

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, the VSO 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 addition, some local chapters of the Society 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 and should contact Thelma Dalmas, the Membership Secretary. Annual dues are \$20.00 for active members, \$35.00 for sustaining members, \$60.00 or more for contributing members, \$500.00 for life members, and \$25.00 for family members.

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Editor
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VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: 2010-2011 SEASON

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Of the 52 counts usually held in Virginia, only Lake Anna was missing from the lineup in the 2010-11 Christmas Bird Counts. All other counts took place as expected, although Chincoteague had the misfortune of being scheduled on 29 December, which was the day after a fierce, fast-moving snowstorm hit the Eastern Shore. Even though the event was officially cancelled, a few hardy souls persevered and covered the few areas that were accessible. The results of their efforts are included in the tables. Though fierce snowstorms and heavy weather did not rip through the state as they had during the previous year's Christmas count period, colder-than-usual conditions prevailed throughout most of the state with only nine counts reporting temperatures above 50°.

The number of species found on all counts was 205, five more than last year's total. This year birders added three species which were new to the Virginia counts, and great finds they were, indeed! What adjectives can adequately describe the happy astonishment of finding a Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) at Cape Charles on count day? The beautiful little female was obliging enough to hang around for over a week, and many Virginia birders were able to stop by to see it and obtain photographs. It was only the second record of this species for the state.

The same can be said for the Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) that showed up on The Plains count. With no camera right at hand for the short time it was perched, it was not possible to photograph the bird, but it was studied carefully by two observers, one a novice, but the other a seasoned birder. Extensive field notes described the bird and its behavior thoroughly.

The third newcomer to the counts was a Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*) on a feeder in the Calmes Neck count circle. Again, very thorough field notes were taken, but the bird did not stay quite long enough to be photographed. The observer waited patiently for the next few days for it to return, but it was never seen again. Documentation for this species has been accepted by VARCOM, but review of the other two species must be completed and accepted to be officially counted on the CBC list.

Frigid weather around the state resulted in many counts finding very few ducks and geese, as their favorite lakes,

ponds, and streams were mostly frozen over. The state total of 17,934 Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) was the lowest since 2002. Oddly, even though coverage of Chincoteague was scanty, the 13,455 of this species for that circle was more than had been recorded there in the previous four years. Numbers at Wachapreague, Nassawaddox, Cape Charles, and Back Bay were, however, way down. Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) was a first for Darlington Heights, as was Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) and Redhead (*Aythya americana*) in Giles County. A Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) was new for Mount Rogers-Whitetop. That count, by the way, found a record number of 55 species this year.

The five Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) at Airlie on The Plains count have interesting histories, as explained by compiler Todd Day: "Three [swans] had neck collars, numbered 0A4, R47, and R48. 0A4 has returned for several years, and was originally banded in Ohio during their re-introduction efforts. R47 and R48 appeared at Airlie last year, likely from Ohio, but were unmarked. They were captured and banded at Airlie. They both returned this year. 0A4 has returned with another collared bird (one that was introduced at Airlie but has paired with 0A4 and travels with it). However, they have an unmarked cygnet with it. R48 had an unmarked adult Trumpeter with it. Obviously, these are not truly wild birds. However, Trumpeter Swan sightings in Virginia are becoming more numerous, and this group of birds is well studied, giving us, at least, some insight as to the movement of these birds." A sixth Trumpeter Swan was at Roanoke and a handsome, close-up photograph of the bird was obtained. Origins of that bird are unexplained.

State-wide numbers of ducks were very low for some species: Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) numbers (3,409) were the lowest in seven years; American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) (816) the lowest since 57 individuals were counted in 1944; Green-winged Teal (528) the lowest since 1983. Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) numbers continued to sag downward, with only 105 spotted in 2010. Just 10 years ago, more than 500 were recorded around the state every year. In the 1970s, 80s, and early 90s, it wasn't uncommon to see a state total of 1000 or more. For the second year in a row, Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) numbers dropped below 1000, with only 737 reported this year, a

decrease from last's year's 980 individuals. From 1982 their numbers showed a sharp rise from 300-500/yr to two to nine thousand yearly. They had maintained those steady population levels for nearly 30 years, with an all-time high of 13,000+ in 1991. On the other hand, Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) seem to be holding their own in recent years.

Other species that appeared in greater number this year were Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), Black Scoter (*M. nigra*), Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), and Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). White-winged Scoter was the most noteworthy of these, with Wachapreague's 337 accounting for most of the total recorded.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) numbers continue to be very low. This year's tally of 5 is just one more than last year. It's the same sad story with Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*). Their numbers slid to 78, the lowest total since 1947 when only 45 were tallied by 57 observers on 16 counts, as opposed to this year's 51 counts conducted by more than 1300 observers. On the other hand, Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are flourishing all over the state, with the second highest overall total of 810 birds reported on 36 counts.

For over 35 years the state-wide yearly average for Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*) was around 450 birds. For some reason, during the years 2001 through 2008, the winter population of that species along the coast ballooned to an astonishing CBC average of 5098, with a staggering 10,276 individuals counted in 2003. In the last two years, numbers have subsided to the original long-standing level, with less than 500 found. Perhaps difficult viewing along the coast because of severe weather conditions may account for the precipitous drop, but it is an interesting trend to watch. Common Loon (*G. immer*) numbers were down for the fourth year in a row. Only one Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) was at Chincoteague and Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) were completely missing. Pied-bills have been rapidly dwindling there for about nine years, but surely this year's absence can be attributed to extensive iced-over water bodies and untenable conditions on count day.

Other coastal species that appeared in much lower numbers than usual were 204 Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), the lowest since 1989, and Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) with a count of only 187, the lowest since 1999. No such puny numbers for the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), however. They were recorded in the quintuple numbers, almost double those of the last seven years. One even showed up at Waynesboro for that count's first-ever record. Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*)

seemed to have moved elsewhere to escape the harsh cold. Only 94 were found. The average for the last eight or nine years has been 214. Tricolored Herons (*Egretta tricolor*) were scarcer than ever with only one reported at Chincoteague. One would have to go all the way back to records of the early 1960s for such a low number. A lone White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) at Little Creek was a first for that CBC. Four others were at Cape Charles.

When it comes to various birds of prey, many are doing quite well. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) numbers stood at an all-time high of 21 birds found on seven counts. For the first time ever, more than 1000 Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were recorded. Since 1968, when the state total of this species reached its lowest of 7 birds, the Bald Eagle has regained its foothold, attaining record numbers almost every year and steadily spreading further westward, with 36 of the 51 counts reporting them in 2010.

The 240 individuals around the state mark an all-time high count for Cooper's Hawk, (*Accipiter cooper*), topping the previous high of 205 set in 2002. Six hundred ninety Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) broke the record of 646 set in 2007. In the last few years, significant increases of Red-shouldered numbers have been realized in the northern Virginia area, especially on the Central Loudoun, Manassas-Bull Run, and Plains counts. Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) numbers reached double-digits for the fourth year in a row. Since the Blackford CBC came onto the scene in 1996, the robust population there has significantly contributed to the increased numbers recorded over the past 14 years. Wachapreague chalked up its third record of that species this year. Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) numbers have been steadily increasing for over 20 years, to an record 35 in 2010. They were detected on 22 counts scattered all over the state. The 22 Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) is the second highest number ever recorded.

A raptor story that is not so rosy is that of the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). The total of 464 found this year was somewhat better than last year, but numbers continue to be depressed in many parts of Virginia. Rockingham County, Augusta County, Waynesboro and a few sites elsewhere in the higher elevations seem to be holding fairly steady, but coastal count totals of the Kestrel have been declining over the past ten to fifteen years. Dismal Swamp participants found none, the first time this species has been missed on the 13 counts that have held there. This is the only year Brooke recorded none of this species, except on its very first count way back in 1947.

A Sora (*Porzana carolina*) (heard only) at Washington's Birthplace, and a Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) at Williamsburg were firsts for those two circles. Sightings of Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*) at

Wachapreague, Cape Charles and Back Bay has provided triple-digit totals for three of the last five years. Erratic in occurrence and a species of concern in recent years, the knot has always been unpredictable along Virginia's coast during count periods.

The best shorebird count of all was 807 American Woodcocks (*Scolopax minor*) in a field at Cape Charles producing the national all-time high count for the second time and breaking its old record, set in 1993, when birders stepped out of count headquarters at the old Peacock Inn to find 570 woodcocks on the front lawn of the motel. Talk about a great way to start a Christmas count day! That congregation swelled the numbers far above Cape Charles's usual average of about 100 birds/year over the past 10 years. Another shorebird of note was a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) in Mathews County, a first for that count.

There usually is nothing to report about Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*) or Herring (*L. argentatus*) gulls. Their numbers seem to stay about the same year after year, hovering around their averages of 74,000 and 23,000 respectively. This year was a different story. Perhaps because of the harsher winter conditions and the inability of observers to get to their favorite overlooks, numbers of both species were noticeably lower - a little over 34,000 Ring-bills, and only 7,000 or so Herrings. Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*), Lesser Black-backed (*L. fuscus*), and Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) counts were also lower than usual. I have little doubt that numbers will be back up to snuff come next count season. It's hard to keep a good gull down. The only unusual *Larus* species was a Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*) at Cape Charles, only the 7th record in the count's 46-year history.

Most years 1000 or more Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) are reported, but this year's total of 54 state-wide was the lowest in 20 years. One of the reasons for this low number could be a lack of fish due to much colder-than-usual waters.

Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) were at Glade Spring, Rockingham County and Banister River for the first time. Other dove/pigeon numbers remained the same as they have for decades - about 10 to 23 thousand for Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*), 10 to 15 thousand for Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*).

Hummingbird occurrences continue to amaze and delight. Two Ruby-throats (*Archilochus colubris*) were spotted at feeders this year, one at Little Creek, and one at Lynchburg. This is the fourth time in five years that it has been reported at Little Creek, either on count day or during the count week period. The Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) at Hopewell was that count's first record.

Banister River recorded it's first Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). A first-ever Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) was at Waynesboro and that count had the only Long-eared Owl reported this year.

A photographed Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) during count week at Back Bay was a first for that count since 1975. The count week bird in Rockingham County was their first count record since 1999. Overall numbers crept back up to 14 after last year's dismal total of six. Reports from the far western Virginia counts seem to be the only hope of maintaining any level of this dwindling population.

American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) had a surge in numbers, with the state total being the highest since 2001. This is another species whose numbers remain consistent year-in and year-out with the yearly state-wide average hovering around 30,000 birds. Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) winter populations also remain fairly stable, although for the past 10 years there has been an notable decrease of this species on almost all counts on or near the Chesapeake Bay. At the same time, numbers of Fish Crows in on the Northern Virginia counts have increased somewhat over that same period. Again this year, Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) continued their slight drift eastward. This time an individual appeared at Brooke, a first-ever in that count's 64-year history.

It was definitely an invasion year for the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) with 350 individuals reported from 13 counts, That's the highest state total since 449 were spotted in 1997, and the eighth highest count ever. All sightings were in the mountains. The only high-elevation circle not reporting them was Big Flat Mountain. It was also a good year for Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) with 364 tallied on all but eight counts.

A very low total of only 14 House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) was found in five counts, none in the Piedmont or western part of the state. The average over the last 10 years for this species has been 50. It is surprising that with increased snow, ice and freezing temperatures over the past two or three years, Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) have not suffered noticeable losses, considering they often do not seem to survive prolonged periods of harsh weather, but there was only a slight decrease in their numbers in 2010. For the last two years there has been a drastic drop in Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) numbers. After 21 years of double-digits, this year's total was only four birds state-wide, the same as last year. The Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) mirrors the Sedge Wren situation: double- or triple-digit totals since 1957, then only five recorded last year and four this year.

Another precipitous two-year drop in numbers was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*). Tallying only 426 in 2009 and 395 in 2010. This is a far cry from the all-time high of 2,281 in 1976, or even the 1,459 in 2007. One has to go all the way back to 1969 to find state totals this low.

More up-beat reports are 291 Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*), an all-time state high, and a huge influx of American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) which seemed to be everywhere. From one to 350 birds were reported from 26 different counts around the state. Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*) did well in the high regions of the state with eight or ten counts reporting slightly higher-than-usual tallies.

Single Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) were first-time records for Giles County and Mount Rogers-Whitetop. American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) appeared in somewhat higher numbers than usual at Nansemond River, Walkerton, Fincastle, Roanoke, Blacksburg, Glade Spring, and Bristol.

Pine Warblers (*Dendroica pinus*) were very scarce again this year. The total of 107 individuals was the lowest since 84 were counted in 2003. This is the 4th year in a row their numbers have dropped. Another low count was that of the Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). Only 55 were counted in 7 circles. A Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was a first for Augusta County.

The two Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), one at Cape Charles, the other in Dismal Swamp, were a far cry from the hordes in 1972, when 106 were counted at Back Bay alone. That was a period when it was a very wet world in Virginia's Southside area, and birds that thrived in those soggy conditions - herons, egrets, waterfowl, and many other marsh-loving species - appeared in unprecedented numbers, especially in places adjacent to the Bay.

Yellow-breasted Chats (*Icteria virens*) do not appear every year anymore. Chats were much more common in the 1960s and early 1970s, with sometimes as many as nine individuals reported during a count period. In the late 1970s numbers fell to only one or two and the species has never recovered its former numbers, but birders at Nokesville were pleased to record one as a first-ever for that circle.

Amazingly, another Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) was recorded in 2010, this one photographed in Rockingham County. It is the third year in a row this species has showed up, a stunning occurrence considering that it had never been seen on a Virginia CBC previously.

There were a few more American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) around than usual; the 1,272 Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) were the most in six years, and

one in the Big Flat Mountain circle was well documented and a new species for that count. The Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) at Back Bay is the only one that has been recorded on any Virginia count in ten years; another surprise was a first-ever Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) at Mount Rogers-Whitetop. The total of 33 Saltmarsh Sparrows (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) was the most in four years, and Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) numbers were up considerably (1,174), a return to normal levels from last year's low of 769. White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) numbers were the highest since 2003. For the past ten or more years, Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*) have been occurring in greater numbers and this year they set a record of 921 individuals. The previous high was 831 set in 1970. Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) numbers also reached a record high of 29,973. Their previous high was set in 2004 with 29,513.

Always a haven for Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), the past 10 years of counts at Fort Belvoir have produced unprecedented numbers of this species. Only twice in that period has a number less than 1000 birds been reported. The all-time high is 1,574 set in 2006. What is intriguing is that counts situated all around Fort Belvoir - Brooke, Manassas-Bull Run, Nokesville, and Washington DC consistently report numbers much lower than Fort Belvoir's totals. Two reasons might explain these high numbers: 1) Fort Belvoir is a highly-packed residential area and probably bird feeders abound in every section of the circle; and 2) there is a very high number of Fort Belvoir observers, over 150 each year, meaning more intense coverage in the count circle.

Two Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) were a first record for Washington's Birthplace; a Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) at Little Creek was that count's second record. The Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) at Back Bay was that CBC's only record in ten years. It was much more common there before the 1980s. One Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) was found at Waynesboro. This is another species with an interesting history of occurrence. From 1961 through 1980, one to three birds were reported state-wide every year. From 1981 through 1992 they completely disappeared. Then they started appearing again in 1993, with one to five birds recorded yearly through 2003. After that there was another complete absence from 2004 to the present.

Three count-week birds are worth mentioning: a Dovekie (*Alle alle*) at Chincoteague was the first seen there since 1975. Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) flew over the Nassawaddox circle on 19 December and an American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) at Cape Charles was the only sighting of that species since 2002. It used to appear on that count quite regularly.

Shortly after the count period ended, Virginia lost a true friend and supporter of wildlife. Mary Pulley was a well-known and highly respected advocate of habitat preservation and bird protection on Virginia's Middle Peninsula, especially in her home county of Mathews. She died in early February. Her association with the Christmas counts was long-standing, having been a birder most of her adult life and organizer and compiler of the Mathews County CBC for 38-years. Mary had a great interest in the history of Virginia Christmas Bird Counts and we often had long discussions about trends and changes of bird distribution over long periods of time.

Knowing that I had been studying the history of the counts for some time, she once asked me when and where the first count in the state was held. I told her my research indicated that it was conducted for 45 minutes by Dr. William P. Caton on 25 December 1904. He counted 6 species of birds from the dining room window of his home in Accotink, which is now part of the Fort Belvoir circle. A very surprised look crossed Mary's face as she said, "Why, he was our school doctor at the elementary school I attended when I was a little girl!" At that moment I felt the Virginia Christmas counts had come full circle. It was a connection spanning over 100 years.

Data from the counts are tabulated in two Tables on the following pages. In both Tables, the counts ("Count Circles") are numbered in order from 1 to 51, beginning with the Eastern Shore counts and proceeding in a roughly east-to-west and north-to-south configuration. Eastern Shore Count Circles are numbered 1-5, Coastal Pain Count Circles 6-17, Piedmont Count Circles 16-30, and Mountains and Valleys Count Circles 31-51. Table 1 lists the number of individuals of each species seen and Table 2 the field conditions, collection data, compilers of counts and circle location and information for the central location of each of the 51 counts. Data from Chesapeake Bay, Darlington Heights, Chatham, Big Flat Mountain, Peaks of Otter, and Giles County were not submitted to the National Audubon database. Bristol was submitted to Audubon but under the Tennessee counts.

Explanation of the abbreviations used in the tables are as follows:

a = adult
 Blvd = Boulevard
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count(s)
 CLD = Cloudy
 CLM = Calm
 CLR = Clear
 Cmdr = Commander
 Co = County
 CW = Count week
 Dec = December
 E = East
 FOG = Foggy
 HVR = Heavy rain
 I or i = immature
 Jan = January
 Jct = Junction
 LFG = Light fog
 LGR = Light rain
 LHR = Light to heavy rain
 LSN = Light snow
 MCD = Mostly cloudy
 MCR = Mostly clear
 MPF = Moving water partly frozen
 MPO = Moving water partly open
 mph = miles per hour
 Mt = Mountain
 MWO = Moving water open
 N = North
 NHR = No rain to heavy rain
 NP = National Park
 nr = not recorded
 NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
 PCD = Partly cloudy
 PCR = Partly clear
 Rd = Road
 Rt(s) = Route(s)
 S = South
 SFZ = Still water frozen
 Sp = species
 SPF = Still water partly frozen
 SPO = Still water partly open
 TN = Tennessee
 U or UNK = Unknown
 V or VAR = variable
 VA = Virginia
 VARCOM = Virginian Avian Records Committee
 W = West
 WMA = Wildlife Management Area
 WOP = Water open

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 1 of 10)

SPECIES: COUNT CIRCLE	Snow Goose (white form)	Snow Goose (blue form)	Ross's Goose	Brant	Cackling Goose	Canada Goose	Mute Swan	Trumpeter Swan	Tundra Swan	Wood Duck	Gadwall	Eurasian Wigeon	American Wigeon	American Black Duck	Mallard	Blue-winged Teal	Northern Shoveler	Northern Pintail	American Green-winged Teal	(Amer x Eurasian) Green-winged teal	duck sp.	Canvasback	Redhead	Ring-necked Duck
1. Chincoteague	13,455	...	...	247	...	3,521	...	...	103	...	160	...	32	787	860	...	101	450	31	...	...	...	1	8
2. Wachapreague	2,176	...	...	260	...	2,110	...	...	3	9	30	...	37	322	173	...	3	3	...	...	200	...	...	...
3. Nassawadox	111	...	...	47	...	900	...	...	13	...	...	...	1	103	140	...	...	18	14	...	...	...	...	...
4. Cape Charles	1,750	19	1	783	2	4,500	...	...	300	16	493	2	252	1,780	388	...	74	35	122	1	...	...	18	70
5. Chesapeake Bay	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
6. Little Creek	11	...	...	37	...	1,320	...	...	...	94	78	...	33	43	646	1	227	6	...	...	...	...	...	41
7. Back Bay	122	3	...	...	...	1,200	...	1,965	...	1	634	...	162	274	579	2	22	107	8	...	...	130	46	12
8. Nansemond River	...	...	...	...	...	3,718	1	...	...	12	65	1	40	58	126	...	226	2	9	...	1	347	3	146
9. Dismal Swamp	...	...	...	...	...	81	...	...	60	79	...	...	...	76	72	...	11	...	8	...	...	...	...	7
10. Newport News	...	...	...	19	...	692	...	...	33	...	73	...	69	69	846	...	15	4	1	...	...	53	18	137
11. Mathews County	...	...	...	15	1	1,517	1	...	251	2	...	...	...	7	4	163	...	...	...	...	...	110	10	...
12. Williamsburg	...	...	...	...	...	1,593	20	...	92	10	175	...	7	9	235	...	...	...	4	...	...	1,317	23	1,328
13. Hopewell	300	3,100	1	...	1	12,234	2	...	1	263	138	...	2	773	2,017	...	41	3	64	...	...	4	9	52
14. Walkerton	5	...	...	...	...	10,265	...	...	30	8	128	...	...	283	591	6	18	2,151	31	...	...	3	3	644
15. Washingtons Birthplace	1	...	...	...	...	21,212	7	...	151	...	...	...	...	178	430	...	CW	6	3	...	...	9	CW	8
16. Brooke	...	...	...	...	...	4	2,340	13	430	...	36	...	...	...	422	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	53
17. Fort Belvoir	...	...	...	...	...	14,025	3	...	683	1	1,115	...	86	1,762	3,634	6	244	311	66	...	...	2,443	179	1,445
18. Central Loudoun County	...	1	...	...	...	10,247	...	...	...	...	8	...	6	120	1,050	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	1	39
19. The Plains	...	...	...	...	CW	9,250	1	5	6	...	12	...	65	101	337	...	...	1	27	...	...	3	1	293
20. Manassas-Bull Run	...	...	...	...	...	5,795	...	...	2	6	6	...	...	5	521	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
21. Nokesville	...	...	...	...	...	1,756	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	48	323	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	9
22. Chancellorsville	...	...	...	...	...	753	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	147
23. Gordonsville	...	...	...	...	...	1,788	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
24. Charlottesville	...	...	...	...	...	931	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
25. Warren	...	...	...	...	...	698	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
26. Darlington Heights	...	...	1	...	...	544	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. Banister River	1	...	...	...	...	546	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	3	45	...	...	...	39	...	60	...	3	1
28. Lynchburg	...	...	...	...	...	1,771	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	19	276	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	9
29. Chatham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Danville	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Calmes Neck	...	...	...	...	...	2,967	3	...	5	5	4	...	8	33	169	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	10
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	...	...	...	...	...	3,237	...	...	2	13	6	...	6	90	625	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	9
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	...	327	...	...	...	1	17	...	...	59	307	...	1	...	12	...	...	...	...	1
34. Big Flat Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
35. Rockingham County	...	...	...	...	...	158	6	...	...	1	9	...	...	2	377	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	1
36. Augusta County	1	...	...	...	...	917	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	243	...	5	4	8	...	...	...	2	...
37. Waynesboro	...	...	...	...	...	1,101	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	135	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	25
38. Lexington	...	...	...	...	...	338	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	6	146	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
39. Peaks of Otter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40. Fincastle	...	...	...	...	...	307	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	41	...	2	...	7	...	...	...	...
41. Roanoke	...	...	...	...	...	288	...	1	...	14	53	...	2	6	321	...	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	1
42. Blacksburg	...	...	...	...	...	1,024	...	...	...	1	9	...	...	52	833	...	1	1	5	...	...	...	...	...
43. Giles County	...	...	...	...	...	256	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	3	103	...	...	1	4	...	5	...	2	2
44. Tazewell	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
45. Mount Rogers-Whitop	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
46. Glade Spring	1	...	...	...	...	340	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	CW	194	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
47. Blackford	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	12	193	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
48. Bristol	...	...	...	...	...	763	...	...	...	9	28	...	8	3	597	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
49. Buchanan County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50. Breaks Interstate Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
51. Wise County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	17,934	3,123	3	1,408	12	127,410	65	6	4,137	561	3,409	3	816	7,098	18,632	15	996	3,109	528	1	270	4,421	336	4,583

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 2 of 10)

SPECIES:	COUNT CIRCLE																										
	Greater Scaup	Lesser Scaup	scaup sp.	Aythya sp.	Common Eider	Harlequin Duck	Surf Scoter	White-winged Scoter	Black Scoter	scoter sp.	Long-tailed Duck	Bufflehead	Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser	Common Merganser	Red-breasted Merganser	Ruddy Duck	Ruffed Grouse	Wild Turkey	Northern Bobwhite	Red-throated Loon	Common Loon	Pied-billed Grebe	Horned Grebe			
COUNT CIRCLE	1. Chincoteague	...	2	...	...	...	120	1	52	...	2	2,304	...	29	...	9	51	...	...	...	1	11	...	1		
	2. Wachapreague	1	20	...	...	...	571	337	19	...	46	1,479	5	101	...	47	60	...	37	3	24	74	...	10		
	3. Nassawadox	...	...	...	...	...	140	...	...	...	3	224	2	60	...	11	2	...	...	3	...	7	2			
	4. Cape Charles	14	77	20	...	...	2,145	35	565	890	99	5,285	2	246	...	136	316	...	3	9	195	136	16	103		
	5. Chesapeake Bay	...	2	3	...	...	1	665	6	93	...	134	7	...	...	34	...	...	...	...	43	22	3	31		
	6. Little Creek	11	40	...	...	...	...	277	2	31	17	20	613	1	317	2	64	202	...	...	...	8	12	32	...	
	7. Back Bay	...	58	2	...	...	42	...	21	113	2	17	...	66	...	11	66	...	...	...	207	128	50	28		
	8. Nansemond River	2	47	3	...	...	...	148	...	...	...	...	257	...	270	...	53	633	...	27	...	...	63	15	12	
	9. Dismal Swamp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	7	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	10. Newport News	37	56	...	...	...	...	116	3	...	...	1	727	17	352	3	29	1,642	...	...	...	...	36	39	51	
	11. Matthews County	7	...	...	...	...	...	71	3	38	...	...	566	9	52	22	179	1,922	...	64	20	1	50	1	1	
	12. Williamsburg	...	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142	2	107	...	6	1,054	...	5	5	...	1	37	3	
	13. Hopewell	...	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135	1	207	19	...	345	...	...	...	...	2	11	...	
	14. Walkerton	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	...	32	1	64	55	...	16	...	...	...	5	...	
	15. Washingtons Birthplace	5	397	3	...	...	...	72	...	...	...	3	193	49	64	68	37	43	...	14	...	...	2	...	17	
	16. Brooke	1	3,048	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	4	189	8	...	666	...	2	...	...	1	...	...
	17. Fort Belvoir	7	13,005	4,564	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	555	3	388	1,387	16	1,857	...	62	...	...	...	...	...
	18. Central Loudoun County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	43	...	...	...	...	...
	19. The Plains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	6	107	28	...	...	...	35	...	...	...	...	...
	20. Manassas-Bull Run	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	23	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	21. Nokesville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	254	456	35	7	...	5	...	...	...	3	...	
	22. Chancellorsville	...	95	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...
	23. Gordonsville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	...	18	...	...	123	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	24. Charlottesville	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	15	...	...	8	...	14	11	...	...	1	...	
	25. Warren	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
	26. Darlington Heights	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	1	...
	27. Banister River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	14	10	...	...	...	...	...
	28. Lynchburg	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	20	...	...	1	...	8	...	...	...	...	1	...
	29. Chatham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	29	1	...	3	CW	70	CW	...	...	...	7	...
	30. Danville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...
	31. Calmes Neck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
	32. N. Shenandoah Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	3	47	66	2	5	...	72	...	...	...	...	1	...
	33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	41	...	2	...	1	118	...	...	...	...	...
	34. Big Flat Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	35. Rockingham County	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	3	...	12	...	...	...	...	2	...
	36. Augusta County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	37. Waynesboro	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	1	...
	38. Lexington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	CW	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...
	39. Peaks of Otter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
	40. Fincastle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
	41. Roanoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	33	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	3	1
	42. Blacksburg	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	...	139	...	2	1	...	27	...	...	...	...	4	1
	43. Giles County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	44. Tazewell	5	8	2	...
	45. Mount Rogers-Whitetop	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...
	46. Glade Spring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	1	...	16	...	...	...	...	1	1
	47. Blackford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4	...
	48. Bristol	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	...	102	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	42	5
	49. Buchanan County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	50. Breaks Interstate Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	51. Wise County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	2	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	85	16,972	4,600	19	2	1	4,367	387	819	1,020	310	13,098	105	3,445	2,102	737	9,098	5	817	78	479	545	299	271			

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 3 of 10)

SPECIES:	Northern Gannet	American White Pelican	Brown Pelican	Double-crested Cormorant	Great Cormorant	American Bittern	Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	Great Egret	Snowy Egret	Tricolored Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	White Ibis	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Bald Eagle	bald eagle, age	Northern Harrier	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Northern Goshawk	Accipiter sp.
COUNT CIRCLE																						
1. Chincoteague	3	3	...	...	48	10	1	1	CW	...	8	46	...	1	li	5	2	1	...	...
2. Wachapreague	24	...	...	52	...	CW	...	8	...	16	139	...	35	21a, 14i	24	3	8	...	...
3. Nassawadox	3	...	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	60	275	...	31	31nr	14	9	4	...	...
4. Cape Charles	3	...	...	59	21	...	75	3	...	...	...	4	125	150	...	24	24nr	47	23	18	...	...
5. Chesapeake Bay	1	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1nr	...	...	...	...	...
6. Little Creek	197	CW	105	6,635	1	1	73	26	2	...	2	1	50	53	8	7	5a, 2i	2	4	2	...	...
7. Back Bay	2	...	...	204	...	1	37	9	...	...	...	...	40	81	1	19	10a, 8i, 1u	19	6	3	...	...
8. Nansemond River	1,553	...	...	43	4	...	...	...	...	18	36	2	11	7a, 4i	10	1	8	...	1
9. Dismal Swamp	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	...	6	6nr	1	4	2	...	...
10. Newport News	2	...	64	303	...	...	85	41	1	...	8	...	...	...	7	16	11a, 5i	7	9	11	...	...
11. Mathews County	49	...	...	...	...	...	61	69	...	17	12a, 4i, 1u	4	4	2	...	...
12. Williamsburg	11	1,188	...	...	47	...	...	...	...	...	84	185	1	50	31a, 19i	5	11	5	...	...
13. Hopewell	1,094	...	...	94	...	...	...	...	...	34	115	1	90	40a, 50i	14	5	6	...	...
14. Walkerton	9	...	...	53	...	...	...	...	...	177	193	...	35	19a, 16i	4	1	4	...	...
15. Washingtons Birthplace	21	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	244	119	...	231	131a, 95i, 5u	13	1	3	...	...
16. Brooke	15	...	...	68	...	...	...	...	...	81	155	...	182	89a, 93i	7	2	8	...	...
17. Fort Belvoir	19	...	...	316	...	...	...	...	...	132	124	1	212	96a, 116i	6	5	10	...	2
18. Central Loudoun County	25	...	...	...	...	...	310	458	...	15	13a, 2i	8	8	9	...	1
19. The Plains	9	...	...	...	...	...	228	422	...	16	6a, 8i, 2u	5	3	12	...	...
20. Manassas-Bull Run	6	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	64	142	...	9	7a, 2i	1	8	9	...	...
21. Nokesville	1	...	...	...	...	...	112	64	...	12	12a	7	4	3	...	...
22. Chancellorsville	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
23. Gordonsville	6	...	...	...	...	...	152	55	...	2	2nr	...	2	2	...	...
24. Charlottesville	8	...	...	...	...	...	134	242	...	8	8nr	...	11	7	...	...
25. Warren	3	...	...	...	...	...	40	95	...	7	7a	...	...	1	...	...
26. Darlington Heights	3	...	...	...	...	...	12	72	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
27. Banister River	10	...	...	...	...	...	20	100	...	1	1a	2	2	5	...	...
28. Lynchburg	15	...	...	...	...	...	241	366	...	3	3nr	...	10	8	...	...
29. Chatham	13	90	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
30. Danville	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	14	...	1	1a	...	...	2	...	...
31. Calmes Neck	36	...	...	...	...	...	133	180	...	13	7a, 6i	10	6	4	...	...
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	1	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	84	76	...	11	11nr	5	5	17	...	...
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	7	...	...	...	6	...	71	6	...	5	4a, 1i	2	5	4	...	...
34. Big Flat Mountain	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
35. Rockingham County	4	...	...	...	1	...	8	155	...	2	2a	...	4	12	...	...
36. Augusta County	4	...	...	...	...	...	137	587	...	...	...	2	2	9	...	...
37. Waynesboro	2	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	134	98	...	...	...	2	3	2	...	...
38. Lexington	8	...	...	...	...	...	91	221	...	3	2a, 1i	2	5	4	...	1
39. Peaks of Otter	1	...	...
40. Fincastle	4	...	...	...	...	...	112	123	...	2	2a	...	5	3	...	...
41. Roanoke	8	...	...	...	...	...	32	18	...	2	2u	...	1	4	...	...
42. Blacksburg	18	...	...	...	...	...	51	9	...	2	2a	1	12	5	CW	...
43. Giles County	7	...	...	...	...	...	36	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
44. Tazewell	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
45. Mount Rogers-Whitotop	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
46. Glade Spring	20	...	...	...	...	...	78	62	...	1	1a	1	3	3	...	...
47. Blackford	13	1	...	...	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
48. Bristol	1	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	19	14	...	...	...	...	2	8	...	...
49. Buchanan County	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50. Breaks Interstate Park	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
51. Wise County	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	204	CW	187	11,141	43	2	1,411	94	4	1	26	5	3,455	5,482	21	1,083	539a, 447i, 11u, 86nr	234	201	240	CW	5

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 4 of 10)

SPECIES: COUNT CIRCLE	SPECIALTY COUNTS														GENERAL COUNTS									
	Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	Buteo sp.	Golden Eagle	golden eagle, age	large hawk sp.	American Kestrel	Merlin	Peregrine Falcon	raptor sp.	Clapper Rail	King Rail	Virginia Rail	Sora	Common Moorhen	American Coot	Sandhill Crane	Black-bellied Plover	Semipalmated Plover	Killdeer	American Oystercatcher	Greater Yellowlegs	Willet
1. Chincoteague	CW	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	15	26	17	30
2. Wachapreague	3	11	...	...	1	1i	...	16	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	102	...	155	85	16	39
3. Nassawadox	2	40	...	...	...	...	...	22	1	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	CW	5	1	246	36	10	94
4. Cape Charles	13	46	1	...	...	...	...	22	1	8	...	55	...	2	...	2	308	...	1,281	12	75	162	31	376
5. Chesapeake Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Little Creek	3	15	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	32	...	...	...	...	34	...	1	...	19	18	4	...
7. Back Bay	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	...	...	6	9	...	...	1,000	...	...	...	143	...	12	...
8. Nansemond River	9	21	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	3	...	50	...	1	...	...	8	...	1	3	20	...	...	...
9. Dismal Swamp	11	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	...
10. Newport News	1	22	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	15	...	1	...	...	70	...	18	...	102	...	...	...
11. Mathews County	12	15	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	52	...	4	...
12. Williamsburg	23	32	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	58	...	...	1	115	...	3	...
13. Hopewell	22	31	...	...	...	...	...	15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	136	...	...	...	115	...	...	...
14. Walkerton	22	15	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	63	...	...	...
15. Washingtons Birthplace	14	22	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	2	...
16. Brooke	22	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,186	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
17. Fort Belvoir	52	36	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1,098	...	...	...	63	...	14	...
18. Central Loudoun County	125	107	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
19. The Plains	96	77	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
20. Manassas-Bull Run	52	39	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
21. Nokesville	20	20	...	1	1	1i	...	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Chancellorsville	3	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Gordonsville	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Charlottesville	32	27	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
25. Warren	3	18	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Darlington Heights	15	18	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
27. Banister River	9	16	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	44	...	...	...
28. Lynchburg	7	31	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	21	...	...	...
29. Chatham	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
30. Danville	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
31. Calmes Neck	28	76	1	...	1	1a	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	7	16	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	5	...	...	...	22	...	...	...
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	17	27	...	...	...	...	...	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...
34. Big Flat Mountain	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35. Rockingham County	1	44	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...
36. Augusta County	3	47	...	...	...	...	...	37	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
37. Waynesboro	8	27	1	...	...	...	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
38. Lexington	8	21	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
39. Peaks of Otter	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40. Fincastle	4	48	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
41. Roanoke	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
42. Blacksburg	2	18	...	...	...	...	...	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	14	...	...	...
43. Giles County	...	4	...	...	2	2nr	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
44. Tazewell	1	10	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45. Mount Rogers-Whitop	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
46. Glade Spring	1	40	...	...	...	...	...	21	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
47. Blackford	3	22	1	...	8	1a, 7i	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	3	...	...	3	...	...	...
48. Bristol	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	20	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
49. Buchanan County	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50. Breaks Interstate Park	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
51. Wise County	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...
Totals	690	1,176	5	1	13	2a, 9i, 2nr	1	464	35	22	2	163	7	17	2	2	4,053	3	1,434	17	1,457	327	113	539

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 5 of 10)

SPECIES: COUNT CIRCLE	Lesser Yellowlegs	Whimbrel	Marbled Godwit	Ruddy Turnstone	Red Knot	Sanderling	Western Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper	Purple Sandpiper	Dunlin	Peep sp.	sandpiper sp.	Short-billed Dowitcher	Long-billed Dowitcher	Wilson's Snipe	American Woodcock	shorebird sp.	Laughing Gull	Bonaparte's Gull	Ring-billed Gull	Herring Gull	Lesser Black- backed Gull	Claucaus Gull	Great Black- backed Gull
1. Chincoteague	12	...	...	14	...	19	200	...	...	107	...	2	...	3	1	4	...	1	1	90	25	...	...	5
2. Wachapreague	2	...	19	29	95	57	...	1	...	1,170	2	...	47	...	...	3	...	...	...	142	180	...	...	51
3. Nassawadox	152	50	...	...	23	...	...	14	...	...	46	...	10	2	...	...	...	1,310	184	...	...	6
4. Cape Charles	15	4	22	44	13	198	18	1	2	6,558	...	1	218	...	6	759	...	...	1	1,750	696	2	1	333
5. Chesapeake Bay	2	...	2	...	...	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	624	23	85	...	...	23
6. Little Creek	10	...	212	...	...	10	81	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	440	2,000	518	8	...	254
7. Back Bay	1	...	...	...	4	23	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	30	6	...	...	159	539	188	9	...	51
8. Nansemond River	54	...	...	34	...	129	...	...	...	...	5	7	...	...	...	2,713	1,843	...	...	17
9. Dismal Swamp	1	...	...	...	...	6	5	...	...
10. Newport News	98	...	54	...	...	...	296	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	73	8	2,351	518	...	...	175
11. Mathews County	1	13	...	88	...	...	...	157	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	...	18	1,311	423	...	...	71
12. Williamsburg	19	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	22	383	23	...	...	43
13. Hopewell	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	6	1	3,702	169	...	...	8
14. Walkerton	130	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Washingtons Birthplace	12	...	...	...	...	142	3	...	...	1
16. Brooke	2	...	...	260	...	6,158	204	...	...	29
17. Fort Belvoir	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	...	1	...	6,208	1,324	1	...	204
18. Central Loudoun County	893	7	1	...	1
19. The Plains	2	...	...	...	...	...	112	77	...	20
20. Manassas-Bull Run	1	...	...	...	1,589	8	...	...	...
21. Nokesville	3	...	...	...	...	104	800	...	...	5
22. Chancellorsville	33	...	...	...	...
23. Gordonsville	15	...	...	...	...
24. Charlottesville	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Warren
26. Darlington Heights
27. Banister River	3	...	...	...	...	28	1	...	...	11	253	...	...	...	...
28. Lynchburg	485	1	...	...	...
29. Chatham
30. Danville	6	...	...	...	...
31. Calmes Neck	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34. Big Flat Mountain
35. Rockingham County	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36. Augusta County	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37. Waynesboro
38. Lexington	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39. Peaks of Otter
40. Fincastle	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
41. Roanoke	101	...	...	...	...
42. Blacksburg	1	...	...	...	...	1,032	...	...	...	...
43. Giles County	18	...	...	...	...
44. Tazewell
45. Mount Rogers-Whitetop	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
46. Glade Spring	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47. Blackford
48. Bristol	3	...	...	...	1	836	1	...	...	...
49. Buchanan County
50. Breaks Interstate Park
51. Wise County
Totals	32	4	194	260	112	707	241	45	44	8,666	2	3	329	3	175	807	3	341	1,286	34,338	7,288	21	1	1,297

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 6 of 10)

SPECIES:	gull sp.	Forster's Tern	Black Skimmer	Dovekie	Rock Pigeon	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Mourning Dove	Barn Owl	Eastern Screech-Owl	Great Horned Owl	Barred Owl	Long-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Rufous Hummingbird	Allen's Hummingbird	Belted Kingfisher	Red-headed Woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Downy Woodpecker	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker
COUNT CIRCLE																								
1. Chincoteague	...	...	...	CW	53	...	77	...	1	...	...	...	CW	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	7	2	2	13
2. Wachapreague	6	25	...	...	36	...	762	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	15	9	2	57
3. Nassawadox	35	...	...	...	141	...	462	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	45	2	17	3
4. Cape Charles	...	2	...	...	102	5	548	2	7	8	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	18	...	...	89	22	32	12
5. Chesapeake Bay	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Little Creek	...	3	1	...	895	...	143	...	15	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	20	...	...	46	23	36	8
7. Back Bay	...	...	1	...	48	4	...	...	16	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	40	10	16	3
8. Nansmond River	...	...	...	...	193	...	323	2	4	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	...	66	11	28	7
9. Dismal Swamp	3	...	...	...	1	...	140	...	54	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	86	37	61	35
10. Newport News	...	2	...	...	671	...	596	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	58	16	35	7
11. Mathews County	23	17	...	...	...	...	430	...	1	16	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	...	...	80	14	32	9
12. Williamsburg	...	4	...	...	197	...	135	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	16	140	30	56	25	123
13. Hopewell	10,519	1	...	...	306	...	217	...	4	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	10	75	35	11	11	131
14. Walkerton	2	...	...	...	60	...	237	...	4	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	10	64	20	43	19	134
15. Washingtons Birthplace	...	...	...	...	4	...	263	1	3	6	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	13	1	78	13	52	8	109
16. Brooke	...	...	...	...	36	...	188	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	86	19	36	8	57
17. Fort Belvoir	210	...	...	...	313	...	647	...	10	16	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	25	541	51	388	97	361
18. Central Loudoun County	...	...	...	...	434	...	453	...	2	3	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	6	175	63	182	22	144
19. The Plains	...	...	...	...	290	...	341	CW	15	20	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	150	40	93	17	79
20. Manassas-Bull Run	35	...	...	...	194	...	405	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	212	39	164	25	110
21. Nokesville	24	...	...	...	112	...	92	...	1	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	42	6	19	2	28
22. Chancellorsville	...	...	...	...	3	...	28	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	52	3	23	1	21
23. Gordonsville	...	...	...	...	67	...	219	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	43	9	21	1	31
24. Charlottesville	...	...	...	...	214	...	193	...	1	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	15	140	65	90	28	76
25. Warren	...	...	...	...	111	...	287	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	5	80	33	55	14	71
26. Darlington Heights	...	...	...	...	60	...	151	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	30	14	23	4	30
27. Banister River	...	...	...	...	43	1	131	1	8	6	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	33	19	21	5	56
28. Lynchburg	...	...	...	...	333	...	362	...	16	8	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	15	1	129	45	87	11	57
29. Chatham	...	...	...	...	82	...	176	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	12	2	10	1	11
30. Danville	...	...	...	...	31	...	127	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	24	4	11	1	14
31. Calmes Neck	...	...	...	...	413	...	772	1	7	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	130	50	110	19	46
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	...	...	...	...	941	...	973	...	15	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	14	118	55	136	16	35
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	373	...	266	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	52	36	67	2	12
34. Big Flat Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35. Rockingham County	...	...	...	...	667	1	730	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	61	8	36	9	11
36. Augusta County	...	...	...	...	349	...	509	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	69	6	47	3	25
37. Waynesboro	...	...	...	...	106	...	295	1	9	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	7	3	68	14	54	6	40
38. Lexington	...	...	...	...	310	...	378	...	8	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	42	23	35	7	8
39. Peaks of Otter	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	13	16	2	3
40. Fincastle	...	...	...	...	216	...	62	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	41	16	38	2	29
41. Roanoke	...	...	...	...	1,009	...	201	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	35	12	28	3	18
42. Blacksburg	...	...	...	...	289	CW	609	...	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	2	96	42	95	13	42
43. Giles County	...	...	...	...	37	...	27	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	18	10	21	3	18
44. Tazewell	...	...	...	...	89	...	17	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	2	17	3	5
45. Mount Rogers-Whitetop	...	...	...	...	4	...	109	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	17	5	17	...	4
46. Glade Spring	...	...	...	...	593	29	533	...	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	27	8	35	3	18
47. Blackford	...	...	...	...	7	...	128	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	22	3	12	3	11
48. Bristol	...	...	...	...	472	...	342	...	11	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	27	4	27	7	23
49. Buchanan County	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	17	5	16	3	14
50. Breaks Interstate Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	5	4	2
51. Wise County	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	11	2	7	3	7
Totals	10,857	54	2	CW	11,130	40	14,250	8	270	168	101	1	6	3	2	1	1	516	167	3,540	969	2,490	504	2,762

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 7 of 10)

SPECIES: COUNT CIRCLE	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Phoebe	Loggerhead Shrike	White-eyed Vireo	Blue-headed Vireo	Blue Jay	American Crow	Fish Crow	crow sp.	Common Raven	Horned Lark	Tree Swallow	Carolina Chickadee	Black-capped Chickadee	Boreal Chickadee	chickadee sp.	Tufted Titmouse	Red-breasted Nuthatch	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Nuthatch	nuthatch sp.	Brown Creeper	Carolina Wren	House Wren		
	3	1	...	...	...	11	8	3	6	...	2	29	10	...	...	...	11	7	5	12	...	2	32	...	
COUNT CIRCLE	8	...	...	...	...	53	770	2	...	...	27	1	72	...	...	...	66	11	1	21	...	3	50	...	
	9	6	...	...	...	54	563	...	38	...	153	...	90	...	...	...	21	7	1	22	...	4	64	...	
	19	15	...	...	2	98	392	462	58	...	87	84	98	...	...	...	40	31	2	7	...	19	211	7	
		
	16	2	...	...	1	120	483	810	...	...	...	14	129	...	...	...	52	3	19	47	...	14	66	...	
	10	6	CW	...	...	44	111	95	...	...	1	68	49	...	...	...	10	4	3	9	...	5	114	2	
	7	4	...	...	...	186	147	88	160	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	64	4	8	11	...	4	175	3	
	62	3	...	2	1	37	3	...	...	...	...	...	122	...	...	...	15	3	23	3	...	3	185	...	
	10	2	...	...	...	216	290	15	...	...	...	...	160	...	...	...	83	5	12	17	...	15	120	...	
	23	3	...	...	...	178	743	1	...	...	...	...	138	...	...	...	76	1	6	29	1	4	152	...	
	40	7	...	...	...	120	277	...	10	...	...	...	195	...	...	...	172	8	71	14	...	10	125	1	
	13. Hopewell	23	34	...	...	...	73	321	...	1	...	106	...	125	...	...	...	81	5	27	...	...	12	119	1
	14. Walkerton	27	16	...	...	...	85	576	...	...	...	139	...	69	...	...	...	46	3	22	...	...	4	81	...
	15. Washingtons Birthplace	13	8	...	...	...	109	479	...	...	...	12	...	58	...	...	...	66	8	10	...	...	1	60	...
	16. Brooke	13	...	...	...	...	191	412	5	...	2	...	...	119	...	...	...	109	4	29	...	...	9	19	...
	17. Fort Belvoir	113	4	...	...	...	855	2,201	675	1,531	...	...	...	1,415	1	...	...	1,190	59	466	...	...	104	441	...
	18. Central Loudoun County	52	1	2	...	...	374	1,178	860	336	12	37	...	460	1	...	...	356	4	215	...	...	27	114	...
	19. The Plains	36	2	...	...	...	479	977	82	52	11	30	...	355	...	...	...	280	21	79	...	...	6	79	...
	20. Manassas-Bull Run	31	3	...	...	...	594	1,378	128	295	1	6	...	534	...	...	...	447	34	197	...	...	22	167	...
	21. Nokesville	4	...	...	...	...	178	312	4	577	1	6	...	53	...	...	...	27	7	17	...	...	3	13	...
	22. Chancellorsville	16	...	...	...	...	158	190	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	...	34	...	24	...	...	4	19	...
	23. Gordonsville	1	...	...	...	...	130	185	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	15	...	9	...	...	...	11	...
	24. Charlottesville	60	7	...	...	...	654	983	13	...	13	...	...	288	...	...	...	194	15	129	...	...	16	157	...
	25. Warren	27	6	...	...	...	311	826	10	...	7	...	...	94	...	...	...	75	2	37	...	...	6	102	...
	26. Darlington Heights	6	11	...	...	...	171	1,161	...	...	2	22	...	52	...	...	...	35	11	16	...	...	1	20	...
	27. Banister River	14	18	...	...	...	66	170	...	...	...	...	...	46	...	...	...	34	5	19	7	...	6	31	...
	28. Lynchburg	40	9	...	...	...	537	679	38	...	14	28	...	331	...	...	...	410	16	104	...	...	10	194	...
	29. Chatham	...	4	...	...	...	40	129	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	20	1	18	1	...	3	10	...
	30. Danville	2	3	...	1	...	71	70	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	...	39	1	11	5	...	2	19	...
	31. Calmes Neck	51	...	...	...	...	255	667	...	...	12	109	...	365	35	1	...	228	3	194	...	...	27	68	...
	32. N. Shenandoah Valley	35	1	...	...	...	709	1,247	3	...	8	8	...	593	66	...	...	395	9	191	...	...	27	98	...
	33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	30	2	...	...	...	287	1,025	5	...	26	1	...	182	45	...	...	104	15	84	...	...	6	39	...
	34. Big Flat Mountain	12	...	...	...	...	8	12	...	...	8	...	...	62	...	...	...	14	1	13	3	...	...	6	...
	35. Rockingham County	12	...	CW	...	...	172	286	39	...	13	507	...	104	6	...	...	11	74	6	37	...	2	25	...
	36. Augusta County	10	...	...	...	...	505	685	66	...	...	114	...	171	15	...	...	182	...	39	...	...	1	36	...
	37. Waynesboro	29	3	...	...	...	274	693	61	...	11	65	...	214	11	...	...	115	2	65	...	...	12	55	...
	38. Lexington	11	5	...	...	...	276	899	5	...	14	35	...	49	62	...	...	58	96	7	30	...	8	43	...
	39. Peaks of Otter	18	1	...	...	...	15	62	...	...	2	...	...	5	9	...	...	7	30	13	27	...	2	13	...
	40. Fincastle	17	1	...	...	...	448	915	...	...	3	16	...	89	25	...	...	6	94	9	35	...	...	56	...
	41. Roanoke	4	3	161	363	1	87	7	6	88	1	37	2	...	1	50	...
	42. Blacksburg	45	7	364	725	7	209	...	190	6	42	271	8	101	2	...	18	104	...
	43. Giles County	11	9	...	...	...	145	168	...	...	7	...	...	61	24	...	...	3	87	3	52	...	7	20	...
	44. Tazewell	3	...	1	...	...	11	259	...	...	5	...	...	45	...	...	...	36	...	25	...	...	1	22	...
	45. Mount Rogers-Whitetop	3	6	...	...	...	100	589	...	...	7	...	...	32	...	...	...	42	2	11	...	...	1	14	...
	46. Glade Spring	10	10	5	...	...	249	562	...	...	11	...	...	94	2	...	...	70	1	29	...	...	3	47	...
	47. Blackford	5	2	4	...	...	246	850	...	...	46	...	...	44	...	...	...	28	1	10	...	...	1	22	...
	48. Bristol	17	11	2	...	...	294	5,672	...	...	4	...	...	155	...	...	...	114	3	34	...	...	4	106	...
	49. Buchanan County	9	3	...	...	...	102	214	...	...	1	...	...	53	...	...	...	47	...	22	...	...	1	15	...
	50. Breaks Interstate Park	6	5	...	...	...	40	80	...	...	2	...	...	12	...	...	...	20	...	15	...	...	...	7	...
	51. Wise County	10	1	...	...	...	99	683	...	...	...	5	...	53	...	...	...	51	...	19	...	...	1	54	...
	Totals	1,033	245	14	3	4	10,953	32,670	3,470	3,064	251	1,727	196	8,003	315	1	133	6,254	364	2,650	212	1	442	3,850	14	

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 8 of 10)

SPECIES:	Winter Wren	Sedge Wren	Marsh Wren	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Kinglet sp.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Mountain Bluebird	Townsend's Solitaire	Hermit Thrush	American Robin	Gray Catbird	Northern Mockingbird	Brown Thrasher	European Starling	American Pipit	Cedar Waxwing	Orange-crowned Warbler	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	Pine Warbler	Black-and-white Warbler	Northern Waterthrush	
COUNT CIRCLE	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	...	11	269	...	68	8	467	1	4	...	239	CW	...	...
1. Chincoteague	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	75	...	...	17	992	1	86	4	1,213	...	2	...	368	12	...	...
2. Wachapreague	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	233	...	...	23	515	3	70	3	1,804	304	20	...	772	1	2	...
3. Nassawadox	11	4	10	27	4	...	...	187	1	...	58	636	32	142	17	2,429	376	194	2	2,763	9	4	...
4. Cape Charles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Chesapeake Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Little Creek	18	...	4	23	9	...	...	31	...	...	14	1,090	3	72	22	1,975	5	16	2	365	14	...	...
7. Back Bay	4	CW	9	9	3	...	...	20	...	...	4	892	17	124	17	1,148	214	70	3	1,065	4	3	...
8. Nansemond River	5	...	13	12	14	...	...	123	...	...	7	2,239	3	108	21	2,890	12	161	...	478	14	...	...
9. Dismal Swamp	18	...	...	22	40	...	1	15	...	...	131	4,524	161	8	18	54	...	...	8	134	6	8	...
10. Newport News	3	...	4	8	15	...	...	71	...	...	8	878	2	98	33	3,124	1	50	1	600	22	36	1
11. Mathews County	1	...	...	2	4	...	...	674	...	...	9	1,560	7	117	21	1,379	23	534	...	929	4	...	...
12. Williamsburg	10	...	...	14	16	...	...	186	...	...	25	1,539	1	90	35	1,277	55	381	...	683	6	...	...
13. Hopewell	14	...	...	54	38	...	...	224	...	...	43	1,873	1	73	11	1,176	250	424	1	101	4	...	1
14. Walkerton	7	...	...	41	6	...	...	222	...	...	25	4,352	6	50	15	1,451	2	355	...	42	2	...	...
15. Washingtons Birthplace	4	...	...	6	7	...	...	117	...	...	58	1,049	1	69	20	275	18	368	...	132	...	...	...
16. Brooke	...	...	...	14	12	...	...	172	...	...	31	370	1	59	2	2,468	32	283	...	118	3	...	...
17. Fort Belvoir	48	...	...	153	38	...	...	250	...	...	61	2,988	3	197	4	3,822	...	443	...	105	...	...	...
18. Central Loudoun County	6	...	...	27	14	...	...	470	...	...	11	434	1	224	...	1,832	12	244	...	129	1	...	...
19. The Plains	3	...	...	5	6	...	...	397	...	1	28	341	...	133	...	1,106	...	290	...	211	1	...	...
20. Manassas-Bull Run	9	...	...	20	3	...	...	267	...	...	15	879	...	91	2	2,098	...	700	...	180	...	...	...
21. Nokesville	1	...	...	19	2	...	...	149	...	...	11	1,048	...	34	13	4,765	...	105	...	63	...	...	...
22. Chancellorsville	...	...	...	9	7	...	...	48	...	...	1	449	...	30	...	998	...	122	...	31	...	...	...
23. Gordonsville	...	...	...	3	5	...	...	60	...	...	...	2,296	...	43	...	8,325	...	150	...	30	...	...	...
24. Charlottesville	18	...	...	45	30	...	...	195	...	...	60	367	2	119	1	1,126	1	457	...	110	...	...	...
25. Warren	5	...	...	19	9	...	...	146	...	...	11	246	...	67	CW	1,306	20	423	...	64	...	...	...
26. Darlington Heights	1	...	...	16	12	...	...	117	...	...	14	261	...	45	1	297	207	87	...	52	2	...	...
27. Banister River	7	...	...	23	9	...	...	116	...	...	13	506	...	35	3	437	...	43	...	14	5	...	...
28. Lynchburg	7	...	...	42	15	...	...	122	...	...	25	161	...	152	1	1,181	25	68	...	22	...	CW	...
29. Chatham	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	67	...	...	5	170	...	13	...	74	7	36	...	3	...	...	...
30. Danville	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	22	...	...	2	273	...	35	2	205	...	30	...	1	...	...	...
31. Calmes Neck	5	...	...	22	5	...	...	252	...	...	4	64	1	96	...	2,939	...	135	...	33	...	...	...
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	...	...	1	20	7	...	...	394	...	...	8	565	...	175	...	25,353	...	288	...	116	...	...	...
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	11	...	...	14	10	...	...	128	...	...	19	105	...	47	...	2,243	...	35	...	57	...	...	...
34. Big Flat Mountain	2	...	...	26	...	...	...	4	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
35. Rockingham County	4	...	...	5	...	...	...	50	...	...	5	275	...	74	...	4,086	88	1	...	5	...	...	...
36. Augusta County	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	143	...	...	2	269	...	118	...	3,765	...	...	...	46	...	1	...
37. Waynesboro	3	...	...	32	3	...	...	178	...	...	5	336	...	85	...	3,776	1	163	...	24	...	1	...
38. Lexington	4	...	...	52	8	...	...	121	...	...	36	94	...	39	...	690	18	CW	...	34	...	...	...
39. Peaks of Otter	1	...	...	8	1	...	...	43	...	...	13	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...
40. Fincastle	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	119	...	...	10	209	1	97	1	2,477	66	45	...	13	...	...	...
41. Roanoke	3	...	...	3	4	...	...	50	...	...	2	930	...	50	...	2,822	12	179	...	5	...	1	...
42. Blacksburg	10	...	...	57	9	...	...	135	...	...	16	964	...	118	3	2,479	215	76	...	15	1	...	...
43. Giles County	3	...	...	20	...	4	...	48	...	...	...	77	1	30	...	320	...	24	...	33	...	...	...
44. Tazewell	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	12	...	...	...	17	...	2	...	456	...	28	...	...	...	...	...
45. Mount Rogers-Whitetop	2	...	...	12	...	...	...	52	...	...	1	21	1	13	...	389	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
46. Glade Spring	2	...	...	35	6	...	...	85	...	...	6	188	...	76	1	2,212	50	...	...	5	...	...	...
47. Blackford	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	92	...	...	1	65	...	31	...	1,456	...	5	...	28	...	...	...
48. Bristol	2	...	...	64	7	...	...	219	...	...	12	1,176	...	127	1	3,317	...	141	...	73	...	...	...
49. Buchanan County	2	...	...	17	...	...	...	28	...	...	1	65	...	4	...	53	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
50. Breaks Interstate Park	7	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	...	...	5	50	...	1	1	11	...	31	...	13	...	...	...
51. Wise County	6	...	...	22	...	...	...	21	...	...	3	35	...	5	...	222	...	1	...	4	...	...	...
Totals	272	4	41	1,065	395	4	1	6,993	1	1	876	38,706	249	3,642	281	109,768	2,015	7,214	18	10,319	111	55	2	1

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 9 of 10)

SPECIES: COUNT CIRCLE	Common Yellowthroat																							
	Yellow-breasted Chat	Eastern Towhee	American Tree Sparrow	Chipping Sparrow	Field Sparrow	Vesper Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow	Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	Grasshopper Sparrow	Nelson's Sparrow	Saltmarsh Sparrow	sharp-tailed sparrow sp.	Seaside Sparrow	Fox Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Lincoln's Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow	sparrow sp.	Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	Lapland Longspur	Snow Bunting	
	...	4	...	51	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	64	...	5	130	2	...	168	...	...
	...	3	4	22	13	...	23	16	...	...	...	5	...	18	265	...	7	540	...	...	448	...	16
	5	41	29	...	25	...	...	...	3	...	1	53	379	...	10	864	3	19	510	...	...
	1	40	CW	375	73	3	469	5	...	4	12	10	2	333	831	1	197	893	6	...	431	...	...
	
	...	23	...	...	1	...	45	4	...	...	...	...	...	25	78	...	24	236	...	...	50	...	...
	...	23	...	85	8	...	197	2	1	...	...	...	...	21	359	...	79	168	1	...	99	...	1
	...	29	...	...	110	4	...	109	...	...	4	13	5	11	25	246	...	42	417	...	...	365	30
	...	1	80	...	12	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	109	58	...	170	629	...	...	177	...	...
	...	37	...	...	6	10	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	126	...	39	380	...	...	319	...
	...	23	...	...	95	12	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	182	...	9	605	...	...	1,224	...
	...	46	...	...	77	18	...	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	198	...	58	611	...	...	784	...
	...	30	1	...	100	78	...	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	375	...	112	819	60	...	564	1
	...	18	...	...	3	21	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	205	...	36	801	2	7	744	...
	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	310	...	49	785	52	...	1,104	...
	...	16	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	57	...	7	509	3	...	1,121	...
	54	4	11	79	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	1,051	1	137	2,474	3	...	2,602	...	
	9	33	3	98	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	258	...	13	478	89	...	1,476	...	
	5	15	12	60	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	CW	375	...	26	766	110	...	2,192	...	
	20	...	13	73	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	306	...	11	311	2	...	1,271	...	
	...	1	11	2	10	18	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	176	...	27	280	39	...	539	...
	12	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	...	1	154	3	...	294	...	
	4	16	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	118	8	...	378	...	
	46	...	...	1	53	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	8	248	...	6	726	54	...	812	...	
	9	...	21	34	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	203	...	5	688	58	...	538	...	
	3	...	5	40	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	61	...	5	294	18	...	749	...	
	29	...	23	7	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	60	...	9	131	12	...	439	...	
	54	...	12	24	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	138	...	7	835	4	...	937	...	
	12	...	...	4	3	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	7	22	...	1	63	2	...	99	...	
	2	...	16	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	...	...	124	...	...	246	...	
	6	...	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122	...	6	245	99	...	886	...	
	1	16	...	62	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	186	...	17	559	54	...	1,416	...	
	5	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	114	...	2	377	58	...	528	...	
	9	...	...	6	...	...	77	...	
	1	3	84	...	3	292	439	...	478	CW
	2	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	150	...	...	732	374	...	1,695	...	
	4	1	2	24	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	159	1	37	320	72	...	782	...	
	7	...	4	21	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	81	3	623	52	...	542	...	
	12	1	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	1	58	...	...	132	...	
	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	29	...	40	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	84	...	2	434	35	...	507	...	
	5	...	...	16	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	95	...	2	199	...	...	209	...	
	48	...	1	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	267	...	3	600	119	...	550	...	
	6	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	55	...	...	134	4	...	207	...	
	
	6	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	42	...	1	29	8	...	16	...	
	11	...	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	75	...	1	93	45	...	482	...	
	39	...	1	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	202	...	1	142	370	...	189	...	
	3	...	3	20	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	43	...	...	57	47	...	49	...	
	45	...	22	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	191	...	3	225	128	...	191	...	
	
...	...	11	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	40	...	...	89	1	...	146	...	
...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	28	...	...	27	3	...	130	...	
...	...	15	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	72	...	...	60	12	...	81	...	
...		
...	2	1	916	88	1,165	1,111	7	1,272	27	1	8	33	15	14	921	8,836	3	1,174	21,130	2,451	26	29,973	1	47

COUNT CIRCLE

[illegible]

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 2 of 10)

Table 1. Species and Numbers of Individuals Seen (page 3 of 10)

SPECIES:	Northern Cannel	American White Pelican	Brown Pelican	Double-crested Cormorant	Great Cormorant	American Bittern	Great Blue form	Great Egret	Snowy Egret	Tricolored Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	White Ibis	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Bald Eagle	bald eagle, age	Northern Harrier	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Northern Goshawk	Accipiter sp.
COUNT CIRCLE																						
1. Chincoleague	3	3	...	...	48	10	1	1	CW	...	8	46	...	1	1i	5	2	1	...	...
2. Wachapreague	24	...	...	52	...	CW	...	8	...	16	139	...	35	21a, 14i	24	3	8	...	...
3. Nassawadox	3	...	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	60	275	...	31	31nr	14	9	4	...	...
4. Cape Charles	3	...	...	59	21	...	75	3	...	...	...	4	125	150	...	24	24nr	47	23	18	...	...
5. Chesapeake Bay	1	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1nr	...	...	...	...	...
6. Little Creek	197	CW	105	6,635	1	1	73	26	2	...	2	1	50	53	8	7	5a, 2i	2	4	2	...	...
7. Back Bay	2	...	2	204	...	1	37	9	...	...	...	...	40	81	1	19	10a, 8i, 1u	19	6	3	...	...
8. Nansemond River	2	1,553	...	...	43	4	...	...	...	...	18	36	2	11	7a, 4i	10	1	8	...	1
9. Dismal Swamp	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	...	6	6nr	1	4	2	...	...
10. Newport News	2	...	64	303	...	...	85	41	1	...	8	...	61	69	...	17	11a, 5i	7	9	11	...	...
11. Mathews County	49	...	...	...	...	...	84	185	1	50	12a, 4i, 1u	4	4	2	...	...
12. Williamsburg	11	1,188	...	...	47	...	...	...	...	...	34	115	1	90	31a, 19i	5	11	5	...	...
13. Hopewell	1,094	...	...	94	...	...	...	...	...	177	193	...	35	40a, 50i	14	5	6	...	...
14. Walkerton	9	...	...	53	...	...	...	...	...	244	119	...	231	19a, 16i	4	1	4	...	...
15. Washingtons Birthplace	21	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	81	155	...	182	131a, 95i, 5u	13	1	3	...	...
16. Brooke	15	...	...	68	...	...	...	...	...	132	124	1	212	89a, 93i	7	2	8	...	...
17. Fort Belvoir	19	...	...	316	...	...	...	...	...	310	458	...	15	96a, 116i	6	5	10	...	2
18. Central Loudoun County	25	...	...	...	...	...	228	422	...	16	13a, 2i	8	8	9	...	1
19. The Plains	9	...	...	...	...	...	64	142	...	9	6a, 8i, 2u	5	3	12	...	...
20. Manassas-Bull Run	6	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	112	64	...	12	7a, 2i	1	8	9	...	...
21. Nokesville	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12a	7	4	3	...	...
22. Chancellorsville	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Gordonsville	6	...	...	...	...	...	152	55	...	2	2nr	...	2	2	...	...
24. Charlottesville	8	...	...	...	...	...	134	242	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Warren	3	...	...	...	...	...	40	95	...	7	7a	...	1	1	...	...
26. Darlington Heights	3	...	...	...	...	...	12	72	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...
27. Banister River	10	...	...	...	...	...	20	100	...	1	1a	2	2	5	...	...
28. Lynchburg	15	...	...	...	...	...	241	366	...	3	3nr	...	10	8	...	...
29. Chatham	13	90	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
30. Danville	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	14	...	1	1a	...	1	2	...	...
31. Calmes Neck	36	...	...	...	...	...	133	180	...	13	7a, 6i	10	6	4	...	...
32. N. Shenandoah Valley	1	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	84	76	...	11	11nr	5	5	17	...	...
33. Shenandoah NP-Luray	7	...	...	...	6	...	71	6	...	5	4a, 1i	2	5	4	...	...
34. Big Flat Mountain	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
35. Rockingham County	4	...	...	...	1	...	8	155	...	2	2a	...	4	12	...	...
36. Augusta County	4	...	...	...	...	...	137	587	...	...	...	2	2	9	...	...
37. Waynesboro	2	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	134	98	...	...	...	2	3	2	...	...
38. Lexington	8	...	...	...	...	...	91	221	...	3	2a, 1i	2	5	4	...	1
39. Peaks of Otter
40. Fincastle	4	...	...	...	...	...	112	123	...	2	2a	...	5	3	...	...
41. Roanoke	8	...	...	...	...	...	32	18	...	2	2u	...	1	4	...	...
42. Blacksburg	18	...	...	...	...	...	51	9	...	2	2a	1	12	5	CW	...
43. Giles County	7	...	...	...	...	...	36	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44. Tazewell	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
45. Mount Rogers-Whitotop	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
46. Glade Spring	20	...	...	...	...	...	78	62	...	1	1a	1	3	3	...	...
47. Blackford	13	1	...	...	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
48. Bristol	1	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	19	14	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...
49. Buchanan County	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
50. Breaks Interstate Park	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
51. Wise County	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Totals	204	CW	187	11,141	43	2	1,411	94	4	1	26	5	3,455	5,482	21	1,083	539a, 447i, 11u, 86nr	234	201	240	CW	5

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2010 VIRGINIA AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

WENDY EALDING
VARCOM Secretary

The 2010 Virginia Avian Records Committee (VARCOM) included Robert Ake (Chair), Alan Schreck, Bill Williams, Matt Hafner, Adam D'Onofrio, Arun Bose, John Spahr and Tom Saunders.

The following decisions were made by the Virginia Avian Records Committee during calendar year 2010. 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. This Category currently includes 23 species: Garganey, Barrow's Goldeneye, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Fea's Petrel, Short-tailed Shearwater, Neotropic Cormorant, Greater Flamingo, Reddish Egret, White-tailed Kite, Western Marsh Harrier, Red-necked Stint, Eurasian Woodcock, Black Guillemot, Black-billed Magpie, Bell's Vireo, Boreal Chickadee, Sprague's Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, Sage Thrasher, Townsend's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, and Shiny Cowbird. Several of these species have reportedly been photographed in Virginia; VARCOM would very much appreciate help in locating photographs or specimens of Category 2 species. (Green-tailed Towhee has now been photographed in Virginia, but VARCOM would also appreciate receiving documentation and/or photographs of twentieth-century records in the state.)

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. Species for which there are no Virginia records except Category 3 currently include: West Indian Whistling-Duck, Barnacle Goose, and European Goldfinch.

Category 4. Records that are judged to be acceptable by historical standards but that may not meet current standards of acceptance, including extinct species that once occurred in Virginia, for which there is no clear written or physical evidence. In this Category, VARCOM currently includes Trumpeter Swan, Eskimo Curlew, and Carolina Parakeet. No status or Category is given to Labrador Duck, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Whooping Crane, Great Auk, or Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which may have occurred in Virginia in centuries past but for which no extant conclusive documentation is known.

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 seven species: Mute Swan, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Monk Parakeet, European Starling, House Finch, and House Sparrow.

Category 6. Species that were introduced into Virginia and that appeared for a time to be sustaining wild populations within the state but that have since been extirpated. This Category currently includes Ring-necked Pheasant and Japanese Green Pheasant.

The following codes are used in the accounts:

† = written documentation

ph. = photograph

vr. = voice recording

vt. = videotape

* = specimen (i.e., labeled and preserved, not simply a dead bird)

ACCEPTED RECORDS:

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) 1 individual, Mecklenburg County, December 20, 2008- January 24, 2009, [Adam D'Onofrio], Category 1 (†, ph.), 7th Piedmont record since the 2004 review list.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) 1 individual, Northampton County, May 24, 2009, [Alexandra Wilke], Category 2 (†), 1st state record

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) 1 individual, Loudoun County, September 7, 2009, [Joe Coleman, Jon Little] Category 1 (†, ph.). 2nd Piedmont record since the 2004 review list.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) 1 individual, Craney Island, July 28, August 3, 6, 10, 15, 20, 26, 29, September 3, 9, 17, 21, 2009 [Bill Williams], Category 1 (†, ph.). 1st state record.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) 1 individual, Augusta County, September 19, 2008, [Brenda Tekin], Category 2 (†), 3rd Mountain and Valley record since the 2004 review list.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) 1 individual, Augusta County, June 15-19, 2009 [Brenda Tekin, Gale Heffinger and Andy McGann] Category 1 (†, ph.). 2nd state record and first Mountain and Valley record.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*) 1 individual, Craig County, June 28, 2009 [Brenda Tekin], Category 1 (†, ph.), 1st state record

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*) 6 individuals, Augusta County, November 1, 2009 [Brenda Tekin] Category 1 (†, ph.), 1st Mountain and Valley record since the 2004 review list.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) 1 individual, Northumberland County, November 15, 2009 [Joanne Chewing] Category 2 (†), 1st Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 1 individual, Mecklenburg County, November 3, 2009 [Adam D'Onofrio] Category 2 (†), 1st Piedmont record since the 2004 review list.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) 1 individual, Pulaski County, November 27, 2009 [Mark Mullins], Category 1 (†, ph.). 1st Mountain and Valley record since the 2004 review list.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) 1 individual, Gloucester County, December 13, 2008 – January 21, 2009 [George Rountree III and Nick Flanders] Category 1 (ph.) Winter record.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus alba*) 1 individual, Augusta County, July 9, 2009 [Brenda Tekin] Category 1 (ph.) 2nd Mountain and Valley record since the 2004 review list.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) 1 individual, Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, May 13, 2009 [Bill Williams] Category 1 (†, ph.). 1st Coastal Plain west of the Bay record since the 2004 review list.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) 1 individual, Northampton County, November 1, 2009 [Calvin Brennan and Bob Chapman] Category 2 (†), 4th Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1 individual, Kiptopeke State Park, Northampton County, November 25, 2009 [Calvin Brennan and Brian Taber] Category 2 (†), 4th Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) 1 individual, Chesapeake, VA, December 20, 2009 [Karen Kearney] Category 1 (†, ph.), 5th Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 1 individual, Accomack County, December 30, 2009 [Gary Allport] Category 1 (†, ph.), 3rd Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) 1 individual, Virginia Beach, December 31, 2009 [John Spahr and Linda Matkins] Category 2 (†) Seasonal record.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) 1 individual, Virginia Beach, December 27, 2009 [John Spahr] Category 2 (†) 4th Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) 1 individual, Buckingham County, January 30, 2010 [JoAnn Jones] Category 1 (ph.) 1st Piedmont record since the 2004 review list.

Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*) 1 individual, Russell County, October 31, 2009, [Tom Hunter] Category 1 (†, ph.), 2nd Mountain and Valley record since the 2004 review list.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1 individual, Albemarle County, February 10-26, 2010, [Gerry Bishop and Pamela Bartlett] Category 1 (†, ph.), 1st Piedmont record since the 2004 review list.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) 1 individual, Fairfax County, February 2- April 2, 2010, [Steve Bershader] Category 1 (ph.) 2nd Piedmont record since the 2004 review list.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) 1 individual, James City County, January 1-29, 2008, [Shirley Devan, Brenda Tekin, and Stephen Eccles] Category 1 (†, ph., vt.) 1st Coastal Plain record.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) 1 individual, Fredericksburg, April 27-30, 2010, [James Goehring] Category 1 (†, ph.), 3rd State and 1st Coastal Plain record since the 2004 review list.

SUBMISSIONS NOT ACCEPTED:

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) 1 individual, Henrico County, February 8, 2009,

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) 2 individuals, Amherst County, September 19, 2009

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) 1 individual, Wythe County, September 8, 2009

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellate*) 1 individual, Pulaski County, November 13, 2009

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) 1 individual, Augusta County, May 28, 2009

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) 2 individuals, Lancaster County, October 4, 2009

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) 1 individual, Bedford County, April 4, 2009

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) 1 individual (female), Augusta County, November 21-22, 2008

**BOOK REVIEW:
THE CROSSLEY ID GUIDE:
EASTERN BIRDS by Richard Crossley**

ROBERT AKE
Norfolk, Virginia

Review of *The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds* by Richard Crossley; Princeton University Press, 2011; 520pp.; suggested list price \$35.00.

This is not a field guide. That's apparent from the title and from picking up the book. It's heavy. And it's a guide only for the eastern birds! The weight is due to its size and to the high-quality paper used in its photo production. The book will likely stay at home or in the car to be consulted after a field session. In the introduction the author exhorts readers to take notes of observations for later use with a guide such as his. I think this is always good advice.

This book is clearly a work which required much time and effort to put together. The production of so many plates from the photography through the assembling and manipulating of the images is a monumental accomplishment. These plates are the center piece and biggest attraction of this guide.

This photographic guide has the usual advantages and problems brought by that approach. It's difficult to get birds to pose showing all the appropriate field marks. That necessitates the use of several photos to collectively display what can many times be depicted in one artistic rendering. The Crossley guide uses computer graphic techniques to place images onto an appropriate background photo showing an example of the bird's habitat and giving the birder a quick feeling of where each species is expected to be found. The habitat photography is an asset to the guide. There are a lot of images of each species in each photo. Perhaps a few too many in some. But the big attraction of this book is the set of photos of each bird that can be used to aid in the identification of birds after a field trip. The photographs are all quite good. However, it's a little off-putting to see so many images collected on the same page and it frequently gives the impression of flocking in bird species that don't flock. It's also a little difficult to get used to the scale variation, particularly with the land birds. In some of the plates small birds look to be gigantic. Having large plates of a single species means that side-by-side comparison of similar species is not usually possible, leaving that advantage to a more conventional guide. However, the actual photographs of a variety of plumages for each species make this volume attractive, particularly to beginning birders.

The book uses banding (alpha) codes for each species, an attribute I applaud, although the use of the codes is not without contention. Using the codes makes writing field notes much easier. Birders who already use a shorthand of their own understand this advantage. I have urged field guide writers to add the codes in the descriptive material for each species, but this is the first guide that has done it (and not at my suggestion). The codes are in fact used throughout this book anytime the bird's name is needed, saving space. I found the three indices of the band codes, the scientific names, and the common names easy to use.

The quick key to species in the beginning of the book, in addition to serving as a table of contents, also shows the relative sizes of the birds. Each species in the order in which it occurs in the book is depicted by an image, its band code and the page on which it is found. This display of direct size comparison is the only one in the guide. For the most part it is left to the reader to use the stated bird lengths given with each species account to determine relative sizes.

The maps are somewhat uneven, with some species benefitting from a full map while other species with similar ranges have only a half map. Some maps are difficult to read, particularly those for species allotted less than a full page. Increasing the intensity of the red and blue would help. Winter ranges of birds occurring only along the coast are particularly difficult to make out. On a few maps the geographic boundaries are not clear.

Although the scope of the book is restricted to eastern birds, many western birds are included, since they occur as vagrants in the east. The choice of which rare birds to omit seems a bit arbitrary. Perhaps lack of good or appropriate photos is the reason. For example, although the depicted boundary for inclusion in the guide passes through Big Bend National Park, Colima Warbler and Lucifer Hummingbird are not included.

The weakest points of the book are the descriptive passages accompanying the plates. The information is good, but the writing is not. Sometimes the phrases are so cryptic, it's impossible to decide what is being said. Because of the push to condense, words which would have made the content clearer are omitted. Comparisons are confusing because it's not clear what two things are being compared. This criticism is to be contrasted with the introduction and the text between the sections of plates. Those I like because they're written in a familiar phrasing, as if the author is there, personally guiding the reader through the same information. Because there's less pressure to economize on space, those sections do not suffer from the confusing clipped format in the species descriptions. A small reduction in the sizes of the photos would have

produced enough space to avoid this problem. Readers may wish to combine the use of the excellent photographs in the Crossley ID Guide with the written descriptions in their current field guide to good advantage.

The Crossley ID Guide is a picture book bringing the viewer much pleasure from simply digging into the large number of images, inviting birders to go out and see the birds. I have enjoyed the many hours spent drinking in those images and reading the author's helpful hints for successful birding. Use of this guide will indeed be an aid to the identification of birds seen in the field; however, the volume will stay at home. I'll continue to carry my National Geographic Guide into the field.

BOOK REVIEW:
BIRDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST
by Richard Porter and Simon Aspinall

ARUN BOSE

Review of BIRDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (SECOND EDITION) by Richard Porter & Simon Aspinall; Princeton University Press, 2010; 400pp.; suggested list price \$39.50

Mention the Middle East these days and you are not likely to think of a premier birding destination. With much news coverage about revolution, uprisings, and disputed territory this is not surprising. Despite these political upheavals it is an excellent region for birding, and contains several hard to find species and endemics. Some birds will be familiar to a North American birder (e.g., Osprey, Sanderling, and House Sparrow), but how about Shining Sunbird, Ultramarine Flycatcher and Nubian Nightjar? Species like these latter three definitely make the pulse quicken.

The Birds of the Middle East is a tremendous guide that covers the Arabian Peninsula (including Socotra), Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Cyprus. It is the only field guide that fully covers this region, detailing more than 800 species in 176 color plates with accompanying text and maps. Porter and Aspinall are very familiar with this region and have countless hours in the field to lay the ground work for this guide. Three illustrators, John Gale, Mike Langman, and Brian Small, have also made sterling contributions to the book.

In the first edition the species descriptions were separate from the color plates and at the back of the book. In this new, second edition, the plates, species descriptions, habitat and status notes as well as maps are integrated. This consolidation makes comparison of illustration and text easy, although both maps and typeface are smaller.

However, the text is very readable with a nice contrast for important identification notes. Although the maps are smaller they now reflect both breeding and non-breeding distributions and benefit from a multicolored key (in the first edition, maps were in only 2 colors and only indicated breeding distribution).

The book, as a field guide, is greatly benefitted by having large "call out" text above the species descriptions (e.g., "pied woodpeckers", "dark hooded gulls"). This makes it easy to skim through the pages when one is looking for a particular bird group. Also, the soft cover of the newer guide makes it slimmer and a little more portable, although perhaps not as durable as a hard cover.

The illustrations are excellent, with many species re-painted for this edition. The plates showing the *Phylloscopus* and *Acrocephalus* warblers and the wheatears are much improved, with fewer species depicted per plate. Subspecies have also been given more attention in both illustrations and text: Common Chiffchaff and Southern Grey Shrike are good examples of this.

Beyond the political headlines is a world of birding perhaps never considered, with a wealth of bird life waiting to be seen. This is a "must have" guide if visiting this region, or even if only dreaming of visiting.

Review of PARROTS OF THE WORLD by Joseph M. Forshaw

WESLEY M BROWN
Parksley VA

Review of PARROTS OF THE WORLD by Joseph M. Forshaw; list price \$29.95; Princeton Field Guides, 2010; 328pp.; suggested list price \$29.95

This is a superbly illustrated, concise compendium of all the world's parrot species. It not only illustrates each species, but also gives lots of detailed and useful information about them, which includes a listing of subspecies, descriptions of characters useful for discriminating among similar species, and superbly detailed range maps for both species and subspecies. Moreover, the "LOCALITIES" section in each species description lists specific places in which it may be seen, hence is of especial usefulness to birders, since readily accessed venues such as wildlife reserves, national & state parks and even commercial reserves and bird lodges are listed. Thus, this book could also be useful as a worldwide bird finding guide, since good habitats for wild parrots usually are rich in other kinds of birds as well.

Although published as a volume in the Princeton Field Guide series, and size-appropriate for the field, this is probably not a guide one would choose to carry in the field, since it is comprehensive for all parrots of the world and most of those would not occur in any specific venue. However, if space and baggage allowance is sufficient, one could easily take this book along to consult along with a local guidebook. Even if left at home, the book is a fine reference work to add to one's birding library, to be consulted and used to augment local guidebook information about parrot species in a particular area (as my wife and I did on a recent trip to Indonesia, Bornean Malaysia and Singapore).

I am not an expert on parrots, so one thing I did prior to writing this review was to read other reviews of the book, in hopes of their having vetted the technical aspects. I encountered only positive reviews, and found one to be especially comprehensive and so well written that I'll recommend it to you. It is a review written by Ric Zarwell and published on the SURFBIRDS.COM website <<http://www.surfbirds.com/forum/showthread.php?p=30621>>. And finally, this book can be purchased from several internet book sellers for under \$20.

LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE VSO:*

Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Annandale VA

Augusta Bird Club, Augusta VA

Back Bay Birding Club, Virginia Beach VA

Bath-Highland Bird Club, Monterey VA

Blue Ridge Birders, Sparta NC

Bristol Bird Club, Bristol VA

Buchanan County Bird Club, Grundy VA

Cape Henry Audubon Society, Cape Henry VA

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Southside Bird Club, Danville VA

Virginia Beach Audubon, Virginia Beach VA

Virginia Bluebird Society, Fredericksburg VA

Williamsburg Bird Club, Williamsburg VA

* to contact a local chapter, see the VSO website at
<http://www.virginiabirds.net/>

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Raven, the official journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), functions to publish original contributions and original review articles in ornithology relating to Virginia Birdlife. Electronic files are the required form for manuscript submission. Text files, prepared using a Mac OS-compatible word processing program or Microsoft® Word, should contain minimal formatting. Graphics (photos, maps, graphs, charts) should be sent as high quality EPS or JPEG files. An accompanying "cover letter" file should be emailed to the editor stating (1) article title, (2) author(s) full name(s) and email and home or institutional address(es) and, for multi-authored manuscripts, (3) the name of one author designated to carry out correspondence with the editor. If the manuscript or report is technical, a list of persons who would be appropriate reviewers should also be included in the "cover letter" file. Authors are encouraged to consult with the editor on additional matters of content, format, or style.

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 histories, 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 a decision about acceptance for publication is made.

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 in the most recent edition (and supplement) of the A.O.U.'s Check-list of North American Birds (www.aou.org/checklist/north). Scientific names should be italicized. All size, temperature and other measurements should be in metric units.



The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Volume 82

Number 2

2011



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, the VSO 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 addition, some local chapters of the Society 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 and should contact Thelma Dalmas, the Membership Secretary. Annual dues are \$20.00 for active members, \$35.00 for sustaining members, \$60.00 or more for contributing members, \$500.00 for life members, and \$25.00 for family members.

Additional Information can be found on the Internet, at www.virginiabirds.net

Queries and comments about *The Raven* or the VSO Newsletter should be directed to the respective editors.

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The Raven

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Editor
Wesley M. Brown



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THE JUNE 2011 FORAY: ALLEGHANY COUNTY

SUSAN BROWN* and ELISA ENDERS**

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ABSTRACT

The Virginia Society of Ornithology conducted its annual breeding bird foray in Alleghany County this year, from June 11 to June 19, 2011. 108 species were tallied, at elevations from 1000 to 3400 feet. Evidence of breeding was obtained for 85 of these species. Woodland species (except for those breeding at high elevations in Virginia) were well represented in our counts, reflective of the forested nature of the county. Water birds, nocturnal birds and grassland or shrubland species were less well represented.

INTRODUCTION

Alleghany County is next to the West Virginia border, along the eastern edge of the Alleghany Mountains. It is in a part of the Appalachian mountain chain referred to as "Mountains and Valleys" or "Valley and Ridge Province". The county is comprised of a series of ridges running northeast to southwest, interspersed with valleys containing the major creeks, rivers and roads in the county. The ridges reach as high as 3000 or 4000 feet, whereas the valleys have elevations as low as ~1000 feet. Much of the county, especially at higher elevations, is part of the George Washington National Forest. Thus there are abundant forest service roads and trails available for the survey, as well as some sparsely settled roads on private land.

Most of the forest service land is heavily forested, although there is some logging going on. There are several roadless and wilderness areas containing undisturbed forest. Inventoried Roadless Areas are areas with no existing roads that have been identified as suitable for conservation by the US Forest Service. Oliver Mountain and Dolly Ann Roadless Areas are completely within Alleghany County, and the southern ends of Beard's Mountain and Mill Mountain Roadless Areas are also in the county. Designated Wilderness Areas, created by an act of Congress, are also pristine; the lower half of the Rich Hole Wilderness Area is within the county. These areas were included in the survey.

Because they are large, Tables 1 & 2 are placed at the end of this report, rather than within the body of the text.

METHODS

Hiking and/or driving routes were designed to obtain good coverage of all regions of the county. Almost all of the state roads, and many of the forest roads and trails were surveyed. In addition, we were careful to sample a broad range of elevations.

Twenty groups (31 forayers, see Acknowledgements) carried out 106 eBird-type counts during the Foray. Location (and often GPS coordinates at the start of the count), date, starting time, duration, and distance were recorded for each count. In addition, evidence of breeding activity was sought.

Twenty-one of the counts were "stationary" counts, and the other 91 were "traveling" counts. These counts covered 319 miles: 62 miles hiking, 252 miles driving, and 5 miles boating. 7537 birds (see TABLE 1, column 3, below) were seen during 168 hours of counts. The individual checklists are available on eBird under the username "2011VSOforay" (password provided upon request).

Weather was partly/cloudy on June 15, 16, 18 and 19, and sunny for the rest of the foray; there was no rain in the daytime. Mid-day temperatures were in the mid 70's to low 80's, except for June 12, which was in the high 80's.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Alleghany County has not been surveyed previously by the Virginia Society of Ornithology, so we must look elsewhere for comparisons. Bath and Highland, the neighboring counties to the north, were most recently forayed in 2003 (Spahr, 2003). Although it is somewhat difficult to judge whether the amount of effort is comparable (see legend to TABLE 1), the number of birds seen is in general very similar for a given species (compare columns 1-3 in TABLE 1). The total number of birds was ~7000 for Highland County, ~8000 for Bath County, and 7537 for the present Foray in Alleghany County.

Additional information from "Birds of Bath and Highland Counties in Virginia" (2004) and the "North American Breeding Bird Survey" (Sauer et al., 2011), as well as a comparison with eBird information for surrounding counties (see below), were also used for comparison.

A total of 108 species were observed (TABLE 1, column 3), and evidence of breeding obtained for 85 of these (TABLE 2). A number of these species will be discussed individually under "Selected Species Accounts", below. However, a few general observations can be made:

As just mentioned, the number of birds of a given species that we observed was generally similar to the number seen during the 2003 Foray of Bath and Highland Counties (Spahr, 2003). However, this was not the case for species that breed at higher elevations. These were more abundant in Highland County than in Bath (compare columns 1 and 2 in TABLE 1). This is to be expected, as Highland has a higher mean elevation (2832 ft.) than Bath (2210 ft.) (County Highpointers Association, 2011). Alleghany is on average lower still (2030 ft.), and tends to continue the trend, having even fewer (or no) birds of those species (column 3 in TABLE 1). This trend is observed to a greater or lesser degree for the following high elevation breeders in Virginia: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Veery, Hermit Thrush, a number of warblers (Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Canada), Dark-eyed Junco and Purple Finch.

Fewer species were seen (108) in Alleghany than during the Bath-Highland Foray (136). The missing species included some water-associated birds, grassland birds, successional-scrub birds (Northern Bobwhite and several warblers), a couple of owls, Fish Crow, Loggerhead Shrike, and Pine Siskin, in addition to some of the high-elevation breeders just discussed.

We used eBird data for the 15 counties surrounding Alleghany (FIGURE 1) as another standard of comparison.

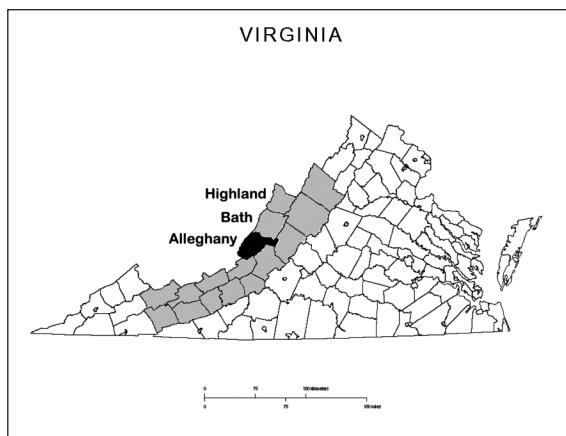


FIGURE 1: Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Craig, Giles, Highland, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Smyth, Tazewell & Whyte Counties, are shown in gray. These counties were used for comparison in column 5 of TABLE 1.

We chose counties in the "Mountains and Valleys" province (listed in the legend to FIGURE 1), and looked at the frequency of occurrence in mid-June of 2007 - 2011. Our frequencies are generally similar to those of the neighboring counties, with some exceptions (TABLE 1, compare columns 4 and 5). For example, the frequency of worm-eating warblers (43% of checklists) and ovenbirds (52% of checklists) is higher than for the surrounding counties taken together (11% and 16%). These forest birds are doing well in Alleghany.

SELECTED SPECIES ACCOUNTS: Species whose counts, frequencies and locations seemed unremarkable have been omitted from these accounts.

CANADA GEESE were seen at six locations, spread across the county, during the foray. The locations included: Lake Moomaw, Simpson Creek (eastern Alleghany County), Potts Creek (south of Covington, VA), and near the Jackson River (near Iron Gate, VA).

Two forayers reported WOOD DUCKS. Two were found by Barry Kinzie near the Jackson River (near Iron Gate, VA) on June 17, 2011. Three were found by Paul Bedell at the White Oak Dairy, along Potts Creek Road (Highway 18), south of Covington, VA on June 13, 2011.

A MALLARD seen in the Humpback Bridge area on June 13 by Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton may have been a domestic hybrid. Elisa Enders saw another 5 Mallards along Route 42 on June 14, 2011.

Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton saw a RUFFED GROUSE on June 13, 2011 on State Route 613, giving a female alarm call. Tim Hodge saw one on June 14, 2011 on Brushy Lick Loop Trail.

A single SHARP-SHINNED HAWK was seen by Bill and Arlene Williams on June 13, 2011 at Jerry's Run.

COOPER'S HAWKS were reported by Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton in the general vicinity of Route 600 south of Interstate 64 on June 13, 2011, and by Barry Kinzie near Iron Gate, VA on June 17, 2011.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were reported at three locations. Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton found one in the general vicinity of Route 600 south of I-64 on June 13, 2011. Paul Bedell found one at White Oak Dairy, on Potts Creek Road (Highway 18) south of Covington, VA on June 15. Meredith and Lee Bell found two at Dolly Ann Drive, northeast of Covington, on June 16. Interestingly, all reports of RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS came from central Alleghany County.

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were noted by six groups at seven locations across the county. All locations were within 5 miles of Interstate 64.

Our number of AMERICAN KESTRELS is perhaps a little low. On June 13, 2011, Bill Williams saw one at Moss Run Baptist Church on Route 159 and Barry Kinzie saw one in the extreme southwest of the county. In contrast, 14 were seen in Highland County and 5 in Bath during the 2003 Foray. This pattern of decreasing counts across the counties has been mentioned as typical of high-elevation breeders, but kestrels don't show much elevational bias. Since Highland County has more open country than Bath or Alleghany (Vogelmann et al., 2001), perhaps more kestrels were seen there for that reason.

A FORSTER'S TERN was reported by Tim Hodge at Lake Moomaw on June 13, 2011. There are only a few records of this species so far west in Virginia. On eBird, Barry Kinzie recorded one at Lake Moomaw (presumably the same bird) on May 20, 2011, and David Clark recorded one at an unspecified location in neighboring Bath county on August 18, 2006. There is also a record for Lake Moomaw in Bath County on May 18, 2002 (Bath-Highland Bird Club, 2004).

Bill and Arlene Williams reported a SPOTTED SANDPIPER at the Low Moor YMCA near the Jackson River, on June 14, 2011 between 8 and 10 AM. Between 10 AM and 2 PM, Barry Kinzie also saw a spotted sandpiper, flying along the Jackson River about a mile below the Gathright Dam (at quite a distance from the first sighting). He again saw this species at about the same location on July 6, 2011. Spotted sandpipers were not seen during the Bath-Highland 2003 Foray, nor in surrounding counties on eBird in mid-June, 2007-2011 (TABLE 1). They are more commonly seen in April-May and then again in July-August in this region, so our bird(s) is perhaps a late migrant.

On June 13, 2011, a BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was heard at an altitude of 2400 feet on Route 658 by Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton. Andrew Clem reported another one on Forest Road 582 on June 14, 2011. Wendy Ealding, Dan Perkuchin and Lee Adams reported a third on June 16, 2011 along Ogle Creek Road within five miles of I-64.

An EASTERN SCREECH-OWL and a BARRED OWL were both heard on June 13, 2011 between 9 and 10PM at the Fortney Branch Boat Ramp by Tim Hodge.

A BARRED OWL was also reported by John Spahr (June 15, 2011 on Dry Run Trail), and by Laura Neale and Elisa Enders (June 13, 2011, along State Route 770).

A goodly number of EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILLS (19, by 5 groups) were heard. This is more than the 2 heard in Highland and 7 heard in Bath during the 2003 VSO Foray (Spahr, 2003). However, the frequency of Whip-poor-wills on our checklists (6%) is similar to that (4%) for the 15 surrounding counties in mid-June, 2007-11 (Table 1),

indicating that our numbers are not unexpectedly high.

Whip-poor-wills were heard at dusk or dawn; no surveys were conducted at night.

Tim Hodge observed a recently fledged whip-poor-will on Oliver Mountain Trail on June 14, 2011. This appears to be the only record of confirmed breeding in the area. There is no evidence of confirmed breeding in neighboring Highland and Bath Counties (Bath-Highland Bird Club, 2004).

CHIMNEY SWIFTS were less abundant than reported for Bath-Highland in 2003, when greater than 150 birds were seen in 38 groups. In contrast, we saw 41 birds in nine groups. This corresponded to a frequency (8%) that was somewhat low compared to neighboring counties (22%, Table 1).

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was seen by Tim Hodge by Lake Moomaw at Hughes Draft on June 14, 2011.

A possible YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER juvenile was seen by Wes Brown on June 11, 2011 at an elevation of 2300 feet on the eastern slope of Brushy Mountain (FR 345 in northwest Alleghany County). This is an unusual sighting because sapsuckers are expected to breed at a higher elevation (above 3500 feet, Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007). However, there is a summer observation at 2563 feet (June 22, 2004, at Glen Alton in Giles County; Virginia Birds, 2004). Another anomaly is that the timing is very early; sapsuckers are only beginning to fledge in mid-June. Thus this is a possible but not at all expected observation (Roger Clapp and John Gerwin, personal communications).

WILLOW FLYCATCHERS were found at three locations during the foray. Tim Hodge had singles along Route 600 (between Routes 641 and 666) and near the Lake Moomaw dam, both on June 13, 2011. Barry Kinzie found a single bird near Iron Gate, VA on June 17.

A LEAST FLYCATCHER (a high-elevation breeder, see above) was seen by Tim Hodge in the Oliver Mountain Roadless Area on June 13 and 14, 2011.

A WARBLING VIREO was found on June 13 along Route 269 (near Simpson Creek), about 1 mile east of the intersection with the Cowpasture River (Frank and Mary Enders).

Chickadees have all been listed as CAROLINA/BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, because the hybrid zone between these two species runs through the county, and the birds can only be sorted into separate species or hybrids by DNA analysis (Sattler and Braun, 2000; Sattler et al., 2007). Vocalizations and appearance typical of both species were reported. Interestingly, we found that with one exception, the chickadees seen at elevations greater than 2700 feet

(18 out of 19) had black-capped-like vocalizations. These higher elevations included SR 617 near the border with Craig County (Pott's Mountain), SR 602 & 603 near the West Virginia border (Big Ridge), and Fore and Warm Springs Mountains north of Covington. John Spahr reported the exception, a Carolina-like bird at around 3000 feet on Dry Run Trail, June 15, 2011.

Tim Hodge saw a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH at an elevation of 2300-2500 feet on June 14, 2011 on Brushy Lick Loop Trail (Forest Trail 488).

A pair of HERMIT THRUSHES was seen in the vicinity of route 18 south of Boiling Spring by John Fox on June 17, 2011. This bird is a high-elevation breeder in Virginia, and indeed hermit thrushes show the decreasing pattern from Highland and Bath Counties mentioned above. However, this particular thrush was seen at a relatively low elevation (between 1300-1600 feet).

A pair of BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS was seen in an open area surrounded by forest on Ogle Creek Rd. at an elevation of 2000 feet, by Wendy Ealding, Lee Adams and Dan Perkuchin. They were at the expected habitat (shrubland, mixed forest) and elevation (Wilson et al., 2007). Wilson et al. obtained a frequency of occurrence of 1 out of 16 counts (6%) in Alleghany County, but they were selecting count sites that had appropriate habitat. We obtained a lower frequency of 1%, not selecting habitat.

Wilson et al. (2007) observed GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS at a frequency of 12% (2 counts out of 16) in appropriate habitat in Alleghany County, but we did not observe any during the Foray. They noted that this species is rapidly declining.

Andrew Clem observed a YELLOW WARBLER on State Road 633 on June 14, 2011. The dearth of yellow warblers during the foray was not expected; Rottenborn and Brinkley (2007) state that it is a common summer resident in the lowlands of the "Mountains and Valleys" region of Virginia. A number of yellow warblers were reported during the 2003 VSO Foray (80 in Highland County and 43 in Bath). However, the Breeding Bird Survey (Sauer et al, 2011) shows a significant decline in this species (-2.2%, between 1999 & 2009, the third largest decline for a neotropical migrant in Virginia). Also, Yellow Warblers were not particularly common in the surrounding counties (a frequency of 6%, Table 1).

A BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, singing, was reported at ~2300 feet on Brushy Lick Loop Trail (Forest Trail 488), on June 14, 2011 by Tim Hodge.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER is a high-elevation breeder, mostly above 2500 feet, in Virginia (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007). Indeed, a number were found in

Highland but not Bath County during the 2003 VSO Foray, a trend seen with high-elevation breeders (see general discussion above). However, in the case of this species, the trend did not continue. We saw 31 Blackburnians, similar to the ~30 seen in Highland in 2003. However, unlike the Highland birds, most were found below 3000 feet. Tim Hodge saw 26 Blackburnians, mostly along Hughes Creek at an elevation of about 1750 feet on June 14, 2011. Bill and Arlene Williams saw four at various elevations in mixed white pine/deciduous forest along the Alleghany Trail on June 13, 2011. One of them was seen at the beginning of the trail, at an elevation of about 2200 feet, carrying nesting material. Another, a juvenile, was seen at a higher elevation about a mile along the trail. John Spahr reported one at about 2500-3000 feet on June 15, 2011.

A YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER was reported by Elisa, Frank and Mary Enders, June 16, 2011, on Route 220 at the Jackson River (near the Devil's Backbone rock formation).

CERULEAN WARBLERS were encountered by four groups at seven different locations. Barry Kinzie found two birds in the area of Routes 602 and 603 on June 13. Tim Hodge found birds at four locations: two birds along Route 600, north of Interstate 64 on June 13; one bird along Route 605, north of Route 666 on June 13; three birds along Brushy Lick Loop on June 14; one bird on Meeden Hollow Trail on June 14. Clyde Kessler found a single bird in the vicinity of Peter's Mountain on June 17. Bill and Arlene Williams found a single bird at Jerry's Run on June 13.

WORM-EATING WARBLERS were abundant in places. The high count was 24, in a one-mile stretch of Forest Road 345 on the eastern slope of Brushy Mountain (Wes and Susan Brown, June 11, 2011). There was copious evidence of breeding, including a nest with eggs located by Elisa, Frank, and Mary Enders on June 15, 2011 in Rich Hole Wilderness Area (FIGURE 2).



FIGURE 2: Worm-eating warbler nest, photographed on June 15, 2011 by Andrew Clem.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSHES were commonly seen. Since this bird has been touted as an indicator of water quality (Newell, 2011), we asked which creeks our waterthrushes were associated with. Survey routes passed next to the following creeks: Lick Log, Ogle, John's Run, Dry Run, Fortney Branch, Hughes, Jackson River, Cast Steel Run, Jerry's Run, Karne's, White Rock, Hayes, Blue Spring Run, Simpson, Pounding Mill Run, Blue Suck or Downy Branch, Smith, Johnson, Big Run, and South Fork of the Ogle. Waterthrushes were seen at all but the last three of these. Almost all of the waterthrushes (39 out of 43) were seen before 10:30 AM; two more were probably seen before 10:30 AM, one was seen between 11 AM and 12:25 PM, and one was seen after 5 PM. In contrast, the three creeks where no waterthrushes were seen were all surveyed mid-day (10:30 AM - 3:30 PM). We conclude that water quality is probably good throughout the county, and time of day likely explains the lack of waterthrushes in a few creeks.

Three groups each reported a KENTUCKY WARBLER. Barry Kinzie had a single bird on June 11, near Rich Patch. Sue and Randy Thrasher found a bird nearby, on Route 622, on June 18. Tim Hodge found one south of Lake Moomaw along Oliver Mountain Trail on June 14, 2011.

Three individual COMMON YELLOWTHROATS were found during the foray period. Elisa Enders heard one along Route 850, in the eastern portion of the county, at a crossing with Simpson Creek, on June 12. Tim Hodge found a bird along Route 600, north of Interstate 64 on June 13. Bill and Arlene Williams found bird at the YMCA at Low Moor on June 14.

Only one CANADA WARBLER, a high elevation breeder, was reported during the foray. The singing bird was reported by Tim Hodge on June 14, 2011 in the Oliver Mountain Roadless Area.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were found at several locations. Barry Kinzie found a chat near Rich Patch on June 11. Bill and Arlene Williams found two birds at the YMCA at Low Moor on June 14. Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton found an individual along Route 658, on the northern section of Peter's Mountain, on June 14. Single chats were also found on Forest Road 466, in the eastern portion of the county, on June 13, and along Route 18, south of Covington, on June 18.

Tim Hodge saw a partial albino CHIPPING SPARROW on the east side of the Fortney Loop Trail in the Lake Moomaw area on June 13, 2011.

A single GRASSHOPPER SPARROW was seen by Rexanne Bruno and Susan Stanton on June 13, 2011. The bird was on route 600 or 614, about 5 miles S. of Interstate 64.

BLUE GROSBEAKS (an uncommon summer resident, Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007) were found at six locations by five groups across the county. This is in marked contrast to INDIGO BUNTINGS (an abundant summer resident, *ibid*), which were found by almost every group and, when found, often had numbers in double digits.

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TABLE 1: Columns 2 and 3 are numbers of birds seen during the 2003 VSO Foray in Highland and Bath Counties (Spahr, 2003). Column 4 is the number of birds seen during the 2011 Foray. The frequency of occurrence (= the percentage of checklists where the bird was seen at least once) for column 4 is listed in column 5. Column 6 lists the frequency of occurrence for the 15 surrounding counties (see FIGURE 1) during the middle two weeks in June 2007-2011 (= 375 checklists). In 2003, there were 49 observers, 104 field lists (the list of one group for one day), and 175 observer days. This Foray had 31 observers, 106 check lists (the equivalent of roughly 31 field lists), and 49 observer days.

TABLE 1 (Page 1 of 4)	COUNTS			FREQUENCY in %	
SPECIES	2003 HIGHLAND	2003 BATH	2011 ALLEGHANY	2011 ALLEGHANY	2007-11 15 COUNTIES
Canada Goose	16	300	42	6	14
Wood Duck	7	9	5	2	3
Mallard	6	~20	6	2	20
Northern Shoveler	1				
Lesser Scaup		2			
Hooded Merganser		3			
Ruffed Grouse	13	5	2	2	3
Wild Turkey	~20	~20	28	12	4
Northern Bobwhite		2			1
Common Loon					2
Double-crested Cormorant					1
Great Blue Heron		4			4
Green Heron	4	13			7
Roseate Spoonbill					2
Black Vulture	10	8	15	7	6
Turkey Vulture	~200	~200	116	37	37
Osprey	2	3			1
Bald Eagle	~10	~8	5	4	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	1	1	1	1
Cooper's Hawk	3	3	3	2	3
Accipiter sp.			1	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	10	4	3	3
Broad-winged Hawk	11	13	9	7	3
Red-tailed Hawk	28	13	12	9	12
American Kestrel	14	5	2	2	5
Common Moorhen					1
Killdeer	16	10	7	4	14
Spotted Sandpiper			2	2	
Ring-billed Gull	1	1			
Forster's Tern			1	1	
Rock Pigeon	43	6	32	4	7
Mourning Dove	~100	~100	111	34	45
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	~30	~40	73	29	14
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	8	3	3	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	2		1	1	

TABLE 1 continued (P. 2 of 4)		COUNTS		FREQUENCY in %	
SPECIES	2003 HIGHLAND	2003 BATH	2,011 ALLEGHANY	2011 ALLEGHANY	2007-11 15 COUNTIES
Great Horned Owl		1			1
Barred Owl	7	3	3	3	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1.00				
Eastern Whip-poor-will	2	7	19	6	4
Chimney Swift	Common	Common	41	8	22
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	~10	~20	20	14	17
Belted Kingfisher	~30	~10	7	6	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	15		1	1	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	~40	57	27	16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	34		1?	1?	
Downy Woodpecker	~30	~30	57	32	13
Hairy Woodpecker	~20	~7	25	11	6
Northern Flicker	!75	~75	30	18	15
Pileated Woodpecker	~50	~50	119	50	14
Eastern Wood-Pewee	60	90	79	28	18
Acadian Flycatcher	65	100	70	23	9
Willow Flycatcher	4	9	4	3	2
Least Flycatcher	51	30	2	2	3
Eastern Phoebe	~19	~22	83	38	24
Great Crested Flycatcher	~90	~90	46	20	14
Eastern Kingbird	~30	~30	8	8	18
Loggerhead Shrike	3	1			
White-eyed Vireo	3	38	9	7	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	16	34	28	14	4
Blue-headed Vireo	80	45	34	14	7
Warbling Vireo		9	1	1	4
Red-eyed Vireo	~500	~500	799	82	30
Blue Jay	~100	~100	114	42	39
American Crow	~300	~300	266	66	51
Fish Crow		1			3
Common Raven	~66	~33	52	23	11
Horned Lark	4				1
Purple Martin					2
Tree Swallow	Common	Common	121	18	29
No. Rgh-winged Swallow	33	76	91	16	9
Cliff Swallow	40	21			5
Barn Swallow	~300	~300	128	18	32
Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee	~100	~100	148	50	10
Tufted Titmouse	71	182	210	60	29
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	1	1	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	40	~50	101	33	14
Brown Creeper	8	5			
Carolina Wren	~30	~80	91	32	20
House Wren	56	17	6	5	11
Winter Wren	4				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	47	141	143	36	11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	40				
Eastern Bluebird	Common	Common	82	22	27
Veery	68	17			4
Hermit Thrush	24	5	2	1	1
Wood Thrush	~60	~120	123	38	12
American Robin	Abundant	Abundant	326	50	56
Gray Catbird	Common	Common	60	22	41

TABLE 1 continued (P. 3 of 4)	COUNTS			FREQUENCY in %	
SPECIES	2003 HIGHLAND	2003 BATH	2,011 ALLEGHANY	2011 ALLEGHANY	2007-11 15 COUNTIES
Northern Mockingbird	~15	46	54	25	26
Brown Thrasher	66	112	47	18	15
European Starling	Abundant	Abundant	246	16	35
Cedar Waxwing	~250	~250	54	18	25
Blue-winged Warbler	H	3	2	1	
Golden-winged Warbler	6	10			3
Northern Parula	49	122	24	9	7
Yellow Warbler	80	43	1	1	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	68	50	13	8	10
Magnolia Warbler	~100	2			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	~7	~6	1	1	4
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16				1
Black-throated Green Warbler	~140	~50	37	14	6
Blackburnian Warbler	~30		31	3	3
Yellow-throated Warbler	~4	~10	1	1	1
Pine Warbler	3	37	38	17	7
Prairie Warbler	7	9	12	6	3
Cerulean Warbler	4	~40	11	7	4
Black-and-white Warbler	~35	~100	79	26	12
American Redstart	~50	~150	46	23	11
Worm-eating Warbler	23	~160	236	43	11
Ovenbird	89	~180	304	52	16
Louisiana Waterthrush	~20	~40	43	19	6
Kentucky Warbler		2	3	3	1
Mourning Warbler	~5	~5			1
Common Yellowthroat	~35	~50	3	3	7
Hooded Warbler	5	~70	43	17	9
Canada Warbler	~18	a few	1	1	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	5	~16	6	6	3
Eastern Towhee	~250	~250	248	48	36
Chipping Sparrow	~300	~300	257	50	28
Field Sparrow	~100	~100	36	14	13
Vesper Sparrow	14				1
Savannah Sparrow	16	4			1
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	18	1	1	3
Song Sparrow	135	87	114	30	38
Dark-eyed Junco	195	~77	13	5	6
Scarlet Tanager	144	~300	327	65	21
Northern Cardinal	51	132	159	45	49
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	49	26	32	10	7
Blue Grosbeak		6	6	6	4
Indigo Bunting	Very Common	V. Common	389	70	46
Dickcissel	2				
Bobolink	~70				3
Red-winged Blackbird	Abundant	Common	110	15	20
Eastern Meadowlark	Abundant	Common	20	9	14
Common Grackle	~300	~150	216	30	39
Brown-headed Cowbird	Common	Common	54	16	15
Orchard Oriole	20	40	14	10	8
Baltimore Oriole	59	47	22	10	10
Purple Finch	9				
House Finch	51	8	29	10	16
Pine Siskin		1			
American Goldfinch	Very Common	Common	141	45	45

TABLE 1 continued (P. 4 of 4)	COUNTS			FREQUENCY in %	
SPECIES	2003 HIGHLAND	2003 BATH	2011 ALLEGHANY	2011 ALLEGHANY	2007-11 15 COUNTIES
House Sparrow	Common	Common	42	9	26
Total number of species	123	124	108		
Total number of birds	~7000	~8000	7537		

TABLE 2 (page 1 of 2): Evidence of breeding observed during the 2011 VSO Foray*

SPECIES	EVIDENCE OF BREEDING*		
	Possible ^a	Probable ^b	Confirmed ^c
Canada Goose			FL
Wood Duck			FL
Ruffed Grouse	S	A	
Wild Turkey	2 S		3 FL
Bald Eagle	P		
Red-tailed Hawk	P		
Killdeer	S		
Mourning Dove	2 P, 2 S	C	FL
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	8 S		
Eastern Screech-Owl	S		
Barred Owl	S		
Whip-poor-will	S		FL
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	S		
Belted Kingfisher	2 S		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2 P, 8 S		
Downy Woodpecker	6 S		FL
Hairy Woodpecker	3 S		FL
Pileated Woodpecker	P, 9 S		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7 S		
Acadian Flycatcher	8 S		
Willow Flycatcher	2 S		
Least Flycatcher	S		
Eastern Phoebe	P, 3 S		2 ON
Great Crested Flycatcher	2 S	A	
Eastern Kingbird	3 S		
White-eyed Vireo	2 S		
Yellow-throated Vireo	6 S		
Blue-headed Vireo	3 S		
Red-eyed Vireo	2 P, 22 S		2 CF
Blue Jay	8 S		
American Crow	P, S		2 FL, FY
Common Raven			2 FL
Tree Swallow			2 FL, 2 ON
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	P, S		2 FL
Barn Swallow	2 S		19 ON
Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee	3 S		2 FL, FY
Tufted Titmouse	P, 14 S	C	4 FL
White-breasted Nuthatch	P, 5 S		FL
Carolina Wren	P, 5 S	A	
House Wren	2 S		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3 P, 8 S		
Eastern Bluebird	3 P		5 FL, ON
Hermit Thrush	P		
Wood Thrush	3 S		
American Robin	2 P, 2 S	T	CF

TABLE 2, continued (page 2 of 2)

SPECIES	EVIDENCE OF BREEDING ^a		
	Possible ^b	Probable ^c	Confirmed ^d
Gray Catbird	P, 4 S		CS
Northern Mockingbird	P, S		
Brown Thrasher	2 P		2 CS
European Starling	2 P		3 FL
Blue-winged Warbler	P		
Northern Parula	5 S		CF
Chestnut-sided Warbler	S		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	S		
Black-throated Green Warbler	4 S		
Blackburnian Warbler	P, S	CN	FL
Pine Warbler	P, 2 S		
Prairie Warbler	S		
Cerulean Warbler	6 S		FL
Black-and-white Warbler	4 P, S		2 CF
American Redstart	2 P, 3 S		
Worm-eating Warbler	3 P, 8 S	A, NB	6 CF, 2 FL, NE, FY
Ovenbird	P, 23 S		FL, FY
Louisiana Waterthrush	2 P, S		CS
Kentucky Warbler	S		
Common Yellowthroat	2 S		
Canada Warbler	S		
Yellow-breasted Chat	2S		
Eastern Towhee	3 P, 16 S		
Chipping Sparrow	P, 4 S	CN	CF, 2 FL, FY, NY
Field Sparrow	5 S		
Song Sparrow	P, 4 S		CF, FY
Dark-eyed Junco	5 S		
Scarlet Tanager	3 P, 15 S	T	
Northern Cardinal	3 P, 9 S		CF
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3 S		
Blue Grosbeak	S		
Indigo Bunting	7 P, 11 S	C	2 FL, 2 FY
Red-winged Blackbird	2P	NB	FY
Common Grackle	P, 5 S		CS, FY
Brown-headed Cowbird	S		2 FL
Orchard Oriole	2 S	C, NB	FY
Baltimore Oriole	3 S		
House Finch	2 S		
American Goldfinch	2 P, 2 S		
House Sparrow			FL, FY

a. Breeding codes based on eBird: <<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/breeding-codes>>

b. P=pair observed in suitable breeding habitat within breeding season; S=Singing male present in suitable nesting habitat during its breeding season; **Numerical** is number of independent observations. **Note:** not all forayers included evidence in the "Possible" category.

c. **CN**=adult carrying nesting material; nest site not seen; **A**=agitated behavior or anxiety calls from an adult; **NB**=Nest building at apparent nest site; **T**=Territorial behavior; **C**=Courtship, Display or Copulation.

d. **CS**=Adult carrying fecal sac; **FL**=Recently fledged or downy young observed while still dependent upon adults; **CF**=Adult carrying food for young; **FY**=Adult feeding young that have left the nest, but are not yet flying and independent; **NY**=Nest with young seen or heard.

WINTERING HUMMINGBIRD RECORDS, 1995 - 2011 LYNCHBURG AND VICINITY

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Sightings of Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) during the winter months (i.e., after 1 November) have increased dramatically in Virginia since the 1980s (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007). Only one record of this species, an individual reported from Northampton County on 30 November 1952, was reported in the first edition of *Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist* (Larner, 1979); less than ten years later, when the second edition was issued (Kain, 1987), three additional winter records were reported. Since then, winter reports of this species have become numerous and Rufous Hummingbirds have now become regular winter visitors to Virginia. Other species of hummingbirds have also been reported in the state and some of the Rufous Hummingbirds have returned to spend a second winter at the same feeder (Taber 2002, 2005). The first account of an over-wintering hummingbird in the Virginia piedmont was a Rufous Hummingbird seen in Arlington from September 1981 through May 1982 (Taber, 2002).

Since 1995, there have been 23 documented winter records of hummingbirds in the Lynchburg area (Table 1). All of these sightings were made in the city of Lynchburg or the surrounding counties of Amherst, Bedford or Campbell with a single exception, a report from Charlotte County. The Charlotte County sighting is included here because of its proximity to this geographic area, as the bird was observed very close to the Campbell County line.

Prior to the autumn of 2006, most of these birds could only be identified as *Selasphorus sp.* Given the identity of known *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in Virginia (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007), it is likely that the majority of these birds were Rufous. Since 2006, when a bander was located, all of the *Selasphorus* seen in winter have been identified as Rufous Hummingbirds, and the records also include 1 Calliope (*Stellula calliope*), 1 Black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*) and 1 Ruby-throated (*A. colubris*) hummingbird.

At least two hummingbirds have been reported on each of the Lynchburg Christmas Bird Counts for the years 2006 – 2010, and hummingbirds were observed on eight of the ten Christmas Bird Counts between 2001 and 2010 (Table 1). The majority of the winter hummingbirds were first observed in November (9 reports) or October (8 reports) and seven hummingbirds remained at the feeders through early April. Since 2006, eleven of these wintering hummingbirds have been banded, including 8 Rufous, 1 Black-chinned, 1 Calliope, and 1 Ruby-throated. Three of the banded hummingbirds, all Rufous females, returned

to spend a second winter in the area. Table 1 contains details on all of these hummingbird sightings, numbered in chronological order of appearance; more details follow for some of the birds (birds are numbered in accord with Table 1).

1. Rufous: This is the first documented record of a wintering hummingbird in Central Virginia (Sattler, *et. al.*, 2003). The bird was observed visiting a feeder through early November 1995. The home owner moved the feeder into a screened porch and the bird followed the feeder inside. The bird was taken from there to a Florida room inside the house. This bird was frequently seen gleaning insects from the plants in the Florida room and was observed feeding on aphids. It remained in the house until 15 April 1996, when it was released. Bob Sargent, a recognized expert on wintering hummingbirds in the southeastern United States, identified the bird as a female Rufous from photographs.

3. *Selasphorus sp.*: Based on observations, this bird was presumed to be a female Rufous. The bird was visiting a feeder in a rural section of Amherst County. Lights were set up around the feeder to keep the sugar solution from freezing. This is the first record in Central Virginia of a hummingbird spending the entire winter outside.

4. *Selasphorus sp.*: Based on observations, this bird was presumed to be a female Rufous. It was the first hummingbird observed on the Lynchburg Christmas Bird Count. Five years later (see Sighting 10) an adult female Rufous Hummingbird appeared in the same yard.

5. *Selasphorus sp.*: Based on observations, this bird was presumed to be a female Rufous. Lights were set up to keep the feeder solution from freezing. One very cold night in mid-February (about 11:00 PM), the homeowner observed the bird asleep on the perch of the feeder (under the light).

6. *Selasphorus sp.*: An apparent female Rufous appeared where a bird was observed the previous year (see Sighting 5). The homeowner had to leave town for a week in mid-January, and purchased a timing device to keep the light on the feeder. Upon returning home, the homeowner discovered that the lamp had failed and the feeder had frozen and broken. The bird was not seen again.

10. Rufous: A bird appeared at a feeder at the same house on Chikasaw Road where one was observed in 2001 – 2002 (see Sighting 4). It was an adult female Rufous. Of course, the really intriguing question here, which can never be answered is, "Was this the same bird that visited from 6

Table 1 - Hummingbirds Wintering in Lynchburg, 1995-2011

No.	Species	Age & Sex ¹	Arrival ²	Departure ³	Location	Banded ^{4,5}	Photo ⁴	CBC ⁴
1	<i>Rufous</i>	female	30-Oct-1995	15-Apr-1996	Parkland Drive, Lynchburg	N	Y	N
2	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	female	6-Oct-1998	24-Nov-1998	Columbia Avenue, Lynchburg	N	N	N
3	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	female	20-Nov-1999	15-Apr-2000	High Peak Road, Amherst County	N	N	N
4	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	female	6-Dec-2001	3-Apr-2002	Chikasaw Avenue, Lynchburg	N	N	Y
5	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	female	5-Dec-2003	5-Apr-2004	Greenway Drive, Lynchburg	N	N	Y
6	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	female	25-Nov-2004	mid-Jan-2005	Greenway Drive, Lynchburg	N	N	Y
7	<i>Rufous</i>	female	6-Dec-2005	7-Jan-2006	Rt. 619, Charlotte County	N	Y	N
8	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter female	late-Sep-2006	24-Dec-2006	Knight's Bridge Way, Bedford County	Y (a)	N	N
9	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter female	22-Oct-2006	4-Apr-2007	New Shannon Drive, Amherst County	Y (a)	Y	Y
10	<i>Rufous</i>	adult female	20-Nov-2006	late-Mar-2007	Chikasaw Avenue, Lynchburg	Y (a)	N	Y
11	<i>Rufous</i>	adult female	12-Oct-2007	9-Apr-2008	New Shannon Drive, Amherst County	Y (b)	Y	Y
12	<i>Rufous</i>	adult female	12-Oct-2007	9-Mar-2008	Chikasaw Avenue, Lynchburg	Y (c)	Y	Y
13	Black-chinned	first winter female	24-Nov-2007	15-Jan-2008	Deer Run Road, Forest, Bedford County	Y (d)	Y	Y
14	Calliope	first winter male	mid-Oct-2008	13-Feb-2009	Sandown Circle, Lynchburg	Y (d)	Y	Y
15	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter female	10-Nov-2008	9-Apr-2009	Fairfax Court, Lynchburg	Y (d)	Y	Y
16	<i>Rufous</i>	adult female	mid-Oct-2009	29-Jan-2010	Fairfax Court, Lynchburg	Y (c)	Y	Y
17	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter female	late-Nov-2009	19-Jan-2010	Bishop's Lane, Lynchburg	Y (d)	Y	Y
18	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	unknown	9-Dec-2009	26-Dec-2009	Rt. 683, Bedford County	N	Y	N
19	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter male	mid-Oct-2010	13-Dec-2010	Equestrian Ridge Drive, Bedford County	Y (d)	Y	N
20	Unknown	unknown	1-Nov-2010	8-Nov-2010	Coffee Road, Bedford County	N	Y	N
21	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter female	1-Nov-2010	13-Dec-2010	Sardis Road, Amherst County	Y (d)	Y	N
22	Ruby-throated	adult male	early-Nov-2010	23-Dec-2010	Woodcrest Drive, Lynchburg	Y (d)	Y	Y
23	<i>Rufous</i>	first winter female	15-Dec-2010	14-Jan-2011	Forest Oaks Drive, Bedford County	Y (d)	Y	Y

1 - Age & sex determined by bander or from photographs; for birds 2-6, age and sex were determined from observations only

2 - Arrival = date bird was first observed in the area

3 - Departure = date bird was last observed in the area

4 - Y = yes; N = no; CBC = [Lynchburg] Christmas Bird Count

5 - (a) banded by Sue Heath; (b) recaptured by Bruce Peterjohn and David Holmes; (c) recaptured by Bruce Peterjohn; (d) banded by Bruce Peterjohn

December 2001 through 3 April 2002?”. We will never know!

11. Rufous: Bird again appeared at the same feeder on New Shannon Road where one was banded the previous year. (see Sighting 9) This bird was captured and proved to be the same bird. The bird continued to visit the feeder for 180 days, setting an area record for the longest stay by a wintering hummingbird.

12. Rufous: A bird again appeared at a feeder on Chikasaw Road where one was banded the previous year. (see Sighting 10) The bird was captured and proved to be the same bird.

13. Black-chinned: This is the first Piedmont record of this species in Virginia. On warmer days, this bird was often observed “flycatching” along a shrubby border of the lawn.

14. Calliope: The is the second documented sighting of this species in Virginia and the first Calliope Hummingbird banded in the state. The bird endured brutally cold temperatures during mid-January. The night of 16 January, the temperature registered –4 degrees F., the intrepid hostess, wrote on 17 January about her difficulties in keeping the hummingbird supplied with a liquid sugar solution, “We had a heck of a time keeping the feeder warm today. Even with a 250-watt heat lamp it did not stay thawed very long. I decided that I would set my timer and every ten minutes I replaced the feeder with a fresh one. As the temperature gradually began to rise, I would add about five minutes between changing the feeder. We are now up to forty-five minute intervals.”

16. Rufous: The bird was visiting a feeder a few houses down the street from where one was banded the previous year (see Sighting 15). This bird was captured and proved to be the same bird.

20. Unknown hummingbird sp.: The bird was visiting a feeder and photographed, but a conclusive identification could not be made. It was determined that the bird was an immature female and not a *Selasphorus*. It remains a “mystery hummingbird.”

22. Ruby-throated: The homeowner was uncertain about exactly when the bird was first observed visiting a feeder, but believed it to be sometime in early November, 2010. The bird was captured and banded. At the time of capture, the mass of the bird was 3.6 grams (normally a Ruby-throated Hummingbird has a mass of around 3 grams). The bander thought that, in view of the large amount of fat storage, the bird would depart very soon, perhaps within the next day or so (Peterjohn, 2010). The bird surprised everyone and remained through 23 December.

Two intriguing questions arise, the first pertains to the sex ratio of the *Selasphorus* / Rufous Hummingbirds. Of the six birds observed between 1995 and 2005 (before a bander was located), one was identified by Bob Sargent (through photographs) as a female Rufous and the remaining five also appeared to be female Rufous Hummingbirds. After 2005, eleven Rufous Hummingbirds were banded (or recaptured), but only one was male (a first winter bird). The ten females include three recaptured birds. Thus seven females were banded and six of these were first winter birds. Is a biased sex ratio of predominantly first winter females found in all Rufous Hummingbirds wintering in the Southeast or is it peculiar to Lynchburg? This question was posed to Bruce Peterjohn. He has banded wintering hummingbirds across a wide region that includes VA, MD, DC, DE, the panhandle of WV and southern NJ since 2006. His data are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Age & Sex of 70 Rufous Hummingbirds*

Age/Sex	Males	Females	Total
Adult	6% (4)	11% (8)	17% (12)
1st Winter	16% (11)	67%(47)	83% (58)
Total	22% (15)	78% (55)	100% (70)
*captured in VA, MD, DC, DE, the panhandle of WV, and southern NJ since 2006 (Peterjohn, 2011 and 2012).			

Eighty-three percent of these captured Rufous Hummingbirds were first winter birds. Sixty-seven percent were first winter females. Peterjohn states, “The preponderance of immatures [first winter birds] is expected (in my opinion), while the preponderance of females is surprising but cannot be explained at this time” (Peterjohn, 2011). So it appears that the capture of primarily first winter female Rufous Hummingbirds is not unique to the Lynchburg area.

The second question that remains unanswered is why so many wintering hummingbirds are observed in the Lynchburg area. It seems unlikely that the small geographic area of Lynchburg and the three surrounding counties might have any particular habitat or features that would be more attractive to wintering hummingbirds than anyplace else in the state. Yet, as evidenced by those mentioned here, at least one, and often multiple, hummingbirds have been observed almost every winter in this locale over this sixteen-year period. Are wintering hummingbirds just as abundant across the state as in the Lynchburg vicinity and just not being observed or reported?

Hill *et al.* (1998) speculated about the expanding winter range of Rufous Hummingbirds and the probability of the species continuing to exploit suitable habitat in the Southeast. Their hypothesis suggests that there are probably more wintering hummingbirds all across Virginia, not just around Lynchburg. Is this discrepancy due to a lack of reporting elsewhere in the state? If so, the probable explanation for why so many are reported in the Lynchburg area may be related to community awareness. A weekly nature column, written by one of the authors (TD) has appeared in the Lynchburg newspaper for over thirty years. Readers of the column are encouraged to leave hummingbird feeders up through the end of November and asked to notify the columnist of any hummingbirds seen after late-October. It is important to note that the initial reports of most of the birds came not from the most active members of the birding community (e.g., members of the Lynchburg Bird Club), but rather from more casual observers, people who left their hummingbird feeders out long into the fall anticipating a wintering hummingbird because they read about that possibility in the local newspaper. Although all reports are investigated and documented by experienced birders, and efforts are made to have a licensed bander attempt to capture each bird to gather data about species, age, and sex, clearly citizen involvement has been an important factor in expanding our base of knowledge on the hummingbirds that winter in this area.

We believe that increasing community awareness of the potential for fall and winter hummingbirds is an important step in getting more information about these hummingbirds wintering in Virginia. A further step would be for some knowledgeable birders across the state to become points of contact to whom local individuals, especially non-birders, could report a hummingbird visiting in late fall and beyond, so that arrangements could be made for the birds to be photographed, banded, identified, aged and sexed. Such efforts would generate useful data and provide a more complete picture of the scope and distribution of wintering hummingbirds in Virginia.

Will the next edition of *Virginia Birdlife* contain a better picture on the emerging numbers and distribution of hummingbirds wintering in Virginia? What will be the next new species of hummingbird wintering in the state? We may never know unless we improve the methods for discovering, reporting and identifying hummingbirds wintering here. Birders interested in becoming hummingbird banders should consider getting their credentials in order now, so that they can aid in this effort.

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CORRECTION TO VOL. 81(2):29

David W. Johnston has requested that his name be removed from the authorship of "IN MEMORIAM Robert James Watson (1920-2010)".

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Raven, the official journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), functions to publish original contributions and original review articles in ornithology relating to Virginia Birdlife. Electronic files are the required form for manuscript submission. Text files, prepared using a Mac OS-compatible word processing program or Microsoft® Word, should contain minimal formatting. Graphics (photos, maps, graphs, charts) should be sent as high quality EPS or JPEG files. An accompanying “cover letter” file should be emailed to the editor stating (1) article title, (2) author(s) full name(s) and email and home or institutional address(es) and, for multi-authored manuscripts, (3) the name of one author designated to carry out correspondence with the editor. If the manuscript or report is technical, a list of persons who would be appropriate reviewers should also be included in the “cover letter” file. Authors are encouraged to consult with the editor on additional matters of content, format, or style.

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 histories, and behavioral observations, are also welcomed, including reports from venues outside Virginia, as long as they are directly relevant to Virginia birds (e.g., observations of Virginia birds made on their more southerly wintering or northerly breeding grounds). 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 a decision about acceptance for publication is made.

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 in the most recent edition (and supplement) of the A.O.U.’s Check-list of North American Birds (www.aou.org/checklist/north). Scientific names should be italicized. All size, temperature and other measurements should be in metric units.

