



DEQ and VDGIF Require Surveys for the State Threatened Loggerhead Shrike in Virginia



The survey season for loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is fast approaching. It is now apparent that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are requiring habitat surveys and/or species specific surveys in counties throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The loggerhead shrike is protected federally under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (later amendments have occurred) and is listed as a Virginia state threatened species.

The loggerhead shrike is a rare or uncommon resident in Virginia. Egg-lay in Virginia occurs as early as the first week of April until the second week of June. Young remain in the nest for approximately 18 days and adults and fledglings will stay at the breeding territory for a variable amount of time. The loggerhead shrike favors open land with scattered trees and shrubs. Breeding habitat in Virginia consists of closely grazed or occasionally mowed pastures containing shrubs/trees, hedgerows, and fences. The shrike usually nests in Eastern red cedar and hawthorns and are also known to nest in multiflora rose, with less success. In periods of cold weather or snow, loggerhead shrikes may move to woodlots. The shrike is known for impaling their prey upon thorns, barbed wire, and other sharp objects.

While habitat surveys can be completed at any time during the year, specific surveys are required to be completed in April through July. Failure to schedule your surveys during the appropriate survey window could lead to delays in permit issuance, permit suspension and/or significant project delays.

WEG has experienced professionals available to assist you with surveys or any issues that may arise regarding this or any other listed species in Virginia.

For more information, please contact your WEG Project Manager at any of our offices: Williamsburg (757) 220-6869, Richmond (804) 267-3474, Herndon (703) 437-3096 or Fredericksburg (540) 785-5544.