

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 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
Andrew Dolby



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Results of the 2009-2014 Loudoun County Bird Atlas

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the 2009-2014 Loudoun County Bird Atlas project was to document breeding activity and determine the year-round distribution of all bird species present within the county. The atlas documented 263 species: 120 breeding species, 77 transients, and 66 winter residents. Of the 120 breeding species, 68 were permanent resident species. Volunteer observers reported an average of 110 total species and 71 breeding species per 10-square mile block. Comparison of breeding species data from the 2009-2014 Loudoun County Bird Atlas (Atlas 2) to data from the 1985-1989 Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (Atlas 1) revealed range shifts in seven of the top 25 most widely distributed breeding species. Namely, grassland species were replaced with suburban and open woodland species. The overall number of breeding species affiliated with water doubled from Atlas 1 to Atlas 2, likely due to increased access to wetlands, ponds, riparian, and similar habitats by both observers and birds. Drawing comparisons between these two atlas datasets can provide insight into changing distributions. However, in some cases, Atlas 2's more thorough coverage and higher level of effort per block may cloud interpretation of such comparisons. The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will use the results to identify important bird areas, assist with environmental planning, generate information on species of special concern, guide future conservation activities, and serve as a comparison for future atlas surveys.

INTRODUCTION

Birds provide an easy yet powerful way to connect to our natural world and serve as important indicators of the overall health of our environment (Pearson 1995; Temple and Wiens 1989). Loudoun County's diverse habitats, ranging from forests and wetlands to suburban parks and agricultural areas, provide breeding, migration, and over-wintering sites for a variety of species. However, Loudoun has experienced tremendous growth over the past two decades. The population increased from 57,000 people in 1980 to 312,000 people in 2010, making it the fifth fastest growing county in the nation (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). This growth has resulted in many environmental

changes. Examples of such changes include habitat loss due to development, forest fragmentation, other direct and indirect impacts from the increase in human population (e.g. more vehicular traffic, communication towers, noise, and house cats), habitat degradation from white-tailed deer and invasive exotic species, and natural habitat succession.

To learn more about how population growth and associated environmental changes are impacting Loudoun County's birds, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy organized and funded a 5-year bird atlas, from 2009 to 2014, to establish a comprehensive list of all species and determine their distribution throughout the county. Atlas work provides a powerful opportunity to study all species of birds – from common to rare, secretive to approachable, localized to widespread – in a way that reveals changes in a species' distribution on a fine scale (Kamm et al. 2013a). Most bird atlases are conducted at the state level and collect data only on breeding birds. The Loudoun County Bird Atlas was unique in that the project focused on a single county and collected year-round data for all birds. By comparing this atlas (Atlas 2) to data from the 1985-1989 Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) (Atlas 1) (Trollinger and Reay 2001), we can begin to understand how the environmental changes throughout Loudoun may be impacting the birds. The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy can then devise strategies to identify and protect important bird areas and guide future conservation activities.

METHODS

From 1 April, 2009 through 1 April, 2014, volunteer field observers (atlasers) systematically surveyed different habitats throughout Loudoun, documenting birds and their behaviors. A detailed description of the methodology is available in the Loudoun County Bird Atlas Handbook, found on the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy website (Ligi 2011). The methods are comparable to the 1980's Virginia BBA (Trollinger and Reay 2001) and modeled after contemporary statewide atlases such as Maryland/District of Columbia (Ellison 2010), Delaware (BBA Explorer 2016a), and Massachusetts (Kamm et al. 2013b).

We divided Loudoun into a grid of 73 blocks, approximately 10 square miles each, based on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle maps (The National Map 2016). The atlas coordinator assigned the blocks to 1 of 8 regions for coordination, and regional coordinators assigned atlasers to survey different blocks to obtain county-wide coverage. We encouraged atlasers to conduct a survey in their block at least once every 10-15 days during the peak breeding months (May through August) and once a month during the remaining months (September through April). We also accepted incidental observations from atlasers as they surveyed opportunistically outside of their assigned blocks within the county.

Atlasers used a pre-printed field card to consistently record the occurrence and behavior of all birds. Each sighting was assigned an evidence code based on the behavior, habitat, and time of year the bird was observed (Table 1). The evidence codes were classified into 4 distinct categories which follow set standards for increasing confidence of breeding documentation: Observed (O) for all non-breeding observations, Possible (PO) breeder, Probable (PR) breeder, and Confirmed (CO) breeder (Laughlin et al. 1990).

An average of 83 effort hours was recorded per block, with 20 blocks receiving over 100 hours of coverage. Five factors provided a set of guidelines to determine when a block was considered completely surveyed: 1) 25 hours of coverage,

2) 50 PO, PR, or CO breeding species, 3) two-thirds of all breeding species considered PR or CO breeders, 4) 25% of all species considered non-breeding birds, and 5) when applicable, missing no more than 15% of breeding species observed in that block during Atlas 1.

We used BBA Explorer for data processing, an online data repository and web-based data entry and management portal hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The online system allowed the regional coordinators as well as the atlas coordinator to review and approve data. Verification forms were required for species considered rare or sensitive. During and after completion of field work, Loudoun data files were copied from Microsoft SQL Server into Microsoft Office Access and Excel for further analysis, and maps were created using ArcGIS software by ESRI.

While the field methods for Atlas 2 followed those of Atlas 1 for comparability of results, additional information was collected during Atlas 2 to add informational value. Notably, Atlas 2 included all species while Atlas 1 focused solely on breeding birds. Furthermore, Atlas 2 covered every block within the county, with each block receiving significantly more thorough coverage and a higher level of effort. Atlas 1 participants submitted 1 field card per block at the end of each breeding season, while Atlas 2 participants completed and electronically submitted a new

Table 1. Evidence codes and definitions. Safe dates indicate the dates during the breeding season that a species is no longer in migration (based on a variety of data sources) and can be presumed to be on breeding territory. These dates are not nesting or egg dates. See handbook for a complete list of species and their corresponding safe dates.

Category	Code	Observed Behavior
Observed	E	Observed outside safe dates, not exhibiting breeding behavior (includes winter birds and migrants)
Observed	O	Observed within safe dates, not in breeding habitat
Possible	X	Heard or seen in breeding habitat within safe dates
Probable	A	Agitated behavior or anxiety calls
Probable	P	Pair seen within safe dates
Probable	T	Bird holding territory (counter-singing, chasing, etc.)
Probable	C	Courtship or copulation
Probable	N	Bird visiting a probable nest site
Probable	B	Adult wren or woodpecker carrying nesting material or nest building
Confirmed	NB	Adult carrying nesting material or nest building (except wrens and woodpeckers)
Confirmed	DD	Distraction display
Confirmed	UN	Used nest or eggshells found
Confirmed	FL	Recently fledged young
Confirmed	CF	Parent carrying food, feeding young, or removing fecal sac
Confirmed	RC	Raptor performing a courting display or repeatedly carrying food to a specific area
Confirmed	ON	Parent leaving/entering nest site or on nest
Confirmed	NE	Nest with eggs
Confirmed	NY	Nest with young

field card for each survey, allowing the results to be viewed online in real time. Knowing the current state of each block allowed better targeting of effort and provided feedback for all participants. One final enhancement to Atlas 2 was the designation of seven conservation areas throughout the county. These areas included Algonkian, Bles, and Claude Moore Parks, the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, and the privately owned Dulles Greenway Wetlands and Horsepen Preserve. Observations within each conservation area were recorded on a separate field card in order to measure habitat value of lands already included in conservation efforts.

RESULTS

Over the 5-year period of Atlas 2, 85 atlasers volunteered over 5,900 hours in the field and reported 64,813 sightings. Of the 263 total species documented, 120 were reported as breeding in Loudoun (104 Confirmed, 13 Probable, and 3 Possible breeders). Seventy-seven species were documented using the county as a migratory stop-over, while 66 species spent the winter only in Loudoun. Species with one incidental winter sighting throughout the atlas period were not classified as winter birds as these species generally do not over-winter in Loudoun. Sixty-eight species were reported year-round. Fourteen species were

reported as breeders, migrants, or winter birds in all 73 blocks. These 14 species include common species such as Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), and Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) with 1 notable exception, Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). Of the total species, 85% were documented non-exclusively in the 7 conservation areas. Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) was documented as a probable breeder at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands conservation area and nowhere else in Loudoun. Ten additional species were observed (no breeding evidence) exclusively within the conservation areas (Table 2). A summary of all Atlas 2 species is provided in Table 3.

The four most species-rich blocks (158-192 total species) were located in more-developed eastern Loudoun (Figure 1). An astounding 190 species were documented in the Brambleton area and also in southern Leesburg (areas in and around Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve and the Dulles Greenway Wetlands). The Sterling area, including Algonkian and Bles Parks, proved to be another bird-rich area, hosting over 165 species. These results are surprising and do not hold true for breeding only birds, whose most species-rich blocks were located in more rural western and northern Loudoun.

Table 2. Species highlights from Atlas 2. An asterisk indicates species documented exclusively in a conservation area.

Possible (PO), Probable (PR), and Confirmed (CO) Breeders	Non-Breeders (OB)
Hooded Merganser (CO, county first)	Brant (OB)
Bald Eagle (CO)	Red-necked Grebe* (OB)
Black-billed Cuckoo (PR)	Tricolored Heron* (OB)
Barn Owl (CO)	Cattle Egret (OB)
Eastern Whip-poor-will (PR)	Yellow-crowned Night Heron* (OB)
Loggerhead Shrike (CO)	Glossy Ibis* (OB)
Horned Lark (PR)	Mississippi Kite (OB)
Brown Creeper (PO)	Black Rail (OB)
Marsh Wren* (PR)	American Avocet (OB)
Blue-winged Warbler (CO)	Stilt Sandpiper* (OB)
Cerulean Warbler (PR)	Short-billed Dowitcher* (OB)
Yellow-throated Warbler (PR)	Long-billed Dowitcher* (OB)
Vesper Sparrow (CO)	Red Phalarope (OB)
Summer Tanager (PR)	Snowy Owl (OB)
Dickcissel (CO)	Northern Saw-whet Owl (OB)
Bobolink (CO)	Western Kingbird* (OB)
	Northern Shrike* (OB)
	Mourning Warbler* (OB)
	Red Crossbill (OB)
	White-winged Crossbill (OB)

Table 3. Summary of all species reported during Atlas 2, with total number of blocks (out of 73) in which a species was observed wintering, migrating, or breeding. Breeding includes Possible, Probable, and Confirmed levels of evidence, with the highest level of breeding evidence documented for a breeding species listed in the status column. Species in *italics* indicate the top 25 most widespread (reported in the most blocks with respect to all breeding species) breeding species in Atlas 1. Species in **bold** indicate the top 25 most widespread breeding species in Atlas 2; note that all of the top 25 breeding species in Atlas 2 were reported as breeding in more than 95% of the total blocks. Block totals where birds were found migrating (but not breeding) convey how widespread a species was during migration. Status is given for species where field results fell clearly into 1 of 3 categories, and others are left intentionally blank. Superscripts are defined as: E indicates the species is listed as threatened or endangered in Virginia; ¹ indicates the species was present in Atlas 1 but not Atlas 2; ² indicates the species was present in Atlas 2 but not Atlas 1; * indicates the species was present in both atlases, with evidence of breeding in Atlas 1 only.

Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	1	0	
Snow Goose	4	9	0	
Brant	0	1	0	Migrant
Cackling Goose	3	1	0	
Canada Goose	57	4	63	Confirmed breeder
Mute Swan	3	5	0	
Trumpeter Swan	0	3	0	Migrant
Tundra Swan	10	15	0	
Wood Duck	7	11	39	Confirmed breeder
Gadwall	12	6	0	
American Wigeon	10	6	0	
American Black Duck	21	13	0	
Mallard	48	7	47	Confirmed breeder
Blue-winged Teal	1	14	0	
Northern Shoveler	5	5	0	
Northern Pintail	1	5	0	
Green-winged Teal	12	10	0	
Canvasback	3	2	0	
Redhead	9	4	0	
Ring-necked Duck	32	24	0	
Greater Scaup	1	2	0	
Lesser Scaup	9	9	0	
Surf Scoter	0	1	0	Migrant
White-winged Scoter	2	1	0	
Long-tailed Duck	2	2	0	
Bufflehead	15	14	0	
Common Goldeneye	3	4	0	
Hooded Merganser ²	25	17	1	Confirmed breeder

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Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
Common Merganser	11	14	0	
Red-breasted Merganser	1	12	0	
Ruddy Duck	13	15	0	
<i>Northern Bobwhite</i>	0	0	19	Confirmed breeder
Ring-necked Pheasant ¹	0	0	0	
Ruffed Grouse ¹	0	0	0	
Wild Turkey	19	2	59	Confirmed breeder
Red-throated Loon	0	1	0	Migrant
Common Loon	1	11	0	
Pied-billed Grebe ²	13	15	1	Possible breeder
Horned Grebe	2	8	0	
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	0	
Double-crested Cormorant	1	31	0	
American Bittern	0	6	0	Migrant
Great Blue Heron ²	39	54	6	Confirmed breeder
Great Egret	1	34	0	
Snowy Egret	0	3	0	Migrant
Little Blue Heron	1	4	0	
Tricolored Heron	0	1	0	Migrant
Cattle Egret	0	1	0	Migrant
Green Heron ²	0	2	60	Confirmed breeder
Black-crowned Night-Heron	0	5	0	Migrant
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	0	1	0	Migrant
White Ibis	0	2	0	Migrant
Glossy Ibis	0	1	0	Migrant
Black Vulture	54	8	61	Confirmed breeder
Turkey Vulture	58	3	70	Confirmed breeder
Osprey ²	1	40	1	Confirmed breeder
Swallow-tailed Kite	0	1	0	Migrant
Mississippi Kite	0	2	0	Migrant
Bald Eagle ²	37	30	7	Confirmed breeder
Northern Harrier	23	28	0	
Sharp-shinned Hawk ²	27	29	8	Possible breeder
Cooper's Hawk	34	11	46	Confirmed breeder
Northern Goshawk	0	1	0	Migrant
Red-shouldered Hawk	54	2	69	Confirmed breeder
Broad-winged Hawk ²	1	25	8	Probable breeder
Red-tailed Hawk	55	3	65	Confirmed breeder
Rough-legged Hawk	3	2	0	
Golden Eagle	1	5	0	

Table 3, Page 3

Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
Black Rail ^E	0	1	0	Migrant
Virginia Rail ²	1	1	2	Probable breeder
Sora	0	2	0	Migrant
Common Gallinule	2	1	0	
American Coot	5	8	0	
Sandhill Crane	1	3	0	
American Avocet	0	1	0	Migrant
Black-bellied Plover	0	1	0	Migrant
American Golden-Plover	0	1	0	Migrant
Semipalmated Plover	0	4	0	Migrant
Killdeer	20	4	59	Confirmed breeder
Spotted Sandpiper ^{1*}	0	27	0	Migrant
Solitary Sandpiper	0	33	0	Migrant
Greater Yellowlegs	0	10	0	Migrant
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	9	0	Migrant
Upland Sandpiper ¹	0	0	0	
Stilt Sandpiper	0	1	0	Migrant
Least Sandpiper	0	9	0	Migrant
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	1	0	Migrant
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	4	0	Migrant
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	7	0	Migrant
Western Sandpiper	0	1	0	Migrant
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	1	0	Migrant
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	1	0	Migrant
Wilson's Snipe	2	10	0	
American Woodcock	3	6	10	Confirmed breeder
Red Phalarope	0	1	0	Migrant
Bonaparte's Gull	2	4	0	
Ring-billed Gull	29	23	0	
Herring Gull	7	3	0	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	0	0	Winter resident
Great Black-backed Gull	2	0	0	Winter resident
Caspian Tern	0	2	0	Migrant
Common Tern	0	1	0	Migrant
Rock Pigeon	31	2	67	Confirmed breeder
<i>Mourning Dove</i>	49	1	71	Confirmed breeder
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	7	62	Confirmed breeder
Black-billed Cuckoo ²	0	6	4	Probable breeder
Barn Owl	7	1	10	Confirmed breeder
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	5	12	Confirmed breeder

Table 3, Page 4

Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
Great Horned Owl	2	1	30	Confirmed breeder
Snowy Owl	3	0	0	Winter resident
Barred Owl	20	2	47	Confirmed breeder
Long-eared Owl	1	0	0	Winter resident
Short-eared Owl	3	0	0	Winter resident
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	0	0	Winter resident
Common Nighthawk	0	16	2	Probable breeder
Eastern Whip-poor-will	0	2	2	Probable breeder
Chimney Swift	0	0	69	Confirmed breeder
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	5	60	Confirmed breeder
Rufous Hummingbird	0	1	0	Migrant
Belted Kingfisher	30	8	51	Confirmed breeder
Red-headed Woodpecker	21	10	43	Confirmed breeder
<i>Red-bellied Woodpecker</i>	59	1	72	Confirmed breeder
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	41	53	0	
Downy Woodpecker	55	0	73	Confirmed breeder
Hairy Woodpecker	37	4	61	Confirmed breeder
Northern Flicker	50	3	65	Confirmed breeder
Pileated Woodpecker	38	3	69	Confirmed breeder
American Kestrel	30	14	35	Confirmed breeder
Merlin	7	11	0	
Peregrine Falcon ^E	1	3	0	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	6	0	Migrant
<i>Eastern Wood-Pewee</i>	0	1	71	Confirmed breeder
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	4	0	Migrant
Acadian Flycatcher	0	3	63	Confirmed breeder
Alder Flycatcher	0	2	0	Migrant
Willow Flycatcher	0	7	34	Confirmed breeder
Least Flycatcher	0	7	0	Migrant
Eastern Phoebe	14	2	70	Confirmed breeder
Great Crested Flycatcher	0	0	73	Confirmed breeder
Western Kingbird	1	1	0	
Eastern Kingbird	0	2	68	Confirmed breeder
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	0	2	0	Migrant
Loggerhead Shrike ^E	5	4	1	Confirmed breeder
Northern Shrike	1	0	0	Winter resident
White-eyed Vireo	0	8	45	Confirmed breeder
Yellow-throated Vireo	0	9	31	Confirmed breeder
Blue-headed Vireo	0	29	0	Migrant
Warbling Vireo	0	14	24	Confirmed breeder

Table 3, Page 5

Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
Philadelphia Vireo	0	5	0	Migrant
Red-eyed Vireo	0	4	67	Confirmed breeder
Blue Jay	55	3	70	Confirmed breeder
<i>American Crow</i>	59	0	72	Confirmed breeder
Fish Crow	33	1	65	Confirmed breeder
Common Raven	38	14	41	Confirmed breeder
Horned Lark	6	4	4	Probable breeder
Purple Martin	0	15	35	Confirmed breeder
Tree Swallow	1	3	61	Confirmed breeder
No. Rough-winged Swallow	0	13	45	Confirmed breeder
Bank Swallow	0	15	0	Migrant
Cliff Swallow	0	7	2	Confirmed breeder
<i>Barn Swallow</i>	0	1	69	Confirmed breeder
<i>Carolina Chickadee</i>	61	1	72	Confirmed breeder
Black-capped Chickadee	3	2	0	
<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>	58	1	72	Confirmed breeder
Red-breasted Nuthatch	23	25	0	
White-breasted Nuthatch	57	0	72	Confirmed breeder
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0	1	0	Migrant
Brown Creeper ²	37	26	1	Possible breeder
<i>House Wren</i>	2	3	65	Confirmed breeder
Winter Wren	25	20	0	
Marsh Wren ²	0	0	1	Probable breeder
<i>Carolina Wren</i>	55	0	73	Confirmed breeder
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	1	69	Confirmed breeder
Golden-crowned Kinglet	40	36	0	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	24	51	0	
Eastern Bluebird	57	0	70	Confirmed breeder
Veery ^{1*}	0	8	0	Migrant
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	10	0	Migrant
Swainson's Thrush	0	17	0	Migrant
Hermit Thrush	23	28	0	
Wood Thrush	0	4	63	Confirmed breeder
<i>American Robin</i>	47	0	72	Confirmed breeder
<i>Gray Catbird</i>	1	1	72	Confirmed breeder
Brown Thrasher	4	1	69	Confirmed breeder
<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	56	0	71	Confirmed breeder
<i>European Starling</i>	51	1	70	Confirmed breeder
American Pipit	8	3	0	
Cedar Waxwing	28	10	63	Confirmed breeder

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Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
Lapland Longspur	1	0	0	Winter resident
Snow Bunting	2	0	0	Winter resident
Ovenbird	0	9	39	Confirmed breeder
Worm-eating Warbler	0	12	14	Confirmed breeder
Louisiana Waterthrush	0	4	33	Confirmed breeder
Northern Waterthrush	0	11	0	Migrant
Blue-winged Warbler	0	9	4	Confirmed breeder
Black-and-white Warbler	0	30	14	Confirmed breeder
Prothonotary Warbler ²	0	3	10	Confirmed breeder
Swainson's Warbler	0	1	0	Migrant
Tennessee Warbler	0	13	0	Migrant
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	5	0	Migrant
Nashville Warbler	1	18	0	
Connecticut Warbler	0	3	0	Migrant
Mourning Warbler	0	1	0	Migrant
Kentucky Warbler	0	5	13	Confirmed breeder
Common Yellowthroat	1	4	66	Confirmed breeder
Hooded Warbler	0	7	9	Confirmed breeder
American Redstart	0	34	17	Confirmed breeder
Cape May Warbler	0	15	0	Migrant
Cerulean Warbler	0	5	7	Probable breeder
Northern Parula	0	13	34	Probable breeder
Magnolia Warbler	0	38	0	Migrant
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	8	0	Migrant
Blackburnian Warbler	0	17	0	Migrant
Yellow Warbler	0	12	34	Confirmed breeder
Chestnut-sided Warbler ^{1*}	0	31	0	Migrant
Blackpoll Warbler	0	36	0	Migrant
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	27	0	Migrant
Palm Warbler	1	38	0	
Pine Warbler	1	11	12	Probable breeder
Yellow-rumped Warbler	47	58	0	
Yellow-throated Warbler ²	0	3	4	Probable breeder
Prairie Warbler	0	6	36	Confirmed breeder
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	37	0	Migrant
Canada Warbler	0	10	0	Migrant
Wilson's Warbler	0	6	0	Migrant
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	0	39	Confirmed breeder
<i>Eastern Towhee</i>	23	1	72	Confirmed breeder
American Tree Sparrow	18	8	0	

Table 3, Page 7

Species	Total Number of Blocks			Status within Loudoun County
	Wintering	Migrating	Breeding	
<i>Chipping Sparrow</i>	8	1	72	Confirmed breeder
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1	0	
<i>Field Sparrow</i>	36	1	70	Confirmed breeder
Vesper Sparrow	2	5	9	Confirmed breeder
Savannah Sparrow	6	18	9	Confirmed breeder
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	3	56	Confirmed breeder
Henslow's Sparrow ¹	0	0	0	
Fox Sparrow	12	22	0	
<i>Song Sparrow</i>	57	1	69	Confirmed breeder
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	11	0	
Swamp Sparrow ²	29	32	2	Confirmed breeder
White-throated Sparrow	61	64	0	
White-crowned Sparrow	28	31	0	
Dark-eyed Junco	58	58	0	
Summer Tanager	0	3	1	Probable breeder
Scarlet Tanager	0	4	61	Confirmed breeder
<i>Northern Cardinal</i>	61	0	73	Confirmed breeder
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	21	4	Probable breeder
Blue Grosbeak	0	4	50	Confirmed breeder
<i>Indigo Bunting</i>	0	0	72	Confirmed breeder
Dickcissel	0	1	7	Confirmed breeder
Bobolink	0	10	6	Confirmed breeder
<i>Red-winged Blackbird</i>	31	1	67	Confirmed breeder
<i>Eastern Meadowlark</i>	9	2	57	Confirmed breeder
Yellow-headed Blackbird	0	1	0	Migrant
Rusty Blackbird	6	12	0	
Brewer's Blackbird	0	2	0	Migrant
<i>Common Grackle</i>	20	1	70	Confirmed breeder
Brown-headed Cowbird	14	1	69	Confirmed breeder
Orchard Oriole	1	5	59	Confirmed breeder
Baltimore Oriole	1	6	56	Confirmed breeder
House Finch	44	4	61	Confirmed breeder
Purple Finch	13	29	0	
Red Crossbill	0	1	0	Migrant
White-winged Crossbill	0	1	0	Migrant
Common Redpoll	2	2	0	
Pine Siskin	6	24	0	
<i>American Goldfinch</i>	52	1	72	Confirmed breeder
<i>House Sparrow</i>	38	1	68	Confirmed breeder

Comparing the Atlas 1 and Atlas 2 datasets revealed a variation in species between atlases. Seven species reported as breeding in Atlas 1 were not reported as breeding during Atlas 2, whereas 15 species reported as breeding during Atlas 2 were not reported as breeding during Atlas 1 (Table 3). Several species increased or decreased in total percentage of presence over all blocks from Atlas 1 to Atlas 2 as noted in Table 4. Atlas 2 reported an average of 110 total species and 71 breeding species per block, while Atlas 1 averaged 50 breeding species per block (Figure 2). The number of effort hours per block differed substantially from one atlas to the other, with Atlas 2 averaging 80 effort hours per block and Atlas 1 averaging 10 hours per block.

Upon examining the 25 most widespread (reported in the most blocks with respect to all breeding species) breeding species from both atlases, we discovered a change in 7 of these top 25 species (Table 3). Grassland species, such as Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), slipped from the top 25 list in Atlas 2, and were replaced with suburban and open woodland species such as Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), and Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Further examination of

breeding species by habitat revealed relatively no change between atlases in the number and percentage of species in woodland and urban/suburban habitats. However, there was a noteworthy decline in grassland species and increase in water species from Atlas 1 to Atlas 2 (Table 5).

BBA results can be mapped to provide comprehensive information about the distribution of birds in the region covered. Figure 3 provides an example of a distribution map for the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) in Loudoun. For breeding species, we drew a 'change by block' comparison from Atlas 1. Grasshopper Sparrows were reported as breeding in 4 new blocks since Atlas 1, but disappeared as breeders in 5 blocks.

DISCUSSION

Drawing comparisons between the Atlas 1 and Atlas 2 datasets can provide valuable insight. However, these comparisons should be interpreted with caution. It is not likely that the higher number of breeding species in Atlas 2 was entirely driven by new species colonizing a block. Rather, a variety of factors are likely at play, with a significant factor being the more thorough coverage and higher level of effort per block in Atlas 2.

Table 4. A sampling of species that increased or decreased in total percentage of presence over all blocks since Atlas 1. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the percentage of blocks documented as breeding out of the total number of blocks for each atlas (i.e. Atlas 1 to Atlas 2). These percentages are likely influenced by the more thorough coverage and higher level of effort per block in Atlas 2.

Increase	Decrease
Wild Turkey (16% to 81%)	Northern Bobwhite (87% to 26%)
Green Heron (0% to 82%)	Ring-necked Pheasant (14% to 0%)
Black Vulture (1% to 84%)	Ruffed Grouse (7% to 0%)
Turkey Vulture (3% to 96%)	Loggerhead Shrike (11% to 1%)
Bald Eagle (0% to 10%)	Kentucky Warbler (29% to 18%)
Cooper's Hawk (3% to 63%)	Eastern Meadowlark (86% to 78%)
Red-shouldered Hawk (1% to 95%)	
Red-tailed Hawk (3% to 89%)	
Tree Swallow (17% to 84%)	
Eastern Bluebird (80% to 96%)	

Table 5. Number of breeding species by habitat. Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage of total species which use that habitat.

Habitat	Atlas 1	Atlas 2
Grassland	18 (14%)	15 (11%)
Woodland	34 (27%)	37 (27%)
Open Woodland	41 (32%)	41 (30%)
Water	7 (5%)	15 (11%)
Urban, Suburban, Rural Development	24 (19%)	24 (18%)
Other	4 (3%)	4 (3%)

The 263 species documented in Atlas 2 include several rare and uncommon species, as highlighted in Table 2 (refer to BBA Explorer 2016b for a complete species list). One species that has come to thrive over the past two decades is the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). This species was confirmed as breeding in seven atlas blocks and observed in 52 of the 73 blocks. These results provide a striking contrast to Atlas 1, which did not report any breeding Bald Eagles in Loudoun. The successful comeback of this species can be directly attributed to the banning of DDT and its placement on the endangered species list (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2015).

Intentional management programs have the potential to benefit wildlife species. For example, Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) was found in 80% of the blocks in Atlas 1, and rose to the top 25 list of common breeding species in Atlas 2 (96%). This increase is likely due in part to efforts of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to establish over 30 bluebird box trails throughout the county (Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 2016a).

An example of a species that has declined severely throughout Loudoun over the past 25 years is Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). Evidence of at least possible breeding was reported in only 19 of the 73 Atlas 2 blocks, down significantly from 61 blocks in Atlas 1. This species' decline may be attributed to habitat loss and degradation resulting from development in rapidly growing Loudoun, as well as to changes in agricultural practices throughout the species' range (Brennan et al. 2014).

Habitat preference may play a role in a given species' variation between atlases and overall success. While the number of breeding species in suburban and woodland habitats remained relatively unchanged between atlases, there was a noteworthy decline in grassland species and increase in species affiliated with water. As discussed previously for Northern Bobwhite, the decline in grassland species may be largely attributable to habitat loss and degradation. Loudoun's agricultural land use decreased from 70% in Atlas 1 to 40% in Atlas 2, while developed land use increased from 5% in Atlas 1 to 20% in Atlas 2 (Price et al. 2006; Jin et al. 2013). The increase in water species is likely due to increased access to wetlands, ponds, riparian, and similar habitat by both observers and birds compared to the 1980s. Loudoun now contains easily accessible ponds throughout more developed suburbs, designated areas to view the Potomac River and other waterways, as well as the large, privately-owned Dulles Greenway Wetlands, which attracts many types of birds.

Several possible factors may explain why eastern Loudoun hosts the four most species-rich blocks. While all of Loudoun lies within the Piedmont, eastern Loudoun is close to a second physiographic region in Virginia, the Coastal Plain. Eastern Loudoun includes the Potomac River, several rich wetlands and large ponds, and rich green open space in a suburban setting. This juxtaposition of physiographic regions provides ample habitat for a diversity of species within a relatively limited area. Marzluff and DeLap (2015) explain that suburban areas often have more bird diversity than large rural areas, especially if those rural areas are heavily forested or in intensive agricultural use. Whereas some species disappear as land is transformed by human development, other species thrive in altered habitats (Marzluff and DeLap 2015).

Unlike the more rural western half of the county, eastern Loudoun is undergoing rapid development. As habitat becomes developed, birds are often forced into smaller pockets of suitable habitat, perhaps making them easier to observe and document. The majority of species in the top four species-rich blocks were reported in protected parks and preserves, suggesting that these protected areas provide important stop-overs for migratory species and resource-rich areas for wintering species. Though these smaller pockets of suitable habitat may result in higher species diversity, they offer fewer opportunities for establishment of territories and breeding success. When migrants and winter birds are excluded in Atlas 2, the most species-rich blocks are located in relatively rural western and northern Loudoun (Figure 4). Interestingly, the most species-rich blocks in Atlas 1 (before the building boom) are fairly evenly distributed throughout the county (Figure 5).

It is important to note that many of the grassland and uncommon species reported in high richness areas of eastern Loudoun were observed during the early years of Atlas 2 in abandoned fields awaiting development. Most of these fields have since been developed. Outside the few public and private protected parks and preserves in eastern Loudoun, suitable habitat for many sensitive bird species is increasingly fragmented and rapidly disappearing. In general, protection of key breeding, wintering, and migratory stop-over areas for migratory birds is lacking, with the U.S. and Canada lagging behind central American nations in protecting many species' key habitats (Runge et al. 2015). Biologists often point to wintering habitat loss as the problem for many neotropical migrants, but more research is needed on migratory stop-over and winter habitat in the U.S. as well. The results

from Atlas 2 illustrate that Loudoun provides breeding, wintering, and stop-over habitat for numerous migratory birds. Using variables such as number of species per block, relative abundance, and species classification, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will now be able to identify important bird areas throughout the county and engage other local conservation groups in designing strategies to protect not only birds but also other wildlife within these areas.

In addition to identifying important bird areas, the wealth of information collected during Atlas 2 will be utilized in other ways. The data provide baseline information to assist environmental planners in making sound decisions regarding the use and management of natural resources throughout the county. The data also generate valuable information on the status and distribution of species of special concern in Loudoun, such as the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulean*). Portions of the atlas dataset have provided valuable contributions to other bird-related projects including grassland surveys (Johnson 2016), Christmas Bird Counts (National Audubon Society 2009-2013), Nightjar and Owl Surveys (Nightjar Survey Network 2009-2010), and a Virginia Society of Ornithology Foray (Enders 2012). Atlas data can potentially help refine our understanding of when birds migrate through or breed in Loudoun. Over the long term, this knowledge can contribute to recognizing changes in species' traditional arrival and breeding dates, perhaps tied to environmental factors such as climate change. Species lists for several popular parks and preserves throughout Loudoun have been generated using the atlas data, providing opportunities to educate park visitors and residents about the importance of protecting birds and their habitat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Wildlife Conservancy, with a start-up grant from the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy website has more information about the atlas, including a Birds of Loudoun Checklist and Bird Atlas Summary Report (Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 2016b).

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Figure 1. Total number of species documented for Atlas 2 during all seasons.

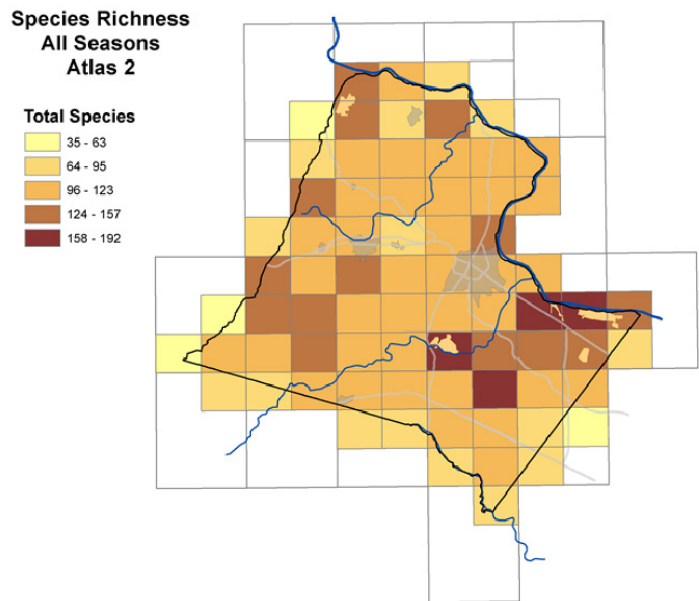


Figure 2. Species per block comparison between Atlas 1 and Atlas 2 datasets. The line with diamonds represents Atlas 2 breeding, migratory, and winter birds. The line with squares represents Atlas 2 breeding birds only. The line with triangles represents Atlas 1 breeding birds only.

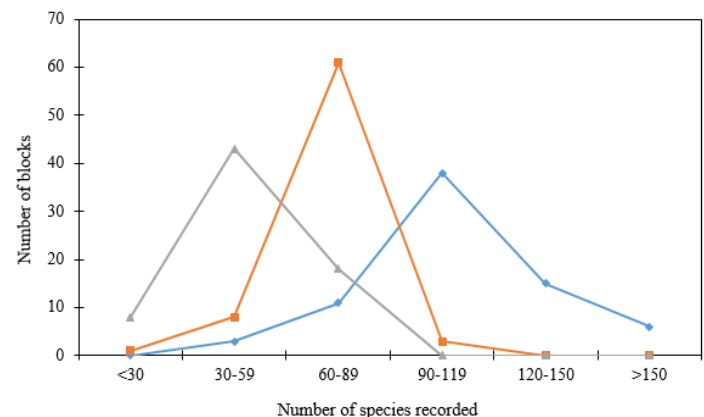


Figure 3. Distribution map for the Grasshopper Sparrow. Blocks shaded green indicate the different levels of breeding evidence reported, while blocks shaded gray indicate that the species was observed only (perhaps during migration or winter). Black-filled dots represent a gain in breeding evidence from Atlas 1 to Atlas 2, while an open dot represents a loss in breeding evidence from Atlas 1 to Atlas 2. Areas in yellow indicate parks or preserves designated as conservation areas for Atlas 2, many of which did not exist as such during Atlas 1.

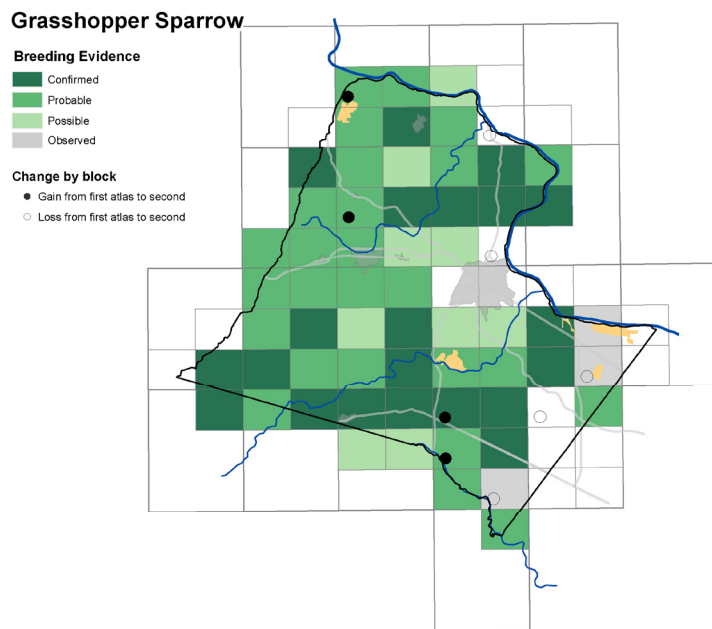


Figure 5. Number of breeding species documented in Atlas 1 during the breeding season.

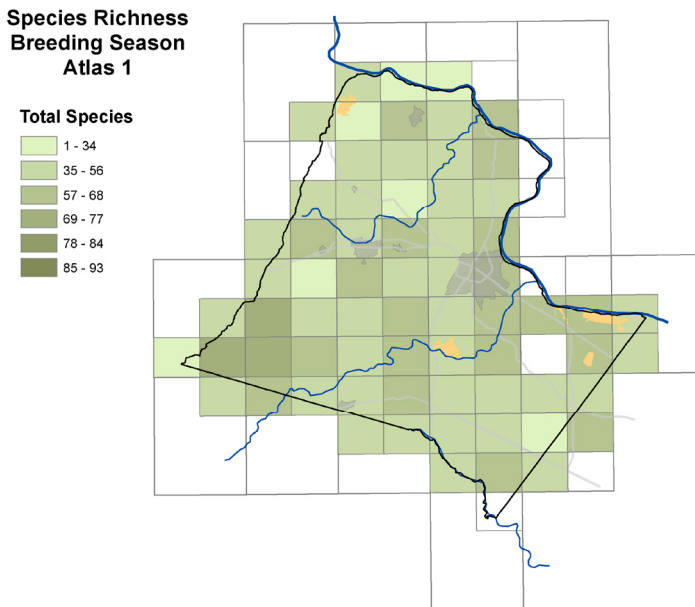
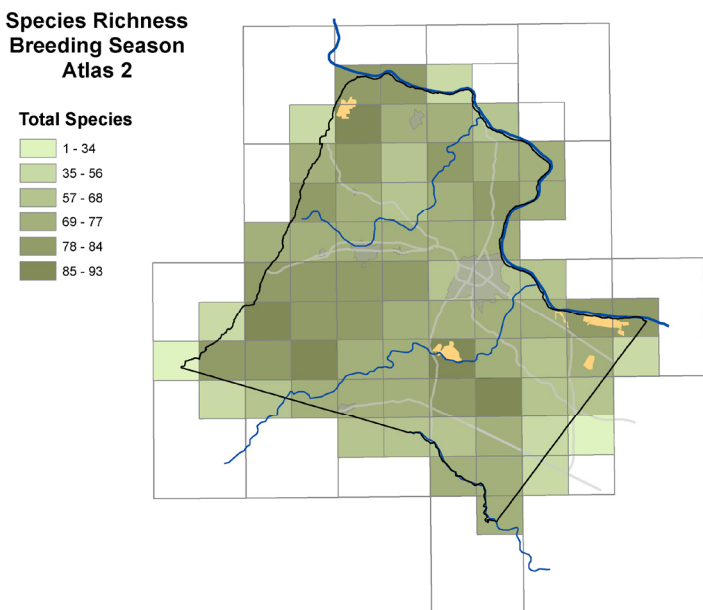


Figure 4. Number of breeding species documented in Atlas 2 during the breeding season.



2015 Annual Report of the Virginia Avian Records Committee

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The members of the 2015 Virginia Avian Records Committee (VARCOM) were: Bill Williams (Chair), Wendy Ealding (Secretary), Nick Flanders, Dick Rowe, Adam D'Onofrio, Mike Stinson, Lee Adams, Kieran Kilday and Ellison Orcutt.

The Committee held an annual meeting in Lexington on March 28, 2015. Among the topics discussed were

- Further refinements to the Database for Ornithological Verification and Submissions (DOVES) system which would necessitate seeking additional VSO funding
- The need for observers to submit original images rather than links to photo sharing sites such as Flickr. This will guard against loss of critical data if a photo sharing site goes out of business or the observer moves their images to another site.
- Reviewing old records that were published elsewhere, but never reviewed by VARCOM
- Creating an electronic archive of past Accepted records in DOVES
- Updating the VARCOM Review List

The proposed work on DOVES included critical enhancements to data security and improvements suggested by reviewers to make the voting process more user-friendly. Also proposed was creation of a separate portal to allow previously Accepted records to be entered. This work required additional funding, which was approved at the August and November 2015 VSO Board Meetings. ODU graduate student Bharath Kongara started work on this portion of the project during the fall 2015 semester. Meanwhile, the Committee decided not to launch DOVES publically, although observers were invited to submit their reports to the site.

The Committee vetted 90 submissions in 2015. Of these records, 82 were accepted, 8 were not accepted. One full species, Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) and one subspecies, (Prairie) Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*) were added to the Official State List, which now stands at 471 species. The previous total of 471 reported in the 2014 Annual Report, (Williams and Ealding 2015) was incorrect.

Highlights for 2015 included the first state record for Smith's Longspur and the first state photographic record for White-tailed Kite, moving that species from the Category 2 list to the Category 1 list.

Accepted records fall into one of the following Categories, as specified in VARCOM 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 the following species: Garganey, Barrow's Goldeneye, American Flamingo, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Fea's Petrel, Bulwer's Petrel, Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, Neotropic Cormorant, Western Marsh-Harrier, Red-necked Stint, Eurasian Woodcock, Black Guillemot, Brown Noddy, Black-billed Magpie, Boreal Chickadee, Sage Thrasher, Sprague's Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, 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.**

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 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 or other parts of North America. These currently include Trumpeter Swan, Mute Swan, Monk Parakeet, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, House Sparrow, House Finch, and European Starling.

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.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*) Three individuals, Willow Lake, Rockbridge County [Dick Rowe] November 16, 2014 – February 7, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This was the tenth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

ROSS'S GOOSE (*Chen rossii*) Two individuals, Prince Edward County, [Mike and Jeremy Stinson, Fenton Day] February 25-26, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This was the second accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List and a first record for Prince Edward County.

ACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*) Two records as follows:

Six individuals, Willow Lake, Rockbridge County [Dick Rowe] January 18-25, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This was the fourth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the species was split from Canada Goose by the AOU in 2004.

One individual, Wilck's Lake, Prince Edward County [Evan Spears] December 27, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This was the sixth accepted Piedmont record since the species was split from Canada Goose by the AOU in 2004.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*). Five records were reviewed following the 2014 redefinition of this species as Category 5 (Williams and Ealding, 2015).

One immature, Heston Farm Ponds and Fishersville Quarry, Augusta County [Allen Lerner, Diane Lepkowski, m.obs.] January 23 - April 6, 2011; accepted Category 5 (ph. †). This was the first accepted state and Mountains and Valleys record.

One female adult and three immatures, private property near Stuarts Draft, Augusta County [Allen Lerner] December 29, 2013 - April 8, 2014; accepted Category 5 (ph. †). The adult which had hatched in 2012 or earlier was banded February 19, 2013 at Lasalle Park in Burlington, Ontario. This was the second accepted state and Mountains and Valleys record.

Two immatures, Wilck's Lake, Prince Edward County [Evan Spears] January 24-25, 2015; accepted Category 5 (ph. †). This was the third accepted state and first Piedmont record.

One immature, New Market, Shenandoah County [Gabriel Mapel, Diane Holsinger, Allen Lerner] February 27 – March 15, 2015; accepted Category 5 (ph. †). This was the fourth accepted state and third Mountains and Valleys record.

Two immatures, Swoope, Augusta County [Gabriel Mapel] March 2-28, 2015; accepted Category 5 (ph. †). This was the fifth accepted state and fourth Mountains and Valleys record.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) Three records as follows:

One adult male, Diascund Creek Reservoir, in New Kent County waters [Ellison Orcutt] December 16, 2014 – January 1, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This was the second accepted Western Coastal Plain record since the subregion was designated in the 2012 Review List.

One adult male, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Fairfax County [Gabriel Mapel, Howard Wu, m. obs.] January 10-14, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This bird, which showed a faint green eye stripe, was the subject of considerable discussion among Committee members as a possible Eurasian X American Wigeon hybrid. The Committee concluded that this was a feature of some pure Eurasian Wigeons as described in the literature (Ogilvie and Young, 2002; Votier, Harrop and Denny, 2003; Appleton, 2012.) This was the third accepted Western Coastal Plain record since the subregion was designated in the 2012 Review List.

One adult male, Lake Campbell, Harrisonburg [William Leigh, Charles Ziegenfus, Diane Lepkowski, m.obs.] April 1, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. †). This was the second accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*) One adult male, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Barry Cooper, Gail Mackiernan] May 24, 1992; accepted Category 3b (+). This record was previously not accepted based on questions regarding the bird's origin (Kain, 1994). At that time, there was no provision for allowing acceptance of a species for which the provenance was uncertain. Subsequently, VARCOM adopted Category 3 to address this issue (Kain, 1996). The original observers requested that the record be resubmitted and provided literature in support of vagrancy of the species (Spear et al., 1988). More recent published information was provided by a Committee Member during the review process (Howell, Lewington and Russell, 2014). On this second review, the Committee accepted the record as the first for the state and Coastal Plain.

EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca crecca*) Three records as follows:

One adult male, Fishersville, Augusta County [Allen Lerner, Brenda Tekin] March 24 – April 3, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted state record, and the first for the Mountains and Valleys.

One adult male, Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth [Bill Williams, m.obs.] April 24, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the sixth accepted state record and the fifth for the Coastal Plain.

One adult male, Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth [Dave Youker, m.obs.] December 12, 2014 – January 24, 2015, accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the seventh accepted state record and the sixth for the Coastal Plain.

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*) Three records as follows:

One adult male, Mill Creek Lake Park, Amherst County [Mark Johnson] October 14, 2014; accepted Category 2 (+). This was the fourth accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

One first winter female, Lake Frederick, Frederick County [David Carr] October 29, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, Briery Creek Lake WMA, Prince Edward County [Evan Spears] December 3, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*) Two adult males, Sandy River Reservoir, Prince Edward County [Evan Spears] January 13, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the ninth accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) One individual, Suggett's Point, Richmond County [Lee Adams] April 7, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) One adult, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County, [Joelle Buffa, Clyde Morris] May 25, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). The observers described the bird as fitting the pattern described by Rottenborn and Brinkley "as most littoral sightings being during May-June particularly during strong easterly winds." (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007) According to the historic weather data, the wind speed for the day prior was SSE at 8-13 mph. This was the first accepted non-pelagic Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*) One immature, Crums Church Puddle, Clarke County [Jon and BJ Little, Matt Orsie, David Bridge] August 21-September 3, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*) One adult male, Breaks, Buchanan County [Roger Mayhorn et al.] October 18, 2014; accepted Category 2 (+). This was the third accepted Mountains and Valleys record and the first for southwest Virginia.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) Three individuals, Claytor Lake State Park, Pulaski County [Jean Still, Zach Bradford] May 4, 2014; accepted Category 2 (+). These birds may be the same individuals reported subsequently the same day by Elton approximately 34 km southwest in Wythe County (Williams and Ealding, 2015).

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*) Two juveniles, Nazarene Church Road Wetlands, Rockingham County [William Leigh] July 27, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) One individual, Smith Lake, Swoope, Augusta County [Marshall Faintich, Walt Childs] August 14, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) Three records as follows: One individual, Mainland Farm, James City County [Bill Williams, Shirley Devan, m.obs.] May 1-3, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was only the second accepted state record that was not from the Eastern Shore.

One individual, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Bryan Barmore] July 27, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted Eastern Shore record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Joelle Buffa, Clyde Morris] April 5, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted Eastern Shore record since the 2004 Review List.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) One adult, Marshall, Fauquier County [Amy Johnson] June 1, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted state and first Piedmont record, and the first photographic record for the state.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) Two records as follows:

One juvenile, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta and Nelson Counties [Brenda Tekin] August 15, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the eighth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

One adult, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta and Nelson Counties [Gabriel Mapel, Vic Laubach and Allen Lerner] August 16, 2014; accepted Category 2 (+). This was the ninth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*) Two records as follows:

Two adults, one immature, Charlottesville [David Shoch] November 23, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

Two individuals, White Stone, Lancaster County [John O'Shaughnessy] April 23, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the seventh accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Two adults, Hog Island WMA, Surry County [Wendy Ealding, Paul Bedell, Gerry Weinberger] May 23, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted Western Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) Three records as follows:

One adult, Humbert Road Pond, Augusta County [Gabriel Mapel] September 14, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, Lexington, Rockbridge County [Dick Rowe] October 15, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the sixth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

Three individuals, Dyke Marsh, Fairfax County [Gerry Hawkins, George McEachern, Seth Honig] July 22, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the eighth accepted Western Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*) Two records as follows:

Three individuals, Nazarene Church Road Wetlands, Rockingham County [William Leigh, John Shea, Karen and Annie Shenk] September 6, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). Although the observer described the species as "fairly regular in Rockingham county in the fall", perhaps because "it is difficult to find", this was the first Mountains and Valleys record VARCOM has reviewed and accepted since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, MBC Ranch Pond, Tazewell County [Clancey Deel] September 21, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*) One individual, Burtons Bay, Accomack County [Lauren Schneider, Dean Thompson, Rick Kellam, Robert Leberman] September 25, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the sixth accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*) One adult, Hunting Creek, Fairfax County [Gerry Hawkins, William Young] September 1-7, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Western Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List; there are two prior records from this location in 1985 and 1986 (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007).

MARbled GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*) One individual, MBC Ranch Pond, Tazewell County [Clancey Deel] April 23, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the third accepted Mountains and Valleys record and the first for Southwest Virginia.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) One individual, Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth [Bill Williams, Ruth Beck, Virginia Boyles, Brian Taber] December 4 and 11, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). Although the species is not on the Review List for the Eastern Coastal Plain, this was reviewed as an extra-

seasonal record. The previous Coastal Plain late date was October 19 (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007) and this was "one of the latest records for North America north of FL/TX, where [the species] is still a great rarity in December" (Brinkley, pers.comm.). It was also the first winter record of the species in the state.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*) One juvenile, Hunting Creek, Fairfax County [Sherman Suter] August 25, 2015; accepted Category 2 (+). Although the species is not considered unusual in this area (Suter, pers.comm.), this was only the fourth accepted inland Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List. A juvenile Red-necked Phalarope was photographed just upstream but in District of Columbia waters on August 24, 2015 (the day before this sighting) and reported again August 25-27, 2015 (in DC) -- possibly the same bird.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) One adult, Oakwood Pond, Rockingham County [William Leigh, Diane Lepkowski] October 13-18, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted Mountains and Valleys record.

DOVEKIE (*Alle alle*) One adult, seen from the beach at 85th Street, Virginia Beach [Andrew Baldelli, Tracy Tate] February 1, 2015; accepted Category 2 (+). This was the first accepted non-pelagic Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*) Three records as follows:

One adult female, Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach [Ned Brinkley] January 1, 1981; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). Review of this previously published report (Brinkley, 1982) was requested as part of VARCOM's archive development as it was the first photographic record. At that time, it was the fourth state and Coastal Plain record since 1939 (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007).

One individual, off Fort Story, Virginia Beach [Brian Lockwood] February 12, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted state and Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

One adult, Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach [Andrew Baldelli, Tracy Tate] February 17, 2015; accepted Category 2 (+). This was the third accepted state and Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) One adult, seen from the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry in James City County waters [Diana Doyle, Ernie Miller] September 19, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the first

accepted inland Coastal Plain record since one was recorded in Alexandria in 1956 (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007).

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) One juvenile, seen from the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry and also from Jamestown Island, in both James City County and Surry County waters [Brian Taber, Bill Williams, Elisa Enders, m.obs.] September 14-20, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted inland Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List. It was also the first Colonial Historic Triangle (Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Hog Island, Surry County) record for this species.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*) One adult, Chesapeake Bay-Bridge Tunnel Island #3, Northampton County [Bob Ake] December 26, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the first accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) One adult, off Belle Haven Marina, Fairfax County [Rob Young] April 12-16, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Western Coastal Plain record for this species since the designation of the region in the 2012 Review List, and the second consecutive year that an adult bird has been reported in this area at this time of year (Williams and Ealding, 2015).

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*) One adult, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Bill Hohenstein and Gretchen Knapp] June 25, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the first accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Two records as follows:

A high count of 29 individuals, Meadowview, Washington County [Steven Hopp] December 18, 2010; accepted Category 5 (ph. +). This was a belated review of a record from the 2010-2011 Glade Spring CBC (Kain, 2011); it was the fourth accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

Two individuals, Mount Solon, Augusta County [Gabriel and Daniel Mapel and William Leigh] March 18, 2014 – ongoing; accepted Category 5 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted Mountains and Valleys record vetted since the 2004 Review List.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) Two records as follows:

One individual, Bristol, Washington County [Ron Harrington] April 20-23, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Mountains and Valleys record.

One individual, Chesterfield County [Paul Bedell] February 10 – 15, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Piedmont record.

SNOWY OWL (*Bubo scandiacus*) Nine records were accepted as follows:

One immature, Singers Glen Road, Rockingham County [Clair Mellinger and Charles Ziegungfus] November 21, 2013; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This bird, seen and photographed along a roadside at night, was the first of many Snowy Owls reported during the 2013-2014 season. It may have been the same individual reported subsequently in the county at Dayton by Vic Laubach and Clair Mellinger, and previously accepted as a Category 1 record (Williams and Ealding, 2015). This was the first accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

Two individuals, one seen from Chincoteague Causeway (Queen Anne's Landing), Accomack County and one on the beach at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Victor Klein] December 11, 2013; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). These constituted the third accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

Three individuals, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Lynda Blair] December 26, 2013; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). One of these may be the same bird reported by Klein December 11, 2013. This was the fourth accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual seen from Queen Anne's Landing, Accomack County [Glenn Koppel and Mary Alice Koenecke] January 2, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This may be the same individual reported by Klein December 11, 2013.

One individual, Dulles Airport, Loudoun County [Perri Borowiecki] December 2-4, 2013; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, Manassas Regional Airport, Manassas [Glenn Koppel and Mary Alice Koenecke] December 4-8, 2013; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the third accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, Mount Jackson, Shenandoah County [Ed Trelawny] January 30, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the third accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the 2004 Review List.

One individual, Reagan International Airport, Arlington County [Jacob and Erin Cuomo] January 8 – March 8, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +).

One individual, Paynes Island, Essex County [Teta Kain] December 14, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This bird

was found during the Washington's Birthplace CBC (Kain, 2015).

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*) One individual, Virginia Beach [Rose Chandler and Karen Roberts] November 24-26, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted state record and the first for the Coastal Plain.

MERLIN, Prairie ssp. (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*) One juvenile female, Wise Point, Northampton County [Zachary Smith] early October 2003; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the first accepted state and Coastal Plain record for this subspecies.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) One adult male, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County [Les Roslund] July 2-3, 2014; accepted Category 2 (+). This was the fourth accepted state and Coastal Plain record. It was particularly notable as Virginia's first summer record, all three prior records having occurred in winter.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) One individual, Hopewell [Arun Bose] January 11, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the sixth accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List, and the second for this location, the previous record occurred in December 2012 (Ake and Ealding, 2014).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*) One individual, Isle of Wight County, [Frank Fogarty, Terri Cuthriell, Andrew Baldelli] May 3-4, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*) One individual, Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, Augusta County [Marshall Faintich, Walt Childs, Gabriel Mapel, m.obs.] February 23 – March 11, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the first accepted state and Mountains and Valleys record.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) One adult male, Charlottesville [David Shoch] December 8, 2014 – February 15, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was reported as a possible Western subspecies (*ridgwayi*). This was the second accepted Piedmont winter record and the first for January and February (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*) One adult, Charlottesville [David Shoch] December 2, 2014 – January 25, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). Although this species is not on the Review List, it was reviewed as an extra-seasonal record as the first Piedmont January record. It was

also the first record for the Charlottesville CBC since 2007 (Kain, 2015)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) One adult, Blackburn Road, Prince William County [Marc Ribaudo, Ed Eder] December 28, 2014 – February 14, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fourth accepted inland Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*) One individual, Gretna, Pittsylvania County [Lexi Meadows] September 20, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the fifth accepted Piedmont record since the 2004 Review List.

NELSON'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus nelson*) One adult, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta County [Gabriel Mapel, Ann Cline, Ben Pumphrey and Dave Hunter] October 2, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the second accepted Mountains and Valleys record since the species was added to the Review List in 2012.

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*) One adult female, Pleasure House Point, Virginia Beach [Ernie Miller, m.obs.] January 22 – February 7, 2015; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This was the 11th accepted Coastal Plain record since the 2004 Review List.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) One male, Windsor Forest, James City County [Bill Williams on behalf of Geoff Giles] December 16-17, 2014; accepted Category 1 (ph. +). This bird was photographed at a feeder during the 2014-2015 Williamsburg CBC count week (Kain, 2015). This was the third accepted Coastal Plain winter record, and the first since 1983 (Rottenborn and Brinkley, 2007).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*)

One individual, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta County, August 27, 2014. This was a very distant and brief sighting of a species that occurs very rarely in the Mountains and Valleys.

One individual, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Albemarle and Nelson Counties, October 4, 2014. This was another distant sighting, under challenging lighting conditions, of a species that occurs very rarely in the Mountains and Valleys.

DOVEKIE (*Alle alle*) One individual, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack County, January 31, 2015. This was a very brief and distant sighting of a species that was not familiar to the observer.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) One juvenile, Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, October 30, 2014. The written documentation was not sufficiently detailed to warrant acceptance.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH (*Catharus bicknelli*)

One individual, William and Mary Campus, Williamsburg, May 13, 2015. This was a very challenging species to positively identify, since many of the plumage details are very similar to those of Gray-cheeked Thrush. In addition, the bird did not sing and the Committee concluded that an agitated response evoked by playback was not definitive.

One individual, Monticello Park, Alexandria, May 17 2015. This was a very challenging identification of a species which is very similar to the much more common Gray-cheeked Thrush. After reviewing the excellent detailed written documentation as well as photographs, video and audio recordings that were provided, the Committee concluded that there was too much uncertainty as to the identity of the bird.

LECONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus leconteii*) One individual, Occoquan NWR, Prince William County, October 21, 2014. This was a very brief sighting of a species that was not familiar to the observer. The written documentation did not adequately rule out other *Ammodramus* sparrows.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*) One male, Banshee Reeks, Loudoun County, December 27, 2014. This was a courtesy review for the Central Loudoun County CBC. The written documentation was not sufficiently detailed to accept the record (Kain, 2015)

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Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) 2016 Annual Meeting Report

April 29 – May 1, 2016

Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center

Laura Mae, Secretary

Friday, April 29, 2016

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) was held at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. Over 200 attendees registered. Several field trips were offered in the afternoon.

Friday Evening Meeting

The VSO Business Meeting was held at 7 p.m. Jeff Trollinger, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and introduced himself. He thanked all those who are participating in the VSO Annual Meeting. The host (Roanoke Valley Bird Club) was recognized and thanked. The quantity of registered attendees was said to be among the highest in VSO's history.

Minutes: Joe Coleman moved approval of last year's minutes by then Secretary Judith Wiegand. Alyce Quinn seconded and minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff reported the funds ending balances, per attached Treasurer's report from Terri Cuthriell.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY TREASURER'S REPORT 2016 Calendar Year March 31, 2016

BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016:

General Fund	\$38,504.74
Endowment Fund	\$55,177.83
Life Membership Fund	\$17,275.44
Murray Fund	\$55,937.40
Conservation Fund	\$2,622.22
Kestrel Fund	\$8,548.67
BBA II Fund	\$13,411.46
Total	\$191,477.76

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was then unanimously approved.

Bylaws: Jeff then asked the membership to approve an amendment to the VSO bylaws to transfer the current Life Fund balance of \$17,275.44 to the General Fund and eliminate the Life Fund. Life memberships will remain a

membership option. Bill Williams moved to approve the bylaws change, and Dan Bieker seconded the motion. The bylaws change was approved by a unanimous vote.

Nominating Committee Report: Joe Coleman, in his role as immediate Past President, recognized the outgoing class of Board of Directors and presented the slate for the coming term. Joe asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were none. Joe presented the slate of officers and board members for the coming term (2016-2017, and beginning July 1, 2016):

- President: Jeff Trollinger
- Vice President: Lenny Bankester
- Past President: Joe Coleman
- Treasurer: Terri Cuthriell
- Secretary: Christine Stinson
- Membership Secretary: Shirley Devan
- Editor, The Raven: Andrew Dolby
- Editor, Newsletter: Len Alfredson
- Board of Directors, Class of 2016: Leslie Bulluck, Dan Bieker and Bill Williams

This slate of officers and directors was approved.

Secretary: Jeff recognized and thanked outgoing Secretary, Laura Mae; and introduced the nominee for Secretary, Christine Stinson.

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (VABBA2): Jeff introduced Ashley Peele who told us about the 5-year project (2016-2021). Ashley offered a number of statistics. These both quantified the significant progress to-date, while underscoring the need for huge numbers of volunteers. So far, volunteers have signed up for 180 of the 500 blocks across the Commonwealth.

2017 Annual Meeting: Jeff reminded the VSO that the 2017 Annual Meeting was in need of a host.

At 7:20 pm, Joe moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Program. Dr. Jerry Via, of Virginia Tech, gave a presentation: "Birds of the Roanoke Valley."

Saturday, April 30, 2016

A variety of field trips throughout the area were held for Saturday morning participants.

On Saturday afternoon, Lenny Bankester moderated the Technical Papers Session, which included the following titles:

1. "Relationship Between Baseline Corticosterone Levels, Parental Care and Willingness to Take Risks in Male Eastern Bluebirds"
 - Rebecca Sandlin, Diego Arias and Taylor Layton – Radford University
2. "The Effect of Mercury on Mate Choice In Birds"
 - Virginia Greene – The College of William & Mary
3. "Sex Based Differences in Parental Care in Response to Predation Risk in Eastern Bluebirds"
 - Shane Brandes – Radford University
4. "The Potential Effects of Methylmercury Exposure on Hearing in the Zebra Finch"
 - Sarah Wolf – The College of William & Mary
5. "Counties, Cities, and Closeouts: Another Way to Play the Game & Why It Matters" (How County-level bird study can add to our knowledge of Virginia Birds)
 - Dr. C. Michael Stinson – Southside Virginia Community College
6. "Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2"
 - Dr. Ashley Peele – Virginia Tech
7. "John James Audubon: His Life and Art"
 - Dr. Rupert Cutler – Roanoke Valley Bird Club

During the banquet on Saturday evening, Jeff recognized and thanked the Roanoke Bird Club, Alyce Quinn and each of Alyce's planning committee members.

Jerry Via recognized each Virginia Bird Club and their club's age. Augusta Bird Club (founded in 1966) was the oldest.

Speaker: Linda Cory introduced Pete Dunne, author, retired Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory and founder of the World Series of Birding. Pete Dunne gave the keynote address, "Large-headed Flycatcher" an entertaining, sentimental story about a bird sighting.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Several field trips were offered on Sunday morning.

IN MEMORIAM

John B. Bazuin, Jr. (1947-2016)

John B. Bazuin, Jr. was born on August 20, 1947, in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Great Falls, Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Biology from the University of Virginia in 1969 and 1976, respectively, and spent most of his career as a pesticide action reviewer with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs, from which he retired in 2010. Prior to his employment at the EPA, he served as a physical science aide with the U.S. Public Health Service in Savannah, Georgia; was a field biologist with the Urban Wildlife Research Center in Ellicott City, Maryland; and was employed by Raven Systems and Research in Washington, D.C. which deployed him as an observer on long-line Japanese tuna boats to monitor compliance, record catch totals, and document sightings of marine mammals and turtles.

John served as President of the Virginia Society of Ornithology from 1990-92 and Vice President from 1987- 1989. In addition, he chaired several VSO committees and was heavily involved with the first Breeding Bird Atlas. He served as Steward of the Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve in Mathews County, led numerous birding field trips, and contributed to several annual bird counts in central and eastern Virginia. As a member of the Audubon Naturalist Society, the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Virginia Herpetological Society, the Hawk Migration Association of North America, the Virginia Natural History Society, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, John's interest in and passion for biodiversity and conservation were both broad and deep.

He also belonged to the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society and the Color Bearers of the Civil War Trust, and he performed Native American archaeological excavation work at the Button Site on the Nature Conservancy's Fraser Preserve in Fairfax County. Thus, his intellectual curiosity did not stop with the natural world. John passed away on January 27, 2016. The Virginia Society of Ornithology, along with his family, friends, and former colleagues miss him greatly.

-Adapted from John B. Bazuin, Jr.'s obituary published by The Washington Post on March 3, 2016 and provided to the VSO by his sister, Jane Ruppe of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

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. However, if there is evidence of summer residency in Virginia provided, manuscripts describing the distribution, abundance, life history, ecology and behavior of Virginia’s migrant birds on their wintering grounds are also welcome. 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.

