data: Count date: 19 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temperature range: 35° to 52° F. Wind northwest, 5-12 mph. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 25 in 9 parties. Nocturnal birding: 1 hour and 0.5 mile. Total party-

hours (excludes nocturnal hours): 84.75 (41.25 on foot, 43.5 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 279 (28 on foot, 251 by car).

Species: Canada Goose 1,536; Mute Swan 56; Tundra Swan 42; Wood Duck 1; Gadwall 53; American Wigeon 5; American Black Duck 38; Mallard 235; Northern Shoveler 2; Northern Pintail 8; American Green-winged Teal 26; Canvasback 1,958; Redhead 1; Ring-necked Duck 639; Lesser Scaup 23; Bufflehead 101; Common Goldeneye 33; Hooded Merganser 193; Red-breasted Merganser 26; Ruddy Duck 4,500; Red-throated Loon 5; Common Loon 14; Pied-billed Grebe 19; Horned Grebe 41; Brown Pelican 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1,033; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 114; Great Egret 21; Black Vulture 30; Turkey Vulture 133; Osprey 2; Bald Eagle 27 (14a, 13i); Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk 5; Red-shouldered Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 25; American Kestrel 7; Clapper Rail 1; American Coot 8; Killdeer 59; Greater Yellowlegs 14; **Ruddy Turnstone 1**; Dunlin 11; Wilson's Snipe 1; American Woodcock 2; Laughing Gull 22; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 467; Herring Gull 66.

Great Black-backed Gull 40; Forster's Tern 1; Mourning Dove 423; Eastern Screech-Owl 7; Great Horned Owl 7; Barred Owl 2; *Selasphorus*, sp. 2; Belted Kingfisher 23; Red-headed Woodpecker 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 59; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 20; Downy Woodpecker 50; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 85; Pileated Woodpecker 35; Eastern Phoebe 6; Blue Jay 44; American Crow 165; Carolina Chickadee 178; Tufted Titmouse 118; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 60; Brown-headed Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 7; Carolina Wren 129; House Wren 9; Winter Wren 14; Marsh Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 65; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 37; Eastern Bluebird 185; Hermit Thrush 10; American Robin 464; Northern Mockingbird 44; Brown Thrasher 10; European Starling 681; Cedar Waxwing 32; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 432; Pine Warbler 20; warbler, sp. 2; Eastern Towhee 39; Chipping Sparrow 162; Field Sparrow 67; Savannah Sparrow 51; **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2**; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 310; Swamp Sparrow 177; White-throated Sparrow 419; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 737.

Northern Cardinal 227; Red-winged Blackbird 494; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Rusty Blackbird 92; Common Grackle 71; Brown-headed Cowbird 69; House Finch 82; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 178; House Sparrow 36.

Total species: 109; **Total individuals:** 18,343.

Compiler: Bill Holcombe (biljanholcf@intercom.net).

Organizations/Sponsors: Williamsburg Bird Club.

WISE COUNTY. Circle Center: At Dorchester in Norton City. 36°57'N 82°39'W.

Field data: Count date: 18 Dec 2004. Times in field: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temperature range: 22° to 45° F. Wind 0-10 mph. Skies clear. Water open. Field observers: 15 in 8 parties. Feeder watchers: 2 for 1 hour. Total party-hours (excludes feeder hours): 56 (25.5 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 292.5 (18.5 on foot, 274 by car).

Species: Mallard 12; Pied-billed Grebe 5; Turkey Vulture 38; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 4;

Red-tailed Hawk 10; American Kestrel 4; Killdeer 4; Rock Pigeon 129; Mourning Dove 123; Eastern Screech-Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 17; Eastern Phoebe 2; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Blue Jay 78; American Crow **1,220**; Common Raven 4; Horned Lark 12; Carolina Chickadee 133; Black-capped Chickadee 1; Tufted Titmouse 108; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 44; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 54; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 27; Eastern Bluebird 39; American Robin 55; Northern Mockingbird 25; Brown Thrasher 2; European Starling 610; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 2; Eastern Towhee 16; Field Sparrow 13; Vesper Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 111; White-throated Sparrow 23; White-crowned Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 58; Northern Cardinal 81; Eastern Meadowlark 4; Common Grackle 2; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 9; American Goldfinch 60; House Sparrow 16.

Total species: 55; **Total individuals:** 3,234.

Compiler: Randy Stanley (randyst@compunet.net).

COMBINED TOTALS. All counts above are included. Bold face indicates state Christmas count record high counts.

Field data: Field observers: 1,266. Field parties: minimum 473, maximum 545. Feeder watchers: 63 for 103 hours. Nocturnal birding: 252.25 hours and 903.5 miles. Total party-hours (excludes feeder and nocturnal hours): 3,735.75 (2,097.5 on foot, 1,589.75 by car, 22 by motorized boat, 26.5 by non-motorized boat). Total party-miles (excludes nocturnal miles): 15,573.25 (1,690.25 on foot, 13,749 by car, 99 by motorized boat, 35 by non-motorized boat).

Species: Greater White-fronted Goose 1; Snow Goose (white form) 63,848; Snow Goose (blue form) 1,275; Barnacle Goose 1; Ross's Goose 5; Brant 5,247; Cackling Goose 8; Canada Goose 109,279; Mute Swan 141; Tundra Swan 2,453; Wood Duck 214; Gadwall 4,609; Eurasian Wigeon CW; American Wigeon 1,878; American Black Duck 7,526; black duck / mallard, sp. 5; Mallard 16,758; Blue-winged Teal 6; Northern Shoveler 1,013; Northern Pintail 1,598; American Green-winged Teal 973; Canvasback 5,810; Redhead 125; Ring-necked Duck 4,559; Greater Scaup 60; Lesser Scaup 23,484; scaup, sp. 45; King Eider 1; Common Eider 6; Harlequin Duck 4; Surf Scoter 8,760; White-winged Scoter 62; Black Scoter 2,977; scoter, sp. 1,867; Long-tailed Duck 428; Bufflehead 11,392; Common Goldeneye 401; Hooded Merganser 3,241; Common Merganser 1,374; Red-breasted Merganser 2,234; Ruddy Duck 10,044; duck, sp. 509; Ruffed Grouse 11; Wild Turkey 651; Northern Bobwhite 94; Red-throated Loon 4,821; Pacific Loon 1; Common Loon 805; Pied-billed Grebe 377; Horned Grebe 364; Red-necked Grebe CW; Eared Grebe 8; Clark's Grebe CW; grebe, sp. 1; Northern Gannet 2,611; American White Pelican 1; Brown Pelican 449; Double-crested Cormorant 5,977; Great Cormorant 112;

American Bittern 5; Great Blue Heron (blue form) 1,529; Great Egret 213; Snowy Egret 2; Little Blue Heron 1; Tricolored Heron 8; Black-crowned Night-Heron 69; White Ibis 66; Black Vulture **4,025**; Turkey Vulture 8,078; Osprey **14**; Bald Eagle

598; Bald Eagle (age) 322a, 150i, 8u; Northern Harrier 228; Sharp-shinned Hawk 222; Cooper's Hawk 198; Northern Goshawk 2; *Accipiter*, sp. 9; Red-shouldered Hawk 513; Red-tailed Hawk 1,705; Rough-legged Hawk 2; *Buteo*, sp. 5; hawk, sp. 2 large hawk, sp. 2; Golden Eagle 8; Golden Eagle (age) 2a, 6i; American Kestrel 554; Merlin 20; Peregrine Falcon 15; Clapper Rail 143; King Rail 8; Virginia Rail 11; Common Moorhen 1; American Coot 1,500; Black-bellied Plover 986; Semipalmated Plover 25; Killdeer 1,253; American Oystercatcher 388; Greater Yellowlegs 338; Lesser Yellowlegs 31; yellowlegs, sp. 13; Willet 508; Spotted Sandpiper 1; Whimbrel 4; Marbled Godwit 76; Ruddy Turnstone 206; Red Knot 14; Sanderling 1,218; Western Sandpiper 135; Least Sandpiper 61; Purple Sandpiper 62; Dunlin 23,642; Short-billed Dowitcher 57; Long-billed Dowitcher 1; dowitcher, sp. 4; Wilson's Snipe 286; American Woodcock 150; Pomarine Jaeger 1; jaeger, sp. 1.

Laughing Gull 2,741; Bonaparte's Gull 975; Mew Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 85,339; Herring Gull 26,437; Thayer's Gull 2; Iceland Gull 1; Lesser Black-backed Gull 106; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 2,877; gull, sp. 5,517; Royal Tern 2; Forster's Tern 899; Black Skimmer 6; Rock Pigeon 17,083; Eurasian Collared-Dove 1; Mourning Dove 23,126; Barn Owl 18; Eastern Screech-Owl 284; Great Horned Owl 197; Snowy Owl 2; Barred Owl 89; Long-eared Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 2; Northern Saw-whet Owl 3; owl, sp. 1; Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1; Rufous Hummingbird 1; *Selasphorus*, sp. 3; Belted Kingfisher 733; Red-headed Woodpecker 111; Red-bellied Woodpecker 3,116; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 716; Downy Woodpecker 2,849; Hairy Woodpecker 549; Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 2,691; Pileated Woodpecker 1,018; small woodpecker, sp. 2; Eastern Phoebe 271; flycatcher, sp. 1; Loggerhead Shrike 11; Northern Shrike 1; White-eyed Vireo 1; Blue-headed Vireo 1; Blue Jay 8,249; American Crow 24,394; Fish Crow 1,103; crow, sp. 1,971; Common Raven 215; Horned Lark 719; Tree Swallow 161; Carolina Chickadee 7,797; Black-capped Chickadee 53; chickadee, sp. 100; Tufted Titmouse 5,545; Red-breasted Nuthatch 230; White-breasted Nuthatch 2,862.

Brown-headed Nuthatch 151; Brown Creeper 389; Carolina Wren 5,627; House Wren 81; Winter Wren 422; Sedge Wren 25; Marsh Wren 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2,336; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 692; kinglet, sp. 2; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1; Eastern Bluebird 5,929; Hermit Thrush 542; American Robin 18,507; Gray Catbird 105; Northern Mockingbird 3,993; Brown Thrasher 164; European Starling 91,008; American Pipit 662; Cedar Waxwing 3,176; Orange-crowned Warbler 15; Yellow Warbler 10,021; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 10,021; Black-throated Green Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 129; Palm Warbler 35; Black-and-white Warbler 3; Common Yellowthroat 10; Wilson's Warbler CW; warbler, sp. 2; Eastern Towhee 859; American Tree Sparrow 110; Chipping Sparrow 756; Field Sparrow 1,818; Vesper Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 1,533; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 19; Le Conte's Sparrow 2; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 9; Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 26; sharp-tailed sparrow, sp. 6; Seaside Sparrow 27; Fox Sparrow 285; Song Sparrow 10,595; Lincoln's Sparrow 2; Swamp Sparrow 1,327; White-throated Sparrow 23,464; White-crowned Sparrow 2,446; sparrow, sp. 94; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco

29,513; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 35; Northern Cardinal 14,155; Red-winged Blackbird 839,239; Eastern Meadowlark 1,378; Yellow-headed Blackbird CW; Rusty Blackbird 536.

Brewer's Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 1,594,530; Boat-tailed Grackle 844; Brown-headed Cowbird 7,781; blackbird, sp. 24,831; Baltimore Oriole 4; Purple Finch 377; House Finch 3,199; Red Crossbill 13; Common Redpoll CW; Pine Siskin 114; American Goldfinch 8,551; House Sparrow 4,886.

Total species: 211; **Total individuals:** 3,308,002.

HOLT'S "THE FIRST AMERICAN BIRD CHECK-LIST" – A REBUTTAL

DAVID W. JOHNSTON
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The title and text of this article by Holt (2004) immediately attracted my attention especially because so much carefully documented research has been previously devoted to Thomas Jefferson's interest in birds (Allen 1951, McAtee 1957, Feduccia 1985, Johnston 2003). In the interest of scientific and historical accuracy, I am concerned principally with Holt's insistence that (1) in Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* (Jefferson 1781) "is a simple list [sic, two lists] of 125 bird species he observed in Virginia" (Holt 2004, p. 78), and (2) that "this list likely represents the first published check-list for a locality in North America" (Holt 2004, p. 78). These concerns are addressed below.

In agreement with other historians of Mark Catesby and Thomas Jefferson, I find no evidence for Holt's claim that Jefferson actually saw in Virginia the birds in his list of Catesby's birds. Jefferson's first list contains 93 "of our birds described by Catesby" Even this statement is inaccurate—of the 93 in the list, only 30 did Catesby specifically report from Virginia (Catesby 1731-43). Also, Jefferson's list of Catesby birds includes the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Common Ground-Dove, and Greater Prairie-chicken, none of which could Jefferson have observed in Virginia! The only logical conclusion that can be drawn from these facts is that Jefferson simply copied a list of 93 of Catesby's birds into his *Notes*, followed by a second list of birds that "we have."

Any list of Catesby's birds, whether in Jefferson's *Notes* or elsewhere, does not qualify as "the first American bird check-list" as Holt proposed. That achievement belongs to Alvar Nuñez Cabeça de Vaca who listed birds from his expedition to Florida in 1528 (Johnston 2002a). Many other examples of early "American" lists are known--those for the Roanoke, N. C. area (Hariot 1588), for the Jamestown area (Smith 1608), and for Carolina (Lawson 1709). Lastly, a compiled list of North American birds was published by Richard Hakluyt in 1582 (Johnston 2002b).

Since English, French, and Spanish expeditions came to the New World, many ornithologists have attempted to find appropriate modern common names equivalent to those used by early explorers. The remainder of Holt's article deals with this matter in Jefferson's second list of 32 species (Holt 2004, Table 2). For several of Jefferson's bird names, Holt suggests common names differing from those previously derived by Allen (1951), McAtee (1957), and Johnston (2003). Rather than quibble about each of Holt's personal preferences, especially questionable are his suggested equivalents of "Golden Eagle" for Jefferson's "greatest grey eagle" and "Vermilion Flycatcher" for "red bird, with black head, wings and tail."

While this topic has interested historians and naturalists for decades, and will continue to be of interest in the future, I find little merit in Holt's speculations.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

Susan A. Heath
VARCOM Secretary

The following decisions were made by the Virginia Avian Records Committee during calendar year 2004. Accepted records fall into one of the following categories, as specified in VSO bylaws:

Category 1. Any bird that has occurred in Virginia and has been accepted by VARCOM as a wild bird on the basis of an observation accompanied by a photograph, specimen, audio or video recording, or band (for bands, only in cases where proof of identification is extant and compelling).

Category 2. Sight records without physical evidence, but for which there is written documentation from one or more observers accepted by VARCOM.

Category 3. Identity accepted by VARCOM but provenance of the individual bird is uncertain. Category 3a shall be comprised of such species with physical evidence in Virginia. Category 3b shall be comprised of such species lacking physical evidence. Category 3 shall not include individuals or species deemed by VARCOM to be most likely escaped/released former captives, whether from inside Virginia or otherwise.

Category 4. Records that are judged to be acceptable by historical standards but that may not meet current standards of acceptance. Includes extinct species that once occurred in Virginia, for which there is no clear written or physical evidence (e.g., Eskimo Curlew).

Category 5. Species introduced into the Commonwealth of Virginia or into other parts of North America that are currently maintaining self-sustaining wild populations within Virginia. These currently include Mute Swan, Rock Pigeon, House Sparrow, House Finch, and European Starling.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), one individual, South Holston Lake, Washington County, 7 September 2003, [Ed Talbott], category 1, 1st Mountains and Valleys.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*), one individual, Pandapas Pond, Jefferson National Forest, Montgomery County, 4 October 2003, [Ed Talbott], category 1, 1st Mountains and Valleys.

Fork-Tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*), one individual, Bath County, 28 September 2002 [John Spahr, Brenda Tekin] category 1, 1st Mountains and Valleys.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), one individual, Alexandria, 6 January-24 February 2002 [Phil Davis, Barbara Davis, Rob Hilton, Marc Ribaud, Steven Shultz, Erika Wilson, Rich Rieger] category 3, 2nd Coastal Plain.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), one individual, Prince William County Landfill, Prince

William County, 25 February 2003, [Mike Rogers, Steve Rottenborn], category 2, 1st Piedmont.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), one individual, Suffolk, November 16-21, 2003 [Les Willis] category 1.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*), one individual (specimen), Suffolk, September 19, 2003 [Les Willis] category 1, 2nd Coastal Plain.

White-Faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*), one individual, off-shore, August 16, 2003 [Brenda Tekin, Larry Lynch] category 1, 3rd off-shore.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*), one individual, Chincoteague, Accomac County, October 19, 2003 [Rene Laubach] category 2, 1st Coastal Plain.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), one individual, Orange County, 11 & 13 May, 2003 [George Harris] category 2, 5th Piedmont.

Swallow-Tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), one individual, Annandale, Fairfax County, 8 June 2003 [Judith McGuire] category 2, 2nd Coastal Plain.

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), one individual, Rockingham County, 28-29 June 2003 [Brenda Tekin, John Irvine] category 1, 4th Mountains and Valleys.

Greater White-Fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), one individual, Augusta County, 30 December 2000 & January 2001 [Allen Lerner] category 1, 4th Mountains and Valleys.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina Ciris*), One Individual, Dutch Gap, Chesterfield County, 28 April 2003, [Larry Robinson, Bob Reilly] category 1, 1st hatch year record.

White-Faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), one individual, Northampton County, May, 29, 2003, [George Armistead] category 1, 4th Coastal Plain.

Black-Throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), one individual, Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke County, 27 December 2003 - 13 January 2004 [Doug Poffenberger, Marshall Iliff, Larry Lynch, Brenda Tekin] category 1, 1st Mountains and Valleys.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), one individual, Fort Story, Virginia Beach, 31 December 2003 Don Schwab, Tom Gwynn, Brenda Tekin] category 1, 4th Coastal Plain.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*), one individual, Waterford, Loudoun County, 17 November 2003 3 January 2004 [Nicole Hamilton] category 1, 2nd out of season Piedmont.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*), one individual, Neabsco Creek, Prince William County, 23 February 2004 [Mike Boatwright] category 2, 6th Coastal Plain.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), one individual, Mill Creek Lake, Amherst County, 19 September 2003 [Mike Boatwright] category 2, 4th Piedmont.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) one individual, Mill Creek Lake, Amherst County, 19 September 2003 [Mike Boatwright] category 2, 2nd Piedmont.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), one individual, Back Bay CBC, False Cape State Park, Virginia Beach, 31 December 2003 [Ned Brinkley] category 2, 2nd Coastal Plain.

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), one individual (banding record)

Back Bay, Virginia Beach, 12 October 2003 [Rob Simpson] category 1, 1st State and Coastal Plain.

Black-Bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), one individual, Blacksburg, July 1993 [Catherine Messina] category 3, 1st State and Mountains and Valleys.

White-Tailed Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) one individual, Suffolk, 3 April 2004 [Les Willis] category 2, 3rd Coastal Plain.

Black-Necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) one individual, Cedar Run Wetlands, Prince William County, 27-28 May 2003 [Steve Rottenborn, Laura Catterton, Susan Heath] category 1, 1st Piedmont.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), one individual, off ocean end of 85th Street, Virginia Beach, 18 December 2001 [Elisa Enders] category 2, 2nd State and Coastal Plain.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), one individual, Fort Story, Virginia Beach, 31 December 2001 [Charlie Smith, David Hughes] combined with previous record.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), one individual, Stuarts Draft Sewage Treatment Plant, Augusta County, September 19, 2003, [John Spahr] category 2, 1st Mountains and Valleys.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), one individual, Rt. 11, Rockingham County, September 19, 2003, [Clair Mellinger] category 1, 2nd Mountains and Valleys.

Band-Rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), two individuals, CBBT, September 19, 2003, [George Armistead] category 2, 2nd CBBT.

White-Tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*), one individual, CBBT, September 19, 2003, [George Armistead, Brian Sullivan, Marie E. Shiels-Djouadi and Jack E. Dent, Jr.] category 1, 1st CBBT.

Herald Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*), one individual, Kerr Reservoir, September 19, 2003, [Brian Patteson, Brian Sullivan] category 1, 2nd Piedmont.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), one individual, Shenandoah County, 11 May 1987, [Bonnie Painter, Ann and Rob Simpson], category 2, 5th Mountains and Valleys.

White-Winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), one individual, suburban Richmond, 17 November 2002 [Brent Tarter], category 2, 5th Coastal Plain.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), 1 individual, Kerr Reservoir, Mecklenburg County, 6 Dec 2003 16 Jan 2004 [Adam D'Onofrio, Mike Boatwright], category 2, 1st Piedmont.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) 1 individual, Lottsburg, Northumberland County, 31 Dec 2003, 5 Jan 2004, [Porter Kier], category 2, 1st Coastal Plain west of the Bay.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), one individual, Fort Story, Virginia Beach, 31 December 2002 - January 2, 2003 [Don Schwab, Brenda Tekin, David Hughes], category 1, 4th Coastal Plain.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), one individual, Waynesboro, Augusta County, 12 May 2003, [Allen Lerner, Yulee Lerner, Nancy Alfred], category 3, 6th Mountains and Valleys.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), one adult and two young, Bath County, June 11, 2003, [John Drummond], category 2, 1st breeding Mountains and Valleys.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), one individual, Lake Anna, Louisa County, 24 February 2004, 6 April 2004 [Mike Boatwright, John Irvine], category 1, 2nd Piedmont.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*), one individual, Staunton, Augusta County, 28 December 2002 - 16 March 2003, [Allen Lerner], category 1, 3rd Mountains and Valleys.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) two individuals, Prince William Landfill, Prince William County, 4 October 2003 [Steve Rottenborn], category 1, 2nd Piedmont.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) one individual, Fauquier Landfill, Fauquier County, 21 December 2003 [Steve Rottenborn], category 1, 3rd Piedmont.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) one individual, Fauquier Landfill, Fauquier County, 21 December 2003 [Steve Rottenborn], category 1, 6th Piedmont.

Brown-Headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) one individual, Ragged Mountain, Albemarle County, 1 April 2004 [John Rowlett], category 1, 1st Piedmont since 2004 review list.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus neslowii*) one individual, Rapidan Berry Farm, Culpeper County, 5 May 2004 [Mike Boatwright], category 2, 1st Piedmont since 2004 review list.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) one individual, Colonial Parkway, James City County, 9 May 2004 16 May 2004 [Dan Cristol, Bill Williams], category 2, 1st Coastal Plain since 2004 review list.

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), one individual, Orange County, October 20, 2003.

Black-Chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), one female, Portsmouth, 26 29 October 2001.

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis oreganus*) one individual, Stonewall Golf Course, Prince William County, 15 December 2002.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), one individual, Neabsco Creek, Prince William County, 23 February 2004.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), one individual, Mill Creek Lake, Amherst County, 19 September 2003.

Greater White-Fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), one individual, Swoope, August County, 24-26 October 2000.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) one individual, Onancock, Accomack County, 9 December 2003.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*), one individual, Neabsco Creek, Prince William County, January 4, 2003.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), one individual, Stuarts Draft Sewage Treatment Plant, Augusta County, September 20, 2003.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), one individual, Lake Orange, Orange County, September 19, 2003.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), one individual, Hunting Creek, Fairfax County, September 19, 2003.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), two individuals, Rockfish Gap, 3 October 1999.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*), one individual, near Capeville, Northampton County, 2 June 2002.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), one individual, Little Creek, 31 December 2002.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*), 23 individuals, Swoope, Augusta County, 14 November 2003.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), one individual, Chincoteague, Accomac County, 10 May 2002.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) one individual, Ft. Story, Virginia Beach, 22 March 2004.

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Raven, the official journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), functions to publish original contributions and review articles in ornithology, not published elsewhere, mostly relating to Virginia birdlife. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor, Paul R. Cabe, Biology Department, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450 (cabep@wlu.edu).

Most manuscripts published in *The Raven* concern the distribution, abundance, and migration of birds in Virginia. Manuscripts on other ornithological topics, including Virginia-based historical reviews, bibliographical reviews, life history, and behavioral observations are also welcomed. In addition, the journal serves to publish the official proceedings of the VSO and other formal items pertaining to all aspects of the Society's activities. *The Raven* may also publish articles pertaining to the activities of various public and private organizations engaged in biological and conservation work in Virginia. *The Raven* is a peer-reviewed journal; all feature articles and short communications are reviewed before acceptance for publication.

Format of *The Raven* generally follows guidelines set by the Council for Biology Editors as outlined in the CBE style manual, 6th edition, 1994 (Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 11250 Roger Bacon Dr., Reston, VA 20190). Recent volumes of *The Raven* should be inspected for style. Vernacular and scientific names of birds should be those published in the Seventh Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds and subsequent supplements. All measurements should be reported in metric units.

Preferred submission format for manuscripts is by electronic file, prepared using Microsoft® Word or WordPerfect®. Text files should contain minimal formatting. All graphics (photos, maps, graphs, charts) must be in black and white; original size should not exceed 5 x 7 inches. Files may be submitted by email attachment (preferred) or on floppy disk or CD. Authors are encouraged to consult with the editor on additional matters of content, format or style.



The Raven

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The Virginia Society of Ornithology, Inc. exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.
2. Other forays or field trips lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.
3. A journal, *The Raven*, published twice yearly, containing articles relevant to Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.
4. A newsletter, published quarterly, containing current news items of interest to members and information about upcoming events and pertinent conservation issues.
5. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In additions, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities, or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society, are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$15.00 for active members, \$25.00 for sustaining members, \$50.00 or more for contributing members, \$400.00 for life members, and \$20.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife and their dependent children).

Editorial queries and comments may be directed to Paul R. Cabe, Biology Department, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450.

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Paul R. Cabe



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A 2005 CLIFF SWALLOW CENSUS OF THE BENJAMIN HARRISON BRIDGE

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INTRODUCTION

A 1995 comprehensive study of bank-nesting birds within the lower Chesapeake Bay (Watts, et al. 1996) revealed a total of 454 Coastal Plain Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests at 6 sites, 5 within the lower James River drainage and 1 within the lower Rappahanock River drainage. Of these sites, the Route 156 Benjamin Harrison Bridge, which traverses the James River between Prince George and Charles City counties, had 292 nests, 64% of the total nests documented. Since that study no systematic census of that breeding population has been done. Kain (1987) and Rottenborn and Brinkley (in press) list the Cliff Swallow as a rare Coastal Plain transient and breeder. This species was recommended for "special concern" status for Virginia in 1991 due to perceived loss of nesting sites (Ridd and Hale 1991). The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the status of the largest breeding colony known for the state and to evaluate the proposed status of "special concern" for the state.

METHODS

On 17 June 2005 we made a detailed census of the entire length of the Benjamin Harrison Bridge by boat. We piloted the boat beneath the bridge, through adjoining bridge piling sections, making 2 passes through each, one from up river, one from down river. As the boat passed under each span, 2 observers counted nests independently.

RESULTS

Our completed census revealed 899 active Cliff Swallow nests. At least 41 (5%) had visible young or direct fecal stain evidence of young. Of the total nest count ~75 were under construction. All nests were found on the bridge's concrete superstructures which were immediately below and at right angles to the bridge roadway. Nests were found on both the north and south facing sides of the structural support elements. No nests were found on the bridge's metal superstructure. The highest nest densities (~25-35/section) were within 150 meters of both the north and south shorelines. Nest density declined significantly from either side with proximity to the center of the bridge span. Nest placement on the bridge's concrete superstructure was consistent with the findings of the 1995 survey.

DISCUSSION

The first recorded Virginia Coastal Plain Cliff Swallow nesting was in 1979 with 12 nests located on the Benjamin Harrison Bridge (Scott 1979a, 1979b). This report was consistent with a southeast range expansion which had been occurring for some time (Brown and Brown 1995). Growth of the Benjamin Harrison Bridge colony between 1979 and 2005 has been exponential with an average doubling time of 3.9 years. Our 2005 nest count represents a 300% increase at this site since 1995, and is 199% higher than the entire Coastal Plain count documented in 1995. This count exceeded all previously reported Virginia peak nest counts, not only for the Coastal Plain, but for the Piedmont (200 active nests at Kerr Reservoir 12 June 1977), and Mountains and Valleys (55 nests in Augusta County June 1984) (Kain 1987; Rottenborn and Brinkley, in press).

Results of the 1995 study indicated that available Coastal Plain concrete structures suitable for Cliff Swallow nesting were underutilized, and that those that were occupied "had numerous sections with no nests" (Watts et al. 1996). Since the 1995 survey, the breeding colony on the Benjamin Harrison Bridge has expanded to occupy a significant portion of the available structure. Surveys of other known and potential nesting locations are needed to assess growth in the broader Coastal Plain population. Given the exponential growth of the population and the fact that the species has only recently colonized the state, we believe that proposals requesting a status of "special concern" in Virginia should be reconsidered.

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NESTING OF THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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INTRODUCTION

In eastern North America, the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) breeds southward through the Appalachian Mountains to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina (AOU 1998), northwestern South Carolina, and northeastern Georgia (Renfrow 2003, Renfrow In press). In the southern Appalachians, the species is found during the breeding season in high-elevation red spruce (*Picea rubens*)-Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) (Adams 1959, Simpson 1976, Alsop and Laughlin 1991), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) (Simpson 1976, Holt 1974, Holt 2000, Kendeigh and Fawver 1981), and eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) (Simpson 1976, McNair 1987) forests. It is considered a permanent resident in these three forest types (Simpson 1976), but apparently retreats from the boreal spruce-fir zone to lower elevations during most winters. Summer populations may also occur in second-growth red spruce (Mayfield 1993), spruce-northern hardwoods (DeGarmo 1948, Stewart and Aldrich 1949, Brooks Bird Club 1989), hemlock-northern hardwoods (Odum 1950, Holt 1974, Holt 2000, Kendeigh and Fawver 1981, Wilcove 1988), oak-dominated forests (Wilcove 1988), and table mountain (*P. pungens*)-pitch pine (*P. rigida*) heath (Stevens 1975, Kendeigh and Fawver 1981). In Virginia, Red-breasted Nuthatches are common summer residents in the spruce-fir forests on Mt. Rogers (1746 m) and Whitetop Mountain (1682 m) in Grayson, Smyth, and Washington counties and locally uncommon to rare at high elevations elsewhere in the state (Murray 1952, Kain 1987), usually above 1067 m.

During 2002, I observed two nests of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in Montgomery County, Virginia. Both nests were at elevations below 1067 m along the Poverty Creek drainage within the Blacksburg Ranger District of the Jefferson National Forest. This species' nests are not easily found, as evidenced by the paucity of nest records in the Blue Ridge region, and only two nests have heretofore been reported in Virginia (Clapp 1997). Information on its breeding biology in the southern Appalachians also seems greatly limited.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

I located the first nest on 27 April 2002. It was then being excavated about 12 m above ground in a dead pitch pine with a broken top and diameter of 26 cm at breast height. The diameter of the tree at the nest cavity was 15 cm. The nest entrance faced east and was 1 m from the top of the stub. The tree still retained most of its bark, except for a small portion 0.5 m above the nest, and only a few short, broken branches were still attached to the trunk. The nest site was at 634 m on Gap Mountain

in a wide ravine through which a small stream flowed and eventually emptied into Poverty Creek. The ground surrounding the base of the nest tree was relatively open for about 2 m, except for several small mountain laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*), and the tree was rooted beside the stream. Elsewhere, dead branches and logs littered the ground and the principal undergrowth consisted of dense rosebay rhododendrons (*Rhododendron maximum*) about 3 m tall. Other common trees in the ravine, in order of abundance, were eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), and pitch pine (*P. rigida*). Several of the white pines were nearly mature, but most of the hardwoods were only medium sized and reached heights around 25 m. A few declining eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*)—infested with the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)—and scattered dead pine stubs were also present, the latter of which are an important determinant of habitat preference for the Red-breasted Nuthatch according to Steeger and Hitchcock (1998). The most dominant overstory trees in woods on either side of the ravine, also in approximate order of abundance, were white oak (*Quercus alba*), chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), mockernut hickory (*C. tomentosa*), red maple, sugar maple, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), pitch pine, and Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*). Prominent understory vegetation consisted of mountain laurel, catawba rhododendron (*R. catawbiense*), American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), flame azalea (*R. calendulceum*), downy serviceberry, huckleberry (*Gaylusscia* sp.), blueberries (*Vaccinium* sp.) and saplings of the canopy species. The woods around the nest site was generally even aged, the largest canopy trees being at least 80 years old and varying in height from about 24 to 27 m.

Initially, the calls of an adult nuthatch led me to the nest site. I watched a male nuthatch fly to the nest tree, enter the cavity and begin excavating. After about two minutes of excavation, the male flew out of the cavity with a large bill-full of sawdust, which he carried to a branch 15 m from the nest tree and tossed away. A female nuthatch then entered the nest cavity and began excavating, frequently appearing at the entrance to throw out sawdust. The entrance was fairly small and nearly rhombic in shape vertically. This excavation process is quite similar to that described by other observers (i.e., Fernald 1890, Gunderson 1939, Cheskey 1990, Ghalambor and Martin 1999).

Cavity excavation continued through the morning of 5 May. On 10 May, I noticed a piece of dried grass protruding out the entrance from inside the cavity. Grass has been recorded as lining material in the nests of this species in other parts of its range (Hardy 1878, Webster et al. 1890, Burleigh 1921, Kilham 1975, Ghalambor and Martin 1999). I also saw what appeared to be a very small amount of conifer resin, or pitch, around the entrance. Red-breasted Nuthatches are unique in their application of resin around their nest entrance during the incubation and nestling periods (i.e. Ghalambor and Martin 1999), and most observers agree that it serves

as a deterrent to nest predators and cavity competitors (Moore 1905, Ganier 1962, Kilham 1972, 1973, 1975). Probably this behavior has a phylogenetic origin (Shaw 1916, Rand 1972, Pasquet 1998).

On 12 May, I observed apparent incubation by the female. She had two attentive periods totaling at least 49 minutes and one inattentive period of 21 minutes over a 71-minute observation period. On a return to the nest from an assumed incubation break, she carried in her bill a rather large bunch of fine 13-15-cm-long dried grasses. The female flew directly to the nest with this material and hovered briefly at the entrance before diving inside the cavity. At least one blade of grass caught on the cavity entrance, which now appeared to have slightly more resin around it. Although adults may bring nesting material to the nest throughout the nestling period (Kilham 1975, Chalambor and Martin 1999), there seem to be no records of their adding material to the nest during incubation. Nest-building has, however, been observed during the incubation period of the related Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) (Beers 1952) and during the egg-laying period of the Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) (Norris 1958). While the female was in the nest, the male made five visits to the entrance to feed her, and I often heard him singing loudly in the surrounding area.

On 15 May, using a spotting scope, I observed numerous resin globules around the cavity entrance and its rim, especially just below the hole. Soft bits of grass and fur were at the base of the rim, which supposedly help prevent the young from getting stuck when they fledge (Kilham 1975). On 28 May, I made observations on activities at the nest between 16:58 EDT and 17:43 EDT. During this period both adults fed young in the nest and the female brooded them three times. I also noticed that more fur and other small debris (i.e. dried grass) were continuing to build up at the base of the entrance. Additional amounts of resin had been placed around the entrance hole, the globules sparkling brightly when the sun shone on the nest tree.

On 2 June, the adults were feeding the nestlings every few minutes. Between 07:50 EDT and 08:29 EDT the young were fed at least eight times. The adults' feeding visits lasted approximately 10 seconds, but once the female brooded the young for 12 minutes after entering the nest with food. While she was inside, the male arrived at the nest entrance and fed her as he had during incubation. The female came to the top of the nest cavity, received the food, and then dropped back down to continue brooding.

Young were still in the nest on 8 June. Between 07:00 EDT and 08:10 EDT the male made 14 feeding visits and the female eight feeding visits. The female also brooded the young three times for periods of 1.5, 3, and 17 minutes after feeding them. During the 17-minute period I heard the male singing about 30 m from the nest tree. The adults were carrying in much larger bill-fulls of food and three times I saw them carry in rather large caterpillars for the young. Furthermore, they looked out the entrance for several seconds immediately after entering, with food still in their bills. Similar behavior was observed by Gunderson (1939) in her study of a nest in California. This was also the first date on which I observed them carrying off fecal sacs. Numerous resin globules were now surrounding the entrance; they had been

placed and smeared on either side of the hole, about 5 cm above it, and extended as far as 25 cm down the trunk. More tiny bits of fur and grass also coated the rim.

On 15 June, a minimum of two young (visible at the entrance hole) were on the verge of fledging. Between 08:38 EDT and 09:50 EDT the male made 17 feeding visits and the female 19. Fecal sacs were voided only after a nestling was fed and I could see only one nestling void after any given feeding visit. Fecal sacs were only voided after a nestling was fed and I could see only one nestling void after each feeding visit. The nestling would turn completely around and point its cloaca skyward and slightly out the entrance in the presence of an adult. Upon delivery, the adult would grab the fecal sac in its bill and carry it far from the nest. This behavior has been described by Kilham (1972) as an adaptation to dealing with the resin at the nest.

The young appeared to have fledged by 22 June. Because activities at this nest were followed closely, fairly accurate backdating suggests the approximate date on which the first of the two eggs (minimum) was laid. The nestling period for Red-breasted Nuthatches has been documented as lasting 14-21 days (Moore 1905, Shaw 1916, Tyler 1948, deKirlin 1954, Kilham 1975, Cheskey 1990). Assuming the young in this nest fledged on 15 June, and given the maximum 21-day nestling period, they may have hatched on 26 May. This would seem consistent since the adults were first seen feeding young in the nest on 28 May. The incubation period for this species has been variously stated as lasting 12-13 days (Moore 1905, Tyler 1948, Kilham 1975, Cheskey 1990). Given the maximum 13 days to calculate the incubation period, the first egg of the clutch could have been laid on 14 May. Although this is inconsistent with my observations, which suggest that incubation was already underway by 12 May, the lengths of both periods have been poorly studied rangewide, rendering any explanations as speculative.

When I returned to this site in June 2003, I found the nest tree on the ground. The section in which the nest cavity had been excavated had a small puncture on the outer wall. The nest materials were gone, but I was still able to take accurate measurements of the cavity itself. The dimensions were: distance from back of cavity to outer entrance 6.7 cm; width of cavity entrance 2.8 cm; height of cavity entrance 3.6 cm; width of front wall of cavity 1 cm; inner depth of cavity (from base of entrance to bottom of cavity) 10.7 cm; inner width of cavity 7.3 cm.

I found a second nest on 2 June 2002 almost 1.5 km northeast from the first. The cavity was approximately 7 m above ground in a dead 9-m-tall eastern hemlock with a broken top and 24 cm dbh. At the height of the nest the diameter was approximately 18 cm. The nest entrance faced north and was at least 1 m from the top of the stub. The tree still had most of its bark and lower limbs, but its wood was punky. It was located at 616 m at the base of Gap Mountain and had grown on level ground above a ravine through which a stream flowed and emptied into Poverty Creek about 45 m distant. Prominent vegetation in the ravine, in order of abundance, consisted of rosebay rhododendron, white oak, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, and witch-hazel. Woods on either side of the ravine were very similar to those described in the first nest record. Trees immediately surrounding

the nest tree included eastern hemlocks, eastern white pines, sugar maples, and sourwoods. A few tall rosebay rhododendrons were also present and dead snags were abundant in the vicinity. The ground at the base of the nest tree was fairly clear of underbrush, but numerous logs and fallen snags lay on the forest floor. Vegetation in the riparian zone along nearby Poverty Creek consisted principally of old growth eastern hemlock, white pine, pitch pine, white oak, northern red oak, red maple, and sugar maple. Some of the hemlocks and white pines were at least 0.8 m in diameter. Rosebay rhododendron was also quite common along the creek banks in close association with American hornbeam, red maple, sugar maple, striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) black birch, and witch-hazel. In woods between the nest site and the creek there was a swampy area in which skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) was abundant.

On 2 June, I observed the male feed his mate. The female then flew to a dead hemlock stub, entered a cavity and stayed inside. The rather small entrance appeared quite fresh and was slightly oval in shape horizontally. Characteristically, resin was smeared around it. On 8 June, I watched the male feed the female at the entrance. Afterwards the female flew out and the pair fed together in trees nearby. The male fed the female at least once while she was out of the nest. On the female's return to the nest she carried several short dried grasses in her bill. The male fed her at the entrance once more during the time I watched and she was still in the nest when I left the area.

Both adults were feeding young in the nest when I visited the site on 15 June. Between 10:20 EDT and 10:54 EDT both adults fed the young a total of six times. The male made four feeding visits and the female two. The female was also brooding the young after feeding them. The adults lit on branches near the nest before flying to it and entered and exited the cavity with great rapidity, sometimes hovering very briefly just outside the hole before diving inside. They invariably looked out of the entrance after entering, with food still in their bills. Both also flew upward upon exiting the nest. The adults were generally silent around the nest, but the male occasionally gave soft 'ank' notes when he flew from the cavity.

On 22 June, the adults were making frequent trips to the nest with food and the female was brooding the young for short periods after feeding them. More resin had also accumulated around the nest entrance. Between 10:48 EDT and 11:30 EDT the male made six feeding visits to the nest and the female at least one. When the female arrived at the nest I saw that she was carrying a rather large spider (possibly Gnaphosidae) in her bill. When I returned to the nest site on 30 June, the nest was empty. The entrance was plastered with a considerable amount of conifer resin and small plant debris, and there was no sign of disturbance around the hole.

DISCUSSION

At least two breeding pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in the Poverty Creek valley, or Poverty Hollow as it locally known, during the spring and summer of 2002. J.W. Murray (unpub. data) recorded an individual in the valley on 10 May 1973, at which time nesting could have been underway. Dr. C.

S. Adkisson (pers. comm.) frequently observed the species during the summer months throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. J.A. Groth (*vide* Hall 1983) also recorded it in June or July 1983. Smyth (1912) stated that during his 21-year stay in Montgomery County he "secured two [Red-breasted Nuthatches] on August 12, 1899, which seemed to be young, just fledged," and another on 1 September, but gave no year or location. An examination of Smyth's specimens, housed at VPI & SU, revealed two juveniles that were both collected on 1 September 1894 according to their labels. Although Smyth seems to have made most of his observations around Blacksburg, he did occasionally visit Poverty Hollow (Smyth 1997), so it is possible that he found the young in the valley.

The species' occurrence in Poverty Hollow is probably related to the existence of a frost pocket along Poverty Creek (C.S. Adkisson pers. comm.), which may allow species more characteristic of higher elevations to persist. In fact, the idea of a Canadian zone in Montgomery County was proposed by Bailey (1946), who placed the zone in the extreme northwestern portion of the county. In his map, Bailey roughly included Gap and Brush mountains and the Poverty Creek valley between them as part of the Canadian region, evidently based on the unpublished corroboration of A. H. Clark. Watson (1948) disputed the claim, stating that he had explored the area in past years and again in June 1948 and found the avifauna uncharacteristic of a Canadian zone, especially in relation to its low elevation. In addition, Watson thought there was nothing in the area at all resembling a Canadian zone based on his 1948 observations. Unfortunately, however, he explored only the higher portions of Gap Mountain, and for reasons unexplained did not visit or thoroughly survey the lower areas of the valley along the Poverty Creek drainage. It is in this section that the valley does indeed possess a distinctly "northern" character, but not Canadian. Since at least the 1960s, bird species such as Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Phoebeastacus ludovicianus*) have also been found in small numbers with some regularity in the "frost pocket" region of the valley during the summer (Murray 1974, unpub. data, C.S. Adkisson pers. comm., R.S. Mays unpub. data). Private land holdings here may have prevented Watson from visiting the section in the 1940s, and reforestation and maturation of the forest since that time has probably caused some change in the avifauna.

Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were breeding in Poverty Hollow during 2002, there are no long-term data to substantiate that they are present in the valley each summer. I did not observe them at this locale at any time during the summer of 2003, despite numerous searches in most parts of the valley. The hemlock site used by the 2002 nesting pair was not reused in 2003. And, there is no documentation of the species reusing nest sites from a previous year (Ghalambor and Martin 1999). In the southern Appalachians the Red-breasted Nuthatch is known for its yearly fluctuation in numbers each breeding season (McNair 1987). This fluctuation supposedly correlates with conifer seed crops of the preceding fall and winter (Burleigh 1941, Stupka 1963, Phillips 1979), but the bird is regularly present and most numerous during the breeding season in the spruce-fir zone on

the higher mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia (Burleigh 1941, Stupka 1963, Simpson 1976, Kain 1987, McNair and Nicholson 1997) regardless of seed abundance, suggesting that resident populations occur at those elevations. It seems more likely that the breeding nuthatches in the Poverty Creek valley are normally present only after fall and winter irruptions, which generally take place on alternate years when northern individuals migrate south into the central and southern United States (Bock and Lepthien 1972). During the winter of 2001-2002 the bird was quite common in Montgomery County (R.S. Mays pers. obs.), but during the winter of 2002-2003 it was extremely scarce and I did not observe it in Poverty Hollow.

While the habitat in this valley can support breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches and nesting has now been confirmed, only future censuses will determine whether the species breeds there regularly and to what extent. The decline of the eastern hemlock, an important member of the flora in Poverty Hollow, will likely have some effect. Observers should report any records of Red-breasted Nuthatches found during the breeding season in Montgomery County and adjoining areas. Additional information on their breeding status in other counties in Virginia would also be helpful.

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FLUCTUATIONS IN MIGRANT MERLIN TOTALS AT KIPTOPEKE, VIRGINIA, 1987-2005

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Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) are conspicuous migrants past the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, at the tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore, in late summer and fall (Taber 1995 & 1998). They are rare during late August (pers. obs.) and early September, but become numerous, on a daily basis, from mid-September to early October. By November, they are again quite rare as migrants. Merlin totals, as recorded at the hawkwatch, have fluctuated greatly during the period 1987-2005 (Williams 2002 and pers.obs.).

An effort to record migrant hawk and vulture numbers has been made by hawkwatch volunteers and paid staff since 1977, however, coverage was irregular during the early years. From 1987, when coverage first surpassed 400 hours for the season, to 2005, the hawkwatch effort has been very thorough, often dawn to dusk, especially during the peak time of passage for Merlins. From 1995 to 2005 professional staff, hired by Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO), have conducted the count, assisted by volunteers, usually from 1 September through 30 November. Caution must be used when drawing conclusions about the size of seasonal movements of a particular species, even with consistent coverage, because weather patterns can affect the flights, however, the period from 1987-2005 should be a dependable gauge of the relative size of the Merlin migration at Kiptopeke.

An examination of the data (see Table 1) reveals a wide fluctuation in total Merlin numbers, from a record high of 2780 to a low of 285. The record high represented 5% of that season's hawk and vulture flight, while the low represented 3% of that season's flight. Merlin totals for all of the years from 1987 through 2005 were between three and five per cent of the season's flights, with exceptions in 1993 of 2% , in 1998, when Merlins comprised a very large 9% , in 2003 when it was 7% and in 2004 when it was 8%. Fluctuations in another migrant raptor species, Northern Saw-whet Owl, have also been noted in the Kiptopeke area, with prey availability a probable cause of change in this irruptive species (Watts 2002). An extensive examination of fluctuations in other raptor species, recorded at Kiptopeke, has not been undertaken, however during the period 1987-2005, other raptor species have also shown fluctuations (Williams 2002 and pers. obs.).

From 1987 through 1994, Merlin totals were fairly consistent, averaging 449. There was then a dramatic increase, from 1995 through 1999, coinciding with the hiring of professional staff and an increase in coverage, when the average was

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	403	469	516	495	285	423	366	635	2126	2282	2780	2251	2086	1132	950	879	1477	1609	1521
Birds/hr	1	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	2.2	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.7	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.9	2	1.8
Season hot	404	426	386	470	540	574	607	696	967	967	957	832	776	695	804	724	770	824	838
% Merlin	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	5%	9%	5%	4%	3%	4%	7%	8%	5%

Table 1. Merlins Recorded at the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch. % Merlin records the percent of all raptors observed which were Merlins.

2305. Despite the continued use of professional staff, however, a downward trend continued from 2000 through 2002, illustrating that other variables were involved besides the type of coverage. There was then another sharp increase in 2003 and 2004, which held steady through 2005. One caveat to the interpretation of the 2000-2002 decline is that the percentage of Merlins in the total raptors counted stayed relatively constant. There was a general decline in numbers of all species, suggesting perhaps impacts of weather on observations.

Merlins observed by the hawkwatch staff and volunteers at Kiptopeke are not recorded by sex or age, since separating adult females from immature birds is difficult. Adult male Merlins, which can be identified on the wing, are extremely rare there (pers.obs.). Some information is available from Kiptopeke raptor banding records. In 2000, hawk banders there reported only 18 non-hatching-year birds caught out of 126 total birds (Sullivan 2000); in 2001 and 2002, only two non-hatching-year birds were caught out of 118 total birds (Aygen 2001, 2002). The hawk banding effort has not been standardized in regard to number of trapping stations used and number of banding hours per season, so a comparison of actual banding totals from year-to-year is not relevant. The limited data available do suggest that well over 90% of the Merlins recorded at Kiptopeke are hatch-year birds, so breeding productivity, based on prey availability and perhaps weather conditions such as drought or excessive rainfall at the breeding sites are likely explanations for the fluctuations.

Another explanation for fluctuations relates to the timing and route of Merlins. They pass through the Kiptopeke area during a generally shorter time period than other species and often they occur in relatively large numbers on a few days, so fluctuations in total numbers recorded could be caused if those "big days" took place just offshore to the east and were missed by hawk counters. Fluctuations in Merlin totals, due to differing abilities of observers are less likely, as there is generally a corps of observers at the hawkwatch.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to CVWO hawkwatch staff Brian Sullivan (1995-1997), Marshall Iliff (1998), Sue Hopkins (1999), Calvin Brennan (2000-2001), Zach Smith (2002), Jen Ottinger (2003) and Sam Stuart (2004-2005) and to the many volunteers who have assisted. Thanks also to Bill Williams, who coordinated the hawkwatch from the beginning until 2002, when Bob

Anderson, CVWO Raptor Research Team Leader began coordinating and to Earl Hodnett and Bob Anderson for their coordination of the Raptor Banding Team at Kiptopeke. Thanks also to Kiptopeke State Park Managers Scott Flickinger, Dave Summers and Sam Sweeney for hosting the work of the Observatory.

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THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY 2005 RUSSELL AND WISE COUNTY FORAY

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INTRODUCTION

The Virginia Society of Ornithology conducted its thirty-fifth Breeding Bird Foray on June 4-12, 2005 in Russell and Wise Counties. The last foray held in southwestern Virginia covered Lee County in 1992 and included the southwest corner Wise County, which borders Lee County to the northeast (Dalmás 1993). Other previous surveys in the region primarily targeted either Mount Rogers (Scott 1966; Scott 1974; Scott 1980) or Tazewell County (Scott 1972; Peake 1986), and these forays also included limited portions of the southeast corner of Russell County, specifically Laurel Bed Lake and Beartown Mountain. Additionally, the 1984 foray encompassed portions of Dickenson and Buchanan Counties to the immediate northeast of Wise County, while focusing on Breaks Interstate Park (Peake 1986). Most of Russell and Wise Counties, however, have not received previous attention by the V.S.O., and no formal monitoring has taken place in extreme southwestern Virginia within the last twelve years. The objective of this survey was therefore to evaluate the avian diversity of these counties and to determine whether their current species diversities may reflect regional changes in avifauna over the last four decades since the V.S.O initiated the Breeding Bird Foray.

METHODS

Surveys were conducted exclusively in Russell and Wise Counties, Virginia. Russell County lies within the Valley and Ridge physiogeographic province and ranges in elevation from approximately 1,000 to 4,500 feet. The topography of the county features a roughly parallel series of valleys and ridges oriented in a southwest-northeast direction, with the Clinch River running down its center. While the linear Clinch Mountain forms its southern border, the edge of the Appalachian Plateau lies within its northern perimeter. Covering an area of 475 square miles, Russell County has a human population of nearly 29,000, primarily concentrated within its lower elevation valleys. These lowlands, the most prominent of which is Elk Garden, are characterized by scattered hayfields, pastureland and small developed communities, the largest of which is Lebanon, with about 3,200 residents. With the exception of the summit of Beartown Mountain, which holds a spruce-fir forest community, Russell County's higher elevations are generally covered by mature eastern deciduous forest. Beartown Mountain was not covered by this foray.

Nine foray participants spent approximately 41 hours surveying birds by both foot and car. The majority of survey time was spent along state and county roadways including Virginia State Route 71 and Russell County Routes 656, 640, 645, 614, and 676. Additionally, one party surveyed by foot the perimeter of Laurel Bed Lake in the extreme southeast corner of the county, and another covered seven miles of a logging road that runs parallel to the crest of Clinch Mountain at an elevation of around 3,800 feet. The crest line of Clinch Mountain reaches nearly 4,300 feet. The habitat surrounding this logging road was mature deciduous forest broken occasionally by logging activity.

Wise County lies within the Appalachian Plateau Province, and most of its 404 square miles are forested. While the majority of its area ranges between 1,000 and 3,000 feet in elevation, High Knob, situated between Little and Stone Mountains near the southern edge of the county, is Wise County's highest point at 4,223 feet. Developed population centers include Big Stone Gap, Norton, and Wise, but the majority of the county's 42,000 residents live within the narrow valleys along U.S. Routes 23 and 58 and Virginia State Routes 72 and 74.

Two parties (three participants) spent roughly 30 hours surveying mainly on foot, but covering several travel routes by car. Sites surveyed by foot were trails within High Knob Recreation Area and Guest River Gorge, and along Roaring Branch, all located in the southern half of Wise County. High Knob habitat features mature northern red oak/hickory forest and spruce-fir stands at its highest elevations. The Guest River Gorge and Roaring Branch Trails are situated along cascading rivers in steep-sided ravines at 1,600 to 2,400 feet in elevation. Both sites are heavily forested, with eastern hemlock, tulip popular, and yellow birch among their characteristic tree species. Rhododendron thickets provide dense understory habitat. Auto routes surveyed in Wise County were FR 238, county route 706, and Virginia State Route 72 north of Coeburn. Finally, one party spent 1.5 hours (2030 – 2200 hours) during one evening listening for owls.

All foray participants recorded abundance estimates for each species detected. High counts only are reported for the few cases where routes were covered twice by different surveyors. In addition, participants reported direct signs of breeding activity.

RESULTS

For Russell and Wise Counties collectively, 114 species were reported during the survey period, representing 13 orders and 37 families (Table 1). European Starlings were most abundant, followed by Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and American Robins (Fig. 1; Table 2). Only one individual each was reported for eleven species (Fig. 1; Table 2), but all of them have been previously seen in this region of the state. Reported along the greatest number of survey routes were Blue Jays, American Crows, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Eastern Towhees.

Only limited comparison between the two counties is possible, given that Russell County was surveyed more extensively than Wise. Nonetheless, the

Figure 1. Frequency distribution of absolute abundances of all species reported.

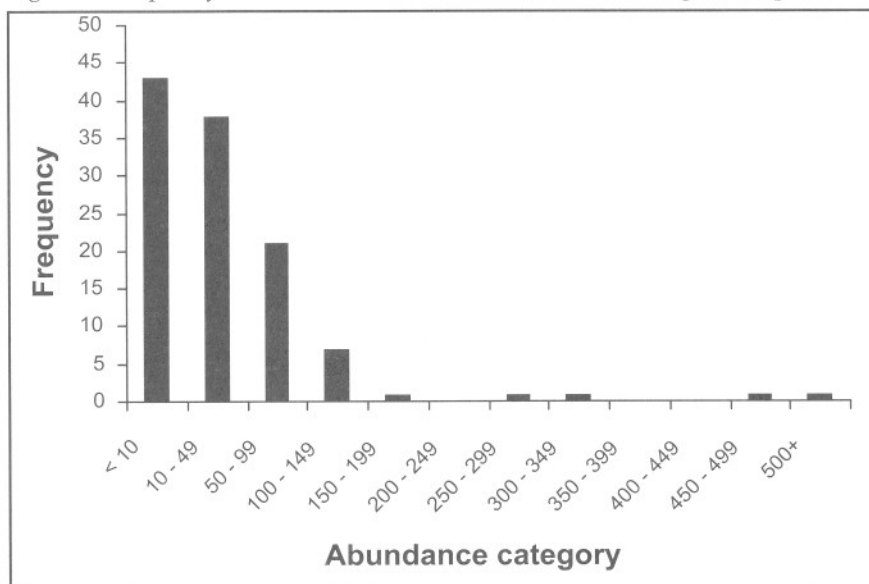


Table 1. Total counts for each county and the overall number of survey sites at which each species was reported (Distinct Reports) during the 2005 VSO Foray in Russell and Wise Counties.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Distinct Reports	Russell County	Wise County
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	2	8	
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	1		1
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	5	
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	1		3
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	3	2	3
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	1	1	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	3	2	4
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	3	3	2
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	3	15	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	9	94	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	2		3
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	2	2	2
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	3	3	1
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	6	9	5
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	3	5	1
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	6	26	8
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1	1	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	4	5	35

Common Name	Scientific Name	Distinct Reports	Russell County	Wise County
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	7	73	16
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	2	5	
Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>	1	1	
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	3		6
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	1		1
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	2		5
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	9	58	12
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	6	14	8
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	1	1	
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	1	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	6	7	3
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	4	4	3
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	7	5	16
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	7	13	8
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	7	7	12
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	9	19	39
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	6	6	25
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	4	2	3
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	4	4	77
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	7	28	11
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	5	9	
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	6	28	2
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	3	6	
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	4	4	4
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	5	3	10
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	6	15	58
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	1	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	9	41	64
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	11	56	29
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	10	110	43
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1		2
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	1		2
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	2	12	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	7	36	2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	6	14	21
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	6	73	15

Common Name	Scientific Name	Distinct Reports	Russell County	Wise County
Carolina Chickadee	Poecile carolinensis	5	17	8
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	3	0	5
Tufted Titmouse	Baeolophus bicolor	9	27	21
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis	6	8	7
Carolina Wren	Thryothorus ludovicianus	8	38	29
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	5	27	1
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	1		1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Poliophtila caerulea	5	9	5
Eastern Bluebird	Sialia sialis	5	38	4
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	4	23	112
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	9	22	45
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	9	137	116
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	10	22	19
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	7	58	9
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	10	38	4
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	7	446	190
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	6	22	2
Northern Parula	Parula americana	6	7	11
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	6	17	8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	4	22	68
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	3	6	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	4	18	37
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	4	3	26
Blackburnian Warbler	Dendroica fusca	2		7
Yellow-throated Warbler	Dendroica dominica	1	1	
Prairie Warbler	Dendroica discolor	3	7	
Cerulean Warbler	Dendroica cerulea	2		4
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	6	8	47
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	5	4	47
Worm-eating Warbler	Helmitheros vermivorum	3	1	4
Swainson's Warbler	Limnithlypis swainsonii	1		4
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	8	13	46
Louisiana Waterthrush	Seiurus motacilla	4	2	6
Kentucky Warbler	Oporornis formosus	1	1	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Distinct Reports	Russell County	Wise County
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	2	9	
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	6	9	51
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	4	11	10
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	59	2	
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	1	1	
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	8	14	32
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	10	63	40
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	6	66	10
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	7	51	11
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	5	12	3
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	8	141	32
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	4	20	61
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	8	59	15
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	4	10	10
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	3	4	
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	9	92	50
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	1	5	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	8	295	19
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	6	123	5
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	7	459	12
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	6	20	12
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	5	19	1
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	5	13	2
House Finch.	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	4	7	2
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	9	107	22
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	4	8	33

Russell County species total (102) was only marginally greater than that of Wise County (94). European Starlings were still most common in each county considered separately, but between the two counties, a number of species differed notably in abundance. For example, interior forest species such as Veeries, Least Flycatchers, and several warblers, including American Redstarts and Black-and-white and Blackburnian Warblers, were markedly more common in the Wise County survey sites. In contrast, edge and disturbance-tolerant species such as Mourning Doves, Northern Mockingbirds, Song Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Common Grackles were far more abundant in Russell County.

Table 2. Direct signs of breeding activity by birds in Russell and Wise Counties.

Species	Sign of breeding activity				Nestlings	Juveniles/ Immatures	Paired/ Courtship	Misc./ Unspecified
	Carrying Food	Carrying Nest Material	Nests					
Wood Duck					X			
Mallard						X		
Green Heron					X			
Killdeer					X			
Mourning Dove								X
Barred Owl					X			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird								X
Red-headed Woodpecker								X
Red-bellied Woodpecker								X
Downy Woodpecker								X
Hairy Woodpecker						X		
Northern Flicker	X							
Pileated Woodpecker						X		X
Least Flycatcher								
Eastern Kingbird	X							
Loggerhead Shrike					X			
Blue-headed Vireo	X							
Red-eyed Vireo					X		X	
Blue Jay		X						
Horned Lark						X		
Purple Martin			X					
Tree Swallow			X					
Carolina Chickadee								X
Tufted Titmouse								X
White-breasted Nuthatch				X		X		
Carolina Wren						X		

Direct signs of breeding activity, ranging from observations of pairs to parents accompanying juveniles, were observed in 52 species (Table 2). Other species not included in Table 2 were heard singing. The most frequently reported breeding sign was food carrying. Notable sightings of juveniles were two fledgling Loggerhead Shrikes being fed by adults along Route 682 in Russell County (Dalmas and Dalmas) and three juvenile Barred Owls at High Knob Recreation Area (Drummond).

DISCUSSION

The previous forays with most applicable comparisons to Russell County were the Washington County foray, held in 1966 (Scott 1966), and the Tazewell County forays conducted in 1972 (Scott 1973) and 1986 (Peake 1987). These two counties border Russell County and have the greatest physiogeographic similarity with it compared to other counties in the region where forays have been held. Although total numbers of species detected in these surveys (Washington Co., 117 species; Tazewell Co., 119 and 126, respectively) do not differ greatly from what was found in 2005 for Russell County, many species were reported in far fewer numbers. For example, while the peak count for Chestnut-sided Warblers at Laurel Bed Lake was 40 in 1972 (Scott 1973), it was only three in 2005 (Dalmas and Dalmas). Black-throated Green Warblers were described as "common" in 1972 (Scott 1973), but again, only three were seen during this foray (Talbot et al.). Northern Bobwhite were also classified as "common" in 1966 (Scott 1966) and 1972 (Scott 1973), but were scarce in Tazewell County by 1986 (Peake 1987). Only one was detected in Russell County this year (Dalmas), which is consistent with the well-documented decline of this species in the southeastern U.S. over the last several decades (Williams et al 2004).

Several species were consistently reported during these past forays, but were conspicuously absent this year in Russell County, including Wood Ducks, American Woodcocks, Blue-winged Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, and Vesper Sparrows. Whereas American Woodcocks and Blue-winged Warblers were previously recorded in only small numbers, the other three species were both described as "fairly common" in 1972 (Scott 1973), and only Golden-winged Warblers had noticeably declined in Tazewell County by 1986 (Peake 1987). Golden-winged Warblers are included on the Partners-In-Flight Watch List (Pashley et al. 2000), and the failure to detect them during this foray most likely reflects the real population declines recently observed throughout the southeastern portion of its range. Klaus and Buehler (2001) found that Golden-winged Warblers in the southern Appalachians of eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina prefer regenerating forest and tend to nest along edges between maturing forest stands and open habitat patches free of woody vegetation. It is possible that such habitat was not visited by surveyors this year, but perhaps such habitat has declined in southwestern Virginia and may partially explain why this species was not detected.

Vesper Sparrows have undergone some population decline across North America, but this decline has been geographically limited and has been mainly attributed to habitat loss (U.S. Breeding Bird Survey). It is unknown why they were not detected in Russell County this year, since their numbers have experienced

VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING, 2005

May 6 – May 8
Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk, VA

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 8 PM
Business Meeting, Teta Kain, President, presiding

Opening remarks

Teta welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended thanks particularly to Clark and Marilyn White of the Cape Henry Audubon Society and Betty Ann Galway from the Botanical Gardens for organizing the meeting.

Bylaws changes

Thelma Dalmas announced the proposed changes to the Bylaws which have been approved by the officers and directors:

1. Increase the number of directors from 16 to 17 by adding the position of Membership Secretary (Articles of Incorporation, Paragraph E; Bylaws, Article II, Section II). Add the Membership Secretary to the list of officers of the corporation and increase the number of officers from four to five (Articles of Incorporation, Paragraph F; Bylaws, Article II, Section 1). Add Membership Secretary to the list of Executive Committee members (Bylaws, Article V, Section 1). Replace Membership Chair with Membership Secretary in reference to who will be bonded (Bylaws, Article VI, Section VI).
2. Add the words "of the Board of Directors" after the word "members" in the Articles of Incorporation, Paragraph C.1 and the Bylaws, Article 1, Section II(a).
3. The address of the registered office of the corporation will be updated to reflect the address of the organization's current attorney.
4. Under classes of members, delete the description of Family Membership [Bylaws Section II, (b), (5)]

President Teta Kain called for a motion on the Bylaws changes. It was made and carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Thelma, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the nominations of the officers and directors to take effect on July 1.

President: John Spahr

Vice-President: John Zimmerman

Secretary: Jennifer Gaden

Treasurer: Barbara Thrasher

Raven Editor: Paul Cabe

Newsletter Editors: Linda Fields and Alan Schreck

New Members on the Board of Directors:

Andrew Dolby

Tom Hunter

Sandy Spencer

President Teta Kain asked for further nominations for officers and directors from the floor. None was made. She called for a motion to accept the slate of officers and directors. It was made and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Thrasher

Balance as of January 1, 2004:

General Fund	49,000 plus
Other Funds	106,000 plus
Receipts	21,000 plus
Disbursements	22,905 (<i>Virginia Birds</i> 1,200 plus)
End of 2004:	

General Fund 44,798.80

Other Funds 108,566.08

Announcements – Teta Kain

Linda Fields and Alan Schreck were scouting for the World Series of Birding and support for this effort is needed.

Steve Rottenborn has completed the first draft of the Gold Book and he hopes to have it ready by the annual meeting next year.

Program -

Teta introduced Brian Sullivan from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology who gave a power point presentation about eBird.

Clark White introduced Tom Gwynn who gave a slide presentation on a variety of birds.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Paper Session, 1:30 pm

Following are the speakers and the topics they discussed: (Summaries on file)

1. Bill Williams, A Comparative Summary of the Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 Cape Charles Seabird Watch.
2. Bill Williams, An Overview of the First 30 Years of Beach-Nesting and Colonial Waterbird Surveys on the Virginia Coast Reserve.
3. Sandy Spencer, Winter Grassland Bird Pilot Study – Third Year 2005 at Rappahannock River Valley NWR.
4. Ruth Boettcher, An Overview of the Status and Distribution of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) in Virginia.
5. Brian Arquilla, Impact of Predation on Ground Nesting Avifauna
6. Ruth A. Beck, Long-Term Bird Use of the Craney Island Dredge Material Site in Portsmouth, Virginia.

BANQUET, 7 pm

Opening Remarks - Teta thanked the Cape Henry Audubon Society for hosting the annual meeting. She also thanked the VSO Board for all of their hard work.

Murray Award

Caitlin Knight was awarded \$1000 for her work on human effects on distribution of cavity nesters.

Teta reminded people that the Northern Neck chapter donates \$1000 every year to enable the VSO to make a second Murray award. This year it went to Brian Arquilla whose project concerned the Impact of Predation on Ground Nesting Avifauna.

Appreciation

John Spahr presented Teta Kain with a VSO Raven pin in appreciation of all the work that she has done for the VSO over the years.

Acknowledgements

Clark White, General Chairman of the annual meeting, thanked the many people who helped to make the weekend a success:

Betty Ann Galway, Perry Mathewes and the staff of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens

VSO Board of Directors

Tom Gwynn and David Hughes and the drivers and leaders of field trips

Bob Ake for organizing the paper session and getting the keynote speaker

Cape Henry Audubon Society

Clark's "beautiful bride" Marilyn for hospitality / arrangements

Caterers, exhibitors, vendors

Speakers

Bob Ake introduced Robert Ridgeley from the American Bird Conservancy who spoke about Conserving the Most Endangered Birds.

The evening was concluded by an auction and door prize drawing presided over by David Whitehurst.

Respectfully submitted by
Jennifer Gaden

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Raven, the official journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), functions to publish original contributions and review articles in ornithology, not published elsewhere, mostly relating to Virginia birdlife. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor, Paul R. Cabe, Biology Department, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450 (cabep@wlu.edu).

Most manuscripts published in *The Raven* concern the distribution, abundance, and migration of birds in Virginia. Manuscripts on other ornithological topics, including Virginia-based historical reviews, bibliographical reviews, life history, and behavioral observations are also welcomed. In addition, the journal serves to publish the official proceedings of the VSO and other formal items pertaining to all aspects of the Society's activities. *The Raven* may also publish articles pertaining to the activities of various public and private organizations engaged in biological and conservation work in Virginia. *The Raven* is a peer-reviewed journal; all feature articles and short communications are reviewed before acceptance for publication.

Format of *The Raven* generally follows guidelines set by the Council for Biology Editors as outlined in the CBE style manual, 6th edition, 1994 (Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 11250 Roger Bacon Dr., Reston, VA 20190). Recent volumes of *The Raven* should be inspected for style. Vernacular and scientific names of birds should be those published in the Seventh Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds and subsequent supplements. All measurements should be reported in metric units.

Preferred submission format for manuscripts is by electronic file, prepared using Microsoft® Word or WordPerfect®. Text files should contain minimal formatting. All graphics (photos, maps, graphs, charts) must be in black and white; original size should not exceed 5 x 7 inches. Files may be submitted by email attachment (preferred) or on floppy disk or CD. Authors are encouraged to consult with the editor on additional matters of content, format or style.

