

OAK LEAF

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society

VOLUME 46

SUMMER 2021

NO. 1

From The President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe, happy and well. It has been some time since our last newsletter yet, despite all the changes and challenges each of us has experienced over the past six months, this society has been able to resume some activities that had been on hold due to some of those challenges. Monitoring of the Bluebird Trail at Blandy resumed this season. The Shenandoah River State Park Bluebird Trail was monitored as was our new Bluebird Trail at Chet Hobert Park in Berryville. The results of these trails will be made available in a future newsletter and will be posted on our website. Several new trees were planted and mulch spread at the Audubon Arboretum in Winchester. A partnership with Lions Club and Master Gardeners will assist the progress the sensory trail near the arboretum. Fall programs have been scheduled with some others still in the process of being planned. Please refer to "2021 Fall and Winter Programs" in this issue for our a list of those programs. Our website continues to provide

information to members and the general public alike. Inquiries through our website occur weekly. Several of the questions received relate to disease that is affecting Blue Jays, Common Grackles and American Robins. Please read "Information Update about Mysterious Bird Disease" within this newsletter for an update regarding what is known about this disease. We are scheduled to have an election of board officers in November. The nomination committee is comprised of Mark Bruns, Jeannie Senter, Jim Smith and myself. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the board, we would love to hear from you. You may contact me through our website, www.nsvaudubon.org, by emailing me at shenandoahaudubonpresident@gmail.com or by phone at (540) 398-9386. Please take care.

Sincerely,
Dave Borger, *President*
Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society

Information Update about Mysterious Bird Disease

Local wildlife rehabilitators are reporting multiple cases of a yet-to-be-diagnosed disease in birds. Affected birds are most commonly Blue Jay, European Starling, and Common Grackle fledgling.

Note that fledglings (baby birds) are meant to be on the ground before they are fully flighted. If a young bird can hop, walk, and perch normally, please leave it on the ground.

Ill birds most commonly appear with their eyes are often shut, sometimes enlarged or showing discharge or reddening. Some affected birds have neurological signs showing odd head movements or are uncoordinated and stumbling or rolling. If you see a diseased bird, contact a wildlife rehabilitator:

- Blueridge Wildlife Center – www.blueridgewildlifectr.org
- Wildlife Veterinary Care – www.wildlifeveterinarycare.org

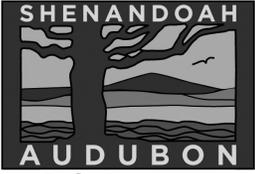
The laboratories investigating the possible cause(s) of this illness include the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the University of Georgia Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, the University of Pennsylvania

Wildlife Futures Program, and the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

To date, several infectious agents have been tested for though not found in any infected birds. These agents include Salmonella and Chlamydia (bacterial pathogens); avian influenza virus, West Nile virus and other flaviviruses, Newcastle disease virus and other paramyxoviruses, herpesviruses and poxviruses; and Trichomonas parasites. Testing continues in an effort to find the cause of this illness.

The recommended actions are:

- Cease feeding birds until this wildlife mortality event has concluded;
- Clean feeders and bird baths with a 10% bleach solution;
- Avoid handling birds, but wear disposable gloves if handling is necessary;
- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a standard precaution; and
- Report the sighting to the State Department of Wildlife Report online here:
<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/bird-mortality-reporting-form/>



P.O. Box 2693
Winchester, VA 22604

*A Chapter of the
National Audubon Society*

Visit our Facebook page or
website: www.nsvaudubon.org
Email: [shenandoahaudubon@
yahoo.com](mailto:shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com)



2021 Fall and Winter Programs

September 11 – Abrams Creek Bird Walk 8:30-10:00 am
Meet in parking lot of Children of America,
631 West Jubal Early Drive, Winchester, VA.

September 25 – Abrams Creek Bird Walk 8:30-10:00 am
Meet in parking lot of Children of America,
631 West Jubal Early Drive, Winchester, VA.

*October 7 – Recycling Program by M. Neese from
Winchester City 7:00 pm*
Lord Fairfax Community College Science Building.
This program is presented in cooperation with the Lord Fairfax
Community College STEM program and Trout Unlimited

October 9 – Abrams Creek Bird Walk 8:30-10:00 am
Meet in parking lot of Children of America,
631 West Jubal Early Drive, Winchester, VA.

October 23 – Abrams Creek Bird Walk 8:30-10:00 am
Meet in parking lot of Children of America,
631 West Jubal Early Drive, Winchester, VA.

*December 18 – Northern Shenandoah Valley Christmas
Bird Count*

January 2, 2022 – Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count

SUPPORT US

*Together we can promote conservation and appreciation of
this beautiful place we call home.*

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

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PHONE: _____

Please check an option below:

Mail a printed Newsletter to me

Email my Newsletter to the email given above

A copy of our financial statement is available through Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Charitable and Regulatory
Programs P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218, (804) 786-1343

New Memberships, Renewals and Donation payments may be
made with PayPal at our website: www.nsvaudubon.org

Is your payment a RENEWAL or a NEW MEMBERSHIP?
(Please circle one.)

MEMBERSHIP (1 YEAR) \$15.00

(Membership is good for one year
beginning the date payment is received.)

ADDITIONAL DONATION _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

CHECK NUMBER _____

Kindly remit payment to:

**Shenandoah Audubon
c/o Kaycee Lichliter, Treasurer
1346 Sulphur Springs Road
Middletown, VA 22645**

Shenandoah Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership dues and donations help support local Bluebird trails at Blandy Experimental Farm and Shenandoah River State Park, the Purple Martin Colony at the Virginia State Arboretum, the annual Christmas Bird Count, as well as educational programs and student scholarships. **Thank you for your support.**