



Habitat Herald

A Publication of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

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Summer 2013

Loudoun County Bird Atlas Soars to Great Heights

by Spring Ligi

Birds provide an easy and powerful way to connect to our natural world. From a park bench in a busy city, to a feeder in a suburban yard and rural country farm, birds are everywhere! In 2009, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) launched a project that took bird watching to a whole new level. The 2009-2013 Loudoun County Bird Atlas challenges even experienced birders to carefully observe and listen to the birds around us, documenting their full range of behaviors and vocalizations. This level of observation often changes your outlook on birds and their connection to the natural world around them.

What exactly is the Loudoun County Bird Atlas? The atlas is a five-year citizen science project to establish a comprehensive list of breeding and non-breeding birds in Loudoun County, including their distribution throughout the county. Most bird atlases are conducted at the state level and collect data only on breeding birds. The Loudoun County Bird

Atlas is unique (and even cutting edge!) in that the project is focused on a single county and collects data year-round for both breeding and non-breeding birds. The results of this project, organized and funded by LWC, will indicate important bird areas throughout the county and help us design conservation strategies to preserve these areas.

Thanks to the efforts and skill of over 60 enthusiastic atlasers, we have recorded more than 250 species in Loudoun County, with 103 of these species having a confirmed nesting status. The atlasers have spent over 5,000 hours in the field documenting 56,400 sightings. Thanks to our partners at USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, current atlas results can be viewed from the atlas website (www.loudounwildlife.org/Bird_Atlas.htm). The final results and conclusions will be published both electronically and conventionally and will be readily available to Loudoun County residents.

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Chipping Sparrow nest and eggs with parasitic Cowbird egg
Photo by Tracey Cullen

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President's Message

by Nicole Hamilton



El Rosario Sanctuary, February 2013
Photo by Elizabeth Evans

What a great response we've had to our Monarch butterfly campaign! So many of you have picked up that baton to help Monarchs! You're planting Monarch waystation gardens, organizing community projects and talks, engaging young people in learning about Monarchs, their lifecycles and habitat needs, and moving the ball forward, making a difference. Thank you!

As we head into July and August, we should finally start seeing Monarchs. With that, let's celebrate every sighting – of Monarchs and other wonderful butterflies, of birds and bees, of wildflowers and mammals, of moths and bats. Let's sing with the owls and frogs at night. Let's watch the flicker of fireflies and drink in the sweet fragrance of milkweed in bloom. Let's discover the wild outside our doors and windows, ask the questions, bask in wonder, and walk in the warm summer rains.

Summer is a time for exploring – whether near or far from home, alone or with friends. So let's enjoy! We've had a busy spring and it's time to watch the flowers grow. As E.O. Wilson once said, "Mysterious and little known creatures live within reach of where you sit. Splendor awaits in minute proportions!" Let's take it all in.

See you along the trails where butterflies flutter and cicadas trill,

Nicole

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The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group of volunteers who share a common goal of protecting and perpetuating natural habitats for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

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.

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■ *Bird Atlas, continued*

The Bird Atlas has met with great success, allowing us to draw comparisons between our current data and data collected during the 1985-1989 Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA). We are beginning to note changes in a few of our bird populations over the past 25 years. Some species have benefited from the environmental and habitat changes that have occurred, while others have not fared as well. One shining example of a species that has thrived is our national bird, the Bald Eagle. The 1985-1989 Virginia BBA did not document any evidence of breeding Bald Eagles in Loudoun County. Our 2009-2013 Bird Atlas has reported this species in almost every part of the county with breeding behaviors noted in 9 of 75 blocks.

Other Bird Atlas highlights include reports of breeding for Hooded Merganser, Loggerhead Shrike, Dickcissel, Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers, Northern Bobwhite, Horned Lark, and Savannah Sparrow. Many rarities have been documented, including Black Rail, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Common Redpoll, Alder and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, and Rusty Blackbird.

The atlasers are the heart and soul of this project; it is their hard work and dedication that have made the atlas such a success. A complete picture of the Bird Atlas cannot be painted without their stories and insights. Here are a few personal highlights:

- **Christine Perdue's** favorite atlas sightings include "a nest of Kentucky Warblers with chicks, observing a new Bald Eagle nest with two chicks, and finding species of special interest — Cerulean Warbler and Black-billed Cuckoo — in areas where they had not been noted before."
- "Confirming breeding for the Prothonotary Warbler, seeing an Osprey nest-building, and finding a Red Phalarope" are high points for **John Williamson**.
- **Karin MacDowell** enjoyed "watching a mature Bald Eagle flying over our house for several days — time was almost dot on at 5:30 pm. He probably had been fishing in Catoctin Creek and went home north for the night."
- **Clarice Dieter** fondly recalls "a White-breasted Nuthatch fledgling who followed his Dad into the feeder tree, and then cried mournfully when the adult took off for a minute or two. (He did come back.)"
- Along with several remarkable sightings, **Kathy Calvert** also notes "talking with home-owners who were very welcoming to me when they realized I was for conservation and habitat preservation and was documenting birds and nesting behavior."

Atlasing has touched the lives of many atlasers, with a few of their insights as follows:

- **Joanne Bradbury** notes that "Gathering data for the atlas requires you to pay close attention to bird behavior and this has

allowed me to learn so much more about individual traits of each species. It has given me the opportunity to view remarkable and delightful things about birds that I would normally miss if I weren't watching so closely. Now I appreciate these special treasures and wonders of nature even more than before."

• **Nancy Reaves** agrees, saying "Working with the Loudoun County Bird Atlas has helped me become a better observer and listener. I began atlasing as a relatively new birder. Looking back on myself I feel like there was a curtain drawn over my eyes and cotton in my ears. Working with the atlas has drawn those aside. When I step outside now I hear and see individual birds calling all around me.

How could I not have heard and seen these before? It amazes me."

• **Christine Perdue** points out another aspect of the atlas, adding, "The atlas has a built-in competitive incentive, i.e., trying to meet and better the findings for the last atlas in the 1980s. This is also a quick way to isolate changes in habitat and species dispersal. In western Loudoun, where my atlas efforts have focused, it is disheartening to realize that some species like the Bobwhite, which were breeding 25 years ago in all sectors of atlas Region 6, have largely disappeared. At the same time, other species which were not identified at all in the 1980s — Bald Eagles, Fish Crows, Ravens, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, for example — are now relatively abundant. We tend to focus on the negatives of habitat change, so it is useful to recognize that there have been some changes for the better."

• **Mary Ann Good** found the atlas building her appreciation not just of birds but also of Loudoun County itself: "One of my favorite parts of atlasing was doing several mini-route abundance surveys. These involve going out in the fresh early morning when the birds are at their most active and, covering as much of an atlas block as possible on a driving route, stopping every half mile and spending a few minutes listening and looking for every species. It gave me a heightened appreciation for the beauty to be found in the hidden nooks and crannies of our still-mostly-rural county, and an increased determination to conserve them for both us and the birds and wildlife we share them with."

• **Donna Quinn** recalls, "There are moments observing breeding behaviors we will never forget. One day in the Dulles Wetlands we heard a pitiful crying, the kind of crying that urgently announces something terrible is happening. When our group neared the water we observed a female Wood Duck frantically trying to protect her ducklings from a Cooper's Hawk. The hawk was in the water and the duck was wailing and flailing, attempting to protect her young. Wood Ducks are small birds and it was deeply moving to see her so fearlessly defending her little ones against a much



Blue-winged Warbler
Photo by Laura McGranaghan



Pileated Woodpecker feeding nestling
Photo by Liam McGranaghan

■ *Continued on page 4*

■ *Bird Atlas, continued*

Eastern Kingbird on nest
 Photo by Joanne Bradbury

larger and stronger opponent. As brutal as the scene was, I had to remind myself the Coop was probably trying to feed her young and their survival depended on her ability to feed them. This heartbreaking battle forced me to think about the struggles wild creatures face every moment of their lives. Whether from natural

causes or man-made threats, their lives are a continuous fight to survive. And while we can't save every duckling from predation, we can preserve wild places for them to exist and fulfill whatever their destiny is."

- Bruce Hill remarks, "To do an Atlas survey justice, you can't just see a bird briefly, or hear it call, then check a list and move on. Watching a bird court a mate, build a nest, care for young, or establish its territory not only solidifies its place on the list as an Atlas breeding species, it is fundamental to really understanding that bird's behavior and life-cycle. By taking the time to do it right, we build a deeper intimacy with the birds we see. And this intimacy makes the value of conservation and habitat protection that much more urgent and tangible... The Atlas provides a great excuse to spend more time close to home, in our own backyards, small local open spaces, parks, and other niche habitats that we might otherwise ignore. What we find there refreshes our understanding that birds are an integral part of our local environment, whether urban, suburban or rural, wild or tame. Hopefully, this rediscovery renews our commitment to protecting them everywhere."

It's not too late to join in the fun and help with this important project. As we enter our fifth and final breeding season, there are still atlas blocks in need of coverage. Experienced atlasers will be leading small groups on blockbusting surveys throughout the county. If you are interested in joining one of these groups or otherwise helping with the Bird Atlas, please contact Atlas Coordinator, Spring Ligi at sligi@loudounwildlife.org.

And remember, the next time you see a bird in your backyard or soaring through the sky, take some time to really observe and listen to it. You may be rewarded with an inside glimpse of its personal life. Get to know the birds around you. Happy Birding!

Butterfly Bush: Friend or Foe?

by Emily Cook

The butterfly bush, *Buddleia davidii*, is a staple, and often the centerpiece, of many local area gardens. Known for its ability to grow in almost intolerable conditions and still produce vibrant, fragrant, cone-shaped blossoms, this plant is a real workhorse and truly lives up to its name — it attracts butterflies, hundreds upon hundreds of them, all summer long. As the proud owner of a "Black Knight" butterfly bush, I can attest to this plant's magical allure when it comes to drawing everything from Monarchs to swallowtails to delicate fritillaries and tiny skippers. Yet, after years of enjoying the magical dance of butterflies fluttering around the butterfly bush's vivid, deep purple flowers, it may be time to bid adieu to this non-native import. It has not only become a nuisance to local native plants but also to the butterflies themselves.

The butterfly bush has been the go-to plant for naturalizing gardens for years. Those wishing to draw butterflies of every variety to their yards toss the plants in the ground and provide them very little care. In return, the bush would grow rapidly and aggressively, creating a veritable butterfly farm. In fact, it performs its duty so well, it is

Please note: *Butterfly Bush (Buddleia)* is not the same plant as *Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)*.

Butterfly Weed is a native perennial wildflower in the milkweed family. It has small yellow, orange or red flowers, grows to about a foot high and is eaten by Monarch butterfly caterpillars as they grow. The flowers are a source of nectar for Monarchs as well as others.

sometimes covered with more butterflies than blossoms. The insects' fluttering seeming almost rhythmic as butterflies dance from flower to flower, skipping over one another in a flurry of wings. But it is the *Buddleia*'s hardy, resilient quality as well as the abundance of seeds the plant produces that are the problem. This beautiful bush can grow virtually anywhere and in seemingly impossible conditions, resulting in the plant becoming highly invasive.

■ Continued on page 5



■ *Butterfly Bush, continued*

A native to Asia and Central America, the seeds of the butterfly bush spread easily. Plants native to the United States are often unable to thrive in areas where butterfly bush has taken root because they lack natural predators and quickly dominates the landscape. This rapidly growing plant can also grow from even the smallest cuttings or trimmings, making it difficult to contain in even the worst growing conditions. The result is a proliferation of butterfly bush in areas such as stream and riverbanks, roadsides, and other naturalized areas, and a gradual decrease in the number of native plants on which butterflies, birds, bees and other insects depend. In addition, these foreign plants are not able to meet the nutritional needs of our local birds and insects. Nor do they serve as a host plant to any butterfly caterpillars, thus impacting the reproductive cycle of many of the insects we are trying to attract.

The butterfly bush is considered invasive in 25 states, several of which are in the Mid-Atlantic region. In Pennsylvania and Virginia, buddleia is considered prolifically invasive. The sale of all varieties of buddleia has been banned in the state of Oregon. Several states are battling serious infestations including New Jersey, whose native dune vegetation is being choked out by an overgrowth of butterfly bush, and Pennsylvania's Pocono River banks, which are heavily blanketed with the plants for miles.

So what should you do if you want to attract butterflies and love the look of the buddleia's abundant, vibrant blooms? There are plenty of options and some encouraging news for those of us who are almost in tears at the thought of removing buddleia from our gardens. In recent years, new seedless cultivars of Buddleia have been developed that come in a wide range of colors and do not pose the same risk as their seeded siblings. However, should you opt to incorporate the seedless variety into your landscape, you should still take precautions when cutting and trimming to ensure the remnants are contained and unable to take root elsewhere.

Better yet, if your goal is to both attract and provide a haven for butterflies and other insects and birds in your yard, it would be



Monarch on Buddleia
Photo by Joanne Bradbury

wise to introduce some plantings that are not only a food source to local insects and wildlife but also serve as a host plant to butterfly caterpillars. It is important to note that the Buddleia, even the new, seedless variety, does not provide the necessary environment for the eggs and newly hatched caterpillars. Therefore, it should be used in limited quantities, if at all. Some native options that would truly benefit the butterfly population and its lifecycle include the Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). All of these produce beautiful blooms from June through early fall and will become a breeding ground for many varieties of butterflies, while protecting our environment and local vegetation.



Butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa)
Photo by Donna Quinn



Virginia Sweetspire (Itea virginica), a native alternative to Buddleia
Photo by Donna Quinn



Sources:

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<http://chestercoextbutterfly.wordpress.com/2012/02/12/butterfly-bush-be-careful-what-you-plant/>

Blue Chip Butterfly Bush:
<http://landscaping.about.com/od/shrubs/bushes/p/Blue-Chip-Butterfly-Bush.htm>

Native alternatives to Butterfly Bush:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/native-shrubs.htm>



Announcements

Dulles Greenway donates \$40,000 to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

May 16, 2013 marked the 8th annual Dulles Greenway Drive for Charity which provides funding to five nonprofits that work to benefit Loudoun County. This year the event raised a total of \$268,942 and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy was honored to receive a donation of \$40,000!

This donation represents the single largest contribution we receive each year. These funds not only give all of our existing programs a boost by providing resources we need to extend and expand existing programs, they also allow us to launch new initiatives such as this year's Monarch Butterfly campaign.

During the past year, over 800 people participated in more than 80 free nature programs and field trips sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. We led habitat restoration projects that resulted in both wetland and meadow restoration. And, we engaged over 400 people in citizen science projects that actively involved people in the study of local bird species, butterflies, amphibians, and water quality. Since the kickoff of the Monarch campaign in January, we have talked to over 2,200 local residents about the plight of the Monarch. We have donated more than 1,500 milkweed plants and helped teachers plant Monarch waystation gardens in 20 county schools. These waystations will serve as outdoor classrooms that benefit over 4,000 local students – and countless Monarchs and other pollinators!

Funds from the Drive for Charity help make all of these things possible.

We're working with local parks, churches, home owner associations, farmers, churches and people who come to us from West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The funding from Dulles Greenway's Drive for Charity makes an impact that extends well beyond the initial contribution to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. Drive for Charity is helping change the conversation of how people view, value and engage nature and the environment in which they live.

We are so thankful for the support of the Drive for Charity and the drivers who rode the Greenway on May 16!

New Partnership Between Morven Park and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

A National Register Historic Property, Morven Park in Leesburg, Va., was once the home of Virginia Gov. Westmoreland Davis. The park continues to reflect the ideals advanced by Gov. Davis – civic responsibility, agricultural sustainability, and improvement of life for rural Virginians – through programs offered at its three museums, sports/equestrian complex, and 1,000 acres of open space.

This past May, the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, which operates Morven Park, and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy approved a partnership. This partnership provides Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy with a much-needed home base while ensuring that native plants and wildlife within this treasured landscape of Morven Park are nurtured and protected at the same time that they are made more accessible to the public.

Morven Park will provide office, meeting and classroom space to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's volunteers. Volunteers will undertake projects that support the restoration of the site's Catoclin Ridge forest and its wildlife habitats and will work under the general oversight of Morven Park staff to create and manage a public trail system and develop environmental education programs that build public appreciation for the value of our natural resources.



Morven Park
Photo by Nicole Hamilton



Announcements, cont.

■ *Morven Park, continued*

The 300-acre wooded ridge at Morven Park, is a needed sanctuary and stopover point for a diversity of wildlife that range from migratory birds, such as Scarlet Tanagers, Ovenbirds, Wood Thrush and vireos, to amphibians such as Jefferson Salamander and Wood Frogs to Eastern Box turtles, coyotes, deer and other fauna. Morven Park is also one of only two places in the county where the White M butterfly has been documented. We look forward to learning more about the diverse nature of the ridge.

The primary goals of the partnership are to improve the natural state of the ridge by leading habitat restoration projects that enable native woodland species to thrive and to provide people with greater opportunities to engage in and learn about plant and animal communities so that they can take that knowledge back to their neighborhoods and apply it there.

We look forward to building a volunteer corps focused on developing and executing programs and projects at Morven Park. This partnership opens up opportunities for people to take on specific projects that range from plant and animal species inventories to trail mapping and improvement to solving issues such as erosion and invasive plant removal. We envision opportunities to engage people on a variety of levels and with diverse interests and backgrounds – from undergrad to graduate students, from weekend volunteers to ongoing engagement. If you would like to be a part of this volunteer corps, please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.

Have you certified your Monarch Waystation garden yet?

If you have a garden or landscape that includes milkweed and nectar plants, then you have a Monarch Waystation! Whether your plants are in a container garden on a deck, a garden (wild or formal) around your house, a field or farm – if you have the plants then you're providing the habitat needed to help bring back the Monarch (and other wildlife) and to Help Keep the Magic Alive.

If you have this habitat or planted such a garden, please certify it with Monarch Watch as a Monarch Waystation. It's easy to do and only takes about five minutes to apply.



*A beautiful MonarchWaystation
Photo by Betty Ebert*

Simply fill out their online form which includes checking off the plant species in your waystation and the practices that you keep (such as not using pesticides). Certification costs \$16; the outdoor sign which designates your garden as a waystation is an additional \$17. After submitting your information, your site will be entered into the waystation registry.

Certifying your site makes a difference! Certified Monarch Waystations:

- Help spread the word about Monarchs.
- Show others what a healthy habitat looks like.
- Provide a measure of people involved and habitat being well-managed.
- Communicate to your neighbors and the community that your garden has a vital purpose.

At the start of 2013, there were only 15 waystations certified in Loudoun County. Certify your waystation and show everyone how we're taking action! By adding your garden to the registry, we show how many people support Monarchs and other pollinators throughout Loudoun!

To certify your site and welcome Monarchs to Loudoun visit the Monarch Watch website store at: <http://shop.monarchwatch.org/store/p/3840-Waystation-Certification-Application-and-Sign-Bundle.aspx>.





Magical - and Not So Magical - Moments

by Joe Coleman

May 4-12 Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy celebrated International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). This celebration emphasizes the importance of preserving healthy wildlife habitat for both migrating and nesting birds. We visit places in Loudoun County where birds and other wildlife find refuge and raise money through the Birdathon to assist us in our work of preserving and protecting those areas most important to birds. Well-attended and fun IMBD walks, including a walk for young people at Rust Nature Sanctuary, were held at Morven Park, Camp Highroad, Banshee Reeks, and Waterford's Phillips Farm.

Strong weather patterns kept birds to the south of us and migration was late. As a result, conditions for this year's Birdathon varied considerably at the beginning of the week compared to the end. The Raven Loonatics, who did their count on the first weekend, did not have as good a year as they did last but managed to find 108 species despite the scarcity of migrating birds. Both the Raucous Robins and Grumpy Old Men ran into heavy rains halfway through the morning on May 7 when a strong front went through the area. The rain forced them to end their count earlier than they planned. The Tweepers and the LarkoLinks had a lot of fun birding during their outings. Tweepers' highlights included two Barn Owls in silos on farms about a mile from each other, a Barred Owl deep in the woods along Goose Creek, and a beautiful Grasshopper Sparrow on a stone wall. Ligi Nestlings' 5th Birdathon got off to a quick and exciting start with six-year-old McKenzie identifying birds by their song. Their biggest disappointment was the lack of raptors which McKenzie tried to remedy by catching a mouse.

Shrike Force, comprised of Joe Coleman, Mary Ann Good, and Gerry Hawkins, conducted its Birdathon at the end of the week when the front went through and birds starting pouring into the area. They found 113 species tying their previous best day. Highlights included 19 warbler species, six flycatcher species, including a loudly-calling first-of-season Least Flycatcher on Appalachian Trail Road, six species of shorebirds, two adult Common Loons in breeding plumage, a loudly-singing Marsh Wren at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands along with a Virginia Rail and a Sora spontaneously calling at dusk, Grasshopper Sparrows singing their tinkling song all around them in a farm field before first light, a Yellow-breasted Chat at dawn up on the Blue Ridge repeatedly uttering a dead-on imitation of a tooting Northern Saw-whet Owl, causing some excitement, and a Savannah Sparrow in splendid plumage in late afternoon light on a farm fence in Bluemont. They were also thrilled to watch two Cerulean Warblers interacting in the same location they had been seen two weeks previously during one of the Virginia Society of Ornithology annual meeting walks at the Blue Ridge Center. Every area they visited was rich with bird life. They all concurred that it was a fantastic but exhausting 24 hours and they are already looking forward to next year!

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy thanks the seven Birdathon teams who raised about \$6,000. The money raised will be used to help identify and protect important bird areas throughout Loudoun County. Hearty thanks also to the leaders of the five different IMBD walks who shared their love of birds with others and to all those who participated in IMBD walks.

Special thanks to this year's Birdathon participants:

Joanne Bradbury
Sally Brenton
Joe Coleman
Phil Daley
Rockie Fera
Mike Friedman
Mary Ann Good
Debra Gutenson
Nicole Hamilton
Gerry Hawkins
Bruce Hill
Gerco Hoogeweg
Bruce Johnson
Addison Ligi
McKenzie Ligi

Spring Ligi
Larry Meade
Laureen Megan
Paul Miller
Linda Millington
Christine Perdue
Donna Quinn
Dori Rhodes
Del Sargent
Emily Southgate
Marcia Weidner

*Raven Loonatics birding Blue Ridge Center
for Environmental Stewardship
Photo by Donna Quinn*



*The Ligi Nestlings
Photo provided by Spring Ligi*



Julie Zickefoose at Ball's Bluff
Photo by Donna Quinn



Larry Cartwright receives the Jackson
M. Abbott Conservation Award
Photo by Jim McWalters



Birding Banshee Reeks
Photo by Jim McWalters

LWC Hosts a Successful VSO Annual Meeting

by Joe Coleman

This year's Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) annual meeting, with over 175 people participating, was hosted by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) in Leesburg from Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28.

The 17 field trips, most led by LWC members and averaging between 15 and 20 people, were popular and resulted in finding a total of 140 bird species. All field trips took place in Loudoun County with four exceptions: along the C&O Canal in Maryland; Blandy Farm in Clarke County; and Silver Lake in Prince William County. The walk in Occoquan National Wildlife Refuge, also in Prince William County, was led by the Montgomery County, Maryland Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society.

The many field trips and participants make it difficult to list all the great birds seen. Highlights included Common Mergansers checking out cavities along the C&O Canal; two Horned Grebes; an American Bittern and a Black-billed Cuckoo at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands; a still downy Barred Owl at Ball's Bluff; Cliff Swallows nesting on one of the Route 50 bridges over the Shenandoah River; 20 warbler species, including several clear views of Cerulean Warblers and Blue-winged Warblers; White-crowned Sparrows; a late Dark-eyed Junco; and a fair amount of nesting behavior.

The VSO 2013 business meeting was followed by a captivating program presented by Mike Bowen, Linda Friedland and Jim Nelson, "Identifying Warblers, the Jewels of the Eastern Forest." The program featured nearly every warbler that breeds or migrates through Virginia and Maryland, emphasizing tips for identifying the warblers.

Technical papers were presented on several interesting topics: modeling flight routes of Golden Eagles by Andrew Denhardt; citizen science study of the effects on bird diversity by different grassland management practices by Amy Johnson; breeding bird responses to intraspecific territorial intrusion by Bald Eagles by Courtney Turin; the depuration and recovery from methylmercury in European Starlings by Margaret Whitney; and a comparative analysis of physiological stress indicators in Tufted Titmouse by Andrew Dolby.

On Saturday evening, Julie Zickefoose, a widely published natural history writer and artist with over three decades of observing the natural history and behavior of birds, held the audience spellbound as she shared a number of fascinating experiences with birds and performed the Rain Crows new song, Little Soldiers. She inspired

everyone with her talk, "The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Bird", about the unexpected mental and emotional capacities of birds, especially songbirds.

VSO President Andrew Dolby presented several awards at the banquet. Larry Cartwright received the Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award, given for outstanding work in conserving Virginia's birds and/or the state's natural areas. Jim Fraser received the 2013 Mitchell A. Byrd Award, given for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of ornithology. The J. J. Murray Research Award was given to Anna Tucker and Vitek Jirinec to support their ornithological research. This annual cash award is designed to promote graduate and undergraduate research on Virginia birds. We hope to hear their presentations at next year's VSO annual meeting, which is scheduled in the Great Dismal Swamp area.

Thank you to all the LWC volunteers who helped make the VSO annual meeting such a great time. Many people helped with organizing, fundraising, registrations, exhibitions, advertising, leading field trips, and the arrangements that went into making the three days a resounding success.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors and advertisers:

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Willowsford



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.



LWC Board Meeting — The Board typically meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All LWC members are welcome. Contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.

Loudoun County Bird Atlas Blockbusting — July 6-7, Locations and Times TBD. As the Bird Atlas enters its final year, we are dedicating several prime weekends to survey the top-priority atlas blocks. Atlasing can be very rewarding, treating you to an inside glimpse of a bird's personal life. Experienced atlasers will lead small groups on atlas surveys throughout our beautiful county during these weekends. Please contact Atlas Coordinator Spring Ligi at sligi@loudounwildlife.org with your preferred dates and area of the county. Blockbusting can be accomplished anytime, so if these dates don't suit your schedule or you prefer to bird individually, contact Spring to make other arrangements. Current atlas results and other atlas materials can be found at www.loudounwildlife.org/Bird_Atlas.htm.

Summer Nature Programs for Children (ages 8-12) — Naturalists from LWC in partnership with the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES) will offer a series of five nature programs (mini-camps) for children ages 8-12 at BRCES in Neersville. Participants will experience a variety of outdoor adventures as they explore the center's 900 acres of fields and forests. Programs will be held on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

July 10	Birds and Their Habitats
July 17	Plants (<i>trees, shrubs, invasives, the importance of natives</i>)
July 24	Amphibians and Reptiles
July 31	Insects (with emphasis on butterflies)
August 7	Water (stream and pond ecology)

Each day will include lessons, games and exploration of habitats, providing participants a positive, hands-on experience. A detailed information packet will be sent upon registration. Minimum of 8 and maximum of 15 participants. Cost: \$25 per session. **Registration required by July 1: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Phil Daley at 540-338-6528 or pdaley@loudounwildlife.org.**

Night Hike at Morven Park — Friday, July 12, 8:00 p.m. Join us as we see what wildlife stirs at night at Morven Park! We'll stroll a field, check some ponds, and hike a short trail into the woods. We'll watch for bats, look for toads and frogs, and listen to night insects. This is a family-friendly event. **Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Jill Miller at jmiller@loudounwildlife.org.**

Butterflies at Oatlands — Sunday, July 21, 9:00 a.m. This 2-hour program will be led by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Nicole Hamilton. Walk and talk on a butterfly trail through Oatlands Plantation's gardens and grounds, where you'll see examples of habitat, discuss Oatlands' natural history, and look out for butterflies as we spot and identify as many species as we can. Learn about Monarch migration, challenges threatening the species, and what you can do to help, and visit the newly planted Monarch waystation. This is a family-friendly event. **Registration is required for this free event; call 703-777-3174 or email education@oatlands.org to sign up.**

Let's Count Butterflies! — Saturday, August 3, 8:00 a.m. Join our 17th Annual Butterfly Count and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. You will visit locations that include butterfly gardens, sanctuaries, roadside wildflower areas and parks. We typically count over 2,000 butterflies in this single day and spot as many as 50 species. Our count circle stretches from White's Ferry in the east to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center in the west and south to Lincoln. No experience is necessary, all ages welcome – you will be teamed with experienced leaders. The \$3/adult fee will be passed through to the North American Butterfly Association; this fee is waived for LWC members. No fee for those under 18. **Registration required: Sign Up Online or contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.**

Gathering of the Butterflies — Saturday, August 10, 10:00 a.m., Oatlands Plantation. (Rain date August 17.) Everyone loves a parade! LWC, Oatlands and other local partners are working together this summer to rear Monarchs for release. During this event, we will talk about butterflies and habitats, provide information on

Birding Banshee

Join LWC and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for the monthly bird walk at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve south of Leesburg. Because of its rich and varied habitat, it is a birding hot spot. Bring binoculars if you have them. **Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.**

Second Saturdays: July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12 at 8:00 a.m.



Birding the Blue Ridge Center

Fourth Saturdays: July 27, August 24, and September 28 at 8:00 a.m.

Join us on the monthly bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES), a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes diverse wildlife habitats, including meadows, streams and heavily forested slopes. Meet at the Education Center; bring binoculars if you have them. BRCES is located just north of Neersville at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671); detailed directions at www.brces.org.

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



gardening for butterflies and other wildlife, and see if we can spot some Monarchs. Aspiring butterflies are invited to put on their wings and come together to celebrate with a parade of winged children (all types of butterflies and fairies welcome!) Free and kid-friendly, no sign-up required. **Questions: Call 703-777-3174 or email education@oatlands.org.**

The Fascinating World of Bats — Friday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.

Join us at Morven Park for a great family program to learn about our local bats! Leslie Sturges of the Save Lucy Campaign will describe the fascinating and enchanting world of bats, our only flying mammal, and how important they are. She will introduce the seven species of bats, some common and some rare, that call Loudoun County home. After the talk, Leslie will take us outside with her bat detector to find and identify all the bats we can! **Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Jill Miller at jmiller@loudounwildlife.org.**

Butterflies of the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, August 17, 9:00 a.m.

The Blue Ridge Center of Environmental Stewardship (BRCES) is a hot spot for butterflies. Join us for a walk through fields and forest as we look for and identify as many species as we can. Because of the varied and rich habitat, we can often find more than 30 different species of butterfly. During the walk we'll talk about host and nectar plants as well as interesting butterfly behaviors. Meet at the Visitor Center. BRCES is located just north of Neersville, at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Detailed directions can be found at www.brces.org. **Questions: Contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.**

Visit Us at the Lucketts Fair — Saturday and Sunday, August 17–18, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Visit our booth at the Lucketts Fair! We'll have various free information and booklets for you to take. We'll be talking about Loudoun nature and wild places and have some cool nature exhibits to learn more about our local wildlife! We're happy to answer any of your questions about our programs and activities as well as general nature questions. If you've been wanting to pick up an LWC t-shirt or the new Field Guide to the Butterflies of Loudoun County, we'll have those for sale too. If you'd like to help staff the booth for a few hours on either day, please let us know. **For more information about the fair, go to www.luckettsfair.com.**

The Songs of Insects — Tuesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.,

Morven Park. Join us as Wil Hershberger, award-winning nature photographer, nature sound recordist and co-author of *The Songs of*

Insects takes us into the wonderful world of singing insects with his gorgeous nature images and sound recordings. After the presentation we will go outside with Wil and identify all the insects we hear! A book signing will follow the program. **Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Jill Miller at jmiller@loudounwildlife.org.**

Nature Walk at Dulles Greenway Wetlands — Saturday, August 31, 8:00 a.m.

Explore the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project with Joe Coleman on a late-summer nature walk. Because fall shorebird migration should be at its peak we will concentrate on birds. We will also search for butterflies and late-summer blooming wildflowers. Waterproof footgear, long pants and insect repellent are advised. **Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542.**

Discovering Butterflies in Willowsford — Saturday, September 7, 9:00 a.m.

Butterflies are not just pretty to look at, they are also important indicators of the health of an ecosystem and a critical link in the food chain. Let's learn about butterflies and see how many we can find around the farm! Meet in the pool parking lot across from the Farm Shed, 23510 Founders Drive, Ashburn. Park on Founders Drive or in the pool parking lot. Please bring binoculars if you have them. This is a family-friendly event. **Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Jill Miller at jmiller@loudounwildlife.org.**

Native Plant Sale — Saturday, September 14, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.,

Rust Nature Sanctuary. Native plants are beautiful and grow better because they are adapted for our weather conditions and soils; they also provide greater benefit to our native wildlife because plants and animals evolved together. Hill House Farm and Native Nursery (www.hillhousenativeplants.com) and Nature-By-Design (www.nature-by-design.com) will be selling plants. To see plants each nursery carries or to place orders ahead of time (all nursery stock is not present), visit their websites. **For more information on the sale, visit www.loudounwildlife.org.**

Visit Us at the Bluemont Fair — Saturday and Sunday, September 21–22, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

With the changing seasons and the cool fresh air from the nearby Blue Ridge, the Bluemont Fair is a wonderful way to spend the afternoon. We'll have our booth set up with a variety of handouts and information available so please stop by and say hello! We'll be talking about Loudoun nature and wild places and have some cool nature exhibits to learn more about our local wildlife.

■ *Continued on page 12*



■ *Programs & Field Trips, continued*

We're happy to answer any of your questions about our programs and activities as well as general nature questions. If you've been wanting to pick up an LWC t-shirt or the new Field Guide to the Butterflies of Loudoun County, we'll have those for sale too. If you'd like to help staff the booth for a few hours on either day, please let us know.

Discovering Willowsford — Saturday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. Join our friends at Willowsford on a nature discovery walk for families. We will learn about the important relationships between native plants, insects and animals. Please bring binoculars if you have them. This is a family-friendly event. We will meet at the Boat House, 41095 Braddock Road, Aldie. You may wish to stay for the annual Taste of Willowsford event and learn more about the community and Willowsford's commitment to stewardship of the land. **Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Jill Miller at jmiller@loudounwildlife.org.**

Questions?

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



Honey

by John Bennett

The golden, white, light or dark amber food produced by honey bees begins as nectar in flowers across our farms, fields and neighborhoods. Foraging bees are ladies who search out high-energy nectar sources, tell all their friends and gather all they can. Honey bees collect, process, concentrate and store this precious liquid in wax comb and, in so doing, create a sweet energy source they, under protest, share with us.

No two years provide the same rainfall, temperatures or even available sunlight. Therefore, no two flower seasons are identical. Each harvest is unique in color, flavor, aroma and intensity. These hard-working ladies are documenting a point in history unique for every location, season and year. Honey bees enable you to smell, taste and enjoy what these wonderful creatures have recorded.

There is much controversy in the honey markets today leaving many of us concerned about the purity, authenticity and even safety of the "honey" products available to us. The commercial honey producers in the United States compete with imported products not subject to the quality and safety regulations governing U.S. honey. Imported sources are intermixed, and the honey we find on the shelves of our markets has become suspect.

In an effort to assure ourselves of the wholesome goodness of natural honey, seek out sources of local honey. Look for honey that has never been heated, altered or contaminated. We want honey as close to what the bees prepared as possible. We search for the unique flavors provided by the mix of local flowers and even the pollens suspended within. In that same spirit, local beekeepers seek the best ways to provide wholesome, natural honey. The Loudoun Beekeepers Association (LBA) and sister organizations across the country are sources of consolidated information for beekeepers. The LBA helps get honey to the public through its information booth at local fairs. Some local beekeepers, such as John LaRocque of Ashburn, Va., also



*Honey bee
pollinating flowers
Photo by Nicole
Hamilton*

*John Bennett
inspects a frame of
bees, honey, pollen
and brood*



*A queen bee
(marked with
a blue ink dot)
lays eggs in the
brood chamber
Photo by John
Bennett*

■ *Continued on page 13*

**Honeys, continued**

sell honey from their home apiaries. Unfiltered, unprocessed raw honey: as natural as you can get and still have your shoes on!

Beekeeping

Mankind has been harvesting honey from bees since before recorded history – generally through the most unkind methods. Today we nurture our bees in ways not conceived in the past. We protect them from an ever growing list of predators, feed them through the winters, restore their colonies when our environment does them wrong, and give them the best housing and furniture we can supply. In turn, they serve us as supper pollinators to enhance our food crops and provide us a bounty of that liquid gold we call honey.

Just 50 years ago, if you wanted to raise bees, all you had to do was set up housing and the bees would find you. Not so today. Wave after wave of predators and blights have arrived on our shores and destroyed both domestic and wild bee populations and humans have generated even more hazards for these creatures.

The latest major problem, the Small Hive Beetle, arrived in Loudoun County in 2011 and has already destroyed many hives. To calibrate the magnitude of the threat, last year the beetles destroyed over half a million colonies of honeybees in Hawaii in their first year infesting the islands.

Today, without beekeepers, there would be no honey bees. Doing our best, we still expect to lose as many as half of our bee colonies in any year. It's a harsh world out there for our honey bee friends, and we owe it to them to work year-round to support them. We house and protect them locally, and work with governing bodies to protect them with regulations.

The Environment and the Foraging Bee – Close to Home

If you spend time on the W&OD bike and horse trails in eastern Loudoun County, you may have noticed something this year – or rather noticed something missing. Bees. As I write, it is near the end of May 2013, and so far this year, I have seen only one bumble bee on the trail. I have hopes of seeing more, but the year is already almost half over. Populations are absolutely down. Something has happened.

Bees are delicate. They are constantly sampling our environment and they quickly succumb to the maladies they encounter.

Earlier in April, other local wildlife showed impact. A frog was seen floating belly-up in a creek, uneaten for two days. Mice and moles were laying feet up along the trail. The hawks that feed on these creatures were also missing; two piles of feathers marked their demise. Box turtles that frequented the trail last year were missing and there were no turtles to be found in the creek.

The W&OD trail west of Belmont Ridge Road did not appear to be affected like the east side. So the phenomenon was more local to Ashburn. Still, it begs an answer. This answer may also help explain the unusually high failure rate of bee colonies in Ashburn over this past winter and spring.

What We Can Do

When you, as a fellow inhabitant of the land we share, are presented with an opportunity to rid yourself of mosquitoes, ticks or other insect pests with a blanket pesticide service good for the entire summer season, please think again. You have been presented with the ability to indiscriminately kill. You would not poison your neighbor's dog or cat. Why would you poison their bees, butterflies, birds and other wild inhabitants? Why would we poison an entire food chain?

Here is some food for thought. An estimated 30 to 40 percent of what we eat requires the pollinating support of bees; due to various factors, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep bees alive, especially through winters. Further, it is estimated that we have lost 60 percent of our bees over the past few years. Understanding this leads to the very sobering realization: America is one harsh winter away from a food crisis. All of us need to fully think about the consequences of our actions. A shortcut in the form of blanket pesticide spraying, which sounds politically correct today, may ring very hollow next year.

After all, it's a mutual thing, if it is bad for a honey bee, can it be good for you?

John Bennett is the Willowsford Farm Beekeeper and lives in Ashburn.

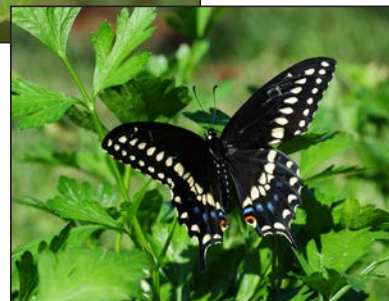
Let's Count Butterflies!

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 17th Annual Butterfly Count takes place August 3rd. Teams will cover Loudoun County, looking for butterflies as they flutter through fields, woodlands and gardens. This is a great activity for all skill levels. Whether you know your butterflies or are just getting interested, this is a great chance to see a wide variety of species all in one day. Teams are led by experienced people who share identification tips and other interesting butterfly facts. Join us for all or part of the day – your choice. For more information and to sign up, visit our website: www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly_Count.htm or contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.



◀
Monarch
Photo by Nicole
Hamilton

Black Swallowtail
Photo by Liam
McGranaghan ▶





They're here! Magicicada – Brood II

by Emily Bzdyk

In 2004, when I was graduating from high school, a group of periodical cicadas, Brood X, made its appearance in Loudoun. I remember the strange-sounding chorus made by thousands of cicadas looking for a mate and it captivated me. There are few natural phenomena that equal the awesome numbers and fascinating timing of the periodical cicada's life cycle. This year, Brood II is taking the stage. It last emerged along the East Coast just as Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy was getting its start in 1996.

Periodical cicadas are different from the green colored annual cicadas we see each summer. Our annual cicadas are bigger and come out later in the summer. The striking red-eyed periodical cicadas are slightly smaller and emerge every 17 years in early May. This year, cold spring weather gave them a bit of a late start. Unlike Brood X, Brood II does not emerge as widely in Loudoun County. Some may show up in the southern part of the county, but the largest numbers are found further to our south. I saw my first of this batch while walking in Manassas National Battlefield in mid-May. Once I saw one, I immediately noticed hundreds more! They had just emerged and were perching on blades of grass in the fields. As the air temperature warmed, they began to take flight.

These insects spent the last 17 years underground as immature nymphs, feeding on tree fluids from the roots, and slowly growing. There are about 15 broods in total, each with their own geographic range and 17-year cycle. Each brood emerges in synchrony, en masse. Why so many at once? Periodical cicadas use large numbers to overwhelm predators. The animals that eat the cicadas can feast on them and get their fill, and yet there are still plenty left to carry on the next generation.

The warmth of spring triggers the waiting nymphs to crawl out of the ground. They dig themselves out backwards, abdomen first and crawl up a tree trunk, or piece of grass or other plant material to shed their exoskeleton. The vulnerable adult expands its wings and waits for its

new white exoskeleton to harden and darken. The adults then climb or fly up into the trees and begin to sing. Males and females locate each other using sound. Males create the loud whirring chorus. They use structures called tymbals that vibrate and resonate in the base of the hollow abdomen to make the sound. Females communicate using a short clicking noise. You can sometimes trick the males into singing for you by snapping your fingers near them. Once they find each other, they mate and the female uses her sword-like ovipositor to lay eggs in the twigs of trees. The eggs hatch and tiny white nymphs fall to the ground and burrow in for the long underground wait.

Adult cicadas are harmless to people and other animals. Occasionally, due to their overwhelming and concentrated numbers in some areas, the cicadas' egg-laying and feeding can damage young or sensitive trees, but rarely is this a major problem.

As an entomologist, periodical cicadas delight me! Listening to the chorus and watching the cicadas fly among the trees can be enjoyable. However, many people do not share enthusiasm for this natural event. The large numbers of these insects can be disturbing and annoying. Those with an aversion can take comfort in the fact that the cicadas are not here for very long. In mid-June they will be finished mating and laying eggs and we will no longer hear their chorus. Cicada enthusiasts will have to wait for 2021, when the massive Brood X returns to Loudoun County.

For more information about periodical cicadas, check out these links:

www.magicicada.org/magicicada_ii.php

www.cicadamania.com

www.cicadas.info

<http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/projects/cicada/cc.php>

This site has a great map and form to record cicada sightings:

<http://project.wnyc.org/cicadas/>



Cicada Brood II

Photo by Emily Bzdyk



Fulfilling their purpose

Photos by Laura McGranaghan



Singing in the trees

Master of Disguise: Wavy-lined Emerald Moth

(*Synchlora aerate*)

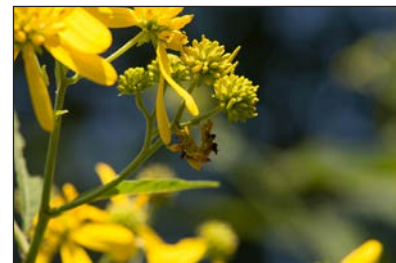
by Kerry Bzdyk

The larva of the Wavy-lined Emerald Moth, also called the camouflaged looper, is a fairly common caterpillar you might not see because it uses a unique method for hiding. This moth, a member of the family Geometridae, overwinters in the larval stage and emerges in the spring to feed on flowers. It has a large range covering most of North America, from southern Canada south to Texas. It feeds on different types of plants, mostly composite flowers, in addition to many flowering shrubs and trees. The adult moth is green with wavy white transverse lines. It is a small but beautiful moth, with a wingspan of about an inch, and is a nocturnal flier that is attracted to light.

While some insects use camouflage or mimicry to outwit predators, this caterpillar blends these two defenses in an intriguing way. When we consider insect camouflage we often think of creatures like stick bugs or katydids that have evolved to look like their surroundings. Mimicry, on the other hand, involves looking like a completely different creature. For example, the harmless Robber Fly has evolved to look like a bumblebee, and the slightly less toxic Viceroy Butterfly looks just like the toxic Monarch.

The Wavy-lined Emerald Moth caterpillar's defense is different from both of those adaptations. This caterpillar will attach bits of the plant material on which it is feeding to its back with bits of silk in order to blend into its host plant and avoid detection. If it is feeding on Rudbeckia petals, it will "wear" those. If it is feeding on the Rudbeckia flower head, it will attach pieces of that part of the flower. If it moves to a Liatris, it will choose parts of that flower to cover itself and transforms into a purple caterpillar. It also presumably detaches and replaces the parts as they wilt, since it always seems to be covered in fresh colorful adornments that match the meal perfectly. So while it is essentially using camouflage, this insect is an active participant in the process. Could this be called "botanical mimicry?" Perhaps not, but it works so well that this fairly common caterpillar is easy to miss. So while inspecting flower patches this summer look closely and have the camera ready. This little creature just might be hiding in plain sight!

Sources: bugguide.net/node/view/74175/bgpage
www.entomology.ualberta.ca/searching_species_details.php?s=4310



Find the caterpillar!
 Photo by Nicole Hamilton

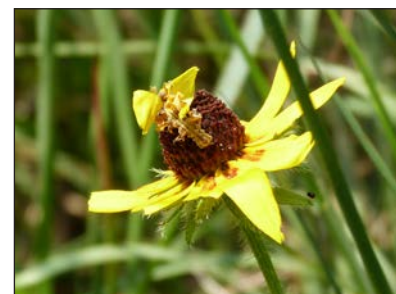


Photo by Donna Quinn

Please Join or Renew Your Membership Today!

I wish to become a member of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy:

- ☐ \$10 Student ☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$30 Family ☐ \$200 Individual Lifetime
☐ \$300 Family Lifetime ☐ \$75 Corporate

I wish to make a donation to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, enclosed is my check in the amount of: _____
 (All contributions are tax deductible.)

Note: Memberships run from January 1 through December 31. (If you join or renew after September 1, your membership will run through the end of the following calendar year.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make your check payable to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and return with this form to:
 Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, P.O. Box 2088, Purcellville, VA 20134



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We all have an effect! **Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy or Renew Your Membership Today!**

If you are not yet a member or if your membership has lapsed (see address label), we hope you will join or renew today!

Your support makes a difference for Loudoun, our wildlife and our habitats as we provide environmental programming, conduct habitat restoration projects and work to protect and preserve habitat through advocacy and partnerships.

In addition to knowing that you are helping our mission, as a member you also receive a 10 percent discount at these local businesses: Catoctin Gardens (Leesburg), WildWood Landscape (Round Hill), Abernethy & Spencer Greenhouse (Lincoln), Petals & Hedges (Paeonian Springs) and The Bird Feeder (Reston). Upon joining or renewing for 2013, you will receive a membership card and letter that provides more information.



*Dickcissel – please help us protect their
breeding sites
Photo by Gerco Hoogeweg*