

# Tampa Audubon Birds Western Virginia in The Spring

**MAY 28–31, 2018**  
**Highland County**



**Where:** Come see spring warblers in full spring color! Find some northern birds you don't usually see here. We'll be birding in northwestern Virginia, Highland County, up on the ridges of the Appalachian mountains, with a leading local birder, Dr. John Spahr.

**The Plan:** Day 1 - we'll spend in the valley concentrating on grassland species (bobolink, meadowlark, grasshopper and vesper sparrow) and other usual species. We might luck into horned larks. If time permits we can also go to locations where there are golden-winged, chestnut sided, and yellow warblers, perhaps a chat as well.

Days 2 and 3—two trips into the higher elevation forest that border WV, and we may even stray into the neighboring state. Our quest there will be a number of species including

mourning, Canada, Blackburnian, magnolia, black-throated blue and black-throated green

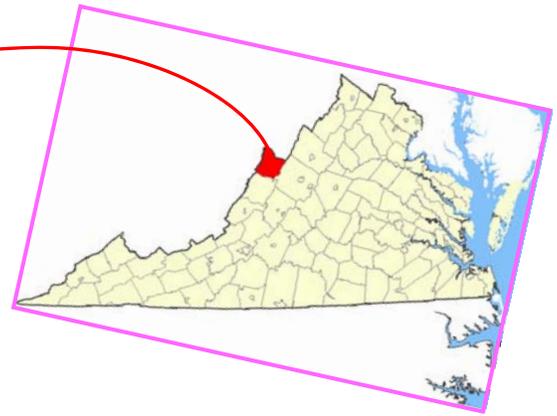


warblers. They'll be in full breeding plumage, not the drab we see here! Hermit thrushes breed up there, as do veery, brown creeper, winter wren, various flycatchers and red-breasted nuthatch. Some of these species are quite common



and easier to hear than see. But we will take our time and work for visual observations.

Day 4—The last day will be a "clean-up" day, perhaps revisiting a site or two to try again for a target bird that eluded us. Juncos, scarlet tanagers and rose breasted grosbeaks are residents too!



Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mail with check for \$250 per person made out to Tampa Audubon Society, to TAS, PO Box 320025, Tampa, FL 33679. **For Highlands County, VA May 28-31, 2018**



We will also do one nocturnal trip for owls. Dr. Spahr has several regular routes that he surveys and that time of year he sees or hears up to 12 screech owls in a 10 mile route!

**Who:** Dr. John Spahr has been leading bird trips, managing breeding bird surveys, serving on the VA Ornithological Society and more for decades. In 2010 John tagged along on a birding “Big Year” in North America, logging in over 90,000 miles by plane, car, boat and on foot in a quest to see as many birds as possible in North America. This included multiple trips to Alaska, California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, New England and Canada. John was fortunate to accumulate over 700 species during this adventure. He is currently studying Eastern Screech Owls in Highland Co. He’ll take us to the best places in the hills, valleys and mountains of western Virginia for 4 days of great spring birding.



**Details: Maximum of 12 people!**



There will be some walking, at most a mile in and out to an area in the mountains. Otherwise it will be easy birding.

We’ll be based at the historic Highlands Inn in Monterey, VA. This inn, operating since 1904, is known as ‘the pride of the mountains.’ Their restaurant is known for excellent food and service. Monterey is a small, rural town



that celebrates its quiet lifestyle and local agriculture, about 45 miles west of Staunton, VA.

Room rates range from \$99 per night for a full bed to \$128 per night for king, or a room with two double beds and 2 baths.

When you call to make your reservation be sure to tell them that you are with Tampa Audubon to get the 10% group discount.

**Cost** is \$250, payable to Tampa Audubon, to cover the costs for guide fees. We will carpool around the county for the birding, but you will chose how you want to get there. It’s about 900 miles, or 14 hours



driving to there. Other costs of transportation, laundry, meals and incidentals are not included.

For more information, questions or details contact Mary Keith at [mary.keith@tampaudubon.org](mailto:mary.keith@tampaudubon.org) .

It might be possible to arrange to pick up some people at the airport at Staunton on the 27th.