



# VIRGINIA BIRD & WILDLIFE TRAIL

## SITE NOMINATION FORM

The Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail (VBWT) is a statewide guide to the best birding and wildlife viewing sites in the Commonwealth. It compiles a wide diversity of sites into a single marketing entity, containing everything from nationally-renowned birding hotspots to favorite local haunts, from city parks to national parks, and from public lands to private bed and breakfasts. Many of the sites along the VBWT are used by thousands of birders annually. For other locations, they function independently and without being a part of the VBWT, they are limited in their capabilities to market their resources or gain economies of scale.

The VBWT includes three sections to highlight the three major habitat regions of Virginia: Coastal, Piedmont, and Mountain. The Coastal Area consists mainly of areas east of I-95. The Piedmont Area roughly includes sites between US Hwy 29 and I-95. The Mountain Area consists of the mountainous regions west of US Hwy 29. Sites are organized into loops (a cluster of close-together sites) to aid birders and wildlife viewers in trip planning. Each individual site on a loop is no more than a 30-40 minute drive from its neighboring sites. Each site must be open to the public and have the habitat necessary to attract both wildlife and wildlife viewers.

The broad-scale participation of agencies, organizations, communities, service providers, private landholders and individuals is critical to the successful implementation of the VBWT. Initial site nominations were accepted from 2000-2003 for the three sections, however the Department of Wildlife Resources **continues to accept nominations for excellent birding and wildlife viewing sites to be included in the Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail**. All nominations accepted will be evaluated for possible inclusion on existing VBWT loops.

Approved sites will be added to the VBWT section of DWR's web site and in any future publications highlighting the VBWT.

**To nominate a site, please fill out this form, include the required attachments, and send everything to DWR at:**  
*birdingtrail@dwr.virginia.gov*  
or mail to Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Bird and Wildlife Trail, 3909 Airline Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23321

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE (YOU MAY TYPE DIRECTLY ONTO THIS FORM, ON-SCREEN, BEFORE PRINTING)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Access (Please check all that apply):

- Free to the public       Entry Fee       Day use only       Camping available ( RV, Tent, Wilderness)
- Special permit or permission required for entry (please describe):
- Hours of Operation (please indicate any seasonal changes):

Site Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Phone (public contact):

Site Email (public contact):

Site Mailing Address:

County:

Site Street Address (for use with GPS, if different from above):

Web address (URL) if applicable:

**Specific directions** from closest major highway (include distances between turns, i.e. at State Highway 1 and County Rd A, turn east onto County Rd A., Go 4.3 miles to Park Road C, turn south (right), travel 0.3 miles to the entrance) (please attach).

**Site Description**

**In approximately 50 –200 words, please describe what makes this site attractive to birders and other wildlife watchers, when they should come (e.g. year round, fall migration, spring migration, winter, etc.), what they can expect to see, and any specific birding tips (e.g. be sure to check the XYZ trees in the parking lot for migrating warblers in the fall). Please attach separate sheet if needed.**

**Contact person for site:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Site nominator (if different than contact person):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Nominator's association/relationship to site: \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Tourism Support**

Please list the Chamber(s) of Commerce, Tourist Information Center ,and/or Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) that can provide information on visiting the site and on places to stay, eat and visit in the area (enclose brochures and/or attach separate sheet, if needed).

Tourism Entity Name: Phone: Toll free Phone:

Mailing Address:

Email: Web site URL:

**Site Evaluation Criteria:** We will be using the following criteria when sites are being evaluated for inclusion on the VBWT. Please check the criteria that the site you are nominating meets, and provide the additional information requested.

- Site possesses a unique, rich birding resource.
- Site manifests the Virginia natural experience.
- Public has access to the site, or access can be arranged relatively easily.
- Ownership is public, or private owners are willing to allow public access to the site.
- Visitor support facilities (including, but not limited to restrooms and drinking water) are available either on-site or in the proximate communities.
- Site is within 30-40 minutes (drive time) of existing VBWT sites.
- Site has staff and/or local sponsors/ partners in the local community to provide management and upkeep
- Sponsor’s name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Tourism infrastructure (bed & breakfast, hotel, restaurant, guide service, etc.) exists in the local community.
- Nature tourism is an integral part of our area’s overall regional economic development plan.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Please attach the following documents:

- A **county map, illustrating roads** with the location of your site clearly marked.
- Any available brochures or articles about the site
- Additional sheets for site description, Visitor’s Bureaus, etc., if necessary

**PLEASE SEND THIS FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO:**

**birdingtrail@dwr.virginia.gov**

**-or-**

**Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources**

**Bird and Wildlife Trail**

**3909 Airline Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23321**

For more information about the Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail, contact DWR at [birdingtrail@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:birdingtrail@dwr.virginia.gov) or visit [dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt](http://dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt).