

2018

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY **ANNUAL** REPORT

People and Wildlife Thrive Together



Our Mission:
To inspire, motivate and engage
people to protect, preserve and
restore wildlife habitat



Dutchman's Breeches, a spring ephemeral named after old-fashioned pantaloons (photo: Liam McGranaghan).

Below: Jim Clark's Chickweed photo was taken at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.



Cover photo: Deer Mouse, by Liam McGranaghan
Editor: Nan Siegel
Design: Mark Drefs

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Joe Coleman

2018 was an incredibly busy year for the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. While continuing to offer its many programs and activities, the organization successfully dealt with a number of significant challenges, not least moving forward with its first land acquisition. When the Lucketts community let Nicole Sudduth, LWC's part-time Executive Director, long-time member and vernal pool enthusiast, know that it was likely that an 87-acre property immediately west of the village was going to be sold to developers, she convinced the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board of Directors that we should purchase the property because of its vernal pools and unusual species. After a visit to the property from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage confirmed that the property supports a globally-rare wetlands community, Loudoun Wildlife began fundraising. An agreement with Chuck Kuhn of JK Moving resulted in his purchase of the property with the idea that after he placed conservation easements on the property, Loudoun Wildlife would purchase the property for half its

A consultant LWC had hired to do an organizational capacity assessment found "a remarkable nonprofit organization, with passionate leadership, dedicated volunteers and numerous programs that support a compelling mission."

original value. While Chuck Kuhn is finalizing the conservation easement on the property, fundraising with a goal of taking ownership of the property in early 2020 continues.

At the same time, a consultant LWC had hired to do an organizational capacity assessment found "a remarkable nonprofit organization, with passionate leadership, dedicated volunteers and numerous programs that support a compelling mission. They identified several areas for improvement and made several recommendations in their report, many of which have subsequently been adopted. The capacity assessment study was followed by a strategic

retreat that revised LWC's organizational structure and identified a number of goals, short and long-term, which the organization is now in the process of implementing.

Simultaneously with all this, Nicole Sudduth, who was not only LWC's first Executive Director but had been a major component of its leadership structure for over a decade, informed us that she would be leaving the area. The Board decided it was time to hire a full-time Executive Director and on advertising the position had over 40 applicants from all over the country. After extensive and thorough interviews Michael Myers became the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's first full time Executive Director on July 1. Since then Michael and the Board of Directors, which added four new members in July, have worked to revitalize and focus the organization.

A major part of Loudoun Wildlife's efforts during the year involved Cheri Conca, our conservation advocate, working with a number of partner organizations to convince the county to include a green infrastructure component with strong performance standards in the proposed county comprehensive plan. Because the development community has controlled this process from the beginning, Cheri and our partner organizations focused on rallying the county's citizens to that cause. As a result of their efforts many of the county's citizens are working to convince the Board of Supervisors to modify the proposed plan. That struggle is continuing and should be resolved in the next few months prior to the fall elections.

While all of this was occurring, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy continued its work in a number of key areas: revitalizing its Stream Monitoring program, strengthening the highly successful Audubon at Home initiative, finalizing the *Birds of Loudoun* book, and more.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Michael Myers

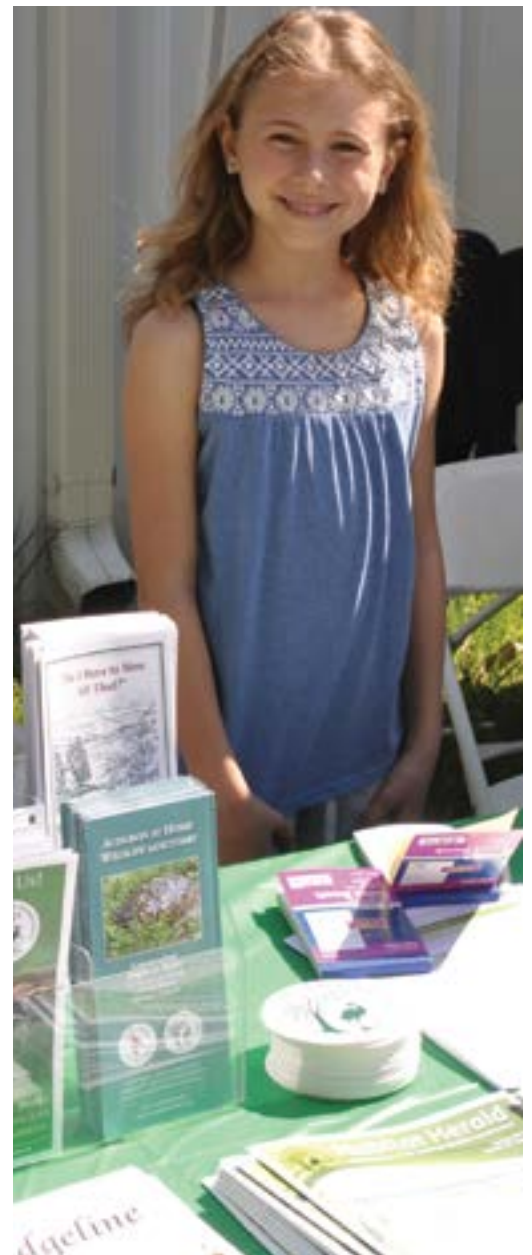
Since joining this organization, I have been blown away by the passion and dedication of our volunteers, members, and supporters. It is truly incredible to work with such a committed group of people. I am inspired every day by the contributions of the many people who make this such a great organization.

In 2018 Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has embarked on a lot of new firsts as an organization. As we enter into a new era of growth and transformation, we will achieve many more accomplishments for the first time. Our goal is to become more efficient and effective, so we can increase our impact to protect, preserve and restore more wildlife habitat in Loudoun County.

It is an exciting time to be involved with Loudoun Wildlife, and I look forward to leading us into the future. Loudoun County is growing and changing, and Loudoun Wildlife must also grow, adapt and evolve in our quest to create a world where people and wildlife can thrive together. I can't wait to see what we will create together as a community.



The volunteers handing out information on birds, bees and more to Native Plant Sale attendees included smiling faces of all ages. Photo: Ann Garvey



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

(AS OF DECEMBER 2018)



Staff Support

Office Admin: Doreen Varblow, Membership & Outreach: BJ LeCrone, Volunteer Coordinator: Kim Strader

CONSERVATION ADVOCACY



Birding is a year-round activity—just like LWC's ongoing efforts to preserve all of Loudoun's natural assets.

PRESERVING THE FUTURE OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

LWC

advocated throughout 2018 to include strong green infrastructure policies in the Loudoun County's forthcoming 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Green infrastructure planning identifies a connected network of natural assets such as streams, forests, wetlands, slopes, meadows, limestone and other open spaces. It also seeks to manage, protect and restore this network to conserve ecosystem functions and provide associated benefits to people and wildlife. Green infrastructure provides a framework for all land use and transportation decisions, and a strategic balance for long-term growth.

Many of the current comprehensive plan's green infrastructure policies were stripped from the draft version of Loudoun's new plan. Because it will guide land use and transportation planning through 2040 and beyond, it is imperative for the final plan adopted to include policies to prioritize the protection and connection of our irreplaceable natural infrastructure. As the draft plan is presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval or revision, LWC will continue to advocate for strong green infrastructure policies to protect people and wildlife for generations to come.

IN THE PAST YEAR, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY EFFORTS INCLUDED:

- Working with local organizations and leaders to develop policy that supports conservation.
- Collaborating with other members of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition (LCPCC) on a comp plan review process of policy analysis and recommendation, resulting in community presentations and meetings with county leaders and staff.

- Collaborating with other LCPCC members to promote a concept for a county-wide network of parks and trails, dubbed "Emerald Ribbons." This resulted in a Board of Supervisors board member initiative instructing the Parks, Recreation and Open Space board to develop a plan to implement such a network.

- Educating the community about the importance of green infrastructure.

- Distributing a policy position statement calling for policies related to watersheds, native plant use, green building standards, dark sky lighting and conservation management.

- Requesting residents and citizens at large to participate in shaping land-use policy.

- Encouraging residents to participate via a postcard campaign, social media and presence at the polls on Election Day. In addition, broadcasting calls-to-action for citizens to participate in the Envision Loudoun process and advocate for green infrastructure.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- As part of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, lobbied congress for federal clean water funding and protection of the Clean Water Act.
- Lobbied for state conservation funding and native plant use by VDOT.
- Campaigned against a special exception for a gas station in the limestone area of Rt. 15 near the Potomac River.
- Successfully advocated to include full funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation in Loudoun Board of Supervisors' 2019 Legislative Program.

BUTTERFLY COUNT



Butterfly Count participants tallied a total 289 Monarchs in flight. Below: An American Snout. Photo: Bryan Henson

After a season of unusually wet weather and a week of heavy thunderstorms, things didn't look too promising for the 22nd Annual Butterfly Count, held last August 4. Fortunately, the weather improved as 71 volunteers formed into eight teams to take a tally of our favorite insects.

Centered on Waterford, the 15-mile diameter butterfly count circle encompasses farms, woodlands, plant nurseries, private gardens, Monarch way stations and public spaces. A total of 3,221 butterflies in 49 species were recorded, excellent results. Submitted to the North American Butterfly Association, the data that our team gathered is available to researchers.

Of note, we counted 289 Monarchs in flight and found plenty of caterpillars on common milkweed—far and away the most we have ever counted. We also spotted 401 Cabbage Whites (an average year) and 446 Silver Spotted Skippers (an above-average figure). We found some unusual species such as the American Snout and American Copper, but no Pipevine Swallowtail. That species, abundant in our

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2017 tally, is sometimes missing from our annual count, as the summer flight often occurs a little later in the season.

The butterfly count circle is divided into 12 sectors. Coverage of those sectors was improved this year with the addition of some new leaders and co-leaders. Great thanks go to our returning leaders: Joe Coleman, Phil Daley, Jon Little, Larry Meade and Erik Raun; our new leaders: Anne Ellis, Allison Gallo, Bryan Henson and Julie Paul; and to our expert assistants: Brian Magurn, Barry Marts, Casey Tinius, Mimi Westerveld and Jane Yocom.



PARTNERING FOR OUR FUTURE



Dulles Greenway

The Dulles Greenway and its parent company, Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), have had a significant impact on the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy through the annual Drive for Charity. For 15 years their donations have been instrumental in enabling Loudoun Wildlife to grow from an all-volunteer organization to one with a small staff and a respected voice for wildlife. The funds have contributed to all parts of Loudoun Wildlife's mission from citizen science to education and to habitat restoration. Also, as a result of our long relationship,

Loudoun Wildlife stewards and studies the 149-acre Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, finding 158 bird species there during its Five-year Bird Atlas, the second highest number for Loudoun's Great Places.



JK Moving Services

In 2018 Loudoun Wildlife approached Chuck Kuhn, CEO of JK Moving Services, about helping us with the purchase of an 87-acre parcel of property outside of Lucketts. Chuck purchased the property with the intent

to put conservation easements on it and then resell the property to Loudoun Wildlife at a reduced rate. The reduced rate essentially equates to a nearly \$500,000 donation.



We have only just begun exploring the globally-rare wetlands community at JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo: Anne Owen

PARTNERS

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy collaborates with many nonprofit, corporate, and government partners to complete our work across the county. Additionally, Loudoun Wildlife representatives participate in a number of coalitions, alliances, and working groups to achieve our mission. We want to recognize and thank our partners for helping create a world where people and wildlife thrive together. We apologize if we have inadvertently overlooked anyone.

50 West Winery
868 Estate Vineyards
Abernathy & Spencer
Greenhouse
Audubon
Naturalist Society
Audubon Society of
Northern Virginia
Banshee Reeks
Nature Preserve
Blue Ridge Center for
Environmental
Stewardship
Blue Ridge Conservation
Alliance
Blue Ridge Wildlife
Center
Broadlands Nature
Center
Claude Moore Park
Community Foundation
of Loudoun & Northern
Fauquier Counties
Dominion Virginia Power
Friends of Banshee Reeks
Friends of Sleeter Lake
Friends of the
Blue Ridge Mountains
Goose Creek Association
Great County Farms
Hill House Farm
and Nursery
Izaak Walton League,
Loudoun County Chapter

JK Moving Services
Leesburg Garden Club
Loudoun Beekeepers
Association
Loudoun County
Chamber of Commerce
Loudoun County
Government
Loudoun County
Master Gardeners
Loudoun County Parks,
Recreation, and
Community Services
Loudoun County
Preservation and
Conservation Coalition
Loudoun County
Public Library
Loudoun County
Public Schools
Loudoun Environmental
Stewardship Alliance
Loudoun Pediatric
Obesity Coalition
Loudoun Soil and Water
Conservation District
Loudoun
Watershed Watch
Loudoun's
Emerald Ribbons
Monarch Joint Venture
Monarch Watch
Morven Park
National Audubon Society

Nature by Design
North American
Butterfly Association
Northern Shenandoah
Valley Audubon Society
Northern Virginia
Bird Club
Northern Virginia
Regional Parks Authority
Northwest Federal
Credit Union
Oatlands Plantation
Piedmont
Environmental Council
Plant NOVA Natives
Plow & Hearth
Potomac Appalachian
Trail Club
Potomac Valley
Audubon Society
Purcellville Business
Association
Purcellville Parks
and Recreation
Sunset Hills Winery
The Bird Feeder
The Fauquier and
Loudoun Garden Club
The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Generation
Town of Leesburg
Town of Round Hill
Transition
Triathlon

TRIP II, the Dulles
Greenway
U.S. Geological Survey
at Patuxent Wildlife
Research Center
Virginia Bluebird Society
Virginia Department of
Transportation
Virginia
Master Naturalists -
Banshee Reeks Chapter
Virginia
Native Plant Society,
Piedmont Chapter
Virginia
Save our Streams,
Department of
Environmental Quality
Virginia Society of
Ornithology
Virginia
Vernal Pools Program
Waterford
Citizens Association
Waterford Foundation
Watermark Woods
Native Nursery
Wild Birds
Unlimited Ashburn
Wild Ones,
Blue Ridge Chapter
Wildlife Veterinary Care
Wildwood Landscape
Willowsford Conservancy

PATRONS

Thank You!

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is grateful to everyone who helped us work toward our mission in 2018. We rely on the generosity and skills of our volunteers, donors and partners to accomplish all the efforts described in this report. These individuals and organizations are listed on this and preceding pages. We apologize if we have inadvertently overlooked anyone when compiling these lists.

\$5,000+

Kevin and Nana Chroninger
Joe and Karen Coleman
Chuck & Stacy Kuhn
Ian Moffett, Rokeby Realty
TRIP II, the Dulles Greenway
Alfred Van Huyck

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Julie and Chris Borneman
Marlene Burkgren
Diane and Michael Canney Foundation
The CarMax Foundation
Hill House Farm and Nursery
John Keith
Ben & Suzette McIlwaine
David Robinson
Ralph Wall

\$250 - \$999

Sarah Ali and Karel Svoboda
Hatsy Cutshall
Barbara and Thomas DeRosa-Joynt
Steven Haus
Stephanie Henson
Noel Keane
Sharon & Larry Kearns
Jane and Robert Kirchner
Marion Lee
Lucketts Ruritan Club
Dave and Lisa Manning
Matrix Consulting Sharp
Jill and Bobby Miller
Tyler and Antoinette Montgomery
Jeanne Morency
Maryann Mueller
Creations By Diane: Diane Nastase
Tracey Newton
Patti Psaris and Michael Cowell
Donna Quinn
Jeffrey and Sarah Steadman
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Sterling
Randee Wilson

\$100 - \$249

Kathy Adams
Aetna Foundation
Tony and Jan Aiken
Erin Austin
Virginia Baxter
Carol Beckman
Colette Berrebi
Alison Blackstone
Amy Bouldin
Sally and Michael Brenton

Bill and Della Brown
Kathy Brown
BSA Troop 966
Claudia Butz Lindstrom
Michael and Becky Cambre
Ernie and Patti Jo Carnevale
James Chapman
Alethea Christon
Karen Coleman
Cheryl Coogan
Janine Czarnecki
Mary Desmond
John and Linda Di Giorgio
Clarice and Charles Dieter
Rebecca Diller
Anne and Robert Dubrow
Hannah Duffy
David & Carol Dunham
Elizabeth and William Ebert
Dana Eddy
Elizabeth Ellers and Eugene Gulland
Rick and Sarah Entsminger
Cheryl and Carl Ewald
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club
Margaret Fera
Vera Finberg
Alexander Fiore
Mary Frase
Virginia Friend
Vera Fry
Linda Gallo
Ann and Tony Garvey
Mary Ann and Clinton Good
Joe and Anne Goode
Norman Gresley
Lotte Gutshall
James Hastings
Gerry Hawkins
Mathew and Rachel Haws
Bruce and Janice Hill
Douglas and Linda Hill
Priscilla Hill
Susan and Patrick Holden
Bill and Michele Huff
William Kanapaux
Jamie Kiechlin
Denise Kirwan and Jeffrey Ryan
Robert Kott
Caroline and Robert Kuhfahl
Kim Kuzmowski
Sheila LaFalce
Robert and Dee Leggett
Lewis and Rosalie Leigh
Spring and Steven Ligi
Fred and Judy Lillis

Doug & Louise Lipp
Tamara Luzecky
Peter Lyttle
Tamara and Scott MacDonald
Normalee Martin
Jan Massey & Emelin,
Tyler, and Nathan Beach
Sheri Maza
Tess McAllister
Mary Ann and James McGowan
Thomas McKean
Frank and Patty McLaughlin
McMunn Family Foundation: Susan and
David McMunn
Laureen Megan
Sue Megan
Francis J Megan III
Ann Menninger
Rosalind Miller
Paul and Lauraine Miller
Ellen and Greg Murphy
Norman Myers
Michael Myers
Rick & Kim Norgaard
Northern Virginia Ethical Society
Michael Oak
Richard Oakley
Michael J O'Connor
Anne Owen and David Wheeler
Michelle Painter
Gina Pasioka and Robert Justin
Ladan Paul
Christina Penton
Christine Perdue and Turner Smith
Robert and Denise Pierce
Sharon Plummer
Pamela and Anthony Poisson
Rosalinda Quintanilla
and Mayra Zermeno
Carolyn Randall
Gordon Rathbun
John J. Reynolds
Dori and Pat Rhodes
Katherine Ricart
Holly Richardson
Robert and Karen Rockwood
Pete Sacripanti
Salamander Resort and Spa
Brian Sanfelici
Shannon Sargent
Samantha Scally
Brian and Sue Schletz
Aaron Schneider
Timothy Smith
John and Bronwen Souders

Maggie Steinhilper
Cynthia and Jim Stowers
Liz Stutz
Frannie Taylor
David & Anne Thomas
Bob and Linda Thompson
Stephanie and Robert Thompson
Heather Timer
Todd and Lisa Treichel
Lynn Webster and Kurt Schroeder
Andrea Weeks

\$50 - \$99

Steven Allen
William and Kimberly Allison
Carol and Matt Anticevich
Anita Baarns and JT Martin
Rita Ballou
Alexander Barr
Valerie Beaudoin
Jill Becker
Liz Betts
LeRon Bielak
Pati and Steve Blackwell
Bob and Betsy Blakney
Kamie and Chris Bledsoe
Randy and Dede Bonner
Vera Brechbiel
Emily Brenton
Jan and Randall Buffenbarger
Kathleen Burger and Glen Gerada
Larry and Kelly Burk
Kerry Bzydk
Benjamin Calloway-Jones
Alex Castorena
Catocin Environmental, Inc:
David Cazenias
Daly Chin
Thomas and Patricia Christ
Cheri Conca
Patric and Maura Copeland
Peter Coppolino
Bill and Regina Cour
Teresa Crane
Candi Crichton
Phil and Ellie Daley
Kris Dennen
Charlene DeRoche
Helen DiRenzo
Paul and Susan Duda
Kenneth Dzombar
Swarup Eda
Coe Eldredge
Anne and John Ellis
Chris and Jim Emery
Gail and Perry Epes
Pam and Brian Feikema
Sheila Ferguson
Diane Fetterman
Mary Lou and Jonathan Fisher
Ben and Arlene FitzGerald
Emily Fort
Tom and Mary Francis
Brenda Frank
Jeff Freeman and Laurie Farnsworth

Michael Friedman
Cheryl Fuchs
Silvia Gagliano
Ashley Gam and Brad Bradshaw
Rose Gentile
Bonnie and Ken Getty
Margaret Good
James & Dolores Goodson
Kay & Bill Griffith
Terri Guenther
Joe Guerrino
Peter and Mary Gustafson
Anne Gutierrez
Carol and Jay Hadlock
Stephanie and Walter Hearne
Janet Hensley
Richard and Suzanne Hill
Diane and Carl Hoffman
Max & Irene Honn
Vycke Horback
Douglas Hubbard
Atziri Ibanez
Susan and Richard Jacob
Fred and Lisa James
Bruce and Jill Johnson
Tracy and Tony Jones
Melanie Jordan
Barbara Kauffman
Lucy Keller
Maria I. Kelly
Renee Kitt
Thaissa and John Klimavicz
Martha and Bryant Kling
Jeffrey Kretsch
Dennis Kruse
Brigitte Laffitte
Mike Larson
Bettyjean Lechrone
Bret Leslie and Karen Stern
Linda Lewis
Dodie Lewis
Mort and Barbara Libarkin
Laura Lieberman
Karen and Edward Ligi
Stephen Lillis
Cathy and Charles Little
Colonel and Janet Locklear
Mark Long
Lisa MacDonald
Kelly and Ian Macoy
Brian Magurn
Robert Martin
Lisa McKew
Patty and Clyde Meade
Pamela Miller
Maureen Miller
Carol and Bob Miller
Michael Morency
David and Jackie Mowbray
James and Buffy Nitao
Robert Noe
Keith Nusbaum
Susan and Caroline Oldfield
Dave Olin

Amy Noelle Orr
Don and AmyOwen
Sharon Parry
and Dudley Smith
Andrew Passafaro
W Michael Paul
Jeff Pfoutz and Barbara McKee
Donna Pica
Pledgeling Foundation
Martha Polkey
Patricia Prostkowski
Michael and Connie Purcell
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Sharon Rhoades
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Dawn and Glenn Rosenthal
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Teresa K Rusnak Rev. Trust
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Emily Southgate
Larry Spence
Lee Stang and George Geer
Debbi Sudduth
Kathryn Swindal
Zebulon Taintor
Jean Tatalias
Joanna Taylor
Larry and Kari Uman
David Van Tassel
Upperville Garden Club
Conrad Varblow
Janice and Robert Vitale
Nancy and Scott Walker
Winston Warriner
Kelly Weirick and
James Yarborough
Sonya Westervelt
Jim & Steph Widzinski
Bobbie and Tom Wilkinson
David R. Williams
Kim Williams
Deborah Wilson
Gerda Wolf
Jenny Wolfe
Robert J. Wybraniec
Jane Yocom
Fred & Shelley Zafran
Anne Zaleski
Marlin and Ardith Zook

BIRDING IN THE WET: THE 22ND CENTRAL LOUDOUN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Wet is the best way to describe this year's Christmas Bird Count (CBC). A few days before the Central Loudoun count, 120 people were signed up to participate in the count, but with constant rain in the forecast that dropped to 92. The day of the count began with rain but let up about 9 a.m. for a few hours. During that short time—and despite many trails being closed because they were impassable—the birds came out, and when the day was over we had tallied 92 species and 28,870 individuals, about average for both.

Two species never before observed on this count were seven Trumpeter Swans in Aldie and a Cape May Warbler a little north of Leesburg. Other rare species that have only been seen once before were a Cackling Goose and a juvenile Iceland Gull.

The 37 Bald Eagles observed has only been topped once before, and the 17 American Kestrels seen was the highest seen in the past five years. Other highlights included 500 Common Mergansers, seen on the Beaverdam Reservoir.



A pair of Trumpeter Swans ignores the rain in Aldie. Photo Linda Millington



This gorgeous Cape May Warbler brightened the day. Photo Russ Taylor

Always interesting are the major decreases for some species in the count. For the second year in a row none of the teams found an Eastern Meadowlark, while the lack of Carolina Chickadees (126) and Tufted Titmice (57) was very disturbing. Last year's 321 Carolina Chickadees had been the smallest number in 10 years, but considerably larger than this year's 126. And this year's 57 Tufted Titmice was the first time this species has been found in only double digits. Hopefully both are aberrations and their numbers will increase in the near future.

Loudoun Wildlife thanks the many participants in this year's counts, as well as numerous landowners who gave us permission to visit their properties. Without both, this count would not be possible and we wouldn't have this snapshot of what is happening with birds in Loudoun in early winter.



Celebrating Bird Migration

Six different well-attended events were offered throughout the county. The weather cooperated for some of the teams and didn't for others. Together the six Birdathon teams, Gone Pishing, the Grumpy Old Men, the Larkolinks, the Ligi Nestlings and Shrike Force, raised almost \$9,000 for Loudoun Wildlife. The Raven Loonatics found the most species, 124 of which include an astounding 24 warbler species. And while all the teams, regardless of the weather, enjoyed themselves, the Ligi Nestlings, as usual, clearly had the most fun.



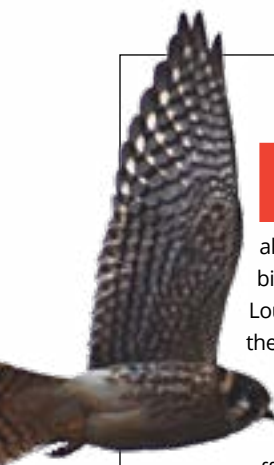
A Carolina Wren savors the sun.
This photo and American Kestrel below: Michael Myers

Bluebird Program

We would like to thank all our dedicated volunteer trail leaders and monitors who monitor over 50 bluebird trails throughout Loudoun. In 2018 we recorded more than 1,400 native cavity-nesting birds fledging from nest boxes across the county. Every year we add more trails, nest boxes and volunteers to our network. We're very grateful for the hard-working volunteers who sustain this successful program.



Each year more nest boxes are added to benefit cavity-nesters like the Eastern Bluebird.



BIRD ATLAS

From April 2009 through March 2014, 85 volunteer atlasers spent almost 6,000 hours conducting bird surveys throughout Loudoun. They documented the occurrence and behavior of 262 breeding, migratory and winter species. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, Loudoun Wildlife now has a database of information to

assist environmental planners in making sound decisions regarding the use and management of natural resources in the county. The Bird Atlas results are available on the Loudoun Wildlife website.

Other products include an updated Birds of Loudoun Checklist, a Bird Atlas Summary Report, an article in *The Raven*, the Virginia Society of Ornithology's scholarly publication, and bird lists for seven popular birding places throughout the county.

More than 20 talented writers and photographers have completed the final print publication of Bird Atlas results with in-depth species accounts for each documented species, including distribution maps, comparisons with the 1985-1989 Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas, and striking photographs.

The Birds of Loudoun, A Guide Based on the 2009-2014 Loudoun Bird Atlas, will be published in 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Activities January 1 through December 31, 2018

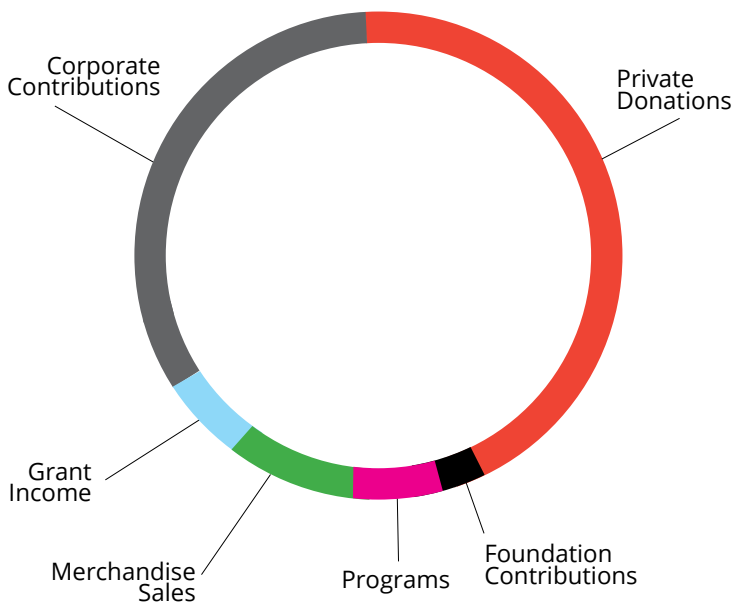
REVENUE

Contributions, Memberships & Grants	169,428
Programs & Events	13,144
Merchandise & Other	8,166
Interest	419
Total Income	191,157

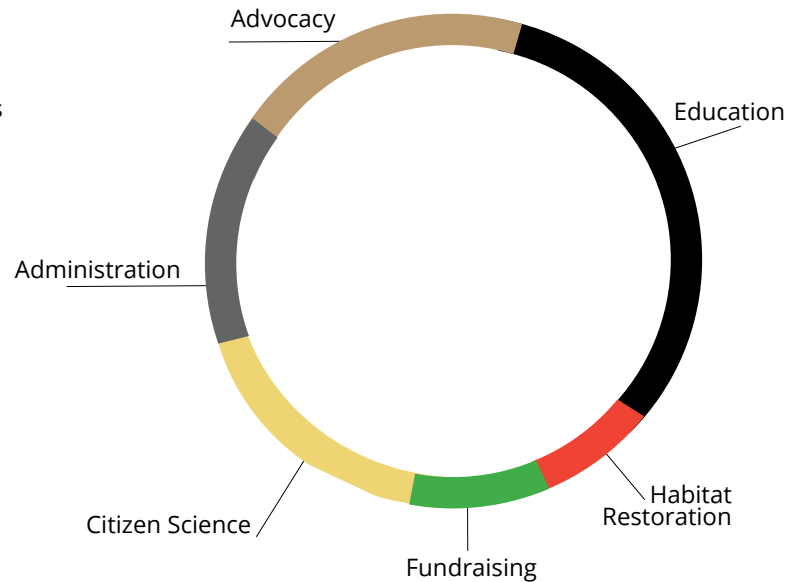
EXPENSES

Advocacy	31,411
Citizen Science	27,797
Education	74,888
Habitat Restoration	18,526
Administration	29,304
Fundraising	17,279
Total Expenses	199,205

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Change in Net Assets

January 1, 2018: \$227,266

December 31, 2018: \$219,218

AUDUBON AT HOME

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's all-volunteer Audubon at Home Ambassadors contributed nearly 800 hours in 2018, visiting 49 properties and providing a written report to each client detailing suggestions for providing and enriching wildlife habitat. Thirty-six properties, totaling 84 acres, were certified as Wildlife Sanctuary, bringing the total in Loudoun County to 220 properties and just under 3,500 acres.

Goal 1: Protect and restore wildlife habitats in Loudoun County

Year	Loudoun AAH Certified Properties		Cumulative total of requests for certification	Certifications pending @ YE	Total Sign-ups in current year	Visited	Carry over to 2019	On Hold awaiting Client response	Other (Withdrawn, can't contact, etc.)	Percent of requests certified @YE
	Land Area (Acres)	Number of Properties								
Prior to 2013										
2013	994.88	48	90	9	90	57			24	63%
2014	621.31	28	182	5	92	33			59	30%
2015	464.49	32	272		90	32				36%
2016	1093.9	38	344	9	74	47			27	51%
2017	193.83	38	435	26	91	64			27	42%
2018	84.73	36	545	21	106	49	14	14	31	33%
Total in acres	3452	220	40%							
Total in sq. miles	5.39									
Average ac/prop (2018)	2.35									
Average ac/prop (2013-2018)	15.69									

The number of visits to client properties in 2018 was down from 64 in the prior year, but up from the prior four-year average of 44. Of the 36 properties, totaling 85 acres, certified as Wildlife Sanctuary, eight were from prior years and 28 from the current year's sign ups. Total new sign-ups in 2018 totaled 108, up from the prior four-year average of 87. The total number of certified properties in Loudoun is now 220, a total of 3,452 acres.

AAH volunteers put in 560 hours on site visits and report preparation, contributing an additional 240 hours on program administration.

Goal 2: Serve as knowledge leader and partner for wildlife stewardship

Our Ambassadors took part in several continuing education opportunities, including the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia Ambassador Brunch, the LWC Visit to Mount Cuba and a garden visit. We thank Susan Abraham and Leslie Solitario for their contribution to the garden visit. Additionally, those who are Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners undertook continuing education programs to maintain their certifications.

Each client who we visited was provided with a visit folder containing a number of resources, as well as a written report of specific suggestions to assist with the development of wildlife habitat on their property.

Continued next page

AUDUBON AT HOME

Goal 3: Inspire and engage people to become involved in the natural world

Audubon at Home was represented at nine “tabling” events, including the Annual Master Gardeners Symposium, the Spring and Fall LWC Native Plant sales, Hillsboro’s 2018 Gardens in the Gap and others. In most cases, we work closely with Plant NoVa Natives. We got 59 sign-ups for the AAH program as a result of these events. Our ambassadors also made two presentations, one at Lansdowne Woods and one at the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club. Outreach volunteer hours are estimated at 70. Twenty-five clients elected to purchase a “Wildlife Sanctuary” front-yard sign to celebrate certification.

Goal 4: Advocate for wildlife/habitat conservation

We contributed articles to three Habitat Herald issues in 2018, covering “How to create a backyard oasis in the suburbs,” “Native ferns have a place in our plantings for wildlife” and “Native plants for rain gardens.” Two sign-ups resulted from those articles. While an effort to establish a Facebook Group specifically for Audubon at Home clients in Loudoun failed to gain significant traction, a posting featuring a client with their newly-acquired Wildlife Habitat sign was favorably received. We plan to build on this in 2019.

Goal 5: Increase our capacity to fulfill the demands of our mission

A total of 26 AAH Ambassadors took part in client visits in 2018, with six individuals making five or more visits. We thank all of our Ambassadors for their enthusiasm and commitment to the program and to wildlife in Loudoun! Sixteen prospective new AAH Ambassadors attended the 2018 Orientation in March generously hosted by Watermark Woods in Hamilton. Nine have taken part in one or more site visits during the year, and we plan to engage these new members on a more systematic basis in 2019. A kick-off meeting for all Ambassadors was held in January, with a focus on identifying actions to improve our delivery of the AAH program. Key areas agreed on were onerous report writing, time wasted on trying to schedule client visits, or clients who were not really aligned with the program goals and limited Ambassador resource to respond to clients in a timely way. Follow-up actions to date have included:

- Developing a list of links to resources addressing common issues that can be cut and pasted into reports.
- Sign-ups are contacted by the program coordinator via email, with a maximum of one email and one phone call follow-up, and they are not passed on to an Ambassador for a visit until they have submitted an application form.
- A monthly email is sent to all Ambassadors to keep them engaged with the program and up to date on new topics, as well as recognizing their contributions.

AAH AMBASSADORS ACTIVE IN 2018

5 or more visits in the year

Ann Garvey
Ling Lay
BJ Lecrone
Anne Owen
Dori Rhodes
Sue Russell

3 or more visits in the year

Barb Bailey
Colette Berrebi
Jody Brady
Elizabeth Deretchin
Susan Ferster
Elinor Fisher
Allison Gallo
Bryan Henson
Atziri Ibanez
Thaissa Klimavicz

Sandy Lockhart
Jen Lumley
Tess McAllister
Nan McCarry
Kathy Schlenz
Jen Smirnoff
Lenali Smith
Anna Stafford
Jennifer Venable
Jane Yocom

PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIPS

One of the most important services Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy provides the community is its ongoing series of educational programs and field trips. LWC programs offer a rich source of information to local residents on everything from environmental issues to education on local wildlife and habitat sustainability—and most of them are offered free of charge! The quality and diversity of our programs and field trips are possible thanks to generous donations by our members and the community.

In 2018 LWC continued to strengthen and increase its strategic partnerships, allowing our organization to broaden our outreach. A variety of walks and field trips were offered throughout the year. This included monthly bird walks at Banshee Reeks and the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, as well as annual programs such as: Exploring Nature in Winter, the Woodcock outing in March, Spring Wildflowers at Balls Bluff, the Dragonfly event in June, the Butterfly count in August, fall colors walk and our Christmas bird count. In addition, 2018 offered new field trips, such as a Harvest Moon walk at BRCES and walks in conjunction with the Town of Purcellville along the Chapman DeMary trail.

Our programs continue to prove popular with LWC members. In March Teta Kaine gave a captivating program on the Strange World of Fungi, a program new to LWC. In August we once again welcomed Leslie Sturgess, who provided her very popular Bat Program, which gave participants up-close insights on the fascinating world of bats. In addition, we were honored to have the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center come visit with many of their four-legged friends for a program on animals we might often find sheltering beneath our decks. Our annual meeting this year featured Mike Hayslett, who presented a program on "20 Years of Vernal Pool Conservation in Loudoun County," covering the timeline of discoveries and educational programs, as well as monitoring and conservation programs carried out over this period. One of highlights to our 2018 programs was Wil Hersberger's splendid Songs of the Insects program, which amazed those who attended.

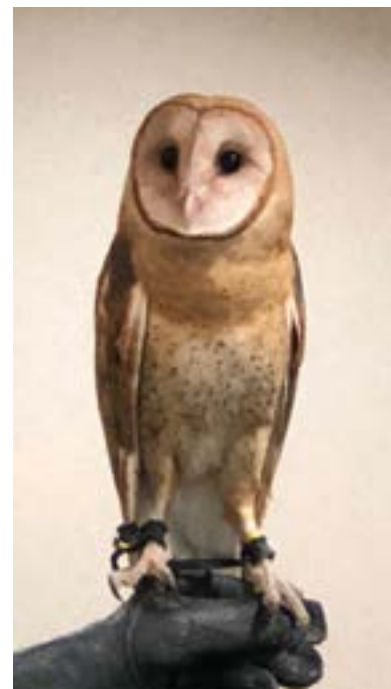
Loudoun Wildlife continues to attract new members with its many educational programs, native plant sales and field trips held throughout the year. During 2018 we offered close to 70 different events, with nearly 1,200 people attending. Given the addition of new faces at LWC and fresh ideas, 2019 should be another exciting year for Loudoun Wildlife's programs and field trips.

TOTAL 2018 ATTENDANCE* PROGRAMS: 658 FIELD TRIPS: 616
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**Approximate numbers based on estimates and input provided through the year*



Loudoun residents flocked to a wide variety of educational programs for all ages, as well as lectures and excursions.



NATIVE PLANT SALES

Loudoun Wildlife's eighth year of Native Plant Sales, held twice yearly at Morven Park, started off with a weather crisis. Snow was forecast for the day originally scheduled for the spring event, so it was postponed until May 10. That change accounted for a downturn in revenue, in part because many attendees had already bought plants at other sales.

The fall sale, held on September 8, was far more successful. There was a jump in sales for all three of the plant vendors on hand that day.

Thanks to all the volunteers who were on hand to help with both spring and fall sales. In total, 59 volunteers put in a total of 326 hours during 2018.



Plant Sale volunteers were on hand to explain the "why" of planting native. Photo: Ann Garvey



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY PLANTINGS AT SLEETER LAKE

An Earth Day event at Round Hill's Sleeter Lake, soon thereafter to become Sleeter Lake Park, was an incredible success. On April 22, more than 60 volunteers—a mix of town residents and Loudoun Wildlife members, many of them kids and their parents—showed up to plant 410 pollinator and wildlife-friendly native perennials, trees and shrubs. Thanks to everyone who showed up to work. It was especially great to see so many young people participating and learning about the value of native plants.

Planning for the Earth Day plantings had begun several months beforehand, when an eight-person committee made up of LWC members and town residents met to iron out the details. LWC member Brian Magurn did a great job of working to resolve different opinions on what should be placed near the lake into a feasible planting scheme. And native plant specialist Ann Garvey kept committee members focused on the overall mission, as well as making sure what would be planted was appropriate and would work as envisioned within the park.

April 22, 2018, marked the beginning of what is hoped will be a long partnership between LWC, the Town of Round Hill and various other partners. Round Hill Town Planner Melissa Hynes is enthusiastic about keeping significant portions of the new park natural and demonstrating to the public that wildlife-friendly habitat can be both attractive and beneficial.



Volunteers planted 410 perennials, shrubs and trees near Sleeter Lake.

HARRISON STREET MEADOW

The Harrison Street Meadow project was conceived to enhance two sections of meadowlands adjacent to the Washington and Old Dominion Trail in Leesburg: a small western area (approximately 1,000 square feet) and a larger eastern field (about 6,600 square feet). The goal is to draw more wildlife to those portions of the trail, as well as offer lovely natural diversions to Leesburg residents and everyone else who requests the W&OD Trail.

Thanks to a small grant—and with valuable assistance from Susan Abraham Conservation Landscapes—five enthusiastic volunteers planted native wildflowers, sedges and grasses in the western meadow in the fall of 2018. Work on the eastern meadow, on the south side of the W&OD trail at approximately Milepost 34, near the Crescent Place development along Harrison Street, was scheduled for the spring of 2019.

STREAM MONITORING



Certified stream monitors surveyed Tuscarora Creek in Leesburg, Goose Creek in Lansdowne and South Fork Catoctin Creek in Waterford in both the spring and fall of 2018, assisted by more than 20 volunteers. The team subsequently submitted stream health scores to Virginia Save Our Streams (VASOS), which forwards the data on to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Two certified stream monitors attended a “Train the Trainer” workshop on the VASOS Stream Monitoring Protocol. They are now qualified to train and certify future stream monitors—a development that should help to expand the stream monitoring program. In addition, one new stream monitor was certified in the fall.

In December members of the stream committee met with an LCPS teacher and a representative from Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation to nominate a stream site for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to conduct in-depth water quality surveys using macrobenthic invertebrates as an indicator of stream health. LWC’s first stream nomination meeting, this represented an important step, symbolizing a collaborative effort between community stakeholders and experts to use stream monitoring strategically in conservation and advocacy efforts. The group selected two stream locations in Leesburg to nominate to DEQ: Dry Mill Branch/Tuscarora Creek, near the intersection of Routes 7 and 15; and “Big Spring Creek” (Leesburg), above and below Route 15.

The function of macrobenthic stream survey data collection and submission to Virginia Save Our Streams (VASOS) for subsequent submittal to VA DEQ has now been transferred from Loudoun Watershed Watch (managed by David Ward) to the LWC stream committee. The data forms for all the stream surveys conducted in 2018 have been submitted to the DEQ via VASOS.

The youthful volunteers, above, sampling Goose Creek were rewarded by finds like this crayfish. Stream monitors survey their finds in Tuscarora Creek. Photos: Sarah Ali



COMING SOON: Stream Monitoring App

A mobile application is being developed to increase the speed, convenience and accuracy of stream data collection and submission. The app will provide an alternative to the paper data collection forms currently used. This new tool should prove valuable in engaging the community, and will hopefully increase the number of participants in stream-monitoring activities.

LIVING UP TO OUR MISSION: PROTECTING BLACK OAK

When an 87-acre parcel immediately west of the village of Lucketts came on the market in 2017, Lucketts area residents approached Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Executive Director Nicole Sudduth, since they knew she was aware of the area's rich ecology. Nicole had surveyed the property with Michael Hayslett and Liam McGranaghan in 2008, when they found not only the county's first fairy shrimp but Jefferson Salamanders, a species of concern in Virginia. Nicole subsequently convinced the LWC Board of Directors to make an offer to purchase the property. When that offer was accepted, we had 120 days to raise almost a million dollars.

A visit from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage in January 2018 confirmed



The Jefferson Salamander is one of the species of concern in Virginia that can be found at JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo: Liam McGranaghan



Loudoun Wildlife volunteers get an up-close look at the inhabitants of a vernal pool sample. Photo: Anne Owen

that the property supports a globally-rare wetlands community in danger of being lost. With that information in hand, we approached a number of potential donors—who wished us well but explained they couldn't help at that time. Time was running out when Nicole, and then Mike Kane of PEC, approached Chuck Kuhn of JK Moving. At that point Chuck and his wife Stacy had already purchased almost 2,800 acres on which they were placing conservation easements. But they agreed to purchase Stumptown Woods at fair market value, place it under conservation easements that would forever protect its special natural features—and then sell it to Loudoun Wildlife at a lower conserved property value. We were thrilled with this arrangement!

Since then a committee comprised of individuals from both the Lucketts community and LWC has been working to develop a management plan for what is now known as Black Oak, and has begun surveys of flora and fauna there. As I write, Chuck Kuhn is finalizing the conservation easement on the property and Loudoun Wildlife continues its fundraising efforts, with a goal of taking ownership of the property in early 2020.

Joe Coleman





Katherine Daniels' portrait (opposite) of a curious Red Fox.
Top: Brown Trout, photographed by Steve Makranczy.
Right: The Spring Peeper's chirping call marks the beginning of spring (photo: Michael Myers).
Bottom: A wildlife-friendly garden space, complete with hummingbird feeder (photo: Allison Gallo).



BIRDS OF LOUDOUN

A Guide Based on the 2009-2014
Loudoun County Bird Atlas



Loudoun County, Virginia

"The book is really awesome. When I pick it up and start reading, I get so engrossed that I lose track of time! It's dangerously good."

—Jane Yocum