



# OAK LEAF

Volume 35; Issue 1

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SHENANDOAH AUDUBON!

## March/April 2011

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

#### THE BLANDY GARDEN FAIR IN MAY

At the State Arboretum of VA at Blandly Farm, Boyce

An annual spring event, the Blandly Garden Fair is full of vendors selling a wide variety of plants and gardening accessories, locally made jams and relishes, and fun Fair food. Traditionally held on Mother's Day weekend, it's a wonderful way to spend part of your Mother's Day weekend and you can pick up a gift for Mom while you are there. The event location is off VA Route 50, east of Winchester (past Rte. 340/ before the River). From Front Royal: Rte. 522N to Rte. 340NE to Rte. 50E. Look for signs on right.

If you would be available to help us by manning the information table in our tent at the fair for either a morning or afternoon shift, or would be willing to lead a nature walk, please email us at the email or call and let us know! You would be paired with another volunteer so you can roam a bit and see the fair, and the beautiful Arboretum grounds, too.

### Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

- ⇒ Present your knowledge to a group, lead a walk, or speak at an upcoming meeting.
- ⇒ Community fairs - man a table at the fair, or lead a birding/ nature walk.
- ⇒ Build or donate bird houses, bird feeders, and or bat boxes for us to sell at our fundraising events.
- ⇒ Help write, edit and distribute our newsletter or update the NSVAS website.
- ⇒ Serve on a steering Committee.

Contact Diane Greco  
shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com

Volunteer and make a difference!

### WINCHESTER NATURE WALKS through Abrams Creek Wetlands

with naturalist Jim Smith



**MARCH 26**  
**APRIL 9 & 23**  
**8:00 am**

**Public Invited**  
**Mark your calendar!!**

Join Jim for an early morning walk through the nature preserve - right in the City of Winchester! The focus of the walk is **birds and blooms**. Observe birds of the Abrams Creek Wetlands in late winter & early spring, as well as early blooming wildflowers. The area is a haven for migrating birds, so...*you never know what you might spot at the Wetlands!*

Meet up with the group at 7:50 am at the Children of America parking lot on W. Jubal Early Dr., (approx. ½ mile west of Valley Ave), and park at the west side of the lot by the tree line. The walk starts promptly at 8:00 am down the sidewalk along W. Jubal Early to the entrance to the Preserve.

This walk is on a paved pathway at an easy pace, allowing ample time for questions and bird watching. **The walk will last approximately 2 hours and is non-strenuous.** There will be several benches at which to rest along the way.

Bring your field guide, binoculars or a spotting scope and your curiosity. Cameras are welcome. Participants are also encouraged to dress for the weather and bring an umbrella in case of rain.

Contact Jim Smith for more information  
540-662-5033

### MEMBERSHIP

Local Membership  
Dues Renewal date April 15th

### NEXT MEETING

April 13  
Location TBA

PUBLIC WELCOME

Watch for email or postcard updates.  
Public Programs to be announced,  
Check the website for event updates.  
[www.audubon-nsvas.org](http://www.audubon-nsvas.org)

### News From National Audubon

*Bird Species in Decline*

The following are the 20 common North American birds with the greatest population declines since 1967.

- #1 Northern Bobwhite
- #2 Evening Grosbeak
- #3 Northern Pintail
- #4 Greater Scaup
- #5 Boreal Chickadee
- #6 Eastern Meadowlark
- #7 Common Tern
- #8 Loggerhead Shrike
- #9 Field Sparrow
- #10 Grasshopper Sparrow
- #11 Snow Bunting
- #12 Black-throated Sparrow
- #13 Lark Sparrow
- #14 Common Grackle
- #15 American Bittern
- #16 Rufous Hummingbird
- #17 Whip-poor-will
- #18 Horned Lark
- #19 Little Blue Heron
- #20 Ruffed Grouse



Visit our website to see up-to-date information on our events and projects!  
[www.audubon-nsvas.org](http://www.audubon-nsvas.org)

Excerpt taken from the National Audubon Society website:  
<http://www.audubon.org/newsroom/press-rooms/common-birds-decline>

☞ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ☞

2011

I hope to see you soon.  
Please contact us if you are  
at all interested in volunteering.  
We have many opportunities  
for you to lend a hand!



- Diane Greco, SA President



Please send all correspondence to: NSVAS, PO Box 2693  
(please note our new address) Winchester, VA 22604  
Email: shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com  
Headquarters: The State Arboretum of VA  
400 Blandly Farm Rd, Boyce, VA

[www.audubon-nsvas.org](http://www.audubon-nsvas.org)

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (NSVAS), dba Shenandoah Audubon, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and a member of the Virginia Audubon Council (VAC) and of the Virginia Environmental Network (VEN). This newsletter belongs to the NSVAS membership. **Chapter Code: X-54.**

**2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

**President:** Diane Greco (514-8280 cell)  
**1st Vice President:** Cynthia Fenton (535-8955 cell)  
**2nd Vice President:** no nomination submitted  
**Secretary:** Jeannie Senter  
**Treasurer:** Christine Harden

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Conservation:** Kaycee Lichliter  
**Education:** To Be Appointed  
**Field Trips:** Margaret Wester  
**Finance:** Christine Harden  
**Membership:** Lee Bowen  
**Programs:** Dennis Fenton  
**Public Relations:** To Be Appointed



**SPECIAL PROJECT CONTACTS**

**Audubon Arboretum:** Jim Smith (662-5033)  
Scott Kenney (722-9551)  
**Bird Counts:** Margaret Wester, Calmes Neck area;  
Rob & Ann Simpson/Chuck Turner, N. Shenandoah area  
**Bluebird Trail at Blandly Farm:** Kaycee Lichliter  
**Hawk Watch at Snicker's Gap** (Sept.): Jim Smith  
**Newsletter Editor (Interim):** Cynthia Fenton  
Contact us if you can help out!  
**Web Page Coordinator:** Cynthia Fenton

(All phone numbers are area code 540 unless otherwise noted.)

- ~ All members are encouraged to attend Membership meetings and Public programs.
- ~ All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings and help plan activities.
- ~ Please contact us if you can donate an hour or more of your time to help us keep our Chapter going!

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Thank you, contributors! The *Oak Leaf* is distributed in March, May, September, and November. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this publication.



**Calmes Neck CBC Results**

Numbers Compiled By Coordinator Margaret Wester

The 2010 Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count was held at the beginning of January, and we were happy to see that there were forty participants this year! Totals will be posted to our website and can be ordered upon request by mail.

Highlights of the Calmes Neck area CBC:

Total Number of species counted: 84

Total number of birds counted: 13,336

Rare birds sighted: Black-capped(35) and Boreal(1) Chickadees, and one Golden Eagle.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

to all who participated in the  
Calmes Neck area  
and

Northern Shenandoah Valley area  
CBCs this year!!!



**GO GREEN - CONSERVE PAPER, INK AND POSTAGE  
GET YOUR OAK LEAF ELECTRONICALLY!**

**Email us with your request to be on our e-newsletter notice list today!**

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**



*No. Shenandoah Valley  
Audubon Society*

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

**ANNUAL DUES: \$15**  
per HOUSEHOLD or NON-PROFIT

Please **PRINT** Legibly

**Join or Renew Your Support!**

**Keep your membership current:  
Renew by APRIL 15!**

<b>APT / SUITE / UNIT</b>	
<b>PO BOX or STREET ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP</b>	
<b>PHONE # (OPTIONAL)</b>	
<b>LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>INCLUDES 4 ISSUES OF OUR OAK LEAF NEWSLETTER</b>
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS: (to receive our Feeder e-updates and Oak Leaf electronically)</b>	
<b>Request for Printed copy of the Oak Leaf Newsletter:</b>	Please mail me a printed copy of your newsletter. My membership covers this expense, and I either _____ 1. do not have an email account, or _____ 2. prefer to have most of my dues support the newsletter, which reports Shenandoah Audubon programs and other supported conservation activities to it's members.
<b>AMOUNT ENCLOSED:</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>CHECK ONE:</b></p> <p><b>Local Membership (1 Year):</b> \$ _____ <b>NEW MEMBER</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ <b>RENEWAL</b></p> <p><b>*Additional Donation:</b> \$ _____</p> <p><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b> \$ _____</p>
<b>WANT TO GET INVOLVED?</b>	_____ <b>NO, NOT AT THIS TIME.</b> _____ <b>MAYBE, PLEASE CONTACT ME.</b>

**KEEP THIS PORTION**

*Please mail the above form with your check made out to NSVAS to our **NEW address:***

**SHENANDOAH AUDUBON TREASURER**

**PO Box 2693**

**Winchester, VA 22604**

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Mailed** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP** Local Membership annual dues of \$15 per household/non-profit organization cover basic chapter operating expenses including printing/ mailing of the OAK LEAF newsletter four times a year, notification of special events, web site fees, and liability insurance. We can only guarantee that our member data base list is accurate for Local Members who have paid the \$15 annual dues and keep us informed of any change of address - our lists are not sold or distributed to other organizations. You do not need to belong to the National Audubon Society to be a Local Member of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society chapter. Dues do not cover Shenandoah Audubon projects (i.e.: Bird Counts, Bird Seed Sale, Audubon Arboretum, Blandy Blue Bird Trail, Bird Nest Boxes at other locations, Youth Birding Workshop), which continue to rely on donations of time, talent and monetary contributions, or projects which are expected to be self-sustaining (i.e.: Scholarship, Youth Camp, Festival, Hawk Watch, field trips). Please return the upper portion of the form with your check to our Treasurer.

**DONATION** All additional donations are greatly appreciated. Refer to our projects list on the reverse side of the Events schedule, or visit our web site at [www.audubon-nsvas.org](http://www.audubon-nsvas.org) for additional information. \*

**THANK YOU** for your interest in and support of the work of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society and for your participation in our activities. Any comments or suggestions, particularly for our public programs, are very welcome.



\*A copy of our financial statement is available through Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs  
PO BOX 1163, Richmond, VA, 23209  
804-786-2042 or 1-800-552-9963

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS:**

**DID YOU KNOW.....You are already a member of Shenandoah Audubon?!**

**NAS members are encouraged to participate in local events and assist their local Chapter by volunteering at the local level. Contact us for more information on what you do to help out. If you want to make a difference, this is the place to start!**

**We have many opportunities for you to get involved in your local community.**

Questions? Email us: [shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com)

2011

Mission Statement	The mission of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and Shenandoah Audubon (NSVAS) is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity.
 <p>About Shenandoah Audubon</p>	The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (NSVAS), or "Shenandoah Audubon", is a chapter of the <a href="#">National Audubon Society, Inc.</a> and member of the Virginia Audubon Council and the <a href="#">Virginia Conservation Network</a> . NSVAS is a non-profit organization which serves the City of Winchester and the Counties of Frederick, Clarke, Warren and Shenandoah plus portions of Loudoun, Fauquier and Rappahannock. Local Membership (\$15 annual dues) is open to anyone with an interest in birds, in our environment and in conservation. Membership includes 4 issues of the chapter <a href="#">Oak Leaf</a> newsletter (see below), notices of special local events, participation in migratory bird counts, field trips and basic operating costs. Send dues, payable to NSVAS (or Shenandoah Audubon) to our new 2011 address: Shenandoah Audubon Treasurer, PO Box 2693, Winchester, VA 22604.
Membership / Public Meetings	<a href="#">Membership meetings</a> are held in three times in the spring and three times in the fall, and are open to the public at no charge. Members are encouraged to participate in steering committees to help plan Chapter activities.
Board Meetings	<a href="#">Board Meetings</a> are held at such times as determined by the President and open to all members. Board meetings are generally held at the VA State Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, VA off Rt. 50, east of Winchester and north-east of Front Royal.
NSVAS Arboretum	The <i>NSVAS Arboretum</i> has been established in Jim Barnett Park, Winchester, VA where donations from community businesses, organizations and individuals contribute to the planting of native Virginia trees, bushes and flower beds. This Arboretum, located in a 5-acre lot on the Pleasant Valley Ave. side of the park, affords birds, butterflies and other wildlife to live and forage for food. All donations are greatly appreciated. See our sign kiosk in the Park near the War Memorial Building.
Bird Counts	Two Christmas Bird Counts are sponsored by Shenandoah Audubon and held annually, identifying and counting resident winter birds in specified count circle locations in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, with data sent to National Audubon for tabulation and compilation with National and International CBC's of the Western Hemisphere for publication in "American Bird". This is a citizen science project of National Audubon and the data is available for all and may be used by scientists at organizations and Universities such as Cornell University. Professor Rob Simpson of Lord Fairfax Community College oversees the CBC for the Northern Shenandoah Valley area and Margaret Wester coordinates the yearly Calmes Neck area CBC.
Bluebird Trails	NSVAS members maintain a 110+ nest box Bluebird Trail at Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, VA (VA State Arboretum) to encourage productivity of native cavity nesting birds and to conduct scientific research. For more information, contact Kaycee Lichliter at <a href="mailto:shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com">shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com</a> . NSVAS also funds a Bluebird Trails at State Parks.
Scholarships	<i>NSVAS / Tim Melton Memorial Scholarship</i> is presented to a student of Lord Fairfax Community College in the Environmental Science curriculum. Contact LFCC: Lord Fairfax Community College / 540-868-7000 for further information.
Bird Seed Sale	The sale of bird seed, suet blocks, bird houses and feeders as well as other related material is a fundraiser for the programs and projects sponsored by NSVAS for conservation. Watch for a notice of this sale, usually in the fall.
Other Projects	For several years, the Chapter has participated in several environmental activities and projects, such as bird talks annually held at Frederick and Clarke County school locations. Shenandoah Audubon has also participated in seasonal events held at the State Arboretum/ Blandy Experimental Farm, such as the Garden Fair (May) and Arborfest (October), with an informational booth and sale of bird and bat houses, bird ID books and other related materials to encourage conservation. Watch for these dates to be posted.
Web Site	Our site is updated as additional information becomes available. We hope to continue to build our site to promote conservation of natural habitats and to provide links to other organizations that have the same goals. <i>The links found on our site are for informational purposes and in no way endorse the content of any political platform or candidate.</i>
Field Trips	Birding and nature field trips led by experienced and knowledgeable naturalists and guides are scheduled throughout the year in our local chapter area, plus some special trips may take us farther afield. Please be watching for these field trip announcements.
Oak Leaf Newsletter	The <i>Oak Leaf</i> newsletter is published 4 times a year and contains meeting information, Audubon event announcements and reports, President's monthly message, articles by the Board and other members, and more articles and announcements of interest. As of 2011, issues are printed only by member request and for distribution at key locations, such as near the Blandy Library outdoor bulletin board, the Jim Barnett Audubon Arboretum Kiosk, and other distribution sights in our service area. We plan to post a list of sites where printed copies may be obtained. This change was made to reduce our carbon footprint and the use of ink and paper for unnecessary printing. Please request your preference for printed or electronic email newsletter when joining or renewing your membership.

**PLAN TO TAKE ACTION!!** Your Participation is Vital to our Survival! Not just monetary support, but volunteer support. If you have ever been inspired by one of our presentations or speakers or an article in our newsletter, or if you love birds or just have an avid interest in nature, please consider supporting our organization by volunteering just a few hours of your time to assist with one of our upcoming events. No specific knowledge or prior experience is necessary, only a caring spirit and a willingness to help. We have interesting events and committees that could greatly benefit from your participation! *Contact us if you are willing to donate a few hours of your time to assist us.* All Audubon members are welcome to observe Board Meetings and to become active in the steering committees planning our activities. Please contact us if you are interested in attending a Board meeting or serving on a steering committee. Email us: [shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com)

## Your Board of Directors - working to keep the Chapter Alive.

Many thanks to our Board of Directors - they have many tasks to accomplish behind the scenes to keep things going. Due to National Audubon requirements and non-profit law, there are specific ways that many of these tasks have to be handled in order for the Chapter to keep its 501(c)(3) non-profit and Chapter status. Also, thanks to all past Board members who assisted the Chapter with tackling some important issues in 2010. The NSVAS Board has made it over some significant hurdles recently, and we are achieving our goal of leaving this Chapter a stronger organization than when we took office in 2010.

### Recent Board Business

**Issue:** concern about the Oak Leaf newsletter and the increasing cost of printing - not only in dollars, but also in resources - ink, paper, manpower (not enough volunteers), cost of stamps, fuel used to deliver the printed copies.

**Resolutions:**

- Newsletters are to be mailed to all Chapter members unless they sign up for, or otherwise indicate they want, notification of future newsletters by email.
- National Audubon Society members are to be notified (either by email or postcard) that issues of the Chapter newsletter are available electronically on our website.



**Approved Chapter Membership Renewals:** American Bird Conservation, Coastal Virginia Wildlife

**Disclosure:** Chapter 54 of the National Audubon Society - the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, also known as Shenandoah Audubon - changed its tax-exempt status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3) non-profit on November 20, 2009. Donations to NSVAS prior to this date were not tax deductible.

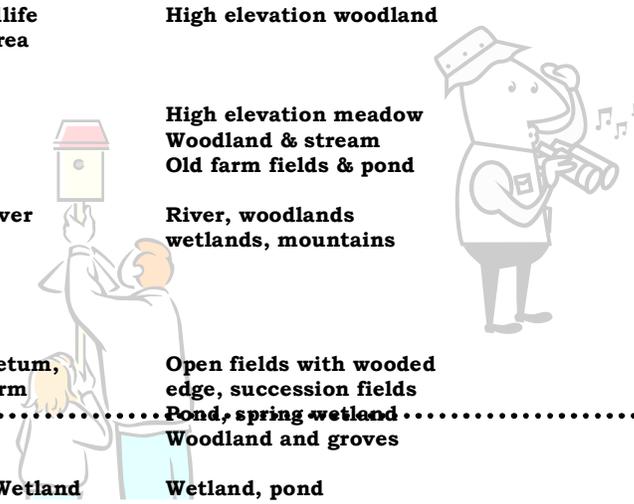
We encourage you to attend membership meetings and consider joining a Board steering committee. All members are welcome to observe Board meetings, but - according to the bylaws - members are not allowed to participate in Board meetings. If you have any questions about the Board's actions, how you can participate on the Board, or if you are coordinating any events in the name of Shenandoah Audubon, please contact current Board Officers (see page 2).

### We hope to see you at an upcoming event!

- Cynthia Fenton, SA Vice President

## BIRDING LOCATIONS IN THE NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY

LOCATION	HABITAT DESCRIPTION	KEY BIRDS SEEN
Thompson Wildlife Management Area (VNPS trail)	High elevation woodland	American Redstart migration warblers
Sky Meadows State Park	High elevation meadow Woodland & stream Old farm fields & pond	Red Headed Woodpecker
Shenandoah River State Park "Andy Guest"	River, woodlands wetlands, mountains	Bald Eagle, Osprey Cormorants; Kingfisher Red Tailed Hawk Louisiana Water Thrush Orioles
VA State Arboretum, Blandy Exp. Farm	Open fields with wooded edge, succession fields Pond, spring wetland Woodland and groves	Bluebird, Bob-white Cedar Waxwing 2010 Long-tailed duck Tree Swallow
Abrams Creek Wetland	Wetland, pond	Green & GB Heron; Osprey; Kingfisher



### Where Are We?

NSVAS is a non-profit organization which serves:

the City of Winchester

and the Counties of

Frederick, Clarke, Warren and Shenandoah

plus portions of

Loudoun, Fauquier and Rappahannock.

*Shenandoah Audubon is where you are!*

### Golden Eagles have also recently been sighted at Sky Meadows State Park near Paris, in northern Fauquier County!

Please "Google" websites for the above for locations, directions and more information, including bird lists. The species listed above are just a few.



"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"

PO BOX 2693  
Winchester, VA 22604

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



Please share or recycle this newsletter!

**SHENANDOAH AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (outdoor events subject to cancellation due to bad weather)  
*No Membership Meetings in Jan., Jul., Aug., or Dec. Dates and locations subject to change.*

DATE & PLACE	EVENT DESCRIPTION	CONTACT INFORMATION
March 16th/ 6 pm State Arboretum of VA, Boyce	<b>BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING</b> Meet in the Blandy Library. Members are welcome to observe.	Diane Greco shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com
March 26th/ 8 am City of Winchester	<b>Bird &amp; Nature Walk with Jim Smith</b> Join naturalist Jim Smith & experience the wonders of Abrams Creek Wetlands. Slow paced, on level paved ground, though wetlands & meadows. Bring your binoculars, water bottle & dress according to the weather. See page one for more details. Come learn about our natural wetlands!	Jim Smith 540-667-0504
April 9th/ 8 am In Winchester	<b>Bird &amp; Nature Walk with Jim Smith</b> Join naturalist Jim Smith for an easy walk through the Abrams Creek Wetlands (SEE March 26 FOR INFO)	Jim Smith 540-667-0504
April 13th/ 6 pm Location TBA	<b>MEMBERSHIP MEETING &amp; Program TBA</b> Public welcome.	shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com
April 23rd/ 8 am In Winchester	<b>Bird &amp; Nature Walk with Jim Smith</b> Join naturalist Jim Smith for an easy walk through the Abrams Creek Wetlands (SEE March 26 FOR INFO)	Jim Smith 540-667-0504
May 7th/ 8 am In Winchester	<b>Bird &amp; Nature Walk with Jim Smith</b> Join naturalist Jim Smith for an easy walk through the Abrams Creek Wetlands (SEE March 26 FOR INFO)	Jim Smith 540-667-0504
May 14th/ 9 am Paris	<b>Bird Walk at Sky Meadows State Park</b> 9-11am. Meet at the Visitor's Center for a walk focusing on migrating birds in spring in celebration of <b>International Migratory Bird Day</b> .	Margaret Wester shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com
May 21st/ 8 am In Winchester	<b>Bird &amp; Nature Walk with Jim Smith</b> Join naturalist Jim Smith for an easy walk through the Abrams Creek Wetlands (SEE March 26 FOR INFO)	Jim Smith 540-667-0504
June 25th/ 9 am Paris	<b>Bird Walk at Sky Meadows State Park</b> 9-11am. Meet at the Eastside Parking Lot for a walk focusing on birds of the meadowlands.	Margaret Wester shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com
Oct 8th/ 10 am Paris	<b>Bird Walk at Sky Meadows State Park</b> 10am-12pm. Meet at the VC Parking Lot for a walk focusing on park wildlife and the habitat of the Redheaded Woodpecker.	Margaret Wester shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com
Dec 10th/ 9 am Paris	<b>Bird Walk at Sky Meadows State Park</b> 9-10:30am. Meet at the Eastside Parking Lot for a walk focusing on resident woodland birds.	Margaret Wester shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com