

HEADS UP

VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY – DISMAL SWAMP BIRDING FESTIVAL

April 29-May 1, 2022

The VSO has not had an Annual Meeting for three years because of the Covid virus. To provide an opportunity for VSO members to get together in a safe environment the Cape Henry Audubon Society and the Friends of Dismal Swamp are planning a modified VSO Annual Meeting and Dismal Swamp Birding Festival the weekend of April 29-May 1, 2022. Events such as the banquet, vendor sales, and local chapter displays will have to wait until the shadow of covid has passed. An attempt is being made to include the business meeting, research paper presentations, and a program speaker virtually at a time other than during the weekend of the field trips.

Headquarters for the weekend: Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront, 100 E. Constance Road, Suffolk VA23434. Room reservations can be made by phone at 757-925-1300 or 1-800-782-9444 or online at www.suffolk.gardeninn.com. Please specify that you are a part of VA Society of Ornithology – Great Dismal Swamp group when making reservations to guarantee the discounted rate of \$89 per room, which will be available until March 29, 2022.

Field trips: Offered Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning to Jericho Ditch, Washington Ditch, and Railroad Ditch, all prime areas of the Great Dismal Swamp NWR. Reservations are required since space is limited. Handouts for afternoon birding will be available to guide birders to sites such as Back Bay NWR, First Landing State Park, Pleasure House Point Natural Area in Virginia Beach. Electronic linked information about birding sites in Chesapeake like the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail will also be available. The Dismal Swamp Birding Festival will schedule additional trips on Saturday which will be available for registration.

Social session: On Saturday afternoon weather permitting a Meet and Greet session with a cash bar will be held on the patio of the hotel. Participants will have the opportunity to share birding experiences from the weekend.

Registration: The field trip registration procedure and the complete plans will be published in the upcoming VSO Newsletter and on the Society website <http://virginiabirds.org>.