

# OAK LEAF

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

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SPRING 2022

NO. 1

## Results of 2021 Christmas Bird Counts

### Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count

The annual Audubon CBC was largely a very typical event. The weather was rather mild, snowless and overcast all day. Sixty-seven counters took to the field.

Waterfowl numbers were modest, which was to be expected with mild conditions. Canada geese and mallards were predominant, with a nice showing of hooded mergansers (55). Raptors were present in an expected fashion, without extensive snow to push them southward. Redtails (64) and red-shoulders (53) were predominant, in addition to kestrels (38). With an intrepid canoe team on the Shenandoah, this year's bald eagle (37) and kingfisher (41) counts were significant. Only three harriers were found and one golden eagle was seen during count week.

Woodpeckers were widely present. Both pileated (77) and sapsuckers (98) were high counts. And red-headed (21) showed up in above average number. Turkeys (241) were very prevalent and one lone bobwhite was tallied. A sad sort of surprise, considering their once extensive presence. Other passerines were widely present, with only a few surprises. Carolina chickadees (295) and tufted titmouse (209) counts were similar to 2020. Wrens, creepers and both kinglets were found in usual fashion. Bluebirds (599) are a forever happy presence, nearly double last year's count. Hermit thrush (51) and a few catbirds (3) were seen. In super abundance were yellow-rumped warblers (541) and flocks of robins (6540). Starling (7138) numbers showed a pronounced decrease, but were still the counts most abundant species.

Finches were widely present, though few in surprising number. Cardinals, towhee, chipping, field, fox, tree, savannah, song, white-crowned and swamp sparrows were all present. White-throated sparrows (814) and juncos (493) were found in rather low numbers, again not surprising considering mild weather conditions. The irruptive northern finches were minimally present with purple finch (101) and pine siskins (17) being the only members found.

Thanks to all who spent the day (& /or night) in the field. The full details of the count can be found on the National Audubon Society website. And again, a special good-bye thanks to Larry Frey for all his years of compilation. He will be missed.

### Calmes Neck Circle National Audubon CBC

Held on January 2, 2022. Here are the results:

Number of species: 86, a good average

Number of individuals: 15,183

Rare Species sighted were Palm Warbler and Trumpeter Swan. An exciting high number of a species with 425 Ring-necked ducks sighted on a pond in sector 11! There were 73 participants in the field and 17 feeder watchers!! A new record high! Hours by car were 93, by foot, 78, owling 7; miles by car were 535, by foot 67, owling 2.

The day was overcast with periods of rain, however with mild temperatures and low wind. The species observed were mostly typical and numbers of some on the low side however really good showing on others, such as Eastern Bluebirds 512 and Red Headed Woodpeckers 65. Complete results will be available on the National Audubon website. The next Calmes Neck CBC will be held on December 31, 2022 for the 2022/23 Audubon CBC.

Compiled by Margaret Wester for the CN CBC.

### Please Consider This...

Currently, the majority of our expenses go toward printing and mailing newsletters to keep you, our members, informed about how your membership dues are put to work. The cost of postage is the greatest part of this expense. In an effort to reduce this expense, and to help cut down on the use of paper, we are asking that anyone with an email address who is not currently receiving the newsletter electronically to please consider switching to an electronic 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.

The chapter membership renewal date can be found on the address label of this newsletter. If you are uncertain of your membership expiration date, please email me. Please renew your membership if it is past due. If there is no membership renewal date on your address label, then your National Audubon Society membership covers your NSVAS chapter membership.

Thank you.

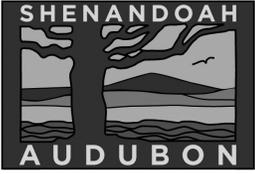
Dave Borger, *President*



### NSVAS "Alumna" Turns 106

At age 106, Jane Campbell's smile still lights up a room. A long-time member of Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, she was recently visited by board members, Judi Booker and Jim Smith, at her home at Westminster Canterbury in Winchester. When asked about memories of birding and of the Northern Shenandoah Audubon chapter, she shared her enjoyment of being outdoors with her brother as a child and also fond memories of birding with her late husband, Douglas, and their close friends, Jean and Sam Patten. At the time, Sam had started making bluebird nesting boxes with Charlie Clevenger for what would become the Blandy Bluebird Trail. Jane and Douglas also helped with the Audubon booth at Blandy Garden Fairs, bird seed sales, and highway litter pickup on Chapel Road. She and Douglas presented slide shows for the chapter of their visits to National Parks and packed the Blandy Library to capacity. Jane enjoyed the visit and appreciated being remembered by the chapter.

*Bluebird Box Setups* – Due to the rising cost of wood and other materials we are temporarily suspending the building of new box setups. We hope to make them available again in the future.



P.O. Box 2693  
Winchester, VA 22604

A Chapter of the  
National Audubon Society

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

### Upcoming Programs and Events!

**March 15 – 10 am: Introduction to Audubon**  
Godfrey-Miller House, 28 South Loudoun St., Winchester, VA. 22601

**March 19 – 9:00 am: Heron Rookery Walk**  
Shenandoah University River Campus at Cool Spring.  
Meet in the parking lot. Cool Spring is located off Rt. 7 at the  
Shenandoah River – 1400 Parker Lane, Bluemont, VA 20135.

**April 24 & May 21 - 10:00-11:00 am**  
**Walks on The Sensory Explorers Trail.**  
Sky Meadows State Park, 11012 Edmonds Lane,  
Delaplane, VA 20144 (State Park parking fees apply)  
**“Birds of the Woods and Fields and Their Habitat”**  
Learn about some of the species of birds of the woods and fields in their  
habitat and how they utilize it for their survival and nesting. Meet at the  
trailhead of the Sensory Explorers Trail located by the picnic area.

**April 24 – All Day: Shenandoah River State Park BioBlitz**  
350 Daughter of Stars Dr, Bentonville, VA 22610  
Meet at the Massanutten Shelter area.  
Celebrate Earth Day by participating in a BioBlitz! A BioBlitz  
is a period of intense biological observation to record all  
living species within a designated area. Park fees are waived  
for participants.

**Abrams Creek Nature Walks**  
**Saturdays – March 26, April 9 and April 23 - 8:30–10:30 am**  
Abrams Creek Preserve, W Jubal Early Dr., Winchester, VA 22601  
Join Jim Smith for a Nature and Bird Walk at Abrams Creek Wetlands  
Preserve. Meet at 8:30 AM at intersection of Jubal Early Drive, Handley  
Ave, and Meadow Branch Ave.

**April 30, 9 am–Noon. Adopt-A-Highway Program**  
NSVAS will have a trash pick up along the Shenandoah River in  
Clarke County. Meet at Lockes Landing on Rt. 621, Lockes Mill  
Road. Sign up on our web page at [nsvaudubon.org](http://nsvaudubon.org)



## SUPPORT US

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

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*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

Shenandoah Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership dues and donations help support local Bluebird trails at Blandly  
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.

New Memberships, Renewals and Donation payments may be  
made with PayPal at our website: [www.nsvaudubon.org](http://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**