



Habitat Herald

A Publication of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

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Bats of Loudoun: Our Night Flyers- Part 1

by Nicole Hamilton

This article was compiled from a number of sources as well as with help from Leslie Sturges of Bat World Northern Virginia.

Bats are one of the most misunderstood mammals we have. Numerous myths exist about bats being blind, getting caught in your hair, or being vicious animals that carry disease. None of these myths are true, and in fact, bats are terrific wild neighbors that are amazing in their own right and play a critical role in our environment. They eat huge numbers of insects, play a key role in pollinating plants, and are integral to keeping balance in our ecosystem. In springtime, we start to see bats return to our night skies as they migrate back to Loudoun from places south or emerge from hibernation in trees and caves. During their time here, bats live in and around wetlands, fields, forests, and towns.

Appreciating their Uniqueness

Although some mammals, like the flying squirrel, are able to glide, bats are the only mammals able to fly. They belong to their own order of mammals called Chiroptera, which means "hand wing." This refers to how the finger bones of a bat support its wings. The wings are thin membranes of skin that stretch between the fingers of the front leg and extend to the hind legs and tail. At rest, bats fold their wings alongside their bodies to protect their delicate fingers and wing membranes. As most people know, bats are nocturnal, so our best chance to see them is just after sunset as they drop from their roosts to fly through the air with the greatest of ease.

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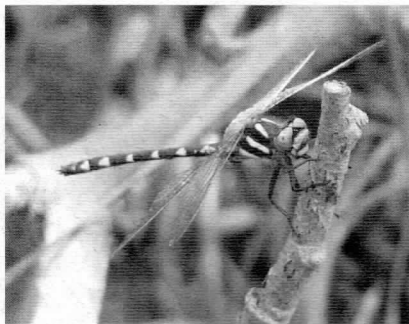


Surveying Loudoun's Dragonflies

by Andy Rabin

I became interested in dragonflies and damselflies (insect order Odonata, or informally, "odes") a few years ago. At that time, I had been an avid birder for several years and figured that just as there are for local birds, there would be plenty of resources available that could tell me where to find dragonflies, which species of dragonflies have been found in Loudoun County, and what times of the year each species can be found. It seems that almost every local park has a brochure that lists which birds have been seen in the park and at which times of the year they are likely to be seen. To my disappointment, I found that such resources for odes were few and far between. So, I decided to keep track of the dates and locations of all of the species of odes I encountered on

■ *Continued on page 6*



Brown Spiketail at Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship - Andy Rabin, photographer

A Word from the President

by Nicole Hamilton

William Shakespeare wrote, "April hath put a spirit of youth in everything," and I think he was right. After a long winter when the sun is low and the days are short, we emerge from our own slowed pace to get back outdoors, into our gardens, and onto the trails, soaking up some good sunshine and fresh air.

While I love all the seasons for their uniqueness, spring does seem so energized. Birds are singing from the tallest trees with their loudest song, proclaiming their presence. Nest building begins, or, in the case of some of our owls and raptors, babies may be born. Frogs and toads are calling to each other, saying it's time to gather in the ponds and pools to greet each other again and lay the eggs of our future genera-

tions. Our neighborhood fox barks more frequently in spring, perhaps calling to its mate or declaring its territory. The birds seem to take more baths in the bird bath during this time too, and there's something about this act that is so endearing. Slowly the bird considers the bird bath from the edge and finally hops in. It then looks about carefully, probably looking for predators but perhaps also to see if anyone is looking.

Once in, it lets down its guard and splashes around, sending water all over, splashing high and low and out of the bath, soaking its feathers, looking like a ball of fluff just tumbling around. I love that moment, and if ever I am in a low mood, just seeing this simple scene makes me laugh.

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The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board meets the first Tuesday of each month. Board meetings are open to all current members. For more information, or to suggest topics for discussion at upcoming meetings, contact Nicole Hamilton.

Visit us at: www.loudounwildlife.org

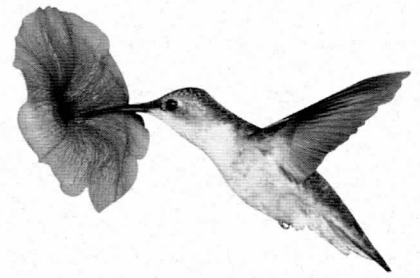
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■ *A Word from the President, continued*

In the early spring, I also love to go into our garden to peek beneath the leaf litter and see the new shoots emerging. It makes me feel like my secret pact with these plants is being held up. What pact could I have with our perennials? Well, it was the first year that we lived here and I had never gardened before, but I knew I wanted to have a place to welcome wildlife. It was a hot, dry summer, and when I planted them I remember saying quietly, "OK, I'm working hard out here digging through this hard clay and conditioning the soil for you — now your part is to come back again next year." For the most part, they do come back each year, or they spread their seeds. The joy they bring through their colors and smells and the butterflies and bees, birds and rabbits that they welcome is wonderful. For anyone who has seen our garden, it is a wild place, and I like it like that. I did my part of putting native plants back here where they belong, and now, while I may do a little weeding, the plants take care of the rest.



"Almost like clockwork, the chimney swifts, traveling from Peru, and the hummingbirds, traveling from Mexico and other points south, arrive at our house. I mark the days of their first sighting in my "signs of the seasons" notebook and am thrilled to know they have not forgotten we are here."

Another thing I love about spring is the return of my summertime friends. I clean out our chimney for the chimney swifts, prepare our hummingbird feeders, and then I watch the skies. Almost like clockwork, the chimney swifts, traveling from Peru, and the hummingbirds, traveling from Mexico and other points south, arrive at our house. I mark the days of their first sighting in my "signs of the seasons" notebook and am thrilled to know they have not forgotten we are here.

There is another quote that always reminds me of springtime. It's by e.e. cummings: "The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful." This one ties in with Shakespeare's words of the spirit of youth in everything and reminds me to walk barefoot in the grass and get my feet wet strolling through puddles now and then. There is so much seriousness in our days that returning to these simple things that nature offers can be grounding and remind us about what is important. Life is good.

Nicole

■ *Bats, continued from pg. 1*

Making a Feast of Insects

Bats are the only major predator of night-flying insects. Seventy percent of all bats are insect eaters, including all bats in Loudoun. They catch their prey in flight and often like to feed in open areas where insects swarm, such as over fields, open water, and around street lights. Several species are also "clutter feeders" — that is, they forage in the canopy or in corridors through forest. They don't, however, use degraded forests that are too closed in. Most bats use a wing to tip the insect into the tail membrane and then collect the insect into their mouths; others use their mouths to scoop insects out of the air. Insects have evolved with bats to avoid being eaten, but if an insect tries to make a last-minute evasive move, the bat can flick out its wing to catch the insect and draw it into its mouth.

Their maneuverability makes bats excellent insect hunters, and they often consume 50 percent of their body weight in a single night! A typical bat may consume well over 500 insects in just one hour, nearly 3,000 in a single evening. A colony of just 100 Little Brown Bats, one of our more common species, can consume more than a quarter of a million mosquito-sized insects in one night. That's a lot of insects that aren't flying around our heads on a summer evening! All of our local bats

feed on the adult forms of many crop pests such as codling moths, cutworm moths, leafhoppers, leaf bugs, and assorted beetles. In addition, the Eastern Red, Hoary, and Silver-Haired bats help to maintain forest health and feed on forest pests such as tent caterpillar moths. Because of their role in controlling insect numbers, the health of the wild bat population is important for maintaining the health of our ecosystem.

Bats and their Life Cycles

Bats rouse from hibernation in March and migrate to their summer roosts in April. Pregnant females, who mated the previous fall, seek sheltered roosts in buildings, tree cavities, and tree foliage to raise their pups. If you're going to put up a bat house, the best time is fall through early April before the females start looking for a roost. In some species, females gather together prior to giving birth in maternal colonies, and these become the nurseries. Males are generally solitary throughout the season.

Bats are mammals, meaning that they are warm-blooded, have hair, bear live young, and feed their babies milk. They have one of the lowest reproductive rates for animals their size, giving birth to only one or two pups per year. Pups are born from May through June or July. They are born hairless, blind, and helpless and cling tightly to their mothers in the

■ *Continued on page 4*



■ *Bats, continued from pg. 3*

roost. On summer nights, females leave the roost to hunt insects nearby but return frequently to nurse their young. By mid-July, as the pups reach about 5 weeks old, they begin to fly and hunt on their own. Because they are still learning, though, their mothers continue to nurse them until they can adequately feed themselves.

Because insects are few during the winter months, the bats of Loudoun either migrate or hibernate. For Little Brown Bats, Big Brown Bats, and Northern Myotis, maternity colonies disband in late summer and early fall and the bats take flight to travel to the hibernation places. This is the time when males and females join together, sometimes in very large groups. This rendezvous brings adults together for mating but is also thought to serve as a time to teach young bats the locations of hibernation caves. For our bats that migrate, the Silver-Haired, Eastern Red, and Hoary bats, autumn prompts them to begin their migration to warmer climates.

Echolocation

Bats can see quite well but rely on their hearing at night. Echolocation enables bats to use their large and well-developed ears to navigate and catch moving prey in total darkness. A bat's echolocation system makes use of ultrasonic sound pulses and echoes to locate objects. Bats echolocate either through their noses or through opening their mouths in flight and emit a series of ultrasonic pulses that bounce off objects such as fences, bushes, branches, and insects. Using the information gained from these echoes, the bat can maneuver to catch an insect while avoiding flying into objects.

For humans interested in observing bats at night, there are "bat detectors" available. These devices detect the ultrasonic pulses emitted by bats and make audible ticks that we can hear as the bat flies by.

Bats and Rabies

The incidence of rabies in wild bats is low. According to Bat Conservation International, worldwide, more than 30,000 humans die from rabies each year, and 99 percent of these deaths are due to contact with rabid dogs. In modern countries, where most dogs and cats are now vaccinated against rabies, the disease is rare in humans. The North American bat species most frequently found in our homes or bat houses are the Big and Little Brown bats, and they have not been known to cause a single case of human rabies in the past 15 years. In fact, only four cases are believed to have come from common house-dwelling species in all of our American history. Furthermore, contrary to occasional speculation, there is no evidence that bats living in buildings ever transmit rabies through parasites, the air, or fecal material.

If you find a bat on the ground, you should take caution however. Sometimes a young pup will fall from its nursery

roost, or you may find a grounded bat that is sick, injured, dehydrated, exhausted, or malnourished. As with all wild animals, you should not handle bats. For instructions on how to safely rescue a bat, visit: http://www.batworld.org/batworld_centers/novarescue.html. When conducting a rescue, be sure to wear leather work or garden gloves. If no one has had contact with the bat and it appears to be uninjured, it can be placed in a coffee can or cardboard box, using gloved hands, and released outside away from any open windows or doors. If it appears to be an orphan, injured, or unable to fly, contact Bat World NOVA (see Resources). As with all animals, if a bat feels threatened, it may try to bite, but this is only in self-defense.

Enjoy Watching Our Night Flyers

You could be lucky enough to watch bats flying around your own neighborhood. On a warm spring or summer night, take some time outside to watch the skies shortly after dusk for their fluttery, erratic flight. Watch over ponds and large streams as bats sweep low over the water for a drink before they begin foraging. As the birds go to sleep, you may catch a glimpse of these night fliers. As you watch them, think of where they may have roosted. What habitat is nearby that they would favor for raising their young or resting during the day? As you watch, look at your habitat — what is drawing them in? Is there water nearby? If you don't find bats in your neighborhood, try visiting some of the local parks, especially ones with areas left wild and weedy, with dead trees left standing.

To be continued . . . Look for Part II of the "Bats of Loudoun" in the next issue of the Habitat Herald.

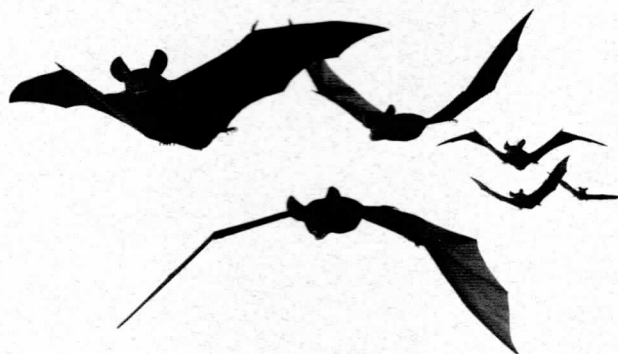
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Spring Creatures

by Joe Midolo

It's that time of year again, time to clean out your birdhouses and make way for spring! Spring is one of the most beautiful seasons, thanks to all the newly awakened wildlife that graces our backyards. Here are some tips that will help you and your family enjoy a virtual menagerie of creatures. You'll find out how to attract and maintain everything from bluebirds to salamanders, and have fun doing it!

Now is the time to clean out your existing birdhouses. Remove all remnants of last year's nest and make any repairs. If you don't have existing houses, you have two options: Either buy a pre-made birdhouse or make your own. The success of a birdhouse is in the details, so I suggest finding instructions on the Internet or at the library. Different species require different houses, so be sure you know what you want before building or buying. Here are the placement preferences for several species; you can browse online or at the library for others:

- Bluebirds prefer a house placed four or five feet above the ground. Because bluebird nests are subject to lots of predators see our website (www.loudounwildlife.org/Bluebird_Monitoring.htm) on ways to discourage them.
- Wrens prefer any partially sunlit spot with lots of small twigs nearby to aid in nest building. You might want to put several houses in the vicinity, because wrens will sometimes make more than one nest before settling down with one they like.
- Robins, catbirds, and thrashers like to nest in thick shrubs but will sometimes use a nesting shelf. It should be placed in partial shade for optimum results.
- Chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches like having rustic houses bordering on woodland or orchards. Nuthatches and titmice prefer higher elevation, whereas chickadees nest within a few feet of the ground.

Once you have made and placed your birdhouse, you should make sure it's safe from harm. If your neighborhood has outdoor cats, I would advise against mounting your house on the fence. A medium-sized wooden pole hammered into the ground away from trees and other things a cat could climb would be the best. Surrounding the pole with a plastic or metal sheath will protect your birds from death by mauling. It's not desirable to paint your birdhouse — the object is to make it seem as natural as possible.

To attract birds to your wondrous avian sanctuary, use a variety of birdfeeders and seed. A basic birdfeeder is fine, but don't forget about creativity. As with the houses, you can find instructions on how to make your own birdfeeder on the Internet. Your feeders should have multiple perches, so you can feed many birds at once. You can buy specialized feeders that

keep squirrels from ravaging your seed. Homemade "squirrel-safe" feeders are probably doomed to failure since squirrels are extremely adapt-

able. Remember, cats will target feeders as well, so don't place the feeder too close to thick concealing shrubs. For most of the birds you want to attract, black oil sunflower is best, but for best results, offer several types, as well as suet for woodpeckers and nuthatches.

Begin planning now to make your yard environmentally friendly for all kinds of wildlife, not just birds. If you live by a stream, try placing large rocks and planting moss nearby. This will serve as an attraction for amphibians, such as salamanders. Remember that these creatures are very sensitive to pesticides or chemicals. Planting bushes and shrubs can aid in attracting the elusive box turtle. They used to be common in this area, but are now a rare sight. These amazing reptiles also help keep your garden free of pests such as slugs. If you are privileged to have one in your yard, try laying out vegetables for them. Consider planting berry plants, whose fruit gives food to chipmunks, rabbits, and even birds. Flowers can provide food for hummingbirds and bees, besides being enjoyable to look at! What spring scene would be complete without butterflies? To attract them in flocks, plant butterfly bushes which, when in bloom, have long clusters of miniscule violet buds, perfect for butterflies! Butterflies are also attracted to herbs, so an herb garden would be a great idea. Vegetable gardens are nature friendly as well, and lots of fun to grow. Grow enough so that you have some to share with a "backyard buddy"!

Follow these tips, or some of your own, and may your spring be full of nature!



LWC Discussion Forum

The LWC Discussion Forum has been revamped using Yahoo Groups which has excellent spam protection. Anyone who would like to hear about and share local wildlife sightings, please login to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loudounwildlife/>



■ *Dragonflies, continued from pg. 1*

my field trips. I had no intention of publishing this data; it was just for my personal use and edification.

Shortly after I began keeping records, a couple of friends, Kevin Munroe and Tony Robison, who are working on a field guide to the local dragonflies, decided to expand the range of their field guide from just Fairfax County to include all of Northern Virginia. They asked my help in locating and photographing species in eastern Loudoun County. As a result, Kevin and I spent many hours in the field (well, actually more like in the water) this past year and discovered some great locations in Loudoun County for Odonata, as well some interesting and unusual species. It was about this time last year that Nicole Hamilton asked me if I wanted to publish this data as a checklist for LWC. I was happy to oblige, and Nicole has done a great job putting the Dragonflies of Loudoun County checklist/brochure together.

When I first started looking for odes in Loudoun, the county checklist at OdonataCentral.com contained about 30 species. Apparently, very little surveying had been done, since many of the more common species were not included on the checklist. Now about two years later, the new LWC checklist contains more than 70 species, with more surely out there but not yet discovered. Anyone is able to submit new dragonfly or damselfly records through that website, so if you photograph anything new to your county or state, please contribute to the database.

Most of the lifecycle of dragonflies revolves around aquatic habitats, so I looked for odes near water. The insects are most active on warm, sunny days, so cloudy days were better spent birding. Different species prefer different habitats; ponds, wetlands, creeks and rivers will support different species. Some of my favorite spots in the county are Bles Park in Ashburn, which includes a wetland and is bordered by Broad Run and the Potomac River; Banshee Reeks in Leesburg, which has ponds

and wetlands, and is bordered by Goose Creek; and various other spots along Goose Creek. I always brought along my close-focusing binoculars and digital camera to help identify and record what I had seen. By being patient and approaching slowly I was able to get close-up photographs of perched dragonflies and damselflies. By viewing the photographs at full-size on my computer's monitor, I was often able to identify the species, which was not always possible with the naked eye or binoculars. For some species, the only way to identify them was to catch them with an insect net and identify and photograph them in the hand. I always first got permission for catching and releasing the insects from the land owners or park managers before using my net. I kept a list of everything I had seen each trip, and any time I photographed a species that was not on the Loudoun County list published at OdonataCentral.com, I submitted my photographs and sighting information to the web site.

One highlight of this past year's ode searches was finding a Spine-crowned Clubtail (*Gomphus abbreviatus*), a species that has been recorded only a few times in this area in the past 50 years. Another locally uncommon dragonfly, a Taper-tailed Darner (*Gomphaeschna antilope*), I unexpectedly found perched outside the door of my fourth floor apartment, right off of Route 7. And, there is still plenty of opportunity for anyone to add to our knowledge of odes in Loudoun County, which is part of what makes studying these insects so much fun. The species and flight time data for Loudoun Odes is far from complete. Therefore, if you see any new species or ones already recorded but in months that are not marked on the LWC checklist, please contribute your findings by submitting your sighting, preferably with some photographs, to sightings@loudounwildlife.org. One great way to get started enjoying dragonflies and damselflies is by joining us on our monthly butterfly and dragonfly walks. Look in the Habitat Herald for the schedule. We usually have one walk each month, from May through September.

In the meantime, here are a few suggestions for dragonfly and damselfly field guides and other resources to get you started:

Dragonflies Through Binoculars by Sidney Dunkle

This field guide includes all of the dragonflies in North America and is a must-have if you have more than a casual interest in identifying dragonflies.

Damselflies of the Northeast by Ed Lam

One of my favorite field guides and the best damselfly guide for this area, it contains all of the damselflies that you can expect to find in Loudoun County. Can be ordered from: <http://homepage.mac.com/edlam/book.html>



American Rubyspot at Bles Park
Andy Rabin, photographer

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast

by Giff Beaton

Brand new field guide that includes most of the dragonflies and damselflies of Virginia.

Dragonflies of Northern Virginia by Kevin Munroe and Tony Robison (expected pub. date - 2008)

This new, as yet unpublished, guide will be specific to the dragonflies in the local area and will contain information about the best locations in Northern Virginia for spotting odes.

Web Resources:

Odonata of Maryland & Washington D.C. -

www.howardbirds.org/maryland.html

An annotated list of all the odes recorded in MD and DC.

Montgomery, Frederick and Washington counties in Maryland are just across the river from Loudoun and likely share most of the same Odonate fauna.

Odonata Central - **www.odonatacentral.com**

Go here for any county or state checklist, submitting new records, viewing range maps for any species, and much more.

Featured Friend: Red-Bellied Woodpecker

by Nicole Hamilton

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is named for the light, red wash that appears on its belly. As with other woodpeckers, these birds rely on a plentiful supply of dead trees for nesting sites, protection from harsh weather, and food sources. Woodpeckers play a critical role in controlling populations of insects. They also play a secondary role in that the holes they create in dead trees or limbs serve as nesting sites for many other cavity dwelling birds such as owls, kestrels, flycatchers, bluebirds, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches and Tufted Titmice. Even squirrels take over some of the cavities that are excavated.

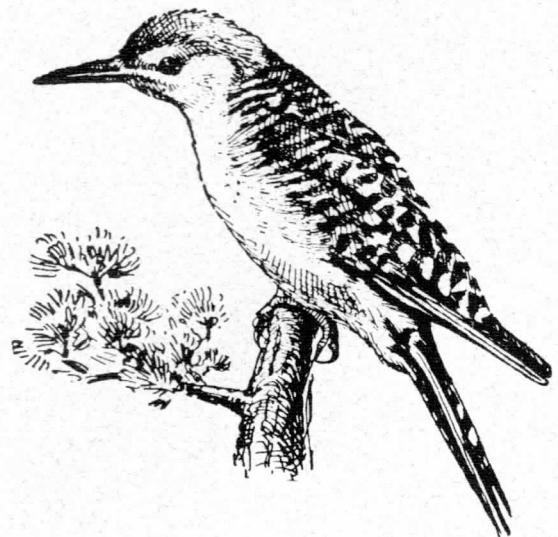
During summer and fall, Red-bellied Woodpeckers spend most of their feeding time scouring upward along tree trunks, seeking out insects. However, during the winter months, they feed mostly on nuts and berries, especially those of the Virginia creeper, dogwood and poison ivy. In preparation for winter, this woodpecker stores nuts and berries in crevices in trees and in grooves in bark. Often the Red-bellied Woodpecker will gather an initial stash in one spot and then, once this stash is sufficient, it will disperse the stash to various locations for safe keeping. These stashes provide the bulk of the winter food supply and are therefore guarded and defended by the

woodpeckers throughout the winter. As spring and summer come, the Red-bellies transition to eating more insects—primarily ants, wood-boring beetle larvae, grasshoppers, wood roaches and caterpillars.

In early May, they start their breeding activities by drumming in a pattern specific to their species, generally a few slow taps followed by a short spurt of rapid drumming. Red-bellied Woodpeckers prefer dead limbs of living trees or recently dead trees that still have bark on them. Cavities that they create are generally a foot deep. With Red-bellied Woodpeckers, the courtship period has high ceremony associated with it. Once a nesting hole has been selected, the male and female engage in a series of tapping patterns. The male enters the nest hole and taps from the inside of the outside wall. The female subsequently taps on the outside wall, and soon they drum together in perfect harmony.

Unlike many songbirds, Red-bellied Woodpeckers have only one brood of young per year. They lay 4-5 white eggs that hatch after about two weeks of incubation which is done by both parents. The changing of the guard for incubating the eggs also has a ceremonial aspect to it. The approaching bird makes a series of soft calls while outside the nest. The parent inside the hole taps on the outside wall indicating she/he is ready to switch and then takes leave of the nest. Both parents participate in the feeding and fledging of the young, which occurs in early summer.

Red-bellied Woodpecker populations are on the increase, although their habitat is threatened by "woodland sanitation" efforts to "clean-up" the woods by removing dead and dying trees and food sources. Their populations, previously confined to the southern states, are gradually moving northward, and these birds can now be seen as far north as Connecticut.



The Tenth Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count

by Joe Coleman

When Stan Shetler sent in his report for Sector 9, he wrote, "The only notable [species in my sector] ... this season was the Red-breasted Nuthatch. We saw two in the same pine woods across ... from the [Lansdowne] Hospital where we get them every year, but even while we were counting them, the surveyors were marking off, for clearing, the trees in a first phase of development of this parcel." This, with a few notable exceptions, is the continuing saga of the now ten-year-old Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Our second highest number of participants ever, 75, with 8 of them under 19 (a new record), tallied a healthy 93 species on the 2006 count, held on December 27. Unfortunately, the total number of birds observed was one of the count's lowest and translated into only 140.8 birds per team-hour, our lowest ever. Two of the factors for this were the unseasonably warm weather and the fact that two of the count's sectors were understaffed. However, it is hard to ignore the continuing loss of wildlife habitat in Loudoun County. Since 2000, Loudoun County has consistently been one of the country's fastest growing counties, and this has translated into the loss of a tremendous amount of habitat. Bird species that thrive around people are doing well, others are not.

The count did have a couple of firsts, an immature Black-crowned Night-heron and a Virginia Rail. Another nice sighting was a Loggerhead Shrike that Kurt Gaskill found. This was especially notable as it wasn't far from the one that Kurt found last year, leading one to hope they are nesting in that area. As Teta Kain, the regional CBC compiler for Virginia and D.C., wrote last year, "the march to probable extirpation of the Loggerhead Shrike ... in Virginia continues. For the past six years state totals have dwindled to the low teens. This year's [2005] total was 13, the lowest number recorded in 60 years. In 1945, just six shrikes were found but there were only seven counts state-wide that year." In 2005 there were 47 counts. Both the heron and the shrike were photographed.

Other highlights (and high counts) for the CBC include:

- A high of 626 Black Vultures. The most we had ever seen before was 201 in 2001.
- Two of the three common invasive species had high counts, as there were 387 Rock Pigeons and 221 House Sparrows.
- The 17 Common Ravens that were observed confirm that this species is significantly expanding its territory beyond the mountains.
- 49 Brown Creepers
- The 451 Eastern Bluebirds confirm that this species has come back from whatever (probably an unusually cold, damp spring in combination with West Nile Virus) decimated their numbers in 2003 and 2004.

The lack of blackbirds was astounding, and while also noted in some of our neighboring counts, is probably the most significant indicator of Loudoun's transition from a rural community to a suburban one. While none of the blackbird species were seen in significant numbers, not a single Common Grackle was found on the count!

When the data for our count is combined with all of the data from other counts, we will have a good picture of the state of North America's bird populations for early winter 2006–2007. To see our results visit our website; and to compare different counts, visit www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/.

Without the enthusiastic and knowledgeable participation of all the counters, the Christmas Bird Counts would not be successful. Without their effort the world's most significant and important example of citizen science would not be the massive success it has grown into. They can't be thanked enough for their efforts. ▶▶



Brown Creeper

■ Tenth Central Loudoun CBC, continued



This Year's Counters:

Bob Abrams	Carter Morrow
Dale Ball	Allison Morrow
Jeanne Berens	Amanda Morrow
Gem Bingol	Caroline Morrow
Leonard Bisson	Betty Morton
Joe Coleman	Mike Morton
Phil Daley	Jack Morton
Ellie Daley	Max Morton
Elizabeth Evans	Gary Myers
Cliff Fairweather	Matthew Myers
Karen Fairweather	Marilyn Natoli
Sandra Farkas	Jim Nelson
Michael Friedman	Catherine Pauls
Yusuf Gantt	Thomas A. Reinhart
Kurt Gaskill	Bob Rummel
Mary Ann Good	Ellen Rummel
Jay Hadlock	Cheri Schneck
Nicole Hamilton	Darrell Schwalm
Dirck Harris	Alex Seebeck
Bruce Hill	Bill Seebeck
Brendan Himelright	Stanwyn Shetler
Tammy Himelright	Sylvia Shuey
Bruce Johnson	Michael Sisson
Steve Johnson	Shannon Sollinger
Greg Justice	Ron Staley
Phil Kenny	Karen Strick
Bev Leeuwenburg	Hwi Y. Suh
Karin MacDowell	Gerald Tarbell
Robert MacDowell	Anna Urciolo
Steve Makranczy	Jim Wade
Liam McGranaghan	Warren Wagner
Kevin McKee	Jeff Webster
Larry Meade	Madison Webster
Stuart Merrill	Ryleigh Webster
Carole Miller	Tracy Webster
Paul Miller	Mary Weeks
	William Weeks
	Laura Weidner
	Marcia Weidener



Volunteers Needed

by Lynn Webster

LWC offers many opportunities to become involved as a volunteer — it is fun and rewarding! Consider being a volunteer at one or more of these upcoming events:

Arbor Day at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Saturday, April 14 LWC will have an informational and activity booth set up for the Arbor Day festivities at Banshee Reeks, and we would like your help. Staffing the booth is a lot of fun and a great way to meet people.

Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22 Join us at our information/activity booth during this weekend-long Flower and Garden Show. We will share ideas and information on LWC, gardening for wildlife, and nature in general. This is a very popular community event and a great venue for promoting our organization.

Membership Development Committee

Our Membership Development Committee needs a few more people to round out the team. The committee works on a variety of membership-related activities and offers a great opportunity to meet other volunteers and to get involved with the inner workings of our organization.

If you would like to help us with any of the above activities, please contact Lynn Webster at lwebster@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-3823.

In Appreciation to Leslie McCasker

After almost a decade of being the Layout Editor for the *Habitat Herald*, Leslie McCasker has retired from the job. LWC cannot thank her enough for her dedication, skills and good humor in producing our newsletter. It is mainly due to her talents and commitment that the *Habitat Herald* has evolved into such an outstanding publication that not only serves as an excellent communication tool but also reflects so well on our organization.

Now we have the very difficult task of filling her shoes. LWC is seeking someone to take the position of Layout Editor for the *Habitat Herald*. We are looking for someone with experience doing publications layout and using appropriate software, such as MS Publisher, Adobe InDesign, or something similar. Help us continue the tradition of this excellent newsletter. Please contact Lynn Webster at lwebster@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-3823.

Programs and Field Trips

Space is limited for many of these programs and field trips. Please call the designated program contact for further information and to reserve your spot.

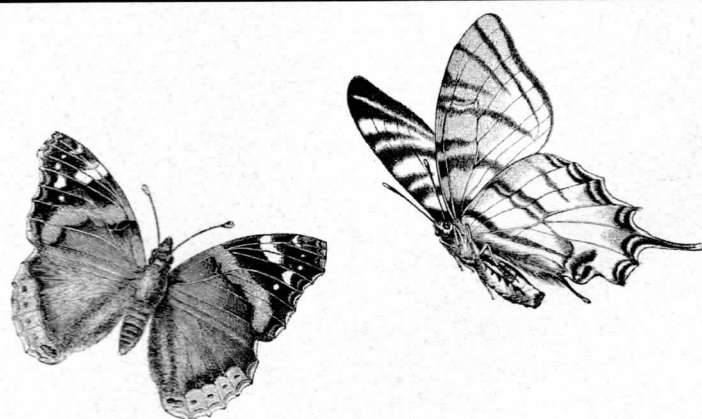
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board Meeting — LWC's Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg. All LWC members are welcome. Pre-meeting discussion begins at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting itself beginning at 7:30 p.m. *Contact Nicole Hamilton at 540-882-9638 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.*

Spring Wildflowers — **Saturday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Balls Bluff. Registration Required.** Join John DeMary, well-know local naturalist and teacher, on a field trip to explore this beautiful, wooded riverside park for the early spring wildflowers that enrich the Potomac River Valley. We will also watch for early migrating birds. This program is co-sponsored with the Virginia Native Plant Society. **To register contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2747.**

Birding Banshee — **Saturday, April 14, 8:00 a.m.** Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this part of the county is a birding hot spot. Please bring binoculars. **Questions:** *contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

Waterford 10KRun-Hike-Walk — **Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.** Join us as we help two fellow, local nonprofits with a fundraising event. The event is being organized to raise funds for the Waterford Foundation to further their mission to preserve and protect the Historic Landmark and for the Briggs Animal Adoption Center to support their efforts to help homeless dogs and cats. The entire event will take place on historic Talbot Farm (a privately owned property within the Waterford Historic Landmark District). The route meanders across a creek, up and down hills, and along the property boundaries. The run route is approximately 10K, the hike route 6K, and the walk about 3K. Race day registration begins at 8:30 am, with a 10 a.m. start time.

The walk part of the event is where LWC plays a role. The 3K-walk (about 2 miles) will be a "bird walk" led by our very own Phil Daley. Walkers will observe the many birds and other natural wonders that occur in this locale. It will be fun for all. *For more information, visit www.WaterfordVa.org.*



Naturalist Center in Leesburg — **Saturday, April 21, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Registration required.** Join the Teacher Naturalist at the Naturalist Center of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History for two hours of unique "hands-on science" about the fossils, minerals, birds, butterflies, and bones you might find in your backyard. The center is open to visitors of ages 10 years and over and has over 36,000 specimens to study and explore with the help of experienced staff. Maximum number of people is 15. **To register contact Mimi Westervelt, Teacher Naturalist at 703-779-9714.**

Sunday in the Preserve — **Sunday, April 22, 1:00 p.m.** Join Phil Daley of the Friends of Banshee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this such a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.*

Earth Day Celebration: Special Showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" — **Sunday, April 22, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.,** Round Hill Center. With wit, hope, and strong scientific data, "An Inconvenient Truth" ultimately brings home Al Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue - rather it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization. After a showing of the Oscar Award winning movie at the Round Hill Center, we will have an open discussion led by Mary Lou Fox, a facilitator trained by Al Gore's The Climate Project. Come at 3:00 p.m. for refreshments; the movie will start at 3:30. The community center is located at 20 High Street, Round Hill. **Questions:** *contact Laura Weidner at (540) 554-2747 or lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.*

Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, April 28, 8:00

a.m. On the fourth Saturday of each month, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES). This beautiful 900-acre preserve is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, in northwestern Loudoun County. Only a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, the property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes on the Blue Ridge. Meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:00 a.m.

Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org

Celebrating Wings Over America: International Migratory Bird Day — Saturday, May 12, 8:00 a.m.

During spring, thousands of migratory birds move through North America to their nesting territories. Some will stay and nest in our area, while others will spend only a few days here replenishing their energy before continuing a journey that may be thousands of miles long. To celebrate and highlight this natural phenomenon, International Migratory Bird Day is scheduled on May 12. In recognition of the importance of healthy wildlife habitat, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is sponsoring several 8:00 a.m. bird walks, an all-day bird survey throughout Loudoun County, and a Birdathon. Some of the sites the different groups will visit are Horsepen Preserve in eastern Loudoun, Morven Park and the ANS Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in central Loudoun, and the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in northwestern Loudoun. In addition to participating in the bird walks, you can also help raise money for the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy through the Birdathon. Visit our web site at www.loudounwildlife.org for more information and to get a pledge sheet.

To participate in one of the walks or the survey **contact** Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or sign up online **before May 10**. Please bring binoculars.

Naturalist Center in Leesburg — Saturday, May 12, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. See April 21 listing for details.

Batty About Bats! — Monday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm.

Join us at ANS's Rust Nature Sanctuary as we welcome Leslie Sturges of Bat World NOVA. We will learn about the fascinating world of nature's only flying mammals and their important role in our ecosystem. Loudoun County is home to seven species of bats, some of which are common and some rare. The evening will include a night hike to eavesdrop on bats' ultrasonic calls as they forage for some of Loudoun's bountiful bugs. See live bats in action. Come at 7:00 p.m. to meet the speaker and have refreshments. **Questions:** contact Laura Weidner at (540)554-2747 or lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.

Butterflies and Dragonflies at Banshee Reeks — Saturday, May 19, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for one of our free, family butterfly and dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas at Banshee Reeks and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. If you own binoculars, please bring them. **Questions:** contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.

Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, May 20, 1:00 p.m. See the April 22 listing for details.

Annual Meeting: Celebrating Loudoun's Wildlife with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy — Sunday, May 20, 5:00

p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Join us for the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's annual membership meeting at ANS's Rust Nature Sanctuary. The event will include a raffle, wildlife habitat exhibits showcasing the floral and fauna of our area, and a guest speaker. All LWC members are invited to attend! **Questions:** contact Elizabeth Evans at eevans@loudounwildlife.org.

Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, May 26, 8:00 a.m. See the April 28 listing for details.

Birding and Nature Journaling — Saturday, June 2, 8:00

a.m. Registration Required. Rise with the birds and join fellow nature enthusiasts for an all-day event, including lunch, at the Friends Wilderness Center along the Shenandoah River. We will begin the morning in search of the Shenandoah's feathered residents and summer visitors and then join writer and biologist Sarah Snyder for an afternoon of nature journaling for all ages. Bring your own journal and a selection of writing implements of your choice. Birding and/or journaling event only (no lunch): \$5 donation; with lunch: \$12. This event is co-sponsored with The Friends Wilderness Center.

Questions and to register contact Sheila at 304-728-4820 or snbach@earthlink.net.



Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification I (Classroom Session)— **Saturday, June 9, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Rust Nature Sanctuary. Registration Required.** Benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling boneless creatures) are important indicators of stream health. Learn in the classroom how to identify these fascinating creatures and what they tell us about our own backyards. **To register for this free class, sponsored by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Audubon Naturalist Society, call Cliff Fairweather at 703-737-0021.**

Birding Banshee — Saturday, June 9, 8:00 a.m. See the April 14 listing for details.

Butterflies and Dragonflies at Bles Park — Saturday, June 16, 10:30am-12:00p.m. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for one of our free, family butterfly and dragonfly walks. This riverside park includes meadows and ponds which we will explore to identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. Bles Park, located at 44830 Riverside Parkway in the University Center development of Ashburn, is a 124-acre property that includes a 94-acre passive park with wetlands that will contain sections of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and Broad Run Corridor Trail. If you own binoculars, please bring them. **Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.**

Wood Turtle Conservation Program and Benefit Concert — Saturday June 16, 2007 from 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. Join us at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship for an evening in celebration of our local wood turtles. To start out the night, Dennis Desmond of Northern Virginia Reptile Rescue will discuss the lives of wood turtles and will share some unique facts about these animals. He will describe their habitat needs and even introduce us to some local wood turtles that he cares for through his rehabilitation program. Wood turtles are a State Threatened species that continue to face unprecedented threats in Loudoun County due to habitat loss. The program will focus on increasing our understanding about wood turtles as well as steps we can take to help ensure a positive future for this native species. This will be followed by a benefit concert to raise money for habitat conservation and to help LWC establish a wood turtle monitoring program so we can help wood turtle conservation efforts. The Acoustic Burgoo, a local teen bluegrass, folk and blues band, will perform beginning at 8:00 p.m. Prior to the program and during the concert, donations will be encouraged to further the work of both the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Northern Virginia Reptile Rescue on behalf of wood turtles. The Blue Ridge Center is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Route 671, in northwestern Loudoun County. **Questions: contact Wade Burkholder at wburkholder@loudounwildlife.org or 703-340-9602. In case of rain, check the LWC website: www.loudounwildlife.org**

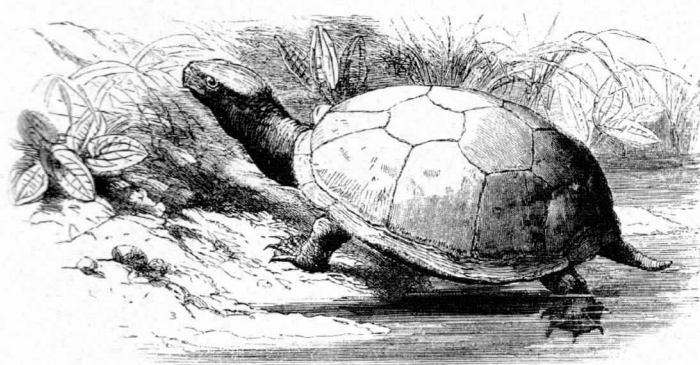
Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, June 23, 8:00 a.m. See the April 28 listing for details.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification I (Field Session) — Sunday, July 8, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration Required. Benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling boneless creatures) are important indicators of stream health. Join us at a local stream to learn how to identify these fascinating creatures and what they tell us about water quality in our own backyards. **To register for this free field session, sponsored by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Audubon Naturalist Society, call Cliff Fairweather at 703-737-002.**

Birding Banshee — Saturday, July 14, 8:00 a.m. See the April 14 listing for details.

Butterflies and Dragonflies at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship — Saturday, July 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Join us for one of our free, family butterfly and dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas that comprise this beautiful 900-acre preserve and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. The preserve is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, in northwestern Loudoun County. Meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 10:30. If you own binoculars, please bring them. **Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.**

Birding the Blue Ridge Center— Saturday, July 28, 8:00 a.m. See the April 28 listing for details.



Questions about the above programs? Contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2747.

For up-to-date information on our programs check our web site at **www.loudounwildlife.org**

Habitat Restoration Projects

by Joe Coleman

Over the years the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has participated in several habitat restoration projects. Most of these have been planting trees to enhance riparian buffers along various county streams. This year we are exploring several different projects, some of which we would be in charge of, others we would assist with. The Habitat Restoration Committee is exploring five different projects at this time:

1) A small stormwater conveyance channel that feeds into a tributary stream in Trailside Park in Ashburn is eroding because of **excessive stormwater from the surrounding subdivision**. Teachers and students at the Stone Bridge High School Environmental Exploration program use Trailside Park as an outdoor science classroom, and we hope to work with them to restore the stormwater conveyance channel. This project is in the planning stages with the teachers. LWC will partner with Capital Area Earth Force to provide training, equipment, technical assistance, and funding to two Stone Bridge teachers and their students. Darrell Schwalm is LWC's representative on this project that we hope to implement in April. LWC volunteers are needed to help lay sod and coconut fiber matting, plant trees, and build a small footbridge over the channel.

2) **Excessive stormwater** from Dominion High School has created an erosion channel that is damaging the floodplain behind the school that borders Sugarland Run. A teacher at Dominion utilizes the impacted area as an outdoor science classroom and wants to control the erosion as a stewardship project for her students. This project is in the planning stages and will also involve LWC partnering with Capital Area Earth Force in a similar manner as the project at Trailside Park. Darrell Schwalm is the lead on this project for LWC.

3) The Waterford Foundation acquired the open space that borders the village through which the South Fork of the Catoctin Creek flows. **The riparian buffer along the stream is largely devoid of trees** and the streambank is highly eroded. Darrell Schwalm was invited to meet with Mimi Westervelt and representatives of the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District Office and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to consider the need for a riparian buffer and controlling streambank erosion. The Waterford Foundation is working on a land management plan for the area which will include conservation education and visitor use of the property and will be seeking partners to help meet its goals. Once the plans are completed, LWC involvement could be broken down into a number of small projects which will take some time to accomplish.



4) **Purple Loosestrife**, while beautiful, is an aggressive alien wetlands plant that has the potential to force out all other plants in a wetlands and thereby degrade it. This plant has established itself along a stream that flows into the Town of Round Hill and ultimately into Sleeter Lake. If not removed, it has the potential of destroying the wetlands. The area involved is across Business Rte 7 from a riparian restoration project that the North Fork Goose Creek Project completed about five years ago. LWC hopes to partner with the Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society to remove the plants in mid-summer if we can get permission to go on the involved parcels.

5) Like most natural areas in the U.S., the Audubon Naturalist Society's 68-acre Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg has an extensive problem with **invasive alien plants**. LWC plans to work with Cliff Fairweather, the naturalist at the nature sanctuary, and other groups he has already enlisted on this project, to remove and control the invasive plants there. Ultimately Cliff hopes to replace the invasive plants with native plants that are wildlife-friendly.

If you are interested in helping with one of these projects, please contact Joe Coleman at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542. If you know of a project that needs doing or you would like to serve on the committee to identify projects for LWC to work on, I'd really love to hear from you. The committee plans to meet the week of April 16 to discuss the best way to proceed with these projects.



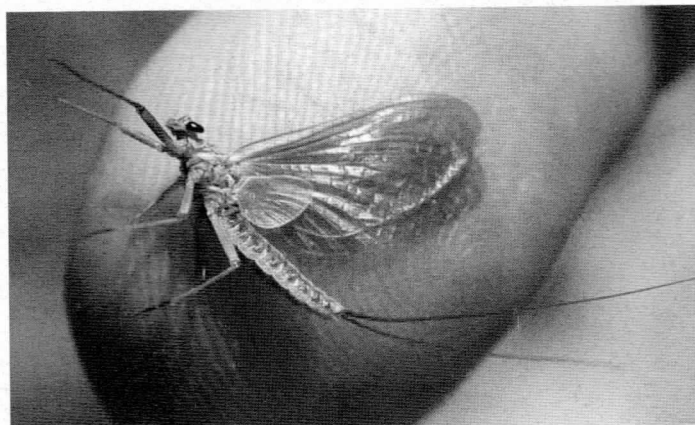
Insect ID: Mayfly (*Anthopotamus myops*)

by Ginger Walker

My sister learned to fly fish in Wyoming and Virginia's New River Valley. She loves showing off her collection of flies, and even though I'm not into fishing, I have to admit that the colorful tufted faux insects are eye-catching. Some of my sister's favorite flies are made to imitate the bright colors and curved abdomen of the mayfly, *Anthopotamus myops*.

It's no wonder fishermen prize the mayfly. This insect's breeding and hatching, which occur in massive swarms, create a feeding frenzy for trout and other fish, as well as many birds such as warblers and waxwings. The increasing population of fish near a mayfly swarm attracts larger birds such as kingfishers and hawks. The mayfly's swarming hatches can be quite a sight to behold, drawing naturalists and fishermen along with many species of birds and aquatic life.

There are many types of mayflies throughout the world, ranging in size from a quarter inch to over an inch and in color from a dull brown to a brilliant yellow. All of these mayflies (of the order Ephemeroptera) share some basic characteristics. Mayflies have only a single day to breed and lay their eggs. The larvae hatch and burrow into the bottom of streams and creeks; some species will stay buried for up to two years before emerging for an adult life that can be as long as a few days or as short as a few hours. These delicate insects are frequently found around the water, which they need for breeding and egg laying. Mayflies are easily recognized by their curved bodies, their folded and upheld wings, and the two or



three long "streamers"—correctly called "caudal filaments"—that appear like tails at the end of their abdomens. Mayflies have mouthparts, but they never use them; all of their feeding occurs during the larvae stage. Cliff Fairweather of the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Sanctuary in Leesburg also notes that mayflies have another special characteristic: they lose their exoskeleton and wings after achieving their adult form. This molt causes a change in the color of the insects: before the molt, mayflies are usually a dull color (called "dun" by fishermen). When the exoskeleton is shed, the insects have new clear wings.

Mayflies are an important element of a healthy stream ecosystem. These insects typically have a low tolerance for pollution, so they will only remain in a clean, healthy stream. Their massive breeding and hatching swarms might make an insect-phobic person squirm, but those swarms are a jubilant sight for anyone who prizes the health of streams. Those swarms are a happy sight for hungry birds and fish, too!



LWC to Host Members' Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for our 12th annual meeting which will be held on May 20, 2007. All members are encouraged to come hear about the state of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and our future goals. It will be an enjoyable evening and a chance to meet other members. At this printing, the location for the meeting is tentatively planned for 5:00 in the evening at the Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Children's Center Road, Leesburg. Keep an eye on our website for further updates. We hope to see all of you then!

Native Plant Id: Violets (*Viola* sp.)

by Nicole Hamilton

As winter turns to spring, some of the first flowers we see are those of the tiny violets. These wildflowers grow primarily in moist woods, meadows and wetlands. By mid-April the woods, especially near streams and other wet areas, can be carpeted with violets. It's such a beautiful sight! The plants bloom from approximately March through May, but they often bloom again in the fall when the same amount of available daylight triggers the flowering hormones. When violets flower, they actually produce two different types of flowers. One type is the pretty blue/purple (and in some cases yellow or white) four-petal flower with which we are familiar. These flowers are pollinated primarily by small bees, but butterflies and moths are also pollinators. The other type of flower is one that grows close to the ground, tight near the roots, and never opens. Instead, it is self-pollinated and produces seeds made only from the parent's genetics. The reason for these two types of flowers seems to be for survival. Violets are extremely sensitive to the habitat in which they grow and in fact are particular to the specific microhabitats in which they originated. As violets grow and spread, they form colonies that are made up mostly of plants that grew solely from the parent. Research has shown that even though they may come from the same species of violet, a plant from one colony may not be able to grow in the microhabitat of another colony.

In the pollination process, cross-fertilized seeds resulting from the pollination by bees and self-fertilized seeds are

dispersed by the flower which shoots the seeds up to 3 - 4 feet away. The self-fertilized seeds have a greater likelihood of surviving because the parent already thrives in that habitat. With the cross-fertilized seeds, only the best ones most suited to the microhabitat survive, thereby carrying forth only the strongest genetics.

Once the seeds have been dispersed by the flowers, they may be collected by ants that are attracted to the oil on the seeds. The ants take them back to their nests where they are gnawed on and then discarded. The seeds that have been gnawed on by ants have a much higher success rate for germinating than those that are not gnawed. In addition to ants, other species use parts of the violets for food. Mice, mourning doves and dark-eyed juncos eat the seeds, wild turkeys eat the tender rhizomes, and rabbits eat the leaves. Caterpillars of the Variegated, Great Spangled and Meadow Fritillary Butterflies use violets as their host plants as they eat the leaves and grow into beautiful butterflies.



YES, I want to become an LWC Member!

Membership Benefits Include:

- * Subscription to *Habitat Herald*
- * Volunteer Opportunities
- * Classes and Workshops
- * Regular Membership Meetings and Programs

Mail this form along with your payment to:

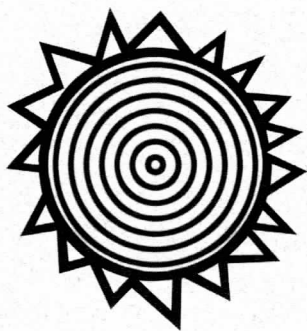
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
PO Box 2088
Purcellville, VA 20134-2088

Name: _____
Street: _____
City, ST, Zip: _____
Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate your membership level:

(*membership runs from January 1- December 31)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Individual Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Corporate* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Family Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation \$ _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | |



Summer Nature Camp

July 9-12 and July 16-19

Plan now for some summer fun for your children at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Campers entering grades three through six will have the opportunity to learn about and enjoy nature as they explore the woods, fields, and waters of this special place. This is a fee-based program (\$100 for one week or \$180 for both) and spaces will be filled on a first-come basis. The camp is jointly sponsored by PEC, PRCs, LWC, and FOBR. For more information visit our website at www.loudounwildlife.org/Nature_Camp.htm.

To get registration forms or talk to the teachers contact Phil Daley at 540-338-6528 or pedaley@verizon.net.

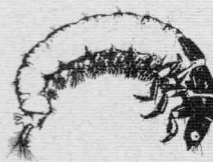
LWC Nature Book Club

Join us for our next Book Club reading! The book selected for this quarter has been posted to the LWC website at www.loudounwildlife.org/Book_Club.htm. To sign up for this quarter's reading circle, just use the online form.

Water Quality Monitoring Classes

Join the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in monitoring the health of local streams. Beginning monitors need to take a classroom and a field version of Benthic Macroinvertebrates Identification I and the Monitoring Protocol Practicum. Please refer to

the program listings for class dates and times. Advanced registration required at www.audubonnaturalist.org or 703-737-0021.



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