

OAK LEAF

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

VOLUME 47

WINTER 2022

NO. 2

Annual Report for 2022

Dear NSVAS members,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying this wonderful fall season. Over the course of this past year, your chapter has been busy with projects and programs. I would like to summarize what has been accomplished so far this year.

This past December 18 saw the 122nd Annual Christmas Bird Count. Here in the northern Shenandoah Valley, 67 volunteers observed 86 bird species, totaling 27,125 individual birds. The Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count had 90 volunteers. Within that count, they observed 86 bird species, with a total of 15,183 individual birds. Thank you to all the volunteers for making these counts successful again this year. Special thanks to Mark Bruns, NSVAS CBC Coordinator, Larry Frey and Rob Simpson, NSVAS CBC Compilers, and Margaret Wester, coordinator and compiler of the Calmes Neck CBC.

The 2022 season at Blandy Experimental Farm, Shenandoah River/Andy Guest State Park, Chet Hobert Park and Belle Grove Plantation continued to be successful. Please see the Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trails 2022 Data Summary within this newsletter for details. Thank you to Margaret Wester, Lee Bowen, Tammy Batcha and, especially, Kaycee Lichliter for their work with these trails.

In addition to the 132 Bluebird nest boxes at Blandy, the Purple Martin Colony at the State Arboretum now has a total of 84 gourds. This collective group of nesting sites, once cleaned and ready to be occupied, are located near Lake Arnold. Particular thanks to Kaycee Lichliter for overseeing the Purple Martin Colony, to Ted Saunders for his assistance in erecting and maintaining the structures and to other volunteers who helped clean the gourds.

The Audubon Arboretum within Jim Barnett Park in Winchester, located along Pleasant Valley Road and started in 1999, currently has more than 100 trees containing over 40 species. This green area was made possible through an agreement between Winchester Parks and Recreation Department and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, both of which provide care and management of the arboretum. Winchester Host Lions Club Sensory Trail, within the arboretum, is now complete, with help from the Winchester Host Lions Club. Additionally, the just completed Master Gardener's Pollinator's Garden has been added with assistance from The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners. An additional thank you to the City of Winchester and Parks and Recreation staff. With their help a new water line with hydrant and a reel of 100 yards of hose was installed for water access. In 2022, Shenandoah Audubon purchased and planted four trees, two shrubs, 12 native

plants and added 12 cubic yards of mulch. Jim Smith, our former president, was instrumental in the creation of this arboretum, all of its components and continues to be involved in much that occurs within this valuable green space. We are all grateful for his continued work with the arboretum.

Our chapter hosted several bird walks this past year. Jim Smith led several spring and fall walks along Abrams Creek Wetlands. We also had a Heron rookery hike at Cool Springs Campus of Shenandoah University in March. Thanks to Jim Smith and Mark Bruns for organizing those outings.

Shenandoah Audubon made two programs available this fall. In October, in conjunction with Trout Unlimited and the STEM Club at Laurel Ridge Community College, NSVAS presented a speaker from the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley. In November, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy presented a program at Shenandoah University. Our thanks to Mark Bruns for helping to make these programs possible.

Lastly, this past April and again late October saw the first trash pick up as part of our chapter's Adopt-A-Highway project. This will continue to occur twice a year along the Shenandoah River near Lockes Landing in Clarke County. Thanks to the volunteers who helped launch this new project.

If you are interested in attending any of our programs, participating in any of these projects or otherwise wish to take a more active role in the chapter, please see our website, nsvaudubon.org, for details. You may also contact us at shenandoahaudubon@gmail.com. We are always looking for people who want to be more involved. Also at the website, you will find the breakdown of our 2021 income and expenses. It will be updated for 2022 after the first of the year.

The mission of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and Earth's biological diversity. The work that this chapter has done in the past has been clearly consistent with this mission. The work we have planned for the future will continue to support efforts toward achieving these same goals. I am very proud to be part of an organization that shares and works toward doing so.

We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Dave Borger, *President*

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trails 2022 / Data Summary

Year 2022 detailed data will be submitted to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Virginia Bluebird Society and other supporting organizations. Compilation by Kaycee Lichliter, Conservation Chair, October 2, 2022

Blandy Experimental Farm – 132 nest boxes

Species	Nesting Attempts	First Egg Date	Eggs Laid	Eggs Lost	Nestlings	Nestlings Lost	Unhatched Eggs	Fledglings
EABL	101	6 Apr	393	56	323	48	14	275
TRES	111	25 Apr	543	110	398	31	35	367
HOWR	6	13 May	31	13	17	0	1	17
HOSP	1	8 July	1	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	219		968	180	738	79	50	659

Trail Manager: Kaycee Lichliter

Shenandoah River/Andy Guest State Park – 106 nest boxes

Species	Nesting Attempts	First Egg Date	Eggs Laid	Eggs Lost	Nestlings	Nestlings Lost	Unhatched Eggs	Fledglings
EABL	76	2 Apr	330	60	270	9	N/A	261
TRES	63	25 Apr	312	72	240	15	N/A	225
CACH	1	6 Apr	7	7	0	0	N/A	0
HOWR	5	16 May	25	18	7	1	N/A	6
TOTALS	145		674	157	517	25		492

Trail Manager: Lee Bowen

Chet Hobert Park – 12 nest boxes

Species	Nesting Attempts	First Egg Date	Eggs Laid	Eggs Lost	Nestlings	Nestlings Lost	Unhatched Eggs	Fledglings
EABL	18	1 Apr	78	30	39	0	9	39
TRES	10	2 May	48	6	41	41	1	41
HOSP	2	27 Apr	6	6	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	30		132	42	80	41	10	80

Trail Managers: Margaret Wester, Kaycee Lichliter, David Borger, Jill Butler

Belle Grove Plantation – 6 nest boxes

Species	Nesting Attempts	First Egg Date	Eggs Laid	Eggs Lost	Nestlings	Nestlings Lost	Unhatched Eggs	Fledglings
EABL	4	15 Apr	19	4	15	5	0	10
HOSP	5	20 Apr	27	27	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	9		46	31	15	5	0	10

Trail Manager: Tammy Batcha

Thank you to the following trained trail technicians who gave their time and energy to support Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trails during the 2022 monitoring season:

Judy Aaron, Roger Aaron, Tammy Batcha, Tom Batcha, Judi Booker, David Borger, Juli Bowers, Jill Butler, Kasey Clark, Glenny Comer, Dana Crone, Leah DeLong, Hope Duarte, Susan Galbraith, Cynthia Gee, Rebecca Harriett, Bob Hearn, Diana James, Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, Lucinda Lentz, Chris Lewis, Kaycee Lichliter, Dennis McLoughlin, Mary Carolynn McLoughlin, Andy Miller, Margie Miller, Bill Moore, Lori Mumaw, Alyce Rideout, Joanne Ridings, Janet Rigoni, Mary Keith Ruffner, Angela Schwarzkopf, Ursula Sherrill, Deb Teates, Tim Teates, Julia Temple, Margaret Wester, Jim Wilcox, Mary Beth Yarbrough, and Zita Zduoba, trail technicians at Shenandoah River/Andy Guest State Park and park staff. Special recognition for continued support of trail systems includes David Carr, Director, T'ai Roulston, Curator, Chris Schmidt, Arborist, Blandy Experimental Farm; Ms. Kristen Laise, Director, Belle Grove Plantation; and Lisa Cooke, Director, Clarke County Parks and Recreation.

Donate a Tree to The NSVAS Arboretum

Trees continue to be planted at the Audubon Arboretum within Jim Barnett Park in Winchester. The arboretum currently has more than 100 trees containing over 40 species. To donate a tree, please contact Jim Smith at 540-303-3983

Shenandoah Audubon

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

OFFICERS

President.....Dave Borger
 Immediate Past President.....Jim Smith
 Vice President.....Jeannie Senter
 Secretary.....Gabriel Ricketts
 Treasurer.....Kaycee Lichliter

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance.....Kaycee Lichliter
 Membership.....Corey Seymour
 Conservation.....Kaycee Lichliter
 Education.....Open
 Arboretum (City).....Jim Smith
 Programs/Public Relations.....Mark Bruns
 Newsletter.....Angela Schwarzkopf
 Webmaster.....Sharon Fisher
 Social Media.....Corey Seymour
 Field Trips.....Open

ADVISORS

Advisor.....Margaret Wester
 Advisor.....Glenny Comer
 Advisor.....Judi Booker
 Advisor.....Lori Mumaw

2022 Fund Drive

It is the goal of the NSVAS board to continue and expand our existing projects and to make a variety of programs available. We are always looking to incorporate new ideas and opportunities for participation and learning. And, at the same time, we will search for new and innovative ways to share with you on how to conserve our natural resources and protect our wildlife.

We thank you in advance for your continued support. All donations are tax-deductible and we will continue to use your dollars wisely. *Thank you!*

Please use the Membership/Donation Form below with the enclosed reply envelope.

Prefer an Emailed Newsletter?

In an effort to reduce the expense of printing and postage, we are asking anyone interested to consider switching to an emailed newsletter. If you are interested in making such a change, please email me at shenandoahaudubon@gmail.com to make that request. This simple change would help tremendously by reducing costs and paper use, allowing NSVAS to spend more funds on programs within our mission.

Dave Borger, *President*

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM



SUPPORT US

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

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 _____

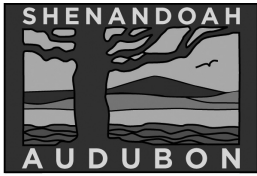
TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

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.**



P.O. Box 52
Middletown, VA 22645

*A Chapter of the
National Audubon Society*

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

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Pollinator's Garden

NSVAS would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the creation of the Master Gardener's Pollinator's Garden located in the Audubon Arboretum in Jim Barnett Park. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener's team of Tricia Boyd, Alice Shoemaker Bowles, Tammi Loving, Paula Gibbs, Gina Sullivan, Steve Resan, and team leader Linda Cunningham provided the design, many of the plants, plant I.D. markers, a beautiful "Circle of Life" sign, a water feature, and lots of digging and planting in good ole Mother Earth. Also contributing elbow grease in the effort was Eleanor A. Thomson and Dennis Wert. Thank you Audubon member Gene Rhodes for the design and original photography of the Pollinator's Garden sign. NSVAS acquired a good portion of the flowers and plants with the dependable assistance of Weber's Nursery and soil amendments from Shenandoah Sand and Gravel. And also thank you to Audubon member Patsy Gochenour for donating the Black-eyed Susans in memory of your mother and for always smiling on the Arboretum.

This garden could not have survived without tender loving care and plenty of water. Thank you to the City of Winchester and the following Parks and Recreation staff: Director Chris Konyar, City Arborist Jordan Herring, and Operations Manager Robbie Garrett and other workers who ran a new water line, hydrant, and a reel of approx. 100 yards of hose for water access. This new hydrant will also help to provide water for the Host Lions Sensory Trail and all the newly planted trees in the North end of the Arboretum



Photo by Linda Cunningham

Thank you to all NSVAS members and contributors for helping with our important conservation work.

Let's Plant More Trees!

Jim Smith
Audubon Arboretum
Project Manager

2022 Christmas Bird Count

Dates for the 123rd Annual Christmas Bird Count have been scheduled. The local circles' dates are:

December 31 Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count

Contact Margaret Wester if interested in participating at margaretwester@hotmail.com

December 17 NSVAS Christmas Bird Count

Email Greg Justice if interested in participating at gjustice1@gmail.com

Hello Everyone, My name is Greg Justice and I will be stepping in as the count compiler this year. After 40 + years of association with the count I already know many of you and for those I have not met please feel free to introduce yourself at this year's compilation. I just wanted to send out word that the count will be on December 17th this year (first Sat. of the count period). Some encouraging news from up north is that there has already been some movement with Nuthatches and Finches and the early indicators from crop surveys is that we may have an incursion year for Finches, keep your fingers crossed. That's it for now however I will be sending out an email to all the count participants soon discussing the upcoming event.

Good Birding!

Greg Justice

Have You Considered An IRA Donation?

If you would like to donate via a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA to satisfy your required minimum distribution, please consult your tax/financial advisor to ensure suitability.



Visit our web site:
www.nsvaudubon.org