



# VSO Newsletter

A Publication of the Virginia Society of Ornithology

Website [www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net) • eBird [ebird.org/content/va/](http://ebird.org/content/va/) • Facebook Virginia Society of Ornithology

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**Registration  
Required**

## 2014 VSO Annual Meeting Set for Chesapeake

**Special room  
rate available – reserve  
by March 24**

The VSO is pleased to announce that its 2014 Annual Meeting will be held April 24–27 in Chesapeake, Virginia in collaboration with the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival. The Great Dismal Swamp area is one of Virginia's true ecological treasures and birding hotspots. Refuge birding trips, bus tours to Lake Drummond, banding station visits, family activities, and other outdoor events will be coordinated by the Birding Festival. Field trips and other festival activities will begin at 7:00 AM on Thursday, April 24 and will conclude on Sunday morning with visits to the Nature Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve, home to Virginia's last breeding population of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Trips to other exciting birding destinations off the refuge will also be offered on Sunday.

The VSO will hold its traditional annual meeting activities, beginning with a social mixer and business meeting on Friday and concluding with the banquet program on Saturday evening. Alicia King the Communication Coordinator and Urban Bird Treaty Program Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program will be the banquet speaker. Her talk will focus on bird conservation efforts on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges related to citizen science, bird monitoring, and research. She will also speak about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program mission of conserving America's birds and reaching the public through birds and birdwatching.

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Vol. 59 • No. 4  
Winter 2013–2014

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### Dates to Remember

February 7–9, 2014 VSO Winter Trip
February 14, 2014 Abbott Nominations Due
March 14, 2014 Meeting Papers Due Byrd Nomination Due
April 24–27, 2014 VSO Annual Meeting

## Rusty Blackbird Blitz – Spring 2014

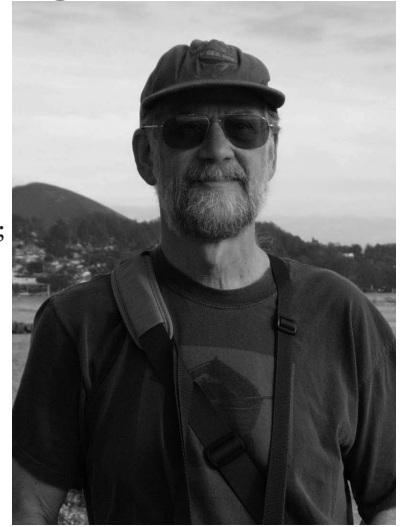
The Virginia Society of Ornithology has agreed to coordinate Virginia's participation in the Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz. This project will transcend state and country boundaries to survey Rusty Blackbirds throughout their entire international range. Spanning 37 states and all of Canada, this massive effort will explore the timing, hotspots, and behaviors of Rusty Blackbird northward migration. Migratory patterns and requirements remain one of the biggest mysteries of Rusty biology, and this Blitz will be critical for defining research directions, identifying hotspots, targeting conservation actions, and raising the profile of the Rusty Blackbird among birders and conservationists alike.

For those who may have participated in the recent Winter Blitz, one key difference of the Spring Blitz is that due to the length and potential variability of spring migration, the target Blitz dates will be longer and more open-ended. The window for the entire Blitz will be from the beginning of March through mid-June with each state receiving a target time frame within that window. Based on an evaluation of historical eBird data, the current target window for Virginia is proposed to be all of March.

A Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz> has been created to serve as a major, up-to-the-minute coordination central for this event—announcing sightings in real time, posting fun pictures to raise excitement and help with IDs, networking within a broad birding community, and giving birders a heads-up on Rusty movement. Bob Ake has been appointed State Coordinator. If you're interested in participating in this important survey, contact Bob at [rake@cox.net](mailto:rake@cox.net).

# President's Message: The Second Breeding Bird Atlas

I'm excited to tell you that the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) are planning on embarking on the state's second Breeding Bird Atlas in the near future. Since it has been 30 years since Virginia did its last breeding bird atlas, it's time to see what has changed. That atlas, which took place from 1985 through 1989, gathered a wealth of information about Virginia's birds. And several close-by states have completed or are in the process of completing atlases; Maryland completed an atlas in 2006, Pennsylvania in 2009, and West Virginia will be wrapping theirs up in 2014. A steering committee, chaired by Sergio Harding (VDGIF) and Rexanne Bruno (VSO), has been meeting for several months and has outlined what will be needed to make this a successful and meaningful project. While funding hasn't been approved yet for this major multi-year project, we are hopeful that it will be soon.



While a Breeding Bird Atlas is a tremendous amount of work, it is also a great deal of fun and an incredible learning experience. Many of us when we're watching birds simply identify and tick them off and move on. However, with a breeding bird atlas you have to spend some time observing the bird and its behavior. You watch to see whether it is exhibiting mating behavior, building or visiting a nest, or even feeding its young or teaching them to fly. All of this takes birding to a whole new level. Not only do your identification skills grow, you also learn a great deal about that bird and its personal behavior.

A massive citizen science effort will be necessary to make this project successful and we're hoping that you and a lot of other people will plunge into this project throughout the entire state. If we want to get a really good picture of the state's breeding birds and their distribution throughout the state hundreds of people will be needed.

When we're done we should have a significant body of information that will let us meet our objective of documenting the current distribution of Virginia's breeding birds and assessing what has changed in species distribution since the first BBA.

And once we know that it will be possible to determine the conservation status of the many birds that nest in Virginia.

Using that data it will be possible to develop conservation strategies for protecting species of concern.

I invite you to join us in this exciting project and have fun while learning about Virginia's birds and helping identify their conservation needs.

*Joe Coleman*

*President, Virginia Society of Ornithology*

**New Members August 6, 2013–November 3, 2013.** The VSO bids a warm welcome to the following new members:

Rick and Betty Hawthorne, Silver Spring, MD  
 Dr. Robert Eggleston, Bridgewater, VA  
 Elaine Carwile, Waynesboro, VA  
 Musa Murawih, Arlington, VA  
 Joanna Salidis, Charlottesville, VA  
 Barbara Houston, Quinton, VA  
 Susan Frost, Mechanicsville, VA  
 Lawrence Darby, Lynchburg, VA  
 Betty Besal & Tony Schmiege, Lexington, VA

Sujan Henkanaththegedara, Farmville, VA  
 Bryan Barmore, Hampton, VA  
 Donna Finnegan, Bumpass, VA  
 Christine Blinn, Blacksburg, VA  
 Rachel Calhoun, Christiansburg, VA  
 Joanne Laskowski, Easton MD  
 Elizabeth Dentan, Buffalo, NY  
 Bridget Lewis, Jessup, MD

## Editors:

Linda Fields and Alan Schreck  
 1573 21st Court North  
 Arlington, VA 22209  
[vseditors@comcast.net](mailto:vseditors@comcast.net)

## Change of Address and requests for electronic delivery:

Virginia Society of Ornithology  
 PO Box 5994,  
 Williamsburg, VA 23188  
[vsomembership@cox.net](mailto:vsomembership@cox.net)

Send submissions electronically via e-mail whenever possible. Attach text as Word document or plain text file. Attach images as separate files; please do not imbed in email body. Send the largest file possible. The images will not print well if formatted smaller as for the web.

Submissions may be edited for style or length.

## 2013 Submission Schedule

Issue	Copy Due
Spring 2013	Jan 18
Summer 2013	May 17
Fall 2013	Aug 9
Winter 2013	Nov 1

Bird reports in this newsletter may not have been approved by VAR-COM (The Virginia Avian Records Committee).

# CONSERVATION CORNER

## Conservation of Migratory Bird Habitat Guided by Science



The lower Delmarva Peninsula supports one of the most significant concentrations of migratory landbirds on the continent. Large numbers of birds become essentially bottlenecked as they are funneled down Virginia's Eastern Shore. Migrants that fall out on the peninsula are using these habitats to replenish energy reserves to continue on their migration to their final winter destination. Species that depend on forests are particularly challenged to meet their energetic demands because the Lower Peninsula's landscape is dominated by agriculture and forested habitats exist only as small, scattered patches.

The Eastern Shore is currently engaged in one of the greatest conservation stories in the eastern U.S. if not the continent. In recent years state and federal agencies have been acquiring blocks of private land in order to increase the overall footprint of habitat for migratory birds. However, this conservation story is more than a product of opportunity but rather a methodical meeting of science and conservation that actually began over 20 years ago. The entire conservation effort was started when Bryan Watts at the Center for Conservation Biology implemented a relatively eloquent research study that was designed to resolve migrant habitat use across spatial scales as large as the entire peninsula down to areas as small as microhabitats within forest patches. The results of this work, in short, showed that migrants concentrate in a steep density gradient associated with the peninsula tip. It was one of the largest migration studies ever conducted and has provided the relevant information on priorities of where to purchase and restore land and how best to manage the structure of these habitats.

Conservation efforts working within the parameters of the migration study have nearly doubled the amount of land under management control for migratory birds. These efforts will benefit species such as American Redstarts, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Common Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, among many others that move through the Eastern Shore in large numbers.

*-Mike Wilson, research biologist at the Center for Conservation Biology*

*The author: Mike has directed research projects to develop an understanding of the social and biological factors that limit bird populations that, in turn, are used to produce management guidelines for declining species. He also coordinates the Nightjar Survey Network; a citizen-science project designed to gather national-level data on population trends of these species.*

## In Memoriam: Russell Greenberg

On November 4, 2013, the National Zoo and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington, DC announced the death of the center's founder Russell "Russ" Greenberg. Though Russ might not be a household name, the results of his work are quietly becoming a household presence and conservation efforts he promoted are supporting a new approach that integrates sustainability into the way we live. Beyond Russ's research, it is Bird Friendly coffee that will likely be his longest-lasting contribution to conservation. His approach involved taking organic coffee farming beyond a focus on chemical inputs and towards viewing a coffee farm as a piece of wildlife habitat, as well. The Migratory Bird Center devised its own green certification incorporating organic standards, but also requirements for canopy height and complexity, floral diversity, and the presence of an understory. In the end, farmers were able to maintain commercial farms on patches of land that had the same avian biodiversity- sometimes greater- than natural forest. To confirm this wasn't just a nice theory that didn't implement well, Russ' colleague, and co-bird friendly coffee promoter, Dr. Robert Rice has chronicled the growth of Bird Friendly coffee, demonstrating how its sales grew an annual average of 145% from 2000 to 2008. Russ Greenberg was engaged in the kind of conservation that pays off: the meeting point between people and other parts of nature that demands energy and imagination to get things done. Future generations will be in debt to thinkers such as Russ. For more on bird friendly coffee, visit the Smithsonian Bird Friendly Coffee page at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/>.

*- Lenny Bankester, VSO Board Member, Virginia Birds North Region Editor*

# VSO Chincoteague Field Trip Report

## September 13–15, 2013

The weather was absolutely magnificent for the 90 plus participants, who tallied 139 species with observations on the Causeway, Chincoteague Island and Chincoteague NWR during the three days.

For the first time in recent memory, mosquitoes were almost non-existent, even on the Woodland Trail. The dry conditions left the inner circle of the Wildlife Loop without the normal impoundments, so there were very few ducks this year, though five species were seen (all seen in Swan Cove). However, lots of other species were seen, so participants didn't seem to mind the lack of waterfowl. The Wildlife Loop did have water in the ditches with shorebirds and wading birds (including White Ibis and Glossy Ibis) in close range.

This year's rarity, the Bar-tailed Godwit, was seen by everyone...eventually, in Swan's Cove. There was also a nice variety of shorebirds, wading birds and terns. A very cooperative Lark Sparrow on the bike path between the Wildlife Loop parking lot and the Lighthouse parking lot gave almost everyone the opportunity to get up-close looks. It flew off when bikers rode by, then returned to the same spot on or near the path to feed.

One of the biggest surprises was the quantity of warbler species seen in the brushes and small trees across from the Tom's Cove Visitor's Center (between the air station and the beach): American Redstart, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Common Yellowthroat, Connecticut, Magnolia, Palm, Prairie, Wilson's, Yellow and Yellow-rumped. Additional species observed there were Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Kingbird and Cedar Waxwing.

The two bus trips to Wash Flats on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning were sold out once again. The dry conditions made for small numbers of birds, but the Saturday group had great looks at multiple Lark Sparrows, and the Sunday group had the only Baird's Sandpiper recorded for the weekend. The Saturday morning boat trip sold out within 24 hours of the announcement and the 32 participants enjoyed up-close looks at many shorebirds and wading birds. Ruth Beck did a great job working with the boat captain to ensure everyone had a wonderful time.

Many thanks to field trip leaders Jerry Via, Bill Akers, Ruth Beck, and Lee Bell, who always make sure attendees have a great experience. A complete list of species tallied over the weekend is below.

*-Meredith Bell, VSO Field Trips Co-chair*

### Trip list

Canada Goose	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Laughing Gull	White-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
American Black Duck	Cooper's Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	Prairie Warbler
Mallard	Broad-winged Hawk	Herring Gull	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	American Kestrel	Lesser Black-backed Gull	American Crow	Bay-breasted Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Merlin	Great Black-backed Gull	Fish Crow	Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Pintail	Peregrine Falcon	Caspian Tern	Tree Swallow	American Redstart
Wild Turkey (Woodland Trail)	Clapper Rail	Royal Tern	Carolina Chickadee	Connecticut Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Black-bellied Plover	Sandwich Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Common Yellowthroat
Brown Pelican	Wilson's Plover	Common Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Wilson's Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Semipalmated Plover	Forster's Tern	Carolina Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Great Blue Heron	Piping Plover	Least Tern	House Wren	Eastern Towhee
Great Egret	Killdeer	Black Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Snowy Egret	American Oystercatcher	Black Skimmer	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Clay-colored Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Rock Pigeon	Hermit Thrush	Lark Sparrow
Tricolored Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	White-winged Dove	American Robin	Song Sparrow
Cattle Egret	Solitary Sandpiper	Mourning Dove	Gray Catbird	Northern Cardinal
Green Heron	Willet	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Mockingbird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	Great Horned Owl	Brown Thrasher	Blue Grosbeak
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Marbled Godwit	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	European Starling	Indigo Bunting
White Ibis	Bar-tailed Godwit	Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing	Red-winged Blackbird
Glossy Ibis	Ruddy Turnstone	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Parula	Common Grackle
Black Vulture	Sanderling	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	Boat-tailed Grackle
Turkey Vulture	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Osprey	Western Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler	House Finch
Bald Eagle	Least Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Cape May Warbler	American Goldfinch
Northern Harrier	White-rumped Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-throated Blue Warbler	House Sparrow
	Baird's Sandpiper	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
	Pectoral Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	Black-throated Green Warbler	
	Stilt Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird		
	Short-billed Dowitcher			

**Registration  
Required**

# VSO Winter Field Trip North Carolina Outer Banks February 7-9, 2014

**Special room  
rate available – reserve  
by January 23**

**New and Very Important:** Starting January 1, 2014 all VSO field trips will have a registration fee of \$20 for non-members only. This fee will be applied to an individual membership that will be active until the end of 2014. If two or more people from the same family register, the registration fee will be \$25, which covers a family membership. Groups of students accompanied by their instructor are exempt from this fee. Non-members can join in advance at <http://virginiabirds.net/VSO-Store.html> or pay the registration fee on the first evening of the event.

The VSO field trip to the Outer Banks Fields of North Carolina, led by Bill Akers, and Lee Adams will be held February 7-9. The weekend usually features great waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds. Back by popular demand, there will be an optional Friday trip to Lake Mattamuskeet, led by Lee Adams.

## TRIP REGISTRATION

Register in advance by providing the names of participants in your party with a contact telephone number and email to Meredith Bell, trip coordinator, at [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com) or 804 824-4958.

## HEADQUARTERS

The Comfort Inn South Oceanfront in Nags Head, 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road, will be the trip headquarters again this year. The seven story hotel features two elevators right off the lobby and a huge deck on the second floor, which offers great beach-viewing opportunities. It is just two blocks from Jennette's Pier, a 1,000-foot long, 24-foot wide pier that allows amazingly close access to ocean birds. The special VSO room rate is \$67 plus tax for oceanfront and \$62 plus tax for bay-view. Ocean front rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. The 7<sup>th</sup> floor bayside rooms offer a panoramic view of the bay but do not have balconies. Contact number for the hotel is 252 441-6315. Reservations must be made by January 23 to get the special VSO rate.

## MEALS

A complimentary breakfast will be available each morning beginning at 6:30 AM. Participants should bring lunch provisions for Friday (optional trip) and Saturday. For dinner there are many restaurants in the area.

## FRIDAY

A program of events and announcements will be available at the front desk on Friday. Lee Adams will lead the trip to Lake Mattamuskeet. Last year

95 species were seen on this trip, including Black-crowned Night Herons, six warbler species, six woodpeckers species, and a nice assortment of ducks, with two unusual hybrids - Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal and American Black Duck x Mallard. Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:15 AM for 7:30 departure. Expected driving time is 90 minutes. Bring snacks, beverages, and lunch. A camp or lawn chair is suggested for the lunch break. Those interested will stop at Alligator River on the return trip to listen for Short-eared Owls at dusk. Friday evening there will be an orientation and slide program at 8:00 PM in the Neptune Room on the second floor at the end of the hall. Complimentary coffee and tea will be available. There is no bar in the hotel but participants can bring their own beverages.

## SATURDAY

All day will be spent visiting the impoundments of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The generally milder climate and the proximity of the Gulf Stream make for an interesting combination of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, ocean birds and sometimes whales. Participants will divide into smaller groups for a safer caravan, but every group will visit all areas. Bring snacks, beverage, and lunch.

Saturday evening there will be a tally at 6:30 PM in the Neptune Room with complimentary coffee and tea or BYOB.

## SUNDAY

The trip to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge will depart from the hotel at 8:00 AM, giving those wishing to continue straight home from the field trip time to check out of their rooms.

**Important:** Come prepared for variable weather. Bring FRS radios, if you have them. This is invaluable to staying in contact between vehicles and calling out bird sightings. For questions, contact field trip coordinator Meredith Bell at 804 824-4958 or [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com).

## VSO Now Accepts Online Payments

You can now join the VSO or renew your annual membership online at [www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net) using a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account. You can also purchase VSO merchandise this way. Renewing online helps to save paper and postage. We hope it will be more convenient as well. Of course, memberships are still happily accepted by mail and in person at VSO events. You can download a membership form from the Website or use the one provided on the back page of this Newsletter.

## Annual Meeting *Continued from Page 1*

### Hotel Information

The VSO Headquarters will be the Springhill Suites Inn Chesapeake Greenbrier. The VSO rate is \$99 per night. Additional rooms will be available at Aloft Chesapeake, which is next door to the Springhill Suites, also at \$99 per night. Both hotels offer complimentary breakfast. Reservations must be made by phone no later than March 24, 2014 in order to get the special rate. For Springhill Suites reservations, call 800 228-9290. For Aloft reservations, call 866 716-8143.

### Registration

To register for the VSO annual meeting and banquet complete and mail the form on the back of this newsletter along with your check or visit the VSO Website at [www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net) to register and pay electronically. The registration fee is \$40 per person. Banquet tickets are \$35 per person. Banquet reservations must be received by April 17.

Information about the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival can be found at [www.visitchesapeake.com/gds-birding-festival](http://www.visitchesapeake.com/gds-birding-festival). Festival events, including field trips, will require pre-registration, which can be done by calling the refuge at 757 986-3705 after March 1.

### Tentative Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, April 24

7:00AM – 9:30PM Birding Festival events, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

#### Friday, April 25

7:00AM – 4:30PM Birding Festival events, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

3:00 – 9:00PM VSO Annual Meeting registration; exhibits and vendors, Springhill Suites

6:00 – 7:00PM Meeting social with heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, Springhill Suites

7:00PM VSO Business meeting; Presentation on the wildlife of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge by refuge staff.

#### Saturday, April 26

7:00AM – 3:30PM Birding Festival Events, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

1:00PM – 6:00PM Meeting registration open, Springhill Suites

1:00PM – 9:00PM Exhibits and Vendors, Springhill Suites

2:00PM – 4:00PM Scientific Paper Session, Springhill Suites

6:00 – 7:00PM: Reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

7:00PM: Banquet

#### Sunday, April 27

7:00AM: Field trips to Piney Grove Preserve & other to-be-announced Chesapeake area destinations - depart from Springhill Suites

12:00PM: Springhill Suites and Aloft guests check out and meeting closes.

For all general meeting inquiries, please call Andrew Dolby at 540 654-1420 or email [adolby@umw.edu](mailto:adolby@umw.edu).

## A Call for Nominations Mitchell A. Byrd Award

The Mitchell A. Byrd Award is given for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of ornithology. The award is named for Dr. Byrd, Chancellor Professor Emeritus of Biology at the College of William and Mary, who is internationally recognized for his exemplary scientific research career. Recipients must demonstrate an exceptional record of contribution to the scientific knowledge of Virginia's birds through evidence including, but not limited to, publications such as papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals and books or book chapters derived from the candidates' original scientific research, conference presentations, recommendation letters from scientific peers, and other forms of peer recognition (*e.g.* an award from a national scholarly society). Any member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology may nominate a candidate for the Byrd Award. The recipient is selected by the Byrd Award Committee and the award is presented during the VSO Annual Meeting.

Nominations, including at least three letters of recommendation and a list of the nominee's accomplishments, should be submitted to Andrew Dolby at [adolby@umw.edu](mailto:adolby@umw.edu) no later than March 14, 2014.

# Virginia Society of Ornithology April 24–27, 2014 Annual Meeting Registration Form

This form will accommodate registration for up to two participants, or you may register online at  
<http://www.virginiabirds.net>

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Secondary phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: Number (1 or 2) \_\_\_ X \$40.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to:

Virginia Society of Ornithology

Mail completed form and check to: Mike Lott, 1701

Greenway Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Sat Eve Banquet Number (1 or 2) \_\_\_ X \$35.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Your registration form must be received by April 17, 2014 to guarantee registration for catered meals.**

Participants are responsible for their own lodging. **A limited number of conference hotel rooms are available at a special rate until March 24 at the Springhill Suites Chesapeake (800 228-9290) and Aloft (866 716-8143).**

To speak with a Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival representative or to register for specific Birding Festival field trips, workshops, and other activities, please call: 757 986-3705.

For general meeting inquiries please contact: Andrew Dolby, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Mary Washington, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Phone: 540 654-1420. Email: [adolby@umw.edu](mailto:adolby@umw.edu)

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## Call for Papers —VSO 2014 Annual Meeting

The Virginia Society of Ornithology invites scientific presentations for its 2014 Annual Meeting to be held April 24-27 in Chesapeake. Oral presentations should be 15 minutes long, including time for questions. Static displays (such as posters) will also be accepted space permitting. Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee and added to the program until the schedule or display space is full. Please submit the following information about your poster or presentation no later than March 14, 2014:

- Presenting author's name
- Presenting author's contact information: postal address, email address, phone number
- Institutional affiliation (if applicable)

- Names of co-authors (if applicable)
- Title of poster or oral presentation
- Brief abstract (250 word limit)
- Audio-visual needs

Participants will be notified of acceptance by March 21. Send information (email preferred) to Andrew Dolby  
Email: [adolby@umw.edu](mailto:adolby@umw.edu)

Phone: 540 654-1420 FAX: 540 654-1081

Postal address:

Chair, Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Mary Washington  
1301 College Avenue  
Jepson Science Center 327  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

## Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award A Call for Nominations

The Virginia Society of Ornithologists is seeking nominations for the Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award, given for outstanding work in conserving Virginia's birds and/or the state's natural areas. The award, a framed certificate acknowledging the accomplishments of the recipient, is presented at the VSO Annual Meeting

Nominations, including at least three letters of recommendation and a list of the nominee's accomplishments, should be submitted to VSO's Conservation Committee Chair, Patti Reum, at [pareum@gmail.com](mailto:pareum@gmail.com) no later than February 14, 2014. The Conservation Committee will make its recommendations to the VSO Board at its March meeting.

**VSO Officers**  
 President: Joe Coleman, Round Hill  
 Past President: Andrew Dolby, Fredericksburg  
 Vice President: Jeff Trollinger, Gum Spring  
 Secretary: Judith Wiegand, Stanton  
 Treasurer: Sue Thrasher, Lynchburg  
 Raven Editor, Wes Brown, Parksley  
 Newsletter Editors: Linda Fields & Alan Schreck, Arlington  
 Membership Secretary, Shirley Devan, Williamsburg

**VSO Board of Directors**  
**Terms Expire 2014**  
 Mike Lott, Fredericksburg  
 Bruce Johnson, Lovettsville  
 Jerry Thornhill, Elk Garden  
**Terms Expire 2015**  
 Joelle Buffa, Greenbackville  
 Keith Carson, Blue Grass  
 Russell Taylor, Vienna  
**Terms Expire 2016**  
 Bill Williams, Williamsburg  
 Lenny Bankester, Alexandria  
 Daniel Bieker, North Garden

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**Ornithology**  
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**2013 VSO Membership Renewal:**

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you wish to receive your newsletter electronically. Print your email address clearly. Note that we do not share members' email addresses with any other organization. We may contact you by email to notify you of upcoming events, field trips, conferences, and organization news. You may opt out of these email notices at any time.

\_\_\_\_ Contributing Membership \$60  
 \_\_\_\_ Sustaining Membership \$35  
 \_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$25  
 \_\_\_\_ Active Membership \$20  
 \_\_\_\_ Life Membership (Individual) \$500

I would like to make an additional donation to:  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ VSO Conservation fund  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

If you have been an "Active" or "Family" member in the past, consider renewing at the "Sustaining Level" or the Contributing" level – or becoming a Life Member!

**VSO Sales Items**  
 \_\_\_\_ Virginia's Birdlife "Gold Book" Rottenborn, Brinkley 2007 \$20.00  
 \_\_\_\_ VSO Arm Patch \$4.00  
 \_\_\_\_ VSO Cloisonne Pin \$5.00

**Please return this form with your check, payable to the VSO, to:**  
 VSO  
 PO Box 5994  
 Williamsburg, VA 23188-5994

**You may also join, renew, and purchase items online at [www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net).**

As always, your support means so much to the success of the VSO. Thank you!!