Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Adopt-A-Trail — Visit Checklist

Site Number: _____ **Site Name:** _____

Your Name: _____ **MN Chapter:** _____ **Date:**_____

Please visit and explore the site and answer all the following questions based on your observations.

1 . <u>**Signage:**</u> Please **check the following VBWT signs**, *indicate if present (CIRCLE Yes or No) and CIRCLE the condition.* Note: "poor" condition means that it has faded to light blue/ is illegible and needs replacement right away. "Fair" has just faded a little; it is still brown and legible, but will need replacement in the near future.

Sign	Present?	Condition				Recommendation(s)/ Comment(s)
VBWT sign at entrance	Y or N	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	
VBWT site number sign at entrance	Y or N	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	
Directional signage (in both directions).	Y or N	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	

2. <u>**VBWT Guide**</u>: Please **VERIFY the accuracy of information provided in the VBWT guide book/ website**. *(CIRCLE Yes or No to indicate accuracy and WRITE any suggested corrections in the space provided.)*

VBWT Guide feature	Accurate?	Suggested Corrections/ Updates
Driving directions to site	Y or N	
Map	Y or N	
Site amenities *(e.g. restrooms, parking, etc.)*	Y or N	
Site description (to the best of your knowledge)	Y or N	

3. <u>**Issues**</u> — **If you observed any MAJOR issues at this site (e.g. looks unsafe, not open to the public, "No Trespassing" signs were posted, etc.), please describe those in the space below:**

_____

_____

_____

3. Please make an effort to speak with the site owner/ manager, if one is available. Some sites may not be staffed on-site, such as a boat launch; if that is the case, you may skip this section.

A. Introduce yourself and explain the Adopt-A-Trail project.

   Example: Hi, My name is _____. I'm a Master Naturalist for the _____Chapter. Our Chapter has partnered with the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries to adopt the _____loop of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, which this site is a part of. DGIF created this Adopt-A-Trail program to help maintain the VA Birding and Wildlife Trail. Do you have a few minutes to answer some questions?

B. Discuss the following points with them and fill out the requested information:

- Do you think that the VBWT **brings visitors** to your site?   _____

- How could the VBWT **improve** its program?_____

- What is the best **contact information** for this site, to be posted on the VBWT website (that will hold up LONG-TERM)?

   Phone Number: _____

   Email: _____

   Website: _____

- **Name and Title** of Owner/ Manager: _____

- Would you like to **receive email communications** from DGIF about the VBWT and Watchable Wildlife programming?

   CIRCLE: Yes / No   If YES, please provide an **email address**: _____

C. Please hand them the guide book/ printed VBWT webpage and ask if they see anything in the description of this site that needs to be updated.

   Record quick, simple corrections here: _____

_____.

   If they want to re-write the description or have questions about it, have them contact DGIF's Watchable Wildlife Biologist, Jessica Ruthenberg directly at **jessica.ruthenberg@dgif.virginia.gov**.

4. **Bird Observations— Please record your bird observations in E-bird.** Visit the VBWT webpage for this site and click on the E-bird links on the right-hand side of the webpage to record your observations. If a link is not provided, do a hotspot search on the E-bird website at ebird.org/ebird/hotspots to see if one already exists in their system. If one does not already exist, please create one with the site name and site number used in the guide; eg. Belle Isle State Park— CNN15.

- Does this site's webpage on the VBWT website have an E-bird link?   Yes / No

- If NO, but E-bird has an existing hotspot, please provide the link or name of that hotspot in the space below, so DGIF can add it to the VBWT website. Hotspot Name or link: _____

5. **Wildlife Mapping — Please record any other wildlife observations, especially reptiles and amphibians into Virginia's Wildlife Mapping project.** Attempt to document these wildlife observations by photo or sound recording and upload those into iNaturalist at www.inaturalist.org/projects/virginia-wildlife-mapping or by using the downloadable iNaturalist mobile app and choose Virginia Wildlife Mapping as the project.

Thank you for your assessment and data collection! Your responses will help DGIF improve the VBWT and contribute data to the Virginia Species Observations database and a new Virginia Herp Atlas .

Please submit this completed form to your Chapter's Adopt-A-Trail Project Coordinator. Your Coordinator will compile this information with that collected at the other trail sites on your Chapter's loop(s) and submit everything back to DGIF.