Creating an **Inclusive birding program** based on Get Outdoors and Get Together Day, New York

What makes this birding program inclusive for wildlife viewers with disabilities?

Get Outdoors and Get Together Day is an annual statewide event aimed at welcoming historically marginalized communities to DEC properties and introducing them to outdoor activities.

Not visible:

- The wheelchair- and bike-friendly Nature Bus, which runs between downtown Albany and Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.
- Interagency collaboration between the Department of Environmental Conservation, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health, Department of Veterans' Services, and other state agencies.

Held on an accessible trail near the Nature Center: firm and stable surface, no steps, benches, wide



Variety of binoculars and monoculars available to borrow

Binocular tutorial provided

Small group; less than 10

Leader welcomed individuals on arrival

Gentle, patient leadership

Leader matched information with participants' experience (e.g. less info for newer birders, more detail for more experienced birders)

Birding by ear emphasized as much as birding by sight

Photo: Freya McGregor.

For more info visit viewing.fishwild.vt.edu/disabled-wildlife-viewers

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION VIRGINIA TECH

DAYER HUMAN DIMENSIONS LAB

ASSOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

WILDLIFE & SPORT FISH RESTORATION

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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