



Over two hundred species of birds have been identified on the Refuge; 96 of these species have been reported as nesting on or near the refuge. Two southern species, the Swainson's Warbler and Wayne's Warbler (a subspecies of the Black-throated Green Warbler), are more common in the Great Dismal Swamp than in other coastal locations. Other birds of interest are the Wood Duck, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Prothonotary Warbler. Winter brings massive movements of Blackbirds and American Robins into the swamp.



Interest in butterflies and skippers has lured amateur and professional entomologists to the Dismal Swamp for some 80 years. There have been 96 species recorded within the boundaries of the refuge. Several species are completely dependent upon vanishing habitats still found within the swamp, at least six of which use Switchcane as their only larval food source. The Hessel's Hairstreak seeks nourishment from only Atlantic white cedar, a forest type considered rare by both the Virginia and the North Carolina Natural Heritage Programs.



At least 47 species of mammals can be found in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, representing most mammals found in Virginia. Visitors often see the white tailed deer. Other large and medium sized mammals present, but seen less often, include black bear, bobcat, river otter, mink, beaver, grey fox, red fox, raccoon, and ground hog. Smaller resident mammals include grey squirrel, southern flying squirrel, four species of shrew, six species of mice, one species of rat, two species of mole, two species of vole, and the southern bog lemming. Near sunset you can possibly see one of the ten species of bats documented as residents of the Great Dismal Swamp.



## The Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival Welcomes the



VSO Invites Non-Members to Register for the Spring Conference. Springhill Suites, Chesapeake. [virginiabirds.net](http://virginiabirds.net)



The Virginia Society of Ornithology 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.

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is the largest intact remnant of a vast habitat that once covered more than one million acres of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Formal protection of this resource began in 1973, when the Union Camp Corporation (a local forest products company) donated 49,097 acres to The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy conveyed the donated land to the federal government, which, combined with additionally purchased land, was used to establish the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in 1974. The refuge currently encompasses over 112,000 acres of this environmentally and biologically important area. Special designations for the refuge include both the Virginia and Globally Important Bird Area designations, and the National Parks Services National Natural Landmark and Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site designations.



# GREAT DISMAL SWAMP Birding Festival

April 24-26, 2014  
Free & Open to the Public

For more information and to register for most events, call 757.986.3705

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Great\\_Dismal\\_Swamp](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp)



# GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

## Birding Festival 2014



### THURSDAY, APRIL 24

- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Jericho Ditch*
- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Washington Ditch*
- 7-11am Bird Banding Station *Jericho Ditch*
- 9am-12pm Canoe Birding (Adults) *Ballahack Rd. Boat Ramp*
- 10am-12pm Bus Tour to Lake Drummond  
*Departs from Headquarters*
- 11am-1:30pm Light Lunch *Headquarters*
- 2:30-4pm Nature Photography Workshop & Guided Walk  
*Headquarters*
- 7:30-9pm Owl Prowl *Washington Ditch*

### FRIDAY, APRIL 25

- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Jericho Ditch*
- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Washington Ditch*
- 7-11am Bird Banding Station *Jericho Ditch*
- 8:30-10am Nature Photography Workshop & Guided Walk  
*Headquarters*
- 9am-12pm Canoe Birding (Adults) *Ballahack Rd. Boat Ramp*
- 10:30am-12pm Bus Tour to Lake Drummond  
*Departs from Headquarters*
- 11am-1:30pm Light Lunch *Headquarters*
- 2-4:30pm Canoe Lake Drummond  
*Departs from Headquarters*
- 3-4:30pm Bus Tour to Lake Drummond  
*Departs from Headquarters*
- 7:30-9:30pm Owl Prowl *Jericho Ditch*

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Jericho Ditch*
- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Washington Ditch*
- 7-9:30am Guided Bird Walk (Adults) *Railroad Ditch*
- 7-11am Bird Banding Station *Jericho Ditch*

### YOUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES GREAT BIRDWATCHING & CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Alicia King's colorful presentation 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. VSO Conference Saturday, April 26



### SATURDAY, APRIL 26 (CONTINUED)

- 8-11am Guided Bird Walk (Adults/Handicap Accessible)  
*Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, North Entrance*
- 9:30-10:15am Get N2 Birds - Birding Basics Workshop  
*Headquarters*
- 9:30am-1pm Children's Activities *Headquarters*
- 10-11:30am Bus Tour to Lake Drummond  
*Departs from Headquarters*
- 11am-1:30pm Light Lunch *Headquarters*
- 12:30-1:15pm Get N2 Birds - Birding Basics Workshop  
*Headquarters*
- 1:30-3:30pm Bus Tour to Lake Drummond  
*Departs from Headquarters*

### VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY CONFERENCE (Springhill Suites, Chesapeake)

These sessions/activities are free and open to the public. To register for the entire VSO Conference, log onto [www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net).

- 1-9pm VSO Conference Exhibits & Vendors
- 2-4pm VSO Conference Presentations of Papers
- 8:30-9:30pm Keynote Speaker - Alicia King, USFWS Migratory Bird Program