

## Upcoming Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys Upland Sandpiper (April-June) / Loggerhead Shrike (April-July)

The survey seasons for the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) and the loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) are upon us. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) require habitat surveys and/or species-specific surveys in counties throughout the Commonwealth. The agencies specifically require surveys for the upland sandpiper in Loudoun, Frederick, Fairfax, Prince William, Culpeper, and Fauquier Counties, although projects in other, more southern counties may be required to complete surveys if appropriate habitat exists.

**The Upland Sandpiper** nests in open farming areas with mixes of habitat including sod fields, grazed to tall pastures and/or hayfields, and fallow or early stage old fields. Breeding and nesting territories typically include telephone poles, fence posts, scattered small trees or shrubs, etc., which are used as perches. Migrant upland sandpipers arrive in Virginia in late March or early- to mid-April. Nesting begins shortly after birds arrive at breeding locations. Young have been reported in the nest from late May through June. The young remain in the nest for a short time and can be seen away from the nest from early June. Family groups remain together until post breeding migration which begins in mid- to late-August and continues through the first week of September. **Specific surveys are required to be completed in April, May, and June.**



**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. In periods of cold weather or snow, the loggerhead shrike may move to woodlots. **Specific surveys are required to be completed in April through July.**

Please note that 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.

## TECHNICAL UPDATE



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