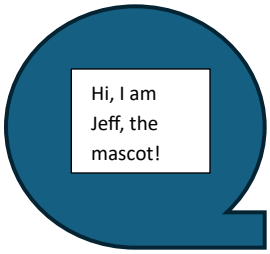
Virginia Birding Big Day, October 3, 2026

Club Statewide Pledge: $100

We are "The Wet Chickens"

Team Members:

1. Andrea Borns (Captain)
2. Charlotte Borns
3. Mariia Shestiuk



The Wet Chickens

We are participating in the VA Birding Big Day for the first time! The reason we chose to be part of this fun event, is because my daughter Charlotte, aka the bird nerd, wants to be an ornithologist and get her PhD at Cornell University.

Her good friend Mariia, which attends 8th grade with her at Frost Middle School, also loves the outdoors and birding! Mariia invited Charlotte this past Spring to go count birds at a local park, when then Mariia realized how much she loves birds too!

Mom here, got hooked into birding, when Charlotte introduced her to the Merlin App about a year ago. I am originally from Brazil, so when my kids were little, we watched the Movie Rio all the time. When my son Tyler turned 3, we had a Rio birthday party, and I bought Blu, Jewel, and the three bird kids. Charlotte was 5 years old and stole all of his blue birds…more precisely, as she tells me now… Spix's macaws.

Then one time, we travelled to grandpa and grandma in Florida, carrying all of Charlotte's little stuffed blue birds from "Rio: The Movie". She was probably only 8 years old, when she told grandpa all about Spix's macaws. Then grandpa, pulled a pair of binoculars and a birding pamphlet. The two of them went birding in the backyard, which has a little pond. And that's the beginning of this "avian" Journey. So, now we are all about "BIRBs"!

Below is our favorite BIRD short video:

https://youtube.com/shorts/g_Io17_-wEs?is=6KINeEviDeyOiWEN

Our favorite birds

1. Andrea – Eastern bluebird (US) and Toucan (Brazil)
2. Charlotte – Osprey (US) and Spix's macaws (Brazil)
3. Mariia – American Pekin Duck