

OAK LEAF

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

VOLUME 43

WINTER 2019

NO. 3

YOUR SUPPORT LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH! 2019 FUND DRIVE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am proud to announce that this past year can best be described as a 'not only busy, but growing year' for your Shenandoah Audubon Chapter. Your Chapter has continued to maintain existing projects, has strived to develop and grow new ideas, and has effectively worked to explore new avenues for public outreach, education, and community involvement. Membership now stands at just over 400, with National and Chapter members combined.

With your Chapter's mission in mind, the Board has given great consideration as to how your monetary donations are directed in order to get the best use out of each and every dollar. We all know in every organization there are hidden costs. In an effort to combat some of those expenses, this year the Board instigated "folding parties." Instead of hiring an outside source, your newsletters were manually folded, addressed and tabbed, by the Board members. With the utilization of the new Facebook account, along with hand-delivered distribution of newsletters and posters to highly visited public areas, we are considering cutting newspaper advertising, which is very expensive and is proving to be less effective over time. By utilizing Facebook, we also hope to engage the younger generation. The long-anticipated launch of the Chapter's new website, hopefully by this year's end, will incur a small monthly fee however this upgrade is desperately needed.

Your Chapter offered the following programs in 2019:

- In September we held a Hawk Watch Day, led by our Chapter president, Mr. Jim Smith, which included birdwatching/hiking to Abrams Creek, Snickers Gap and Bears Den.
- In October we co-sponsored, along with Lord Fairfax Community College and Trout Unlimited, a presentation by Lisa LaCavita, Ph.D., Environmental Education Specialist at George Mason University. The program was entitled, Amphibians in the Shenandoah Valley. You may read Dr. LaCavita's Dissertation/Thesis Abstract by following this link: <https://pqdtopen.proquest.com/doc/2187133375.html?FMT=ABS>
- At the time of this writing, we are anxiously anticipating the event scheduled for Thursday, November 7, co-sponsored by Shenandoah University Environmental Studies and Virginia Society of Ornithology, entitled, "Virginia Society of Ornithology Kestrel Project. Program presenter is Mr. Dan Bieker, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences at Piedmont VA Community College, where he teaches Field Ornithology and Appalachian Ecology. Mr. Bieker initiated the Kestrel Nest Box Project with the goal of establishing several hundred nest boxes throughout Virginia and educating land-owners on habitat preservation.

Your Chapter offered the following outings in 2019:

- Four Spring and four Fall nature/birding walks at Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve, led by your Chapter president, Mr. Jim Smith.

- A birding event at The Shenandoah University's, Shenandoah River Campus at Cool Springs Battlefield, Bluemont, VA; observed the heron rookery, eagles and early spring migrants. For further information on this area, visit: <https://www.su.edu/venue/cool-spring/>

Your Chapter sponsored the following projects in 2019:

- Your Chapter continued to oversee care and maintenance of our trees in The Audubon Arboretum in Jim Barnett Park, Winchester. New trees were planted for the development of the Winchester Host Lions Club's Sensory Trail within the Arboretum (which will include description in Braille signage). Area has also been designated within the Arboretum for a future Pollination Garden with native wild flowers and shrubs, and several memorial plantings were added as well.
- Your dollars funded The Purple Martin Colony Project at Blandy Experimental Farm, as it continued to provide critical habitat for migratory Purple Martins. This species returns to us from South America each season to breed and raise their families and they rely on appropriate human-made housing for survival. Future plans include designing and installing an interpretative sign near the colony as an educational tool.
- Your donations continued to fund the operation of both The Shenandoah Audubon/Blandy Bluebird Trail and The Shenandoah Audubon/Andy Guest Bluebird Trail. The combined trails provided over 200 nest boxes for our native, cavity-nesting birds. Over 65 volunteers attended educational workshops in 2019 to be trained as Trail Technicians; research data and trail observations were documented for a period of 24 weeks. Your contributions provided materials for nest box construction and maintenance as well as monitoring tools.
- Over 60 volunteers participated in the 119th Annual Christmas Bird Count last December and identified approximately 92 bird species albeit a drizzly and rainy day. This was your Chapter's 43rd year participating in the nation's longest running community science bird project.
- Chapter volunteers participated in the Blandy Experimental Farm Mother's Day Garden Fair. This event created an exceptional outlet for education and community outreach.

As your Chapter looks forward to future growth, we will continue to work 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!*

See the next page for a Membership/Donation form

Election of New President and Secretary

Please join me in congratulating David Borger and Gabriel Ricketts for being our unanimously elected NSVAS Board of Directors Officers. David was elected as our new President and Gabriel was elected as our new Secretary at our board meeting on October 21, 2019. They will assume their new positions on January 1, 2020. We are truly fortunate to have their consent to serve as officers on the NSVAS Board of Directors. With their obvious energy, skills, talents, and willingness to share their commitment in nature conservation our chapter has a bright future.

The additional good news is that Jeannie Senter and Kaycee Lichliter have agreed to remain in their Board Officer posts as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. I am so proud of our Board Members who are all dedicated and hard working volunteers and who share a vision of a healthy environment for all living things. See the notable list of our distinguished Board of Directors and Committee Chairs in the next column.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of NSVAS for a few years and while I'm certainly proud of what we have accomplished I am even more certain that with the wonderful people involved as members, at every level, we have reason for hope of good things to come for our chapter. My plans are to continue helping with NSVAS hikes and walks, working at the Audubon Arboretum, providing presentations, and encouraging an appreciation and respect for our natural world. As my parting gift I'm sharing my list of favorite birding sites in the area. I hope to see you and talk with you on the trail.

With respectful gratitude,
Jim L. Smith

Shenandoah Audubon

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President Jim Smith
 Vice President..... Jeannie Senter
 Secretary..... Corey Seymour
 Treasurer..... Kaycee Lichliter
 At-Large..... Ted Saunders
 At-Large..... Glennie Comer
 At-Large..... Gabriel Ricketts
 Newsletter Editor..... Lee Bowen
 Newsletter Asst. Editor..... Angela Schwarzkopf

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation..... Kaycee Lichliter
 Education..... Open
 Field Trips..... Open
 Finance..... Kaycee Lichliter
 Membership..... David Borger
 Webmaster..... Jeannie Senter
 Programs/Public Relations Mark Bruns
 markbruns3@gmail.com

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.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM - Please return in the envelope provided

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:

I will view the Newsletter on the website

Mail my Newsletter to me

New Memberships, Renewals and Donation payments may be made with PayPal at our website: www.audubon-nsvas.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.**

Shenandoah Audubon/Blandy Bluebird Trail

SEASON 2019 SUMMARY

By Kaycee Lichliter, Trail Manager

Trail data indicates 2019 was an exceptionally productive year for both Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows with the highest number fledglings recorded for both species in the past 16 years. A record-breaking 263 Bluebirds fledged while a whopping 570 new Tree Swallows took to the airways.

Other native, cavity-nesting bird species that utilize the trail did not fare as well as our Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. House Wren fledglings came in low at 48 this season; they suffered a 50% decline from 2011 to 2012, from 204 to 102 fledglings respectively. Their recorded high was 286 fledglings in 2008 compared to recorded low in 2017 of only 22 fledglings. The House Wrens that do nest seem to be maintaining a fairly good survival rate, however the number of nesting attempts has remained low since the 2012 decline. The Carolina Chickadee failed to make a single nesting attempt, whereas we were excited to host our first Carolina Wren nest ever recorded on the trail, even though all five eggs sadly disappeared from the nest for unknown reasons.

We continued to be alert for the presence of invasive House Sparrows and were pleasantly surprised that we only had one single nesting attempt; one clutch of five eggs was laid and all eggs were removed before hatching could occur, per Virginia Bluebird Society protocol and in accordance with The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

For additional trail data, please refer to the 'Data Comparison Table – Time Period 2004 – 2019,' which is included with this newsletter.

This season a “Wellness Check Crew” (WCC) was implemented and followed up on all boxes that had questionable activity, incomplete data, or some type of problem reported during weekend monitoring; this Crew consisted of Glenny Comer, David Borger and myself. Careful follow up resulted in more accurate and precise data and also resolved issues that could have been detrimental to the survivorship of the nesting birds. The weekly Trail Book Review Committee consisted of Leah DeLong, Mary Carolynn McLoughlin, David Borger, Glenny Comer and myself. And, our trail certainly would not function properly without the close attention to maintenance issues by Chris Lewis.

Trail data is submitted each season to The Virginia Bluebird Society, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's “NestWatch,” a Citizen Science program, Shenandoah Audubon, and UVA's Blandy Experimental Farm.

Many thanks to ALL the Trail Technicians who have given their time, energy and skills to oversee the safety and success of our birds. We greatly appreciate the Shenandoah Audubon Chapter for funding and moral support. And, we are forever grateful to Blandy Experimental Farm Staff for their sponsorship and continued generosity. See those who participated listed below.

Thank you!

Shenandoah Audubon/Blandy Bluebird Trail – 2019 Trail Technicians

Judy Aaron	Leah DeLong	Marie Majorov	Angela Schwarzkopf
Roger Aaron	Cheryl Ferguson	Milan Majorov	Diane Sheehey
Tammy Batcha	Ed Ferguson	Dennis McLoughlin	Jenny Swaner
Judi Booker	Susan Galbraith	Mary Carolynn McLoughlin	Deb Teates
David Borger	Bob Hearn	Andy Miller	Tim Teates
Juli Bowers	John Hickerson	Margie Miller	Margaret Wester
Nada Jill Butler	Mary Ann Kirkpatrick	Joanne Ridings	Jim Wilcox
Luciana Codella	Lucinda Lentz	Janet Rigoni	Zita Zduoba
Glenny Comer	Chris Lewis	Steven Rooker	
Dana Crone	Kaycee Lichliter	Mary Keith Ruffner	

If you would like to become a Bluebird Trail Technician for the 2020 season, please see page 7 to learn how.

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Blandy Experimental Farm
Data Comparison Table – Time Period 2004 – 2019
Page 1

Eastern Bluebird – *Sialia sialis*

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	16-Year Totals
First Egg Date	3 Apr	11 Apr	6 Apr	16 Apr	11 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr	22 Mar	26 Mar	16 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	30 Mar	3 Apr	18 Apr	12 Apr	
Nesting Attempts	43	52	69	89	80	72	31	49	78	68	75	81	85	72	68	80	1092
Eggs Laid	191	235	298	346	344	286	134	210	324	282	315	334	375	305	284	318	4581
Eggs Lost	50	86	57	147	72	48	26	39	93	24	45	39	48	44	60	37	915
Unhatched Eggs							5	5	22	17	7	13	9	16	18	11	123
Nestlings	141	149	241	199	272	231	103	166	209	241	263	283	318	245	206	270	3537
Nestlings Lost	12	33	20	28	47	26	6	12	13	5	8	21	65	19	19	7	341
Fledged	129	116	221	171	225	205	97	154	196	236	255	262	253	226	187	263	3196
Fecundity	67.5%	49.4%	74.2%	49.4%	65.4%	71.6%	72.4%	73.3%	60.5%	83.7%	80.9%	78.4%	67.6%	87.2%	65.8%	82.7%	

Tree Swallow – *Tachycineta bicolor*

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	16-Year Totals
First Egg Date	6 May	20 Apr	26 Apr	4 May	21 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	24 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	1 May	22 Apr	
Nesting Attempts	65	79	54	55	56	69	90	92	96	93	120	108	126	132	112	139	1486
Eggs Laid	346	429	256	276	262	349	433	481	503	487	593	536	633	655	572	746	7557
Eggs Lost	56	161	69	110	65	64	90	80	94	71	92	79	123	154	110	117	1535
Unhatched Eggs							6	13	10	25	31	18	23	35	16	24	201
Nestlings	290	268	187	166	197	279	337	388	399	391	470	438	487	466	446	605	5814
Nestlings Lost	5	94	7	17	8	24	28	4	29	21	55	27	47	56	55	35	512
Fledged	285	174	180	149	189	255	309	384	370	370	415	411	440	410	391	570	5302
Fecundity	82.3%	40.5%	70.3%	54.0%	72.1%	73.1%	71.4%	79.8%	73.5%	76.0%	70.0%	76.7%	70.0%	63.0%	68.3%	76.4%	

**Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Blandy Experimental Farm
Data Comparison Table – Time Period 2004 – 2019
Page 2**

House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	16-Year Totals
First Egg Date	2 May	9 May	5 May	7 May	3 May	8 May	6 May	2 May	23 March	5 May	14 May	8 May	15 May	31 May	21 May	6 May	
Nesting Attempts	51	67	78	72	78	53	56	52	28	30	20	17	12	6	20	12	652
Eggs Laid	269	362	440	371	410	267	283	296	151	173	113	84	47	33	101	64	3464
Eggs Lost	95	122	115	178	86	53	45	65	28	13	24	14	8	6	16	9	877
Unhatched Eggs							6	9	8	8	5	1	4	1	2	6	50
Nestings	174	240	325	193	324	209	232	222	115	152	84	69	35	26	83	49	2532
Nestings Lost	22	68	61	28	38	14	16	18	13	3	0	3	1	4	0	1	290
Fledged	152	172	264	165	286	196	216	204	102	149	84	66	34	22	83	48	2243
Fecundity	56.5%	47.5%	60.0%	44.5%	69.8%	73.4%	76.3%	68.9%	67.5%	86.1%	74.3%	78.6%	72.0%	67.0%	82.1%	75.0%	

5

Carolina Chickadee – *Poecile carolinensis*

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	16-Year Totals
First Egg Date	2 May	22 Apr	12 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr	6 Apr	N/A	26 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Nesting Attempts	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	18
Eggs Laid	1	13	17	5	5	2	18	13	7	0	1	6	6	0	0	0	94
Eggs Lost	1	4	14	5	1	2	4	12	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	51
Unhatched Eggs							0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nestings	0	9	3	0	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	42
Nestings Lost	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fledged	0	9	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	
Fecundity	0%	69.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	77.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	35

Report prepared by Ms. Kaycee Lichter, Trail Manager kayceelichter@hotmail.com September 2019 - Page 2 of 3

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Blandy Experimental Farm
Data Comparison Table – Time Period 2004 – 2019
Page 3

House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus*

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	16-Year Totals
First Egg Date						20 May					9 May	23 May	7 May	18 Apr	27 Apr	28 May	
Nest Box Site Numbers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#18,27,29	#28,112	#16,28,70	#26,28,29,66	#15,16,19,28,61,62,63,65,91	#1	
Eggs Laid						8					17	14	5	43	45	5	137
Eggs Disposed						8					17	14	5	43	43	5	135
Nestlings						0					0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Nestlings Lost						0					0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Fledged						0					0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fecundity						0%					0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0

- Data based on the following: 2004 (100 nest box sites); 2005 – 2009 (110 nest box sites); 2014-2019 (132 nest box sites).
- House Sparrows are invasive, non-native species and reproduction in trail nest boxes is prohibited/controlled; Year 2018 participated in Sparrow Swap w/North Carolina Museum of Natural History.
- Carolina Wren (CARW): 2019 is the first recorded year to utilize a trail nest box with a single nesting attempt - 5 eggs laid/5 eggs lost.
- Data submitted annually to Blandy Experimental Farm, Virginia Bluebird Society, Shenandoah Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch (Citizen Science Program).

Christmas Bird Count

Join in the nation's longest-running community science bird census project. You must register to participate.

NSVAS Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Contact Charles Hagan by email.
Email: naturetrekr@gmail.com
Deadline to register December 7, 2019

Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 4, 2020
Contact Margaret Wester by email.
Email: margaretwester@hotmail.com
Deadline to register December 28, 2019

Birding Hot Spots

by Jim L. Smith

Recommended Birding Sites – easy and free access, mixed habitats with good cover and food sources, and close to water.

- 1 Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve – Winchester
- 2 Blandy Farm and the State Arboretum of VA – Clarke County
- 3 Cool Spring River Campus of Shenandoah University – Clarke Cty
- 4 Eastham Park on the Shenandoah River – Warren County
- 5 Elizabeth Furnace area on Passage Creek – Warren County
- 6 Jim Barnett Park, Shawnee Springs Area – Winchester
- 7 Jim Barnett Park, Wilkin's Lake Area - Winchester
- 8 Lake Frederick – Clarke, Frederick, and Warren Counties
- 9 Museum of Shenandoah Valley – Winchester (free access areas)
- 10 Third Battle of Winchester and Redbud Run – Frederick Co.

This is my personal favorite short list for just Winchester and close proximities. Fortunately, in our region, we have many additional excellent birding sites such as our national and state forests and parks, the Appalachian and Tuscarora Trails, and ponds, lakes, and waterways surrounded by at least some vegetation, (mudflats can provide good views of some birds). In addition to the above list and despite being a little farther away, I have to include a couple more favorites: Hawksbill Creek Walkway in Luray, VA and Stauffer's Marsh in Berkeley County WV.

Of course, the most convenient place to bird watch is your own yard. Bring the birds to you by putting up a bird feeder and a suet block placed out of reach of predators, plant native species of flowers, shrubs, and trees and provide fresh water.

Get out there. Bird watch (Bird) in all seasons to learn about breeding, migration, and over-wintering habits. Be on the lookout for variations in plumages and visits from rare or uncommon species. Share your sightings with other birders (see ebird on-line). Practice listening quietly to bird calls and song to help identify locations and species. Do not harass, provoke, or stress birds (especially in breeding season) by trying to get too close. Remember, birds will be trying to protect themselves and their chicks by keeping a safe distance from us. Always ask for permission to go on private property. Join an Audubon outing with other bird enthusiasts, take photos when possible, dress appropriately considering weather conditions and if you go out alone notify someone about your proposed itinerary in case you get lost. Know your route. Take a map or GPS locator. Stay alert and aware. It's a jungle out there.

*Drive Safe – Keep your eyes on the road. Those beautiful and magnificent birds can be quite a distraction. HAPPY BIRDING!

Trail Technician Training Workshops

by Kaycee Lichliter

The upcoming workshops are for those individuals interested in participating in the bluebird nest box monitoring projects for the 2020 season scheduled to run Friday, March 20 – Saturday, August 29. This workshop is required for people who would like to be Trail Technicians and monitor the following trails:

- The Shenandoah Audubon/Blandy Bluebird Trail
- Sky Meadows State Park Bluebird Trail

There are two training sessions. New volunteers MUST attend BOTH workshops (Wednesday and Saturday sessions). Veteran monitors only need to attend the Saturday session.

WHEN:

New Volunteers - Wednesday, March 4, 2020 (6:30 - 9:00 p.m.)
New Volunteers AND Veteran Monitors, Saturday, March 7, 2020 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

WHERE: Blandy Experimental Farm - Library

WHY: This workshop is designed specifically for those who desire to participate in bluebird trail activities, including monitoring, with one or both of the trails listed above.

REQUIREMENTS:

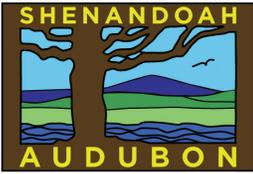
Registration is required in order to attend workshops.

Please register by February 9, 2020 by contacting Kaycee Lichliter, Blandy Trail Manager, at kayceelichliter@hotmail.com

Workshop completion is mandatory to participate as a volunteer trail technician. Workshop is open only to participants who will commit to volunteering with one or both of the trails listed above for at least one spring/summer monitoring season.

Additional Information:

- Trail objectives are: 1) provide habitat, 2) education, and 3) research.
- Learn about bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds that utilize the nest boxes.
- Learn proper monitoring techniques, including making critical observations and recording concise and consistent data.
- Trail systems are divided into multiple, smaller trail sections and each section is assigned to a trail technician to monitor. Monitoring times are scheduled for Fridays or Saturdays; monitoring is to be completed between 12:00 noon and at least one hour before dusk.
- Scheduling is coordinated in advance throughout the season by trail managers.
- Volunteers may request how often they desire to monitor (once a week, twice a month or once a month).
- Advance scheduling gives opportunity to work around planned vacations and a backup/substitute call system is utilized.
- The trail technician will agree to inform the trail manager if they cannot monitor their assigned date and will be responsible for obtaining a substitute to monitor and immediately relay that change to the trail manager.
- Close communication between trail managers and all volunteers, along with strict adherence to protocol is required in order to make these trail systems operate in a safe manner for both the technicians and the birds.
- This Citizen Science project is a fun way to make a contribution to conservation and a great opportunity to participate in field-related scientific study.



P.O. Box 2693
Winchester, VA 22604



For information about NSVAS, please visit our Facebook page or website: www.audubon-nsvas.org

– a NSVAS sponsored program –

Photographing Birds Program

For the Love of Birds: Observing,
Identifying, and Photographing Winter Birds

Meet Sharon Fisher!

Lifelong educator, Professional Photographer, Warren County resident, and world traveler. Sharon will share some of her spectacular photos with you and provide great ideas about the best ways to attract, see, and take your own photos of the winter birds that may be coming to your feeders or hiding in your evergreens. Sharon has traveled to over 25 countries including the Antarctic and the Arctic. Her amazing photos and presentation will inspire you. Also, meet members of the Shenandoah Audubon Society who will share with you some of the best birding hot spots in our region as well as ongoing conservation projects that assist Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, our winter resident bird species, and more.

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 10:30 to Noon
Samuel's Public Library
330 E. Criser Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630

FREE for the general public but you must register with the library to attend. Call 540-635-3153 or go online <https://samuelslibrary.net/>

In Remembrance

Mr. Charlie Clevenger of Stephens City passed away on September 30, 2019 at the age of 98. He was a long-time member of NSVAS and instrumental in erecting the first Bluebird boxes on the Blandy Trail in 1994.



Visit our web site:
www.audubon-nsvas.org

Buy a Bluebird Box

Your purchase supports Shenandoah Audubon

Are you interested in adding housing for the native, cavity nesting birds in your backyard or garden? Shenandoah Audubon currently has available cedar Bluebird nest boxes beautifully handcrafted by our member, Mr. Chris Lewis. These boxes are the same design as the boxes used on our bluebird trails. Constructed using the safest, most preferred specifications, these boxes will happily accommodate many of our native cavity nesters. The perfect gift for a fellow nature lover!

Suggested Donation:

- Bluebird House \$35
- Predator guard, pole and hardware \$30
- Bluebird house, predator guard, pole and hardware (entire setup) \$55



For more information or to make a purchase, please contact Kaycee Lichliter at: kayceelichliter@hotmail.com

Membership News

by Dave Borger

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Jason Beck	Frederick, Erin, Olivia,
Shawna Smith Brill	and Anna Wenzel
Lisa Byrd	Sylvia Wilson
Jessica Collings Crabill	

All memberships (new and renewed) will be valid for one year beginning on the date that membership payments are received. Individual membership time-frames will be specified in thank you letters sent to new and renewed members upon receipt of membership payments. The membership form is included in this and all newsletters. The membership form is also available on our website at www.audubon-nsvas.org.

Thank you for your contributions and efforts.